



# JOKTA Academy

IAS/HAS



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AUGUST 2023 - JULY 2024

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# JOKTA ACADEMY

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# *Message from your own Jokta sir*



## *Celebrating 10 Years Legacy*

**Dear Students and Aspirants,**

As I pen down these words, I am overwhelmed with gratitude and emotions as **Jokta Academy** completes a remarkable milestone of **10 years** of success, glory, and **legacy**. It is with immense pride and joy that I extend my **deepest thanks** to each and every one of you who has played an integral role in our journey.

First and foremost, to my beloved parents, wife, and children, your unwavering support, love, and understanding have been the cornerstone of my strength.

To the divine forces, gods, and goddesses, I offer my heartfelt gratitude for your blessings and guidance throughout this journey.

**To all our students and aspirants, past and present, I extend my deepest gratitude for placing your trust and faith in Jokta Academy. It has been an honor and privilege to serve you all and witness your growth and success. Your dedication, determination, and perseverance have been a constant source of inspiration for me and everyone in our organization.**

I would also like to express my sincere appreciation to the **entire team at Jokta Academy** for their relentless dedication, hard work, and commitment to excellence. Your passion for education and unwavering support have been instrumental in shaping the success of our academy.

Lastly, I extend my gratitude to the state of **Himachal Pradesh** for embracing us and providing the platform to serve aspiring minds.

As we celebrate this significant milestone, let us cherish the memories of our journey so far and look forward to a future filled with even greater achievements and successes. **Together, we have created a legacy that will continue to inspire generations to come.**

Thank you once again for your continued support and collaboration. Here's to many more years of success and prosperity at Jokta Academy!

***This whole year, get a flat 10% off on all our courses .Cheers!***

***With deepest gratitude and warm regards,***

**Suresh Jokta (MD)**

**Jokta Academy**

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## IMPORTANT DAYS

Date	Days	Theme
1-Aug	Muslim Women's Rights Day	➤ A law against triple talaq was introduced by the central government of India on <b>1 August 2019</b> , making the practice a criminal offence.
1-7 Aug	World Breastfeeding week	➤ The inaugural World Breastfeeding Week was observed in 1992 ➤ Theme: "Let's make breastfeeding and work, work!"
7 Aug	National Handloom Day	➤ The first National Handloom Day was inaugurated on 7 August 2015 by PM Narendra Modi in Chennai. ➤ It was on this day in 1905, Swadeshi Movement was launched in the Calcutta Town hall to protest partition of Bengal by the British Government
8 Aug	August Kranti Diwas (Quit India Day)	➤ On 8 August 1942 at the All-India Congress Committee session in Bombay, Gandhiji had launched the 'Quit India' movement.
9 Aug	International day of World's Indigenous people (World Tribal Day)	➤ Theme 2023: "Indigenous Youth as Agents of Change for Selfdetermination."
10 Aug	World Biofuel Day / International Biodiesel Day	➤ In honour of <b>Sir Rudolf Diesel</b> , inventor of the diesel engine. ➤ Observed by the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas since 2015.
12 Aug	International Youth	➤ <b>Theme 2023 – Green Skills for Youth: Towards a Sustainable World</b> ➤ The first IYD was observed on 12 August 2000. ➤ National Youth Day – 12 Jan (asked in HPAS 2024)
15 Aug	77th Independence Day	➤ This year, the theme is 'Nation First, Always First' under the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' celebration. ➤ Number of time flag Hoisted: ➤ Jawaharlal Nehru-17 times (Maximum) ➤ Indira Gandhi- 16 times ➤ Narendra Modi-10 times
20 Aug	Sadbhavana Diwas	➤ To commemorate the <b>birth anniversary of India's youngest Prime Minister, Rajiv Gandhi.</b> ➤ <b>His death anniversary is observed as Anti-Terrorism Day (May 21)</b>
23 Aug	National Space Day	➤ Successful Moon landing of Chandrayaan 3. ➤ Touchdown point of Chandrayaan 3 on the Moon's surface will be called 'Shiv Shakti'
26 Aug	Women's Equality Day	➤ Theme 2023 - "Embrace Equity".
29 Aug	National Sports Day (Rashtriya Khel Divas )	➤ <b>Theme 2023 – Sports are an enabler to an inclusive and fit society</b> 1st National Sports Day was celebrated on August 29, 2012 ➤ To commemorate the <b>birth anniversary of hockey legend Major Dhyan Chand</b> , who won gold medals in Olympics for India in 1928, 1932 and 1936.
30 Aug	National Small Industry Day	➤ 1st celebrated on August 30, 2001 (MSME Day 27th June)
31 Aug	World Sanskrit Day	➤ It is celebrated on <b>Shraavana poornima, in the Hindu calendar</b> . The Day was celebrated for the first time in the year 1969 after the Union ministry of education issued notifications to state and central governments.

1-30 Sept	6th Rashtriya Poshan Maah 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Theme centered on “Suposhit Bharat, Sakshar Bharat, Sashakt Bharat” (Nutrition-rich India, Educated India, Empowered India).</li> <li>➤ The Government launched the POSHAN Abhiyaan, earlier known as National Nutrition Mission, on March 08, 2018, to address the problem of malnutrition in the country.</li> </ul>
5 Sept	National Teachers’ Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Started in 1962 to mark the birth anniversary of Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, the first Vice-President &amp; second President of India.</li> <li>➤ Radhakrishnan was a renowned scholar, philosopher &amp; recipient of the Bharat Ratna (1954) &amp; he started his career as a teacher.</li> <li>➤ World Teachers’ Day is observed on 5 October</li> </ul>
9 Sept	Himalaya Diwas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Celebrated in Uttarakhand since 2015.</li> </ul>
10 Sept	World Suicide Prevention Day (WSPD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Theme 2023: Creating hope through action; it is the triennial theme for this day from 2021 to 2023.</li> </ul>
11 Sept	National Forest Martyrs Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Since 2013 Observed to commemorate the Khejarli massacre in 1730 involving Marwar King Maharaja Abhay Singh and Bishnoi community in Khejarli village in Rajasthan.</li> </ul>
14 Sept	Hindi Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Hindi, written in the Devanagari script, was adopted as the official language of the Republic of India on 14th September, 1949.</li> <li>➤ Besides Hindi, English is the other official language (Article 343 of the Constitution). Officially, the first Hindi Day was celebrated on September 14, 1953.</li> <li>➤ World Hindi Day is observed on 10 January.</li> </ul>
15 Sept	Engineer’s day in India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ To commemorate the birth anniversary of the greatest Indian Engineer, Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya</li> <li>➤ In 1955, he was awarded the Bharat Ratna. 2023 theme- ‘Engineering for a sustainable future’.</li> <li>➤ He was popularly referred to as the “Father of Modern Mysore.</li> </ul>
16 Sept	World Ozone Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Theme - Montreal Protocol: fixing the ozone layer and reducing climate change</li> <li>➤ Commemorates the date in 1987 when Montreal Protocol was signed on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer</li> </ul>
18 Sept	International Equal Pay Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Achievement of equal pay for work of equal value.</li> </ul>
21 Sept	International Day of Peace	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ It was established in 1981 by the United Nations General Assembly.</li> <li>➤ Theme 2023: Actions for Peace: Our Ambition for the #GlobalGoals.</li> </ul>
22 Sept	World Rhino Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The announcement of this day was done in 2010 by WWF-South Africa.</li> <li>➤ This day was first observed in 2011</li> </ul>
24 Sept	World rivers day (fourth Sunday of September)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The first World Rivers Day was observed in 2005</li> </ul>
25 Sept	Antyodaya Diwas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ To mark the birth anniversary of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya.</li> <li>➤ Antyodaya means uplifting the poorest of the poor.</li> <li>➤ This day was first observed in 2014.</li> </ul>
26 Sept	World Contraception Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Theme 2023 - “The Power of Options“</li> <li>➤ It is important to make women aware of how they can avoid unplanned motherhood.</li> </ul>



27 Sept	World Tourism Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The host country for World Tourism Day 2023 is Saudi Arabia.</li> <li>➤ <b>Theme 2023 - ‘Tourism and Green Investments’.</b></li> </ul>
2 Oct	International Day of Non-Violence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ 154th Gandhi Jayanti</li> <li>➤ It was established on 15 June 2007 by United Nations General Assembly</li> </ul>
2 Oct	119th birth anniversary of Lal Bahadur Shastri	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ He was the first person to be posthumously awarded the Bharat Ratna (1966).</li> </ul>
2 Oct	World Habitat Day (first Monday of October)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Theme 2023 – <b>Resilient Urban Economies: Cities as Drivers of Growth and Recovery</b></li> <li>➤ <b>In 1986, the first World Habitat Day</b> was celebrated in <b>Nairobi, Kenya.</b></li> </ul>
4 Oct	World Animal Welfare Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Theme 2023: <b>“Great or Small, Love Them All”</b></li> </ul>
5 Oct	World Teachers’ Day 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Theme 2023 - <b>“The Teachers We Need for the Education We Want: The Global Imperative to Reverse the Teacher Shortage”.</b></li> <li>➤ Observed since 1994 after UNESCO recommendation.</li> </ul>
8 Oct	Indian Air Force Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Theme 2023, ‘IAF - Airpower Beyond Boundaries’ 91st anniversary Indian Air Force was officially established on 8 October 1932 by the British Empire as the Royal Indian Air Force.</li> <li>➤ The name was changed to Indian Air Force in 1950.</li> </ul>
10 Oct	National Post Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Postal service was introduced in India in 1854 by Lord Dalhousie.</li> <li>➤ 6-digit PIN Code system was introduced in India in 1972</li> </ul>
10 Oct	World Mental Health Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Theme 2023 - ‘Mental health is a universal human right’.</li> <li>➤ Since 1992</li> </ul>
11 Oct	International Day of the Girl Child	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Theme: “Invest in Girls’ Rights: Our Leadership, Our Wellbeing”</li> <li>➤ It was first celebrated in 2012</li> </ul>
13 Oct	International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Theme: “Fighting Inequality for A Resilient Future” Since 1989</li> </ul>
14 Oct	International E-Waste Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ This day was first observed in 2018 by the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment recycling (WEEE) Forum.</li> <li>➤ Theme 2023 - You can recycle anything with a plug, battery or cable!</li> </ul>
15 Oct	International Day of Rural Women 2023 / ‘Mahila Kisan Diwas’	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ UNGA established this day on December 18, 2007.</li> </ul>
16 Oct	World Food Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ To commemorate the formation of UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in 1945.</li> <li>➤ Theme – Water is life, water is food. Leave no one behind.</li> <li>➤ “Water is essential to life on Earth</li> </ul>
17 Oct	International Day for the Eradication of Poverty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Theme is “Decent Work and Social Protection: Putting Dignity in Practice for All”</li> </ul>
24 Oct	World Polio Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Theme 2023 – A healthier future for mothers and children.</li> <li>➤ To commemorate the birth of Jonas Salk, who led the development of polio vaccine.</li> </ul>
24 Oct	United Nations Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ On October 24, 1945, the United Nations was created.</li> <li>➤ Theme 2023 – The Frontlines of Climate Action.</li> </ul>
31 Oct	Rashtriya Ekta Diwas or National Unity Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Since 2014 The day is celebrated to mark the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel</li> </ul>

3 Nov	International Day For Biosphere Reserves	➤ 2nd edition (Established by UNESCO in 2022) In India, the first biosphere reserve was designated by UNESCO in 2000, the blue mountains of the Nilgiris stretching over Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Kerala.
5 Nov	World Tsunami Awareness Day	➤ <b>2023 theme</b> , “Fighting Inequality for a Resilient Future”
7 Nov	National Cancer Awareness day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Observed in India <b>since 2014</b>.</li> <li>➤ The <b>National Cancer Control Programme</b> was <b>initiated in 1975 to provide cancer treatment facilities in the country</b>.</li> <li>➤ This day coincides with the <b>birth anniversary of the Nobel Prize winner Marie Curie</b>.</li> <li>➤ <b>Marie Curie</b> is remembered for her discovery of radium and polonium, and her huge contribution to the fight against cancer.</li> </ul>
9th Nov	National Legal Services Day	➤ To commemorate the enactment of the Legal Services Authorities Act 1987 (came into force in 1995)& <b>formation of National Legal Services Authority of India (NALSA)</b> .
10 Nov	8th ‘Ayurveda Day’	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ World Ayurveda Day is organized by the Ministry of AYUSH every year on the day of Dhanvantari Jayanti</li> <li>➤ The global success of the ‘Ayurveda for One Health’ campaign was celebrated on 10th November 2023, the 8th ‘Ayurveda Day’ in Panchkula.</li> </ul>
11 Nov	National Education Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ to mark the birth anniversary of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad who was the first education minister of independent India, from 1947 to 1958</li> <li>➤ Theme 2023 – Embracing Innovation</li> </ul>
12 Nov	World Pneumonia Day	➤ <b>2023 theme</b> is “Every Breath Counts: Stop Pneumonia in Its Track” first World Pneumonia Day on 12 November 2009
14 Nov	Children’s Day or ‘Bal Diwas’	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ also known as Bal Diwas. <b>Jawaharlal Nehru was born on this day in 1889</b>.</li> <li>➤ He also established Children’s Film Society India in 1955 20 November – World Children’s Day</li> </ul>
14 Nov	World Diabetes Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Birthday of Sir Frederick Banting</b>, the co-discoverer of insulin alongside Charles Herbert Best in 1922.</li> <li>➤ <b>Theme 2023</b> – Access to diabetes care</li> </ul>
15 Nov	Janjatiya Gaurav Divas or Tribal Pride Day/	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The <b>birth anniversary</b> of tribal freedom fighter <b>Birsa Munda</b> (Birsa Munda Jayanti)</li> <li>➤ He was born on 15th November 1875</li> </ul>
16 Nov	National Press Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Theme 2023</b> is “Media in the Era of Artificial Intelligence” July 4, 1966, <b>the Press Council was established</b>.</li> <li>➤ <b>This council started its formal work from 16 November 1966</b>.</li> <li>➤ <b>Keeping this date in mind, National Press Day started</b>.</li> </ul>
16 Nov	International Day for Tolerance	➤ To generate public awareness of the dangers of intolerance.
19 Nov	International Men’s Day	➤ <b>Theme 2023</b> – Zero Male Suicide
19 Nov	World Toilet Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Theme 2023</b>, ‘Accelerating Change’.</li> <li>➤ In 2024, the theme will be Leveraging Water for Peace.</li> </ul>
19 Nov	National Integration Day (Quami Ekta Divas)	➤ National Integration Day 2022 marks the 106th <b>birth anniversary of Indira Gandhi</b> . Indira Gandhi was awarded the Bharat Ratna in 1971.
20 Nov	World Children’s Day	➤ <b>Theme 2023</b> – For Every Child, Every Right



25 Nov	International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women	➤ <b>Theme 2023:</b> UNiTE! Invest to Prevent Violence Against Women & Girls! #NoExcuse
26 Nov	National Milk Day	➤ To honor <b>Dr. Verghese Kurien</b> (father of White Revolution) and educate people about the importance of milk first National Milk Day in 2014
26 Nov	Constitution Day (Samvidhan Divas)	➤ Also known as <b>National Law Day</b> . ➤ On 26 November 1949, the Constituent Assembly of India adopted to the Constitution of India, and it came into effect on 26 January 1950. ➤ The government <b>decided in 2015</b> to celebrate November 26 every year as Constitution Day to teach people about the values in the Constitution.
1 Dec	World AIDS Day	➤ <b>Theme 2023- “Let communities lead”</b> The first World AIDS Day was observed in 1988.
2 Dec	National Pollution Control Day	➤ <b>Theme 2023 - Sustainable Development for a Clean and Healthy Planet.</b> ➤ Observed in remembrance of those who lost their lives in the <b>Bhopal Gas tragedy</b> (methyl isocyanate leaked out of <b>Union Carbide plant</b> on night of December 2-3 in 1984).
2 Dec	International Day for the Abolition of Slavery	➤ <b>Theme 2023 – Fighting Slavery’s Legacy of Racism through Transformative Education</b> ➤ <b>Main Objective</b> - to eradicate contemporary forms of slavery
3 Dec	International Day of Persons with Disabilities	➤ Theme 2023 - United in action to rescue and achieve the SDGs for, with and by persons with disabilities
4 Dec	Indian Navy Day	➤ <b>Theme 2023 is “Operational Efficiency, Readiness and Mission Achievement in the Maritime Domain”</b> ➤ To respect the Indian Navy’s counter-attack in Operation Trident during the Indo-Pakistan war in 1971.
4 Dec	International Cheetah Day	
5 Dec	World Soil Day 2023	➤ <b>Theme – Soil and water, a source of life</b> 5 December 2014 as the first official World Soil Day.
7 Dec	Armed Forces Flag Day	➤ Also the <b>Flag Day of India</b> - dedicated towards collection of funds from people of India for the welfare of the Indian Armed Forces personnel. ➤ observed since 1949
9 Dec	International Anti-Corruption Day	➤ Theme 2023 – ‘UNCAC at 20: Uniting the World Against Corruption.’ ➤ The UN General Assembly adopted the United Nations Convention against Corruption on October 31, 2003, and designated December 9 as International Anti-Corruption Day.
10 Dec	Human Rights Day	➤ <b>2023 Theme: Freedom, Equality and Justice for All</b> 2023 marks the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
11 Dec	UNICEF Day	➤ <b>Theme 2023 – “For every child, every right.”</b> ➤ <b>UNGA created UNICEF on December 11, 1946</b> ➤ <b>UNICEF</b> - United Nations Children’s Fund, <b>an organization established in 1946.</b> ➤ UNICEF Headquarters – New York
14 Dec	National Conservation Energy Day (HPAS 2024 Pre)	➤ <b>The Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE)</b> , established under the <b>Union Ministry of Power</b> , has been organizing the <b>National Energy Conservation Day since 1991.</b>

16 Dec	Vijay Diwas	➤ <b>Bijoy Dibos or Vijay Diwas or Victory Day</b> is commemorated in <b>Bangladesh and India</b> , to observe <b>India's victory over Pakistan in War of 1971</b> for the <b>liberation of Bangladesh from Pakistan</b> .
18 Dec	Minorities Rights Day in India	➤ Theme for 2023 – Celebrating Diversity and Inclusion celebrated by National Commission for Minorities in India, which was established under the National Commission for Minorities act, 1992.
19 Dec	Goa's Liberation Day	➤ <b>Goa</b> got its freedom from <b>Portuguese on 19th December, 1961</b> after <b>450 years</b> . ➤ On <b>December 18, 1961</b> , India launched a <b>36-hour military operation</b> called <b>Operation Vijay</b> .
22 Dec	National Mathematics Day (HPAS Pre 2024)	➤ To mark the birth anniversary of legendary Indian mathematician, Srinivasa Ramanujan. ➤ Started in 2012. ➤ On this day, Srinivasa Ramanujan was born in 1887 to a Tamil Brahmin Iyengar family at Erode, Tamil Nadu.
23 Dec	Kisan Diwas/ National Farmer's Day	➤ Commemorates birthday of the 5th Prime Minister of India, Choudhary Charan Singh, also a farmer's leader ➤ He served twice as Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh.
24 Dec	National Consumer Day/ or Bharatiya Grahak Diwas	➤ On this day, the Consumer Protection Act, of 1986 received the assent of the president celebrated first time in the year 2000. ➤ World Consumer Rights Day is celebrated on the 15th of March
25 Dec	Good Governance Day (India)	➤ The day is celebrated on the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. ➤ Since 2014 Good Governance Week from December 19 to 25 (3rd edition)
9 Jan	Pravasi Bharatiya Divas, or NRI Day	➤ To mark the contribution of Overseas Indian community in the development of India since 2003 it marks <b>Mahatma Gandhi's return to India from South Africa in 1915</b> .
10 Jan	World Hindi Day	➤ <b>Theme - 'Hindi – Bridging Traditional Knowledge and Artificial Intelligence.'</b> On 10th January 1975, the first-ever World Hindi Conference took place in <b>Maharashtra's Nagpur</b> celebrated since <b>2006</b> . ➤ <b>Former Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh</b> adopted it.
11 Jan	Death anniversary of Lal Bahadur Shastri	➤ He passed away on this day in 1966 in Tashkent, Uzbekistan
11-17 Jan	National Road Safety Week	➤ <b>Theme - "Be a Road Safety Hero"</b> . ➤ The <b>Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH)</b> organizes the event to promote road safety practices.
12th January	National Youth Day (HPAS 2024)	➤ Birth anniversary of <b>Swami Vivekananda</b> GoI officially declared it as National Youth Day in 1984, and since <b>1985</b> , it has been celebrated across the country.
15th January	76th Army Day 2024	➤ Army Day parade takes place in Lucknow <b>On January 15, 1949, Gen KM Cariappa took charge of the Indian Army and became the first Commander-in-Chief of Independent India</b> ➤ Indian Army will observe 2024 as the 'Year of Technology Absorption
16 Jan	National Startup Day	➤ Objective – To promote and encourage upcoming businesses in the country. ➤ On January 15, 2022, PM Modi first announced the adoption of the day.



19 Jan	19th National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) Raising Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>National Disaster Response Force was formed in 2006 under the Disaster Management Act (आपदाप्रबंधन अधिनियम).</b></li> <li>➤ <b>It functions under the Ministry of Home Affairs</b></li> <li>➤ <b>Director General of NDRF - Atul Karwal (महानिदेशक)</b></li> </ul>
23rd Jan	Parakram Diwas (Valor Day)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ 127th Birth Anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose</li> </ul>
24 Jan	International Day of Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Theme 2024 - "Learning for lasting peace."</b></li> <li>➤ National Education Day in India – 11th November</li> </ul>
25 Jan	Himachal Pradesh Statehood Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ It was on this day in 1971 that Himachal Pradesh became the 18th state of India.</li> </ul>
25 Jan	14th National Voters Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Celebrated since 2011</li> <li>➤ To mark the foundation day of the Election Commission of India on 25th January 1950.</li> <li>➤ 2024 Theme - <b>'Nothing Like Voting, I Vote For sure'</b></li> </ul>
26 Jan	75th Republic Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>2024 Twin Themes - 'Viksit Bharat' and 'Bharat - Loktantra ki Matruka'</b></li> <li>➤ <b>Chief Guest - French President Emmanuel Macron</b></li> </ul>
26 Jan	International Day of Clean Energy 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Declared in 2023 by the UN General Assembly</li> <li>➤ <b>Theme 2024: 'Clean Energy for People and Planet'</b></li> </ul>
27 Jan	International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ It is an annual observance to remember and honour the 6 million Jewish victims and millions of other victims of Nazism during <b>World War II</b>.</li> <li>➤ United Nations General Assembly designated in <b>November 2005</b>.</li> </ul>
28 Jan	Birth Anniversary of Lala Lajpat Rai	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Celebrated on 28th of January every year- he born on 28th January, 1865</b></li> <li>➤ Also called <b>'Punjab Kesari' and 'Lion of Punjab'</b>.</li> </ul>
2 Feb	World Wetlands Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>The 2024 theme "Wetlands and Human Wellbeing"</b> it marks the adoption of the Convention on Wetlands on this date in 1971 in Ramsar, Iran.</li> </ul>
4 Feb	World Cancer Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Theme 2024 - "Together, we challenge those in power" Blue and Orange are the official colour for world cancer day 2023.</li> </ul>
6 Feb	International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ 2024 Theme: Her Voice. Her Future observed to spread awareness and educate people about the consequences and problems that females face due to genital mutilation.</li> </ul>
11 Feb	International Day of Women and Girls in Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Theme - Women and Girls in Science Leadership, a New Era for Sustainability" subtheme is "Think Science ... Think Peace"</li> </ul>
11 Feb	World Unani day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ To commemorate the birth anniversary of Hakim Ajmal Khan, an eminent Indian Unani physician and social reformer. In 2017, the AYUSH Ministry decided to celebrate his birth anniversary as Unani Day.</li> </ul>
11 Feb	World Unani day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ To commemorate the birth anniversary of Hakim Ajmal Khan, an eminent Indian Unani physician and social reformer. In 2017, the AYUSH Ministry decided to celebrate his birth anniversary as Unani Day.</li> </ul>
12 Feb	200th birth anniversary of Maharshi Dayananda Saraswati	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ earlier named Mool Shankar Tiwari founder of the Arya Samaj</li> </ul>
12 Feb	National Productivity Day/	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ This day is a part of the National Productivity Week celebrations, which is observed from 12 February to 18 February in India.</li> <li>➤ Theme 2024- Artificial Intelligence (AI)- Productivity Engine for Economic Growth.</li> </ul>
13 Feb	World Radio Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Theme 2024 - "Radio: A century informing, entertaining and educating".</li> </ul>

13 Feb	National Women's Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Sarojini Naidu's Birth Anniversary</li> <li>➤ nickname 'Nightingale of India' or 'Bharat Kokila'</li> <li>➤ First Indian woman President of Indian National Congress in 1925</li> <li>➤ First woman Governor in India (Uttar Pradesh in 1947)</li> </ul>
19 Feb	Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Jayanti	➤ Founder of the Great Maratha empire Born on 19th February in 1630 in the hill fort of Shivneri, located near Pune in Maharashtra
20 Feb	World Day of Social Justice	➤ Theme 2024 - "Global Coalition for Social Justice: Bridging Gaps, Building Alliances"
21 Feb	International Mother Language Day	➤ Theme - "Multilingual education is a pillar of intergenerational learning".
24 Feb	647th Birth Anniversary of Sant Guru Ravidas	➤ celebrated on Magh Purnima, the full moon day in the month of Magh according to the Hindu lunar calendar 14th century saint and reformer of the Bhakti movement in North India
24 Feb	Central Excise Day	➤ Celebrated to commemorate the legislation of the Central Excise and Salt Act on 24 February 1944
Feb 26 to March 01, 2024	Financial Literacy Week 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Theme - "Make a Right Start: Become Financially Smart"</li> <li>➤ Starting in 2016, RBI has consistently allocated each year to the observance of Financial Literacy Week (FLW).</li> </ul>
28 Feb	National Science Day	➤ Theme 2024- Indigenous Technologies for Viksit Bharat to mark the discovery of the Raman effect by Indian physicist Sir C. V. Raman, for which he was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1930.
1 March	Zero Discrimination Day	➤ <b>2024 Theme:</b> "To protect everyone's health, protect everyone's rights"
3 March	World Wildlife Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ This day is dedicated to celebrating and raising awareness for the conservation of the world's wild fauna and flora.</li> <li>➤ On this day in 1973, the <b>Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)</b> was signed in Washington DC, USA.</li> <li>➤ The theme for this year "Connecting People and Planet: Exploring Digital Innovation in Wildlife Conservation",</li> </ul>
March 07	Janaushadhi Diwas	➤ Celebrated to spread awareness about the use of generic medicines available at much cheaper rates at the Jan Aushadhi Kendras all over India, under the "Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana".
March 08	International Women's Day	➤ This year's women's day theme is "Invest in Women: Accelerate Progress".
March 14	International Day of Mathematics	➤ The day was initiated by the International Mathematical Union (IMU) to celebrate the beauty and importance of mathematics and its essential role in everyone's life
March 14	International Day of Action for Rivers	➤ The theme for the day in 2024 "Water for All" conveys that water is life and is meant for all.
March 15:	World Consumer Rights Day	➤ Observed across the world to promote basic rights of consumers and to ensure that these rights are respected and protected.
March 16:	National Vaccination Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Also called the National Immunisation Day or Polio Ravivar, it is celebrated every year to highlight the importance of vaccination to the entire nation. The theme selected for this year is "Vaccines work for All".</li> <li>➤ The day was first observed in the year 1995 when on this day the first dose of Oral Polio Vaccine was given in India under the Pulse Polio Programme. Who declared India free from Polio on March 27,</li> <li>➤ 2014.</li> </ul>

March 20	World Sparrow Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ To raise awareness about the conservation and protection of sparrows, whose numbers are declining globally.:</li> <li>➤ <b>Initiation:</b> Started in 2010 by the Nature Forever Society of India with the Eco-Sys Action Foundation (France).</li> <li>➤ <b>Theme for 2024: “I Love Sparrows”</b> to encourage a closer relationship between humans and sparrows.</li> </ul>
March 21:	International Day of Forests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ To raise awareness about the importance of sustainably managed forests.</li> <li>➤ <b>2024 Theme: “Forests and Innovation: New Solutions for a Better World”</b> focuses on using technology to protect forests.</li> </ul>
March 22:	World Water Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ To address the global water crisis and ensure water access for all.</li> <li>➤ <b>2024 Theme: “Leveraging Water for Peace”</b> focuses on transboundary water cooperation for peace and sustainable development.</li> </ul>
March 23:	Shaheed Diwas or Martyr’s Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ To honor the revolutionary heroes Bhagat Singh, Rajguru, and Sukhdev.</li> <li>➤ <b>Historical Significance:</b> They were hanged on this day in 1931 in Lahore Central Jail.</li> <li>➤ <b>Reason for Execution:</b> Sentenced for killing John P. Saunders to avenge Lala Lajpat Rai’s death.</li> <li>➤ <b>January 30:</b> Also observed as Martyr’s Day for Mahatma Gandhi’s assassination in 1948.</li> </ul>
March 23rd	Earth Hour 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Purpose:</b> Support the fight against climate change and commitment to a better planet.</li> <li>➤ <b>Organized by:</b> World-Wide Fund for Nature (WWF).</li> <li>➤ <b>Activity:</b> Lights off for one hour from 8:30 pm to 9:30 pm.</li> <li>➤ <b>Participation:</b> Over 180 countries and territories, contributing 1.4 million hours.</li> <li>➤ <b>Theme: “Give an hour for Earth”.</b></li> <li>➤ <b>Reminder:</b> World Earth Day is on April 22<sup>nd</sup>.</li> </ul>
March 24	World Tuberculosis Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ to raise awareness about TB’s health, social, and economic impacts.</li> <li>➤ Commemorates Dr. Robert Koch’s discovery of TB bacteria in 1882.</li> <li>➤ <b>2024 Theme:</b> “Yes! We can end TB!” promoting high-level leadership and collaboration.</li> <li>➤ <b>Disease Info:</b> TB, caused by Mycobacterium tuberculosis, primarily affects the lungs but can impact other body parts. Most cases are curable with antibiotics.</li> </ul>
6th April	International Day of Sport for Development	➤ Theme 2024 is “ <b>Sport for the Promotion of Peaceful and Inclusive Societies</b> ”.
7th April	World Health Day	➤ Theme - <b>World Health Day ‘My health, my right’</b>
10th April	World Homeopathy Day	➤ The theme 2024 is “ <b>Homeoparivar: One Health, One Family.</b>
11th April	National Safe Motherhood Day (NSMD)	➤ The day commemorates the birth anniversary of Kasturba Gandhi, the wife of Mohan Das Karam Chand Gandhi.
14th April	Birth Anniversary of Dr. BR Ambedkar	➤ This day is also known as <b>Equality Day.</b>
15th April	Himachal Day	➤ It was on this day in 1948 that Himachal Pradesh was created as a province from the integration of 30 erstwhile princely states
18th April	World Heritage Day 2024	➤ The theme: ‘ <b>Discover and Experience Diversity</b> ’.
21st April	National Civil Service Day	➤ On 21st April, 1947, the first batch of civil servants of the country were addressed by Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel,

21st April	Mahavir Jayanti	➤ also known as Mahavir Janma Kalyanak celebrated on Chaitra Shukla Tryodashi (13th day of waxing moon in the Chaitra month of Hindu calendar)
22nd April	International Mother Earth Day	➤ 2024 theme: “ <b>Planet vs. Plastics.</b> ”
25th April	World Malaria Day	➤ Theme: “ <b>Accelerating the fight against malaria for a more equitable world</b> ”
26th April	World Intellectual Property Day	➤ Theme 2024 : ‘ <b>IP and the SDGs: Building Our Common Future with Innovation and Creativity</b> ’.
3rd May	World Press Freedom Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>UNESCO Recommendation:</b> Proposed in 1991.</li> <li>➤ <b>UN General Assembly:</b> Established the day in 1993.</li> <li>➤ <b>First Observance:</b> 1994.</li> <li>➤ <b>Purpose:</b> Ensure press freedom and remember fallen journalists</li> </ul>
8th May	World Red Cross Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ To honor the dedication and courage of Red Cross volunteers and staff.</li> <li>➤ <b>2024 Theme:</b> “<b>I give with joy, and the joy I give is a reward.</b>”</li> </ul>
11th May	National Technology Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ To commemorate India’s technological advancements.</li> <li>➤ <b>1998 Nuclear Tests:</b> Conducted in Pokhran, Rajasthan under PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam.</li> <li>➤ <b>Global Recognition:</b> India became the 6th nuclear country.</li> <li>➤ <b>Annual Observance:</b> Announced by Vajpayee to celebrate technological innovation.</li> </ul>
11th May	World Migratory Bird Day 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Focus for 2024:</b> Importance of insects for migratory birds.</li> <li>➤ <b>Concerns:</b> Highlighting the decreasing populations of insects.</li> </ul>
12th May	International Nurses Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The International Council of Nurses (ICN) has celebrated this day since 1965.</li> <li>➤ It is an international day observed around the world on 12 May because of the birth anniversary of Florence Nightingale.</li> <li>➤ This day serves as an important opportunity to recognise and pay tribute to the invaluable work and contributions of nurses worldwide.</li> </ul>
16th May	National Dengue Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Dengue fever</b> is a viral disease spread by the bite of an infected mosquito.</li> <li>➤ <b>Cause:</b> Dengue virus (DENV).</li> <li>➤ <b>Global Presence:</b> Endemic to over 100 countries.</li> <li>➤ <b>Transmission:</b> Spread by four distinct viruses via female Aedes mosquitoes, which also transmit yellow fever, Zika, and chikungunya</li> </ul>
17th May	World Hypertension Day 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Theme: ‘<b>Measure Your Blood Pressure Accurately, Control It, Live Longer.</b>’</li> <li>➤ High intake of salt, tobacco and alcohol use, unhealthy diets, physical inactivity, stress, and air pollution are key risk factors for the rising prevalence for hypertension.</li> </ul>
22nd May	International Day for Biological Diversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ To promote biodiversity issues. Key points include</li> <li>➤ <b>Establishment:</b> Created by the UN General Assembly’s Second Committee in 1993.</li> <li>➤ <b>Alignment:</b> Part of the UN Post-2015 Development Agenda’s Sustainable Development Goals.</li> <li>➤ <b>Date Significance:</b> Commemorates the adoption of the Convention on Biological Diversity at the Rio de Janeiro Earth Summit in 1992</li> </ul>



23rd May	2586th birth anniversary of Gautama Buddha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Buddha Purnima</b>, also known as Buddha Jayanti, Vesak, Vaishaka, and Buddha's Birthday, celebrates the life and teachings of Gautama Buddha.</li> <li>➤ <b>Significance</b>: Marks Buddha's birth anniversary and his enlightenment (nirvana).</li> <li>➤ <b>Birthplace</b>: Born in Lumbini, Nepal around 563 BC.</li> <li>➤ <b>Enlightenment</b>: Attained under a Bodhi tree in Bodh Gaya, Bihar.</li> <li>➤ <b>Passing</b>: Died at the age of 80 in Kushinagar, Uttar Pradesh.</li> </ul>
28th May	World Hunger Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Theme – <b>"Thriving Mothers"</b>.</li> <li>➤ <b>Amartya Sen's Research</b>: Demonstrated hunger is due to distribution issues and government policies.</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Nobel Prize</b>: Awarded in 1998 for contributions to welfare economics.</li> <li>➤ <b>Theme "Thriving Mothers"</b>: Emphasizes the need for proper nutrition and support for mothers.</li> <li>➤ <b>Awareness</b>: Highlights struggles of millions lacking access to proper nutrition, aiming to drive policy changes.</li> </ul>
29th May	International Day of UN Peacekeepers 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Peacekeeping Service</b>: Over two million peacekeepers have served in 71 missions since 1948.</li> <li>➤ <b>Current Deployment</b>: More than 76,000 peacekeepers from over 120 countries are currently deployed in 11 global operations.</li> <li>➤ <b>UNTSO</b>: The first UN peacekeeping mission, established in 1948.</li> <li>➤ <b>UN Headquarters</b>: Located in New York.</li> </ul>
30th May	Hindi Journalism Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>First Hindi Newspaper</b>: Udan Martand, published in Calcutta.</li> <li>➤ <b>Publication Date</b>: May 30, 1826.</li> <li>➤ <b>Hindi Journalism</b>: Has existed for about 198 years.</li> <li>➤ <b>Hindi Journalism Day</b>: Observed on May 30, 2024, to honor the contributions of Hindi journalism and journalists.</li> </ul>
31st May	Anti-Tobacco Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>World No Tobacco Day</b>: Created by WHO Member States in 1987 to highlight the tobacco epidemic and preventable deaths.</li> <li>➤ <b>Resolution WHA42.19</b>: Passed in 1988, establishing May 31 as World No Tobacco Day.</li> <li>➤ <b>Tobacco in India</b>: Introduced by the Portuguese in 1605.</li> </ul>
5th June	World Environment Day 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The largest international day for the environment, led by UNEP and held annually since 1973.</li> <li>➤ <b>2024 Host</b>: The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.</li> <li>➤ <b>2024 Theme</b>: Focus on land restoration, desertification, and drought resilience.</li> </ul>
8th June	World Oceans Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Theme</b>: <b>"Awaken New Depths"</b>.</li> <li>➤ <b>Ocean Coverage</b>: Over 70% of the planet.</li> <li>➤ <b>Oxygen Production</b>: The ocean produces at least 50% of the planet's oxygen.</li> <li>➤ <b>2024 Celebration</b>: Hosted by the United Nations in a hybrid format at the UN Headquarters in New York.</li> </ul>

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June 16th	Father’s Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Father’s Day honors fathers, fatherhood, and paternal bonds.</b></li> <li>➤ Celebrated on <b>the third Sunday of June since 1966.</b></li> <li>➤ <b>In 2024, it falls on June 16th.</b></li> <li>➤ First celebrated in the early 1900s, globally recognized by mid-20th century.</li> </ul>
June 19	International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>The UN observes June 19 to raise awareness about ending conflict-related sexual violence.</b></li> <li>➤ The resolution was adopted by the UN General Assembly on June 19, 2015.</li> <li>➤ This date marks Security Council resolution 1820 (2008), condemning sexual violence as a war tactic.</li> </ul>
21st June	International Day of Yoga	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>2024 marks the 10th International Day of Yoga with the theme “Yoga for Self and Society.”</b></li> <li>➤ The UN proclaimed <b>June 21st as International Day of Yoga in 2014 by resolution 69/131.</b></li> <li>➤ <b>PM Modi</b> introduced the proposal during the <b>69th session</b> of the <b>UN General Assembly.</b></li> <li>➤ <b>Yoga</b> was inscribed on the <b>Representative List</b> of the <b>Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity</b> in <b>2016.</b></li> </ul>
23 June	International Widows’ Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Recognized by the UN in <b>2011</b> to raise awareness of human rights violations against widows.</li> <li>➤ <b>2024 theme: “Invisible Women, Invisible Problems.”</b></li> <li>➤ Over 258 million widows worldwide, often unseen, unsupported, and unmeasured in societies.</li> </ul>
23 June	United Nations Public Service Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ On <b>December 20, 2002</b>, the General Assembly designated <b>June 23 as Public Service Day (resolution 57/277).</b></li> <li>➤ The UN is <b>headquartered in New York, USA.</b></li> <li>➤ <b>Established after WWII</b> to prevent future world wars, succeeding the League of Nations.</li> <li>➤ Secretary-General: <b>António Guterres.</b></li> <li>➤ UNGA President: <b>Dennis Francis.</b></li> <li>➤ Membership: <b>193 member states, 2 observer states.</b></li> </ul>
23 June	Olympic Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Olympic Day, established in 1948</b>, is celebrated annually on <b>June 23rd.</b></li> <li>➤ Commemorates the founding of the IOC by Pierre de Coubertin in <b>1894.</b></li> <li>➤ <b>2024 theme: “Let’s Move and Celebrate.”</b></li> </ul>
27th June	World MSME Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>ASSOCHAM</b> is organizing a <b>two-day MSME</b> conference in <b>Lucknow</b> on June 26-27.</li> <li>➤ <b>Minister of MSME</b>, UP Government <b>Rakesh Sachan</b> inaugurated the event.</li> <li>➤ MSMEs contribute 40% to India’s GDP.</li> <li>➤ MSMEs provide 62% of employment.</li> </ul>

1st July	National Doctor's Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Every year in India on the 1st of July, National Doctor's Day is observed In India, <b>to mark the importance of doctors</b> hold in our lives and as a mark the importance of doctors in our lives.</li> <li>➤ This day is observed to honor the <b>legendary physician and West Bengal's 2nd Chief Minister, Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy</b> in the remembrance of his <b>birthday</b>. He was also <b>honored with the highest civilian award Bharat Ratna</b>.</li> </ul>
4th July:	American Independence day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ July 4th is celebrated as <b>American Independence Day</b>, a federal holiday been observed in the United States since 1941</li> </ul>
7th July-	Jagannath Puri Rath Yatra	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ This day marks the start of the <b>Rath Yatra festival</b> when <b>Lord Jagannath goes to his aunt's house for seven days with his siblings on chariots</b>.</li> <li>➤ <b>Ratha Yatra</b> is a <b>Hindu festival</b> associated with <b>Lord Jagannath held at Puri in the state of Odisha, India</b>.</li> <li>➤ It is the <b>oldest Ratha Yatra</b> taking place in India and the World, whose descriptions can be found in <b>Brahma Purana, Padma Purana, Skanda Purana, and Kapila Samhita</b>.</li> </ul>
11th July	World Population Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>World Population Day</b> is observed every year on <b>11th July</b> to shift the focus and attention of the people on the urgency and <b>importance of population issues</b>.</li> <li>➤ The increasing population has led to an increase in demand for every industry which is the key reason for many problems like deforestation.</li> </ul>
12th July:	World Malala day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ 12th July is recognized as <b>World Malala Day</b> by the <b>United Nations</b> as it was on July 12, 2013, that <b>Malala Yousafzai, a 16-year-old Pakistani girl</b> engaged in promoting women's education.</li> </ul>
14th July	<b>Bastille Day or French National Day</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Bastille Day</b> is celebrated on <b>14 July every year</b>. This day marks the <b>anniversary of the Storming of the Bastille on 14 July 1789</b> which is a turning point of the French Revolution.</li> </ul>
17th July	<b>World Day for International Justice</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>2nd July</b> is recognized as <b>World Malala Day</b> by the United Nations as it was on <b>July 12, 2013</b>, that <b>Malala Yousafzai, a 16-year-old Pakistani girl</b> engaged in <b>promoting women's education</b>.</li> <li>➤ She delivered an impassioned speech at the <b>United Nations headquarters</b> on the need for gender equality in education.</li> <li>➤ <b>12th July</b> is also the <b>birthday of Malala Yousafzai</b> and this day was declared by <b>UN Malala Day</b>.</li> </ul>
18th July	<b>International Nelson Mandela Day</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>International Nelson Mandela Day</b> is observed on 18 July every year.</li> <li>➤ The day celebrates <b>Mandela's life and legacy</b> in a sustainable way that will bring about the needful changes.</li> </ul>
23rd July	National Broadcasting Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The <b>23rd of July</b> is marked as <b>Indian National Broadcasting day</b> to remember when the first radio broadcast went on air on <b>23rd July 1927</b> from the <b>Indian Broadcasting Company</b>.</li> </ul>
28th July	<b>World Nature Conservation Day</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ World Nature Conservation Day is observed every year on 28 July to <b>spread awareness that a healthy environment is a foundation for a stable and productive society and future generations</b>.</li> </ul>
29th July	International Tiger Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Observed on 29<sup>th</sup> July <b>to raise awareness for tiger conservation and was first coined in 2010 at the Saint Petersburg Tiger Summit</b>.</li> </ul>



# JOKTA Academy

IAS/HAS



# MEGA TEST

FOR ALLIED PRELIMS



25<sup>th</sup> SEP. 2024



11:00 am - 2:00 pm (3 Hrs)

## CENTRES:

CHANDIGARH, DHARAMSHALA  
SHIMLA, SOLAN, NAHAN,  
MANDI, HAMIRPUR



Registration Link

## REWARDS

**Toppers #1 - #5**

Allied Answer Writing Programme

**Toppers #6 - #10**

Allied Mains Test Series 2024



CHANDIGARH  
**9779464470**

[www.joktacademy.com](http://www.joktacademy.com)

SHIMLA  
**8628864475**



## NATIONAL NEWS

### Chandrayaan-3

- India became the **first nation to achieve a soft landing on the lunar south pole** and the **fourth nation overall to soft-land on the Moon**
- **Mission Objective:** Demonstrate **India's capability in safe landing and roving on the lunar surface**, following Chandrayaan-2.
- **Landing Achievement:** Successfully soft-landed the **Lander Module (Vikram)** and **Rover (Pragyan)** on the **Lunar South Pole** on **August 23, 2023**.
- **Launch Details:** Launched by **ISRO** using the **Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mark III (LVM3)** on **July 14, 2023**, from **Sriharikota**.
- **Launch Vehicle:** LVM3 is a **three-stage rocket system** (two solid strap-on stages and one core liquid stage) designed for **cost-effective placement into Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO)**.

#### Mission Objectives:

- **Safe and soft landing on the Lunar Surface** by the Lander.
- **Roving operations on the Moon** by the Rover (Pragyan).
- **Conducting in-situ scientific experiments** to explore resources like water ice.



#### Chandrayaan-3 mission timeline:

- **Launch:** July 14, 2023
- **Soft Landing:** August 23, 2023
- **Landing Point:** Named 'Shiv Shakti' point (now called "Statio Shiv Shakti" by IAU)
- **National Space Day:** Declared on **August 23**
- **Lessons from Chandrayaan-2:** Applied failure-based

design approach, strengthened legs, increased fuel reserves, improved landing site flexibility

- **Choice of Landing Site:** Investigated permanently shadowed regions near the South Pole for water-ice and resources
- **Propulsion Module Return:** December 5, 2023, ISRO brings back Chandrayaan-3 propulsion module to Earth's orbit

### PM Modi designates new Parliament building as Parliament House of India

- The **old parliament building** will now be called "**Samvidhan Sadan (Constitution House)**".
- This new Parliament Building of India was **inaugurated on May 28, 2023**, however the **official business of the building** began on **September 19, 2023** during the Parliament Special Session.
- Designed by renowned architect **Bimal Patel**.
- The iconic **old building** was designed by British architects **Sir Edwin Lutyens and Herbert Baker**.
- It was **completed in 1927**

#### Features of New Parliament Building

- Built at a cost of **Rs.971 crore**, as a part of **India's Central Vista Redevelopment Project**.
- The built-up area is approximately **65,000 square meters**.
- **Triangular shape** (Constructed by **Tata Projects Ltd**)
- It has a **seating capacity of 1272 seats**, which includes **888 for Lok Sabha** and **384 for Rajya Sabha**.
- **Lok Sabha hall** is designed around the **peacock theme (India's national bird)**.
- **Rajya Sabha hall** features the **lotus theme (India's national flower)**.
- New Parliament Building has **six gates named after animals and creatures**.
- **6 gates** - **Gaja Dwar, Ashwa Dwar, Garuda Dwar, Makar Dwar, Shaktula, Hamsa Dwar**
- Out of these six entrances, **three are designed as ceremonial entrances, to welcome special guests and to mark special events**. They have been named as **Gyan, Shakti and Karma**

### Supreme Court Declines To Recognize Same-Sex Marriages

- A five-judge Constitution Bench, led by Chief Justice of India **D Y Chandrachud**, issued a **unanimous verdict** declining to recognize same-sex marriages and civil unions for nonheterosexual couples.

- The Bench agreed that **there is no fundamental right to marry under the Indian Constitution.**
- The judgment **did not recognize same-sex marriages or civil unions but acknowledged the right to choose partners and live-in relationships.**

### Electoral Bond unconstitutional

- The **electoral bonds system** was introduced in **2017** by way of a Finance bill and it was **implemented in 2018.**
- They **served as a means for individuals and entities to make donations to registered political parties while maintaining donor anonymity.**

### Features:

- **SBI is the only authorized issuer.**
- State Bank of India (SBI) issues the bonds in **denominations of Rs 1,000, Rs 10,000, Rs 1 lakh, Rs 10 lakh, and Rs 1 crore.**
- Purchased by **Indian citizens or entities established in India.**
- Can be **purchased digitally or through cheques.**
- **Valid for 15 calendar days from the date of issue.**
- **Only the political parties registered under Section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 and have secured not less than 1% of the votes polled in the last general election to the House of the People or the Legislative Assembly, are eligible to receive electoral bonds**
- **Encashment only through an authorized bank account of the political party.**
- Parties must disclose their bank account with the Election Commission of India (ECI).
- Political parties are obligated to explain the utilization of the funds received.
- The **Finance Act, 2016**, had also amended the **Foreign Contribution Regulation Act, 2010**, to **allow foreign companies with subsidiaries in India to fund political parties in India**, effectively, **“exposing Indian politics and democracy to international lobbyists**

### BRICS SUMMIT IN JOHANNESBURG

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated in the 15th BRICS Summit on August 22, in Johannesburg, South Africa.
- **BRICS Expansion:** BRICS marked its 15th summit by expanding its membership from five to eleven countries, reflecting a concerted effort to enhance its global standing.
- **Egypt, Iran, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Ethiopia, and Argentina joined the BRICS.**
- Argentina later withdrew from BRICS.
- Full membership will take effect on January 1, 2024.

### About BRICS

- It stands for **Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa.**
- In **2001**, the British Economist **Jim O'Neill** coined the term BRIC to describe the four emerging economies of **Brazil, Russia, India, and China.**
- The grouping was formalized during the first meeting of BRIC Foreign Ministers in 2006.
- South Africa was invited to join BRIC in December 2010, after which the group adopted the acronym BRICS
- The chairmanship of the forum is rotated annually among the members, in accordance with the acronym B-R-I-C-S

### Ram Lalla consecrated at Ayodhya temple

- The ‘pran pratishtha’ took place during the 84-second mool mahurat, a part of larger ‘Abhijeet muhurta’
- Pandit Ganeshwar Shastri Dravid, an astrologer from Kashi, chose the moment
- The new idol depicts Ram at the age of five, and was carved from black stone by Mysuru-based sculptor Arun Yogiraj.
- Fifty traditional musical instruments from across the country were part of a devotional “mangal dhvani”. Orchestrated by Ayodhya’s celebrated poet Yatindra Mishra
- The instruments included pakhawaj, flute and dholak from Uttar Pradesh, veena from Karnataka, algoja from Punjab, sundari from Maharashtra, mardala from Odisha, santoor from Madhya Pradesh, pung from Manipur, nagada and kali from Assam and tambura from Chhattisgarh.

### Historical backdrop

- The 16th century Babri mosque, which many Hindus believe was constructed on the site of Lord Ram’s birthplace, was demolished by kar sevaks on December 6, 1992.
- A Supreme Court bench of then CJI Ranjan Gogoi and Justices S A Bobde, D Y Chandrachud, Ashok Bhushan and S Abdul Nazeer had settled a more than 150-year-old Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid land dispute through a unanimous verdict in November 2019
- They ruled in favour of the construction of the temple. It also ordered allotment of a five-acre plot for building a mosque.

### About Ram Janmabhoomi Mandir

- The temple has been constructed in the traditional Nagara style.
- It is designed in Maru Gurjara sub-style.
- Its east-west length is 380 feet, width 250 feet and height 161 feet.
- It is supported by 392 pillars and has 44 doors.

- Black stone used for Lord Ram's idol originates from Karnataka
- Core of the temple - Rajasthan's Makrana marble
- Exquisite carvings of deities in centre stage- Karnataka's Charmouthi sandstone
- Entrance gate's imposing figures - pink sandstone from Rajasthan's Bansi Paharpur
- 2100 kg Ashtadhatu bell - Gujarat
- Intricately carved wooden doors and handcrafted fabrics - Arunachal Pradesh and Tripura
- The **Ayodhya Ram Temple**, is set to introduce a groundbreaking feature - a solar-powered "**Surya Tilak**" for the deity Ram Lalla.
- This unique feature is planned exclusively for the annual Ram Navami celebration, marking Lord Ram's birth.
- The "Surya Tilak" system is designed by scientists from CSIR and Central Building Research Institute.
- It is a manually operated system made of brass, ensuring the traditional ethos of the temple is maintained.
- The system's design accounts for the changing position of the sun on Ram Navami each year, ensuring accuracy for the ritual.
- **Shree Ram Janmabhoomi Temple** is designed by celebrated architect Chandrakant B Sompura
- His grandfather, **Prabhakar Sompura**, designed the revived **Somnath Mandir** in Gujarat in 1949.

### INDIA'S FIRST HYDROGEN CELL BUS LAUNCHED

- State-run power giant **NTPC** launched **India's first hydrogen bus in Leh**, aiming to achieve a **carbon-neutral Ladakh**.

#### Components:

- NTPC is setting up a **hydrogen fueling station and a solar plant**.
- **Five hydrogen fuel cell buses** are deployed for intracity routes in Leh.
- The project includes **1.7 MW of dedicated solar power** to provide renewable energy.

### BRO TO CONSTRUCT WORLD'S HIGHEST ROAD

- The **Border Roads Organisation** has started a prestigious challenging project for **construction of the world's highest motorable road**, at an altitude of approximately **19,400 feet**.
- The **64 km long 'Likaru-Mig La-Fukche'** road is being constructed in the **Demchok sector of Ladakh**.
- It will connect crucial military outposts in the **sensitive Fukche sector** which is just three kilometres away from the contested **Line of Actual Control (LAC)**.

### Project Tiger merges with Project Elephant

- **Project Tiger** and **Project Elephant** have been merged, meaning a **common allocation** will fund both beginning this year.
- A new division, '**Project Tiger and Elephant Division**,' has been notified under the **ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)**.
- The **administrative setup** for the two schemes will continue to **exist separately**, only funding is to be merged.
- The **amalgamated budget** of Project Tiger and Project Elephant schemes in 2023-24 stands at **Rs 331 crore**.
- **Project Elephant** completed **30 years in 2022** and **Project Tiger** completed **50 years in 2023**.

### About Project Elephant

Project Elephant	Information
Launch year	<b>1992</b>
Type	<b>Centrally-sponsored scheme</b>
Aim	To <b>protect elephants</b> and improve their habitat and corridors, reduce human-elephant conflict
Elephant reserves	<b>33 elephant reserves</b> have been notified ( <b>Terai ER in Uttar Pradesh became 33rd India's ER</b> ); 101 elephant corridors identified

### About Project Tiger:

Type	➤ <b>Centrally Sponsored Scheme</b> under the <b>Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC)</b>
Implementing Authority	➤ <b>National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)</b> (est. <b>2005</b> ; HQ: <b>New Delhi</b> )
About NTCA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ NTCA was established following a recommendation of the <b>Tiger Task Force</b>.</li> <li>➤ It is a <b>statutory body</b> under the <b>Wildlife (Protection) Act, of 1972</b></li> </ul>
Members of NTCA	➤ Chairperson - <b>Environment Minister</b>
Functions of NTCA	➤ Supervisory and coordination role and approval of the <b>Tiger Conservation Plan</b> prepared by the <b>State Governments</b> .



## BHU-VISION

- **Bhu-Vision** - a revolutionary **automated soil testing and agronomy advisory platform**, officially launched at AICRP (ICAR-IIRR), Hyderabad.
- It is also known as **KRISHI-RASTAA Soil Testing System**.
- **ICAR-IIRR (Indian Council of Agricultural Research -Indian Institute of Rice Research)**
- This system seamlessly conducts **12 key soil parameter tests in just 30 minutes**.
- It provides quick and accurate results directly to farmers and stakeholders through a soil health card on their mobile devices.
- **Indian Institute of Rice Research**
  - ❖ It was established in **1965**.
  - ❖ Headquarter: **Hyderabad**.

## Justice G. Rohini Commission

- Justice G. Rohini Commission submits report on sub-categorisation of OBCs after 6 years.
- The **Rohini Commission** was constituted in **October 2017** under Article 340 of the Constitution.
- The need for sub-categorisation arises out of the perception that only a few affluent communities among the over **2,600 included in the Central List of OBCs** have secured a major part of this **27% reservation**.
- Sub-categorisation would ensure more equitable distribution of opportunities in central government jobs and educational institutions.
- The **Kalelkar Commission, set up in 1953**, was the first to identify backward classes other than the Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) at the national level.
- The **Mandal Commission Report, 1980** estimated the OBC population at **52%** and classified **1,257 communities** a backward.

## 5th World Coffee Conference (WCC)

- For the **first time in Asia**, World Coffee Conference was held in **Bengaluru, India**.
- **Dates:** 25-28 September 2023
- **Organizer:** International Coffee Organization (ICO)
- **Brand Ambassador:** Rohan Bopanna
- **Theme:** "Sustainability through circular economy and regenerative agriculture"

## International Coffee Organization (ICO):

- **Establishment:** 1963 under the United Nations
- **Headquarters:** United Kingdom
- **Membership:** 75 member countries

## Study in India (SII) Portal

- **Launch:** Jointly by Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar
- **Location:** New Delhi
- **Objective:** Simplify the academic journey for international students in India.
- **Aim:** Provide comprehensive information about Indian Higher Education Institutions
- **Features:**
  - ❖ Integrated one-stop solution for student registration and visa application
  - ❖ Information on academic facilities and research support

## National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill

- The Rajya Sabha passed the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill in New Delhi in August 2023.
- Rajya Sabha passes Delhi services bill.
- **Aims:** To make a corruption-free administration in Delhi
- The Bill establishes the **National Capital Civil Services Authority to make recommendations to the LG on certain matters related to services**.
- The authority consists of the **Delhi Chief Minister**, the **Chief Secretary of Delhi**, and the **Principal Home Secretary of Delhi**.
- These include:
  1. Transfers and postings
  2. Matters related to vigilance
  3. Disciplinary proceedings
  4. Prosecution sanctions of Group A of All India Services (except Indian Police Service)
- The Authority will make **recommendations to Delhi Lieutenant Governor regarding transfers and postings of officials and disciplinary matters**.
- **The central government will appoint both the Principal Home Secretary and Chief Secretary**.
- All decisions of the Authority will be based on a majority vote of the members present and voting.
- The **Delhi Administration Act** was enacted in **1966**. The LG replaced the Chief Commissioner. On 7 November 1966 Delhi's first LG was appointed.

## Background

- Article 239 AA was inserted in the Constitution by the **69<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendment Act, 1991**.
- Based on the recommendations of **S Balakrishnan Committee (1987)**, it gave special status to Delhi.
- It says that the **National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi** will have an **Administrator and a Legislative Assembly**.



- The Legislative Assembly “shall have power to make laws for the whole or any part of the NCT w.r.t. any of the matters in the State List or Concurrent List in so far as any such matter is applicable to Union territories”.
- However, the legislative assembly of Delhi cannot legislate on the following three subjects – Police, Public Order, and Land.
- However, in the past few years, governance in the NCT has often been a subject of conflict between the Delhi government and the LG.

### A-HELP Programme

- The Union Minister for Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Parshottam Rupala, inaugurated the ‘A-HELP’ (Accredited Agent for Health and Extension of Livestock Production) programme in Gujarat.
- A-HELP programme is part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav initiative, fostering livestock enhancement
- Focuses on critical areas of livestock health, disease management, and animal infertility.
- The ‘A-HELP’ programme enlists trained women agents for disease control, artificial insemination, animal tagging, and livestock insurance.

### Bharat New Car Assessment Programme

- Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari launches the Bharat New Car Assessment Programme (Bharat NCAP) to improve road safety through raising the safety standards of motor vehicles up to 3.5 tonnes in India.
- Car manufacturers have the option of voluntarily submitting their vehicles for testing as per the Automotive Industry Standard (AIS) 197
- The test results will determine star ratings in two categories:
  1. Adult Occupant (AOP)
  2. Child Occupant (COP).
- Potential car buyers can refer to these star ratings to measure and compare the safety standards of different vehicles.

### Awards Given to PM Modi in 2023

1. Order of the Nile (Egypt) – June 25, 2023
2. Legion of Honour (France) – July 14, 2023
3. Order of Honour (Greece) – August 25, 2023
4. Companion of the Order of Logohu (Papua New Guinea) – May 22, 2023
5. Ebaki Award (Republic of Palau) – May 22, 2023

### SVAMITVA Yojana Receives National Award for e-Governance 2023

- Event: 26th National Conference on e-Governance 2023
- Award: National Award for e-Governance

- Category: Application of emerging technology for providing citizen-centric services
- Organizers: Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) and the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)

### SVAMITVA Scheme

- Full Form: Survey of Villages Abadi and Mapping with Improved Technology in Village Areas
- Objective: To survey the population of villages, map rural areas with advanced technology, and provide ownership rights of property to individuals living in rural areas.
- Ministry: Ministry of Panchayati Raj

### Cabinet approved the expansion of Ujjwala Yojana

- The Union Cabinet decided to extend the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) to 75 lakh more consumers by providing them LPG connections over three years from 2023-24 to 2025-26.
- This expansion will elevate the total number of PMUY beneficiaries to 103.5 million.

### PM Ujjwala Scheme

- It is a scheme of the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas for providing LPG connections to women from Below Poverty Line (BPL) households.
- The scheme was originally launched on May 1, 2016, in Ballia, Uttar Pradesh with a target of releasing 8 crore connections by March 2020.
- During Ujjwala 1.0, a target was set to provide LPG connections to 5 crore women members of BPL households.
- Subsequently, the scheme was expanded in April 2018 to include women beneficiaries from seven more categories (SC/ST, PMAY, AAY, Most backward classes, tea garden, forest dwellers, Islands).

### PM SHRI Schools Initiative

- On the occasion of Teacher’s Day 2022, the Prime Minister of India announced a new initiative - PM SHRI Schools (PM SchHools for Rising India).
- It is a centrally sponsored scheme for upgradation and development of more than 14500 Schools across the country.
- These schools will be equipped with modern infrastructure including labs, smart classrooms, libraries, sports equipment, art room etc. which is inclusive and accessible.

### World’s First Portable Disaster Hospital

- India has developed the world’s first portable disaster hospital, known as the “Aarogya Maitri Cube.”
- This innovative solution aims to provide immediate

medical support during natural disasters or crises, ensuring timely aid and relief to affected areas.

- Created under **Project BHISHM (Bharat Health Initiative for Sahyog Hita and Maitri)**.
- The Aarogya Maitri Cube is part of the larger “**Aarogya Maitri**” project, which aims to **provide essential medical supplies to any developing country affected by natural disasters or humanitarian crises**.

#### Key Features:

- **Portability:** The hospital can be airlifted and assembled into 72 cubes.
- **Capacity:** Each setup can support 200 survivors for 48 hours.
- **Facilities Included** Operation theatres, Mini-ICUs, Ventilators, Blood test equipment, X-ray machines etc.

#### Malaviya Mission

Shri Dharmendra Pradhan has launched the **Malaviya Mission - Teachers Training Programme**, an initiative by the **University Grants Commission (UGC)** aimed at **enhancing the skills and capacities of teachers in higher educational institutions across India**.

#### Key Announcements:

- **Renaming of HRDCs:** Human Resource Development Centres (HRDCs) will now be known as **Madan Mohan Malaviya Teachers' Training Centres**.
- **Centers Establishment:** The Malaviya Mission plans to **establish 111 training centers across India**.
- **Program Reach:** The initiative aims to build the **capacities of 15 lakh (1.5 million) teachers in higher educational institutions**, ensuring comprehensive coverage and impact.

#### World's Largest Nataraja Statue

- The world's tallest Nataraja statue has been installed at Bharat Mandapam, the venue of the G20 summit in Delhi.
- The 28-foot-tall statue weighing 20 tonnes was made in a record time of seven months by sculptor Radhakrishnan Sthapathy and his team.
- The statue was built in Ashtadhatu (8 metals), the clay sourced from the Cauvery River in Swamimalai.

#### OIML Certificates

- India has become the 13th nation to issue Internationally Accepted OIML certificates.
- **OIML:** International Organization of Legal Metrology.

#### Benefits for Domestic Manufacturers:

- Domestic manufacturers can now have their weighing and measuring instruments tested in India.

- This facilitates selling these instruments in the international market.

#### Benefits for International Manufacturers:

- International manufacturers can now get their equipment tested in India.
- This development will generate revenue and create employment opportunities in India.

#### About OIML:

- **Established:** 1955
- **Type:** Intergovernmental organization
- **Purpose:** OIML certificates are internationally accepted for selling weights and measures worldwide.
- **India's Membership:** Joined in 1956.
- **Membership:** 63 Member States and 64 Corresponding Members.

#### Exclusive Group of Nations:

- India joins other nations authorized to issue OIML approval certificates, including:
- Australia, Switzerland, China, Czech Republic, Germany, Denmark, France, UK, Japan, the Netherlands, Sweden and Slovakia authorised to issue OIML approval certificates.

#### 18th G20 Summit 2023

- **Formation:** 26 September **1999, 2008** (heads-of-state/ heads-of-government summits)
- **Aims:** It works to address major issues related to the global economy, such as international financial stability, climate change mitigation and sustainable development.
- **Membership:** **21 members** (19 sovereign countries, the European Union (EU), and the African Union (AU))
- **Theme 2023:** “**Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam**,” which translates to “One Earth. One Family. One Future.”
- **Latest Member–** African Union (AU) 2023
- **G 20 Summit 2023 Agenda:** ‘Voice of the Global South

#### Global Biofuels Alliance

- **PM Modi launches global biofuels alliance at G20 summit in New Delhi**
- The Global Biofuel Alliance is an **India-led Initiative** to develop an alliance of Governments, International organizations, and Industry **to facilitate the adoption of biofuels**.
- **Aim:** To position biofuels as a key to energy transition and contribute to jobs and economic growth and **reduce the world's dependency on traditional fossil fuels**.
- A total of **19 countries and 12 international organisations** have so far agreed to join the alliance, **including both G20**

members and non-member countries.

- **India, Brazil and the US** are the **founding members** of the alliance.
- India, the US and Brazil account for a **total of 85 percent of the global ethanol production** with the **US holding 55 per cent share** followed by **Brazil 27 per cent** and **India 3 per cent**.
- Global Biofuel Alliance will be the **second India led multilateral platform** after the **International Solar Alliance (ISA)** launched at Paris COP21 in **2015**.

#### What is Biofuel

- Biofuels are renewable energy sources derived from biomass, such as crop stubble, plant waste, and municipal solid waste.
- Biofuels may be solid, liquid or gaseous in nature.
- **Solid:** Wood, dried plant material, and manure
- **Liquid:** Bioethanol and Biodiesel
- **Gaseous:** Biogas

#### India-Middle East-Europe Mega Economic Corridor: Launch

- The Prime Minister of India announced the launch of the India-Middle East-Europe mega economic corridor.
- This corridor will connect Europe, the Middle East, and Asia through a railway and ship-rail transit network and road transport routes.
- India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor project includes India, the UAE, Saudi Arabia, the European Union, France, Italy, Germany and the US.
- The project will aim to enable greater trade among the involved countries, including energy products.
- The proposed corridor will comprise two separate corridors, the Eastern Corridor, and the Northern Corridor.
- The former will connect India to the Arabian Gulf and the latter will connect the Arabian Gulf to Europe.
- Additionally, the corridor promises to secure supply chains, generate employment opportunities, and enhance trade facilitation and accessibility.
- The corridor will include a rail link as well as an electricity cable, a hydrogen pipeline and a high-speed data cable.
- In the coming times, it will be a major medium of economic integration between India, West Asia and Europe.

#### One Sun, One World, One Grid Initiative:

- A day-long event on “Transnational Grid Interconnections for One Sun, One World, One Grid (OSOWOG)” was held recently in New Delhi.
- **Inception:** The OSOWOG idea was proposed by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** at the First Assembly of the **International Solar Alliance (ISA)** in October 2018.

#### ➤ Objective:

- ❖ **Connect Regional Grids:** Create a common grid to link different regional energy grids across borders.
- ❖ **Transfer Renewable Energy:** Facilitate the transfer of renewable energy, especially solar power, between regions.
- ❖ **Harness Solar Energy:** Realize the full potential of renewable energy sources.

#### ➤ Leadership: The initiative is led by the **Governments of India and the UK**.

#### ➤ Partners:

- ❖ **International Solar Alliance (ISA)**
- ❖ **World Bank Group**

#### ➤ Significance: Aims to enhance energy supply stability, promote renewable energy, and foster international collaboration.

#### When will it be completed?

- **The grid is expected to be set up over the next few years by the ISA.**
- Once operational, it will transport solar power to different countries.

#### About ISA:

Aspect	Details
Establishment	➤ 2015; UNFCCC COP21, Paris.
Founders	➤ India and France.
Headquarters	➤ Gurugram, India.
Purpose	➤ To promote solar energy use, facilitate access to solar technologies, and support global solar energy projects
Key objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Accelerate Solar Energy Deployment:</b> Promote widespread adoption of solar energy technologies.</li> <li>➤ <b>Support Solar Technology Innovation:</b> Facilitate research and development in solar technology.</li> <li>➤ <b>Facilitate Financial Support:</b> Mobilize financial resources for solar energy projects.</li> <li>➤ <b>Enhance Solar Market Opportunities:</b> Create favorable conditions for solar market growth.</li> </ul>
Major Initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>One Sun, One World, One Grid (OSOWOG):</b> A global initiative to connect regional grids for solar energy distribution.</li> <li>➤ financial and technical solutions.</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Solar Emergency Light Initiative:</b> Providing solar-powered emergency lights to communities affected by natural disasters.</li> <li>➤ <b>Scaling Solar Programme:</b> Support for scaling up solar energy projects through innovative</li> </ul>
Membership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ 100 full members – Ratified (latest Paraguay-June 2024)</li> <li>➤ Signatory- 120 countries</li> <li>➤ Note- updated till June 2024</li> </ul>
Funding Sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Member Contributions:</b> Annual contributions from member countries.</li> <li>➤ <b>Donor Contributions:</b> Support from international organizations and financial institutions.</li> <li>➤ <b>Project Funding:</b> Financial mechanisms for solar energy projects.</li> </ul>

### Ayushman Bhava Campaign

Aspect	Detail
Inaugurated By	➤ President <b>Droupadi Murmu</b>
Objective	➤ Provide <b>universal healthcare access</b> across India and ensure no person is deprived of health services.
Main Goal	➤ <b>Comprehensive Health Coverage:</b> Ensure coverage for every village and town across India.
Collaborators	➤ <b>Gram Panchayats, Health Department, Government Departments, Local Elected Bodies</b>
Components	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Ayushman - Apke Dwar 3.0</b></li> <li>2. <b>Ayushman Melas</b></li> <li>3. <b>Ayushman Sabhas</b></li> </ol>
Ayushman - Apke Dwar 3.0	➤ Health services delivered directly to people's homes.
Ayushman Melas	➤ Health fairs at <b>health and wellness centers</b> and <b>community health centers</b> .
Ayushman Sabhas	➤ <b>Community assemblies</b> for healthcare-related discussions and initiatives in villages and panchayats.

### e Courts Project Phase III

- The Union Cabinet recently approved the third phase of the eCourts Projects with a budget allocation of Rs.7,210 crore.

Aspect	Details
Duration	➤ 2023 - 2027
Implemented By	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Department of Justice</b>, Ministry of Law &amp; Justice, Government of India</li> <li>➤ <b>eCommittee</b>, Supreme Court of India</li> </ul>
Objective	➤ <b>Universal Healthcare Access:</b> Ensure comprehensive health services for every village and town across India.
Main Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Upgrade Technology:</b> Enhance court management systems and services.</li> <li>➤ <b>Expand Digital Services:</b> Improve e-Filing, case management, and online judicial services.</li> <li>➤ <b>Improve Efficiency:</b> Streamline court processes to reduce case backlogs.</li> <li>➤ <b>Strengthen Cybersecurity:</b> Implement advanced security measures.</li> <li>➤ <b>Training &amp; Capacity Building:</b> Provide training for judicial staff on new technologies and systems.</li> </ul>
Phases of the eCourts Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Phase I</b> (2007 - March 30, 2015): Computerization of District and Taluka courts, staff training.</li> <li>➤ <b>Phase II</b> (August 4, 2015 - 2023): Covered remaining courts, introduced video conferencing with jails.</li> <li>➤ <b>Phase III</b> (2023 - 2027): Ongoing phase with focus on technology upgrades and efficiency improvements.</li> </ul>

### Santiniketan received World Heritage status by UNESCO

Aspect	Details
Location	➤ Santiniketan, West Bengal, India
UNESCO World Heritage Status	➤ 41st World Heritage Property in India
Historical Significance	➤ Town where Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore spent much of his life.
Key Historical Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>1901:</b> Tagore converted Santiniketan into a school and art center following the Gurukul system.</li> <li>➤ <b>1921:</b> Establishment of <b>Visva Bharati University</b> at Santiniketan.</li> </ul>
Previous World Heritage Sites in West Bengal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Sundarbans National Park</b></li> <li>➤ <b>Darjeeling Mountain Railways</b></li> </ul>



Durga Puja Recognition	➤ Last year, <b>Durga Puja</b> was added to UNESCO's <b>Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity</b> .
Rabindranath Tagore	➤ <b>Nobel Prize in Literature: 1913</b> , first non-European and first lyricist to win. ➤ <b>Notable Works:</b> "Gitanjali", "Bharto Bhagyo Bidhata", "Gora", "Jana Gana Mana", "Ravindra Sangeet", "Amar Shonar Bangla" ➤ <b>Nicknames:</b> "Bard of Bengal", "Gurudev", "Kobiguru", "Biswokobi"
UNESCO	➤ United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
Founded	➤ November 16, 1945 in London, UK
Headquarters	➤ Paris, France
Director-General	➤ Audrey Azoulay

destination for international students.

#### World Federation for Medical Education (WFME)

- WFME is an international organisation **working in partnership** with the **World Health Organisation (WHO)** and the **World Medical Association**.
- Established in **1972**, WFME had been accrediting medical colleges independently.

#### National Medical Commission

- **National Medical Commission** is an **Indian regulatory body** which regulates medical education and medical professionals.
- It replaced the **Medical Council of India** on **25 September 2020**.
- **MCI** was established in **1934** under the **Indian Medical Council (IMC) Act, 1933**
- The **government dissolved the MCI** in **2018**.

#### Government launched three initiatives for farmers

**Centre Launches Initiatives for Farmers:** Focus on agri-credit and crop insurance.

##### 1. Kisan Rin Portal (KRP):

- ❖ Revolutionizes access to credit services under the Kisan Credit Card (KCC).
- ❖ Provides comprehensive farmer data, loan details, interest subvention claims, and efficient agriculture credit.

##### 2. Ghar Ghar Kisan Credit Card (KCC) Abhiyaan:

- ❖ Extends KCC Scheme benefits to every farmer in India.
- ❖ Aims for universal financial inclusion and unhindered credit access for farmers.

##### 3. Weather Information Network Data Systems (WINDS):

- ❖ Uses advanced weather data analytics.
- ❖ Provides actionable weather insights for stakeholders.

#### Kisan Credit Cards

- The scheme, introduced in 1998, provides farmers with timely credit support from the banking system for cultivation and purchasing agricultural inputs like seeds, fertilizers, and pesticides.

#### PM inaugurated 'International Lawyers' Conference 2023

- A two-day **International Lawyers Conference** in **New Delhi**.
- **Theme** - Emerging Challenges in the Justice Delivery System.
- This Conference is being **organized for the first time** by the **Bar Council of India**.

#### Yashobhoomi

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has dedicated to India the Phase 1 of **India International Convention and Expo Centre** called '**Yashobhoomi**', at **Dwarka, New Delhi**
- The Yashobhoomi is touted to become **one of the world's largest MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, and Exhibitions) facility**.
- Convention and Expo Centre has been **built at a cost** of about **Rs. 5400 crore**.
- seating capacity of more than **11000 delegates**, comprises of **15 convention rooms**, the **Grand ballroom** and **13 meeting rooms**.

#### NMC gets WFME recognition status for 10 years

- National Medical Commission Achieves Prestigious **World Federation for Medical Education (WFME) Recognition Status for 10 Years**.
- **Students who have graduated from medical schools in India can now practice in foreign countries**.
- This recognition by WFME carries profound implications for Indian medical graduates.
- It **opens doors for them to pursue postgraduate training and practice medicine in countries that require WFME recognition**, including the **United States, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand**.
- Under this accreditation, all **706 existing medical colleges in India will gain WFME accreditation status**.
- Additionally, any **new medical colleges established in the next decade will automatically receive WFME accreditation**.
- This development is **set to position India as an appealing**

- **Objective** - to act as a platform for meaningful dialogue and discussion on various legal topics of national and international importance.

### Bhartiya Bhasha Utsav

- Bhartiya Bhasha Utsav, a 75 day-long event to celebrate Indian languages starts in Lucknow
- Padma shree awardees and representatives of different Indian languages are taking part in the program
- The festival will continue from 28 September to 11 December which is birthday of Famous Tamil poet
- Subrahmanyam Bharti and celebrated as Indian Languages day.

### National Turmeric Board

- Centre notifies establishment of **National Turmeric Board** with focus on enhancing Turmeric exports to US\$ 1 Billion by 2030
- **India is the largest producer, consumer and exporter of turmeric in the world.**
- In the year 2022-23 - over **75% of global turmeric production**
- **More than 30 varieties of Turmeric** are grown in India
- The largest producing states of Turmeric are **Maharashtra, Telangana, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.**
- The **leading export markets** for Indian Turmeric are **Bangladesh, UAE, USA and Malaysia.**
- The Board shall have a Chairperson to be appointed by the Central Government

### "Mera Yuva Bharat" (MY Bharat).

- The Union Cabinet, led by PM Narendra Modi, approved the establishment autonomous body named "Mera Yuva Bharat" (MY Bharat).
- **Objective:** Provide equitable access for youth to realize their aspirations and contribute to the development of Viksit Bharat.
- **Beneficiaries:**
  - ❖ **Primary:** Youth aged 15-29 years.
  - ❖ **Specific programs:** Adolescents aged 10-19 years.
- **Launch Date:** October 31, 2023 (National Unity Day).
- **Goal:** Make MY Bharat a comprehensive government platform for youth development.

### PM Inaugurated Global Maritime India Summit 2023 In Mumbai

- 3rd third edition of the Global Maritime India Summit 2023.
- Organised by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways.

- The first Maritime India summit was held in 2016 in Mumbai while the Second Maritime Summit was held virtually in 2021.

### Residential education scheme SHRESHTA

- Scheme for Residential Education for Students in High Schools in Targeted Areas (SHRESHTA).
- The Scheme will be beneficial **for SC students** those who could not reach for higher quality education.
- It provides for high quality education for **meritorious but poor SC students in CBSE-affiliated reputed residential schools across the country.** (parental **annual income up to Rs. 2.5 Lakh**)
- **National Entrance Test** for SHRESHTA (NETS), is conducted by the **National Testing Agency (NTA)** for **admission in class 9th and 11th.**
- Approximately **3,000 seats are provided each year** for admission in class 9th and 11th and the **entire cost of the school fee and residential charges are borne by the Department.**
- **Selection of schools:** **Best performing CBSE based private residential schools,** having more than **75% pass percentage for class 10 and 12 for last three years** are selected by a Committee for admission of selected students.

### One Nation One Student ID Card – APAAR ID

- The Ministry of Education and Government of India launched **APAAR ID, the "One Nation One Student ID Card."**
- **Objective:** Digitally centralize academic data, including degrees, scholarships, rewards, and other student credits.
- **Distinctive APAAR Number:** Each student receives a unique 12-digit APAAR number.
- **Smooth Transfers:** Simplifies administrative processes for students transferring schools or seeking admission nationwide.
- **Digital Record Keeping:** Allows students to store exam results, learning outcomes, and co-curricular achievements digitally.
- **Parental Consent:** Required before creating an APAAR ID; parents can withdraw consent anytime.
- **Additional Information:** Teachers will update students' blood group, height, and weight for the APAAR ID.
- **Data Privacy:** Student data will remain confidential and shared only with government agencies when necessary.

### Know Your Candidate Mobile App

- The Election Commission of India has a dedicated mobile application called Know your Candidate (KYC) to inform the status of Criminal history or record of candidates.
- It contains information published by candidates.

- The mobile application 'KYC-ECI'

### Ethics committee of Lok Sabha:

Recently, the Lok Sabha Speaker referred the complaint against a sitting member of parliament to the House Ethics Committee. The complaint is based on evidence from an advocate, which he claims shows the exchange of bribes between the accused and a businessman. Each house of the parliament has its own ethics committee. The Lok Sabha Ethics Committee examines complaints of unethical conduct by members of the Lok Sabha.

### Ethics committee in Lok Sabha

- It was first constituted in 2000.
- Composition: not more than 15 members and nominated by the Speaker.
- Term: not exceeding one year.

### Ethics committee in Rajya Sabha

- It was constituted in 1997.
- Composition: 10 members nominated by the Chairman of Rajya Sabha.
- Term: not exceeding one year.

### Functions

- To oversee the moral and ethical conduct of the Members.

### Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhuyday Yojana – PM AJAY

- **PM- AJAY is a merged scheme of 3 Centrally Sponsored Schemes namely**
  1. Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana (PMAGY)
  2. Special Central Assistance to Scheduled Castes Sub Plan (SCA to SCSP)
  3. Babu Jagjivan Ram Chhatrawas Yojana (BJRCY).
- It has been implemented since **2021-22**.
- The scheme was implemented in 28 States/UTs.
- Its **aim is to reduce poverty in the SC communities**
- The **primary objective of this scheme is to reduce poverty among Scheduled Caste (SC) communities**. This is to be achieved by **creating additional employment opportunities through skill development, incomegenerating initiatives, and other projects**.
- The scheme also aims to enhance socio-economic development indicators in SC-dominated villages by providing essential infrastructure and necessary services.
- Not Covered States/UTs:
  - ❖ Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Meghalaya & Mizoram
  - ❖ A & N Islands, Dadra Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu, Ladakh & Lakshadweep.

### NCERT To Replace 'India' With 'Bharat' In Upcoming Books

- NCERT panel suggests replacing 'India' with 'Bharat'
- The **suggestion was made by the 2022 Social Science committee**.
- The **Article 1(1) of the Constitution already states "India, that is Bharat, shall be a Union of States"**.
- **Bharat is an age-old name**.
- The use of the name Bharat finds its mention in ancient texts such as **Vishnu Purana**, which is **7,000 years old**
- The **name Bharat first appeared officially after the government sent out G20 invites hosted by the President in the name of 'President of Bharat', instead of 'President of India'**.
- **"The term India started being used commonly only after the establishment of the East India Company and the battle of Plassey in 1757.**
- The panel also recommended introducing 'classical history' instead of 'ancient history' in the textbooks.
- **History will also no longer be divided into ancient, medieval and modern.**

### India Mobile Congress 2023

- PM Modi inaugurated **7th Edition of India Mobile Congress (IMC) 2023** at **Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi**.
- **Theme - 'Global Digital Innovation,'**
- **Aim - to strengthen India's role as a technology developer, manufacturer, and exporter.**
- IMC 2023, from October 27 to 29, is **Asia's most extensive telecommunications, media, and technology forum**.

### India starts producing 'Reference' fuel

- **'Reference' Petrol and Diesel - highly specialized fuel which is used for testing automobiles.**
- A strong step towards Aatmanirbhar Bharat: it **will reduce India's dependence on mineral oil imports from foreign countries**.
- India has, for decades, been dependent on imports to meet the demand for these specialty fuels.
- **Indian Oil Corporation (IOC)** developed this technology
- **IOC's Paradip Refinery in Odisha** will produce **'Reference' grade petrol**.
- **IOC's Panipat unit in Haryana** will produce **reference grade diesel**
- The **imported 'reference' fuel comes at Rs 800-850, compared to Rs 90-96 per liter of regular petrol and diesel**.
- **Producing 'reference' fuel domestically would reduce its cost to about Rs 450 per litre.**
- The biggest difference between regular and premium fuel is in the octane number.



- Regular fuel has an octane number of 87, Premium fuel is 91. Reference grade fuel come with 97 octane number.
- **Octane number** is a unit to measure the combustion quality of petrol or diesel.

### Gwalior and Kozhikode join UNESCO Creative Cities Network

- **Gwalior and Kozhikode** from India are among the 55 new cities which have joined them **UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN)**.
- **Gwalior** of Madhya Pradesh has made it to this prestigious list in the 'Music' category.
- **Kozhikode** of Kerala has been included in this list in the 'Literature' category.
- The newly designated Creative Cities are **invited to participate in the 2024 UCCN Annual Conference (July 1-5, 2024) in Braga, Portugal, under the theme "Bringing Youth to the table for the next decade"**

### UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN):

- Established: Started in **2004**.
- The objective of **Sustainable Development Goal 11** is related to **sustainable cities and communities**.
- The seven creative areas at UCCN: **Crafts and folk art, media arts, Movie, design, gastronomy, literature and Music**

### Indian cities included in UCCN:

1. **Jaipur**: Crafts and Folk Arts (2015).
2. **Varanasi**: Creative City of Music (2015).
3. **Chennai**: Creative City of Music (2017).
4. **Mumbai**: Film (2019).
5. **Hyderabad**: Gastronomy (2019).
6. **Srinagar**: Crafts and Folk Arts (2021).
7. **Gwalior**: Sangeet (2023).
8. **Kozhikode**: Creative in Literature (2023).

### 'Bharat' Atta (Wheat Flour) : New Initiative

- The Indian government has launched the sale of 'Bharat' brand Atta (wheat flour) with a maximum retail price (MRP) of Rs 27.50 per kilogram which is lower than the national average price of Rs 35.93 per kg.
- 'Bharat' Atta will be available through various outlets, including Kendriya Bhandar, National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Limited (NAFED), and National Cooperative Consumer Federation (NCCF), ensuring its accessibility to a broader consumer base.

### Jal Diwali - "Water For Women, Women For Water Campaign"

- Launched by **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)** under its flagship scheme - **Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT)**, in partnership with the Ministry's **National Urban Livelihood Mission (NULM)**.
- Date: **7 - 9 November, 2023**.
- The campaign aims to provide a platform for inclusion of women in water governance.
- They will be given first-hand knowledge about water treatment processes through visits to **Water Treatment Plants (WTPs)** in their respective cities.

### About AMRUT:

- Launched in **2015** by PM Narendra Modi to transform Indian cities.
- Focuses on **water supply, sewerage, stormwater drainage, urban transport, green spaces, and public spaces**.
- Aims for **100% coverage of water supply and sewerage connections**.
- Promotes **smart water management, waste water treatment, and public transport**.
- **Eligible cities**: **500 cities** with a population over **1 lakh (100,000)**.
- **Funding**: Central government (**50%**), State government (**20%**), Urban local body (**30%**).
- **Duration**: **5 years (2015-2020)**.
- **Benefits**: Improved **water supply, sanitation, public health, green spaces, and quality of life**.

### AMRUT 2.0

- Launched in **2021** as the second phase of AMRUT.
- **Focuses on**: **Water supply and sewerage infrastructure, Rainwater harvesting, Urban transport and mobility, Green spaces and parks, Non-motorized transport**
- **Aims to**:
  - ❖ Cover all statutory towns
  - ❖ Achieve **100% coverage of water supply and sewerage connections**
  - ❖ Promote **circular economy and waste management**
- **Eligible cities**: **All statutory towns in India**
  - ❖ **Funding**: Central government (**50%**), State government (**20%**), Urban local body (**30%**)
  - ❖ **Duration**: **5 years (2021-2026)**
  - ❖ **Benefits**: Improved **water supply, sanitation, public health, green spaces, and quality of life**.



**‘Nayi Chetna – 2.0’**

- Launched on **International Day for Elimination of Violence against Women (Nov 25)**.
- Union Minister Giriraj Singh launched the **month-long awareness campaign**.
- Aims to **advance women’s and gender-diverse individuals’ rights**
- Promotes **life free from fear and gender-based discrimination and violence**
- **Observed across 34 Indian states and UTs till Dec 23**
- **77% women in India don’t report or talk about their experience of violence.**

**One Station One Product scheme**

- The **“One Station One Product”** initiative by the **Indian Railways**, which provides **uniquely designed sale outlets for locals to sell indigenous products**, is now operational at **1,037 stations nationwide**.
- It was launched with a **vision to promote ‘Vocal for Local’**.
- This scheme is **designed by the National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad**.
- The **pilot of the scheme was started on March 25, 2022**.
- This scheme is **providing welfare of local artisans, potters, weavers, tribals etc.**
- The **eligible applicant will be allotted a temporary stall or kiosk for a period of 15 days on deposition of Rs 1,000 with Railways**.
- The **zonal railways will identify the stations, eligible products and the vendors**.

**NEST initiative**

- Recently, the **Indian Green Building Council (IGBC)** launched a **rating and certification initiative called ‘Nest’**.
- NEST initiative is to **promote sustainable and eco-friendly construction in the domestic housing sector**.
- It would **pave the way to help bring down electricity consumption and water usage and create a healthy living space**.

**Indian Green Building Council:**

- It is part of the **Confederation of Indian Industry(CII)** and was formed in **2001**.
- It is **India’s Premier certification body**.
- Headquarters: **Hyderabad**.

**PM-JANMAN**

- PM-JANMAN scheme approved with a budget of **Rs.24,000 crore to support tribal communities**.
- **Central government to contribute Rs.15,336 crore, states**

to contribute **Rs.8,768 crore**.

- **Aims to uplift 75 Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)** across 18 states, 1 UT, 220 districts, and 22,000 villages.
- **Benefits 28,16,000 tribal individuals** with interventions like **housing, road connectivity, water supply, medical units, and skill development**.
- **Aligns with existing schemes like PMAY, PMGSY, and health mission**.
- **Nine key ministries and additional support from Ayush and skill development ministries**.
- Interventions include **permanent housing, road connectivity, piped water supply, mobile medical units, and more**.
- **Ayush ministry** to establish **Wellness Centers** and extend facilities through mobile units.
- **Skill development ministry** to provide training in **PVTG habitations and hostels**.
- **Nodal Ministry- Ministry of Tribal Development**.

**One Nation, One Registration Platform”**

- The **National Medical Commission (NMC)** is all set to **launch its “one nation, one registration platform” for doctors across India**.
- **Aim: To eliminate duplication and red tape and allow the public to access information on any physician working in India**.
- The **NMR will supersede the current Indian Medical Register (IMR)** and will be **publicly accessible through the NMC’s official website**.
- It will provide **comprehensive information about registered doctors, including: UID, registration number, name & place of work, qualification, specialization, institute**.

**Vision India@2047 plan**

- **NITI Aayog CEO BVR Subrahmanyam** said the **draft of Vision India @2047** will be ready by **December 2023**.
- For **India to become a developed economy of about USD 30 trillion by 2047**
- **‘Viksit Bharat @ 2047’ document**, was first envisaged by **PM Modi in December 2021**.
- The preliminary results from **NITI Aayog’s forecasting** also predict that **India’s exports will be valued at \$8.67 trillion in 2047 while its imports will be valued at \$12.12 trillion**.

**ENCORE**

- The **Election Commission of India** has **designed in-house software** for **complete Candidate and election management through ‘ENCORE’** which stands for

### ‘Enabling Communications on Real-time Environment’.

- This provides a seamless facility for Returning Officers to process candidate nomination, affidavit, Voter turnout, counting, results and data management.
- The Election Commission of India is a constitutional body.
- It was established on January 25th, 1950, under the Constitution of India.

### Mitti Cafe In Supreme Court Chief Justice of India (CJI)

- DY Chandrachud inaugurated ‘Mitti Cafe’, a unique establishment situated within the Supreme Court premises.
- Mitti Cafe was founded by Alina Alam in 2017.
- MITTI Café focuses on training and employing adults with physical, mental and psychiatric disabilities, especially from economically deprived backgrounds, in the hospitality sector.

### International Event SAMBHAV

- A two day international event ‘Sambhav- 2023’ by Divyang (Physically and Mentally Challenged) Artists has been organised by A.L.P.A.N.A. (Association for Learning Performing Arts & Normative Action Society) in Delhi.
- Divyang Artists from Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Indonesia, Iran, Myanmar, Nepal, Russia, Sri Lanka and Thailand participated in this event.

### PMGKAY Scheme extended For 5 More Years

- Government Extends PMGKAY Scheme For 5 More Years till 2028.
- Launched in 2020 to help the poor during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Provides 5 kg of free food grains per month to eligible beneficiaries.
- Benefits 81.35 crore people, approximately 67% of India’s population.
- Part of the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package (PMGKP).
- Implemented by the Ministry of Finance.
- Estimated cost: Rs.11.8 lakh crore over 5 years till 2028.

### Ayushman Bharat Health & Wellness Centres, renamed Ayushman Arogya Mandir

- Renamed as Ayushman Arogya Mandir with tagline “Arogyam Parmam Dhanam”.
- Part of Ayushman Bharat flagship program for Universal Health Coverage.
- Launched in 2018 by PM Modi as PM-Jan Arogya Yojna (PM-JAY) (formerly National Health Protection Scheme)
- Merged with Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY)

in 2018

- Implemented by National Health Authority under Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- PM-JAY launched on 23rd September 2018 in Ranchi, Jharkhand.
- Aimed at achieving Universal Health Coverage in India as per National Health Policy 2017.

### AAINA DASHBOARD FOR CITIES

- The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs launched ‘AAINA Dashboard for Cities’ portal on Nov 13 for comparative evaluation of all the Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) across the country.
- The Dashboard will showcase the data across five broad pillars namely, Political & Administrative Structure; Finance; Planning; Citizen Centric Governance and Delivery of Basic Services.
- The primary objectives of the AAINA Dashboard are to help cities to
  - ❖ see how they are faring vis-à-vis other cities
  - ❖ inspire them by pointing to possibilities and areas of improvement and
  - ❖ providing opportunity to learn and engage with frontrunners.
- With active cooperation of all ULBs, the ‘AAINA’ aims to create a robust database of the key performance metrics of ULBs which could be accessed by all stakeholders, and subsequently would open for public view once it gets populated.

### India Unveils Biogas Blending Plan

- In a significant move towards energy sustainability, the Indian government has announced a phased introduction of blending compressed biogas with natural gas.
- India’s biogas blending plan aims to reduce natural gas imports and achieve net zero emissions by 2070.
- The plan involves a phased introduction of compressed biogas blending with natural gas, starting with a 1% blend in April 2025 and increasing to 5% by 2028.
- Additionally, the government aims to incorporate sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) in aircraft turbine fuel, targeting 1% SAF by 2027 and 2% by 2028.
- India depends on imports for around half of its natural gas requirement.
- The plan encourages entrepreneurs to set up CBG plants and supply gas to public sector oil companies.

### India’s First Winter Scientific Arctic Expedition Launched

- This expedition allows scientists to conduct special scientific observations during polar nights.
- The first group of researchers for the Arctic winter

expedition includes researchers from the National Center for Antarctic and Ocean Research, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Mandi, Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology Pune, and Raman Research Institute, Bengaluru.

- It is the implementing agency of various projects of the Government of India for the enhancement and betterment of the Jute crop and the lives of Jute growers.
- It is under the administrative control of the Ministry of Textiles.

#### Indian Research Stations in Arctic and Antarctic:

- **Arctic: Himadri.**
  - ❖ India has been operating a research base in the Arctic called Himadri since 2008
- **Antarctic: Maitri and Bharti.**
  - ❖ Dakshin Gangotri was established by the Indian government in 1983 as India's first research station in Antarctica.
  - ❖ However, it was later decommissioned in 1988 when a new research station, Maitri, was established nearby.
  - ❖ India presently has two research stations at Antarctica namely 'Maitri' and 'Bharati'.

#### Gram Manchitra application

- To empower Gram Panchayats and improve grassroots spatial planning, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj launched tools like the GIS app "Gram Manchitra" and mobile solution "mActionSoft."
- Geographic Information System (GIS) application "Gram Manchitra."
- This application facilitates and supports Gram Panchayats to perform planning at Gram Panchayat level using geo-spatial technology.
- It provides a single/ unified Geo-Spatial platform to better visualise the various developmental works to be taken up across the different sectors and provide a decision support system for the Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP).
- Further, Ministry has launched mActionSoft, a mobile based solution to help in capturing photos with GeoTags (i.e. GPS Coordinates) for the works which have assets as an output.

#### 'Paat-Mitro' app for jute farmers

- The Ministry of Textiles recently launched the "Paat-Mitro" mobile application
- Paat Mitro is a mobile application developed by the Jute Corporation of India Limited (JCI).
- Purpose is to provide important information about Minimum Support Prices (MSP) and agronomy to jute farmers.

#### Jute Corporation of India Limited (JCI):

- It was set up in 1971

#### National Geoscience Data Repository Portal

- The Union Ministry of Mines is to launch the National Geoscience Data Repository (NGDR) Portal
- It is a comprehensive online platform for accessing, sharing, and analysing geospatial information across India.
- Geospatial information refers to data that is tied to specific geographic locations on the Earth's surface. It includes information about the physical features, natural resources, human activities, and any other phenomena occurring on or near the Earth's surface.
- The NGDR initiative was spearheaded by the Geological Survey of India (GSI) and Bhaskaracharya Institute of Space Applications and Geoinformatics (BISAG-N).
- Geological Survey of India (GSI) was set up in 1851 primarily to find coal deposits for the Railways.
- Its main functions relate to creating and updating of national geoscientific information and mineral resource assessment.
- GSI is an attached office of the Ministry of Mines.
- Headquarters: Kolkata
- It has six regional offices located in Lucknow, Jaipur, Nagpur, Hyderabad, Shillong and Kolkata

#### MedTech Mitra Portal

- The Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare launched the MedTech Mitra portal.
- MedTech Mitra portal is an online portal that aims to assist medtech innovators in clinical evaluation, regulatory facilitation, and uptake of new products.
- The new initiatives would facilitate indigenous development of affordable, quality MedTech devices and diagnostics, leading to a considerable reduction in the import dependence of this sector.
- It would provide end-to-end guidance to startups, making their journey from idea to product smooth.
- The portal will be coordinated by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO), under the guidance of NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission.

#### WAIPA World Investment Conference

- For the first time in India 27th WAIPA World Investment Conference Organised at Yashobhoomi, New Delhi
- WAIPA stands for World Association of Investment



### Promotion Agencies.

- The National Investment Promotion and Facilitation Agency of the Government of India and the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) are organising the conference.
- This year's conference focuses (theme) on "Empowering Investors: IPAs Pioneering Future Growth".
- The WAIPA was founded in 1995 in Geneva as a non-governmental organisation.
- WAIPA aims to provide investment promotion agencies to grow their economies.

### India Internet Governance Forum 2023

- Venue: New Delhi.
- The forum is a multi-stakeholder platform bringing together representatives from various groups to discuss public policy issues related to the Internet.
- Theme: Moving Forward – Calibrating Bharat's Digital Agenda.
- The India Internet Governance Forum is an initiative associated with the UN Internet Governance Forum.
- It was established in 2021.

### Government to Sell Rice - Under the "Bharat Brand"

- To control the rise in rice prices, the Government of India will sell rice at Rs 29 per kg under the "Bharat Brand".
- According to the data of the Consumer Ministry, the inflation of rice has increased by 14.1 percent this year compared to last year and its average price has reached Rs 43.3 per kg.
- It will be sold through the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (Nafed), National Cooperative Consumers Federation (NCCF) and Kendriya Bhandar outlets.
- Presently, the Central Government is selling flour and gram pulses at cheaper rates under the Bharat brand.
- On 6 November 2023, the Central Government launched 'Bharat Atta' at a price of Rs 27.50 per kg.
- It is being made available in packs of 10 Kg and 30 Kg.
- Whereas one kg pack of gram pulses with Bharat brand is being sold at the rate of Rs 60 per kg.
- 2,000 retail points have been created across the country to sell these products.

### Nari Adalat

- Government decided to implement component of "Nari Adalat" in phased manner.
- Nari Adalats, which are women-only courts established at the village level.

- These courts serve as alternative dispute resolution forums for issues such as domestic violence, property rights, and challenging the patriarchal system.

### Mission SHAKTI

- Mission Shakti as an umbrella scheme for the safety, security and empowerment of women.
- Outlay: The total approved outlay of 'Mission Shakti' for the 15th Finance Commission period is Rs. 20,989 crore.

- Components: Two sub-schemes:

#### 1. Sambal

- ❖ Sambal stresses on safety and security of women
- ❖ The components of the Sambal sub-scheme consist of schemes including:
  - ❖ One Stop Centre
  - ❖ Women Helpline
  - ❖ Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao
  - ❖ Nari Adalats.

#### 2. Samarthya

- ❖ Samarthya focuses on the empowerment of women.
- ❖ The components of the Samarthya sub-scheme consist of schemes of
  1. Ujjwala
  2. Swadhar Greh
  3. Working Women Hostel.
  4. National Creche Scheme for children of working mothers.
  5. Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana

### RAMP Programme: Three Sub Schemes

- The Union Minister for Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME) launched three sub-schemes under the aegis of the RAMP programme.
- It is a World Bank assisted Central Sector Scheme, supporting various CoronaVirus Disease 2019 (Covid) Resilience and Recovery Interventions of the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MoMSME).
- The total outlay for the scheme is Rs. 6,062.45 crore out of which Rs. 3750 crore would be a loan from the World Bank and the remaining Rs. 2312.45 crore would be funded by India.

### RAMP Programme: Three Sub Schemes

- MSME Green Investment and Financing for Transformation Scheme (MSME GIFT Scheme):
  - ❖ This scheme intends to help MSMEs adopt green technology with interest subvention and credit guarantee support.



- ❖ Implementing agency is - Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)
- MSE Scheme for Promotion and Investment in Circular Economy (MSE SPICE Scheme):
  - ❖ It is the first ever scheme in the Government to support circular economy projects which will be done through credit subsidy and will lead to realizing the dream of the MSME sector towards zero emissions by 2070.
  - ❖ Implementing agency is SIDBI.
- MSE Scheme on Online Dispute Resolution for Delayed Payments:
  - ❖ It is a first-of-its-kind scheme to synergise legal support with modern IT tools and Artificial Intelligence to address the incidences of delayed payments for Micro and Small Enterprises.
  - ❖ National Informatics Centre Services Inc. (NICSI) is the Implementing Agency.

### "Krishi Udan" Scheme

- 58 Airports covered under "Krishi Udan" Scheme: Govt
- The Scheme was launched in 2020 on international and national routes to assist farmers in transporting agricultural products to help improve their value realization.
- Krishi Udan Scheme 2.0 was also announced in 2021 focusing on transporting perishable food products from the hilly areas, North Eastern States, and tribal areas.
- The scheme currently covers 25 airports focusing on North Eastern, Hilly and Tribal region besides 33 airports in other regions/ areas.
- The UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) scheme is a government initiative that aims to make air travel accessible and affordable for the common man by subsidizing flights to underserved and remote areas, capping airfare at Rs.2,500 per hour, and promoting regional connectivity. It was launched in 2016.

### Viksit Bharat@2047- Voice of Youth

- PM Modi launches 'Viksit Bharat@2047- Voice of Youth'
- This visionary initiative aims to actively engage the youth of India in shaping the nation's plans, priorities, and goals.
- Bharat @2047 is the vision to make India a developed nation by 2047, the 100th year of independence.
- The vision encompasses various aspects of development, including economic growth, social progress, environmental sustainability, and good governance.

### YUVAi Initiative

- 'YUVAi- Youth for Unnati and Vikas with AI' featured

at the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI) Summit.

- This joint venture focuses on empowering students from class 8 to 12 with essential AI skills, cultivating a deeper understanding of AI, and inspiring them to become responsible designers and users of AI.
- YUVAi Initiative is a collaborative initiative of National e-Governance Division (NeGD), Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India and Intel India.

### LS clears Bills for women's quota in J&K, Puducherry Assemblies

- Bills to extend the provisions of the Constitution (106th Amendment) Act – that grants 33% reservation for women in Parliament and State legislatures – to the Union Territories of Puducherry and Jammu and Kashmir

### Central Tribal University in Telangana

- Parliament has passed the Central Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2023 with Rajya Sabha giving assent to it.
- The Bill will amend the Central Universities Act, 2009, which establishes central universities for teaching and research in various States.
- The Bill seeks to establish a Central Tribal University in Telangana which will be named 'Sammakka Sarakka Central Tribal University'.
- It will provide avenues of higher education and research facilities primarily for the tribal population of India.
- The University will be established at a cost of Rs. 889.07 crore.
- In the University, there will be graduate, postgraduate and Doctoral level courses

### Parliament Passes Post Office Bill, 2023

- The Indian Parliament approves the Post Office Bill, 2023, replacing the 125-year-old Indian Post Office Act, 1898.
- Enhanced Powers for National Security
- The Bill grants post office employees the authority to open, detain, or intercept any item during transmission in the interest of national security or public safety.
- Another provision says the post office and its officers shall be exempt from any liability by reason of any loss, misdelivery, delay or damage in course of any service provided by it.

### CISF Replaces Delhi Police For Parliament Security

- Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has asked the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) to take security charge

of the Parliament building from the Delhi Police.

- The CISF will first conduct a survey of the premises prior to the deployment of its security and fire wing.
- After completing the survey, the CISF will work with the Parliament Security Services to control access to the new and old Parliament complex.
- Security within the building will continue to be the responsibility of the Lok Sabha Secretariat, while the police will continue to protect the outer perimeter.
- The CISF was set up by an Act of Parliament on March 10, 1969.

### Amrit Bharat Express

- The Amrit Bharat Express is a superfast express service operated by Indian Railways.
- It connects cities that are more than 800 km (500 mi) apart or take more than ten hours to travel with existing services.

#### Features:

- Non-air-conditioned, low-cost service.
- Combines sleeper and unreserved coaches.
- Incorporates push-pull technology for enhanced speed and passenger comfort.
- Uses semi-permanent couplers to eliminate shocks within the train.

#### Technical Details:

- Train set consists of two locomotives (one on each side) and 22 coaches.
- Maximum operating speed: 110–130 km/h.

#### Inaugural Run:

- The inaugural Amrit Bharat Express is likely to run between Ayodhya (Uttar Pradesh) and Darbhanga (Bihar).
- Launched on 30 December 2023.

### MPhil degree - Scraped

- The UGC has issued a notice stating that pursuing an MPhil degree is no longer recognized.
- Universities are cautioned not to offer MPhil programs for the 2023-24 academic year.
- However, MPhil degrees awarded before the new legislation in 2022 remain valid.

#### About UGC:

- Established in 1953 by the then Education Minister, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad.
- It became a statutory body in November 1956 through an Act of Parliament.
- In 1994, the UGC created the National Assessment and

Accreditation Council (NAAC) in Bangalore to assess the performance of universities and colleges across the country.

### India Ranked Second Largest Steel Producer in the World

- According to the government, India has become the world's second-largest steel producer
- According to the Ministry of Steel, domestic steel production was around 90 million tonnes, with domestic steel consumption at 87 million tonnes.
- According to the report, the Production Linked Incentive Scheme increased investment in the steel sector.
- China is the largest producer of steel in the world

### eSvarna corporate RuPay credit card

- IndusInd Bank launched the eSvarna corporate credit card on the RuPay network.
- It's India's first corporate credit card allowing linking with UPI apps for payments.

#### Features:

- Enables smooth transactions at physical and digital merchant outlets.
- Designed for premium business travelers seeking exclusive privileges.
- Offers airport lounge access (domestic and international) up to 10 times annually.
- Includes business-focused rewards for daily transactions.

### Angola to quit OPEC

- Angola is leaving the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) with effect from 1 January 2024, after exits from Ecuador in 2020 and Qatar in 2019.

#### About OPEC:

- OPEC was founded in 1960 by Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Venezuela, Iran and Iraq.
- Since 2017, OPEC has worked with Russia and other non-members as part of the OPEC+ group to manage the market
- Headquarters: Vienna, Austria

#### Objective:

- To coordinate and unify petroleum policies among Member Countries
- To secure fair and stable prices for petroleum producers.
- An efficient, economic and regular supply of petroleum to consuming nations.
- A fair return on capital to those investing in the industry

**Members:**

- Algeria, Angola, Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Venezuela.
- OPEC nations produce about 30% of the world's crude oil.

**Republic Day Chief Guest**

- France President **Emanuel Macron** will attend the **75th Republic Day celebration 2024** as a chief guest.
- Ceremonial honor for the head of state, **considered the highest accorded by a country to another in terms of protocol.**

**Chief Guest's Itinerary:**

- They are **presented with a ceremonial guard of honour at Rashtrapati Bhavan.**
- They lay a wreath at **Rajghat to honour Mahatma Gandhi.**
- There is a **banquet in their honour**, a lunch hosted by the **Prime Minister**, followed by a reception hosted by the **President of India in the evening.**

**Farsi to be one of India's nine Classical Languages**

- In a significant move to deepen cultural ties, External Affairs Minister **S Jaishankar** announced that the **Centre has decided to include Farsi (Persian) as one of the nine classical languages in India under the New Education Policy.**
- As of now, India recognizes **six languages** as classical, including
  - ❖ Tamil (2004)
  - ❖ Sanskrit (2005)
  - ❖ Kannada (2008)
  - ❖ Telugu (2008)
  - ❖ Malayalam (2013)
  - ❖ Odia (2014).
- In addition to these classical languages **Pali, Persian, and Prakrit** and **their works of literature are to be preserved** according to **India's National Education Policy-2020.**
- The addition of **Farsi (Persian)** brings the total to **nine classical languages (Needs more clarification).**

**TRADITIONAL MEDICINE ON WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION'S LIST**

- The **World Health Organisation (WHO)** launched the **Traditional Medicine Morbidity codes for Ayurveda, Siddha, and Unani systems in ICD-11.**
- This inclusion **allows data and terminology related to diseases in these systems to be classified under Module**

**2 of a supplementary chapter on traditional medicine conditions.**

**Global Uniformity:**

- The effort **aims to achieve global uniformity in Ayurveda, Unani, and Siddha (ASU) medicine** by providing standardized vocabulary for defining diseases.

**Impact in India:**

- **Strengthening and expanding India's public healthcare delivery system, research, Ayush insurance coverage, and policy-making systems** are expected outcomes.

**ICD-11 Overview:**

- ICD-11 is the international standard for recording, reporting, and analyzing mortality and morbidity data.
- Previously, **Module 1 covered traditional medicine conditions originating in ancient China**, now commonly used in **Japan, Korea**, etc.
- ICD-11 **came into effect in January 2022.**

**PROJECT 'VEER GATHA' GETS BIG RESPONSE**

- **Veer Gatha** project, which aims to honor bravery and raise the spirit of patriotism among students.
- Ministry of Defence organised the event.

**Participation:**

- Around **1.37 crore students from 2.43 lakh schools participated** in the third edition of Project 'Veer Gatha.
- The project is part of Republic Day celebrations.

**Awards and Recognition:**

- Each of the **100 winners received a cash prize of Rs 10,000.**
- Winners were invited to attend the Republic Day

**FINANCE COMMISSION CONSTITUTED**

- The Centre constituted the **Sixteenth Finance Commission.**
- **Former NITI Aayog Vice Chairman, Dr Arvind Panagariya** who is a **Professor at Columbia University**, will be the **Chairman of the 16th Finance Commission.**
- **Senior IAS officer Ritvik Ranjanam Pandey** will be the **secretary of the Commission.**

**Constitutional Mandate**

- Under **Article 280(1) of the Constitution**, the **Finance Commission** is constituted **every 5 years** for:
  - **Determining States' share in central tax revenue.**
  - **Laying principles governing central grants to States.**
  - **Recommending measures to augment local government**



resources.

### SC Upheld abrogation of Art 370

- The Supreme Court upheld the Centre's decision to abrogate Article 370.
- The constitutional validity of Presidential Orders CO 272 and 273 (issued on August 5 and 6, 2019) was confirmed. These orders made the entire Indian Constitution applicable to Jammu and Kashmir, rendering Article 370 inoperative.

SC said:

1. Jammu and Kashmir surrendered its sovereignty upon joining the Union of India after Independence.
2. The President of India had the authority to abrogate Article 370 without requiring a recommendation from the Jammu and Kashmir assembly.
3. Article 370 served two purposes:
  - ❖ **Transitional purpose:** Providing an interim arrangement until the Constituent Assembly of the State was formed.
  - ❖ **Temporary purpose:** An interim arrangement due to special circumstances arising from war conditions in the State.
4. Elections and Statehood:
  - ❖ The Supreme Court instructed the Election Commission of India (ECI) to hold assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir by September 30, 2024.
  - ❖ The Court also emphasized the earliest reinstatement of statehood for the Union Territory.

### Namo Drone Didi scheme

Union Government's initiative to provide drones to women self-help groups (SHGs) for agricultural purposes

Objective:

- Provide 15,000 progressive women SHGs with drones to be rented out to farmers.
- Drones will be used for Nano fertilizer and pesticide applications.

Financial Outlay:

- Rs.1,261 crore allocated for two years starting from 2024-25.

Selection Process:

- SHGs will be identified from the total 89 lakh formed under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana.
- Clusters where drone usage is economically feasible will be chosen for providing drones.

Drone Availability:

- Fertilizer companies will provide around 500 drones.
- Central assistance will make the remaining 14,500 drones available over the next two years.

Cost and Funding:

- Total drone cost (including accessories): Rs.10 lakh.
- Centre will cover 80% of the cost (up to Rs.8 lakh).

Pilot and Co-Pilot Honorarium:

- Drone pilot: Rs.15,000.
- Co-pilot: Rs.10,000.

Training:

- Qualified SHG members (aged 18+) will undergo 15-day training, including mandatory drone pilot training and additional agriculture-specific training.
- Another member will be trained as a technician or assistant.

Benefits:

- Infuse advanced technology in agriculture.
- Improve efficiency, enhance crop yield, and reduce operational costs.
- Sustainable business and livelihood support for SHGs, with an additional income of at least Rs.1 lakh per annum

### HYDROGEN FOR HERITAGE SCHEME

- The Hydrogen for Heritage scheme is a significant initiative by the Indian Railways to operate hydrogen-powered trains on select heritage and hilly routes.
- The scheme was announced in the Union Budget 2023-24.

Objective:

- Implement hydrogen-powered trains in environmentally sensitive areas.
- Enhance eco-friendliness compared to traditional diesel-powered locomotives.

Technology Development:

- Indian Railways is developing a prototype train powered by hydrogen fuel cells.
- Hydrogen fuel cells convert chemical energy from hydrogen into electricity.
- Currently, only Germany operates hydrogen trains commercially, while other countries are in the testing phase.

Implementation:

- Retrofit hydrogen fuel cells onto existing diesel electric



multiple unit (DEMU) rakes.

- The initial prototype will run on the Jind-Sonipat section in Haryana.

#### Heritage Routes:

- Thirty-five train-set rakes (each with six coaches) have been sanctioned for eight heritage routes Matheran Hill Railway, Darjeeling Himalayan Railway, Kalka-Shimla Railway, Kangra Valley etc.

#### NERA GAON, MERI DHAROHAR LAUNCHED

- The Mera Gaon, Meri Dharohar initiative, developed in partnership with the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) under the Ministry of Culture.
- Aims to explore the life, history, and ethos of Indian villages.

#### Objective:

- Culturally map India's 6.5 lakh villages across 28 states and 8 union territories.
- Encourage appreciation for India's diverse cultural heritage.

#### Components:

- Villages will be Categorized into Arts and Crafts Village, Ecologically Oriented Village, Village Linked with Textual and Scriptural Traditions of India, Architectural Heritage Village etc.

#### PROJECT PRAYAS

- International Organisation for Migration (IOM) has initiated Project PRAYAS to promote safe, orderly, and regular migration for Indian workers and students.
- Project Name: PRAYAS (Promoting Regular & Assisted Migration for Youth and Skilled Professionals)
- Partnership: Launched in collaboration with the Ministry of External Affairs.
- Objective: Facilitate safe and organized migration for aspiring Indian migrant workers and students through policy recommendations, strengthening international migration governance.

#### ABOUT IOM

- IOM is a UN agency dedicated to promoting humane and orderly migration.
- Established- 1951
- Headquarters- Geneva, Switzerland
- It has 175 member states including India.

#### National Conference on Promotion of Seaweed Cultivation

- The First National Conference on Promotion of Seaweed Cultivation took place in Koteswar (Kori Creek), Kutch, Gujarat. Here are the key points:
- Objective:
  - ❖ Implement seaweed cultivation across India.
  - ❖ Emphasize the promotion of seaweed cultivation.
- Significance:
  - ❖ Seaweed cultivation offers environmental and health benefits.
  - ❖ It diversifies marine production and enhances fish farmer income.
- Flagship Scheme:
  - ❖ The Department of Fisheries' flagship scheme, Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY), focuses on sustainable fisheries sector development.
  - ❖ Aims to bring about a Blue Revolution over five years (2020-2025).
- Kori Creek:
  - ❖ Located in Gujarat's Kutch region.
  - ❖ An estuary where fresh water mixes with sea water under tidal influences.
  - ❖ Part of the Indus River Delta.

#### Asian Buddhist Conference for Peace (ABCP)

- Jagdeep Dhankhar inaugurated the 12th General Assembly of the Asian Buddhist Conference for Peace (ABCP), in New Delhi
- Theme: "ABCP - The Buddhist Voice of Global South."

#### IInvenTiv-2024

- MoE flagship R&D innovation fair 'IInvenTiv-2024' inaugurated by Minister Dharmendra Pradhan.
- IInvenTiv-2024', the second edition of Research and Development (R&D) fair by the 23 Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) in the country was inaugurated by Union Minister of Education (MoE) Dharmendra Pradhan at the IIT Hyderabad.
- The current edition targets affordable healthcare, agriculture and food processing, sustainable technologies including climate change, e-mobility, clean energy, defence and space, and Industry 4.0.

#### FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) Sub-Committee on Fisheries Management

- India has been elected as the First Vice Chair of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Committee on Fisheries (COFI) Sub-Committee on Fisheries Management.

- This is the first time in 59 years that India has been appointed to this role.
- The Sub-Committee on Fisheries Management is a forum for discussing fisheries management issues at the national, regional, and global levels.
- India is one of the top fishing nations with over 28 million inland and marine fishers.
- The FAO is a specialized agency of the United Nations that leads international efforts to defeat hunger.
- Its goal is to achieve food and security for all.
- Founded on 16 October 1945
- Headquarter - Rome, Italy
- India became a founding member of the FAO in 1945.

### Pariksha Pe Charcha 2024

- 7th edition of PM Modi's Interactive Programme "Pariksha Pe Charcha 2024"
- Held at Bharat Mandapam at Pragati Maidan on 29th January.
- Pariksha Pe Charcha is part of the larger movement - 'Exam Warriors' - led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, to create a stress-free atmosphere for youngsters.
- It is a movement that is driven by PM Modi's efforts to bring together students, parents, teachers and the society to foster an environment where the unique individuality of each child is celebrated, encouraged and allowed to express itself fully. Praiksha Pe Charcha programme began in 2018

### India International Science Festival 2023

- 9th edition of the India International Science Festival (IISF 2023):
- Dates: Held from January 17 to 20, 2024.
- Theme: "Science and Technology Public Outreach in Amrit Kaal."
- Host Institute: Regional Centre for Biotechnology (RCB) - Translational Health Science and Technology Institute (THSTI) in Faridabad, Haryana.
- International Participation: 22 countries joined IISF 2023.
- Significance: IISF is India's largest science festival, fostering connections across society since 2015.

### Wings India 2024 event held at Begumpet Airport, Hyderabad

Wings India 2024, Asia's largest event in civil aviation, took place from January 18 to 21, 2024, at Begumpet Airport in Hyderabad.

- Collaboration: Organized by the Airports Authority of India (AAI) in partnership with the Ministry of Civil Aviation and the Federation of Indian Chambers of

### Commerce & Industry (FICCI).

- Showcase: The event featured new-generation aircraft displays, allied aviation services, and advancements in the tourism sector.
- Theme: The main theme was "Connecting India with the World in Amritkal."
- Aircraft Display: Notably, the Boeing 777-9 and the new Airbus A350 were displayed for the first time in India.

### National PACS Mega Conclave

- National PACS Mega Conclave' chaired by Union Home Minister Amit Shah.
- Date and Venue: Held at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.
- Purpose: Focused on empowering Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS).
- Key Collaboration: Ministry of Cooperation and National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC).
- Significance: PACS now authorized to operate as Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Kendras (PMBJKs), providing affordable generic medicines to the public.

### Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS):

- Role: PACS are village-level cooperative credit societies supervised by State Cooperative Banks (SCBs).
- Credit Flow: SCBs transfer credit to District Central Cooperative Banks (DCCBs), which collaborate with PACS to serve farmers directly.
- Membership: Individual farmers are PACS members, and office-bearers are elected within the society.
- Multiplicity: A village can have multiple PACS.
- Loans: PACS provide short-term and medium-term agricultural loans.
- History: The first PACS was established in 1904.
- Current Status: India has over 1,00,000 PACS, serving more than 13 crore farmers, but only 63,000 are functional.

### PM Modi Inaugurated 27th National Youth Festival

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the National Youth Festival at Nashik, Maharashtra on 12th January.
- Theme - "MYBharat-ViksitBharat@2047- By the Youth, For the Youth "

### Sagar Parikrama (Phase X)

- Sagar Parikrama (Phase X) event being organized from 1st January 2024 to 6th January 2024 at various locations of Andhra Pradesh and Puducherry.
- Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying - Parshottam Rupala - to participate in the event
- Union Minister will distribute Kisan Credit Card (KCC) to beneficiaries like fishermen, aqua farmers and other

stakeholders.

### Sagar Parikrama

- It is a **navigation journey** to be conducted in all coastal states/UTs through a **pre-decided sea route** to demonstrate solidarity with all **fisherfolk, fish farmers** and concerned stakeholders.

### National Street Food Festival Concludes

- 2023 National Street Food Festival Concludes in **New Delhi**
- organized by - **National Association of Street Vendors of India (NASVI)**
- Took place from December 29–31, 2023.
- It is the **first Zero Waste Street Food Festival in India**.

### SVAMITVA Scheme

The **SVAMITVA Scheme** has received several prestigious awards for its innovative approach to land governance.

#### Best Innovation Award:

- Presented during the **Public Policy Dialogues Conclave 2024** at the **Indian School of Business (ISB), Hyderabad**.
- Recognized for showcasing **Digital Transformation Initiatives in Land Governance** through the SVAMITVA Scheme

#### 1st Prize for Digital Transformation Initiatives:

- The **Ministry of Panchayati Raj** was conferred with the **1st Prize** for its efforts in digitalizing land governance transparently and efficiently using the SVAMITVA Scheme

#### Gold Award for Innovative Use of Technology:

- At the **Digitech Conclave 2023** in Goa, the SVAMITVA Scheme received the **Gold award** in the category of **e-Governance for Digital Transformation**

### SVAMITVA Scheme

- Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improved Technology in Village Areas (SVAMITVA) was launched in 2020.
- It is a **centre sector scheme – 100% funding by central Government**.
- SVAMITVA scheme is a collaborative effort of the **Ministry of Panchayati Raj, State Panchayati Raj Departments, State Revenue Departments and Survey of India**.
- The SVAMITVA Scheme leverages **cutting-edge drone surveys and GIS mapping technology** to accurately demarcate land parcels, provide property records (SVAMITVA Property Cards), and facilitate socio-economic progress in rural areas.

- It's a groundbreaking initiative that transforms land ownership in rural India

### Army introduces new fitness protocol

- **Objective:** Address declining physical standards among officers and combat lifestyle diseases.
- **Key Points:**
  - ❖ **Additional Tests:** New policy introduces extra fitness tests alongside existing ones.
  - ❖ **Army Physical Fitness Assessment Card (APAC):** Required for each individual.
  - ❖ **Uniformity:** Focus on consistent testing process.
  - ❖ **Punitive Action:** Overweight personnel face consequences if no improvement within 30 days.
  - ❖ **Quarterly (every 3 Months) Tests:**
    1. **Battle Physical Efficiency Test (BPET)** and **Physical Proficiency Test (PPT)**.
    2. Led by a **Brigadier** (previously overseen by the Commanding Officer).

### PAiSA Dashboard & PM SVANidhi Portal Launched

#### PAiSA Dashboard:

- Serves as an essential tool for monitoring the **PM SVANidhi Mission** scheme.
- **Purpose:** Real-time updates on the **PM SVANidhi Mission** progress.
- **Vendor Benefits:**
  - ❖ **Tracking:** Vendors can monitor loan applications, disbursements, and repayments.
  - ❖ **Transparency:** Enhances transparency and accountability.
- **Features:** Provides comprehensive data and insights on the scheme's nationwide implementation.

#### Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) Scheme:

- **Launch Date:** June 1, 2020
- **Purpose:** Provide **affordable Working Capital** loans to street vendors affected by the **Covid-19 lockdown**.
- **Loan Details:**
  - **Amount:** Collateral-free loan of **Rs 10,000**
  - ❖ **Interest Rate:** Below **12%**
  - ❖ **Duration:** One year
- **Extension:** Originally until **March 2022**, now extended till **December 2024**.
- **Focus Areas:**
  - ❖ Enhanced collateral-free affordable loan corpus
  - ❖ Increased adoption of digital transactions
  - ❖ Holistic socio-economic development for street vendors



and their families

### Anuvadini' app

- **Anuvadini** app is a significant initiative by the central government.
- **Purpose:** Anuvadini serves as an **AI-based translation tool** for Indian languages.
- **Developed By:** The **All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE)**.
- **Language Support:** It covers **22 regional Indian and foreign languages**.
- **Objective:** To make study materials for **school and higher education courses** available in digital form, specifically in Indian languages listed in the **8th Schedule of the Indian Constitution**.
- **Implementation:** The **University Grants Commission (UGC)**, **AICTE**, and the **Department of School Education** are working to ensure the availability of digital study materials in regional languages.

### Hamara Samvidhan, Hamara Samman' campaign

- **Inauguration:** Vice President **Jagdeep Dhankhar** launched the year-long pan-India campaign to commemorate **75 years of India as a Republic**.
- **Organizer:** The campaign is led by the **Ministry of Law and Justice**.
- **Objective:**
  - ❖ Reaffirm collective commitment to the principles of the **Indian Constitution**.
  - ❖ Celebrate shared values that bind the nation.
- **Themes:**
  - ❖ Sabko Nyay - Har Ghar Nyaya
  - ❖ Nav Bharat Nav Sankalp
  - ❖ Vidhi Jagriti Abhiyan

### Students Islamic Movement of India

- Centre extends ban imposed on **Students Islamic Movement of India** for **5 years** The **Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** extended the ban against the **Students Islamic Movement of India (SIMI)** for another five years.
- The organisation was declared an “**unlawful association**,” under the **anti-terror law Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA)** for the first time in **2001** (**Atal Bihar Vajpayee Government**).
- As per MHA, “**SIMI has been found involved in fomenting terrorism, disturbing peace and communal harmony to threaten the sovereignty, security and integrity of Bharat.**”

### Rajya Sabha Elections

- **56 Rajya Sabha Seats From 15 States Go To Polls On February 27**
- The Rajya Sabha is the **upper house** of India's bicameral Parliament.
- **Composition:**
- **Permanent Body:** It is a permanent legislative body.
- **Rotation:** **One-third of its members retire every two years and are replaced by newly elected members.**
- **Term:** Each member serves a **six-year term**.
- **Chair:** The **Vice President of India** is the ex-officio Chairman of the Rajya Sabha.
- **Maximum Strength:** Originally designed for **250 members** (238 representatives from states and union territories, and 12 nominated members).
- **Current Capacity:** The Rajya Sabha currently has **245 members** (233 elected and 12 nominated).

### Samavesha project and I-STEM India

#### Samavesha project:

- Launched by **I-STEM** (Indian Science, Technology, and Engineering Facilities Map).
- Aims to **connect researchers with scientific institutes** through an online portal.
- Expected outcomes include **increased indigenous product innovation, a knowledge exchange ecosystem, and national advancements**.
- Around **50 Samavesha events** are planned across India in **2024**.

#### I-STEM India:

- Refers to the **Indian Science, Technology, and Engineering Facilities Map**.
- Provides information on various scientific and technological facilities and resources available across India.
- Facilitates collaboration and access to research infrastructure for **scientists, researchers, and industry professionals**.

### India's First National Highway Steel Slag Road

- **NH-66 Steel Slag Road:** India's first National Highway section constructed using steel slag.
- **Eco-Friendly Technology:** Steel slag roads are sustainable and durable, utilizing a green technology.
- **CSIR-CRRI's Innovation:** Developed by CSIR-Central Road Research Institute (CSIR-CRRI), this technology transforms steel industry waste into valuable infrastructure.
- **Surat's Milestone:** Surat, Gujarat, had the first processed steel slag road in June 2022.
- **Steel slag** is a by-product of the steelmaking process



### Committee for Service Conditions of the District Judiciary (CSCDJ)

- The Supreme Court has ordered the constitution of a two-judge committee in all High Courts.
- The Committee shall be called the 'Committee for Service Conditions of the District Judiciary' (CSCDJ)
- The committee will oversee the implementation of pay, pension, and other retirement benefits for judicial officers based on SNJPC recommendations.
- Disbursements of arrears will be made by February 29, 2024.

### Second National Judicial Pay Commission (SNJPC)

- Established in 2017 under the chairmanship of Justice (Retd.) P. Venkatarama Reddi.
- Submitted its report in 2020.
- The 7th Pay Commission, established in 2014, currently determines salaries for central government employees and pensioners.

### Diamond Jubilee celebration of Supreme Court of India

- On January 28, 2024, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the **Diamond Jubilee (75th Year) celebration of the Supreme Court of India** at the Supreme Court auditorium in Delhi.
- The Supreme Court marks its **75th anniversary** since its inauguration on **January 28, 1950**.

### Launched citizen-centric multiple technology initiatives

- **Digital Supreme Court Reports (Digi SCR):** Provides citizens with access to all Supreme Court judgments since 1950 in a digital format with open access.
- **Digital Courts 2.0:** An e-Courts project initiative, making court records available electronically to district court judges.
- **New Website:** The Supreme Court launched a revamped website to enhance user experience.

### Supreme Court Facts:

- Established on **January 26, 1950**.
- Held its **first session** on **January 28, 1950**, in the **Chamber of Princes**.
- Relocated to its **current location** on **Tilak Marg, New Delhi, in 1958**.
- Comprises the **Chief Justice** and **33 other judges** appointed by the **President of India**.
- Judges **retire** upon reaching the **age of 65 years**.

### Interim Union Budget

#### Halwa Ceremony:

- Marks the **final stage of Budget preparation**.
- Held in the presence of Union Finance & Corporate Affairs Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman and Union Minister of State for Finance Dr. Bhagwat Kisanrao Karad.
- A customary tradition before the "lock-in" process of Budget preparation begins.

#### Interim Union Budget:

- Furnishes financial specifics for the transitional period until the new government takes office.
- Imposed limitations by the Election Commission of India to prevent undue influence on voters.
- Cannot propose major taxes or policy reforms.
- Delivered on February 1, 2024, in a paperless format.
- Budget documents accessible via the "Union Budget Mobile App."

#### Full Budget (2024-25):

- Introduces comprehensive financial plans after the general elections in July.

### Nirmala Sitharaman To Become 2nd FM To Present 6 Consecutive Union Budgets

- Second finance minister to present six consecutive budgets, matching Morarji Desai's record.
- Desai presented five annual budgets and one interim budget from 1959 to 1964.
- Nirmala Sitharaman, India's first full-time woman finance minister, has presented five full budgets since July 2019.
- She presented an interim or vote-on-account budget on February 1, 2024.
- In 2017, Arun Jaitley shifted the budget presentation from the last working day of February to the 1st of the month.

### PM Matsya Kisan Samridhi Sah –Yojana

- Gov approves Sub scheme 'PM Matsya Kisan Samridhi Sah –Yojana'
- Central Sector Sub- scheme under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada
- Aim - formalization of the fisheries sector and supporting fisheries micro and small enterprises by providing access to institutional credit.

- Investment - over Rs. 6,000 crores over a period of next 4 years from FY 2023-24 to FY 2026-27 in all States/ Union Territories.
- The Cabinet has also approved the extension of the Fisheries Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF) for another 3 years up to 2025-26.

#### Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY):

- launched on 2020.
- The scheme is a flagship initiative of the Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying.
- The PMMSY's goal is to achieve a Blue Revolution through the sustainable development of India's fisheries sector from 2020-2025.
- An estimated investment of Rs. 20,050 crores

#### PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana

- Central government to provide 300 units of free electricity per month.
- Investment: Rs.75,000 crores.
- Earlier announced in an interim budget speech.
- Target: Lighting up 1 crore households.

#### Promoting Solar Systems:

- Urban Local Bodies and Panchayats incentivized to promote rooftop solar systems.

#### Financial Support:

- Subsidies directly to bank accounts.
- Highly concessional bank loans to ensure no financial burden on people.

#### Pradhan Mantri Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (PM-USHA)

- PM Modi digitally launched PM-USHA at a programme in Mumbai University.
- Maharashtra has received a total of Rs 540 crore under the Pradhan Mantri Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (PM-USHA) aimed at investing in infrastructural and academic development of higher education institutions (HEIs).

#### Pradhan Mantri Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (PM-USHA)

- Formerly known as Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA).
- Launched to enhance access, equity, and excellence in state higher education.
- First phase (2013) and second phase (2018) preceded PM-USHA.

- Now, in the light of the National Education Policy, RUSA scheme has been launched as Pradhan Mantri Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (PM-USHA)

#### Objectives:

- Improve access, equity, and quality in higher education.
- Create new academic institutions, upgrade existing ones, and promote research.

#### Funding:

- Centrally sponsored scheme executed through the Ministry of Education.
- Strategic funding provided to eligible state higher educational institutions based on norms and outcomes

#### Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Bill, 2024

- It seeks to check practices such as 'leakage of question paper or answer key', 'directly or indirectly assisting the candidate', and 'tampering with computer network'.
- The legislation covers recruitment examinations conducted by various authorities, including:
  - ❖ Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)
  - ❖ Staff Selection Commission (SSC)
  - ❖ Railway Recruitment Boards (RRBs)
  - ❖ Institute of Banking Personnel Selection (IBPS)
  - ❖ National Testing Agency (NTA)
- Other central government authorities (as required through a notification).

#### Offences and Penalties:

- Individuals engaging in unfair practices during examinations will face legal consequences.
- Examples of unfair practices include:
  - ❖ Leakage of question papers or answer keys.
  - ❖ Direct or indirect assistance to candidates.
  - ❖ Tampering with computer networks.

#### Penalties:

- Imprisonment for a term not less than 3 years (can extend up to 5 years).
- Fine of up to Rs.10 lakh.
- Service providers aiding in malpractices:
  - ❖ Fine of up to Rs.1 crore.
  - ❖ Proportionate cost of examination recovery.

#### Exclusions:

Candidates authorized by examination authorities (including scribes) are not liable under this legislation.

**Investigation:**

- Offences will be **investigated by officers not below the rank of Deputy Superintendent of Police or Assistant Commissioner of Police.**

**Government allows 100% FDI in space sector**

- The Union Cabinet has eased regulations, allowing **100% FDI in the country's space sector.**
- **Key stakeholders** include the **Department of Space, IN-SPACe, ISRO,** and various industrial entities.

**Entry Routes for Activities:**

- **Upto 74% under Automatic Route:**
  - ❖ Satellites: Manufacturing & Operation.
  - ❖ Satellite Data Products.
  - ❖ Ground Segment & User Segment.
- Beyond 74%, these activities fall under the government route.

**Upto 49% under Automatic Route:**

- **Launch Vehicles and associated systems or subsystems.**
- **Creation of Spaceports for launching and receiving spacecraft.**
- Beyond 49%, these activities are under the government route.

**Upto 100% under Automatic Route:**

- **Manufacturing of components and systems/sub-systems for satellites.**
- Ground segment and user segment.

**Foreign Direct Investment (FDI):**

- FDI involves **investment from one country into a business or corporation in another country with the intention of establishing a lasting interest.**
- Foreign companies directly participate in day-to-day operations in the host country.
- FDI enters India through **two routes:**
  - ❖ **Automatic Route:** No prior approval required from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) or the Indian government.
  - ❖ **Government-Approval Route:** Mandatory approval, with applications filed through the Foreign Investment Facilitation Portal.

**Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe):**

- Single-window, independent agency within the Department of Space (DOS).
- Facilitates private sector participation in space activities.

**Responsibilities:**

- Authorize and supervise non-governmental entities in:
  - ❖ **Building launch vehicles and satellites.**
  - ❖ **Providing space-based services.**
  - ❖ **Sharing space infrastructure.**
  - ❖ **Establishing new space facilities.**

**Interface:**

- **Connects ISRO with private players.**
- Assesses resource utilization and accommodates private needs.
- **Headquarters: Bopal, Ahmedabad.**

**Satellite based GPS Toll Collection System**

India is set to introduce an innovative satellite-based toll collection system, a global first. Here's how it works:

**Technology Overview:**

- Utilizes the **Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) and GPS.**
- **Charges vehicles based on the actual distance traveled, eliminating toll plazas.**
- **Unlike FASTag, which uses radio frequency identification (RFID), this system operates on precise satellite tracking.**
- Aims to **modernize toll collection** and enhance commuter experience on Indian highways.

**Implementation Details:**

- **On-Board Unit (OBU):**
  - ❖ **Each vehicle registers for GNSS toll collection will be Equipped with an OBU linked to a constellation of satellites.**
  - ❖ **OBU communicates data for toll calculations and payments.**
  - ❖ **Linked to a wallet for toll deduction.**
- **Geo-Fencing:**
  - ❖ **Indian Highway Management Company Limited will geo-fence national highways to capture their coordinates.**
  - ❖ **Geo-fencing creates virtual boundaries around specific geographical areas.**
- **Regulatory Changes:**
  - ❖ **Amendments to National Highway Fee Rules and the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 are necessary for distance-based toll collection**



### Bharat Rice

- Government launches 'Bharat Rice' at subsidised rates for consumers
- Launched by Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Piyush Goyal
- The rice will be available in 5 kg and 10 kg packs at a subsidised rate of 29 rupees per kg.
- The rice will also be sold through e-commerce platforms.

### APAAR Initiative: One Nation, One Student ID Card

- Centre launches APAAR Initiative: One Nation, One Student ID Card
- Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, unveiled APAAR initiative during the National Conference on APAAR held in New Delhi.
- APAAR stands for Automated Permanent Academic Account Registry.
- The initiative, aligned with the National Education Policy (NEP)
- APAAR ID - unique and permanent 12-digit ID to every student, consolidating their academic achievements (academic data, degrees, scholarships, credits, etc.) in a unified and accessible platform.
- APAAR is poised to become the aspirational and globally recognized document for students in India.
- Registration for creating an APAAR ID is voluntary, not mandatory.

### Bharat Rang Mahotsav

- 25th 'Bharat Rang Mahotsav' was launched in Mumbai
- It is India's largest theatre festival.
- It's a 21 days annual event that takes place across 15 cities in India and features over 150 plays, workshops, and discussions.
- National School of Drama (NSD) in New Delhi started the festival in 1999 to showcase the work of Indian theater practitioners.

### ULLAS Mela

- Shri Dharmendra Pradhan inaugurated two-day ULLAS Mela in New Delhi
- Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education organised ULLAS Mela on 6th-7th February, 2024 in collaboration with Cell for National Centre for Literacy (CNCL), NCERT
- To showcase various National and State level activities under ULLAS- Nav Bharat Saksharta Karyakram.

### About ULLAS Initiative

- The Understanding Lifelong Learning for All in Society (ULLAS) initiative is poised to revolutionise education and literacy across the nation.
- It imparts basic education, digital and financial literacy and critical life skills to citizens aged 15 and above who lost on the opportunity to go to school.
- It is being implemented through volunteerism.
- Slogan of the Initiative: ULLAS: Nav Bharat Saksharta Karyakram.
- For this purpose ULLAS app was launched.
- It will serve as a digital gateway for learners to engage in diverse learning resources through the DIKSHA portal of NCERT.
- The scheme, in line with NEP 2020, targets all non-literates of age 15 years and above.

### Foundational Literacy & Numeracy Assessment Test' (FLNAT)

- The Foundational Literacy and Numeracy Assessment Test (FLNAT), conducted as part of the ULLAS (Understanding of Lifelong Learning for All in Society) - Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram, is a significant nationwide initiative.
- **Participants:** Approximately 37 lakh learners will take part in this assessment.
- **Subjects Assessed:**
  - ❖ Reading
  - ❖ Writing
  - ❖ Numeracy
- **Language of Assessment:** The test will be conducted in the regional language of the learners, aligning with the National Education Policy 2020's emphasis on multilingualism.
- **Purpose:** The FLNAT evaluates foundational literacy and numeracy skills and assesses the impact of teaching-learning sessions under the ULLAS program.

### SWAYAM Plus platform

- The Union Minister of Education and Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Dharmendra Pradhan launched the 'SWAYAM Plus' platform to offer courses developed collaboratively with the industry.
- These employability and professional development focused programmes have been developed with industry players including L&T, Microsoft and CISCO.
- Operated by IIT-Madras.
- SWAYAM Plus platform will offer programmes in sectors including Manufacturing, Energy, Computer science and engineering, IT or ITES, Management studies etc.



- For the first time, reputed industrial houses will be coming with their own academy, partnering with the UGC, esteemed education departments, and prestigious institutes like IIT Madras. All these courses will be accredited.
- SWAYAM Plus features innovative elements such as multilingual content, AI-enabled guidance, credit recognition and pathways to employment.

#### SWAYAM Portal:

- Full form: Study Webs of Active-Learning for Young Aspiring Minds.
- Launched by the Ministry of Education in 2017.
- Aims to provide free, high-quality e-learning education from Class 9th to post-graduation, focusing on access, equity, and quality.

#### 'SWATI' (Science for Women-A Technology & Innovation) Portal

- Launched on International Day of Women and Girls in Science at Indian National Science Academy (INSA), New Delhi on 11 February
- Aimed at creating a single online portal creating a comprehensive database of Indian Women and Girls in STEMM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics & Medicine).
- Focus on: "Science for Women & Women in Science"
- The database of SWATI Portal will serve in policy making to address the challenges of Gender-gap.
- The Portal is a first-of-its-kind in India.
- Database: It hosts a database that will aid in policy-making to address gender-gap challenges in STEMM.
- Interactive Platform: SWATI offers an interactive database, a pioneering initiative in India, developed, hosted, and maintained by the National Institute of Plant Genome Research (NIPGR), New Delhi.

#### Future SKILLS summit

- Ministry of Electronics & IT to hold first-ever Digital India futureSKILLS summit in Guwahati
- National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology (NIELIT) is hosting the first-ever Future Skills Summit in Guwahati, Assam on February 15, 2024.
- The Summit brings together India's Best & Brightest minds to deliberate on strategies for Shaping the Future of Talent in India.
- Over 1,000 guests including prominent Industry leaders, academia to attend the Summit
- The summit will feature four-panel discussions on the following themes:

- ❖ Semicon India #futureSKILLS.
- ❖ IndiaAI #futureSKILLS
- ❖ Cyber Security & Emerging Technologies for the #futureSKILLS
- ❖ Digital #futureSKILLS – India's Talent for Global Workforce

#### RAISINA Dialogue held in New Delhi

- Date: 21-23 February, 2024
- Theme: "Chaturanga: Conflict, Contest, Cooperate, Create"
- Inaugurated by PM Modi
- The Raisina Dialogue is India's flagship conference on geopolitics and geo- economics, committed to addressing the most challenging issues facing the international community.
- Chief Guest: Prime Minister of Greece, Kyriakos Mitsotakis
- Participants from over 100 countries, including Ministers, former Heads of State, Military Commanders, and Industry Leaders.

#### About Raisina Dialogue:

- It is held annually since 2016 in New Delhi.
- It is organized by the Observer Research Foundation (ORF) in partnership with the Ministry of External Affairs.

#### World's First Green Hydrogen Plant at Airport Premises

- Cochin International Airport and BPCL Collaborate for World's First Green Hydrogen Plant at Airport Premises
- The Cochin International Airport Ltd (CIAL) in Kerala has entered into an MOU with Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) to set up a green hydrogen plant in its premises to produce 1000 KW of power.
- The first Green Hydrogen plant in an airport in the world.
- The project is expected to be completed early next year, and the initial output will be utilized for powering vehicles within the airport.

#### Sudarshan Setu Bridge in Gujarat

- Name: Originally known as the 'Signature Bridge,' it has been renamed as 'Sudarshan Setu.'
- Length: The country's longest cable-stayed bridge, spanning 2.32 km.
- Location: It connects Beyt Dwarka island to mainland Okha in Gujarat's Devbhumi Dwarka district, crossing the Arabian Sea.
- Unique Design: The four-lane cable-stayed bridge features a footpath adorned with verses from the Srimad

Bhagavad Gita and images of Lord Krishna on both sides.

- **Construction Details:** The bridge includes a **900-meter central double span cable-stayed portion**
- **Cost of construction** - Rs.979 crore.

### PM Modi announces world's largest grain storage plan

- The 'World's Largest Grain Storage Plan in Cooperative Sector' launched.
- Will result in thousands of warehouses and godowns in every corner of the country.
- **700 lakh metric tons** will be completed in the next five years at a cost of **1.25 lakh crore rupees**.
- It would enable farmers to store their produce and sell it at the right time according to their own needs while also helping to avail loans from banks.
- Also laid foundation stone for additional **500 Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS)** across the country for construction of godowns and other agri infrastructure.

### India's first indigenous green hydrogen fuel cell ferry boat

- PM Modi launched India's first indigenous green hydrogen fuel cell inland waterway vessel at **Cochin Shipyard** under the **Harit Nauka** initiative.
- The fuel cell powered vessel has zero emission, zero noise and is energy efficient, which in turn reduces the effect of global warming.
- Embracing green hydrogen as a maritime fuel takes centre stage in India's dedication to a sustainable future, targeting net zero emissions by the year 2070.
- Prime Minister also inaugurated projects to establish the **V. O. Chidambaranar Port** as **India's first Green Hydrogen Hub Port**, including a desalination plant, hydrogen production, etc.

### Country's first digital National Museum of Epigraphy

- Epigraphy is the study of writings engraved on stone, metal and other materials like wood, shell, etc., known as 'inscriptions' or 'epigraphs'.
- Union Culture Minister, **G Kishan Reddy** laid the foundation stone for the country's first digital National Museum of Epigraphy at the **Salar Jung Museum** in Hyderabad.
- The **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)** is establishing the museum.
- **Over one lakh inscriptions** discovered across the country and preserved by ASI, will be displayed in the museum.

Union Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitaraman** had announced in **Budget 2023**, the establishment of the **Bharat Shared Repository of Inscriptions (BharatSHRI)** with the digitisation

of one lakh ancient inscriptions.

### Anusandhan National Research Foundation' (ANRF)

- The newly constituted research board 'Anusandhan National Research Foundation' (ANRF) takes effect
- **Purpose:** ANRF serves as an apex body, offering "high-level strategic direction" for scientific research in India.
- **Role:** It plays a pivotal role in **promoting research, innovation, and development across universities, colleges, research institutions, and R&D laboratories**.
- ANRF subsumes the existing Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB), established in 2008.
- The ANRF Act was passed by both Houses of Parliament in 2023.

#### Objectives:

- Enhance India's national research infrastructure and knowledge enterprise.
- Foster innovation and entrepreneurship.
- Increase private sector contributions to research.
- Allocate a larger portion of government funds to state universities and colleges.

### India's Spending on Research and Development

- India's spending as a percentage of GDP is only **0.7 per cent**
- World Average - **1.8 %**

#### Composition:

- **Ex officio President - Prime Minister**
- **Ex-officio Vice- Presidents:**
  - ❖ Union Minister of Science & Technology
  - ❖ Union Minister of Education
- **Interim CEO of the body - Abhay Karandikar**, Secretary, Department of Science and Technology (DST).
- **NRF's functioning** will be governed by an **Executive Council** chaired by - **Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India**.

#### Functions of NRF include:

- **Roadmap Preparation:** ANRF prepares research and development roadmaps.
- **Infrastructure Expansion:** It funds infrastructure expansion in universities, colleges, and research institutions.
- **Technology Transformation:** ANRF helps transform research into capital-intensive technology.
- **National and Global Engagement:** Enhances India's role in significant areas.

- **Encouraging Investment:** It encourages private and public sector investment.
- **Annual Surveys:** Conducts scientific research surveys.

### India Stops Water Flow To Pakistan

- **Shahpur Kandi Barrage:** India has successfully stopped the flow of water from the Ravi River to Pakistan by completing the Shahpur Kandi Barrage. This barrage is located in the Pathankot district (Punjab) on the border of Punjab and Jammu & Kashmir.
- **Purpose:** The water released by the Ranjit Sagar Dam is now utilized for power generation from this project, benefiting Punjab and Jammu & Kashmir.
- **Indus Water Treaty:** This action aligns with the Indus Water Treaty 1960.
- **Historical Context:** Former Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao laid the foundation stone for the Shahpur Kandi Barrage Project in 1995.

### Indus Water Treaty:

- The Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) was signed between India and Pakistan on September 19, 1960, after 9 years of negotiations.
- The treaty, signed by the then Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and the then Pakistani President Ayub Khan, covers the Indus River and its five tributaries.
- The World Bank helped broker the treaty.
- The treaty gives India control over the three eastern rivers, the Ravi, Beas, and Sutlej, while Pakistan has control over the three western rivers, the Indus, Chenab, and Jhelum.
- The treaty also establishes a mechanism for cooperation and information exchange between the two countries, called the Permanent Indus Commission.

### Homosep Atom

- India's first septic tank cleaning robot strengthening Swachh Bharat campaign
- India's first septic tank cleaning robot, called 'Homosep Atom', offering an end- to-end solution to eliminate manual scavenging.
- Developed by the startup incubated in the Department of Science and Technology (DST)-Technology Business Incubator (TBI) of IIT Madras.
- It has reached 16 cities in different parts of India

### Relics of Lord Buddha - Displayed in Thailand

- The relics of Lord Buddha presently kept in the National Museum in New Delhi will be taken to Thailand, to be displayed.

- A 22-member delegation led by Bihar Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar and Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Dr. Virendra Kumar will accompany the Sacred Relics from India to Thailand for a 26-day exposition.

- The event is being organized by Ministry of External Affairs, Indian Embassy in Thailand, International Buddhist Confederation, National Museum, and Madhya Pradesh government.
- The Archaeological Survey of India conducted excavations at Piprahwa between 1971 and 1977.

### STATE DAY AND STATE SONG FOR WEST BENGAL

- The West Bengal government has declared 'Poila Boisakh', the first day of the Bengali New Year, which usually falls on April 14 or 15, as the State Day.
- The State Day will be called 'Bangla Divas'.
- Also 'Banglar Mati Banglar Jal', written by Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore as the State Song.

### ANDHRA PRADESH CASTE CENSUS

- The Andhra Pradesh government has started "caste survey", aimed at creating a comprehensive caste- based database of people.
- The comprehensive caste census is scheduled for 10 days in one phase and if needed, it will be extended by four or five days.
- Andhra Pradesh has become the second state after Bihar to take up the caste census.
- During the 'caste survey', volunteers will visit every home to collect the caste details, which will be relayed to the village secretariat system.
- A mobile application has been created to collect details of individuals instantaneously during the visit of village and ward secretariat staffers to the households

### AFSPA extended in four districts of Assam

- The Assam government has extended the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA), 1958 in four districts for six months from April 1 on the decisions of the Union Ministry of Home Affairs.
- 4 Districts - Tinsukia, Dibrugarh, Charaideo and Sivasagar districts.
- Reason - one militant organisation being active in the four districts.

### Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA), 1958

- Initially as the Armed Forces (Assam and Manipur) Special Powers Act, 1958.
- The Act empowers security forces to conduct operations anywhere and arrest anyone without any prior warrant.



- It also gives a **certain level of immunity to the security forces** in case of misplaced operations.
- The **law first came into effect in 1958** to deal with the uprising in the Naga.
- Currently AFSFA is in some parts of Assam, Nagaland, Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh and J & K

### PM-SURAJ Portal

- PM Modi inaugurated the 'Pradhan Mantri Samajik Utthan and Rozgar Adharit Jankalyan' (PM-SURAJ) national portal.
- For empowering the **Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, backward classes and other communities** that have been deprived of opportunities.
- Under **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment**.
- The portal will serve as a **one stop point for individuals from marginalized communities to easily apply for and track the status of various loan and credit programs they are eligible for**.
- **Credit support will be offered nationwide to eligible individuals through banks, Non Banking Financial Company-Micro Finance Institutions (NBFC-MFIs), and other organizations**.
- Through this initiative, the **Prime Minister approved credit support for one lakh entrepreneurs from disadvantaged sections**.

### Sashakt Nari - Viksit Bharat programme

- During the programme, the **Prime Minister handed over drones to 1000 Namo Drone Didis Lakhpati Didi Initiative**
- The 'Namo Drone Didi' scheme is aimed at **empowering rural women by training them to be drone pilots and making them integral stakeholders of local farming supply chains**
- PM said that over 1 crore women have become 'Lakhpati Didis' due to various government schemes

### Lakhpati Didis Scheme

- **Announced by the Prime Minister in his Independence Day speech on August 15, 2023.**
- **Objective: To encourage women to start micro-enterprises within their villages.**
- Under the Lakhpati Didi Initiative, the **government aims to train 3 crore women**.
- The **programme is aimed at training women in self-help groups (SHGs) so that they can earn a sustainable income of at least Rs 1 lakh per annum per household**.
- Initiated by **DAY-NRLM**
- **(DAY-NRLM) - Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission**

### Foundation Stone of 3 semiconductor projects

- PM Modi's recent actions related to semiconductor projects in India:
- **PM Modi virtually laid the foundation stone for three semiconductor projects worth Rs 1.25 lakh crore.**
- The projects include a semiconductor fabrication facility in **Dholera, Gujarat**, set up by **Tata Electronics Private Limited**.
- With an investment of over **Rs 91,000 crore**, this will be **India's first commercial semiconductor fab, expected to begin chip production by 2026**.
- Other projects include an **OSAT facility in Sanand, Gujarat**, and an **OSAT facility in Morigaon, Assam**.

### ADITI scheme

- **Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh launched ADITI (Acing Development of Innovative Technologies with iDEX) scheme.**
- The scheme was **unveiled during DefConnect 2024 in New Delhi on March 4, 2024**
- It aims to **provide start-ups with grant-in-aid of up to Rs 25 crore for research, development, and innovation in defence technology**.
- ADITI scheme falls under the **iDEX (Innovations for Defence Excellence) framework of the Department of Defence Production (DDP), Ministry of Defence**.
- For the scheme, about **Rs 750 crore has been allocated for the period 2023-24 to 2025-26**.

### About iDEX Scheme

- **Launched in 2018 by PM Narendra Modi.**
- **iDEX serves as the flagship innovation scheme of India's Ministry of Defence.**
- Its **primary goal is to foster an innovation ecosystem by collaborating with startups, innovators, MSMEs, incubators, and academia**.

### Chakshu portal

- Launched to protect citizens from mobile phone frauds.
- Allows reporting of suspected cyber-crime and financial frauds.
- Use the **Sanchar Saathi** portal for reporting.

### Digital Intelligence Platform (DIP):

- **Curbs misuse of telecom resources.**
- **Facilitates intelligence sharing among stakeholders.**
- **Already disconnected suspicious mobile connections.**

### Reporting Fraud Communication:

- **Chakshu facility empowers proactive reporting.**



- Victims can report to cyber-crime helpline or website.
- These initiatives enhance cybersecurity and public safety.

#### Postal ballots for those aged 85 or above for the first time.

- For the upcoming Lok Sabha and State Assembly elections, senior citizens who are 85 years and older will be able to opt for postal ballots for the 1st time.
- The Union Law Ministry amended the 'Conduct of Elections Rules-1961' to change the definition of senior citizens who are eligible to choose the postal ballot facility from those "above 80 years" to those "above 85 years".
- In Section 27(A) (e), senior citizens had been defined as those above 80 years.
- The postal ballot facility had been extended to persons with disability, absentee voters who are working in essential services and senior citizens (above 80 years) for the first time in 2019.
- Those who opt for the facility are visited at home by poll officials, who facilitate the filling up of the postal ballots.
- The whole procedure is done after informing the political parties and under videography.

#### e-Kisan Upaj Nidhi

- e-Kisan Upaj Nidhi initiative launched by Piyush Goyal:
- **Objective:** To ease farmers' warehousing logistics and enhance their income.
- **Digital Gateway:** 'e-Kisan Upaj Nidhi' is a digital platform by the Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority (WDRA).
- **Simplified Process:** Farmers can store their produce at any registered WDRA warehouse for up to 6 months at 7% interest per annum.
- **Reduced Security Deposit:** Instead of the earlier 3%, farmers now pay only 1% security deposit.
- **Preventing Distress Sales:** The initiative aims to prevent farmers from selling their entire harvest at lower rates due to inadequate post-harvest storage options

#### Greenfield Projects under PLI Scheme for Bulk Drugs and Medical Devices

- A total of 51 plants were inaugurated out of which 22 are for bulk drugs and 39 of medical devices.
- **Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs)** are called bulk drugs. These are the main ingredients of a drug or medicine.
- **PLI scheme envisages manufacturing of 41 Bulk Drugs with a total outlay of Rs.6,940 crore during the tenure of the scheme from 2020-21 to 2029-30.**
- India continues to import around 70 % of medical devices.

- PLI scheme is expected to further bring down the import bill.

#### What are Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs)

- **Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs)** are the primary components in medications that produce the intended therapeutic effect.
- In simpler terms, they are the substances responsible for the medicine's ability to treat a particular disease or condition.
- APIs can be synthesized through chemical processes in laboratories, or they can be extracted from natural sources like plants, animals, or microorganisms.
- For example, the active ingredient in aspirin, acetylsalicylic acid, was originally derived from the bark of willow trees.

#### PLI scheme

- The **Production Linked Incentive (PLI)** scheme is an initiative by the Government of India aimed at boosting domestic manufacturing in key sectors by providing financial incentives to eligible companies based on their incremental production.
- Companies are rewarded for achieving higher levels of production compared to their baseline or historical performance.
- It's designed to enhance competitiveness, attract investment, and create employment opportunities.

#### Bulk Drugs and Medical Devices Plants

- A total of 51 plants were inaugurated, comprising 22 for bulk drugs and 39 for medical devices.
- **Bulk Drugs (APIs):** These are the essential ingredients in medications, responsible for their therapeutic effects.
- **PLI Scheme:** The Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme aims to boost domestic manufacturing in key sectors.

#### Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs):

- APIs are the fundamental components in medicines that produce the intended therapeutic effects.
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production levels compared to their historical performance.

- The scheme aims to enhance competitiveness, attract investment, and create employment opportunities.

### India's 1st Dolphin Research Centre Inaugurated In Patna (asked in HPAS 2024)

National Dolphin Research Center (NDRC):

- **Cost:** Built at a cost of Rs 30 crore.
- **Location:** Situated on the banks of the Ganges within the Patna University campus in Bihar.
- **Purpose:** Aids students and researchers in understanding the behavior of freshwater dolphins, particularly those found in the Ganges.
- **Approval:** The NDRC project was approved in 2013 based on a request from Professor R.K. Sinha, also known as the Dolphin Man of India.
- **Discovery:** The Ganges dolphin was officially discovered in 1801.
- **Habitat:** These dolphins inhabit the Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna and Karnaphuli-Sangu river systems across Nepal, India, and Bangladesh.

Gangetic Dolphin (*Platanista gangetica*):

- **Characteristics:** Essentially blind, they rely on emitting ultrasonic sounds for hunting.
- **Conservation Status:**
  - ❖ **International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN):** Endangered.
  - ❖ **Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972:** Listed under Schedule I.
  - ❖ **Convention on Migratory Species (CMS):** Listed in Appendix 1.
- The Vikramshila Gangetic Dolphin Sanctuary (VGDS) in Bhagalpur, Bihar is the only dolphin sanctuary in India.

### India's 1st under- river metro tunnel in Kolkata (asked in HPAS 2024)

- India's first under-river metro tunnel in Kolkata is a significant achievement.
- **Project:** The under-river metro tunnel is part of the East-West Metro, connecting Howrah on the west bank of the Hooghly River to Salt Lake City on the east bank.
- **Length:** The tunnel covers a distance of 520 meters (0.323 miles) under the Hooghly River.
- **Depth:** Trains will ply 32 meters (105 feet) below the Hooghly river bed, making Howrah Metro Station the deepest metro station in India.
- **Inauguration:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated

the tunnel on March 6, 2024.

- **Cost:** The project cost Rs 4,965 crore.
- **Operator:** Executed by the Kolkata Metro Rail Corporation Limited (KMRCL).
- **Historical Context:** Kolkata was the first city in India to have an operational metro system back in 1984.

### Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain-2024' campaign

- **Launch Date:** The fifth edition of the campaign was launched by Union Minister for Jal Shakti, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, on March 9, 2024, at the NDMC Convention Centre in New Delhi.
- **Theme:** "Nari Shakti se Jal Shakti," highlighting the crucial role of women in water conservation and management.
- **Objective:** It falls under the National Water Mission, Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation, in collaboration with the Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation.
- **Duration:** The campaign will be implemented until November 30, 2024.
- **Background:** The Ministry of Jal Shakti initiated the Jal Shakti Abhiyan in 2019 as a "Jan Andolan" to promote grassroots water conservation through citizen participation across the country.

### India's first museum dedicated to cooperatives is coming up in Kozhikode

- The International Cooperative Museum - will showcase the success and achievements of cooperative movements in India, especially Kerala.
- A Rs 150 crore project of Karassery Service Co-operative Bank
- The museum will be the second of its kind in the world (the first is in Toad Lane, U.K., set up in 1844).
- There are more than 8 lakh cooperatives in India today, with a collective membership of 29 crore.
- Maharashtra has the maximum number of cooperative societies, at 2.3 lakh, with 5 crore members.

### PM inaugurates Kochrab Ashram in Sabarmati, Gujarat

- PM Modi's recent visit to the Ashrams and inaugurated the redevelopment plans

Kochrab Ashram:

- Established by Mahatma Gandhi in 1915 after returning from South Africa.
- Gandhiji stayed here before moving to Sabarmati Ashram.
- Historical significance as Gandhi's first Ashram in India.

**Sabarmati Ashram:**

- Originally spread over 120 acres.
- Now occupies 5 acres.
- Inaugurated by PM Modi during his visit.

**Gandhi Ashram Memorial Master Plan:**

- Cost: Rs.1,200 crore.
- Aims to expand the existing 5-acre area to 55 acres.
- Restoration of 36 existing buildings planned.

**National Curriculum for early childhood care and education**

- WCD Ministry introduces National Curriculum for early childhood care and education
- As 85% of brain development occurs before the age of 6 years, the Ministry of Women and Child Development recognizes the pivotal role of early years in development and seeks to strengthen India's Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) landscape.
- National Curriculum for Early Childhood Care and Education for Children from Three to Six Years
- National Framework for Early Childhood Stimulation for Children from Birth to 3 Years.

**First Season Of "Swaraj" On OTT Platform Amazon Prime**

- Union Minister Anurag Singh Thakur Launches First Season Of "Swaraj" On OTT Platform Amazon Prime
- This series of 75 episodes covers unsung heroes of freedom struggle of from all corners of our country.
- The "Swaraj" shows the journey of India from the arrival of Vasco Da Gama in 1498 to the attainment of independence in 1947.

**Yoga Mahotsav 2024**

- Secretary Ministry Of AYUSH Vaidya Rajesh Kotecha Inaugurates Yoga Mahotsav 2024
- celebrating the 100-day countdown to this year's International Day of Yoga.
- June 21 was declared as the International Yoga Day by the United Nations General Assembly.
- Theme of Yoga Mahotsav 2024 - "Yoga for Women Empowerment"

**Khelo India Rising Talent Identification (KIRTI) programme**

- The Khelo India Rising Talent Identification (KIRTI) program, launched by Union Sports Minister Anurag Singh Thakur in Chandigarh, aims to identify young talent across the nation.
- Target Audience: School children aged 9 to 18 years.

- **Objective:** Use sports as a tool for a healthy lifestyle and keep youngsters away from drugs and excessive gadget use.

**Implementation:**

- ❖ Involves physical education teachers and talent scouts.
- ❖ Utilizes scientific tools for assessment.
- ❖ Conducts 20 lakh assessments nationwide through notified Talent Assessment Centers.
- This initiative is a positive step toward nurturing young athletes and promoting physical well-being.

**India now world's second-largest producer of mobile phones**

- India now stands as the world's second-largest producer of mobile phones at the end of the decade 2014-2024
- The sector has transitioned from being 78 % import-dependent in 2014 to 97% selfsufficiency.
- Only 3% of the total mobile phones sold in India are now imported.
- The India's mobile phone production is nearing 20 lakh crore rupees in a decade of unprecedented growth.

**GRID-INDIA Achieves Miniratna Status**

- Grid Controller of India Limited (Grid-India) is being conferred with the status of Miniratna Category-I Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) by the Ministry of Power.
- Established in 2009.
- CMD – S R Narasimhan

**BhashaNet portal**

The BhashaNet portal, launched by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and the National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI), is a significant step towards digital inclusion.

- **Objective:** Facilitate digital inclusion by ensuring individuals from diverse linguistic backgrounds can fully participate in the digital world.
- **Theme:** "BhashaNet: Impetus Towards Universal Acceptance."
- **Global Universal Acceptance Day:** Scheduled for March 28, 2024, in Belgrade, Serbia.
- **BhashaNet Initiative:**
  - ❖ Multilingual Internet and Universal Acceptance.
  - ❖ Enables citizens to create, communicate, transact, process, and retrieve information seamlessly in digital media, regardless of language barriers.
  - ❖ Developed by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) with NIXI's support.



- Secretary, MeitY: S. Krishnan emphasized the necessity of **Universal Acceptance** for an **inclusive internet**, allowing **non-English speakers** to access online resources.

### Know Your Candidate' App

- Election Commission Launches 'Know Your Candidate' App
- Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar announced the launch of a new mobile application named 'Know Your Candidate' (KYC).
- The app aims to provide voters with insights into the criminal background, assets, and liabilities of electoral candidates standing in their respective constituencies.

### Saksham App

- To facilitate easier voting for Persons with Disabilities and to avail facilities at Polling Stations.
- In a bid to provide accessibility to all and leave no voter behind, the Election Commission announced that the voters above 85 years of age and Persons-with Disabilities (pwd) with 40 percent benchmark disability can vote from home.
- Election Commission Keeps Close Eye On Election Process Through The 'cVIGIL' App
- It is a single app for recording, reporting and resolving violations of model code of conduct & expenditure violations.
- Through this app, online complaints can be made by capturing photos, videos etc.

### Centre Launches Alternate Auto Fuel Ethanol100

- Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Hardeep Singh Puri, launched Ethanol100—an alternate auto fuel—in New Delhi.
- Ethanol100 is a cleaner and greener alternative to gasoline (petrol).
- Composition: It's a blend of 92-94% ethanol, 4-5% motor spirit (for flame colour), and 1.5% Co-solvent higher saturated alcohol.
- Benefits: Lower greenhouse gas emissions (around 63% reduction) compared to gasoline.
- Availability: IndianOil is introducing Ethanol100 at 183 retail outlets in ethanol-rich states.

### Ethanol as Biofuel:

- Naturally produced by yeast fermentation of sugars.
- Government target: Achieve 20% ethanol blending in petrol (E20) by 2025.
- Other common biofuels: Bioalcohols (ethanol, propanol, butanol), biodiesel, and bio-oils.

### National Time Protocol (NTP)

#### National Time Protocol (NTP) inauguration:

- Purpose: NTP provides uniform and precise time information with millisecond accuracy, enhancing cybersecurity.
- Source of Time: Previously sourced from GPS, India now has its own system using Navigation with Indian Constellation (NavIC).
- Mobile Operators: All mobile operators in India will sync their time using this system.
- First Implementation: India is the first country to implement this time distribution system.
- Atomic Clocks: By year-end, atomic clocks will be installed in Regional Reference Standards Laboratories (RRSLs) across cities like Bengaluru, Bhubaneswar, Guwahati, and Delhi. Atomic clocks are highly accurate time-keeping devices based on atomic vibrations, used in applications like GPS and scientific research

### Startup Mahakumbh 2024

- Event Details: The event took place from March 18 to 20, 2024, at Bharat Mandapam.
- Theme: The central theme was "Bharat Innovates."
- Focus Areas: The event emphasized AI+SaaS, D2C/consumer brands, agritech, fintech, and more.
- SaaS Definition: SaaS (Software as a Service) is a cloud computing category that provides software applications over the internet.
- India's Startup Ecosystem: India ranks third globally in terms of startup ecosystems, with over 50% of startups originating from tier-2 and tier-3 cities.

### IIHR's three-day national horticultural fair

- Three-day national horticultural fair-2024 of the Indian Institute of Horticultural Research (IIHR), Bengaluru.
- From 5th -7th March, 2024.
- Theme - "Nextgen technology led horticulture for sustainable development".
- The fair will showcase the country's most advanced and recent technologies in the sector such as smart irrigation, controlled environment management, vertical farming, environment friendly practices for sustainable horticulture, and digital horticulture.

### World Telecommunication Standardisation Assembly

- World Telecommunication Standardisation Assembly (WTSA 2024) will be held in New Delhi from 15 to 24 October 2024.
- The Telecommunication Standardisation Bureau (TSB) of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) organises WTSA

- Which plays a crucial role in shaping the global agenda for the standardisation of telecom and information and communication technologies.

#### 4th Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Startup Forum

- 4th Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Startup Forum organized in New Delhi
- The initiative focused on broadening startup interactions among the SCO Member States, fostering an environment conducive to innovation, promoting job creation, and inspiring young talent to develop innovative solutions.
- India will host the second meeting of the SWG in November 2024 and SCO Startup Forum 5.0 in January 2025.
- Presidency of the SCO 2024 - the Republic of Kazakhstan.

#### Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)

- Established in: 2001 in Shanghai, China
- Members: 9 (China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, India, Pakistan and Iran)
- India and Pakistan joined SCO as full members in 2017
- Headquarters : Beijing, China
- Secretary General : Mr. Zhang Ming.
- SCO is a Eurasian political, economic, international security and defence alliance.
- Largest regional organisation in the world in terms of geographical coverage and population

#### National Urban Cooperative Finance and Development Corporation Limited (NUCFDC)

- Cooperation Minister Amit Shah launched the National Urban Cooperative Finance and Development Corporation Limited (NUCFDC), in New Delhi.
- Purpose: NUCFDC serves as an umbrella organization for Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs) in India.
- Goal: Aligned with the vision of "Sahakar se Samridhhi" (prosperity through cooperation) for a self-reliant India ("Aatma Nirbhar Bharat").
- UCBs in India:
  - ❖ Over 1,500 scheduled and non-scheduled UCBs exist, with 11,000+ branches.
  - ❖ Modernization and strengthening of the UCB sector are key objectives.
- NUCFDC Details:
  - ❖ Operates as Non-Banking Finance Company.
  - ❖ Functions as a Self-Regulatory Organization for the sector.
  - ❖ Provides liquidity, capital support, and a shared technology platform for UCBs to expand services cost-effectively.

#### Poshan Utsav: Celebrating Nutrition

- "Poshan Utsav: Celebrating Nutrition" event organized by the Ministry of Women and Child Development in Delhi

#### Event Highlights:

- Launch of the "Poshan Utsav Book."
- Establishment of a Cartoon Coalition to promote the POSHAN cause.
- Exchange of a memorandum of understanding for developing comic books in collaboration with Amar Chitra Katha.

#### Background:

- Poshan Utsav is a celebratory fair under the POSHAN Abhiyaan (Prime Minister's Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nutrition) launched by Prime Minister Modi in 2018.
- Aims to sensitize young children and women to age-appropriate good health practices, addressing malnutrition challenges.

#### Revamped Jiyo Parsi Programme

- Revamped program launched by the Minister of Minority Affairs, Smriti Zubin Irani.
- Aims to address the population decline of the Parsi community through scientific protocols and structured interventions.

#### Avesta-Pahlavi Language Centre:

- Memorandum of Understanding signed to develop the "Centre for Avesta-Pahlavi Studies" at the University of Mumbai.
- Avesta-Pahlavi is an ancient and sacred language used by Parsis.
- The center will offer certificate courses, diploma programs, and PhD studies with an allocated budget of 11.20 Crore rupees.

#### 9th SHAKTI International Women Entrepreneurs Summit

- An annual Conference on the occasion of International Women's Day to promote entrepreneurship amongst women.
- Organized at New Delhi by India SME Forum with the support of the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Govt. of India, in association with Women Entrepreneurs Forum
- The Summit saw launch of three new initiatives:
  - ❖ 'Panjikanan Se Pragati' - to get Udyam registered and unlock a world of opportunities.

- ❖ 'WEP Unnati Udyamita se Pragati tak.' to take Women MSME's to the next level of growth by providing comprehensive capacity building support through WEP.
- ❖ The 'mentorship platform' of Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP)

- **Features:** Criminal Case Management System (CCMS) for NIA personnel.

#### 'Sankalan' Mobile App:

- **Launched by:** National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB).
- **Purpose:** Navigating through new criminal laws as a bridge between old and new criminal laws.

#### Vocal For Local' Initiative

- The **Vocal for Local** initiative, launched by NITI Aayog, aims to promote and support locally produced goods and services.
- Its goal is to make India self-reliant and globally competitive.
- **Initiative Purpose:**
  - ❖ Encourage citizens to prioritize and advocate for goods produced locally.
  - ❖ Strengthen domestic industries and stimulate economic advancement.
- **Implementation Partners:**
  - ❖ Government e-Marketplace (GeM) and Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) platforms.
  - ❖ These platforms provide technical and operational support for e-commerce onboarding.
- **Aakanksha Window:**
  - ❖ A dedicated window on the GeM portal showcases indigenous local products from 500 Aspirational Blocks.

#### Aspirational Blocks Programme (ABP):

- **Launched in:** January 2023 by NITI Aayog.
- **Purpose:** Improving governance and enhancing citizens' quality of life in remote and less developed blocks across India.
- **Coverage:** 500 blocks from 329 districts in 27 states and 4 Union Territories.
- **Themes:** Monitored based on health, education, agriculture, infrastructure, and social development.
- **Implementation Strategy:** Convergence, collaboration, and competition among blocks.
- **Nodal Officers:** Block officials as Leaders of Change, guided by state and district administrations.
- **Rankings:** Quarterly rankings released by NITI Aayog

#### National Investigation Agency's Digital CCMS

- Union Home Minister Amit Shah virtually inaugurated a unique digital Criminal Case Management System (CCMS) of the National Investigation Agency (NIA).
- **Purpose:** Enhancing coordination in terrorism and organized crime cases.

#### IndiaAI Mission

- The IndiaAI Mission aims to foster AI innovation over the next 5 years.
- Key areas of focus include democratizing computing access, enhancing data quality, developing indigenous AI capabilities, and attracting top AI talent.
- **High-End Computing Capacity:**
  - ❖ Establishing a high-end scalable AI computing ecosystem in India.
  - ❖ Targeting an infrastructure with 10,000 or more Graphics Processing Units (GPUs) through public-private partnerships.
- **AI Marketplace:**
  - ❖ Creating an AI marketplace to offer AI-as-a-service and pre-trained models for innovators.
- The mission aligns with the vision of "Making AI in India" and "Making AI Work for India"

#### Indian Oil Produces Formula 1 Fuel In India

- India's largest oil company, Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOC), unveiled 'Storm' petrol that it will supply for the Asian region motorcycle road racing championship.
- The first company in India to manufacture fuel of specifications used in Formula One or F1 motor racing
- **IOC's Chairman :** Shrikant Madhav Vaidya
- F1 fuel is essentially high-octane petrol and the standards are heavily regulated by global motor sport governing body
- However, from 2026, F1 plans to shift to 100 percent sustainable fuel.

#### 100th Year of Vaikom Satyagraha (asked in HPAS 2024)

- Vaikom Satyagraha, the non-violent agitation against untouchability in Kerala lasted for 603 days
- It was held for the right of backward communities to travel through the public road leading to Vaikom Mahadeva Temple at Kottayam district in Kerala (Travancore Kingdom) .
- The satyagraha started on the 30th of March 1924 and ended on the 23rd of November 1925.



### RBI, Bank Indonesia sign pact

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Bank Indonesia (BI) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).
- For establishing a framework to promote the use of local currencies viz., the Indian Rupee (INR) and the Indonesian Rupiah (IDR) for cross-border transactions.
- The MoU was signed by the RBI governor Shaktikanta Das and the Bank Indonesia governor Perry Warjiyo.
- This framework would enable exporters and importers to invoice and pay in their respective domestic currencies, - enable the development of an INR-IDR foreign exchange market.

### India inks pact with EFTA, gets \$100 billion commitment

- India & European Free Trade Association (EFTA) countries (Liechtenstein, Iceland, Norway & Switzerland) signed a Trade & Economic Partnership Agreement to open up their markets for to each other. - (LSIN)
- As part of the deal, the EFTA countries have committed to invest \$100 billion in India over the next 15 years.
- This Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) is the third free trade agreement that India has signed in recent years after earlier deals with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Australia.
- It would take around a year for the agreement to come into force.
- EFTA countries are not part of the European Union (EU).
- Under free trade pacts, two trading partners significantly reduce or eliminate customs duties on the maximum number of goods traded between them, besides easing norms to promote trade in services and investments.

### National Youth Parliament Festival 2024

- Organised from 9th February 2024 to 6th March 2024 across the country.
- Theme 2024- 'Young Voices: Engage and Empower for Nation's Transformation'.
- Yatin Bhaskar Duggal from Haryana won the first prize

### National Youth Parliament Festival

- NYPF is based on the idea given by the Prime Minister in his Mann Ki Baat Address in 2017.
- 1st edition of NYPF was organised in 2019.
- Objective: To hear the voice of youth in this age bracket of 18-25 who are allowed to vote but cannot contest in elections.
- Article 84 (b) of Constitution of India provides that the minimum age for becoming a candidate for Lok Sabha election shall be 25 years.

### Vaibhav fellowship scheme

- Science Ministry announces first recipients of 'Vaibhav' fellows
- Department of Science and Technology (DST) announced the first batch of 'Vaibhav' fellows – a scheme meant to attract Indian-origin scientists based abroad for short-term collaboration .
- 22 scientists, mostly based at North American and European institutes will spend anywhere from a month or two annually, for a maximum of three years, at host Indian institutes.
- Currently, the institutions include the Indian Institute of Science, the Indian Institutes of Technology, the Indian Institutes of Science, Education and Research, and the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, among others.
- Apart from these, two 'distinguished fellowships' were also offered to senior professors.
- Vaibhav Fellows will get a stipend (Rs.4 lakh per month), accommodation, and their host institutions will get a research grant, to enable them to host the fellows.
- The Vaibhav fellowship scheme was first set into motion in June 2023.
- It is similar to another scheme, called Visiting Advanced Joint Research Faculty (Vajra) scheme, again of the DST, initiated in 2018.
- Vajra was open to all foreign scientists, whereas Vaibhav is exclusively for the Indian diaspora

### CAA implemented in India ahead of Lok Sabha elections

- The Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019 (CAA) was passed on December 11, 2019 to amend the Citizenship Act of 1955.
- New portal for applying for citizenship under CAA launched, Centre will also launch the mobile app 'CAA-2019' to facilitate applications
- This amendment allowed for the grant of fast-track Indian citizenship to religious minorities, including Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis, and Christians, who fled from neighbouring Muslim-majority countries of Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Afghanistan due to religious persecution or fear thereof before 31st December 2014.
- They will be granted fast track Indian citizenship in 5 years (11 years earlier).

### Documents required:

- Any other document issued by a government authority or agency in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, or Pakistan that establishes the applicant's nationality or origin.
- Any document issued by an Indian authority (admissible even after their expiry date) which demonstrate that the applicant entered India on or before December 31, 2014.

- Provide an **eligibility certificate** issued by a **locally reputed community institution** confirming that he or she belongs to either **Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, Parsi or Christian community** and continues to be a member of that community.
- The **applicants will have to give a declaration** that they **‘irrevocably’ renounce the existing citizenship** and that they want to make **‘India as permanent home’**.

#### Exemptions from CAA

- Autonomous councils created under the **6th Schedule** of the Constitution are **exempted from the purview of CAA**. Autonomous councils under this special status include **Karbi Anglong, Dila Hasao and Bodoland Territorial Council** areas in Assam, **Garo Hills** in Meghalaya and **tribal areas** in Tripura.
- Areas where the **Inner Line Permit (ILP)** is required for a visit by people from other parts of the country in Northeastern states are excluded from the law.
- The **ILP is in place** in parts of **Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Mizoram and Manipur**.

#### Arguments against CAA

- Protestors have also argued that the **amendment discriminates against Muslims** and **violates the right to equality** enshrined in the Constitution.
- Some also **question the exclusion of persecuted religious minorities** from regions such as **Tibet, Sri Lanka, and Myanmar**.

#### Ladakh demands for statehood

- **Sonam Wangchuk**, was on **hunger strike** to demand **special status and statehood for Ladakh**
- The **Ladakh Union Territory** demands for **statehood and Constitutional protection** under the **Sixth Schedule**.
- Wangchuk has been seeking special status for the **region to safeguard its fragile environs and glaciers**.
- **Apex Body Leh (ABL) and Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA)**, the two **socio-political organisations** spearheading the movement.
- The **sixth schedule** provides for the **administration of certain tribal areas as autonomous entities**.
- It **allows creation of autonomous district councils and regional councils** endowed with certain legislative, executive, judicial and financial powers.
- Ladakh, once a part of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir, became a Union Territory - **abrogation of Article 370 and the bifurcation of the state into two separate Union Territories** in August 2019.

#### Their primary demands include:

- **Statehood for Ladakh:** Seeking to elevate Ladakh from its current Union Territory status to a full-fledged state
- **Safeguards under the 6th Schedule:** the 6th Schedule to protect the cultural, linguistic, and land rights of the indigenous population
- **Reservation of Jobs:** Calling for reservations in employment opportunities for the youth of Ladakh
- **Creation of Separate Parliamentary Constituencies:** the establishment of distinct Parliamentary constituencies for Leh and Kargil
  - ❖ State animal - Snow Leopard
  - ❖ State bird - Black-Necked Crane,
  - ❖ State Flower- Himalayan Blue Poppy
  - ❖ LG/ Governor - Brig. (Dr.) B. D. Mishra (Retd.)

#### “One Nation One Election” Committee Submitted its Report”

- Committee headed by former **President Ram Nath Kovind** submitted report to **President Droupadi Murmu**
- Report comprises **18,626 pages**, prepared after extensive consultations and research work of **191 days**
- **Recommends simultaneous elections for Lok Sabha and state assemblies as first step, followed by synchronized local body polls within 100 days**

#### Proposed Amendments:

- Insertion of **Article 82A** to **synchronize terms of Lok Sabha and state assemblies**
- Amendments to **Article 83** (duration of Houses of Parliament) and **Article 172** (duration of state legislatures)

#### Key Recommendations:

- All state assemblies constituted after the **“Appointed Date” will come to end along with the expiry of the full term of the Lok Sabha**.
- **Fresh elections may take place in case of a hung house or no-confidence motion, with tenure only for the unexpired term**.
- **Ratification by states not required to hold simultaneous elections in Lok Sabha and state assemblies**.

#### Other Points:

- Committee established on **September 2, 2023**, to examine the concept of **“one nation, one election”**
- Tasked with proposing **specific amendments to Constitution, Representation of the People Acts, and other related laws**

**The Kovind panel includes:**

- Home Minister **Amit Shah**
- Former leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha **Ghulam Nabi Azad**
- Former Finance Commission chairman **N.K. Singh**
- Former Lok Sabha Secretary General **Subhash Kashyap**
- Senior advocate **Harish Salve**
- Law Minister **Arjun Ram Meghwal** is a special invitee to the panel.
- The **22nd Law Commission** (under the Chairmanship of **Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi**), that has examined the issue in detail, had also suggested holding simultaneous polls from the general election of 2029.

**India Creates World Record With 64.2 Crore Voters Participating In Lok Sabha Polls**

- In this Lok Sabha polls, **31.2 crore women voters** cast their votes which is also the **highest ever in the world**.
- Recently appointed new Election Commissioners: **Gyanesh Kumar** and **Dr. Sukhbir Singh Sandhu**.

**General Elections 2024 - Results**

- The **Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)**-led **National Democratic Alliance (NDA)** is set to form the government at the Centre for the third consecutive term. However, this victory feels less triumphant due to the strong performance of the opposition INDIA bloc.

**Election Results Breakdown:**

- **BJP**: 240 seats (36.56% vote share), falling short of the 272-majority mark.
- **TDP (Telugu Desam Party)**: 16 seats in Andhra Pradesh.
- **JD(U) (Janata Dal (United))**: 12 seats in Bihar.
- **Congress**: 99 seats (21.19% vote share), a significant increase from 52 seats in 2019.
- **Samajwadi Party**: 37 seats in Uttar Pradesh.
- **Trinamool Congress (TMC)**: 29 seats in West Bengal, up from 22 in 2019.

**Key Points:**

- **Coalition Politics**: The BJP will now depend on its allies, including TDP, JD(U), ShivSena (Eknath Shinde faction), and LJP (Ram Vilas) led by Chirag Paswan.
- **Regional Leaders**: Regional leaders have gained influence, with notable support for Sharad Pawar and Uddhav Thackeray in Maharashtra.
- **BJP-RSS Dynamics**: The lower tally for BJP may lead to increased involvement of RSS in government affairs.

**Changes in the 18th Lok Sabha:**

- **Opposition Voice**: Greater representation for opposition members in Parliamentary panels.
- **Federalism**: Increased emphasis on federalism, challenging the “double-engine sarkar” narrative.
- **Accountability**: Enhanced checks and balances across institutions.

**Impact of Coalition Politics:**

- **Dealing with Partners**: BJP will need to accommodate its allies' demands for stability at the Centre.
- This election marks a significant shift in Indian politics, highlighting the return of coalition dynamics and the rise of regional leaders

**NOTA Creates New Record In Madhya Pradesh, Crosses 1 Lakh Figure**

- In Madhya Pradesh, **None of the Above, NOTA**, has created a new record in Indore in the Lok Sabha election results.
- For the **first time** in the electoral history of the country, **NOTA** has received so many votes.
- **NOTA** has received 1 lakh 55 thousand votes.
- So far, the **record of the highest NOTA** in the country was in the name of **Gopalganj in Bihar**.
- In the **2019** elections, **NOTA** registered **51,660 votes**

**India's Supreme Court Reconstitutes Gender Sensitisation Committee**

- The Supreme Court has reconstituted its **Gender Sensitisation and Internal Complaints Committee**.
- The 12-member committee is headed by the Supreme Court judge **Hima Kohli**, who is the **Chairperson**.
- In exercise of powers conferred by **Clause 4(2)** of the **Gender Sensitisation and Sexual Harassment of Women at the Supreme Court of India (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Regulations, 2013**

**Prime Minister launches 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' Campaign**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the **'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam'** campaign on **World Environment Day** by planting a **Peepal tree** at **Buddha Jayanti Park in Delhi**.
- This campaign encourages people to plant trees in honor of their mothers.

**World Environment Day:**

- **Initiated**: By the United Nations General Assembly in 1972 during the Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment.
- **First Celebrated**: In 1973.
- **Annual Celebration**: Every year on June 5th.



### Priyanka Jarkiholi is the youngest tribal woman to win from an unreserved seat

- Congress nominee **Priyanka Jarkiholi** has won from **Chikkodi, Karnataka**
- She became the **youngest tribal woman to enter Parliament** from an **unreserved seat in Karnataka** since independence.

### Tashigang, the world's highest polling station, stands at an altitude of 15,256 feet

- The **world's highest polling station** in **Tashigang**, located in the **Spiti Valley, Himachal Pradesh** at an altitude of **15,256 ft** has been declared a **model polling station**.
- This **polling station** was set up for the **2019 Lok Sabha elections**, when a **100% polling** was recorded

### MeitY Inaugurates Indigenous Air Quality Monitoring System and Launches Air-Pravah App

- **Event:** Inauguration on **World Environment Day**
- **Inaugurated by:** S. Krishnan, Secretary, Ministry of Electronics and IT
- **System:** Indigenous **Air Quality Monitoring System (AQ-AIMS)**
- **App:** Air-Pravah for real-time Air Quality Index monitoring
- **Developed by:** Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), Kolkata, in collaboration with TeXMIN (Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad) and J M Envirolab Private Limited
- **Supported by:** MeitY technologies
- **Features:** Monitors pollutants like **PM 1.0, PM 2.5, PM 10, SO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>2</sub>, O<sub>3</sub>, CO, CO<sub>2</sub>, Temperature, Humidity**, etc.
- **Program:** Part of the National programme on Electronics and ICT applications in Agriculture and Environment

### Bihar Bird Sanctuaries Gain International Ramsar Status

- **Recognition:** **Nagi and Nakti bird sanctuaries** in **Jamui district, Bihar**, now recognized under the **Ramsar Convention**.
- **Total Ramsar Sites in India:** **82**.
- **Location:** **Man-made reservoirs** in the **Jhajha forest range of Jamui**.
- **Declaration:** Declared as **Wetlands of International Importance** on **World Environment Day, June 5**.
- **Ramsar Convention:** An **international treaty** for the **conservation and sustainable use of wetlands**, signed on **February 2, 1971**, in **Ramsar, Iran**, under **UNESCO**.

#### Nakti Bird Sanctuary

- **Development:** Primarily for irrigation through **Nakti Dam construction**.

- **Designation:** Bird Sanctuary in **1984**.
- **Importance:** Wintering habitat for **over 20,000 migratory birds**, including **red-crested pochard**.

#### Nagi Bird Sanctuary

- **Creation:** Following the damming of the **Nagi River**.
- **Designation:** Bird Sanctuary in **1984**, Important Bird and Biodiversity Area (IBA) by BirdLife International.
- **Importance:** Hosts large congregations of **bar-headed geese**.

### India's first biosphere within a tiger reserve.

- Environmentalists **Jai Dhar Gupta** and **Vijay Dhasmana** create **India's first biosphere in a tiger reserve**.
- **Name:** **Rajaji Raghati Biosphere (RRB)**.
- **Location:** **Rajaji National Park, Uttarakhand**, nestled in the **Shivalik foothills**, overlooking the **rocky white Raghati riverbed**.
- **Size:** **35-acre private forest**.
- **Focus:** Conducted extensive surveys to **identify and plant suitable native species**, especially those that are **rare or disappearing** in the region.
- **Significance:** Enhances biodiversity, **preserves rare plant species**, and serves as a **model for future conservation projects**.

### Narendra Modi took the oath as the Prime Minister for the third consecutive time

- **PM Narendra Modi** takes oath for a **third straight term** as **head of a coalition government**
- **President Droupadi Murmu** administers the **oath of office and secrecy**.
- **Council of ministers** comprises **72 members**, including:
  - ❖ 30 Cabinet Ministers
  - ❖ 5 Ministers of State with Independent Charge
  - ❖ 36 Ministers of State
- **Modi, 73**, equals **Jawaharlal Nehru's** feat of winning **three consecutive terms**
- **Rammohan Naidu Kinjarapu** becomes the **youngest Union Minister in the Cabinet**.

#### Lok Sabha Details:

- Total strength of Lok Sabha: **543 members**
- Maximum allowed strength of council of ministers: **15% of Lok Sabha members (81)**
- **BJP wins 240 seats**, short of the **272 majority mark**.
- **BJP's previous wins: 303 seats in 2019, 282 seats in 2014**.

**Interesting Fact:**

- Counting conducted for 542 seats, as BJP's Surat candidate Mukesh Dalal was elected unopposed

**All seven invitees from neighbouring countries arrive at Rashtrapati Bhavan**

- Bhutan **PM Tshering Tobgay**,
- Bangladesh **PM Sheikh Hasina**,
- Maldives **President Mohammad Muizzu**,
- Mauritius **PM Pravind Jugnauth**,
- Nepal **PM P.K. Dahal Prachanda**,
- Seychelles **Vice President Ahmed Afif**,
- Sri Lankan President **Ranil Wickremesinghe**.
- In 2014, the government had invited all leaders of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) grouping, which included Afghanistan and Pakistan.
- In 2019 the leaders of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation
- (BIMSTEC) grouping, including Myanmar and Thailand had attended the ceremony.

**Om Birla Re-Elected, Breaks 20-Year Lok Sabha Trend**

- Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla won the Kota parliamentary, Rajasthan seat, thus becoming the first presiding officer in 20 years to be re-elected to the Lower House.
- The last Lok Sabha speaker to get re-elected to the Lower House was P A Sangma, who was the presiding officer of the 11th Lok Sabha from 1996 to 1998.
- Sangma, then a Congress member, was re-elected from Tura in Meghalaya in the 1998 Lok Sabha election.

**Modi 3.0 Cabinet: Complete list of ministers' portfolio Prime Minister**

Shri Narendra Modi - **Prime Minister** and also in-charge of:

- Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions;
- Department of Atomic Energy;
- Department of Space;
- All important policy issues; and
- All other portfolios not allocated to any Minister.

**S.No Cabinet Minister Portfolio**

1. Shri Raj Nath Singh Minister of Defence.
2. Shri Amit Shah - Minister of Home Affairs; and Minister of Cooperation.
3. Shri Nitin Jairam Gadkari Minister of Road Transport and Highways.
4. Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda Minister of Health and Family Welfare; and Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers.

5. Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare; and Minister of Rural Development.
6. Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman Minister of Finance; and Minister of Corporate Affairs.
7. Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar Minister of External Affairs.
8. Shri Manohar Lal Khattar Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs; and Minister of Power.
9. Shri H. D. Kumaraswamy Minister of Heavy Industries; and Minister of Steel.
10. Shri Piyush Goyal Minister of Commerce and Industry.
11. Shri Dharmendra Pradhan Minister of Education.
12. Shri Jitan Ram Manjhi Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.
13. Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh alias Lalan Singh Minister of Panchayati Raj; and Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying.
14. Shri Sarbananda Sonowal Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways.
15. Dr. Virendra Kumar Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment.
16. Shri Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu Minister of Civil Aviation.
17. Shri Pralhad Joshi Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution; and Minister of New and Renewable Energy.
18. Shri Jual Oram Minister of Tribal Affairs.
19. Shri Giriraj Singh Minister of Textiles.
20. Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw Minister of Railways; Minister of Information and Broadcasting; and Minister of Electronics and Information Technology
21. Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia Minister of Communications; and Minister of Development of North Eastern Region.
22. Shri Bhupender Yadav Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
23. Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat Minister of Culture; and Minister of Tourism.
24. Smt. Annpurna Devi Minister of Women and Child Development
25. Shri Kiren Rijiju Minister of Parliamentary Affairs; and Minister of Minority Affairs.
26. Shri Hardeep Singh Puri Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas
27. Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya Minister of Labour and Employment; and Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports.
28. Shri G. Kishan Reddy Minister of Coal; and Minister of Mines.
29. Shri Chirag Paswan Minister of Food Processing Industries.
30. Shri C R Patil Minister of Jal Shakti.

### NHRC seeks report on 'sale of underage girls' as part of 'Nata Pratha'

- **NHRC Notices:** Issued to the Union Ministry of Women and Child Development and the states of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, and Gujarat.
- **Report Submission:** States must submit a report on measures taken or proposed within eight weeks.
- **Nata Pratha:** Comparable to modern forms of prostitution, involving the sale of girls under the guise of marriage, often on stamp paper.
- **Prevalence:** Found in certain communities in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, and Gujarat.
- **Family Involvement:** Transactions are usually conducted by the girl's own family.
- **Implications:** Severe moral and legal consequences, particularly for women and minor girls.
- **NHRC's Stance:** Calls for the eradication and abolition of 'Nata Pratha' due to its immoral impact on women and minor girls.

### Legal and Human Rights Violations:

- **Human Trafficking:** Classified as human trafficking under the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956.
- **Child Marriage:** Violates the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006.
- **POCSO Act:** Invoked if minors are involved, under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012.
- The NHRC suggests that, besides enacting a law, individuals forcing women into 'Nata Pratha' should be prosecuted under human trafficking laws. The sale of minor girls should be prosecuted under the POCSO Act.
- Additionally, setting up a group at the village level to register cases of 'Nata Pratha', build awareness, and provide education and employment is crucial to improving the economic and social status of girls and women.

### UGC Allows Biannual Admissions for Indian Universities

- **New Admission Cycles:** July-August and January-February from the 2024-25 academic session.
- Biannual refers to something that occurs or is done twice a year.
- **Benefits:**
  - ❖ Efficient resource distribution (faculty, labs, classrooms, support services).
  - ❖ Better functional flow within universities.
- **Global Practice:** Aligns with the biannual admission system followed by universities worldwide.
- **Flexibility:** Not mandatory; HEIs can choose to increase student intake and offer new programs.

- **Enhancements:** Potential for improved international collaborations and student exchanges.

### NHAI to Enhance Green Cover with Miyawaki Plantations

- **Initiative:** NHAI to plant Miyawaki plantations on land parcels adjacent to National Highways in and around Delhi-NCR.
- **Miyawaki Method:** A Japanese approach to ecological restoration and afforestation.
- **Benefits:**
  - ❖ Creates dense, native, and biodiverse forests quickly.
  - ❖ Retains and recharges groundwater.
  - ❖ Trees grow ten times faster.
  - ❖ Acts as a sound and dust barrier.
- **Origin:** Developed by Japanese botanist Akira Miyawaki.

### Global Wind Day 2024 by Ministry of New and Renewable Energy

- **Date:** 15th June 2024
- ❖ **Purpose:** Celebrate the success of the Indian Wind Sector and discuss future acceleration of wind energy adoption.
- ❖ **Theme:** "Pawan-Urja: Powering the Future of India"
- ❖ **Current Status:** India has a cumulative installed wind power capacity of 46.4 GW by May 2024, making it the fourth largest in the world (after China, US, Germany).
- ❖ **Significance:** Wind energy is vital for India to achieve 50% of its electric power from non-fossil fuel sources by 2030 and net zero by 2070.

### Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar Inaugurates 'Prerna Sthal' in Parliament House Complex

- **Event:** Inauguration of 'Prerna Sthal' by Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar.
- **Location:** Parliament House Complex, New Delhi.
- **Purpose:** Houses statues of great leaders and freedom fighters, previously dispersed across the complex, to enhance visitor experience.
- **Features:**
  - ❖ Statues of national icons and freedom fighters.
  - ❖ Easier access for visitors to view and learn about these figures.
  - ❖ Use of modern technology like QR codes to narrate life stories

### E-flows Monitoring System:

- **Launch:** By Union Jal Shakti Ministry, developed by the National Mission for Clean Ganga.
- **Purpose:** Real-time monitoring of river quality, aiding



project planning and monitoring.

➤ **Features:**

- ❖ Monitors water quality of the Ganga, Yamuna, and tributaries.
- ❖ Tracks Namami Gange programme activities.
- ❖ Ensures optimal performance of Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs).
- ❖ Utilizes data from the Central Water Commission to track key parameters like in-flow, out-flow, and mandated E-flow across 11 projects

**AIM – ICDK Water Challenge 4.0**

- **Launch:** By NITI Aayog under the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM).
- **Purpose:** Address critical water-related challenges through inventive solutions.
- **Collaboration:** With Innovation Centre Denmark (ICDK) at the Royal Danish Embassy in India.
- **Participation:** Selected Indian teams will join the global Next Generation Digital Action program

**Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)**

- It is the Government of India's flagship initiative set up in **2016**.
- **Objective:** To create and promote an ecosystem of innovation and entrepreneurship across the country at school, university, research institutions, MSME and industry levels.
- Implementing Agency: **NITI Aayog**
- NITI Aayog Chairperson: **Narendra Modi**
- Founded: **1 January 2015**
- CEO: **B.V.R. Subrahmanyam**
- Vice Chairperson: **Suman Bery**

**In Revised NCERT Textbook: A rewrite of Ayodhya dispute and some deletions**

➤ **Revised Content:**

- ❖ Babri Masjid is now referred to as a "three-domed structure."
- ❖ The Ayodhya section has been reduced from four pages to two.
- ❖ Details removed include the BJP rath yatra, role of kar sevaks, communal violence post-demolition, President's rule in BJP-ruled states, and BJP's expression of regret.

➤ **New Additions:**

- ❖ A subsection on the Supreme Court's 2019 decision on the Ayodhya dispute.
- ❖ The chapter now mentions the 5-0 verdict of the Constitutional bench on November 9, 2019.

➤ **Background:**

- ❖ The old textbook introduced Babri Masjid as a 16th-century mosque built by Mughal emperor Babur's General Mir Baqi.
- ❖ The revised version describes it as a structure built at Shri Ram's birthplace with visible Hindu symbols and relics.

➤ **Revisions Context:**

- ❖ This is the fourth round of revisions since 2014

**Deep Sea Mission:**

- **India Is Set To Be 6th Country To Have Its Own Deep Sea Mission.**
- **Development:** Led by National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) with ISRO collaboration.
- **Submersible:** Matsyayaan 6000, capable of diving 6,000 meters.
- **Resources:** Targets polymetallic nodules and sulphides at depths of 3,000 to 5,500 meters.
- **Global Context:** India joins the U.S.A., Russia, China, France, and Japan in deep-ocean missions.
- **Timeline:** Harbor trials (50-40m) by September 2024; subsequent trials by 2026.
- **Technologies:** Titanium hull, self-floatation for emergencies, -72hour submersion.
- **Mission:** Part of the Ministry of Earth Sciences' Deep Ocean Mission (DOM), under PMSTIAC.
- **Objectives:** Includes Samudryaan, Matsya6000, and Varaha (deep-ocean mining system).
- **UN Designation:** 2021-2030 as the 'Decade of Ocean Science'

**PM Modi to Lead 10th International Day Of Yoga Celebrations In Srinagar**

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** will participate in the 10th International Day of Yoga celebration in Srinagar on the 21st June
- **Theme 2024:** Yoga for Self and Society
- **Union Ayush Minister Prataprao Jadhav** launched a **Common Yoga Protocol Book** in Braille Script to support visually impaired people to learn and Practice Yoga
- **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** is organizing a unique initiative '**Yoga for Space**' to mark the **International Day of Yoga**.
- All scientists and officials of ISRO will perform Yoga together as per the Common Yoga Protocol guidelines.

**New Nalanda University campus**

- PM Modi inaugurated the **new campus** of **Nalanda University** in **Rajgir, Bihar**.

- **Location:** Close to the ancient ruins of Nalanda.
- **Activities:** PM Modi visited the ancient ruins and planted a Bodhi tree sapling from Bodh Gaya.

#### Historical Context:

- **UNESCO Status:** Ancient Nalanda University ruins declared a World Cultural Heritage site in 2016.
- **Establishment:** Nalanda University was established by the Nalanda University Act, 2010, following decisions from the East Asia Summits in 2007 and 2009.
- **Operations:** Began in 2014 with 14 students; construction of the new campus started in 2017.

#### New Nalanda Campus:

- **Design:** Inspired by ancient Nalanda Mahavihara monasteries and buildings.
- **Net Zero Green Campus:** Features over 100 acres of water bodies, an on-grid solar plant, water treatment and recycling plants, and extensive green cover.
- **Facilities:** Includes a 250-capacity Yoga Center, state-of-the-art auditorium, library, archival center, and sports complex.
- **Academic Focus:** Offers Post Graduate and Doctoral programs in Buddhist studies, philosophy, languages, ecology, sustainable development, and international relations.
- **Diverse Student Body:** Enrolls students from over 20 countries, including India.

#### Ancient Nalanda University:

- **Founded:** 427 CE by Emperor Kumaragupta.
- **Attacks:**
  - ❖ **First:** Between 455-470 AD by the Hunas during Emperor Skandagupta's reign.
  - ❖ **Second:** Early 7th century by Goudas Rajvansh, emperor of Bengal.
  - ❖ **Third:** 1193 AD by Bakhtiyar Khilji, a general under Qutubuddin Aibak.
- **Notable Figures:** Aryabhata, speculated to have headed the university in the 6th century CE.
- **Significance:** First residential university with 2,000 teachers and 10,000 students from various regions.
- **Library:** Held 9 million handwritten palm-leaf manuscripts, known as "Dharma Gunj" or "Mountain of Truth."
- **Rediscovery:** In 1812 by Scottish surveyor Francis Buchanan-Hamilton; identified by Sir Alexander Cunningham in 1861.

#### Vadhavan Port Project:

- A new major port is to come up at Vadhavan, situated in the Dahanu taluka of the Palghar district of Maharashtra.
- **Location:** Dahanu taluka, Palghar district, Maharashtra.
- **Alignment:** Part of the PM Gatishakti programme.
- **Development:** All-weather Greenfield deep draft major port.
- **Infrastructure:** Nine container terminals, each 1000 meters long.
- **Capacity:** Handles 298 million metric tons (MMT) of cargo annually.
- **Construction:** By Vadhavan Port Project Limited (VPPL), a joint venture of Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA) and Maharashtra Maritime Board (MMB) with 74% and 26% shareholding respectively.
- **Cost:** Rs 76,220 crore, including core infrastructure and terminals in PPP mode.
- **Significance:** Gateway port for India-Middle East-Europe Corridor (IMEC) and International North-South Transportation Corridor (INSTC).
- **Opposition:** Local fishermen and farmers fear livelihood impact; environmentalists concerned about ecological harm.

#### National Forensic Infrastructure Enhancement Scheme" (N.F.I.E.S.)

- **Approval:** By Union Cabinet chaired by PM Narendra Modi.
- **Financial Outlay:** Rs. 2254.43 crore from 2024-25 to 2028-29, funded by the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- **New Criminal Laws:** Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, effective from July 1, 2024, mandate forensic investigation for serious crimes.

#### Scheme Components:

1. Establishment of National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU) campuses.
2. Establishment of Central Forensic Science Laboratories (CFSLs).
3. Enhancement of existing infrastructure at NFSU Delhi campus.

#### National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU):

- **Unique Status:** World's first and only forensics university.
- **History:** Established in 2009 as Gujarat Forensic Sciences University; renamed in 2020.
- **Main Campus:** Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- **Objective:** Train forensic professionals to meet national demand

## Viability Gap Funding (VGF) scheme for Offshore Wind Energy Projects

### VGF Scheme Overview:

- **Objective:** Set up India's first offshore wind energy projects.
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE).
- **Total Outlay:** Rs. 7453 crore.
  - ❖ **Installation & Commissioning:** Rs. 6853 crore for 1 GW projects (500 MW each off Gujarat and Tamil Nadu).
  - ❖ **Port Upgradation:** Rs. 600 crore for logistics requirements.

### Key Points:

- **Policy Alignment:** Supports the National Offshore Wind Energy Policy (2015).
- **Environmental Impact:** 1 GW projects to produce 3.72 billion units of renewable electricity annually, reducing 2.98 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions over 25 years.
- **Infrastructure:** Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd (PGCIL) to construct power evacuation infrastructure.
- **Government Targets:** Achieve 500 GW of non-fossil fuel capacity by 2030, including 280 GW solar and 140 GW wind power.

### Viability Gap Funding (VGF) Scheme:

- **Purpose:** Support economically justified but financially marginal infrastructure projects.
- **Eligibility:** Projects with private sector sponsors selected through competitive bidding.
- **Funding Limit:** Up to 20% of total project cost, with potential additional grants up to another 20%.

## Chenab Bridge: Indian Railways Successfully Conducts Trial Run on World's Highest Rail Bridge

- **Indian Railways** achieved a historic milestone with the successful trial run of an eight-coach Mainline Electric Multiple Unit (MEMU) train on the famed **Chenab Bridge**, the world's highest railway bridge, in Jammu and Kashmir.

### Chenab Rail Bridge:

- It is located between **Bakkal and Kauri** in the **Reasi district** of **Jammu and Kashmir (J&K)**.
- The **1.3-km-long bridge** is located **359 metres** above the **Chenab riverbed**.
- It is the highest **single-arch railway bridge** in the world.
- It is part of the **Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link** project.

- **Life span** of 120 years.
- Built to be '**blast-proof**' and is **capable of withstanding the nation's maximum intensity zone-V earthquake forces**.

### First Session of the 18th Lok Sabha:

- **Speaker Pro-tem:** President Droupadi Murmu administered the oath to BJP member **Bhartruhari Mahtab** as 'Speaker Pro-tem' to run proceedings on June 24 and 25.
- **New Speaker Election:** Scheduled for June 26.
- **Oath-Taking:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi was the first to take the oath as a member of the House.
- **Rajya Sabha Leadership:** JP Nadda appointed as the leader of the House, replacing Piyush Goyal.
- **Chairman and Opposition Leader:** Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar and Leader of Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge.
- **Significance:** First time in ten years the Lok Sabha has a Leader of Opposition.
- **President's Address:** Scheduled for June 27.
- **Session Timeline:** Concludes on July 3, with the monsoon sitting starting on July 22.

### Underground Coal Gasification (UCG) Pilot Project:

- **Initiative:** Launched by the Ministry of Coal and Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL) at the Kasta coal block in Jamtara District, Jharkhand.
- **Objective:** Convert in-situ coal into valuable gases like methane, hydrogen, carbon monoxide, and carbon dioxide.
- **Applications:** Gases can be used for synthetic natural gas, chemical feedstocks, fuels, fertilizers, explosives, and other industrial uses.
- **Benefits:** Unlocks coal deposits not economically feasible to extract using conventional mining techniques.
- **Policy Framework:** Approved by the Ministry of Coal in December 2015 for UCG in coal and lignite-rich areas.
- **Current Minister of Coal:** G Kishan Reddy

### "One Week One Theme" (OWOT) campaign.

- **Launch:** Dr. Jitendra Singh, Minister of Earth Sciences, launched the "One Week One Theme" (OWOT) campaign.
- **Purpose:** Highlights India's recent success stories in science and technology.
- **Themes:** Energy and energy devices, chemicals and petrochemicals, aerospace, electronics and strategic sectors, civil infrastructure and engineering, agriculture, nutrition and biotech, healthcare, mining, minerals, metals and materials, ecology, environment, earth, ocean sciences, and water.



## The International Sugar Organisation (ISO) Council Meeting in New Delhi

- **Dates:** June 2024 ,27-25.
- **Location:** Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi.
- **Workshop:** 'Sugar and Biofuels – Emerging Vistas.'
- **Participants:** Delegates from over 30 countries and various international organizations.
- **India's Role:** Largest consumer and second largest producer of sugar.

### International Sugar Organisation (ISO):

- **Affiliation:** UN-affiliated body.
- **Founded:** December 3, 1968.
- **Headquarters:** London.
- **Membership:** 85 countries, covering almost 90% of global sugar production

### India's census situation

- **India among a select few countries that have not conducted the Census**
- **Last Census:** Conducted in 2011.
- **2021 Census:** Indefinitely postponed due to COVID-19.
- **Global Context:** India is one of 44 out of 233 countries that have not conducted the latest census.
- **BRICS Context:** Only BRICS nation yet to conduct its latest census.
- **Impact:** Hampers welfare schemes like PDS, National Family Health Survey, and National Family Security Act; affects delimitation of constituencies.

### Census in India:

- **First Non-synchronous Census:** Conducted in 1872 during Governor-General Lord Mayo's tenure.
- **First Synchronous Census:** Taken in 1881 under Lord Rippon, led by W.C. Plowden (Census Commissioner of India).
- **First Census of Independent India:** Conducted in 1951, marking the seventh census in its continuous series.
- **Census 2011:** The 15th census since 1872 and the 7th since independence.

### 21st Livestock Census

- **Inauguration:** Union Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh inaugurated a workshop in New Delhi to prepare for the 21st Livestock Census.
- **Mobile App:** A mobile application for data collection was launched.
- **Schedule:** Census will be conducted from September to December 2024.

- **History:** Conducted every 5 years since 1919-20.
- **Scope:** Covers all domesticated animals and their headcounts

### 20th Livestock Census Report

- **Coverage:** Included all domesticated animals, totaling 16 species.
- **Total Livestock Population:** 535.78 million, a 4.8% increase from 2012.
- **Cattle Population:** 193.46 million in 2019, a 1.3% increase from the previous census.
- **Indigenous Cattle:** Observed a 6% decline in population.

### Paradip Port Achievements in FY 2023-24

- **Record Cargo Throughput:** Achieved 145.38 MMT.
- **Top Major Port:** Surpassed Deendayal Port, Kandla for the first time in 56 years.
- **Traffic Growth:** 7.4% year-on-year increase.
- **Coastal Shipping Traffic:** Highest ever at 59.19 MMT, a 1.30% increase over the previous year.

### SJVN's First Multi-purpose Green Hydrogen Pilot Project

- **Inauguration:** India's first Multi-purpose Green Hydrogen Pilot Project at Nathpa Jhakri Hydro Power Station (NJHPS), Himachal Pradesh.
- **Usage:** Green hydrogen for High Velocity Oxygen Fuel (HVOF) Coating Facility and electricity generation (25 kW fuel cell).
- **Inaugurated by:** CMD Smt. Geeta Kapur.

### About SJVN Limited

- **Formerly:** Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam.
- **Status:** Mini Ratna, Category-I, Schedule 'A' CPSE under Ministry of Power.
- **Operations:** Hydroelectric power generation and transmission.
- **Incorporation:** 1988 as Nathpa Jhakri Power Corporation, a joint venture between Government of India and Government of Himachal Pradesh.

### Candidates Have Right to Privacy from Voters: Supreme Court

- The Supreme Court said that candidates contesting elections need not disclose each and every moveable property owned by them or their dependents.
- However, candidates need to disclose information about property that is of substantial value or reflects a luxurious lifestyle.
- A voter had no absolute right to know about each and every asset of a candidate and that a candidate had the right to privacy regarding matters irrelevant to his/her candidature.

- A Bench of Justices Aniruddha Bose and Sanjay Kumar said a candidate's choice to retain his privacy on matters which were of no concern to the voters or were irrelevant to his candidature for public office did not amount to a 'corrupt practice' under Section 123 of the Representation of People Act, 1951.
- Such non-disclosure would not amount to a "defect of a substantial nature" under Section 36(4) of the 1951 Act.

### Supreme Court Ruling on Election Candidates' Asset Disclosure

- The Supreme Court said that **candidates contesting elections need not disclose each and every moveable property owned by them or their dependents.**
- **Disclosure Requirements:** Candidates need not disclose every moveable property owned by them or their dependents.
- **Substantial Value:** Only properties of substantial value or reflecting a luxurious lifestyle must be disclosed.
- **Privacy Rights:** Candidates have the right to privacy regarding assets irrelevant to their candidature.
- **Legal Interpretation:** Justices Aniruddha Bose and Sanjay Kumar stated that non-disclosure of irrelevant assets does not constitute a 'corrupt practice' under Section 123 of the Representation of People Act, 1951.
- **Non-Disclosure:** Such non-disclosure is not considered a "defect of a substantial nature" under Section 36(4) of the 1951 Act.

This ruling balances the need for transparency with the candidates' right to privacy.

### Right against climate change is interlinked to Articles 21 and 14: SC

- **Historic Recognition:** The Supreme Court recognized the right to be free from adverse effects of climate change as a distinct right.
- **Constitutional Basis:** Linked to Articles 14 (equality before law) and 21 (right to life and personal liberty) of the Indian Constitution.
- **Case Context:** Related to the survival of the endangered Great Indian Bustard species.
- **Expert Committee:** Ordered to examine issues faced by the bird due to power transmission lines in Gujarat and Rajasthan.
- **Further Hearing:** Scheduled for August 2024.

Chief Justice Chandrachud emphasized that the rights to life and equality cannot be fully realized without a clean, stable environment. The judgment declared the right to a healthy environment, safe from climate change effects, as a fundamental human right.

- **Health Impact:** Climate change affects health through air pollution, vector-borne diseases, rising temperatures,

droughts, food shortages, storms, and flooding.

- **Vulnerable Communities:** Inability to adapt to climate change violates the right to life and equality.
- **Interconnected Rights:** Climate change impacts various human rights, including health, indigenous rights, gender equality, and development.
- **Legislative Gap:** Despite policies and regulations, there is no comprehensive legislation in India addressing climate change and related concerns.

This landmark judgment underscores the importance of environmental protection in safeguarding fundamental human rights.

### Kanyadaan Non-Essential in Hindu Marriage: Allahabad High Court

- **Kanyadaan:** Not mandatory for marriage under the **Hindu Marriage Act, 1955.**
- **Saptapadi:** Seven steps or saat pheras are essential for marriage solemnization as per Section 7 of the Act.

### Hindu Marriage Act, 1955

- **Scope:** Governs marriage registration for Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, and Jains.
- **Article 25(2)(b):** Includes these religions under the term 'Hindu'.

### Conditions for Marriage

- **No Existing Spouse:** Neither party should have a living spouse at the time of marriage.
- **Sound Mind:** Both parties must be capable of giving consent.
- **Legal Age:** Minimum age is 21 for men and 18 for women

### Katchatheevu island issue gained prominence

- **Political Row:** Ahead of Lok Sabha elections, controversy over Katchatheevu island, recognized as Sri Lankan territory in 1974.
- **Blame Game:** PM Modi and External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar **blame Congress and DMK for giving away the island.**
- **Location:** Katchatheevu, in the Palk Strait, **14 nautical miles off Rameswaram, historically used by fisherfolk from both nations.**
- **Historical Claims:** India claimed it as part of the **Raja of Ramnad's Zamindari**; Ceylon claimed it was owned by the **Diocese of Jaffna.**
- **1974 Agreement:** Indira Gandhi and Sirima R.D. Bandaranaike recognized Katchatheevu as Sri Lankan territory.

- **1976 Pact:** Fishing vessels from both countries need permission to fish in each other's waters.
- **Revival:** Issue revived in August 1991 by Chief Minister Jayalalithaa demanding retrieval

### Government to Establish Cotton Test Labs for Kasturi Cotton

- **States Involved:** Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Haryana, Punjab, Gujarat, and Karnataka.
- **Objective:** Establish **Kasturi cotton** as a global brand, competing with Supima and Giza.
- **Facilities:** Labs will align with **Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)** testing facilities.
- **Significance:** India, a major cotton producer, aims to enhance quality and global acceptance

### InterGlobe to Launch Air Taxis in 2026

- InterGlobe Enterprises, which owns India's largest airline IndiGo, will launch an all-electric air taxi service in India from Delhi's Connaught Place to Haryana's Gurugram by 2026.
- **Service Launch:** All-electric air taxi service from Delhi's Connaught Place to Gurugram by 2026.
- **Partnership:** Deal with Archer Aviation to supply 200 eVTOL aircraft.
- **Aircraft Capacity:** eVTOL aircraft can carry a pilot and four passengers

### Shompen Tribe Casts Vote for the First Time

- **Historic Event:** Shompen, a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG) from Great Nicobar, voted for the first time in the Andaman and Nicobar Lok Sabha constituency.
- **Unique Features:** Shompen have Mongoloid features, such as light brown to yellow brown skin and oblique eyes.
- **Population:** Estimated at 229 as per the 2011 Census.

### Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)

- **Vulnerability:** More vulnerable among tribal groups.
- **Recognition:** 52 groups declared as PVTGs in 1975; currently, there are 75 out of 705 Scheduled Tribes.

### Characteristics:

- **Population:** Stagnant or declining.
- **Technology:** Pre-agricultural.
- **Literacy Level:** Extremely low.
- **Economy:** Subsistence level.

### 6th International Conference on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure

- **Event:** Held on 24-25 April, 2024 in New Delhi.

- **Address:** PM Modi addressed the conference via video conferencing.
- **Coalition Growth:** The Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure, established in 2019, has grown to include 39 countries and 7 organizations.

### Project ISHAN: 'One Nation, One Airspace'

- **Objective:** Streamline and enhance air traffic management (ATM) by consolidating four airspace regions into a single entity.
- **Initiative:** Indian Single Sky Harmonized Air Traffic Management (ISHAN), centered in Nagpur.
- **Current Structure:** Indian airspace is divided into four Flight Information Regions (FIRs) at Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, and Chennai, with a sub-FIR at Guwahati.
- **Expected Benefits:** Seamless operations, reduced congestion, increased capacity, efficient routing, and reduced flight times.
- **Implementation:** Coordination for domestic flights in upper airspace (above 25,000 ft) will be managed by air traffic controllers (ATCOs) in Nagpur. Regional ATCOs will guide flights during takeoff and landing.

### India's Biggest Climate Clock Activated at CSIR Headquarters

- **Event:** Installed and activated as part of Earth Day celebrations at CSIR headquarters, Rafi Marg, New Delhi.
- **Purpose:** Spread awareness about climate change and promote energy literacy.
- **Function:** Displays how quickly the planet is approaching 1.5°C of global warming, current CO2 emissions, and global warming to date.

### CSIR Overview:

- **Role:** R&D organization promoting scientific, industrial, and economic growth.
- **Established:** 1942 under the Ministry of Science and Technology.
- **Director General:** Dr. (Mrs.) N Kalaiselvi.

### India Protests China's Infrastructure Development in Shaksgam Valley

- **Protest:** India lodged a strong protest with China over construction activities in Shaksgam Valley.
- **MEA Statement:** Spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal reiterated that Shaksgam Valley is part of India and rejected the 1963 China-Pakistan boundary pact.
- **Location:** Shaksgam Valley, also known as Trans Karakoram Tract, is part of the Hunza-Gilgit region of Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir (POK), claimed by India but



controlled by Pakistan:

- **Borders:** It borders Xinjiang Province (China) to the north, Northern Areas of POK to the south and west, and Siachen Glacier region to the east.
- **1963 Agreement:** Pakistan ceded the area to China through a boundary agreement, which India does not recognize.
- **Article 6:** The agreement stated that the boundary would be renegotiated after the Kashmir dispute is settled.
- **Karakoram Highway:** The agreement facilitated the construction of the Karakoram Highway by Chinese and Pakistani engineers in the 1970s.
- India and Kenya to Discuss Cheetah Sourcing for Wildlife Sanctuary
- **Delegation Visit:** India will host Kenyan officials to explore sourcing cheetahs for
- Project Cheetah
- **Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary:** Chosen as the second site for cheetah reintroduction.
- **Project Cheetah:** Launched in September 2022 to introduce African cheetahs in India.
- **Current Status:** Kuno National Park houses 27 cheetahs (13 adults, 14 cubs) from Namibia and South Africa; 10 cheetahs have died due to illnesses and infections.
- **Future Plans:** India aims to introduce 8 to 14 cheetahs annually for five years, subject to availability.

### Shinku La Tunnel Project

- Border Roads Organisation To Start Work On Shinku La Tunnel
- **Location:** Under the 16,580 feet (asked in HPAS Pre 2024) high Shinku-La pass, between Himachal's Lahaul valley and Ladakh's Zaskar valley.
- **Road Link:** Part of the Nimmu-Padam-Darcha Road, providing the first all-weather road connecting Ladakh to the rest of India.
- **Specifications:** 4.1 km long, set to be the world's highest tunnel at 16,580 feet, surpassing China's Mila tunnel.
- **Completion:** Expected by 2025.

### Mahindra & Mahindra Sign MoU with MSDE for 'Drone Didi' Pilot Project

- **MoU Signed:** Union Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) and Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd. signed an MoU for two pilot projects under the Drone Didi Yojana in Noida and Hyderabad.
- **Scheme Launch:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Namo Drone Didi scheme on 11 March 2024 at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, Pusa, New Delhi.
- **Objective:** Train and equip 15,000 women-led Self Help Groups with agricultural drones for tasks like crop

monitoring, spraying fertilizers, and sowing seeds.

### UNESCO Adds Three Indian Literary Masterpieces to Memory of the World Register

- **Included Works:** Ramcharitmanas, Panchatantra, and Sahitya-Locana.
- **Significance:** Highlights the importance of preserving diverse narratives and artistic expressions.

#### Authors:

- **Ramcharitmanas:** Goswami Tulsidas.
- **Panchatantra:** Pandit Vishnu Sharma.
- **Sahitya-Locana:** Acharya Anandvardhan

#### Ramayana

- **Author:** Sage Valmiki
- **Language:** Sanskrit
- **Date:** Traditionally dated between the 7th to 4th centuries BCE (estimates vary)

#### Ramcharitmanas

- **Author:** Goswami Tulsidas
- **Language:** Awadhi, a dialect of Hindi
- **Date:** Written in the 16th century CE, around 1574-1576

### UNESCO Recognizes Sultana's Dream in Memory of the World Register

- **Novel:** Sultana's Dream by Begum Rokeya Sakhawat Hossain, written in 1905.
- **Recognition:** Added to UNESCO's Memory of the World Asia-Pacific Committee (MOWCAP).
- **Significance:** Highlights the importance of preserving documentary heritage, especially in conflict or disaster-affected areas.

### IndiaSkills 2024 Inaugurated in New Delhi

- **Organizer:** Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE).
- **Duration:** 4 days.
- **Competitions:** 61 skills, from traditional crafts to modern technologies.
- **Training:** Participants trained in ITIs, NSTIs, Polytechnics, engineering, nursing, and biotechnology institutes.
- **WorldSkills Preparation:** Winners will receive training to compete in the WorldSkills Competition in Lyon, France, in September 2024.
- **New System:** Introduction of the competition information system called Qrencia

### Conference on Administration of Criminal Justice Held in Guwahati

- **Organizer:** Ministry of Law and Justice, in association with the Government of Assam.
- **Dates:** 18th-19th May 2024.
- **Purpose:** Generate awareness about three new criminal laws to overhaul the criminal justice system.
- **Previous Conference:** First conference held in New Delhi on 20th April 2024.
- **New Laws Effective from 1st July 2024:**
- **Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023:** Replaces the Indian Penal Code 1860.
- **Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023:** Replaces the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973.
- **Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam, 2023:** Replaces the Indian Evidence Act, 1872

### FSSAI Finds No Ethylene Oxide Traces in MDH and Everest Spices

- **Testing:** Samples from MDH and Everest tested in 28 accredited laboratories by FSSAI.
- **Reason:** Quality concerns flagged by Hong Kong and Singapore prompted the testing.
- **Results:** No traces of ethylene oxide found in the samples

### ICMR Warns Against Misuse of Non-Stick Teflon Cookware

- **Health Risks:** Overheating cracked or scratched Teflon-coated pans can emit poisonous fumes and dangerous chemicals, potentially causing lung ailments and cancer.
- **Recommendation:** Use eco-friendly cookware like earthen pots and coating-free granite stone utensils.
- **Teflon (PTFE):** Synthetic chemical made of carbon and fluorine atoms, first created in the 1930s, known for its nonstick properties

### FSSAI Warns Against Using Calcium Carbide for Fruit Ripening

- **Ban:** Calcium carbide is banned under the Food Safety and Standards (Prohibition and Restrictions on Sales) Regulations, 2011.
- **Health Risks:** Releases acetylene gas with harmful traces of arsenic and phosphorus, causing dizziness, thirst, irritation, weakness, difficulty swallowing, vomiting, and skin ulcers.
- **Residue Risk:** Direct contact with fruits can leave harmful residues.
- **Alternative:** Ethylene, a natural hormone, regulates the ripening process safely.

### No Mining Within 1-km Radius Around Tiger Habitats: SC to Rajasthan

- **Supreme Court Directive:** The Supreme Court told authorities in Rajasthan that there cannot be any mining activity within a -1km radius of critical tiger habitats.
- **April 26, 2023 Judgment:** The court ruled that mining within -1km from the boundary of a national park or wildlife sanctuary is not permissible. This prohibition automatically applies to critical tiger reserves.
- **Legal Basis:** Section 38XA of the Wildlife Protection Act 1972 indicates that tiger reserves have a higher level of protection compared to wildlife sanctuaries and national parks.
- **Sariska Tiger Reserve:** Located in the Alwar district of Rajasthan, nestled in the Aravali Hills, covering an area of 800 sq km. Declared a wildlife sanctuary in 1955 and a tiger reserve in 1978 as part of India's Project Tiger. It is the first reserve in the world to successfully relocate tigers.

### India Proposes Digital Competition Bill, 2024

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

### Criticism of the Draft

- **Compliance Burden:** For big tech companies, an ex ante framework with its strict prescriptive norms could lead to significant compliance burdens.
- **Impact on Innovation:** This shift might divert focus from innovation and research to ensuring that companies do not presumptively engage in anti-competitive practices.

### 46th Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM 46) in Kochi

- **Event Details:** India is hosting the ATCM 46 and the 26th Meeting of the Committee for Environmental Protection (CEP) in Kochi from May 20-30, 2024.
- Organized by the National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR), Goa under the Ministry of Earth Sciences, and the Antarctic Treaty Secretariat (located in Buenos Aires, Argentina).
- **Purpose:** ATCM is an annual gathering of the parties to the 1959 Antarctic Treaty to discuss issues related to science, policy, governance, management, preservation, and protection of Antarctica.
- **Previous Hosting:** India previously hosted the 30th ATCM in New Delhi in 2007.
- **New Initiative:** For the first time, a dedicated working group for regulating tourism in Antarctica has been formulated at the 46th ATCM.

#### About the Antarctic Treaty:

- **Signed:** December 1, 1959, enforced since June 23, 1961.
- **Purpose:** An international agreement governing activities in Antarctica, designating it as a “no man’s land” and a scientific preserve for peaceful purposes.
- **Key Provisions:** Prohibits military activities, promotes scientific cooperation, and bans nuclear explosions and radioactive waste disposal.
- **Signatories:** Initially signed by 12 countries, now includes 56 signatories, with India joining in 1983.
- **India’s Contributions:**
  - ❖ Established its first Antarctic research station, Dakshin Gangotri, in 1983.
  - ❖ Currently operates two year-round research stations: Maitri (1989) and Bharati (2012).
  - ❖ Enacted the Antarctic Act in 2022 to reaffirm its commitment to the Treaty.
  - ❖ Plans to open a new station, Maitri II, a few kilometers from the ageing Maitri station, with operations set to begin by 2029.

### DD Kisan to Launch Two AI Anchors AI Krish and AI Bhoomi on 26th May 2024

- **Milestone:** Doordarshan Kisan is set to become the first government TV channel in India to employ AI anchors.
- **Language Capability:** These AI anchors can speak in fifty languages, catering to both domestic and international audiences.
- **Channel Background:** Doordarshan Kisan, established on May 2015, by the Government of India, is the only TV channel in the country dedicated solely to farmers.

### India’s First Research Testbed to Study Nor’westers

- **Deployment:** Meteorologists will use drones, mobile vans, and high-end instruments to track Nor’westers in east and northeast India every summer.
- **Convection Trigger:** Early summer heating triggers convection in Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, and sub-Himalayan West Bengal.
- **Thunderstorm Events:** Last 2-4 hours in late afternoon, with thick clouds, rain, and hail.
- **Agricultural Benefits:** Beneficial for Kharif crops like jute and paddy.
- **Local Names:** Known as “Kalbaisakhi” in Bengal and “Barodoli Cheerha” in Assam.
- **Development:** IMD, IITM, and NCMRWF will develop the facility by 2026, covering areas in West Bengal, Odisha, and Jharkhand, with a control centre in Chandbali, Odisha.
- **Data Utilization:** Data will help in timely thunderstorm predictions and nowcast warnings, saving lives. IMD, Pune, will handle data analysis.

### ISRO’s Young Scientist Programme (YUVIKA)

- **Overview:** “Young Scientist Programme” or “YUva Vigyani KARYakram” (YUVIKA) is an ISRO initiative to impart basic knowledge on Space Technology, Space Science, and Space Applications to younger students, with a preference for those from rural areas.
- **Objective:** The programme aims to encourage more students to pursue careers in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM).
- **Eligibility:** Students who have finished class 8 and are currently studying in class 9 can apply.
- **Participation:** Three students from each state/Union Territory will participate annually, covering CBSE, ICSE, and state-board syllabi.
- **Selection Criteria:** Based on 8th Standard academic performance and extracurricular activities.

### Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan 2023:

- Union Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Bhupender Yadav recently announced awards under the Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan 2023 (clean air survey).
- Under the **1st category (more than 10 lakh population)** Indore ranked first followed by Agra and Thane.
- Indore received the **highest score of 187 out of 200**.
- In **second category (between 3-10 lakhs population)**, Amravati secured first rank followed by Moradabad and Guntur.
- Similarly, for **third category (less than 3 lakhs population)** Parwanoo (Himachal Pradesh) secured first rank followed by Kala Amb (Himachal Pradesh) and Angul (Odisha).



- Scores were given in eight categories namely Biomass and municipal solid waste and burning, Road dust, Dust from construction and demolition waste etc.

### India's Inaugural 3D Printed Post Office Building

- India's first 3D printed post office building was inaugurated on August 18 in Bengaluru.
- The building was built by using 3D printing technology with technical know-how from IIT Madras and L&T.
- The 3D printed concrete building is cost effective, reduces wastage of construction material, is environment friendly and speeds up construction with unique design possibilities.

### Srinagar Leads in Jal Jeevan Survekshan Rankings

- District Srinagar in Jammu & Kashmir secured the top spot in the "Front Runners" category of the Jal Jeevan Survekshan 2023 conducted by the union ministry of jal shakti.
- It outshined 114 Har Ghar Jal certified districts across India.
- The survey conducted from October 2022 to June 2023, evaluated various districts across the country on the effectiveness of their water supply and management systems.
- The government launched the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) in August, 2019, a nationwide programme that aims to provide all houses in rural areas with safe and adequate drinking water through individual tap connections by the end 2024.
- In mid-2019, only over 3 crore rural households had tap supply which increased to over 12.24 crore connections by mid-2023, covering 63% of all rural households.

### TELE-LAW - 2.0 FOR BETTER LEGAL HELP

- **Launch:** Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal, Minister of State for Law and Justice, launched the Tele-Law - 2.0 app on August 25 in New Delhi.
- **Integration:** Combines Tele-Law and Nyaya Bandhu App for easy access to justice.
- **Accessibility:** Allows citizens to access legal advice, assistance, and representation through a single registration and gateway.
- **Government Vision:** Aims to strengthen the legal aid ecosystem and ensure "Justice for All."

#### Tele-Law 2.0

Tele-Law 2.0 is an advanced version of the Tele-Law programme, which integrates Tele-Law Services with the Nyaya Bandhu (pro bono legal services) initiative. This merger aims to improve citizen access to legal aid by combining legal guidance, support, and representation into a unified registration process.

#### Key Features of Tele-Law 2.0:

- **Integration with Nyaya Bandhu:** Combines Tele-Law Services with pro bono legal services for enhanced accessibility.
- **Single Registration:** One registration process for both legal advice and free legal representation.
- **Pro Bono Services:** Provides voluntary, free legal aid for those who cannot afford legal representation.

#### Tele-Law Programme Background:

- **Launched:** 2017 by the Department of Justice, Ministry of Law and Justice.
- **Operating Under:** DISHA Scheme.
- **Access:** Legal aid is provided through video conferencing/ telephonic services at Common Service Centres (CSCs) at the panchayat level and via the Tele-Law Mobile App.
- **Eligibility:** Free legal advice is available to those eligible under Section 12 of the LSA Act, 1987.
- **Types of Legal Matters:** Includes family disputes, sexual harassment, maintenance, property rights, equal wages, and maternity benefits.

#### DISHA SCHEME

- **Full Form:** Designing Innovative Solutions for Holistic Access to Justice (DISHA)
- **Duration:** 2021-2026
- **Purpose:**
  - ❖ Provides a comprehensive, integrated solution for access to justice across India.
  - ❖ Consolidates various initiatives for citizen-centric legal services.
- **Components:**
  - ❖ **Tele-Law:** Pre-litigation advice via video/ teleconferencing at CSCs and a mobile app.
  - ❖ **Nyaya Bandhu Programme:** Free legal assistance for marginalized sections via a mobile app.
  - ❖ **Legal Awareness Programmes:** Utilizes the Legal Service Institutions network.
  - ❖ **Information Education and Communication (IEC):** Ensures wider reach through technology.

#### GREEN HYDROGEN STANDARD NOTIFIED

- In a significant move for the progress of the **National Green Hydrogen Mission**, the government has notified the **Green Hydrogen Standard for India**.
- The standard issued by the **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)** on August 18 outlines the **emission thresholds of 2 kg CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent per kg of Hydrogen produced as a 12-month average emission threshold**.

- Green hydrogen emerges via water electrolysis using renewable sources like wind, solar, and hydroelectric power.
- Emission thresholds refer to specific limits or levels set to control and regulate the amount of pollutants or greenhouse gases that can be released into the environment.

### PM-eBUS SEWA' SCHEME

- Under PM-eBus Sewa Scheme, **10,000 e-buses will be deployed across cities in the country.**
- Support for Operation:
- Under this scheme, **city bus operations will be done on Public Private Partnership (PPP) model.**
- This scheme will **support bus operations for 10 years.**
- States/Cities shall be responsible for running the bus services.
- The **Central Government will support these bus operations by providing subsidy** to the extent specified in the proposed scheme.

### Lakhpatri Didis scheme

- During his recent **Independence Day address**, the **Prime Minister announced the 'Lakhpatri Didis' scheme for providing vocational training to two crore women in rural areas across the country.**
- The scheme aims to **empower women and stimulate economic growth.**
- The scheme, **previously implemented in select states, now seeks to expand its reach and impact on a national scale.**
- Under the scheme, **women will undergo training in a range of practical skills that align with emerging industry demands.**
- These skills may include **diverse skills like plumbing, LED bulb making, and the operation and repair of drones, among others.**

### PM Vishwakarma Scheme

- Launched By: Ministry of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises
- Duration: Five years (FY 2023-24 to FY 2027-28)
- **Aim:**
  - ❖ Strengthen Guru-Shishya parampara among artisans and craftspeople.
  - ❖ Enhance product quality and market reach.
  - ❖ Integrate artisans into domestic and global value chains.
- **Eligibility:**
  - ❖ Rural and urban artisans and craftsmen across India.
  - ❖ Covers 18 traditional crafts such as Boat Maker,

Armourer, Blacksmith, etc.

### Coverage:

- ❖ Initially targets five lakh families, expanding to 30 lakh families over five years.

### Benefits:

- ❖ PM Vishwakarma certificate and ID card for recognition.
- ❖ Collateral-free credit support up to Rs.2 lakh at 5% concessional interest.
- ❖ Skill upgradation through basic and advanced training.
- ❖ Toolkit incentive of Rs.15,000 and incentives for digital transactions.
- ❖ Marketing support and a stipend of Rs.500 per day during skills training.

### APP FLOODWATCH

- The **Central Water Commission** launched a mobile app '**FloodWatch**' on August 17 in New Delhi.
- It will **provide real time flood forecast situations, up to seven days on a real-time basis, across the country.**
- The app **utilises advanced technologies such as satellite data analysis and real-time monitoring to deliver accurate and timely flood forecasts.**

### MERI MATI MERA DESH' CAMPAIGN

- '**Meri Mati Mera Desh**' campaign launched on August 9 to honor Independence heroes.
- **War memorials to be built in every gram panchayat, block, town, city, and municipality for martyrs.**
- Names of local heroes to be inscribed on plaques called '**Shilafalakam.**'
- Campaign concluded on August 30.
- **Soil samples from each village to be collected and brought to Delhi as part of the Amrit Kalash Yatra.**
- Soil from **7,500 kalash** will be used to create an '**Amrit Vatika**' in Delhi.

### BHARTIYA VASTRA EVAM SHILP KOSH

- The **National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT)** in collaboration with the **Ministry of Textiles** launched an **e-portal**, "**भारतीय वस्त्र एवं शिल्प कोष**" ( **Treasure of Indian Clothing and Crafts** ), a **Repository of Textiles and Crafts**, on the occasion of the **National Handloom Day, Aug 7.**
- It is an **attempt to create a comprehensive catalogue of India's diverse clothing on a single platform.**
- It has a **craft atlas, a cultural artefact display, and a visual museum**, among other things.

### RAJMARG YATRA' APP FOR HIGHWAY USERS

- The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) introduced a new mobile application 'Rajmarg Yatra' to enhance the highway users experience.
- It provides real-time weather updates, timely broadcast notifications, and details about nearby toll plazas, petrol stations, hospitals, hotels, and other vital services, ensuring a secure and seamless journey on National Highways.
- The app incorporates an integrated complaint redressal system and enables users to monitor the progress of their grievances for transparency.
- The app includes features like over-speeding notifications and voice assistance, aimed at encouraging safer and more responsible driving practices.

### JAN VISHWAS BILL 2023 PASSED IN PARLIAMENT

- The Bill proposes to amend 183 provisions in 42 Central Acts administered by 19 Ministries/Departments, covering various domains such as environment, agriculture, media, industry, trade, information technology, copyright, motor vehicles, cinematography, food safety, etc.
- The main objective of the Bill is to decriminalize minor offences that do not involve any harm to the public interest or national security and replace them with civil penalties or administrative actions.

#### Key Features of the Bill:

- The Bill seeks to remove imprisonment clauses and/or fines in some provisions and convert them into penalties in some others.
- The penalties will be determined by adjudicating officers appointed by the respective Ministries/Departments.
- The Bill also introduces compounding of offences in some provisions, which means that the offenders can settle their cases by paying a certain amount without going through a court trial.
- The Bill provides for a periodic revision of fines and penalties every three years, with an increase of 10% of the minimum amount for various offences in the specified Acts.

### ULLAS-Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram

- The Understanding Lifelong Learning for All in Society (ULLAS) is a centrally sponsored scheme implemented from 2027-2022.
- The scheme aligns with the recommendations of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.
- **Aim:** It aims to empower those adults aged 15 years and above from all backgrounds who could not get due schooling and mainstream them with society to be able to contribute more to the growth story of the country.

- The scheme consists of five components
  - ❖ Foundational Literacy and Numeracy,
  - ❖ Critical Life Skills,
  - ❖ Basic Education,
  - ❖ Vocational Skills, and
  - ❖ Continuing Education
- The ULLAS app can be used for registration of learners and volunteers either through self-registration or by surveyors.
  - ❖ It will serve as a digital gateway for learners to engage in diverse learning resources through the DIKSHA portal of NCERT.
- DIKSHA is a national platform by NCERT for school education, offering e-content via web and mobile.

### PARLIAMENT APPROVES 33% RESERVATION FOR WOMEN

- The Constitution (106<sup>th</sup> Amendment) Act, 2023, reserves one-third of all seats (33%) for women in Lok Sabha, State legislative assemblies, and the Legislative Assembly of the National Capital Territory of Delhi, including those reserved for SCs and STs.
- Bill cannot be implemented immediately because the Government needs to bring into consideration a fresh census and delimitation exercise, in order to avoid a legal challenge.
- It will then require the approval of a majority of the state assemblies.
- The reservation will be effective after the publication of the census conducted following the Act's commencement and endures for a 15-year period, with potential extension determined by parliamentary action.
- The rotation of seats allocated for women will be governed by parliamentary legislation after each delimitation process.
- Currently, around 15% of the total members of the 17th Lok Sabha (2019-2024) are women while in state legislative assemblies, women on average constitute 9% of the total members.
- The Women's Reservation Bill's chequered legislative history started 27 years ago, in September 1996, when it was first tabled in Parliament by the H. D. Deve Gowda-led government.
- Since then, almost every government tried for its approval, but none could succeed, for one reason or the other.

#### Key Features:

- **Article Inserted:**
  - ❖ **Article 330A** – Reservation for Women in Lok Sabha
  - ❖ **Article 332A** – Reservation for women in State Legislative Assemblies



- ❖ **Article 239 AA** – Reservation for women in NCT of Delhi
- ❖ **Article 334AA** – Reservation to become effective after delimitation is undertaken and census is concluded.
- **Time Period:**
  - ❖ Reservation to be provided for 15 years (can be extended).
- **Rotation of seats reserved:**
  - ❖ After each delimitation.

### PM Modi Awarded Russia's Highest Civilian Honor

- **Award:** Order of St. Andrew the Apostle.
- **Presented By:** President Vladimir Putin.
- **Reason:** Strengthening India-Russia relations.
- **Ceremony:** Held at St. Andrew Hall, Kremlin.
- **Significance:** Russia's top civilian award, established in 1698.
- **PM Modi's Response:** Dedicated the award to the people of India.

**Future Commitment:** Continued efforts to enhance bilateral ties.

### India Implements New Laws, Replaces Colonial-Era Codes

- Three new crime laws were put into effect in India on **July 1, 2023**.
- This was a **big change** in the country's legal system.
- The **goal** of these laws is to **bring the current legal system up to date by replacing laws from the colonial era with ones that reflect Indian ideals and social norms**.

#### New Legal Framework

The newly enacted laws encompass:

1. **Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (BNSS):** The **Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC)** has been replaced by this law, which changes the rules and methods for criminal cases.
2. **Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS):** The BNS replaces the **Indian Penal Code (IPC)** and changes the definitions and punishments for many crimes. It does this by cutting the number of parts from **511 in the IPC to 358**.
3. **Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam:** This law replaces the **Indian Evidence Act** and aims to make the standards for evidence used in court cases easier to follow and better.

#### Objectives and Impact

- The **main goal** of these laws is to **get rid of any traces of colonial rule that are still present in the Indian judicial system**.
- Not only are these laws meant to punish people, but they are also meant to make sure justice, protect human rights, and make sure that civil rights are better protected.

#### Revised Sections and Key Offences

- A number of well-known parts of the IPC have been **renumbered and changed by the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS)**.
- Changes that stand out include:
  - ❖ **Murder (Section 103 BNS):** This used to be Section 302 IPC.
  - ❖ **Attempt to Murder (Section 109 BNS):** This crime used to be under Section 307 IPC.
  - ❖ **Rape (Section 63 BNS):** This crime used to be under Section 375 IPC.
  - ❖ **Cheating (Section 318 BNS):** This change to the numbers takes away the bad reputation that comes with the word "420," which used to be known as Section 420 IPC.

#### About Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita

- "**Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita**," which is also called the "**Indian Code of Justice**," is a historical **collection of Indian laws and court procedures from the past**.
- It was affected by texts like **Manusmriti and Arthashastra**.
- A complex body of law that combines civil, criminal, and process law can be seen in it.
- The **Nyaya Sanhita** focuses on **dharma, or moral duty**, and has sections on **royal responsibilities, inheritance, and contract law**.
- Its ideas shaped later Indian laws and showed a **unique mixing of law, philosophy, and morals**.
- It favored **restorative justice systems over punitive ones** and was one of the first examples of legal pluralism.

#### About Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita

- The "**Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita**" (Indian Civil Protection Code) is a suggested set of laws in India **that would make laws about people's safety and security stronger and more unified**.
- This **code aims to bring together different national and state-level laws into a single, all-encompassing law** that covers things like crisis management, public health emergencies, civil defense, and internal security.
- Its **goal** is to bring response systems **up to date and make people better prepared for different kinds of situations** so that all levels of government can work together.
- This project comes from what we've learned from recent disasters and crises that showed us where current systems are lacking.

#### About Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam

- To reflect evolving technology, **Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA)** amends the **1872 Indian Evidence Act**.
- This **revised method addresses evidence-handling difficulties** as technology pervades legal processes.

- The Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam develops more precise and universal court practice for handling case facts and situations through evidence, unlike the former law, which could not accommodate digital and electronic channels.
- It treats digital documents like paper records, making them admissible and enforceable.
- Secondary evidence is increased by the act. Included are mechanical reproductions, copies verified against originals, and counterparts of unsigned papers. Hearing from witnesses who saw the paper and can match its hash # is secondary evidence. Legal reform ensures strength and technological relevance.

#### First country in the world to record all of its wildlife.

- India recently launched the “Fauna of India Checklist Portal,” which is a major step toward protecting wildlife. This complete collection lists 1,04,561 species, making India the first country in the world to record all of its wildlife.
- The launch took place in Kolkata on the 109th Foundation Day of the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI).
- **Benefits:**
  - ❖ **Conservation and Protection:** Provides a baseline to track biodiversity changes and identify species needing immediate conservation.
  - ❖ **Scientific Research:** A valuable resource for understanding ecological diversity and managing natural resources sustainably.
  - ❖ **Policy and Planning:** Helps in developing effective policies for wildlife protection, habitat preservation, and environmental management.

#### India aims for USD 30 trillion Economy in 2047

- **Goal:** India aims to become a USD 30 trillion economy by 2047, the 100th anniversary of its independence.
- **Income Target:** The plan seeks to raise the average income per person to USD 18,000 annually.
- **Growth Challenge:** India must grow its economy ninefold from the current USD 3.36 trillion.
- **High-Income Country:** Vikshit Bharat envisions advanced social, cultural, technological, and institutional attributes.
- **Key Challenges:** Addressing income disparities, improving manufacturing, and logistics capabilities.
- **Collective Efforts:** Success depends on nationwide participation and balancing energy security.
- **Sustainable Growth:** Viksit Bharat focuses on poverty reduction, gender equity, and environmental sustainability.
- **Urbanization and Skill Development:** Smart urban planning and economic self-reliance are crucial for growth

#### South Africa's new climate change law:

- **Mandatory Emission Curbs:** The law imposes mandatory emission limits on large fossil-fuel industries.
- **Climate-Adaptation Plans:** Towns and villages must create climate-adaptation plans.
- **Paris Agreement Commitments:** The law helps South Africa meet emissions reduction commitments under the Paris agreement.
- **Transition Away from Fossil Fuels:** South Africa, a major greenhouse gas emitter, faces pressure to transition from coal-based energy.
- **Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC):** South Africa's NDC outlines emission reduction targets and a 'just transition' plan.
- **Net Zero Emissions Goal:** The country aims for 'net zero emissions' by 2050.

#### India's first sunken museum at Humayun's Tomb Complex

- **Inauguration Date:**
  - ❖ The museum was inaugurated on July 29, 2024, at the iconic Humayun's Tomb complex in New Delhi<sup>1</sup>.
- **Artefacts and Display:**
  - ❖ Over 500 never-before-seen artefacts are showcased.
  - ❖ Mughal miniatures, manuscripts, architectural elements, coins, and contemporary art are among the exhibits.
- **Cutting-Edge Technology:**
  - ❖ An immersive gallery with a 270-degree screen offers virtual tours of the World Heritage Site's monuments and gardens.
  - ❖ The museum meticulously recreates the 14th-century shrine's construction timeline using 3-D videos and wooden scale models

#### India's first integrated agri-export facility at Jawaharlal Nehru Port

##### Project Overview:

- **Location:** Jawaharlal Nehru Port, Mumbai
- **Size:** 67,422 square meters
- **Objective:** Improve logistics for agricultural goods, enhance efficiency, and extend shelf life
- **Focus Products:** Maize, spices, onions, wheat, and non-basmati rice

##### Anticipated Benefits:

- **Improved Pricing:** Better pricing for agricultural goods
- **Job Creation:** Opportunities in processing, logistics, and export sectors
- **Empowerment:** Enhancing logistical capabilities for farmers and small exporters

**Significance of JNPA:**

- JNPA is India's first landlord port operating on a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model.
- It handles about 55% of India's container trade.
- The upcoming Vadhavan Port project in Maharashtra will further boost infrastructure in the area.

**India-US Cultural Property Agreement:**

- **Purpose:**
  - ❖ Ensure the return of cultural items belonging to India.
  - ❖ Promote understanding of Indian culture globally.
- **Signatories:**
  - ❖ U.S. Ambassador Eric Garcetti
  - ❖ Indian Union Culture Secretary Govind Mohan
- **Background:**
  - ❖ Negotiated for almost two years.
  - ❖ Aligns with the UNESCO Convention of 1970.
  - ❖ A step toward stopping illegal trade of cultural items and preserving heritage.

**Agristack**

- Agristack is a digital framework designed to create a comprehensive database for farmers.
- It includes information about farmers' identity, land records, income, loans, crop details, and insurance history.
- Data sources: Farmers Registry, Geo-referenced Village Maps, and Crop Sown Registry.

**Purpose of Agristack:**

- Simplify access to information for farmers.
- **Reduce unnecessary paperwork** and enhance accuracy in agriculture records.
- **Facilitate better planning** for farmers and government schemes.
- Applications like e-Nam, eChoupal, and NeML will be part of the framework.

**Stakeholders Involved:**

- **Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare** leads Agristack.
- Private companies like Amazon and Microsoft collaborate on use cases but don't directly access Agristack data yet.

**MANAS – India's First Toll-Free National Anti-Narcotics Helpline**

- **Launch Date:** July 18, 2024.
- **By:** Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

**Features:**

- Toll-free number: 1933.

- Email: info.ncbmanas@gov.in.
- Website: ncbmanas.gov.in.

**Objectives:**

- Report drug-related crimes.
- Ensure confidentiality.
- Support zero tolerance policy.

**Thane-Borivali Twin Tunnel project**

- Narendra Modi, the **Prime Minister of India**, led the event to break ground on the **Thane-Borivali Twin Tunnel project** in Mumbai on July 13, 2024.
- This **Rs. 16,600 crore project** is part of a bigger plan to improve Mumbai's infrastructure that will cost a total of **Rs. 29,000 crores** and will aim to make it much easier to move around and connect with other places in the city.

**Project Details:**

- Cost: Rs.16,600 crore.
- Length: 11.8 km.
- Travel time reduction: Over 1 hour to 12 minutes.
- Distance reduction: 12 km.

**India Bangladesh to Renegotiate Ganga Waters Treaty**

- the Ganga Waters Treaty, which India and Bangladesh signed in 1996, will be discussed again.
- This pact, which is mostly about the fair sharing of water from the Ganga River, which both countries share, needs to be renewed in 2026.

**Key Issues**

- **Climate Change:** Impact on water flows.
- **West Bengal's Role:** Crucial for treaty approval.

**Objectives**

- **Equitable Sharing:** Ensure fair water distribution.
- **Long-term Cooperation:** Strengthen bilateral relations.

**India Hosts 46<sup>th</sup> UNESCO World Heritage Committee Session**

- **Session:** 46th UNESCO World Heritage Committee.
- **Dates:** July 21-31, 2024.
- **Location:** Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi.

**Participants**

- **Attendees:** Over 2,500 from 195 countries.
- **Inauguration:** By PM Narendra Modi.

**Significance**

- **India's Role:** Highlights India's cultural leadership.
- **Agenda:** Discuss heritage site conservation.



## Global IndiaAI Summit 2024

### Event Details:

- **Dates:** July 3-4, 2024
- **Location:** New Delhi, India

**Key Focus Areas:** Compute Capacity, Foundational Models, Datasets, Application Development, Future Skills, Startup Financing, Safe and Trusted AI

**Objective:** Promote responsible AI development and global collaboration.

**Speakers:** Ashwini Vaishnav, Jitin Prasada, and other AI experts.

## Bharat Bill Payment System

- From **July 1**, all credit card payments made through third-party apps must go through the **Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS)**, which is what the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) wants.
- **People with credit cards** from big Indian banks **will be affected by this restructuring**.
- They won't be able to use platforms like **CRED, PhonePe, Amazon Pay, and Paytm** to pay their bills unless they are integrated with BBPS.

### About Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS):

- **Launched:** 2013
- **Owner:** NPCI (National Payments Corporation of India)
- **Features:**
  - ❖ Integrated bill payment system
  - ❖ Interoperable and accessible services
  - ❖ Multiple payment modes (cash, transfer cheques, electronic)
- **Benefits:**
  - ❖ Instant payment confirmation
  - ❖ Efficient and cost-effective
  - ❖ Enhances consumer confidence

## India-Bangladesh Defence Industrial Partnership Deal

- Since Bangladesh **Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's trip to India** in June, the **two countries' military cooperation has come a long way**.
- This visit paved the way for a stronger defense relationship between the two countries.

### Key Agreements:

- **Oceangoing Tug:** Bangladesh Navy to purchase an 800-ton oceangoing tug from India's Garden Reach Shipbuilding & Engineers Ltd (GRSE).
- **Dredger Contract:** GRSE to supply a Trailing Suction Hopper (TSH) dredger to Bangladesh.

### Capabilities:

- **Tug Functions:** Towing, berthing assistance, rescue, and salvage operations.
- **Advanced Features:** Firefighting and pollution control capabilities.

### Broader Cooperation:

- **Sectors:** Space, telecommunications, maritime security, and ocean economy.
- **Strategic Initiative:** Bangladesh joins India's Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative.

### Defence Partnership:

- **Joint Exercises:** Regular military drills like "Sampriti" focusing on counterterrorism and disaster management.
- **Maritime Patrols:** Coordinated patrols along shared sea borders.
- **Economic Support:** India's \$500 million Line of Credit for Bangladesh to purchase military equipment.

### Strategic Goals:

- **Regional Stability:** Enhance stability and security in South Asia.
- **Bilateral Ties:** Strengthen defence-industrial relations between India and Bangladesh.

## Teesta River Treaty

- In June 2023, when Sheikh Hasina, the Prime Minister of Bangladesh, paid a state visit to India, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that a technical team would go to Bangladesh to talk about how to protect and control the Teesta River.
- The Teesta water-sharing pact has been a point of contention between India and Bangladesh for over a decade.
- This brought it back to the public's attention.
- **Teesta River:** Originates in Sikkim, flows through West Bengal, and enters Bangladesh.
- **Importance:** Crucial for agriculture and the environment in both India and Bangladesh.

### Treaty Details

- **Proposed Agreement (2011):**
  - ❖ India: 42.5% of Teesta's water.
  - ❖ Bangladesh: 37.5% of Teesta's water.
  - ❖ Agreement stalled due to opposition from West Bengal's Chief Minister, Mamata Banerjee.
- **Recent Developments**
  - ❖ **June 2023:** During Sheikh Hasina's visit to India, PM Narendra Modi announced a technical team to discuss Teesta River management.
  - ❖ **India's Stand:** Focus on controlling water flow rather than sharing.

- ❖ **West Bengal's Concern:** Potential negative impact on North Bengal's population.

#### Political and Environmental Considerations

- **India's Hydroelectric Projects:** Impact on river flow and environment.
- **Bangladesh's Pressure:** Internal and external pressures, including China's infrastructure projects along the Teesta.

#### Broader Implications

- **Sustainability and Cooperation:** Challenges in managing transboundary rivers.
- **International Law:** Adherence to the Helsinki Rules.
- **Future Talks:** Ongoing discussions to balance resource management and environmental needs.

#### Key Changes to Aadhaar Cards

- **New Disclaimer:** Aadhaar cards now clearly state they are "proof of identity, not of citizenship or date of birth."
- **Purpose:** To prevent misuse of Aadhaar for **confirming citizenship or age**.

#### Implications

- **Government Agencies:** Advised not to use Aadhaar for verifying citizenship or date of birth.
- **Election Commission:** Previously allowed Aadhaar as proof of date of birth for voter enrollment; this practice is now challenged.
- **Employees Provident Fund Organisation:** Stopped accepting Aadhaar as proof of date of birth as of January 2023.

#### Verification Methods

- **Offline Verification:** Recommended through QR code or XML file from the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI).

#### Historical Context

- **Longstanding Rules:** Rules against using Aadhaar to prove age or citizenship date back to a 2018 government memo.
- **Court Ruling:** Reinforced these rules, leading to the current visible disclaimers on Aadhaar cards.

#### Overall Impact

- **Proof of Identity and Residency:** Aadhaar remains valid for proving unique identity and residence.
- **Not for Citizenship or Age:** Emphasizes that Aadhaar cannot reliably confirm citizenship or date of birth.



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## STATE NEWS

January to July 2024

### Ladakh

#### Ladakh: Celebration of Hemis Tseschu Begins

- Celebrated on the **10th day** of the **Lunar Tibetan** calendar (usually in June).
- **Honors the birthday** of **Guru Padmasambhava (Guru Rinpoche)**, who introduced **tantric Buddhism** to the **Himalayan region** in the **8th century**.
- Hosted at **Hemis Gompa**, the **largest monastery** in **Ladakh**.
- Founded in the **17th century** by **Galras Rinpoche**, son of **King Deshong Namgyal**.

#### Ladakh Achieves Full Functional Literacy

- **Ladakh's Milestone:** The region achieved **Full Functional Literacy**, with **over 97% literacy**.
- **Program Details:** **ULLAS - Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram** or **New India Literacy Programme (NILP)** is a **centrally sponsored scheme** aligned with the **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020**.
- **Components:** The program includes **Foundational Literacy, Critical Life Skills, Basic Education, Vocational Skills, and Continuing Education**.
- Aims to empower **those adults aged 15 years and above from all backgrounds** who could not get due schooling and mainstream them with society to be able to contribute more to the growth story of the country.

### Jammu And Kashmir

#### J&K becomes first UT to implement PM Vishwakarma Yojana

- **PM Vishwakarma**, a **Central Sector Scheme** launched on **17th September, 2023**
- To provide **end-to-end support** to **artisans and craftspeople** who work with their hands and tools.
- The **scheme includes training**, a **stipend of Rs.500 per day**, and a **free modern toolkit** worth **Rs.15,000** for trained **Vishwakarmas**.
- Additionally, the **yojana** offers linkage with **credit-based soft loans and marketing support** to **expand their businesses**.

#### Mega North India StartUp Expo at Kathua

- **VP Jagdeep Dhankhar** inaugurates **Mega North India StartUp Expo** at **Kathua**, **J&K** Theme "**Emerging StartUp Trends in North India**"

- **Total of 25 startups** from **North India (Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab and Delhi)**, showcased their innovations and products in the **Mega Expo**

#### J&K Police organizing 72nd 'All India Police Hockey Championship' in Jammu

- From **January 29** to **February 8, 2024**.
- Participation from **34 police teams** from different **States/UTs** of the country besides **Central paramilitary forces**.
- The **President of Hockey India**, former captain of **Indian Hockey Team**, **Padma Shri Awardee**, **Olympian & Arjuna Awardee**, **Dilip Tirkey** was the **Chief Guest** in the opening ceremony

#### IIT Jammu Professor Develops Sound-Based Anti-Drone System

- **Dr. Karan Nathwani**, a professor of **IIT Jammu**, has developed an **anti-drone system** that works mainly on **sound technology**.
- With the help of this system, this device will be able to **easily detect drones, aircraft, multiple drones or birds flying up to 300 meters by their sound**.
- The cost of this system is about **4 lakh rupees**.

#### Foundation stone for development projects in J&K

- Recent development projects inaugurated and initiated by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** in **Jammu and Kashmir**:

#### AIIMS Vijaypur (Samba), Jammu:

- **PM** inaugurated the **All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS)** in **Vijaypur**.
- The institute's foundation stone was laid in **February 2019** under the **Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana**.

#### Education Institutes:

- **Campuses** of several prestigious education institutes were dedicated to the nation: **IIT Bhilai, IIT Tirupati, IIITDM Kurnool, IIM Bodh Gaya, IIM Jammu, IIM Visakhapatnam, Indian Institute of Skills (IIS) Kanpur**

#### Jammu Airport Terminal:

- **PM** laid the foundation stone for a new terminal building at **Jammu Airport**.

#### Tunnel T-50:

- The country's **longest transportation tunnel**, known as "**T-50**," on the **Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL)** was dedicated.
- The **12.77 km tunnel** falls between the **Khari-Sumber**

section of the rail link.

### Tawi Festival in Jammu & Kashmir

- **Event Dates:** March 1st to 4th, 2024.
- **Location:** Along the banks of the Tawi River in Jammu city.
- **Focus:** Showcasing the region's vibrant cultural legacy through arts, cuisine, literature, and folk traditions.

### India's First Battery Storage Gigafactory to Start Operations in J&K

- **GoodEnough Energy** will set up a **Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) gigafactory** in Jammu and Kashmir with an initial capacity of **7 gigawatt hour (GWh)**.
- At full scale, the factory will have **20 GWh capacity by 2026**.
- The facility will help industry in cutting more than **5 million tons of carbon emissions in a year**.
- **India has set a 2070 goal for becoming net zero**.
- Indian government is offering **\$452 million in incentives to companies under a programme to promote battery storage projects**.

### India's first battery storage gigafactory

- **India's first battery storage gigafactory** in Jammu and Kashmir:
- **Company:** GoodEnough Energy
- **Factory Capacity:**
  - ❖ Initial capacity: **7 gigawatt-hours (GWh)**
  - ❖ Full-scale capacity (by 2026): **20 GWh**
- **Impact:** Aids in cutting over **5 million tons of carbon emissions annually**.
- **National Goal:** India aims for **net-zero emissions by 2070**.
- **Government Incentives:** The Indian government offers **\$452 million in incentives to promote battery storage projects**.

### 'World Craft City'

- **'World Craft City'** by the **World Crafts Council (WCC)** is a significant achievement.

#### Recognition:

- **Srinagar** is now the **fourth Indian city to receive this prestigious title**.
- It follows its earlier designation as part of the **UNESCO Creative City Network (UCCN)** for crafts and folk arts.

**Other Recognized Cities:** Jaipur, Malappuram, and Mysore have previously been recognized as **World Craft Cities**.

#### Impact and Potential:

- The recognition will bolster the **handloom and handicraft sector in Srinagar**.
- This, in turn, will **positively impact tourism and infrastructure development**.

#### Craftsmanship Diversity:

- **Srinagar** currently hosts at least **ten different forms of craftsmanship**.
- These include **papier-mâché, walnut wood carving, carpets, Sozni embroidery, and exquisite Pashmina and Kani shawls**.

#### About the World Crafts Council:

- Founded in **1964**, the **World Crafts Council** has its **main office in Belgium**.

#### Operation Kamdhenu

- Launched by **J&K Police** to combat cattle smuggling in the **Jammu, Samba, and Kathua (JSK) police ranges**.

#### Srinagar – World Craft City:

- Recognized by the **World Crafts Council (WCC)** as the **fourth Indian city with this title**.
- **Previously designated** as part of the **UNESCO Creative City Network (UCCN)** for crafts and folk arts.
- **Boosts the handloom and handicraft sector**, benefiting tourism and infrastructure development.

#### Craftsmanship in Srinagar:

- **Srinagar** sustains at least **10 different forms of craftsmanship**, including **papier-mâché, walnut wood carving, carpets, Sozni embroidery, and Pashmina and Kani shawls**.

**World Crafts Council:** Established in 1964, with its main office in Belgium.

## Uttarakhand

### India's first Helicopter Emergency Medical Service (HEMS)

- India's first Helicopter Emergency Medical Service (HEMS) launching from Uttarakhand will enhance emergency healthcare accessibility. Here are the key points:
- The service aims to provide rapid medical assistance during emergencies.

#### Operational Details:

- A helicopter will be stationed at **AIIMS, Rishikesh**.
- It can be dispatched within a **150 km radius** to airlift accident victims to medical facilities swiftly.

### Uniform Civil Code (UCC) - Uttarakhand.

- The Uttarakhand Assembly passed the State's Uniform Civil Code.
- The UCC aims to establish a uniform legal framework for all citizens, irrespective of their religion.

#### Common Rules and Exceptions:

- The UCC imposes common rules on marriage, divorce, inheritances, and live-in relationships for all communities (except Scheduled Tribes).
- Notably, the UCC Bill in Uttarakhand excludes tribal populations and does not touch upon Hindu Undivided Family succession and inheritance.

#### Goa's Unique Situation:

- Goa, governed by the Portuguese Civil Code (UCC), did not pass any specific law after its liberation in 1961.

#### Constitutional Context:

- Article 44 in the Directive Principles of State Policy emphasizes the State's endeavor to achieve a uniform civil code throughout India.
- However, implementing the UCC raises concerns about potential violations of Fundamental Rights (such as Article 25) and cultural identities (Article 371).

### Uttarakhand Public and Private Property Damage Recovery Bill

- The Uttarakhand government plans to introduce this bill, holding rioters accountable for damaging government and private property during protests.
- The bill aims to make rioters financially liable for losses resulting from protests or strikes.
- Uttarakhand will become the third state, following Uttar Pradesh and Haryana, to enact such a law.

### Pine Needles-based Fuel-making Technology in Champawat:

- CSIR-IIP (Indian Institute of Petroleum) and UCOST (Uttarakhand State Council for Science and Technology) signed an MoU under the "Adarsh Champawat" mission.
- Two major technologies will be implemented in Champawat:
  - ❖ **Briquetting Unit:** Based on pine needles, this unit can produce briquettes.
  - ❖ **Improved Cookstoves:** 500 units of energy-efficient cookstoves for rural households.
- The briquettes produced from pine needles will serve as fuel for homes and local industries.
- ❖ This initiative aims to reduce forest fire instances and promote environmental sustainability.

### Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs)

Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs) are a significant concern in high mountainous regions, including Uttarakhand.

#### Risk Assessment:

- Uttarakhand has formed expert teams to evaluate the risk posed by GLOFs.
- These floods occur due to the sudden discharge of water from glacial lakes.
- The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has identified 188 Himalayan glacial lakes at risk of overflowing.
- Among these, 13 are in Uttarakhand, with 5 falling into the highly sensitive 'A' category.
- Notable lakes include Vasudhara Tal in Chamoli District and four lakes in Pithoragarh district (Maban Lake, Pyungru Lake, and two unnamed lakes).

#### Glacial Lakes:

- Glacial lakes originate from glacier activity.
- They form when glaciers erode the land and then melt, filling the depressions created by the glacier.
- If the boundary around these lakes breaks, massive amounts of water rush downstream, causing flooding.
- This phenomenon is known as a Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF).

#### Causes of GLOFs: GLOFs can be triggered by:

- **Glacial Calving:** Large ice chunks detach from the glacier into the lake, displacing water suddenly.
- **Avalanches or Landslides:** These events impact the stability of the lake's boundary.

### Forest fire situation in Uttarakhand:

- Uttarakhand recorded the highest number of large forest fires and fire alerts in the country in the last seven days (April 23-30).
- There were 3,338 fire alerts and 201 large forest fire incidents during this period.
- Compared to 11 large forest fire incidents in the same period last year.

#### Contributing Factors:

- Population growth and increased human presence near forests.
- Climate changes and dry spells.
- Pine trees and flammable pine needles in the Kumaon region.



### Uttarakhand's Nakshatra Sabha astro-tourism campaign

- **Uttarakhand Tourism** collaborates with **Starscapes** for the **Nakshatra Sabha** campaign.
- Aims to provide a comprehensive **Astro Tourism experience**.
- **Activities:** Stargazing sessions, Special solar observations, Astrophotography contest, Camping under the stars.
- **Launch Location:** **George Everest** in **Mussoorie** (early June).
- **Duration:** Continues until mid-2025.
- **Locations Explored:** Uttarkashi, Pithoragarh, Nainital, and Chamoli districts.
- **Expert-led Seminars and Webinars.**

### Pirul Lao-Paise Pao campaign

- **Pirul Lao-Paise Pao** campaign in Uttarakhand aims to combat forest fires effectively.
- **Objective:** Prevent and control forest fires, Involve active participation of local youth and villagers.
- **Process:**
  - ❖ Collect dry **Pirul (Pine tree leaves)** from forests.
  - ❖ Transport Pirul to designated collection centers.
  - ❖ Villagers receive **Rs 50 per kg, directly transferred to their bank accounts.**
- **Significance of Pirul:**
  - ❖ Pine leaves are **highly inflammable when dry.**
  - ❖ **Uttarakhand** has established a **power plant using Pirul as raw material to generate electricity.**

### Recent name changes in Uttarakhand:

1. **Jyotirmath (formerly Joshimath):**
  - ❖ The Uttarakhand government renamed **Joshimath tehsil in Chamoli district as Jyotirmath.**
  - ❖ The area was originally called **Jyotirmath** after **Adi Guru Shankaracharya's visit in the 8th century.**
  - ❖ Over time, it became popularly known as **Joshimath.**
  - ❖ **Jyotirmath** is one of the **four cardinal math (monasteries)** established by **Adi Shankara.**
2. **Kainchi Dham (formerly Kosiyakutoli):**
  - ❖ **Kosiyakutoli tehsil in Nainital district** is now known as **Pargana Shri Kainchi Dham.**
  - ❖ This renaming honors **Baba Neem Karoli Maharaj's ashram.**

### Sadak Surakhya Force

- Punjab Govt sets up 'Sadak Surakhya Force' (SSF), first of its kind in India
- **Objective:** Reduce road fatalities in the state, enhance safety measures and emergency response.

### SSF Features:

- ❖ Comprises 144 hi-tech vehicles.
- ❖ Anyone in the state can dial 112 for assistance.
- ❖ Vehicles will reach the spot within ten minutes of receiving the call.
- **Leadership:** Former Indian Hockey team captain and AIG traffic, **Gaganjit Singh**, will lead the SSF.
- **Coverage:**
  - ❖ The vehicles will patrol 5,500 km of state and national highways.
  - ❖ Expected to save approximately 3,000 lives annually.

### Hola Mahalla

- **Hola Mahalla**, a vibrant **Sikh festival**, unfolds its grandeur in the historical **Gurdwara Patalpuri Sahib at Kiratpur Sahib, Punjab.**
- **Duration:** Hola Mahalla spans **three days each in Kiratpur Sahib and Anandpur Sahib** (from March 24th to 26th).
- **Origins:**
  - ❖ Dating back to the **17th century**, Hola Mahalla has evolved into a magnificent display of martial arts skills, spiritual devotion, and communal harmony.
  - ❖ It follows the **Hindu festival of Holi** by one day.
- **Significance:**
  - ❖ The phrase "**Hola Mohalla**" translates to "**mock fight.**"
  - ❖ During this festival, processions are organized in the form of army columns accompanied by war-drums.
  - ❖ **Guru Gobind Singh Ji** initiated the **first mock fight event** at the sacred Sikh city of **Anandpur Sahib** in February 1701.

### Booth Raabta Website:

- Launched in **Malerkotla district, Punjab.**
- Provides **election-related information and facilities.**
- Allows **young voters to download certificates, rate polling stations, and access ambulance and hospital information.**
- A **unique initiative to enhance voter engagement and convenience.**

### Mission Nishchay Against Drugs:

- **Punjab Police**, in collaboration with **BSF and Village Defence Committees**, conducts a **one-week drive** in **Fazilka district.**
- Focuses on **42 villages along the India-Pakistan border.**
- Aims to **gather actionable intelligence about drug demand and supply.**
- **Enhances community participation to curb drug menace.**

## Chandigarh

### 11th International Puppet Festival

- Held at the **Tagore Theatre** in **Chandigarh**.
- Inaugurated by **Punjab Governor** and **Administrator of Union Territory Chandigarh**, **Banwarilal Purohit**.
- Celebrates **India's rich puppet theatre heritage**.
- **Features captivating performances** and a **puppet exhibition**.

### Chandigarh University's Historic Achievement:

- Chandigarh University becomes the **first Indian university** to offer a **collaborative business management program with Harvard University**.
- Students taught by **Harvard Business School** faculty for a semester in an online MBA program.
- Graded alongside Harvard students and offered placements at top global firms.
- **Aligns with India's New Education Policy** and **promotes international academic partnerships**.

## Haryana

### Cashless Health Facility for Ayushman Yojana Beneficiaries

- Recently inaugurated by Governor **Bandaru Dattatreya**.
- **Aims to provide quality healthcare to government employees and their dependents**.
- Initially launched as a **pilot scheme**, now extended to cover all regular state employees.
- Covers various **medical conditions**, including **cardiac emergencies, cerebral hemorrhage, and accidents**.

### Ayushman Bharat Scheme:

- **World's largest health insurance scheme** fully financed by the government.
- **Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY)** offers **Rs. 5 lakh coverage per family** for **secondary and tertiary care**.
- **Health and Wellness Centers (HWCs)** provide primary healthcare services and essential drugs.

### Haryana Police is first force to use drones for tear gas

- Haryana Police used **drones to drop tear gas shells** during protests at the **Punjab-Haryana boundary**.
- The drones were manufactured by **Drone Imaging and Information Service of Haryana Limited (DRIISHYA)**.
- These drones serve various purposes, including **surveillance and security**.

### Van Mitra Scheme

- Launched by the **Haryana government**:
- Objective:
  - ❖ Encourage **community participation in tree planting activities** on non-forest land.
  - ❖ **Address the scarcity of forest areas in Haryana** and enhance green cover.
- Eligibility:
  - ❖ Members of families with an annual income below **Rs 1.80 lakh** can register as 'Van Mitras.'
  - ❖ Any individual aged **18 to 60 years** can become a Van Mitra.
- Incentives for Van Mitras:
  - ❖ **Rs 20** for each dug pit (upon geo-tagging and photograph upload).
  - ❖ **Rs 30** for each planted tree (after geo-tagging).
  - ❖ **Rs 10** per living plant for maintenance and security.
  - ❖ Gradual reduction in monthly incentives over four years.
- **Land Choice:** Van Mitras can choose non-forest land in their village, town, or city for tree planting.
- **Transition:** If Van Mitras opt out, the Forest Department will take over the trees

### Creamy layer of OBC from Rs.6 lakh to Rs.8 lakh.

- **Haryana CM Nayab Singh Saini** announced an **increase in the income limit for the creamy layer of OBC** from **Rs.6 lakh to Rs.8 lakh**.
- **Reservation** for backward classes in **Group-A and Group-B posts** will be **raised to 27%**.
- The government aims to **fill backlog vacancies for backward class jobs** and **support OBC education** through **scholarships and skill development initiatives**.

## Uttar Pradesh

### PM Schools for Rising India (PM SHRI) initiative in Uttar Pradesh

- **Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath** and Union Minister **Dharmendra Pradhan** launched the **PM SHRI schools** in the state.
- A total of **1,753 schools in Uttar Pradesh** have been selected for the **PM SHRI Yojana**.
- **Upgrading Schools:** In the first phase, **928 government schools** will be upgraded under the **PM SHRI initiative**.
- Program Details:
  - ❖ **PM SHRI** is a **centrally sponsored initiative** by the **Government of India**.
  - ❖ The goal is to establish over **14,500 schools** across **Central Government, State/UT Government, and local bodies**.

- ❖ These schools will **demonstrate the implementation of the National Education Policy 2020.**
- ❖ The **program aims to create an inclusive and nurturing learning environment with comprehensive facilities for every student.**
- Budget and Responsibility:
  - ❖ The **total project cost is Rs 27,360 crore**, spread over **five years from 2022-23 to 2026-27.**
  - ❖ After this period, it will be the **responsibility of the States/UTs to maintain the achieved benchmarks in these schools.**

#### Mobile App for State Information Commission:

- Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath launched a **software and mobile application to facilitate e-filing and online hearings for complaints and second appeals in the State Information Commission.**
- Uttar Pradesh has become the **first state in the country** whose Information Commission has its own software and app for the redressal of complaints.
- With this initiative, individuals no longer need to physically visit the State Information Commission office to file complaints

#### Expansion of Airports in Uttar Pradesh:

- Uttar Pradesh is set to have **five more airports**, bringing the **total to 19.**
- The new airports will be located in **Azamgarh, Aligarh, Moradabad, Chitrakoot, and Shravasti.**
- The **Maharishi Valmiki International Airport in Ayodhya** was inaugurated by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi on December 30.**
- These developments enhance connectivity and contribute to tourism and business activities in the state

#### Ayodhya Airport Renamed:

- The Union Cabinet has approved the proposal to declare Ayodhya Airport as an International Airport and rename it as **“Maharishi Valmiki International Airport, Ayodhyadham**
- The airport's name pays homage to Maharishi Valmiki, the sage attributed to composing the epic Ramayana, adding a cultural touch to its identity.
- Other Renamed Airports:
  - ❖ **.Mopa Airport** is now known as **“Manohar International Airport.”**
  - ❖ **Chandigarh Airport** has been renamed as **“Shaheed Bhagat Singh International Airport.”**
  - ❖ **Navi Mumbai International Airport** is now called **“D. B. Patil International Airport.”**

#### Indigenous Portable Hospital:

- India has deployed the indigenous portable hospital called the **“Arogya Maitri Disaster Management Cube”** under the **“BHISM”** initiative in Ayodhya.
- This deployment is for the inauguration ceremony, **“Pran Pratishtha,”** of the RamMandir.

#### Aarogya Maitri Aid Cube

- It is the **world's first portable hospital.**
- Designed indigenously under **Project BHISHM** (Bharat Health Initiative for Sahyog Hita and Maitri)
- The while unit is made up of **72 detachable mini-cubes**, each being a specialized station for emergency response
- The **mini-cubes** are packed with everything essential for the survival of **100 individuals for duration of 48 hours.**
- Can treat as many as **200 patients.**
- Light and portable, and can be rapidly deployed anywhere.

#### Mukhyamantri Kanya Sumangala Yojana in Uttar Pradesh

- **Increased Grant:** The Uttar Pradesh Government has raised the grant amount under the **Mukhyamantri Kanya Sumangala Yojana** from **Rs.15,000 to Rs.25,000.**
- **Eligibility:** This grant is provided in six installments, starting from the birth of daughters up to their admission in undergraduate or diploma courses.
- **Effective Date:** The increased grant amount will be applicable from April 2024 ,1.
- **Objective:** Launched in April 2019, the scheme aims to eradicate female foeticide, promote gender equality, prevent child marriages, and enhance girls' health and education.

#### Turtle conservation reserve in Uttar Pradesh

1. **Location:** The forest department in **Gonda, Uttar Pradesh**, is creating a turtle conservation reserve along the **Sarju River**, a tributary of the **Ghaghra River.**
2. **Turtle Diversity:** **Sarju River** is renowned for its **diverse turtle population**, with at least nine species present.
3. **Protected Species:** **Eight of these turtle species** are listed under **Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act.**
4. **Conservation Efforts:** The **reserve aims to safeguard these endangered turtles and maintain the ecological balance in the region.**

#### UP - First State to issue 5 crore Ayushman cards

- Uttar Pradesh has achieved a significant milestone by issuing **five crore Ayushman cards** under the **Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana.** Here are the key points:
  - **Ayushman Cards Issued:** Uttar Pradesh has issued a whopping **5,00,17,920 Ayushman cards.**



- **Beneficiaries:** These cards have benefited **7,43,82,304 individuals** across the state.
- **Hospital Network:** A total of **3,716 hospitals** in Uttar Pradesh are now part of this scheme, ensuring accessible healthcare for cardholders.
- **Increased Admissions:** Notably, the average daily admission of patients under this scheme has surged from 2,000 to approximately 8,000 per day.

#### Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PMJAY)

- **Launch Date:** PM Modi inaugurated AB PMJAY on **September 23, 2018**, in Ranchi, Jharkhand.
- **Scheme Overview:**
  - ❖ AB PMJAY is the **world's largest health insurance/assurance scheme** fully financed by the government.
  - ❖ It offers a cover of **Rs. 5 lakhs per family per year** for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization.
  - ❖ Beneficiaries can access services across **public and private empaneled hospitals** in India.
- **Eligibility:** Over **12 crore poor and vulnerable families** (approximately 55 crore beneficiaries) qualify for these benefits.
- **Cashless Access:** The scheme ensures **cashless access to healthcare services** for beneficiaries at hospitals.
- Mukhyamantri Yuva Udyami Vikas Abhiyan (MYUVA) scheme - Uttar Pradesh:
- **Objective:** The MYUVA scheme aims to **nurture entrepreneurship** among the state's youth.
- **Annual Goal:** It seeks to prepare **1 lakh young entrepreneurs** each year by providing **interest-free loans** for projects up to **Rs 5 lakh**.
- **Budget Allocation:** The government has allocated **Rs 1,000 crore** in the budget for the financial year 25-2024 to support this initiative.

#### Uttar Pradesh Board of Madarsa Education Act, 2004.

- The **Allahabad High Court** has made a significant ruling regarding the **Uttar Pradesh Board of Madarsa Education Act, 2004**.
- **Unconstitutionality:** The court declared the Madarsa Act, 2004, as **unconstitutional** due to violations of **secular principles** and fundamental rights.
- **Board Creation:** The ruling emphasized that a **secular state cannot create a board** specifically for religious education or establish one solely for a particular religion.
- **Accommodation Directive:** The state government has been **directed to accommodate madrasa students** in recognized regular schools.
- **Petition and Issues:** The plea was filed by advocate **Anshuman Singh Rathore**, raising concerns

about the administration of madrasas and violations of articles related to equality, discrimination, and the right to education.

#### ➤ Relevant Articles:

- ❖ **Article 14:** Ensures equality before the law and equal protection of laws within India's territory.
- ❖ **Article 15:** Prohibits discrimination based on religion, race, caste, sex, or place of birth.
- ❖ **Article 21:** Protects life and personal liberty, subject to established legal procedures.
- ❖ **Article 21A:** Guarantees free and compulsory education for children aged six to fourteen as a fundamental right.
- ❖ **UGC Section 22:** Affirms the right to confer degrees.

#### Urban ropeway project in Varanasi:

- **Route:** The first section of the ropeway will connect **Varanasi Cantonment Railway Station to RathYatra**.
- **Project Name:** It falls under the **'Parvatmala Pariyojana'** initiative.
- **Construction Partners:** The project is being constructed by **Vishwa Samudra Engineering** in collaboration with Switzerland's **Bartholet Maschinenbau AG**.
- **Daily Capacity:** Once operational, it will have the capacity to carry **96,000 passengers daily**.
- **Connectivity Improvement:** This ropeway will significantly enhance connectivity in **congested areas** of Varanasi.

#### Suhelwa Wildlife Sanctuary (SWS) in UP to become a TR

- The establishment of a **new tiger reserve** in **Uttar Pradesh** is a significant step toward wildlife conservation.
- **Suhelwa Wildlife Sanctuary (SWS):** Located in the districts of **Balrampur, Shravasti, and Gonda**, **Suhelwa Wildlife Sanctuary** will soon become a tiger reserve.
- **Announcement:** The decision was made during the **10th anniversary celebration of the Pilibhit Tiger Reserve (PTR)**.
- Existing Tiger Reserves in UP:
  - ❖ **Dudhwa Tiger Reserve:** A national park known for its rich biodiversity.
  - ❖ **Pilibhit Tiger Reserve:** A crucial habitat for tigers and other wildlife.
  - ❖ **Ranipur Tiger Reserve:** A wildlife sanctuary contributing to tiger conservation.
  - ❖ **Amangarh Tiger Reserve:** Serving as a buffer zone for the **Jim Corbett Tiger Reserve**.
- **Total Tiger Reserves in India:** Currently, there are **55 tiger reserves** across the country, with the latest addition being the **Dholpur-Karauli Tiger Reserve in Rajasthan**.
- **Legal Framework:** Tiger reserves are notified by state

governments under the provisions of **Section 38V of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972**, based on advice from the National Tiger Conservation Authority.

### Jatayu Conservation and Breeding Centre

- The establishment of the **Jatayu Conservation and Breeding Centre** in Maharajganj, Uttar Pradesh, is a significant step toward preserving the critically endangered **Asian king vultures** (also known as red-headed vultures). Here are the key points:
  - **Purpose:** The centre aims to **improve the population** of this rare species, which has been listed on the **International Union for Conservation of Nature's red list** since 2007.
  - **Challenges:** Asian king vultures face threats due to **habitat loss** and the **use of diclofenac**, a drug that becomes toxic to vultures when ingested by domestic animals.
  - **Conservation Status:**
    - ❖ **IUCN Red List:** Classified as **Critically Endangered**.
    - ❖ **Wildlife Protection Act, 1972:** Listed under **Schedule 1** for enhanced protection.

### Ganga Dussehra

- **Ganga Dussehra**, also known as **Gangavataran**, is indeed a significant Hindu festival.
- **Date and Duration:** Celebrated on the **tenth day of the waxing moon** in the Hindu month of **Jyeshtha (Shukla Dashami)**, Ganga Dussehra spans **ten days**, including nine days of festivities.
- **The Descent of Ganga:** This auspicious occasion commemorates the **descent of the holy river Ganga to Earth**. According to mythology, **King Bhagirath** sought to purify his ancestors' souls and grant them salvation. Seeking divine guidance, he approached Lord Brahma, who advised him to pray to Lord Shiva. Through intense penance, Bhagirath convinced **Lord Shiva** to release the mighty Ganga from his matted locks, allowing her to flow down to Earth and cleanse the sins of humanity.

### Uttar Pradesh Leads India in Compressed Biogas Production

- **Uttar Pradesh's leadership in compressed biogas (CBG) production** is a significant step toward sustainable energy.
- **Biogas Origins:** Biogas is generated from **waste and biomass sources**, including **agricultural residue, cattle dung, sugarcane press mud, municipal solid waste, and sewage treatment plant waste**.
- The process involves **anaerobic decomposition**.
- **Compressed Biogas (CBG):**
  - ❖ CBG shares properties with **Compressed Natural Gas (CNG)**, making it a viable **renewable automotive fuel**.

- ❖ It can **replace CNG** in automotive, industrial, and commercial sectors.

- **Abundant Biomass:** Given the **availability of biomass** within the country, CBG production holds immense potential.

### Uttar Pradesh Ordinance against paper leaks

- The **Uttar Pradesh Ordinance against paper leaks** is a significant step toward maintaining the integrity of examinations.
- **Stringent Measures:**
  - ❖ It provides for **jail terms** ranging from **2 years to life imprisonment** for individuals involved in question paper leaks.
  - ❖ Fines of up to **Rs 1 crore** can be imposed on offenders.
- **Legal Classification:**
  - ❖ All offenses under the ordinance are **cognizable, non-bailable, and non-compoundable**.
  - ❖ They will be **triable by sessions courts**.
- **Repeal of Existing Act:**
  - ❖ Once the ordinance becomes law, the **UP Public Examination (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 1998**, which had both bailable and non-bailable offenses, will be **repealed**.
  - ❖ The previous act stipulated imprisonment ranging from **three months to a maximum of five years**, along with fines ranging from **Rs 2,000 to Rs 5,000**.

## Madhya Pradesh

### India's first healthy and hygienic food street

- **'Prasadam'**, India's first healthy and hygienic food street, was recently inaugurated in **Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh**.
- **Location:** The food street is set up at **Neelkanth Van, Mahakal Lok**, near the **Mahakaleshwar Temple** in Ujjain.
- **Purpose:** 'Prasadam' aims to provide **pure and clean food** to the devotees visiting the temple.
- **Facilities:**
  - ❖ The street spans **939 square meters** and comprises **17 shops**.
  - ❖ It offers diverse dining options, including traditional and culturally rich food.
  - ❖ Facilities include a **kids' play area, drinking water, CCTV surveillance, parking, and seating spaces**.
  - ❖ **Inauguration:** Union Health Minister **Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya** and Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister **Dr. Mohan Yadav** jointly inaugurated this initiative.
- **Additional Launches:**
  - ❖ The **Mannhit app** for mental health screening was

also launched.

- ❖ 'The DART Book' by FSSAI for at-home food adulteration tests was released.

## 2nd State Mining Ministers' Conference

- The 2nd State Mining Ministers' Conference held in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh on January 23, 2024, was a significant event. Here are the key highlights:
- **Purpose:** The conference aimed to discuss and deliberate issues related to the mining sector, paving the way for implementing reforms.
- **Vision:** It focused on making India's mineral sector 'Aatma Nirbhar' (self-reliant) and promoting sustainable mining practices.
- **Theme:** The conference theme was 'Mining and Beyond.'
- **Recognition:** Madhya Pradesh secured the first rank for its excellent performance in the auction of mining blocks during the year 23-2022.
- **Appreciation:** Additionally, Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh, and Karnataka received awards of appreciation.

## Khajuraho Dance Festival begins in Madhya Pradesh

- Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav Inaugurated Khajuraho Dance Festival.
- This is the 50th year of celebration of this prestigious dance festival.
- Dates - 20th to 26th February
- The festival is being organised by the Culture Department of the Madhya Pradesh Government in collaboration with Ustad Alauddin Khan Academy of Music

## World's First Vedic Clock Unveiled in Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh

- The world's first Vedic clock, designed to showcase time according to the ancient Indian traditional Panchang, has been installed in Madhya Pradesh's Ujjain district.
- The Vedic clock stands tall on an 85-foot tower within Ujjain's Jantar Mantar, adjacent to the Government Jiwaji Observatory.
- This unique clock will exhibit information related to Vedic Hindu Panchang, planetary positions, Muhurat, astrological calculations, and predictions, and also indicate Indian Standard Time (IST) and Greenwich Mean Time (GMT).
- Time calculation is based on the duration from one sunrise to the next.
- The time period between the two sunrises will be divided into 30 parts, each hour of 48 minutes.
- The reading will start from 0:00 with the sunrise functions for 30 hours (an hour of 48 minutes)

- The Vedic Clock is installed here as Ujjain has been considered the center of time calculation.
- The Tropic of Cancer passes through Ujjain.

## Vedic Clock in Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh

- The world's first Vedic clock showcases time according to the ancient Indian traditional Panchang.
- Installed in Ujjain's Jantar Mantar, adjacent to the Government Jiwaji Observatory.
- Provides information on Vedic Hindu Panchang, planetary positions, Muhurat, astrological calculations, and predictions.
- Indicates both Indian Standard Time (IST) and Greenwich Mean Time (GMT).

### Time Calculation:

- Based on the duration from one sunrise to the next.
- Divides the time period into 30 parts, with each hour consisting of 48 minutes.

### Significance:

- Ujjain, known as the center of time calculation, hosts this unique clock.
- The Tropic of Cancer passes through Ujjain, adding to its historical and astronomical importance.

## Experience of Spirituality at Chitrakoot Ghat" project

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for the "Experience of Spirituality at Chitrakoot Ghat" project in Chitrakoot, Madhya Pradesh.
- This initiative is part of the Swadesh Darshan 2.0 scheme.
- The project aims to enhance the spiritual experience for visitors at the Chitrakoot Ghat.

### Prasad Scheme:

- The Prime Minister also inaugurated development works under the Prasad Scheme in Amarkantak.
- The PRASAD scheme stands for "Pilgrimage Rejuvenation And Spiritual Augmentation Drive."
- It focuses on developing and identifying pilgrimage sites across India to enrich the religious tourism experience.

### Swadesh Darshan Scheme:

- Launched in 2015 by the Ministry of Tourism.
- Aims to develop sustainable and responsible tourism destinations in the country.
- The scheme is 100% centrally funded.
- The Ministry of Tourism provides financial assistance to state governments, Union Territory administrations, and central agencies for tourism infrastructure



development.

### Centre's Green Credit Programme (GCP).

Madhya Pradesh has taken lead in implementing the Centre's Green Credit Programme (GCP).

#### Green Credit Initiative:

- Launched by the Indian Prime Minister during COP 28 (held in 2023 at Expo City, Dubai, United Arab Emirates).
- Part of the government's Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE) movement.
- Aims to incentivize states to adopt eco-friendly practices and undertake projects for environmental conservation.
- Encourages measures to reduce carbon emissions, promote renewable energy sources, and enhance green cover.
- **Land for Plantation/Greening:**
  - ❖ Madhya Pradesh leads with the highest 954 hectares of approved degraded forest land for plantation and greening exercises.
  - ❖ Telangana (845 hectares), Chhattisgarh (713 hectares), Gujarat (595 hectares), and Assam (454 hectares) follow suit.

### First Green Hydrogen Plant in Vijaipur, Madhya Pradesh

- GAIL (India) Ltd. has achieved a significant milestone by commissioning its first Green Hydrogen Plant in Vijaipur, Madhya Pradesh. The plant is a major step toward new and alternate energy and aligns with the National Green Hydrogen Mission.
- It utilizes 10MW PEM (Proton Exchange Membrane) Electrolyzer units to produce 4.3 tons per day (TPD) of hydrogen through electrolysis of water using renewable power.
- The hydrogen purity is 99.999% (by volume), and it will be initially used for captive purposes in existing processes at Vijaipur.
- Future plans include retail distribution of hydrogen in nearby areas.

#### National Green Hydrogen Mission:

- Approved by the Union Government, this mission aims to make India a global hub for using, producing, and exporting green hydrogen.
- Targets include developing a 5 MMT (Million Metric Tonne) per annum green hydrogen production capacity and adding 125 GW of renewable energy capacity in India by 2030.
- The mission will lead to significant investments, job creation, and a reduction in fossil fuel imports and greenhouse gas emissions.

#### About GAIL:

- Founded as the Gas Authority of India Ltd. in 1984, it operates under the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.
- In 2013, GAIL was conferred Maharatna status by the Indian government.
- The current Chairman and Managing Director is Sandeep Gupta.

### 24-Hour Shops in MP

- **24-Hour Shops:** Madhya Pradesh allows shops and commercial establishments to stay open 24 hours, aiming to boost revenue and employment opportunities.
- **Seventh State:** Madhya Pradesh becomes the seventh state in India to implement this policy, following Maharashtra, Karnataka, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and Telangana.
- **Pilot Cities:** Initially piloted in Bhopal and Indore, the policy will eventually apply to other districts as well.

### PM Shri Paryatan Vayu Seva

- PM Shri Paryatan Vayu Seva launched by Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav to promote tourism on June 13.
- Announced on March 14, 2024, to boost tourism and other sectors.
  - ❖ Intra-State air service to promote tourism.
  - ❖ First flight from Bhopal to Jabalpur.
  - ❖ Connects major tourist spots in the state.
  - ❖ Operated by Madhya Pradesh Tourism Board (MPTB).
  - ❖ Connects eight cities: Bhopal, Indore, Jabalpur, Rewa, Ujjain, Gwalior, Singrauli, and Khajuraho.
  - ❖ Public Private Partnership (PPP) with Jet Serv Aviation Private Limited (Flyola).
  - ❖ Announced on March 14, 2024, to boost tourism and other sectors.

### Prime Minister's Colleges of Excellence

- Madhya Pradesh is taking a significant step by establishing Prime Minister's Colleges of Excellence in all 55 districts.
- **Inauguration Date:** The ceremonious inauguration of these colleges is scheduled for July 1.
- **Objective:** These colleges align with the National Education Policy (NEP) and aim to make education more employment-oriented.
- **Unique Feature:** Each college will also house the "Bhartiya Gyan Parampara Kendra", which translates to the Centre of Traditional Indian Knowledge.

## Chhattisgarh

### Shri Ramlala Darshan Scheme:

- **Objective:** To facilitate pilgrimages to Ayodhya.
- **Eligibility:** Residents aged **18-75** (medically fit).
- **Phase 1:** Initially available for those **above 55 years**.
- **Implementation:** An MOU with IRCTC will be signed.

### Mahtari Vandana Yojana 2024:

- **Aim:** Provide economic assistance to women.
- **Monthly Aid:** Rs. 1000 per month.
- **Annual Total:** Rs. 12,000.
- Eligibility Criteria for Mahtari Vandana Yojana 2024:
  - ❖ Only married women from Chhattisgarh are eligible for this scheme.
  - ❖ The annual income of the beneficiary's family should be less than 2.5 lakh rupees.
  - ❖ Women should be between 23 to 60 years old.
  - ❖ Widows, orphans, and abandoned women can also benefit from the scheme.

## Jharkhand

### Vidhwa Punarvivaḥ Protsaḥan Yojana

- **Objective:** Encouraging widow remarriage.
- **Incentive:** Women remarrying after their husband's death receive an incentive of **Rs 2 lakh**.
- **Eligibility:**
  - ❖ Beneficiary must be of marriageable age.
  - ❖ Not a government employee, pensioner, or income tax payer.
- **Application Process:** Apply within one year from the date of remarriage, along with the late husband's death certificate.

## Odisha

### Jagannath Temple Heritage Corridor at Puri

- **Jagannath Temple Heritage Corridor (Srimandir Parikrama Prakalpa):**
- **Inauguration:** Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik inaugurated this 75-meter-long heritage corridor around the Jagannath Temple in Puri.
- **Purpose:** To provide unobstructed corridors for better darshan of the temple, Nila Chakra, and Meghanad Pacheri, similar to the Kashi Vishwanath Corridor.
- **Amenities:** The project offers facilities for pilgrims, visitors, and enhanced safety.
- **Cost:** Constructed at a cost of **Rs.3,600 crore**, it's part of

Puri's transformation into a world heritage city.

- **History:** Conceptualized in 2016, it covers an area of **15.64 acres** and beautifies the temple perimeter.

### Melanistic Tiger Safari

- Odisha plans to establish the **world's first melanistic tiger safari** near **Baripada** in **Mayurbhanj district**.
- Surplus tigers from **Nandankanan Zoo** and **rescued tigers** unfit for the wild will be housed in an open enclosure.
- Similipal Tiger Reserve is the **only home for melanistic tigers** in the wild globally

### SMALEI Plan

- **SMALEI Plan** for the **Samaleswari Temple** in Sambalpur, Odisha:
- **Objective:** Transform the temple area into a spiritual hub.
- **Inauguration:** Launched by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik.
- **Components:**
  - ❖ **Infrastructure:** Circumambulation path, queue management system, and amenities.
  - ❖ **Economic Impact:** Boost local economy through tourism.
  - ❖ **Projected Footfall:** Aiming for 20,000 visitors per day.
- **Beneficiaries:** Over 10,000 local craftsman and weaver families.

### LABHA MSP scheme

- **Scheme Name:** LABHA (Laghu Bana Jatya Drabya Kraya) Yojana.
- **Objective:** Empower tribal primary collectors by providing a **minimum support price (MSP)** for **minor forest produce (MFP)**.
- **Funding:** 100% state-funded.
- **Definition:** MFP includes all non-timber forest produce of plant origin.
- **Examples of MFP:** Tamarind, Mahua seed, Sal seed, Karanja seed, Sal leaves, Harida, Chironjee seed, Lac.
- **Selling at MSP:** Tribal collectors can sell MFP at MSP through procurement centers managed by the **Tribal Development Cooperative Corporation Limited of Odisha (TDCCOL)**.
- **Tribal Population:** Odisha is home to **62 distinct tribes**, including **13 Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTG)**.

### Swayam scheme

- The **Swayam** scheme introduced by the **Odisha government** aims to **empower youth through interest-free loans**.
- **Eligibility:** Youth aged between **18-35 years** (and up to **40**

years for specific categories) in both rural and urban areas.

- **Loan Amount:** Interest-free loans of up to **Rs 1 lakh**.
- **Purpose:** To enhance existing businesses or start new ones.
- **Financial Responsibility:** The entire burden will be borne by the **state government**.
- **Duration:** The scheme will be operational for **two years**.
- **Total Allocation:** **Rs 672 crore** has been allocated for this initiative.

#### Talabira Thermal Power Project in Odisha:

- **Location:** Sambalpur, Odisha.
- **Foundation Stone:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi will lay the foundation stone.
- **Cost:** The project is worth over **Rs.27,000 crore**.
- **Objective:** Focus on producing electricity at a cost of **Rs.3.65 per unit**.
- **Efficiency and Sustainability:** The thermal power plant aims for higher efficiency and a reduced carbon footprint.

#### About NLC India Ltd:

- **Type:** Navratna Company.
- **Established:** Incorporated in **1956** under the Ministry of Coal.
- **CMD:** **Prasanna Kumar Motupalli** (M Prasanna Kumar).

#### First World Odia Language Conference 2024

- The **First World Odia Language Conference 2024** is a significant celebration of the antiquity and continuity of **Odia**, which holds the distinction of being one of the **six classical languages of India**.
- **Dates:** The conference took place from **3rd February 2024**.
- **Frequency:** It will be held every **5 years**.
- **Language Significance:** Odia is recognized as a **classical language** and is listed in the **Eighth Schedule of the Constitution**.
- **Award:** Linguist **Devi Prasanna Patnaik** received the **first World Odia Language Award** for his lifelong dedication to Odia language development. He was honored with a certificate and a grant of **Rs.20 lakhs**.
- **Jnanpith Awardees:** The Chief Minister also felicitated two Odia Jnanpith awardees:
- **Padma Vibhushan Sitakanth Mahapatra**
- **Padma Bhushan Pratibha Roy**.

#### Olive Ridley turtles

- **Nesting Season:** Olive Ridley turtles arrive on India's eastern coast to nest between **December and April** every year.
- **Size and Abundance:** They are the **smallest and most**

**abundant of all sea turtles worldwide.**

- **Unique Nesting Behavior:** Olive Ridleys are **best known** for their **mass nesting** phenomenon called **Arribada**, where **thousands of females gather on the same beach to lay eggs**.
- **Habitat:** They are mainly found in the warm waters of the **Pacific, Atlantic, and Indian oceans**.
- **Gahirmatha Marine Sanctuary:** Odisha's **Gahirmatha Marine Sanctuary** is renowned as the **world's largest rookery** (a breeding colony) of sea turtles.

#### Conservation status

- IUCN Red List: **Vulnerable**
- Wildlife Protection Act, 1972: **Schedule 1**
- CITES **Appendix I**

#### Odisha declares Gupteswar Forest in fourth biodiversity heritage site

- **Location:** The **350-hectare** forest lies within the **Dhondrakhol reserve forest**, part of the **Jeypore Forest Division**.
- **Proximity to Gupteswar Shiva Temple:** Adjacent to the **Gupteswar Shiva temple**, it hosts diverse **flora and fauna**.
- **Sacred Groves:** The local community's traditional worship of the groves enhances its **sacred significance**.
- **Limestone Caves:** Gupteswar's limestone caves are home to **eight bat species**, out of the **16** found in southern Odisha.
- **Other BHSs in Odisha:** Notable Biodiversity Heritage Sites include **Mandasaru, Mahendragiri, and Gandhamardan**.

#### Biodiversity Heritage Sites (BHS)

- **Legal Basis:** Mentioned in **Section 37** of the on the Biological Diversity Act 2002.
- **Designation Process:** State governments can designate BHSs in consultation with local bodies.
- **Types of BHS:**
  - ❖ Terrestrial, coastal, inland water, or marine areas.
  - ❖ Criteria include species diversity, endemism, rarity, and keystone species.
  - ❖ Also includes wild ancestors of cultivated varieties.

#### Project ODISERV

- **Project ODISERV** is a significant skill development initiative launched in Odisha. Here are the key points:
- **Collaborators:** National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) and Bajaj Finserv Ltd.
- **Objective:** Impart knowledge and skills to graduates through the **Certificate Programme for Banking Finance & Insurance (CPBFI)**.



- **Duration:** A comprehensive **100-hour training program**.
- **Target Audience:** Odisha's youth, especially first-generation graduates.
- **Industry Focus:** Equipping them with essential skills for the **banking, finance, and insurance sectors**.

#### India's First Indoor Athletics and Aquatic Centres

- **India's first indoor athletics centre** at **Kalinga Stadium**.
- He also inaugurated an **indoor aquatic centre** with **Olympic size swimming pool**, and laid the foundation of an indoor diving centre at the stadium.
- The **indoor athletics centre**, which has a **10,000 square metre track**, is capable of holding continental and regional championships.

#### Pakhala Dibas

- Odisha celebrated **Pakhala Dibas, or Pakhala Day** on **March 20**
- **Marking the popularity** of the state's main staple food for ages.
- **Pakhala** is the **Odia term** for an **Indian dish** consisting of **cooked rice that is lightly fermented in water**.
- **Pakhala dish** has its origin from **Lord Jagannath Temple**.

#### Mithuna Sankranti/Raja Parba 2024

- **Raja Parba**, also known as **Mithun Sankranti**, is a **three-day long festival** celebrated with great enthusiasm and grandeur in **Odisha**.
- The festival is dedicated to **Basu- Mata**, the **Earth Goddess** and during this festival, **all the agriculture activities** are stopped to allow the **Goddess to rest**.
- This three-day festival, falling on **June 14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup>** in 2024, is a joyous celebration of **womanhood that coincides with the arrival of the monsoon season**.

#### West Bengal

#### Gangasagar Mela

- It is **world's second largest Hindu Fair** after **Kumbh**.
- It happens every year during **Makar Sankranti**.
- The mela is held at **Sagar Island**.
- It has been mentioned in Indian epics such as the **Ramayana** and **Mahabharata**, putting its existence as early as **400 BCE**.
- The pilgrims after taking a dip in **Ganga** also visit the temple of **Kapil Muni**.

#### Some Important Fairs in India

Fair/Celebration	Venue	Location
Ambubachi Mela	Kamakhya Temple	Assam
Medaram Jatara	Medaram in Warangal	Telangana
Surajkund Handicrafts Mela	Surajkund in Faridabad	Haryana
Kumbh Mela	Nasik, Ujjain, Allahabad, haridwar	Multiple states
Sonepur Cattle Fair	confluence of Ganga and Gandak	Bihar

#### IMD issues alert for Cyclone Remal

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

#### Cyclone

- Cyclones are **rapid inward air circulation** around a **low-pressure area**.
- The air circulates in an **anticlockwise direction** in the **Northern hemisphere** and **clockwise** in the **Southern hemisphere**.
- Cyclones are usually accompanied by **violent storms and bad weather**.
- There are two types of cyclones:
  - ❖ **Tropical cyclones**
  - ❖ **Extra Tropical cyclones** (also called **Temperate cyclones** or **middle latitude cyclones** or **Frontal cyclones** or **Wave Cyclones**).

#### Sikkim

#### Tibetan Brown Bear

- India's wildlife officials confirmed the **first-ever sighting of the rare Tibetan Brown Bear** (scientific name: **Ursus arctos pruinosus**) in the high altitudes of **North Sikkim**.
- IUCN status – **Endangered**.
- **Sonam Lhosar** celebrated in **Nepal**
- **Sonam Lhosar** is a festival celebrated by the **Tamang and Hyolmo communities** of **Nepal and the Sikkim and Darjeeling regions** of India on **New Year's Day**.
- It falls on the **second new moon** after the **winter solstice**, which is usually the **Magh Sukla Pratipada** on the eastern

lunar calendar.

- The tiger year enters after completing the cow year.

### Sikkim's First Railway Station In Rangpo

- PM Modi laid Foundation stone for **Sikkim's First Railway Station In Rangpo**
- Sikkim is the **only state that does not have a railway line.**
- **Part of Sevoke-Rangpo Railway Line**
- spanning **45 kilometers from Sevoke in West Bengal to Rangpo in Sikkim**
- The government has signed this project in **three phases.**
- In the first phase, **Sevoke to the Rangpo rail project**; in the other phase, from **Rangpo to Gangtok**; and the third phase, from **Gangtok to Nathula.**

### 'Savera' program for early detection, prevention of breast cancer launched in Haryana

- Haryana Chief Minister **Manohar Lal Khattar** inaugurated the **Savera program.**
- The **Savera scheme** will leverage the assistance of visually impaired women for breast cancer screening.
- Visually impaired people can detect **breast cancer** up to **half a centimeter**, whereas a **normal doctor can detect it up to one centimeter**, after examination.
- Initiated by the **Medanta Foundation** in collaboration with the **Health Department in Gurgaon.**
- The initiative is **first-of-its-kind in the country.**

### Sikkim INSPIRES

- **Sikkim INSPIRES (Integrated Service Provision and Innovation for Revising Economics)** is a **World Bank-assisted program** that was launched on February 15, 2024 in **Gangtok.**
- The program is a collaboration between the **Government of Sikkim and the World Bank.**
- It is the **first direct partnership between the two.**
- Aimed at **fostering economic growth and inclusion.**
- The **programme focuses on providing better economic opportunities for women and youth through training and employment initiatives.**
- The initiative will **engage 9 government departments** over the **next 5 years** to create an ecosystem for economic prosperity, emphasizing collaboration and capacity-building across various sectors.

### About Sikkim

- Sikkim is the **least populated and second smallest state in India.**
- On May 16, 1975, the **Indian Parliament** passed the **36th Amendment to the Indian Constitution**, which formally

recognized **Sikkim** as the **22nd state of the Indian Union.**

- **Before 1975, Sikkim** was a **small Buddhist kingdom** ruled by the **Namgyal Dynasty.**
- **Sikkim** is bordered by **Bhutan to the east, Nepal to the west, Tibet Autonomous Region of P.R.C. to the north, and West Bengal to the south.**
- **Sikkim** is home to **Kanchenjunga**, the **world's third tallest mountain** and **India's highest peak.**
- It is a **glacier hotspot** and has the **highest lakes in India (Cholamu or Tso Lhamo)**
- It is **India's largest producer of cardamom.**
- Capital – **Gangtok.**
- Chief Minister - **Prem Singh Tamang.**

### Sikkim Celebrates Saga Dawa Festival

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

### Imp. Buddhist festivals in Sikkim:

- **Losar (Tibetan New Year):** 1st day of the 1st month (February-March)

### Saga Dawa: 4th month of the Tibetan lunar calendar (May-June)

- ❖ **Description:** This festival commemorates the birth, enlightenment, and death (parinirvana) of Lord Buddha.

### Buddhist festivals in Sikkim:

- **Drukpa Tshechi:**
- **When:** 6th month of the Tibetan lunar calendar (July-August)
- **Description:** Celebrates the first sermon of Lord Buddha at Sarnath.

### Pang Lhabsol:

- **When:** 15th day of the 7th month of the Tibetan lunar calendar (August- September)
- **Description:** This unique festival is dedicated to Mount Kanchenjunga

### Sikkim High Court introduces menstrual leave policy for its women employees

- In a first-of-its-kind move, the Sikkim High Court has introduced a menstrual leave policy for its women employees in the registry.
- The Sikkim High Court registry stated that women employees may avail “2-3 days of menstrual leave” in a month.
- However, such leave would only be granted on the prior recommendation of the Medical Officer of the High Court.
- This leave will not be counted against the employee’s overall leave account
- The Sikkim HC, the country’s smallest High Court, has three judges, with just 9 officers in the registry including one woman officer.
- The Sikkim High Court is the first High Court to introduce a menstrual leave policy. Currently, there is no national policy or law for menstrual leave.

## Assam

### Chandubi Festival (14th Anniversary):

- Celebrated along the Chandubi Lake in Assam.
- Held annually from January 1st to 5th.
- Aims to promote eco-tourism in this biodiversity hotspot of Assam.
- Provides livelihood opportunities for various tribes, including Rabhas, Garos, Gorkhas, and tea tribes.

### Chandubi Lake

- Formed during a massive earthquake in 1897.
- The name “Chandubi” combines “Chand” (five) and “Dubi” (sinking) in the Khasi language.

### The 50th edition of the Karbi Youth Festival (KYF):

- The 50th edition of the Karbi Youth Festival will take place from January 12 to 19 in Assam.
- President Droupadi Murmu will attend the celebration on January 17 at Taralangso in Assam’s Karbi Anglong district, marking the first time a Northeast ethnicity-based festival has received such an honor.
- Since its inception in 1974, the Karbi Youth Festival has worked to promote Karbi culture, customs, indigenous games, traditional foods, and the Karbi language on the global stage.

### Sri Sri Auniati Satra:

- A more than 350-year-old Vaishnavite monastery in Assam’s Majuli district.
- Established in 1663 and held a prominent position among Assam’s Satras during the Ahom Kings’ rule.

- Lord Krishna is worshipped as Govinda, with the original idol brought from the Lord Jagannath Temple in Puri.

### About Majuli:

- The world’s largest inhabited riverine island, situated in the Brahmaputra River.
- India’s first island district.
- A hub of neo-Vaishnavite culture, home to several ‘Sattras’ (Vaishnavite monasteries).
- Included in UNESCO’s tentative list of World Heritage Sites.

### PM Modi’s Assam Infrastructure Projects:

- Kamakhya temple corridor project, costing Rs.498 crore, to serve as the gateway to the Northeast.
- Government committed to spending Rs.11 lakh crore on infrastructure this year.
- Foundation stone laid for road upgradation projects worth over Rs.3400 crores.
- Initiatives to enhance sports and medical infrastructure.
- PM Modi arrived at Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport, Guwahati.

### Assam’s State Fruit: Kaji Nemu

- Assam government designates kaji nemu (Citrus limon) as the official state fruit.
- Kaji nemu is a unique lemon variety native to the region, prized for its juiciness, aroma, and nutritional benefits.
- It received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag in 2019.

### Bharat Steam Boiler Expo 2024 in Guwahati:

- Held at Veterinary College Field in Guwahati, Assam, from March 5–7, 2024.
- Aims to promote growth and efficiency in industries using steam boilers.
- Facilitates knowledge exchange and experiences.
- Jointly organized by Indian Oil Corp (IOC), Oil India Ltd (OIL), Numaligarh Refinery Ltd (NRL), Brahmaputra Cracker and Polymer Ltd (BCPL), Assam Petro Chemicals Ltd, and NTPC Ltd.

### Bronze Statue of Ahom General Lachit Borphukan in Assam’s Jorhat:

- A 125-foot “Statue of Valour” dedicated to legendary Ahom general Lachit Borphukan.
- Designed and constructed by renowned sculptor Ram Vanji Sutar.
- Stands on a 41-foot pedestal, making the total structure 125 feet tall.
- Former President Ram Nath Kovind laid the foundation in



February 2022.

- **Lachit Borphukan** played a pivotal role in the **1671 'Battle of Saraighat,'** defending Assam against Mughal forces led by **Raja Ramsingh-I.**

### Disaster Reporting and Information Management System (DRIMS):

- Launched by the **Assam Government** in collaboration with **UNICEF.**
- Facilitates efficient **disaster reporting and aid distribution.**
- Captures **critical impact data to expedite relief delivery for damaged crops, livestock losses, and other post-disaster restoration efforts.**
- Assam Chief Minister: **Himanta Biswa Sarma.**

### New IIM in Assam:

- The **Union government** has approved the establishment of a **new Indian Institute of Management (IIM)** near **Guwahati.**
- The upcoming IIM will be located at **Marabhita in Kamrup district.**
- **IIM Ahmedabad,** a prestigious institution, will mentor the new IIM, making it a significant addition to Assam's educational landscape.
- Currently, **only one IIM in the Northeast exists: IIM Shillong.**

### Assam's 'Nijut Moina' Scheme to Boost Girls' Education and Curb Child Marriage:

- Monthly stipends for girl students from class 11 to post-graduation.
- Married girls (except those enrolled in PG courses) are eligible.
- Stipend amounts: Rs.1,000 for classes 11 and 12, Rs.1,250 for degree students, and Rs.2,500 for post-graduation.
- All girls, regardless of financial background (except daughters of ministers, MLAs, and MPs, and private college students), included.
- No stipends during June and July (summer vacation).
- Deposited directly into students' bank accounts for 10 months annually.

### Assam's Eco-Friendly Secretariat:

- Assam Secretariat becomes **India's first green secretariat.**
- Inaugurated a **2.5 MW solar power project** on its campus.
- Cost: Rs.12.5 crore.
- Grid-connected rooftop solar plant to save Rs.30 lakh in monthly electricity bills.
- Assam Chief Minister: **Himanta Biswa Sarma.**
- Assam Governor: **Gulab Chand Kataria.**

### The Ambubachi Mela and key facts about the Kamakhya Temple:

#### Ambubachi Mela:

- **Hindu fair** celebrated from **June 22nd to 26th.**
- Honors the annual menstruation of the goddess **Kamakhya,** symbolizing **fertility and womanhood.**
- Occurs during the **monsoon season in the Assamese month of Ahaar.**

#### Kamakhya Temple:

- Located on **Nilachal Hill,** adjacent to the southern bank of the **Brahmaputra River** in **Guwahati.**
- Revered center for **Tantric practices.**
- **One of the oldest** of the **51 Shakti Peethas in India.**
- Architecturally combines **traditional Nagara (North Indian) and Saracenic (Mughal) styles,** known as the **Nilachala Style.**

### School in a Box Initiative:

- Collaboration between the **Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA)** and **UNICEF.**
- Provides **"School in a Box"** kits to children aged **6-18 in flood-affected relief camps.**
- Kits contain learning materials to address the psychological impact of displacement.
- Originally **focused on children up to 6 years old,** but now includes older children.

## Meghalaya

### Gati Shakti Research Chair:

- Established at **Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Shillong.**
- MoU signed between the **Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways (MoPSW)** and **IIM.**
- Focuses on **high-quality academic research in multimodal logistics with a North-Eastern region emphasis.**
- Aims to **build knowledge on logistics development strategies and practices.**
- Facilitates **innovation and capacity building in logistics.**
- Strengthens collaboration with **global experts and key stakeholders.**

### Khasi Tribe and Seng Khihlang Festival:

The Khasi people are an indigenous ethnic group in **Meghalaya,** residing in the **Khasi and Jaintia Hills of northeastern India.**

- The **34th Seng Khihlang Festival** recently concluded in **Wahiajer, Meghalaya.**

- The festival celebrates Khasi culture, traditions, and community spirit.

### Arunachal Pradesh

#### Transition in Arunachal Pradesh Farming:

- Subsistence farming shifting from **jhum (shifting cultivation) to settled agriculture.**
- A study highlights Arunachal's potential for **agro, forest, and mineral-based micro, small, and medium enterprises.**

#### Shifting Cultivation (Jhum):

- Tracts are cleared by burning vegetation and cultivated for **several years.**
- **Abandoned when soil productivity declines.**
- **Old sites may be reused after about a decade.**
- Also known as **slash-and-burn agriculture.**

#### Sela Tunnel:

- Constructed by the **Border Roads Organisation (BRO)** at an altitude of **13,000 feet.**
- Connects **Tezpur, Assam, to Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh.**
- **World's longest bi-lane tunnel above 13,000 ft.**
- Provides **all-weather connectivity to Tawang via Sela Pass** on the **Balipara-Chariduar-Tawang Road.**
- Enhances security by preventing Chinese monitoring of traffic movement.
- Consists of **one main tunnel, one escape tunnel (both 1,555 meters long), a shorter tunnel (980 meters), and a 1.2 km road.**
- Constructed using the **Austrian Tunnelling Method.**
- Foundation stone laid by the Prime Minister in February 2019, construction began in April 2019.

#### Bichom Becomes Arunachal Pradesh's 27th District:

- Bichom, carved out of West and East Kameng, is now the 27th district in Arunachal Pradesh.
- Earlier in March, Keyi Panyor, carved out of Lower Subansiri, became the 26th district.
- The state assembly passed the Arunachal Pradesh (Re-Organisation of Districts) (Amendment) Bill, 2024, for creating Bichom and Keyi Panyor districts.

#### Dibang Multipurpose Hydropower Project:

- Located near **Munli village** in the **Lower Dibang Valley** district of **Arunachal Pradesh.**
- Scheduled to be commissioned in **February 2032.**
- Cost: **Over Rs.31,875 crores.**

- Features a **278-meter-high dam**, making it **India's highest Concrete-Gravity Dam.**
- Constructed using the **Roller Compacted Concrete (RCC) technique**, aiming to be the **world's highest RCC Dam.**

#### Gorsam Kora Festival:

- **Annual festival** celebrated at **Gorsam Chorten**, a 93-foot-tall stupa.
- **Zemithang Valley**, along the **Nyanmjang Chu River**, holds historical significance as the **sanctuary** where the **14th Dalai Lama** found refuge after escaping from **Tibet in 1959.**
- This landmark, an icon of **Himalayan Buddhism**, predates the **Tawang Monastery.**
- **Theme for this year: 'Zero Waste Festival.'**
- Thousands of devotees, including Bhutanese nationals, visit during the **Gorsam Kora festival.**
- **Zemithang Valley** includes villages nominated under the central government's **Vibrant Village Program.**

#### Vibrant Village Problem

- **Objective:** Comprehensive development of select villages in **46 blocks across 19 districts** abutting the **northern border in Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Uttarakhand, and Ladakh.**

#### Focus Areas:

- Livelihood generation through **agriculture, horticulture, tourism, cultural heritage, skill development, and entrepreneurship.**
- **Development of cooperative societies** for managing livelihood opportunities.
- **Infrastructure improvement:** road connectivity, housing, village infrastructure, energy (including renewable energy), television, and telecom connectivity.
- **Outcome-Oriented:** Monitored at three levels—**village, household, and individual beneficiary.**
- **Significance:** Aims to **improve the quality of life and reverse outmigration in border villages.**

#### Longte Festival (Nyishi Tribe)

- **One of the oldest and agriculturally significant festivals.**
- Marks the **beginning of a new season**, signaling the **start of sowing seeds in cultivated fields.**

#### Other Popular Festivals in Arunachal Pradesh:

- Siang River Festival
- Pangsau Pass Winter Festival
- Ziro Festival of Music
- Solung

- Nyokum
- Losar Festival
- Dree Festival
- Boori Boot
- Loku
- Sanken

#### Arunachal Pradesh Achieves 100% Har Ghar Jal Saturation:

- Arunachal Pradesh is the **first state** in North-East India and the **10th** in the country to achieve **100% saturation** of **Har Ghar Jal** under the **Jal Jeevan Mission**.
- Every household in the state now has clean and safe piped water.
- The mission, announced by PM Modi on **August 15, 2019**, aims to provide assured tap water supply to every rural household by **2024**.
- **Jal Jeevan Mission** is implemented in **partnership** with states.

#### Nagaland

#### 4th Rusoma Orange Festival 2024

- Held at Local ground, **Rusoma village**, **Kohima**.
- Theme: **"Organic Orange"**.

#### Tripura

#### Kokborok Day in Tripura (Tripuri Language Day)

- **Purpose:** To promote the **Kokborok language**.
- **Significance:** Marks the official recognition of **Kokborok** in **1979**.
- **Meaning:** "Kok" (language) + "borok" (people).

#### Mizoram

#### Chapchar Kut Festival

- Celebrated across **Mizoram** with **traditional fervor** and **festivities**.
- Occurs after completing the arduous task of **jhum operation** (**jungle clearing**) at the **beginning** of the year.
- Reflects the Mizo tradition of **"Mizo Tlawmngaihna,"** emphasizing **selfless service** for others.

#### Manipur

#### Khongjom Day: Tribute to Fighters of the Anglo-Manipuri War

- Observed annually in **Manipur** on **23rd April**.
- Honors brave souls who fought against the British at the

#### Kheba hills of Khongjom.

- Led by **Paona Brajabashi** during the **Battle of the Anglo-Manipuri War** in **1891**.
- The **British Army** fired the first shot at **Kangla** in **March 1891**, aiming to **arrest Yuvaraj Tikendrajit**.
- The war lasted from **31st March** to **27th April 1891**, resulting in a **British victory**.
- Subsequently, **Manipur** lost its sovereignty to the **British**.

#### Meitei Sagol Conservation Measures

- **Location:** The Manipur State Government has allotted 30 acres of grassy fields at **Lamphelpat, Imphal West**, where the **Manipuri Ponies** can freely roam and graze.
- **Importance:** The **Manipuri Pony (Meitei Sagol)** is closely tied to **Manipur's history and culture**.
- **Recognition:** Meitei Sagol is **one of India's seven recognized horse and pony breeds**.
- **Population Decline:** The breed's population has significantly decreased from **1,898 animals** in **2003** to only **1,089** in the last livestock census (**2019**).
- **Endangered Status:** In **2013**, the Manipur government declared the Manipuri Pony an **Endangered Breed**.
- **Historical Significance:** The breed is considered the original polo pony, as modern polo evolved from the traditional Sagol Kangjei sport of Manipur.

#### School on Wheels

- **Inauguration:** Manipur Governor **Anusuiya Uikey** inaugurated the **"School on Wheels"** in **Imphal**.
- **Objective:** Implemented by **Vidya Bharati Shiksha Vikash Samiti**, the initiative aims to provide education to students in **relief camps** across the state.
- **Features:** The **school bus** is equipped with a **library, computers, and sports items**, along with a **teacher**. It visits **relief camps** in various locations.

#### Rajasthan

#### Ratle Hydroelectric Project

- **Capacity:** **850 MW**
- **Location:** On the **Chenab River** in **Kishtwar, Jammu & Kashmir**
- **Joint Venture:** **Ratle Hydro Electric Power Corporation Limited (RHPCL)** formed by **NHPC Limited** and **Jammu and Kashmir State Power Development Corporation (JKSPDC)**
- **Power Purchase Agreement (PPA):** RHPCL has signed a **40-year PPA** with **Rajasthan Urja Vikas and IT Services Limited**.



### Chhattargarh Solar Project

- **Capacity:** The project has commenced commercial operations with **70 MW capacity**.
- **Full Capacity:** The slated full capacity of the **Chhattargarh Solar project is 150 MW, expected to be commissioned by March 2024**.
- **Impact:**
  - ❖ Designed to **generate 370 million units of energy annually**, sufficient for **60,000 households**.
  - ❖ Aims to save **3 lakh tons of CO2 emissions each year**.
  - ❖ Conserves **1,000 MMTPA of water**, equivalent to the needs of over **5,000 households**.

### Lakhpati Didi Initiative

- **Announcement:** PM Modi announced it in his Independence Day speech on **August 15, 2023**.
- **Objective:** Encourage women **to start micro-enterprises within their villages**.
- **Skills Training:** Aims **to train two crore women in various skills, including plumbing, LED bulb making, drone operation and repair, and tailoring and weaving**.
- **Income Goal:** The program targets **women in self-help groups (SHGs)** to help them earn a sustainable income of **at least Rs 1 lakh per annum per household**.
- **Implementation:** Part of the government's poverty alleviation program — **Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM)**.

### Iron Ore Deposits in Karauli, Rajasthan

- **Location:** Near **Hindon in Karauli**.
- **Quantity:** Deposits of more than **840 million tonnes of iron ore**.
- **Types:** Indications of **both magnetite and hematite iron ore**.
- **Utility:** **Iron ore is a rock or mineral used for extracting metallic iron**.

### Om Aakar Temple

- **Location:** Jadan village in Pali district, Rajasthan.
- **Foundation:** The temple's foundation stone was laid in **1995**.
- **Unique Features:**
  - ❖ Can hold **1,008 idols of Lord Mahadev and 12 Jyotirlingas**.
  - ❖ Central feature: Tomb of **Guru Madhavanand ji**.
  - ❖ Height: **135 ft, supported by 2,000 pillars**.

## Gujarat

### Captive-Bred Wolves Reintroduction in Gujarat

- **Context:** The project aims to release wolves bred in captivity into the wild.
- **Process:**
  - ❖ Five wolves, bred in captivity, were brought to the soft-release facility in **Banaskantha from Sakkarbaug Zoological Park in Junagadh**.
  - ❖ The wolves are being integrated into the wild and prepared to hunt as **'biocontrol agents' for wild herbivores**.
- **Significance:**
  - ❖ **Gujarat's Forest Department** is leading this effort, making it the **first such project outside the US**.

### Largest Surya Namaskar Assembly in Gujarat

- **Record:** Gujarat performed Surya Namaskar simultaneously at **108 places in the state on the first day of the new year**.
- **Venues:** The iconic **Modhera Sun Temple** was among the locations where this record-breaking event took place.

### Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit 2024

- **Dates:** Held from **10th to 12th January 2024** in **Gandhinagar, Gujarat**.
- **Gap:** After a four-year hiatus due to the pandemic, the summit resumed.
- **Theme:** **"Gateway to the Future."**
- **Chief Guest:** His Highness **Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan**, President of the UAE.
- **Vision:** A roadmap for **achieving Developed India by 2047** will be launched.
- **Partners:** Involves **34 partner countries and 16 partner organizations**.

### iDEX (Innovations for Defence Excellence)

- **Launched:** In 2018 by PM Narendra Modi.
- **Objective:** Fosters an **innovation ecosystem within India's Ministry of Defence**.
- **Collaboration:** Engages with startups, innovators, MSMEs, incubators, and academia.

### Ancient Human Settlement in Vadnagar, Gujarat

- **Discovery:**
  - ❖ Conducted by experts from **IIT Kharagpur, ASI, PRL, JNU, and Deccan College**.
  - ❖ Traces of a **human settlement dating back to 800 BCE**.

- Context:
  - ❖ Contemporary with late-Vedic/pre-Buddhist Mahajanapadas or oligarchic republics.
  - ❖ Evidence of cultural continuity even after the Harappan collapse, challenging the notion of a “Dark Age.”
- Vadnagar:
  - ❖ Oldest living city within a single fortification in India.
  - ❖ Prime Minister’s native village in Mehsana district, Gujarat.
  - ❖ Mentioned in Puranas and Hieu-en-Tsang’s travelogue as a rich and flourishing town.

### Animal Rescue and Rehabilitation Initiative

- **Launched by:** Reliance Foundation
- **Location:** Gujarat’s Jamnagar
- **Objective:**
  - ❖ Rescue, treatment, and rehabilitation of injured, abused, and endangered animals.
  - ❖ Operates both in India and abroad.
- **Facilities:**
  - ❖ Cutting-edge veterinary hospital.
  - ❖ Equipped with MRI and CT scan machines.
  - ❖ Robotic endoscopic surgery facilities.
- Six surgical centers.

### Shiksha Reform Online Learning Platform

- **Launched by:** Gujarat’s Minister of State for Education, Praful Pansheriya.
- **Objective:**
  - ❖ Revolutionize education, especially in technology.
  - ❖ Offers short-term courses in cutting-edge fields like artificial intelligence and cybersecurity.
  - ❖ Collaboration with Microsoft and a Finnish university.

### Luna Structure: Possible Asteroid Impact

- **Location:** Nestled in Gujarat’s Kutch region.
- **Size:** Colossal 1.8 km wide.
- **Origin Hypothesis:**
  - ❖ Result of a monumental asteroid crash.
  - ❖ Linked to the ancient Harappan Civilization.
- **Geochemical Analysis:**
  - ❖ Notable presence of iridium in the soil.
  - ❖ Suggests a likely impact from an iron meteorite.

## Maharashtra

### Atpadi Conservation Reserve to Safeguard Endangered Canids

- The Maharashtra government has established Atpadi Conservation Reserve in Sangli district.
- To protect endangered ‘canid’ family, including wild dogs, wolves, jackals, and foxes.

### Development projects inaugurated PM Modi on National Youth day in Maharashtra

- As part of his day-long visit to Maharashtra, the Prime Minister inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for multiple development projects worth over 30,500 crore rupees.
- This includes the inauguration of Atal Bihari Vajpayee Sewari - Nhava Sheva Atal Setu in Mumbai, the longest sea bridge in the country, built at 17,840 crore rupees.
- He also paid a visit to Shree Kalaram Temple
- He also inaugurated 27th National Youth Festival in Nashik, during which he paid homage to Rajmata Jijabai on her birth anniversary

### Maharashtra’s Pench Tiger Reserve India’s First Dark Sky Park

- The Pench Tiger Reserve (PTR) in Maharashtra has been marked as India’s first Dark Sky Park and the fifth such park in Asia for protecting the night sky and preventing light pollution, making the facility ideal for astronomy enthusiasts.
- India’s first Dark Sky Reserve is the Hanle Dark Sky Reserve (HDSR) in Ladakh.
- The reserve is 1,073 square kilometers and is located in the Changthang Cold Desert wildlife sanctuary.
- It’s also adjacent to the Indian Astronomical Observatory, which is the second-highest optical telescope in the world.

### About Pench Tiger Reserve

- Pench Tiger Reserve or Pench National Park straddles across two states - Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra.
- The fictional works of Rudyard Kipling, The Jungle Book and The Second Jungle Book, are set in the region.

### Maharashtra Government Extends 10% Reservation to Marathas

- The Maharashtra Cabinet has approved the report of the Maharashtra Backward Class Commission saying the Maratha community is a socially and educationally backward class and should get 10% reservation in education and government jobs.
- The report also said 84% of Marathas are not advanced

or well-to-do.

### 'Kilkari' programme and Mobile Academy

- A Mobile Health Service 'Kilkari' and a Mobile Academy was launched in Maharashtra and Gujarat to Strengthen Public Health Infrastructure.
- The Kilkari program was launched by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) in 2016 to encourage new and expectant mothers to make healthier choices for their newborns.
- 'Kilkari' is a centralized interactive voice response (IVR) based mobile health service which delivers free, weekly, time-appropriate 72 audio messages about pregnancy, childbirth, and childcare directly to families' mobile phones from the second trimester of pregnancy until the child is one year old.
- Mobile Academy is a free audio training course designed to expand and refresh the knowledge of Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs) and improve their communication skills via their mobile phones.

### India's 1st state-of-the-art small animal hospital

- Tata Trusts to open India's 1st state-of-the-art small animal hospital in Mumbai
- The hospital will be one of the largest of its kind in India and will be the latest addition to Tata Trusts' portfolio
- Scheduled for inauguration in March 2024, the hospital is poised to revolutionize the landscape of pet healthcare.
- Capacity exceeding 200 beds, and round-the-clock services aimed at safeguarding the well-being of pets.

### Maharashtra Cabinet Approves Renaming Ahmednagar District as Ahilya Nagar

- The Maharashtra Cabinet on March 13 formally approved the renaming of Ahmednagar district to 'Ahilyanagar' after the 18th century Maratha queen Ahilyabai Holkar.
- The decision to rename the district had already been announced by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde in May last year on the 298th birth anniversary of Ahilyabai Holkar, who had established Maheshwar (in Madhya Pradesh) as the seat of the Holkar dynasty.

### Ahilyabai Holkar

- Ahilyabai (1725 -1795) was one of the women rulers of the Holkar dynasty of the Maratha Malwa kingdom.
- Her husband Khanderao Holkar was killed in the battle of Kumbher in 1754
- ascended to the throne as the Queen of Malwa, ruling from 1767 to 1795.
- Rani Ahilyabai was a great pioneer and builder of Hindu temples.
- John Keay ( British historian) gave the title - 'The

### Philosopher Queen'

### Maharashtra to become first state to buy land in Kashmir

- Maharashtra is set to become the first Indian state to buy land in union territory Jammu and Kashmir in order to construct a tourist facility for the state's people.
- The J&K government has approved the transfer of land to the state government, subject to a payment of Rs 8.16 crore.
- Maharashtra Bhawan would be constructed in central Kashmir's Budgam--first-ever state Bhavan in the valley.
- Before the abrogation of Article 370, only the permanent residents of Jammu and Kashmir could buy land in the erstwhile state.

### India's First Constitution Park

- India's First Constitution Park inaugurated in Pune, Maharashtra.
- In order to propel India towards development by 2047, every citizen must honor the duties outlined in the Constitution.

### Mumbai's first underground metro to launch in July 2024

- Mumbai's first underground metro line, launching in July, will span 33.5 km and include 27 stations, primarily underground.

### Extra Facts:

- India's first metro railway was started in Kolkata.
- Delhi Metro is India's largest and busiest metro rail system and the second-oldest, after the Kolkata Metro.
- India's first underwater and deepest metro train service commences in Kolkata.
- Kochi, Kerala India's first city to have a Water Metro Project

### Goa

### 10th Century Kadamba Inscription in Sri Mahadeva Temple, Goa

- An inscription discovered in the Mahadeva temple at Cacoda, southern Goa.
- Written in Kannada and Sanskrit.
- Believed to be from the 10th century A.D. Kadamba period.
- T. Murugeshi, a retired associate professor, studied the inscription.
- Sanskrit and Kannada were the official languages of the Kadambas of Goa.

### International Purple Fest 2024:



- **2nd edition** taking place in Goa from **January 8–13, 2024**.
- Celebrates diversity and inclusivity.
- Showcases talents of **Persons with Disabilities (PwDs)** through **music, dance, and entertainment**.
- Opening Ceremony features the **Purple Anthem** titled **‘Dhumal.’**

### FLY91, India's newest regional airline

- **Inaugural Flight:** Virtually flagged off by Jyotiraditya Scindia from **Goa's Mahohar International Airport (Mopa) to Agatti in Lakshadweep**.
- **Base:** FLY91 is a Goa-based carrier.
- **Leadership:** MD & CEO of FLY91 is Manoj Chacko.
- **Commercial Services:** Scheduled to begin from March 18, connecting Goa to Bengaluru and Hyderabad.

## Telangana

### Paleolithic Tools Discovery in Telangana

- The recent floods in **Mulugu district, Telangana**, led to the **discovery of Paleolithic quartzite tools**.
- **Discovery Details:**
  - ❖ The tools were found in the sand bed of a stream that dried up after the flood.
  - ❖ The **stone axe**, measuring 15.5 cm in length, 11 cm in width, and 5.5 cm in thickness, was found.
- **Age:** The stone axe belongs to the **Lower Paleolithic period**, dating back approximately 30 lakh years.
- **Paleolithic Age:** Also known as Old Stone Age or Early Stone Age, it spans about 33 lakh years BC and lasted for 10,000 years.

### Centre for fourth Industrial Revolution (C4IR) in Hyderabad

- World Economic Forum has agreed to establish **C4IR in Hyderabad**.
- **Signatories:** Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and WEF President Borge Brende.
- **Launch Date:** Scheduled for **February 28, 2024**, during the BioAsia-2024 conference.
- **Focus:** Leverage **cutting-edge technology** for advancements in the life sciences sector.

### Spur-Winged Lapwing Sighting in Warangal:

- **Bird:** Spur-winged lapwing.
- **Origin:** Native to **North Africa, the Middle East, and Mediterranean regions**.
- **Location:** Sighted at **Ammavaripet Lake near Warangal, Telangana**.

### Tadoba-Kawal Conservation Reserve

- **Telangana State Board for Wildlife** approved the proposal.
- **Corridor Area:** Located between **Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve (Maharashtra)** and **Kawal Tiger Reserve (Telangana)**.
- **Designation:** Declared as a conservation reserve.

### NutriAIDE Mobile App

- **Purpose:** Designed to help users adopt healthy and sustainable diets.
- **Launch:** Launched by the **ICMR-National Institute of Nutrition (NIN) in Hyderabad**.
- **Collaboration:** Developed in collaboration with the University of Augsburg and the German Institute of Human Nutrition.

### Indiramma Housing Scheme

- **Commencement:** Starting from March 11.
- **Objective:** Provide housing solutions to economically disadvantaged sections.
- **Beneficiaries:**
  - ❖ Those who own a plot of land will receive Rs. 5 lakh for building a new house.
  - ❖ Homeless individuals will be given Rs. 5 lakh along with a house plot.

### Hyderabad Liberation Day

- Central government to celebrate September 17 as Hyderabad Liberation Day.
- **Date:** Hyderabad Liberation Day is observed annually on **17th September**.
- **Background:**
  - ❖ Hyderabad was under **Nizam's rule** and **did not gain independence for 13 months after India's independence**.
  - ❖ On 17th September 1948, the region was liberated from Nizam's Rule through **“Operation Polo.”**
- **States Reorganisation Act (1956):**
  - ❖ After this act, the Hyderabad State and the Andhra State were merged to form the State of Andhra Pradesh.
- **Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act (2014):**
  - ❖ Bifurcated Andhra Pradesh into two separate states: Andhra Pradesh (residuary) and Telangana.
- **Andhra State Act (1953):**
  - ❖ Formed the **first linguistic state of India**, known as the state of **Andhra**, by separating **Telugu-speaking areas from the State of Madras** (now Tamil Nadu).

### Pandavula Gutta Geo-Heritage Site:

- **Recognition:** Officially designated as the **sole Geo-heritage site in Telangana.**
- **Characteristics:**
  - ❖ Geological marvel **older than the Himalayan hills.**
  - ❖ Offers insight into Earth's evolution and history.
  - ❖ Culturally significant and valuable for education.
- **Geological Survey of India (GSI):**
  - ❖ Established in 1851.
  - ❖ Attached office to the Ministry of Mines.
  - ❖ Responsible for national geo-scientific information and mineral resource assessment.
  - ❖ Headquartered in Kolkata.

### Andhra Pradesh

### Kala Disha Project: Leather Puppetry Preservation

- **Collaboration:** Sangeet Natak Akademi (SNA) has partnered with renowned leather puppeteer Thota Balakrishna for Kala Disha Project.
- **Objective:**
  - ❖ Mentor ten young puppeteers.
  - ❖ Preserve the art of leather puppetry (Tholubommatala).
- **Training Location:** The training session will commence soon at Jamuna Nagar near Kakinada City.

### New NACIN Campus in Andhra Pradesh

- **Inauguration:** PM Modi inaugurated the new campus of the **National Academy of Customs, Indirect Taxes and Narcotics.**
- **Purpose:**
  - ❖ A national-level world-class training institute.
  - ❖ Imparts **training to officials of Indian Revenue Service (Custom & Indirect Taxes) and central allied services, state governments, and partner nations.**
- **Headquarters:** Located in **Faridabad, Haryana.**
- **Administrative Control:** Falls under the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC), Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance.
- **Focus Areas:** Capacity building in the field of Indirect Taxation (Customs, Central Excise, Goods and Services Tax) and Narcotics Control Administration.

### SAMARTH App for Efficient Poll Mobilization

- **Purpose:** Developed to swiftly mobilize forces during elections.
- **Features:**
  - ❖ **Mapping and Demarcation:** Clearly maps critical and common polling stations.

- ❖ **Incident Response:** Enables police officers to address incidents promptly at polling stations and other locations.
- ❖ **Comprehensive Information:** Incorporates election rules, legal details, training material, and relevant orders.
- **User Base:** Used by 2,000 policemen for efficient coordination

### Karnataka

### Namma Yatri's Mahila Shakti Initiative

- **Objective:** Empower women from diverse backgrounds **to become proficient in driving electric vehicle (EV) autorickshaws.**
- **Partnership:**
  - ❖ Namma Yatri, a ride booking app, collaborates with Bengaluru police and NGOs.
  - ❖ Plans to enroll 1,000 women drivers within the next six months.

### Kateel Yakshagana Mela

- An over-a-century-old Yakshagana mela in Dakshina Kannada.
- Recently approved for all-night shows by the High Court of Karnataka, subject to noise pollution rules.

### About Yakshagana:

- **Traditional folk dance-drama** originating in **16th-century Karnataka.**
- Unique blend of dance, music, song, scholarly dialogues, and vibrant costumes.
- Historically **performed all night, traveling from village to village.**
- Typically staged in **open-air theaters.**

### Yuva Nidhi Scheme

- **Objective:** Provide **financial aid to unemployed graduates and diploma holders.**
- **Eligibility:**
  - ❖ Graduates and diploma holders who haven't secured a job.
  - ❖ Maximum support for two years.
- **Training:** Registered participants receive training via the State Government's skill connect portal.
- **Financial Assistance:**
  - ❖ Rs.3,000 per month for degree holders.
  - ❖ Rs.1,500 per month for diploma holders not pursuing higher studies.

### Driverless Bengaluru Metro Train:

- **Route:** Under-construction 18.8 km Yellow Line connecting RV Road and Bommasandra.

➤ **Technology:**

- ❖ Utilizes Communication-based Train Control (CBTC) system.
- ❖ CBTC uses radio communication for precise train control information.
- ❖ Incorporates artificial intelligence (AI) for safety.

➤ **Manufacturing:**

- ❖ Coaches manufactured by Chinese firm CRRC Nanjing Puzhen Co Ltd.
- ❖ Domestic partners: Titagarh Rail Systems Ltd. (part of the Make In India Initiative).

❖ **Indoor and outdoor practice facilities.**

- ❖ Training ground, sports academy, and research center.
- ❖ Eco park and water sports park.
- ❖ Sports medicine and fitness center.
- ❖ E-sports arena, entertainment zone, and clubhouse.

➤ **Investment:** Around **Rs.750 crore.**➤ **Approval:** **BCCI Secretary Jai Shah** has already approved the proposal.**Leopard Safari at Bannerghatta**

- **South India's first and the country's largest leopard safari.**
- Situated in **Bannerghatta Biological Park (BBP).**
- **Details:**
  - ❖ **20 hectares area demarcated and fenced for the safari.**
  - ❖ **Currently, eight leopards roam the open forest area.**
  - ❖ **Cost of creation: Rs.4.5 crore.**
- **About BBP:**
  - ❖ **First biological park in India with a fenced, forested elephant sanctuary.**
  - ❖ **Integral part of Bannerghatta National Park, established independently in 2002.**
- **Bannerghatta National Park:**
  - ❖ **Located near Bangalore, Karnataka, in the Anekal range hills.**
  - ❖ **Declared a National Park in 1974.**
  - ❖ **Home to India's first butterfly enclosure (inaugurated in 2006).**

**Kerala's TB Eradication Efforts:**

- **Award:** Kerala received recognition from the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare for its outstanding tuberculosis elimination activities.
- **Private Sector Coordination:** The state's efforts in coordinating the **National TB Eradication program** in the private sector were acknowledged.
- **Registrations:** Kerala recorded the highest number of **TB patient registrations** from the private sector on the Nikshay portal.
- **Goal:** Kerala aims to **eliminate TB by 2025** through engagement with the private sector.

**Nikshay Poshan Yojana (NPY):**

- Launched in **2018** by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- Aims to support TB patients by providing a **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)** of **Rs 500 per month** for nutritional needs.

**Tuberculosis (TB):**

- Caused by the **bacterium Mycobacterium tuberculosis.**
- Primarily affects the **lungs (pulmonary TB)** but can also **impact other organs (extra-pulmonary TB).**
- Transmission occurs through the air.

**Kerala****World Record for Multilingual Singing:**

- **Achiever:** Suchetha Satish from Kerala.
- **Record:** Sang in 140 languages during a Concert for Climate UAE.
- **Guinness World Record:** Recognized for this extraordinary feat.

**Cochin Sports City**

- **India's first carbon-neutral sports city near Kochi**
- **Location:** 40 acres in **Chengamanad village, near Cochin International Airport.**
- **Key Features:**
  - ❖ **International cricket stadium with a seating capacity for 40,000.**

**Sabari K Rice:**

- Introduced by Kerala to counter the sale of "**Bharat Rice**" by the **Central government.**
- Available soon at **Supplyco depots.**
- Acquired at **Rs 40.11 per kg** and sold at a subsidized rate of **Rs 29.**
- **Ration card holders** can purchase up to **5 kilograms of K-Rice** every month.

**Kerala Welcomes 'Iris' its first generative AI teacher**

- The humanoid, **Named Iris**, was unveiled at **KTCT Higher Secondary School in Thiruvananthapuram** in collaboration with **Makerlabs Edutech Private Limited.**
- Iris was built as part of the **Atal Tinkering Lab (ATL)**, a **2021 NITI Aayog** project to boost students'



extracurricular activities in schools.

- Iris can speak three languages and also answer difficult questions, along with features including voice assistant, interactive learning, manipulation capabilities, and mobilities.

#### Kerala's State-Run OTT Platform 'CSpace':

- Managed by the Kerala State Film Development Corporation (KSFDC).
- A decisive step for the advancement of Malayalam Cinema.
- Prioritizes streaming content with artistic and cultural values.
- Films that win state, national, and international awards will be featured on the platform.

#### One Health Initiative in Kerala:

- **Implementation:** Part of the World Bank-aided Rebuild Kerala project in four districts: Alappuzha, Pathanamthitta, Kottayam, and Idukki.
- **SOPs (Standard Operating Procedures):**
  - ❖ Cover at least 8 diseases, including Hepatitis A and E, dengue, Nipah, and Avian influenza.
  - ❖ Aimed at early disease surveillance and prevention.
  - ❖ Developed during a two-day workshop by the Centre for One Health, Kerala.
- **Objective:** Robust outbreak investigation and control mechanisms at the district level.
- **First Time:** State-level infectious disease outbreak investigation guidelines on the One Health platform.

#### Hepatitis A Outbreak in Kerala:

- **Cases and Deaths:** Kerala has reported 1,977 confirmed cases and 12 deaths from Hepatitis A in the first four-and-a-half months of this year.
- **Alert Districts:** State Health Minister Veena George issued an alert for the following four districts:
  - ❖ Kozhikode
  - ❖ Malappuram
  - ❖ Thrissur
  - ❖ Ernakulam
- **Transmission:** Hepatitis A is highly contagious and spreads through contaminated food, water, or direct contact with an infected person.
- **Infection Types:** It can be either acute (short-term) or chronic (long-term).
- **Recovery:** Most people recover without permanent liver damage, but in rare cases, it can lead to liver failure

#### Kozhikode - India's First UNESCO 'City of Literature':

- **Recognition:** Kozhikode, in north Kerala, officially declared as India's first UNESCO 'City of Literature.'
- **UCCN Inclusion:** In October 2023, Kozhikode earned a place in the UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN) under the 'Literature' category.
- **Annual Conference:** Newly designated Creative Cities invited to participate in the 2024 UCCN Annual Conference in Braga, Portugal.
- **Other Tags:** Also known as Calicut, Kozhikode has been dubbed the "City of Spices" and was designated as the "City of Sculptures" (Shilpa Nagaram) in 2012.

#### Renaming of Kerala to Keralam:

- Kerala Assembly passed a resolution to rename the state as 'Keralam.'
- The resolution requested the Indian government to change the state's name in the first Schedule of the Constitution from Kerala to Keralam under Article 3.
- A similar resolution was previously passed by the Kerala Legislative Assembly in August 2023.
- Kerala, originally formed on 1 November 1956, was named Kerala instead of Keralam in the first schedule of the constitution.
- The process to change a state's name involves an ordinary law-making bill in Parliament, which requires the President's recommendation and a simple majority vote.
- Other states that underwent name changes include Madhya Bharat (to Madhya Pradesh), Madras State (to Tamil Nadu), Uttaranchal (to Uttarakhand), and Orissa (to Odisha).

#### The First IDF Regional Dairy Conference Asia Pacific-2024:

- **Date:** June 26th to June 28th, 2024
- **Location:** Kochi, India
- **Organizers:** Union Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, and National Dairy Development Board (NDDB)
- **Theme:** "Farmer-centric Innovations in Dairying"
- **Objective:** Address important dairy industry issues, especially in the Asia-Pacific region, focusing on production, transparent milk collection, and environmentally friendly practices in the context of climate change.
- **Expected Attendees:** Over 1,000 delegates from more than 20 countries, including influential leaders and dairy industry experts

## Tamil Nadu

### Jallikattu

- **Event:** Jallikattu (also known as Yeruthazhuvuthal)
- **Tradition:** An age-old bull-taming sport celebrated during Pongal harvest festivities.
- **Historical Context:** Believed to belong to the Tamil Classical Age (400-100 BC).

### Recent Developments:

- **Sri Lanka:** Hosting its first-ever Jallikattu event in Trincomalee.
- **Legal Journey:**
  - ❖ **2014:** Supreme Court of India banned Jallikattu following petitions from Animal Welfare Organizations.
  - ❖ **2017:** Tamil Nadu government passed an ordinance allowing Jallikattu.
  - ❖ **May 2023:** Supreme Court upheld Tamil Nadu's law permitting 'Jallikattu' in the state.

### New Biodiversity Heritage Sites in Tamil Nadu:

- **Arittapatti and Meenakshipuram Villages:** Declared as the first biodiversity heritage site in Tamil Nadu in November 2022.
- These sites harbor unique ecosystems with rich biodiversity.
- Components include richness of wild and domesticated species, high endemism, and presence of rare and threatened species.
- Vital for maintaining cultural diversity.

### First BHS in India: Nallur Tamarind Grove

- **Located in Bengaluru, Karnataka.**
- Declared a Biodiversity Heritage Site in 2007.
- India currently has a total of 36 Biodiversity Heritage Sites.

### Neolithic Child Burial Site in Chengalpattu:

- **Location:** Chettimedu Pathur near **Chennai**.
- **Discovery:** Researchers unearthed an **ancient burial site of a child**.
- **Dating:** Likely from the Neolithic period.
- **Findings:**
  - ❖ Child's age estimated to be between 9 and 11.
  - ❖ Pot found beside the skeleton typical of the Neolithic period.
  - ❖ Other artifacts include burnished red ware, burnished grey ware, and red ware with elongated necks and wide mouths.

### Robotic Temple Elephant

- **Location:** Shivan Temple in Devarshola, Gudalur.
- **Source:** Donated by NGO Voices for Asian Elephants.
- **Purpose:** Aims to end the practice of maintaining elephants in captivity at temples, often under unhealthy conditions.

### Param Vir Chakra Garden Inauguration

- **Location:** Kanchi Mahaswami Vidya Mandir in Tambaram.
- **Inaugurated by:** Tamil Nadu Governor R.N. Ravi.
- **Exhibition:** Features statues of the 21 Param Vir Chakra awardees.

### Nilgiri Tahr Census and Species Details:

- **Project Launch:** Tamil Nadu CM MK Stalin officially launched "**The Nilgiri Tahr**" project in October 2023.
- **Synchronised Census:** **Tamil Nadu and Kerala** will conduct their **first-ever synchronised census** to estimate the population of Nilgiri Tahr.
- **Species Details:**
  - ❖ **Name:** Nilgiri Tahr (*Nilgiritragus hylocrius*)
  - ❖ **IUCN Status:** Endangered
  - ❖ **Legal Protection:** Listed in Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act of India, 1972.
  - ❖ **Habitat:** Endemic to the Nilgiri Hills in parts of Tamil Nadu and Kerala.
  - ❖ **State Animal:** Tamil Nadu
  - ❖ **Preferred Environment:** Montane grasslands and shola forests within the South Western Ghats.
  - ❖ **Largest Population:** Resides in Eravikulam National Park (Kerala).

### Mannuyir Kaathu Mannuyir Kaappom

- **Inauguration:** Launched by Chief Minister M.K. Stalin.
- **Objective:** Improve soil health and fertility across Tamil Nadu.
- **Budget:** Rs.206 crore allocated for the project.
- **Green Manure Methods:**
  - ❖ Key strategy to maintain fertile land.
  - ❖ Start-up fund of Rs.20 crore dedicated to green manure initiatives.
- **Phase 1 (2024-25):**
  - ❖ Distribution of green manure seeds.
  - ❖ Targeting about 2 lakh acres, benefiting over 2 lakh farmers.
- **Additional Initiative:**
  - ❖ Tractors flagged off for hire to farmers at a nominal cost.

## Lakshadweep

### Lakshadweep's First On-Grid Solar Project

- **Location:** Kavaratti
- **Features:**
  - ❖ State-of-the-art Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) technology.
  - ❖ Developed by SECI (Solar Energy Corporation of India).
  - ❖ Solar Capacity: 1.7 MW
  - ❖ Battery Storage: 1.4 MWh
- **Additional Development Projects:**
  - ❖ PM Modi also laid the foundation stone for other development projects worth over Rs 1150 crores in Kavaratti, Lakshadweep.

### Coral Bleaching in Lakshadweep Sea

- **Cause:** Prolonged marine heatwaves since late October 2023.
- **Impact:** Widespread bleaching affecting coral reefs.
- **Coral-Algae Relationship:**
  - ❖ **Mutualistic:** Corals and algae (zooxanthellae) have a symbiotic relationship.
  - ❖ **Exchange:**
    - ❖ Corals provide compounds for photosynthesis to zooxanthellae.
    - ❖ Zooxanthellae supply organic products (like carbohydrates) to coral polyps for calcium carbonate skeleton synthesis.
- **Stress Response:** When corals face stress (e.g., temperature changes), they expel zooxanthellae, causing coral bleaching.

## Puducherry

### The 29th International Yoga Festival in Puducherry:

- **Date:** From 4th to 7th January 2024.
- **Location:** Puducherry.
- **Significance:** Celebrates the practice of yoga.
- **Additional Information:**
  - ❖ **International Yoga Day:** Celebrated globally on 21st June each year.
  - ❖ **Puducherry Governor:** Tamilisai Soundararajan.

## Delhi

### Air India's Airbus A350-900 Debut:

- **Route:** Delhi-Dubai.
- **Significance:** Air India's brand-new A350-900 aircraft now operates on this route.

- **Unique Feature:** Air India is the sole carrier operating the A350 between India and Dubai.

### Water Release from Himachal Pradesh to Delhi:

- **Court Order:** Supreme Court instructs Himachal Pradesh to release 137 cusecs of surplus water to Delhi.
- **Haryana's Role:** Haryana is asked to facilitate the flow of this water.
- **State Stance:**
  - ❖ Himachal Pradesh: **Willing to release the surplus water.**
  - ❖ Haryana: **Initially objected to the release.**
- **Political Context:**
  - ❖ AAP and Congress rule Delhi and Himachal Pradesh, respectively.
  - ❖ Haryana has a BJP government.
- **Measurement:** One cusec equals 28.317 liters of liquid flow per second.

## August to December 2023

### Anand Marriage Act

- **Anand Marriage Act implemented in J&K, gives recognition to Sikh marriage rituals**
- This Act provides **statutory recognition to the marriage rituals of Sikhs, addressing their longstanding demand to separate their marriages from the Hindu Marriage Act.**
- The newly formulated "Jammu and Kashmir Anand Marriage Registration Rules, 2023" outline the procedures for Anand marriages.

### Historical Context of the Anand Marriage Act

- The historical roots of the Anand Marriage Act date back to **1909** when the **British Imperial Legislative Council** passed legislation recognizing the Sikh wedding ceremony, **Anand Karaj.**
- The Act aimed to **acknowledge and respect the customs and practices of the Sikh community.**
- In **2012**, the **Parliament** passed the **Anand Marriage (Amendment) Bill**, bringing Sikh traditional marriages under legal recognition.

### Jammu & Kashmir Reservation (Amendment) Bill, 2023:

- The Lok Sabha has passed two significant bills related to Jammu and Kashmir, aimed at providing rights to those who faced injustice and were deprived of their rights in the Union Territory.

### Jammu & Kashmir Reservation (Amendment) Bill, 2023:



- The amendment suggests a change in the nomenclature of a section of people previously described as “weak and underprivileged classes (social castes)” to “other backward classes.”
- Introduces changes to Section 2 of the 2004 Act.
- The bill provides for the reservation of 7 seats for the Scheduled Castes and 9 seats for the Scheduled Tribes in the assembly.

### **Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2023.**

- Passed by Lok Sabha
- Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2023 Seeks to amend the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019.
- Provides representation in the Legislative Assembly to Kashmiri migrants and displaced persons from Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK).
- The bill proposes to increase the number of seats in the Jammu and Kashmir legislative assembly from 107 to 114.
- Out of these 114 seats, 24 seats will be reserved for the people of the Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (POK).
- earlier there were 2 nominated members in the Assembly, now there will be 5
- Earlier there were 37 seats in Jammu which have now become 43, there were 46 seats in Kashmir earlier which have now become 47 and 24 seats have been kept reserved for Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.

### **Pong Dam Wildlife Sanctuary**

- The Union Ministry of Environment and Forest recently issued a draft notification declaring a one-kilometre area from the boundaries of the Pong Dam Wildlife Sanctuary in Kangra district as an eco-sensitive zone.
- Pong Dam Lake (also known as Maharana Pratap Sagar) is a manmade reservoir formed due to the construction of Pong Dam on the Beas River in the wetland zone of Shivalik Hills.
- In 1983, the entire reservoir was declared a Wildlife Sanctuary by the Himachal Pradesh government.
- Pong Dam Lake was declared a Ramsar Site in November 2002.
- The climate of the region is subtropical.
- An eco-sensitive zone (ESZ) is a designated area surrounding a protected area, such as a national park or wildlife sanctuary, where certain activities are regulated or restricted to minimize human impact on the ecosystem.

### **Aarogya Maitri Aid Cube**

- The world’s first portable hospital, ‘Aarogya Maitri Aid Cube’, was unveiled recently in Gurugram.
- Aarogya Maitri Aid Cube is the world’s first portable hospital.
- Designed indigenously under Project BHISHM (Bharat Health Initiative for Sahyog Hita and Maitri)
- system is made up of 72 detachable mini-cubes
- It contains medical equipment and supplies such as a mini-ICU, an operation theatre, cooking station, food, water, a power generator, blood test equipment, an X-ray machine, and more.
- It can treat as many as 200 patients.
- These cubes are light and portable, and can be rapidly deployed anywhere, from airdrops to ground transportation.

### **International Gita Mahotsav**

- International Gita Mahotsav Inaugurated In Kurukshetra (Haryana)
- Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar inaugurated the International Gita Seminar and Geeta Mahotsav at Brahma Sarovar, Kurukshetra
- The theme of the seminar is – “Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam: Srimad Bhagavad Gita and Universal Unity”.
- Assam is the main state partner in this programme.

### **History of International Geeta Mahotsav**

- Beginning – Year 1989
- Declared a national festival - year 2002 (by Geeta Jayanti Committee formed in 1992).

### **Sanskriti Utsav 2023**

- ‘Sanskriti Utsav 2023’ will be organized in the state from December 25 to January 26, 2024, to enrich the cultural heritage of Uttar Pradesh and to make folk art famous all over the world including the country.
- Theme of Sanskriti Utsav: Uttar Pradesh Festival: Our Culture-Our Identity’

### **Statue of ‘Jatayu’ installed at Ayodhya Mandir complex**

- A bronze idol of ‘Jatayu’ has been installed at historic ‘Kuber Tila’ located in the Ram Janmabhoomi complex in Ayodhya.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to offer his tributes at the idol on January 22, 2024, before presiding over the consecration ceremony.
- Treasurer of the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Trust, Govind Devagiri

### Bihar Launches 'Mission Daksh'

- To Aid 25 Lakh Academically Weak Students .
- Full name: 'Mission Daksh' (Dynamic Approach for Knowledge and Skill).
- Aim: aiding around 25 lakh students facing academic challenges in Classes 3-8 in government-operated schools.
- Each teacher will mentor only five students, specifically those struggling with fluency in Hindi and English and facing challenges in basic Mathematics.
- To ensure the effective implementation of 'Mission Daksh,' district-wise monitoring committees, led by district magistrates, will oversee the program's progress.
- The committees will play a pivotal role in daily supervision starting from December 1.
- Extra classes, held post-lunch with no more than five students at a time, will be conducted by teachers.
- All identified students are expected to take their final examinations in April 2024.
- The Education Department emphasizes that if these students fail, strict departmental action will be taken against headmasters, principals, and teachers.

### Lakadong Turmeric

- Meghalaya's Lakadong Turmeric gets Geographical Indication tag
- It is considered to be one of the world's best varieties of turmeric.
- It is darker in colour and is grown organically without the use of fertilisers.
- It is found in Lakadong area of Jaintia Hills, has high curcumin content.

### Banni Grassland : Setup Of Cheetah Breeding And Conservation Centre

- Central Government has approved setting up a cheetah breeding and conservation centre in the Banni Grassland.
- Banni Grassland is located along the northern border of Kachchh district.
- It is one of the largest grasslands in the Indian subcontinent with an area of over 2500 sq. km.
- The region also serves as a breeding ground for the Banni buffalo and the Kankrej cow.

### Garba' Dance

- UNESCO Adds Gujarat's 'Garba' Dance To Intangible Cultural Heritage List
- Gujarat's traditional dance form 'Garba' has been included in the list of Intangible Cultural Heritage by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

- The popular dance form is the 15th cultural item from India to make it to the UNESCO list.
- Kolkata's Durga Puja was the last one added two years ago.

### Gujarat To Unveil India's First Submarine Tourism In Dwarka 2023

- Gujarat has joined hands with the Mazgaon Dock Limited (MDL) in a project to explore the marine life surrounding Bet Dwarka, a small island off the coast of Dwarka city
- The tourism facility is likely to be operationalised before Diwali 2024.
- It will enable tourists to dive 100 metres below the sea in a submarine to experience the marine life around the island.

### Free Education Scheme For Girls From Kg To Pg In Rajasthan

- Along with this, the government has decided to provide jobs to 2.5 lakh youth in the next five years.
- The government will provide gas cylinders to poor families for Rs. 450.
- The government itself will bear the subsidy amount for this.

### Drone Academy at Telangana Agri University

- The Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has approved the Drone Academy at Professor Jayashankar Telangana State Agricultural University (PJTSAU).
- Aim: "PJTSAU Drone Academy" for the benefit of the farming community of Telangana state.
- Remote Pilot Training Organization (RPTO), which will provide agri-drone pilot training to farmers, diploma holders, Agri graduates, unemployed rural youth with the assistance from M/s. Marut Drone tech Private Limited, Hyderabad.

### 5 Lakh Accident Insurance For GiG Workers

- Telangana Announces Rs 5 Lakh Accident Insurance For GiG Workers
- Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy said the state government will provide Rs 5 lakh accident insurance to gig workers such as those involved in food delivery, and driving cabs and auto-rickshaws.
- he also assured the gig workers that the government would provide Rs 10 lakh health cover under the Rajiv Arogyasri scheme.
- GiG workers: A gig worker is someone who works on a temporary or flexible basis, often for multiple clients or companies, performing tasks or projects typically facilitated through digital platforms or apps.

### Maha Lakshmi Scheme

- **Telangana** government has issued guidelines for the implementation of Maha Lakshmi scheme, aimed at **providing free travel to women in TSRTC buses**.
- The Maha Lakshmi scheme aims to provide **free travel for girls, women of all age groups, and transgender persons in state-run Palle Velugu and express buses** operated by the **Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TSRTC)** within the borders of **Telangana State**.

### Praja Palana Program

- **Praja Palana Program** Launched By **Telangana Govt To Address Citizens' Needs**
- **Aim: addressing the needs of the people at the grassroots level.**
- The **Praja Palana** programme is designed to gather **comprehensive information about the needs of the residents, creating a detailed database at the grassroots level.**

### Urban Flood Mitigation Project

- **PM approves the first urban flood mitigation project** for the **'Integrated Urban Flood Management Activities for Chennai Basin Project (IUFM)'**
- This initiative, under the **National Disaster Mitigation Fund (NDMF)**, includes **Central assistance of Rs. 500 crore** and aims to make **Chennai flood-resilient**.
- **National Disaster Mitigation Fund (NDMF):** The NDMF was **established by the Central Government on February in 2021**.
- **IUFM** is a **holistic approach** that stresses the **interrelationship between socioeconomic development, environmental sustainability, and flood-risk management**.

### South East Asia's First Night Sky Sanctuary

- **Ladakh** will have **South East Asia's first Night Sky Sanctuary at Hanle**
- Union Minister **Dr Jitendra Singh** informed that the Sanctuary is being set up with the help of **Indian Institute of Astrophysics Bengaluru**, which is affiliated to the **Department of Science & Technology, Govt of India**.
- The **Dark Sky Reserve** will host a **number of optical, infrared, and gamma-ray telescopes**.
- **Dark Sky Reserve** is an area which has **minimum or no light pollution**.
- **Light pollution** refers to the **excess amount of artificial light at night, which endangers the ecosystem by harming the animals whose lives depend on the dark**.
- It is **adjacent to the Indian Astronomical Observatory, the second-highest optical telescope in the world, of the**

**Indian Institute of Astrophysics at Hanle** is at an elevation of **4500 metres**.

- The **World's highest astronomical observatory** is the **University of Tokyo Atacama Observatory**.

### Saffron of Kishtwar

- **Saffron of Kishtwar district of J&K** receives **GI tag** from **Geographical Indications Registry**
- This type of saffron is **cultivated and harvested in high altitude areas**.
- The **famous most expensive variety of saffron** is known as **'Kumkum'**.
- It is the **main cash crop of Kishtwar district**.
- **Kishtwar's saffron production area** is called locally as **Mandal**.

### Silkyara-Barkot tunnel in Uttarakhand

- The **under-construction tunnel** from the **Silkyara side** had collapsed on **November 13** trapping **41 workers in the 2 km stretch towards the Barkot side**.
- The **Silkyara-Barkot tunnel** is part of the **ambitious Char Dham all-weather road project of the Central Government**.

### AI-powered Vidhya Samiksha Kendra

- **Himachal Pradesh State** Launched **AI-powered Vidhya Samiksha Kendra**
- Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister **Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu** inaugurated the **'Vidhya Samiksha Kendra' in Shimla**, a **data repository that will contain data of all the schemes run by the Ministry of Education (MoE)**.
- **Aim of Vidhya Samiksha Kendra** - **tracking student enrolment, progress in their learning levels, Out of School Children mainstreamed, textbook delivery, support required by teachers and schools, etc.**
- It marks a **significant step towards achieving excellence in education through technology and data integration**.

### Rare Metal 'Tantalum' In Sutlej River

- **IIT Ropar** Discovers **Rare Metal 'Tantalum' In Sutlej River, Punjab**
- A team of researchers from the **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Ropar**, found the **presence of tantalum, a rare metal, in the Sutlej river sand in Punjab**.
- **Tantalum** is a rare metal with the **atomic number 73**.

### Space Tech And Aviation 2047' Conference

- **New Delhi** Hosts **'Space Tech And Aviation 2047' Conference**
- A **two-day international conference and exhibition on 'Space Technology and Aviation in 2047'** was organized



by the Aeronautical Society of India (AESI) at New Delhi.

- The **theme** of this conference has been kept as 'Space Technology and Aviation in 2047'.
- The event will **focus on India's success in space technology and aviation** over the last **75 years**, showcasing achievements, technological advancements and the role of great visionaries.
- **Chief guest of the program: President Draupadi Murmu**
- **Aeronautical Society of India (AESI):** AESI was established in the year **1948** to **promote the space technology and aviation sector in India.**

#### PUSA-44

- Recently, **Punjab Chief Minister** announced that the state will **ban the cultivation of the PUSA-44 paddy variety from next year onwards.**
- It is a paddy variety which was **developed in 1993** by the **Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).**
- Farmers claim that PUSA-44 yields nearly 34 to 40 quintals per acre, while other varieties' yield average is 28 to 30 quintals per acre.

#### Jamrani Dam Multipurpose Project

##### Approval and Funding:

- Cabinet approved inclusion under PMKSY-AIBP.
- Central support: Rs.1,557.18 crore.
- Total cost: Rs.2,584.10 crore by March 2028.

##### Project Details:

- Dam near Jamrani village, Nainital district, Uttarakhand
- Hydro power: 63.4 Million Units, 14 MW.

##### PMKSY Overview:

- Launched in 2015-16.
- 2021-26 outlay: Rs.93,068.56 crore.
- Gadkari inaugurates 418-feet national flag at Attari-Wagah border, tallest in country.

#### Tallest National Flag

- **Event:** Union Minister Nitin Gadkari inaugurated a **418-feet national flag at Attari, Punjab**, the tallest in India.
- **Surveillance:** A surveillance system atop the flag aids BSF troops in monitoring border activities.
- **Constitutional Duty:** Article 51A(a) mandates citizens to respect the Constitution, National Flag, and Anthem.
- **Adoption:** The Indian flag was adopted on **July 22, 1947.**

#### 'Hope Initiative'

- In **Punjab**, efforts to make the state completely drug-free are going at different levels currently.
- The state government also started the mission 'Hope Initiative' in this regard from Amritsar.
- This anti-drug 'Hope Initiative' has been embarked with a three fold strategy of Pray, Pledge, and Play which is first of its kind mass movement against drugs to break the backbone of this menace.

#### PM Launched India's First Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS)

- PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the priority section of the **Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) Corridor** and simultaneously launched the **RapidX train**, symbolizing the beginning of RRTS operations in India.
- The event took place at the **Sahibabad RapidX Station in Uttar Pradesh** on October 20, 2023.
- With a remarkable design speed of **180 kilometers per hour**, RRTS aims to provide high-speed trains for intercity commuting every **15 minutes**, with the potential to increase frequency to as often as every **5 minutes**, depending on demand.
- **Rapid Rail Transit Services (RRTS)** trains to be known as 'Namo Bharat'

#### Jai Bhim Mukhyamatri Pratibha Vikas Yojna

- Launched By **Delhi Government** eligible students belonging to **SC/ST/OBC/EWS** categories get **free competitive examinations coaching** under the "Jai Bhim Mukhyamatri Pratibha Vikas Yojna."
- This scheme was launched in 2018.
- That year it was launched only for SC & ST students.

#### Udaipur set to become India's first Wetland City

- The city, known for its **numerous lakes**, including **Lake Pichola, Lake Fateh Sagar, Lake Doodh Talai, Lake Rang Sagar, and Lake Swaroop Sagar.**
- Additionally, Udaipur is a participant in the central government's **National Lakes Conservation Plan**, a program aimed at restoring these crucial water bodies.
- Currently, the city's nomination is in the process of being submitted to the **Ramsar Convention** for approval.
- Bhopal is also trying to being recognized as India's first wetland city. Currently, there are **42 wetland cities** worldwide.

#### Gujarat's Dhordo Awarded UNWTO's Best Tourism Village 2023

- The **Dhordo village** in **Kutch district of Gujarat** was awarded the **Best Tourism Village** by the **United Nations**

### World Tourism Organization (UNWTO).

- Dhordo is well-known for hosting the annual Rann Utsav, a vibrant cultural festival showcasing the region's traditional art, music, and crafts.

### India's First Liquid Nano DAP Fertiliser Plant

- Union Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurated India's first liquid nano di-ammonia phosphate (DAP) plant established by IFFCO at Kalol in Gandhinagar.
- Unlike the solid DAP and Urea, the liquid nano DAP will not affect the nutrients in the soil and will have zero harmful metal particles.

### Jharkhand First State To Take Steps To Ensure Minimum Wages For Gig Workers

- Gig workers such as Swiggy, Zomato, Ola, Uber, and Rapido employees
- A committee has been formed under the state's labor department, to address this issue.
- The Minimum Wages Act, 1948, provides for fixing minimum rates of wages in scheduled employments including those in the private sector.

### Odisha CM launches LAccMI public transport system

- Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik of Odisha launched the Location Accessible Multimodal Initiative (LAccMI) scheme from Malkangiri to connect panchayat and block headquarters with district headquarters by bus.
- Scheme will connect farmers with markets, patients to hospitals

### Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Declared Gangetic Dolphin As State Aquatic Animal

- These dolphins are found in rivers like Ganga, Yamuna, Chambal, Ghaghra.
- The estimated population of Gangetic dolphins in Uttar Pradesh is estimated at around 2000.
- Indus River Dolphin: Now found only in the lower parts of the Indus River in Pakistan and in River Beas, a tributary of the Indus River in Punjab, India.
- On 1 February 2019, the endangered Indus River dolphin has been declared as Punjab's State aquatic animal.
- The 'Gangetic River Dolphin' was declared the national aquatic animal of India.
- The Union Environment Ministry has designated October 5 as National Dolphin Day
- The Ganges river dolphin was officially discovered in 1801.

### Aligarh Muslim University To Launch Its Own Satellite, Gets Nod From IN-SPACE

- The Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) has initiated work

on its own ambitious space programme which has been approved by the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACe), working under the Department of Space.

- The project involves the development of 'SS AMU SAT', the first satellite programme named after its founder, Sir Syed Ahmad Khan.
- The SS AMU SAT is a Nanosatellite Project which began in November 2021 under the AMU Robo Club.
- The satellite is a 3U CubeSat with multiple objectives which include the study of economic growth in India's poorest districts using satellite imagery and the implementation of an in-house developed image compression technology for faster multimedia transmission.
- SS AMU SAT to its launch into the Lower Earth Orbit.
- The students' team, which is involved in the development of the project, is led by Poorti Varshney and mentored by Dr. C. A. Prabhakar (Former Project Director, ISRO)

### Madhya Pradesh announces 35 % reservation for women in govt jobs

- CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan of the Madhya Pradesh government issued a notification for providing 35 percent reservation for women in recruitment, barring the forest department.
- The government has introduced an amendment to the Madhya Pradesh Civil Services (Special Provision for Appointment of Women) Rules, 1997 to provide 35 per cent reservation for women in the state.
- Madhya Pradesh was the first state to introduce 50 percent reservation for women in elections to panchayats and urban bodies.
- It also has a 30 percent reservation for women in the police.
- The state also offers concessional tariffs for registry of property in case it is in a woman's name.

### Inaugurated the country's first high-tech sports training center for Divyangjan

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the country's first high-tech sports training center for Divyangjan, named after former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee, in Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh.
- This initiative aims to provide equal opportunities in sports, enhance talent, and encourage participation in various sports disciplines.

### Bhopal's Mahila Thana become country's first to get ISO certification

- The Mahila thana (women police station) of Bhopal became the first women-centric police station across the entire country to be conferred with the ISO 9001:2015 certificate.

- The ISO certification is a testament to the station's commitment to improving its services and facilities, ensuring quality, safety, and efficiency.

### **Maharashtra government approves to establish Independent ST Commission**

- Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde said that approval has been given to establish an Independent Scheduled Tribes Commission for Maharashtra on the lines of the Central Government.
- The proposal was approved in the State Tribal Advisory Council meeting held in Mumbai.

### **Maharashtra govt approves 'Lek Ladki' scheme**

- Maharashtra Government has approved the 'Lek Ladki' (Beloved Daughter) scheme.
- The scheme will provide a financial aid of one lakh rupees for a girl child of poor family.
- The state government has said that the scheme will be effective for girls born post 1st of April 2023.

### **India's first solar roof cycling track inaugurated in Hyderabad**

- India's first solar rooftop cycling track 'Healthway' inaugurated in Hyderabad, paving the way for sustainable urban mobility.
- A total of 16,000 solar panels have been installed along the track.

### **Sarakka Central Tribal University Approved For Telangana**

- Union Cabinet approves the setting up of Sammakka Sarakka Central Tribal University in Telangana
- The Central Tribal University in Telangana is being named in honour of the tribal goddesses Sammakka and Sarakka
- The Union Cabinet chaired by PM Narendra Modi gave its approval for the introduction in Parliament, a Bill, namely, the Central Universities (Amendment), Bill, 2023 further to amend the Central Universities Act, 2009.

### **Kerala becomes the first State to have hallmarking centres in all districts**

- Kerala became the first state in India to have hallmarking centres in all 14 districts.
- Aim: It will make Kerala a hub of gold business and further strengthen its claim to being the most reliable market in the country to buy gold ornaments

### **Tamil Nadu's first AI-based early warning system for elephant**

- Tamil Nadu is close to completing its first artificial intelligence (AI)-based early warning system designed to protect wild elephants from train collisions along the

Ettimadai-Walayar railway section.

- This initiative involves the installation of 12 e-surveillance towers equipped with thermal imaging cameras to monitor elephant movements.
- Once fully functional, the system will alert forest department staff and railway authorities to reduce train speed, enhancing elephant safety in the region.

### **In Ladakh, construction for world's new highest motorable road begins**

- The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) has started a ground breaking project to construct the 'Likaru-Mig La-Fukche' road in Ladakh.
- **Goal:** To establish the world's highest motorable road, spanning an altitude of approximately 19,400 feet, surpassing the previous record held by Umling La Pass.
- The 64-km-long road will provide connectivity to the military's farthest outposts in the sensitive sector Fukche.
- Reportedly, an all-woman unit of the BRO began the construction of the Likaru-Mig La-Fukche road.

### **India launches first hydrogen fuel cell bus service in Leh**

- India's first hydrogen fuel cell bus service begins in Leh (Ladakh), marking the first commercial trial of this futuristic technology on public roads.
- The venture is being executed by NTPC, India's largest power-generating company.
- NTPC is supplying five hydrogen fuel cell buses to Leh Administration for intra-city movement.
- The company has set up a fueling station and a 1.7 MW captive solar plant to generate green hydrogen, which will be used to power buses.
- Ashok Leyland is the supplier of the buses.
- NTPC is committed to achieve 60 gigawatt (GW) of renewable energy capacity by 2032

### **Srinagar topped the 'Jal Jeevan Survekshan 2023' rankings**

- Srinagar district has been given status of the top performing district under Jal Jeevan Survekshan (JJS-2023) among 114 Har Ghar Jal certified villages across the country
- Jal Jeevan Mission was announced by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 15th August, 2019.
- Aim - to ensure that every rural household in India receives secure and sufficient drinking water via individual tap connections by the year 2024.

### **India's first post office near LoC**

- India's first post office near LoC has been inaugurated in Kupwara district of Jammu and Kashmir.



- This **post office** is located on the banks of the **Kishanganga River** near the **Line of Actual Control (LoC)**.

#### UP government to build country's largest IT Hub in Lucknow

- The **Uttar Pradesh** government will set up the **country's largest IT hub in Lucknow**.
- The **IT hub** will be located on **40 acres of land** in the **Nadarganj Industrial Area of Amausi on Kanpur Road**.
- The hub will be divided into three parts: **IT Park, Business Park, and International Incubation Facility Center**.

#### New Amravati Station Becomes Central Railway's Third 'Pink Station'

- **Central Railway** has inaugurated the **New Amravati station** as the 1st "**Pink Station**" on the **Bhusaval Division** and the **3rd station on Central Railway** to be fully managed by an **all-women staff**.
- The examples are set by **Matunga station** in the **Mumbai division** and **Ajni station** in the **Nagpur division**.

#### Bihar to Constitute 'Rhino Task Force' for Reintroduction of Rhino Conservation Scheme

- The **Bihar government** to constitute '**Rhino Task Force**' for suggesting measures for the reintroduction of rhino conservation scheme in '**Valmiki Tiger Reserve**' in **West Champaran district**.
- It has been decided to **increase the rhino-bearing areas in VTR by five per cent in the next two years**.
- **India plays a crucial role** in the conservation of **one-horned rhinoceros**, with **approximately 75% of the world population of rhino** resides in **India** and more than **93% of the Indian rhino population** lives in just one protected area in **Assam- The Kaziranga National Park**.
- **Valmiki Tiger Reserve**, located in the **West Champaran district of Bihar**, was established as the **18<sup>th</sup> tiger reserve in 1990 VTR**, the **only national park in Bihar**, recently recorded a **75 per cent increase in tiger numbers** — from **31 in 2018 to 54 in 2022**.
- There has been an **increase of 23 tigers** in the last our years.

#### Odisha is the 1st state to give land rights to slum dwellers

- **Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik** has distributed land right certificates to the **65,000 poor families** living in the **slums of five metropolitan cities including Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Berhampur, Sambalpur, and Rourkela**.
- **Odisha** is the only state in the country to give land rights to slum dwellers
- On this occasion, the Chief Minister said that "**financial assistance will also be provided for the construction of houses**."

- The second phase of the certificate will be issued next **October**.
- This **campaign will continue till all the poor families of the city get land rights**.
- The **Jaga Mission program**, which started in **2018**, provides land rights to poor families living in urban slums.
- Till now more than two lakh **40 thousand families** got **land rights in the state**.

#### Tata Steel and ACME Group Join Forces For India's Largest Green Hydrogen Project

- Worth **Rs 27,000 Crore** In **Odisha** **ACME Group**, a prominent renewable energy company, has joined forces with **Tata Steel Special Economic Zone Ltd. (TSSEZL)** to establish an **expansive green hydrogen and green ammonia project** within **Odisha's Gopalpur Industrial Park**.
- This venture is to **become the largest facility of its kind in India**, marking a significant stride towards sustainable energy production.
- The **green ammonia production facility** will have a capacity of nearly **1.3 MTPA (million tonnes per annum)**.
- **Green hydrogen**, created through the **electrolysis process** using **renewable energy sources**, will be used in the **green ammonia facility**.

#### Kolkata becomes the third Indian city to adopt an Air Quality Early Warning System (AQEWS)

- After **Delhi and Pune** The system, developed by the **Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM) in Pune**, aims to address rising air pollution levels in urban areas.
- **AQEWS in Kolkata** uses an **advanced sensor network** to provide **real-time monitoring of the Air Quality Index (AQI)**.
- **AQI** is a **standardized measure** of the level of **air pollution**, with a value ranging from **0 to 500**.
- The system focuses on **PM2.5 (particles with a diameter of 2.5 micrometers or smaller)** levels, which is a major contributor to health problems due to its ability to enter the lungs.

#### Guwahati airport becomes first in northeast to get 'Digi Yatra' facility

- **Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International (LGBI) Airport** in **Guwahati**, become the first in the northeast to **launch Digi Yatra** for **hassle-free travel**.
- **Aim: To eliminate the need for verification of tickets and IDs at various touchpoints**.
- The **Digi Yatra** service will be available in three major areas namely – **first entrance, check-in and boarding areas**.

- Passengers will be able to register their documents on the 'Digi Yatra' app and enter the airport by scanning their Faces.

### Gujarat announced 27% reservation for OBCs in local bodies like panchayat

- The Gujarat government announced a **27 percent reservation for Other Backward Classes** in local bodies like **panchayats, municipalities, and civic corporations**.
- In the **Panchayats Extension to Scheduled Areas** notified areas, the **reservation for OBCs will continue to be 10 percent to protect the interest of tribals**.
- The **existing quota for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes** will remain unchanged and there has been **no breach of the 50 percent reservation ceiling**.
- Navi Mumbai to become country's first septic tank-free city
- Navi Mumbai is set to become the **first city in the country to be septic tank-free and have toilets in 100% of households soon**.
- The Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation (NMMC) is **taking measures by building household toilets in slums and laying drainage pipe networks**, bringing down the number of septic tanks.
- The NMMC has laid a network of sewage drains all over the city with **7 sewage treatment plants** being set up with the help of **Central government funds**.

### Maharashtra Government Launches 'Bhagwan Birsa Munda Jodaraste Scheme' to

- **Connect Tribal Villages with Main Roads** Aims to **enhance road connectivity in tribal areas of the 17 districts of the state**.
- The **project is estimated to cost Rs 5,000 crore** and **nearly 6,838 km of roads** will be constructed as part of the scheme.
- **Maharashtra Casino Act repealed**: In another decision, the **Maharashtra cabinet** also decided to **repeal the 45-year-old Maharashtra Casinos (Control and Tax) Act, 1976**, announcing that the state will not have casinos in the future.

### In a first in India, Goa to give free IVF treatment in govt hospital

- **Goa has become the first Indian state to offer free in vitro fertilization (IVF) treatment**.
- Chief Minister Pramod Sawant inaugurated the **Assisted reproductive technology (ART) and intrauterine insemination (IUI)**, at the **Goa Medical College (GMC)** in Bambolim.

#### About IVF

- During in vitro fertilization, mature eggs are collected from ovaries and fertilized by sperm in a lab.

- Then a procedure is done to place one or more of the fertilized eggs, called embryos, in a uterus.

### India's First Village Atlas' is of Mayem In Goa

- **Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant** released a biodiversity atlas of **Mayem village** in **North Goa**, which he termed as **"India's first village atlas"**.
- This atlas gives a socio-cultural history of **Mayem village** that dates back to **12th century**, and also details the **floral and faunal biodiversity of the village**.
- There are **huge funds to be tapped for villages that have registered biodiversity atlases**.
- For every lake, the government of India is ready to give **Rs 10 crore to maintain it**.

### Telangana Launches Gruha Lakshmi Scheme 2023

- The **Telangana government** is set to launch the **Gruha Lakshmi scheme in 2023**, a financial assistance program for women from **SC, ST, and BC communities** to help them **build or improve their homes**.
- The scheme will provide each beneficiary with a **one-time grant of Rs. 3 lakh**.
- The **Gruha Lakshmi scheme** is part of the **Telangana government's efforts to empower women and provide them with access to affordable housing**.
- The scheme is being funded by a budget of **Rs. 12,000 crore**.

### Telangana launches India's first Agricultural Data Exchange

- **Telangana** has launched **India's first Agricultural Data Exchange (ADeX) and Agriculture Data Management Framework (ADMF)**.
- The **ADeX** is a **collaboration between the Telangana Government, the World Economic Forum, and the Indian Institute of Science**.
- Both **ADeX and ADMF** provide the **right platform to ensure fair and efficient usage of agricultural data by the industry and startups** and provide a big boost to the data economy specifically in the agriculture sector.
- In **Phase-I** of the project, the **ADeX Platform** is currently deployed in **Khammam district** and will be expanded to the entire State over a period.

### India gets first-ever night street racing circuit in Chennai

- Also, it would become the **first-ever street circuit in India and South Asia that will be hosting a night race**
- The state government has partnered with **Racing Promotions Private Limited (RRPL)** for the project.
- **RRPL** is also the promoter of the **Indian Racing League and F4 Indian Championship**.

### Kerala Assembly passes resolution to rename state as Keralam

- The resolution, moved by Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan, was passed unanimously.
- To **change the name of a state**, approval from the Union Ministry of Home Affairs is required.
- **Article 3** deals with the **formation of new States and alteration of areas, boundaries or names of existing States**.
- The **state of Kerala** came into **being on November 1, 1956**.
- In Malayalam, the state was referred to as **Keralam**, while in **English** it was **Kerala**.

### Kerala launches its first AI school in Thiruvananthapuram

- Former (14th) President **Ram Nath Kovind** inaugurated **Kerala's first AI (Artificial intelligence) school** at **Santhigiri Vidyabhavan in Thiruvananthapuram**.
- It is an **innovative learning method that ensures international standards and quality learning opportunities for students** with the help of **artificial intelligence technology**.
- It is designed and **molded by one of the world's most advanced educational platforms iLearning Engines USA** in collaboration with **Vedhik eSchool**.

### India's first 3D-printed post office inaugurated in Bengaluru

- Built in **43 days** Union Minister **Ashwini Vaishnaw** virtually inaugurated **the post office, the construction of which was carried out by Larsen & Toubro Limited** with technological support from **IIT Madras**.
- About two years ago, Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** inaugurated **India's first 3D-printed house**, constructed on the campus of the **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras** by **Tvasta Manufacturing Solutions**.
- Contrary to traditional construction methods, **3D printing uses a robotic arm to create layers using a special concrete mixture fed into the system**.
- The mixture has special adhesives for quick drying and other uses.

### India's First Drone Common Testing Centre To Be Established In Tamil Nadu

- **Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation (TIDCO)** is set to establish **India's first Unmanned Aerial Systems (Drone) Common Testing Centre**.
- This centre will be established on an area of **2.3 acres** at the **SIPCOT Industrial Park, Vallam Vadagal near Sriperumbudur**.
- The **testing centre** to be set up at an estimated cost of **Rs.45 crore**

- The testing centre would enable the State to be a significant contributor to the self-reliance of the country in the aerospace and defence sectors.

### India begins construction of world's highest combat airfield at Nyoma in Ladakh

- The **Border Roads Organization (BRO)** is building the **world's highest combat airfield at Nyoma in Ladakh**.
- **Defense Minister Rajnath Singh** will lay the foundation stone of this project at **Devak Bridge** in Jammu on **September 12, 2023**.
- **Nyoma**, a major village in **southern Ladakh**, already **hosts an Indian Air Force** base and an **Advanced Landing Ground (ALG)**, established in 1962.
- The altitude of Nyoma reaches an impressive **4,180 meters (13,710 ft)** above sea level, making it one of the highest altitudes in the region.

### Tripura to set up pink toilets for women

- The Tripura government has initiated efforts to **install pink toilets for women in urban areas**.
- The number of **self-help groups (SHGs)** has risen from over **4,000** in 2018 to **50,000** in 2022.
- Will set up pink toilets for women in urban areas and an outlay (for it) has been earmarked in the budget.
- The government has also **thirty-three percent reservation for women in government jobs**. **50 percent reservation for them to operate shops in government shopping complexes** are some of the steps taken toward women empowerment.
  - ❖ Capital – Agartala
  - ❖ Chief Minister – Manik Saha

### Free Movement Regime:

- Manipur Chief Minister recently said that his government has urged the Union Home Ministry to **cancel the free movement regime along the India-Myanmar border and complete its fencing**.
- Under the FMR, **all the hill tribes, whether they are citizens of India or Myanmar**, can travel within **16 km** on either side of the **Indo-Myanmar Border (IMB)**.
- They **can cross the border by producing a border pass with a one-year validity** issued by the **competent authority** and **can stay up to two weeks per visit**.
- While the majority of Meiteis have accused these illegal migrants and the alleged "narco-terror network" along the Indo-Myanmar Border (IMB) of fomenting trouble in the state, the Kukis have blamed the Meiteis and Chief Minister N Biren Singh, a Meitei himself, of using making this a pretext for "ethnic cleansing".
- The FMR was implemented in 2018 as part of the Central government's Act East policy.
- FMR is implemented by **both governments for the people living along the IMB**.



- This helps locals to get more culturally assimilated with trans-border villages through weddings, celebrating common festivals together and trans-border trade.
- The border between India and Myanmar was demarcated by the British in 1826, without seeking the opinion of the people living in the region.
- The border effectively splits people of the same ethnicity and culture into two nations without their consent.
- **Indo-Myanmar Border (IMB):**
  - ❖ It runs for 1,643 km in the four states of Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland, and Arunachal Pradesh.
  - ❖ Assam Rifles is tasked with guarding the IMB.

#### Assam Governor launches 'Sarpanch Samvad' app

- Assam Governor Gulab Chand Kataria unveiled 'Sarpanch Samvaad', a mobile application app
- The app has been developed by the Quality Council of India (QCI).
- Aim: To connect approximately 2.5 lakh Sarpanchs across India, which serves as a holistic platform for networking, knowledge dissemination, and collaboration.
- Through this initiative, Sarpanchs can spotlight developmental activities in their villages, learn about best practices, and foster connections nationwide.
- Quality Council of India, established in 1997 by the Government of India

#### State Health Minister launches "Mission Intensified IndraDhanush" 5.0

- Punjab state Health Minister Balbir Singh launched "Mission Intensified Indra Dhanush" 5.0 Dr BR Ambedkar Medical College in Mohali.
- Aim: To provide vaccination against 12 Vaccine-Preventable Diseases (VPD) i.e. diphtheria, Whooping cough, tetanus, polio, tuberculosis, hepatitis B, meningitis and pneumonia.
- The main purpose of the launch of this mission is to cover those pregnant women who are partially vaccinated or unvaccinated as well as children left out and drop out in the age group of 0-5 years.
- Mission Indradhanush was launched in 2014 as a special drive to expand full immunization coverage in India.
- Ministry: Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW).
- Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI)
- It was launched in October 2017.
- Under IMI, greater focus was given on urban areas which were one of the gaps of Mission Indradhanush.

#### Country's First Cartography Museum Inaugurated In Mussorie

- To celebrate World Tourism Day on September 27, Satpal Maharaj, the Minister of Tourism and Culture in

Uttarakhand, officially opened India's First Cartography Museum, which will be known as the Sir George Everest Museum.

- The museum is situated in Park Estate, which used to be the residence of the famous surveyor Sir George Everest
- Cartography is the art, science, and technology of making and using maps.

#### Haryana CM Khattar launches new e-Bhoomi portal

- Haryana CM Manohar Lal Khattar launched a new e-Bhoomi portal that promises to further ease the process of purchasing land for the development of government projects with the consent of landowners.
- He said the offer of land on the new portal would be valid for six months.
- Farmers can offer their land independently or through listed aggregators.
- A minimum offer of 10 acres has been made mandatory for voluntary offers made by aggregators.

#### Narendra Modi Celebrates 20th Anniversary of Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has addressed the programme marking 20 years of celebration of the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit at Science City in Ahmedabad.
- The Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit was started 20 years ago on 28 September 2003 under the visionary leadership of the then Chief Minister of Gujarat Narendra Modi.
- It has played a significant role in transforming Gujarat into an attractive investment destination.
- The 10th edition of the Vibrant Summit is scheduled to take place from January 10 to 12, 2024, at the Mahatma Mandir in Gandhinagar.

#### Ahmedabad becomes second city in India to implement emission trading scheme

- The Gujarat government announced that after Surat, Ahmedabad has become the second city in the country to implement an emission trading scheme (ETS) for particulate pollution that will help regulate industrial emissions and reduce the state's pollution levels.
- Aim: To reduce particulate pollutants PM2.5 and PM10.
- Objective: to ensure a balance between economic development and environment preservation.
- The scheme will cover 118 industries in Ahmedabad.

#### MP's 7th Tiger Reserve: Nauradehi & Veerangana Durgavati Sanctuaries Merged

- 'Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve' becomes Madhya Pradesh's 7th protected habitat for big cats
- Location: It is spread across Sagar, Damoh and Narsinghpur districts of Madhya Pradesh.

- It is spread over an area of **2,339 square kilometres**.
- Rivers: Parts of the reserve fall under the **Narmada and Yamuna River basins**
- The **Singargarh Fort** is located within the reserve.
- As per the report '**Status of Tigers: Co-predators & Prey in India-2022**', released by the **National Tiger Conservation Authority and Wildlife Institute of India, MP (785)** has the highest number of tigers in the country, followed by **Karnataka (563) and Uttarakhand (560)**.

#### MP's Mob Lynching Victim Compensation Scheme

- **Madhya Pradesh government** will provide **Rs 10 lakh** as compensation to the kin of any person killed in a mob lynching incident.
- There will be a provision of compensation of **Rs 4 to Rs 6 lakh for the injured**.
- This will also include **all those incidents of mob lynching that occur due to religion, caste, language or any other reason**.
- Under the scheme, **mob lynching will be considered in which five or more accused are involved**.
- Besides the **MP Mob Lynching Victim Compensation Scheme 2023**, the cabinet also approved a housing scheme for homeless families and doubled the honorarium being given to guest faculty.
- The cabinet has also increased the honorarium of guest teachers for class one from **Rs 9,000 to Rs 18,000**, class two from **Rs 7,000 to Rs 14,000** and class three to **Rs 10,000 from Rs 5,000**.

#### Shivraj Singh Chouhan To Inaugurate 108-Foot Tall Statue Of Adi Shankaracharya In Omkareshwar

- **Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan** will reveal a magnificent **108-foot-tall statue** dedicated to the esteemed philosopher **Adi Shankaracharya** in **Omkareshwar, Madhya Pradesh** on September 18.
- This **monumental project**, named **"Eakmta Ki Pratima" (Statue of Oneness)**
- The **Madhya Pradesh cabinet** has allocated a substantial budget of over **Rs 2,141 crore** for the construction of the **Statue of Oneness project**
- In addition to the magnificent statue, the **Madhya Pradesh government** is embarking on a holistic development initiative in **Omkareshwar**.
- This includes the establishment of a museum named **"Advaita Lok,"** dedicated to the promotion and preservation of unity and the **Advaita Vedanta philosophy**.
- **Omkareshwar**, a temple town which houses one of the **12 Jyotirlings** dedicated to **Lord Shiva**

#### Chhattisgarh govt launches own housing scheme for state's homeless families

- **Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel** has launched

the **"Mukhyamantri Gramin Awas Nyay Yojana"** with the aim of providing assistance for constructing houses to eligible beneficiaries of the scheme across the state.

- The scheme includes beneficiaries who need housing but are not eligible for the scheme as per the survey list 2011 as the socio-economic and caste census was conducted by the **Union government in 2011**.
- The **Baghel government** decided to conduct the **"Chhattisgarh State Socio-Economic Survey 2023"** from April 1, 2023 to April 30, 2023. The survey included **5,979,000 families**, out of which **1,076,545 families** were found to be houseless and having kutcha houses.
- The state government will bear **100 percent cost** of the implementation of the scheme.

#### India's First Lighthouse Festival in Goa

- The **Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways and Ayush, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal** is going to inaugurate **India's First Lighthouse Festival** from the **Fort Aguada Lighthouse in Panjim**
- The **three days festival**, beginning **23rd September** and ending on **25th September** (part of an effort to promote the country's lighthouses as tourist attractions)
- **Shri Sonowal**, earlier launched a campaign '**Lighthouse Heritage Tourism**' to transform **75 historic lighthouses into Tourism Spots**.
- The **Aguada Jail** is part of the beautiful **Fort Aguada** which was built in the year **1612**.

#### Prayagraj Police Launches 'Savera' Scheme To Assist Senior Citizens

- The **Prayagraj police** have taken a proactive step towards ensuring the safety and well-being of senior citizens in their community.
- They have recently launched the '**Savera**' scheme, aimed at offering essential services during health and other emergencies to senior citizens residing in seven districts within the **Prayagraj zone**.
- Under the '**Savera**' scheme, the **Prayagraj police** are meticulously maintaining a comprehensive record of individuals aged **60 and above**.

#### President inaugurated first Uttar Pradesh international Trade Show

- **President Droupadi Murmu** inaugurated the **first Uttar Pradesh International Trade Show** in **India Expo Centre and Mart in Greater Noida**.
- The trade show will be held from **September 21 to 25**.
- Aim: To get international exposure and market opportunities.

### UP gov launches instant birth certificate for newborns at health facilities

- Newborns at government health facilities of Uttar Pradesh will now be issued birth registration certificates immediately after delivery without the parents having to apply for same.
- Gov has integrated its Maa Navjaat Tracking app (MaNTrA) with the birth registration system as part of its efforts to provide 'ease of living' to the citizens using digital technology
- UP has become the first state to implement suo motu birth registration for government health institutions
- The Directorate of Census Operations, Lucknow, has partnered with the Uttar Pradesh National Health Mission (NHM-UP), UNICEF, and the Office of the Registrar General of India, Delhi, to facilitate the generation of automatic birth registration certificates at government facilities

### West Bengal Assembly Resolution On 'Poila Baisakh' As State Foundation Day

- The West Bengal Legislative Assembly passed a resolution declaring 'Poila Baisakh', the first day of the Bengali calendar, as 'Bangla Dibas' or West Bengal Foundation Day.
- The resolution - under Rule 169 proposing to observe Poila Baisakh as 'Bangla Diwas' and Nobel laureate.
- Rabindranath Tagore's 'Banglar Mat, Banglar Jol' (Bengal's soil, Bengal's Water) as the state song - was passed
- West Bengal Assembly has decided to officially commemorate Poila Baisakh, the Bengali New Year's Day, as the official foundation day of the state on April 15.

### Jharkhand Cabinet approves 1k pension for transgender community

- Jharkhand Cabinet gave its approval for transgender persons to be provided benefits of the State Social Security Scheme under which they will be given a pension of Rs 1,000 per month.
- Transgenders are included in the category of OBC.
- Proposals are first, transgender persons should be declared as a third gender Second, Those transgender persons who are not covered under any other category for reservation should be included in the OBC at serial number 46 in the list.

### Bihar to get second tiger reserve in Kaimur district

- Bihar is set to get a second tiger reserve in Kaimur district (Kaimur Wildlife Sanctuary) by the end of the year or early 2024.

- The State Forest Department officials said they were working to obtain the National Tiger Reserve Conservation Authority's (NTCA) approval for declaring Kaimur Wildlife Sanctuary a tiger reserve.
- NTCA is a statutory body established in 2005 following the recommendations of the Tiger Task Force.
- Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change.
- The Valmiki Tiger Reserve (VTR) in West Champaran district, is currently the 1st and only tiger reserve of the state.
- The total tiger count in the State currently is 54.
- The district has a large forest cover and is home to tigers, leopards and chinkaras.

### Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah launched 'Gruha Lakshmi' scheme

- The Karnataka government has launched the 'Gruha Lakshmi' women's financial aid scheme in Mysuru.
- Under this scheme, about 1.1 crore women heads of family will get Rs 2,000 every month.
- The Karnataka government has earmarked Rs.17,500 crore for the 'Gruha Lakshmi' programme in the current financial year.
- Gruha Lakshmi scheme is one of the five pre-poll 'guarantees' of the Congress.

### India's first underground transformer unveiled in Bangalore

- First-of-its-kind underground transformer inaugurated in Bengaluru's Malleswaram.
- Besides freeing up space on footpaths and making them safer for pedestrians, underground transformer system will safeguard equipment from storms and variations in ambient temperature, thereby improving reliability of the system.
- Claimed to be the first-of-its-kind in India, Bangalore Electricity Supply Company (BESCOM) and Bruhat Bengaluru
- Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) have installed a 500 KV underground distribution transformer
- Social welfare scheme "Kalaingar Magalir Urimai Thogai Thittam" to be launched by Tamil Nadu Government
- Tamil Nadu government will provide monthly assistance of Rs 1,000 to more than 1 crore female family heads through Kalaingar Magalir Urimai Thogai Thittam.
- The scheme aims to provide Rs 1,000 per month to 1.06 crore eligible women who are heads of families.
- Beneficiaries will receive financial assistance through direct bank transfers and will be provided with ATM cards for easy access.



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**02**

Language  
Hindi /English

## INTERNATIONAL APPOINTMENTS, ELECTIONS ETC.

### Sheikh Hasina

- **Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina wins fourth straight term**
- Her **Awami League party** secured a **record fourth consecutive term and fifth overall term.**
- Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) lost.

### Tshering Tobgay

- **Bhutan's Tshering Tobgay becomes PM for second time**
- Mr. Tobgay, head of the liberal **People's Democratic Party (PDP)**, has served as PM of Bhutan from 2013 to 2018.
- Monarch/King of Bhutan - Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck.

### Gabriel Attal

- **Gabriel Attal Appointed as France's New Prime Minister.**
- At 34, he is the **youngest and first openly gay Prime Minister in modern French history.**
- **France President:** Emmanuel Macron.
- **Capital:** Paris, Situated on the Seine River.

### Lai Ching-te

- Lai Ching-te to be the President of Taiwan
- Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) candidate Lai Ching-te has won the Taiwanese presidential polls and is set to be the next President in Taiwan.

### Mr. Azali Assoumani

- **Prime Minister congratulates Mr. Azali Assoumani on being re-elected as Comoros President**
- PM Modi affirmed hope that the two countries will continue to work to strengthen the **India-Comoros partnership, the India-Africa partnership and the 'Vision Sagar'**
- The **Vision SAGAR initiative** was **launched on March 12, 2015, by PM Modi.**
- **Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR)**, is India's maritime cooperation doctrine in the Indian Ocean region
- Comoros is a **volcanic archipelago off the eastern coast of Africa.**
- Capital - Moroni
- Currency - Comorian franc

### Bernardo Arévalo sworn in as Guatemala's President

### Crown Prince Frederik X becomes King of Denmark

- **Crown Prince Frederik X** became the King, succeeding his mother, **Queen Margrethe II**, who formally abdicated

after **52 years as monarch.**

- 83-year-old Margrethe is the first Danish monarch to voluntarily resigned the throne in nearly 900 years.
- Australian-born Mary is the first commoner to become Queen of Denmark.

### King Sultan Ibrahim

- **Malaysia practices a unique rotational form of monarchy, in which the heads of the country's 9 royal families take turns to be king for a 5-year reign.**
- **Sultan Ibrahim, 65,** hails from the **southern state of Johor** whose **sultanate can be traced back to the 16th century**

### Feleti Teo

- Feleti Teo named **Tuvalu's new Prime Minister**
- **Tuvalu is a Polynesian micro-state in the South Pacific Ocean, made up of nine coral islands and atolls.**
- Capital - Funafuti

### Tamas Sulyok

- **Hungary's Parliament elected Tamas Sulyok as President** after the resignation of Katalin Novak.
- Hungary Capital : **Budapest**
- Hungary is a **landlocked country in Central Europe**
- Hungary is **part of the Danube drainage basin**, and the **Danube is the country's longest river**

### Maryam Nawaz

- Maryam Nawaz is the **daughter of three-time former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif.**
- Became the **first-ever woman Chief Minister of a province in Pakistan - the Punjab province**

### Alexander Stubb

- Former PM Alexander Stubb wins **Finland Presidential election**
- In **April 2023, Finland** became the **31st member of NATO.**
- Finland is a **Northern European nation bordering Sweden, Norway and Russia.**
- Capital, Helsinki
- Currency - Euro
- PM - Petteri Orpo

### Olzhas Bektenov

- **Kazakhstan** appoints Olzhas Bektenov as new **Prime Minister**
- Capital - Astana (renamed **Nursultan in 2019** to honor

former President Nursultan Nazarbayev)

### About Kazakhstan

- Largest country in Central Asia
- Largest landlocked country in the world
- Most of the country's territory is deserts - 44% and semi-deserts - 14%. Steppes occupy 26% of the area of Kazakhstan
- Kazakhstan is rich in oil, gas, and other mineral resources.
- It is the world's leading producer of aluminium

### Ahmed Awad bin Mubarak

- Yemen appoints Ahmed Awad bin Mubarak as its new Prime Minister
- Yemen, a nation in the Arabian Peninsula, is experiencing increased tensions as a result of a wave of Red Sea attacks on ships by Houthi rebels

### Vladimir Putin Wins Russian Presidential Elections For Record Fifth Term

- Bassirou Diomaye Faye Named As Senegal's Next President
- Luis Montenegro Named Portugal's Prime Minister
- Simon Harris to be Ireland's New Prime Minister
- 37-year-old Simon Harris is set to become Ireland's youngest ever (Prime Minister)

### Mohammad Mustafa

- Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas appointed Mohammad Mustafa to be the next New Prime Minister
- Mohammad Mustafa has been the long time economic advisor to the President

### Sardar Ramesh Singh Arora

- Pakistan gets first Sikh minister in Punjab province
- Sardar Ramesh Singh Arora, an influential minority leader, has been sworn in as a provincial minister.
- Mr. Arora has been allotted the portfolio of minorities of Punjab province in the cabinet of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz, incidentally, also the first woman to hold the post in the country.
- Mr. Arora was earlier appointed as the ambassador to the Kartarpur Corridor.

### Krystyna Pyszkova

- Krystyna Pyszkova from Czech Republic crowned Miss World
- The 71st Miss World pageant, held at the Jio World Convention Centre in Mumbai, saw participation from 112 countries.
- Last year's winner, Miss World 2022 Karolina Bielawska

of Poland crowned Krystyna as the 71st Miss World.

- The event was hosted by **Karan Johar and Megan Young**
- **India, the host after 28 years, was represented by Sini Shetty**
- India has previously won the title 6 times

### Rumy Alqahtani

- In a first, Saudi Arabia to now take part in Miss Universe 2024 competition
- Rumy Alqahtani will be country's representative in the Miss Universe 2024 competition.
- Miss Universe 2024 will be the 73rd Miss Universe pageant, to be held in Mexico.
- Miss Universe 2023 - Sheynnis Palacios from Nicaragua
- Mohammed bin Salman Al Saud also known by his initials MBS or MbS, is Crown Prince and Prime Minister of Saudi Arabia.

### Kristalina Georgieva

- Kristalina Georgieva Re-appointed as IMF Managing Director
- for a new 5 year term, starting on 1 October 2024.
- Headquarters of the IMF: Washington D.C, USA.
- International Monetary Fund is a major financial agency of the United Nations
- The IMF was created in July 1944
- India is a founder member of the IMF.

### Peter Pellegrini

- Pro-Russia candidate Peter Pellegrini elected Slovakia president
- Slovakia Capital: Bratislava

### Gita Sabharwal

- India's Gita Sabharwal Appointed as UN Resident Coordinator in Indonesia
- United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres appointed Sabharwal to the post.

### Lindy Cameron

- UK's First Woman High Commissioner to India: Lindy Cameron
- Lindy Cameron, UK's chief of cyber security, is named new envoy to India

### Judith Suminwa Tuluka

- Judith Suminwa Tuluka appointed first female Prime Minister of Democratic Republic of Congo
- CAPITAL: Kinshasa
- CURRENCY: Congolese Franc



- **PRESIDENT:** Felix Tshisekedi

### Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah

- Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah appointed as New Prime Minister Of Kuwait
- Former Prime Minister : Sheikh Mohammad Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah
- Capital: Kuwait City
- Currency : Kuwaiti Dinar

### Simon Harris

- **Simon Harris becomes Ireland's new Prime Minister**
- Simon Harris became Ireland's new prime minister (taoiseach), replacing Leo Varadkar
- President - Michael D. Higgins

### Lawrence Wong

- **Lawrence Wong will take over as prime minister of Singapore**
- Singapore has announced that Deputy Prime Minister Lawrence
- Wong will take over as the country's next leader on May 15.
- Wong will succeed Lee Hsien Loong who has held the top job for 20 years.

### Russ Cook

- British national Russ Cook Becomes First person to run the entire length of Africa

### Lai Ching-te

- **Lai Ching-te of Taiwan's ruling Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) was sworn in as new President amid increasing threats from China, which claims the self-governing island as its territory.**
- Taiwan has had an independent government since 1949.
- Capital : Taipei City
- Currency : New Taiwan dollar

### To Lam

- To Lam named new Vietnam President
- Vietnam has appointed its Public Security Minister To Lam as its new President, after his predecessor resigned in the ongoing anti-corruption campaign that has shaken up the country's political establishment.

### Lawrence Wong

- **Lawrence Wong sworn in as Singapore's first new prime minister in 20 years**
- Mr. Wong, 51, succeeds Lee Hsien Loong, 72, who stepped down after two decades.

- He is the city-state's fourth leader and the first born after Singapore's independence in 1965.
- Singapore President: Tharman Shanmugaratnam

### Chad military dictator Idriss Deby win's Presidential election

- Military leader Mahamat Idriss Deby has won the presidential election in Chad.
- Capital : N'Djamena
- Currency : Central African CFA franc

### José Raúl Mulino

- **José Raúl Mulino Wins Panama's Presidential Election**
- CAPITAL: Panama City
- Currency: Balboa (PAB), United States dollar (USD)

### Gitanas Nausėda

- **Lithuania's President Gitanas Nausėda Secures Landslide Reelection Victory**
- Lithuanian President Gitanas Nausėda secured a second five-year term as President
- Capital: Vilnius
- Currency : Euro

### Jeremiah Manele

- **Jeremiah Manele elected as new Prime Minister of Solomon Islands.**
- Former Foreign Minister, Manele pledges to continue China-friendly foreign policy.
- **Solomon Islands:** 6 major islands, over 900 smaller islands.
- Located in Melanesia, northeast of Australia.
- Capital: Honiara.

### Claudia Sheinbaum

- Claudia Sheinbaum is the first woman and the first Jewish person to be chosen for this post.
- She is a climate scientist and was a contributor to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) 2007 report. The IPCC was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize that year.
- Capital: Mexico City
- Currency: Mexican peso (MXN)

### Helen Mary

- **Dr. Helen Mary Roberts from the Pakistan Army Medical Corps has made history by becoming the first Christian woman to be promoted to the rank of brigadier in Pakistan.**
- Brigadier Dr. Helen has been serving as a senior pathologist

in the **Pakistan Army** for 26 years.

- Minority in Pakistan:
  - ❖ Hindus: 2.14%
  - ❖ Christians: 1.27%
  - ❖ Ahmadi Muslims: 0.09%

### Cyril Ramaphosa

- **South African President Cyril Ramaphosa** re-elected for **second term**
- Capital : Pretoria (executive), Cape Town (legislative) and Bloemfontein (judicial)
- Currency: South African rand

### Saulos Chilima

- Malawi Vice President **Saulos Chilima's plane crashed** in the **Chikangawa mountain range**, killing ten people including him.
- Capital: Lilongwe
- President : Lazarus Chakwera
- Currency: Malawian kwacha

### Michael Usi

- **Malawi's President Lazarus Chakwera** appointed **Michael Usi** as his Vice President.
- **Former Vice President Saulos Chilima** and nine others **were killed when the military plane crash**
- Capital: Lilongwe
- Currency: Malawian kwacha

### Sheikh Sabah al-Khalid

- **Kuwait's Emir makes Sheikh Sabah al-Khalid Crown Prince**
- Sheikh Sabah al-Khalid previously served as Prime Minister from 2019 until 2022.

### Pedro Sanchez

- Pedro Sanchez Re-Elected As Spanish Prime Minister

### Luc Frieden

- Luc Frieden Takes Charge As Prime Minister Of Luxembourg

### Christopher Luxon

- Christopher Luxon swears in as New Zealand's Prime Minister

### Mohamed Muizzu

- Mohamed Muizzu was elected President of the Maldives

### Daniel Noboa

- Daniel Noboa becomes Ecuador's youngest-ever President

### Christopher Luxon

- Former businessman Christopher Luxon to be New Zealand's next Prime Minister

### Robert Fico

- Robert Fico has been appointed as prime minister of Slovakia for the fourth time.

### Tharman Shanmugaratnam

- **Indian-origin Tharman Shanmugaratnam wins Singapore presidential election**
- Capital – Singapore
- Official languages - English, Malay, Mandarin Chinese, Tamil
- Currency - Singapore Dollar

### Gopal Baglay

- Senior diplomat Gopal Baglay has been appointed as the new High Commissioner of India to Australia
- Shri Gopal Baglay, presently High Commissioner of India to Sri Lanka, has been appointed as the next High Commissioner of India to Australia.
- Baglay will succeed Manpreet Vohra as Indian High Commissioner to Australia.
- He is expected to take up the assignment shortly.

### Madan Lal Raigar

- Ministry of External Affairs has appointed Madan Lal Raigar as the next Indian Ambassador to the Republic of Congo
- Madan Lal Raigar, who is currently serving as the Director in the Ministry has been given the new responsibility of Indian envoy in the African nation.

### Sato Kilman

- **Parliament of Vanuatu elects Sato Kilman as the new Prime Minister**
- It is an archipelago consisting of 83 islands, 16 of which are inhabited.
- Its capital is Port Vila, located on the island of Efate.
- Vanuatu has three official languages: Bislama, English and French.
- The official currency used in Vanuatu is the vatu (VUV)

### Vaibhav Taneja

- **Indian-origin Vaibhav Taneja: The new CFO of TESLA**
- **CFO** - Chief Financial Officer
- **Tesla Founded:** 1 July 2003, California, United States
- **Tesla CEO:** Elon Musk

### Geetika Srivastava

- Indian government has appointed Geetika Srivastava, joint secretary (Indo-Pacific) in the external affairs ministry, to head the post of chargé d'affaires in the Indian high commission in Islamabad
- She will be the first woman diplomat to hold this post in the Indian high commission in Islamabad.
- She will replace Suresh Kumar

### Emmerson Mnangagwa

- Emmerson Mnangagwa was re-elected as the President of Zimbabwe for a second and final five-year term
- Capital - Harare
- Currency - United States Dollar

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### 20th ASEAN-India Summit

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi made a two-day visit to Indonesia on Sep 6-7 to attend the 20th ASEAN-India Summit and 18th East Asia Summit.
- The 43rd annual summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) was held on Sep 5-6-7 in Jakarta, Indonesia.
- The leaders discussed strengthening ASEAN integration and expanding collaboration in key areas such as the digital and green economies

### Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN)

- It is a political and economic organization of 10 South-East Asian nations
- Formed in 8 August 1967 (in Bangkok, Thailand)
- HQ: Jakarta, Indonesia
- Members : 10 countries – Malaysia, Myanmar, Brunei, Singapore, Cambodia, Laos, Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam.
- Latest member to join ASEAN – Cambodia
- India is a strategic partner of ASEAN.

### India ASEAN Summit

- The India-ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) Summit is a diplomatic forum where leaders from India and the ASEAN member countries come together to discuss and promote regional cooperation on various fronts.
- 1st ASEAN- India Summit was held in 2002 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia
- The summit aims to strengthen political, economic, and cultural ties between India and the ASEAN nations.

- Key areas of focus during these summits include trade and investment, security, counter-terrorism, connectivity, and cultural exchanges.
- India's "Act East" policy underscores the importance of engaging with ASEAN nations, emphasizing economic integration and strategic cooperation.

### Russia Assumes BRICS 2024 Chairmanship

- Russia's 2024 BRICS Chairmanship began January 1, 2024.
- Russian President Vladimir Putin shared the motto - "Strengthening Multilateralism for Equitable Global Development and Security".
- 16th BRICS Summit will be held in Kazan, Russia in October 2024.
- Brazil was originally scheduled to host the 2024 BRICS summit, but swapped places with Russia in the rotating chairmanship.
- The BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) now includes 10 countries
- Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates joined BRICS as new full members.

### About BRICS:

- BRICS Headquarters - Shanghai, China
- 1st BRIC summit - Russia in 2009
- 15th BRICS Summit – Johannesburg, South Africa 2023

### 54th annual meeting of the World Economic Forum (WEF)

- From January 15–19, 2024 in Davos-Klosters, Switzerland.
- Theme - "Rebuilding Trust"
- Over 60 heads of state and governments, along with political and business leaders, to attend the event.
- The meeting will address complex challenges such as climate change, conflicts, economic crises, and the impact of AI-generated deep fakes.

### World Economic Forum

- Founder & Executive Chairman: Klaus Schwab
- Headquarters: Cologne, Switzerland
- Founded: 24 January 1971

### India launches "Alliance for Global Good- Gender Equity and Equality"

- India launched the "Global Good Alliance for Gender Equity and Equality" at the WEF Annual Meeting in Davos (15-19 Jan 2024).
- Led by Union Ministers Smriti Irani, Hardeep Puri, and Ashwini Vaishnaw.
- Supported by WEF and Government of India.



- Aims to unify global best practices, knowledge sharing, and investments in women's health, education, and enterprise.

#### PM Modi inaugurated BAPS Hindu temple in Abu Dhabi

- PM Modi will inaugurate the **BAPS Swaminarayan temple in Abu Dhabi** on 14th Feb.
- The event, titled 'Ahlan Modi' ('Hello Modi'), will feature a grand diaspora gathering.
- The UAE has the **largest Indian diaspora at 3.5 million**.
- The UAE is the **fourth largest investor in India** and the **third largest trading partner**.
- The **UAE-India Business Summit**, themed "Two Nations, One Vision," coincided with the **Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit 2024**.

#### India to chair UNESCO's World Heritage Committee for first time in July

- India is set to chair and host the **46th session of the World Heritage Committee** from **July 21–31, 2024** in New Delhi
- **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's (UNESCO) World Heritage Committee** is a committee that selects and protects cultural and natural landmarks around the world.
- The committee was established in **1972**
- It is made up of representatives from **21 member states** and meets once a year
- India was elected to the **UNESCO World Heritage Committee** for a **four-year term from 2021–2025**
- **UNESCO Headquarters – Paris**
- Founded - **16 November 1945**

#### Second International AYUSH Conference Inaugurated in Dubai

- Inaugurated at **Dubai World Trade Centre**.
- Organized by the **Science India Forum** and the **Ministry of AYUSH**.
- Held from **January 13 to 15**.
- Focuses on **AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga, Unani, Siddha, Homeopathy)** as a reliable healthcare system.
- Theme: "**Non-Communicable Chronic Diseases – Prevention & Management through AYUSH**".

#### Serum Institute of India Joins CEPI Network

- **Serum Institute of India (SII)** joins **CEPI's** growing network of vaccine producers in the **Global South**.
- **Objective:** Support rapid, agile, and equitable responses to future disease outbreaks.
- **CEPI:** Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations, a global partnership accelerating vaccine development against epidemic and pandemic threats

#### Global Biofuel Alliance

- **Global Biofuel Alliance** Attracts Participation from **22 Nations** and **12 International Organizations**
- **Global Biofuel Alliance** launched by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** during the **G-20 Summit** in **New Delhi**.
- **Biofuel** is a fuel derived from biomass, which is a plant or algae material, or animal waste

#### About Global Biofuel Alliance

- **India-led Initiative** to develop an alliance of Governments, International organizations and Industry to facilitate adoption of biofuels.
- **Bringing together the biggest consumers and producers of biofuels**, the initiative aims to position biofuels as a key to energy transition and contribute to jobs and economic growth.
- **India** is now the world's **3rd largest energy consumer**, **3rd largest consumer of oil**, **3rd largest LPG consumer**, **4th largest LNG importer**, **4th largest refiner** and **4th largest automobile market** in the world.

#### UN Security Council Urges Yemen's Houthis to Cease Attacks

- The **UN Security Council** has called on **Yemen's Houthis** to stop attacking ships in the **Red Sea and Gulf of Aden**.
- The **Iran-aligned Houthis** have launched **drones and missiles** at over **20 ships** since **November 19**.
- The attacks are meant to show solidarity with **Palestinians in Gaza** and target vessels with **Israeli links** or those sailing to **Israel**.

#### Context

- The **Houthis** control much of **Yemen** and have been involved in a **long-standing conflict** with the government.
- The situation in **Yemen** has led to a severe **humanitarian crisis**, with millions facing **food insecurity** and **malnutrition**.
- The attacks on ships have raised concerns about **regional stability** and the **safety of international shipping lanes**.
- **Indian Navy** rescued **21 crew members** of merchant ship **MV Lila Norfolk**, including **15 Indians**, from pirates off the **Somalia coast**
- The Navy rushed its warship **INS Chennai** and deployed Indian navy's **Marine Commandos** carried operations after a distress signal from the cargo ship.
- The **hijacking** was reported by the **UK Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO)**, a British military organisation that tracks movements of various vessels in strategic waterways.

### India and Saudi Arabia sign bilateral Haj Agreement 2024 in Jeddah

- **Event:** Signed during the 3rd Haj and Umrah Conference in Jeddah.
- **Signatories:** Union Minister Smriti Zubin Irani and Saudi Minister Dr. Tawfiq bin Fawzan Al Rabiah.
- **Pilgrim Quota for 2024:** Total of 1,75,025 pilgrims from India.
- 1,40,020 seats reserved for pilgrims to proceed through Haj Committee whereas 35,005 pilgrims would be permitted to proceed through private operators

### Green Fuels Alliance India (GFAI)

- **Event:** Unveiled at the Global Investors Meet (GIM) 2024.
- **Background:** Part of the Green Strategic Partnership (GSP) signed between India and Denmark in 2020.
- **Objective:** Accelerate collaboration in sustainable energy solutions.
- **Goal:** Align with the joint global objective of carbon neutrality

### Researchers Discover Oldest Known Skin Fossil

- Nearly 300-million-year-old fossilized reptile skin found in Oklahoma cave resembles that of modern crocodiles
- Researchers extracted the fossil from an ancient cave system in Oklahoma.

### 19th NAM Summit begins in Uganda's Kampala

- The 19th NAM Summit under Uganda's leadership is being held under the theme 'Deepening Cooperation for Shared Global Affluence'
- The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) is a forum of 120 countries that are not formally aligned with or against any major power bloc.
- Dr. S. Jaishankar led the Indian delegation.

### Non-Aligned Movement (NAM)

- It was established in 1961 in Belgrade, former Yugoslavia.
- Under the leadership of the then Indian Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, President of Egypt Gamal Abdel Nasser and the President of Yugoslavia Josip Broz Tito.
- It was formed when the world was divided into two power blocs, that of the USA and the Soviet Union, especially after the signing of the NATO and the Warsaw Pact.

### World's first malaria vaccine program for children

- Cameroon will be the first country to routinely give children a new malaria vaccine as the shots are rolled out in Africa.

- Africa accounts for 95% of the world's malaria deaths.
- Cameroon will use the first of two recently approved malaria vaccines, known as Mosquirix.
  - ❖ **Mosquirix Vaccine :** only about 30% effective, requires four doses and protection begins to fade after several months.
  - ❖ **R21/Matrix vaccine:** vaccine is cheaper, requires three doses, trials have shown that the R21/Matrix vaccine, developed by Oxford University together with the Serum Institute of India, reduces malaria by up to 75%.

### Turkey approves Sweden's entry into NATO

- After more than a year of delays, the Turkish parliament voted in favor of Sweden's entry into NATO on January 23, 2024.
- Only one country, Hungary, still must ratify Sweden's bid for membership before it can join the alliance.
- Sweden and Finland applied for membership in 2022 to strengthen their security in response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine.
- Finland became the 31st member of NATO on April 4, 2023

### NATO

- Formed in 1949 with the signing of the Washington Treaty, NATO is a security alliance of 31 countries from North America and Europe.
- Finland joined the alliance as 31st member.
- Headquarter - Brussels, Belgium.
- NATO Secretary -General Jens Stoltenberg.

### France becomes first EU country to issue paperless visa

- France becomes first EU country to issue paperless visa
- Since January 1, 2024, France has initiated the issuance of Digital Schengen visas, becoming the first country to hand out these visas in the European Union.

### 13th Ministerial Conference of WTO

- World Trade Organization (WTO) 13th Ministerial Conference (MC13) will take place from 26 to 29 February 2024 in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.
- The WTO's Ministerial Conference is the highest decision-making body of the WTO and meets every two years.
- Comoros and Timor Leste joined the WTO
- India advocated for flexibility in existing WTO agreements to address developing countries' concerns
- WTO the only global international organization dealing with the rules of trade between nations.
- Established in 1995

- Headquarter - Geneva, Switzerland
- India became a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO) on January 1, 1995.
- India has also been a member of the WTO's predecessor, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), since July 8, 1948.

### Indian Ocean Conference

- Dr. S Jaishankar to address inaugural session of the 7th Indian Ocean Conference
- 7th edition of the Indian Ocean Conference is being held in Perth, Australia on 9-10 February, 2024
- in association with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Government of Australia, along with S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Singapore and Perth-US Asia Centre in Australia.
- Theme of "Towards a Stable and Sustainable Indian Ocean".
- The Conference will feature Ministers from over 22 countries and senior officials from 16 countries and 6 multilateral organizations.
- The Conference is a flagship consultative forum for countries in the Indian Ocean Region, organized annually by the Ministry of External Affairs since 2016, in association with the India Foundation
- To deliberate upon the prospects of regional cooperation for Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR).

### World Governments Summit 2024

- India, Türkiye, and Qatar have been declared the guests of honor at the 2024 World Governments Summit.
- Set to take place in Dubai from February 12-14.
- Theme: 'Shaping Future Governments'.
- will see the participation of over 25 government and state heads from around the world.
- representatives of over 85 international and regional organisations with 120 governmental delegations, and 4,000 attendees.
- It enable governments to identify innovative solutions for future challenges

### Visit of Prime Minister Modi to the UAE

- Held bilateral meeting with the President of UAE, Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, in Abu Dhabi on taking forward our Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.
- Launched the UPI RuPay card 'Jaywan' in Abu Dhabi
- Participated in the World Government Summit 2024 in Dubai (India holds the status of guest of honour country alongside Turkey and Qatar.)
- Inaugurated the Bochasanwasi Shri Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha (BAPS) Mandir, the first Hindu

stone temple in Abu Dhabi

- Addressed approximately 40,000 Indian expatriates during the 'Ahlan Modi' event in Abu Dhabi.

### Ahlan Modi' event in Abu Dhabi

- PM Modi, during his two-day visit to the UAE, interacted with the Indian diaspora at the 'Ahlan Modi' event in Abu Dhabi's Zayed Sports City Stadium on February 13.
- With approximately 3.5 million members, the Indian expatriate community constitutes the largest ethnic group in the UAE, making up about 35 percent of the country's population.

### CBSE office in Dubai

- PM Modi announces opening of new CBSE office in Dubai
- Announcement was made while addressing the gathering at the 'Ahlan Modi' diaspora event in Abu Dhabi.
- Emphasising the commitment to provide the best education in the UAE - a new Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) office will soon be established in Dubai.
- The master's course was started at the IIT Delhi–Abu Dhabi Campus in January 2024.
- These institutions will be helpful in providing the best education to the Indian community here.

### Launch of UPI RuPay card 'Jaywan' in Abu Dhabi

- PM Narendra Modi and UAE's President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan together launched the UPI RuPay card service. This will enhance the universal acceptance of RuPay across the UAE.
- The JAYWAN card is based on India's digital RuPay credit and debit card stack for the UAE market.
- It included an agreement on interlinking of the instant payment platforms - UPI (India) and AANI (UAE), which will facilitate seamless cross-border transactions between the two countries.
- Another agreement on inter-linking domestic debit/credit cards was signed vis-a-vis RuPay (India) with JAYWAN (UAE)
- Earlier, India formally launched the UPI at the iconic Eiffel Tower in Paris.

### Bharat Mart in Jebel Ali, Dubai

- Foundation stone laying of Bharat Mart in Jebel Ali, Dubai
- Bharat Mart will propel India-UAE bilateral trade further by leveraging Jebel Ali Port's strategic location and strength in logistics.
- The Bharat Mart has the potential to play an important role in promoting exports of MSME sectors of India by providing them an effective platform to reach out to international buyers in the Gulf, West Asia, Africa, and



Eurasia.

### First Hindu Temple in Abu Dhabi

- The **Bochasanwasi Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha (BAPS)** temple, also the **largest in the region**
- The temple is set to **open to the public on March 1**
- **BAPS has a network of around 1,550 temples across the world, including the Akshardham temples in New Delhi and Gandhinagar**
- Built in the **traditional Nagar style**, it is the **first traditional Hindu stone temple in the Middle East**.
- uses **pink sandstone from Rajasthan**, the interior uses **Italian marbles**.
- traditional stone Hindu temple with **seven shikhars- are representative of the seven Emirates of the UAE**.
- The word 'harmony' has been written in **30 different ancient and modern languages**.
- **No ferrous material (which is more vulnerable to corrosion) has been used in the temple**.

### Dubai to have world's first air tax

- **Dubai has inked agreements at the World Government Summit 2024** to launch the world's first air taxi service.
- The **air taxi - Joby Aviation S4 - an innovative aircraft designed to comfortably accommodate four passengers along with a pilot**.
- The S4 boasts a **maximum range of 161 km and a top speed of 321 km per hour**.
- The air taxi project promises a **host of benefits, including reduced noise levels, zero operating emissions, and enhanced passenger convenience**.
- The **air-taxi network will commence its operations in 2026**

### Saudi Arabia To Launch Dream Of The Desert

- **Saudi Arabia's first luxury train, Dream of the Desert, is scheduled to launch in late 2025**.
- The **1,300-kilometer journey will connect Riyadh, the capital city, to Al Qurayyat, which is near the border with Jordan**
- The route will pass through long stretches of scenic deserts and **UNESCO World Heritage archeological sites**.

### Malta Joined International Solar Alliance

- **Malta Becomes 119th Country to Join International Solar Alliance**
- **Malta is an island country in the Mediterranean Sea, located in Southern Europe**.
- **The country is made up of an archipelago of islands**

### International Solar Alliance (ISA)

- An intergovernmental organization that was launched in **2015**, by the **Prime Minister of India and the President of France**, at the **United Nations Climate Change Conference** held in **Paris**.
- **Vision: Let us together make the sun brighter.**
- **Mission: Every home, no matter how far away, will have a light at home.**
- **Headquarter: National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE) in Gurugram, India.**

### Philippines Ratify ILO Convention to End Workplace Violence and Harassment

- **Philippines becomes first Asian Country to Ratify ILO Convention to End Workplace Violence and Harassment**
- **38th country in the world**, to ratify **ILO Convention No. 190 on Violence and Harassment in the World of Work**.
- **Convention No. 190 is the first international labour standard to address violence and harassment in the world of work comprehensively.**

### World-first law banning tobacco sales for future generations repealed

- **New Zealand to repeal world-first law banning tobacco sales for future generations**
- **New Zealand is all set to repeal the world-first law banning tobacco sales for future generations.**
- **New Zealand announced to Ban tobacco sales for generation who were born after 2009 in 2020**
- **The cabinet to increase the tools available to help people quit smoking.**

### New Airstrip and a Jetty at the Agalega Island in Mauritius

- **PM Modi and PM Pravind Jugnauth of Mauritius jointly inaugurated new Airstrip and a Jetty at the Agalega Island in Mauritius**
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Prime Minister of Mauritius, Pravind Kumar Jugnauth jointly inaugurated the developmental projects at the Agalega Island in Mauritius.**
- **It include the new Airstrip and Saint James Jetty along with 6 community development projects.**
- **The projects will fulfil the demand for better connectivity between mainland Mauritius and Agalega, strengthen maritime security and foster socio- economic development.**
- **A jetty is a long, narrow structure that protects a coastline from the currents and tides.**
- **'Project Agalega' by India: In 2015, India had signed an MOU with Mauritius to develop Agalega Island. Under this, more than \$200 million projects are being funded**

by India.

- Recently India had launched UPI and RuPay Card services in Mauritius

### UN General Assembly Approves First Resolution On Artificial Intelligence

- The resolution gives global support to an international effort to ensure that Artificial Intelligence benefits all nations, respects human rights and is safe, secure and trustworthy.
- The resolution aims to close the digital divide between developed rich countries and poorer developing countries and make sure they are all at the table in discussions on AI.
- The United States spearheaded this first United Nations resolution on artificial intelligence

### First state to protect musicians and other artists against AI

- Tennessee just became the first state to protect musicians and other artists against AI
- Tennessee Governor Bill Lee signed off on legislation to ensure that AI tools cannot replicate an artist's voice without their consent.
- The bill goes into effect July 1.
- Tennessee is a U.S. state located in the south-central part of the country.
- Capital city - Nashville

### Australia's SSN-AUKUS Submarines

- US, UK & Australia Entered Agreement To Build Australia's SSN-AUKUS Submarines
- Under the new trilateral Security partnership, Australia's ASC and UK-based BAE Systems will build the SSN-AUKUS submarines for the Royal Australian Navy.
- The SSN-AUKUS will be equipped for intelligence, surveillance, undersea warfare and strike missions, and will provide maximum interoperability among AUKUS partners.

### AUKUS

- Established in 2021.
- AUKUS is a trilateral security partnership for the Indo-Pacific region between Australia, the UK and the US.
- Submarine component.
- It is designed to equip Australia with nuclear-powered attack submarines (SSNs).
- Australia, the US and the UK have said the deal complies with their nuclear non-proliferation obligations.
- Australia is a signatory to the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT)

### Panama - 97th member to ratify the International Solar Alliance

- Chile becomes 95th member
- Hungary becomes 96th member.
- International Solar Alliance was launched in 2015.
- by India and France, at the United Nations Climate Change Conference held in Paris.
- With the amendment of its Framework Agreement in 2020, all member states of the United Nations are now eligible to join the ISA.

### U.S. recognises Arunachal Pradesh as Indian territory

- The United States recognises Arunachal Pradesh as Indian territory and strongly opposes any unilateral attempts by China to advance its territorial claims across the Line of Actual Control (LAC).
- China, which claims Arunachal Pradesh as South Tibet, routinely objects to Indian leaders' visits to the State to highlight its claims.
- Beijing has also named the area Zangnan.
- On March 9, PM Modi inaugurated the Sela Tunnel built at an altitude of over 13,000 feet in western Arunachal Pradesh that will provide all-weather connectivity to the strategically located Tawang district.

### Operation Indravati

- India Launches Operation Indravati To Evacuate 12 Nationals From Haiti To Dominican Republic
- India has launched Operation Indravati to evacuate its nationals from Haiti to the Dominican Republic.
- Haiti is facing a major and violent upheaval after armed gangs took control of 80 percent of the country's capital, Port-au-Prince, locking Prime Minister Ariel Henry out of the country and triggering his resignation.

### Haiti

- located between the Caribbean Sea and the North Atlantic Ocean, Haiti occupies the western one-third of the island of Hispaniola.
- Official Languages: French, Haitian Creole.
- Capital: PORT-AU-PRINCE

### Indian troops begin withdrawal from Maldives

- 25 Indian military personnel deployed in the southernmost atoll of Addu have left the nation ahead of the May 10 deadline.
- Indian troops stationed in the Maldives have begun withdrawing from the island nation, in line with President Mohamed Muizzu's 'India out' promise to his supporters.
- A technical team from India had reached the Maldives to replace the troops that were stationed to operate the

India gifted aircraft and choppers (Dornier 228 maritime patrol aircraft and two HAL Dhruv helicopters)

- Addu Atoll, also known as Seenu Atoll, is the southernmost atoll of the Maldives.

### Baltimore Bridge in US Collapse

- A Singaporean-flagged container ship called DALI crashed into the Francis Scott Key Bridge near the US city of Baltimore, causing most of it to collapse.
- The Baltimore bridge, known more simply as the Key Bridge, was opened in 1977 in honour of Francis Scott Key, a 19th Century poet who wrote for the US national anthem, the Star Spangled Banner.
- The bridge was 1.6 miles (2.6km) long and spanned the Patapsco River and Baltimore harbour.
- Patapsco River flows out into Chesapeake Bay, the largest estuary in the US.

### Right to Abortion

- France poised to become first country in world to enshrine right to abortion in its Constitution.
- Parliamentarians from the upper and lower chambers will meet in a special session summoned by President Emmanuel Macron.
- If, as expected, they vote for the government's motion by a three-fifths majority, then the country's 1958 Constitution will be revised to enshrine women's guaranteed freedom to abort.

### Abortion Law in India (Static point)

- India has a central law called The Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act 1971, which permits licensed medical professionals to perform abortions in specific predetermined situations.
- Under the 1971 law, a pregnancy could only be terminated under Section 3(2) if it did not exceed 20 weeks.
- 2021 amendment to the MTP Act - Abortion was allowed up to 24 weeks for certain classes of women, defined under the MTP Rules.

### Bangladesh PM pitches for common currency for Muslim countries

- Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said that the Muslim countries could introduce a common currency, like the European Union (EU), to boost trade and commerce among them.
- Bangladesh PM said this during the visit of D-8 trade ministers in Dhaka.
- D-8 is an Organization for Economic Cooperation among the eight Muslim countries: Bangladesh, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Nigeria, Pakistan and Turkey.

- The establishment of D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation was announced officially through the Istanbul Declaration of Summit of Heads of State/Government on June 15, 1997.

- 'Adrishya Jalakangal' became the first Malayalam film to premiere at the 27th International Film Festival in Estonia
- Directed by Dr. Biju

### Tropical Cyclone Storm Megan

- Tropical Cyclone Storm Megan hits Australia
- Cyclone storm 'Megan', brought heavy rain and winds to Australia's Northern Territory.
- Tropical Cyclone lashed island communities for days before it made landfall near the remote town of Borroloola on the southwestern side of the Gulf of Carpentaria.
- McArthur River to peak at 18 metres, three metres higher than previous 2001 record

### Nepal Declares Pokhara as Its Tourism Capital

- Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' declared Pokhara, a picturesque city in Gandaki province, as the Tourism Capital of Nepal amid a function organised at Barahighat, near the Phewa Lake.

### Closing ceremony of the International Year of Millets 2023

- The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) organized closing ceremony of the International Year of Millets (IYM) 2023 on 29 March 2024 at the FAO headquarters, Rome, Italy.
- The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) declared 2023 as the International Year of Millets (IYM), a proposal sponsored by the Government of India to promote these "nutri-cereals."
- Presenting India as the "Global Hub for Millets," as India produces one-fifth of the world's millets.

### What are Millets?

- Millets are a highly varied group of small-seeded grasses.
- This crop is favoured due to its productivity and short growing season under dry, high-temperature conditions (hardy and drought-resistant crops).
- Powerhouse of nutrients - rich in both iron and zinc Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).
- Specialised agency of the United Nations that leads international efforts to defeat hunger.
- World Food Day - 16th October (founding of the FAO in 1945).



- Sister bodies are the **World Food Programme** and the **International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)**.

### India and Mauritius sign protocol to amend tax treaty

- **New Protocol Signed:** India and Mauritius have amended the DTAA to include a Principal Purpose Test (PPT) to determine foreign investors' eligibility for treaty benefits.
- **Historical Agreement:** The original DTAA between India and Mauritius was established in 1983 to avoid double taxation.
- **Investment Hub:** Mauritius was a favored jurisdiction for investments in India due to the non-taxability of capital gains from Indian shares until 2016.
- **Revised Agreement:** In 2016, a revised tax agreement allowed India to tax capital gains on shares routed through Mauritius starting April 1, 2017.

### Significance of the DTAA between India and Mauritius:

- **Investment Route:** The DTAA was a key factor for many foreign portfolio investors (FPI) and entities to channel their investments in India through Mauritius.
- **Major Source of FPI:** Mauritius is the 4th largest source of FPI in India, following the US, Singapore, and Luxembourg.
- **Investment Figures:** As of March 2024, FPI from Mauritius amounted to Rs.4.19 lakh crore, representing 6% of the total FPI investment of Rs.69.54 lakh crore in India.
- **FDI vs. FPI:** Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) focuses on business operations, physical assets, and infrastructure, while Foreign Portfolio Investment (FPI) targets financial markets like stocks, bonds, and mutual funds.

### India's second global port in Sittwe, Myanmar:

- **Approval and Control:** The Ministry of External Affairs approved **India Ports Global Limited (IPGL)** to take over the entire operation of Sittwe port on the **Kaladan River** in Myanmar's Rakhine province.
- **IPGL:** A subsidiary of **Sagarmala Development Company Limited** under the Union Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways.
- **Second International Port:** Sittwe port is the second international port under IPGL's control, after **Shahid Beheshti Port** in Chabahar, Iran. Unlike Chabahar, India has full control over Sittwe Port.
- **Lease Agreement:** The deal includes a **long-term lease**, renewable **every three years**, with IPGL raising resources for further development.
- **Kaladan Multimodal Transit Transport Project:** Part of a project connecting **Sittwe port** with **Mizoram, India**, providing alternative connectivity to Indian ports via the Kaladan River.

- **Strategic Importance:** Aims to develop India's land-locked northeastern states and reduce logistics costs for Tripura and Mizoram.
- **Inauguration:** Formally inaugurated by Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal on May 9, 2023.
- **Geopolitical Context:** Part of India's strategy to expand economic influence in the Indian Ocean, countering China's aggressive port acquisition efforts.

### Cancerous Ethylene Oxide Contamination in Indian Spice Brands

- **Hong Kong & Singapore** recently banned several spice variants manufactured by **MDH** and one (**Fish Curry Masala**) by **Everest Food Products**.
- The decision came after authorities reportedly found the presence of the cancer-causing pesticide **ethylene oxide** in the spice mixes.
- The **Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)** has commissioned quality checks on **MDH** and **Everest** products.

### Nepal Hosts First International Rainbow Tourism Conference

- The **single-day international conference** was organised by **Mayako Pahichan Nepal**, a non-governmental organisation.
- The conference's main objective is to position Nepal as an **LGBT-friendly tourism destination**.
- In June 2023, Nepal allowed same sex marriages to be registered legally

### First 'ASEAN Future Forum'

- The **ASEAN Future Forum (AFF)** is an important initiative proposed by Prime Minister of Vietnam **Pham Minh Chinh** at the **43rd ASEAN Summit** last September.
- AFF 2024 theme "Toward Fast and Sustainable Growth of a People- Centered ASEAN Community"
- The forum is aimed at creating a common platform for ASEAN member states as well as partner countries to contribute to promoting and shaping the bloc's development path.
- **EAM S Jaishankar** also Speaks At First 'ASEAN Future Forum' Virtually

### 16th World Future Energy Summit held in Abu Dhabi

- Took place from **April 16 to 18** at the **Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre (ADNEC)**, UAE
- **Masdar**, a key player in UAE's clean energy sector organized the **World Future Energy Summit (WFES)**
- WFES is the world's leading business event for discussion on global climate action, renewable energy, energy and water security, and sustainable development.

### IPEF Clean Economy Investor Forum

- **Event Details:** The Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) will host its first clean economy investor forum in Singapore on June 5-6, 2024<sup>1</sup>.
- **Launch and Members:** IPEF was launched in May 2022 and includes **14 partners:** Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, United States, and Vietnam<sup>1</sup>.
- **Forum Objectives:** The forum aims to gather top investors, philanthropies, financial institutions, innovative companies, start-ups, and entrepreneurs from the region.
- **Focus Areas:** The event will focus on mobilizing investments in sustainable infrastructure, renewable energy, and climate technology projects

### India Showcases Diverse Education Offerings At GETEX 2024

- **Global Education and Training Exhibition (GETEX) 2024** held at the Dubai World Trade Centre.
- The India Pavilion showcases the country's commitment to international higher education.
- Organized by the Services Export Promotion Council (SEPC), Ministry of Commerce and Industry and the Consulate General of India at Dubai.

### 26th World Energy Congress 2024:

- **Event Location:** Held in Rotterdam, Netherlands.
- **Theme:** "Redesigning Energy for People and Planet."
- **Historical Significance:** The World Energy Congress is the world's longest-established energy event, shaping the global energy agenda for a century.
- **IREDA's Focus:** Pradip Kumar Das, CMD of the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA), emphasized the need for innovative financing solutions to support India's transition to renewable energy.
- **India's Ambitious Goals:** India aims to achieve 500 GW of non-fossil-fuel energy capacity by 2030 and reach Net Zero emissions by 2070.

### FTII students' achievement at the 77th Cannes Film Festival

- **Film Selection:** Four students from the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) in Pune have had their short film, "Sunflowers Were the First Ones to Know," selected for the La Cinf section at the 2024 Cannes Film Festival.
- **Director:** The film is directed by Chidanand S Naik.
- **Festival Dates:** The Cannes Film Festival will be held from May 15th to 24th, 2024.

- **La Cinf Section:** This section is dedicated to film schools worldwide to encourage new talent.
- **Other Indian Entry:** "All We Imagine as Light" by Payal Kapadia is also in the official competition at the Cannes Film Festival.

### All We Imagine As Light'

- 'All We Imagine As Light' will be first Indian film to compete at Cannes Film Festival in 30 years
- Writer-director Payal Kapadia's debut feature All We Imagine as Light becomes first Indian film since Shaji N Karun's Swaham (1994) to compete for Palme d'Or award ("Golden Palm") for the best film.
- Chetan Anand's Neecha Nagar is the only Indian film to have won the Palme d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival in 1946

### Iran's Attack on Israel

- **Drone and Missile Attack:** Iran launched a volley of over 300 drones and missiles on Israel on April 13, 2024. This attack was in retaliation for the Israeli airstrike on the Iranian Consulate in Damascus, Syria, which killed two Iranian generals.
- **First Full-Scale Military Assault:** The drone attack marked the first time Iran had ever launched a full-scale military assault on Israel, despite decades of enmity dating back to the country's 1979 Islamic Revolution.
- **Seizure of MSC Aries:** Later, Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) seized the MSC Aries, an Israel-linked Portuguese-flagged commercial vessel, in the strategic Strait of Hormuz. The vessel had approximately 17 Indian nationals onboard.
- **Warning to the United States:** Iran has warned the United States that it will target its bases if Washington backs Israel's retaliation.
- **Retaliatory Missile Strike:** The Iranian attack was followed by a retaliatory missile strike by Israel on Isfahan, Iran, on April 19, 2024.

### Iran-Israel relations

- **Early Recognition (1948-1979):**
  - ❖ Iran was one of the first Muslim countries to recognize the new state of Israel in 1948.
  - ❖ Ties between the two countries were initially friendly, with cooperation in various fields.
- **Collapse of Ties (1979):**
  - ❖ Iran's Islamic revolution in 1979 led to the ousting of Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi and the rise of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.
  - ❖ Khomeini's policy of standing up to "arrogant" world powers led to a collapse in ties with Israel.

- **Limited Cooperation (1980s)**
  - ❖ Despite the collapse in ties, limited cooperation between Israel and Iran continued into the 1980s.
- **Hostile Rivalry (1990s-present)**
  - ❖ Iran built up and funded proxy militias in Syria, Iraq, Lebanon, and Yemen, leading to a hostile rivalry with Israel.
  - ❖ The main proxy militia is Hezbollah in Lebanon, formed in the 1980s to fight Israeli occupation.
  - ❖ A shadow war between Iran and Israel grew over the years, with a focus on Iran's nuclear program and Hezbollah's rocket attacks into northern Israel.
- **Current Conflict**
  - ❖ Hezbollah has been firing rockets into northern Israel since the Gaza war began in October 2023.
  - ❖ Iran's nuclear program remains a primary focus of Israeli attacks.

### Massive earthquake of 7.2 magnitude hits Taiwan

- Taiwan is prone to earthquakes as it lies along the Pacific "Ring of Fire" — where 90% of the world's earthquakes take place.
- The island and its surrounding waters have registered about 2,000 earthquakes with a magnitude of 4.0 or greater since 1980, and more than 100 earthquakes with a magnitude above 5.5

### DUBAI FLOODS

- The United Arab Emirates (UAE) recorded the heaviest rain ever after a severe thunderstorm hit the country.
- The rain was "a historic weather event" that surpassed "anything documented since the start of data collection in 1949" – that was before the UAE was established in 1971.
- The thunderstorms in one day had dumped more than 142 millimetres (mm) of rain onto the desert city of Dubai.

### What led to the heavy rains in Dubai?

- **Storm System:** The primary cause was a storm system moving through the Arabian Peninsula and across the Gulf of Oman.
- **Cloud Seeding:** The rains could have been intensified by cloud seeding, where salt mixtures are sprayed into clouds to induce rainfall.
- **Global Temperatures:** Rising global temperatures might have contributed to the heavy rains.
- **Temperature Increase:** Since 1850, the global average temperature has increased by at least 1.1°C, while the UAE has seen a rise of almost 1.5°C in the past 60 years.
- **Moisture Capacity:** For every 1°C rise in temperature, the atmosphere can hold about 7% more moisture.
- **Storm Intensity:** This increase in moisture makes storms

more intense, leading to higher precipitation, longer durations, and more frequent events, which can cause severe flooding.

- For example, the increased moisture capacity can be compared to a sponge that can hold more water as it gets warmer, leading to heavier rainfall during storms.

### 'Mount Ruang' eruption

- Thousands displaced by 'Mount Ruang' eruption in Indonesia
- Indonesia, a vast archipelago nation, experiences frequent seismic and volcanic activity due to its position on the Pacific "Ring of Fire".

### Hinglaj Yatra In Pakistan

- Hinglaj Yatra In Pakistan: Hindu Pilgrims Climbed Mud Volcanoes As Part Of A Three-Day Pilgrimage
- Located in **Balochistan's Hingol National Park**, **Hinglaj Yatra** is a three-day pilgrimage and **Pakistan's largest Hindu festival**.
- Hinglaj Mata Temple is one of the **51 Shakti Peethas** in the **Shaktism denomination of Hinduism**
- More than **1,00,000 Hindus** are expected to participate.
- **Muslim-majority Pakistan** is home to **4.4 million Hindus**, just **2.14% of the population**

### Saryu river to be sent to Sri Lanka for 'Sita Amma' temple consecration

- **Sacred water from Saryu river to be sent to Sri Lanka for 'Sita Amma' temple consecration**
- The **Ram Temple Trust** and the **Ayodhya district administration** have pledged to provide the **holy water** on request from those behind the **construction of the Sita Amma temple**.

### Delhi NCR 'Million Miyawaki' Mission

- **Collaboration:** The Embassy of Israel in India and the Million Miyawaki Foundation have joined the 'Million Miyawaki' project.
- **Objective:** The project aims to improve air quality in Indian cities through mass afforestation in urban spaces.
- **Target:** Efforts are focused on planting a million trees in Delhi-NCR.
- **Miyawaki Plantations:** The project emphasizes creating forest-like Miyawaki plantations.
- **Miyawaki Method:** Named after Japanese botanist Akira Miyawaki, this method involves planting 2-4 different types of indigenous trees per square metre.
- **Development:** The methodology was developed in the 1970s to densify green cover in small land parcels.



### 'Miss AI': World's first beauty contest with computer generated women

- **Launch:** The Fanvue World AI Creator Awards (WAICAs) has launched the world's first artificial intelligence beauty pageant.
- **Participants:** AI-generated images and influencers are competing.
- **Prize:** Contestants are vying for a share of \$20,000.
- **Criteria:** Contestants are judged based on their looks, online presence, and the technical skills used to create the AI models.

### Hindi Radio Broadcast - started in Kuwait.

- **Hindi Radio Broadcast:** The first-ever Hindi radio broadcast has started in Kuwait.
- **Indian Community:** The Indian community, numbering around 1 million, is the largest expatriate group in Kuwait.
- **Trade Relations:** India has been a natural trading partner of Kuwait, with the Indian rupee being the legal tender in Kuwait until 1961.
- **Diplomatic Relations:** The year 2021-22 marked the 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations between India and Kuwait.

### 10th World Water Forum

- **10th World Water Forum** opens in Bali, Indonesia from May 18-25, 2024.
- **Theme:** 'Water for Shared Prosperity'.
- **Jointly organized** by the Government of Indonesia and the World Water Council.
- **World's largest water event**, held every three years since 1997.
- **Six subthemes:** Water Security and Prosperity; Water for Humans and Nature; Disaster Risk Reduction and Management; Governance, Cooperation and Hydro-diplomacy; Sustainable Water Finance; Knowledge and Innovation.
- Indonesian President: **Joko Widodo**.

### World Hydrogen Summit 2024

- For the first time, India has set up its own pavilion, at the World Hydrogen Summit 2024, being held in Rotterdam, Netherlands, during May 13 – 15, 2024.
- The India Pavilion, set up by the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy, Government of India.
- India launched its **National Green Hydrogen Mission** in January 2023 with an overall outlay of Rs. 19,744 crores.
- India has set an **ambitious target to achieve a green hydrogen production capacity of 5 MMT (Million Metric Tonnes) by end of the year 2030**.
- A dedicated portal for the National Green Hydrogen

Mission has been launched recently, to serve as a **one-stop location for information on the Mission**.

### About Green Hydrogen:

- **Green hydrogen** is hydrogen fuel produced through electrolysis using electricity from renewable sources. Here's a quick breakdown:
- **Process:** Electrolysis splits water (H<sub>2</sub>O) into hydrogen (H<sub>2</sub>) and oxygen (O<sub>2</sub>) using an electric current.
- **Renewable Energy:** The electricity used comes from wind, solar, or hydroelectric power.
- **Environmental Impact:** The production process does not emit carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) or other greenhouse gases.

### Inaugural Africa Clean Cooking Summit Held in Paris

- **Inaugural Africa Clean Cooking Summit** held in Paris.
- **Aim:** Provide clean cooking options for over 1 billion people in Africa relying on charcoal and wood.
- **1,000+ delegates** from nearly 60 countries attended.
- Raised **\$2.2 billion** in pledges from governments and private sector.
- Using fuels like agricultural waste and animal dung is the **second biggest cause of premature death** in Africa, mainly affecting sub-Saharan women and children.

### AI Summit in Seoul, South Korea

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

### Norway, Ireland, and Spain to Recognize Palestinian State

- Norway, Ireland, and Spain have announced plans to officially recognize a Palestinian state.
- The formal recognition will take place on May 28.
- Israel has condemned the move and recalled its ambassadors from Norway and Ireland.

### Background

- The recognition comes over 30 years after the Oslo Accords (1993-1995), which aimed to establish a framework for Palestinian self-governance.
- The Palestinian Authority (PA) was established as a result of the Oslo Accords and exercises limited self-governance over parts of the West Bank.

- Hamas, an Islamist political and militant group, controls the Gaza Strip.

### European Union Support

- Several European Union countries have indicated plans to recognize a Palestinian state, arguing that a two-state solution is essential for lasting peace in the region.

### State of Palestine

- The State of Palestine refers to the geopolitical entity envisioned to exist within the territories of the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip.
- These areas are located in the Middle East, bordered by Israel, Jordan, and Egypt.

### Spain becomes 99th member of International Solar Alliance (ISA)

- Spain becomes the 99th member of the International Solar Alliance (ISA).
- ISA was conceived by India and France to combat climate change through solar energy.
- Conceptualized during COP21 in Paris, 2015.
- Recent members: Chile (96th), Yemen (97th), Panama (98th).
- 119 countries have signed the ISA Framework Agreement.
- 'Towards 1000' strategy of ISA:
  - ❖ Mobilize USD 1,000 billion in solar investments by 2030
  - ❖ Provide energy access to 1,000 million people
  - ❖ Install 1,000 GW of solar capacity.
- First Assembly: October 2018 in Greater Noida, India.
- 2020 amendment: All UN member states can join ISA.
- Headquarters: National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE) in Gurugram, India.
- Director General: Dr. Ajay Mathur.

### Zimbabwe launches new currency ZiG (Zimbabwe Gold)

- Zimbabwe launches new currency ZiG (Zimbabwe Gold) to address money crisis.
- ZiG is the sixth currency since the 2009 collapse of the Zimbabwe dollar.
- Initially introduced electronically in April, now available as banknotes and coins.
- Backed by Zimbabwe's gold reserves.
- Previous ideas included gold coins and digital currency.
- Zimbabwe: Landlocked country in Southern Africa, between Zambezi and Limpopo Rivers.
- Borders: Mozambique (east), Zambia (north), Botswana and Namibia (west), South Africa (south).

- Capital: Harare.
- President: Emmerson Mnangagwa.

### Nepal Introduces New Rs 100 Currency Note

- Features Indian territories: Lipulekh, Limpiyadhura, and Kalapani.
- June 18, 2020: Nepal updated its political map to include these areas by amending its Constitution.
- India's reaction: Nepal's unilateral actions won't change the ground reality.
- Border: Nepal shares a 1,850 km border with five Indian states.

### Historical Background:

- Sugauli Treaty of 1816: Established Nepal's boundary post-Anglo-Nepal War.
- Nepal's claim: Territories east of the Kali (Mahakali) River.
- India's stance: River Kali originates from Pankhagad, south of Kalapani.
- Geostrategic importance: Lipulekh and Kalapani form a trijunction between India and China.

### Chabahar Port Deal Between Iran and India

- 10-year contract: India and Iran signed for the operation of Shahid-Beheshti terminal at Chabahar port.
- Agreement: Between Indian Ports Global Ltd. (IPGL) and Port and Maritime Organisation (PMO) of Iran.
- Investment: IPGL to invest approximately \$120 million.

### Chabahar Port:

- Iran's only oceanic port with two main terminals: Shahid Kalantari and Shahid Beheshti.
- US warning: Potential risk of sanctions for nations doing business with Iran.
- Strategic significance for India: Provides a route to Afghanistan, bypassing Pakistan.
- Trade route: New deal opens up trade between South Asia and Central Asia via Iran, bypassing Karachi and Gwadar ports in Pakistan.

### Chabahar Agreement

- Location: Deep water port in Iran's Sistan-Baluchistan province on Makran Coast, closest Iranian port to India.
- Strategic Importance: Recognized during the Iran-Iraq war of the 1980s.
- 2003 Agreement: Signed by President Khatami and Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee for strategic cooperation.
- 2016 Trilateral Agreement: Signed by India, Iran, and Afghanistan to establish the International Transport and

Transit Corridor.

- **IPGL Operations:** India Ports Global Limited (IPGL) took over Chabahar operations in December 2018.
- **Trade:** 2.5 million tonnes of wheat and 2,000 tonnes of pulses trans-shipped from India to Afghanistan via Chabahar.
- **2021 Supply:** India supplied 40,000 litres of malathion pesticide to Iran through Chabahar.

#### Chabahar & INSTC:

- **Link with INSTC:** Plans to connect Chabahar with the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC).
- **INSTC:** A 7,200-km multi-modal transportation route linking the Indian Ocean and Persian Gulf to the Caspian Sea via Iran, and onward to northern Europe via St. Petersburg in Russia.

#### UAE Launches 10-Year Blue Residency Visa for Environmentalists

- **New Visa:** 10-year Blue Residency visa for individuals with exceptional contributions to environmental protection.
- **Eligible Individuals:** Members of international organizations, companies, associations, NGOs, and global award winners.
- **Purpose:** Aligns with UAE's 2024 Year of Sustainability initiative.
- **Fields Covered:** Marine life, land-based ecosystems, air quality, sustainability technologies, circular economy, and related areas.

#### India To Host Bharat Parv At Cannes Film Festival For The First Time

- **Event:** 77th annual Cannes Film Festival (May 14-25, 2024) in Cannes, France.
- **India's Participation:** Hosting Bharat Parv for the first time.
- **Bharat Pavilion:** Platform for Indian film community to engage in activities like production collaborations, knowledge sessions, distribution deals, and networking.
- **Unveiling:** Official poster and trailer of the 55th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) 2024.
- **IFFI 2024:** Scheduled in Goa from November 20 to 28.

#### TCS to Set Up AI Center of Excellence in Paris

- **Initiative:** TCS to establish a 'human-centric' AI Center of Excellence in Paris.
- **Focus Areas:**
- **Brain-computer interface.**
  - ❖ Building empathy in machines.
  - ❖ Unleashing AI's power in arts and culture.

- **Objective:** Design and evolve AI to address business efficiencies and societal priorities.
- **Location:** TCS Pace Port in the La Défense area of Paris, to be inaugurated in June 2024

#### IIT Delhi Abu Dhabi to Commence First Academic Session in 2024-25

- **First International Campus:** IIT Delhi's Abu Dhabi campus to start its first academic session in 2024-25.
- **Location:** Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (UAE).
- **Courses Offered:** Initially, undergraduate courses.
- **Admission Process:** Through Combined Admission Entrance Test (CAET) 2024 or Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) 2024.
- **IIT Madras:** Set up a campus in Zanzibar, Tanzania, which started its academic session in 2023-24.

#### Armenia and Azerbaijan Agree on Disputed Border Sections in Nagorno-Karabakh

- **Agreement:** Armenia and Azerbaijan agreed on disputed border sections, a step towards normalizing ties.
- **Deal Includes:** Return of four border villages to Azerbaijan, seized by Armenia in the 1990s.

#### Background of the Dispute:

- **Nagorno-Karabakh:** Landlocked area in the South Caucasus, center of a long-running dispute.
- **Population:** Mostly native Armenians, officially part of Azerbaijan.
- **Conflict History:**
  - ❖ Random acts of violence since the late 1980s.
  - ❖ Two wars fought in the 1990s and 2020 for control of Nagorno-Karabakh.
- **Azerbaijan's Demand:** Return of the four villages as a condition for a peace deal.

#### EU Adopts First Law Against Violence Towards Women

- **Objective:** Protect women in the 27-nation EU from gender-based violence, forced marriages, female genital mutilation, and online harassment.
- **Minimum Sentences:** Ranging from one to five years in prison, depending on the crime.
- **Severity:** Harsher punishments if the victim is a child, spouse, or ex-spouse.
- **Implementation:** EU states must incorporate the rules into national law within three years.

#### European Council Approves First Worldwide AI Act

- **Approval:** EU Commission finalizes the AI Act, regulating high-risk AI applications.
- **Fines:** Companies breaching the AI Act face fines up to



**35 million euros (\$38 million) or 7% of annual global revenues, whichever is higher.**

- **European Council:** One of the seven principal EU institutions, defining political direction and priorities.
- **Risk-Based Approach:** Stricter regulation for higher-risk AI applications.
- **Prohibited Applications:** Includes “social scoring” systems and AI in financial services and education due to bias risks.
- **EU Overview:** Political and economic union of 27 member states, primarily in Europe.
- **Founders:** Germany, France, Italy, Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg.

### Venezuela Becomes First Country to Lose All Glaciers

- **Humboldt Glacier:** Venezuela’s last remaining glacier, also known as La Corona, is now too small to be classified as a glacier
- **Historical Context:** Venezuela had six glaciers, but by 2011, five had disappeared.
- **Cause:** Disappearance due to temperature fluctuations beyond the norm for tropical latitudes.
- **Cryosphere Impact:** This event is significant for the Earth’s cryosphere.
- **Glacier Definition:** According to the US Geological Survey, a commonly accepted guideline for a glacier is around 10 hectares (0.1 sq km).
- **Formation:** Glaciers form where snow accumulation exceeds melting and sublimation over many years

### Ancient Branch of Nile River Uncovered Near Egyptian Pyramids

- **Discovery:** Researchers from the University of North Carolina Wilmington found a long-lost branch of the Nile, named the Ahramat branch, under desert and farmland.
- **Dimensions:** The Ahramat branch was approximately 64 km (39 miles) long and between 200-700 meters (656-2,296 feet) wide.
- **Proximity to Pyramids:** This branch flowed near 31 pyramids, including the Giza pyramid complex, suggesting it was a crucial transportation route for building materials.
- **Historical Significance:** The Nile, often called the “father of African rivers,” has been vital to Egypt’s sustenance and development since ancient times.

### Russia’s decision to remove the Taliban from its list of banned terrorist organizations:

- **Decision:** Russia will remove the Taliban from its list of banned terrorist organizations.
- **Timeline:** This decision comes three years after the Taliban

returned to power in Afghanistan.

- **Relations:** Russia has maintained relations with the Taliban, holding multiple rounds of talks and boosting trade with Afghanistan despite international sanctions.
- **Regional Context:** Kazakhstan removed the Taliban from its list of banned organizations at the end of 2023.

### NATO countries’ plan to build a ‘drone wall’ against Russia

- **Countries Involved:** Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Poland, Finland, and Norway.
- **Purpose:** To protect their borders against Russia using drones and other technologies.
- **Scope:** The drone wall will stretch from Norway to Poland.
- **Technology:** The plan includes drones, surveillance systems, and counter-drone technology.
- **Historical Context:** NATO was established on April 4, 1949, to block Soviet expansion in Europe after World War II.
- **Membership:** NATO has 32 members across Europe and North America. The most recent members are Sweden (2024) and Finland (2023).

### Nawaz Sharif’s admission regarding the 1999 Lahore Agreement:

- **Admission:** Former Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif admitted that Pakistan violated the Lahore Agreement.
- **Agreement Details:** The Lahore Agreement was signed on February 21, 1999, by Nawaz Sharif and then Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.
- **Goals:** The agreement aimed to foster peace and stability between India and Pakistan.
- **Key Provisions:**
  - ❖ Strict actions against all forms of terrorism.
  - ❖ Immediate steps to ensure the safe and authorized use of nuclear energy.
  - ❖ Measures to reduce the risk of accidental or unauthorized use of nuclear weapons.
  - ❖ Efforts to resolve conflicts related to Kashmir through diplomatic channels.
- **Violation:** Shortly after the signing, Pakistani troops infiltrated the Kargil district in Jammu and Kashmir, leading to the Kargil War.
- **Nuclear Tests:** Sharif confirmed conducting 5 nuclear tests on May 28, 1998, despite an offer from then US President Bill Clinton to prevent them.

### 81st International Air Transport Association (IATA)

- **India’s hosting of the 81st International Air Transport Association (IATA) Annual General Meeting (AGM) in 2025**

- **Event:** 81st IATA Annual General Meeting (AGM) and World Air Transport Summit.
- **Host:** IndiGo.
- **Location:** Delhi, India.
- **Date:** June 2025.
- **Significance:**
  - ❖ This will be the third time India hosts the AGM, previously held in 1983 and 1958.
  - ❖ India is hosting the event after a gap of 42 years.
- **Participants:**
  - ❖ About 330 airlines, representing more than 80% of global air traffic, are members of IATA.

### Maldives will ban Israelis from entering the country over the war in Gaza

- The public anger in Maldives, predominantly Muslim nation, rises over the war in Gaza.
- Nearly 11,000 Israelis visited Maldives last year, which was 0.6% of the total tourist arrivals

### BIMReN (BIMSTEC-India Marine Research Network) Initiative:

- **BIMReN (BIMSTEC-India Marine Research Network) Initiative:** Launched by the Government of India, in collaboration with the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and the Bay of Bengal Programme-Inter Governmental Organization (BOBP-IGO).
- **Objective:** To promote sustainable development of the blue economy by connecting researchers and research institutions in BIMSTEC countries.
- **BIMSTEC Overview:**
  - ❖ **Formation:** Established on June 6, 1997, through the Bangkok Declaration.
  - ❖ **Initial Members:** Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, and Thailand.
  - ❖ **Current Members:** Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Nepal, and Bhutan.
  - ❖ **Permanent Secretariat:** Located in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

### UNDP and GEF Launch \$135M Blue and Green Islands Integrated Programme

- **Launch:** UNDP and GEF have launched the \$135 million Blue and Green Islands Integrated Programme (BGI-IP) at the Fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS4).
- **Objective:** To expand nature-based solutions in urban development, food production, and tourism sectors to combat environmental degradation.
- **Target:** 15 Small Island Developing States (SIDS) from

2024 to 2034, aligning with the Decade of Action.

- **Selection:** 15 SIDS will be chosen through a competitive “Expressions of Interest” process, representing all SIDS sub-regions: the Caribbean, the Pacific, and the Atlantic, Indian Ocean, and South China Sea (AIS).
- **Support Areas:** Sustainable agriculture, fisheries, nature-friendly tourism, pollution reduction, and resilience to extreme weather events.
- **Key Partners:** UNEP, FAO, the World Bank, WWF-US, IUCN, and UNCCD, among others, supporting sustainable economic diversification and job creation.

### Philippine court put a stop on golden rice commercial production

- The Philippine Court of Appeals decided to stop the production of golden rice and Bt eggplant because they are worried about safety and health issues.
- They want more research to make sure these genetically modified crops are safe to eat and won't harm the environment.
- **Research Emphasis:** The court highlighted the need for more research to ensure safety for future generations, with concerns about cross-pollination with native rice varieties and potential ecosystem disruption.
- **Impact:** This decision affects initiatives aimed at addressing vitamin A deficiency and safer eggplant production.
- **Golden Rice:** A genetically engineered rice containing beta carotene (provitamin A), giving it a yellow-orange color.

### World Headed For 2.7° C Warming, Finance Deal Key: UN Climate Head

- The United Nations Climate Head Simon Stiell has warned the world at the Bonn Climate Change Conference in Germany
- The world headed for 2.7 degrees Celsius warming, and the road to keeping it to 1.5 degrees Celsius is extremely steep.
- The Bonn meeting from June 3 to 13 is known as halfway to the annual climate summit, also known as the 29th Conference of Parties, or COP29.
- It is expected to set the agenda for climate negotiations this year and will open discussions on a new finance goal to replace the existing goal of 100 billion dollars per year.

### What are COPs?

- **COP:** Stands for Conference of the Parties, which is the annual United Nations (UN) climate meeting.
- **Origin:** In 1992, at the Rio Earth Summit, 154 countries signed the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

- **Role:** COPs are the **main decision-making body** of the UNFCCC.
- **Purpose:** During these sessions, **participating countries (Parties)** evaluate global efforts to limit global warming to around **1.5°C** above pre-industrial levels, in line with the **Paris Agreement**.

#### Recent & Upcoming COP

- COP28, was the **28th United Nations Climate Change conference**, held from **30 November to 13 December 2023** at Expo City, Dubai, United Arab Emirates
- **COP29** will be held in **Baku, Azerbaijan**.
- **Mukhtar Babayev** will preside **COP29**

#### 2025 to be International Year of Quantum Science and Technology: UN

- The **United Nations** has declared **2025** as the 'International Year of Quantum Science and Technology'.
- **Scope:** This will be a **year-long, worldwide initiative**.
- **Opening Ceremony:** Scheduled for **January 14, 2025**, in **Berlin**.
- **Historical Context:** **2025** marks a century since **German physicist Werner Heisenberg** published a **foundational paper** on quantum mechanics.
- **India's Initiative:** The Government of India announced a 'National Quantum Mission' in **April 2023**, with a **budget of Rs 6,000 crore**, to be implemented from **2023 to 2031** by the **Department of Science & Technology (DST)**.

#### Biopharmaceutical Alliance

- It is an **alliance of India, South Korea, Japan, the United States of America (USA) and the European Union** to put **joint efforts** into building a **resilient supply chain** in the **biopharmaceutical sector**.
- **Inaugural Meeting:** Held in **San Diego, California**, during the **Bio International Convention 2024**.
- **Focus Areas:** Emphasized the importance of a **reliable and sustainable supply chain**, **coordination of biopolicies**, **regulations**, and **research and development support measures**.
- **Supply Chain Mapping:** Recognized the concentration of **essential raw materials and ingredients** in a few countries and agreed to create a **detailed pharmaceutical supply chain map**.
- **Reason for Formation:** Launched in response to **drug supply shortages** experienced during the **Covid-19 pandemic**.

#### China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)

- Pakistan Prime Minister **Shehbaz Sharif** and Chinese President **Xi Jinping** agreed to **upgrade cooperation under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)**, a major part of **Beijing's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)**.

- **Focus Areas:** Emphasized the **timely completion** of ongoing projects, with a **special focus on industrial development**, **agriculture modernization**, **science and technology**, and the development of **Special Economic Zones**.

#### CPEC Overview:

- ❖ **Connection:** Links **Gwadar Port** in **Pakistan's Balochistan** with **China's Xinjiang province**.
- ❖ **Flagship Project:** CPEC is a **key project of China's BRI**.
- ❖ **Route:** Passes through **Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK)**, where **China** is investing in several projects.
- ❖ **Historical Context:** Unveiled in **April 2015** by Chinese President **Xi Jinping** and then Pakistani PM **Nawaz Sharif** with an initial investment of **\$46 billion**.
- ❖ **Current Investment:** **China** has invested **\$65 billion** in **CPEC**, but **project implementation** has slowed recently

#### 112th Session of International Labour Conference (ILC)

- The **International Labour Organization** is holding its **112th annual International Labour Conference** in **Geneva** from **3–14 June 2024**.
- **Worker, employer and government delegates** from the **ILO's 187 Member States** will tackle a **wide range of issue**
- The **Indian tripartite delegation** led by **Secretary (Labour & Employment), Ms. Sumita Dawra**, participated.

#### Oxford University Agrees to Return Stolen 500-Year-Old Bronze Idol to India

- The Council of **UK's prestigious Oxford University** supported a claim from the **Indian High Commission** for the return of a **16th-century bronze sculpture** of **Saint Tirumankai Alvar** from the **Ashmolean Museum**.
- It is **believed to be stolen** from a temple in **Tamil Nadu to India**.
- **UK** acquired the statue in "**good faith**" in **1967**.

#### G7 summit: PM Modi leaves for Italy, 1st foreign trip this term

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** went to **Italy** to attend the **50th G7 outreach summit**.
- It will be his **first trip abroad** after assuming charge as the **Prime Minister** for the **third term**.
- The Italian Prime Minister **Giorgia Meloni** had invited **PM Modi** for the **G7 Outreach Summit**.
- It will be **India's 11th participation** in the **G7 Summit** and **PM Modi's fifth consecutive participation** at the **G7 Summit**.



### G7 summit

- It is an **intergovernmental organization** that was formed in **1975**.
- The **G7 countries** are the **UK, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the US**.
- All the **G7 countries and India are a part of G20**.
- The **G7 does not have a formal charter or a secretariat**.
- The **presidency, rotates among member countries each year**
- **Hiroshima, Japan** was the **host of the G7 Summit 2023**

- ❖ **Currency:** Thai baht
- ❖ **Monarch:** King Vajiralongkorn
- ❖ **Prime Minister:** Srettha Thavisin

### Ancient Greek sanctuary slowly sinks into the Aegean Sea

- **Delos:** An important **ancient Greek and Roman sanctuary**, is at risk of sinking into the Aegean Sea within **50 years** due to **climate change**.
- **Sanctuary of Apollo:** The island is home to this sanctuary, which includes **temples, altars, and other structures** dedicated to the god Apollo. **Delos is a UNESCO World Heritage Site**.
- **Mythological Significance:** According to **Greek mythology**, **Delos** is the birthplace of **Apollo**. Historically, it was a thriving commercial and trading hub due to its strategic location in the Mediterranean.
- **Aegean Sea:** An arm of the **Mediterranean Sea**, located between the **Greek peninsula** on the west and **Asia Minor** on the east.

### India To Acquire Five Lithium Blocks In Argentina

- **India's Lithium Exploration in Argentina:** India is set to secure **exploration and development rights for five lithium blocks in Argentina**, marking its **second international venture into critical minerals** after partnering with **Australia in 2022**.
- **Deal Finalization:** The agreement is nearing completion between **Khanij Bidesh India Ltd. (KABIL)** and **Catamarca Minera Y Energética Sociedad Del Estado (CAMYEN)**, an **Argentine state-owned mining and energy company**.
- **KABIL Joint Venture:**
  - ❖ **Partners:** **National Aluminium Company (NALCO)**, **Mineral Exploration Corporation Ltd. (MECL)**, and **Hindustan Copper Ltd. (HCL)**.
  - ❖ **Purpose:** Formed to identify, acquire, develop, and process strategic minerals overseas for use in India.

### Japan On High Alert as STSS Infections Surge

- **Surge in Infections:** Japan's **National Institute of Infectious Diseases** reports nearly **1,000 cases of STSS** this year.
- **STSS Overview:** **Streptococcal Toxic Shock Syndrome (STSS)** is a severe, **flesh-eating bacterial infection** caused by **Group A Streptococcus (GAS) bacteria**.
- **Symptoms and Risks:** The bacteria release **toxins** that cause an **intense inflammatory response**, leading to **rapid tissue decay, severe pain, and shock**. The infection can spread quickly through the **bloodstream**, causing **multi-organ failure** and can be **fatal within 48 hours**.

### Lithium Triangle:

- **Lithium Triangle:** Comprises **Argentina, Chile, and Bolivia**, which together hold more than half of the world's lithium resources.
- **Argentina's Role:** Currently the **fourth largest producer of lithium**.
- **Importance of Lithium:** Often referred to as **'white gold'**, it is crucial for the **transition to green energy**, used in **energy storage solutions, batteries for mobile phones, and Electric Vehicles (EVs)**.

### Thailand Legalizes Same-Sex Marriage

- **Thailand Legalizes Same-Sex Marriage:** Thailand will become the **first country in Southeast Asia** and the **third in Asia**, after **Nepal and Taiwan**, to **legalize same-sex marriage**.
- **India's Stance:** In **October 2023**, the **Supreme Court of India** refused to amend the **Special Marriage Act (SMA) of 1954** to recognize **same-sex marriages**, leaving the decision to **Parliament**.
- **Thailand's Details:**
  - ❖ **Capital:** Bangkok

### World Economic Forum

- **World Economic Forum meeting** held in **Davos (Switzerland)** from **14 -20 January**.
- **UP Pavilion was Displayed For The First Time In the WEF Meeting**
- Through the **Uttar Pradesh Pavilion**, people from all over the world will be able to get a glimpse of the **industrial development and culture of this place**.
- **Efforts will be made to attract investors from all over the world to invest in Uttar Pradesh through the pavilion.**
- **One District-One Product (ODOP)** will be presented in the **Uttar Pradesh Pavilion**.

### World Economic Forum:

- WEF is the **International Organization for Public-Private Cooperation**.
- The Forum engages the foremost **political, business, cultural and other leaders of society** to shape **global, regional and industry agendas**.

- It is headquartered in **Geneva, Switzerland**.
- **Foundation:**
  - ❖ **Klaus Schwab**, a German professor with a background in mechanical engineering and a Master of Public Administration from **Harvard**, founded WEF in 1971, originally known as the **European Management Forum**.
- **Major reports** published by the World Economic Forum:
  - ❖ Global Competitiveness Report
  - ❖ Global Information Technology Report
  - ❖ Global Gender Gap report
  - ❖ Global Risk Report
  - ❖ Global Travel and Tourism Report

### Gelephu Smartcity Project

- Announced by Bhutan's **King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck**, this project aims to create a massive international city spanning over **1,000 sq. km.** on the border with **Assam**.
- **Economic Corridor:** The city will serve as an **economic corridor** connecting South Asia with Southeast Asia via India's northeastern states.
  - ❖ **Infrastructure Development:** Plans include an India-Bhutan railway line to Gelephu, linking roadways, trading points, and connections to Myanmar, Thailand, Cambodia, and Singapore.
  - ❖ **India's Commitment:** India has pledged to improve roads, connect border towns with railways, and support Bhutan's development.
  - ❖ **Special Administrative Region:** Gelephu will be governed by distinct laws to facilitate international investment.
  - ❖ **International Presence:** This project will significantly enhance Bhutan's international presence.

### Global River Cities Alliance: NMCG

- **Memorandum of Common Purpose (MoCP):** Signed by the **National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG)** on behalf of the **River Cities Alliance (RCA)** with the **Mississippi River Cities and Towns Initiative (MRCTI)**, representing **124 cities/towns** along the **Mississippi River** in the **USA**.

#### About River Cities Alliance (RCA)

- **Launch:** 2021.
- **Unique Partnership:** A collaboration between the Ministry of Jal Shakti and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
- **Objective:** To provide member cities with a platform to discuss and exchange information on sustainable urban river management, share best practices, and support innovation.
- **Membership:** Open to all river cities in India, with the alliance initially launched with 30 cities.

- **Focus Areas:** Networking, Capacity Building, and Technical Support.
- **Secretariat:** Located at the National Institute for Urban Affairs (NIUA).

### National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG):

- **Formation:** Established as a society in **2011** under the Societies Registration Act, 1860.
- **Role:** Initially served as the implementation arm of the **National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA)**, which was constituted under the **Environment (Protection) Act, 1986**.
- **Transition:** In **2016**, NGRBA was dissolved and replaced by the **National Council for Rejuvenation, Protection, and Management of River Ganga**.
- **Objective:** To reduce pollution and ensure the rejuvenation of the **Ganga River**.
- **Key Programme:** Namami Gange, a flagship initiative aimed at cleaning and rejuvenating the Ganga.

### PM Modi Proposes To Host COP33 In India In 2028

- This offer was made during his address at the inaugural session of the World Climate Action Summit at COP28 in Dubai.
- "India's goal is to bring down emissions intensify by **45% till 2030**.
- We have decided to increase the share of non-fossil fuel to **50%**.
- We will also keep going ahead towards our goal of net zero by **2070**,"

### Asian Ranger Forum

- The **1st Asian Ranger Forum** began in **Guwahati**.
- Aim to provide a unique opportunity to the rangers and organisations from the Asian region to collaborate on the issues affecting rangers globally and to provide solutions.
- The '**Exploring Womanhood Foundation Van Durga Conservation Award 2023**' was presented to women rangers,
  - ❖ **Smt. Heena Patel** of Gujarat
  - ❖ **Smt. Martina Sangma** of Meghalaya
  - ❖ **Deepika Vashisht** of Rajasthan.
  - ❖
- The Theme of the forum is "**Asia's biodiversity guardians for 30X30**".

### India Re-Elected To The International Maritime Organization Council

- The **33rd Assembly** of the **IMO Council** is being held from **27 November to 6 December 2023** at the **IMO**

### Headquarters in London.

- India comes in the category of ten countries with the greatest interest in international maritime trade.

### International Maritime Organization (IMO)

- **Established:** 17 March 1948, during the Geneva Conference.
- **Headquarters:** London
- **Membership:** 175 members and 3 associate members.
- **India's Membership:** Joined in 1959.

### World's Oldest Known Fort

- **Discovery:** An international team of archaeologists has uncovered what is believed to be the world's oldest-known fort in a remote region of Siberia.
- **Location:** The fortified settlement, named Amnya, is located along the Amnya River in western Siberia.
- **Features:** The site includes around 20 scattered pit-house depressions, divided into two sections, Amnya I and Amnya II.
- **Age:** Radiocarbon dating of samples collected at the site indicates the fort was constructed around 8,000 years ago, making it the oldest-known fort in the world.

### Six Indian Heritage Projects bag UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards 2023

- The UNESCO Asia-Pacific Prize for Cultural Heritage Conservation 2023 has been announced, with six winners from India.
- Among the recognised sites, five are from China, six from India, and one from Nepal.
- **India's performance in UNESCO:**
  - ❖ Award of Excellence: Rambagh Gate in Amritsar
  - ❖ Award of Distinction: Karnikara Mandapam at Kunnamangalam Bhagavathi Temple, Kerala/ के र ल के कनामगलम भगवती मंदिर म किणकारा मंडपम
  - ❖ Award of Merit:
    - ❖ Church of the Epiphany in Gurugram, Haryana.
    - ❖ David Sassoon Library and Reading Room in Mumbai, Bikaner House in New Delhi.
- 1. **Special Recognition for Sustainable Development: Peepal Haveli in Punjab**
- The 'Asia-Pacific Heritage Award' has been given by UNESCO since 2000
- The purpose of this award is to promote the conservation of such cultural heritage areas whose conservation efforts have been initiated by an individual or organisation.

### Bengaluru Airport Terminal 2

- UNESCO: Bengaluru Airport's T2 named among 'world's most beautiful airports'

- The Bengaluru Airport Terminal 2 has earned acclaim as one of the 'World's Most Beautiful Airports' and received the 'World Special Prize for an Interior 2023.'

### Angkor Wat Named The Eighth Wonder Of The World

- **Angkor Wat:** The ancient Hindu temple in Cambodia has been named the 8th Wonder of the World, surpassing Italy's Pompeii.
- **Khmer Architecture:** Angkor Wat is one of the finest examples of Khmer architecture.
- **UNESCO World Heritage Site:** Recognized in 1992, the complex includes Angkor Wat, Angkor Thom, and the Bayon Temple, known for their intricate carvings and magnificent sculptures.
- **Historical Background:** Built by King Suryavarman II in the 12th century, Angkor Wat was originally dedicated to the Hindu god Vishnu but became a Buddhist temple by the end of the 12th century.

### Nepal becomes first South Asian nation to register same-sex marriage

- Nepal is the first South Asian country to officially register same-sex marriages.
- **Legalization:** The Supreme Court of Nepal permitted same-sex marriage in 2007.
- **Context:** Taiwan is the only other Asian country to legalize same-sex marriage.
- **Inclusivity:** Nepal's 2015 Constitution explicitly prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation.

### India Named Chair of International Sugar Organization for 2024

The International Sugar Organization (ISO) has appointed India as the Chair for the year 2024.

#### India's Role:

- **Representation:** Food Secretary Sanjeev Chopra led India's representation during the 63rd Council Meeting of ISO.
- **Global Significance:**
  - ❖ India is the largest consumer of sugar globally.
  - ❖ It is the second-largest producer of sugar worldwide.
  - ❖ India holds about 15% share in global sugar consumption and approximately 20% of sugar production.
- **Geographical Leadership:**
  - ❖ Brazil leads in sugar production in the Western Hemisphere.
  - ❖ India takes the lead in the Eastern Hemisphere.
- **Top Sugarcane Producing States in India:**
  - ❖ Uttar Pradesh
  - ❖ Maharashtra
  - ❖ Karnataka



## India-Bangladesh Joint Development Projects (November 1, 2023)

### 1. Akhaura-Agartala Cross-Border Rail Link

- ❖ **Purpose:** Enhance connectivity between India and Bangladesh.
- ❖ **Details:**
- ❖ Length: 12.24 km.
- ❖ Dual gauge rail line: 6.78 km in Bangladesh, 5.46 km in Tripura (India).

### 2. Khulna-Mongla Port Rail Line

- ❖ **Purpose:** Improve transportation and trade.
- ❖ **Details:**
- ❖ Cost: \$388.92 million.
- ❖ Broad gauge rail link: Approx. 65 km.
- ❖ Connects Mongla port to Khulna region's rail network.

### 3. Maitree Super Thermal Power Plant Unit II

- ❖ **Purpose:** Enhance energy security.
- ❖ **Details:**
- ❖ Location: Rampal, Khulna division (Bangladesh).
- ❖ Capacity: 1,320 MW.
- ❖ Joint venture: India's NTPCL and Bangladesh Power Development Board.

## Akhaura-Agartala Cross-Border Rail Link Project

- **Length:** 15 kilometers
- 5 kilometers in India
- 10 kilometers in Bangladesh
- **Funding:**
- The project received a grant of INR 392.52 crore from the Government of India to Bangladesh.
- **Purpose:**
- Facilitate cross-border trade
- Significantly reduce travel time between Agartala and Kolkata via Dhaka

## World Climate Action Summit

- **Date and Location:**
  - ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Dubai, UAE for the World Climate Action Summit.
  - ❖ The Summit is the High-Level Segment of the 28th Conference of Parties (COP28) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
  - ❖ COP-28 is being held from 28th November to 12th December under the Presidency of the UAE.
- **India's Contributions:**
  - ❖ During COP-26 in Glasgow, Prime Minister Modi announced five specific targets known as

"Panchamrit," representing India's unprecedented commitment to climate action.

- ❖ He also introduced the Mission Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE) initiative.
- ❖ New Delhi aims to achieve net-zero status by 2070.
- **India's Priorities:**
  - ❖ Climate change remains a crucial focus area during India's G20 Presidency.
  - ❖ COP-28 provides an opportunity to build upon previous successes and advance global climate action.

## World's Biggest Iceberg on the Move After 30 Years

### Background:

- The colossal iceberg A23a, which has been largely stationary for over three decades, is now on the move.
- Originating from West Antarctica's Filchner-Ronne Ice Shelf in 1986, A23a weighs nearly a trillion metric tonnes and spans an area of 4,000 square kilometers.

### Current Movement:

- After more than 30 years of relative stillness, A23a is finally shifting.
- Strong winds and ocean currents are propelling it past the northern tip of the Antarctic Peninsula.

## India's First Banana Export to Europe via Sea Route

- **Initiative:**
  - ❖ The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) organized the first consignment of Indian bananas to Europe via sea route.
  - ❖ The goal is to increase the market share of Indian bananas in the European market.
- **Export Details:**
  - ❖ **Quantity:** 19.50 metric tonnes (MT) of bananas were exported.
  - ❖ **Origin:** The bananas were shipped from Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT) in Mumbai.
- **About APEDA:**
  - ❖ **Founded:** February 1986 ,13
  - ❖ **Headquarters:** New Delhi
  - ❖ APEDA operates under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
  - ❖ Its major functions include monitoring the import and export of various food products, including fruits, vegetables, meat, dairy products, confectionery, bakery items, floriculture, and medicinal plants.

### First Australia India Education & Skill Council (AIESC) meeting

- **First Australia India Education & Skill Council (AIESC) meeting** held at IIT Gandhinagar, Gujarat:
- **Venue:** IIT Gandhinagar, Gujarat
- **Purpose:**
  - ❖ AIESC is a bi-national body established in 2011.
  - ❖ Its primary role is to guide the strategic direction of education and research partnerships between Australia and India.

### Philippines' Exit from China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)

#### Announcement:

- The Philippine Department of Transportation has officially terminated major infrastructure projects under China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).
- The decision favors competitors from the West and Japan.

#### Background on BRI:

- The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), also known as One Belt One Road, is a global infrastructure development strategy launched by the Chinese government in 2013.
- It aims to invest in infrastructure projects across more than 150 countries and international organizations.

### CBSE to open new administrative Office in UAE

- For the **Indian expatriate community in the United Arab Emirates**
- Capital – Abu Dhabi
- Currency – Dirham
- President – Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan

### 2nd World Local Production Forum

- **Date and Location:**
  - ❖ The forum took place at **The Hague**.
  - ❖ The Indian delegation, led by the **Union Minister of State for Chemicals and Fertilizers**, participated in the event.
- **Initiative:** The World Local Production Forum is an initiative of the World Health Organization (WHO).
- **Background:** The first WLPF was organized virtually in 2021.
- **Objective:** The forum aims to increase access to medicines and other health technologies.

### Chile Joins International Solar Alliance (ISA)

- **Background:**
  - ❖ The International Solar Alliance (ISA) is an alliance of over 120 signatory countries.

- ❖ Most member countries are sunshine countries, located either entirely or partially between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn.
- ❖ The ISA aims to promote solar energy adoption and reduce reliance on fossil fuels.

#### Origin:

- ❖ Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi proposed this initiative in a speech in November 2015.

### Japan gets a new Island after an undersea volcano eruption

- The world's newest island has been formed off the coast of the Japanese island of Iwo Jima in the Pacific Ocean following an undersea volcanic eruption around 1,200 km south of Tokyo.
- It located about 1 km off the southern coast of Iwo Jima, started its latest series of eruptions on October 21.
- The unnamed island was formed after it rose from the ocean
- Iwoto island was previously known as Iwo Jima but was renamed by Japanese authorities in 2007.

### Al Dhafra Solar Photovoltaic Independent Power Project (IPP) in the UAE:

- **Capacity** 2 GW, World's largest single-site solar power plant
- **Location:** 35 kilometers from Abu Dhabi city
- **Impact:**
  - ❖ Electricity generation for nearly 200,000 homes
  - ❖ Expected to reduce 2.4 million tonnes of carbon emissions annually
- **Sustainability Goal:** Aligns with UAE's Net Zero 2050 objective
- **Upcoming Event:** UAE hosts the United Nations Climate Change Conference from November 30th to December 12 this year.

### ASEAN India Millet Festival 2023

#### ASEAN-India Millet Festival:

- Held in Jakarta, Indonesia, from November 22-26, 2023
- Part of the 'International Year of Millets 2023.'
- Aims to raise awareness and create a market for millets and millet-based products among ASEAN member states.

### BRICS Virtual Summit

The **BRICS virtual summit**, hosted by **South Africa**, brings together leaders from **Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa**.

#### Purpose:

- To address the ongoing **Israel-Hamas war in West Asia**.

- Leaders aim to draw up a common response and adopt a joint statement regarding the conflict.

#### Participants:

- External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar represents India.
- UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres will also participate.
- Leaders from Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, and the United Arab Emirates (due to join BRICS in January 2024) will attend.

#### Cyclone 'Michaung'

- The Bay of Bengal is on high alert for a potential cyclonic storm named 'Michaung.'
- It would be the fourth in the Bay of Bengal and the sixth in Indian waters this year.
- Name suggested by Myanmar.

#### Isthmus of Kra Land Bridge Project

- **Objective:** Create a land bridge to offer international shippers a shortcut between the Pacific and Indian oceans, bypassing the Malacca Strait at Singapore.
- **Initial Idea:** A 90-km canal connecting the Andaman Sea and the Gulf of Thailand.
- **Impact:** Could diminish the strategic significance of the Strait of Malacca.
- **Location:** Southern Thailand, separating the Malay Peninsula.
- **Width:** Approximately 44 km.
- **Geographic Features:** Connects the Andaman Sea (west) to the South China Sea (east).
- **Strategic Importance:** Historical trade route; potential maritime trade shortcut.

#### Treaty of Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE):

- Russia has officially pulled out of the CFE, citing NATO's expansion as a reason for the breakdown in cooperation regarding conventional weapons restrictions.
- **NATO's Response:** In response, NATO formally suspended the CFE, a key Cold War-era security treaty.
- **Purpose of the CFE:** The treaty, signed in November 1990, aimed to prevent Cold War rivals from amassing forces near mutual borders.
- **Signatories:** Most of NATO's 31 allies were signatories to this treaty.

#### Sultan Ibrahim Sultan Iskandar

- Malaysia has announced that its next and 17th king will be Sultan Ibrahim Sultan Iskandar. He will take over from

outgoing King Al-Sultan Abdullah on January 31 next year.

- Malaysia has a unique tradition in which the heads of its nine royal families become kings on a rotating basis for a five-year term.

#### Karachi-born Erica Robin, the first-ever Miss Universe Pakistan 2023

- She will now represent Pakistan at the 72nd Global Miss Universe Pageant, in El Salvador in November this year.

#### BR Ambedkar statue in Maryland, USA

- **Project:** India will unveil the largest statue of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar outside India in Maryland, North America on October 14.
- **Organizer:** The project is organized by the Ambedkar International Center (AIC).
- **Statue Details:** The 19-foot statue, known as the "Statue of Equality," was created by renowned artist and sculptor Ram Sutar. Sutar also crafted the statue of Sardar Patel in Ahmedabad, Gujarat.
- **Ambedkar Jayanti:** The 132nd birth anniversary of Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar was celebrated as Ambedkar Jayanti in India on April 14, 2023.
- **Legacy:** Dr. Ambedkar was the first Minister of Law and Justice of independent India and Chairman of the Drafting Committee of the Constituent Assembly.
- **Notable Works:** Some of his significant books include "Annihilation of Caste," "Buddha and His Dhamma," "Who Were the Shudras?," "Pakistan or Partition of India ( HPAS Pre 2024 )," "Castes in India: Their Mechanism, Origin and Development," "Development of Provincial Finance in British India," and "The Untouchables: Who Were They and Why Did They Become Untouchables?"

#### Russia Delivers Uranium For Bangladesh's Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant

- Russia has supplied the first batch of nuclear fuel to Bangladesh for the Rooppur nuclear power project.
- The plant, located on the eastern bank of the Ganges River, will produce 2,400 MW and power about 15 million households.
- The first unit is expected to become operational in 2024.
- Russia funded the construction with an \$11.38-billion loan, repayable over two decades from 2027.
- The reactors have a life cycle of 60 years, extendable by 20 more years.
- Bangladesh will become the 33rd nuclear power-producing country once the Rooppur plant is commissioned.

#### Uranium:

- Uranium (U) is a radioactive chemical element (atomic



number 92).

- Naturally occurring uranium consists of 99% uranium-238 and 1% uranium-235.
- Major uranium production comes from Kazakhstan, Canada, and Australia.
- Scientists have developed Uranium-214, the lightest form of uranium, at the Heavy Ion Research Facility in Lanzhou, China.

#### Uranium Mining in India:

- Jaduguda in the Singhbhum Thrust Belt (Jharkhand) was India's first uranium deposit discovered in 1951.
- Other uranium occurrences are found in the Cuddapah basin of Andhra Pradesh.
- Monazite sands, especially along the Kerala coast, are a significant source of uranium

#### India Re-elected as President of AIBD

- India has been re-elected as the President of the Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD) for a third successive term.
- AIBD is an organization focused on media development and cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region.
- Prasar Bharati, India's public service broadcaster, represents India's interests at AIBD.

#### 21st General Conference & Associated Meetings 2023:

- The AIBD's 21st General Conference (GC 2023) was successfully held in Port Louis, Mauritius.
- Gaurav Dwivedi, CEO of Prasar Bharati, chaired the conference.
- AIBD, established in 1977, continues to promote collaboration and excellence in broadcasting across the region.

#### "Operation Al-Aqsa Flood"

- The Israel-Palestine conflict has escalated with the armed wing of Hamas launching "Operation Al-Aqsa Flood," firing over 5,000 rockets into Israel.
- Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu declared a state of war.

#### Operation Ajay

- India launched 'Operation Ajay' for Indians in Israel
- Operation Kaveri was an operation conducted by the Indian Armed Forces to evacuate Indian citizens and foreign nationals from Sudan during the 2023 Sudan conflict.

#### Sri Lanka to take over as Chair of Indian Ocean Rim Association.

- Sri Lanka will lead IORA from 2023 to 2025.
- The handover ceremony took place during the 23rd Council of Ministers' Meeting in Colombo.

- Bangladesh's Foreign Minister handed over the chairmanship to Sri Lanka's Foreign Minister, M.U.M. Ali Sabry.

#### IORA Overview:

- Established in 1997, IORA is an intergovernmental organization.
- It includes 23 member states and 11 dialogue partners from Indian Ocean regions.
- IORA focuses on sustainable development across six areas, including maritime security, tourism promotion, and cultural exchanges.
- The IORA Secretariat is headquartered in Mauritius.

#### 141st International Olympic Committee Session : Inauguration

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will inaugurate the session on October 14, 2023.
- The session will take place at the Jio World Centre in Mumbai.
- This marks India hosting the IOC Session after approximately 40 years (since the 86th IOC session in New Delhi in 1983).

#### IOC Approvals:

- The International Olympic Committee has approved T20 cricket for both men and women in the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics.
- Other sports like baseball-softball, flag football, lacrosse (sixes), and squash have also received approval.

#### About the IOC:

- **Establishment:** Founded in 1894.
- **HQ:** Lausanne, Switzerland.
- **Objective:** Promote the Olympic movement and uphold values such as friendship, respect, and excellence globally.
- Responsible for organizing and managing the Summer and Winter Olympic Games.

#### Sayeret Matkal : Israel Operation

- Israel's most elite special operations force, Sayeret Matkal, is being prepped for extremely dangerous hostage-rescue missions in the Gaza Strip.
- Sayeret Matkal, also called General Staff Reconnaissance Unit 269, is an elite commando unit of the Israeli Defense Force (IDF).

#### Lymphatic Filariasis (LF):

- Also known as elephantiasis, LF is a neglected tropical disease caused by filarial parasites.
- Transmission occurs through mosquito bites.
- It impairs the lymphatic system, leading to abnormal enlargement of body parts and severe disability.

#### Elimination Milestones:

- Lao People's Democratic Republic became the second country in 2023, after Bangladesh, to eliminate LF.

- WHO's roadmap for 2021–2030 aims to prevent, control, and eliminate 20 diseases globally.

#### Progress Report:

- Nineteen countries have successfully eliminated LF.
- Among them, 11 are in the WHO Western Pacific Region (WPR), with Lao PDR being the 11th.
- Other regions with successful elimination include South-East Asia (Bangladesh, the Maldives, Sri Lanka, and Thailand) and Africa (Malawi and Togo).

#### Egypt 1st Country To Achieve Gold Tier Status-Hepatitis C

- Egypt is the first country to attain the “gold tier” status on the path to eliminating hepatitis C, as per WHO criteria.
- This achievement reflects Egypt's fulfillment of programmatic coverage targets, positioning it to meet the reduced incidence and mortality goals for full elimination by 2030.

#### Key Criteria Met by Egypt:

- Egypt successfully met WHO criteria for hepatitis C elimination, including ensuring safe blood and injections.
- The country diagnosed 87% of cases and treated 93% of diagnosed individuals.

#### About Hepatitis C:

- Hepatitis C is a viral infection primarily affecting the liver.

#### World Health Summit 2023:

- The World Health Summit 2023 will take place in Berlin, Germany, and online from October 15–17.
- The theme for the summit is “A Defining Year for Global Health Action.”

#### Montreux Convention

- The Montreux Convention, established in 1936, governs the regime of the Turkish Straits—the Dardanelles Strait and the Bosphorus Strait.
- These straits serve as the only maritime passage connecting the Black Sea to the Mediterranean Sea.
- Turkey has control over the Turkish Straits according to the convention.

#### Warship Passage:

- During times of war, the Montreux Convention grants Turkey the right to regulate the transit of naval warships.
- Turkey can also block the straits for warships belonging to countries involved in the conflict.

#### Merchant Vessels vs. Warships:

- Merchant vessels have freedom of passage through the Turkish Straits.
- Warships, however, face restrictions based on whether they belong to Black Sea littoral states or not.

#### Submarines:

- Submarines from littoral states can pass through the Turkish Straits to rejoin their Black Sea base after construction, purchase, or repair outside the Black Sea.

#### United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF)

- The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change is organizing a Country-Led Initiative (CLI) event as part of the UNFF.
- The event will take place from October 26 to 28, 2023, at the Forest Research Institute (FRI) in Dehradun, Uttarakhand.
- UNFF's Purpose: The UNFF promotes the management, conservation, and sustainable development of all types of forests globally.
- India's Role: India is a founding member of the UNFF.
- UN Strategic Plan for Forests: The UN General Assembly adopted the first-ever UN Strategic Plan for Forests covering the period from 2017 to 2030.
- Founding Date: The UNFF was founded on October 18, 2000.

#### Three Basins Summit:

- The Three Basins Summit took place in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo.
- Its purpose was to strengthen South-South governance for three critical ecosystems: the Amazon, Congo, Borneo-Mekong, and Southeast Asia.
- Three Basins Threat Report: Released during the summit, this report highlighted the challenges faced by the world's remaining tropical forest basins.
- Basin Significance: The Amazon basin (South America), the Congo basin (Central Africa), and the Borneo-Mekong basin (Southeast Asia) collectively represent 80% of global rainforests and contain approximately two-thirds of Earth's biodiversity.
- Ecosystem Restoration Goal: The summit aims to implement a global coalition for restoring 350 million hectares of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, aligned with the United Nations Decade for Ecosystem Restoration.

#### Global Declaration for River Dolphins

- Eleven Asian and South American countries signed the “Global Declaration for River Dolphins.”
- Aim: Preserve the world's six remaining river dolphin species.
- Focus: Responsible freshwater dolphin conservation.
- Goals: Halt the decline of all river dolphin species and increase vulnerable populations.
- Adopting countries: Bangladesh, Bolivia, Brazil, Cambodia, Colombia, Ecuador, India, Nepal, Pakistan,

Peru, and Venezuela.

- **Measures:** Improve water quality, create protected areas, tackle overfishing, and involve Indigenous communities.

#### River Dolphins:

- River dolphins belong to the order Cetacea.
- **Six surviving species:** Amazon, Indus, Ganges, Irrawaddy, Tucuxi, and Yangtze.
- The Chinese river dolphin (baiji) was declared extinct in 2007.

#### UN General Assembly Resolution on Gaza

- India abstained from voting on the resolution

#### Resolution Details

- Title: “Protection of civilians and upholding legal and humanitarian obligations”.
- Drafted by Jordan.
- Co-sponsored by over 40 countries, including Bangladesh, Maldives, Pakistan, Russia, and South Africa.
- Urges for an immediate humanitarian truce in the Israel-Hamas conflict.
- Demands unhindered humanitarian access in the Gaza Strip.

**Controversy:** The resolution does not mention Hamas, leading to US criticism of the “omission of evil”

#### Outcome

- Adopted by the 193-member General Assembly
- 120 votes in favour
- 45 abstentions (including India)
- 14 member states voted against it

#### Key Provisions:

- Calls for an immediate, long-lasting, and consistent humanitarian truce.
- Demands cessation of hostilities.
- Requires immediate, continuous, sufficient, and unrestricted provision of vital goods and services to Gaza civilians

#### CCI Becomes A Member Of International Competition Network Committee

- The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has joined the 18-member steering committee of the International Competition Network (ICN).
- The ICN was established in October 2001 by officials from 15 competition agencies worldwide.
- The ICN is the only global body exclusively focused on competition law enforcement, with 140 member agencies representing national and multinational competition authorities.
- The ICN has no formal secretariat or premises.

- The CCI, a statutory body of the Government of India, was established in March 2009 under the Competition Act, 2002.

#### FATF Removes Cayman Islands From Its ‘Grey List’

- The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) has removed the Cayman Islands from its ‘grey list.’
- Along with the Cayman Islands, Panama, Jordan, and Albania have also been removed from the list.
- In contrast, Bulgaria has been added to the grey list.
- The FATF is an inter-governmental body responsible for establishing international standards to combat money laundering, terrorist financing, and proliferation financing.
- The ‘grey list’ comprises jurisdictions that do not meet the FATF’s standards in areas such as anti-money laundering (AML), counter-terrorism financing (CFT), and proliferation financing.
- Countries on this list face increased monitoring until they address the identified deficiencies in their regulatory frameworks.
- The FATF was founded in 1989, has its headquarters in Paris, France, and currently has 39 member countries.
- The current President of the FATF is T Raja Kumar from Singapore

#### Jais: The World’s Most Advanced Arabic Large Language Model

- Released by Inception, a unit of Abu Dhabi AI company G42
- Trained on a massive dataset of text and code
- Bilingual Arabic-English model

#### Capabilities and Features

- Can be used for various tasks, such as:
- Machine translation
- Text summarization
- Question answering
- Open-source, allowing anyone to use or contribute to its development

#### Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s visit to Jakarta, Indonesia

- **Invitation:** PM Modi visited Jakarta in 06-07 September 2023 at the invitation of H.E. Joko Widodo, President of Indonesia.
- **Summits Attended:**
  - ❖ **20th ASEAN-India Summit:** This summit marked the first meeting since India and ASEAN elevated their relations to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in 2022.
  - ❖ **18th East Asia Summit:** Hosted by Indonesia as the current Chair of ASEAN.



- ❖ Focus of discussions included areas such as maritime security, cyber-security, digital economy, and emerging cooperation

#### 43rd ASEAN summit held in Jakarta

- The 43rd ASEAN summit took place from 5th to 7th September.
- The summit occurred amid heightened tensions in the South China Sea due to China's recent release of a new map claiming disputed areas.

#### Agenda:

- ASEAN leaders discussed various pressing regional issues during the summit.
- One of the key topics was the crisis in Myanmar.
- Additionally, they explored ways to strengthen ASEAN integration and enhance collaboration in areas like the digital and green economies.

#### About ASEAN:

- ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) was officially established on August 8, 1967.
- The founding members were Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand.
- Currently, ASEAN comprises ten member states.

#### G20 transforming into the G21 with the inclusion of the African Union (AU):

- The G20 Summit is making history by expanding to include the African Union (AU), effectively creating the G21.
- This significant move, proposed by India, recognizes the importance of representing the global south.

#### African Union's Role:

- The AU, which previously held "invited international organization" status, has now been granted full membership in the G20.
- This elevates the AU to the same level as the European Union (EU) and the 19 other member countries.
- Prior to this, South Africa was the sole African country with a seat at the G20 table.

#### AU's Impact:

- The AU comprises 55 diverse member countries and also includes eight regional economic committees.
- By joining the G20, the AU gains a voice on key global issues alongside major economies.
- The G20 represents approximately 85% of global GDP, 75% of global trade, and two-thirds of the world's population.

#### G20 Overview:

- The G20, established in 1999, consists of 19 countries (Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France,

Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, South Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, the United Kingdom, and the United States) along with the EU.

- Additionally, the G20 annually invites guest countries and international organizations like the United Nations, World Bank, IMF, and ASEAN to participate in its meetings.
- The AU's inclusion in the G21 marks a geopolitical and economic leap for the continent, providing a stronger voice in shaping global policies

#### West Coast Refinery Project in India

- The West Coast Refinery Project, also known as the Ratnagiri Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd. (RRPCL), was conceptualized in 2014.
- It aims to be India's largest greenfield refinery, with a massive capacity of 60 million tonnes per annum.
- The project is strategically located on India's western coast, specifically in Ratnagiri, Maharashtra.

#### Significance:

- Upon completion, this refinery is poised to become the largest integrated refinery and petrochemical facility in the world.
- It's expected to produce approximately 1.2 million barrels of oil per day, along with various petroleum products from attached petrochemical plants.

#### Joint Venture and Stakeholders:

- The Ratnagiri Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd. (RRPCL) is a joint venture formed in 2017.
- India's three national oil companies—Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL), and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL)—are involved.
- In 2019, Saudi Aramco and the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) joined the project, collectively acquiring a 50 percent stake.
- The estimated investment for this ambitious venture is around Rs 3 lakh crore.
- Despite some delays due to site suitability studies and other factors, the West Coast Refinery Project remains a significant milestone in India's energy landscape

#### Climate Ambition Summit (CAS)

- Climate Ambition Summit (CAS), held at the United Nations General Assembly, aimed to showcase leaders who are taking credible actions to combat climate change.
- China, United States and India failed to participate in the summit.

#### Backdrop and Importance:

- The CAS brought together leaders from government,

business, finance, local authorities, and civil society.

- Their focus was on **actions, not just pledges, to accelerate global decarbonization** and deliver climate justice.
- **China, the U.S., and India**, as **major emitters**, play a crucial role in addressing the climate crisis.

#### Summit Purpose:

- The **CAS aligned** with the **Paris Agreement's goal of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels**.
- It emphasized tangible and ambitious steps to cut emissions and advance climate justice.
- **India's Commitments:** India updated its climate pledges in 2022:
  1. **45% reduction** in emissions intensity from 2005 levels by 2030.
  2. **50% renewable energy** in its electric power sourcing.
  3. Focus on **carbon sinks** through afforestation.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi committed to achieving **net-zero emissions by 2070**.

#### Alliance of Sahel States

- **Mali, Burkina Faso, and Niger** have signed a pact called **Alliance of Sahel States to support each other against threats of armed rebellion or external aggression**.
- This alliance combines both **military and economic efforts**.

#### Context and Need:

- The **Liptako-Gourma region**, where the borders of these **three countries meet**, has faced armed rebellion in recent years.
- Previously, **all three states were part of the France-supported G5 Sahel alliance joint force, which aimed to combat armed groups linked to al-Qaeda and ISIS (ISIS)**.
- Recent coups in these countries highlight the need for cooperation in addressing security challenges.
- The **Alliance of Sahel States** represents a **collective effort to enhance stability and security in the region**.

#### Asia Pacific Forum On Human Rights : Conference

- The **President of India** inaugurated **Annual General Meeting and Biennial Conference** of the **Asia Pacific Forum on Human Rights** in New Delhi.
- Asia Pacific Forum was founded in **1996**.
- It has created a **strong and united platform that brings together National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) from all corners of the Asia Pacific**.
- It addresses some of the most serious human rights challenges in Asia Pacific region.

- It has **17 full members and eight associate members**.
- India has been a **full time member since 1996**.

#### Akshardham temple in New Jersey, USA

- **Akshardham temple** in New Jersey, USA, is indeed a remarkable achievement.
- The temple, set to be the **world's second-largest Hindu temple outside India**, will be formally inaugurated on **October 8**.
- It's a significant cultural and spiritual addition to New Jersey.

#### Construction

- The **BAPS Swaminarayan Akshardham organization** has overseen the temple's construction.
- The temple spans an impressive **183 acres**.

#### Unique Features:

- The temple premises include a **'Brahma Kund', a traditional Indian stepwell**.
- This stepwell contains water from over **300 water bodies** worldwide, including holy rivers from India and all 50 states of the US.

#### Comparison to Angkor Wat:

- While the Akshardham temple is impressive, it's worth noting that the **12th-century Angkor Wat Temple Complex** remains the **largest Hindu temple in the world**.
- Angkor Wat, located in Cambodia, covers a vast **500 acres** and is a **UNESCO World Heritage site**.

#### Five Eyes Alliance

- The **Five Eyes Alliance** is an intelligence network established after World War II among five countries: the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand. Here are the key points:

#### Origins:

- The origins of the **Five Eyes (FVEY)** can be traced to **informal, secret meetings during World War II** between **British and American code-breakers**.
- These meetings occurred before the US formally entered the war.
- The alliance was formalized in the post-war era by the **UKUSA Agreement** in 1946.

#### Purpose and Cooperation:

- The Five Eyes countries **collaborate closely on intelligence matters**, particularly **signals intelligence (SIGINT)**.
- They share information to **protect their shared national interests**.
- The alliance has **evolved over time, adapting to new domains** such as **international terrorism, cyberattacks,**

and contemporary regional conflicts.

#### ECHELON Surveillance System:

- During the Cold War, the Five Eyes worked together to share intelligence on the Soviet Union.
- They developed the ECHELON surveillance system, which monitors telephone and fax signals, emails, and other data transmissions.
- In recent years, the alliance has also focused on monitoring activities related to China.
- The Five Eyes remains one of the most comprehensive espionage alliances, involving various intelligence sources beyond just signals intelligence

#### G4 countries

- The G4 countries - India, Brazil, Japan and Germany, have reiterated that expansion of UN Security Council in both permanent and nonpermanent categories is essential to make the body more representative, legitimate, effective and efficient at 78th Session of the United Nations General Assembly.

#### G4 Countries:

- The G4 is a group comprising India, Brazil, Japan, and Germany.
- All four nations aspire to become permanent members of the UNSC.
- They support each other's bids for permanent membership.

#### UNSC Background:

- The UNSC, established by the United Nations Charter in 1945, holds primary responsibility for maintaining international peace and security.
- It consists of 15 members in total.
- **Permanent Members:** There are five permanent members (often referred to as the P5): The United States, Russian, France, China, The United Kingdom.
- **Non-Permanent Members:**
  - ❖ The remaining ten seats are allocated to non-permanent members.
  - ❖ These non-permanent members are elected for a two-year term.
  - ❖ The G4 nations advocate for a more representative, legitimate, and effective UNSC, reflecting the evolving global landscape

#### I2U2 group

I2U2 group, consisting of India, Israel, the United Arab Emirates, and the United States, has announced a new joint space venture.

#### Purpose and Scope:

- The project aims to create a unique space-based tool for

policymakers, institutions, and entrepreneurs.

- By leveraging space-based observation data and capabilities from these four countries, the venture will address environmental and climate change challenges.

#### Background:

- The I2U2 group was initially formed in October 2021 to address various issues related to infrastructure, transport, and maritime security in the region.
- Previously known as the "International Forum for Economic Cooperation" or the "West Asian Quad," the group has now expanded its focus to space collaboration.

#### Virtual Summit:

- The I2U2 group held its first virtual summit in July 2022, setting the stage for joint initiatives and cooperation.
- This joint space venture represents a significant step toward harnessing space technology for the greater good.

#### India-UN Capacity Building Initiative

- India and the United Nations have jointly launched the "India-UN Capacity Building Initiative" to enhance the capabilities of countries in the Global South.

#### Objective:

- The initiative aims to share India's development experiences, best practices, and expertise with partner countries in the Global South.
- It focuses on capacity-building and training programs.

#### Complementary Efforts:

- The initiative aligns with the India-UN Development Partnership Fund, which has supported 75 development projects in 61 countries over the past six years.
- The UN India team and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation will collaborate to leverage India's technical and economic cooperation platform for sharing development experiences globally.
- This initiative represents a significant step toward accelerating progress in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through South-South Cooperation.

#### Belem Declaration

Belem Declaration, signed during the Amazon Summit, represents a significant commitment by eight South American countries to address deforestation in the Amazon rainforest.

#### Objective and Context:

- The Belem Declaration aims to combat climate change by focusing on deforestation prevention.
- Leaders from Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname, and Venezuela assembled in Belem, Brazil, to chart a common course.



**ACTO and Member Countries:**

- The **Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO)** is the **only socio-environmental block in Latin America**.
- The eight member countries recognize the urgency of protecting the Amazon region.

**Proposed Goal:**

- Colombia proposed an ambitious target: **protect 80% of the Amazon** from deforestation and degradation by **2025**.
- This goal reflects the collective commitment to preserving this vital ecosystem.

**Indigenous Knowledge and Participation:**

- The Belem Declaration acknowledges the **importance of Indigenous knowledge** in biodiversity conservation.
- It calls for the **full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples** in decision-making processes related to the Amazon.

**Arash-Dorra gas field dispute**

The Arash-Dorra gas field dispute involves **competing claims by Iran, Saudi Arabia, and Kuwait** over **ownership and exploitation rights** of this **offshore resource**.

**Field Description:**

- The **gas field** is known as **Arash in Iran and Dorra in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia**.
- It holds significant **natural gas reserves**, making it a **valuable resource**.

**Historical Context:**

- The dispute **dates back to the 1960s**, when **Iran and Kuwait granted offshore concessions** to different companies.
- These **concessions overlapped** in the **northern part of the Arash-Dorra field**.

**Current Positions:**

- **Saudi Arabia and Kuwait** assert their **sole ownership** of the field.
- **Iran** claims that the **field extends into its waters** and refers to it as **Arash**.

**Recent Developments:**

- Last year, **Kuwait and Saudi Arabia** signed an agreement to **jointly develop the field**.
- **Iran** objected to the deal, considering it **"illegal"**, and expressed its intention to **pursue its own plans for development**.
- The **dispute underscores the complexities of maritime boundaries** and resource allocation in the region

**India Stack**

- India and Trinidad and Tobago have taken a significant step by signing a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to

share **India Stack**.

**India Stack:**

- India Stack is a **collection of open APIs and digital public goods** designed to **facilitate identity, data, and payment services on a large scale**.
- It offers a **robust ecosystem for startups, developers, and system integrators** to innovate around digital solutions.

**Cooperation Areas:**

- The two countries will cooperate in **digital transformation** through various means:
- Capacity building
- Training programs
- Exchange of best practices
- Exchange of public officials and experts
- Development of pilot or demo solutions

**Benefits:**

- Leveraging **India Stack**, **Trinidad and Tobago** can **accelerate their digitalization efforts**, transforming their economies and governance.
- **UPI Acceptance:** The **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)**, which is part of India Stack, has already been accepted in several countries, including **France, UAE, Singapore, and Sri Lanka**.
- This collaboration reflects the **growing interest in India Stack's capabilities** and its **potential impact on global digital services**.

**Six Year Of Minamata Convention**

- **Minamata Convention on Mercury** is a **crucial global agreement** that aims to **protect both people and the environment** from the **harmful effects of mercury exposure**.

**Background:**

- Mercury is a **naturally occurring element** found in **air, water, and soil**.
- **Exposure to mercury** can have **toxic effects** on various **body systems**, including the **nervous system, thyroid, kidneys, lungs, immune system, eyes, gums, and skin**.

**Agreement Details:**

- The **Minamata Convention** was **agreed upon** during the **fifth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee** in **Geneva, Switzerland** in **2013**.
- It **entered into force** in **2017**.
- **India** has **ratified** the Convention, demonstrating its commitment to addressing mercury-related issues.

**Significance:**

- The **Minamata Convention** is the **most recent global agreement** specifically **targeting mercury**.

- Named after the **Minamata Bay in Japan**, where **industrial wastewater contaminated with mercury** caused **severe health damage** (known as the “**Minamata disease**”), the treaty aims to prevent such tragedies.

#### Key Features:

- The Minamata Convention is the **world’s first legally binding treaty** designed to **phase out** this highly toxic substance.
- It sets guidelines for reducing mercury emissions and releases globally.
- This treaty represents a critical step toward safeguarding human health and the environment from mercury pollution.

#### Chhaupadi practice in Nepal

- An ancient practice in Nepal.
- Considers women and girls **unclean and untouchable** during menstruation.
- Outlawed in 2005, but implementation remains weak.

#### Lake Titicaca : Threat From Climate Change

- **Lake Titicaca**, the **largest freshwater lake in South America**, faces a **serious threat from climate change and drought**.

#### Lake Titicaca:

- Located on the border between **Bolivia and Peru**.
- It is the **highest navigable water body in the world**.
- The lake’s water levels have dropped to near-record lows due to **lack of rainfall** and **increased evaporation** caused by rising temperatures.

#### Ecological Impact:

- **Lake Titicaca** is home to over **500 species of plants and animals**, some of which are **endemic and endangered**.
- The **shrinking lake** poses risks to its **unique biodiversity**.
- **Climate change** poses **significant challenges** to this **vital ecosystem**, affecting both **local communities and the environment**.

#### 15th BRICS Summit

The **15th BRICS Summit** took place in **Johannesburg, South Africa**, from **22nd to 24th August 2023**. Here are the key details:

#### BRICS Establishment:

- BRICS comprises **five member countries**: **Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa**.
- The term “**BRIC**” was coined by the British economist **Jim O’Neill** in **2001** to describe these emerging economies.

#### Summit Highlights:

- The 15th BRICS Summit provided a **platform for leaders to discuss global issues, cooperation, and mutual growth**.

- BRICS collectively represents about **40% of the world’s population** and contributes to approximately **30% of global GDP** and **16% of global trade**.

#### Diplomatic Relationship:

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** attended the summit, marking the **30th anniversary** of diplomatic relations between **India and South Africa**.
- The BRICS Summit fosters collaboration and strategic partnerships among these influential nations.

#### 6 Countries Invited To Become New BRICS Members

- South African President and BRICS Chair **Cyril Ramaphosa** has announced that the group has invited **Argentina, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE** to become full members of the bloc from **January 1, 2024**.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** participated in the **15th BRICS Summit** held under South Africa’s chairship, in **Johannesburg**.

#### Nagaland shawl to Gond painting: PM Modi’s special gifts for BRICS leaders

- PM Modi presented a **pair of Bidri work Pair of Surahi** to **South African President Cyril Ramaphosa**, and **Nagaland shawl** to his wife and the **first lady Bidri work** is **GI Tagged from Karnataka**

#### Maitri Setu

- **Maitri Setu** also known as **India-Bangladesh Friendship Bridge Set To be Operational From September**

#### Location and Purpose:

- The bridge spans the **Feni River**, which forms the boundary between **Tripura (India) and Bangladesh**.
- It connects **Sabroom (Tripura)** with **Ramgarh (Bangladesh)**.

#### Symbolism:

- The name “**Maitri Setu**” signifies the growing **bilateral relations and friendly ties** between **India and Bangladesh**.

#### Construction and Oversight:

- The **bridge’s construction** was overseen by the **National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd.**
- It features a **single-span structure**, facilitating **smooth traffic flow and cargo movement**.
- This **bridge represents a tangible link** between the two nations, fostering **connectivity and cooperation**

#### China’s new map shows entire Arunachal Pradesh and the Aksai Chin as part of China

- China’s recent release of the **2023 edition of its “standard map”** reaffirms its territorial claims over disputed areas such as **Arunachal Pradesh** and the **Aksai Chin region**. Here are the key points:

**Arunachal Pradesh and Aksai Chin:**

- The map shows **Arunachal Pradesh**, which China claims as **South Tibet**, and **Aksai Chin**, occupied by China during the **1962 war**, as part of its territory.
- These regions have been a longstanding point of contention between India and China.

**McMahon Line and Eastern Sector:**

- The disputed boundary in the **Eastern Sector** of the India-China border is over the **McMahon Line**.
- The McMahon Line was **drawn up** during the **Shimla Conference** in **14-1913** by **Sir Henry McMahon**, the then **foreign secretary of British India**.
- China accuses India of occupying areas in **Arunachal Pradesh**, which it considers part of **Southern Tibet**.

**Taiwan and South China Sea:**

- The map also incorporates **Taiwan**, which **China** claims as part of its territory (despite Taiwan's self-identification as a sovereign nation).
- Additionally, it features the **nine-dash line**, signifying **China's expansive claims** over a large portion of the **South China Sea**.
- This move reflects **China's assertive approach** to its borders and geopolitical interests under **President Xi Jinping's leadership**.

**Sri Lanka's first Karnataka cultural festival:**

- **Host:** Sri Lanka
- **Organizers:** **International Cultural Council of India**, **Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre**, and **M.E Global Peace Foundation**
- **Purpose:** Celebrate cultural diversity and strengthen India-Sri Lanka shared heritage
- **Highlights:**
  - ❖ Over **30 artists from Karnataka** participated.
  - ❖ Performances included **dances, folk songs, multi-lingual poems, and puppet shows**.
- This festival marks an important cultural moment between the two nations.

**Kampala Declaration On Climate Change:**

The **Kampala Ministerial Declaration on Migration, Environment, and Climate Change (KDMECC)** is a significant step taken by **48 African countries** to address the interconnection between human mobility and climate change on the continent.

**Background:**

- The KDMECC was originally signed by **15 African states** in **Kampala, Uganda**, in **July 2022**.
- It aims to tackle the impact of climate change on human

mobility.

**Areas of Concern:**

- The Declaration calls for **enhanced cooperation and action in the following areas:**
  - ❖ **Progressive desertification and land degradation**, leading to forced mobility of people and livestock.
  - ❖ **Unsustainable use of ecosystems**, affecting both people and livestock due to extreme weather events.
  - ❖ **Unplanned migration** from rural to urban centers as a result of climate change and disasters.
  - ❖ **Data scarcity** on the impact of climate change on human and livestock mobility.
  - ❖ **Limitations in partnerships and financing** to respond to the climate crisis affecting mobility.
- This initiative reflects Africa's vulnerability to climate change and emphasizes the need for coordinated efforts to address climate-induced human mobility

**Laos unveils World's 1st Stamp of Lord Rama**

- Laos introduced commemorative stamps featuring **Lord Rama and Lord Buddha** in July 2024.
- These stamps hold special significance due to their portrayal of **'Ram Lalla of Ayodhya,' a world-first depiction**.

**Cultural Connections:**

- The stamps symbolize the deep historical and cultural bonds between India and Laos.
- Buddhism has historically linked the two nations for thousands of years.

**Shared Heritage:**

- The **Ramayana (known as Ramakien in Laos)** is an **important cultural story performed at major events**.
- The inclusion of **Lord Rama and Lord Buddha** reflects the enduring cultural heritage shared by both countries.

**Turkey's controversial stray dog euthanasia law****Approval and Controversy:**

- Turkey's parliament approved a law **allowing euthanasia for some stray dogs on July 29, 2024**.
- The decision has **sparked debate and concern about animal welfare and government handling of the stray dog problem**.

**Key Provisions:**

- The law has 17 parts, with a provision **allowing euthanasia for sick or aggressive dogs**.
- The government aims to **reduce dog attacks and prevent rabies spread** through this measure.



**Opposition and Alternatives:**

- Critics argue that shelters and adoption programs are insufficient for the estimated four million stray dogs.
- Animal welfare activists propose mass sterilization campaigns as a more effective solution.

**Hottest day ever recorded globally****Record-Breaking Temperature:**

- On July 21, 2023, the Earth's average surface air temperature reached 17.09°C (62.7°F).
- This surpassed the previous record of 17.08°C set on July 6, 2023.

**Worrisome Trend:**

- Rising temperatures globally coincide with severe heatwaves and wildfires in the USA and Europe.
- World temperatures have steadily increased for the past 13 months, indicating a concerning trend.

**Climate Change Implications:**

- Extreme weather events like heatwaves and floods occur more frequently as global temperatures rise.
- Burning fossil fuels remains the primary cause of global warming.

**Future Projections:**

Ongoing study and monitoring are crucial to understand and address these temperature changes.

**World Leaders Summit 2024**

- The **World Leaders Summit 2024** is a pivotal event bringing together influential figures at the historic **House of Lords** in the **UK Parliament**.
- This summit represents a significant opportunity for global dialogue and collaboration in addressing urgent international issues such as climate change, economic disparity, and technological advancements.
- **Date:** July 24, 2024.
- **Venue:** House of Lords, UK Parliament.

**Key Topics Discussed**

- **Economic Growth:** Sustainable and inclusive development.
- **Sustainable Development:** Balancing economic growth with environmental preservation.
- **Artificial Intelligence (AI):** Harnessing potential while addressing risks.
- **Healthcare Access:** Equitable distribution post-pandemic.
- **Technology's Role:** Impact on governance and public engagement.

**US President Joe Biden**

- On July 21, 2023, US President Joe Biden revealed that he

was dropping out of the race for president.

- This came after a lot of talk and pressure from well-known Democrats.
- Concerns about Biden's age and ability were raised by his recent debate performance against Republican Donald Trump.
- This made party members less confident in his campaign.
- He nominated Kamala Harris as candidate for presidential election.

**China's Carbon Fiber High-Speed Train****Key Features:**

- **Material:** Entirely made of carbon fiber.
- **Speed:** Reaches up to 87 mph.
- **Efficiency:** Uses 7% less energy than traditional steel trains.

**Environmental Impact:**

- **Smog Reduction:** Significantly lowers smog levels.
- **Eco-Friendly:** Supports a low-carbon future in transportation.

**President of the European Commission**

- The President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, was re-elected and will serve for another five years.
- 401 votes from the European Parliament supported her election, showing a large group of people who agree with her in the face of ongoing global problems.

**Second Asia-Pacific Aviation Conference 2024**

- India will host second Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on September 11-12, 2024.

**Significance:**

- Asia-Pacific: 33.41% of global departures.
- Focus on regional cooperation, innovation, and safety.

**Goals:**

- Address projected passenger growth: 4.5 billion (2023) to 11.5 billion (2050).
- Enhance sustainable and adaptive aviation environment.

**Project 2025 Overview**

- **Initiative:** Led by the Heritage Foundation.
- **Purpose:** Reshape the U.S. federal government for a potential Trump presidency.
- **Key Proposals:**
  - ❖ Expand presidential powers.
  - ❖ Dismantle the Department of Education.
  - ❖ Reduce federal workforce.

❖ Strengthen conservative policies.

- **Controversies:** Criticized for extreme positions and potential authoritarianism.

### NATO Military Alliance: Recent Updates

- **President Joe Biden and other leaders from NATO met in Washington, D.C., to celebrate NATO's 75th anniversary, even though Russia is still fighting in Ukraine.**
- **NATO's backing for Ukraine during the biggest land war in Europe in decades was the main goal of this meeting.**
- **75th Anniversary:** Celebrated in **Washington, D.C..**
- **Support for Ukraine:** Focus on **aiding Ukraine amid ongoing conflict with Russia.**
- **Increased Readiness:** 500,000 troops on high alert.
- **Financial Commitments:** Members aim to **spend at least 2% of GDP on defense.**
- **New Members:** **Finland joined NATO.**
- **Leadership:** Jens Stoltenberg continues as **Secretary-General.**

### India-Russia Trade Target by 2030

- At the **22nd yearly summit in Moscow, India and Russia set a \$100 billion trade target by 2030.**

#### Key Agreements

- Signed **nine MoUs focusing on trade, investments, and joint projects.**
- Emphasis on the **Vladivostok-Chennai corridor and Northern Sea Route.**

#### Financial Integration

- Adoption of digital financial assets and national currencies for trade.
- Mutual recognition of **RuPay and MiR card systems.**

**Energy Collaboration:** Increased cooperation in nuclear energy and coal supply.

### Elisa de Anda Madrazo's FATF Presidency

- **Elisa de Anda Madrazo** of Mexico began her term as FATF President on July 1, 2024.

#### Experience

- Over a decade in anti-money laundering (AML) and counter-terrorism financing (CFT).
- Former FATF Vice-President and head of the Mexican delegation.

### Masoud Pezeshkian: Iran's New President

- Born: September 1954, Mahabad, Iran.
- Profession: Former heart surgeon and health minister.

#### Challenges Ahead

- Uniting a divided country
- Addressing economic instability and international relations

### World's First Brain Implant for Epilepsy Control

- **Oran Knowlson, a teenager from the United Kingdom, has made medical history as the first person in the world to receive a brain implant designed to control epileptic seizures.**
- **A deep brain stimulation (DBS) implant, a new and innovative device, has made his life a lot better by cutting down on his everyday seizures by 80%.**

**Device:** The implant used is a Deep Brain Stimulation (DBS) device, which is designed to help control seizures.

**Impact:** Since the implantation, Oran has experienced an 80% reduction in seizures, significantly improving his quality of life.

#### Significance:

- This breakthrough offers a new hope for epilepsy patients who do not respond to traditional treatments.
- The success of this implant could lead to its wider use, potentially benefiting many more patients in the future.

### Short News

1. **Dominica Creates World's First Marine Protected Area for Sperm Whales.**
2. **Omegle, the online chat platform officially closed**
3. **World Trade Statistical Review 2023, the annual flagship publication of the WTO, India is ranked 18th among the Leading exporters in world merchandise trade (2022).**
4. **India has signed five MoUs with Laos for Quick Impact Projects (QIPs) in education, health, water facility, and IT.**
5. **Typhoon Lan Hits Japan, Causing Flooding and Power Outages**
6. **Bangladesh inaugurated the 82-km Padma Bridge Rail Link, the country's largest infrastructure project built under China's Belt and Road Initiative.**
7. **North Korea has launched its first operational "tactical nuclear attack submarine", Submarine No 841 – named Hero Kim Kun Ok after a prominent North Korean historical figure.**
8. **International Coffee Organization (ICO), in collaboration with the Coffee Board of India, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, Government of Karnataka is hosting the 5th World Coffee Conference (WCC) at Bengaluru.**

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8628864475

Krishna Lodge Engine Ghar, Sanjauli Shimla  
8847232312



## DEFENCE

### India Unveils New Indigenous Assault Rifle 'Ugram'

- DRDO has developed and launched a new 7.62mm caliber assault rifle named 'Ugram' intended as a standard-issue weapon for the Indian Armed Forces replacing some aging INSAS rifles.
- The newly-created rifle weighs four kg and will have an effective range of 500 metres
- Ugram was developed to meet the operational needs of the military, paramilitary, and police forces.

### Navy Chief formally receives Drishti-10 long endurance UAV

- Navy Chief Admiral R. Hari Kumar formally received the first Drishti-10 star liner Medium Altitude Long Endurance (MALE) Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) assembled by Adani Defence & Aerospace in Hyderabad.
- The Drishti-10 is an indigenously assembled version of the Hermes-900 MALE UAV and has over 70% indigenous content.
- Drishti-10 Starliner is an advanced Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) platform with 36 hours endurance, 450 kgs payload capacity, the only all-weather military platform

### DRDO conducts successful flight-test of New Generation AKASH missile

- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) conducted a successful flight-test of the New Generation AKASH (AKASH-NG) Surface to Air Missile (SAM) from the Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur off the coast of Odisha .
- DRDO: Chairman Samir V Kamat
- Established in 1958

### Akash Missile (Akash-NG)

- It is a surface-to-air Missile.
- It is a new variant of the Akash missile- can strike targets at 60 km and fly at a speed of up to Mach 2.5
- Developed by Defence Research & Development Laboratory (DRDL), Hyderabad in collaboration with other DRDO laboratories.
- It is being produced by Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) and Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL).
- The Akash missile system has been designed and developed as part of India's 30-year-old Integrated Guided-Missile Development Programme (IGMDP).

### Integrated Guided-Missile Development Programme

- It was conceived by Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam to enable

India attain self-sufficiency in the field of missile technology.

- The 5 missiles (P-A-T-N-A) developed under this program are:
  - ❖ Prithvi: Short range surface to surface ballistic missile.
  - ❖ Agni: Ballistic missiles with different ranges, i.e. Agni (1,2,3,4,5)
  - ❖ Trishul: Short range low level surface to air missile.
  - ❖ Nag: 3rd generation anti-tank missile.
  - ❖ Akash: Medium range surface to air missile.

### India's second VLF communication station to come up in Telangana

- The Indian Navy is building its second Very Low Frequency (VLF) communication transmission station in the Vikarabad district of Telangana.
- The new station is expected to be completed by 2027.
- The Navy uses VLF communication transmission stations to communicate with ships and submarines.
- The first being the INS Kattabomman Radar Station at Vijayanarayanam in Tirunelveli district, Tamil Nadu.

### Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurates MTEX-24

- The Maritime Technical Exposition MTEX-24 in association with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) taking place in Visakhapatnam.
  - ❖ MTEX-24 showcases the latest advancements in naval technology.
  - ❖ MTEX-24, a three-day defence exposition as part of MILAN 2024.
  - ❖ MTEX-24 highlights India's push towards self-reliance in the defence sector.
  - ❖ It showcases the latest advancements in naval technology like shipbuilding, communication systems, cyber security, and sustainable energy solutions developed by the Indian industry.

### 25T BOLLARD PULL TUG, MAHABALI

- 25T Bollard Pull (BP) Tug, made in India, Mahabali has been delivered to Indian Navy in Kochi.
- Contract for construction and delivery of three 25T BP Tugs was concluded with M/s Shoft Shipyard Pvt Ltd, an MSME.
- The Tugs will assist Naval ships and submarines during berthing and unberthing, turning and maneuvering in confined waters.
- The Tugs will also provide afloat fire fighting assistance to ships and will also have capability to conduct limited

Search and Rescue Operations.

### High-speed Expendable Aerial Target 'ABHYAS'

- DRDO carries out successful flight trials of **High-speed Expendable Aerial Target 'ABHYAS'** from Integrated Test Range, Chandipur, Odisha.
- Designed by DRDO's Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE).
- ABHYAS offers a realistic threat scenario for practice of weapon systems.
- Production Agencies – Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and Larsen & Toubro (L&T) Defence.
- It is designed for autonomous flying
- It has Radar Cross Section, Visual and Infrared augmentation system required for weapon practice.
- It has a laptop-based Ground Control System.
- ABHYAS requires minimum logistics and is cost effective compared to imported equivalents.

### Defense Literature Festival, "Kalam & Kavach,"

- Organised by the Pentagon Press in collaboration with the Pune headquartered Southern Command of the Indian Army.
- At the RSAMI Institute, in Pune
- The Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Anil Chauhan inaugurated the event
- The event, highlighted how ancient wisdom from texts like the Mahabharata and Bhagavad Gita is relevant to today's strategic needs.
- The festival also celebrated the launch of significant books:
  - ❖ "Russia, Gaza, Taiwan... A World at War" by Ajay Singh,
  - ❖ "AI National Security" by Col Amit Sinha and Vijay Khare

### India-U.S. deal for 31 MQ-9B drones

- The US sold 31 MQ-9B armed drones to India at an estimated cost of nearly \$3.99 billion.
- These are High Altitude Long Endurance (HALE) UAVs
- The drones will help India improve its maritime security and domain awareness capabilities.
- Navy will get 15 SeaGuardian drones, while the Army and the Indian Air Force will get 8 each of the land version – SkyGuardian.
- An unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV), also known as a drone, is an aircraft that can carry no human pilot or passengers.

### Indian Army plans Rs 57,000 crore project to replace Russian T-72 tanks

- The Indian Army is set to issue a Request for Proposal

(RFP) this year to produce 1,770 Future Ready Combat Vehicles (FRCVs) in India

- To replace the ageing Russian-origin T-72 tanks from 2030 onwards
- The Army plans to induct the first batch of 118 indigenous Arjun Mark-1A tanks this year.
- The Army is gearing up to deploy 354 indigenous light tanks for high-altitude warfare under Project Zorawar.

### SARVATRA: Indian Army's Mobile Bridge System

- Crafted by Armament and Combat Engineering Systems (ACE) under the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) for the Indian Army.
- Developed in collaboration with Bharat Earth Movers Limited (BEML).
- Sarvatra, offers versatile bridging solutions for all types of military traffic.
- It is a multi-span bridge that can span gaps from 15-75 meters wide.
- It can be used as an emergency bridge during natural calamities like floods and earthquakes.
- The bridges are mounted on Tatra 815 trucks, and can be set up in less than two and a half hours.

### YEAR OF NAVAL CIVILIANS' -2024

- Indian Navy Declared 2024 as 'Year of Naval Civilians'
- To improve administration, efficiency and well-being of Naval Civilians by addressing all facets of Civilian HR Management in a time bound manner.
- Navy Civilian Personnel (a person who is not on active duty with the navy) constitute about a third of the Indian Navy's total workforce.

### SEMINAR 'MEGHAYAN 2024

- World Meteorological Day: METOC seminar 'Meghayan-24' by School of Naval Oceanology & Meteorology (SNOM) and Indian Naval Meteorological Analysis Centre (INMAC) at Southern Naval Command on 28 Mar 24.
- Theme: 'At the Frontline of Climate Action'.
- Launch: INDRA app for weather info and forecasts.
- Developed by: BISAG, Gujarat with Directorate of Naval Oceanology and Meteorology, Indian Navy.

### Commissioning of INS Jatayu at Minicoy Island (Lakshadweep)

- Event: The Navy will commission naval detachment Minicoy as INS Jatayu on 6 March at Lakshadweep Islands.
- Location: Minicoy is the southernmost island of Lakshadweep, straddling vital sea lines of communication.

- **Second Naval Base:** INS Jatayu is the second naval base in Lakshadweep after INS Dweepakshak in Kavaratti.
- **Expansion:** The base will be expanded to operate aircraft carriers.
- **Capabilities:** Enhances Indian Navy's first responder capability and connectivity with the mainland.
- **Operational Reach:** Facilitates anti-piracy and anti-narcotics operations in the Western Arabian Sea.
- **Strategic Move:** Response to increasing China's presence in the region and Maldives' shift towards China.
- **History:** Naval Detachment Minicoy was set up in the early 1980s under the Naval Officer-in-Charge (Lakshadweep).

### MH 60R 'Seahawks' Helicopters To Be Commissioned Into The Indian Navy As INAS 334 Squadron

- The Indian Navy will commission the newly inducted MH 60R Seahawk multi-role helicopter on 06 Mar 2024 at INS Garuda, the naval air station in Kochi.
- The Seahawks squadron will be commissioned in the Indian Navy as INAS 334.
- The US-manufactured MH 60R Seahawk is a maritime variant of the Blackhawk helicopter.
- India signed an agreement with the US for procurement of 24-MH 60Rs in February 2020 under the framework of foreign military sales.
- The helicopter is designed for anti-submarine warfare (ASW), anti-surface warfare (ASuW), search and rescue (SAR), medical evacuation (MEDEVAC) and vertical replenishment (VERTREP).

### Raksha Mantri Inaugurates 'Chola' Building At Naval War College, Goa

- Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh inaugurates new Administrative & Training building, named 'Chola' at Naval War College, Goa
- The modern edifice, named the 'Chola', pays homage to the mighty maritime empire of the Chola dynasty of ancient India.

### 'Agray' and 'Akshay' Ships

- **Launch:** 'Agray' and 'Akshay' ASW Shallow Watercrafts (ASW SWC) by GRSE in Kolkata.
- **Contract:** Ministry of Defence signed with GRSE for 8 ASW SWCs; these are the 5th and 6th ships.
- **Class:** Arnala class, replacing Abhay class ships.
- **Purpose:** Anti-submarine operations, Low Intensity Maritime Operations (LIMO), and Mine Laying Operations.
- **Launch Ceremony:** Neeta Chaudhari, wife of Air Chief Marshal V R Chaudhari, launched the ships.
- **India's Capability:** Among select countries capable of

building modern warships, submarines, and aircraft carriers.

- **Specifications:** 77.6 m long, 105 m wide, 900 tons displacement, and over 1800 NM endurance.

### Mission Divyastra: India test-fires Agni-5 missile

- **DRDO Test:** India's first successful flight test of Agni-V missile, named Mission Divyastra, from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island, Odisha.
- **Missile Range:** Agni-V is India's first intercontinental ballistic missile with a range over 5,000 km.
- **Capabilities:** Equipped with MIRV (Multiple Independently Targetable Re-entry Vehicle) technology, capable of carrying multiple warheads.
- **Global MIRV Holders:** US, Russia, China, UK, France, and recently, Pakistan.
- **Engine:** Three-stage solid-fuelled.
- **Previous Agni Missiles:** Ranges from 700 km to 3,500 km, already deployed.
- **Development:** Part of the Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme (IGMDP).

### New Navy Headquarters

- The newly constructed 'Nausena Bhawan' is located at Delhi Cantonment was formally inaugurated by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.
- The foundation stone for a naval headquarters was laid by then Defence Minister Arun Jaitley on August 20, 2014.

### Indian Army Inducts First Apache 451 Aviation Squadron

- **Induction:** First batch of AH-64E Apache attack helicopters at IAF Hindon Air Force Station, Ghaziabad.
- **New Unit:** Indian Army Aviation Corps raised its first unit at Jodhpur to operate the Apaches.
- **Fleet:** Second attack helicopters in the Army after the Light Combat Helicopter (LCH).
- **Contract:** Indian Army acquired 6 Apache helicopters from the US.
- **IAF Fleet:** Already operates 22 Apaches on eastern and western fronts.
- **Capabilities:** Can strike 138 targets per minute, max speed of 280 km/h.
- **Armament:** Equipped with AGM 114 Hellfire anti-tank missiles and Stinger missiles, capable of handling ground and aerial threats.

### Maiden test-firing of India's first indigenously-made 1500 HP engine

- **Event:** Maiden test-firing of India's first indigenously-made 1500 HP engine for Main Battle Tanks at BEML's Engine division, Mysuru on March 20, 2024.



- **Organization:** Defence PSU Bharat Earth Movers Ltd (BEML).
- **Features:** High power-to-weight ratio, operability in extreme conditions (high altitudes, subzero temperatures, desert environments).

### Indian Army's Tech Revolution: Signals Technology Evaluation and Adaptation Group (STEAG)

- STEAG aims to identify and implement the most suitable technologies to enhance the army's communication infrastructure.
- In line with the principles of **Self-reliant India** and **Start Up India** in the field of defence, the Indian Army has formed a specialized technology unit to conduct research and development of future communication technologies like **Artificial Intelligence, 5G, 6G, Machine Learning, Quantum technologies** for defence.

### LCA Tejas MK-1A completes maiden flight in Bengaluru

- **Maiden Flight:** HAL successfully completed the first flight of the LCA Tejas Mark 1A in Bengaluru.
- **Variant:** Superior version of the LCA Tejas.
- **Features:** Advanced radar, warfare communication systems, Beyond Visual Range Missiles, and improved maintenance.
- **Phasing Out:** MiG-21 Bison squadrons to be replaced by Tejas by 2025.
- **Contracts:** IAF signed a **Rs.48,000 crore contract in 2021** for 83 Tejas Mk-1A; clearance for **97 more at Rs.65,000 crore**.
- **HAL:** Established in 1940, headquartered in Bangalore, one of the oldest and largest aerospace and defence manufacturers.
- **Leadership:** C.B. Ananthakrishnan, Director (Finance) & CFO with additional charge of Chairman and Managing Director

### INAS 334 'SEAHAWKS' commissioned

- **INAS 334 'Seahawks':** Indian Navy's first MH 60R Squadron.
- **INAS:** Indian Naval Air Squadron.
- **Commissioning:** Adm R Hari Kumar, Chief of Naval Staff, at INS Garuda, Southern Naval Command, Kochi.
- **Helicopter:** US-manufactured MH 60R Seahawk, maritime variant of the Blackhawk.
- **Agreement:** India procured 24 MH 60Rs from the US in February 2020 under foreign military sales.
- **Capabilities:** Designed for ASW, ASuW, SAR, MEDEVAC, and VERTREP.

### Agni-Prime Missile Has Been Successfully Flight-Tested In Odisha

- **Successful Test:** Agni-Prime missile flight-tested by SFC and DRDO from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island, Odisha.
- **Performance:** Met all trial objectives, validating its reliability.

#### Agni-Prime Missile:

- **Range:** 1000 km to 2000 km.
- **Type:** Medium-range, nuclear-capable ballistic missile.
- **Variant:** New generation, advanced version of the Agni class.
- **Replacement:** Will replace Prithvi, Agni-1, and Agni-2 missiles.
- **Purpose:** Developed for nuclear strikes against targets in Pakistan.
- **Recent Test:** Last month, India tested the Agni-5 missile with MIRV capability.

### ITCM successfully flight-tested by DRDO

- **Successful Test:** DRDO flight-tested the long-range subsonic Indigenous Technology Cruise Missile (ITCM) from ITR, Chandipur, Odisha on April 18, 2024.
- **Performance:** All subsystems performed as expected.
- **Development:** Missile by DRDO's Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE), propulsion system by Gas Turbine Research Establishment (GTRE).
- **Key Figures:** Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Secretary Department of Defence R&D & Chairman DRDO Dr. Samir V Kamat.

#### Supersonic v/s Subsonic Missiles

- Supersonic and subsonic missiles are categorized based on their speed relative to the speed of sound in the medium through which they travel.
- **Supersonic missiles travel faster than the speed of sound**, typically at speeds ranging from **Mach 1 to Mach 5**.
- **Mach 1 is the speed of sound**, which is about **1,235 kilometers/hour (768 miles/hour)** at sea level.
- **Subsonic missiles fly below the speed of sound**, typically at speeds of **Mach 0.8 or slower**.

### IAF successfully tests Crystal Maze-2 missile capable of striking targets up to 250 kilometres away

- **Successful Test:** IAF test-fired the Crystal Maze-2 missile, also known as **ROCKS**, from a **Su-30 MKI fighter jet** in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- **Range:** Capable of striking targets over **250 kilometers away**.
- **Origin:** Extended stand-off range air-to-surface missile of Israeli origin.

- **Targets:** Designed to strike **high-value stationary and relocatable targets**, such as long-range radars and air defense systems.
- **Effectiveness:** Operates well in GPS-denied environments, similar to conditions during the Kargil War

### DRDO And Indian Army Conduct Successful Trials Of MPATGM Weapon System

- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) carried out successful trials of the Man-Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile (MPATGM) Weapon System at **Pokhran Field Firing Range (PFFR)**

### SPACE Testing Hub set up by DRDO, inaugurated in Kerala

- **Inauguration:** SPACE inaugurated by Dr. Samir V Kamat, Secretary, Department of Defence (R&D) and Chairman DRDO, at Underwater Acoustic Research Facility, Kulamavu, Idukki, Kerala.
- **Setup:** By Naval Physical & Oceanographic Laboratory of DRDO.
- **Purpose:** Premier testing and evaluation hub for sonar systems for Indian Navy's ships, submarines, and helicopters.
- **SONAR:** Used for detecting, locating, and identifying underwater objects using sound waves.
- **Milestone:** Marks a significant advancement in naval technology.
- **Capabilities:** Submersible platform can be lowered to depths up to 100 m.
- **Research:** Equipped for data processing and sample analyses for Anti-Submarine Warfare research

### Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas

- The **Light Combat Aircraft (LCA)** programme was started by the **Government of India in 1984**.
- It was in **2003** that the **Light Combat Aircraft** programme was named 'Tejas' (meaning radiance in Sanskrit) by the then PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee.
- The **lightest, smallest, and tailless multi-role supersonic fighter aircraft** in its class.
- Designed to carry a range of **air-to-air, air-to-surface, precision-guided, weapons**.

#### Variants of Tejas:

- **Tejas Trainer:** 2-seater **operational conversion trainer** for training air force pilots.
- **LCA Navy:** Twin- and single-seat carrier-capable for the Indian Navy.
- **LCA Tejas Navy MK2:** This is **phase 2** of the LCA Navy variant.
- **LCA Tejas Mk-1A:** This is an **improvement over the LCA Tejas Mk1** with a **higher thrust engine**

### India delivers 1st batch of BrahMos missiles to Philippines

- **First Export Order:** Supersonic cruise missile, a joint venture between **India and Russia**.
- **Deal:** January 2022, **\$375 million** deal to equip **Philippine Marines** with **three batteries** of missiles.
- **BrahMos Battery:** Four mobile autonomous launchers, each with **three missiles**, capable of **firing 12 missiles at 12 targets within 30 seconds**.
- **Export Target:** India aims for **Rs.35,000 crore by 2024-25**.
- **Growth:** Defence exports **grew 32.5%** last fiscal, crossing **Rs.21,000 crore** for the first time.

### BrahMos missile

- **Supersonic cruise missile.**
- **Joint venture** between the **DRDO of India** and **NPOM of Russia**
- Named after the **rivers Brahmaputra and Moskva**.
- The **missile is capable of being launched from land, sea, sub-sea and air against surface and sea-based targets** and has been long inducted by the Indian armed forces.
- **Range is 450km** and work is on to **extend it to 600km** and beyond.
- It operates on the **"Fire and Forgets"** principle

### Igla-S air defence system

- **New Batch Received:** India received **24 Igla-S MANPADS** from **Russia**, along with **100 missiles**.
- **Production:** Remaining systems to be made in **India** through **Transfer of Technology (ToT)** from Russia.
- **Purpose:** Enhance the **Army's Very Short Range Air Defence (VSHORAD)** capabilities, especially in **high mountainous terrain** along the northern border.

#### About Igla- S:

- It is a **man-portable air defence system (MANPADS)** developed by **Russia**.
- It is known in the **West** as **SA-24 Grinch**.
- It entered service with the **Russian Army in 2004**.
- It has the capability of **bringing down low-flying aircraft**.
- It can also **identify and neutralise air targets**, such as **cruise missiles and drones**.
- It has an **effective range upto 6 km**.
- The **limiting altitude of effective target destruction** for the **"Igla-S"** complex is **3.5 km**.

### DRDO Develops Lightest Bullet Proof Jacket Of Country

- DRDO's Defence Materials and Stores Research and Development Establishment (DMSRDE), Kanpur has successfully developed the **lightest Bullet Proof Jacket** in

the country

- for protection against 7.62 x 54 R API (Level 6 of BIS 17051) ammunition.
- Recently, this bullet proof jacket was successfully tested at Terminal Ballistics Research Laboratory (TBRL), Chandigarh.

#### 40 years of Operation Meghdoot

- **Operation Meghdoot:** Launched by Indian Armed Forces on April 13, 1984.
- **Objective:** Prevent Pakistan from taking control of the Siachen Glacier in the eastern Karakoram Range.
- **Outcome:** Indian forces gained control of the glacier and the passes of Sia La, Bilafond La, and Gyong La.
- **Leadership:** Led by Captain Sanjay Kulkarni.
- **Background:** Prior to 1984, neither India nor Pakistan had a permanent presence on the glacier. The area was not demarcated beyond NJ9842 in the 1972 Shimla Agreement.
- **Strategic Importance:** Pakistan aimed to occupy the region for strategic advantage.

#### Parivartan Chintan, a Tri-Service Conference by Defence Ministry

- **Conference:** Parivartan Chintan, a Tri-Service Conference for new ideas, initiatives, and reforms to enhance jointness and integration among the army, navy, and air force.
- **Date and Location:** Held in New Delhi on 08 Apr 2024.
- **Chair:** Chief of Defence Staff, General Anil Chauhan.
- **Participants:** Heads of all tri-services institutions, DMA, IDS, and the three services.
- **Key Figures:**
  - ❖ General Manoj Pande - Chief of the Army Staff (COAS)
  - ❖ Admiral R. Hari Kumar - Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS)
  - ❖ Air Chief Marshal Vivek Ram Choudhary - Chief of the Air Staff (CAS).

#### INSV Tarini Returns

- **Return:** INSV Tarini returned to Goa after a historic transoceanic expedition of nearly two months.
- **Flag-Off:** From Goa on 28 Feb 24.
- **Route:** Navigated through the Indian Ocean to Port Louis, Mauritius, and back to Goa.
- **Crew:** Undertaken in double-handed mode by Lt Cdr Dilna K and Lt Cdr Roopa A, marking a historic milestone as the first Indian women officers to accomplish such a feat.

#### Project Udbhav

- Project Udbhav to Revive Ancient patterns in Military Culture.
- As part of 'Project Udbhav', a seminar-cum-exhibition on 'Historical Patterns of Indian Strategic Culture' was held at the National Museum in New Delhi on May 21, 2024.

#### What is Project Udbhav?

- Project Udbhav was launched by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh during the Indian Military Heritage Festival on **October 21, 2023**.
- It is collaboration between **Indian Army and United Service Institution of India (USI)**, a defence services think tank.
- The project, named 'Udbhav', translates to 'origin' or 'genesis'.
- The Project has **delved deep into ancient texts such as Vedas, Puranas, Upanishads and Arthashastra**.
- Furthermore, it has **explored the epic battles of the Mahabharata and the strategic brilliance practiced during the reigns of Mauryas, Guptas and Marathas, which has shaped India's rich military heritage**.

#### Exercise Cyber Suraksha – 2024

- The **comprehensive cyber defence exercise 'Exercise Cyber Suraksha – 2024'** was conducted by **Defence Cyber Agency of India** from 20 – 24 May 2024.
- It aims to further develop **Cyber Defence Capability of all Cyber security organisations and promote synergy amongst all stakeholders**.

#### RudraM-II air-to-surface missile

- DRDO successfully test-fired a **RudraM-II air-to-surface missile** from a **Su-30 fighter jet** of the **Indian Air Force (IAF)** off the coast of **Odisha**.
- **RudraM-II** is an **indigenously-developed solid-propelled air-launched missile system** meant for **air-to-surface role to neutralise several types of enemy assets**.

#### RudraM:

- Rudram is an **air-to-surface missile**, designed and developed by the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)**.
- **India's first indigenous anti-radiation missile**.
- Anti-radiation missiles are **designed to detect, track and neutralise the adversary's radar, communication assets and other radio frequency sources**, which are generally part of their air defence systems.
- Once the **Rudram missile locks on the target**, it is **capable of striking accurately even if the radiation source switches off in between**.



- The missile has an **operational range of more than 100 km**, based on the **launch parameters from the fighter jet**.

### **Supersonic Missile-Assisted Release of Torpedo (SMART) system**

- DRDO announced the **successful flight test** of the **Supersonic Missile-Assisted Release of Torpedo (SMART)** system from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Odisha.
- SMART is a **next-generation missile-based light-weight torpedo delivery system**.
- Designed and developed by DRDO to **enhance the anti-submarine warfare capability of the Indian Navy**.
- The missile was launched from the **ground mobile launcher**.

### **FWD-200B unmanned aircraft.**

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

### **OPFOR, or "opposing forces"**

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

### **Emergency Medical Response System (EMRS)**

- **Inauguration:** Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari inaugurated the **Emergency Medical Response System (EMRS)** at **Command Hospital Air Force Bangalore (CHAFB)** on **21 May 2024**.

- **Service:** **First-of-its-kind 24/7 telephonic medical helpline** for serving IAF personnel and their families across India.

### **'Bambi Bucket' Operation**

- **Operation:** IAF deployed **Mi-17 V5 helicopter** for **Bambi Bucket operations** to **douse forest fires near Nainital**.
- **Method:** Used a **Bambi Bucket** to **collect water from Bhimtal lake** and **pour it over the burning forests**.
- **Bambi Bucket:** **Specialized aerial firefighting apparatus** introduced in **1983**, invented by **Canadian Don Arney**, inducted into the **Inventors Hall of Fame** in **2017**.
- **Function:** Allows helicopters to **transport and disperse volumes of water**.

### **BHISHM portable hospital**

- The **Indian Air Force** conducted **field tests** of the **Arogya Maitri Cube- BHISHM** portable hospital by performing an **airdrop in Agra, Uttar Pradesh**.
- This is the **first time** the **Indian Air Force** tested this portable hospital.
- This test was **performed so that the portable hospital** can be deployed to cater to emergencies anywhere.
- **BHISHM** portable cubes are a part of the broader initiative named **"Project BHISHM" - Bharat Health Initiative for Sahyog, Hita and Maitri**, which is **tailored to treat up to 200 casualties**, emphasising rapid response and comprehensive care.
- The whole unit contains **72 easily transportable components** that can be conveniently carried by **hand, cycle, or even drone**.
- These cubes are **robust, waterproof, and light**, designed for various configurations, making them ideal for diverse emergency scenarios.

### **Operation Sadbhavana**

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

### **'Tarang Shakti 2024'**

- India to host its first-ever multinational air exercise 'Tarang Shakti 2024'
- The **countries sending their air force combat contingents** are the **US, the UK, Australia, France, Germany, Japan, Singapore and the UAE**.
- The exercise will be held in two phases.

- ❖ **1st Phase:** Southern India in August
- ❖ **2nd Phase:** Western sector August end to Mid-September

### Japan - India Maritime Exercise (JIMEX)-24

- Indian Navy's INS Shivalik at Yokosuka, Japan.
- Hosted by Japan Maritime Self-Defence Force (JMSDF), represented by JS Yugiri.
- Includes harbour and sea phases.
- Initiated in 2012 in Japan.
- 7th JIMEX-23 hosted by Indian Navy off Visakhapatnam in July 2023.

### Exercises between India and Japan

- **Malabar:** It is a multinational naval exercise in which India, Japan, United States and Australia participates.
- JIMEX (naval)
- SHINYUU Maitri (Air Force)
- Dharma Guardian (Army)

### 'Vidyut Rakshak'

- A tech-based innovation -- an **integrated generator monitoring, protection and control system** -- developed by the Indian Army was launched.
- 'Vidyut Rakshak', developed by the **Army Design Bureau (ADB)** was launched by the Army's Vice Chief Lt Gen Upendra Dwivedi.
- Indian Army is **observing the 'Year of Tech Absorption'**
- Apart from **monitoring generator parameters**, it **enables fault prediction, and prevention and automates manual operation, saving manpower.**

### Indigenous Suicide Drones 'Nagatra-1'

- Indian Army received the **first batch of Nagatra-1 man-portable suicide drones.**
- Capable of **striking enemy targets with precision, minimizing soldier risk.**
- Designed and developed by **Economic Explosives Limited (EEL), Nagpur.**
- Over 75% indigenous content.
- Enhances **capability for shallow strikes across the border.**
- Order of **480 drones, 120 delivered.**
- **GPS-enabled precision strike with 2m accuracy.**
- **9 kg UAV with 30 min endurance, 15 km man-in-loop range, 30 km autonomous range.**
- **Low acoustic signature, undetectable above 200m.**
- **Carries 1 kg warhead up to 15 km, upgraded version 2.2 kg warhead up to 30 km.**

### Indian Army Signs MoU for Next Generation Wireless

### Technologies

- **Military College of Telecommunication Engineering (MCTE) and Society for Applied Microwave Electronics Engineering and Research (SAMEER)** signed an MoU.
- **Collaboration** aims to advance **next-generation wireless technologies** for the **Indian Army.**
- **2024** declared as **'Year of Technological Absorption for Indian Army'**

### Indian Army opened Khalubar War Memorial in Ladakh

- Located in **Aryan Valley**, the **memorial honors the bravery of soldiers**, including **Captain Manoj Pandey**, who recaptured the area during the **Kargil War.**

### Pinaka Weapon System

- **Defence Ministry Approval:** Rs 2800 crore for 6,400 rockets for Pinaka multi-barrel rocket launcher systems.
- **Development:** Indian-made, developed by DRDO, named after the bow of Hindu God Shiva.
- **Export:** Exported to countries like Armenia.
- **Private Sector Involvement:** Larsen & Toubro, Tata Defence, and Economic Explosives Limited.

### About Pinaka

- **Type:** Multi-Barrel Rocket Launcher (MBRL).
- **Design:** By Armament Research and Development Establishment (ARDE), DRDO.
- **First Use:** Kargil War, neutralised Pakistan Army positions.
- **Barrels:** Tubes from which rockets are fired; each barrel holds one rocket.
- **Multi-Barrel:** Multiple tubes for simultaneous or quick succession firing.
- **Targets:** Effective against enemy troops, vehicles, communication centres, air terminals, and ammunition dumps.
- **Features:**
  - ❖ The rocket launcher has two pods containing six rockets each and can neutralise an area of **700 × 500 square metres within 48 seconds.**
  - ❖ It has a **range of 60 to 75 kilometers.**
  - ❖ The system is mounted on a **Tatra truck for mobility.**

### 'SAMAR' Air Defense Missile System

- **Surface to Air Missile for Assured Retaliation (SAMAR)**
- **IAF Successfully Testfires 'SAMAR' Air Defense Missile System In Andhra Pradesh**
- Tested during **Exercise Astra Shakti-2023** at Air Force Station Suryalanka in Andhra Pradesh.
- The system **can engage aerial threats** with missiles operating at a **speed range of 2 to 2.5 Mach.**

- The system is equipped with a twin turret launch platform, offering the capability to launch two missiles in single

### Army Deploys Double-Humped Camels in Eastern Ladakh

- **Purpose:** Logistical support to troops in eastern Ladakh.
- **Species:** Double Humped Camels (Bactrian camels) with two humps storing fat.
- **Native Regions:** Harsh, arid regions of Central Asia.
- **Habitat:** From Afghanistan to China, mainly Mongolian plains and Gobi Desert.
- **Local Population:** Small population in Nubra Valley, Ladakh.
- **Indian Army Initiative:** Pilot project launched last year to use Bactrian camels for patrolling along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China.

### INS Sandhayak

- Delivered by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) to the Indian Navy.
- **Significance:** Largest survey vessel ever built in India; first in a series of four Survey Vessels (Large).
- **Additional Use:** Can be used for humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations.

### Capabilities and Functions

- **Hydrographic Survey:** Conducts coastal and deep-water surveys to ensure maritime safety.
- **Data Collection:** Gathers oceanographic and geophysical data for defence and civilian use.
- **Secondary Roles:** Functions as a hospital ship during emergencies and has limited defence capabilities.
- **Disaster Relief:** Quickly deployable for humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations.

### Indian Navy's ASW Shallow Water Craft project – Mahe, Malva, and Mangrol.

- **Three Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) Ships For Indian Navy Launched At Cochin Shipyard**
- CSL, Kochi, launched the first three ships of the Indian Navy's ASW Shallow Water Craft project – Mahe, Malva and Mangrol.
- The contract for the construction of eight ASW SWC ships between the Ministry of Defense and Cochin Shipyard Limited was signed on 30 April 2019.
- **Aim:** To undertake anti-submarine operations in coastal waters, Low-Intensity Maritime Operations (LIMO) and Mine Laying Operations.

### Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) 2023

- The Royal Thai Navy hosted the 8th edition of IONS 2023 in Bangkok, Thailand.

- India will take over as the Chair of IONS (2025-2027) during the convening of the 9th Symposium.

### Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS):

- The first edition of IONS was held in New Delhi in February 2008.
- The Indian Navy held the responsibility of the first Chairman for two years (2008–2010).
- IONS aims to provide an open and inclusive forum to discuss regionally relevant maritime issues.
- Republic of Korea Navy was welcomed by the Conclave as the latest 'Observer', raising the collective strength of IONS to 34 (25 Members & 09 Observers).

### SCO Joint Anti-Terrorism Exercise

- **Exercise:** Conducted by the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO).
- **Host:** India, in New Delhi.
- **Aim:** Improve cooperation between SCO members and suppress misuse of the internet for illicit activities.
- **Edition:** Fourth edition under SCO's Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS).

### What is SCO RATS?

- **Full Form:** Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure.
- **Headquarters:** Tashkent, Uzbekistan.
- **Objective:** Facilitate cooperation and coordination against terrorism, extremism, and separatism.
- **Effectiveness:** Prevented terrorist attacks, averted crimes of terrorist and extremist nature, and neutralised terrorist training camps and members of international terrorist organisations.

### Operation Prosperity Guardian: US

- **Launch:** December 2023 by a multinational coalition in response to Houthi-led attacks on Red Sea commerce.
- **Announcement:** Lloyd Austin, US Secretary of Defence, announced the development of a worldwide maritime security force.
- **Patrol Areas:** Southern Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden.
- **Members:** Over 20 countries, including Bahrain, Canada, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Seychelles, and the United Kingdom.

### WORLD'S 1st RIFLE-RATED BALLISTIC HELMET

- Achieving another milestone in defence manufacturing, Kanpur-based MKU Ltd has unveiled the world's first rifle-rated ballistic helmet, Kavro Doma 360.
- This is the first time in the world that a ballistic helmet offers uniform protection in all 5 zones of the head against threats like the AK-47 MSC, M80 NATO BALL, and M193 rifle bullets.



- It's the first anti-rifle helmet that does not have bolts or any metal parts that may hurt the head in case of bullet impact and weighs just 1.45 kg.

#### INDIA TO GET IGLA-S MISSILES FROM RUSSIA

- India signed a contract with Russia for supply of advanced Igla-S hand-held anti-aircraft missiles.
- It is a man-portable air defence system (MANPADS) capable of destroying all types of aircraft and helicopters and can be fired by an individual or a crew.
- It has a range of up to 5-6 kms.
- It works on the "fire and forget" principle.
- The Indian Army had already inducted a small number of Igla-S systems last year.
- The contract allows for manufacturing of these missile systems in India in near future.

#### SAAB TO MAKE CARL-GUSTAF M4 IN INDIA

- SAAB, a Sweden based defence company, maker of the world-famous Carl-Gustaf M4 portable shoulder-fired weapon system, has become the first foreign company to receive Indian government permission for 100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in a defence project.
- Weighing just 7 kg, Carl-Gustaf M4 is a recoil less manportable, multi-role weapon system which is mainly used for blasting enemy tanks and buildings.
- The Indian Army has been using this powerful weapon since the late seventies.
- This project will be Saab's first venture outside Sweden to produce the Carl-Gustaf M4 multi role weapon.
- The manufacturing facility is expected to be established in Haryana.

#### NAVY DECOMMISSIONS IL-38 SEA DRAGON

- The Indian Navy bid adieu to its old workhorse, IL-38 Sea Dragon Long Range Maritime Patrol aircraft, after 46 yrs of glorious service to the nation.
- The IL-38 has been keeping a sharp vigil over and beneath the seas, in its relentless pursuit to secure the nation's maritime boundaries.
- The decommissioning ceremony was held on Oct 31 at INS Hansa, Dabolim in Goa.

#### ARMY'S FIRST VERTICAL WIND TUNNEL

- The Indian Army's first vertical wind tunnel (VWT) was inaugurated on Oct 25 at Special Forces Training School (SFTS) at Bakloh near Chamba in Himachal Pradesh.
- It will improve the training infrastructure of the Special Forces and free-fall combat paratroopers.
- Functioning as a free-fall simulator, the VWT creates a column of air at specific velocities, orchestrating

different combat free-fall conditions.

#### INS Imphal Joining the Indian Navy

- Delivered by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) on October 20 in Mumbai.
- **Class:** Third warship of the Project 15B Visakhapatnam Class of stealth guided missile destroyers.
- **Armament:** Equipped with supersonic Surface-to-Surface BrahMos missiles and Barak-8 Surface-to-Air missiles.
- **Helicopters:** Two helicopters onboard to extend operational reach.

#### About INS Imphal

- **Naming:** Named after the Northeastern city of Imphal.
- **Design and Construction:** Designed by the Navy's Warship Design Bureau and constructed by MDL.

#### Features

- **Speed and Dimensions:** Maximum speed of 30 knots; length of 163 metres and width of 17 metres.
- **Indigenous Components:** Major parts made in India.
- **Arsenal:** Includes 76mm Super Rapid Gun Mounts, Indigenous Torpedo Tube Launchers, Indigenous Anti-Submarine Rocket Launchers, Medium Range Surface-to-Air Missiles, and BrahMos Surface-to-Surface Missiles.

#### What is Project 15B?

- Under this initiative, Visakhapatnam Class four warships were planned:
  - ❖ Visakhapatnam
  - ❖ Mormugao
  - ❖ Imphal
  - ❖ Surat
- The Visakhapatnam and Mormugao are already commissioned in the Indian Navy.

#### UDHAMPUR: BEST GREEN MILITARY STATION

- The Udhampur Military Station in the UT of J&K was declared the 'Best Green Military Station' on Oct 18 in recognition of their committed environmental efforts.
- Dehradun Military Station was ranked second.
- The award was presented by Army Chief General Manoj Pandey at the Army Commanders' Conference.
- The Army Commanders' Conference was recently held in New Delhi

#### GORKHA RIFLES Won Gold in Cambrian Patrol Competition 2023

- The Gorkha Rifles (Frontier Force) of the Indian Army won a gold medal at the Cambrian Patrol Exercise

held on Oct 13-15 at Brecon, Wales in the UK, while competing against 96 teams representing special forces and regiments from around the world.

- The event is considered the ultimate test of human endurance and team spirit and is considered the “Olympics of military patrolling”.

### New ensign of the Indian Air Force (IAF)

- The Indian Air Force celebrated its 91st anniversary on Oct 08 in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh.
- As part of the celebrations, IAF organised the ceremonial parade at Air Force Station Bamrauli in Prayagraj.
- Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari unveiled a new ensign of the Indian Air Force (IAF), on the occasion, replacing the existing one that was adopted more than seven decades back.
- The new ensign features symbols like the Ashoka Lion and Himalayan Eagle and motto of the Air Force.
- The motto “Nabha Sparsham Deeptam” has been taken from verse 24, Chapter 11 of the Bhagavad Gita and it means “Touching the sky with Glory”.

### Old Ensign

- The now old Air Force ensign was blue, containing the National Flag in the first quadrant and a roundel consisting of the colours of the national flag i.e. saffron, white and green, at the centre.
- This ensign was adopted in 1951.

### IAF RECEIVES FIRST TEJAS TWIN SEATER

- **Handover:** First unit handed over to the Indian Air Force on October 4 in Bengaluru by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).
- **Type:** Lightweight, all-weather, multi-role 4.5 generation aircraft.
- **Capabilities:** Supports IAF training requirements and can function as a fighter jet if needed.
- **Order:** IAF has ordered 18 such aircraft from HAL.
- **Significance:** First indigenous twin-seat fighter designed, developed, and manufactured in India.
- **Notable Event:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi flew in the Tejas Twin Seat Light Combat Fighter aircraft in Bengaluru.

### WORLD'S FIRST COUNTER- DRONE LAUNCHED

- For the first time in the country, a state-of-the-art autonomous anti-drone system, powered by artificial intelligence, has been developed by a Hyderabad based firm, Green Robotics.
- Named **Indrajaal**, this is said to be not just India's but the world's only wide area Counter- Unmanned Aircraft System (C-UAS), that can provide a comprehensive and

integrated security mechanism against moving threats that cannot be tackled with static defence systems.

- This state-of-the-art system is capable of providing protection from micro, mini, small, large, and extra-large drones, signalling a significant advancement in Indian defence technology.
- Its coverage spreads 360 degree and can cover wide areas up to 4,000 sq km.

### ARMY GETS ANTI-TANK MINES- VIBHAV

- The Indian Army inducted 600 indigenously- manufactured self-neutralising anti-tank mines, named “Vibhav”.
- They will provide mobility kill against all enemy armoured vehicles.
- These mines can be laid both mechanically or manually.
- Made from new age plastic, the mines have adequate strength and durability to withstand the requirements of storage, handling and operating in varying field conditions.

### INS Mahendragiri

- **Launch:** Launched on September 1 by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd., Mumbai.
- **Class:** Nilgiri class stealth frigate.
- **Project:** Seventh and last ship of the Project 17A Frigates.
- **Naming:** Named after a mountain peak in the Eastern Ghats, Odisha.

### Project 17A

- **Launch Year:** Initiated by the Indian Navy in 2019.
- **First Ship:** INS Nilgiri, launched in 2019.
- **Construction:** By Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders (MDL) and Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE).
- **Design:** Stealth design with radar-absorbent coatings and low observability; reduces infrared signals.
- **Ships in Series:** INS Nilgiri, Udaygiri, Himgiri, Taragiri, Dunagiri, Vindhyagiri, and Mahendragiri.
- **Features:** Improved stealth, advanced weapons, and cutting-edge sensors.
- **Significance:** Showcases India's commitment to indigenous defense technology and self-reliance.

### 3D-Printed Bombs

- **Usage:** Ukraine is using 3D-printed bombs to address ammunition shortages and support counteroffensive efforts.
- **Production:** 3D-printed casings are filled with explosives and shrapnel before deployment.
- **Nickname:** Known as “candy bombs”.
- **Advantages:** Cost-effective and efficient; can be produced in various sizes to optimize drone payload capacity.

## 25th Kargil Vijay Diwas:

### Background:

- The Kargil War officially ended 25 years ago on July 26, 1999.
- Kargil Vijay Diwas commemorates India's victory over Pakistan.
- Honors the sacrifices of Indian soldiers who secured victory in Kargil.

### Conflict Details:

- Pakistani intruders crossed the Line of Control, occupying strategic positions in Ladakh's Kargil district.
- Operation Vijay: Indian forces recaptured critical positions despite heavy casualties.

### Diplomatic Efforts:

- Intensive diplomatic activity alongside intense battles.
- Pakistan announced withdrawal, but fighting continued beyond the deadline.

### Significance:

- Kargil Vijay Diwas celebrates India's win in the Kargil War.
- Upholds Indian armed forces' resolve in protecting sovereignty and territorial integrity

## Phase-II Ballistic Missile Defense (BMD) system

The Phase-II Ballistic Missile Defense (BMD) system was successfully flight-tested by the Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO) on July 24, 2024.

### Phases of the BMD System

There are two parts to the BMD program:

- **Phase I:** Already set up and working, this step can stop missiles from up to 2,000 km away.

- **Phase II:** This phase, which was just tried, makes it easier to intercept targets up to 5,000 km away.

### Test Procedure

- As part of the test, a target missile was fired from LC-IV Dhamra to mimic a threat from an enemy.
- Both land and sea radars picked up the signal, which turned on the Air Defence (AD) interception system.
- Two minutes later, the Phase-II AD endo-atmospheric missile fired from the Integrated Test Range in Chandipur was used to intercept the target.

### Missile Specifications:

- ❖ Solid-fueled, two-stage system.
- ❖ Targets threats in endo to low exo-atmospheric regions.

## SEBEX 2 Most Powerful Non-Nuclear Explosive Developed by Indian NAVY

- SEBEX 2 is a cutting-edge non-nuclear explosive developed by the Indian Navy in collaboration with Solar Industries.

### Some key points about SEBEX 2:

- ❖ **Power:** It is 2.01 times more powerful than TNT, making it one of the most potent non-nuclear explosives globally.
- ❖ **Composition:** Made from High-Melting Explosives (HMX), it significantly enhances the destructive power of various munitions without adding extra weight.
- ❖ **Applications:** It can be used in bombs, gun shells, and warheads, increasing their effectiveness.
- ❖ **Certification:** SEBEX 2 has been certified by the Indian Navy under its Defence Export Promotion Scheme



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## DEFENSE EXERCISE

### India-UAE 'Desert Cyclone 2024' Joint Military Exercise in Rajasthan

- **India-UAE 'Desert Cyclone 2024' Joint Military Exercise in Rajasthan**
- **The first edition - Dates:** From January 2024 ,15-2
- **Location:** Mahajan, Rajasthan
- **UAE Contingent:** 45 personnel from the Zayed First Brigade
- **Indian Army Contingent:** 45 personnel from the Mechanised Infantry Regiment
- **Historical Context:**
  - ❖ **Exercise Desert Eagle:** The first-ever India-UAE Joint Air Forces exercise took place in 2008 in Abu Dhabi.
  - ❖ **Exercise Desert Flag:** A multilateral air exercise hosted by the UAE Air Force.

### Exercise 'Khanjar' in Himachal Pradesh

- 11th edition
- **India-Kyrgyzstan Joint Special Forces Exercise**
- **January 22 to February 3**
- **Special Forces Training School, Bakloh; Himachal Pradesh**
- 20 personnel each from Indian Parachute Regiment and Kyrgyzstan Scorpion Brigade

### Exercise Cyclone

- A joint special forces exercise between India and Egypt.
- 2nd edition
- Conducted at Anshas, Egypt from 22nd January to 1st February 2024.
- The first edition was conducted last year in India.
- The Indian contingent 25 personnel from the Parachute Regiment (Special Forces).
- Egyptian contingent comprising 25 personnel of Egyptian Commando Squadron and Egyptian Airborne Platoon.

### India-Japan Joint Exercise 'Dharma Guardian' In Rajasthan

- 5th edition
- between the Indian Army and the Japan Ground Self Defence Force
- commenced at Mahajan Field Firing Ranges in Rajasthan
- from 25th February to 9th March 2024
- It is an annual exercise and conducted alternatively in India and Japan.
- The Japanese contingent (34th Infantry Regiment ) and Indian Army contingent (Battalion from the Rajputana Rifles.)

### 'Bharat Shakti' war game in Pokhran

- Tri-Service exercise showcased firepower by the Army, Air Force, and Navy on March 12.
- at Pokhran Field Firing Range in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan

### 10th Edition of Joint Military Exercise "LAMITIYE-2024"

- **Participants:** 45 military personnel each from the Gorkha Rifles of the Indian Army and the Seychelles Defence Forces (SDF)
- **Duration:** -10day joint military exercise from March 18 to 27
- **Location:** Seychelles
- **Meaning:** 'LAMITIYE' means 'Friendship' and is a biennial training event conducted in Seychelles since 2001

### 'Dustlik 2024' joint military exercise between India and Uzbekistan

- 5th Edition
- **Location:** Termez District, Uzbekistan
- **Dates:** April 15 to 2024 ,28
- **Indian Contingent:** 60 personnel – 45 from the Indian Army (mainly JAT Regiment) and 15 from the Indian Air Force
- **Uzbekistan Contingent:** Approximately 100 personnel from the Uzbekistan Army and Air Force
- **Previous Editions:** Fourth edition held in February 2023 at Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand; inaugural edition in Uzbekistan in November 2019.

### India and France conducted the 7th edition Military Exercise Shakti

- **Dates:** May 26-13
- **Location:** Umroi region, Meghalaya
- **Nature:** Biennial training event conducted alternatively in India and France
- **Previous Editions:** Last edition in France (November 1 ;(2021st edition in 2011
- **Indian Contingent:** 90 personnel primarily from the Rajput Regiment; Indian Navy and Indian Air Force as observers
- **French Contingent:** 90 personnel from the 13th Foreign Legion Half-Brigade (13th DBLE)

### 'Steadfast Defender 2024': NATO's largest military exercise since Cold War

- **Significance:** Largest exercise since the last Reforger exercise in 1988
- **Dates:** January 22 to May 2024 ,31
- **Location:** Across the North Atlantic and Europe

- **Participants:** 90,000 personnel from 31 NATO allies and Sweden
- **Purpose:** To test the alliance's ability to quickly deploy forces and implement NATO's new defense plans

#### Multinational military exercise 'Shanti Prayas IV' in Kathmandu

- **Participants:** 1,125 army personnel from 19 countries, including India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Thailand
- **Duration:** Two-week-long military drill
- **Organizers:** Assisted by the Global Peace Operation Initiative of the US government
- **History:** Nepal hosted the inaugural multi-platoon training event "Shanti Prayas" in 2000; three successful multi-platoon exercises have taken place since then.

#### Multi-National Exercise, Red Flag 24

- **Participants:** An Indian Air Force (IAF) contingent participated along with RSAF, RAF, RNLAf, German Luftwaffe, and USAF
- **Location:** Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska, USA
- **Dates:** June 4 to 2024, 14
- **Frequency:** Held four times a year by the US Air Force
- **Indian Contingent:** 8 Rafale fighter jets from India

#### IAF conducts 'Exercise Desert Knight'

- **Participants:** Indian Air Force (IAF), French Air and Space Force (FASF), and UAE Air Force
- **Location:** Over the Arabian Sea
- **Date:** January 23
- **Indian Air Force:** Su-30 MKI, MiG-29, Jaguar, AWACS, C-130-J, and Air to Air Refueller aircraft
- **French Air and Space Force:** Rafale fighter aircraft and a Multi Role Tanker Transport
- **UAE Air Force:** F-16

#### Exercises between India and France:

- Varuna – Naval exercise
- Garuda – Air exercise
- Shakti – Army exercise

#### Defence Exercises between India and UAE:

- Exercise Desert Eagle – Air exercise
- In-UAE BILAT - Naval exercise
- Desert Cyclone – Army exercise

#### Exercise Vayu Shakti-24

- **Conducted by:** Indian Air Force (IAF)
- **Location:** Pokhran range near Jaisalmer, Rajasthan

- **Theme:** Lightning Strike from the Sky
- **Showcased Systems:** Indigenous Air Defence Systems, Akash and SAMAR missile systems
- **Milestone:** SAMAR (Surface-to-Air Missile for Assured Retaliation) fired for the first time on February 17th
- **Development:** Entirely by units of the IAF's Maintenance Command
- **Performance:** Operating at speeds ranging from 2 to 2.5 Mach

#### IAF's 'Gagan Shakti-2024' 10-day mega exercise from April 1-10

- **Conducted by:** Indian Air Force (IAF)
- **Scope:** Involving all Air Force stations
- **Dates:** April 2024, 10-1
- **Location:** Pokhran's field firing range, Jaisalmer district, Rajasthan
- **Frequency:** Held every five years; last held in 2018
- **Support:** Indian Army providing logistics support

#### Gagan Strike-II: Indian Army, IAF Conduct Joint Exercise in Punjab

- **Participants:** Indian Army's Kharga Corps and Indian Air Force (IAF)
- **Duration:** Three-day joint military exercise
- **Location:** Punjab
- **Assets Used:** Apache and ALH-WSI helicopters, Unarmed Aerial Vehicles, and special forces of Indian Army

#### Exercise Yudh Abhyas

- 19th edition of the joint India US army exercise was conducted from Sep 25 to Oct 8 at Fort Wainwright, Alaska, USA.
- Both sides conducted a series of tactical drills to enhance interoperability in conducting UN peacekeeping operations.
- 350 personnel from Maratha Light Infantry Regiment participated in the exercise.

#### Exercise Harimau Shakti 2023

- A joint bilateral military training exercise, between the Indian and the Malaysian Army, was held from Oct 23 to Nov 05 at the Umroi Cantonment in Ri Bhoi district of Meghalaya.

#### AUSTRALIND-23

- The Joint Military Exercise of Indian and Australian Armed Forces was held from Nov 22 to Dec 6 at Perth, Australia.
- Besides the Army, personnel from airforce and navy from both the countries also participated in the exercise which aimed at promoting interoperability while undertaking



multi-domain operations.

### Vajra Prahar 2023

- The 14th edition of **Indo-US Joint Special Forces' exercise** was held from Nov 21 to Dec 11 in the Umroi cantonment near **Shillong, Meghalaya**.
- The exercise aimed at sharing best practices and experiences in areas such as joint mission planning and operational tactics, particularly in the mountainous terrain.

### Mitra Shakti-2023

- The ninth edition of the **joint military exercise between the Indian and Sri Lankan military forces** was held from Nov 16 to 29 in **Aundh (Pune)**.
- Both sides practised tactical actions such as raid, search and destroy missions, and heliborne operations.

### Exercise KAZIND-2023

- 7th edition of **joint military exercise of Indian and Kazakh forces** was conducted at **Otar in Kazakhstan** from Oct 30 to Nov 11.
- Military personnel from both, Army and Air Force took part in the exercise.

### Exercise VINBAX-2023:

- **Fourth edition** of the **Joint Military Exercise VINBAX-2023**.
- The exercise will be **conducted in Hanoi, Vietnam** from **11th to 21st December 2023**.
- It **aims to exchange ideas on modern construction methods for roads, culverts, helipads, ammunition shelters, and observation posts in operational areas**.
- Exercise VINBAX was **instituted in 2018** and the **first edition** was conducted at **Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh**.

### Surya Kiran 2023

- The 17th edition of **joint military exercise between India and Nepal** started on Nov 24 in **Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand**.
- The **annual exercise**, which is conducted alternately in the two countries, concluded on December 7.
- The exercise is aimed at enhancing interoperability in jungle warfare and counter-terrorism operations in mountainous terrain.

### Sampriti-XI

- The 11th annual joint military exercise between **India and Bangladesh** was held at **Umroi in Meghalaya** from Oct 03 to 16.
- The exercise underscores the importance of enhancing interoperability between the **two armies, sharing tactical drills, and promoting best practices**.

### Ex Chakravat

- The **Annual Joint Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) Exercise (AJHE- 23) 'Chakravat'** was held on Oct 09–11 in **Goa**.
- It was **hosted by the Indian Navy**.
- Participants from India's armed forces, paramilitary forces, disaster response organisations, NGOs, academic institutions, and international organisations, took part in the exercise.

### Ex-Bright-Star-2023

- The **biennial tri-services exercise** was held from Aug 27 to Sep 16 in **Cairo (West) Air Base in Egypt**.
- Besides a contingent from the Indian Air Force, around 150 personnel from the Indian Army also took part in the exercise.
- Some **8,000 troops from 34 countries, including contingents from America, Saudi Arabia, Greece and Qatar, participated in the three-week exercise**.

### Exercise Pitch Black

- The Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) will start "Exercise Pitch Black" on July 12, 2024.
- This is a major multinational aerial warfare practice that is held in Australia every two years.

### Exercise Maitree 2024

- **Event:** 13th edition of Exercise Maitree<sup>1</sup>.
- **Dates:** July 1-15, 2024<sup>1</sup>.
- **Location:** Tak Province, Thailand<sup>1</sup>.

### Nomadic Elephant

- The **16th "Nomadic Elephant" Joint Military Exercise** will take place between the **Indian Army and the Mongolian Army** from July 3, 2024, to July 16, 2024.
- They are going to do this **military drill in Umroi, Meghalaya**.
- The goal of the exercise is to improve the two forces' ability to work together and communicate during semi-normal operations in semi-urban and mountainous areas, as directed by the UN.

### 12th edition of MILAN naval exercise in Visakhapatnam

- **Event:** MILAN 24 (Multilateral Naval Exercise- 2024)
- **Dates:** February 19 to 2024 ,27
- **Location:** Visakhapatnam
- **Participation:** Largest-ever with invites extended to over 50 Friendly Foreign Countries (FFCs)
- **Theme:** "Forging Naval Alliances for a Secure Maritime Future"

- **History:** Biennial multilateral naval exercise initiated by the Indian Navy in 1995.

### Indian Navy's P-8I Aircraft went to Guam USA For Exercise Sea Dragon 24

- **4th edition:** Multi-lateral Ex Sea Dragon 24 (Anti-Submarine Warfare exercise)
- **Dates:** January 9-24, 2024
- **Organised by:** US Navy
- **Participants:** Navies of the US, Australia, South Korea, Japan, and India.

### India - U.S. Maritime Security Exercise 'Sea Defenders-2024' at Port Blair

- **Participants:** Indian Coast Guard (ICG) and United States Coast Guard (USCG)
- **Location:** Port Blair, Andaman & Nicobar Islands
- **Dates:** March 2024 ,10-9
- **Indian Assets:** Helicopter and Dornier aircraft
- **Highlight:** Pollution Response Demonstration showcasing proficiency in responding to oil spills and environmental hazards at sea

### EX TIGER TRIUMPH - 24

- **Event:** Tiger Triumph - Bilateral Tri-Service Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) Amphibious Exercise
- **Participants:** India and US
- **Dates:** March 18 to 2024 ,31
- **Harbour Phase:** Conducted at Visakhapatnam from March 18 to 25
- **Sea Phase:** March 26 to 31
- **Opening Ceremony:** Held onboard INS Jalashwa

### India-Thailand First Naval Exercise Ayutthaya

- **Event:** Maiden Bilateral Maritime Exercise between Indian Navy and Royal Thai Navy (RTN)
- **Dates:** December 20 to 23, 2023
- **Significance:** 'Ex-Ayutthaya' translates to 'The Invincible One' or 'Undefeatable', symbolizing the significance of Ayodhya in India and Ayutthaya in Thailand
- **Indian Participation:** Indigenously built Indian Naval ships INS Kulish and IN LCU 56
- **Thai Participation:** His Thai Majesty's Ship HTMS Prachuap Khiri Khan
- **Additional Event:** 36th edition of India-Thailand Coordinated Patrol (Indo-Thai CORPAT) conducted along with the maiden bilateral exercise

### Trilateral Exercise 'Dosti-16' In Maldives

- **16th edition:** India-Maldives-Sri Lanka trilateral exercise "Dosti" with Bangladesh as observer
- **Dates:** February 2024 ,25-22
- **Location:** Maldives
- **Indian Participation:** ICGS Samarth, ICGS Abhinav, and ICG Dornier
- **History:** Started in 1991 as a bilateral exercise by the coast guards of India and the Maldives; Sri Lanka joined in 2012

### India - Mozambique - Tanzania Trilateral (IMT TRILAT 24) Exercise at Nacala, Mozambique

- **Second edition:** India Mozambique Tanzania (IMT) Trilateral (TRILAT) Exercise
- **Location :** Nacala, Mozambique
- **Dates:** March 21-28, 2024
- **Indian Participation:** INS Tir and INS Sujata
- **Closing Ceremony:** Held onboard INS Tir and INS Sujata at Nacala, Mozambique, featuring representatives from all three navies
- **History:** First edition of IMT TRILAT exercise conducted in October 2022

### Indian Navy at Exercise Cutlass Express 2024

- **Event:** Exercise Cutlass Express - 24 (CE-24)
- **Dates:** February 26 - March 8, 2024
- **Location:** Port Victoria, Seychelles
- **Participation:** Indian Navy actively engaged with participants from 16 friendly foreign countries
- **Indian Contingent:** INS Tir, the lead ship of First Training Squadron (1TS)
- **History:** Indian Navy has been participating in the exercise since 2019

### India - Malaysia Bilateral Maritime Exercise 'Samudra Laksamana'

- **3rd edition:** From February 28 to March 2024 ,2
- **Location:** At/ off Visakhapatnam
- **Participants:** Indian Naval Ship Kiltan and Royal Malaysian Ship KD Lekir
- **Phases:** Harbour professional interactions followed by the operational phase at sea

### Sagar Kavach 2024: Coastal Security Exercise in Lakshadweep Islands

- **Duration:** Two-day exercise from April 2024 ,2-1
- **Participants:** Indian Navy, Coast Guard, Marine Police, fisheries, customs, and other security agencies
- **Purpose:** Validate the effectiveness of coastal security

mechanisms against asymmetric threats from the sea

- **Previous Edition:** First edition of this biannual coastal exercise (24/01) for Kerala conducted in March

### Indian Navy Conducted Exercise 'Poorvi Lehar' On East Coast

- **Conducted by:** Indian Navy under the operational control of the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Naval Command
- **Participants:** Ships, submarines, aircraft, and Special Forces
- **Purpose:** To validate procedures and assess the Indian Navy's preparedness to address maritime security challenges in the region effectively

### AUSINDEX-23

- **AUSINDEX-23** is a biennial maritime exercise between Indian Navy and Royal Australian Navy.

### BRIGHT STAR-23

- **BRIGHT STAR-23** is a biennial multilateral tri-service exercise held in Egypt.
- For the first time, Indian Air Force is participating in it.
- Other participating countries include US, Saudi Arabia, Greece, and Qatar.

### SIMBEX-23

- The 30th edition of the Singapore India Maritime Bilateral Exercise (SIMBEX), between the Indian Navy

and Republic of Singapore Navy was held in two phases - Harbour Phase at Singapore from 21 to 24 September, followed by a Sea Phase.

- For the first time, naval forces of India, Australia and Indonesia got together to participate in a trilateral Maritime Partnership Exercise on Sep 20-21 in the Indo-Pacific zone.

### Exercise Varuna-23

- The 21st bilateral naval exercise between the Indian and French Navy was conducted in the first week of September in the Arabian Sea.

### AUSINDEX-23

- 5th edition of biennial maritime exercise 'AUSINDEX' between Indian Navy and Royal Australian Navy was conducted on 22-25 August in South Pacific Ocean, near Sydney, Australia.
- INS Sahyadri and INS Kolkata participated in the exercise.

### BONGOSAGAR-23

- The bilateral exercise between the Indian and Bangladesh Navy was held on Nov 7-9 near Visakhapatnam in the Bay of Bengal.
- Ships and aircrafts from both navies undertook joint patrolling along the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL), and subsequently conducted maritime exercises to enhance interoperability





# HPAS 2024-25

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## SCIENCE AND TECH

### ISRO's PSLV-C58 Launch of XPoSat Mission (HPAS Pre 2024)

- **PSLV-C58 X-ray Polarimeter Satellite (XPoSat)** successfully launched on **January 1, 2024**, from Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota.
- 60th mission of the **Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV)**.
- **Orbit and Mission:**
  - ❖ XPoSat placed in a **650 km orbit** with a **six-degree inclination**.
  - ❖ **India's first scientific satellite** to measure the **polarization of X-rays** from celestial sources.
  - ❖ Studies **X-ray emissions** from celestial objects, including **black holes**.
- **Significance:**
  - ❖ India is the **second country** after the **United States** to send a **specialized astronomy observatory** to study **black holes** and **neutron stars**.
- **Payloads:**
  - ❖ **POLIX (Polarimeter Instrument in X-rays):** Developed by **Raman Research Institute (RRI)**, Bengaluru.
  - ❖ **XSPECT (X-ray Spectroscopy and Timing):** Developed by **Space Astronomy Group of URSC**, Bengaluru.
- **Mission Life:**
  - ❖ Approximately **five years**.
- **Additional Payloads:**
  - ❖ **PSLV-C58** also carried **10 other payloads** to be deployed in **low Earth orbits**.

### ISRO's Aditya L1 Mission

- **Mission Overview:**
  - ❖ **Aditya L1**, ISRO's **first space-based solar observatory**, **successfully injected** into its **final orbit at Lagrange Point-1 (L1)**.
  - ❖ The spacecraft can now view the **Sun** without any eclipses.
- **Launch and Manoeuvres:**
  - ❖ Launched on **September 2, 2023**.
  - ❖ Completed four earth-bound manoeuvres and a **Trans-Lagrangian Point 1 Insertion (L1)** manoeuvre successfully.
- **Mission Objectives:**
  - ❖ **Observe the Sun's corona** and **understand its extreme heat**.

- ❖ Operates from a **halo orbit** around the **first Sun-Earth Lagrangian point (L1)**, **1.5 million km** from Earth.

#### ➤ **Mission Duration:**

- ❖ Expected to **remain operational** for the **next five years**.

### ISRO's Polymer Electrolyte Membrane Fuel Cell Test on POEM-3

#### ➤ **Experiment Objective:**

- ❖ Assess **Polymer Electrolyte Membrane Fuel Cell** operation in **space**.
- ❖ Collect data to **facilitate the design** of systems for **future missions**.

#### ➤ **Mission Context:**

- ❖ **XPoSAT**, a satellite intended to **study black holes** and **neutron stars**, was launched by **ISRO** on **January 1, 2024**.
- ❖ Launched atop a **PSLV** as part of the **PSLV-C58 mission**.

#### ➤ **Orbital Platform:**

- ❖ The **fourth stage of PSLV**, called **PS4**, is also known as **POEM-3 (PSLV Orbital Experimental Module-3)**.

### U.S. Peregrine-1 Lunar Mission

#### ➤ **Launch Details:**

- ❖ **Peregrine-1 lunar lander** launched on **January 8, 2024**, from **Cape Canaveral Space Force Station, Florida**.
- ❖ **First private lunar mission** and the **first American lunar launch** in over **50 years**.

#### ➤ **Operator:**

- ❖ Operated by the **private company "Astrobotic"**.

#### ➤ **Mission Objectives:**

- ❖ Scheduled to land on **February 23, 2024**.
- ❖ **Aims to study the Moon's surface environment** in preparation for upcoming human missions.

### NASA's Artemis Moon Missions Postponement

#### ➤ **Artemis III:**

- ❖ **Mission to land four astronauts** near the **lunar south pole** delayed to **September 2026**.

#### ➤ **Artemis II:**

- ❖ **10-day expedition** to send a **crew around the Moon** and **back to test life support systems** delayed to **September 2025**.
- ❖ Mission aims to land the **first woman** and **first person of color** on the **Moon**.

#### ➤ **Artemis I:**

- ❖ **Uncrewed test flight of the Orion spacecraft** launched on the Space Launch System (SLS) rocket on November 16, 2022.

### Japan's SLIM Spacecraft Moon Landing

- **Historic Achievement:**
  - ❖ Japan became the **fifth country** in history to make a soft landing on the lunar surface.
- **Landing Details:**
  - ❖ **SLIM (Smart Lander for Investigating Moon)** touched down early on January 20, 2024, near Shioli crater, south of the lunar equator.
  - ❖ Known as 'Moon Snipper' in Japanese.
- **Launch Information:**
  - ❖ Launched on September 6, 2023, aboard a H-IIA rocket from the Tanegashima Space Centre, Japan.
- **Mission Objectives:**
  - ❖ Upon landing, SLIM will deploy two rovers, LEV-1 and LEV-2, each equipped with innovative mobility systems.

### BharatGPT, India's Generative AI

- **Launch Details:**
  - ❖ **India** launched its **own Generative AI platform, BharatGPT**, in 14+ Indian languages, with capabilities in generative text, voice, and video.
- **Development and Partnership:**
  - ❖ Developed by **Conversational AI startup CoRover.ai**.
  - ❖ **Google Cloud** is the technology partner.
- **Language Integration:**
  - ❖ Integrated for voice modality in **more than 14 Indian languages**.
  - ❖ Supports text modality in 22 languages, in partnership with **BHASHNI**, a **National Language Translation Mission (NLTM)** under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (**MeitY**).
- **Government Vision:**
  - ❖ Aligns with the government's vision of **"Make AI in India, Make AI work for India."**
  - ❖ Ensures data remains in India.
  - ❖ Fine-tuned for Indian users.
- **Generative AI Overview:**
  - ❖ **Generative AI (GenAI)** is a broad category of AI that can create new content, including text, images, video, audio, or code.

### Punganur Cow and Artificial Insemination of Gir and Kankrej Cattle

- **Punganur Cow:**
  - ❖ Native to **Chittoor district, Andhra Pradesh's**

**Rayalaseema region.**

- ❖ **World's shortest humped cattle**, standing 70–90 cm tall and weighing 115–200 kg.
- ❖ **Colors:** White, gray, light brown, or dark brown.
- ❖ Small, crescent-shaped horns (10-15 cm); females have slightly longer horns.
- ❖ Milk has high fat and SNF (Solids Not Fat) content, including protein, carbohydrates, and minerals.

### Artificial Insemination of Gir and Kankrej Cattle:

- India imported **40,000 doses of bull semen from Brazil** to **boost milk output via artificial insemination**.
- **Kankrej Cattle:**
  - ❖ Also known as **Wadad, Waged, Wadhiar**.
  - ❖ Origin: **Southeast Rann of Kutch, Gujarat**, and adjoining **Rajasthan** (Barmer and Jodhpur district).
  - ❖ Valued for fast, powerful draught capabilities; useful in ploughing and carting.
  - ❖ Known as **Guzerat in Brazil**, maintained in large numbers as a pure breed.
- **Gir Cattle:**
  - ❖ Famous **Indian-born dairy cattle breed**.
  - ❖ Also known as **Bhodali, Desan, Gujarati, Kathiawari, Sorthi, and Surati**.
  - ❖ Native tract: Gir hills and forests of Kathiawar, Gujarat.
  - ❖ **Renowned for tolerance to stress conditions and resistance to various tropical diseases.**

### ISRO's Cartosat-2 Satellite

- **End of Mission:**
  - ❖ Cartosat-2 **descended into Earth's atmosphere** on February 14, 2024.
- **Orbit Details:**
  - ❖ Orbit lowered from 635 km to 380 km by early 2020.
- **Launch Information:**
  - ❖ Launched on January 10, 2007.
- **Operational Details:**
  - ❖ Operated in a **sun-synchronous polar orbit** at an altitude of 635 km.
  - ❖ **Provided high-resolution imagery** for urban planning until 2019.

### CE20 Cryogenic Engine Human-Rating for Gaganyaan Missions

- **Milestone Achievement:**
  - ❖ ISRO has successfully human-rated its **CE20 cryogenic engine**.
- **Purpose:**
  - ❖ Powers the cryogenic stage of the **human-rated LVM3**



launch vehicle for **Gaganyaan missions**.

### ➤ **Human-Rating:**

- ❖ Refers to rating a system capable of safely transporting humans.

### **ISRO's INSAT-3DS Weather Satellite Launch**

#### ➤ **Launch Details:**

- ❖ **GSLV-F14** deployed **INSAT-3DS** into the intended **geosynchronous transfer orbit** on February 17, 2024.
- ❖ Subsequent orbit-raising maneuvers will position the satellite in a geostationary orbit.

#### ➤ **Mission Objectives:**

- ❖ **Augment meteorological services** along with **INSAT-3D** and **INSAT-3DR** satellites.
- ❖ Designed for enhanced **meteorological observations**, **monitoring of land and ocean surfaces** for weather forecasting, and **disaster warning**.

#### ➤ **Launch Vehicle:**

- ❖ **GSLV**, known as the **"naughty boy"** of Indian space due to its past failures.

#### ➤ **Geostationary Earth Orbit (GEO):**

- ❖ Spacecraft in **GEO** are positioned **35,786 km** above **Earth's surface**, precisely over the equator.

#### ➤ **ISRO Information:**

- ❖ Headquarters: **Bengaluru**.
- ❖ Founder: **Vikram Sarabhai**.
- ❖ Founded: **August 15, 1969**.
- ❖ Chairman: **S. Somanath**.

### **Woman Robot Astronaut "Vyommitra"**

#### ➤ **Mission Schedule:**

- ❖ Uncrewed **"Vyommitra"** mission scheduled for the third quarter of this year.
- ❖ **Manned mission 'Gaganyaan'** scheduled for **2025**.

#### ➤ **Name Origin:**

- ❖ **"Vyommitra"** is derived from two Sanskrit words: **"Vyoma"** (Space) and **"Mitra"** (Friend).

#### ➤ **Capabilities:**

- ❖ Monitors module parameters, issues alerts, and executes life support operations.
- ❖ Can operate six panels and respond to queries.

### **Gaganyaan Mission**

- **Gaganyaan** is **India's project to send a 3-day manned mission to Low Earth Orbit (LEO)** at **400 km** altitude with a **crew of 3 members** and safely return them to **Earth**.

#### ➤ **Test Vehicle Flight:**

- ❖ **First Test Vehicle Flight TV D1** accomplished on

October 21, 2023.

- ❖ Aimed to **qualify the crew escape system and parachute system**.

#### ➤ **Launch Vehicle:**

- ❖ **Human rating** of the launch vehicle is complete.
- ❖ **All propulsion stages** are qualified.

### **AstroSat's Detection of Polarised High Energy X-rays**

#### ➤ **Achievement:**

- ❖ **AstroSat** measured **X-ray polarisation** from the **Cygnus X-1 black hole**, a **first-time accomplishment**.

#### ➤ **Cygnus X-1:**

- ❖ **One of the first confirmed black hole systems** in our galaxy.
- ❖ **20 times heavier than the Sun**.
- ❖ Located at a distance about **400 times more** than the distance between **Earth and Sun**.

#### ➤ **X-ray Measurements:**

- ❖ Normal **X-ray measurements** reveal energy or intensity of radiations.
- ❖ Polarisation characteristics of X-rays provide clues on the geometry and properties of the black hole.

#### ➤ **About AstroSat:**

- ❖ India's **first dedicated Space Astronomy Observatory**.
- ❖ **Launched into a 650-km, 6° inclination orbit** on September 28, 2015, by **PSLV-C30 (XL) rocket**.
- ❖ Capable of **broad band simultaneous multiwavelength observation** from far ultraviolet to gamma rays.
- ❖ Operated as an observatory class telescope with **five telescopes on board**.

### **Aditya-L1's Detection of Coronal Mass Ejections**

#### ➤ **Detection Achievement:**

- ❖ Advanced sensors on **Aditya-L1** successfully detected the impact of **coronal mass ejections (CMEs)**.

#### ➤ **Payload Details:**

- ❖ **Plasma Analyser Package for Aditya (PAPA)** is an energy and mass analyser for **in-situ measurements of solar wind electrons and ions in the low energy range**.
- ❖ Equipped with two sensors:
- ❖ **Solar Wind Electron Energy Probe**.
- ❖ **Solar Wind Ion Composition Analyser**.
- ❖ Sensors can measure the direction of arrival of solar wind particles.

#### ➤ **Launch Information:**

- ❖ Launched by **PSLV-C57** rocket on **September 2, 2023**.

- **Mission Objectives:**
  - ❖ **Aditya-L1** carries seven payloads to study the **Sun**:
  - ❖ **Four payloads** to observe the **light from the Sun**.
  - ❖ Three payloads to measure **in-situ parameters** of the **plasma and magnetic fields**.
- **Orbit Details:**
  - ❖ Placed in a halo orbit around **Lagrangian Point 1 (L1)**, **1.5 million km** from Earth in the direction of the Sun.

### PM Modi's Dedication of ISRO Facilities

- **Event Details:**
  - ❖ **PM Narendra Modi** dedicated **three ISRO facilities** to the nation on **February 27** during a visit to the **Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC)** in **Thiruvananthapuram**.
- **Projects and Locations:**
  - ❖ **PSLV Integration Facility (PIF):** Located at the **Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh**.
  - ❖ **Semi-Cryogenics Integrated Engine And Stage Test (SIET) Facility:** Located at **ISRO Propulsion Complex, Mahendragiri, Tamil Nadu**.
  - ❖ **Trisonic Wind Tunnel:** Located at **VSSC, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala**.
- **Cost:**
  - ❖ The projects were developed at a cost of approximately **Rs. 1800 crore**.

### PSLV Integration Facilities at Satish Dhawan Space Centre

- **Increased Launch Capacity:**
  - ❖ Enables **ISRO** to increase the number of **PSLV launches** from **6 to 15 per year**.
- **Versatility:**
  - ❖ Capable of accommodating launches of **SSLV** and other small launch vehicles developed by private space companies

### Semi-Cryogenic Integrated Engine and Stage Test Facility (SIET)

- **Advancement in Development:**
  - ❖ **SIET** marks a significant advancement in engine and stage development.
  - ❖ Facilitates the creation of semi-cryogenic engines and stages, enhancing the payload capacity of current launch vehicles.
- **Testing Capability:**
  - ❖ Can conduct engine tests with up to **200 tons** of thrust.

- **Propellants:**
  - ❖ Uses refined kerosene (named **ISROSENE**) and liquid oxygen as propellants.

### Trisonic Wind Tunnel at VSSC

- **Purpose:**
  - ❖ Vital for aerodynamic testing, allowing evaluation of rockets and aircraft during flight in Earth's atmosphere.
- **Specifications:**
  - ❖ Overall length of **170 metres**.
  - ❖ First of its kind in India.
  - ❖ Can generate speeds ranging from subsonic to supersonic, up to **Mach 4** (four times the speed of sound).
- **Significance:**
  - ❖ Provides self-reliance in the end-to-end design of upcoming launch vehicle projects.

### Gaganyaan Astronaut Designates Announcement

- **Astronaut Designates:**
  - ❖ Four Indian Air Force (IAF) pilots:
  - ❖ **Group Captain Prasanth Balakrishnan Nair**
  - ❖ **Group Captain Ajit Krishnan**
  - ❖ **Group Captain Angad Pratap**
  - ❖ **Wing Commander Shubhanshu Shukla**
- Final crew for the mission will be selected from these four pilots.
- **Mission Details:**
  - ❖ Manned mission will fly a three-member crew into low Earth orbit at an altitude of **400 km**.
  - ❖ Duration of the mission: **Three days**.
- **Future Plans:**
  - ❖ **ISRO** plans to send astronauts to the moon by **2040**.

### PM Modi's Foundation Stone Laying for ISRO's New Launch Complex

- **Event Details:**
  - ❖ Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** laid the foundation stone for the **Kulasekarapattinam spaceport** in **Tamil Nadu's Thoothukudi district**.
- **Construction Timeline:**
  - ❖ **ISRO's** second satellite launch facility to be completed within two years to launch **Small Satellite Launch Vehicles (SSLVs)**.
- **Launch Capacity:**
  - ❖ Facility will have the capacity to launch **24 satellites** per year.
  - ❖ Built at a cost of approximately **986 crore rupees**.

➤ **SSLV Design:**

- ❖ SSLVs designed to launch lightweight satellites at low costs.
- ❖ Capable of launching satellites weighing less than 500 kg into lower Earth orbit.
- ❖ **Cost Efficiency:**
- ❖ Launching from Sriharikota incurs higher expenses due to longer travel distance.
- ❖ More fuel needed for longer distance reduces rocket's payload capacity.
- ❖ Launching small rockets from Sriharikota is challenging for these reasons.

**CSIR NAL's High Altitude Pseudo Satellite (HAPS) Test**➤ **Successful Test:**

- ❖ Scientists at CSIR-National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL) in Bengaluru successfully tested an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) called High Altitude Pseudo Satellite (HAPS).

➤ **Characteristics:**

- ❖ HAPS are similar to drones but operate in the stratosphere, well above commercial planes.
- ❖ Powered by solar cells and a battery system, capable of flying 20 km high and floating for months.

➤ **Applications:**

- ❖ Can be used for various applications, including surveillance and beaming 5G waves.
- ❖ Can function as "towers in the sky" and "pseudo satellites," offering more flexibility than traditional satellites for mapping land from above.

**U.S. Moon Lander Launch**➤ **Launch Details:**

- ❖ Nova-C lander, dubbed Odysseus, lifted off on SpaceX Falcon 9 from NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral.
- ❖ Mission aims to conduct the first U.S. lunar touchdown in over 50 years and the first by a privately owned spacecraft.

➤ **Builder:**

- ❖ Built by Houston-based aerospace company Intuitive Machines.

➤ **Landing Schedule:**

- ❖ Scheduled to land on February 22 at Malapert A crater near the Moon's south pole.

➤ **Significance:**

- ❖ If successful, it will be the first privately-led mission to achieve a soft landing on the Moon.

➤ **Recent Lunar Landings:**

- ❖ Japan became the fifth country to place a lander on the Moon last month with its space agency JAXA.
- ❖ India became the fourth nation to land on the Moon last year

**NASA Climate Satellite – PACE**➤ **Mission Name:** Plankton, Aerosol, Cloud, Ocean Ecosystem (PACE)➤ **Launch Details:**

- ❖ Launched by SpaceX using the Falcon rocket
- ❖ Mission cost: \$948 million

➤ **Mission Duration:** At least three years➤ **Orbit:** 420 miles (676 kilometers) above Earth➤ **Primary Objectives:**

- ❖ Study ocean biology and the atmosphere
- ❖ Improve hurricane and severe weather forecasts
- ❖ Detail Earth's changes due to rising temperatures
- ❖ Predict harmful algae blooms

➤ **Technological Advancements:**

- ❖ Current satellites see in 7-8 colors; PACE will see in 200 colors
- ❖ Enhanced ability to identify types of algae in the sea and particles in the air

➤ **Collaboration:**

- ❖ NASA is working with India on the NISAR satellite
- ❖ NISAR will use radar to measure the effects of rising temperatures on glaciers and melting icy surfaces

**NASA Discovers 'Super-Earth' in Habitable Zone**➤ **Discovery:** NASA's Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS) has identified a "super-Earth"➤ **Location:**

- ❖ 137 light years away from Earth
- ❖ Orbiting a small, reddish star within a 'habitable zone'

➤ **Exoplanet Details:**

- ❖ Named TOI-715b
- ❖ Approximately 1.5 times the width of Earth
- ❖ A "year" on TOI-715b lasts 19 Earth days

➤ **Habitable Zone:**

- ❖ Also known as the 'Goldilocks zone'
- ❖ Conditions are 'just right' for supporting liquid water (neither too hot nor too cold)

**World's First Wooden Satellite to be Launched**➤ **Mission Name:** LignoSat➤ **Launch Details:**

- ❖ Scheduled for launch in 2024



- ❖ Collaboration between NASA and Japan
- **Satellite Composition:**
  - ❖ Made of magnolia wood, known for its crack-resistant and stable properties (tested on the ISS)
  - ❖ Coffee mug-sized
- **Development:** Built by scientists at Kyoto University
- **Purpose:**
  - ❖ Address space debris
  - ❖ Make spaceflight operations more sustainable
- **Environmental Impact:**
  - ❖ Current stratosphere filled with metallic particles from aluminium spacecraft
  - ❖ LignoSat produces only biodegradable ash upon re-entry, minimizing environmental impact

### America's Odysseus Spacecraft Makes 1st Commercial Moon Landing in History

- **Mission Name:** Odysseus (IM-1 lander)
- **Landing Achievement:**
  - ❖ Soft-landed on the moon
  - ❖ First commercial spacecraft to land near the lunar south pole
- **Developer:** Intuitive Machines, a Houston-based company
- **Historical Significance:**
  - ❖ First US vehicle to land on the moon since Apollo 17 in 1972
- **Landing Location:**
  - ❖ Near Malapert A, an impact crater close to the moon's south pole
  - ❖ Area characterized by treacherous and rocky terrain

### Skyroot Offers Kalpana Scholarship for Women Space Engineers

- **Company:** Skyroot Aerospace, a leading space technology company based in Hyderabad
- **Program Name:** Kalpana Scholarship
- **Inspiration:** Inspired by the legacy of astronaut Kalpana Chawla
- **Target Audience:** Exclusively for women in the space sector
- **Benefits:**
  - ❖ Monthly allowance for one year
  - ❖ Opportunity for exceptional candidates to transition into full-time roles at Skyroot Aerospace
- **Company Achievement:** Launched India's first privately developed rocket into space

### First Reported Person to Die of Recently Discovered Alaskapox Virus

- **Discovery:** Alaskapox was discovered in 2015 in Alaska
- **Hosts:**
  - ❖ Mainly found in small mammals, including red-backed voles and shrews
  - ❖ Pets such as dogs and cats may also carry the virus
- **Relation:** Related to smallpox, cowpox, and mpox
- **Zoonotic Potential:** Researchers suggest it may be zoonotic, meaning it can jump from animals to humans
- **Symptoms:** Rash, swollen lymph nodes, and joint or muscle pain

### Reliance Industries to Launch 'Hanooman', a ChatGPT-Style AI Service

- **Initiative:** BharatGPT group backed by Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries Ltd
- **AI Model Name:** Hanooman
- **Functionality:**
  - ❖ Operates in 11 local languages
  - ❖ Focuses on four fields: health care, governance, financial services, and education
- **Development:**
  - ❖ Collaboration with Indian Institute of Technology universities
  - ❖ Backed by Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd
- **Features:** Offers speech-to-text capabilities
- **Related Projects:** Reliance is also developing Jio Brain, an AI platform for its 450 million subscribers
- **Other Startups:** Sarvam and Krutrim are building open-sourced AI models for India

### ISRO Marks Significant Achievement with Minimal Debris in Orbit

- **Mission Name:** PSLV Orbital Experimental Module-3 (POEM-3)
- **Mission Conclusion:**
  - ❖ Successfully reentered Earth's atmosphere and disintegrated
  - ❖ Part of the PSLV-C58/XPoSat mission
  - ❖ Notable for leaving virtually no debris in orbit
- **XPoSat:**
  - ❖ First dedicated scientific satellite from ISRO for space-based polarisation measurements of X-ray emission from celestial sources
- **PSLV-C58 Mission:**
  - ❖ Successfully completed on January 1, 2024
  - ❖ Deployed all satellites into their predetermined orbits
  - ❖ Final stage of the PSLV-C58 rocket (PS4) converted

into a stabilized platform (POEM-3) using a 3-axis stabilization technique

➤ **Environmental Impact:**

- ❖ POEM designed to safely re-enter Earth's atmosphere after completing its experiments, leaving no debris behind
- ❖ PSLV is a four-stage rocket; first three stages fall back into the ocean, final stage (PS4) typically ends up as space junk

**ISRO Successfully Conducts 'Pushpak' Reusable Landing Vehicle Landing Experiment**

- **Mission Name:** RLV LEX-02 (Pushpak)
- **Achievement:** Major milestone in Reusable Launch Vehicle (RLV) technology
- **Location:** Aeronautical Test Range (ATR), Chitradurga, Karnataka
- **Mission Details:**
  - ❖ Simulated approach and high-speed landing conditions of RLV returning from space
  - ❖ Pushpak (RLV-TD) landed autonomously with precision on the runway after being released from an off-nominal position
- **Reuse Capability:**
  - ❖ Winged body and all flight systems from RLV-LEX-01 reused in RLV-LEX-02 after certification and clearances
  - ❖ Demonstrated reuse capability of flight hardware and systems

**SpaceX Sends MethaneSAT Satellite Into Orbit to Track Methane Gas**

- **Mission Name:** MethaneSAT
- **Launch Details:**
  - ❖ Launched aboard a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket from California
  - ❖ Entity behind MethaneSAT: Environmental Defense Fund (EDF), a US-based nonprofit environmental advocacy group
- **Mission Objectives:**
  - ❖ Track and measure methane emissions on a global scale
  - ❖ Monitor the oil and gas sector by orbiting the Earth 15 times a day
  - ❖ Enable stakeholders and regulators to take action to reduce methane emissions
- **Environmental Impact:**
  - ❖ Methane is an invisible but potent greenhouse gas
  - ❖ Second largest contributor to global warming after carbon dioxide

**IAU Approves 'Statio Shiv Shakti' as Name for Chandrayaan-3 Landing Site**

- **Approval:** Given by the International Astronomical Union (IAU) working group for Planetary System Nomenclature
- **Date of Approval:** March 19, 2024
- **Name:** Statio Shiv Shakti
  - ❖ **Meaning:** Compound word from Indian mythology depicting the masculine ("Shiva") and feminine ("Shakti") duality of nature
- **Significance:** Landing site of Chandrayaan-3's Vikram lander
- **Announcement:**
  - ❖ Made by PM Modi on August 26, 2023
  - ❖ Point where the Moon lander of Chandrayaan-3 touched down on August 23, 2023, will be known as Shiv Shakti

**ISRO's EOS-6 Satellite Enables Precise Air Quality Monitoring**

- **Development:** ISRO has developed and validated an **Ocean Colour Monitor (OCM-3) Aerosol Optical Depth (AOD) product**
- **Data Source:** Utilizes data from the EOS-6 satellite
- **Launch Details:** EOS-6 was launched in **November 2022**
- **Sensor:** Equipped with a **state-of-the-art OCM sensor to monitor atmospheric aerosols**
- **Capabilities:**
  - ❖ High-resolution data reveals dynamics of particulate matter (PM2.5/PM10)
  - ❖ Offers insights into their distribution and transport over metropolitan areas
- **Global Impact:**
  - ❖ OCM-3 AOD product serves as a global resource for monitoring aerosols
  - ❖ Provides insights into aerosol blankets from diverse sources such as South Asian fires and Canadian wildfires

**IN-SPACe Technical Centre Focused on 'Satellites & Payloads' Inaugurated in Ahmedabad**

- **Inauguration:**
  - ❖ **First-of-its-kind technical centre** built by **Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe)**
  - ❖ Inaugurated by Union Minister of State for Science and Technology Jitendra Singh
- **Location:** Ahmedabad
- **Purpose:**
  - ❖ Provide **unparalleled opportunities for the private**

sector to rigorously test and validate their space technologies

- ❖ Help develop rockets and satellites
- **Economic Goals:**
  - ❖ India aims for a five-fold increase in the space economy by 2030
  - ❖ Current space economy stands at USD 8 billion
- **About IN-SPACE:**
  - ❖ Promotes, enables, authorizes, and supervises various space activities of non-governmental entities
  - ❖ Responsibilities include building launch vehicles and satellites, providing space-based services, sharing space infrastructure, and establishing new space facilities
  - ❖ Headquarters: **Bopal, Ahmedabad**
  - ❖ Chairman: **Dr. Pawan Kumar Goenka**

### ISRO to Conduct START 2024

- **Programme Name:** Space Science and Technology Awareness Training (START) 2024
- **Organiser:** Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)
- **Schedule:** April and May 2024
- **Objective:** Attract youngsters to the fields of space science and technology
- **Eligibility:**
  - ❖ Post-graduate students
  - ❖ Final year undergraduate students of physical sciences (Physics and Chemistry) and technology
  - ❖ Students studying in educational institutes, universities, and colleges within India

### Skyroot Successfully Test Fires Stage-2 of Vikram-1 Space Launch Vehicle

- **Company:** Skyroot Aerospace, a space-tech company
- **Test Details:**
  - ❖ Successfully test-fired Stage-2 of Vikram-1, called **Kalam-250**
  - ❖ Conducted at ISRO's propulsion testbed at Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC), Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh
- **Rocket Details:**
  - ❖ **Vikram-1** is a three-stage, solid-fuel based rocket
  - ❖ Testing of the second stage is significant as it propels satellites from Earth's dense atmosphere to the deep vacuum of outer space
- **Previous Tests:**
  - ❖ **Kalam-100**, the third stage of Vikram-1, was successfully test-fired in June 2021
- **Significance:**

- ❖ **Vikram-1** launch is the first private orbital rocket launch in India
- ❖ Follows the suborbital space launch of India's first private rocket, **Vikram-S**, by Skyroot in November 2022
- ❖ India's first private orbital rocket launch expected in mid-2024
- **Leadership:** Pawan Chandana, Skyroot Co-Founder and CEO

### Scientists Uncover Milky Way's Ancient Building Blocks, Shakti and Shiva

- **Discovery:** Identified by the **Max Planck Institute for Astronomy** (Germany)
- **Structures:** Two ancient streams of stars named Shakti and Shiva
- **Significance:**
  - ❖ Among the Milky Way's earliest building blocks
  - ❖ Offer new insight into how our galaxy formed
- **Origins:**
  - ❖ Remnants of two galaxies that merged with an earlier version of the Milky Way between 12 and 13 billion years ago
- **Observations:** Found using the European Space Agency's Gaia space telescope
- **Gaia:**
  - ❖ Launched in 2013
  - ❖ Assembling the largest and most precise three-dimensional map of the Milky Way
- **Star Composition:**
  - ❖ Stars in **Shakti and Shiva** differ from most of the galaxy's other stars
  - ❖ Called "**metal poor**" due to lesser amounts of heavier elements like iron, carbon, and oxygen

### 3 New Moons Discovered Orbiting Uranus and Neptune

- **Discovery:**
  - ❖ **2 new moons** around Neptune
  - ❖ **1 new moon** around Uranus
- **Total Satellites:**
  - ❖ Neptune: 16 known moons
  - ❖ Uranus: 28 known moons
- **New Moons:**
  - ❖ Uranus: Tentatively labelled "S/2023 U1" with a 680-day orbit
  - ❖ Neptune:
    - ❖ "S/2002 N5" with a 9-year orbit
    - ❖ "S/2021 N1" with a 27-year orbit



➤ **Other Facts:**

- ❖ **Saturn has the most moons: 146 confirmed**
- ❖ **Jupiter is second with 95 moons**
- ❖ Jupiter's icy moon Ganymede is the largest moon in our solar system, bigger than Mercury and Pluto

**RBI Issues Warning Against 'Juice Jacking'**

- **Advisory:** Reserve Bank of India (RBI) cautions mobile phone users against using **public charging ports**
- **Juice Jacking:**
  - ❖ A security exploit and form of cyberattack
  - ❖ **Hackers tamper with public USB charging ports to infect them with malware or make hardware changes to steal data**
- **Origin:** Term "juice jacking" coined in 2011 by investigative journalist Brian Krebs
- **Prevention:**
  - ❖ Use a virtual private network (VPN)
  - ❖ Ensure devices have the latest security updates installed

**10,000 Genomes Project**

- **Completion:** Announced by the **Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Ministry of Science & Technology**
- **Achievement:** Sequencing of **10,000 healthy genomes** from different regions of India, representing **99 distinct populations**.
- **Significance:**
  - ❖ Key step to understanding genetic variants unique to India's population groups
  - ❖ Aims to customize drugs and therapies (genetic map of India)
- **Institutions Involved:** About **20 institutions across India**.
  - ❖ Lead Institutions: **Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru** and **Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology, Hyderabad**
- **Data Storage:**
  - ❖ Entire dataset (8 petabytes) stored at the **Indian Biological Data Centre (IBDC), Faridabad, Haryana**
  - ❖ **IBDC inaugurated in 2022**, the country's only databank
  - ❖ Prior to IBDC, Indian researchers hosted datasets on American or European servers
- **Historical Context:** **India first sequenced a complete human genome in 2006**

**Bharat Biotech Starts Clinical Trials of Tuberculosis Vaccine MTBVAC in India**

- **Company:** Bharat Biotech International Ltd

- **Vaccine:** MTBVAC, the **first Tuberculosis vaccine derived from a human source**.
- **Developer:** Spanish bio-pharmaceutical company, **Biofabri**
- **Clinical Trials:** Started on adults in India
- **Collaboration:** Trials conducted in close collaboration with Biofabri

**Indigenous Drug for Sickle Cell Disease Developed**

- **Developer:** Delhi-based **Akmus Drugs and Pharmaceutical Limited**
- **Drug Features:**
  - ❖ First indigenous, room temperature stable drug for sickle cell disease in India
  - ❖ Available at **only 1% of the global price**
  - ❖ Aims to help free India of sickle cell disease
- **Significance:**
  - ❖ Sickle cell disease is **one of the 10 major problems disproportionately affecting tribal people in India**.
  - ❖ **Central government** launched a **mission to eliminate sickle cell disease by 2047**

**Sickle Cell Disease**

- **Nature:** Inherited blood disorder
- **Impact:** Affects **hemoglobin**, the **molecule in red blood cells that delivers oxygen throughout the body**
- **Characteristics:**
  - ❖ People have atypical hemoglobin molecules called **hemoglobin S**
  - ❖ Red blood cells can distort into a **sickle or crescent shape**
  - ❖ **Early cell death leads to a shortage of healthy RBCs** (sickle cell anemia)
  - ❖ Can block blood flow causing pain (sickle cell crisis)
- **Symptoms:** Infections, pain, and fatigue
- **Treatments:** Medication, blood transfusions, and rarely a bone-marrow transplant

**Space-borne Assistant and Knowledge Hub for Crew Interaction (SAKHI)**

- **Purpose:** it is a **Multi-purpose app to assist astronauts on the Gaganyaan space flight mission**.
- **Developer:** Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC), ISRO facility at Thumba (Thiruvananthapuram)
- **Functions:**
  - ❖ Monitor the health of astronauts
  - ❖ Help astronauts stay connected with Earth
  - ❖ Assist in carrying out a range of tasks
- **Mission:** Gaganyaan human spaceflight mission scheduled for launch in 2025

### New Species of Deep-Sea Isopod Named After ISRO

- **Discovery:** New species of deep-sea isopod discovered off the **Kollam coast (Kerala)**
- **Naming:** Named after the **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)**
- **Species Details:**
  - ❖ Tiny **fish-parasitic crustacean**
  - ❖ Belongs to the **genus Brucethoa**
  - ❖ Recovered from the base of the gill cavity of a marine fish
- **Isopods:**
  - ❖ Order of invertebrates (animals without backbones)
- Part of the greater crustacean group, which includes crabs and shrimp

### New Sea Slug species named after President Droupadi Murmu

- Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) named a new marine species of head-shield sea slug
- **Species Details:**
  - ❖ Named **Melanochlamys droupadi**
  - ❖ Features a **ruby red spot**
  - ❖ Found nowhere else in the world
- **Discovery:**
  - ❖ Belongs to the **Melanochlamys genus**
  - ❖ Discovered off the **coasts of West Bengal and Odisha**
- **ZSI Director:** **Dhriti Banerjee**

### INCOIS Unveils Coastal Water Quality Monitoring System

- **Organisation:** **Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS)** under the **Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)**
- **System:** **Water Quality Nowcasting System (WQNS)**
- **Purpose:** Monitor coastal water quality status
- **Stations:**
  - ❖ Two time-series stations established in Indian coastal waters
  - ❖ Locations: **East coast (Visakhapatnam)** and **west coast (Kochi)**
- **Service:** **"Eyes on the Indian Coastal Milieu"**
  - ❖ Disseminates **high-frequency data** on several **physical, chemical, and biological parameters**
  - ❖ Monitors both natural and anthropogenic factors

### Asteroid Named After Professor Jayant Murthy

- **Recognition:** **International Astronomical Union (IAU)** named an asteroid after **Prof. Jayant Murthy**

- **Affiliation:** Former acting director of the **Indian Institute of Astrophysics, Bengaluru**
- **Contribution:** Recognized for his work with the **NASA New Horizons Science Team** to observe **ultraviolet background radiation in the Universe**
- **Asteroid Details:**
  - ❖ Designation: **(215884) Jayantmurthy**
  - ❖ Original designation: **2005 EX296**
  - ❖ Discovered by **M.W. Buie** at **Kitt Peak National Observatory, Arizona, USA** in **2005**.

### Australia's Great Barrier Reef in Grip of 'Mass Bleaching Event'

- **Great Barrier Reef:**
  - ❖ World's largest living structure
  - ❖ **2,300 km (1,400 mile)** expanse of **tropical corals**
  - ❖ Located in the **Pacific Ocean** off the **northeastern coast of Queensland, Australia**
  - ❖ **Longest and largest coral reef system in the world**
  - ❖ Designated as a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** in **1981**
- **Mass Bleaching Event:**
  - ❖ **7th mass bleaching event since 1998**
  - ❖ Occurs when underwater temperatures are more than one degree warmer than the long-term average
  - ❖ **Heat stress causes corals to expel algae living within their tissues, draining them of vibrant colors and making them more vulnerable to disease and mortality**
- **Coral Reefs:**
  - ❖ Marine invertebrate animals belonging to the **phylum Cnidaria**
  - ❖ **Coral polyps secrete a hard skeleton made of calcium carbonate, forming reefs over time**
  - ❖ **Created by millions of tiny polyps forming large carbonate structures**

### Chandrayaan-4 Mission Overview

#### Key Announcements:

- **ISRO Chief S. Somnath** confirmed the progress of the **Chandrayaan-4 project**.
- India aims to land an astronaut on the moon by **2040**.

#### Mission Objectives:

- **Lunar Sample Return:** Chandrayaan-4 will be the **first mission to collect samples from the moon and bring them back to Earth**.
- **Full Mission Cycle:** Demonstrates the **complete process of traveling to the moon, collecting samples, and returning to Earth**.

**Technical Details:**

- **Multiple Launches:** The mission will involve two launches using **LVM-3 rockets**.
- **Complex Operations:** Includes safe landing, sample collection, ascent from the moon, docking in lunar orbit, and re-entry to Earth.

**Significance:**

- **Technological Milestone:** Marks a significant step in India's lunar exploration capabilities.
- **Future Aspirations:** Paves the way for future manned lunar missions

**ISRO's Debris-Free Space Mission Goals****Key Announcements:**

- ISRO Chairman **S. Somanath** announced **India's goal to achieve debris-free space missions by 2030**.
- The announcement was made during the **42nd Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee (IADC)** annual meeting in **Bengaluru**.
- **Leadership:** **S. Somanath** is also the Secretary of the **Department of Space**.
- **Future Plans:** India plans to establish its own space station, '**Bharatiya Antriksh Station**,' by **2035**.

**Fossils of Colossal Snake Vasuki Unearthed in India**

- **Discovery:** IIT Roorkee scientists unearthed fossil vertebrae of **one of the largest snakes ever**, from a lignite mine in the **Panandhro area of Kutch, Gujarat**.
- **Name:** The snake has been named **Vasuki indicus**.
- **Size:** Estimated to be up to **49 feet (15 meters)** in length, longer than a **T. rex**.
- **Appearance:** Resembled a modern-day large python and was non-venomous.
- **Fossils:** Scientists recovered **27 vertebrae**, some still in their original positions.
- **Comparison:** Vasuki rivals the size of **Titanoboa**, another huge prehistoric snake discovered in Colombia in 2009.
- **Era:** Lived during the **Cenozoic era**, which began after the dinosaur age ended 66 million years ago.
- **Family:** Vasuki was part of the **Madtsoiidae snake family**, which appeared around 90 million years ago and went extinct about 12,000 years ago.
- **Distribution:** These snakes spread from India through southern Eurasia and into north Africa after the Indian subcontinent collided with Eurasia around 50 million years ago.

**Launch of India's First Gene Therapy for Cancer**

- **Event:** President Droupadi Murmu launched India's first home-grown anti-cancer CAR-T cell therapy, **NexCAR19**,

at IIT Bombay.

- **Development:** Developed by IIT Bombay incubated startup **ImmunoACT** in collaboration with doctors at Tata Memorial Centre, Mumbai.
- **Design and Development:** Designed and developed at IIT Bombay with clinical investigations and translational studies conducted by teams at Tata Memorial Hospital (TMH).
- **Affordability:** NexCAR19 is the world's most affordable CAR-T cell therapy.

**Sustainable Hydrogel Developed by IISc Scientists**

- **Innovation:** IISc scientists developed a sustainable hydrogel with a unique intertwined polymer network.
- **Function:** The hydrogel can bind contaminants and degrade them using UV light irradiation.
- **Efficiency:** It can remove about **95% and 93%** of two different types of microplastics in water at near-neutral pH (~6.5).

**Indian Institute of Astrophysics' Role in Surya Tilak Project**

- **Institution:** Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA), Bengaluru, an autonomous body under the Department of Science and Technology.
- **Project:** Played a crucial role in the **Surya Tilak Project** at Ayodhya.
- **Objective:** Brought sunlight on the forehead of Sri Ram Lalla at **12 noon on Sri Ram Navami in the Chaitra month**.
- **Calendar:** The English calendar date of Sri Ram Navami changes every year as it follows the Lunar Calendar. The position of the sun changes every year on this day.
- **Cycle:** Detailed calculations show that the English calendar date of Sri Ram Navami repeats every 19 years.
- **IIA's Role:** Led the calculation for identifying the calendar days of Sri Ram Navami for one cycle of 19 years, followed by its repetition.
- **Current Design:** As the temple is **not fully complete**, a design with **4 mirrors and 2 lenses** will be executed for the **Surya Tilak on 17th April 2024**.
- **Final Design:** The final design with 4 mirrors and 4 lenses will be implemented once the full temple is constructed.
- **Implementation:** The optomechanical system at the site is implemented by **CSIR-Central Building Research Institute (CBRI)**. The device is manufactured by **Optics, Bangalore**.

**NASA to Create Lunar Time Standard**

- **Directive:** The White House has directed NASA to create a "**Coordinated Lunar Time**" or "**Lunar Standard Time**" for the Moon by the end of 2026.



- **ESA Plans:** The European Space Agency announced similar plans in 2023 to give the Moon its own time zone.
- **Current Issues:**
  - ❖ The ISS does not have its own time zone; it runs on **Coordinated Universal Time (UTC)**, maintained by atomic clocks.
  - ❖ Gravity on the Moon is weaker than on Earth, causing clocks to run faster, gaining around **56 microseconds every day**.
  - ❖ One day on the Moon lasts about **29.5 Earth days** (the Moon's rotation and revolution are equal, so the same side always faces Earth).
- **Apollo Program:** Between 1969 and 1972, the US Apollo program saw 12 Americans, all white men, walk on the Moon.
- **Artemis Program:** NASA announced that the Artemis program will include the first woman and the first person of color to land on the Moon. The first mission, Artemis 3, is planned for 2026.
- **China's Ambition:** China aims to put humans on the Moon by 2030.
- **Japan's Achievement:** In 2024, Japan became the fifth country to successfully land a spacecraft on the Moon with its SLIM craft.

### NASA's 'Clipper' Spacecraft to Explore Jupiter's Moon Europa

- **Launch:** Scheduled for launch in October on a SpaceX Falcon Heavy rocket, beginning a journey of over five years.
- **Orbit:** Expected to achieve orbit around Jupiter and its moon Europa by 2031.
- **Jupiter:**
  - ❖ Fifth planet from the Sun and the **largest in the solar system**.
  - ❖ Has **95 moons** (Saturn has the most with 146).
  - ❖ Four largest moons: **Ganymede, Callisto, Io, and Europa**.
  - ❖ **Ganymede is the largest moon of Jupiter and the largest in the solar system.**
- **Europa:**
  - ❖ Fourth largest moon of Jupiter, about **90% the size of Earth's Moon**.
  - ❖ Composed primarily of **silicate rock** with a **water-ice crust** and likely an **iron-nickel core**.
  - ❖ Has a very thin atmosphere, mainly of **oxygen**.
  - ❖ Believed to have twice the amount of water beneath its icy surface compared to Earth.

### Japanese Astronaut to be First Non-American to Set Foot on Moon

- **Agreement:** NASA and Japan signed an agreement for lunar rover cooperation.
- **Rover Development:** Japan will design, develop, and operate a pressurized rover for both crewed and uncrewed exploration on the Moon.
- **NASA's Role:** NASA will provide the launch and delivery of the rover to the Moon and facilitate two Japanese astronaut missions to the lunar surface.
- **Historic Milestone:** Two Japanese astronauts will join one of NASA's upcoming Artemis missions, with one becoming the first non-American to land on the Moon.

### South Korea's 'Artificial Sun' Breaks World Record

- **Achievement:** South Korea's **Korea Superconducting Tokamak Advanced Research (KSTAR)** set a **world record in nuclear fusion**.
- **Temperature:** Sustained plasma at an ion temperature of **100 million degrees Celsius** for **48 seconds**.
- **Comparison:** This temperature is **seven times that of the Sun's core**, which is **15 million degrees Celsius**.

### Fission vs. Fusion Reactions

- **Fission Reaction:**
  - ❖ Involves splitting a large atom or molecule into two or more smaller ones.
  - ❖ Does not occur naturally.
- **Fusion Reaction:**
  - ❖ Involves combining two or more lighter atoms or molecules into larger ones.
  - ❖ Occurs naturally in stars, like the Sun.

### High-Power, Fast-Charging Sodium-Ion Battery Developed by KAIST Researchers

- **Breakthrough:** South Korean researchers from KAIST developed a high-power hybrid sodium-ion battery that can be charged in seconds.
- **Abundance:** Sodium is **nearly 1000 times more abundant than lithium**.
- **Feasibility:** Sodium-ion electrochemical energy storage is a cheaper and potentially more feasible energy source.

### Sodium (Na)

- **Element Group:** Sodium is a chemical element of the alkali metal group (Group 1) of the periodic table.
- **Appearance:** It is a very soft, silvery-white metal.
- **Abundance:** The most common alkali metal and the sixth most abundant element on Earth, comprising 2.8% of Earth's crust.
- **Occurrence:** Abundantly found in nature in compounds, especially common salt (sodium chloride, NaCl), which forms the mineral halite and constitutes about 80% of the

dissolved constituents of seawater.

### TSAT-1A: India's First Private Earth Observation Satellite

- **Launch:** Tata Advanced Systems (TASL), a Tata Sons' subsidiary, launched India's first private sector-built sub-metre resolution earth observation satellite, TSAT-1A, in collaboration with Satellogic, USA.
- **Capabilities:** TSAT-1A will provide high-resolution satellite images with low-latency delivery.
- **Resolution:** Sub-metre resolution means the satellite sensor can capture an area smaller than 1x1 meter.
- **Launch Site:** Launched from the Kennedy Space Center, Florida, by a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket.
- **Assembly:** Assembled at TASL's Vemagal facility in Karnataka.
- **Users:** The Indian armed forces are expected to be one of its major users.

### EVI: The World's First Conversational AI with Emotional Intelligence

- **Hume:**, a New York-based research lab and technology company, introduced the Empathic Voice Interface (EVI), the first conversational AI with emotional intelligence.
- **Technology:** EVI is an API (Application Programming Interface) powered by Hume's proprietary empathic large language model (eLLM).
- **Capabilities:** The eLLM understands and emulates tones of voices and word emphasis to optimize human-AI conversations.

### Nigeria Becomes First Country to Roll Out New Meningitis Vaccine

- **Vaccine Rollout:** Nigeria has rolled out the Men5CV vaccine against meningitis, according to the World Health Organization (WHO).
- **Hotspot:** Nigeria is one of the hotspots for the deadly disease in Africa.
- **Increase in Cases:** Last year, a 50% rise in annual cases was reported across 26 African countries regarded as meningitis hyperendemic countries.
- **Goal:** Nigeria's rollout brings us closer to the goal of eliminating meningitis by 2030.

#### About Meningitis

- **Definition:** Meningitis is a serious infection of the meninges, the membranes covering the brain and spinal cord.
- **Symptoms:** Typically triggers symptoms such as headache, fever, and a stiff neck.
- **Causes:** Can be caused by various pathogens including bacteria, fungi, or viruses, with the highest global burden seen with bacterial meningitis.

- **Affected Groups:** Meningococcal meningitis can affect anyone of any age, but mainly affects babies, preschool children, and young people.
- **Transmission:** The bacteria that cause meningitis are transmitted from person-to-person through droplets of respiratory or throat secretions from carriers.

### World's Most Powerful MRI Scans First Images of Human Brain

- **Machine:** 'Iseult', the world's most powerful Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) machine.
- **Magnetic Field:** Creates a magnetic field of 11.7 teslas, named after inventor Nikola Tesla.
- **Precision:** Scans images with 10 times more precision than common MRIs, which typically do not exceed 3 teslas.
- **Development:** Result of two decades of research by a partnership between French and German engineers.

### Astronomers Detect Rocky Planet with Atmosphere

- **Planet:** Named 55 Cancri e or Janssen.
- **Mass and Size:** About 8.8 times more massive than Earth, with a diameter about twice that of Earth.
- **Location:** Located in the Milky Way galaxy, about 41 light-years from Earth, in the constellation Cancer.
- **Orbit:** Orbits its star at one-25th the distance between Mercury and the Sun in our solar system.
- **Temperature:** One of the hottest-known rocky exoplanets.
- **Surface:** Likely has a surface of molten rock, making it inhospitable for habitability.
- **Tidal Lock:** Probably tidally locked, meaning it always has the same side facing its star, similar to how the Moon faces Earth.
- **Atmosphere:** Likely rich in carbon dioxide or carbon monoxide, with possible presence of other gases like water vapor and sulfur dioxide.
- **Observations:** Infrared observations using two instruments aboard the James Webb Space Telescope indicated the presence of a substantial, though inhospitable, atmosphere.

### ISRO Completes Key Test for India's First Semi-Cryogenic Engine

- **Test Conducted:** ISRO conducted the first ignition trial for SCE-200 (semi-cryogenic engine-200) at the semi-cryo integrated engine test facility (SIET) in the ISRO propulsion complex (IPRC), Mahendragiri, TN.
- **Engine Development:** The semi-cryogenic engine uses a propellant combination of liquid oxygen and kerosene, aimed at enhancing the payload capability of launch vehicle Mk III (LVM3) and future launch vehicles.
- **ISRO Headquarters:** Bengaluru.
- **Founded:** 15 August 1969.

- **Founder:** Vikram Sarabhai.
- **Director:** S. Somanath.

### **Agnikul Launches World's First Rocket with Fully 3D-Printed Engine**

- **Company:** Chennai-based space start-up Agnikul Cosmos Private Limited.
- **Rocket Launch:** Successfully launched its first rocket, Agnibaan Sub Orbital Technology Demonstrator (SOrTeD), from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota.
- **Launchpad:** India's first launch from a private launchpad, called 'Dhanush', established by Agnikul.
- **Engine:** World's first single-piece 3D-printed engine, designed and built indigenously.
- **Engine Type:** India's first semi-cryogenic engine-powered rocket launch.
- **Founders:** Founded in 2017 by Srinath Ravichandran, Moin SPM, and Satya Chakravarthy.
- **ISRO Collaboration:** First company in India to sign an agreement with ISRO under the IN-SPACe initiative in December 2020, gaining access to ISRO's expertise and facilities to build Agnibaan.

### **NASA Launches Satellite PREFIRE to Study Earth's Poles**

- **Launch:** The first of a pair of climate satellites designed to study heat emissions at Earth's poles is in orbit after lifting off atop Rocket Lab's Electron rocket from Launch Complex 1 in Māhia, New Zealand.
- **Mission:** PREFIRE (Polar Radiant Energy in the Far-InfraRed Experiment) mission consists of two shoebox-size CubeSats.
- **Objective:** Gather data on how much heat the Arctic and Antarctica radiate into space and how this influences global climate.
- **Purpose:** Help understand the fundamentals of Earth's heat balance, allowing better predictions of changes in ice, seas, and weather due to global warming

### **Indian-American Astronaut Sunita Williams Set for Third Space Flight**

- **Mission:** Sunita Williams is set to fly into space for the third time as the pilot aboard Boeing's Starliner spacecraft in its first crewed test flight.
- **Launch Site:** Boeing's Starliner will blast off from Cape Canaveral in Florida.
- **Crew:** Starliner will carry Sunita Williams, 58, and Butch Wilmore to the International Space Station (ISS) in low Earth orbit.

### **Boeing Starliner**

- **Capacity:** Can house up to seven astronauts.
- **Structure:** Features an innovative, weldless structure and is reusable up to 10 times with a six-month turnaround time.
- **Contracts:** On September 16, 2014, NASA awarded contracts to SpaceX and Boeing to fly astronauts to the ISS.

### **Sunita Williams-Piloted Boeing Starliner Test Flight Postponed**

- **Reason:** Postponed due to an Atlas rocket glitch.

### **First Indian Space Tourist Completes Flight**

- **Tourist:** India-born aviator and commercial pilot Gopi Thotakura.
- **Flight Date:** Undertook a short recreational trip to space on May 19.
- **Significance:** First space tourist from India.
- **Spacecraft:** Flew aboard a Blue Origin spacecraft.
- **Journey Duration:** Lasted about ten minutes.
- **Maximum Height:** Attained a height of about 105 km from Earth.
- **Space Travel:** Begins at about 100 km altitude from Earth, crossing the Karman line.
- **Flight Type:** Sub-orbital space flight; did not enter orbit around Earth.
- **Flight Path:** Crossed the Karman line, stayed briefly, then descended back to Earth.

### **China Set to Launch Lunar Probe Chang'e-6 with Pakistan's Satellite On Board**

- **Launch Date:** Scheduled for May 3.
- **Mission Objective:** Robotic spacecraft Chang'e-6 will make a round trip to collect samples from the far side of the Moon.
- **Landing Site:** Aims to land on the northeastern side of the South Pole-Aitkin Basin, the oldest impact crater in the solar system.
- **International Collaboration:**
  - ❖ Carries payloads from Pakistan, France, Italy, and Sweden.
  - ❖ Pakistan's miniature/nano satellite ICUBE-QAMAR CubeSat will capture images of the Moon's surface with its two optical cameras.
- **Launch Site:** From Hainan province in China

### **University of Tokyo Inaugurates World's Highest Observatory in Chile**

- **Inauguration:** Tokyo University inaugurated the Atacama Observatory in Chile's Antofagasta Region.
- **Altitude:** Located at 5,640 meters above sea level.



- **Record:** Awarded a Guinness World Record for being the highest observatory in the world.
- **India's Highest Observatory:** The Indian Astronomical Observatory (IAO) in Hanle, Ladakh, established in 2001, is approximately 4,500 meters (14,764 feet) above sea level and managed by the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA), Bangalore.

#### Discovery of 1.5 Billion-Year-Old "Giant" Viruses in Yellowstone

- **Discovery:** Giant viruses dating back 1.5 billion years were found in Yellowstone's geothermal springs.
- **Significance:** These viruses could reveal the conditions under which life formed on Earth.
- **Characteristics:** Labeled as 'giant' due to their extremely large genomes compared to regular viruses; they pose no risk to humans.
- **Yellowstone National Park**
- **Location:** Located in the Western United States.
- **World's First National Park:** Established in March 1872, Yellowstone became the first national park in the world.
- **UNESCO World Heritage Site:** Designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1978 due to its global significance

#### Oldest Known Human Viruses Discovered in 50,000-Year-Old Neanderthal Bones

- **Neanderthals:** Extinct species or subspecies of archaic humans that lived in Eurasia until approximately 40,000 years ago.
- **Coexistence:** Coexisted with early modern humans (*Homo sapiens*) in Europe and Asia for several thousand years.
- **Adaptation:** Well adapted to cold, glacial environments.
- **Extinction Mystery:** How Neanderthals went extinct while humans survived remains one of the biggest questions in our species' history.
- **Viral Infections:** Researchers have long speculated that viral infections, which plague modern humans, might have contributed to Neanderthals' extinction.
- **Discovery:** Ancient DNA from three viruses found in 50,000-year-old Neanderthal bones unearthed at Chagyrskaya cave in Russia.
- **Implications:** Indicates Neanderthals could get diseases that affect humans today, possibly transmitted by early humans from Africa to Neanderthals in Europe.
- **Previous Record:** The oldest viral DNA found before this was a 31,000-year-old herpesvirus detected in *Homo sapiens* teeth excavated from Siberia.

#### Taam Ja' Blue Hole (TJBH): World's Deepest Blue Hole Discovered in Mexico

- **Discovery:** Researchers discovered the world's deepest

blue hole in Mexico, but its bottom has not yet been reached.

- **Location:** Situated in Chetumal Bay at the southeast corner of the Yucatan Peninsula.
- **Depth:** Named Taam Ja' Blue Hole (TJBH), it extends at least 1,380 feet (420 meters) below sea level, making it the deepest known underwater sinkhole in the world.
- **Formation:** A type of underwater sinkhole or vertical cave, typically found in low-lying coastal karst platform regions, formed when limestone or other carbonate rock is dissolved by slightly acidic groundwater over a long period.
- **Yucatan Peninsula:**
  - ❖ A northeastern projection of Central America, lying between the Gulf of Mexico to the west and north and the Caribbean Sea to the east.
  - ❖ Composed almost wholly of beds of coralline and porous limestone rocks.

#### FLiRT: New COVID-19 Variants Increasing Concern in the US

- **Variants:** A series of COVID-19 variants within the Omicron JN.1 lineage, known as FLiRT, including KP.2 and KP 1.1, are rapidly spreading in the United States.
- **Mutations:** These variants exhibit new mutations that increase their contagiousness.
- **Symptoms:** Largely similar to those of other Omicron infections.
- **Hospitalization Rates:** Remain low despite the spread

#### Australia's First Human Case of Bird Flu Reported

- **Case:** Australia confirmed its first human case of avian influenza A (H5N1) in a child who likely acquired it in India.
- **History:** Bird flu viruses have been circulating among wild and domestic birds since 1996, first identified in China.
- **Human Infection:** These viruses occasionally infect humans in close contact with birds, with a fatality rate of over 50%, according to the World Health Organization (WHO).
- **Outbreaks:** In 2022, 67 countries across 5 continents experienced outbreaks of H5N1 high pathogenicity avian influenza (HPAI), according to the WHO.
- **Previous Case in India:** The only confirmed human case of bird flu in India was reported in 2021 in a 21-year-old boy from Haryana.

#### Oldest Evidence of Earth's Magnetic Field Discovered

- **Research Teams:** Geologists from MIT and Oxford University collected rock samples from the Isua Supracrustal Belt in Greenland, known for its ancient

rock formations.

- **Ancient Magnetic Field:** The rocks contain the **oldest remnants of Earth's early magnetic field**, approximately **3.7 billion years old**, with a **magnitude of at least 15 microtesla**.
- **Previous Evidence:** Earlier studies indicated a **magnetic field on Earth** that is at least **3.5 billion years old**.
- **Implications for Habitability:** This discovery suggests that **Earth's conditions may have been habitable earlier than previously thought**, with a **stable magnetic shield** playing a **crucial role**.
- **Protective Role:** The magnetic field **protects the planet from harmful solar radiation and cosmic rays**, **sustains the atmosphere**, and **allows for liquid water**, which is **essential for life**.
- **Methodology:** Researchers analyzed the **magnetic properties and orientation of iron-oxide minerals** to determine the **ancient field's strength**.
- **Current Magnetic Field:** Today, **Earth's magnetic field** measures around **30 microtesla**.

#### IT-Bombay and TCS to Develop Quantum Diamond Microchip Imager

- **IIT-Bombay** has partnered with **Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)** to develop **India's first Quantum Diamond Microchip Imager**.
- **Advanced Sensing Tool:** This tool aims to **enhance precision in examining semiconductor chips**, **reduce chip failures**, and **improve the energy efficiency of electronic devices**.
- **Quality Control:** The platform will **enable better quality control of semiconductor chips**, improving **product reliability, safety, and energy efficiency**.
- **Importance of Semiconductor Chips:** These chips are **crucial for modern electronic devices**, making them **smart and efficient**.
- **Applications:** **Semiconductor chips** are essential across various industries, including **communications, computing, healthcare, military systems, transportation, and clean energy**.

#### ISRO Develops PraVaHa Software for Aerodynamic Design and Analysis

- **ISRO** has developed **Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD)** software named **Parallel RANS Solver for Aerospace Vehicle Aero-thermo-dynamic Analysis (PraVaHa)**.
- **Development Center:** The software was developed at **ISRO's Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC)**.
- **Simulation Capabilities:** **PraVaHa** can simulate **external and internal flows on launch vehicles, winged and non-winged re-entry vehicles**.

- **Gaganyaan Program:** The software has been extensively used in the **Gaganyaan program** for **aerodynamic analysis of human-rated launch vehicles**, including **HLVM3, Crew Escape System (CES), and Crew Module (CM)**.
- **Academic and Institutional Use:** **PraVaHa** is expected to assist **academia and other institutions** in **designing missiles, aircraft, and rockets**, providing **solutions to complex aerodynamic problems**.

#### ISRO and CNES Announce TRISHNA Mission Details

- **Mission Overview:** **ISRO and the French space agency CNES** have announced the **TRISHNA mission (Thermal Infra-Red Imaging Satellite for High-Resolution Natural Resource Assessment)** to **monitor surface temperature and water management globally**.
- **Climate Impact Data:** The satellite will provide data on **climate impacts through evapotranspiration monitoring, measuring water evaporation from land and plant release**.
- **Water Dynamics Study:** **TRISHNA** will study **water presence, concentrations, and dynamics**, including **melting glaciers, to quantify water usage on land**.
- **Heat Monitoring:** The satellite will monitor **thermal anomalies, heat emissions from land, surface energy, urban heat islands, and other global parameters**.
- **Atmospheric Studies:** It will also study **aerosols, water vapor, and clouds in the atmosphere worldwide**.
- **Launch and Lifespan:** The mission is tentatively set to **launch in 2025 with an expected lifespan of 5 years**.
- **Payloads:**
  - ❖ **Thermal Infra-Red (TIR) Payload:** Provided by **CNES**, it will study **high-resolution surface temperature**.
  - ❖ **Visible Near Infrared-Red Short Wave Infrared-Red (VNIR-SWIR) Payload:** Developed by **ISRO**, it will **map the reflectivity or albedo of Earth's surface over seven bands**.
- **Impact on Water and Food Security:** The mission aims to **address critical water and food security issues by providing essential data for sustainable policies in water management, benefiting watershed managers, agro-industries, and the farming community in India**.

#### Chang'e-6 Successfully Lands on Moon's Far Side

- **Landing Announcement:** The **China National Space Administration** announced that **Chang'e-6** successfully landed at the **designated landing area** on **June 2**.
- **Landing Site:** The spacecraft landed in the **South Pole-Aitken Basin, a huge crater on the moon's far side**.
- **Mission Objective:** To **collect soil and rock samples** that could provide **insights into differences between the less-explored far side and the better-known near side of the**

moon.

- **Return to Earth:** The spacecraft is due to return to Earth in the deserts of China's Inner Mongolia region around June 25.
- **Sample Collection:** Chang'e-6 aims to be the first mission to collect samples from the moon's far side and transport them back to Earth.
- **Previous Mission:** This is China's second mission to the far side, following the Chang'e-4 spacecraft landing in 2019.
- **Future Goals:** China aims to put a person on the moon before 2030, potentially becoming the second nation after the United States to achieve this.

### Chang'e-6 Brings Back Samples from Moon's Far Side

- **Historic Achievement:** Chang'e-6 is the first mission in human history to return samples from the far side of the moon.
- **Mission Duration:** The mission lasted 53 days, descending into the 2,500-kilometer-wide South Pole-Aitken basin.
- **Soft-Landing:** China is the only country to achieve a soft-landing on the far side of the Moon.
- **Previous Mission:** In 2019, the Chang'e-4 mission landed in the same region and explored the Moon's Von Karman crater with the help of a rover.

### Discovery of New Solar Atmospheric Rotation Pattern by CHASE

- **Breakthrough in Solar Research:** Chinese scientists have discovered a new pattern of solar atmospheric rotation using the Chinese H-alpha Solar Explorer (CHASE).
- **3D Representation:** The team successfully generated a precise three-dimensional representation of solar atmospheric rotation for the first time ever.

#### CHASE (Chinese H-alpha Solar Explorer)

- **Project Overview:** CHASE, also known as the Kuafu-1 satellite, is a solar exploration satellite launched in 2022.
- **Main Goals:** The satellite focuses on studying the sun's magnetic activity and atmospheric behavior, particularly the solar chromosphere.

### Sino-French Satellite Launched to Study Gamma-Ray Bursts

- **Satellite Name:** Space Variable Objects Monitor (SVOM).
- **Launch Site:** Xichang Satellite Launch Center in Sichuan, China.
- **Mission Objective:** To study the farthest explosions of stars, including gamma-ray bursts.
- **Significance:** It is the first astronomy satellite developed jointly by China and France.
- **Previous Collaboration:** This mission follows their

previous joint effort with the China-France Oceanography Satellite launched in 2018

### EarthCARE Satellite Launch for Cloud and Aerosol Research

- **Collaboration:** The EarthCARE satellite is a joint project between the European Space Agency (ESA) and the Japanese space agency JAXA.
- **Mission Objective:** To study how the formation of clouds and the density of aerosols in the atmosphere impact Earth's temperature.
- **Data Contribution:** The satellite will provide data to enhance our understanding of how clouds and aerosols—tiny particles that facilitate cloud and precipitation formation—affect Earth's energy budget.

### Oleg Kononenko Becomes First Person to Spend 1,000 Days in Space

- **Milestone Achievement:** Oleg Kononenko, a 59-year-old Russian cosmonaut, has become the first person to spend 1,000 days in space, as announced by Roscosmos.
- **Current Mission:** This milestone was reached during Kononenko's fifth mission to the International Space Station (ISS), which began on September 15, 2023.
- **Record-Breaking:** Kononenko first broke the cumulative space time record in February 2024, surpassing the previous record of 878 days, 11 hours, 29 minutes, and 48 seconds set by Gennady Padalka in 2015.
- **Total Time in Space:** If Kononenko's mission ends as scheduled on September 23, 2024, he will have spent a total of 1,110 days in orbit

### Sunita Williams Pilots Boeing Starliner on Maiden Crewed Test Flight

- **Indian-Origin NASA astronaut Sunita Williams**, along with Butch Wilmore, became the first to fly to space aboard the Boeing Starliner in its first-ever crewed mission.
- **Launch Date:** Boeing launched astronauts for the first time on June 5.
- **Launch Details:** The crew was launched aboard the United Launch Alliance's Atlas V rocket from Cape Canaveral Space Force Station in Florida.
- **Mission Duration:** The Starliner mission is about a week-long mission to the orbiting space station.
- **Mission Objective:** Dubbed the Crew Flight Test, this mission is a stepping stone to getting NASA clearance for Boeing's spacecraft to be ready for regular operations.
- **Commercial Crew Program:** The launch is part of NASA's "commercial crew programme," which selected Boeing and SpaceX to develop spacecraft to carry astronauts to the International Space Station after NASA retired its



Space Shuttle Program in 2011.

- **Naming the Capsule:** Sunita Williams named the Starliner capsule “Calypso.”

### WHO Confirms H9N2 Bird Flu in India

- **Recent Case:** A human infection with the **H9N2 bird flu virus** was detected in a **four-year-old in West Bengal**.
- **Second Case in India:** The **first documented case in India** was in **2019**.
- **Virus Subtype:** H9N2 is a subtype of **avian influenza virus**, commonly found in birds.
- **Transmission:** Primarily via contact with **contaminated environments or diseased birds**.
- **Common Symptoms:** Fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, and headache.
- **Other Symptoms:** Muscle aches, fatigue, and conjunctivitis.

### NISAR (NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar)

- NASA has announced that the **launch of the NISAR satellite, a joint project between the U.S. and India**, will be delayed **until after February 2025**.
- This **delay is due to ongoing work on the satellite’s large deployable antenna** and specific needs related to its orbit.

#### Project Overview:

- **NISAR (NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar)** is a **collaborative mission between NASA and ISRO**.
- **Aims to improve Earth observation using advanced radar technology**.

#### Launch Delay:

- **NISAR’s launch is postponed until after February 2025** due to **antenna-related issues**.
- The **12-meter-wide antenna** required **special coating adjustments**.

#### Scientific Goals:

- NISAR will monitor Earth phenomena like **glacier movements and volcanic activity**.
- It will map the entire Earth every 12 days, supporting ongoing research.

#### Capabilities:

- **NISAR can detect surface changes** as small as a **few centimeters**.
- Utilizes both **L-band and S-band radar** for comprehensive mapping.

#### Impact and Collaboration:

- **Expected to operate for over three years**.
- **NISAR highlights international cooperation in Earth science research**.

### ESA’s RAMSES Mission to Study Asteroid Apophis

#### Mission Overview:

- **Objective:** Study asteroid 99942 Apophis during its close approach to Earth in 2029<sup>1</sup>.
- **Significance:** Apophis will pass within 32,000 km of Earth, a rare event occurring once every 5,000 to 10,000 years<sup>1</sup>.

#### Scientific Goals:

- **Study Effects:** Observe changes in Apophis’ shape, rotation, and surface due to Earth’s gravity<sup>1</sup>.
- **Planetary Defense:** Enhance strategies for asteroid deflection and impact avoidance

### NASA’s CHAPEA Project

- It is called “Mars Dune Alpha” and is a 1,700-square-foot building made with 3D printing at the Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas.
- It has bedrooms, bathrooms, a work area, a robot station, a gym, and a vertical farm, among other things. It is next to a 1,200-square-foot area that is used to simulate events that would happen outside of vehicles on Mars.
- The setup includes red, rocky cliffs and simulated Martian dirt to make the experience more real.

#### Activities

- Crew members conduct simulated spacewalks, known as “Marswalks”.
- They engage in activities such as **sample collection, analysis, and growing vegetables**.

#### Challenges

- The **mission includes stressors** like communication **delays with Earth, limited resources, and prolonged isolation**.

#### Significance

- The **data collected will help NASA prepare for long-term missions to Mars and the Moon**.
- It **aims to understand and counter the challenges astronauts will face on Mars**.

### India-Taiwan Agreement Boosting Organic Product Trade

- The India-Taiwan Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) for Organic Products will go into action on July 8, 2024.
- It is a plan to boost trade between India and Taiwan in the organic products sector.
- Even though the two regions don’t have official diplomatic ties, this agreement shows that they are working together more on business.

#### Implementing Agencies

- **India:** Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA).

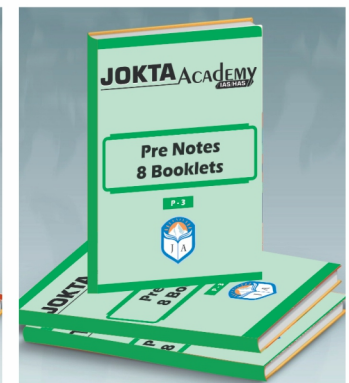
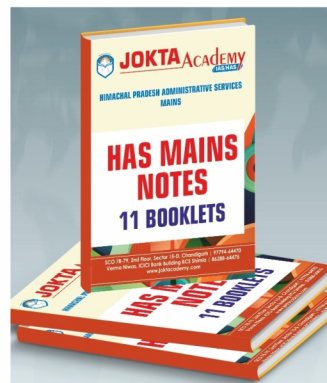
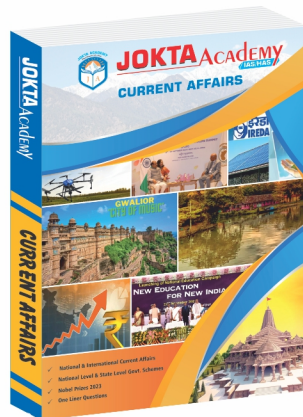
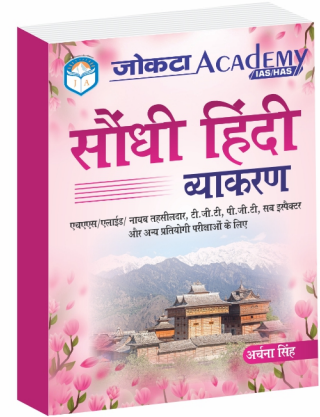
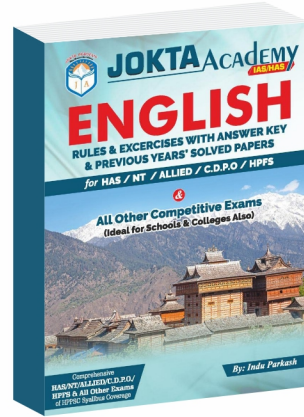
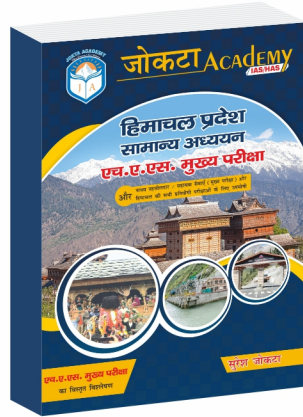
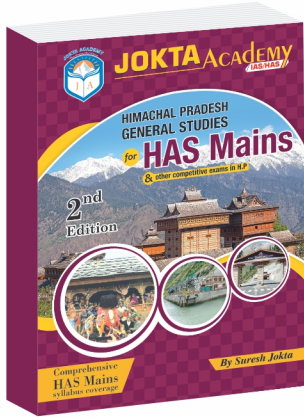
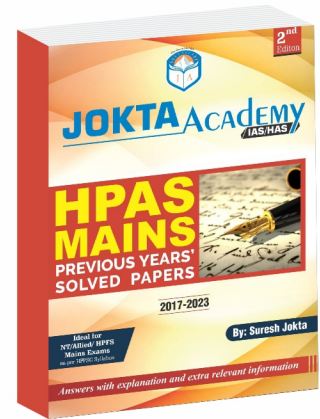
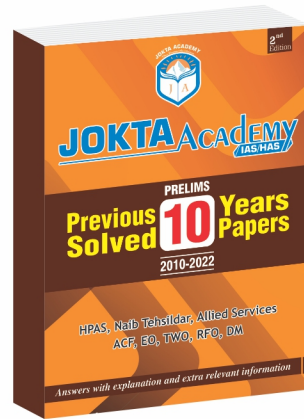
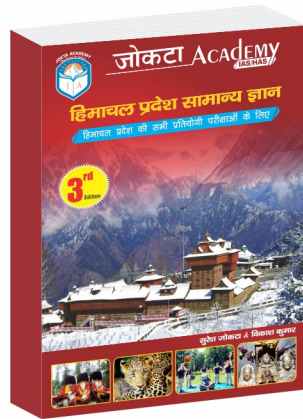
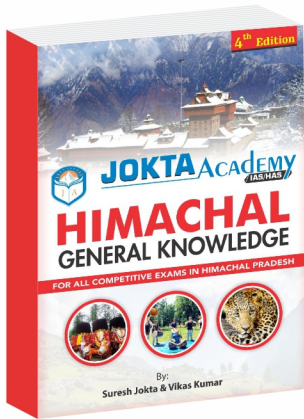
- **Taiwan:** Agriculture and Food Agency (AFA).

**Key Provisions**

- **Organic Certification:** Organic products certified in India can be sold in Taiwan and vice versa, provided they meet each country's organic standards.
- **Products Covered:** Includes rice, processed food, green/black/herbal tea, medicinal



# Our Complete Study Material





## APPOINTMENTS

### 1. Tushar Mehta

- ❖ Senior advocate has been re-appointed as the Solicitor General of India for three more years.
- ❖ The Solicitor General of India (SGI) is subordinate to the Attorney General for India.
- ❖ The SGI is the second-highest law officer of the country, assists the Attorney General, and is assisted by Additional Solicitor Generals of India (Addl. SGIs).
- ❖ The SGI and the Addl. SGIs advise the Government and appear on behalf of the Union of India before Supreme Court and High Courts.
- ❖ However, unlike the post of Attorney General for India, which is a Constitutional post under Article 76 of the Constitution of India, the posts of the Solicitor General and the Additional Solicitors General are merely statutory.

### 2. Manoj Yadava

- ❖ Senior IPS officer from the Haryana cadre, was designated as the new Director General of the Railway Protection Force (RPF).
- ❖ The RPF is an armed force under the operational and administrative control of the Union Ministry of Railways.
- ❖ It is tasked with protecting and securing railway property, the passenger areas, and the passengers themselves.
- ❖ The RPF is an armed force under the operational and administrative control of the Union Ministry of Railways.
- ❖ It is tasked with protecting and securing railway property, the passenger areas, and the passengers themselves.

### 3. Rakesh Pal

- ❖ Appointed as the 25th Director General of the Indian Coast Guard.
- ❖ It is an Armed Force, Search and Rescue and Maritime Law Enforcement agency under the Ministry of Defence.
- ❖ It is headquartered in New Delhi.
- ❖ Established On 1 February 1977

### 4. Admiral Lisa Franchetti

- ❖ She has become first woman in history to serve as the Chief of Naval Operations and member of Joint Chiefs of Staff in the USA.

### 5. Rajiv Gauba

- ❖ Union Cabinet Secretary, a 1982-batch IAS officer

of the Jharkhand cadre, has been officially granted a one-year extension by the Central government, making him the longest-serving cabinet secretary in India's history.

- ❖ He assumed the position of Cabinet Secretary on 30 Aug 2019.

### 6. Justice Prakash Shrivastava

- ❖ Appointed as the Chairperson of National Green Tribunal (NGT).
- ❖ It is a specialised body set up under the National Green Tribunal Act (2010) for effective and expeditious disposal of cases relating to environmental protection and conservation of forests and other natural resources.
- ❖ The Chairperson is appointed by the Central Government in consultation with Chief Justice of India (CJI).

### 7. Sanjay Kumar Agarwal

- ❖ Senior IRS officer of 1988 batch took over as the Chairman of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC).
- ❖ The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs came into existence in 1964 when the Central Board of Revenue was divided into the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) and the Central Board of Excise and Customs.
- ❖ It is responsible for the collection of Goods & Services Tax and previously Central Excise Duty and Service Tax.
- ❖ The CBIC also oversees the collection of Customs Duty at Land Customs Stations, Inland Container Depots (ICDs), Special Economic Zones (SEZs) etc.

### 8. Srettha Thavisin

- ❖ Elected as the Prime Minister of Thailand by the country's parliament.

### 9. Vivek Bhasin

- ❖ Distinguished scientist took over as the 14th Director of BARC – Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Trombay (Mumbai).
- ❖ BARC is India's premier nuclear research establishment, having its headquarters in Trombay, Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- ❖ It operates under the Department of Atomic Energy, which the Prime Minister of India directly oversees.
- ❖ Homi Jehangir Bhabha conceived the nuclear program in India.
- ❖ Bhabha established the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR) to carry out nuclear

science research in 1945.

- ❖ Dr Bhabha established the Atomic Energy Establishment, Trombay (AEET), in January 1954
- ❖ After the demise of Bhabha in 1966, AEET was renamed Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC).

#### 10. Rajesh Nambiar

- ❖ Elected as the **chairman** of the technology industry body **NASSCOM** on Sep 04. He is the chairman and managing director of Cognizant India.
- ❖ ASSCOM stands for the **National Association of Software and Service Companies**.
- ❖ It is a trade association of the **Indian Information Technology (IT) and Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) industry**.
- ❖ NASSCOM is a **non-profit organization** that **represents and advocates for the interests of the IT and BPO industry in India**.
- ❖ Established in **1988**, NASSCOM plays a key role in promoting the growth and development of the Indian IT industry.

#### 11. R. Madhavan

- ❖ Noted Bollywood actor has been appointed as the President of **Film & Television Institute of India, Pune** and **Chairman** of its governing council.
- ❖ The **Film and Television Institute of India (FTII)** is an **autonomous institute** under the **Ministry of Information and Broadcasting of the Government of India**.
- ❖ It was **established in 1960**.

#### 12. Jaya Verma Sinha

- ❖ Appointed as the **first woman Chairperson and CEO of the Railway Board**.
- ❖ Railway Board is the **apex body of the Indian Railways** which reports to the **Parliament** through the **Ministry of Railways**.

#### 13. Tharman Shanmugaratnam

- ❖ Indian-origin Singapore economist won the Presidential election in the country.

#### 14. Arindam Bagchi

- ❖ **External Affairs Ministry's spokesperson** was **appointed India's permanent representative to the United Nations (UN)** and other international organisations in Geneva, Switzerland.
- ❖ It may be noted that **India's permanent representative to UNO is Ms. Ruchira Kamboj**.

#### 15. Christopher Luxon

- ❖ **National party leader** elected as **New Zealand's next prime minister** after winning a decisive election victory on Oct 14.

#### 16. Daniel Noboa

- ❖ Elected as the **youngest ever President of Ecuador**, a small country in the north western part of South America.
- ❖ He is **just 35 years old**.

#### 17. Dr Anish Shah

- ❖ Elected as the **new President of apex Indian industry body FICCI, Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry**, for next year.
- ❖ Founded in **1927**.
- ❖ **Founders: Ghanshyam Das Birla, Purushottamdas Thakurdas and JRD Tata**.
- ❖ FICCI was established **under the direction of Mahatma Gandhi by a group of Indian industrialists**.
- ❖ The establishment was aimed at **promoting and protecting the interests of the Indian business community**.
- ❖ FICCI is headquartered in **New Delhi**

#### 18. Heeralal Samariya

- ❖ The current Information Commissioner was sworn-in as the **Chief Information Commissioner** on Nov 6.
- ❖ He was **administered the oath of office** by the **President Droupadi Murmu** in the **Rashtrapati Bhavan**.

#### 19. Javier Milei

- ❖ Right-wing populist leader was elected as the **new President of Argentina** on Nov 19.

#### 20. Pedro Sánchez

- ❖ Top socialist leader re-elected for the second time as the **Prime Minister of the Government of Spain** on Nov 16.

#### 21. Sultan Ibrahim Sultan Iskandar

- ❖ Elected as the **17th King of Malaysia** for a **term of 5 years by its royal families**.
- ❖ He will take over from the incumbent King **AlSultan Abdullah** on 31st January next year.

#### 22. Abdel Fattah al Sisi

- ❖ Re- elected as the **President of Egypt**.

#### 23. Donald Tusk

- ❖ Elected as **Poland Prime Minister**

#### 24. Samir Shah

- ❖ Picked as **New Chairman of the BBC British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC)**.
- ❖ He will **replace Richard Sharp**.
- ❖ Samir Shah has **worked in television for more than 40 years**

#### 25. Commander P. Deosthalee

- ❖ **Commander P. Deosthalee Becomes The First Woman**

To Command An INW (an Indian Naval Warship)

- ❖ Indian Navy Chief Admiral R Hari Kumar

## 26. Captain Geetika Koul

- ❖ Captain Geetika Koul 1st woman medical officer to be deployed at Siachen
- ❖ She is from **Snow Leopard Brigade of the Indian Army** at the world's highest battlefield, Siachen.

## 27. Nina Singh

- ❖ Neena Singh has become the **first woman** to be appointed to the post of **Director General of Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)**

## 28. Anish Dayal Singh

- ❖ Anish Dayal Singh was appointed as the **Director General of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)**

### Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)

- **Establishment:** The CRPF was established as the Crown Representative's Police on July 27, 1939. It became the Central Reserve Police Force after Independence on December 28, 1949.
- **Primary Role:** The CRPF's primary role is to assist state and union territories in maintaining law and order and containing insurgency.
- **Headquarters:** The CRPF headquarters is located in New Delhi, India.
- **Key Functions:**
  - ❖ Counter-insurgency and anti-terrorism operations.
  - ❖ Handling law and order situations, including riots and protests.
  - ❖ Conducting rescue and relief operations during natural disasters.
  - ❖ Assisting in the election process by providing security.
  - ❖ VIP security.
- **Motto:** The CRPF's motto is "Service and Loyalty."

## 29. Rahul Rasgotra

- ❖ IPS officer **Rahul Rasgotra** was appointed **Director General of ITBP**.

### Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP):

- ❖ It was established in **1962**.
- ❖ Usually **deployed in the Himalayan mountains along the border with China**.
- ❖ Motto - **Bravery – Perseverance – Dedication**
- ❖ Headquarters: **New Delhi**

## 30. Pramod Agrawal

- ❖ **SEBI** approved **Pramod Agrawal's** appointment as **BSE Chairman**.
- ❖ The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has granted approval for the **appointment of Pramod Agrawal** as the **Chairman of BSE Ltd** from January

17, 2024.

- ❖ The **Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE)** is **India's first and largest stock market** and was founded in **1875** as the **Native Equity and Stockbroker Association**.

## 31. Justice Sanjiv Khanna

- ❖ Justice Sanjiv Khanna nominated **NALSA Chairperson National Legal Services Authority (NALSA)**.
- ❖ **NALSA** has been constituted under the **Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987**, to provide **free legal services to the weaker sections of society** and to **organise Lok Adalats** for amicable settlement of disputes.
- ❖ The **prime objective of NALSA** is the **speedy disposal of cases** and **reducing the burden on the judiciary**.

## 32. Vita Dani

- ❖ **Vita Dani** Makes History As **First Indian** On **ITTF Governing Board**
- ❖ Sports entrepreneur **Vita Dani** has become the **first Indian to be inducted as a governing board member of the International Table Tennis Federation's (ITTF) Foundation**.
- ❖ The **Foundation** was established in **2018** by the **ITTF** to **attract more people to the sport**.

## 33. Indra Mani Pandey

- ❖ Ambassador **Indra Mani Pandey** Assumes Role as **Secretary General of BIMSTEC**
- ❖ Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (**BIMSTEC**).
- ❖ Ambassador Pandey is the **4th Secretary General of BIMSTEC**
- ❖ **BIMSTEC** is a **regional organisation** established in **1997** with the **signing of the Bangkok Declaration**.
- ❖ Initially, it was established as **BIST-EC** with **four countries: Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka and Thailand**.
- ❖ It was named **BIMSTEC** in **2004** after **Myanmar (1997), Nepal (2004), and Bhutan (2004)** joined it
- ❖ The **BIMSTEC Secretariat** is in **Dhaka, Bangladesh**.

## 34. Senthil Pandian

- ❖ **Senthil Pandian** to be **India's next ambassador to WTO**
- ❖ **World Trade Organisation (WTO)** in **Geneva**

## 35. Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi

- ❖ Vice Admiral **Dinesh K Tripathi** took over as **chief of the Naval Staff**

## 36. Rashmi Shukla

- ❖ **Rashmi Shukla** becomes **Maharashtra's first woman Director General of Police**.



**37. Justice Ritu Bahri**

- ❖ Justice Ritu Bahri takes oath as the **first women Chief Justice of Uttarakhand High Court**
- ❖ The oath was administered by Uttarakhand Governor Lieutenant General Gurmeet Singh (Retd).
- ❖ Previously, she served as a senior judge in the Punjab and Haryana High Court.

**38. Nawaf Salam**

- ❖ Lebanese Judge Nawaf Salam Elected As ICJ's New President
- ❖ Judge Nawaf Salam of Lebanon is the **President of the International Court of Justice (ICJ)**.
- ❖ Judge Julia Sebutinde of Uganda was elected as **Vice-President**
- ❖ The ICJ is located at the **Peace Palace in The Hague, Netherlands**.

**39. Justice AM Khanwilkar**

- ❖ Former Supreme Court judge, **Justice A.M. Khanwilkar**, has been appointed as the **Lokpal chairperson** by President Droupadi Murmu.
- ❖ The Lokpal has been working without its regular chief after Justice Pinaki Chandra Ghose completed his term on May 27, 2022.
- ❖ Justice Pradip Kumar Mohanty is currently the acting chairperson.
- ❖ The Lokpal and Lokayukta Act, 2013 provided for the establishment of Lokpal for the Union and Lokayukta for States.

**40. Jay Shah**

- ❖ Jay Shah reappointed as **ACC Chairman** for third successive year
- ❖ ACC - Asian Cricket Council

**41. Ranjeet Kumar Agarwal**

- ❖ ICAI elected **Ranjeet Kumar Agarwal** as their new President
- ❖ ICAI - Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI)
- ❖ A statutory body established by an Act of Parliament, viz. **The Chartered Accountants Act, 1949**.
- ❖ Established in: **1949**.
- ❖ Formulation of Accounting Standards; and Standard Auditing Procedures.
- ❖ under the **administrative control** of the **Ministry of Corporate Affairs**.

**42. Mr. Sanjay Kumar Jain**

- ❖ Mr. Sanjay Kumar Jain Assumes the charge of CMD of IRCTC

**Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Ltd. (IRCTC):**

- It is a **Mini Ratna Category-I** (conferred in 2008).
- **Central Public Sector Enterprise** that is wholly-owned by and controlled by **Ministry of Railways**.

- ❖ Incorporated - **1999**

**43. Sukhbir Sandhu & Gyanesh Kumar**

- Sukhbir Sandhu & Gyanesh Kumar appointed **Election Commissioners**

- ❖ Chief election commissioner – **Rajiv Kumar**

**44. Kishor Makwana**

- ❖ Kishor Makwana assumes charge of **Chairman National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC)**
- ❖ **Article 338** of the Indian Constitution deals with NCSC.
- ❖ The **first Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes** was set up in **August 1978**.
- ❖ The **Constitution (89th Amendment) Act, 2003**, the erstwhile **National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes** has been replaced by **National Commission for Scheduled Castes and National Commission for Scheduled Tribes**.

**45. Sudha Murty**

- ❖ **Prez Murmu** nominates philanthropist **Sudha Murty** to **Rajya Sabha**
- ❖ President Droupadi Murmu has nominated educator, author, and philanthropist **Sudha Murty** to the **Rajya Sabha**.

**Rajya Sabha.**

- **Article 80** of the Constitution have provisions for members of the **Rajya Sabha**.
- **Rajya Sabha** should consist of not more than **250 members** - **238** elected and **12** nominated by the President.
- **Minimum age** to be a member – **30 years**
- Each member is **elected for a term of 6 years**.
- One third of the members retire every second year and are replaced by newly elected members.
- Vice President of India is the **ex-officio** Chairman of **Rajya Sabha**

**46. Anurag Agarwal**

- ❖ IPS officer **Anurag Agarwal** appointed **head of Parliament security**
- ❖ He is appointed on **deputation** basis as **Joint Secretary (security)** for **3 years**.

**47. Suman Kumari**

- ❖ **Suman Kumari** becomes **BSF's 'first woman sniper'**
- ❖ **Sub-inspector Suman Kumari** has become the first

woman sniper of the Border Security Force.

#### 48. Sadanand Vasant Date

- ❖ **Senior IPS Officer Sadanand Vasant Date Appointed As Director General Of NIA**
- ❖ NIA - National Investigation Agency.
- ❖ **Establishment:** December 31, 2008, post-Mumbai terror attacks
- ❖ **Primary Role:** Investigates and prosecutes offenses affecting India's security, including terrorism
- ❖ **Jurisdiction:** Operates across state borders without special permission
- ❖ **Headquarters:** New Delhi, India
- ❖ **Key Functions:**
  - Investigating terrorism-related cases.
  - Collecting and analyzing intelligence on terror activities.
  - Coordinating with state and central agencies to combat terrorism.

#### 49. Rahul Singh

- ❖ **Rahul Singh Appointed New CBSE Chief**
- ❖ **Rahul Singh** has been appointed **Chairperson of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE)**.
- ❖ He will succeed **Nidhi Chhibber**, who has been named **Advisor in the Niti Aayog**.

#### 50. Navneet Kumar Sehgal

- ❖ **Former IAS Officer Navneet Kumar Sehgal Takes Charge As New Prasara Bharati Chairman**
- ❖ The post is being filled after a gap of 4 years.

#### 51. Piyush Anand

- ❖ **Piyush Anand** has been appointed as **Director General of National Disaster Response Force (NDRF)**.

#### 52. Govind Dholakia

- ❖ **Govind Dholakia Appointed New Chairman of Surat Diamond Bourse.**
- ❖ **Surat Diamond Bourse (SDB)** is **India's second diamond trading hub** that was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in December 2023.

#### 53. Devendra Jhajharia

- ❖ **Devendra Jhajharia Becomes New President of Paralympic Committee of India**
- ❖ Double Paralympic gold medallist javelin thrower Devendra Jhajharia was elected as the President of the Paralympic Committee of India (PCI).

#### 54. Joyshree Das Verma

- ❖ **Joyshree Das Verma Becomes New President of FICCI Ladies Organisation**
- ❖ **FICCI Ladies Organisation (FLO)** was **established in 1983**, as a **division of the Federation of Indian**

**Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI)** which is the apex body of industry and commerce in India.

- ❖ FLO is the oldest women-led and women-centric business chamber of South East Asia.

#### 55. Sanjay Nayar

- ❖ **Sanjay Nayar Appointed as New ASSOCHAM President.**
- ❖ He has **replaced Ajay Singh**, **Co-Founder of low-cost airline SpiceJet.**
- ❖ **Associated Chambers of Commerce & Industry of India (ASSOCHAM)** is the country's oldest apex chamber.
- ❖ Headquartered in New Delhi
- ❖ Founded in 1920.

#### 56. Sushil Sharma

- ❖ **Sushil Sharma Appointed CMD of SJVN Limited About SJVN**
  - Miniratna Company.
  - Formerly Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam (SJVN Limited).
  - It is an **Indian public sector undertaking** involved in **hydroelectric power generation and transmission.**
  - It was **incorporated in 1988** as **Nathpa Jhakri Power Corporation**, a joint venture between the **Government of India** and the **Government of Himachal Pradesh.**
  - Recently **SJVN Limited** has won two prestigious awards at the **15th CIDC Vishwakarma Awards 2024**, instituted by the **Construction Industry Development Council.**

#### 57. Sheyphali Sharan

- ❖ **Sheyphali Sharan** takes charge as **Principal Director General, Press Information Bureau.**

##### About PIB:

- The **Press Information Bureau**, also known as **PIB** is the nodal agency disseminating news from the **Government of India to the media.**
- **Set up in 1919**, it has grown into a large agency with more than **forty offices** all over the country.

#### 58. 16th Finance Commission members

- ❖ The **16th Finance Commission**, chaired by **Arvind Panagariya**, has **four members.**
- ❖ The Centre constituted the 16th Finance Commission.
- ❖ Chairman- **Dr Arvind Panagariya.**
- ❖ Art- 280.
- ❖ Every 5 year by President of India.
- ❖ Full time Members:
  1. **Shri. Ajay Narayan Jha**

2. Smt. Annie George Mathew
3. Shri. Manoj Panda
4. Dr. Soumya Kanti Ghosh

#### 59. Rajiv Gauba

- ❖ **Rajiv Gauba to head central government committee on LGBTQ+ community**
- ❖ **The government of India has set up a committee on LGBTQ+ communities' welfare headed by Rajiv Gauba.**
- ❖ **The committee has been set up by the government on the suggestion of the Supreme Court in the Supriyo Chakraborty vs Union Of India Case.**
- ❖ **In the Supriyo Chakraborty vs. Union Of India Case 2023, the Special Marriage Act of 1954 was challenged because it did not permit same-sex marriage.**
- ❖ **The plaintiffs argued that this was against Article 14 of the fundamental rights, which provides for equal protection of law.**

#### 60. Naima Khatoon

- ❖ **Aligarh Muslim University's 1st woman vice chancellor.**
- ❖ **Appointed for five (5) years.**
- ❖ **She has been serving as principal of AMU's women's college since 2016.**

#### 61. Love Kumar

- ❖ **IPS Officer 'Love Kumar' Appointed as IG in Special Protection Group**
- ❖ **It is an elite force, specifically raised for the protection of the country's Prime Minister, former PMs (1 year) and their immediate family.**
- ❖ **It was started in 1985 in the wake of the killing of PM Indira Gandhi in 1984.**
- ❖ **The SPG Act 1988 provides for the constitution and regulation of the SPG**

#### 62. Nalin Prabhat

- ❖ **Senior Indian Police Service (IPS) officer Nalin Prabhat has been appointed as the Director-General of National Security Guard (NSG), the country's counter-terrorism and counter-hijack force.**
- ❖ **Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) chief Daljit Singh Chawdhary was holding the additional charge of the NSG.**
- ❖ **The National Security Guard, commonly known as Black Cats, is a counter-terrorism unit of India under the Ministry of Home Affairs.**
- ❖ **It was founded on 16 October 1984, following Operation Blue Star, to combat terrorist activities and protect states against internal disturbances.**

#### 63. Bilquis Mir

- ❖ **Bilquis Mir a canoeist from from Jammu and Kashmir is set to create history as the first woman from India to serve as a jury member at this year's Summer Olympics in Paris, scheduled from July 26 to August 11.**

#### 64. Vladimir Putin

- ❖ **Vladimir Putin Wins Russian Presidential Elections For Record Fifth Term**

#### 65. Mohammad Mustafa

- ❖ **Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas appointed Mohammad Mustafa to be the next New Prime Minister**
- ❖ **Mohammad Mustafa has been the long time economic advisor to the President**

#### 66. Sardar Ramesh Singh Arora

- ❖ **Pakistan gets first Sikh minister in Punjab province**
- ❖ **Sardar Ramesh Singh Arora, an influential minority leader, has been sworn in as a provincial minister.**
- ❖ **Mr. Arora has been allotted the portfolio of minorities of Punjab province in the cabinet of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz, incidentally, also the first woman to hold the post in the country.**
- ❖ **Mr. Arora was earlier appointed as the ambassador to the Kartarpur Corridor.**

#### 67. Tamas Sulyok

- ❖ **Hungary's Parliament elected Tamas Sulyok as President after the resignation of Katalin Novak.**
- ❖ **Hungary Capital : Budapest**
- ❖ **Hungary is a landlocked country in Central Europe**
- ❖ **Hungary is part of the Danube drainage basin, and the Danube is the country's longest river**

#### 68. Maryam Nawaz

- ❖ **Maryam Nawaz is the daughter of three-time former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif.**
- ❖ **Became the first-ever woman Chief Minister of a province in Pakistan - the Punjab province**

#### 69. Alexander Stubb

- ❖ **Former PM Alexander Stubb wins Finland Presidential election**
- ❖ **In April 2023, Finland became the 31st member of NATO.**
- ❖ **Finland is a Northern European nation bordering Sweden, Norway and Russia.**
- ❖ **Capital, Helsinki**
- ❖ **Currency – Euro**
- ❖ **PM - Petteri Orpo**

#### 70. Olzhas Bektenov



- ❖ **Kazakhstan** appoints Olzhas Bektenov as new **Prime Minister**
- ❖ **Capital – Astana** (renamed **Nursultan in 2019** to honor former President Nursultan Nazarbayev)

#### 71. Ahmed Awad bin Mubarak

- ❖ **Yemen** appoints Ahmed Awad bin Mubarak as its new Prime Minister
- ❖ Yemen, a nation in the Arabian Peninsula, is **experiencing increased tensions as a result of a wave of Red Sea attacks on ships by Houthi rebels**

#### 72. Sanjiv Puri

- ❖ Elected as president of Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) for the Term 2024-25.

#### 73. Lawrence Wong – sworn in as Singapore's 4<sup>th</sup> PM.

#### 74. Ravi Sinha

- ❖ A 1988 IPS officer was appointed as the new **Secretary (Head)** of the **Research & Analysis Wing (RAW)**.
- ❖ It is the **foreign intelligence agency of India**.
- ❖ It was **established in 1968**.
- ❖ Responsible for **gathering and analyzing information from various sources to protect and promote the country's national interests**.
- ❖ The agency was **initially a wing of the Intelligence Bureau (IB)**, India's domestic intelligence agency, but was **later separated and given an independent status under the Cabinet Secretariat**.
- ❖ The first chief of R&AW was **Rameshwar Nath Kao**, a veteran intelligence officer who is widely regarded as the **father of Indian intelligence**.

#### 75. Nitin Agarwal

- ❖ Nitin Agarwal was appointed as the new **Director General of the Border Security Force (BSF)**.

About Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs):

- ❖ It refers to uniform nomenclature of seven central armed police organisations
- ❖ **Central Armed Police Forces comes under the administrative control of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)**.
- ❖ These seven security forces are –
- ❖ **Assam Rifles (AR)**: guards Indo Myanmar border.
- ❖ **Border Security Force (BSF)**: guards the Indo-Pakistan and Indo-Bangladesh borders
- ❖ **Indo Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)**: guards Indo-China border
- ❖ **Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)**: guard the Indo-Nepal and Indo-Bhutan borders.
- ❖ **Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)**: guarding Security of sensitive establishments

- ❖ **Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)**: Assisting Police to tackle Law & Order, Counter-Terrorist Operations, Counter Naxal Operations.

- ❖ **National Security Guard (NSG)**: Assisting Police to tackle Law & Order, Counter-Terrorist Operations, Counter Naxal Operations.

#### 76. Pradeep Kumar Joshi

- ❖ Chairperson of NTA.
- ❖ Subodh Kumar Singh, the head of the National Testing Agency, was removed from his position on Saturday night amid allegations of irregularities in the NEET-UG and UGC-NET exams.

National Testing Agency (NTA):

- The NTA was established in **2017** by the **Ministry of Education** as a premier, specialist, autonomous and self-sustained testing organization to **conduct entrance examinations** for admission/fellowship in **higher educational institutions**.

Functions:

- **Conducting entrance examinations** for admission to higher educational institutions
- **Creating a question bank** using modern techniques
- Establishing a strong **research and development culture**
- **Collaborating with international organizations** like ETS (Educational Testing Services)
- **Undertaking any other examination** entrusted to it by the Ministries/Departments of Government of India/State Governments

NEET:

- The NEET (National Eligibility cum Entrance Test) is an entrance examination for students who wish to pursue undergraduate medical courses (MBBS/BDS) and postgraduate courses (MD/MS) in government or private medical colleges.
- **Objective:** To standardize the admission process for medical and dental courses across India, ensuring a uniform evaluation of candidates' eligibility.

The NTA conducts NEET on behalf of the Ministry of Education.

#### 77. Praveen Kumar Srivastava

- ❖ A 1988-batch IAS officer (retired) was sworn in as the **Central Vigilance Commissioner by the President of India** on May 29.
- ❖ The **tenure of a CVC is of four years** or till the incumbent attains the **age of 65 years**.

About CVC :

- ❖ Central Vigilance Commission [CVC] is the **highest government body to address issues related to governmental corruption**

- ❖ It is an apex **Integrity Institution**, having, complete independence and autonomy in its functions.
- ❖ The CVC was set up through the **Resolution of the Government of India** on the recommendations of the **Committee on Prevention of Corruption** formed under the Chairmanship of **Shri K. Santhanam in 1964**.
- ❖ It was **given statutory status** through **CVC Act 2003**.
- ❖ The CVC is **not controlled by any Ministry/ Department**.
- ❖ It is **responsible to the Parliament**.
- ❖ **Composition**: CVC is a **Multi-member Commission** consisting of a **Central Vigilance Commissioner (Chairperson)** and **not more than two Vigilance Commissioners (Members)**.

#### 78. António Costa

- ❖ António Costa, who used to be the **prime minister of Portugal**, has **been chosen to be the next President**

**of the European Council.**

- ❖ This is the **second most important job in the European Union (EU)**.
- ❖ In Brussels, the council made this surprising choice, picking Costa even though he wasn't on the first list of candidates.
- ❖ This shows a shift toward looking at more choices and shows that Portugal is becoming more powerful in the EU.

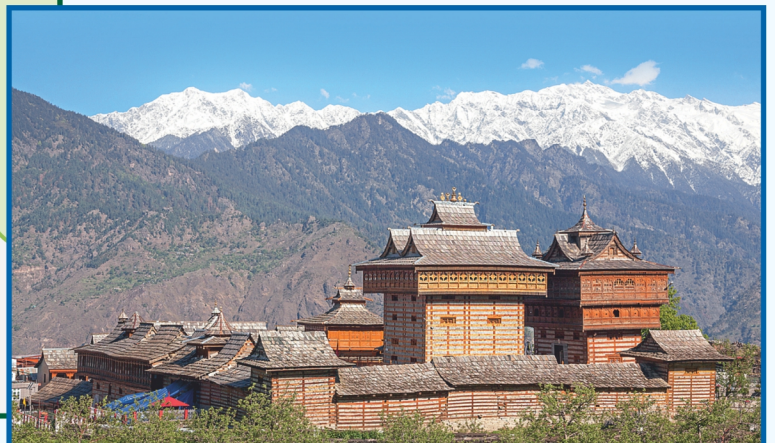
#### 79. Sujata Saunik

- ❖ Sujata Saunik is the **first woman in Maharashtra history to be named Chief Secretary**.
- ❖ In a ceremony on June 30, she **officially took over from Nitin Karir in this important position**.
- ❖ She was previously the **Additional Chief Secretary (Home)**.



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## AWARDS

### Dr. Usha Thakur Honored with 12th Vishwa Hindi Samman.

- Dr. Usha Thakur received the 12th Vishwa Hindi Samman at a Hindi Samvad event in Kathmandu, organized by the Indian Embassy in Nepal, for her significant contributions to Hindi literature.
- Thakur has translated over 40 works into Hindi and Nepali, enhancing the Hindi language.
- This award is given by the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India.

### GRSE Wins Sustainable Governance Champion Award 2024.

- Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE) Ltd. received the “Sustainable Governance Champion Award” at the Outlook Planet Sustainability Summit & Awards 2024.
- Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Ltd, abbreviated as GRSE, is one of India’s leading shipyards, located in Kolkata.
- It builds and repairs commercial and naval vessels.
- Founded: 1884
- Chairman & MD : PR Hari

### Doon School Srinagar Wins Top Award at Indo-Norway Education Summit.

- Doon School received the “Award for Transformative Education Excellence” at the Indo-Norway International Education Summit for its innovative contributions under Chairman Showkat Hussain Khan.
- The Indo-Norway Education Summit was organized by Mind Mingle, an organization dedicated to the professional development of educators and schools since 2014.
- Chief Guest - Himanshu Gulati, MP, Norway.

### Somalia’s All-Women Media Wins Global Freedom of Expression Award.

- Bilan, Somalia’s only all-women news team, won the 2024 One World Media Press Freedom Award for their courageous reporting.
- Established by the UNDP in 2021 and funded by the European Union, Bilan has broken major stories on discrimination, violence, and social issues in Somalia, promoting women’s roles in various sectors.
- Their reports highlight the resilience of Somali women journalists.

### IPBES Wins 2024 Blue Planet Prize for Environmental Leadership

- **Award Recognition:** IPBES awarded prestigious Blue Planet Prize for advancing biodiversity and ecosystem science.
- **Impactful Assessments:** Reports guide global policies, including SDGs and CBD, influencing corporate sustainability strategies.
- **Upcoming Ceremony:** Prize to be awarded in Tokyo; events to celebrate contributions to ecological economics and sustainability.

### Kalash Gupta, IIT Delhi Student won World’s Largest Coding Competition

- Kalash Gupta, a CSE student at IIT Delhi, clinched the top spot in TCS CodeVita Season 10, with over 100,000 participants from 87 countries.
- TCS CodeVita, recognized by Guinness World Records, is the world’s largest programming contest.
- The runner-ups were from Chile and Taiwan, with Gupta honored by IIT Delhi Director, Prof. Rangan Banerjee.

### IIIT-Delhi Wins Award for Innovative Antimicrobial Resistance Project.

- IIIT-Delhi secured joint second prize in the Trinity Challenge for its “AMRSense” project, aimed at combating antimicrobial resistance (AMR).
- The initiative involved key partners like CHRI-PATH, 1mg.com, and ICMR, focusing on community health data integration and predictive analytics.
- “AMRSense” empowers community health workers with AI tools, and integrates antibiotic usage data.

### Vinod Ganatra received Nelson Mandela Lifetime Achievement Award.

- Film-maker Vinod Ganatra has become the first Indian to be conferred the prestigious ‘Nelson Mandela Lifetime Achievement Award’ of South Africa for his contribution to films.
- Ganatra has received 36 national and international awards.

### RBI bags ‘risk manager of the year award 2024’

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has been awarded the “Risk Manager of the Year Award 2024” by Central Banking, a renowned publication headquartered in London.
- The RBI established a regulatory sandbox to facilitate controlled experimentation with new financial technology

products and services.

- RBI: Founded: 1 April 1935, Kolkata
- Governor - Shaktikanta Das
- Headquarters – Mumbai

### **Sahitya Akademi announced 2024 Literary Award Winners**

- Sahitya Akademi announced winners of the **2024 Yuva Puraskar and Bal Sahitya Puraskar**, recognizing **23 and 24 writers respectively**.
- Key awardees include **K Vaishali** for her memoir and **Gaurav Pandey** for his poetry, with genres spanning from poetry to memoirs.
- Award recipients will receive a casket with an engraved copper plaque and a cheque of **Rs 50,000** at a later ceremony.

### **Smritivan Memorial Museum Shortlisted for UNESCO's Prix Award.**

- The Smritivan Earthquake Memorial Museum in Bhuj, Gujarat, has been shortlisted for UNESCO's prestigious **Prix Versailles Award**, recognizing it as **one of the seven most beautiful museums globally**.
- This marks the **first time an Indian museum has received such global recognition** for its architectural and design excellence

### **SEBI wins the "Best Conduct of Business Regulator" Award.**

- Sebi has been given the 'Best Conduct of Business Regulator' award in Asia Pacific by **The Asian Banker** for its role in enhancing the regulatory framework for securities markets.
- The award was received by Sebi's Whole Time Member Kamlesh Chandra Varshney in a ceremony held in Hong Kong.
- **Formed:** April 12, 1988
- **Statutory Status:** January 30, 1992
- **HQs:** Mumbai
- **Chairperson:** Madhabi Puri Buch

### **Mumbai's Cop Krishna Prakash honored with Hindi Sahitya Bharati Award**

- Krishna Prakash, head of Mumbai Police's Force One, honored with the **Hindi Sahitya Bharati Award** at the **Sab Me Ram Shashwat Shri Ram festival**.
- The festival, showcasing **Lord Ram's teachings, combined music, dance, and theatre** to offer a cultural experience.
- Prakash is also recognized for blending law enforcement with cultural pursuits and is set to achieve his third Guinness World Record.

### **Vellayan Subbiah named EY World Entrepreneur of the year 2024.**

- Vellayan Subbiah, Executive Vice-Chairman of Tube Investments of India and Chairman of Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Co Ltd. has been named the **EY World Entrepreneur of The Year 2024**.
- Subbiah is the fourth Indian to receive this coveted award.
- Earlier it was given to **NR Narayana Murthy, Uday Kotak and Kiran Majumdar Shaw**.

### **C-DOT won UN Champion Award, showcased AI innovations**

- Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) awarded UN's WSIS 2024 "Champion" Award for its mobile-enabled Cell Broadcast Emergency Alerting Platform, enhancing disaster resilience.
- Showcased **AI solutions** at the **AI for Good Global Summit in Geneva**, including tech for early warning and fraud prevention.
- Collaborated with AI startups for solutions in road safety, smart city monitoring, and an automatic sign language interpreter

### **Sanya Malhotra won Best Actress award at New York Indian Film Festival**

- Sanya Malhotra bagged Best Actress at the New York Indian Film Festival 2024 for her role in 'Mrs.'
- 'Mrs,' directed by Arati Kadav, is a remake of 'The Great Indian Kitchen,' focusing on the protagonist's self-discovery within marital confines
- The film has received significant acclaim, spotlighting Malhotra's portrayal of the complex interplay between traditional roles and personal ambition.

### **NIMHANS bags the Nelson Mandela Award for Health Promotion for 2024.**

- National Institute of Mental Health & Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS), Bengaluru has been awarded the Nelson Mandela Award for Health Promotion for 2024 by the World Health Organization (WHO).
- The award is a testament to NIMHANS' dedication and outstanding contributions to promoting mental health and well-being.
- The Nelson Mandela Award for Health Promotion established by WHO in 2019.

### **Indian-origin artist Anish Kapoor tops the Hurun India Art List 2024.**

- London-based Indian-origin artist **Anish Kapoor** has topped the **Hurun India Art List** of the **most successful Indian artists alive** for the **6th consecutive year**.

- The list ranks the top 50 living Indian artists according to the sales of their works sold at public auctions.
- India's most successful artists register record sales of Rs 301 crore", marking a 19% year-on-year growth.

### Satyadeep Gupta sets World Record to scale Mt Everest and Mt Lhotse.

- Satyadeep Gupta became the first person to scale Mt Everest and Mt Lhotse twice in one season and the first Indian to traverse the two peaks in 11 hours and 15 minutes.
- Gupta scaled Mt Lhotse (8,516 m) at noon and Mt Everest (8,849 m) at 12:45 am, breaking records for the fastest traversal between these peaks.
- Gupta's feat marks the first Double Dual Ascent of both peaks in one season.

### Major Radhika Sen to receive Advocate of the Year Award.

- Major Radhika Sen, an Indian woman peacekeeper, who served with the UN mission in Congo, will be honored with a prestigious 2023 UN Military Gender Advocate of the Year.
- She served in the East of the Democratic Republic of the Congo from March 2023 to April 2024 as the Commander of MONUSCO's Engagement Platoon for the Indian Rapid Deployment Battalion
- UN Secretary-General: Antonio Guterres

### ACI Asia-Pacific & Middle East announces Green Airports Recognition.

- 3 Indian Airports have been awarded under the Silver category:
  - ❖ Indira Gandhi Airport (Delhi) under 'Over 35 mn. passengers per annum' category
  - ❖ Kempegowda Airport (Bengaluru) under the 'Between 15-35 mn. passengers per annum' category.
  - ❖ Chaudhary Charan Singh Airport (Lucknow) under 'less than 8 mn. passengers per annum' category.
- Theme: Biodiversity and Nature-based Solutions

### Payal Kapadia wins Grand Prix at Cannes, makes history.

- Payal Kapadia won the Grand Prix for her film "All We Imagine as Light," making her the first Indian filmmaker to achieve this.
- The film is the 1st Indian movie in 30 years and the 1st by an Indian female director to be showcased in the main competition.
- The Indo-French production tells the story of a nurse named Prabha and an unexpected gift from her estranged husband, directed by Kapadia.

### Indian Techie Muneeb Amin Bhatt honored in NASA's Hall of Fame

- Muneeb Amin Bhatt, from Kulgam district in Jammu and Kashmir, has been inducted into NASA's 'Hall of Fame' for discovering data breach vulnerabilities.
- He was previously recognized by Apple's 'Hall of Fame' in 2023 for identifying system vulnerabilities.
- At just 22 years old, this Indian cybersecurity researcher has earned accolades from two of the world's leading organizations.

### 18 year-old UP E-rickshaw driver won UK Empowerment Award

- Arti, an 18-year-old from Noida, Uttar Pradesh, won the Amal Clooney Women's Empowerment Award in the UK for her role in the Pink E-rickshaw initiative.
- A single mother and e-rickshaw driver, Arti provides for her daughter while promoting female safety and empowerment in a traditionally male-dominated field.
- Recognized globally, Arti shared her inspiring journey at Buckingham Palace.

### Anasuya Sengupta won Un Certain Regard Best Actress trophy at Cannes

- Anasuya Sengupta, one of the lead stars of Bulgarian director Konstantin Bojanov's Hindilanguagen movie "The Shameless", bagged the Best Actress award in the Un Certain Regard category at the 2024 Cannes Film Festival.
- Sengupta, who hails from Kolkata, is the first Indian artist to win the category's top acting honour, marking a significant milestone for India at the prestigious film gala.

### Indian cinematographer Santosh Sivan received Pierre Angénieux tribute

- Santosh Sivan received the Pierre Angénieux ExcelLens in Cinematography at Cannes Film Festival 2024, becoming the first Asian honoree.
- Celebrated for over 55 feature films, including collaborations with Mani Ratnam and international projects.
- Sivan joined legendary cinematographers like Roger Deakins as recipients, citing the influence of Angénieux lenses in his work.

### India's 'Sunflowers Were the First Ones to Know' won La Cinef award

- The film 'Sunflowers Were the First Ones to Know' by Chidananda S Naik from FTII, Pune, has won first prize at La Cinef award at the Cannes Film Festival 2024.
- The film, featuring an elderly woman and a stolen rooster



affecting sunlight in a village, is inspired by Karnataka folklore.

- La Cinef awarded second prizes to films from Greece and the US, with the third prize going to a UK entry.

#### Jenny Erpenbeck won International Booker Prize 2024

- Jenny Erpenbeck's novel **Kairos** won the **2024 International Booker Prize**, sharing the 50,000£ with translator Michael Hofmann.
- The novel explores a **profound romance in 1980s Berlin**, juxtaposed against the backdrop of the Cold War & the fall of the Berlin Wall.
- Hofmann emphasized the **novel's depth in portraying personal & political turmoil**; Erpenbeck reflects on East Germany's cultural nuances.

#### UAE honours Indian Diplomatic Missions with Excellence Awards.

- India's Embassy in Abu Dhabi and Consulate in Dubai were awarded the prestigious **Shield of Honour** at the **5th Minister of Foreign Affairs Excellence Awards** ceremony, making India the only country to receive two honors.
- 18 foreign missions and 9 Ministry of Foreign Affairs departments were awarded, endorsing the UAE's commitment to excellence in diplomatic relations.

#### Thiruvananthapuram Airport achieved Zero Waste to Landfill status

- Thiruvananthapuram International Airport was awarded the **zero waste to landfill (ZWL)** accolade by the **Confederation of Indian Industry (CII-ITC) Centre of Excellence**.
- It is the **first airport in India to receive this recognition**, achieving **99.50% waste diversion from landfills**.
- The award confirms the airport's implementation of **leading waste management practices**.

#### Jyoti Atre becomes oldest Indian Woman to Scale Everest.

- Bhopal's Jyoti Atre, at 55, became the **oldest Indian woman to summit Mount Everest on May 19**, reaching an altitude of 8,848.86 meters **on her second attempt** after weather derailed her 2023 climb at 8,160 meters.
- Jyoti broke the record held by **53-year-old Sangeeta Bahl**, who summited Everest on May 19, 2018

#### NTPC secured 3rd rank at ATD BEST Awards 2024

- NTPC secured **3rd rank globally** at **ATD BEST Awards 2024**, marking the **highest placement** for any Indian company.
- The **ATD BEST Awards**, established by the **Association for Talent Development (ATD)**, USA, is one of the

**most esteemed international recognitions** in the field of Learning and Development.

- NTPC CMD: **Gurdeep Singh**.
- PSU status: **Maharatna**.
- Jurisdiction: **Ministry of Power, GoI**.

#### IN-SPACE bagged Leadership Award at Geospatial World Forum

- IN-SPACE won the **"Public Policy: Enabling Industry Development"** award at **2024 Geospatial World Forum** for enhancing India's space sector.
- The award highlights IN-SPACE's support for private and non-governmental entities in space industry.
- **Indian National Space Promotion & Authorization Center (IN-SPACe)**, an autonomous agency under Department of Space, facilitates private sector participation.

#### Ruskin Bond awarded Sahitya Akademi Fellowship.

- Eminent English author **Ruskin Bond** was awarded the **Sahitya Akademi Fellowship**.
- Ruskin Bond has written over **300 short stories, essays, and novels and more than 30 books for children**.
- **Awards:** Sahitya Akademi Award (1992), Sahitya Akademi's Bal Sahitya Puraskar (2012), Padma Shri (1999) and Padma Bhushan (2019).
- His notable works: **'Vagrants in the Valley'**, **'Angry River'**, **'Too Much Trouble'**.

#### Shabana Azmi awarded Freedom of the City of London

- Shabana Azmi, renowned Indian actress, awarded Freedom of the City of London for her cinematic and advocacy work.
- Azmi, with numerous accolades including 5 National Awards and 6 Filmfare Awards, was honoured during UK Asian Film Festival.
- The Freedom of the City recognizes significant contributions to London or public life since the 13th century

#### Hindustan Shipyard Limited's CMD receives PSU Samarpan Award.

- HSL CMD **Hemant Khatri** has been honoured with the esteemed **'PSU Samarpan Award'** by **Gov Connect** at the award ceremony held in **New Delhi**.
- The **'PSU Samarpan Award'** acknowledges the **significant contributions of Public Sector Undertakings to the country's progress**.
- **Hindustan Shipyard:**
  - ❖ Founded - **21 June 1941**
  - ❖ Headquarters - **Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, India**
  - ❖ Nationalised - **1961**.

**Infosys receives world's first ISO 42001:2023 Certification for AIMS.**

- Infosys has been certified with **ISO 42001:2023** for its **Artificial Intelligence Management System (AIMS)**, the world's first international standard on AI management systems, by TUV India.
- The **ISO 42001:2023** certification provides a clear roadmap and systematic approach to AI management, through effective risk mitigation and streamlined processes.
- **Manish Bhuptani**: Managing Director of TUV India

**Pawan Sindhi honored with Global Pride of Sindhi Award 2024**

- **Mr. Pawan Sindhi** has been honored with the **Global Pride of Sindhi Award 2024** for his societal contributions.
- The award ceremony in **Mumbai** celebrated his dedication to humanity, peace, and prosperity.
- **Mr. Sindhi** thanked mentors, the press, and society for their support, emphasizing the role of service and respect in nation-building.

**Palestinian journalists awarded 2024 Guillermo Cano World Press Prize.**

- **UNESCO** awarded its **World Press Freedom Prize** to all Palestinian journalists covering the war in Gaza.
- **Mauricio Weibel** - Chairman of the international jury of media professionals.
- The Award Ceremony occurred in the margins of the **World Press Freedom Conference** in **Santiago, Chile**.
- This Prize, Created in 1997, honors the press freedom anywhere in the world.

**Purnima Devi Barman receives 'Green Oscar' Whitley Gold Award 2024.**

- A wildlife biologist from **Assam** has been honoured with a leading UK wildlife charity award for her conservation efforts of the endangered **Greater Adjutant Stork (Hargila)**.
- **Dr Purnima Devi Barman** won the **GBP 1,00,000 Whitley Gold Award** from the **Whitley Fund for Nature**.
- **Hargila** had seen its population to an estimated **450 birds** in **Northeast India**, but due to her efforts, it has now **1800**

**Alok Shukla wins the Goldman Environmental Prize 2024.**

- **Alok Shukla** was awarded the **Goldman Environmental Prize 2024** for stopping **21 coal mines**, safeguarding **4.45 lakh acres** of **Chhattisgarh forest**.
- He was the convenor of the **Chhattisgarh Bachao Andolan** and founding member of the **Hasdeo Aranya Bachao Sangharsh Samiti**.

- In **July 2022**, the government canceled the **21 proposed coal mines** in **Hasdeo Aranya**, known as the "**lungs of Chhattisgarh**."

**India Today's AI anchor Sana wins global media award**

- Sana clinched the **2024 Global Media Award** from the **International News Media Association (INMA)**.
- Recognized as **South Asia's best for AI newsroom innovation**, Sana exemplifies cutting-edge use of AI in enhancing customer engagement through its multilingual and versatile reporting capabilities.
- India Today Group introduced **Sana** as **India's first AI anchor in 2023**.

**Alejandra Marisa Rodriguez crowned Miss Universe Buenos Aires.**

- **Alejandra Marisa Rodriguez**, a **60-year-old lawyer**, wins **Miss Universe Buenos Aires**, becoming the first woman of her age to claim such a distinguished beauty title.
- The change in rules by the **Miss Universe pageant in 2023**, which now allows women aged **18 to 73** to compete.
- She contested with **34 others**, ranging from **18 to 73** in age, to win the beauty pageant.

**Randeep Hooda honoured with Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar Award**

- Actor **Randeep Hooda** was honoured with the **Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar Award** during a ceremony at **Dinanath Mangeshkar Natyagrih** in **Mumbai**.
- The award is given every year to only one individual who has made **path-breaking and exemplary contributions** to the nation, its people, and the society.
- The **Master Deenanath Mangeshkar Smruti Pratishthan Charitable Trust** organises this award event.

**Ratan Tata honored with KISS Humanitarian Award**

- Renowned industrialist and philanthropist **Ratan Tata**, Chairman Emeritus of the **Tata Group**, was bestowed with the prestigious **KISS Humanitarian Award 2021**.
- The award ceremony saw the presentation of the award by the Founder of **Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT)** and **Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS)**, **Dr. Achyuta Samanta**.

**Cillian Murphy won the 21st Irish Film & TV Academy's Best Actor award**

- **Cillian Murphy** has won **Best Actor** at the **21st Irish Film and TV Academy Awards** after securing wins at both the **BAFTA & Oscars**, celebrated for his portrayal of **Oppenheimer** in **Nolan's film**.
- At the **Dublin Royal Convention Centre**, he shared a heartfelt speech about the joy of being home among friends

and esteemed colleagues in the Irish cinema scene.

#### **Dr. Pavuluri Subba Rao received ASI's Aryabhata Award.**

- Ananth Technologies CEO and Chairman Dr. Pavuluri Subba Rao has been conferred with the Aeronautical Society of India's 'Aryabhata award'.
- The Aryabhata Award is in recognition of Dr. Rao's tremendous lifetime contribution to the promotion of Astronautics in India.
- Dr. Rao was a scientist at ISRO and in 1992 incorporated Ananth Technologies Limited.

#### **Mohammed Salem wins 2024 World Press Photo of the Year award.**

- He won for his image of a Palestinian woman cradling the body of her five-year-old niece in the Gaza Strip.
- The winning image portrays Inas Abu Maamar, 36, sobbing while holding Saly's sheet-clad body in the hospital morgue.
- The picture was taken on Oct. 17, 2023, in Khan Younis in Gaza, where families were searching for relatives killed during the Israeli bombing of the Palestinian enclave.

#### **Israeli mathematician Avi Wigderson won ACM A.M. Turing Award**

- Avi Wigderson has won the 2023 ACM A.M. Turing Award for his groundbreaking contributions to the theory of computation and the role of randomness.
- Recognized as the "Nobel Prize of Computing," the Turing Award is accompanied by a \$1M prize, sponsored by Google.

#### **Amitabh Bachchan awarded "Lata Mangeskar Puraskar".**

- Amitabh Bachchan is to be honored with the Lata Mangeskar Puraskar for his contributions to the nation and society.
- The award celebrates impactful contributions in music, cinema, social service, and literature.
- PM Modi was its 1st recipient, followed by Asha Bhosle in 2023.
- A R Rahman will receive the Master Deenanath Mangeskar Puraskar for contribution to Indian music

#### **ISRO's Chandrayaan-3 Team honoured with John L 'Jack' Swigert Jr award**

- ISRO's Chandrayaan-3 team has won the 2024 John L 'Jack' Swigert Jr. Award for space exploration by the Space Foundation.
- The award, recognizing significant achievements in space exploration, was received by DC Manjunath in Colorado.
- Space Foundation, established in 1983, is a nonprofit organization providing information, education, and collaboration for the global space ecosystem.

#### **SJVN honored at 15th Vishwakarma Awards 2024**

- Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam Limited has won two CIDC Vishwakarma Awards for excellence in Corporate Social Responsibility.
- The event was instituted by the Construction Industry Development Council.
- SJVN has invested over Rs. 450 crores in a variety of CSR activities through the SJVN Foundation
- It is an Indian public sector undertaking involved in hydroelectric power generation and transmission.

#### **REC wins "SKOCH ESG Award 2024" in "Renewable Energy Category"**

- The SKOCH ESG Awards recognize organizations that demonstrate outstanding performance in Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) practices.
- REC Limited: It is a 'Maharatna' Central Public Sector Enterprise and is registered with RBI as a Non-Banking Finance Company (NBFC), and Infrastructure Financing Company (IFC).
- Executive Director, REC Limited - Shri T.S.C. Bosh

#### **DROUPADI MURMU**

- Mauritius confer honorary degree of doctor of civil law on President Droupadi Murmu was the chief guest at the national day celebrations on March 12.
- The sixth Indian president to attend the Mauritian National Day as the chief guest since 2000.

#### **President Standard and Colours to four IAF Units**

- Prez Murmu presents President's Standard and Colours to four IAF Units at Air Force Station at Air Force Station in Hindon, Uttar Pradesh.
- This is the first time in the history of the service that four units have been awarded the President's Standard and Colours together in a single ceremony.
- Two squadrons received the President's Standard — 45 Squadron and the 221 Squadron.
- President's Colours - 11 Base Repair Depot and 509 signal unit.
- The President's Standard and Colours is the highest military honour for any armed forces unit.
- The President's Standard is awarded after 18 years of service and the President's Colours award after 25 years of service.

#### **Sahitya Akademi Award for 2023**

- English author Neelum Saran Gaur and Hindi novelist Sanjeev, received the Sahitya Akademi Award for 2023.
- Neelum Saran Gaur - book Requiem in Raga Janki
- Sanjeev - novel Mujhe Pehchaano



- The award ceremony coincided with the 70th anniversary (Sahityotsav).
- The authors and poets received an engraved copper plaque, a shawl and an amount of Rs.1 lakh.
- Awards given for 24 Indian languages (22 languages included in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution of India and English and Rajasthani).
- The first Awards were given in 1955.

#### Sahitya Akademi

- Founded on : 12 March, 1954
- Headquarters : New Delhi
- An organisation dedicated to the promotion of literature in the languages of India.

#### Prabha Varma

- Kerala litterateur Prabha Varma Selected For Saraswati Samman For The Year 2023
- for his poetry work in Malayalam language 'Roudra Sathwikam'.
- The honour carries, apart from a citation, a plaque and an award money of 15 lakh rupees.
- The Saraswati Samman is an annual award for outstanding prose or poetry literary works in any of the 22 languages of India listed in Schedule VIII of the Constitution of India.
- The award instituted by the KK Birla Foundation in 1991 is recognised as one of the "most prestigious and the highest literary award in the country"

#### Bob Jones Award (asked in HPAS Pre 2024)

- Tiger Woods: Selected for the Bob Jones Award by the USGA.
- Award Significance: Highest honor given by the USGA, recognizing sportsmanship and respect for golf's traditions.
- Achievements: 15-time major champion, 82 PGA Tour event wins.
- Known For: Perseverance and mental strength.

#### Global Inequality Research Award

- Bina Agarwal and James Boyce awarded the first "Global Inequality Research Award"
- for their significant contributions to understanding global inequalities.
- The World Inequality Lab (WIL) and Sciences Po's Center for Research on Social Inequalities (CRIS) have joined forces for the first edition of the Global Inequality Research Award (or GiRA).
- Aims to recognize every two years researchers from all disciplines who have made a significant contribution to the understanding of global inequalities.

#### PV Narasimha Rao Memorial Award

- Ratan Tata, former chairman of Tata Sons, was bestowed with the prestigious PV Narasimha Rao Memorial Award for his outstanding philanthropic contributions.

#### Earthday.Org's sustainability award

- In commemoration of Earth Day 2024, EARTHDAY.ORG, the world's largest environmental movement, has announced the recipients of its prestigious 2024 awards.
- The International Advertising Association (IAA) India Chapter is to receive the 'EARTHDAY.ORG's 2024 Best Organisation Spearheading Sustainable Development' Award.
- For IAA's commitment to recognising and inspiring marketing and advertising companies to drive positive environmental action .

#### Aviation Week Laureates Award

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro) has been honoured with the prestigious Aviation Week Laureates Award in for its achievements with the historic Chandrayaan-3 mission.
- Since its inception in 1957, Aviation Week Network's Laureate Awards have honored extraordinary achievements in aerospace

#### Chameli Devi Jain Award 2024

- Chameli Devi Jain Award 2024 for Outstanding Woman Media Person of the year
- Given jointly to independent journalist Greeshma Kuthar, and Ritika Chopra of the Indian Express.
- The award was set up by the Media Foundation in 1980,
- Chameli Devi Jain, a freedom fighter and community reformer

#### IAA Golden Compass Award

- Srinivasan K. Swamy, CMD of integrated marketing services company RK Swami Ltd. has been presented with IAA Golden Compass Award at the 45th IAA World Congress held in Penang, Malaysia.
- IAA – International Advertising Association.
- The award honours those who have significantly contributed to the world stage in the field of marketing, advertising and media.
- This is the first time this award is being bestowed upon an Indian industry leader.

#### 2024 Pritzker Architecture Prize

- Riken Yamamoto of Japan declared winner of the 2024 Pritzker Architecture Prize.

- The award that is regarded internationally as one of architecture's top honors
- Yamamoto, is the 53rd Pritzker Architecture Prize laureate and the ninth from Japan, was honoured for his buildings that aim to foster community.

#### 2024 Abel Prize

- Michel Talagrand Awarded the 2024 Abel Prize
- The Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters has decided to award the Abel Prize for 2024 to Michel Talagrand of the French National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS), Paris, France.
- For his groundbreaking contributions to probability theory and functional analysis, with outstanding applications in mathematical physics and statistics.
- The Abel Prize recognises pioneering scientific achievements in mathematics.
- The Abel Prize is named after Niels Henrik Abel, Norway's greatest mathematician throughout the times.

#### Erasmus Prize 2024

- Indian Writer Amitav Ghosh Awarded Prestigious Erasmus Prize 2024
- Indian author Amitav Ghosh has been awarded the prestigious Erasmus Prize 2024 by the Netherlands-based Praemium Erasmianum Foundation.
- For his significant contributions to the theme "imagining the unthinkable" through his writings on the climate crisis and human interactions with nature.
- He won the Padma Shri in 2007; 54th Jnanpith award in 2018 (India's highest literary honor).

#### Oscar Awards 2024

- Since 1929, the Oscars have recognized excellence in cinematic achievements.
- The 96th Academy Awards ceremony, which was presented by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (AMPAS), took place on March 10, 2024, at the Dolby Theatre in Hollywood, Los Angeles, US.
- Academy Awards 2024 were presented in 23 categories honoring films released in 2023.
- Jimmy Kimmel - was the host for the fourth time.
- Best Actor: Cillian Murphy for his role in "Oppenheimer."
- Best Actress: Emma Stone for her performance in "Poor Things."
- Best Supporting Actor: Robert Downey Jr. for "Oppenheimer."
- Best Supporting Actress: Da'Vine Joy Randolph for "The Holdovers."
- Best Director: Christopher Nolan for "Oppenheimer."

- Best Original Screenplay: Justine Triet and Arthur Harari for "Anatomy of a Fall."
- Best Movie: Oppenheimer.

#### 58th Jnanpith Awards

- 58th Jnanpith Awards: Jagadguru Swami Rambhadracharya, Gulzar winners for 2023
- The Jnanpith award for 2023 is conferred to distinguished writers from two languages: Sanskrit scholar Jagadguru Rambhadracharya and renowned Urdu writer Shri Gulzar.
- In the previous year, the prestigious award was conferred upon Damodar Mauzo.
- This is the 58th edition of the Jnanpith Award given annually for outstanding contributions to Indian literature since 1965.
- It is presented by the Bharatiya Jnanpith, which was established in 1944.
- The prestigious award includes a cash prize of Rs 11 lakh, a statue of Vagdevi, and a citation.
- This is given only to Indian writers who write in Indian languages and English.

#### National Creators Award

- Government of India Announces the Inaugural Edition of the National Creators Award
- To celebrate India's digital innovators and content creators for their impactful contributions to India's digital landscape.
- The award recognizes exceptional creativity and innovation across 20+ categories

Award Category	Award Category
'Green Champion' category	'Green Champion' category
'Best Storyteller'	'Best Storyteller'
'Cultural Ambassador of the Year award'	'Cultural Ambassador of the Year award'
'Best Creator in Tech Category'	'Best Creator in Tech Category'
'Favorite Travel Creator'	'Favorite Travel Creator'
Disruptor of the Year .	Disruptor of the Year .
Best Health and Fitness Creator Award	Best Health and Fitness Creator Award
Best Creator for Social Change Award	Best Creator for Social Change Award
Best Creator in Food Category Award	Best Creator in Food Category Award
Most Creative Creator-Male Award	Most Creative Creator-Male Award

Most Creative Creator (Female) Award	Most Creative Creator (Female) Award
Best Micro Creator Award	Best Micro Creator Award
Best Creator in Gaming Category Award	Best Creator in Gaming Category Award
Best Creator in Education Category Award	Best Creator in Education Category Award
Heritage Fashion Icon Award	Heritage Fashion Icon Award
Swachhta Ambassador Award	Swachhta Ambassador Award
Celebrity Creator Award	Celebrity Creator Award
Best International Creator Award	Best International Creator Award

### Water Digest World Water Awards

- Water Digest World Water Awards 2023-24 Recognises Excellence in Water
- The Water Digest World Water Awards 2023-24 is a global event that recognizes excellence in water management, held in partnership with UNESCO.
- The awards were presented by Union minister of Jal Shakti Gajendra Singh Shekhawat in Delhi.
- The Awards were supported by the Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
- The 2023-24 winners include:
  - ❖ Noida Authority: Won in the “best STP” (sewage treatment plant) and “water reuse” categories
  - ❖ Tata Steel’s Ferro Alloys and Minerals Division (FAMD): Won in the “Excellence in Digitalisation” category

### Sunil Bharti Mittal

- Sunil Bharti Mittal becomes first Indian citizen to be conferred an honorary Knighthood by Britain’s King Charles III.
- An honorary Knighthood is one of the highest honours granted by the British Sovereign to civilians, conferred upon foreign nationals in recognition of their exceptional contributions.

### Shashi Tharoor

- Shashi Tharoor conferred France’s highest civilian honour
- France’s highest civilian honour - “Chevalier de la Legion d’honneur” (Knight of the Legion of Honour).
- in recognition of Dr Tharoor’s tireless efforts to deepen Indo-French ties, commitment to international peace and cooperation, and as a long-standing friend of France.

### Pankaj Kumar Chatterjee

- Pankaj Kumar Chatterjee wins Romain Rolland Book Prize 2024 for Bengali translation
- Pankaj Kumar Chatterjee has won the 7th edition of the Romain Rolland Book Prize.
- For his Bengali translation of the French novel Stalin’s Couch.
- The French original, Le Divan de Staline, was written by Jean-Daniel Baltassat
- Instituted in 2017 by the French Institute in India, it recognises translations of French books into Indian languages, including English.

### South Indian Bank

- South Indian Bank gets Best Technology Bank of the year award at the 19th IBA Annual Banking Technology Conference, Expo, & Citations in Mumbai.
- The bank’s outstanding performance was recognised with a total of six prestigious awards.
- The awards were presented by T Rabi Sankar, Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India, in Mumbai.

### GovTech Prize at World Government Summit

- The 2024 World Government Summit took place from February 12–14, 2024 in Dubai.
- India won 9th GovTech Prize at the 2024 World Government Summit in Dubai for its “AI- Powered Government Services” category
- The award recognizes the remarkable efforts of the Ministry for Road Transport & Highways for its iRASTE project, which uses AI technology to improve road safety to prevent accidents.
- The GovTech Prize is an annual award established by the UAE government to recognize government bodies for their innovative solutions and its impact.

iRASTE: Intelligent Solutions for Road Safety through Technology and Engineering.

- **AI Approach:** Predicts road risks and alerts drivers via ADAS.
- **Objective:** Reduce road accidents.
- **Key Actions:**
  - ❖ Identify and alert potential accident scenarios.
  - ❖ Detect ‘greyspots’ to prevent them from becoming blackspots.
  - ❖ Continuous road monitoring and engineering fixes for preventive maintenance and improved infrastructure.

### Grammys 2024

- Best Global Music Album award - Shankar Mahadevan, Zakir Hussain’s group ‘Shakti’



- The 66th Annual Grammy Awards took place in Los Angeles, California.
- **Shakti**, a fusion music group comprising tabla maestro Zakir Hussain and singer Shankar Mahadevan, has won the 2024 Grammy Award for best global music album for 'This Moment'
- Hussain won two more Grammys at the event: one for best global music performance for 'Pashto' and the other for best contemporary instrumental album for 'As We Speak' – along with Flutist Rakesh Chaurasia.

Category	Winner
Song of the Year	Billie Eilish – What Was I Made For? from Barbie
Album of the Year	Taylor Swift – Midnights (first person to win this category four times)
Record of the Year	Miley Cyrus – 'Flowers'
Best Global Music Album	Indian musicians Shankar Mahadevan and Zakir Hussain's fusion band 'Shakti'
Best Contemporary Instrumental Album	As We Speak by Béla Fleck, Zakir Hussain, Edgar Meyer featuring Rakesh Chaurasia
Best Global Music Performance	"Pashto," Béla Fleck, Edgar Meyer and Zakir Hussain featuring Rakesh Chaurasia

### 77th British Academy Film Awards (BAFTAs) 2024

- The British Academy of Film and Television Arts, more commonly known as the BAFTAs
- were held on 18 February 2024, honouring the best national and foreign films of 2023.
- Oppenheimer won seven BAFTAs
- Poor Things won five BAFTAs

Award	Winner
Best film	Oppenheimer
Director	Oppenheimer - Christopher Nolan
Leading actress	Emma Stone - Poor Things
Leading actor	Cillian Murphy - Oppenheimer
Outstanding British film	The Zone of Interest
Documentary	20 Days In Mariupol

### 2023 Wildlife Photographer of the Year People's Choice Award.

- Nima Sarikhani bags 'Wildlife Photographer of the Year' People's Choice Award
- An image of a polar bear sleeping on a small iceberg has bagged the 2023 Wildlife Photographer of the Year

### People's Choice Award.

- Picture called the 'Ice Bed'
- Each year, this photography competition is organised by the Natural History Museum.

### 81st Golden Globe Awards

- Best Motion Picture, Drama: **Oppenheimer**
- Best Director: **Christopher Nolan** for **Oppenheimer**
- Best Actor – **Cillian Murphy** for **Oppenheimer**
- Best Actress – **Lily Gladstone** for **Killers of the Flower Moon**
- Best supporting actor – **Robert Downey Jr.** for **Oppenheimer**
- In the television categories, 'Succession' series won the award for Best Drama.
- The Golden Globe Awards are annual awards that honor excellence in American and international film and television.
- The ceremony has been held since 1944
- It is considered the second most important award in the entertainment industry, after the Academy Awards and Emmy Awards

### EMMY Awards 2024

- The 75th Primetime Emmy Awards were held at the Peacock Theater in Los Angeles.
- Category Winner(s)

Drama Series	Succession
Comedy Series	The Bear
Limited or Anthology Series	Beef
Reality Competition Program	The Amazing Race
Talk Series	The Daily Show with Trevor Noah

### 69th Filmfare Awards 2024

- Took place in Gandhinagar, Gujarat

Category	Winner
Best Film	12th Fail
Best Director	Vidhu Vinod Chopra (12th Fail)
Best Actor in a Leading Role(Male)	Ranbir Kapoor (Animal) (Director - Sandeep Reddy Vanga)
Best Actor in a Leading Role (Female)	Alia Bhatt (Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani) (Director - Karan Johar)
Lifetime Achievement Award	David Dhawan

### National Sports & Adventure Awards 2023

- President **Droupadi Murmu** presented **National Sports & Adventure Awards 2023** At **Rashtrapati Bhawan**.
- The **National Sports** awards are the **highest sporting honours in India**
- The awards are administered by the **Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports**
- 6 categories of National Sports Awards:
  - ❖ **Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award 2023**
  - ❖ Arjuna Award 2023
  - ❖ Dronacharya Award 2023
  - ❖ Major Dhyan Chand Award 2023
  - ❖ Maulana Abul Kalam Azad rolling Trophy (MAKA Trophy) 2023
  - ❖ Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award 2022
  - ❖ Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puraskar 2023

#### 1. Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award 2023

- ❖ The award is given for **outstanding performances in sports spanning over a period of four years**

S. No.	Name of the sportsperson Discipline
1. Chirag Chandrashekhhar Shetty	Badminton
2. Rankireddy Satwik Sai Raj	Badminton

- ❖ It is **India's highest sporting honour**, established in **1991-92**.

#### 2. Arjuna Award

- ❖ Instituted in **1961**.
- ❖ It is awarded for **consistent good performance** over a period of **four years**.
- ❖ **26 Sports persons** received **Arjuna Award for 2023**

Arjuna Award Winner	Sports
Ojas Pravin Deotale	Archery
Parul Chaudhary	Athletics
Aditi Gopichand Swami	Archery
Mohammad Hussamuddin	Boxing
R Vaishali	chess
Mohammed Shami	Cricket
Anush Agarwalla	Equestrian
Divyakriti Singh	Equestrian Dressage
Diksha Dagar	Golf
Krishan Bahadur Pathak	Hockey

Sushila Chanu	Hockey
Pawan Kumar	Kabaddi
Ritu Negi	Kabaddi
Nasreen	Kho-Kho
Pinki	Lawn Bowls
Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar	Shooting
Esha Singh	Shooting
Harinder Pal Singh Sandhu	Squash
Ayhika Mukherjee	Table Tennis
Sunil Kumar	Wrestling
Antim Panghal	Wrestling
Naorem Roshibina Devi	Wushu
Sheetal Devi	Para Archery
Illuri Ajay Kumar Reddy	Blind Cricket
Prachi Yadav	Para Canoeing
Murali Sreeshankar	Athletics

#### 3. Dronacharya Award

- ❖ Instituted in **1985**, is **India's highest sports honour for coaches**.
- ❖ **Regular Category (5):**

Name of the Coach	Discipline
Shri Lalit Kumar	Wrestling
Shri R. B. Ramesh	Chess
Shri Mahaveer Prasad Saini	Para Athletics
Shri Shivendra Singh	Hockey
Shri Ganesh Prabhakar Devrukhkar	Mallakhamb

- ❖ **Lifetime Category (3):**

S.No.	Name of the Coach Discipline
1. Shri Jaskirat Singh Grewal	Golf
2. Shri Bhaskaran E	Kabaddi
3. Shri Jayanta Kumar Pushilal	Table Tennis

#### 4. Major Dhyan Chand Award 2023

- ❖ Since **2000** **India's highest honour for lifetime achievements in sports**.

S. No.	Name of the sportsperson Discipline
1. Ms Manjusha Kanwar	Badminton
2. Shri Vineet Kumar Sharma	Hockey
3. Ms Kavitha Selvaraj	Kabaddi

**5. Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Trophy (MAKA)**

- ❖ The oldest National Sports Award in India.
- ❖ Instituted in 1956–1957.
- ❖ It is given to an institution or university for top performance in inter-university tournaments over the last one year

1. Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar	Overall winner university
2. Lovely Professional University, Punjab	1st runner up University
3. Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra	2nd runner up University

**6. Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award 2022**

- ❖ National Adventure Awards now known as the Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award.
- ❖ First presented for the year 1994 in 1995.

Late Savita Kanswal	Land Adventure
Tulsi Chaitanya Mothukuri	Water adventure
Anshu Kumar Tiwari	Air Adventure
Praveen Singh	Lifetime

**7. Khel Protsahan Puraskar**

- ❖ Since 2009.
- ❖ Awarded to organisations or corporates (both private and public) and individuals for playing a role in the area of sports promotion and development over the last three years

S. No	Category	Entity Awarded
1	Identification and nurturing of budding / young talent	Jain Deemed to be University, Bengaluru
2	Encouragement to sports through Corporate Social Responsibility	Odisha Mining Corporate Limited

**Bisathi Bharat**

- Bisathi Bharat from Anantapur District (AP) selected for National Youth Award 2024
- National Youth Award (NYA) conferred every year by Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports for individuals and voluntary organizations serving in the arena of youth development.
- The award will be presented at Nashik, Maharashtra, during the 27th National Youth Day to be observed on January 12, commemorating the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda.

**M S Swaminathan Award**

- Professor B R Kamboj, Receives Prestigious M S Swaminathan Award
- in recognition of his contributions as a scientist in the field

of agronomy.

- Prof. B.R. Kamboj - Vice Chancellor of Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University.
- The award ceremony took place at the International Conference on 'One Health One World,' held at Rajmata Vijayaraje Scindia Agricultural University at Gwalior in Madhya Pradesh.

**Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar-2024**

- 60 Parachute Field Hospital, Uttar Pradesh selected for 'Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar-2024'
- Government of India has instituted Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar to recognize and honour invaluable contribution and selfless service rendered by individuals and organizations in the field of disaster management.
- For the year 2024, 60 Parachute Field Hospital, Uttar Pradesh, in the Institutional category, has been selected for the Subhash Chandra Bose Prabandhan Puraskar-2024 for its excellent work in Disaster Management.
- The award is announced every year on 23rd January, the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose.
- Institutional Category - cash prize of Rs. 51 lakh and a certificate
- Individual category - Rs. 5 lakh and a certificate

**FIFA Football Awards 2023**

1. Argentina's Lionel Messi the Best Men's Player award.
2. Aitana Bonmati was named FIFA's best women's football player
3. Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola was named best men's coach
4. England coach Sarina Wiegman took the women's prize.

**First Divyang Sports Awards**

- Javelin thrower Sumit Antil and archer Sheetal Devi won the prestigious Best Male and Best Female Athlete awards at the first Divyang Sports Awards.
- The 1st Divyang Sports Awards has been instituted for the first time in the country exclusively for Divyang athletes.
- India's first Paralympic gold medalist and freestyle swimmer Muralikant Petkar, who won gold at the 1972 Paralympics, was also honoured with the Lifetime Achievement Award.
- Renowned para-badminton coach Gaurav Khanna - best coach award.
- Gaurav Khanna Excellia Badminton Academy also won the Best Academy Award.
- Major Dhyanchand Team of the Year Award: The Indian Blind Chess team



### Tshering Tashi

- Bhutanese author Tshering Tashi conferred with Sahitya Akademi's Premchand Fellowship
- The 'Premchand Fellowship' is named after popular Hindi writer Munshi Premchand and was instituted by the Sahitya Akademi in 2005 on his 125th Birth Anniversary

### Pushpa Bharati

- Noted Hindi Writer Pushpa Bharati To Receive 33rd Vyas Samman
- Pushpa Bharati's 2016 memoir, Yaadein, Yaadein aur Yaadein, has been selected for the 33rd Vyas Samman, 2023.
- The award was instituted by the KK Birla Foundation in 1991.
- It is given annually to an outstanding work of Hindi literature by an Indian citizen published in the last 10 years.
- It carries a cash prize of Rs.4 lakh, a citation and a plaque
- Besides the Vyas Samman, the KK Birla Foundation has also instituted Saraswati Samman and Bihari Puraskar.

### Mr L P Hemanth K Srinivasulu

- Mr L P Hemanth K Srinivasulu Receives 'Man Of The Year 2023' Award From Home Minister Shri Amit Shah
- Mr. L.P. Hemanth K. Srinivasulu, the newly appointed Director of the Latin America and Caribbean Trade Council
- Mr. Hemanth's outstanding contributions to trade diplomacy and global economic relations.

### Armed Forces Medical College Pune

- President Droupadi Murmu presents President's Colour to Armed Forces Medical College Pune
- Reason: commendable work in providing medical services in the country and abroad in its glorious history of 75 years.
- Known as the 'Rashtrapati Ka Nishan', this flag is the highest honor given to a military unit.

### Arshia Sattar

- Renowned author and translator Arshia Sattar honored with the Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters by the French government.
- Notable among her works are translations of epics like the Ramayana and the Mahabharata, as well as tales from Kathasaritsagara.
- "The Mahabharata for Children" earning her the Sahitya Akademi Prize for Children's Literature in 2022.

### Jay Shah

- Jay Shah Honoured With Sports Business Leader Of The Year Award
- organized by Confederation of Indian Industry.
- Jay Shah - Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) Secretary & President of the Asian Cricket Council.
- Jay Shah is the first person in the Indian sports administration to receive this honour.
- Sports Franchise of the Year Award: Royal Challenger Bangalore (RCB) .
- Best states promoting sports: Tamil Nadu

### Indira Gandhi Peace Prize

- Activist Ali Abu Awwad and pianist Daniel Barenboim win Indira Gandhi Peace Prize .
- for their efforts in bringing together the youth and peoples of Israel and the Arab World for a non-violent resolution of the Israel-Palestine conflict.
- The International Jury of the Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development chaired by former Chief Justice of India T.S. Thakur.
- Established: 1986

### Ban Ki-moon

- Ex-UN Secretary-General Gen Ban Ki-moon gets Power of One Award 2023
- Lifetime Achievement Award at the Power of One Award 2023 ceremony, organised by the Diwali Foundation USA.
- The awards are granted to selfless individuals for their help to form a peaceful and secure world for all.
- They are hailed as the 'Oscars of diplomacy'.

### Nikhil Dey

- Nikhil Dey Named 'Global Anti-Corruption Champion' By US

### Dr. Poonam Khetrapal Singh

- Bhutan's top honor for former Punjab Cadre IAS Officer Dr Khetrapal
- Dr. Poonam Khetrapal Singh, the Regional Director of the World Health Organisation (WHO) South-East Asia, has been honored with Bhutan's National Order of Merit (NOM) Gold Medal.
- Bhutan King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuk

### Leif Erikson Lunar Prize

- ISRO's Chandrayaan-3 Moon Mission Earns Leif Erikson Lunar Prize
- Indian Ambassador Balasubramanian Shyam received this

prestigious award on behalf of ISRO.

#### About Leif Erikson Lunar Prize:

- Establishment – **2015**
- The Leif Erikson Lunar Prize is provided by the **Investigation Museum to celebrate extraordinary achievements in lunar exploration.**
- This award is given every year.

#### The Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development, 2022

- **Awarded to:** Indian Medical Association and Trained Nurses Association of India.
- **Reason:** For their outstanding duty and devotion in serving Covid-19 patients
- **Prize:** Given annually by the Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust since 1986.
- **Components:** Cash award of Rs. 25 lakh and a citation.

#### Madhuri Dixit

- Legendary actress was honoured with the ‘**Special Recognition for Contribution to Bharatiya Cinema**’ award at the **54th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) in Panaji, Goa.**

#### 2023 Booker Prize

- won by 46-year-old Irish writer **Paul Lynch** for his novel ‘**Prophet Song**’.
- The storyline of the novel is set in a future Ireland under oppressive rule and explores the impact of civil war on families.
- The Booker Prize is awarded to the **best novel of fiction written in English and published in the UK or Ireland.**
- It carries a cash prize of **50,000 British Pounds.**

#### Miss Universe 2023

- **Sheynnis Palacios**, beauty queen from Nicaragua was crowned Miss Universe on November 19 at San Salvador in El Salvador.

#### Miss International 2023

- Won by **Andrea Rubio** of Venezuela on Oct 26 in Tokyo, Japan.

#### 2023 SASTRA Ramanujan Prize

- Mathematician **Ruixiang Zhang** (from China), an Assistant Professor at the University of California, Berkeley, USA, has been selected as the recipient of this prestigious prize.
- The prize includes a cash award of **\$10,000.**
- It is given by the SASTRA university in Tamil Nadu in the honour of a legendary mathematician, Srinivasa

**Ramanujan** who died at the very young age of just **32 years.**

- It is given annually to a young mathematician below the age of 32 years for his outstanding contributions to the field of mathematics.

#### NOBEL PRIZE 2023

##### 1. Nobel Prize for Medicine 2023

- ❖ **Awarded to:** **Katalin Karikó** and **Drew Weissman.**
- ❖ **Contribution:** Enabled creation of mRNA vaccines against Covid-19.
- ❖ **Announced by:** Nobel Assembly at Karolinska Institute, Stockholm.

##### 2. Nobel Prize in Physics 2023

- ❖ **Awarded to:** **Pierre Agostini, Ferenc Krausz, and Anne L’Huillier.**
- ❖ **Contribution:** Developed experimental methods to generate **attosecond light pulses for studying electron dynamics in matter.**
- ❖ **Impact:** Provided new tools for exploring electrons inside atoms and molecules.
- ❖ **Announcement:** Made by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, Stockholm.

##### 3. Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2023

- ❖ **Awarded to:** **Moungi G Bawendi, Louis E Brus, and Alexei Ekimov.**
- ❖ **Contribution:** Discovery and synthesis of **quantum dots.**
- ❖ **Quantum Dots:** Tiny nanoparticles with size-determined properties.
- ❖ **Impact:** Enhanced **QLED televisions and LED lamps** by creating vibrant colors.
- ❖ **Announcement:** by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, Stockholm.

##### 4. Nobel Prize in Literature 2023

- ❖ **Awarded to:** Norwegian author **Jon Fosse.**
- ❖ **Contribution:** Innovative plays and prose that give voice to the unsayable.
- ❖ **Theme:** Human condition, across various genres.
- ❖ **Announcement:** Made by the Swedish Academy, Stockholm.
- ❖ **Academy’s Note:** Fosse’s works present everyday situations that are instantly recognizable in people’s lives.

##### 5. Nobel Prize in Peace 2023:

- ❖ Awarded to **Narges Mohammadi.**
- ❖ **Reason:** For fighting against the discriminatory policies of Iran’s theocratic regime towards women.
- ❖ **Recognition:** Also acknowledges the 2022

demonstrations by hundreds of thousands of Iranians against women's oppression.

- ❖ **Fight for Freedom:** Known for her struggle against the mistreatment of Iranian women.

- ❖ **She is Still in jail.**

#### 6. Nobel prize in Economics 2023

- ❖ **2023 Nobel Prize in Economics:** Awarded to Claudia Goldin.
- ❖ **Contribution:** Research on women's employment and pay, uncovering key drivers behind the gender pay gap.
- ❖ **Announcement:** Made on Oct 09 by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, Stockholm.
- ❖ **Notable Fact:** Third woman to receive the prize, first to win it solo.
- ❖ **Current Role:** Teaches labor market history at Harvard University, USA.

#### Nobel Prizes static Information:

- **Established:** 1901
- **Founder:** Alfred Nobel, inventor of dynamite
- **Fields:** Physics, Chemistry, Medicine (Physiology), Literature, Peace, and Economic Sciences

#### Awarding Institutions

- **Physics, Chemistry, Economic Sciences:** Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences
- **Medicine:** Nobel Assembly at Karolinska Institute
- **Literature:** Swedish Academy
- **Peace:** Norwegian Nobel Committee

#### Notable Indian Nobel Laureates

- **Rabindranath Tagore:** Literature, 1913
- **C. V. Raman:** Physics, 1930
- **Mother Teresa:** Peace, 1979
- **Amartya Sen:** Economic Sciences, 1998
- **Kailash Satyarthi:** Peace, 2014

#### Key Facts:

- **First Nobel Prize:** Awarded in 1901
- **Prize Components:** Medal, diploma, and a cash award
- **Cash Award:** Varies each year, funded by the Nobel Foundation
- **First Indian Nobel Laureate:** Rabindranath Tagore
- **First Woman Nobel Laureate:** Marie Curie (Physics, 1903; Chemistry, 1911)
- **Only Person to Win Nobel Prizes in Two Different Sciences:** Marie Curie
- **Youngest Nobel Laureate:** Malala Yousafzai (Peace, 2014)

#### Sakharov Prize

- **Posthumous Award:** Given to Kurdish Iranian woman Jina Mahsa Amini.
- **Slogan:** "Woman, Life, and Freedom" against the Iranian government.
- **Incident:** Arrested by Iran's morality police in September 2022 for hijab non-compliance; died in custody.
- **Impact:** Sparked nationwide protests against Tehran's regime.
- **Award:** Annually by the European Union Parliament for defending freedom of thought and human rights.
- **Prize:** Includes a cash award of €50,000.

#### Dadasaheb Phalke Lifetime Achievement Award

- **Waheeda Rehman:** Honored with the Dadasaheb Phalke Award for 2021.
- **Career Highlights:** Starred in films like **CID**, **Pyasa**, **Guide**, **Prem Pujari**, and **Reshma Aur Shera**.
- **Filmography:** Appeared in over 90 films over five decades.
- **Honors:** **National Film Award**, three Filmfare Awards, Padma Shri (1972), Padma Bhushan (2011).
- **Dadasaheb Phalke Award:** Highest recognition in Indian cinema, includes Swarn Kamal, a shawl, and Rs.10 lakh.

#### Dadasaheb Phalke Award Overview

- **Highest Cinema Award in India:** Recognizes outstanding contributions to Indian cinema.
- **Presented Annually:** At the National Film Awards ceremony by the Directorate of Film Festivals, **Ministry of Information and Broadcasting**.
- **Components:** **Swarna Kamal** (Golden Lotus) medallion, a shawl, and a cash prize of **Rs.10 lakh**.
- **Established:** In **1969** to honor **Dadasaheb Phalke**, the "father of Indian cinema."
- **First Recipient:** Actress **Devika Rani**, known as "the first lady of Indian cinema."

#### Norman E Borlaug Award for Field Research and Application:

- **Dr. Swati Nayak:** Indian scientist at **IRRI**, New Delhi.
- **2023 Award:** Recipient of the **Norman E. Borlaug Award** for Field Research and Application by the **World Food Prize Foundation**.
- **Contribution:** Innovative approach to engaging smallholder farmers in demand-driven rice seed systems.
- **Award Criteria:** Given to exceptional scientists under 40 in food and nutrition security, hunger eradication.
- **Instituted in Memory of:** Dr. Norman E. Borlaug, Nobel laureate and Green Revolution architect.



### 65th Ramon Magsaysay Award 2023

- **R. Ravi Kannan:** Surgical oncologist and Director of Cachar Cancer Hospital and Research Centre (CCHRC), Assam.
- **2023 Ramon Magsaysay Award:** Recognized for revolutionizing cancer treatment in Assam with people-centric and pro-poor healthcare.
- **Award Components:** Certificate, medallion, and \$50,000 cash prize.
- **Other Winners:** Korvi Rakshand (Bangladesh), Eugenio Lemos (Timor-Leste), Miriam Coronel-Ferrer (Philippines).
- **Award Significance:** Often called the 'Nobel Prize of Asia', presented in the Philippines.

### Indore bags Best Smart City spot at National Smart Cities Conclave

- After being ranked as the **cleanest city five times**, Indore has bagged the **top spot** for the 'Best Smart City' in India at the **National Smart Cities Conclave 2023**.
- Gujarat's Surat came in second, while Agra in Uttar Pradesh secured the **third position**.
- MP was adjudged the **Best State in the country**, followed by Tamil Nadu.
- Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh together bagged the **third position**.

### AIIMS New Delhi bags first prize for creation of ABHA ID tokens

- The Ayushman Bharat Digital Health Mission (ABDM) celebrated its **second anniversary** with the **institution of the Arogya Manthan platform**.
- The National Health Authority honoured AIIMS, New Delhi with an award for "**Top facility**" in generating the **highest number of ABHA Scan and Share tokens**.
- AIIMS, New Delhi has contributed significantly by generating **6 lakh scan and share tokens to date**.

### Government comes out with a new set of National Awards

- **Purpose:** Recognizes outstanding contributions in Science, Technology, and Innovation.
- **Categories:**
  - ❖ **Vigyan Ratna (VR):** Up to 3 awards for lifetime achievements.
  - ❖ **Vigyan Shri (VS):** Up to 25 awards for distinguished contributions.
  - ❖ **Vigyan Yuva: Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar (VY-SSB):** Up to 25 awards for young scientists.
  - ❖ **Vigyan Team (VT):** Up to 3 awards for exceptional team contributions.
- **Domains:** Physics, Chemistry, Biological Sciences,

Mathematics & Computer Science, Earth Science, Medicine, Engineering Sciences, Agricultural Science, Environmental Science, Technology & Innovation, Atomic Energy, Space Science and Technology, and Others.

- **Coordination:** By the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) under the Ministry of Science and Technology.
- **Announcement:** On National Technology Day (11th May).
- **Award Ceremony:** On National Space Day (23rd August).

### President confers National Teachers' Award for 2023 on 75 teachers

- President Droupadi Murmu conferred the **National Teachers' Award** for the year 2023 to **75 selected awardees in New Delhi**.
- The National Teachers' Award **now includes teachers of the Department of Higher Education and the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship**.
- **National Teachers' Day** is celebrated on **5th September**, the **birth anniversary of Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan**.

### Arjun Ram Meghwal awards winners of the 33rd National Youth Parliament

- Union Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs **Arjun Ram Meghwal** gave away the prizes to the winners of the **33rd National Youth Parliament Competition, 2022-23 in New Delhi**.
- **Kendriya Vidyalaya, Chhindwara, Madhya Pradesh** won the "**Nehru Running Shield**".
- **Zonal winner trophies** were awarded to **four Kendriya Vidyalayas** for standing **first at the Zonal Level** in the competition.

### 69th edition of the National Film Awards announced

- **Best Non Feature Film** Goes To '**Ek Tha Gaon**'
- **Sardar Udham** Wins Best Hindi Film
- **Best Film Critic** goes to **Purushothama Charyulu (Telugu)**
- '**The Kashmir Files**' wins **Nargis Dutt award**
- **Rocketry The Nambi Effect** Gets Best Film Award
- **Allu Arjun** Wins Best Actor For **Pushpa: The Rise - Part 1**
- **Alia Bhatt** and **Kriti Sanon** get Best Actress Award For **Gangubai Kathiawadi** and **Mimi** Respectively

### Maharashtra CM present Govt's first 'Udyog Ratna' award to Ratan Tata

- **Ratan Tata** was presented with the **first 'Udyog Ratna' award** by the **Maharashtra Govt** for his **outstanding work in the industry sector**.
- The award was presented by **CM Eknath Shinde**.
- **Adar Punawala of Serum Institute** was awarded the

‘Udyog Mitra’ award.

- Vilas Shinde received the ‘Best Marathi Entrepreneur’ award.
- Govt has also awarded ‘Maharashtra Udyog Puraskar’ to eminent entrepreneurs

### Jayesh Saini receives Global Leader Award 2023

- Jayesh Saini was awarded Global Leader Award 2023 for Healthcare Expansion in Africa.
- LifeCare Group, led by Jayesh Saini, has expanded healthcare services across East Africa with hospitals in five major parts of Kenya and plans for 10 more in different regions of Africa.
- The group aims to commission an advanced nursing training institute in 2024.

### PM Narendra Modi to be conferred with Lokmanya Tilak National Award

- Prime Minister will be honored with the Lokmanya Tilak award by Deepak Tilak, President of Tilak Smarak Mandir Trust.
- The Award was instituted in 1983 by the Tilak Smarak Mandir Trust and is given every year on 1<sup>st</sup> August, the death anniversary of Lokmanya Tilak, to persons who have made remarkable contributions, for development of the nation.

## HIMACHAL NEWS

### Tunnel Under Jakhu Hill

- The Himachal Pradesh government plans to **construct an 890-meter double-lane tunnel** under Jakhu Hill in Shimla.
- The purpose of this tunnel is to **alleviate traffic congestion in the area**.
- **Jakhu Hill**, situated at an altitude of **2,500 meters** above sea level, is the **highest point in Shimla** and a **popular tourist destination**.
- The hill is renowned for its panoramic views and is home to the famous Jakhoo Temple. This ancient temple is dedicated to Lord Hanuman, and it features a massive 108-foot-high idol of the deity.

### Restricted Area Permit (RAP) – in Himachal Pradesh

- A **Chinese national** was detained in **Kinnaur, Himachal Pradesh**, for **not carrying a Protected Area Permit**.
- He had **reached the village of Sumdo, near the India-China border**, **without obtaining the necessary permit**.
- Protected Area Permit (PAP) and Restricted Area Permit (RAP) in India:
- **Purpose of PAP:** The Ministry of Home Affairs issues the Protected Area Permit (PAP), which is essential for non-Indian citizens visiting specific areas in India. These areas primarily include regions in North East India.
- **Duration:** The permit is **valid for 10 days**, with an **option to extend it for an additional 7 days**.
- **Issuing Authorities:** Besides the **Ministry of Home Affairs**, various state authorities within **India and Indian missions abroad** can also issue the PAP.
- **Covered States:**
  - ❖ **Arunachal Pradesh:** The entire state falls under the PAP regime.
  - ❖ **Uttarakhand:** Certain parts of Uttarakhand are covered.
  - ❖ **Jammu & Kashmir:** Specific regions within Jammu & Kashmir.
  - ❖ **Manipur:** The entire state.
  - ❖ **Mizoram:** The entire state.
  - ❖ **Nagaland:** The entire state.
  - ❖ **Rajasthan:** Specific areas in Rajasthan.
  - ❖ **Sikkim:** Sikkim is partly covered under the Protected Area and partly under the Restricted Area.
  - ❖ **Himachal Pradesh:** Certain parts of Himachal Pradesh, including villages like Khab in Kinnaur, and Samdo, Dhankar, Dubling, Tabo, Gompa, Kaza, and Morang in Lahaul & Spiti.

### Durgesharanya Zoological Park in Kangra

- **Location:** The zoological park is situated in **Bankhandi**, within the **Dehra sub-division of Kangra district**.
- **Objective:** The park aims to **promote tourism and wildlife conservation**, positioning **Kangra as a premier tourist destination in the state**.
- **Phases:**
  - ❖ **Phase I:** Completion by **June 2025**. Visitors can **view tigers and lions** through **glass panes** in dedicated enclosures.
  - ❖ **Phases II and III:** Planned **bear and leopard safaris**, along with a section for snow leopards.
- **Larger Plan:** Part of the government's **initiative to establish Kangra as the tourism capital of the state**.
- **Project Details:** Spans **180 hectares**, executed in three phases over three years, with an estimated cost of **Rs 619 crore**.

### Minjar Fair

- The **International Minjar Fair**, which symbolizes the **blossoming of maize**, is scheduled to be held from **July 28 to August 1** this year in **Chamba district**.
- This fair is an **integral part of the rich cultural heritage** and aims to **enhance its splendor and inclusivity**.
- **Significance:** The fair commemorates the victory of the **Raja of Chamba** over the **ruler of Trigarta** (now known as **Kangra**) in **935 AD**.
- **Traditional Gesture:** Upon the victorious king's return, people greeted him with sheaves of paddy and maize as a gift, symbolizing prosperity and happiness.
- **Timing:** The Minjar Fair takes place on the **second Sunday of the Shravana month**.
- **Opening Ritual:** The weeklong fair begins with the hosting of the **Minjar flag at Chowgan**.

### MUKHYAMANTRI SUKH ASHRYA SCHEME.

- Under the **Mukhyamantri Sukh Ashrya Scheme**, recently, **14 orphans** have gained admission to reputed private schools

#### Mukhyamantri Sukh Ashrya Scheme:

- **Aim:** The scheme aims to **offer comprehensive assistance to orphans, disabled children, destitute women, and elderly individuals in the state**.
- **Funding:** The Himachal Pradesh government has **allocated Rs. 101.00 Crores** for this initiative. The funds will **support higher education and skill development training** for children and destitute women, ultimately aiding their settlement in life.
- **Launch Date:** The scheme was launched on **February 16, 2023**.



### Bulk drug park in Una

- The **Himachal government's decision** to establish a **bulk drug park in Una district** is commendable.
- **Location:** The bulk drug park spans **570 hectares in Una district**.
- **Project Cost:** The project is valued at Rs 1,923 crore.
- **Objectives:**
  - ❖ Boost drug manufacturing.
  - ❖ Generate revenue.
  - ❖ Create employment opportunities for local youth.
- **Facilities:**
  - ❖ 5 MLD effluent treatment plant.
  - ❖ Solid waste management facilities.
  - ❖ Solvent storage.
  - ❖ Advanced laboratories.
  - ❖ Emergency response centers.

#### Bulk drugs:

- Bulk drugs, also known as **active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs)**, are the **raw materials** used to **manufacture pharmaceutical products**.
- They are the **active components in medications** that **provide the therapeutic effect**.
- Bulk drugs can be:
  - ❖ **Chemical compounds** synthesized through chemical reactions
  - ❖ **Natural products** extracted from plants, animals, or microorganisms
  - ❖ **Biotechnological products** produced through fermentation or genetic engineering
- Examples of **bulk drugs** include:
  - ❖ **Antibiotics** like **penicillin** and **ciprofloxacin**
  - ❖ **Pain relievers** like **acetaminophen** and **ibuprofen**
  - ❖ **Antihistamines** like **diphenhydramine**
  - ❖ **Vitamins** like **vitamin C** and **vitamin B12**
- Bulk drugs are **typically sold in large quantities** to **pharmaceutical companies**, which then **formulate them into finished products** like **tablets, capsules, or injectables**.
- The **quality and purity of bulk drugs** are crucial, as they **directly impact the safety and efficacy of the final pharmaceutical product**.

### Horticulture Development Project (HDP)

- **Objective:** This **World Bank-aided project** was approved in **2016** with a **budget of Rs 1,000 crore**.
- **Focus Areas:**
  - ❖ **Building mandis (marketplaces)** to facilitate **better marketing and distribution**.

- ❖ **Enhancing cold storage facilities** for **preserving produce**
- ❖ **Importing quality planting material** to **support horticulturists in the state**.

#### HDP 2.0:

- **Focus:**
  - ❖ **Leveraging technology** to improve fruit production and productivity.
  - ❖ **Promoting organic farming practices**.
  - ❖ **Encouraging water-efficient farming methods**.
  - ❖ **Facilitating the transition** from traditional apple cultivation to high-density plantation techniques.

### Piplu Fair

- **Occasion:** The fair takes place during 'Nirjala Ekadashi' at the **Nar Singh temple** in **Piplu village**.
- **Devotees:** Thousands of devotees from **Una, Hamirpur, Kangra, and Bilaspur districts** gather to pay reverence to the **Nar Singh deity**.
- **Tradition:** Devotees offer a portion of their agricultural produce to seek blessings for good health, prosperity, and a bountiful harvest in the upcoming season.

#### Historical Perspective:

- Legend has it that a villager dreamt of an **idol of Nar Singh** buried in a **nearby forest**. He unearthed a stone idol and placed it under a dry peepal tree near his house, which miraculously came back to life.
- The villagers built a small temple and began worshipping the deity. The village was aptly named **Piplu**, after the local term for the peepal tree.

### Centre of Excellence" in Kandaghat

- **Current Context :** Himachal government plans to build **centre of excellence for differently-abled in Kandaghat, Solan**.

#### Project Details:

- **Location:** **Tikkari village, Kandaghat area, Solan district, Himachal Pradesh**.
- **Objective:** To establish a state-of-the-art facility for differently-abled students and adults up to age 27.
- **Capacity:** Catering to 300 students.
- **Facilities:**
  - ❖ **Quality education**.
  - ❖ **Comprehensive amenities**, including playgrounds.
  - ❖ **Residential accommodation**.
- **Collaboration:**
  - ❖ **Public Works Department (PWD)** for groundwork.
  - ❖ **Department of Social Justice and Empowerment** for research on appropriate courses.

- **Timeline:** Completion within two years.
- **Land Allocation:** 45-bigha government land plot.
- **Expert Involvement:**
  - ❖ Committee of experts from the **Composite Regional Centre, Sundernagar**.
  - ❖ Planned visit to the Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Multiple Disabilities in Chennai for best practices

### The Indira Gandhi Pyari Behna Sukh Samman Nidhi Yojana:

Recently, Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu released **Rs 3.27 crore** under the **Indira Gandhi Pyari Behna Sukh Samman Nidhi Yojana** to 7,280 women of Una district.

#### Scheme Details:

- **Objective:** To provide financial assistance to poor and helpless women in the state.
- **Eligibility:**
  - ❖ Women **aged between 18 to 59 years**.
  - ❖ Monthly assistance: **Rs.1500**.
- **Coverage:**
  - ❖ Aims to **cover over five lakh women**.
- **Purpose:**
  - ❖ Enables **women to live with dignity and manage small expenses independently**.

### Solar Power Project in Pekhubela, Una:

Recently, chief minister of Himachal inaugurated the **32 MW solar power project** in **Pekhubela, Una**.

#### Project Details:

- **Location:** **Pekhubela, Una district**, Himachal Pradesh.
- **Developer:** Himachal Pradesh Power Corporation Limited (HPPCL).
- **Solar Modules:**
  - ❖ **82,656 solar modules** installed.
  - ❖ Electricity transmitted via the **Rakkad-Tahliwal Transmission line**.
- **Project Area:**
  - ❖ Spread over **49 hectares**.
- **Electricity Production:**
  - ❖ **Generates 6.61 crore units** of electricity annually.
  - ❖ Revenue: **Rs.19.17 crore**.
- **Environmental Impact:**
  - ❖ **Reduces carbon emissions by 2,532 tonnes per year**.

### Shoolini Fair

Recently, Three-day state-level historic **Shoolini fair** is inaugurated by Health Minister in **Solan**.

#### Event Details:

- **Name:** Shoolini Fair.
- **Significance:**
  - ❖ Signifies faith and devotion in Goddess Shoolini.
  - ❖ Marks the sojourn of the ruling deity (Goddess Shoolini) at her elder sister Goddess Durga's temple in Ganj Bazaar.
- **Timing:**
  - ❖ Held in the month of June.
  - ❖ A three-day event.
- **Participants:**
  - ❖ Attracts thousands of tourists, pilgrims, traders, rural sports players, and others to Solan.
- **Ritual:**
  - ❖ Goddess Maa Shoolini halts at her sister's place for three days.
  - ❖ Returns to her own domicile afterward.
- **Celebration:**
  - ❖ The return journey of the Goddess to her own temple is celebrated on the last day of Shoolini Mela.

### The Mukhya Mantri Himachal Health Care Yojna (HIMCARE):

The state government of Himachal has proposed amendments in 'HIMCARE' scheme.

#### Scheme Details:

- **Objective:**
  - ❖ To provide **cashless treatment coverage to families in Himachal Pradesh**.
  - ❖ Specifically targets families not covered under the **Ayushman Bharat scheme**.
- **Launch Date:**
  - ❖ Launched on **1st January 2019**.
- **Coverage:**
  - ❖ Cashless treatment up to **Rs.5.00 lakh per year per family**.
  - ❖ Available in empanelled hospitals.
- **Purpose:**
  - ❖ Ensures access to **quality healthcare services without financial constraints**.

### The Renukaji Dam:

Government is planning to work on **Renukaji dam** in **Sirmaur** from 2025.

#### Project Details:

- **Planning:**
  - ❖ Originally planned in **1976**.

- Water Supply:
  - ❖ Expected to supply **500 million cubic meters** of water annually.
- Structure:
  - ❖ A **148-meter-high rock-fill dam**.
  - ❖ Located on the **Giri river at Dadahu** in **Sirmaur district**.
- National Importance:
  - ❖ Declared a Project of National Importance.
- Funding:
  - ❖ Cost shared by the Central Government and other beneficiary states (90:10 ratio).

### The 10-Megawatt Solar Power Project in Aghlor, Una

Chief minister **Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu** laid the foundation stone of **10-Megawatt** solar power project at **Aghlor in Kutlehar assembly constituency of Una district**.

#### Project Details:

- Location:
  - ❖ **Aghlor, Kutlehar assembly constituency, Una district, Himachal Pradesh.**
- Area:
  - ❖ Constructed on a **19-hectare site**.
- Timeline:
  - ❖ Completion within three months.
- Electricity Generation:
  - ❖ Produces **22.73 million units** of power annually.
  - ❖ Expected annual income: **Rs.8 crore**.
- Environmental Impact:
  - ❖ Reduces **791 tonnes of carbon emissions**.
- Context:
  - ❖ Second solar power project in Una district after the **32 MW Pekhubela project**.
- Hydrogen Production:
  - ❖ State government signed an agreement with Oil India Company for green hydrogen production.
  - ❖ Emphasis on harnessing solar energy.

### Atul Verma as the new DGP in Himachal Pradesh:

#### Appointment Details:

- **Name:** Atul Verma.
- Designation:
  - ❖ Director General of Police (DGP).
  - ❖ Replacing Sanjay Kundu upon his retirement.
- Background:
  - ❖ 1991-batch IPS officer.
- Current Posting:

- ❖ Director General of the Himachal Pradesh CID.

### Shoolini University Ranking

- Shoolini University's impressive rankings in the Times Higher Education (THE) Asia University rankings 2024:
- Overall Position:
  - ❖ Fifth overall in the country.
  - ❖ No. 1 among private universities.
- Key Parameters:
  - ❖ Topped in **international outlook**.
  - ❖ **Ranked second in research quality**.
  - ❖ Widely referred to as 'Himachal Nirmata' (the creator of Himachal) in Hindi.

### India's first-ever 'hybrid pitch' at the HPCA stadium in Dharamsala

- The unveiling of India's first-ever 'hybrid pitch' at the Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association (HPCA) stadium in Dharamsala:
- Composition:
  - ❖ Combines natural turf with synthetic fibres.
  - ❖ Contains **only 5% synthetic material**.
- Benefits:
  - ❖ Enhanced durability.
  - ❖ Consistent playability.
  - ❖ Reduces strain on ground staff.
  - ❖ Maintains quality playing conditions.
- Preservation:
  - ❖ Ensures natural characteristics essential for cricket are preserved.
- Innovation:
  - ❖ Developed using the 'Universal Machine' by SISGrass in 2017.
  - ❖ Similar pitches rolled out across England's county cricket grounds.

### The International Seminar on Maharishi Dayanand Saraswati:

Commemorating the 200th birth anniversary of Maharishi Dayanand Saraswati.

- **Venue:**
  - ❖ Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Shimla.
- **Key Points:**
  - ❖ Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla emphasized reassessing Indian culture in the modern world.
- **Maharishi Dayanand's social reforms:**
  - ❖ Abolition of the caste system.
  - ❖ Eradication of untouchability.



- ❖ Advocacy against child marriage and sati pratha.

- ❖ Residents of Anni and Nirmand seek a tunnel for **all-weather road connectivity**

### The Waste to Wonder Park initiative in Shimla:

Shimla Municipal Corporation (MC) is set to build a “**Waste to wonder park**” in the town to promoting the recycling of plastic waste and attracting tourists.

#### Project Details:

- **Objective:**
  - ❖ Promote **recycling and reuse of waste plastic materials.**
  - ❖ Attract **more tourists to the town.**
- **Materials Used:**
  - ❖ Plastic bottles.
  - ❖ Old tires.
  - ❖ Single-use plastic.
  - ❖ Other recyclable waste materials.

### United Nations Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award:

Major Radhika Sen has won the **United Nations Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award.**

- **Purpose:**
  - ❖ Recognizes efforts in promoting principles from the **2000 Security Council resolution.**
  - ❖ Focuses on **protecting women and girls from conflict-related sexual violence.**
  - ❖ Sets **gender-related responsibilities for the UN.**
- **Advocacy:**
  - ❖ Honored for **advocating for women and girls while serving as a peacekeeper.**
- **Previous Honoree:**
  - ❖ **Second Indian peacekeeper to receive this honor after Major Suman Gawani in 2019.**

### Jalori Pass and the demand for a tunnel:

The residents of **Anni and Nirmand** have been demanding construction of a **tunnel below Jalori Pass** to ensure **all-weather road connectivity.**

#### Jalori Pass:

- **Altitude:**
  - ❖ Located at **10,800 feet above sea level.**
- **Location:**
  - ❖ Between the districts of **Kullu and Shimla.**
- **Seasonal Access:**
  - ❖ Opens in the second week of March.
  - ❖ Closes in December due to heavy snowfall.
- **Demand:**

### Tek Chand Dogra

- Passed away at his native Chhatar village after a prolonged illness.
- Former MLA from the Nachan Assembly constituency in Mandi district.
- **Political Journey:**
  - ❖ Started in 1985 after voluntary retirement as a drawing teacher.
  - ❖ Contested his first election on the Congress ticket and reached the Assembly.
  - ❖ Elected MLA of the Nachan constituency four times.
  - ❖ Participated in seven Assembly elections from 1985 to 2012.
- **Affiliation:**
  - ❖ A staunch supporter of former Chief Minister Virbhadra Singh.

### The pulse polio drive in Kinnaur:

- **Duration:** Two days
- **Target Group:** **Children below the age of five**
- **Location:** **Regional Hospital, Reckong Peo**
- **Objective:** Administer polio vaccine to **4,600 children**
- **Booths:** **101 booths set up across the entire district.**
- **Chief Medical Officer's Role:** Dr. Sonam Negi provided campaign details to locals during the launch.

### The Chamba-Chowari Tunnel project

- **Objective:** Improve connectivity between Chowari town and Chamba district headquarters.
- **Feasibility Report:** Being prepared for a 7-km tunnel.
- **Estimated Cost:** Rs 1,500 crore.
- **Approval:** Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu approved Rs 4 crore for the project.

### Suhi Fair in Chamba:

- **Duration:** 3 days
- **Purpose:** Commemorates the sacrifice of Queen Sunayana
- **Participants:** Only women and kids
- **Opening Tradition:** Fair commences with singing of traditional “Ghureri” songs.

### Renukaji Dam Rehabilitation and Project Overview:

- **1,362 families** declared affected by the **Renukaji multipurpose dam project.**
- **95 families** declared homeless in the first phase.
- **Rehabilitation Sites:**

- Displaced families to receive houses constructed on acquired land in four villages:
  - ❖ Tokion
  - ❖ Sainwala
  - ❖ Amboa
  - ❖ Chakli
- **Renukaji Dam Sangharsh Samiti (RDSS)** unhappy with current sites, seeking relocation.
- Project Details:
  - ❖ Construction of a **148-meter high rock fill dam** on the **Giri River at Dadahu** in **Sirmaur district**.
  - ❖ Includes a powerhouse.
  - ❖ Estimated cost: **Rs 6,947 crore (2018)**.
  - ❖ Expected power generation: **40 MW during peak flow**.
  - ❖ Executed by Himachal Pradesh Power Corporation Ltd (HPPCL).
- **Foundation Stone:** Laid by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** in **2021**.
- Land Acquisition and Funding:
  - ❖ Land acquisition completed.
  - ❖ **Rs 2,800 crore** allocated for the project.
  - ❖ **Rs 1,000 crore** provided to affected families.
  - ❖ **Rs 635 crore** allocated to the **Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority**.

### Himalayan Expedition's Silk Route Ultra Trail fout

- Fourth edition
- **Location:** Narkanda
- 100-km Ultra-Trail Marathon:
- Winner: Rigzin Gyurmeth
- Completion time: **19 hours and 28 minutes**.
- Terrain: Explored, ancient, and untamed Silk Route from Narkanda to Sarahan
- **Other Categories:**
  - ❖ 55-km race winner: **Ankur Kumar**
  - ❖ 33-km race winner: **Stanzin Wangchuk**
  - ❖ 15-km race winner: **Milan Halder**

### Atul Verma Appointed as DG-CID in Himachal Pradesh:

- **Appointment:** IPS officer Atul Verma appointed as Director General of Himachal Pradesh CID.
- Background:
- Verma is a 1991-batch IPS officer.
  - ❖ Replaced Additional DGP Satwant Atwal Trivedi, who held an additional charge as DG-CID.

### Rebel congress legislators disqualified in Himachal Pradesh

- Vidhan Sabha Speaker **Kuldeep Pathania** disqualified six rebel Congress legislators from the membership of the Himachal Vidhan Sabha under the provision of the anti-defection law.
- The six MLAs who have been the disqualified are:
  - ❖ Sudhir Sharma (Dharamsala)
  - ❖ Rajinder Rana (Sujanpur)
  - ❖ Inder Dutt Lakhanpal (Barsar)
  - ❖ Ravi Thakur (Lahaul-Spiti)
  - ❖ Chaitanya Sharma (Gagret)
  - ❖ Davinder Bhutto (Kutlehar).
- It is **first-ever disqualification of any MLA** under the anti-defection law in the history of Himachal Pradesh.

### BRIEF OF ANTI DEFECTION LAW

- Found under the Tenth Schedule of the Indian Constitution.
- Enacted through the 52nd Amendment Act in 1985.
- Aims to prevent frequent floor-crossing by legislators.

### Disqualification Grounds:

- **Voluntary Membership Change:** An elected member voluntarily gives up their membership of a political party.
- **Contrary Voting:** An elected member votes or abstains from voting contrary to the direction of their political party without prior permission.
- **Independent Members Joining a Party:** An independently elected member joins a political party.
- **Nominated Members Joining a Party:** A nominated member joins a political party after six months of their nomination.
- **Decision Authority:**
  - ❖ Decisions on disqualification are made by the Chairman or the Speaker of the House.
  - ❖ Subject to judicial review.

### Shanan Power Project:

- Punjab's 99-year lease was about to end.
  - ❖ Centre ordered status quo to avoid disrupting the 110 MW power plant in Mandi, Himachal Pradesh.
- Project Details:
  - ❖ Initial capacity: **48 MW (increased to 110 MW over time)**.
  - ❖ Cost at inception: **Rs 2.50 crore**.
  - ❖ Current value: **Approximately Rs 1,600 crore**.
  - ❖ Construction year: **1925**.
  - ❖ Location: **Jogindernagar, 40 km from Palampur**.
  - ❖ Historical context: Lease executed between Raja

Joginder Sen and Col BC Batty.

➤ **Power Source:**

- ❖ Harnesses the Uhl River, a tributary of the Beas River.

**Indira Gandhi Pyari Behna Sukh Samman Nidhi Yojana**

➤ **Beneficiaries:**

- ❖ All women above 18 years of age in the State.
- ❖ Additional financial assistance: Rs.1,500 per month.

➤ **Financial Impact:** Annual burden on the State exchequer: Approximately Rs.800 crore.

➤ **Existing Provision:** Women in district Lahaul-Spiti and those aged above 60 years already receive Rs.1,500 per month under the same scheme since February 2024.

**Asian River Rafting Championship**

➤ **Location:** Sutlej River at Basantpur near Shimla, Himachal Pradesh.

➤ **Participants:**

- ❖ 20 national and international teams.
- ❖ Countries represented: Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Iran, Iraq, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, and Indonesia.

➤ **Significance:**

- ❖ International attention drawn to river rafting as a sport.
- ❖ Showcases Himachal Pradesh as a prime adventure tourism destination.

**Suhi Fair in Chamba**

➤ **District-Level Events:**

- ❖ Suhi fair and Saho Jatar declared as district-level events by the Chief Minister.
- ❖ Aims to support local artists, craftsmen, artisans, and self-help groups.

➤ **Fair Details:**

- ❖ Celebrated in April.
- ❖ Exclusive for women and children of Himachal Pradesh.
- ❖ Honors Rani Sunayana (Rani Suhi) for her water-related sacrifice in Chamba District.

**56 Lakh Voters in the State**

- A total of 56.38 lakh voters will cast their vote in the Lok Sabha elections for four seats and Assembly byelections for six segments (Dharamsala, Barsar, Lahaul-Spiti, Sunajpur, Gagret and Kutlehar) to be held simultaneously on June 1.
- There are 56,38,422 voters comprising 28,79,200 men, 27,59,187 women and 35 third gender.

- There will be 1,38,918 first-time voters (75,001 male and 63,916 female) in the 18 to 19 years' age group in these elections.
- The total number of voters with physical disability is 56,320, besides 60,995 voters above the age of 85 years.

**MISSION 414**

- The Election Commission (EC) of India has launched a special campaign in Himachal Pradesh to maximise voter turnout in 414 polling stations which registered less than 60% voting in the last Lok Sabha polls.
- Bypolls to six Assembly seats that fell vacant after disqualification of Congress MLAs would be held simultaneously with four Lok Sabha seats in Himachal Pradesh in the last phase on June 1.

**OTHER FACTS**

- As many as 7,990 polling stations, which are 267 more than the last Lok Sabha elections have been notified and 150 polling stations would be supervised exclusively by women election officers, 54 by youth and 29 by PwD (People with Disability).
- The expenditure limit of candidates for Lok Sabha polls would be Rs.95 lakh and Assembly bypolls Rs.40 lakh.
- Tashigang polling station in Lahaul and Spiti located at an altitude of 15,256 feet is the highest polling booth in the country.
- Manola polling station in Dalhousie of Chamba district has the maximum number of 1,410 voters, while Kaa polling station in Kinnaur district has the lowest of 16 voters.

**Kasauli Kund pollution and the NGT's actions**

- Mohan Meakin Private Limited's plant allegedly dumped effluents into Kasauli Kund, a natural water source in Solan, Himachal Pradesh.
- The water got polluted due to this alleged dumping.

**NGT's Actions:**

- The National Green Tribunal (NGT) formed a panel in January to inspect the water source, assess pollution levels, and recommend remedial measures.
- The credibility of the panel's report became doubtful, leading to the formation of a new joint committee in April.
- The joint committee includes representatives from the Central Pollution Control Board, Himachal Pradesh Pollution Control Board, and other relevant authorities.

**Recent Developments:**

- The joint committee failed to submit its report promptly.
- Instead, an action-taken report was submitted by the deputy commissioner of the district.
- The NGT expressed frustration, emphasizing that the delay in collecting samples compromised the accuracy of analysis.



reports.

- Rainfall after July 3 could have diluted the samples, affecting their reliability.

#### Concerns Raised:

- The NGT suspects local forces may be hindering the correct information from reaching the tribunal.
- The matter needs serious investigation by the member secretary of the Himachal Pradesh Pollution Control Board

#### New Wetlands in Himachal Pradesh

- **Rewalsar (Mandi):** Declared a “National Importance Wetland” by the environment ministry.
- **Khajjiar (Chamba):** Declared a “National Importance Wetland” by the environment ministry.

#### Existing Ramsar Sites:

- Pong Dam (Kangra)
- Renuka (Sirmaur)
- Chandrataal (Lahaul and Spiti)
- These are recognized as wetlands of international importance.

#### Music Maestro Som Dutt Battu

- Aged 86, **Som Dutt Battu** has been selected for the prestigious **Padma Shri Award**.
- He hails from **Shimla, Himachal Pradesh**.
- Among **110 awardees**, he is the sole representative from the state.

#### Musical Contributions:

- Known for his work in **Himachali folk music** and **classical music**.
- A **Hindustani classical vocalist** associated with the **Patiala Gharana**.
- Born on July 5, 1937, in **Jasur, Kangra district**.
- Resides in **Hori (Byoliya) village** in **Shimla**.

#### Awards and Honors:

- Previously received the ‘**Sangeet Natak Akademi Award**’ for contributions to **drama, dance, music, and singing**.
- Other accolades include the ‘**Himachal Gaurav**,’ ‘**Punjab Sangeet Ratna Award**,’ ‘**Life Time Achievement Award**,’ and the **Dr. Jaswant Singh Award**.

#### Colonel Sapna Rana

- First Woman from Himachal Pradesh to Command an Army Battalion
- Colonel Sapna Rana hails from Himachal Pradesh.
- She recently achieved the distinction of **commanding a battalion in the Indian Army**.

#### Rejuvenation of Seog Water Supply Scheme in Shimla

- The **Seog water supply scheme** is **150 years old**.
- It was originally laid by the British around **1875**.
- Notably, it was the **first water scheme in Shimla**.
- **Prominent Features:** A water line from this scheme once supplied water to the residence of the Viceroy of India.
- **Rejuvenation Efforts:**
- **Shimla Jal Prabandhan Nigam Limited (SJPNL)** is leading the rejuvenation efforts.
- The **Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH)** is involved due to the scheme’s historical and heritage value.

#### Adarsh Swasthya Sansthan in Himachal Pradesh

- The state government is establishing **Adarsh Swasthya Sansthan** in **all 68 Assembly constituencies**.
- **Each centre will have at least six specialist doctors**.
- **Facilities:**
  - ❖ These centres will offer **134 types of laboratory tests**.
  - ❖ **State-of-the-art facilities** include **MRI, CT scan, ultrasound, and digital X-ray**.
- **Addressing Staff Shortage:**
  - ❖ Recruitment of new medical officers and paramedical staff is underway.
  - ❖ Efforts to **improve working conditions and introduce fixed eight-hour shifts** for medical personnel.

#### Vanshika Parmar – Himachal Pradesh Tourism Ambassador

- **Vanshika Parmar**, **Miss Earth India 2022**, is the newly appointed **tourism ambassador for Himachal Pradesh**.
- She will represent the state internationally.
- Her mission is to showcase Himachal’s unexplored scenic beauty, landscapes, cultural heritage, and festivals.

#### Background:

- Born in **Tunhi village (Nadaun tehsil, Hamirpur district)**.
- Father, **SK Parmar**, serves in the **Indian Air Force**.
- Crowned **Miss Earth India 2022** at age 19.

#### Himachal Pradesh – Most Welcoming Region in India

- **Himachal Pradesh** secured the **top spot** in the category of ‘**Most Welcoming Region in India**.’
- It jumped from **5th place in 2023** to the **first position in 2024**.

#### Other Welcoming Regions:

- **Goa** ranked second.
- **Kerala, Rajasthan, and Uttarakhand** followed closely.

### Most Welcoming Indian Cities:

- Kerala's Mararikulam, known for serene backwaters, coconut trees, and peaceful beaches, topped the list.
- Rajasthan's desert city of Jaisalmer secured the second spot.

### Indira Gandhi Pyari Behna Samman Nidhi Yojana in Himachal Pradesh

- Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu launched the scheme in Lahaul and Spiti district.
- The scheme aims to provide financial support to women.

#### Beneficiaries:

- All women in Lahaul and Spiti aged between 18 and 60 years are eligible.
- In the first phase, Rs 1,500 per month will be paid to eligible women.

#### Expansion:

- Previously, 2.37 lakh women in the state received a pension of Rs 1,100.
- Now, 2.42 lakh women will receive an increased pension of Rs 1,500 per month.

### Hattee Community Granted Scheduled Tribe (ST) Status in Himachal Pradesh

- The Himachal Pradesh Government issued a notification granting ST status to the Hattee community.
- Approximately 1.6 lakh Hattees residing in 95 villages across four Assembly segments (Shillai, Renukaji, Pachhad, and Paonta Sahib) in Sirmaur district will benefit from this order.
- The SC community has not been included in this notification.

#### Implications:

- The Hattee community is now eligible for reservation in educational institutions and government jobs.
- Their demand for ST status dates back to 1967 when neighboring areas in Jaunsar Bawar (now in Uttarakhand) received similar benefits.

### Ritu Negi Receives Arjuna Award

- Ritu Negi, a Kabaddi player from Himachal Pradesh.
- Arjuna Award, a prestigious recognition for exceptional achievements in sports.

#### Significance:

- Acknowledges Negi's prowess in Kabaddi.
- Establishes her as a prominent athlete in India.

### Praveen Singh Lohia Receives Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award

Praveen Singh Lohia, a resident of Sar panchayat in Rakkar tehsil (Kangra district).

#### Achievements:

- Conquered more than 25 peaks, including Mount Everest and Mount Comet (twice).
- Serves as an ASI in the Border Security Force (BSF).

#### About the Award:

- The Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award recognizes excellence in promoting adventure sports.
- Named after Tenzing Norgay, one of the first two individuals to summit Mount Everest.

### HP Shiva Project for Subtropical Horticulture

The HP Shiva Project aims to enhance income for farm households in Himachal Pradesh's subtropical regions.

- Target: Growing cash crops (mango, guava, orange, and pomegranate) on 6000 hectares of agricultural land by 2028.
- Components:
  - ❖ Plantation of cash crops.
  - ❖ Development of irrigation facilities.
  - ❖ Implementation of fencing work.
- Coverage:
  - ❖ Seven districts: Bilaspur, Hamirpur, Kangra, Mandi, Solan, Sirmour, and Una.
  - ❖ Focus on climate-resilient horticulture and market access through value chain development.

### My School-My Pride

- The "My School-My Pride" campaign aims to revolutionize the quality of education in government schools.
- Aligned with the National Education Policy (NEP)-2020.

#### Key Aspects:

- Encourages active participation from individuals and organizations.
- Adoption of schools to contribute to students' growth.
- Involves career counseling, remedial teaching, coaching for exams, and community support services.

#### Monetary Contributions:

- Infrastructure development.
- Event sponsorship.
- Scholarships.
- Support for the Mid-Day Meal (MDM) program.

### Halda Festival in Lahaul and Spiti

- A festival of lights known as Diwali is celebrated all over

**India in October every year.**

- A similar type of festival is celebrated as **Khogla in Pattan valley** and **Halda in other valleys of Lahaul**.
- Halda Festival is a two-day celebration held in **Tinnan, Chandra, and Gahar valleys of Lahaul Spiti in Himachal Pradesh**.
- It takes place in **January or February** and signifies the **beginning of the agricultural year** after a long period of snow cover.
- The festival is dedicated to the '**Goddess of Wealth, Shashikar Apa**, in the **Lamaistic Pantheon**.
- The date is fixed by a Lama while in **Pattan valley** it is celebrated to **Magh Poornima coincide** with (full moon).
- **Pencil cedar branches** are cut into strips and are tied together into bundles to make a torch called **Halda** quite similar to **Hola** in upper regions of **Shimla district**.
- In the **evening halda** at each house are lit and brought together at one centre place.
- This is repeated four to five times, each time in honour of different deities.
- Along with honouring the deities, the **people of Gahar valley** curse the **Ranas of clans** hostile to their own.
- The people of **Keylong** curse the **Ranas of Goushal and Kardang**

### Himachal Pradesh Statehood Day

- The **54th statehood day** of **Himachal Pradesh** was celebrated.
- Occurred on **January 25, 1971**.
- Parliament passed the **State of Himachal Pradesh Act** on **December 18, 1970**.
- Himachal Pradesh became the 18th state of India.

### IIT Mandi Receives 'Green University' Award at COP28 UAE

#### Recognition:

- **IIT Mandi** was honored with the prestigious '**Green University**' award at **COP 28** in the **UAE**.
- The award acknowledges the **institute's commitment to sustainable practices and holistic environmental initiatives**.

#### Awarding Organization:

- **Green Mentors**, a **non-governmental organization** with **consultative status from the United Nations ECOSOC**, conferred the award.

### Chintpurni Temple Ropeway Project

- **Objective:** To enhance accessibility for devotees visiting the revered **Mata Chintpurni Temple**.
- **Estimated cost:** **INR 76.50 crore**.

- **Capacity:** The ropeway will ferry **700 pilgrims per hour** in each direction.
- **Spiritual Significance:** **Chintpurni temple** is recognized as one of the **Shakti Peeths**.
- **Tourism Boost:** The **1.1 km ropeway** will promote religious tourism in the state.

### Restoration of Chaurasi Pauris Monument

- The **Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH)** will restore the **84 Pauris (stairs)** in **Una town**.
- These **Pauris** are approximately **250 years old** and hold **historical significance** for **Una**.
- **Sikh Connection:** Linked with the descendants of **Guru Nanak Dev Ji** in **Sikh history**.
- **Symbolism:**
  - ❖ The **Chaurasi (84) Pauris** represent **mutual brotherhood**.
  - ❖ Symbolize the **84 'yonis'** for attaining **nirvana** in **Hindu mythology**.

### Shimla Ropeway Project

- Decongest the state capital (**Shimla**).
- Provide an **eco-friendly and affordable mode of public transportation**.

#### Project Details:

- **Cost:** **Rs 1,555 crore**.
- **Length:** **13.65 km**.
- **Stations:** **13 boarding and de-boarding stations**, plus one turning station.
- **Funding:** **New Development Bank (NDB)**.

#### Significance:

- **Second largest urban ropeway network globally** (after **La Paz, Bolivia**).
- **Aims to alleviate congestion** in **Shimla** for the next **40 years**.

### Pathron Ka Mela (Stone-Pelting Fair)

- Held annually in **Dhami, 30 km from Shimla**.
- Takes place **a day after Diwali**.
- Marked by **stone-pelting** between two groups of villagers.
- Residents of **Halog and Jamog** face off.
- Line up on either side of a circular structure.
- Pelt small stones at each other.
- Festival begins when the **priest of Narsingh Devta temple** walks to **Kali Devi temple** with **musicians**.
- **Continues until someone sustains minor injuries and bleeds**.
- **Blood is used to apply a "tilak"** on the **forehead of goddess Kali**



### The Renuka Ji fair in Sirmaur district

- Six-day international fair.
- Palanquin of Lord Parshuram and other deities brought from the ancient temple at Jamu Koti village.
- Religious ceremonies, including a dip in Renuka Lake.
- Signifies the union of Lord Parshuram with Goddess Renuka on Dashmi.
- Devprobdhini Ekadashi marks the traditional Renukaji fair.
- Held on the banks of Renuka Lake, attracting lakhs of devotees.

### Shimla-Kalka Railway Track Resumes After Repairs

- Train service has resumed completely after nearly three months on the UNESCO world heritage Shimla-Kalka railway line.
- The track was damaged at 20-25 points due to torrential rains in July and August 2023.

#### Track Details:

- Length: 96 km.
- Terrain: Tough hilly terrain.
- Tunnels: Originally 103 tunnels, now 102 due to the collapse of tunnel no. 46 four decades ago.
- Bridges: 800.
- Curves: 919.
- Altitude Gain: Approximately 1590 meters.
- Notable Engineering Feat: A marvel of engineering and a popular tourist attraction.

### Shifting of HP Wool Federation Office

- The HP Wool Federation office, currently in Palampur, will be shifted to Bharmour in Chamba district.
- The decision was made during a meeting of the Tribal Project Advisory Committee presided over by the Revenue Minister.

### Incentives for Single Girl Child Parents

- Parents of single girl children will receive an increased incentive of Rs 2 lakh.
- Previously, the incentive was Rs 35,000.
- Family Planning Adoption: Parents adopting family planning after the birth of one girl child will be eligible for the Rs 2 lakh incentive.
- Decision to Limit Family Size: Those choosing not to have another child after having two girls will receive Rs one lakh.

### District Good Governance Index (DGGI) Report 2022

#### Rankings and Prizes:

- Kangra district secured the first prize of Rs 50 lakh.
- Hamirpur district ranked second and received Rs 35 lakh.
- Lahaul and Spiti district stood third, winning Rs 25 lakh.
- Themes Covered: The DGGI report includes eight themes:
  - ❖ Essential infrastructure
  - ❖ Support to human development
  - ❖ Social protection
  - ❖ Women and children
  - ❖ Crime, law, and order
  - ❖ Environment
  - ❖ Transparency and accountability
  - ❖ Economic performance
- Focus Subjects and Variables:
  - ❖ Second tier: 19 focus subjects (e.g., power, water, education, health).
  - ❖ Third tier: 90 specific variables analyzed and integrated.

### Bhootnath Bridge Restoration

#### Bridge Details:

- Bhootnath bridge in Kullu.
- Built across the Beas river.
- 95-meter double-lane bridge.
- Constructed at a cost of Rs 10 crore.

#### Restoration Timeline:

- Closed for traffic since January 6, 2019.
- Recently restored for light vehicles after about four-and-a-half years.
- Developed cracks and inclined from the center within five years of its construction.

### New Eco-Tourism Sites Himachal Pradesh

#### Locations:

1. Swaar, Saurabh Van Vihar, Neugal Park, and Bir-Billing (Palampur forest division).
2. Kasol, Kheer Ganga, and Sumarupa (Parvati forest division).
3. Sojha (Seraj).
4. Narkanda (Kotgarh).
5. Shogi camping site and Potter Hill camping site (Shimla forest division).

#### Development:

- Each site will cover an area of one hectare.
- Outsourcing will be used for site development

### First Digital Library and Krishi Bhavan in Bilaspur

- First Digital Library and Krishi Bhavan in Bilaspur

#### Digital Library:

- The state's first digital library is being built in Bilaspur.
- Cost: Rs 3 crore.
- Features digital books accessible online.

#### Krishi Bhavan:

- A Krishi Bhavan will also be constructed at Dholra.
- Cost: Rs 5.18 crore.

#### Rural Access:

- More digital libraries will be opened in 10 panchayats of Bilaspur district.
- Aim: To benefit readers in rural areas.

### Horticulture University, Nauni, Bags CeRA Award

- **Recipient:** The Satyanand Stokes Library of Dr YS Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry, Nauni.
- **Award:** Best Usage of J-Gate@CeRA for the year 2022
- **Context:** Presented during the regional J-Gate@CeRA training program at Chaudhary Sarwan Kumar Himachal Pradesh Krishi Vishvavidyalaya, Palampur.
- **About CeRA:** An e-Consortium of agricultural libraries, CeRA facilitates 24x7 online access to select journals in agricultural and allied sciences for researchers, teachers, students, policy planners, administrators, and extension specialists.
- **Impact:** Enhances knowledge advancement and growth in the Indian agricultural sector

### Indian Army's First Vertical Wind Tunnel (VWT)

- **Location:** Army's Special Forces Training School (SFTS) at Bakloh, Chamba
- **Purpose:** Augment training infrastructure for special forces and combat free-fallers
- **Function:** VWT serves as a freefall simulator, creating a controlled column of air at specific velocities
- **Importance:** Allows assessment of individual reactions to various freefall scenarios in an airborne operating environment.

### Scrub typhus in Himachal Pradesh

- **Cases:** 732 persons tested positive
- **Deaths:** Five reported deaths
- **Disease Characteristics:**
  - ❖ **Cause:** Bacterial infection by *Orientia tsutsugamushi*
  - ❖ **Transmission:** Bites from infected chiggers (flea larval mites)
  - ❖ **Symptoms:** Fever, headache, body aches, and

sometimes rash

- ❖ **Curability:** Early detection aids in effective treatment

### Clean Air Rankings for Parwanoo and Kala Amb

- **Towns:** Parwanoo and Kala Amb
- **Rankings:**
  - ❖ **Parwanoo:** Top rank with a score of 193.6 out of 200
  - ❖ **Kala Amb:** Second rank with a score of 193 out of 200

### Sair Fair in Arki, Solan

- **Duration:** Three days
- **Location:** Arki, Solan
- **Highlights:**
  - ❖ Colorful cultural programs
  - ❖ Stalls for buying and selling goods
  - ❖ Bullfight, a popular attraction for visitors

### Youngest Yoga Instructor

- **Name:** Ojasvi Shekhawat, girl from Una, HP.
- **Age:** 9 years old
- **Certification:** Recognized by India's World Records
- **Impact:** Conducts online yoga sessions followed by approximately 3 lakh people worldwide.

### Legal Cultivation of Cannabis Recommendations

- The committee constituted by the government to look into the contentious issue of legal cultivation of cannabis in Himachal for non-narcotic purpose has recommended the go ahead to farming under stringent regulations.
- **Recommendations:**
  - ❖ Amendments to the NDPS Act, 1985
  - ❖ Development of SOPs for cultivation
  - ❖ Formation of a state-level authority as a single window system
  - ❖ Creation of seed banks and research fund
  - ❖ Specialized excise staff for regulation and monitoring

### Himachal Pradesh Lokayukta (Amendment) Bill 2023

- **Purpose:** Enables appointment of a High Court judge as Lokayukta
- **Previous Eligibility:** Only the HC chief justice was eligible for the post
- **Amendment:** Now other HC judges can also be appointed as Lokayukta
- **Salary and Allowances:** Appointed judges will receive corresponding post benefits.

### SIT for Cryptocurrency Frauds

- Himachal Pradesh Government announced the **setting up of a special investigation team (SIT)** headed by a top police officer to **investigate the rising cases of cryptocurrency fraud in the state.**
- **Purpose:** Investigate rising cases of cryptocurrency fraud.
- **SIT Head:** DIG (Northern Range) **Abhishek Dullar**
- **Complaints:** 56 received in cyber police stations over the last two years
- **Police Stations:** Three cyber police stations established in **Shimla, Mandi, and Kangra** to address cryptocurrency crimes.

### Western Tragopan Survival Efforts

- **State Bird:** **Western Tragopan (Tragopan-melanocephalus)**
- **Habitat Loss:** Faced in parts of the country
- **Positive Efforts:**
  - ❖ Gradual population increase at **Sarahan pheasantry** (conservation breeding center)
  - ❖ Successful captive breeding in **Shimla**
  - ❖ Population growth from 2 in 2002 to 47 currently
- **Distribution:** Northwest Himalayas (north Pakistan to India, including **Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, and western Uttarakhand**)
- **Global Population Estimate:** Approximately **3,000 individuals**
- **Threats:** Habitat loss, **anthropogenic disturbances** (livestock grazing, forest produce collection, land-use changes)
- **Protection Status:**
  - ❖ IUCN Red List: **Vulnerable**
  - ❖ CITES: **Appendix I**
  - ❖ Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972: **Schedule I**

### Mukhyamantri Van Vistar Yojana

- **Objective:** Expand green cover through **integrated site-specific afforestation**
- **First Phase (2023-24):**
  - ❖ Target Area: **250 hectares of barren areas** in hills and mountains
  - ❖ Task Force: Notified, led by **principal chief conservator of forest**
- **Goals:**
  - ❖ Prevent soil erosion
  - ❖ Address excessive runoff on degraded hill slopes
  - ❖ Provide forest ecosystem and livelihood opportunities to local population in forest-devoid areas.

### Eye Banks in Himachal Pradesh

- **Existing Eye Banks:**
  - ❖ Kangra district
  - ❖ Shimla district
- **District-Level Availability:** Only in two out of 12 districts (Kangra and Shimla)
- Eye donation fortnight organized under the National Blindness and Visual Impairment Control Program.

### Kath-Kuni Technique

- **Description:** Indigenous structural system for larger buildings (palaces, temple complexes)
- **Construction Style:**
  - ❖ Alternating layers of wood and stone
  - ❖ Mesh of interlocking horizontal deodar sleepers
  - ❖ Stones packed without mortar
- **Examples:**
  - ❖ **Bhimakali temple complex** in **Sarahan** (constructed by **Bushahr dynasty, 800 years old**)
  - ❖ **Naggar Castle** near **Kullu** (built by **Raja Sidh Singh, survived 1905 earthquake**)
  - ❖ **Resilience:** Flexibility of **dry masonry and wood beams** without cementing material.

### The Himachal Pradesh Disaster Risk Reduction and Preparedness Program

- **Objective:** Enhance disaster preparedness and climate resilience
- **Budget:** Rs 890 crore
- **Components:**
  - ❖ **Comprehensive approach** to disaster management and climate change
  - ❖ **Emergency operation centers** in all districts
  - ❖ Climate change vulnerability assessment for river basins
  - ❖ **Early warning systems** for **landslides and flash floods**
  - ❖ Initiatives for **dam safety** and addressing **other natural hazards**

### CUHP's NAAC Grade

- **Institute:** Central University Himachal Pradesh (CUHP)
- **Grade:** '**A+**' from the **National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC)**
- **Significance:** First institute in the state to achieve this grade.

### Agniveer Training Centre at ACC, Barmana

- **Inauguration:** Brigadier (retd) **Madan Sheel Sharma** inaugurated the centre.
- **Purpose:**
  - ❖ Create awareness about **Agniveer selection process**



- ❖ Encourage youth to join defense services

- **Enrollment:** First group includes **35 boys**.

#### State Commission for Water Cess

- The HP Government recently appointment related to the **State Commission for Water Cess on Hydropower Generation** in Himachal Pradesh.
- **Chairman:** Amitabh Awasthi (Secretary, Jal Shakti Department)
- **Members:**
  - ❖ HM Dhareula (Engineer, HP State Electricity Board)
  - ❖ Arun Sharma
  - ❖ Joginder Singh
  - ❖ **Tenure:** Three years or until the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier.

#### Malana Dam Incident

- **Location:** Malana village, Himachal Pradesh
- **Issue:** Flood gates of the 86-MW dam were jammed, causing water overflow and cracks in the dam walls.
- **Response:** National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) rescuers arrived to assist in opening the gates.
- **River:** Malana tributary of the Parvati River, which flows into the Beas River at Bhuntar.

#### Zoological Park and Tiger Safari in Kangra

- **Approval:** Central Zoo Authority (CZA) approved the project
- **Location:** Bankhandi, Kangra district
- **Land Area:** 195 hectares of demarcated forestland
- **Features:**
  - ❖ World-class zoological park
  - ❖ Tiger safari
  - ❖ Various species of crocodiles
- **Existing Zoos in Himachal Pradesh:**
  - ❖ Gopalpur (Kangra)
  - ❖ Renukaji (Sirmaur)
  - ❖ Kufri Nature Park (Shimla)

## ECONOMY / BANKING

### India overtakes Hong Kong as world's fourth-largest stock market by market capitalization

According to data compiled by Bloomberg:

- The combined value of shares listed on **Indian exchanges** reached **\$4.33 trillion**
- Versus **\$4.29 trillion** for Hong Kong.
- India's stock market capitalization had crossed **\$4 trillion** for the **first time** on **December 5**.

### RBI bars Paytm Payments Bank from offering services effective March 2024

- Under Section 35A of the **Banking Regulation Act of 1949** **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** barred **Paytm Payments Bank (PPBL)** from accepting deposits, credit transactions, and top-ups after **March 15, 2024**.
- The **RBI's decision** was made **due to non-compliance and supervisory concerns**.
- The **RBI's decision** will **not affect interest, cashbacks, or refunds**. Withdrawals will still be allowed.
- **One97 Communications Ltd**, owns **Paytm** brand, and **PPBL**.
- **Paytm CEO Vijay Shekhar Sharma**.

### RBI to introduce offline eRupee transactions soon

- Digital Rupee users will soon be able to execute transactions in areas with limited internet connectivity
- **offline capability** will be introduced on the **Central bank digital currency (CBDC) pilot project**
- **Programmability-based** additional use cases will be introduced as part of the pilot project.
- **RBI launched a pilot of the retail CBDC in December 2022**
- **Digital Rupee**, also known as **eRs. or Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC)**, is an electronic form of paper currency issued by the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**.
- It is a **legal tender** that can be used in place of paper cash to transfer money between peers and make merchant payments.
- **Users can purchase and spend money digitally by scanning QR codes using your e-Rupee wallet**
- The **RBI issues electronic tokens** and controls the distribution of the **Digital Rupee**, distributing it to commercial banks or authorized financial institutions for circulation.
- **Transactions made with Digital Rupee are recorded and verified on a secure ledger system** for transparency and security.

### Norway's Telenor opens world's southernmost mobile phone station in Antarctica

- The new **4G service** covering the remote **Troll research station** and its surroundings will boost security for scientists and staff and enable the use of **internet-of-things devices** that collect and upload real-time information

### AIIMS Delhi-SBI launched 'Smart Payment Card' for hassle-free payments

- **Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya** launched the **All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Delhi-SBI Smart Payment Card**.
- which is aimed at providing **hassle-free payments for treatment**.
- The **SBI-AIIMS Smart card** is being provided **free of cost** to all patients and has **no service charges**.
- **All patients upon admission** will be issued the **Smart Card**.
- The **card** will be linked to the **patient's Unique Hospital Identification (UHID) number** and the **Ayushman Bharat Health Account (ABHA) ID** issued under the **Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM)**.
- Soon, the services of these cards will be extended across all the **AIIMS in the country**.

### India inks pact with EFTA, gets \$100 billion commitment

- **India & European Free Trade Association (EFTA) countries (Liechtenstein, Iceland, Norway & Switzerland)** signed a **trade & economic partnership agreement** to **open up their markets for to each other**.
- As part of the deal, the **EFTA countries** have committed to **invest \$100 billion in India over the next 15 years**.
- This **TEPA** is the **third free trade agreement** that **India** has signed in recent years after earlier deals with the **United Arab Emirates (UAE)** and **Australia**.
- It would take around a year for the agreement to come into force.
- **EFTA countries** are not part of the **European Union (EU)**.
- Under free trade pacts, two trading partners significantly **reduce or eliminate customs duties on the maximum number of goods traded between them**, besides easing norms to promote trade in services and investments.

### 1 April 2024 - 90 Years Of RBI

- The Finance Ministry has notified the issuance of a special **commemorative coin of Rs.90 denomination** to mark the completion of **90 years of the RBI**.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) commenced its operations

on 1st of April in 1935 and enters its 90th year.

- The **Central Office of the Reserve Bank** was initially established in **Calcutta** but was **permanently moved to Mumbai in 1937**.
- It was **originally set up as a shareholder's bank**, and got **nationalised on 1 January 1949**
- RBI Governor : **Shaktikanta Das**
- **Sir Osborne Smith** the **first Governor of the Bank**.
- It regulate the **issue of Bank notes and keeping of reserves with a view to securing monetary stability in India and generally to operate the currency and credit system of the country**.
- RBI is responsible for **monetary stability, currency management, inflation targeting, regulating the banking system, and setting interest rates**.

#### **HDFC becomes first private bank to open branch in Lakshadweep**

- Private lender **HDFC Bank** opened a branch at **Kavaratti Island in Lakshadweep**, making it the only private sector bank to have a branch in the Union Territory.

#### **Government allies With SBI Card and Telcos to Tackle OTP Frauds**

- The **Ministry of Home Affairs, SBI Card, and telecom companies** are working together to **address the growing threat of cyber fraud and phishing attacks** in the banking sector.
- **OTP Notification Solution:**
  - ❖ The **collaboration aims to create a system that notifies users about stolen OTPs** (one-time passwords).
  - ❖ OTPs are commonly used for secure transactions, and ensuring their integrity is crucial.
- **Monitoring Locations:**
  - ❖ **Banks will monitor both the registered address and geolocation of a customer.**
  - ❖ Additionally, **they'll track the delivery location of an OTP.**
  - ❖ Any discrepancy between these locations will trigger an alert for the customer, indicating a potential phishing attempt.
- **Magnitude of Fraud:**
  - ❖ According to government data, the registry received **1.12 million complaints related to fraudulent transfers in 2023**.
  - ❖ The **total amount** involved in these cases was **Rs 7,488 crore**.

#### **ICICI market cap tops Rs 8 trillion, become the 2nd bank after HDFC**

- **ICICI Bank's** market capitalization surpassed the 8-trillion

mark and into the league of the top 5 companies by market value.

- It has **become the 2nd bank to cross this milestone, after HDFC Bank**.

#### **Top 3:**

- **Reliance Industries** - most-valued Indian company - Rs 19.8 trillion.
- **Tata Consultancy Services** - Rs 14 trillion.
- **HDFC Bank** - Rs 11.6 trillion

#### **Bajaj Auto to launch world's first CNG-powered bike**

- The **CNG-powered bike** is to be named **Bruzer 125 CNG**.
- The company will start with an initial capacity of **20,000 CNG motorcycles**.
- There is **no other CNG motorcycle in the world at the moment**.
- Bajaj Managing Director - **Rajiv Bajaj**
- Founder - **Jamnallal Bajaj**
- Founded - **29 November 1945**
- Headquarters - **Pune, Maharashtra**

#### **ICICI Bank Introduces UPI for NRIs Using International Mobile Numbers**

- **ICICI Bank** has launched **UPI for NRIs in 10 countries, enabling global mobile number use without switching to Indian numbers**.
- With this facility, the **NRI customers of the Bank** can make payments for their utility bills, merchant and ecommerce transactions with their international mobile number registered with their **NRE / NRO bank account** held with **ICICI Bank in India**.
- **Non-Residential External (NRE) and Non-Resident Ordinary (NRO) Accounts** are the **two major categories** of accounts available for you, as an NRI.
- Ten countries - **USA, UK, UAE, Canada, Singapore, Australia, Hong Kong, Oman, Qatar, and Saudi Arabia**.

#### **SBI becomes the first bank as trading, clearing member of IIBX**

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

#### **Pravaah portal, Retail Direct Mobile App and FinTech Repository**

- **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** Governor **Shaktikanta Das**



unveiled three major initiatives of the Reserve Bank, namely the Pravaah portal, the Retail Direct Mobile App and a FinTech Repository.

- The **Pravaah portal** will make it convenient for any individual or entity to apply online for various regulatory approvals in a seamless manner.
- This portal will also enhance the efficiency of various processes related to granting of regulatory approvals and clearances by the Reserve Bank.
- The **Retail Direct Mobile App** will provide retail investors a seamless and convenient access to the retail direct platform and provide ease of transacting in **government securities (G-Secs)**.
- The **Fintech Repository** will contain information on rich repository of data on Indian FinTech firms for a better understanding of the sector from a regulatory perspective and facilitate in designing appropriate policy approaches.

#### India receives highest FDI from Singapore in 2023-24

- The overseas capital inflows into India contracted by about **3.5% due to global economic uncertainties**, according to the latest government data.
- Though **FDI from Singapore has dipped by 31.55% to \$11.77 billion in 2023-24**, India has attracted the maximum inflows from that country
- Since 2018-19, Singapore has been the largest source of such investments for India.

#### UPI Transactions Set New Record, Scale 14.04 Billion Peak In May 2024

**Unified Payment Interface (UPI)** transactions clocked a new high in value in **May 2024** by processing **14.04 billion transactions** worth **20.45 trillion rupees**.

- May numbers were the **highest in terms of value and volume** since UPI turned operational in April 2016.

#### What is Unified Payments Interface (UPI)?

- The UPI is a **digital and real-time payment system** developed by the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** and regulated by the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**.
- It was launched on **April 11, 2016**.
- Unlike traditional methods, UPI simplifies transfers using the recipient's UPI ID, be it a mobile number, QR code, or Virtual Payment Address, eliminating account numbers.
- **NPCI is an umbrella organisation** for operating retail payments and settlement systems in India.
- **NPCI is an initiative of the RBI and the Indian Banks' Association (IBA)** under the provisions of the **Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007**, to create a robust Payment & Settlement Infrastructure in India.

#### RBI Brings Back 100 Tonnes Of Gold From Vault Of UK To India

- The Reserve bank of **India** brings back **100 tonnes of Gold** from the Vault of **UK** to India.
- This is a major shift in the Economic Policy of the RBI, as it will now hold most of its Gold in its own vault.
- **Most countries keep their gold in the vaults of the Bank of England** or other such location and pay a fee for the privileges.
- **At present**, India has huge **Foreign Exchange Reserves** to cover up to **11 months of Imports**.
- As of **March 31, 2024**, the total gold held by the Reserve Bank was **822.10 metric tonnes**

#### Why does RBI store its gold abroad?

- Historically, during the **1990-91 foreign exchange crisis**, India pledged part of its gold reserves to the Bank of England to secure a **\$405 million loan**.
- Although the loan was repaid by **November 1991**, the RBI chose to keep the gold in the UK for logistical reasons.
- Gold stored abroad can be easily used for trading, entering into swaps, and earning returns.
- The RBI also buys gold from international markets and storing it overseas facilitates these transactions.
- Storing gold internationally comes with risks, particularly during **geopolitical tensions**.
- The freezing of Russian assets by Western nations has heightened concerns about the safety of assets held abroad.

#### Peru Adopts India's UPI System for Instant Digital Payments

- **NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL)**, the international division of the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)**, has entered into an agreement with the central bank of Peru to establish a **fast instant payments system** similar to India's **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)**.
- The venture aims to facilitate immediate payments between individuals and businesses while extending the utility of digital payments to the **unbanked population in Peru**.
- The list of nations that officially support UPI payment:
  - ❖ Sri Lanka
  - ❖ Mauritius
  - ❖ France
  - ❖ UAE
  - ❖ Singapore
  - ❖ Bhutan
  - ❖ Nepal

### RBL Bank Introduced Electronic Bank Guarantee on NeSL Platform

- RBL Bank has launched the **Electronic Bank Guarantee (e-BG)**, signalling a significant step forward in trade finance digital transformation.
  - ❖ The **e-BG product** builds on the framework enabled by NeSL, incorporating their expertise in e-Stamping and e-Sign.
  - ❖ This integration **eliminates the traditional physical signing and stamping processes**, seamlessly transitioning into a secure and efficient digital format.
  - ❖ NeSL's e-BG substantially transforms the trade finance space and marks a milestone in the digitization of banking services.

### India To Be World's Top Economic Power By Century-End: CEBR

- Center for Economics and Business Research (CEBR).
- CEBR has said in the report published named **'World Economic League Table Report'** that India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) will be 90 percent larger than China's and 30 percent larger than America's.
- India will maintain a strong average growth of 6.5 percent from 2024 to 2028.
- By 2032, it will become the world's third-largest economy, leaving behind Japan and Germany.

### eSvarna: The First Corporate RuPay Credit Card with UPI

- IndusInd Bank has launched a **pathbreaking new corporate credit card – eSvarna** – on the RuPay network.
- It is **India's first corporate credit card** that allows linking with UPI apps for payments.
- The eSvarna Rupay corporate credit card enables smooth transactions at merchant outlets, both physical and digital.
- The card is designed keeping in mind premium business travellers who seek exclusive privileges and value-added benefits. It offers complimentary domestic and international airport lounge access up to 10 times annually to relax and unwind during travels.
- Additionally, it provides comprehensive travel insurance covering passport, baggage delays, flight cancellations and accidents.

### Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs)

- RBI Identifies SBI, HDFC Bank, And ICICI Bank As Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs).
- Established in 2014, the D-SIB framework mandates the RBI to disclose the names of designated banks annually.

### Card-On-File Tokenization: Reserve Bank Of India

- In order to make digital payments more secure, safe and sound the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has now enabled card-on-file tokenization (CoFT) through card issuing banks and institutions.
- Tokenization refers to replacement of actual credit and debit card details with an alternate code called the "token".
- It is a combination of card, token requestor and device.
- The card detail when stored with a merchant is known as **card-on-file (CoF)**.
- This **token is a randomly generated string of characters** that has no intrinsic value and is meaningless outside of the context of a specific transaction.
- The token is used as a surrogate for the actual card details, making it more secure to store and transmit.

### RBI Allows NRI's To Buy Sovereign Green Bonds

- RBI has granted Non-Resident Indians unrestricted investment access to the Government's Sovereign Green Bonds for the fiscal year 2023-24.
- The government aims to raise Rs 20,000 crore through green bonds in the current financial year.
- This aligns with its commitment to sustainable financing, emphasizing projects with positive impacts on climate and the environment.
- Green bonds are financial instruments dedicated to funding projects with direct environmental benefits.
- These projects encompass renewable energy, clean transportation, and green buildings.

### RBI Includes PM Vishwakarma Under PIDF Scheme

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has extended the Payments Infrastructure Development Fund (PIDF) scheme for an additional two years, now effective until December 31, 2025.
- The PIDF scheme's scope is broadened to include beneficiaries of the PM Vishwakarma scheme.

### Payments Infrastructure Development Fund (PIDF) Scheme

- It was first launched by the RBI in January 2021 for a period of three years.
- **Objective:** Increasing the number of payment acceptance devices multi-fold in the country.
- PIDF is a fund set up by the RBI, in consultation with major authorised card networks, to facilitate the development of payment acceptance infrastructure in tier-3 to tier-6 cities and the north-eastern states of India.

### IMF executive board approved a 50% quota increase

- The executive board has approved a proposal to make a **50% increase in the quota allocated to members in proportion to their current quotas.**
- Presently, **India has a quota of Special Drawing Rights (SDR) of 13,114.4 million.** This means India has a share of **2.75%.**
- The proposal will be **effective only after consideration and voting by the Board of Governors.**

### About International Monetary Fund (IMF)

- Founded – 1945
- Headquarters- Washington, D.C.
- Managing Director – Kristalina Georgieva (Bulgaria)
- First Deputy MD – Gita Gopinath
- Chief Economist – Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas (France)

### Bima Sugam

- The **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** is set to introduce a **groundbreaking online platform** called Bima Sugam, which aims to become the **world's largest online market for insurance products and services.**
- This platform will offer customers a user-friendly interface to explore and choose insurance schemes from various companies, covering **life, health, and general insurance**, including **motor and travel insurance.**
- The launch of the platform **scheduled for June 2024.**

### About IRDAI:

- It is an autonomous and statutory body established under the **IRDA Act 1999.**
- It is the **apex body that supervises and regulates the insurance sector in India.**
- Nodal Ministry: **Ministry of Finance**
- Head Office: **Hyderabad**
- Composition: IRDAI is a **10-member body-** a Chairman, five full-time members, and **four part-time members** appointed by the Government of India.

### Discontinuation Of I-CRR: RBI

- RBI announced that it would **discontinue the Incremental Cash Reserve Ratio (ICRR)** in a phased manner.
- The central bank **will release the amount that banks have maintained under ICRR in stages.**
- The discontinuation of the I-CRR will be implemented in stages to ensure a smooth transition and **prevent sudden shocks to the system's liquidity.**
- In the **first and second stages** of the I-CRR reversal, **25% of each of the Banks' impounded funds** will be released.

- The remaining **50% of the balance** will be released in the **third stage.**
- This measured approach aims to ensure that banks have **sufficient liquidity to meet increased credit demand** during the **upcoming festival season.**

### About Incremental Cash Reserve Ratio (ICRR):

- On **10th August 2023**, following the announcement of the monetary policy and the demonetization of Rs 2000 notes, the RBI declared that banks would be required to **maintain an Incremental Cash Reserve Ratio (I-CRR) of 10% on the increase in their Net Demand and Time Liabilities (NDTL).**
- NDTL is the **difference between the sum of demand and time liabilities (deposits) of a bank** (with the public or the other bank) and the **deposits in the form of assets held by the other banks.**
- The RBI introduced the I-CRR as a temporary measure to manage excess Liquidity in the banking system.

### Hitachi Payment Services launches India's first-ever UPI-ATM with NPCI

- Hitachi Payment Services, a subsidiary of Japan-based Hitachi Ltd, announced the launch of **India's first-ever UPI-ATM** as a **White Label ATM (WLA)** named **Hitachi Money Spot UPI ATM**, with the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).**
- The ATM will offer **cardless cash withdrawals**, eliminating the need for physical cards.
- A UPI-ATM allows users to withdraw cash from multiple accounts using the **United Payments Interface app.**

### What are White Label ATMs (WLAs)?

- ATMs set up, owned and operated by **non-banks** are called WLAs.
- **Non-bank ATM operators** are authorised under the **Payment & Settlement Systems Act, 2007** by the RBI.
- They **provide banking services to customers** using debit/credit/prepaid cards issued by banks.

### Green Label ATM

- ATMs are **provided for agricultural transactions.**
- They are **mainly used by farmers and rural customers** for various banking needs.

### 'Hello UPI' and 'Bharat BillPay Connect'

- **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** launched **two conversational payments initiatives: 'Hello UPI' and 'Bharat BillPay Connect.'**
- These initiatives were unveiled at the **Global Fintech Fest.**
- NPCI's **'Hello UPI'** supports **voice-enabled UPI payments in both Hindi and English.**



- There are plans to expand language support to include other regional languages, ensuring inclusivity for a wider user base.
- Collaborative Development:
  - ❖ NPCI collaborated with the Bhashini Program at IIT Madras and AI4India to jointly develop a payment language model in Hindi and English.

### SBI launches 'Nation First Transit Card'

- State Bank of India (SBI), the country's largest bank, launched the 'Nation First Transit Card' to improve commuting experiences and encourage the use of digital payments.
- The innovative 'Nation First Transit Card' aims to simplify digital ticket fare payments within a single card for various transport modes including metro, buses, water ferries, parking, and more.
- Apart from transport payments, the card can also be used for retail and e-commerce transactions.
- The 'Nation First Transit Card' is powered by RuPay and National Common Mobility Card (NCMC) technology, making it a potential game-changer for millions of Indians in their daily commute.

### National Common Mobility Card (NCMC) Facility of SBI:

- NCMC was proposed by the Nandan Nilekani Committee constituted by RBI.
- It aims to promote cashless transactions and integrate commuter payments.
- NCMC was officially launched on March 4, 2019.
- NCMC operates on the RuPay platform, which was developed by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).
- It allows payments for metro, bus, and suburban railways.
- Chairman of SBI - Dinesh Kumar Khara

### 1st crude oil transaction in local currency undertaken between India-UAE

- The first-ever crude oil transaction under the newly implemented Local Currency Settlement (LCS) system took place between Abu Dhabi National Oil Company and Indian Oil Corporation Limited.
- Both Indian Rupees and UAE Dirhams were used for the transaction, India and UAE have a strong oil and gas relationship and the UAE is a key partner for India's energy security.
- The transaction involved the sale of about 1 million barrels of crude oil.
- UAE is the fourth largest source of crude oil and the second largest source of LNG and LPG for India.
- Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE

and Ruler of Abu Dhabi.

### RBI's UDGM (Unclaimed Deposits – Gateway to Access inforMation).

- To facilitate and make it easier for public to search their unclaimed deposits across multiple banks in one place.
- The launch of the web portal will aid users to identify their unclaimed deposits/ accounts and enable them to either claim the deposit amount or make their deposit accounts operative at their respective banks.
- To begin with, users would be able to access the details of their unclaimed deposits in respect of seven banks (State Bank of India, Punjab National Bank, Central Bank of India, Dhanlaxmi Bank, South Indian Bank, DBS Bank India, and Citibank N.A.) presently available on the portal.

### Airtel Payments Bank Launched India's 1st Eco-Friendly Debit Card

- The debit cards will come in r-PVC material, a certified eco-friendly material, compared to the conventional PVC cards commonly used in the market.
- The r-PVC cards' production will result in a 43% decrease of hydrocarbon usage Indian Bank becomes the first PSB to extend on-line Locker Agreement.
- Indian Bank became the First Public Sector Bank to extend facility of execution of on-line locker agreement through Digital Document Execution (DDE) Platform of National E-Governance Services Limited (NeSL).
- DDE is a fully automated contract execution platform with paperless e-stamp and e-Sign facility.

### Project Nexus by RBI

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has joined Project Nexus, a worldwide effort to make it easier for people to send money instantly across borders.

#### Key Features:

- **Integration:** Links India's UPI with FPSs of Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand.
- **Efficiency:** Standardizes connectivity, reducing integration time and costs.

#### Advantages:

- **Speed:** Transactions completed in under 60 seconds.
- **Cost:** Lower transaction costs.
- **User Experience:** Increased user satisfaction and adoption.

#### Membership and Expansion:

- **Founding Members:** India, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand.
- **Future Members:** Potential inclusion of Indonesia.

#### Economic Impact:

- **Goal:** Strengthen the economy by making cross-border digital transactions as common and quick as domestic ones.

## REPORTS AND INDICES

### AUGUST 2023

#### Indore Ranked No. 1 in Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan-2023

- **Category:** Cities with a population of more than 10 lakhs.
- **Conducted by:** Central Pollution Control Board.
- **Top 5 Cities:**
  - ❖ Indore
  - ❖ Agra
  - ❖ Thane
  - ❖ Srinagar
  - ❖ Bhopal

### SWACHH VAYU SARVEKSHAN 2023

CATEGORY	CITIES	CPCB SCORE (OUT OF 200)
<b>Category 1</b> (<10 Lakh Population)	<b>1<sup>st</sup></b> Indore	<b>187</b>
	<b>2<sup>nd</sup></b> Agra	186
	<b>3<sup>rd</sup></b> Thane	185.2
<b>Category 2</b> (3-5 Lakh Population)	<b>1<sup>st</sup></b> Amravati	194
	<b>2<sup>nd</sup></b> Moradabad	186.2
	<b>3<sup>rd</sup></b> Guntur	185.5
<b>Category 3</b> (<3 Lakh Population)	<b>1<sup>st</sup></b> Parwanoo	193.6
	<b>2<sup>nd</sup></b> Kala Amb	193
	<b>3<sup>rd</sup></b> Anqul	187.5

#### India Smart Cities Award Contest, 2022

- **Organized by:** Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs under the Smart Cities Mission.
- **Best Smart City:** Indore.
- **Top State:** Madhya Pradesh.
- **Felicitation:** President Droupadi Murmu will felicitate the winners on 27th September in Indore, Madhya Pradesh.
- **Smart Cities Mission:**
  - ❖ **Launch Date:** 25 June 2015.
  - ❖ **Objective:** Provide core infrastructure, clean and sustainable environment, and a decent quality of life to citizens through the application of smart solutions.

#### Punjab Emerged as the Top State in Nutrition Awareness Index 2023

- **Released by:** 'Right To Protein' campaign.
- **Index:** Nutrition Awareness Index 2023, assessing awareness, affordability, and accessibility of nutrition in India as perceived by end-consumers.

- **Top State:** Punjab, scoring 11% above the national average.
- **Bottom State:** Bihar, scoring 10% below the national average.
- **Key Finding:** Majority of Indians are unaware of vegetarian protein sources.

#### Internet Resilience Index

- **Released by:** Internet Society, a global non-profit organization.
- **India's Overall Score:** 43%, ranking sixth in the South Asian region.
- **Countries Ahead of India:**
  - ❖ Bhutan: 58%
  - ❖ Bangladesh: 51%
  - ❖ Maldives: 50%
  - ❖ Sri Lanka: 47%
  - ❖ Nepal: 43%
- **India's Scores in IRI Pillars:**
  - ❖ Infrastructure: 31%
  - ❖ Performance: 40%
  - ❖ Security: 66%
  - ❖ Market Readiness: 35%

### September 2023

#### Fortune India Rich List 2023

- **Top Position:** Mukesh Ambani (Reliance Industries) with \$99.7 billion.
- **Second Position:** Gautam Adani (Adani Group) with \$63.71 billion.
- **Third Position:** Mistry family (Shapoorji Pallonji Group) with \$34.6 billion.
- **Fourth Position:** Poonawalla family with \$32.9 billion.

#### Switzerland Ranked No. 1 in the World Best Countries Report 2023

- **Top Country:** Switzerland, marking its second consecutive year and sixth time overall as No. 1.
- **Top 5 Rankings:**
  - ❖ Switzerland
  - ❖ Canada
  - ❖ Sweden
  - ❖ Australia
  - ❖ United States (slipped one spot from 2022)
- **India's Rank:** 30th.

### India Ranked 52nd in Digital Quality of Life Index 2023

**Overall Rank:** 52nd out of 121 countries.

- **Survey by:** Netherlands-based firm.
- **Factors Assessed:** Internet quality, internet affordability, e-infrastructure, e-government, and e-security.
- **Asia Rank:** 13th, with Singapore leading the region.
- **Improvement:** Increased from 59th to 52nd in the 5th annual Digital Quality of Life Index.
- **Top Countries:**
  - ❖ France
  - ❖ Finland
  - ❖ Denmark
  - ❖ Germany
  - ❖ Singapore (Asia leader)

### India Ranks First in 2023 Global Crypto Adoption Index

- **Released by:** Crypto analysis firm Chainalysis.
- **India's Rank:** 1st, up from 4th place in 2022.
- **Total Nations Ranked:** 154.
- **Focus:** Grassroots crypto adoption, showing how average people in a country are adopting and using crypto in their daily lives.
- **Top 5 Countries:**
  - ❖ India
  - ❖ Nigeria
  - ❖ Vietnam
  - ❖ United States
  - ❖ Ukraine

### India Ranks 40th in Global Innovation Index 2023

- **Overall Rank:** 40th in the **Global Innovation Index (GII) 2023**.
- **Released by:** World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO).
- **Leading Position:** Among lower middle-income country group.
- **Collaborators:** Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and NITI Aayog.
- **Event:** India Launch of the GI 2023 on 29th September 2023, hosted virtually.
- **Top 5 Most Innovative Economies:**
  - ❖ Switzerland (13th consecutive year)
  - ❖ Sweden
  - ❖ United States
  - ❖ United Kingdom
  - ❖ Singapore

### India Slips to 56th Position in 2023 World Talent Ranking

- **Overall Rank:** 56th out of 64 economies, down from 52nd in 2022.
- **Released by:** International Institute for Management Development (IMD).
- **Factors Considered:** Quality of life, statutory minimum wage, primary and secondary education.
- **Top 5 Countries:**
  - ❖ Switzerland
  - ❖ Luxembourg
  - ❖ Iceland
  - ❖ Belgium
  - ❖ Netherlands
- **Other Notable Rankings:**
  - ❖ United States: 15th
  - ❖ China: 41st
  - ❖ United Kingdom: 35th
  - ❖ Brazil: 63rd
  - ❖ Mongolia: 64th (last)

### World's Freest Economy

- **Top Spot:** Singapore has surpassed Hong Kong to become the **world's freest economy**.
- **Hong Kong:** Ranked second for the **first time in the Economic Freedom of the World Index**, which has been measuring economic freedom since 1970.
- **Index Considerations:** Ease of international trade is one of the many elements considered when rating economic freedom.
- **India:** 87th
- **Top 5 Freest Economies**
  - ❖ Singapore
  - ❖ Hong Kong
  - ❖ Switzerland
  - ❖ New Zealand
  - ❖ United States
  - ❖ Venezuela's Ranking
  - ❖ **Venezuela:** Ranked at the bottom of the index, indicating its lack of economic freedom.

### Centre's Report on India's Elephant Corridors

- **Total Corridors:** 150 elephant corridors across 15 range-states.
- **Top State:** West Bengal with 26 corridors.
- **Previous Report:** 2010 Elephant Task Force (Gajah report) listed 88 corridors.
- **Definition:** Elephant corridors are land strips facilitating elephant movement between viable habitat patches.
- **Elephant Population:** Approximately 30,000 elephants in



**India (60% of the global population) as of 2017.**

- **Report Collaboration:** Union Environment Ministry's Project Elephant, state forest departments, and Wildlife Institute of India.
- **Regional Distribution:**
  - ❖ East-Central Region: 52 corridors
  - ❖ Northeast Region: 48 corridors
  - ❖ Southern Region: 32 corridors
  - ❖ Northern Region: 18 corridors
- **Corridor Locations:**
  - ❖ 126 within state boundaries
  - ❖ 19 across two states
  - ❖ 6 transnational corridors between India and Nepal (primarily in Uttar Pradesh)

#### Conservation Status (Asian Elephant)

- **IUCN Red List:** Endangered
- **CITES:** Appendix I
- **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972:** Schedule I

#### The State of the Rhino Report, 2023

- **Population Growth:** The greater one-horned rhino population in India and Nepal is growing.
- **World Rhino Day:** Observed on **22nd September** to spread awareness for all five species of rhino.
  - ❖ **First Announced:** By **WWF - South Africa in 2010.**
- **Threats:** Poaching, habitat loss, and climate change.
- **Conservation Efforts:** Collaboration among India, Bhutan, and Nepal, along with strict government protection and management, has led to a 20% increase in their population over the past decade.
- **Current Population in India:** Estimated to be **3,262 rhinos.**

**October 2023**

#### Delhi Emerges as India's Most Air Polluted City, Aizawl Has Cleanest Air

- **Analysis by:** Climate Trends and Respirer Living Sciences.
- **Cleanest Air:** Aizawl, Mizoram with PM2.5 level of 11.1 micrograms per cubic metre.
- **Most Polluted City:** Delhi with PM2.5 concentration of 100.1 micrograms per cubic metre (three times higher than the safe limit).
- **Other Highly Polluted Cities:**
  - ❖ Patna (second-most polluted)
  - ❖ Muzaffarpur
  - ❖ Faridabad
  - ❖ Noida

- **Report Focus:** Cities under the **National Clean Air Programme**, aiming for a **40% reduction in particulate matter concentration by 2026.**

#### India Surpasses Japan and UK in Global Mobile Speed Ranking

- **Global Rank:** **47th out of 145 countries** in mobile internet speed rankings by Ookla.
- **Top 5 Countries with Fastest Mobile Speed:**
  - ❖ UAE
  - ❖ Qatar
  - ❖ Kuwait
  - ❖ Norway
  - ❖ Denmark

#### India Ranks 111th on Global Hunger Index 2023

- **Overall Rank:** **111th** out of 125 countries.
- **Released by:** Concern Worldwide and Welt Hunger Hilfe, NGOs from Ireland and Germany.
- **Comparison with Neighbors:**
  - ❖ Pakistan: 102nd
  - ❖ Bangladesh: 81st
  - ❖ Nepal: 69th
  - ❖ Sri Lanka: 60th
- **Previous Rank:** 107th out of 121 countries in 2022.
- **Score:** 28.7, indicating a serious level of hunger.
- **Child Wasting Rate:** Highest in the world at 18.7%.
- **Undernourishment Rate:** 16.6%.
- **Under-Five Mortality Rate:** 3.1%.
- **Anaemia in Women (15-24 years):** 58.1%.
- **Government's Response:** The Women and Child Development Ministry criticized the index for "serious methodological issues."
- **Top 5 Countries:**
  - ❖ Belarus
  - ❖ Bosnia
  - ❖ China
  - ❖ Chile
  - ❖ Croatia
- **Bottom Countries:** Chad, Niger, Lesotho, Congo, Yemen, Madagascar, Central African Republic.

#### Forbes World's Best Employers List 2023

- **NTPC:** The only Indian PSU to feature in the list.
  - ❖ **Rank:** 261st out of the top 700 companies.

- **Top 3 Companies:**
  - ❖ Samsung (No. 1 ranking, repeated)
  - ❖ Microsoft
  - ❖ Alphabet

### Female Labour Force Participation Rate Jumps to 37.0%

- **Report:** Periodic Labour Force Survey Report 2022-23.
- **Released by:** Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
- **Improvement:** Female Labour Force Participation Rate increased by 4.2 percentage points.
- **Current Rate:** 37.0% in 2023.

### Kempegowda International Airport Tops Global On-Time Performance Rankings

- **Recognition:** Bengaluru International Airport recognized for on-time departures.
- **Report:** 'The On-Time Performance Monthly Report' by aviation analytics firm Cirium.
- **Achievement:** Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) in Bengaluru named the "world's most punctual airport" for three consecutive months.
- **Other Indian Airport:** Hyderabad's Rajiv Gandhi International Airport also featured among the top five globally.

### India's Rank on Global Pension Index Falls to 45th in 2023

- **Overall Rank:** 45th out of 47 countries.
- **Previous Rank:** 41st out of 44 countries in 2022.
- **Report:** 15th edition of the Mercer CFA Institute Global Pension Index (MCGPI).
- **Top Countries:**
  - ❖ Netherlands (Index value: 85.0)
  - ❖ Iceland (Index value: 83.5)
  - ❖ Denmark (Index value: 81.3)
- **Lowest Rank:** Argentina with an index value of 42.3.

### Mumbai Second Most Polluted Major Global City

- Mumbai is the **second most polluted city** among 109 places tracked by IQAir.
- **Top Spot:** Beijing is the most polluted city.
- **AQI System:** Based on the US system:
  - ❖ 0-50: Good
  - ❖ 51-100: Moderate
  - ❖ 101-150: Unhealthy for sensitive groups
  - ❖ 151-200: Unhealthy
  - ❖ 201-300: Very unhealthy
  - ❖ 301: Hazardous

- **PM2.5 Concentration:**
  - ❖ Mumbai: 14.7 times the WHO guideline.
  - ❖ Delhi: 9.8 times the WHO guideline.
- **Top 5 Most Polluted Cities:**
  - ❖ Beijing
  - ❖ Mumbai
  - ❖ Karachi
  - ❖ Jerusalem
  - ❖ Shenyang

### Improvement in Sex Ratio at Birth

- **Meeting:** 29th Meeting of the Central Supervisory Board convened by Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya.
- **Commitment:** Reiterated the nation's commitment to addressing gender inequality.
- **Improvement:** Sex Ratio at Birth improved from 904 in 2017-19 to 907 in 2018-20.
- **Primary Concern:** Declining Child Sex Ratio (CSR) and Sex Ratio at Birth (SRB) in the country.

November 2023

### State Food Safety Index 2022-2023

- **Released by:** Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).
- **Purpose:** Assesses the performance of Indian states and union territories in ensuring food safety.
- **New Parameter:** 'Improvement in SFSI Rank,' highlighting states' progress over the previous year.
- **Initiation:** Started in 2018-19 to create a competitive and positive change in the food safety ecosystem.

### Key Findings

- **Consumer Empowering Initiatives:**
  - ❖ **Top State:** Tamil Nadu
  - ❖ **Followed by:** Kerala and Madhya Pradesh
- **Food Testing Category:**
  - ❖ **Top Performers:** Gujarat and Kerala
  - ❖ **Worst Performer:** Andhra Pradesh
- **Improvement in SFSI Rank:**
  - ❖ **Significant Improvement:** Only Punjab showed significant improvement.

### Shiv Nadar Tops The Hurun India Philanthropy List 2023

- **Title:** Retained by HCLTech founder Shiv Nadar.
- **Achievement:** Topped the list for the third time in five years.
- **Donation:** Rs 2,042 crore.

### Alarming Rise in Road Accidents and Fatalities: India's Road Safety Crisis

- **Increase in Accidents:** 12% rise to over 4.6 lakh in 2022.
- **Fatalities:** 19 deaths per hour.
- **Accident Frequency:** 53 road accidents per hour.
- **Government Target:** Reduce accidents and deaths by half by 2024 (Union Minister Nitin Gadkari).
- **Severity of Crashes:** Increased from 28.2% in 2012, to 36.5% in 2022.
- **Highest Death Share:**
  - ❖ Uttar Pradesh: 13.4%
  - ❖ Tamil Nadu: 10.6%
  - ❖ Maharashtra: 9%
- **Leading Cause:** Over speeding (72.3% of accidents, 71.2% of deaths).

### Global Tiger Recovery Program 2.0: Report

- **Population Increase:** 60% rise in tiger population.
- **Launch:** 2010 under the Global Tiger Initiative (GTI) by the World Bank.
- **Objective:** Reverse the decline of wild tigers and double their population by 2022.
- **First GTRP:** Focused on wild tiger conservation and secured commitment from Tiger Range Countries (TRCs).
- **Endorsement:** St Petersburg Declaration in 2010.
- **Tiger Range Countries:** Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Russia, Thailand, Vietnam.
- **Future Aim:** Pave the way for tiger conservation from 2023-2034.

### Bengaluru Tops in Women-Led Startups

- **Global Ranking:** India is the third-largest startup hub in the world, after the United States and China.
- **Leading City:** Bengaluru with 1,783 women-led startups.
- **Other Major Cities:**
  - ❖ Mumbai: 1,480 women-led startups.
  - ❖ Delhi: 1,195 women-led startups.
- **Unique Initiative:** Bengaluru became the first state in India to provide a grant-in-aid of Rs. 50 lakh to encourage innovators in need of early-stage funding, without taking equity in return.

### Global Talent Competitiveness Index (GTCI) 2023

- **India's Ranking:** Fell from rank 83 ten years ago to rank 103 in the latest report.
- **Purpose:** Measures how countries grow, attract, and retain talent.
- **Publisher:** Annual benchmarking report by INSEAD.

- **Edition:** 10th edition covering 134 countries across all income groups.
- **Top Countries:** Singapore, Switzerland, and the United States.
- **BRICS Comparison:** India ranks 103, the lowest among BRICS countries. China leads the BRICS group at rank 40.

### Global Employee Well-Being Survey

- **Survey Conducted By:** McKinsey Health Institute.
- **Assessment Criteria:** Physical, mental, social, and spiritual health of employees.
- **Top Countries:**
  - ❖ 1st: Turkey (78%)
  - ❖ 2nd: India (76%)
  - ❖ 3rd: China (75%)
- **Global Average:** 57%
- **Lowest Ranked Country:** Japan (25%)

### Inclusiveness Index by Othering and Belonging Institute (OBI)

- **India's Ranking:** 117th out of 129 countries.
- **Top Countries:**
  - ❖ 1st: New Zealand
  - ❖ 2nd: Portugal
  - ❖ 3rd: Netherlands
- **Inclusivity Measures:** Race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, disability, and general population.
- **Bottom Country:** Iran

### Recent Global Index Rankings for India

- **Global Pension Index 2023:** 45th (Topped by Netherlands)
- **Global Hunger Index 2023:** 111th
- **Global Innovation Index 2023:** 40th (Topped by Switzerland)
- **World Talent Ranking 2023:** 56th (Topped by Switzerland)
- **World's Freest Economy Report:**
  - ❖ 1st: Singapore
  - ❖ 2nd: Hong Kong
  - ❖ 3rd: Switzerland
  - ❖ 4th: New Zealand
  - ❖ 5th: United States

### Global Unicorn Rankings

- **India's Ranking:** 3rd with 72 unicorn companies.
- **Top Countries:**
  - ❖ 1st: United States (668 unicorns)
  - ❖ 2nd: China (172 unicorns)



- **India's Contribution:** 5% of the total valuation of unicorn companies worldwide.
- **Top Indian Unicorn:** BYJU's, ranked 36th globally with a valuation of \$11.50 billion.

### BBC 100 Women 2023

- **Edition:** 11th edition by the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC).
- **Indian Women Featured:**
  - ❖ Actress Dia Mirza
  - ❖ Cricketer Harmanpreet Kaur
  - ❖ Photographer Arati Kumar Rao
  - ❖ Tibetan Buddhist nun Jetsunma Tenzin Palmo

## December 2023

### Global Climate Performance Index (CCPI) 2024

- **India's Ranking:** Climbed to 7th place.
- **Announcement:** Made during COP-28 in Dubai.
- **Publishers:** Germanwatch, New Climate Institute, and Climate Action Network.
- **First Three Positions:** Remain empty.
- **Purpose:** Tracks countries' efforts to combat climate change.
- **Categories Evaluated:** Greenhouse gas emissions, energy use, climate policy, and renewable energy

### Southeast Asia Opium Survey 2023

- **Publisher:** United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).
- **Key Finding:** Myanmar is the world's biggest opium producer.
- **Opium Source:** Dried latex obtained from the seed capsules of the opium poppy (*Papaver somniferum*).

### World's Most Popular Leaders

- **1st:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi (India) - 76% approval rating.
- **2nd:** President Andrés Manuel López Obrador (Mexico) - 66% approval rating.
- **3rd:** President Alain Berset (Swiss Confederation) - 58% approval rating.
- **4th:** President Lula da Silva (Brazil).
- **5th:** Prime Minister Anthony Albanese (Australia).
- **8th:** President Joe Biden (United States) - 37% approval rating.

### Quality of Living Index 2023

- **Top Indian Cities:**
  - ❖ **Hyderabad:** 153rd

- ❖ **Pune:** 154th (second best quality of life in India)

- ❖ **Bengaluru:** 156th

### ➤ Top Global Cities:

- ❖ **1st:** Vienna (Austria)
- ❖ **2nd:** Zurich (Switzerland)
- ❖ **3rd:** Vancouver (Canada)

### ➤ Bottom City: Khartoum (Sudan) - 241st

### ➤ Purpose: Evaluates quality of life for employees working abroad, especially with families.

### ➤ Data Source: Over 500 cities worldwide.

### ➤ Evaluation Factors: Climate, schools and education, disease and sanitation standards, violence and crime, ease of communications, and socio-political environment.

### Adani Green Energy Ranking

- **Ranking:** 2nd-largest solar PV developer.
- **Total Solar Capacity:** 18.1 GW.
- **Top Company:** Total Energies (France) with 41.3 GW.
- **Publisher:** Mercom Capital Group, a clean energy communications and research firm.
- **Future Target:** Achieve 45 GW of renewable energy capacity by 2030.

### First Delta Ranking of Aspirational Blocks Programme (ABP) by NITI Aayog

#### ➤ Top Blocks:

- ❖ **1st:** Tiriyani Block, Kumuram Bheem Asifabad district, Telangana.
- ❖ **2nd:** Kaushambi Block, Kaushambi District, Uttar Pradesh.

#### ➤ Programme Launch: January 7, 2023.

#### ➤ Objective: Enhance governance and improve quality of life in challenging and underdeveloped blocks.

#### ➤ Coverage: Approximately 500 blocks from 329 districts across 27 states and 4 Union Territories.

#### ➤ Ranking Criteria: Performance and progress in achieving key performance indicators (KPIs).

#### ➤ Aspirational District Programme (ADP) Rankings for October 2023:

- ❖ **1st:** Rayagada, Odisha.
- ❖ **2nd:** Jamui, Bihar.

#### ➤ NITI Aayog Leadership:

- ❖ **Vice Chairman:** Shri Suman Bery.
- ❖ **Members:** Prof. Ramesh Chand, Dr. V.K. Paul, Dr. Arvind Virmani.
- ❖ **CEO:** Shri BVR Subrahmanyam.

### Forbes Asia Heroes of Philanthropy List

- **Edition:** 17th edition.
- **Indian Business Leaders Featured:**
  - ❖ **Nandan Nilekani:** Co-founder and chairman of Infosys.
  - ❖ **KP Singh:** Chairman emeritus at DLF.
  - ❖ **Nikhil Kamath:** Co-founder of Zerodha.

### Forbes' "World's 100 Most Powerful Women" 2023

- **Indian Women Featured:**
  - ❖ **Nirmala Sitharaman:** 32nd
  - ❖ **Roshni Nadar Malhotra (HCL):** 60th
  - ❖ **Soma Mondal (SAIL):** 70th
  - ❖ **Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw (Biocon):** 76th
- **Top Four Politicians:**
  - ❖ **1st:** Ursula von der Leyen (President of the European Commission)
  - ❖ **2nd:** Christine Lagarde (President of the European Central Bank)
  - ❖ **3rd:** Kamala Harris (US Vice President)
  - ❖ **4th:** Giorgia Meloni (Italian Prime Minister)

### National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) Data

- **Crimes Against Women:**
  - ❖ **Highest FIRs:** Delhi
  - ❖ **Other Major Cities:** Mumbai (6,176 cases), Bengaluru (3,924 cases)
- **NCRB Establishment:** 1986
  - ❖ **Purpose:** Repository of information on crime and criminals
  - ❖ **Under:** Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), Government of India
  - ❖ **Recommendations:** Tandon Committee, National Police Commission (1977-1981), Task Force of the Home Ministry
  - ❖ **Headquarters:** New Delhi
- **Criminal Incidents:**
  - ❖ **Top States:** Uttar Pradesh (1st), Maharashtra (2nd), Madhya Pradesh (3rd)
  - ❖ **Murder Cases:** Uttar Pradesh (3,491), Bihar (2,930), Maharashtra (2,295)
- **Safest City:** Kolkata (for the third consecutive year)
- **POCSO Cases:**
  - ❖ **Highest:** Maharashtra (20,762 cases)
  - ❖ **Other States:** Madhya Pradesh (20,415 cases), Uttar Pradesh (18,682 cases)
- **Financial Fraud:** Increased by 11.1%

- **Cyber Crime:** Increased by 24.4%

### World Digital Competitiveness Index 2023

- **Publisher:** International Institute for Management Development (IMD).
- **Purpose:** Measures the ranking of countries in the field of digital environment.
- **India's Ranking:** 49th.
- **Top Countries:**
  - ❖ **1st:** United States of America
  - ❖ **2nd:** Netherlands
  - ❖ **3rd:** Singapore

### Logistics Performance Index (LPI) 2023

- **LEADS Report 2023:** Released by Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal.
- **Purpose:** Assess logistics infrastructure, services, and human resources across all 36 states and union territories.
- **Economic Impact:** Logistics sector crucial for achieving a US\$ 35 trillion economy by 2047.
- **Logistics Costs:** Estimated to rise between 7.8% and 8.9%.
- **First Report:** Released in 2018.
- **Performance Categories:**
  - ❖ **Achievers:** States/UTs achieving 90% or more.
  - ❖ **Fast Movers:** States/UTs scoring between 80-90%.
  - ❖ **Aspirers:** States/UTs scoring less than 80%.

### Coastal Group

- **Achievers:** Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu.
- **Fast Movers:** Kerala, Maharashtra.
- **Aspirers:** Goa, Odisha, West Bengal.

### Landlocked Group

- **Achievers:** Haryana, Punjab, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh.
- **Fast Movers:** Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand.
- **Aspirers:** Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand.

### North-East Group

- **Achievers:** Assam, Sikkim, Tripura.
- **Fast Movers:** Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland.
- **Aspirers:** Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram.

### Union Territories

- **Achievers:** Chandigarh, Delhi.
- **Fast Movers:** Andaman & Nicobar, Lakshadweep, Puducherry.

- **Aspirers:** Daman & Diu/Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh.

### Lancet Report on Child Marriage

- **Importance:** Crucial for achieving Sustainable Development Goal target 5.3.
- **Definition:** Marriage in individuals younger than 18 years.
- **Decline:** All-India prevalence of child marriage in girls declined from 49.4% in 1993 to 22.3% in 2021.
- **Current Statistics:** 1 in 5 girls, 1 in 6 boys are married.
- **SDG Target 5.3:** Aims to end child marriage in girls by 2030.
- **Increase in Girl Child Marriages:** Noted in six states, including Manipur, Punjab, Tripura, and West Bengal.
- **Increase in Boy Child Marriages:** Noted in eight states, including Chhattisgarh, Goa, Manipur, and Punjab.
- **Prohibition of Child Marriage Act:** Passed in 2006, setting the legal age of marriage at 21 years for men and 18 years for women.

### Global Remittance Charts 2023

- **India's Remittances:** Overseas Indians sent an estimated \$125 billion to India.
- **South Asia:** Overall increase of 7.2% in remittances.
- **Top Five Countries Receiving Remittances:**
  - ❖ 1st: India
  - ❖ 2nd: Mexico
  - ❖ 3rd: China
  - ❖ 4th: Philippines
  - ❖ 5th: Egypt

### India Skills Report 2024

- **Publisher:** Wheebox, in association with AICTE, Confederation of Indian Industry, and Association of Indian Universities.
- **Theme:** Impact of AI on the Future of Work, Skilling & Mobility.
- **State of Employability in India:** Improved to 51.25% of assessed youths found employable.

### State with Maximum Employability

- **Telangana:** Highest concentration of employable talent (18-21 age group) with 85.45% employable.
- **Gujarat:** Highest availability of employable resources (26-29 age group) with 78.24% employable.
- **Kerala and Telangana:** High concentration of highly employable youth.

### AI Professionals

- **Current:** 4.16 lakh AI professionals as of August 2023.

- **Future Demand:** Expected to reach 1 million by 2026.

### Cities with Employable Talent

- **18-21 Age Group:**
  - ❖ 1st: Pune (80.82% highly employable)
  - ❖ 2nd: Bengaluru
  - ❖ 3rd: Trivandrum
- **22-25 Age Group:**
  - ❖ 1st: Lucknow (88.89% highly employable)
  - ❖ 2nd: Mumbai
  - ❖ 3rd: Bengaluru

### Most Preferred State to Work

- **Kerala:** Most preferred state for both male and female employable talent.
  - ❖ **Cochin:** Most preferred area for female test takers.

### International Debt Report (IDR)

- **Publisher:** World Bank.
- **Formerly Known As:** International Debt Statistics (IDS).
- **Publication History:** Annual publication since 1973.
- **Coverage:** External debt statistics and analysis for 122 low- and middle-income countries.
- **Content:** Comprehensive picture of external borrowing and sources of lending by type of borrower and creditor.
- **2022 Financial Challenge:** Developing countries spent \$443.5 billion to service their external public and publicly guaranteed debt.

January 2024

### Brand Finance 2024 Report

- **Accenture:** Remains the world's most valuable IT services brand with a brand value of \$40.5 billion.
- **Tata Consultancy Services (TCS):** Secured the second spot with an 11% rise in brand value, reaching \$19.2 billion.
- **Infosys:** Maintained its third spot with a brand value of \$14.2 billion.
- **HCL Tech:** Emerged as the fastest-growing IT services brand with a 15.9% year-on-year growth in brand value.

### LANCET Study on Cancer Deaths

- **Study Source:** Published in The Lancet Regional Health Southeast Asia journal.
- **New Cancer Cases in India (2019):** About 12 lakh.
- **Cancer Deaths in India (2019):** 9.3 lakh, second highest in Asia after China.
- **Leading Countries in Asia:** China, India, and Japan in terms of new cases and deaths.



- **Leading Cancer in Asia:** Tracheal, bronchus, and lung (TBL) cancer.
- **Top Five Most Frequent Cancers in Asia (2019):** TBL, breast, colon and rectum cancer (CRC), stomach, and non-melanoma skin cancer.

#### India 4th in Global Firepower Rankings 2024

- The US leads the **military strength rankings**, followed by **Russia and China** in 2nd and 3rd spots.
- **India placed 4th out of 145 countries** - for the second straight year.
- **Pakistan ranked 9th** and Italy rounded out the top 10 at 10th.
- Other countries in the **top 10 include South Korea, the UK, Japan, and Turkey.**
- The GFP ranking evaluates military capabilities based on **factors such as manpower, equipment, natural resources, finances, and geography** across land, sea, and air.

#### World Employment and Social Outlook: Trends 2024 (ILO Report)

- **Global Joblessness:** Projected to increase through 2024 due to declining economic growth, persistent inflation, and stagnant wages.
- **Real Wages:** Declined in the majority of G20 countries as wage increases failed to keep pace with inflation.
- **India:** Real wages are “positive” compared to other G20 countries.
- **ILO Director-General:** Gilbert F. Houngbo.

#### Hottest Year on Record (Copernicus Climate Change Service)

- **Temperature Increase:** 2023 was 1.48°C warmer than the 1850-1900 pre-industrial average and 0.17°C warmer than 2016.
- **Consistent Warmth:** First year with all days over 1°C warmer than the pre-industrial period.
- **Record Atmospheric Concentrations:**
  - ❖ **Carbon Dioxide:** 2.4 parts per million higher than in 2022.
  - ❖ **Methane:** Increased by 11 parts per billion.

#### Apple Surpasses Samsung as Top Smartphone Seller

- **Apple Inc.:** iPhone outpaced Samsung Electronics Co. devices, becoming the best-selling smartphone series in 2023.
- **Historical Shift:** First time since 2010 that Samsung has conceded the top spot in the smartphone market.

#### India Second Worst Country in WADA's 10-Year Global Study

- **Study Focus:** **Positive doping cases by minors**, conducted by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA).
- **Top Countries:** Russia topped the list, followed by India and China.
- **Most Reported Sports:** Aquatics and athletics.
- **Report:** Published by WADA on findings of ‘**Operation Refuge**’.
- **Definition of Minor:** A person under the age of 18 years, as per the WADA Code.

#### Operation Refuge

- **Objective:** Examined **doping activities of minors to identify patterns of offending, governance deficiencies, and strategies to address doping among minors.**
- **WADA:** A foundation initiated by the **International Olympic Committee**, based in Canada, to promote, coordinate, and monitor the fight against drugs in sports.
- **President of WADA:** Witold Bałka.

#### Lambert Fisher Glacier - World's Largest Glacier 2024

- **Location:** Antarctica
- **Size:** About 80 km wide, over 400 km long, and about 2,500 m deep
- **Visibility:** Visible from space, showcasing evidence of glacial activity
- **Dimensions:** 400 km in length and 100 km in width, constituting 8% of the Arctic Ice Sheet
- **Movement:** One of the fastest-moving ice streams in the world

#### Gender-Inclusive Framework for Cross-Border Trade in India (LPAI Report)

- **Report Release:** Land Ports Authority of India (LPAI) released the report ‘**Engendering Land Ports in India**’ in New Delhi.
- **Objective:** Develop a framework for gender-inclusive cross-border trade and tourism through land ports in India.

#### Land Ports Authority of India (LPAI)

- **Statutory Body:** Under the Ministry of Home Affairs, established in 2012.
- **Establishment Act:** LAI Act of 2010.
- **Purpose:** Develop and manage facilities for cross-border movement of passengers and goods at designated points along India's international borders.
- **Functions:**
  - ❖ Seamless passenger movement and immigration facility.
  - ❖ Hassle-free international trade and goods handling.
  - ❖ Security and safety; managing border infrastructure.

- **Land Ports:** Also known as border stations for import and export, housing customs and border protection, and other inspection agencies.
- **Operational Land Ports:** Currently, there are 11 operational land ports in India.

### 24.82 Crore Indians Escape Multidimensional Poverty in Last 9 Years (NITI Aayog Report)

- **Report:** NITI Aayog's Discussion Paper 'Multidimensional Poverty in India since 2005-06'.
- **Reduction in Poverty:** Overall reduction from 29.17% in 2013-14 to 11.28% in 2022-23.
- **Measurement:** Multidimensional poverty measured by improvements in health, education, and standard of living, represented by 12 SDG-aligned indicators.
- **Largest Decline:** Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and Madhya Pradesh.
- **Top Five Poor States:** Bihar, Jharkhand, Meghalaya, Uttar Pradesh, and Madhya Pradesh.
- **Data Source:** Based on National Family Health Surveys 4 (2015-16) and 5 (2019-21).
- **Government Goal:** To bring down multidimensional poverty to below 1%, as stated by NITI Aayog CEO BVR Subrahmanyam.

### Start-up Ranking 2022 (DPIIT)

- **Report Release:** By the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).
- **Edition:** Fourth edition with participation from 33 states and union territories.
- **Ranking Criteria:** Based on performance in seven reform areas and 25 action points.

### Category A (Larger States & UT – Population above 1 crore)

- **Best Performers:** Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu.
- **Top Performers:** Maharashtra, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, and Telangana.
- **Leaders:** Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, and Uttarakhand.
- **Aspiring Leaders:** Bihar and Haryana.
- **Emerging Ecosystems:** Chhattisgarh, Delhi, and Jammu and Kashmir.

### Category B (Smaller States & UT – Population below 1 crore)

- **Best Performer:** Himachal Pradesh.
- **Top Performers:** Arunachal Pradesh and Meghalaya.
- **Leaders:** Goa, Manipur, and Tripura.
- **Aspiring Leaders:** Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Nagaland.

- **Emerging Ecosystems:** Chandigarh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, Ladakh, Mizoram, Puducherry, and Sikkim.

### GIFT City To Get First Hydrogen Price Index

- **Collaboration:** International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) at GIFT City, Indian Gas Exchange (IGX), and Gujarat State Petroleum Corporation (GSPC).
- **Objective:** Develop a Global Hydrogen Price Index.
- **Platform:** GSPC and IGX to create a platform for global institutions to trade hydrogen contracts and derivatives within the GIFT City Special Economic Zone (SEZ).

### 2023 Annual Status of Education Report (ASER)

- **Report Title:** 'Beyond Basics' by Pratham Foundation.
- **Target Age Group:** 34,745 rural students aged 14 to 18 years in 28 districts across 26 states.
- **Aim:**
  - ❖ Assess foundational reading and arithmetic abilities.
  - ❖ Evaluate activities in which India's youth are currently engaged.
  - ❖ Measure awareness of digital technologies and platforms among the youth.
  - ❖ Understand aspirations of Indian youth.
- **Government Reference:** ASER reports are used by the government for policy formulation.
- **Key Findings:**
  - ❖ 26.5% of those aged 14-18 could not read a Class 2-level textbook in their regional language.
  - ❖ 42.7% could not read sentences in English.
  - ❖ 56.7% could not solve a simple 3-digit by 1-digit division problem.
  - ❖ 89% had a smartphone in the household, and 92% knew how to use it.
  - ❖ Children struggle with basic reading and arithmetic skills into their teenage years, even after reaching Class 10 and higher secondary levels.
  - ❖ Findings indicate a significant skill deficit among adolescents, many of whom are close to entering the job market.

### State of Teachers, Teaching and Teacher Education Report 2023 (TISS)

- **Report Release:** By the Centre of Excellence in Teacher Education (CETE) at Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS).
- **Survey Scope:** Covered 8 states, over 6,000 teachers, principals, teacher colleges, and analyzed government data on teachers.

**Key Findings**

- **Mathematics Teachers:** 35-41% in both government and private schools did not have mathematics as a subject at the undergraduate level.
- **Certification:** Only 46% of primary teachers possessed the mandated diploma to teach.
- **Quality of Certified Teachers:** Most scored low (40-50%) in exams; only 32% passed the Teacher Eligibility Test.
- **Student-Teacher Ratios:** Mandated ratios of 30:1 for primary and 35:1 for upper primary are not met.
- **Private Schools:** Better facilities but teachers face low, unequal pay and lack contracts; over 50% of female teachers work without written agreements, earning half of public school teachers.
- **Government Schools:** Overworked teachers handle multiple classes and grades; declining student attendance and unsupportive parents add to difficulties.

**All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) 2021-2022**

- **Initiation:** AISHE initiated by the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) in 2011 to build a database and assess the state of higher education in India.

**Key Findings (2014-15 to 2021-22)**

- **Total Enrolment:** Increased by 26.5%.
- **Female Enrolment:** Increased by 32%.
- **SC Student Enrolment:** Increased by 44%.
- **ST Student Enrolment:** Increased by 65.2%.
- **OBC Student Enrolment:** Increased by 45%.
- **Ph.D. Enrolment:** Increased by 81.2%.
- **Female Minority Student Enrolment:** Increased by 42.3%.
- **Universities/Institutions Established:** 341 new universities/university-level institutions.
- **Female Faculty/Teachers:** Increased by 22%.

**Minimal Radioactive Discharges from Indian Nuclear Plants (Study)**

- **Study Period:** Analysis of radiological data from 2000-2020.
  - ❖ **Nuclear Plants Studied:** Six nuclear power plants in India.
  - ❖ **Kudankulam Nuclear Power Station (Tamil Nadu):** Study period from 2013 to 2020.
  - ❖ **Tarapur Atomic Power Station (Maharashtra)**
  - ❖ **Madras Atomic Power Station (Kalpakkam, Chennai, TN)**
  - ❖ **Kaiga Generating Station (Karnataka)**
  - ❖ **Rajasthan Atomic Power Station (Rawatbhata, Rajasthan)**

- ❖ **Narora Atomic Power Station (Uttar Pradesh)**

- ❖ **Kakrapar Atomic Power Station (Gujarat)**

- **Findings:** Researchers at Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), Mumbai found minimal radioactive discharges and potential environmental impact.

- **Publication:** Results published in the journal Science of the Total Environment.

**Status Report of Snow Leopards in India**

- **Report Release:** By Union Minister of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change, Bhupender Yadav during the National Board for Wildlife meeting in New Delhi.

- **Snow Leopard Population Assessment in India (SPA) Program:**

- ❖ **First-ever scientific exercise reporting a snow leopard population of 718 individuals in India.**

- ❖ **Covered over 70% of the potential snow leopard range from 2019 to 2023.**

- ❖ **241 new snow leopards photographed.**

- ❖ **Coordinated by the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) with support from snow leopard range states and conservation partners, Nature Conservation Foundation, Mysuru, and WWF-India.**

- ❖ **Covered approximately 120,000 km<sup>2</sup> of snow leopard habitat across the trans-Himalayan region, including UTs of Ladakh and J&K, and states such as Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, and Arunachal Pradesh.**

- ❖ **Estimated Population by State**

- ❖ **Ladakh: 477**

- ❖ **Uttarakhand: 124**

- ❖ **Himachal Pradesh: 51**

- ❖ **Arunachal Pradesh: 36**

- ❖ **Sikkim: 21**

- ❖ **Jammu and Kashmir: 9**

- **Recommendations**

- ❖ **Proposal:** Establish a **dedicated Snow Leopard Cell** at WII under the Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change (MoEFCC).

**February 2024**

**Mukesh Ambani Tops Brand Guardianship Index 2024 Among Indians**

- **Mukesh Ambani:** CMD of Reliance Industries Ltd., ranked first among Indians and second globally in the Brand Guardianship Index 2024 by Brand Finance
- **Global Leader:** Huateng Ma of Tencent ranked first in the index.
- **Index Purpose:** Recognizes CEOs building business value



sustainably by balancing the needs of employees, investors, and society.

- **Previous Ranking:** Ambani was second globally in the 2023 ranking.
- **Category Leader:** Ranked first in the 'Diversified' conglomerates category in 2024.
- **Jio Recognition:** Jio recognized as the strongest brand from India in the 'Global 500 - 2024' report by Brand Finance.
- **Consistent Performance:** Jio also topped India's strong brands in Brand Finance's 2023 rankings.

#### FT Global MBA Ranking 2024

- **Indian School of Business (ISB):**
  - ❖ Ranked 1st in India and 31st globally.
  - ❖ Substantial rise from 39th position in 2023.
  - ❖ Ranked 5th in Asia, up from 6th last year.
- **Top Global Business Schools:**
  - ❖ 1st: University of Pennsylvania (Wharton)
  - ❖ 2nd: Insead
  - ❖ 3rd: Columbia Business School

#### Japan Slips to World's Fourth-Largest Economy

- **Ranking:** Japan's economy is now the fourth largest globally, behind Germany.
- **Economic Contraction:**
  - ❖ Economy shrank at an annual rate of 0.4% in October-December 2023.
  - ❖ Contracted 2.9% in July-September 2023.
  - ❖ Two straight quarters of contraction indicate a technical recession.
- **Factors:**
  - ❖ Slowdown in consumer and business spending.
  - ❖ Weaker Japanese yen affecting nominal GDP comparisons in dollar terms.
  - ❖ Decline in population and lagging productivity and competitiveness.

#### Karnataka Boasts Highest Number of EV Charging Stations in India

- **Top State:** Karnataka leads with 5,059 public EV charging stations.
- **Followed By:**
  - ❖ Maharashtra: 3,079 charging stations.
  - ❖ Delhi: 1,886 charging stations.
  - ❖ Kerala: 958 charging stations.
- **EV Numbers:**
  - ❖ Uttar Pradesh: 7.45 lakh EVs.
  - ❖ Maharashtra: 4.15 lakh EVs.

❖ Karnataka: 3.31 lakh EVs.

- **Pioneer:** Karnataka introduced India's first electric vehicle (EV) policy in 2017.

#### Cybercrime and Cybersecurity in India (2023)

- **Global Ranking:** India ranked 80th in terms of cybercrime targeting.
- **Local Threats:**
  - ❖ Based on malicious programs found on users' computers or connected removable media.
  - ❖ Includes programs in complex installers or encrypted files.
- **User Impact:** Nearly 34% of users in India were targeted by local threats.
- **Market Size:** India's cybersecurity market reached USD 6.06 billion.
- **Outsourcing Trends:** Approximately 67% of Indian enterprises plan to outsource key security areas to managed security service providers within the next three years.

#### India's Ranking on the Henley Passport Index (February 2024)

- **Current Ranking:** India dropped to the 85th position.
- **Previous Ranking:** India was at the 80th position in January 2024.
- **Index Update Frequency:** The Henley Passport Index is updated monthly.
- **Top Ranked Countries:**
  - ❖ Six countries jointly hold the top position: France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Japan, and Singapore.
- **Index Coverage:** The index includes 199 different passports and 227 different travel destinations.

#### Global Leader Approval Ratings (Survey by Morning Consult)

- **Top Leader:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi is the most popular global leader with a 78% approval rating.
- **Survey Conducted By:** US-based global decision intelligence agency Morning Consult.
- **Second Place:** President of Mexico, Andrés Manuel López Obrador, with a 65% approval rating.
- **Third Place:** Argentina President, Javier Milei, with a 63% approval rating.
- **US President:** Joe Biden is in the 11th position.
- **Canadian Prime Minister:** Justin Trudeau is in the 17th position.
- **UK Prime Minister:** Rishi Sunak is in the 20th position.

#### UAE's Removal from FATF Grey List

- **Grey List Duration:** The UAE had been on the grey list

since 2022.

- **Current Status:** The UAE is no longer subject to additional scrutiny by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).
- **Grey List Definition:** Countries on the grey list are working with FATF to address strategic deficiencies in countering money laundering, terrorist financing, and proliferation.
- **Other Removals:** Barbados, Gibraltar, and Uganda were also removed from the grey list.
- **New Additions:** Kenya and Namibia were placed on the grey list.

### Financial Action Task Force (FATF)

- **Purpose:** Inter-governmental policy-making and standard-setting body dedicated to combating money laundering and terrorist financing.
- **Establishment:** 1989 during the G7 Summit in Paris to develop policies against money laundering.
- **Mandate Expansion:** In 2001, the mandate expanded to include terrorism financing.
- **Headquarters:** Paris, France.
- **India's Membership:** India became a member in 2010.
- **FATF Black List:** Non-Cooperative Countries or Territories (NCCTs) that support terror funding and money laundering activities.
- **Current Blacklisted Countries:** North Korea, Iran, and Myanmar.

### Japan Records Lowest Births in 2023

- **Decline in Births:**
  - ❖ Number of babies born in 2023 fell for the 8th straight year.
  - ❖ 5.1% decline from the previous year.
  - ❖ Lowest number of births since statistics began in 1899.
- **Decline in Marriages:**
  - ❖ Number of marriages fell by 5.9%.
  - ❖ One of the key reasons for declining births.
- **Contributing Factors:**
  - ❖ Bleak job prospects.
  - ❖ High cost of living rising faster than salaries.
  - ❖ Corporate cultures incompatible with both parents working.
- **Population Projections:**
  - ❖ Current population: Over 125 million.
  - ❖ Projected to fall by about 30% to 87 million by 2070.
  - ❖ 4 out of every 10 people will be aged 65 or older.
- **Aging Population:**
  - ❖ More than 1 in 10 people are now aged 80 or older.
  - ❖ World's oldest population by proportion of people

aged 65 or up (UN).

### Government Response:

- ❖ Prime Minister Fumio Kishida calls low births “the biggest crisis Japan faces.”
- ❖ Proposed measures include more support and subsidies for childbirth, children, and families.

### India in Corruption Perceptions Index 2023

- **Released by:** Transparency International.
- **Ranking Criteria:** Perceived levels of public sector corruption, scale of 0 (highly corrupt) to 100 (very clean).
- **India's Rank:** 93 out of 180 countries.
  - ❖ Slipped 8 places from 85 in 2022.
  - ❖ Overall score: 39 in 2023 (40 in 2022).
- **Neighbouring Countries' Ranks:**
  - ❖ Pakistan: 133
  - ❖ Sri Lanka: 115
  - ❖ Bangladesh: 149
  - ❖ China: 76
- **Top 3 Countries:**
  - ❖ Denmark
  - ❖ Finland
  - ❖ New Zealand
- **Bottom 3 Countries:**
  - ❖ Somalia (bottom)
  - ❖ Venezuela
  - ❖ Syria
- **Top in Asia:** Singapore (overall ranked 5th).

### India in Global Intellectual Property Index 2024

- **Edition:** 12th edition of the US Chamber of Commerce's Global Innovation Policy Center's International IP Index.
- **India's Rank:** 42nd out of 55 countries.
- **Criteria:** Based on 50 distinct criteria.
- **Overall Score:** 38.64%, unchanged since 2022.
- **Concerns:** Report highlighted concerns over India's IP regime.
- **Top 3 Countries:**
  - ❖ United States
  - ❖ United Kingdom
  - ❖ France

### India State of Forest Report (ISFR)

- **Conducted by:** Forest Survey of India (FSI), Dehradun, under the Ministry.
- **Assessment Frequency:** Biennial assessment of forest cover.

- **Recent Increase:** Forest cover increased by 5516 km<sup>2</sup> between ISFR 2017 and ISFR 2021.

#### States with Highest Forest Area/Cover:

- **Area-wise:**
  - ❖ Madhya Pradesh (largest forest cover)
  - ❖ Arunachal Pradesh
  - ❖ Chhattisgarh
  - ❖ Odisha
  - ❖ Maharashtra
- **Percentage of Total Geographical Area:**
  - ❖ Mizoram
  - ❖ Arunachal Pradesh
  - ❖ Meghalaya
  - ❖ Manipur
  - ❖ Nagaland

#### Assessment of the Black-necked Cranes

- **Conducted by:** Wildlife Institute of India and Zoological Survey of India.
- **Population Survey:**
  - ❖ Conducted in 2016-2017 in Ladakh region.
  - ❖ Population size: Around 66-69 individuals.
- **Legal Protection:**
  - ❖ Listed in Schedule I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.
  - ❖ Listed in Appendix I of CITES and the Convention on Conservation of Migratory Species.
- **Protected Habitats:**
  - ❖ Important habitats notified as Protected Areas, e.g., Changthang Sanctuary, Ladakh.
  - ❖ Tso Kar Wetlands Complex designated as a Ramsar Site in December 2020.

#### First-ever Tri-State Synchronized Vulture Survey in India

- **Previous Surveys:** Conducted separately by three states, leading to data duplication.
- **Survey Data:**
  - ❖ Total vultures counted: 320 individuals.
  - ❖ 51 vultures in Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary (Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu).
- **Seven Protected Areas:**
  - ❖ **Kerala:** Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary.
  - ❖ **Karnataka:** Bandipur Tiger Reserve, Nagarhole Tiger Reserve, Satyamangalam Tiger Reserve, Biligiri Ranganathan Swamy Temple Tiger Reserve.
  - ❖ **Tamil Nadu:** Nellai Forest Division, Mudumalai Tiger Reserve.

#### Population Decline:

- ❖ Catastrophic decline in the 2000s due to diclofenac exposure.
- ❖ South Asia had about 4 crore White-rumped vultures until the late 1990s; now fewer than 10,000.
- **Himalayan Griffon:** Sighted only in Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary.
- **Additional Fact:** World's first conservation and breeding center for the critically endangered Asian king vulture - Jatayu Conservation and Breeding Centre (JCBC), Maharajganj district, Uttar Pradesh.

#### 2023 Burgundy Private Hurun India 500 List

- **Release:** 3rd edition by Axis Bank's Burgundy Private and Hurun India.
- **Inclusion Criteria:** Minimum value of Rs 6,700 crore.
- **Top 3 Companies:**
  - ❖ Reliance Industries: INR 15.6 lakh crore.
  - ❖ Tata Consultancy Services: INR 12.4 lakh crore.
  - ❖ HDFC Bank: INR 11.3 lakh crore.
- **Women's Representation:** 437 companies have women on their boards.
- **Unlisted Companies:** 26% of the companies are unlisted.
- **Most Valuable Unlisted Company:** Serum Institute of India.

#### March 2024

#### Netted in Illegal Wildlife Trade: Sharks of India

- **Released by:** TRAFFIC and WWF-India.
- **Time Span:** Findings from January 2010 to December 2022.
- **Illegal Trade:**
  - ❖ Tamil Nadu: 65% of illegal trade in shark body parts.
  - ❖ 16,000 kg of shark fins seized from 2010 to 2022.
  - ❖ Other states: Karnataka, Gujarat, Kerala, Maharashtra.
- **Ecological Importance:** Sharks are top predators in the oceanic food web.
- **Global Demand:** Shark meat and fins drive global shark fishery.
  - ❖ Shark fins used to make 'shark-fin soup,' a delicacy.
- **Species Protection:**
  - ❖ 160 shark species reported in India.
  - ❖ 26 sharks and rays species listed in Schedules I and II of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.

#### TRAFFIC

- **Organization:** Wildlife Trade Monitoring Network.
- **Affiliation:** Joint program of WWF and IUCN.



- **Headquarters:** Cambridge, United Kingdom.

### Report on Status of Leopards in India, 2022

- **Released by:** Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Bhupender Yadav.
- **Conducted by:** National Tiger Conservation Authority and Wildlife Institute of India.
- **Part of:** Quadrennial “Monitoring of Tiger, Co-predators, Prey and their Habitat” exercise in tiger range states.

### Key Findings:

- **Population Estimate:**
  - ❖ India's leopard

### India's Golden Langur Population Soars

- **Population Estimation:**
  - ❖ Conducted by: Primate Research Centre NE India (PRCNE), Assam Forest Department, Bodoland Territorial Council, Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History (SACON), and Conservation Himalayas.
  - ❖ Estimated Population: 7,396 individuals.
  - ❖ Previous Estimate (2008-09): 6,000 individuals.
- **Distribution Range:**
  - ❖ Manas Biosphere Reserve.
  - ❖ Fragmented forests in the western part of Assam.

### India's Golden Langur

- **Scientific Name:** *Trachypitecus geei*.
- **IUCN Status:** Endangered.
- **CITES:** Appendix I.
- **Wildlife Protection Act, 1972:** Schedule I.

### 2023 Deadliest Year for Migrants: UN-IOM

- **Migrant Deaths:**
  - ❖ 2023 saw 8,565 migrant deaths, the deadliest year since 2014<sup>1</sup>.
  - ❖ 20% increase compared to 2022<sup>1</sup>.
  - ❖ Mediterranean route from North Africa to Europe remains the riskiest<sup>2</sup>.
  - ❖ 512 deaths recorded so far this year<sup>2</sup>.
  - ❖ High number of deaths in Africa (1,866) and Asia (2,138) in 2023<sup>1</sup>.
  - ❖ Hundreds of Afghan and Rohingya refugee deaths in Asia<sup>2</sup>.
- **Missing Migrants Project:**
  - ❖ Established in 2014 as an open-access database on migrant deaths and disappearances<sup>1</sup>.

### UN - International Organization for Migration (IOM)

- **Establishment:** 1951, post-World War II displacement in Western Europe.
- **Headquarters:** Geneva, Switzerland.
- **Head:** Director General - Amy E. Pope.
- **Membership:** India is a member.
- **Mission:** Ensure orderly and humane migration management, provide humanitarian assistance to migrants, including refugees and internally displaced people

### Methane Emissions from Energy Sector Near Record High in 2023: IEA Report

- **Methane Emissions:**
  - ❖ Near record highs in 2023 despite available technology to curb pollution<sup>1</sup>.
  - ❖ 120 million tonnes of methane emissions from fossil fuels<sup>2</sup>.
  - ❖ Two-thirds of emissions from 10 countries, including China, the United States, and Russia<sup>2</sup>.
  - ❖ Satellite-detected large methane emissions events rose by over 50% in 2023 compared to 2022<sup>2</sup>.
  - ❖ Methane responsible for around 30% of global warming<sup>2</sup>.
- Second only to carbon dioxide in contribution to global warming<sup>2</sup>.
- **Sources of Methane:**
  - ❖ 40% from natural sources, mainly wetlands<sup>2</sup>.
  - ❖ Human activities responsible for the rest<sup>2</sup>.
  - ❖ Agriculture is the main source, with emissions from livestock and rice cultivation<sup>2</sup>.
  - ❖ Oil and gas firms pledged to slash methane emissions by 2050<sup>2</sup>.

### International Energy Agency (IEA)

- **Organization:** Inter-governmental organization.
- **Founded:** 1974.
- **India's Membership:** Joined in 2017 as an Associate member.
- **Reports Published:**
  - ❖ World Energy Outlook.
  - ❖ World Energy Balances.
  - ❖ Energy Technology Perspectives.
  - ❖ World Energy Statistics.
  - ❖ Net Zero by 2050

### Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES) 2022-23

- **Release:** First time in 11 years, covering August 2022 to July 2023.

- **Importance:** Key for reviewing GDP, poverty levels, and Consumer Price Inflation (CPI).
- **Key Findings:**
- **Average Monthly Per Capita Consumption Expenditure (MPCE):**
  - ❖ Urban households: Increased by 33.5% to Rs.3,510.
  - ❖ Rural households: Increased by 40.42% to Rs.2,008.
- **Spending on Food:**
  - ❖ Rural households: Dropped to 46.4% from 52.9% (2011-12).
  - ❖ Urban households: Dropped to 39.2% from 42.6%.
  - ❖ Potential lower weightage for food prices in retail inflation calculations.
- **MPCE by Population Percentiles:**
  - ❖ **Bottom 5%:**
    - ❖ Rural: Rs.1,373.
    - ❖ Urban: Rs.2,001.
  - ❖ **Top 5%:**
    - ❖ Rural: Rs.10,501.
    - ❖ Urban: Rs.20,824.
- **State-wise MPCE:**
  - ❖ **Highest:** Sikkim
    - ❖ Rural: Rs.7,731.
    - ❖ Urban: Rs.12,105.
  - ❖ **Lowest:** Chhattisgarh
    - ❖ Rural: Rs.2,466.
    - ❖ Urban: Rs.4,483.

### First In-depth Study of a Star Dune

- **Star Dunes:**
  - ❖ Vaguely pyramid-shaped sand formations up to 1,000 feet (300 meters) tall.
  - ❖ Arms stretch out from a central peak, giving a star-like appearance from above.
- **Study Focus:**
  - ❖ Star dune in eastern Morocco called Lala Lallia ("highest sacred point").
  - ❖ Located in the Sahara Desert, near the Algeria border.
  - ❖ Formation time: About 900 years, based on energy trapped in sand grains.
- **Characteristics:**
  - ❖ Make up just under 10% of Earth's desert dunes.
  - ❖ Tallest dunes on Earth.
  - ❖ Also found on Mars and Saturn's moon Titan.
- **Formation:**
  - ❖ Formed in areas with complex wind regimes (winds from different directions).

- ❖ Net sand accumulation points where large sand piles form giant dunes.

### ➤ Largest Star Dunes:

- ❖ Found in Earth's deserts.

### Women, Business and Law Report 2024

- **India's Ranking:** Improved to 113 out of 190 countries (126 in 2023).
- **Index Purpose:** Measures the enabling environment for women's economic opportunity in 190 economies.
- **Scoring:** Scale from 0 to 100, where 100 means equal legal rights for men and women.
- **Covered Areas:** Mobility, workplace, pay, marriage, parenthood, entrepreneurship, assets, and pension.

### Badain Jaran Desert in Western China

- **Location:** Western Inner Mongolia, spanning Gansu and Ningxia provinces.
- **Size:** Covers 49,000 square kilometers.
- **Features:**
  - ❖ Tallest stationary dunes on Earth, some over 500 meters.
  - ❖ Over 100 spring-fed lakes, some fresh water, others saline.
- **Formation:** Formed in areas with complex wind regimes and net sand accumulation.
- **Significance:** Known for its unique landscape and ecological importance.

### DHL Global Connectedness Report 2024

- **India's Ranking:**
  - ❖ Improved to **62nd position** out of 171 countries.
  - ❖ Previously ranked **67th**.
- **Report Overview:**
  - ❖ Released by **DHL** and **New York University's Stern School of Business**.
  - ❖ Ranks countries based on their **global connectedness** through trade, capital, information, and people flows.
- **Global Trends:**
  - ❖ **Globalisation** reached a record high in **2022**.
  - ❖ Remained close to that level in **2023**.
- **Top Ranked Countries:**
  - ❖ **Singapore** is the most globally connected country.
  - ❖ Followed by the **Netherlands** and **Ireland**

### UN World Happiness Report 2024: Key Highlights

- **India's Ranking:**
  - ❖ Ranked **126th** out of 143 countries.

- ❖ Same rank as the previous year.
- **Report Overview:**
  - ❖ Published annually on the **United Nations' International Day of Happiness**.
  - ❖ Factors considered: **social support, income, health, freedom, generosity, and absence of corruption**.
- **Top Ranked Countries:**
  - ❖ **Finland** is the happiest country for the **seventh consecutive year**.
  - ❖ Followed by **Denmark, Iceland, Sweden, and Israel**.
- **Notable Insights:**
  - ❖ **Israel** secures the fifth position despite ongoing conflicts, attributed to the **three-year averaging method** used in the rankings.
  - ❖ **Afghanistan** remains at the bottom of the list.

### UNITAR Global E-waste Monitor Report 2024

- **Report Overview:**
  - ❖ **4th Global E-waste Monitor (GEM)** report by **International Telecommunications Union (ITU)** and **United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)**.
- **E-waste Generation:**
  - ❖ **62 million tons** of e-waste generated in **2022**.
  - ❖ Expected to reach **82 million tons** by **2030**.
  - ❖ E-waste generation is increasing **five times faster** than documented recycling.
- **Recycling and Collection:**
  - ❖ **22%** of e-waste was properly collected and recycled in **2022**.
  - ❖ Expected to fall to **20%** by **2030**.
  - ❖ **Europe**: Highest recycling and collection rates at **40%**, with per-capita waste generation nearly **18 kilograms (39 pounds)**.
  - ❖ **Africa**: Lowest recycling and collection rates at about **1%**.
- **Visual Impact:**
  - ❖ The amount of e-waste generated in 2022 is enough to fill tractor-trailers that could be lined up bumper to bumper around the globe.

### Global Human Development Index 2023/24:

#### India's Ranking:

- ❖ Improved to **134th** out of 193 countries in 2022.
- ❖ Previously ranked **135th** out of 191 countries in 2021.
- **Report Overview:**
  - ❖ Published in the **UNDP's** report titled **"Breaking the Gridlock: Reimagining Cooperation in a Polarized**

World".

#### India's HDI Indicators:

- ❖ **Life Expectancy**: Increased from **67.2** to **67.7** years.
- ❖ **Gross National Income (GNI) per capita**: Improved from **\$6,542** to **\$6,951**.
- ❖ **HDI Value**: Increased by **48.4%** from **0.434** in **1990** to **0.644** in **2022**.
- ❖ **Expected Years of Schooling (EYS)**: Increased by **5.88%** from **11.9** years to **12.6** years.

#### Global Rankings:

- ❖ **Switzerland** ranked number one.
- ❖ **China**: 75th.
- ❖ **Sri Lanka**: 78th.
- ❖ **Bhutan**: 125th.
- ❖ **Bangladesh**: 129th.
- ❖ **Nepal**: 146th.
- ❖ **Pakistan**: 164th.

#### Global Trends:

- ❖ **Inequality** is rising again, with the gap between the richest and poorest countries widening since 2020.

### Gender Inequality Index 2022

#### India's Ranking:

- ❖ Ranked **108th** out of 193 countries with a score of **0.437**.
- ❖ Improved from **122nd** out of 191 countries with a score of **0.490** in 2021.
- ❖ Significant jump of **14 ranks** from 2021 to 2022.

#### Report Overview:

- ❖ Released by **UNDP** in the **Human Development Report 2023/2024**.

#### GII Dimensions:

- ❖ Measures gender inequalities in **reproductive health, empowerment, and labour market**.

#### Progress Over Time:

- ❖ India's rank has consistently improved over the last **10** years.
- ❖ Ranked **127th** in 2014.

### SIPRI Report: India's Arms Imports 2019-23

#### India's Status:

- ❖ Remains the world's **top arms importer** for the period **2019-23**.
- ❖ Imports increased by **4.7%** compared to **2014-18**.

#### Global Trends:

- ❖ Arms imports by European countries increased by **94%** between **2014-18** and **2019-23**.

#### Main Suppliers to India:



- ❖ **Russia:** 36% of India's arms imports.
- ❖ **France:** 33%.
- ❖ **US:** 13%.
- ❖ First five-year period since **1960-64** where deliveries from Russia (or Soviet Union) made up less than half of India's arms imports.
- **Regional Insights:**
  - ❖ 9 of the 10 biggest arms importers in **2019-23** were in **Asia and Oceania** or the **Middle East**.
- **Top Arms Exporting Countries:**
  - ❖ **USA:** 42% of global arms exports.
  - ❖ **France:** 11%.
  - ❖ **Russia:** 11%.
  - ❖ **China:** 5.8%.
  - ❖ **Germany:** 5.6%.

### 2023-24 El Nino:

- **Current Status:**
  - ❖ Peaked as one of the **five strongest** El Nino events on record.
  - ❖ Will continue to impact global climate in 2024 despite a weakening trend.
- **Development and Peak:**
  - ❖ Developed in **June 2023** and peaked in **December 2023**.
  - ❖ Strongest between **November and January**.
  - ❖ Peak value: **2°C above** the 1991-2020 average sea surface temperature for the eastern and central tropical Pacific Ocean.
  - ❖ Weaker than the **1997/98** and **2015/2016** events.
- **Global Impact:**
  - ❖ Greatest impact on global climate expected in **2024**.
  - ❖ Global mean temperature breached the **1.5°C threshold** for the first time between **February 2023** and **January 2024**.

### Understanding El Nino

- **Definition:**
  - ❖ Linked to the **trade winds**.
  - ❖ Occurs when trade winds are **weaker than normal**.
  - ❖ **La Niña** occurs when trade winds are **stronger than normal**.
- **Cycle and Impact:**
  - ❖ Both cycles typically peak in **December**.
  - ❖ Alters **rainfall patterns** globally.
  - ❖ **El Niño:** Warm water builds up along the equator in the eastern Pacific, leading to **rainstorms**.
  - ❖ **La Niña:** Stronger trade winds push warm water

toward Asia, increasing **rainfall** in regions like India.

- **Frequency and Duration:**
  - ❖ Occurs every **two to seven years**.
  - ❖ Typically lasts **nine to twelve months**.
  - ❖ Often followed by **La Niña**.

### World Air Quality Report 2023

- **Report Source:** 'World Air Quality Report 2023' by Swiss organisation IQAir.
- **India's Ranking:**
  - ❖ 3rd most air polluted country in 2023 out of 134 countries.
  - ❖ Ranked 8th in 2022 out of 131 countries.
- **New Delhi:**
  - ❖ World's most polluted capital city for the fourth consecutive year since 2018.
  - ❖ PM2.5 levels worsened in 2023 compared to 2022.
- **Bihar's Begusarai:**
  - ❖ Emerged as the world's most polluted metropolitan area.

### WMO State of the Global Climate 2023 Report

- **Global Temperature:**
  - ❖ 2023 global average near-surface temperature was 1.45°C above the pre-industrial baseline ( $\pm 0.12^\circ\text{C}$  margin of uncertainty).
  - ❖ 2023 was the warmest year in the 174-year observational record.
- **Climate Conditions:**
  - ❖ Rapid temperature rise from 2022 to 2023 partly due to the shift from La Niña to El Niño conditions in mid-2023.
- **Decadal Record:**
  - ❖ The warmest ten-year period on record.

### Hurun Research's 2024 Global Rich List

- **Mumbai's Billionaire Status:**
  - ❖ Mumbai is now Asia's billionaire capital, surpassing Beijing.
  - ❖ Hosts 92 billionaires, compared to Beijing's 91.
- **Country Comparison:**
  - ❖ China has 814 billionaires overall, while India has 271.
- **Global Ranking:**
  - ❖ Mumbai ranks third globally in terms of billionaires, after New York (119 billionaires).
- **Wealth Increase:**
  - ❖ Mumbai's total billionaire wealth is \$445 billion, a 47% increase from the previous year.

## Brand Finance Insurance 100 2024 Report

### ➤ LIC's Achievement:

- ❖ Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) is the world's strongest insurance brand.
- ❖ Brand value: \$9.8 billion.
- ❖ Brand strength index score: 88.3.
- ❖ Brand strength rating: AAA.

### ➤ Top Competitors:

- ❖ Cathay Life Insurance is the second strongest brand.
- ❖ NRMA Insurance is the third strongest brand.

### ➤ Global Rankings:

- ❖ Chinese insurance brands, led by Ping An, dominate the global rankings of most valuable insurance brands.
- ❖ Allianz (Germany) and AXA (France) remain in the top 5 rankings.

- ❖ Female LFPR declined by 14.4 percentage points from 2000 to 2019, compared to an 8.1 percentage point decline for males.
- ❖ Between 2019 and 2022, female LFPR increased by 8.3 percentage points, while male LFPR increased by 1.7 percentage points.
- ❖ Women's LFPR in 2022 was 32.8%, significantly lower than men's LFPR of 77.2%.

### ➤ Employment Categories:

- ❖ Self-employment: 55.8% of employment in 2022.
- ❖ Casual employment: 22.7% in 2022, down from 33.3% in 2000.
- ❖ Regular employment: 21.5% in 2022.

### ➤ Youth Unemployment:

- ❖ Higher unemployment rate among youths with a graduate degree (28.7%) compared to those with less than primary education (3.2%)

## India Employment Report 2024

### ➤ Report Source: Released by the Institute for Human Development (IHD) and International Labour Organisation (ILO).

### ➤ Employment Condition Index:

- ❖ Improved between 2004-05 and 2021-22.
- ❖ Bihar, Odisha, Jharkhand, and UP remained at the bottom.
- ❖ Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Telangana, Uttarakhand, and Gujarat stayed at the top.

### ➤ Concerns About Employment Conditions:

- ❖ 82% of the workforce is engaged in the informal sector; nearly 90% is informally employed.
- ❖ Slow transition to non-farm employment has reversed.
- ❖ Youth employment is of poorer quality than adult employment.
- ❖ Wages and earnings are stagnant or declining.
- ❖ Increase in self-employment and unpaid family work, especially for women.

### ➤ Labor Force Participation Rate (LFPR):

- ❖ 55.2% in 2022 for individuals aged 15 years and older, lower than the world average of 59.8%.
- ❖ Declined from 61.6% in 2000 to 50.2% in 2019, then increased to 55.2% in 2022.

### ➤ Unemployment Trends:

- ❖ Open unemployment rate increased between 2012 and 2019 due to labor force growth without corresponding employment increase.
- ❖ From 2019 to 2022, labor force growth was accompanied by workforce growth and decreased unemployment.

### ➤ Gender Distribution:

April 2024

## SIPRI Report on Military Spending 2023

### ➤ Report By: Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)

### ➤ India's Military Spending:

- ❖ Fourth largest globally in 2023
- ❖ Expenditure: \$83.6 billion (4.2% increase from 2022)

### ➤ Global Military Expenditure:

- ❖ Total: \$2443 billion in 2023 (6.8% increase, steepest since 2009)
- ❖ Top Spenders: United States, China, Russia (all increased spending)

### ➤ Largest Percentage Increases:

- ❖ Democratic Republic of the Congo: +105% (due to protracted conflict)
- ❖ South Sudan: +78% (amid internal violence and spillover from Sudanese civil war)

## UNFPA Report: State of World Population 2024

### ➤ Report Title: "Interwoven Lives, Threads of Hope: Ending Inequalities in Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights"

### ➤ Global Population Leaders:

- ❖ India: 144.17 crore
- ❖ China: 142.5 crore

### ➤ India's Population:

- ❖ Last Census (2011): 121 crore
- ❖ Estimated Doubling Time: 77 years

### ➤ Age Distribution in India:

- ❖ 0-14 years: 24%

- ❖ 10-19 years: 17%
- ❖ 10-24 years: 26%
- ❖ 15-64 years: 68%
- ❖ 65 years and above: 7%
- **Life Expectancy:**
  - ❖ Men: 71 years
  - ❖ Women: 74 years
- **Child Marriage:** 23% (2006-2023)
- **Maternal Deaths:**
  - ❖ Significant reduction, accounting for 8% of global maternal fatalities
  - ❖ Persistent inequities in maternal death risk
  - ❖ Healthcare improvements primarily benefit wealthier women and certain ethnic groups
- **Global Issues:**
  - ❖ 800 women die daily during childbirth (unchanged since 2016)
  - ❖ 25% of women cannot refuse sex with their partner
  - ❖ Nearly 10% of women cannot make their own decisions about contraception
- ❖ **IIM Ahmedabad:** Top 25 globally for business and management studies
- ❖ **IIM Bangalore and Calcutta:** Top 50 globally for business and management studies
- ❖ **Saveetha Institute of Medical and Technical Sciences (SIMATS), Chennai:** 24th globally for dentistry studies
- **Representation in Asia:**
  - India: Second most represented country (69 universities)
  - ❖ Mainland China: 101 universities
- **Global Representation:**
  - ❖ India: Fourth in total ranked entries (454)
  - ❖ China: 1,041
  - ❖ Japan: 510
  - ❖ South Korea: 499
- **Research Growth:**
  - ❖ 16% growth in International Research Network indicator
  - ❖ India's research output surged by 54% from 2017 to 2022
  - ❖ Fourth-largest producer of research globally (1.3 million academic papers)
  - ❖ China: 4.5 million
  - ❖ United States: 4.4 million
  - ❖ United Kingdom: 1.4 million

### WHO Report: Hepatitis B and C Cases in India

- **Report:** WHO's 2024 Global Hepatitis Report
- **India's Ranking:** Second-highest number of hepatitis B and C cases in 2022, after China
- **Statistics:**
  - ❖ Total cases in India: 3.5 crore
  - ❖ India's share of global disease burden: 11.6%
- **Hepatitis Overview:**
  - ❖ Inflammation of the liver, potentially fatal
  - ❖ Five main strains: A, B, C, D, E
  - ❖ Differences in transmission, severity, geographical distribution, and prevention
- **Types B and C:**
  - ❖ Lead to chronic disease in hundreds of millions
  - ❖ Most common cause of liver cirrhosis, liver cancer, and viral hepatitis-related deaths

### QS World University Rankings by Subject 2024: Indian Institutes

- **Total Indian Universities Ranked:** 69
- **Total Institutions Ranked Globally:** 1,559
- **Ranking Organization:** Quacquarelli Symonds (QS), London-based higher education analytics firm
- **Top Indian Universities:**
  - ❖ **JNU:** 20th globally for development studies (highest-ranked Indian university)

### World Cybercrime Index: India's Ranking

- **Report:** World Cybercrime Index by an international team of researchers
- **Publication:** Journal PLoS ONE
- **India's Ranking:** 10th globally in cybercrime
  - ❖ Common cybercrime: Scamming people by forcing advanced payments
- **Top Countries:**
  - ❖ Russia
  - ❖ Ukraine
  - ❖ China
  - ❖ United States
  - ❖ Nigeria
  - ❖ Romania
  - ❖ North Korea
  - ❖ United Kingdom
  - ❖ Brazil
- **Specializations:**
  - ❖ Russia and Ukraine: Highly technical cybercrime hubs
  - ❖ Romania and United States: Both high-tech and low-tech crimes



- ❖ India: Mid-tech crimes, specializing in scams

### Hurun Global Unicorn Index 2024: India's Performance

- **Report By:** Hurun Research Institute (Shanghai, China)
- **Criteria:** Unlisted companies founded in the 2000s with a valuation of \$1 billion
- **Global Unicorn Tally:**
  - ❖ **United States:** 703 unicorns
  - ❖ **China:** 340 unicorns
  - ❖ **India:** 67 unicorns
  - ❖ **Total Globally:** 1,453 unicorns
- **India's Unicorn Creation:**
  - ❖ Decline for the first time since 2017
  - ❖ 2023: 67 unicorns (one less than 2022)
  - ❖ Indian founders co-founded 109 offshore unicorns
- **Top Indian Unicorns:**
  - ❖ **Swiggy:** Valued at \$8 billion
  - ❖ **Dream11:** Valued at \$8 billion
- **Notable Changes:**
  - ❖ **Byjus:** Most value destroyer unicorn, dropped from the list
- **Leading Unicorn Hubs:**
  - ❖ **New York:** 133 unicorns
  - ❖ **Beijing:** 78 unicorns
  - ❖ **Bengaluru:** 32 unicorns (ranked 7th)
  - ❖ **Mumbai:** 14 unicorns (ranked 19th)

### Plastic Overshoot Day Report 2024

- **Definition:** Plastic Overshoot Day marks when plastic waste generated exceeds the world's capacity to manage it, leading to environmental pollution.
- **Global Date:** September 5, 2024
- **Report By:** Swiss non-profit EA Earth Action
- **Key Statistics:**
  - ❖ **Plastic Waste in 2024:** 220 million tonnes
  - ❖ **Plastic Ending Up in Nature:** Nearly 70 million tonnes
  - ❖ **Increase Since 2021:** 7.11%
- **Upcoming Event:** 4th meeting of the United Nations' Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) in Ottawa, Canada, to develop a legally binding instrument to end plastic pollution.
- **Countries Responsible for 60% of Mismanaged Plastic Waste:**
  - ❖ China, India, Russia, Brazil, Mexico, Vietnam, Iran, Indonesia, Egypt, Pakistan, United States, Turkey
- **India's Classification:**

- ❖ "Low-waste-producing" polluter with low per capita plastic waste production (8 kg per capita per year)
- ❖ Expected mismanaged waste in 2024: 7.4 million tonnes
- ❖ Less than one-fifth of China's and one-third of the US's mismanaged waste

### Top Generators of Plastic Waste:

- ❖ Belgium: 147.7 kg per person annually (16 times higher than India)

### Top Mismanaged Plastic Waste:

- ❖ Oman: Projected 111 kg per person in 2024
- **India's Plastic Overshoot Day:** April 23, 2024

### Reliance Jio: World's Largest Mobile Operator in Data Traffic

- **Achievement:** Reliance Jio becomes the world's largest mobile operator in data traffic consumption.
- **Surpassed:** China Mobile
- **Data Traffic:** 40.9 exabytes in the January-March quarter
- **Growth:** 35.2% year-on-year increase
- **Source:** Global analytics firm Tefficient
- **Leadership:** Mukesh Ambani, Chairman and Managing Director of Reliance

### Forbes Richest List 2024: Key Highlights

- **Total Billionaires Worldwide:** 2,781
- **Indians Featured:** 200 (up from 169 last year)
- **Combined Wealth of Indians:** \$954 billion (up 41% from \$675 billion last year)
- **Top Indians:**
  - ❖ **Mukesh Ambani:** 9th richest globally, India's and Asia's richest person
  - ❖ **Gautam Adani:** 17th globally, second richest Indian
- **Top Global Billionaires:**
  - ❖ **1st:** Bernard Arnault and family
  - ❖ **2nd:** Elon Musk
  - ❖ **3rd:** Jeff Bezos
- **Country with Most Billionaires:** United States (813)
- **Wealthiest Woman:** Francoise Bettencourt Meyers, granddaughter of the founder of L'Oreal

### Top 50 Asia-Pacific Banks: Indian Lenders

- **Report By:** S&P Global Market Intelligence
- **Year:** 2023
- **Indian Banks in Top 50:**
  - ❖ State Bank of India (SBI)
  - ❖ HDFC Bank
  - ❖ ICICI Bank

- **Change from Previous Year:** Increased from two banks in 2022 to three in 2023

### Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport: 10th Busiest in the World

- **Ranking Organization:** Airports Council International (ACI) World
- **Year:** 2023
- **IGI Airport Ranking:** 10th busiest airport globally
- **Passenger Traffic:** 7.22 crore passengers
- **Top 10 Rankings:**
  - ❖ Five airports are in the United States
- **Top Ranked Airport:** Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, USA
  - ❖ Passenger Traffic: 10.46 crore passengers

### TIME's 100 Most Influential People of 2024: Indian Descent

- **Total Individuals Featured:** 1) 8 Indian and 7 of Indian descent)
- **Indian Featured:**
  - ❖ **Sakshi Malik:** Olympic bronze-winning wrestler
- **Individuals of Indian Descent:**
  - ❖ **Alia Bhatt:** Actress
  - ❖ **Dev Patel:** Actor
  - ❖ **Satya Nadella:** CEO of Microsoft
  - ❖ **Ajay Banga:** President of the World Bank
  - ❖ **Priyamvada Natarajan:** Yale University professor
  - ❖ **Asma Khan:** Restaurateur, Darjeeling Express
  - ❖ **Jigar Shah:** Director, US Department of Energy's Loan Programs Office

### Carbon Majors Report by InfluenceMap

- **Report By:** Non-profit think tank InfluenceMap
- **Key Findings (2016-2022):**
  - ❖ 80% of the world's CO2 emissions traced to 57 fossil fuels and cement producing companies
  - ❖ **Top Three CO2-Emitting Companies:**
    - ❖ Saudi Aramco (Saudi Arabia)
    - ❖ Gazprom (Russia)
    - ❖ Coal India (India)
- **Trends:**
  - ❖ Most companies expanded fossil fuel production since 2015 (post-U.N. Paris Agreement)
- **Global Emissions:**
  - ❖ Record high energy-related CO2 emissions last year (International Energy Agency)

### U.N. Paris Agreement

- **Nature:** Legally binding international treaty on climate change
- **Adoption:** By 196 Parties at the UN Climate Change Conference (COP21) in Paris, France, on 12 December 2015
- **Entry into Force:** 4 November 2016
- **Overarching Goal:**
  - ❖ Hold the increase in global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels
  - ❖ Pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels

### Global Trade Outlook and Statistics Report by WTO

- **India's Position:**
  - ❖ 4th largest exporter of digitally delivered services
  - ❖ Accounts for over 1/5th of global trade in services
- **Export Statistics:**
  - ❖ \$257 billion in digitally delivered services in 2023
  - ❖ 17% increase from the previous year
- **Global Rankings:**
  - ❖ Surpassed Germany and China
  - ❖ Behind the United States, the United Kingdom, and Ireland
- **Service Categories:**
  - ❖ Professional services in education
  - ❖ Gaming
  - ❖ Streaming music and videos
- **Trend:**
  - ❖ Significant increase in digitally delivered services over the past two decades

### CRS Report: Indian Naturalizations in the U.S. (2022)

- **Indian Naturalizations:**
  - ❖ 65,960 Indians became U.S. citizens in 2022
  - ❖ India is the second-largest source country for new U.S. citizens, after Mexico
- **Foreign-Born Population in the U.S.:**
  - ❖ 46 million foreign-born persons resided in the U.S. in 2022
  - ❖ This represents approximately 14% of the total U.S. population (333 million)
- **Naturalized Citizens:**
  - ❖ 24.5 million (53%) of the foreign-born population are naturalized citizens
  - ❖ A naturalized citizen is someone who has legally become a citizen of a country, although they were not born there

➤ **Top Countries of Origin for Naturalizations:**

- ❖ Mexico
- ❖ India
- ❖ Philippines
- ❖ Cuba
- ❖ Dominican Republic

**India's Ranking:**

- **Current Rank:** 159th (improved from 161st in 2023)
- **Score:** Dropped from 36.62 to 31.28
- **Comparison:**
  - ❖ Behind Turkey (158th), Pakistan (152nd), and Sri Lanka (150th)

## May 2024

**CWUR 2024 Rankings: Indian Educational Institutions**

- **Report Source:** Center for World University Rankings (CWUR)
- **Global Competition:** Indian universities face intensified competition from well-funded global institutions

**Key Highlights:**

- **Global 2000 List:** 64 Indian universities and institutions featured
- **Top Indian Institutions:**
  - ❖ **Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Ahmedabad:**
    - ❖ Top rank in India
    - ❖ Climbed 9 spots to rank 410th globally
- **Indian Institute of Science (IISc):**
  - ❖ Dropped 7 places to rank 501st
- **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay:**
  - ❖ Dropped 14 spots to rank 568th
- ❖ **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras:**
  - ❖ Ranked 582nd
- ❖ **Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Hyderabad:**
  - ❖ Ranked 606th
- **Global Leader:**
  - ❖ **Harvard University:** Top position for the 13th consecutive year

**World Press Freedom Index 2024: India's Ranking**

- **Report Source:** Reporters Without Borders (RSF)
- **Purpose:** Ranks 180 countries on journalists' ability to work freely and independently

**Global Rankings:**

- **Top Countries:**
  - ❖ Norway: 1st
  - ❖ Denmark: 2nd
- **Bottom Countries:**
  - ❖ Eritrea: 180th
  - ❖ Syria: 179th
- **Worst Performing Regions:** Maghreb and Middle East

**Press Freedom Questionnaire Categories:**

- Political context
- Legal framework
- Economic context
- Sociocultural context
- Security
- **India's Scores:** Dropped in all categories except security

**World Economic Forum's Travel & Tourism Development Index 2024: India's Performance**

- **Report Source:** World Economic Forum, in collaboration with the University of Surrey
- **Scope:** Analysed travel and tourism sectors of 119 countries

**India's Ranking:**

- **Current Rank:** 39th (improved from 54th in 2021)
- **Highest in South Asia** among lower-middle-income economies

**Global Top Five:**

- United States
- Spain
- Japan
- France
- Australia

**India's Index Score:**

- **Overall Score:** 4.25 (on a scale of 1 to 7, where 7 is the best)

**World Migration Report 2024: India's Remittances**

- **Report Source:** United Nations International Organisation for Migration
- **Release Location:** Dhaka, Bangladesh

**Key Highlights:**

- **Record Achievement:**
  - ❖ India received \$111.22 billion in remittances in 2022
  - ❖ First country to receive over \$100 billion in inward remittance
- **Global Rankings:**
  - ❖ India: 1st



- ❖ Mexico: 2nd (dethroned China)
- ❖ Other top recipients: China, Philippines, France
- **South Asian Rankings:**
  - ❖ India: 1st
  - ❖ Pakistan: 6th
  - ❖ Bangladesh: 8th
- **Growth:**
  - ❖ India's remittances more than doubled from 2010 to 2022
- **Migrant Population:**
  - ❖ Estimated 1.8 crore (18 million) Indian international migrants
  - ❖ Includes both skilled and unskilled workers
  - ❖ Increasing proportion of skilled professionals (e.g., software engineers, doctors, chartered accountants)
- **Top Migration Destinations:**
  - ❖ UAE: 3.47 million Indians
  - ❖ US: 2.7 million Indians
  - ❖ Saudi Arabia: 2.5 million Indians
- **Regional Insights:**
  - ❖ West Asia, particularly Gulf countries, is the largest destination for Indian migrant workers
- Migrant population percentages: UAE (88%), Kuwait (73%), Qatar (77%)

### Global Electricity Review 2024: India's Solar Power Generation

- **Report Source:** Global Electricity Review 2024 by EMBER
- **India's Achievement:**
  - ❖ Became the 3rd largest solar power generator in the world in 2023
  - ❖ Ranked 9th in solar energy deployment in 2015

### Global Solar Power Statistics:

- **Global Share:**
  - ❖ Solar power's share in global electricity production: 5.5% in 2023
  - ❖ India's share of solar power: Increased from 0.5% in 2015 to 5.8% in 2023

### Growth in Solar Generation:

- **India's Increase:**
  - ❖ 4th largest increase in solar generation in 2023 (+18 Terawatt hours or TWh)
  - ❖ Following China (+156 TWh), the United States (+33 TWh), and Brazil (+22 TWh)
- **Contribution:**
  - ❖ Top four solar growth countries accounted for 75% of

the overall growth in 2023

### EAC PM Working Paper: India's Majority Population Decline

- **Significant Decline:**
  - ❖ India saw a 7.82% decline in the majority population from 1950 to 2015
  - ❖ Second most significant decline in South Asia, after Myanmar

### Population Changes:

- **Majority Population:**
  - ❖ Hindu population share decreased from 84.68% in 1950 to 78.06% in 2015
- **Minority Groups:**
  - ❖ Increase in the share of Muslims, Christians, Buddhists, and Sikhs
  - ❖ Decline in the share of Jains and Parsis

### Specific Increases:

- **Muslim Population:** Increased by 43.15%
- **Christian Population:** Increased by 5.38%

### Global Context:

- **Average Decline:**
  - ❖ Majority religious denomination share reduced by 22% on average across 167 countries from 1950-2015
- **Cross-Country Analysis:**
  - ❖ Detailed analysis of religious minorities in 167 countries
  - ❖ Substantial shrinkage of minority populations in Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, and Afghanistan

### 2024 World's Wealthiest Cities Report

- **Report Source:** Henley & Partners and New World Wealth
- **Top Wealthiest Cities in India:**
  - ❖ **Mumbai:** Ranked 24th
  - ❖ **Delhi:** Ranked 37th
- **Promising Cities: Bengaluru:** Listed in the top 10 most promising 'cities to watch' for future growth
- **Global Leader: New York City:** Leads the global ranking
- **Country Performance: United States:** 11 cities in the top 50, highest among all countries

### Oxford Global Cities Index Report 2024: India's Rankings

- **Report Source:** Oxford Economics

### Global Rankings:

- **Top Cities:**

- ❖ New York: 1st
- ❖ London: 2nd
- ❖ San Jose: 3rd
- ❖ Tokyo: 4th
- ❖ Paris: 5th

#### India's Rankings:

- **Delhi:** Ranked 350th
- **Bengaluru:** Ranked 411th
- **Mumbai:** Ranked 427th
- **Chennai:** Ranked 472nd
- **Kochi:** Ranked 521st

**Index Categories:** Economics, Human Capital, Quality of Life, Environment and Governance

**Key Insight:** No Indian city made it to the Top 300

#### World Wildlife Crime Report 2024

- **Report Source:** United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
- **Edition:** 3rd edition (previous editions in 2016 and 2020)

**Focus:** Trends in illegal trade of wildlife species listed in CITES

#### Seizure Data:

- Documented illegal trade in 162 countries and territories (2015–2021)
- Increase in intercepted illegal wildlife trade from 2017 onwards
- Peak in wildlife crimes during 2020 and 2021 (COVID-19 pandemic)

#### Most Affected:

- **Rhino Horns:** 29% of illegal wildlife market
- **Pangolin Scales:** 28%
- **Elephant Ivory:** 15%

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

- **Signed:** 3 March 1973
- **In Force:** 1 July 1975
- **Parties:** 184 (183 countries + European Union)
- **Scope:** Regulates international trade in over 40,900 species of wild animals and plants

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

- **Established:** 1997
- **Headquarters:** Vienna, Austria
- **Mandate:** Assist member states in combating illicit drugs, crime, and terrorism

#### World Bank Report: "Water for Shared Prosperity"

- **Report Source:** World Bank

- **Release Event:** 10th World Water Forum in Bali, Indonesia

#### Key Highlights:

- **Global Water Crisis:**
  - ❖ Alarming implications for human and economic development
- **Access to Water and Sanitation (2022):**
  - ❖ 2.2 billion people lacked access to safely managed drinking water services
  - ❖ 3.5 billion people lacked access to safely managed sanitation
- **Impact on Low-Income Countries:**
  - ❖ Regression in access to safe drinking water
- **Global Freshwater Distribution:**
  - ❖ China and India: 36% of global population, but only 11% of freshwater
  - ❖ North America: 5% of global population, but 52% of freshwater

#### 10th World Water Forum 2024: Key Highlights

- **Theme:** Water for Shared Prosperity
- **Organizers:** Government of the Republic of Indonesia and the World Water Council

#### World Water Council:

- **Established:** 1996
- **Location:** Marseille, France
- **Membership:** 260 member organizations from 52 countries, including India

#### Forum Details:

- **Frequency:** Every three years since 1997
- **Significance:** World's largest event focused on water issues

#### Future Host:

- **11th World Water Forum (2027):** Saudi Arabia

#### IIT Bombay Study on Speciation Without Geographic Barriers

- **Study Source:** Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IIT Bombay)
- **Publication:** NPJ Systems Biology and Applications

#### Key Findings:

- **Speciation Process:**
  - ❖ Formation of new species can occur without geographic barriers
  - ❖ Challenges traditional view that new species develop only in distinct geographies
- **Traditional View:**
  - ❖ Speciation typically occurs when populations are isolated by geographic barriers (allopatric speciation)

- **New Insights:**
  - ❖ Speciation can happen in the same area without geographic barriers (sympatric speciation)
  - ❖ Role of environmental resources, genes, and mating in species development
- **Evidence:**
  - ❖ Ecological evidence supports the sympatric hypothesis
  - ❖ No experimental evidence yet

### UNCCD Report: Degradation of Global Rangelands

- **Report Source:** United Nations Convention on Combating Desertification (UNCCD)

#### Key Findings:

- **Extent of Degradation:**
  - ❖ About half of the world's rangelands are degraded
  - ❖ Need for policy interventions and focused support for dependent communities
- **Definition of Rangelands:**
  - ❖ Natural or semi-natural ecosystems grazed by livestock or wild animals
  - ❖ Vegetation includes grasses, shrubs, bushes, open forests, and agroforestry systems
- **Global Coverage:**
  - ❖ Rangelands cover 80 million sq km (over half of Earth's land)
  - ❖ Largest land cover or land use type in the world
- **Environmental Role:**
  - ❖ Act as carbon sinks, storehouses of freshwater, and prevent desertification
  - ❖ Support food security and livelihoods for millions of people
- **Economic Contribution:**
  - ❖ Generate 16% of global food production
  - ❖ Provide 70% of feed for domesticated herbivores
- **Rangelands in India:**
  - ❖ Occupy about 1.21 million sq km, from the Thar Desert to Himalayan meadows
- **Degradation Drivers:**
  - ❖ Climate change
  - ❖ Unsustainable land and livestock management practices
  - ❖ Biodiversity loss
  - ❖ Conversion of rangelands to farmlands
  - ❖ Uncertainty over land rights among pastoralist communities

### Times Higher Education Young University Rankings 2024

- **Purpose:** Lists the world's best universities that are 50 years old or younger

- **Total Universities Ranked:** Over 670 from across the globe

#### Top Indian Universities:

- **Mahatma Gandhi University, Kerala:** Ranked 81st
- **Anna University, Chennai:** Ranked 96th

#### Global Leader:

- **Nanyang Technological University, Singapore:** Topped the league table for the 2nd year in a row

### India's Largest Trading Partner in FY24

- **Report Source:** Economic think tank GTRI

#### Top Trading Partner:

- **China:**
  - ❖ Emerged as India's largest trading partner in FY 2023-24
  - ❖ Two-way commerce: \$118.4 billion
  - ❖ Narrowly edged past the US (\$118.3 billion)

#### Bilateral Trade:

- **India-US Trade:**
  - ❖ \$118.3 billion in 2023-24
  - ❖ US was India's largest trading partner in 2021-22 and 2022-23

#### Export Growth:

- **India's Exports to China:**
  - ❖ Increased by 8.7% in the last fiscal
  - ❖ Key sectors: Iron ore, cotton yarn/fabrics/madeups, handloom, spices, fruits and vegetables, plastic, and linoleum

#### Import Growth:

- **Imports from China:** Increased by 3.24%

#### Other Major Trading Partners:

- **UAE:** \$83.6 billion (3rd largest)
- **Russia:** \$65.7 billion
- **Saudi Arabia:** \$43.4 billion
- **Singapore:** \$35.6 billion

### NSE Launches Nifty India Tourism Index

- **Organizer:** NSE Indices, a subsidiary of the National Stock Exchange (NSE)

#### Key Features:

- **Purpose:** Track the performance of companies from the Nifty 500 linked to the travel and tourism industry
- **Industry Contribution:** Travel and tourism contribute about \$199.6 billion to India's GDP

#### Investment Facilitation:

- **Creation of Investment Products:** Targeting the tourism



industry to capitalize on growth potential

#### Index Details:

- **Base Date:** April 1, 2005
- **Base Value:** 1000
- **Reconstitution:** Twice a year
- **Rebalancing:** Quarterly

#### NCW Complaints on Violence Against Women in 2024

- **Total Complaints:** 12,648
- **Top States:**
  - ❖ **Uttar Pradesh:** 6,492 complaints (highest)
  - ❖ **Delhi:** Second highest
  - ❖ **Maharashtra:** Third highest
- **Lowest Complaints: Manipur:** Only three complaints
- **Categories of Complaints:**
  - ❖ **Right to Dignity:** 3,567 complaints (harassment other than domestic violence)
  - ❖ **Domestic Violence:** 3,213 complaints

**Previous Year Data: 2023:** 28,811 complaints related to women registered by NCW

#### Barriers to Adopting Rooftop Solar Power in India: Survey Findings

- **Survey Conducted By:** Luminous Power Technologies
- **Respondents:** 4,318 from 5 metros and 8 non-metro cities

#### Key Barriers:

- **High Installation Cost:**
  - ❖ 59% of respondents concerned about high initial installation costs
- **Lack of Skilled Workforce:**
  - ❖ 45% of respondents believed skilled labour is unavailable locally

#### Report on Lion-tailed Macaque in Sharavathi Valley LTM Sanctuary

- **Source:** Karnataka Forest Department
- **Population:** 730 Lion-tailed Macaques (LTM) in the vicinity
- **Habitat:** Narrow range of evergreen forests along slopes and adjoining forests
- **Management:** Calls for initiatives and interventions to manage LTM and its habitat

#### Species Information:

- **Scientific Name:** Macaca silenus
- **Native:** Only to India
- **Habitat:** Small, fragmented rainforests of the Western Ghats (Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu)

#### Conservation Status:

- **IUCN:** Endangered
- **CITES:** Appendix I
- **The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972:** Schedule I

#### UNESCO's State of Ocean Report 2024

- **Source:** Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO
- **Launch Location:** Iceland

#### Key Findings:

- **Ocean Warming:** Rate has doubled in 20 years; 2023 saw one of the highest increases since the 1950s
- **Oxygen Levels:** Coastal species suffocating from declining oxygen levels; ocean lost 2% of oxygen since the 1960s
- **Rising Acidity:** 25-30% of fossil fuel emissions absorbed by the ocean; ocean acidity increased by 30% since pre-industrial times, projected to reach 170% by 2100

#### Blue Carbon and Marine Protected Areas (MPAs):

- **Marine Forests:** Mangroves, seagrass plains, tidal marshes absorb up to 5 times more carbon than land forests
- **Conservation Plans:** Nearly 60% of countries do not include marine forest restoration in their Nationally Determined Contribution plans
- **Biodiversity:** MPAs protect 72% of the 1500 endangered marine species on the IUCN Red List

#### QS World University Rankings 2025: Indian Universities

- **Top Indian University:**
  - ❖ **IIT Bombay:** Ranked 118th (improved from 149th in 2024)

#### Overall Improvement:

- ❖ **61% of Indian universities:** Improved their standings compared to last year
- ❖ **Other Top Indian Universities:**
- ❖ **IIT Delhi:** Ranked 150th (improved from 197th)
- ❖ **Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru:** Ranked 211th (improved from 225th)

#### Decline:

- **IIT Indore:** Fell from 454th in 2024 to 477th in 2025

#### Global Rankings:

- **Top Rank:** MIT (13th consecutive year)
- **Second Rank:** Imperial College London
- **Third Rank:** Jointly held by Harvard University

#### India as a Top Destination for Cross-Border Real Estate Investment

- **Report Source:** Asia Pacific Global Capital Flows May 2024 by Colliers

**Key Highlights:**

- **Top Destinations:**
  - ❖ **India, China, Singapore, and Australia** among the top five globally for cross-border capital investment in land/development sites (Q1 2024)
- **Investment Trends:**
  - ❖ Over \$23 billion infused into the Indian real estate market since 2018
  - ❖ 77% of total investments during this period
- **Top Investor:**
  - ❖ US: Contributed about 44% of foreign inflows
- **Investment Preferences:**
  - ❖ 73% of cross-border purchases in ready-to-use assets
  - ❖ Preference for properties already generating income
- **2023 Foreign Investments:**
  - ❖ \$3.6 billion in Indian real estate
  - ❖ 67% of total foreign inflows

**Netherlands as India's 3rd Largest Export Destination in 2023-24**

- **Ranking:** Netherlands is India's third largest export destination after the US and UAE

**Key Commodities:**

- **Petroleum Products:** \$14.29 billion
- **Electrical Goods**
- **Chemicals**
- **Pharmaceuticals**

**Trade Surplus: Increase:** From \$13 billion in 2022-23 to \$17.4 billion in 2023-24

**Comparison: Surpassed Destinations:** UK, Hong Kong, Bangladesh, and Germany

**Projected Global Groundwater Warming and Its Impacts by 2100**

- **Temperature Increase:** Groundwater is projected to warm by 2-3.5°C by 2100.
- **Research Team:** German researchers from the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology created the world's first global groundwater temperature model.
- **Highest Warming Rates:** Predicted in Central Russia, Northern China, parts of North America, and the Amazon rainforest.
- **Historical Analysis:** Researchers used past temperature changes to predict future changes from 2000 to 2100.
- **Impact on Rivers:** Rivers rely on groundwater during dry periods; warmer groundwater holds less dissolved oxygen.
- **Health Risks:** Warmer groundwater increases the risk of disease-causing microbial growth, affecting drinking water

quality.

- **Population at Risk:** By 2100, 60-600 million people could live in areas where groundwater exceeds the highest drinking water temperature guidelines.
- **Current Guidelines:** Only 18 out of 125 countries have temperature guidelines for drinking water, according to the World Health Organization.

**Aquaculture Surpasses Wild Fisheries: Key Points from UN Report**

- **Increasing Role:** Aquaculture is now more crucial in meeting global food needs, surpassing wild fisheries in aquatic animal production.
- **Production Statistics (2022):**
  - ❖ Aquaculture: 51% of total aquatic animal production.
  - ❖ Aquaculture: 57% of production destined for human consumption.
- **Growth Rate:** Aquaculture production has increased by 6.6% since 2020.
- ❖ **Wild Fisheries:** Production has remained largely unchanged for decades.

**Discovery of Arctic Ice Giant Viruses and Their Potential Impact**

- **New Discovery:** Researchers found new viruses on the surface of Arctic ice.
- **Virus Diet:** These giant viruses feed on algae present on ice sheets.
- **Impact of Algal Blooms:** Algal blooms often accelerate ice melting, worsening the effects of greenhouse gases.
- **Natural Control Mechanism:** Scientists believe these viruses can help control algal spread, potentially slowing ice melting.
- **First-Time Discovery:** This is the first time algae-eating viruses have been found in Arctic ice sheets.

**India's Ranking on the Global Gender Gap Index**

- **Current Ranking:** India ranks 129th out of 146 countries, slipping two places.
- **Top Countries:** Iceland, Finland, Norway, New Zealand, and Sweden occupy the top five positions.
- **Other Rankings:**
  - ❖ UK: 14th
  - ❖ USA: 43rd
  - ❖ Sudan: Last (146th)
  - ❖ Pakistan: 145th
- **South Asia Rankings:** India is fifth after Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Bhutan; Pakistan is last.
- **Economic Parity:** India is among the lowest, with less than 30% gender parity in estimated earned income, alongside

Bangladesh, Sudan, Iran, Pakistan, and Morocco.

➤ **Positive Aspects:**

- ❖ Best gender parity in secondary education enrolment.
- ❖ Ranked 65th globally for political empowerment of women.

➤ **Trends:**

- ❖ India's economic parity score has improved over the past four years.
- ❖ Overall gender gap closure in India is 64.1% in 2024, a slight decline from 64.2% last year.

➤ **Global Context:**

- ❖ The world has closed 68.5% of the gender gap.
- ❖ At the current pace, it will take 134 years to achieve full gender parity.
- ❖ The gender gap has closed by 0.1 percentage points since last year.

### Visakhapatnam Port's Ranking in the Global Efficiency Index

➤ **CPPI 2023 Highlights:**

- ❖ East and Southeast Asian ports excelled, with 13 of the top 20 places.

➤ **Developers:** The index was developed by the World Bank and S&P Global Market Intelligence.

➤ **Top-Ranked Ports:**

- ❖ 1st: Yangshan Port (China)
- ❖ 2nd: Port of Salalah (Oman)

➤ **Indian Port:** Visakhapatnam Port ranked 19th, making it into the top 20.

### Record Forcible Displacement Globally: Key Points from UNHCR

➤ **Record Numbers:** 117.3 million people forcibly displaced by the end of last year.

➤ **Types of Displacement:** Includes refugees, asylum seekers, internally displaced people, and those forced away by conflict, persecution, and various forms of violence.

➤ **Yearly Increase:** There has been a yearly increase in forcibly displaced people over the last 12 years.

➤ **Current Estimate:** Likely exceeded 120 million by the end of April.

➤ **Major Conflicts:**

- ❖ War in Sudan, described as "one of the most catastrophic ones."
- ❖ Israel's bombardment and ground campaign, displacing around 1.7 million people (nearly 80% of the Palestinian enclave's population).

### India's Nitrous Oxide Emissions

➤ **Global Ranking:** India is the world's second largest emitter of nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O).

➤ **Greenhouse Gas Impact:** N<sub>2</sub>O heats the atmosphere far more than carbon dioxide.

➤ **Emission Statistics (2020):**

- ❖ India: Nearly 11% of global man-made N<sub>2</sub>O emissions.
- ❖ China: 16% (the highest).

➤ **Major Source:** Fertiliser usage is the primary source of these emissions.

### Global Peace Index (GPI) 2024

➤ **Publisher:** Institute for Economics & Peace (IEP).

➤ **Scope:** Evaluates 163 independent states and territories.

➤ **Global Peacefulness:**

- ❖ Fell by 0.56% in 2024, marking the fifth consecutive year of decline.
- ❖ 65 countries improved, while 97 countries deteriorated in peacefulness, the highest number of declines in a single year since the index's inception.

➤ **Most Peaceful Countries:**

- ❖ 1st: Iceland (most peaceful since 2008)
- ❖ 2nd: Ireland
- ❖ 3rd: Austria
- ❖ 4th: New Zealand
- ❖ 5th: Singapore

➤ **Least Peaceful Countries:**

- ❖ 163rd: Yemen (least peaceful)
- ❖ Followed by Sudan, South Sudan, Afghanistan, and Ukraine.

➤ **Regional Insights:**

- ❖ **Europe:** Most tranquil region, despite a minor decline.
- ❖ **Middle East and North Africa (MENA):** Least tranquil, with major crises in Yemen and Sudan.
- ❖ **North America:** Greatest regional decline, driven by rising violent crime and perceptions of criminality in Canada and the USA.

➤ **India's Ranking:** 116th out of 163 countries.

### Virat Kohli Reclaims Top Spot as India's Most Valued Celebrity Brand

➤ **Report:** Kroll's 'Celebrity Brand Valuation Report 2023: Brands, Business, Bollywood'.

➤ **Top Celebrity:** Cricketer Virat Kohli reclaimed his position as India's most valued celebrity with a brand value of USD 227.9 million.

➤ **Second Spot:** Ranveer Singh slipped to the second spot with a brand value of USD 203.1 million.

➤ **Third Place:** Shah Rukh Khan surged to third place with a brand value of USD 120.7 million in 2023.



### India's Ranking on the Energy Transition Index

- **Current Ranking:** India ranks **63rd out of 120 countries** on the Global Energy Transition Index by the **World Economic Forum**.
- **Previous Ranking:** India ranked **67th in 2023**.
- **Top Countries:**
  - ❖ 1st: Sweden
  - ❖ Followed by **Denmark, Finland, Switzerland, and France**.
  - ❖ China: 20th.
- **India's Improvements:** Significant progress in energy equity, security, and sustainability.
- **Global Context:** 83% of countries have regressed in at least one energy system performance dimension (security, equity, sustainability) since last year.
- **Global Energy Transition:** Progressing but losing momentum due to increasing global uncertainty.
- **India's Achievements:**
  - ❖ **Clean energy infrastructure:** Renewable energy and biomass make up 42% of power generation capacity, making India the fourth-largest renewables market globally.
  - ❖ **Annual investments:** Nearly USD 10 billion in electric vehicles (EVs) and green hydrogen production.
  - ❖ **Per capita emissions:** 1.7 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>, 60% lower than the global average of 4.4 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per capita.
- **Leadership in Innovation:** India and China are leading in developing new energy solutions and technologies.

### Mercer's 2024 Cost of Living Survey

- **India's Most Expensive City:** Mumbai is the most expensive city in India for expatriates.
- **Global Ranking:** Mumbai has risen 11 spots to rank **136th globally**.
- **Delhi's Position:** Delhi ranks **164th globally, making it into the top 200**.
- **Survey Scope:** Evaluates the cost of living in 227 cities worldwide, considering factors like housing, transportation, food, clothing, household goods, and entertainment.
- **Asian Rankings:**
  - ❖ **Mumbai: 21st most expensive city in Asia.**
  - ❖ Delhi: 30th most expensive city in Asia.
- **Global Top Five:** The most expensive cities globally remain unchanged:
  - ❖ 1st: Hong Kong
  - ❖ 2nd: Singapore
  - ❖ 3rd: Zurich
  - ❖ 4th: Geneva

❖ 5th: Basel

### QS Best Student Cities 2025

- **Top Indian Cities:** Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, and Chennai are featured in the rankings.
- **Delhi's Achievement:**
  - ❖ Climbed 21 places to secure the 111th spot.
  - ❖ Named the second most affordable city for students.
- **Bengaluru's Achievement:**
  - ❖ Leaped 17 places to the 130th spot.
  - ❖ Ranked as the 7th most affordable city for students.
- **Affordability:** All four Indian cities are among the top 30 for affordability.
- **Employer Activity:** All Indian cities are in the top 100 for Employer Activity.
- **Global Top Cities:**
  - ❖ 1st: London (retained top spot for the sixth consecutive edition)
  - ❖ 2nd: Tokyo
  - ❖ 3rd: Seoul
- **Country Rankings:**
  - ❖ **China (Mainland): Highest number of ranked cities.**
  - ❖ Taiwan: Five ranked cities.
  - ❖ India and Indonesia: Four ranked cities each.

### India's Ranking in the Environment Performance Index (EPI) 2024

- **Current Ranking:** India is ranked **176th out of 180 countries** with an **EPI score of 27.6**.
- **Bottom Countries:** Surpasses only Pakistan, Vietnam, Laos, and Myanmar.
- **Top Countries:**
  - ❖ 1st: Estonia (EPI score of 75.3)
  - ❖ 2nd: Luxembourg
  - ❖ 3rd: Germany
- **Previous Rankings:**
  - ❖ 2022: 180th
  - ❖ 2020: 168th
- **EPI Analysis:** Compares and analyses environmental performance using 58 indicators across **three main categories: Ecosystem Vitality, Environmental Health, and Climate Change**.
- **New Categories in 2024:**
  - ❖ **Biodiversity and habitat:** Assesses protection efforts and reveals encroachments.
  - ❖ **Projected greenhouse gas emissions:** Tracks progress towards net-zero emissions by 2050.
- **India's Performance:**

- ❖ Poor rankings in air quality (177th), projected emissions (172nd), and Biodiversity & Habitat (178th).
- ❖ Largest emitter of transboundary pollution in South Asia, impacting neighboring countries like Bangladesh.
- ❖ Strides in climate change efforts (133rd), driven by investments in renewable energy and a goal to achieve net-zero emissions by 2070.
- **About EPI:**
  - ❖ **Biennial index** released by the **Yale Center for Environmental Law & Policy** and the **Center for International Earth Science Information Network Earth Institute, Columbia University**, with support from **The McCall MacBain Foundation**.
  - ❖ First published in **2002**.
  - ❖ Assesses countries based on UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Paris Agreement 2015, and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework 2022.

### Sustainable Development Report 2024

- **Publisher:** Released by the **UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN)**.
- **Publication History:** Published by SDSN since **2016**.
- **Scope:** Reviews progress on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 193 UN Member States.
- **SDSN Establishment:** Established in 2012 under the UN Secretary-General.
- **SDGs Adoption:** Adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2015.
- **Focus:** Identified 17 SDGs with 169 specific targets to be achieved by 2030.
- **Mandate:** Internationally non-binding, but all countries committed to these goals.

### Key Highlights of the Report

- **Global Progress:**
  - ❖ **Only 16% of SDG targets are on track to be met by 2030.**
  - ❖ **84% show limited progress or regression.**
- **Off-Track Goals:** SDG2 (Zero Hunger), SDG11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), SDG14 (Life Below Water), SDG15 (Life on Land), and SDG16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions).
- **Regional Variations:**
  - ❖ **Nordic countries lead in SDG progress.**
  - ❖ **BRICS countries show significant progress.**
  - ❖ Poor and vulnerable countries lag far behind.
- **Top Ranked Regions:**
  - ❖ 1st: Finland
  - ❖ 2nd: Sweden

- ❖ 3rd: Denmark
- 4th: Germany
- 5th: France
- **India's Ranking: 109th**, with **good performance in Poverty reduction and Quality Education**, but **declining progress in Sustainable Cities and Climate Action**.

### EIU's 2024 Global Liveability Index

- **Assessment:** Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) assessed 173 cities worldwide.
- **Categories:** Ranked liveability across five key categories: stability, healthcare, culture and environment, education, and infrastructure.
- **Top City:** Vienna, Austria, crowned the world's best city to live in.
- **Bottom City:** Damascus, Syria, remains the least liveable city.
- **Least Liveable Cities:** Karachi (Pakistan) and Dhaka (Bangladesh) are among the bottom 10.
- **Top Cities in Asia-Pacific:** Melbourne and Sydney (Australia), Osaka (Japan), and Auckland (New Zealand) are in the top ten most liveable cities globally.

### Top 5 Most Liveable Cities Worldwide

1. Vienna, Austria
2. Copenhagen, Denmark
3. Zurich, Switzerland
4. Melbourne, Australia
5. Calgary, Canada (tied with Geneva)
6. Geneva, Switzerland (tie)

### Bottom 5 Least Liveable Cities Worldwide

1. Karachi, Pakistan
2. Lagos, Nigeria
3. Algiers, Algeria
4. Tripoli, Libya
5. Damascus, Syria

### IMF Artificial Intelligence Preparedness Index (AIPI) 2024:

- **Release:** The International Monetary Fund (IMF) released the Artificial Intelligence Preparedness Index (AIPI) Dashboard.
- **Scope:** Ranks 174 countries based on their readiness to use AI.
- **Country Groups:**
  - ❖ Low-Income Countries (LIC)
  - ❖ Emerging Market Economies (EM)
  - ❖ Advanced Economies (AE)

- **Top Advanced Economies:**
  - ❖ Singapore: Score of 0.80
  - ❖ Denmark: Score of 0.78
  - ❖ United States: Score of 0.77
- **India's Ranking:**
  - ❖ Score: 0.49
  - ❖ Rank: 72nd
- **Neighboring Countries:**
  - ❖ **Bangladesh:** Score of 0.38, Rank: 113th
  - ❖ Sri Lanka: Score of 0.43, Rank: 92nd
  - ❖ China: Score of 0.63, Rank: 31st
- **Evaluation Criteria:**
  - ❖ Digital infrastructure
  - ❖ Human capital and labor market policies
  - ❖ Creativity and economic integration
  - ❖ Rules and regulations
- **Inference:**
  - ❖ AI could threaten about 40% of jobs globally.
  - ❖ AI can boost productivity and foster new industries and job growth

#### UN Women's Global Data on Women Political Leaders 2024

- **Current Female Leaders:** As of January 1, 2024, only 27 countries are led by a woman, up from 18 a decade ago.
- **Exclusion from Power:** Women are still largely excluded from positions of power and diplomacy.
- **Ministerial Positions:** Only 23% of ministerial positions are held by women.
- **Cabinet Ministers:** In 141 countries, women make up less than a third of cabinet ministers as of January 1, 2024.
- **Historical Milestone:** In 1893, New Zealand became the first country to ensure voting rights for women.

#### Henley Private Wealth Migration Report 2024

- **India's Ranking:** Third in net outflows of millionaires, with 4,300 more millionaires leaving than arriving.
- **Top Countries:**
  - ❖ 1st: China (15,200)
  - ❖ 2nd: UK (9,500)
- **Trends:**
  - ❖ India's net outflow in 2024 is lower than in 2023 (6,500) and 2022 (7,500).
  - ❖ India is adding more millionaires than it is losing to emigration.
- **High-Net-Worth Individuals:**
  - ❖ India ranks 10th globally with 3,26,400 high-net-worth individuals.

- ❖ Includes 1,044 centi-millionaires (wealth over \$100 million) and 120 billionaires.
- ❖ Third-highest billionaire population in the world (after the US and China).

- **Popular Destinations:** UAE is a top destination for millionaires from around the world, including India

#### India Becomes World's Third-Largest Domestic Airline Market

- **Current Ranking:** India has overtaken Brazil to become the world's third-largest domestic airline market.
- **Domestic Capacity:** 1.55 crore domestic capacity, growing by 11.2% this month.
- **Key Driver:** Low-cost carrier IndiGo, which has doubled its market share to 62% since 2014.
- **Busy Route:** The Mumbai-Delhi route is the eighth busiest globally.
- **Historical Context:** In 2014, India was the smallest market with 80 lakh domestic seats.
- **Top Two Markets:**
  - ❖ United States: 86.1 million seats.
  - ❖ China: 67.8 million seats.
- **Growth Rate:** India's annual growth rate of 6.9% is the highest among the top five countries.

#### UNCTAD World Investment Report 2024: Key Points

- **FDI Inflows to India:**
  - ❖ Declined by 43% in 2023 to \$28 billion.
  - ❖ Dropped to 15th spot in 2023 from 8th position in 2022.
  - ❖ Remained in the **Top-5 for greenfield projects and international project finance deals.**
- **Previous Year:** In 2022, FDI inflows to India had risen by 10% to \$49 billion.
- **Global Context:**
  - ❖ Largest absolute drops in FDI inflows were in France, Australia, China, the US, and India.
  - ❖ General decline in FDI due to cautious approach by Multinational Companies (MNCs).
  - ❖ Developed countries affected by financial transactions of multinational enterprises, partly due to efforts to implement a global minimum tax rate.
- **FDI Outflows:** India ranked 20th in the world in FDI outflows, up from 23rd in 2023.
- **UNCTAD:**
  - ❖ Aim: Promote trade, investment, and development of developing countries.
  - ❖ Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland.
- **Important Reports Released by UNCTAD:**



- ❖ World Investment Report
- ❖ Trade and Development Report
- ❖ Digital Economy Report
- ❖ Review of Maritime Transport
- ❖ Technology and Innovation Report
- ❖ Commodities and Development Report
- ❖ Least Developed Countries Report

## June

### NSE Launches Nifty India Tourism Index

- **Launch:** NSE Indices, a subsidiary of the National Stock Exchange (NSE), introduced the Nifty India Tourism Index.
- **Purpose:** Tracks performance of companies from the Nifty 500 linked to the travel and tourism industry.
- **Industry Impact:** Travel and tourism contribute approximately \$199.6 billion to India's GDP.
- **Investment Facilitation:** Enables creation of investment products targeting the tourism industry, aiding investors in capitalizing on growth potential.
- **Base Date and Value:** Base date is April 1, 2005, with a base value of 1000.
- **Reconstitution and Rebalancing:** Index will be reconstituted twice a year and rebalanced quarterly to reflect sector changes.

### Uttar Pradesh Tops List of Complaints with National Commission for Women

- **Total Complaints in 2024:** 12,648 complaints received for violence against women.
- **Top States:**
  - ❖ Uttar Pradesh: 6,492 complaints.
  - ❖ Delhi: Second highest.
  - ❖ Maharashtra: Third highest.
- **Lowest Complaints:** Manipur recorded only three complaints.
- **Categories of Complaints:**
  - ❖ **Right to Dignity:** 3,567 complaints (harassment other than domestic violence).
  - ❖ **Domestic Violence:** 3,213 complaints.
- **Previous Year Data:** In 2023, a total of 28,811 complaints were registered by the NCW.

### All-India Ayush Survey (July 2022 - June 2023)

- **Usage of Ayush:**
  - ❖ 46% of rural and 53% of urban individuals availed Ayush for prevention or treatment of ailments.
- **Ayush Systems:** Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, Sowa-Rigpa, and Homeopathy.

### Survey Details:

- ❖ Conducted by the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) as part of the 79th round of the National Sample Survey (NSS).
- ❖ Covered the period from July 2022 to June 2023.

### Awareness:

- ❖ 95% of rural and 96% of urban population aged 15 years and above are aware of Ayush.
- ❖ 79% of rural and 80% of urban households have at least one member aware of medicinal plants and home medicines.
- ❖ 24% of households have at least one member aware of folk medicine or local health traditions.

- **Survey Coverage:** Information collected from 1,81,298 households (1,04,195 in rural areas and 77,103 in urban areas).

### Indian Universities Climb in QS 2025 Global Rankings

- **Top Indian University:** IIT Bombay, ranked 118th globally, up from 149th in 2024.
- **Overall Improvement:** 61% of Indian universities improved their standings compared to last year.
- **Top Three in India:**
  - ❖ **IIT Bombay:** 118th globally.
  - ❖ **IIT Delhi:** 150th globally, up from 197th.
  - ❖ **IISc Bengaluru:** 211th globally, up from 225th.
- **Decline:** IIT Indore fell from 454th to 477th.
- **Global Rankings:**
  - ❖ **MIT:** 1st for the 13th consecutive year.
  - ❖ **Imperial College London:** 2nd.
  - ❖ **Harvard University:** 3rd (jointly held)

### India Among Top Destinations for Cross-Border Real Estate Investment

- **Top Destinations:** India, China, Singapore, and Australia are in the top five globally for cross-border capital investment in land/development sites in Q1 2024 (Colliers report).
- **Investment Trends:**
  - ❖ Over \$23 billion infused into the Indian real estate market since 2018, accounting for 77% of total investments.
  - ❖ The US is the top investor, contributing 44% of foreign inflows.
  - ❖ 73% of cross-border purchases are in ready-to-use assets, with a preference for income-generating properties.
- **2023 Investments:** Foreign investments in Indian real estate reached \$3.6 billion, making up 67% of all inflows.

### Netherlands Emerges as India's 3rd Largest Export Destination in 2023-24

- **Ranking:** The Netherlands is now India's third largest export destination, after the US and UAE.
- **Key Commodities:** Significant export growth in petroleum products (USD 14.29 billion), electrical goods, chemicals, and pharmaceuticals.
- **Trade Surplus:** India's trade surplus with the Netherlands increased to USD 17.4 billion from USD 13 billion in 2022-23.
- **Comparison:** The Netherlands has surpassed major destinations such as the UK, Hong Kong, Bangladesh, and Germany.

### Global Groundwater to Warm 2-3.5°C, Risking Ecosystems by 2100

- **Projected Warming:** Groundwater is expected to warm by 2-3.5°C by 2100, risking water quality and ecosystems.
- **Research:** Conducted by German researchers from the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, creating the world's first global groundwater temperature model.
- **Highest Warming Rates:** Predicted in Central Russia, Northern China, parts of North America, and the Amazon rainforest.
- **Historical Data:** Temperature changes from 2000 to 2100 were predicted based on past changes.
- **Impact on Rivers:** Rivers rely on groundwater during dry times; warm waters hold less dissolved oxygen.
- **Health Risks:** Warmer groundwater increases the risk of disease-causing microbial growth, affecting drinking water quality.
- **Population at Risk:** By 2100, 60-600 million people could live in areas where groundwater exceeds the highest drinking water temperature thresholds.
- **WHO Guidelines:** Currently, only 18 out of 125 countries have temperature guidelines for drinking water.

### Aquaculture Overtakes Wild Fisheries for First Time - UN Report

- **Significance:** Aquaculture now surpasses wild fisheries in aquatic animal production.
- **2022 Data:**
  - ❖ Aquaculture contributed 51% of total aquatic animal production.
  - ❖ 57% of aquatic production for human consumption came from aquaculture.
- **Growth:** Aquaculture production increased by 6.6% since 2020, while wild fisheries production remained largely unchanged for decades.

### Arctic Ice Giant Viruses May Slow Melting by Eating Algae

- **Discovery:** New viruses found on Arctic ice could slow down ice melting due to global warming.
- **Function:** These giant viruses feed on algae on ice sheets.
- **Impact of Algal Blooms:** Algal blooms often accelerate ice melting, exacerbating the effects of greenhouse gases.
- **Natural Control Mechanism:** Scientists believe these viruses can help control algal spread, serving as a natural control mechanism.
- **First Discovery:** This is the first time algae-eating viruses have been found in the Arctic ice sheets.

### India Ranks 129 on Global Gender Gap Index - WEF

- **India's Ranking:** Slipped two places to 129th out of 146 countries.
- **Top Countries:** Iceland (1st), followed by Finland, Norway, New Zealand, and Sweden.
- **Other Rankings:**
  - ❖ UK: 14th
  - ❖ USA: 43rd
  - ❖ Sudan: Last (146th)
  - ❖ Pakistan: 145th
- **South Asia:** India ranked 5th after Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Bhutan; Pakistan ranked last.
- **Economic Parity:** India among the lowest, with less than 30% gender parity in estimated earned income.
- **Positive Aspects:**
  - ❖ Best gender parity in secondary education enrolment.
  - ❖ Ranked 65th in political empowerment of women.
- **Trends:**
  - ❖ India's economic parity score has improved over the past four years.
  - ❖ Overall gender gap closure in India: 64.1% in 2024 (slight decline from 64.2% in 2023).
- **Global Perspective:** World has closed 68.5% of the gender gap; at current pace, full parity will take 134 years.

### Visakhapatnam Port Ranks 19th in Global Efficiency Index

- **Global Container Port Performance Index (CPPI) 2023:**
- Developed by the World Bank and S&P Global Market Intelligence.
- **Top Performers:**
  - ❖ Yangshan Port (China) ranked 1st.
  - ❖ Port of Salalah (Oman) ranked 2nd.
- **Regional Excellence:** East and Southeast Asian ports accounted for 13 of the top 20 places.
- **Indian Achievement:** Visakhapatnam Port ranked 19th

globally.

### Record 120 Million People Forcibly Displaced Globally - UNHCR

- **Record Numbers:** 117.3 million people forcibly displaced by the end of last year.
- **Types of Displacement:** Includes refugees, asylum seekers, internally displaced people, and those forced away by conflict, persecution, and various forms of violence.
- **Trend:** Yearly increase in forcibly displaced people over the last 12 years.
- **Current Estimate:** Likely exceeded 120 million by the end of April.
- **Key Conflicts:**
  - ❖ War in Sudan, described as “one of the most catastrophic ones.”
  - ❖ Israel’s bombardment and ground campaign, displacing around 1.7 million people (nearly 80% of the Palestinian enclave’s population).

### India is World’s Second Largest Emitter of Nitrous Oxide

- **Global Ranking:** India is the second largest emitter of nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O), a potent greenhouse gas.
- **Emission Statistics:**
  - ❖ India contributed nearly 11% of global man-made N<sub>2</sub>O emissions in 2020.
  - ❖ China is the top emitter with 16%.
- **Major Source:** The primary source of these emissions in India is fertilizer use.

### Global Peace Index (GPI) 2024

- **Publication:** By the Institute for Economics & Peace (IEP), evaluating 163 independent states and territories.
- **Global Peacefulness:** Fell by 0.56% in 2024, marking the fifth consecutive year of decline.
- **Country Changes:**
  - ❖ 65 countries improved their peacefulness.
  - ❖ 97 countries deteriorated, the highest number of declines in a single year since the index’s inception.
- **Most Peaceful Countries:**
  - ❖ Iceland (1st), followed by Ireland, Austria, New Zealand, and Singapore.
- **Least Peaceful Countries:**
  - ❖ Yemen (163rd), followed by Sudan, South Sudan, Afghanistan, and Ukraine.
- **Regional Insights:**
  - ❖ **Europe:** Most tranquil region, despite a minor decline.
  - ❖ **Middle East and North Africa (MENA):** Least tranquil, with major crises in Yemen and Sudan.

- ❖ **North America:** Greatest regional decline, driven by rising violent crime and perceptions of criminality in Canada and the USA.

- **India’s Ranking:** 116th.

- **Global Perspective:** The world has seen a general decline in peacefulness, with significant regional variations.

### India Ranks 63rd on Energy Transition Index - WEF

- **Ranking:** India ranked 63rd out of 120 countries on the Global Energy Transition Index 2024.
- **Previous Ranking:** Improved from 67th in 2023.
- **Top Countries:** Sweden (1st), followed by Denmark, Finland, Switzerland, and France. China ranked 20th.
- **India’s Improvements:** Significant progress in energy equity, security, and sustainability.
- **Global Context:** 83% of countries moved backwards in at least one energy system performance dimension.
- **Clean Energy Infrastructure:** India praised for strides in renewable energy and biomass, comprising 42% of its power generation capacity.
- **Investments:** Annual investments nearing USD 10 billion in electric vehicles (EVs) and green hydrogen production.
- **Emissions:** India’s per capita emissions at 1.7 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>, 60% lower than the global average of 4.4 tonnes.
- **Leadership:** India and China leading in developing new energy solutions and technologies.

### Mercer’s 2024 Cost of Living Survey

- **India’s Most Expensive City:** Mumbai is the most expensive city for expatriates in India.
- **Global Ranking:** Mumbai rose 11 spots to rank 136th globally. Delhi climbed to 164th place.
- **Survey Scope:** Evaluates cost of living in 227 cities, considering housing, transportation, food, clothing, household goods, and entertainment.
- **Asia Ranking:** Mumbai ranks 21st, and Delhi 30th in Asia.
- **Top Global Cities:** Hong Kong (1st), followed by Singapore, Zurich, Geneva, and Basel.

### Delhi Rated Best Student City in India in QS Best Student Cities 2025

- **Indian Cities in Rankings:** Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, and Chennai featured in the QS Best Cities Rankings 2025.
- **Delhi’s Improvement:** Climbed 21 places to 111th spot; named the second most affordable city for students.
- **Bengaluru’s Leap:** Advanced 17 places to 130th spot; ranked 7th most affordable city for students.
- **Affordability:** All four Indian cities are among the top 30 for affordability.
- **Employer Activity:** All Indian cities appear in the top 100



for Employer Activity.

- **Top Global Cities:** London (1st), followed by Tokyo (2nd) and Seoul (3rd).
- **Regional Representation:** China (Mainland) has the highest number of ranked cities, followed by Taiwan with five, and India and Indonesia with four each.

### India at 176 Among 180 Countries in Environment Performance Index 2024

- **Ranking:** India ranked 176th out of 180 countries with an EPI score of 27.6.
- **Comparison:** Surpassed only Pakistan, Vietnam, Laos, and Myanmar.
- **Top Countries:** Estonia (1st), followed by Luxembourg and Germany.
- **Previous Rankings:** India was 180th in 2022 and 168th in 2020.
- **EPI Analysis:** Uses 58 indicators across three categories: Ecosystem Vitality, Environmental Health, and Climate Change.
- Projected greenhouse gas emissions.
- **India's Performance:**
  - ❖ Poor rankings in air quality (177th), projected emissions (172nd), and Biodiversity & Habitat (178th).
  - ❖ Largest emitter of transboundary pollution in South Asia.
  - ❖ Improvements in climate change efforts (133rd), with investments in renewable energy and a goal to achieve net-zero emissions by 2070.
- **About EPI:**
  - ❖ Biennial index by Yale Center for Environmental Law & Policy and the Center for International Earth Science Information Network Earth Institute, Columbia University.
  - ❖ First published in 2002.
  - ❖ Assesses countries based on UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Paris Agreement 2015, and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework 2022.

### Sustainable Development Report 2024

- **Release and Publication:** Released by UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN), published since 2016.
- **Purpose:** Reviews progress on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 193 UN Member States.
- **Background:**
  - ❖ SDSN established in 2012 under the UN Secretary-General.
  - ❖ SDGs adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2015,

with 17 goals and 169 targets to be achieved by 2030.

- ❖ Programme is non-binding but all countries committed to these goals.
- **Key Highlights:**
  - ❖ Only 16% of SDG targets are on track to be met globally by 2030.
  - ❖ 84% show limited progress or regression.
  - ❖ SDG2 (Zero Hunger), SDG11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), SDG14 (Life Below Water), SDG15 (Life on Land), and SDG16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) are particularly off track.
  - ❖ Significant progress by Nordic countries; BRICS countries also making progress, while poor and vulnerable countries lag behind.
- **Leading Regions:**
  - ❖ Finland (1st), Sweden (2nd), Denmark (3rd), Germany (4th), and France (5th).
- **India's Performance:**
  - ❖ Ranked 109th.
  - ❖ On track in Poverty Reduction and Quality Education.
  - ❖ Decreasing progress in Sustainable Cities and Climate Action.

### Vienna Tops EIU's 2024 Global Liveability Index

**Assessment:** Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) assessed 173 cities worldwide.

- **Categories:** Ranked liveability across stability, healthcare, culture and environment, education, and infrastructure.
- **Top City:** Vienna, Austria, crowned the world's best city to live in.
- **Bottom City:** Damascus, Syria, ranked as the least liveable city.
- **Least Liveable Cities:** Karachi (Pakistan) and Dhaka (Bangladesh) are among the bottom 10.
- **Top Cities in Asia-Pacific:** Melbourne and Sydney (Australia), Osaka (Japan), and Auckland (New Zealand) in the top ten.
- **Top 5 Worldwide:**
  - ❖ Vienna, Austria
  - ❖ Copenhagen, Denmark
  - ❖ Zurich, Switzerland
  - ❖ Melbourne, Australia
  - ❖ Calgary, Canada (tied with Geneva)
  - ❖ Geneva, Switzerland (tie)
- **Bottom 5 Worldwide:**
  - ❖ Karachi, Pakistan
  - ❖ Lagos, Nigeria
  - ❖ Algiers, Algeria

- ❖ Tripoli, Libya
- ❖ Damascus, Syria

### IMF Artificial Intelligence Preparedness Index 2024

- **Release:** IMF released the Artificial Intelligence Preparedness Index (AIPI) Dashboard.
- **Purpose:** Ranks 174 countries based on AI readiness.
- **Country Groups:**
  - ❖ Low-Income Countries (LIC)
  - ❖ Emerging Market Economies (EM)
  - ❖ Advanced Economies (AE)
- **Top Countries:**
  - ❖ Singapore (0.80)
  - ❖ Denmark (0.78)
  - ❖ United States (0.77)
- **India's Ranking:** 72nd with a score of 0.49.
- **Neighboring Countries:**
  - ❖ China: 31st (0.63)
  - ❖ Sri Lanka: 92nd (0.43)
  - ❖ Bangladesh: 113th (0.38)
- **Evaluation Criteria:** Digital infrastructure, human capital and labor market policies, creativity and economic integration, rules and regulations.
- **Inference:**
  - ❖ AI could threaten about 40% of jobs globally.
  - ❖ AI can boost productivity and foster new industries and jobs.

### India Becomes World's Third-Largest Domestic Airline Market

- **Ranking:** India has overtaken Brazil to become the world's third-largest domestic airline market.
- **Capacity:** 1.55 crore domestic capacity, growing by 11.2% this month.
- **Key Driver:** Low-cost carrier IndiGo, which has doubled its market share to 62% since 2014.
- **Busy Route:** Mumbai-Delhi route is the eighth busiest globally.
- **Historical Context:** In 2014, India was the smallest market with 80 lakh domestic seats.
- **Top Markets:** United States (86.1 million seats) and China (67.8 million seats) maintain the top two spots.
- **Growth Rate:** India's annual growth rate of 6.9% is the highest among the top five countries.

July 2024

### Henley Passport Index

- The Henley Passport Index, Singapore's passport is once again the most powerful in the world, granting visa-free entry to 195 amazing places.
- This position is a testament to Singapore's robust diplomatic network and its citizens' ease of movement around the world. India ranks 82nd, allowing visa-free entry to 58 countries.

### Global Passport Rankings:

- **1st Place:** Singapore – 195 destinations
- **Joint 2nd Place:** France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Spain – 192 destinations
- **Joint 3rd Place:** Austria, Finland, Ireland, Luxembourg, Netherlands, South Korea, Sweden – 191 destinations
- **4th Place:** UK, Belgium, Denmark, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland – 190 destinations
- **8th Place:** USA – 186 destinations
- **82nd Place:** India – 58 destinations (tied with Senegal and Tajikistan). In 2014, the UK and USA jointly held first place in passport strength but have since declined in rankings. Notably, Afghanistan remains the weakest passport, offering access to only 26 countries.

### India Ranks Third in Global Forest Area Gains

- **Ranking:** India ranks **third globally** in forest area gains.
- **Annual Increase:** Added 266,000 hectares of forest annually from 2010 to 2020.
- **Top Countries:** China and Australia lead the rankings.
- **FAO Recognition:** Praised India's efforts in land restoration and agroforestry

### India's Rank in Generative AI Innovations

- **Global Position:** 5th in the world.
- **Patent Count:** 1,350 patents (2014-2023).
- **Growth Rate:** 56% annual increase.
- **Key Contributors:** RN Chidakashi Technologies, Tata Consultancy Services.
- **Economic Impact:** Potential GDP boost of \$359-438 billion by 2030.

Index	Published by	India's Rank	Specifications
Climate Change Performance Index 2023	Germanwatch	7th rank	<p>- It assesses the climate performance of countries based on four categories (GHG Emissions, Renewable Energy, Energy Use, and Climate Policy).</p> <p>This instrument enables transparency in national and international <b>climate politics</b>.</p>
International IP Index 2024	U.S. Chamber of Commerce	42nd position unchanged since 2022	- It provides a blueprint for economies aiming to enhance the environment for innovation and creativity by implementing more robust intellectual property standards.
Global Soft Power Index 2024	Brand Finance	29th rank (28th position in 2023)	The Index is an assessment of <b>national brand perceptions</b> , giving an in-depth analysis of the changing state of soft power as countries navigate important global developments & challenges.
Human Development Index (2023-2024)	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	134th out of 193 countries (135 in 2022)	- It assesses a country's average performance in three <b>fundamental areas of human development</b> : health, knowledge, and standard of life.
Henley Passport Index 2024	International Air Transport Authority (IATA)	80th rank	- The index ranks countries based on the number of destinations that allow <b>visa-free entry</b> to their passport.
Gender Inequality Index 2022	UNDP	108th out of 193 countries (122 rank in 2021)	It measures gender disparity across <b>three dimensions</b> : reproductive health, empowerment, and the labour market.
Future Possibilities Index 2024	Newsweek Vantage and Horizon Group	35th rank	- It is a global study of future trends that would enable governments, investors, and other stakeholders in the private sector to lead global transformations.
World Happiness Report 2024	UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN)	126th rank	- It is based on <b>global survey data</b> from people based on people's assessments of their happiness, along with economic and social data.
Global Terrorism Index 2023	Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP)	13th rank	<p>The report ranks 163 countries on the <b>impact of terrorism</b>, using data from <b>Terrorism Tracker</b> and other sources.</p> <p>It is based on four indicators (number of incidents, fatalities, injuries, and hostages in a year) weighted over five years.</p>
Global Innovation Index 2023	World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)	40th rank out of 132 economies	- The GII is a credible instrument for governments to measure <b>innovation-driven social and economic transformation</b> in their countries.
Global Hunger Index 2023	Concern World wide and Welt Hunger Hilfe	111 (slipped four positions as compared to last year)	It is a tool for evaluating how well countries are <b>dealing with hunger</b> .
Global Competitiveness Index	International Institute for Management Development (IMD).	40th rank	- It ranks countries based on how they manage their competencies to generate <b>long-term value creation</b> .
Global Peace Index 2023	Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP)	126th (two places higher than its previous position)	- It measures the state of peace across <b>three domains</b> : Societal safety and security; Ongoing domestic and international conflict; and Militarization.



<b>Corruption Perceptions Index 2023</b>	<b>Transparency International</b>	<b>93rd</b> (85th rank in 2022)	- It ranks countries by their perceived levels of <b>public sector corruption</b> .
World Press Freedom Index 2023	Reporters Without Borders (RSF).	161th rank	- It compares the <b>level of freedom</b> enjoyed by journalists and media among countries.
<b>Rule of Law Index 2023</b>	<b>World Justice Project</b>	<b>79th rank</b>	- This index is the world's leading source of original, <b>independent rule of law data</b> .
Global Liveability Index 2023	Economist Intelligence Unit	<b>New Delhi and Mumbai:</b> 141st <b>Chennai:</b> 144th <b>Vienna:</b> 1st ranked city	- It quantifies the challenges presented to an individual's lifestyle and <b>standard of living</b> in 173 cities worldwide.
Global Multidimensional Poverty Index 2023	United Nations Development Programme and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI)	- 415 million poor people moved out of poverty from 2005/2006 to 2019/2021. - Decline in the poverty head-count ratio from 44.3% in 2005/2006 to 11.8% in 2019/2021.	- The global MPI is a vital international resource for measuring <b>severe multidimensional poverty</b> in over 100 developing nations.
<b>Energy Transition Index 2023</b>	<b>World Economic Forum</b>	<b>67th</b>	- The Index compares 120 nations' present <b>energy system performance</b> and the readiness of their enabling environment.
<b>Democracy Index 2023 (HPAS pre 2024)</b>	<b>Economist Intelligence Unit</b>	<b>41st (placed in the category of a "Flawed Democracy")</b>	- In addition to a numerical score and ranking, the index assigns each country to one of <b>four regime types</b> : full democracies, flawed democracies, hybrid regimes, and authoritarian regimes.
<b>World Economic Outlook 2024</b>	International Monetary Fund	- India's growth is projected at 6.5% in 2024 and 2025. - Global growth is projected at 3.1% in 2024 and 3.2% in 2025.	- It covers <b>IMF estimates</b> and forecasts for global output growth, inflation, real GDP growth, consumer prices, current account balances, and unemployment.
<b>Global Remittances Inflow Report 2023</b>	World Bank	India tops remittance flows at USD 125 billion in 2023.	- The World Bank provides annual estimates of <b>remittance flows</b> globally (and bilaterally), based on national <b>balance of payment statistics</b> produced by central Banks and compiled by the IMF.
<b>Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) Report</b>	<b>Oxford University Press</b>	India was the world's top arms importer in 2019-23 with imports having gone up by 4.7% compared to the 2014-18	- SIPRI is an <b>independent international institution</b> dedicated to research into conflict, armaments, arms control, and disarmament. - It calculates the volume of transfers to, from, and between all parties using the TIV and the number of weapon systems or subsystems delivered in a given year.
<b>Military Strength Ranking 2024</b>	<b>Global Firepower (GFP)</b>	<b>4th</b>	- It utilises <b>over 60 individual factors</b> to determine a given nation's <b>PowerIndex</b> score with categories ranging from quantity of military units and financial standing to logistical capabilities and geography.

<b>Logistics Performance Index 2023</b>	<b>World Bank</b>	<b>38th</b> (Improved by six places from 44 in 2018)	- It is a tool designed to assist countries in identifying the issues and opportunities associated with their <b>trade logistics performance</b> , as well as what they can do to enhance it.
<b>World Air Quality Report 2024</b>	<b>IQAir</b>	- India ranks as the <b>third</b> most polluted country. - New <b>Delhi</b> ranked as the most polluted capital city.	- The Air Quality Index is based on the measurement of <b>particulate matter</b> (PM2.5 and PM10), Ozone, Nitrogen Dioxide, Sulfur Dioxide, and Carbon Monoxide emissions.



## SPORTS

**Neeraj Chopra's Historic Achievement at World Athletics Championships**

- Neeraj Chopra became the **first Indian to win a gold medal at the World Athletics Championships.**
- **Winning Throw:** Achieved a throw of 88.17 meters in the men's javelin final.
- **Event Details:** The event took place on August 27 in Budapest, Hungary.

**Esha Singh and Shiva Narwal's Victory at ISSF World Championship**

- **Event:** 10m Air Pistol Mixed Team
- **Date:** August 18, 2023
- **Location:** ISSF World Championship, Baku, Azerbaijan
- **Achievement:**
  - ❖ **Esha Singh and Shiva Narwal** won the gold medal.
  - ❖ Defeated Turkey's team of Yusuf Dikec and Sevval Tarhan with a score of 16-10 in the final.

**Historic Gold Medal for Indian Women's Archery Team**

- **Event:** Compound Women's Team Final
- **Date:** August 4, 2023
- **Location:** World Archery Championships, Berlin, Germany
- **Achievement:**
  - ❖ **V. Jyothi Surekha, Aditi Swami, and Parneet Kaur** won their first-ever **gold medal.**
  - ❖ Defeated top-ranked Mexico with a score of 235-229.

**Ojas Pravin Deotale's Historic Win at World Archery Championships**

- **Event:** World Archery Championships
- **Date:** August 4, 2023
- **Location:** Berlin, Germany
- **Achievement:**
  - ❖ **Ojas Pravin Deotale** became the **first-ever male Archery World Champion from India.**

**FIDE Chess World Cup 2023 Highlights**

- **Event:** FIDE Chess World Cup 2023
- **Date:** August 24, 2023
- **Location:** Baku, Azerbaijan
- **Outcome:**
  - ❖ **Champion:** Magnus Carlsen (Norway) won the gold medal.
  - ❖ **Runner-up:** **R. Praggnanandhaa (India)** secured the silver medal.

**Match Details:**

- ❖ Carlsen defeated Praggnanandhaa in tie-breaks to clinch the title.

**Significance:**

- ❖ Praggnanandhaa, who turned 18 during the World Cup, became the **youngest World Cup finalist ever.**

**Hero Asian Hockey Championship 2023 (Men)**

- **Event:** Hero Asian Hockey Championship (Men)
- **Date:** August 12, 2023
- **Location:** Chennai, India
- **Outcome:**
  - ❖ **Champion:** Indian team led by captain Harmanpreet Singh.
  - ❖ **Final Score:** India defeated Malaysia 4-3 in a thrilling final.
- **Significance:**
  - ❖ This victory marks **India's fourth title in the Hero Asian Hockey Championship.**

**9th FIFA Women's World Cup Highlights**

- **Spain's Historic Win:** Spain defeated England 1-0 to lift the title for the **first time** on August 20th in Sydney.
- **Hosts:** The tournament was jointly hosted by **Australia and New Zealand.**
- **Golden Ball:** Aitana Bonmati of Spain won the **Golden Ball** for the "Best Player".
- **Golden Boot:** Hinata Miyazawa of Japan clinched the **Golden Boot** for being the highest goal scorer with 5 goals.
- **Golden Glove:** Mary Earps of England won the **Golden Glove** for being the Best Goalkeeper.

**Rohit Sharma's Record-Breaking Achievement**

- **Historic Milestone:** Rohit Sharma created history on October 11 by scoring the **highest number of sixes (554) in international cricket.**
- **Previous Record:** He broke Chris Gayle's record of 553 sixes.
- **Innings Comparison:** Gayle achieved 553 sixes in 551 innings, while **Rohit surpassed the record** in just 473 innings.
- **Location and Opponent:** The record was **made in New Delhi**, playing against Afghanistan.

**19th Asian Games Highlights**

- **Closing Ceremony:** Held on October 8 at the **Hangzhou Olympics Stadium in China.**



- **Next Host:** The baton for the **next Asian Games** was passed to **Nagoya, Japan for 2026**.
- **Flag Bearer:** Hockey player **P. R. Sreejesh** was the **flag bearer for India**.
- **India's Historic Achievement:** The Indian contingent won a record 107 medals (28 gold, 38 silver, and 41 bronze).
- **Final Medal Tally:** **India secured fourth rank**, while **China topped the tally** with 383 medals (201 gold, 111 silver, and 71 bronze).

### Max Verstappen's Triple Championship Achievement

- **Triple Champion:** Max Verstappen joined the list of **Formula One triple champions** on October 8 by winning the **Qatar Grand Prix**.
- **Previous Championships:** The 26-year-old Red Bull driver retained his F1 world championship titles from 2021 and 2022.

### New Sports for the 2028 Olympics

- **IOC Decision:** The International Olympic Committee decided on October 16, at its 141st Session in Mumbai, to include **five new sports in the Olympic Games Los Angeles 2028**.
- **New Sports:**
  - ❖ Baseball/Softball
  - ❖ Cricket (T20)
  - ❖ Flag Football
  - ❖ Lacrosse (sixes)
  - ❖ Squash
- **Host City Privilege:** Under IOC rules, each host city can request the inclusion of several sports for their edition of the Games

### 2030 FIFA World Cup Hosts Announced

- **Hosts:** Morocco, Spain, and Portugal will jointly host the 2030 FIFA World Cup.
- **Opening Matches:** Uruguay, Argentina, and Paraguay will host the opening matches.
- **Historic First:** This will be the first World Cup staged across three continents and six countries.
- **Inaugural World Cup:** The first World Cup in 1930 was held in Uruguay and won by them.
- **Recent Hosts:**
  - ❖ 2022: Qatar
  - ❖ 2026: USA, Mexico, and Canada

### FIFA (Fédération Internationale de Football Association):

- **Formation:** Founded on May 21, 1904, in Paris to oversee international football competition.
- **Headquarters:** Located in Zurich, Switzerland.

- **President:** Gianni Infantino, elected by member associations.
- **Membership:** FIFA has 211 member associations, making it influential globally.
- **World Cup:** Organizes the prestigious FIFA World Cup every four years.
- **Women's World Cup:** Showcases top women's national teams globally.
- **Youth Tournaments:** Oversees FIFA U-20 and U-17 World Cups, promoting young talent.
- **FIFA Rankings:** Releases national team rankings based on international performance.

### Vidya Pillai's Historic Achievement

- **First Indian Woman:** Vidya Pillai from Bengaluru became the **first Indian woman to win an individual world snooker title**.
- **Date:** Achieved this milestone on November 24.
- **Event:** Secured Gold at the **World Six Red Women Snooker Championships**.
- **Location:** The championship was held in **Doha, Qatar**.
- **Six-Red Snooker:** A short version of traditional snooker.

### Pankaj Advani's 26th World Title

- Pankaj Advani won his 26th world title.
- **Event:** World IBSF Billiards Championship 2023.
- **Date:** November 21, 2023.
- **Location:** Doha, Qatar

### Master R Vaishali's Historic Win

- **First Indian Winner:** International Master **R Vaishali** became the **first Indian to win the FIDE Women's Grand Swiss**.
- **Date:** Achieved this milestone on November 5, 2023.
- **Location:** Isle of Man, UK.
- **FIDE:** Stands for "**Federation Internationale des Echecs**," also known as the **World Chess Federation**.

### Rohit Sharma's Record-Breaking Achievement

- **Rohit Sharma hit the greatest number of sixes at World Cups**.
- **Achievement:** Blasted his **50th sixer**.
- **Date:** November 15.
- **Opponent:** Played against **New Zealand**.
- **Location:** **Wankhede Stadium, Mumbai**.

### Mohammed Shami's Record-Breaking Performance

- **Milestone:** **First Indian bowler** to pick up **50 wickets in ODI World Cups**.
- **Achievement Rate:** Achieved this in just **17 innings**, the fastest rate.

- **Date:** November 15.
- **Opponent:** Played against **New Zealand**.
- **Additional Record:** Most five-wicket hauls (four) in **World Cup history**.
- **Match Highlight:** Recorded a seven-wicket haul in this match.

### Virat Kohli's Historic Century Milestone

- **Achievement:** Virat Kohli became the **first player in cricket history to score 50 ODI centuries**.
- **Date:** November 15.
- **Location:** Wankhede Stadium, Mumbai.
- **Opponent:** Played against New Zealand.
- **Record Surpassed:** Surpassed Sachin Tendulkar's record of 49 centuries.
- **Historical Note:** Tendulkar achieved his record on the same date and at the same venue in 2013.

### ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023

- **Champion:** Australia won the World Cup by defeating India by six wickets.
- **Final Match Date:** November 19.
- **Venue:** Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad.
- **Player of the Tournament:** Virat Kohli, for scoring 765 runs in 11 innings, the highest-ever in a single edition of the World Cup.
- **Top Wicket Taker:** Mohammed Shami, with 24 wickets in just 7 matches.

### Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy 2023

- **Champion:** Punjab won their maiden title.
- **Final Match:** Defeated Baroda by 20 runs.
- **Date:** November 6.
- **Venue:** Mohali, Punjab.

### Asian Champions Trophy 2023

- **Champion:** Indian women's hockey team.
- **Achievement:** Dethroned 2021 winner Japan.
- **Date:** November 5.
- **Venue:** Ranchi, Jharkhand.

### Amol Muzumdar's New Role

- **Position:** Named as the head coach of the Indian women's national cricket team.
- **Background:** Former Mumbai batsman.

### Ballon d'Or Awards 2023

- **Men's Winner:** Lionel Messi, Argentinian star footballer and Inter Miami captain, won a record-extending eighth Ballon d'Or trophy.

- **Date:** October 30.
- **Event:** Held in a glittering ceremony in Paris, France.
- **Women's Winner:** Spain's Aitana Bonmati won the Women's Ballon d'Or.

### Sultan of Johor Cup 2023

- **Champion:** Germany won the under-21 men's hockey championship.
- **Final Match:** Defeated Australia.
- **Date:** November 4.
- **Location:** Johor, Malaysia.

### 4th Asian Para Games, Hangzhou

- **India's Achievement:** Created history by winning a record 111 medals.
  - ❖ **Medal Breakdown:** 29 gold, 31 silver, and 51 bronze.
- **Previous Record:** Surpassed India's previous best of 72 medals from the 2018 Asian Para Games in Indonesia.
- **Medal Tally Rank:** India secured 5th rank.
- **Top Spot:** China secured the top spot with 521 medals (214 gold, 167 silver, and 140 bronze).

### Vijay Hazare Trophy 2023

- **Champion:** Haryana won the title.
- **Final Match:** Defeated Rajasthan by 30 runs.
- **Event:** Cricket tournament.

### Bangladesh Clinches First U-19 Asia Cup 2023

- **Champion:** Bangladesh won their first U-19 Asia Cup.
- **Final Match:** Defeated UAE.
- **Event History:** The Under-19 Asia Cup has been organized since 1989.

### Amitabh Bachchan's New Role in Indian Street Premier League

- **Ownership:** Amitabh Bachchan becomes the owner of the Mumbai team in the Indian Street Premier League (ISPL).
- **Tournament:** ISPL is India's first tennis ball T10 cricket tournament.
- **Teams:** Six teams - Hyderabad, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Chennai, Kolkata, and Srinagar.
- **Recent Announcements:**
  - ❖ Akshay Kumar is the owner of the Srinagar team.
  - ❖ Hrithik Roshan is the owner of the Bengaluru team.

### Shaikh Hassan Khan's Mount Vinson Climb

- **Climber:** Shaikh Hassan Khan, a Kerala government employee.
- **Achievement:** Climbed Mount Vinson.

- **Location:** Mount Vinson is the highest mountain in Antarctica.
- **Height:** 4,892 meters (16,050 feet) above sea level.

### Iga Swiatek's

- **Historic Win:** Iga Swiatek becomes the **first woman since Serena Williams to win WTA Player of the Year twice.**
- **Player Profile:** Iga Natalia Świątek is a Polish professional tennis player.
- **Organization:** WTA stands for Women's Tennis Association.

### 2023 World Athletics Award Winners

- **Female Winner:** Faith Kipyegon.
- **Male Winner:** Noah Lyles.

### Time's Athlete of the Year 2023

- **Awardee:** Argentina superstar Lionel Messi.
- **Title:** Named Time's Athlete of the Year for 2023.
- **Additional Achievement:** Also won the 2023 Ballon d'Or for a record-extending eighth time.

### Time Magazine's Person of the Year 2023

- **Awardee:** Taylor Swift.
- **Title:** Named Time Magazine's Person of the Year.
- **Criteria:** Awarded to an event or person deemed to have had the most influence on global events over the past year.

### Time Magazine CEO of the Year 2023

- **Awardee:** Sam Altman, founder of OpenAI.
- **Title:** Named Time Magazine's 'CEO of the Year'.
- **Notable Achievement:** Co-founder of ChatGPT, developed by OpenAI and launched in November 2022.

### R Vaishali's Grandmaster Achievement

- **Historic Achievement:** R Vaishali becomes India's third female chess Grandmaster.
- **Other Female Grandmasters:** Koneru Humpy and Harika Dronavalli.
- **Sibling Milestone:** Vaishali and her younger brother, Rameshbabu Pragganandhaa, are the first-ever Grandmaster siblings pair in history.
- **Grandmaster Rank:** Chennai's Vaishali Rameshbabu is India's 84th Grandmaster.
- **Pioneer:** Viswanathan Anand is the first Indian player to become a chess Grandmaster.

### FIFA U-17 World Cup 2023 Highlights

- **Champion:** Germany won the FIFA U-17 World Cup for the first time.

- **Runner-Up:** France.
- **Golden Boot Winner:** Agustin Ruberto of Argentina.

### Sheetal Devi's Prestigious Achievement

- **Award:** Sheetal Devi, Indian para archer, won the title of Best Youth Athlete.
- **Event:** Fourth edition of the Asian Awards.
- **Location:** Riyadh.
- **Organizer:** Asian Paralympic Committee.
- **Performance:** Remarkable performance at the Hangzhou 2022 Asian Para Games in October.
  - ❖ **Medals:** Gold in both the individual and team compound events.

### Magnus Carlsen's 2023 FIDE World Rapid Chess Championship Victory

- **Champion:** Magnus Carlsen won the 2023 FIDE World Rapid Chess Championship.
- **Record:** Captured the world rapid chess crown for a record fifth time.
- **Organization:** International Chess Federation (FIDE).

### 6th Edition of Khelo India Youth Games 2024 Highlights

- **Inauguration:** PM Modi inaugurated the opening ceremony at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, Chennai.
- **First in South India:** Held from January 19-31, 2024, across four cities: Chennai, Coimbatore, Madurai, and Trichy.
- **Mascot:** Veera Mangai, inspired by Rani Velu Nachiyar, an Indian queen who fought against British colonial rule.
- **Logo:** Incorporates the figure of poet Thiruvalluvar.
- **Top Medalist:** Maharashtra led the tally with 57 gold, 48 silver, and 53 bronze medals, defending their title for the fourth time.
- **Medal Tally:**
  - ❖ **Maharashtra:** 57 gold, 48 silver, 53 bronze (158 total)
  - ❖ **Tamil Nadu:** 38 gold, 21 silver, 39 bronze (98 total)
  - ❖ **Haryana:** 35 gold, 22 silver, 46 bronze (103 total)
  - ❖ **Delhi:** 13 gold, 18 silver, 25 bronze (56 total)
  - ❖ **Rajasthan:** 13 gold, 17 silver, 17 bronze (47 total)
  - ❖ **Telangana:** 13 gold, 4 silver, 7 bronze (24 total)
  - ❖ **Uttar Pradesh:** 11 gold, 13 silver, 18 bronze (42 total)
  - ❖ **Punjab:** 11 gold, 13 silver, 15 bronze (39 total)
  - ❖ **Kerala:** 11 gold, 9 silver, 15 bronze (35 total)
  - ❖ **Manipur:** 10 gold, 11 silver, 10 bronze (31 total)

### Khelo India Medal Winners Eligible for Government Jobs

- **New Eligibility:** Medal winners in all Khelo India competitions are now eligible for government jobs under



revised criteria.

- **Competitions Covered:** Eligibility extends to winners from Khelo India Youth, University, Para, and Winter Games.
- **Initiative Start:** Khelo India Games were first organized in 2018 as part of the Modi Government's initiative to revitalize sports culture at the grassroots level.

### 3rd Edition of North East Games 2024 Highlights

- **Inauguration:** Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio officially declared the games open at the Regional Centre for Sporting Excellence, Sovima<sup>1</sup>.
- **Participants:** Over 3000 athletes from 8 North Eastern states<sup>1</sup>.
- **Disciplines:** Competitions in 15 disciplines

### India Shines at Archery Asia Cup 2024

- **Total Medals:** 14 (9 Gold, 4 Silver, 1 Bronze)
- **Event Location:** Baghdad, Iraq
- **Key Achievements:**
  - ❖ **Individual Event Sweeps:** India secured top podiums in all individual events.
  - ❖ **Gold Medalists:**
- **Deepika Kumari:** Women's Recurve Individual
- **Dhiraj Bommadevara:** Men's Recurve Individual
- **Parneet Kaur:** Women's Compound Individual
- **Prathamesh Jawkar:** Men's Compound Individual

### Divyansh Singh Panwar's Triumph at ISSF World Cup 2024

- **Event:** ISSF World Cup 2024, Cairo
- **Gold Medalist:** Divyansh Singh Panwar (Men's Air Rifle)
  - ❖ **World Record Score:** 253.7 in the 24-shot final
  - ❖ **Previous Record:** 253.3 by China at the 2022 Asian Games
- **Silver Medalist:** Sonam Uttam Maskar (Women's 10m Air Rifle)
  - ❖ **First ISSF World Cup Participation**

### Arjun Babuta Sets New World Record in Olympic Selection Trials

- **Event:** Men's 10m Air Rifle, Olympic Selection Trials
- **New World Record:** 254.0
  - ❖ **Previous Record:** 253.7 by Divyansh Singh Panwar at the Cairo World Cup 2024
- **Achievement:** Babuta's score surpassed Panwar's by 0.3 points

### Indian Shooters' Achievements in Recent Competitions

**World Shooting Para Sport Tournament, Changwon, Korea.**

- **Gold Medalist:** Mona Aggarwal (Women's 10m Air Rifle)

- **Silver Medalist:** Amir Ahmed Bhatt (Men's 25m Pistol)

### Asian Shooting Championships 2024, Jakarta, Indonesia (Jan 8-17)

- **Total Medals:** 14) 26 Gold, 7 Silver, 5 Bronze)
- **Olympic Quotas Secured:** 17 for Paris 2024 (Best-ever tally for India)

#### Individual Medalists:

- **Varun Tomar:** Men's 10m Air Pistol (Gold)
- **Esha Singh:** Women's 10m Air Pistol (Gold)
- **Nancy:** Women's 10m Air Rifle (Gold)
- **Akhil Sheoran:** Men's 50m Rifle 3 Positions (Gold)
- **Yogesh Singh:** Men's 25m Centre Fire Pistol (Gold), Men's 25m Standard Pistol (Gold)

### Asian Shotgun Championships 2024, Kuwait City

- **Bronze Medalists:** Raiza Dhillon and Gurjot Singh Khangura (Skeet Mixed Team)

### India to Host 2025 FIH Hockey Men's Junior World Cup

- **Event Date:** December 2025
- **Significance:** First Junior Hockey World Cup with 24 teams
- **Previous Host (2023):** Malaysia
  - ❖ **Winner:** Germany (Seventh Title)
- **India's Hosting History:**
  - ❖ 2013 (New Delhi)
  - ❖ 2016 (Lucknow)
  - ❖ 2021 (Bhubaneswar)
- **India's Titles:** 2001, 2016
- **Key Figure:** Dr. Dilip Tirkey, President of Hockey India

### Japan's Victory at Sultan Azlan Shah Hockey Trophy 2024

- **Achievement:** Japan won its maiden Sultan Azlan Shah Hockey Trophy
- **Final Match:** Defeated Pakistan
- **Venue:** Azlan Shah Stadium, Ipoh, Malaysia
- **Year:** 2024
- **Tournament:** Annual international men's field hockey tournament held in Malaysia

### Highlights from Hockey India Awards 2023

- Balbir Singh Sr. Award for Player of the Year 2023:
  - ❖ **Women's Category:** Salima Tete
  - ❖ **Men's Category:** Hardik Singh (also FIH Player of the Year, Rs.25 lakhs cash prize)
- **Major Dhyan Chand Lifetime Achievement Award 2023:** Ashok Kumar (Olympian and World Cup winner)

### Netherlands Wins FIH Hockey5s Women's World Cup 2024

- **Event:** First edition of the FIH Women's Hockey5s World Cup
- **Dates:** January 24-27, 2024
- **Location:** Muscat, Oman
- **Winner:** Netherlands (Defeated India in the final to claim the first gold medal)

### Recent Retirements in Indian Cricket

#### Rohit Sharma

- **Age:** 37
- **Career Highlights:**
  - ❖ Third Indian captain to win a World Cup (after Kapil Dev and MS Dhoni)
  - ❖ Career began in 2007
  - ❖ First-ever captain to lead a team in 50 T20I games
  - ❖ Led India to win the T20 World Cup without losing a single game
  - ❖ Played 159 T20I matches
  - ❖ Highest run-scorer in T20I history (4231 runs)
  - ❖ Most sixes in T20I (205)

#### Virat Kohli

- **Career Highlights:**
  - ❖ T20I career began on June 12, 2010
  - ❖ Played 125 T20I matches
  - ❖ Second-highest run-getter in T20Is (4188 runs)
  - ❖ Man of the Match in T20 World Cup 2024

#### Ravindra Jadeja: Announced retirement from T20 internationals

- **David Warner:**
- **Nationality:** Australian
- **Career Highlights:** Second only to Ricky Ponting for most centuries in ODIs for Australia

#### James Anderson

- **Nationality:** English
- **Career Highlights:**
  - ❖ International career spanned nearly 22 years (debut in 2002)
  - ❖ First fast bowler to take 700 wickets in Test cricket
  - ❖ Third highest wicket-taker in Test cricket history

### ICC T20 Men's Cricket World Cup 2024

- **Edition:** 9th
- **Hosts:** West Indies and the United States
- **Start Date:** June 1, 2024
- **Final Date:** June 29, 2024 (Barbados)
- **Teams:** 20

- **Matches:** 55
- **Venues:** 9 (3 in USA, 6 in the Caribbean)

### List of ICC T20 Cricket World Cups

- **2007 (South Africa):** Winner - India, Runner-up - Pakistan
- **2022 (Australia):** Winner - England, Runner-up - Pakistan
- **2024 (USA & West Indies):** Winner - India, Runner-up - South Africa
- **2026 (India & Sri Lanka):** To be decided.

### Yuvraj Singh Named ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 Ambassador

- **New Ambassador:** Yuvraj Singh
- **Other Ambassadors:** Chris Gayle (West Indies icon), Usain Bolt (Eight-time Olympic Gold Medallist)

### Andre Russell's Milestone in T20 World Cup History

- **Achievement:** Andre Russell becomes the highest wicket-taker for West Indies in T20 World Cup history
  - ❖ **Wickets:** 29
  - ❖ **Previous Record:** 27 wickets by Dwayne Bravo
- **T20 World Cup:**
  - ❖ **Organiser:** International Cricket Council (ICC)
  - ❖ **Current Champion:** England (2nd title)
  - ❖ **Host:** USA and West Indies

### India Wins ICC T20 World Cup 2024

- **Final Match:** India defeated South Africa by 7 runs at Kensington Oval, Barbados
- **Player of the Match:** Virat Kohli (India)
- **Player of the Tournament:** Jasprit Bumrah (India)
- **Top Run-Scorer:** Rahmanullah Gurbaz (Afghanistan) - 281 runs
- **Top Wicket-Takers:** Fazalhaq Farooqi (Afghanistan) and Arshdeep Singh (India) - 17 wickets each
- **Trophy Composition:** Silver and rhodium metals

### Additional Highlights

- **Best Fielder Award:** Suryakumar Yadav (India) for his decisive catch to dismiss David Miller
- **Presented by:** Jay Shah, BCCI Secretary
- **India's Fielding Coach:** T Dilip

### Sunrisers Hyderabad Sets New IPL Record for Highest Total

- **New Record:** 277/3 in 20 overs
- **Opponent:** Mumbai Indians
- **Location:** Hyderabad
- **Previous Record:** 263/5 by Royal Challengers Bangalore

in 2013

### Royal Challengers Bangalore Wins Women's Premier League Title

- **Final Match:** RCB defeated Delhi Capitals by 8 wickets at Arun Jaitley Stadium, New Delhi
- **Player of the Series:** Deepti Sharma (UP Warriorz)
- **Most Runs:** Ellyse Perry (RCB) - 347 runs
- **Most Wickets:** Shreyanka Patil (RCB) - 13 wickets

### Women's Premier League (WPL) Overview

- **Total Teams:** 5 (Delhi Capitals, Gujarat Giants, Mumbai Indians, Royal Challengers Bangalore, UP Warriorz)
- **Format:** Twenty20 cricket
- **First Edition:** 2023 (Winner - Mumbai Indians)
- **Ownership:** Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)

### MS Dhoni's Milestones in T20 Cricket

- First Wicketkeeper to Complete 300 Dismissals in T20 Cricket
  - ❖ **Total Dismissals:** 300
  - ❖ **Next Closest:** Dinesh Karthik (274), Kamran Akmal (274)
- First Indian Keeper to Score 7,000 Runs in T20 Cricket
  - ❖ **Team:** Chennai Super Kings
  - ❖ **Match:** Against Delhi Capitals in IPL
- **Age:** 42

### Yuzvendra Chahal's Historic Milestone in IPL

- **Achievement:** First bowler to take 200 wickets in IPL
- **Team:** Rajasthan Royals
- **Milestone Match:** Against Mumbai Indians (captained by Hardik Pandya)

### Marcus Stoinis' Record-Breaking Performance in IPL

- **Achievement:** Highest individual score during a run-chase in IPL history
- **Player:** Marcus Stoinis (Australia, Lucknow Super Giants)
- **Score:** Unbeaten 124\* in 63 balls

### Additional Record

- **Highest Individual Score in IPL:** Chris Gayle (175\* runs off 66 balls for Royal Challengers Bangalore against Sahara Pune Warriors in 2013)

### KKR Wins Their Third IPL Trophy

- **Final Match:** Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) defeated Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) by 8 wickets
- **Player of the Match:** Mitchell Starc (KKR)

- **Emerging Player of the Season:** Nitish Reddy (SRH)
- **Purple Cap:** Harshal Patel (24 wickets, PBKS)
- **Orange Cap:** Virat Kohli (741 runs, RCB)
- **Most Valuable Player of the Season:** Sunil Narine (482 runs and 17 wickets, KKR)
- **Fairplay Award:** Sunrisers Hyderabad

### Rohit Sharma Tops List of Batters with Most Hundreds in T20Is

- **Achievement:** First batsman to score five centuries in T20 Internationals (T20Is)
- **Milestone Match:** Third T20I against Afghanistan in Bengaluru on January 17, 2024
- **Surpassed Players:**
  - ❖ Suryakumar Yadav (India)
  - ❖ Glenn Maxwell (Australia)
  - ❖ Both have four T20I hundreds

### Rohit Sharma's Milestone in T20 Cricket

- **Achievement:** First Indian to hit 500 sixes in T20 cricket
- **Other Players with More T20 Sixes:**
  - ❖ Chris Gayle
  - ❖ Kieron Pollard
  - ❖ Andre Russell
- Colin Munro

### Rohit Sharma's Record-Breaking Achievements in T20Is

- **First Batsman to Hit 200 Sixes in T20Is**
  - ❖ **Milestone Match:** T20 World Cup 2024 Super Eight Group 1 against Australia
  - ❖ **Location:** Daren Sammy National Cricket Stadium, St. Lucia
- **Additional Records:**
  - ❖ **Most Sixes by an Indian in a T20 World Cup Match:** 8 sixes
  - ❖ **First-Ever Player to Smack 600 Sixes Across Formats**

### Virat Kohli's Milestone in T20 Cricket

- **Achievement:** First Indian to score 12,000 runs in T20 cricket
- **Milestone Match:** IPL 2024 opening clash between Chennai Super Kings (CSK) and Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB)
- **Global Ranking:** Among the world's six players to achieve this record
  - ❖ **Other Players:** Chris Gayle, Shoaib Malik, Kieron Pollard, Alex Hales, David Warner

### Tanmay Agarwal's Record-Breaking Triple Century



- **Achievement:** Fastest triple century in First-Class cricket
- **Score:** Unbeaten 323 off 160 balls
- **Match:** Hyderabad vs. Arunachal Pradesh
- **Tournament:** Ranji Trophy

### Jaspri Bumrah's Historic Achievements in ICC Test Rankings

- **First Indian Pacer to Reach No. 1 in ICC Test Rankings**
  - ❖ **Replaced:** Ravichandran Ashwin
- **First-Ever Bowler to Reach No. 1 in All Three Formats**
- **Outstanding Performance:** Second Test against England in Visakhapatnam
  - ❖ **Match Figures:** 9/91
- **Fourth Indian to Attain No. 1 Position:**
  - ❖ **Others:** Ravichandran Ashwin, Ravindra Jadeja, Bishan Singh Bedi

### Shabnim Ismail's Record-Breaking Fastest Delivery in Women's Cricket

- **Historic Achievement:** South African pacer Shabnim Ismail bowled the fastest delivery ever recorded in women's cricket.
- **Speed Milestone:** She breached the 130kph barrier for the first time since the introduction of speed guns.
- **Match Details:** Playing for Mumbai Indians in their Women's Premier League (WPL) match against Delhi Capitals at the Arun Jaitley Stadium.
- **Record Speed:** Ismail clocked a speed of 132.1km/h (82.08mph).
- **Retirement Note:** She has retired from international cricket.

### Shafali Verma's Record-Breaking Double Century in Test Cricket

- **Fastest Double-Centurion:** Shafali Verma became the fastest woman to score a double century in Test cricket.
- **Opponent:** Achieved this milestone against South Africa.
- **Indian Milestone:** She is the second Indian woman to hit a double century in Test cricket, following former skipper Mithali Raj.

### Smriti Mandhana's Consecutive ODI Hundreds and Record Equalling Feat

- **Consecutive Hundreds:** Smriti Mandhana became the first Indian woman to score two consecutive ODI hundreds.
- **Match Details:** Achieved this during the second ODI against South Africa at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru.
- **Record Equalling:** Mandhana equalled Mithali Raj's record for the most ODI centuries among Indian women.
- **ODI Centuries Among Women:**

- ❖ **Suzie Bates (New Zealand):** 12 centuries
- **Most ODI Hundreds for India (Women):**
  - ❖ **Smriti Mandhana:** 7 centuries
  - ❖ **Mithali Raj:** 7 centuries
  - ❖ **Harmanpreet Kaur:** 6 centuries

### India's Dominance in ICC Rankings

- **Top of ICC Test Rankings:** The Indian cricket team, led by Rohit Sharma, has ascended to the top of the ICC Test rankings.
- **World Test Championship:** India now leads the World Test Championship (WTC) standings.
- **No. 1 in All Formats:** India holds the top position across all three formats – Test, ODI, and T20I.

### Latest ICC Annual Rankings Update

- **White-Ball Formats:** India retains the top position in ODIs and T20Is.
- **Test Rankings:** India has slipped to the second position in the men's Test Team Rankings.
- **Australia's Achievement:** Australia reclaims the world No. 1 ranking in Tests.

### Jan Nicol Loftie - Eaton's Record-Breaking T20I Century

- **Fastest T20I Hundred:** Jan Nicol Loftie-Eaton of Namibia scored a hundred off just 33 balls against Nepal, setting a new record for the fastest T20I century.
- **Previous Record:** He broke the previous record held by Nepal's Kushal Malla, who scored a hundred off 34 balls against Mongolia last year.

### Australia Wins Under-19 Men's World Cup

- **Champions:** Australia won the Under-19 Men's ODI World Cup.
- **Final Match:** They defeated India by 79 runs in the final.
- **Location:** The final was held in Benoni, South Africa.

### Mumbai Wins Ranji Trophy 2024

- **Record 42nd Title:** Mumbai won their record-extending 42nd Ranji Trophy title.
- **Final Match:** They defeated Vidarbha by 169 runs in the final.
- **Venue:** The final was held at Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai.

### Recent Ranji Trophy Winners and Runners-Up

- 2023-24:** Champion - Mumbai, Runner-up - Vidarbha
- **2022-23:** Champion - Saurashtra, Runner-up - Bengal
- **1934-35 (First Edition):** Champion - Bombay, Runner-up - Northern India

### Sue Redfern's Historic Appointment

- **First Female Neutral Umpire:** England's Sue Redfern is the **first female neutral umpire** appointed by the ICC to work in a bilateral series.
- **Upcoming Matches:** She will officiate in the ICC Women's Championship and T20I matches between Australia and South Africa.

### Jacintha Kalyan: India's First Female Pitch Curator

- **Historic Role:** Jacintha Kalyan is India's first female pitch curator.
- **Women's Premier League:** She will oversee pitch preparations for the Bengaluru leg of the Women's Premier League at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium.
- **Career Beginnings:** Jacintha first joined the Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA) in 1994.

### Jay Shah's Reappointment as ACC Chairman

- **Third Successive Year:** Jay Shah has been reappointed as the Chairman of the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) for the third consecutive year.
- **Initial Appointment:** He initially assumed the role in January 2021, succeeding Nazmul Hassan, the President of the Bangladesh Cricket Board.

### Historic Day-Night Women's Ashes Test at MCG

- **Historic Venue:** The Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) will host a **day-night Test match** between the **Australian and English women's cricket teams**.
- **First Pink-Ball Test:** This will be the **first time a pink-ball Test is played** at the **iconic venue**.
- **Match Schedule:** The four-day match is scheduled from January 30 to February 2, 2025.
- **Largest Stadium:** The MCG, with a capacity of 100,000, is Australia's largest stadium.
- **First Since 1949:** It will be the first women's Test match at the MCG since 1949, and the first day-night Test at that historic ground.

### Dharamsala to Get India's First 'Hybrid Pitch'

- **First BCCI-Accredited Venue:** Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association (HPCA) stadium in Dharamsala is the first BCCI-accredited venue to install a state-of-the-art 'hybrid pitch'.
- **Future Matches:** Future international and IPL matches will be held on this track.
- **Installation by SISGrass:** The Netherlands-based 'SISGrass', part of the SIS Pitches group, has been contracted for the installation.
- **Technological Impact:** This cutting-edge technology aims to provide a more durable, consistent, and high-performing

playing surface.

### ICC Men's Awards 2023

- **T20I Player of the Year:** Suryakumar Yadav (India) was named the T20I Player of the Year for the second consecutive time.
- **Cricketer of the Year (Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy):** Pat Cummins (Australia).
- **ODI Cricketer of the Year:** Virat Kohli (India).
- **Test Cricketer of the Year:** Usman Khawaja (Australia).
- **Emerging Cricketer of the Year:** Rachin Ravindra (New Zealand).

### ICC Women's Awards 2023

- **Cricketer of the Year (Rachael Heyhoe Flint Award):** Nat Sciver-Brunt (England).
- **ODI Cricketer of the Year:** Chamari Athapaththu (Sri Lanka).
- **T20I Cricketer of the Year:** Hayley Matthews (West Indies).
- **Emerging Cricketer of the Year:** Phoebe Litchfield (Australia).

### ICC Umpire of the Year 2023

- **David Shepherd Trophy:** Richard Illingworth.

### Praggnanandhaa Becomes India's Number One Chess Player

- **Victory Over World Champion:** R Praggnanandhaa defeated World Chess Champion Ding Liren at the Tata Steel Masters in the Netherlands.
- **Historic Feat:** He became only the second Indian, after Viswanathan Anand, to defeat a reigning world champion.
- **New Number One:** Praggnanandhaa overtook Anand to become India's new number one chess player in terms of live ratings.

### Gukesh D Makes History at Candidates Chess Tournament

- **Youngest Winner:** D Gukesh, a 17-year-old from Chennai, became the youngest ever winner of the prestigious Candidates tournament.
- **World Championship:** This victory makes him the youngest ever to compete at the World Chess Championship, where he will face reigning world champion Ding Liren later this year.
- **Historic Achievement:** Gukesh is only the second Indian to win the Candidates tournament, following Viswanathan Anand's triumph in 2014.

### Arjun Erigaisi Becomes India's No. 1 Chess Player

- **New Number 1:** Arjun Erigaisi is the top-ranked Indian in

the latest FIDE rankings.

- **World Ranking:** Erigaisi is ranked 9th in the world.
- **Second Ranked Indian:** Five-time world champion Viswanathan Anand is the second-ranked Indian on the FIDE list

### Praggnanandhaa's Victory Over Magnus Carlsen

- **Historic Win:** 18-year-old Indian prodigy R Praggnanandhaa defeated World No. 1 Magnus Carlsen for the first time in a classical event.
- **Event:** The victory occurred in the 3rd round of Norway Chess 2024

### Vaishali Ramesh Babu Awarded Grandmaster Title

- **Grandmaster Title:** Vaishali Ramesh Babu has been officially awarded the title of Grandmaster by FIDE, the International Chess Federation.
- **Third Indian Female Grandmaster:** She becomes the third Indian female Grandmaster, joining Koneru Humpy and Harika Dronavalli.
- **Historic Duo:** Vaishali and her brother, Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa, are the world's first Grandmaster brother-sister duo.
- **84th Indian Grandmaster:** Vaishali is the 84th Indian Grandmaster.
- **Arjuna Award:** She was presented with the Arjuna Award in January.

### Divya Deshmukh Wins World Junior Girls' Chess Championship

- **Champion:** Divya Deshmukh won the World Junior Girls' Chess Championship.
- **Final Match:** She secured the title by defeating Bulgaria in the final round.
- **Venue:** The championship was held at the Gift City Club.

### Chess Olympiad Torch Handover

- **Event:** Handover of the Chess Olympiad Torch
- **Key Figures:**
  - ❖ Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports, Anurag Singh Thakur
  - ❖ International Chess Federation (FIDE) President, Arkady Dvorkovich
- **Location:** Major Dhyanchand National Stadium, New Delhi
- **Recipient:** Budapest, Hungary (Host of the 45th Chess Olympiad)
- **Previous Edition:**
  - ❖ 44th Chess Olympiad held in Chennai, 2022
  - ❖ **Winners:**

- ❖ **Open Event:** Uzbekistan (Gold)
- ❖ **Women's Event:** Ukraine (Gold)
- ❖ **India:** Bronze in both events

### Manchester City's Historic Premier League Title

- **Achievement:** Manchester City won its fourth consecutive Premier League title.
- **Historical Feat:** First team to win four straight Premier League titles.
- **Previous Titles:**
  - ❖ 2021
  - ❖ 2022
  - ❖ 2023
  - ❖ 2024
- **League Overview:**
  - ❖ Premier League is the top professional football division in England.
  - ❖ Known for being one of the most competitive and popular football leagues globally.

### Retirement of Lionel Messi's Iconic No.10 Argentina Jersey

- **Event:** Retirement of Lionel Messi's No.10 Argentina jersey.
- **Significance:**
  - ❖ Honoring Messi's legendary career and contributions to Argentine football.
  - ❖ Recognizing his status as one of the greatest footballers of all time.
- **Impact:**
  - ❖ Symbolizes Messi's lasting legacy in international football.
  - ❖ Marks the end of an era for Argentina's national team.

### Hosts for AFC Women's Asian Cups

- **Hosts Confirmed:**
  - ❖ **2026:** Australia
  - ❖ **2029:** Uzbekistan
- **Significance:**
  - ❖ Australia's second time hosting (previously in 2006).
  - ❖ Uzbekistan becomes the first Central Asian nation to host the event.
- **AFC President:** Shaikh Salman
- **Current Champions:** China

### Brazil to Host 2027 Women's World Cup

- **Event:** Brazil declared the host of the 2027 Women's World Cup.
- **Announcement:** Made at the FIFA Congress.



➤ **Significance:**

- ❖ Brazil becomes the first South American country to host the tournament.

**Real Madrid Wins 36th La Liga Title**

- **Achievement:** Real Madrid wins its 36th La Liga title.
- **League Overview:**
  - ❖ La Liga is a professional men's club-based football championship in Spain.

**Sunil Chhetri's Last Match: India vs. Kuwait**

- **Match Result:** India drew 0-0 with Kuwait.
- **Occasion:** FIFA World Cup 2026 qualifier.
- **Venue:** Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan (Salt Lake Stadium), Kolkata.
- **Significance:**
  - ❖ Sunil Chhetri's last game for India.
  - ❖ Chhetri retires as India's highest goal scorer with 94 goals.
- **Retirement Announcement:** Chhetri announced his retirement from international football after this match on 6 June 2024.

**FIFA Football Awards 2023**

- **Best Men's Player:** Lionel Messi (Argentina)
- **Best Women's Player:** Aitana Bonmatí
- **Best Men's Coach:** Pep Guardiola (Manchester City)
- **Best Women's Coach:** Sarina Wiegman (England)

**FIFA World Cup 2026 Schedule**

- **Opening Match:** Mexico vs. TBD at Estadio Azteca on June 11.
- **Final Match:** New York New Jersey's MetLife Stadium on July 19.
- **Co-Hosts:** USA, Canada, and Mexico.
- **Host Cities:** 16 cities across three countries.
- **FIFA President:** Gianni Infantino.
- **Previous World Cup (Qatar 2022):** Argentina won the final against France.
- **Historical Facts:**
  - ❖ First Men's FIFA World Cup: 1930.
  - ❖ First Women's FIFA World Cup: 1991.
  - ❖ Most Men's World Cup Wins: Brazil (5 times).
  - ❖ Most Women's World Cup Wins: USA (4 times).

**Education Ministry and FIFA Partnership to Promote Football**

- **Partnership:** Education Ministry and FIFA
- **Objective:** Promote football in schools across India

➤ **Initiative:**

- ❖ Distribute 11 lakh footballs to over 1.5 lakh schools
- ❖ Make football accessible to students nationwide

➤ **Programme:** Footballs for Schools (F4S)➤ **Distribution Phases:**

- ❖ Odisha
- ❖ Goa
- ❖ Maharashtra
- ❖ Gujarat
- ❖ Dadra and Nagar Haveli
- ❖ Daman and Diu

**Services Wins Santosh Trophy for Seventh Time**

- **Event:** 77th National Football Championship
- **Winner:** Services
- **Achievement:** Lifted the Santosh Trophy for the seventh time
- **Final Match:** Services defeated Goa 1-0
- **Venue:** Golden Jubilee Stadium, Papum Pare District, Arunachal Pradesh

**Real Madrid Wins Spanish Super Cup Against Barcelona**

- **Match Location:** Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
- **Tournament:** Supercopa de España (Spanish Super Cup)
- **Competition Format:** Annual club tournament in Spanish football
  - ❖ Contested between four teams: winners and runners-up of the Copa del Rey and La Liga
- **Most Successful Team:** Barcelona with 14 titles

**India Wins T20 World Cup 2024**

- India's cricket team won the **T20 World Cup, beating South in a historic win.**
- It was **their first title in 13 years.**
- It hit the effects in an exciting final that took place in Barbados.
- This win was extra meaningful because it marked the retirement of some important players and a big change in the team's direction.

**High-Profile Retirements**

- **Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli, and Ravindra Jadeja** announced retirement from T20 internationals.
- All three will continue to play other formats of cricket.
- **Rahul Dravid** retired as head coach of the Indian team.
- Marks a significant shift in team dynamics and leadership.

### India to host men's Asia CUP

- India is set to host the **2025 men's Asia Cup** in the **T20 format**, which will be a warm-up for the T20 World Cup scheduled for 2026.
- This decision comes after the **Asian Cricket Council (ACC)** issued an Invitation for Expression of Interest (IEOI).

### Manu Bhaker

- In a major milestone for Indian sports, **22-year-old Manu Bhaker** won a historic **bronze medal in the women's 10m air pistol event at the 2024 Paris Olympics**.
- She is the **first Indian woman shooter to win this medal**.

### Gautam Gambhir Appointed as Head Coach

- **Gautam Gambhir** named **head coach of Indian men's cricket team** by BCCI.

#### Professional Background

- Former cricketer, key in India's T20 and ODI World Cup wins.
- Led Kolkata Knight Riders to IPL title in 2024

### Yaroslava Mahuchikh: Ukrainian High Jumper

- Broke women's high jump world record on July 7, 2024
- **Jumped 2.10 meters at Paris Diamond League**

### Viswanathan Anand Wins 10th Leon Masters Title

- Anand beat Jaime Santos Latasa 3-1 in the finals to win his 10th title at the Leon Masters in Spain. Anand has been a world chess winner five times.
- Anand's long-lasting dominance in international chess is shown by this victory in Leon.

## GI TAGS

### Odisha

1. **Lanjia Saura Paintings:** Wall mural art, also called ekons or idital.
2. **Dongaria Kondh Shawl:** Traditional knitted shawls of the Dongaria Kondh tribe.
3. **Khajuri Guda:** Produced from the sweet juice of palm called neera.
4. **Nayagarh Kanteimundi Brinjal:** Brinjal with prickly thorns, grown in Nayagarh district.
5. **Dhenkanal Magji:** A milk product.
6. **Similipal 'Kai' Chutney:** Red ant chutney, indigenous to Mayurbhanj and Keonjhar districts.
7. **Koraput Kalajeera Rice:** A variety of rice.
8. **Chandi Tarakasi' or silver filigree:** Cuttack's famous 'Chandi Tarakasi' or silver filigree has been granted the GI tag.

### Arunachal Pradesh

1. **Wancho Wooden Craft:** Traditional wooden crafts.
2. **Adi Kekir (Ginger):** A variety of ginger.

### West Bengal

1. **Tangail Saree:** Traditional saree.
2. **Garad Saree:** Traditional saree.
3. **Korial Saree:** Traditional saree.
4. **Kalonunia Rice:** A variety of rice.
5. **Sundarban Honey:** Honey from the Sundarbans.
6. **Banglar Muslin:** Traditional handloom craft of Bengal, made of cotton with high tensile strength.

### Gujarat

1. **Kachchhi Kharek (Dates):** A variety of dates.
2. **Ambaji White Marble:** Formed from re-crystallised limestone under intense pressure and heat, found in Gujarat.
3. **Kutch Ajrakh':** Ajrakh is a traditional textile craft deeply rooted in the culture of Gujarat, especially in Sindh, Barmer, and Kutch regions.

### Jammu & Kashmir

1. **Ramban Anardana:** Dried pomegranate seeds.

### Madhya Pradesh

1. **Ratlam Riyawan Lahsun (Garlic):** A variety named after Riyawan village in Ratlam district, Madhya Pradesh.

### Tripura

1. **Tripura Risa Textile:** Handwoven cloth used as a female

upper garment, part of traditional Tripuri attire (risa, rignai, rikutu).

### Andhra Pradesh

1. **Narsapur Crochet Lace Products:** From West Godavari region of Andhra Pradesh.

### Telangana

1. **Hyderabad Lac Bangles:** Handicraft with mirror work and encrusted precious stones.

### Assam

1. **Majuli Mask:** Made in different varieties and sizes.
  - **Categories:**
    - ❖ **Mukha Bhaona:** Face mask that covers the face.
    - ❖ **Lotokoi:** Hanging mask, bigger in size, extends to the chest.
    - ❖ **Cho Mukha:** Huge mask that covers the head and body.
2. **Majuli Manuscript Painting:** Depict numerous stories and chapters from Hindu epics like Ramayana, Mahabharata, and Bhagavata Purana.
3. **Asharikandi Terracotta Craft**
4. **Pani Meteka craft :** Pani meteka or water hyacinth is one of the most widely distributed species in this region.
5. **Mising Taat / Mising handloom:** traditional cloth making of Assam Mising Tribal community.
6. **Sarthebari Metal craft:** Handmade bell metal utensils found in Assam's Berpet.
7. **Bodo Eri Silk:** it is referred to as the fabric of peace or Ahimsa (Non Violence)
8. **Jaapi (Bamboo headgear of rural Assam)**
9. **Bihu Dhol (Assam)**
10. **Bodo Thorkha (a musical instrument)**
11. **Bodo Sifung (a long flute)**
12. **Bodo Jwmgra (a traditional scarf)**
13. **Bodo Gamsa (traditional dress of Bodo men)**
14. **Bodo Dokhona (traditional attire of Bodo women)**
15. **Bodo Eri silk:** referred to as the fabric of peace or ahimsa (non-violence), which comes from the silkworm

### Tripura

1. **Pachra- Rignai:** traditional attire of tribal women from Tripura. It is a hand woven cloth used as tribal women from Tripura.
2. **Matabari Pera:** is sweet made from milk and sugar. It is offered as prasada at the famous Tripureswari temple in Tripura.



## Meghalaya

1. **Larnai pottery:** Traditional black pottery produced in larnai village of Jaintia Hills in Meghalaya.
2. **Chubitchi / Chubok:** It is a traditional rice based alcoholic beverage of Garo tribe.
3. **Meghalaya Garo Textile weaving - which is linked to socio-cultural and religious rituals**
4. **Lakadong turmeric:** known for its high Curcumin content.
5. **Garo dakmanda:** Traditional dress worn by Garo tribe.
6. **Larnai pottery:** Black pottery from Jaintia Hills District.
7. **Garo chubitchi:** Traditional rice based alcoholic beverage of Garo tribe.

## Uttar Pradesh

- UP now has the most GI-tagged items in the country, reaching 75.
1. **Banaras Thandai:** A drink made by blending milk with a nutritious mix of nuts, seeds and spices.
  2. Banaras Tabla
  3. Banaras Shehnai
  4. Banaras Lal Bharwamirch
  5. Banaras Lal Peda
  6. **Tirangi Barfi:** A tri-colored sweet from Kashi, symbolically traded by freedom fighters during the Quit India Movement
  7. **Jalesar Metal Craft** It is known for decorative metal crafts and brassware (like anklets, bells). The Thatheras community, which resides in a mohalla (locality).

## Maharashtra

- Sitar and Tanpuras: from Miraj, Maharashtra

## Rajasthan

1. **Udaipur Koftgari Metal Craft:** The art of decorating arms and weaponry is known as Koftgiri.
2. **Bikaner Kashidakari Craft:** It involves fine stitching and mirrorwork on cotton, silk, or velvet, primarily for objects related to weddings and gift items. The craft was traditionally done by the Meghwal community in Bikaner and nearby districts.
3. **Jodhpur Bandhej Craft:** It is the Rajasthani art of tying and dyeing.
4. **Bikaner Usta Kala Craft:** It is also known as gold nakashi or gold manauti work. It was done on walls, ceilings, glass, wood, marble and artefacts made of camel leather.

## Goa

1. **Goan Bebinca:** It is a traditional Indo-Portuguese pudding.

## Tamil Nadu

1. **Matti Banana:** Matti Banana is commonly known as

'Baby Banana' and is known for its distinct fragrance and honeylike taste.

## Uttarakhand

1. Berinag tea
2. **Bichhu buti** (nettle) Fabrics
3. **Mandua:** Finger millet grown in Garhwal and Kumaon Region.
4. **Jhangora:** millet cultivated in rainfed areas of Uttarakhand.
5. **Gahat:** Pulse grown in dry regions of Uttarakhand
6. **Lal chawal:** Red Rice grown in Puroila Region.
7. **Kala bhat:** pulse
8. **Malta fruit:** seasonal citrus fruit
9. **Chaulai (ramdana)** – pseudo-cereal.
10. **Buransh:** bright red flower with scientific name *Rhododendron arboretum*.
11. **Pahari Toor daal:** Pigeonpea.
12. **Likhal** (Wood Carving)
13. **Nainital mombatti :** Natural Flower Candels,
14. **Rangwali Pichhoda of Kumaon:** yellow fabric with big circular motif printed on it.
15. **Ramnagar Nainital Litchi**
16. Ramgarh Nainital Aadu : Peach
17. **Chamoli Wooden Ramman Mask**
18. **Almora Lakhori Mirch**

## OBITUARIES

**Dr M S Swaminathan:** Renowned agricultural scientist, known as the Father of India's Green Revolution, passed away on Sep 28 at his residence in Chennai. He was 98. He was honoured with Bharat Ratna, Padma Shri, Padma Bhushan and Padma Vibhushan, besides several top world awards.

**Fathima Beevi:** India's First Woman Supreme Court Judge Justice Fathima Beevi Passes Away. She made history in 1989 by becoming the first woman appointed to the Supreme Court. Justice M. Fathima Beevi was also the first Muslim woman to be appointed to the higher judiciary in the country. She was appointed as the Governor of Tamil Nadu in 1997 by President Shankar Dayal Sharma.

**Bindeshwar Pathak:** Founder of 'Sulabh International', a pioneer of public toilets in India, popularly known as the "Toilet Man of India", passed away on August 15 in New Delhi, due to cardiac arrest. He was 80.

**Manohar Singh Gill:** A former Chief Election Commissioner and a union minister, breathed his last on Oct 15 at a hospital in New Delhi. He was 87. As CEC, he introduced electronic voting machines. He was conferred Padma Vibhushan in 2000.

**Dr Nitya Anand,** man who discovered India's first oral contraceptive pill 'Saheli', dies at 99.

**Swami Smaranananda Maharaj :** Ramakrishna Mission Chief Swami Smaranananda Maharaj dies. Swami Smaranananda, 94, was the 16th President of Ramakrishna Mission, which was founded by Swami Vivekananda.

**Pankaj Udhas:** Ghazal singer Pankaj Udhas dies. Renowned ghazal singer Pankaj Udhas, best known for "Chitti Ayee Hai" and "Aur Ahista Kijiye Baatein". He hailed from Rajkot, Gujarat. In 2006, Pankaj Udhas was awarded Padma Shri, India's fourth highest civilian award.

**Dr Arun Kumar Sharma:** Padma Shri Awardee Arun Sharma Passed away. Renowned archaeologist passed away at the age of 90. Sharma was senior-most team member which excavated the Ram Janmabhoomi Ayodhya site on order of Allahabad High Court and had submitted a report that a temple was demolished to make a mosque. Sharma was presented the Padmashree award in 2017 by late President of India, Pranab Mukherjee.

**Jain seer Acharya Vidyasagar:** Known as one of the greatest Jain seers, Acharya Shri 108 Vidyasagar Ji Maharaj passed away at Chandragiri Teerth in Dongargarh in Chhattisgarh's Rajnandgaon district after undertaking 'sallekhna'. Sallekhna is a Jain religious practice involving voluntary fasting unto death for spiritual purification. He was born on 10 October 1946 in Sadalga in Belgaum district of Karnataka.

**C.V. Chandrasekhar:** .V. Chandrasekhar, acclaimed Bharatnatyam dancer, musician, choreographer, and academician, passed away at 89. Honored with the Padma Bhushan in 2011.

**Peter Higgs:** Nobel prize-winning physicist Peter Higgs, who proposed the existence of the so called "God particle" that helped explain how matter formed after the Big Bang, has died at age 94. Higgs predicted the existence of a new particle, which came to be known as the Higgs boson, in 1964. He theorized that there must be a sub-atomic particle of certain dimension that would explain how other particles — and therefore all the stars and planets in the universe — acquired mass. The Higgs boson is the fundamental force-carrying particle of the Higgs field, which is responsible for granting fundamental particles their mass. Higgs won the 2013 Nobel Prize in Physics for his work, alongside Francois Englert of Belgium, who independently came up with the same theory.

**Narayanan Vaghul:** One of the doyens of the private Indian banking industry, passed away in Chennai on May 18 at the age of 88 due to old age complications. Vaghul had turned around ICICI from a struggling public finance institution to a vibrant private sector bank in his 11 years as its chairman and managing director (CMD) till 1996.

**Surjit Patar:** Renowned Punjabi poet, writer, and Padma Shri recipient, passed away on May 11 in Ludhiana, Punjab, at the age of 79. His notable works included "Lafzah di Dargah" and poems like "Hawa vich likhe harf" and "Hanere vich sulagdi varnmala".

**Manohar Joshi:** Former chief minister of Maharashtra (1995-99) and former Lok Sabha Speaker (2002-04), passed away on Feb 23, aged 86. He also served as the union Heavy Industries Minister (1999-2002). He was regarded as one of the most trusted aides of Shiv Sena founder Bal Thackeray.

**Ameen Sayani:** Immensely popular iconic radio personality whose name was synonymous with the songs programme 'Binaca Geetmala', passed away at the age of 91, on Feb 20 in Mumbai.

**Fali S Nariman:** Eminent constitutional jurist passed away on Feb 19 in New Delhi at the ripe age of 95. For his contributions to jurisprudence, he was honoured with the Padma Bhushan (1991) and Padma Vibhushan (2007) and several international awards, including the Gruber Prize for Justice, USA.

**Munawwar Rana:** Noted Urdu poet passed away on Jan 14 at the age of 71 in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.

**'Swarayogini' Dr.Prabha Atre:** Veteran classical singer breathed her last on Jan 13 at her residence in Pune. She was 91 years old.

**Henry Kissinger:** Former US Secretary of State (Foreign Minister) and 1973 Nobel Peace Prize winner, passed away on Nov 29 at his home in Kent in the state of Connecticut, USA. Kissinger had an unparalleled strong effect on US foreign policy and external affairs in the early seventies.

**Dr BN Goswamy:** Eminent art historian and art critic, who ruled

the hearts of art lovers like few before him, passed away on Nov 17 in Chandigarh. He was 90. He quit the coveted IAS job to devote a lifetime to research and academics. Author of over 26 books, recipient of Padma Bhushan, his eloquence of speech matched the profoundness of his written words.

**Bishan Singh Bedi:** Legendary Indian spinner passed away on Oct 23 in Delhi. He was 77. Between 1967-79, he played 67 Tests for India, taking 266 wickets.

**Saroja Vaidyanathan:** Legendary Bharatnatyam exponent passed away on Sep 21 in New Delhi. She was 86. She also wrote books on Bharatanatyam and was conferred the Padma Shri in 2002 and Padma Bhushan in 2013.

**C Radhakrishnan Rao:** One of the world's most eminent statisticians, who spent nearly all of his professional career in India, died on August 23 at the ripe age of 103 years, in the USA.

**Ustad Rashid Khan:** Hindustani classical vocalist Utsad Rashid Khan passed away in Kolkata. Rashid was the great grandson of Ustad Inayat Hussain Khan, the founder of Rampur Sehaswan gharana and a disciple of Bahadur Hussain Khan, a direct descendent of Mian Tansen. Padma Shri in 2006, the Sangeet Natak Akademi honour in 2007, and the Padma Bhushan in 2022.

**Usha Kiran Khan:** Renowned Litterateur & Padma Shri Awardee Usha Kiran Khan Passes Away. She was a great writer who wrote several novels in Hindi and Maithili literature. Sahitya Akademi Award in 2012. Padma Shri in 2015. Her Maithili novel 'Bhamati: Ek Avismaraniya Premkatha', for which she received the Sahitya Akademi Award

**Paul Alexander:** The Man In The Iron Lung, Passed Away At 78. Paul Alexander, from the US, spent over 70 years in an iron lung after contracting polio as a child and resultant paralysis & lung failure. He painted and wrote his memoir, Three Minutes for a Dog: My Life Inside an Iron Lung. Recognized by Guinness World Records as the "longest iron lung patient"

**Lama Lobzang:** Prominent Tribal Leader Lama Lobzang Passes Away. Prominent Buddhist Monk of Ladakh popularly known as Lama Lobzang passes away. He was 94. A distinguished tribal leader, Lama Lobzang had served National Commission for SCs & STs for 19 years since 1984.

**Subedar Thanseia:** World War-II veteran Subedar Thanseia dies at 102 He was from Mizoram and had been part of the Army's Assam Regiment at the Battle of Kohima during World War II.

**Dalip Singh Majithia:** India's oldest Air Force pilot Dalip Singh Majithia passes away. The oldest surviving pilot from the Indian Air Force, Squadron Leader Dalip Singh Majithia, passed away at the age of 103. Born on July 27, 1920, in Shimla.

**Sudhir Kakar:** India's foremost psychoanalyst passed away. Some of his famous works: The Inner World (1978) - decoding how Hindu mythology affected Indians on a daily, intimate and

societal level, The Indians: Portrait of a People, Shamans, Mystics and Doctors: A Psychological Inquiry into India and its Healing Traditions, The Kipling File.

**Juan Vicente Perez Mora:** World's oldest man, certified in Guinness World Record, passed away. Venezuelan Juan Vicente Perez Mora, certified in 2022 by Guinness World Records as the oldest man in the world, died on at the age of 114.

**Alice Munro:** Canadian author Alice Munro wrote short stories for more than 60 years, often focusing on life in rural Canada. Called "Canada's Chekhov," Munro won the Man Booker International Prize in 2009. In 2013, she became the first Canadian woman and 13th woman overall to win the Nobel Prize for Literature.

**Malti Joshi:** Author, storyteller Malti Joshi passes away. She was conferred Padma Shri in 2018. She had over fifty collections of stories in Hindi and Marathi. Several of Joshi's stories were adapted for television by Doordarshan

**Raghunandan Kamath:** 'Ice cream man of India' Raghunandan Kamath dies at 70. Fondly known as the "Ice Cream Man of India", founder of Naturals Ice Cream. Kamath first founded the ice cream brand in Mumbai

**Ebrahim Raisi and Hossein Amirabdollahian:** Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi and Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian have been killed in a helicopter crash. A helicopter carrying Iranian president Ebrahim Raisi, the foreign minister, and other officials reportedly crashed in the mountainous northwest of Iran, as it was crossing mountain terrain in heavy fog. Vice President Mohammad Mokhber will assume powers after Raisi's death. According to the Iranian Constitution, in case of the president's death or incapacity, the first vice president will take over until an election is held within a maximum period of 50 days.

**Rajeev Taranath:** Sarod Maestro Rajeev Taranath Passes Away in Mysuru.

**Dr Uttam Pacharne:** Renowned sculptor and former Chairman of Lalit Kala Akademi Dr Uttam Pacharne passed away.

**Mohini Giri:** Former chairman of the National Commission for Women and Padma Bhushan (2007) awardee Mohini Giri passed away.

**S. Venkitaramanan:** Former RBI Governor Passes Away. He served as 18th RBI Governor from 1990 to 1992.

**Subrata Roy:** Sahara Group Founder Subrata Roy Dies at 75. Sahara Finance in 1976. By 1978, he transformed it into Sahara India Pariwar, which became one of India's largest conglomerates. The Sahara group launched Rashtriya Sahara- a Hindi language newspaper- in 1992 and later entered the television space with Sahara TV which was renamed Sahara One.

**Frank Borman-** US Astronaut Who Led First Lunar Mission, Dies At 95. Frank Borman led Apollo 8, the first crewed mission to orbit the moon and successfully returned to Earth. The crew was also the first people to observe the far side of the



Moon

**Dahyabhai Shastri:** Padma Shri awardee, Dahyabhai Shastri passes away. Dahyabhai Shastri was an Indian scholar of Sanskrit and the founder of Brahmarshi Sanskrit Mahavidyalaya, Nadiad. He was actively working towards the expansion and education of Sanskrit language throughout. He was awarded Padma Shri in 2016 for his contributions to Literature and education.

**Bajinath Aggarwal:** Trustee Of Geeta Press Gorakhpur, Passes Away. Earlier this year, the Centre had conferred the **Gandhi Peace Prize for the year 2021** on Gita Press, Gorakhpur. Instituted by the Government of India in 1995, the Gandhi Peace Prize is an annual award as a tribute to the ideals espoused by Mahatma Gandhi.

**Dennis Austin:** Software Developer Who Created PowerPoint, Passes Away At 76. Dennis Austin, along with **Robert Gaskins**, developed PowerPoint and introduced it in 1987.

**Jayanta Mahapatra:** Famous Poet-writer Jayanta Mahapatra passed away. Eminent *littérateur* and poet Jayanta Mahapatra passed away at the age of 95. He was the first Indian poet to win a Sahitya Akademi award for English poetry. He was also conferred with the Padma Shri award in 2009. However, he returned it in 2015 to protest against “rising intolerance in India”. He is best known for authoring poems such as “Indian Summer” and “Hunger”, regarded as classics in modern Indian English literature. Born in Cuttack on October 22, 1928

**CR Rao:** Radhakrishna Rao, one of India’s greatest mathematicians and statisticians of India, passes away at the age of 103. He had recently received the prestigious “**International Prize in Statistics-2023**”, often referred to as the “statistics’ equivalent of the Nobel Prize”. He was honoured with the **Padma Bhushan award in 1968** and the **Padma Vibhushan award in 2001**.

**John Warnock:** John Warnock, who helped invent the PDF and co-founded Adobe Systems passed away at the age of 82. PDF - Portable Document Format

**VS Arunachalam:** Former DRDO chief VS Arunachalam passed away. Former DRDO chief V S Arunachalam, known for his contributions to engineering science and technology, has passed away at the age of 87. He was the Scientific Advisor to the Defence Minister from 1982-92. He was conferred the **Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Award (1980)**, **Padma Bhushan (1985)**, and **Padma Vibhushan (1990)** for his contribution to engineering science and technology. He launched three major programmes: **Light Combat Aircraft (LCA)** under an autonomous body Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA); the **Advanced Technology Vessel (ATV) Programme**; and the **IGMDP (Integrated Guided Missiles Development Programme)** to develop a family of strategic and tactical guided missiles. In 2015, Arunachalam was awarded DRDO’s Lifetime Achievement Award for his outstanding contribution to the field of scientific research and technology.

## PLACES IN NEWS

**Maharshi Valmiki International Airport:** The new international airport was inaugurated on Dec 30, just 15 km away from Ayodhya. The main terminal, built in temple style, is spread across 6500 sq m. The airport aims to cater to over 10 lakh passengers per year. The airport is all about local art, paintings, and murals showcasing Lord Ram's life.

**Ayodhya Dham Junction:** The redeveloped railway station was inaugurated on Dec 30. The building has a temple architecture facade, while the interior offers airport-like amenities. Developed at a cost of more than 240 crore rupees, it can cater around one lakh passengers daily. The three-story modern railway station building is equipped with all modern features like lifts, food plazas, shops for puja needs, child care rooms, and waiting halls.

**Mount Merapi:** Volcano in the densely populated island of Java, Indonesia, erupted on Jan 21, unleashing clouds of hot ash and a mixture of rock, and lava, spreading searing gas clouds and avalanches of lava down its slope, forcing the evacuation of thousands of people. Merapi is the most active out of more than 120 volcanoes across the country.

**Dubai:** For a record third consecutive year, Dubai has clinched the prestigious title of the No.1 global destination in the Tripadvisor Travellers' Choice Best of the Best Destinations Awards 2024. Selection as the world's favourite destination highlights the vibrant offerings from Dubai, supported by top-notch infrastructure and exceptional service. Dubai is regarded as a top global liveability hub with a unique lifestyle and high safety standards for travellers. The selection was made exclusively by the reviews of millions of global travellers linked to Tripadvisor, world's largest travel guidance platform. Dubai was followed by Bali, Indonesia and London, UK at second and third place, respectively. New Delhi secured 11th spot.

**Ishikawa Prefecture:** State in central Japan, facing the Sea of Japan in the West, was shattered by a strong 7.6 magnitude earthquake on Jan 01. The jolt resulted in tsunami waves, felled buildings and triggered a large-scale fire, devastating the Noto Peninsula area of Ishikawa. At least 160 persons lost their lives and more than 100 persons were reported missing.

**Bengaluru International Airport:** The Terminal-2 of Bengaluru's Kempegowda International Airport has been named one of the 'World's Most Beautiful Airports' and has been awarded the 'World Special Prize for an Interior 2023' by the UNESCO's Prix Versailles. The Prix Versailles awards celebrate outstanding achievements in architecture and design on a global scale. Designed to accommodate 25 million passengers annually, the airport seamlessly blends functionality with aesthetic appeal, captivating passengers through meticulously curated art and décor elements as part of a recently launched art program.

**Gansu province:** A 6.2 magnitude earthquake hit mountainous Gansu province of north-west China around midnight on Dec

19, also shaking neighbouring Qinghai province. More than 5,000 buildings in the area collapsed, killing around 150 people in the country's deadliest earthquake in recent years. More than 700 were reported injured in below freezing icy conditions. Disruption of power and water supplies hindered rescue efforts. This remote region is one of China's poorest and most ethnically diverse areas.

**Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve:** This is the 7th Tiger Reserve approved by the National Tiger Conservation Authority in Madhya Pradesh. The state is home to the largest number of tigers in the country. The new tiger reserve, spread across Sagar, Damoh and Narsinghpur districts, covers an area of 1414 sq km in the core area and 925 sq km in the buffer zone.

**Biswanath Ghat, Assam:** The riverfront in Assam has been bestowed with the prestigious title of "Best Tourism Village of India 2023" by the union ministry of tourism. Nestled serenely along the banks of the majestic Brahmaputra River, Biswanath Ghat is located to the south of Biswanath Chariali Town. It is famously referred to as 'Gupta Kashi.'

**Vijayawada Railway Station:** This station in Andhra Pradesh, was certified with Platinum rating, the highest green standard rating by the IGBC (Indian Green Building Council) on Sep 05. The Rating is based on six environmental categories as defined by IGBC which include Sustainable Station Facility, Health, Hygiene and Sanitation, Energy Efficiency, Water Efficiency, Smart and Green Initiatives and Innovation and Development.

**Sanchi:** A world heritage town located in the Raisen district of Madhya Pradesh, is on the way to becoming India's first 'solar city'. A 3 MW solar plant in Nagauri, close to Sanchi, will reduce carbon dioxide emissions each year by 13,747 tonnes. This is equivalent to planting over 2,38,000 trees.

**Storm Daniel, Libya:** In Libya, at least 11,300 people were feared dead and thousands more were missing due to heavy flooding caused by the torrential rains brought by Storm Daniel on Sep 10-11. Flash floods swept away entire neighbourhoods in eastern Libya and wrecked homes in many coastal towns. Coastal city of Derna in north Libya was worst hit by gushing waters, Heavy rains

**Morocco:** Coastal country in north west Africa was devastated by a massive earthquake on Sep 08. The death toll from the 6.8 magnitude earthquake swelled to at least 2,862 people, while at least 2500 were reported injured. The quake's epicentre was at a relatively shallow depth of 18.5 km. It occurred about 72 km southwest of Marrakesh.

**Mayem Village, Goa:** This village in Goa became the first Indian village to compile its own "Biodiversity Atlas". This unprecedented atlas of 250 pages offers a comprehensive socio-cultural history that goes back to the 12th century, making it a remarkable repository of historical and ecological knowledge.

**Bengaluru:** London based World Cities Culture Forum

(WCCF) has recently made Bengaluru **41st member of its global network of cities**, for its commitment to an “**inclusive and globalised culture**”. The forum primarily focuses on incorporating culture in rapidly growing urban centres. WCCF principally works on the premise that culture is an essential ingredient in the success of cities, to bring together communities and help to drive economies.

**British Columbia:** The western Canadian province declared a state of emergency on August 18 after an **out-of-control fire in southern British Columbia almost doubled in 24 hours**. More than **2,400 properties** were forced to be evacuated. The fire was centred around Kelowna, a city with a population of about **150,000**. The province accounted for over a third of Canada's 1,062 active fires.

**Northwest Territories, Canada:** The government of Northwest Territories province of Canada declared a state of emergency on August 15 due to **devastating wildfires**. More than 130,000 square kilometres of land were scorched and **nearly 168,000 people** were forced to evacuate.

**Maui Island:** The island in the Hawaii state of USA was in the news as the **catastrophic wildfires** there claimed at least 115 lives in the second week of August. **Strong winds and dry weather helped fuel destructive wildfires on Hawaii's second-largest island**. More than 1,700 buildings were destroyed in the fire.

**Tropical storm Idalia:** A strong cyclone dumped heavy rain, unleashed strong winds of up to 150 kmph and knocked out power in parts of **southern Georgia, North Carolinas and Florida's west coast in the USA** on August 30-31, 2023. Over half a million houses went without power.

**Dholpur-Karauli Tiger Reserve:** The National Tiger Conservation Authority accorded its approval for the **54th tiger reserve in the country**. Located in the Dholpur-Karauli districts of Rajasthan, it is the **fifth Tiger Reserve in Rajasthan**. India is home to approximately **75 percent of the world's tiger population**.

**Tulip Garden, Srinagar:** The Indira Gandhi Memorial Tulip Garden in Srinagar entered its name in the annals of the World Book of Records as **Asia's largest and most spectacular garden of its kind**. Spread over **74 acres in the foothills of Zabarwan Mountains**, it has an enchanting variety of 1.5 million blooming Tulip flowers in 68 varieties.

**Typhoon Doksuri:** China's capital, Beijing, experienced a historic deluge, recording extremely **heavy rainfall of over 75 cm in just five days**, from July 29 to Aug 02 2023. This **torrential downpour**, the highest in 140 years, was triggered by the remnants of Typhoon Doksuri. It caused extensive damage to infrastructure, posing a serious challenge to rescue operations.

**Crocus City Hall, Moscow:** At least **140 people** were killed and over 150 were injured in a ghastly terrorist attack on March 22 in the popular concert hall near Moscow. **Notorious terrorist group ISIS-K** claimed responsibility for the attack. However, Russian security service has claimed that the attackers had links

to Ukraine though Ukrainian authorities vehemently denied the allegation.

**Chile:** **Fierce forest fires** in central Chile in the first week of February caused widespread devastation, razing several habitations and claiming at least 112 lives. The government announced national mourning for two days in honour of the fire victims.

**Sadhu Meher:** Renowned actor whose touching portrayal of a hearing and speech impaired potter in **Shyam Benegal's Ankur (1974)** earned him the **national award for best actor**, passed away at his **Mumbai residence on Feb 02**. He was 84. He was the **first Odia actor to secure the national film award**. He acted in many noted Hindi offbeat films and in over 38 Odia films. He was conferred with **Padma Shri in 2017**. The fires reached the outer edges of **Vina del Mar and Valparaiso**, two coastal cities popular with tourists. The urban spread of these two cities accounts for more than a million residents west of the capital Santiago.

**Paradip Port:** A major port in Odisha has become the **highest cargo handling major port of the country in 2023-24**, handling **145.38 million metric tonnes cargo**, beating the **Deendayal Port, Kandla, Gujarat**, that held the record for the last 16 years. The Paradip Port has also recorded a growth of 10.02 MMT (7.4%) of traffic on a year-on-year basis. **Paradip was the first major port commissioned on India's eastern coast after independence** and it serves Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal, apart from Odisha.

**Cyclone Remal:** A severe cyclonic storm made landfall in coastal areas of southern West Bengal and adjoining areas of Bangladesh on late evening of May 26, 2024, **packing winds up to 135 kmph**. Widespread devastation was visible across coastal areas, causing extensive damage to infrastructure and property.

**Thiruvananthapuram International Airport:** Thiruvananthapuram International Airport in Kerala has become the **first airport in India to achieve the zero waste to landfill (ZWL) certification** by the Confederation of Indian Industry Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development (CII-ITC). The ZWL assessment verified that the airport has implemented the **best waste management practices and achieved a 99.50% waste diversion from landfill**. The airport has **successfully diverted 100% of plastic waste and 100% of Municipal Solid Waste - MSW (wet and dry)**. The strategy for this success involved integration of a robust value chain system and adoption of **5R principles (Reduce, Reuse, Reprocess, Recycle, Recover)** of sustainable waste management.

**Papua New Guinea:** A massive landslide on May 24 in central Papua New Guinea, claimed more than 670 lives as people were buried under the widespread debris. The disaster hit the remote village of Kaokalam in Enga province at **around 3 am** when **most of the people were sleeping**. Death toll is feared to increase as nearly 4,000 people are living in the area hit by the landslide.



**Baghlan, Afghanistan:** The floods caused by heavy seasonal rains in the second week of May claimed more than 300 lives in Baghlan province in northeastern Afghanistan. The UN's International Organisation for Migration said more than 3,000 houses were destroyed or damaged in Baghlan, killing hundreds of livestock, while damaging roads and other infrastructure.

**Taam Ja, Chetumal Bay:** A deep blue hole named Taam Ja ("deep water" in Mayan) located in Chetumal Bay in south east Mexico, was recently recognized as the deepest blue hole on the earth, descending to a staggering depth of 1,380 feet. In comparison, the previous record holder, the Dragon Blue Hole in the South China Sea, stretched 988 feet below sea level. Blue holes are underwater sinkholes which occur when the surrounding rock is eroded by water and then collapses, leaving a big hole behind, filled with seawater.

**Kozhikode:** The city in north Kerala, known for its rich cultural heritage, was officially declared on June 23 as India's first UNESCO 'City of Literature'. Over 500 libraries are functioning in the city. Kozhikode, earlier known as Calicut during British rule, served as the gateway to the coast for many foreigners, such as Persians, Arabs, Chinese, and eventually Europeans, centuries ago. With the latest additions, the UCCN now counts 350 cities in more than a hundred countries, representing seven creative fields: Crafts and Folk Art, Design, Film, Gastronomy, Literature, Media Arts and Music. UCCN stands for UNESCO Creative Cities Network.

**Srinagar:** Summer capital of J&K, became the fourth Indian city to be recognised as a 'World Craft City' by the World Craft Council (WCC). The formal announcement was made by the WCC on June 23. Three years earlier, the city was also selected by the UNESCO Creative City Network (UCCN) for crafts and folk arts. WCC is a non-government organisation working to empower artisans and safeguard craft heritage globally. The other three Indian cities designated as 'World Craft City' are Mamallapuram, Tamil Nadu, Jaipur in Rajasthan and Mysore in Karnataka.

**Smritivan Earthquake Memorial & Museum:** Smritivan Earthquake Memorial & Museum in Bhuj, Gujarat has been selected in the "World Selection for the UNESCO Prix Versailles Museums 2024". It is for the first time that a museum in India has received global recognition for its expression of local culture and nature conservation. Inaugurated in August 2022, Smriti Van is a tribute to the over 13,000 victims of the massive tragic earthquake that struck Bhuj on Jan 26, 2001. It is a symbol of human resilience and courage as well. The "World's Most Beautiful" Achievements recognition, granted by the Prix Versailles highlights the primary role of the Laureates in beautifying and improving the living environment.

## UNION BUDGET 2024 OVERVIEW

The Union Budget is the **annual financial statement** of the Union Government of India that is presented every year on the **1st of February** by the **Finance Minister (FM)** in the Lok Sabha.

- **Budget preparation:** The Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, is the nodal body responsible for preparing the Budget document.
- **Budget classification:** The Union Budget is classified into the **Revenue Budget** and the **Capital Budget**.
- **Revenue Budget:** Encompassing the government's expected one-year income, including taxes.
- **Capital Budget:** Addressing government assets and liabilities, focusing on significant expenses like infrastructure development.
- **Budget Parts:**
  - ❖ **Part A:** Macroeconomic section announcing government schemes and priorities.
  - ❖ **Part B:** Involves the Finance Bill, containing taxation proposals such as income tax revisions.
  - ❖ A **Finance Bill** is a **Money Bill** as defined in **Article 110** of the Constitution.
  - ❖ The **Speaker** has the **final authority** to determine whether a bill is a Money Bill.

### Union Budget Constitutional Provisions

- **Constitutional provision:** As per **Article 112** of the Indian Constitution, the Union Budget is a statement of the government's estimated receipts and expenditures.
  - ❖ It is also known as the **Annual Financial Statement of the Government**; however, the term "**budget**" is not mentioned in the Constitution.
- **Key Budget documents:** Apart from Budget Speech, other major documents include:
  - **Annual Financial Statement (Article 112)**
  - **Demands for Grants (Article 113)**
  - **Finance Bill (Article 110)**
- **Fiscal Policy Statements** mandated under the **FRBM Act, 2003**, including
  - ❖ The Macro-Economic Framework Statement and
  - ❖ The Medium-Term Fiscal Policy cum Fiscal Policy Strategy Statement.
- **Additional Documents:** Other explanatory documents presented include:
  - ❖ Expenditure & Receipt of Budget, Expenditure Profile, Budget at a Glance, Memorandum Explaining the Provisions in the Finance Bill, Output Outcome Monitoring Framework, Key Features of Upcoming Financial Year Budget, and implementation of Budget

Announcements for the Closing financial year.

### Union Budget 2024 Highlights

The **Finance Minister** presented the **Union Budget for 2024-25** on July 23, 2024. Earlier, **interim budget 2024** was presented in February 2024.

<b>GDP growth rate</b>	➤ The GDP for Budget FY 2024-25 (Regular) is estimated at Rs. 3,26,36,912 crore which is 10.5% over the Provisional Estimates of FY 2023-24 at Rs. 2,95,35,667 crore.
<b>Expenditure</b>	➤ The total expenditure in Budget Estimates (BE) 2024-25 is estimated at Rs. 48,20,512 crore of which total capital expenditure is Rs. 11,11,111 crore. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Compared to RE 2023-24, the capital expenditure in BE 2024-25 reflects an increase of <b>16.9 per cent</b>.</li> <li>❖ Effective capital expenditure, at ₹15,01,889 crore in BE 2024-25 shows an increase of <b>18.2 per cent</b> over RE 2023-24.</li> </ul>
<b>Receipts</b>	➤ FY25 Total Receipts estimated at Rs. 32.07 lakh crore <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Net tax receipts estimated at Rs. 25.83 lakh crore</li> <li>➤ Gross market borrowings estimated at Rs. 14.01 lakh crore</li> <li>➤ Net market borrowings estimated at Rs. 11.63 lakh crore</li> </ul>
<b>Interest payments</b>	➤ Interest payments estimated at Rs. 11 lakh crore
<b>Deficits</b>	➤ The BE for fiscal deficit is 4.9%, Revenue deficit is 1.8% and Primary deficit is 1.4%.
<b>New Schemes</b>	➤ Rs 2 lakh crore has been allocated to the Department of Economic Affairs for New Schemes.

### Union Budget 2024 at a Glance

Budget at a Glance shows **receipts and expenditure** as well as the deficits of the Government of India.

S.No.	Parameters	2022-2023 Actuals (In crore)	2023-2024 Budget Estimates	2023- 2024 Revised Estimates	2024-2025 Budget Estimates
1	Revenue Receipts	2383206	2632281	2699713	3129200
2	Tax Revenue (Net to Centre)	2097786	2330631	2323918	2583499
3	Non Tax Revenue	285421	301650	375795	545701
4	Capital Receipts	1809951	1870816	1790773	1691312
5	Recovery of Loans	26161	23000	26000	28000
6	Other Receipts	46035	61000	30000	50000
7	Borrowings and Liabilities	1737755	1786816	1734773	1613312
<b>Total Receipts</b>		4193157	4503097	4490486	4820512
8	Total Revenue Expenditure	3453132	3502136	3540239	3709401
9	Interest Payments	928517	1079971	1055427	1162940
10	Total Capital Expenditure	740025	1000961	950246	1111111
11	Grants in Aid for creation of Capital Account	306264	369988	321190	390778
12	Effective Capital Expenditure	1046289	1370949	1271436	1501889
<b>Total Expenditure</b>		4193157	4503097	4490486	4820512
13	Revenue Deficit	1069926 (3.9%)	869855 (2.9%)	840527 (2.8%)	580201 (1.8%)
14	Effective Revenue Deficit (Rev Def-Grants in Aid for Capital creation)	763662 (2.8%)	499867 (1.7%)	519337 (1.8%)	189423 (0.6%)
15	<b>Fiscal Deficit</b>	1737755 (6.4%)	1786816 (5.9%)	1734773 (5.8%)	1613312 (4.9%)
16	Primary Deficit	809238 (3.0%)	706845 (2.3%)	679346 (2.3%)	450372 (1.4%)

### Part A: Priorities Areas of Budget

On **Budget priorities**, the **Finance Minister** said that in line with the strategy set in the interim Budget, this Budget envisages sustained efforts on the following nine priorities for generating ample opportunities for all.

#### Productivity and Resilience in Agriculture

- **Transforming Agriculture Research:** Comprehensive review of the agriculture research setup to bring focus on raising productivity and developing climate resilient varieties.
- **National Cooperation Policy:** For systematic, orderly and all-round development of the cooperative sector.
- **Vegetable production & supply chain:** Promotion of FPOs, cooperatives & start-ups for vegetable supply chains for collection, storage, and marketing.
- **Release of new varieties:** 109 new high-yielding and climateresilient varieties of 32 field and horticulture crops

will be released for cultivation by farmers.

#### ➤ Natural Farming:

- ❖ 1 crore farmers across the country will be initiated into natural farming, supported by certification and branding in next 2 years.
- ❖ 10,000 need-based bio-input resource centres to be established.

- **Atmanirbharta:** For oil seeds such as mustard, groundnut, sesame, soyabean and sunflower.

#### Employment & Skilling

- **Package of PM's five schemes for Employment and Skilling:** Prime Minister's Package of 5 Schemes and Initiatives for employment, skilling and other opportunities for 4.1 crore youth over a 5-year period.
  - ❖ **Scheme A - First Timers:** One-month salary of up to ₹15,000 to be provided in 3 installments to first-time



employees, as registered in the EPFO.

- ❖ **Scheme B - Job Creation in manufacturing:** Incentive to be provided at specified scale directly, both employee and employer, with respect to their EPFO contribution in the first 4 years of employment.
- ❖ **Scheme C - Support to employers:** Government to reimburse up to ₹3,000 per month for 2 years towards EPFO contribution of employers, for each additional employee.
- ❖ **New centrally sponsored scheme for Skilling**
  - 20 lakh youth to be skilled over a 5-year period.
  - 1,000 Industrial Training Institutes to be upgraded in hub and spoke arrangements.
  - Course content & design aligned as per skill needs of industry.
- ❖ **New Scheme for Internship in 500 Top Companies** to 1 crore youth in 5 years
- Loans up to Rs.7.5 lakh with a guarantee from a government promoted Fund, which is expected to help 25,000 students every year.
- Financial support for loans upto Rs.10 lakh for higher education in domestic institutions and Direct E-vouchers to 1 lakh students every year, with annual interest subvention of 3%

### Inclusive Human Resource Development and Social Justice

- **Purvodaya: Vikas bhi Virasat bhi**
  - ❖ Plan for endowment rich states in the Eastern parts covering Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Odisha and Andhra Pradesh for generation of economic opportunities to attain Viksit Bharat.
  - ❖ Amritsar Kolkata Industrial Corridor with development of an industrial node at Gaya.
- **Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Unnat Gram Abhiyan:** Improving the socio-economic condition of tribal communities covering 63,000 villages benefitting 5 crore tribal people.
- Allocation of more than Rs.3 lakh crore for schemes benefitting women and girls.
- More than 100 branches of India Post Payment Bank will be set up in the North East region.
- **Andhra Pradesh Reorganization Act:**
  - ❖ Financial support of Rs.15,000 crores will be arranged in FY 24- 25.
  - ❖ Completion of Polavaram Irrigation Project ensuring food security of the nation.
  - ❖ Essential infrastructure such as water, power, railways and roads in Kopparthi node on the Vishakhapatnam-Chennai Industrial Corridor and Orvakal node on Hyderabad-Bengaluru Industrial Corridor.

### Manufacturing & Services

- Credit Guarantee Scheme for MSMEs in the Manufacturing Sector and Credit Support to MSMEs during Stress Period
- Enhanced scope for mandatory onboarding in TReDS
- New assessment model for MSME credit
- **Mudra Loans:** The limit enhanced to Rs. 20 lakh from the current Rs. 10 lakh under the 'Tarun' category.
- MSME Units for Food Irradiation, Quality & Safety Testing
- Twelve industrial parks under the National Industrial Corridor Development Programme
- Rental housing with dormitory type accommodation for industrial workers in PPP mode with VGF support.
- Critical Minerals Mission for domestic production, recycling and overseas acquisition.
- Strengthening of the tribunal and appellate tribunals to speed up insolvency resolution and additional tribunals to be established
- **Internship Opportunities:**
  - ❖ Scheme for providing internship opportunities in 500 top companies to 1 crore youth in 5 years.
  - ❖ Allowance of Rs.5,000 per month along with a one-time assistance of Rs.6,000 through the CSR funds.

### Urban Development

- **Stamp Duty:** Encouraging states to lower stamp duties for properties purchased by women.
- **Street Markets:** Envisioning a scheme to develop 100 weekly 'haats' or street food hubs in select cities
- **Transit Oriented Development:** Transit Oriented Development plans for 14 large cities with a population above 30 lakh
- **Water Management:** Promote water supply, sewage treatment and solid waste management projects and services for 100 large cities through bankable projects.
- **PM Awas Yojana Urban 2.0:**
  - ❖ Needs of 1 crore urban poor and middle-class families will be addressed with an investment of Rs.10 lakh crore
  - ❖ Enabling policies and regulations for efficient and transparent rental housing markets with enhanced availability will also be put in place.

### Energy Security

- **Initiatives with private sector in Nuclear Energy:**
  - ❖ Setting up Bharat Small Reactors
  - ❖ R&D of Bharat Small Modular Reactor and newer technologies for nuclear energy
- **Pumped Storage Policy:** For electricity storage and facilitation of smooth integration of the growing share of renewable energy

- **AUSC Thermal Power Plants:** A joint venture between NTPC and BHEL will set up a full scale 800 MW commercial plant.
- **Energy Audit:**
  - ❖ Financial support for shifting of micro and small industries to cleaner forms of energy
  - ❖ Facilitate investment grade energy audit in 60 clusters, next phase expands to 100 clusters.
- **PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana:** 1 crore Households obtain free electricity Up to 300 Units every month

### Infrastructure

- Provision of Rs.11,11,111 crore for infrastructure (3.4% of GDP).
- Rs.1.5 lakh crore to states as longterm interest free loans to support resource allocation.
- Phase IV of PMGSY will be launched to provide allweather connectivity to 25,000 rural habitations.
- **Irrigation and Flood Mitigation:**
  - ❖ Financial support for projects with estimated cost of Rs.11,500 crore such as the Kosi-Mechi intra-state link and 20 other ongoing and new schemes
  - ❖ Assistance for flood management and related projects in Assam, Sikkim & Uttarakhand
  - ❖ Assistance for reconstruction and rehabilitation in Himachal Pradesh
- **Tourism**
  - ❖ Development of **Vishnupad Temple Corridor** and **Mahabodhi Temple Corridor** modelled on **Kashi Vishwanath Temple Corridor**
  - ❖ Comprehensive development initiative for **Rajgir** will be undertaken which holds religious significance for **Hindus, Buddhists and Jains**.
  - ❖ The **development of Nalanda as a tourist centre** besides reviving **Nalanda University** to its glorious stature.
  - ❖ Assistance to development of Odisha's scenic beauty, temples, monuments, craftsmanship, wildlife sanctuaries, natural landscapes and pristine beaches making it an ultimate tourism destination.

### Innovation, Research & Development

- Operationalization of the **Anusandhan National Research Fund** for basic research and prototype development. Priorities for Viksit Bharat
- **Private sector-driven research and innovation at commercial scale** with a financing pool of Rs.1 lakh crore
- **Space Economy:** A venture capital fund of Rs.1,000 crore is to be set up

### Next Generation Reforms

- **Rural & Urban land related actions**
  - ❖ **Unique Land Parcel Identification Number** or Bhu-Aadhaar for all lands.
  - ❖ **Land records in urban areas** will be **digitized with GIS mapping**
  - ❖ Survey of map sub-divisions as per current ownership
  - ❖ Linkages to the farmers' registries Digitization of cadastral maps Establishment of land registry
- **Taxonomy for climate finance:** Enhancing the availability of capital for climate adaptation and mitigation related investments
- **FDI and Overseas Investments:** Simplified to facilitate FDI and promote opportunities for using Indian Rupee as a currency for overseas investments.
- **NPS Vatsalya:** A plan for contribution by parents and guardians for minors.
- Improvement of data governance, collection, processing and management of data and statistics.
- **New Pension Scheme (NPS):** A solution that address the relevant issues, protects the common citizen and maintains fiscal prudence will be formed.

### Part B: Tax-Related Proposals

- **Simplifying New Tax Regime:**
  - ❖ Standard deduction for salaried employees increased from Rs.50,000 to Rs.75,000.
  - ❖ Deduction on family pension for pensioners enhanced from Rs.15,000/- to Rs.25,000/-
  - ❖ In the new tax regime, the tax rate structure is proposed to be revised, as follows:

0-3 lakh rupees	Nil
3-7 lakh rupees	5 per cent
7-10 lakh rupees	10 per cent
10-12 lakh rupees	15 per cent
12-15 lakh rupees	20 per cent
Above 15 lakh rupees	30 per cent

### Comprehensive review of Income Tax Act, 1961:

- Finance Minister announced a comprehensive review of the Income Tax Act of 1961. The goal is to make the Act concise, clear, and easy to read and understand. This will reduce disputes and litigation, ensuring tax certainty for taxpayers. It is intended to be completed in six months.
- The Finance Bill begins by simplifying the tax regime for charities, the TDS rate structure, provisions for reassessment and search, and capital gains taxation.
- **Litigation & Appeals:**

- ❖ To address the backlog of first appeals, the government intends to deploy more officers to hear and decide such appeals, particularly those with a significant tax effect.
- ❖ The government proposed the Vivad Se Vishwas Scheme, 2024, to resolve certain income tax disputes that are pending appeal.
- ❖ To reduce litigation and provide certainty in international taxation, the government will broaden and improve safe harbour rules.
- **Growing the tax base: For deepening the tax base** The Security Transactions Tax on futures and options of securities is proposed to be increased to 0.02% and 0.10%, respectively.
- **Simplification of Reassessment:** Assessment can be reopened beyond three years upto five years from the end of Assessment Year only if the escaped income is Rs. 50 lakh or more. In search cases, time limit reduced from ten to six years before the year of search.
- **Simplification and Rationalisation of Capital Gains:**
  - ❖ Short term gains on certain financial assets to attract a tax rate of 20 per cent.
  - ❖ Long term gains on all financial and non-financial assets to attract a tax rate of 12.5 per cent.
  - ❖ Exemption limit of capital gains on certain financial assets increased to Rs. 1.25 lakh per year.
- **Tax Payer Services:** All remaining services of Customs and Income Tax including rectification and order giving effect to appellate orders to be digitalized over the next two years.
- **Litigation and Appeals**
  - ❖ 'Vivad Se Vishwas Scheme, 2024' for resolution of income tax disputes pending in appeal.
  - ❖ Monetary limits for filing direct taxes, excise and service tax related appeals in Tax Tribunals, High Courts and Supreme Court increased to Rs.60 lakh, Rs.2 crore and Rs.5 crore respectively.
  - ❖ Safe harbour rules expanded to reduce litigation and provide certainty in international taxation.
- **Employment and Investment**
  - ❖ Angel tax for all classes of investors abolished to bolster start-up eco-system.
  - ❖ Simpler tax regime for foreign shipping companies operating domestic cruises to promote cruise tourism in India.
  - ❖ Safe harbour rates for foreign mining companies selling raw diamonds in the country.
  - ❖ Corporate tax rate on foreign companies reduced from 40 to 35 per cent.
- **Deepening tax base**
  - ❖ Security Transactions Tax on futures and options of securities increased to 0.02 per cent and 0.1 per cent respectively.
  - ❖ Income received on buy back of shares in the hands of recipient to be taxed.
- **Social Security Benefits.**
  - ❖ Deduction of expenditure by employers towards NPS to be increased from 10 to 14 per cent of the employee's salary.
  - ❖ Non-reporting of small movable foreign assets up to Rs.20 lakh de-penalised.
- **Other major proposal in Finance Bill**
  - ❖ Equalization levy of 2 per cent withdrawn.
  - ❖ Three cancer drugs namely Trastuzumab, Docetaxel, Osimertinib and Durvalumab fully exempted from custom duty.
  - ❖ Customs duties on gold and silver reduced to 6 per cent and that on platinum to 6.4 per cent.
  - ❖ Expansion of tax benefits for specific funds and entities in IFSCs
  - ❖ Immunity from penalty and prosecution for benamidars who provide full and true disclosure in order to improve conviction under the Benami Transactions (Prohibition) Act of 1988.



# THE ECONOMIC SURVEY 2023-24: KEY HIGHLIGHTS AND ANALYSIS

- The **Economic Survey 2023-24**, presented by Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, provides a comprehensive overview of India's economic performance and future outlook.
- Here are the **key highlights and analysis** from the survey:

## Chapter 1: State of the Economy – Steady as She Goes

- **GDP Growth Projection:** The survey projects a real GDP growth of 6.5–7%, with balanced risks, despite higher market expectations.
- **Momentum Maintenance:** India's economy maintained its momentum from FY23 into FY24, facing minimal impact from external challenges due to macroeconomic stability.
- **Real GDP Growth:** Real GDP grew by 8.2% in FY24, exceeding 8% in three out of four quarters.
- **Gross Value Added (GVA):** GVA grew by 7.2% in FY24 (at 2011-12 prices) and net taxes at constant prices grew by 19.1%.
- **Inflation Management:** Retail inflation reduced from 6.7% in FY23 to 5.4% in FY24 due to effective administrative and monetary policies.
- **Current Account Deficit (CAD):** CAD improved to 0.7% of GDP in FY24 from 2.0% in FY23.
- **Post-Pandemic Recovery:** Real GDP in FY24 was 20% higher than FY20, a notable recovery achieved by few major economies.
- **Tax Collection:** 55% of tax collected from direct taxes, and 45% from indirect taxes.
- **Welfare Programs:** The government ensured free food grains to 81.4 crore people and progressively increased capital expenditure.

## Chapter 2: Monetary Management and Financial Intermediation - Stability is the Watchword

- **Banking Sector Performance:** India's banking and financial sectors performed exceptionally well in FY24.
- **Policy Rate:** RBI maintained a steady policy rate, keeping the policy repo rate at 6.5%.
- **Credit Growth:** Credit disbursement by Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) reached Rs.164.3 lakh crore, growing by 20.2% by March 2024.
- **Broad Money (M3) Growth:** Excluding HDFC merger, M3 grew by 11.2% YoY as of 22 March 2024.
- **Non-Performing Assets (NPA):** Gross and net NPAs at multi-year lows, indicating improved bank asset quality.
- **Agriculture Credit:** Agriculture and allied activities saw

double-digit credit growth in FY24.

- **Industrial Credit:** Industrial credit growth was 8.5%, up from 5.2% the previous year.
- **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC):** 31,394 corporate debtors involving Rs.13.9 lakh crore disposed off by March 2024.
- **Capital Markets:** Primary capital markets facilitated capital formation of Rs.10.9 lakh crore in FY24.
- **Market Capitalisation:** Indian stock market's market capitalisation to GDP ratio is the fifth largest in the world.
- **Financial Inclusion:** Digital Financial Inclusion (DFI) is the next big challenge for sustainable economic growth.

## Chapter 3: Prices and Inflation - Under Control

- **Retail Inflation:** Maintained at 5.4% in FY24, the lowest since the pandemic, due to timely policy interventions.
- **Fuel Prices:** Central Government announced price cuts for LPG, petrol, and diesel, keeping retail fuel inflation low.
- **LPG and Fuel Inflation:** LPG cylinder prices reduced by Rs.200 in August 2023; petrol and diesel prices lowered by Rs.2 per litre.
- **Core Inflation:** Core services inflation eased to a nine-year low; core goods inflation declined to a four-year low.
- **Food Inflation:** Increased from 6.6% in FY23 to 7.5% in FY24 due to extreme weather events impacting farm output.
- **Inflation Management:** Dynamic stock management, open market operations, and subsidised food items helped mitigate food inflation.
- **State Inflation:** 29 States and UTs recorded inflation below 6% in FY24.

## Chapter 4: External Sector - Stability Amid Plenty

- **Geopolitical Challenges:** Despite geopolitical headwinds, India's external sector remained strong.
- **Logistics Performance Index:** Improved rank from 44th in 2018 to 38th in 2023 out of 139 countries.
- **Current Account Deficit:** Improved to 0.7% of GDP in FY24 due to moderation in imports and rising services exports.
- **Global Export Share:** India's share in global goods exports was 1.8% in FY24.
- **Services Exports:** Grew by 4.9% to USD 341.1 billion, driven by IT/software services and other business services.
- **Remittances:** India is the top remittance recipient globally with USD 120 billion in 2023.

- **External Debt:** External debt to GDP ratio was 18.7% at the end of March 2024.

### Chapter 5: Medium-Term Outlook – A Growth Strategy for New India

- **Policy Focus Areas:** Job and skill creation, agricultural potential, MSME bottlenecks, green transition, managing relations with China, deepening the corporate bond market, tackling inequality, and improving youth health.
- **Amrit Kaal Strategy:** Based on six key areas: boosting private investment, expanding MSMEs, agriculture as a growth engine, financing green transition, bridging education-employment gap, and building state capacity.
- **Growth Compact:** For 7%+ growth, a tripartite compact between the Union Government, State Governments, and the private sector is essential.

### Chapter 6: Climate Change and Energy Transition: Dealing with Trade-Offs

- **Climate Action Recognition:** India is the only G20 nation aligned with a 2-degree centigrade warming target.
- **Renewable Energy:** Non-fossil sources reached 45.4% of installed electricity generation capacity by 31 May 2024.
- **Emission Reduction:** Reduced emission intensity of GDP by 33% from 2005 levels by 2019.
- **Energy Savings:** Total annual energy savings of 51 million tonnes of oil equivalent, translating to annual cost savings of Rs.1,94,320 Crore.
- **Green Bonds:** Issued Rs.16,000 Crore in January-February 2023 and Rs.20,000 Crore in October-December 2023.

### Chapter 7: Social Sector - Benefits that Empower

- **Welfare Impact:** Digitisation of healthcare, education, and governance has increased the impact per rupee spent.
- **Welfare Expenditure Growth:** Nominal GDP grew at 9.5% CAGR while welfare expenditure grew at 12.8% CAGR between FY18 and FY24.
- **Inequality Reduction:** Gini coefficient declined in both rural (from 0.283 to 0.266) and urban (from 0.363 to 0.314) sectors.
- **Ayushman Bharat:** 34.7 crore cards generated, covering 7.37 crore hospital admissions.
- **Mental Health Coverage:** 22 mental disorders covered under Ayushman Bharat – PMJAY.
- **Early Childhood Education:** 'Poshan Bhi Padhai Bhi' programme aims to develop the world's largest, universal, high-quality preschool network at Anganwadi Centres.
- **Vidyanjali Initiative:** Enhanced educational experiences for 1.44 crore students through community engagement.
- **Higher Education Enrolment:** Faster growth in enrolment from underprivileged sections (SC, ST, OBC) with a 31.6%

increase since FY15.

- **R&D Progress:** Nearly one lakh patents granted in FY24, up from less than 25,000 in FY20.
- **Housing and Roads:** Under PM-AWAS-Gramin, 2.63 crore houses constructed; 15.14 lakh km roads completed under Gram Sadak Yojana since 2014-15.

### Chapter 8: Employment and Skill Development: Towards Quality

- **Labour Market Improvement:** Unemployment rate declined to 3.2% in 2022-23.
- **Urban Unemployment:** Declined to 6.7% in the quarter ending March 2024.
- **Workforce Distribution:** 45% in agriculture, 11.4% in manufacturing, 28.9% in services, and 13% in construction.
- **Youth Unemployment:** Declined from 17.8% in 2017-18 to 10% in 2022-23.
- **EPFO Payroll:** Significant growth in new subscribers, especially in the 18-28 years band.
- **Female Labour Force Participation:** Rising steadily for six years.
- **Manufacturing Sector Recovery:** Employment in organised manufacturing sector above pre-pandemic levels.
- **Wages Growth:** Rural wages grew at 6.9% CAGR, urban at 6.1% CAGR.
- **Factories Growth:** Number of factories employing over 100 workers grew by 11.8% over FY18 to FY22.
- **EPFO Membership:** Grew at 8.4% CAGR between FY15 and FY24.
- **Job Generation Requirement:** 78.5 lakh jobs annually needed in the non-farm sector until 2030.

### Chapter 9: Agriculture and Food Management – Plenty of Upside Left If We Get It Right

- **Agriculture Growth:** Registered an average annual growth rate of 4.18% over the last five years.
- **Agricultural Credit:** Total credit disbursed to agriculture amounted to Rs.22.84 lakh crore as of January 31, 2024.
- **Kisan Credit Cards:** 7.5 crore KCCs issued with a limit of Rs.9.4 lakh crore.
- **Micro Irrigation:** 90.0 lakh hectares covered under 'Per drop more crop' from 2015-16 to 2023-24.

### Chapter 10: Industry - Small and Medium Matters

- **Industrial Growth:** 9.5% growth rate supporting overall economic growth of 8.2% in FY24.
- **Manufacturing Sector:** Achieved an average annual growth rate of 5.2% over the last decade.
- **Coal Production:** Accelerated coal production reduced import dependence.

- **Pharmaceutical Market:** India is the world's third largest by volume with a valuation of USD 50 billion.
- **Clothing Manufacturing:** India is the second-largest globally and among the top five exporters.
- **Electronics Manufacturing:** Accounts for 3.7% of the global market share in FY22.
- **PLI Schemes:** Attracted over Rs.1.28 lakh crore of investment until May 2024, leading to production/sales of Rs.10.8 lakh crore and employment generation of over 8.5 lakh.

### Chapter 11: Services - Fuelling Growth Opportunities

- **Services Sector Contribution:** 55% of overall GVA, back to pre-pandemic levels.
- **Active Companies:** 65% of the highest number of active companies are in the services sector.
- **Global Services Exports:** Constituted 4.4% of the world's commercial services exports in 2022.
- **Computer and Business Services Exports:** Accounted for 73% of India's services exports, with a 9.6% YoY growth.
- **Aviation Sector Growth:** 15% YoY increase in total air passengers handled.
- **Services Sector Credit:** Rs.45.9 lakh crore in March 2024, with a 22.9% YoY growth.

### Chapter 12: Infrastructure – Lifting Potential Growth

- **Public Sector Investment:** Significant role in funding large-scale infrastructure projects.
- **National Highway Construction:** Pace increased to around

34 km per day by FY24.

- **Railway Capital Expenditure:** Increased by 77% in the past five years.
- **Airport Infrastructure:** New terminal buildings operationalised at 21 airports, increasing passenger handling capacity by 62 million per annum.
- **Clean Energy Investment:** Rs.8.5 lakh crore (USD 102.4 billion) invested between 2014 and 2023.

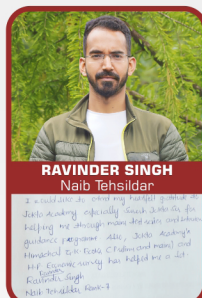
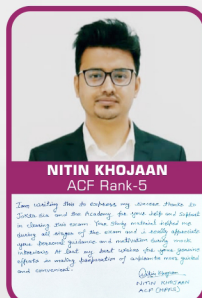
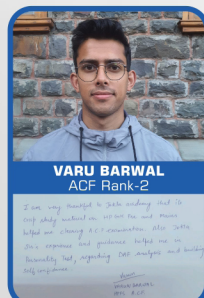
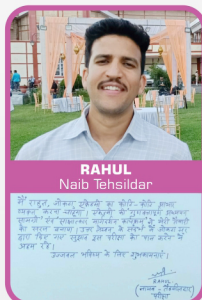
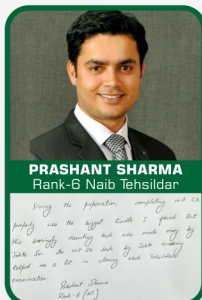
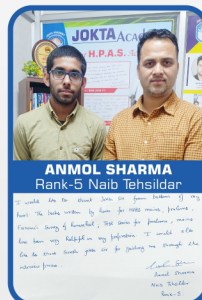
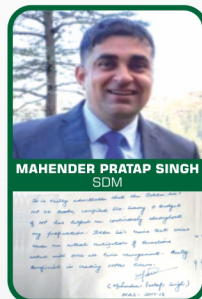
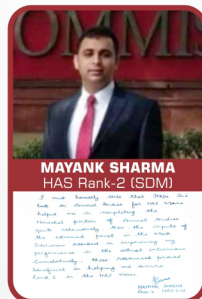
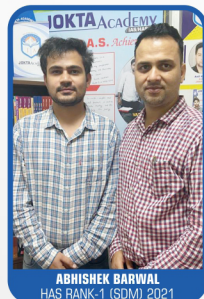
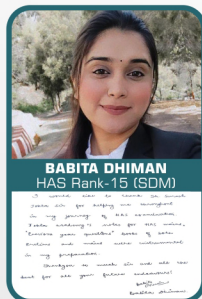
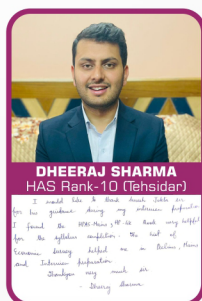
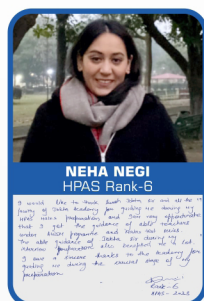
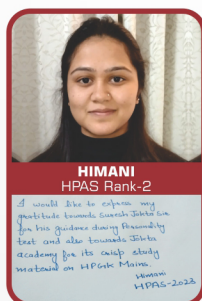
### Chapter 13: Climate Change and India

- **Global Climate Strategies:** Flawed and not universally applicable, overconsumption not addressed.
- **India's Ethos:** Emphasizes a harmonious relationship with nature, contrasting with overconsumption cultures.
- **Sustainable Housing:** Shift towards 'traditional multi-generational households'.
- **Mission LiFE:** Focuses on human-nature harmony, promoting mindful consumption to address global climate change.

### Conclusion

The Economic Survey 2023-24 provides a detailed analysis of India's economic landscape, highlighting its resilience and strategic initiatives aimed at sustainable and inclusive growth. With focused efforts on macroeconomic stability, financial inclusion, climate action, and social welfare, India is well-positioned to navigate future challenges and capitalize on growth opportunities.





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