



# JOKTA Academy

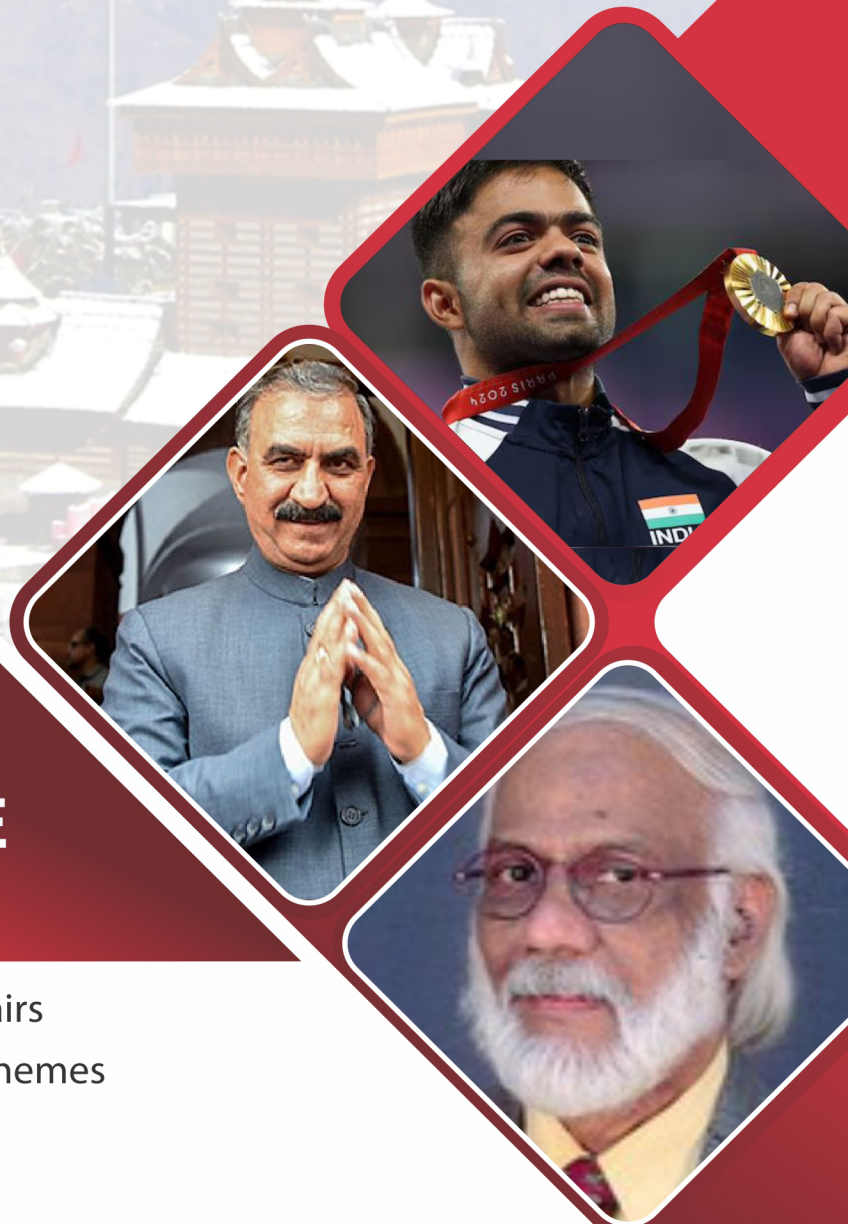
IAS/HAS

## Current Affairs

AUGUST 2024

**FOR HPAS  
&  
OTHER COMPETITIVE  
EXAMS IN HP**

- ✓ National & International Current Affairs
- ✓ National Level & State Level Govt. Schemes
- ✓ Himachal Pradesh Current Affairs



# *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**





# HPAS 2025-26

## FOUNDATION COURSE

**CHANDIGARH**

**4<sup>th</sup> Oct. 2024**

**EVENING BATCH**

SCO 22 ABOVE  
LENSKART SECTOR 15-C  
CHANDIGARH

 9779464470

**DHARAMSHALA**

**4<sup>th</sup> Oct. 2024**

**EVENING BATCH**

Opp. War Memorial  
Civil Line, Dharamshala

 88949-64475

Best Content For HP GK

1

Lecture in bilingual form

2

Full Study Material + Test Series

3

Guidance under best teachers of the region

4

Consistent result from last five years

5



**CHANDIGARH: 9779464470**  
**DHARAMSHALA: 8894964475**

# INDEX

<b>1</b>	<b>Jokta's Mains Mindset</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>National News</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>State News</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>International NEWS</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Economy</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Science and Tech</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Indices and Reports</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Himachal Pradesh NEWS</b>	<b>54</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>Awards</b>	<b>58</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>Sports</b>	<b>61</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>Appointments</b>	<b>67</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>Obituaries</b>	<b>71</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>Important Days</b>	<b>73</b>





**Toppers Chose and Toppers Recommend the Classroom programs & Test series of Jokta Academy.**



**Most PROMISING faculty, mentors and Team will be your constant companions.**



**Special Feature:**

Integrated Pre cum Mains approach.



**Practice what you learn everyday through:**

- Weekly Prelims & Mains Class Tests
- Weekly Prelims Revision Tests
- Fortnightly Mains Revision Tests
- Full Length Prelims and Mains Tests post completion of every subject



**Doubt s clearance session +**  
Doubts clearance via chat.



**Integrated Classes for Prelims + Mains**  
with exhaustive coverage of entire syllabus (GS + Hindi & English + CSAT).



**Comprehensive coverage of**  
Current Affairs for Mains through the most promising Initiative.



**Personal Mentor**

A trusted adviser to track your progress thoroughly.



**Live + Recorded Classes**

to ensure students never miss a class.



**Success & Mindset Coach**

to ensure impeccable mental health.



**Personality test preparation:**

Multiple Mock Interviews,  
Video Recording of Mock Interviews,  
Personalised Feedback and  
Group Discussions.



**Mains Answer evaluation based**  
on Comprehensive Parameters  
to improve your score constantly.



**Free access to the Prelims Test**

Series (apart from daily prelims & week prelims revision tests), now with the widest possible Post Test analysis.

## JOKTA'S MAINS MINDSET



## 1. Ancient Olympics (776 BCE - 393 CE):

- ❖ **Origin:** Started in Olympia, Greece, in 776 BCE to honor Zeus.
- ❖ **Events:** Included running, wrestling, chariot racing, and pankration (a mix of boxing and wrestling).
- ❖ **Significance:** Fostered unity among Greek city-states and were a major cultural and religious event.

## 2. Decline: Ended in 393 CE by Roman Emperor Theodosius I due to the rise of Christianity.

## 3. Revival of the Modern Olympics (Late 19th Century):

- ❖ **Initiator:** Revived by Pierre de Coubertin in 1896 to promote peace and international understanding through sports.
- ❖ **First Modern Games:** Held in Athens, Greece, in 1896.
- ❖ **International Olympic Committee (IOC):** Established to oversee the organization and growth of the Games.

## 4. Modern Olympic Movement:

- ❖ **Expansion:** Inclusion of more sports, countries, and athletes over time.
- ❖ **Winter Olympics:** Introduced in 1924 to feature winter sports.
- ❖ **Olympic Symbols:** The Olympic Rings (representing five continents) and the motto "Citius, Altius, Fortius – Communiter" (Faster, Higher, Stronger – Together).

## 5. Time Gap Between Summer Olympics, Winter Olympics, and Paralympics: The are held in a staggered manner to ensure there's an Olympic event every two years:

- ❖ **Summer Olympics:** Held every four years, typically in leap years (e.g., 2016, 2020, 2024).
- ❖ **Winter Olympics:** Also held every four years, but two years after the Summer Olympics (e.g., 2014, 2018, 2022).
- ❖ **Paralympics:** The Summer and Winter Paralympics follow the same schedule as their Olympic

counterparts, occurring shortly after the respective Olympic Games.

## 6. Significant Milestones:

- ❖ **Women's Participation:** Women first competed in the 1900 Paris Games.
- ❖ **Political and Social Impact:** The Games have been a platform for political statements and social change, such as the 1968 Black Power salute.
- ❖ **Technological Advancements:** Introduction of advanced timing systems, broadcasting, and anti-doping measures.

## 7. India at the Olympics:

- ❖ **First Participation:** India first participated in the 1900 Paris Games.
- ❖ **Notable Achievements:** India has won multiple medals in field hockey, shooting, wrestling, and boxing.
- ❖ **Recent Success:** Significant performances in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, including gold in javelin throw by Neeraj Chopra

## 8. 2028 Summer Olympics - Los Angeles

- ❖ **Host City:** Los Angeles, USA.
- ❖ **Historical Significance:** Third time hosting (previously in 1932 and 1984).

## 9. Sports Highlights

- ❖ **Returning Sports:** Baseball and softball.
- ❖ **New Sports:** Flag football, cricket, lacrosse, and squash.
- ❖ **India's Performance at Paris Olympics 2024**
- ❖ **India's Performance:** India finished 71st, a decline from 48th at Tokyo 2020, with six medals: one silver and five bronze.

Position	Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total Medal
1	USA	40	44	42	126
2	China	40	27	24	91
3	Japan	20	12	13	45
4	Australia	18	19	17	53
5	France	16	26	22	64
71	India	0	1	5	6

## Indian Medal Winners at Paris Olympics 2024

Indian athletes	Medal	Event
Manu Bhaker	Bronze	Women's 10m air pistol event
Manu Bhaker and Sarabjot Singh	Bronze	10m air pistol mixed team event

Swapnil Kusale	Bronze	Men's 50m rifle 3 positions
Indian hockey team	Bronze	Men's hockey
Neeraj Chopra	Silver	Men's Javelin Throw
Aman Sehrawat	Bronze	Wrestling Men's 57kg freestyle event

### India's Performance at Paris Olympics 2024

- **India's Performance:** India finished 71st, a decline from 48th at Tokyo 2020, with six medals: one silver and five bronze.
- **Key Athletes:**
  - Neeraj Chopra:** Silver in Men's Javelin Throw (89.45m), his second Olympic medal.
  - Manu Bhaker:** Bronze in Women's 10m air pistol and mixed team event, becoming the first Indian woman to win an Olympic shooting medal and the first Indian to win two medals in one Games.
  - Swapnil Kusale:** Bronze in Men's 50m rifle 3 positions, India's first-ever Olympic medal in this event.
  - Men's Hockey Team:** Bronze.
  - Aman Sehrawat:** Bronze in Wrestling (Men's 57kg freestyle).
  - Lakshya Sen:** First Indian to reach semi-finals in men's badminton, finished fourth.
  - Vinesh Phogat:** Disqualified in women's 50kg wrestling final for being overweight by 100 grams.

### Challenges Hindering India's Olympic Success

- Talent Identification:** Systemic issues in scouting young athletes, particularly in remote areas.
- Infrastructure and Resources:** Limited training facilities, coaching expertise, and financial support.
- Cricket's Dominance:** 87% of sports capital goes to cricket, leaving only 13% for other sports.
- Insufficient Sports Policies:** Fragmented and underfunded sports policies, with initiatives like TOPS still in early stages.
- Short-Term Focus:** Lack of long-term athlete development, unlike successful Olympic countries.
- Corruption and Politics:** Politicization and corruption in sports administration hinder athlete development.
- Lack of Sports Culture:** Societal preference for education over sports, with sports often seen as less viable for financial security.

### Steps to Improve India's Olympic Performance

- Grassroots Development:** Focus on identifying and nurturing talent from a young age.

- Investment in Infrastructure:** Build world-class facilities and provide comprehensive athlete support, including psychological and nutritional.
- Athlete Empowerment:** Involve athletes in decision-making to bring accountability and transparency.
- Cultural Shift:** Encourage societal support for sports careers and integrate sports into education.
- Government Support:** Increase consistent funding for Olympic sports and related infrastructure.
- Growth Focus:** Triple athlete count for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics to improve medal prospects.

### Key Sports Initiatives in India

- Khelo India:** 2018; Ministry of Youth Affairs.
- Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG):** An annual multi-disciplinary event where athletes under 17 years (school level) and under 21 years (college level) participate across multiple sports disciplines.
- National Sports Development Fund (NSDF):** Established in 1998 by the Government of India, aims to mobilize resources for the promotion of sports in India by providing financial assistance for infrastructure, training, and athlete development.
- Sports Authority of India (SAI):** Manages various schemes like the National Sports Academy, Center of Excellence, and Army Boys Sports Company Scheme.
- National Sports Awards:** Includes Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna, Arjuna Awards, Dhyanchand Awards, and Dronacharya Awards.
- Scheme for Sports & Games for People with Disabilities.**
- Rajiv Gandhi Khel Abhiyan:** Focuses on building sports complexes at the block level.
- Fit India Movement:** launched in August 2019 by the Government of India, aims to encourage people to adopt healthier lifestyles, promote physical fitness, and raise awareness about the importance of regular exercise and well-being across all age groups.

### BANGLADESH CRISIS AND ITS IMPACT ON INDIA



- **Event:** On August 5, former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was ousted from power.



- **Background:** Her rule had lasted since January 2009.
- **Initial Cause:** The crisis began with student protests.
- **Escalation:** The protests escalated into a major national crisis.
- **Focus:** The implications of this crisis for India.

### Bangladesh: Historical Context

- **Pre-Independence:**
  - ❖ Part of Pakistan from 1947-1971.
  - ❖ Gained independence in 1971 after a long struggle.
  - ❖ East Pakistan (now Bangladesh) and West Pakistan (now Pakistan) were geographically separated by over a thousand miles.
  - ❖ Despite a larger population, East Pakistan had less political power, controlled by West Pakistan.
  - ❖ East Pakistan faced political, economic, and cultural marginalization by the central government in Islamabad.
- **Unrest and Liberation War:**
  - ❖ Increasing unrest in East Pakistan due to continued marginalization.
  - ❖ 1970 Elections: Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the Awami League won, leading to tensions as West Pakistan's leadership refused to transfer power.
  - ❖ Demonstrations in Dhaka were met with a brutal crackdown by the Pakistani military, leading to mass killings.
  - ❖ This sparked the Bangladesh Liberation War.
  - ❖ Millions fled to India, creating a refugee crisis.
  - ❖ India, under Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, intervened to help the Bangladesh Liberation Forces.
  - ❖ On December 16, 1971, Bangladesh proclaimed its independence.
  - ❖ Sheikh Mujibur Rahman became the first Prime Minister and was assassinated in 1975.

### Who is Sheikh Hasina?

- **Early Life:**
  - ❖ Began political life after the assassination of her father, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, and most of her family in a 1975 military coup.
  - ❖ Lived in exile for several years.
  - ❖ Returned to Bangladesh in 1981 to lead the Awami League.
- **Political Career:**
  - ❖ Led opposition against the military and authoritarian rule of President Ziaur Rahman.
  - ❖ Became the first female Prime Minister of Bangladesh in 1996, serving until 2001.

- ❖ Lost the next elections to a four-party alliance led by the BNP, Jamaat-e-Islami, Jatiya Party (Manju), and Islamic Oikyo Jote.
- ❖ Arrested in January 2007 on charges of corruption and extortion, seen by supporters as politically motivated.
- ❖ Won the December 2008 elections and was sworn in as Prime Minister in January 2009.
- ❖ Re-elected for consecutive terms in 2014 and 2018.

### Causes of the Bangladesh Crisis

1. **Student Protests:**
  - ❖ Over 130 people died in protests against government job quotas.
  - ❖ Protesters demanded jobs based on merit, not quotas.
  - ❖ Quotas were criticized for being outdated and benefiting mainly descendants of freedom fighters.
2. **Controversial Elections:**
  - ❖ Sheikh Hasina's government won a fourth consecutive term in January 2024.
  - ❖ Elections were boycotted by opposition parties, raising questions about their legitimacy.
3. **Socio-Economic Issues:**
  - ❖ Massive unemployment and rampant inflation.
  - ❖ Broader socio-economic pressures exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.
  - ❖ Persistent corruption and lack of job opportunities.
4. **Government Response:**
  - ❖ Sheikh Hasina's remarks labeling protesters as Razakars (a term with negative connotations) further inflamed tensions.
  - ❖ Police crackdown on protests intensified the crisis.
5. **Escalation and Outcome:**
  - ❖ The combination of socio-economic issues and government actions fueled the crisis.
  - ❖ Sheikh Hasina fled Dhaka with her sister before protesters stormed her official residence.
  - ❖ She sought temporary refuge in India, confirmed by EAM Dr. S. Jaishankar in the Rajya Sabha.

### Implications of the Bangladesh Crisis for India

1. **Loss of a Trusted Ally:**
  - ❖ **Improved Relations:** Under Sheikh Hasina's leadership, India-Bangladesh relations significantly improved.
  - ❖ **Security Cooperation:** Both nations collaborated on various fronts, especially in combating terrorism.
  - ❖ **Economic Ties:**
    - Bangladesh became India's leading trading partner with USD 13 billion in trade.

- The SAFTA agreement provided duty-free access on most tariff lines.

## 2. Western Criticism:

- ❖ **Diplomatic Balancing Act:** India faces a challenging diplomatic situation, balancing its relationship with Bangladesh and international powers.
- ❖ **Strained Relations with the West:**
  - India's support for Sheikh Hasina has strained relations with Western allies, particularly the US.
  - The West criticized Hasina's government for alleged human rights violations and restrictions on democratic freedoms.

## 3. Risk of Anti-Indian Sentiment:

- ❖ **Public Perception:** Sheikh Hasina's unpopularity in Bangladesh could lead to anti-Indian sentiment, as the public may not understand the complexities of bilateral relationships.
- ❖ **Future Administration:**
  - The next Bangladeshi administration may not be as friendly toward India.
  - This could affect delicate matters like trade and security, potentially worsening India-Bangladesh ties and jeopardizing the gains of the past decade.

## Challenges Ahead for India

### Challenges to Border Security

- **Longest Border:** India shares a 4096.7 km long border with Bangladesh, guarded by the Border Security Force (BSF). However, it is a porous border, making infiltration easier.
- **New Committee:** The Indian government has formed a committee to monitor developments in the border region.
  - ❖ **Objective:** Maintain communication with Bangladeshi counterparts to protect Indian nationals and minority communities in Bangladesh.
  - ❖ **Leadership:** Headed by the ADG, BSF, Eastern Command, and includes members from BSF Frontier HQ South Bengal, BSF Frontier HQ Tripura, the Land Ports Authority of India, and the Secretary, LPAI.

### Challenges to Internal Security

- **North-Eastern States:** Potential tensions in India's north-eastern states due to possible infiltration by Bangladeshis.
- **Existing Issues:** Smuggling, illegal migration (including Rohingyas), militancy, and radicalism are ongoing internal security challenges.
- **Extremist Groups:** A less pro-Indian government in Bangladesh may empower extremist groups, further straining border security.
- **Monitoring:** The current political upheaval necessitates

vigilant monitoring and management of the border region.

## Threat of China and Regional Geopolitics

- **Balancing Act:** Under Sheikh Hasina, Bangladesh managed relations with both India and China. The stance of the opposition parties and interim government is uncertain.
- **China's Influence:** China may exploit Bangladesh's political unrest to expand its influence in South Asia, offering lucrative deals to the next government.
- **Historical Precedent:** Similar situations have occurred in the Maldives and Sri Lanka.
- **Strategic Positioning:** India needs to:
  - ❖ **Counter Extremist Forces:** Prevent the expansion of extremist forces and ensure Bangladesh's economic stability.
  - ❖ **Check China's Influence:** Monitor and counter any opportunities China might use to its advantage.

## Minority Question

- There are humanitarian concerns over the Hindus, the minority community, in Bangladesh who are allegedly facing violence in the state.
- According to the Bangladesh National Hindu Grand Alliance, after the administration led by Sheikh Hasina fell on August 5, there have been threats and violence against the minority community in 278 locations throughout 48 districts.
- The group referred to this as an "assault on the Hindu religion."
- Muhammad Yunus, the Chief Advisor of Bangladesh and the leader of the provisional administration, contacted the Hindu community in distress, advising them to "exercise patience" and promising to punish those who harmed the minority members.

## Challenge of Transboundary River Water Management

- India and Bangladesh have long been at odds over how to manage their shared river flows.
- There are 54 rivers between the two nations that are vital to millions of people's lives in each country.
- Despite the signing of important treaties to govern water-sharing arrangements, like the Kushiya River Treaty (2022) and the Ganga Waters Treaty (1996), many important rivers—most notably the Teesta River—remain contentious.
- The Teesta River is crucial for irrigation and water supply in West Bengal, as well as for agriculture in the northern part of Bangladesh.

## Uncertainties for Indian Investments in Bangladesh

- Bangladesh's political unrest may pose serious risks to Indian companies and investors.

- The profitability and stability of Indian businesses operating in Bangladesh may be harmed by trade disruptions or delays in payments, especially in the textile industry, where Indian companies own about 25% of the units.
- Some of these manufacturers may decide to return to India as a result of the present instability.
- Initiated in October 2023, talks over a possible free trade agreement (FTA) had the potential to greatly increase bilateral trade.
- But the continuous unrest raises questions about these talks' prospects and has the potential to sabotage current trade routes.

### Concerns over Infrastructure and Connectivity

- Improved connections and infrastructure have been essential to improving ties between Bangladesh and India.
- India has provided USD 8 billion in loans since 2016 for a number of road, rail, and port projects, such as the Khulna-Mongla Port rail line and the Akhaura-Agartala rail link.
- These initiatives are essential for boosting access to India's Northeast area and promoting trade.
- But these crucial links could be disrupted by the present political upheaval in Bangladesh, which could impede development and put agreements in jeopardy.
- India's strategic interests in the region as well as regional trade and economic cooperation may be seriously impacted by such disruptions.

### Way Forward

India faces significant challenges due to the current crisis in Bangladesh. However, it is crucial for India to swiftly adapt to the evolving situation in the neighborhood. As C. Raja Mohan aptly puts it, India will need:

- **Enormous strategic patience:** Navigating the complexities of regional politics requires a long-term perspective and resilience.
- **Faith in the logic of geography:** Recognizing the geographical interdependencies and leveraging them for mutual benefit.
- **Belief in the centrality of commerce:** Prioritizing economic ties and trade as foundational elements of the bilateral relationship.
- **Strong political commitment:** Overcoming historical divisions and fostering a cooperative and forward-looking partnership with Bangladesh.

By embracing these principles, India can effectively manage the current challenges and build a stronger, more resilient relationship with Bangladesh.

### HPAS Mains Practice Question

1. Discuss the recent political crisis in Bangladesh and analyse its implications for India. (8 marks)
2. Critically analyse India's performance in the recent Olympic Games. Discuss the reasons behind India's underperformance and suggest possible solutions to improve its future prospects. (12 marks)

01

Best Content For HP GK

02

Feasible Fee Structure

03

Lecture in bilingual form

04

Recorded Lectures available

05

Full Study Material + Test Series

06

Consistent result from last five years

07

Guidance under best teachers of the region

08

Weekly classroom test followed by discussion





## NATIONAL NEWS

### MAJOR HIGHLIGHTS OF 78TH INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATIONS 2024

- **Prime Minister's Speech:** This was PM Narendra Modi's 11th Independence Day speech.
- **Historical Context:**
  - ❖ Manmohan Singh unfurled the tricolour 10 times during 2004-2014.
  - ❖ Jawaharlal Nehru and Indira Gandhi did the honours 17 and 16 times respectively.
- **Theme:** "Viksit Bharat," reflecting the vision of transforming India into a Developed Nation by 2047, marking the 100th year of Independence.
- **Bastar Region:** Tricolour hoisted for the first time in Chhattisgarh's Maoist-hit Bastar region.
- **Tree Plantation Drive:**
  - ❖ Ministry of Defence initiated an ambitious tree plantation drive, aiming to plant approximately 1.5 million trees nationwide.
  - ❖ Part of the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' (A Tree in the Name of Mother) campaign.
  - ❖ Campaign launched by PM Modi on World Environment Day, June 5, 2024.
  - ❖ Target: Planting 800 million saplings by September 2024 and 1.4 billion saplings by March 2025.
  - ❖ Aim: Enhance environmental protection and foster a sustainable future.

### Key Points from PM Modi's Speech

- **Viksit Bharat Vision:** Pledge to transform India into a developed nation by 2047.
- **Economic Growth:** Focus on making India the third-largest global economy.
- **Infrastructure Development:** Plans to invest heavily in infrastructure, including railways and highways.
- **Corruption and Dynastic Politics:** Call to fight corruption.
- **Women's Empowerment:** Emphasis on women's safety and their role in nation-building.
- **Uniform Civil Code and One Nation One Election:** Pitch for these reforms.
- **Medical Education:** Vow to create 75,000 new medical seats in the next 5 years.

### CENTRE DECIDES TO CREATE FIVE NEW DISTRICTS IN UNION TERRITORY OF LADAKH

- **Announcement:** Union Home Minister Amit Shah announced the creation of five new districts in Ladakh.
- **New Districts:** Zaskar, Drass, Sham, Nubra, and

Changthang.

- **Current Districts:** Ladakh currently has two districts; Leh and Kargil.
- **Background:**
  - ❖ Ladakh was made a Union Territory after the bifurcation of Jammu and Kashmir into two UTs on August 5, 2019.
  - ❖ The other UT is Jammu and Kashmir.
  - ❖ Article 370, which gave special status to the erstwhile state, was abrogated in 2019.
  - ❖ Ladakh now comes under the direct administrative control of the Union Home Ministry.

### UNION CABINET APPROVES 8 NATIONAL HIGH-SPEED ROAD CORRIDORS AND 8 RAILWAY PROJECTS

#### National High-Speed Road Corridors

- **Approval:** Eight national high-speed road corridor projects approved.
- **Length:** Total length of 936 km.
- **Investment:** Rs 50,655 crore.
- **Employment:** Estimated 4.42 crore mandays of direct and indirect employment.
- **Key Benefits:**
  - ❖ Travel time between Agra and Gwalior reduced by 50%.
  - ❖ Kharagpur - Moregram corridor to boost the economy of West Bengal and North-East.
  - ❖ Kanpur Ring Road to decongest highway networks around Kanpur.
  - ❖ Raipur Ranchi Corridor to unlock growth in Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh.
  - ❖ Tharad to Ahmedabad corridor to complete Gujarat's High-Speed Road Network for seamless port connectivity.
  - ❖ Guwahati ring road to facilitate un-hindered access to North-East.
  - ❖ Faster travel to Ayodhya.
  - ❖ 8-Lane elevated flyover corridor between Pune and Nashik to eliminate logistics issues.

### AMIT SHAH LAUNCHES FOUR NEW APPS FOR IMPLEMENTING NEW CRIMINAL LAWS

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

- **Judgment Timeline:** Full implementation of the new laws aims to deliver judgments up to the Supreme Court within three years.
- **e-Sakshya:** Stores all testimonies, videography, and photography on the e-evidence server, accessible to all courts in real-time.
- **e-Summon:** Courts can electronically send summons to police stations and concerned individuals.
- **Nyaya Setu Dashboard:** Links Police, Medical, Forensic, Prosecution, and Prison authorities, providing real-time investigation information to the police.
- **Nyaya Shruti:** Enables courts to hear witnesses via videoconferencing.

### NEW CRIMINAL LAWS ENACTED

1. **Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023:** Replaces the Indian Penal Code, 1860.
2. **Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023:** Replaces the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973.
3. **Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam, 2023:** Replaces the Indian Evidence Act, 1872.

These changes aim to modernize and expedite the criminal justice system in India.

### MANOHAR LAL KHATTAR LAUNCHES THREE ONLINE PLATFORMS TO BOOST POWER SECTOR EFFICIENCY & TRANSPARENCY

- **Union Minister of Power Manohar Lal Khattar** launched three online platforms to enhance the efficiency, transparency, and effectiveness of the power sector in New Delhi.
- **Portals Launched:**
  - ❖ Portal for Online Monitoring of Projects – Thermal (PROMPT)
  - ❖ **Disaster Resilient Infrastructure for Power Sector (DRIPS)**
  - ❖ **JAL VIDYUT DPR** - Monitors survey and investigation activities related to Hydro Electric Projects.
- **Development:** All portals developed by the Central Electricity Authority under the Union Ministry of Power, with NTPC assisting in developing the PROMPT platform.

#### PROMPT Portal

- **Purpose:** Facilitates real-time analysis and tracking of thermal power projects under construction in India.
- **Benefit:** Quickly identifies and resolves issues causing delays in thermal power plant construction.

#### JAL VIDYUT DPR Platform

- **Developed by:** Central Electricity Authority (CEA).

- **Purpose:** Monitors survey and investigation activities related to Hydro Electric Projects and Pumped Storage Projects (PSPs).

### Disaster Resource Inventory for Power Sector (DRIPS) Portal

- **Purpose:** Quickly identifies power disruptions due to natural disasters like cyclones, earthquakes, and flooding.
- **Function:** Links designated nodal officers of all power sector departments and other agencies in affected districts and states to ensure quick restoration of power in affected areas.

### UNION GOVERNMENT TO INCLUDE AYUSH IN AYUSHMAN BHARAT SCHEME

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

### CABINET EXTENDS PM JI-VAN YOJANA IMPLEMENTATION BY 5 YEARS, INFUSES FURTHER FUNDS

- **Extension Approved:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the extension of the modified Pradhan Mantri JI-VAN (Jaiv Indhan- Vatavaran Anukool fasal awashesh Nivaran) Yojana for another five years, until 2028-29.
- **Additional Investment:** The cabinet approved an additional investment of Rs.1,969 crore into the programme.
- **Scheme Objectives:**
  - ❖ Provide remunerative income to farmers for their agricultural residue.
  - ❖ Address environmental pollution.
  - ❖ Create local employment opportunities.
  - ❖ Contribute to India's energy security and self-reliance.

### PRADHAN MANTRI JI-VAN YOJANA SUMMARY

- **Notification Date:** March 2019
- **Financial Outlay:** Rs. 1969.50 crore for 2018-19 to 2023-24
- **Financial Assistance:**
  - ❖ Rs. 150 crore per project for commercial projects

- ❖ Rs. 15 crore per project for demonstration projects
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas
- **Biofuels:** Renewable fuels from organic sources like plants, agricultural and forest residues, algae, and animal waste
- **Key Projects:**
  - ❖ First 2G Ethanol Project by Indian Oil Corporation Limited at Panipat, Haryana, dedicated on August 10, 2022
  - ❖ Other 2G commercial projects by BPCL, HPCL, and NRL at Bargarh (Odisha), Bathinda (Punjab), and Numaligarh (Assam) nearing completion.

## GOVERNMENT APPROVES UNIFIED PENSION SCHEME (UPS)

### Key Points:

- **Implementation Date:** UPS will come into effect from April 1, 2025.
- **Background:** Opposition parties were advocating for the return of the Old Pension Scheme (OPS), which was replaced by the New Pension Scheme (NPS) on January 1, 2004.
- **Recommendation:** A committee led by then finance secretary T V Somanathan recommended the UPS in April 2023.

### Five Pillars of UPS:

1. **Assured Pension:**
  - ❖ 50% of the employee's average basic pay over the last 12 months before superannuation.
  - ❖ Minimum qualifying service of 25 years; proportionately reduced for service periods down to 10 years.
2. **Assured Minimum Pension:**
  - ❖ Rs 10,000 per month for superannuation after a minimum of 10 years of service.
3. **Assured Family Pension:**
  - ❖ 60% of the pension last drawn by the retiree for the immediate family upon the retiree's death.
4. **Inflation Indexation:**
  - ❖ Dearness relief based on the All India Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers.
5. **Lumpsum Payment at Superannuation:**
  - ❖ Additional to gratuity.
  - ❖ Calculated as 1/10th of the monthly emolument (pay plus dearness allowance) for every six months of service completed.

### Incorporated Features from OPS:

- Assured pension, inflation-linked indexation, family pension, and minimum pension.

### Adopted Feature from NPS:

- Option for employees to contribute towards their pension fund for a higher pension upon retirement.

### Government Contribution:

- Increased from 14% (NPS) to 18.5% (UPS).
- Employee contribution remains the same.



### What led to the introduction of UPS?

The dissatisfaction with NPS, coupled with political pressures. Opposition-ruled states like Himachal Pradesh (in 2023), Rajasthan (in 2022), Chhattisgarh (in 2022) and Punjab (in 2022) reverted to the OPS.

In 2023, a committee chaired by T V Somanathan held over 100 meetings with stakeholders, resulting in the UPS proposal.



### Who will be eligible for UPS?

All govt employees retiring from April 1, 2025, onwards, as well as those who retired under NPS from 2004.

Retirees under NPS will have the option to switch to UPS, with arrears adjusted according to the new scheme.



### How does the UPS differ from NPS and OPS?

■ **New Pension Scheme:** Contribution-based, no fixed pension, and subject to market risks.

■ **Old Pension Scheme:** Fixed pension at 50% of the last drawn salary, but was an unfunded scheme, leading to heavy fiscal burdens.

■ **Unified Pension Scheme:** Combines both systems, offering fixed pension guarantees like OPS but with a contributory structure like NPS.

## DEEN DAYAL SPARSH YOJANA TO ENCOURAGE PHILATELY

### Key Points:

- **Launch Date:** November 3, 2017
- **Objective:** Promote Philately among children at a young age in a sustainable manner.
- **Philately:** Collection and study of postage stamps and related products.
- **Eligibility:** Open to class VI - IX students of recognized schools.
  - ❖ Students must be members of a philately club or have a Philately Deposit Account.



- **Scholarship Amount:** Rs 6000 per year, paid quarterly.
- **Number of Scholarships:** 920 scholarships awarded at the all-India level.
- **Philately Mentor:**
  - ❖ Assigned to guide every selected student.
  - ❖ Responsible for forming school-level Philately Clubs.
  - ❖ Provides guidance and encouragement to young and aspiring Philatelists.

### SPICES BOARD OF INDIA LAUNCHES 'SPICED' SCHEME TO BOOST SPICE EXPORTS AND PRODUCTIVITY

- **Scheme Name:** SPICED - 'Sustainability in Spice Sector through Progressive, Innovative and Collaborative Interventions for Export Development'
- **Implementation Period:** Remainder of the 15th Finance Commission cycle (FY 2025-26)
- **Primary Goals:**
  - ❖ Improve export of spices and value-added spice products
  - ❖ Promote GI tagged spices
  - ❖ Support entrepreneurship through incubation centers
- **Objectives:**
  - ❖ Upgrade post-harvest quality of spices to meet international standards
  - ❖ Enhance cardamom productivity
- This scheme aims to drive innovation and sustainability in the spice sector.

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

- **Directive:** Labour and Employment Minister Mansukh Mandaviya called for expeditious implementation of the three Employment-Linked Incentive (ELI) schemes in a mission mode.
- **Announcement:** The three schemes were announced in the Union Budget 2024-25.
- **Initiatives:**
  - ❖ Facilitate employment, skilling, and other opportunities for 41 million youth over a five-year period.
  - ❖ Central outlay of Rs 2 lakh crore.
- **Nodal Body:** EPFO is the nodal body for rolling out the benefits under the three schemes.

### About ELI Schemes

- **Overall Aim:** Create over two crore jobs in the country in a period of two years.

- **Scheme A:** Government reimburses one month's wage up to Rs 15,000 in three installments for first-time workforce entrants.
- **Scheme B:**
  - ❖ Focus on bulk hiring in manufacturing.
  - ❖ Reimbursements: 24%, 24%, 16%, and 8% of the wage, shared equally between employee and employer.
  - ❖ Employer must hire 50 or 25% of baseline EPFO employee strength and retain them for at least 12 months.
- **Scheme C:** Government reimburses employer's EPFO share up to Rs 3,000 per month for two years.
- These schemes aim to boost employment and skill development across India.

### UNION CABINET APPROVES PMAY-U 2.0 SCHEME; ONE CRORE HOUSES TO BE BUILT FOR URBAN POOR & MIDDLE-CLASS FAMILIES

- **Financial Assistance:** Provided to one crore urban poor and middle-class families through states and Union Territories to construct, purchase, or rent a house at an affordable cost in urban areas over five years.
- **Government Assistance:** Rs 2.30 trillion under the scheme.

### PMAY-U Overview

- **Launch Year:** 2015
- **Objective:** Provide all-weather 'pucca' houses to eligible candidates in urban areas.
- **Target Groups:** Families from economically weaker sections (EWS), low income group (LIG), and middle income group (MIG) who do not own a pucca house anywhere in India.

### Eligibility Criteria

- **EWS Households:** Families with an annual income up to Rs 3 lakh.
- **LIG Households:** Families with an annual income from Rs 3 lakh to Rs 6 lakh.
- **MIG Households:** Families with an annual income from Rs 6 lakh to Rs 9 lakh.

### Interest Subsidy Scheme

- **Loan Details:** Beneficiaries taking loans up to Rs 25 lakh for houses valued up to Rs 35 lakh will receive a 4% interest subsidy on the first Rs 8 lakh loan for up to 12 years.
- **Maximum Subsidy:** Eligible beneficiaries can receive a maximum subsidy of Rs 1.80 lakh in 5-yearly instalments.
- This scheme aims to provide affordable housing solutions to urban poor and middle-class families in India.

### KIREN RIJJU LAUNCHES PORTAL FOR JIYO PARSI SCHEME

- **Portal Launch:** Enables Parsi couples to apply online under the scheme.
- **Scheme Overview:** Jiyo Parsi Scheme, launched in 2013-14, aims to arrest the population decline of the Parsi community in India.
- **Components of the Scheme:**
  - ❖ **Medical Assistance:** Financial assistance for medical treatment of Parsi couples.
  - ❖ **Health of Community:** Financial assistance for child care and elderly assistance for Parsi couples.
  - ❖ **Advocacy:** Outreach programs to generate awareness among the Parsi population.

### GOVT LAUNCHES CASHLESS TREATMENT SCHEME FOR ROAD CRASH VICTIMS

- **Scheme Formulation:** Ministry of Road Transport & Highways, in collaboration with National Health Authority (NHA), initiated a pilot scheme in Chandigarh and Assam.
- **Cashless Treatment:** Victims entitled to cashless treatment up to Rs. 1.5 lakhs per accident per person for a maximum period of 7 days from the date of the accident.
- **Applicability:** Applicable to all road accidents caused by the use of motor vehicles on any category of road.
- **AB PM-JAY Packages:** Trauma and polytrauma cases included.
- **Claims Reimbursement:** Hospitals' claims for treatment to be reimbursed from the Motor Vehicle Accident Fund.
- **Implementing Agency:** National Health Authority (NHA) to coordinate with police, hospitals, State Health Agency (SHA), etc.
- **Management:** Scheme managed by the Motor Vehicle Accident Fund, established under Section 164B of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988.

### PM JAN DHAN YOJANA COMPLETES A DECADE; 53 CRORE BENEFICIARIES SO FAR

- **10-Year Milestone:** Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) completes 10 years of implementation.
- **Launch Date:** Initiated by PM Modi on August 28, 2014.
- **Objective:** National Mission for Financial Inclusion to provide access to financial services (savings & deposit accounts, remittance, credit, insurance, pension) affordably.
- **Current Year Goal:** Government aims to open over 3 crore accounts under PMJDY in 2024-25.
- **JAM Trinity:** Jan Dhan, Aadhaar, Mobile has boosted the Direct Benefit Transfer programme, expanding its coverage.
- **Financial Inclusion Index:** Increased from 60.1 in March

2023 to 64.2 in March 2024.

- **No Charges:** No account opening, maintenance, or minimum balance charges.
- **Free RuPay Debit Card:** Includes accident insurance cover of Rs 2 lakh and overdraft facility up to Rs 10,000.
- **Eligibility:** PMJDY accounts eligible for Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT), PMJJBY, PMSBY, APY, and MUDRA scheme.
- Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY), Atal Pension Yojana (APY), Micro Units Development & Refinance Agency Bank (MUDRA) Scheme.

### FINANCIAL INCLUSION (FI) INDEX BY RBI

- **Annual Measure:** Published yearly by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in July.
- **Parameters:** Based on three parameters:
  - ❖ Access (35%)
  - ❖ Usage (45%)
  - ❖ Quality (20%)
- **Range:** Scores range from 0 to 100, where 0 indicates complete financial exclusion and 100 indicates full financial inclusion.
- **Indicators:** Comprises 97 indicators covering:
  - ❖ Banking
  - ❖ Investments
  - ❖ Insurance
  - ❖ Postal services
  - ❖ Pensions
- **No Base Year:** Constructed without any base year.

### GOVERNMENT LAUNCHES SHE-BOX PORTAL FOR SAFER WORKPLACES

- **Launch:** Union Women and Child Development Minister Annapurna Devi launched the She-Box portal.
- **Purpose:** Centralised platform to address and manage complaints of sexual harassment.
- **Features:**
  - ❖ Designated nodal officer for real-time monitoring of complaints.
  - ❖ Ensures timely processing of grievances.

### SPORTS MINISTER LAUNCHES RESET PROGRAMME FOR RETIRED ATHLETES

- **Launch:** Union Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya launched the "Retired Sportsperson Empowerment Training" (RESET) Programme on National Sports Day in New Delhi.
- **Purpose:** Supports retired athletes in career development by providing necessary knowledge and skills to enhance

employability.

### Eligibility:

- Retired athletes aged 20-50 years.
- Winners of international medals/participants in international events.
- National medallists/State medallists/participants in competitions recognized by National Sports Federations/ Indian Olympic Association/Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.

### Programme Details:

- Two levels based on educational qualifications: Class 12th and above, and Class 11th and below.
- Lead Institute: Lakshmibai National Institute of Physical Education (LNIPE) for the pilot phase.

### CENTRE UNVEILS KRISHI-DSS TO SUPPORT FARMERS

- **Krishi-Decision Support System (K-DSS):** A satellite-based geospatial platform.
  - ❖ Provides information on weather, groundwater levels, soil health, reservoir storage levels, etc.
  - ❖ Includes data like satellite images.
- **Early Warnings:** Utilizes satellite imagery to deliver early warnings about potential disasters such as pest attacks and extreme weather events.
- **Digital Public Infrastructure for Agriculture:** Part of the initiative announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in her Budget speech on July 23.
- **Historical Use of Space Technologies:** Applied in the farm sector since 1969, with a focus on extending their use beyond paddy and wheat.
- **Development:** Platform developed using RISAT-1A and VEDAS of the Department of Space.
  - ❖ **RISAT-1A:** Radar Satellite-1.
  - ❖ **VEDAS:** Visualization of Earth observation Data and Archival System.

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

- **Operational Guidelines:** Issued for the implementation of Model Solar Village under PM-Surya Ghar-Muft Bijli Yojana.
- **Scheme Focus:** Creating one Model Solar Village per district across the country.
- **Financial Outlay:** Total of 800 crore rupees allocated, providing 1 crore rupees per selected Model Solar Village.
- **Eligibility:**
  - ❖ Village must be a revenue village.

- ❖ Population size above 5,000 or 2,000 for special category states.

### 'ONE INDIA-ONE TICKET' INITIATIVE TO BOOST TOURISM

- The Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) and the National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC) have collaborated to launch the 'One India-One Ticket' initiative.
- This initiative aims to enhance the travel experience for passengers on Indian Railways and Namo Bharat Trains.
- The Namo Bharat is an Indian Electric Multiple Unit (EMU) train built for RapidX (Regional Rapid Transit services).
- The Delhi-Meerut RapidX was inaugurated in 2023.
- It will allow passengers to book Namo Bharat tickets through IRCTC platform with flexible cancellation and payment.
- Passengers can generate Unique QR code for Namo Bharat train ticket. (Valid for 4 Days)
- Namo Bharat tickets can be booked up to 120 days in advance, aligning with the current Railway reservation window.

### Lok Sabha passes Bharatiya Vayuyan Vidheyak 2024

Aspect	Details
Event	Lok Sabha passes the Bhartiya Vayuyan Vidheyak Bill 2024
Date	August 9, 2024
Objective of the Bill	Replace the 90-year-old Aircraft Act, 1934 and improve ease of doing business in aviation
Reasons for Replacement	Address ambiguities and confusion - Remove redundancies Simplify processes
Scope of the Bill	Regulate design, manufacture, maintenance, possession, use, operation, sale, export, or import of aircraft
Key Additions	Changed definition of aircraft (removal of balloons and gliders) Enhanced powers to DGCA, BCAS, and AAIB
Government Powers	Empowered to suspend, cancel, or restrict licenses or certifications Added second appeal mechanism



New Provisions	Hearing opportunity before license suspension/cancellation Introduction of an interim appeal (Earlier one appeal & final Sec MOCA)
----------------	---



PM Gati Shakti (launched in 2021) is a National Master Plan for multi-modal connectivity



It will incorporate the infrastructure schemes of various Ministries and State Governments like **Bharatmala**, **Sagarmala**, inland waterways, dry/land ports, UDAN etc.



Under the programme, 100 critical infrastructure gap projects have been prioritized in FY24 for development with a budgetary allocation of Rs. 75,000 crores.

## CBSE LAUNCHES SAFAL TEST CYCLE 2024 TO REDUCE EXAM STRESS

### Key Features:

- **First-of-its-kind “census” on learning gaps:** Aims to help plan timely remedial action.
- **Competency-based Assessment:** For Grades 3, 5, and 8, assessing core concepts, application of knowledge, and higher-order thinking skills.
- **Move away from rote learning:** Tests core concepts in all schools.
- **Diagnostic information:** Shared for the development of learning outcomes.
- **Proficiency levels:** Assesses students at four levels of skills and knowledge:
  - ❖ Below Basic (2 years below Grade)
  - ❖ Basic (1 year below Grade)
  - ❖ Proficient (Current Grade)
  - ❖ Advanced (Current Grade)
- **No additional classes or special preparations:** Required for students to take SAFAL.
- **Promotes skill development and employability:** Aligns with the country's workforce needs.

## NCERT PROPOSES 10 BAGLESS DAYS FOR SCHOOL STUDENTS IN CLASSES 6 – 8

### Key Features:

- **Guidelines Released:** By the National Council for Educational Research and Training (NCERT) for classes 6 to 8.
- **Objective:** To make learning more experiential and stress-free.
- **Development:** Guidelines developed by Pandit Sunderlal Sharma Central Institute of Vocational Education, the vocational education unit of NCERT.
- **Context:** Comes after the new National Education Policy (NEP), 2020.
- **Activities During Bagless Days:**
  - ❖ Visits to monuments of historical, cultural, and tourist importance.
  - ❖ Meetings with local artists and craftsmen.
- Visits to higher educational institutions in their village or tehsil.

Project Name	Location
Hazira – Gothangam New Rail Line	Gujarat
Bilasipara - Guwahati Road	Assam
Multi-Modal Logistics Park (MMLP)	Nashik, Maharashtra
Development of New Civil Enclave at Bihta Airport	Patna, Bihar
Development of New Civil Enclave at Bagdogra Airport	Siliguri, West Bengal
Development of International Container Transshipment Port	Galathea Bay, Andaman & Nicobar



## UNION HEALTH MINISTRY ISSUES FIRST-EVER SOPS FOR TRANSPORTING HUMAN ORGANS

### Key Features:

- **Objective:** Ensuring maximum utilisation of human organs.
- **Airlines:**
  - ❖ Can request Air Traffic Control for priority take-off and landing.
  - ❖ Arrange front-row seats for medical personnel.
  - ❖ Request priority reservation and late check-in for medical personnel.
- **Communication:** Source airport will inform and communicate with the destination airport to facilitate the arrival process.
- **Green Corridor:**
  - ❖ Define a “green corridor” free from obstruction.

- ❖ Provide a trolley for the organ box from ambulance to aircraft and vice versa.
- **One Trigger System:** Request from the organ allocation authority (NOTTO/ROTO/SOTTO) to initiate the process of organ transport by creating green corridors.
- **Nodal Officer:** Appointed from the police department to handle issues related to the creation of green corridors in each state/city.
- **Metro Transport:**
  - ❖ Metro Traffic Control should accord priority transit for metros carrying live human organs.
  - ❖ Metro security staff should escort the clinical team carrying the organ box until boarding.
- **Organ Box Handling:**
  - ❖ Keep the organ box in an upright, straight vertical position at 90 degrees during transport.
  - ❖ Label the organ box with “handle with care”.
- **Challenge:** Organ transport identified as a challenge under the National Organ Transplant Program.

### UNION HEALTH MINISTRY ISSUES FIRST-EVER SOPS FOR TRANSPORTING HUMAN ORGANS

#### Key Features:

- **Objective:** Ensuring maximum utilisation of human organs.
- **Airlines:**
  - ❖ Can request Air Traffic Control for priority take-off and landing.
  - ❖ Arrange front-row seats for medical personnel.
  - ❖ Request priority reservation and late check-in for medical personnel.
- **Communication:** Source airport will inform and communicate with the destination airport to facilitate the arrival process.
- **Green Corridor:**
  - ❖ Define a “green corridor” free from obstruction.
  - ❖ Provide a trolley for the organ box from ambulance to aircraft and vice versa.
- **One Trigger System:** Request from the organ allocation authority (NOTTO/ROTO/SOTTO) to initiate the process of organ transport by creating green corridors.
- **Nodal Officer:** Appointed from the police department to handle issues related to the creation of green corridors in each state/city.
- **Metro Transport:**
  - ❖ Metro Traffic Control should accord priority transit for metros carrying live human organs.
  - ❖ Metro security staff should escort the clinical team carrying the organ box until boarding.

#### ➤ Organ Box Handling:

- ❖ Keep the organ box in an upright, straight vertical position at 90 degrees during transport.
- ❖ Label the organ box with “handle with care”.
- **Challenge:** Organ transport identified as a challenge under the National Organ Transplant Program.

### UNION GOVERNMENT TO FORM COMMITTEE FOR ENSURING SAFETY OF HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS

#### Key Features:

- **Decision Basis:** Concerns expressed by various healthcare stakeholders, including FORDA (Federation of Resident Doctors Association) and IMA (Indian Medical Association).
- **State Government Involvement:** Invited to present their suggestions to the committee.
- **FIR Registration:**
  - ❖ Government hospitals directed to register an FIR within six hours against any verbal abuse or physical violence towards healthcare staff.
  - ❖ The head of the institution is responsible for filing the FIR within the stipulated time period.

### HEALTH MINISTRY ANNOUNCES MEASURES TO ENHANCE SECURITY FOR HEALTHCARE EMPLOYEES

#### Key Features:

- **Women Health Professionals:**
  - ❖ Preferably not deployed for night duty alone.
  - ❖ Should be escorted on premises while on duty.
  - ❖ Proper arrangement of secured transport for any movement at night.
- **Duty Rooms:**
  - ❖ Adequate number of well-secured duty rooms with basic amenities for female health professionals.
- **Security Measures:**
  - ❖ Strict monitoring of entry and exit.
  - ❖ Limiting the number of people allowed in for patients.
  - ❖ Conducting mock drills for emergency situations.
  - ❖ Mandatory display of identity cards by all hospital staff while on duty.
  - ❖ Mapping of dark spots on the campus to enhance security.
- **Article 39(e):**
  - ❖ The State shall ensure that the health and strength of workers, men and women, and the tender age of children are not abused..

- ❖ Citizens are not forced by economic necessity to enter avocations unsuited to their age or strength.

### INDIA HOSTS 3RD VOICE OF GLOBAL SOUTH SUMMIT VIRTUALLY

#### Event Details

- India hosted the 3rd Voice of Global South Summit on 17th August virtually.
- The theme was “An Empowered Global South for a Sustainable Future.”
- The summit was held in a virtual format, structured into Leaders’ Session and Ministerial sessions.

#### Discussion Topics

- Discussions covered a range of complex global challenges such as conflicts, food and energy security crises, and climate change.

#### Participation

- 123 countries joined the summit; China and Pakistan were not invited.
- 21 countries whose heads of state and government attended the summit included: Bangladesh, Belarus, Bhutan, Chile, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Fiji, Grenada, Guyana, Lao PDR, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mongolia, Nepal, Oman, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Tajikistan, Timor Leste, Uruguay and Vietnam

#### Leadership

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired the Leaders’ session at the summit.

### INDIA HOSTS FIRST BIMSTEC BUSINESS SUMMIT

- The first BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) Business Summit is being held in New Delhi from 6 to 8 August 2024.
- Organized by the Ministry of External Affairs in association with the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII).
- Inaugurated by the External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar.
- Attended by ministers of the BIMSTEC countries, high-ranking government officials, policymakers, entrepreneurs, and industry associations.
- BIMSTEC is an economic bloc initially formed with four member states: Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, and Thailand on June 6, 1997, through the Bangkok Declaration.
- Nepal became a full-time member of the bloc along with Bhutan in February 2004.
- Current members: Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Nepal, and Bhutan.

- Permanent Secretariat: Dhaka, Bangladesh.

### INDIA HOSTS FIRST BIMSTEC BUSINESS SUMMIT

#### Event Details

- The first BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) Business Summit meeting is being held in New Delhi from 6 to 8 August 2024.
- Organized by the Ministry of External Affairs in association with the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII).
- Inaugurated by the External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar.

#### Participation

- Attended by ministers of the BIMSTEC countries, high-ranking government officials, policymakers, entrepreneurs, and industry associations.

#### BIMSTEC Overview

- BIMSTEC is an economic bloc initially formed with four member states: Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, and Thailand on June 6, 1997, through the Bangkok Declaration.
- Nepal became a full-time member of the bloc along with Bhutan in February 2004.
- Current members: Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Nepal, and Bhutan.
- Permanent Secretariat: Dhaka, Bangladesh.

### INDIA AND JAPAN TO HOLD THIRD 2+2 DIALOGUE IN NEW DELHI

#### Key Points:

- **Participants:**
  - ❖ India’s Defence Minister Rajnath Singh
  - ❖ India’s External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar
  - ❖ Japan’s Minister of Defence Kihara Minoru
  - ❖ Japan’s Minister of Foreign Affairs Yoko Kamikawa
- **Event Details:**
  - ❖ Date: August 20
  - ❖ Location: New Delhi
- **Purpose:**
  - ❖ To further deepen defence cooperation
  - ❖ To strengthen the Special Strategic and Global Partnership between India and Japan
- **Historical Context:**
  - ❖ First edition held in India in 2019
  - ❖ Second edition held in Japan in 2022



➤ **Significance:**

- ❖ India has the '2+2' ministerial format of dialogue with very few countries, including the U.S., Australia, and Russia

**INDIA TO HOST 2024 QUAD SUMMIT**

- S. Jaishankar attended the QUAD Foreign Ministers meeting in Tokyo, Japan.
- United States will host the 2025 QUAD foreign ministers' meeting.
- India will host the 6th QUAD Summit meeting in New Delhi in 2024.
- The first Summit of QUAD leaders (virtual meeting) was hosted by President Joe Biden of the United States in March 2021.
- The 5th summit was hosted by Japan in May 2023, in Hiroshima on the 20th May, after the Summit in Australia was cancelled.

**What is QUAD?**

- QUAD, also known as the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue or simply the Quad, is a strategic forum comprising four countries: the United States, Japan, India, and Australia.
- First mooted by Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in 2007.
- In November 2017, India, the US, Australia, and Japan gave shape to the long-pending "Quad" Coalition to develop a new strategy to keep the critical sea routes in the Indo-Pacific free of any influence (especially China).

**PM MODI TO INAUGURATE 32ND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMISTS (ICAE)**

- **Date and Location:** August 3, 2024, in New Delhi, marking the event's return to India after 65 years.
- **Duration:** Six-day triennial conference.
- **Organizer:** International Association of Agricultural Economists.
- **Theme:** "Transformation Towards Sustainable Agri-Food Systems".
- **Participants:** Around 1,000 delegates from approximately 75 countries.
- **Objectives:**
  - ❖ Address the pressing need for sustainable agriculture in the face of global challenges such as climate change, natural resource degradation, rising production costs, and conflicts.
  - ❖ Provide a platform for young researchers and leading professionals to present their work and network with global peers.

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

- **India's Election:** India has been elected as vice-chair of the **Supply Chain Council**, one of the three bodies established by the 14-member **Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF) bloc**.
- **Supply Chain Council (SCC):** USA (Chair), India (Vice-Chair).
- **Crisis Response Network (CRN):** Republic of Korea (Chair), Japan (Vice-Chair).
- **Labor Rights Advisory Board (LRAB):** USA (Chair), Fiji (Vice-Chair).
- **Objectives of IPEF Supply Chain Council:**
  - ❖ Mitigate risks of economic disruptions from supply chain shocks.
  - ❖ Improve crisis coordination.
  - ❖ Reduce member countries' dependence on China.

**TRAI MANDATES IMMEDIATE STOP TO PROMOTIONAL CALLS FROM UNREGISTERED TELEMARKETERS**

- **Major Step to Curb Spam Calls:**
  - ❖ The **Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)** has mandated all service providers to **stop voice promotional calls, whether pre-recorded, computer-generated, or otherwise, from all unregistered senders or telemarketers**.
- **Immediate Action Required:**
  - ❖ All promotional voice calls from unregistered senders/unregistered telemarketers using telecom resources (SIP/PRI/other telecom resources) must be stopped immediately.
- **Penalties for Misuse:**
  - ❖ If any unregistered sender/unregistered telemarketer is found misusing telecom resources, all telecom resources of such sender will be disconnected by the access provider for a period of up to two years.
  - ❖ Such a sender will be blacklisted for a period of up to two years.
  - ❖ No new telecom resources will be allocated to such a sender by any access provider during the period of blacklisting.

This move by TRAI is a significant step towards reducing the nuisance of spam calls.

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

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

### About Citizenship Amendment Act 2019

- The citizenship laws in India derived their origins from the constitution under **Articles 5-11** and the **Citizenship Act of 1955**.
- This Act provided provisions for **citizenship by birth, descent, registration, and naturalisation**.
- It **amended the Citizenship Act of 1955 to make illegal migrants** who are **Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis, and Christians** from **Afghanistan, Bangladesh, and Pakistan**, eligible for Indian citizenship.
- Those from these communities **who entered India on or before December 31, 2014, would not be treated as illegal immigrants**, providing a path to naturalisation.
- However, it **exempts the Muslim community**.

### Relaxation

- The amendment relaxed the residency requirement from 11 years to 6 years for these communities to acquire Indian citizenship by naturalization.
- It exempts members of these communities from prosecution under the Foreigners Act of 1946 and the Passport Act of 1920.
- Applicants are exempt from being considered “illegal immigrants”.

### Exception

- The amendments for illegal migrants will not apply to certain tribal (under Sixth Schedule) areas in Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, and Tripura.
- It also does not apply to states regulated by the “Inner Line” permit (Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Nagaland, Manipur, and Ladakh) under the Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulations 1873.

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

### News

- The Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) has imposed a penalty of Rs 3 lakh on Sriram's IAS for advertising misleading claims regarding the result of UPSC Civil Service Exam 2022, according to the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution.

- Instead of the 200 selections as claimed by the institute, there were only 171 selected candidates.
- Out of these 171 candidates, 102 were from the Free Interview Guidance Programme (IGP) and 55 were from the Free Test Series.
- Nidhi Khare is the Chief Commissioner of CCPA.

### About Central Consumer Protection Authority

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

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

- Purandar (Pune) Highlands Farmers Producer Company Ltd is exporting its award-winning fig juice, made from GI-tagged Purandar Figs, to Poland.
- This marks the first time Indian fig juice will reach the European market.
- The ready-to-drink fig juice, which has been granted a provisional patent, is manufactured by Purandar Highlands and has garnered significant recognition.
- It received accolades at SIAL 2023 and Macfrut Italy.
- The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (Apeda) has facilitated the export.

### GOVERNMENT TO LAUNCH 'KISANO KI BAAT' RADIO PROGRAMME

- The program will start in September.
- Its aim is to make science accessible to farmers.
- It will be modeled after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's monthly Mann Ki Baat programme on Akashvani.
- Along with Union Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister Shivraj Singh Chauhan, agricultural scientists and department officials will provide information to the farmers.

### GOVT ASKS UPSC TO CANCEL ADVERTISEMENT RELATED TO LATERAL ENTRY IN BUREAUCRACY

### Advertisement Details

- The Union Service Public Commission (UPSC) issued an advertisement to recruit for multiple roles in certain Central Ministries through lateral entry, either on a contract basis

or through deputation.

- The advertisement is for 45 posts across 24 ministries.
- These posts include **joint secretary, director, and deputy secretary positions** in several departments/ministries.
- The application was open to “**talented and motivated Indian nationals willing to contribute towards nation-building.**”

### What is Lateral Entry?

- In a lateral entry to the civil services, **persons are recruited from outside the usual bureaucratic setup for certain posts in government departments.**
- In India, this may include **mid or senior-level positions in services such as the Indian Administrative Service.**
- Lateral entry envisages the inclusion of **domain experts** or those with experience in policy-making and implementation from outside the civil services.
- In India, **lateral entry into certain posts in the Central government was implemented by the Modi government in 2018.**
- The concept, however, was **reportedly spearheaded by the Congress-led UPA government and recommended by the Second Administrative Reforms Commission formed in 2005** under the chairmanship of former Union Law Minister and Congress leader M. Veerappa Moily.

### Criticism

- Lateral entry has invited criticism and controversy since its inception in India. In **2019, Dalit and other civil servants objected to the scheme, saying that candidates hired by lateral entry were not subject to reservation requirements.**
- Notably, other **countries have regularised lateral entry into administrative posts, including the United States, the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, and Belgium.**

### NATIONAL PEST SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM

- Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan launched the AI-based mobile app, National Pest Surveillance System (NPSS).

### Features and Benefits

- **Farmer Connectivity:** Farmers can send photos of crops affected by pests or insects directly from their fields. These images will reach scientists and experts.
- **Accurate Diagnosis and Treatment:** The system will help in accurate diagnosis and provide precise treatment recommendations.

This initiative aims to enhance pest control measures and support farmers in managing crop health more effectively.

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

#### Operational Milestone

- India's second home-built 700 MW nuclear power reactor at Kakrapar Atomic Power Station (KAPS) in Gujarat has started operating at its full capacity.

#### Significance

- The full power operation of KAPS-4, following the smooth operation of its twin unit KAPS-3, demonstrates the strength of the **first-of-its-kind indigenous 700 MW Pressurised Heavy Water Reactor (PHWR) design.**

#### Future Plans

- India is building 14 more 700 MW nuclear power reactors of the same design, which are expected to commence operations progressively by 2031-32.

#### Project Details

- The Kakrapar Atomic Power Project is built by the **Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL)**, a public sector undertaking of the Department of Atomic Energy.

### SUPREME COURT PERMITS SUB-CLASSIFICATION WITHIN SCHEDULED CASTES & SCHEDULED TRIBES

- **Landmark Verdict:** In a 6:1 decision on August 1, the Supreme Court allowed the sub-categorisation of Scheduled Castes in reservations, providing wider protection for underrepresented groups.
- **Constitution Bench:** A seven-judge Constitution bench, led by Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud, ruled on the permissibility of sub-classification of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for reservation purposes.
- **Impact on States:** The ruling will significantly affect states aiming to offer broader protection to certain castes that remain grossly underrepresented despite existing reservations, compared to the so-called **dominant Scheduled Castes.**
- **Non-Homogenous Class:** The court acknowledged that “historical and empirical evidence indicates that Scheduled Castes are not a homogenous class.”
- **Re-examination of 2004 Judgment:** The bench reviewed its 2004 judgment in EV Chinnaiah vs State of Andhra Pradesh, which had held that Scheduled Castes formed a homogenous group and thus could not be subdivided.
- **Preventing Benefit Grab:** The Supreme Court noted that not allowing sub-classification would result in the “advanced among” the Scheduled Castes “grabbing all benefits.”



## SUPREME COURT'S 2004 JUDGEMENT ON SC RESERVATIONS

### Background

- **1975 Punjab Notification:**
  - ❖ The Punjab government issued a notification dividing its 25% SC reservation into two categories.
  - ❖ **First Category:** Reserved solely for the Balmiki and Mazhabi Sikh communities, considered among the most economically and educationally backward in the state.
  - ❖ **Second Category:** Consisted of the rest of the SC communities.
  - ❖ The policy gave first preference for reservation in education and public employment to the first category.

### Legal Challenges

- **2000 Andhra Pradesh Law:**
  - ❖ Andhra Pradesh introduced the Scheduled Castes (Rationalisation of Reservations) Act, 2000, which faced legal challenges.

### Supreme Court's 2004 Judgement (E.V. Chinnaiah vs State of Andhra Pradesh)

- **Key Points:**
  - ❖ A five-judge Constitution Bench struck down the Andhra Pradesh law for violating the right to equality.
  - ❖ The court held that sub-classification within the SC list would violate the right to equality.
  - ❖ The SC list must be treated as a single, homogenous group.
  - ❖ Only the President has the power to notify which communities receive reservation benefits as per Article 341 of the Constitution.
  - ❖ States do not have the power to interfere with or disturb this list, including through sub-classification.
- This judgement emphasized the central role of the President in determining SC reservations and reinforced the principle of equality within the SC list.

## INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON LAW AND TECHNOLOGY INAUGURATED IN KERALA

### Conference Details

- **Title:** "Law and Technology: Sustainable, Transport, Tourism and Technological Innovations"
- **Organized by:** Commonwealth Legal Education Association
- **Location:** Kumarakom, Kottayam district, Kerala
- **Duration:** 3 days

### Inauguration

- **Inaugurated by:**
  - ❖ Chief Justice of India, Dr. D.Y. Chandrachud
  - ❖ Chief Justice of Seychelles, Justice Roney Govinden

### Objectives

- Foster international cooperation
- Share best practices
- Develop innovative legal solutions to complex challenges in sustainable transport and tourism
- This conference aims to bring together experts to address pressing issues at the intersection of law and technology.

## SC CONSTITUTES 10-MEMBER 'NATIONAL TASK FORCE' FOR DOCTOR SAFETY PROTOCOL

### Background

- **Case:** The Supreme Court was hearing a suo motu case related to the rape and murder of a postgraduate trainee doctor at the RG Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata.

### Task Force Details

- **Objective:** Formulate a protocol for ensuring the safety of doctors.
- **Interim Report:** To be submitted within three weeks.
- **Final Report:** To be submitted within two months.
- **Recommendations:** The NTF will suggest appropriate timelines for implementing recommendations based on existing hospital facilities.

### Members

- **Ex-Officio Members:**
  - ❖ Cabinet Secretary
  - ❖ Home Secretary to the Union government
  - ❖ Ministry of Health Secretary
  - ❖ Chairperson, National Medical Commission
  - ❖ President, National Board of Examinations

This task force aims to develop comprehensive safety protocols to protect doctors in their workplaces.

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

### Key Judgement Details

- **Date:** August 5
- **Ruling:** The Supreme Court held that the Lieutenant Governor (L-G) of Delhi has the authority to nominate 10 persons with special knowledge of municipal administration to the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD).

- **Statutory Duty:** This authority is a statutory duty attached to the L-G's office, and he is not bound by the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers.

### Bench Details

- **Judges:** Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud, Justices P.S. Narasimha, and J.B. Pardiwala.
- **Order:** The bench stated that the statutory power under Section 3(3)(b)(i) to nominate persons of special knowledge was vested in the L-G by the 1993 amendment to the Delhi Municipal Corporation Act, 1957. This amendment was made to incorporate Constitutional changes through Articles 239AA, 239AB, and the introduction of Part IX-A relating to municipalities.

This ruling clarifies the extent of the L-G's powers in the context of municipal administration in Delhi.

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

### Key Judgement Details

- **Date:** August 5
- **Ruling:** The Supreme Court held that the Lieutenant Governor (L-G) of Delhi has the authority to nominate 10 persons with special knowledge of municipal administration to the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD).
- **Statutory Duty:** This authority is a statutory duty attached to the L-G's office, and he is not bound by the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers.

### Bench Details

- **Judges:** Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud, Justices P.S. Narasimha, and J.B. Pardiwala.
- **Order:** The bench stated that the statutory power under Section 3(3)(b)(i) to nominate persons of special knowledge was vested in the L-G by the 1993 amendment to the Delhi Municipal Corporation Act, 1957. This amendment was made to incorporate Constitutional changes through Articles 239AA, 239AB, and the introduction of Part IX-A relating to municipalities.

This ruling clarifies the extent of the L-G's powers in the context of municipal administration in Delhi.

### JGU TO ESTABLISH INDIA'S FIRST CONSTITUTION MUSEUM

### Key Details

- **Institution:** O.P. Jindal Global University (JGU)
- **Occasion:** Marking the 75th anniversary of the adoption of the Constitution of India
- **Museum Name:** "The Constitution Academy and The Rights & Freedoms Museum"

- **Inauguration Date:** November 26, 2024
- **Location:** JGU campus

### Objectives

- **Platform:** To showcase the Constitution as a "living, breathing, and growing document"

This museum aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of the Indian Constitution and its evolution over the years.

### PRICE MONITORING SYSTEM MOBILE APP 4.0 LAUNCHED TO CURB INFLATION

- The Ministry of Consumer Affairs launched Version 4.0 of the Price Monitoring System (PMS) Mobile App.
- Added 16 new commodities for daily price monitoring, totaling 38 items.
- Monitoring from 550 centres across 34 States/UTs.
- **Purpose and Impact**
  - ❖ The price data monitored by the Department provides advance inputs for policy decisions for the Government, RBI, and analysts regarding the CPI inflation.
- **Leadership**
  - ❖ Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution & New and Renewable Energy: Pralhad Venkatesh Joshi.
- **Government Measures to Contain Food Price Inflation**
  - ❖ Providing Bharat Chana Dal at Rs.60 per kg.
  - ❖ Providing Bharat Atta at Rs.27.50 per kg.
  - ❖ Providing Bharat Rice at Rs.29 per kg to retail consumers.

### India Adds Three New Ramsar Sites, Total Now 85

### New Ramsar Sites

- Nanjarayan Bird Sanctuary
- Kazhuveli Bird Sanctuary in Tamil Nadu
- Tawa Reservoir in Madhya Pradesh

### Ramsar Convention

- India is a contracting party to the Ramsar Convention, signed in Ramsar, Iran, on 2nd February, 1971.
- India became a signatory in 1982.

### Ramsar Sites in India

- Tamil Nadu harbours the maximum number of Ramsar sites (18 sites), followed by Uttar Pradesh (10 sites).
- India has 19 types of wetlands, with Gujarat having the maximum area, followed by Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal.
- India's Ramsar wetlands comprise around 10% of the total wetland area in the country across 18 States.

### Global Context

- The United Kingdom (175) and Mexico (142) have the maximum Ramsar sites.
- Bolivia spans the largest area under the Convention's protection, with 148,000 sq. km.

### Bharat Jodo Abhiyaan Launches Jana Gana Mana Abhiyaan Campaign

#### Campaign Details

- **Organizer:** Bharat Jodo Abhiyaan (BJA), a civil society platform.
- **Duration:** Eight-month campaign from August 15 (Independence Day) to April 14, 2025 (Ambedkar Jayanti).

#### Objectives

- Promote constitutional values.
- Protect democratic institutions.
- Strengthen non-violent political, ideological, and cultural resistance to defend the Republic.

### NDMA TO MONITOR 189 HIGH-RISK GLACIAL LAKES TO PREVENT DISASTERS

#### Background

- Following disasters caused by overflowing glacial lakes in the Himalayas, the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has finalized a list of 189 "high-risk" glacial lakes for mitigation measures.

#### Mitigation Programme

- The National Glacial Lake Outburst Floods Risk Mitigation Programme (NGRMP) was approved by the Centre on July 25.

#### Glacial Lakes and GLOFs

- **Glacial Lakes:** Water bodies formed from melting glaciers.
- **Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs):** Sudden releases of water and sediment from lakes blocked by natural barriers like moraines or glacier ice.

#### Monitoring and Challenges

- India has around 7,500 glacial lakes in the Himalayas.
- Some lakes are monitored by remote sensing.
- Full impact assessments are challenging due to their remote, inhospitable locations, accessible only during the brief July to September period for expeditions.

### INDIA DEVELOPS INDIGENOUS RT-PCR TESTING KIT FOR MPOX

#### Approval and Manufacturing

- The Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation has granted approval to Siemens Healthineers for the manufacture of RT-PCR testing kits for the detection of Mpox.
- The kits will be manufactured at the company's unit in Vadodara, with a production capacity of one million tests per annum.

#### Testing Kit Features

- Test results will be available in 40 minutes.
- The IMDX Monkeypox Detection RT-PCR Assay is a molecular diagnostic test targeting two distinct regions in the viral genome, covering both clade I and clade II variants of the virus.

#### Testing Infrastructure

- India has 32 laboratories equipped for testing Mpox.

#### Global Health Context

- On August 14, the World Health Organization classified the outbreak of Mpox as a global health emergency.
- A new strain of the disease has spread beyond the Democratic Republic of Congo to at least 12 other African countries.

### CYCLONE ASNA TO DEVELOP IN ARABIAN SEA

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



## STATE NEWS

## J&amp;K

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

- **Objective:** Aims to inculcate a habit of book reading among the youth.
- **Event Details:**
  - ❖ A week-long national event titled 'Chinar Book Festival' commenced at Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC) in Srinagar.
  - ❖ Organized by the National Book Trust (NBT).
  - ❖ This festival is the first of its kind in Kashmir.

## UTTARAKHAND

## UTTARAKHAND LAUNCHES GROSS ENVIRONMENT PRODUCT INDEX

- Uttarakhand is the **first state in the world** to assess ecosystem development through the **Gross Environmental Product (GEP) Index**.
- The **Himalayan Environmental Studies and Conservation Organisation (HESCO)** is the creator of the GEP Index.
- **Pillars of the GEP Index:** Air, Soil, Trees and Water

## GEP Index Formula

- $$\text{GEP Index} = (\text{Air-GEP Index} + \text{Water-GEP Index} + \text{Soil-GEP Index} + \text{Forest-GEP Index})$$

## Purpose and Benefits

- Helps in assessing the **impact of anthropological pressure on our ecosystem and natural resources**.
- Measures the **impact of human activities on ecosystems**.
- Quantifies the **economic and welfare benefits of natural ecosystems**.
- Measures contributions back to the environment.

## About HESCO

- HESCO is a **Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO)** formed in 1979.

## PUNJAB

## PUNJAB LAUNCHES "AARAMBH" PROGRAMME TO ENHANCE EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

- **Aarambh Initiative:** Focuses on the holistic development of children attending Anganwadi centres.
- **Skill Development:** Promotes cognitive, pre-literacy, pre-

numeracy, social-emotional, fine, and gross motor skills.

- **Policy Alignment:** Grounded in the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.
- **Curriculum Alignment:** Activities for parents and educators align with the state's curriculum for easy implementation at home.
- **Learning Environment:** Encourages a nurturing, play-based learning environment with active participation from parents and Anganwadi workers.
- **National Initiatives Alignment:** Aligned with national initiatives like "Aadharshila" and "Poshan bhi Padhai bhi" by the Ministry of Women and Child Development.

## HARYANA

## HARYANA CABINET ORDINANCE FOR BACKWARD CLASSES (B) RESERVATIONS IN PANCHAYATI RAJ INSTITUTIONS

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

## UTTAR PRADESH

## CM YOGI ADITYANATH INAUGURATES 'KAKORI TRAIN ACTION' CENTENARY FESTIVAL

- **Shaheed Smriti Vatika:**
  - ❖ The forest department will establish Shaheed Smriti Vatika in every district as a tribute to the martyrs of Kakori.
  - ❖ Preparations are also underway for a Shaheed Smriti Yatra by 100 cyclists to mark the occasion.
- **Kakori Literature Festival:**
  - ❖ A Kakori Literature Festival will be held.
  - ❖ The festival will showcase an exhibition of books related to:
    - Kakori freedom fighters
    - The freedom movement

- The Kakori train action
- **Renaming Reason:**
  - ❖ The term 'Kand' was replaced because it implies a sense of humiliation associated with the incident during India's freedom struggle.
- **The Kakori Train Action:**
  - ❖ A train robbery committed by revolutionaries of the Indian independence movement against the British Raj.
  - ❖ Took place on August 9, 1925, in Kakori, near Lucknow.
- **Revolutionaries Involved:**
  - ❖ The robbery was executed by 10 revolutionaries, including:
    - Ram Prasad Bismil
    - Ashfaqullah Khan
    - Rajendra Lahiri
    - Keshav Chakraborty
    - Mukundi Lal
    - Banwari Lal
- **Significant Outcomes:**
  - ❖ Freedom fighters Ram Prasad Bismil, Ashfaqullah Khan, and Roshan Singh were hanged on December 19, 1927, for their involvement in the Kakori Conspiracy.

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

- **Completion and Operationalization:** The central government has completed and operationalized four major projects worth Rs 920 crore in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar under Namami Gange Mission 2.0.
- **Sewage Treatment Capacity:**
  - ❖ These projects will add 145 megaliters per day (MLD) of sewage treatment capacity.
  - ❖ They will also provide better sewer networks.

#### What is Namami Gange Mission?

- The **Namami Gange Programme** is an Integrated Conservation Mission, approved as a 'Flagship Programme' by the Union Government in June 2014. It has a budget outlay of Rs 20,000 crore and aims to achieve two main objectives:
  - ❖ **Effective Abatement of Pollution:** Reducing pollution levels in the Ganga River.
  - ❖ **Conservation and Rejuvenation:** Conserving and rejuvenating the National River Ganga.

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

- Announced on the 78th Independence Day.

- Aimed at promoting entrepreneurship among youth.
- **Financial Support:** Financial assistance will be provided to young individuals interested in entrepreneurship.
- **Target:** Goal to establish one million micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSME) units across the state.

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

- The 'UP Digital Media Policy 2024' was cleared by the UP cabinet.
- **Advertisement Allocation:** Government to give advertisements to eligible visual and digital media firms and influencers active on X, Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube.
- **Categorization:** Social media agencies will be segregated into four broad categories based on the count of subscribers and followers.
- **Payment Ceilings:**
  - ❖ Maximum payment to account holders, operators, and influencers:
    - ✓ X: Rs 5 lakh per month
    - ✓ Facebook: Rs 4 lakh per month
    - ✓ Instagram: Rs 3 lakh per month
  - ❖ Category-wise ceiling for YouTube content:
    - ✓ Videos: Rs 8 lakh per month
    - ✓ Shorts: Rs 7 lakh per month
    - ✓ Podcasts: Rs 6 lakh per month
    - ✓ Other content: Rs 4 lakh per month
- **Penalties for Derogatory Posts:**
  - ❖ Currently, police book accused under Section 66 (E) and 66 (F) of the IT Act.
  - ❖ New policy provisions:
    - ✓ Punishment ranging from three years to life imprisonment for creating anti-national, obscene, or objectionable content.

#### UP GOVERNMENT TO GIVE SCHOLARSHIPS TO ALL STUDENTS OF SANSKRIT SCHOOLS

- The Uttar Pradesh government decided to give scholarships to all students studying in over 500 Sanskrit schools in the state.
- **Income Limit Removal:**
  - ❖ Previously, only children of families with an annual income up to Rs 50,000 were eligible for scholarships.
  - ❖ The income limit has now been removed.

### ➤ Increased Scholarship Amount:

- ❖ The scholarship amount for students in classes 9 to 12 has been increased.
- ❖ New scholarship amounts range between Rs 50 and Rs 200 per month for students of classes 6-12.

## BIHAR

### BIHAR CM NITISH KUMAR INAUGURATES SPORTS UNIVERSITY ON NATIONAL SPORTS DAY AT RAJGIR

- Chief Minister Nitish Kumar inaugurated Bihar's first Sports Academy and Bihar Sports University.
- The inauguration took place on the occasion of National Sports Day.
- **Location:** The Sports Academy and University are part of the International Sports Complex in Rajgir.

## ASSAM

### FIRST RECORDED SIGHTINGS OF MITHUN BOVINE IN ASSAM

#### Mithun Sightings

- Assam has recorded the mithun (*Bos frontalis*) for the first time, generations after the semi-wild gaur-like animal began to be reared by tribals in the state's hill district of Dima Hasao.
- Mithun is the state animal of Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland and is also found in the hills of Mizoram and Manipur. It is primarily reared for its meat.
- The bovid was presumed to be found nowhere else in India until specialists visited three remote pockets of central Assam's Dima Hasao district a few days ago.
- The region is inhabited by the Zeme Nagas.

#### Recognition and Celebration

- The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) recognized mithun as a meat animal on September 1, 2023.
- The day will be celebrated as Mithun Day in the Northeast.

#### PM-WANI Hotspot Numbers Below Target

**Current Status:** PM-WANI hotspot numbers are presently much below the targeted numbers, as envisaged in the NDCP, 2018 document and in the Bharat 6G vision document.

**Challenges:** In November 2022, the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) communicated to TRAI that the proliferation of the PM-WANI scheme is quite limited and far below the targets due to the extremely high cost of backhaul Internet connectivity charged by telecom service providers (TSPs) and Internet service providers (ISPs) from PDOs.

### THE 'HAATIAPP' DEVELOPED IN ASSAM

- An Assam-based biodiversity organization has developed a mobile phone application for all stakeholders to mitigate human-elephant conflict and coexist with the large animals in the state and elsewhere in the northeast.

#### Features and Launch

- The 'HaatiApp', envisaged as an early warning system about the presence of wild elephants near human settlements, is scheduled to be launched along with a solar fence manual.
- The app will contain the ex-gratia application form for damages caused by depredation by wild elephants.

### ASSAM GOVT APPROVES BILL TO PREVENT UNDERAGE MARRIAGES

- The Assam cabinet approved the Assam Compulsory Registration of Muslim Marriage and Divorce Bill, 2024, mandating Muslims to register marriages and divorces with the government.
- This will eliminate the role of "qazis" in this process and aims to curb child marriages.

#### Key Points

- **Objective:** The Assam government approved a new bill aimed at abolishing the Assam Muslim Marriages and Divorce Registration Act, 1935.
- **Main Focus:** To prevent underage marriages and streamline the registration of Muslim marriages and divorces under government authority.
- **Child Marriage:** The new bill prohibits the registration of child marriages (males under 21 years and females under 18 years).
- **New Process:** All Muslim marriages and divorces will now be registered at the sub-register's office, instead of by qazis (traditional religious authorities).
- **Compliance:** The government intends to take control over marriage records to ensure transparency and legality in registration processes.

#### Major Differences

##### Old Law (1935 Act)

- Allowed qazis to register Muslim marriages and divorces.
- Gave room for the registration of underage marriages, which was against modern laws on child marriage prevention.

##### New Law (2024 Bill)

- Transfers registration power to government authorities (district commissioners, registrars).
- Bans the registration of underage marriages entirely.



- Ensures that all marriages and divorces are documented according to government standards, reducing loopholes for illegal practices like child marriage.

## NAGALAND

### NAGALAND BECOMES FIRST STATE TO IMPLEMENT DISASTER INSURANCE

- CM Neiphiu Rio's government and SBI General Insurance signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the Disaster Risk Transfer Parametric Insurance Solution (DRTPS).
- This makes Nagaland the first state in India to implement a disaster risk management insurance solution.
- **Benefits of DRTPS:**
  - ❖ The Disaster Risk Transfer Parametric Insurance Solution (DRTPS) will help protect the state's critical infrastructure.
  - ❖ It aims to reduce economic losses due to disasters.

## MANIPUR

### MANIPUR ASSEMBLY FORMS COMMITTEE TO STUDY ILLEGAL MIGRATION

- **Formation of Committee:** The Manipur State Assembly has constituted a 12-member house committee to investigate illegal migrations in the state.
- **Leadership:** Awangbow Newmai, Minister of Water Resources and Relief & Disaster Management, has been appointed as the committee's Chairman.

### MANIPUR OBSERVES PATRIOTS' DAY WITH TRIBUTES TO ANGLO-MANIPURI WAR MARTYRS

- Manipur observed Patriots' Day on 13th August, remembering the martyrs who laid down their lives during the Anglo-Manipuri War of 1891.

#### Timeline of the Anglo-Manipur War (1891)

- **Pre-1891:** Succession dispute in Manipur; British interference increases tension.
- **1891:**
  - ❖ British political agent and officials killed in Manipur during the palace revolt. (24 Mar. 1891)
  - ❖ British launch a military expedition against Manipur. (Apr. 1891)
  - ❖ Battle at Kangla Palace; British forces capture the palace after fierce fighting. (27 Apr. 1891)
  - ❖ Manipur formally annexed by the British; Tikendrajit Singh and other leaders captured. (May 1891)

- ❖ Execution of Tikendrajit Singh and other leaders; British establish direct control over Manipur. (13 Aug. 1891)

## ODISHA

### ODISHA CM MOHAN MAJHI LAUNCHES SUBHADRA SCHEME

- Chief Minister Mohan Majhi announced the implementation of the Subhadra scheme.
- Rs. 50,000 will be provided over five years to one crore women between the ages of 21 and 60.
- **Implementation Timeline:** The scheme is approved for implementation from the financial year 2024-25 to 2028-29.
- **Financial Outlay:** An outlay of Rs. 55,825 crore has been made for this initiative.
- **Annual Payment:** A total of Rs. 10,000 per annum will be paid in two installments of Rs. 5,000 each on Rakhi Purnima Day and International Women's Day (March 8).
- **Payment Method:** Payments will be made directly to the beneficiary's Aadhaar-enabled single-holder (DBT) bank account through the Aadhaar Payment Bridge System (APBS).
- **Subhadra Debit Card:** Beneficiaries will be issued a Subhadra Debit Card.
- **Incentives for Digital Transactions:**
  - ❖ 100 beneficiaries with maximum digital transactions will be identified in each gram panchayat and urban local body.
  - ❖ An additional incentive of Rs. 500 will be given to each of them.
- **Eligibility Criteria:**
  - ❖ Women from economically well-off families, government servants, or Income Tax payees will not be eligible.
  - ❖ Women receiving assistance of Rs. 1,500 or more per month or Rs. 18,000 or more per year under any other government scheme will also be ineligible.
- **Implementation and Monitoring:** The Women and Child Development Department will establish a Subhadra Society for the implementation and monitoring of the programme.

### INDIA'S FIRST GRAIN ATM LAUNCHED IN ODISHA

- **Launch Event:** The World Food Programme (WFP) and the Government of Odisha launched India's first around-the-clock grain dispensing machine, the 'Grain ATM,' also known as 'Annapurti,' in Bhubaneswar.
- **24/7 Access:** Odisha has become the first state in India to provide public distribution system beneficiaries with 24-hour access to grain.

- **Energy Efficiency:**
  - ❖ Annapurthi is energy efficient, consuming only 0.6 Watts per hour.
  - ❖ It can be connected to solar panels for automatic refilling.

### ODISHA TO INTRODUCE 5 ROYAL BENGAL TIGERS FROM MAHARASHTRA & MADHYA PRADESH

#### Tiger Relocation Details

- **Total Tigers:** 5 Royal Bengal tigers
- **Source:** Maharashtra & Madhya Pradesh
- **Timeline:** By September
- **Distribution:**
  - ❖ Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary, Sambalpur: 3 tigers
  - ❖ Similipal Tiger Reserve, Mayurbhanj: 2 tigers

#### Similipal Tiger Reserve (STR)

- **Location:** Mayurbhanj District, Northernmost part of Odisha
- **Declaration as Tiger Reserve:** 1956
- **Inclusion in Project Tiger:** 1973
- **UNESCO World Network of Biosphere Reserves:** 2009
- **Unique Feature:** Home to melanistic tigers
- **Dominant Tree Species:** Sal

#### Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary

- **Location:** Bargarh district, near Sambalpur's Hirakud Dam
- **Declaration as Wildlife Sanctuary:** 1985

### JHARKHAND

### JHARKHAND CM HEMANT SOREN LAUNCHES "MUKHYAMANTRI MAIYA SAMMAN YOJANA" BEFORE RAKSHA BANDHAN

- **Event:** Launch of "Mukhyamantri Maiya Samman Yojana"
- **Occasion:** A day before Raksha Bandhan
- **Location:** Pakur district, Jharkhand

#### Scheme Benefits

- **Target Group:** Women aged 21 to 50 years
- **Financial Assistance:** Rs. 1,000 per month
- **Annual Amount:** Rs. 12,000 per year

### JHARKHAND LAUNCHES MUKHYAMANTRI MAIYAAN SAMMAN YOJANA FOR WOMEN

- **Previous Name:** Jharkhand Behan Beti Swavalamban Protsahan Yojana
- **Type:** Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) scheme

- **Benefit:** Rs. 1,000 per month directly transferred to beneficiaries' bank accounts

#### Launch Details

- **Launch Date:** 16 August 2024
- **Key Figures:** Chief Minister Hemant Soren and State Women and Child Development Minister Baby Devi

#### Eligibility Criteria

- **Age Group:** Women aged 21-50 years
- **Annual Income:** Less than Rs. 8 lakhs
- **Estimated Beneficiaries:** 48 lakh women

#### Financial Implications

- **Monthly Cost to State Government:** Approximately Rs. 4,000 crore

#### Enrollment Process

- **Special Camps:** Set up in all panchayats and wards of all districts from 3-10 August 2024

### MADHYA PRADESH

### RAJASTHAN AND MADHYA PRADESH TO DEVELOP 'SHRI KRISHNA GAMAN PATH'

- **Objective:** Connect the birthplace of Lord Krishna in Mathura with the sacred city of Ujjain in Madhya Pradesh

#### Key Locations

- **Mathura, Uttar Pradesh:** Starting point of the circuit, known as Krishna's birthplace
- **Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh:** Endpoint, famous for the Sandipani Ashram where Krishna received his education

#### Key Figures

- **Rajasthan Chief Minister:** Bhajanlal Sharma
- **Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister:** Mohan Yadav

### CHHATTISGARH

### CHHATTISGARH APPROVES COUNTRY'S THIRD LARGEST TIGER RESERVE

- Integrates an existing national park with a wildlife sanctuary.
- Chhattisgarh's fourth reserve for the big cats.
- Spans 2,829 square kilometres across four northern districts:
  - ❖ Manendragarh-Chirmiri-Bharatpur
  - ❖ Koriya
  - ❖ Surajpur
  - ❖ Balrampur

## Background

- Guru Ghasidas National Park was made a tiger reserve in 2021 but could not be notified due to opposition.

## Comparison with Other Tiger Reserves

- **Largest:** Andhra Pradesh's Nagarjunasagar Srisailem Tiger Reserve (3,296.31 sq km).
- **Second Largest:** Manas Tiger Reserve in Assam (2,837.1 sq km), both reserves have 58 tigers.

## 17TH DIVYA KALA MELA INAUGURATED IN RAIPUR

- Dr. Virendra Kumar, Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment, inaugurated the 17th Divya Kala Mela in Raipur.

## Organization

- Organized by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan), Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment.
- Event dates: From 16 August to 23 August 2024.

## Purpose

- The Divya Kala Mela was initiated by the Government of India in 2022.
- Aims to economically empower disabled (Divyang) artists by providing market access to their products.

## MADHYA PRADESH

## RAJASTHAN AND MADHYA PRADESH TO DEVELOP 'SHRI KRISHNA GAMAN PATH'

- Aims to connect the birthplace of Lord Krishna in Mathura with the sacred city of Ujjain in Madhya Pradesh.

## Key Locations

- **Mathura, Uttar Pradesh:** The starting point of the circuit, known as Krishna's birthplace.
- **Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh:** The endpoint, famous for the Sandipani Ashram where Krishna received his education.

## Key Figures

- Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma.
- Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav.

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

- Permits the use of electronic methods such as email, messaging apps like WhatsApp, and text messages in its judicial processes.

## Official Publication

- The Madhya Pradesh Home Department has officially published the Madhya Pradesh Electronic Processes (Issuance, Service and Execution) Rules, 2024 in the Madhya Pradesh Gazette.

## Objectives

- This development, sanctioned under the country's new law, the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita 2023, aims to:
  - ❖ Accelerate judicial procedures.
  - ❖ Fortify legal proceedings.
  - ❖ Enhance the efficiency of the judicial system.

## MAHARASHTRA LAUNCHES FIRST 'SOLAR VILLAGE' WITH MANYACHIWADI

- Chief Minister of Maharashtra Eknath Shinde inaugurated the first 'Solar Village' in the state.

## Location

- Manyachiwadi village in the Patan Taluka of Satara district has become the first 'Solar Village' in Maharashtra.

## Related Initiative

- The PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on February 15, 2024.

## MP GOVT GIVES CASH TO GIRL STUDENTS TO BUY SANITARY NAPKINS

- Madhya Pradesh has become the first state in the country to give money to girl students to buy sanitary napkins.

## Scheme Details

- Under the Sanitation and Hygiene Scheme, an amount of three hundred rupees has been transferred to each girl student's account for one year.

## Comparison with Other States

- In some states like Karnataka, Rajasthan, and Delhi, free sanitary napkins are given to students, but cash is being given only in Madhya Pradesh.

## MP GOVT DECLARES REWARD OF RS 1 CR FOR OLYMPICS BRONZE MEDAL WINNER VIVEK SAGAR PRASAD

- Vivek Sagar Prasad is a member of the Indian men's hockey team that secured a bronze medal in the Paris Olympics.

## Reward

- The Madhya Pradesh government has declared a reward of Rs 1 crore for Vivek Sagar Prasad



**NORTH INDIA'S LARGEST FLOATING SOLAR PROJECT COMMISSIONED IN OMKARESHWAR**

- Madhya Pradesh has commissioned the largest floating solar project in central and north India, generating 90 MW at Omkareshwar.
- Omkareshwar Floating Solar Project is located at Omkareshwar in District Khandwa, Madhya Pradesh.
- The floating power plant was developed on the backwaters of Omkareshwar dam (a gravity dam on the Narmada River).

**Significance**

- It is the biggest solar park in India and the largest floating solar project in central and north India, generating 90 MW of energy.
- This project was developed under the Union Ministry of Renewable Energy.

**Execution and Cost**

- The project is executed by SJVN Green Energy Limited (SGEL), a wholly owned subsidiary of SJVN, a joint venture between the Government of India and the Government of Himachal Pradesh.
- Project Cost: Rs. 646 crores.

**Environmental Impact**

- The project is likely to generate 196.5 million units of electricity in the first year and 4,629.3 million units over 25 years.
- It will reduce carbon emissions by 2.3 lakh tonnes and contribute significantly to the central government's mission of achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2070.

**4TH RASHTRIYA HINDI VIGYAN SAMMELAN 2024 HELD IN BHOPAL**

- Held on 30 and 31 July 2024.
- Organized by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-Advanced Materials and Processes Research Institute (CSIR-AMPRI).

**Theme**

- "Upgradation of National Scientific Consciousness in Amrit Kaal."

**Sessions**

- The conference featured six sessions on diverse topics:
  - ❖ Science
  - ❖ Technology
  - ❖ Ayurveda
  - ❖ Engineering
  - ❖ Science Communication

**RAJASTHAN****RAJASTHAN'S FIRST AVIATION ACADEMY LAUNCHED AT KISHANGARH AIRPORT**

- Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma inaugurated the Avyanna Aviation Academy in Kishangarh.

**Location**

- Rajasthan's first flight training academy has been launched at Kishangarh airport in Ajmer district.

**Focus**

- The academy will emphasize cutting-edge technology and innovative teaching methods.

**UNION FM NIRMALA SITHARAMAN INAUGURATES GST BHAWAN AT UDAIPUR**

- Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurated the new GST Bhawan in Udaipur, located in the Hiran Magri area.

**Launch of ICETAB 2.0**

- During the event, Sitharaman launched ICETAB 2.0, a handheld device designed to enhance customs operations by enabling real-time report uploads and faster cargo clearance.

**MAHARASHTRA****PM NARENDRA MODI LAYS FOUNDATION STONE OF VADHAVAN PORT PROJECT IN PALGHAR, MAHARASHTRA**

- Vadhvan Port project worth around Rs. 76,000 crore.
- Located near Dahanu town in Palghar district, it will be one of India's largest deep-water ports.
- Provides direct connectivity to international shipping routes, reducing transit times and costs.

**Global Significance**

- Will be among the top 10 ports in the world when completed.
- Handling capacity of 23.2 million Twenty-foot Equivalent Units (TEUs).

**Construction Details**

- The project will be constructed by Vadhavan Port Project Limited (VPPL).
- The port will comprise:
  - ❖ Nine container terminals, each 1,000 metres long.
  - ❖ Four multipurpose berths.

### Local Concerns

- People living in Palghar fear a loss of livelihood, the erosion of their seaside villages, and a disruption of an ecologically fragile area.

### ANCIENT MAHARASHTRA ROCK ART DECLARED 'PROTECTED MONUMENT' BY MAHARASHTRA GOVERNMENT

- Geoglyphs and petroglyphs in Ratnagiri have been declared 'protected monuments' under the Maharashtra Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1960, reported TOI.

### Historical Significance

- The group of petroglyphs at Deud, Ratnagiri, dates back to the Mesolithic era (roughly 20,000-10,000 years ago).

### Art Forms

- Geoglyphs and petroglyphs are different types of ancient art forms.
  - ❖ They involve the creation of images or designs on the earth's surface or rock surfaces.

### MAHARASHTRA APPROVES PRISONS AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES BILL

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

### Legislative Framework

- **Prison Governance:** Managed by the state according to the Constitution's Seventh Schedule.
- **Current Law:** Operates under the outdated Prisons Act of 1894.
- **Overcrowding Issue:** Facilities designed for 27,110 prisoners currently hold over 40,428 inmates.

### Current Issues in Prisons

- **High Prisoner Population:** Among the top five states for prisoner population and undertrials.
- **Outdated Rules:** Existing rules from 1962 to 1979 are outdated and difficult to access.
- **Concerns:** Include deaths in custody and poor prison conditions.

### Overview of the New Bill

- **Model:** Based on the Union's Model Prisons and Correctional Services Act, 2023.
- **Goals:** Modernize operations, improve staffing, upgrade technology, and enhance mental health services.

### Notable Provisions

- **Convict Overseer:** Prisoners supervising others with certain privileges, a role facing criticism.
- **Public Servant Status:** Defines convict overseers as public servants, raising questions about its relevance.
- **Prisons and Correctional Services Force:** New body with arrest and weapon use powers, practical use unclear.
- **Welfare Funds:** Proposes funds for both staff and prisoners, unlike the Model Bill focusing only on prisoner welfare, facing potential implementation challenges.

### MAHARASHTRA LAUNCHES RS. 1,500 MONTHLY AID UNDER 'LADKI BAHIN' SCHEME

- Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis announced that over one crore eligible women in the state will start receiving Rs. 1,500 per month under the government's 'Mukhyamantri Ladki Bahin' scheme, which is set to launch on August 17.

### Scheme Model

- The flagship scheme is modeled after the 'Ladli Behna Yojana' introduced by the previous Shivraj Singh Chouhan-led government in Madhya Pradesh.

### Eligibility and Benefits

- Under the Ladki Bahin scheme, underprivileged women (annual family income capped at Rs. 2.5 lakh) aged 21 to 65 years will receive monthly financial assistance from the government.
- July will be considered the starting month. Consequently, eligible women will receive an initial installment of Rs. 3,000, covering two months.

## KARNATAKA

### KHIR-CITY TO BE LAUNCHED IN BENGALURU ON AUG 23

- Karnataka will officially inaugurate its ambitious Knowledge Health Innovation Research-City (KHIR-City) on August 23.
- **Project Details**
- A cluster of world-class universities, hospitals, innovative industries, and research institutions.
- Located on a parcel of 2,000 acres of land near the Kempegowda International Airport.

### Investment and Job Creation

- Estimated investment of over Rs. 40,000 crore.
- The entire project is expected to create about 50,000 jobs.

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

- Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) in Bengaluru has become the first in Asia to receive Airports Council International's (ACI) highest Level 5 accreditation.

### Emission Reduction

- KIA has made a 95.6% reduction in Scope 1 and 2 Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions.
- Achieved the highest emission elimination by an Indian airport, seven years ahead of the initial target of 2030.

### Future Goals

- The airport aims to attain net zero GHG emissions by 2050, encompassing Scope 3 emissions.

### KARNATAKA MUDA SCAM

- The Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA), originally called the City Improvement Trust Board (CITB) when it was created in 1904, is responsible for urban planning and development in Mysuru.
- One of its roles is to acquire land for residential layouts. However, MUDA has faced legal problems due to incomplete land acquisitions.

### Allegations

- Media reports alleged gross irregularities in the allotment of residential sites by MUDA to land losers as compensation, including Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's wife, Parvathi.
- It was alleged that she had been allotted 14 sites in an upmarket residential layout in lieu of her 3 acres and 16 guntas of land that had been acquired by MUDA to develop a layout.

### Clarifications

- Mr. Siddaramaiah and the Congress leaders have clarified that the allotment of residential sites to Ms. Parvathi was within the legal framework of the 50:50 ratio scheme envisaged by the cash-strapped MUDA to compensate land losers.

### 50:50 Ratio Scheme

- MUDA started a 50:50 ratio scheme in 2020. This plan gives 50% of the developed land to the original landowners and allows MUDA to keep the other half.

### 50:50 RATIO SCHEME

- While an acre of land comprises around 43,000 to 44,000 square feet, only about 23,000 square feet of developed land is available for residential sites as the remaining goes towards:
  - ❖ Roads
  - ❖ Parks
  - ❖ Civic amenities (CA) sites
  - ❖ Other amenities

### Allocation

- Out of the 23,000 square feet of developed land for every acre:
  - ❖ 50% or 11,500 square feet is allotted to the land loser.
  - ❖ The remaining 11,500 square feet is retained by MUDA.

### GOA

### GOA LAUNCHES 'GOEM VINAMULYA VIJ YEVJAN' SCHEME

- Chief Minister Pramod Sawant has launched the 'Goem Vinamulya Vij Yevjan' scheme.
- The scheme aligns with the Prime Minister's Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana.

### Objectives

- Aimed at enhancing solar rooftop installations in Goa.
- Enables residential households to generate their own electricity.
- Reduces reliance on traditional power sources.

### Financial Details

- Initial investment of Rs. 35 crore.
- The Goa Energy Development Agency will cover the remaining cost for rooftop installations up to 5kW for consumers using 400 or fewer units annually.

### PAKISTANI CHRISTIAN BECOMES FIRST GOAN TO GET INDIAN CITIZENSHIP UNDER CAA

- Joseph Francis A. Pereira, a Christian from Pakistan, has become the first person in Goa to receive Indian citizenship under the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA).

### Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) Details

- The Citizenship Amendment Act allows Hindus, Sikhs, Jains, Christians, Parsis, and Buddhists from neighboring countries—Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Afghanistan—who entered India before December 31, 2014, to apply for citizenship after verification.



## TELANGANA

### TELANGANA TO IMPLEMENT SC QUOTA SUB-CLASSIFICATION

- Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy stated that the state would be the first to implement SC quota sub-classification.

#### Implementation Process

- The government will immediately start the process of sub-classification in accordance with the apex court's order.
- Appropriate measures will be taken to implement the reservations for Madigas and other sub-castes in the current job notification.

#### Sub-Castes

- Madigas are the largest among the 59 SC sub-castes in Telangana, followed by the Malas.

### TELANGANA ASSEMBLY PASSES BILL TO ESTABLISH YOUNG INDIA SKILLS UNIVERSITY

- The Telangana state assembly has passed the "Young India Skills University Telangana (Public-Private Partnership) Bill 2024.

#### University Objectives

- The bill aims to establish a Skills University to impart skills in 17 subjects, ensuring students' employment upon course completion.

#### Support for Students

- SC, ST, and BC students will be provided fee reimbursement.
- A reservation policy will be implemented.
- The government has released Rs. 100 crore for this purpose.

### CM PLANS BUDDHIST TOURIST CIRCUIT IN TELANGANA UNDER SWADESH DARSHAN 2.0 SCHEME

- Telangana government plans to develop a Buddhist tourism circuit in the state.
- Setting up an International Buddha Museum in Buddhavanam.
- Linking the museum to the Buddha statue in Hussainsagar and historical sites in Phanigiri and Nelakondapalli.

#### Objective

- To attract Buddhists from all over the country.

#### Project Report

- The state has recently sent a Detailed Project Report to the Centre for the development of Buddhavanam.

- Part of the Swadesh Darshan 2.0 scheme announced by the Central government.

## ANDHRA PRADESH

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

- The Andhra Pradesh government is considering a proposal to provide a 90% subsidy to horticulture farmers opting for micro-irrigation under the Andhra Pradesh Micro Irrigation Project (APMIP).

#### Production Goals

- The proposal aims to increase horticultural production by at least 15% every year through a new policy.

#### Current and Target Acreage

- Currently, horticulture crops are grown on around 15 lakh hectares in the state.
- The government aims to increase the acreage by at least 3 lakh hectares a year for five years, taking the total to around 30 lakh hectares.

#### Production Rankings

- Andhra Pradesh is the largest producer of fruits in India, contributing 15.6% of the total production.
- The state ranks first in the productivity of oil palm, papaya, lime, cocoa, tomato, and coconut, and second in chilli in India.

## KERALA

### KERALA LAUNCHES COUNTRY'S FIRST 'DIGITAL COURT' FOR HANDLING NEGOTIABLE INSTRUMENTS ACT CASES

- Supreme Court judge Justice B R Gavai inaugurated the country's first exclusive Digital Court for handling cases under the Negotiable Instruments Act, in Kollam, High Court of Kerala.

#### Online Dispute Resolution Platform

- Justice Gavai also launched an online dispute resolution platform, We-Solv Virtual Solution Maker, which will facilitate online deliberations by all the stakeholders.

#### Model Digital Court Room

- He also inaugurated a Model Digital Court Room conceived by the Kerala High Court, specifically designed to overcome the limitations of traditional court rooms.

## KERALA FACES A NEW HEALTH CHALLENGE: A DEADLY LEPTOSPIROSIS OUTBREAK

- Reported 121 confirmed deaths, with an additional 102 suspected cases.

### Cause

- Leptospirosis, also known as “rat fever”, is caused by a type of bacteria ‘leptospira’ found in the urine of animal carriers, particularly rats.

### Transmission

- If a person is exposed to soil or water contaminated with an infected animal’s urine, bacteria can enter their body through skin breaks, making people in flooded areas especially vulnerable.

### Mortality Rate

- The disease is known for a high mortality rate.

### Common Symptoms

- Fever
- Muscle pain (myalgia)
- Headaches

## KERALA ISSUES ALERT AGAINST MPOX

- The State Health department has issued an alert against mpox (known earlier as Monkeypox).
- The World Health Organization last week declared that the outbreak in many African nations now has to be considered a Public Health Emergency of International Concern.

### Outbreak Details

- Mpox outbreak has been spreading in many Central and Eastern African nations since 2023.
- The disease is caused by a virus of the same family as smallpox.

### Disease Information

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

## NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR WOMEN INAUGURATES DIGITAL SHAKTI CENTER IN NEW DELHI

### Purpose

- To combat cyber crimes against women.
- The centre is a dedicated facility that aims at raising awareness about cyber crimes.
- It will provide essential technical support for registering and addressing complaints.

### Digital Shakti Campaign

- Building on the Digital Shakti campaign, which was launched in 2018.
- The centre will offer expert guidance to ensure timely and effective resolution of cybercrime complaints.

### Inauguration

- The Digital Shakti Center was inaugurated by the National Commission for Women (NCW) Chairperson Ms. Rekha Sharma in collaboration with the Cyber Peace Foundation.

### Rising Cyber Crimes

- There has been a surge in cyber crime cases in India, rising from 52,974 in 2021 to 65,893 in 2022.
- The NCW has also observed an increase in complaints related to cyber crimes against women.

**HPAS**  
**FOUNDATION COURSE**

**MAKE YOUR HAS**  
**DREAM COME TRUE**

with  
**JOKTA ACADEMY**

**CHANDIGARH**  
SCO 22, Sector 15-C, Chandigarh  
Plot No. 11-12, Sector 25-D, Chandigarh

**SHIMLA**  
Verma Niwas ICICI Bank Building BCS, Shimla  
Krishna Lodge Engine Ghar, Sanjauli, Shimla

**DHARAMSHALA**  
Civil Line, Opp. War Memorial, Dharamshala

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

## BANGLADESH PM SHEIKH HASINA RESIGNS AMID STUDENT PROTESTS AND MILITARY TAKEOVER

- **Resignation:** Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has resigned amidst escalating student protests.
- **Military Control:** The military, led by Army Chief General Waker-Uz-Zaman, has taken control and will form an interim government until elections can be held.

## Background of Protests

- **Quota System:** The protests began over a quota system that reserved 30% of government jobs for the families of people who fought for independence from Pakistan in 1971.

## Policy Changes:

- The quotas were abolished in 2018.
- Recently, the High Court reinstated the quotas, sparking renewed protests.
- Although the Supreme Court paused the new ruling on quotas, students continue to demand a permanent overturn of the policy.

## Violent Clashes:

- Protests turned violent as police and heavily armed members of the Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), the student wing of the governing Awami League party, clashed with protesting students.

## Government Allegations:

- The government alleges that the Bangladesh Nationalist Party and the now-banned Jamaat-e-Islami are behind the agitation.

## Chronological Events Leading to Sheikh Hasina's Resignation

- **1972:** Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, then President of Bangladesh, established a quota system for freedom fighters (Mukti Joddhas) in government jobs.
- **March 8, 2018:** The Bangladesh High Court rejected a petition challenging the legality of the quota system, which had been in place since the 1970s.
- **2018:** In response to growing unrest over the quota system, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina canceled all quotas in the Bangladesh Civil Service through an executive order.
- **2020:** The executive order canceling the quotas officially became operational.
- **2021:** A group of petitioners approached the High Court to reinstate the 30% reservation for freedom fighters in civil services. On July 1, the High Court reinstated the 30% quota.

- **2024: Supreme Court Suspension:** The Supreme Court suspended the High Court's reinstatement of the quota system for four weeks.
- **Sheikh Hasina's Resignation:** Amid student protests and unrest, Sheikh Hasina resigned as Prime Minister.

## About Sheikh Hasina

- **Born:** 1947.
- **Tenure:** Sheikh Hasina was the longest-serving female prime minister in the world, in power from 2009 until her resignation, and earlier from 1996 to 2001.
- **Leadership:** She led the Awami League, a party founded by her father, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, since 1981.

## PM MODI TO HOLD DELEGATION-LEVEL TALKS WITH POLISH COUNTERPART DONALD TUSK IN WARSAW

- **Meeting Details:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Poland Prime Minister Donald Tusk held a delegation-level meeting in Warsaw, Poland.
- **Additional Meetings:** PM Modi also met with President Andrzej Duda of Poland.
- **Cultural Connection:** PM Modi highlighted that Kabaddi has become a new connection between the two nations, noting that Poland will host the Kabaddi championship for the first time this year.

## Poland - Quick Facts

- **Capital:** Warsaw
- **Currency:** Złoty (PLN)

## PM MODI'S HISTORIC VISIT TO UKRAINE

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi was on a two-nation visit to Poland and Ukraine from 21-23 August 2024.
- This visit marks the first by any Indian Prime Minister to Ukraine since establishing diplomatic relations in January 1992.

## Arrival in Ukraine:

- Prime Minister Modi arrived in Ukraine on a special train named 'Rail Force One,' operated by the government-owned Ukrainian Railways.
- The train was originally built to carry tourists to Crimea before Russia annexed the region in 2014.
- Since the start of the Russia-Ukraine war in February 2022, the train has become the preferred mode of travel for foreign dignitaries due to the closure of Ukrainian airspace.
- The train was named Rail Force One after Joe Biden's visit to Ukraine in February 2023.



### Agreements/MoUs Signed

1. Cooperation in Agriculture and Food Industry
2. Cooperation in Medical Products Regulation
3. India to provide **Humanitarian Grant Assistance to Ukraine** for Implementation of **High Impact Community Development Projects**
4. **Cultural Cooperation** for the 2024-2028 period

### Additional Information

- **Capital:** Kyiv
- **Currency:** Hryvnya
- **President:** Volodymyr Zelensky

### PM MODI PRESENTS 4 BHISHM CUBES TO GOVERNMENT OF UKRAINE

- **BHISHM:** Bharat Health Initiatives for Sahyog Hita and Maitri
- **Purpose:** Innovative mobile medical units developed by India to provide emergency medical care, particularly in conflict zones and disaster-affected areas.

### Project Aarogya Maitri

- **Initiative:** Part of **Project Aarogya Maitri**, aimed at supplying crucial medical resources to developing countries as humanitarian aid.
- **Collaboration:** Joint effort of the **Union Ministry of Defence** and the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**.

### Features of BHISHM Cubes

- **Dimensions:** Each cube measures **15 inches** and weighs **no more than 20 kg**, making it **easily transportable** by individuals.
- **Contents:**
  - ❖ Medicines and equipment for the **first line of care** for **all kinds of injuries and medical situations**.
  - ❖ Surgical equipment for a basic **Operation Room** capable of managing **10-15 basic surgeries** per day.
- **Capacity:**
  - ❖ Can handle about 200 cases of diverse nature in emergency situations such as trauma, bleeding, burns, fractures, etc.
  - ❖ Can generate its own power and oxygen in limited amounts.

### PAKISTAN INVITES PM NARENDRA MODI TO ATTEND SCO MEETING IN ISLAMABAD

- Pakistan invited PM Modi to the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation's Council of Heads of Government meeting to be held in Islamabad.

### SCO Chairmanship

- Pakistan holds the rotating chairmanship of the SCO Council of Heads of Government (CHG).

### Previous SCO Summit

- The 2024 SCO summit was the 24th annual summit of heads of state of SCO, held between 3 and 4 July 2024 in Astana, Kazakhstan.

### About Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)

- **Established:** 2001
- **Founding Members:** China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan
- **Current Members:** China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Iran (joined in 2021)
- **Observers:** Afghanistan, Belarus, Mongolia
- **Dialogue Partners:** Armenia, Azerbaijan, Cambodia, Sri Lanka, Turkey, Egypt, Nepal, Qatar, Saudi Arabia

### Objectives

- Strengthen relations among member states.
- Promote cooperation in political, economic, and security matters.
- Safeguard regional peace, security, and stability.
- Create a democratic, equitable international political and economic order.

### Key Areas of Cooperation

- **Political Affairs:** Enhancing mutual trust and political cooperation.
- **Economic and Trade:** Promoting trade, investment, and economic collaboration.
- **Security:** Addressing terrorism, separatism, and extremism through the **Regional Anti-Terrorism Structure (RATS)**.
- **Cultural and Educational:** Fostering cultural exchange and educational cooperation.
- **Energy and Transportation:** Collaborating on energy projects and improving transportation links.
- **Environmental Protection:** Joint efforts in environmental conservation and sustainable development.

### Organizational Structure

- **Council of Heads of State:** Highest decision-making body, meets annually.
- **Council of Heads of Government:** Focuses on economic and trade cooperation.
- **Council of Foreign Ministers:** Manages day-to-day activities and prepares for the Heads of State meetings.

- **Regional Anti-Terrorism Structure (RATS):** Coordinates efforts against terrorism, separatism, and extremism.

### Significance for India

- **Strategic Importance:** Enhances India's role in regional security and economic cooperation.
- **Economic Benefits:** Opportunities for trade and investment with member countries.
- **Security Cooperation:** Collaboration on counter-terrorism and regional stability.
- **Cultural Exchange:** Promotes cultural ties and people-to-people contacts.

### Challenges for India

- **Geopolitical Tensions:** Balancing relations with China and Pakistan within the SCO framework.
- **Security Concerns:** Addressing cross-border terrorism and regional conflicts.
- **Economic Integration:** Overcoming trade barriers and enhancing connectivity with Central Asian countries.
- **2024 Summit:** Held in **Astana, Kazakhstan**, with key discussions on combating terrorism, climate change, and economic cooperation.
- **New Membership:** **Belarus** became the **10th member state**.

### PRESIDENT DROUPADI MURMU ARRIVES IN FIJI ON TWO-DAY OFFICIAL VISIT

- **President Droupadi Murmu** arrived in **Nadi**, the **Republic of Fiji**, marking the **first-ever trip by the President of India to Fiji**.
- President Murmu will hold bilateral meetings with:
  - ❖ President of Fiji, **William L. Katonivere**
  - ❖ Prime Minister **Sitiveni Rabuka**

### Key Engagements

- Address the **Fijian Parliament**.
- Hold a **community reception**.
- Visit **Gandhi Memorial College in Suva**.
- Visit **Sri Siva Subramaniya Swamy temple in Nadi**.

**Objective:** The visit aims to bolster the historic ties India shares with the island nation.

### Additional Information

- **Capital:** Suva
- **Currency:** Fijian dollar

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

- **Tripartite Agreement:** Signed by the **Embassy of Israel**, **IIT Madras**, and the **AMRUT mission** of the **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs**.

### Objectives and Focus Areas

- **Innovation Hub:** The **Center of Water Technology** aims to become a hub for innovation, research, and capacity-building in water technologies.
- **Sustainable Solutions:** Focuses on sustainable solutions for urban water supply.

### Initial Activities

- **Capacity-Building Course:** A course on **'24/7 Water Supply in Urban Areas'** was organized at **IIT-Madras** to kickstart the initiative.

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

- **Renewal of Agreement:** India and the **Maldives** have renewed their **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to **bolster the training of Maldivian civil servants**.
- **Duration:** The renewed MoU spans from **2024 to 2029**.
- **Training Commitment:** It will **facilitate the training of an additional 1,000 civil service officers from the Maldives**.

### 2ND INDO-RUSSIAN COMMISSION MEETING ON EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT HELD IN MOSCOW

- **New Agreement Signed:** The **Cooperation in the Field of Emergency Management for 2025-2026** was signed, focusing on **Civil Defence, Emergencies, and Elimination of Consequences of Natural Disasters**.

### Historical Context

- **First Meeting:** The **first meeting of the Indo-Russian Joint Commission on the Cooperation in the Field of Emergency Management** was held in **New Delhi** in **2016**.

### 3RD EDITION OF INDIA-U.S. DEFENCE ACCELERATION ECOSYSTEM (INDUS-X)

- **Location:** **Stanford University, California**
- **Dates:** **September 9 and September 10**
- **Hosts:** **U.S. India Strategic and Partnership Forum (USISPF)**, **Stanford University's Gordian Knot Centre for National Security Innovation**, and the **Hoover Institution**

### Objectives and Themes

- **Brainstorming Session:** **Top defence leaderships from India and the U.S.** will brainstorm on enhancing cross-border defence innovation ecosystems.

- Theme: “Harnessing investment opportunities to enhance cross-border defence innovation ecosystems”

### Historical Context

- **Launch:** INDUS-X was launched in **June 2023**.
- **First Edition:** Held in **Washington DC** on **June 21, 2023**.

### INDIA-SRI LANKA FERRY SERVICE RESUMES

#### Service Details

- The ferry service between **Nagapattinam in India** and **Kankesanthurai near Jaffna** in the Northern Province of Sri Lanka was launched in **October 2023**.
- The ferry, named **Sivagangai**, is operated by a **private company, IndSri Ferry Services**.

#### Financial Assistance

- To make the service more affordable for passengers, the **Government of India** has decided to provide financial assistance of over **25 million Sri Lankan Rupees (LKR)** per month for one year. This assistance will cover relevant charges and operating costs at **Nagapattinam port**.

#### Tax Reduction

- The **Government of Sri Lanka** has reduced the **deviation tax** currently charged to passengers leaving Sri Lanka by passenger vessels and ships.

### DHULIKHEL BECOMES NEPAL'S FIRST 'HEALTHY CITY'

- The World Health Organization (WHO) has declared **Dhulikhel Municipality** in the **Kavrepalanchok district** as **Nepal's first 'healthy city'**, joining the WHO Healthy City Network.

#### Evaluation Criteria

- The evaluations were based on various indicators, including:
  - ❖ Citizens' access to health
  - ❖ Participation in health policy-making
  - ❖ Political commitment to health
  - ❖ Nutrition
  - ❖ Child health
  - ❖ Innovative health initiatives

#### Award

- The municipality has been awarded **USD 5,000** for implementing various programs under the Healthy City initiative.

### SWEDEN CONFIRMS FIRST CASE OF MPOX OUTSIDE AFRICA

- The patient is believed to have **contracted the virus during a visit to a region in Africa** currently experiencing a major outbreak of **mpox Clade I**.
- The **World Health Organization (WHO)** has declared **mpox a global public health emergency** for the second time in two years.

#### About Mpx (Monkeypox):

- **Viral Zoonotic Disease:** Caused by the monkeypox virus.
- **First Human Case:** Recorded in 1970 in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

#### Types

- **Clades:** Two known types of the virus:
  - ❖ **Clade I:** Originated in Central Africa.
  - ❖ **Clade II:** Originated in West Africa.

**Classification:** genus: Orthopoxvirus and family: Poxviridae

#### Symptoms

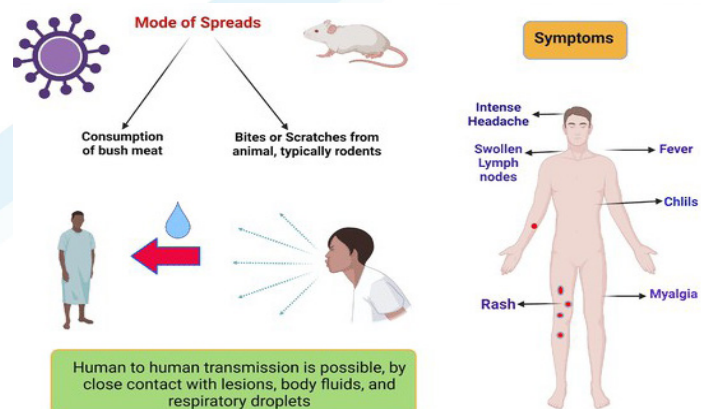
- Flu-like symptoms
- Skin rash lasting 2–4 weeks
- Accompanied by fever, headache, muscle aches, back pain, low energy, and swollen lymph nodes
- Can be fatal, with a mortality rate of 4 in 100 cases

#### Transmission

- Through close contact, such as Sex, Skin-to-skin contact, Talking or breathing close to another person etc.

#### Treatment

- No specific treatments for monkeypox virus infection.





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

### Membership Details

- Germany has joined the U.S.-led United Nations Command (UNC) in South Korea, becoming the 18th nation in the group.
- The UNC helps police the heavily fortified border with North Korea and is committed to defending South Korea in the event of a war.

### Background

- **Establishment:** The UNC was established in 1950.
- **Mandate:** Its mandate includes restoring peace, enforcing the armistice, and serving as a channel of communication with North Korea.

### Leadership

- The UNC is led by the commander of the U.S. military stationed in South Korea.
- It is not affiliated with the United Nations.

## TURKEY BLOCKS INSTAGRAM AMID 'CENSORSHIP' ROW

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

## WORLD'S OLDEST CALENDAR DISCOVERED IN TURKEY

- **Discovery:** Archaeologists at Göbekli Tepe, an ancient site in Turkey, have possibly discovered the world's oldest calendar, dating back nearly 13,000 years.
- **Göbekli Tepe:** Often referred to as the world's first temple, it features a series of large stone pillars with ornate carvings.
- **Carvings:** The carvings on the pillars include a series of V-shaped symbols, each representing a single day.
- **Calendar Structure:** By counting these symbols, researchers identified a calendar of 365 days, divided into 12 lunar months with an additional 11 days.
- **Unique Carving:** One pillar stands out with a depiction of a "bird-like beast" with a V-shaped marking around its neck.

## JAPAN ISSUES FIRST-EVER 'MEGAQUAKE ADVISORY' ON NANKAI TROUGH

- **Event:** A 7.1-magnitude earthquake struck southern Japan on Thursday, August 8, prompting the Japan Meteorological Agency to issue its first-ever "megaquake advisory."
- **Advisory Details:** The advisory highlighted an increased likelihood of strong shaking and large tsunamis, particularly along the Nankai Trough, a subduction zone along Japan's southwest Pacific coast.
- **Clarification:** This advisory does not mean that a major earthquake would definitely happen during a specific period.

### What is the Nankai Trough?

#### Key Points:

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

## JAPAN ON HIGH ALERT AS TYPHOON SHANSHAN APPROACHES

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

## ICELAND VOLCANO ERUPTION: KEY DETAILS

- A volcano in southwestern Iceland erupted.
- This marks the sixth outbreak since December.
- The volcano came to life after being dormant for 800 years.

### About Reykjanes Peninsula:

- **Geographical Location:** Iceland is situated on the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, the longest mountain range in the world, located on the floor of the Atlantic Ocean.
- **Volcanic Activity:** Iceland is home to 33 active volcanoes, the highest number in Europe. This unique landscape has earned Iceland the nickname, "Land of Fire and Ice."



## TELEGRAM FOUNDER & CEO PAVEL DUROV ARRESTED IN PARIS

### Arrest Location: Paris, France

- **Individual:** Pavel Durov, Russian-born Founder & CEO of Telegram
- **Allegations:** Drug trafficking, Distribution of child sexual abuse images, Refusal to communicate information to authorities, Money laundering, Providing cryptographic services to criminals

### Official Confirmation

- **Source:** French President Emmanuel Macron confirmed the arrest.

### About Telegram

- **Functionality:** Telegram is an app that allows for:
  - ❖ One-on-one conversations.
  - ❖ Group chats.
  - ❖ Large “channels” for broadcasting messages to subscribers.

## TELEGRAM FOUNDER & CEO PAVEL DUROV ARRESTED IN PARIS

- **Individual:** Pavel Durov, Russian-born Founder & CEO of Telegram.
- **Location:** Paris, France.
- **Allegations:** Drug trafficking, Distribution of child sexual abuse images, Refusal to communicate information to authorities, Money laundering, Providing cryptographic services to criminals.
- **Confirmation:** French President Emmanuel Macron confirmed the arrest.

### About Telegram

- **Launch:** Telegram was launched in 2013 by Pavel Durov and his brother Nikola.
- **Functionality:** The app allows for:
  - ❖ One-on-one conversations
  - ❖ Group chats
  - ❖ Large “channels” for broadcasting messages to subscribers
- **User Base:** The Dubai-based company has more than 950 million active users. It is widely used in France and is particularly influential in Russia, Ukraine, and the republics of the former Soviet Union.

### Security Concerns

- **Comparison with Other Platforms:** Telegram is considered “less secure and more lax in terms of policy and detection of illegal content” compared to other messaging platforms.
- **WhatsApp Comparison:** In 2023, WhatsApp submitted over 1.3 million Cyber Tipline reports, while Telegram submitted none.

## INDIA COMMITS \$85 MILLION TO WHO GLOBAL TRADITIONAL MEDICINE CENTRE

- **Amount:** India has committed \$85 million over 10 years (2022–2032).
- **Purpose:** To support the programming of the World Health Organization (WHO) Global Traditional Medicine Centre.

### Establishment Agreement

- **Date:** March 2022
- **Parties Involved:** Ministry of Ayush and WHO
- **Objective:** Establish the Global Centre for Traditional Medicine (GCTM) at Jamnagar, Gujarat, the world’s first such centre.

### Centre’s Goals

- **Investment:** Supported by an investment of USD 250 million from India.
- **Aim:** To harness the potential of traditional medicine from across the world through modern science and technology.
- **Impact:** Improve the health of people and the planet.

## 90-FOOT TALL BRONZE STATUE OF LORD HANUMAN BECOMES NEW LANDMARK IN TEXAS

- A massive **90-foot-tall bronze statue** of Lord Hanuman has been unveiled near **Houston, Texas**.
- Called the “**Statue of Union.**”
- **Ranking:**
  - ❖ The third tallest statue in the United States, behind only

the Statue of Liberty in New York and the Pegasus and Dragon statue in Florida.

- ❖ The tallest statue outside of India and the tallest in Texas.

➤ **Vision:**

- ❖ The project was the vision of **Sri Chinna Jeeyar Swamiji**, a **Padma Bhushan** awardee and renowned **Vedic scholar**.
- ❖ Aimed to create a **spiritual epicenter** for **North America**.

### FOSSILS SUGGEST EVEN SMALLER 'HOBBITS' ROAMED AN INDONESIAN ISLAND 700,000 YEARS AGO

➤ **Discovery of Original Hobbits:**

- ❖ **Twenty years ago** on an **Indonesian island**, scientists discovered fossils of an early human species that stood at about **3 and 1/2 feet (1.07 meters)** tall, earning them the **nickname "hobbits."**

- ❖ The **original hobbit fossils**, named by the discoverers after characters in "**The Lord of the Rings**," date back to **between 60,000 and 100,000 years ago**.

➤ **New Study Findings:**

- ❖ A new study suggests ancestors of the **hobbits were even slightly shorter**.
- ❖ The new fossils were excavated at a site called **Mata Menge**, about **45 miles from the cave** where the **first hobbit remains were uncovered**.

➤ **Research and Analysis:**

- ❖ In **2016**, researchers suspected the **earlier relatives could be shorter than the hobbits** after studying a **jawbone and teeth collected from the new site**.
- ❖ Further analysis of a tiny arm bone fragment and teeth suggests the ancestors were a mere **2.4 inches (6 centimeters)** shorter and existed **700,000 years ago**.

# HP ALLIED MAINS TEST SERIES

1	25-09-2024	HINDI FLT-1
2	28-09-2024	ENGLISH FLT-1
3	03-10-2024	GS SECTIONAL-1 (Modern History & HP History)
4	07-10-2024	GS SECTIONAL-2 (Indian Geography & HP Geography)
5	12-10-2024	HINDI FLT-2
6	16-10-2024	ENGLISH FLT-2
7	19-10-2024	GS SECTIONAL-3 (Indian Polity and HP Politics)
8	23-10-2024	GS SECTIONAL-4 (Gandhian thought, Social Issues & HP Society)
9	26-10-2024	HINDI FLT-3
10	28-10-2024	ENGLISH FLT-3
11	06-11-2024	GS SECTIONAL-5 (Economy, IR, HP Economy, IT & Tourism)
12	09-11-2024	GS SECTIONAL-6 (Env. Biodiversity & CC, Related HP Topics)
MEGA MAINS MARATHON		
13	14-11-2024	HINDI FLT-4
14	15-11-2024	ENGLISH FLT-4
15	16-11-2024	GS FLT-1
16	21-11-2024	HINDI FLT-5
17	22-11-2024	ENGLISH FLT-5
18	23-11-2024	GS FLT-2

Note: Maximum Marks Hindi=150, English=150, GS=200 Each

OFFLINE & ONLINE  
AVAILABLE

MODEL ANSWER & EVALUATION

₹ 4499/-



#### CHANDIGARH

SCO 22, Sector 15-C, Chandigarh  
Plot No. 11-12, Sector 25-D, Chandigarh

#### SHIMLA

Verma Niwas ICICI Bank Building BCS, Shimla  
Krishna Lodge Engine Ghar, Sanjauli, Shimla

#### DHARAMSHALA

Civil Line, Opp. War Memorial,  
Dharamshala



## ECONOMY

### YEN CARRY TRADE?

Major Stock Market around the world experienced sharpest decline in decades observed across major stock markets globally.

#### Possible Reasons

- **US Economic Recession:** Increasing odds of an economic recession in the US.
- **Geopolitical Tensions:** Rising turmoil in West Asia.
- **New Global Trigger:** The unwinding of the yen carry trade.

#### What is Yen Carry Trade?

- The yen carry trade is a financial strategy in which investors borrow Japanese yen at low-interest rates and then convert these funds into another currency with higher interest rates to invest in assets that offer better returns.
- This strategy takes advantage of the difference between the low borrowing costs in Japan and the higher returns available in other countries.

#### Here's how it generally works:

1. **Borrow in Yen:** Investors borrow money in Japan, where interest rates are often near zero.
2. **Convert to a Higher-Yielding Currency:** The borrowed yen is converted into a currency where interest rates are higher, such as the US dollar or the Australian dollar.
3. **Invest in Higher-Yielding Assets:** The converted funds are then invested in assets that offer a higher return, such as government bonds, stocks, or other financial instruments in the foreign currency.
4. **Profit from Interest Rate Differential:** The investor aims to profit from the difference between the low cost of borrowing in yen and the higher returns on the investments in the foreign currency.

#### However, this trade carries risks:

1. **Exchange Rate Risk:** If the yen appreciates against the foreign currency, the investor could face losses when converting back to yen.
2. **Interest Rate Changes:** If interest rates in Japan rise or rates in the target country fall, the carry trade's profitability can decrease.
  - ❖ The yen carry trade has been popular during periods when Japan's interest rates are very low and other countries offer relatively high returns.

### GOOGLE PAY, PHONEPE EYE RBI'S DIGITAL RUPEE PROJECT

#### What is e-Rupee?

- The e-rupee, or digital rupee, was launched in 2022 by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- It is a digital currency aimed at creating an additional option for using money.
- The e-rupee is similar to banknotes issued by the RBI and is considered legal tender.
- Unlike physical cash, the e-rupee can only be transacted online.

#### Why Fintech Companies Want to Join?

- Fintech companies like Google Pay, PhonePe, Amazon Pay, Cred, and Mobikwik are interested in joining the digital rupee project.
- They aim to allow their users to transact in e-rupee via the Unified Payments Interface (UPI).
- This move would expand their services beyond just facilitating transactions between users linked to registered banks.

#### Comparisons:

##### 1. Cash vs e-Rupee:

- ❖ The e-rupee is closest to cash: When paying with cash, a physical note or coin transfers from one wallet to another.
- ❖ Similarly, the e-rupee transfers from one e-rupee wallet to another.
- ❖ Unlike cash in the bank, the e-rupee does not earn interest.

##### 2. UPI vs e-Rupee:

- ❖ UPI is a payment system that allows money transfer between bank accounts through an intermediary.
- ❖ The e-rupee is a currency, not just a payment system.

##### 3. Bitcoin vs e-Rupee:

- ❖ Cryptocurrencies like Bitcoin are decentralized, with transactions settled by users.
- ❖ The e-rupee is a digital currency issued by the RBI, ensuring transaction settlement.
- ❖ The e-rupee has a stable value like the Indian rupee, while cryptocurrencies can be volatile.

## RBI KEEPS REPO RATE UNCHANGED AT 6.5% FOR NINTH TIME IN A ROW

### Repo Rate Decision

- **Unchanged Rate:** The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) six-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) has kept the repo rate unchanged at 6.5% for the ninth consecutive time.
- **Reason:** Amid risks from higher food inflation.
- **RBI Governor:** Shaktikanta Das.

### Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)

- **Legislative Framework:**
  - ❖ The Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 (RBI Act) was amended by the Finance Act, 2016.
  - ❖ This amendment provides a statutory and institutionalized framework for the MPC.
- **Function:**
  - ❖ The MPC is entrusted with the task of fixing the benchmark policy rate (repo rate).
  - ❖ The goal is to contain inflation within the specified target level.

## NANDINI SAHAKAR YOJANA

- **Nandini Sahakar Scheme by NCDC (National Cooperative Development Corporation):** A women-focused framework providing financial assistance, project formulation, and capacity development to women cooperatives.

### Objectives

- **Launched under Atmanirbhar Bharat:** Aims to improve the socio-economic status of women through entrepreneurship.
- **Financial Assistance:** There is no limit on financial assistance provided.

### Financial Impact

- **Disbursement:** As of 31.03.2024, NCDC has disbursed Rs. 6426.36 crore to women-led cooperative societies across India.
- **Regional Note:** No proposals have been received from Bihar yet.

## HINDENBURG RESEARCH ALLEGES SEBI CHIEF INVOLVEMENT IN ADANI SCANDAL

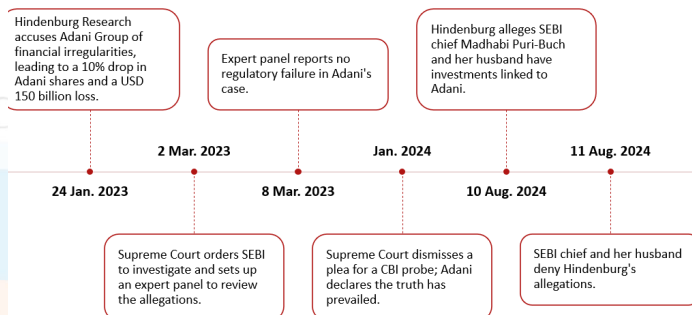
### Allegations by Hindenburg Research

- The U.S.-based short seller alleged that the chairperson of India's stock market regulator, SEBI, had a stake in obscure offshore entities.
- These entities were allegedly used in what Hindenburg termed as 'the Adani money siphoning scandal'.

### Context and Timeline

- Almost 18 months ago, Hindenburg Research flagged allegations of malfeasance and stock price manipulation at the Adani group of companies.

### Timeline of Events



## INDIA TO LAUNCH 'ULI' PLATFORM FOR RURAL AND SMALL BUSINESS LENDING: RBI GOVERNOR

- The **Unified Lending Interface (ULI)** is currently in the pilot stage.
- It is expected to **reduce turnaround time for processing and sanctioning loans**.
- The platform aims to simplify the complexities for both lenders and borrowers.

### Target Sectors

- The **ULI platform** is designed to meet the large unmet demand for credit across various sectors.
- It particularly focuses on **agricultural and medium, small, and micro enterprises (MSME) borrowers**.

### Benefits

- The platform will ease the flow of information required by lenders for processing loans.

## NPCI INTRODUCES BBPS FOR BUSINESS AND UPI CIRCLE TO BOOST DIGITAL PAYMENTS

### New Offerings by NPCI

- National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has announced the introduction of two new offerings:
  - ❖ **Bharat BillPay (BBPS) for Business**, designed to streamline business-to-business (B2B) transactions.
  - ❖ **UPI Circle**, which is a delegated payments feature.
- RBI Governor, Shaktikanta Das, unveiled these products at the **Global FinTech Festival** in Mumbai.

### Bharat BillPay for Business

- Aims to **standardize, simplify, and automate various invoice payment processes for day-to-day business operations, irrespective of the size of the business**.

➤ Inbuilt offerings include:

- ❖ Business onboarding
- ❖ Search and add business
- ❖ Purchase order (PO) creation
- ❖ Invoice management
- ❖ Automated reminders
- ❖ Financing
- ❖ Accounts Receivable (AR) and Accounts Payable (AP) dashboard

❖ Online dispute resolution

**UPI Circle**

- A delegated payment feature that allows a primary UPI user to link with trusted secondary users.
- Grants partial or full access to the primary user's account for making payments.



**JOKTA** Academy  
**9779464470**  
**IAS/HAS**

**AWSM** *for* **HP ALLIED**  
**ANSWER WRITING**  
**&**  
**SYLLABUS MASTERY**



Celebrating 10 years of legacy

Avail **10% Off**  
on AWSM programme



## SCIENCE AND TECH

## ISRO LAUNCHES EARTH OBSERVATION SATELLITE EOS-08

## Launch Details

- ISRO launched the Earth Observation Satellite EOS-08.
- The satellite was launched onboard the Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV)-D3.
- The launch took place at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota.

## Mission Configuration

- EOS-08 operates in a Circular Low Earth Orbit (LEO) at an altitude of 475 km.
- The orbital inclination is 37.4°.
- The mission has a planned life span of 1 year.

## Satellite Overview

- EOS-08 is a 175-kg experimental satellite.
- It is built on ISRO's standard Microsat/IMS-1 bus.
- It carries a suite of advanced payloads for observation in the IR range, GNSS-R Payload, and a SiC UV dosimeter.

## Payloads on EOS-08

## 1. Electro-Optical Infrared Payload (EOIR)

- ❖ Captures images in mid-wave and long-wave infrared during both day and night.
- ❖ Applications include surveillance, disaster monitoring, environmental monitoring, fire detection, volcanic activity observation, and industrial and power plant disaster monitoring.

## 2. Global Navigation Satellite System-Reflectometry Payload (GNSS-R)

- ❖ Demonstrates the use of reflected signals from satellite-based navigation systems like GPS.
- ❖ Applications include ocean surface wind analysis, soil moisture assessment, cryosphere studies over the Himalayan region, flood detection, and inland waterbody detection.

## 3. SiC UV Dosimeter Payload

- ❖ Monitors UV irradiance at the viewport of the Crew Module in the Gaganyaan Mission.
- ❖ Serves as a high-dose alarm sensor for UV radiation.

## CHANDRAYAAN-3 ROVER FINDINGS SUGGEST LAYERED CRUST FORMATION ON MOON

## ➤ Topsoil Analysis:

- ❖ The Alpha Particle X-ray Spectrometer (APXS) on Chandrayaan-3 rover analyzed the topsoil composition in the Moon's southern latitudes.
- ❖ The soil composition in this unexplored region is a mix of two types of rocks: one from **magma** and the other from **deeper lunar layers**.

## ➤ Historical Evidence:

- ❖ Evidence suggests the lunar surface was once covered by **molten magma in its early history**.
- ❖ The Moon formed from a collision between a large asteroid and Earth around 4.2 to 4.3 billion years ago.
- ❖ In its early stages, the Moon was an ocean of magma.

## ➤ Crust Formation:

- ❖ As the Moon cooled, heavier minerals like Olivine and Pyroxene sank to form the Moon's inner layers.
- ❖ Lighter minerals containing Calcium and Sodium formed the outer layer.

## Mission Milestone:

- The Lander Module of Chandrayaan-3, carrying the Lander Vikram and Rover Pragyan, made a historic soft landing on the surface of the Lunar South Pole on August 23, 2023.

## Timeline of India's Moon Mission

## ➤ Chandrayaan-1:

- ❖ **Launch Date:** October 22, 2008
- ❖ **Purpose:** Orbiting and mapping the Moon
- ❖ **Status:** Mission completed (Contact lost after 312 days)

## ➤ Chandrayaan-2:

- ❖ **Launch Date:** July 22, 2019
- ❖ **Purpose:** Landing near the lunar south pole and deploying a rover
- ❖ **Status:** Orbiter operational, lander failed

## ➤ Chandrayaan-3:

- ❖ **Launch Date:** July 14, 2023
- ❖ **Purpose:** Successfully landing and exploring the lunar surface
- ❖ **Status:** Successful landing, mission ongoing

## INDIA SHORTLISTS ASTRONAUTS FOR AXIOM-4 ISS MISSION

### Astronaut Selection:

- India has shortlisted two astronaut-designates for the upcoming Axiom-4 mission to the International Space Station.
- **Main Mission Pilot:** Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla
- **Backup Pilot:** Group Captain Prasanth Balakrishnan Nair

### Mission Details:

- The Axiom-4 mission is the fourth private astronaut mission aiming for the ISS.
- It is part of a broader partnership between ISRO and NASA, which was planned during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the U.S. in June 2023.

## FIRST REUSABLE HYBRID ROCKET OF INDIA RHUMI-1 LAUNCHED FROM CHENNAI

### Launch Details:

- India launched its first reusable hybrid rocket, **RHUMI-1**, developed by the Tamil Nadu-based start-up Space Zone India in collaboration with Martin Group, from Thiruvidadandai in Chennai.
- The rocket was launched into a suborbital trajectory using a mobile launcher.

### Payload:

- **Satellites on Board:**
  - ❖ 3 Cube Satellites
  - ❖ 50 PICO Satellites
- These satellites will be collecting data for research purposes on global warming and climate change.

### Mission Leadership:

- The mission RHUMI is led by Anand Megalingam, the founder of Space Zone, under the mentorship of Dr. Mylswamy Annadurai, former Director of ISRO Satellite Centre (ISAC).

### Technological Innovation:

- RHUMI-1 combines the advantages of both liquid and solid fuel propellant systems to improve efficiency and reduce operational costs.

## JUICE MISSION SETS TO BREAK RECORDS WITH LUNAR-EARTH FLYBY

### Record-Breaking Maneuver:

- The JUICE mission of the European Space Agency is set to complete a new maneuver and break two records.

- This is the first time the spacecraft will use two objects to carry out a gravity assist maneuver.
- For the first time, it will also attempt a Lunar-Earth flyby.

### Lunar-Earth Gravity Assist:

- This move, called a Lunar-Earth gravity assist, will use both the Moon and Earth to help change the spacecraft's speed and direction.

### What is the Jupiter Icy Moons Explorer (Juice) mission?

Aspect	Details
<b>Target Moons</b>	Io, Europa, Ganymede
<b>Primary Focus</b>	Ganymede (largest moon in the Solar System, larger than Pluto and Mercury)
<b>Mission Objective</b>	Detailed exploration of Jupiter and its icy moons for potential habitable environments
<b>Planned Arrival</b>	2031

### Other Important Space Missions

Mission Name	Year	Objective
Chandrayaan-3 (India)	2023	Successfully soft-land on the Moon and study the lunar surface
Mars 2020 (Perseverance Rover)	2020	Search for signs of ancient life on Mars and collect rock samples
James Webb Space Telescope (JWST)	2021	Study the formation of stars, galaxies, and provide detailed images of distant cosmic objects
Artemis I (USA)	2022	Uncrewed mission to test the Space Launch System (SLS) and Orion spacecraft for future Moon missions
Gaganyaan (India)	Planned 2024	India's first manned space mission to send Indian astronauts into space
Luna 25 (Russia)	2023	Conduct a soft landing on the Moon and study the lunar south pole region
Hope Mars Mission (UAE)	2020	Study the Martian atmosphere and climate
Tianwen-1 (China)	2020	Orbit, land, and deploy a rover on Mars to study the planet's surface and geology
DART (USA)	2021	Test the ability to redirect an asteroid by impacting it

## HUGE UNDERGROUND RESERVOIR OF LIQUID WATER FOUND ON MARS

### Discovery Details

- A massive reservoir of liquid water, equal to an ocean, is found hiding under Mars.
- The water deposit, found fractured within igneous rocks, is so huge that it is enough to fill an ocean that can cover the entire Earth's planetary neighbor, concluded scientists who observed the recent seismic data of Mars.

### Source of Data

- The claims were made based on data received from NASA's robotic InSight Lander during a mission to help decipher the interior of Mars.

### Location and Accessibility

- The water discovered on Mars is located about 7.2 to 12.4 miles (11.5 to 20 km) below the Martian surface, which is at depths that are too far below the surface for us to access.

### Potential for Life

- Life can sustain at such depths, as researchers point out that conditions beneath are favorable for microbial life, but reaching there would be a herculean task, almost impossible some may say.

## ASTRONOMERS DEVELOP NEW METHOD TO PREDICT SOLAR CYCLE AMPLITUDE

### Key Discovery

- Researchers at the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA) discovered that the width of the supergranular cells on the solar surface during the minimum year of the solar cycle is related to the number of sunspots seen during the subsequent solar cycle maximum.

### Implications

- This research can help in space weather forecasting.

### Data and Methodology

- The astronomers discovered a new correlation using 100 years of solar data from the IIA's Kodaikanal Solar Observatory.

## SUPER BLUE MOON

### Raksha Bandhan and the Super Blue Moon

- Raksha Bandhan, celebrated on Purnima in the month of Shravan, is marked by the sighting of a 'super blue moon'.
- The rare supermoon blue moon, also known as the 'Sturgeon Moon', appeared.

### What is a Supermoon?

- A supermoon happens when the full moon is at the closest point to Earth in its orbit (perigee).
- Because the moon is closer, it looks about 14% bigger and 30% brighter than it does when it's farther away.

### What is a Blue Moon?

- A blue moon describes the situation when a full moon is seen twice in a single month.
- Because the new moon to new moon cycle lasts 29.5 days, a time comes when the full moon occurs at the beginning of a month, and there are days left still for another full cycle to be completed.
  - ❖ Such a month, in which the full moon is seen on the 1st or 2nd, will have a second full moon on the 30th or 31st.
  - ❖ According to NASA, this happens every two or three years.
- It is important to note that the term "blue moon" has nothing to do with the actual color of the moon.

## NEW PLANT SPECIES CEROPEGIA SHIVRAYIANA DISCOVERED AT VISHALGAD

### Naming and Cultural Significance

- The name *Ceropegia shivrayiana* honors Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, reflecting the region's cultural heritage.

### Location

- The plant was discovered at Vishalgad, an ancient fort situated in the Vishalgad village in Kolhapur district of Maharashtra.

### Historical Background

- The fort was built in the year 1058 by Shilahara king Marsinh and was initially known as Khilgil.
- The famous Dargah of Hazrat Sayed Malik Rehan Meera Saheb, which is visited by thousands of tourists, is located in the fort.

## INDIA DEVELOPS INDIGENOUS RT-PCR TESTING KIT FOR MPOX

### Approval and Manufacturing

- The Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation has granted approval to Siemens Healthineers for the manufacture of RT-PCR testing kits for the detection of Mpox.
- The kits will be manufactured by the company's manufacturing unit in Vadodara, which has a production capacity of one million tests per annum.



### Test Details

- The test results will be available in 40 minutes.
- The IMDX Monkeypox Detection RT-PCR Assay is a molecular diagnostic test that targets two distinct regions in the viral genome, spanning both clade I and clade II variants of the virus.

### Testing Infrastructure

- India has 32 laboratories equipped for testing Mpox.

### Global Health Context

- On August 14, the World Health Organization classified the outbreak of Mpox as a global health emergency.
- A new strain of the disease has spread beyond the Democratic Republic of Congo for the first time to at least 12 other African countries.
- German Scientists Discover Plastic-Eating Fungi for Waste Reduction
- **Hope for Ocean Pollution:**
  - ❖ Could offer hope in tackling the problem of millions of tonnes of waste polluting the world's oceans every year.
- **Microfungi Capabilities:**
  - ❖ Microfungi can degrade synthetic polymers.
  - ❖ Shows potential for use in controlled environments like sewage treatment plants.
- **Limitations:**
  - ❖ Unlikely to solve the global plastic waste crisis (350-400 million metric tons).

### NANO DAP EXPERIMENT REVEALS DECLINE IN WHEAT YIELDS

- **Two-Year Field Experiment:**
  - ❖ Conducted by scientists from the Punjab Agricultural University (PAU).
  - ❖ Found a substantial decrease in wheat yields compared to conventional nitrogen fertilizer application.
- **Wheat Yield Decline:**
  - ❖ Using nano DAP instead of regular DAP resulted in a 16.1% decrease in wheat grain yield.
- **Plant Growth Affected:**
  - ❖ Plants did not grow as tall when nano DAP was used.

### Government's Fertilizer Strategy

- **DAP Usage:**
  - ❖ DAP is the second most used fertilizer in India, after urea.
- **Government Goals:**
  - ❖ Reduce the amount of fertilizer India imports.

- ❖ Lower the cost of fertilizer subsidies.
- ❖ Promote the efficient use of fertilizers.

### WHAT IS AN OVITRAP?

- **Purpose:** To curb the spread of mosquito-borne diseases like dengue and malaria.
- **Initiative:**
  - ❖ The Health Department and the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) have installed ovitraps, a first-of-a-kind initiative in Bengaluru.
  - ❖ Ovitrap have been installed in Gopalpura.

### How Ovitrap Works:

- **Design:**
  - ❖ An ovitrap is a device consisting of a dark container filled with water and a substrate where mosquitoes can lay their eggs.
  - ❖ The eggs fall through a mesh into the water, where larvae hatch and develop into pupas.
- **Function:**
  - ❖ When adult mosquitoes emerge, they are trapped beneath the mesh and cannot escape.
  - ❖ Ovitrap mimic the preferred breeding sites for container-breeding mosquitoes like Aedes aegypti and Aedes albopictus.

### GOOGLE DEEPMIND LAUNCHES AI PROJECT 'MORNI' FOR 125 INDIAN LANGUAGES

- **Project Morni:**
  - ❖ Google DeepMind's India unit is taking on an ambitious challenge with a project called Morni, known as the Multimodal Representation for India (Morni).
  - ❖ Aims to develop an AI model that understands and represents 125 Indian languages and dialects.
- **Project Vaani:**
  - ❖ To solve the problem of not having enough language data, Google launched Project Vaani in 2022.
  - ❖ Collaboration with the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) and ARTPARK (Artificial Intelligence & Robotics Technology Park).
  - ❖ The project is now in its second phase.
  - ❖ Focused on gathering speech data from across the country, making it available as open-source material.

## INDICES AND REPORTS

### RELEASE OF PUBLICATION "WOMEN AND MEN IN INDIA 2023"

- Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), Government of India, released the 25th issue of its publication titled "Women and Men in India 2023".

### Population Projections

- India's population is projected to reach 152.2 crore by 2036.
- The female percentage is expected to increase to 48.8% from 48.5% in 2011.
- The sex ratio is expected to rise from 943 in 2011 to 952 by 2036, indicating progress in gender equality.

### Fertility Rates

- Fertility rates have decreased in younger women but increased for those aged 35-39.
- Adolescent fertility is significantly lower among literate women.
- From 2016 to 2020, the Age Specific Fertility Rate (ASFR) in the age group of 20-24 and 25-29 reduced from 135.4 and 166.0 to 113.6 and 139.6 respectively.
- The ASFR for the age 35-39 increased from 32.7 to 35.6, indicating that women are considering family expansion after settling in life.

- Adolescent Fertility Rate was 33.9 for the illiterate population, whereas it was 11.0 for the literate in 2020.

### Infant and Under-5 Mortality Rates

- Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) has been decreasing over the years for both males and females.
- Female IMR had always been higher than that of males, but in 2020, both were equal at 28 infants per 1000 live births.
- The under-5 Mortality Rate decreased from 43 in 2015 to 32 in 2020 for both boys and girls, with the gap between boys and girls also reducing.

### QCI LAUNCHES SURAJYA FRAMEWORK TO PROMOTE EXCELLENCE

- An empowering initiative designed to drive excellence among states to improve the quality of life of citizens for a Viksit Bharat.

### Framework Pillars

1. Shiksha (Education)
2. Swasthya (Health)
3. Samriddhi (Prosperity)
4. Sushasan (Governance)

Category	Region	Details
Shiksha (Education)	Uttar Pradesh	Leads with the highest number of accreditations, assessments, and ratings
	Delhi (UT)	Ranks prominently among union territories
Swasthya (Health)	Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Kerala, Rajasthan, Mizoram, Manipur	Complete certification in Ayushman Arogya Yojana (NABH)
	Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra	Lead in Medical Entry Level Testing Labs (MELT) rankings (NABL)
	Chandigarh (UT)	100% certification in Ayushman Arogya Yojana
	Jammu & Kashmir (UT)	71.43% certification in Ayushman Arogya Yojana, excels in MELT
	Delhi (UT)	Excels in MELT, followed by Jammu & Kashmir
Samriddhi (Prosperity)	Gujarat, Karnataka, Rajasthan	Lead with the highest number of ZED certifications (Micro category)
	Jammu & Kashmir, Delhi	Achieved significant certifications in ZED
	Maharashtra, Bihar	Top performers in MSME Competitive LEAN Scheme

## NSO DATA REVEALS FINANCIAL DISPARITIES BETWEEN MEN AND WOMEN

### Key Findings

- Only a **fifth of the total amount of bank deposits in the country belongs to women account holders**, even though **every third bank account is owned by a woman**, according to the latest “Men and Women” report released by the **National Statistical Office (NSO)**.
- This highlights the **significant financial disparities** that exist between **men and women in the country**.

### Detailed Statistics

- As of **March 2023**, the share of **accounts belonging to women stood at 36.4% of the total individual accounts**.
- Money deposited in the accounts belonging to women stood at **20.8% of the total**.
- In metropolitan areas, **only 16.5% of the total amount deposited belongs to women**, while **30% of the money deposited in rural areas belongs to women**.
- Only **one in every four employees working in banks is a female**.
- Only **34,879 women held senior management positions in 2023**, compared to **186,000 men**.

## BHAVISHYA: RANKED 3RD BEST IN NESDA, 2021

- The **Department of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare (DOPPW)** introduced ‘Bhavishya’, a **centralized pension processing software**.
- Aims to **tackle delays and clerical errors in pension processing**.
- **Helps reduce financial loss and harassment for pensioners**.

### Implementation

- **Bhavishya streamlines pension processing across all central government Ministries and Departments**.
- **Mandatory for all central civil Ministries and Departments since January 1, 2017**.
- **Unifies stakeholders on a single platform and follows the CCS Pension Rules, 2021**.

### Recognition

- **Ranked 3rd best in the National e-Governance Service Delivery Assessment (NeSDA), 2021**.
- **NeSDA initiative undertaken by the Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances (DARPG)**.
- **NeSDA was launched in August 2018**.

## IISC BANGALORE RANKED BEST INSTITUTION IN INDIA

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

### Ranking Criteria

- The **Shanghai ARWU ranked universities based on academic and research performance indicators**.
- The ranking considers both the **quality and quantity of research outcomes**.

### Publication Details

- The **ARWU has published a list of the top 1,000 universities in the world this year**.
- **Fifteen universities from India are on the list**.

## YOUTH STRUGGLE TO FIND JOBS GLOBALLY: ILO REPORT

- The number of **15- to 24-year-olds who are not in employment, education, or training (NEET) is concerning**.
- The **post-COVID-19 pandemic employment recovery has not been universal**.

### Employment Challenges

- **Young people around the world are unable to find secure work**.
- **Chances of finding a job decrease as the income level of the country they reside in decreases**.
- These findings are from the **International Labour Organisation's (ILO) Global Employment Trends for Youth 2024 report**.

### Global and Regional Youth Employment Trends

Topic	Key Points
Global Youth Employment	Youth struggle with secure employment, worsening in lower-income countries.
Youth NEET (15-24 years)	High NEET rates persist post-COVID; recovery uneven globally.
Low vs. High-Income Countries	Secure jobs: 20% in low-income vs. 76% in high-income countries (2023).
Temporary Work	Rising temporary employment in all income levels.
Gender Disparities	Men recovered better than women; women's unemployment still high (13.4%).



### Asia-Pacific and South Asia Specific Trends

Topic	Key Points
Asia-Pacific NEET Trends	Decline since 2019; South Asia's female NEET rate very high (42.4%).
South Asia Gender Gap	Largest global gender gap in NEET rates (31 percentage points).
2025 Projections	Youth unemployment to drop to 13.7%; NEET rate to slightly rise to 20.5%.
Temporary Jobs in Asia-Pacific	Increased from 1 in 5 to 1 in 4 since 2000.
South Asia Agriculture Employment (2021)	Largest employer for youth at 35%.

### US BECOMES SECOND LARGEST SUPPLIER OF LNG TO INDIA

#### Key Developments

- In 2023, the United States emerged as **India's second-largest supplier of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG)**.
- The US delivered **3.09 million tonnes (MT) of LNG to India in 2023**, surpassing the United Arab Emirates.

#### Leading Supplier

- **Qatar** remained the **largest supplier of LNG to India** with shipments in 2023.

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

- Among 44 cities globally, **Mumbai and New Delhi** secured **top positions in the annual price rise** of prime residential properties during the June quarter, according to the Knight Frank report.

#### Top Rankings

- **Manila**: Ranked first with a 26% annual rise during the quarter.
- **Mumbai**: Ranked second with a 13% annual price rise in prime residences.
- **New Delhi**: Ranked third during the quarter under review.

#### Other Rankings

- **Bengaluru**: Maintained its ranking at 15th.
- **Wellington**: Ranked last in the list, 44th.

### PM NARENDRA MODI HAILS RECORD GAS PRODUCTION IN INDIA

- **Importance of Energy Self-Reliance:**
  - ❖ Our self-reliance in the field of energy is very important in achieving the goal of 'Viksit Bharat'.
- **Gas Production Statistics:**
  - ❖ Gas production in 2020-21 was 28.7 BCM (Billion cubic meters).
  - ❖ Increased to 36.43 BCM in 2023-24.
- **Future Projections:**
  - ❖ The country is expected to reach 45.3 BCM gas production by FY26, according to Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister, Hardeep Singh Puri.

### HURUN INDIA RICH LIST 2024: MUMBAI NAMED AS ASIA'S BILLIONAIRE CAPITAL

- **Richest Indian:**
  - ❖ Adani Group Chairman Gautam Adani replaced Reliance Industries Chairman and Managing Director Mukesh Ambani to become the richest Indian, as per the 2024 Hurun India Rich List.
- **Billionaire Capital:**
  - ❖ India's financial capital, Mumbai, has become the 'billionaire capital' of Asia, surpassing Beijing in the number of billionaire individuals.
- **Billionaire Count:**
  - ❖ **Mumbai**: 386 billionaires (an increase of 58).
  - ❖ **Beijing**: 91 billionaires (a decrease of 18).

#### Top 5 countries with the most billionaires

Rank	Country	No. of Billionaires
1	United States of America	813
2	China	406
3	India	271
4	Germany	132
5	Russia	120

### B-READY INDEX

- **Business Ready (B-READY)** is the World Bank's new flagship report that benchmarks the business environment and investment climate in most economies worldwide.
- **Assessment Criteria:**
  - ❖ The report evaluates the regulatory framework and public services directed at firms.
  - ❖ It also measures the efficiency with which the regulatory framework and public services are combined in practice.

➤ **Launch Date:**

- ❖ The first B-READY report will be launched on October 3, 2024.

**ROSHNI NADAR MALHOTRA**

- Roshni Nadar Malhotra, the chairperson of HCL Technologies, has been recognized as **India's most influential woman leading a family-owned business**.
- This accolade comes from the 2024 Barclays Private Clients Hurun India Most Valuable Family Businesses report.

**AMUL TOPS GLOBAL FOOD BRAND RANKINGS IN 2024**

- **Amul:**
  - ❖ Ranked as the world's strongest food brand.
  - ❖ Achieved a BSI score of 91/100.
  - ❖ Received an AAA+ rating.
- **Nestlé:**
  - ❖ Retained the title of most valuable food brand.
  - ❖ Leads in Sustainability Perceptions Value.
- **Coca-Cola:**
  - ❖ Topped the non-alcoholic drinks sector.
- **Valio:**
  - ❖ Emerged as the fastest-growing dairy brand.

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

- **SOS - Save Our Seas:** Focus on rising sea levels.
- **United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres:**
  - ❖ Stated that ocean temperatures are rising in the Pacific Islands at three times the rate worldwide.
  - ❖ Highlighted that the population is "uniquely exposed" to the impact of rising sea levels.
- **World Meteorological Organization Report:**
  - ❖ Showed that ocean temperatures in the South West Pacific are increasing at up to three times the rate worldwide.
  - ❖ Predicted an additional sea level rise of 15 cm (5.9 inches) by 2050.
  - ❖ Forecasted 30 days a year of coastal flooding for the Pacific Islands.
- **Loss and Damage Fund:**
  - ❖ Approved at last year's U.N. climate summit to help poor nations cope with costly climate disasters.

**About the Loss and Damage Fund:**

- **Announcement:** First announced during COP27 in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt.

- **Formal Agreement:** Established at the 19th Conference of the Parties (COP 19) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Warsaw, Poland, in 2013.

➤ **Oversight:**

- ❖ The World Bank will oversee the fund initially.
- ❖ Funded by rich nations such as the US, the UK, and the EU, as well as some developing countries.

**HOTTER KALAHARI DESERT MAY STOP HORNBILLS BREEDING BY 2027**

- **Rising Temperatures:** In the Kalahari, air temperatures have already risen more than 2°C in a few decades.
- **Impact on Breeding:**
  - ❖ Effects of air temperature and drought on the breeding output of southern yellow-billed hornbills (*Tockus leucomelas*) in Africa's Kalahari Desert over a decade period, from 2008 to 2019.
  - ❖ Without successful breeding, the population will not be able to persist and will quickly become locally extinct.
- **Current Distribution:** These birds are still common across much of central and eastern southern Africa.
- **Hornbills in India:** India is home to nine species of hornbills.

**HPAS MAINS TEST SERIES 2024**  
ONLINE/OFFLINE  
STARTS FROM 20TH JULY 2024

with evaluation	without evaluation
₹ 6999/-	₹ 2999/-

STARTS FROM 20TH JULY 2024      Total Test = 19      INCLUDE MEGA MAINS

09 General Studies Unit Wise	06 Full Length Test	02 Essay	02 Language Hindi /English
------------------------------------	---------------------------	-------------	----------------------------------

## HIMACHAL PRADESH NEWS

### SUNIL KUMAR: FROM CHAMBA TO NATIONAL RECOGNITION

#### Award and Recognition

- Sunil Kumar, a dedicated teacher from Chamba, Himachal Pradesh, has been honored with the National Teachers' Award.
- He is the only teacher from Himachal Pradesh to receive this prestigious award in 2024.
- The award will be presented by President Draupadi Murmu on September 5, 2024.

#### Contributions and Achievements

- Despite being physically disabled due to polio, he has made significant contributions to the field of education.
- His innovative teaching methods and dedication to students' holistic development have been widely recognized.

#### Inspirational Journey

- Sunil Kumar's journey from a small town to national recognition serves as an inspiration to many.
- His story highlights the importance of perseverance and dedication in overcoming challenges and achieving success.

### HIMACHAL PRADESH PASSES BILL TO RAISE GIRLS' MARRIAGE AGE TO 21 YEARS

#### Legislative Action

- The Himachal Pradesh government passed the Prohibition of Child Marriage (Himachal Pradesh Amendment) Bill, 2024.
- This bill raises the legal marriage age for girls from 18 to 21 years, aligning it with the existing legal age for men.
- HP became the first state to do so.

#### Objectives and Impact

- The legislation aims to ensure gender equality and protect women's rights.
- Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu emphasized the importance of this step in promoting women's health, education, and empowerment.
- The bill is seen as a significant move towards reducing child marriages and improving the socio-economic status of women in the state.

#### Government's Commitment

- It reflects the government's commitment to creating a more equitable society.

### THE LADARCHA FESTIVAL: A CELEBRATION OF TRADE, CULTURE, AND COMMUNITY

- **Origins:** Ancient trade routes between Himachal Pradesh and Tibet.
- **Revival:** Interrupted by the Indo-China War of 1962, revived in the 1980s.

#### Festival Highlights

- **Location:** Held in Kaza, Spiti Valley.
- **Timing:** Celebrated in the third week of August.
- **Participants:** Traders from Kullu, Lahaul, Kinnaur, and international regions.

#### Trade and Commerce

- **Goods:** Traditional crafts, metalwork, jewellery, apparel, utensils, dry fruits, grains, livestock.
- **Purpose:** Strengthen commercial ties and showcase unique products.

#### Cultural Extravaganza

- **Activities:** Cultural performances, exhibitions, and community gatherings.
- **Significance:** Reflects the rich cultural heritage and historical trade links of the Himalayan regions.

### PHINA SINGH CANAL PROJECT: A RAY OF HOPE FOR KANGRA'S AGRICULTURE

#### Project Overview

- **Location:** Nurpur, Kangra district, Himachal Pradesh.
- **Objective:** Provide reliable irrigation to 4,025 hectares across 60 villages.
- **Cost:** Estimated at Rs 643 crore.

#### Key Features

- **Infrastructure:**
  - ❖ Concrete gravity dam on the Chakki River.
  - ❖ 30-kilometer-long tunnel to channel water.
- **Irrigation:** Steady water supply, reducing dependency on monsoons.

#### Benefits

- **Agricultural Impact:** Enhanced productivity and increased crop yields.
- **Economic Impact:** Boosts local economy, potential for higher incomes and reduced poverty.



### Challenges

- **Delays:** Cost overruns and funding issues.
- **Current Status:** 53% completed, included under Pradhan Mantri Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY).
- This project aims to transform the **agricultural landscape of Nurpur**.

### MUKHYAMANTRI BAL POSHTIK AAHAR YOJANA ANNOUNCED

- **Nutritional Support for Students**
  - ❖ Students from nursery to class VIII will be provided boiled eggs or fruits once a week.
  - ❖ Fresh fruits will be sourced from local markets based on the preferences of the children.
- **Complement to Mid-Day Meal Scheme**
  - ❖ The scheme will complement the existing mid-day meal scheme.
- **Budget Allocation**
  - ❖ The state government has allocated Rs. 12.75 crore for 2024-25.
- **Support for Teachers**
  - ❖ The state government will provide free tablets to 17,510 primary school teachers in the state.

### WORLD'S FIRST CA STORE BASED ON GEOTHERMAL TECHNOLOGY

#### Project Overview

- **Location:** Tapri, Kinnaur district, Himachal Pradesh.
- **Inauguration:** Foundation stone laid by Revenue and Horticulture Minister Jagat Singh Negi.

#### Key Features

- **Technology:** Controlled Atmosphere (CA) store using geothermal technology.
- **Collaboration:** Supported by Iceland, involving Icelandic scientists and dignitaries.

#### Benefits

- **Agricultural Impact:** Extends shelf life of perishable produce like apples and tomatoes.
- **Economic Impact:** Cost-effective storage solutions, boosting income for small and marginal farmers.

#### Training and Capacity Building

- **Commitment:** Iceland to provide specialized training in geothermal technology to local horticulture experts.

This pioneering project aims to revolutionize horticulture storage practices, ensuring sustainability and economic growth.

### RISING CANCER RATES IN HIMACHAL PRADESH

#### Alarming Statistics

- Cancer incidence rate in HP : 2.2% (national average: 0.6%).
- Approximately 8,500 new cases annually.
- Significant rise in lung and breast cancer cases.

#### Causes

- Increased use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides.
- Lifestyle changes, environmental pollution, and genetic predisposition.

#### Government Response

- Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu advocates for chemical-free farming.
- Emphasis on natural farming methods to reduce health risks.

#### Initiatives

- Branding and marketing of natural farming products.
- Creation of a distinct trademark for these products to ensure better prices for farmers.

This summary captures the key points from the article while maintaining the requested format and word limit.

### CHAMBA TO GET STATE'S FIRST GREEN HYDROGEN-BASED MOBILITY STATION

#### Project Overview

- **Location:** Near NHPC's Chamara-III power station.
- **Cost:** Rs 14 crore.
- **Completion:** Expected by August 2025.

#### Key Features

- **Solar Power Plant:** 300-kilowatt grid-connected.
- **Hydrogen Production:** 20 kg of green hydrogen per day.
- **Storage:** Hydrogen stored at 450 bar or higher.
- **Usage:** To fuel a green hydrogen bus.

#### Government and Partnerships

- **Initiative by:** Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu.
- **Construction by:** National Hydro Power Corporation (NHPC).

#### Benefits

- **Economic Impact:** Revenue generation and employment opportunities.
- **Sustainability:** Promotes green energy and sustainable transportation.

- **Vision:** Transform Himachal Pradesh into a green energy state by March 31, 2026.

### HIM-UNNATI SCHEME: A NEW HORIZON FOR NATURAL FARMING

#### Scheme Overview

- **Launch:** By Himachal Pradesh government.
- **Budget:** Rs 150 crore.
- **Beneficiaries:** 1.92 lakh farmers on 32,149 hectares.

#### Key Features

- **Cluster-Based Development:** Consolidates smallholding farmers for bulk production.
- **Integration:** Coordinates with Animal Husbandry, Horticulture, Fisheries, and Rural Development departments.

#### Focus Areas

- **Marginalized Farmers:** Supports women, SC/ST, and BPL families.
- **Self-Employment:** Creation of 2,600 agricultural clusters, benefiting 50,000 farmers.

#### Objectives

- **Productivity Boost:** Aims to increase crop productivity by 15-20%.
- **Sustainability:** Promotes natural farming to enhance soil health and reduce chemical dependency.

### THE FADING LEGACY OF KANGRA'S BHITTI CHITRAS

#### Historical Significance

- **19th Century Flourish:** Bhatti Chitras adorned walls and ceilings of Kangra's temples and forts.
- **Themes:** Depicted epic tales from the Ramayana and Mahabharata.

#### Characteristics

- **Wall Preparation:** Lime and surkhi mixture for durability.
- **Pigments:** Natural sources like minerals and plants.
- **Art Style:** Swift application on wet plaster, often with brushes or fingers.

#### Current State

- **Neglect:** Many murals are in severe disrepair.
- **Preservation:** Efforts needed to restore and maintain these cultural treasures.

#### Cultural Importance

- **Heritage:** Reflects India's rich cultural and artistic traditions.
- **Community Art:** Represents collective artistic expression and religious devotion<sup>1</sup>.

### HIMACHAL PRADESH EMBARKS ON DIGITAL REVOLUTION WITH 'HIM-ACCESS'

#### Project Overview

- **Launch:** October 2024.
- **Platform:** 'Him-access', a unified online platform.

#### Key Features

- **Services:** Provides 261 citizen-centric services.
- **Unified Access:** Single point for social benefits, permits, and licenses.
- **Technological Integration:** Automates processes, reduces errors, and improves data management.

#### Benefits

- **Efficiency:** Streamlines procedures and provides real-time updates.
- **Transparency:** Enhances service delivery and builds trust.
- **Time-Saving:** Citizens can complete transactions online.

#### Additional Initiatives

- **Websites:** Dedicated sites for Milkfed and Natural Farming.
- **Helpline:** Enhanced Mukhya Mantri Sewa Sankalp Helpline.
- **Chatbot:** Introduction of a chatbot for better citizen interaction.

### SAIR FESTIVAL: A HARVEST CELEBRATION IN HIMACHAL PRADESH

- **Harvest Completion:** Thanksgiving ceremony for a bountiful harvest.
- **Farewell to Gods:** Deities return to their heavenly abode.
- **Welcoming Winter:** Preparation for colder months with rituals to ward off evil.

#### Traditions and Rituals

- **Decorations:** Homes and villages adorned with colorful decorations.
- **Puja and Offerings:** Special prayers and offerings to deities.
- **Feasts:** Traditional dishes shared among family and friends.
- **Cultural Programs:** Folk dances, music, and performances.
- **Fairs and Markets:** Various goods, entertainment, and amusement.

### Regional Variations

- **Kullu, Mandi, Kangra, Bilaspur:** Intimate family celebrations.
- **Shimla, Solan:** Grand celebrations resembling fairs.

### FLASH FLOODS: A GROWING MENACE IN HIMACHAL PRADESH

- **Increasing Frequency:** Flash floods are becoming more common in Himachal Pradesh.
- **Recent Incident:** Tosh Nullah in Kullu district experienced severe flash flooding.

### Causes

- **Climate Change:** Increased rainfall intensity and rapid snowmelt.
- **Deforestation:** Loss of tree cover exacerbates soil erosion.
- **Unplanned Urbanization:** Construction activities disrupt natural water flow.

### Impacts

- **Economic Losses:** Estimated losses of Rs 425 crore during the ongoing monsoon.
- **Infrastructure Damage:** Roads, bridges, and homes severely affected.
- **Human Casualties:** Significant loss of life and displacement of communities.

### Mitigation Measures

- **Improved Forecasting:** Enhanced weather prediction systems.
- **Sustainable Development:** Environmentally friendly construction practices.
- **Community Awareness:** Educating locals on flood preparedness.

### HIMACHAL GOVERNMENT APPROVES 'MUKHYA MANTRI SUKH SHIKSHA YOJANA'

### Scheme Overview

- The scheme aims to provide financial support to identified socially and economically vulnerable women and parents of disabled children to enable the education and well-being of their children.

### Eligibility

- Widows, destitute women, and divorced women with children.
- Parents of disabled children.
- The income of the eligible women and parents of disabled children shall not be more than Rs 1 lakh per year.

### Benefits

- Parents of children under 18 years will receive monthly financial assistance of Rs 1000 per month from the state government to cover the child's educational, nutritional, and health expenses.
- State government assistance will be provided to children pursuing undergraduate, postgraduate, diploma, or vocational courses to meet tuition fees and hostel costs.
- The scheme aims to prevent issues such as child abuse, trafficking, teenage marriages, and drug abuse by strengthening child protection at the family level.

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

### Installation Details

- An X-band Doppler weather radar will be installed in Lahaul-Spiti, Himachal Pradesh, by December 2025 to enhance weather forecasting and disaster management in the region.
- Currently, 3 Doppler radars are operational in Himachal Pradesh, with a total expenditure of Rs 13.87 crore for their installation and operation.
- The new radar will provide accurate data on weather and potential disasters.

### Radar Basics

- **Radar (Radio Detection and Ranging):** A device that uses electromagnetic waves in the microwave region to detect location (range & direction), altitude, intensity, and movement of moving and non-moving objects.

### Doppler Radar

- **Doppler Radar:** A specialized radar that uses the Doppler effect to produce velocity data about objects at a distance.
- **Doppler Effect:** When the source and the signal are in relative motion to each other, there is a change in the frequency observed by the observer. If they are moving closer, the frequency increases and vice versa.
- Doppler radars of varying frequencies — S-band, C-band, and X-band — are commonly used by the IMD to detect and track the movement of weather systems, cloud bands, and gauge rainfall over its coverage area of about 500 km.

### X-band Radar

- Operates on a wavelength of 2.5-4 cm and a frequency of 8-12 GHz.
- Due to the smaller wavelength, the X-band radar is more sensitive and can detect smaller particles.
- It is used to detect thunderstorms and lightning.



## AWARDS

### RASHTRIYA VIGYAN PURASKAR

- The Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar aims to recognize the notable and inspiring contributions made by scientists, technologists, and innovators, either individually or in teams, across various fields of science, technology, and technology-led innovation.

**Award Ceremony:** The award ceremony will be held on 23rd August, in conjunction with National Space Day.

#### Award Categories and Winners:

Award Category	Winners	Field/Contribution
<b>Vigyan Team Award</b>	ISRO-Chandrayaan 3 Team	Space science and technology
<b>Vigyan Ratna Award</b>	Professor G. Padmanabhan (Former Director of the Indian Institute of Science)	Biological sciences (Lifetime achievements)
<b>Vigyan Shri Award</b>	Anandharamakrishnan C, Umesh Varshney, Bhim Singh, Adimurthi Adi, Syed Wajh Ahmad Naqvi, Sanjay Behari, Rahul Mukherjee	Various fields
<b>Vigyan Yuva Award</b>	Dr. Bappi Paul, Dr. Abhilash, Radha Krishnan Mahalakshmi, Purabi Saikia, Digendranath Swain, Prabhu Rajagopal, Prashant Kumar	Young scientists in various fields

- Ashoka Chakra Class-II renamed to **Kirti Chakra**
- Ashoka Chakra Class-III renamed to **Shaurya Chakra**



#### Order of precedence

The awards are announced twice in a year :

- Republic Day
- Independence Day.
- The Param Vir Chakra
- The Ashoka Chakra
- The Mahavir Chakra
- The Kirti Chakra
- The Vir Chakra
- The Shaurya Chakra

### GALLANTRY AWARDS

#### First Three Gallantry Awards:

- **Awards:** Param Vir Chakra, Maha Vir Chakra, and Vir Chakra
- **Instituted by:** Government of India
- **Instituted on:** 26th January, 1950 (deemed in effect from 15th August, 1947)

#### Additional Gallantry Awards (1952):

- **Awards:** Ashoka Chakra Class-I, Ashoka Chakra Class-II, and Ashoka Chakra Class-III
- **Deemed in effect from:** 15th August, 1947

#### Renaming of Awards (January 1967):

- **New Names:**
- Ashoka Chakra Class-I renamed to **Ashoka Chakra**

### RGIA CLINCHES BEST AIRPORT AWARD FOR THIRD CONSECUTIVE YEAR

#### Award Recognition:

- ❖ The Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (RGIA) in Hyderabad has been recognized as the Best Airport at the prestigious India Travel Awards.
- ❖ This marks its third consecutive win in this category.

#### Achievement:

- ❖ Hyderabad airport has secured the Best Airport award at the India Travel Awards.

### RBI GOVERNOR SHAKTIKANTA DAS RECEIVES TOP GLOBAL RANKING

- **Top Global Ranking:** Mr. Shaktikanta Das has been ranked as the top central banker globally for the second consecutive year by the US-based Global Finance magazine.
- **Leadership at RBI:** This ranking is a recognition of his leadership at the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and his efforts towards ensuring economic growth and stability.

### 70TH NATIONAL FILM AWARDS 2024

- **Award Winners Announced:** The award winners were announced by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (I&B).
- **Honouring Cinematic Achievements:** The awards honour the best films and cinematic achievements of the year 2022.

#### Felicitation Ceremony

- **Ceremony Date:** The winners will be felicitated by President Droupadi Murmu in a ceremony in October 2024.

CATEGORY	WINNERS
Best Feature Film	Aattam by Aanand Ekarshi (Malayalam Film)
Best Feature Film Providing Wholesome Entertainment	Kantara
Best Direction	Sooraj R Barjatya for Uunchai
Best Actor	Rishabh Shetty for Kantara
Best Actress	Nithya Menen for Thiruchitrambalam, and Manasi Parekh for The Kutch Express
Best Cinematography	Ravi Varmam
Best Hindi Film	Gulmohar
Best Supporting Actress	Neena Gupta, Uunchai
Best Supporting Actor	Pawan Malhotra, Fouja

- **Special Mentions** – Manoj Bajpayee in Gulmohar, and Sanjoy Salil Chowdhury for Kadhikan
- Ponnaiyin Selvan: 1 - won the **most awards (four)**
- First handed out in 1954, these awards were known as the **State Awards**. In those years, **only the best films in different regional languages** were recognised and awarded.
- The **awards for actors and technicians** working on the films were **first given in 1967**.
- Nargis was the first actor to win Best Actress for her performance in **Raat Aur Din**.
- Uttam Kumar won the Best Actor award for Antony Firingee

and Chiriyakhana in the same year.

### PRESIDENT DROUPADI MURMU CONFERRED HIGHEST HONOUR IN FIJI

- **Highest Honour:** President Droupadi Murmu was conferred the highest honour, **Companion of the Order of Fiji**, in the capital city of Suva.

#### Diplomatic Relations

- **Address to Parliament:** President Murmu addressed the Fijian Parliament, recalling the 75 years of diplomatic association between India and Fiji.

#### Key Figures

- **President of Fiji:** Ratu Wiliame Katonivere.
- **Prime Minister of Fiji:** Sitiveni Rabuka.
- **High Commissioner of India to Fiji:** PS Karthigeyan.

### 24TH INTERNATIONAL MOTHER TERESA AWARDS

- **Event Location:** The 24th International Mother Teresa Awards Ceremony took place at the Millennium Plaza Dubai.
- **Commemoration:** The event commemorated the 114th birth anniversary of the revered humanitarian.

#### Organization and History

- **Organizer:** The event was organized by the **All-India Minority and Weaker Sections Council**.
- **Historical Significance:** This was only the second time the ceremony was held outside India.
- **Establishment:** The awards were established after Mother Teresa's passing in 1997.

#### Recognition and Contributions

- **Award Purpose:** The awards recognized exceptional individuals who have made significant contributions in various fields including:
  - ❖ Education
  - ❖ Science
  - ❖ Culture
  - ❖ Sports
  - ❖ Social Work
  - ❖ Medicine
  - ❖ Industry
  - ❖ Politics in India.

### KERALA TOURISM WINS PATA GOLD AWARD 2024

#### Award Details:

- **Kerala Tourism** was presented the globally acclaimed

**Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) Gold Award 2024.**

- The award ceremony took place at a function in **Bangkok**.

#### Winning Campaign:

- The award was given for Kerala Tourism's online contest 'Holiday Heist'.
- The contest won in the Digital Marketing Campaign category.

#### B. JEYAMOHAN AWARDED FIRST BOOK BRAHMA SAHITYA PURASKARA

#### Award Details:

- Tamil and Malayalam writer B. Jeyamohan was awarded the inaugural Book Brahma Sahitya Puraskara - 2024.
- The award ceremony took place at the three-day Book Brahma Literature Festival.

#### Award Significance:

- The award is given to an Indian language writer.
- It carries a purse of Rs. 2 lakh.

#### Recipient's Achievements:

- B. Jeyamohan is acclaimed for authoring "Venmurasu" (The White Drum), the world's longest novel.

#### Organizing Body:

- Book Brahma, a Kannada literature and book catalogue portal, organized the event.

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

#### New Title Holder:

- The title of the oldest living person now belongs to Japan's Tomiko Itooka.
- She was born on 23 May 1908 and is currently 116 years old.

#### Succession:

- Tomiko Itooka was next in line for the title after Maria Branyas Morera passed away in Spain.
- Maria Branyas Morera became the world's oldest person in January 2023.

#### Guinness World Records Confirmation:

- Guinness World Records confirmed that Maria Branyas Morera passed away at the age of 117 years and 168 days.

#### Historical Record:

- The oldest ever recorded person was Frenchwoman Jeanne Calment, who lived to be 122 years and 164 days old.

## ANSWER WRITING WORKBOOK

### 50-50 LAP

Language Answer Writing Programme

50 Marks Test

20 Test Hindi

20 Test English

With Model Answers for Grammar Section

Recorded discussion and Evaluation Available

### T-20

GS Answer Writing Programme

20 Marks Test

70 Test GS (30 GS-I, 20 GS-II, 20 GS-III)

Recorded discussion and Evaluation Available



**CHANDIGARH: 9779464470, SHIMLA : 8628864475**



## SPORTS

## PARIS OLYMPICS 2024 CLOSING CEREMONY

- **Date and Venue:** Tonight at Stade de France.
- **Theme:** The Closing Ceremony is named 'Records'.

## Indian Representation

- **Flag Bearers:**
  - ❖ PR Sreejesh (Hockey Goalkeeper), known as the 'Wall of India'.
  - ❖ Manu Bhaker (Shooter), two-time Olympic medallist.

## ABHINAV BINDRA RECEIVES OLYMPIC ORDER AWARD

## Award Details

- **Award:** Olympic Order, the highest honour by the International Olympic Committee (IOC).
- **Recognition:** Exceptional contributions to the Olympic Movement.

## Abhinav Bindra's Achievements

- **Historic Win:** India's first individual Olympic gold in the Men's 10-meter Air Rifle event at the 2008 Beijing Games.

## GOVERNMENT RELEASES COMMEMORATIVE POSTAGE STAMPS FOR PARIS OLYMPICS 2024

- **Ministers Involved:** Jyotiraditya Scindia (Minister of Communications) and Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya (Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports).

## Stamp Representation

- **Sports Featured:** Javelin Throw, Field Hockey, Sailing, and Table Tennis.

## Indian Participation

- **Khelo India Athletes:** 29 out of 117 Indian athletes at the Olympics are from the Khelo India program.

## Historical Achievement

- **Total Medals:** India has won 38 Olympic medals since the 1900 edition (as of August 6, 2024).

Athlete	Medal	Event	Olympics
Norman Pritchard	Silver (first medal)	Men's 200m	Paris 1900
Norman Pritchard	Silver	Men's 200m hurdles	Paris 1900
Indian hockey team	Gold (first gold)	Men's hockey	Amsterdam 1928

Indian hockey team	Gold (first after Independence)	Men's hockey	London 1948
Abhinav Bindra	Gold (first individual gold)	Men's 10m air rifle shooting	Beijing 2008
Neeraj Chopra	Gold	Men's javelin throw	Tokyo 2020

## NOVAK DJOKOVIC CLINCHES FIRST OLYMPIC GOLD MEDAL AT PARIS 2024

- Djokovic won his first Olympic gold medal by defeating Carlos Alcaraz in the men's tennis singles final.

## Career Achievements

- **Grand Slam Titles:** Holds a men's-record 24 Grand Slam titles.
- **Ranking Record:** Most weeks spent at No. 1 in the rankings by any man or woman.
- **Previous Olympic Medal:** Won bronze at the 2008 Summer Olympics.

## Historic Milestone

- **Oldest Gold Medalist:** Oldest man to win the singles gold in tennis since 1908.
- **Prevented Record:** Prevented 21-year-old Alcaraz from becoming the youngest singles gold medalist.

## Exclusive Club

- **Career Grand Slam and Olympic Gold:** Joined Andre Agassi, Rafael Nadal, Steffi Graf, and Serena Williams as the only players to win all four Grand Slam tournaments and Olympic singles gold.

## DUPLANTIS SHATTERS RECORDS FOR OLYMPIC POLE VAULT GOLD

## Key Highlights:

- **Athlete:** Armand "Mondo" Duplantis (Sweden)
- **Achievement:** Shattered the world record for the ninth time
- **Event:** Olympic Pole Vault Gold

## GABBY THOMAS SECURES STUNNING VICTORY IN WOMEN'S OLYMPIC 200M

- **Athlete:** Gabby Thomas (United States)
- **Event:** Women's Olympic 200m
- **Achievement:** Secured the first major title of her career with a stunning victory

- Gabby Thomas led from start to finish, clocking an impressive time of **21.83 seconds** to win gold.
- Her victory at the Paris 2024 Olympics marks a significant milestone in her career.

- **Reason:** Vinesh Phogat, competing in the Women's Wrestling 50kg class, was found to be overweight by exactly 100 grams.

### LT COL KABILAN SAI ASHOK: INDIA'S YOUNGEST BOXING REFEREE AT OLYMPICS

- **Name:** Lieutenant Colonel Kabilan Sai Ashok
- **Profession:** Serving Indian Army Officer
- **Achievement:**
  - ❖ Became **India's youngest referee to officiate the boxing events at the ongoing Paris Olympics 2024**
  - ❖ Age: **32**
  - ❖ Only the fourth Indian since 1904 to officiate at the Olympics
  - ❖ First to have represented the country as a player and an official at a world championship event
  - ❖ First Indian to become the President of World Military Boxing Council.

### INDIA'S FLAGBEARERS FOR PARIS 2024 PARALYMPICS AND OLYMPICS

#### Paris Paralympics 2024

- **Flagbearers for Opening Ceremony:** Sumit Antil & Bhagyashree Jadhav
- **Mascot:** Paralympic Phryge—a small red figure, inspired by the traditional Phrygian cap, a symbol of the French Republic
- **Motto:** Games Wide Open

#### Paris Olympics 2024

- **Flagbearers for Opening Ceremony:** PV Sindhu and Sharath Kamal
- **Flagbearers for Closing Ceremony:** Manu Bhaker and PR Sreejesh

### VINESH PHOGAT DISQUALIFIED FROM COMPETING IN FINALS AT PARIS OLYMPICS, MISSES HISTORIC MEDAL

- **Shock for Indian Contingent:** Wrestler Vinesh Phogat was on her way to becoming the country's first woman wrestler to reach the Olympics final by defeating World and Olympic 50kg champion Yui Susaki.
- **Disqualification:** She was eliminated for being overweight ahead of her final bout against USA's Sarah Ann Hildebrandt.

### SATYA PRAKASH SANGWAN

- Satya Prakash Sangwan Appointed Chef de Mission for India's Paris 2024 Paralympic Contingent
- **Contingent Size:** Largest-ever, with 84 players
- **Event Dates:** 28th August to 8th September 2024
- **First-time Participants:** 47 athletes

### PARALYMPIC GAMES

**India had a historic performance at the Paris Paralympics 2024, securing a total of 29 medals.**

Athlete	Sport	Event	Medal
Avani Lekhara	Shooting	Women's 10m Air Rifle SH1	Gold
Sumit Antil	Athletics	Men's Javelin Throw F64	Gold
Dharambir	Athletics	Men's Club Throw F51	Gold
Praveen Kumar	Athletics	Men's High Jump T64	Gold
Harvinder Singh	Archery	Individual Recurve Open	Gold
Nitesh Kumar	Badminton	Men's Singles SL3	Gold
Manish Narwal	Shooting	Mixed 50m Pistol SH1	Gold
Nishad Kumar	Athletics	Men's High Jump T47	Silver
Suhas Yathiraj	Badminton	Men's Singles SL4	Silver
Thulasimathi Murugesan	Badminton	Women's Singles SL4	Silver

Athlete	Sport	Event	Medal
Yogesh Kathuniya	Athletics	Men's Discus Throw F56	Silver
Sundar Singh Gurjar	Athletics	Men's Javelin Throw F46	Silver
Sheetal Devi	Archery	Compound Mixed Team	Silver
Rubina Francis	Shooting	Women's 10m Air Pistol SH1	Silver
Preethi Pal	Athletics	Women's 100m T35	Bronze
Preethi Pal	Athletics	Women's 200m T35	Bronze
Mariyappan Thangavelu	Athletics	Men's High Jump T42	Bronze
Deepthi Jeevanji	Athletics	Women's 400m T20	Bronze
Mona Agarwal	Shooting	Women's 50m Rifle 3 Positions SH1	Bronze
Rakesh Kumar	Archery	Compound Mixed Team	Bronze
Ajeet Singh	Athletics	Men's Javelin Throw F46	Bronze
Sharad Kumar	Athletics	Men's High Jump T42	Bronze
Sachin Khilari	Athletics	Men's Shot Put F57	Bronze
Pranav Soorma	Athletics	Men's Club Throw F51	Bronze
Hokato Hotozhe Sema	Athletics	Men's Shot Put F57	Bronze
Navdeep Singh	Athletics	Men's Javelin Throw F41	Bronze
Simran Sharma	Athletics	Women's 200m T12	Bronze
Manisha Ramadass	Badminton	Women's Singles SU5	Bronze
Nithya Sivan	Badminton	Women's Singles SL3	Bronze

India's Paralympic Medal Tally	
Year	Medals
1972	1
1984	4
2004	2
2012	1
2016	4
2020	19
2024	29



## 26TH CEAT CRICKET AWARDS

### Event Details:

- **Location:** Mumbai
- **Significance:** Prestigious awards recognizing exceptional cricket performances globally
- **Inception:** 1995-96
- **Sponsor:** RP Goenka Group company CEAT Tyres

### Major Awards:

- **Lifetime Achievement Award:** Rahul Dravid
- **International Cricketer of the Year:** Rohit Sharma

### Additional Honours:

- **Men's ODI Batter of the Year:** Virat Kohli
- **Men's ODI Bowler of the Year:** Mohammad Shami
- **Domestic Cricketer of the Year:** Sai Kishore
- **Women's Indian Batter of the Year:** Smriti Mandhana
- **Women's Indian Bowler of the Year:** Deepti Sharma

## VVS LAXMAN TO EXTEND TERM AS NCA HEAD

- **Current Role:** Chief of the National Cricket Academy (NCA)
- **Extension:** Set to continue in his role
- **Location:** Chinnaswamy Cricket Stadium, Karnataka
- **Established:** 2000 by BCCI

### Purpose:

- **Training:** Develop young cricketers identified as potential future members of the Indian Cricket Team
- **Rehabilitation:** Assist players recovering from injuries

## ASHWIN QUESTIONS RTM RULE AHEAD OF IPL 2025 AUCTION

- **RTM Rule:** Allows franchises to retain a player from the previous season by matching the highest bid placed during the auction.
- **Introduction:** First introduced in 2014.
- **Usage:** Not used in IPL auctions since 2018.
- India spinner **Ravichandran Ashwin** has **raised concerns about the RTM (Right to Match) rule** as the **IPL 2025 auction approaches**.
- This rule, which **has been dormant since 2018**, is now under scrutiny as teams prepare for the upcoming auction.

## JAY SHAH ELECTED UNOPPOSED AS INDEPENDENT CHAIR OF ICC

- **Youngest ICC Chairman:** Jay Shah, the incumbent secretary of the Board of Cricket for Cricket in India

(BCCI), is set to become the youngest chairman (age 35) of the International Cricket Council (ICC).

- **Succession:** He will take over from New Zealand's Greg Barclay on December 1.
- **BCCI Secretary:** He was elected unopposed as the BCCI secretary in October 2019.
- **Asian Cricket Council:** Since 2021, he has also been serving as the Asian Cricket Council Chairperson.

## CRICKETER SHIKHAR DHAWAN ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT FROM INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC CRICKET

- **Career Span:** The 38-year-old represented the **national team** in **all three formats** since making his international debut in 2010 in an ODI against Australia in Visakhapatnam.
- **World Record:** He created a world record by scoring the fastest century by a debutant in a Test match, an 85-ball hundred against Australia in Mohali in the 2013 Test match.
- **ODI Achievements:** He is one of the eight batsmen in ODIs with over 5000 runs at a 40-plus average and a 90-plus strike rate. The list includes Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli.
- **IPL Performance:** In the IPL, Shikhar Dhawan is the second-highest run-scorer after Virat Kohli.

## 9TH ICC WOMEN'S T20 WORLD CUP 2024 VENUE SHIFTED TO UAE

- **New Venue:** The 9th ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2024 has been moved from Bangladesh to the United Arab Emirates (UAE).
- **Event Dates:** The tournament will take place from October 3 to October 20, 2024.
- **Locations:** Matches will be held across two venues in the UAE: Dubai and Sharjah.
- **Reason for Change:** The venue change was due to travel advisories from several participating countries, making it unfeasible to host the event in Bangladesh.
- **Bangladesh's Role:** Despite the shift, the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) will retain the hosting rights.

## INDIA WINS CAVA WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL NATIONS LEAGUE FOR THE SECOND TIME

- **Victory in Final:** India lifted the CAVA (Central Asian Volleyball Association) Women's Volleyball Nations League final after beating hosts Nepal 3-2 at the Dashrath Stadium in Kathmandu.
- **Second Title:** This victory marked India's second title in the CAVA Women's Volleyball Nations League.

**NORTH EAST UNITED CLINCH MAIDEN DURAND CUP TITLE**

- **Victory:** NorthEast United defeated defending champions Mohun Bagan Super Giant.
- **Venue:** Salt Lake Stadium (Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan), Kolkata.
- **Durand Cup:** Asia's oldest football tournament.

**Individual Awards:**

- **Golden Glove:** Gurmeet Singh.
- **Golden Boot:** Noah Sadaoui (6 goals).
- **Man of the Tournament:** Jithin M.S.

**BANGLADESH CROWNED NEW CHAMPION OF SAFF U-20 CHAMPIONSHIP**

- **Victory:** Bangladesh defeated hosts Nepal in the final.
- **Historic Win:** This is the first time Bangladesh has won the SAFF U20- Championship.
- **India:** Winners of the SAFF U20- Championship in ,2019 2022, and 2023.

**INDIAN MEN'S HOCKEY TEAM WINS BRONZE AT PARIS OLYMPICS**

- **Victory:** The Indian hockey team claimed a bronze medal after defeating Spain.
- **13th Medal:** This is the Indian hockey team's 13th Olympic medal in history.
- **Fourth Bronze:** The bronze in men's hockey is India's fourth bronze medal of the Paris Olympics.
- **Shooting Success:** The previous three bronze medals were in the Shooting discipline, with Manu Bhaker winning two of them.

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

- **Organizers:** Organized by the Holistic International Pravasi Sports Association (HIPSA) in partnership with World Kabaddi.
- **Participating Teams:** Teams from a diverse range of countries, including:
  - ❖ England
  - ❖ Poland
  - ❖ Argentina
  - ❖ Canada
  - ❖ Italy
- **Athlete Participation:** Athletes from these nations have expressed keen interest in participating.

**V SRIRAMULU WINS 3 GOLD MEDALS AT WORLD MASTERS ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIP IN SWEDEN**

- **Athlete:** Mr. V Sriramulu, aged 101 years.
- **Achievements:** Clinched gold medals in: Javelin, Discus and Shotput
- **Event:** World Masters Athletics Championship held in Sweden.

**TEAM INDIA WINS 1 GOLD, 4 SILVER MEDALS AT INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIAD ON ASTRONOMY**

- **Event:** 17th International Olympiad on Astronomy (IOAA) held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil on August 17 to 25
- **India's Performance:**
  - ❖ Team India secured 1 gold and 4 silver medals.
  - ❖ Placed in the eighth position overall.
- **Top Performer:**
  - ❖ Winner: Iran with 5 gold medals.

**FIVE-YEAR-OLD TEGHBIR SINGH CONQUERS MOUNT KILIMANJARO**

- **Teghbir Singh** from **Ropar in Punjab** has become the youngest ever from Asia to scale the 5,895-metre Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania.

**About Mount Kilimanjaro**

- It is Africa's tallest mountain and the world's largest free-standing mountain (which means not part of a mountain range).
- Also called a stratovolcano, Kilimanjaro is made up of three cones: Kibo, Mawenzi, and Shira.
- Uhuru Peak, the highest free-standing peak in Africa, is located on the volcanic cone Kibo.

**Recognition**

- The Kilimanjaro National Park was named a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1987.

**RIIOHLANG DHAR APPOINTED ASST. REFEREE FOR 8TH FIFA U17 WOMEN'S WORLD CUP**

**Appointment:** The world football governing body FIFA has selected Meghalaya's Riiohlang Dhar as an assistant referee for the eighth U-17 Women's World Cup.

**Event Details:** The tournament will be held in the Dominican Republic.

**PAKISTAN ATHLETE ARSHAD NADEEM TO BE HONoured WITH HILAL-E-IMTIAZ AWARD**

- The Javelin Throw gold medallist in the Paris Olympics 2024, Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem, is set to be honoured

with Hilal-e-Imtiaz by the country's government.

- Hilal-e-Imtiaz is the second-highest civilian award given by the Government of Pakistan (Highest - Nishan-e-Pakistan).



**ADMISSION OPEN**

**HAS**

**NEW BATCH**

**STARTING FROM**

**4TH OCTOBER 2024**

**CHANDIGARH**

**DHARAMSHALA**

**ENROL  
NOW**

**Free  
3 Days  
Demo  
Class**





## APPOINTMENTS

### FATEMEH MOHAJERANI

- **Historic Appointment:** President Masoud Pezeshkian appointed Fatemeh Mohajerani as the new spokesperson for the Iranian government, marking a historic first.
- **Trailblazer:** Mohajerani is the first woman to ever hold this position in Iran.
- **Capital:** Tehran.
- **Currency:** Iranian rial.

### MOHAMMAD YUNUS

- **Appointment:** On August 6, 2024, Nobel laureate Mohammad Yunus was appointed as the head of Bangladesh's interim government.
- **Appointed By:** President Mohammed Shahabuddin made the official appointment.

#### About Mohammad Yunus:

- **Nobel Peace Prize:** He won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2006 for his anti-poverty campaign through the Grameen Bank.
- **Grameen Bank Model:** His microcredit model via the Grameen Bank has been replicated globally to alleviate poverty.

### PAETONGTARN SHINAWATRA

- Thailand's parliament elected 37-year-old Paetongtarn Shinawatra as its **youngest Prime Minister**.
- **Family Background:** She is the daughter of former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra.
- **Capital:** Bangkok.
- **Currency:** Thai baht (฿).

### PAUL KAGAME

- **Re-election:** Paul Kagame has been re-elected as the President of Rwanda for the fourth consecutive term.

#### Rwanda - Quick Facts

- **Capital:** Kigali
- **Currency:** Rwandan Franc (RWF)

### REFAAT AHMED

- **Refaat Ahmed** sworn in as **Bangladesh's New Chief Justice**

### FUMIO KISHIDA

- **Resignation Announcement:** Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida has announced his decision to step down in September.

- **Reason:** He stated that the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) needs a new start.

#### Japan - Quick Facts

- **Capital:** Tokyo
- **Currency:** Japanese Yen (¥)

### DALJIT SINGH CHAUDHARY

- **Daljit Singh Chaudhary**, the Director General of **Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)**, took over the additional charge of Director General **Border Security Force (BSF)**.
- **Previous BSF Director General Nitin Agarwal** was sent on premature repatriation to his parent Kerala cadre with immediate effect.
- Daljit Singh Chaudhary assumed the charge of DG SSB on January 23, 2024.

### RAJWINDER SINGH BHATTI

- **CISF Appointment:**
  - ❖ Rajwinder Singh Bhatti has been appointed as the Director General of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF).
  - ❖ He will serve in this role until his superannuation on September 30, 2025.
- **BSF Appointment:**
  - ❖ Daljit Singh Chaudhary, currently the chief of the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB), will lead the Border Security Force (BSF).
  - ❖ He will serve as BSF DG until his superannuation on November 30, 2025.

### VICE ADMIRAL CR PRAVEEN NAIR

- Vice Admiral CR Praveen Nair has taken over as the Commandant of the Indian Naval Academy.
- **Predecessor:** He succeeds Vice Admiral Vineet McCarty.

### B SRINIVASAN

- **B Srinivasan** appointed as the Director General (DG) of the National Security Guard (NSG) till **August 31, 2027**.
- He will replace **Anish Dayal Singh** (CRPF Director General), who was given the additional charge of the DG of NSG.
- The then NSG Director General **Nalin Prabhat** was appointed as a special DGP of the Jammu and Kashmir Police.
- B Srinivasan is currently the Director of **Bihar Police Academy**, Rajgir, Bihar.

**About NSG:**

- The **National Security Act** was enacted in 1986, and the National Security Guard (elite counter-terrorism force) came into existence on **22 September 1986**.
- One of the seven **Central Armed Police Forces** of the Government of India.
- Operates under the **Union Ministry of Home Affairs**.
- Motto: **Sarvatra Sarvottam Suraksha**.

**LIEUTENANT GENERAL SADHNA SAXENA NAIR**

- **Lieutenant General Sadhna Saxena Nair** assumed the office of the Director General of Medical Services (Army) on **1 August 2024**.
- She is the **first woman** to hold this prestigious post in the Indian Army's Medical Services.

**Key Personnel:**

- **Director General Armed Forces Medical Services:** Lt Gen Daljit Singh.

**AIR MARSHAL TEJINDER SINGH TAKES OVER AS DEPUTY CHIEF OF THE AIR STAFF****Appointment Details:**

- **Air Marshal Tejinder Singh** has taken over as the Deputy Chief of the Air Staff.

**Awards and Honors:**

- Awarded the **Vayu Sena Medal** in 2007.
- Awarded the **Ati Vishisht Seva Medal** in 2022.

Post	Person
Chief of Defence Staff	General Anil Chauhan
Chief of the Army Staff	General Upendra Dwivedi
Chief of the Naval Staff	Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi
Chief of The Air Staff	Air Chief Marshal Vr Chaudhari
Deputy Chief of Army Staff	Lt Gen NS Raja Subramani
Deputy Chief of the Naval Staff (DCNS)	Vice Admiral Krishna Swaminathan

**LT GEN VIKAS LAKHERA**

- **Lieutenant General Vikas Lakhera**, AVSM, SM, has officially assumed the role of the 22nd Director General of the **Assam Rifles**, the oldest paramilitary force in India, often referred to as the "Sentinels of the Northeast".

**About Assam Rifles:**

- **Founded:** 1835

- **Headquarters:** Shillong, Meghalaya

**LT GEN VIKAS LAKHERA ASSUMES CHARGE AS DG OF ASSAM RIFLES**

- **Lieutenant General Vikas Lakhera**, AVSM, SM, has officially assumed the role of the 22nd Director General of the Assam Rifles, the oldest paramilitary force in India, often referred to as the "Sentinels of the Northeast".

**About Assam Rifles:**

- **Founded:** 1835
- **Headquarters:** Shillong, Meghalaya

**T.V. SOMANATHAN**

- The central government has appointed senior IAS officer TV Somanathan as the new Cabinet Secretary.
- TV Somanathan is a 1987-batch IAS officer from the Tamil Nadu Cadre.
- He is currently serving as the Finance Secretary.
- His term as Cabinet Secretary will be for two years.

**Transition**

- TV Somanathan will take over India's top bureaucratic position from August 30.
- He will succeed the incumbent Rajiv Gauba, whose extended tenure ends on August 30.

**RAJESH KUMAR**

- IAS Officer Rajesh Kumar appointed next Defence Secretary
- Secretary, Ministry of Corporate Affairs- Deepti Gaur Mukherjee
- Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs- Katikithala Srinivas
- Secretary, Ministry of Minority Affairs- Chandra Sekhar Kumar
- Secretary to the President - Deepti Umashankar (after Rajesh Verma's superannuation on August 31)

**Other important Secretary positions**

- **Cabinet Secretary** - Rajiv Gauba (to be replaced by T. V. Somanathan on August 30)
- **Home Secretary** - Ajay Bhalla (to be replaced by Govind Mohan on August 22)
- **Foreign Secretary** - Vikram Misri

**RAHUL NAVIN**

- Acting Enforcement Directorate (ED) chief Rahul Navin has been appointed as the full-time director of the federal Anti-Money Laundering agency.
- His term will be for a period of two years.

- He succeeds his predecessor, Sanjay Kumar Mishra.

### About Enforcement Directorate

- The Enforcement Directorate (ED) is a domestic law enforcement and economic intelligence agency responsible for enforcing economic laws and combating economic crimes in India.
- The origin of the ED dates back to May 1956, when an “enforcement unit” was formed to handle Exchange Control Laws violations under the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1947.
- In 1957, the unit was renamed as the Enforcement Directorate.
- The nodal ministry for the ED is the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance.

### Objectives of the ED

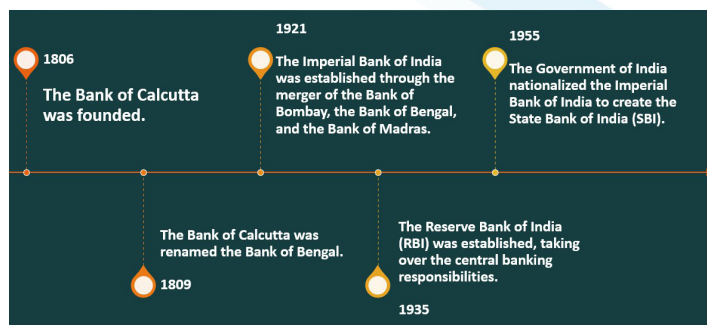
- The prime objective of the Enforcement Directorate is the enforcement of three key Acts of the Government of India:
  - ❖ Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (FEMA)
  - ❖ Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA)
  - ❖ Fugitive Economic Offenders Act, 2018 (FEOA)

### GOVERNMENT APPOINTS C S SETTY AS CHAIRMAN OF SBI

- The government has appointed C S Setty as the Chairman of the country’s biggest lender, State Bank of India (SBI), for a period of three years.
- Setty, currently the senior-most Managing Director (MD) of the bank, will replace Chairman Dinesh Kumar Khara.
- Dinesh Kumar Khara’s term ends on August 28 as he will be turning 63.

### Additional Appointment

- The government has also appointed Rana Ashutosh Kumar Singh to take over as Managing Director (MD) at SBI.



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

### New Entity Formation

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

### Leadership Appointments

- Former banker Lalitha Nataraj has been appointed as the chief executive officer (CEO) of NBSL.
- Rahul Handa will serve as the chief business officer (CBO) of NBSL.

### SANJAY SHUKLA

- **Sanjay Shukla** has assumed charge as the Managing Director (MD) of the National Housing Bank.
- Previously, he was the MD & CEO of Centrum Housing Finance Ltd.

### About National Housing Bank

- **Founded:** 9 July 1988
- **Headquarters:** New Delhi

### SATISH KUMAR

- Satish Kumar named new chairman and CEO of Railway Board
- Mr. Satish Kumar will replace Jaya Verma Sinha.
- Jaya Verma Sinha, the first lady Chairperson of the Railway Board, will retire on August 31.
- **Tenure:** Mr. Kumar will serve until his superannuation. He will be re-employed on a contract basis from January 1 until August 31, 2025.

### DHIRAJ SINGH

- Dhiraj Singh Appointed Director of Film and Television Institute of India, Pune
- **Current Position:** Dhiraj Singh is currently the Additional Director General in the Press Information Bureau, in charge of media and communications for the Prime Minister’s Office.
- **Appointment:** Singh has been appointed as the Director of the Film and Television Institute of India, Pune. He succeeds Sandeep Shahare in this role.
- **Authorship:** Singh is also the author of the book ‘Modern Masters of Cinema: A Personal Pantheon’.

### TAN SU SHAN

- Singapore’s DBS Group has appointed Tan Su Shan as CEO.
- She is currently the head of the institutional banking group.



➤ **Historic Milestone:**

- ❖ She will be the **bank's first female chief executive**.
- ❖ She is also the first CEO to be appointed from within the ranks of the bank.

**BOB RAE**

- Bob Rae, Canada's Ambassador to the UN, has been elected as **ECOSOC President** for a 1-year term.
- His election is expected to enhance Canada's bilateral engagements.
- **Role of ECOSOC:**
  - ❖ The United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations.
  - ❖ It is responsible for coordinating the economic and social fields.
- **Predecessor:**
  - ❖ Paula Narváez, Representative of Chile, will retire prior to Bob Rae's appointment to the post.

**ANAND MAHINDRA**

- Anand Mahindra, Chairman of Mahindra Group, has been appointed as the Chairman of the newly-established Young India Skills University in Telangana.
- **University Overview:**
  - ❖ The **Young India Skills University** is designed to provide vocational training and equip young people with practical skills needed for the job market.
  - ❖ It will offer degrees, diplomas, certificates, and custom-made courses tailored to industry and community needs.
- **Location:** The main campus will be located in **Mucherla, Ranga Reddy district** of Telangana
- **Partnership Model:** The university will be established under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model.
- **Government Initiative:** This initiative is part of a broader effort by the Telangana government to promote economic growth and create more job opportunities for its citizens.



# JOKTA Academy

**IAS/HAS**



**Online / Offline  
Classes**



**Recorded  
Lectures**



**2 Years  
Validity**



**Pre / Mains  
Test Series**



**Answer Writing  
Practice**



**Complete Study  
Material**



**CSAT  
Classes**



**Language  
Hindi & English**



**AWSM  
Course**



**LAP  
50-50**



**T-20  
Workbook**



**Best  
Publication**



Avail  
**10% Off**  
on Pre Admission

**9779464470 | 0172-4044475**

## OBITUARIES

### NEW ZEALAND'S MĀORI KING DIES AFTER 18-YEAR REIGN

- New Zealand's Māori King, **Kiingi Tuheitia Pootatau Te Wherowhero VII**, passed away at the age of **69**.
- He was the **seventh monarch** in the **Kiingitanga movement**.

#### Historical Context

- The **Kiingitanga movement** was established in **1858** to unite New Zealand's Indigenous Māori tribes in response to British colonization.

### FATHER OF AGNI MISSILES, DR. RAM NARAIN AGARWAL PASSES AWAY

- Renowned DRDO missile scientist Ram Narain Agarwal, widely celebrated as the Father of Agni Missiles, passed away in Hyderabad.
- He earned the moniker "Agni Man".

#### Career Highlights:

- Dr. Agarwal was the first Programme Director of the Agni missiles.
- He led India's Agni missile programme from its inception in 1983 until his retirement in 2005.
- He spearheaded the development of various versions of the Agni missile:
  - ❖ **Agni I:** Range of 800-700 km.
  - ❖ **Agni II:** Range more than 2000 km.
  - ❖ **Agni III:** Range of more than 2,500 km.
  - ❖ **Agni IV:** Range of more than 3,500 km and can fire from a road mobile launcher.
  - ❖ **Agni V:** The longest of the Agni series, an Inter-Continental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) with a range of over 5,000 km.

#### Awards and Honors:

- He was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award in 2004 by the Prime Minister of India for his contributions to aerospace and the Agni missile.
- He also received the DRDO Technology Leadership Award and Chandrasekhara Saraswati National Eminence Award.
- He was honored with the Padma Shri in 1990 and Padma Bhushan in 2000 by the President of India.

### INDIAN COAST GUARD DIRECTOR-GENERAL RAKESH PAL DIES

#### Personal Details:

- 25th Director-General of Indian Coast Guard, Rakesh Pal, passed away of a heart attack in Chennai. He was 59 years old.

#### Indian Coast Guard (ICG) Overview:

- The ICG was formally established in 1978 by the Coast Guard Act, 1978 as an independent Armed force of India.
- It operates under the Ministry of Defence.
- Headquarters: New Delhi.

### FORMER CHIEF OF ARMY STAFF GENERAL SUNDARARAJAN PADMANABHAN PASSES AWAY

- **Former Chief of Army Staff:** General Sundararajan Padmanabhan has passed away.
- **Chairman of the Chief of Staff Committee:** He also served as the Chairman of the Chief of Staff Committee.

### FORMER YOUTUBE CEO SUSAN WOJCICKI PASSES AWAY

- **Former YouTube CEO:** Susan Wojcicki, the former CEO of YouTube and one of Google's earliest employees, has passed away at the age of 56.
- **Prominent Woman in Tech:** Wojcicki was one of the most prominent women in the tech industry.
- **Stepped Down in 2023:** She stepped down from her role at YouTube in 2023, a position she held for nine years.

### NOBEL PRIZE-WINNING PHYSICIST TSUNG-DAO LEE PASSES AWAY

- **Nobel Prize Laureate:** Chinese-American physicist Tsung-Dao Lee, who in 1957 became the second-youngest scientist to receive a Nobel Prize, has died at the age of 97.
- **Praise from Robert Oppenheimer:** Robert Oppenheimer, known as the father of the atomic bomb, once praised Prof. Lee as one of the most brilliant theoretical physicists of the time.

### FORMER EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER K NATWAR SINGH PASSES AWAY

- **Passing Away:** India's former external affairs minister K Natwar Singh passed away at the age of 93.
- **Padma Bhushan Awardee:** He was awarded the Padma Bhushan in 1984.
- **Diplomatic Career:** Singh served as the foreign minister in UPA-I and also held senior diplomatic positions, including India's Ambassador to Pakistan.
- **Published Works:** He authored 'The Legacy of Nehru:



A Memorial Tribute' and 'My China Diary 1956-88'. His autobiography is titled 'One Life is Not Enough'.

### GANDHIAN SHOBHANA RANADE PASSES AWAY AT 99

- **Renowned Social Worker:** Shobhana Ranade, a renowned social worker who met Mahatma Gandhi when she was 18, passed away in Pune.
- **Padma Bhushan Awardee:** She was awarded the Padma Bhushan in 2011.
- **Jamnalal Bajaj Award:** The Jamnalal Bajaj Foundation awarded Ranade the Jamnalal Bajaj Award for Development and Welfare of Women and Children in 2011.

### RENOWNED INDIAN CLASSICAL DANCER DR. YAMINI KRISHNAMURTHY PASSES AWAY AT 84

#### Achievements and Awards

- Displayed unparalleled talent in Bharatanatyam and Kuchipudi.
- Bestowed with the Padma Shri in 1968, the Padma Bhushan in 2001, and the Padma Vibhushan in 2016, among the highest civilian awards of India.
- Conferred the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 1977.

#### Personal Life

- Born on December 20, 1940, in Madanapalli, present-day Chittoor district, Andhra Pradesh.
- Published her autobiography, "A Passion For Dance," in 1995

## OUR STUDY MATERIAL





## IMPORTANT DAYS

Date	Day	Important Information
1 <sup>st</sup> August	World Wide Web Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ This day commemorates the birth of the World Wide Web and serves as a reminder of the transformative impact it has had on our lives.</li> <li>➤ Tim Berners-Lee was employed for the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) in Switzerland in 1989, he developed the World Wide Web.</li> </ul>
1 <sup>st</sup> August	World Lung Cancer Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Theme is “Close the Care Gap: Everyone Deserves Access to Cancer Care”.</li> <li>➤ The first day was observed in 2012</li> </ul>
1 <sup>st</sup> August	Muslim Women’s Rights Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Muslim Women’s Rights Day is observed across India to celebrate the enactment of the law against triple talaq.</li> <li>➤ The central government enacted the law on August 1, 2019, that has made the practice of instant triple talaq a criminal offence.</li> </ul>
1 <sup>st</sup> – 7 <sup>th</sup> August	World Breastfeeding Week	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Theme for 2024 is Closing the gap: Breastfeeding support for all.</li> </ul>
3 <sup>rd</sup> August	Organ Donation Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Observed since 2010 in the country.</li> <li>➤ Earlier, it used to be observed every year on 27 November.</li> <li>➤ In 2022, the National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation decided to observe the Indian Organ Donation Day on 3 August every year.</li> <li>➤ Thus, from 2023 onwards, it is observed on 3rd August.</li> </ul>
6 <sup>th</sup> August	Hiroshima Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Hiroshima Day observes the tragic anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima, Japan, by the United States during World War II in 1945</li> <li>➤ The bombing resulted in the deaths of tens of thousands of people, and its aftermath had long-lasting effects on the survivors and the city itself.</li> <li>➤ On August 6, 1945 the bomb nicknamed “Little Boy,” exploded approximately 600 meters above Hiroshima.</li> <li>➤ On August 9, 1945, the U.S. dropped a second atomic bomb, “Fat Man,” on Nagasaki.</li> <li>➤ Hiroshima Day observes the tragic anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima, Japan, by the United States during World War II in 1945.</li> <li>➤ The bombing resulted in the deaths of tens of thousands of people, and its aftermath had long-lasting effects on the survivors and the city itself.</li> <li>➤ On August 6, 1945 the bomb nicknamed “Little Boy,” exploded approximately 600 meters above Hiroshima.</li> <li>➤ On August 9, 1945, the U.S. dropped a second atomic bomb, “Fat Man,” on Nagasaki</li> </ul>
7 <sup>th</sup> August	National Javelin Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The Athletics Federation of India, the governing body for athletics in the country, designated this date to honour Neeraj Chopra’s historic gold medal win in the javelin throw at the 2021 Tokyo Olympics.</li> <li>➤ First observed in 2022</li> <li>➤ Athletics Federation of India President: Adille J Sumariwalla</li> <li>➤ Athletics Federation of India Founded In 1946 Athletics Federation of India Headquarters Location: New Delhi</li> </ul>
8 <sup>th</sup> August	Quit India Movement Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Quit India Movement was a massive anti-colonial struggle in India, launched on August 8, 1942, under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi,</li> </ul>
9 <sup>th</sup> August	Nagasaki Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The second nuclear weapon, appropriately named ‘Fat Man,’ was dropped on the city Nagasaki on August 9, 1945.</li> </ul>

9 <sup>th</sup> August	International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples	➤ (By UNGA 1944). Theme -Protecting the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in Voluntary Isolation and Initial Contact.
10 <sup>th</sup> August	World Biofuel Day	➤ The day honours Rudolf Diesel, the individual who invented the diesel engine in 1892. ➤ The theme - "Sustainable Biofuels: Reducing Waste, Feeding Energy.
10 <sup>th</sup> August -	World Lion Day	➤ World Lion Day -It is celebrated to raise awareness about lions (Panthera Leo ). ➤ Two Subspecies – African, Asiatic
12 <sup>TH</sup> August	International Youth Day	➤ In 1965, the UN General Assembly approved the declaration of promoting peace, mutual respect, and understanding between people, amongst the youth. ➤ The United Nations declared 12 August the International Youth Day in 1999, first celebrated on 2000 ➤ Theme - 'From Clicks to Progress: Youth Digital Pathways for Sustainable Development.'
14 <sup>th</sup> August	Partition Horrors Remembrance Day in India	➤ Prime Minister Narendra Modi had announced to observe this day in 2021. ➤ The Partition of India in 1947 was a pivotal moment in South Asian history, leading to the division of British India into two independent countries: India and Pakistan.
15 <sup>th</sup> August	Independence Day in India	➤ India's Independence Day, observed annually on August 15th, marks the day in 1947 when the country gained freedom from British rule. ➤ Theme for Indian Independence Day Celebrations 2024 is "Viksit Bharat,".
19 <sup>th</sup> August	World Humanitarian Day	➤ Established by the United Nations General Assembly in 2008 and was first celebrated in 2009. ➤ 2024 Campaign: #ActForHumanity
19 <sup>th</sup> August	Sanskrit Diwas	➤ The first World Sanskrit Day was celebrated in 1969. ➤ World Sanskrit Day or Vishwa Sanskrit Diwas is celebrated on Purnima Tithi (Full moon) of Shravana month every year. ➤ It serves as a tribute to the birth anniversary of Pāṇini, a distinguished Sanskrit scholar and grammarian. ➤ Sanskrit is among the 22 official languages included in the Eight Schedule of the Indian Constitution. ➤ It is also included among 6 Classical languages besides Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam, and Odia. ➤ Raksha Bandhan, Narali Purnima, Hayagriva Jayanti, Gayatri Jayanti, Shravan Upkarma will also be celebrated on this day.
20 <sup>th</sup> August	Indian Akshay Urja Day	➤ The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), Govt. of India declared the 20th August, the birthday of Late Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi as "National Renewable Energy Day". ➤ The first Indian Akshay Urja Day was observed in 2004. ➤ The objective of this programme is to generate mass awareness and popularisation of need, benefits and uses of renewable energy devices and systems in all sphere of life.
20 <sup>th</sup> August	Sadbhavana Diwas	➤ In 1992, a year after Rajiv Gandhi's death, Congress instituted the Rajiv Gandhi Sadbhavana Diwas. ➤ Rajiv Gandhi was born on 20 August 1944. ➤ He held office from 1984-1989. ➤ In 1986, he launched a National Policy on Education to reform and enhance higher education institutions throughout India.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ In 1986, he established the Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya System, a centralized government school, to improve the rural segment of society by offering free schooling from the sixth to the twelfth grades.</li> </ul>
20 <sup>th</sup> August	World Mosquito Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ On August 20, 1897, a British doctor, Sir Ronald Ross, found the malaria parasite in the stomach of a female Anopheles mosquito, providing the first evidence that mosquitoes transmit malaria between humans.</li> <li>➤ To commemorate this moment in history, World Mosquito Day (WMD) was founded.</li> </ul>
21 <sup>st</sup> August	International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Established by UNGA in 2017.</li> <li>➤ The theme “Victims of Terrorism as Peace Advocates and Educators”.</li> </ul>
23 <sup>rd</sup> August	International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ It was first celebrated in a number of countries, in particular in Haiti (23 August 1998) and Gorée Island in Senegal (23 August 1999).</li> </ul>
23 <sup>rd</sup> August	European Day of Remembrance for Victims of Stalinism and Nazism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ On 2 April 2009, the European Parliament decided to observe this day.</li> <li>➤ With the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact of 23 August 1939, Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union had divided Europe into spheres of interest.</li> </ul>
25 <sup>th</sup> -29 <sup>th</sup> August	World Water Week 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Organised by The Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI)</li> <li>➤ held every year since 1991.</li> <li>➤ Theme - Bridging Borders: Water for a Peaceful and Sustainable Future</li> </ul>
26 <sup>th</sup> August	Women’s Equality Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ In 2019, the U.N. General Assembly instituted</li> </ul>
29th August	National Sports Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ to honor Major Dhyan Chand, a legendary hockey player.</li> <li>➤ Established in 2012</li> <li>➤ Major Dhyan Chand, known as “The Wizard of Hockey,” was born on August 29, 1905 in Uttar Pradesh</li> <li>➤ Starting his career in 1926, Major Dhyan Chand played until 1948, representing India in 185 games and scoring 400 goals.</li> <li>➤ He was instrumental in India’s three consecutive Olympic gold medal victories in 1928, 1932, and 1936</li> </ul>
29th August	International Day Against Nuclear Tests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ In 2009, the 64<sup>th</sup> session of the United Nations General Assembly declared 29 August the International Day against Nuclear Tests</li> <li>➤ The resolution was initiated by the Republic of Kazakhstan First observed in 2010</li> </ul>
29th August	Telugu Language Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Celebrated in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.</li> <li>➤ The day was chosen to coincide with the birthday of Gidugu Venkata Ramamurthy, a Telugu poet, freedom fighter, and social reformer who was a strong advocate for the Telugu language and culture.</li> </ul>
30 <sup>th</sup> August	National Small Industry Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Different from World MSME Day - every year on June 27.</li> <li>➤ National Small Industry Day launched on the 30th of August, 2000. First observed in 2001</li> <li>➤ 30.1 per cent share of gross value added by MSMEs in India’s GDP and a 45.79 per cent share in all India exports.</li> </ul>





Compiled By:  
**Ajay Singh**

**H.O.:** SCO 22, SECTOR 15-C, CHANDIGARH, 9779464470  
**B.O.:** PLOT NO. 11-12, SECTOR 25-D, CHANDIGARH 62800 50509  
**B.O.:** ICICI BANK BUILDING, BCS SHIMLA 8628864475, 8847232312  
**B.O.:** KRISHNA LODGE ENGINE GHAR SANJAULI SHIMLA 8628864475, 8847232312  
**B.O.:** JOKTA ACADEMY, OPP. EDUCATION BOARD, NEAR WAR MEMORIAL, DHARAMSHALA