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Celebrating 10 Years Legacy

Dear Students and Aspirants,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

With deepest gratitude and warm regards,

Suresh Jokta (MD)

Jokta Academy

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JOKTA'S MAINS MINDSET

ISRAEL-HEZBOLLAH CONFLICT

- In Lebanon, **thousands were injured** after **pagers used by Hezbollah**, a militant group, **exploded almost simultaneously across the country.**
- The blasts resulted in **at least nine deaths and around 2,800 injuries**, many of them severe.
- The cause of the attack remains unclear, but it appears to have been highly sophisticated.
- Hezbollah has blamed Israel for the incident, though Israeli officials have not yet commented on the matter.

Reasons for Conflict Between Israel and Hezbollah

1. **Origins of the Conflict (1982):**
   - The establishment of the State of Israel in 1948 led to the displacement of over 750,000 Palestinian Arabs.
   - Many refugees fled to southern Lebanon, leading to tensions among Lebanese factions, including Christian militias and Palestinian groups.
   - During the 1960s and 1970s, the presence of the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) in southern Lebanon escalated Israeli security concerns.
   - In response to PLO attacks on Israeli towns, Israel launched military operations in Lebanon in 1978 and 1982, leading to a prolonged occupation.

   What is Hezbollah?
   - Hezbollah, which translates to "Party of God," is a **Shia militia** and **political party based in Lebanon**.
   - **Origin of Hezbollah:**
     - ✓ Hezbollah was **founded in 1982** as a **resistance movement against the Israeli invasion of Lebanon** during the **Lebanese Civil War (1975-1990)**.
     - ✓ It received **support from Lebanon's Shia community, Iran and its Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC)** and **Palestinian groups**, influenced by **Iran's 1979 Islamic revolution**.
   - It is recognized as one of the **most heavily armed non-state actors** globally, according to the **Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS)**.
   - Several countries, including the United States and Israel, have designated Hezbollah as a terrorist organisation.
2. **Escalation of Violence (1980s - 1990s):**
   - Hezbollah waged guerrilla warfare against Israeli forces, including the bombing of US and French barracks in 1983, causing heavy casualties.
   - By 1985, Israel withdrew to a self-declared "security zone" in southern Lebanon, maintaining control until 2000.
3. **Political Integration and Continued Hostilities (1990s):**
   - After the Lebanese civil war, Hezbollah gained political influence, securing parliamentary seats and establishing a social support network for the Shia community.
   - In 1993, Israel launched **"Operation Accountability"** in response to Hezbollah attacks, resulting in civilian casualties and infrastructure damage (also known as the Seven-Day War).
4. **The July War (2006):**
   - Hezbollah's capture of two Israeli soldiers led to a large-scale Israeli military response.
   - The conflict lasted 34 days, resulting in 1,200 Lebanese and 158 Israeli deaths, highlighting Hezbollah's military strength and influence in Lebanese politics.
5. **Recent Developments (2010s - Present):**
   - **Syrian Civil War Involvement (2012):** Hezbollah supported the Assad regime, gaining combat experience but facing criticism.
   - **Gaza Conflict (2023):** In October 2023, Hezbollah launched a rocket campaign in solidarity with Gaza during escalating Israeli actions.
   - **September 2024:** The assassination of Hezbollah leaders and walkie-talkie explosions escalated tensions, with Hezbollah promising retaliation.

Recent Pager Attack on Hezbollah by Israel

1. **Attack Overview**
   - On **September 17-18, 2024**, thousands of **pagers and walkie-talkies** exploded simultaneously across Lebanon and Syria.
   - At least **42 people** died, including 12 civilians, and over **3,000 were injured**.
2. **Cause and Mechanism**
   - Israeli intelligence agency **Mossad** had covertly integrated explosives into these devices, which were later sold to Hezbollah.
   - Hezbollah had shifted to pagers earlier in 2024, believing mobile phones were compromised by Israeli surveillance.
3. **Impact and Response**
   - Hezbollah labeled the attack a significant **security breach and an act of war**.
   - In retaliation, Hezbollah launched rockets into **northern Israel**, prompting escalations from both sides.

4. **Statements from Leaders**
   - ❖ Israel denied direct involvement, but **Prime Minister Netanyahu** hinted at the significance of the attack, signaling further operations.

What is a Pager ?

- ➢ A **pager** is a **small communication device** used to **receive short messages**.
- ➢ **Popular before mobile phones became widespread**, pagers notify users via text or sound when a message arrives.
- ➢ They were **commonly used by doctors, emergency responders, and professionals needing reliable alerts**, even in areas with poor cellular coverage.
- ➢ Modern use has diminished, though some institutions like hospitals still rely on them for communication.
- ➢ In the recent conflict, **Hezbollah adopted pagers, believing them safer than mobile phones, but Israeli intelligence exploited this shift by embedding explosives in the devices.**

Implications of Israel-Hezbollah Pager Attack on India

1. **Threat to Indian Community:** There are about 18,000 Indians in Israel and about 5,000-10,000 Indians in Iran, about 90 lakh people are living and working in the Gulf and West Asia region.
   - ❖ Any conflict that expands will end up posing a **risk to the Indian community that is based in the region.**
2. **Energy Security:** The West Asia region contributes to India's **80 percent of oil supplies,** which a potential conflict will impact.
   - ❖ India has been able to minimise the impact of oil prices due to the Russia-Ukraine war by buying Russian oil at discounted prices, but this **conflict will have an adverse impact on energy prices.**
3. **Investment and Strategic Importance:** India has invested in a strategic relationship with major Arab countries, Iran, and Israel.
   - ❖ India sees the region as its extended neighbourhood, and it has been pushing for the **India-Middle-East-Europe Economic corridor,** which has **strategic as well as economic benefits.**
   - ❖ **Chabahar in Iran** is another strategic economic project, which acts as a gateway to Afghanistan and Central Asia — since Pakistan denies land transit to Indian goods.
   - ❖ Any conflict in the region, and the implementation of any **US sanctions will also impact India's plans for Chabahar port**.
   - ❖ In addition, the **India-Israel-UAE-US I2U2 initiative** and plans to connect Indian cargo routes through the International North South Transport Corridor (INSTC) to Russia **could be affected.**
4. **Defence Relations with Israel:** India has a very deep strategic relationship with Israel, especially in the context of **defence and security partnership**.
5. **National Security Concerns:** Highlights vulnerabilities in **communication networks**, encouraging India to reassess its cybersecurity strategies to prevent similar attacks.
6. **Lessons for Defense Modernization:** Emphasizes the importance of **indigenous secure communication** devices and signals India to invest in better encryption technologies.

India's Stand

- ➢ **Maintaining a Balanced Stand:** India's stakes in the bilateral relationships with both Israel and Iran are huge, India will expect both the countries to avoid military actions that will trigger a dangerous and wider war in the region.
- ➢ **Based on the Complex Regional Politics:** Inter-state and intra-state conflicts in the Middle East are deep and pervasive, and India will have to forever balance its engagement with key regional actors — Egypt, Iran, Israel, Qatar, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates — whose orientation and interests are different and often in conflict.
   - ❖ India's call for de-escalation between Israel and Iran is about **recognising the complexity of the region's politics.**
- ➢ **Non- Ideological Engagement:** The non-ideological engagement with the region is a necessary complement to India's expanding interests in the Middle East.
   - ❖ India's interests in the region are no longer limited to oil imports and labour exports.
   - ❖ The Gulf Arab states — especially Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates — have emerged as major economic and political partners for India.
- ➢ Despite the threat of escalation, there are ongoing international efforts to mediate and possibly de-escalate the situation, with both diplomatic and military strategies being considered by the involved parties.

LADAKH'S DEMAND FOR SIXTH SCHEDULE STATUS

- ➢ Climate activist **Sonam Wangchuk** was detained at the **Delhi border** while leading a protest demanding **Ladakh's inclusion** in the **Sixth Schedule of the Constitution.**
- ➢ Although the **government accepted demands like a separate public service commission** and **two parliamentary seats**, it **rejected the demands for Ladakh's statehood and inclusion in the Sixth Schedule**.
- ➢ Similar demands have also been raised in **Arunachal Pradesh and Manipur**, focusing on **protecting ethnic groups through constitutional provisions.**

1. **Historical Roots of Demands for Fifth and Sixth Schedule**
   - ❖ **Asymmetrical Federalism:**
     - ✓ India follows an asymmetrical federal structure, granting certain states/regions more autonomy than others based on ethnic composition.
     - ✓ In symmetrical federations like the U.S. and Australia, all states share equal powers, unlike India's federal structure.
   - ❖ **Impact of Colonial Rule:**
     - ✓ The **concept of special schedules originates from colonial policies recognizing the distinct nature of tribal populations**.
     - ✓ **Tribes had autonomy over their lands until British forest policies** restricted their rights, leading to revolts like:
       - ➢ Kol Rebellion (1831-32)
       - ➢ Santhal Revolt (1885)
   - ❖ The **Government of India Act, 1935** introduced **'excluded' and 'partially excluded' areas**, influencing the **creation of the Fifth and Sixth Schedules**.

2. **Distinctive Features of the Fifth and Sixth Schedules**

Fifth Schedule	➢ The **Fifth Schedule** applies to **'Scheduled Areas,'** which are identified based on **criteria like a high tribal population and economic backwardness**. ➢ The **fifth schedule** areas **span across 10 states.** ➢ **Tribes Advisory Councils (TACs)** advise on **tribal welfare**. ➢ Governors have powers to **regulate land allotment** and manage **money-lending practices** in these areas, ensuring some **degree of tribal autonomy.**
Sixth Schedule	➢ The Sixth Schedule grants greater autonomy to tribal areas in **Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, and Tripura**. ➢ **Autonomous District Councils (ADCs)** manage **land use, inheritance laws, and social customs.** ➢ ADCs hold **legislative, executive, and financial powers**, with the ability to collect taxes and manage local resources. ➢ Unlike the Fifth Schedule, **ADCs can make laws that supersede those of the state**, pending approval by the Governor.
Special Provisions for North-eastern States	➢ Several north-eastern states have additional protections under **Part XXI** of the Constitution (**Articles 371A-H**), which safeguard local customs and practices. ➢ These provisions ensure representation and development in tribal and hill areas of **Nagaland, Assam, Manipur, Sikkim, Mizoram, and Arunachal Pradesh.**

3. **Reasons Behind Ladakh's Demand for Sixth Schedule Status**
   - ❖ **Political Representation and Autonomy:**
     - ✓ After the **Jammu & Kashmir Reorganization Act, 2019**, **Ladakh** became a **UT without a legislature**, reducing local political representation.
     - ✓ Sixth Schedule status is sought to ensure political autonomy and decision-making powers.
   - ❖ **Lack of Employment Opportunities:**
     - ✓ The UT administration has failed to generate local employment.
     - ✓ Example: Absence of a **Public Service Commission** and lack of job policy for Ladakh youth.
   - ❖ **Preservation of Cultural Identity:** Ladakh's unique cultures (e.g., **Gujjars, Bakarwals, Bots, Changpas, Baltis, Purigpas**) need protection, which the Sixth Schedule can provide.
   - ❖ **Environmental Concerns:** Climate activists are concerned about the impact of mining and industrialization on Ladakh's fragile ecosystem (high-altitude deserts, glaciers, and meadows).
   - ❖ **Impact of Jammu and Kashmir's Domicile Policy:** With changes in the J&K domicile policy, Ladakhis demand Sixth Schedule protection to safeguard local interests.
   - ❖ **Strengthening Democratic Institutions:** Sixth Schedule status would empower the **Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Councils (LAHDC)** by granting more powers.

4. **Advantages of Sixth Schedule Inclusion**
   - ❖ **Democratic Devolution of Powers:** Autonomous District Councils (ADCs) promote democratic decentralization with legislative, judicial, and administrative autonomy.
   - ❖ **Cultural Preservation:** Protects local languages, customs, and cultural practices (e.g., **Bodo language** in Bodoland).
   - ❖ **Protection of Land Rights:** Empowers ADCs to legislate on land, forests, and fisheries.
   - ❖ **Grant-in-aid for Development:** Sixth Schedule areas receive enhanced financial assistance, recommended by the **Finance Commission** for rapid development.
   - ❖ **Sustainable Socio-economic Development:** Ensures development aligned with sustainability principles.

Why Indian Government is not providing six schedule to Ladakh?

- The Indian government has not granted Sixth Schedule status to Ladakh for several reasons:
  - **Union Territory Status:** Ladakh was designated as a Union Territory (UT) without a legislature following the abrogation of Article 370. The government may perceive that this status already provides sufficient governance.
  - **National Security Concerns:** Given Ladakh's strategic location bordering China and Pakistan, the government might prioritize national security over regional autonomy, fearing that granting special status could complicate security dynamics.
  - **Geopolitical Stability:** The government may believe that extending Sixth Schedule provisions could set a precedent for other regions seeking similar status, potentially leading to demands for more autonomy across various states.
  - **Development Focus:** The government may focus on economic development and infrastructure in Ladakh, arguing that direct governance from the Centre is more effective in achieving these goals than decentralized governance through autonomous councils.
  - **Administrative Challenges:** The establishment of Autonomous District Councils (ADCs) and the implementation of the Sixth Schedule could present administrative complexities, given Ladakh's unique demographics and geography.
  - **Local Dynamics:** There may be differing opinions among local communities regarding the demand for Sixth Schedule status, leading the government to adopt a cautious approach to avoid exacerbating regional tensions.
  - **Legislative and Bureaucratic Considerations:** The process of amending constitutional provisions to include Ladakh in the Sixth Schedule requires legislative approval, which may not currently align with the government's priorities.
  - **Economic Factors:** The government may consider the economic implications of granting special status, fearing that it could limit investment opportunities or lead to challenges in resource management.
  - **Prioritization of Other Demands:** The government might prioritize other demands from different regions or groups, which could divert attention from Ladakh's demand for inclusion in the Sixth Schedule.

In conclusion, addressing Ladakh's demand for Sixth Schedule inclusion requires balanced dialogue, effective governance, and sustainable development strategies that respect local culture and environment while ensuring political representation and autonomy.

SUMMER OLYMPICS 2024



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:**
  1. **Neeraj Chopra: Silver in Men's Javelin Throw** (89.45m), his second Olympic medal.
  2. **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.**
  3. **Swapnil Kusale: Bronze in Men's 50m rifle 3 positions**, **India's first-ever Olympic medal** in this event.
  4. **Men's Hockey Team: Bronze**.
  5. **Aman Sehrawat: Bronze in Wrestling** (Men's 57kg freestyle).
  6. **Lakshya Sen: First Indian** to reach **semi-finals in men's badminton**, finished fourth.
  7. **Vinesh Phogat: Disqualified in women's 50kg wrestling final** for being **overweight by 100 grams**.

Challenges Hindering India's Olympic Success

1. Talent Identification: Systemic issues in scouting young athletes, particularly in remote areas.
2. Infrastructure and Resources: Limited training facilities, coaching expertise, and financial support.
3. Cricket's Dominance: 87% of sports capital goes to cricket, leaving only 13% for other sports.
4. Insufficient Sports Policies: Fragmented and underfunded sports policies, with initiatives like TOPS still in early stages.
5. Short-Term Focus: Lack of long-term athlete development, unlike successful Olympic countries.
6. Corruption and Politics: Politicization and corruption in sports administration hinder athlete development.
7. 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

1. Grassroots Development: Focus on identifying and nurturing talent from a young age.
2. Investment in Infrastructure: Build world-class facilities and provide comprehensive athlete support, including psychological and nutritional.
3. Athlete Empowerment: Involve athletes in decision-making

to bring accountability and transparency.

4. Cultural Shift: Encourage societal support for sports careers and integrate sports into education.
5. Government Support: Increase consistent funding for Olympic sports and related infrastructure.
6. Growth Focus: Triple athlete count for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics to improve medal prospects.

Key Sports Initiatives in India

1. Khelo India: 2018; Ministry of Youth Affairs.
2. **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.
3. **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.**
4. **Sports Authority of India (SAI):** Manages **various schemes like the National Sports Academy, Center of Excellence, and Army Boys Sports Company Scheme.**
5. **National Sports Awards:** Includes **Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna**, **Arjuna Awards**, **Dhyanchand Awards**, and Dronacharya Awards.
6. Scheme for Sports & Games for People with Disabilities.
7. **Rajiv Gandhi Khel Abhiyan:** Focuses on building sports complexes at the block level.
8. **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 Kushiyara 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

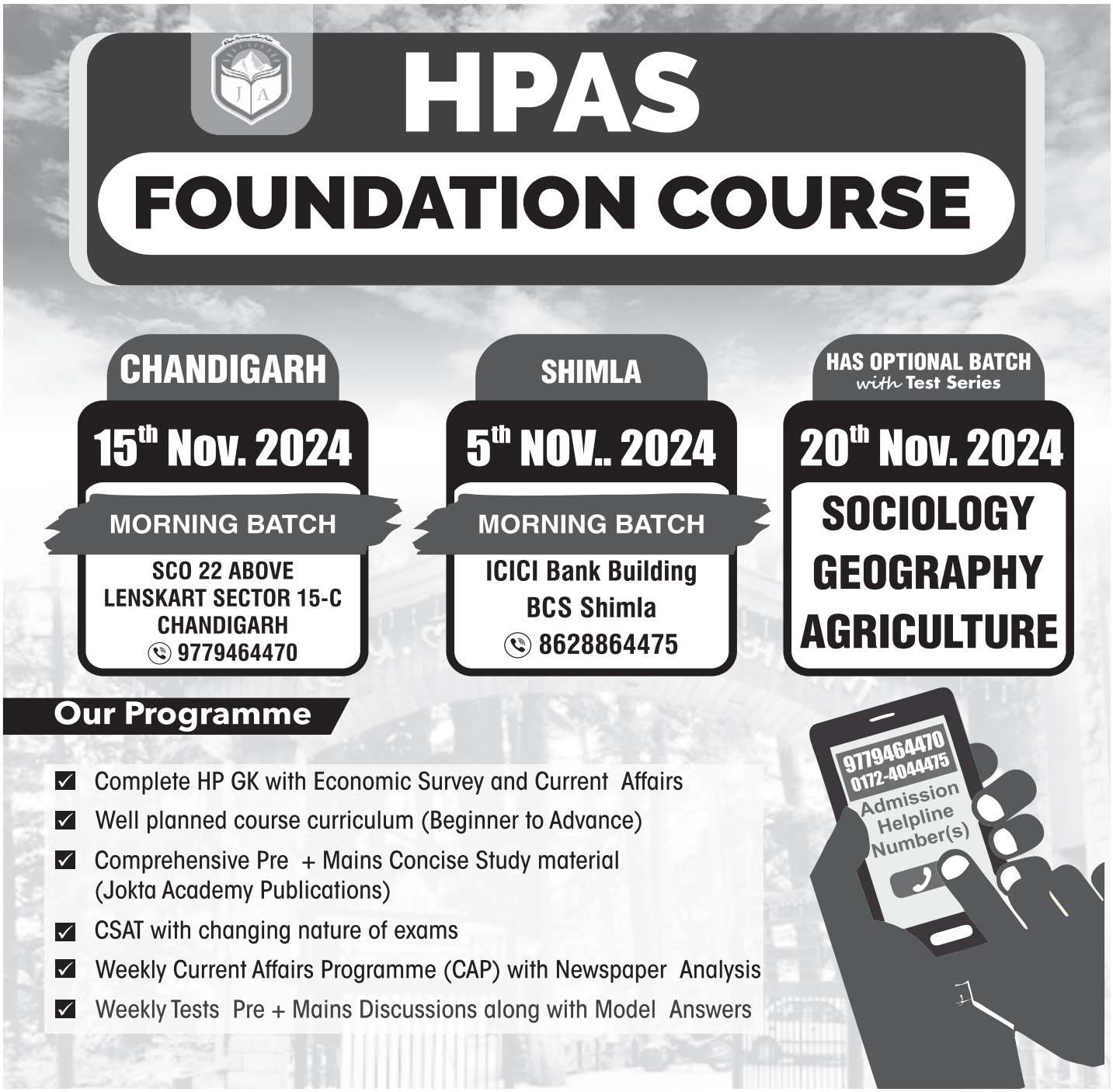
India faces significant challenges due to the current crisis in Bangladesh. However, it is crucial for India to swiftly adapt to the evolving situation in the neighborhood. As C. Raja Mohan aptly puts it, India will need:

- **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)
3. Assess the implications of granting Sixth Schedule status to Ladakh in the context of its unique socio-cultural and environmental challenges. In your opinion, what measures should be taken to ensure effective implementation of the Sixth Schedule provisions, considering the historical context and current governance issues faced by the region? (8 Marks)
4. Analyze the ongoing Israel-Hezbollah conflict and its implications for regional stability in the Middle East. How does this conflict impact India's foreign policy and security interests in the region? Discuss the potential challenges and opportunities that arise for India in this context. (12 Marks)



NOBEL PRIZE 2024

NOBEL PRIZE IN PHYSICS

- **Recipients: John Hopfield** and **Geoffrey Hinton**
- **Achievement:** Awarded for foundational discoveries and inventions that paved the way for machine learning through artificial neural networks.
- **Impact:** Significantly advanced the field, leading to transformative applications in artificial intelligence.

NOBEL PRIZE IN CHEMISTRY

- **Recipients:** David Baker, Demis Hassabis, and John Jumper
- Achievements:
  - **David Baker:** Recognized for contributions to computational protein design.
  - **Demis Hassabis and John Jumper:** Honored for advancements in protein structure prediction.
- **Impact:** Enhanced understanding of protein functions with implications for medicine and biotechnology.

NOBEL PRIZE IN MEDICINE

- **Recipients:** Victor Ambros and Gary Ruvkun
- **Achievement:** Recognized for the groundbreaking discovery of microRNA and its crucial role in gene regulation.
- **Impact:** Transformed understanding of genetic control mechanisms with significant implications for developmental biology and disease research.

NOBEL PRIZE IN LITERATURE

- **Recipient:** Han Kang
- **Achievement:** Awarded for her intense poetic prose that confronts historical traumas.
- **Impact:** Explores profound themes of existence, memory, and resilience, resonating deeply with readers.

NOBEL PRIZE IN PEACE

- **Recipient:** Nihon Hidankyo
- **Achievement:** Honored for relentless efforts to create a world free of nuclear weapons.
- **Impact:** Advocates for peace and emphasizes the devastating consequences of nuclear warfare through witness testimony.

NOBEL PRIZE IN ECONOMIC SCIENCES

- **Recipients:** Daron Acemoglu, Simon Johnson, and James Robinson
- **Achievement:** Awarded for studies on the formation of institutions and their influence on prosperity.
- **Impact:** Enhanced understanding of the relationship between political and economic institutions, impacting development and inequality.

Nobel Prize Category	Recipients	Reason for Award
Physics	John Hopfield and Geoffrey Hinton	➢ For foundational discoveries and inventions that paved the way for machine learning through artificial neural networks.
Chemistry	David Baker, Demis Hassabis, and John Jumper	➢ For contributions to computational protein design and advancements in protein structure prediction.
Medicine	Victor Ambros and Gary Ruvkun	➢ For their groundbreaking discovery of microRNA and its crucial role in gene regulation.
Literature	Han Kang	➢ For her intense poetic prose that confronts historical traumas and reveals the fragility of human life.
Peace	Nihon Hidankyo	➢ For its relentless efforts to create a world free of nuclear weapons and demonstrating the imperative that nuclear weapons must never be used again.
Economic Sciences	Daron Acemoglu, Simon Johnson, and James Robinson	➢ For studies on how institutions are formed and how they influence prosperity, enhancing understanding of development and inequality.

HISTORY OF THE NOBEL PRIZE

- **Early Life and Contributions of Alfred Nobel**
  - **Birth:** October 1833 ,21, in Stockholm, Sweden.
  - **Profession:** Chemist, engineer, inventor, philanthropist; known for inventing dynamite.
  - **Concerns:** Despite success, worried about the impact of inventions on warfare and humanity.
  - **Legacy Reflection:** Following a mistaken obituary in 1888, Nobel aimed to be remembered positively.
-

- **Reasons Behind Establishing the Nobel Prize**
  - **Motivation:** The "merchant of death" label made him reflect on his legacy.
  - **Will Draft:** In 1895, he dedicated his fortune to reward those benefiting humanity in Physics, Chemistry, Medicine, Literature, and Peace.
- **First Nobel Prizes Awarded in 1901**
  - **Inaugural Ceremony:** Held on December 1901 ,10, in Stockholm and Oslo.
  - **Significance:** Recognized individuals with profound impacts on humanity.

CATEGORIES OF NOBEL PRIZE

1. **Nobel Prize in Physics**
   - **Purpose:** Recognizes outstanding contributions enhancing understanding of the universe.
   - **Notable Laureates:** Albert Einstein, Marie Curie.
2. Nobel Prize in Chemistry
   - **Purpose:** Honors significant advancements in chemical sciences.
   - **Key Laureates:** Linus Pauling, Ahmed Zewail.
3. **Nobel Prize in Medicine**
   - **Purpose:** Recognizes groundbreaking discoveries transforming human health.
   - **Notable Recipients:** Emil von Behring, Tu Youyou.
4. **Nobel Prize in Literature**
   - **Purpose:** Celebrates exceptional literary work reflecting the human experience.
   - **Notable Laureates:** Gabriel García Márquez, Toni Morrison.
5. **Nobel Peace Prize**
   - **Purpose:** Awarded for significant contributions to peace and conflict resolution.
   - **Notable Recipients:** Martin Luther King Jr., Malala Yousafzai.
6. **Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences**
   - **Purpose:** Recognizes influential research in economics; established in 1968.
   - **Notable Economists:** Paul Samuelson, Amartya Sen.

Significance of the Nobel Prize

- **Recognition of Excellence**
  - Honors individuals and organizations for extraordinary contributions in physics, chemistry, medicine, literature, and peace.
  - Encourages ongoing innovation and excellence in various fields.
- **Inspiration for Future Generations**
  - Highlights groundbreaking work, inspiring future researchers, writers, and activists.
  - Motivates individuals to pursue their passions and contribute positively to society.

7. **Promotion of Peace and Humanity**
   - The Nobel Peace Prize emphasizes conflict resolution and the promotion of peace.
   - Serves as a reminder of ongoing struggles for justice and humanitarian efforts globally.
8. **Interdisciplinary Impact**
   - Spans various disciplines, fostering collaboration and dialogue between science, literature, and social justice.
   - Highlights the interconnectedness of human knowledge and its applications.
9. **Cultural Legacy**
   - Contributes to the cultural and intellectual heritage of society.
   - Brings attention to significant achievements that shape our understanding of the world.
10. **Global Awareness**
    - International recognition of laureates raises awareness of critical global issues.
    - Prompts discussions and actions that can lead to meaningful change in scientific and social contexts.

Indian Winners	Year	Field	Rationale
Abhijit Banerjee	2019	Economics	"For his innovative approach to reducing world poverty"
Kailash Satyarthi	2014	Peace	"For his work against the oppression of children and youth and for the education of all children"
Venkatraman Ramakrishnan	2009	Chemistry	"For ribosome structure and function, macromolecular crystallography"
Amartya Sen	1998	Economics	"In recognition of his contributions to the field of welfare economics"

Subrahmanyan Chandrasekhar	1983	Physics	"For his theoretical investigations of physical processes crucial to the structure and evolution of stars"
Mother Teresa	1979	Peace	"In honour of her contributions to the relief of humanity's suffering"
Hargobind Khorana	1968	Medicine	"For his analysis of the genetic code and its role in protein production."
CV Raman	1930	Physics	"For his research on light scattering and for discovering the effect named after him"
Rabindranath Tagore	1913	Literature	"Because of his very sensitive, fresh, and beautiful verse, by which he has made his poetic thought, conveyed in his own English words, a part of Western literature with consummate talent"

PRACTICE MCQS

1. Which of the following statements about the Nobel Prizes is INCORRECT?

a) The Nobel Prizes were established by the will of Alfred Nobel.

b) The Nobel Prizes are awarded annually in six categories.

c) The Nobel Peace Prize is awarded in Stockholm, Sweden.

d) The Nobel Prize for Literature was awarded to Bob Dylan in 2016.

2. The Nobel Prize in Literature for 2024 was awarded to which author?

a) Margaret Atwood

b) Haruki Murakami

c) Salman Rushdie

d) Han Kang

3. Consider the following statements regarding the Nobel Prize:

1. It was established in 1895 by Alfred Nobel.
2. The Nobel Prizes are awarded only in the fields of science and medicine.
3. The Nobel Prize for Peace is awarded by the Norwegian Nobel Committee.

Which of the statements is/are correct?

a) 1 only

b) 1 and 3 only

c) 1, 2, and 3

d) None of the above

4. Which of the following statements about the Nobel Prize is TRUE?

1. The Nobel Prize includes a cash award along with a medal.
2. It is awarded every year on December 10.
3. The Nobel Prize was first awarded in 1901.The Nobel Prize for Economics is not one of the original prizes established by Alfred Nobel.

Select the correct option.

a) 1, 2, and 3 only b) 2, 3, and 4 only

c) 1, 3, and 4 only d) All of the above

5. Match the Nobel Prize Categories with their Recipients:

Nobel Prize Category	Recipients
A) Physics	1) Daron Acemoglu, Simon Johnson, and James Robinson
B) Chemistry	2) John Hopfield and Geoffrey Hinton
C) Peace	3) Nihon Hidankyo
D) Economic Sciences	4) David Baker, Demis Hassabis, and John Jumper

Options:

a) A-2, B-4, C-3, D-1

b) A-1, B-2, C-4, D-3

c) A-4, B-3, C-2, D-1

d) A-3, B-1, C-2, D-4

ANSWERS

1. Answer: C. The Nobel Peace Prize is awarded in Stockholm, Sweden.

❖ **Explanation:** The Nobel Peace Prize is awarded in Oslo, Norway.

2. Answer: D. Han Kang

3. Answer: B. 1 and 3 only.

❖ **Explanation:** Statement 2 is incorrect as the Nobel Prizes are awarded in multiple fields, including literature and peace.

4. Answer: D. All of the above.

❖ **Explanation:** All statements are true regarding the Nobel Prize.

5. Answer: A. A-2, B-4, C-3, D-1

NATIONAL NEWS

CABINET APPROVES NEW RAILWAY LINE PROJECT BETWEEN INDORE AND MUMBAI

- The Cabinet has approved a **309 km long new railway line project** connecting **Indore** and **Mumbai**.
- **Geographic Coverage:** The project will span **six districts** across two states: **Maharashtra** and **Madhya Pradesh**.
- **Alignment with National Plans:** This initiative falls under the **PM-Gati Shakti National Master Plan**, aimed at enhancing **multi-modal connectivity**.
- **Economic and Social Benefits:** The new railway line is expected to **promote tourism** in the region by providing a **shorter route** between the **western** and **southwestern** parts of the country and **Central India**.
- **Implications:** The project is anticipated to boost regional connectivity, enhance economic activities, and facilitate travel between key urban centers in India.

BIOTECHNOLOGY FOR ECONOMY, ENVIRONMENT, AND EMPLOYMENT (BIOE3) POLICY 2024

- **Union Minister for Science and Technology, Dr. Jitendra Singh**, has released the **Biotechnology for Economy, Environment, and Employment (BioE3) Policy 2024**.
- **Significance:** The BioE3 policy is expected to be a **milestone** for the **bioeconomy** and a **game changer** for **Viksit Bharat @2047**.
- Objectives:
  - The policy aims at **fostering high-performance biomanufacturing**.
  - It aligns with national initiatives such as:
    - ✓ Achieving a **Net Zero** carbon economy.
    - ✓ Promoting **Mission LiFE** (Lifestyle for Environment).
- **Impact:** The BioE3 policy will have a significant impact on various sectors, including: **Food, Energy and Health**
- **Thematic Areas:** Dr. Singh highlighted six thematic themes under the policy:
  - Bio-based chemicals and enzymes
  - Functional foods and smart proteins
  - Precision biotherapeutics
  - Climate-resilient agriculture
  - Carbon capture and its utilization
  - Futuristic marine and space research
- **Economic Growth:** India's bioeconomy has seen tremendous growth, skyrocketing from **$10 billion in 2014** to over **$130 billion in 2024**.

CABINET APPROVES SEVEN MAJOR SCHEMES TO IMPROVE FARMERS' LIVES AND LIVELIHOODS

- **Total Outlay:** The total outlay for these initiatives is **Rs 14,235 crore**.

1. **Digital Agriculture Mission:**
   - **Objective**: Revolutionize agricultural practices using technologies like **AI**, **big data**, and **geospatial technologies**.
   - **Key Components**:
     - ✓ **Agri Stack**: A comprehensive digital repository of agricultural data.
     - ✓ **Farmers Registry & Village Land Maps Registry**: Creation of digital records for landholdings and farmers.
     - ✓ **Krishi Decision Support System**: Assists in crop monitoring and decision-making.
     - ✓ **Market Connectivity**: Direct link between farmers and buyers to reduce middlemen's influence.
2. **Crop Science for Food and Nutritional Security**
   - **Objective**: Prepare farmers for climate resilience and ensure food security by **2047**.
   - **Focus Areas**: Strengthening agricultural research and education, emphasizing genetic improvement and resource management for various crops including food, fodder, pulses, oilseeds, and commercial crops.
3. **Strengthening Agricultural Education, Management, and Social Sciences**
   - **Objective**: Align with the **New Education Policy 2020** to equip the next generation of agriculture students and researchers with necessary skills to address contemporary challenges.
4. **Sustainable Livestock Health and Production**
   - **Objective**: Increase farmers' income from livestock and dairy.
   - **Focus Areas**:
     - ✓ Animal health management
     - ✓ Veterinary education
     - ✓ Dairy production
     - ✓ Technology development
     - ✓ Genetic improvement of livestock breeds
     - ✓ Promotion of efficient production practices
5. **Sustainable Development of Horticulture**
   - **Objective**: Increase farmers' income from horticulture.

- ❖ **Focus Areas**: Support the development of various crops including tropical, sub-tropical, temperate, root, tuber, bulbous, as well as commercial and medicinal plants.

6. **Strengthening of Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK)**
   - ❖ **Objective**: Disseminate knowledge and best practices to farmers across the country.
   - ❖ **Role of KVKs**: Ensure farmers have access to the latest agricultural techniques and innovations.
7. **Digital Agriculture Schemes**:
   - ❖ This scheme will use tools like **artificial intelligence (AI), big data, and geospatial technologies** to revolutionize agricultural practices.

SUGAMYA BHARAT APP

- ➢ **Overview:** The **Sugamya Bharat App** is an initiative launched in **2021** by the **Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD)** under the **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment**.
- ➢ **Purpose:** The app is designed to assist **people with disabilities** and the **elderly** by enabling them to report **accessibility issues** in public infrastructure, transportation, and buildings.
- ➢ **Recent Developments:** Since its launch, the app has successfully registered **more than 1,400 complaints** related to accessibility, indicating its growing usage and importance in addressing the needs of the disabled community.
- ➢ **Key Features: User-Friendly Reporting**: Users can easily report problems related to:
  - ❖ Public infrastructure (e.g., ramps, elevators)
  - ❖ Transportation (e.g., buses, trains)
  - ❖ Buildings (e.g., access to government offices, public spaces)
- ➢ **Significance:** The Sugamya Bharat App plays a crucial role in promoting **inclusive access** and ensuring that public spaces are accommodating for individuals with disabilities, thus fostering a more equitable society.

UNION CABINET APPROVES RS. 70,125 CRORE FOR PMGSY-IV ROAD SCHEME

- ➢ The **Union Cabinet** has approved the implementation of the **Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana-IV (PMGSY-IV)** for the period **2024-25 to 2028-29**.
- ➢ **Total Outlay**: Rs. 70,125 crore
  - ❖ **Central Share**: Rs. 49,087.50 crore
  - ❖ **State Share**: Rs. 21,037.50 crore

Key Features:

- ➢ **Road Construction**: Development of all-weather roads measuring **62,500 km** to connect unconnected habitations.
- ➢ **Bridge Construction**: Upgrading and constructing bridges along the new roads.

About Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY):

- ➢ **Launch Year**: 2000
- ➢ **Objective**: Provide all-weather rural road connectivity to eligible rural habitations.
- ➢ **Ministry**: Ministry of Rural Development

Funding Patterns: The funding pattern was revised as follows:

- ➢ **2015-16**: 60:40 ratio between Centre and State.
- ➢ **For North-eastern States and Himalayan States**: 90:10 ratio.

Previous Phases

- ➢ **PMGSY I**: Launched in 2000
- ➢ **PMGSY II**: Launched in 2013
- ➢ **PMGSY III**: Launched in 2019

CABINET APPROVES RS. 5 LAKH HEALTH INSURANCE FOR SENIOR CITIZENS ABOVE 70 YEARS

- ➢ The **Union Cabinet** has approved a **health insurance scheme** providing **Rs. 5 lakh coverage** for senior citizens aged **70 years and above**, irrespective of their income.
- ➢ This initiative falls under the **Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY)**.

Key Features

- ➢ **Distinct Card**: Eligible senior citizens will receive a **new distinct card under the AB PM-JAY.**
- ➢ **Top-Up Cover**: Senior citizens aged 70 and above from families already covered under AB PM-JAY will receive an **additional top-up cover** of up to **Rs. 5 lakh** per year. This amount will be exclusive to them and not shared with family members below the age of 70.

Eligibility and Options

- ➢ **Existing Beneficiaries**: Senior citizens aged 70 and above currently enrolled in other public health insurance schemes, such as:
  - ❖ Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS)
  - ❖ Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS)
  - ❖ Ayushman Central Armed Police Force (CAPF)
  - ❖ They can choose to either continue with their existing scheme or opt for AB PM-JAY.
- ➢ **Private Insurance Holders**: Senior citizens aged 70 and above under private health insurance policies or the **Employees' State Insurance** scheme are also eligible for

benefits under AB PM-JAY.

About Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY)

- **Launch**: The scheme was launched in **September 2018**.
- **Coverage**: It provides a health cover of **Rs. 5 lakh per family per year** for secondary and tertiary care services, targeting the vulnerable population in society.
- **Implementation Authority**: The **National Health Authority (NHA)** is the apex body responsible for implementing AB PM-JAY.

CABINET APPROVES RS. 2,000-CRORE 'MISSION MAUSAM'

- **Mission Mausam** is a **large-scale initiative** launched by the Government of India to enhance weather forecasting and climate science capabilities.
- **Budget**: **Rs. 2,000 crore** allocated for the **first two years**.
- The mission focuses on **improving accuracy** in predicting weather at multiple **geographical and temporal scales**.

Mission Goals

- Upgrading the **India Meteorological Department (IMD)** to **improve forecasting precision**.
- Building upon similar efforts like **Mission Monsoon (2012)**, which focused on long-range monsoon forecasts.
- Addressing the need for **timely alerts and warnings** for **extreme weather events**.
- Benefiting key sectors reliant on weather information:
  - Agriculture
  - Aviation
  - Defense
  - Disaster management
  - Tourism

Key Focus Areas

- Advanced Technologies

1. Enhanced Accuracy
1. Monsoon Forecasting and Beyond

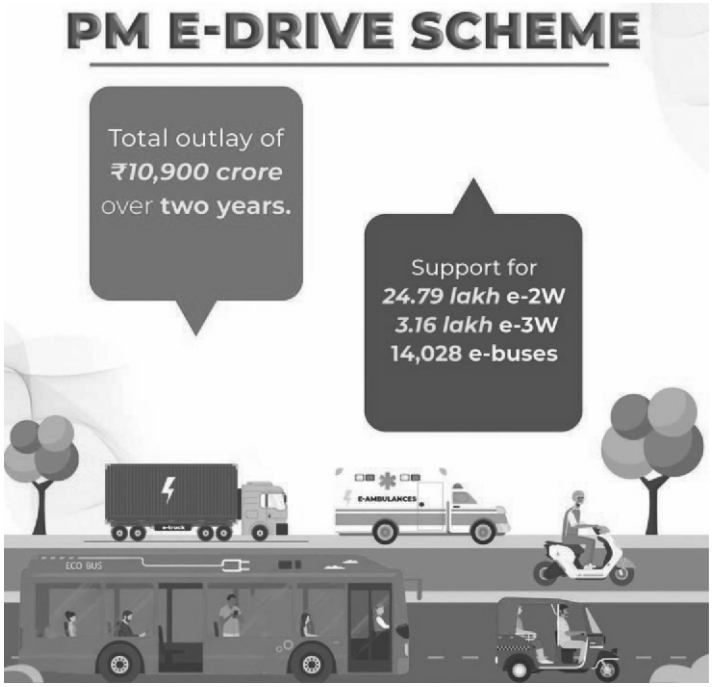
Institutions Involved

- **Ministry of Earth Sciences** will lead the mission through three key institutions:
  - **India Meteorological Department (IMD)**: Provides daily weather forecasts.
  - **Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM)**: Focuses on tropical weather research.
  - **National Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasting (NCMRWF)**: Specializes in medium-range predictions.
  - **Supporting Institutions**:
    - ✓ Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS)
    - ✓ National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR)
    - ✓ National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT)

CABINET APPROVES RS. 10,900 CRORE PM E-DRIVE SCHEME FOR ELECTRIC VEHICLES

- The **Union Cabinet** approved a new initiative called **PM Electric Drive Revolution in Innovative Vehicle Enhancement (PM E-DRIVE)** to boost the adoption of **electric vehicles (EVs)** in India.
- **Total Outlay**: **Rs. 10,900 crore** over **two years**
- **Ministry**: **Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI)** will implement the scheme.

Replaces: Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles in India Phase II (FAME India Phase II).



Key Objectives of PM E-DRIVE:

1. **Expedite the adoption of electric vehicles** by providing **upfront incentives** for EV purchases.
2. Facilitate the **development of essential charging infrastructure** to support EVs.
3. **Demand incentives** to encourage adoption of the following:
   - Electric two-wheelers
   - Electric three-wheelers
   - E-ambulances
   - E-trucks

- ❖ Other emerging EVs

Demand Aggregation in Key Cities: The scheme will aggregate demand through Convenience Energy Services Limited (CESL) in 9 major cities with populations above 40 lakh:

1. Delhi
2. Mumbai
3. Kolkata
4. Chennai
5. Ahmedabad
6. Surat
7. Bengaluru
8. Pune
9. Hyderabad

Significance: The PM E-DRIVE scheme aims to **accelerate India's transition towards sustainable mobility**, reduce the carbon footprint, and enhance energy security through the widespread adoption of electric vehicles.

TOURISM MINISTRY LAUNCHES 'PARYATAN MITRA' AND 'PARYATAN DIDI' INITIATIVES ON WORLD TOURISM DAY

- The **Ministry of Tourism** launched two new initiatives, **'Paryatan Mitra'** and **'Paryatan Didi'**, to promote responsible tourism and enhance the visitor experience across popular tourist destinations in India.

Pilot Locations: The initiative has been **piloted in six major tourist destinations**:

1. **Orchha** (Madhya Pradesh)
2. **Gandikota** (Andhra Pradesh)
3. **Bodh Gaya** (Bihar)
4. **Aizawl** (Mizoram)
5. **Jodhpur** (Rajasthan)
6. **Sri Vijaya Puram** (Andaman & Nicobar Islands)

Key Objectives

- **Connect tourists with 'tourist-friendly' locals** who act as **ambassadors and storytellers** of their respective destinations.
- Provide a **memorable and high-quality experience** for visitors by ensuring smooth interaction between tourists and locals.

Training and Focus Areas

- **Training is provided** to individuals who frequently engage with tourists, such as:
  - ❖ Cab drivers
  - ❖ Airport and railway staff
  - ❖ Hotel and restaurant workers
  - ❖ Homestay owners
  - ❖ Tour guides
  - ❖ Police personnel
  - ❖ Street vendors
- **Training Content**:
  - ❖ Importance of **tourism and hospitality**
  - ❖ Ensuring **cleanliness and safety**
  - ❖ Promoting **sustainable tourism practices**
  - ❖ Emphasizing the **'Athithi Devo Bhava'** philosophy

GOVERNMENT ISSUES NOTIFICATION FOR FIRST SET OF RULES UNDER TELECOM ACT 2023 – 'DIGITAL BHARAT NIDHI'

- The first set of rules under the **Telecom Act 2023**, named **Digital Bharat Nidhi (DBN)**, has come into effect.
- DBN will **replace the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF)**.

Purpose and Funding Mechanism of DBN

- DBN will **fund schemes and projects** aimed at **providing targeted access to telecommunication services for underserved groups** in society.
- Payments received for DBN will **first be credited to the Consolidated Fund of India**.
- The funds will then be **transferred to the DBN by the central government**.

Governance and Administration of DBN

- The **central government will appoint an 'administrator' of DBN** through a **gazette notification**.
- The DBN administrator will **select 'DBN implementers'** to execute schemes and projects.

Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism

- The DBN administrator must **establish a digital portal** to allow DBN implementers and other stakeholders to:
  - ❖ **Provide services**
  - ❖ **Report on projects**
  - ❖ **Monitor ongoing schemes and projects**

UNION FINANCE MINISTER SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN TO LAUNCH NPS VATSALYA SCHEME ON SEPTEMBER 18, 2024

- **NPS Vatsalya** was announced in the **Budget 2024-25**.
- The scheme will be managed by the **Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)**.
- It is an **extension of the existing National Pension Scheme (NPS)**, specifically designed for **children**.

Key Features of NPS Vatsalya

- **Parents can open pension accounts** for their children under **18 years of age**.
- Once the child **turns 18**, the Vatsalya account will **automatically convert into a regular NPS account**.
- **PRAN (Permanent Retirement Account Number) cards** will be issued to the newly registered minor subscribers.

Contribution Requirements

- **Minimum contribution** to open an NPS Vatsalya account is **Rs. 1,000**.
- Subscribers must contribute **Rs. 1,000 annually** to keep the account active.

Withdrawal Rules

- **Withdrawal allowed after 3 years** of joining the scheme.
- Parents/guardians can **withdraw up to 25% of the contributed amount**, with a **limit of 3 withdrawals** until the child turns 18.
- Withdrawals are permitted for specific purposes such as:
  - **Education**
  - **Disability exceeding 75%**
  - **Treatment of specified illnesses**, as defined by PFRDA.

CHANDRAYAAN-4 MISSION RECEIVES APPROVAL FROM CENTRE

- The **Chandrayaan-4 Mission** aims to **collect rocks and soil from the lunar surface** and ensure their safe return to Earth.

Funding and Timeline

- The government has allocated **Rs. 2,104 crore** for the mission.
- A timeline of **36 months** has been set for the **completion of the mission**.

Vision for the Indian Space Programme

- During the **Amrit Kaal**, the Government of India has outlined an **expanded vision** for the Indian space programme, which includes:
  - Establishing an **Indian Space Station (Bharatiya Antriksh Station)** by **2035**.
  - Achieving **Indian landing on the Moon** by **2040**.

VENUS ORBITER MISSION (VOM)

- The **Venus Orbiter Mission (VOM)** will be developed and launched by **ISRO**, with the mission scheduled for **March 2028**.
- **Funding Details:** The government has allocated **Rs. 1,236 crore** for this mission, of which **Rs. 824 crore** will be specifically spent on the spacecraft.
- **Scientific Significance:** Venus, being the closest planet to Earth and believed to have formed under conditions similar to those on Earth, presents a **unique opportunity** to explore how **planetary environments** can evolve differently.
- **Mission Objectives:** The mission aims to achieve a **better understanding of**:
  - The **Venusian surface and subsurface**.
  - **Atmospheric processes** on Venus.
  - The **influence of the Sun** on the Venusian atmosphere.

BHARATIYA ANTARIKSH STATION & PSLV RECEIVES CABINET APPROVAL

- **Approval for Bharatiya Antariksh Station (BAS-1):** The Indian government has approved the construction of the **first unit of the Bharatiya Antariksh Station (BAS-1)**, with a target completion date of **December 2028**.
- **Next Generation Launch Vehicle (NGLV):** The **Next Generation Launch Vehicle (NGLV)** will possess **three times the payload capability** of ISRO's current workhorse, the **Launch Vehicle Mark III**.
- **Development Timeline:** The government has set a target of **96 months (8 years)** for the completion of the **development phase** of these initiatives.
- **Strategic Goals:** This approval marks a **significant step towards India's goal** of establishing and operating the **Bharatiya Antariksh Station** and developing the capability for an **Indian crewed landing on the Moon by 2040**.

'ONE NATION, ONE ELECTION' APPROVED BY UNION CABINET



- The **Union Cabinet** has approved the proposal for **simultaneous elections** in India, as recommended by a **high-level committee** chaired by former President **Ram Nath Kovind**.

Election Phases

- Simultaneous polls will be conducted in **two phases**:
  - **First Phase:** Lok Sabha elections and Assembly elections will be held simultaneously.
  - **Second Phase:** Local body elections (municipal and panchayat) will occur within **100 days of the general elections**.

Kovind Committee Report

- The Kovind committee submitted its report to the government in **March 2024**, shortly before the announcement of the **Lok Sabha elections 2024**.
- Established on **September 2, 2023**, the committee was tasked with examining the concept of **'one nation, one election'** and proposing amendments to the **Constitution of India**, **Representation of the People Act, 1950**, **Representation of the People Act, 1951**, and other related laws.

Proposed Constitutional Amendments

- The committee has proposed the insertion of **Article 82A** into the Constitution to **synchronize the terms of the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies**.
- All State Assemblies constituted in general elections held after the introduction of this Article will end with the **expiry of the full term of the Lok Sabha**.
- Subsequently, all **general elections** for the **House of the People** and **State Legislative Assemblies** will be held together.

Provision for Hung Houses

- In case of a **hung house** and a **no-confidence motion**, fresh elections may occur, but the tenure will only be for the **unexpired term**. This means the elected representatives will serve for the remainder of the **full term** (five years).

Amendments to Existing Articles

- Proposed amendments will be made to **Article 83** (duration of Houses of Parliament) and **Article 172** (duration of state legislatures).
- Importantly, **ratification by the states** is not required to hold simultaneous elections for the **House of the People**and **State Legislative Assemblies**.

Law Commission Recommendation

- The **22nd Law Commission**, chaired by **Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi**, has also suggested that simultaneous polls should be held from the **general elections of 2029**.

CABINET APPROVES PRADHAN MANTRI JANJATIYA UNNAT GRAM ABHIYAN

- **Objective:** The **Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Unnat Gram Abhiyan** is aimed at the **upliftment of tribal communities**.
- **Financial Outlay:** The scheme has an **outlay of Rs. 79,156 crore**.
- **Coverage and Beneficiaries:** It will cover all **tribal majority villages** across **30 States and Union Territories**, benefiting more than **5 crore tribal people**, as announced in the **Budget Speech 2024-25**.
- **Implementation Framework:** The scheme comprises **25 interventions** to be implemented by **17 line ministries** in a **time-bound manner** over the next **5 years**.
- **Key Goals of the Scheme:** The initiative aims to achieve various goals, including:
  - **Building pucca houses** with access to **tapped water** (under the **Jal Jeevan Mission**) and **electricity supply**(under **RDSS**).
  - Ensuring eligible **Scheduled Tribe (ST) households** have access to the **Ayushman Bharat Card (PMJAY)**.
  - Providing **all-weather road connectivity** to ST majority villages (under **PMGSY**).
  - Ensuring access to **mobile connectivity** (through **Bharat Net**) and the **internet**.
  - Improving **infrastructure for health, nutrition, and education**.

CABINET APPROVES ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR ANIMATION

- The **Union Cabinet** has approved the proposal to establish the **National Centre of Excellence (NCoE)** for **Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming, Comics, and Extended Reality (AVGC-XR)**, modeled on the lines of **IITs**and **IIMs**.
- The centre aims to anchor the **animation ecosystem** in India.
- **Objectives of the Centre:** The initiative is aimed at positioning **India as a content hub** for providing **state-of-the-art content**, thereby:
  - Enhancing India's **soft power** globally.
  - Attracting **foreign investments** into the **media and entertainment sector**.
- **Location and Legal Framework:** The centre will be established in **Mumbai** under the **Companies Act, 2013**.
- **Industry Partnership:** The **Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI)** and the **Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)**, representing industry bodies, will partner with the government in setting up the proposed **Institute of Immersive Creators (IIIC)**.

CABINET APPROVES CONTINUATION OF PM-AASHA SCHEME FOR FARMERS' SUPPORT

Scheme Overview

- The **Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan (PM-AASHA)** has been approved for continuation to support farmers.

Objectives

- The scheme aims to:
  - Provide better prices to farmers.
  - Control price volatility of essential commodities for consumers.

Financial Outlay

- The total financial outgo will be **Rs. 35,000 crore** during the **15th Finance Commission Cycle**, up to **2025-26**.

Convergence of Schemes

- The Government has integrated the **Price Support Scheme (PSS)** and **Price Stabilisation Fund (PSF)** schemes into PM-AASHA to enhance efficiency in serving farmers and consumers.

Components of PM-AASHA

- PM-AASHA will now include the following components:
  - **Price Support Scheme (PSS)**
  - **Price Stabilisation Fund (PSF)**
  - **Price Deficit Payment Scheme (PDPS)**
  - **Market Intervention Scheme (MIS)**

Payment to Farmers

- Farmers will be paid the difference between the **Minimum Support Price (MSP)** and the monthly modal price or actual sale price, subject to a maximum of **25% of the MSP value**, based on the MSP notified for the year or season.

EXPANSION OF BENEFICIARY BASE OF AYUSHMAN BHARAT YOJANA

- The government has reported that **49%** of the **Ayushman Cards** issued are to women.
- Of the **7.79 crore** hospital admissions, approximately **3.61 crores** have been utilized by women.

Top Performing States

- In terms of **Ayushman Cards creation**, the **top performing states** are:
  - **Uttar Pradesh**
  - **Madhya Pradesh**
  - **Bihar**
  - **Maharashtra**
- In terms of **utilization**, the **top performing states** are:
  - **Tamil Nadu**
  - **Karnataka**
  - **Andhra Pradesh**
  - **Kerala**

What is Ayushman Bharat-PMJAY?

- **Overview of PM-JAY: PM-JAY** (Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana) is the **world's largest health insurance scheme**, fully financed by the government.
- **Launch and Coverage:** Launched in **2018**, PM-JAY offers a **sum insured of Rs. 5 lakh per family** for **secondary and tertiary care**.
- **Health Benefit Packages:** The scheme covers a range of **Health Benefit Packages**, including:
  - Surgery
  - Medical and day care treatments
  - Cost of medicines
  - Diagnostics
- **Implementation Authority:** The **National Health Authority (NHA)** is responsible for the effective implementation of PM-JAY in collaboration with state governments.
- **Extension of the Scheme:** The extension will now cover all **citizens aged 70 years and above**, offering **Rs. 5 lakh** annual coverage per family.

CABINET APPROVES PM-EBUS SEWA - PAYMENT SECURITY MECHANISM (PSM) SCHEME

- **Financial Outlay:** The scheme has an outlay of **Rs. 3,435.33 crore**.
- **Objective:** The PM-eBus Sewa aims to facilitate the **procurement and operation of electric buses (e-buses)** by **Public Transport Authorities (PTAs)**.
- **Deployment Goals:** The scheme will support the deployment of more than **38,000 electric buses** from **FY 2024-25 to FY 2028-29**.
- **Operational Support:** It will provide support for the operation of e-buses for a period of **up to 12 years** from the date of deployment.
- **Environmental Impact:** Currently, the majority of buses operated by PTAs run on **diesel/CNG**, which causes adverse environmental impacts. This scheme aims to reduce that by promoting electric buses.

CABINET APPROVES BUDGETARY SUPPORT SCHEME FOR HYDRO ELECTRIC PROJECTS

- The **Union Cabinet**, chaired by Prime Minister **Shri Narendra Modi**, has approved the proposal of the **Ministry of Power** for the modification of the **budgetary support**

scheme for the cost of **Enabling Infrastructure for Hydro Electric Projects (HEP)**.

- The total outlay for the scheme is **Rs. 12,461 crore**.
- **Implementation Timeline**: The scheme will be implemented from **FY 2024-25 to FY 2031-32**.
- **Capacity Support:**
  - Over the next **8 years**, the scheme will support hydro power projects with a cumulative generation capacity of approximately **31,350 MW**.
  - It applies to all hydro projects **over 25 MW**, including those in the **private sector**.

Benefits of the Scheme

- **Faster development of hydro electric projects**.
- **Improved infrastructure** in remote and hilly project locations.
- Provision of a **large number of direct employment** opportunities for local people, along with **indirect employment**.
- Creation of **entrepreneurial opportunities** through transportation and tourism.
- **Encouragement of fresh investments** into the hydro power sector.

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT ACHIEVES 100 DAYS TARGET ON INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT OF WILDLIFE HABITATS

- The **Ministry of Environment** has successfully achieved its **100 days target** on the **Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats**.
- Recently, the **Union Cabinet** approved the continuation of the **Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats** for the **15th Finance Commission cycle**.
- The scheme has an overall outlay of **Rs. 2,602.98 crores**.
- **Components of the Scheme:** The scheme includes the critical **Project Tiger** subcomponent, along with:
  - **Project Elephant**
  - **Development of Wildlife Habitat**
- **Beneficiaries of the Scheme:** A total of **55 tiger reserves**, **33 elephant reserves** and **718 protected areas and their zones** will benefit from the scheme.

WORLD RECORD CREATED BY PLANTING OVER 5 LAKH SAPLINGS IN ONE HOUR

- The **128 Infantry Battalion** and **Ecological Task Force** of the **Territorial Army**, one of the six units of the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC)**, registered a **World Record** by planting over **5 lakh saplings** in just **one hour** during the **"Special Plantation Drive"** at **Jaisalmer**.

Campaigns Involved

- This initiative was part of the **Prime Minister's campaign "Ek Ped Maa ke Naam"** and the Territorial Army's outreach program **"Bhagidari & Zimmedari,"** which aim to enhance **ecological restoration** and promote **environmental awareness** among local communities.

Awareness Banners and Motto

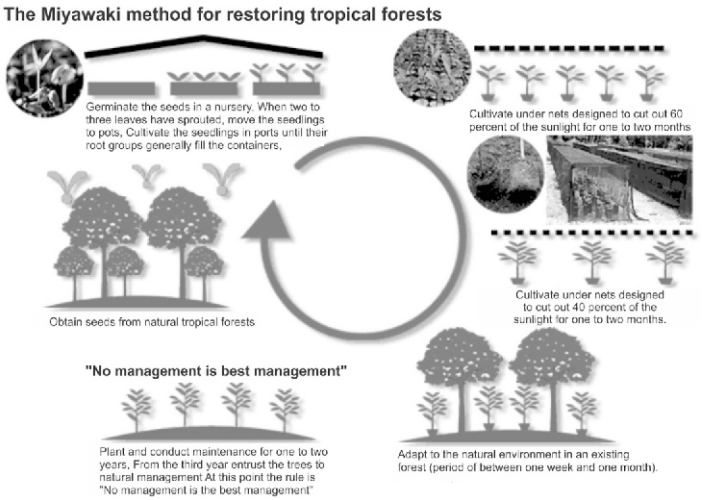
- The event featured the banner: **"Protect Trees"**
- The motto emphasized: **"Those who protect the trees are protected."**

INDIA'S FIRST OXYGEN BIRD PARK SET TO BE INAUGURATED BY NITIN GADKARI

- The Oxygen Bird Park is located near **Jamtha**, in **Nagpur, Maharashtra**.
- It is strategically positioned at the **Jamtha intersection** of the **Nagpur-Hyderabad** and **Mumbai-Kolkata**highways.
- **Size and Plant Species:** The park spans **8 hectares** and houses over **8,000 diverse plant species**.
- **Development:** It has been developed by the **National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)**.

Features of the Park

- The park includes a **3.1-hectare Miyawaki forest**, an afforestation method that is:
  - Fast-growing
  - Features dense vegetation
  - Requires little to no management over time
- Additionally, a section of the park is dedicated to the **conservation of plant species** that are on the verge of extinction.



Miyawaki Technique

- The **Miyawaki forests or Miyawaki technique** refers to a unique approach to afforestation and ecological restoration developed by **Japanese botanist Dr. Akira Miyawaki**.
- This method involves planting **two to four different types of indigenous trees** within every square meter.

CENTRE NOTIFIES CONSTITUTION OF 23RD LAW COMMISSION

- The **Union Ministry of Law and Justice** has released a notification announcing the establishment of the **23rd Law Commission of India** for a period of three years, effective from **1st September 2024 to 31st August 2027**.

Composition of the 23rd Law Commission

1. A **full-time Chairperson**
2. Four **full-time members** (including **Member-Secretary**)
3. **Secretary, Department of Legal Affairs** as an **ex-officio member**
4. **Secretary, Legislative Department** as an **ex-officio member**
5. Not more than **five part-time members**
    - ❖ Serving **Supreme Court** and **High Court Judges** will be appointed as the chairperson and members of the Law Commission.

About the Law Commission of India

- The Law Commission is a **non-statutory body** and serves as an **executive body** constituted by a notification from the **Government of India, Ministry of Law & Justice, Department of Legal Affairs** with specific terms of reference.
- Its primary role is to conduct **research in the field of law** and make **recommendations** to the government in the form of reports based on its terms of reference.

History of Law Commission in India

- The first Law Commission was established in **1834** under the **Charter Act of 1833**, chaired by **Lord Macaulay**.
- Significant legal frameworks such as the **Indian Code of Civil Procedure**, **Indian Contract Act**, **Indian Evidence Act**, and **Transfer of Property Act** were products of the first four Law Commissions.
- The Government of India established the first modern Law Commission in **1955**, with **Mr. M. C. Setalvad**, the then Attorney-General of India, as its Chairman.

WHITE REVOLUTION 2.0

- **Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah** announced plans for **"White Revolution 2.0."**
- **Historical Context:** The original **Operation Flood**, launched in **1970**, marked the beginning of the **White Revolution**, transforming India's dairy sector.

Objectives of White Revolution 2.0

- The initiative focuses on **cooperative societies** within the dairy sector.
- In **2023-24**, dairy cooperatives procured **660 lakh kg** of milk per day; the government aims to increase this to **1,007 lakh kg per day** by **2028-29**.

National Dairy Development Board (NDDB)

- The **NDDB** acts as the **regulator** of the dairy industry in India and has developed an **action plan** to establish approximately **56,000 new multipurpose dairy cooperative societies (DCSs)** over the next five years.
- Most new DCSs will be set up in **Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan, and Andhra Pradesh**.

Funding Mechanism

- The majority of the funding for White Revolution 2.0 will be sourced through the **National Programme for Dairy Development (NPDD) 2.0**.
- NPDD is a new **central sector scheme** under the **Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying**.

Support and Implementation

- Financial assistance will be provided under the scheme for establishing:
    - ❖ Village-level milk procurement systems
    - ❖ Chilling facilities
    - ❖ Training and capacity-building programs

Current Status of Milk Production in India

- India is the **world's top milk producer**, with production reaching **230.58 million tonnes** in **2022-23**.
- In **1951-52**, the country's milk production was only **17 million tonnes**.

Top Milk-Producing States (BAHS 2023)

- According to the **Basic Animal Husbandry Statistics (BAHS) 2023**, the top five milk-producing states are:

1. **Uttar Pradesh** - 15.72%
2. **Rajasthan** - 14.44%
3. **Madhya Pradesh** - 8.73%
4. **Gujarat** - 7.49%
5. **Andhra Pradesh** - 6.70%
    - ❖ These **five states together** contribute **53.08%** of the **country's total milk production.**

INDIA'S DECISION TO SIGN AND RATIFY THE BIODIVERSITY BEYOND NATIONAL JURISDICTION (BBNJ) AGREEMENT

- India has announced its decision to sign and ratify the **Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ)** Agreement.
- The agreement is an international treaty under the **United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)**.

Objectives

- The primary aim of the BBNJ Agreement is to protect **marine biodiversity** in the **high seas** through **international cooperation**.
- Commonly referred to as the **"High Seas Treaty,"** it ensures that no country can claim **sovereign rights** over marine resources in these international waters.

Scope and Implementation

- The **BBNJ Agreement covers areas open to various activities**, including:
  - Navigation
  - Overflight
  - Laying submarine cables and pipelines
- The **Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)** will oversee the **implementation of the BBNJ Agreement** in India.

Legal Framework

- The BBNJ Agreement will become the **third implementation agreement** under UNCLOS, joining:
  - The **1994 Part XI Implementation Agreement** (regulating mining in international seabed areas)
  - The **1995 UN Fish Stocks Agreement** (focused on conserving and managing fish stocks)

Ratification and Enforcement

- The agreement will become legally binding **120 days** after **60 countries** ratify it.

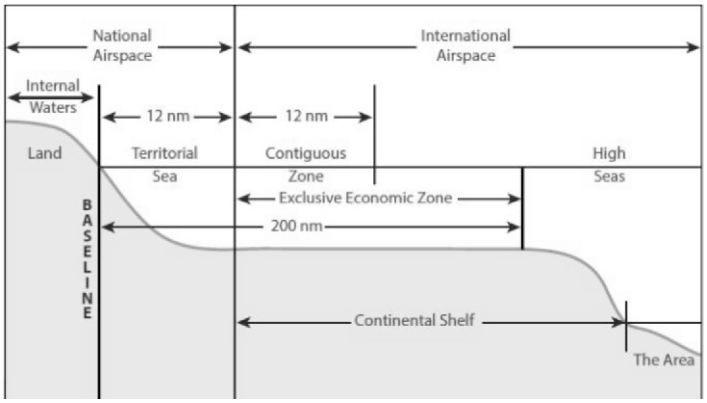
Significance of High Seas

- The high seas absorb about **30%** of the **CO2** produced by humans annually; however, only **1.5%** of these areas are currently **fully protected**.

UNCLOS Background

- **UNCLOS**, adopted in **1982** and effective from **1994**, is the only international convention providing a framework for state jurisdiction in maritime spaces, commonly known as the **Law of the Sea**.
- It divides marine areas into five main zones:

1. **Internal Waters**
2. **Territorial Sea**
3. **Contiguous Zone**
4. **Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)**
5. **High Seas**



PM MODI DEDICATES 3 INDIGENOUSLY DEVELOPED SUPERCOMPUTERS TO THE NATION

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** dedicated three **PARAM Rudra Supercomputers** to the nation, developed under the **National Supercomputing Mission (NSM)**.
- These supercomputers are strategically deployed in **Pune**, **Delhi**, and **Kolkata**.

Purpose and Applications

- The PARAM Rudra Supercomputers are intended to:
  - **Boost research** in various critical fields including:
    - ✓ **Astronomy**
    - ✓ **Medicine**
    - ✓ **High-energy physics**

Launch of High-Performance Computing Systems

- In addition to the supercomputers, PM Modi also launched two **high-performance computing (HPC)** systems named **'Arka'** and **'Arunika'**.
- These systems are designed for **weather research** and are expected to:
  - Significantly enhance the **accuracy** and **lead time** of predictions related to:
    - ✓ Tropical cyclones
    - ✓ Heavy precipitation
    - ✓ Thunderstorms
    - ✓ Hailstorms
    - ✓ Heat waves
    - ✓ Droughts
    - ✓ Other critical weather phenomena

Locations of the HPC Systems

- The Arka and Arunika systems will be located at:
  - **Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM)** in Pune
  - **National Center for Medium Range Weather Forecast (NCMRWF)** in Noida

Replacement of Existing Systems

- The new HPC systems will replace the existing high-power computing systems:
  - **Mihir** located at IITM, Pune
  - **Pratyush** located at NCMRWF, Noida

GOVERNMENT LAUNCHES VISHVASYA-BLOCKCHAIN TECHNOLOGY STACK

- The **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)** has launched **Vishvasya-Blockchain Technology Stack** to enhance transparency, security, and efficiency in digital service delivery through blockchain-based solutions.

Key Features of Vishvasya BaaS

- The Vishvasya stack offers **Blockchain-as-a-Service (BaaS)** with a **geographically distributed setup** to support a variety of **permissioned blockchain applications**.
- It is hosted across **NIC Data Centers** located in:
  - **Bhubaneswar**
  - **Pune**
  - **Hyderabad**
- **Key features include:**
  - **Rapid end-to-end development** and deployment of permissioned blockchain applications.
  - **Security audited blockchain containers** ready for production setups.
  - **Blockchain-specific security audit guidelines** and best practices.
  - **Geographically distributed infrastructure** to ensure robust service delivery.
  - Comprehensive documentation to facilitate **easy onboarding** of stakeholders.
  - **NBF Lite**: A lightweight platform designed for rapid prototyping, research, and learning.

Applications of Vishvasya BaaS

- The **Vishvasya Blockchain Technology Stack** can be applied in various domains, including:
  - **e-Stamps Solution**: Digital issuance and management of stamps.
  - **Judiciary Application**: Streamlining judicial processes and records.
  - **IPS Officers Service Level Training Record Management**: Maintaining training records for Indian Police Service officers.
  - **Forensic Application**: Enhancing the integrity and traceability of forensic evidence.
  - **Praamaanik**: Verification of mobile app authenticity.
  - **Consent Management Framework**: Managing user consent in a secure manner.
  - **IoT Device Security Management**: Securing Internet of Things devices.
  - **Cotton Bale Identification and Tracking**: Tracking cotton bales throughout the supply chain.
  - **Domicile Certificate Chain**: Streamlining the issuance and verification of domicile certificates.
  - **Document Chain**: Managing chains for caste certificates, property documents, and education certificates.
  - **Tracking of Agriculture Produce**: Enhancing traceability in agricultural produce.
  - **Inspection System for Child Care Institutions**: Ensuring compliance and safety in child care institutions.

UNION MINISTRY LAUNCHES 'EK PED MAA KE NAAM' APP

- The **Union Minister for Communications and Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER)**, **Jyotiraditya M. Scindia**, launched the **'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam'** app.

Purpose of the App

- This unique platform allows users to **plant and dedicate a tree** in honor of their mothers, promoting environmental conservation and awareness.

Key Features

- **Image Capture**: Users can take a photo of the tree they plant.
- **Tree Details**: Users can input information about:
  - **Tree Type**: The species of the tree planted.
  - **Location**: The state where the tree is planted.
  - **Occasion**: The specific occasion for dedicating the tree.
  - **Automatic Recording**: The app automatically logs:
    - ✓ **Location**: Latitude and longitude of the tree.
    - ✓ **Timestamp**: The date and time when the tree was dedicated.
  - **Carbon Credit Tracking**: Users can monitor the **carbon credits** they earn through their planting activities, encouraging a personal connection to

environmental impact.

Significance

- This initiative not only fosters a sense of responsibility towards the environment but also serves as a tribute to mothers, reinforcing the idea of nurturing both familial and environmental relationships.

SUGAMYA BHARAT APP

- The **Sugamya Bharat App** is an initiative launched in **2021** by the **Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD)** under the **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment**.

Purpose

- The app is designed to assist **people with disabilities** and the **elderly** by enabling them to report **accessibility issues** in public infrastructure, transportation, and buildings.

Recent Developments

- Since its launch, the app has successfully registered **more than 1,400 complaints** related to accessibility, indicating its growing usage and importance in addressing the needs of the disabled community.

Key Features

- **User-Friendly Reporting**: Users can easily report problems related to:
  - Public infrastructure (e.g., ramps, elevators)
  - Transportation (e.g., buses, trains)
  - Buildings (e.g., access to government offices, public spaces)

Significance

- The Sugamya Bharat App plays a crucial role in promoting **inclusive access** and ensuring that public spaces are accommodating for individuals with disabilities, thus fostering a more equitable society.

LAUNCH OF "RANGEEN MACHHLI" APP: BOOSTING INDIA'S ORNAMENTAL FISHERIES SECTOR

- The **"Rangeen Machhli" mobile application** was unveiled by **Rajiv Ranjan Singh alias Lalan Singh**, **Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying**.
- The launch event took place at the **ICAR-Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture (ICAR-CIFA)** in **Bhubaneswar**.

Development and Support:

- The app was developed by **ICAR-CIFA** with **support from the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)**.

Purpose and Features of the App:

- **"Rangeen Machhli"** serves as a **comprehensive guide** for both **novice and professional fishers** in the **ornamental fish industry**.

LAUNCH OF 'VISIONXT': INDIA'S FIRST FASHION FORECASTING INITIATIVE

- **Union Minister of Textiles**, **Shri Giriraj Singh**, launched the **'VisioNxt Fashion Forecasting Initiative'** of the **National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT)**.
- The initiative includes a **bilingual web portal** and the **India-specific Fashion Trend Book** named **'Paridhi 24x25'**.

Unique Features:

- **VisioNxt** is India's **first-ever initiative** that integrates **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** and **Emotional Intelligence (EI)**to generate **fashion trend insights and forecasts**.

Support for the Fashion Ecosystem:

- The **forecast report** is available in **both Hindi and English** to assist **weavers, manufacturers, retailers, domestic businesses, homegrown designers, and fashion brands**.

LAUNCH OF BHASKAR PLATFORM FOR STARTUPS

- The **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)** launched the **Bharat Startup Knowledge Access Registry (BHASKAR)** platform.
- **Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal** inaugurated the **start-up registry.**

Purpose and Features:

- **BHASKAR** aims to **bridge the gap** between **startups, investors, mentors, and other stakeholders**, enabling **seamless interaction across sectors**.

Alignment with National Vision:

- This initiative aligns with the **Government's vision** of transforming India into a **global leader in innovation and entrepreneurship**.

PM NARENDRA MODI ADDRESSES FIRST INTERNATIONAL SOLAR FESTIVAL

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** virtually addressed the **first International Solar Festival**, held in **New Delhi** over two days.

Achievements in Solar Energy:

- India's **solar energy capacity** has increased **32-fold in the past 10 years**.
- This growth in **speed and scale** will help India achieve **500 GW of non-fossil energy capacity by 2030**.

International Solar Alliance (ISA):

- The **ISA** is an **intergovernmental organization** launched in **2015** by the **Prime Minister of India** and the **President of France** during the **UN Climate Change Conference in Paris**.
- **Membership:**
  - **All UN member states** are eligible to join the ISA.
- **Headquarters:**
  - **National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE)** in **Gurugram, India**.

One Sun, One World, One Grid (OSOWOG) Initiative:

- The **OSOWOG initiative** was proposed by **India in 2018** to promote global solar energy integration.

PM MODI INAUGURATES NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF DISTRICT JUDICIARY

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** inaugurated the **National Conference of the District Judiciary** at **Bharat Mandapam**.
- The two-day conference was organized by the **Supreme Court of India**.
- **Participation:** The conference witnessed the participation of **more than 800 judges** from across the judiciary.
- **Commemorative Releases:** PM Modi also released a **coin** and a **stamp** to mark **75 years of the establishment of the Supreme Court** of India.

INTERNATIONAL WASH CONFERENCE 2024 CONCLUDES AT 8TH INDIA WATER WEEK

- The **International WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) Conference** was organized by the **Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS), Ministry of Jal Shakti**.
- The conference took place from **17th to 19th September 2024** in **New Delhi** as part of the **8th India Water Week**.

Theme and Objectives:

- **Theme: 'Sustaining Rural Water Supply'**
- **Focus:** Addressing **global WASH challenges** with a particular emphasis on achieving **Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG 6)**, which targets **clean water and sanitation for all**.

1ST INDIA MEDITERRANEAN BUSINESS CONCLAVE 2024 HELD IN NEW DELHI

- The inaugural **CII India Mediterranean Business Conclave** was organized by the **Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)** in partnership with the **Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India**.
- **Date and Venue:** Held on **6th September 2024** in **New Delhi**.
- **Objective:** The conclave focused on the **strategic integration of trade and economic prospects** and emphasized the need for an **open and facilitative business environment** to foster stronger commercial ties.
- **Importance of the Mediterranean Region:** The **Mediterranean region** plays a crucial role in **global trade**, accounting for **25% of all international seaborne trade**.
- **Trade Growth: India's trade with Mediterranean countries** has **doubled**, growing from **US$ 48.60 billion in 2017** to **US$ 83.20 billion in 2022**.

PM MODI CHAIRS INAUGURAL GOVERNING BOARD MEETING OF ANUSANDHAN NATIONAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION (ANRF)

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** chaired the first **Governing Board meeting** of the **Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF)** in **New Delhi**.

Foundation Overview:

- **Establishment:**
  - ANRF was set up based on the recommendations of the **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020**.
    - ✓ It was formally established under the **ANRF Act, 2023**.
  - **Objective:** The foundation aims to **fund, coordinate, and promote research** across **India's universities and colleges**.

Budget and Funding Model:

- **Total Budget:** Rs **50,000 crore** over five years.
- **Government Contribution:** Rs **14,000 crore**.
- **Non-Governmental Funding:** The remaining amount will be raised from **industry, philanthropists, and other private sources**.

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

- The **2nd Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Civil Aviation** will be held on **11th-12th September 2024**at **Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi**.
- **Organizers:** The event is **co-hosted** by the **International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)** and the **Ministry of Civil Aviation, Government of India**.

Background and Significance:

- The **first edition** of the conference took place in **2018 in Beijing, China**.
- The **year 2024** marks the **80th anniversary of the signing of the Chicago Convention**.

- ❖ **Chicago Convention (1944):**
  - ✓ Signed by delegates from **54 countries**, this agreement laid down the **core principles for international air transport**.
  - ✓ It also led to the **creation of ICAO**, which regulates global civil aviation.

PM MODI ANNOUNCES ADOPTION OF DELHI DECLARATION ON CIVIL AVIATION

- ➢ The **2nd Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Civil Aviation** concluded with the **adoption of the Delhi Declaration**.
- ➢ **Organizers:** The conference was successfully hosted by the **Ministry of Civil Aviation, Government of India**, in collaboration with the **International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)** at **Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi** from **11th to 12th September 2024**.

Key Features of the Delhi Declaration:

- ➢ The **Delhi Declaration** serves as a **comprehensive framework** designed to:
  - ❖ **Enhance regional cooperation.**
  - ❖ **Address emerging challenges.**
  - ❖ **Foster sustainable growth within the civil aviation sector.**

Promoting Gender Equality in Aviation:

- ➢ In India, **15% of pilots are women**, significantly higher than the **global average of 5%**.
- ➢ An **advisory has been issued** to further increase the representation of women in aviation.

Future Goals for Aviation Infrastructure: India is on track to achieve its target of having **350-400 airports by 2047**.

INDIA TO HOST THE WORLD TELECOMMUNICATION STANDARDIZATION ASSEMBLY (WTSA) IN DELHI

- ➢ The **World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA) 2024** will be held in **Delhi from 14th to 24th October 2024**.
- ➢ This marks the **first time in the history of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU)**, which has been operational for **150 years**, that India will host this assembly.
- ➢ **Purpose of WTSA:** The WTSA is a significant conference that sets the **direction and structure** of the **International Telecommunication Union's (ITU) Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T)**.

INDIA TO ORGANIZE FIRST GLOBAL COOPERATIVE CONFERENCE

- ➢ The **International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) General Assembly** and the **Global Cooperative Conference 2024** are scheduled to be held from **November 25th to November 30th, 2024**, at **Bharat Mandapam, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi**.
- ➢ This event will be hosted by **India for the first time**.
- ➢ **Theme:** The theme for the conference is **"Cooperatives Build Prosperity for All."**
- ➢ **Significance:** The conference will also mark the **official launch of the UN International Year of Cooperatives – 2025**.

AMIT SHAH ADDRESSES THE FIRST FOUNDATION DAY OF INDIAN CYBER CRIME COORDINATION CENTRE (I4C)

- ➢ **Amit Shah** addressed the **first foundation day** of the **Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C)** in **New Delhi** on **10th September**.
- ➢ **Establishment of I4C:** The **I4C** was established in **October 2018** under the **Ministry of Home Affairs**.

Key Initiatives Launched:

- ➢ Amit Shah launched several significant initiatives aimed at enhancing protection against cybercrime:
  - ❖ **Cyber Fraud Mitigation Centre**
  - ❖ **Samanvaya:**
    - ✓ A **web-based module** serving as a **platform for cybercrime data repository, sharing, mapping, and analytics**, which also acts as a coordination tool for law enforcement agencies.
  - ❖ **Cyber Commandos Programme:**
    - ✓ Establishing a wing of **trained specialists** in states, union territories, and central police organizations.
  - ❖ **Suspect Registry:**
    - ✓ Based on the **National Cybercrime Reporting Portal**, in collaboration with **banks and financial intermediaries**.

WORLD FOOD INDIA 2024 IN NEW DELHI

- ➢ **Organizer:**
  - ❖ The **Ministry of Food Processing Industries** is hosting **World Food India 2024** at **Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi**.
- ➢ **Event Dates:**
  - ❖ The event will take place from **19th to 22nd September 2024**.
- ➢ **Participation:**
  - ❖ The conference will feature **over 90 countries**, **26 Indian states**, and **18 government bodies**.
  - ❖ **Japan** will be participating as the **partner country**.
  - ❖ **Vietnam** and **Iran** will be highlighted as **focus countries**.

- **Background:**
  - This is the **second edition** of **World Food India**, with the **first edition** having been held in **2017**.

PRESIDENT DROUPADI MURMU UNVEILS NEW FLAG AND INSIGNIA OF THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA

- **President Droupadi Murmu** unveiled the **new flag and insignia** of the **Supreme Court of India**.
- The designs were conceptualized by the **National Institute of Fashion Technology**, New Delhi.
- **Symbolism:**
  - The flag features:
    - ✓ The **Ashok Chakra**
    - ✓ The iconic **Supreme Court building**
    - ✓ The **book of the Constitution**
  - Together, these elements symbolize **justice and democracy**.

About the Supreme Court of India:

- **Constitutional Provision:**
  - **Article 124** of the Constitution states, "There shall be a Supreme Court of India."
- **Establishment:**
  - The Supreme Court came into existence on **January 26, 1950**, coinciding with the implementation of the Constitution.
  - It was officially inaugurated on **January 28, 1950**, just two days after India became a **Sovereign Democratic Republic**.
  - **Current Building:**
    - ✓ The present building of the Supreme Court of India was inaugurated by **Dr. Rajendra Prasad**, the first President of India, on **August 4, 1958**.

SUPREME COURT CONSTITUTES COMMITTEE FOR GRIEVANT FARMERS

- The **Supreme Court** has constituted a committee headed by **former Punjab and Haryana High Court judge Justice Nawab Singh**.
- This committee aims to **amicably resolve the grievances** of protesting farmers at the **Shambhu border**, located between the states of **Punjab and Haryana**.
- **First Meeting:** The committee is required to convene its **first meeting within a week**.

Background of the Order:

- A bench comprising **Justices Surya Kant** and **Ujjal Bhuyan** passed the order in response to a petition filed by the **State of Haryana**.
- The petition challenged an order from the **Punjab and Haryana High Court** regarding the removal of the blockade at the **Shambhu border**, which was erected by Haryana to prevent protesters from marching to **Delhi**.

NHPC, SECI, RAILTEL, AND SJVN GAIN NAVRATNA STATUS

- **Grant of Navratna Status:** Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** has granted **navratna status** to four state-owned public enterprises:
  - **Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam Ltd (SJVN)**
  - **Solar Energy Corporation of India Ltd (SECI)**
  - **Railtel Corporation of India Ltd**
  - **National Hydroelectric Power Corporation Ltd (NHPC)**
- **Impact on Navratna Firms:**
  - With this addition, the number of navratna firms has increased from **21 to 25**.
  - The **navratna status** provides enhanced **financial autonomy** to these entities.

Details of the Companies:

- **Railtel Corporation of India Ltd:** Formed as a **Public Sector Undertaking (PSU)** fully owned by **Indian Railways** in **September 2000**.
- **Solar Energy Corporation of India Ltd:** Established on **20th September 2011** to facilitate the implementation of the **National Solar Mission (NSM)**.
- **National Hydroelectric Power Corporation Ltd:** Incorporated in **1975** with the objective of developing **hydroelectric power** in the country.
- **Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam Ltd:** Incorporated in **1988** as **Nathpa Jhakri Power Corporation**, a joint venture between the **Government of India** and the **Government of Himachal Pradesh**.

MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS UNVEILS INDIA'S FIRST VANDE BHARAT SLEEPER TRAINSET

- **Ashwini Vaishnaw**, the Minister for Railways, unveiled **India's first Vande Bharat Sleeper trainset** at the **BEML Complex** in **Bengaluru**.
- **Design and Development:** The Vande Bharat Sleeper trainset has been designed by **BEML (Bharat Earth Movers Limited)**.
- **Leadership at BEML:** The **Chairman and Managing Director of BEML** is **Shantanu Roy**.

INDIA'S FIRST 'VANDE METRO' RENAMED AS 'NAMO BHARAT RAPID RAIL' AHEAD OF LAUNCH

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** launched **India's first**

'Vande Metro' services between **Bhuj** and **Ahmedabad**.

- **Renaming of Service:** Ahead of the launch, the **Railways Ministry** renamed the service to **'Namo Bharat Rapid Rail.'**

INDIA'S FIRST BIO-HYDROGEN PROJECT

- The **Indian government** awarded a contract to develop the country's **first bio-hydrogen project**.
- The project is led by **Gensol Engineering** in collaboration with **Matrix Gas & Renewables**.
  - **Project Details:**
    - ✓ The initiative aims to convert **25 tons of bio-waste** into **1 ton of hydrogen per day**.
    - ✓ The project is scheduled to be completed within **18 months**.
  - **Alignment with National Goals:** This project aligns with **India's National Green Hydrogen Mission**, promoting sustainable energy solutions.

INDIA TO ESTABLISH FIRST NATIONAL SECURITY SEMICONDUCTOR FABRICATION PLANT IN COLLABORATION WITH THE U.S.

- India is set to establish a **national security semiconductor fabrication plant** as part of a transformative collaboration with the **U.S.**
- This initiative marks the **first-ever India-U.S. semiconductor fabrication partnership**.
- **Plant Name and Focus:**
  - The semiconductor fabrication plant is named **'Shakti'**.
  - It will focus on producing **infrared**, **gallium nitride**, and **silicon carbide semiconductors** for military hardware and next-generation telecommunications.
  - **Strategic Partnerships:**
    - ✓ The initiative is supported by the **India Semiconductor Mission**.
    - ✓ It involves a strategic technology partnership between **Bharat Semi**, **3rdiTech**, and the **U.S. Space Force**.
  - **Significance of the Fab:**
    - ✓ The **Shakti fab** will not only be India's first semiconductor fabrication plant but also one of the world's first **multi-material fabs** dedicated to national security.

NTPC KAYAMKULAM TO PIONEER METHANOL-BASED POWER GENERATION IN INDIA

- The **Rajiv Gandhi Combined Cycle Power Project (NTPC Kayamkulam)** is set to launch a pilot project to generate electricity using **methanol**, marking a **first-of-its-kind initiative** in India.
- **Partnership and MoU:**
  - NTPC recently signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with **Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited** to demonstrate methanol firing in the plant's existing gas turbine system.
- **Environmental Benefits:**
  - Methanol is a **clean-burning fuel** that produces fewer harmful emissions compared to traditional fuels.
- **Phase 1 Testing:**
  - The **Phase 1 "test firing"** will last for a year. If successful, the usage of methanol could:
    - ✓ Reduce power generation costs.
    - ✓ Support a **circular carbon economy**.
    - ✓ Lower emissions.

About Methanol (CH_3OH):

- **Properties:**
  - Methanol is a **light, volatile, colorless**, and **flammable liquid** with a distinctive alcoholic odor similar to that of ethanol but is more acutely toxic.
  - Also known as **methyl alcohol** or **wood spirit**, it can completely mix with water.
- **Production:**
  - Increasingly, **syngas** (a mixture of hydrogen and carbon monoxide derived from biomass) is used for methanol production.

Benefits of Methanol

- **Lower Production Costs:**
  - Methanol is cheaper to produce compared to other alternative fuels.
- **Improved Safety:**
  - It has a lower risk of flammability compared to gasoline.
- **Increased Energy Security:**
  - Methanol can be manufactured from a variety of domestic carbon-based feedstocks, such as biomass, natural gas, and coal.

Applications of Methanol

- Used to make chemicals.
- Employed to remove water from automotive and aviation fuels.
- Acts as a solvent for paints and plastics.
- Serves as an ingredient in a wide variety of products.

GOVERNMENT APPROVES 'ANUSHAKTI VIDHYUT NIGAM LTD. (ASHVINI)' FOR NUCLEAR POWER DEVELOPMENT

- The government has approved a joint venture named **Anushakti Vidyut Nigam Limited (ASHVINI)**between the **Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL)** and the **National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC)**.
- **Project Details:**
  - ASHVINI will focus on building **four 700 MWe nuclear power plants** at **Mahi Banswara** in Rajasthan.
  - ASHVINI will operate as a subsidiary of NPCIL, which will hold a **51 percent stake** in the entity.
- **Nuclear Power Capacity Goals:**
  - The Mahi Banswara project will consist of **4x700 MWe Pressurized Heavy Water Reactors (PHWR)**, to be implemented by ASHVINI.
  - India has set ambitious targets to achieve **22,800 MW of nuclear power capacity** by **2031-32**, significantly increasing from the current capacity of **8,180 MW**.

THIRD INDIGENOUS PRESSURISED HEAVY WATER REACTOR (PHWR) ACHIEVES CRITICALITY: NPCIL

- The **Rajasthan Atomic Power Project (RAPP)** Unit 7, a **700 MWe nuclear power reactor**, has attained **criticality**, marking the start of a controlled fission chain reaction.
- It is anticipated to begin commercial electricity generation later this year.
- **Previous Units:** Prior to RAPP-7, two **700 MWe PHWRs** commenced commercial operation at the **Kakrapar Atomic Power Station (KAPS)** in Gujarat.
- **Current Operational Capacity:** The **Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd (NPCIL)** operates **24 reactors** with a total capacity of **8,180 MWe**.
- **Ongoing Projects:** NPCIL has **8 units** (including RAPP-7) under construction, contributing a capacity of **6,800 MWe**.
- Additionally, **10 more reactors** with a combined capacity of **7,000 MWe** are in the pre-project phase, expected to be progressively completed by **2031-32**.

Nuclear Power Plants in India – Operational Name of Nuclear Power Station	Location	Operator	Capacity
Kakrapar Atomic Power Station – 1993	Gujarat	NPCIL	440
(Kalpakkam) Madras Atomic Power Station – 1984	Tamil Nadu	NPCIL	440
Narora Atomic Power Station-1991	Uttar Pradesh	NPCIL	440
Kaiga Nuclear Power Plant -2000	Karnataka	NPCIL	880
Rajasthan Atomic Power Station – 1973	Rajasthan	NPCIL	1,180
Tarapur Atomic Power Station – 1969	Maharashtra	NPCIL	1,400
Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant – 2013	Tamil Nadu	NPCIL	2,000

FIRST FOREIGN UNIVERSITY IN INDIA UNDER UGC REGULATIONS

- The **Centre** has granted permission for the **UK-based University of Southampton** to establish a campus in **Gurugram**, Delhi-NCR.
  - **Rankings:**
    - ✓ The University of Southampton is recognized as one of the **top 100 universities** in the **QS World University Rankings**.
  - **Academic Session:**
    - ✓ The **first academic session** at the new campus is expected to commence in **July 2025**.
    - ✓ The campus will recruit faculty from both **India** and **abroad**.
  - **UGC Regulations:**
    - ✓ This marks the University of Southampton as the **first international university** to set up a campus in India under the **UGC (Setting up and Operation of Campuses of Foreign Higher Educational Institutions in India) Regulations, 2023**, which were notified in November 2023.
  - **Policy Context:**
    - ✓ These regulations allow the **top 500 foreign universities** to establish campuses in India, aligning with the **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020**

DOORDARSHAN: CELEBRATING 65 YEARS OF BROADCASTING EXCELLENCE

- **Establishment:** Doordarshan was established on **15th September 1959**, marking the beginning of India's broadcasting era.
- **Inauguration:** The first broadcast was inaugurated by **Rajendra Prasad**, the then President of India.
- **Historical Context:**
  - Until **1975**, Doordarshan operated as part of **All India Radio**.
  - It became a separate department within the **Ministry of Information and Broadcasting** on **1st April 1976**and later came under **Prasar Bharati**.

- **Current Status:**
  - As an **autonomous public service broadcaster** under the Government of India, Doordarshan is one of the two divisions of **Prasar Bharati**.
  - It remains **India's largest broadcasting entity**, operating a network of **35 satellite channels**.
- **Services Offered:** In addition to its channels, Doordarshan operates the **DD DTH service** known as **"DD Free Dish"**, from the **Earth Station, Todapur, Delhi**.
- This milestone marks **Doordarshan's** significant contribution to the evolution of media and broadcasting in India over the past 65 years.

NAGAR VAN YOJANA: A STEP TOWARDS URBAN GREENING

- The **Nagar Van Yojana (NVY)** has successfully established **111 Nagar Vans** across **6 states** and **1 Union Territory** in India, surpassing its initial targets.
- **Launch and Purpose:**
  - The revised NVY was launched in **2020** by the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change**.
  - Its primary aim is to enhance urban greenery and promote biodiversity in urban areas.
- **Financial Assistance:**
  - The scheme offers financial assistance of **Rs. 4 lakh per hectare** for the creation and maintenance of urban forests, facilitating the development of green spaces.
- **Community Involvement:**
  - The program encourages the participation of **citizens, students,** and other stakeholders in the creation and management of these urban forests, fostering a sense of ownership and responsibility.
- **Nagar Van Specifications:**
  - Each Nagar Van covers an area ranging from a **minimum of 10 hectares to 50 hectares**.
  - It is required that at least **two-thirds of its area is under tree cover**, and it includes components such as **Biodiversity Parks, Smriti Vans, Butterfly Conservatories, Herbal Gardens**, and **Matri Vans** created under the **Ek Ped Ma Ke Naam** initiative.
- **Future Goals:**
  - The Nagar Van Yojana aims to develop **1,000 Nagar Vans by 2027**, supported financially by the **National Compensatory Afforestation Management and Planning Authority (National CAMPA)**.

SAFETY CONCERNS: CDSCO DECLARES OVER 50 DRUGS AS "NOT OF STANDARD QUALITY"

- **Regulatory Authority:** The **Central Drugs Standards Control Organization (CDSCO)** has raised significant safety concerns regarding the quality of various medications available in the market.
- **Affected Medications:** Over **50 drugs** have been declared as "not of standard quality." Some notable medications include:
  - **Paracetamol tablets**
  - **Anti-acid Pan D**
  - **Shelcal (calcium supplements)**
  - **Vitamin C and D3 tablets**
  - **Vitamin B complex**
  - **Vitamin C softgels**
  - **Glimepiride** (anti-diabetic drug)
  - **Telmisartan** (high blood pressure medication)
- **Health Risks:** The CDSCO warns that the prolonged use of these low-quality medications can lead to serious health issues, including:
  - **Liver damage**
  - **Kidney complications**
- **Consumer Advisory:** Patients and consumers are advised to consult healthcare professionals and verify the quality and authenticity of medications before use to avoid potential health risks.

PORT BLAIR RENAMED AS 'SRI VIJAYA PURAM'

- **New Name:** The city of **Port Blair** has been officially renamed **'Sri Vijaya Puram'** as part of an initiative to remove colonial imprints from the nation's identity, inspired by the vision of **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**.
- **Symbolism:** The name **Sri Vijaya Puram** symbolizes the victory achieved during India's freedom struggle and highlights the unique role of the **Andaman and Nicobar Islands** in this historical context.
- **Historical Significance:**
  - The islands once served as a **naval base** for the **Chola Empire**.
  - It was the site of the **first unfurling of the Tiranga (national flag)** by **Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose**.
  - The infamous **Cellular Jail**, where many freedom fighters were imprisoned, is located in this territory.
- **Background of Port Blair:** Port Blair was named after **Archibald Blair**, a naval surveyor and lieutenant in the **Bombay Marine**. He was the first officer to conduct a comprehensive survey of the Andaman Islands.

INDIASIZE INITIATIVE LAUNCHED BY THE GOVERNMENT

The Indian government is set to launch the **INDIAsize** initiative, a project by the **Ministry of Textiles**, aimed at creating standardized garment sizes tailored to Indian body types.

Key Objectives:

- **Standardization of Measurements:** The initiative seeks to establish a standardized size chart for clothing, moving away from the current practice of using US or UK measurements, which typically categorize sizes as 'small', 'medium', and 'large'.
- **Anthropometric Data Collection:** The project involves gathering anthropometric data from over **25,000 individuals** (both male and female) aged between **15 to 65 years**. This data will be collected using **human-safe 3D whole-body scanning technology**.
- **Tailored Solutions for Retailers:** The resulting body size chart will enable national and international retailers and manufacturers to produce garments that better fit Indian consumers, addressing the mismatch between demand and supply of well-fitted clothing.

Expected Impact:

- **Benchmark for Fashion Brands:** Once implemented, INDIAsize will act as a benchmark for both Indian and international fashion brands operating in India, ensuring their products cater specifically to the local population's needs.

This initiative is expected to enhance consumer satisfaction by providing better-fitting clothing options and could significantly impact the Indian textile and apparel industry.

INDIA'S FIRST GREEN HYDROGEN VALLEY PROJECT IN PUNE

- Gensol Engineering Limited and Matrix Gas & Renewables Limited are collaborating to establish **India's first Green Hydrogen Valley** in **Pune, Maharashtra**.

Key Features:

- **Continuous Supply:** The project will provide **round-the-clock green hydrogen** supply to the specialty chemical industry for the next **20 years**.
- **Environmental Focus:** This initiative aims to produce hydrogen through renewable energy sources, significantly reducing carbon emissions associated with traditional hydrogen production methods.

Significance:

- **Support for Specialty Chemicals:** The availability of green hydrogen will support the specialty chemical sector, promoting sustainable practices and enhancing energy efficiency.
- **Contribution to Renewable Goals:** This project aligns with India›s broader commitment to transitioning to renewable energy and achieving its climate goals, reinforcing the country›s position in the green energy sector.

PUNGANUR COWS

Recently, PM Modi welcomed a newborn Punganur calf named Deepjyoti, highlighting the significance of this unique cattle breed.

Key Characteristics:

- **Origin:** Native to **Punganur village** in the **Chittoor district** of **Andhra Pradesh**.
- **Size:** One of the world›s most dwarf cattle breeds, standing at approximately **70-90 cm tall** and weighing less than **200 kg**.
- **Resilience:** Highly resilient to drought conditions and adaptable to low-quality feed.

Milk Production:

- **Yield:** A Punganur cow produces around **1 to 3 litres** of milk daily.
- **Nutritional Value:** The milk has a fat content of **8%**, which is higher than the **3-4%** found in other native breeds. Additionally, it is rich in essential nutrients, including **Omega fatty acids, calcium, potassium, and magnesium**.

Significance: Punganur cows are not only v**aluable for their unique characteristics and high-quality milk** but **also play a crucial role in sustainable agriculture**, particularly in regions facing climatic challenges. Their ability to thrive on low-quality feed makes them a suitable choice for small-scale farmers and contributes to biodiversity in livestock.

UNION BANK OF INDIA JOINS PCAF

- Union Bank of India has made a significant move by becoming the **first major Indian bank** to join the **Partnership for Carbon Accounting Financials (PCAF)**. This decision underscores the bank's commitment to sustainability and addressing climate change.

About PCAF:

- **Global Initiative:** PCAF is a global partnership of financial institutions aimed at developing and implementing a standardized approach for assessing and disclosing greenhouse gas emissions associated with loans and investments.
- **Objective:** The initiative seeks to enhance transparency in the financial sector regarding the carbon footprint of financial activities, enabling institutions to take informed steps towards reducing emissions.

Importance of Tracking Financed Emissions:

- The decision aligns with the **Reserve Bank of India's (RBI)** recent draft guidelines on a **'Disclosure Framework on Climate-related Financial Risks, 2024'**, which emphasizes the need for financial institutions to track and report their financed emissions.

- By joining PCAF, Union Bank of India is taking proactive steps to integrate climate risk into its operations and ensure accountability in its financing activities.

Significance: This initiative positions Union Bank of India as a leader in sustainability within the Indian banking sector, setting a precedent for other financial institutions to follow. It reflects a growing recognition of the role banks play in combating climate change and fostering a more sustainable economy.

54TH GST COUNCIL MEETING

- **Chairperson:** Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman**
- **Location:** New Delhi

Key Highlights:

- **New GST Invoice Management System:** A new system for managing GST invoices will be implemented starting **October 1**.
- **Reduction in GST Rates:**
  - **Cancer Drugs:** The GST rate on cancer drugs has been reduced from **12% to 5%** to enhance affordability for patients.
  - **Religious Travel via Helicopter:** The GST on religious travel using helicopters has been decreased from **18% to 5%**.
  - **Car Seats:** The GST rate on car seats has increased from **18% to 28%**.
- **Exemptions for Research Funding:** Funds provided for research to **Central and State universities**, as well as to institutions with **income tax exemption**, are now **exempt from GST**.
- **Constitutional Framework:** The meeting reaffirmed the provisions of the **Constitution (101st) Amendment Act, 2016**, which allows both the central and state governments to levy the **Goods and Services Tax (GST)**.

- **Background on GST Implementation:** GST has replaced various central and state taxes, including excise duty, service tax, sales tax, entry tax, and entertainment tax, streamlining the tax structure in India.
- **Article 279A (2):** The Goods and Services Tax Council shall consist of:

Chairperson	The Union Finance Minister
Members	The Union Minister of State in charge of Revenue or Finance The Minister in charge of Finance or Taxation or any other Minister nominated by each state government

INDIA LAUNCHES "STUDY IN INDIA" CAMPAIGN AT UAE EDUCATION SHOW

- India launched the "**Study in India" campaign** during the **UAE Education and Skills Exhibition 2024** to attract international students.

Objectives:

- Promote India as a global education hub with high-quality, affordable education.
- Align with India's National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 goals of internationalization.

Campaign Highlights:

- Focus on attracting students from UAE and other countries.
- Showcase India's diverse programs, including engineering, management, IT, and humanities.

Benefits for Students:

- Access to scholarships and financial aid.
- Exposure to a culturally diverse environment.

DIGILOCKER PARTNERS WITH UMANG APP FOR ENHANCED SERVICE ACCESS

- Integrate DigiLocker services into the UMANG app for easy access to government services and digital documents.

Features:

- Users can now access DigiLocker's verified documents (e.g., Aadhaar, driving license, PAN) directly from the UMANG app.
- Both platforms aim to reduce dependency on physical documents and promote paperless governance.

Benefits:

- Enhances user convenience by consolidating multiple services in one place.
- Simplifies processes for citizens by allowing seamless access to e-documents and government services.

Significance:

- Strengthens the Digital India initiative by promoting efficient and accessible e-governance.
- Encourages widespread adoption of digital platforms for citizen services.

INDIA UNVEILS NATIONAL ELECTRICITY PLAN FOR 500 GW RENEWABLE GOAL

- The **Central Electricity Authority (CEA)** has launched

an ambitious **National Electricity Plan (Transmission)**, targeting **500 GW** of renewable energy by **2030** and **600 GW** by **2032**.

- The announcement was made by Union Minister **Shri Manohar Lal** during a meeting in New Delhi on **October 14-15, 2024**.
- **Goals of the Plan**:
  - **Increase Renewable Energy**: Target of **600 GW** by **2032**.
  - **Energy Storage Systems**:
    - ✓ **47 GW** of Battery Energy Storage Systems.
    - ✓ **31 GW** of Pumped Storage Plants.
- **Power Transmission and Integration**: Develop robust systems for effective energy transmission, especially for **Green Hydrogen** and **Green Ammonia** in coastal areas like Mundra, Kandla, and Tuticorin.
- **Infrastructure Development**:
  - Build **191,000 circuit kilometers (ckm)** of transmission lines by **2031-32**.
  - Achieve a transformation capacity of **1270 GVA**.
  - Plan for **33 GW** of **HVDC** bi-pole links.
- **Inter-regional Transmission Expansion**: Increase electricity transfer capacity from **119 GW** to **143 GW** by **2027** and **168 GW** by **2032**.
- **Cross-border Interconnections**: Improve connections with Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE.
- **Technological Innovations**: **Hybrid Substations**, **Monopole Structures**, **Insulated Cross Arms**, **Dynamic Line Rating**, **High-Performance Conductors**, and increased **Voltage Levels** to **1200 kV AC**.
- **Investment Opportunities**: The plan aims to attract **INR 9,15,000 Crores** (around **$110 billion**) in investments for the transmission sector by **2032**, providing opportunities for new projects in the next decade.

PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI OPENS MAJOR EVENTS AT BHARAT MANDAPAM

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** will inaugurate the **International Telecommunication Union – World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (ITU-WTSA)** and the **8th edition of the India Mobile Congress (IMC)** at **Bharat Mandapam**, New Delhi.
- This is the **first time India and the Asia-Pacific region will host the ITU-WTSA.**
- **What is ITU-WTSA?**:
  - The **ITU-WTSA** is a significant conference organized by the **International Telecommunication Union (ITU)**, a UN agency focused on digital technologies and communication.
  - Held every **four years**, it sets global standards for new technologies.
  - Over **3,000 leaders** from industries, governments, and technology sectors from **190+ countries** will gather to discuss standards for emerging technologies such as **6G**, **Artificial Intelligence (AI)**, **Internet of Things (IoT)**, and **cybersecurity**.
- **Importance of Hosting ITU-WTSA for India**:
  - Hosting the ITU-WTSA positions India to influence global telecom and technology standards.
  - It provides Indian companies, especially startups and research institutions, insights on critical issues like **Intellectual Property Rights** and **Standard Essential Patents**.
  - This opportunity helps India remain competitive in the digital landscape and shape global technology trends.
- **What is India Mobile Congress (IMC) 2024?**:
  - The **IMC 2024** is Asia's largest digital technology forum, showcasing innovations from India and worldwide.
  - The event will feature **400+ exhibitors** and **900 startups** from **120+ countries**, focusing on advancements in areas like **quantum technology**, **circular economy**, and **6G**.
- **Key Activities at IMC 2024**:
  - Over **900 technology demonstrations**.
  - More than **100 discussion sessions**.
  - Featuring **600+ speakers** from India and around the globe.
  - A platform for industry professionals to showcase solutions, share knowledge, and build connections.

NEW RULES FOR AADHAAR ENROLLMENT

- Recent regulations require applicants for Aadhaar, India's unique identification number, to prove residency in India for at least **182 days** in the previous year.
- This rule applies to **Overseas Citizens of India (OCIs)**, **Non-Resident Indians (NRIs)**, and foreign nationals.
- The objective is to ensure that only individuals with genuine residency can obtain an Aadhaar number, reducing fraudulent applications.

Verification Process

- **Revenue officials** are responsible for verifying residency, akin to passport checks.
- The new verification process is stricter, resulting in delays in Aadhaar enrollment.
- Many applications are either delayed or rejected due to the thorough verification of residency requirements.

Impact on Aadhaar Applications

- The implementation of these rules has led to **thousands of Aadhaar applications** being rejected, particularly in cities like **Bengaluru**.
- Approximately **10,000 applications** are pending verification in Bengaluru alone.
- The backlog is exacerbated by applicants' difficulties in providing necessary documentation to prove residency.

Challenges for OCIs and NRIs

- Although NRIs are not subject to the **182-day residency requirement**, they encounter challenges during the verification process.
- OCIs, particularly from countries like **Nepal**, face issues with discrepancies in documentation, such as mismatched dates on rental agreements and tax records.

Reasons for Changes

- The government implemented these changes primarily for **national security** reasons.
- Given the widespread use of Aadhaar as a primary identification method, the goal is to mitigate security risks associated with fraudulent applications.
- By tightening enrollment requirements, the government aims to ensure Aadhaar numbers are issued only to individuals with a legitimate connection to India.

INDIA HOSTS THE 19TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF DRUG REGULATORY AUTHORITIES (ICDRA)

- India is hosting the **19th ICDRA** from **14th to 18th October 2024**, uniting health officials from **194 WHO member countries**.
- **India's Leadership During COVID-19**:
  - Vaccinated over **a billion people**.
  - Known as the **"Pharmacy of the World"** for large-scale vaccine production.
  - Provided essential medical supplies to **150+ countries** under **"Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam"**.
- **Importance of ICDRA**:
  - Platform for sharing knowledge on **safe, effective medicines**.
  - Highlights India's commitment to global healthcare standards.
- **Key Topics Discussed**:
  - Smart Regulation
  - Medical Devices and IVDs
  - Pharmaceutical Quality
  - AI in Healthcare
  - Regulatory Preparedness

US-INDIA STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP FORUM (USISPF) ANNUAL INDIA LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

Event Overview

- **Date & Location:** October 14, 2024, in New Delhi.
- **Purpose:** Strengthen US-India collaboration, following high-profile meetings such as the Quad Summit and the UN General Assembly.

Key Objectives

- **Economic Cooperation:** Improve trade supply chains and boost bilateral trade.
- **Technology & Innovation:** Promote semiconductor investments, AI, and emerging technologies.
- **Defense & Energy:** Enhance defense ties and clean energy partnerships.

Attendees

- **Participants:** Indian officials, USISPF leaders, and business executives, including Indian ministers, global CEOs, and investors.

Discussion Topics

- **Key Sectors:** Trade, defense, technology, education, energy, healthcare, and start-ups.

Leadership Insights

- **John Chambers (Chairman, USISPF):** Expressed optimism for stronger US-India relations.
- **Outcome:** New opportunities for technological growth and economic ties.
- **Platform:** Facilitates dialogue between government and businesses for deeper strategic collaboration.

BHARATGEN: INDIA'S NEW INITIATIVE IN GENERATIVE AI

Introduction

- BharatGen is a major project in **generative AI**, a type of artificial intelligence capable of creating **text, images, and sound**.
- The aim is to **enhance public services and encourage citizen participation** using advanced AI technologies.
- **Dr. Jitendra Singh**, Union Minister of State, officially launched the project in **New Delhi**.
- BharatGen aligns with India's mission to become a **global leader in AI** and **advanced technologies**.

Key Goals of BharatGen

- **Promoting Social Equality**
  - Making AI tools accessible to **all sections of society**.
- **Preserving Cultural Heritage**
  - Ensuring **India's cultural diversity** and **multiple languages** are represented in AI models.
- **Improving Accessibility**
  - Developing AI solutions in **regional languages** to make technology **inclusive for all** citizens.

Project Management

- **IIT Bombay** leads the project under the **National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems (NM-ICPS)**.
- **TIH Foundation for IoT and IOE** is managing the initiative, working in collaboration with **top universities and research institutions**.

Four Key Features of BharatGen

- **Multilingual and Multimodal AI Models**
  - Focus on developing AI that supports **multiple Indian languages** and **varied communication forms** such as text, speech, and visuals.
- **Public Service-Oriented AI Models**
  - AI solutions designed to address **social challenges** and **improve public services** across sectors.

BharatGen is set to **revolutionize AI in India**, contributing to **technological progress** while promoting **social inclusion** and **cultural preservation**.

CRUISE BHARAT MISSION: PROMOTING CRUISE TOURISM IN INDIA

- The **Cruise Bharat Mission** is a significant initiative launched by the **Indian government** to develop India as a major cruise tourism hub.
- Union Minister **Sarbananda Sonowal** inaugurated the mission onboard the cruise ship Empress at **Mumbai port**.
- This ambitious project aims to **double the number of cruise passengers by 2029** and transform India into a **global center for cruise tourism**.

Aims and Objectives

The mission focuses on:

- **Improving infrastructure** like cruise terminals and marinas.
- **Marketing India** as an attractive cruise destination.
- **Enhancing the cruise experience** with phased development.

Three-Phase Plan for Cruise Tourism Development

Phase 1 (2024-2025):

- Conduct studies and prepare master plans.
- Build partnerships with neighboring countries.
- Upgrade existing cruise terminals and marinas.

Phase 2 (2025-2027):

- Begin constructing **new cruise terminals**.
- Expand cruise destinations with high tourism potential.

Phase 3 (2027-2029):

- **Integrate cruise routes** across the Indian subcontinent.
- Continue developing cruise infrastructure and nearby tourist attractions.

Performance Targets

- **Sea Cruise Passengers**: Increase from **0.5 million** (Phase 1) to **1 million** by the end of Phase 3.
- **River Cruise Passengers**: Grow from **0.5 million** to **1.5 million** over the mission period.

Key Pillars of the Mission

- **Sustainable Infrastructure & Capital:** Develop world-class cruise terminals and marinas with a focus on **sustainable practices** like **reducing carbon emissions**.
- **Technology and Operations:** Introduce **advanced technologies** to streamline cruise operations, including **digital e-clearance systems**.
- **Cruise Promotion & Circuit Integration:** Market Indian cruises globally and **connect cruise circuits** for a seamless tourist experience.
- **Supportive Policies:** Implement **favorable regulations and financial policies** to foster growth in the cruise sector.
- **Capacity Building and Research:** Promote **skill development**, create **job opportunities**, and conduct **research** to support cruise-related industries.

Expected Impact

- **400,000 new jobs** are expected to be generated, boosting employment in coastal regions.
- **Enhanced cruise experience** will attract more domestic and international travelers.
- The mission aligns with **India's Blue Economy** strategy, which emphasizes **sustainable use of ocean resources**for economic development.
- **Local communities** and **regional economies** will benefit from the increased tourism and associated services.

The Cruise Bharat Mission is a transformative step toward **positioning India as a key player in global maritime tourism**. By focusing on infrastructure, sustainability, and technology,

this initiative aims to unlock India's cruise tourism potential and contribute significantly to the country's **economic growth**

LAUNCH OF DHARTI AABA JANJATIYA GRAM UTKARSH ABHIYAN (DAJGUA)

Overview

- **Launched By**: Prime Minister Narendra Modi
- **Location**: Hazaribagh, Jharkhand
- **Date**: Mahatma Gandhi's birth anniversary
- **Focus**: Improving living conditions of tribal communities across India

Financial Overview

- **Total Budget**: Rs. 79,156 crores
  - **Central Government Contribution**: Rs. 56,333 crores
  - **State Governments Contribution**: Rs. 22,823 crores
- **Significance**: Reflects the government's strong commitment to tribal development.

Goals of DAJGUA

- **Overall Development of Tribal Areas**:
  - **Critical Infrastructure**: Enhancing health, education, and job opportunities through 25 key measures.
  - **Collaborative Effort**: Involvement of 17 different government ministries to ensure success and outreach.

Beneficiaries

- **Target Audience**: Approximately 5 crore tribal people
- **Coverage**: 63,843 villages, 549 districts, and 2,911 blocks across 30 states and Union Territories in India.

Areas of Improvement

- **Housing**: Permanent houses with water and electricity for eligible families.
- **Village Infrastructure**:
  - Construction of all-weather roads.
  - Enhanced mobile connectivity.
  - Improved health and education facilities.
- **Skill Development**: Training programs for tribal youth to foster self-employment and skill acquisition post-school.
- **Education**:
  - Increased enrollment of tribal children in schools.
  - Establishment of tribal hostels for quality education.
- **Healthcare**:
  - Expanded access to healthcare services.
  - Efforts to reduce infant and maternal mortality rates through mobile medical units.

Innovative Support Initiatives

- **Marketing Assistance**: Establishment of Tribal Multipurpose Marketing Centres to enhance market access for tribal communities.
- **Tourism Development**: Promotion of homestays to boost tourism and provide new income opportunities for tribal individuals.
- **Sickle Cell Disease Management**: Improvement in testing and treatment for sickle cell disease in tribal regions.

UNION CABINET APPROVES RECOGNITION OF FIVE NEW CLASSICAL LANGUAGES

- **Decision by**: Union Cabinet of India, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi
- **New Classical Languages Recognized**:
  - Assamese
  - Bengali
  - Marathi
  - Pali
  - Prakrit

Background of Classical Language Status

- **Introduction**: The concept of classical languages was introduced on **October 12, 2004**.
- **First Language Awarded**: **Tamil** was the first language to receive classical status.
- **Other Recognized Languages**: Since then, languages like **Sanskrit, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam,** and **Odia**have also been granted classical status.

Significance of the New Additions

- **Cultural Importance**: Prime Minister Modi emphasized the beauty and cultural significance of the newly recognized languages.
- **Spiritual and Philosophical Traditions**: Pali and Prakrit hold particular importance in India's spiritual and philosophical heritage, reflecting a rich literary history.

Cultural Heritage Preservation

- **Importance of Classical Languages**: The government highlighted the role of classical languages in preserving India's cultural heritage.
- **Historical Contributions**: These languages showcase the historical achievements and cultural contributions of various communities, aiding future generations in understanding India's past.

Political Response and Support

- **Praise from Political Leaders**:
  - **Mamata Banerjee** (West Bengal Chief Minister)
  - **Eknath Shinde** (Maharashtra Chief Minister)
  - **Himanta Biswa Sarma** (Assam Chief Minister)
  - **Dharmendra Pradhan** (Union Minister)
- **Community Impact**: Leaders expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Modi, stating that the recognition brings pride and happiness to people in their states and communities.

Implications for Future Language Policy

- **Support for Regional Languages**: This decision is likely to promote further support for regional languages in India.
- **Inclusive Approach**: It encourages a more inclusive approach to the country's rich linguistic diversity.
- **Cultural Identity Preservation**: The move is expected to help preserve India's cultural identity for future generations.

NATIONAL AGRICULTURE CODE (NAC)

- **Initiative**: The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) is developing the National Agriculture Code (NAC) to establish a comprehensive framework for agricultural practices in India.
- **Purpose**: Similar to existing national codes for buildings and electrical systems, the NAC aims to improve the quality and efficiency of farming practices, which currently lack detailed regulations.

Understanding NAC

- **Objective**: The NAC will create rules and guidelines that cover various agricultural practices nationwide, standardizing methods to ensure efficiency, safety, and quality in farming.
- **Current Landscape**: While there are standards for machinery, fertilizers, and pesticides, many other areas of agriculture lack clear regulations.

Need for NAC

- **Standardization Gaps**: Current standards primarily focus on specific items, leaving significant areas such as:
  - **Land Preparation**: Preparing fields for planting.
  - **Irrigation**: Efficient water usage for crops.
  - **Sustainable Practices**: Adopting methods that protect the environment.
- **Policy Recognition**: Policymakers recognize that a structured framework like the NAC can enhance organization and efficiency in farming.

Coverage of NAC

The NAC will address several key areas:

- **Agricultural Processes**: Guidelines for selecting crops, land preparation, planting, watering, and harvesting.
- **Post-Harvest Operations**: Standards for initial processing, storage, and traceability of produce.
- **Input Management**: Regulations for using chemical fertilizers, pesticides, and promoting organic farming.
- **New Farming Methods**: Inclusion of modern technologies, such as the Internet of Things (IoT), to encourage smart and sustainable agriculture.

Objectives of NAC

The NAC aims to achieve several goals:

- **National Framework**: Establish guidelines for various farming methods across India.
- **Quality Culture**: Foster a culture of quality in Indian agriculture for policymakers and regulators.
- **Farmer Guidance**: Serve as a resource for farmers to make informed decisions.
- **Modern Techniques**: Encourage the adoption of advanced agricultural practices and sustainability initiatives.

Timeline for NAC

- **Completion Goal**: The BIS aims to draft and finalize the NAC by **October 2025**.
- **Training**: Once established, training programs will be organized to help farmers understand and implement the new standards.

Standardized Agriculture Demonstration Farms (SADF)

- **Purpose**: To test and promote the NAC, BIS will establish Standardized Agriculture Demonstration Farms (SADF).
- **Collaboration**: These farms will be set up in collaboration with major agricultural institutes.
- **Learning Opportunities**: SADF will serve as experimental sites where farmers can observe and learn standardized practices in action, facilitating hands-on experience and application of the NAC guidelines

CONFERENCE ON MARITIME DECARBONIZATION: KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Organizers: Co-hosted by:

- Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways (India)
- Asian Development Bank (ADB)

Participants

- Over **200 participants**, including:
  - Leaders from Indian ports
  - Government officials
  - International maritime experts

Objectives

- Promote **environmentally friendly shipping** practices.
- Explore **sustainable port operations** to reduce carbon emissions.
- Facilitate discussions on **global best practices** in maritime decarbonization.
- This event highlights the collective efforts of government, industry leaders, and international bodies to advance green shipping initiatives and sustainable port management in India.

INDIA'S MARITIME SECTOR AND CLIMATE CHANGE

- **Importance**: The maritime sector is vital for the economy and combating climate change.
- **Government Commitment**: India aims for sustainable maritime operations to reduce pollution and adopt greener practices.

Green Initiatives

- **Harit Sagar Green Port Guidelines**
  - Rules for ports to utilize green energy and enhance eco-friendliness.
- **Harit Nauka Green Transition Guidelines**
  - Focus on sustainable shipping practices.
  - Aim to help ports and ships use clean energy and minimize pollution.

Commitment to Net-Zero Emissions

- **Goal**: Achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2070.
- Aligns with Maritime India Vision 2030, promoting sustainable maritime practices.

Key Discussion Themes

- **Green Infrastructure**: Development of eco-friendly ports.
- **Clean Harbor Crafts**: Use of smaller boats with lower pollution levels.
- **Zero-Carbon Fuels**: Exploration of alternatives like hydrogen and ammonia.
- **Emission Reduction Strategies**: Approaches to decrease emissions from ships and ports.
- **Electrification of Inland Waterways**: Transitioning to electric-powered vessels.

Maritime Decarbonization Defined

- **Meaning**: Reducing greenhouse gas emissions from ships.
- **Context**: Ships account for nearly 3% of global CO2 emissions, facilitating 90% of global trade.
- **International Goal**: The International Maritime Organization (IMO) aims for a 50% reduction in emissions by 2050.
- **Alternative Fuels**: Exploration of ammonia, hydrogen, and methanol as potential fuels.
- **Challenges**: High costs and the need for new infrastructure.
- **Innovations**: Some ships are adopting wind-assist technologies to lower fuel consumption.

UNION CABINET APPROVES RESTRUCTURING OF AGRICULTURAL SCHEMES

- The Union Cabinet, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved a major change in the management of agricultural schemes in India.
- **Aim:** Simplify existing Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) by consolidating them into two umbrella programs.

New Schemes

- **Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (PM-RKVY)**
  - **Focus:** Promotes sustainable agriculture.
  - **Approach:** Offers states flexibility to choose solutions based on local needs ("cafeteria" style).
- **Krishonnati Yojana (KY)**
  - **Aim:** Achieve food security and self-sufficiency in agriculture.

Budget: Total of Rs. 1,01,321.61 crore for both schemes.

Implementation

- Carried out in partnership with State Governments.
- Builds on existing programs with added elements for efficiency through technology.

Key Missions

- **National Mission for Edible Oil-Oil Palm (NMEO-OP)**: Boost domestic edible oil production.
- **Clean Plant Program**: Ensure disease-free plants for farmers.
- **Digital Agriculture**: Enhance farming efficiency through technology.
- **Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region (MOVCDNER)**: Develop organic farming in Northeast, adding flexibility.

Strategic Planning by States

- Each state to prepare a Comprehensive Strategic Document covering:
  - Crop production and productivity.
  - Climate-resilient agriculture.
  - Value chains for agricultural goods.

Importance of Changes

- Avoid duplication and resource wastage.
- Address key challenges like nutrition and farming sustainability.
- Encourage detailed state-specific agricultural plans.
- Simplify approval processes for state Annual Action Plans (AAP).

Financial Overview

- **Total budget:** Rs. 1,01,321.61 crore
  - **Central Government share:** Rs. 69,088.98 crore
  - **State Government share:** Rs. 32,232.63 crore
- Allocations:
  - **PM-RKVY:** Rs. 57,074.72 crore
  - **Krishonnati Yojana:** Rs. 44,246.89 crore

About PM-RKVY

- Launched in **2007** to improve farmers' income and promote agricultural growth.
- Supports local needs, infrastructure, technology transfer, and skill development.

About Krishonnati Yojana

- Introduced in **2016** to enhance productivity and sustainability.
- Integrates modern techniques, promotes organic farming, and focuses on market access.

GOVERNMENT APPROVES 2,280 KM ROAD CONSTRUCTION IN RAJASTHAN AND PUNJAB

- The Indian government has approved the construction of **2,280 km of roads** in Rajasthan and Punjab, with an investment of **Rs 4,406 crore**.
- The initiative **aims to enhance infrastructure in regions near the Pakistan border**, **promoting connectivity and development**.

Objective of the Initiative

The primary goals of this initiative are to:

- **Enhance Connectivity:** Improve access in rural and remote areas.
- **Improve Livelihoods:** Facilitate easier travel and access to services for border communities.

Focus on Infrastructure Development

The project will include improvements in various areas:

- **Roads:** Construction and upgrading of roads for improved travel.
- **Telecom Connectivity:** Enhancing access to phone and internet services.
- **Water Supply:** Improving access to clean water.
- **Health Services:** Establishing better healthcare facilities.
- **Education Facilities:** Increasing the number and quality of schools in these regions.

Part of a Broader Strategy

- This road construction initiative is part of the government's larger strategy to develop vibrant villages and strengthen key border regions.
- It underscores the significance of these areas for national growth and integration, aiming to create more prosperous and connected border communities.

DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL MARITIME HERITAGE COMPLEX (NMHC) IN LOTHAL, GUJARAT

- The Indian government, under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the establishment of the **National Maritime Heritage Complex (NMHC)** in Lothal, Gujarat, aimed at celebrating India's rich maritime history.

Project Overview

- **Phased Development:** The NMHC project will be developed in two main phases:
  - **Phase 1B:** Approved to include the construction of a special Light House Museum, funded by the Directorate General of Lighthouses and Lightships.
  - **Funding:** Financial resources for these phases will come from voluntary contributions.

Project Management

- **New Organization:** A society will be established to manage future phases of the project, operating under the Societies Registration Act, 1860.
- **Leadership:** The society will be governed by a council led by the Minister of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways.

Current Progress

- **Phase 1A:** Currently under construction and over **60% complete**, with a projected completion date in 2025.
- **Construction Models:** Both **Phase 1A and Phase 1B** will utilize the **Engineering, Procurement, and Construction (EPC) model** for efficiency, while **Phase 2 will adopt a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) approach.**

Economic Impact

- **Job Creation:** The NMHC is anticipated to generate approximately **22,000 jobs**, comprising **15,000 direct** and **7,000 indirect**employment opportunities. This will benefit local communities and attract tourists, researchers, and various organizations.

Vision and Background

- The NMHC project aligns with the Prime Minister's vision of showcasing India's **4,500-year-old maritime heritage**.
- **Architectural Design:** The master plan is designed by renowned architect **Hafeez Contractor**, with **Tata Projects Ltd** overseeing the construction of Phase 1A.

Future Phases and Features

- **Phase 1A:** Includes a museum featuring six galleries that display naval artifacts and a replica of the ancient Lothal township.
- **Phase 1B:** Will introduce eight additional galleries, a world-class Light House Museum, and a Bagicha complex (garden area).
- **Phase 2:** Plans to include Coastal States Pavilions, a hospitality zone (hotels and restaurants), an ecological resort, and recreational parks, positioning the NMHC as a premier tourist and heritage destination.

Conclusion

- The NMHC aims to honor India's extensive maritime history, create jobs, and enhance tourism in the region.

INAUGURATION OF MACE IN HANLE, LADAKH

- **MACE (Major Atmospheric Cherenkov Experiment)** inaugurated in **Hanle, Ladakh.**
- **Asia's largest imaging Cherenkov telescope** at an altitude of **4,300 meters**.
- Developed by **Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC)** in collaboration with Indian industries.
- Represents a significant advancement in India's study of cosmic rays.

How MACE Works?

- **Detection Mechanism**
  - Gamma rays, a form of high-energy radiation, cannot penetrate the atmosphere but create particles that emit **Cherenkov radiation** upon interaction.
  - Cherenkov radiation is similar to a sonic boom but occurs with light.
  - MACE captures these light flashes using its mirrors and cameras, enabling the tracing of cosmic sources like supernovas and black holes.

Why Hanle Was Chosen?

- **Ideal Conditions:**
  - Clear skies and minimal light pollution are crucial for detecting faint gamma ray signals.
  - High altitude reduces interference from the Earth's atmosphere, facilitating cosmic ray observations.

Future Prospects for Hanle:

- Hanle is expected to become a major center for gamma ray studies due to its optimal conditions.
- Successful implementation of MACE may lead to more telescopes and increased international collaboration, attracting astronomers worldwide.

About MACE Observatory:

- **Specifications**
  - World's highest atmospheric Cherenkov telescope, **21 meters** in diameter, weighing **175 tonnes**.
  - Features a **356 square meter** reflector made of **1,424 diamond-turned metallic mirrors**.
  - Equipped with **712 actuators** for mirror adjustments, **1,088 photo-multiplier tubes** for light detection, and **68 camera modules**.
  - Lightweight yet durable design withstands extreme temperatures and harsh weather.
  - Advanced electronics efficiently gather and process light signals from space.

INAUGURATION OF INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SKILLS (IIS)

- **Launch**: Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the IIS in Mumbai.
- **Purpose**: Train individuals for Industry 4.0 with modern skills.

Key Objectives

- Focus on skills like:
  - Factory Automation
  - Digital Manufacturing
  - Mechatronics
  - Artificial Intelligence (AI)
  - Data Analytics
  - Additive Manufacturing

Partnership Model: Established through a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) with Tata Trusts.

Specialised Courses

- **Six courses offered, including:**
  - Advanced Industrial Automation & Robotics

- ❖ Additive Manufacturing
- ❖ Electric Vehicle Battery Specialist

Facilities: Advanced laboratories for hands-on training with real industry equipment.

Industry Relevance

- ➢ Graduates prepared for careers in Electric Vehicle Manufacturing, AI, and Robotics.

Future Vision

- ➢ Supports India's goal to become the 'Skill Capital of the World'.
- ➢ PM Modi also launched Vidya Samiksha Kendra for tech-driven educational improvements.

DECLINE OF BIRD POPULATION IN INDIA

- ➢ **Overview**: India is witnessing a significant decline in its bird population, highlighted in the Living Planet Report 2024, which specifically addresses the bird crisis in the country.

Vulture Population Decline

- ➢ **Statistics**:
  - ❖ **White-rumped Vulture**: 98% decline.
  - ❖ **Indian Vulture & Slender-billed Vulture**: 93% decline.
- ➢ **Ecosystem Role**: Vultures are essential scavengers in the ecosystem.

Causes of Vulture Decline

- ➢ **Pharmaceutical Impact**: Use of drugs like diclofenac and aceclofenac in livestock leads to poisoning when vultures consume carcasses.
  - ❖ **Regulation**: India has banned aceclofenac and ketoprofen to protect vultures.
- ➢ **Carcass Poisoning**: Intentional poisoning of livestock carcasses harms vultures as they feed on them.
- ➢ **Electrocution**: Accidental electrocution from high-voltage wires.
- ➢ **Habitat Loss**: Destruction of open areas like grasslands reduces vultures' natural habitats.

Insect Population Decline

- ➢ **Butterflies**: 33% decline in grassland butterfly species across 22 countries over the last 20 years.
- ➢ **Bees**: Native bee populations in Odisha have dropped by 80% since 2002.
- ➢ **Data Gaps**: Lack of comprehensive data on pollinators complicates the understanding of biodiversity loss.

Positive News for Tiger Populations

- ➢ **Tiger Growth**: India's tiger population has increased from 3,682 to 3,925, particularly in central India and the Shivalik Hills, according to the 2022 All-India Tiger Estimation.

Urbanization and Biodiversity

- ➢ **Impact**: Rapid urban expansion in cities like Chennai has resulted in significant wetland loss, reducing natural water storage and increasing vulnerability to climate change effects.

Conclusion

- ➢ India faces a biodiversity crisis, particularly regarding bird species like vultures and the decline of insects. Immediate conservation efforts are crucial to protect wildlife and mitigate ecological damage.

FOOD CORPORATION OF INDIA (FCI) LAUNCHES DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION PLAN WITH ANNA DARPAN

- ➢ The **Food Corporation of India (FCI)** is undergoing **significant changes** through a digital transformation plan as part of its **100 Days Achievements program**.
- ➢ This initiative focuses on enhancing **FCI's supply chain management** with a new system called **ANNA DARPAN.**

What is ANNA DARPAN?

- ➢ **ANNA DARPAN** is a **new digital platform designed to replace FCI's old system**, the **Depot Online System**.
- ➢ The platform utilizes advanced technology to **streamline the management of food supply chains, including mandis, mills, and depots**.

Goals of ANNA DARPAN

The **ANNA DARPAN** project aims to:

- ➢ **Improve Efficiency and Productivity**: Accelerate processes to enhance overall effectiveness.
- ➢ **Create a User-Friendly Design**: Develop an intuitive interface for all users involved.
- ➢ **Use Data for Better Decisions**: Leverage analytics for informed decision-making based on data insights.
- ➢ **Integrate with Other Systems**: Ensure seamless compatibility with existing applications, both within FCI and externally.
- ➢ **Merge Current Systems**:Consolidate existing platforms to eliminate duplication of efforts.
- ➢ **Support Mobile Access**: Make the platform accessible on mobile devices for user convenience on the go.

Development of ANNA DARPAN

- **Design and Maintenance**: Coforge Limited has been selected to design, develop, and maintain the ANNA DARPAN system.
- **Cloud-Based Platform**: The project will involve creating a cloud-based solution to facilitate smooth communication across various components of the system.

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**: Zanskar, 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 Adhiniyam, 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:

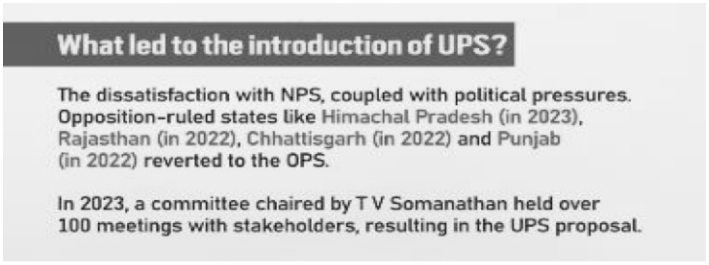
- Assured pension, inflation-linked indexation, family pension, and minimum pension.

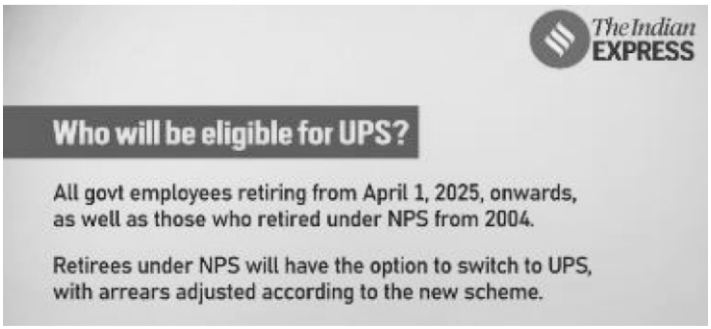
Adopted Feature from NPS:

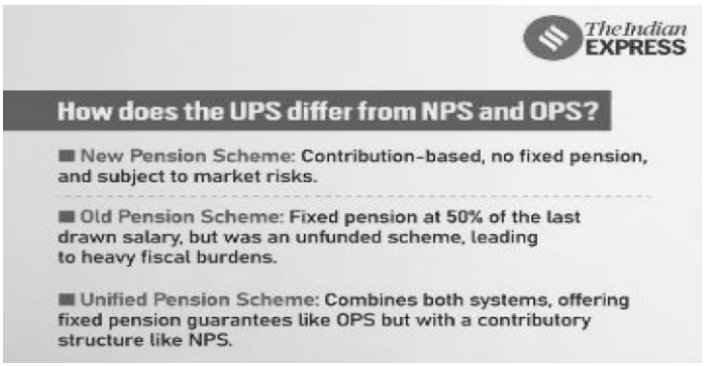
- Option for employees to contribute towards their pension fund for a higher pension upon retirement.

Government Contribution:

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







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 RIJIJU 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)

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.

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/ROTTO/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.

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  - ❖ 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.

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BIMSTEC Overview

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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 c**itizenship 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 s**mooth 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.

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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.

PRACTICE MCQS:

1. Which of the following statements about the seven schemes approved by the Cabinet to improve farmers' lives and livelihoods is/are correct?

1. The total outlay for the initiatives is Rs 14,235 crore.
2. The **Digital Agriculture Mission** aims to revolutionize agricultural practices using technologies like AI and geospatial tools.
3. The **Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK)** scheme focuses on promoting animal health and dairy production among farmers.
4. Sustainable horticulture development focuses only on tropical and temperate crops.

Options:

a) 1 and 2 only
b) 1, 3, and 4 only
c) 2, 3, and 4 only
d) All of the above

2. Which of the following statements about the newly launched 'Mission Mausam' is/are correct?

1. The mission aims to enhance weather forecasting and climate science capabilities in India.
2. It has been allocated a budget of Rs. 2,000 crore for the first two years.
3. **Mission Monsoon (2012)** was a previous initiative focused on upgrading India's aviation sector.
4. Mission Mausam' will benefit sectors such as agriculture, tourism, and disaster management.

Options:

a) 1, 2, and 4 only
b) 1 and 3 only
c) 2 and 4 only
d) All of the above

3. Which of the following statements regarding the NPS Vatsalya Scheme is/are correct?

1. The scheme is specifically designed for individuals above 18 years of age.
2. It will be managed by the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA).
3. Withdrawal from the account is allowed only after 3 years of joining.
4. A minimum contribution of Rs. 1,000 annually is required to keep the account active.

Options:

a) 2, 3, and 4 only
b) 1 and 2 only
c) 1, 3, and 4 only
d) All of the above

4. Which of the following statements regarding ISRO's Venus Orbiter Mission (VOM) is/are correct?

1. The mission is scheduled to launch in 2026.
2. The total allocated budget for the mission is Rs. 1,236 crore.
3. One of the objectives of the mission is to study the influence of the Sun on Venus' atmosphere.
4. The mission aims to explore the subsurface and surface characteristics of Venus.

Options:

a) 1, 2, and 4 only
b) 2, 3, and 4 only
c) 1 and 3 only
d) All of the above

5. Which of the following statements regarding the 'One Nation, One Election' proposal is/are correct?

1. The proposal was approved by the Union Cabinet based on the recommendations of a committee chaired by **former President Ram Nath Kovind**.
2. All State Assembly elections will align with the general elections, with **no need for ratification by the states**.
3. The Kovind Committee proposed **Article 82A** to align the terms of the **Lok Sabha and State Assemblies**.
4. The Law Commission recommended implementing simultaneous elections from the general elections of **2024**.

Options:

a) 1, 2, and 3 only
b) 2, 3, and 4 only
c) 1, 3, and 4 only
d) All of the above

6. Which of the following statements about the Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Unnat Gram Abhiyan is/are correct?

1. The scheme aims to uplift tribal communities and has a **financial outlay of Rs. 79,156 crore**.
2. **All tribal-majority villages** in 30 States and Union Territories will be covered under the scheme, benefiting **over 5 crore tribal people**.
3. **25 interventions** will be implemented through **17 line ministries** over the next 10 years.
4. The scheme will ensure access to **pucca houses, tapped water, mobile connectivity**, and **healthcare cards under PMJAY** for eligible tribal households.

Options:

a) 1, 2, and 4 only
b) 1, 2, and 3 only
c) 2, 3, and 4 only
d) All of the above

7. Which of the following statements about the National Agriculture Code (NAC) are correct?

1. The NAC aims to provide standardized guidelines for various agricultural practices across India.
2. It is being developed by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).
3. One key objective is to promote sustainable farming practices and the adoption of modern technologies.
4. The NAC will be finalized and ready for implementation by **October 2025**.

Options:

a) 1, 2, and 4 only
b) 1, 3, and 4 only
c) 2 and 3 only
d) 1, 2, 3, and 4

8. Which state is home to the National Maritime Heritage Complex (NMHC)?

a) Maharashtra
b) Gujarat
c) Kerala
d) Tamil Nadu

9. Where was the Indian Institute of Skills (IIS) inaugurated?

a) Mumbai
b) New Delhi
c) Kanpur
d) Kolkata

10. MACE (Major Atmospheric Cherenkov Experiment) inaugurated in**:**

a) Nainital
b) Chandra Taal
c) Hanle
d) Kaza

ANSWERS

1. **Answer:** A. **1 and 2 only**

   Explanation:

   - **Statement 3** is incorrect – The **KVK scheme** focuses on **disseminating agricultural knowledge and innovations**, not animal health or dairy production.
   - **Statement 4** is incorrect – Sustainable horticulture development focuses on **various crops**, including tropical, sub-tropical, temperate, and medicinal plants.

2. **Answer:** A. **1, 2, and 4 only**
   - **Explanation: Statement 3** is incorrect – **Mission Monsoon (2012)** aimed to improve **long-range monsoon forecasts**, not upgrade the aviation sector.

3. **Answer:** A. **2, 3, and 4 only**
   - **Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect – The NPS Vatsalya Scheme is specifically designed for children below 18 years of age, not adults.**

4. **Answer:** B. **2, 3, and 4 only**
   - **Explanation: Statement 1** is incorrect – The mission is **scheduled for March 2028**, not 2026.

5. **Answer:** A. **1, 2, and 3 only**
   - **Explanation: Statement 4** is incorrect – The **22nd Law Commission** recommended starting simultaneous elections from the **general elections of 2029**, not 2024.

6. **Answer:** A. **1, 2, and 4 only**
   - **Explanation: Statement 3** is incorrect – The scheme's **25 interventions** will be implemented in a **time-bound manner over 5 years**, not 10.

7. **Answer:** B. **1, 3, and 4 only**
   - **Explanation: Statement 2:** Incorrect. The NAC is being developed by the **Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)**, not ICAR.

8. **Answer:** B. Gujarat

9. **Answer:** B. New Delhi

10. **Answer:** C. Hanle

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J&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

- GEP Index = (Air-GEP Index + Water-GEP Index + Soil-GEP Index + 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

ARMY CELEBRATES 100TH BIRTHDAY OF WW2 VETERAN

- The **Indian Army** celebrated the **100th birthday** of **Lance Naik Charan Singh**, a veteran of **World War II.**
- **Location:** The celebration took place in **Ropar district, Punjab.**
- **Birthdate: Charan Singh** was born on **September 7, 1924.**
- **Military Service:** He joined the **Army in 1942** and served in the **Royal Indian Army Service Corps** until his **retirement in 1959.**

Additional Information:

- **Lance Naik Charan Singh's** service during **World War II** would have made him part of the **British Indian Army**, which **fought alongside British forces**.
- The **Indian Army regularly honors veterans** for their **contributions to the nation.**

PUNJAB ASSEMBLY PASSES BILL TO REGULATE ILLEGAL COLONIES

- **Bill:** The **Punjab State Assembly** passed the **Punjab Apartment and Property Regulation (Amendment) Act, 2024.**
- **Purpose:** The bill **aims to address issues** related to **plot registration and curb the development of unauthorized colonies.**
- **NOC Exemption:** Individuals who purchased plots before **July 31, 2024**, and made **advance payments** can get their registry done without a **No Objection Certificate (NOC)** until **November 2.**
- Penalties: Violators of the law face imprisonment of 5 to 10 years and **a fine of Rs. 25 lakh to Rs. 5 crore.**

Additional Information:

- The bill is **expected** to bring **more transparency and accountability** to the **real estate sector in Punjab**.
- It will help protect buyers from **fraudulent activities** and **ensure the development of planned** and **regulated colonies**.

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

INTERNATIONAL ISO TAG FOR SONBHADRA POLICE LINE

Key Points:

- **Achievement: Sonbhadra Police Line** has become the **first police** line in **Purvanchal (eastern Uttar Pradesh)** to receive the **ISO-9001:2015 certification**.
- **Recognition:** The certification acknowledges **Sonbhadra Police Line's excellence** in **management, training, services, and facilities**.
- **Precedent:** The **Commissionerate Gautam Buddha Nagar (Noida)** was the **first police commissionerate** in **Uttar Pradesh** to receive **ISO-9001:2015 certification**.

Additional Information:

- The **ISO-9001:2015** certification is an **internationally recognized** standard that ensures **quality management systems**.
- This achievement reflects the **Sonbhadra Police Line's** commitment **to providing high-quality services to the public**.

UP GOVT TO BUILD VEDIC-3D MUSEUM IN VARANASI

- **Location:** The **Uttar Pradesh government plans** to construct a **Vedic-3D museum** in Varanasi, the **parliamentary constituency** of **Prime Minister Narendra Modi.**
- **Location:** The museum will be located at the **main building** of the **Sampurnanand Sanskrit University.**
- **Focus:** The museum will be dedicated to **Indian astrology, astronomy, and Vedic literature.**
- **Purpose:** The museum will showcase the evolution of **Vedic literature, highlight the contributions of Indian sages**, and **serve as a platform to revive the tradition of "Shastrartha"** (spiritual discourse).

WORLD'S FIRST ASIAN KING VULTURE CONSERVATION CENTER INAUGURATED IN UTTAR PRADESH

- **Location:** The **Uttar Pradesh Forest Department**, in collaboration with the **Bombay Natural History Society**, has established the **Jatayu Conservation and Breeding Centre** in **Bharivaisi, Campierganj Range of the Gorakhpur Forest Division, Maharajganj.**
- **Inauguration:** The **center** was inaugurated by **Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.**
- **Purpose:** It is the **world's first conservation** and **breeding center** for the **Asian King Vulture** or the **red-headed vulture.**
- **Goal:** The **Jatayu Center** aims to release **40 pairs of vultures** from the **center over the next 8 to 10 years.**
- **Threats:** The **Asian King Vulture** is threatened by **habitat loss and the indiscriminate use of diclofenac**, a **non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug**, **in animals**.
- **Scientific Name:** The **scientific name of the king vulture** is **Sarcogyps calvus**.
- **Distribution:** The **bird is mainly** found in **North India.**
- **Conservation Status:** The **bird** has been included in the critically endangered species list of the **IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature).**

UTTAR PRADESH'S FIRST SCHEDULED AIRLINE, SHANKH AIR, GETS NOD FROM AVIATION MINISTRY

- **Approval from Civil Aviation Ministry:** Shankh Air, a **new Indian airline**, has received approval from the **Ministry of Civil Aviation** to **operate in the country**.
- **Pending DGCA Clearance:** Before it **can officially commence operations**, **Shankh Air** still requires clearance from the **Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).**
- **Uttar Pradesh's First Scheduled Airline: Shankh Air** is set **to become the first scheduled** airline based in **Uttar Pradesh.**

- **Operating Hubs:** The airline will operate from hubs in **Lucknow and Noida.**
- **Dominant Indian Aviation Market:** IndiGo currently **holds over 60%** of the **Indian aviation market**, making it the **dominant player.**
- **Second-Largest Airline:** Air India, the **second-largest airline,** is expected to merge with **Vistara by next year.** Vistara is a **joint venture** between the **Tata Group and Singapore Airlines.**

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 DISTRICT BANS HUNTING OF AMUR FALCONS AHEAD OF THEIR ARRIVAL

- **Preparations in Tamenglong District**: **Manipur's Tamenglong district** is preparing to welcome the **Amur falcon (Falco amurensis)**, locally known as '**Kahuaipuina**'. The district has banned the hunting of these migratory birds ahead of their arrival.
- **Amur Falcon Festival**: Tamenglong also hosts the annual **'Amur Falcon Festival'** to **celebrate the arrival of these birds**.
- **Migratory Pattern**: Thousands of Amur falcons migrate to Tamenglong and its bordering areas from their breeding grounds in **Northern China, Eastern Mongolia, and far Eastern Russia**. They arrive in the **first half of October** and **stay until November-end before continuing their journey to South Africa for wintering**.
- **Legal Protection**: Hunting or poaching of Amur falcons is a **punishable offense** under the **Wildlife Protection Act, 1972**, as they are included under **Schedule IV** of the Act.
- **Conservation Status**: The Amur falcon is listed as **Least Concern** on the IUCN Red List.

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)

MIZORAM

MIZORAM LAUNCHES 'BANA KAIH' SCHEME TO SUPPORT FARMERS AND ENTREPRENEURS

- **Mizoram's Chief Minister**, **Pu Lalduhoma**, launched the **Handholding Scheme (Bana Kaih)**, a flagship initiative aimed at providing financial assistance and support to entrepreneurs and farmers across the state.

1. **Key Components of the Scheme:**
   - **Collateral-Free, Interest-Free Bank Loan**: Beneficiaries can avail of interest-free loans with no collateral requirements.
   - **Financial Support Package**: Selected beneficiaries, known as progress partners, are **eligible for loans of up to Rs. 50 lakh** through **partner banks.**
     - ✓ The state government acts as a guarantor for these loans under national credit guarantee schemes.
     - ✓ Beneficiaries with consistent loan repayments may receive up to 100% interest subvention.
   - **Chief Minister's Special Category Scheme**: Provides a **grant-in-aid** of up to Rs. 1 lakh for eligible beneficiaries.
   - **Minimum Support Price (MSP)**: The state government has introduced MSP for four key crops:
     - ✓ **Ginger**
     - ✓ **Broom**
     - ✓ **Turmeric**
     - ✓ **Mizo Birdeye Chilli**
   - **Support to Implementing Departments**: The scheme also includes provisions for financial support to the departments responsible for its implementation.
   - **Fiscal Focus for 2024-2025**: The financial year 2024-2025 has been declared the **Year of Consolidation** for Mizoram, with the aim of improving fiscal health, reducing debt, and addressing fiscal deficits.
   - This comprehensive initiative seeks to empower farmers and entrepreneurs, boost agricultural output, and contribute to Mizoram's overall economic stability.

TRIPURA

CM-SATH SCHEME LAUNCHED IN TRIPURA TO SUPPORT MERITORIOUS STUDENTS

- **Tripura's Chief Minister**, **Dr. Manik Saha**, officially launched the **CM-SATH scheme** to enhance **educational opportunities for the state's top-performing students.**
- **Financial Support**: Under the scheme, **Rs 60,000** will be provided to **200 meritorious students —**
  - 100 students at the **Madhyamik level** (for two years)
  - 100 students at the **Higher Secondary level** (for three years)
  - The support will be disbursed as **Rs 5,000 per month** for the respective duration.
- The scheme **aims to foster higher learning and encourage academic excellence** among students in Tripura.

WEST BENGAL

WEST BENGAL GOVERNMENT TO CLOSE ICONIC TRAM SERVICE IN KOLKATA

- **End of Kolkata's Tram Service**: The closure of Kolkata's tram service will mark the end of **151 years** of continuous operation, making it the last operational tram network in India.
- **Heritage Service to Continue**: Although the main services will cease, trams will continue to operate on the **Maidan, Esplanade, and Khidirpur** stretch as a **heritage service**, preserving the legacy of the tram system in the city.
- **Tram Overview**: Trams, also known as **Light Rail Transit**, are urban transportation systems that typically use **electric-powered vehicles** to transport passengers.

History of Tram System in India:

- **Introduction by the British**: Trams were first introduced in **Kolkata** (then Calcutta) in **1873**, initially driven by horses. The British introduced this transport system during the colonial era.
- **Expansion to Other Cities**: After Kolkata, trams were also introduced in cities like **Mumbai** (then Bombay), **Chennai** (then Madras), **Delhi**, **Nashik**, **Kanpur**, **Patna**, **Kochi** (then Cochin), and **Bhavnagar**.
- **First Electric Tram**: India's first **electric tram** was launched in **Chennai** in **1895**, preceding Kolkata and Mumbai. However, Chennai's tram system was closed down in **1953**.
- This closure represents the end of an era for Kolkata, marking the conclusion of a significant chapter in India's urban transportation history.

ANTI-RAPE BILL PASSED IN WEST BENGAL ASSEMBLY

- **Aparajita Women and Child Bill, 2024**: The **West Bengal Assembly** unanimously passed the **Aparajita Women and Child (West Bengal Criminal Laws Amendment) Bill, 2024**, which aims to amend several key laws, including the **Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita, 2023**, **Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023**, and the **Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012** in their application to the state.

- **Objective**: The bill seeks to **increase the stringency of punishments** for crimes such as rape and child abuse within West Bengal.
- **Key Provisions**:
  - **Capital Punishment**: The bill proposes **capital punishment** for those convicted of rape if the act results in the victim's **death** or leaves the victim in a **vegetative state**.
  - **Life Sentence Without Parole**: Those convicted of **rape** or **gang rape** would face **life imprisonment without parole**.
  - **Faster Trial**: The bill includes a provision for **time-bound and expedited trials** in rape cases to ensure quicker justice.
- **Constitutional Requirement**:
  - The **Indian Penal Code** and **Criminal Procedure Code** fall under the **Concurrent List**, meaning both the state and central governments can legislate on these matters.
  - Amendments made by the state that differ from the new **Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS)** and **Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS)** require **presidential approval** as per **Article 254(2)** of the Constitution.
- **Approval Process**: The bill now awaits the assent of **Governor C V Ananda Bose** and **President of India** to become law.
- This bill represents a strong commitment by West Bengal to impose stricter penalties for heinous crimes and improve the judicial process for sexual offenses.

ODISHA

SAORAS BECOME 5TH PARTICULARLY VULNERABLE TRIBAL GROUP TO GET HABITAT RIGHTS IN ODISHA

- **Saora Tribe's Habitat Rights**: The **Saora** tribals of **Gajapati district** have been granted habitat rights over their ancestral lands, making them the **5th particularly vulnerable tribal group (PVTG)** in Odisha to receive such rights.
- **Odisha's Distinction**: Odisha is now the only state in India to grant habitat rights to the **highest number of PVTGs**.
- **Historical and Cultural Significance**: The **Saora** are one of Odisha's ancient tribes and are mentioned in the **epics Ramayana** and **Mahabharata**.
- **Geographic Distribution**: While Odisha is the primary homeland of the Saora, small populations of the tribe are also found in **Andhra Pradesh**, **Jharkhand**, **Madhya Pradesh**, and **Assam**.
- This step highlights **Odisha's commitment** to **the welfare and recognition** of its **indigenous tribal communities**, ensuring they have legal rights to their ancestral lands.

Aspect	Details
Language	Native language is Sora, a **Munda language**, with its own script called **Sorang Sompeng**.
Racial Affinity	**Proto Australoid** physical characteristics, common among aborigines of **Central and Southern India**.
Art & Traditions	Unique art practices, religious customs, and a dying tattooing tradition called **'Tantangbo.'**
Religion	Worship **multiple gods and spirits**, believed to control their daily lives.
Economic Classes	**Sudha Saora (plains)** rely on wet cultivation, wage earning, and selling firewood; **Lanjia Saora** (hill) practice shifting and terraced cultivation.

ODISHA UNVEILS INDIA'S FIRST SILICON CARBIDE MANUFACTURING FACILITY

- **Inauguration**: Odisha Chief Minister **Mohan Charan Majhi** inaugurated the ground-breaking ceremony for India's **first silicon carbide** manufacturing facility.
- **Investment**: The facility will be set up with an investment of **Rs 620 crore**.
- **Project Developer**: The facility will be developed by **RIR Power Electronics Limited**, a leader in **India's semiconductor power electronics technology**.
- **Location**: The plant will be established at the **EMC Park, Infovalley**, in **Bhubaneswar**, Odisha.
- This marks a significant step towards enhancing **India's capabilities in semiconductor technology**, particularly in the growing field of **silicon carbide** used in power electronics.

NUAKHAI FESTIVAL: AN AGRARIAN CELEBRATION IN ODISHA

- **Significance**: **Nuakhai** is an **agrarian festival** celebrated in the western districts of **Odisha**, marking the harvest of the first crop of the season.
- **Rituals**: The first harvested paddy is offered to **goddess Samaleswari**, the presiding deity, as a symbol of gratitude for the new crop.
- **Greetings**: During the festival, people exchange **'Nuakhai Juhar'** greetings with **friends, relatives, and well-wishers**, spreading warmth and good wishes.
- **Cultural Importance**: The festival underscores the close connection between the people and their land, and it is a time for families to seek the blessings of elders in each household for prosperity and well-being.
- **Nuakhai** reflects the **agricultural heritage and rich traditions of Odisha**.

PM LAUNCHES ODISHA GOVERNMENT'S FLAGSHIP INITIATIVE – SUBHADRA SCHEME

- **Launch Event**: The **Prime Minister** launched Odisha's **flagship initiative**, the **Subhadra Scheme**, in **Bhubaneswar**.
- **Scheme Overview**: The **Subhadra Scheme** is the **largest women-centric initiative** in Odisha, designed to empower and financially support women.
- **Coverage**: The scheme is expected to cover more than **1 crore women** in Odisha.
- **Name Origin**: Named after **Goddess Subhadra**, the sister of **Lord Balabhadra** and **Lord Jagannath**, reflecting Odisha's deep cultural ties.
- **Financial Support**: Eligible women, between the ages of **21-60 years**, will receive **Rs 50,000** over five years (2024-25 to 2028-29).
- An amounof **10,000 per annum** will be credited in **two installments** directly to their bank accounts.
- **Additional Initiatives Launched**: The **Awaas+ 2024 App** was launched for the **survey of additional households** under the **Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana – Gramin (PMAY-G)**.
- The **Operational Guidelines** of **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana – Urban (PMAY-U) 2.0** were also unveiled.
- This initiative **aims to uplift and support women in Odisha**, providing them with financial assistance to enhance their well-being.

ODISHA TRANSFERS 95% OF GOPALPUR PORT SHARES TO ADANI

- **Transfer of Shares**: The **Odisha government** has approved the transfer of **95% of the equity shares** of **Gopalpur Port** to **Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Limited (APSEZ)**.

About Gopalpur Port:

- **Location**: Gopalpur Port is a **deep-draft, multi-cargo port** situated on the **east coast of India** in **Odisha**, a mineral-rich state.
- **Cargo Capacity**: The port has the capacity to handle **20 million metric tonnes per annum** of cargo.
- **Strategic Position**: Gopalpur Port lies between **Paradip Port** (to the north) and **Visakhapatnam Port** (to the south), positioned at almost equal distance from both.
- The transfer of shares to Adani is expected to further enhance the operational and logistical capabilities of the Gopalpur Port.

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- **Cargo Capacity**: The port can handle **20 million metric tonnes per annum** of cargo.
- **Strategic Position**: It lies between **Paradip Port** in the north and **Visakhapatnam Port** in the south, at nearly equal distance from both, making it a key maritime hub.
- **Hinterland**: The port serves the states of **Odisha**, **Jharkhand**, and **Chhattisgarh**, providing access to important minerals, steel, aluminium, cement, and power plants.
- **Coal Reserves**: The coal fields of **IB** and **Talcher**, which constitute approximately **25% of India's coal reserves**, are part of the port's hinterland.
- This transfer is expected to enhance the operational efficiency and strategic importance of Gopalpur Port in India's trade and industrial sectors.

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 Bhubaneshwar.
- **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**:
  - Annapurti 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

CHATTISGARH

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 Srisailam 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

MADHYA PRADESH CONDUCTS INDIA'S FIRST PAPERLESS ELECTION

- ➢ **First Paperless Voting in India**: **Madhya Pradesh State Election Commission** successfully conducted **India's first paperless** voting at a booth during a **panchayat by-poll in Bhopal district.**
- ➢ **Location of the Poll**: The **paperless booth** was set up at polling **station-295** in **Ratua Ratanpur Gram Panchayat of Berasia development block, Bhopal district**.
- ➢ **Significance**: This marks the **first** instance in the **country where a paperless voting system** was **implemented**, a milestone achieved by the **Madhya Pradesh State Election Commission (SEC).**

NAMIBIAN CHEETAH DIES AT KUNO NATIONAL PARK DUE TO DROWNING

- ➢ **Pawan**, a **three-year-old male cheetah from Namibia**, arrived in **Kuno National Park, Madhya Pradesh**, in September 2022. He was the first male cheetah released into the wild in March 2023.
- ➢ **Pawan's death marks the eighth casualty among the 20 cheetahs** relocated from **South Africa and Namibia to India.**
- ➢ **Kuno National Park**:
  - ❖ Established in **1981**, **Kuno National Park** is located in **Madhya Pradesh's Sheopur district.**
  - ❖ It serves as the habitat for cheetahs translocated from **Namibia and South Africa.**
- ➢ **Remaining Cheetah Population**: Following **Pawan's death, Kuno National Park** is now home to **24 cheetahs,** which include **12 adults and 12 cubs**.
- ➢ **Project Cheetah**: Project Cheetah, aimed at **restoring the cheetah population** in India, **officially started on September 17, 2022**. Cheetahs were declared extinct in India in **1952.**
- ➢ **Conservation Status**: **African cheetahs** are listed as **Vulnerable** on the **International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List.**

KARAM FESTIVAL BEGINS WITH GREAT POMP IN JHARKHAND

- ➢ **Karam Festival**: Also known as '**Karma**', the **festival** is celebrated on the **11th day of the full moon (Purnima)** in the **Hindu month of Bhadrapad**.
- ➢ **Worship of the Karam Tree**: During the **festival**, the **tribals worship the Karam tree** and **pray to Mother Nature** for a **rich harvest in the kharif season**, following the **sowing period.**
- ➢ **Cultural Significance**: The **festival symbolizes** the bond between **brothers and sisters and encourages people to perform good deeds**.
- ➢ This is why it is also referred to as "**Karma**," highlighting the **importance of righteous actions in life.**

BIHAR GOVERNMENT APPROVES CULLING OF NILGAI AND WILD BOARS TO PROTECT CROPS

- ➢ **Culling Decision**: The **Bihar government** has approved the **culling of Nilgai (Blue bulls)** and **wild boars to address the menace they pose to crops**.
- ➢ **Farmers in the state** have been facing significant losses due to **these animals damaging their fields on a large scale**.
- ➢ **Nilgai (Boselaphus tragocamelus)**:
  - ❖ Listed as "**Least Concern**" on the **IUCN Red List.**
  - ❖ It is the **largest Asian antelope and is endemic to the Indian subcontinent**.
  - ❖ The **Nilgai** is also the **state animal of Delhi.**
- ➢ **Wild Boar (Sus scrofa)**:

- Also listed as "**Least Concern**" on the **IUCN Red List.**
  - ✓ **Wild boars** have become an **invasive species** in parts of their introduced range.
  - ✓ The **Indian boar**, also known as the **Andamanese pig or Moupin pig**, is a **subspecies of wild boar native to India**.
- The culling approval aims to reduce crop damage and alleviate the hardships faced by the farmers in Bihar.

SARMA COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS ON CLAUSE 6 OF ASSAM ACCORD

- **Assam Government's Decision**: The **Assam government** has decided to **implement 57 of the 67 recommendations** made by the **Justice Biplab Sarma** Committee by **April 15, 2024.** The committee was set up by the **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** to enforce **Clause 6 of the Assam Accord**.
- **Clause 6 of the Assam Accord**: Clause 6 focuses on safeguarding the **rights, identity, and culture of the Assamese people through constitutional, legislative, and administrative measures**.
- **What is the Assam Accord?**
  - Signed in **1985**, the Assam Accord was an agreement aimed at resolving the **issue of illegal immigration in Assam.**
  - It states that **all foreigners** who entered Assam after **March 24, 1971**, must be identified and deported.
- **Justice Biplab Sarma Commission**:
  - Established in **2019**, the commission was tasked with expediting the **implementation of Clause 6 of the Assam Accord.**
  - Its primary focus was to recommend legal and policy changes that would protect Assamese culture and identity, along with police reforms to improve accountability in law enforcement.
- **Exclusions in Implementation**: The **implementation of the recommendations** will exclude **Sixth Schedule areas**, such as the **Bodoland Territorial Region**, the **Dima Hasao Autonomous Council**, and the **Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council**, to respect local sensitivities related to **language, culture, and traditions**. The **Barak Valley** is also excluded from this immediate implementation.
- The **Assam government's** move **marks a significant step towards addressing the long-standing issues** related to the Assam Accord and protecting the interests of the indigenous Assamese people.

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 APPROVES 33% QUOTA FOR WOMEN IN POLICE FORCE

- **Government Decision**: The **Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)** government in **Rajasthan** has approved **33% reservation** for women in the state's police force.
- **Amendment**: The decision involves amending the **State Police Subordinate Service Rules, 1989**, to ensure gender parity in recruitment.
- This move aims to enhance the representation of women in law enforcement and promote gender equality within the state's police system.

4TH GLOBAL RENEWABLE ENERGY INVESTOR'S MEET AND EXPO (RE-INVEST)

- The **4th Global Renewable Energy Investor's Meet and Expo (RE-INVEST)** was inaugurated by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** in **Gandhinagar, Gujarat**.
- **Theme**: The central theme of **RE-INVEST 2024** is **Mission 500 GW**, aiming for India to achieve **500 GW of renewable energy capacity** by 2030.
- **Host**: The event is hosted by the **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)**.
- **Key Focus**: The 3-day conference aims to showcase India's significant progress in **renewable energy manufacturing** and **deployment**.
- **Recognition**: **Prahlad Joshi**, the **Union Minister for New and Renewable Energy**, felicitated the states and industries that have contributed to India's achievement of over **200 GW** of installed **non-fossil fuel capacity**.

- **State Leadership**: **Gujarat** has emerged as the leader in **solar power installation** across the country.
- **National Target**: India is on track to achieve its ambitious target of **500 GW** of renewable energy capacity by **2030**.
- **International Partners**: Key international partners participating in the event include **Australia**, **Denmark**, **Germany**, and **Norway**.
- **Indian State Participation**: Prominent Indian states such as **Andhra Pradesh**, **Gujarat**, **Madhya Pradesh**, **Telangana**, **Rajasthan**, **Karnataka**, and **Uttar Pradesh** are actively participating in the event.
- This event highlights India's leadership and commitment to renewable energy, attracting both domestic and international stakeholders.

INDIA'S FIRST NON-SUBURBAN METRO, 'VANDE METRO' TRAIN

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** is set to flag off **Vande Metro**, India's first **non-suburban metro train** service.
- **Route**: The **Vande Metro** will operate between **Bhuj** in **Kutch. district** and **Ahmedabad** in **Gujarat**, connecting long distances between these two locations.
- **Train Category**: **Non-suburban metro** services are designed for long-distance travel, typically covering areas beyond 150 kilometers. They differ from **suburban metro** services, which are primarily for short-distance commutes within cities or their immediate suburbs.
- **Purpose**: The **Vande Metro** aims to facilitate quicker, comfortable, and efficient travel for passengers between Bhuj and Ahmedabad, enhancing connectivity within Gujarat.
- This development marks a significant milestone in India's rail infrastructure, offering faster travel options for long-distance commuters.

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 VADHVAN 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

KARNATAKA GOVERNMENT LAUNCHES 'NIPUNA KARNATAKA' INITIATIVE

- **Objective**: The **'Nipuna Karnataka' initiative** aims to equip youth in the state with industry-specific skills.
- **Focus Area**: Special emphasis on the state's rapidly growing IT sector.
- **Goal**: Bridge the skill gap between fresh graduates, including engineers and **STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) professionals, and industry requirements.**
- **Strategy**: The government has outlined a **strategy to align the skills of graduates** with the demands of the industry.

BENGALURU TO HOST FIRST-OF-ITS-KIND ACTIVE MOBILITY CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

- **Initiative**: A **Centre of Excellence (CoE)** for **Active Mobility will be established in Bengaluru**, marking the **first of its kind in India**.
- **Collaborators**: The **Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Sustainable Transportation Lab (IST Lab)** and **Urban Morph** will jointly set up the CoE.
- **Focus Areas**: The centre will focus on **research, planning, collaborations, and monitoring** & evaluation of human-powered transportation modes, including:
  - Walking
  - Cycling
- **Goal**: The CoE will work towards enhancing transportation

efficiency in cities.

- **Inclusivity**: The centre will also focus on ensuring public spaces promote equitable mobility, considering:
  - Gender
  - Age
  - Economic strata
  - Disabilities

CENTRE TO ESTABLISH FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE-FREE ZONES IN EIGHT STATES

- The Union government has decided to establish **foot-and-mouth disease (FMD)-free zones** in **eight states** to expand export opportunities for Indian animal products and enhance the country's global market presence.
- **Target States**: The FMD-free zones will be established in:
  - Karnataka
  - Tamil Nadu
  - Andhra Pradesh
  - Telangana
  - Uttarakhand
  - Punjab
  - Haryana
  - Maharashtra
  - Gujarat

About Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD):

- **Nature**: FMD is a severe, highly contagious viral disease of livestock with significant economic impact.
- **Animals Affected**: The disease affects:
  - Cattle
  - Swine
  - Sheep
  - Goats
  - Other cloven-hoofed ruminants.
- **Not Affected**: It does not affect – Horses, Dogs and Cats
- **Cause**: FMD is caused by an aphthovirus, which belongs to the family **Picornaviridae**.
- **Symptoms**: The disease is characterised by:
  - Fever
  - Blister-like sores on the tongue, lips, and mouth
  - Lesions on the teats
  - Lesions between the hooves.

KARNATAKA REJECTS KASTURIRANGAN COMMITTEE REPORT ON ECO-SENSITIVE AREAS

- The **Karnataka government** has rejected the **Kasturirangan committee report**, which was **aimed at protecting important eco-sensitive areas (ESAs)** in the **Western Ghats**, despite earlier indications that it would be reviewed.
- **Background**: The **Kasturirangan Committee** was **set up in 2012** to create a **national wildlife action plan** for the conservation of the **Western Ghats.**
- **Proposal**: The committee recommended that **37% of the Western Ghats** be declared as **eco-sensitive areas (ESAs).**
- **Impact on Karnataka**: Of the total area recommended for ESAs, **20,668 sq km** falls within Karnataka, affecting over **1,500 villages**.
- **State-Level Response**: A **state-level expert committee**, after conducting meetings in the **Western Ghats districts**, recommended in its **2015 report** that only **153 villages** (instead of 1,553) **should be declared ecologically sensitive areas**.

About Eco-Sensitive Areas (ESAs):

- **Location**: ESAs are located within **10 km** of **Protected Areas, National Parks, and Wildlife Sanctuaries**.
- **Notification**: They are notified by the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)** under the **Environment Protection Act, 1986**.

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 LAUNCHES 'DARSHINI' SCHEME FOR EDUCATIONAL STUDENT TOURS

- **Objective**: The **Darshini Scheme** aims to provide **immersive learning experiences** to students beyond the classroom.
- **Target Audience**: The scheme is designed for **school** and **college students** in Telangana.
- **Educational Tours**: Students will be taken on **educational tours** across the state to explore various sites of **heritage**, **historical monuments**, **dynamic urban landscapes**, and **scientific institutions**.
- **Purpose**: The scheme is intended to enhance the educational experience by providing students with real-world exposure to cultural, historical, and scientific knowledge.
- The **Darshini Scheme** will contribute to a holistic learning

approach, helping students better understand the rich history and modern advancements of Telangana.

WORLD TRADE CENTRE TO ANCHOR AMBITIOUS AI CITY NEAR HYDERABAD

- The **Telangana government** has signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the **World Trade Centres' Association**.
- **Project**: The collaboration will establish a **World Trade Centre (WTC)** in the proposed **AI City** near **Hyderabad**.
- **AI City Vision**: The AI City aims to be a **hub for artificial intelligence** and related technologies, fostering innovation, research, and business opportunities in the field.
- This initiative underscores Telangana's commitment to becoming a global leader in AI and technology, while the **World Trade Centre** will act as a key anchor to support trade and investment in the region.

TELANGANA LAUNCHES NITI AAYOG'S WOMEN ENTREPRENEURSHIP PLATFORM (WEP) CHAPTER

- **Telangana** has become **the first state in India** to initiate a chapter of **NITI Aayog's Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP).**
- The initiative is designed **to support women entrepreneurs** by providing **essential tools, resources, and connections for business growth.**

Launch and Vision:

- **Official Launch**: The **WEP Telangana Chapter** was launched in **Hyderabad by BVR Subrahmanyam, CEO of NITI Aayog**, **alongside other government officials**.
- **Objective**: The platform **aims to encourage women to start and expand their businesses**, offering support in:
  - Digital skills
  - Access to financial services
  - Mentorship
  - Market opportunities

Role of WE Hub

- Management: WE Hub, India's first incubation center dedicated to women entrepreneurs, will manage the WEP in Telangana.
- **Support Network**: WE Hub has an extensive network and will utilize its resources to empower women in business, enhancing their skills and identifying better business opportunities.

Objectives of the WEP Telangana Chapter

- **Empower Women with Digital and Financial Skills**:Facilitate training to help women develop essential skills for effective business operations.
- **Connect Women Entrepreneurs with Industry Leaders**:Provide mentorship opportunities from experienced business leaders to guide women's business growth.
- **Facilitate Market Access**:Assist women entrepreneurs in connecting with investors and discovering viable business opportunities.

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.

TIRUPATI LADDU ROW: UNION MINISTER SEEKS PROBE INTO CM NAIDU'S ALLEGATIONS

- Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister **N Chandrababu Naidu** claimed that **animal fat and fish oil** were used as ingredients in the **Tirupati laddu** at the **Sri Venkateswara Swamy Temple** during the tenure of the previous **Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy** government, **instead of the traditional ghee.**
- **Government Response**: **Union Food Minister Pralhad Joshi** has called for an **investigation into the allegations** made by **CM Naidu** regarding the **use of animal fat and fish oil** in the **sacred laddoos**..

State	GI Tags
Andhra Pradesh	➢ **Handicraft:** Srikalahasti Kalamkari, Kondapalli Bommallu, Budithi Bell and Brass Metal Craft, Uppada Jamdani Sarees, Bobbili Veena, Durgi Stone Carvings, Etikoppaka Toys. ➢ **Food Stuff:** Tirupati Laddu, Bandar Laddu ➢ **Agricultural:** Guntur Sannam Chilli, Banaganapalle Mangoes.

KERALA

ONAM FESTIVITIES BEGIN WITH ATHAM IN KERALA

- The **ten-day Onam festivities** have begun with the celebration of **Atham in Kerala**.
- **Significance**: **Onam is a harvest festival** celebrated at the **start of Chingam**, the first month of the Malayalam calendar (Kollavarsham).
- **Duration**: The festival lasts from **four to ten days**, with **Atham** marking the first day and **Thiruonam** (the \·th day) being the most important.
- **Thiruonam**: The 10th day, Thiruonam, is the most auspicious, symbolizing the legendary return of **King Mahabali** to Kerala.
  - ❖ It is believed that on this day, **Lord Vishnu's avatar, Vamana**, grants King Mahabali's wish to visit his subjects annually.
- **Traditional Celebrations**:
  - ❖ On the **fourth day of the festival**, the **Pulikkali** (Tiger Dance) takes place, where artists paint their bodies like tigers and perform traditional dances with rhythms from instruments like **thakil**, **udukku**, and **chenda**.
  - ❖ **Vallamkali**, the **Snake Boat Race**, is held on the **river Pampa**.
  - ❖ **Kaikotti Kali** and **Thumbi Thullal** are graceful dances performed by women during Onam.

FIRST CASE OF CLADE 1B M-POX VARIANT DETECTED IN KERALA

- **Variant**: The first case of **Clade 1B**, a highly transmissible variant of **M-Pox (Monkeypox)**, has been detected in Kerala.
- **Disease**: M-Pox is a viral zoonotic disease caused by the **monkeypox virus**.
- **History**: The first human case of monkeypox was recorded in **1970** in the **Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)**.
- Clades: There are two known clades of the monkeypox virus:
  - ❖ **Clade I** (originating from **Central Africa**)
  - ❖ **Clade II** (originating from **West Africa**)

KERALA INAUGURATES INDIA'S FIRST SUPERCAPACITOR MANUFACTURING FACILITY

- Kerala has inaugurated **India's first supercapacitor manufacturing facility** at **Keltron Component Complex Limited (KCCL)** in **Kannur.**

- **Inaugurated by**: Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan
- **Significance**: Marks a significant milestone for both Keltron and India's electronics industry.

Keltron's Legacy

- **Founded**: 1974
- **Reputation**: One of the **first government-owned companies** in **India's electronics and IT sectors.**
- **Contribution**: Established a high standard for other government-run companies in India.
- **Continued Leadership**: The new supercapacitor facility showcases Keltron's ongoing leadership in the industry.

Importance of the Facility

- **Development Collaboration**: Facility developed with support from the **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).**
- **Investment**: Built at a cost of **42 crore.**
- **Impact on Kerala**: Expected to enhance **Kerala's status as a major electronics hub**.
- **Industry Benefits**: Will support industries such as defence and electric vehicles that depend on advanced technology.

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.

ANDAMAN & NICOBAR

FIRST INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT FROM PORT BLAIR'S VEER SAVARKAR INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON NOVEMBER 16

- **Flight Route**: The first international flight will depart from **Port Blair's Veer Savarkar International Airport** to **Kuala Lumpur**.
- **Inauguration**: The airport was inaugurated by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** on **June 21, 2023**.
- **Airport Details**:
  - The airport is also known as **Port Blair Airport**.
  - It is a **customs airport** located **2 km (1.2 miles)** south of **Port Blair**.

DELHI

DELHI GOVT TO LAUNCH 'ABHISHIKT' PROGRAM FOR HIGH-IQ STUDENTS

- **Program Name**: The **'Abhishikt'** program will be launched by the **Delhi government** to support gifted students.
- **Target Group**: The program will cater to students in **Classes VI and IX**.
- **Objective**: It aims to nurture students identified as exceptionally intelligent through a thorough screening process.
- **Eligibility Criteria**: Students with an **IQ above 130** will qualify for the program.
- **Schools Involved**: The initiative will be implemented in **15 schools** across Delhi.

INAUGURATION OF WILDLIFE WEEK 2024 IN JAMMU AND KASHMIR

- **Location**: Dachigam National Park.
- **Theme**: Celebrating **nature's beauty** and the **importance of wildlife conservation**.

Gathering of Young Minds

- **Participants**: Excited school students engaged in various activities.
- **Focus**: Encouraging awareness about environmental protection and wildlife care.

Activities Conducted

- **Nature Walks**: Students explored the park's ecosystem.
- **Educational Workshops**: Sessions with wildlife experts to raise awareness on conservation.

MAHARASHTRA

BANJARA VIRASAT 'NAGARA' MUSEUM INAUGURATED IN MAHARASHTRA

- Recently opened by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** in **Pohradevi, Washim district, Maharashtra.**
- **Purpose**: Dedicated to celebrating the rich cultural heritage of the **Banjara community**, often referred to as the "**Kashi of the Banjara Community**."

Museum Structure and Exhibits

- **Building**: A **four-story** structure featuring **13 galleries**.
- **Content**: Showcases the **history, traditions, and significant leaders of the Banjara people.**
- **Exhibits**: Include portraits and displays of the community's unique arts, crafts, and lifestyle, providing an immersive experience of their vibrant culture.

Historical and Spiritual Significance of Pohradevi

- **Cultural Importance**: Home to the tomb of **Sant Sewalal Maharaj** and the shrine of **Ramraobapu Maharaj**, making it a significant pilgrimage site for the Banjara community.
- **Location**: The spiritual and historical context of Pohradevi makes it an ideal site for the museum.

Significance of the Museum

- The Banjara Virasat 'Nagara' Museum serves as a **cultural center** and **educational resource**, ensuring the Banjara community's heritage is preserved and appreciated by future generations.
- It aims to attract **tourists**, enriching their understanding of the Banjara culture and traditions.

PRACTICE MCQS

1. Which World War II veteran's 100th birthday was celebrated by the Indian Army?

a) Lance Naik Charan Singh
b) Major Som Nath Sharma
c) Captain Vikram Batra
d) Lance Naik Albert Ekka

2 Where is the world's first Asian King Vulture Conservation and Breeding Centre located?

a) Lucknow b) Noida
c) Campierganj, Gorakhpur d) Agra

3 **Why did the Bihar government approve the culling of Nilgai and wild boars?**

a) Control wildlife population
b) Prevent disease outbreaks
c) Protect crops from damage
d) Encourage eco-tourism

4 What is the focus of the Sarma Committee's recommendations on the Assam Accord?

a) Economic development
b) Tourism enhancement
c) Safeguarding Assamese identity and culture
d) Flood control

5 Which district in Manipur has banned hunting of Amur falcons?

a) Imphal b) Churachandpur
c) Tamenglong d) Thoubal

6 Which company will develop India's first silicon carbide manufacturing facility in Odisha?

a) Bharat Electronics Limited
b) RIR Power Electronics Limited
c) Keltron Component Complex Limited
d) Adani Power Electronics

7 What percentage of reservation for women has been approved in Rajasthan's police force?

a) 25% b) 30%
c) 33% d) 35%

8 Between which two locations will the first non-suburban Vande Metro train operate?

a) Ahmedabad and Rajkot
b) Bhuj and Ahmedabad
c) Surat and Gandhinagar
d) Vadodara and Bhavnagar

9 Which organization collaborated with Keltron for developing India's first supercapacitor manufacturing facility?

a) DRDO b) ISRO
c) BHEL d) NTPC

10 The financial year 2024-2025 has been declared as the Year of Consolidation in Mizoram to focus on:

a) Increasing agricultural production
b) Strengthening the education sector
c) Improving fiscal health and reducing debt
d) Expanding tourism and infrastructure projects

ANSWERS:

1. Answer: A. Lance Naik Charan Singh

❖ **Explanation:** Charan Singh was born on September 7, 1924, and served in the Royal Indian Army Service Corps.

2. Answer: C. Campierganj, Gorakhpur

❖ **Explanation:** The Jatayu Conservation Centre focuses on breeding and protecting the critically endangered Asian King Vulture.

3. Answer: C. Protect crops from damage

❖ **Explanation:** Farmers in Bihar face significant losses due to crop destruction caused by Nilgai and wild boars.

4. Answer: C. Safeguarding Assamese identity and culture

❖ **Explanation:** The committee proposed measures to enforce Clause 6 of the Assam Accord, which protects Assamese identity.

5. Answer: C. Tamenglong

❖ **Explanation:** Tamenglong district hosts the Amur Falcon Festival and has banned hunting to protect these migratory birds.

6. Answer: B. RIR Power Electronics Limited

❖ **Explanation:** RIR Power Electronics Limited, a leader in power electronics, is setting up this facility in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

7. Answer: C. 33%

8. Answer: B. Bhuj and Ahmedabad

❖ **Explanation:** Vande Metro, designed for long-distance travel, will connect Bhuj and Ahmedabad in Gujarat.

9. Answer: B. ISRO

❖ **Explanation:** The facility in Kannur was developed with ISRO's support, marking a milestone for the electronics industry.

10. Answer: C. Improving fiscal health and reducing debt

❖ **Explanation:** The government aims to improve fiscal stability, address deficits, and reduce debt during this period.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

PM MODI'S VISIT TO BRUNEI AND SINGAPORE

- **First bilateral visit** by an Indian Prime Minister to Brunei.
- Commemorates **40 years of diplomatic relations** between India and Brunei.
- **Key Meetings:**
  - **Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah** and members of the Royal Family.
  - Received upon arrival by **Crown Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah**.
- Brunei is a significant partner in India's **Act East Policy** and **Indo-Pacific Vision**.

Singapore Visit Highlights:

- **Meetings with:**
  - **President Tharman Shanmugaratnam**.
  - **Prime Minister Lawrence Wong**.
- Singapore plays a vital role in India's **economic and strategic engagement** in the Indo-Pacific region.
- This visit aims to strengthen India's **diplomatic, economic, and strategic ties** with Southeast Asia.

U.S. SENDS THAAD MISSILE SYSTEM TO ISRAEL AMID RISING TENSIONS

- The United States has decided to send the **Terminal High-Altitude Area Defence (THAAD)** missile system to Israel.
- This move is part of the U.S.'s commitment to bolster Israel's defense, particularly in light of escalating tensions with Iran and recent missile attacks on Israel.

What is the THAAD Missile Defence System?:

- **THAAD** is an advanced missile defense system designed to intercept and destroy enemy missiles during the final phase of their flight using a "**hit-to-kill**" technology.
- **Components of THAAD**:
  - Operated by **95 soldiers**.
  - Equipped with **six truck-mounted launchers**, each capable of holding **eight interceptors**.
  - A total of **48 interceptors**.
  - Radar and tactical control equipment for threat detection and tracking.
- **Manufacturer**: Developed by **Lockheed Martin**, a major U.S. defense contractor.

Capabilities of THAAD:

- Designed to defend against various ballistic missiles:
  - **Short-range missiles** (up to 1,000 km).
  - **Medium-range missiles** (1,000 to 3,000 km).
  - **Limited intermediate-range missiles** (up to 5,000 km).
- Offers wider coverage and greater protection compared to older systems like the **Patriot Air and Missile Defence System**.

Reasons for Deployment to Israel:

- Aims **to protect Israel from missile attacks, particularly from Iran**.
- Strengthens **Israel's missile defenses against potential threats**.
- Safeguards **U.S. soldiers and personnel stationed in Israel.**
- Serves as a **deterrent to Iran,** signaling **U.S. commitment to Israel's defense and regional stability.**

Iran's Response:

- Iran has reacted strongly, perceiving the deployment as a threat to its security.
- Tensions with Israel exacerbate Iran's concerns about increased U.S. military presence in the region.
- The Iranian government has warned against further U.S. involvement in West Asia.

Difference in Military Spending:

- Israel invests heavily in missile defense systems, including THAAD, providing it with a significant advantage over Iran.
- Iran has a smaller budget for missile technology, reflecting a disparity in military capabilities amid ongoing tensions.

Conclusion:

- The deployment of the THAAD system to Israel underscores the U.S.'s robust support for Israel, enhancing its defense capabilities while complicating regional dynamics and potentially heightening tensions between the U.S., Israel, and Iran.

INDIA-UAE AGREEMENTS

- **Five agreements** were signed following talks between **PM Narendra Modi** and **Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan**, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, in **New Delhi**.

Key Focus Areas:

- **Civil Nuclear Cooperation**:

1. **MoU** signed between **Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL)** and **Emirates Nuclear Energy Corporation (ENEC)**.

- ❖ **Petroleum and Energy**:
- ❖ Agreement for the **long-term supply of LNG**.
- ❖ **Urja Bharat** and **ADNOC** signed an MoU for cooperation in the **Abu Dhabi Onshore Block 1 oil field**.

1. **Food Park Development**:
   - ❖ MoU between **Gujarat Government** and **Abu Dhabi Developmental Holding Company PJSC (ADQ)** to establish food parks in **Gundanpara, Bavla, and Ahmedabad**.

Overview: UAE and Abu Dhabi

- ➢ **Abu Dhabi** is one of the **seven emirates** of the **United Arab Emirates (UAE)** and constitutes about **three-fourths**of UAE's land area.
- ➢ **Capital**: Abu Dhabi
- ➢ **Currency**: UAE Dirham (AED)
- ➢ **Abu Dhabi** is a hub for **oil and gas industries** in the region.

QUAD LEADERS' SUMMIT IN DELAWARE, USA

- ➢ **PM Narendra Modi** participated in the **sixth Quad Leaders' Summit** held on **21 September 2024** in **Wilmington, Delaware**, hosted by **US President Joe Biden**.
- ➢ The Quad Leaders made announcements focused on enhancing development in the **Indo-Pacific** and globally.

Key Announcements and Initiatives

- ➢ **Quad Cancer Moonshot**: Collaborative effort to combat **cervical cancer** and save lives in the Indo-Pacific.
- ➢ **Maritime Initiative for Training in the Indo-Pacific (MAITRI)**: Assists nations in **monitoring their waters**, enforcing **laws**, and **deterring unlawful behavior**.
- ➢ **Quad-at-Sea Ship Observer Mission** (First in 2025): Enhances interoperability and maritime safety.
- ➢ **Quad Indo-Pacific Logistics Network (Pilot Project)**: Supports **faster response** to natural disasters.
- ➢ **Quad Ports of the Future Partnership**: Promotes **sustainable and resilient port infrastructure** development in the Indo-Pacific.
- ➢ **Principles for Digital Public Infrastructure Development**:
- ➢ Establishes a **framework** for deploying digital infrastructure efficiently across the region.
- ➢ **Semiconductor Supply Chains Contingency Network**: A **Memorandum of Cooperation** was signed to ensure resilience in **semiconductor supply chains**.
- ➢ **UN Security Council Reform**: Leaders agreed on the **urgent need to reform** the Security Council, emphasizing greater **representation, inclusivity, efficiency, and accountability**.

Other Key Developments

- ➢ **Quad Wilmington Declaration** was adopted to guide future initiatives.
- ➢ **India** will host the next **Quad Leaders' Summit** in **2025**.

About Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QUAD):

- ➢ Focuses on promoting **regional security** and **economic cooperation** in the **Indo-Pacific region**.
- ➢ **Proposed** by former **Japanese PM Shinzo Abe** in **2007**.
- ➢ **Resurrected** in **2017** during a meeting on the sidelines of the **ASEAN Summit**.
- ➢ **First Quad Leaders' Summit**: Held virtually on **12 March 2021**.

Member Countries of the Quad

- ➢ **India**, **USA**, **Japan**, **Australia.**
- ➢ The Quad continues to strengthen cooperation in key areas such as **health, security, trade, and technology** to counter emerging challenges and ensure a **free, open, and prosperous Indo-Pacific region**.

EAM S. JAISHANKAR ATTENDS 1ST INDIA-GCC FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING IN RIYADH

- ➢ **Meeting**: 1st India-Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Foreign Ministers' Meeting
- ➢ **Location**: Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
- ➢ **Date**: September 8-9, 2024

Key Participants

- ➢ **EAM of India**: S. Jaishankar
- ➢ **Co-Chair**: Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani (Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Qatar, President of the current GCC session)
- ➢ **Attendees**: Foreign Ministers of all GCC countries and Secretary General of the GCC, Jasem Mohamed Albudaiwi

About the GCC

- ➢ **Members**: UAE, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Qatar, and Kuwait
- ➢ **Significance**: An influential regional bloc and strategic partner for India

Key Highlights

- ➢ **India-GCC Strategic Dialogue**: EAM Jaishankar co-chaired the India–GCC Joint Ministerial Meeting for Strategic Dialogue.
- ➢ **Trade Relations**: The GCC region has become a major trading partner for India.
- ➢ **Indian Diaspora**: The GCC countries are home to approximately 8.9 million Indian expatriates.

INDIA JOINS LEADERSHIP OF GLOBAL ANTI-CORRUPTION ALLIANCE (GLOBE NETWORK)

- **Election**: India elected to the 15-member Steering Committee of the Global Operational Network of Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Authorities (GloBE)
- **Event Location**: Plenary session held in Beijing
- **Central Authority for India**: Ministry of Home Affairs

About the GloBE Network

- **Initiative**: Launched by the **G20**, with India supporting the initiative in 2020
- **Current Membership**: 121 member countries

Objectives of the GloBE Network

- **Sharing**: Exchange best practices and criminal intelligence
- **Strategy Development**: Formulate strategies to combat corruption
- **Support**: Facilitate mutual assistance among member nations
- **Investigations**: Identify, investigate, and prosecute cross-border corruption offenses
- **Asset Recovery**: Recover stolen assets
- **Transnational Cooperation**: Promote cross-border collaboration in anti-corruption efforts

INDIA JOINS US-LED 'MINERALS SECURITY FINANCE NETWORK' (MSFN)

- **Initiative**: India formally joins the Minerals Security Finance Network (MSFN), led by the United States
- **Objective**: Strengthen cooperation among members to secure critical mineral supply chains for the clean energy transition
- **Related Partnership**: MSFN is an extension of the Minerals Security Partnership (MSP)
- **India's MSP Membership**: India joined the MSP in June 2023

Significance of Critical Minerals

- **Essential Components**: Used in clean energy technologies such as wind turbines, solar panels, and electric vehicles
- **Key Minerals**: Lithium, cobalt, nickel, manganese, graphite, rare earth elements, and copper

MSFN Member Countries

- **Members**: Australia, Canada, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Norway, Republic of Korea, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States, and European Union

INDIA SIGNS KEY PACTS ON CLEAN AND FAIR ECONOMIES UNDER IPEF

- India has signed **agreements on clean and fair economies** as part of the **Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF)**, a **14-member bloc** led by the **United States.**
- **Focus of the Agreements**:
  - These agreements are the first of their kind, aimed at catalyzing investments in green technology.
  - They facilitate the development, access, and deployment of clean energy and climate-friendly technologies.
- **Key Objectives**:
  - Strengthen **anti-corruption measures** and **promote tax transparency** among member countries.
  - Accelerate efforts towards **energy security and mitigate greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.**
  - Develop innovative strategies to **reduce dependence on fossil fuels**.
  - Promote **technical cooperation among IPEF partners**.
- **Background of IPEF**:
  - The **Indo-Pacific Economic Framework** was **launched in 2022 in Tokyo, Japan.**
  - The **14 member countries** together represent 40% of the global GDP and 28% of global goods and services trade.
- **Four Key Pillars of IPEF**:
  - Trade
  - Supply Chain Resilience
  - Clean Economy
  - **Fair Economy** (with a focus on tax and anti-corruption initiatives)

PM MODI ADDRESSES 'SUMMIT OF THE FUTURE' AT 79TH UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY (UNGA)

- PM Modi participated in the 2-day 'Summit of the Future' held at the 79th session of the UNGA in New York.
- **Theme of the Summit**: "Multilateral Solutions for a Better Tomorrow."
- **Key Highlights of PM Modi's Address**:
  - He emphasized that new conflicts are emerging in **cyber, maritime, and space domains**, in addition to terrorism.
  - He advocated for **"global digital governance"** to safeguard national sovereignty and territorial integrity.
- **Adoption of the Pact for the Future**:
  - UNGA's 193 members adopted the **Pact for the Future** by consensus.

- ❖ The declaration pledges **concrete actions** towards building a **safer, more peaceful, sustainable, and inclusive world** for future generations.

➢ **Pact's Five Focus Areas**:
- ❖ Sustainable Development
- ❖ International Peace and Security
- ❖ Science and Technology
- ❖ Youth and Future Generations
- ❖ Transforming Global Governance

➢ **Annexures to the Pact**:
- ❖ **Global Digital Compact**:
- ❖ The first global agreement on regulating **digital technologies and artificial intelligence (AI)**.
- ❖ **Declaration on Future Generations**:
- ❖ It emphasizes securing the well-being of future generations by **including their interests in current decision-making processes**.

➢ This summit aimed to encourage **international cooperation** and improve governance models for handling future challenges, including digital disruptions and geopolitical conflicts.

EAM DR. S. JAISHANKAR TO ADDRESS UNGA GENERAL DEBATE ON 28TH SEPTEMBER

➢ The **79th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)** took place from **10th to 30th September 2024**.

➢ It emphasized **accelerating progress towards achieving the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**.

➢ The session was chaired by **Cameroonian President Philemon Yong**.

➢ **India's Representation**:
- ❖ Dr. **S. Jaishankar**, India's External Affairs Minister, represented the country in the **General Debate**.
- ❖ He delivered **India's speech on 28th September** during the session.

➢ **Theme for the General Debate**:
- ❖ "Leaving No One Behind: Acting Together for the Advancement of Peace, Sustainable Development, and Human Dignity for Present and Future Generations."

➢ This debate provided a platform for world leaders to align efforts towards **peace, human dignity, and sustainable development**, with a focus on inclusivity for present and future generations.

United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)

➢ **Establishment**: Founded in **1945** under the **Charter of the United Nations**.

➢ **Headquarters**: Located in **New York City, USA**.

➢ **Role and Function**:
- ❖ One of the **six principal organs** of the United Nations.
- ❖ **Main policy-making organ** responsible for deliberating key global issues.
- ❖ Provides **equal representation** for all **193 Member States**, with each country having **one vote**.

➢ **Leadership**:
- ❖ The **General Assembly President** is elected annually to serve a **one-year term**.
- ❖ Current **UN Secretary-General**: **António Guterres**.

➢ The UNGA plays a critical role in setting international policies, facilitating discussions on global challenges, and promoting cooperation among nations.

The UNGA also makes key decisions for the UN, including:

➢ **Appointing the Secretary-General** on the recommendation of the Security Council.

➢ Admitting States to UN membership upon the recommendation of the Security Council.

➢ Electing the non-permanent members of the Security Council.

➢ Approving the UN budget.

NIRMALA SITHARAMAN TO ATTEND 9TH AIIB ANNUAL MEET IN UZBEKISTAN

➢ **Event**: **9th Annual Meeting** of the Board of Governors of the **Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)**

➢ **Location**: Samarkand, Uzbekistan

➢ **Dates**: September 25-26, 2024

➢ **Theme**: "Building Resilient Infrastructure for All"

➢ **Indian Representative**: Nirmala Sitharaman, attending as the Indian Governor to AIIB

Key Engagements

➢ **Bilateral Meetings**: Scheduled with counterparts from Uzbekistan, Qatar, China, and AIIB President

➢ **Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT)**: To be signed between India and Uzbekistan

➢ **Host**: Shavkat Mirziyoyev, President of Uzbekistan

About AIIB

➢ **Founded**: January 2016

➢ **Headquarters**: Beijing, China

➢ **President**: Jin Liqun

➢ **India's Role**:
- ❖ Founding Member of AIIB
- ❖ Second-largest shareholder of the bank

Purpose of AIIB

- A **multilateral development bank** aimed at improving economic and social outcomes in Asia through infrastructure investments.

INDIA AND UZBEKISTAN SIGN BILATERAL INVESTMENT TREATY (BIT) IN TASHKENT

Key Representatives

- **Signed By**:
  - **India**: Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs
  - **Uzbekistan**: Mr. Khodjayev Jamshid Abdukhakimovich, Deputy Prime Minister

Significance of the BIT

- **India-Uzbekistan Trade Relations**: India ranks among the top 10 trade partners of Uzbekistan.
- **Key Provisions of the Treaty**:
  - **Protection from Expropriation**: Safeguards investments from government seizure without fair compensation.
  - **Transparency and Compensation**: Ensures transparent investment operations and fair compensation protocols for losses.
  - **Balanced Regulatory Rights**: Preserves the state's right to regulate while protecting investments, ensuring policy flexibility.

About Uzbekistan

- **Location**: A landlocked country in Central Asia
- **Borders**:
  - **Northwest and North**: Kazakhstan
  - **East**: Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan
  - **South**: Afghanistan
  - **Southwest**: Turkmenistan
- **Capital**: Tashkent
- **President**: Shavkat Mirziyoyev
- **Currency**: Uzbekistani Som (UZS)

NEPAL BECOMES 101ST MEMBER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOLAR ALLIANCE (ISA)

About the International Solar Alliance (ISA)

- **Objective**: A global intergovernmental organization focused on promoting solar power for a carbon-neutral future.
- **Launch**: Initiated in 2015 by the Prime Minister of India and the President of France during the UN Climate Change Conference in Paris (COP21).
- **Headquarters**: National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE), Gurugram, India

'Towards 1000' Strategy of the ISA

- **Investment Mobilization**: USD 1000 billion for solar energy solutions by 2030
- **Energy Access**: Clean energy solutions to reach 1000 million people
- **Solar Capacity Target**: 1000 GW of installed solar energy capacity
- **Emission Reduction**: Mitigate 1000 million tonnes of CO2 annually

Nepal's Membership

- **Status**: Nepal becomes the 101st member of the ISA.

ABU DHABI CROWN PRINCE INAUGURATES IIT DELHI-ABU DHABI CAMPUS

Inauguration Details

- **Inaugurated By**: Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi
- **Location**: Abu Dhabi, UAE

Academic Program

- **Inaugural Batch**: 52 students enrolled
- **Courses Offered**:
  - **Computer Science and Engineering**
  - **Energy Engineering**

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

- **Location**: Stanford University, California
- **Dates**: September 9-10, 2024
- **Organizers**:
  - U.S.-India Strategic and Partnership Forum (USISPF)
  - Stanford University's Gordian Knot Centre for National Security Innovation
  - Hoover Institution

Theme

- **Focus**: "Harnessing investment opportunities to enhance cross-border defence innovation ecosystems"

Objective

- **Brainstorming**: Top defence leaders from both countries will discuss strategies to boost cross-border defence innovation and cooperation.

Background

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

INDIA PARTICIPATES IN BRICS LITERATURE FORUM 2024 IN RUSSIA

- **Location**: Kazan, Russia
- **Theme**: "World Literature in the New Reality"
- **Year of Inception**: 2016

Objective of the BRICS Literature Forum

- **Literary Exchange**: Foster cultural and literary collaboration among BRICS countries – Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa.
- **Translation Initiatives**: Promote translation of literary works to enhance appreciation of diverse languages and cultures across member nations.

INDIA SIGNS CHARTER AND MOU FOR COLOMBO SECURITY CONCLAVE SECRETARIAT

- **Signing Ceremony**: Held in Colombo, Sri Lanka
- **Participants**: India, Maldives, Mauritius, and Sri Lanka
- **Documents Signed**: Charter and Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the establishment of the **Colombo Security Conclave (CSC) Secretariat**
- **Indian Representative: National Security Advisor: Ajit Doval**
- **Focus**: Address security and stability challenges in the Indian Ocean Region

Five Pillars of Cooperation under CSC

- **Maritime Safety and Security**
- **Countering Terrorism and Radicalisation**
- **Combating Trafficking and Transnational Organised Crime**
- **Cyber Security**
- **Protection of Critical Infrastructure and Technology**
- **Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR)**

INDIA SIGNS CHARTER AND MOU FOR COLOMBO SECURITY CONCLAVE SECRETARIAT

- **Signing Ceremony**: Held in Colombo, Sri Lanka
- **Participants**: India, Maldives, Mauritius, and Sri Lanka
- **Documents Signed**: Charter and Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the establishment of the **Colombo Security Conclave (CSC) Secretariat**

Indian Representative

- **National Security Advisor**: Ajit Doval

Objective of the Colombo Security Conclave (CSC)

- **Focus**: Address security and stability challenges in the Indian Ocean Region

Five Pillars of Cooperation under CSC

- **Maritime Safety and Security**
- **Countering Terrorism and Radicalisation**
- **Combating Trafficking and Transnational Organised Crime**
- **Cyber Security**
- **Protection of Critical Infrastructure and Technology**
- **Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR)**

ALGERIA JOINS THE BRICS NEW DEVELOPMENT BANK (NDB)

- **New Member**: Algeria has been approved for membership in the BRICS New Development Bank (NDB).

About the NDB

- **Purpose**: Provides an alternative to international financial institutions such as the World Bank and IMF.
- **New Members**: Recent additions include Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, Iran, and Saudi Arabia.
- **Former Name**: Previously known as the BRICS Development Bank.

Background

- **Establishment**: The NDB was officially established as a legal entity in 2015 by the BRICS countries: Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa.
- **Headquarters**: Located in Shanghai, China.
- **Membership**: Open to any member of the United Nations.

INDIA MAKES ITS MARK AT INAUGURAL GULFOOD GREEN

- **Event Name**: Inaugural Gulfood Green
- **Location**: Dubai World Trade Centre
- **Focus**: Dedicated to sustainability and cutting-edge technologies in the food and beverage industry
- **Attendance**: Tens of thousands of visitors from around the globe

Key Highlights

- **Food for Future Summit**: A significant feature of the event
- **Indian Representation**:
  - Led by the **Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)**
  - **Regional Director**: Pritee Chaudhary represented India at the event

10TH WORLD FZO CONGRESS BEGINS IN DUBAI

- **Event**: 10th Annual World Free Zones Organisation (World FZO) Congress
- **Location**: Dubai
- **Dates**: September 23rd to 25th
- **Theme**: "Zones and the Shifting Global Economic Structures – Unlocking New Investment Avenues"

Objectives

- **Exploration**: Focus on the latest trends, emerging technologies, and innovations shaping the free zones sector.

About Free Zones

- **Definition**: Areas exempt from customs regulations with special economic designations.
- **Alternate Names**: Also referred to as free trade zones or special economic zones (SEZs).
- **Purpose**:
  - Encourage trade and economic activity
  - Reduce or eliminate taxes for companies operating in these zones

WORLD'S LARGEST LOW-CARBON HYDROGEN FACILITY TO BE BUILT IN TEXAS THROUGH ADNOC-EXXONMOBIL PARTNERSHIP

- **Collaborators**:
  - Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC)
  - ExxonMobil, a U.S.-based multinational oil and gas corporation

Project Highlights

- **Location**: Texas, USA
- **Objective**: Convert U.S.-produced natural gas into hydrogen with minimal carbon emissions.
- **Carbon Reduction**: Approximately 98% of associated CO_2 emissions will be removed.
- **Production Capacity**: Up to **1 billion cubic feet of low-carbon hydrogen** per day, making it the largest such facility globally.

UAE COMPLETES FIRST ARAB NUCLEAR POWER PLANT: BARAKAH NUCLEAR ENERGY PLANT

- **Name**: Barakah Nuclear Energy Plant
- **Location**: Al Dhafra, Abu Dhabi
- **Significance**:
  - First nuclear power facility in the Arab world
  - Consists of **four reactors** providing **25% of the UAE's electricity**

Operational and Environmental Impact

- **Operational Since**: 2020
- **Impact**:
  - Supports various industries
  - Reduces dependence on fossil fuels

UAE's Clean Energy Goals

- **Net Zero Target**: 2050
- **Clean Energy Goal**: 50% of total energy from clean sources by 2050

OIL-RICH UAE COMPLETES ARAB WORLD'S FIRST NUCLEAR PLANT: BARAKAH NUCLEAR ENERGY PLANT

- **Name**: Barakah Nuclear Energy Plant
- **Location**: Al Dhafra, Abu Dhabi
- **Developer**: Emirates Nuclear Energy Corporation (ENEC)
- **Significance**: First nuclear power plant in the Arab world

Impact and Clean Energy Goals

- **Clean Energy Contribution**: A critical step toward the UAE's goal of meeting **50% of its electricity needs from renewable sources by 2050**
- **Strategic Importance**: Diversifies the UAE's energy mix, reducing dependence on fossil fuels despite its oil-rich status

SOUTH AFRICA ANNOUNCES TRUSTED TOUR OPERATOR SCHEME (TTOS) TO BOOST TOURISM FROM INDIA

- **Scheme Name**: Trusted Tour Operator Scheme (TTOS)
- **Launch Date**: Implementation from **January 2025**
- **Focus Markets**: India and China

Objective

- **Visa System Reform**: Streamline the visa process to facilitate easier travel
- **Tourism Sector Growth**: Expected to increase job opportunities in tourism

Key Features

- **Vetted Tour Operators**: Approved operators from India and China will be invited to register with South Africa's tourism department.
- **Group Visa Processing**: For the first time, the Department will handle group visa applications for tourists traveling with registered operators.

SUPER TYPHOON YAGI: ASIA'S MOST POWERFUL STORM IN 2024

- **Name**: Yagi (Japanese for "goat" and the **Capricornus constellation**)
- **Impact Region**:
  - Made landfall in **northern Vietnam**
  - Affected areas in the **Philippines** and **China's Hainan Island**

Context and Recent Developments

- **Related Event**: Last week, **Typhoon Shanshan** struck **south-western Japan**, marking the country's strongest storm in decades.

Climate Change and Typhoons

- **Impact of Climate Change**:
  - Increasing typhoon **strength and frequency**
  - **Warmer ocean waters and atmosphere** provide more energy and moisture, leading to:
  - Higher wind speeds
  - Intense rainfall

INDIA LAUNCHES OPERATION SADBHAV TO AID TYPHOON YAGI-AFFECTED COUNTRIES

- **Impact**: A deadly and destructive tropical cyclone that devastated parts of Southeast Asia.
- **Affected Region**: Northern Vietnam was among the hardest hit by the storm.

Operation Sadbhav: Humanitarian Assistance by India

- **Objective**: Provide relief and support to communities in northern Vietnam impacted by Typhoon Yagi.
- **Recipient**: Assistance extended to the **Government of Vietnam**.
- **HADR Effort**: Operation Sadbhav aligns with India's commitment to **Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR)** in the ASEAN region.

Strategic Significance

- **Part of India's Act East Policy**: Strengthening ties and cooperation with Southeast Asian nations through timely assistance and regional engagement.

TYPHOON BEBINCA: STRONGEST STORM TO HIT SHANGHAI SINCE 1949

- **Name**: Typhoon Bebinca
- **Affected Areas**:
  - **Shanghai**
  - **China's densely populated east coast**
  - **Historical Significance**:
  - **Strongest storm** to impact Shanghai since **Typhoon Gloria** in **1949**

Current Situation

- The storm caused severe disruption across the region, with heavy rainfall and high winds affecting infrastructure, transportation, and communities.
- This event underscores the increasing intensity of storms along China's coast, influenced by changing climatic patterns.

STORM BORIS CAUSES SEVERE FLOODING ACROSS EUROPE

- **Name**: Storm Boris
- **Type**: Slow-moving low-pressure system
- **Impact Region**:
  - **Poland**
  - **Romania**
  - **Austria**
  - **Czech Republic**
  - **Hungary**

Destruction and Rainfall

- **Torrential Rain**: Dumped **a month's worth of rain** in just **one day** across affected regions.
- **Strong Winds**: Accompanied the heavy rains, causing further damage and disruption.

Reasons for the Storm's Intensity

1. **Moisture Source**:
   - Warm seas from the **Black Sea** and **Mediterranean** contributed excess moisture.
   - Combined with **chilly air from the north**, leading to intense rainfall.
2. **Blocked Weather Pattern**:
   - **Low-pressure area** trapped between high-pressure zones to the **east and west**, preventing the storm from moving quickly.

The blocked weather pattern intensified the storm's impact, causing widespread flooding across the region.

TROPICAL STORM HELENE INTENSIFIES, EXPECTED TO BECOME A MAJOR HURRICANE

- **Name**: Tropical Storm Helene
- **Current Location**: **Caribbean Sea**, moving **north along Mexico's coast**
- **Forecast**:

- ❖ Expected to **strengthen into a major hurricane** (Category 3 or higher)
- ❖ Anticipated to affect areas along the **U.S. coast**

Characteristics of Hurricanes

- ➢ **Definition**:
  - ❖ A hurricane is a powerful tropical storm with **strong winds, heavy rainfall**, and **low atmospheric pressure**.
- ➢ **Regional Terminology**:
  - ❖ **Atlantic Ocean & Eastern North Pacific**: **Hurricanes**
  - ❖ **Northwestern Pacific**: **Typhoons**
  - ❖ **South Pacific & Indian Ocean**: **Cyclones**
- ➢ This rapid intensification highlights the increasing unpredictability of storms in the region, with potential for severe damage along its projected path.

RECENT TYPHOONS AND HURRICANES IMPACTING ASIA AND THE AMERICAS

- ➢ **Location**: Shanghai, China
- ➢ **Event**: Shanghai was battered by **Typhoon Pulasan**, just days after the impact of **Typhoon Bebinca**.
- ➢ **Status**:
  - ❖ Pulasan is the **14th typhoon** of the year.
  - ❖ It made its **second landfall** in Shanghai after first hitting **Zhejiang Province**.

'Zombie' Hurricane John

- ➢ **Location**: Mexico's southwestern coast
- ➢ **Event**: **Hurricane John** has re-strengthened and is bringing rain to the area.
- ➢ **Term**: Referred to as a **"zombie" storm**, a term coined by the **U.S. National Weather Service** in 2020 for systems that dissipate and then strengthen again.

Typhoon Krathon

- ➢ **Location**: Northernmost islands of the Philippines
- ➢ **Forecast**: Could strengthen into a **super typhoon** as it changes direction toward **Taiwan**.
- ➢ **Context**:
  - ❖ The Philippines experiences about **20 storms and typhoons** annually.
  - ❖ The country is located in the **"Pacific Ring of Fire,"** an area prone to volcanic eruptions and earthquakes.
- ➢ These weather events highlight the increasing frequency and intensity of storms in various regions, underscoring the importance of preparedness and response strategies.

TALIBAN SUSPENDS POLIO VACCINATION CAMPAIGNS IN AFGHANISTAN

- ➢ The **Taliban** has suspended polio vaccination campaigns in **Afghanistan**.
- ➢ **Context**: Afghanistan and **Pakistan** are the only two countries in the world where the **spread of polio** has not been eradicated.

Polio Overview

- ➢ **India's Status**: India was declared **polio-free** by the **World Health Organization (WHO)** in **2014**, with the last wild poliovirus case reported in **2011**.
- ➢ **Nature of the Disease**:
  - ❖ Polio is a **viral infectious disease** that can cause **irreversible paralysis** and even death by affecting the **nervous system**.
  - ❖ The disease spreads through the **fecal-oral route** and can multiply in the **intestine**.
  - ❖ It predominantly affects **children under five** years of age.

Wild Poliovirus Strains

- ➢ There are three distinct strains of wild poliovirus:
  - ❖ **Wild Poliovirus Type 1 (WPV1)**
  - ❖ **Wild Poliovirus Type 2 (WPV2)**
  - ❖ **Wild Poliovirus Type 3 (WPV3)**
- ➢ This suspension of vaccination efforts poses significant risks to public health and highlights the challenges of achieving global polio eradication.

THAILAND TO ALLOW SAME-SEX COUPLES TO MARRY IN JANUARY 2025

- ➢ **Legalization**: Thailand has officially enacted its landmark **marriage equality bill**, allowing same-sex couples to legally marry.
- ➢ **Effective Date**: The new law will take effect in **January 2025**.
- ➢ **Regional Milestone**: Thailand becomes the **third country in Asia** to legalize same-sex marriage, following **Taiwan** and **Nepal**.

Bill Provisions

- ➢ The legislation ensures **full legal**, **financial**, and **medical rights** for marriage partners of any gender, promoting equality and protection for same-sex couples in Thailand.
- ➢ This progressive move marks a significant step toward LGBTQ+ rights and equality in the region.

JORDAN BECOMES THE FIRST LEPROSY-FREE NATION

- **WHO Declaration**: The World Health Organization (WHO) has declared **Jordan** as the first country in the world to eliminate leprosy.
- **Record of Cases**: Jordan has not reported any **autochthonous cases of leprosy** for over **two decades**.
- **WHO Leadership**: The announcement was made by WHO Director-General **Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus**.

About Leprosy

- **Definition**: Leprosy, also known as **Hansen's disease**, is a chronic infectious disease caused by the bacteria **Mycobacterium leprae**.
- **Impact**: The disease primarily affects the **skin** and **peripheral nerves** and is more common in tropical and subtropical regions.
- **Classification**: It is classified as a **neglected tropical disease (NTD)**.

Transmission and Treatment

- **Transmission**: Leprosy is transmitted via **droplets** from the **nose and mouth** during close and frequent contact with untreated cases.
- **Treatment**: The disease is **curable** with **multidrug therapy (MDT)**, and early treatment can prevent disability.
- **Jordan's achievement** in eliminating leprosy marks a significant milestone in public health and serves as an example for other nations in the fight against infectious diseases.

BRITAIN TO BECOME FIRST G7 COUNTRY TO END COAL POWER

- **Closure of Last Plant**: Britain's last coal power plant, **Uniper's Ratcliffe-on-Soar**, is set to close, marking the end of over **140 years** of coal power generation in the country.
- **Historical Milestone**: This closure signifies a significant shift in Britain's energy policy and its commitment to sustainable energy sources.

About G7

- **G7 Definition**: The **Group of Seven (G7)** is a coalition of the world's most developed and advanced economies.
- **Member Countries**: The G7 consists of **France, Germany, Italy, the United Kingdom, Japan, the United States,** and **Canada**.
- Britain's move to end coal power places it at the forefront of the global transition towards cleaner energy and demonstrates its leadership within the G7 in combating climate change

NATO TO ESTABLISH NEW LAND COMMAND IN FINLAND

- **Location**: The new NATO land command will be set up in **Mikkeli**, a city close to Finland's **1,340-kilometre**border with Russia.
- **Purpose**: This command will oversee northern European land operations during potential conflicts.
- **Timeline**: The establishment is planned for **2025**.

Context

- **NATO Membership**: Finland joined NATO in **2023**, following Russia's invasion of Ukraine in **2022**.
- **Finland Overview**:
  - **Capital**: Helsinki
  - **Currency**: Euro (€) (EUR)

Geographical Borders of Finland

- **North**: Bordered by **Norway**
- **East**: Bordered by **Russia**
- **South**: Bordered by the **Gulf of Finland**
- **Southwest**: Bordered by the **Gulf of Bothnia**
- **Northwest**: Bordered by **Sweden**

NATO Overview

- **Formation**: Established in **1949** with the signing of the **Washington Treaty**.
- **Membership**:
  - Finland is the **31st** member of NATO.
  - Sweden is set to become the **32nd** member in **2024**.
- **Headquarters**: Located in **Brussels, Belgium**.
- **Composition**: A security alliance comprising **32 countries** from North America and Europe.

INDIA AT THE 19TH EAST ASIA SUMMIT

- **Date & Location**: **11 October 2024**, **Vientiane, Lao PDR.**
- **Purpose**: Highlight India's commitment to collaboration in the **Indo-Pacific region.**

India's Role in the Indo-Pacific

- **ASEAN's Importance**: Emphasis on **ASEAN's role** in shaping the region's future.
- **Pacific Vision**: Focus on collaboration with **Quad nations (India, Australia, Japan, and the US)** to **promote peace.**

Act East Policy

- **Objective**: Strengthen relations with **Southeast Asia**.
- **Key Message**: Advocate for a free, open, and inclusive **Indo-Pacific** to ensure collective growth and prosperity.

Support for East Asia Summit

- **EAS Mechanism**: Reaffirmation of India's support for the East Asia Summit.
- **Educational Initiatives**: Acknowledgment of support for reviving Nalanda University; invitation for Heads of Higher Education Conclave to enhance cooperation.

Promoting Dialogue and Diplomacy

- **Global Conflicts**: Emphasis on resolving issues affecting the Global South through dialogue and humanitarian solutions.
- **Call to Action**: Countries urged to collaborate on global threats like terrorism and cybersecurity.

Expressions of Gratitude

- **Acknowledgments**: Thanks to Laos for hosting; support for Malaysia as new ASEAN Chair.
- **Commitment**: Reaffirmation of India's dedication to working with ASEAN and regional partners for mutual growth.

About the East Asia Summit

- **Established**: In **2005** to enhance regional cooperation.
- **Members**: 18 countries, including **10 ASEAN members**, **India, China, Japan, South Korea, Australia, and New Zealand.**
- **Focus Areas**: Security, economic growth, sustainable development, and promoting dialogue over military conflict.

PRESIDENT MURMU'S HISTORIC VISIT TO AFRICA

- **President Droupadi Murmu** visited **Suriname** and **Serbia**, marking a pivotal step in strengthening bilateral ties.

Key Areas of Focus:

- **Trade and Investment:** Discussed economic cooperation, especially in agriculture, pharmaceuticals, and renewable energy.
- **Education and Health:** Promoted collaborative efforts in education, skill development, and healthcare.
- **Technology and Culture:** Emphasized cultural exchanges and technology-driven initiatives.

Significance:

- Reaffirmed India's commitment to Africa under the **South-South cooperation** framework.
- Strengthened diplomatic, economic, and cultural partnerships to ensure mutual growth and development.
- This visit underscores India's evolving role in global geopolitics, highlighting its focus on sustainable partnerships with African nations.

PRESIDENT MURMU'S HISTORIC VISIT TO ALGERIA, MAURITANIA, AND MALAWI (OCT 13-19, 2024)

Algeria (Oct 13-15):

- Bilateral talks with President **Abdelmadjid Tebboune**.
- Address to the **India-Algeria Economic Forum** and inauguration of **India Corner** at **Hamma Garden.**
- Focus on cooperation in **oil, gas, defense, and space**.

Mauritania (Oct 16):

- Meetings with **President Mohamed Ould Cheikh El Ghazouani** and other officials.
- Engagement with the Indian community to strengthen ties.

Malawi (Oct 17-19):

- Bilateral talks with **President Lazarus Chakwera**.
- Meetings with trade leaders and visits to cultural landmarks.

Significance:

- **First-ever** visit by an **Indian head of state to these nations**.
- Reinforces India's partnership with **Africa,** aligned with the **G20 inclusion** of the African Union.
- Strengthens cooperation under the **Global South framework**.

DRAGON DRONES AND THERMITE: A NEW THREAT IN WARFARE

- **Dragon drones** are unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) designed to drop **thermite**, a highly combustible substance composed of **aluminum and iron oxide**.
- When ignited, thermite burns at temperatures exceeding **2,400 degrees Celsius**, capable of melting through various materials, including **metals and military vehicles.**
- Originally created for industrial applications like **welding**, thermite's destructive power makes it dangerous in warfare.

How Does Thermite Work?

- **Thermite** is ignited using an electric spark, initiating a chemical reaction that generates intense heat.
- The reaction is **self-sustaining**, continuing until all thermite is consumed.
- It can burn through objects like **fabric, wood, and metal** and is challenging to extinguish, posing severe risks in combat situations.

Effectiveness of Dragon Drones in Warfare

- Dragon drones combine precise targeting capabilities with t**hermite's destructive potential.**

- They can **bypass traditional defenses** by delivering thermite directly onto targets from the air, making them highly effective and difficult to counter.
- Concerns have been raised by anti-war groups, such as Action on Armed Violence, regarding the risks these weapons pose in modern combat.

Use in the Russia-Ukraine Conflict

- The first deployment of dragon drones in the **Russia-Ukraine conflict** occurred around September, with Ukrainian forces using them to burn vegetation and flush out Russian troops.
- In response, Russian forces also developed and deployed their dragon drones, marking their significance in the ongoing conflict.

Historical Use of Thermite

- Thermite has a long-standing history in warfare:
  - **World War I**: Used by German zeppelins for aerial bombardment.
  - **World War II**: Utilized by both Allied and Axis forces in bombs and grenades to destroy enemy equipment and positions.

Legal Status in Warfare

- There are currently no international laws specifically banning thermite's use in war.
- However, using thermite and other incendiary weapons against civilians is restricted under the **Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons** to prevent unnecessary suffering.
- Its application in military operations remains legally permitted under existing laws, despite concerns about its potential for misuse.

INDIA BECOMES AFFILIATE MEMBER OF IMDRF

- **Date**: **October 3, 2024.**
- **Body**: India's Union Health Ministry announced the country's affiliation with the **International Medical Device Regulators Forum (IMDRF).**

What is the IMDRF?

- **Formation**: Established in **2011.**
- **Purpose**: A global group focused on regulating medical devices for safety and uniform standards.
- **Key Members**: Includes the **U.S., EU, Japan, and WHO**.

India's Membership Application

- **Application**: Submitted in **2024** by the **Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO).**
- **Objective**: Align Indian regulations with international standards to enhance quality and safety of domestic medical devices.

Approval Process

- **Review**: India's application was assessed during the **26th IMDRF session in September 2024 in Seattle.**
- **Outcome**: IMDRF Management Committee approved India's affiliate membership request.

Implications of Membership

- **Collaboration**: Enhanced opportunities to work with other countries on medical device regulations.
- **Goal**: Improve patient safety and elevate India's position in the global medical device market.

About IMDRF

- **Mission**: Improve regulation of medical devices worldwide.
- **Guidelines**: Focus on risk management and medical software, including concepts like "e-labeling" for digital labels.
- **Meetings**: Convene every three months to monitor project progress. Members include **FDA (U.S.), EMA (Europe), and Health Canada.**

COP16 BIODIVERSITY CONFERENCE: KEY CONCERNS AND DEVELOPMENTS

- **Event**: COP16 biodiversity conference
- **Dates**: October 21 to November 1, 2024
- **Concern**: Only 10% of countries have met their commitments to protect biodiversity.

Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF)

- **Adoption**: Established by 196 countries.
- **Goal**: To halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030.
- **Purpose**: Serves as a guide for countries to strengthen their actions towards biodiversity protection.

Monitoring Progress: NBSAP Tracker

- **Creator**: Developed by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF).
- **Function**: Tracks countries' development of National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (NBSAPs) in line with GBF goals.

Status of National Plans

- **Current Status (June 2024)**:
  - Only 20 countries have fully updated their NBSAPs.
  - 9 countries and the European Union have officially submitted their plans.
  - 186 countries, including India, have yet to report updated strategies.

Challenges Faced by Countries

- Lack of funding for biodiversity initiatives.
- Insufficient collaboration across government sectors.
- Environmental ministries struggle to enact changes in key sectors like agriculture and industry.

Importance of NBSAPs

- **Function**: Outline national strategies to combat biodiversity loss and meet global targets.
- **Criticism**: Many NBSAPs lack clear goals and adequate funding, reducing their effectiveness.

Positive Trends

- **Increased Involvement**: Growing participation from civil society, indigenous groups, and local communities in biodiversity planning efforts.

NBSAP Tracker Details

- **Scope**: Over 190 countries have created **NBSAPs.**
- **Data**: Contains information on more than 2,500 biodiversity-related actions.
- **Updates**: Plans are updated every five years to align with biodiversity targets and raise awareness of the link between biodiversity and climate change.

STRENGTHENING INDIA-MALDIVES TIES: MODI & MUIZZU MEETING

- **Objective:** Strengthen the existing close relationship between India and the Maldives.
- **Focus:** Establish a Comprehensive Economic and Maritime Security Partnership aimed at improving the lives of people in the Indian Ocean Region.

Key Areas of Cooperation

- **Political and Parliamentary Engagement:** Agreement to enhance political cooperation through:
  - Increased leadership, ministerial, and parliamentary exchanges.
  - Signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to boost parliamentary collaboration.
- **Developmental Partnership:** Commitment to key projects addressing Maldives' needs:
  - Housing support and social housing initiatives.
  - Timely completion of the Greater Malé Connectivity Project.
  - Construction of a new commercial port to alleviate congestion at Malé port.
  - Development of transshipment and bunkering facilities for shipping and logistics.
  - **Trade and Economic Cooperation:** Agreements to:
  - Initiate talks on a Bilateral Free Trade Agreement.
  - Use local currencies for trade transactions to enhance trade flow.
  - Promote bilateral investments and improve the business environment.
- **Digital and Financial Cooperation:** Collaboration on digital services for improved governance, including:
  - Introduction of India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) in the Maldives.
  - Mutual recognition of digital identities for easier transactions.
- **Health Cooperation:** Plans to enhance healthcare services:
  - Improve access to quality healthcare.
  - Establish Jan Aushadhi Kendras for affordable medicines.
  - Collaborate on mental health services and research.
- **Capacity Building and Training**
  - Training for civil servants and local government officials in the Maldives.
  - Provision of skill training for women.
  - Launch of a Start-up Incubator to foster youth entrepreneurship.
- **People-to-People Linkages**
  - Commitment to boost educational and cultural exchanges:
  - Establishment of educational institutions and skill development centers to strengthen partnerships.

Conclusion

- The meeting between Prime Minister Modi and President Muizzu marks a significant advancement in India-Maldives relations, emphasizing mutual growth, stability, and the well-being of their citizens for long-term benefits.

INDO-PACIFIC REGIONAL DIALOGUE (IPRD) 2024

- **Location**: New Delhi
- **Theme**: "Resource Geopolitics and Security in the Indo-Pacific"

Purpose of the IPRD

- **Strategic Platform**: Created by the **Indian Navy** to address maritime security issues in the Indo-Pacific.
- **Encourages Cooperation**: Aims to tackle challenges like piracy, resource competition, and security threats in the region.

Focus of This Year's Theme

- **Marine Resources**: Discussion on the impact of traditional resources (oil and gas) and newer resources (rare minerals) on global politics and security.
- **Resource Competition**: Highlights the competition among countries for control over these vital resources.

Importance of Offshore Energy Resources

- **Geopolitical Role**: Offshore hydrocarbons will shape global geopolitics as extraction and management technologies develop.
- **Sustainable Use**: IPRD discussions will focus on securing and sustainably utilizing these resources.

Government Involvement

- **Key Speaker**: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh is expected to address the conference, emphasizing the government's commitment to maritime security.

Impact on Future Policies

- **Influence on Policy**: Discussions may guide future resource management and security policies in the Indo-Pacific.
- **International Cooperation**: Ideas shared could help formulate strategies to address regional and global geopolitical trends.

About the Indo-Pacific Regional Dialogue

- **Inception**: Launched by India in 2018.
- **Objectives**: Promotes maritime security, economic cooperation, and regional stability.
- **Participants**: Involves policy-makers, defense experts, and scholars.
- **Challenges Addressed**: Focuses on emerging issues like piracy, climate change, and technological advancements.
- **Supports Act East Policy**: Strengthens ties with countries like Japan, Australia, and the United States for enhanced cooperation in the Indo-Pacific.

DROUGHT CRISIS IN THE NEGRO RIVER

- **Significant Event**: The Negro River, crucial to the Amazon River system, is experiencing its worst drought in over 122 years.
- **Current Water Levels**: On October 4, 2024, water levels in Manaus dropped to **12.66 meters**, significantly lower than the usual **21 meters**.

Record Low Water Levels

- **Historical Context**: This is the lowest water level ever recorded, surpassing the previous year's record.
- **Rainfall Predictions**: Experts warn that expected rainfall in the river's feeding areas will be very low, potentially worsening the situation.

Expert Predictions

- **Forecast**: Water expert Andre Martinelli indicates that river levels are likely to continue dropping throughout October, signaling a deepening drought.
- **Impact on Communities**: The drought is severely affecting local residents, complicating daily activities such as transporting goods and accessing clean water.

Broader Environmental Crisis

- **Amazon Basin Crisis**: The drought in the Negro River is part of a larger environmental and humanitarian crisis in the Amazon, highlighting climate change challenges and water resource management vulnerabilities.

About the Negro River

- **Length**: Approximately **2,250 kilometers** long, the **Negro River** is known for its **dark, organic material-rich waters.**
- **Ecosystem**: It hosts the **world's largest blackwater system**, supporting **unique wildlife**, including **pink dolphins**, and **flows through biodiverse rainforests**.
- **Indigenous Communities**: The river is **home to Indigenous peoples** like the Yanomami and Baniwa.
- **Natural Phenomenon**: The meeting point of the **Negro River** and the **Amazon River** is a notable sight where the two differently colored waters flow side by side without mixing.

16TH BRICS SUMMIT

- BRICS is a coalition promoting cooperation among emerging economies.
- Initially consisting of **Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa**, the group has expanded to include **Iran, Egypt, Ethiopia, and UAE**.
- The expansion reflects BRICS' growing influence and focus on addressing global challenges through collaboration.

Key Agendas for the Summit

- PM Modi's visit highlights India's vision for a multipolar world to tackle global challenges effectively.
- Leaders will adopt the Kazan Declaration, outlining future cooperation.

Bilateral Meetings

- Modi will engage with **Chinese President Xi Jinping**, **Turkey's Erdogan, and Iran's Masoud Pezeshkian.**
- Discussions will focus on trade, diplomacy, and mutual cooperation.

Ukraine Conflict and Trade Relations with Russia

- **Modi will meet Russian President Putin** to discuss the **Ukraine conflict and explore resolutions.**
- India aims to **boost bilateral trade with Russia to $100 billion by 2030**, with further sectoral targets to be set in November.

Cultural Exchanges

- Strengthening cultural ties, promoting Indian studies, films, and people-to-people exchanges are key priorities.

SHADOW FLEET IN THE RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

What is the Shadow Fleet?

- Refers to tanker ships transporting Russian crude oil, often violating sanctions.
- Western media implicates India as a hub for laundering Russian oil through this fleet.

Sanctions on Russia

- The U.S. imposed sanctions on Russian oil exports, including a price cap of $60 per barrel.
- Market prices exceeding this cap allow Russia to earn more than intended by the sanctions.

Global Shipping Industry Overview

- Greek owners hold 20% of the global fleet, with China surpassing Japan in ownership.
- Ships are built mainly in China, Japan, and South Korea, while insurance and regulations are centred in the U.K. and Europe.
- This complex structure makes it difficult to enforce sanctions.

Flag States and Ownership Evasion

- Ships register under Flags of Convenience (FoCs) like Panama and Liberia to obscure ownership and avoid scrutiny.
- Vessels often switch flags to evade sanctions, complicating tracking efforts.

Marine Insurance and Sanctions

- Protection and Indemnity (P&I) insurance covers maritime risks.
- P&I clubs, mainly based in London, pool risks but can revoke coverage for ships violating sanctions, disrupting operations.

ROME DECLARATION ON WATER SCARCITY IN AGRICULTURE

Adoption of the Rome Declaration

- On October 17, 2024, FAO member countries adopted the Rome Declaration during the High-Level Rome Water Dialogue, part of the FAO's World Food Forum (October 14-18).
- The declaration focuses on addressing water scarcity in agriculture, worsened by climate change.

Understanding Water Scarcity

- Water scarcity occurs when water resources are insufficient to meet demands.
- Agriculture consumes over 70% of global freshwater withdrawals.
- By 2050, more than half of the world's population is expected to face water scarcity for at least one month annually.

The WASAG Initiative

- Launched at the 2016 UN Climate Conference in Marrakesh, WASAG aims to manage water scarcity in agriculture.
- It unites governments, NGOs, and private partners to promote sustainable water use.

Commitments in the Rome Declaration

- Countries pledged to strengthen political support through policies, legal frameworks, and financial solutions.
- The declaration addresses climate-related challenges like floods and droughts that threaten food security.

Role of Family Farming

- Family farms, representing over 90% of global farms, produce 70-80% of the world's food.
- These farms play a key role in maintaining food security, preserving crop biodiversity, and managing natural resources sustainably.

PAKISTAN'S 26TH CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

- Approved by Pakistan's federal cabinet on **October 21, 2024**, after delays caused by political disputes.
- Seeks to reform the **judiciary** and adjust the **balance of power** between the political executive and judiciary.
- Now moves to **Senate** and **National Assembly** for discussions and voting.

Proposed Reforms in the Amendment

- **Curbing Suo Motu Powers**: Limits the Supreme Court's ability to take up cases on its own initiative.
- **Chief Justice Appointment**:

- ❖ The Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) will be appointed by a **parliamentary committee** from the three senior-most judges, replacing the seniority-based system.
- ❖ The **CJP's term** will be fixed at **three years**, after which they retire, regardless of age.

Judicial Appointment Process

- ➢ **Parliamentary Committee**: A **12-member panel** from the National Assembly and Senate will nominate the CJP.
- ➢ **Appointment Criteria**: Judges must have **15 years of experience** as senior lawyers.
- ➢ **Performance Reviews**: Annual evaluations of high court judges will be conducted, with underperformers referred to the **Supreme Judicial Council**.

Changes to Judicial Powers

- ➢ **Restricted Suo Motu Jurisdiction**: Limited to specific applications.
- ➢ **Constitutional Benches**: Established by the Judicial Commission to handle constitutional matters.

Political Challenges and Opposition

- ➢ **Two-thirds majority** needed in both houses (224 votes in National Assembly, 64 in Senate).
- ➢ The coalition government currently holds **213 seats** in the National Assembly and **52 in the Senate**, falling short of the required votes.
- ➢ **JUI-F support** is critical but uncertain, as they demand full disclosure of the bill's contents.

Concerns Over Judicial Independence

- ➢ Critics view the amendment as a **threat to judicial independence**, arguing it increases executive control over appointments.
- ➢ **Petitions** have been filed against the bill, alleging it undermines the **separation of powers**.
- ➢ **Lawyers' protests** in Balochistan reflect widespread opposition to the proposed changes.

Next Steps

- ➢ The amendment will be **debated and voted** upon in the National Assembly and Senate.
- ➢ Success depends on the coalition's ability to **secure additional votes** and **navigate political resistance**.

23RD SCO COUNCIL OF HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING (CHG)

- ➢ **Date & Location:** October 16, 2024, Islamabad, Pakistan
- ➢ **Focus:** Trade and economic cooperation within the SCO

India's Participation

- ➢ **Leader:** External Affairs Minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar
- ➢ **Significance:** First visit by an Indian foreign minister to Pakistan in 9 years despite bilateral tensions

SCO Overview

- ➢ **Founded:** 2001, Shanghai
- ➢ **Members:** 10 countries (including India, Pakistan, China, and Russia)
- ➢ **Observers:** Afghanistan, Mongolia
- ➢ **Key Bodies:** Secretariat in Beijing, Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) in Tashkent

EAM Jaishankar's Address

- ➢ **Challenges Highlighted:** Terrorism, separatism, extremism
- ➢ **Call for Reforms:** Advocated for UN Security Council reform and better representation of developing countries
- ➢ **Regional Cooperation:** Emphasized trade, energy, and connectivity within SCO
- ➢ **Subtle Criticism:** Referenced cross-border terrorism and the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)

India-Pakistan Diplomacy

- ➢ **Talks with Pakistan's Finance Minister:** Focus on improving relations, including potential resumption of cricket ties
- ➢ **Champions Trophy 2025:** India's participation under discussion, marking a possible cricket tour to Pakistan after 17 years

Election of Professor Shubha Tole as IBRO President-Elect

- ➢ **Date of Election:** October 6, 2024
- ➢ **Event:** IBRO's annual meeting held in Chicago.
- ➢ **Significance:** Professor Shubha Tole is the first president-elect from a developing country.

About the International Brain Research Organisation (IBRO)

- ➢ **Founded:** 1961
- ➢ **Purpose:** Supports the growth of neuroscience through education, training, research, and public outreach.
- ➢ **Membership:** Comprises 69 neuroscience societies from 57 countries.
- ➢ **Publications:** Publishes two major scientific journals:
  - ❖ **Neuroscience**
  - ❖ **IBRO Neuroscience Reports**
- ➢ This election highlights the importance of representation in global scientific organizations, especially from developing nations, and underscores IBRO's commitment to advancing neuroscience worldwide.

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, Williame 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 Mpox (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

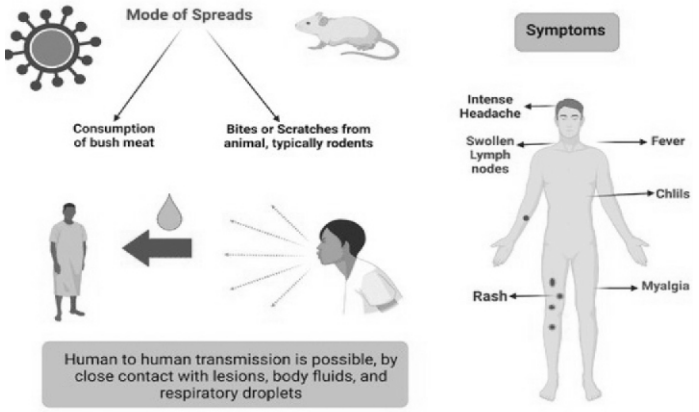
- Flu-like symptoms
- Skin rash lasting 2–4 weeks
- Accompanied by fever, headache, muscle aches, back pain, low energy, and swollen lymph nodes
- Can be fatal, with a mortality rate of 4 in 100 cases

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

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➢ **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.

PRACTICE MCQS

1. Which country hosted the sixth Quad Leaders' Summit on 21 September 2024?

a) India
b) Japan
c) United States
d) Australia

2. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the Global Operational Network of Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Authorities (GloBE)?

1. The GloBE Network was launched by the G20.
2. India has been a supporter of the GloBE initiative since its inception.
3. The current membership of the GloBE Network consists of 121 member countries.

Options:

a) 1 only
b) 2 only
c) 1 and 3 only
d) All of the above

3. With reference to India's recent membership in the Minerals Security Finance Network (MSFN), consider the following statements:

1. The MSFN is led by the United States to secure critical mineral supply chains for the clean energy transition.
2. The MSFN is an independent organization unrelated to any other international partnerships.
3. India joined the Minerals Security Partnership (MSP) in June 2023.

Options:

a) 1 and 2 only
b) 1 and 3 only
c) 2 and 3 only
d) 1, 2, and 3

4. With reference to PM Modi's participation in the 'Summit of the Future' held at the 79th session of the UNGA, consider the following statements:

1. The theme of the summit was **"Multilateral Solutions for a Better Tomorrow."**
2. The **Global Digital Compact** is the first global agreement to regulate digital technologies and artificial intelligence (AI).
3. The **Declaration on Future Generations** focuses on securing the well-being of future generations by restricting the use of natural resources.

Options:

a) 1 and 2 only
b) 1 and 3 only
c) 2 and 3 only
d) All of the above

5. With reference to Algeria's membership in the BRICS New Development Bank (NDB), consider the following statements:

1. Algeria has been approved as a new member of the BRICS New Development Bank.
2. The BRICS New Development Bank focuses on promoting sustainable development and infrastructure projects among its members.
3. Algeria was one of the founding members of the BRICS New Development Bank.

Options:

a) 1 and 2 only
b) 1 and 3 only
c) 2 and 3 only
d) All of the above

6. **Super Typhoon Yagi was seen recently in news hit which country**

a) USA
b) Vietnam
c) New Zealand
d) Oman

7. Which of the following became the first country in the world to eliminate leprosy?

a) Israel
b) USA
c) Jordan
d) Saudi Arabia

8. With reference to the Indo-Pacific Regional Dialogue (IPRD) 2024, consider the following statements:

1. The IPRD 2024 was held in New Delhi.
2. The theme of the event was **"Resource Geopolitics and Security in the Indo-Pacific."**
3. The IPRD is organized by the Ministry of Home Affairs to address maritime security challenges.

Options:

a) 1 and 2 only
b) 2 and 3 only
c) 1 and 3 only
d) All of the above

9. Consider the following statements regarding the 23rd SCO Council of Heads of Government (CHG) meeting held in Islamabad on October 16, 2024:

1. Iran and Belarus attended the summit as observer states.
2. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar criticized the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) for violating India's territorial integrity.
3. The SCO Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) is headquartered in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.
4. India discussed the possibility of participating in the Champions Trophy 2025, hosted by Pakistan, as part of cricket diplomacy.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

a) 1, 2, and 4 only
b) 2, 3, and 4 only
c) 1, 3, and 4 only
d) 2 and 3 only

10. What was the primary focus of the Rome Declaration adopted during the High-Level Rome Water Dialogue at the FAO's World Food Forum?

a) Improving agricultural productivity
b) Addressing water scarcity in agriculture
c) Promoting renewable energy sources
d) Enhancing international trade

ANSWERS

1. Answer: C. United States

2. **Answer: C.** 1 and 3 only
   - ❖ **Explanation:** The GloBE Network was launched by the G20, and it currently has 121 member countries. However, India supported the initiative in 2020, not at its inception.
3. **Answer: B.** 1 and 3 only
   - ❖ **Explanation: Statement 2** is incorrect: The MSFN is an extension of the Minerals Security Partnership (MSP).
4. **Answer:** A. 1 and 2 only
   - ❖ **Explanation: Statement 3** is incorrect: The Declaration on Future Generations emphasizes including the interests of future generations in current decision-making processes, not just restricting resource usage.
5. **Answer:** A. 1 and 2 only
   - ❖ **Explanation: Statement 3** is incorrect: Algeria was not one of the founding members of the NDB. The founding members are Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa (BRICS nations).

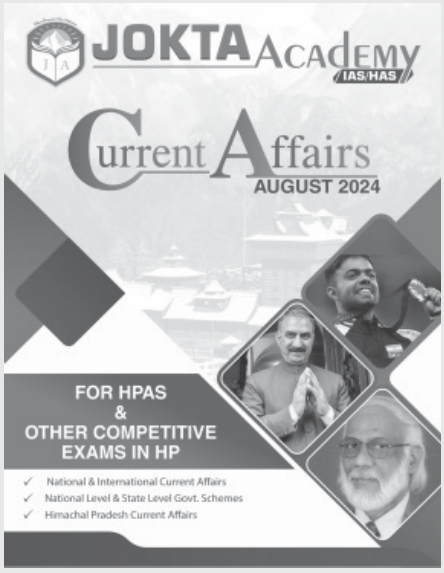
6. Answer: B. Vietnam
   - ❖ The World Health Organization (WHO) has declared **Jordan** as the first country in the world to eliminate leprosy.

7. Answer: C. Jordan

8. **Answer:** A. 1 and 2 only
   - ❖ **Explanation: Statement 3** is incorrect: The IPRD is organized by the Indian Navy, not the Ministry of Home Affairs, to promote discussions on maritime and security issues in the Indo-Pacific region.
9. **Answer:** B. **2, 3, and 4 only**
   - ❖ **Explanation: Statement 1** is incorrect: **Iran and Belarus** are **full members** of the SCO, with Belarus joining in 2024.

10. **Answer: B. Addressing water scarcity in agriculture**

SCAN FOR PREVIOUS ANNUAL MAGAZINE



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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.

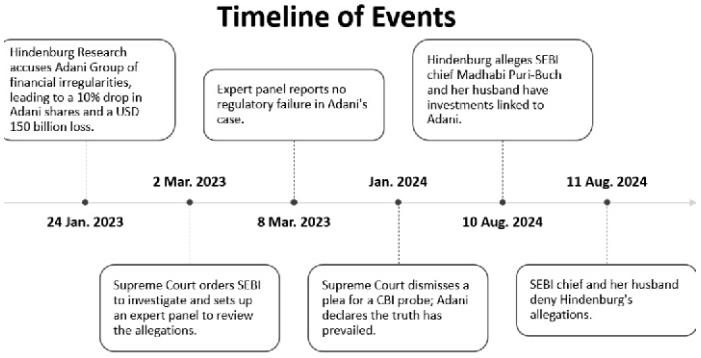
HINDENBURG RESEARCH ALLEGES SEBI CHIEF INVOLVEMENT IN ADANI SCANDAL

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.



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.

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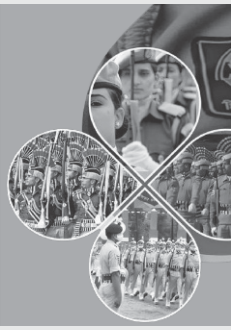

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SCIENCE AND TECH

NASA TO LAUNCH $5 BILLION EUROPA CLIPPER MISSION IN OCTOBER

- NASA is preparing to launch the **Europa Clipper spacecraft** on **October 10**.
- The **$5 billion** mission will focus on exploring **Europa**, one of **Jupiter's largest moons.**
- **Europa's Characteristics:**
  - Europa is slightly smaller than Earth's moon and has a surface made of **ice**.
  - Beneath its icy shell, scientists believe Europa likely harbors a **saltwater ocean**, which could contain **over twice as much water** as all the oceans on Earth combined.
- **Mission Objective:**
  - The Europa Clipper will investigate whether Europa's ocean could be a **suitable habitat for extra-terrestrial life**.

SPACEX AIMS TO LAUNCH UNCREWED STARSHIPS TO MARS IN TWO YEARS

- SpaceX plans to launch **uncrewed Starships** to **Mars** within the next **two years**.
- The primary objective is to test the **reliability of landing intact on Mars**.
- Future Crewed Missions:
  - If the uncrewed landings are successful, SpaceX aims to launch its first **crewed flights to Mars** within the next **four years**.

IRAN DEPLOYS CHAMRAN-1 SATELLITE

- **Chamran-1** satellite, weighing **60 kilograms**, has successfully reached a **550-kilometer orbit** in space.
- Mission Objective:
  - The main purpose of the satellite is to **test space hardware and software**.
- Statement:
  - **Iran President Masoud Pezezhkian** confirmed the deployment of the satellite.

SPACEX LAUNCHES ALL-CIVILIAN CREW FOR FIRST PRIVATE SPACEWALK

- A **SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket** lifted off from **Florida**, carrying **four civilians** into orbit for a historic mission.
- **Mission Overview:**
  - The mission, known as **Polaris Dawn**, aims to achieve the world's first **private spacewalk**.
  - This is a **five-day mission** and the first of **three testing and development missions** under the **Polaris Program**, jointly executed by **Isaacman** and **Elon Musk's SpaceX**.
- **Historical Context:**
  - The first-ever spacewalk was carried out on **March 18, 1965**, by Soviet cosmonaut **Alexei Leonov**.

EARTH'S SECOND MINI-MOON: 2024 PT5

- Earth will temporarily capture a small asteroid, **2024 PT5**, into its gravitational field.
- The asteroid, approximately **10 meters (33 feet)** in diameter, will orbit Earth from **September 29 to November 25**.
- **Origin and Discovery:**
  - 2024 PT5 originates from the **Arjuna asteroid belt**, a group of near-Earth objects (NEOs).
  - It was discovered on **August 7, 2024**, by the **Asteroid Terrestrial-impact Last Alert System (ATLAS)** at Haleakala Observatory in Hawaii.
- **Background on Asteroids:**
  - Asteroids, also referred to as **minor planets**, are rocky remnants from the early formation of the solar system, about **4.6 billion years ago**.
  - Most of these remnants can be found between **Mars and Jupiter**, within the **main asteroid belt**, orbiting the Sun.

THE RIG VEDA HOLDS THE OLDEST RECORD OF A TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE

- Astronomers have uncovered a reference to a **total solar eclipse** in the **Rig Veda**, dating back approximately **6,000 years**.
- This finding marks the **oldest known mention** of a solar eclipse.
- Rig Veda Background:
  - The **Rig Veda**, one of the oldest Hindu texts, is a collection of **sayings and hymns**.
  - It was compiled around **1500 B.C.** and remains a significant source of ancient knowledge.

The Four Vedas	
Rigveda	➢ Rigveda is the **oldest Veda**. ➢ Collection of **Vedic Sanskrit hymns** ➢ It also includes **Vishvamitra's** famous **Gayatri mantra**
Yajurveda	➢ Compilation of **ritual-offering formulas** that were said by a priest while an individual performed ritual actions.

	➢ **Yajur, meaning "worship" or "sacrifice"** and **Veda, meaning "knowledge"**. ➢ **Yajur Veda** is sometimes translated as **"Knowledge of the Sacrifice**
Samaveda	➢ The Samaveda is the **shortest** of all the four Vedas. ➢ Collection of **Rigvedic verses organised in the form of poetry to facilitate singing.**
Atharvaveda	➢ Compilation of **magical spells and charms** that are **used to ward off evil spirits and diseases.** ➢ concerned with sacred rituals, but **addresses the daily problems of Vedic people.** ➢ The Atharva Veda is **the latest** and contains **hymns** (some from the **Rig Veda**).

SATURN'S RINGS WILL BRIEFLY 'DISAPPEAR' IN MARCH 2025

- Saturn is tilted at an angle of **26.73 degrees** and takes about **29.4 Earth years** to complete one orbit around the Sun.
- For half of a **Saturn year** (roughly **15 Earth years**), the planet is tilted towards the Sun, and for the other half, it tilts away.
- **Ring Orientation:**
  - Saturn's rings are also tilted at the same angle as the planet. As Saturn orbits the Sun, the orientation of its rings changes when viewed from Earth.
  - Every **13 to 15 years**, the edge of Saturn's rings aligns directly with Earth.
- **2025 Event:**
  - In **March 2025**, the edge of Saturn's rings will align with Earth, causing the rings to appear nearly invisible.
  - Since the rings are extremely thin (just **tens of meters thick**), they will reflect very little light, making them difficult to see from Earth.
- **Previous Occurrence:**
  - This phenomenon last occurred in **2009** and will repeat in **2025**.

RARE DUNG BEETLE SPECIES DISCOVERED IN MEGHALAYA, INDIA

- Researchers from the **Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE)** have discovered a rare dung beetle species, **Onitis bordati**, near **Nongkhyllem Wildlife Sanctuary** in **Ri-Bhoi**.
- This is the **first time** the species has been documented in India, previously only found in **Vietnam** and **Thailand**.
- Nongkhyllem Wildlife Sanctuary:
  - Located in the **Eastern Himalayan Global biodiversity hot spot**, in **Ri-Bhoi district**, Meghalaya.
  - Part of the **Archaean Meghalaya Plateau**.
  - The **Umtrew River** is the main waterbody of the area.
- **Other Wildlife Sanctuaries in Meghalaya:**
  - Narpuh
  - Siju
  - Baghmara Pitcher Plant

INDIA LAUNCHES FIRST CANCER GENOMICS REPOSITORY

- The **Indian Cancer Genome Atlas (ICGA) Foundation** has launched a portal to serve as the first **cancer genomics repository** in India.
- Portal Features:
  - The portal will provide comprehensive data on cancer, including **DNA, RNA, and protein profiles** of **breast cancer patients**, integrated with **clinical outcomes**.
- Inspiration:
  - The initiative is inspired by the U.S.-based **The Cancer Genome Atlas (TCGA)**, which was launched in **2006**.

NEW COVID-19 VARIANT 'XEC' IDENTIFIED

- The new COVID-19 variant, named **XEC**, has spread to **27 countries** and is classified as **more contagious**.
- It was first identified in **Germany** in **June 2024**.
- **Lineage:**
  - **XEC** is a sublineage of the **Omicron variant** and is a hybrid of the **KS.1.1** and **KP.3.3** sub-variants.
- **Symptoms:**
  - Symptoms are similar to previous variants, resembling cold or flu-like symptoms, including:
  - High temperature
  - Aches
  - Tiredness
  - Cough
  - Sore throat

NEW WETLAND VIRUS (WELV) DISCOVERED IN CHINA

- A new virus named **Wetland Virus (WELV)** has been discovered in **China**.
- It belongs to the **orthonairovirus genus**, which is associated with **tick-borne viruses**.

- **Transmission and Impact:**
  - The virus spreads to humans through **tick bites**.
  - It has the potential to cause severe health issues, particularly affecting the **brain**.

WHO GRANTS FIRST MPOX VACCINE APPROVAL

- The **World Health Organization (WHO)** has prequalified the **Jynneos vaccine** by **Bavarian Nordic A/S** as the first approved vaccine for **mpox** on **September 13, 2024**.
- **Global Distribution:** This approval allows the vaccine to be **purchased and distributed** by **UN agencies** for global use.

WHAT ARE AI TOKENS?

- **AI tokens** are a type of **cryptocurrency** associated with **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** projects.
- **Recent Surge in Interest:**
  - Interest in AI tokens has risen, especially after reports of major tech companies like **Apple** and **Nvidiav** considering investments in **OpenAI**.
- **Functionality:**
  - AI tokens serve as a **payment method** within AI ecosystems, enabling users to pay for **services** or access specific **AI tools**.
- **Some well-known AI tokens include:**
  - Injective (INJ)
  - Render (RENDER)
  - Theta Token (THETA)
  - Oasis Network (ROSE)
  - SingularityNET (AGIX)
- These tokens are tied to AI-focused projects and are used within their respective ecosystems for services and tools related to **Artificial Intelligence**.

CPCRI TO RELEASE FLAVOURED READY-TO-DRINK COCONUT BEVERAGE

- The **Central Plantation Crops and Research Institute (CPCRI)**, located in **Kasaragod, Kerala**, operates under the **Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR)**.
- **Product Launch:**
  - A flavoured ready-to-drink coconut beverage, **'Kalpa Bliz'**, will be released at the **World Coconut Day**function held at the institute.
- **Coconut Varieties:**
  - The launch comes after the release of two **climate-resilient coconut varieties** by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** on **August 11, 2024**:
- **Kalpa Suvarna** and **Kalpa Shatabdi**, which are especially beneficial for **drought-affected regions** of **Kerala** and **Karnataka**.
  - Additionally, two other varieties were also introduced:
- **Kalpa Ratna**: A **drought-tolerant**, **multi-purpose** coconut variety suitable for **tender nut, copra,** and **sap production**.
- **Kalpa Vajra**: A variety **tolerant to root (wilt) disease**.

DISCOVERY OF VAST WATER RESERVOIR DEEP BENEATH EARTH'S SURFACE

- **Location**: Approximately 700 kilometers beneath the Earth's surface.
- **Size**: Potentially three times larger than all surface oceans combined.
- **Research Team**: Scientists from Northwestern University utilized advanced seismic analysis.
- **Methodology**: Analyzed data from over 2,000 seismographs and more than 500 earthquakes.
- **Findings**: Detected significant slowdown in seismic wave velocity at depth, indicating water presence.

Role of Ringwoodite

- **Mineral**: Water is trapped within a blue mineral called ringwoodite.
- **Property**: Ringwoodite absorbs water into its crystal structure, storing vast amounts in a compact form.

Implications for Earth's Water Cycle

- **Origins of Oceans**: Supports the theory that Earth's oceans may have originated from internal water storage rather than external sources like comets.
- **Stability**: Suggests the deep reservoir plays a crucial role in maintaining surface ocean stability over geological time.

Future Research Directions

- **Data Collection**: Plans to gather more seismic data globally to assess if mantle water is a widespread phenomenon.
- **Understanding Water Cycle**: Further studies could enhance knowledge of Earth's water cycle and the interactions between the planet's interior and surface.

WHO APPROVES ALINITY M MPXV ASSAY FOR MPOX TESTING

- **Approval Date**: October 3, 2024.
- **Purpose**: To enhance global access to testing for Mpox (formerly monkeypox) amidst rising cases, particularly in outbreak-affected regions.

Understanding Mpox

- **Nature of Infection**: Mpox is a viral infection that can lead to serious health complications.

- **Public Health Emergency**: In August 2024, WHO declared the rise in Mpox cases, particularly in Africa, a public health emergency.
- **Current Cases**: India has reported 30 cases as of now.

Current Testing Capacity

- **Labs in India**: 35 labs are equipped to test for Mpox.
- **Challenges in Africa**: Many African countries face limited testing facilities and delays, complicating efforts to contain the virus.
- **Reported Cases**: Over 30,000 suspected Mpox cases in Africa in 2024.

Diagnostic Testing Methods

- **Recommended Test**: PCR (Polymerase Chain Reaction) is the preferred method for confirming Mpox.
- **Alinity m MPXV Test**: A specific real-time PCR test detecting the virus's DNA in skin lesions (rash or blisters), requiring trained lab professionals.

Significance of EUL Listing

- **Emergency Use Listing (EUL)**: The approval under EUL allows for expedited access to critical diagnostic tools during public health emergencies.
- **Impact**: Expected to increase the availability and speed of Mpox testing, aiding in the rapid identification of cases and better outbreak management.
- This initiative aims to strengthen public health responses in regions most affected by Mpox, ensuring timely diagnosis and containment of the virus.

RE-ENTRY OF PSLV-C37 UPPER STAGE MARKS HISTORIC MILESTONE

- **Date of Re-Entry**: October 6, 2024
- **Mission Launch**: February 15, 2017
- **Organization**: Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)
- **Significance**: Set a world record by launching **104 satellites** in a single mission.

Mission Overview

- **Main Satellite**: Cartosat-2D
- **Other Satellites**: Included **103 additional satellites**, such as INS-1A and INS-1B.
- **Achievement**: Established ISRO as a leader in satellite launches globally.

Orbital Details

- **Initial Orbit**: Placed in an orbit approximately **470 kilometers high** and **494 kilometers wide**.
- **Monitoring**: Descent tracked by **US Space Command** (NORAD 42052).

Re-Entry Process

- **Altitude Loss**: By October 6, 2024, the upper stage's orbit shrank to around **134 kilometers by 148 kilometers**due to atmospheric drag.
- **Time of Re-Entry**: 15:49 UTC
- **Landing Location**: North Atlantic Ocean.

Compliance with Guidelines

- **Space Debris Management**: ISRO adhered to international guidelines from the **Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee (IADC)** for reducing space debris.
- **Guideline Summary**: Objects no longer active should remain in low Earth orbit for no longer than **25 years** after their mission.

Future Initiatives

- **Responsible Operations**: ISRO aims to reduce the orbital duration of PSLV upper stages to **five years or less**.
- **Controlled Re-Entry Plans**: Incorporating these plans in future missions to ensure compliance with space debris guidelines.
- **Debris Free Space Mission (DFSM)**: Targeting to achieve this by **2030** to ensure sustainable space activities and minimize debris.

About PSLV-C37

- **Launch Date**: February 15, 2017
- **Record**: Deployed **104 satellites** in one mission, showcasing the enhanced capabilities of the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle.
- **International Contribution**: Out of the 104 satellites, **101 were from foreign countries**, primarily the USA.
- **Main Satellite Function**: Cartosat-2 Series is utilized for **mapping and surveying**.
- **Impact**: Highlighted India's growing significance in the space industry, demonstrating ISRO's proficiency in accurately placing satellites in their intended orbits.

SUCCESSFUL RE-ENTRY OF PSLV-C37 UPPER STAGE

- **Date of Re-Entry:** October 6, 2024
- **Launch Date:** February 15, 2017
- **Record:** PSLV-C37 set a world record by launching 104 satellites in a single mission.
- **Main Satellite:** Cartosat-2D
- **Other Satellites:** Included INS-1A and INS-1B, totaling 104 satellites, with 101 from foreign countries, primarily the USA.

Orbital Details

- **Initial Orbit:** 470 km high and 494 km wide
- **Monitoring:** Tracked by US Space Command as NORAD 42052.

Re-Entry Process

- **Orbit at Re-Entry:** Approximately 134 km by 148 km due to atmospheric drag.
- **Re-Entry Time:** Occurred at 15:49 UTC.
- **Landing Location:** North Atlantic Ocean.

Compliance with Guidelines

- **Guidelines Followed:** Adhered to international guidelines for reducing space debris from the Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee (IADC).
- **Recommendation:** Objects should not remain in low Earth orbit for more than 25 years post-mission.

Future Initiatives

- **Reduction of Orbit Time:** ISRO aims to reduce the time PSLV upper stages spend in orbit to five years or less.
- **Controlled Re-Entry Plans:** Incorporating these plans in future missions to comply with space debris guidelines.
- **Goal:** Achieve a Debris Free Space Mission (DFSM) by 2030 to ensure sustainable space activities.

About PSLV-C37

- **Significance:** Highlighted India's growing role in the space industry.
- **Capabilities:** Demonstrated ISRO's ability to accurately place satellites in their intended orbits, reinforcing India's reputation in satellite launches.

JP NADDA ELECTED CHAIRPERSON OF WHO SOUTH-EAST ASIA REGION SESSION

- **Position**: India's Minister of Health, JP Nadda, elected as Chairperson for the 77th Session (RC77) of the World Health Organization (WHO) South-East Asia Region.
- **Event**: Annual meeting focusing on major health issues affecting over two billion people in the region.

What is the WHO South-East Asia Region?

- Comprises **11 countries**, including India, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka.
- Represents over **25% of the global population**.
- Faces unique health challenges due to its size and diversity.

Goals of the RC77 Session

- Identify **key health priorities**.
- Improve **healthcare access** for all.
- Develop plans to tackle **emerging health problems** and strengthen healthcare systems.

Challenges Faced by the Region

- **Rise of non-communicable diseases**: heart disease, diabetes, and mental health issues.
- **High rates of newborn and child mortality** (children under 5).
- **Antimicrobial resistance**: bacteria and viruses becoming resistant to medicines.
- Ongoing **tuberculosis crisis** affecting many in the region.

JP Nadda's Vision

- Emphasized the need for **collaboration** across countries.
- Advocated that "**health transcends borders**" to build better health systems.

Regional Roadmap

- Saima Wazed, WHO Regional Director for Southeast Asia, stressed the need for a **shared plan**.
- Focus on protecting **vulnerable populations**, such as children and older adults.

Key Initiatives for the Region

- Enhance preparedness for **emergencies** (e.g., pandemics).
- Increase **resource mobilization** (money, supplies, etc.) for health services.
- Address the **impact of climate change** on health.
- Ensure **Universal Health Coverage (UHC)** for all.

Call to Action

- Nadda urged participants to **collaborate** and generate **innovative ideas** to improve health in Southeast Asia.
- Emphasized the need to take action for a **healthier future** for the region.

INDIA'S LUNAR POLAR EXPLORATION MISSION (LUPEX)

- Following the success of **Chandrayaan-3** in August 2023, India›s National Space Commission has approved the **Lunar Polar Exploration Mission (Lupex)**.
- A collaborative effort between **ISRO** (India) and **JAXA** (Japan) aimed at exploring the Moon›s resources, particularly water at the lunar south pole.

Objectives of the Lupex Mission:

- **Main goal:** Investigate water and other vital resources on the Moon.
- Key questions:
  - How much water is present?

- ❖ Where is it located?
- ❖ Is it on the surface or beneath the regolith (lunar soil)?

Mission Duration:

- ➢ Designed to operate for **up to 100 days** on the Moon's surface, allowing extensive data collection.
- ➢ Will explore permanently shadowed areas (places that never receive sunlight) using advanced drilling tools and on-site experiments.

India-Japan Collaboration

- ➢ **JAXA**: Responsible for building the rover and the rocket.
- ➢ **ISRO**: Developing the lander that will transport the rover to the Moon's surface.
- ➢ Lupex rover will weigh approximately **350 kg**, significantly larger than the **26 kg Pragyan rover** from Chandrayaan3-.

Future Implications

- ➢ Data gathered will inform future lunar missions, including those that may return lunar samples to Earth.
- ➢ Contributes to India's broader ambition to send astronauts to the Moon by **2040**.
- ➢ Enhances international cooperation in space exploration, particularly between India and Japan.

About the Lupex Mission

- ➢ Targets the Moon's polar regions to search for water ice and assess other resources.
- ➢ Represents a crucial step towards establishing a sustainable human presence on the Moon.
- ➢ Will enhance studies in lunar geology and foster international collaboration in space research.

NASA'S EUROPA CLIPPER MISSION LAUNCH

- ➢ **Launch Date**: October 10, 2024
- ➢ **Objective**: Explore Europa, Jupiter's moon, for signs of extraterrestrial life.

Mission Purpose

- ➢ Investigate potential life in Europa's underground ocean beneath its icy surface.
- ➢ Europa is a prime candidate for life due to possible liquid water.

Jupiter's Influence

- ➢ Jupiter's strong gravity keeps Europa's interior warm, maintaining liquid water.

Scientific Instruments

- ➢ Equipped with **nine advanced instruments** to analyze the surface, chemicals, temperature, and possible water plumes.

Mission Challenges

- ➢ Takes over **five years** to reach Jupiter.
- ➢ This mission is the first step toward understanding life on Europa, paving the way for future explorations.

The Europa Clipper mission represents a significant advancement in the search for life beyond Earth.

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 Thiruvidandhai 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
Target Moons	Io, Europa, Ganymede
Primary Focus	Ganymede (largest moon in the Solar System, larger than Pluto and Mercury)
Mission Objective	Detailed exploration of Jupiter and its icy moons for potential habitableenvironments
Planned Arrival	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.
- ❖ Ovitraps have been installed in Gopalpura.

How Ovitraps Work:

- ➢ **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.
  - ❖ Ovitraps 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.

PRACTICE MCQS

1. What is the primary objective of the Europa Clipper mission?

a) To land on Europa's surface.
b) To investigate the presence of extraterrestrial life in Europa's ocean.
c) To study the geology of Jupiter.
d) To map the surface of Europa in high detail.

2. Astronomers have uncovered a reference to a total solar eclipse in the which of the following, dating back approximately 6,000 years

a) Bhagwat Gita b) Rig Veda
c) Sam Veda d) Guru Granth Sahib

3. A new virus named Wetland Virus (WELV) has been discovered in

a) Congo b) Zambia
c) China d) Somalia

4. Which of the following statements about AI tokens are correct?

1. AI tokens are cryptocurrencies specifically linked to Artificial Intelligence projects.
2. The interest in AI tokens surged primarily due to the rise of decentralized finance (DeFi).
3. AI tokens are used as a payment method within their respective AI ecosystems.
4. Notable AI tokens include Injective (INJ), Render (RENDER), and SingularityNET (AGIX).

Options:

a) 1 and 3 only b) 2 and 4 only
c) 1, 3, and 4 only d) All of the above

5. Which of the following statements about the PSLV-C37 mission and its recent re-entry are correct?

1. The PSLV-C37 mission launched 104 satellites on February 15, 2017, setting a world record.
2. The upper stage of PSLV-C37 re-entered the Earth's atmosphere on October 6, 2024, and landed in the North Atlantic Ocean.
3. ISRO aims to reduce the orbital duration of PSLV upper stages to ten years or less in future missions.
4. The main satellite of the PSLV-C37 mission was used primarily for mapping and surveying.

Options:

a) 1 and 4 only b) 2 and 3 only
c) 1, 2, and 4 only d) All of the above

ANSWERS

1. Answer: B. To investigate the presence of extraterrestrial life in Europa's ocean.

- ❖ **Explanation:** The mission aims to determine whether Europa's ocean could be a **suitable habitat for extraterrestrial life.**

2. Answer: B. Rig Veda

3. Answer: C. China

4. Answer: C. 1, 3, and 4 only

- ❖ **Explanation: Statement 2:** Incorrect. The recent surge in interest in AI tokens is linked to investments in AI by major tech companies, not primarily due to decentralized finance (DeFi).

5. Answer: C. 1, 2, and 4 only

- ❖ **Explanation: Statement 3:** Incorrect. ISRO aims to reduce the orbital duration of PSLV upper stages to **five years or less**, not ten years.

DEFENCE

INDIA-OMAN JOINT MILITARY EXERCISE: AL NAJAH V

- The 5th edition of the India-Oman Joint Military Exercise, **AL NAJAH V**, commenced from **13th to 26th September 2024**.
- It is being held at the **Rabkoot Training Area, Salalah, Oman**.

Background

- **Exercise AL NAJAH** has been conducted **biennially since 2015**, alternating between **India and Oman**.
- The **previous edition** took place at **Mahajan Field Firing Range, Rajasthan, India**.

Focus and Objectives

- The primary focus is to **undertake counter-terrorism operations** under **Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter**.
- Operations are **designed for a desert environment** to simulate real-world challenges.

Related Joint Military Exercises with Oman

- **Naseem Al Bahr** – Naval exercise between **India and Oman**.
- **Eastern Bridge** – Air Force exercise between **India and Oman**.

INDIA-KAZAKHSTAN JOINT MILITARY EXERCISE: KAZIND 2024

- The **8th edition** of the **India-Kazakhstan Joint Military Exercise KAZIND-2024** commenced at the **Surya Foreign Training Node, Auli, Uttarakhand**.
- **Duration:** 30th September to 13th October 2024.

Background

- **KAZIND** has been held **annually since 2016**.
- The **previous edition** was conducted at **Otar, Kazakhstan** from **30th October to 11th November 2023**.

Participating Forces

- **India:** Represented by **120 personnel** from a battalion of the **KUMAON Regiment** of the Indian Army.
- **Kazakhstan:** Contingent includes personnel from **Land Forces** and **Airborne Assault Troopers**

INDIA-USA JOINT MILITARY EXERCISE: YUDH ABHYAS-2024

- The **20th edition** of the **India-USA Joint Military Exercise YUDH ABHYAS-2024** commenced at the **Foreign Training Node, Mahajan Field Firing Ranges, Rajasthan**.
  - **Duration:** ٩th to ٢٢nd September ٢٠٢٤.

Background: YUDH ABHYAS has been held annually since 2004.

Participating Forces

- **India:** Represented by **600 personnel**, including a battalion of the **RAJPUT Regiment** and personnel from other arms and services.
- **USA:** For the **first time**, the **High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS)** is being demonstrated during the exercise.

INDIAN NAVY'S PARTICIPATION IN EXERCISE VARUNA-2024

- The **22nd edition** of the **Indo-French bilateral naval Exercise Varuna** took place from **September 2 to 4, 2024**, in the **Mediterranean Sea**.

Key Highlights

- The **Indian Navy's P8I aircraft** made its **first-ever deployment in Europe**, landing at **Air Base 125 Istres-Le Tube, France**.
- **INS Tabar**, a frontline warship of the Indian Navy, also participated in the exercise.

Background: Exercise Varuna is a **biennial event**, enhancing interoperability between the **Indian and French navies**.

INDIAN NAVY PARTICIPATES IN EXERCISE KAKADU-2024

- The **16th edition** of **Exercise Kakadu**, Australia's largest warfare exercise, is being held in **Darwin, Australia**.
- **Dates:** 7th to 20th September 2024.

Key Highlights

- The **Indian Navy's P8I aircraft** arrived in Darwin to participate in the exercise.
- Exercise Kakadu involves **warships, helicopters, and maritime patrol aircraft** from participating countries.

Participation and Theme

- The Indian Navy will engage **alongside more than 30 nations**.
- **Theme:** «Regional Cooperation through Trusted and Proven Partnerships.»

MAIDEN JOINT COMMANDERS' CONFERENCE (JCC) 2024 IN LUCKNOW

- The **first-ever Joint Commanders' Conference (JCC)** will be held at **Headquarters Central Command, Lucknow**, on **4-5 September 2024**.

Key Highlights

- **Theme:** «Sashakt aur Surakshit Bharat: Transforming the Armed Forces."
- **Inauguration:** Chief of Defence Staff **General Anil Chauhan**.
- **Address by:** Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh**, interacting with commanders from the **Army, Air Force, and Navy**.

Objectives

- Review **modernisation plans** of the Armed Forces.
- Discuss strategies to enhance the nation's **defence capability** through **jointness and synergy** among the three Services.

5TH EDITION OF GOA MARITIME SYMPOSIUM (GMS-24)

- The **Indian Navy** will host the **5th edition of the Goa Maritime Symposium (GMS-24)** at the **Naval War College, Goa**, from **23 to 24 September 2024**.

Theme

- "Common Maritime Security Challenges in the Indian Ocean Region: Progressing Lines of Efforts to Mitigate Dynamic Threats."
- Key focus: Addressing **illegal and unregulated fishing** and other **illegal maritime activities**.

Objectives: Foster collaborative thinking, cooperation, and mutual understanding between India and key maritime nations of the **Indian Ocean Region (IOR)**.

Participants

- **Naval representatives** from **12 countries**:
  - Bangladesh, Comoros, Indonesia, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritius, Myanmar, Seychelles, Singapore, Sri Lanka, and Thailand.
- **Observers:** Kenya and Tanzania will also attend the event.

IDAX-24 INAUGURATED BY DEFENCE MINISTER RAJNATH SINGH IN JODHPUR

- **Event:** India Defence Aviation Exposition (IDAX24-)
- **Location:** Jodhpur, Rajasthan
- **Dates:** September 2024 ,14-12
- **Inauguration:** Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh**

Key Highlights

- **IDAX-24** is being held alongside **Tarang Shakti-24**, one of the **largest multinational air exercises** conducted by the **Indian Air Force (IAF)** in Jodhpur.
- The exposition offers a platform for **Friendly Foreign Countries (FFCs)** and the **Indian audience** to interact with key participants from the aviation industry.

Participants

- **Indian aviation stakeholders**:
  - Defence Public Sector Undertakings (**DPSUs**)
  - DRDO
  - **Private industries** (Tier-I, II, III)
  - **Startups** at the forefront of innovation

TARANG SHAKTI-24: INDIA'S LARGEST INTERNATIONAL AIR EXERCISE

- **Exercise Tarang Shakti-24** is the **largest international air exercise ever conducted in India**, with **invitations extended to 51 countries**.
- Two Phases:
  - **Phase 1:** Held at **Sulur, Tamil Nadu** from **August 6 to August 14, 2024**.
  - **Phase 2:** Conducted at **Jodhpur, Rajasthan** from **September 1 to September 14, 2024**.

Key Participants

- **Phase 1:**
  - **Countries:** France, Germany, Spain, and the United Kingdom.
  - **Assets:** Participating nations deployed their aviation assets.
- **Phase 2:**
  - **Countries:** Australia, Bangladesh, Greece, Singapore, UAE, and the USA.
  - **Assets:** Each country contributed air and military aviation assets for joint operations.

RAKSHA MANTRI FLAGS-IN 'EXPEDITION PARAM VIR' TO 21 ISLANDS OF ANDAMAN & NICOBAR

- **Expedition Param Vir** is a **first-of-its-kind Open Water Swimming Expedition** to **21 islands** of the Andaman & Nicobar archipelago.
- **Launched by:** Tri-Service **Andaman & Nicobar Command**.
- **Objective:** To **commemorate the first anniversary** of the renaming of **21 largest unnamed islands** of Andaman & Nicobar after **Param Vir Chakra (PVC) awardees**.

- **Background:** On **January 23, 2023** (Parakram Diwas), Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** renamed these islands in honor of **Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose** and the **PVC awardees**.

Key Highlights

- **Expedition Team:**
  - Comprises **11 members** led by **Wing Commander Paramvir Singh**, an acclaimed **open water swimmer** and **Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Awardee**.

Significance

- This expedition symbolizes **courage, determination, and the spirit of adventure**, reflecting the legacy of the PVC awardees.
- It showcases the **tri-services collaboration** and promotes awareness about **maritime security** in the strategic Andaman & Nicobar region.

Agni-4 Missile

- India successfully carries out launch of **Agni-4 ballistic missile** from Integrated Test Range at Chandipur
- **Type:** New-generation nuclear-capable **Agni-Prime** intermediate-range ballistic missile.
- **Strike Range:** Capable of reaching distances of up to **4,000 km**.
- **Dimensions:**
  - Length: **20 meters**.
  - Payload Capacity: Can carry a payload of **1,000 kg**.
- **Launch System:**
  - Can be fired from a **road-mobile launcher**.
  - It is a **surface-to-surface missile**.
- **Development:** Designed and developed by the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)**.
- **Fuel System:** Utilizes a **mobile, two-stage solid-fuel system**.

SUCCESSFUL FLIGHT TESTS OF VL-SRSAM BY DRDO & INDIAN NAVY

- The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** and the **Indian Navy** successfully conducted flight tests of the **Vertical Launch Short Range Surface to Air Missile (VL-SRSAM)**.
- **Location:** The tests were carried out from the **Integrated Test Range (ITR)** in **Chandipur**, off the coast of **Odisha**.

Key Features of VL-SRSAM

- **Purpose:** The missile is designed to defend naval ships against:
  - **Low-flying** anti-ship cruise missiles.
  - **High-speed** threats.
  - **Drones** and similar aerial threats.

INDIAN ARMY SET TO RECEIVE APACHE HELICOPTERS

- The **Indian Army** is scheduled to receive its first three **AH-64E Apache attack helicopters** from **Boeing** in **December 2024**, following a delay of over six months.

Key Features

- **Design Purpose:**
  - Primarily designed for operations in **desert areas**.
  - Have limitations when used in **high-altitude regions**, such as mountainous terrain.
- **Indigenous Alternatives:** The Army plans to deploy the **indigenous Light Combat Helicopter (LCH)**, manufactured by **Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd.**, in **Ladakh** next year.

Organizational Developments

- In **March**, the Indian Army established the **451 Aviation Squadron** in **Jodhpur** to operate the new Apache helicopters.

Procurement Details

- **Deal Signed:** India signed a contract with Boeing for six Apache helicopters for the Army at an estimated cost of **$800 million** in **February 2020**.
- **Country of Origin:** United States.
- **Manufacturer:** Boeing.
- **Alternate Name:** Known as the **Apache Guardian**.

Other International Buyers

- Other purchasers of Apache helicopters include: **Egypt, Greece, Indonesia, Israel, Japan, South Korea, Kuwait, Netherlands, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, UAE, and the UK.**

INDIAN NAVY COMMISSIONS KALVARI SUBMARINE ESCAPE TRAINING FACILITY – VINETRA IN VISAKHAPATNAM

- The **Indian Navy** has commissioned the **Kalvari Submarine Escape Training Facility** (VINETRA) at **INS Satavahana**, **Visakhapatnam**.
- **Inauguration:** The facility was commissioned by **Vice Admiral Rajesh Pendharkar**, the **Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief** of the **Eastern Naval Command**.

Facility Details

- **Construction:** The facility was constructed by **L&T Defence**.

- **Purpose:**
  - Designed to enhance the escape capabilities of crew members from a distressed **Kalvari-class submarine**.
  - The facility is **indigenously designed and developed**.

Significance

- VINETRA aims to provide advanced training for submarine crew, ensuring preparedness for emergency situations and enhancing overall operational safety.

INDIGENOUS AIRCRAFT CARRIER INS VIKRANT JOINS WESTERN NAVAL FLEET

- The **Indian Navy** has officially inducted the **INS Vikrant** into its **Western Fleet**, which now includes two aircraft carriers: **INS Vikrant** and **INS Vikramaditya**.
- The **Western Fleet** is part of the **Mumbai-headquartered Western Naval Command (WNC)**.

About INS Vikrant

- **Commissioning: Prime Minister Modi** commissioned the **INS Vikrant** on **September 2, 2022**.
- **Significance:**
  - It is the **first-ever indigenously designed and constructed aircraft carrier** in India.
  - The **largest ship** ever built in India's maritime history.
- **Design and Construction:**
  - Designed in-house by the **Indian Navy's Warship Design Bureau**.
  - Constructed by **Cochin Shipyard Limited**.
- **Specifications:**
  - **Displacement:** Approximately **43,000 tonnes** when fully loaded.
  - **Air Wing:** Capable of operating an air wing consisting of **30 aircraft**.
- **Strategic Importance:** The addition of INS Vikrant enhances the operational capabilities of the Indian Navy, significantly boosting maritime security in the region.

SQUADRON LEADER MOHANA SINGH BECOMES FIRST WOMAN FIGHTER PILOT IN LCA TEJAS FIGHTER FLEET

- **Squadron Leader Mohana Singh** has made history by becoming the **first woman fighter pilot** to join the elite **18 'Flying Bullets' squadron**, which operates India's indigenously developed **LCA Tejas fighter jets**.

Key Highlights:

- **Recent Participation:** Sqn Ldr Mohana Singh participated in the recent exercise, **'Tarang Shakti'**, held in **Jodhpur**.
- **Pioneering Group:** She was part of the first group of three women who became fighter pilots in the **Indian Air Force (IAF)**.
  - Her fellow compatriots, **Sqn Ldr Bhawna Kanth** and **Sqn Ldr Avni Chaturvedi**, are currently flying **Su-30 MKI fighter jets** in the western desert.

IRAN UNVEILS ALL-NEW AND POWERFUL SUICIDE DRONE 'SHAHED-136B'

- For the first time, **Iran** has showcased the **Shahed-136B drone** and the **Jihad ballistic missile**.

Shahed-136B Drone

- **Type:** The **Shahed-136B** is a new **one-way attack drone**, commonly referred to as a **'kamikaze' drone**.
- **Significance:** These kamikaze drones have played a crucial role in the **Russia-Ukraine war**.
- **Operational Range:** The drone has an impressive operational range of **over 4,000 kilometers** (approximately **2,500 miles**).

Jihad Ballistic Missile

- **Type:** Iran also unveiled the **"Jihad"** single-stage liquid-fuel ballistic missile.
- **Features:**
  - Equipped with a **high-explosive detachable warhead**.
  - Has a range of **1,000 kilometers**.

Strategic Importance

- The unveiling of the Shahed-136B drone and Jihad ballistic missile highlights Iran's advancements in military technology and its commitment to strengthening its defense capabilities.

RUSSIA LAUNCHES LARGEST NAVAL DRILL "OCEAN 2024"

- **Russia** has initiated its largest naval drill in decades, named **"Ocean 2024"**.

Drill Details

- **Duration:** The exercises will take place from **September 10 to 16**.
- **Locations:** Conducted simultaneously in multiple bodies of water, including:
  - Pacific and Arctic Oceans
  - Mediterranean, Caspian, and Baltic Seas

Scale of the Exercise

- **Participation:**
  - Involves over **400 battleships, submarines, and support vessels** from the auxiliary fleet.

- ❖ Over **120 aircraft** will participate, alongside more than **90,000 personnel**.

➢ **International Participation:**

- ❖ **China** is contributing to the drills with **four vessels and 15 aircraft** from the **People's Liberation Army**.
- ❖ Representatives from **15 other nations** have been invited to observe the exercises.

➢ **Strategic Importance:** The **"Ocean 2024"** drill underscores Russia's military capabilities and enhances its naval presence across multiple strategic waterways, while also showcasing international collaboration with China.

LAUNCH OF INDIA'S FIRST MULTI-PURPOSE VESSEL (MPV)

➢ **India's first Multi-Purpose Vessel (MPV) project ship**, built by L&T Shipyard for the Indian Navy, has been launched at L&T Kattupalli.

➢ This achievement marks a significant milestone for Indian shipbuilding.

➢ The ceremony was led by Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi, Chief of Naval Staff. Mrs. Shashi Tripathi, President of the Naval Wives Welfare Association, officially launched the vessel, named 'Samarthak', which means 'Supporter' in Hindi.

➢ **What is the MPV Project?**:

- ❖ The project to build two MPVs commenced on **25 March 2022**, following a contract signed between India's Ministry of Defence and L&T Shipyard.
- ❖ These vessels are designed to handle a wide range of tasks for the Navy, highlighting the comprehensive role that modern naval ships are expected to play.

➢ **Capabilities of the Multi-Purpose Vessels**: The MPVs are built to perform various tasks, including:

- ❖ **Towing Ships**: Assisting other ships in movement, especially during emergencies.
- ❖ **Launching and Recovering Targets**: Capable of handling different types of targets used in naval training exercises.

KAZIND-2024: INDIA-KAZAKHSTAN JOINT MILITARY EXERCISE

➢ **Event**: KAZIND-2024

➢ **Edition**: 8th

➢ **Duration**: From **30th September to 13th October 2024**

➢ **Location**: Auli, Uttarakhand, India

➢ **Objective**: Strengthen the military partnership between **India and Kazakhstan**.

Background of the Exercise

➢ **Inception**: The KAZIND exercise began in **2016** to facilitate training and knowledge sharing between the two nations› armies.

➢ **Previous Edition**: The latest exercise occurred in **Otar, Kazakhstan** from **30th October to 11th November 2023**.

➢ **Alternation**: The exercise alternates locations between **India and Kazakhstan** each year.

Participating Forces

➢ **India's Representation**:

- ❖ Soldiers from the **KUMAON Regiment** (120 personnel).
- ❖ Personnel from the **Indian Air Force**.

➢ **Kazakhstan's Representation**:

- ❖ Troops from the **Kazakhstan Land Forces**.
- ❖ **Airborne Assault Troopers** from Kazakhstan.

SUCCESSFUL FLIGHT-TESTS OF ADVANCED VSHORADS SYSTEM

➢ The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** successfully conducted **three flight-tests** of the **Very Short Range Air Defence System (VSHORADS) in Pokhran, Rajasthan**.

➢ **Significance**: These tests represent a significant advancement in **India's defense capabilities.**

What is VSHORADS?

➢ **Type**: A **4th generation**, portable missile system.

➢ **Purpose**: Designed to **defend against low-flying aerial threats**, such as **drones and aircraft,** within a range of **5 to 20 kilometers**.

➢ **Guidance Systems**: Utilizes **surface-to-air missiles** guided by **infrared, radar, or optical systems** for tracking and targeting.

➢ **Importance**: Increasingly vital in modern warfare due to the growing use of drones, typically deployed near military bases, borders, and other critical areas.

Testing Objectives

➢ **Performance Assessment**: The primary aim of the tests was to evaluate VSHORADS's performance, specifically its ability to:

- ❖ **Intercept targets at maximum range and altitude**.
- ❖ Effectively counter fast-moving aerial threats in various combat scenarios.

➢ **Accuracy**: The missile system demonstrated high accuracy in hitting its targets, confirming its reliability under different battlefield conditions.

"Hit-to-Kill" Capability

➢ **Key Feature**: VSHORADS possesses a **"hit-to-kill" capability**, meaning it **can directly destroy the target upon impact,** rather than merely damaging it.

- **Versatility**: Tests confirmed its ability to engage approaching, receding, and sideways-moving targets, showcasing adaptability in diverse scenarios.

Connection to 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' (Self-Reliant India)

- **Support for Initiative**: The successful tests align with the **Indian Government's 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' initiative**, aiming to enhance **self-reliance in defense production.**
- **Reduced Dependency**: Developing advanced systems like VSHORADS domestically reduces India's reliance on imports.

PRACTICE MCQS

1. Where was the 5th edition of the India-Oman Joint Military Exercise AL NAJAH V held in 2024?

a) Muscat
b) Rabkoot Training Area, Salalah
c) Duqm
d) Sohar

2. Which countries participate in the YUDH ABHYAS military exercise?

a) India and Kazakhstan
b) India and USA
c) India and Oman
d) India and Russia

3. Which exercise is considered the largest international air exercise ever conducted in India?

a) Yudh Abhyas
b) Tarang Shakti-24
c) Kazind-2024
d) Al Najah V

4. Consider the following statements regarding the Agni-4 missile:

1. It is a nuclear-capable, surface-to-surface ballistic missile with a range of 4,000 km.
2. Agni-4 is developed by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).
3. The missile uses a two-stage solid-fuel system and can carry a payload of up to 1,000 kg.
4. It is launched from an underwater platform.

Which of the above statements are correct?

a) 1 and 3 only
b) 1, 2, and 4 only
c) 2 and 4 only
d) 1, 3, and 4 only

5. Which country has launched its largest naval drill in decades, named "Ocean 2024"?

a) China
b) Russia
c) USA
d) Japan

ANSWER

1. **Answer: B. Rabkoot Training Area, Salalah**
2. **Answer: B. India and USA**
3. **Answer: B. Tarang Shakti-24**
4. **Answer: A.** 1 and 3 only
   - Explanation:
     - ✓ **Statement 2:** Incorrect. The missile is developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), not ISRO.
     - ✓ **Statement 4:** Incorrect. It is launched from a road-mobile launcher, not an underwater platform.
5. **Answer: B. Russia**
   - **Explanation:** "Ocean 2024" is Russia's largest naval drill in decades, showcasing its maritime strength.



INDICES AND REPORTS

GLOBAL HUNGER INDEX (GHI) 2024

- **Purpose:** Measures hunger and malnutrition levels globally.
- **Creators:** Concern Worldwide and Welthungerhilfe.
- **Scale:** Ranges from 0 (no hunger) to 100 (extreme hunger).

India's Ranking

- **Position:** 105th out of 127 countries with a score of 27.3, categorized as facing «serious» hunger.

Top 10 Performers (2024)

1.	Belarus	2.	Bosnia and Herzegovina
3.	Chile	4.	China
5.	Costa Rica	6.	Croatia
7.	Estonia	8.	Georgia
9.	Hungary	10.	Kuwait

Key Indicators

- **Undernourishment:** Percentage of the population lacking sufficient calories.
- **Child Stunting:** Children under five who are too short for their age (%5 in India).
- **Child Wasting:** Children under five who are too thin for their height (%7 in India).
- **Child Mortality:** Percentage of children dying before age five (%9 in India).

Global Context

- Over **733 million** people face hunger daily.
- Urgent action is needed to achieve the UN's Zero Hunger goal by **2030**.

Conclusion

- The **2024 GHI report** underscores the ongoing **challenge of hunger in India and worldwide**, highlighting the need for significant progress to improve nutrition and address inequalities.

WIPO'S GLOBAL INNOVATION INDEX (GII) 2024 HIGHLIGHTS

- The **Global Innovation Index (GII) 2024** is co-published by the **World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)**, **Cornell University**, and **INSEAD Business School**.
- Criteria for measuring innovation include:
  - Institutions
  - Human capital and research
  - Infrastructure
  - Credit and investment
  - Linkages
  - Creation, absorption, and diffusion of knowledge
  - Creative outputs

Key Findings:

- **Switzerland** maintained its **top position** for the **14th consecutive year**, followed by **Sweden**, **United States**, and **Singapore**.
- **India** improved to the **39th position** (up from **40th** in **2023**) among **133 global economies**, compared to **81st** in **2015**.
- India ranked **first** among lower middle-income economies.
- India ranked **first** in **10 economies** in the **Central and Southern Asia** region.
- The country secured the **4th position** in the **WIPO Science and Technology (S&T) Cluster Ranking**.
- India achieved the **7th rank globally** in **intangible asset intensity**.

Strengths and Climbers:

- India's strengths are evident in key indicators such as:
  - ICT services exports
  - Venture capital received
  - Intangible asset intensity
- **China**, **Türkiye**, **India**, **Viet Nam**, and the **Philippines** are identified as the **fastest climbers** over the last **10 years**.

WORLD TALENT RANKING 2024: SWITZERLAND LEADS, INDIA DROPS TO 58TH POSITION

- The **World Talent Ranking 2024** is published by the **International Institute for Management Development (IMD)**.
- The ranking assesses nations based on their ability to **develop**, **retain**, and **attract** highly qualified domestic and international talent, evaluating long-term value-creation capabilities.

Key Findings:

- **Switzerland** ranks **first** in the 2024 edition.
- **Singapore** and **Luxembourg** follow in **second** and **third** positions, respectively.
- **India** is ranked **58th** globally, out of **67 economies**, with a talent score of **40.47**.

Decline in Rankings:

- This marks a decline from **last year's 56th position**.
- India has seen a significant drop from **52nd** in **2022**.

INDIA JUMPS TO TIER 1 IN GLOBAL CYBERSECURITY INDEX 2024

- The **Global Cybersecurity Index (GCI) 2024** was released by the **International Telecommunication Union (ITU)**.

Key Highlights:

- The **GCI 2024** has implemented a new **five-tier analysis**, allowing for a more detailed assessment of each country's cybersecurity commitments.
- India has successfully moved to **Tier 1**, the highest tier in the ranking system.
- **Tier 1** is reserved for "role modelling" countries that exhibit a strong commitment across all five cybersecurity pillars.
- A total of **46 countries** were placed in **Tier 1** in this edition of the GCI.

INDIA SURPASSES JAPAN TO BECOME 3RD LARGEST POWER IN ASIA POWER INDEX

- India has overtaken Japan to rank as the **3rd largest power** in the **Asia Power Index**.

Key Details:

- The **Asia Power Index** was launched by the **Lowy Institute** in **2018**.
- It evaluates a total of **27 countries** across the **Asia-Pacific region**.
- The index employs **eight core measures**, which include:
  - Economic Capability
  - Military Capability
  - Diplomatic Influence
- Rankings:
  - **U.S.**: Top position with a score of **81.7**
  - **China**: Second with a score of **72.7**
  - **India**: Third with a score of **39.1**
  - **Japan**: Fourth with a score of **38.9**
  - **Australia**: Fifth with a score of **31.9**
  - **Russia**: Sixth with a score of **31.1**

INDIA BECOMES WORLD'S SECOND-LARGEST 5G SMARTPHONE MARKET

- **Market Ranking**: India has overtaken the **United States** to become the **world's second-largest market** for **5G smartphones**.
- **Global Leader**: The only country with a larger market is **China**.

Global 5G Device Market Reshuffling

- **China**: Maintains leadership with a **dominant 32%** market share.
- **India**: Secures **second place** with a **substantial 13%** share.
- **United States**: Holds the **third position** with **10%** of the market.

INDIA BECOMES WORLD'S TOP PLASTIC POLLUTER

- **Plastic Pollution Ranking**: India is the **biggest plastic polluter** in the world, releasing **9.3 million tonnes (Mt)** annually.
- **Waste Generation Rate**: The country's official waste generation rate is approximately **0.12 kilogrammes per capita per day**.
- **Other Polluters**:
  - **Second Place**: Nigeria
  - **Third Place**: Indonesia

STATE OF GLOBAL AIR REPORT 2024

- **Released by**: Health Effects Institute (HEI) in partnership with UNICEF.
- **Purpose**: Analyzes air quality and health impacts globally.

Key Highlights:

- **Global Risk Factor**: Air pollution is now the **second-leading global risk factor for death**, surpassing tobacco and diabetes; hypertension remains the top risk.
- **Disease Burden**:
  - Non-communicable diseases (e.g., heart disease, stroke, diabetes, lung cancer, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease) account for nearly **90% of the disease burden** from air pollution.
- **Attribution of Deaths**:
  - **6 out of 10 deaths** worldwide attributed to air pollution are caused by **PM2.5 particles**.
- **Contribution by Countries**:
  - **India and China** together account for **54%** of the total global disease burden due to air pollution in **2021**.
- **Impact on Children**:
  - India recorded the **highest number of deaths among children under five** due to air pollution worldwide in **2021**.

INDIA'S FIRST 'TEAL CARBON' STUDY

- India has undertaken its **first study on 'teal carbon'** at **Keoladeo National Park (KNP)** in Bharatpur district, Rajasthan.

Definition:

- **Teal Carbon**:
  - Refers to carbon stored in **non-tidal freshwater wetlands**.

- ❖ Encompasses carbon sequestered in **vegetation, microbial biomass,** and **dissolved and particulate organic matter**.

Importance:

- ➢ **Carbon Capture**:
  - ❖ Teal carbon ecosystems are considered **more effective** at carbon capture and storage than **terrestrial forest ecosystems**.
  - ❖ They can store and sequester **more carbon** than any other type of terrestrial ecosystem.

Threats:

- ➢ **Vulnerability**:
  - ❖ These wetlands are crucial for regulating greenhouse gases but are vulnerable to degradation from:
    - ✓ **Pollution**
    - ✓ **Land use changes**
    - ✓ **Water extraction**
    - ✓ **Landscape modifications**

KERALA AND ANDHRA PRADESH LEAD EASE OF DOING BUSINESS REFORMS

Top Performers:

- ➢ **Kerala**: Ranked as the **top performer** in the Ease of Doing Business reformers' ranking.
- ➢ **Andhra Pradesh**: Followed closely as the **second** top performer.
- ➢ **Other Notable States**:
  - ❖ Gujarat
  - ❖ Rajasthan
  - ❖ Tripura
  - ❖ Uttar Pradesh

Poor Performers:

- ➢ **Lowest Rankings**:
  - ❖ Arunachal Pradesh
  - ❖ Telangana
  - ❖ Punjab
  - ❖ Puducherry

Context:

- ➢ The rankings were announced by the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry** under the **Business Reforms Action Plan (BRAP)**

KERALA TOPS URBAN GOVERNANCE INDEX

- ➢ **Rank**: Kerala secured the **first rank** in the **Urban Governance Index (UGI)**.
- ➢ **Study Duration**: The UGI is a **two-year-long study** conducted across several cities in India by the **Praja Foundation**.
- ➢ **Score**: Kerala achieved a score of **59.31** out of a possible **100** in various governance metrics.
- ➢ **Other Rankings: Second Place**: Odisha came in second with a score of **55.10**.

KERALA TOPS FSSAI'S STATE FOOD SAFETY INDEX 2024

- ➢ **Ranking**: Kerala has secured the **top position** in the **State Food Safety Index (SFSI) 2024** for the **second consecutive year**.
- ➢ **Authority**: The index is released by the **Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)**.
- ➢ **Initiation**: The annual ranking was started in **2018-19** and evaluates the food safety performance of Indian states and union territories.

Top 5 States:

1. **Kerala**
2. **Tamil Nadu**
3. **Jammu & Kashmir**
4. **Gujarat**
5. **Nagaland**

Evaluation Parameters:

The index is based on performance across five significant parameters:

- ➢ **Human Resources and Institutional Data**
- ➢ **Compliance**
- ➢ **Food Testing — Infrastructure and Surveillance**
- ➢ **Training & Capacity Building**
- ➢ **Consumer Empowerment**

U.P., RAJASTHAN, M.P. LEAD IN ATROCITIES AGAINST DALITS: REPORT

- ➢ **Report Source**: The latest report under the **Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act** by the **Social Justice & Empowerment Ministry**.
- ➢ **Atrocities Against Scheduled Castes (SCs)**:
  - ❖ Nearly **97.7%** of all reported cases of atrocities against SCs in **2022** were from **13 states**.
  - ❖ **Top States**:
    - ✓ **Uttar Pradesh** recorded **23.78%** of the **51,656 cases** registered under the law for SCs.
    - ✓ **Rajasthan** and **Madhya Pradesh** also recorded high numbers of atrocities.
- ➢ **Atrocities Against Scheduled Tribes (STs)**:

- ❖ **98.91%** of all cases of atrocities against STs were reported from the same **13 states**.
- ❖ **Madhya Pradesh** reported the highest share of **30.61%** of the **9,735 cases** registered under the law for STs, followed by **Rajasthan** and **Odisha**.

➢ **Special Police Stations**:

- ❖ Special police stations for registering complaints against SCs and STs have been established in five states:
  - ✓ **Bihar**
  - ✓ **Chhattisgarh**
  - ✓ **Jharkhand**
  - ✓ **Kerala**
  - ✓ **Madhya Pradesh**

Constitutional Safeguards for SC/ST Rights:

- ➢ **Article 15(1)**: Prohibits discrimination based on religion, race, caste, sex, or place of birth.
- ➢ **Article 17**: Abolishes untouchability.
- ➢ **Article 23**: Prohibits forced labor.
- ➢ **Articles 16(4) & 16(5)**: Provide reservations in public services.
- ➢ **Article 21**: Guarantees the right to life and liberty.
- ➢ **Article 335**: Ensures representation of SCs and STs in state services.

I&B MINISTER ASHWINI VAISHNAW NAMED AMONG TIME MAGAZINE'S MOST INFLUENTIAL PEOPLE IN TECHNOLOGY AND AI

- ➢ **Recognition by TIME**: **Ashwini Vaishnaw**, India's **Minister of Information and Broadcasting (I&B)**, has been named by **TIME Magazine** as one of the most influential people in the field of **Technology and Artificial Intelligence**.
- ➢ **Category**: Vaishnaw's name is listed under the **"Shapers"** category of the influential list.
- ➢ **Vision for India**: Under Vaishnaw's leadership, **India** is working towards becoming one of the **top five countries** in **semiconductor manufacturing** within the next five years.

APPLE TOPS TIME MAGAZINE'S WORLD'S BEST COMPANY OF 2024

- ➢ **Apple** emerged as the **top-ranked company** in TIME Magazine's **World's Best Company of 2024** list.
- ➢ **Ranking Criteria**: The ranking is based on a combination of **employee satisfaction surveys**, **revenue growth**, and **environmental, social, and corporate governance (ESG) data**.
- ➢ **Global List**: The list features **1000 companies**, of which **22 are Indian-born**.

Notable Indian Companies and Their Ranks:

- ➢ **HCL Tech**: Rank **112**
- ➢ **Infosys**: Rank **119**
- ➢ **Wipro**: Rank **134**
- ➢ **Mahindra Group**: Rank **187**
- ➢ **Axis Bank**: Rank **504**
- ➢ **State Bank of India**: Rank **518**
- ➢ **ICICI Bank**: Rank **525**

HURUN INDIA UNDER 35: TOP 10 YOUNG INDIAN ENTREPRENEURS IN 2024

Key Highlights:

- ➢ The **2024 Hurun India Under-35** list features **150 young entrepreneurs**, with **82% being first-generation leaders**.
- ➢ **Parita Parekh** of Toddle and **Isha Ambani** of Reliance Retail, both **32 years old**, are the **youngest women entrepreneurs** on the list.

Top 3 Entrepreneurs:

1. **Ankush Sachdeva** (31)
   - ❖ Industry: **Media & Entertainment**
   - ❖ Company: **Sharechat**
2. **Neetish Sarda** (31)
   - ❖ Industry: **Real Estate**
   - ❖ Company: **Smartworks**
3. **Akshit Jain** (31)
   - ❖ Industry: **Consumer Goods**
   - ❖ Company: **Goldmedal Electricals**

ANGKOR WAT NAMED MOST PHOTOGENIC UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE IN ASIA BY TIMES TRAVEL

- ➢ **Angkor Wat**, the world's largest religious structure, is a **Hindu-Buddhist temple complex** located in **Cambodia**.
- ➢ **UNESCO World Heritage Sites in the list**:
  - ❖ **India**: Taj Mahal and Hampi
  - ❖ **China**: Great Wall
  - ❖ **Myanmar**: Ancient city of Bagan
  - ❖ **Indonesia**: Borobudur
  - ❖ **Vietnam**: Ha Long Bay

Historical Background:

- ➢ Built by **Khmer King Suryavarman II** between **1110-1150**.
- ➢ Originally dedicated to the **Hindu god Vishnu** and later became a **Buddhist temple** by the end of the 12th century.
- ➢ Named a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** in **1992**.

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.

PRACTICE MCQ

1. What is India's rank in the Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2024?

a) 95th b) 105th
c) 115th d) 125th

2. Which of the following indicators reflects the percentage of children under five who are too short for their age in India according to the GHI 2024?

a) Undernourishment b) Child Stunting
c) Child Wasting d) Child Mortality

3. What was India's ranking in the Global Innovation Index (GII) 2024?

a) 29th b) 35th
c) 39th d) 45th

4. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the State Food Safety Index (SFSI) 2024 released by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)?

1. Kerala has secured the top position for the second consecutive year.
2. The SFSI was initiated in the year 2020.
3. The index evaluates the food safety performance of Indian states and union territories based on five significant parameters.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

a) 1 and 2 only b) 1 and 3 only
c) 2 and 3 only d) 1, 2, and 3

4. Which country has India surpassed to become the world's second-largest market for 5G smartphones?

a) Japan b) Germany
c) United States d) South Korea

ANSWERS

1. Answer: B. 105th
- **Explanation:** India is ranked 105th out of 127 countries in the GHI 2024, with a score of 27.3, indicating "serious" hunger levels.

2. Answer: B. Child Stunting
- **Explanation:** In India, 5% of children under five are classified as stunted, indicating they are too short for their age, according to the GHI 2024 report.

3. Answer: C. 39th
- **Explanation:** In the GII 2024, India improved its ranking to 39th among 133 global economies, up from 40th in 2023, and it ranked first among lower middle-income economies.

4. Answer: B. 1 and 3 only
- **Explanation:** Kerala has indeed topped the SFSI for the second consecutive year, and the index evaluates food safety performance based on five parameters. However, the SFSI was initiated in 2018-19, not 2020.

5. Answer: C. United States
- **Explanation:** India has overtaken the United States to become the world's second-largest market for 5G smartphones, with China remaining the largest.

HIMACHAL PRADESH NEWS

SHANT MAHAYAGYA AT CHURDHAR: CELEBRATION OF FAITH, TRADITION, AND CULTURE

- **Himachal Pradesh,** known as **Dev Bhoomi (Land of Gods)**, holds **rich spiritual and cultural traditions.**
- The **Shant Mahayagya** at the **Churdhar temple**, dedicated to **Shirgul Maharaj, resumed after 52 years.**
- Thousands of devotees and deities attended from **Shimla, Solan, Sirmaur, and Uttarakhand.**

What is Shant Mahayagya?

- **Shant Mahayagya**: A Vedic ritual for invoking **peace and harmony.**
  - **"Shant"**: Peace; **"Mahayagya"**: **Large-scale fire** ritual with offerings.
  - Believed to purify the environment, eradicate negative energies, and bring prosperity.

Significance of the Churdhar Shant Mahayagya

- Marked the **Kurud Sthapana** (installation of the sacred crown) atop the renovated Shirgul Maharaj temple.
- **Five quintals** of **marigold flowers** were used for **temple decoration**.
- Celebrated the completion of the temple's construction.

Legend of Shirgul Maharaj and Historical Importance

- **Shirgul Maharaj**, born in the **royal family of Rajgarh**, is worshipped along with his siblings **Bijat and Bijai**.
- Known for liberating people from **demon Chudiya's atrocities**.
- Freed captive kings from the **Mughals** and returned to Himachal after destroying them.
- The **temple at Churdhar** is believed to have been visited by **Adi Shankaracharya**, who installed a **Shivling on the peak.**
- **Two sacred stepwells** near the temple provide holy water for rituals.

Rituals and Celebrations

1. **Kurud Installation**:
   - **Kurud (sacred crown)** crafted with intricate designs and carried from Kalabagh in a grand procession.
   - Essential for **Pran Pratishtha** (giving life to the deity's idol).
2. **Havan**:
   - Sacred fire ritual with offerings (ghee, herbs, grains) accompanied by mantras.
3. **Mantra Uccharan**:
   - Continuous chanting of Vedic mantras to invoke divine blessings.
4. **Puja and Paath**:
   - Devotees perform prayers inside the temple to honor Shirgul Maharaj.
5. **Cultural Performances**:
   - Devotional songs, traditional dances, and music celebrate the presence of deities.

Community Involvement and Management

- **Churdhar Temple Committee**, led by **SDM Chaupal Hem Chand Verma**, ensured smooth event execution.
- Temporary accommodations and toilets were arranged, with **16 nodal officers** managing the event.
- Artisans from **Kand Banah**, **Sarah's Shweik**, and **Bagh Manjholi villages** contributed to making the **Kurud.**
- **Sukhram**, the lead artisan, continued the **tradition started by his father**, who crafted the **original crown 52 years ago**.

Conclusion

- The **Shant Mahayagya** exemplifies the power of **faith, tradition, and community** in **Himachal Pradesh**.
- It emphasizes the importance of **preserving cultural roots** amidst rapid modernization.
- For the people of **Dev Bhoomi**, this event is a **celebration of life and spirituality**, inspiring future generations.

HIMACHAL PRADESH TO INTRODUCE AN UMBRELLA ACT FOR WATER MANAGEMENT

- Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu announced the formulation of an **umbrella act** to streamline all water-related laws in the state.
- This step aims to strengthen **water resource governance** and resolve key issues like **water cess disputes** related to hydropower.

What is the Umbrella Act?

- The act will consolidate the various water-related laws into **one comprehensive framework** to address overlapping regulations and ensure **efficient enforcement**.
- Key areas covered include:
  - **Water resource management**
  - **Hydropower generation** and water rights
  - **Water cess imposition** for revenue generation
  - **Climate change mitigation** and disaster preparedness
  - **Legal dispute resolution** over water usage
- An **expert committee** will be formed to draft the act, consulting legal experts and stakeholders.

Key Features of the Act

1. **Water Cess on Hydropower:**
   - ❖ The government previously introduced a **water cess** to raise **Rs. 1,000 crore** annually from hydropower producers, but it faced legal challenges.
   - ❖ The act aims to provide a **clear legal framework** to resolve such disputes and enable the state to generate critical revenue.
2. **Water Resource Allocation:**
   - ❖ It will ensure **sustainable distribution** across agriculture, industry, and households, balancing competing needs.
3. **Climate Change Preparedness:**
   - ❖ Himachal Pradesh is prone to **cloudbursts and landslides**. The act will focus on **disaster management strategies** and long-term water conservation.
4. **Legal Dispute Resolution:**
   - ❖ Ongoing court cases over water cess and hydropower usage will be **addressed**, safeguarding the state's interests.

Significance of the Umbrella Act

- ➢ **Streamlining Water Governance:** Consolidation will reduce **bureaucratic delays** and improve decision-making.
- ➢ **Revenue Generation:** A formal legal basis for the water cess could **boost the state's finances**, supporting developmental projects and climate efforts.
- ➢ **Climate Resilience:** The act ensures **preparedness** against natural disasters and promotes sustainable water use to combat changing weather patterns.
- ➢ **Protection of State Resources:** CM Sukhu emphasized that Himachal's resources must serve **the people's interests** and prevent **external exploitation**, particularly by hydropower companies.

Conclusion

- ➢ The proposed umbrella act is a **landmark initiative** that will not only consolidate Himachal Pradesh's water management framework but also address **legal, financial, and environmental challenges**.
- ➢ This comprehensive legislation aims to **enhance water governance** while ensuring sustainable development and **climate resilience** for the state.

NAUNI UNIVERSITY WINS AGRO-PROCESSING AWARD AT CIPHET IIFA-2024

Award and Recognition

- ➢ Dr. YS Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry, Nauni, secured **third place** in the Outstanding Exhibitor Award at **CIPHET IIFA-2024** in Ludhiana.
- ➢ Recognized under **AICRP-PHET** for competing with top research institutions and industries across India.

Innovative Agro-Processing Contributions

- ➢ Showcased **value-added products** from fruits, vegetables, millets, and functional foods.
- ➢ **Carbonated apple beverages** highlighted for adding value to surplus apples, potentially transforming the apple-processing industry in Himachal Pradesh.
- ➢ Other innovations focused on **minimizing post-harvest losses**.

Participation and Impact

- ➢ Featured at an event with over **25 institutions** exhibiting advanced agro-processing technologies.
- ➢ **Key benefits:**
  - ❖ **Support to Farmers**: Reducing post-harvest losses and adding value to produce.
  - ❖ **Rural Entrepreneurship**: Encouraging small-scale processing businesses.
  - ❖ **Climate Resilience**: Mitigating crop loss risks from weather disruptions.

Alignment with PM Kisan SAMPADA Yojana

- ➢ Promotes **food processing modernization** and agro-processing clusters.
- ➢ Ensures **better farmer returns, job creation**, and **post-harvest loss reduction**.

Conclusion

- ➢ Nauni University's innovations foster **sustainable farming, rural entrepreneurship, and agro-industrial growth**, aligning with national goals.

DRISHTI HIMACHAL PRADESH 2030: A VISION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

- ➢ Himachal Pradesh's Drishti Himachal Pradesh 2030 is a comprehensive vision for sustainable development, focusing on inclusive growth, environmental conservation, and economic prosperity.
- ➢ It aligns state policies with the UN's SDGs, promoting entrepreneurship, tourism, and sustainable agriculture for a resilient future.
- ➢ Here are some key points from the document:

1. **Economic Growth and Employment Generation**
   - ❖ **Sectoral Diversification:** Focus on tourism, horticulture, agriculture, and renewable energy.
   - ❖ **Entrepreneurship and Skill Development:** Promote startups, incubation centers, vocational training, and youth entrepreneurship.

- ❖ **Support for SMEs:** Financial aid programs, women entrepreneurship promotion, and innovation support.

2. **Social Welfare and Inclusion**
   - ❖ **Universal Healthcare:** Strengthen healthcare services via the **National Health Mission (NHM)**.
   - ❖ **Quality Education:** Train teachers, introduce digital tools, and promote inclusive curricula.
   - ❖ **Social Security:** Ensure access to food, clean water, housing, and welfare for vulnerable groups.
3. **Infrastructure Development**
   - ❖ **Connectivity:** Improve road, rail, and air infrastructure across the state.
   - ❖ **Digital Transformation:** Expand broadband coverage and mobile networks.
   - ❖ **Energy Efficiency:** Invest in hydropower and solar energy initiatives.
4. **Agriculture and Rural Development**
   - ❖ **Sustainable Farming:** Encourage organic practices and natural farming methods.
   - ❖ **Water Resource Management:** Implement **drip irrigation** and **rainwater harvesting** projects.
   - ❖ **Support for Farmers:** Provide financial assistance and crop insurance schemes.
5. **Tourism and Cultural Preservation**
   - ❖ **Sustainable Tourism:** Develop eco-tourism, adventure tourism, and heritage tourism.
   - ❖ **Cultural Conservation:** Promote regional festivals, arts, and local crafts.
6. **Environmental Sustainability and Climate Resilience**
   - ❖ **Climate Mitigation:** Promote afforestation and work towards **carbon emission reduction**.
   - ❖ **Conservation Efforts:** Strengthen waste management systems and invest in renewable energy.
7. **Governance and Public Service Delivery**
   - ❖ **E-Governance:** Enhance transparency and efficiency through digital governance platforms.
   - ❖ **Community Participation:** Empower **Panchayati Raj** institutions to enhance local governance.
   - ❖ **Institutional Strengthening:** Develop capacity-building programs for policy implementation.
8. **Strategies for Achieving SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals)**
   - ❖ **Focus on 16 SDGs:** Except for Goal 14 (life below water).
   - ❖ **Integration:** Align SDGs with state budgets, private investments, and innovative policies.
   - ❖ **Monitoring:** Develop evaluation mechanisms for continuous assessment of progress.
9. **Challenges and Opportunities**
   - ❖ **Challenges:** Issues like **deforestation**, financial constraints, and **urban pressure**.
   - ❖ **Opportunities:** Utilize technology, promote **sustainable forestry**, and leverage cultural heritage.

DR. SHRUTI MORE BHARDWAJ HONORED WITH SANT ISHWAR AWARD

Award and Recognition

- ➢ **Date & Venue**: Received on October 2, 2024, at Bharat Mandapam, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi, coinciding with Gandhi Jayanti.
- ➢ **Prestigious Honor**: Recognized with the Sant Ishwar Award for exceptional service in the disability sector.
- ➢ **Pioneering Work**: Launched India's first **mobile therapy van** to enhance access to essential therapies in remote areas of Himachal Pradesh.

Therapy on Wheels: An Innovative Initiative

- ➢ **Launch Date**: December 3, 2020, on International Day of Persons with Disabilities.
- ➢ **Mobile Therapy Clinic Features**:
  - ❖ Offers **physiotherapy, occupational therapy, and speech therapy** in villages.
  - ❖ Equipped with a treadmill, extendable ramp, safety features, and a projector for awareness programs.
  - ❖ Designed for **Himachal's terrain** to reach narrow and hilly areas.

The Samphia Foundation: Transforming Lives

- ➢ **Formation Inspiration**: Sparked by Dr. Bhardwaj's experience with a disabled girl facing menstrual challenges.
- ➢ **Key Activities**:
  - ❖ Operates the **Ash Child Development Centre** and promotes early intervention and disability awareness.
  - ❖ Provides uninterrupted therapy through the **mobile clinic**, especially during COVID-19 lockdowns.
  - ❖ Offers therapy for children from **seven months of age**, supported by **CHAI** (Catholic Health Association of India).

HIMACHAL PRADESH: A GROWING HUB FOR WATER SPORTS AND ADVENTURE TOURISM

Expanding Tourism with Water-Based Activities

- ➢ Himachal Pradesh aims to **boost tourism** and the local economy by promoting **water sports and adventure tourism** through its natural and man-made water bodies.
- ➢ Goal: Establish the state as a premier **water sports destination**.

Govind Sagar Lake: Key Attraction

- **Location**: Bilaspur; spans **168 sq km**.
- **Formation**: Created in 1976 by the **Bhakra Dam** and sustained by the Beas-Sutlej link.
- **Events**: Annual water sports held in **October-November**.

New Developments

- **Cruise Services**: Launched the first **45-person capacity cruise** on Govind Sagar Lake.
- **Future Plans**: Introduce cruises from **Kol Dam Lake to Tatapani**.

Adventure Activities

- Planned water sports include **jet skiing, rafting, parasailing, water skiing, canoeing,** and ferry cruises.
- **Govind Sagar Lake Carnival** to be held at **Androuli**.

Economic and Social Impact

- **Employment opportunities** for youth in **hospitality and tourism** sectors.
- Boost to local businesses like **hotels, restaurants, and artisans**.
- **Eco-friendly tourism** promoted with support from the **National Green Tribunal (NGT)**.
- Plans for **heli-taxi services** between Bilaspur-Manali and Kullu to attract luxury tourists.

Conclusion

- Himachal Pradesh aims to attract **2 crore tourists** this year by enhancing infrastructure and offering **unique travel experiences**.

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Conclusion

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JUSTICE RAJIV SHAKDHER SWORN IN AS 29TH CHIEF JUSTICE OF HIMACHAL PRADESH HIGH COURT

- Justice Shakdher had a **short tenure** as **Himachal High Court Chief Justice as he was retirement on October 18.**
- **Currently, Justice Trilok Singh Chauhan is acting chief Justice of Himachal Pradesh High Court.**

About Rajiv Shankdher:

- **Born**: October 19, 1962.
- **Education**: B.Com (Hons), Chartered Accountant (CA) and Law (LLB)
- **Legal Practice**: Began in **1987.**
- **Expertise**: Civil, constitutional, taxation, and corporate laws
- **Judicial Journey**:
  - Additional Judge, Delhi High Court (2008)
  - Permanent Judge (2011)
  - Transferred to Madras High Court (2016) and returned to Delhi High Court (2018).

Constitutional Provisions for Appointment of Judges

- **Article 214**: Each state must have its own High Court
- **Article 231**: Parliament can establish a common High Court for multiple states

Eligibility for High Court Judges

1. **Indian Citizenship**
2. **Judicial Experience**: 10 years in a judicial role
3. **Advocacy Experience**: 10 years as an advocate in High Courts

Appointment Process and Collegium System

- **Article 217**: Judges appointed by the **President of India**
- **Consultations**:
  - Chief Justice: **CJI** and **Governor**
  - Other Judges: **Chief Justice** of the **respective High Court**
- **Collegium**:
  - **Composition**: CJI + 2 senior SC judges
  - **Criticism**: Lack of transparency, potential nepotism, public controversies

Ad-Hoc Judges (Article 224A): Retired judges can be appointed with the President's approval, serving in the same or other High Courts

GOVERNMENT SCHEMES PROMOTING FLORICULTURE

Several schemes are accelerating the growth of floriculture in Himachal Pradesh:

1. **Himachal Flower Revolution Scheme**
   - Focus: Promotes year-round flower production using **polyhouse technology**.
   - Subsidies Offered:
     - ✓ **85% subsidy** on polyhouse construction, with farmers bearing only 15% of the cost.
     - ✓ **85% subsidy** on solar fencing to protect crops from stray animals.
     - ✓ **25% discount** on transportation costs to deliver flowers to market.
2. **Integrated Horticulture Development Mission**
   - Provides a **50% subsidy** for flower cultivation.
   - **80% subsidy** on **drip irrigation systems** under the Prime Minister's Agricultural Scheme.
   - Ravinder Kumar, for instance, received **Rs 12.5 lakh** for polyhouse construction and **Rs 4.52 lakh** for carnation planting through this mission.

FLORICULTURE'S POTENTIAL IN HIMACHAL PRADESH

- The **Western Himalayas** offer varied **agro-climatic zones** ideal for **year-round flower cultivation.**
- No need for expensive temperature control systems, reducing operational costs.
- Farmers can grow a **variety of products**, including:
  - **Cut flowers**
  - **Bulbs and seeds**
  - **Live plants**
- **Export-quality flowers** require controlled environments, easily managed using **polyhouse technology**.

Advantages of Floriculture

1. **Year-Round Production**: Continuous flower cultivation meets both domestic and export market demands.
2. **Cost-Effective Cultivation**: Natural climate eliminates the need for artificial heating and cooling systems.
3. **Subsidized Power:** Farmers receive domestic-rate power tariffs, reducing polyhouse operational costs.
4. **Employment Generation**: Creates jobs in **sorting, cutting, and packaging**, as demonstrated by Ravinder Kumar's enterprise.

Steps to Promote Floriculture

1. **Public Awareness Campaigns**: Government and media promote the use of flower products in daily life.
2. **Retail Expansion**: Flowers are made accessible in supermarkets, beyond traditional florist shops.
3. **Post-Harvest Infrastructure**: Improved facilities, particularly in major markets like Delhi, to handle growing demand.
4. **Knowledge Transfer**: Collaboration with scientific institutions ensures farmers adopt modern techniques for better productivity.

YULLA KANDA: THE WORLD'S HIGHEST KRISHNA TEMPLE

- Situated in **Kinnaur, Himachal Pradesh**, at **12,000 feet (3,895 meters)**.
- Recognized as the **highest Krishna temple**, located on the **Yulla Kanda Lake**.
- A blend of **spirituality, nature, and adventure**.

Legend and Spiritual Heritage

- Constructed in **traditional stone and wood style**.
- The lake is believed to have been created by the **Pandavas** during their exile.
- **Janmashtami** is celebrated, attracting devotees from across the region.

Trek to Yulla Kanda

- **12-km moderate trek** from **Yulla Khas village** with scenic views of Kinnaur mountains.
- **Alternative routes**: Kashang Pass and Listigarang Pass.

Cultural Traditions

- **Kinnauri cap ritual**: Floating a cap in the lake is believed to predict wish fulfillment.
- **Janmashtami fair**, started by **King Kehari Singh**, draws large crowds.

Religious Harmony

- **Hindu and Buddhist traditions** coexist in Kinnaur.
- Other pilgrimage sites: **Kinnaur Kailash** (Shiva) and **Kamru temple** (Badrinath).

Conclusion

- **Yulla Kanda** offers a unique blend of **faith, adventure, and natural beauty**, creating an **unforgettable experience for visitors**.

INDIA'S FIRST API FERMENTATION UNIT BEGINS MASS PRODUCTION IN NALAGARH

- **Location**: Plassra, Nalagarh, Himachal Pradesh.
- **India's first active pharmaceutical ingredient (API) fermentation unit**.
- **Objective**: Reduce dependency on API imports, especially from China and Korea.

Key Features

- **Company**: Kinvan Private Limited.
- **Investment**: Rs 460 crore.
- **Production Capacity**: 400 tonnes of potassium clavulanate API annually.
- **Domestic Demand**: Meets **60%** of India's annual 700-tonne requirement.

Impact on Domestic Supply

- **Supplies initiated** to Gujarat and Uttarakhand.
- **Employment**: 309 jobs created, with **252 local residents**, boosting the economy.

Government Support and Incentives

- **Incentives:**
  - 100% exemption on electricity duty and stamp duty.
  - 15% rebate on energy charges for five years.
  - **Subsidized land**: Re 1 per sq. meter.

PLI Scheme and Future Outlook

- **Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme** promotes local API production for **48 critical APIs**.
- Aligns with the **Atmanirbhar Bharat** initiative for self-reliance.
- **Future**: Potential expansion of API facilities to enhance India's pharmaceutical sector and global competitiveness.

HIMACHAL PRADESH: 'HIGHEST ACHIEVER STATE IN OVERALL HYDROPOWER CAPACITY' AWARD

- **Awarded**: '**Highest Achiever State** in **Overall Hydropower Capacity**' at **RE-INVEST 2024, Gandhinagar, Gujarat**.
- **Representatives**: Chief Parliamentary Secretary **Sunder Thakur** and **MLA Neeraj Nayyar** received the award.

Significance

- **Commitment to Renewable Energy**: Reflects the state's progress toward a green energy future.
- **Hydropower Potential**: Aligns with India's national renewable energy goals by tapping hydropower resources.

Government Initiatives

- **Hydropower Expansion**: Accelerated efforts to develop untapped hydropower.
- **Solar Projects**: Includes the **32 MW Pekhubela plant** and **new solar projects** in **Kutlehar and Bhanjal.**
- **Electric Mobility**: Promotion of **electric vehicles (EVs)** and supporting infrastructure.

Future Vision

- **Green Energy Goals**: Target to become a **'green energy state' by March 31, 2026**.
- **Role Model**: Himachal Pradesh sets a benchmark for sustainable energy practices in India and beyond.

VETIVER GRASS: HIMACHAL'S GREEN SOLUTION TO PREVENT LANDSLIDES

- **Himachal Pradesh's State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA)** initiates a **vetiver grass project to combat landslides and soil erosion** in **Solan district.**

Why Vetiver Grass?

- **Species Overview**: Vetiver (Chrysopogon zizanioides), a **perennial grass** known for its **deep-root system (3-4 meters),** effectively **stabilizes soil and prevents erosion**.
- **Versatility**: Used in traditional medicine and perfumery, vetiver is ideal for Himachal's mountainous terrain.

Pilot Project in Solan

- **Locations**: Focus on vulnerable areas like **Shamti, Sanwara, and Mansar**.
- **Cluster Approach**:
  - **Black Intervention**: Mitigation by **Public Works Department (PWD).**
  - **Brown Intervention**: Collaboration between various departments (agriculture, horticulture, etc.).
  - **Green Intervention**: Involvement of NGOs and community organizations for grassroots participation.

Vetiver and Bio-Engineering

- **Complementary Solutions**: Combined with other plants like **henna and Bermuda grass** to enhance soil stability.
- **Non-Invasive**: **Vetiver's growth pattern** avoids competition with **crops, preserving local ecosystems.**

Involvement of Experts and Community

- Experts from **climate resilience organizations** are engaged for implementation.
- **Local self-help groups** are involved to ensure community participation.

Adaptability of Vetiver

- Thrives in diverse **soil types** and **extreme temperatures (-15°C to 55°C).**
- Suitable for waterlogged, sandy, and flood-prone areas, enhancing its effectiveness in soil stabilization.

Conclusion

- The vetiver project is a **step toward disaster resilience** in **Himachal Pradesh**, promoting sustainable land management.
- Success **could inspire wider implementation** across **vulnerable districts, fostering a greener, more resilient future**.

SANJAULI MASJID CONTROVERSY: OVERVIEW OF PROTESTS AND WAQF BOARD'S INTERVENTION

- **Location**: **Sanjauli Masjid, Shimla, Himachal Pradesh**.
- **Incident**: Protests erupted after an **August 30** incident where **Vikram Singh** was assaulted by alleged outsiders, leading to accusations of **illegal mosque construction.**

Reasons for Protests

- **Local Outcry**: Locals, including BJP members, accused the mosque of illegal construction and demanded its demolition.
- **Allegations of Outsiders**: The protest was fueled by claims that the attackers were outsiders, prompting fears over community safety and illegal immigration.

Waqf Board's Intervention

- **Admission of Violations**: The Waqf Board acknowledged illegal construction within the mosque, including the floors.
- **Actions Taken**: Removal of encroachments, ban on outsiders staying in the mosque, and dismissal of the Imam were enacted.

Political Dynamics

- **State Assembly Debate**: Congress MLA Anirudh Singh questioned his party's stance on the mosque's legality, calling for its demolition and raising concerns over illegal immigrants.
- **Government's Response**: Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu urged calm and maintained a secular stance, emphasizing lawful action rather than communal conflict.

What is a Waqf?

- A **waqf** refers to a property or asset dedicated in the name of God for religious or charitable purposes.
- Legally, it involves the permanent dedication of movable or immovable property by a person professing Islam for purposes recognized by Islamic law as pious, religious, or charitable.

How is a Waqf Created?

- A waqf can be established through a formal deed or instrument. Alternatively, a property may be deemed a waqf if it has been used for religious or charitable purposes over an extended period.
- The proceeds from a waqf typically fund activities such as supporting educational institutions, graveyards, mosques, and shelter homes.
- Once a waqf is created, the property cannot be reclaimed by the person who established it, ensuring that it remains a perpetual entity.
- While a non-Muslim can create a waqf, the individual must follow Islamic practices, and the waqf's purpose must align with Islamic principles.

Governance of Waqfs

Waqfs in India are governed by the Waqf Act, 1995. The process includes:

- A **survey commissioner** conducting investigations and listing properties declared as waqf by calling witnesses and examining public documents.
- A waqf is **managed by** a **mutawali**, who **serves as the supervisor**.
- Unlike trusts formed under the **Indian Trusts Act of 1882**, which can be dissolved and serve broader purposes, **waqfs are designed specifically for religious and charitable objectives** and are intended to be permanent.

What is a Waqf Board?

A **Waqf Board** is a legal body that can **acquire, hold, and transfer property**. It has the authority to sue and be sued in court.

- **Each state in India has its own Waqf Board**, led by a **chairperson**. The board includes **state government appointees**, **Muslim legislators**, **parliamentarians**, **members of the state Bar Council, Islamic scholars, and mutawalis** managing **waqfs with an annual income exceeding Rs. 1 lakh**.
- The board **appoints custodians** to ensure that waqf properties and their revenues are used for the intended

religious or charitable purposes.

- The **Central Waqf Council (CWC)**, formed in **1964**, oversees and provides guidance to **state-level Waqf Boards**.

Powers and Functions of the Waqf Board

The Waqf Board holds several powers under the law, including:

- **Administering waqf properties** and **taking steps to recover lost waqf assets**.
- Approving the **transfer of immovable waqf properties** through **sale, gift, mortgage, exchange, or lease**.
- However, any such transfer must be supported by at least two-thirds of the board members.

In the Sanjauli Masjid case, the Waqf Board's intervention was crucial in acknowledging the illegal construction and taking steps to remove unauthorized structures and prevent further controversy.

ZERO HOUR IN HIMACHAL PRADESH ASSEMBLY: A NEW LEGISLATIVE MILESTONE

Introduction of Zero Hour

- For the **first time**, the Himachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly introduced **Zero Hour** during the 2024 monsoon session.
- This initiative aligns with **parliamentary conventions** in India, providing legislators a platform to raise **urgent public issues** without prior notice.

What is Zero Hour?

- **Definition:** A **parliamentary practice** that allows members to raise critical issues without the mandatory 10-day notice required for formal discussions.
- **Process:** Members must notify the Speaker on the same day (usually by **10 a.m.**) if they wish to raise matters of public importance.
- **Purpose:** Provides a **dedicated 30-minute slot** for urgent discussions without interrupting other sessions like Question Hour.

Structure and Functioning

- **Timings:** Zero Hour starts at **12:30 PM**, immediately after **Question Hour** (11:30 AM - 12:30 PM).
- **No Mandatory Responses:** Ministers are not obligated to respond during this time, unlike during Question Hour.
- **Prevents Disruptions:** It ensures that **opposition concerns** are addressed without disrupting Question Hour.

Rationale for Zero Hour in Himachal Pradesh

- **Streamlining Legislative Business:** Speaker **Kuldeep Singh Pathania** introduced Zero Hour to prevent disruptions and ensure **smooth discussions** on urgent public concerns.
- **Accountability and Clarity:** It ensures **MLAs** can raise pressing issues without affecting the primary legislative schedule.

Why is it Called 'Zero Hour'?

- The term "Zero Hour" refers to the **gap between the end of Question Hour** and the start of regular legislative proceedings, typically around **noon**.
- It originated in the **1960s** in India when members began informally raising urgent matters post-Question Hour.

Comparison with Other Parliamentary Practices

- **Lok Sabha:** Zero Hour follows Question Hour.
- **Rajya Sabha:** It **starts the day's proceedings** in the upper house.
- **Flexibility:** Unlike Question Hour, members do not expect **immediate ministerial responses**, making it a smoother process for raising concerns.

Conclusion

The introduction of **Zero Hour** in Himachal Pradesh represents a progressive step toward **streamlining legislative procedures**. It ensures **better governance**, smoother discussions, and **greater accountability** by providing a structured platform for raising urgent issues without interrupting other legislative business.

HIMACHAL PRADESH SHIVA PROJECT: A BOOST TO SUBTROPICAL HORTICULTURE

- The **Himachal Pradesh Subtropical Horticulture, Irrigation, and Value Addition (HPSHIVA)** project aims to transform the state's horticulture sector with the support of the **Asian Development Bank (ADB)**.

Key Objectives

- Improve **farm incomes** and rural economies.
- Promote **climate-resilient** and **diverse** agricultural practices.
- Enhance **irrigation** and **value chain** infrastructure.

Targeted Districts

- The project focuses on **Bilaspur, Hamirpur, Kangra, Mandi, Solan, Sirmour, and Una**.

Key Features

1. **Irrigation:** 162 irrigation schemes for better water supply.
2. **Plantation:** 6,000 hectares under horticulture across 400 clusters.
3. **Farmer Cooperatives:** Organizes farmers into **Cooperative Societies** or **FPOs** for market access.
4. **Lychee Planting:** Focus on crop diversification through lychee cultivation in **Mandi**.

5. **Funding: Rs. 1,398 crore** budget, with ADB contributing **USD 130 million**.

Impact and Benefits

- Directly **benefits 15,000 farmers** and creates jobs, reducing rural migration.
- Introduces **climate-smart** practices, ensuring **sustainable** agriculture.
- Enhances **post-harvest facilities** and provides better **market access**.
- Aims to diversify beyond apple production, positioning the state as a **subtropical fruit leader**.

Conclusion

The **HPSHIVA project** strengthens the agricultural economy through improved irrigation, market integration, and climate-resilient farming, ensuring sustainable growth and reduced dependence on single crops like apples.

NISHAD KUMAR: SILVER MEDALIST AT PARIS 2024 PARALYMPICS AND PRIDE OF HIMACHAL PRADESH

- **Nishad Kumar,** a **high jumper** from **Baduan village in Himachal Pradesh's Una district**, has once again made India proud by winning a silver medal at the 2024 Paris Paralympics.
- Competing in the T47 category, Nishad cleared 2.04 meters, continuing his impressive run after setting an Asian record with a 2.06-meter jump at the Tokyo 2020 Paralympics.

Early Life and Education

- **Family Background**: Father is a farmer; mother was a state-level athlete.
- **Accident**: Lost right hand at age six but remained passionate about sports.
- **Education**: Studied at DAV College, Himachal Pradesh University, and currently at Lovely Professional University.

Paralympic Success

- **Tokyo 2020**: Silver medal, Asian record of 2.06 meters.
- **Paris 2024**: Retained silver medal with a jump of 2.04 meters.
- **Recognition**: Praised by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

CHINTPURNI FESTIVAL: A VIBRANT CELEBRATION IN UNA, HIMACHAL PRADESH

Dates and Location

- **When:** September 14 to 16
- **Where:** Mata Chintpurni Shrine, Una District
- **Purpose:** The festival **celebrates religious and cultural heritage while promoting spiritual tourism in the region.**

Cultural and Religious Significance

- **Shakti Peetha:** The Chintpurni temple is one of the **51 Shakti Peethas** in Hindu mythology, believed to be the spot where **Goddess Sati's feet** fell.
- **Mata Chintpurni:** Also called **Chhinnamastika Devi**, she symbolizes **self-sacrifice and spiritual power**. According to legend, she severed her own head to quench the thirst of her attendants.

Festival Highlights

- **Shobha Yatra:** A **colorful procession** starts from the shrine and proceeds to the SDM's office, ending at **Amb playground**.
- **Exhibitions:** Displays showcase **government welfare schemes** and products from **local self-help groups**.
- **Sports Events:** Traditional **rural wrestling competitions** held at **Ramlila ground** enhance the cultural vibe.

Impact on Religious Tourism

- **Enhancing Tourism:** The festival aims to attract more visitors and **improve temple facilities** for devotees.
- **Cultural Appreciation:** It fosters a deeper **understanding of the region's heritage** and traditions.
- **Administrative Support:** The local government is committed to **organizing the event smoothly**, ensuring it becomes a vibrant annual celebration.

This festival not only reflects the **faith and traditions** of the region but also plays a key role in **strengthening cultural tourism** and supporting **local communities**.

HIMACHAL PRADESH WETLAND FILM FESTIVAL: A PUSH FOR ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

- **Inauguration**: The festival, titled "Wetlands for Life," was launched by Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu.
- **Organizers**: Hosted by the Himachal Pradesh State Wetland Authority, HP Council for Science, and the Department of Environment.

Importance of Wetlands

- **Environmental Role**: Wetlands serve as natural filters, purifying water, regulating its flow, and providing habitats for various species.
- **State's Wetlands**: Himachal Pradesh has 2,343 wetlands, including three Ramsar Sites: Pong Dam, Renuka Ji, and Chandertal.

Festival Significance

- **Raising Awareness**: Films showcased promote conservation efforts and highlight the ecological importance of wetlands.
- **Community Involvement**: Emphasizes participatory conservation, particularly engaging women's groups.

Public Engagement and Government Initiatives

- **Chief Minister's Message**: Stressed the necessity of citizen involvement in climate change initiatives.
- **Government Initiatives**:
  - Promotion of electric vehicles.
  - Support for renewable energy projects.

Conclusion

The festival integrates environmental conservation with economic growth, emphasizing the urgency of protecting wetlands and encouraging informed public participation for sustainable development in Himachal Pradesh.

SJVN ACHIEVES NAVRATNA STATUS: A SIGNIFICANT MILESTONE IN INDIA'S PUBLIC SECTOR

- **Company Overview**: Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam Ltd (SJVN) has been awarded Navratna status by the Department of Public Enterprises, Government of India.
- **Financial Highlights**: For FY24, SJVN reported an annual turnover of Rs. 2,833 crore and a net profit of Rs. 908 crore.

Understanding Navratna Status

- **Criteria for Award**: Navratna status is granted to Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) with a composite score of over 60, Miniratna I, and Schedule 'A' classification.
- **Purpose of Recognition**: This status enables CPSEs to expand globally and provides greater operational autonomy.

Implications for SJVN

- **Enhanced Operational Autonomy**: SJVN can undertake larger projects and form strategic partnerships without financial ceilings.
- **Investment Capabilities**: The company is permitted to invest up to 30% of its net worth annually, facilitating growth in the energy sector.

Growth and Operational Efficiency

- **Decision-Making Independence**: Navratna status empowers SJVN to make autonomous decisions regarding capital expenditures and technology partnerships.
- **Contribution to Renewable Energy**: This aligns with India's target of achieving 500 GW of renewable energy capacity by 2030.

Evolution and Historical Context

- **Company History**: SJVN was established in 1988 as a joint venture between the Government of India and Himachal Pradesh.
- **Project Portfolio**: The company has a total capacity of 56,802.4 MW, including 13 operational projects (2,466.5 MW) and 75 in various stages of development.

Significance for Energy Security

- **Strategic Role**: SJVN's enhanced capabilities align with India's sustainable energy goals and commitments under international agreements like the Paris Climate Accord.

Government Support and Leadership Recognition

- **Acknowledgment**: The company expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman for their support.
- **Leadership Achievement**: Akhileshwar Singh, Director (Finance and Personnel), received the CFO Leadership Award 2024 for his contributions to SJVN's success in renewable energy.

CHAMBA TO HOST HIMACHAL PRADESH'S PIONEER GREEN HYDROGEN MOBILITY STATION

- **Chamba** is set to become the **first district in Himachal Pradesh to establish a green hydrogen-based mobility station**, marking a significant step towards sustainable transportation in the region.

Development Details

- **Developer**: The facility is being developed by the National Hydro Power Corporation (NHPC).
- **Location**: It will be located near the NHPC's Chamera-III power station.
- **Energy Supply**: The station will be supported by a 300 kW grid-connected solar power plant to meet its energy needs.

Production Capacity

- **Hydrogen Output**: The station is designed to produce up to 20 kg of green hydrogen daily.
- **Storage Pressure**: The hydrogen will be stored at pressures of 450 bar or higher, with the aim of fueling a green hydrogen bus.

About Green Hydrogen

- **Definition**: Green hydrogen is produced from renewable energy sources and is intended to support eco-friendly transportation systems.

Production Process

- **Method**: The production involves using renewable energy (such as wind, solar, and hydropower) through a process called electrolysis.
- **Electrolysis**: This method splits water into hydrogen and oxygen using electricity. When the electricity used comes from renewable sources, the resulting hydrogen is classified as "green."

HIMACHAL PRADESH LAUNCHES HIM-UNNATI SCHEME TO PROMOTE NATURAL FARMING

- The Himachal Pradesh government has unveiled the **HIM-UNNATI scheme** to **promote natural farming**.
- Objectives: Focus on making the agriculture sector economically viable through a cluster-based development model.
- **Fund Allocation Rs.**:150 crore.
- Target Beneficiaries: Benefits approximately 1.92 lakh farmers practicing chemical-free farming on over 32,149 hectares of land.

Key Components:

- **100% soil test-based nutrient management** to enhance soil productivity.
- Promotion of **high-end product cultivation**.
- **Support for traditional crops and millet procurement**.

BAGLAMUKHI TEMPLE ROPEWAY OPENING SOON

- **Himachal Pradesh** will soon have its **first government-operated ropeway** to **Baglamukhi Temple** in **Mandi district.**

Purpose

- Aims to **facilitate the influx of devotees and tourists**.
- Expected **to boost religious tourism and provide easier access**.

Ropeway Details

- **Construction**: Built by an Austrian company.
- **Distance Covered**: 750 meters.
- **Connection**: Links a point on the Chandigarh-Manali highway to the Baglamukhi Temple, located just 1 km from Pandoh Dam.
- **Carrying Capacity**: 16 people per cabin.
- **Travel Time**: 3 minutes.

About Baglamukhi Temple

- A prominent Hindu temple dedicated to Goddess Baglamukhi, one of the ten Mahavidyas.
- Goddess Baglamukhi is associated with knowledge, learning, and the ability to control speech and actions.

GROUNDBREAKING LAUNCH: THE FIRST CONTROLLED ATMOSPHERE (CA) STORE

- Revenue and Horticulture Minister Jagat Singh Negi has inaugurated the foundation for the world's first Controlled Atmosphere (CA) store utilizing geothermal technology in Tapri, located in Kinnaur district.
- **Purpose:** To offer cost-effective storage solutions for local horticulturists in the district.

Collaboration:

- The project will be developed with support from Iceland.
- Icelandic scientists will provide training to Himachal's horticulture specialists in geothermal technology.

About the Controlled Atmosphere (CA) Store:

- A specialized storage facility designed to control and maintain specific atmospheric conditions.
- Its objective is to preserve quality and extend the shelf life of perishable goods, especially fruits and vegetables.

LADARCHA FESTIVAL

- The **three-day Ladarcha festival** has commenced in the picturesque town of **Kaza**, located in the **Lahaul and Spiti district.**
- This festival serves as a platform for **self-help groups (SHGs)** to showcase natural products **created under the JICA Forestry Project**.

About the Ladarcha Festival:

- The **La Darcha Fair** takes place annually in the **Lahaul and Spiti district**.
- It provides a **unique opportunity to explore the rich**, unspoiled culture, artifacts, handicrafts, and a wide array of exquisite products from the region.
- Traders **from Ladakh, Rampur Bushahr, and Spiti gather at the fair** to exchange their goods.
- The fair includes three stalls dedicated to showcasing traditional and natural products, highlighting the distinctive offerings of Spiti.

YAMUNA SHARAD MAHOTSAV: A CULTURAL CELEBRATION IN PAONTA SAHIB

The three-day **Yamuna Sharad Mahotsav** recently concluded in **Paonta Sahib**, Himachal Pradesh, drawing attendees from across the state and neighboring regions. Celebrated annually, the festival highlights the area's rich cultural heritage while fostering communal harmony and respect for local traditions.

Origins and Historical Context

- Inaugurated in **1982** by CRB Lalit, the festival honors **Lord Krishna** and the **Yamuna River**, symbolizing spiritual sustenance in Hinduism. Since its inception, it has evolved into a grand event, attracting a diverse audience.

Festival Activities

The festival includes various cultural and social activities:

- **Cultural Programs**: Devotional songs and traditional performances showcase local heritage.

- **Sports Competitions**: Promote physical activity and community engagement.
- **Exhibitions**: Government and self-help groups display their contributions and products.
- **Yamuna Aarti**: A sacred riverbank ritual, reinforcing cultural ties to nature.

Religious Significance

Sacred rituals like **jalabhishek** and **kalash yatra** were integral to the festivities, reflecting the community's deep reverence for the Yamuna River.

Paonta Sahib: A Cultural Hub

Paonta Sahib, closely linked to **Guru Gobind Singh**, serves as a pilgrimage site and a melting pot of Sikh and Himachali traditions, making it a vital cultural center.

Government Support

During the festival, officials announced initiatives to enhance local infrastructure and promote self-reliance, including a **Rs. 25 crore trauma center** for better healthcare services.

Conclusion

The Yamuna Sharad Mahotsav not only celebrates the region's traditions but also fosters unity and economic empowerment, making it a significant part of Paonta Sahib's cultural landscape. The festival stands as a testament to Himachal Pradesh's enduring heritage and its connection to the Yamuna River.

Lawrence School, Sanawar Achieves Top Ranking in Vintage Co-ed Boarding Schools

- **Top Ranking**: Lawrence School, Sanawar, has been awarded 1st place in the "Vintage Co-ed Boarding Schools" category by Education World for 2024-25.
- **Award Ceremony**: Headmaster **Himmat Singh Dhillon** received the accolade on October 18, 2024, during a ceremony at The Leela Ambience Hotel in Gurgaon, coinciding with the school's 177th anniversary.

Historical Significance

- **Foundation**: Established in **1847**, Lawrence School is **one of Asia's oldest and most prestigious private boarding schools**.
- **Location**: Situated in the **Kasauli Hills near Solan**, **Himachal Pradesh**, at an altitude of **1,750 meters**, encompassing 139 acres of forested land.
- **Founders**: Founded by **Sir Henry Lawrence** and his wife, **Honoria**, with a vision of **providing education for orphaned children of European soldiers in India**.

Origins of the School

- **Initial Vision**: Initially proposed to be located in Mussoorie, logistical challenges led to the establishment in Sanawar, where 14 children were admitted under the care of Charlotte Lawrence on April 15, 1847.
- **Educational Goals**: Aimed to provide a "plain, useful, and religious education" for orphans and Anglo-Indian children, supported by Maharaja Gulab Singh of Jammu and Kashmir.

Military Tradition

- **Early Years**: Originally known as "Lawrence's Asylum," renamed "Lawrence Royal Military School" in 1858, with a strong military ethos.
- **King's Colour**: Received the prestigious King's Colour in 1853, a rare honor among British institutions.
- **World Wars**: Many students enlisted in the military during both World Wars, with this tradition commemorated annually.

Challenges and Growth

- **Health Crises**: Faced challenges like cholera outbreaks, leading to improved sanitation and health measures by the late 19th century under headmaster John Cole.
- **Post-Independence**: The school's centenary in 1947 aligned with India's independence, transitioning control from British authorities to Indian governance.

Milestones and Recognition

- **150th Anniversary**: Celebrated in **1997** with a commemorative postage stamp issued by the Indian government.
- **Current Status**: Continues to be recognized among the top residential schools in India, combining its rich legacy with modern educational practices.

Enduring Legacy

- **Motto**: The school's motto, "**Never Give In**," reflects its commitment to resilience and excellence.
- **Holistic Education**: Lawrence School, Sanawar, has evolved from a refuge for orphans to a premier educational institution, maintaining a focus on both academic and military excellence.

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 Chamera-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, & 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**: Bhitti 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[1].

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.

PRACTICE MCQS:

1. **Based on the history and achievements of Lawrence School, Sanawar, which of the following statements are correct? Select the correct options.**

   1 Lawrence School was established in 1847 and is located in the Kasauli Hills of Himachal Pradesh.

   2 The school was initially proposed to be located in Mussoorie before settling in Sanawar.

   3 Lawrence School has consistently ranked first in the "Vintage Co-ed Boarding Schools" category by Education World since its inception.

   4 The school celebrated its 177th anniversary in October 2024.

   Options:

   a) 1 and 2 only

   b) 2 and 4 only

   c) 1, 3, and 4 only

   d) 1, 2, and 4 only

2. **Which of the following district is set to become the first district in Himachal Pradesh to establish a green hydrogen-based mobility station:**
   a) Chamba
   b) Bilaspur
   c) Mandi
   d) Shimla
3. **"Kurud" is installed at which Part of the pent roof style temple in Himalyas?**
   a) On the windows of the temple
   b) Adjacent to the statue of deity
   c) On the roof of the temple
   d) At the gate of the temple
4. **Based on the recent announcement regarding the Umbrella Act for water management in Himachal Pradesh, which of the following statements are correct? Select the correct options.**
   1 The Umbrella Act aims to consolidate various water-related laws into a single comprehensive framework.
   2 One of the key areas covered by the act includes the allocation of water resources solely for agricultural purposes.
   3 An expert committee will be formed to draft the act, which will involve consultation with legal experts and stakeholders.
   4 The act will also focus on climate change preparedness and disaster management strategies.

   Options:
   a) 1 and 3 only
   b) 2 and 4 only
   c) 1, 3, and 4 only
   d) 1, 2, 3, and 4
5. **Which of the following state was awarded 'Highest Achiever State in Overall Hydropower Capacity' at RE-INVEST 2024, Gandhinagar, Gujarat**
   a) Uttarakhand
   b) Assam
   c) Himachal Pradesh
   d) Jammu and Kashmir

ANSWERS

1. **Answer: D. 1, 2, and 4 only**
   - **Explanation:** Statement 3 is incorrect; while Lawrence School has achieved the top ranking in 2024-25, it did not consistently hold this position since its inception.
2. **Answer: A. Chamba**
3. **Answer: C. On the roof of the temple**
4. **Answer: C. 1, 3, and 4 only**
   - **Explanation:** Statement 2 is incorrect; while the act focuses on water resource allocation, it is not limited to agricultural purposes but aims to balance needs across agriculture, industry, and households.
5. **Answer: C. Himachal Pradesh**

हि.प्र. अलाईड मुख्य परीक्षा के लिए उपयोगी

ENGLISH & HINDI

COMPLETE RECORDED BATCH

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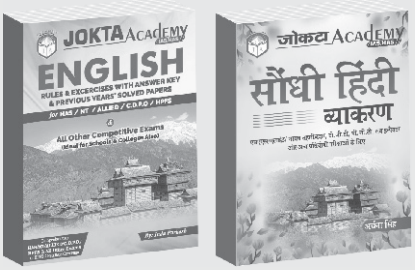

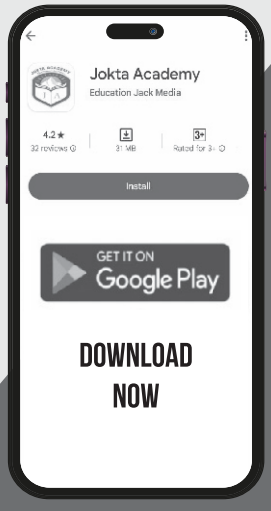

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AWARDS

RAMON MAGSAYSAY AWARD

- **Japanese filmmaker Hayao Miyazaki**, considered **one of the greatest animators and directors**, has won the **2024 Ramon Magsaysay Award.**
- Masterpieces: "**My Neighbour Totoro**" and "**Kiki's Delivery Service**."
- **About the Award:**
  - Established in **1957,** the Ramon Magsaysay Award is **one of the most prestigious honors in Asia**.
  - Created in **memory of Ramon Magsaysay**, the **third president of the Philippines**.
- **Ceremony Details:**
  - Scheduled to take place in **Manila** in November 2024.
- **2024 Laureates:**
  - **Miyazaki Hayao (Japan)** - Renowned filmmaker and founder of Studio Ghibli.
  - **Farwiza Farhan (Indonesia)** - Environmentalist and social justice advocate.
  - **Karma Phuntsho (Bhutan)** - Former monk, scholar, and cultural preservationist.
  - **Dr. Nguyen Thi Ngoc Phuong (Vietnam)** - Physician and advocate for Agent Orange victims.
  - **Rural Doctors Movement (Thailand)** Collective of healthcare professionals revolutionizing rural health.

SASTRA RAMANUJAN PRIZE 2024

- **Alexander Dunn (Georgia Institute of Technology, U.S.)** awarded the **prestigious 2024 SASTRA Ramanujan Prize.**
- Recognized for his **outstanding contributions to analytic number theory.**
- **Award Presentation:**
  - To be presented at the **International Conference on Number Theory**.
  - Dates: **December 20-22, 2024.**
  - Location: **SASTRA University, Kumbakonam, Tamil Nadu.**
- **About the Award:**
  - Instituted by the **Shanmugha Arts, Science, Technology & Research Academy (SASTRA)** in **2005.**
  - Includes a **cash prize of $10,000.**
  - **Presented annually to young mathematicians aged 32 and below** for their contributions to areas influenced by Ramanujan's work.
- **Inspiration:**
  - Draws inspiration from one of India's greatest mathematical minds, Srinivasa Ramanujan.
  - Ramanujan was born on December 22, 1887, in Erode, Tamil Nadu.

NATIONAL TEACHERS AWARD 2024

- President Droupadi Murmu presented the National Teachers Award 2024 to 82 teachers in New Delhi.
- **Occasion:**
  - The awards are presented on September 5 each year on the birth anniversary of Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan.
- **Eligibility:**
  - Only regular teachers and Heads of Schools with a minimum of ten years of service are eligible for these awards.
- **Award Details:**
  - Each award includes:
  - A certificate of merit.
  - A cash award of Rs. 50,000.
  - A silver medal.

NATIONAL FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE AWARDS

- President presented **National Florence Nightingale Awards** to **15 nurses** at **Rashtrapati Bhavan**.
- **Award Background:**
  - Instituted by the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**, **Government of India.**
  - Instituted in the year **1973.**
- **Recognition:**
  - Awarded for **outstanding commitment** to duty and service to the community.
- **Award Components:**
  - Certificate of Merit.
  - Cash Award of Rs. 1,00,000/-.

E GOVERNANCE GOLD FOR POSHAN TRACKER

- The **Ministry of Women and Child Development** has won the **National Award for e-Governance 2024 (Gold)** for its **Poshan Tracker initiative**.
- **Poshan Tracker:**
  - Part of **Mission Poshan 2.0.**
  - Tracks the **growth of millions of young lives** (**children of 0-6 years of age**) through its **Monthly Growth Monitoring initiative**.

- **POSHAN Abhiyaan:** Launched by the **government on March 8, 2018**.

SWACHH VAYU SURVEKSHAN AWARD 2024

- The **Rajasthan State Pollution Control Board** hosted the **5th International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies** or **Swach Vayu Diwas** on **7 September 2024 in Jaipur**.
- The **4th meeting** of the **Apex Committee of the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)** was also held in **Jaipur** on the same day.
- Chaired **by Bhupendra Yadav**, the Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

About NCAP: Launched in **January 2019** by the **Government of India to reduce air pollution** in identified cities.

Award Winners:

- **Category 1 (Population over 10 lakhs):**
  - Surat (Gujarat)
  - Jabalpur (Madhya Pradesh)
  - Agra (Uttar Pradesh)
- **Category 2 (Population between 3 and 10 lakhs):**
  - Firozabad (Uttar Pradesh)
  - Amravati (Maharashtra)
  - Jhansi (Uttar Pradesh)
- **Category 3 (Population under 3 lakhs):**
  - Raebareli (Uttar Pradesh)
  - Nalgonda (Telangana)
  - Nalagarh (Himachal Pradesh)

27TH NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON E-GOVERNANCE (NCEG)

- **Event Overview:** The **27th National Conference on e-Governance (NCeG)** was hosted by the **Government of Maharashtra in Mumbai**.
- The theme for this edition was **"Viksit Bharat: Secure and Sustainable eService Delivery."**

Organizers:

- The **Conference is an annual event** organized by the **Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG).**
- It is held in collaboration with the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)** and the **respective State Government** that **hosts the event**.

Awards and Recognition:

ONDC Recognition:

- The **Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC)** was awarded the **Gold Award** under the **category "Application of Emerging Technologies for Providing Citizen-Centric Services"**.
- The award was presented during the **National Awards for e-Governance (NAeG)** at the **27th NCeG.**

Award Objectives:

- **Promoting e-Governance Excellence:** The objective of the award **is to recognize and promote excellence in the implementation of e-Governance initiatives**.
- It aims to encourage innovation in the development and execution of successful e-Governance solutions.

2024 EKALABYA PURASKAR

- **Award Recipient: Pratyasa Ray** , an emerging swimmer from **Odisha**, has been selected for the **32nd Ekalabya Puraskar** for **2024 in recognition of her achievements in swimming**.
- **Prize Details:** Ray will be awarded a cash prize of Rs 7 lakh, which has been increased from the previous amount of Rs 5 lakh.
- **Achievements:** She secured a total of six medals at the Khelo India University Games held in Guwahati in February 2024:
  - Four gold medals
  - One silver medal
  - One bronze medal

About the Ekalabya Puraskar:

- **Institution:** The Ekalabya Puraskar was established in **1993** by the **Indian Metals Public Charitable Trust (IMPaCT).**
- **Purpose:** The award is **given annually to young sportspersons from Odisha** to recognize their outstanding performance over the preceding two years.

SANGEETHA KALA VIBHUSHAN LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

- Maharashtra Governor Honours Seshampatti Sri T. Sivalingam with Sangeetha Kala Vibhushan Lifetime Achievement Award
- **Recipient:** Veteran Nadaswaram exponent **Seshampatti Sri T. Sivalingam.**
- **Award:** Sangeetha Kala Vibhushan Lifetime Achievement Award.
- **Presenter:** Maharashtra Governor C. P. Radhakrishnan.
- **Event:** Nadaswara Thiruvizha programme in Mumbai.
- **Date:** September 2024 ,1.

Award Inclusions:

- Cash prize of Rs. 2.5 lakh.
- Gold-coated lamp.

- Nadaswaram (a traditional wind instrument).
- Citation.

IIFA AWARDS 2024

- The **International Indian Film Academy (IIFA) Awards 2024,** took place **in Abu Dhabi.**
- Celebrating the **movies and talents of the Hindi film industry**.

CATEGORY	WINNERS
Best Film	Animal (total 5 awards)
Best Actor	Shah Rukh Khan, Jawan
Best Actress	Rani Mukerji, Mrs Chatterjee vs Norway
Best Director	Vidhu Vinod Chopra, 12th Fail
Best Story	Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani
Outstanding Contribution to Indian Cinema	Jayantilal Gada, Hema Malini
Achievement on completing 25 years in cinema	Karan Johar

- **Kiran Rao's 'Laapataa Ladies' is India's official submission to Oscars 2025**
- The **jury of the Film Federation of India (FFI),** the apex body that annually selects the Indian official entry for the **Academy Award for Best International Feature Film.**
- India was **last nominated** for Best International Feature at the Academy Awards **for Lagaan (2001).**
- The **97th Academy Awards** are scheduled for **2025 in Hollywood, Los Angeles, US**

UN INTER-AGENCY TASK FORCE AWARD

- **Recipient:** The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR).
- **Award:** 2024 UN Inter-Agency Task Force Award.
- **Recognition:** For significant achievements in advancing multi-sectoral efforts to prevent and control non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and mental health issues.

GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS AND PADMA VIBHUSHAN

- **Guinness World Records:**
  - Film star **Chiranjeevi Konidela** was honoured with "**The most prolific film star in Indian Film Industry-actor/dancer**" by **the Guinness World Records** at an event in Hyderabad.
  - Over his **45year career,** he has performed in 537 songs and executed a staggering 24,000 dance moves.
- **Padma Vibhushan:**
  - Chiranjeevi was bestowed with the **Padma Vibhushan in 2024**, the **second highest civilian honour awarded** in India.
  - He was previously honoured with the Padma Bhushan in 2006.

Event:

- **The Guinness World Records certificate** was presented to **Chiranjeevi** on **September 22, 2024**, **marking the anniversary** of his film debut in **1978.**

MISS INDIA WORLDWIDE 2024

- **Dhruvi Patel,** a **Computer Information System** student from the **USA**, was crowned **Miss India Worldwide 2024**.
- **Pageant: Miss India Worldwide** is the longest-running Indian pageant held outside of India.
- **Achievement: Patel's victory** marks a **significant milestone for Indian representation** in **international beauty pageants.**

MISS UNIVERSE INDIA 2024

- **Winner: Rhea Singha**, an **18-year-old from Gujarat**, was crowned **Miss Universe India 2024.**
- **Representation:** Singha will represent India at the **Miss Universe 2024 pageant.**
- **Pageant Details:** The 73rd Miss Universe pageant will be held in **Mexico City** on Saturday, November 16, 2024.

SANGEETHA KALA VIBHUSHAN

- **Awardee:** Veteran Nadaswaram exponent **Seshampatti Sri T. Sivalingam** was honored with the **Sangeetha Kala Vibhushan Lifetime Achievement Award.**
- **Awarding Authority:** Maharashtra Governor **C. P. Radhakrishnan** presented the award.
- **Occasion:** The award was conferred at the **Nadaswara Thiruvizha program in Mumbai.**
- **Significance:** The award recognizes Sivalingam's exceptional contributions to the field of Nadaswaram music throughout his career.

Indian Academy Award Winners Oscar winners	Category	Year	Film
Bhanu Athaiya	Best Costume Design	1983	Film: Gandhi
Satyajit Ray	Honourary Award	1992	-
Resul Pookutty	Best Sound Mixing	2009	Film: Slumdog Millionaire

Gulzar	Best Original Song	2009	Film: Slumdog Millionaire
AR Rahman	Best Original Score and Best Original Song	2009	Film: Slumdog Millionaire
Kartiki Gonsalves and Guneet Monga	Best Documentary Short	2023	The Elephant Whisperers
MM Keeravani and Chandrabose	Best Original Song	2023	Film: RRR

76TH PRIMETIME EMMY AWARD

Primetime Emmy Awards celebrate the **best in American prime-time television**

Category	Winner
Outstanding Drama Series	Shogun
Outstanding Comedy Series	Hacks
Outstanding Limited or Anthology Series	Baby Reindeer

IIFA AWARDS TO RETURN TO JAIPUR IN 2025

- **Host City: Jaipur, Rajasthan**, will host the **25th edition of the International Indian Film Academy (IIFA) Awards.**
- **Dates:** The event will take place from **March 7 to 9, 2025**, at the **JECC Sitapura**.
- **Budget:** The **Rajasthan government** has allocated **Rs. 100 crore** for the event.
- **New Feature:** The **2025 IIFA Awards** will introduce the inaugural **IIFA Digital Awards,** recognizing achievements in digital entertainment.
- **IIFA History:** The **IIFA Awards** were founded in **2000** and have been held in various locations worldwide.
- **Jaipur Highlights:**
  - Jaipur is a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**, recognized for its **rich cultural heritage.**
  - It was founded in **1727 AD** by **Sawai Jai Singh II.**
  - **Jaipur** is the **capital city of Rajasthan.**

Additional Information:

- The **IIFA Awards** are an **annual awards** ceremony that **celebrates excellence in Indian cinema.**
- The event is organized by **Wizcraft International Entertainment Pvt. Ltd.**

MITHUN CHAKRABORTY HONORED WITH THE DADASAHEB PHALKE AWARD

- Veteran actor **Mithun Chakraborty** has been awarded the **Dadasaheb Phalke Award**, the highest recognition in Indian cinema.
- This **prestigious award** celebrates **lifetime contributions to the film industry**.
- The announcement was made by **Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw**.
- The award will be **officially presented on October 8, 2024**, at the **70th National Film Awards ceremony**.
- **Chakraborty** recently also received the **Padma Bhushan**, **one of India's highest civilian honors.**

What is the Dadasaheb Phalke Award?

1. **Top Honor in Indian Cinema**: The **Dadasaheb Phalke Award** is the most prestigious award in Indian cinema.
2. **Origins of the Award**:
   - It is named after **Dadasaheb Phalke**, the father of Indian cinema.
   - Phalke is known for directing **India's first full-length feature film, Raja Harishchandra (1913)**.
3. **Award Criteria**:
   - The award honors individuals who have made a **lifelong and significant impact** on the Indian film industry.
   - It recognizes contributions across various creative roles, including **acting, directing, and producing**.

MIDORI PRIZE 2024 AWARDEES ANNOUNCED

Awardees:

- **Vera Voronova (Kazakhstan)**
  - **Role**: Executive Director of the **Association for the Conservation of Biodiversity** in **Kazakhstan.**
  - **Contributions**: Focused on ecosystem restoration and saving endangered species in Central Asia, while engaging local rural communities in conservation efforts.
- **Ysabel Agustina Calderón Carlos (Peru)**
  - **Role**: Founder and CEO of Sumak Kawsay.
  - **Contributions**: Dedicated to protecting pollinators vital for food production and improving livelihoods for Indigenous women and youth through projects like the Bee Honey Route, promoting sustainable beekeeping.

Award Ceremony Details

- **Date**: **October 29, 2024.**
- **Location**: Cali, Colombia, during the 16th Conference of the Parties (COP 16) of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Significance of the MIDORI Prize

- **Established**: **2010.**
- **Total Recipients**: 19 individuals from 17 countries recognized for significant contributions to biodiversity conservation.
- **Notable Past Winners**: **Dr. Paul Hebert** (DNA barcoding) and **Melina Sakiyama** (youth engagement in environmental protection).
- **Alignment**: Supports global initiatives like the **Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework,** aimed at protecting biodiversity.

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

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**
- 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

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

➢ Ponniyin 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 h**ighest 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 A**ll-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.

PRACTICE MCQS:

1. **Which city won the Swachh Vayu Survekshan Award 2024 in the category for populations over 10 lakhs?**
   a) Jaipur
   b) Surat
   c) Amravati
   d) Raebareli
2. **Which of the following is NOT a laureate of the 2024 Ramon Magsaysay Award?**
   a) Hayao Miyazaki (Japan)
   b) Karma Phuntsho (Bhutan)
   c) Dr. Nguyen Thi Ngoc Phuong (Vietnam)
   d) Rajendra Singh (India)
3. **The National Florence Nightingale Award is given for outstanding work in which field?**
   a) Teaching
   b) Public health nursing
   c) Scientific research
   d) Social entrepreneurship
4. **Which city hosted the 27th National Conference on e-Governance (NCeG) in 2024?**
   a) Delhi
   b) Mumbai
   c) Jaipur
   d) Bengaluru
5. **Which veteran actor was awarded the Dadasaheb Phalke Award in 2024?**
   a) Amitabh Bachchan
   b) Naseeruddin Shah
   c) Mithun Chakraborty
   d) Rajinikanth
6. **Which statement about the Dadasaheb Phalke Award is incorrect?**
   1. It was named after the director of India's first full-length feature film, Raja Harishchandra.
   2. The award recognizes excellence only in the acting category.
   3. It was presented at the 70th National Film Awards in

October 2024.

4. Ashwini Vaishnaw announced the 2024 award winner.

Options:

a) 2 only
b) 3 only
c) 1 and 2 only
d) 2 and 4 only

5. **Where will the MIDORI Prize 2024 ceremony be held?**

a) Kyoto, Japan
b) Cali, Colombia
c) New York, USA
d) Geneva, Switzerland

ANSWER

1. **Answer:** A. Surat **Explanation:** Surat, along with Jabalpur and Agra, topped the **Category 1** list for cities with a population of over 10 lakhs.
2. **Answer:** A. Rajendra Singh **Explanation:** Rajendra Singh is not listed among the **2024 awardees**. The laureates are Miyazaki Hayao, Farwiza Farhan, Karma Phuntsho, Dr. Nguyen Thi Ngoc Phuong, and the Rural Doctors Movement from Thailand.
3. **Answer:** A. Public health nursing
4. **Answer:** B. Mumbai
5. **Answer:** C. Mithun Chakraborty
6. **Answer:** C. 2 only **Explanation:** The Dadasaheb Phalke Award recognizes contributions across **various creative roles**, not just acting.
7. **Answer:** B. Cali, Colombia

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 hought, 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 The test completed in schedule can be attempted in flexible timings by consulting to CENTER HEAD and evaluation will be provided.

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DHARAMSHALA
Civil Line, Opp. War Memorial,
Dharamshala

SPORTS

INDIA SHINES AT PARIS 2024 PARALYMPICS WITH 29 MEDALS

India has made history at the **Paris 2024 Paralympics**, securing a total of **29 medals**—7 gold, 9 silver, and 13 bronze—surpassing the 19 medals won at the Tokyo 2020 Paralympics.

Key Highlights:

- India won **7 golds**, **9 silvers**, and **13 bronze** medals.
- This is a significant improvement from the **19-medal haul at Tokyo 2020**, which included 5 gold medals.
- India secured **18th position** on the overall medals table.
- **China** topped the medals table with **94 gold medals** and over **220 total medals**.

India's Medal Winners:

No.	Athlete	Sport	Event	Medal
1	Avani Lekhara	Shooting	Women's 10m air rifle standing SH1	Gold
2	Nitesh Kumar	Badminton	Men's singles SL3	Gold
3	Sumit Antil	Athletics	Javelin throw F64	Gold
4	Dharambir	Athletics	Men's club throw F51	Gold
5	Harvinder Singh	Archery	Men's individual recurve open	Gold
6	Praveen Kumar	Athletics	Men's high jump T64	Gold
7	Navdeep Singh	Athletics	Men's javelin throw F41	Gold
8	Nishad Kumar	Athletics	Men's high jump T47	Silver
9	Sharad Kumar	Athletics	Men's high jump T63	Silver
10	Yogesh Kathuniya	Athletics	Men's discus throw F56	Silver
11	Ajeet Singh	Athletics	Men's javelin throw F46	Silver
12	Parnav Soorma	Athletics	Men's club throw F51	Silver
13	Sachin Khilari	Athletics	Men's shot put F46	Silver
14	Manish Narwal	Shooting	Men's 10m air pistol SH1	Silver
15	Thulasimathi Murugesan	Badminton	Wommen's Single SU5	Silver
16	Suhas Yathiraj	Badminton	Men Singles SL4	Silver
17	Mona Agarwal	Shooting	Women's 10m air rifle standing SH1	Bronze
18	Rubina Francis	Shooting	Women's 10m Air Pistol SH1	Bronze
19	Preethi Pal	Athletics	Women's 100m T35	Bronze
20	Preethi Pal	Athletics	Women's 200m T35	Bronze
21	Simran	Athletics	Women's 200m T12	Bronze
22	Rakesh Kumar / Sheetal Devi	Archery	Mixed team compound open	Bronze
23	Deepthi Jeevanji	Athletics	Women's 400m T20	Bronze
24	Mariyappan Thangavelu	Athletics	Men's high jump T63	Bronze
25	Sundar Singh Gurjar	Athletics	Men's javelin throw F46	Bronze
26	Hokato Hotozhe Sema	Athletics	Men's Shot put F57	Bronze
27	Manisha Ramadass	Badminton	Women Singles SU5	Bronze
28	Nithya Sre Sivan	Badminton	Women's singles SH6	Bronze
29	Kapil Parmar	Judo	Men's -60kg J1	Bronze

India's impressive performance reflects the growing talent and dedication of its para-athletes.

INDIA A CLINCHES DULEEP TROPHY WITH LATE SURGE AGAINST INDIA C

Match Highlights:

- **India A** defeated **India C** by **132 runs** to win the **Duleep Trophy** in **Anantapur**.
- **Mayank Agarwal** led **India A** as captain to the title.

About the Duleep Trophy:

- The **Duleep Trophy** is a prestigious **domestic First Class cricket competition** in India.
- It was first introduced in the **1961–62** season.
- The tournament is named after former cricketer **Duleepsinhji**.
- Traditionally, teams in the competition represent various **geographical zones** of India.

IRANI CUP 2024 MOVED TO LUCKNOW

- The **2024/25 Irani Cup** will be played from **October 1-5** at the **Bharat Ratna Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ekana Cricket Stadium** in **Lucknow**.
- Originally scheduled to be held in **Mumbai**, the venue was shifted to **Lucknow**.

Teams Competing:

- The match will be played between the **current Ranji Trophy winners**, **Mumbai**, and a **Rest of India** team selected by the **national selection committee**.

SANTOSH KASHYAP APPOINTED AS HEAD COACH OF INDIAN WOMEN'S FOOTBALL TEAM

- **Santosh Kashyap** has been appointed as the **new head coach** of the **Indian women's football team**.

Coaching Leadership:

- Kashyap brings his extensive experience to lead and guide the national women's football team in upcoming competitions.

SALEEMA IMTIAZ BECOMES FIRST PAKISTANI WOMAN NOMINATED AS INTERNATIONAL CRICKET UMPIRE

- **Saleema Imtiaz** has become the **first Pakistani woman** to be nominated to the **ICC International Panel of Development Umpires**.
- This marks a significant milestone for women in cricket umpiring in Pakistan.

ASIAN CRICKET COUNCIL LAUNCHES WOMEN'S U-19 T20 ASIA CUP

- The **Asian Cricket Council (ACC)** has launched the **Women's U-19 T20 Asia Cup**.
- This tournament will take place **biennially**, acting as a **precursor** to the **ICC Women's U-19 T20 World Cup**.
- **Historical Context:** The Men's U-19 Asia Cup began in 1989, with India being the most successful team, having won eight titles.
- **Leadership:** The ACC President is Jay Shah, who spearheaded the launch of this new tournament.

JASPRIT BUMRAH JOINS ELITE 400-WICKET CLUB IN INTERNATIONAL CRICKET

- **Jasprit Bumrah** reached the milestone of **400 international wickets** across **Test, ODI, and T20I** formats.

Comparison with Other Bowlers:

- Bumrah equalled **Andrew Flintoff**'s tally of 400 wickets, but Bumrah achieved it in **196 matches**, while Flintoff did it in **227**.
- The all-time leader is **Muthiah Muralidaran** with **1,347 wickets** in **495 matches**.
- **Shane Warne** is the only other bowler with over **1,000 wickets** in international cricket, with **1,001 wickets** in **339 matches**.

Indian Record:

- For India, **Anil Kumble** holds the record with **956 wickets** in **403 matches**, the highest by any Indian bowle

ICC ANNOUNCES EQUAL PRIZE MONEY FOR MEN AND WOMEN IN WORLD CUPS

- The **ICC** has announced **equal prize money** for both **men's and women's World Cups**.
- **First Event with Equal Pay:** The **ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2024** will be the **first ICC event** where women will receive the **same prize money** as men.
- **Prize Money Details:** The **winners** of the Women's T20 World Cup 2024 will be awarded **$2.34 million**.

BCCI INAUGURATES NATIONAL CRICKET ACADEMY IN BENGALURU

- The **BCCI** has inaugurated the **National Cricket Academy** in **Bengaluru**.
- The world-class facility will now be referred to as the **BCCI Centre of Excellence (CoE)**.

NORTHEAST UNITED CLAIMS MAIDEN DURAND CUP TITLE

- **NorthEast United** won their **maiden Durand Cup title** by defeating the defending champions, **Mohun Bagan Super Giant**.
- The final was held at the **Salt Lake Stadium (Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan)** in **Kolkata**.
- **Tournament Details:** The **Durand Cup** is recognized as **Asia's oldest football tournament**.
- **Individual Awards:**
- **Gurmeet Singh** was awarded the **Golden Glove**.
- **Noah Sadaoui**, with **6 goals**, won the **Golden Boot**.
- **Jithin M.S.** was named the **Man of the Tournament**.

SYRIA TRIUMPHS IN THE 4TH INTERCONTINENTAL CUP MEN'S FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

- **Syria** won the **4th Intercontinental Cup** by defeating **India**.
- The tournament took place from **September 3 to 9, 2024**, organized by the **All India Football Federation** in **Hyderabad, Telangana**.

About the Intercontinental Cup:

- The **Intercontinental Cup** replaced the **Nehru Cup**.
- Typically, **four nations** participate in the tournament; however, this edition featured only **three teams**: **India**, **Syria**, and **Mauritius**.

Editions of the Intercontinental Cup:

- **1st Edition** (2018)
  - Venue: **Mumbai, Maharashtra**
  - Participating Countries: **India**, **Kenya**, **New Zealand**, **Chinese Taipei (Taiwan)**
  - Winner: **India**
- **2nd Edition** (2019)
  - Venue: **Ahmedabad, Gujarat**
  - Participating Countries: **India**, **Tajikistan**, **North Korea**, **Syria**
  - Winner: **North Korea**
- **3rd Edition** (2023)
  - Venue: **Bhubaneswar, Odisha**
  - Participating Countries: **India**, **Mongolia**, **Vanuatu**, **Lebanon**
  - Winner: **India**
- **4th Edition** (2024)
  - Venue: **Hyderabad, Telangana**
  - Participating Countries: **India**, **Syria**, **Mauritius**
  - Winner: **Syria**

CRISTIANO RONALDO BECOMES FIRST PLAYER TO REACH 900 CAREER GOALS

- **Cristiano Ronaldo** has become the **first player in history** to score **900 goals** in **competitive club and country football**.
- Ronaldo was also the **first player** to reach **800 goals** in **December 2021**.
- This achievement further cements his legacy as one of the greatest footballers of all time.

TELANGANA CM REVANTH REDDY INAUGURATES 4TH EDITION OF INTERCONTINENTAL FOOTBALL CUP IN HYDERABAD

- **Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy** inaugurated the **4th edition** of the **Intercontinental Football Cup** tournament in **Hyderabad**.
- The tournament is organized by the **All-India Football Federation (AIFF)**.
- **Participating Teams:** The **football tournament** features teams from:
  - **India**
  - **Mauritius**
  - **Syria**

INDIA CLINCHES FIFTH ASIAN CHAMPIONS TROPHY TITLE

- Defending champions **India** defeated hosts **China** in the final of the **2024 Asian Champions Trophy**.
- This victory marks **India's fifth title**, extending their record in the tournament.

About the Men's Asian Champions Trophy:

- The **Men's Asian Champions Trophy** is an annual event organized by the **Asian Hockey Federation** since **2011**.
- The tournament features the **six top field hockey teams** in Asia.

Previous Titles Won by India:

- **2011**: Host: **Ordos, China;** Winner: **India**
- **2016**: Host: **Kuantan, Malaysia;** Winner: **India**
- **2018**: Host: **Muscat, Oman;** Joint Winners: **India and Pakistan**
- **2021**: Host: **Dhaka, Bangladesh;** Winner: **India**
- **2023**: Host: **Chennai, India;** Winner: **India**
- **2024**: Host: **Hulunbuir, China;** Winner: **India**

TAYYAB IKRAM TO CONTINUE AS FIH CHIEF FOR SECOND CONSECUTIVE TERM

- **Tayyab Ikram**, the incumbent president of the **International Hockey Federation (FIH)**, is set to be elected **unopposed**

for a second consecutive term.

- The election will take place at the **49th Congress** in **Muscat, Oman** on **November 9**.
- Previous Term: Tayyab Ikram was previously elected as the **13th President of FIH** on **November 5, 2022**.

VITHYA RAMRAJ BREAKS P. T. USHA'S THREE-DECADE-OLD 400M HURDLES RECORD

- **Vithya Ramraj** shattered the women's **400m hurdles record** at the **63rd National Open Athletics Championships** held in **Bengaluru**.
- **Details of the Record:** Vithya clocked a time of **56.23 seconds**, breaking the previous meet record of **56.80 seconds** set by **P. T. Usha** in **1985**.

KAMAL CHAWLA CLINCHES GOLD IN IBSF WORLD 6-RED SNOOKER CHAMPIONSHIP

- **Kamal Chawla**, the Indian veteran, has won his maiden **IBSF World 6-Red Snooker Championship** title.
- He achieved this victory with a win over **Pakistan** in the final match of the tournament.

INDIA CLINCHES HISTORIC DOUBLE GOLD MEDALS IN 45TH CHESS OLYMPIAD

- The **Indian contingent** secured **double gold medals** in both the **open** and **women's categories** at the **45th Chess Olympiad** held in **Budapest, Hungary**.

Match Details:

- The **Men's Team** triumphed over **Slovenia**.
- The **Women's Team** emerged victorious against **Azerbaijan**.

Previous Achievements:

- Prior to this victory, India's best results in the **open section** were **bronze medals** in **2014** and **2022**.

SIDDHARTHA AGGARWAL SETS RECORD AS OLDEST INDIAN TO SWIM ENGLISH CHANNEL SOLO

- **Siddhartha Agarwal**, a **49-year-old** swimmer from **Bengaluru**, has made history by becoming the **oldest Indian** to swim across the **English Channel**.
- Agarwal successfully completed the **42-km** stretch between **England** and **France** in an impressive time of **15 hours and six minutes**.

About the English Channel:

- The **English Channel** is an arm of the **Atlantic Ocean** that separates **southern England** from **northern France**.
- It connects to the southern part of the **North Sea** through the **Strait of Dover** at its northeastern tip.
- The channel is approximately **560 km** long and varies in width from **240 km** at its widest to **34 km** in the **Strait of Dover**.
- It is recognized as the **busiest shipping area** in the world.
- The channel was officially opened in **1994**.

INDIAN TEAM NAMES ARUNACHAL PEAK AFTER DALAI LAMA

- A team led by **Director Col Ranveer Singh Jamwal** successfully scaled an **unnamed** and **unclimbed** peak in the **Gorichen Massif** of the **Mon Tawang Region** of **Arunachal Pradesh**.
- The peak, which stands at a height of **20,942 feet**, has been named after the **6th Dalai Lama**, **Tsangyang Gyatso**, who was born in **1682** in the Mon Tawang region.

Political Response:

- The **Chinese Foreign Ministry** expressed its displeasure regarding the naming of the peak.
- **China** claims **Arunachal Pradesh** as part of **South Tibet** and has been renaming places in the region—referred to as **Zangnan**—since **2017** to assert its territorial claims.

YOGASANA OFFICIALLY INCLUDED AS A DEMONSTRATION SPORT IN 2026 ASIAN GAMES

- **Yogasana**, India's ancient sport, has been officially included as a **demonstration event** at the **2026 Asian Games**.

Event Details:

- The **2026 Asian Games**, also known as the **20th Asian Games** or **Aichi-Nagoya 2026**, will take place in **Aichi-Nagoya, Japan**.
- The multi-sport event is scheduled to be held from **September 19** to **October 4, 2026**.

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.

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.

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

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

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
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

Athlete	Sport	Event	Medal
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).

PRACTICE MCQS

1. In which season was the Duleep Trophy first introduced?

a) 1958–59 b) 1961–62

c) 1970–71 d) 1985–86

2. How many total medals did India win at the Paris 2024 Paralympics?

a) 19 b) 24

c) 29 d) 32

3. Which sport did Avani Lekhara compete in to win a gold medal at the Paris 2024 Paralympics?

a) Athletics b) Badminton

c) Shooting d) Archery

4. What is the significance of the Durand Cup in Asian football?

a) It is the oldest football tournament in Asia.

b) It is the richest football tournament in Asia.

c) It is the most popular football tournament in Asia.

d) It is the largest football tournament in Asia.

5. Who is the first Pakistani woman to be nominated to the ICC International Panel of Development Umpires?

a) Sana Mir b) Bismah Maroof

c) Saleema Imtiaz\ d) Javeria Khan

ANSWERS

1. **Answer:** B. 1961–62
   - **Explanation:** The Duleep Trophy was first introduced in the 1961–62 season as a prestigious domestic First Class cricket competition in India.
2. **Answer:** C. 29
   - **Explanation:** India secured a total of 29 medals at the Paris 2024 Paralympics, comprising 7 gold, 9 silver, and 13 bronze medals, surpassing the 19 medals won at the Tokyo 2020 Paralympics.
3. **Answer:** C. Shooting
   - **Explanation:** Avani Lekhara won a gold medal in the Women's 10m air rifle standing SH1 event in shooting at the Paris 2024 Paralympics.
4. **Answer:** A. It is the oldest football tournament in Asia.
   - **Explanation:** The Durand Cup is recognized as Asia's oldest football tournament.
5. **Answer:** C. Saleema Imtiaz
   - **Explanation:** Saleema Imtiaz has made history as the first Pakistani woman nominated to the ICC International Panel of Development Umpires.

APPOINTMENTS

MICHEL BARNIER APPOINTED AS NEW FRENCH PRIME MINISTER

- Appointed by: President Emmanuel Macron
- **Predecessor**: Gabriel Attal, who served as caretaker PM after the election results.
- **Country Details**:
  - **Capital**: Paris
  - **Currency**: Euro

ALGERIAN PRESIDENT'S SECOND TERM

- **President**: Abdelmadjid Tebboune
- **Term**: Wins second term
- **Country Details**:
  - **Capital**: Algiers
  - **Currency**: Algerian dinar (DZD)

JORDAN'S NEW PRIME MINISTER

- **Appointed by**: King Abdullah II
- **New Prime Minister**: Jafar Hassan
- **Country Details**:
  - **Capital**: Amman
  - **Currency**: Jordanian dinar (JOD)

APPOINTMENT OF NEPAL'S CHIEF OF ARMY STAFF

- **New Chief of Army Staff (CoAS)**: Ashok Raj Sigdel

About Nepal:

- **President**: Ram Chandra Paudel
- **Vice-President**: Ram Sahay Prasad Yadav
- **Prime Minister**: KP Sharma Oli
- **Chief Justice**: Bishowambhar Prasad Shrestha
- **Country Details**:
  - **Capital**: Kathmandu
  - **Currency**: Nepalese rupee

APPOINTMENT OF NEW ISI CHIEF

- **New Director General of ISI**: Lt Gen Muhammad Asim Malik
- **Agency**: Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI)
  - **Description**: Pakistan's top intelligence agency

SRI LANKA'S NEW PRESIDENT

- **New President**: Anura Kumara Dissanayake
  - **Political Affiliation**: National People's Power (NPP) alliance
  - **Sworn in by**: Chief Justice Jayantha Jayasuriya
  - **Position**: 9th President of Sri Lanka

Political Developments

- **Prime Minister**: Dinesh Gunawardena submitted his resignation.

Political System in Sri Lanka

- **Type**: Democratic Republic and Unitary State
- **Governance**: Semi-presidential system combining elements of both presidential and parliamentary systems.
- **President**:
  - Head of state and government
  - Commander in chief of the armed forces
  - Elected for a five-year term
- **Cabinet**:
  - Headed by the President
  - Ministers appointed from elected members of parliament
- **Prime Minister**: Deputy to the President, leading the ruling party in parliament.
- **Parliament**:
  - Unicameral body with 225 members
  - Elected by universal suffrage and proportional representation for a five-year term.

JAPAN'S NEW PRIME MINISTER

- **New Leader**: Shigeru Ishiba
  - **Position**: Leader of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP)
  - **Background**: Former Defence Minister
  - **Age**: 67

Key Facts about Japan

- **Capital**: Tokyo
- **Currency**: Japanese yen

Geography

- **Main Islands**:
  - Hokkaido (northernmost)
  - Honshu (largest)
  - Shikoku
  - Kyushu (southernmost)
  - **Notable Landmarks**:
  - **Mount Fuji**: Highest point and a dormant volcano.

- ❖ **Shinano (Chikuma) River**: Longest river in Japan.

AIR MARSHAL ASHUTOSH DIXIT

- ➢ **Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit** Takes Over As AOC-in-C of Central Air Command

Details:

- ➢ **Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit** takes over the role.
- ➢ **Effective date:** 1st September 2024.
- ➢ Succeeding Air **Marshal RGK Kapoor**.

AIR MARSHAL AMAR PREET SINGH

- ➢ Air Marshal Amar Preet Singh appointed as **next Chief of Air Staff**
- ➢ He is **currently the Vice Chief of the Indian Air Force (IAF).**
- ➢ **He will take over** the top post **on September 30** when **Air Chief Marshal V.R. Chaudhari retires** on superannuation.
- ➢ Air Marshal Amar Preet Singh had served as the **Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief at Central Air Command** before taking over as the Vice Chief on February 1, 2023.

ANURAG GARG

- ➢ IPS Officer **Anurag Garg** takes over as new **NCB Director General**

Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB)

- ➢ Nodal drug law enforcement and intelligence agency under the **Ministry of Home Affairs.**
- ➢ Constituted on **14th November, 1985**, under the provisions of the **Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 (NDPS Act).**
- ➢ **Headquarters** located in **Delhi.**
- ➢ The **NCB is responsible for coordinating the enforcement of anti-narcotics laws** in India.
- ➢ It is a key agency in the **fight against drug trafficking and consumption** in the country.
- ➢ India is **facing a growing challenge from drug trafficking**, and the **NCB has been working hard to combat this challenge**.

ALOK RANJAN

- ➢ Senior IPS Officer **Alok Ranjan** Appointed as **Head of NCRB**
- ➢ **New Appointment:**
  - ❖ Senior IPS officer Alok Ranjan takes over as the **head of the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB).**
  - ❖ Tenure up to his superannuation on **June 30, 2026.**
  - ❖ He succeeds his service batchmate, Vivek Gogia.
- ➢ About National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB):
  - ❖ An Indian government agency **responsible for collecting and analyzing crime data** as defined by the Indian Penal Code and Special and Local Laws.
  - ❖ Established in **1986.**
  - ❖ Operates under the **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).**

AMIT GARG

- ➢ Amit Garg appointed as the **head** of **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy (SVPNPA).**
- ➢ Term up to his retirement on **October 31, 2027.**
- ➢ **About SVPNPA:**
  - ❖ The institute trains Indian Police Service officers before they are sent to their respective state cadres to carry out their duties.
  - ❖ Located in Shivrampalli, Hyderabad, Telangana.

TUHIN KANTA PANDEY

- ➢ Tuhin Kanta Pandey appointed as **Finance Secretary.**
- ➢ Current Role:
  - ❖ Currently serving in the Finance Ministry.
  - ❖ Secretary in charge of two key domains:
    - ✓ Departments of Public Enterprises (DPE).
    - ✓ Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM).

SHREYAMS KUMAR

- ➢ **M V Shreyams Kumar** of **Mathrubhumi** elected **President** of **The Indian Newspaper Society (INS).**
- ➢ Succeeds Rakesh Sharma of Aaj Samaj.

NEW CHIEF JUSTICES IN 8 HIGH COURTS

- ➢ **Manmohan - Delhi HC** Chief Justice
- ➢ **Rajiv Shakdher - Himachal Pradesh HC** Chief Justice
- ➢ **Suresh Kumar Kait – _Madhya Pradesh HC** Chief Justice
- ➢ **Indra Prasanna Mukerji - Meghalaya HC** Chief Justice
- ➢ **Nitin Madhukar Jamdar - Kerala HC** Chief Justice
- ➢ **Tashi Rabstan - J&K and Ladakh HC** Chief Justice
- ➢ **Shriram Kalpathi Rajendran - Madras HC** Chief Justice
- ➢ **M S Ramachandra Rao - Jharkhand HC** Chief Justice

GIRISH CHANDRA MURMU

- ➢ Girish Chandra Murmu, the **Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India**, has been appointed as the **chair** of the **Asian Organisation of Supreme Audit Institutions (ASOSAI)** for the **2024-2027** term.

About ASOSAI

- **Full Form:** Asian Organisation of Supreme Audit Institutions.
- **Members: 48 Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs)** from across Asia.
- **Focus:** Improving public sector auditing, ensuring transparency and accountability.
- **Headquarters: New Delhi, India**.
- **Current Chair:** Girish Chandra Murmu, CAG of India (2024-2027)

ATISHI MARLENA SINGH

- **Atishi Marlena Singh** elected as the **new Chief Minister** designate of **Delhi** by Aam Aadmi Party legislators.
- Replacing Arvind Kejriwal, who resigned and submitted his resignation to Lieutenat-Governor (L-G) V.K. Saxena.
- **Election Background:**
  - Atishi was elected from the **Kalkaji constituency.**
- **Historical Context:**
  - She will be the **third woman Chief Minister** of the Union Territory after **Sushma Swaraj** and **Sheila Dikshit.**

AMIT SHAH

- **Amit Shah** Re-Elected as **Chairperson of Parliamentary Committee on Official Language**
- Mr. Shah served as the **Chairperson of the committee from 2019 to 2024.**
- In the past 10 years, the committee had tried to ensure that Hindi became a friend of all local languages and did not compete with any language.
- **In 1976,** the Parliamentary Committee on Official Language was **constituted under** the provisions of Section 4 of the **Official Languages Act, 1963.**
- The committee **comprises 30 members of Parliamen**t, of which 20 are from the Lok Sabha and 10 from the Rajya Sabha.

RANDHIR SINGH

- Veteran sports administrator **Randhir Singh** becomes **the first Indian elected as President** of the **Olympic Council of Asia (OCA).**
- Tenure: 2024-2028.
- Previous Roles:
  - Acting President of OCA since 2021.
  - Member of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) from 2001 to 2014.

RAJESH VERMA

- Rajesh Verma took charge as chairperson of **the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM)** in NCR and adjoining areas.
- **Previous Roles:**
  - Served as Secretary to President Murmu prior to his superannuation on 31st August, 2024.
  - Succeeds Dr. M M Kutty.

JITENDRA J JADHAV

- **Jitendra J. Jadhav**, who steered the **Initial Operational Clearance (IOC)** for the Tejas fighter aircraft, has taken over as the **Director General of Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA).**
- **About ADA:**
  - ADA is a department of the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** under India's Ministry of Defence.

IBRAHIMA CHEIKH DIONG

- Ibrahima Cheikh Diong, a Senegalese finance specialist, named the **first director** of **The Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage.**
- **Fund Background:**
  - Established at the **2022 UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference (COP27) in Egypt.**
  - **Purpose:** Provide financial support to regions suffering both economic and non-economic losses caused by climate change.

MANU BHAKER

- India's Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW) appointed Manu Bhakar, the double Olympic medal winner in shooting, as a brand ambassador.
- **Background:**
  - Bhaker is the daughter of a Marine Engineer.

SHARATH KAMAL

- **Sharath Kamal**, India's ace paddler, was announced as **the first Indian ambassador of the International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) Foundation**.
- **Event:**
  - The announcement was made during the 11th day of the Ultimate Table Tennis (UTT) season five at the Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium in Chennai.

S PARAMESH

- The Indian Coast Guard has appointed **S Paramesh as** its **new Director General** following the **unfortunate passing of Rakesh Pal.**
- This appointment is crucial for maintaining strong leadership in maritime security.

LT. GEN. MUHAMMAD ASIM MALIK

- Appointed as New **Director General** of **Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI)**
- **Successor**: Takes over from Lt. Gen. Nadeem Anjum
- **Context**: Appointment occurs amid rising security risks and political unrest in Pakistan, particularly linked to tensions from supporters of jailed former Prime Minister Imran Khan.

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 CHAWDHARY

- **Daljit Singh Chawdhary**, the Director General of **Sahastra 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 Chawdhary 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

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About Assam Rifles:

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- **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

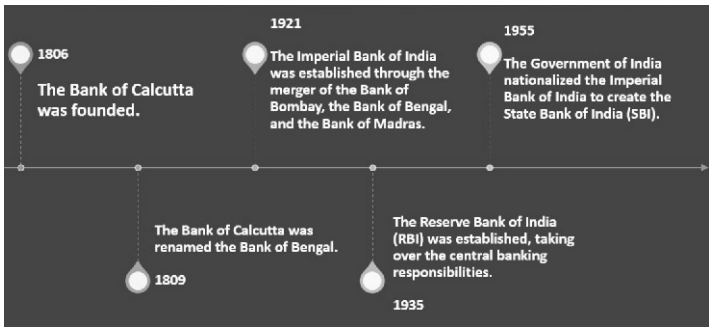
- The prime objective of the Enforcement Directorate is the enforcement of three key Acts of the Government of India:
  - Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (FEMA)
  - Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA)
  - Fugitive Economic Offenders Act, 2018 (FEOA)

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 Telengana
- **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.

PRACTICE MCQS

1. Who has been appointed as the new Prime Minister of France?

a) Gabriel Attal
b) Michel Barnier
c) Emmanuel Macron
d) Édouard Philippe

2. Who has been appointed as the new Prime Minister of Japan?

a) Fumio Kishida
b) Shinzo Abe
c) Shigeru Ishiba
d) Yoshihide Suga

3. Who has been appointed as the 9th President of Sri Lanka?

a) Ranil Wickremesinghe
b) **Gotabaya Rajapaksa**
c) **Anura Kumara Dissanayake**
d) **Mahinda Rajapaksa**

1. Which of the following is recently appointed as the head of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel national Police Academy?

a) Tuhin Kanta Pandey
b) Anurag Garg
c) Amit Garg
d) Rakesh kumar

2. **Who became the first Indian elected as President of the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA)?**

a) Sharath Kamal
b) Rajesh Verma
c) Randhir Singh
d) Manu Bhaker

3. **Identify the incorrectly matched Chief Justice with the High Court:**

1 Manmohan – Delhi High Court
2 Suresh Kumar Kait – Kerala High Court
3 Nitin Madhukar Jamdar – Kerala High Court
4 Tashi Rabstan – J&K and Ladakh High Court

Options:

a) 1 and 2 only
b) 2 only
c) 2 and 3 only
d) 3 only

4. **Which of the following is true about Girish Chandra Murmu?**

   1 He is the current Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India.

   2 He was elected chair of the Asian Organisation of Supreme Audit Institutions (ASOSAI) for the 2024-2027 term.

   3 ASOSAI's headquarters is in Singapore.

   Options:

   a) 1 and 2 only

   b) 2 and 3 only

   c) 1, 2, and 3

   d) 1 only

5. **Who is the current Chief of Air Staff of India as of 2024?**

   Options:

   a) R. K. Bhadauria

   b) V. R. Chaudhari

   c) Amar Preet Singh

   d) Anil Chauhan

ANSWERS:

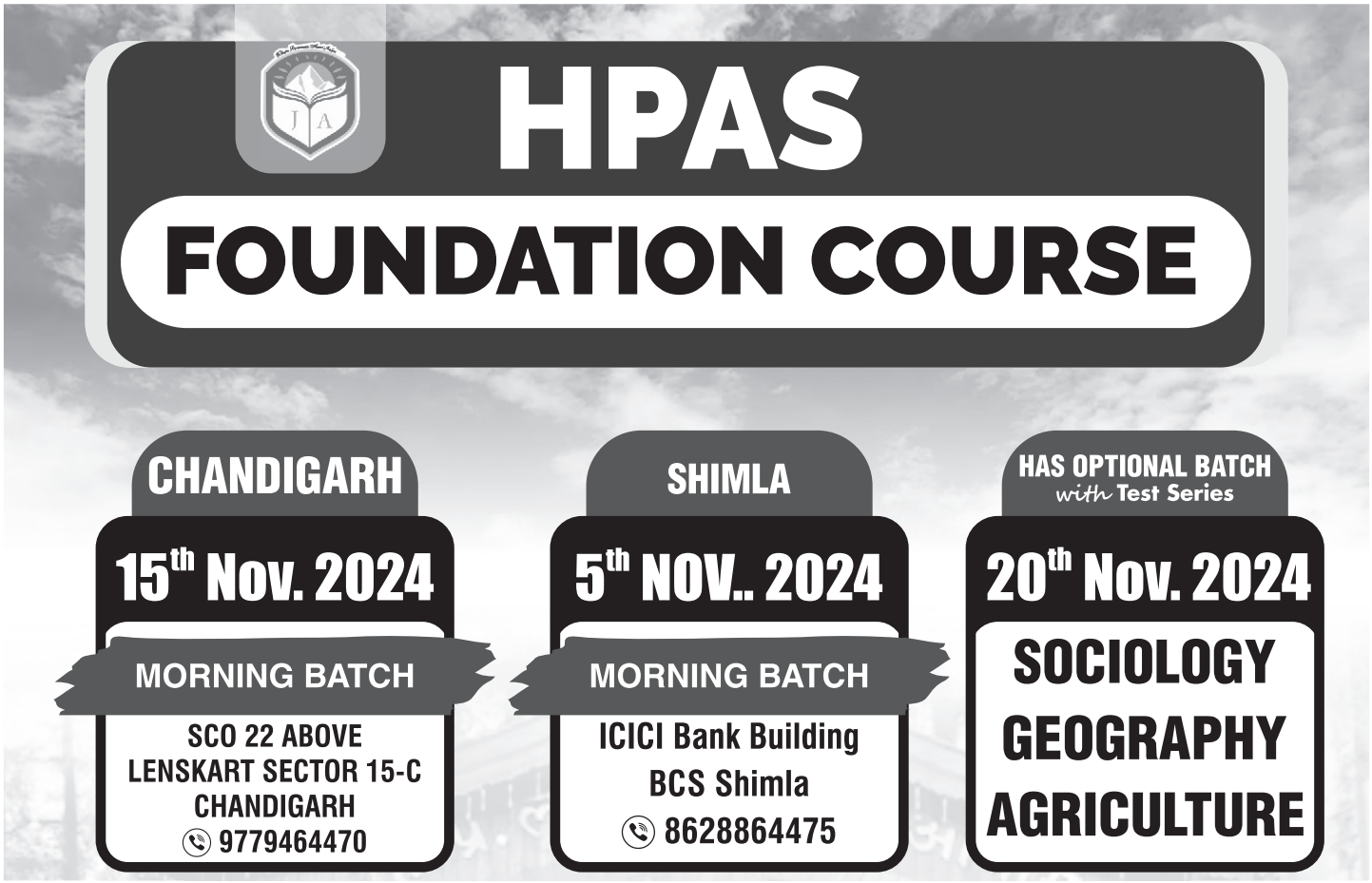
1. Answer: C. Amit Garg
2. **Answer:** C. Randhir Singh
1. **Answer:** B. 2 only

   Explanation: Suresh Kumar Kait is not associated with the Kerala High Court; he was appointed Chief Justice of the Madhya Pradesh High Court.

2. **Answer:** A. 1 and 2 only

   Explanation: ASOSAI's headquarters is located in New Delhi, India.

3. **Answer:** C. Amar Preet Sing
1. **Answer:** B. **Michel Barnier**
2. **Answer:** C. **Shigeru Ishiba**
3. **Answer: C. Anura Kumara Dissanayake**



OBITUARIES

MM LAWRENCE

- **Veteran CPI-M leader** and former central committee member of the Left party, **MM Lawrence** passed away in Kochi.
- One of the first generation leaders of the undivided Communist Party of India (CPI)

SITARAM YECHURY

- **CPI(M) general secretary** and former Rajya Sabha MP **Sitaram Yechury** passed away
- He was 72.

BALJIT SINGH SETHI

- **Baljit Singh Sethi,** former secretary general of the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI), passed away at the age of 89.
- **Tenure:**
  - Served as NRAI secretary general from 1985 to 2009.
- **Contributions:**
  - His vision and dedication saw India win its first Olympic medal in shooting (silver by Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore at the 2004 Athens Olympics) and the first individual Olympic gold (Abhinav Bindra at the 2008 Beijing Olympics).
- **Historical Context:**
  - NRAI was founded in **1951.**
  - The first speaker of Lok Sabha, G.V. Mavlankar, was the founder and the first president of NRAI.

AUTHOR VIJAYA BHARATHI

- Renowned **author and former director** of **Telugu Academy, Vijaya Bharathi,** passed away.
- **Accomplishments:**
  - First Dalit woman to be awarded a Ph.D. in Literature from Osmania University.
  - Works include books on Baba Saheb Ambedkar, Ramayana, Mahabharatha, and translated versions of Mahatma Jyoti Rao Phule (1983).

MANORAMA BHAT

- Senior writer Manorama Bhat passes away
- She was a veteran Kannada writer and women's rights activist

ARUNA VASUDEV - MOTHER OF ASIAN CINEMA'

- Eminent Indian **film scholar, critic, festival curator, and painter, Aruna Vasudev**, passed away at the age of 88.
- **Honours:**
  - Recipient of France's highest cultural award, Officier des Arts et des Lettres.
  - First recipient of the Satyajit Ray Memorial Award by FIPRESCI India.
- **Contributions:**
  - Founder of NETPAC (Network for the Promotion of Asian Cinema).
  - Co-authored the books "Being & Becoming, the Cinemas of Asia."
- **Legacy:**
  - Known as the **'Mother of Asian Cinema'** for her immense contributions to promoting Asian cinema globally.

MOHAMMAD SHAFI PANDIT

- **Mohammad Shafi Pandit,** the **first Muslim IAS officer from Kashmir valley**, passed away at the age of 80.
- **Historical Achievement:**
  - He was the **first Muslim from Kashmir to qualify the civil services examinations in 1969.**
- **Career:**
  - His final assignment with the government was as the head of the autonomous Jammu and Kashmir Public Service Commission.

DAME MAGGIE SMITH

- **Dame Maggie Smith,** renowned **Oscar winning actress and Harry Potter Star**, passed away at the **age of 89.**
- **Achievements:**
  - Won an Academy Award for Best Actress for "The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie" (1970).
- **Legacy:**
  - Known for her iconic roles in both film and theatre, she left an indelible mark on the world of entertainment.

PRAVIN GORDHAN

- **Pravin Gordhan**, a prominent **Indian-origin South African politician and anti-apartheid activist**, passed away at the age of 75.
- **Honours:**
  - In 2010, Gordhan received the Pravasi Bharatiya Award, India's highest honor for overseas Indians.

RATAN TATA

- Ratan Tata, renowned Indian business icon and former leader of the **Tata Group**, passed away at **86** in Mumbai.

- The Tata family's conglomerate is one of India's most successful and respected business empires, recognized for its significant domestic and global impact.

Major Achievements

- **Profits and Growth**
  - Under **Ratan Tata's leadership**, the **Tata Group's profits increased 50 times**, solidifying **its status as one of India's most valuable companies**.
  - Expanded the company internationally, transforming it into a global brand.

International Success

- **Global Acquisitions**
  - Guided the Tata Group in **acquiring prominent global brands**, including:
    - ✓ **Jaguar and Land Rover** (luxury car manufacturers)
    - ✓ **Tetley** (one of the largest tea brands worldwide)
  - These acquisitions helped establish a strong international presence.

Impact in India

- **Everyday Life**
  - The Tata Group's products became integral to the daily lives of millions of Indians, with offerings like **Tata tea** and **Tata cars**.

Ratan Tata's Legacy

- **Ethical Leadership**
  - Admired for **his commitment to ethical business practices and corporate social responsibility.**
  - Advocated **for giving back to society, contributing to community** development across India while transforming Tata Group into a global leader.

About Ratan Tata

- **Background**
  - Born in **1937**, **Ratan Tata** was instrumental in establishing the Tata Group as a global powerhouse.
  - Known for launching the **Tata Nano**, aimed at being the **world's cheapest car.**
  - Engaged in philanthropy, with over **66% of Tata Group's profits** allocated to charitable causes through the **Tata Trusts**, focusing on education and healthcare.
  - Despite his immense success, **he led a modest lifestyle and avoided social media.**

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

MCQ

1. **Pravin Gordhan, who passed away recently, was a prominent politician from which country?**
   a) India
   b) Sri Lanka
   c) South Africa
   d) Kenya
2. **Which legendary actress, known for her roles in the** Harry Potter **series, passed away in October 2024?**
   a) Emma Watson
   b) Dame Maggie Smith
   c) Judi Dench
   d) Helen Mirren
3. **Mohammad Shafi Pandit holds the distinction of being the first Muslim IAS officer from which region?**
   a) Jammu and Kashmir
   b) Uttar Pradesh
   c) Kerala
   d) Andhra Pradesh
4. **MM Lawrence was associated with which political party?**
   a) Bharatiya Janata Party
   b) Indian National Congress
   c) Communist Party of India (Marxist)
   d) Samajwadi Party

ANSWERS.

1. **Answer:** C. South Africa
2. **Answer:** A. Dame Maggie Smith
3. **Answer:** A. Jammu and Kashmir
4. **Answer:** C. Communist Party of India (Marxist)

IMPORTANT DAYS

Date	Day	Important Information
1st August	World Wide Web Day	➢ This day commemorates the birth of the World Wide Web and serves as a reminder of the transformative impact it has had on our lives. ➢ Tim Berners-Lee was employed for the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) in Switzerland in 1989, he developed the World Wide Web.
1st August	World Lung Cancer Day	➢ Theme is "Close the Care Gap: Everyone Deserves Access to Cancer Care". ➢ The first day was observed in 2012
1st August	Muslim Women's Rights Day	➢ Muslim Women's Rights Day is observed across India to celebrate the enactment of the law against triple talaq. ➢ The central government enacted the law on August 1, 2019, that has made the practice of instant triple talaq a criminal offence.
1st – 7th August	World Breastfeeding Week	➢ Theme for 2024 is Closing the gap: Breastfeeding support for all.
3rd August	Organ Donation Day	➢ Observed since 2010 in the country. ➢ Earlier, it used to be observed every year on 27 November. ➢ In 2022, the National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation decided to observe the Indian Organ Donation Day on 3 August every year. ➢ Thus, from 2023 onwards, it is observed on 3rd August.
6th August	Hiroshima Day	➢ Hiroshima Day observes the tragic anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima, Japan, by the United States during World War II in 1945 ➢ 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. ➢ On August 6, 1945 the bomb nicknamed "Little Boy," exploded approximately 600 meters above Hiroshima. ➢ On August 9, 1945, the U.S. dropped a second atomic bomb, "Fat Man," on Nagasaki. ➢ Hiroshima Day observes the tragic anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima, Japan, by the United States during World War II in 1945. ➢ 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. ➢ On August 6, 1945 the bomb nicknamed "Little Boy," exploded approximately 600 meters above Hiroshima. ➢ On August 9, 1945, the U.S. dropped a second atomicbomb, "Fat Man," on Nagasaki
7th August	National Javelin Day	➢ 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. ➢ First observed in 2022 ➢ Athletics Federation of India President: Adille J Sumariwalla ➢ Athletics Federation of India Founded In 1946 Athletics Federation of India Headquarters Location: New Delhi
8th August	Quit India Movement Day	➢ Quit India Movement was a massive anti-colonial struggle in India, launched on August 8, 1942, under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi,
9th August	Nagasaki Day	➢ The second nuclear weapon, appropriately named 'Fat Man,' was dropped on the city Nagasaki on August 9, 1945.

9th 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.
10th 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.
10th August -	**World Lion Day**	➢ World Lion Day -It is celebrated to raise awareness about lions (Panthera Leo). ➢ Two Subspecies – African, Asiatic
12TH 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.'
14th 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.
15th 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,".
19th August	**World Humanitarian Day**	➢ Established by the United Nations General Assembly in 2008 and was first celebrated in 2009. ➢ 2024 Campaign: #ActForHumanity
19th 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 Pa□ini, 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, Shravani Upkarma will also be celebrated on this day.
20th 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.
20th 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.

		➢ 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.
20th August	World Mosquito Day	➢ 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. ➢ To commemorate this moment in history, World Mosquito Day (WMD) was founded.
21st August	International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism	➢ Established by UNGA in 2017. ➢ The theme "Victims of Terrorism as Peace Advocates and Educators".
23rd August	International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition	➢ It was first celebrated in a number of countries, in particular in Haiti (23 August 1998) and Gorée Island in Senegal (23 August 1999).
23rd August	European Day of Remembrance for Victims of Stalinism and Nazism	➢ On 2 April 2009, the European Parliament decided to observe this day. ➢ With the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact of 23 August 1939, Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union had divided Europe into spheres of interest.
25th -29th August	World Water Week 2024	➢ Organised by The Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) ➢ held every year since 1991. ➢ Theme - Bridging Borders: Water for a Peaceful and Sustainable Future
26th August	Women's Equality Day	➢ In 2019, the U.N. General Assembly instituted
29th August	**National Sports Day**	➢ to honor Major Dhyan Chand, a legendary hockey player. ➢ Established in 2012 ➢ Major Dhyan Chand, known as "The Wizard of Hockey," was born on August 29, 1905 in Uttar Pradesh ➢ Starting his career in 1926, Major Dhyan Chand played until 1948, representing India in 185 games and scoring 400 goals. ➢ He was instrumental in India's three consecutive Olympic gold medal victories in 1928, 1932, and 1936
29th August	International Day Against Nuclear Tests	➢ In 2009, the 64th session of the United Nations General Assembly declared 29 August the International Day against Nuclear Tests ➢ The resolution was initiated by the Republic of Kazakhstan First observed in 2010
29th August	**Telugu Language Day**	➢ Celebrated in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. ➢ 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.
30th August	National Small Industry Day	➢ Different from World MSME Day - every year on June 27. ➢ National Small Industry Day launched on the 30th of August, 2000. First observed in 2001 ➢ 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.

Date	Day	Important Information
1st -7th Sept	**National Nutrition Week**	➢ It aims to raise awareness about the importance of nutrition for health and well-being. ➢ First observed in India in **1982**
5th Sept	**Teachers' Day (India)**	➢ Marks the birth anniversary of **Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan** ➢ A renowned scholar and philosopher, born on **Sept 5, 1888, in Thiruttani**, present-day Tamil Nadu. ➢ First vice president of India from **1952 to 1962** ➢ The second President of India from **1962 to 1967** ➢ **Bharat Ratna in 1954.** ➢ He was the first individual to be awarded the Sahitya Akademi fellowship, the highest distinction in 1968. ➢ The first Teachers day was observed in 1962.
7th Sept	**International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies**	➢ **Theme:** Invest in #CleanAirNow ➢ On November 26, 2019, the Second Committee of the 74th session of the United Nations (UN) General Assembly adopted a resolution designating September 7 as the "International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies."\
8th Sept	**World Physiotherapy Day**	➢ Celebrated since **1996**, this day commemorates the establishment of the World Physiotherapy Foundation in 1951. ➢ The theme is "**Low Back Pain (LBP) and the Role of Physiotherapy in Its Management and Prevention**."
8th Sept	**International Literacy Day**	➢ Established by United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) on October 26, 1966. ➢ The theme for **2024** is "**Promoting Multilingual Education: Literacy for Mutual Understanding and Peace**." ➢ This day was first celebrated in **1967.**
10th Sept	**World Suicide Prevention Day (WSPD)**	➢ **Established in 2003** by the International Association for Suicide Prevention in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO). ➢ The triennial theme for **2024-2026** is "**Changing the Narrative on Suicide," with the call to action "Start the Conversation**."
11th Sept	**National Forest Martyrs Day**	➢ **National Forest Martyrs Day** is observed annually in India to honor the sacrifices of individuals who have laid down their lives in defense of the country's forests and wildlife. ➢ This date was designated by the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change** in 2013. ➢ The day's origins trace back to the **Khejarli Massacre** in 1730, when Marwar Maharaja Abhai Singh of Rajasthan ordered the cutting down of trees in Khejarli village for timber to build a new palace. The **Bishnoi community**, led by **Amrita Devi Bishnoi**, opposed this decision and sacrificed their lives to protect the trees.
11th Sept	**Digvijay Diwas**	➢ **Digvijay Diwas** is observed annually to honor **Swami Vivekananda's** groundbreaking speech delivered at the **Parliament of the World's Religions** in **Chicago** in **1893**. ➢ The celebration of **Digvijay Diwas** was initiated by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** in **2010**.
12th Sept	**UN Day for South-South Cooperation**	➢ **Theme:** "**A Better Tomorrow Through South-South Cooperation**."

14th Sept	**World First Aid Day**	➢ **Date:** Second Saturday of every September ➢ **Theme:** "**First Aid and Sports Ready, Set, Respond**."
14th Sept	**Hindi Diwas**	➢ **Significance:** This day marks the anniversary of the Constituent Assembly of India's decision to adopt Hindi, written in the Devanagari script, as the official language of the Republic of India on **September 14, 1949.** ➢ **First Celebration:** The first Hindi Diwas was celebrated in 1953. ➢ **Official Status:** The Constitution of India does not give any language the status of national language; however, Hindi in Devanagari script is the official language of the central government and the Union as per Article 343. ➢ **World Hindi Day:** World Hindi Day is observed on January 10 to commemorate the first World Hindi Conference held in January 1975 at Nagpur, Maharashtra. The first World Hindi Day was celebrated in 2006.
15th Sept	**Engineer's Day**	➢ **Purpose:** Celebrated in India to mark the birth anniversary of M. Visvesvaraya, India's pioneering civil engineer. ➢ **Official Recognition:** Declared by the Government of India in 1968 as "Engineer's Day." ➢ **Birth Details:** Sir Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya was born on September 15, 1861, in Karnataka. ➢ **Education:** He graduated with a degree in civil engineering from the College of Engineering, Pune. ➢ **Major Contributions:** He is best known for his work on significant irrigation and water supply projects, including the Krishna Raja Sagara Dam in Mysore and the Khadakvasla Dam in Pune. ➢ **Honors and Recognition:** His pioneering work earned him numerous accolades, including the prestigious Bharat Ratna in 1955.
15th Sept	**International Day of Democracy**	➢ **Establishment:** Established by the UN General Assembly in 2007 to encourage governments to strengthen and consolidate democracy. ➢ **First Observation:** First observed in 2008. ➢ **Theme for 2024:** Ensuring effective governance of AI at all levels.
16th Sept	**World Ozone Day**	➢ **Theme:** Montreal Protocol: Advancing Climate Action ➢ **Significance:** Commemorates the date in 1987 on which the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer was signed. ➢ **Proclamation:** Proclaimed in 1994 by the United Nations General Assembly. **What is the Montreal Protocol?** ➢ **Definition:** An international treaty aimed at phasing out the production and consumption of ozone-depleting substances, primarily chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs). ➢ **Usage:** These substances were commonly used in refrigeration, air conditioning, and aerosol propellants. **Kigali Agreement:** ➢ **Definition:** An amendment to the Montreal Protocol. ➢ **Adoption Date:** Adopted on October 15, 2016, in Kigali, Rwanda, as an extension of the Montreal Protocol. ➢ **Focus:** Addresses the phase-down of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), which are used as replacements for ozone-depleting substances.

17th Sept	**Praja Palana Day (Day of People's Governance) - Telangana**	➢ On **September 17, 1948**, the then-princely state of Hyderabad merged with the Indian Union following **Operation Polo**. ➢ Hyderabad did not gain independence until **13 months after India's Independence** and remained under the rule of the Nizam, **Mir Osman Ali Shah**. ➢ In **2023**, the then-government decided to celebrate **September 17** as **National Integration Day**. ➢ Conversely, the **Union government** chose to observe this date as **Hyderabad Liberation Day**.
18th Sept	**World Bamboo Day**	➢ Declared in 2009 ➢ Theme: "Next Generation Bamboo: Solution, Innovation, and Design"
18th Sept	**International Equal Pay Day**	➢ Represents longstanding efforts toward achieving equal pay for work of equal value. ➢ Achieving equal pay is an important milestone for human rights and gender equality. ➢ The United Nations marked the first International Day for Equal Pay on September 18, 2020.
21st Sept	**International Day of Peace (UN)**	➢ Established in 1981 by the United Nations. ➢ Theme: Cultivating a Culture of Peace.
21st Sept	**World Alzheimer's Day**	➢ Every year, the entire month of September is designated as "Alzheimer's Month." ➢ Theme: "Time to act on dementia, Time to act on Alzheimer's." ➢ Introduced on September 21, 1994, in Edinburgh, to mark the 10th anniversary of Alzheimer's Disease International (ADI).
22nd Sept	**World Rhino Day**	➢ **World Rhino Day** is dedicated to raising awareness for all five rhino species and the conservation efforts to protect them. ➢ Celebrated internationally since **2011**. ➢ The **Greater One-Horned Rhinoceros** (also known as the **Indian rhino**) is the largest of the rhino species and is currently classified as **Vulnerable**.
22nd Sept (Fourth Sunday)	**World Rivers Day**	➢ Theme is "Waterways of Life." ➢ World Rivers Day was first celebrated in 2005, initiated by the International River Network.
24th Sept	**National Service Scheme (NSS) Day**	➢ **National Service Scheme (NSS) Day** celebrates the launch of the NSS program. ➢ The NSS was launched on **September 24, 1969**, during the birth centenary year of **Mahatma Gandhi**. ➢ The NSS motto is **"Not Me But You."** ➢ NSS is a **Central Sector Scheme** of the Government of India, under the **Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports**. ➢ It provides an opportunity for student youth in the **11th & 12th grades**, as well as college and university students, to participate in various government-led community service activities and programs.
25th Sept	**Antyodaya Diwas**	➢ **Purpose**: This day commemorates the birth anniversary of **Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay**, one of India's most renowned political thinkers and social reformers. ➢ **First Celebration**: The day was first celebrated on **September 25, 2014**. ➢ **Leadership**: Upadhyay served as the leader of the **Bharatiya Jana Sangh** from **1953 to 1968**. ➢ **Publications**: He was instrumental in launching the weekly **'Panchjanya'** and the daily **'Swadesh'**.

25th Sept	**World Pharmacists Day**	➢ **Organizer**: This event is organized by the **International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP)**, a partner of the **World Health Organization (WHO)**. ➢ **Purpose**: The day aims to recognize and celebrate the crucial role that **pharmacists** play in building healthier communities worldwide. ➢ **Theme**: The theme for this year is **"Pharmacists: Meeting global health needs."**
26th Sept	**World Contraception Day**	➢ **Theme**: The theme for this event is **"A choice for all. Freedom to plan, power to choose."** ➢ **Initiation**: This initiative started in the year **2007**.
26th Sept	**World Environmental Health Day**	➢ **Theme**: Environmental Health: Creating Resilient Communities Through Disaster Risk Reduction And Climate Change Mitigation And Adaptation ➢ **Declared by**: The Council of the International Federation of Environmental Health (IFEH) in 2011.
27th Sept	**World Tourism Day**	➢ **Established**: Since 1980 by UNWTO. ➢ **Significance**: Adoption of the UN Tourism Statutes on September 27, 1970. ➢ **UN Tourism Statutes Include**: The International Code for the Protection of Tourists (ICPT) and the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism (GCET).**Theme 2024**: "Tourism and Peace."
28th Sept	**World Rabies Day**	➢ **Significance**: Marks the anniversary of Louis Pasteur's death, the French chemist and microbiologist who developed the first rabies vaccine. ➢ **Established**: Since 2007. ➢ **Theme**: "Breaking Rabies Boundaries."
28th Sept	**International Day for Universal Access to Information (IDUAI)**	➢ **Proclamation**: Proclaimed by the UNESCO General Conference in 2015. ➢ **UN General Assembly**: Proclaimed this day in October 2019. ➢ **Significance**: Signifies access to information and its foundational role in fostering transparent governance, achieving development goals, and building inclusive knowledge societies. ➢ **Theme for 2024**: The theme of the 2024 Global Conference on Universal Access to Information is "Mainstreaming Access to Information and Participation in the Public Sector." ➢ **Event Details**: Hosted by the government of Ghana and UNESCO on 1-2 October 2024.
29th Sept	**World Heart Day**	➢ **Theme**: "Use Heart for Action"
1st October	**International Day of Older Persons**	➢ Focuses on the contributions of older individuals and the challenges they face in society. ➢ **Theme** for 2024: "Aging and Inclusion."
2nd October	**Gandhi Jayanti**	➢ Commemorates the **birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi**, the leader of the Indian independence movement. ➢ Recognized as the **International Day of Non-Violence.**
4th October	**World Animal Day**	➢ A day to raise awareness about animal rights and welfare globally.
5th October	**World Teachers' Day**	➢ Celebrates the role of teachers in providing quality education. ➢ **Theme for 2024: "The Future of Education: The Role of Teachers."**

10th October	**World Mental Health Day**	➢ A day to raise awareness about mental health issues and advocate for mental health education. ➢ Theme for 2024: "Mental Health and Wellbeing in a Changing World."
11th October	**International Day of the Girl Child**	➢ Focuses on the **challenges girls face globally** and promotes girls' empowerment and human rights. ➢ **Theme for 2024: "Empowering Girls through Education**."
15th October	**Global Handwashing Day**	➢ Highlights the importance of handwashing with soap as a key to disease prevention. ➢ **Theme for 2024: "Hand Hygiene for All."**
16th October	**World Food Day**	➢ Celebrates the founding of the **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)** and raises awareness about hunger and food security. ➢ **Theme for 2024: "Zero Hunger: A World Without Hunger."**
17th October	**International Day for the Eradication of Poverty**	➢ Focuses on the need to eradicate poverty in all its forms and emphasizes the importance of sustainable development. ➢ **Theme for 2024: "Acting Together to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals."**
24th October	**United Nations Day**	➢ Marks the anniversary of the founding of the United Nations in 1945 and highlights the UN's role in promoting peace and development. ➢ **Theme for 2024: "UN at 75: A New Era of Global Cooperation."**
31st October	**National Unity Day**	➢ Commemorates the **birth anniversary** of **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel** and promotes the spirit of national integration.

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 hought, 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
The test completed in schedule can be attempted in flexible timings by consulting to CENTER HEAD and evaluation will be provided.

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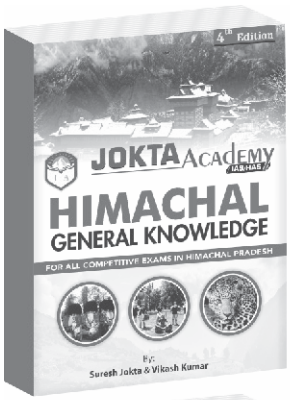

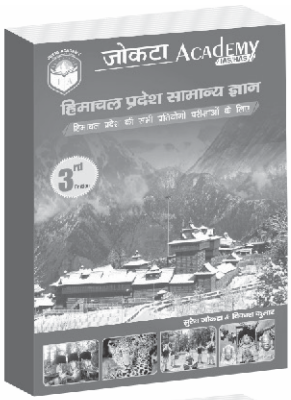



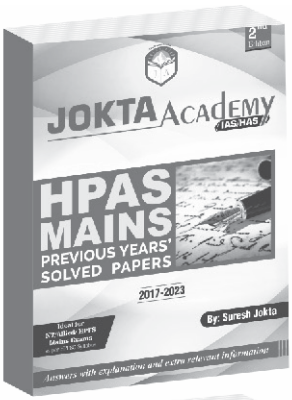

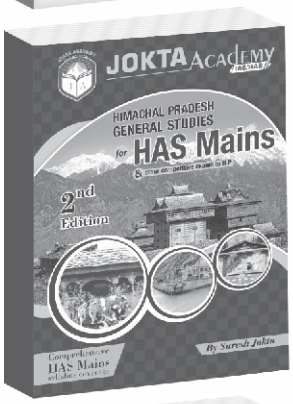

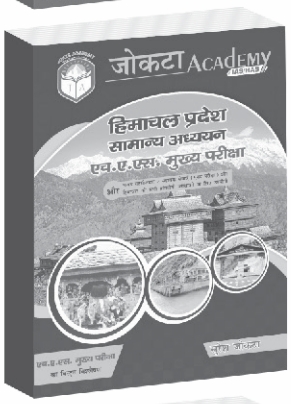

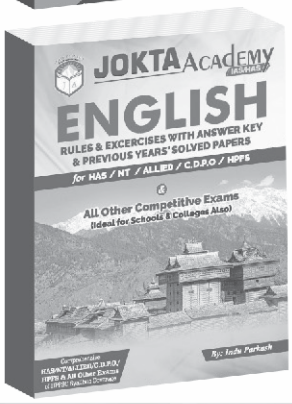

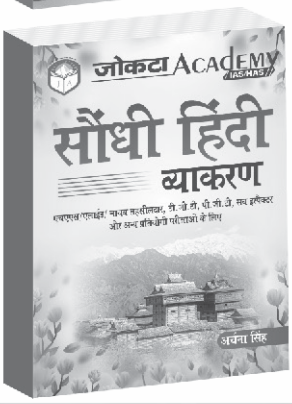

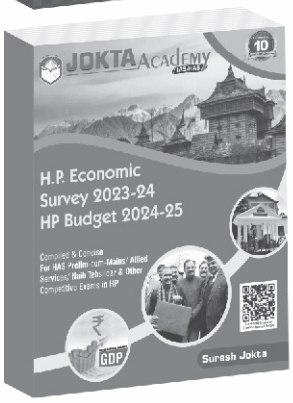

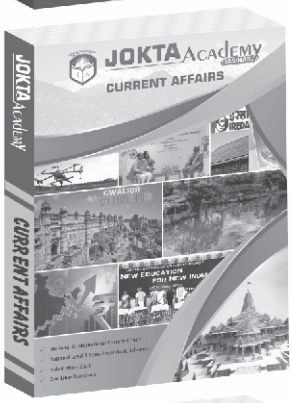

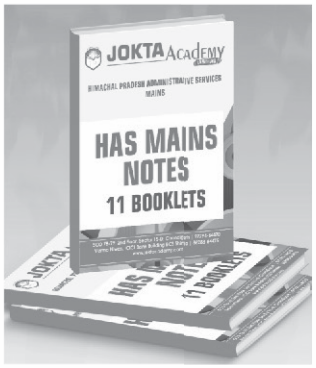

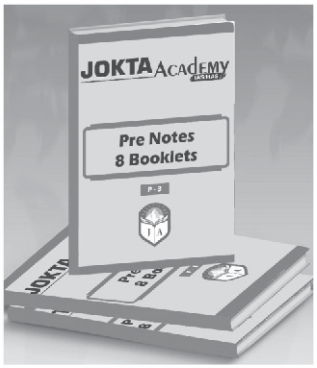

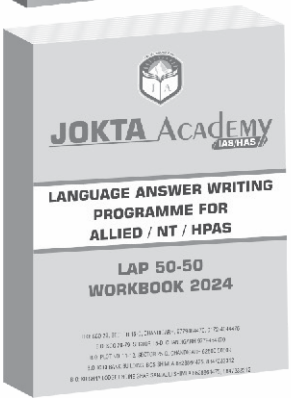

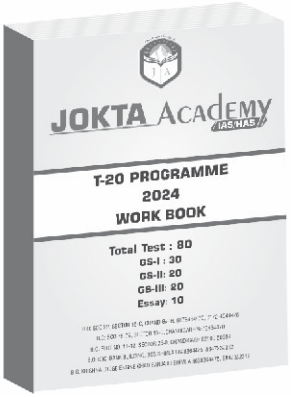

HP ALLIED MAINS 2019 (HELD IN 2020) SOLVED PAPERS

हिमाचल प्रदेश अधिनस्थ संबद्ध सेवाएँ पद (मुख्य) परीक्षा – 2019

विषय – हिंदी

समय – 3 घंटे अंक – 150

प्र1. अंग्रेज़ी अवतरण का हिंदी में अनुवाद कीजिएः

30

What are the basic ideas of this new humanism ? They can be briefly stated as a Modern and Indian interpretation of liberty , equality and fraternity , They are modern because the economic movements of the nineteen century have given a new content to these ideas. They have taken an Indian form because liberty , for example , means in India not merely the acquisition of political independence , but the emancipation of women , freedom for the suppressed classes , liquidation of feudal elements within the country and many other things which have ceased to have significance in Europe . In the same way , equality is a dynamic and revolutionary conception in India , as society has always been organized on the basis of inequality of caste and untouchability . Fraternity also has a different significance in India. For while the universalisim of India thought emphasizes the motive of action as Loka Samgraha of welfare of the world .

इस नए मानवतावाद के मूल विचार क्या हैं ? उन्हें संक्षेप में स्वतंत्रता, समानता और बंधुत्व की आधुनिक और भारतीय व्याख्य के रूप में कहा जा सकता है। वे आधुनिक हैं क्योंकि उन्नीसवां सदी के आर्थिक आंदोलन ने इन विचारों को एक नया स्वरूप प्रदान किया है। उन्होंने उन्होंने भारतीय रूप इसलिए सिया है क्योंकि उदाहरम के लिए भारत में स्वतंत्रता का अर्थ केवल राजनैतिक स्वतंत्रता प्राप्त करना नहीं, बल्कि महिलाओं की मुक्ति, दबे वर्गों की स्वतंत्रता, देश के भीतर सामंती तत्वों का सफाय तथा कई अन्य चीजें है, जिनका यूरोप में कोई महत्व नहीं हर गया है, उसी तरह भारत में समानता एक गतिशील और क्रांतिकारी अवधारणा है, क्योंकि समाज हमेशा जाति और अस्पृश्यता की असमानता के आधार पर संगठित होता रहा है। भारत में बंधुत्व का भी एक अलग महत्व है, जबकि भारतीय विचार की सार्वभौमिकता दुनिया के कल्याण के लिए लोक संग्रह के रूप में कार्य के उद्देश्य पर ज़ोर देती है।

प्र2. गद्यांश की व्याख्या ---

20

जिनको हम पवित्र आत्मा कहते हैं, क्या पता है, किन – किन कूपों से निकल कर वे अब उदय को प्राप्त हुए हैं। जिनको हम धर्मात्मा कहते है, क्या पता है, किन – किन अधर्मों को करके वे धर्म – ज्ञान को पा सकें हैं। जिनको हम सभ्य कहते हैं और जो अपन जीवन में पवित्रता को ही सब कुछ समझते हैं, क्या पता है, वे कुछ काल पूर्व बुरी तरह अधर्म और अपवित्रता में लिप्त रहे हों। अपने जन्म – जन्मांतरों के संस्कारों से भरी हुई अंधकारमय कोठरी से निकल कर, ज्योति और स्वच्छ वायु में परिपूर्ण खुले हुए देश में जब तक अपना आचरण अपने नेत्र न खोल चुका हो, तब तक धर्म के गूढ़ तत्व कैसे समझ में आ सकते हैं। नेत्र रहित को सूर्य से क्या लाभ ? हृदय – रहित को प्रेम से क्या लाभ ? बहरे को राग से क्या लाभ ? कविता, साहित्य, पीर, पैगंबर, गुरु, आचार्य, ऋषि आदि के उपदेशों से लाभ उठाने का यदि आत्मा में बल नहीं तो उनसे क्या लाभ जब तक जीवन का बीज पृथ्वी के मल – मूत्र के ढेर में पड़ा है, अथवा जब तक वह खाद की गर्मी से अंकुरित नहीं हुआ और प्रस्फुटित हो कर उनसे दो नए पत्ते ऊपर नहीं निकल आए तब तक ज्योति और वायु उसके किस काम के।

शब्द ---- अर्थ

- परिपूर्ण — जो हर तरह से पूर्ण हो
- गूढ़ — छिपा हुआ, जटिल
- पैगंबर — ईश्वर का दूत
- अंकुरित — जिसमें अंकुर आ गया हो
- प्रस्फुटित — खिला हुआ, विकसित

संकेत --- जिनको हम पवित्रात्मा ---------- ------ उस के किस काम के।

प्रसंग --- प्रस्तुत गद्यांश सुप्रसिद्ध लेखक, निबंधकार श्री पूर्ण सिंह के श्रेष्ठ निबंध

आचरण की सभ्यता से लिया गया है। उन्होंने इसमें बताय है कि जिन्हें आज हम

पवित्र और धर्मात्मा समझते हैं, वो शायद पहले ऐसे ना हो। आचरण और सभ्यता में गहरा संबंध है। पवित्रता और अपवित्रता भी जीवन के आचरण को गढ़ती है।

व्याख्या ---- लेखक कहते हैं कि जो आज हमारे सामने धर्मात्मा बन कर आए हैं, और जो पवित्र आत्मा कहला रहे हैं , तथा जो धर्म के मर्मज्ञ हैं क्या पता पहले उनका आचरण कैसा रहा हो। उन्होंने कैसे कर्म किए किए होंगे, क्या पता वे पहले अधर्म और अपवित्र कार्य में लिप्त हो। जब उनके जीवन का अज्ञान रुपी अंधकार समाप्त हुआ तब उन्हें ज्ञान की प्राप्ति हुई होगी। जब तक ज्ञान प्राप्त नहीं होता तब तक धर्म के गहरे अर्थ को नहीं समझा जा सकता। जिस प्रकार नेत्रहीन के लिए सूर्य के प्रकाश, बहरे के लिए राग – रागनियों का कोई महत्व नहीं, उन्हें इसका कोई लाभ नहीं है, वैसे ही यदि हमारे मन में गुरु , आचार्य , ऋषियों आदि के उपदेशों से सीखने और ज्ञान प्राप्त करने की इच्छा नहीं है तो इनसे होने वाले लाभ से हम वंचित ही रहेंगे। यदि कोई धरती में दबा बीज गर्मी, खाद पा कर भी अंकुरित नहीं होता , उस पर हरे पत्ते नहीं आते और वो विकसित नहीं होता तो धूप , प्रकाश, हवा भी उसके लिए किसी काम के नहीं हैं अर्थात ये सब बेकार है।

विशेष ---

- लेखक ने शुद्ध आचरण को अधिक महत्व दिया है।
- लेखक ने आचरण को बाकी सबसे जैसे धन, कला , आदि से सर्वश्रेष्ठ बताया है।
- अच्छे आचरण वाला व्यक्ति पूरी दुनिया का कल्याण कर सकता है।
- श्रेष्ठ आचरण वाला व्यक्ति समाज में सम्मान पा सकता है।
- गुरु, आचार्य, ऋषि, विद्यानों के उपदेशों को समझने और उन्हें अपने जीवन में उतारने पर बल दिया है।
- भाषा सहज और सरल है।
- भाषा में प्रवाह है।
- विचारात्मक शैली
- संस्कृत शब्दावली का प्रयोग किया गया है।
- पीर , पैगंबर जैसे आगत शब्द का भी प्रयोग हुआ है।

प्र3. काव्यांश की व्याख्या ---

15

साक्षी है इतिहास हमीं पहले जागे हैं, जाग्रत हो रहे हमारे ही आगे हैं।

शत्रु हमारे कहाँ नहीं बय से भागे हैं ? कायरता से कहाँ प्राण हमने त्यागे हैं ?

हैं हमीं प्रकंपित कर चुके, सुरपति तरु का भी हृदय

फिर एक बार है विश्व तुम गाओ भारत की जय।।

कहाँ प्रकाशित नहीं रहा है तेज हमारा,

दलित कर चुके हम अराति को पैरों द्वारा।

बतलाओ तुम कौन नहीं हमसे हारा ?

पर शरणागत हुआ कहाँ कब हमें न प्यारा ?

बस युद्ध – मात्र को छोड़ कर कहाँ नहीं है हम सदय।

फिर एक बार है विश्व तुम गाओ भारत की जय।।

संकेत --- साक्षी है इतिहास ---------- भारत की जय।

शब्द अर्थ

साक्षी गवाह

प्रकंपित हिलाया हुआ (कँपाया हुआ)

अराति शत्रु

सदय दयालु

शरणागत शरण में आया हुआ

प्रसंग --- प्रस्तुत काव्यांश सुप्रसिद्ध ' सुधाकर पुरस्कार ' प्राप्त कवि श्री 'रामशरण गुप्त' जी के द्वारा रचित कविता ' जग में अब भी गूँज रहे हैं ' से लिया गया है। इसमें कवि ने भारतवासियों, भारत के वीरो के विषय में बताया है। उन्होंने बताया है कि आज भी भारत का यश और गौरव संसार में गूँज रहा है।

व्याख्या --- कवि कहते हैं कि इतिहास गवाह है कि हमें ही सबसे पहले ज्ञान प्राप्त हुआ है और संसार के अन्य देश इस ज्ञान को जान कर जाग्रत हुए है। शत्रु भी सदा हम से डर कर रहे हैं, क्योंकि हम भारतवासियों ने कभी डरना नहीं सीखा है। ना ही हम कभी कायरों की तरह पीठ दिखा कर भागे हैं। हमने तो सदैव देश के लिए प्राणों का बलिदान दिया है, अर्थात देश की खातिर प्राणों को न्योछावर करने के लिए सदैव तत्पर रहे हैं। संसार के हर देश में हमारे बल, शौर्य, ज्ञान, देशभक्ति, दयालुता, आदि से हमारी पहचान बनी हुई है। संसार के जिस देश से कभी हमारा युद्ध हुआ तो हमने अपने शत्रु को कुचल कर रख दिया अर्थात उन्हें परास्त किया। संसार के सभी देशों पर हमने विजय प्राप्त की है। हमने केवल युद्धों में ही शत्रुओं पर वार किया है किंतु वैसे हम बहुत ही दयालु है, और शरणागत को शरण देकर उसे भयमुक्त कर देते हैं। कवि आगे कहते हैं कि पूरा संसार भारत का गुणगान करता है, आज भारत का पराक्रम, सहास, देशभक्ति को याद करके फिर से भारत की विजय के लिए गीत गाओ, भारत का गुणगान करो।

विशेष ---

- कवि ने भारत और भारत वासियों, वीरों की प्रशंसा की है।
- दुनिया के अन्य देश भारत से सदा प्रभावित रहे हैं।
- भारतवासी सत्य, प्रेम, और दयालुता को प्राथमिकता देते है, अतः भारत शांतिप्रिय देश है। जो शरण में आता है उसे अपना लेते है।
- भाषा सहज और सरल है।
- शैली यथार्थ परक तथा वर्णानात्मक है।

- काव्य में कहीं – कहीं प्रश्नात्मक शैली के भी दर्शन हुए है।
- तुकांत रचना है।
- कवि ने कविता में प्रश्न करके काव्य को नया रूप दिया है।
- हमसे हारा, है हमीं - में अनुप्रास अलंकार देखने को मिलता है।

प्र4. किसी विषय पर लगभग 1000 शब्दों में निबंध लिखिए --- 40

- राष्ट्र निर्माण में युवा वर्ग का योगदान
- तकनीक की दुनिया में खो रहा बचपन
- वर्तमान भारतीय समाज में नैतिक मूल्यों का पतन
- वैश्विक आतंकवाद
- कथा सम्राट मुंशी प्रेमचंद

प्र5. निम्न लिखित शब्दों के शुद्ध रूप लिखिए ---- 5

अशुद्ध शुद्ध अशुद्ध शुद्ध

वयसक व्यस्क पांतीर्यता प्रांतीय

जागरित जागृत अतिनद्रीय अतिंद्रिय

परादुरभाव प्रादुर्भाव जयोतसना ज्योत्स्ना

अलपगय अल्पज्ञ सापताहीक साप्ताहिक

ईरष्या ईर्ष्या पुनरावरिती पुनरावृत्ति

प्र6. निम्नलिखित अनुच्छेद में आए अशुद्ध वर्तनी वाले शब्दों को चुन कर सही रूप लिखिए 6

प्रसाद जी हिंदी के युग प्रर्वतक कवि और साहित्य – सृष्टा तो थे ही , एक असाधारण समीक्षक और दार्शनिक भी थे। बुद्ध मोर्य और गुप्त काल के इतिहासिक और सांस्कृतिक अंवेषणों पर उनके निबंध पाठक पढ चुके हैं। उनका योगदान इस दृष्टि से बहुत अधिक है कि वे इतिहास की सूखी रूप – रेखा पर तत्कालीन व्यापक उन्नति या अवनती के कारणों और रहस्य का रंग चढ़ा देते हैं। व्यक्तियों और समूहों की कृत्तियों का ही नहीं, उन विचारधाराओं का भी उल्लेख करते हैं, जिनका समायिक जीवन के निर्माण में हाथ रहा है। प्रसाद जी इतिहास को मानव निर्मित संस्थाओं , उनके सामुहिक उद्योगों, मनोवृतियों और रहन – सहन की पद्धतियों के साथ देखना चाहते हैं। इस प्रकार मानव जीवन का अंतप्रेरण दर्शन को और बहिर्विकास इतिहास को मान कर वे इन दोनों का घनिष्ट संबंध स्थापित कर देते हैं।

अशुद्ध --- शुद्ध अशुद्ध शुद्ध

प्रर्वतक प्रवर्तक बुद्ध बौद्ध

मोर्य मौर्य इतिहासिक एतिहासिक

अंनवेषण अन्वेषण पढ पढ़

अवनती अवनति चढा चढ़ा

कृत्तियों कृतियों समायिक सामायिक

अंतप्रेरण अंतःप्रेरणा घनिष्ट घनिष्ठ

प्र7. निम्नलिखित मुहावरों का स्पष्ट करते हुए वाक्य प्रयोग कीजिए --- 14

- मुँह की खाना --- बुरी तरह से हार जाना / परास्त होना
  युद्ध में मुगल सेना को अनेक बार मुँह की खानी पड़ी।
- पारा उतरना --- क्रोध कम होना
  लीली ने जैसे ही बेला से अपने दुर्व्यवहार के लिए क्षमा माँगी वैसे ही बेला का पारा उतर गया।
- लोहा बजना --- तलवार, भालों आदि से युद्ध होना
  आज सीमा पर दो देशों के बीच लोहा बज रहा है।
- चिरौरी करना – प्रार्थना करना
  पकड़े जाने पर अपराधी पुलिस की चिरौरी करने लगा।
- झख मारना – व्यर्थ समय नष्ट करना
  पढ़ने के नाम पर तो वह पूरे वर्ष झख मारता रहा।
- बल्लियों उछलना ---- अत्यधिक प्रसन्न होना
  प्रतियोगिता परीक्षा में प्रथम आने पर उसका मन बल्लियों उछलने लगा।
- छाती पर मूँग दलना --- साथ रह कर कष्ट देना
  वह कोई काम तो करता नहीं बस अभी तो अपने माता – पिता की छाती पर मूँग दलता है।

प्र8. कोष्ठक में दिए गए वाक्य – प्रकार के अनुसार वाक्य परिवर्तन कीजिए ---- 5

- क्या शीला अध्यापिका है। (विधानवाचक)
  शीला अध्यापिका है।
- शाम को बाज़ार चले जाना। (निषेधात्मक)
  शाम को बाज़ार मत जाना।
- आज धूप नहीं निकलेगी। (संदेहवाचक)
  शायद आज धूप नहीं निकलेगी।
- मेरे साथ चलो, मुझे अच्छा लगेगा। (संकेतवाचक)
  यदि मेरे सात चलोगे तो मुझे अच्छा लगेगा।
- आपको खेल देखने ज़रुर आना है। (विधान वाचक)
  आप खेल देखने ज़रुर आना।

प्र9. विशेषण शब्द बनाइए ---- 5

शब्द विशेषण

- आलस्य आलसी
- काम कामुक
- पिता पैतृक
- लाठी लठैत
- सुर सुरीला
- सुरभि सुरभित
- स्वप्न स्वप्निल
- शीत शीतल
- हृदय हार्दिक

प्र10 संधि विच्छेद कीजिए ---- 5

- मतान्तर मत + अंतर
- सदैव सदा + एव
- नवोत्कर्ष नव + उत्कर्ष
- सर्वेश सर्व + ईश
- पर्यावरण परि + आवरण
- जलोदर जल + उदर
- कपीश कपि + ईश
- उल्लास उत् + लास
- चयन चे + अन
- अन्वीक्षण अनु + ईक्षण

प्र11. दिए गए शब्दों में से उपसर्ग पहचान कर लिखिए ---- 5

शब्द उपसर्ग

- प्रत्यागमन प्रति , आ
- निर्विकार निर् , वि
- समानुपात सम , अनु
- सदाचार सत् , आ
- सुविख्यात सु , वि

हि.प्र. अलाईड मुख्य परीक्षा के लिए उपयोगी

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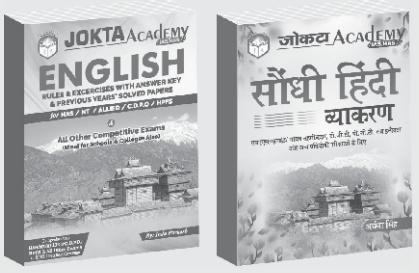

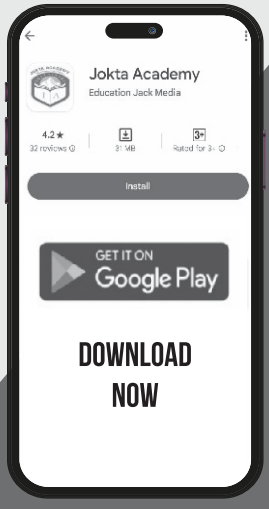

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Allied Services (Main) Examination, 2019

(ALLIED SERVICES)

Paper- English (Compulsory)

Time Allowed: 03 Hours **Maximum Marks: 150**

QUESTION PAPER SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS

Please read each of the following instructions carefully before attempting questions:

1. There are 13 questions and all questions compulsory.
2. The number of marks carried by a question is indicated against it.
3. Word limit in questions, wherever specified, should be adhered to.
4. Attempts of questions shall be counted in sequential order.
5. Unless struck off, attempt of a question shall be counted even if attempted partly. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.
6. Write neatly & well organized answers and also to adhere to the word limit, wherever indicated. Failure to adhere to word limit may be penalized.
7. Question paper can be taken by the candidate after conclusion of the examination.

Q. No.1. : Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions (i-v) that follow. You should use your own language, don't lift the sentences from the passage:

Since the mid-1940's over 200 basic chemicals have been created for use in killing insects, weeds, rodents, and other organisms described in the modern vernacular as "pests" and they are sold under several thousand different brand names. These sprays, dusts, and aerosols are now applied almost universally to farms, gardens, forests, and homes-non selective chemicals that have the power to kill every insect, the "good" and the "bad," to still the song of birds and the leaping of fish in the streams, to coat the leaves with a deadly film, and to linger on in soil all this though the intended target may be only a few weeds or insects. Can anyone believe it is possible to lay down such a barrage of poisons on the surface of the earth without making it unfit for all life? They should not be called "insecticides, but "biocides." The whole process of spraying seems caught up in an endless spiral. Since DDT was released for civilian use a process of escalation has been on in which ever more toxic materials must be found. This has happened because insects, in a triumphant vindication of Darwin's principle of the survival of the fittest, have evolved super races immune to the particular insecticide used, hence a deadlier one has always to be developed -and then a deadlier one than that. It has happened also because, for reasons to be described later, destructive insects often undergo a "flareback," or resurgence, after spraying, in numbers greater than before. Thus, the chemical war is never won, and all life is caught in its violent crossfire. Along with the possibility of the extinction of mankind by nuclear war, the central problem of our age has therefore become the contamination of man's total environment with such substances of incredible potential for harm accumulate in the tissues of plants and animals and even penetrate the germ cells to shatter substances that or alter the very material of heredity upon which the shape of the future depends. Some would-be architects of our future look toward a time when it will be possible to alter the human germ plasm by design. But we may easily be doing so now by inadvertence, for many chemicals, like radiation, bring about gene mutations. It is ironic to think that man might determine his own future by something so seemingly trivial as the choice of an insect spray. All this has been risked for what? Future historians may well be amazed by our distorted sense of proportion. How could intelligent being seek to control a few unwanted species by a method that contaminated the entire environment and brought the threat of disease and death even to their own kind? Yet this is precisely what we have done. We have done it, moreover, for reasons that collapse the moment we examine them. We are told that the enormous and expanding use of pesticides is necessary to maintain farm production. Yet is our real problem not one of overproduction? Our farms, despite measures to remove acreages from production and to pay farmers not to produce, have yielded such a staggering excess of crops that the American taxpayer in 1962 is paying out more than one billion dollars a year as the total carrying cost of the surplus-food storage program. And is the situation helped when one branch of the Agriculture Department tries to reduce production while another states, as in 1958, "It is believed generally that reduction of crop acreages under provision of the Soil Bank will stimulate interest in use of chemicals to obtain maximum production on the land retained in crops." All this is not to say there is no insect problem and no need of control. I am saying, rather, that control must be geared to realities, not to mythical situations, and that the methods employed must be such that they do not destroy us along with the insects. **(Rachel Carson)**

i) What is the impact of pesticides? 04 Marks

Ans.: The impact of pesticides has been that many insects become immune to the effect of one particular pesticide. Then, more lethal pesticide has to be developed. This process goes on endlessly.

ii) What has happened as a result of the release of DDT

for civilian use? 04 Marks

Ans.: DDT was released for killing insects for the benefit of human beings. But, after some time, it lost it effectiveness Then, a more toxic material had to be found . This need arose because insects, as per Darwin's theory of the survival of the fittest, change into super races that are immune to the particular insecticide used. Thus, a deadlier one has to be developed. This process is harmful for human beings also.

iii) "The whole process of spraying seems caught up in an endless spiral" Explain. 04 Marks

The insects have to be killed for the sake of producing food for the mankind. Hence, one particular insecticide is invented for killing these insects. These insects become resurgent. Then, a deadlier pesticide has to be developed. It kills other insects also that are not harmful. The land too gets polluted. Farmers want more production. So, more land for using it and more pesticides. This has become one endless spiral.

iv) The author feels that "the control is not geared to realities." Explain. 04 Marks

Ans.: The control is not geared to realities because along with harmful insects, we are killing all kinds of harmless insects also. The entire environment is getting polluted and poisonous. Farm production is increasing in spite of the fact that the use of agricultural land is being decreased. It shows the excessive use of pesticides. If not controlled, this misuse could lead to irreparable harm to both the land and the mankind.

v) What is the phrase used in correlation with the phenomena of insects evolving and developing immunity to particular pesticides? **02 Marks**

Ans.: Destructive insects often undergo a process of "flareback" or resurgence. They become more in number and more resistant to that particular pesticide.

Q No. 2.: Read the passage carefully, give it a suitable title and then write a précis, reducing it to approximately one-third of its original count:

The great Roman orator, Cicero, in his celebrated treatise on Friendship, remarks with truth that it increases happiness and diminishes misery by the doubling of our joy and the dividing of our grief. When we do well, it is delightful to have friends who are so proud of our success that they receive as much pleasure from it as we do ourselves. For the friendless man the attainment of wealth, power, and honour is of little value. Such possessions contribute to our happiness most by enabling us to do good to others but if all those whom we are able to benefit are strangers, we take far less pleasure in our beneficence than if it were exerted on behalf of friends whose happiness is as dear to us as our own Further, when we do our duty in spite of temptation, the mental satisfaction obtained from the approval of our consciences is heightened by the praise of our friends: for their judgement is as it were a second conscience, encouraging us in good and deterring us from evil Our amusements have little zest and soon pall upon us if we engage in them in solitude, or with uncongenial companions, for whom we can feel no affection. Thus in every case our joys are rendered more intense and more permanent by being shared with friends. It is equally true that as Cicero points out, friendship diminishes our misery by enabling us to share the burden of it with others. When fortune has inflicted a heavy un-avoidable blow upon us, our grief is alleviated by friendly condolence, and by the thought that as long as friends are left to us, life is still worth living. But many misfortunes which threaten us are not inevitable and in escaping such misfortunes, the advice and active assistance of our friends may be invaluable. The friendless man stands alone, exposed without protection to his enemies and to the woes of fortune; but whoever has loyal friends is thereby provided with a strong defence against the worst that fortune can do to him. Thus, in good and evil fortune, in our work and in our hours of recreation, the possession of true ends is the most important means to the attainment of happiness and the alleviation of avoidance of misery. It must be remembered, however, that these remarks only apply to friends really worthy of the name. The evil that may be affected by bad friends is as great as good secured by the possession of good friends. On this account the right selection is a matter of vital importance. We should select our friends with the greatest care and when we have won them, and found them worthy, we should take care to retain till we are severed from them by death. **(468 words) 20+2=22 Marks**

COMPATIBLE FRIENDS: A BOON IN OUR SUCCESS AND SAVIOURS IN HARDSHIPS

Friendship is a boon bestowed on human beings. The intimate touch and affection emanating from friendship enhance our happiness and alleviate our sufferings. Friendship reduces the consequent despair arising out of those sufferings. Our friends delight on our success in every field of our lives. Attainment of wealth and fame is best utilized when it is shared among friends. Our friends will appreciate it much more than total strangers or incompatible people. Our friends' affection will keep us away from wrongdoings. Apart from it, if the sharing of wealth and attainments is done selflessly, the charm of human life increases. Also, there is no charm in enjoying our success and wealth in solitude or when we share our attainments with incompatible friends or totally strange people. Our compatible and genuine friends alleviate our despair and troubles. Thus, one exceedingly glad tiding of human life is having genuine friends for sharing our success

and hardships with them. (155Words)

Q. No. 3: Write an essay in about 300 words on any one topic: 35 Marks

a) Effective Role of Opposition in Democracy

b) India of My Dreams

c) Students and Politics

Ans.: INDIA OF MY DREAMS

India is the most beautiful, significant, and illustrious country in the world. It is the cradle of human civilization in religion, religious tolerance, education, medicine, yoga, Sanskrit, and literature. It has 1.3 billion citizens from different religions, castes, and beliefs. They are spread in very vast land of 28 States and 8 Union Territories. India has every kind of weather, namely summer, monsoon , winter, and autumn. India' weather makes it the best weather-friendly nation is the world. 1.3 billion citizens reside in this democratic nation ruled by people's elected representatives. They all live peacefully and in harmony with one another.

India of my dreams is that every child, who is a citizen of India, should have the right to free education till Class XII. Thereafter, education in vocational courses should be highly subsidized or free for the poor. Children should be made literate with through grounding in reading, writing, and mathematics. Moral education should be compulsory. They should be taught their mother tongue, along with Sanskrit, Hindi, English, and Computer Science also compulsorily till class XII. All these subjects should be taught by highly qualified and experienced teachers.

Apart from all this, from class XI to XII, each student must get theoretical and practical training in one of the vocational courses of his/her choice. These vocational courses may be nursery-teacher training, tailoring, carpentry, masonry, gardening, cooking, beauty culture, stenography, painting, electrician's course, refrigeration, etc. so that after class XII they feel confident of a secure future .

Those, who are competent and can afford, should be provided guidance for becoming doctors, engineer, lawyers, scientists, technicians, etc. There are many children who cannot afford higher education after class XII. So, vocational training centers, such as Industrial Training Institutes, Polytechnic Colleges, Tailoring and Fashion Designating Centres, etc. should be highly subsided and should be free for those children. They should be linked to on-the-job training also apart from additional theory classes in their vocation out of so many vocations learned at the school time.

In this manner, each child will have proper educational qualification and practical experience in his trade. From there on, they will become gainfully busy and finically independent. They will become law-abiding and proud citizen of our greatest country in the world. This is India of my dream.

Q. No. 4. Make two sentences with word given below. Every word should be used once as a noun and once as a verb, adding up to ten sentences in all:

1. Round, 2. Light, 3. Fast, 4. Present, 5. Contrast. 10 Marks

1. **Round:** The Principal takes **a round** at 8.00 A.M. every day**. (Noun)**

   Round: Ravi **rounded** his lips and whistled**. (Verb)**

2. **Light:** The **light** of this room is insufficient for reading. **(Noun)**

   Light: He **lights** this lamp every day at 7.00 P.M. (**Verb**)

3. **Fast**: My **fast** was for one day only. **(Noun)**

   Fast: I **fasted** from morning till 8.00 P.M. today. (**Verb**)

4. **Present**: Hard work will make your **present** very pleasant. (**Noun**)

   Present: He **presented** his document yesterday. (**Verb**)

5. **Contrast**: The **contrast** of his shirt with the coat is quite attractive. (**Noun**)

   Contrast: I **contrasted** his work with Ravi's and found Ravi's work better.

Q. No. 5. Fill in the blanks with appropriate prepositions: 05 Marks

a) Come and sit **beside** me.

b) You married **for** money.

c) You ought to have been patient **with** the child.

d) This exercise was written **by** me **with** a pilot pen.

e) **Of** all that has happened, I wash my hands __**off** _____ you.

Q. No. 6. Fill in the blanks with appropriate articles: 05 Marks

a) **No article** love is inspirational to **No article** man. (**love**, has been used in an abstract sense, and the second noun, **man**, has been used in a general sense.)

b) **No article** trade flourished in **No article** India during **the** reign of **No article** Akbar.

c) He is at **the** head of **the** trade.

d) Two of **the** trade seldom agree.

e) **No article** Newton was **a** great scientist.

Q. No.: 7. Make adjective from the following words: 05 Marks

Solitude, Table, Palace, Queen, Trouble

1. Solitude: Soliloquy
2. Table : Tabular
3. Palace: Palatial
4. Queen: Queen like
5. Trouble: Troublesome

Q. No. 8: Use each word in each pair in two different sentences in order to bring out the difference in meaning. You will make ten sentences in all: 10 Marks

a) Adverse, averse

Adverse (not favourable) He wrote adverse remarks against you.

Averse: (against) He is averse to idea of serving liquor in this party.

b) Hair, heir

Hair: My hair is black because I use mustard oil every day.

Heir: This prince has been nominated as the heir to the throne of that nation.

c) Ascent, assent

Ascent. (climb: conquest) :The ascent to that hill is difficult.

Assent: (approval) The assent for your payment has just come to me.

d) Award, reward

Award: (official money or recognition) This award is given to him for securing 100 per cent marks in mathematics.

Reward. (in recognition of something good) The passenger gave me a reward of Rs.500/- for returning his purse containing money and gold.

e) Canvas, canvass

Canvas (a coarse cloth) This banner is made of canvass and not plastic.

Canvass : (to ask for votes: propose an idea for discussion) Canvassing for votes will stop from today.

Q. No. 9. Punctuate the following sentences: 15 Marks

a) The supervisor wasn't able to complete the project Because she had to attend another meeting.
b) my aunt has lived in miami florida, since june.
c) whenever I study said Louis I get better grades
d) 1 am late answered Lupe because I missed the bus.
e) Is it raining asked Tom.
f) Avengers: Endgame which is a popular movie made a huge amount of money
g) Senator Thomson who lives in America gave an interesting speech.
h) Mr. Smith my former employer wrote a letter of recommendation.
i) Sit down Sara.
j) Sam please answer the phone.
k) To err is human to forgive divine.
l) Did you work on Tuesday Dave.
m) The class will begin on Monday December 11 2019 at 7.45 am.
n) My American literature class will study the old man and the sea in July.
o) The newspaper did not publish the story however it the Time magazine.

Ans.

a) The supervisor wasn't able to complete the project because she had to attend another meeting.
b) My aunt has lived in Miami, Florida, since June.
c) "Whenever I study," said Louis, "I get better grades."
d) "I am late," answered Lupe, "because I missed the bus."
e) "Is it raining?" asked Tom.
f) Avengers Endgame, which is a popular movie, made a huge amount of money.
g) Senator Thomson, who lives in America, gave an interesting speech.
h) Mr. Smith, my former employer, wrote a letter of recommendation.
i) Sit down, Sara!
j) "Sam, please answer the phone."
k) To err is human; to forgive divine.
l) "Did you work on Tuesday, Dave?"
m) "The class will begin on Monday, December 11, 2019, at 7.45 A. M.
n) My American literature class will study "The Old Man and the Sea" in July.
o) The newspaper did not publish the story. However, it is the Time magazine.

Q. No. 10. Change the voice of the following sentences: 05 Marks

a) The mason is building the wall.

Ans.: The wall is being built by the mason.

b) All his friends laughed at him.

Ans.: He was laughed at by all his friends.

c) The Romans expected to conquer Carthage.

Ans.: Carthage was expected to be conquered by the Romans.

d) One should keep one's promises

Ans.: One's promises should be kept by one.

e) Alas! We shall hear his voice no more.

Ans.: Alas! His voice will not be heard any more by us .

Q. No. : 11. Make sentences with the following words: 05 Marks

Freeze, Echo, Caravan, Smog, Splatter

1. Freeze: The water will freeze soon.
2. Echo: The echo of his voice has just been heard.
3. Caravan: (a group of people) This caravan will board a train for Hardwar soon.
4. Smog: (fog and smoke mixed) Smog has reduced visibility.
5. Splatter: (splash of liquid) His car splattered the stagnant rain water on me.

Q. No. 12. Put the following into indirect speech: 05 Marks

a) The peon said, "It is already past nine. May I go home, Sir?

Ans.: The peon asked his Sir that that was past nine then, and if he could go home.

b) The poor man said, "You have saved me from great public insult. May God bless you!"

Ans.: The poor man said that I had saved him from great public insult and May God bless me!

c) The young man said to her, "I love you. Will you marry me?"

Ans.: The young man told her that he loved her, and if she would marry him.

d) "How can I marry you?" she said, "There appear to be a number of girls whom you love."

Ans.: She said that how she could many him as there appeared a number of girl whom he loved.

e) "Take good care of your ornaments," she said to her daughter. "If the servant gets chance, he might steal them."

Ans.: She advised her daughter to take good care her ornaments and that the servant, if he got a chance, might steal them.

Q. No.: 13. Correct the following sentences and rewrite the corrected version: 10 Marks

a) The latter part of the book show signs of hurry.

Ans.: The latter part of the book **shows** signs of hurry. (verb changes for the third person singular in the Present Simple Tense.)

b) He gave me a good advice.

Ans.: He gave me good **advice**. (advice is an abstract noun here)

c) The traffic were heavy.

Ans.: The traffic **was** heavy. (traffic is a collective noun)

d) I am much tall than you."

Ans.: I am **taller** than you. (comparative of **tall** is **taller**)

e) I wish I was rich.

Ans.: I wish I **were** rich. (for any wish unlikely to be fulfilled, we use **were**)

f) I have a great respect for my landlady.

Ans.: I have great **respect** for my landlady. (**respect** has been used in an abstract sense. So no article is needed here.)

g) Aerobics involve vigorous exercise.

Ans.: .Aerobics involves vigorous exercise. (Aerobics takes singular noun.)

h) German measles cause a swollen neck.

Ans.: German massless **causes** a swollen neck. (Diseases are singular entities. Hence, they need inflected verb, verbs with **s** or **es**.)

i) Our baggages were overweight.

Ans.: Our **baggage was** overweight. (Baggage too is a singular noun.)

j) News travel fast.

Ans.: News travels fast. (News is a singular noun. So, the same rule applies to the verb as in (i) above.

Allied Services (Main) Examination, 2019

(ALLIED SERVICES)

PaperGENEAL KNOWLEDGE

Time Allowed: 03 Hours **Maximum Marks: 150**

1. Throw light on British Policy towards Hill states after 1857 AD.

Answer: Following the revolt of 1857, British policy towards the Hill states of India underwent significant transformations. The British adopted a more cautious strategy aimed at consolidating their authority and ensuring the loyalty of these princely states. It could be listed as following:

1. **Abandonment of the Doctrine of Lapse:** The Doctrine of Lapse, which facilitated the annexation of Indian states, was largely discarded in favor of a more diplomatic approach.
2. **Autonomy of Hill Rulers:** Hill rulers were permitted to maintain their autonomy while acknowledging British suzerainty under sanads, allowing for local governance under British oversight.
3. **Establishment of Treaties:** Treaties, such as the one with the rulers of Kullu, were forged to secure loyalty, emphasizing diplomatic relations over direct control.
4. **Buffer Zones:** The hill states were strategically utilized as buffer zones to protect British interests from external threats, particularly from neighboring territories like Tibet and China.
5. **Strategic Recognition:** The strategic significance of the hill states was acknowledged, particularly during the Great Game between Britain and Russia, leading to military outposts in areas like Kangra Valley.
6. **Infrastructure Development:** The British introduced new land revenue systems, imposed taxes on local produce, and also continued beggar to built essential infrastructure. The Shimla-Kinnaur road is a prime example, facilitating military movement and trade.
7. **Limited Modernization:** Some modernization efforts were encouraged, such as the establishment of the first hydroelectric project in Chamba in the early 20th century, but overall economic growth in the region was often neglected.
8. **Military Expectations:** The British expected military support from hill rulers dictated under terms of sanads, exemplified during the Second Anglo-Afghan War (1878-1880), where local forces were mobilized to aid British campaigns.
9. **Minimal Development in Education and Health:** Education and public health infrastructure remained inadequate. For example, the establishment of only a few schools and hospitals, primarily in major towns like Shimla, reflected limited investment in social welfare.
10. **Suppression of Local Revolts and leader of revolt:** Any local dissent was swiftly suppressed, as seen during the uprising in the Sirmaur state in 1857, where British forces intervened decisively.

Overall, British policies after 1857 focused on consolidating power, exploiting local resources, and ensuring strategic control over the hill regions while maintaining a facade of autonomy for local rulers. This approach aimed to create a stable and loyal frontier for British India.

2. Write a critical note on the rule of Ruler Sansar Chand.

Answer: Sansar Chand, a prominent ruler of the Katoch dynasty of Kangra, is noted for his ambition to expand his kingdom and his patronage of art and culture. His reign, spanning the late 18th and early 19th centuries, was marked by significant achievements, but also by challenges that ultimately led to his decline.

Significance of Sansar Chand's Rule

1. **Military Expansion:** Sansar Chand significantly expanded his kingdom, incorporating various territories in Himachal Pradesh, showcasing his military prowess and ambition to restore the glory of the Katoch dynasty.
2. **Cultural Patronage:** His reign marked a resurgence of the Kangra style of painting. He actively supported local artisans, contributing to a vibrant cultural heritage that is celebrated to this day.
3. **Architectural Contributions:** He developed Sujanpur Tihra as main seat of Kangra and many temples and military posts around as a symbol of his power and stronghold, reflecting his commitment to fortifying his realm.
4. **Economic Development:** Sansar Chand fostered trade and commerce, enhancing economic prosperity and improving the livelihoods of his subjects, which in turn increased state revenues.
5. **Administrative Efficiency:** He introduced efficient administrative practices that strengthened governance and resource management, contributing to internal stability.

Overall, dominance over the hill states led consolidation on hill states under one ruler but it didn't last long.

Limitations of Sansar Chand's Rule

1. **Opposition from Local Rulers:** Sansar Chand encountered opposition from other local rulers, complicating his efforts to unify and strengthen his kingdom in the face of external threats.
2. **External Threats:** Despite his initial successes, Sansar Chand faced challenge from Gurkhas and Sikhs, which strained resources and highlighted vulnerabilities in his military strategies. Loss in Battle of Mahalmorian led entry of Gurkhas and Sikhs in the hills
3. **Weak Against the Gurkhas:** While he demonstrated military resolve against the Gurkhas, the sieges and

invasions weakened his kingdom over time, exposing its fragility.

4. **Conflict with the Sikh Empire:** His conflicts with the Sikh Empire marked a turning point in his rule, leading to his eventual decline. Treaty of Jwalamukhi ultimately undermined his power.
5. **Limited Long-term Impact:** Although he made significant contributions to culture and governance, the conflicts and instability during his later years overshadowed these achievements, limiting his long-term legacy.

Sansar Chand's rule was marked by a dynamic blend of military prowess and cultural patronage, contributing to a rich legacy in Kangra's history. However, his eventual decline due to conflicts with the Sikhs and Gurkhas serves as a reminder of the challenges faced by rulers in maintaining power amidst external threats. His legacy continues to be significant in understanding the historical narrative of the region.

3. Account the chief characteristics of tribal society in Himachal Pradesh.

Answer: Himachal Pradesh is home to diverse tribal communities that account 5.7% population of Himachal Pradesh, each with its distinct cultural practices and social structures. These tribes play an important role in preserving the unique heritage of the region. The characteristics can be listed as:

1. **Diverse Tribes:** Key tribes in Himachal Pradesh include the Gaddis, Kinnauras, Lahaulis, and Pangwals, each contributing to the rich tapestry of cultural diversity.
2. **Pastoral and Agrarian Lifestyle:** The tribal society is primarily pastoral and agrarian, with livelihoods based on agriculture and animal husbandry, reflecting their close relationship with the land.
3. **Strong Communal Bonds:** Tribes exhibit strong communal bonds, with collective decision-making processes that ensure community participation and support.
4. **Distinct Languages and Dialects:** Each tribe possesses its own distinct languages and dialects, contributing to the linguistic diversity of the region.
5. **Social Structure:** The social hierarchy within tribal communities is present in the form of a caste system, generally less rigid than in mainstream society, promoting a more egalitarian approach to social interactions.
6. **Joint Family Systems:** The concept of joint family systems is prevalent, emphasizing family unity and shared responsibilities among members. Further Polyandry and Polygyny is present.
7. **Religious Beliefs and Practices:** Religious beliefs are deeply rooted in local deities and spirits, with rituals often reflecting animistic traditions and the natural world.
8. **Significance of Festivals and Rituals:** Festivals and rituals hold immense significance, often linked to religion and deity, agricultural cycles and seasonal changes, reinforcing cultural identity and communal ties.
9. **Traditional Economy:** The traditional economy revolves around agriculture, livestock rearing, and handicrafts, with practices adapted to the local environment.
10. **Handicrafts and Artisanship:** Handicrafts, including weaving, pottery, and jewelry making, are integral to their livelihood and are often characterized by unique designs and techniques.
11. **Traditional Medicine:** Practices of traditional medicine and healing, often derived from local flora, play a significant role in health care within tribal communities.
12. **Architectural Styles:** Unique architectural styles, particularly in housing and temples, reflect the environmental adaptation and cultural aesthetics of each tribe.

Tribal societies in Himachal Pradesh are characterized by their distinct customs, strong communal life, and resilience in preserving their cultural identity. They contribute significantly to the state's cultural diversity and play an important role in its socioeconomic framework, showcasing a vibrant heritage that has endured despite external influences and modernization.

4. How do you explain the better-off sex ratio in Himachal Pradesh as compared to neighboring states of Haryana and Punjab?

Himachal Pradesh has consistently maintained a better sex ratio than its neighboring states of Haryana and Punjab. This positive demographic indicator can be attributed to a combination of sociocultural factors and effective policy measures within the state. These are:

1. **Higher Literacy Rates Among Women:** Himachal Pradesh boasts higher literacy rates for women, leading to greater awareness of health and education rights, which contributes to a balanced sex ratio. (HP: 76.70%, HR: 66.77%)
2. **Better Healthcare Facilities:** The state provides better access to healthcare services for women, ensuring maternal health care, which reduces mortality rates and promotes healthier births.
3. **Promotion of Women's Rights:** There is an active promotion of women's rights and empowerment programs that foster a supportive environment for women in the state.
4. **Lesser Gender-Based Discrimination:** Gender-based selective practices, such as female infanticide and foeticide, are less prevalent in Himachal Pradesh compared to Haryana and Punjab.
5. **Culturally Entrenched Values:** Stronger traditional values in Himachal Pradesh emphasize respect for women, enhancing their status in society and reducing discrimination.
6. **Government Policies:** Effective government policies incentivizing the education of girls have played a crucial role in changing societal attitudes towards the value of female children.
7. **Social Attitudes:** Social attitudes in Himachal Pradesh tend to value the role of women in families and communities, promoting a culture of equality and respect.

8. **Existing Challenges:** Despite these positive aspects, challenges remain, such as limited access to quality healthcare in remote areas, ongoing gender-based violence, and traditional attitudes that can still undermine women's rights. Addressing these issues is crucial to further improving the sex ratio and ensuring gender equality.

The better sex ratio in Himachal Pradesh reflects the state's progressive approach to gender equality and women's empowerment. Continued emphasis on education, healthcare, and supportive social norms is essential for maintaining this positive trend and ensuring that women's rights are upheld in the future.

5. Describe the role of Praja Mandal movement in Himachal Pradesh during India's freedom struggle.

Answer: The Praja Mandal movement played a crucial role in mobilizing the people of Himachal Pradesh against British rule. Praja Mandals were established in key areas such as Mandi, Sirmaur, and Chamba. The role can be described using following heads:

1. **Objectives:** The primary aim was to end the autocratic rule of the princes and advocate for civil liberties and democratic reforms, mirroring the broader goals of the Indian freedom struggle.
2. **Foundation of freedom movement:** It was part of the larger freedom movement aimed at democratizing the princely states and empowering local populations.
3. **Organizing Protests and Strikes:** The movement effectively organized protests, strikes, and non-cooperation movements against the oppressive practices of the princely states, mobilizing public support.
4. **Political Awareness:** The movement played a significant role in creating political awareness among the people of Himachal Pradesh, educating them about their rights and the importance of self-governance.
5. **Social Reforms:** The Prajamandal movement significantly advanced social reforms in Himachal Pradesh by challenging begar, bethu system and evil of reet.
6. **Agrarian Movement:** In the agrarian sphere, Prajamandal addressed the grievances of farmers against oppressive policies of Rajas and outdated land policies.
7. **Integration with Independent India:** The Praja Mandal movement was instrumental in integrating the hill states into the framework of independent India, advocating for responsible governance and democratic representation.
8. **Support for the Quit India Movement:** The Praja Mandal movement also aligned itself with the Quit India Movement of 1942, further galvanizing local support for national independence.
9. **Limitations of the Movement:** Despite its significance, the Praja Mandal movement faced several limitations:
    - ❖ **Limited Reach:** The movement primarily attracted educated elites and did not fully engage marginalized communities, limiting its overall impact.
    - ❖ **Repression:** The harsh crackdown by the British authorities and local rulers curtailed its activities and demoralized participants, hindering momentum.
    - ❖ **Fragmented Leadership:** Internal divisions and lack of cohesive leadership sometimes led to disorganization and diminished effectiveness in achieving broader goals.

The Praja Mandal movement in Himachal Pradesh was a vital part of the broader freedom struggle, advocating for democratic governance and civil rights. Its contributions to political awakening in the region were instrumental in shaping post-independence politics and integrating Himachal Pradesh into the national framework of India.

6. Examine the role of Pajohta movement in Himachal Pradesh during the Second World War.

Answer: The Pajohta movement was a significant local uprising in the princely state of Sirmaur during the Second World War. It arose in response to the repressive policies of the local ruler and the economic hardships imposed by war conditions.

Significance of the Pajohta Movement

1. **Origins and Local Mobilization:** The movement originated in Sirmaur, reflecting the local population's growing discontent with oppressive rulers and colonial policies.
2. **Grievances Against Taxation:** It addressed critical issues such as high taxes and forced labor, highlighting the economic strains faced by the local populace during wartime.
3. **Opposition to Royal Support for the British:** The Raja's support for British war efforts fueled resentment among locals, uniting them against both the colonial regime and local authority.
4. **Leadership and Community Involvement:** Primarily led by local leadership, the movement organized widespread protests that mobilized rural communities and raised collective awareness of their rights.
5. **Inspiration for Future Resistance:** Despite its suppression, the Pajohta movement inspired further resistance against feudal authority, laying the groundwork for future political activism in the region.
6. **Connection to National Movements:** The movement aligned with the broader Quit India Movement,"Bhai do, Na Pai" linking local struggles to the national fight for independence and fostering a sense of unity.

Limitations of the Pajohta Movement

1. **Suppression by Authorities:** The movement faced violent repression from British authorities, which included brutal crackdowns on protests, limiting its effectiveness.
2. **Arrests and Repression:** Key leaders were arrested, and

many activists faced imprisonment, creating a climate of fear that stifled further mobilization.

3. **Limited Scope and Reach:** While it mobilized local communities, the movement had a limited geographic and social reach, primarily engaging educated elites and not fully representing marginalized groups.
4. **Fragmentation of Leadership:** Internal divisions and a lack of cohesive leadership occasionally undermined the movement's effectiveness and ability to sustain momentum.

Conclusion: Though the Pajohta movement was limited in scope, it reflected the growing discontent among the people of Himachal Pradesh against feudal and colonial rule during the Second World War. Its significance in fostering political awareness and inspiring future activism positioned it as a noteworthy precursor to later political changes in the region.

7. Write four features of the New Industrial Policy of Himachal Pradesh.

The Industrial Policy of Himachal Pradesh, launched in 2019, aims to create a conducive environment for industrial growth, promote entrepreneurship, and enhance employment opportunities. This policy emphasizes sustainable development while attracting investments in various sectors.

Himachal Pradesh Industrial Investment Policy, 2019

Vision Statement "To create an enabling ecosystem to enhance the scale of economic development & employment opportunities; ensure sustainable development & balanced growth of industrial & service sectors to make Himachal as one of the preferred destination for investment"

Objectives

1. Investment Climate: Create a conducive environment for existing industries to grow and attract new investments for local employment.
2. Address Growth Issues: Tackle challenges hindering industrial growth and simplify procedures for infrastructure and human resource development.
3. Ease of Doing Business: Promote digitization and self-certification to streamline industrial processes.
4. Food Processing: Enhance the food processing industry through effective linkages and support for agro-horticulture.
5. MSME Support: Foster the MSME sector for sustainable growth and job creation for local youth.
6. Encourage Startups: Promote entrepreneurship to build a robust local entrepreneurial ecosystem.
7. Large Investments: Recognize the role of significant investments in economic development and local resource utilization.
8. Support for Weaker Sections: Uplift marginalized communities through targeted initiatives.

Strategy

1. Streamlined Processes: Simplify rules and introduce self-certification and digitalization for quicker clearances.
2. Infrastructure Development: Upgrade existing industrial infrastructure and create a private land bank for industries.
3. Power Availability: Ensure competitive pricing for quality power to support industrial activities.
4. Incentive Rationalization: Adjust provisions for incentives and concessions to sustain and encourage investment.
5. Graded Fiscal Incentives: Offer incentives for regional development, ensuring balanced economic growth.
6. Employment Incentives: Provide benefits to enterprises employing over 80% local residents, rewarding additional local employment.
7. Startup Ecosystem: Foster an environment for startups, traditional industries, and R&D to enhance competitiveness.
8. Support for Handloom & Handicraft: Acknowledge and promote the cottage industry and rural economy sectors, particularly in food processing.

The Himachal Pradesh Industrial Investment Policy, 2019, aims to catalyze industrial development through a structured approach that supports both large enterprises and local MSMEs while prioritizing employment and sustainable growth.

The 2019 Industrial Policy of Himachal Pradesh is a comprehensive framework aimed at promoting industrialization while ensuring sustainability and regional development. By focusing on MSMEs, infrastructure, and skill development, the policy seeks to position Himachal Pradesh as a competitive destination for investment and growth.

8. Name any four schemes for forest conservation in Himachal Pradesh.

Himachal Pradesh has initiated several forest schemes aimed at enhancing forest conservation, improving livelihoods, and addressing climate change impacts. These initiatives reflect the state's commitment to sustainable forest management and ecological balance.

Key Schemes

1. **Mukhya Mantri Van Vistaar Yojna**
   - ❖ Launched in August 2023, during Van Mahotsav.
   - ❖ **Objective**: Focuses on expanding forest cover and promoting community participation in afforestation efforts.
2. **HP Forest Ecosystem Climate Proofing Project (KfW Assisted)**
   - ❖ Supported by KfW (German Development Bank).
   - ❖ **To** enhance the resilience of forest ecosystems to climate change through sustainable practices and restoration efforts.
3. **HP Forest Ecosystem Management and Livelihood Improvement Project (JICA Assisted)**
   - ❖ Assisted by JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency).

- ❖ To improve forest management while boosting local livelihoods through sustainable forestry practices.

4. **Experimental Silviculture**
   - ❖ **Khair in Nurpur Range**: Focuses on the sustainable management of Khai trees, enhancing local biodiversity.
   - ❖ **Chil in Bharari Range**: Aims to study the growth and health of Chil (Deodar) trees, crucial for the ecosystem.
   - ❖ **Sal in Paonta Range**: Experiments with Sal trees to understand their adaptability and management for better forest health.
5. **Plantation Targets**
   - ❖ **Target Area**: 14,000 hectares for plantation.
   - ❖ Increase green cover through various afforestation initiatives, enhancing biodiversity and ecosystem services.
6. **CAMPA Plantation**
   - ❖ **Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA)**:
   - ❖ To utilize funds for afforestation and restoration of degraded forest lands, ensuring ecological balance.
7. **Ek Boota Beti Ke Naam**
   - ❖ A unique campaign encouraging families to plant a tree for each daughter born.
   - ❖ Promotes gender equity and environmental stewardship while enhancing forest cover.
8. **Forest Fire Prevention and Management Scheme**
   - ❖ To implement measures for preventing forest fires and managing fire incidents effectively.
   - ❖ Includes creating fire lines, raising awareness, and training local communities in fire management practices.

Himachal Pradesh's forest schemes demonstrate a comprehensive approach to forest conservation and community involvement. By integrating climate resilience, livelihood improvement, and innovative initiatives, these programs aim to ensure a sustainable and thriving forest ecosystem for future generations.

9. Write a note on Renuka Dam Project of Himachal Pradesh.

The Renukaji Dam Project is a significant hydropower initiative located in the Sirmaur district of Himachal Pradesh, aimed at enhancing water storage and electricity generation.

Key Features

1. **Location**: Sirmaur district, Himachal Pradesh.
2. **River**: The dam is built on the Giri River, a tributary of the Yamuna.
3. **Capacity**: Expected to generate 404 MW of power.
4. **Height**: The dam will be 148 meters tall.
5. **Reservoir**: The reservoir will have a storage capacity of approximately 40 million cubic meters.

Objectives

1. **Hydropower Generation**: To meet the increasing energy demands of the region.
2. **Irrigation**: To provide irrigation facilities to surrounding agricultural areas.
3. **Flood Control**: To manage and mitigate flood risks in the region.

Benefits

1. **Economic Growth**: The project will create job opportunities during construction and operation.
2. **Energy Security**: Contributes to India's renewable energy targets by utilizing hydropower.
3. **Regional Development**: Enhances local infrastructure and improves living standards in nearby areas.

The Renukaji Dam Project is a crucial step towards sustainable development in Himachal Pradesh, promising significant benefits in terms of energy production, irrigation, and regional economic growth.

10. What do you know about Imla-Bimla Valley of Himachal Pradesh?

Imla Bimla Valley, located in the Karsog region of Himachal Pradesh, is renowned for its breathtaking landscapes, rich agricultural heritage, and cultural significance.

Key Features

1. Location: Nestled in the Himalayas, Karsog experiences vast droughts during winter and faces flooding and hail in the spring.
2. Climate: March, June, September, and November are typically cool and dry, making them ideal for visitors.

Agriculture

1. Fertile Land: The valley is known for its fertile soil, supporting diverse crops.
2. Main Crops: Key agricultural products include apples, wheat, Rajma, corn, pomegranates, rice, potatoes, peas, and various vegetables.
3. Apple Cultivation: Apple growing is a primary source of income, with new varieties like Jeromine, Redvelox, Gala, and Adom being introduced.

Cultural Significance

1. Pandava Legends: According to local folklore, the Pandavas spent their Vanvas (exile) in this region, leading to various legends and temples associated with them.
2. Shikari Devi Temple: The temple is believed to have been built by the Pandavas. Local stories suggest that during heavy snowfall, snow covers the valley but not the temple's peak, showcasing its sacred significance.

Attractions

1. Tattapani: Known for its hot springs, Tattapani is about 52 km from Shimla and a popular stop for visitors heading to Karsog Valley.
2. Natural Beauty: The valley offers stunning vistas and opportunities for trekking and exploration.

Languages

1. Local Dialects: Pahari and Hindi are widely spoken, reflecting the region's cultural diversity.

Imla Bimla Valley in Karsog is a captivating destination that combines natural beauty, rich agriculture, and cultural heritage. With its fertile lands and legends of the Pandavas, it offers a unique experience for those seeking to explore the tranquility of Himachal Pradesh.

11. Throw light on the contribution of Vallabh Bhai Patel in the Indian freedom struggle.

Vallabh Bhai Patel, also known as the "Iron Man of India," was a key figure in India's struggle for independence. A staunch advocate of unity and a close ally of Mahatma Gandhi, Patel played an instrumental role in mobilizing the masses and organizing nonviolent movements against British rule. His leadership in unifying post-independence India has earned him a place in history as one of the foremost leaders of the country.

Key Contributions

1. **Leadership in Farmers' Movements Kheda Satyagraha (1918)**: Led farmers to demand the suspension of revenue collection during a drought, highlighting his commitment to agrarian issues.
2. **Non-Cooperation Movement 1920**: Resigned from his law practice and founded Gujarat Vidyapeeth, promoting self-reliance and education outside British control.
3. **Bardoli Satyagraha 1928**: Organized resistance against increased taxation, earning the title "Sardar" for his effective leadership.
4. **Role in the Indian National Congress Karachi Session (1931)**: As President, he expanded the movement's focus to include socio-economic issues, promoting rural regeneration and nationalism.
5. **Negotiations for Independence and Partition:** Advocated for accepting the partition as a solution to communal tensions, playing a crucial role in the negotiation process.
6. **Contributions to the Constituent Assembly:** Actively involved in framing the Indian Constitution, chaired important committees on minorities, fundamental rights, and provincial governance.
7. **Integration of Princely States:** As Deputy Prime Minister in 1947, he unified over 560 princely states into India, using decisive measures when necessary, such as military intervention.
8. **Vision for Civil Services:** Promoted a strong civil service to enhance national cohesion and governance, advocating for an effective federal administrative system.

Vallabh Bhai Patel is regarded as the architect of a united India, with his vision continuing to inspire future generations. His leadership, integrity, and commitment to national unity are celebrated, epitomized by the Statue of Unity, which stands as a tribute to his immense contributions. Vallabh Bhai Patel's leadership and pragmatic approach significantly contributed to India's freedom struggle and post-independence consolidation.

12. Discuss critically the Steps Taken by Reform Movements for Upliftment of Women during the 19th Century.

Answer: The 19th century in India marked a pivotal era for women's reform movements aimed at improving their status. These movements addressed entrenched social norms and sought to promote education, legal rights, and health initiatives for women, laying the groundwork for future advancements in women's rights.

Key Steps Taken

1. **Promotion of Education:** Reformers founded schools and colleges for women, improving educational access. **Example**: The Bethune Society established the first girls' school in Calcutta in 1849, a landmark in women's education.
2. **Campaigns Against Child Marriage:** Advocacy for the abolition of child marriage highlighted its harmful effects on girls. The Child Marriage Restraint Act of 1929 emerged from earlier reform efforts against this practice.
3. **Abolition of Sati:** The campaign against Sati underscored the need for women's protection and rights. **Example**: Raja Ram Mohan Roy's activism led to the formal abolition of Sati by the British in 1829.
4. **Women's Participation:** Women's engagement in social and religious reforms amplified their voices. **Example**: Participation in the Brahmo Samaj promoted social equality and women's rights.
5. **Formation of Organizations**: Women's organizations emerged to advocate for rights and welfare. **Example**: The All India Women's Conference, founded in 1927, aimed to improve women's education and legal rights.

Positive Outcomes

1. **Increased Educational Access**: Empowered women with knowledge, enabling them to participate more actively in society.
2. **Legal Reforms:** Improved legal protection for women, paving the way for future rights regarding inheritance and marriage.
3. **Empowerment through Organizations**: Strengthened women's voices and facilitated collective action for rights and welfare.
4. **Cultural Shifts**: Fostered a more progressive view of women's roles in society, encouraging social change.

5. **Health Improvements**: Improved health standards for women, contributing to better quality of life.
6. **Economic Opportunities:** Enabled women to contribute to their households and the economy.

Limitations

1. **Slow Pace of Change:** Many women continued to face discrimination and limited opportunities in practice.
2. **Fragmented Efforts:** Inconsistent progress across regions and communities, with some areas benefiting more than others.
3. **Focus on Upper-Class Women**: Exacerbated existing inequalities and did not reach the most marginalized groups.
4. **Limited Legal Enforcement**: Continued practices persisted due to lack of accountability and societal support.
5. **Short-Term Gains**: Without sustained advocacy, some reforms faced backlash or were undermined.
6. **Cultural Resistance:** Led to backlash against reformers and initiatives, hindering progress.

Conclusion

The reform movements of the 19th century played a crucial role in uplifting women in India, achieving significant positive outcomes in education, legal rights, and social awareness. However, limitations such as slow societal change, fragmented efforts, and cultural resistance highlighted the challenges faced. Understanding these outcomes and limitations provides valuable insights into the ongoing struggle for women's rights and empowerment.

13. Art, language and ideology are the various elements or constituent parts of culture. Are technology, economic, social and political organisation also important components of culture?

Culture is a multifaceted concept that shapes human behavior and societal norms. While art, language, and ideology are often emphasized, technology, economic systems, social organization, and political structures are equally vital. A comprehensive understanding of culture involves examining all these interconnected elements.

1. **Art:** Art encompasses various forms of creative expression, including visual arts, music, dance, and literature. **Example**: The classical dance form of Bharatanatyam from Tamil Nadu reflects India's rich cultural heritage and storytelling traditions through expressive movements and intricate rhythms.
2. **Language:** Language is the primary means of communication and is essential for expressing ideas, emotions, and cultural identity. **Example**: Hindi and various regional languages, such as Bengali and Telugu, play a crucial role in literature and cinema, contributing to India's diverse cultural landscape.
3. **Ideology:** Ideology refers to a system of beliefs or values that shapes how individuals view the world and their place in it. **Example**: The ideology of Gandhism promotes non-violence and civil disobedience, influencing India's struggle for independence and continuing to inspire social movements today.

Yes, technology, economic systems, social organization, and political structures are indeed important components of culture. Here's a brief overview of how each element contributes to cultural dynamics:

4. **Technology:** Technology includes the tools and methods used to interact with the environment and each other. **Example**: The rapid adoption of mobile technology in India has transformed communication and commerce, enabling innovations like digital payments and e-governance.
5. **Economic Organization:** Economic organization pertains to the systems that dictate how goods and services are produced and distributed. **Example**: The Green Revolution in India led to increased agricultural production through modern farming techniques, significantly impacting rural economies and food security.
6. **Social Organization:** Social organization defines the structures and relationships within a society, influencing roles and expectations. **Example**: The caste system, despite being criticized and challenged, historically shaped social dynamics and community interactions in India.
7. **Political Organization:** Political organization involves the systems and institutions that govern a society, affecting laws and rights. **Example**: India's democratic framework allows for various political parties and movements, enabling diverse voices and representations in governance, such as the women's rights movement advocating for legislation like the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act.

14. Examine the social dimensions of religious revivalism and fundamentalism in the context of globalisation.

Answer: Religious revivalism and fundamentalism have emerged as significant social dimensions in the context of globalization, often reshaping identities and community dynamics. As global interactions increase, traditional beliefs and practices are being reinterpreted in response to modern challenges. This phenomenon highlights a complex interplay between global influences and local religious identities, particularly in India.

Social Dimensions of Religious Revivalism and Fundamentalism

1. **Cultural Identity Preservation**: Revivalist movements often seek to preserve traditional cultural identities threatened by globalization. Example: The resurgence of Hindu nationalism in India, especially with the rise of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), emphasizes cultural heritage and promotes a vision of India rooted in Hindu values.
2. **Community Solidarity**: Fundamentalism can foster a sense of belonging and community among followers, countering the alienation of modern life. Example: The growth of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak

Sangh (RSS) creates a network of solidarity among Hindus, promoting community service and cultural events.

3. **Resistance to Modernity**: Many revivalist movements arise as a reaction against modern values and lifestyles, advocating for a return to "pure" religious practices. Example: Certain sects within Islam in India, such as Deobandis, advocate for a strict interpretation of Sharia, resisting Westernization and promoting traditional Islamic practices.
4. **Political Mobilization**: Religious groups often engage in political activism to influence governance and policy, reshaping social norms. Example: The rise of the Akali Dal in Punjab, which combines Sikh identity with political ambitions, emphasizes religious values in its governance.
5. **Global Networks**: Globalization facilitates the spread of religious ideas and practices through transnational networks, enhancing revivalist movements. Example: The growth of Islamic NGOs in India, which connect with global Muslim networks, promotes social welfare while reinforcing Islamic values.
6. **Social Inequality and Marginalization**: Fundamentalist ideologies can arise among marginalized groups seeking to assert their identity in a globalized world, often addressing social grievances. Example: The emergence of groups like the Indian Mujahideen reflects a response to perceived social injustices and economic disparities faced by certain Muslim communities.
7. **Influence of Technology**: Social media and online platforms allow for the rapid dissemination of religious ideologies, enabling mobilization and recruitment. Example: Hindu nationalist organizations effectively use social media to spread their messages, recruit members, and organize events, amplifying their influence.
8. **Interfaith Tensions**: Globalization can exacerbate religious fundamentalism by creating tensions between different faiths, leading to conflict. Example: The increasing polarization between Hindus and Muslims in India, often fueled by political rhetoric and media narratives, has led to communal riots and social unrest.

Conclusion

The social dimensions of religious revivalism and fundamentalism in the context of globalization reveal a complex interplay of preservation, resistance, and adaptation, particularly in India. While these movements often seek to reinforce traditional values and identities, they also navigate the challenges posed by modernity and global interconnectedness. Understanding these dynamics is crucial for addressing contemporary social issues and fostering interfaith dialogue in an increasingly globalized world.

15. Describe the right to equality given in the Indian Constitution.

Answer: The right to equality is a fundamental right enshrined in the Indian Constitution, ensuring that every individual is treated equally before the law and prohibiting discrimination. Encompassed in Articles 14 to 18, this right serves as a cornerstone of India's democratic framework, fostering justice and fairness.

Right to Equality under the Indian Constitution:

1. **Article 14: Equality before Law**: This article guarantees that all individuals, irrespective of their race, religion, gender, or background, are equal before the law and entitled to equal protection of the law.
2. **Prohibition of Discrimination (Article 15)**: The State cannot discriminate against any citizen on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex, or place of birth. This ensures that all citizens have equal access to opportunities and resources.
3. **Equal Opportunity in Employment (Article 16)**: Article 16 guarantees equal opportunities in matters of public employment, prohibiting discrimination on similar grounds as Article 15, thereby promoting fairness in recruitment and employment.
4. **Abolition of Untouchability (Article 17)**: This article abolishes untouchability and forbids its practice in any form, aiming to eliminate social discrimination and promote equality among all citizens.
5. **Abolition of Titles (Article 18)**: The Constitution prohibits the State from conferring titles, with the exception of military and academic distinctions, promoting the idea that all citizens are equal and do not need titles to establish their worth.

Significance:

1. **Protective Discrimination**: The State is permitted to make special provisions for the advancement of socially and educationally backward classes, Scheduled Castes, and Scheduled Tribes. This acknowledges historical disadvantages and seeks to provide them with opportunities.
2. **Reservation System**: Linked with the right to equality, the reservation policy ensures representation for marginalized communities in government jobs and educational institutions, promoting their participation in societal progress.
3. **Judicial Precedents**: The judiciary has played a significant role in interpreting and expanding the scope of the right to equality through landmark judgments, reinforcing its importance in societal justice.
4. **Exceptions to Equality**: Certain positions, such as the President, Governors, and judges, may have exclusions based on qualifications, reflecting the need for specialized competencies in governance and law.

The right to equality is foundational in ensuring justice and inclusivity within Indian society. It aims to bridge gaps among different social sections, promoting a society where equality is a

lived reality rather than a mere ideal. While challenges persist, the provisions enshrined in the Constitution continue to work towards a more equitable society.

16. Describe the amendment procedure given in the Indian Constitution.

Answer: The amendment process of the Indian Constitution is designed to be flexible yet robust, allowing for necessary changes while preserving its foundational principles. Article 368 delineates the procedures for amending the Constitution, reflecting the need for adaptability in a diverse and evolving society.

Procedure for Amendment of the Constitution

1. **Initiation of Amendment**: An amendment can only be initiated by introducing a bill in either House of Parliament.**2. Introduction of the Bill**: The bill can be introduced by a minister or a private member and does not require prior permission from the President.
3. **Passage by Special Majority**: The bill must be passed in each House by a special majority, which entails:
   - ❖ A majority of the total membership of the House.
   - ❖ A majority of two-thirds of the members present and voting.

   1. **Separate Passage**: Each House must pass the bill separately. If there is disagreement between the Houses, there is no provision for a joint sitting.
   2. **Ratification by States**: If the bill seeks to amend specific provisions of the Constitution, it must be ratified by at least half of the State legislatures by a simple majority.
   3. **Presidential Assent**: After passing in both Houses, the bill is presented to the President for assent. The President must give assent; they cannot withhold it or return the bill for reconsideration.
   4. **Becoming Law**: Upon receiving the President's assent, the bill becomes an act and is officially part of the Constitution.
   5. **Limitation of Basic Structure**: While Parliament has the power to amend the Constitution, the Supreme Court has ruled that amendments cannot alter the "basic structure" of the Constitution. This doctrine ensures that fundamental principles, such as democracy, secularism, and the rule of law, remain intact.

Criticism of the Amending Procedure

1. **Limited Initiation**: Amendments can only be initiated in Parliament, restricting broader public participation in the process.
2. **Rigidity for Private Members**: The procedure can be particularly rigid for private members attempting to move a constitutional amendment bill, making it challenging for individual initiatives.
3. **Majority Control**: The vesting of constituent power in Parliament may lead to the ruling party passing amendments hastily if they hold a majority in both Houses, undermining thorough debate.
4. **Limited State Consent**: The consent of states is required only for a few specific provisions, limiting federal involvement in constitutional changes.
5. **Lack of Time Frame**: The Constitution does not prescribe a time frame for states to ratify or reject amendment bills, leading to uncertainty in the process.

Overall, while the amendment procedure allows for necessary changes to the Constitution, these criticisms highlight potential pitfalls regarding representation, oversight, and federal involvement.

17. Discuss the problems of public sector enterprises in India.

Answer: Public sector enterprises (PSEs) have been integral to India's economic development since independence, focusing on industrialization and infrastructure. However, over the years, they have faced numerous challenges that have hindered their performance and efficiency. **Problems of Public Sector Enterprises**

1. **Inefficiency in Operations:** Many PSEs suffer from operational inefficiencies, resulting in low productivity and resource wastage. **Example:** Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) has struggled with production delays and inefficiencies compared to private competitors.
2. **Overstaffing:** Political pressure often leads to excessive hiring, creating a bloated workforce that increases operational costs without corresponding productivity gains. **Example:** Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) has faced issues with overstaffing, impacting its profitability.
3. **Financial Losses:** Poor management practices have resulted in financial losses for several PSEs, placing a burden on the government budget. **Example:** Air India has consistently reported losses, necessitating government bailouts.
4. **Outdated Technology:** Many PSEs use outdated technologies, limiting their competitiveness and productivity compared to private sector players. **Example:** Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has faced challenges in adopting modern aerospace technologies.
5. **Political Interference:** Excessive political influence in decision-making reduces the autonomy of PSEs, making them less competitive and responsive. **Example:** The appointment of top management in various PSEs often reflects political affiliations rather than merit.
6. **Lack of Innovation:** Bureaucratic processes and a risk-averse culture stifle innovation, preventing PSEs from adapting to market changes. **Example:** Indian Railways has been slow to innovate in terms of customer service and technology integration.

7. **Underutilization of Capacity:** Many PSEs operate below their production capacity due to poor planning and resource allocation, leading to inefficiencies. **Example:** Fertilizer companies like National Fertilizers Limited (NFL) often run below optimal capacity.
8. **Corruption:** Corruption within PSE management contributes to misallocation of resources and undermines operational effectiveness.
9. **Poor Financial Management:** Ineffective financial practices lead to rising debts, with a lack of accountability exacerbating the issue. **Example:** Many state electricity boards are burdened with debt due to poor financial management and tariff issues.
10. **Inadequate R&D Investments:** PSEs often underinvest in research and development, limiting their ability to innovate and compete globally. **Example:** Companies like Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) have been criticized for not investing enough in developing cleaner energy technologies.

Solutions

1. **Streamlining Processes:** Implementing lean management techniques to reduce bureaucracy and improve decision-making speed.
2. **Financial Restructuring:** Undertaking a thorough financial audit and restructuring to address losses and improve profitability.
3. **Technology Adoption:** Investing in modern technology and practices to enhance efficiency and competitiveness, such as digitalization and automation.
4. **Management Training Programs:** Regular training for management to enhance skills in resource management and operational efficiency.
5. **Attractive Compensation Packages:** Creating competitive salary structures and benefits to retain and attract talent.
6. **Reducing Political Interference:** Establishing clear governance structures that limit political involvement in day-to-day operations.
7. **Infrastructure Upgrades:** Allocating funds for upgrading infrastructure to improve productivity and operational efficiency.
8. **Fostering Innovation:** Encouraging a culture of innovation by providing platforms for employees to propose and test new ideas.
9. **Debt Management Strategies:** Developing effective debt management strategies, including asset divestment or public-private partnerships (PPPs).
10. **Improving Customer Relations:** Implementing customer relationship management (CRM) systems to enhance service quality and responsiveness.

While public sector enterprises have made significant contributions to India's economic landscape, their persistent problems necessitate comprehensive reforms. Addressing issues such as bureaucratic inefficiencies, financial management, and technological upgrades is essential to enhance their efficiency and ensure their viability in a competitive market.

18. What are the various benefits of Special Economic Zones for India?

Special Economic Zones (SEZs) are designated areas in India with unique economic regulations aimed at attracting foreign investment, promoting exports, and generating employment. These zones offer various advantages to the Indian economy, contributing to its growth and development.

Benefits of Special Economic Zones

1. **Attracting Foreign Investment:** SEZs provide a business-friendly environment with incentives such as tax holidays, duty-free imports, and relaxed labor laws, making them attractive to foreign investors. **Example:** The Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City) has successfully drawn significant foreign investment in the financial services sector.
2. **Boost to Exports:** SEZs are designed to be export-driven, helping India increase its global market share in sectors like IT, manufacturing, and pharmaceuticals. **Example:** The IT and electronics exports from SEZs like the Chennai IT SEZ have significantly boosted India's export figures.
3. **Employment Generation:** SEZs have created millions of jobs across diverse sectors, including manufacturing, services, and IT, providing livelihoods to many. **Example:** The Manesar SEZ in Haryana has led to the creation of numerous jobs in the automobile sector.
4. **Infrastructure Development:** The establishment of SEZs promotes the development of world-class infrastructure, such as roads, ports, and power supply, benefiting both enterprises and surrounding areas. **Example:** The development of the Mundra Port in Gujarat, associated with SEZs, has enhanced logistics and connectivity.
5. **Simplified Regulatory Framework:** Businesses in SEZs benefit from a simplified regulatory framework, including single-window clearances and fewer bureaucratic hurdles, facilitating ease of doing business.
6. **Technology Transfer:** SEZs encourage the transfer of advanced technology and best practices to domestic industries, enhancing overall productivity
7. **Regional Development:** SEZs contribute to balanced regional development by promoting industrial growth in underdeveloped areas, reducing urban-rural disparities.
8. **Foreign Exchange Earnings:** The export-oriented nature of SEZs helps India earn valuable foreign exchange, bolstering the country's reserves.
9. **Tax Revenue for Government:** Despite offering tax incentives, SEZs contribute to government revenue through increased economic activity, employment, and indirect taxes.

Special Economic Zones have been pivotal in driving India's economic growth by attracting foreign investment, boosting exports, and creating jobs. Addressing challenges such as land acquisition, infrastructure bottlenecks, and regulatory clarity will be essential to fully harness their potential and maximize their benefits for the Indian economy.

19. Give a geographical account of the Terai region in India.

The Terai region is a lowland area at the foothills of the Himalayas, extending across northern India and parts of Nepal. Known for its fertile soils and rich biodiversity, the Terai serves as an essential agricultural zone and an ecological buffer between the plains and mountains. Its unique climate and vegetation support both human settlements and wildlife.

Geographical Features of the Terai Region

1. **Location:** The Terai stretches from the Yamuna River in the west to the Brahmaputra River in the east, covering parts of Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and West Bengal.
2. **Climate:** The region experiences a humid subtropical climate characterized by hot summers, heavy monsoons, and cool winters, which are conducive to agriculture. Average summer temperatures can reach up to 40°C, while winter temperatures drop to around 10°C.
3. **Soil Fertility:** The Terai is renowned for its fertile alluvial soil, ideal for crops like sugarcane, wheat, rice, and maize.
4. **Vegetation:** Historically covered with dense forests, including species like sal and teak, much of the land has been cleared for agriculture. The region also hosts vital wetlands and grasslands. The Terai grasslands are crucial habitats for various bird species and other wildlife.
5. **Wildlife:** Home to numerous national parks and wildlife reserves, the Terai supports endangered species such as the Bengal tiger and the one-horned rhinoceros. **Example:** Dudhwa National Park is a significant sanctuary in the Terai, known for its biodiversity.
6. **Water Resources:** The region is criss-crossed by perennial rivers originating in the Himalayas, such as the Ghaghara, Gandak, and Kosi, providing ample water for irrigation and drinking. **Example:** The Kosi River is notorious for its floods but also essential for agriculture due to its water supply.
7. **Agriculture:** The combination of fertile soils and abundant water makes the Terai one of India's most productive agricultural regions, particularly for sugarcane, rice, and wheat cultivation. **Example:** The Terai contributes significantly to India's total wheat production, especially in districts like Lakhimpur Kheri.
8. **Human Settlement:** The agricultural potential of the Terai has led to high population density, with major towns and cities developing in the region, such as Lakhimpur, Bahraich and Gorakhpur.
9. **Flood-prone Area:** The Terai is susceptible to flooding during the monsoon season due to the heavy flow of Himalayan rivers, often causing damage to crops and settlements. **Example:** Seasonal flooding from the Kosi River can displace communities and destroy farmland.
10. **Deforestation Issues:** Rapid deforestation for agriculture and settlement has led to soil erosion, reduced biodiversity, and increased human-wildlife conflict.

The Terai region plays a vital role in India's agricultural productivity and biodiversity conservation. However, it faces challenges such as deforestation, flooding, and environmental degradation. Sustainable development practices are crucial to ensure that the region continues to thrive without compromising its ecological balance.

20. Discuss the impact of globalization on Indian agriculture.

Answer: Globalization has profoundly transformed Indian agriculture since the early 1990s, following India's economic liberalization. While it has opened up new markets and opportunities for Indian farmers, it has also exposed them to greater competition and price volatility, resulting in both positive and negative outcomes.

Positive Impacts of Globalization

1. **Increased Market Access:** Globalization has opened international markets for Indian agricultural products, leading to higher exports of commodities like rice, spices, and cotton. **Example:** India became one of the leading exporters of basmati rice, significantly boosting incomes for farmers in states like Punjab and Haryana.
2. **Technological Advancements:** Indian farmers have gained access to modern agricultural technologies, including genetically modified seeds, fertilizers, and advanced irrigation techniques, improving crop yields. **Example:** The introduction of Bt cotton in India led to higher yields and reduced pest-related losses.
3. **Improved Infrastructure:** Globalization has driven improvements in infrastructure, such as better transportation and cold storage facilities, which help reduce post-harvest losses. **Example:** The development of cold storage chains has enabled farmers to store perishable products like fruits and vegetables, enhancing their marketability.
4. **Investment in Agriculture:** Globalization has attracted foreign investment in the agricultural sector, leading to modernization of supply chains and processing industries. **Example:** Companies like Cargill and PepsiCo have invested in Indian agriculture, providing farmers with access to better technology and markets.
5. **Diversification of Crops:** Farmers are increasingly shifting from traditional staple crops to high-value crops such as fruits, vegetables, and flowers to meet the demands of global markets. **Example:** Farmers in Maharashtra have successfully transitioned to growing high-value crops like pomegranates and strawberries for export.

6. **Boost to Agribusinesses:** Globalization has encouraged the growth of agribusinesses, including food processing industries and retail chains, creating new avenues for farmers to sell their produce.

   Example: The rise of retail giants like Reliance Fresh has provided farmers with direct access to urban markets, reducing reliance on traditional middlemen.

Negative Impacts of Globalization

1. **Price Volatility:** Indian farmers are exposed to global price fluctuations, which can result in unstable incomes, especially for small and marginal farmers.

   Example: The price crash of cotton in 2015 left many farmers in distress, highlighting their vulnerability to international market dynamics.

2. **Competition with Imports:** Cheap agricultural imports, particularly from countries with advanced farming practices, have made it difficult for Indian farmers to compete, affecting domestic market prices.

   Example: The influx of cheap pulses from Myanmar and Canada has hurt local pulse farmers.

3. **Exploitation of Farmers:** Middlemen and large corporations often take advantage of farmers, leading to low returns for producers despite high consumer prices.

   Example: Many farmers receive a fraction of the retail price for their produce due to exploitative practices by intermediaries.

4. **Overdependence on Cash Crops:** Globalization has encouraged the over-cultivation of cash crops, which are more vulnerable to price shocks, instead of food grains that ensure food security.

   Example: The focus on cotton and sugarcane in some regions has led to neglect of staple food crops, impacting food security.

5. **Environmental Degradation:** The push for higher productivity has led to the overuse of chemical fertilizers and pesticides, causing soil degradation and loss of biodiversity.

   Example: Intensive use of chemicals in states like Punjab has resulted in severe soil health issues and groundwater depletion.

6. **Land Fragmentation:** Increased commercialization of agriculture has accelerated the fragmentation of land holdings, making it difficult for small farmers to adopt modern technologies.

   Example: As agricultural land gets divided among heirs, smaller plots become less viable for efficient farming practices.

Globalization has brought both opportunities and challenges to Indian agriculture. It has improved market access, introduced new technologies, and boosted exports, but has also exposed farmers to price fluctuations and increased competition. To fully harness the benefits of globalization, Indian agriculture must adopt sustainable practices, improve infrastructure, and ensure that small farmers are better integrated into global value chains. Balancing these factors is crucial for the sustainable growth of Indian agriculture.

21. Describe Bal Gangadhar Tilak's views on 'Swaraj'.

Answer: Bal Gangadhar Tilak, often called the "Father of Indian Unrest," was a pivotal figure in India's freedom struggle. His rallying cry, "Swaraj is my birthright, and I shall have it," resonated deeply with millions seeking independence from British rule. Tilak's concept of Swaraj, or self-rule, was not only about political freedom but was also intricately connected to cultural revival and the assertion of India's identity.

Tilak's Views on Swaraj

1. **Swaraj as Self-Governance:** For Tilak, Swaraj represented the right of Indians to govern themselves according to their cultural and social values. **Example:** His advocacy for local self-governance in municipal bodies demonstrated his belief in self-rule.

2. **Empowerment of the Masses:** He believed that Swaraj could only be achieved by awakening and mobilizing the masses, making common people active participants in the struggle for independence. **Example:** His involvement in the Ganesh Chaturthi festival promoted unity and political consciousness among the masses.

3. **Independence, Not Reform:** Unlike moderate leaders who sought reforms within the British framework, Tilak demanded complete independence from colonial powers. **Example:** His demand for full self-rule during the Lucknow Pact (1916) contrasted sharply with the calls for constitutional reforms by moderates.

4. **Revival of Indian Culture:** Tilak linked Swaraj with a revival of India's cultural and spiritual heritage, advocating for the restoration of traditional values. **Example:** He promoted the celebration of Hindu festivals like Shivaji Jayanti to instill a sense of pride in Indian history and culture.

5. **Education and Political Awareness:** He stressed the necessity of educating the masses to raise political consciousness, enabling them to demand their rights effectively. **Example:** Tilak founded the Deccan Education Society in 1884, which aimed to promote modern education and nationalistic sentiments.

6. **Resistance to Oppression:** Tilak encouraged active resistance against oppressive British laws and policies, organizing protests and boycotts that laid the groundwork for mass movements. **Example:** His participation in the anti-Partition movement in Bengal galvanized public sentiment against British policies.

7. **Support for Extremist Methods:** He supported more radical methods, such as the Swadeshi movement and passive resistance, believing these were essential to achieving Swaraj. **Example:** Tilak's call for boycotting British goods during the Swadeshi movement in 1905 was pivotal in mobilizing public support for self-reliance.

8. **Role in Home Rule Movement:** Tilak was instrumental in the Home Rule Movement (1916), advocating for immediate self-rule and fostering unity among Indians across various regions and religions. **Example:** His establishment of the Home Rule League galvanized support for self-governance among diverse Indian communities.
9. **Criticism of British Policies:** He vocally criticized British policies that exploited Indian resources and oppressed its people, raising awareness about the detrimental impacts of colonialism. **Example:** His articles in the newspaper "Kesari" highlighted the economic exploitation and injustices faced by Indians under British rule.
10. **Foundation of Indian Nationalism:** Tilak's vision of Swaraj laid the ideological groundwork for future leaders like Mahatma Gandhi, who furthered the struggle for complete independence. **Example:** Gandhi acknowledged Tilak's influence, particularly in adopting the idea of self-rule and mass mobilization in the Salt March and other movements.

Bal Gangadhar Tilak's views on Swaraj were revolutionary, marking a significant turning point in India's freedom struggle. He firmly believed that political independence was the birthright of every Indian and advocated for a united, self-reliant India free from colonial rule. His legacy continues to inspire movements for self-determination and national pride, reflecting the enduring spirit of his vision for Swaraj.

22. Throw light on the main features of Lord Wellesley's Subsidiary Alliance System.

Answer: The Subsidiary Alliance System, introduced by Lord Wellesley in the early 19th century, was a strategic policy aimed at expanding British control over the Indian subcontinent. This system involved forming alliances with Indian princely states, whereby the British offered military protection in exchange for certain privileges. The policy significantly contributed to the expansion of British influence while weakening the authority of Indian rulers.

Main Features of the Subsidiary Alliance

1. **Military Support:** Indian princely states were required to accept the permanent stationing of British troops within their territories for their defence. **Example:** The state of Hyderabad had British forces stationed to maintain security.
2. **Disarmament of Indian States:** The states were not allowed to maintain their own armies and had to rely entirely on British forces for protection. **Example:** The Maratha Confederacy saw its military capabilities significantly reduced under this policy.
3. **Payment for Subsidiary Forces:** Allied states were obligated to pay for the maintenance of the British troops stationed in their territories, either in cash or by ceding portions of their territory. **Example:** The Nawab of Awadh had to cede territories as payment for the British military presence.
4. **Prohibition of Foreign Relations:** Indian states were prohibited from entering into alliances or diplomatic relationships with other foreign powers without British approval. **Example:** The rulers of various states were prevented from forming alliances with neighboring princely states.
5. **Acceptance of British Resident:** A British resident was stationed in the courts of the princely states to supervise administration and ensure compliance with British interests. **Example:** The resident in the court of the Marathas had significant influence over their decision-making.
6. **No Interference in Internal Matters:** While the British promised not to interfere in the internal affairs of the princely states, they often exerted significant influence in practice. **Example:** The British intervened in succession disputes within states, undermining local rulers.
7. **Surrender of Autonomy:** By accepting the alliance, Indian rulers effectively surrendered a significant portion of their sovereignty, becoming dependent on British authority. **Example:** Rulers like the Nawab of Oudh found their powers severely curtailed.
8. **Annexation in Case of Non-compliance:** If a state failed to comply with the terms of the alliance, the British could annex it. **Example:** The annexation of Awadh in 1856 showcased this coercive aspect of the policy.
9. **Expansion of British Control:** The Subsidiary Alliance allowed the British to expand their control without direct military engagement, as many states came under their influence through diplomatic means. **Example:** The systematic incorporation of states like Mysore into British territory through alliances.
10. **Strategic Advantage:** This system helped the British establish a buffer zone between their territories and potential threats, such as the Marathas and Sikhs. **Example:** The establishment of a British presence in central India served as a deterrent against regional powers.

The Subsidiary Alliance System was a critical mechanism for the British Empire's expansion in India. It enabled the British to exert control over vast regions while undermining the autonomy of Indian princely states. This policy marked a significant erosion of Indian sovereignty and laid the groundwork for the complete domination of the British East India Company over the subcontinent. The legacy of this system remains a poignant chapter in India's colonial history.

23. Define culture and discuss its significance in human life.

Answer: Culture encompasses the social behaviors, norms, beliefs, and traditions that characterize a society or community. It reflects shared values and practices passed down through generations, playing a central role in shaping individual identities and social structures.

1. **Social Behavior:** Culture is expressed through customs and rituals that define everyday life. **Example:** Festivals like Diwali in India exemplify cultural practices that strengthen community bonds.
2. **Beliefs and Ideologies:** It includes religious and philosophical beliefs that shape how individuals view the world. **Example:** The emphasis on karma in Hinduism influences moral behavior and life choices.
3. **Traditions and Heritage:** Culture is preserved through traditions passed down through generations. **Example:** The celebration of Thanksgiving in the United States reflects historical events and fosters family connections.
4. **Language and Communication:** Language is a key aspect of culture, facilitating communication and the transmission of knowledge. **Example:** The use of indigenous languages helps maintain cultural heritage and identity among native populations.
5. **Art and Creativity:** Culture manifests through art forms like music, dance, and literature, reflecting a society's creativity. **Example:** The traditional dance forms of Bharatanatyam in India embody cultural narratives and values.
6. **Technology and Innovation:** Cultural practices adapt to technological advancements. **Example:** The rise of digital media has transformed how cultures express and share their traditions globally.
7. **Law and Ethics:** Cultural norms shape legal systems and ethical frameworks. **Example:** Concepts of justice in various cultures inform their legal practices and societal rules.
8. **Economic Systems:** Culture influences economic practices, such as trade and labor. **Example:** The barter system in traditional societies illustrates how culture shapes economic interactions.
9. **Social Structures:** Culture defines roles and hierarchies within communities. **Example:** Family structures in different cultures, such as nuclear versus extended families, influence social dynamics.
10. **Globalization's Impact:** In a globalized world, cultures interact, leading to exchanges or conflicts. **Example:** The fusion of culinary traditions, like Tex-Mex cuisine, highlights cultural blending.

Significance of Culture

1. **Identity Formation:** Culture helps define individual and community identities, fostering belonging. **Example:** Indigenous cultures often emphasize connection to land and heritage, shaping community identity.
2. **Social Cohesion:** Shared cultural values promote unity and cooperation, contributing to social stability. **Example:** National holidays, like Independence Day, foster collective identity and national pride.
3. **Moral Guidance:** Cultural beliefs provide a framework for ethical decision-making. **Example:** The principle of hospitality in many cultures influences social interactions and behavior toward guests.
4. **Preservation of Heritage:** Culture ensures the transmission of knowledge and traditions. **Example:** Oral traditions among Indigenous peoples preserve history and cultural practices for future generations.
5. **Adaptation and Change:** Culture evolves in response to external influences. **Example:** The influence of Western fashion on traditional clothing demonstrates cultural adaptation while retaining core elements.

Culture is integral to human life, shaping worldviews and interactions. It reflects continuity and change, linking past and present. In our globalized world, celebrating diverse cultures fosters mutual respect and understanding, essential for peaceful coexistence. The dynamic interplay of cultural elements—art, language, ideology, technology, and social organization—illustrates how culture evolves, influenced by both internal traditions and external forces.

24. Discuss the pioneering socio-religious movements of the 19th century in India.

Answer: The 19th century in India witnessed several significant socio-religious movements aimed at addressing social issues, promoting reform, and challenging traditional practices. These movements played a crucial role in shaping modern Indian society and laid the groundwork for future political and social change.

1. **Brahmo Samaj**: Founded by Raja Ram Mohan Roy in 1828, it aimed to reform Hinduism by promoting monotheism and rationalism, seeking to eliminate social evils like sati and caste discrimination.
2. **Arya Samaj**: Established by Swami Dayananda Saraswati in 1875, it emphasized Vedic values and encouraged social reforms, including the abolition of child marriage and promoting women's education.
3. **Ramakrishna Mission**: Founded by Swami Vivekananda in 1897, this movement highlighted the unity of all religions and focused on social service, education, and uplifting marginalized communities.
4. **Theosophical Society**: Founded in 1875, it promoted universal brotherhood and spiritual exploration, influencing nationalist leaders and reviving interest in Hindu philosophy.
5. **Aligarh Movement**: Led by Sir Syed Ahmed Khan, this movement focused on modernizing Muslim society through education, establishing the Aligarh Muslim University as a center for Muslim intellectuals.
6. **Satyashodhak Samaj**: Founded by Jyotirao Phule in 1873, it focused on social justice and the upliftment of marginalized communities, challenging the caste system and advocating for women's rights.
7. **Indian National Congress**: While primarily a political movement, it also addressed social issues and aimed to unify diverse communities against colonial rule.

8. **Young Bengal Movement**: Initiated by Henry Louis Vivian Derozio, it emphasized rational thinking and social change among the youth, promoting education and inquiry.

Despite their significance, these movements faced several limitations:

1. **Limited Reach**: Many movements primarily impacted urban, educated sections, neglecting rural populations.
2. **Caste-Based Restrictions**: Some movements struggled to address caste inequalities effectively.
3. **Gender Inequality**: Patriarchal attitudes often limited the effectiveness of women's rights advocacy.
4. **Resistance from Traditionalists**: Strong opposition from conservative elements hindered reform efforts.
5. **Political Distractions**: Nationalist sentiments sometimes overshadowed social reform agendas.
6. **Fragmentation of Efforts**: The diversity of movements led to fragmentation, limiting collective impact.
7. **Lack of Comprehensive Strategies**: Many movements relied on awareness rather than actionable change.
8. **Temporary Impact**: Some reforms were only temporarily accepted and did not lead to lasting societal change.

Conclusion

The socio-religious movements of the 19th century in India were pioneering efforts that significantly contributed to social reform and modern identity. However, their limitations, including limited reach, caste and gender issues, and resistance from traditionalists, impacted their overall effectiveness. Understanding these dynamics is essential for appreciating the complexities of social reform in India and the ongoing journey toward equality and justice.

25. Fundamental Rights and Directive Principles of State Policy are complementary and supplementary to each other. Comment.

Answer: The Constitution of India establishes a framework that safeguards individual liberties while promoting collective welfare. Fundamental Rights, detailed in Part III, protect the basic freedoms of citizens, whereas Directive Principles of State Policy, outlined in Part IV, guide the government in formulating policies aimed at social and economic development. Though distinct, these two elements are complementary and work together to foster a just and equitable society discussed as following

1. **Balancing Rights and Duties:** Fundamental Rights emphasize individual freedoms, while Directive Principles encourage the state to align these rights with societal duties. This promotes a balance between personal liberties and social responsibilities.
2. **Progressive Realization of Rights:** Directive Principles aim for the gradual realization of socio-economic rights, complementing the civil liberties protected by Fundamental Rights. Together, they foster a more equitable society.
3. **Legal and Moral Obligations:** Fundamental Rights provide individuals with legal protection, whereas Directive Principles outline the state's moral duty to ensure justice, equality, and welfare for all citizens.
4. **Holistic Development:** Together, these principles promote both individual growth and societal development. They address disparities in wealth, health, and education, contributing to a more inclusive society.
5. **Framework for Good Governance:** Fundamental Rights and Directive Principles create a comprehensive governance framework that upholds individual liberties while ensuring the state effectively promotes public good and welfare.

It Could be understood by following illustrations:

1. **Holistic Vision of Justice** Fundamental Rights prioritize the protection of individual freedoms and justice, while Directive Principles focus on socio-economic welfare and social justice.
   - **Article 21**: Guarantees the right to life and personal liberty, ensuring individuals can live with dignity.
   - **Article 41**: Directs the state to provide rights to work, education, and public assistance, complementing Article 21 by enhancing the conditions for exercising life and liberty.
2. **Promotion of Equality** Fundamental Rights safeguard individual rights and prevent discrimination, while Directive Principles work towards achieving economic and social equality.
   - Article 15: Prohibits discrimination based on religion, race, caste, sex, or place of birth.
   - **Article 46**: Promotes the educational and economic interests of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, addressing inequalities that Fundamental Rights aim to prevent.
3. **Social Justice and Economic Welfare** While Fundamental Rights ensure the protection of basic rights, Directive Principles guide the state in creating conditions for equitable social and economic development.
   - **Article 19**: Guarantees freedoms such as speech, assembly, and association.
   - **Article 39**: Mandates that the state direct its policy toward ensuring all citizens have adequate means of livelihood and that wealth is not concentrated in a few hands, supporting the broader goal of fully enjoying fundamental freedoms.
4. **Empowerment and Development** Directive Principles guide the state in shaping welfare policies that enhance the effective enjoyment of Fundamental Rights.
   - **Article 23**: Prohibits human trafficking and forced labor.
   - **Article 43**: Ensures workers receive a living wage and decent working conditions, addressing economic disparities and safeguarding workers' rights under

Article 23.

5. **Implementation of Rights** Directive Principles provide a framework for realizing Fundamental Rights through state policies and legislative measures.
   - ❖ **Article 14**: Guarantees equality before the law.
   - ❖ **Article 39A**: Directs the state to promote justice based on equal opportunity and provide free legal aid to the poor, assisting in the effective realization of equality before the law.

Conclusion

Directive Principles of State Policy and Fundamental Rights are integral to the Indian Constitution, addressing different aspects of governance and social justice. While Fundamental Rights focus on safeguarding individual freedoms and ensuring justice, Directive Principles provide a roadmap for achieving socio-economic development and welfare. Their complementary nature ensures a balanced governance approach, where individual rights are protected while broader socio-economic goals are pursued. Together, they form the backbone of India's constitutional framework, striving for both individual dignity and collective welfare.

26. What is Judicial Review? On which principle is it working in India?

Answer: Judicial review is the process by which the judiciary examines the constitutionality of legislative acts or executive decisions. It serves as a fundamental mechanism for checks and balances within the government, ensuring that laws and governmental actions align with the Constitution. In India, judicial review plays a vital role in protecting citizens' rights and maintaining constitutional supremacy.

Definition of Judicial Review

1. **Judicial Scrutiny**: Judicial review empowers courts to evaluate the legality of laws or executive actions, ensuring they conform to constitutional provisions.
2. **Power to Nullify**: The judiciary has the authority to declare any law or action invalid if found unconstitutional, thus safeguarding constitutional integrity.

Constitutional Basis

1. **Article 13**: This article states that any law that contravenes the fundamental rights provided by the Constitution is void. It establishes the judiciary's power to review laws for constitutionality.
2. **Article 32**: This article grants the right to approach the Supreme Court for enforcement of fundamental rights, thus enabling judicial review in protecting those rights.
3. **Article 226**: It empowers High Courts to issue writs for the enforcement of fundamental rights and for other purposes, facilitating judicial scrutiny of state actions.

Principles of Judicial Review in India

1. **Constitutional Supremacy**: The principle asserts that the Constitution is the supreme law of the land. Any law or action contrary to it must be declared invalid.
2. **Rule of Law**: Judicial review enforces the notion that all government actions must adhere to the law. No individual or entity, including lawmakers, is above the law.
3. **Fundamental Rights Protection**: The judiciary employs judicial review to safeguard the fundamental rights of citizens, ensuring that laws and actions do not infringe upon these rights.
4. **Separation of Powers**: Judicial review maintains the separation of powers by preventing the executive and legislature from encroaching upon judicial functions or overstepping their constitutional limits.
5. **Judicial Independence**: An independent judiciary is crucial for impartial judicial review, enabling judges to act free from political pressures.
6. **Federal Structure**: Judicial review preserves the federal structure of India by ensuring that both central and state laws comply with constitutional mandates.
7. **Preservation of Democracy**: By reviewing and potentially nullifying unconstitutional laws, judicial review protects democratic principles, ensuring laws reflect the will of the people.
8. **Limited Government**: It prevents government actions from exceeding the powers granted by the Constitution, thus curbing government overreach.
9. **Adjudication of Disputes**: Judicial review facilitates the resolution of disputes between various levels of government or between the government and citizens.
10. **Safeguarding Public Interest**: Judicial review acts as a guardian of public interest, preventing the enforcement of arbitrary or unjust laws.

Significant Supreme Court Judgments

1. **Kesavananda Bharati v. State of Kerala (1973)**: This landmark case established the "Basic Structure Doctrine," asserting that certain fundamental features of the Constitution cannot be altered or destroyed by amendments, thereby reinforcing the role of judicial review.
2. **Minerva Mills v. Union of India (1980)**: The Supreme Court emphasized that judicial review is essential to the Constitution's basic structure, highlighting its role in protecting fundamental rights and maintaining the rule of law.
3. **Maneka Gandhi v. Union of India (1978)**: This case expanded the interpretation of Article 21 (Right to Life and Personal Liberty) and reinforced the judiciary's role in safeguarding fundamental rights through judicial review.
4. **Vishaka v. State of Rajasthan (1997)**: The Supreme Court used judicial review to lay down guidelines for preventing sexual harassment at the workplace, emphasizing the judiciary's active role in upholding constitutional rights.

Conclusion

Judicial review is a crucial aspect of India's constitutional framework, operating on the principle of constitutional supremacy. It ensures that government laws and actions adhere to the Constitution, protecting citizens' rights, upholding the rule of law, and preserving the democratic and federal structure of the nation. Through this mechanism, the judiciary acts as a guardian of democracy and public interest in India, supported by constitutional provisions and landmark judicial decisions.

27. Discuss the tax reforms undertaken in India since 1991.

Answer: bn Since the economic liberalization of 1991, India has implemented significant tax reforms aimed at simplifying the tax structure, improving compliance, and boosting revenue collection. These reforms were part of broader policies to liberalize and globalize the Indian economy. They have played a crucial role in promoting ease of doing business, reducing tax evasion, and encouraging foreign investment.

Major Tax Reforms Since 1991

1. **Direct Tax Reforms**:
   - **Reduction in Tax Rates**: Income tax rates were gradually reduced to lessen the burden on taxpayers and encourage compliance.
   - **Rationalization of Corporate Taxes**: Corporate tax rates were lowered to make India an attractive destination for investment, moving from high rates to more competitive levels.
   - **Introduction of Minimum Alternate Tax (MAT)**: MAT was introduced to ensure that companies with substantial book profits contribute a minimum tax amount, preventing tax avoidance.
2. **Indirect Tax Reforms**:
   - **Introduction of Value Added Tax (VAT)**: VAT replaced the complex state sales tax system, minimizing cascading taxes and simplifying the indirect tax structure at the state level.
   - **Excise Duty Rationalization**: The excise duty structure was simplified, with lower rates introduced to stimulate manufacturing and lessen the burden on industries.
3. **Goods and Services Tax (GST)**:
   - **Unified Tax Structure**: Introduced in 2017, GST replaced multiple indirect taxes, creating a single tax framework that simplifies compliance for businesses.
   - **Input Tax Credit System**: GST allows businesses to claim input tax credit, reducing the overall tax burden and preventing the cascading effect of taxes.
4. **Customs Duty Reforms**:
   - **Reduction in Tariffs**: Customs duties were significantly lowered as part of trade liberalization, promoting international trade and aligning with global standards.
   - **Simplification of Procedures**: Customs procedures were streamlined to facilitate quicker processing of imports and exports.
5. **E-Governance and Digital Reforms**:
   - **Introduction of PAN and TAN**: The Permanent Account Number (PAN) and Tax Deduction and Collection Account Number (TAN) were introduced to enhance tax identification and compliance.
   - **E-filing of Taxes**: Online tax filing became available, improving transparency and accessibility, which in turn boosted compliance rates.
6. **Tax Administration Reforms**:
   - **Establishment of the Tax Information Network (TIN)**: TIN modernized tax administration, helping track tax payments and reducing evasion.
   - **Faceless Assessment and Appeals**: Recent reforms introduced faceless assessments and appeals, aiming to reduce corruption and ensure impartiality in tax collection. This system allows assessments and disputes to be handled online without physical interaction, enhancing transparency.
7. **Tax Incentives for SEZs and Startups**:
   - **Special Economic Zones (SEZs)**: Businesses operating in SEZs receive tax holidays and incentives to promote export-oriented industries.
   - **Incentives for Startups**: The government introduced tax exemptions and incentives specifically for startups, fostering entrepreneurship and innovation.
8. **Tax Dispute Resolution Mechanisms**:
   - **Vivad Se Vishwas Scheme**: Launched to settle long-pending tax disputes amicably, this scheme aims to reduce litigation and improve tax collection.

Conclusion

The tax reforms undertaken in India since 1991 have been instrumental in modernizing the tax system, increasing transparency, and fostering economic growth. Initiatives like the introduction of GST, rationalization of direct taxes, and the implementation of faceless tax assessments have significantly improved compliance and reduced the tax burden on individuals and businesses. These reforms continue to evolve, shaping India's fiscal landscape and contributing to its long-term development goals.

28. Explain the features and achievements of 'Startup India Initiative'.

Answer: Launched in 2016 by the Government of India, the Startup India Initiative aims to promote entrepreneurship, foster innovation, and create a robust ecosystem for startups across the country. This initiative is part of a broader strategy to position India as a global startup hub, offering new ventures the necessary support to thrive.

Key Features of the Startup India Initiative

1. **Simplification of Regulations**: The initiative streamlines regulatory processes, reducing red tape and making compliance easier for startups.
2. **Tax Benefits**: Startups registered under the initiative can enjoy tax exemptions on profits for the first three years, subject to certain conditions.
3. **Startup India Hub**: This online platform serves as a single point for knowledge sharing, funding opportunities, and access to incubators, facilitating connections within the startup ecosystem.
4. **Self-Certification**: Startups can self-certify compliance with labor and environmental laws, significantly lowering their regulatory burden.
5. **Funding Support**: The government has established a Fund of Funds for Startups (FFS) with a corpus of INR 10,000 crores, providing financial assistance through venture capital firms.
6. **Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Support**: The initiative fast-tracks patent applications and offers an 80% rebate on patent filing fees, encouraging innovation.
7. **Incubation Centers**: Numerous incubators and accelerators have been established to provide mentorship, workspace, and networking opportunities for startups.
8. **Research and Innovation Support**: The Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) promotes a culture of innovation and research among startups, fostering creativity.
9. **Access to Government Contracts**: Startups receive priority in public procurement processes and are exempt from prior experience and turnover criteria.
10. **Capacity Building Programs**: These programs focus on developing entrepreneurial skills, particularly among women and marginalized communities.

Achievements of the Startup India Initiative

1. **Increase in Startup Numbers**: Since its launch, the initiative has led to a significant rise in registered startups, positioning India as the third-largest startup ecosystem globally.
2. **Job Creation**: Startups have generated considerable employment, particularly in the technology sector, addressing pressing unemployment issues.
3. **Global Recognition**: Indian startups have gained international recognition, with numerous unicorns emerging in sectors such as e-commerce, fintech, and healthcare.
4. **Increased Funding**: The initiative has attracted both domestic and international investors, resulting in a surge of funding for Indian startups.
5. **Boost to Women Entrepreneurship**: The initiative has actively encouraged women to pursue entrepreneurship, providing dedicated programs and funding for women-led startups.
6. **Promotion of Innovation**: The initiative has fostered a culture of innovation, leading to the development of cutting-edge technologies in areas like artificial intelligence, renewable energy, and biotechnology.

The Startup India Initiative has been transformative in nurturing entrepreneurship in India. By simplifying regulations, offering financial support, and promoting innovation, it has cultivated a vibrant startup ecosystem. As more startups emerge and thrive, the initiative is poised to play a crucial role in driving economic growth and employment generation in the years to come.

29. Highlight the major features of Project Tiger.

Answer: Project Tiger, launched in 1973, is a conservation initiative aimed at protecting the endangered Bengal tiger and preserving its natural habitat. The project was initiated in response to the alarming decline in tiger populations due to poaching and habitat loss. It represents one of the first major wildlife conservation programs in India, focusing on holistic ecosystem management.

Major Features of Project Tiger

1. **Conservation of Tigers**: The project primarily focuses on the conservation of the Bengal tiger, a key species in India's wildlife heritage, essential for maintaining ecological balance.
2. **Establishment of Tiger Reserves**: Project Tiger has led to the creation of dedicated tiger reserves across various states in India, providing protected environments for tigers and their prey.
3. **Habitat Protection**: Critical tiger habitats and ecosystems are actively protected and managed, ensuring the survival of not just tigers but also the biodiversity within these areas.
4. **Anti-Poaching Measures**: The project implements stringent anti-poaching initiatives, enhancing law enforcement to safeguard tiger populations from illegal hunting and trade.
5. **Community Involvement**: Local communities are actively involved in conservation efforts through eco-development programs, promoting sustainable practices and reducing human-tiger conflicts.
6. **Research and Monitoring**: Continuous scientific research and monitoring are conducted to track tiger populations and assess habitat conditions, ensuring the effectiveness of conservation measures.
7. **Awareness and Education**: Educational programs and awareness campaigns aim to sensitize the public about the importance of tiger conservation, fostering a culture of wildlife protection.
8. **Tourism Management**: Project Tiger promotes responsible eco-tourism in tiger reserves, generating revenue for conservation efforts while creating awareness among tourists.
9. **Funding and Support**: The initiative receives financial and technical support from the government and various organizations to enhance conservation activities and habitat

management.

10. **Policy Framework**: A robust policy framework is developed to guide tiger conservation and management, ensuring long-term sustainability of efforts.

Project Tiger has made significant strides in conserving the Bengal tiger and its habitat in India. By establishing protected areas, engaging local communities, and implementing strong anti-poaching measures, the project has helped stabilize and even increase tiger populations in certain regions. As it continues to evolve, Project Tiger serves as a model for wildlife conservation efforts worldwide.

30. Highlight the pros and cons of the Indus Water Treaty between India and Pakistan.

Answer: The Indus Water Treaty (IWT), signed in 1960, is a water-sharing agreement between India and Pakistan that governs the use of the Indus River and its tributaries. Brokered by the World Bank, the treaty aims to resolve conflicts over water resources and ensure equitable distribution. While it has facilitated cooperation, the IWT has also led to tensions and disagreements.

Pros of the Indus Water Treaty

1. **Water Security**: The treaty provides a stable and reliable water supply for both countries, essential for agricultural and domestic needs. This security is crucial for food production and livelihoods in both nations.
2. **Conflict Resolution Framework**: It establishes a structured approach for resolving disputes over water sharing, promoting dialogue and cooperation rather than escalating conflicts.
3. **Hydro-Electric Projects**: The treaty permits India to develop hydro-electric projects on specific rivers, contributing to energy generation and economic growth, which can benefit both countries indirectly.
4. **International Mediation**: The involvement of the World Bank underscores international support for peaceful resolutions to water disputes, encouraging adherence to the treaty.
5. **Promotes Cooperation**: By encouraging collaboration over shared resources, the treaty fosters regional stability and encourages dialogue on broader issues beyond water management.

Cons of the Indus Water Treaty

1. **Limitations on Water Use**: The treaty restricts India's use of certain rivers, raising concerns about water availability for its own needs, especially during droughts, which can impact agricultural productivity.
2. **Disputes Over Implementation**: There are ongoing disputes related to the treaty's implementation, particularly regarding India's construction of dams and water projects, leading to tensions.
3. **Political Tensions**: Water scarcity issues often exacerbate political tensions between India and Pakistan, particularly during conflicts or military standoffs, which can destabilize the region.
4. **Impact of Climate Change**: The treaty does not adequately address the challenges posed by climate change, which affects river flows and long-term water availability for both countries.
5. **Inequitable Benefits**: Critics argue that the treaty disproportionately benefits Pakistan, as it retains more rights to the waters of the Indus and its tributaries, raising concerns about fairness in water distribution.

Conclusion

The Indus Water Treaty remains a pivotal agreement in the context of India-Pakistan relations, providing a framework for managing shared water resources. While it has facilitated cooperation and ensured some level of water security, it also presents challenges, especially with changing environmental conditions and political dynamics. Reevaluating the treaty may be necessary to address contemporary issues and ensure equitable water distribution for both nations.

English (Compulsory)

1(a) Rewrite the following sentences after making necessary corrections, if any. Do not make unnecessary changes in the original sentences.

i) My son is going to study in United States.

ii) Sindhu selected the furniture for her mother.

iii) Rana has known Sumit since three years.

iv) By the time Thomas found an umbrella, it stopped raining.

v) I am a student here, isn't it

1. (b) Do as directed

i) "Are you coming home with me today?" he asked her. (Convert to indirect speech)

ii) He could write it in a day. (Turn into passive)

iii) Meera has a sick cat. It was the reason she was late. (Rewrite the sentence beginning with 'That')

iv) Joy fell off a horse last year and broke his arm. He goes riding every day. (Rewrite the sentence beginning with 'Although')

v) Yes, I like homemade desserts. (Write a negative question)

vi) Pia took a walk in the park. Twenty minutes later, she took a nap. (Rewrite the sentence using 'Not long after' at the beginning)

vii) I wish I _____ the house five minutes earlier. I missed my bus. (leave) (Complete the sentence with the correct form of the 'verb' given in the bracket)

viii) Did you enjoy the opera? _____ wasn't very good, but I loved the costumes. (Complete the answer to the question using the correct reflexive pronoun)

ix) One of the two is mine and (another/ the other) is yours. (Choose the right option)

x) There are several flocks of (goose/geese) flying in the sky. (Choose the right option)

1.(c) Fill in the blanks to complete the sentences.

i) Savita is the _____ of all my friends. (Childish) (Fill up the blank with the right form of the word given in bracket)

ii) Keshav repaired the clock,_____? (Complete the sentence with a question tag)

iii) His_____words helped me a lot. (encourage) (Complete the sentence using the appropriate form of the verb given in the bracket)

iv) Asha loves mangoes_____we take some for her? (ShailiWill) (Choose the most appropriate word from the bracket to complete the sentence)

v) He has_____ a wonderful idea for the picnic. (come into/come by/come up with) (Fill in the blank with the correct phrasal verb given in the bracket)

2. Do as directed

a) Give synonym for each of the following and make use of it in a sentence.

i) Exorbitant

ii) Abominable

iii) Pragmatic

v) Solitude

(b) Give antonym for each of the following and make use of it in a sentence.

i) Trivial

ii) Serene

iii) Perennial

iv) Frugal

(c) Use the following expressions to make sentences that bring out their meaning clearly. Do not change the form of the words.

i) Fall out

ii) Look into

iii) Ins and outs

iv) Bury the hatchet

(d) Give one word substitutions for the following expressions and use it in a sentence.

i) A person who pretends to be someone he is not

ii) That which is not in use any more

iii) A detailed plan of a journey

iv) One who is never wrong

(c) Use the given pairs of words in a single sentence to bring out their meaning clearly. Do not change the form of the words.

i) Adapt, adept

ii) Elicit, illicit

iii) Imminent, eminent

iv) Jest, zest

3. You are Sukanya Patel and you have recently moved from 52 West Enclave, Pitampura. 10 New Delhi — 110028 to 130 Park Apartments, Kasturba Nagar, Ahmedabad — 700007, contact number 7131748475. Write an official letter to the Branch Manager of the Bank of Baroda, 25 Circle Street, Ahmedabad — 700004, informing her of the change of your residence requesting that your new address and contact number be noted and that the records be modified accordingly. Your savings account number at the bank is: 4759687227.

OR

You are Ashok Kumar of Diamond Book Store.

Chennai, which sells college and university books on science and technology. You want to write a letter to the Sales Manager of New Science Tech Publications in Mumbai asking for their catalogue and enquiring about the possibility of being their distributor for the southern zone.

4. You arc Dr. Prakash Tripathy, a college professor in one of the Delhi University colleges 10 in Delhi. The modern you bought two weeks ago from Asia Electronics in Delhi is giving you problems. Write a formal letter to the Manager of the company, making a complaint about the defective modem and asking for it to be replaced at the earliest. Give your complete postal address with contact number.

OR

You are Sunita Yadav, a qualified eligible person for the post of a PGT in English. The National Public School. Mandi has advertised for a few posts in your subject. Write a formal letter to the Principal of the school mentioning your qualifications and previous teaching experiences of five years and state that you are the most deserving person for the post.

5. Read the passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.

Social media has become all pervasive today - especially amongst the youth. More and more young people are joining various social media networks for various reasons. These networks include Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Whatsapp, Snapchat, Linkedln, Youtube, Vine, Tumblr, Pinterest, and many more. It becomes common to see children as young as ten and twelve run their own social media accounts with aplomb. From pictures of kittens and puppies to updates about family and personal lives, from trivial gossip and games to serious debate and work — almost everything young people do is updated on some - social media platform or another. They use these platforms not just to share personal details but also to connect with friends and acquaintances, widen their social circle. gain popularity and engage with various issues of the day. Here in our country, social media platforms now cater to a variety of Indian languages. Since social media has become even more accessible with the penetration of mobile interne, one sees youth of various classes and strata gaining access to a wider audience/network of people. Youth from across the nation are now able to reach out to someone their age in another part of the world. They can access content and information that was previously not available simply because they lived in a different country. From music to photos and even answering questions about homework, social media gives the youth of today a way to share and communicate with each other no matter which country they come from or what they do.

Read the passage carefully and answer the questions in the context of the passage:

i) Describe at least three significant roles social media play in the lives of the youth today.3

ii) What are the two possible disadvantages of social media?

iii) What is the role of language in social media? Does English language have greater edge over Indian languages?

iv) Write the synonym of the word 'aplomb' and use it in a sentence.

v) Write the antonym of the word -pervasive' and use it in a sentence.

vi) Make two sentences using the phrasal verb 'accessible with'. Do not repeat the sentence from the passage.

6. Read the passage carefully and answer the questions that follow;

There is a market that springs up out of nowhere every Sunday at the end of my lane. Six days of the week, there's just an open ground; but come Sunday morning, and it is transformed into a hustling, bustling, mini-city. Tents and pens come up overnight. I wake up to the bleating of goats and the mooing of cows. Not to mention the incessant chatter of chickens chittering everywhere. Walking down the street, a thousand scents assail me. The rich fragrance of earth wet by the dew on the fresh vegetables, the sharper tang of crushed greens, the sour stench of cow manure, and a hint of mint as one fanner unloads bales and bales of freshly picked mint and coriander. I see the freshest of sarson and my mouth starts watering at the thought of the curry my mother will make with it. Potatoes and bright red tomatoes spill out at my feet as someone's sack of vegetables tips over. A couple of boisterous children unapologetically trample a couple of tomatoes and run off giggling with red stained chappals while the owner of the tomatoes waves and shouts and calls them mischievous monkeys. Further down a woman and her husband are arguing -over how exactly to display the cabbages and cauliflowers and lemons they've brought while vigorously dusting out a neon pink and green tarpaulin they'll use to sit on. An elderly lady who lives close to us and is usually the mildest mannered person i know suddenly transforms into a fiend and bargains vociferously over the choicest leaves of spinach, gourds and c.trbi. Suddenly she shrieks and jumps into the air! People at around to find out what the commotion is all about and discover that an unruly goat has somehow gotten loose from its tether and had decided to snack on auntyir s basket of greens. 1 think those two children had something to do with it. I hear them giggling madly somewhere close by. This is why I love the marketplace. There's so much to see and do every week.

Read the passage carefully and answer the questions in the context of the passage:

i) Why does the author love the marketplace? Give at least three examples. 3

ii) The author compares the Sunday market with a mini-city. Give at least two features of a mini-city.2

iii) Why does the elderly lady suddenly shriek and act like a fiend? 2

iv) Write the synonym of the word 'incessant' and use it in a sentence. 1

v) Write the antonym of the word 'boisterous' and use it in a sentence.

vi) Make two sentences of the phrasal verbs 'spill out'. Do not repeat the sentence from the passage.

7. Make a précis of the following passage in about one third of its length and give a suitable title. The précis should be written in your own words:

Foreign rule over a civilized country like India suffers from many disadvantages and many ills follow in its train. One of these disadvantages is that it has to rely on the less desirable elements in the population. The idealists, the proud, the self-respecting, those who care sufficiently for freedom and are not prepared to degrade themselves by an enforced submission to an alien authority, keep aloof or come into conflict with it. India's case is somewhat unique and interesting.

It is very important to remember especially now when we have regained our freedom from British rule, that it was contact with western ideas that made our own- people wake up and work for a new India. Many great men and women have worked for the making of the new India in many different ways. They had different ideas of what the new India should be. Some wanted to reform the Hindu religion by getting rid of idol-worship, caste and other ideas which were not in the Hindu religion of ancient times. Swami Dayanand, who founded the Arya Samaj, had this aim. Others wanted to get rid of old ideas completely and make India a modern country, with the help of scientific knowledge gained from the West. Some wanted to bring about changes more slowly, by spreading education through newspapers and schools. But all these people got to know about these changes which had been taking place in Europe and America. They got to know about these changes from people who came to India from the West, first to trade with them, and then to rule over them. They did not like being ruled over by foreigners, but they could not help seeing that unless they got the new knowledge which the foreigners had, they would not be able to make a new India and rule it themselves.

India is now known as knowledge society. With new knowledge, new infrastructures. new economy. new science and technology, etc. India is trying to shed the old customs and traditions by embracing new ideas and innovations to make every Indian proud. Thus the new India is coming out as a global example, growing face of power, an illustration of advancements and self-sufficiency being the power of its independent identity, The New India has led itself free on every platform making and setting new records to its name in every field — to say— sports, technology, economic advancement, health, social advancements, legal advancements, foreign relations, coming out as a global power embracing all the possible modern growth and advancements which are the call of the hour.

(435 words)


Abhishek Barwal
HAS Rank-1


Rashmi Sharma
HAS Rank-6


Umeshwar Rana
HAS Rank-15


Mayank Sharma
HAS Rank-2


Priya Nagta
HPAS Rank-3


Somil Gautam
HPAS Rank-3


Mahender Pratap Singh
Gen. Ex. SM, (HAS) SDM


Vishwa M. Dev Chauhan
(HAS) SDM


Piyush Chauhan
Secretary


Priyanka
HAS Rank-12


Akshay Sharma
HAS Rank-9


Abhishek Sharma
HAS Rank-9


Anubhav Sharma
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Rajneesh Chauhan
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Anshul Kumar
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Vineet Kumar Thakur
BDO (HPAS-2018, Rank-4)


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Varun Gulati
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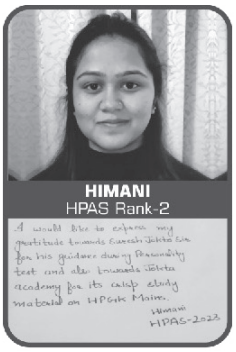
Husan Chand Chaudhary
Tehsildar


Rajeev Ranta
Tehsildar



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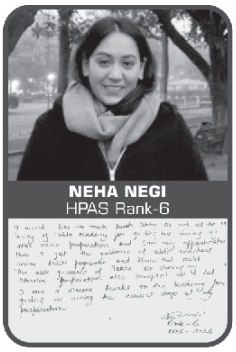
HPAS Rank-2



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HPAS Rank-6



PRAVEEN KUMAR BHARDWAJ
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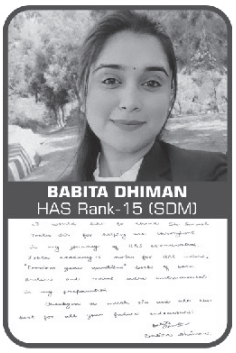
HAS Rank-3 (SDM)



ABHISHEK SINGH THAKUR
HAS Rank-4 (SDM)



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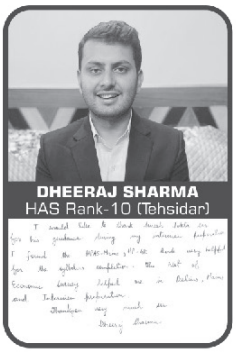

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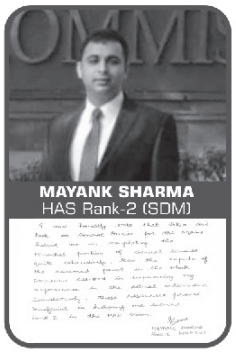
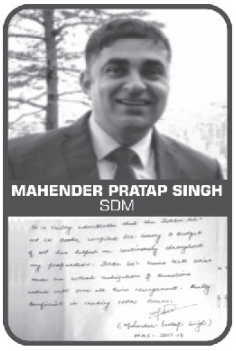
HAS RANK-1 (SDM) 2021



MAYANK SHARMA
HAS Rank-2 (SDM)



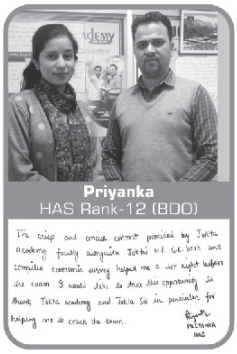
RASHMI SHARMA
HAS RANK-6 (DSP)



MAHENDER PRATAP SINGH
SDM



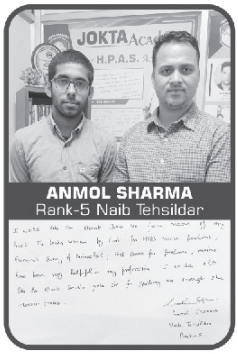
VISHWA M. DEV CHAUHAN
HAS (SDM)



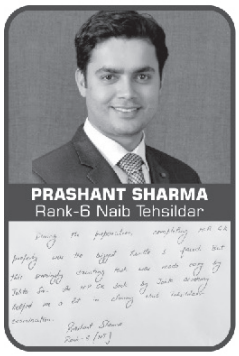
Priyanka
HAS Rank-12 (BDO)



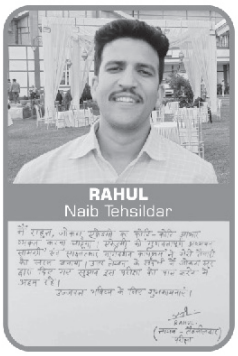
PRATEEK THAKUR
Rank-1 (Naib Tehsildar)



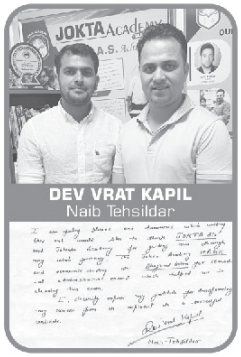
ANMOL SHARMA
Rank-5 Naib Tehsildar



PRASHANT SHARMA
Rank-6 Naib Tehsildar



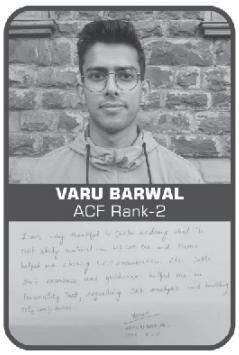
RAHUL
Naib Tehsildar



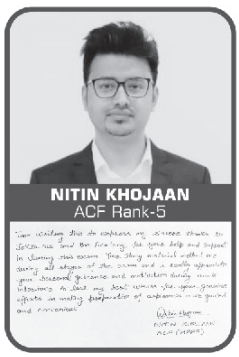
DEV VRAT KAPIL
Naib Tehsildar



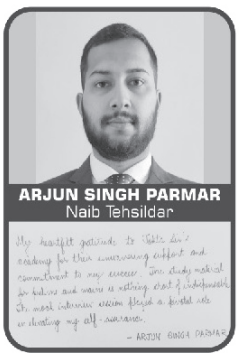
NAVJOT SINGH
ACF Rank-1



VARU BARWAL
ACF Rank-2



NITIN KHOJAAN
ACF Rank-5



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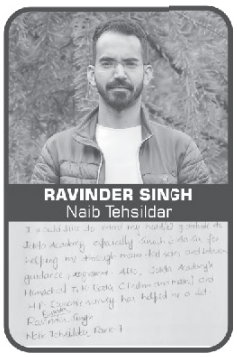


RAVINDER SINGH
Naib Tehsildar



KOVINDER CHAUHAN
Naib Tehsildar

HPAS MAINS EXAMINATION 2024 QUESTIONS PAPERS

SOLVED PAPERS WILL BE PUBLISHED IN NEXT EDITION

HINDI (Compulsory)

1. **किसी एक विषय पर लगभग 700 शब्दों में सारगर्भित निबंध लिखिए:**

(क) जाति-आधारित जनगणना का मुद्दा और भारतीय लोकतंत्र

(ख) 21 वीं सदी के हिंदी सिनेमा (वेब सीरीज सहित) के मुख्य विचार-बिंदु

(ग) लोकतंत्र के सुदृढीकरण में वैकल्पिक पत्रकारिता और सोशल मीडिया की भूमिका

(घ) नई विद्य-संरचना में भारत

2. **(क) निम्नलिखित गद्यांश का हिंदी में अनुवाद कीजिए:**

For two decades now India's air pollution has led to much hand-wringing. especially during the winter months when a thick layer of smog blankets a vast swathe of the country. Action, however, has mostly taken the form of piecemeal panic-induced measures, like spraying water to minimize dust on the roads and imposing the odd-even scheme for vehicles. Even with the adoption of clean air plans by most cities, the failure at the policy level to link pollution with public health meant that the long-term damage it can cause has not received adequate attention. The heaviest price for this oversight is paid by the most vulnerable, especially, as is clear now, by children. They inhale more air per kilogram of body weight and absorb more pollutants compared to adults. With their lungs, brains and other organs still developing and their body's defence mechanisms still relatively weak, exposure to pollution sets them up for ailments.

Still, there is hope. The State of Global Air Report 2024 notes that since 2000, the global death rate linked to air pollution, among children under five, has dropped by 53 per cent. This is mainly the result of expanding access to clean energy for cooking, improved healthcare access and nutrition as well as building awareness. The measurable impact of implementing stricter air quality policies and encouraging the shift to hybrid or electric vehicles in Africa, Latin America and Asia also hold lessons. With 42 out of 50 most polluted cities in the world and where a 2022 study found that even municipal employees who should be among the frontline workers driving the change-had little awareness of air pollution's link to cancer and heart disease, the challenge for India is steep. To face it, the health of its citizens, especially the young, must be at the heart of any solution.

2. **(ख) निम्नलिखित गद्यांश का अँग्रेज़ी में अनुवाद कीजिए:**

स्वास्थ्य बीमा उन लोगों के लिए बड़ा सहारा होता है जो गंभीर या बेहद खचर्चीली बीमारियों के शिकार हो जाते हैं। स्वास्थ्य बीमा शुरू करने का मकसद भी यही था कि लोगों को स्वास्थ्य पर खर्च की चिंता से मुक्त रखा जा सके। मगर इसमें एक बड़ी बाधा यह थी कि पैंसठ वर्ष से अधिक उम्र के लोग यह बौमा नहीं खरीद सकते थे। एक बात और कैंसर, हृदय रोग या एड्स जैसी कुछ गंभीर बीमारियों से ग्रस्त लोगों को भी इसकी सुविधा उपलब्ध नहीं थी। इसके अलावा, स्वास्थ्य बीमा खरीदने के बाद अड़तालीस महीने तक उसका लाभ नहीं उठाया जा सकता था। अब भारतीय बीमा विनियामक एवं विकास प्राधिकरण ने नियम जारी किया है कि पैंसठ वर्ष से अधिक आयु के लोग भी स्वास्थ्य बीमा करवा सकेंगे। यानी अब किसी भी उम्र में स्वास्थ्य बीमा खरीदा जा सकता है और बीमा कंपनियाँ किसी बीमारी विशेष के कारण बीमा देने से मना नहीं कर सकतीं। अब बीमा-क्रय के छत्तीस महीने बाद उसका लाभ उठाया जा सकेगा। भीमा-क्षेत्र को विस्तार देने और प्रतिस्पर्धी बनाने के उद्देश्य से इस क्षेत्र में निजी बैंकों और विदेशी कंपनियों के लिए सौ फीसद निवेश का रास्ता खोला गया था। फिर बीमा कंपनी बदलने की भी छूट दे दी गई थी। निस्संदेह इससे बीमा कंपनियों में प्रतिस्पर्धा बढ़ी और लोगों को इसका लाभ मिलना भी शुरू हो गया, पर स्वास्थ्य बीमा के मामले में उपर्युक्त बाधाएँ बनी हुई थीं। अब उनके हट जाने से निश्चित ही बहुत सारे लोगों के लिए आसानी हो जाएगी। अनेक देशों में वृद्धों की सेहत पर विशेष ध्यान दिया जाता है, मगर जिस तरह हमारे देश में सार्वजनिक सुविधाओं का अभाव बढ़ता गया है, उसमें बुजुर्ग आबादी की सेहत का ध्यान रखना चुनौती बन गया है। ऐसे में स्वास्थ्य-बीमा की शर्तों को लचीला बनाने से बेहतर नतीजे मिल सकते हैं।

3. **(क) निम्नलिखित कविता की व्याख्या कीजिए:**

मेरी नींद में सपने ख़त्म नहीं होते मेरी आँख में उम्मीद अटकी रहती है मेरे पाँव से लिपटी रहती हैं यात्राएँ मेरे हाथ कभी खाली नहीं रहते

मेरे चेहरे पर अनवरत बदलती रहती हैं भंगिमाएँ मस्तिष्क में चलता है एक अविरल मन्थन

रात के सुनसान में झरती रहती है विचारों की राख

मेरी साँसें देती हैं मुझे ताब

मैं आदमी हूँ जनाब।

(ख) निम्नलिखित गद्यांश की व्याख्या कीजिए:

'निजी' और 'सामाजिक' के बीच इतना ध्रुवीकरण है नहीं, जैसा मान लिया गया है। जब तक एक रचना में 'निजी' का साधारणीकरण नहीं होता उसकी सामाजिकता संदिग्ध या संकीर्ण रहती है। भाषा अपने आप में अभिव्यक्ति का एक ऐसा माध्यम है जो निजी भी है और सामाजिक भी। मेरा मानना है कि निजी और सामाजिक प्रतिद्वंद्वी नहीं हैं। एक- दूसरे के पूरक हैं न कि एक-दूसरे के दुश्मन। जीवन में विभिन्नताएँ हैं, पर वैसा विभाजन और विभागीकरण नहीं जैसा हमारे सोचने के तरीकों में होता है। विभिन्नताओं का सह-अस्तित्व सम्भव है। एकता का अर्थ एकरसता नहीं है।

4. **(क) निम्नलिखित मुहावरों का वाक्य-प्रयोग इस प्रकार कीजिए कि उनका अर्थ स्पष्ट हो जाए:**

(i) फूटी कौड़ी न होना

(ii) पाँव जमीन पर न पड़ना

(iii) नाक रगड़ना

(iv) भौहें टेढ़ी करना

(v) लाल-पीला होना

(ख) निम्नलिखित वाक्यों को सुधारकर लिखिए:

(i) पापा मुझे जॉनी सर से गिटार बजाना सिखा रहे हैं।

(ii) उनके तीन बेटा दुश्मनों से लड़ते हुए काम आ गए।

(iii) रीता की शादी में कोई लगभग चार सौ लोग पधारे।

(iv) देखते-देखते वह ऊँची पेड़ की डाल पर चढ़ गया।

(v) गुरुजी मुझे तो आप आशीर्वाद दो।

(ग) शुद्ध वर्तनीवाले शब्दों को चुनकर लिखिए :

अनाधिकार, साधु, लघुत्तर, सष्टि, ऐतबार, त्यौहार, दिनाँक, मेहगा, कार्रवाई, कृतकृत, पुरुस्कार, निष्कासित, संन्यासी, आल्हाद, ठहरिये, श्रंखला, औचित्य, घनिष्ठता, वरियता, मतेक्य, क्रमअनुगत, उज्वल, अनुशंसा, अभिशेक, दुश्चक्र, निरोग, सहखाब्दी, परिस्थिकी, पराकाष्ठा, स्वस्थ्य

5. **(क) निमलिखित सामासिक शब्दों का हिंदी में विग्रह कीजिए और समासों के नाम भी लिखिए:**

(i) समक्ष

(ii) कपड़े-लत्ते

(iii) कार्यकुशल

(iv) अधमरा

(v) रातोंरात

(ख) निम्नलिखित से बननेवाली भाववाचक संज्ञाएँ लिखिए :

(i) अड़ना

(ii) बचना

(iii) बुलाना

(iv) पुढ़कना

(v) मनाना

(vi) पाना

(vii) चलना

(viii) घबराना

(ix) सजना

(x) उठना

(ग) निम्नलिखित शब्दों को ध्यानपूर्वक पढ़िए:

तन्मयता, हुल्लड़, घटक, मौन, ठिकाना, आलंब, परुष, एकाग्र, चौकस, उद्यम, अकिंचन, स्वायत्त, ऐक्य,

उत्पात, आगजनी, ध्येय, क्षिप्र, निर्मम, नीरव, चेष्टा

ऊपर दिए शब्दों में से उपयुक्त शब्दों का चुनाव करके निम्नलिखित के दो-दो समानार्थी लिखिए:

(i) उपद्रव

(ii) कठोर

(iii) शांत

(iv) प्रयास

(v) लक्ष्य

HPAS (Main) Examination

Essay

SECTION-A

1 Inclusive Education: Instrumental of India's holistic Development
समावेशी शिक्षाः भारत के समग्र विकास में सहायक

2 Increasing Ageing Population in India: Problems and solution
भारत में बढ़ती वृद्ध जनसंख्याः समस्याएँ और समाधान

3 India's role and responsibilities in Contemporary Socio-Political Global Crisis.

समकालीन सामाजिक-राजनीतिक वैश्विक संकट में भारत की भूमिका और जिम्मेदारियाँ

4 Nature jas given everything for Man's need but not greed.
प्रकृति ने मनुष्य की आवश्यकता के लिए सब कुछ दिया है, लालच के लिए नहीं

SECTION-B

1 Preservatio of Cultural Values: Imperative for Human Survival
सांस्कृतिक मूल्यों का संरक्षणः मानव अस्तित्व के लिए अनिवार्य

2 Ecnomic Disparity: Thrat to Human Dignity
आर्थिक असमानताः मानवीय गरिमा को खतरा

3 Presverance and Grit in Society: Causes and Remedies
भारतीय युवाओं में दृढ़ता और धैर्यः व्यक्तित्व विकास की कुंजी

4 Increasing Mental Health Disorders in Society: Causes and Remedies
समाज में बढ़ते मानसिक स्वास्थ्य विकारः कारण और उपचार

HPAS (Main) Examination

GS-1

Answer to Questions No. 1 to 10 should not exceed 150 words in each case. Contents of the answers are more important than their length. Each question carries 08 marks.

1 Evaluate the impact of colonisalism on Indian art during the British Raj.
ब्रिटिश राज के दौरान भारतीय कला पर उपनिवेशवाद के प्रभाव का मूल्यांकन करें।

2 Trace the development of social and religious reform in western India during the 19th century.
9वीं सदी के दौरान पश्चिमी भारत में सामाजिक और धार्मिक सुधारो के विकास'का वर्णन कीजिए।

3 Write a critical note on the Peasant Movement of Mandi and Kunihar princely states during the 19th century.
19वीं सदी के दौरान मंडी और कुनिहार रियासत के किसान आंदोलन पर एक आलोचनात्मक टिप्पणी लिखें।

4 When can a hazard become a disaster? Give examples.
संकट किस दिशा में आपदा बन जाता है ? उदाहरण देकर स्पस्ट करें

5 Why is the western coastal plain is devoid of any delta? Explain
पश्चिमी तटीय मैदान डेल्टा से क्यों वंचित हैं ? व्याख्या करना

6 Discuss the role of ports in economic advancement of India.

7 भारत की आर्थिक उन्नति में पतनो की भूमिका पर चर्चा करें।
"Development is not the cause and effect of disaster in Himachal Pradesh." Discuss with recent examples.
हिमाचल प्रदेश में विकास आपदाओं का कारण और प्रभाव दोनों है इस कथन को अभी के उदारहण देकर स्पस्ट करें

8 How do you understand and anlyse the phenomenon of the rising religiosity in a global world.
आप भूमंडलीकरण के इस युग में बढ़ती हुई धार्मिकता को कैसे समझते और विश्लेषित करते हैं

9 Do you think a healthier and proportional representation of women in decision-making bodies will ensure a more just and equitalbe society? Substantiate your arguments with suitable example.
क्या आप को लगता है निर्णय लेने वाले निकायों में महिलाओं की स्वस्थ एवं अनुपातिक भागीदारी से एक न्याय संगत एवं समानता पर आधारित समाज का निर्माण होगा ? अपने पक्ष को उपयुक्त उदहारणों के साथ रखें

10 Caste system in India is not uniformly defined or operational. How do you think the caste system in Himachal Pradesh is different from its neighbouring states?
जाति व्यवस्था भारत में न ही सम्मान रूप से परिभाषित है और न ही परिचालित है हिमाचल प्रदेश में जाति व्यवस्था अपने पडोसी राज्यों से किस प्रकार भिन्न है

Answer to Questions No. 11 to 20 should not exceed 225 words in each case. Contents of the answers are more important than their length. Each question carries 12 marks

11 Highlight the similarities and differences in Bal Gangadhar Tilak's and Mahatma Gandhi's approach to the Indian freedom struggle.
भारतीय स्वतंत्रता संघर्ष में बाल गंगाधर तिलक और महात्मा गांधी के दृष्टिकोण में समानताएं और अंतरों को उजागर करें ।

12 Give and account of the various international crises during 1904-1914 A.D., which to the first world war.
1904-1914 ई. के दौरान अंतर्राष्ट्रीय संकटों का विवरण दीजिए जिनके कारण प्रथम महायुद्ध हुआ था ।

13 Throw light on the growth and impacts of Civil Disobedience Movement and Individual Satyagrahs in Himachal Pradesh.

हिमाचल प्रदेश में सविनय अवज्ञा आंदोलन और व्यक्तिगत सत्याग्रह के विकास और प्रभावों पर प्रकाश डालें।

14. Suggest measures to mitigate the disasters caused by landslides in India.

भारत में भूस्खलन से होने वाली आपदाओं के निवारण के उपाय सुझाएं ।

15 Divide India into climatic regions and give a brief account of each region.

भारत को जलवायु खण्डों में विभक्त कीजिये तथा प्रत्येक खंड का विवरण दीजिए ।

16 Give a geographical account for the backwardness of inland navigation in India.

भारत में आंतरिक जल-परिवहन के पिछड़ेपन के कारणों की भौगोलिक विवेचना कीजिए ।

17 Assess critically the physiography of Himachal Pradesh and show its influence on the climate of the State.

हिमाचल प्रदेश के धरातल का विवेचनात्मक मूल्यांकन करते हुए राज्य की जलवायु पर इसके प्रभाव का उल्लेख कीजिए

18 'A clears distinction between kinship and citizenship is a must to create a system and culture of transparency and corruption-free society'. Do you agree witht this statement? Substantiate your arguments with suitable examples.

एक भ्रष्टाचार मुकत एवं पारदर्शी समाज एवं संस्कृति की रचना के लिए 'नातेदारी ' के बीच के स्पस्ट अंतर को सुनिश्चित करना होगा क्या आप इस कथन से सहमत है? अपने विचार को उपयुक्त उदहारण के साथ समझाएं

19 Good governance needs a comprehensive and clear policy perspective in pace. Explain the relationship between policy and governance and suggest measures to improve the status of governance and public services in India.

एक शासन के ललिए जरूरी है कि एक विस्तृत और स्पस्ट नीति-परिप्रेक्ष्य साथ में हो शासन एवं नीति के बीच के सबंध को समझाएं और भारत में सार्वजनिक सेवा एवं प्रशासन को और बेहतर बनाने के लिए सुझाव दें

20 Himachal Pradesh is known for horticulture and related industrial enterprirses. Yet the exodus of youths to urban areas is a very significant trend. Suggest measures of rural reconstructions to arrest the out-ward migation of youths.

हिमाचल प्रदेश बागवानी एवं उससे जुड़े उद्योग संस्थान के लिए जाना जाता है फिर भी युवाओं का शहर की और पलायन एकमहत्वपूर्ण प्रवृति है ग्रामीण समाज के पुनर्निर्माण के द्वारा किस प्रकार इस वहा-अग्रसर प्रवास को रोका जा सकता है इस पर सुझाव दें

HPAS (Main) Examination

Geneal Studies-2

Answer to Questions No. 1 to 10 should not exceed 150 words in each case. Contents of the answers are more important than their length. Each question carries 08 marks.

1 Is word 'socialistic' in the preamble of the constitution relevant in present day of politics?
क्या वर्तमान समय की राजनीति में संविधान की प्रस्तावना में प्रयुक्त शब्द 'समाजवादी' प्रासंगिक है?

2 Describe about the merits and de-merits of 'one nation, one election' system in India.
भारत में 'एक राष्ट्र, एक चुनाव' व्यवस्था के गुण और दोषों का वर्णन करें।

3 The role of non-Governmental Organization is varied and manifold. Explain.
गैर-सरकारी संस्थाओ की भूमिका विविध एवं अनेकतापूर्ण है व्याख्या कीजिए

4 Explain the main recommendations of the Second Administration Reform Commission on 'Ethics in Governance' in India.
भारत में 'शासन में नैतिकता' पर द्वितीय प्रशासकीय सुधार आयोग की मुख्य सिफारिशों का वर्णन कीजिए।

5 Describe the various efforts which have been made for the welfare of the Children in India.
भारत में बच्चों के कल्याण के लिए किए गए विभिन्न प्रयासों का वर्णन करें।

6 Discuss about India's rile in 'BIMSTEC" towards development of Cooperation in the region.
बिम्सटेक द्वारा क्षेत्रीय सहयोग विकसित करने में भारत की भूमिका का वर्णन कीजिए

7 What is 'QUAD'? Examine India's role in the establishment of peace in Indo-Pacific region through this organisation.
चतुरपक्षीय सुरक्षा सवांद (क्वाड़) से आपका क्या अभिप्राय है? इस संगठन के माध्यम से भारत द्वारा हिन्द प्रशांत क्षेत्र में शांति स्थापना की भूमिका आंकलन कीजिये

8 Discuss about the 'Soft Power' attributes of India-foreign policy.
भारत-विदेश नीति की 'मृदु शक्ति ' के कारको का वर्णन कीजिये

9 Describe why in Himachal Pradesh politics two pre-dominant castes played important role, where as role of OBCs and SC/STs remain very marginal?
बताइए हिमाचल प्रदेश कि राजनीति में दो प्रमुख जातियों की महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका रही तथा अन्य पिछड़ा वर्ग व अनुसूचित जातीअनुसूचित जनजातियों की भूमिका हासिये पर रही ?

10 Explain the various steps taken up by the Himachal Pradesh Government for effective public service delivery.
हिमाचल प्रदेश सरकार द्वारा प्रभावी सार्वजनिक सेवा वितरण हेतु उठाए गए विभिन्न का वर्णन कीजिए।

Answer to Questions No. 11 to 20 should not exceed 225 words in each case. Contents of the answers are more important than their length. Each question carries 12 marks

11 Discuss how the agenda of caste census is going to influence the working of contemporary Indian politics?
बताइये जातीय जनगणना की कार्यसूची किस प्रकार से समसामयिक भारतीय राजनीति की कार्यशैली को प्रभावित करेगी

12 Due to current emphasis on social concerns by the political system, directive principles of state policy are gaining precedence over fundamental rights, comment.
वर्तमान समय में राजनितिक प्रणाली द्वारा सामाजिक मामलों पर महत्व के कारण राज्य नीति के निर्देशक सिद्धांत मौलिक अधिकारों से अधिक प्रमुख हो गए हैं टिपण्णी कीजिये

13 Discuss the salient features of the Liberalization, Privatization and Globalization Policy of 1991. What are the positive outcomes of this policy?

1991 की उदारीकरण, निजीकरण एवं भूमंडलीकरण की नीति की मुख्या विशेषताओं का वर्णन कीजिये इस नीति के क्या सकारात्मक परिणाम है

14 In India. The institution of panchayats has a horay history, though its truly democratic form is of recent origin. Elaborate the statement.

भारत में पंचायतों की संस्था का पुराण इतिहास है, तथापि इसका शुद्ध प्रजातान्त्रिक स्वरुप हाल ही की उत्पत्ति है इस कथन का विस्तारपूर्वक वर्णन कीजिये

15 What do you mean by Governance? How it differs from Government? What role does Civil Society play in the governance of India.

शासन से आपका क्या अभिप्राय है ? यह सर्कार से कैसे भिन्न है ? भारतीयशासन में नागरिक समाज क्या भूमिका निभाता है

16 Discuss about the impact of four defence pacts signed between India and the USA of India's foreign policy.

भारत व अमेरिका के मध्य हस्ताक्षरित चार सैन्य समझौतों का भारत की विदेश नीति पर पड़ने वाले प्रभावों का वर्णन कीजिए

17 Analyse the impact of instability is South Asian on India's neighborhood policy.

दक्षिण एशियाई राज्यों की अस्थिरता का भारत की पड़ोस नीतिपर पड़ने वाले प्रभाव का विश्लेषण कीजिये

18 Describe about the journey of Himachal Pradesh to become a democratic state.

हिमाचल प्रदेश के एक प्रजातान्त्रिक राज्य बनने की यात्रा का वर्णन कीजिये

19 Differentiate between the working of political patterns in the 'upper' and 'lower' regions of Himachal Pradesh.

हिमाचल प्रदेश के उच्च एवं निम्न क्षेत्रों में राजनीतिइक पैटर्न की कार्यशैली में विभिन्ताओं का वर्णन कीजिये

20 In Himachal Pradesh, autonomy of urban local bodies, in the post 74th Constitutional Amendment Act era is a more hoax. Comment.

हिमाचल प्रदेश में, शहरी स्थानीय निकायों की स्वायतता, 74 वें सविधान संशोधन अधिनियम के बाद के युग में केवल एक धोखा है टिपण्णी कीजिये

HPAS (Main) Examination

Geneal Studies-3

Answer to Questions No. 1 to 10 should not exceed 150 words in each case. Contents of the answers are more important than their length. Each question carries 08 marks.

1 How has the Indian financial sector adapted to the increasing adoption of digital banking and fintech innovations?

भारतीय वित्तीय क्षेत्र ने डिजिटल बैंकिंग और फिनटेक नवाचारों की बढ़ती स्वीकार्यता को कैसे अपनाया है?

2 How is the adoption of Industry 4.0 technologies, such as automation and artificial intelligence, tranforming India manufacturing

ऑटोमेशन और आर्टिफिशियल इंटेलिजेंस जैसी उद्योग 4.0 प्रौद्योगिकियों को अपनाने से भारतीय विनिर्माण में क्या बदलाव आ रहा है

3 What steps is the Himachal Pradesh Government taking to attract investment in the Industrial sector.

हिमाचल प्रदेश सरकार औद्योगिक क्षेत्र में निवेश आकर्षित करने के लिए क्या कदम उठा रही है।

4 What do you understand by Newspace India Limited (NSIL)? Describe various service offered by NSIL.

न्यूस्पेस इंडिया लिमिटेड (NSIL) से आप क्या समझते हैं? एनएसआईएल द्वारा प्रदत विभिन्न सेवाओं कर वर्णन करें

5 Describe the applications of Space Technology for the benefit of Fishermen.

मछुआरों के लाभ के लिए अंतरिक्ष प्रौद्योगिकी के उपयोगो का वर्णन करें।

6 What do you understand by Geographic Information System (GIS)? Describe GIS applications for drought monitoring in India

भौगोलिक सूचना प्रणाली (जीआईएस) से आप क्या समझते हैं? भारत में सूखे की निगरानी के लिए जीआईएस अनुप्रयोगों का वर्णन कीजिए

7 Discuss the Protection and management requirements outlines by UNESCO for Great Himalayan National Park Conservation Area in Himachal Pradesh.

हिमाचल प्रदेश में ग्रेट हिमालयन नेशनल पार्क संरक्षण क्षेत्र के लिए यूनेस्को द्वारा उलिखीत सुरक्षा और प्रबंधन आवश्यकताओं पर चर्चा करें।

8 Explain the various social and ethical issues associated with the use of biotechnology.

जैव प्रौद्योगिकी के उपयोग से जुड़े विभिन्न सामाजिक और नैतिक मुद्दों की व्याख्या करें।

9 Describe the concept, principles and scope of organic farming in India.

भारत में जैविक खेती की अवधारणा, सिद्धांतों और दायरे का वर्णन करें।

10 Give and account of adventure and heritage tourism in Himachal Pradesh

हिमाचल प्रदेश में साहसिक और विरासत पर्यटन का विवरण दीजिए

Answer to Questions No. 11 to 20 should not exceed 225 words in each case. Contents of the answers are more important than their length. Each question carries 12 marks

11 What are the key export markets for Indian agricultural products, and how are trade policies shaping these exports?

भारतीय कृषि उत्पादों के लिए प्रमुख निर्यात बाज़ार कौन से हैं, और व्यापार नीतियां इन निर्यातों को कैसे आकार दे रही हैं?

12 How does the National Education Policy 2020 aim to transform the Indian education system, and what new initatives have been introduced under this policy?

राष्ट्रीय शिक्षा नीति 2020 का लक्ष्य भारतीय शिक्षा प्रणाली को कैसे बदलना है, और इस नीति के तहत कौन सी नई पहल शुरू की गई हैं?

13 What role do government scheme an policies play in the economic development of rural areas in Himachal Pradesh.

हिमाचल प्रदेश में ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों के आर्थिक विकास में सरकारी योजनाएं और नीतियां क्या भूमिका निभाती हैं?

14 What are three-signs of India's Nuclear Power Program?

भारत के परमाणु ऊर्जा कार्यक्रम के तीन चरण क्या हैं? इस कार्यक्रम की वर्तमान स्थिति और भविष्य की चुनौतियों पर चर्चा करें

14 What are the three-stages of India's Nuclear Power Program? Discuss current status and future challenges of this program

भारत के माइक्रोवेव पृथ्वी अवलोकन मिशनों के उद्भव एवं महत्व का उपयुक्त उदाहरणों सहित वर्णन कीजिए

15 Describe the evolution and importance of Microwave Earth Observation Mission of India with suitable examples.

16 What do you understand by environment friendly energy source? Describe present status and future potential of wind energy in India.

पर्यावरण अनुकूल ऊर्जा स्त्रोतों से आप क्या समझते हैं? भारत में पवन ऊर्जा की वर्तमान स्थिति एवं भविष्य की क्षमता का वर्णन कीजिए।

17 What do you understand by Drishti Himachal Pradesh-2030? Describe the vision for tomorrow" to ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all in Himachal Pradesh by 2030.

दृष्टि हिमाचल प्रदेश-2030 से आप क्या समझते हैं? 2030 तक हिमाचल प्रदेश में सभी के लिए पानी और स्वच्छता की उपलब्धता और स्थाई प्रबंधन सुनिश्चित करने के लिए भविष्य के लिए विज़न का वर्णन करें।

18 Describe the various strategies for implementation of National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture in India.

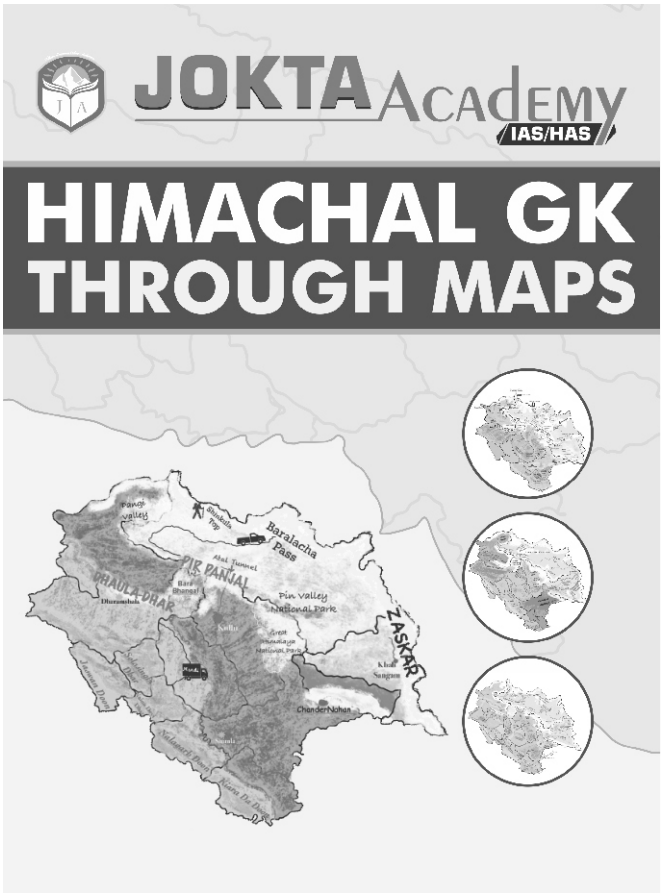
भारत में सतत कृषि के लिए राष्ट्रीय मिशन के कार्यान्वन के लिए विभिन्न रणनीतियों का वर्णन करें

19 What is Environment Impact Assessment (EIA)? Describe the various parameters involved in the process of Environment Impact Assessment.

पर्यावरण प्रभाव आकलन (EIA) क्या है? पर्यावरण प्रभाव आकलन की प्रक्रिया में शामिल विभिन्न मापदंडों का वर्णन करें।

20 What are the primary environmental concerns associated with the tourism industry in Himachal Pradesh? Also explain the role of eco-tourism in sustainable development of Himachal Pradesh?

हिमाचल प्रदेश में पर्यटन उद्योग से जुड़ी प्राथमिक पर्यावरणीय चिंताएँ क्या हैं? हिमाचल प्रदेश के सतत विकास में इको-पर्यटन की भूमिका भी बताएं?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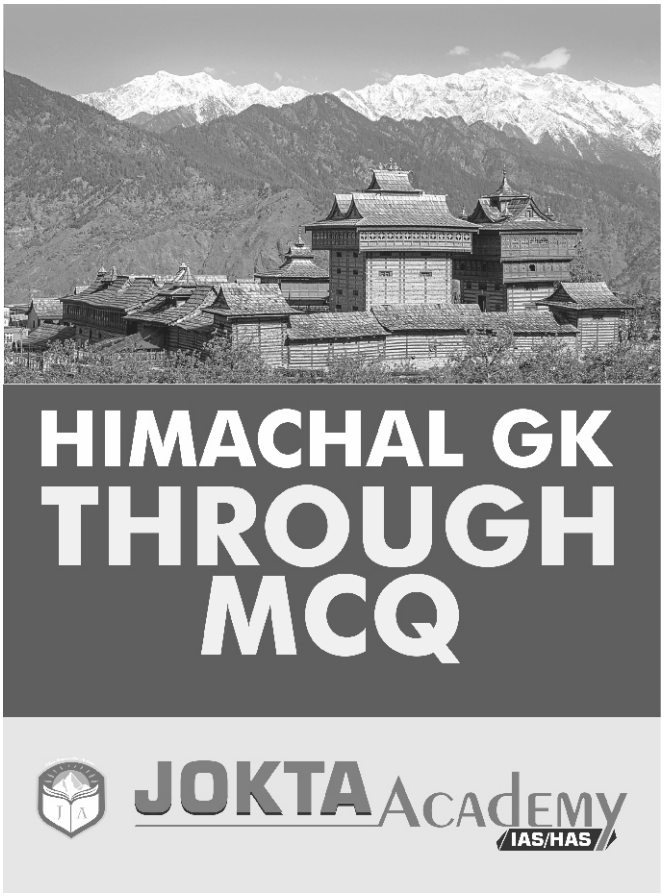
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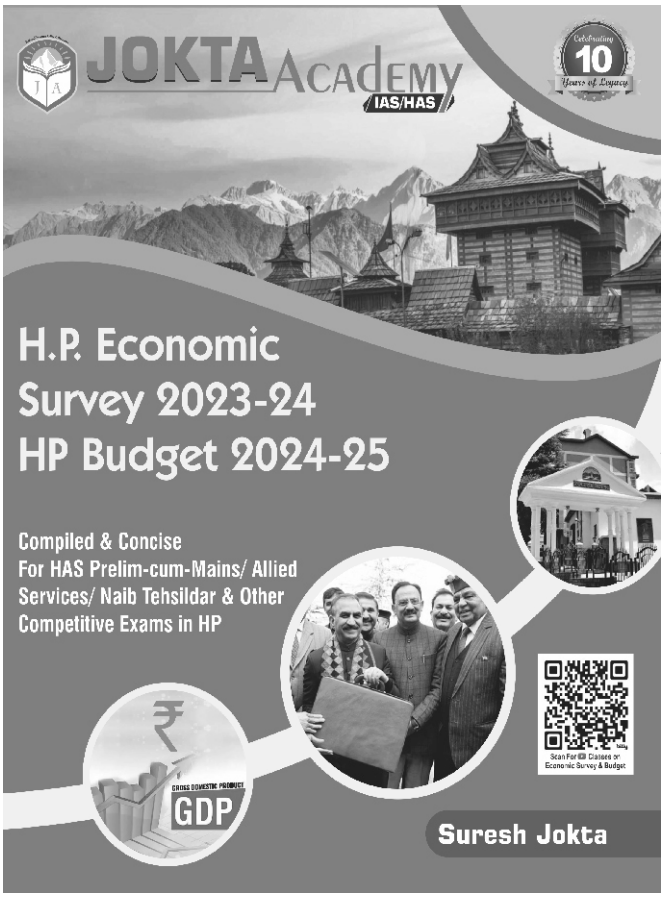
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