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NATIONAL

SIMULTANEOUS ELECTIONS IN INDIA -

- As per the government official, the concept of simultaneous elections for Lok Sabha and State Assemblies, referred to as “One Nation, One Election” will be implemented within the current term of the present government.
- The concept of “One Nation One Election” proposes the synchronization of elections for all states and the Lok Sabha within a five-year span. This entails restructuring the electoral cycle in India so that elections at both the state and central levels align.
- This would mean voters casting their ballots for members of both the Lok Sabha and state assemblies on a single day, concurrently or in phases if necessary.
- Recent developments have seen Prime Minister Narendra Modi advocating for “One Nation One Election,” underscoring its significance during the 80th All India Presiding Officers Conference.
- Historically, simultaneous elections have occurred in India in the years 1952, 1957, 1962, and 1967. However, this practice was discontinued following the dissolution of certain Legislative Assemblies in the late 1960s, leading to separate elections for the Centre and states.



Merits of ‘one-nation, one- election’-

- Cost Reduction
- Enhanced Voter Turnout
- Better Use of Security Forces
- Focus on Governance

Demerits of ‘one-nation, one- election’-

- Constitutional and Anti-Federal Concerns
- Accountability
- Difficulty in Synchronization
- Tampering with Democracy

PORT BLAIR RENAMED AS SRI VIJAYA PURAM BY GOI -

- The Home Minister of India Shri. Amit Shah has announced the decision on renaming the Port Blair in Andaman and Nicobar Islands to Sri Vijaya Puram.
- The decision has been taken to free the nation from the colonial imprints as the Andaman and Nicobar Islands have an “unparalleled place” in the country’s freedom struggle and history.
- Port Blair is the capital city of Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- He also said that “Inspired by the vision of PM Narendra Modi Ji, to free the nation from the colonial imprints, today we have decided to rename Port Blair as Sri Vijaya Puram.”



CABINET CLEARS CHANDRAYAAN-4 AND VENUS ORBITER MISSION FOR SPACE EXPLORATION -

- The Union Cabinet has approved the Chandrayaan-4 mission, which aims to develop technologies for returning to Earth after landing on the moon and collecting lunar samples for analysis.
- The total cost of the mission is Rs 2104.06 crore, covering spacecraft development, two LVM3 launches, deep space network support, and special tests for validation. The mission will be completed within 36 months, involving significant participation from industry and academia.



- The Cabinet also approved the Venus Orbiter Mission, with a budget of Rs 1,236 crore, of which Rs 824 crore will be spent on the spacecraft.
- VOM, scheduled for launch in March 2028, aims to explore Venus' surface, subsurface, and atmosphere to understand the planet's evolution. ISRO will develop and launch the spacecraft, and the mission will provide valuable insights into the evolution of Venus and Earth.

J&K RECORDS HIGHEST VOTER TURNOUT IN 35 YEARS -

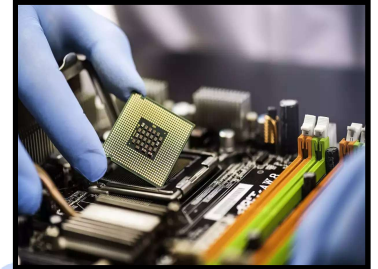
- J&K achieved over 61% voter turnout in the 1st phase of assembly polls, the highest in 35 years.
- **Voting was peaceful across all 24 Assembly Constituencies in 7 districts:** Kishtwar (80.14%: Highest), Pulwama (46.65%), Shopian (55.96%), Kulgam (62.46%), Anantnag (57.84%), Ramban (70.55%), and Doda (71.34%).
- The 2nd Phase - 26 constituencies - 25 Sep
- The 3rd Phase - 40 constituencies - 5 Oct

**PUNE AIRPORT TO BE NAMED AFTER JAGADGURU SANT TUKARAM MAHARAJ -**

- Maharashtra government approved a proposal to name Pune airport as Jagadguru Sant Tukaram Maharaj Pune International Airport.
- Last month, Murlidhar Mohol proposed naming the airport after the 17th-century saint, noting that Lohegaon, where the airport is situated, was the village of Sant Tukaram Maharaj's mother.
- Sant Tukaram Maharaj was a 17th-century Marathi poet, and Hindu saint, popularly known as Tuka, Tukobaraya, Tukoba in Maharashtra.

**ISRAEL'S TOWER SEMICONDUCTOR AND ADANI'S \$10 BILLION CHIP PROJECT IN INDIA -**

- Israel's Tower Semiconductor and India's Adani Group are set to invest 839.47 billion rupees (\$10 billion) in a semiconductor manufacturing project in Maharashtra.
- The initiative highlights India's push to become a global hub for chip production, despite previous challenges such as Foxconn's withdrawal from a \$19.5 billion joint venture with Vedanta and stalled plans by ISMC to invest \$3 billion.
- India anticipates its semiconductor market will reach \$63 billion by 2026, signaling significant growth and opportunities in the sector.
- **The semiconductor plant in Maharashtra will initially produce 40,000 wafers. The project is part of a broader investment strategy in the state, which also includes the establishment of two new electric vehicle manufacturing units.**
- Skoda-Volkswagen will invest 150 billion rupees in an electric vehicle plant, while Toyota-Kirloskar will allocate 212.73 billion rupees for hybrid and electric vehicle production.

**PM MODI LAUNCHES ODISHA'S FLAGSHIP SCHEME SUBHADRA -**

- Honorable Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi launched the scheme of "Subhadra", **flagship initiative of the State Government of Odisha designed to benefit the one crore women in the state.**
- Subhadra Yojana is a financial assistance to women of Odisha, ensuring their economic independence and overall well-being.



- The scheme is named after Goddess Subhadra, the younger sibling of Lord Jagannath, the presiding deity of Odisha.
- The Subhadra Yojana is about the Odisha state government transferring Rs. 10,000 per year to eligible women beneficiaries in the state between the ages 21 and 60.

KOLKATA'S FAMOUS TRAMS FACE DISCONTINUATION AFTER 150 YEARS -

- The Kolkata trams, which have operated since the late 19th century, are a testament to the city's rich transportation history. **The Kolkata tram is set to be discontinued soon due to congestion.** However, one route will still be operational.
- **The first trams, drawn by horses, took to Calcutta streets on February 24, 1873.**
- **The tram cars were imported from England.** Calcutta was the first city in Asia to get the electric tram. The service began in 1902 between Esplanade and Kidderpore.
- The CTC Tramways is one of the epitomes of Kolkata's rich historical past and grandeur of the city.
- Ever since the maiden journey of the tram from Sealdah to Armenian Ghat it has become an entity and identity of the 'City of Joy'.
- With large numbers of passengers traveling daily, Kolkata tram is held in high esteem and designated to be the 'Life line of the Kolkata City'.



WEST BENGAL ASSEMBLY PASSES HISTORIC ANTI-RAPE 'APARAJITA' BILL AMID POLITICAL DRAMA -

- The West Bengal Assembly has unanimously passed the 'Aparajita Woman and Child Bill (West Bengal Criminal Laws and Amendment) 2024', marking a significant development in the state's legal framework against sexual crimes.

- This bill introduces the death penalty for individuals convicted of rape if their actions result in the victim's death or leave her in a vegetative state. With this move, West Bengal becomes the first state to amend central laws dealing with rape, gang-rape, and sexual crimes against children.



- The 'Aparajita' bill is named in tribute to a 31-year-old trainee doctor who was raped and murdered at RG Kar Medical Centre and Hospital last month.

The bill's key provisions include-

- **Death Penalty:** Imposed for rape if the victim dies or suffers severe brain damage.
- **Life Sentence:** Without parole for those convicted of rape.
- **Aparajita Task Force:** To ensure punishment within 21 days of the preliminary report.
- **Enhanced Safety Measures:** Installation of CCTV cameras and increased security on routes used by female healthcare workers, with an allocation of Rs 120 crores.
- **'Ratri Saathi' Provision:** Extends the duty hours for female workers, ensuring their safety during night shifts.

HIMACHAL PRADESH ASSEMBLY INTRODUCES ZERO HOUR -

- **Zero Hour is set to be introduced in the Himachal Assembly as announced by Speaker Kuldeep Singh Pathania.** The introduction follows a discussion on the necessity of framing Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) before its implementation.
- **Zero Hour is a practice in parliamentary sessions where members can raise urgent public issues that are not listed on the official agenda.** It allows them to bring



attention to important matters, even if these issues were not planned for discussion beforehand.

- This period usually takes place after Question Hour and is an opportunity for lawmakers to address concerns that require immediate attention.

PRESIDENT DROUPADI MURMU UNVEILS NEW SUPREME COURT FLAG AND INSIGNIA -

- In a significant event marking the evolution of India's judiciary, President Droupadi Murmu unveiled the new flag and insignia of the Supreme Court of India during the two-day National Conference of District Judiciary held in New Delhi. The ceremony, attended by members of the judiciary from across the nation, symbolized the rich cultural and legal heritage of India, encapsulated in the newly designed symbols of the highest court.



- The newly unveiled Supreme Court flag is a profound representation of India's judicial and cultural values. The flag is blue in color, signifying trust, wisdom, and justice, and it features key symbols central to India's identity.
- These include the Ashoka Chakra, which stands for the eternal wheel of law; the Supreme Court building, symbolizing the authority and integrity of the judiciary; and the Constitution of India, which is the bedrock of the nation's legal framework.

BHARATMALA PARIYOJANA -

- Nearly 50% of the Bharatmala Pariyojana Phase-I, a flagship road network expansion program, has been completed as of 31st March 2024 and is expected to be completed by 2027-28.
- The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways' Vision 2047 aims to provide high-speed corridors within 100-150 km of all citizens and enhance passenger convenience by developing world-class amenities.

- This vision serves as the basis for the Master Plan for highways and related infrastructure in India.
- The first-phase of Bharatmala was announced in 2017 and was to be completed by 2022, but it could not be completed due to slow implementation and financial constraints.
- Bharatmala, Sagarmala, dry/land ports, and other infrastructure projects have been incorporated under PM Gati-Shakti Plan to enhance connectivity and logistics efficiency.



Waqf Board Amendment Bill 2024 -

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government is all set to table the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024, in the Lok Sabha on August 8. The new bill that proposes to amend the Waqf Act, 1995 will be introduced in the Lok Sabha by Minority Affairs Minister Kiren Rijju.
- With over 40 amendments, the bill has proposed to revoke several clauses in the existing Waqf Act – the law governing Waqf boards. It has proposed far-reaching changes in the present Act, including ensuring the representation of Muslim women and non-Muslims in such bodies.
- The Bill proposes the inclusion of two Muslim women and two non-Muslim members in the Waqf Board, and inserts a new section to prevent the wrongful declaration of a property as 'Waqf'. The Waqf comprises property or land donated by followers of Islam, and is presently managed by the members of the community. Waqf Boards currently control 8.7 lakh properties spanning 9.4 lakh acres across India, with an estimated value of ₹1.2 lakh crore.
- Collectively, this makes the Waqf Boards the third largest landowner in India, after the armed forces and the Indian Railways. The Waqf Act was last amended in 2013.

INTERNATIONAL

QUAD LEADERS SUMMIT WILL BE HELD ON 21ST SEPTEMBER IN WILMINGTON -

- United States of America's president Joe Biden will host leaders from QUAD members of other countries like India, Japan and Australia in Wilmington, Delaware on 21st September in the USA.



- India
- Japan
- United States of America
- Australia

- The Quad is a diplomatic partnership between Australia, India, Japan, and the United States committed to supporting an open, stable and prosperous Indo-Pacific that is inclusive and resilient.
- It is a key pillar in foreign policy and complements our bilateral, regional, and multilateral cooperation, including with partners in Southeast Asia and the Pacific.
- The purpose behind QUAD is to keep strategic sea lanes in the Indo-Pacific free from other military or political influences.

79TH UNITED NATIONS (UN) GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION STARTS -

- The United Nations General Assembly provides an opportunity to member states a unique forum for multilateral discussions on international issues, this year 79th session of UNGA started on 10th September.
- The UNGA provides world leaders from the current 193 member states with a forum where they can discuss, debate and make recommendations on subjects pertaining to international peace and security, including development, disarmament, human rights and international law.
- In principle, the UN is a perfect democracy. Every member nation, small or large, rich or poor, has an

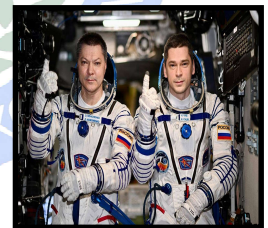
equal voice in the Assembly. And each country has one vote, of equal value.

- Resolutions adopted in the General Assembly carry political weight, but they are not binding, unlike Security Council resolutions, which is where the real power resides at the United Nations.



RUSSIAN COSMONAUTS BREAK RECORD FOR LONGEST ISS FLIGHT -

- Russian cosmonauts Oleg Kononenko and Nikolai Chub have set a new record for the longest single mission aboard the International Space Station (ISS), surpassing the previous record held by cosmonauts Sergei Prokopyev, Dmitry Petelin, and NASA astronaut Francisco Rubio, who spent 370 days onboard from September 2022 to September 2023.
- Kononenko and Chub arrived at the ISS on September 15, 2023, via the Soyuz MS-24 spacecraft and are scheduled to return to Earth on the Soyuz MS-25 on September 23, 2024, totaling 374 days in space.
- The previous record of 370 days, 21 hours, 22 minutes, and 16 seconds was set by Prokopyev, Petelin, and Rubio.
- On February 4, 2024, Kononenko surpassed the total space time record set by Gennady Padalka (878 days, 11 hours, 29 minutes, 48 seconds).
- By June 5, 2024, Kononenko became the first person to spend 1,000 days off Earth.
- After this mission, Kononenko will have accumulated 1,110 days in space across five missions.



INDIA REMAINS TOP SOURCE FOR SRI LANKA TOURISM IN 2024 -

- As Indians roam all around the world, recent data came out as Sri Lanka is also one of the top travel destinations for Indians in 2024. India maintained the top spot for Sri Lanka in the first 8 months of this year.
- Almost 2.6 lacs Indians traveled to the island nation while 1.36 million tourists in all arrived in the first eight months of the year.
- As per the data released by the Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority, the increase in tourist arrivals in the current year to date increased by 50.7 percent as against the same period in 2023.
- The latest data from the Central Bank of Sri Lanka shows that during the same period, the island nation earned 2.17 billion US dollars, which is a 66.1 percent increase from last year.

**INDIA SEEKS MODIFICATIONS TO INDUS WATERS TREATY WITH PAKISTAN -**

- India has officially informed Pakistan about changes it wants to make to the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT), citing unexpected and significant reasons.
- This notice was given under Article XII(3) of the treaty, which allows changes to be made through a new agreement between the two countries. India had already sent a notice in January 2023 because of ongoing arguments about Indian hydropower projects.
- The Indus Waters Treaty was signed in 1960 to help India and Pakistan share water from the Indus River and its tributaries.
- Under this treaty, India can use the Eastern Rivers (Beas, Ravi, Sutlej), and Pakistan controls the Western Rivers (Indus, Chenab, Jhelum).

**SCOTLAND TO HOST 2026 COMMONWEALTH GAMES -**

- Scotland will host the Commonwealth Games in 2026 after Victoria, Australia, withdrew due to rising costs.
- Glasgow, which hosted the Games in 2014, will once again welcome athletes from around the world, but the event will be on a smaller scale this time.
- Victoria, Australia, decided not to host the 2026 Games because the costs were becoming too high. A later investigation found that their cost predictions had been overstated, leading to their decision to withdraw.

**EU PLEDGES ₹35 BILLION LOAN TO SUPPORT UKRAINE'S RECOVERY -**

- The European Union (EU) has promised to lend Ukraine up to ₹35 billion (about \$39 billion) to help the country recover from the ongoing war with Russia, which started in February 2022.
- This loan is part of a larger financial aid package that is being coordinated by the G7 nations, a group of the world's largest economies, to support Ukraine during this difficult time.
- The G7 leaders agreed to provide Ukraine with a total loan package of \$50 billion. This money is meant to help rebuild Ukraine's economy and repair important infrastructure, especially its power systems, which have been badly damaged by the war.

**LEBANON PAGER EXPLOSIONS: AT LEAST 9 KILLED, THOUSANDS INJURED -**

- A series of pager explosions across Lebanon resulted in the deaths of at least nine people and injuries to approximately 2,800 others, including Hezbollah fighters, medics, and Iran's envoy to Beirut.

- The explosions occurred around 3:45 PM local time and lasted for about an hour. The Lebanese government and Hezbollah have attributed the attacks to Israel, describing them as a significant escalation in ongoing conflicts.



- Lebanon's information minister condemned the detonations as "Israeli aggression." Hezbollah officials referred to the event as the "biggest security breach" in nearly a year of conflict with Israel.

PRIME MINISTER ATTENDS THE SIXTH QUAD LEADERS' SUMMIT IN WILMINGTON, DELAWARE -

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi participated in the sixth Quad Leaders' Summit in Wilmington, Delaware on 21 September 2024, hosted by the President of the United States of America, Joseph R. Biden, Prime Minister of Australia Mr. Anthony Albanese and Prime Minister of Japan Fumio Kishida also participated.
- Thanked President Biden for hosting the Summit and for his personal commitment to strengthen the Quad as a force for global good.
- The Prime Minister stated that at a time when the world is ridden with tensions and conflicts, the coming together of Quad partners, with shared democratic ethos and values, is important for humanity.



TURKEY SEEKS MEMBERSHIP IN BRICS -

- Turkey has officially applied to join BRICS, a group of emerging economies that originally included Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa. The country is waiting for approval of its membership, with Turkish officials confirming the application is under consideration. Russia's President Vladimir Putin has openly supported Turkey's interest in joining.

- BRICS is a coalition of major emerging economies that work together primarily on trade and economic cooperation.



Unlike the European Union (EU), BRICS does not have unified security or foreign policies.

- Instead, it focuses on boosting economic growth and development for its members. Recently, BRICS has expanded to include countries like Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, and the UAE, and over 20 other countries have expressed interest in joining.

IIT DELHI CAMPUS INAUGURATED IN ABU DHABI -

- In a historic moment, Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, opened the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi Abu Dhabi campus.
- This is a big deal because it's the first-ever full IIT campus outside India. This event marks a huge step forward in international academic collaboration between India and the UAE.
- The opening of this campus is part of a larger vision, known as the Vision Document, which was launched in February 2022 by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan. This document highlights education as a key area for stronger cooperation between India and the UAE.

REMOTE VILLAGE IN IRAN RECORDED HIGHEST TEMPERATURE AT 82.2°C -

- A village in Iran recorded the highest-ever heat index at 82.2°C (180°F) with a dew point of 36.1°C (97°F).
- High humidity and temperatures increase the risk of heatstroke and other health issues.
- Official investigation required to confirm the accuracy of the reported extreme temperatures.
- This data was recorded by a weather station near Dayrestan Airport.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

INDIA'S OWN SPACE STATION FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH TO BE ESTABLISHED WITH THE LAUNCH OF ITS FIRST MODULE IN 2028 -

- The union cabinet chaired by the Honorable Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the building of the first unit of the Bharatiya Antariksh Station (BAS) by extending the scope of Gaganyaan program.



- ISRO is working to set up Bharatiya Antariksh Station, India's own space station. The station will be assembled in a phased manner and ISRO aims to establish it by 2035.**
- The Indian space station is currently in the 'conceptualisation phase', under which the overall architecture, number, and types of modules that are needed for the station have been studied and identified.
- Approval by the cabinet is given for development of the first module of Bharatiya Antariksh Station (BAS-1) and undertake missions to demonstrate and validate various technologies for building and operating BAS.**

TATA STEEL COMMISSIONS INDIA'S LARGEST BLAST FURNACE IN KALINGANAGAR -

- Tata Steel has successfully commissioned India's largest blast furnace at its Kalinganagar facility in Odisha, marking a significant milestone for the steel sector.**
- With a total investment of Rs 27,000 crore, this Phase II expansion will increase the plant's capacity from 3 million tonnes per annum (MTPA) to 8 MTPA.
- The new facility is designed to meet the growing demands of various industries, including automotive,**

infrastructure, shipbuilding, defence, and oil and gas. Over the last decade, Odisha has become the largest investment destination for Tata Steel, with a cumulative investment exceeding Rs 100,000 crore.

INDIA BECOMES WORLD'S SECOND-LARGEST 5G SMARTPHONE MARKET -

- India has overtaken the US to become the second-largest global market for 5G smartphones, with a 13% market share, trailing China at 32%.**
- Brands like Samsung, Vivo, and Xiaomi, especially in budget segments, have driven India's 5G growth.
- 5G devices now account for 54% of the total handset market, with forecasts predicting 65% by 2025.



UNION CABINET APPROVES NEXT GENERATION LAUNCH VEHICLE -

- The Union Cabinet of India, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the development of the Next Generation Launch Vehicle (NGLV).**
- This decision is a big step for India's space exploration goals and sets the stage for future projects, like building the Bharatiya Antariksh Station (Indian Space Station) and a crewed mission to the Moon by 2040.
- The NGLV is a new, advanced rocket system that will improve India's ability to launch missions into space. It is a key part of India's plan to expand its space program and take on larger, more complex space projects in the future.
- One of the most important features of the NGLV is its ability to carry a much heavier load into space. It can**



carry up to 30 tonnes to Low Earth Orbit (LEO), which is three times more than what India's current LVM3 rocket can handle. This makes it possible for India to launch bigger satellites and more ambitious space missions.

INDIA'S THIRD HOME-BUILT 700 MWE NUCLEAR REACTOR ACHIEVES CRITICALITY -

- The nuclear power reactor that achieved criticality is the first of a new series of Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRs) to be built at **Rajasthan Atomic Power Project in Rawatbhata.**



- 700 MWe units are the largest indigenous nuclear power reactors built by the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL), a public sector undertaking of the Department of Atomic Energy.
- These reactors are pressurized heavy water reactors (PHWRs), which use natural uranium as fuel and heavy water as coolant and moderator.
- The reactor achieved criticality after meeting the specified conditions of the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB), India's nuclear safety regulator.

INDIA AND SINGAPORE SIGN AGREEMENT ON SEMICONDUCTOR PARTNERSHIP -

- India and Singapore have signed multiple agreements aimed at enhancing cooperation in semiconductors, healthcare, and digital economies, elevating their ties to a comprehensive strategic partnership. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, during his visit to Singapore, emphasized the importance of collaboration for regional peace, stability, and prosperity, while describing Singapore as an "inspiration" for India's development.

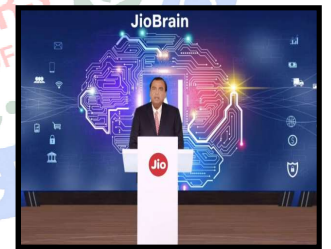
- The newly signed MoU focuses on creating a robust semiconductor ecosystem, supporting India's growing industry and opening opportunities for Singaporean companies in the Indian market.



- This agreement aims to **boost interoperability between the two nations' digital economies.** Areas of cooperation include data protection, cyber-security, and digital public infrastructure, building on initiatives like the linkage of their real-time digital payment systems.

RELIANCE JIO INTRODUCES JIO BRAIN AI SUITE -

- At the 47th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of Reliance Industries Limited (RIL), Chairman Mukesh Ambani introduced a new AI initiative called "Jio Brain."



- This initiative aims to significantly improve how the company operates and interacts with customers by using advanced artificial intelligence tools.
- Jio Brain is a comprehensive set of AI tools developed to enhance efficiency and engagement within Reliance and its various businesses. The goal is to integrate AI technology throughout the company's operations to make better decisions and understand customers more deeply.
- Reliance plans to build large, AI-capable data centers in Jamnagar, Gujarat. These centers will use green energy, showing Reliance's dedication to environmentally friendly practices.

ECONOMY & FINANCE

INDIA IS SET TO BECOME THE THIRD-LARGEST ECONOMY BY 2030-31 -

- India is on track to become the third largest economy by fiscal 2030-31, driven by a robust projected annual growth rate of 6.7%, the credit rating agency S&P Global said in its report called India forward Emerging Perspectives.

Factors responsible for becoming the third-largest economy.

1. Strong Growth Momentum
2. Budget Impact
3. India's rising contribution to global growth
4. External Buffers for future uncertainties
5. Capital Inflows
- 7 decisions drive for India's energy transition for future rise in economy

UPI USERS CAN NOW SEND 5 LAKH FOR SOME TRANSACTIONS -

- **The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has increased the transaction limits for tax payments using UPI (Unified Payment Interface),** by allowing people to send 5 lakh in a single transaction.
- Acquiring entities must ensure that the classification of their merchants within MCC-9311 strictly adheres to the tax payments only. Merchants shall ensure UPI as a payment mode is enabled for the increased limit for the tax payments category.
- **Earlier, the transaction limit for UPI was Rs 1 lakh except for certain categories of payments which have higher transaction limits.**
- It has now been decided to enhance the limit for tax payments through UPI from Rs 1 lakh to Rs 5 lakh per transaction.
- This will further ease tax payments by consumers through UPI.



Categories of Payment

1. Tax payments
2. Hospital and educational services
3. IPOs and government securities

IMF APPROVES \$7 BILLION LOAN FOR PAKISTAN -

- **The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has taken a significant step to support Pakistan's struggling economy by approving a new \$7 billion loan.** This decision, announced on Wednesday, comes more than two months after initial negotiations between the IMF and Pakistani authorities reached a staff-level agreement.
- **Total Amount:** \$7 billion
- **Disbursement Period:** 37 months
- **Initial Disbursement:** Approximately \$1 billion
- The primary objective of this financial package is to revitalize Pakistan's ailing economy, addressing critical areas of concern and promoting sustainable growth.



RIL BECOMES INDIA'S FIRST COMPANY TO SURPASS RS 10 LAKH CRORE IN ANNUAL REVENUE -

- **Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) has made history as the first Indian company to exceed ₹10 lakh crore in annual revenue.** This milestone was revealed during RIL's Annual General Meeting (AGM) by Chairman Mukesh Ambani.
- For the financial year 2023-24, Reliance achieved a record consolidated turnover of ₹10,00,122 crore (USD 119.9 billion), with a net profit of ₹79,020 crore (USD 9.5 billion).
- RIL's exports reached ₹2,99,832 crore (USD 35.9 billion), representing 8.2% of India's total merchandise exports.

- The company also contributed ₹1,86,440 crore (USD 22.4 billion) to the national exchequer through various taxes and duties during FY 2023-24. Over the past three years, RIL's total contribution to the exchequer has exceeded ₹5.5 lakh crore (USD 68.7 billion), the highest by any Indian corporation.

TELANGANA, TAMIL NADU TOP IN GSDP GROWTH -

- **Telangana, Tamil Nadu, and Rajasthan** have been recognized as the fastest-growing large states in India by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI). These states have achieved impressive economic growth, surpassing the national average GDP growth rate of 8.2%. This means their economies are expanding at a faster pace than the country's overall economic growth.
- **Telangana:** Telangana's economy grew by 9.2%, reaching a Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) of ₹7.9 lakh crore. This is a significant increase, showing that the state's economy is strong and growing rapidly.
- **Tamil Nadu:** Tamil Nadu's economy grew by 8.2%, with its GSDP reaching ₹15.7 lakh crore. This makes Tamil Nadu one of the top-performing states in terms of economic growth.
- **Rajasthan:** Rajasthan experienced an 8% growth in its economy, making it the seventh-largest economy in India. This growth indicates a healthy economic environment in the state.



INDIA IS EXPERIENCING A SIGNIFICANT SHORTAGE OF NATURAL RUBBER (NR), WITH DOMESTIC PRODUCTION LAGGING BEHIND DEMAND BY APPROXIMATELY 5.5 LAKH TONNES -

- **Demand-Supply Gap-** Despite an increase in NR production from 8.39 lakh tonne in 2022-23 to 8.57 lakh tonne in 2023-24, consumption has surged from 13.5 lakh tonne to 14.16 lakh tonne.

- Currently, about 70% of NR is consumed by the tyre industry. The remaining 30% is utilised by non-tyre companies, predominantly small and micro enterprises, which are suffering the most.

- India has historically depended on NR imports due to insufficient domestic production. India imports natural rubber to meet local demand from neighbouring countries such as Vietnam and Indonesia.



- NR imports face a 25% customs duty or Rs 30 per kg whichever is higher. Latex rubber used for making gloves and balloons has a total 75% duty.
- **The turmoil in Bangladesh has disrupted the smooth supply of NR to India.** The availability of NR is uncertain due to heavy monsoons reducing tapping activities. This situation particularly impacts industries that depend on NR.

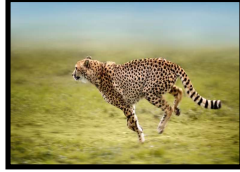
THE UNION BUDGET 2024 HAS INTRODUCED SIGNIFICANT MODIFICATIONS TO THE TAXATION OF CAPITAL GAINS IN INDIA -

- **Any profit or gain that arises from the sale of a 'capital asset' is known as 'income from capital gains'.** Such capital gains are taxable in the year in which the transfer of the capital asset takes place. This is called capital gains tax
- **Rate for short-term STT paid listed equity, Equity oriented mutual fund and units of business trust (Section 111A) has increased from 15 to 20%. Similarly the rate for these assets for long-term (S. 112A) has increased from 10 to 12.5%.**
- The exemption limit of 1 lakh for LTCG on these assets has also increased to Rs 1.25 lakh. This increased exemption limit will apply for FY 2024-25 and subsequent years.

IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS

PROJECT CHEETAH COMPLETES TWO YEARS ON SEPTEMBER 17, 2024 -

- The Government of India launched it to bring back Cheetahs to India. **Cheetahs were declared extinct in India in 1952.**
- Implementing Body of the Project is **National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)**, a statutory body under the Ministry of Environment.
- The Indian government hopes to bring 50 cheetahs from African countries to various national parks over the next five years.
- Currently, a total of **20 radio collared Cheetahs were brought from Namibia and South Africa to Kuno National Park, Madhya Pradesh**, in a first ever transcontinental wild to wild translocation i.e Africa to Asia.
- **IUCN status-** Asiatic Cheetah is critically Endangered whereas African cheetah is Vulnerable



HINDI DIWAS 2024 -

- **India celebrated Hindi Diwas on 14th September 2024**, marking the 75th anniversary of Hindi's adoption as the official language of the country.
- The Union Minister for Home Affairs and Cooperation released a commemorative postage stamp to mark the completion of 75 years of Hindi as an official language.
- **On 14th September 1949**, the Constituent Assembly designated Hindi in Devanagari script as the official language of the Union of India.
- **The Munshi-Ayyangar formula, a compromise between K M Munshi and N Gopalaswamy Ayyangar, resulted in Article 343 of the Constitution** adopting Hindi in the Devanagari script as the official language of the Union, while allowing English to continue for official purposes for fifteen years.
- **As the 15-year period ended, protests over the fear of Hindi imposition led to the Official Languages Act**

1963, which upheld English as an official language alongside Hindi.

- **Article 210 states that the language to be used in the legislature can be the official language of the state, Hindi, or English.**
- **Article 351 states that it shall be the duty of the Union to promote the spread of the Hindi language**, to develop it so that it may serve as a medium of expression for all the elements of the composite culture of India.
- **Hindi is one of the 22 languages listed in the eighth schedule of the Constitution of India** and It is not a classical language.
- **The language is named after the Persian word 'Hind'** meaning 'land of the Indus River' and is a descendant of Sanskrit.

RECENTLY, THE 127TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF SARAGARHI WAS OBSERVED ON 12TH SEPTEMBER 2024. IT IS ONE OF THE GREATEST FINAL DEFENCES IN WORLD MILITARY HISTORY -

- **On 12th September 1897, 21 soldiers and a non-combatant (named Daad who did menial works) of the 36th Sikh Regiment (now 4th Sikh) fought against over 8,000 Afridi and Orakzai tribal militants in the North West Frontier Province (NWFP), now in Pakistan.**
- **The soldiers, led by Havildar Ishar Singh, fought valiantly for seven hours, killing 200 militants and injuring 600 others.**
- **Saragarhi was a communication tower located between Fort Lockhart and Fort Gulistan, two critical British forts in the NWFP.** , originally built by Maharaja Ranjit Singh and later renamed by the British.



- Losing this post meant isolating the forts, thereby making British troops and the families of British officers vulnerable to attack.
- Queen Victoria awarded the 21 dead soldiers the Indian Order of Merit (comparable with the Victoria Cross) for their bravery.
- The British built an obelisk using burnt bricks from Saragarhi to honour the martyrs.
- In 2017, the Punjab government declared 12th September as Saragarhi Day, a holiday to honour the sacrifice of the soldiers.
- The Khyber Scouts regiment of the Pakistani army continues to honour the Saragarhi martyrs with a guard and salute at the memorial near Fort Lockhart.

ON 15TH SEPTEMBER NATIONAL ENGINEER DAY WAS CELEBRATED -

- To honor the contributions of engineers and commemorate the birth anniversary of M. Visvesvaraya, National Engineer day was celebrated on the 15th September.
- India observes National Engineers' Day on September 15th each year to honor the birth anniversary of Sir Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya, a pioneering figure in engineering. Declared in 1968, this day celebrates his monumental contributions to the field.
- Born on September 15, 1861, in Karnataka, Visvesvaraya was a distinguished civil engineer known for his transformative work on major irrigation projects, including the Krishna Raja Sagara Dam and the Khadakwasla Dam.
- His influence also extended to education with the establishment of the Bangalore Engineering College, later renamed Visvesvaraya Technological University in his honor.
- Sri Visvesvaraya's visionary engineering and dedication to development have left an enduring legacy in India.
- His pioneering work earned him numerous accolades, including the prestigious Bharat Ratna, India's highest civilian award, in 1955.

- National Engineers Day 2024, celebrated on September 15th, will focus on the theme "Innovating for a Sustainable Future".

WORLD OZONE DAY 2024 -

- In 1994, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed September 16 as the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer, commemorating the signing date of the Montreal Protocol in 1987.
- On October 15, 2016, at the 28th Meeting of the Parties in Kigali, Rwanda, an agreement was reached to phase down hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs). This amendment represents the latest step in the ongoing efforts to protect the ozone layer and address climate change.



Impacts and Benefits

- The phaseout of controlled ozone-depleting substances has resulted in significant positive outcomes:
- Protection of the ozone layer for current and future generations
- Substantial contribution to global efforts to address climate change
- Protection of human health and ecosystems by limiting harmful ultraviolet radiation

DR. SARVEPALLI RADHAKRISHNAN -

- Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan was born on 5th September, 1888, in Tiruttani, Madras Presidency, British India. His parents, Sarvepalli Veeraswami and Sarvepalli Sita, were part of a Telugu-speaking Niyogi Brahmin family roots in the Andhra Pradesh's Nellore district.
- Radhakrishnan's early education took place in Thiruttani and Tirupati, but it was at Madras Christian College where he truly excelled, graduating in 1906 with a Master's degree in Philosophy.
- Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan embarked on a distinguished academic career, starting as a professor

of philosophy at Madras Philosophy in 1909. He later became a Professor at the University of Mysore in 1918 and authored significant articles and books on philosophy, including “The Philosophy of Rabindranath Tagore” and “The Reign of Religion in Contemporary Philosophy.”



- In 1921, he assumed the prestigious King George V Chair of Mental and Moral Science at the University of Calcutta. His academic accomplishments led him to deliver notable lectures, receive a knighthood and serve as Vice-Chancellor of Andhra University and Spalding Professor at the University of Oxford.

NATIONAL NUTRITION WEEK 2024, SEPTEMBER 1 TO 7 -

- National Nutrition Week (NNW) is an annual observance in India, taking place from September 1 to 7. This week-long event is dedicated to raising awareness about the critical role of nutrition in our lives and promoting healthy eating habits among people of all ages.



The primary objectives of National Nutrition Week are-

- To educate the public about the importance of proper nutrition
- To encourage the adoption of healthier dietary practices
- To support overall health and well-being across diverse population groups
- **A healthy diet is fundamental to maintaining good health and preventing various diseases.** According to the World Health Organization (WHO), a balanced and nutritious diet plays a crucial role in:
 - Preventing malnutrition in all its forms
 - Reducing the risk of noncommunicable diseases (NCDs)
 - Promoting overall well-being

INTERNATIONAL LITERACY DAY 2024 -

- **Since 1967, International Literacy Day (ILD) has been observed annually on September 8th across the globe.**

This day serves as a crucial reminder to policymakers, practitioners, and the public about the critical importance of literacy in creating a more literate, just, peaceful, and sustainable society.

- The observance underscores the ongoing global commitment to fostering literacy as a fundamental human right and a cornerstone of personal and societal development.
- Literacy is not just a skill; it is a fundamental human right for all individuals. It serves as a gateway to the enjoyment of other human rights, greater freedoms, and global citizenship. The ability to read and write empowers individuals to:
 - Participate more fully in society
 - Access information and services
 - Engage in lifelong learning
 - Exercise their democratic rights

“HARYANA, MAHARASHTRA, JAMMU & KASHMIR ELECTION DATES ANNOUNCED FOR 2024” -

- **Assembly elections for Haryana and Jammu and Kashmir will be held from September 18 to October 1, the Election Commission announced on August 16. While polling in Jammu and Kashmir will be held across three phases, Haryana will have one phase.** The counting of votes will take place on October 4, 2024. Maharashtra and Jharkhand are the other States that will go to polls this year.
- **The poll panel recently visited Jammu and Kashmir and Haryana to review the preparations for the Assembly elections 2024.** However, the ECI is yet to visit the Eknath Shinde-headed state of Maharashtra and Jharkhand ruled by Hemant Soren-led government.
- The assembly elections for 90 seats of Jammu and Kashmir will be held in three phases – September 18, 25 and October 1, Election Commission said on August 16.

AWARDS, RECOGNITIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

ENGINEERS 'DAY IS OBSERVED ON SEPTEMBER 15 EACH YEAR TO CELEBRATE THE BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF MOKSHAGUNDAM VISVESVARAYA -

- He was a renowned Indian engineer, statesman, and scholar. He played a pivotal role in modernizing India's infrastructure and is considered one of the nation's foremost engineers.
- He developed a flood protection system for Hyderabad and designed automatic water floodgates at the Khadakwasla reservoir near Pune.
- Established Bangalore Agricultural University, University Visvesvaraya College of Engineering, etc.
- He served as the Diwan (Prime Minister) of the princely state of Mysore from 1912 to 1918.



PM MODI ADDRESSES 79TH U.N. GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION IN NEW YORK -

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi delivered a significant address at the 79th U.N. General Assembly session, themed "Summit of the Future," held in New York on September 22, 2024.
- Emphasizing the necessity for reforms in global institutions, Modi stated that such changes are crucial for ensuring global peace and development.
- The summit commenced prior to the high-level meeting of world leaders, initiated by U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, who urged global leaders to recommit to multilateralism to address the pressing challenges facing humanity.



OLYMPIC ORDER AWARDED TO FRENCH PRESIDENT EMMANUEL MACRON -

- **Presenter-** International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Thomas Bach.
- **Location-** Elysée Palace, Paris.
- **Recognition-** The Olympic Order in gold was awarded to President Macron for his unwavering support to the success of the Paris 2024 Olympic Games.
- Next Olympics will be held in Los Angeles, USA in 2028.
- Next Winter Olympics will be held in Milan and Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy in 2026.



HAYAO MIYAZAKI WINS 2024 RAMON MAGSAYSAY AWARD -

- Hayao Miyazaki, the acclaimed film director and co-founder of Studio Ghibli, has been awarded the prestigious Ramon Magsaysay Award for 2024. This award is frequently referred to as Asia's Nobel Prize, highlighting Miyazaki's significant contributions to cinema and culture.
- Hayao Miyazaki is one of the co-founders of Studio Ghibli, a famous animation studio. He is best known for films like Spirited Away and often explores themes related to nature and the environment in his work. Miyazaki prefers traditional, hand-drawn animation over computer-generated images, which gives his films a unique and classic feel.
- Although he has announced his retirement multiple times, his passion for storytelling always brings him back to filmmaking.



LAAPATAA LADIES: INDIA'S OFFICIAL ENTRY FOR OSCARS 2025 -

- The Film Federation of India has officially announced that filmmaker Kiran Rao's "Laapataa Ladies" has been chosen as India's official entry in the Best Foreign Film Category for the Oscars 2025.
- This selection marks a significant milestone for the film and its creators, putting it on the global stage of cinema.

**The selection process was rigorous and comprehensive, involving entries from across India:**

- Total entries: 22 films
- 12 Hindi films
- 6 Tamil films
- 4 Malayalam films
- Notable Contenders

"Laapataa Ladies" faced stiff competition from several acclaimed films, including:

- "Animal"
- "Kill"
- "Kalki 2898 AD"
- "Srikanth"
- "Chandu Champion"
- "Joram"
- "Maidaan"
- "Sam Bahadur"
- "Article 370"
- "Aattam" (Malayalam, National Award winner for Best Feature Film)
- "All We Imagine As Light" (Payal Kapadia's Cannes winner)

RBI GOVERNOR SHAKTIKANTA DAS RANKED TOP CENTRAL BANKER FOR 2ND YEAR -

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das has been recognized as the top central banker globally for the second straight year by the US-based Global Finance magazine. **He was awarded an 'A+' grade in**

the prestigious Global Finance Central Banker Report Cards 2024.

- The rankings are determined based on a grading scale from A to F, assessing performance in key areas such as inflation control, economic growth goals, currency stability, and interest rate management. **An 'A' represents outstanding performance, while an 'F' denotes complete failure.**
- Alongside Shaktikanta Das, Denmark's Christian Kettel Thomsen and Switzerland's Thomas Jordan were also awarded the 'A+' grade. The report highlighted the successful efforts of central bankers in combating inflation through strategies like higher interest rates, which have led to significant reductions in inflation globally.

**PRESIDENT MURMU GIVES AWAY FIRST-EVER RASHTRIYA VIGYAN PURASKAR -**

- **President Droupadi Murmu presided over the first-ever investiture ceremony for the Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar (National Science Awards).** These awards, instituted last year to replace all existing science accolades, mark a new chapter in recognizing scientific excellence in the country.
- **The ceremony's highlight was the conferral of the inaugural Vigyan Ratna Puraskar, India's highest science award, to Govindrajan Padmanabhan, a renowned biochemist and former director of the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore.**
- This award acknowledges Dr. Padmanabhan's significant contributions to biochemistry and his leadership in Indian scientific research.



RHEA SINGHA FROM GUJARAT WINS MISS UNIVERSE INDIA 2024 TITLE -

- Rhea Singha, a 19-year-old model from Gujarat, was crowned Miss Universe India 2024 in Jaipur. She will represent India at the global Miss Universe competition in Mexico.



- The 19-year-old Gujarati beauty Rhea Singha was recently crowned Miss Universe India 2024.
- She won the title after defeating 51 candidates, and she has represented India in the next Miss Universe 2024 competition.
- The judging panel for Miss Universe India 2024, alongside Urvashi Rautela, featured Nikhil Anand, Vietnamese celebrity Nguyen Quynh, fashion photographer Rian Fernandes, and entrepreneur Rajeev Shrivastava.

COMMUNIST PARTY OF INDIA LEADER SITARAM YECHURY PASSES AWAY -

- Communist Party of India (Marxist) leader Shri. Sitaram Yechury passed away. He died at the age of 72 at AIMS hospital in New Delhi. From India most of the political leaders have offered condolence to him. He was born in Chennai in 1952 and is a prominent figure in Indian Politics.
- He started his journey by joining the Student Federation of India in 1974. He was also arrested during emergency when he was still in the JNU, Delhi.
- He was elected to Rajya Sabha from the state of West Bengal and served 12 years. Succeeded Prakash Karat as General Secretary of CPI(M) in 2015.

**MICHEL BARNIER NAMED BY MACRON TO BE FRANCE'S NEW PM -**

- French President Emmanuel Macron has made a significant political decision by appointing Michel

Barnier, the former EU Brexit negotiator, as France's new Prime Minister on September 5, 2024.



- This appointment comes after an extended period of political uncertainty and marks a crucial moment in France's ongoing efforts to form a stable government.

TUHIN KANTA PANDEY APPOINTED AS NEW FINANCE SECRETARY -

- The Indian government has appointed Tuhin Kanta Pandey, a 1987-batch IAS officer from the Odisha cadre, as the new Finance Secretary. This decision was made on September 7, 2024, following the appointment of T.V.



- Somanathan as the Cabinet Secretary, which created a vacancy for the finance role.
- Pandey, who previously served as the Secretary of the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM), will now oversee India's financial policies and decisions.
- Tuhin Kanta Pandey has been instrumental in managing large-scale disinvestment projects, including the sale of Air India. His expertise in public asset management and disinvestment strategies will be a significant asset in his new role as Finance Secretary.
- Pandey replaces T.V. Somanathan, who was appointed as the Cabinet Secretary last month. According to convention, the senior-most secretary within the Union Finance Ministry is typically designated as the Finance Secretary, making Pandey's appointment a natural progression.

ALOK RANJAN APPOINTED NCRB CHIEF -

- Senior IPS officers Alok Ranjan and Amit Garg have been appointed as the heads of the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) and the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy (SVPNPA), respectively.

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- **Alok Ranjan**, a 1991-batch officer of the Madhya Pradesh cadre, will serve as the **Director of NCRB until his superannuation on June 30, 2026**, succeeding Vivek Gogia, who has been repatriated to the AGMUT cadre.
- **Amit Garg**, a 1993-batch IPS officer from the Andhra Pradesh cadre, will lead the SVPNPA until his retirement on October 31, 2027.

SRI LANKA PRESIDENT DISSANAYAKE PICKS HARINI AMARASURIYA AS PM -

- **Harini Amarasuriya** was officially sworn in as Sri Lanka's new Prime Minister marking a historic moment as she became the first woman to hold the office since Sirimavo Bandaranaike in 2000.
- She is the first female Prime Minister since Bandaranaike took office in 1994 and the third woman to serve in this capacity in Sri Lanka's history.
- Left leader **Anura Kumara Dissanayake** recently became Sri Lanka's President



SENIOR IPS OFFICER AMRIT MOHAN APPOINTED SSB CHIEF -

- **Senior Indian Police Service (IPS) officer from Odisha cadre, Amrit Mohan** was appointed as the Director General of Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB).
- **Amrit Mohan** an IPS officer from Odisha cadre. Currently, working as Special Director General of Central Reserve Protection Force (CRPF).
- The **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved Mr Prasad's appointment to the post of Director General, SSB** for a tenure up to the date of his superannuation on August 31, 2025.
- Earlier, **Dalit Singh Choudhary** an IPS officer was the Director General of SSB.
- A SSB Officer or **Sashastra Seema Bal Officer is responsible for guarding India's borders with Nepal**



and Bhutan. Originally set up in 1963, the Sashastra Seema Bal mainly deals with preventing cross-border crime and smuggling as well as other anti-national activities within the confines of the country and its territories.

ATISHI MARLENA SET TO BE NEW CM OF DELHI -

- **43 year old, Atishi Marlena** from Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) will be the new **Chief Minister of state Delhi.** She will replace the AAP supremo and party chief Arvind Kejriwal. Decision was taken in the meeting of member of legislative assembly.
- Born to Delhi University professors **Vijay Singh** and **Tripta Wahi** on June 8, 1981, Atishi Marlena is a Delhi resident, completing her primary education from Springdales School in New Delhi and earned a Bachelor's degree in History from St. Stephen's College.
- **Later, she completed her Master's in the same field from Oxford University and a second master's in 2005, from Oxford's Magdalen College as a Rhodes Scholar.** Later joined AAP.



LEFT-LEANING LEADER WINS SRI LANKA ELECTION IN POLITICAL PARADIGM SHIFT -

- **Anura Kumara Dissanayake** has emerged as Sri Lanka's newly elected president, securing 42% of the vote in the country's first election since the 2022 economic collapse.
- The 55-year-old leader of the National People's Power (NPP) coalition defeated his main rival, opposition leader Sajith Premadasa, who garnered 23% of the vote.
- While outgoing President **Ranil Wickremesinghe** trailed in third.



- The election witnessed a high voter turnout, with 76% of Sri Lanka's 17.1 million electorate participating in what is seen as a crucial vote for the country's future.
- Sri Lankan PM Dinesh Gunawardena resigns after Anura Dissanayake wins Presidential Poll
- Sri Lankan Prime Minister Dinesh Gunawardena resigned from his post on Monday as part of a power transition in the country following the presidential election won by Anura Kumara Dissanayake.
- The resignation came ahead of the swearing-in ceremony of Dissanayake.
- **Gunawardena, 75, was prime minister since July 2022.**
- Born in Galewela, a small village in Central Province, on November 24, 1968.
- Dissanayake moved to Kekirawa at the age of four, where his upbringing would lay the groundwork for his future political consciousness.

AIR MARSHAL TEJINDER SINGH TAKES OVER AS DEPUTY CHIEF OF THE AIR STAFF -

- Air Marshal Tejinder Singh assumed the role of Deputy Chief of the Air Staff (DCAS) of the Indian Air Force at Air Headquarters (Vayu Bhawan). He began his tenure by paying tribute to the fallen heroes at the National War Memorial in New Delhi.
- An alumnus of the National Defence Academy, Air Marshal Tejinder Singh was commissioned into the fighter stream of the IAF on 13 June 1987.
- With over 4,500 flying hours, he is a Category 'A' Qualified Flying Instructor and has furthered his military education at the Defence Service Staff College and National Defence College.



T.V. SOMANATHAN APPOINTED AS NEW CABINET SECRETARY -

- Senior IAS Officer T.V. Somanathan has been appointed as the new Cabinet Secretary of

India, succeeding Rajiv Gauba, whose term ends this month. Somanathan will begin his two-year tenure on August 30, 2024.



He will also serve as Officer on Special Duty (OSD) in the Cabinet Secretariat until he formally assumes the role of Cabinet Secretary.

- **Previous Positions:** Somanathan, a 1987-batch IAS officer of the Tamil Nadu cadre, has held several prominent positions, including Finance Secretary since April 2021, and Expenditure Secretary since December 2019. He has also served in the Prime Minister's Office and various roles in his cadre state and abroad.

WHO IS MUHAMMAD YUNUS, CHIEF ADVISER TO BANGLADESH INTERIM GOVERNMENT -

- Muhammad Yunus, who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2006, has been appointed as the chief adviser to Bangladesh's interim government. This happened after Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina resigned due to growing protests. The announcement was made by Army Chief Waker-uz-Zaman and is related to widespread unrest over government job quotas.
- Yunus was born in 1940 in Chittagong. He is a respected economist with a PhD from Vanderbilt University. After Bangladesh gained independence, he returned and became the head of the economics department at Chittagong University. Yunus is famous for creating the concept of microcredit, which involves giving small, collateral-free loans to poor entrepreneurs who don't have access to traditional banking.



PROGRAMMES, SCHEMES AND INITIATIVES

AYUSHMAN BHARAT EXPANDS COVERAGE FOR ELDERLY INDIANS OVER 70 -

- The Union Cabinet has approved a major expansion of the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY). This expansion now includes all Indians aged 70 and older, regardless of their income. Registration for this extended health coverage is expected to start soon, with the formal launch by the Prime Minister to follow.
- The Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY), launched in 2018, is a cashless health insurance scheme. It provides ₹5 lakh per family per year for healthcare. It covers hospital treatments for over 10 crore families, which equals about 50 crore (500 million) people. The scheme also ensures that even pre-existing conditions are covered, and it's available without the need to pay a premium. Beneficiaries are identified using data from the 2011 census, targeting families in need.
- Anyone who is 70 years or older can sign up for the scheme. Registration can be done through the Ayushman Bharat app or at designated Ayushman Bharat counters located at government health facilities. Aadhaar (a unique ID card in India) will be used to verify eligibility during registration.



CABINET APPROVES EXTENSION OF PM-AASHA SCHEMES FOR FARMERS -

- The Union Cabinet has approved the continuation of the PM-AASHA schemes to ensure fair pricing for farmers and manage price volatility of essential commodities.
- PM-AASHA (Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan) aims to provide remunerative prices to farmers, ensuring they receive a guaranteed Minimum Support Price (MSP) for their produce.

• Price Deficit Payment Scheme

(PDPS): Compensates farmers when market prices fall below the MSP. The central government covers the difference, limited to 15% of MSP.



• Price Support Scheme

(PSS): Provides market intervention to purchase crops directly at MSP.

• Price Stabilisation Fund (PSF):

Aims to stabilize prices of essential commodities.

• Market Intervention Scheme (MIS):

Focuses on managing price volatility through strategic purchases.

GOVERNMENT ALLOCATES ₹31,000 CRORE FOR MYANMAR BORDER FENCING

- The Union government has approved ₹31,000 crore to fence the 1,643-km Myanmar border.
- Myanmar border runs along the States of Arunachal Pradesh (520 km), Nagaland (215 km), Manipur (398 km) and Mizoram (510 km).
- The Home Ministry scrapped the Free Movement Regime along the Myanmar border earlier this year.
- About 10 km of fencing has already been completed near Moreh and 21 km is under work.



PM MODI LAUNCHES NAMO BHARAT RAPID RAIL AND NEW VANDE BHARAT TRAINS -

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated India's first Namo Bharat Rapid Rail on September 16, 2024, which will operate between Ahmedabad and Bhuj. Known as the Vande Metro, this new train covers a 360-kilometre distance in 5



hours and 45 minutes, making stops at nine stations along the route.

- Alongside, Modi also flagged off several Vande Bharat Express trains on new routes, including Nagpur-Secunderabad, Kolhapur-Pune, and Pune-Hubballi, and introduced a 20-coach Vande Bharat train from Varanasi to Delhi.
- **The Namo Bharat Rapid Rail, previously known as the Bhuj-Ahmedabad Vande Metro, will start its service with departures from Bhuj at 05:05 am and arrive at Ahmedabad Junction at 10:50 am.** It will travel at a top speed of 110 km/h and stop at nine stations along the way.
- **Train No. 20673 (Kolhapur to Pune)**- Begins September 19, 2024, tri-weekly on Thursdays, Saturdays, and Mondays. Departure: 08:15 hrs; Arrival: 13:30 hrs.
- **Train No. 20674 (Pune to Kolhapur)**- Starts September 18, 2024, tri-weekly on Wednesdays, Fridays, and Sundays. Departure: 14:15 hrs; Arrival: 19:40 hrs.

INDIA AND UAE SIGN LANDMARK CIVIL NUCLEAR ENERGY AGREEMENT -

- **India and the UAE have signed a significant Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for civil nuclear cooperation during Sheikh Khalid bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan's visit to New Delhi.**
- The deal, involving the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) and the Emirates Nuclear Energy Company (ENEC), marks a historic step in bilateral relations and reflects a commitment to peaceful nuclear energy utilization.
- This is the first MoU of its kind between NPCIL and ENEC, aimed at enhancing cooperation in nuclear power plant operations, maintenance, and investment opportunities. It also covers knowledge sharing and expertise in nuclear energy development.
- The agreement builds on a 2015 understanding between India and the UAE to cooperate on the peaceful use of nuclear energy, including safety and technological advancements.



MAKE IN INDIA 10TH ANNIVERSARY: A DECADE OF TRANSFORMATION AND GROWTH -

- As the 'Make in India' initiative celebrates its 10-year anniversary, **Prime Minister Narendra Modi took to LinkedIn to share his thoughts on the campaign's achievements and its lasting impact on the nation's economy.**
- In his heartfelt post, Modi praised the tireless efforts of Indians across various sectors who have played a crucial role in transforming the initiative into a "roaring success" and elevating it to a global movement that showcases India as a hub of manufacturing and innovation.
- Modi's reflection on the Make in India campaign highlights how a simple yet powerful idea has evolved into a transformative force for the nation's industrial landscape. **The initiative, launched in 2014, aimed to boost domestic manufacturing, attract foreign investment, and position India as a key player in the global supply chain.**
- A decade later, the results speak volumes about the success of this ambitious undertaking.

ESHRAM PORTAL REGISTERS 30 CRORE UNORGANISED WORKERS -

- **The Ministry of Labour & Employment (MoLE) recently highlighted the success of the eShram portal, which has registered over 30 crore unorganised workers since it was launched three years ago.** This is a big achievement, as it shows progress in creating a digital system to support unorganised workers in India.
- **The eShram portal is meant to be a "One-Stop-Solution" for unorganised workers.** This means it helps them access various social security schemes all in one place, making it easier for them to get the benefits they are entitled to.



- In the 2024-25 Budget speech, the government announced plans to further improve the eShram portal by linking it with other online platforms. This will make the portal even more useful as a central resource for unorganised workers.

PRIME MINISTER MODI RELEASES COMMEMORATIVE STAMP FOR 75 YEARS OF SUPREME COURT -

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled a commemorative postage stamp celebrating 75 years of the Supreme Court of India during the inaugural session of the District Judges Conference at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi.
- The event was attended by Supreme Court Chief Justice Dr. D.Y. Chandrachud, Minister of Law & Justice Arjun Ram Meghwal, and other dignitaries.
- **The stamp honors the Supreme Court's pivotal role in India's judicial system, established on January 28, 1950.** It symbolizes the Court's contributions to upholding the rule of law, safeguarding citizens' rights, and ensuring justice across the nation.
- Issued by the Department of Posts under the Ministry of Communications, the stamp commemorates the Supreme Court's enduring legacy and marks a significant milestone in India's judicial history, reflecting its seven and a half decades of commitment to justice and legal integrity.



CENTRE APPROVES ₹2,817 CRORE DIGITAL AGRICULTURE MISSION -

- The Indian government has recently given the green light to the Digital Agriculture Mission, dedicating ₹2,817 crore to improve farming practices and boost the livelihoods of farmers.
- This decision was made during a cabinet meeting, showing the government's strong commitment to modernizing agriculture using digital technology.



- **The Digital Agriculture Mission is a new initiative aimed at creating a digital framework for agriculture, similar to other successful digital infrastructures in the country.**
- The goal is to use technology to make farming more efficient and productive. This mission builds on previous pilot projects that have shown promising results, and it is expected to bring significant improvements to farming in India.

NHPC, SECI, RAILTEL, AND SJVN GAIN NAVRATNA STATUS -

- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman granted 'Navratna' status to four Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs): NHPC, Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI), Railtel Corporation of India (RCIL), and Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam (SJVN). This brings the total number of Navratna CPSEs in India to 25. The Navratna status provides these entities with increased financial and operational autonomy.
- **Railtel Corporation-** The 22nd Navratna, with a turnover of ₹2,622 crore and a net profit of ₹246 crore for FY24.
- **Solar Energy Corporation-** The 23rd Navratna, reporting an annual turnover of ₹13,035 crore and a net profit of ₹436 crore for FY24.
- **NHPC-** The 24th Navratna, with an annual turnover of ₹8,405 crore and a net profit of ₹3,744 crore for FY24.
- **SJVN-** The 25th Navratna, posting an annual turnover of ₹2,833 crore and a net profit of ₹908 crore for FY24.

PM MODI DISTRIBUTES CERTIFICATES TO 11 LAKH NEW 'LAKHPATI DIDIS' -

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi distributed certificates to 11 lakh new Lakhpati Didis in a function organised at Jalgaon in Maharashtra. The Prime Minister also felicitated Lakhpati Didis and discussed with them about their businesses.
- These Lakhpati didis whose number is more than one crore in the country, are earning more than one lakh rupees per year. 11 lakh new Lakhpati Didis, recently became Lakhpati during the third term of the NDA Government.

- Release of revolving fund Community Investment Fund of 2,500 crore
- During the program, Prime Minister released a revolving fund – Community Investment Fund of 2,500 crore rupees, expected to benefit about 48 lakh members of 4.3 lakh Self Help Groups (SHGs).
- The Prime Minister also released a bank loan of 5,000 crore rupees, which will benefit 25.8 lakh members of two lakh 35 thousand 400 SHGs.

RECENTLY, TYPHOON YAGI HAS CAUSED SEVERE DAMAGE ACROSS SOUTHEAST ASIA, AFFECTING THE PHILIPPINES, CHINA, LAOS, MYANMAR, THAILAND AND PARTICULARLY VIETNAM -

- It is the strongest tropical cyclone Asia has encountered till September 2024 and the second most powerful globally after Hurricane Beryl (Atlantic Ocean).
- It originated as a tropical storm (wind speed upto 63 kmph) in the western Philippine Sea but became Category 5 typhoon with winds of 260 kmph.
- The Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale categorizes tropical cyclones from Category 1 (119-153 kmph) to Category 5 (252 kmph or higher). Storms reaching Category 3 and higher are considered major tropical cyclones due to their potential for significant damage.”
- Storm systems with winds of 119 kmph and above are classified as hurricanes, typhoons, or tropical cyclones.”
- India launched Operation “Sadbhav” to provide aid and urgent supplies to Vietnam, Laos, and Myanmar. Operation Sadbhav is part of India’s broader effort to contribute to Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) within the ASEAN region,



BLUE REVOLUTION: 4 YEARS OF PRADHAN MANTRI MATSYA SAMPADAYOJANA -

- The Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY), launched in 2020, is a comprehensive

initiative aimed at transforming India’s fisheries sector and enhancing the welfare of fishermen.

- This scheme, under the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, addresses critical issues in fish production, productivity, quality, technology, and infrastructure while strengthening the fisheries value chain.
- With an investment of Rs. 20,050 crore over five years (2020-21 to 2024-25), PMMSY targets inland fisheries and aquaculture, ensuring robust food security and supporting fisheries micro and small enterprises through its Central Sector Sub-scheme, Pradhan Mantri Matsya Kisan Samridhi Sah-Yojana (PM-MKSSY), which has a budget of over Rs. 6,000 crore.
- On its 4th anniversary in September 2024, the Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Shri Rajeev Ranjan Singh, introduced several initiatives.



CABINET APPROVES PM E-DRIVE SCHEME FOR ELECTRIC VEHICLE REVOLUTION -

- The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the PM Electric Drive Revolution in Innovative Vehicle Enhancement (PM E-DRIVE) Scheme to promote electric mobility in India.
- The scheme, with an outlay of Rs 10,900 crore over two years, aims to expedite EV adoption, improve air quality, and reduce the environmental impact of transportation.
- **Subsidies and Incentives:** Rs. 3,679 crore allocated for subsidies to incentivize e-2Ws, e-3Ws, e-ambulances, e-trucks, and e-buses, supporting over 28 lakh electric vehicles.
- **E-Voucher System:** Aadhaar-authenticated e-vouchers will be generated for buyers, which will be signed and submitted to dealers, enabling OEMs to claim reimbursements.



- **E-Ambulances:** Rs. 500 crore dedicated to the introduction of e-ambulances, ensuring safer, more comfortable patient transport with new safety standards.
- **E-Bus Procurement:** Rs. 4,391 crore has been allocated to procure 14,028 e-buses for nine cities with populations exceeding 4 million and for intercity routes, promoting cleaner mass mobility.

OPERATION SADBHAVANA, INDIA'S HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE TO TYPHOON YAGI -

- **Typhoon Yagi** recently struck Southeast Asia, the government of India has launched **Operation Sadbhavana**, a humanitarian initiative aimed at providing crucial assistance to affected countries.
- This operation exemplifies India's commitment to its Act East Policy and its role as a first responder in providing Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) to nations in need.

As part of Operation Sadbhavana, the Indian government has announced a substantial aid package for Vietnam-

- **Amount:** USD 1 million in humanitarian assistance
- **Aid contents:** 35 tons of relief supplies, including:
 - Water purification items
 - Water containers
 - Blankets
 - Kitchen utensils
 - Solar lanterns
 - Other essential items

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

- On September 6, 2024, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath inaugurated the **Jatayu Conservation and Breeding Centre** in **Bharivaisi, Campierganj Range of the Gorakhpur Forest Division**.



- This groundbreaking facility marks a significant milestone in wildlife conservation as the world's first dedicated conservation and breeding center for the Asian King Vulture, also known as the red-headed vulture.
- **The center is a result of collaboration between the Uttar Pradesh Forest Department and the renowned Bombay Natural History Society.** Located in Maharajganj, the facility is strategically positioned within the Gorakhpur forest division, an area known for its diverse ecosystem.

NEPAL BECAME 101ST MEMBER OF ISA -

- Nepal has become the 101st country to join the International Solar Alliance (ISA) as a full member. **The Ministry of External Affairs said that Nepal handed over its Instrument of Ratification to the ISA in New Delhi on 9th September.**
- The ISA is a global intergovernmental organization dedicated to advancing solar power adoption for a carbon-neutral future.
- The ISA is a collaborative initiative between India and France aimed at uniting efforts to combat climate change by implementing solar energy solutions. **It was conceptualized on the side lines of COP21 in Paris in 2015.**
- Following a 2020 amendment to its Framework Agreement, all UN member states are now eligible to join the Alliance.



KAZIRANGA SEES 86% DROP IN RHINO POACHING SINCE 2016 -

- **Kaziranga National Park** in Assam has achieved an **86% decrease in rhino poaching since 2016**, highlighted by Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on World Rhino Day.



- From 2000 to 2021, poachers killed 190 rhinos in Assam, primarily for their horns, which are highly valued in traditional medicine and as status symbols.

GLOBAL BIO-INDIA 2024 SUCCESSFULLY CONCLUDES AT NEW DELHI. -

- **The fourth edition of Global Bio-India 2024 successfully concluded in New Delhi**, organized by the Department of Biotechnology and BIRAC from September 12-14, 2024.
- **The event highlighted India's potential in 'Biotech Innovation' and 'Bio-manufacturing,'** featuring the unveiling of 11 new products by Indian biotech startups.
- Dr. Jitendra Singh inaugurated the event

INDIA BECOMES WORLD'S TOP PLASTIC POLLUTER, STUDY FINDS -

- **India has become the largest plastic polluter in the world, producing 9.3 million tonnes of plastic waste every year.** This amount makes up about 20% of the total global plastic emissions, showing how serious the problem is for both India and the world.
- A recent study published in Nature suggests that India's official data on plastic waste is likely too low. **The current estimate of 0.12 kilograms of plastic waste per person per day doesn't fully capture the real situation.**
- This is because the data does not account for plastic waste in rural areas or the informal recycling sector. Also, the amount of waste collected is probably overestimated, making it harder to understand the true scale of the problem.
- **India tops the list of global plastic polluters, followed by Nigeria and Indonesia, which emit 3.5 million tonnes and 3.4 million tonnes of plastic waste, respectively.** China, which was once the leading plastic polluter, has improved its waste management systems and is now ranked fourth.

SUPER TYPHOON YAGI HITS SOUTHEAST ASIA -

- **Super Typhoon Yagi, the most powerful storm to hit Asia in over a decade, has caused significant**

disruption across Southeast Asia. After devastating the northern Philippines, the typhoon made landfall in southern China's Hainan province, leading to mass evacuations and widespread damage. Yagi is expected to continue its path towards Vietnam and Laos, impacting northern regions with severe weather conditions.

- **On Friday, Super Typhoon Yagi struck Hainan Island and Guangdong province in southern China, with winds exceeding 230 km/h (143 mph).** The storm has been described as equivalent to a Category 4 hurricane, and authorities in Hainan evacuated over 400,000 residents prior to its arrival.
- The typhoon caused significant disruptions in Hong Kong, including the suspension of trading and school closures. Damage reports indicate at least five injuries, though overall damage in Hong Kong was relatively limited.

628 TIGERS DIE IN INDIA DURING THE PAST FIVE YEARS -

- **A total of 628 tigers died in India during the past five years due to natural causes and other reasons, including poaching, according to government data.** Meanwhile, 349 people were killed in tiger attacks during this period, with Maharashtra alone recording 200 deaths.
- **According to the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), 96 tigers died in 2019, 106 in 2020, 127 in 2021, 121 in 2022, and 178 in 2023.** The number of tiger deaths in 2023 is also the highest since 2012, the data revealed. Responding to a question in the Rajya Sabha, Union Minister of State for Environment Kirti Vardhan Singh said on July 25 that 49 people each were killed in tiger attacks in 2019 and 2020, 59 in 2021, 110 in 2022, and 82 in 2023.
- Uttar Pradesh recorded 59 human deaths in tiger attacks while Madhya Pradesh reported 27. The number of tigers in India stood at 3,682, around 75% of the global wild tiger population, in 2022, according to the latest government data. Maharashtra alone recording 200 deaths.



REPORTS & INDICES

23RD LAW COMMISSION OF INDIA -

- **President Droupadi Murmu has approved the creation of the 23rd Law Commission of India.**

This new commission will be active from September 1, 2024, to August 31, 2027.



- The decision comes as the 22nd Law Commission's term ends, and there were delays in pending reports due to the lack of a chairperson.

The 23rd Law Commission will consist of the following members:

- **Chairperson:** A full-time leader who will head the commission.
- **Full-Time Members:** Four full-time members, including a Member-Secretary.
- **Ex-Officio Members:** Two members who are Secretaries of the Legal and Legislative Departments.
- **Part-Time Members:** Up to five part-time members.
- **The main purpose of the Law Commission is to review the Indian legal system and suggest improvements.** They focus on making laws more effective and relevant to current needs.

NATIONAL GLACIAL LAKE OUTBURST FLOODS RISK MITIGATION PROGRAMME

- The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has taken up expeditions to glaciers at an altitude of 4500m and above to map their vulnerability to Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF).
- Of the nearly 7,500 glacial lakes in the Indian Himalayas, NDMA has finalised 189 high-risk lakes that require mitigation measures.

National Glacial Lake Outburst Floods Risk Mitigation Programme (NGRMP)-

- It is an initiative launched by the Government of India to address the risks posed by GLOFs. 16 teams went out for

expedition out of which 15 teams completed their expedition. Another seven expeditions are underway.

- **Of the 15 expeditions completed, 6 were in Sikkim, 6 in Ladakh, 1 in Himachal Pradesh, and 2 in Jammu and Kashmir.**
- Teams on expeditions assess the structural stability and potential breach points of glacial lakes, gathering relevant hydrological and geological samples and data, measuring water quality and flow rates, identifying risk zones and making downstream communities aware.

NATIONAL INSTITUTIONAL RANKING FRAMEWORK (NIRF): 2024 -

- Union Minister for Education Shri Dharmendra Pradhan on August 12, released the India Rankings 2024, which implements the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF).
- **The National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) was officially introduced by the Ministry of Resource Development (HRD) on September 29, 2015, with the Minister of HRD formally launching initiative.** The NIRF ranking event will be held at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi. The Minister of State Education Sukanto Majumdar shall also be present at this event.

SUPREME COURT CONSTITUTES NATIONAL TASK FORCE FOR HEALTHCARE WORKERS SAFETY -

- The Supreme Court on Tuesday formed a 10-member National Task Force to make a blueprint for the safety and facility of healthcare workers at their workplace.



Members

- The newly established NTF comprises a distinguished panel of medical experts from various specialisations, including:

- Surgeon Vice-Admiral Aarti Sarin
- Dr D Nageshwar Reddy
- Dr M Shreenivas
- Dr Pratima Murty
- Dr Goverdhan Dutt Puri
- Dr Saumitra Rawat
- Anita Saxena
- Pallavi Sapre, Dean
- Dr Padma Srivastava

In addition to the core members, the NTF will also include ex officio members such as:

- the Cabinet Secretary to the Government of India,
- the Home Secretary,
- the Secretary of the Union Health Ministry,
- the Chairperson of the National Medical Commission, and
- the President of the National Board of Examiners.

INDIA RANKED 2ND LARGEST ALUMINIUM PRODUCER IN THE WORLD -

- India has solidified its position as a global leader in mineral production, with impressive rankings across several key minerals. The country stands as the 2nd largest Aluminium producer, the 3rd largest lime producer, and the 4th largest iron ore producer in the world.
- These rankings underscore India's significant contribution to the global mineral industry and highlight its growing importance in the sector.
- **The fiscal year 2023-24 witnessed unprecedented levels of mineral production in India, setting a strong foundation for continued growth.**
- Two key minerals, iron ore and limestone, emerged as the backbone of India's mineral sector, collectively accounting for an impressive 80% of the total MCDR mineral production by value. The production figures for these crucial minerals in FY 2023-24 were as follows:
- **Iron Ore:** 275 million metric tons (MMT)
- **Limestone:** 450 million metric tons (MMT)



- These figures not only represent a significant achievement for India's mineral sector but also indicate the robust demand from various industries that rely on these raw materials.

INDIA RANKED 39TH IN THE TRAVEL AND TOURISM DEVELOPMENT INDEX 2024 -

- **The World Economic Forum (WEF) recently released its Travel and Tourism Development Index (TTDI) for 2024**, offering a comprehensive evaluation of India's standing in the global tourism landscape.
- This index is a crucial benchmark for assessing the competitiveness and sustainability of tourism sectors worldwide.
- This table presents the top 10 countries ranked according to their scores, along with their change in rank, percentage change, and percentage difference from the leader (United States).

INDIA SELECTS CREW FOR AXIOM-4 MISSION TO ISS -

- India has announced the selection of two astronauts, **Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla** and **Group Captain Prasanth Balakrishnan Nair**, for the upcoming Axiom-4 mission to the International Space Station (ISS). This mission represents a significant step in strengthening human spaceflight cooperation between ISRO and NASA, as well as advancing India's own human space program.
- **Primary and Backup Pilots:** Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla will serve as the primary mission pilot, while Group Captain Prasanth Balakrishnan Nair will act as the backup mission pilot.
- **Training:** Both astronauts will undergo training in the United States starting the first week of August.
- **Role:** During the Axiom-4 mission, they will perform scientific research, technology demonstration experiments, and participate in space outreach activities.



DEFENCE

DRDO SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETES FIRST PHASE TRIALS OF LIGHT TANK 'ZORAWAR' -

- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully conducted the preliminary automotive trials of the Indian Light Tank, Zorawar, on September 13, 2024. The versatile platform, developed for high-altitude deployment, demonstrated exceptional performance in desert terrain, meeting all objectives.
- The firing performance in this phase achieved the required accuracy on designated targets, showcasing its combat readiness.
- Zorawar was developed by DRDO's Combat Vehicles Research & Development Establishment (CVRDE) in collaboration with Larsen & Toubro Ltd. Contributions from numerous Indian industries, including MSMEs, highlight India's growing indigenous defence manufacturing capabilities.



LOCKHEED MARTIN AND TATA SYSTEMS PARTNER FOR C-130J EXPANSION IN INDIA -

- On September 10, 2024, Lockheed Martin and Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL) announced a significant collaboration to enhance the C-130J Super Hercules program in India.
- This partnership aims to establish a Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul (MRO) facility in India to support both the Indian Air Force's (IAF) fleet of 12 C-130Js and global C-130J fleets.
- Additionally, the agreement includes plans to expand C-130J manufacturing and assembly in India, potentially for



the IAF's Medium Transport Aircraft (MTA) program, pending necessary government approvals.

INDIA-USA JOINT MILITARY EXERCISE YUDH ABHYAS-2024 -

- The 20th edition of the India-USA Joint Military Exercise, YUDH ABHYAS-2024, commenced on September 9, 2024, at the Foreign Training Node in Mahajan Field Firing Ranges, Rajasthan.
- This annual exercise, alternating between India and the USA since 2004, is set to run until September 22, 2024, showcasing a remarkable increase in scale and sophistication compared to previous iterations.
- YUDH ABHYAS has been a cornerstone of India-USA military cooperation for two decades. Its consistent annual occurrence since 2004 underscores the enduring commitment of both nations to strengthen their defense partnership.
- The alternating locations between India and the USA have allowed for diverse training environments and cultural exchanges, enhancing the mutual understanding between the armed forces of both countries.



THE AGNI-4 MISSILE WAS SUCCESSFULLY LAUNCHED FROM THE INTEGRATED TEST RANGE IN CHANDIPUR, ODISHA -

- The launch successfully validated all operational and technical parameters. It was conducted under the aegis of the Strategic Forces Command (SFC).
- Agni-4 is fourth in the Agni series of medium to intercontinental-range ballistic missiles developed by the DRDO.



- The name comes from the Sanskrit word 'Agni', which means 'fire' and represents one of the five elements of nature.
- **Agni-4 It is an intermediate range ballistic and surface-to-surface missile, designed to be launched from the ground or sea to hit targets on the ground or sea.**
- The Agni-4 missile has a range of 4,000 kilometres, a length of 20 metres, and can carry a payload of 1,000 kg.

INDIA OVERTAKES JAPAN AS ASIA'S THIRD MOST POWERFUL NATION -

- **India has overtaken Japan to become the third most powerful nation in Asia, as per the 2024 edition of Asia Power Index (API).** According to it, India now stands third on the index after the US and China.
- This shift in rankings marks India's increasing influence across the continent, solidifying its position as a major global player with ambitions of becoming a superpower.
- **Australia's Lowy Institute in 2018, the Asia Power Index is an annual measure of power dynamics in the Asia-Pacific region.**
- It evaluates 27 countries across the Asia-Pacific.



Parameters

- Military capability,
- Defense networks,
- Economic capability and relationships
- Diplomatic and cultural influence
- Resilience
- Future resources

SUCCESSFUL LAUNCH OF AGNI-4 BALLISTIC MISSILE -

- **A successful test launch of the Agni-4 Intermediate Range Ballistic Missile (IRBM) was carried out from the Integrated Test Range in Chandipur, Odisha, on September 6, 2024.**

- The missile, developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), validated all operational and technical parameters during the test.
- **This test was conducted under the Strategic Forces Command, part of India's Nuclear Command Authority (NCA).** Agni-4, measuring 20 meters in length, is capable of hitting targets as far as 4,000 km with a payload capacity of 1,000 kg, and can be launched from a road-mobile launcher.
- The missile, initially known as Agni-2 Prime, successfully covered over 3,000 km in its 2012 test launch.



INDIA-FRANCE BILATERAL NAVAL EXERCISE VARUNA -

- **The 21st edition of Varuna (Varuna-23) naval exercise between the Indian and French Navies was held in two phases in 2023. India-France Bilateral Naval Exercise Varuna is a key strategic exercise, initiated in 1993 and named 'Varuna' in 2001.**
- Phase II took place in the Arabian Sea and involved joint operations using guided missile frigates, tankers, Maritime Patrol Aircraft, and helicopters. **The exercise aimed to enhance warfighting skills, improve interoperability, and promote security in the region. The first phase occurred from January 16-20, 2023, off India's Western Seaboard.**
- Initiated in 1993, the India-France naval exercise was named 'Varuna' in 2001. It has since grown in scope, representing the strong strategic bilateral ties between the two nations. Varuna enables operational-level interaction, fostering cooperation for peace and stability in maritime zones.



INDIA COMMISSIONS SECOND NUCLEAR SUBMARINE, INS ARIGHAAT -

- **India recently commissioned its second nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine (SSBN) called INS Arighaat.** This event took place in Visakhapatnam and was a significant step in strengthening India's defense capabilities.
- **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh mentioned that this move is crucial for boosting India's nuclear triad, which is a three-part system that includes land-based missiles, aircraft, and submarines capable of launching nuclear weapons.** This makes India more secure against potential threats.
- The SSBN programme is an important part of India's defense strategy. SSBNs are submarines that can carry and launch ballistic missiles. **INS Arighaat is the second submarine in this program, following INS Arihant, which was commissioned in 2016.**
- The goal of this program is to give India a reliable second-strike capability. This means that even if an enemy attacks first, India can still respond with a powerful counterattack using these submarines.

INDIAN ARMY CONDUCTS 'PARVAT PRAHAAR' EXERCISE IN LADAKH -

- **The Indian Army has conducted a strategic military exercise, 'Parvat Prahaar', in Ladakh, focusing on high-altitude warfare and operations.** This exercise is crucial for maintaining the readiness and effectiveness of the Army in the region, which is close to the India-China border.
- **The 'Parvat Prahaar' (Mountain Strike) exercise emphasizes mountainous and rugged terrains, such as those found in regions like Eastern Ladakh.** The exercise, which continues for over a fortnight, involves

simulating real-world combat scenarios to train soldiers in the unique challenges posed by such terrains.

- **Various arms of the Army, including infantry, armoured, artillery, and support units, are participating in this drill.** Different kinds of tanks, artillery guns including K-9 Vajra, air-defense systems, UAVs, and other aviation assets of the Army are showcasing their operability and war preparedness.

'TARANG SHAKTI 2024', FIRST MULTINATIONAL AIR EXERCISE -

- India will host its first multinational air exercise, 'Tarang Shakti 2024', in two phases starting on the 6th of next month in Sular, Tamil Nadu. In this exercise, nearly 30 countries will participate, and out of 30, ten countries will join the exercise with their fighter aircraft. The exercise will showcase India's defence prowess and provide a platform for participating militaries to foster interoperability.
- **Invitations have been extended to 51 countries. Ten countries will be participating with assets and 18 as observers with one more country likely to join,"** Air Marshal Singh said while briefing the media.
- Indian Air Force's LCA Tejas, Mirage 2000, and Rafale to take part in the mega exercise, they added. Air Marshal A P Singh, Vice Chief of the Air Staff (VCAS), told that this exercise will also showcase India's defence prowess and move towards 'Atmanirbharta' in defence.

Foreign aircraft in the 'Tarang Shakti' exercise

- Rafale from France
- Typhoon from Germany
- F-18 from Australia
- F-16 from Greece
- C-130J from Bangladesh

SPORTS

PARIS PARALYMPICS 2024 -

- India concluded its most successful Paralympic campaign ever at the 2024 Paris Paralympics, securing an unprecedented 29 medals.



This impressive tally included-

- 7 gold medals
- 9 silver medals
- 13 bronze medals
- **This remarkable achievement not only surpassed India's previous best performance at the Tokyo 2020 Paralympics (where they won 19 medals) but also propelled the country past the significant milestone of 50 total medals in Paralympic Games history.**

HARVINDER SINGH AND PREETI PAL NAMED FLAG BEARERS FOR PARALYMPICS CLOSING CEREMONY -

- In a momentous occasion for Indian sports, gold medal-winning archer Harvinder Singh and sprinter Preeti Pal have been chosen to carry the Indian flag during the closing ceremony of the Paris Paralympics. This selection not only honors their outstanding achievements but also symbolizes the growing prominence of Indian para-athletes on the global stage.
- **Harvinder Singh, at 33 years old, has etched his name in the annals of Indian sports history.** His journey to becoming a flag bearer is marked by unprecedented achievements. First Indian archer to win Paralympic gold: Singh's performance at the Paris Games solidified his status as a trailblazer in Indian archery.
- **Preeti Pal's selection as a flag bearer is equally historic, highlighting her remarkable achievements.**



First Indian woman to win two Paralympic medals: Pal's performance in Paris has set a new benchmark for female para-athletes in the country.

INDIAN MEN'S HOCKEY TEAM WON ASIAN CHAMPIONS TROPHY 2024 -

- **India's Men's Hockey Team clinched the 5th Title of Asian Champions Trophy in 2024, by winning a goal from Jugraj Singh, India beat China 1-0 in the final game of the tournament.**
- The Indian men's hockey team defeated China to defend the Asian Champions Trophy title.



Awards winner of Tournament

- **Top Goal Scorer of the Tournament** – Yang Jihun (9 Goals) – Korea
- **Promising Goalkeeper of the Tournament** – Kim Jaehan – Korea
- **Best Goalkeeper of the Tournament** – Wang Caiyu – China
- **Rising Star of the Tournament** – Hanan Shahid – Pakistan
- **Player of the Tournament** – Harmanpreet Singh – India

PREETHI PAL BECOMES FIRST INDIAN WOMAN TO WIN TWO PARALYMPIC MEDALS IN ATHLETICS -

- **At Paris Paralympics 2024, Indian Para Athlete Preethi Pal secured yet another medal for India, clinching a Bronze medal in the Women's 200 meters – T35 Final.**
- **She won the medal with a personal best timing of 30.01 seconds.** With this win, she became the first track and field Indian Woman Para Athlete to win two medals at the Paralympics.

- Preethi qualified for her maiden Paralympic Games by winning a bronze medal in the women's 200m T35 event at the World Para Athletics Championships in Kobe, Japan, earlier this year.
- The Indian para athlete missed out on a medal at the Asian Para Games in China last year and moved her training base to New Delhi.
- The move paid its dividends, as she now holds two Paralympic medals.



SUMIT ANTIL BECOMES FIRST INDIAN MALE ATHLETE TO DEFEND GOLD MEDAL AT PARALYMPICS -

- Sumit Antil won the gold medal in the men's javelin throw F64 class at Paris 2024 on Monday and became the first Indian male para-athlete to defend his title in the Paralympics.
- The 26-year-old Indian para-athlete achieved the feat with a new Paralympic record of 70.59m at the Stade de France.
- Incredibly, Sumit got the better of the previous Paralympic record, set by him to win the gold medal at Tokyo 2020, thrice on Monday.

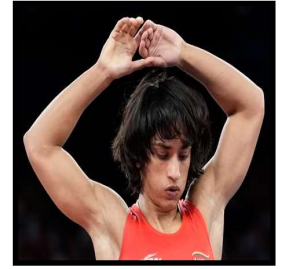


WHY VINESH PHOGAT DISQUALIFIED IN PARIS OLYMPIC 2024 -

- Indian wrestler Vinesh Phogat has been disqualified from the Paris Olympics after failing to meet weight requirement for her 50 kg gold medal. As per the report, Phogat was reportedly over the permissible weight limit by just 100 grams, which may lead to her

disqualification. According to competition rules, she will not be eligible for a silver medal, leaving only gold and bronze winners in the 50 kg category.

- According to competition rules, Phogat will not be eligible even for a silver medal and the 50 kg will have just gold and bronze medal winners.
- As per rule, wrestlers have to stay within their weight category on both days of the competition.

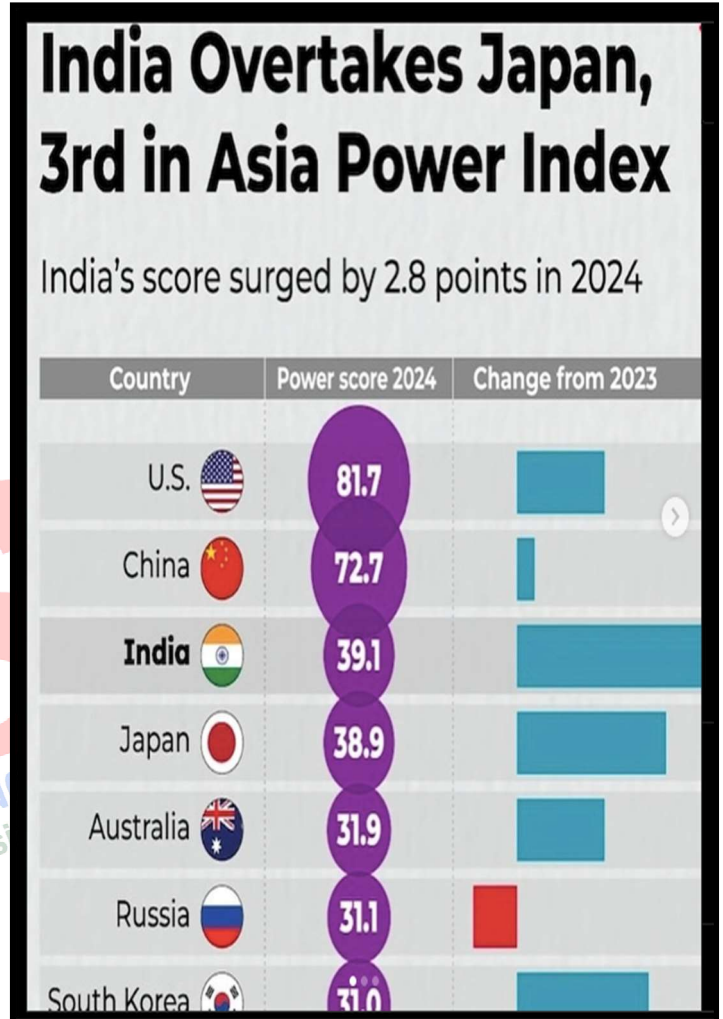
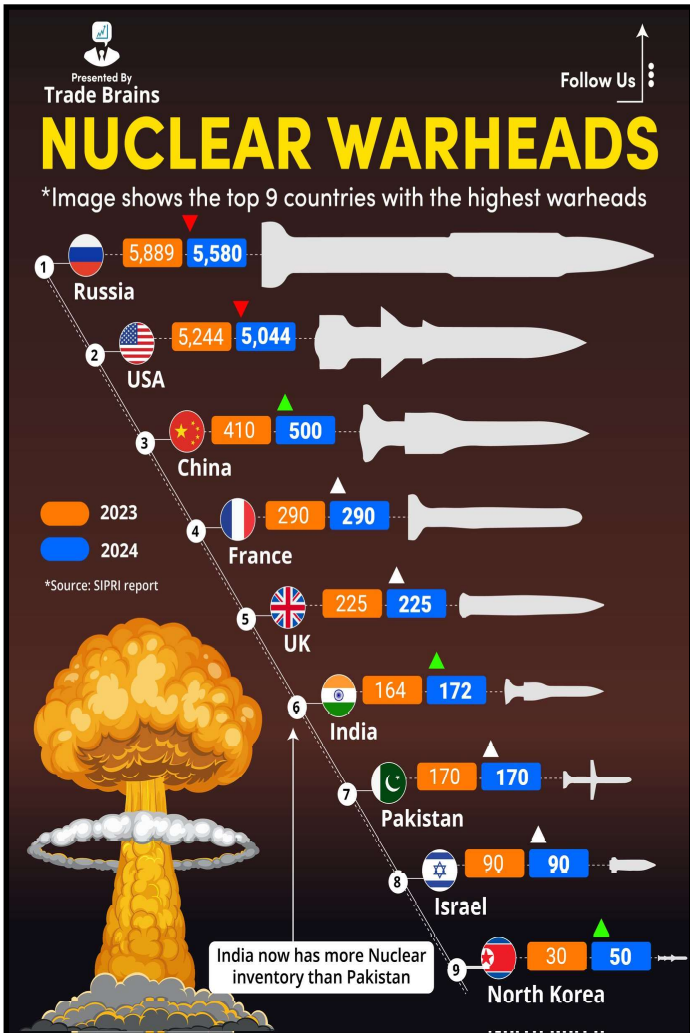


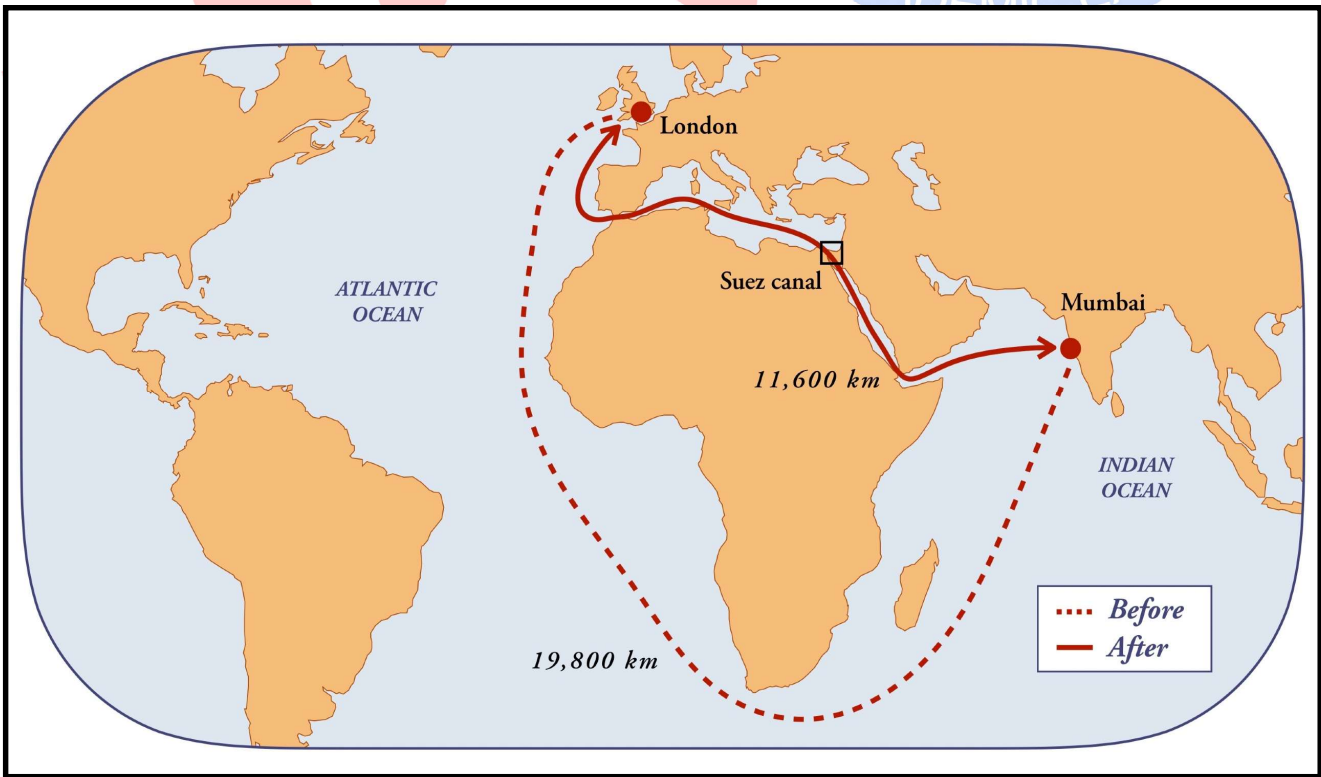
NOAH LYLES WINS U.S. MEN'S 100-METER OLYMPIC GOLD IN 20 YEARS -

- American sprinter Noah Lyles clinched gold in the men's 100-meter sprint at the 2024 Paris Olympics. The race was one of the closest in Olympic history, with Lyles finishing just 0.005 seconds ahead of Jamaica's Kishane Thompson. Lyles' time of 9.784 seconds narrowly beat Thompson's 9.789 seconds. Team USA's Fred Kerley secured bronze with a time of 9.81 seconds.
- Lyles' victory marks the first time an American has won the 100-meter gold since Justin Gatlin in Athens 2004. This race also saw a historic number of seven men finishing under 9.90 seconds, shattering the 10-second barrier.
- Despite a slow start, Lyles surged in the final stretch, overtaking competitors and crossing the finish line in a dramatic photo finish.



MAPS





IMPORTANT MCQ FOR COMPETITIVE EXAMS

- Q1. Port Moresby is the capital of which country ?
a) Solomon Islands b) Papua New Guinea
c) East Timor d) Brunei
- Q2. Where is Kempegowda International Airport situated ?
a) Kochi, Kerala
b) Bangalore, Karnataka
c) Imphal, Manipur
d) Hyderabad, Telangana
- Q3. The headquarter of Organization of the Petroleum Exporting (OPEC) is in which country ?
a) London, United Kingdom b) Rome, Italy
c) Paris, France d) Vienna, Austria
- Q4. Grammy Awards are the annual awards presented for outstanding achievements in the music industry by which country ?
a) United Kingdom b) France
c) United States d) Russia
- Q5. Recently, the world's oldest calendar has been discovered in which country ?
a) Egypt b) Turkey
c) Iran d) Iraq
- Q6. Which institution remained on the top spot in the National Institute Ranking Framework, 2024 ?
a) IIT Madras b) IIT Kanpur
c) IIT Delhi d) IIT Roorkee
- Q7. What is the theme of 'International Youth Day 2024' ?
a) From Clicks to Progress: Youth Digital Pathways for Sustainable Development
b) Green Skills for Youth: Towards a Sustainable World
c) Intergenerational solidarity: Creating a world for all ages
d) Transforming Food Systems: Youth Innovation for Human and Planetary Health
- Q8. DRDO successfully conducts the inaugural flight test of the Long Range Glide Bomb 'GAURAV' from the Su-30 MK-I platform off the Odisha coast. It was designed and developed by the Research Center Imarat (RCI) in which city ?
a) Chennai b) Kolkata
c) Hyderabad d) Bengaluru
- Q9. As on 31 July 2024, how many of total beneficiaries (account-holders) are there under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) ?
a) 42.99 crore b) 52.99 crore
c) 62.99 crore d) 72.99 crore
- Q10. The Government of India has declared August 23rd as "National Space Day" to celebrate the remarkable success of which mission ?
a) Aditya-L1 b) Gaganyaan
c) Parker Solar Probe d) Chandrayaan-3
- Q11. Consider the following points about the recently released NIRF Ranking 2024:
(i) NITI Aayog has released the NIRF Rankings 2024.
(ii) This is the 8th consecutive edition of India Rankings of HEIs in India.
(iii) IIT Madras retains its 1st position in Overall Category for the sixth consecutive year.
(iv) IISc Bengaluru stood first in Research Institutions Category for the fourth consecutive year.
(v) Jamia Hamdard, New Delhi tops the ranking in Pharmacy this year.
How many of the point(s) is/are INCORRECT ?
a) only one b) only two
c) only three d) only four
- Q12. World Organ Donation Day is observed every year on which day ?
a) August 11 b) August 12
c) August 13 d) August 14
- Q13. Union Finance Secretary T V Somanathan has been appointed Cabinet Secretary for two years. He will be taking over from _____.
a) Manoj Govil
b) Sanjay Malhotra
c) Rajiv Gauba
d) Pramod Kumar Mishra

- Q14. What is the primary objective of the Jiyo Parsi Scheme, recently seen in news ?
a) To promote the education of Parsi children
b) To reverse the declining trend of the Parsi population
c) To provide financial aid for Parsi businesses
d) To encourage Parsi cultural activities
- Q15. On August 17, 2024, India will play home to the _____ Voice of Global South Summit. The theme for the entire event is “An Empowered Global South for a Sustainable Future.”
a) 2nd b) 3rd c) 4th d) 1st
- Q16. Which state government has ordered all state agencies to stop doing business with Punjab National Bank (PNB) and State Bank of India (SBI) ?
a) Telangana b) Karnataka
c) Bihar d) Odisha
- Q17. Transportation is an activity of
a) Primary sector b) Service sector
c) Tertiary sector d) Both (b) and (c)
- Q18. Which Country has a bi-party system
a) India b) Pakistan
c) China d) Britain
- Q19. In which field is the achievement of dictatorship is regarded as better than that of democracy ?
a) Economic Field b) Educational Field
c) Scientific Field d) Defence Field
- Q20. What type of economic activity is making shoes from leather ?
a) Primary b) Secondary
c) Tertiary d) Service
- Q21. What situation would result if Government expenditure exceeds the Government revenue on Current Account?
a) Deficit budgeting
b) Zero-based budgeting
c) Performance-based budgeting
d) Surplus budgeting
- Q22. An increase in the growth rate of the nominal money supply results in
a) Lower rate of inflation b) Higher rate of inflation
c) Lower interest rates d) Currency appreciation
- Q23. Saving is that portion of money income that is
a) spent for development of Industries
b) not spent on consumption
c) spent on health and education
d) spent for consumer durables
- Q24. Stagflation is a period of _____.
a) Persistent high inflation combined with high unemployment
b) Persistent high inflation combined with low unemployment
c) Persistent low inflation combined with high unemployment
d) Persistent low inflation combined with low unemployment
- Q25. Vilnius is the capital of which country ?
a) Philippines b) Vietnam
c) Madagascar d) Lithuania
- Q26. Hirakund Dam is built on which of these rivers ?
a) Kaveri b) Mahanadi
c) Krishna d) Narmada
- Q27. Panthi is a famous folk dance of which Indian state ?
a) Chhattisgarh b) Tamil Nadu
c) West Bengal d) Mizoram
- Q28. Mathura city lies along the banks of which river ?
a) Rapti b) Gomti
c) Yamuna d) Ganga
- Q29. Recently, which state secured first spot in the State Food Safety Index (SFSI) 2024 ?
a) Kerala b) Gujarat
c) Uttar Pradesh d) Rajasthan
- Q30. Which organization recently conducted the “Exercise AIKYA 2024” ?
a) Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)
b) NITI Aayog
c) National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)
d) Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)
- Q31. Which state recently clinched the 14th Hockey India Junior Men’s National Championship 2024 ?
a) Punjab b) Uttar Pradesh
c) Haryana d) Gujarat

- Q32. Which company has a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in place with the Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES), Nainital, to work together on space technology, with a particular emphasis on Space Situational Awareness (SSA) ?
a) HAL
b) BEL
c) GRSE
d) DRDO
- Q33. The Vice Chief of Staff, Air Marshal Amar Preet Singh, has been named the next Chief of the Air Staff (CAS). Whom does he succeed ?
a) Hasan Abubakar
b) Subroto Mukerjee
c) Vivek Ram Chaudhari
d) Rakesh Kumar Singh
- Q34. Which nation participated in Exercise Eastern Bridge VII in Masirah that the Indian Air Force (IAF) successfully concluded ?
a) France
b) Oman
c) Thailand
d) Srilanka
- Q35. Which government's flagship program, "SUBHADRA," was introduced by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ?
a) Sikkim
b) Odisha
c) Gujarat
d) Madhya Pradesh
- Q36. According to State GDP Shares and Economic Liberalization and Its Impact (1990–2024). In 2023–24, which state saw its GDP share drop from 14.6% in 1990–91 to 13.3%, yet it still has the greatest percentage among all states ?
a) Tamil Nadu
b) Karnataka
c) Maharashtra
d) Gujarat
- Q37. Which Ministry has made double Olympic medallist shooter Manu Bhaker as its brand ambassador ?
a) Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways
b) Ministry of Law & Justice
c) Ministry of Sports
d) Ministry of Agriculture
- Q38. Recently the 4th Global Renewable Energy Investors Meet and Expo, held for the first time outside of Delhi. Which state has emerged as the top performer, receiving the most awards ?
a) Sikkim
b) Assam
c) Gujarat
d) Kerala
- Q39. Recently, Anura Kumara Dissanayake has been elected as the president of which country ?
a) Sri Lanka
b) Bhutan
c) Bangladesh
d) Nepal
- Q40. According to recent report, which states recorded the highest number of atrocities cases on dalits ?
a) Uttarakhand, Haryana and Punjab
b) Jharkhand and Bihar
c) Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh
d) Maharashtra, Karnataka and Kerala
- Q41. Which mineral found in Rajasthan; Kerala; and Jharkhand is used for producing electricity ?
a) Gypsum
b) Haematite
c) Thorium
d) None of these
- Q42. How many railway zones are there in India
a) 14 zones
b) 15 zones
c) 16 zones
d) 18 zones
- Q43. Large reserves of natural gas have been discovered in which place in India
a) Arabian sea
b) Andaman Nicobar Islands
c) Krishna Godavari Basin
d) Gulf of Mannar
- Q44. Rapid integration or interconnection between countries is known as:
a) Privatisation
b) Globalisation
c) Liberalisation
d) Socialism
- Q45. Which of the following measures will not increase a nation's wealth ?
a) investing in new companies
b) increasing efficiency of factories
c) converting grasslands into orchards
d) by redistributing taxes as subsidies
- Q46. Which among the following is the difference in value between a country's imports and exports ?
a) Balance of Trade
b) Balance of Payment
c) Balance of Power
d) Credit Balance

- Q47. Which one of the following is also regarded as Disguised unemployment ?
- Underemployment
 - Frictional unemployment
 - Seasonal unemployment
 - Cyclical unemployment
- Q48. Economic planning in India is in _____
- Union List
 - State list
 - Concurrent List
 - None
- Q49. Which of the following statements is true regarding the India-Bangladesh Extradition Treaty ?
- The treaty does not allow extradition for political offences under any circumstances.
 - The treaty allows extradition for offences punishable with at least one year in prison.
 - The treaty was first signed in 2013 and has not been amended since then.
 - The principle of double criminality does not apply to the treaty.
- Q50. Which of the following statements about the symptoms of Mpox is correct ?
- Mpox causes primarily gastrointestinal discomfort.
 - Symptoms of Mpox include painful rash, fever, and swollen lymph nodes.
 - Symptoms of Mpox are limited to respiratory problems and chronic cough.
 - Mpox causes sudden and severe headache without any rash.
- Q51. With reference to the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), consider the following statements:
- NPCI was founded by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Indian Banks' Association (IBA) under the provisions of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2011.
 - NPCI offers Bharat Bill Payment System, a one-stop bill payment system.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?
- 1 only
 - 2 only
 - Both 1 and 2
 - Neither 1 nor 2
- Q52. Consider the following statements regarding the EOS-08 Earth Observation Satellite:
- EOS-08 was launched using the Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV)-D3.
 - The satellite is designed for advanced infrared observation, GNSS-based remote sensing, and UV radiation monitoring.
 - The SSLV is capable of carrying payloads up to 1000 kg.
- Which of the above statements is/are correct ?
- 1 only
 - 1 and 2 only
 - 2 and 3 only
 - 1, 2, and 3
- Q53. Which new categories were included for the first time in the India Rankings 2024 ?
- Central Universities and Private Universities
 - State Public Universities, Open Universities, and Skill Universities
 - International Universities and Deemed Universities
 - Agricultural Universities and Law Schools
- Q54. The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully conducted the maiden flight test of the long-range glide bomb (LRGB) "Gaurav" on August 13, 2024. Which of the following statements is correct regarding the Gaurav glide bomb ?
- It is a 500 kg class glide bomb capable of hitting targets at short distances.
 - It is a sea-launched 1,000 kg class glide bomb designed for naval warfare.
 - It is an air-launched 1,000 kg class glide bomb capable of hitting targets at long distances, using a highly accurate hybrid navigation scheme.
 - It is a ground-launched missile with a hybrid propulsion system.
- Q55. Consider the following statements about the 'FloodWatch India' mobile application:
- The app provides real-time flood monitoring data from over 500 flood monitoring stations.
 - The app is available in English only and provides information exclusively in text format.
 - The app includes data on the storage levels of major reservoirs, helping assess flood risks.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?
- 1 and 2 only
 - 1 and 3 only
 - 3 only
 - 1, 2, and 3

- Q56. Consider the following statements regarding the Geneva Conventions and their scope.
1. Excludes protection for wounded soldiers at sea.
 2. Cover treatment of prisoners of war.
 3. Protects civilians from inhumane treatment.
- How many of the above statements is/are correct ?
- a) Only one b) Only two
c) All three d) None
- Q57. What is the funding structure of ABPM-JAY (Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana) with respect to central government contribution and state government contribution ?
- a) 50:50 ratio for all states
b) 60:40 for NE states and three Himalayan states, 90:10 for others
c) 90:10 for NE states and three Himalayan states, 60:40 for others
d) 100% centrally funded for all states
- Q58. The Report on Currency and Finance 2023-24, recently seen in news is released by
- a) Ministry of Finance b) State Bank of India
c) Niti Ayog d) Reserve Bank of India
- Q59. Who has been chosen for the 54th Dadasaheb Phalke Lifetime Achievement Award ?
- a) Amitabh Bachchan
b) Mithun Chakraborty
c) Asha Parekh
d) Dharmendra
- Q60. Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently dedicated three PARAM Rudra supercomputers and two high-performance computing systems to the nation. The three supercomputers have been deployed in which cities to support cutting-edge scientific research ?
- a) Pune, Delhi and Mumbai
b) Bengaluru, Delhi and Mumbai
c) Chennai, Delhi and Bengaluru
d) Pune, Delhi and Kolkata
- Q61. What is the primary aim of the PLI scheme for the textile sector in India ?
- a) To reduce dependency on cotton
b) To increase exports to \$100 billion by 2030
c) To promote handloom production
d) To provide subsidies for importing raw materials
- Q62. Consider the following statements regarding the United Nations Security Council (UNSC):
- It was established after World War II as a principal organ of the United Nations.
 - It is responsible for making binding decisions on international peace and security.
 - All members, both permanent and non-permanent, have equal voting power in the UNSC.
 - Permanent members can veto decisions made by the UNSC.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?
- a) 1, 2, and 4 b) 1 and 4 c) Only 3 d) 2 and 3
- Q63. According to India foreign exchange reserves hit a new high of \$692.3 billion on September 20, 2024, the sixth week in a row of rises. As of May 2024, which nation has the largest foreign exchange reserves, including gold reserves ?
- a) China b) Japan
c) USA d) Hong Kong
- Q64. What significant space mission did the Union Cabinet approve, set to be launched by ISRO in March 2028 ?
- a) India's first mission to Mars
b) India's first mission to the Moon
c) India's first mission to Venus
d) India's first mission to Jupiter
- Q65. Which of the following statements about the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) is incorrect ?
- a) The AFSPA grants special powers to the armed forces in disturbed areas declared by the government.
b) The AFSPA is applicable only to the states of Northeast India
c) Under the AFSPA, security forces can arrest individuals without a warrant on the basis of suspicion
d) If normalcy is restored in the area, the AFSPA can be revoked by the central or state government.
- Q66. With reference to the global Financial Action Task Force (FATF), consider the following statements:
1. It is an intergovernmental organization with 39 member countries.
 2. It was established in 1989 during the G20 Summit in Paris.
 3. India became its member in 2010.
- How many of the statements given above are correct ?
- a) Only one b) Only Two
c) All three d) None

Q67. Consider the following statements:
 1. The White Revolution was led by Prof. Verghese Kurien in the 1970.
 2. Under White Revolution 2.0, the government aims to increase milk procurement by dairy cooperative societies.
 Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?
 a) 1 only b) 2 only
 c) Both 1 and 2 d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q68. Consider the following passage:
 Recently, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared this country as the first country in the world to eliminate leprosy. It is a country in the Southern Levant region of West Asia.
 This country shares its borders with Iraq to the east, Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories to the west, Syria to the north and Saudi Arabia to the south. The above passage best describes about which of the following countries ?
 a) Jordan b) Turkey
 c) Egypt d) Iran

Q69. Consider the following statements regarding the Quad (Quadrilateral Security Dialogue):

- It includes India, the United States, Japan, and Australia.
- It aims to contain the expansion of Russia's influence in the Pacific region.
- India will host the next Quad Foreign Ministers' meeting in 2025.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?
 a) 1 only
 b) 1 and 3 only
 c) 2 and 3 only
 d) 1, 2 and 3

Q70. Consider the following funds created by UNFCCC:

Funds	During COP	Held at
1. Loss and Damage Fund	COP27	Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt
2. Green Climate Fund (GCF)	COP21	Paris, France
3. Adaptation Fund	COP7	Marrakech, Morocco

In how many of the above rows is the given information correctly matched ?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

Q71. Consider the following statements regarding Straits and their location in the Red Sea.

Strait	Location
1. Babel Mandeb Strait- Situated at the northern end of the Red Sea connecting it to the Gulf of Aden and the Indian Ocean	
2. Strait of Tiran- Located at the southern entrance of the Red Sea separating the Sinai Peninsula from the Saudi Arabian coastline	

Select the correct matched pair:
 a) 1 only
 b) 2 only
 c) Both 1 and 2
 d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q72. Consider the following statements regarding Indus Water Treaty, 1960:

- The World Bank is one of the signatory to the treaty.
- The Treaty allocates the Western Rivers i.e Indus, Jhelum, Chenab to Pakistan.
- India can build Hydroelectric Projects only on Eastern Rivers.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?
 a) 1 only
 b) 1 and 2 only
 c) 2 and 3 only
 d) 1 and 3 only

Q73. Consider the following statements regarding the Bharatiya Antariksh Station (BAS):

- The revised Gaganyaan programme includes the scope of development and precursor missions for BAS.
- Bharatiya Antariksh Station will be placed in Geostationary Orbit (GEO)
- The BAS is expected to be operational by 2035.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?
 a) 1 only
 b) 1 and 2 only
 c) 2 and 3 only
 d) 1 and 3 only

- Q74. Consider the following statements:
Statement-I: In order to implement One Nation One Election in India, multiple constitution amendment required including amending Article 83 and Article 172
Statement-II: Article 83 and Article 172 of the Constitution of India deals with the powers of the President and the Governors to dissolve Lok Sabha and State Assemblies, respectively
Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements ?
a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
c) Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect
d) Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct
- Q75. Salal Dam is in which state ?
a) Himachal Pradesh
b) Andhra Pradesh
c) Jammu and Kashmir
d) Karnataka
- Q76. The Vikramshila Gangetic Dolphin Sanctuary is in which state ?
a) Madhya Pradesh
b) Bihar
c) Himachal Pradesh
d) Punjab
- Q77. Badrinath is situated along the banks of which river ?
a) Ganges
b) Alaknanda
c) Yamuna
d) Gomti
- Q78. The Great Living Chola Temples is a UNESCO World Heritage Site located in ____?
a) Tamil Nadu
b) Karnataka
c) Kerala
d) Odisha
- Q79. Recently, where was the India's first conservation and breeding centre for the Asian King Vultures inaugurated ?
a) Mussoorie, Himachal Pradesh
b) Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh
c) Indore, Madhya Pradesh
d) Jaisalmer, Rajasthan
- Q80. Barakah Nuclear Energy Plant, recently seen in the news, is located in which country ?
a) France
b) Ukraine
c) Russia
d) United Arab Emirates
- Q81. Recently, where was the first 'International Solar Festival' organized ?
a) Jaipur
b) Bhopal
c) New Delhi
d) Lucknow
- Q82. Recently, a group of researchers discovered a 'Myristica swamp forest' in which state ?
a) Maharashtra
b) Gujarat
c) Telangana
d) Madhya Pradesh
- Q83. Which city has secured first position in the Swachh Vayu Survekshan (SVS) 2024 ?
a) Jaipur
b) Surat
c) Kolkata
d) Varanasi
- Q84. How many medals were won by India at the 2024 Paris Paralympics ?
a) 15
b) 20
c) 25
d) 29
- Q85. In September 2024, which state government approved 33% reservation for women in the police force by deciding to amend the State Police Subordinate Service Rules, 1989 ?
a) Uttar Pradesh
b) Punjab
c) Haryana
d) Rajasthan

- Q86. India's ancient sport, Yogasana, has been included as a demonstration event in the 2026 Asian Games. 2026 Asian Games will be held in which country?
 a) South Korea
 b) Japan
 c) Saudi Arabia
 d) China
- Q87. Recently, which country has become the 101st member to join the International Solar Alliance (ISA)?
 a) Pakistan
 b) Nepal
 c) Bhutan
 d) Croatia
- Q88. In September 2024, which of the following country was approved for membership in the BRICS New Development Bank (NDB), a financial institution with the aim of supporting projects in emerging markets and developing countries ?
 a) Azerbaijan
 b) Egypt
 c) UAE
 d) Algeria
- Q89. On which day is the International Literacy Day observed ?
 a) 7 September
 b) 8 September
 c) 9 September
 d) 10 September
- Q90. Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), recently seen in the news, is implemented by which ministry ?
 a) Ministry of Rural Development
 b) Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
 c) Ministry of Home Affairs
 d) Ministry of Urban Development

ANSWERS

1- b	2-b	3-d	4-c	5-b	6-a	7-a	8-c	9-b	10-d
11-b	12-c	13-c	14-b	15-b	16-b	17-d	18-d	19-a	20-b
21-a	22-b	23-b	24-a	25-d	26-b	27-a	28-c	29-a	30-c
31-a	32-b	33-c	34-b	35-b	36-c	37-a	38-c	39-a	40-c
41-c	42-d	43-c	44-b	45-d	46-a	47-a	48-c	49-b	50-b
51-b	52-b	53-b	54-c	55-b	56-b	57-c	58-d	59-b	60-d
61-b	62-a	63-a	64-c	65-b	66-b	67-c	68-a	69-a	70-b
71-d	72-b	73-d	74-c	75-c	76-b	77-b	78-a	79-b	80-d
81-c	82-a	83-b	84-d	85-d	86-b	87-b	88-d	89-c	90-a