

NOVEMBER 2024

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India becomes 4th economy to cross \$700 billion in reserves



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CENTRE TO BEGIN CENSUS FROM 2025

Sections Covered

1. National/International News

2. Banking and Finance

3. Appointments and Resignations

4. Important Dates

5. Defence

6. Sports/Rankings/Awards

7. Government Initiatives/MOUs

8. Science and Technology

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NATIONAL

RECENTLY, CYCLONE DANA MADE LANDFALL IN ODISHA -

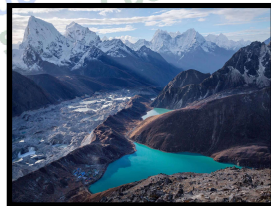
- Recently, Cyclone Dana made landfall in Odisha.
- **Landfall is the event of a tropical cyclone moving from water onto land**, specifically when the storm's center (eye of the cyclone) crosses the coast.
- It differs from a direct hit where the core of high winds (or eye-wall) comes onshore but the center of the storm may remain offshore.
- The Eye of the Cyclone is a central region of clear skies, warm temperatures, and low atmospheric pressure.

Other Components of the Cyclone-

- **Eyewall:** It is the most dangerous part of a tropical cyclone, with the strongest winds, heaviest rainfall, and towering convective clouds rising up to 15,000 meters (49,000 feet).
- **Rainbands:** Curved bands of clouds and thunderstorms trail away from the eye wall in a spiral form, capable of producing heavy bursts of rain, strong winds, and even tornadoes.

SIGNIFICANT RISE HIMALAYAN GLACIAL LAKES INCREASE 10.81% FROM 2011 TO 2024 -

- A recent government report indicates that glacial lakes and water bodies in the Himalayan region have experienced a 10.81% increase in area from 2011 to 2024, primarily driven by climate change.
- This expansion raises concerns about the heightened risk of glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs). The report, accessed by PTI from the Central Water Commission (CWC), highlights that lakes in India have seen an even more significant growth, with a surface area increase of 33.7%.



- The total area of glacial lakes in India grew from 1,962 hectares in 2011 to 2,623 hectares in 2024, marking a 33.7% increase.
- A total of 67 lakes in India experienced over 40% increase in surface area, categorizing them as high-risk for GLOFs.
- The most notable expansions were recorded in Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, and Arunachal Pradesh.
- Overall, glacial lakes across the Himalayan region increased from 533,401 hectares in 2011 to 591,108 hectares in 2024.

CENTRE TO BEGIN CENSUS FROM 2025 -

- **The Central government is set to commence the long-awaited census exercise in 2025, aiming for completion by 2026. This census was originally scheduled for 2021 but faced delays due to the COVID-19 pandemic.** Following its completion, the BJP-led government plans to initiate a delimitation exercise for Lok Sabha seats, which is expected to be finalized by 2028.
- **Census Start and End:** The census will begin in 2025 and is projected to conclude in 2026, marking a significant delay of four years.
- **Delimitation Process:** The delimitation of Lok Sabha seats will commence post-census completion, with a target completion date of 2028.
- **Future Census Cycles:** The traditional decadal census cycle will be adjusted, with the next census scheduled for 2035.

GUINNESS RECORDS SET IN AYODHYA OVER 25 LAKHS DIYAS ON DEEPOTSAV 2024 -

- During the grand 'Deepotsav 2024' celebrations, Ayodhya made history by setting two Guinness World Records on 30th October evening. In a dazzling spectacle, the Uttar Pradesh Tourism Department, alongside the district administration, illuminated the

banks of the Saryu River with over 25 lakh diyas (earthen lamps), creating the world's largest display of oil lamps.

- Celebrated in Ayodhya, the five-day Deepotsav festival honors Lord Ram's return to Ayodhya after his 14-year exile.
- **This year's festival holds special importance as it is the first since the 'Pran Pratishtha' (consecration) ceremony of Ram Lala at the Ayodhya temple.**

UDAN'S 8TH ANNIVERSARY: A TRANSFORMATIVE JOURNEY IN INDIAN AVIATION -

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi marked the 8th anniversary of the UDAN (Ude Desh ke Aam Nagrik) scheme, celebrating its transformative impact on India's aviation sector.
- **Launched in October 2016, UDAN aimed to make air travel affordable for the common man and boost regional connectivity.** The Prime Minister highlighted the increase in airports and air routes, emphasizing how the scheme has enhanced trade, commerce, and regional growth.
- Union Home Minister Amit Shah lauded UDAN's success in making air travel accessible in underserved regions, noting its role in unlocking India's growth potential.



UPI SETS RECORD IN OCTOBER WITH 16.58 BILLION TRANSACTIONS -

- **In October, UPI transactions reached 16.58 billion in volume and Rs 23.5 trillion in value,** a 1st for the digital payment since its inception in 2016.
- October's daily UPI transactions averaged 535 million in volume and Rs 75,801 crore in value.
- IMPS saw a 9% increase in volume, FASTag transactions also grew by 8% in volume while Aadhaar Enabled Payment System transactions rose 26% in volume.



PADDY PROCUREMENT CRISIS IN PUNJAB

- **On October 2024, paddy harvesting in Punjab has slowed. Despite favourable weather,** about 90% of the procured crop remains stuck in mandis (grain markets).
- Private rice millers are refusing to store government paddy, exacerbating the situation. Without immediate intervention, conditions are expected to deteriorate.
- **Paddy procurement is a structured process. Each year, the Centre collaborates with state governments and the Food Corporation of India (FCI) to set procurement estimates before the kharif marketing season, which runs from October to September.**
- During this period, state agencies and the FCI buy paddy from farmers at the Minimum Support Price (MSP). The procured paddy is milled, and the resulting rice is stored or distributed under the National Food Security Act (NFSA).



SECTION 6A OF CITIZENSHIP ACT -

- A special provision added via the Citizenship Amendment Act, 1985, following the Assam Accord.
- **Citizenship Grant:** Conferred citizenship to migrants from East Pakistan to Assam (1966–1971).
- **SC Verdict:** Upheld as constitutional under Article 246 and Entry 17.
- **Impact:** The SC found no violation of the right to equality (Article 14) & no evidence of harm to Assamese cultural rights (Article 29).

JAMMU & KASHMIR CABINET PASSES RESOLUTION FOR STATEHOOD RESTORATION -

- **In its first cabinet meeting, CM Omar Abdullah's government passed a resolution urging the Central government to restore statehood to Jammu & Kashmir.**



- The resolution, **drafted by the National Conference after winning 42 seats in the recent assembly elections**, will be presented to PM Narendra Modi by Abdullah.
- CM: Omar Abdullah, Deputy Chief Minister: Surinder Choudhary

JUSTICE SANJIV KHANNA APPOINTED AS 51ST CHIEF JUSTICE OF INDIA -

- In a major judiciary update, **Justice Sanjiv Khanna has been appointed as the 51st Chief Justice of India (CJI)**, with his oath-taking ceremony set for November 11, 2024.
- **His appointment follows CJI DY Chandrachud's recommendation and was confirmed by President Droupadi Murmu.** Justice Khanna will serve as CJI until his retirement on May 13, 2025, holding a tenure of approximately 183 days.
- Justice Khanna began his legal practice in 1983, focusing on taxation, constitutional, and commercial law. He held key roles such as Senior Standing Counsel for the Income Tax Department and Standing Counsel (Civil) for Delhi.



SHILLONG TOPS INDIAN TRAVEL TRENDS FOR 2025 -

- **Shillong has emerged as the most popular destination for Indian travellers in 2025**, surpassing Baku, Azerbaijan, according to Skyscanner's "Travel Trends Report."
- Indian travellers are exploring newer destinations, with Shillong leading due to its scenic charm, followed by Langkawi, Tromso, and Tashkent.
- It has also come out with another list, called the "Best Value Destinations category".

RSS MARKS 100 YEARS ON VIJAYADASHAMI -

- **The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), the world's largest voluntary organization, is entering its 100th year on the auspicious occasion of Vijayadashami.** Founded on this very day in 1925, also

known as Dussehra, the RSS has grown exponentially over the past nine decades, expanding its reach across India and abroad.

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi praised the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) on its centenary, acknowledging its significant contribution to nation-building.
- In a post on X, **Modi urged his followers to listen to RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat's annual Vijayadashami address**, describing it as a "must-listen" speech.
- Modi extended heartfelt congratulations to all RSS volunteers, emphasizing the historic milestone and uninterrupted journey of the organization dedicated to "Maa Bharti."
- The PM stated that the RSS's dedication to the nation would inspire generations and energize the pursuit of a "Viksit Bharat" (Developed India).



HAL BECOMES 14TH MAHARATNA COMPANY -

- **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has been upgraded to the status of Maharatna, making it the 14th Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) to receive this prestigious classification from the Government of India.**
- This announcement, made on October 12, enhances HAL's operational autonomy and financial capabilities, allowing it to invest up to 15% of its net worth in projects and up to ₹5,000 crore in foreign ventures without government approval. The stock price responded positively, trading at ₹4,510, reflecting a 1.42% increase.
- **HAL joins the ranks of other Maharatna PSUs such as NTPC, ONGC, BHEL, and Indian Oil Corporation, which have shown substantial operational success.**



- To qualify for Maharatna status, CPSEs must first hold Navratna status and meet stringent financial criteria, including:
- Average Annual Turnover: Exceeding ₹25,000 crore.
- Average Annual Net Worth: More than ₹15,000 crore.
- Average Annual Net Profit: Over ₹5,000 crore for the past three years

INDIA'S FIRST WRITER'S VILLAGE OPENS IN DEHRADUN -

- **India's first 'Writer's Village' was inaugurated in Dehradun by former President Ram Nath Kovind**, along with Uttarakhand Governor Lt Gen Gurmeet Singh (retd) and Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama.
- This unique village aims to foster creativity and provide a nurturing environment for writers from across the country, establishing Dehradun as a new cultural hub for literary talent.
- **The inauguration was attended by prominent personalities, including former President Kovind, who lauded the initiative for addressing challenges faced by writers, and CBFC Chairman Prasoon Joshi, who highlighted the need for such secluded spaces for creativity.**
- Former Chief Minister Nishank, a notable writer himself, conceptualized the village to foster a peaceful atmosphere conducive to literary creation.



INDIA'S TEXTILES SECTOR TARGETS \$350 BILLION BY 2030 -

- **India's textiles sector is set for significant expansion, with an 11% year-on-year growth in Ready-Made Garments (RMG)** of all Textiles exports, as per India's trade data of August 2024, signaling a bright future.
- **The Textiles sector in the country is expected to grow to USD 350 billion by 2030**, driven by India's inherent strengths and a strong policy framework that encourages investment and exports.

- A number of schemes and policy initiatives as part of the government's roadmap aim to leverage and catalyze these inherent strengths to help the textile sector achieve the USD 350 billion goal by 2030.



Key factors contributing to the sector's expansion

- 11% Growth in (RMG) Exports
- India's trade data for August 2024 reports an 11% year-on-year growth in RMG (Ready-Made Garments) exports, a positive indicator of the sector's robust future.

MODI INAUGURATES INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SKILLS IN MUMBAI -

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently inaugurated the Indian Institute of Skills (IIS) in Mumbai.** This institute is designed to train people for the future, focusing on skills that will be important for Industry 4.0—the new era of smart factories and advanced technologies.

The IIS aims to prepare workers with modern skills needed for various industries, including:

- Factory Automation (using machines and technology in manufacturing)
- Digital Manufacturing (using digital tools to produce goods)
- Mechatronics (combining electronics and mechanical systems)
- Artificial Intelligence (AI) (machines that can learn and make decisions)
- Data Analytics (analyzing data to make better decisions)
- Additive Manufacturing (using 3D printing to create objects)

BANJARA VIRASAT 'NAGARA' MUSEUM -

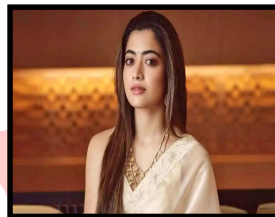
- The Banjara Virasat 'Nagara' Museum was recently opened by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Pohradevi, located in the Washim district of Maharashtra.



- This museum is dedicated to celebrating the rich cultural heritage of the Banjara community, which is why Pohradevi is often called the “Kashi of the Banjara Community.”
- The museum is a four-story building with 13 different galleries. These galleries showcase the history and traditions of the Banjara people. Visitors can learn about important Banjara leaders and movements through portraits and exhibits.
- The displays also highlight the community’s unique arts, crafts, and way of life, giving an in-depth look into their vibrant culture.

RASHMIKA MANDANNA APPOINTED AS NATIONAL BRAND AMBASSADOR FOR CYBER SAFETY -

- Rashmika Mandanna, the popular film actor, has been appointed as the national brand ambassador of the **Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C)**.
- This initiative, launched by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), aims to combat the rising threats of cyber crimes across the nation.
- Mandanna’s appointment comes in the wake of her personal experience with a deepfake video incident, underscoring the urgent need for public awareness regarding cyber safety.



YOGI ADITYANATH MARKS MAHA-KUMBH-2025 WITH LOGO REVEAL -

- Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath unveiled the new multi-colored logo for Mahakumbh 2025 at an event. Kumbh Mela, recognised by the UNESCO as an ‘Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity,’ is regarded as the world’s largest peaceful gathering of pilgrims.

Features

- Design Elements
- Features a temple, a seer, an urn, the Akshayvat tree, and Lord Hanuman.

- Embodies the confluence of nature and humanity in the Sanatan civilization.

Spiritual Significance

- The event is recognized by UNESCO as an Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.
- **With Motto:** “Sarvasiddhipradah Kumbhah” (Kumbh bestows all types of spiritual powers).
- The Maha Kumbh is a significant social and religious festival that brings together devotees from around the world.
- This inclusion highlights the spiritual and geographical importance of Prayagraj in the Maha Kumbh’s rich tradition.

NINE FORMS OF GODDESS DURGA -

- Maa Durga, the sacred goddess in Hinduism, is worshipped in nine distinct forms during the festival of Navratri. Each form symbolizes different aspects of her divine power, ranging from strength and courage to compassion and wisdom.



- These nine forms, known as Navadurga, are believed to bestow blessings, protection, and prosperity upon devotees. **Worshipping Maa Durga in her various forms helps followers overcome obstacles and find inner strength.**
- **Shardiya Navratri 2024, celebrated from October 3 to October 11,** is a nine-day festival dedicated to worshipping the nine forms of Goddess Durga. Observed during the autumn season, it is one of the most significant Hindu festivals.

- Devotees observe fasts, offer prayers, and perform rituals to seek blessings from the goddess. The festival concludes with the celebration of Vijayadashami or Dussehra.

CLASSICAL LANGUAGE STATUS GRANTED TO MARATHI, BENGALI, PALI, PRAKRIT, AND ASSAMESE -

- In a significant move, the Union Cabinet approved the conferral of classical language status to Marathi, Bengali, Assamese, Pali, and Prakrit on October 3, 2024.
- This decision, following long-pending demands, highlights India's rich linguistic heritage and aims to preserve and promote these ancient languages.
- **The concept of "Classical Languages" was established in 2004 with Tamil being the first to receive this status.** The criteria for classical status include high antiquity of texts dating back over 1500-2000 years, a rich body of ancient literature, and a distinct literary tradition. Revised in 2005, these guidelines have since been applied to Sanskrit, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam, and Odia.
- The latest additions were approved after recommendations by the Linguistic Experts Committee (LEC) under Sahitya Akademi in 2024, which confirmed that Marathi, Pali, Prakrit, Assamese, and Bengali meet these standards.

NEPAL, INDIA, AND BANGLADESH SIGN HISTORIC ELECTRICITY TRADE AGREEMENT -

- **Nepal, India, and Bangladesh have recently entered into a significant tripartite agreement aimed at facilitating cross-border electricity trade,** marking a notable step in regional energy cooperation.
- This agreement allows Nepal to export its surplus electricity to Bangladesh via India during the rainy season, specifically from June 15 to November 15 each year.
- **In the initial phase, Nepal is set to export 40 MW of hydroelectricity, leveraging India's infrastructure for transmission.** The agreed rate per unit of electricity is



fixed at 6.4 cents, with Nepal expected to generate approximately USD 9.2 million annually from this trade.

SUPREME COURT'S JUSTICE STATUE REMOVES BLINDFOLD -

- **The traditional Lady of Justice, often depicted blindfolded with scales and a sword, has undergone a symbolic transformation in the Supreme Court of India.** Under the guidance of Chief Justice DY Chandrachud, the newly commissioned statue sheds the blindfold and replaces the sword with the Constitution.
- **This change represents a modern understanding of justice in India, one that is neither blind nor punitive, but instead rooted in constitutional values and equality.**
- The new statue now stands prominently at the judges' library in the Supreme Court, marking a departure from colonial-era symbolism.
- **Traditionally, Lady Justice was portrayed with a blindfold, symbolizing impartiality and equality before the law.**
- The new statue, however, has its eyes open, symbolizing that justice is not blind in India, but instead aware, conscious, and empathetic.
- The sword, a traditional symbol of authority and punishment, has been replaced by the Indian Constitution.

CABINET APPROVES 3% DA HIKE FOR CENTRAL GOVT EMPLOYEE -

- In a significant move, **the Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved a 3% hike in the dearness allowance (DA) for central government employees and pensioners, bringing the total DA to 53% of the basic pay.**
- This increase is aimed at compensating employees against rising prices and is effective from July 1, 2024. **The decision, announced by Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, will result in an annual cost of ₹9,448.35 crore to the exchequer, benefiting approximately 49.18 lakh employees and 64.89 lakh pensioners.**

- **Impact of the Hike-** The new DA will be applicable retroactively, allowing employees to receive arrears for July, August, and September.
- **Connection to Inflation-** The increase aligns with the accepted formula based on the recommendations of the 7th Central Pay Commission and aims to adjust for the rising cost of living as measured by the All India Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (AICPI-IW).
- **Additional Measures-** In conjunction with the DA hike, the Cabinet also approved a ₹150 increase in the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for key rabi crops, raising the wheat MSP from ₹2,275 to ₹2,425 per quintal.

UNION CABINET APPROVED THE NATIONAL MARITIME HERITAGE COMPLEX AT LOTHAL, GUJARAT -

- In a significant move to preserve and showcase India's rich maritime heritage, **the Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the development of the National Maritime Heritage Complex (NMHC) at Lothal, Gujarat.**
- **The project will unfold in two phases, and it aligns with the government's broader vision to highlight the country's ancient maritime prowess, which dates back over 4,500 years.** The National Maritime Heritage Complex is set to be a world-class museum that will boost tourism, create jobs, and promote India's cultural and maritime legacy.
- The National Maritime Heritage Complex is designed to be a state-of-the-art museum that will reflect India's rich maritime history, from ancient to modern times. Lothal, an ancient Harappan site known for its dockyards and maritime trade routes, serves as the perfect location for such a project. The complex aims to preserve India's 4,500-year-old maritime heritage and bring it to a global audience.

The project has been divided into two major phases:

- **Phase 1A:** Currently under construction with more than 60% physical progress.

- **Phase 1B and Phase 2:** Recently approved by the Union Cabinet after mobilization of funds.

"RAJYAMATA-GOMATA" TAG DECLARED TO DESI COWS IN MAHARASHTRA -

- The Maharashtra government granted the status of Rajyamata-Gomata to desi cows in the state. This is the first time that such a title has been bestowed on any creature.
- **In a government resolution (GR) passed by the dairy development department, the state specified that the status of Rajyamata will be extended only to desi cows.**
- The government's official declaration emphasizes the cow's profound spiritual, scientific, and historical importance, reiterating the role these animals have played in India's cultural and agricultural heritage for centuries.
- This move, outlined in a government order, also seeks to address concerns over the declining population of indigenous cow breeds.
- **The state government stressed the need for cattle rearers to prioritize the breeding and preservation of native species, given their socio-economic importance and religious significance.**



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.

INTERNATIONAL

NOBEL PRIZE 2024 IN PHYSIOLOGY OR MEDICINE -

- Recently, the 2024 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine was awarded to Victor Ambros and Gary Ruvkun by the Nobel Assembly at Karolinska Institutet in Stockholm, Sweden.
- The scientists won the esteemed prize for the discovery of microRNA and its role in post-transcriptional gene regulation.

SAUDI ARABIA BEGINS CONSTRUCTION OF WORLD'S LARGEST BUILDING -

- Saudi Arabia has commenced construction on the Mukaab, aiming to become the largest building globally. This monumental project is located in Riyadh and represents a \$50 billion investment. It is part of a broader vision to modernize the city and enhance its skyline.
- The Mukaab will soar to 1,300 feet in height and span 1,200 feet in width. It will have enough space to house 20 Empire State Buildings. The total floor area will reach 2 million square feet, dedicated to various functions, including fine dining, retail, offices, and residential units.
- The building will comprise 104,000 residential units and 9,000 hotel rooms, creating a vibrant downtown atmosphere. The design prioritizes human interaction, ensuring that green spaces are accessible within a 15-minute walk from any location inside the Mukaab.

MALDIVES TO INTRODUCE UPI FOLLOWING PRESIDENT MUIZZU'S VISIT -

- Maldivian President Mohamed Muizzu has initiated steps to introduce India's Unified Payment Interface in the Maldives.
- A consortium involving banks, telecom, state-owned, and



fintech companies will oversee UPI's implementation, led by TradeNet Maldives Corporation Limited.

- India also launched the RuPay cards in the Maldives to enhance the ease of payments for Indian tourists visiting there.

HONG KONG REGAINS TITLE OF WORLD'S FREEST ECONOMY -

- Hong Kong has regained its title as the freest economy in the world, surpassing Singapore, according to the Fraser Institute's Economic Freedom of the World report. This ranking is important, especially since earlier reports showed a decline in Hong Kong's economic freedoms.
- In the latest report, Hong Kong scored 8.58, just ahead of Singapore's score of 8.55. Following them, Switzerland ranked third, New Zealand fourth, and the United States fifth. On the other hand, Venezuela was ranked last, with a low score of 3.02.



US ELECTION RESULTS 2024 -

- The United States is gearing up for one of the most significant political events of the decade: the 2024 presidential election. Set to take place on Tuesday, November 5, 2024, this high-stakes election has already drawn worldwide attention as Americans prepare to cast their votes for the country's next leader.
- This election will be a contest between two influential figures: Vice President Kamala Harris and former President Donald Trump. Both campaigns have intensified, particularly in critical battleground states, making this election one of the most anticipated political events globally.



INDIA-PAKISTAN EXTEND KARTARPUR CORRIDOR AGREEMENT FOR FIVE YEARS

- In a significant diplomatic development, **India and Pakistan have agreed to renew their pact on the Kartarpur Sahib Corridor for an additional five years, just days after External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar's visit to Islamabad**, where he met with Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Deputy Prime Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar.
- **The original agreement, which facilitates the visit of Indian pilgrims to Gurdwara Darbar Sahib in Pakistan, was set to expire on October 24.** The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) confirmed the extension, stating it will ensure uninterrupted operation of the corridor for pilgrims.
- **The 4 km-long Kartarpur Corridor provides visa-free access for Indian Sikh pilgrims to visit Gurdwara Darbar Sahib**, the final resting place of Sikhism's founder, Guru Nanak Dev. India has urged Pakistan to waive the US\$ 20 service charge imposed on each pilgrim, reflecting ongoing concerns regarding pilgrimage costs.

**SHEIKH NAIM QASSEM: HEZBOLLAH'S NEW CHIEF AMID TENSIONS -**

- **In a rare public move, Hezbollah, the Lebanese Shia paramilitary and political group, announced the appointment of Sheikh Naim Qassem as its new secretary-general following the recent assassination of Hassan Nasrallah by Israel on September 27.**
- Known for his deep ties to Hezbollah and decades of political activism, Qassem's leadership marks a critical transition for the organization amid ongoing Israeli conflicts and internal shifts within Hezbollah's regional influence.

**LAHORE DECLARED THE MOST POLLUTED CITY IN THE WORLD AGAIN -**

- **Laahore has once again claimed the title of the most polluted city globally, with the Air Quality Index (AQI) soaring to alarming levels. Recently recorded at a staggering 708, the PM2.5 levels reached an unprecedented 431 µg/m³, significantly exceeding the World Health Organization's recommended annual limit by 86 times.**
- This crisis, attributed to unchecked vehicular emissions, outdated industrial practices, and ineffective environmental policies, creates a hazardous smog that engulfs the city year-round, posing severe health risks to its residents.

**GLOBAL PUBLIC DEBT SET TO EXCEED \$100 TRILLION, WARNS IMF -**

- According to a report released by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the world's total public debt is poised to surpass \$100 trillion this year for the first time.
- **The IMF warns that this figure may rise even more rapidly than previously anticipated, driven by political sentiment favoring increased spending and the growing borrowing needs associated with slow economic growth.**
- The world's total public debt is projected to exceed \$100 trillion for the first time in 2024.
- This figure is expected to reach 93% of global GDP by the end of 2024 and approach 100% by 2030, surpassing the 99% peak seen during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**UAE INTRODUCES NEW VISA-ON-ARRIVAL POLICY FOR INDIANS -**

- Indian nationals with ordinary passports, as well as those holding permanent resident or green cards, or valid visas from the US, UK, or EU, are eligible.

Visa Options-

- 14-day visa on arrival, extendable for another 14 days.

- 60-day visa on arrival, non-extendable.
- In February, Dubai introduced a five-year multiple-entry visa for Indians to enhance business and tourism ties.

INDIA-CHINA SIGN BORDER DEAL AFTER FOUR-YEAR NEGOTIATIONS -

- India and China signed a border deal after four years of negotiations. This agreement focuses on disengagement along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh.
- **The deal aims to enhance patrolling rights in the Depsang Plains and Demchok areas.**
- Tensions between India and China escalated in 2020 following the Galwan clash, which resulted in the deaths of 20 Indian soldiers and an undisclosed number of Chinese soldiers.
- **The clash stemmed from disputes over the poorly defined 3,440 km border, leading to military confrontations.** Since then insisted that relations with China would only improve once the border situation normalized.



PM MODI AND SPANISH PM PEDRO SANCHEZ JOINTLY INAUGURATE TATA AIRCRAFT COMPLEX IN VADODARA, GUJARAT -

- In a landmark event, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Prime Minister of Spain, Mr. Pedro Sanchez, jointly inaugurated the Tata Aircraft Complex for manufacturing C-295 military transport aircraft at the Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL) campus in Vadodara, Gujarat.
- This project, a first-of-its-kind private sector Final Assembly Line (FAL) for military aircraft in India, marks a significant step forward in India's journey towards indigenous defense production under the "Make in India, Make for the World" mission.



BRAZIL OPTS OUT OF CHINA'S BELT AND ROAD INITIATIVE -

- **In a significant diplomatic decision, Brazil has chosen not to join China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), becoming the second member of the BRICS bloc, after India, to opt out of Beijing's ambitious multi-billion-dollar infrastructure project.**
- The move has sparked widespread interest and debate, as it reflects Brazil's cautious stance on joining China's influential global initiative.
- **The decision, led by President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva and influenced by Celso Amorim, his special presidential adviser for international affairs, signals Brazil's intent to pursue alternative forms of collaboration with China, without becoming bound by the BRI's framework.**



NORTH KOREA TEST-FIRES 'HWASONG-19' ICBM -

- **North Korea announced a successful test of its latest intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM), named the 'Hwasong-19.'** This development has raised concerns globally, particularly regarding North Korea's advancing missile technology and its potential nuclear capabilities.
- **The 'Hwasong-19' is touted by North Korean state media as 'the world's strongest missile.'** The Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) claims it features enhanced altitude and flight duration. These improvements suggest the missile could be an important threat, especially to the United States.
- **This test marks a crucial step toward North Korea's goal of developing a nuclear-capable ICBM.** Such a missile could potentially reach global targets, increasing geopolitical tensions. The KCNA has labeled the 'Hwasong-19' as a 'perfected weapon system,' indicating high confidence in its capabilities.

UNGA ELECTS 18 NEW MEMBERS TO HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL FOR 2025-2027 TERM -

• The UN **General Assembly (UNGA)** has elected 18 new members to the 47-member **Human Rights Council** for the 2025-2027 term.



This decision was made through a secret ballot held recently, with countries like Benin, Bolivia, Colombia, Cyprus, Qatar, and Thailand among the newly elected.

• The newly elected members will begin their three-year terms on January 1, 2025. The Human Rights Council, based in Geneva, plays a crucial role in promoting and protecting human rights globally. The elections reflect a commitment to staggered terms, ensuring continuity within the Council's composition.

• **The Human Rights Council, established in 2006, aims to address human rights violations and promote fundamental freedoms.** The recent elections continue the practice of rotating membership, with approximately one-third of the Council's 47 members changing annually. This system is designed to maintain a diverse representation of countries, promoting equitable geographical distribution.

The elected members reflect the following distribution among regional groups-

- **African States:** 13 seats
- **Asia-Pacific States:** 13 seats
- **Eastern European States:** 6 seats
- **Latin American and Caribbean States:** 8 seats
- **Western European and other States:** 7 seats

NIHON HIDANKYO ORGANIZATION HONORED WITH THE 2024 NOBEL PEACE PRIZE -

• The Norwegian Nobel Committee has decided to award the Nobel Peace Prize for 2024 to the Japanese organization Nihon Hidankyo.

• This grassroots movement of atomic bomb survivors from Hiroshima and Nagasaki, also known as Hibakusha, is receiving the Peace Prize for its efforts to achieve a world free of nuclear weapons and for demonstrating through witness testimony that nuclear weapons must never be used again.



• For its efforts to achieve a world free of nuclear weapons and for demonstrating through witness testimony that nuclear weapons must never be used again.

• **The survivors of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki**, who have shared their personal stories to educate the world about the horrors of nuclear weapons.

• They advocate for disarmament and emphasize that such weapons must never be used again.

PRIME MINISTER ATTENDED THE 19TH EAST ASIA SUMMIT (EAS) -

• On 11 October 2024, the Prime Minister of India took part in the 19th East Asia Summit (EAS) held in Vientiane, Lao PDR.

• His presence highlighted India's dedication to working with other nations in the Indo-Pacific region, a vast area that includes the Indian and Pacific Oceans.

• **The Prime Minister emphasized the important part that ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) plays in shaping the future of the Indo-Pacific.**

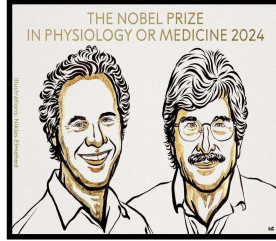
• He mentioned India's vision for the region, known as the Pacific Vision, which focuses on collaboration with countries like the Quad nations (India, Australia, Japan, and the United States) to promote peace and cooperation in the region.

NOBEL PRIZE 2024 IN MEDICINE-AMBROS AND RUVKUN FOR MICRORNA DISCOVERY -

• The Nobel Prize in Medicine for 2024 was awarded to Victor Ambros and Gary Ruvkun for discovering

microRNA and its vital role in controlling how genes work after they are copied.

- This discovery changed how we understand gene regulation, showing how certain genes are turned on or off to support different cell functions, like in muscle or nerve cells.
- Inside every cell, genes act like instructions that tell the cell how to function. Even though all the cells in our body have the same genes, they can behave very differently.
- **For example, muscle cells and nerve cells look and act differently, even though they share the same genetic code.** This happens because only certain genes are turned on in each cell type, depending on what the cell needs to do. This process is called gene regulation.



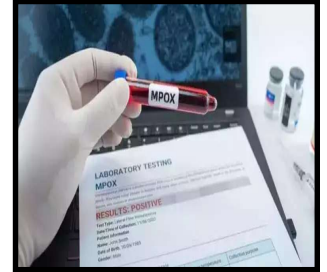
WHO RECEIVES \$700 MILLION PLEDGES FOR 2025-2028 BUDGET -

- During an event in Berlin, the World Health Organization (WHO) announced it has received **\$700 million in new funding pledges for its 2025-2028 budget.**
- This is in addition to the \$300 million already promised by both the European Union and the African Union.
- **WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus** explained that these investments are crucial because strong health systems support not only public health but also the overall stability of societies and economies.
- The COVID-19 pandemic showed that health problems can affect much more than just healthcare systems, they can disrupt economies and everyday life around the world.

WHO APPROVES FIRST MPOX TEST FOR EMERGENCY USE -

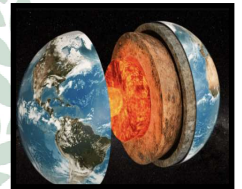
- The World Health Organization (WHO) recently approved a new test called the Alinity m MPXV assay to help increase global access to testing for Mpx (formerly known as monkeypox).
- **This decision, made on October 3, 2024, is in response to the growing need for quick and accurate testing as cases of Mpx rise, especially in areas facing outbreaks.**

- Mpx is a viral infection that can cause serious health problems. In August 2024, the WHO declared a rise in Mpx cases, particularly in Africa, as a public health emergency of international concern.
- **Since then, India has also reported 30 cases. Because Mpx can spread quickly, having reliable testing is crucial for controlling the virus.**



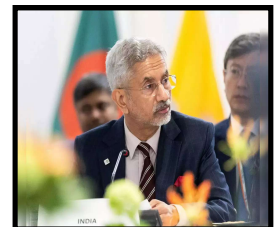
SCIENTISTS DISCOVER SIXTH OCEAN HIDDEN IN EARTH'S MANTLE -

- **Scientists have discovered a vast water reservoir approximately 700 kilometers beneath the Earth's surface, potentially three times larger than all the planet's surface oceans combined.**
- This groundbreaking finding challenges previous beliefs about the origins of Earth's water and reveals new complexities in the planet's geological processes.
- Researchers from Northwestern University identified this massive underground ocean within Earth's mantle using advanced seismic analysis.
- **By examining data from over 2,000 seismographs and analyzing more than 500 earthquakes, they detected a significant slowdown in seismic wave velocity at depth, indicating the presence of water.**



EAM JAISHANKAR TO VISIT PAKISTAN FOR SCO MEETING AFTER 9 YEARS -

- **External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar will lead India's delegation to Pakistan for the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation's (SCO) Heads of Government meeting in Islamabad on October 15-16, 2024.**



- **This marks the first visit by an Indian External Affairs Minister to Pakistan since Sushma Swaraj attended a conference in 2015.** The visit is focused on the SCO's regional cooperation agenda, with no bilateral meetings confirmed as of now, according to the Ministry of External Affairs.
- The last high-level visit by India to Pakistan was in December 2015, when then-EAM Sushma Swaraj attended the Heart of Asia Ministerial Conference.
- That visit led to the announcement of a Comprehensive Bilateral Dialogue between India and Pakistan. Later that month, Prime Minister Narendra Modi made a surprise visit to Lahore, engaging in talks with then-PM Nawaz Sharif.

UK AGREES TO TRANSFER CHAGOS ISLANDS SOVEREIGNTY TO MAURITIUS -

- **The United Kingdom and Mauritius reached an historical agreement to cede sovereignty of the Chagos Islands,** a strategically significant archipelago in the Indian Ocean to hand over to Mauritius.
- The agreement allows Mauritius to regain sovereignty while ensuring the continued operation of the U.S. military base on Diego Garcia.
- **Under Former PM Rishi Sunak government's time negotiations were started for this agreement in 2022 and after 11 rounds of negotiations** with the last government and with 2 rounds of negotiations with the present government made to finalize the decision.

PROTESTS ERUPT IN PAKISTAN FOLLOWING 40% TAX HIKE UNDER IMF BAILOUT -

- **Pakistan is witnessing widespread protests after the government raised taxes by 40% as part of a \$7 billion bailout deal with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).**
- This move, aimed at stabilizing a faltering economy plagued by high inflation and depleted foreign reserves,



has pushed many citizens to the brink, exacerbating an already critical cost of living crisis.

- As basic necessities become increasingly unaffordable, the population's patience wears thin, posing a significant challenge for Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's coalition government.

BANGLADESH FORMS NINE-MEMBER CONSTITUTION REFORM COMMISSION -

- **Bangladesh's interim government has established a nine-member Constitution Reform Commission, headed by Bangladeshi-American professor Ali Riaz,** to review and propose reforms within 90 days.
- The commission, formed after Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina resigned, aims to create a more representative and democratic framework. **Members include professors, legal experts, and student representatives, with student Mahfuj Alam serving as special assistant to Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus.**
- The commission is part of broader reforms announced by Yunus, which include commissions for judiciary, police, electoral system, public administration, and anti-corruption.

INDIA, MALDIVES AIM FOR COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP -

- **Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Maldivian President Mohamed Muizzu met to strengthen the already close relationship between India and the Maldives.** Their discussions resulted in a plan to create a Comprehensive Economic and Maritime Security Partnership that focuses on improving the lives of people in the Indian Ocean Region.
- The meeting focused on several areas where India and the Maldives work together, such as political relations, development projects, healthcare, investments, and education.
- Both leaders emphasized that their cooperation would bring mutual growth and stability, improving the quality of life for citizens in both countries.



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

RECENTLY, ELON MUSK'S SPACEX USED A PAIR OF GIANT ROBOTIC ARMS NAMED MECHAZILLA TO GRAB STARSHIP'S BOOSTER SUPER HEAVY, MID-AIR AFTER SEPARATION FROM THE STARSHIP ROCKET -

- This approach improves the booster's reusability by avoiding ocean landings and reducing costs and turnaround time.
- **Mechazilla (Mid-Air Booster Recovery)**- It refers to SpaceX's towering structure equipped with a pair of giant robotic arms designed to catch and recover the parts of launch vehicles during its descent.
- **Once the launch vehicle separates from the booster, the booster returns to the launch site, using grid fins to control its descent and orientation.** As it nears the launch tower, the robotic arms, which are controlled by precision motors and actuators, align vertically along the tower.
- Falcon 9 booster lands on specially-built platforms using landing legs strapped to its side, rather than being caught in mid-air.

ROYAL ENFIELD LAUNCHES EV BRAND "FLYING FLEA" -

- Royal Enfield has recently unveiled its highly anticipated electric vehicle (EV) brand, "Flying Flea", an homage to one of the brand's most iconic models. The original Flying Flea was a compact, lightweight motorcycle designed in the 1940s for military use during World War II.
- Engineered to be air-dropped behind enemy lines, the bike was valued for its nimble handling and ability to navigate rugged terrains. Its unique design and military legacy eventually paved the way for a civilian model that remains popular among enthusiasts today.



- Now, nearly 75 years later, Royal Enfield is reviving the Flying Flea name, this time for its born-electric series of motorcycles, emphasizing urban mobility, nostalgia, and cutting-edge EV technology.

ISRO'S FIRST ANALOG SPACE MISSION LAUNCHED IN LEH, LADAKH -

- **ISRO launched India's first analog space mission from Leh, led by the Human Space Flight Centre in collaboration with AAKA Space Studio, University of Ladakh, IIT Bombay, and Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council.**
- **The mission aims to simulate an interplanetary habitat, utilizing Ladakh's Mars-like conditions to study challenges of space habitation, benefiting the future exploration.**

RELIANCE AND NVIDIA PARTNER TO BUILD AI INFRASTRUCTURE IN INDIA -

- **Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries has teamed up with US chipmaker Nvidia to establish AI infrastructure in India, announced during the Nvidia AI Summit 2024 in Mumbai.**
- This collaboration aims to position India as a leading intelligence market, with plans to deploy Nvidia's GB 200 supercomputer technology for large-scale AI capabilities.
- **The initiative emphasizes India's vast IT talent, digital data, and a youthful population, aligning with Prime Minister Modi's vision of self-sufficiency in AI development.**

WORLD'S HIGHEST IMAGING CHERENKOV TELESCOPE UNVEILED IN LADAKH -

- **On October 4, 2024, Dr. Ajit Kumar Mohanty, Secretary of the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) and Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, inaugurated the Major Atmospheric Cherenkov Experiment (MACE) Observatory in Hanle,**

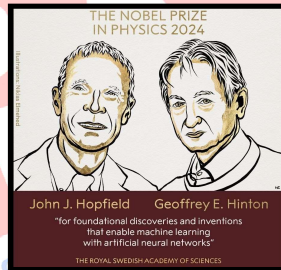
Ladakh. This monumental facility is the largest imaging Cherenkov telescope in Asia and stands as the highest of its kind in the world, located at an altitude of approximately 4,300 meters.



- **Built indigenously by the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) with support from Electronics Corporation of India Limited (ECIL) and other Indian industry partners, MACE represents a significant achievement in India's pursuit of advanced astrophysical research.**
- Its inauguration coincides with the Platinum Jubilee celebrations of the DAE, symbolizing a robust commitment to scientific advancement.

JOHN J. HOPFIELD AND GEOFFREY E. HINTON AWARDED NOBEL PRIZE 2024 IN PHYSICS -

- The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences has awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics 2024 to John J. Hopfield from Princeton University, USA, and Geoffrey E. Hinton from the University of Toronto, Canada.
- They are being honored for their foundational discoveries and inventions that have advanced the field of machine learning, particularly through the development of artificial neural networks.



Nobel Prize 2024 in Physics – Winner's Name

- A. John J. Hopfield
B. Geoffrey E. Hinton

- **Topic-** For foundational discoveries and inventions that enable machine learning with artificial neural networks
- This year's two Nobel Laureates in Physics have used tools from physics to develop methods that are the foundation of today's powerful machine learning. John Hopfield created an associative memory that can store and reconstruct images and other types of patterns in data.

INDIA'S LUNAR POLAR EXPLORATION MISSION (LUPEX) APPROVED -

- **India's National Space Commission has officially approved the Lunar Polar Exploration Mission (Lupex), marking the country's fifth lunar mission. This mission follows the successful landing of Chandrayaan-3 in August 2023, which made India the fourth nation to land on the Moon.**
- Lupex is a collaborative endeavor between India's ISRO and Japan's JAXA, aimed at exploring the Moon's resources, particularly water in its polar regions.
- The primary goal of Lupex is to investigate the presence and distribution of water on the Moon, both on the surface and beneath the lunar regolith.
- **The mission aims to gather crucial data about how water interacts with the Moon's environment, which is vital for future lunar exploration and potential human habitation.**

SHAKTHISAT MISSION: EMPOWERING 12,000 GIRLS IN SPACE TECHNOLOGY -

- **Aerospace startup Space Kidz India has launched the ShakthiSAT mission, aiming to train 12,000 girls aged 14-18 from 108 countries in space technology, targeting a satellite launch under ISRO's Chandrayaan-4 mission in 2026.**
- A prototype presentation will be made to Prime Minister Narendra Modi later this year or early next year. This initiative not only emphasizes skill development in the realm of space but also seeks to inspire and empower young women globally.
- **The ShakthiSAT mission includes 120 hours of online training focused on various aspects of space technology, payload development, and spacecraft systems.**
- Following this, 108 students—one from each participating country—will be selected for hands-on training in India between June and August next year.



ECONOMY & FINANCE

PAYTM RECEIVES NPCI NOD TO ONBOARD NEW UPI USERS AFTER RBI RESTRICTIONS -

- Paytm has received approval from the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to onboard new UPI users, ending a nine-month embargo imposed by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). This decision is expected to increase Paytm's UPI transaction volumes and boost its market position.
- In January 2024, the RBI restricted Paytm Payments Bank Limited (PPBL) from adding new UPI users due to supervisory concerns. The company's UPI market share dropped from 13% to 7%.
- In March, Paytm was permitted to operate as a Third-Party Application Provider (TPAP) using four banks—SBI, Axis Bank, HDFC Bank, and YES Bank—but without onboarding new users.

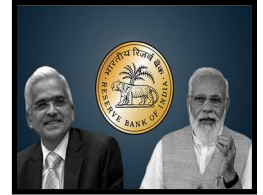
IMF MAINTAINS INDIA'S GDP GROWTH AT 7% FOR FY25, 6.5% FOR FY26 -

- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has maintained its growth projections for India, forecasting the economy to expand by 7% in FY25 and 6.5% in FY26. According to the IMF, the post-pandemic recovery, fueled by pent-up demand, has largely run its course as the economy now aligns with its potential growth trajectory.
- This steady outlook reflects India's resilience amid global economic uncertainties. The IMF retained India's GDP growth forecasts at 7% for FY25 and 6.5% for FY26.
- Pent-up demand from the pandemic has largely been exhausted, as the economy reconnects with its potential growth. The RBI also maintained its FY24 growth projection at 7.2%, citing strong consumption and investment momentum.



RBI'S DIWALI'S PLAN TRANSPORTING 102 TONNES FROM ENGLAND -

- On Dhanteras, October 29, 2024, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) revealed that it successfully transported an impressive 102 tonnes of gold from the Bank of England to secure storage facilities in India.
- This strategic move was part of the RBI's meticulous planning to ensure the safe and discreet transfer of such a significant quantity of gold, reinforcing the nation's reserves while aligning with the festive spirit of the occasion.
- This transfer aimed to reinforce India's gold reserves and ensure the safety of the nation's financial assets amid global geopolitical tensions.
- The RBI's total gold reserves amounted to 854.73 metric tonnes as of the 43rd Half-Yearly Report on Management of Foreign Exchange Reserves (April-September 2024).



GST COLLECTIONS REACH SIX-MONTH HIGH IN OCTOBER -

- The GST mop-up hit Rs 1.87 trillion, marking a six-month peak and an 8.9% year-on-year increase from Rs 1.72 trillion in October 2023.
- Year-to-date gross GST collections reached Rs 12.74 trillion, up 9.4% compared to Rs 11.64 trillion in the same period last year.
- Ladakh led with 30% growth, followed by Kerala (20%) and Haryana (15%).
- October's net GST revenue was Rs 1.68 trillion.

NOBEL IN ECONOMICS 2024 AWARDED TO ACEMOGLU, JOHNSON, AND ROBINSON -

- 2024 Nobel laureates in the economic sciences are Daron Acemoglu, Simon Johnson and James Robinson – have demonstrated the importance of societal

institutions for a country's prosperity. Societies with a poor rule of law and institutions that exploit the population do not generate growth or change for the better.

Winners Name-

- A. Daron Acemoglu
- B. Simon Johnson
- C. James A. Robinson

- **Topic-** For studies of how institutions are formed and affect prosperity
- Societies with poor rule of law and exploitative institutions tend to stagnate economically, while those with inclusive institutions promote growth and development.

GOVERNMENT RECONSTITUTES MONETARY POLICY COMMITTEE AHEAD OF RBI RATE REVIEW -

- The central government has reconstituted the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) ahead of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) monetary policy review scheduled for October 7-9.
- **This decision comes as part of the RBI's mandate to maintain consumer price index (CPI) inflation within a target range of 2-6% and aims to stabilize inflation at 4% on a durable basis.**
- The newly appointed external members are Ram Singh from the Delhi School of Economics, Saugata Bhattacharya, and Nagesh Kumar, each serving a four-year term. The MPC also includes RBI officials, with the RBI Governor serving as the chairperson.

INDIA'S FOREX RESERVES SURPASS \$700 BILLION MILESTONE FOR THE FIRST TIME -

- **India's foreign exchange reserves have exceeded \$700 billion for the first time, reaching \$704.89 billion in the week ending September 27, 2024.** This marks a record increase of \$12.58 billion, with foreign currency assets (FCAs) rising by \$10.4 billion to \$616 billion and gold reserves increasing by \$2 billion to \$65.7 billion.

- The surge is attributed to RBI's dollar purchases and favorable valuation adjustments, driven by declining U.S. Treasury yields, a weakening dollar, and rising gold prices.
- **With this achievement, India joins China, Japan, and Switzerland as the only economies to have surpassed \$700 billion in forex reserves.** This growth has been bolstered by robust economic fundamentals, increased foreign inflows, and RBI's proactive market interventions.

RBI MONETARY POLICY MEETING 2024: REPO RATE UNCHANGED -

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to keep the repo rate unchanged at 6.5% for the tenth consecutive time. This decision reflects a shift in the monetary policy stance from 'withdrawal of accommodation' to 'neutral.' As a result, all external benchmark lending rates linked to the repo rate will remain stable, providing relief to borrowers as their equated monthly instalments (EMIs) will not rise.
- Here's a summary of the key details from the RBI MPC meeting held from October 7-9, 2024-**



- **Repo Rate Decision:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) kept the repo rate unchanged at 6.5%. This marks the 10th consecutive time the rate has been held steady.
- **Monetary Policy Stance:** The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) shifted its stance from "withdrawal of accommodation" to a "neutral" position. This change allows for flexibility in adjusting interest rates based on inflation trends.
- **MPC Voting:** The decision to maintain the repo rate was reached with a majority vote of 5 out of 6 members in favor.
- **Inflation Projections:** The RBI forecasted inflation for the third quarter of FY25 at 4.8% and a decline to 4.2% in the fourth quarter. Retail inflation for FY25 was projected at 4.5%, assuming normal monsoon conditions. The

inflation rate for Q1FY26 is expected to be 4.3%, slightly above the 4% target.

- **Economic Growth Estimates:** The RBI maintained its GDP growth estimate for FY25 at 7.2%. Growth estimates for specific quarters are: 7.0% for Q2FY25, 7.4% for Q3FY25, 7.4% for Q4FY25, and 7.3% for Q1FY26.
- **Reverse Repo Rate and Other Rates:** The reverse repo rate was maintained at 3.35%. The Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) and Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) rates remained unchanged at 6.25% and 6.75%, respectively.

CURRENT ACCOUNT DEFICIT WIDENS TO \$9.7 BILLION IN APRIL-JUNE QUARTER -

- **In the April-June 2024 quarter, India's current account deficit (CAD) increased to \$9.7 billion, or 1.1% of GDP, up from \$8.9 billion (1% of GDP) in Q1 FY2024, according to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).**
- This marginal widening is attributed to a rise in the merchandise trade deficit, which expanded to \$65.1 billion from \$56.7 billion in the previous year. The CAD had recorded a surplus of \$4.6 billion (0.5% of GDP) in the previous January-March quarter.
- **The primary factor behind the widening CAD is the merchandise trade deficit. However, net services receipts saw an increase to \$39.7 billion from \$35.1 billion a year ago, driven by growth in sectors like computer services, business services, travel, and transportation.**
- Foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows rose to \$6.3 billion from \$4.7 billion, while foreign portfolio investment (FPI) declined sharply to \$0.9 billion from \$15.7 billion. Net inflows under external commercial borrowings (ECBs) also dropped to \$1.8 billion from \$5.6 billion in the same period last year.

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.



IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS

OCTOBER 27, INDIAN ARMY INFANTRY DAY -

- **Infantry Day is celebrated annually in India on October 27 to commemorate the significant role played by the infantry in protecting the nation's sovereignty and security.** This day marks the landing of the 1st Battalion of the Sikh Regiment at Srinagar airfield in 1947, a pivotal moment in the defense of Jammu and Kashmir against invading forces.
- **The day commemorates the landing of the 1st Battalion of the Sikh Regiment on October 27, 1947, to protect the people of Jammu and Kashmir from the attacks of Pakistani Kabaili Raiders supported by the Pakistan Army.**
- This brave action successfully thwarted Pakistan's plans to occupy Jammu and Kashmir.
- The infantry is often referred to as the "Queen of the Battle," signifying its central role in military operations throughout history.



UNITED NATIONS DAY 2024

- **The United Nations Day, celebrated annually on October 24, marks the anniversary of the entry into force of the United Nations Charter in 1945.**
- This day is a global celebration of the UN's mission to promote peace, security, human rights, and development around the world.
- In 2024, the United Nations Day once again serves as a reminder of the organization's pivotal role in addressing global challenges and fostering international cooperation.

NATIONAL UNITY DAY 2024 A TRIBUTE TO THE IRON MAN, NATION CELEBRATED -

- **October 31st, India celebrates National Unity Day to honor the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, a key figure in the nation's independence movement and its**

first Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister. Known as the "Iron Man of India," Patel was instrumental in uniting the country's diverse princely states into a single, independent nation.

- **Significance:** Commemorates the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, a key leader in India's independence struggle and the country's first Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister.
- **Purpose:** Serves as a reminder of Patel's efforts to unite India's diverse princely states into a single nation, promoting a spirit of national unity and solidarity.

WORLD POLIO DAY – OCTOBER 24 -

- **World Polio Day is observed on October 24 every year. It aims to raise awareness about the fight against poliomyelitis.**
- **This day was established by Rotary International in honor of Dr Jonas Salk. He developed the first successful polio vaccine.** The day serves to highlight ongoing efforts by the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI), founded in 1988. This initiative has reduced polio cases worldwide by 99 percent.
- **Polio, or poliomyelitis, is a serious infectious disease caused by the poliovirus.** It mainly affects children under the age of 5. The virus can lead to paralysis and, in severe cases, death. Vaccination is crucial to prevent the disease and protect vulnerable populations.



63RD ITBP RAISING DAY 2024 -

- **The Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) was formally raised on October 24, 1962, as a direct response to the Sino-Indian War that highlighted the vulnerabilities in India's border security.** The war exposed the need for a specialized force capable of

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securing India's northern frontier, particularly in the challenging high-altitude terrain of the Himalayas.

- **Initially starting with just four battalions, the ITBP has grown exponentially in strength and capabilities over the years. As of today, it boasts a personnel strength of over 88,000 soldiers, all highly trained in extreme conditions to guard the nation's borders.**
- **The ITBP's primary role is to safeguard India's northern borders, particularly along the 3,488-km-long Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China, stretching from Ladakh in the west to Arunachal Pradesh in the east. The ITBP operates in some of the most inhospitable and high-altitude regions in the world, with its personnel well-trained in skills like mountaineering, skiing, and survival under extreme conditions.**

INDIAN AIR FORCE DAY 2024 -

- **As India prepares to commemorate the 92nd Indian Air Force Day on October 8, 2024, the nation stands united in honouring its air warriors' exceptional dedication and sacrifices.**
- This significant occasion serves as a reminder of the Indian Air Force's (IAF) remarkable journey from humble beginnings to becoming one of the world's most formidable aerial forces.
- **The celebration will unfold at the picturesque Marina Beach in Chennai, featuring a spectacular airshow scheduled for Sunday between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.** The event promises to be a magnificent display of India's aerial prowess and technological advancement in aviation.



Distinguished Attendees

- The ceremony will be graced by several high-ranking officials, including:
- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh
- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin

- Air Chief Marshal A.P. Singh
- Chief Secretary N. Muruganandam

NATIONAL WILDLIFE WEEK 2024 – OCT 02 TO 08 -

- **On the eve of Wildlife Week 2024, the Department of Wildlife Protection in Jammu and Kashmir kicked off celebrations with an inaugural event at the beautiful Dachigam National Park.**
- This year's theme is celebrating nature's beauty and highlighting the vital importance of conserving wildlife.
- The event had many excited school students who participated in different activities. These young minds were encouraged to learn more about the environment and understand why it is important to take care of wildlife.



40TH RAISING DAY OF NATIONAL SECURITY GUARD -

- **On October 16, 2024, Union Minister of Road Transport & Highways, Shri Nitin Gadkari, commemorated the 40th Raising Day of the National Security Guard (NSG), praising the bravery and dedication of its personnel.**
- **The NSG was established on October 16, 1984, in the aftermath of Operation Blue Star, aimed at eliminating Sikh extremists from the Golden Temple of Amritsar.**
- The operation underscored the need for a dedicated force to handle terrorism. Following a bill presented to Parliament in August 1986, the NSG officially came into existence on September 22, 1986. Today, it remains a vital force in India's security landscape, committed to safeguarding the nation from various threats.



AWARDS, RECOGNITIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF DR APJ ABDUL KALAM -

- **Born on 15th October 1931 at Rameswaram in Tamil Nadu.** He planned programmes to produce a number of successful missiles, which helped earn him the nickname “Missile Man of India”. **He was sworn in as India’s 11th President in 2002** and completed the full term in 2007.
- He was awarded the coveted civilian awards - **Padma Bhushan (1981) and Padma Vibhushan (1990) and the highest civilian award Bharat Ratna (1997).**
- As Project Director, **he played a key role in developing India's first indigenous Satellite Launch Vehicle (SLV-3), which successfully launched the Rohini satellite into orbit in July 1980,** marking India's entry into the Space Club. He was the Chief Executive of Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme (IGMDP).
- He led the weaponization of strategic missile systems and the Pokhran-II nuclear tests in collaboration with the Department of Atomic Energy. **APJ Abdul Kalam witnessed the country's first nuclear test, Smiling Buddha, and later directed Project Devil and Project Valiant -- efforts to develop ballistic missiles on the technology of the successful SLV programme.**

SOHRAI PAINTINGS: A GIFT TO RUSSIAN PRESIDENT VLADIMIR PUTIN -

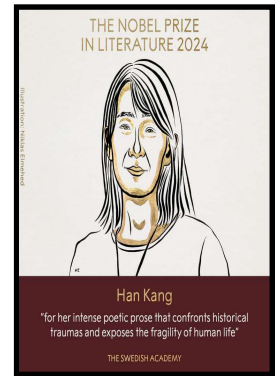
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi presented unique, handcrafted artifacts representing different regions of India to leaders of various countries during the recently held BRICS Summit in Kazan, Russia.
- **These gifts, each selected for their cultural significance and historical roots, showcased the country’s diverse traditional art forms, including Jharkhand’s Sohrai painting and Maharashtra’s Mother of Pearl Sea Shell Vase and Warli Painting.**



- The carefully chosen items served as cultural ambassadors, promoting Indian indigenous art on a global stage.
- Prime Minister Modi presented Russian President Vladimir Putin with a Sohrai painting from Hazaribagh district in Jharkhand. **This painting style, recognized under India’s One District One Product (ODOP) initiative, symbolizes the unique cultural identity of Jharkhand’s indigenous communities.**
- Traditionally created during the Sohrai harvest festival, these paintings are a vibrant representation of agrarian life, symbolizing the harmony between humans and nature. The women of tribal communities have passed down this art form across generations, using it as a means of storytelling and expression.

SOUTH KOREAN AUTHOR HAN KANG WINS THE NOBEL PRIZE 2024 IN LITERATURE -

- The Nobel Prize in Literature 2024 has been awarded to Han Kang, a prominent South Korean author, **in recognition of her intense poetic prose that addresses historical traumas and unveils the fragility of human life.**
- This accolade highlights the significant impact of her literary work, which delves deep into the complex interplay between personal and societal histories.



BAKER, HASSABIS, JUMPER AWARDED NOBEL 2024 IN CHEMISTRY FOR PIONEERING PROTEIN RESEARCH -

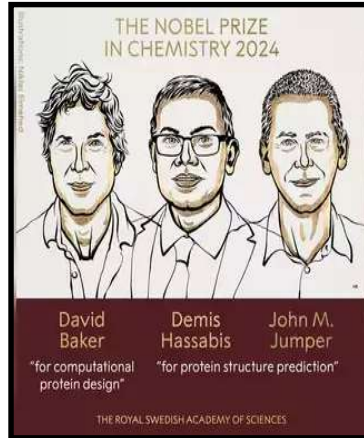
- The 2024 Nobel Prize in Chemistry has been awarded to David Baker for his innovative work in computational protein design and to Demis Hassabis and John M. Jumper for their groundbreaking AI-based protein structure prediction.

- These discoveries, recognized by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, represent major advancements in understanding and designing proteins.

Awarded by- The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences

Winners-

- Half of the prize awarded to David Baker (University of Washington, Seattle, WA, USA).
- The other half was awarded jointly to Demis Hassabis (Google DeepMind, London, UK), John M. Jumper (Google DeepMind, London, UK)



MITHUN CHAKRABORTY TO RECEIVE DADASAHEB PHALKE AWARD -

- Veteran actor Mithun Chakraborty, known for his versatile contributions to Indian cinema, will be honoured with the prestigious Dadasaheb Phalke Award at the 70th National Film Awards ceremony on October 8, 2024.
- At 74, Mithun Chakraborty expressed his overwhelming joy, dedicating the honour to his family and fans. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Information & Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw congratulated him on his achievement, highlighting his enduring legacy in Indian cinema.
- Mithun Chakraborty made his debut with the 1976 film Mrigayaa, winning the National Award for Best Actor. He gained immense popularity with the 1982 film Disco Dancer and starred in several other hits such as Surakshaa, Pyar Jhukta Nahin, Dance Dance, and Agneepath.
- He has won three National Film Awards and continues to be a household name, balancing both Bollywood and Bengali cinema.



ISRO CHAIRMAN S. SOMANATH RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS IAF WORLD SPACE AWARD FOR CHANDRAYAAN-3 -

- Dr. S. Somanath, Chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), has been honored with the prestigious International Astronautical Federation (IAF) World Space Award.
- This accolade was awarded in recognition of the remarkable success of Chandrayaan-3, India's lunar mission that made history with its soft landing on the Moon's South Pole. The award ceremony took place in Milan, Italy, and marked a significant milestone in India's growing prominence in space exploration.
- The Chandrayaan-3 mission, which successfully landed near the Moon's South Pole on August 23, 2023, placed India in the global spotlight. It made India the first nation to achieve a landing at the lunar South Pole, a region that had eluded previous attempts by other nations.
- With this feat, India joined an elite group of countries capable of successfully landing on the Moon, which includes the United States, Russia, and China.



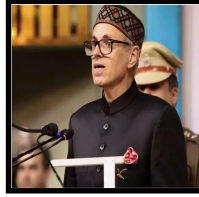
VIJAYA KISHORE RAHATKAR APPOINTED AS CHAIRPERSON OF NCW -

- Smt. Vijaya Kishore Rahatkar has been appointed as the new Chairperson of the National Commission for Women (NCW), making her the 9th individual to hold this esteemed position.
- The announcement was made by the Narendra Modi government, highlighting a commitment to advancing women's rights and issues in India.
- Her appointment is effective immediately and will be for a period of three years or until she reaches the age of 65, whichever comes first.



OMAR ABDULLAH TAKES OATH AS CHIEF MINISTER OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR -

- **Omar Abdullah, a prominent leader of the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC)**, has been sworn in as the new Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, marking a significant political transition in the region.
- Abdullah took the oath of office in a ceremony administered by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha.
- His ascension to the position comes after the National Conference emerged victorious in the recent elections, albeit without the direct involvement of the Congress party, which has chosen to provide external support instead.
- Omar Abdullah is part of a prominent political lineage in Jammu and Kashmir. His grandfather, Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah, holds the distinction of being the first Prime Minister of Jammu and Kashmir following its accession to India and later served as the Chief Minister.
- Omar's father, Farooq Abdullah, has held the position of Chief Minister three times, solidifying the family's longstanding influence in the region's politics.

**CJI CHANDRACHUD NOMINATES JUSTICE SANJIV KHANNA AS SUCCESSOR -**

- **Justice Sanjiv Khanna is set to become the 51st Chief Justice of India (CJI)**, following the recommendation by current CJI DY Chandrachud in a letter to the Union law ministry.
- Justice Khanna, the second-most senior judge of the Supreme Court, will take over the position after Justice Chandrachud's retirement on November 10, 2024.
- **Justice Khanna will serve as the CJI for a six-month period before retiring on May 13, 2025.**
- Justice Sanjiv Khanna enrolled as an advocate in 1983 and practiced at Delhi's Tis Hazari complex before moving to the High Court of Delhi.

Key Roles

- Senior Standing Counsel for the Income Tax Department

- Standing Counsel (Civil) for the National Capital Territory of Delhi (2004)
- Additional Public Prosecutor at the Delhi High Court

NAYAB SAINI SWORN IN AS HARYANA CM, BJP WINS THIRD TERM -

- **Nayab Singh Saini was sworn in as Haryana's Chief Minister** for the second time, marking BJP's third consecutive term in power in the state.
- **Governor Bandaru Dattatreya** administered the oath at a ceremony attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Ministers, and NDA leaders. Saini's council of 13 ministers also took the oath.
- **Saini, a Dalit leader from Kurukshetra, led the BJP to victory in the October 5 Assembly elections**, securing 48 seats in the 90-member house. Saini's rise to the top post continues from his earlier roles in the BJP, including as Haryana BJP chief.

**Key Cabinet Members**

- Anil Vij
- Krishan Lal Panwar
- Rao Narbir Singh
- Mahipal Dhanda
- Vipul Goel

UN CHIEF GUTERRES BANNED TO ENTER IN THE ISRAEL -

- **Foreign Minister of Israel Katz announced that they decided to declare the U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres** an undesirable personality in Israel and to ban his entry into Israel.
- Israel has declared UN chief António Guterres banning him from entry for "failing" to condemn Iran's missile attacks on Israel.
- Israel has banned UN secretary-general António Guterres from entering the country because, according to foreign



minister Israel Katz, Guterres failed to unequivocally condemn Iran's missile attack on Israel.

S. PARAMESH ASSUMES OFFICE AS NEW DIRECTOR GENERAL OF INDIAN COAST GUARD -

- S. Paramesh officially took charge as the Director General (DG) of the Indian Coast Guard at its headquarters in New Delhi.
- **His appointment comes following the tragic demise of his predecessor, DG Rakesh Pal, last month.** Paramesh, who had been officiating as the Director General, was formally appointed by the government a day prior. Upon assuming office, he was honored with a ceremonial guard of honour.
- With over three decades of dedicated service in the Indian Coast Guard, S. Paramesh has made significant contributions in both command and staff roles.



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.**



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.**
- **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.

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

NAMO DRONE DIDI SCHEME: EMPOWERING WOMEN SHGS WITH DRONES-

- It provides 14,500 Women SHGs with drones from 2024-26 for agricultural rental services like applying fertilizers, pesticides.
- Central Empowered Committee with cross-department oversight. Financial Aid: 80% assistance, up to ₹8 lakh; remaining via AIF loan.
- Training: 15-day for SHG members. Monitoring: IT-based MIS (Drone Portal) for tracking and fund management.



DR. MANSUKH MANDAVIYA LAUNCHES 'ESHRAM – ONE STOP SOLUTION' FOR UNORGANISED WORKERS' WELFARE -

- Union Labour Minister Mansukh Mandaviya launched the upgraded 'e-Shram: One Stop Solution' portal, aimed at enhancing access to social security schemes for over 300 million unorganised workers in India.
- The initiative consolidates data from various central ministries into a single repository, simplifying the registration process and ensuring that potential beneficiaries are identified state and district-wise.
- This upgrade reflects the government's commitment to welfare, following the earlier launch of the eShram portal in August 2021, which has already seen over 300 million registrations.
- The One Stop Solution integrates ten central schemes, including the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana and Mahatma Gandhi National Rural

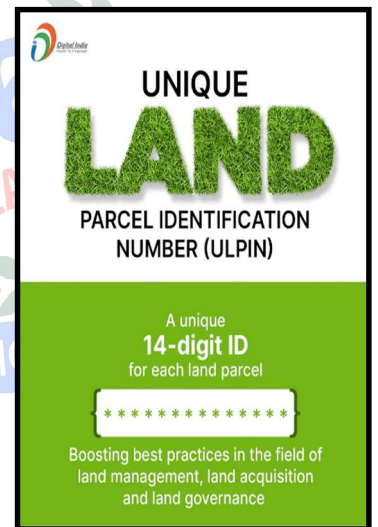


Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), enabling seamless access for workers.

Mandaviya noted that 60,000 to 90,000 workers join the platform daily, indicating growing trust in the initiative. He urged unorganised workers to register to take advantage of various government welfare schemes.

WHAT IS UNIQUE LAND PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (ULPIN)? -

- Approximately 30% of rural land parcels in India have received a Unique Land Parcel Identification Number (ULPIN). This initiative aims to assign a 14-digit alpha-numeric identity to each land parcel. The data is sourced from the Ministry of Rural Development's portal.
- ULPIN stands for Unique Land Parcel Identification Number.



It is part of the Digital India Land Records Modernisation Programme (DILRMP). Each ULPIN is a unique identifier for land parcels, streamlining land record management across India.

- The initiative was launched in 2021. It is a continuation of the earlier National Land Record Modernisation Programme, which began in 2008. The program was revamped and implemented as a central sector scheme on April 1, 2016.

PM-YASASVI SCHEME -

- The PM Young Achievers Scholarship Award Scheme for Vibrant India (PM-YASASVI) was launched by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. This scheme aims to uplift students from Other Backward

Classes (OBC), Economically Backward Classes (EBC), and Denotified Tribes (DNT).

- It provides access to quality education, addresses financial barriers, and supports academic growth.
- **PM-YASASVI consolidates previous scholarship initiatives.**



It includes the Dr. Ambedkar Post-Matric Scholarship for EBCs and the Pre-Matric and Post-Matric Scholarship for DNTs. These initiatives were merged into PM-YASASVI in 2021-22 to streamline support for disadvantaged students.

- The main goal of PM-YASASVI is to promote educational empowerment. It seeks to help vulnerable groups complete their education. This initiative encourages individual growth and contributes to a more inclusive society.

PM GATISHAKTI: THREE YEARS OF INFRASTRUCTURE TRANSFORMATION

- **The PM GatiShakti National Master Plan, launched on October 13, 2021, by Prime Minister Narendra Modi,** marks three years of transformative achievements in India's infrastructure landscape.
- The initiative has significantly improved project execution by integrating data from over **44 central ministries and 36 states and union territories, leading to reduced logistics costs and enhanced service delivery.**
- As of now, over 200 major infrastructure projects have been assessed, focusing on multimodal connectivity and efficient resource allocation.

AYUSHMAN BHARAT: FREE HEALTH COVERAGE FOR SENIORS 70+ -

- **In a significant expansion of Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY), Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Ayushman Vaya Vandana Card on October 29, 2024,** providing free healthcare coverage to all senior citizens aged 70 and above, irrespective of income.

- This extension, rolled out on Ayurveda Day at the All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) in New Delhi, enables seniors to avail free treatment worth up to ₹5 lakh annually at AB PMJAY empaneled hospitals.



- The initiative, however, excludes seniors in Delhi and West Bengal due to non-implementation by these state governments.

FIRST ASIAN BUDDHIST SUMMIT IN NEW DELHI -

- **The First Asian Buddhist Summit (ABS) is set to take place on 5th-6th November 2024 in New Delhi. Organized by the Ministry of Culture and the International Buddhist Confederation,** this summit focuses on the



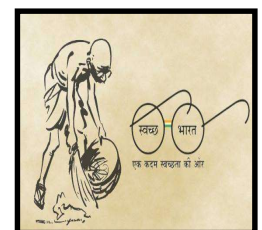
theme 'Role of Buddha Dhamma in Strengthening Asia'. The Hon'ble President of India will attend as the Chief Guest.

- The summit aims to unite Sangha leaders, scholars, experts, and practitioners from various Buddhist traditions.

It seeks to encourage dialogue and promote understanding. The event will address contemporary challenges faced by the Buddhist community across Asia.

10 YEARS OF SWACHH BHARAT MISSION: CELEBRATING A DECADE OF CLEANLI-NESS -

- **Marking the completion of a decade of the Swachh Bharat Mission, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will participate in the Swachh Bharat Diwas 2024 on 2nd October, Gandhi**



Jayanti, at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.

- He will inaugurate and lay the foundation for several projects worth over Rs 9,600 crore related to sanitation and cleanliness, which includes Rs 6,800 crore for urban water and sewage systems under AMRUT and AMRUT 2.0, Rs 1,550 crore for water quality and waste management in Ganga basin areas under the National Mission for Clean Ganga, and Rs 1,332 crore for 15 Compressed Biogas (CBG) Plant projects under the GOBARdhan Scheme.

RECORD GREENHOUSE GAS LEVELS HIT NEW HIGHS IN 2023 -

- In 2023, greenhouse gas levels reached a new high. The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) reported a rise of over 10% in just two decades. This surge is alarming. It marks the urgent need for action to combat climate change.



The average global concentrations of key greenhouse gases in 2023 were:

- Carbon dioxide (CO₂): 420 parts per million (ppm)
- Methane (CH₄): 1934 parts per billion (ppb)
- Nitrous oxide (N₂O): 336.9 ppb
- These levels are higher than in pre-industrial times:
- CO₂: 151% of pre-industrial levels
- Methane: 265%
- Nitrous oxide: 125%

INDIA COMMITS TO 30% PROTECTED AREAS IN UPDATED BIODIVERSITY PLAN

- India has unveiled its updated National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) during the 16th UN Biodiversity Conference in Cali, Colombia, committing to protect at least 30% of its terrestrial, inland water, and coastal marine areas by 2030.
- This ambitious target aligns with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF), adopted at the previous conference in 2022, which aims for global protection of 30% of land and ocean

areas while restoring degraded ecosystems crucial for providing clean water and air.

- The updated NBSAP outlines 23 national targets mirroring the 23 global goals, emphasizing India's commitment to conserving its rich biodiversity, which represents 7-8% of the world's species within only 2.4% of global land area.

INDIA SECURES ISA PRESIDENCY AGAIN, ASHISH KHANNA NEW DIRECTOR GENERAL -

- India and France have been re-elected as the president and co-president of the International Solar Alliance (ISA), respectively, at the seventh ISA assembly held in New Delhi. During the inaugural day of the assembly, Union Minister for New and Renewable Energy Pralhad Joshi announced that India would continue to hold the presidency until 2026.
- India and France have been re-elected as president and co-president of the International Solar Alliance (ISA). India will hold the presidency until 2026.
- Emphasized the transformation of solar energy from vision to reality, highlighting its role in promoting a cleaner and sustainable future.



NEW SNAKE SPECIES IN HIMALAYAS NAMED AFTER LEONARDO DICAPRIO -

- A team of scientists has discovered a new species of snake in the Western Himalayas, naming it *Anguiculus dicaprio* in honor of Hollywood star Leonardo DiCaprio, recognizing his significant contributions to wildlife conservation.
- The snake species is named *Anguiculus dicaprio*, recognizing DiCaprio's work in raising awareness about global climate change, biodiversity loss, and supporting conservation efforts.



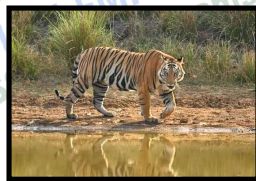
- **DiCaprio has been involved in creating awareness about environmental issues and funding field conservation activities and research.**
- Anguiculus means “small snake” in Latin, reflecting the relatively small size of this species in comparison to other members of the Colubridae family.

RECORD HEAT IN OCTOBER 2024 -

- **October 2024 was the hottest October for India since 1901. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) reported unprecedented mean and minimum temperatures.** Delhi experienced its warmest October since 1951, with no rainfall recorded.
- One factor contributing to these high temperatures is global warming. Over recent years, temperatures have risen globally. This trend has intensified in October 2024, affecting various countries, including India.
- **Western disturbances are vital for winter rainfall in northwest India. These are extra-tropical storms that originate in the Mediterranean. In October 2024, no western disturbances impacted northwest India.** This absence led to a 76% decrease in rainfall compared to the norm.

KAIMUR APPROVED AS BIHAR'S SECOND TIGER RESERVE -

- **The central government has given its in-principle approval for Bihar's second tiger reserve in Kaimur district.** This decision follows a proposal from the Bihar government to develop the Kaimur Wildlife Sanctuary (KWLS) into a tiger reserve.
- Valmiki Tiger Reserve (VTR) in West Champaran was the only tiger reserve in Bihar until now.
- VTR has exceeded its carrying capacity, currently housing 54 tigers, surpassing the ideal limit of 45.
- **The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) granted in-principle approval for KWLS to be designated as a tiger reserve during its 12th meeting.**



- Additional technical approvals from the central government are required before formal declaration.
- The establishment of the Kaimur Tiger Reserve aims to manage the growing tiger population in Bihar.
- Ensure a sustainable and eco-friendly environment in both reserves.

INDIA'S BIRD POPULATION DECLINES SIGNIFICANTLY, VULTURES HIT HARDEST -

- **India has seen a worrying decline in its bird population over recent decades, especially between 1992 and 2002, when some species, like vultures, faced severe reductions.**
- The Living Planet Report 2024 draws attention to this issue, making India the only country to have a specific section on its bird crisis in the report.
- **Vultures in India have experienced an alarming drop in numbers: The White-rumped Vulture population fell by 98%.**
- The Indian Vulture and Slender-billed Vulture populations decreased by 93%. These vultures, which play an important role in the ecosystem as scavengers, have been declining rapidly due to several threats.

**PM MODI INAUGURATES GAIL'S FIRST CBG PLANT IN JHARKHAND -**

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated GAIL (India) Limited's Compressed Bio Gas (CBG) plant in Ranchi, Jharkhand,** via virtual mode during a ceremony at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, marking Swachh Bharat Diwas 2024.
- **This facility, with a feedstock processing capacity of 150 Tonnes Per Day (TPD) and a production capacity of 5 Tonnes Per Day (TPD),** represents an investment of



₹26 crore and aims to convert the organic fraction of Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) into renewable energy.

INTERNATIONAL SOLAR ALLIANCE ASSEMBLY KICKS OFF IN NEW DELHI -

- The Seventh Session of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) Assembly will be held in New Delhi from November 3-6, 2024, with representatives from 120 countries attending.



- Led by Shri Pralhad Joshi, India's Union Minister of New and Renewable Energy, the assembly focused on strengthening international cooperation on solar energy to tackle energy access problems and climate change.

BLUE REVOLUTION: 4 YEARS OF PRADHAN MANTRI MATSYA SAMPAD AYOJANA -

- 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.



REPORTS & INDICES

RECENTLY, THE INDIAN CYBER CRIME COORDINATION CENTRE (I4C), WHICH RUNS UNDER THE UNION MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (MHA) MADE IMPORTANT PROJECTIONS RELATED TO CYBER FRAUDS -

- I4C was launched by the Ministry of Home Affairs in 2020 to deal with all types of cyber crimes including cyber fraud in a comprehensive and coordinated manner.
- To act as a nodal point to curb Cybercrime in the country. To strengthen the fight against Cybercrime committed against women and children. To act as an early warning system for Law Enforcement Agencies for proactive Cybercrime prevention and detection.

Key Highlights of the I4C Projection-

- Indians are expected to lose over Rs 1.2 lakh crore in 2025 to cyber fraud, siphoning off 0.7% of India's GDP. From January to June, 2024 Rs 11,269 crore was lost to financial fraud.
- Approximately 4,000 mule bank accounts are identified daily by I4C. I4C has identified 18 ATM hotspots across the country from where money was fraudulently withdrawn. A mule account refers to a bank account that is used to facilitate illegal activities such as money laundering and fraudulent transactions.
- The government has identified "scam compounds" in South East Asian countries such as Cambodia, Myanmar and Laos from cyber fraudsters. Most scams have origins in China or Chinese-linked entities.
- International Scam Compounds resemble call centres and have emerged as a hub of investment scams. Fraudsters make calls to unsuspecting people from Indian mobile phone numbers and dupe people of their money through various methods like lottery and prize scams, etc.
- **Illegal Activities:** Cyber scams can be used for terror-financing and money laundering.

INDIA RANKS 79TH IN WORLD JUSTICE PROJECT'S RULE OF LAW INDEX 2024 -

- The World Justice Project (WJP) Rule of Law Index 2024 reveals that India ranks 79th out of 142 countries, reflecting a continuing decline in the rule of law globally. This year's Index shows a decline in the rule of law in 59% of the countries surveyed, marking the sixth consecutive year of global declines since 2016.
- **Global Trend:** For the seventh consecutive year, rule of law scores declined in 57% of countries worldwide, attributed mainly to authoritarian trends and a decline in Fundamental Rights.
- **India's Performance:** India ranked 79th out of 142 countries in the overall index, with its score increasing slightly from last year. Regionally, India holds the 3rd position among 6 South Asian countries.
- **Income Group Ranking:** Among lower-middle-income countries, India ranked 8th out of 38.
- **Global Ranking Leaders:** Denmark, Norway, Finland, Sweden, and Germany top the list, while Venezuela, Cambodia, Afghanistan, Haiti, and Myanmar rank the lowest.
- Within South Asia, India ranked third after Nepal (69) and Sri Lanka (75), followed by Bangladesh (127) Pakistan (129) and Afghanistan (140). Among the G7 countries, Germany topped fifth, followed by Canada (12), Japan (14), UK (15), France (22), the USA (27) and Italy (32). Venezuela got the lowest rank and placed at 142.



2024 GLOBAL MULTIDIMENSIONAL POVERTY INDEX (MPI) -

- The 2024 Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) report highlights the alarming interconnections between violent conflict and multidimensional poverty across various nations. According to the report, approximately 1.1 billion people live in acute

multidimensional poverty, with 455 million residing in conflict-affected regions.

- The analysis emphasizes that these areas see higher poverty rates and slower progress in poverty reduction.
- **The report was jointly published by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) and includes updated data from 112 countries and over 1,359 subnational regions.**

INDIAN FOOTBALL TEAM CLIMBS TO 125TH IN FIFA RANKINGS -

- **The Indian men's football team has made a modest advancement in the FIFA rankings, moving up one spot to 125th, as per the latest update released.**



- This progress is attributed to their resilient performance in a recent international friendly against Vietnam, where they managed a 1-1 draw.
- **Under the guidance of new coach Manolo Marquez, the team is still in search of its first victory, having experienced one loss and two draws since his appointment.**
- Despite this, India's points tally has improved to 1133.78, contributing to their rise in the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) standings, where they are now ranked 22nd, just ahead of Vietnam.

WITHDRAWAL OF ₹2,000 NOTES: 98% RETURNED, RBI REPORTS -

- **In a major update, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced that 98% of the ₹2,000 notes have been returned since their withdrawal in May 2023.** This has led to the total value of the denomination in circulation dropping significantly from ₹3.56 lakh crore to ₹7,117 crore as of September 2023. The withdrawal was initiated due to concerns about the quality of the notes, introduced after the 2016 demonetization.

- **The ₹2,000 note was introduced post-demonetization in November 2016 to manage cash shortages.** By 2023, the RBI deemed its purpose fulfilled and moved to withdraw it, citing concerns about the denomination's quality.
- Although withdrawn from circulation, ₹2,000 notes remain legal tender. These can be exchanged physically at 19 RBI issue offices or sent via post for credit into bank accounts.



INDIA RANKS 105TH IN GLOBAL HUNGER INDEX 2024 -

- The Global Hunger Index (GHI) is a comprehensive tool that tracks and measures hunger at the global, regional, and national levels. **The 2024 GHI report sheds light on hunger levels across 127 countries, with specific emphasis on India's ranking and challenges.**
- India ranks 105th out of 127 countries in the Global Hunger Index 2024, placing it in the "serious" hunger category.
- India's GHI score is 27.3, indicating a severe level of hunger.
- 13.7% of India's population is undernourished, meaning they do not have access to sufficient caloric intake.
- 35.5% of children under five are stunted, reflecting chronic undernutrition.
- 18.7% of children under five suffer from wasting, a sign of acute undernutrition where children have low weight for their height.
- 2.9% of children die before reaching their fifth birthday due to a combination of inadequate nutrition and unhealthy living environments.



DEFENCE

ARMENIA BECOMES INDIA'S LEADING DEFENCE EXPORT DESTINATION -

- Armenia has emerged as India's leading destination for defence exports. In the fiscal year 2023-24 achieved a record in defence exports, totalling Rs 21,083 crore (approximately \$2.63 billion).
- **This marks a 32.5% increase from the previous year. Rising security concerns in Eurasia have prompted Armenia to shift away from its historical reliance on Russian arms, seeking diversification and self-reliance in its defence strategy.**
- Historically, Armenia relied heavily on Russia for military supplies, receiving about 94% of its arms from Moscow between 2011 and 2020. This included advanced weaponry like the Iskander missile system and Su-30SM fighter jets.
- **However, the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh war revealed weaknesses in Russian support. Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan expressed frustration over Russia's failure to deliver contracted weapons. This dissatisfaction prompted Armenia to seek alternative defence partnerships, leading to closer ties with India.**



INDIA STRENGTHENS NAVY WITH FOURTH NUCLEAR SUBMARINE -

- **India's fourth nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine (SSBN), designated S4*, was officially launched into the water at the Ship Building Centre in Visakhapatnam, according to official sources.**
- **This advanced submarine represents a significant leap in capability and size compared to its predecessor, INS Arihant (S2), which primarily served as a technology**



demonstrator under the Advanced Technology Vessel program.

- The fourth nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine (SSBN), codenamed S4*, was launched on October 16, 2024.

SIMBEX 2024 -

- **The 31st edition of the Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercise (SIMBEX) is taking place from 23 to 29 October 2024 in Visakhapatnam.** The Republic of Singapore Navy Ship RSS Tenacious arrived on 23 October to participate in this event.
- **SIMBEX started in 1994 as 'Exercise Lion King'. It has evolved into a key maritime collaboration between the Indian Navy and the Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN).** Over the years, it has grown in scope and complexity.
- The primary aim of SIMBEX 2024 is to strengthen the strategic partnership between India and Singapore.

Key objectives include

- Enhancing interoperability between naval forces.
- Improving maritime domain awareness.
- Improving cooperation to tackle shared maritime challenges.

INDIA-CHINA LAC AGREEMENT -

- India recently announced a pivotal agreement regarding patrolling along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China. **This development is seen as a potential stepping stone toward normalizing relations between the two nations following tensions that escalated in 2020.**
- The pact entails a structured approach to disengagement and resolution of the long-standing border disputes, **specifically in areas like the Depsang Plains and Demchok.**
- **The agreement allows both nations to restore mutual patrolling rights in the Depsang Plains and the Demchok region, areas where disputes existed even before the 2020 border incursions.** Indian troops will

now be permitted to patrol up to Patrolling Points (PP) 10 to 13 in the Depsang Plains and the Charding Nullah in Demchok.

- Notably, areas where previous disengagements occurred—such as Galwan Valley, Pangong Tso, and Gogra-Hot Springs—are explicitly excluded from renegotiation.

NEW MISSILE TESTING RANGE APPROVED IN ANDHRA PRADESH -

- The Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS), led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the establishment of a new missile testing range in Nagayalanka, Andhra Pradesh.



- This initiative aims to bolster India's defense capabilities, particularly for testing tactical missile systems.
- The new facility will focus on surface-to-air missiles, anti-tank missiles, and other advanced projects under the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

INDIA ROLLS OUT ITS FIRST MADE-IN-INDIA C295 AIRCRAFT BY SEPTEMBER 2026 -

- India is set to mark a significant milestone in its aerospace industry with the rollout of the first locally assembled C295 military transport aircraft from the Vadodara facility in September 2026.
- **This initiative, part of the "Make in India" campaign, represents a robust collaboration between Airbus and Tata Advanced Systems.** The facility was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez, highlighting the deepening defense ties between India and Spain.
- The Vadodara final assembly line (FAL) will produce over 85% of the C295 aircraft components domestically, excluding the engines. **The project is expected to create approximately 10,000 jobs across the country,**

with 18,000 components being manufactured indigenously.

- PM Modi emphasized that the factory symbolizes the new work culture in India, showcasing the rapid progress in the country's manufacturing capabilities. "Just two years ago, the construction of the factory had started, and now it is ready for aircraft production," he stated.

INDIA-VIETNAM 5TH JOINT EXERCISE 'VINBAX' BEGINS IN AMBALA -

- **The 5th India-Vietnam military exercise, Vinbax, started in Ambala, Haryana,** marking the first time both armies and air forces participated jointly.



- Last year this military exercise between the two countries took place in Vietnam.
- **The Indian Army contingent consists of 47 personnel, represented by a regiment of the Corps of Engineers** as well as personnel from other branches and services.

LAUNCH OF INDIA'S FIRST INDIGENOUS MULTI-PURPOSE VESSEL 'SAMARTHAK' -

- **On October 14, 2024, the Indian Navy marked a significant milestone with the launch of the first ship, 'Samarthak,'** under the Multi-Purpose Vessel (MPV) project at L&T Shipyard in Kattupalli, Chennai.
- The vessel was launched by Shashi Tripathi, President of the Navy Welfare and Wellness Association, and the ceremony was presided over by Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi, Chief of Naval Staff.
- This launch reflects the Indian Navy's commitment to indigenous shipbuilding, aligning with the Government of India's vision for 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' and 'Make in India.'



US SENDS THAAD MISSILE DEFENSE SYSTEM TO ISRAEL -

- United States has announced it will send the advanced THAAD missile defence system to Israel. This move is part of a broader strategy to bolster Israel's defence capabilities and deter further aggression from Iran and other regional adversaries.
- The deployment underscores the US's "ironclad commitment" to Israel's defence and comes at a time of heightened geopolitical sensitivity in the region.
- **THAAD stands for Terminal High-Altitude Area Defense, a cutting-edge anti-ballistic missile defense system developed by Lockheed Martin Corporation.** The system is designed to intercept and destroy enemy missiles in their final, or terminal phase, making it a critical asset for defending against missile threats.
- The system is highly mobile and can be quickly deployed to respond to short-range, medium-range, and limited intermediate-range ballistic missile threats, with ranges spanning from up to 1,000 km to 5,000 km.

IAF MARKS 92ND ANNIVERSARY WITH STUNNING AIR SHOW IN CHENNAI -

- The Indian Air Force (IAF) marked its 92nd anniversary on October 6, 2024, with a stunning air show that attracted an estimated 1.5 million spectators at Marina Beach, Chennai.
- The event, attended by Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin and Air Chief Marshal AP Singh, showcased the theme "Sashakt, Saksham, Atmanirbhar" (Potent, Powerful, Self-reliant), reflecting the IAF's evolution into a modern and formidable force.
- The air show featured a diverse array of aircraft, including the indigenous Tejas fighter jet, Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH), Light Combat Helicopter Prachand, and the Hindustan Turbo Trainer-40 (HTT-40).
- These displays not only highlighted the IAF's flying prowess but also symbolized India's journey towards self-reliance in defense technology. The audience was captivated by the Sukhoi-30 MKI's low-level aerobatics,

showcasing the highest level of skill and professionalism among IAF pilots.

DRDO SUCCESSFULLY CONDUCTS FLIGHT-TESTS OF ADVANCED VSHORADS SYSTEM -

- **The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully tested the Very Short Range Air Defence System (VSHORADS) three times in Pokhran, Rajasthan.** These tests show a big step forward in India's ability to develop its advanced defense systems.
- VSHORADS is a 4th generation, portable missile system designed to protect against threats in the air at short distances. The Very Short Range Air Defence System (VSHORADS) is meant to defend against low-flying threats like drones and aircraft within a range of 5 to 20 kilometers.
- **It uses surface-to-air missiles guided by infrared, radar, or optical systems to track and hit targets.** VSHORADS is becoming more important in modern warfare due to the increasing use of drones. These systems are typically placed near military bases, borders, and other critical areas for protection.

KAZIND 2024 EXERCISE COMMENCES IN THE UTTARAKHAND -

- **8th India-Kazakhstan joint military exercise KAZIND-2024 started at Surya Foreign Training Node, Auli, Uttarakhand.** An annual affair, the exercise will end on 13th October. To bid to improve the joint military capability and undertake counter terrorism operations in a sub conventional scenario.
- **The aim of the joint exercise is to enhance joint military capability of both sides to undertake counter-terrorism operations in a sub-conventional scenario under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter.**
- The exercise will focus on operations in semi-urban and mountainous terrain.
- Objectives to be achieved from the joint exercise are high degree of physical fitness, rehearsing and refining drills for operations at tactical level and sharing of best practices.

SPORTS

INDIA SUBMITS FORMAL BID FOR 2036 OLYMPICS -

- India has officially submitted a Letter of Intent to the International Olympic Committee (IOC) for the 2036 Olympic and Paralympic Games, marking a significant step in realizing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of hosting the prestigious event.
- The bid was submitted by the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) on October 1, 2023, as part of the ongoing effort to elevate India's global sporting profile. This would be the first time India hosts the Olympics, fulfilling a dream long cherished by its citizens.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been vocal about India's aspirations, reiterating the country's determination to bring the games to Indian soil. At the 141st IOC session in Mumbai, Modi emphasized, "We will leave no stone unturned in organizing the Olympics in India in 2036."
- With the country's growing sports infrastructure and participation in global sporting events, this bid is seen as a transformative opportunity for India's sports sector.



INDIA WINS 17 MEDALS, 4 GOLDS AT UNDER-19 WORLD BOXING CHAMPIONSHIP -

- Indian boxers claimed 17 medals, including 4 golds, at the Under-19 World Boxing Championships in Colorado, USA.
- Gold winners were Hemant Sangwan (men's) and Krisha Verma, Parthavi Grewal, and Vanshika Goswami (women's), with 11 medalists from the Khelo India initiative.
- The Indian squad, featuring 19 boxers, 9 men and 10 women, saw 12 athletes reach the finals.

38TH NATIONAL GAMES TO BE HELD IN UTTARAKHAND -

- The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) has chosen Uttarakhand as the host for the 38th Summer National Games, scheduled to take place from 28th January to 14th February 2025.
- This announcement marks a significant achievement for the state, as it will be hosting the prestigious event for the first time, followed by the upcoming Winter Games, which will be held outside Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh for the first time.
- The 37th National Games, held in Goa from 25th September to 9th November 2023, paved the way for Uttarakhand's momentous turn to showcase its capabilities on the national sporting stage.



DIPA KARMAKAR ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT -

- Dipa Karmakar, India's trailblazing gymnast, who narrowly missed out on a podium finish at the Rio 2016 Olympics, has announced her retirement from the sport. Famous for performing the risky "Produnova" vault, often called the "vault of death," Karmakar leaves behind a legacy of courage and determination that redefined Indian gymnastics.
- Karmakar, 30, became a national icon after finishing 4th at the Rio Olympics in 2016, attempting the highly dangerous Produnova vault. Though she did not win a medal, her performance captured the attention of gymnastics powerhouses globally.
- Her career spanned major successes, including a bronze at the 2014 Commonwealth Games, but injuries and



surgeries on both knees took a toll, eventually leading to her decision to retire after failing to qualify for the 2024 Paris Olympics.

CRICKET AT THE LA28 OLYMPICS: THE RETURN OF THE SPORT IN T20 FORMAT -

- Cricket, one of the most popular sports globally, is set to make a comeback at the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games (LA28), pending approval by the International Olympic Committee (IOC).
- This inclusion marks the sport's second appearance at the Olympic Games, following its debut in Paris 1900. However, unlike its traditional two-innings format, cricket at LA28 will be played in the Twenty20 (T20) format, which is a shorter and faster-paced version of the game.
- Let's dive deep into the rules, format, and significance of T20 cricket and its reintroduction at the Olympics.

INDIA TO HOST HISTORIC FIRST-EVER KHO KHO WORLD CUP IN 2025 -

- Kho Kho Federation of India (KKFI) in collaboration with the International Kho Kho Federation revealed plans to organize the inaugural Kho Kho World Cup in India come 2025.
- This historic event marks a significant milestone in the journey of this traditional Indian sport toward global recognition.



The groundbreaking championship will feature-

- 24 countries from six continents
- 16 men's teams and 16 women's teams
- A week-long series of high-intensity matches
- This diverse participation underscores the growing international appeal of Kho Kho, which has evolved from its humble beginnings on mud grounds to now being

played on professional mats across 54 countries worldwide.

INDIA AWARDED HOSTING RIGHTS FOR ISSF JUNIOR WORLD CUP 2025 -

- In a significant achievement for Indian shooting sports, the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) announced that India will host the ISSF Junior World Cup in 2025.
- ISSF President Luciano Rossi made this declaration during a press conference in New Delhi, where he praised India's contributions to the sport and its increasing global prominence. The announcement comes as India prepares to compete in the ISSF World Cup Final, showcasing its talented athletes and commitment to enhancing shooting infrastructure.
- Rossi emphasized that the ISSF is willing to support India in hosting more prestigious shooting tournaments in the future.



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.

IMPORTANT MCQ FOR COMPETITIVE EXAMS

- Q1. Which is the largest animal fair in India ?
a) Pushkar fair b) Nagaur cattle fair
c) Sonapur cattle fair d) Bateshwar fair
- Q2. The world heritage site, the Group of Monuments at Mahabalipuram located in which of the following Indian state ?
a) Kerala b) Tamil Nadu
c) Himachal Pradesh d) Uttarakhand
- Q3. Rauf is a folk dance form popular in which state ?
a) Chhattisgarh b) Karnataka
c) Jammu & Kashmir d) Goa
- Q4. Where is the Gir wild life sanctuary located ?
a) West Bengal b) Assam
c) Gujarat d) Odisha
- Q5. What is the rank of India in the Economic Freedom Report, 2024 ?
a) 34th b) 65th
c) 74th d) 84th
- Q6. Where was the Namu Bharat Diwas celebrated recently ?
a) Chennai b) New Delhi
c) Kolkata d) Hyderabad
- Q7. India recently launched its fourth nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine (SSBN) at which place ?
a) Goa b) Mumbai
c) Visakhapatnam d) Chennai
- Q8. Which country developed the helicopter-launched air-to-surface missile named Izdeliye 305 ?
a) China b) Australia
c) Russia d) Israel
- Q9. Which country recently won the ICC Women's T20 World Cup ?
a) South Africa b) New Zealand
c) India d) Australia
- Q10. Sri Singeeswarar Temple, which was seen in the news, is located in which state ?
a) Kerala b) Maharashtra
c) Karnataka d) Tamil Nadu
- Q11. Bushveld Igneous Complex (BIC), which was seen in the news, is located in which country ?
a) South Africa b) Australia
c) New Zealand d) Russia
- Q12. Mera Hou Chongba Festival has been celebrated in which state ?
a) Nagaland b) Manipur
c) Assam d) Sikkim
- Q13. Which city hosted the SCO Summit recently ?
a) Islamabad b) New Delhi
c) Beijing d) Moscow
- Q14. Which Indian recently received the IAF World Space Award for the Chandrayaan-3 mission ?
a) Manoj Govil b) S. Somnath
c) P K Mishra d) Pawan Kumar Goenka
- Q15. India's Deepika Kumari, who was in the news recently, belongs to which sport ?
a) Archery b) Swimming
c) Squash d) Shooting
- Q16. President Draupadi Murmu presented the 5th National Water Awards 2023 in New Delhi. Which state has been given the first prize in the category of Best State?
a) Uttar Pradesh b) Maharashtra
c) Odisha d) Punjab
- Q17. Which one of the following was not a part of the concept of nation state ?
a) Clearly defined boundary
b) National identity based on culture and history
c) Sovereignty
d) Freedom from Monarchy
- Q18. In which one of the following countries has single party system ?
a) India b) The United Kingdom
c) The USA d) China

- Q19. Feminist movements are aimed at
a) Liberty b) Equality
c) Participation d) Power
- Q20. The main effect of Direct Taxes is on
a) Food prices b) Consumer goods
c) Capital goods d) Income
- Q21. In January 2018, 'Electoral Bonds' Scheme was launched. Under this scheme, the electoral bonds will be available at specified branches of _____.
a) Bank of Baroda b) State Bank of India
c) Punjab National Bank d) Bank of India
- Q22. Income and consumption are _____.
a) directly related b) partially related
c) inversely related d) unrelated
- Q23. The rate of inflation increases when the purchasing power of money _____.
a) Decreases b) Increases
c) Stable d) Decrease just half
- Q24. Amartya Sen was awarded the Nobel Prize for his contribution to
a) Monetary Economics
b) Welfare Economics
c) Environmental Economics
d) Development Economics
- Q25. The headquarter of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) is based at _____.
a) London, United Kingdom
b) New York, United States
c) Geneva, Switzerland
d) Paris, France
- Q26. What is the state flower of Haryana ?
a) Palash b) Pink rhododendron
c) Marigold d) Lotus
- Q27. The Brahmaputra river is a trans-boundary river which flows through India, Tibet and _____.
a) Bangladesh b) China
c) Nepal d) Myanmar
- Q28. Which of these is the World's Highest Rail Bridge ?
a) Gandhi Setu b) Pamban Bridge
c) Forth Bridge d) Chenab Bridge
- Q29. Bidar Fort, which was seen in the news, is located in which state ?
a) Karnataka b) Maharashtra
c) Rajasthan d) Madhya Pradesh
- Q30. Which institution has launched the 15-day 'Jal Utsav' to create awareness towards water conservation and management ?
a) NITI Aayog
b) Central Institute of Brackish Water Aquaculture
c) Bureau of Energy Efficiency
d) Ministry of Jal Shakti
- Q31. Which country has been elected as the President of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) until 2026 ?
a) India b) France
c) Australia d) Brazil
- Q32. Kalka-Shimla Railway, which was seen in the news, connects which two states ?
a) Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand
b) Haryana and Himachal Pradesh
c) Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan
d) Punjab and Uttarakhand
- Q33. India and which country have signed the MoU on bilateral defence cooperation in November 2024 ?
a) Albania b) Algeria
c) Azerbaijan d) Armenia
- Q34. What is the name of the indigenously designed and manufactured machine pistol that was recently inducted into the Indian Army ?
a) Sajak b) Asmi
c) Rani d) Avni
- Q35. Which country has launched its second satellite, ZIMSAT -2, marking another significant stride in the country's space programme ?
a) Zimbabwe b) Zambia
c) Zealand d) Zaire
- Q36. In November 2024, which of the following two states formed a joint corridor management committee to work for the conservation of the cheetah across the two states ?
a) Rajasthan and Punjab
b) Haryana and Madhya Pradesh
c) Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh

- d) Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh
- Q37. Which shipyard built India's first indigenous aircraft carrier named Vikrant ?
a) Mazagon Dock Limited
b) Cochin Shipyard Limited
c) Hooghly Dock & Port Engineers Limited
d) Hindustan Shipyard Limited
- Q38. Exercise AUSTRALIND is conducted between India and which country ?
a) India and Australia b) India and France
c) India and Egypt d) India and Russia
- Q39. Who was awarded the Rohini Nayar Prize 2024 for promoting STEM education in rural India ?
a) Vinit Sinha b) Anil Pradhan
c) Viplav Mehta d) Saurabh Singh
- Q40. Where was the 83rd session of the Indian Road Congress held ?
a) New Delhi b) Raipur
c) Nagpur d) Pune
- Q41. What does defection mean ?
a) Leaving all the parties
b) Moving of a person from a party to another party which he got elected
c) Moving of a person from opposition party to ruling party
d) When Independent candidate fights election
- Q42. The concept of Patriarchy refers to
a) A system that values women more
b) A system that values men more
c) A system that values men and women equal
d) A system the believes in equal rights both for men and women
- Q43. There is enough for everybody's need and not for anybody's greed is said by which of our National Leader ?
a) Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru
b) Bhagat Singh
c) Mahatma Gandhi
d) Subhash Chandra Bose
- Q44. Division of power between higher and lower level of government is known as
a) vertical division of power
b) horizontal distribution of power
c) union division of power
d) community division of power
- Q45. Which of the following tax systems will help to reduce economic inequalities in India?
a) Regressive Tax b) Progressive Tax
c) Flat rate tax d) None of these
- 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. Transport comes under which sector of economic growth ?
a) Secondary sector b) Primary sector
c) Tertiary sector d) Quaternary sector
- Q48. If a budget is defeated in the legislature of a state then
a) The Finance Minister alone has to resign
b) The Finance Minister concerned has to be suspended
c) The council of Ministers along with the Chief Minister has to resign
d) Re-election have to be ordered
- Q49. What is the currency of Bangladesh ?
a) Rupiah b) Riyal
c) Ruble d) Taka
- Q50. Ottawa is the capital of which country ?
a) Canada b) Fiji
c) Palau d) Vietnam
- Q51. Rajiv Gandhi International Airport is in which city ?
a) Bengaluru b) Chennai
c) Mumbai d) Hyderabad
- Q52. The purpose of Round Revolution is ___?
a) Horticulture Production
b) Oil seeds Production
c) Cotton Production
d) Potato Production
- Q53. When is National Wildlife Week 2024 observed ?
a) September 1-7 b) October 2-8
c) November 10-16 d) December 20-26

- Q54. Shigeru Ishiba has been elected as the prime minister of which country ?
a) Malaysia b) Indonesia
c) Japan d) Mexico
- Q55. Recently, the Prime Minister of India inaugurated 'Banjara Virasat Museum' in which state ?
a) Odisha b) Maharashtra
c) Karnataka d) Madhya Pradesh
- Q56. Which organization recently faced criticism from India for its report on religious minorities ?
a) International Buddhist Confederation
b) Amnesty International
c) United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF)
d) Human Rights Watch
- Q57. Which state will celebrate the Silver Jubilee of Hornbill Festival 2024 from 1 December to 10 December, in a vibrant cultural showcase attracting global visitors ?
a) Tripura b) Nagaland
c) Assam d) Meghalaya
- Q58. Which Indian city will host the Malabar International Naval Exercise 2024 from October 8 to 18, aimed at strengthening maritime cooperation, enhancing interoperability among participating countries, and addressing shared maritime security challenges in the Indian Ocean and Indo-Pacific regions ?
a) Mumbai b) Visakhapatnam
c) Chennai d) Jodhpur
- Q59. Who has been awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature 2024 ?
a) Gabriel Garcia b) Alexander Pushkin
c) Han Kang d) Haruki Murakami
- Q60. Which state is the host of 38th Summer National Games?
a) Gujarat b) Uttarakhand
c) Himachal Pradesh d) Haryana
- Q61. Which country developed a hypersonic ballistic missile named Kinzhal ?
a) India b) China
c) Israel d) Russia
- Q62. Lunar Polar Exploration (LUPEX) is a joint mission of which two space organizations ?
a) NASA and ISRO b) ISRO and JAXA
c) ESA and NASA d) CNSA and ISRO
- Q63. What is the name of the first vessel launched under the two Multi-Purpose Vessel (MPV) project by the Indian Navy ?
a) Viksit b) Kaveri
c) Samarthak d) Samudra
- Q64. Which state has become the third state to conduct a caste-based census ?
a) Kerala b) Maharashtra
c) Telangana d) Gujarat
- Q65. When we produce a good by exploiting natural resources, it is an activity of the
a) Secondary sector b) Tertiary sector
c) Primary sector d) Organized sector
- Q66. Which of the following belongs to the private sector ?
a) TISCO b) Railways
c) LIC d) Post Office
- Q67. The resolution of PurnaSwaraj was adopted in which session ?
a) Karachi Congress b) Haripur Congress
c) Lahore Congress d) Lucknow Congress
- Q68. The principle of Majoritarianism led to a Civil war in
a) Srilanka b) Georgia
c) Belgium d) Ukraine
- Q69. If the rupee depreciates, how the exporters are affected?
a) They are unaffected
b) They are in loss
c) They are in profit
d) They get credit crunch
- Q70. SEBI is _____.
a) Constitutional body b) Advisory body
c) Statutory body d) Non-statutory body
- Q71. National Income of India is compiled by
a) Finance Commission
b) Indian Statistical Institute
c) National Development Council
d) Central Statistical Organization

- Q72. What will you call a system of taxation under which the poorer sections are taxed at higher rates than the richer sections ?
- a) Progressive tax b) Proportional tax
c) Regressive tax d) Degressive tax
- Q73. Which of the following statements about the Pali language and its significance in Buddhist literature is/are correct ?
1. Pali has been recognized as a Classical Language by the Indian government, highlighting its role in preserving Buddhist teachings.
 2. The Tipitaka, which is composed of three parts, includes the Vinaya Piṭaka, Sutta Piṭaka, and Abhidhamma Piṭaka.
 3. Pali literature exclusively focuses on the teachings of the Buddha and does not include any stories from his previous lives.
- Select the correct answer using the code below:
- a) 1 and 2 only b) 2 and 3 only
c) 1 and 3 only d) 1, 2, and 3
- Q74. Which of the following statements about the Europa Clipper mission is/are correct ?
1. The Europa Clipper mission is the first NASA mission dedicated to studying an ocean world beyond Earth.
 2. The spacecraft will be placed in orbit around Europa to investigate its potential habitability.
 3. Europa Clipper is the largest spacecraft NASA has developed for a planetary mission, measuring 100 feet in length.
- a) Only 1 b) 1 and 3 only
c) 2 and 3 only d) 1, 2, and 3
- Q75. Which of the following statements regarding Section 6A of the Citizenship Act of 1955 is correct ?
1. Section 6A was introduced as part of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 1985, in response to the Assam Accord.
 2. This provision mandates the detection and deportation of foreigners who entered Assam after March 25, 1971, due to the influx from Bangladesh.
 3. Section 6A applies uniformly across all states of India without any specific reference to Assam.
- Select the correct answer:
- a) 1 and 2 only b) 2 and 3 only
c) 1 and 3 only d) 1, 2, and 3
- Q76. Who has been recommended by Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud as his successor recently ?
- a) Justice N.V. Ramana
b) Justice Sanjiv Khanna
c) Justice Uday Umesh Lalit
d) Justice B.R. Gavai
- Q77. Which of the following statements are true regarding the Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2024 ?
1. India has been ranked 105th out of 127 countries, placing it in the “serious” category for hunger levels.
 2. The GHI score for the world in 2024 is considered severe, indicating a significant increase in hunger since 2016.
 3. India’s performance is comparatively better than its South Asian neighbors like Bangladesh, Nepal, and Sri Lanka.
- Select the correct option:
- a) Only 1 b) 1 and 2
c) 1 and 3 d) All 1, 2, and 3
- Q78. Which of the following statements are true regarding the Maharatna status for Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) in India ?
1. A company must have previously been granted Navratna status to qualify for Maharatna status.
 2. To achieve Maharatna status, a company must have an average annual turnover exceeding ₹50,000 crore over the last three years.
 3. The company should have a significant international presence or operations to qualify for Maharatna status.
- a) Only I and II are true b) Only I and III are true
c) Only II and III are true d) All statements are true
- Q79. Which of the following statements is true regarding the Nobel Prize in Economics ?
- I. The 2024 Nobel Prize in Economics was awarded to James A. Robinson, Simon Johnson, and Daron Acemoglu for their work on societal institutions.
 - II. The prize was created in 1968 by the Nobel Committee as a tribute to Alfred Nobel.
 - III. The official name of the prize includes a reference to the Bank of Sweden.
- a) Only I and II are true
b) Only I and III are true
c) Only II and III are true
d) All statements are true

Q80. With reference to the 5th National Water Awards announced by the Ministry of Jal Shakti, consider the following statements:

1. Odisha has been awarded the first prize in the Best State category.
2. Uttar Pradesh has secured the second position in the Best State category.
3. Gujarat and Puducherry have jointly secured the third position in the Best State category.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?

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

Q81. Consider the following statements:

1. e-Shram portal aims to create a comprehensive database of unorganised employment in India.
2. eShram has been integrated with the National Career Service (NCS) Portal.
3. An unorganised worker can register on NCS using a PAN card number.
4. e-Shram portal is launched by the Ministry of Labour and Employment.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?

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

Q82. With reference to the “Z-Morh Tunnel”, consider the following statements:

1. It is part of the Zojila tunnel project.
2. It has been constructed by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO).
3. It is named for the Z-shaped stretch of road between Sonamarg and Gagangir.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?

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

Q83. Consider the following statements about the TATA Aircraft Complex for C-295:

1. The complex is located in Vadodara, Gujarat.
2. It will manufacture a total of 56 C-295 aircraft for the Indian Air Force.
3. The facility is solely funded by the Indian government.

How many of the above statements is/are correct ?

- a) Only 1 b) Only 2
c) All three d) None

Q84. Consider the following statements regarding ‘National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)’

1. It aims to reduce the levels of coarse particles (PM10) by at least 20% within five years, using 2017 as the base year.
2. Non-Attainment Cities (NACs) are the cities Identified for not meeting national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS) for five consecutive years.

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

Q85. Consider the following statements about the 'Chalo India Campaign':

1. The 'Chalo India Campaign' allows Overseas Citizens of India (OCI) cardholders to nominate up to five foreign nationals for free e-visas.
2. The campaign specifically targets increasing inbound tourism from the United Kingdom.
3. OCI cardholders can register nominations for the 'Chalo India Campaign' through a special online portal.

How many of the above statements is/are correct ?

- a) Only 1 b) Only 2
c) All three d) None

ANSWERS

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