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AUGUST-2024



Union Finance Minister announces
Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya
Unnat Gram Abhiyan

24th SCO summit held in
Astana, Kazakhstan



Gautam Gambhir appointed
India men's cricket head coach

Rashtrapati Bhavan's 'Durbar Hall'
renamed 'Ganatantra Mandap',
'Ashok Hall' becomes 'Ashok Mandap'



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Chapter 1

National Affairs



Commemorative Stamp released for Singer Mukesh's 100th birthday

- On 24 July 2024, the Ministry of Culture issued a commemorative stamp in honor of the legendary singer Mukesh, marking his 100th birth anniversary. The unveiling ceremony took place at the Akashwani Bhawan in New Delhi.
- The stamp symbolizes Mukesh's remarkable career and enduring legacy, celebrating not only his centenary but also immortalizing his profound impact on the music industry.

Ministry of Culture has launched the National Mission on Cultural Mapping (NMCM)

- On 22 July 2024, The Government of India under the Ministry of Culture has initiated the National Mission on Cultural Mapping (NMCM) to provide a comprehensive overview of the cultural heritage of villages across India.
- The project aims to cover all the inhabited villages of India which is marked as 'village', in the Census List, 2011 published by the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India, including all the inhabited villages of Bihar.
- It aims to raise awareness of cultural heritage's role in development and identity while mapping the cultural aspects of 6.5 lakh villages and creating a National Register of Artists and Art Practices, along with a web portal and mobile app for the National Cultural Workplace (NCWP).

Bombay HC quashes Exemption from RTE Quota for Private Schools

- On 19 July 2024, the Bombay High Court invalidated the Maharashtra government's notification that exempted private unaided schools within a 1km radius of government-run schools from admitting students in the 25% Right to Education (RTE) quota.
- This exemption was based on Section 12(1)(c) of The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009.

Government of India upgraded IRCTC to 'Schedule A' CPSE

- On 19 July 2024, the Ministry of Railways upgraded the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) from 'Schedule B' to 'Schedule A' category, making it a Central Public Sector Enterprise.
- This move recognizes IRCTC's robust performance and its significant contribution to the hospitality, travel, and tourism sectors.
- IRCTC has consistently demonstrated excellent financial performance, with a CAGR of 50.63% in total income between Fiscal 2022 and Fiscal 2024.

NHAI to charge double toll from vehicles with Non-Affixed FASTag on front windshield

- On 18 July 2024, the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) implemented a new policy to deter users from deliberately avoiding FASTag affixation on their vehicle windshields.
- Vehicles entering toll lanes without a FASTag attached to the front windshield from the inside will now be charged double user fees.
- This move aims to streamline toll operations, reduce delays, and ensure a seamless journey for National Highway users.

Union Minister G Kishan Reddy inaugurates landslide forecast system in Kolkata

- On 19 July 2024, Union Minister of Coal and Mines G. Kishan Reddy inaugurated the National Landslide Forecasting Centre (NLFC) at the Geological Survey of India (GSI) campus in Salt Lake City, Kolkata.
- The NLFC aims to enhance landslide hazard mitigation in India by providing advanced forecasts.
- Initially benefiting residents of Kalimpong, Darjeeling, and Nilgiri districts, the NLFC will eventually issue early warning bulletins for all landslide-prone states, operationalizing the regional Landslide Early Warning System (LEWS) nationwide by 2030.

PM Modi announces One Million Dollar Grant to UNESCO World Heritage Centre

- On 21 July 2024, during the opening ceremony of the 46th session of the World Heritage Committee, Prime Minister Narendra Modi declared that India would contribute USD 1 million to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre.
- This grant will be utilized for capacity building, technical assistance, and conservation of world heritage sites.

Girish Chandra Murmu inaugurates 'International Centre for Audit of Local Governance' in Rajkot

- On 18 July 2024, Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) Girish Chandra Murmu inaugurated the International Centre for Audit of Local Governance (iCAL) in Rajkot, Gujarat.
- This pioneering institute aims to set global standards for auditing local governance bodies.
- iCAL serves as a collaborative platform for policymakers, administrators, and auditors linked with local governments.

Asia's first Pre-Clinical Network Facility inaugurated in Faridabad

- On 16 July 2024, Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh inaugurated Asia's first health research-related "Pre-clinical Network Facility" at the Regional Centre of Biotechnology in Faridabad.
- This facility, selected by the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI), is based on its capability to handle BSL3 pathogens.
- It serves as the 9th such network laboratory globally and the first in Asia.

IIT Guwahati researchers explore African Swine Fever Virus Protein

- On 19 July 2024, researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Guwahati made a significant breakthrough in understanding the African Swine Fever Virus (ASFV).
- Their focus was on the p30 protein, which plays a crucial role in the virus's ability to infect host cells and evade the immune response.
- The study revealed that the p30 protein has RNA-degrading activity, breaking down the host cell's RNA to aid the virus in evading immune defenses.

India completes 4th ICCPR Human Rights Review

- India successfully concluded its fourth periodic review by the UN Human Rights Committee under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) in Geneva on 15 and 16 July.
- The discussions covered topics such as anti-corruption measures, non-discrimination, privacy laws, and India's new criminal legislation.
- The review highlighted India's commitment to human rights and its contributions to the global framework.

India's longest Urban tunnel between Borivali and Thane

- On 13 July 2024, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated India's longest and largest urban tunnel project—the Thane Borivali Twin Tunnel.
- This remarkable infrastructure initiative, undertaken by the Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority, connects Thane and Borivali through an 11.8 km direct subway line.
- The estimated cost for this project is Rs. 16,600 crore.

Ministry of Home Affairs amends J&K Reorganization Act, 2019

- On 13 July 2024, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) made significant amendments to the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization Act, 2019, enhancing the powers of the Lieutenant Governor (LG).
- These changes empower the LG in areas such as police, public order, All India Services, and transfers and postings.
- Notably, the new rules require proposals related to these matters to be submitted through the Chief Secretary to the LG.

NITI Aayog launch GearShift Challenge for Zero-Emission Truck Adoption

- On 14 July 2024, NITI Aayog, in collaboration with IIM Bangalore, Smart Freight Centre India, CALSTART/Drive to Zero, and WRI India, unveiled the NITI GearShift Challenge as part of the e-FAST India initiative.
- This pioneering hackathon aims to foster innovative business models for the adoption of zero-emission trucks (ZETs) in India.
- Participants, including students, transport service practitioners, academics, and researchers, are invited to develop creative solutions that address financial, technical, and operational challenges related to electric trucks.

16th Finance Commission constituted five-member advisory council

- On 10 July 2024, the Sixteenth Finance Commission established a five-member Advisory Council.
- Led by Poonam Gupta, Director General of the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER), the council includes economists such as DK Srivastava, Neelkanth Mishra, Pranjul Bhandari, and Rahul Bajoria.
- Their role involves advising the Commission on its Terms of Reference, contributing to research papers, and enhancing the Commission's understanding of fiscal devolution and policy recommendations.

SEHER launched to boost Financial Literacy for Women Entrepreneurs

- In 5 July 2024, the Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP) and TransUnion CIBIL jointly launched SEHER, a credit education program designed to empower women entrepreneurs in India.
- SEHER aims to provide financial literacy content and business skills, enabling women to access the necessary financial tools for growth and job creation in the country's economy.

NCM advised States/UTs to hold monthly "SARV DHARMA MEETINGS"

- On 9 July 2024, the National Commission for Minorities (NCM) advised state governments and Union Territories (UTs) to organize "Sarv Dharma Samvad" meetings.
- These gatherings aim to curb incidents of attacks or hate crimes against minority communities.
- By fostering dialogue and understanding among diverse communities, this initiative seeks to promote communal harmony and prevent violence.

President of India launched 'Lifestyle for Sustainability' Campaign

- On 8 July 2024, the President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu, inaugurated the Divine Retreat Centre of Brahma Kumaris at Haridamada village near Bhubaneswar, Odisha.
- During the same event, she also launched the national campaign "Lifestyle for Sustainability" by Brahma Kumaris.
- The campaign aims to raise awareness about sustainable practices and encourage individuals to conserve natural resources.

SEWA received global sustainability certificate

- On 14 July 2024, the Sharjah Electricity, Water and Gas Authority (SEWA) achieved a significant milestone by receiving a global certificate from the international organization "PrintReleaf Standard".
- This recognition highlights SEWA's distinguished efforts in contributing to sustainable development and environmental preservation.
- Through an initiative in cooperation with Xerox Emirates, SEWA participated in a global reforestation program, planting 115 trees from January to May 2024 in exchange for printed papers.

JNU to introduce Centre on Hindu, Buddhist and Jain Studies

- Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) is in the process of establishing three new centers: the Centre for Hindu Studies, the Centre for Buddhist Studies, and the Centre for Jain Studies.
- These centers will operate under the School of Sanskrit and Indic Studies. The decision was approved by JNU's Executive Council during a meeting on 29 June 2024.
- The university aims to integrate Indian knowledge systems into research culture, bridging tradition with modernity.

Government to launch 'Agri Fund for Start-Ups & Rural Enterprises' (AgriSURE)

- The Indian government is set to introduce the 'Agri Fund for Start-Ups & Rural Enterprises' (AgriSURE), a Rs 750 crore Category-II Alternative Investment Fund (AIF).
- This fund aims to support start-ups and agripreneurs by providing both equity and debt investments. It specifically targets high-risk, high-impact activities in the agriculture value chain.
- The announcement was made during the Pre-Launch Stakeholder meet at NABARD Headquarters in Mumbai on 12 July 2024.

Haj Committee now under Minority Affairs Ministry

- The Haj Committee of India, a statutory body, now operates under the Ministry of Minority Affairs.
- Established under the Haj Committee Act, 2002, it oversees arrangements for Muslim pilgrims' Haj pilgrimage.
- This move aims to enhance efficiency and improve coordination in managing the pilgrimage.

Three new Criminal Laws come into force, replacing British-era IPC

- Three new criminal laws were enacted in India on July 1, 2024. These laws replace the British-era legal codes:
 - ♦ Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) replaces the Indian Penal Code (IPC), which was 163 years old.
 - ♦ Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) replaces the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), which was 126 years old.
 - ♦ Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA) replaces the Indian Evidence Act (IEA), which was 151 years old.
- These changes aim to modernize and enhance India's criminal justice system. Notable provisions include electronic summons, mandatory videography of crime scenes, and victim involvement in legal proceedings.

National policy on farmer producer organisations for cheaper loans

- Recently, a national policy on farmer producer organisations (FPOs) has proposed a slew of measures, including providing cheaper institutional loans and a three-tier Amul-like model, to help and benefit millions of farmers.
- The draft national policy advocates a special sub-set within primary sector lending norms of banks to make lending to FPOs easier.
- It pitches for a scheme to incentivise hiring talent in FPOs, and encouraging farmer groups to establish agribusiness marketplaces acting as deemed 'mandis' under the state agricultural produce laws.

Union Minister of State for Sc & Tech unveiled the results of 15th round of AISRF

- On 3 July 2024, the Union Minister of State for Science and Technology, Dr. Jitendra Singh, announced the

results of the 15th round of the Australia-India Strategic Research Fund (AISRF).

- This bilateral program fosters collaborative research between Australia and India.
- Five projects were awarded funding across diverse disciplines, including artificial intelligence and machine learning, biotechnology, urban mining and electronic waste recycling, and ultralow-cost solar and clean hydrogen technologies.

Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy inaugurates DMF Gallery in Shastri Bhawan

- On 2 July 2024, Union Minister of Coal and Mines, Shri G. Kishan Reddy, inaugurated the DMF gallery at Shastri Bhawan.
- This gallery showcases products created by Self-Help Groups (SHGs) formed under the District Mineral Foundation (DMF) and those supported by mining companies through their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives.

IGNOU launches MA Programme in Bhagavad Gita Studies

- Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) has introduced a specialized Master of Arts (MA) program in Bhagavad Gita Studies for the academic session 2024-2025.
- This program, offered through open and distance learning (ODL), spans 2 to 4 years and accommodates 500 seats.

Department of Consumer Affairs to enhance Right to Repair Portal

- The Department of Consumer Affairs (DoCA), under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Government of India, has launched the Right to Repair Portal India.
- This portal empowers consumers by providing easy access to repair information for their products, promoting a circular economy, and reducing e-waste.



Israeli Parliament labels UNRWA a Terror Organization

- On 22 July 2024, the Israeli parliament (Knesset) gave preliminary approval to a bill declaring the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) a terrorist organization.
- The bill also proposes to sever diplomatic relations with UNRWA. Israel accuses the agency of having militant links, alleging that some of its employees participated in attacks on southern Israel.

Sri Lanka celebrates annual Kataragama Esala Festival

- The Kataragama Esala Perahera Festival is a vibrant and awe-inspiring annual event held at the Ruhunu Maha Kataragama Devalaya in Sri Lanka.
- Spanning fifteen days from 6 June to 22 July 2024, this festival culminates in the final Maha Perahera on Esala Full Moon Poya Day, which falls on 20 July 2024.
- The festival centers around the Maha Devala, dedicated to Skanda, the Hindu God of War, also revered by Buddhists as the Katharagama Deviyo.

Ursula von der Leyen reelected to a second 5-year term as European Commission president

- On 18 July 2024, lawmakers at the European Parliament re-elected Ursula von der Leyen to a second 5-year term as president of the European Union's executive commission.
- Her victory ensures leadership continuity for the 27-nation bloc amid challenges such as the war in Ukraine, climate change, migration, and housing shortages.
- Von der Leyen emphasized strengthening democracy and received broad support from lawmakers, including the Greens/European Free Alliance group.

Japan sees highest number of bankruptcies since 2014

- In Japan, corporate bankruptcies surged 22 percent in the first half of the year due to rising costs, labor shortages, and waning financial support.
- According to a recent survey by a credit research company, the total number of bankruptcies from January to June came to 4,887, the highest since 2014.

Ashadha Purnima celebrated in Nepal

- On 21 July 2024, the Indian Embassy in Kathmandu organized a special event to mark Ashadh Purnima in Nepal.
- This auspicious occasion commemorates the moment when Lord Buddha delivered his first sermon to his initial five ascetic disciples at Sarnath, Uttar Pradesh.
- Representatives from various Buddhist sects and monasteries in Nepal participated in the celebration.

China unveils world's first Carbon Fiber High-Speed Train

- On 17 July 2024, China unveiled the world's first passenger train made entirely from carbon fiber. Known as Cetrovo 1.0 or the Carbon Star Rapid Transit, this marvel of engineering promises a smoother, greener, and more efficient ride for passengers.
- The train's lightweight design reduces energy consumption by 7% and leads to an annual reduction of approximately 130 tons of carbon dioxide emissions.
- Beyond weight reduction, the Cetrovo 1.0 boasts a top speed of 87 miles/hour (140 km/hour), exceeding the average speed of Chinese metro trains.

Germany to phase out Huawei, ZTE in 5G Networks

- Recently, Germany has taken a significant step toward bolstering digital security by closing a deal with telecom providers to exclude Chinese companies

such as Huawei and ZTE from the nation's 5G network products starting in 2029.

- The phased approach begins with removing Chinese-made technology from the country's core network of 5G data centers by 2026, followed by eliminating Chinese parts like antennas, transmission lines, and towers by 2029.

Philippines chosen to host U.N. Climate Fund Board

- On 9 July 2024, the Board for Responding to Loss and Damage selected the Philippines as its host country.
- This significant milestone grants the Board legal personality to negotiate hosting arrangements with the World Bank, which will serve as the interim trustee of the fund.
- The Fund aims to help vulnerable countries recover from climate impacts.

Romania, Bulgaria, Greece Boost NATO Eastern Flank Mobility

- On 11 July 2024, Romania, Bulgaria, and Greece signed a significant deal to enhance cross-border military mobility on NATO's eastern flank.
- This agreement aims to expedite the movement of troops and weapons, ensuring swift response capabilities.
- The urgency stems from Russia's 2022 invasion of Ukraine, prompting NATO and the European Union to streamline preparations for potential conflicts with Moscow.

Philippines, Japan sign key Military Cooperation Deal

- On 7 July 2024, Japan and the Philippines signed a Reciprocal Access Agreement, a significant defense pact.
- This agreement allows the deployment of Japanese forces for joint military exercises, including live-fire drills, in the Southeast Asian nation.

UAE launched trial operation of World's First 3D-Printed Abra

- On 14 July 2024, Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) initiated the trial operation of the world's first 3D-printed electric abra.

- This innovative watercraft, designed in collaboration with the private sector, retains the traditional abra identity while incorporating modern components.
- The 3D-printed structure aims to reduce manufacturing time by 90%, cut costs by 30%, and decrease operation and maintenance expenses by the same percentage.

Finland passed law to block asylum seekers crossing from Russia

- On 12 July 2024, Finland's parliament approved a controversial law granting border guards the authority to refuse entry to asylum seekers crossing over from Russia.
- The move comes after an increase in asylum seekers from Russia, which led Finland to close its border with its eastern neighbor.

Essar Energy Transition's Hydrogen-Ready Power Plant in Europe

- On 12 July 2024, Essar Energy Transition (EET) launched EET Hydrogen Power, Europe's first hydrogen-ready combined heat and power plant (CHP).
- Located at the Stanlow refinery in the UK, this groundbreaking project aims to complete construction by 2027.
- EET Hydrogen Power will replace existing boiler units, delivering 125 MW of power and 6,000 tonnes per day of steam.

Singapore approves 16 insects for human consumption

- On 8 July 2024, the Singapore Food Agency (SFA) approved 16 species of insects for human consumption. These include various crickets, mealworms, grasshoppers, locusts, and silkworms.
- The move aligns with broader efforts to enhance food security, diversify food sources, and reduce dependence on imports.

Belarus joins SCO as 10th Member

- In July 2024, Belarus was formally accepted as the 10th member state of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). This significant development underscores the bloc's increasing appeal and influence.

- Belarus' membership in the SCO opens avenues for enhanced trade volume with other member states, tapping into a consumer market that encompasses nearly half of the world's population.

Japan to launch new banknotes featuring advanced Holography

- Japan has introduced new banknotes featuring cutting-edge holography to combat counterfeiting. The 10,000 yen bill features Shibusawa Eiichi, known as the "father of Japanese capitalism."
- These banknotes, issued for the first time in 20 years, include denominations of 10,000 yen, 5,000 yen,

and 1,000 yen. Each note showcases a holographic portrait of a historical figure, creating the illusion of rotation in 3D.

Spain's renewable energy hits 60% in 2024

- In the first half of 2024, Spain achieved a significant milestone by generating almost 60% of its electricity from renewable energy sources.
- This remarkable progress was driven by new solar capacity installations and increased output from hydropower plants. Notably, renewables accounted for 51% of the total electricity just a year earlier.

Union Budget 2024-25



Turning attention to the full year and beyond, in this budget, we particularly focus on employment, skilling, MSMEs, and the middle class. I am happy to announce the Prime Minister's package of 5 schemes and initiatives to facilitate employment, skilling and other opportunities for 4.1 crore youth over a 5-year period with a central outlay of Rs 2 lakh crore.

— Union Finance Minister
Nirmala Sitharaman during the Budget speech

- The Union Budget was presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on 23 July 2024. As per the budget, the fiscal Deficit Target has been reduced to 4.5% for FY25.
- The focus of the budget is on Employment, Skilling, MSMEs, and the Middle Class.

Budget Estimates 2024-25

- Total receipts other than borrowings: 32.07 lakh crore.
- Total expenditure: 48.21 lakh crore.
- Net tax receipt: 25.83 lakh crore.
- Fiscal deficit: 4.9 per cent of GDP.

Employment & Skilling Initiatives:

- Prime Minister's package includes schemes for job creation and support to employers.
- New centrally sponsored scheme for skilling 20 lakh youth over 5 years.
- Upgrading 1,000 Industrial Training Institutes for skill development.

Three New Schemes:

- Scheme A: Direct benefit transfer of 1-month salary in 3 installments up to ₹15,000 for first-time employees registered in EPFO.

- Scheme B: Incentives for job creation in manufacturing, directly benefiting both employee and employer.
- Scheme C: Reimbursement to employers up to ₹3,000 per month for 2 years for each additional employee.

Agriculture & Resilience:

- Allocation of ₹1.52 lakh crore for agriculture and allied sectors.
- Introduction of 109 high-yielding and climate-resilient crop varieties.
- Natural farming initiatives for 1 crore farmers.

Revenue Generation:

- Securities Transaction Tax: Increased on F&O transactions.
- Customs Duty Changes: Aimed to enhance domestic value addition in precious metals.
- Income Tax Act Review: Comprehensive review to simplify and reduce litigation.

MSMEs

- Support Mechanisms: To facilitate credit continuation for stressed MSMEs.
- Mudra Loan Limit: Increased to ₹20 lakh from ₹10 lakh.
- Credit Guarantee Scheme: For MSMEs in manufacturing with a guarantee cover of up to ₹100 crore.

Infrastructure and Housing

- Urban Housing: ₹10 lakh crore for 1 crore urban houses.
- Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana: Fourth phase to connect 25,000 habitations with all-weather roads.
- Investment in Infrastructure: Promoted through viability gap funding and enabling policies.
- Capital expenditure of ₹11.11 lakh crore.
- ₹1.5 lakh crore for long-term interest-free loans to state governments for infrastructure investment.

Additional Highlights

- GIS mapping and IT-based system for urban property records management.

- Projected at 4.9% of GDP for FY24-25.
- Chief Economic Advisor projects growth at 6.5-7% for FY25.
- ₹11.5k crore for flood control in Bihar, Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and Sikkim.
- Government to incentivize 30 lakh youth entering the job market by providing one month PF contribution.
- Over ₹3 lakh crore allocated for schemes benefiting women and girls.

Income Tax and Capital Gains

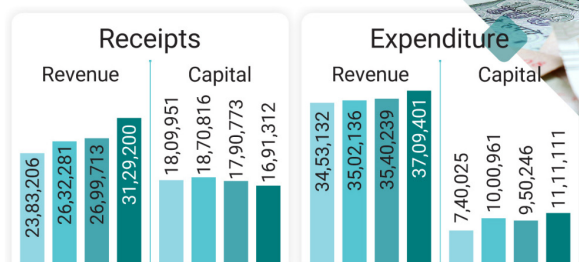
Category	Details
Standard Deduction	Increased from ₹50,000 to ₹75,000
Family Pension Deduction	Raised from ₹15,000 to ₹25,000
Tax Slabs	₹0-3 lakh: NIL
	₹3-7 lakh: 5%
	₹7-10 lakh: 10%
	₹10-12 lakh: 15%
	₹12-15 lakh: 20%
	Above ₹15 lakh: 30%
Capital Gains Tax	STCG: Increased to 20% on certain assets
	LTCG: Raised to 12.5%
Angel Tax	Abolished
Foreign Companies Tax Rate	Reduced from 40% to 35%



Budget at a Glance

- 2022-23 (Actuals)
- 2023-24 (Revised Estimates)
- 2023-24 (Budget Estimates)
- 2024-25 (Budget Estimates)

In ₹ crore



Budget Priorities

Path of strong development and all-round prosperity

Productivity and resilience in Agriculture	Employment & Skilling	Inclusive Human Resource Development and Social Justice
Manufacturing & Services	Urban Development	Energy Security
Infrastructure	Innovation, Research & Development	Next Generation Reforms

Economic Survey of India 2023-24

- Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman tabled the Economic Survey of India 2023-24 along with Statistical Appendix in both the Houses of Parliament on 22 July 2024.
- The Economic Survey 2023-24 projects the FY25 real GDP growth at 6.5-7%, lower than the economic growth rate of 8.2% estimated for the previous financial year.

Here are some key highlights:

- State of the Economy: The survey indicates that India is on a "strong wicket and stable footing."
- Monetary Management and Financial Intermediation: Stability remains a priority.
- Prices and Inflation: Inflation is under control.
- External Sector: Despite challenges, stability prevails.
- Medium-Term Outlook: A growth strategy for "New India."
- Climate Change and Energy Transition: Balancing trade-offs.
- Social Sector: Emphasizes benefits that empower citizens.
- Employment and Skill Development: Focusing on quality.
- Agriculture and Food Management: Opportunities for improvement.
- Industry and Services: Addressing small and medium matters.

- Infrastructure: Unlocking potential growth.
- Climate Change and India: A lens on environmental challenges.

New Asset Class proposed by SEBI

- On 16 July 2024, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has proposed a new asset class positioned between mutual funds (MFs) and portfolio management services (PMS).
- Targeted at investors with higher risk-taking capacity, this product caters to those with investible funds ranging from ₹10 lakh to ₹50 lakh.
- It aims to offer differentiated investment strategies, including long-short equity and inverse exchange-traded funds.

India Targets \$500 Billion in Electronics Manufacturing by 2030

- India aims to achieve \$500 billion in domestic electronics manufacturing by 2030, according to a report by NITI Aayog.
- Growth in electronics manufacturing could create approximately 6 million jobs. The report emphasizes the importance of Global Value Chains (GVCs), which account for 70% of international trade.
- India's electronics sector has seen significant growth, reaching \$155 billion in FY23, with production nearly doubling from \$48 billion in FY17 to \$101 billion in FY23.

ICICI Lombard introduces 'Elevate': Revolutionizing Health Insurance with AI

- On 9 July 2024, ICICI Lombard, a leading private general insurer in India, launched 'Elevate', a revolutionary health insurance product powered by AI.
- This innovative offering is designed to meet the diverse needs of modern lifestyles and unforeseen medical emergencies, emphasizing personalized solutions and comprehensive coverage.

PSU banks pay 6,481 Crore dividend to govt for FY 2023-24

- On 9 July 2024, four public sector banks—Canara Bank, Indian Bank, Bank of India, and EXIM Bank—collectively paid a dividend of ₹6,481 crore to the Indian government for the financial year 2023-24.
- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman received dividend cheques from each bank's managing directors and CEOs.

PNB launches 'Safety Ring' to enhance internet and Mobile Banking Security

- On 9 July 2024, Punjab National Bank (PNB) introduced the 'Safety Ring' within its internet and mobile banking systems.
- This optional security feature empowers customers to set daily transaction limits for term deposits (TDs).
- By doing so, it prevents unauthorized closure, withdrawal, or overdraft beyond the defined limit, bolstering security against cyber frauds.

RBI launched 65th Manufacturing Survey for Policy Input

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has initiated the 65th round of its quarterly Order Books, Inventories, and Capacity Utilization Survey (OBICUS) for manufacturing companies.
- This survey, conducted since 2008, collects crucial data on new orders, backlog, pending orders, and inventory levels.
- It also estimates capacity utilization. The information gathered serves as a valuable input for monetary policy formulation.

Jio Financial Services gained RBI approval for CIC conversion

- On 12 July 2024, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) granted approval for the conversion of Jio Financial Services from a Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) to a Core Investment Company (CIC).
- Jio Financial Services, which emerged from the conglomerate Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL), had applied for this transition as mandated by the RBI.
- As a CIC, Jio Financial Services will focus primarily on investments in and management of its subsidiary companies, enhancing value discovery for investors.

RBI eases LRS norms for investment via GIFT IFSC

- On 10 July 2024, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) expanded the scope of remittances to International Financial Services Centres (IFSCs) under the Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS).
- Resident Indians can now open a foreign currency account (FCA) at GIFT IFSC, allowing them to invest outside India.
- This move aligns GIFT IFSC with global financial centers, enhancing investment opportunities and creating a robust banking ecosystem. Residents can invest up to \$250,000 per year through the FCA account.

IMF agrees to \$7 Billion Loan Program for Pakistan

- On 12 July 2024, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and Pakistan signed an agreement for a \$7 billion loan package that will span 37 months.
- The primary purpose of this Extended Fund Facility program is to assist Pakistan, which has faced several economic challenges, in becoming more stable and growing in a way that benefits everyone.

India, Russia aim for \$100 Billion Trade Target by 2030

- During the 22nd Annual Bilateral Summit between Russian President Vladimir Putin and Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Moscow, India and Russia agreed to increase bilateral trade to over \$100 billion by 2030.
- The joint statement emphasized reinvigorating investments, using national currencies for trade, and boosting cooperation in sectors like energy, agriculture, and infrastructure.
- The initiative also includes exploring new long-term contracts for crude supplies and increasing trade volumes via the INSTC, Northern Sea Route, and Vladivostok-Chennai corridor.

India creates 46.7 million jobs in fiscal 2023-24

- In the fiscal year 2023-24, India generated 46.7 million jobs, bringing the total employment to 643.3 million.
- This significant growth reflects an employment growth rate of 6%, surpassing the 3.2% from the previous fiscal year. The data, released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), counters concerns about jobless growth.
- Notably, India's GDP grew at 8.2% in FY24, exceeding estimates, while RBI projected a 7.2% GDP growth for FY25.

RBI has signed an agreement with the ASEAN nations to join Project Nexus

- On 30 June 2024, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) joined Project Nexus, a multilateral international initiative. The collaboration was solidified through an agreement signed in Basel, Switzerland.
- This project aims to enable instant cross-border retail payments by interlinking domestic Fast Payment Systems (FPSs).

- The founding members and first movers of this platform include four ASEAN countries (Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand) along with India.

RBI released the 29th issue of the Financial Stability Report (FSR)

- Recently, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) published the 29th issue of the Financial Stability Report (FSR).
- This report reflects the collective assessment of the Sub-Committee of the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) regarding the resilience of the Indian financial system and risks to financial stability.
- The FSR reflects the collective assessment of the Sub-Committee of the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) on the resilience of the Indian financial system and risks to financial stability.

RBI introduced the Draft Foreign Exchange Management Regulations, 2024

- On 2 July 2024, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) introduced the Draft Foreign Exchange Management (Export and Import of Goods and Services) Regulations, 2024.
- These regulations replace the previous Foreign Exchange Management (Export of Goods & Services) Regulations 2015. Key points include:
- Declaration of Exports: Exporters must submit a declaration specifying the full export value within 21 days from shipment (goods) or invoice (services).
- Receipt of Payment: Payment for exports follows guidelines in the Foreign Exchange Management (Manner of Receipt and Payment) Regulations, 2023.
- Realization Period: Export value must be realized and repatriated to India within nine months from shipment (goods) or invoice (services).
- These regulations aim to streamline export-import transactions and enhance compliance.

SBI launched 'MSME Sahaj' for Instant Digital Invoice Financing

- Recently, the State Bank of India (SBI) has introduced MSME Sahaj, a web-based digital solution aimed at accelerating invoice financing for micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs).
- MSME Sahaj can swiftly approve loans against GST-registered invoices of up to ₹1 lakh in less than 15 minutes, utilizing entirely digital processes.

RBI slaps ₹1.32 Crore Monetary Penalty on PNB

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a monetary penalty of ₹131.80 lakh on Punjab National Bank (PNB) for non-compliance with its directions issued on 'Loans and Advances' and 'Know Your Customer (KYC)'.
- The penalty is based on supervisory findings of non-compliance, including the bank's sanctioning of working capital demand loans to state government-owned corporations against amounts receivable from the government.

RBI has cancelled licence of 7 Co-Operative Banks since Jan

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has once again cancelled the licence of a co-operative bank due to its deteriorating financial health.
- Since January, licences of Sumerpur Mercantile Urban Cooperative Bank Limited, Jai Prakash Narayan Nagari Sahakari Bank Ltd, Shree Mahalaxmi Mercantile Co-operative Bank Ltd, and Hiriyur Urban Co-operative Bank Ltd have also been revoked.

ADB to build 400 MW Solar Power Plant in Gujarat

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has arranged a ₹1,460 crore loan for the ENGIE group to construct a 400-megawatt solar photovoltaic power plant in Surendranagar, Gujarat.
- ADB and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) will each provide ₹7.3 billion, totaling approximately USD 175.9 million.
- This project aligns with India's goal of achieving 500 gigawatts of non-fossil fuel energy capacity by 2030.

LIC launched agency transformation initiative 'Jeevan Samarth'

- Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) has introduced the 'Jeevan Samarth' initiative to transform its agency ecosystem. In collaboration with a global consulting

firm, LIC will comprehensively review and revamp its existing agency framework at the branch, division, and zonal levels.

- The goal is to align with industry changes, enhance agent skills, and provide suitable long-term savings, protection, health insurance, ULIP, and pension solutions.

Bharat Bill Payment System mandate for Credit Card Payments

- Starting July 1, 2024, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has mandated that all banks process credit card bill payments through the Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS).
- Developed by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), BBPS is a unified platform designed to handle all forms of bill payments across the country.
- This move aims to enhance security, reduce fraud, and standardize grievance redressal processes.

RBI imposes penalty on HSBC

- Recently, the RBI has imposed a ₹29.6 lakh penalty on HSBC for non-compliance with directions related to card operations.
- Following a Statutory Inspection (ISE 2022), the RBI found HSBC failed to adhere to its guidelines, leading to the penalty after reviewing the bank's responses and submissions.

RBI raises limit for short-term borrowing for states, UTs from 1 July

- Starting 1 July, the RBI has increased the aggregate Ways and Means Advances (WMA) limit for states and UTs to ₹601.18 billion from ₹470.10 billion. This special short-term borrowing facility helps manage cash flow mismatches.
- The change is based on recent expenditure data and recommendations from a group of state finance secretaries. Additionally, the RBI has curbed the borrowing limit for states through the special drawing facility (SDF), now linked to their investments in government marketable securities.

Chapter 4

Science and Technology



ICMR develops CRISPR Cas-based TB Detection Kit

- On 24 July 2024, The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has developed a groundbreaking CRISPR Cas-based TB detection system.
- This technology, considered the “world’s cheapest TB testing system,” detects TB bacteria using DNA from a patient’s saliva.
- It can identify the bacteria even in preliminary stages and simultaneously test over 1,500 samples within approximately two hours.

ISRO conducts flight experiment of Air Breathing Propulsion System



- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully carried out the second experimental flight for the demonstration of Air Breathing Propulsion Technology on 22 July 2024.
- The Propulsion systems were symmetrically mounted on either side of a RH-560 Sounding rocket and launched from Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota.

Chinese lunar probe finds traces of water in samples of Moon’s soil

- On 23 July 2024, the Chinese lunar probe Chang’e-5 discovered traces of water in samples of the moon’s soil.

- These samples were collected during the Chang’e-5 mission, which successfully returned rock and soil samples from the moon in 2020.

European Space Agency announces mission to study Apophis asteroid



- The European Space Agency (ESA) has announced a mission to study the Apophis asteroid when it passes by Earth at a very close distance in 2029.
- ESA is the second major space agency, after NASA, to commit a space mission for Apophis that was once considered to be on a pathway to collide with the Earth.
- Apophis will come within 32,000 km of the Earth in 2029, offering space agencies a rare opportunity to study an asteroid from such close quarters.

14-year-old boy from Malappuram District of Kerala dies of Nipah Virus

- On 21 July 2024, a 14-year-old boy from Kerala’s Malappuram district succumbed to the Nipah virus at the Kozhikode Medical College Hospital.
- The Pune-based National Institute of Virology confirmed the Nipah infection. In 2018, a previous Nipah outbreak in the same region claimed 17 lives.

NASA discovers 6 new exoplanets

- On 21 July 2024, NASA confirmed the discovery of six new exoplanets, bringing the total count to 5,502.
- These celestial bodies include HD 36384 b, TOI-198 b, TOI-2095 b, TOI-2095 c, TOI-4860 b, and MWC 758 c.

Japanese scientists create Smiling Robots using Living Skin

- On 20 July 2024, researchers at the University of Tokyo achieved a remarkable breakthrough by attaching living skin tissue to robotic faces, allowing them to “smile.”
- Using human skin cells grown in the shape of a face, they created a wide grin through embedded ligament-like attachments. Although eerie, this development represents a significant step toward building more lifelike robots.

New Plant Species discovered in Arunachal Pradesh Sanctuary



- Researchers from the Botanical Survey of India have discovered a new plant species named *Phlogacanthus sudhansusekharii* in the Itanagar Wildlife Sanctuary, Arunachal Pradesh.
- This species belongs to the family Acanthaceae *Phlogacanthus* genus and is named in honor of Dr. Sudhansu Sekhar Dash, a Scientist-F at the Botanical Survey of India, for his significant contributions to plant and ecological research in the Indian Himalayan Region.

IISR wins best technology award

- On 19 July 2024, the Indian Institute of Spices Research (IISR) received the best technology award during the 96th ICAR Foundation Day Celebrations in New Delhi.
- The award recognizes their cutting-edge work in horticulture sciences.
- The winning technology, titled “Process for instant soluble turmeric enriched spice-flavored dairy milk powder,” allows for the creation of an instant, fully soluble spice mix powder for preparing turmeric-flavored milk.

Researchers confirm the existence of caves on the Moon

- On 15 July 2024, a team of international researchers confirmed the existence of a cave on the moon.

- Located in the moon’s Sea of Tranquility, this cave is approximately 130 feet (40 meters) wide and extends for several yards.
- The discovery was made using data from NASA’s Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter (LRO), specifically the Miniature Radio-Frequency (Mini-RF) instrument.

NASA sends Missy Elliott’s hip-hop song to deep space

- The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) announced that it had transmitted the song “The Rain (Supa Dupa Fly)” by hip hop artist Missy Elliot to Venus using its Deep Space Network (DSN).
- The transmission was sent from the agency’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Southern California on 12 July 2024.

NASA’s GOLD satellite discovers unusual Ionospheric Shapes

- NASA’s GOLD (Global-scale Observations of the Limb and Disk) mission has recently spotted unexpected C- and X-shaped formations within the ionosphere, a layer of electrified gas extending from about 48 to 965 kilometers (30 to 600 miles) above the surface.
- These mysterious shapes have left scientists puzzled, and their significance is still being studied. The mission’s findings were reported in early July 2024.

UK Teenager receives world’s first brain implant to Control Epileptic Seizures

- Recently, Oran Knowlson, a teenager with severe epilepsy, underwent groundbreaking surgery at London’s Great Ormond Street Hospital. During an eight-hour procedure, a neurostimulator was implanted deep into his brain.
- This device emits electrical signals to block or disrupt abnormal brain activity associated with seizures. Remarkably, Oran’s daytime seizures have reduced by 80% since the surgery.
- The neurostimulator, developed by UK company Amber Therapeutics, represents a significant advancement in epilepsy treatment.

Ancient Spiral Galaxies: A new study challenges established timeline

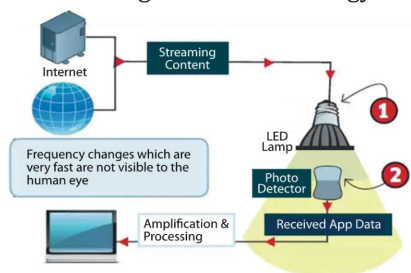
- A recent study, based on data from the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST), challenges the conventional timeline for the emergence of spiral galaxies.

- The study, conducted by researchers at the University of Missouri, examined galaxies at different lookback times (up to a redshift of 4, corresponding to light traveling as far as 12 billion years).
- Surprisingly, spiral galaxies made up around 35% of all galaxies when the universe was only 1.5 billion years old. It suggests that spirals might have formed slightly earlier, perhaps 1 billion years after the Big Bang.

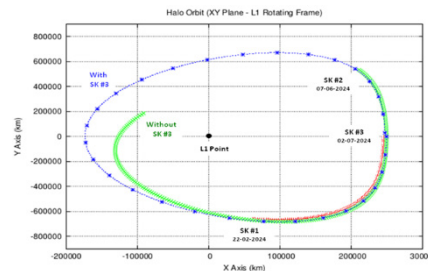
MoD to acquire Li-Fi technology for secure and efficient data transmission

- On 2 July 2024, the Ministry of Defence (MoD) announced its plan to acquire Li-Fi technology for secure and efficient data transmission within the Indian Defence sector, with a particular focus on the Navy.
- Li-Fi (Light Fidelity) is a bidirectional wireless system that uses visible light (400-800 Terahertz) for communication, unlike Wi-Fi which relies on radio waves.
- Li-Fi transmits data through Light Emitting Diodes (LEDs). The on/off activity of the LED transmitter corresponds to binary codes (ON = '1', OFF = '0').

Working of Li-Fi Technology



ISRO's Aditya-L1 completes first halo orbit



- On 2 July 2024, Aditya-L1 spacecraft has completed its first halo orbit around the Sun-Earth L1 point.
- The Aditya-L1 mission is an Indian solar observatory at Lagrangian point L1, launched on 2 September 2023 and was inserted in its targeted halo orbit on 6 January 2024.
- Aditya-L1 spacecraft in the Halo orbit takes 178 days to complete a revolution around the L1 point.



BCCI to provide 8.5 Crore Rupees to Indian Olympic Association for Paris Olympics

- On 21 July 2024, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) announced its support for the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) by providing INR 8.5 crore for the 2024 Paris Olympics.
- This financial assistance aims to bolster the Indian contingent of 117 athletes heading to Paris for the summer Olympic Games.

Sania Mirza, Mary Kom and Rannvijay Singha Join Play Sports as Brand Ambassadors

- Six-time Grand Slam winner and former World No. 1 in women's doubles, Sania Mirza, along with six-time World Champion and Olympic bronze medalist MC Mary Kom and popular TV host and actor Rannvijay Singha, have been appointed as brand ambassadors for Play Sports.
- Their objective includes developing sports infrastructure, managing academies, scouting talent, and promoting sports across the country.

PR Sreejesh announces retirement after Paris Olympics 2024



- PR Sreejesh, the celebrated Indian hockey goalkeeper, has announced his retirement after an illustrious 18-year career.
- The Paris 2024 Olympics will be his last international outing with the senior national side.
- Having earned 328 international caps and participated in three Olympic Games, Sreejesh will compete in his fourth Olympics in Paris, starting on 26 July.

ICC honoured 6 nations in associate cricket with ICC Development Award for 2023

- On 17 July 2024, the International Cricket Council (ICC) recognized six emerging nations for their transformative contributions to associate cricket.
- The honorees include Mexico, Oman, Netherlands, UAE, Nepal, and Scotland.
- These awards celebrate the world-leading work carried out by ICC Associate Member countries to grow the game globally, both on and off the field.

Argentina clinches 2nd consecutive Copa America Title



- On 15 July 2024, Argentina secured its second straight Copa America championship, overcoming adversity and fierce competition to defeat Colombia 1-0 in a match.
- This victory marks Argentina's third major title in a row, adding to their 2021 Copa America and 2022 World Cup triumphs, tying Spain's record.

Nagaland Madrigal Singers win 2 gold medals at World Choir Games 2024

- At the 13th World Choir Games 2024 held in New Zealand, the Nagaland Madrigal Singers (TNMS) achieved a remarkable feat by securing two gold medals.
- Representing India, TNMS triumphed in the Mixed Chamber Choir and Contemporary Music Mixed Voices categories.
- Their performances included captivating renditions of songs like "Tiqhe Tini," "Leron Leron," "Gloria Patri," "Kalejs Kala Debesis," "Swara," "Conversion of Saul," "Hentakan Jiwa," and "Hallelujah."

Oscar Piastri wins F1 title at Hungarian Grand Prix



- On 21 July 2024, Australian racing driver Oscar Piastri secured his maiden Formula 1 victory at the Hungarian Grand Prix.
- Norris, despite being in second place, adhered to team orders, allowing Piastri to claim the chequered flag.
- This win makes Piastri the fifth Australian to win an F1 grand prix, joining the ranks of racing legends like Jack Brabham, Alan Jones, Mark Webber, and Daniel Ricciardo.

Kush Maini secures first Formula 2 win in Hungary

- On 20 July 2024, Indian racing sensation Kush Maini achieved a significant milestone by securing his maiden victory in the FIA Formula 2 Championship.
- Competing at the Hungaroring during the Sprint Race, Kush inherited the top position after Richard Verschoor was disqualified due to a technical infringement.

Sabeera Haris wins Bronze at ISSF Junior World Cup

- At the ISSF Junior World Cup held in Porpetto, Italy, Indian shooter Sabeera Haris secured a bronze medal in the women's trap category. The gold prize was claimed by Carey Garrison from the USA, who achieved a perfect score of 40.
- In the final round, she impressively hit 29 out of 40 targets. The silver medal went to Sofia Gori of Italy, who achieved 39 hits out of the full quota of 50 targets.

Thomas Muller Retires from International Football

- On 15 July 2024, Thomas Müller, the iconic German forward, has officially retired from international football after an illustrious career spanning 131 caps.

- His farewell came in the wake of Germany's Euro 2024 quarter-final defeat to eventual champions Spain.
- Müller's legacy includes being part of the 2014 World Cup-winning squad and winning the Golden Boot at the 2010 World Cup.

IIT Madras aims to make India Global Chess Powerhouse

- On 13 July 2024, the IIT Madras Center of Excellence in Sports Science and Analytics (CESSA) has unveiled an ambitious plan to position India as a global chess powerhouse.
- Leveraging technology-driven tools, their initiatives aim to enhance fan engagement, provide solutions for federations to detect cheating, and implement chess training programs.

Gagan Narang named Chef-de-Mission for Paris 2024 Olympics

- Gagan Narang, a renowned Indian shooter and Olympic bronze medalist, has taken over as the Chef-de-Mission for the Indian team at the 2024 Olympics in Paris.
- He replaced MC Mary Kom, who stepped down for personal reasons. As Chef-de-Mission, Narang serves as the official spokesperson and representative for the Indian contingent.

Gautam Gambhir appointed as Head Coach - Team India

- The Cricket Advisory Committee recommended Mr Gautam Gambhir as the Head Coach of Team India (Senior Men).
- The former India batter will take charge from the upcoming away series against Sri Lanka where Team India are set to play 3 ODIs & 3 T20Is starting July 27, 2024.

Adani Group to be principal sponsor of Indian Team at 2024 Paris Olympics

- The Adani Group has been announced as the principal sponsor for the Indian team at the 2024 Paris Olympics.
- This significant partnership aims to bolster India's athletes as they compete on the global stage from 26 July to 11 August.

IOC announces Olympic Esports Games to be hosted in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

- The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has partnered with the National Olympic Committee (NOC) of Saudi Arabia to host the inaugural Olympic Esports Games in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.
- This groundbreaking step follows the IOC's recent announcement that the IOC Executive Board (EB) has established Olympic Esports Games.

Wimbledon Tennis Championships 2024

- The 2024 Wimbledon Tennis Championships took place from 1 July to 14 July at the All England Lawn Tennis Club in London, SW19.
- The winner's list

Category	Winner(s)	Runner(s)-up
Men's Singles	Carlos Alcaraz	Novak Djokovic
Women's Singles	Barbora Krejčíková	Jasmine Paolini
Mixed Doubles	Hsieh Su-Wei & Jan Zielinski	Santiago Gonzalez & Giuliana Olmos
Women's Doubles	Taylor Townsend & Katerina Siniakova	Gabriela Dabrowski & Erin Routliffe
Men's Doubles	Patten & Heliovaara	Max Purcell & Jordan Thompson

Spain Clinches Euro 2024 title

- Spain secured their fourth UEFA European Championship title by defeating England 2-1 in a

dramatic final at Berlin's Olympiastadion on 14 July 2024.



- This win extends Spain's record in the tournament, with previous victories in 1964, 2008, and 2012.

India Champions Triumph in World Championship of Legends 2024



- On 13 July 2024, India Champions emerged victorious over Pakistan Champions by five wickets in the 2024 World Championship of Legends final held in Birmingham.
- Chasing a target of 157 set by Pakistan, the Yuvraj Singh-led side reached home in 19.1 overs after losing 5 wickets.
- This thrilling victory secured India's claim to the first-ever World Championship of Legends trophy.

DRDO successfully tests Phase-II Ballistic Missile Defence System



- On 24 July 2024, the Defense Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully flight-tested the Phase-II Ballistic Missile Defence (BMD) System.
- The test validated a complete network-centric warfare weapon system, including long-range sensors, low-latency communication, and advanced interceptor missiles.
- This achievement demonstrates India's indigenous capability to defend against ballistic missiles of the 5000 km class.

MoD announced 5th indigenisation list for Defence PSUs

- The Ministry of Defence (MoD) has released the Fifth Positive Indigenisation List (PIL), a significant step towards self-reliance in defence.
- This list includes 98 complex defence items worth over ₹1,40,000 crore that will now be procured from indigenous sources. Notable inclusions are highly advanced systems, sensors, weapons, and ammunition.
- The list spans multiple years, with items being indigenized by 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, and beyond. PSUs like HAL, BEL, BDL, and others are actively involved in this transformative initiative, fostering a robust domestic defence industrial ecosystem.

16th "Nomadic Elephant" joint military exercise



- The 16th "Nomadic Elephant" joint military exercise was conducted between the Indian Army and the Mongolian Army from 3 July to 16 July 2024.
- This bilateral training event, held in Umroi, Meghalaya, focuses on enhancing tactical and operational skills for UN peacekeeping missions, particularly in semi-urban and mountainous terrains.

North Korea claims successful tactical missile test

- On 3 July 2024, North Korea announced the successful test of the Hwasongpho-11 Da-4.5 tactical ballistic missile.
- This missile is capable of carrying a 4.5-ton warhead with a range of 90-500 km.

13th edition of Exercise Maitree



- India-Thailand 13th edition of joint military exercise Maitree 2024 was held in Thailand's Tak Province from 1 to 15 July 2024.

- The primary objective of MAITREE 2024 is to enhance military cooperation and improve joint operational capabilities in counter-insurgency and counter-terrorism operations, particularly in urban and jungle environments.
- The previous MAITREE exercise took place at the Foreign Training Node, Umroi, Meghalaya, from 16 September to 29 September 2019.
- Maitree is an annual bilateral military exercise between the Indian Army and the Royal Thai Army that has been conducted since 2006.

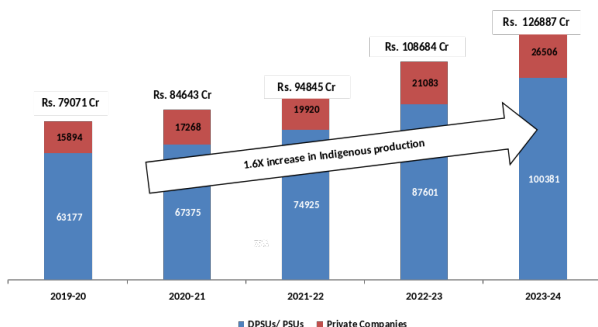
Government approves Military Airbases in Lakshadweep

- India has approved a significant plan to enhance its defense capabilities by building military airfields in the Lakshadweep islands.
- This includes constructing a new airbase on Minicoy island and expanding the existing airfield on Agatti island.
- The Minicoy airfield will be part of the naval base 'INS Jatayu,' the nearest major military installation to the Maldives.

BSF & SBI organizes "Grow with the Trees" plantation drive in Srinagar

- On 6 July 2024, the Border Security Forces (BSF), in collaboration with SBI Bank, conducted the "Grow with the Trees" plantation event at the BSF Headquarters in Srinagar.
- The initiative aimed to enhance the green cover and raise awareness about the significance of tree planting.
- BSF officials, jawans, SBI Bank representatives, and schoolchildren from Kendria Vidyalay actively participated in this commendable effort.

Annual defence production hits record high of approx Rs 1.27 lakh crore



- In the financial year 2023-24, India achieved a record-high annual defence production of approximately ₹1.27 lakh crore.
- This remarkable growth of 16.7% over the previous year's production was driven by successful policy implementation and initiatives under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership.
- The 'Make in India' program played a pivotal role, with 79.2% of the production contributed by Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs) and other PSUs, and 20.8% by the private sector.

Indian Navy certified a new explosive named 'SEBEX 2'

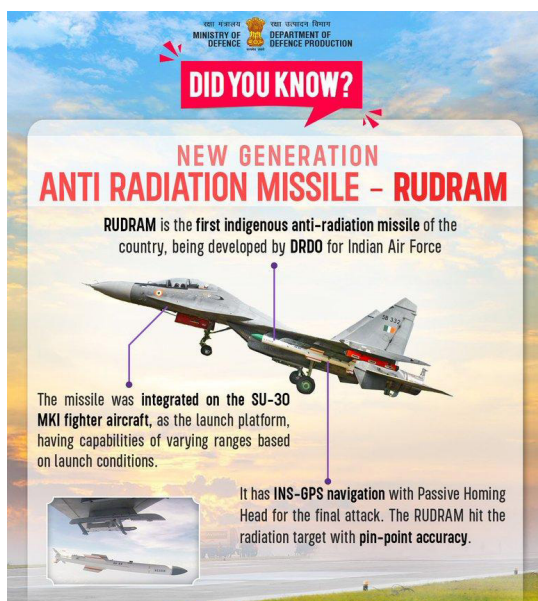
- On 1 July 2024, India achieved a significant milestone in military technology with the development and certification of SEBEX 2.
- This cutting-edge explosive, certified by the Indian Navy, boasts a TNT equivalence of 2.01, making it among the most potent non-nuclear explosives globally.
- Developed by Economic Explosives Limited (EEL) under the Make in India initiative, SEBEX 2 enhances the lethality of warheads, aerial bombs, and artillery shells without compromising weight.

Inauguration of Indian Air Force Weapon Systems School

- On 1 July 2024, a significant milestone was achieved in the history of the Indian Air Force (IAF) with the inauguration of the Weapon Systems School (WSS).
- Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari, Chief of the Air Staff (CAS), led the ceremony at Air Force Station Begumpet in Hyderabad.

India successfully test-fires new generation anti-radiation missile 'Rudram-1'

- Recently, India has successfully test-fired its first indigenous anti-radiation missile, the Rudram-1, developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) for the Indian Air Force (IAF).
- Rudram-1 is integrated with the IAF's Sukhoi-30MKI fighter jets, serving as the launch platform.



- The missile features INS-GPS navigation and a Passive Homing Head for final attack, allowing it to accurately hit radiation-emitting targets.

DRDO unveils 'Zorawar' tank for High-Altitude Warfare

- Recently, India has unveiled the indigenous light tank Zorawar, designed for high-altitude warfare.

- Jointly developed by the Defense Research and Development Authority (DRDO) and Larsen & Toubro (L&T) Limited, this tank meets the Indian Army's requirements in the eastern Ladakh sector against Chinese deployments along the Line of Actual Control (LAC).



- Named after 19th-century Dogra General Zorawar Singh, it will be inducted into the Indian Army by 2027.

China, and Russia conduct joint Pacific Naval Patrol

- Chinese and Russian naval fleets recently conducted their fourth joint sea patrol in the Western and Northern Pacific Ocean.
- Their objectives are to strengthen naval cooperation, maintain peace in the Asia-Pacific region, and protect maritime economic facilities.



Poet Jukanti Jagannatham honoured with Sri Dasarathi Krishnamacharya Award



- Telangana government has nominated eminent writer and poet Jukanti Jagannatham for the prestigious “Sri Dasarathi Krishnamacharya Award” for this year.
- The state government announced that Mr Jagannatham will be bestowed with the award including one lakh rupees’ cash and a memento on the occasion of the birth anniversary of Dasarathi Krishnamacharya.

Nagaland wins Best State in Horticulture Award 2024

- Nagaland emerged as the “Best State in Horticulture” at the Agriculture Leadership Awards 2024. Minister Salhoutuonuo Kruse accepted the award in New Delhi, highlighting the state’s clever horticulture projects.
- Nagaland’s policies focus on rural prosperity and long-term farming.
- Key initiatives include registering Naga Mircha, Naga Tree Tomato, and Naga Sweet Cucumber as Geographical Indications (GI). The state established 13 Farmers’ Producer Companies (FPCs), promoting organic farming on 6800 hectares.

INS Delhi wins Best Ship of Eastern Fleet 2024

- INS Delhi was named the Best Ship of the Eastern Fleet during the prestigious Fleet Awards Function held in Visakhapatnam on 14 July 2024.

- INS Delhi, a guided-missile frigate, boasts advanced weaponry, including surface-to-surface missiles, surface-to-air missiles, and anti-submarine torpedoes.

CBDT Awards Taxnet 2.0 Project to Bharti Airtel

- On 21 July 2024, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has awarded the Taxnet 2.0 project to Bharti-Airtel Ltd.
- This project, selected through an open tender, aims to enhance the Income Tax Department’s (ITD) digital infrastructure.
- Key features include enhanced security, higher reliability, and seamless connectivity for users across the country.

AIFF awards 2024

- In the All India Football Federation (AIFF) Awards 2024, Lallianzuala Chhangte, the India and Mumbai City FC winger, was named the Best Male Player of the Year.
- Meanwhile, Indumathi Kathiresan, the national women’s team midfielder representing Odisha FC in the Indian Women’s League (IWL), clinched the Best Female Player award.
- The ceremony took place on 19 July 2024, in New Delhi. These accolades recognize their outstanding contributions to Indian football.

Nobel Laureate Rigoberta Menchú Tum receives prestigious Gandhi Mandela Award 2020

- Nobel Peace Prize laureate Rigoberta Menchú Tum received the Gandhi Mandela Award 2020 on Nelson Mandela’s 106th birth anniversary for promoting the values of Gandhi and Mandela, including community service and social development.
- Her autobiography, “I, Rigoberta Menchú,” published in 1983, garnered international attention and highlighted her remarkable life and struggles.

Sri Kurumba Trust wins Global CSR ESG Award 2024

- Sobha Group's Sri Kurumba Educational and Charitable Trust has been honored with the "Best Child and Women Development Initiatives of the Year 2024" at the Global CSR, Sustainability, and ESG Awards 2024.
- The award ceremony took place at the Hyatt Regency, Gurgaon, organized by Marketing and Brand Honchos.

PM Modi receives Russia's highest civilian honour for "outstanding service"

- On 9 July 2024, Russian President Vladimir Putin officially bestowed Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Russia's highest civilian honour, the Order of St. Andrew the Apostle.
- This prestigious award recognizes Modi's exceptional contributions to advancing the strategic partnership between Russia and India.
- The Order of St. Andrew, established in 1698 by Tsar Peter the Great, holds deep historical and cultural significance. It features a golden cross with blue enamel, adorned with a crucified Saint Andrew the Apostle.

Dr. Arpit Chopra receives Prestigious Excellence Award

- Dr. Arpit Chopra, a prominent figure in the field of homeopathy, has been honored with the prestigious Excellence Award for his pioneering contributions.
- The recognition was conferred by Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav at the NDTV MSME Summit in Bhopal on 6 July 2024.
- The award recognizes Dr. Chopra's significant advancements and innovations in the realm of homeopathic medicine, marking a commendable achievement in the healthcare sector.

Retired Tamil Nadu Professor K. Chockalingam honoured with Prestigious Hans von Hentig Award

- Professor K. Chockalingam, a retired professor of victimology from Tamil Nadu, India, has been selected for the esteemed Hans von Hentig Award.
- This honor highlights the global impact of Indian scholarship in the study of crime victims and their experiences within the criminal justice system.

- The award is instituted by the World Society of Victimology (WSV), a not-for-profit organization with consultative status at the United Nations and the Council of Europe.

APCNF awarded the prestigious Gulbenkian Prize for Humanity 2024

- On 11 July 2024, The Andhra Pradesh Community Managed Natural Farming (APCNF) program, led by the Government of Andhra Pradesh, has been awarded the prestigious Gulbenkian Prize for Humanity 2024.
- APCNF focuses on sustainable farming practices, encouraging small-scale farmers to transition from chemical-intensive methods to natural farming.

Sopna Kallingal wins Spice Award 2024

- Sopna Kallingal, an agriculturist from Kallingal Plantation in Thrissur, Kerala, received the Spice Award 2024. The award ceremony took place on 3 July 2024, in Kozhikode.
- This prestigious award was instituted by the ICAR-Indian Institute of Spices Research. Sopna Kallingal was recognized for her outstanding work in business diversification and integrated crop management.

P. Geetha receives inaugural K. Saraswathi Amma Award

- On 3 July 2024, writer, critic, and feminist activist P. Geetha was honored with the inaugural K. Saraswathi Amma Award by WINGS Kerala.
- This prestigious award recognizes her outstanding work in feminist studies. Geetha's thought-provoking work titled "Aan Thachukal" (which translates to "Male Creations") delves into the scripts of renowned author M.T. Vasudevan Nair.

Kate Winslet bagged Lifetime Achievement Award at Munich Film Festival

- On 2 July 2024, the Oscar-winning actress Kate Winslet was honored with the prestigious CineMerit Award for Lifetime Achievement at the Munich International Film Festival.
- She also introduced the European premiere of her latest film, "Lee", in which she portrays the remarkable war photographer Lee Miller.

Appointments & Resignations



Nita Ambani unanimously re-elected as IOCM



- Nita Ambani, the founder and chairperson of Reliance Foundation, has been unanimously re-elected as a member of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) for the Paris Olympics 2024.
- Under her guidance, Reliance Foundation has reached over 22 million children and youth through initiatives promoting multi-sport participation.
- Nita Ambani was first appointed to join the prestigious body in 2016, at the Rio de Janeiro Olympic Games. Since then, as India's first woman to join the IOC.

Bibhuti Bhusan Nayak elected as the President of ICAI

- Bibhuti Bhusan Nayak has been unanimously elected as the 67th President of the Institute of Cost Accountants of India (ICAI) for the 2024-25 term.
- He will succeed Ashwin Dalwadi, who was the president for the 2023-24 period.
- TCA Srinivasa Prasad has been elected as the vice president of the Institute of Cost Accountants of India for 2024-25.

KVS Manian appointed as MD & CEO of Federal Bank for three years

- Krishnan Venkat Subramanian, formerly the Joint Managing Director of Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited, has been appointed as the Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer of Federal Bank.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) approved his appointment for a three-year term starting from 23 September 2024, following the conclusion of the current MD & CEO's tenure.

Manolo Marquez appointed head coach of Indian Men's Football Team



- Manolo Marquez, the current head coach of FC Goa, has been appointed as the new Indian men's senior team coach.
- The decision was made by the All India Football Federation (AIFF) during their Executive Committee meeting on July 20, 2024.
- Marquez will continue to coach both FC Goa and the national team concurrently throughout the 2024-25 season before focusing solely on the national side.

Ronald L. Rowe Jr. appointed acting chief of US Secret Service

- Ronald L. Rowe Jr., a 24-year Secret Service veteran, has been appointed as the Acting Director of the United States Secret Service effective 23 July 2024.
- In this role, he leads a diverse workforce of over 7,800 personnel, including Special Agents, Uniformed Division Officers, and technical staff.

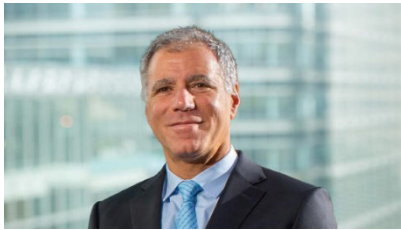
UPSC chairman Manoj Soni confirms resignation



- Dr. Manoj Soni, the former Chairman of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), resigned from his position five years before his term was set to end in 2029.

- His tenure at the UPSC began in 2017, and he took the oath as chairperson on 16 May 2023.

HSBC appoints insider Georges Elhedery as new CEO



- Georges Elhedery, a 24-year HSBC veteran, has been appointed as the Group Chief Executive of HSBC Holdings plc. Effective 2 September 2024, Elhedery will succeed outgoing CEO Noel Quinn.
- Elhedery's extensive experience includes serving as Co-CEO of Global Banking & Markets and leading the Middle Eastern, North African, and Turkish region.

Ajinkya Naik becomes youngest president of Mumbai Cricket Association

- Ajinkya Naik, at 37 years old, has been elected as the youngest president in the history of the Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA).
- In a decisive victory, Naik defeated Sanjay Naik, a candidate supported by Mumbai BJP chief Ashish Shelar, by 107 votes in a one-sided election held on 24 July 2024.

Justice Nongmeikapam Kotiswar Singh and Justice R Mahadevan appointed as Judges of the SC



- Justice Nongmeikapam Kotiswar Singh and Justice R. Mahadevan have been appointed as judges of the Supreme Court.
- The elevation of these two distinguished jurists was approved shortly after the Supreme Court Collegium recommended their names on 11 July 2024.

- Justice Singh, originally from Manipur, will become the first judge from Manipur to serve on the Supreme Court bench. Meanwhile, Justice Mahadevan, hailing from a backward community in Tamil Nadu, brings diversity to the bench.
- His appointment marks the first time he will serve outside the Madras High Court, where he has been an acting Chief Justice since 2013.

Vinay Mohan Kwatra appoints as next Ambassador of India to US



- On 19 July 2024, Vinay Mohan Kwatra, a retired Indian Foreign Service diplomat and former Foreign Secretary, was appointed as India's next Ambassador to the United States. He succeeds Taranjit Singh Sandhu, who retired in January 2024.
- Kwatra's extensive expertise in dealing with India's neighborhood, the US, China, and Europe positions him well for this crucial diplomatic role. Previously, he served as the Ambassador of India to France and Nepal.

Nepal President appoints KP Oli as next Prime Minister

- Nepal's President Ram Chandra Paudel has appointed KP Sharma Oli as the new Prime Minister.
- Oli, the chairman of the Communist Party of Nepal-Unified Marxist Leninist (CPN-UML), will lead the government for the next 18 months.
- This marks Oli's fourth prime ministerial term.

Government appoints Robert J Ravi as New CMD of BSNL

- The Indian government has appointed Robert Jerard Ravi as the new Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), effective from 15 July 2024.
- Ravi, an Indian Telecom Service officer with 34 years of experience in the telecom sector, previously served as Additional General Manager at BSNL.

The First Woman Chief Justice of Lahore Takes Oath

- Justice Aalia Neelum made history by becoming the first woman Chief Justice of the Lahore High Court (LHC).
- On 11 July 2024, Punjab Governor Saleem Haider Khan administered the oath to her at the Governor House.
- The Judicial Commission of Pakistan unanimously approved her elevation, and President Asif Ali Zardari officially notified her appointment.

Dr. B.N. Gangadhar appointed as Chairperson of the National Medical Commission

- On 3 July 2024, Dr. B.N. Gangadhar has been appointed as the Chairperson of the National Medical Commission under Section 4 of the NMC Act, 2019.
- He is currently serving as the President of the Medical Assessment and Rating Board.
- His tenure will last for 4 years or until he reaches the age of 70, whichever comes first.

Ex-R&AW Chief Rajinder Khanna appointed new additional NSA

- Rajinder Khanna, former Research and Analysis Wing (R&AW) chief, has been appointed as the Additional National Security Advisor (NSA).
- This significant upgrade reflects the government's emphasis on continuity in the national security apparatus during the Narendra Modi 3.0 regime.
- Additionally, T. V. Ravichandran, an IPS officer from the Intelligence Bureau, has been named Deputy NSA.

SBI General Insurance names Naveen Chandra Jha as New MD & CEO

- SBI General Insurance Company has appointed Shri Naveen Chandra Jha as its new Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer.
- He was nominated by the parent company, State Bank of India (SBI), for this position.
- Jha succeeds Shri Kishore Kumar Poludasu. His extensive experience, including key roles at SBI, positions him well to lead the insurance company.

Sujata Saunik appointed Maharashtra's first Woman Chief Secretary

- Sujata Saunik, a senior IAS officer from the 1987 batch, has made history by becoming Maharashtra's first woman Chief Secretary. She assumed the position on 30 June 2024, succeeding Nitin Kareer.

- Saunik has over 30 years of experience in governance, public policy, and disaster management. Her academic achievements include a gold medal for topping her master's degree in History from Panjab University.

Justice Sheel Nagu appointed Chief Justice of Punjab and Haryana HC

- Justice Sheel Nagu has been appointed as the Chief Justice of the High Court of Punjab and Haryana. He assumed office on 1 July 2024.
- Prior to this appointment, Justice Nagu served as the acting Chief Justice of the Madhya Pradesh High Court.
- His elevation follows the retirement of Justice Ravi Shanker Jha from the position of Chief Justice of the Punjab and Haryana High Court.

RBI appoints Charulatha S Kar as Executive Director

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has appointed Smt. Charulatha S Kar as Executive Director (ED), effective from 1 July 2024.
- Prior to this promotion, Smt. Kar served as Chief General Manager-in-Charge in the Human Resource Management Department.
- With over three decades of experience at the RBI, she has worked in areas such as Payment and Settlement Systems, Information Technology, Government Banking, Internal Accounts, and Human Resource Management.

Dhirendra Ojha appointed Principal Spokesperson of Government

- On 4 July 2024, Senior Indian Information Service (IIS) officer Dhirendra K Ojha was appointed as the principal spokesperson of the central government.
- Ojha, a 1990-batch officer, will also hold the charge of the principal director general at the Press Information Bureau.

LIC Chairman Siddhartha Mohanty Re-Designated Managing Director & CEO

- On 4 July 2024, the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) re-designated its chairman, Siddhartha Mohanty, as the Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO).
- This decision marks a significant shift from his previous role as chairman of the company.

Justice Bidyut Ranjan Sarangi appointed Chief Justice of Jharkhand HC

- On 3 July 2024, Justice Bidyut Ranjan Sarangi was appointed as the Chief Justice of the Jharkhand High Court.
- His appointment followed a recommendation by the Supreme Court collegium in December of the previous year.
- Justice Sarangi, who was previously a judge of the Orissa High Court, now assumes this significant role in the Jharkhand judiciary.

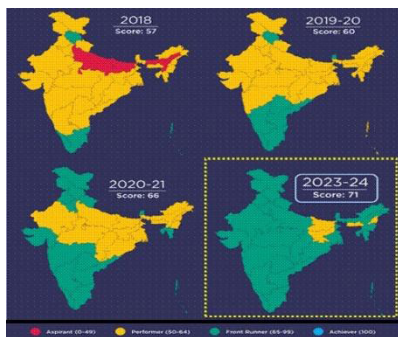
Puma India signs Riyan Parag and Nitish Kumar Reddy as its ambassadors

- On 2 July 2024, sports brand Puma India announced that it has roped in promising cricketers Riyan Parag and Nitish Kumar Reddy as brand ambassadors.
- This move aligns with Puma's commitment to nurturing young talent and strengthening its connect with youth culture in the country.

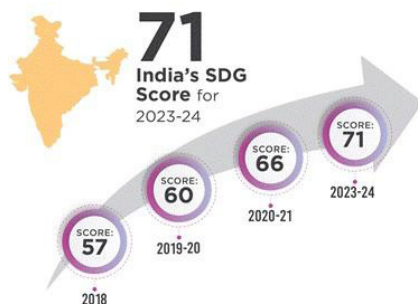
CBIC releases National Time Release Study (NTRS) 2024

- The National Time Release Study (NTRS) 2024 by the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) analyzed cargo clearance times at 15 major customs formations.
- For imports, 9 ports reduced average release time in 2024 compared to the previous year.
- Integrated Check Posts (ICPs) saw a significant 50% reduction, while Air Cargo Complexes (ACCs) improved by 6%.

SDG India Index 2023-24



- The SDG India Index 2023-24, released by NITI Aayog, reflects India's progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Notable highlights include:
- Overall Score: India's national SDG score improved to 71 in 2023-24, up from 66 in 2020-21.



- Top Performers: Uttarakhand, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Goa, and Himachal Pradesh lead the states.



- Goal Progress: Significant strides in Goals 1 (No Poverty), 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), 13 (Climate Action), and 15 (Life on Land).
- Fastest Movers: Uttar Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, and Haryana showed remarkable progress.
- India's commitment to SDGs remains strong, with concerted efforts at local levels.

Financial Inclusion Index rises with growth across all segments

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) reported that the Financial Inclusion Index (FI-Index) rose to 64.2 in March 2024.
- This index captures the extent of financial inclusion across the country. It reflects growth across all parameters, including access, usage, and quality of financial services.
- The improvement in the FI-Index is mainly attributed to the usage dimension, indicating deepening of financial inclusion. The FI-Index comprises three broad parameters: access (35%), usage (45%), and quality (20%).

Vietnam crowned most affordable country for Expats in 2024 Study

- According to a 2024 Inter Nations study, Vietnam retains its position as the most affordable country for expats for the fourth consecutive year.
- Out of 53 destinations, Vietnam ranks first in terms of personal finances. Expats living in Vietnam appreciate its low cost of living, with 86% rating it favorably.

- Additionally, 65% express satisfaction with their financial situation, and 68% find their disposable household income more than sufficient for a comfortable life.

World Population Prospects 2024

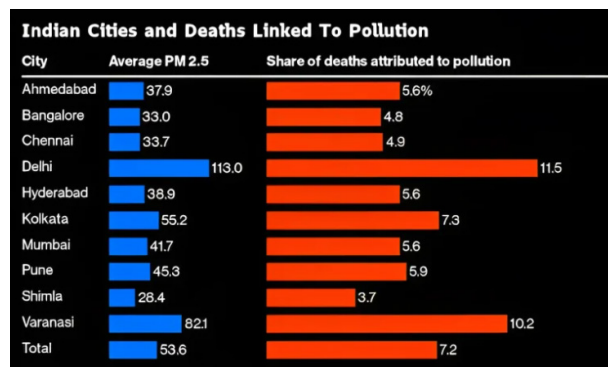
- World Population Prospects 2024 is the twenty-eighth edition of the official United Nations population estimates and projections.
- It presents population estimates from the 1950s to the present for 237 countries or areas, underpinned by analyses of historical demographic trends.
- The 2024 revision also presents population projections to the year 2100 that reflect a range of plausible outcomes at the global, regional and national levels.

India ranks 5th in Global Generative AI Innovations

- India has emerged as the fifth-biggest location for GenAI invention, with domestic inventors having filed 1350 patents globally on generative artificial intelligence (GenAI), according to the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO).
- The list was led by China which filed over 38,000 GenAI patents, far outpacing inventors in the US (6,276 inventions), Republic of Korea (4,155), Japan (3,409), and India.

Death rates from air pollution spikes vary across cities: Study

- On 1 July 2024, a groundbreaking study published in the peer-reviewed Lancet Planet Health analyzed pollution and death registry data from ten Indian cities.
- The research focused on the association between short-term exposure to PM2.5 (fine particulate matter) and daily mortality.
- The Himalayan town of Shimla, which had the cleanest air among the cities studied, 3.7% of all deaths were pollution related.
- 11.5% of Delhi's annual deaths are attributable to air pollution, and 4.8% in Bengaluru and had 30% more exposure to daily air pollution than the average Delhi resident.



UNESCO introduced the New World Soil Health Index

- On 1 July 2024, UNESCO introduced the New World Soil Health Index during an international conference in Agadir, Morocco.
- The index aims to standardize soil quality assessment globally. It provides a standardized measure for analyzing and comparing soil quality across different regions and ecosystems.
- The index helps identify trends related to soil degradation or improvement.

Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI)



- A recent analysis by the Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI), a research group concentrating on Climate Change, Technology, and Trade, sheds insight on the causes of this slowdown, pointing to self-imposed restrictions rather than external competition.
- India's garment exports in 2023-24 were USD 14.5 billion, compared to USD 15 billion in 2013-14.
- Vietnam and Bangladesh's garment exports grew significantly during the same period, reaching USD 33.4 billion and USD 43.8 billion, respectively.

Record 40% representation of women in the House of Commons

- In the recently concluded general elections in the U.K., a record 263 women MPs (40%) have been elected to the House of Commons.
- The South African National Assembly has around 45% women representation, while the U.S. House of Representatives has 29%.
- In contrast, India's women's representation in the Parliament remains well below the global average of 25%.

Country Wise Data On Women Representation*

- Women representation in parliament varies across different democracies

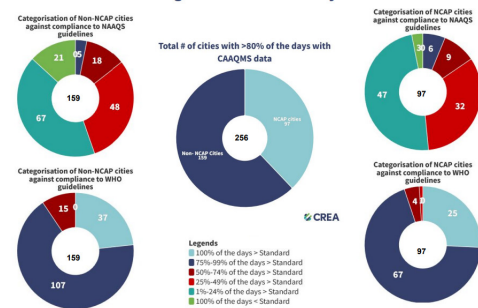
Coutry	% of elected women	Quota in Parliament	Quota in political parties
Sweden	46%	No	Yes
South Africa	45%	No	Yes
Australia	38%	No	Yes
France	38%	No	Yes
Germany	35%	No	Yes
U.K.	40%	No	Yes
U.S.	29%	No	Yes
Pakistan	16%	No	Yes
Bangladesh	20%	No	Yes

*(as of september 2023)

Mid-Year Air Quality Assessment for India by CREA

- Recently, the mid-year air quality assessment for India by the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA), covering the period from January to June 2024, provides a comprehensive overview of the nation's air pollution levels.

Number of cities vs frequency of days with PM_{2.5} concentration above Daily NAAQS and WHO guidelines – January to June 2024

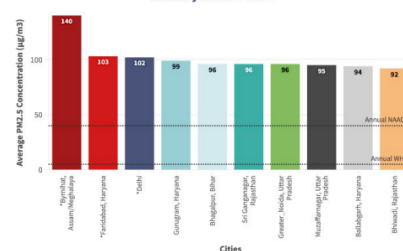


- Byrnihat, located on the Assam-Meghalaya border, emerged as the most polluted city in India, with an average PM_{2.5} concentration of 140 µg/m³ (Micrograms per Cubic Metre).
- Among India's top 10 polluted cities, three were in Haryana, two each in Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh, and one each in Delhi, Assam, and Bihar.
- Delhi ranked as the 3rd most polluted city, with PM_{2.5} levels at 102 µg/m³.
- Out of 256 cities monitored, 163 exceeded the annual NAAQS (40 µg/m³), while all exceeded the WHO standard (5 µg/m³).

Top 10 most polluted cities in India by PM_{2.5} concentration – January to June 2024

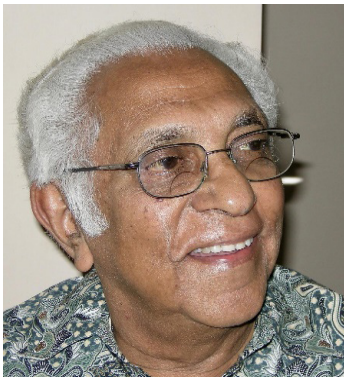
Days in respective AQI categories based on PM _{2.5} (µg/m ³) – January to June 2024							
City	Monitored days	Days > NAAQS	Good (0-30)	Satisfactory (31-60)	Moderate (61-90)	Poor (91-120)	Very poor (121-250)
Byrnihat	176	165	5	23	11	24	107
Faridabad	182	181	0	18	62	58	41
Delhi	182	180	0	28	84	25	41
Gurgaon	182	181	0	17	68	52	44
Bhagalpur	182	167	4	57	53	22	42
Sri Ganganagar	179	173	2	29	72	32	43
Greater Noida	182	176	4	47	58	31	39
Muzaffarnagar	181	180	0	38	67	37	39
Ballabgarh	182	179	0	23	69	63	26
Bhiwadi	181	177	2	23	74	50	32

Top 10 most polluted cities in India by PM_{2.5} concentrations (µg/m³) - January to June 2024





C.T. Kurien, distinguished economist, passed away at 93



- On 23 July 2024, Christopher Thomas Kurien (C.T. Kurien), an eminent Indian economist, passed away at the age of 93.
- Based in Bangalore, Karnataka, he authored several influential books on economics, including "Wealth and Illfare: An Expedition into Real Life Economics." His work focused on understanding and eradicating poverty.

Eminent Agriculturist Padma Shri Kamala Pujari passes away



- On 20 July 2024, the renowned organic farmer and Padma Shri awardee, Kamala Pujari, passed away in Cuttack at the age of 74.
- Kamala Pujari was celebrated for her remarkable efforts in conserving rare and endangered seeds, promoting organic farming, and empowering women farmers.

Oscar-winning producer Jon Landau passed away

- Jon Landau, the Oscar-winning producer behind iconic films such as "Titanic" and both "Avatar" movies, died of cancer on 5 July 2024 at the age of 63.
- Landau's collaboration with director James Cameron resulted in three of the highest-grossing films of all time.
- He played a pivotal role in making history with "Titanic," the first film to surpass \$1 billion at the global box office.

Kannada Actor, Presenter Aparna Vastarey dies



- On 11 July 2024, Aparna Vastarey, a cherished Kannada actress and the familiar voice behind Namma Metro's announcements, passed away at the age of 57.
- Aparna had a celebrated entertainment career, starting with her debut in director Puttanna Kanagal's film Masanada Hoovu in 1984.
- She later became a sought-after television presenter and even ventured into radio as an RJ with All India Radio.

Albania's world-renowned novelist Ismail Kadare died at 88

- On 1 July 2024, the celebrated Albanian novelist and poet, Ismail Kadare, passed away in Tirana at the age of 88.
- Kadare's novel "The General of the Dead Army" remains a powerful exploration of war's futility, resonating across borders and generations.

Robert Towne, Oscar-Winning 'Chinatown' screenwriter, died

- On 1 July 2024, the acclaimed Oscar-winning screenwriter Robert Towne passed away at the age of 89 in Los Angeles.
- Known for his masterful art of screenwriting, Towne made significant contributions to cinema, including iconic works like "Chinatown", "The Last Detail", and "Shampoo".

Veteran Actor Smriti Biswas passes away at 100

- On 3 July 2024, the esteemed Indian film actress Smriti Biswas breathed her last at the age of 100 in Nashik, Maharashtra.
- Known for her work in Bengali, Hindi, and Marathi cinema, she left an indelible mark on the industry with her versatile performances.

Vietnam's top leader Nguyen Phu Trong passed away at 80



- On 19 July 2024, Nguyen Phu Trong, the General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam, passed away at the age of 80.
- For 12 years, Mr. Trong sat at the apex of power in Vietnam's Communist hierarchy. He served an unprecedented three terms as party chief and nearly three decades in the Politburo.

Renowned cardiac surgeon Dr MS Valiathan passes away at 90

- Recently, Eminent cardio surgeon Dr. Marthanda Varma Sankaran Valiathan passed away at the age of 90 in Manipal.

- He served as the President of the Indian National Science Academy and held the prestigious title of National Research Professor.

Dal Khalsa founder Gajinder Singh Khalsa dies in Pakistan



- On 3 July 2024, Pro-Khalistan leader Gajinder Singh, was one of the most-wanted persons in the record of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), passed away at the age of 73.
- Gajinder Singh was one of five members of the previously banned organization, Dal Khalsa, who hijacked Indian Airlines flight IC-423 on 29 September 1981.

Camlin Group founder Subhash Dandekar passes away at 86

- Subhash Dandekar, the founder of Camlin Group, passed away on 15 July 2024, in Mumbai at the age of 86.
- Under his leadership, Camlin transformed from a stationery company to a global brand, expanding into art supplies and high-quality school products.
- Dandekar also served as the President of the Maharashtra Chamber of Commerce, Industry & Agriculture (MACCIA).

Indian businessman Ram Buxani passed away at 83

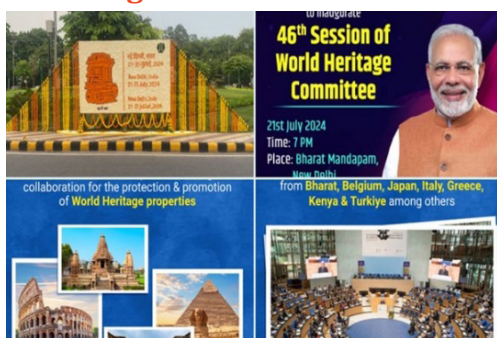
- In July 2024, Ram Buxani, the Indian businessman and chairman of ITL Cosmos Group, passed away in Dubai, at the age of 83.
- Buxani authored books, including Taking the High Road, and was a philanthropist.
- He served as director of IndusInd Bank, chaired The Indian High School, Dubai, and founded the Overseas Indians Economic Forum.

2nd Retreat of the Foreign Ministers of BIMSTEC



- The 2nd Retreat of the Foreign Ministers of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) took place in New Delhi on 11 and 12 July 2024.
- Hosted by External Affairs Minister of India, Dr. S. Jaishankar, the retreat included participation from Foreign Ministers of Bangladesh, Bhutan, Myanmar, and Thailand, as well as the State Minister of Sri Lanka and the Foreign Secretary of Nepal.
- Discussions covered regional cooperation within the BIMSTEC framework and potential outcomes for the 6th BIMSTEC Summit scheduled for September 2024.

PM Modi to inaugurate 46th Session of World Heritage Committee



- On 21 July 2024, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 46th Session of the World Heritage Committee at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi.
- This historic event marked India's first hosting of the UNESCO gathering, which brings together over 2,000 delegates from 150+ countries.

- The Prime Minister emphasized India's commitment to global cooperation in heritage conservation and highlighted the significance of returning ancient artifacts. Notably, North East India's Maidam was nominated for inclusion in UNESCO's Cultural World Heritage list.

Ivory Coast joins UN Water Convention as 10th African Member

- On 20 July 2024, Ivory Coast (officially known as Côte d'Ivoire) became the 53rd Party to the 1992 UN Water Convention, officially known as the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes.
- This accession marks Ivory Coast as the 10th African nation to join the treaty.
- Ivory Coast demonstrates its commitment to sustainable water management and international cooperation in addressing water-related challenges.

"Utkrishtata ki Ore Badhte Kadam" event, organised by MoHUA

- On 18 July 2024, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) organized the event "Utkrishtata ki Ore Badhte Kadam: Celebrating Achievements, Inspiring Excellence."
- The event honored outstanding performers under the Prime Minister Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) Yojana and Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM).

AIIA hosted 'Saushrutam 2024' with live surgical demonstrations

- The All-India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) celebrated Sushruta Jayanti-2024 by successfully organizing the Second National Seminar SAUSHRUTAM Shalya Sangoshti.
- This event, held from 13 to 15 July 2024, featured esteemed dignitaries and 25 live, complex surgical procedures.
- AIIA's commitment to integrating Ayurveda with cutting-edge surgical practices was highlighted during this significant seminar.

RBI governor inaugurated FE BFSI Summit

- On 19 July 2024, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das inaugurated the FE Modern BFSI Summit in Mumbai.
- In his address, he emphasized India's robust macroeconomic fundamentals, resilient financial sector, and the role of technology in shaping the financial landscape.
- The summit aimed to decode inclusive growth, reflecting aspirations for the next decade and beyond.

24th SCO summit held in Astana

- The Indian External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar attended the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit in Astana, Kazakhstan on 4 July 2024.
- The summit focused on reviewing the organization's activities over the past two decades and discussing regional and international cooperation.
- India's priorities were shaped by Prime Minister Modi's vision of a "secure" SCO, emphasizing security, economic cooperation, connectivity, unity, respect for sovereignty, and environmental protection.

6th meeting of the GPAI Ministerial Council

- The 6th meeting of the GPAI Ministerial Council was held on 3rd July 2024 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi in a hybrid mode.
- After extensive discussions and deliberations, the members came to a consensus about the future vision of Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI).

- The 2024 GPAI New Delhi meeting and the consensus reached on the future of GPAI underscores India's leadership in the global AI discourse, cementing its pivotal role in steering the ethical and inclusive development of AI.

Global IndiaAI Summit 2024

- The Global IndiaAI Summit 2024 was held on 3rd and 4th July in New Delhi, India.
- The summit was organized by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), this summit reflects India's commitment to advancing responsible AI development.
- The summit provides a platform for international AI experts from science, industry, civil society, governments, international organizations, and academia to share insights on key AI issues and challenges.

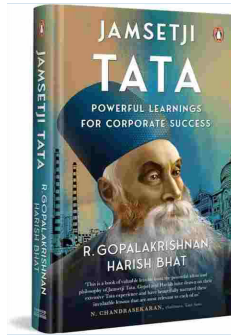
3rd UN Conference on Afghanistan at Doha

- The current government of Afghanistan, the Taliban, took part in the UN Conference on Afghanistan for the first time. It took place in Doha, Qatar, on 30 June and 1 July 2024.
- Organized by the UN, the conference included representatives from 25 countries and international organizations like the EU, IOC, and SCO.
- This gathering is the third of its kind to try to open up communication between the rest of the world and Afghanistan. Notably, the session ended without making any big progress on the agenda that had been suggested.

Chapter 12

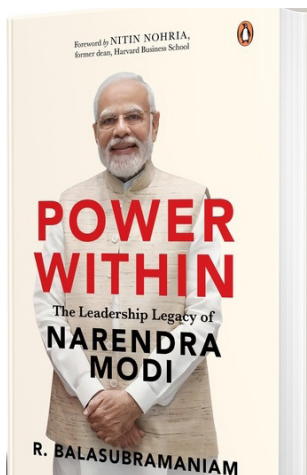
Books and Authors

A new book Jamsetji Tata: Powerful Learnings for Corporate Success



- “Jamsetji Tata: Powerful Learnings for Corporate Success” is a meticulously researched account by Harish Bhat and R. Gopalakrishnan.
- It delves into the entrepreneurial principles of Jamsetji Tata, the visionary who pioneered modern Indian industry.
- The book weaves real-life stories and anecdotes from iconic Tata brands like Tata Tea, Tata Motors, Titan, and Tanishq, bringing alive Jamsetji’s vision and offering valuable insights for corporate leaders.

A new book “Power Within”: A Landmark Book on Leadership Authored by Dr. R Balasubramaniam



- “Power Within: The Leadership Legacy of Narendra Modi” by Dr. R. Balasubramaniam is a thought-provoking exploration of Indian leadership.
- Through poignant anecdotes and fifty years of Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s public life, the book captures his relentless hard work, communicative approach, and constant quest for self-discovery in service to others.
- Balasubramaniam interprets Modi’s journey through both Western and Indic lenses, providing a roadmap for those aspiring to a life of public service.

“The Prisoner of Bhopal” by Tim Walker



- “The Prisoner of Bhopal” by Tim Walker is a historical fiction novel that marks the 40th anniversary of the Bhopal Gas Tragedy.
- The story revolves around the life of the protagonist, Amil, who aspires to work at the pesticide factory but is unexpectedly taken away from home to pay off his family’s debt.
- Walker weaves together history and fiction, shedding light on the tragic event and the contribution of the 9th Bhopal Infantry during World War I.

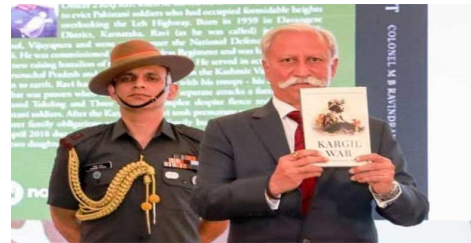
Book ‘Wings to Our Hopes – Volume I’ on Prez Murmu’s selected speeches released

- The book “Wings to Our Hopes – Volume I” compiles 75 significant speeches delivered by President Droupadi Murmu during her first year of presidency (July 2022 - July 2023).



- These speeches cover a wide range of subjects, endearing her to the people of the country through her simplicity, thoughtfulness, and erudition.
- The book, published by the Publications Division, reflects the innate nature of the First Citizen, reaching out to the masses with hope.

A new book titled “Kargil War: The Turning Point”



- On 3 July 2024, the Governor of Arunachal Pradesh, Lt. General KT Parnaik (Retd.), launched a book titled “Kargil War: The Turning Point” at the Rajendra Singhji Army Officers Institute (RSAOI) in Bengaluru.
- Authored by the late Col M B Ravindranath, Vir Chakra (VrC), this book provides detailed insights into the actions and operations of the 2nd battalion of Rajputana Rifles (2 RAJ RIF) during Operation Vijay in 1999.

Chapter 13

Important Days



World Ranger Day

- World Ranger Day is celebrated worldwide on 31 July every year.
- The day is celebrated to honor and commemorate park rangers who protect and preserve our planet's natural treasures and cultural heritage.
- The Thin Green Line Foundation and The International Rangers Federation joined forces in 2007 to celebrate the first World Ranger Day in recognition of the 15th anniversary of the founding of the International Rangers Foundation.

International Tiger Day

- International Tiger Day, also known as Global Tiger Day, is observed annually on 29 July.
- It was established in 2010 during the Saint Petersburg Tiger Summit in Russia.
- The day aims to raise awareness about tiger conservation and the urgent need to protect these majestic creatures.

National Parent's Day

- National Parents' Day is celebrated on the fourth Sunday of July each year.
- Established in 1994 by President Bill Clinton, this day honors parents and their vital role in raising children.
- The aim is to promote responsible parenting and recognize the sacrifices parents make.

World Hepatitis Day

- World Hepatitis Day is observed globally on 28 July every year.
- The day aims to raise global awareness of hepatitis — a group of infectious diseases known as hepatitis A, B, C, D, and E — and encourage prevention, diagnosis, and treatment.
- This date honors Nobel Laureate Dr. Baruch Samuel Blumberg, who discovered the hepatitis B virus and developed the first hepatitis B vaccine.

Kargil Vijay Diwas

- Kargil Vijay Diwas is observed annually on 26 July every year.
- Kargil Vijay Diwas commemorates India's victory in the Kargil War of 1999.

- In 2024, Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Drass in Ladakh to honor the 25th anniversary of Kargil Vijay Diwas.

National Income Tax Day

- National Income Tax Day is observed annually on 24 July.
- The day commemorates the introduction of income tax in India.
- On this day in 1860, Sir James Wilson imposed income tax for the first time in the country.

Global Energy Independence Day 2024

- Global Energy Independence Day is celebrated globally on 10th July every year.
- The day marks a pivotal moment for countries striving to achieve energy self-sufficiency and sustainability.
- The theme for the year 2024, "Energy Transition Now: Embrace the Future," encapsulates the urgency and importance of adopting sustainable energy practices.

National Mango Day

- National Mango Day is celebrated annually on 22 July.
- National Mango Day honors the beloved fruit that holds special significance in South Asia.
- National Mango Day is observed to celebrate the fruit known for its exquisite taste and numerous health benefits.

International Chess Day

- International Chess Day is celebrated annually on 20 July.
- The day is a worldwide commemoration that honours the ancient game of chess and its profound impact on global culture, education, and intellectual development.
- This date holds special importance in the chess world, as it commemorates the founding of the International Chess Federation (FIDE) on July 20, 1924, in Paris, France.

Nelson Mandela International Day 2024

- Nelson Mandela International Day is observed every year on 18 July

- The day serves not only as a commemoration but also as a call to action on a global scale, encouraging individuals and communities around the world to embrace Mandela's spirit of service and dedication to social justice.

National Flag Day

- National Flag Day is observed annually on 14 June.
- The day commemorates the adoption of the American flag on 14 June 1777, by the Second Continental Congress.
- The day was officially established by President Woodrow Wilson in 1916 and later designated as National Flag Day by an Act of Congress in 1949.

World Population Day 2024

- World Population Day is celebrated every year on 11 July.
- The day was established by the United Nations in 1989.
- This day serves as a crucial platform for raising awareness about pressing population issues that affect every corner of our planet.
- The theme for World Population Day 2024, "Leave no one behind, count everyone."

National Fish Farmer's Day

- National Fish Farmer's Day is celebrated on 10th July every year.
- The day is celebrated to recognize and appreciate the invaluable contributions of fish farmers, aquaculture industry professionals, and other stakeholders toward ensuring a sustainable and thriving fisheries sector.

World Youth Skills Day 2024

- World Youth Skills Day is observed annually on 15 July.
- The day was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 2014.
- It serves as a global platform to highlight the importance of equipping young people with skills essential for employment, decent work, and entrepreneurship.

International Day of Combating Sand and Dust Storms 2024

- The United Nations (UN) International Day of Combating Sand and Dust Storms (SDS) is observed globally on 12 July.
- This day aims to raise awareness about the growing health and environmental challenges posed by SDS.

World Zoonoses Day 2024

- World Zoonoses Day is observed annually on 6 July.
- It aims to raise awareness about zoonotic diseases – infections that can spread from animals to humans.

International Day of Cooperatives 2024

- The International Day of Cooperatives, observed annually on the first Saturday of July, which falls on 6 July 2024, celebrates the contributions of cooperatives worldwide.
- This year's theme is "Cooperatives Building a Better Future for All".

International Plastic Bag Free Day 2024

- International Plastic Bag Free Day is observed every year on 3 July.
- It aims to raise awareness about the harmful effects of plastic bags on our environment.
- The day aligns with the Break Free from Plastic Movement, seeking solutions to the plastic pollution crisis for a safer planet.

World Sports Journalists Day

- World Sports Journalists Day, observed annually on 2 July.
- It was established by the International Sports Press Association (AIPS) in 1994, commemorating AIPS's formation during the 1994 Summer Olympics in Paris.
- This day recognizes the accomplishments of sports media professionals, encourages awareness about sports globally, and inspires future careers in sports journalism.

National Doctor's Day 2024

- National Doctor's Day 2024 is observed on 1 July each year in India.
- This significant occasion pays tribute to the selfless service and invaluable contributions of doctors.
- The theme for 2024 is "Healing Hands, Caring Hearts," emphasizing doctors' dedication, compassion, and empathy in their medical practice.
- The day was established to commemorate the birth and death anniversary of Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy.

National Chartered Accountant (CA) Day

- National Chartered Accountant (CA) Day, also known as CA Day, is celebrated annually on July 1st in India.
- This significant day commemorates the founding of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) in 1949.

Chapter 14

Important Government Schemes



Finance Minister announces launch of Pradhan Mantri Janjati Unnat Gram Abhiyan



- Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman while presenting the Union Budget 2024-25 announced that the Government will launch the Pradhan Mantri Janjati Unnat Gram Abhiyan.
- The scheme will adopt saturation coverage for tribal families in tribal-majority villages and aspirational districts.
- The Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Unnat Gram Abhiyan envisages to cover 63,000 villages and aims to benefit 5 crore tribal people across the country.

Rajiv Gandhi Civil Abhaya Hastham Scheme launched by Telangana

- On 20 July 2024, Telangana Chief Minister Sri A. Revanth Reddy launched the “Rajiv Gandhi Civils Abhayastham” scheme.
- This initiative aims to support financially unstable students who have passed the preliminary UPSC Civil Services Examination 2024 and now wish to prepare for the main examination.
- The program underscores the state’s commitment to empowering youth and promoting equal opportunities for all.

Union Minister launches the 2nd phase of KIRTI Programme



- On 19 July 2024, Union Minister for Youth Affairs & Sports and Labour & employment, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya launched the second phase of the KIRTI (Khelo India Rising Talent Identification) programme at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in New Delhi.
- The Government has decided to identify 1 lakh budding young athletes within 100 days under the KIRTI programme.
- Under the KIRTI programme, everyone will be given opportunities to develop their sports skills, whether they live in a village or a city, and whether they come from a poor background or otherwise.

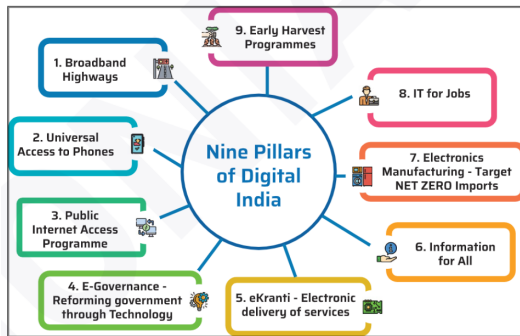
Madhya Pradesh tops best performing state in SVANidhi Scheme

- Madhya Pradesh has secured the first place under the ‘Best Performing State’ category in the Prime Minister SVANidhi scheme.
- Launched in 2020, SVANidhi aids urban street vendors by providing collateral-free loans up to Rs 50,000. Assam ranks second in the same category.

Digital India Initiative completes 9 years

- On 1 July 2024, India celebrated the successful completion of 9 years of the Digital India initiative.
- Launched in 2015, this transformative program aims to turn India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy.
- The initiative symbolizes an empowered India, emphasizing ‘Ease of Living’ and transparency.

- It covers 9 pillars of growth areas which are given in the image below:



NITI Aayog launches 'Sampoornata Abhiyan'

- NITI Aayog has launched the 'Sampoornata Abhiyan', a 3-month campaign running from July 4th to September 30th, 2024.
- The campaign aims to achieve 100% saturation of 12 key social sector indicators across all Aspirational Districts and Blocks in India.
- These indicators span themes such as Health, Nutrition, Agriculture, Social Development, and Education.

Chandrababu Naidu launched the NTR Bharosa pension scheme

- On 1 July 2024, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu launched the NTR Bharosa pension scheme.
- Under this scheme, the pension amount was increased from ₹3,000 to ₹4,000 per month for various categories, including old age persons, widows, toddy tappers, weavers, and specially-abled individuals.
- The first pension was personally delivered by the Chief Minister to a beneficiary in Penumaka village, Tadepalli block, Amaravati.

Union Minister G Kishan Reddy launches NIRMAN Portal

- On 3 July 2024, Union Minister for Coal and Mines, Shri G Kishan Reddy, launched the "Noble Initiative for Rewarding Mains Aspirants of National Civil Services Examination (NIRMAN)" portal in New Delhi.

- This unique CSR scheme by Coal India Limited aims to support meritorious youth from its operating districts who have qualified the Preliminary round of UPSC examination (for Civil Services & Forest Service) in 2024.
- Eligible candidates with an annual family income less than ₹8 lakhs and belonging to Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe, female, or third gender can receive ₹1,00,000 as support.

Raksha Rajya Mantri Shri Sanjay Seth launches GAINS 2024

- On 10 July 2024, Raksha Rajya Mantri Shri Sanjay Seth inaugurated the GRSE Accelerated Innovation Nurturing Scheme (GAINS 2024) at Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Limited (GRSE) in Kolkata.
- This innovative scheme aims to address shipyard-related challenges and promote technology development through start-ups nurtured within India.

ICAR to launch 'One Scientist, One Product' Scheme

- On 16 July 2024, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) launched the "One Scientist-One Product" program.
- This initiative aims to enhance research in agriculture and animal husbandry.
- Under this scheme, all 5,521 ICAR scientists are tasked with creating a product, technology, model, concept, or a significant publication.

Maharashtra Chief Minister announced Ladla Bhai Yojana

- On 17 July 2024, the Maharashtra Chief Minister announced the launch of the "Ladla Bhai Yojana", also known as "Maza Ladka Bhau Yojana".
- This scheme aims to provide financial assistance to the state's youth who have passed 12th grade, diploma courses, or are graduates.
- Eligible youths will receive ₹6,000, ₹8,000, or ₹10,000 every month based on their educational qualification.

Chapter 15

Persons and Places in News

168th birth anniversary of Bal Gangadhar Tilak



- On 23 July 2024, India celebrated 168th birth anniversary of Bal Gangadhar Tilak, also known as Lokmanya Tilak.
- His radical approach and emphasis on Swaraj (self-rule) earned him the title of 'Lokmanya'.
- As an influential journalist, he founded newspapers like 'Kesari' and 'The Mahratta', propagating nationalist ideas.

Dr. George Matthew



- On 12 July 2024, the UAE has named a road in Abu Dhabi after Dr. George Matthew, an Indian-origin doctor.
- This is part of the "Honoring UAE's Visionaries: Commemorative Streets" project, initiated by the Department of Municipalities and Transport (DMT).
- He has held several key positions, including Medical Director of Al Ain Region in 1972 and Health Authority Consultant in 2001. He played a crucial role in advancing healthcare services and promoting modern medical practices in the UAE.

Shivaji Maharaj's Wagh Nakh returns to Maharashtra



- Recently, the wagh nakh, a wartime weapon used by Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, has been transported to Mumbai from London's Victoria and Albert (V&A) Museum.
- The 'Wagh Nakh', also known as tiger claws, is a medieval dagger used in the Indian subcontinent that has curved blades attached to a glove or bar for personal defense or stealth assaults. It can easily slice through skin and flesh.
- Shivaji Maharaj used the wagh nakh to slay Afzal Khan, the general of the Bijapur Adil Shahi dynasty.

Group of senators in Liberia has proposed to relocate its Capital city



- A group of Liberian senators has proposed relocating the country's capital city, Monrovia, due to recurring flash floods. This proposal follows torrential rains that caused flash floods, affecting over 50,000 people.
- By 2030, the Greater Monrovia District is expected to witness a sea level rise of 16 cm, putting nearly 675,000 people and 9,500 hectares of land at risk.