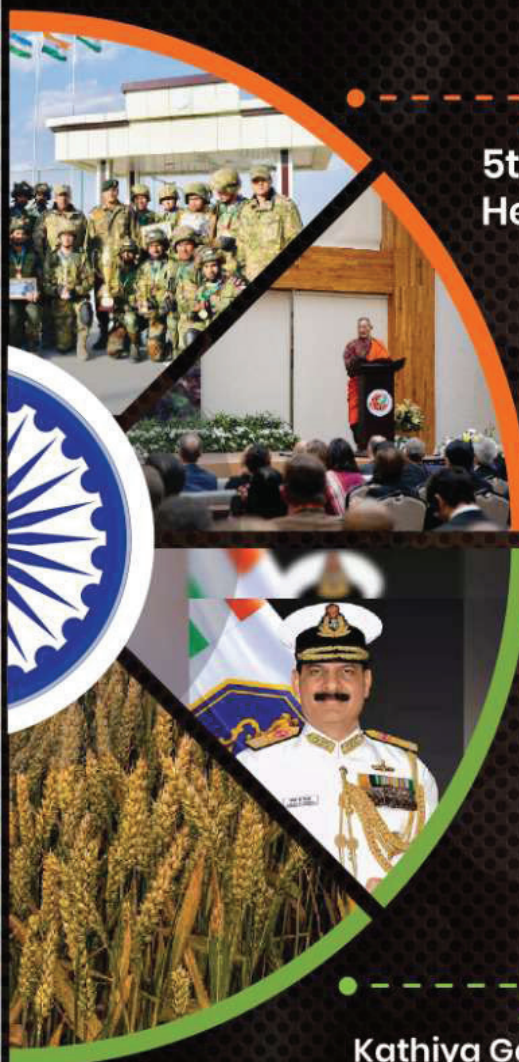


LAKSHYA

CURRENT AFFAIRS

APRIL 2024



5th Edition of Joint Military Exercise 'DUSTLIK'
Held Between India & Uzbekistan

Bhutan and Tiger Conservation
Coalition Pledge to Mobilize \$1 Billion
for Tiger Conservation Efforts

Vice Admiral Dinesh Kumar
Tripathi: 26th Chief of the
Indian Navy

Kathiya Gehu of Uttar Pradesh
got Geographical Indication (GI) tag



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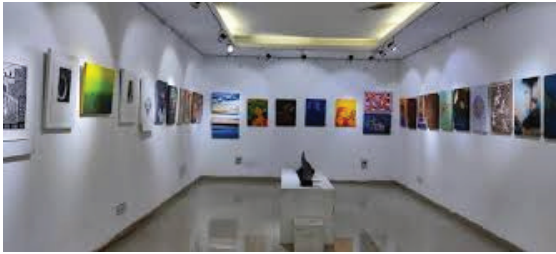
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History and Culture

LALIT KALA AKADEMI



The Ministry of Culture recently restricted the authority of the Chairman of the **Lalit Kala Akademi (LKA)**, preventing them from engaging in any “administrative actions.”

Attribute	Details
Inauguration Date	August 5, 1954
Registration	Registered under the Societies Registration Act 1860
Purpose	Promotion and propagation of Indian art, both domestically and internationally
Permanent Collection	Reflects contemporary, modern, folk, and tribal art in India
Funding	Provided by the Ministry of Culture
Headquarters	New Delhi
Regional Centers	Chennai, Lucknow, Kolkata, Bhubaneswar, Garhi
Key Event	National Exhibition of Art (annual)
Authority Restriction by Ministry	Chairman barred from administrative

Folk Art

- Folk art can be described as the **traditional, decorative, musical, or utilitarian artistic expression** of various cultures or regions.
- Typically, folk art is distinctive to the people of a particular area and reflects society's values, beliefs, and customs.

SANNATI BHUDDIST SITE



Attribute	Details
Location	On the bank of Bhima river near Kanaganahalli, Kalaburagi district, Karnataka
Notable Feature	Popular among tourists for the Chandrala Parameshwari Temple
Construction Phases	Mauya, Early Satavahana, and Later Satavahana periods (3rd Century B.C. to 3rd Century A.D.)
Inscription	Found in Prakrit language using Brahmi script
Precious Stone Sculpture	Portrays Mauryan Emperor Ashoka surrounded by queens and attendants; inscribed “Raya Asoko” in Brahmi
Dome Slabs	Around 60 with sculptural renderings of Jataka stories, events in Buddha's life, Shatavahana monarchs
Nagavi Ghatikasthan	Located around 40 km away, termed the Takshashila of the South
Historical Significance	Served as a major education hub during Rashtrakuta and Kalyana Chalukya dynasties (10th-12th Centuries)

RAKHIGARHI



Attribute	Details
Location	Hisar district, Haryana, India; 27 km from the Ghaggar river, in the Ghaggar-Hakra river plain
Historical Significance	One of the oldest and largest cities of the Indus Valley or Harappan Civilization, dating back to about 6500 BCE
Size	One of the five largest townships of Harappan civilization on the Indian subcontinent; spread over approximately 350 hectares
Known Townships	Harappa, Mohenjodaro, and Ganveriwala in Pakistan; Dholavira (Gujarat), India
Periods of Occupation	Early and Mature Harappan periods, with complete abandonment during the Late Harappan period
Archaeological Features	Planned township with mud-brick and burnt-brick houses; proper drainage system; sacrificial pits; fire altars; ceramic industry; artifacts and antiquities
Notable Findings	- Ceramic industry artifacts such as red ware vessels Animal sacrificial pits and fire altars Cylindrical seal with Harappan characters and alligator symbol
Additional Artifacts	Blades, terracotta and shell bangles, beads of semiprecious stones, shell and copper objects, animal figurines, toy cart frame, bone points, inscribed seals

MANGAL PANDEY

Mangal Pandey, born on **July 19, 1827**, near Faizabad in Uttar Pradesh, played a pivotal role in India's first rebellion against British rule in 1857. Joining the British East India Company's army in 1849, he served as a sepoy in the 6th Company of the **34th Bengal Native Infantry** in **Barrackpore**.

Name	Mangal Pandey
Birthdate	July 19, 1827
Birthplace	Near Faizabad, Uttar Pradesh
Role in Rebellion	Played a significant role in India's first rebellion against British rule
Military Service	Joined the British East India Company's army in 1849
Regiment	Served as a sepoy in the 6th Company of the 34th Bengal Native Infantry
Trigger for Rebellion	Protested against cartridges greased with animal fat
Rebellion Outcome	Sparked a mass revolt across India against colonial rule
Date of Execution	April 8, 1857
Place of Execution	Lal Bagan, Barrackpore
Consequences	His regiment disbanded, reflecting widespread resentment against British rule

JENU KURUBA COMMUNITY

For generations, the indigenous **Jenu Kuruba tribe dwelling in the Western Ghats forests** have been systematically deprived of their fundamental rights and excluded from avenues for progress and advancement.

Aspect	Details
Tribe Name	Jenu Kuruba
Meaning	"Jenu" means honey in Kannada, and "Kuruba" refers to the caste
Traditional Occupation	Primarily known as honey gatherers, they collect minor forest produce, including honey, in the forests of the Western Ghats
Habitat	Indigenous to the forests of the Western Ghats spanning Karnataka, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu
Settlements	Reside in small settlements called Hadi
Occupation	Engaged in food gathering, collection of minor forest produce, particularly honey, through shifting cultivation, leading to a nomadic lifestyle
Social Structure	Live a semi-nomadic lifestyle , maintaining their own discipline and power structures within settlements

Governance	Governed at each settlement level by a head-man (yajamana) and a ritual head/shaman (gudda)
Dependency	Self-sufficient lifestyle not reliant on external rulers, police, or religious institutions

FORT EMMANUEL

- History enthusiasts are actively working to preserve the remnants of Fort Emmanuel, a laterite-brick fortress erected along the shores by the **Portuguese in 1503**.
- Located on Fort Kochi Beach in Kochi, Kerala, this once formidable structure served as a symbol of the strategic partnership between the **Maharajah of Kochi and the Portuguese Monarch, after whom it was named**.
- Initially constructed in 1503 and fortified in 1538, the fort encompassed the entire township within its walls, significantly bolstering Portuguese control of the region. Despite its resilience, **Fort Kochi fell into Dutch hands in 1683**, leading to the destruction of Portuguese establishments. Subsequently, the Dutch controlled the fort until 1795, when the British wrested control from them.
- Over time, both the Dutch and British contributed to the deterioration of the fort's walls and bastions, leaving behind only remnants that serve as poignant reminders of its historical importance.
- With Indian independence in 1947, foreign dominion over Fort Kochi ended, leaving behind the enduring legacy of Fort Emmanuel.



QUDSIA BAGH

Qudsia Bagh underwent a revitalization as part of the Delhi Development Authority's initiative to rejuvenate the floodplains of the **Yamuna River**

Attribute	Description
Name	Qudsia Bagh
Builder	Qudsia Begum
Date of Establishment	1748
Location	North Delhi
Architecture Style	Persian char-bagh

Remaining Structures	Western gateway Qudsia Mosque Pavilions in carved red sandstone
Entrance Material	Red sandstone, plastered with limestone
Architectural Features	Stucco work on walls Cusped arches with floral patterns above
Historical Significance	Played a role in the 1857 First War of Independence Damaged and destroyed during the conflict

PANHALA FORT



The Mumbai Circle of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) marked **World Heritage Day** with festivities held at **Panhala Fort**.

Structure	Description
Teen Darwaja	Main entrance with a pointed arch, adorned with intricate tracery designs . Features a Persian inscription from Sultan Ibrahim Adil Shah I's reign (954 A.H. / 1547-8 CE) .
Wagh Darwaja	Northern gate partially concealed by natural features, leading to a narrow pathway down the hill.
Nayikinicha Sajja	Three-storied tower with delicate stucco moldings, constructed during Ibrahim Adil Shah II's reign (1000 A.H. / 1591 CE).
Ambarkhana	Central complex consisting of three buildings named Ganga, Yamuna, and Saraswati , each with sixteen bays and flat vaults.
Dharma Kothi	Granary located near Ambarkhana, featuring a single staircase leading to its top.
Sajja Kothi	Double-storied structure situated prominently on the hill, dating back to the reign of Bijapur King Ibrahim Adilshah (1016 A.H. / 1607-08 CE). Features an upper gallery.

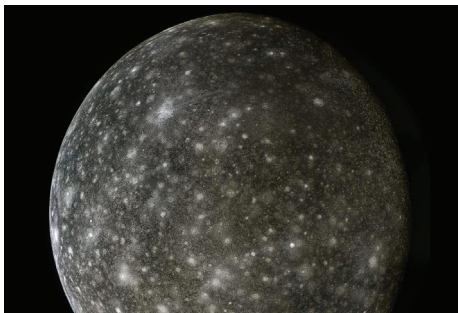
Environment and Geography

SWELL WAVES INUNDATE COASTAL AREAS IN SOUTHERN, CENTRAL KERALA



- Swell waves inundated coastal areas in central and southern districts of Kerala, causing flooding and prompting disaster management machineries to be on alert.
- The phenomenon, locally known as ‘Kallakkadal,’ is expected to persist for one or two more days along the Kerala coast.
- Coastal areas in Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam, Alappuzha, and Thrissur districts were among the worst-hit by the swell waves.
- Measures taken included prohibiting travel to coastal tourism hubs, temporarily banning tourism activities in coastal areas, and ensuring the supply of first aid kits and life-saving medicines in affected regions.

TEAM LED BY PRL AHMEDABAD FINDS OZONE ON JUPITER’S MOON CALLISTO





- Scientists discovered **evidence of ozone on Jupiter’s moon Callisto**, indicating complex chemical processes on icy celestial bodies.
- Callisto’s surface is geologically inactive, potentially preserving subsurface oceans or habitats.
- Researchers conducted experiments to recreate conditions for ozone formation on Callisto using sulphur dioxide ice under irradiation.
- The presence of ozone suggests the presence of oxygen, essential for complex molecule formation and raising questions about habitability on Callisto and other icy moons.

TAIWAN’S STRONGEST EARTHQUAKE IN NEARLY 25 YEARS



- Taiwan experienced its **strongest earthquake of magnitude 7.4, biggest in 25 years**.
- The earthquake triggered a tsunami warning, which was later lifted, surprising residents who were accustomed to milder quakes.
- Residents described intense shaking, with some buildings sustaining damage, including a leaning five-story building in Hualien County.
- The earthquake led to landslides, road damage, and traffic disruptions, particularly along the east coast of Taiwan.

PLACES IN NEWS

	<p>Romania (Capital: Bucharest):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A research center in Romania developed the world's most powerful LASER, which promises revolutionary advances in sectors like health, space, etc. <p>Political features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Located in Southeastern Europe. Bordered by Ukraine (north), Moldova (northeast), Bulgaria (south), Serbia (southwest), and Hungary (west). Bounded by Black Sea to the Southeast. Joined NATO in 2004 and European Union in 2007.
	<p>Three new archaeological sites discovered in Telangana:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Archaeologists in Telangana have uncovered three significant sites, over 200 megalithic monuments in dense forests, a unique Iron Age megalithic site at Ooragutta and two rock art sites at Damaratogu.

THE SOUTHERN OCEAN HAS THE EARTH'S CLEANEST AIR — SCIENTISTS FINALLY KNOW WHY



- The **Southern Ocean's clean air** is attributed to both human activity and natural **sources of aerosols, such as salt spray and dust.**
- Clouds and rain play a crucial role in cleaning the atmosphere over the Southern Ocean.
- Honeycomb-like clouds in the region regulate climate by reflecting sunlight to space, impacting Earth's temperature and rainfall patterns.
- The balance of open and closed honeycomb cells affects the amount of sunlight they let in and the rainfall they produce.
- Research is ongoing to study these cloud patterns using satellite images and to improve climate modeling accuracy.

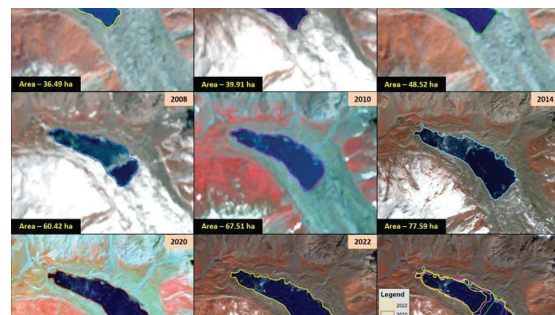
EURASIAN OTTER FITTED WITH TRACKING DEVICE IN SATPURA TIGER RESERVE, MADHYA PRADESH

- Eurasian otters in Satpura Tiger Reserve are being studied for understanding their distribution, ecology, and conservation needs.
- The project involves affixing collar IDs and radio chips on otters, marking the first use of such technology for otter study.



- The Eurasian otter is an endangered species with a dwindling population, playing a vital role in environmental conservation efforts.
- The **project is a collaboration** between **Wildlife Conservation Trust and Madhya Pradesh Forest Department, supported by Astral Foundation and Alkyl Amines Foundation.**

SATELLITE IMAGERY COVERING CATCHMENTS OF INDIAN HIMALAYAN RIVER BASINS SHOW SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN GLACIAL LAKES



- The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** conducted a study using satellite imagery from 1984 to 2023, revealing significant changes in glacial lakes.

- 676 glacial lakes larger than 10 hectares have expanded since 1984, with 130 located in India and distributed across different river basins.
- The elevation-based analysis shows that most expanding lakes are situated at higher elevations, with 314 lakes in the 4,000 to 5,000 m range and 296 lakes above 5,000 m.

Categorization of Glacial Lakes:

- Glacial lakes are classified into four main categories based on their formation process: Moraine-dammed, Ice-dammed, Erosion, and other glacial lakes.
- Among the expanding lakes, the majority are Moraine-dammed, followed by Erosion, other, and Ice-dammed glacial lakes.

Significance of Satellite-derived Analyses:

- Satellite-derived long-term change analyses offer valuable insights into glacial lake dynamics, crucial for assessing environmental impacts, managing Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOF) risks, and adapting to climate change in glacial environments.

STUDY WARNS OF 'DECREASING TREND' IN SOLAR RADIATION FOR ELECTRICITY IN INDIA




- The quantity of solar radiation available that can be economically converted by solar panels

to electricity is showing an “alarming decreasing trend” in several locations in India, says an analysis by scientists at the **India Meteorological Department (IMD)**



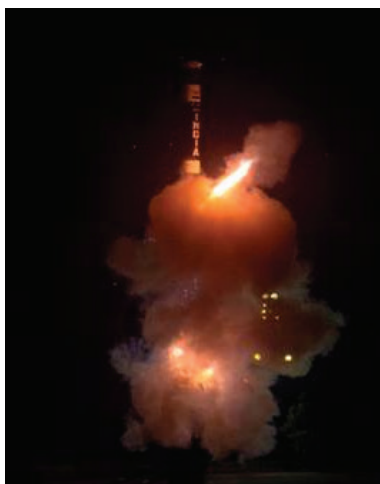
- Solar radiation available for conversion to electricity is decreasing in several locations in India due to increased aerosol load and clouding.
- Efficiency of solar panels is influenced by the amount of sunlight incident on them.
- India aims to source 500 GW of electricity from non-fossil fuel sources by 2030, with a significant portion from solar power.
- India's installed solar power capacity is about 81 GW, with plans to add at least 40 GW of solar capacity annually until 2030.
- Aerosols play a role in blocking sunlight on earth, with variations over time and location.

GI TAGS:

	Kathiya Gehu, Bundelkhand region Uttar Pradesh: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bundelkhand region in Uttar Pradesh, locally known as Kathiya Gehu, has been granted the prestigious Geographical Indication (GI) tag. • Kathiya wheat is known for its nutritional superiority, containing essential vitamins and minerals, high fiber content, and various health benefits
	Varanasi's Tiranga Barfi: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is known for its historical significance and unique ingredients, and receives the prestigious GI tag.
	Varanasi's Dhalua Murti Metal Casting Craft: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dhalua Murti Metal Casting Craft had been accepted into the elite GI category.

Defence and Military Exercises

AGNI PRIME MISSILE



The **Strategic Forces Command (SFC)** in collaboration with the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** conducted a successful flight test of the Agni-Prime ballistic missile from **Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island**, located off the coast of Odisha.

Key Feature	Details
Generation	Represents a new generation of advanced nuclear-capable missiles, variant of the Agni class
Configuration	Two-stage canisterised system
Range	1,000 to 2,000 km
Weight	11,000 kg
Guidance and Propulsion Systems	Incorporates new systems for enhanced performance
Transportation and Storage	Designed for easy transport via road and rail, can be stored for extended periods, reducing launch preparation time
Launch Mechanism	Cold launch mechanism
Firing Capability	Supports firing in salvo mode

Ballistic Missile

- Ballistic Missiles are **rocket-propelled, self-guided weapons** launched directly into the upper layers of the Earth's atmosphere.
- They travel beyond the atmosphere, where the **warhead separates from the missile and descends towards a predetermined target.**
- These missiles can carry conventional or nuclear payloads and are deployable from various platforms such as **aircraft, ships, submarines, and land-based launchers.**

Strategic Forces Command (SFC):

Recently, the **Strategic Forces Command (SFC)**, in collaboration with the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)**, conducted a successful flight test of the Agni-Prime, a new generation ballistic missile.

Attribute	Details
Formation Date	January 4, 2003
Role	Operationalizes commands from India's Nuclear Command Authority (NCA), managing and administering tactical and strategic nuclear weapons
Responsibilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initiates nuclear weapon delivery processes with NCA approval • Conducts target selection through calibrated processes involving NCA approval • Exercises complete command and control over nuclear assets and contingency planning
Composition	Officers and personnel from Indian Army, Indian Air Force (IAF), and Indian Navy
Commander-in-Chief Appointment	Rotational basis from the three services, appointed as a 3-star General

OPERATION MEGHDOOT

The Indian Army recently marked the **40th anniversary** of ‘Operation Meghdoot,’ which initiated the securing of the **Siachen Glacier**.

Event Description	Details
Operation Name	Operation Meghdoot
Objective	To capture and secure the Siachen Glacier, strategically crucial for dominating Northern Ladakh
Background	Siachen Glacier has been a point of contention between India and Pakistan since the Karachi Agreement of 1949 due to its hostile terrain and extreme weather conditions
Trigger	Intelligence inputs about impending Pakistani military action and “cartographic aggression” in Ladakh
Commencement Date	April 13, 1984
Commanders	Lieutenant General Manohar Lal Chibber Lieutenant General PN Hoon Major General Shiv Sharma
Execution	Troops deployed via airlifts and air-dropping supplies to high-altitude airfields
Milestones	First assault on the world’s highest battlefield Successful pre-emption of seizure of Sia La and Bilafond La passes by Pakistan Army
Result	Indian troops gained control of the entire Siachen Glacier
Strategic Importance of Siachen	Highest militarized zone globally Dominates Shaksgam Valley, Gilgit Baltistan routes, and Karakoram Pass
Significance	Example of seamless coordination between Indian Army and Air Force

EXERCISE DUSTLIK-2024



Recently, the Indian Army contingent embarked for the 5th edition of the **India-Uzbekistan joint military Exercise DUSTLIK**.

Attribute	Details
Exercise Name	Exercise DUSTLIK
Edition	Fifth
Host Country	Uzbekistan
Date	2024
Location	Termez, Uzbekistan
Participating Countries	India and Uzbekistan
Previous Editions	First edition: Uzbekistan, November 2019
Indian Contingent	45 personnel from the Indian Army (primarily from a battalion of the JAT Regiment) - 15 personnel from the Indian Air Force
Uzbekistan Contingent	Approximately 100 personnel from the Uzbekistan Army and Air Force, primarily from the Southern Operational Command
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Foster military cooperation Enhance combined capabilities for joint operations
Focus Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physical fitness Joint planning Tactical drills Special arms skills
Special Features	Conduct of multi-domain operations, involving combat support arms and services

COMBINED MARITIME FORCES (CMF)

Recently, **INS Talwar** of the Indian Navy intercepted **940 kg of drugs in the Arabian Sea** during an operation coordinated by the **Combined Maritime Forces (CMF)**.

Attribute	Details
Name	Combined Maritime Forces (CMF)
Location	Bahrain
Area Covered	Approximately 3.2 million square miles of international waters
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Defeating terrorism Preventing piracy Encouraging regional cooperation Promoting a safe maritime environment

Composition	Five task forces Membership from multiple nations including Australia, the United States, India, and others
Membership	- Australia, Bahrain, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, France, Germany, Greece, India, Iraq, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Republic of Korea, Kuwait, Malaysia, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Seychelles, Singapore, Spain, Thailand, Turkey, UAE, United Kingdom, United States, Yemen
Participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Voluntary No obligation for nations to undertake specific duties
Mandate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No political or military mandate
Flexibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contributions vary from liaison officers to warships and support vessels Ability to call on warships not explicitly assigned to CMF for associated support
Headquarters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Co-located with US Naval Central Command and US Navy Fifth Fleet at Naval Support Activity (NSA) Bahrain
Command	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commanded by a U.S. Navy Vice Admiral, also serving as Commander of the US Naval Forces Central Command (NAVCENT) and US Navy Fifth Fleet Deputy Commander is a United Kingdom Royal Navy Commodore

INS Talwar

INS Talwar (F40) is the lead ship of the **Talwar-class frigates** of the Indian Navy.

Attribute	Details
Ship Name	INS Talwar (F40)
Class	Talwar-class frigates
Meaning of Name	"Sword" in Hindi
Country of Origin	Russia
Commissioned Date	18 June 2003



DURGA-2

Attribute	Details
Description	Weapons utilising focused energy such as lasers, microwaves, or particle beams to damage or destroy targets
Advantages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transmits lethal force at the speed of light (approximately 300,000 kilometers per second) Unaffected by gravity or atmospheric drag Extremely precise Effects can be tailored by varying energy type/intensity
Significance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transformative impact on warfare, revolutionising the aerospace industry Enables development of cutting-edge platforms, weapons, sensors, and networks for future warfare
Other Countries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Russia, France, Germany, United Kingdom, Israel, China



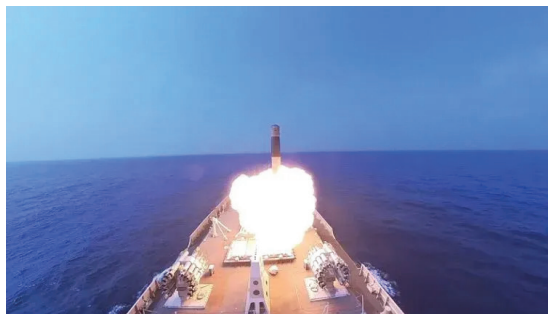
RAMPAGE MISSILE

Israel recently deployed the highly effective **air-to-surface missile** known as the **Rampage** during an assault on an Iranian military facility.

Feature	Description
Type	Long-range, supersonic, air-to-ground, seekers, precision strike missile
Developers	Israel Aerospace Industries and Israeli Military Industries Systems
Intended Targets	High-quality, well-protected targets including communication and command centers, air force bases, maintenance centers, and infrastructure
Length	4.7 meters (15.4 feet)
Weight	570 kilograms
Speed	Supersonic, making it challenging to identify and intercept with air defence systems
Range	Over 190 miles
Payload	150 kilograms of explosives
Warhead	Blast fragmentation or general-purpose warhead
Guidance System	GPS/INS (Global Positioning System/Inertial Navigation System) with anti-jamming capabilities
Flexibility	Can be fired from an aircraft or as a stand-alone system
Mid-flight Adjustment	Capable of adjusting its path mid-flight to precisely hit programmed targets
Operational Conditions	Can operate in any weather conditions, day or night



EXERCISE POORVI LEHAR (XPOL)



The **Indian Navy** recently conducted **Exercise Poorvi Lehar** on the East Coast.

Aspect	Description
Conducting Authority	Indian Navy, under the operational direction of the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Naval Command
Purpose	Validation of procedures to assess Indian Navy's preparedness for Maritime Security challenges in the region
Phases	Tactical Phase: Combat training in a realistic scenario Weapon Phase: Conduct of various firings to reaffirm Indian Navy's capability
Maritime Domain Awareness	Near continuous maintenance throughout the Area of operations, facilitated by the operation of aircraft from diverse locations
Interoperability	The high degree of interoperability demonstrated among Eastern Naval Command, Indian Air Force, Andaman & Nicobar Command, and Coast Guard assets

CRYSTAL MAZE 2



The Crystal Maze 2 missile system represents a significant advancement in India's defence capabilities

Feature	Description
Name	Crystal Maze 2 (ROCKS)
Origin	Israel
Type	Air-launched medium-range ballistic missile
Target Capability	High-value stationary and relocatable assets, such as long-range radars and air defence systems
Range	Over 250 kilometers
Warhead Options	Penetration or blast fragmentation
Special Feature	Effective in GPS-denied environments
Deployment Strategy	Release well outside the surface-to-air-defended area, followed by a high-velocity trajectory to minimize risk to aircraft and missiles

PARADIP PORT EMERGES AS LARGEST INDIAN MAJOR PORT IN CARGO THROUGHPUT IN FY24



- **Paradip Port in Odisha** surpassed **Deendayal Port in Gujarat** to become **India's largest major port in terms of cargo volumes in FY24**, handling 145.38 million tonnes of cargo.
- Paradip Port achieved the highest-ever coastal shipping traffic and improved berth productivity, emerging as a hub for coastal shipping in the country.
- Deendayal Port Authority has been leading in cargo handling among the 12 major ports for the last 16 years and declared a dock for handling large vessels.
- Paradip Port Is operating revenue increased by 14.30% in FY24, crossing Rs 2,300 crore, and is set to reach a capacity of 300 million tonnes with the Western Dock project.

INDIA TO BECOME WORLD'S THIRD-LARGEST E-COMMERCE MARKET BY 2030



- **Projected Growth of India's E-commerce Sector**
 - ♦ Invest India predicts a significant growth in India's e-commerce sector, estimating it to reach 325 billion by 2030, with rural areas playing a crucial role in driving this growth.
 - ♦ Factors such as increased internet penetration, affordable internet services, and a rise in smartphone users are fueling this surge in the sector.
- **Role of Rural India in E-Commerce Expansion**

- ♦ Rural India is expected to be the primary driver of ecommerce growth, particularly tier 2-4 towns and rural areas, which are projected to generate a substantial demand by 2026.
- ♦ Initiatives like the Government e-marketplace (GeM) are indicative of the increasing participation of rural consumers in e-commerce activities.
- **Mobile Revolution and Digital Transactions**
 - ♦ The proliferation of smartphones and the dominance of the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) are shaping India's ecommerce landscape, with over 80% of the population expected to have smartphone access by 2026.

WORLD BANK PROJECTS INDIAN ECONOMY TO GROW AT 7.5% IN 2024



- **GDP Growth Projection:** The World Bank revised **India's GDP growth** projection for **FY25 to 6.6**, showing a moderate yet steady growth trajectory. This reflects a slight increase of 20 basis points and highlights India's resilient economic performance .
- **Growth Drivers:** Strong public investment is expected to stimulate growth over the next decade. The services and industry sectors are projected to sustain robust growth, supported by construction and real estate activities, contributing to India's economic development.
- **Inflation and Policy Implications:** Anticipated subsiding of inflationary pressures is expected to create room for easing financial conditions. The medium-term outlook forecasts a decline in fiscal deficit and government debt, driven by robust output growth and consolidation efforts, indicating positive economic trends for India.
- **Regional Comparison:** India's economic activity is anticipated to drive growth in South Asia, outpacing other emerging markets and developing economies. This showcases India's potential for sustained growth amidst global economic fluctuations, as highlighted in the World Bank's South Asia Development Update for April 2024.

PLASTIC OVERSHOOT DAY REPORT: INDIA'S ROLE IN GLOBAL PLASTIC MISMANAGEMENT



- **India ranks** among the top twelve countries responsible for **60 of the world's mismanaged plastic waste**.
- Despite having the lowest per capita plastic waste production globally, India is expected to generate 7.4 million tons of mismanaged plastic waste in 2024.
- Global Insights Top Mismanaged Waste Generators include China, India, Russia, Brazil, Mexico, Vietnam, Iran, Indonesia, Egypt, Pakistan, the United States, and Turkey.
- The world is projected to exceed its capacity to manage plastic waste by September 5, 2024.

INDIA 4TH LARGEST MILITARY SPENDER IN 2023: SIPRI



- **India has become the fourth largest military spender globally in 2023**, allocating 83.6 billion for defense, emphasizing modernization efforts and enhancing defense capabilities.

- The global military expenditure surged by 6.8% in 2023, reaching 2,443 billion, attributed to escalating tensions, armed conflicts, and global insecurity.
- China's military spending increased by 6% in 2023, reaching an estimated 296 billion, influencing neighboring countries to enhance their defense spending.

UNFPA'S REPORT SPOTLIGHTS INDIA'S POPULATION BOOM TO 1.44 BILLION, WITH 24%



- **India's population** is currently estimated at **1.44 billion**, with a significant youth demographic aged 0-14 years.
- **UNFPA** projects India's population to double in 77 years, highlighting the importance of addressing sexual and reproductive health and rights.
- Significant challenges persist in maternal health services in India, despite improvements, with child marriage rates remaining at 23% between 2006 and 2023.
- Maternal mortality, though decreasing globally, still accounts for 8% of maternal deaths, with disparities in healthcare access affecting marginalized communities.
- The **United Nations Fund for Population Activities** was established as a trust fund in 1967 and began operations in 1969.
- In 1987, it was officially renamed the United Nations Population Fund, reflecting its lead role in the United Nations system in the area of population.
- UNFPA plays a crucial role as the global authority on sexual and reproductive health, aiming to address healthcare disparities and improve maternal health outcomes.

INDIAN PASSPORT IS THE SECOND CHEAPEST PASSPORT IN THE WORLD, AFTER UAE



- The **Indian passport** is ranked as the **second cheapest globally**, with the UAE passport being the most affordable .
- Indian passport is the most cost-effective in terms of yearly expenses, with only 1.81 expenditure per year.
- Despite affordability, the Indian passport has limited visa-free access compared to higher-priced passports like those from Australia, the USA, and Canada.
- The study debunks the myth that the US passport is the most expensive globally, with Mexico and Australia having more expensive passports.

KARNATAKA, GUJARAT LEAD INDIA'S CLEAN ENERGY TRANSITION RACE: REPORT



- The progress of India's clean electricity transition at the state level is evaluated, with **Karnataka and Gujarat** excelling while states like Jharkhand, Bihar, West Bengal, and Uttar Pradesh lag behind, requiring increased efforts for renewable energy integration and decarbonization .
- Challenges such as cyclical weather patterns and economic growth are identified as driving factors for increasing peak electricity demand in India, necessitating a transition to clean energy sources to meet rising demand .

- Disparities in clean energy transition progress exist at the state level despite positive national progress, highlighting the need for tailored policy interventions and strengthened state-level regulatory ecosystems.

INDIA HAS SECOND-MOST HEPATITIS B, C CASES AFTER CHINA: WHO REPORT



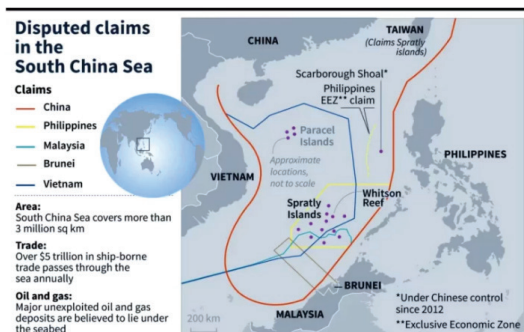
- According to a **World Health Organization (WHO) report** released to coincide with the World Hepatitis Summit in Portugal this week, **India has the second highest cases of viral hepatitis.**
- With 3.5 crore cases in 2022, the country accounts for 11.6 per cent of the total infection burden globally that year, it added.
- The report highlighted disparities in pricing, service delivery, and funding challenges in hepatitis treatment.
- Actions recommended in the report include expanding access to testing, equitable treatment, strengthening prevention efforts, using data for action, and engaging affected communities.

INDIA RANKS 3RD IN WITH 67 UNICORNS: HURUN'S GLOBAL UNICORN INDEX 2024



- **India ranks third globally** in the number of unicorns, with **67 unicorns, behind the USA and China.**
- The Indian start-up ecosystem has slowed down, with a decrease in the number of unicorns for the first time.
- India lags behind the USA and China in AI unicorns, with a notable gap in the aerospace sector.

INDIA SUPPORTS PHILIPPINES ON SOUTH CHINA SEA DISPUTE



- In the midst of **Manila's ongoing conflict with Beijing regarding the South China Sea**, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar affirmed that India unequivocally backs the Philippines in safeguarding its national sovereignty.
- Currently, China and the Philippines are engaged in a tense dispute **over the Second Thomas Shoal in the South China Sea (SCS.)**. Both countries claim ownership of the shoal.
- The South China Sea Dispute **revolves around the conflicting island and marine claims made by multiple sovereign governments** in the region, all of whom challenge China's assertion of control over the territory in question as per the Asia Maritime Transparency Initiative (AMTI).
- Brunei, Taiwan, Malaysia, Indonesia, Philippines, and Vietnam** that are directly involved in the South China Sea dispute with China.
- China claims nearly the entire SCS based on its historical **"nine dash line" claim**, which encompasses the Paracel Islands, Spratly Islands, Scarborough Shoal, and other features within the region.
- Taiwan claims same territories** as claimed by China.
- Vietnam** claims sovereignty over the Paracel Islands and the Spratly Islands in the SCS while Philippines asserts its claims over the Spratly Islands, including Scarborough Shoal, which is located within its Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

- Brunei claims only a portion of the Spratly Islands, and Malaysia claims several features in the Spratly Islands**, including the Layang-Layang Reef, Swallow Reef, and the Investigator Shoal.

South China Sea location:

- The South China Sea is a **marginal sea of the Western Pacific Ocean**.
- It is connected by **Taiwan Strait with the East China Sea** and by Luzon Strait with the Philippine Sea.

NEPAL TO RATIFY BIMSTEC CHARTER



- The unveiling of the **BIMSTEC Charter at the Federal Parliament of Nepal** signifies a noteworthy advancement in regional collaboration and economic advancement.

About BIMSTEC:

- BIMSTEC, **established in 1997**, aims to promote economic development, social advancement, scientific excellence, peace, and stability among nations in the Bay of Bengal region.
- The group, initially referred to as **BIST-EC (Bangladesh-India-Sri Lanka-Thailand Economic Cooperation)**, today consists of seven member states: Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Thailand.
- It is headquartered in **Dhaka, Bangladesh**.
- The BIMSTEC Charter was ratified at the **Fifth BIMSTEC Summit in 2022**. The Charter functions as the fundamental document, delineating ideals and frameworks for collaboration among member states. In addition to Nepal, the remaining six member countries of BIMSTEC have previously approved the BIMSTEC Charter.

AUKUS ALLIANCE



- The AUKUS alliance, consisting of **Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States**, is preparing to engage in talks over the enlargement of its membership.

About AUKUS:

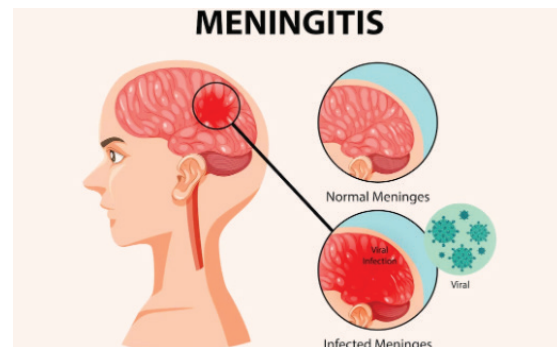
- It was **established in 2021**, the AUKUS is intended to be a strategic partnership among Australia, the United Kingdom (UK), and the United States to **bolster their allied deterrence and defense capabilities in the Indo-Pacific**.
- The tri-nation partnership, **which builds on their decades-long security cooperation**, has two pillars.
 - Pillar I** revolves around the **acquisition** and development of conventionally armed nuclear-powered submarines for the Royal Australian Navy;
 - Pillar II** calls for **collaboration** on advanced capabilities that will involve technology and information sharing;
- India is not a part of the group.**
- India and the AUKUS group have had preliminary discussions on emerging technologies, but no official interaction has taken place thus far.

NIGERIA BECAME FIRST COUNTRY TO INTRODUCE THE MEN5CV VACCINE



- Nigeria has achieved a significant milestone in **combating meningitis by being the first nation worldwide to implement a novel and exceptionally efficient vaccination.**
- The **Men5CV vaccine, recommended by the World Health Organisation (WHO)**, provides **immunisation against five strains of the meningococcus bacteria** in a single injection.
- The **new vaccine protects against strains A, C, W, Y and X** of the meningococcus bacteria, all of which can cause meningitis and blood poisoning. This broader protection is crucial in regions like the meningitis belt, where multiple strains can circulate.

About Meningitis



- Meningitis is a **highly dangerous inflammation of the meninges**, which are the protective membranes that surround the brain and spinal cord, as stated by the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention in the United States.
- The condition can arise due to **viral, bacterial, fungal, or parasitic infections**, and can result in severe problems such as brain damage, hearing impairment, and cognitive impairments.
- Meningococcal meningitis**, caused by the Neisseria meningitidis bacteria, is a significant issue throughout Africa. The **“African meningitis belt” is a territory spanning 26 countries in Africa**, which includes Nigeria. According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), there was a 50 percent increase in the **number of reported meningitis cases across Africa last year.**

MOU and Agreements

AFMS AND IIT KANPUR SIGNS MOU TO DEVELOP TECHNOLOGIES TO ADDRESS SOLDIERS' HEALTH ISSUES IN CHALLENGING TERRAINS

- The **Armed Forces Medical Services (AFMS)** signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for collaborative research and training with **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur**.
- The agreement will undertake research and develop new technologies to address health problems faced by soldiers in difficult terrains.
- IIT Kanpur will also provide **technical expertise for developing AI diagnostic models**, at the **Armed Forces Centre for Computational Medicine** established in Armed Forces Medical College, which is first of its kind amongst medical colleges in India.
- Under the ambit of this **MoU**, **faculty exchange program, joint academic activities** and development of training modules will also be planned.

C-DOT AND IIT, JODHPUR SIGN AGREEMENT FOR "AUTOMATED SERVICE MANAGEMENT IN NETWORK OF 5G AND BEYOND USING AI"

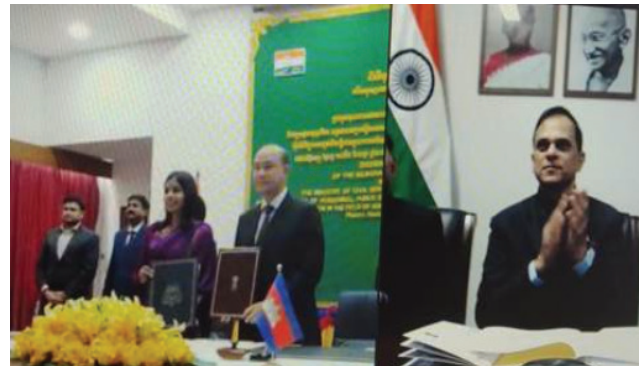


- C-DOT, the premier **Telecom R&D Centre of the Department of Telecommunications (DoT)**, Government of India and **Indian Institute of Technology, Jodhpur (IIT-J)** signed an agreement for **"Automated Service Management in 5G and Beyond Networks Using AI"**.
- **Objective:** To develop AI frameworks for automated network management, fault detection,

and diagnostic techniques by utilizing continuous information generated within the network like 5G.

- The service will create an **O-RAN-compliant real-time 5G** and Beyond testbed to demonstrate automated network management and slicing techniques with smart metering, remotely driven vehicles, and other application use cases.
- The agreement is signed under the **Telecom Technology Development Fund (TTDF) of the DoT** which funds domestic companies and institutions that design, develop, and commercialize telecommunication products and solutions to enable **affordable broadband and mobile services in rural and remote areas**.

DARPG SIGNS MOU WITH CAMBODIA ON COOPERATION IN HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT IN CIVIL SERVICE



- **Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG)** under **Ministry of Personnel, Public Administration and Pensions** signed a Memorandum of Understanding with **Ministry of Civil Service, Cambodia** on cooperation in the field of **Human Resource Development in Civil Service**.
- MoU will focus on **strengthening and promoting bilateral exchange and cooperation** between the two countries in the field of Human Resource Development in Civil Service.
- This will be achieved through exchange visits focused on administrative reforms, good governance webinars, research publications, institutional exchanges, capacity building programs and replication of **good governance practices**.

IFSCA WITH CMA OF KUWAIT SIGNS A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) FOR INFORMATION SHARING



- The India's **International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA)** and the **Capitals Market Authority (CMA)** of Kuwait, on the sidelines of the India-Kuwait investment conference, signed the MoU aimed at **sharing information on technologies and innovations within the financial and regulatory sectors**.
- The MoU between **IFSCA and CMA** reflects the **commitment of India and Kuwait to mutual cooperation**, knowledge exchange, and progress in the financial domain.

C-VIGIL APP



- The cVIGIL app of Election Commission of India has become an effective tool in the **hands of people to flag election code violations**.
- Since the announcement of General Elections 2024, over 79,000 complaints have been received as of today.
- Over 99% complaints have been **resolved and close to 89% of these complaints have been resolved within 100 minutes**.
- 73% of the total received complaints are against illegal hoardings and banners, followed by more than 1400 complaints received against money, gifts and liquor distribution.
- Complaints pertaining to defacement of property, display of firearms and intimidation, campaigning beyond the prohibited period including use of speakers beyond permitted time was also reported.

ABOUT C-VIGIL APP



- Launched by the **Election Commission of India in 2018**, the cVigil is **user-friendly and easy to operate application**, which connects vigilant citizens with the District Control Room, Returning Officer and Flying Squads Teams.

- Aim:** To enable citizens to report violations of the **Model Code of Conduct during elections**
- The citizens can immediately report on incidents of political misconduct within minutes and without having to rush to the office of the returning officer.
- As soon as the **complaint is sent on the cVigil app, the complainant will receive a unique ID** through which the person will be able to track the complaint on their mobile.
- The app automatically enables a geo-tagging feature as soon as the user switches on their camera in the cVIGIL to report a violation.
- The flying squads could know the precise location of a reported violation, and the image captured by citizens could be used as evidence in the court of law.
- Citizens can also **report complaints anonymously**.

ALLAHABAD HC HELD AN APPEAL AGAINST CENTRAL ADMINISTRATIVE TRIBUNAL

- The Allahabad High Court has held that an appeal against an order of **the Central Administrative Tribunal** while exercising its contempt jurisdiction under Section 17 of the Administrative Tribunals Act 1985 lies **before the Supreme Court under Section 19 of the Contempt of Courts Act, 1971**.

About Central Administrative Tribunal

- The original Constitution did not contain provisions with respect to tribunals. **The 42nd Amendment Act of 1976** added a new Part XIV-A to the Constitution.
- Set up: **1985 with Principal bench at Delhi**
- The CAT is a multi-member body consisting of a chairman and members. The sanctioned strength is one Chairman and 70 members.
- They are drawn from both judicial and administrative streams and are appointed by the president.
- They hold office for a **term of five years or until they attain the age of 65 years** in case of chairman and 62 years in case of members, whichever is earlier
- The appointment of Members in CAT is made on the basis of recommendations of a high powered **selection committee chaired by a sitting Judge of Supreme Court** who is nominated by the Chief Justice of India. After obtaining the concurrence of Chief Justice of India, appointments are made with the approval of Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC).

- The CAT is not bound by the procedure laid down in the Civil Procedure Code of 1908. It is guided by the principles of natural justice
- It has original jurisdiction in **recruitment and all service matters of public servants covered by it.**
- **Jurisdiction:** To the all-India services, the Central civil services, civil posts under the Centre and civilian employees of defence services
- **Exception:** The members of the defence forces, officers and servants of the Supreme Court and the secretarial staff of the Parliament are not covered.

WHAT IS ZERO FIR?



- Zero FIR was registered against KTR for making objectionable comments against Telangana CM. Zero FIR was sent to Banjara Hills Police Station for probe.

About Zero FIR

- When a **police station receives a complaint regarding an alleged offense in another station's jurisdiction**, it registers an First Information Report.
- The police station then transfers the FIR to the relevant police station for further investigation. This process is called a Zero FIR.
- The provision of Zero FIR was established based on the recommendation in the **report of the Justice Verma Committee.**
- The Justice Verma Committee was formed **after the 2012 Nirbhaya gang rape case.**
- Zero FIR concept was **introduced to provide speedy redressal to the victim so that timely action** can be taken after the filing of the FIR.

DEMAND FOR STATEHOOD AND SIXTH SCHEDULE STATUS FOR LADAKH



- **Sonam Wangchuk, a famous engineer and innovator from Ladakh began a 21-day hunger strike in Leh, Ladakh**, to advocate for Ladakh's statehood and inclusion on the Sixth Schedule. Aamir Khan's character in the **film 3 idiots was inspired by Sonam Wangchuk.**
- Ladakh was always a part of Jammu and Kashmir but in 2019, after the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act was passed, Ladakh was made a separate Union territory by the Government.

About Sixth Schedule of the Constitution:

- The Constitution, **under Sixth Schedule, contains special provisions for the administration of tribal areas in the four northeastern states of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.**
- The status was given by the fact that the tribes in Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, and Mizoram have not fully merged with the local culture.
- Previously, these places were anthropological specimens. Tribal communities in different regions of India have adopted the culture of their surroundings.
- However, tribes of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, and Mizoram maintain **their unique culture, customs, and civilization.**

Features of the Sixth Schedule

Autonomous Districts and Autonomous Regions	Tribal areas in Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, and Mizoram are administered as autonomous entities.
Legislative Functions	District Councils can pass laws related to land, forestry, agriculture, inheritance, marriage, and social norms, subject to the Governor's approval.
Executive Functions	District Councils have authority over planning and regulation of various sectors like education, healthcare, transportation, and infrastructure
Financial Functions	Councils can prepare budgets, levy taxes, collect revenue, grant licenses for mineral extraction, and maintain essential services like schools and hospitals.
Judicial Functions	Council Courts can be established to hear cases, with jurisdiction limited to Supreme Court and High Courts.
Importance	Provides self-governance to tribes, preserving their culture and resources.

MADRAS HIGH COURT ALLOWS MADURAI BENCH TO CONSIDER PAN-STATE PILs

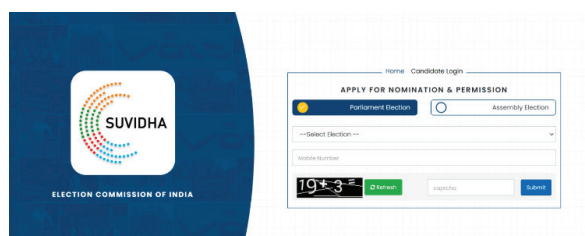
- The Madurai Bench of Madras High sCourt Bar Association (MMBA) has successfully **restored the authority to adjudicate on all types of public interest litigation (PIL) petitions**, including those pertaining to matters concerning the entire State, **rather than being limited to the 13 districts within its territorial jurisdiction.**
- The principal bench of the Madras High Court in Chennai has a **permanent bench in Madurai**. The Madurai bench has jurisdiction over all issues except for original jurisdiction, which is the same as the principal bench.

About Creation of High Court Benches:

- According to **Article 214 of the Indian constitution**, each state is required to have a High Court.
- **Section 51 of the States' Reorganisation Act, 1956** allows for the establishment of benches at locations other than the main seat.
- The government considers proposals for setting up benches **only after receiving a complete proposal from the State Government**, with the consent of the Chief Justice and the Governor.
- The State Government is accountable for furnishing infrastructural amenities and covering the entirety of the expenses of the High Court and its Bench.
- The Chief Justice oversees the daily operations of the High Court and its Bench, assigning Judges from the Principal Seat to the Bench as necessary.
- The process of establishing Benches involves a **consultative approach** that requires cooperation between the State Government and the High Court.



SUVIDHA PORTAL



- The Election Commission has reported that its **Suvidha website has received more than 73,000 applications** since the announcement of the Lok Sabha polls.

About SUVIDHA Portal

- Designed by: **The Election Commission of India (ECI)**
- Aims: To guarantee **fair and transparent elections, maintaining a balanced and equitable environment** in accordance with democratic norms.
- It simplified the procedure of acquiring and responding to requests for permissions and resources from political parties and candidates throughout the election period.
- It transparently handles a wide variety of permission requests based on the **First in First Out concept**.
- Political parties and candidates have the ability to effortlessly submit authorization requests online from any location and at any time.
- There are methods to submit offline.
- It facilitates the **granting of authorization for various activities such as organising demonstrations, establishing temporary party offices, conducting door-to-door canvassing, operating video vans and helicopters, getting vehicle permits, and distributing leaflets.**

ELECTION CANDIDATES'S RIGHT TO PRIVACY

- In a recent judgement, the Supreme Court of India has determined that **candidates running in elections are not required to disclose all of their movable assets.**
- While it has been strongly argued that voters have an absolute "right to know" and that candidates running for office must be honest about everything, we are hesitant to accept the general idea that a candidate must expose his entire life to the voters.
- According to the Supreme Court, a **candidate's "right to privacy" would remain in relation to issues that do not affect voters** or are unrelated to their run for public office.

Right to Privacy:

- The Supreme Court described privacy and its importance in the landmark decision of **K.S. Puttaswamy vs Union of India in 2017** that the right to Privacy is a fundamental and inalienable right **under Article 21** and attaches to the person covering all information about that person and the choices that he/she makes.

SUPREME COURT RECOGNIZED RIGHT TO BE FREE FROM ADVERSE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE



- The Supreme Court of India on April 5, 2024, for the first time, **recognised the right against the adverse impacts of climate change.**
- The court emphasised that this **right is closely connected to the fundamental rights to life and equality (article 21 and 14 respectively)** enshrined in the Indian constitution.
- The arguments formed a component of a ruling rendered by a panel of three judges led by Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud, who were presiding over a case concerning the preservation of the great Indian bustard and the lesser florican. The bench overturned a 2021 ban on overhead powerlines in 99,000 square kilometres of Gujarat and Rajasthan to protect birds.

Constitutional provisions related to Protection of Environment:

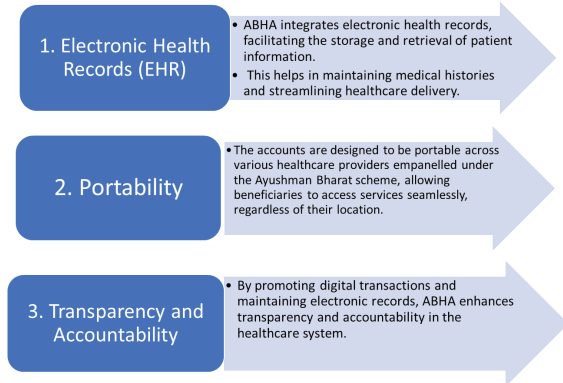
- **Article 48A** of the Constitution provides that the State shall endeavour to protect and improve the environment and to safeguard the forests and wild life of the country.
- **Article 51(g):** It states that it shall be the duty of every citizen of India to protect and improve the natural environment including forests, lakes, rivers and wild life, and to have compassion for living creatures.
- In **MC Mehta vs Kamal Nath, 2000**, the Court held that Articles 48A and 51A(g) must be interpreted in light of Article 21.

AYUSHMAN BHARAT HEALTH ACCOUNTS (ABHA)



- ABHA is a **14 digit unique number which facilitates hassle free access and sharing of health records digitally.**
- It enables interaction with verified healthcare providers and makes the process of accessing and sharing of lab reports, prescriptions and digital health records seamless.
- Ayushman Bharat Health Accounts (ABHA) is an **integral component of the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM).**
- Ayushman Bharat Health Accounts aims to provide seamless and efficient digital health data exchange in the ABDM ecosystem.

FEATURES OF ABHA



Components:

- **Beneficiary Identification:** Identification and registration of eligible beneficiaries under the Ayushman Bharat scheme.
- **ABHA address:** ABHA Address is an easy-to-remember username that enables a user to access their health records digitally and share their records with various healthcare providers.
- **ABHA mobile app :** Provides access to complete medical history. Anyone can download the ABHA app and access, store, share all medical records.

IRDAI LIFTED THE AGE RESTRICTION FOR BUYING HEALTH INSURANCE



- The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has **removed the age limit for purchasing health insurance policies, with effect from April 1.**
- Earlier, there was an **age limit of 65 years** to buy new health insurance policies.
- The IRDAI regulation mandates **health insurance companies to provide specialized plans specifically designed for senior individuals and to establish dedicated channels for handling their claims and grievances.**
- Companies are also urged to create customized products to fulfill specific age-related needs, promoting a **more comprehensive healthcare system.**

About Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)

- It is an autonomous and statutory body under the jurisdiction of **Ministry of Finance, Government of India.**
- It is tasked with regulating and licensing the insurance and re-insurance industries in India.
- The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) is a **public authority as defined in the Right to Information Act, 2005.**

UNION HEALTH MINISTRY LAUNCHES MYCGHS IOS APP



- The **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare unveiled the 'myCGHS'** app tailored for iOS devices.
- The **myCGHS iOS app is developed by the technical teams of the National Informatics Centre (NIC) Himachal Pradesh and NIC Health Team.**
- It is a convenient mobile application offering features aimed at **enhancing information and accessibility for CGHS beneficiaries.**
- The app is designed to enhance access to Electronic Health Records, information, and resources for Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) beneficiaries.
- The myCGHS app facilitates a **wide range of services, including booking and cancellation of online appointments, downloading CGHS card and index card, accessing lab reports from CGHS labs, checking medicine history, checking medical reimbursement claim status, accessing referral details, locating nearby**

wellness centers, staying updated with news and highlights, **locating nearby empanelled hospitals, labs,** and dental units and accessing contact details of wellness centers and offices.

- The app features security features like **2-factor authentication and functionality of mPIN** ensuring the confidentiality and integrity of users' data.

RUPAY LAUNCHED 'LINK IT, FORGET IT' CAMPAIGN

- The **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has launched the 'RuPay - Link it, Forget it'** promotion during the Indian Premier League (IPL).
- The campaign, conceptualised by **DDB Mudra Group, aims to enhance awareness regarding RuPay Credit cards** connected to a Unified Payments Interface (UPI) ID, thereby facilitating direct and secure transactions.

About National Payments Corporation of India:

- National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) was **incorporated in 2008 as an umbrella organization for operating retail payments and settlement systems in India.**
- NPCI has created a robust payment and settlement infrastructure in the country.
- It has changed the way payments are made in India through a bouquet of retail payment products such as RuPay card, Immediate Payment Service (IMPS), Unified Payments Interface (UPI), Bharat Interface for Money (BHIM), Aadhaar Enabled Payment System (AePS), National Electronic Toll Collection (NETC) and Bharat BillPay.
- It is facilitating **secure payment solutions.**

Summit and Conferences

GLOBAL ALLIANCE FOR INCINERATOR ALTERNATIVES (GAIA)

GAIA Asia Pacific, in partnership with various environmental organisations, has urged ASEAN to take decisive steps in **addressing plastic pollution**.

Attribute	Description
Name	Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives (GAIA)
Membership	More than 1,000 grassroots groups, non-governmental organisations, and individuals
Coverage	Over 90 countries
Mission	To facilitate a shift from a linear and extractive economy to a circular system that upholds people's right to a safe and healthy environment
Vision	A just, zero-waste world founded on respect for ecological boundaries and community rights, where individuals are liberated from the impacts of toxic pollution and resources are sustainably managed
Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Combatting pollution • Promoting regenerative solutions in cities • Advocating for policy and financial transformations • Conducting research and communication initiatives • Building movements
Focus Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incineration • Zero waste • Plastic pollution • Climate change



SUMMIT OF THE FUTURE

Recently, the UN Secretary-General has said that the **reform of multilateral development banks (MDBs)** will be a key theme at this year's **Summit of the Future**.

Aspect	Description
Event Name	Summit of the Future
Purpose	Forge a new international consensus on delivering a better present and safeguarding the future
Participants	World leaders, UN Member States, UN agencies, NGOs, CSOs, academic institutions, private sector, and youth
Theme	Summit of the Future: Multilateral Solutions for a Better Tomorrow
Goal	Build upon the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Summit and deliver an action-oriented Pact for the Future to accelerate SDG progress
Outcome Document	Pact for the Future
Negotiation and Endorsement	Negotiated and endorsed by countries in the lead-up to and during the Summit in September 2024

INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE ON PLASTIC POLLUTION:

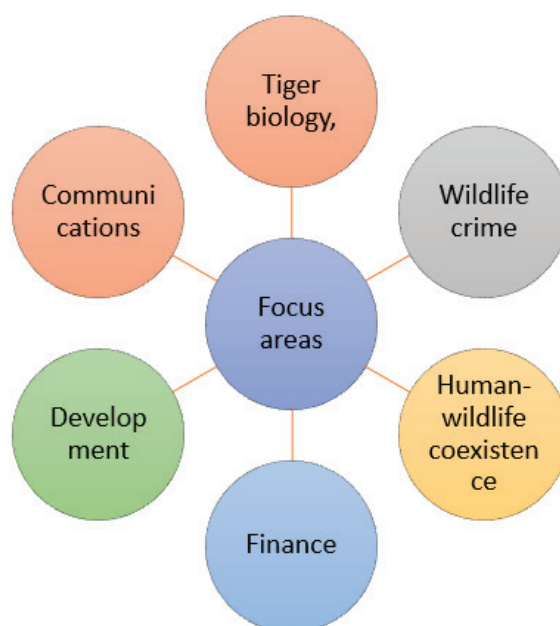
The **fourth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee** aimed at crafting an international legally binding instrument to address **plastic pollution**, especially in marine environments, commenced in Ottawa, the capital of **Canada**.

Event	Description
Resolution at UN Environment Assembly	In March 2022, at the fifth session of the UN Environment Assembly , a historic resolution was adopted to develop an international legally binding instrument (ILBI) on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment.
Objective	The objective of the global plastics treaty is to establish a comprehensive framework of standards concerning accountability, responsibilities, financing, material/chemical standards, import/export restrictions, and targets .
Establishment of INC	The resolution requested the Executive Director of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) to convene an Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) to develop " the instrument " based on a comprehensive approach addressing the full life cycle of plastic.
Timeline	The INC began its work in the second half of 2022 with the goal of completing negotiations by the end of 2024. INC-5 is intended to be the conclusion of the INC process, followed by a Diplomatic Conference where Heads of State will sign the agreement.

TIGER CONSERVATION COALITION

- At the **Sustainable Finance for Tiger Landscapes Conference, Bhutan and the Tiger Conservation Coalition** pledged to mobilise **US\$1 billion** for tiger conservation efforts.
- The members collaborated to create Tiger Conservation Landscapes 3.0, an advanced habitat modelling system designed to track and assess changes in tiger habitat across various scales, including range-wide, national, biome, and landscape levels, in near real-time.

Attribute	Details
Initiative Name	Indian Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)
Launch Date	April 2023
Location	Mysuru, India
Commemoration Event	50th anniversary of Project Tiger
Objective	Conservation of seven big cats: lion, tiger, leopard, cheetah, snow leopard, jaguar, and puma
Participating Countries	96 big cat range countries
Included Cats	Lion, tiger, leopard, cheetah, snow leopard (all found in India), jaguar, and puma
Alliance Membership	Range countries, non-range countries interested in big cat conservation, conservation partners, and scientific organizations
Headquarters	India
Significance	Reinforces India's leadership in global biodiversity conservation



HAVANA SYNDROME

What is Havana syndrome?

The medical mystery named for the Cuban city where U.S. diplomats first experienced sudden, debilitating symptoms in 2016 has been reported by Americans serving in several other countries.

Acute symptoms (often occurring suddenly) may include:

Loud sounds (sometimes described as chirping, clicking or screeching) and pain in one or both ears; many felt the sensations came from a particular direction or were felt when in a specific location

Tinnitus, hearing loss

Intense pressure or vibration inside the head

Difficulty with memory or concentration

Visual disturbances

Nausea

Unsteady gait, loss of balance, vertigo/dizziness

Chronic symptoms (can last weeks, months or longer) may include:

Headache

Impaired concentration, memory loss

Insomnia

Depression

Impaired balance

No definitive cause has been found, but scientific studies have noted many of the acute symptoms are consistent with exposure to directed radio frequency (RF) energy. One theory posits the use of RF energy by a U.S. adversary as a weapon or a tool of espionage.

- A recent joint media investigation has linked the **mysterious symptoms experienced by US diplomats, known as the Havana Syndrome**, to a Russian intelligence unit.
- Havana syndrome refers to a set of **mental health symptoms** that are said to be experienced by United States intelligence and embassy officials in various countries.
- **Origin:** It traces **its roots to Cuba in late 2016** after the US opened its embassy in the capital city of Havana when ties between the two countries were normalized in 2015.
- **Symptoms:** It varies, but **includes experiencing loud noises which resemble grinding metal or a swarm of insects**. Along with intense pressure in the ears and head, leading to headaches, nausea, and vertigo. Individuals try to move away from the source of the noise.

Causes

- A recent study conducted by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) revealed that MRI scans failed to detect any evidence of brain injuries in various US personnel who reported experiencing AHIs.

- There has long been suspicion that those affected **may have been targeted by directed energy or microwaves emitted from concealed devices** - a theory acknowledged in an earlier US intelligence report, as per BBC.
- **Havana Syndrome in India:** In India, the first such case was reported in 2021 when a US intelligence officer traveling to New Delhi reported symptoms of Havana Syndrome.

ISRO LAUNCHES 'START' TRAINING PROGRAM FOR SPACE SCIENCE ENTHUSIASTS

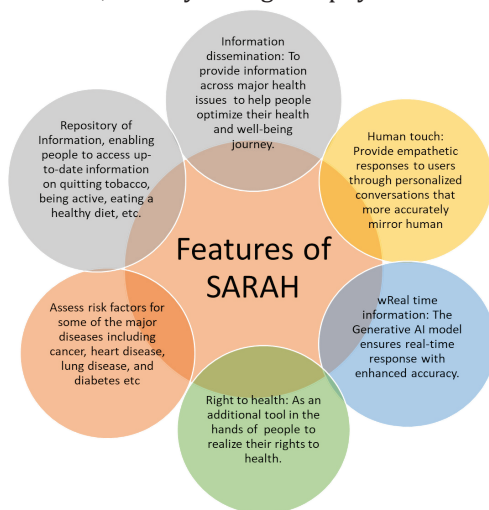


- START is a new introductory level online training programme called **Space Science and Technology Awareness Training**.
- START is aimed at **postgraduate and final year undergraduate students of physical sciences and technology**. It intends to give them an overview of the different facets of the field, research opportunities and career options.
- The programme will cover various domains of **space science, including Astronomy & Astrophysics, Heliophysics & Sun-Earth interaction, Instrumentation, and Aeronomy**.
- It will be delivered by scientists from Indian academia and ISRO centres.
- Academic institutions can submit applications for the programme **through the Jigyasa portal**.
- It will be delivered by **scientists from Indian academia and ISRO centres**.
- It is part of the ISRO's efforts to enable Indian students to become **professionals in space science and technology**, as the organisation's space science exploration programme continues to expand into new domains.

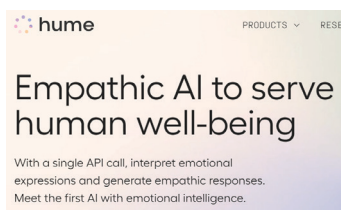
SARAH- A DIGITAL HEALTH PROMOTER PROTOTYPE



- SARAH is a **digital health promoter prototype launched by the World Health Organization (WHO)**.
- SARAH is an Generative AI based digital health model with technology supported by **Soul Machines Biological AI**.
- It represents an evolution of AI-powered health information avatars and uses new language models and cutting-edge technology.
- It can **engage users 24 hours a day in 8 languages** on multiple health topics, on any device.
- Previous versions of SARAH under the name Florence, was used to disseminate critical public health messages, during the COVID-19 pandemic on the virus, vaccines, tobacco use, healthy eating and physical activity.



EVI, THE WORLD'S FIRST CONVERSATIONAL AI WITH EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE FROM HUME



Hume, a New York-based research lab and technology company, has introduced what can be called the **'first conversational AI with emotional intelligence'** known as **Emphatatic Voice Interface (EVI)**.

About AI with emotional intelligence:

- All recent AI apps follow instructions but do not understand human emotions.
- **Hume's new AI voice interface understand the user's feelings** and the meanings behind their words.
- It is essentially an API that is powered by its proprietary empathic large language model (eLLM). This eLLM reportedly understands and emulates tones of voices, and word emphasis to optimise human-AI conversations.
- The model is trained using human responses to **maximise pleasant emotions such as happiness and satisfaction**.
- EVI utilises speech analysis to interpret the melody, pattern, and quality of speech, enabling it to acquire additional functionalities like knowing when to speak and generating more empathic language with the right tone of voice.

OZONE FOUND IN JUPITER'S MOON CALLISTO



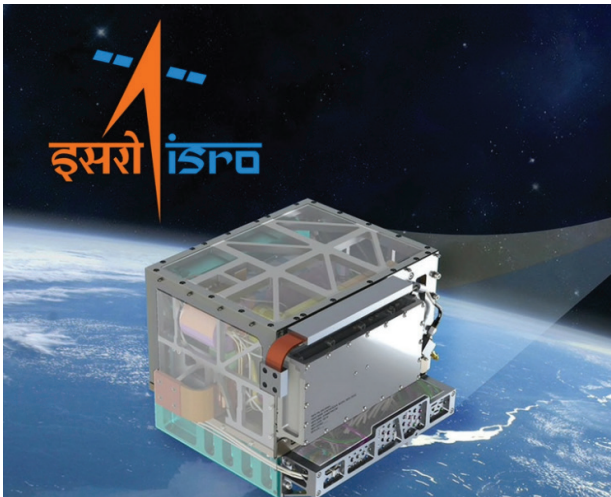
- As per the recently published study in the journal Icarus, an international team of scientists including India, has discovered strong evidence indicating the **presence of ozone on Jupiter's moon Callisto**.
- The study outlines the researchers' **investigation into the chemical evolution of "SO2 astrochemical ice"**, which is ice primarily composed of **sulphur dioxide (SO2) in the presence of ultraviolet irradiation**.
- Scientists are currently studying various celestial bodies in the Solar System that show signs of ozone, suggesting the **existence of stable atmospheric conditions** and, by extension, the possibility of their being able to host life.
- The detection of sulfur dioxide on Callisto's surface has encouraged this team of scientists to conduct spectroscopic observations to gain a better understanding of the moon's surface composition and formation.

- The researchers also compared their experimental data with data collected by the Hubble Space Telescope, which had also suggested **the presence of sulfur dioxide and ozone on the surface of Callisto in 1997.**

About Callisto:

- Jupiter has the **most moons in the Solar System.**
- Callisto is one of Jupiter's largest moons and the third-largest moon in the Solar System after Ganymede and Titan.
- It is primarily composed of **water ice, rocky materials, sulphur dioxide, and some organic compounds.** These substances make the moon a potential candidate for supporting life in the Solar System beyond the earth.

ATOMIC CLOCKS



- India is now implementing a major initiative by installing atomic clocks around the country in order to **synchronise all digital devices with Indian Standard Time (IST).**
- The **Council of Industrial and Scientific Research (CSIR)-National Physical Laboratories (NPL) in New Delhi** maintains Indian Standard Time (IST) using caesium and hydrogen maser clocks.

About Atomic clocks:

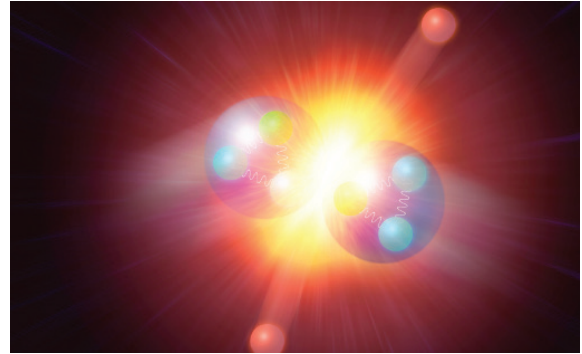
- An atomic clock is a **precise timekeeping instrument that integrates a quartz crystal oscillator** with an atom, usually caesium or hydrogen.
- By utilising the constant frequency of atoms, this timekeeping device ensures accurate time management, surpassing the stability of traditional quartz clocks.
- **Louise Essen invented these clocks in 1955.**

Working of Atomic Clocks:

- To measure time using caesium atoms, an atomic clock uses **a device called 'microwave cavity'** The microwave cavity is a chamber that is filled with caesium vapor and a microwave signal is then sent to the cavity which causes **the caesium atom to vibrate.**

- As the cesium atom vibrates it emits radiation at a very specific frequency. This frequency is then **detected by a detector which compares it to a standard frequency;** the difference between the two frequencies is used to adjust the clock time keeping.

GODS PARTICLE OR HIGGS BOSON PARTICLE



- Nobel Laureate **Peter Higgs, who proposed the existence of the Higgs boson particle, has died at 94.**
- Boson refers to a group of elementary particles that function as carriers of fundamental forces, such as electromagnetism. A photon is a boson that carries the electromagnetic force. **Conversely, particles such as electrons or protons are classified as fermions.**
- The detection of the Higgs boson in 2012 involved almost five decades of effort and the utilisation of the largest and most complex device in the world.
- Elementary particles such as **electrons, quarks, photons, neutrinos, and the Higgs boson** are recognised for their ability to confer mass upon other particles.
- The existence of the particle was foreseen in the 1960s, but it was not **discovered until 2012 through intricate research conducted at the Large Hadron Collider.** This colossal and costly machine, situated on the France-Switzerland border, was the largest and most expensive in the world at that time.
- The identification of the Higgs boson marked the culmination of the **Standard Model of Particle Physics**, a comprehensive framework that encompasses the fundamental particles (such as electrons and protons) and the forces (such as electromagnetism, gravity, and nuclear forces) that constitute the physical universe.
- The Higgs boson has a mass of **125 billion electron volts**, which means it is **130 times more massive than a proton.**
- It is also chargeless with zero spin, a quantum mechanical equivalent to angular momentum.

GOD'S PARTICLE

- The widespread enthusiasm among the general public for the Higgs boson mostly stems from its popular nickname, **the 'God particle'.**

- The term was initially coined by **Leon Lederman**, a **Nobel Prize-winning physicist**, who authored a book with the same title in the 1990s. The book focused on the ongoing quest for the Higgs boson.

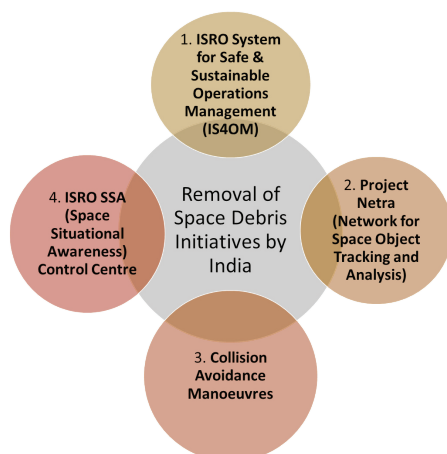
POEM-3 MISSION ACCOMPLISHED ZERO ORBITAL DEBRIS MISSION



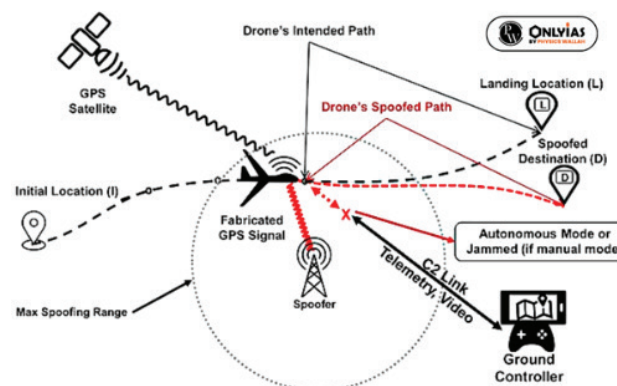
- The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** announced that **PSLV-C58/XPoSat mission** has practically left zero debris in earth's orbit.

About POEM-3 Mission:

- POEM-3 was deployed on January 1, 2024, using the **used PS4 stage of the PSLV-C58 spacecraft**, which was first used to launch XPoSat.
- The platform is a three-axis-altitude controlled system equipped with power generation and **tele-command & telemetry capabilities**. Its purpose is to support various payloads.
- The primary objective of the **XPoSat mission was to ensure the absence of any space trash**, hence showcasing ISRO's dedication to responsible space operations.
- After being placed in its orbit at an altitude of 650 km, POEM-3 was adjusted to a circular orbit with a radius of 350 km in order to reduce the amount of time it would take for the orbit to degrade once the experiment was finished.
- POEM-3 returned to Earth's atmosphere after **completing 400 orbits and spending 73 days in space**.



GPS SPOOFING



- Recently, **Israel deployed GPS spoofing techniques** as a means of protecting against possible missile attacks from Iran.

About GPS Spoofing:

- Global Positioning System (GPS) spoofing is an attack** aimed at overriding a GPS-enabled device's original location.
- Attacker uses a radio transmitter that **broadcasts fake GPS signals and interferes with GPS receivers nearby**. As a result, those devices display fake GPS locations.
- GPS spoofing in aviation has mainly been seen in areas around conflict zones but is also prevalent in the **south and eastern Mediterranean and Black Sea, Baltic Sea, and Arctic area**.
- GPS spoofing can put the aircraft off its intended course and result in intrusion or collision.
- Spoofing is not the same as jamming.
- It has the potential to cause severe and devastating consequences, especially in relation to navigation.

NASA'S DRAGONFLY ROTORCRAFT MISSION



- NASA has confirmed its **Dragonfly rotorcraft mission to Saturn's organic-rich moon Titan**.
- Dragonfly represents NASA's inaugural scientific flight on a celestial body other than Earth.
- The rotorcraft has **eight rotors and flies like a large drone**.
- Dragonfly is a dual quadcopter, resembling a car-sized rotorcraft that can cover tens of kilometres on Titan in under an hour.

- The rotorcraft, targeted to arrive at Titan in 2034, will **fly to dozens of promising locations on the moon**, looking for prebiotic chemical processes common on both Titan and the early Earth before life developed.

About Saturn:

- Saturn is the **sixth planet from the Sun and the second-largest planet in the Solar System**.
- The planet is named for the **Roman god of agriculture and wealth**, who was also the father of Jupiter.
- Titan is Saturn's largest moon, has an earthlike cycle of liquids flowing across its surface.

INDIA'S BIGGEST CLIMATE CLOCK ACTIVATED AT CSIR



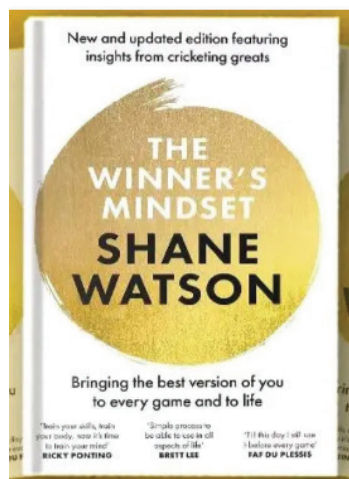
- **Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR)**, as a part of the Earth Day Celebrations, installed and activated **India's biggest Climate Clock at its headquarters in New Delhi**.
- The event was **held as a part of Earth day celebrations and signifies CSIR's aim to spread awareness** about climate change and to make people energy literate.

About Climate Clock:

- Launched in 2015, its **objective is to serve as a benchmark for viewers to monitor the development of climate change mitigation**.
- The graphic illustrates the rapid progression of the globe towards a **1.5°C increase in global warming, based on current emission patterns**.
- Additionally, it displays the quantity of carbon dioxide (CO₂) that has already been released into the atmosphere, as well as the extent of global warming that has occurred thus far.

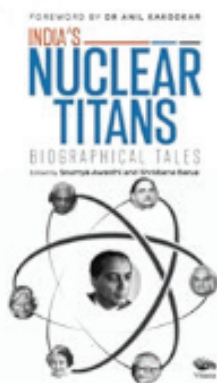
Books and Authors

THE WINNER'S MINDSET BY SHANE WATSON



- In his book, “The Winner’s Mindset,” **Shane Watson** shares the insights and strategies that helped him overcome his fears and excel in his cricketing career.
- While not a traditional autobiography, the book serves as a powerful self-help guide, offering readers valuable lessons on achieving success through the right mindset.

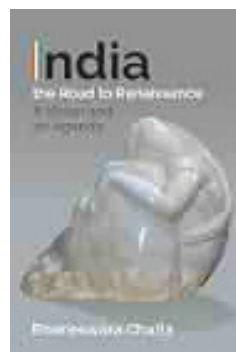
INDIA'S NUCLEAR TITANS BY SOUMYA AWASTHI AND SHRABANA BARUA



- External Affairs **Minister S. Jaishankar** recently received a copy of the book ‘India’s Nuclear Titans,’ edited by **Soumya Awasthi and Shrabana Barua**.
- The book delves into the evolution of **India as a nuclear state**, highlighting the pivotal roles played by prominent figures such as **Homi Bhabha, Vikram Sarabhai, Abdul Kalam, and K. Subrahmanyam**.

- These figures are credited with significant contributions to India’s nuclear program, shaping its trajectory over the years.
- Jaishankar emphasized the importance of recognizing the contributions of these nuclear titans, stressing the need for future generations to acknowledge their pioneering efforts.
- The book, ‘**India’s Nuclear Titans**,’ provides a concise yet comprehensive overview of India’s nuclear journey.
- It examines the challenges and milestones encountered as India progressed towards becoming a nuclear-capable nation.
- Through its exploration of India’s nuclear story, the book aims to shed light on the country’s strategic developments in the nuclear domain.

INDIA — THE ROAD TO RENAISSANCE: A VISION AND AN AGENDA BY BHIMESWARA CHALLA



- **Bhimeswara Challa’s** book, “**India — the Road to Renaissance: A Vision and an Agenda**,” was launched at the **Administrative Staff College of India (ASCI) campus in Hyderabad**.
- The book marks a significant moment in intellectual discussions concerning the nation’s trajectory.
- Challa presents a compelling and **ambitious vision** for India’s journey towards renaissance.
- Through his insights, Challa offers thought-**provoking ideas and strategies for India’s development and progress**.
- The launch event at ASCI provided a platform for engaging discussions and debates on the book’s themes and implications for India’s future.

“JUST A MERCENARY?” BY DUVVURI SUBBARAO



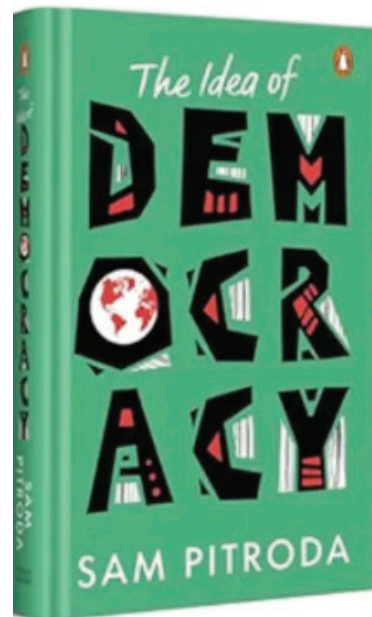
- Former Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Duvvuri Subbarao has recently published his memoir titled **“Just a Mercenary?: Notes from My Life and Career.”**
- The memoir takes readers on a captivating journey through Subbarao’s distinguished career, which includes roles ranging from sub-collector to finance secretary and ultimately, leading the central bank.
- The memoir also delves into the valuable lessons **Subbarao learned from his experiences and the profound impact they had on shaping his perspective.**
- One of the central themes explored in the memoir is the complex relationship between the government and the central bank, providing readers with valuable insights into this dynamic.

“KNIFE”: A HARROWING TALE OF RESILIENCE AND THE FIGHT FOR FREE SPEECH BY SALMAN RUSHDIE



- Salman Rushdie, the celebrated British-American author, is preparing to release his memoir titled “Knife.”
- The memoir recounts Rushdie’s chilling experience of being stabbed at a public event in 2022 and his subsequent journey to overcome the near-fatal ordeal.
- Through “Knife,” Rushdie offers readers a powerful testament to his unwavering commitment to free speech.
- Free speech has been a core value that has defined Rushdie’s life and literary career.
- The memoir promises to provide readers with insights into Rushdie’s resilience and determination in the face of adversity.

‘THE IDEA OF DEMOCRACY’ BY SAM PITRODA



- Renowned author Sam Pitroda has penned a new book titled **“The Idea of Democracy.”**
- The book delves into the **current state of democracy and potential challenges** faced by countries like India and the United States.
- **“The Idea of Democracy”** addresses the **paradox of democratic success** alongside a decline in liberal values.
- Pitroda’s work offers a comprehensive analysis of democracy’s essence, its functioning, necessary values, and the forces and safeguards required to preserve liberal democracy.
- **The aim of the book is to stimulate discussions, especially among the youth,** about the meaning of democracy and their role in ensuring its survival and prosperity in the future.

NOVAK DJOKOVIC BECOMES THE OLDEST WORLD NO. 1 IN ATP RANKINGS HISTORY



- **Novak Djokovic** has begun his 419th week as the **World No. 1**, **breaking records on the ATP Tour**.
- Djokovic will become the oldest World No. 1 in ATP Rankings history at the age of 36 years and 321 days, surpassing Roger Federer's record.
- Since turning 30 in 2017, Djokovic has won 31 tour-level titles, including 12 Grand Slams, showcasing his longevity and success in tennis.
- Djokovic has spent a significant portion of his career as World No. 1, with his current 419th week marking a dominant reign at the top of ATP Rankings.

CHESS: INDIA HAS A NEW NO. 1 AS ARJUN ERIGAISI CLIMBS TO NO. 9 IN THE WORLD



- **Arjun Erigaisi** becomes the **new number 1 chess player in India** with a standard rating of 2756, ranking ninth globally.
- Viswanathan Anand is the second-ranked Indian player with a rating of 2751, followed by Praggnanandhaa R, Gukesh D, and Vidit Santosh Gujrathi.
- Magnus Carlsen maintains his position as the world No. 1 chess player with a rating of 2830.

Fabiano Caruana and Hikaru Nakamura are the top contenders in the Candidates tournament, aiming to challenge the world champion Ding Liren.

BILQUIS MIR FROM J&K MAKES HISTORY AS INDIA'S FIRST FEMALE JURY MEMBER



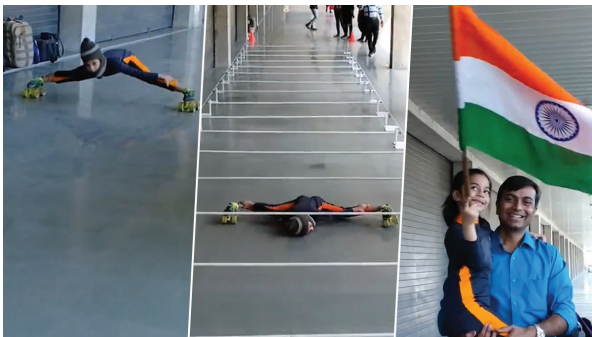
- **Bilquis Mir** is set to make history as the **first woman from India to represent the country as a jury member** at the upcoming **Summer Olympics in Paris**.
- Her journey as a canoeist started in 1998 from Dal Lake, facing challenges but persevering to represent India and coach the women's canoeing team.
- Mir's diverse experiences include serving as a jury member at the 2023 Asian Games in Hangzhou, China.
- Her appointment reflects the increasing representation of Indian women in the international sports arena.

RASHMI KUMARI WINS NATIONAL WOMEN'S CARROM TITLE FOR THE 12TH TIME



- **Rashmi Kumari** claimed her **12th National Carrom Championship title**, showcasing unparalleled skill and consistency.
- The women's final was a thrilling battle between Rashmi Kumari and K Nagajothi, with Rashmi emerging victorious after a tough challenge.
- Rashmi's victory in the championship serves as motivation for aspiring players to strive for greatness in carrom.

TAKSHVI VAGHANI SETS NEW WORLD RECORD FOR THE LOWEST LIMBO SKATING OVER 25 METRES



- **Takshvi Vaghani** set a **new world record for the lowest limbo skating over 25 meters at a height of 16 cm above the ground**.
- Her achievement showcased exceptional talent, rigorous training, flexibility, and determination.
- Vaghani surpassed the previous world record holder, Manasvi Vishal, who skated the same distance at a height of 16.5 centimeters.

- The accomplishment of Vaghani at the age of 6 serves as an inspiration to aspiring athletes worldwide, highlighting that age is not a barrier to greatness.

INDIA UNVEILS CHENNAI'S 17-YEAR-OLD GUKESH AS ITS YOUNGEST CHALLENGER IN CHESS HISTORY



- Indian chess prodigy **Dommaraju Gukesh**, aged 17, won the FIDE Candidates tournament, becoming the **youngest-ever challenger in the history of the World Chess Championship**.
- Gukesh's victory secured his place as the challenger for the World Chess Championship, facing Ding Liren.
- Gukesh's exceptional performance defied expectations, playing exceptional chess and displaying maturity beyond his years.
- In the final round of the Candidates tournament, Gukesh needed only a draw to secure his historic triumph, which was achieved.

JOYSHREE DAS VERMA TAKES OVER AS FICCI LADIES ORGANISATION PRESIDENT



- Joyshree Das Verma becomes the **41st National President of FICCI Ladies Organisation (FLO)** for 2024-25, aiming to **empower women in business**.
- She has a 25-year diverse professional journey in corporate and entrepreneurial sectors.
- Joyshree Das Verma is the Honorary Consul of Israel for Northeast India, fostering India-Israel relations in various sectors.
- Her vision for FLO includes building a strong inclusive community, promoting individual businesses, and making FLO an aspirational organization for women.
- Planned events for 2024-25 aim to empower women through networking, skill development, and entrepreneurial growth.

SANJAY NAYAR TAKES OVER AS ASSOCHAM PRESIDENT



- The **Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM)**, a prominent industry chamber, has appointed **Sanjay Nayar as its new President**.
- Nayar has a strong background in global financial markets, with over 40 years of experience in financial and capital markets.
- After retiring from KKR, Nayar founded Sorin Investment Fund and currently serves as the Founder and Chairman.
- Nayar's appointment is expected to bring fresh perspectives and insights to ASSOCHAM, benefiting the Indian business community.

LT GEN JS SIDANA IS NEW DIRECTOR GENERAL OF EME



- **Lieutenant General JS Sidana** assumed the role of the 33rd Director General of the **Department of Electronics and Mechanical Engineers (DGEME)** and Senior Colonel Commandant of the EME Corps on April 1, 2024.
- Lt Gen Sidana has a decorated 38-year career with various regimental, command, instructional, and staff appointments.
- He holds educational qualifications including a Master of Management Studies from Osmania University, an M.Tech from IIT Kanpur, and an M.Phil from Panjab University.
- Lt Gen Sidana emphasized the **importance of embracing technology and innovation for effective engineering support to the Indian Army** and paid tribute to fallen soldiers at the National War Memorial in New Delhi.

EC ROPES IN AYUSHMANN KHURRANA TO URGE YOUTH TO VOTE IN LS ELECTIONS



- **Ayushmann Khurrana** has been roped in by the Election Commission of India to encourage youth participation in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections.
- The actor features in a campaign video **emphasizing the importance of voting and empowerment in a democratic nation**.
- The ECI's campaign aims to address urban and youth apathy towards electoral participation.
- The initiative is focused on mobilizing youngsters towards voting as a crucial democratic exercise duty.
- The Lok Sabha elections are scheduled to be held in seven phases starting from April 19, with the counting of votes on June 4.

BHARATPE ANNOUNCES NALIN NEGI AS ITS CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



- **Nalin Negi** has been officially elevated as the **CEO of BharatPe**, showcasing significant revenue growth and achieving an Ebitda-positive month.
- **BharatPe, founded in 2018**, has a **vast merchant network and substantial equity raised from various investors**.
- The company focuses on empowering merchants with financial services, aiming for inclusivity and innovation under Negi's leadership.
- Vice-Admiral Dinesh Tripathi appointed next Navy Chief:



- **Vice Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi** has been appointed as the **next Chief of the Naval Staff of India**, effective from April 30, 2024, succeeding **Admiral R Hari Kumar**.
- Vice Admiral Tripathi has a distinguished career spanning nearly 39 years, with experience in commanding various Indian Naval Ships and holding crucial operational and staff appointments.
- He has undergone professional training at prestigious institutions like the Defence Services Staff College, Naval Higher Command Course, and the United States Naval War College.
- With his extensive experience, strategic vision, and proven leadership abilities, Vice Admiral Tripathi is expected to lead the Indian Navy towards continued excellence in safeguarding the nation's maritime interests.

NALIN PRABHAT APPOINTED D-G OF NATIONAL SECURITY GUARD



- **Nalin Prabhat** was appointed as Director-General of the **National Security Guard (NSG)** until August 31, 2028.
- Sapna Tewari was appointed as Special Director in the Intelligence Bureau (IB) for a tenure of two years or until April 30, 2026.

- NSG is a specialized force for counter-terrorism and high-risk situations.
- IB is India's premier intelligence agency responsible for national security and counter-terrorism.
- The appointments are significant for strengthening national security and law enforcement.
- Expectation for the new officers to provide strong leadership and enhance counter-terrorism strategies.

NAIMA KHATOON BECOMES FIRST WOMAN VICE-CHANCELLOR OF AMU



- **Professor Naima Khatoon** appointed as the **first woman Vice-Chancellor of Aligarh Muslim University**, breaking a century-old glass ceiling.
- The significance of the appointment in showcasing the government's commitment to inclusive leadership.
- Challenges and expectations for the new Vice-Chancellor to focus on research and education development, ending ad-hocism.
- Expectation that Khatoon's appointment will pave the way for future generations of women to aspire to leadership positions in academia and beyond.

KANNADA POET MAMTA G. SAGAR HONORED WITH PRESTIGIOUS WORLD LITERARY PRIZE



- **Mamta G. Sagar**, a renowned **Kannada poet**, writer, academic, and activist, won the prestigious **World Literary Prize** for her exceptional contributions to literature.
- Sagar's work focuses on themes like identity politics, feminism, and cultural diversity, advocating for social justice and empowerment.

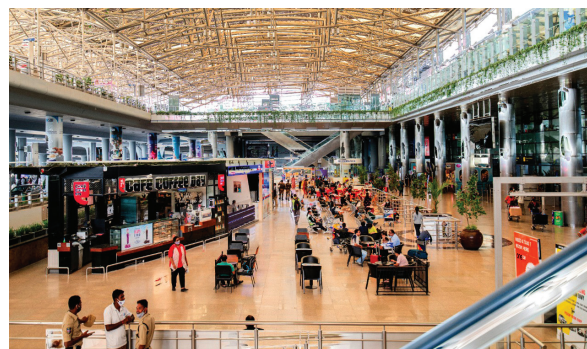
- She has produced films based on her poetry collections and created a video presentation dedicated to the late journalist-activist Gauri Lankesh.
- Sagar's journey serves as a role model for aspiring literary talents, inspiring others to embrace their cultural heritage and drive positive change through language.
- Her published works have earned widespread acclaim, inspiring the next generation of poets and writers to use their craft for social change and empowerment.

AMITABH BACHCHAN RECEIVES LATA DEENANATH MANGESHKAR PURASKAR, SAYS FEELS FORTUNATE TO BE HONOURED



- **Amitabh Bachchan** is being honored with the prestigious **Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar Award** for his exceptional contributions to Indian cinema.
- The award celebrates the enduring legacy of Lata Mangeshkar and individuals who have made exceptional contributions to the nation and society.
- The recognition of Bachchan's exemplary contributions inspires future generations of performers to strive for excellence in the cultural landscape of India.

RGIA BAGS 'BEST AIRPORT STAFF IN INDIA AND SOUTH ASIA' AWARD



- **GMR Hyderabad International Airport Ltd** received the **'Best Airport Staff in India South Asia 2024'** award by **Skytrax**, highlighting the exceptional service quality provided by the airport's staff.
- Hamad International Airport in Doha, Qatar, was awarded the "World's Best Airport" title by Skytrax, recognizing the outstanding performance of the airport's staff in customer service.

- The criteria for recognition included excellence in attitude, friendliness, and efficiency across all customer-facing roles at the airports.
- Skytrax conducts thorough assessments of airports and airlines globally, using a star rating system to evaluate various aspects impacting the passenger journey.

REUTERS' MOHAMMED SALEM WINS 2024 WORLD PRESS PHOTO OF THE YEAR AWARD FOR PICTURE OF MOURNING PALESTINIAN WOMAN



- **Mohammed Salem**, a Palestinian photographer for Reuters, won the **World Press Photo of the Year award in 2024** for his powerful photograph capturing the devastation of war in Gaza.
- The photo depicted a Palestinian woman, Inas Abu Maamar, holding the lifeless body of her 5-year-old niece after an Israeli bombing, symbolizing the tragic impact of armed conflicts on civilians.
- Organizers highlighted the risks journalists face in conflict zones, with 99 journalists killed in 2023 during the Israel-Hamas fighting in Gaza.
- Salem, with years of experience covering Gaza, aimed to raise awareness of innocent lives lost in war through his award-winning photograph, shedding light on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

RANDEEP HOODA HONoured WITH LATA DEENANATH MANGESHKAR AWARD



- **Randeep Hooda** was honored with the **Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar Award** for his contributions to Indian cinema and his film **"Swatantrya Veer Savarkar"**.
- **"Swatantrya Veer Savarkar"** is a biopic produced by Zee Studios, Anand Pandit, Sandeep Singh, Randeep Hooda, and Yogesh Rahar, showcasing India's quest for independence.
- The ceremony in Mumbai celebrated talent and dedication in the Indian entertainment industry, honoring individuals like Randeep Hooda and Amitabh Bachchan.
- Amitabh Bachchan was also honored with the Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar Award for his exceptional contributions to Indian cinema.

FIRST INDIAN SPACE TOURIST TO FLY ON JEFF BEZOS'S BLUE ORIGIN'S NS-25 MISSION



- **Gopi Thotakura** is set to become the first Indian to venture into space as a tourist on Blue Origin's NS-25 mission.
- The mission will be the seventh human flight for the New Shepard programme and the 25th in its history.
- **Thotakura is a pilot and aviator**, co-founder of Preserve Life Corp, and a graduate of Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University.
- Other crew members of the flight include **Mason Angel, Sylvain Chiron, Kenneth L. Hess, Carol Schaller, and former Air Force Captain Ed Dwight**.
- Each astronaut will carry a postcard to space on behalf of Blue Origin's foundation, Club for the Future, aiming to inspire future generations in STEAM careers.

FORMER WRESTLER NARSINGH YADAV ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF WFI'S SEVEN-MEMBER ATHLETES' PANEL



- **Former Commonwealth Games gold-medallist Narsingh Pancham Yadav** was elected **chairman of the Wrestling Federation of India's Athletes' Commission**, completing a process that was mandated by the sport's world governing body for the sport.
- As a condition for lifting the suspension of WFI, UWW had instructed the federation to establish an **Athletes Commission** to address the grievances of wrestlers.
- Election of Seven Members:
- In the election for the Athletes Commission, a total of eight candidates contested for the seven available seats. After voting, the following members were elected:
- **Narsingh Pancham Yadav**
- Sahil (Delhi)
- Smita A S (Kerala)
- Bhartiya Bhaghei (Uttar Pradesh)
- Khushboo S Pawar (Gujarat)
- Nikki (Haryana)
- Shweta Dubey (Bengal)

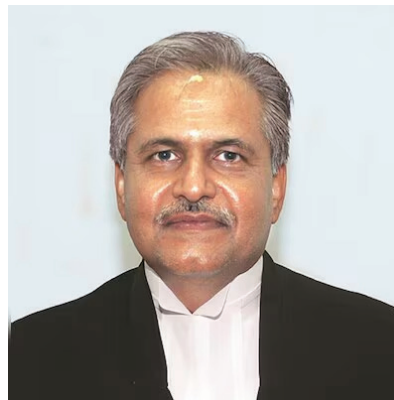
SUNIL KUMAR YADAV (IRS) APPOINTED AS DIRECTOR OF MINISTRY OF HOUSING & URBAN AFFAIRS



- **Sunil Kumar Yadav**, an officer from the Indian Revenue Service (IRS), has been appointed as the **Director of the Ministry of Housing Urban Affairs under the Central Staffing Scheme**.
- His tenure will be for five years or until further orders, focusing on urban development initiatives and policies.

- The Ministry collaborates with state governments, urban local bodies, and stakeholders for urban transformation.
- Yadav's appointment aims to enhance coordination and collaboration among these entities for more efficient urban development efforts.

JUSTICE DINESH KUMAR APPOINTS AS THE SAT PRESIDING OFFICER



- **Justice Dinesh Kumar** assumed the role of Presiding Officer of the Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT) for a four-year term after serving as the chief justice of the Karnataka High Court.
- Dheeraj Bhatnagar also joined SAT as a technical member for a term of four years or until he turns 67, having previously served as the principal chief commissioner of Income Tax Delhi.

SAT's Jurisdiction and Functions:

- SAT was established in 1992 under the Securities Exchange Board of India Act to hear appeals against regulatory bodies like SEBI, PFRDA, and IRDAI, replacing the High Court in this capacity.
- The tribunal's decisions can only be appealed in the Supreme Court, and it holds jurisdiction across India with its bench located in Mumbai.

Tenure and Age Limit:

- The maximum age for the Presiding Officer or members of SAT is set at 70 years, with the government having the authority to specify their tenure upon appointment.

Important Days

RBI Foundation Day (1st April 2024)



- On **April 1, 2024**, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will celebrate its **90th anniversary**, a milestone marked by a commemorative event at Mumbai's National Centre for the Performing Arts, graced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- Established on April 1, 1934, on the recommendations of the **Royal Commission on Indian Currency and Finance**, the RBI was tasked with upholding the nation's monetary stability.
- It officially commenced operations on April 1, 1935, with **Sir Osborne Smith** serving as its inaugural Governor.
- Throughout its illustrious history, the RBI has been led by 26 Governors. The incumbent is **Shaktikanta Das**, who assumed office in October 2021.
- While the Central Office of the RBI was initially situated in Kolkata, it was relocated to Mumbai in 1937, solidifying the city's role as India's financial hub.

National Maritime Day 2024 (5 April 2024)



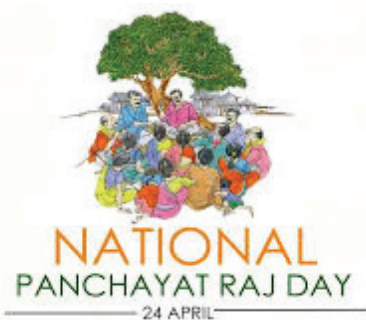
- **National Maritime Day** in India is celebrated annually on **April 5**.
- It acknowledges the vital role of the **maritime sector in the nation's international trade and economic development**.
- The day commemorates a pivotal moment in India's maritime history: April 5, 1919.
- On this date, the **SS Loyalty**, the first Indian commercial ship, set sail for the United Kingdom.
- This voyage shattered the British monopoly on sea routes, marking a significant milestone in India's shipping industry.
- The event symbolizes the beginning of India's independent participation in global maritime trade.

International Day of Conscience 2024 (5 Apr, 2024)

- International Conscience Day is observed annually on **April 5**.
- Its purpose is to **encourage individuals to reflect on their actions, follow their conscience**, and choose the path of righteousness.
- The theme for the 2024 International Day of Conscience is **'Promoting a Culture of Peace with Love and Conscience'**.
- This theme underscores the significance of nurturing a worldwide mentality centered on peace, empathy, and ethical conduct.
- It highlights the role of conscience in fostering harmony and understanding among diverse communities and nations.

<p>World Health Day 2024 (7 April 2024)</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Health Day is observed annually on April 7th, marking the founding date of the World Health Organization (WHO). The theme for World Health Day in 2024 is "My Health, My Right", emphasizing the inherent human right to quality healthcare, education, and information. The World Health Organization was established on October 24, 1945, as part of the United Nations' efforts to advance global peace, security, and improved living standards. On April 7, 1948, the WHO's constitution officially came into effect, consolidating the Health Organization of the League of Nations, the Office International d'Hygiène Publique, and the International Classification of Diseases. India joined the WHO as a member on January 12, 1948, demonstrating its commitment to international cooperation in healthcare and public health initiatives.
<p>Jallianwala Bagh Massacre</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Amritsar Massacre, also known as the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre, occurred on April 13, 1919, in Amritsar, India. General Dyer ordered his troops to open fire on an unarmed gathering at Jallianwala Bagh, resulting in numerous deaths and injuries. This event remains one of the darkest chapters in India's struggle for independence from British rule. In 2024, India observes the 105th anniversary of the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre, commemorating the sacrifices made in the pursuit of freedom. The massacre's repercussions continue to resonate through history, shaping political discourse and collective memory in India. It serves as a poignant reminder of the brutality of colonial rule and the resilience of those who fought for India's independence.
<p>Ambedkar Jayanti (14 April 2024)</p>  <p>Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ambedkar Jayanti 2024 is celebrated on April 14, commemorating the birth anniversary of Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar. Dr. Ambedkar, born on April 14, 1891, in Mhow, Madhya Pradesh, is a revered figure in Indian history. His legacy as a leading jurist and social reformer inspires the ongoing fight against caste discrimination and inequality in India. Through seminars, cultural events, and discussions, people honor Dr. Ambedkar's contributions to drafting the Indian Constitution and advocating for the rights of marginalized communities. Ambedkar Jayanti serves as a day for reflection on his ideals and principles, renewing commitments to the pursuit of social justice and equality.

National Panchayati Raj (24 April 2024)



- National Panchayati Raj Day is celebrated every year on **April 24th in India**.
- It marks the establishment of the Panchayati Raj system, which was introduced by the **73rd Constitutional Amendment Act in 1993**.
- The Panchayati Raj system aims to **decentralize governance by empowering local self-governing bodies, primarily Gram Panchayats, at the village level**.
- Through this system, communities have greater control over local decision-making processes and development initiatives.
- National Panchayati Raj Day serves as a reminder of the importance of grassroots democracy and local governance in India's political landscape.
- It highlights the significance of citizen participation and community engagement in shaping the development trajectory of rural areas.

International Mother Earth Day 2024 (22nd April 2024)



- The **54th International Mother Earth Day** is commemorated globally on **April 22nd**.
- This annual event underscores the urgent need to confront escalating environmental challenges endangering the planet, such as **pollution, deforestation, and climate change**.
- Earth Day traces its origins back to 1970 when **Senator Gaylord Nelson** proposed a nationwide teach-in to spotlight environmental degradation.
- Senator Nelson was inspired by the fervent student protests against the Vietnam War and sought to redirect that activism towards addressing the burgeoning ecological crisis.
- Earth Day symbolizes a grassroots movement aimed at raising awareness and mobilizing collective action to safeguard the Earth's health and sustainability.

World Intellectual Property Day 2024 (26 April 2024)



- World Intellectual Property Day is observed annually on **April 26th by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)**.
- It aims to raise awareness about the significance of intellectual property (IP) in driving innovation and fostering creativity.
- The theme for World Intellectual Property Day 2024 is **'IP and the SDGs: Building Our Common Future with Innovation and Creativity'**.
- This theme underscores the role of IP in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and shaping a more **sustainable and equitable future**.
- It emphasizes the crucial link between innovation, creativity, and the achievement of global development objectives.
- World Intellectual Property Day serves as an opportunity to promote dialogue and collaboration on leveraging IP for positive social, economic, and environmental impact.

Practice Set

1. Consider the following statements about Lalit Kala Academy:
 1. It was founded on August 5, 1954.
 2. It is under administrative control of Ministry of Culture.
 3. Its headquarter is situated in Chennai.How many of the above statements are true?
 - (a) 1
 - (b) 2
 - (c) 3
 - (d) None
2. Sannati Bhuddist site was in news. It is situated at which of the following states?
 - (a) Karnataka
 - (b) Assam
 - (c) Telangana
 - (d) Jharkhand
3. Mangal Pandey was recently in news. He was executed at which of the following locations?
 - (a) Barrackpore
 - (b) Merrut
 - (c) Lucknow
 - (d) Delhi
4. Consider the following statements about “Jenu Kuruba Community”:
 1. These are indigenenous community in the Western Ghat.
 2. They reside in the settlements called Hadi.Which of the above statements are true?
 - (a) 1 only
 - (b) 2 only
 - (c) Both 1 and 2
 - (d) None
5. Fort Emmanuel was recently in news. It is created by which of the following foreign power?
 - (a) Portuguese
 - (b) French
 - (c) Dutch
 - (d) British
6. Consider the following statement about “Qudsia Bagh”:
 1. It is built in Char Bagh Style.
 2. It is made of Red sandstone, plastered with limestone.Which of the above statements are correct?
 - (a) 1 only
 - (b) 2 only
 - (c) Both 1 and 2
 - (d) None
7. Agni Prime Missile was developed by which of the following organisations?
 - (a) DRDO
 - (b) ISRO
 - (c) NASA
 - (d) None
8. Which of the following statements best describes ballistic missiles?
 - (a) Ballistic missiles are launched into space and orbit the Earth before reaching their target.
 - (b) Ballistic missiles are surface-to-air missiles used primarily for defence against aircraft.
 - (c) Ballistic missiles are rocket-propelled weapons that travel beyond the Earth’s atmosphere before descending towards a target.
 - (d) A ballistic missile (BM) is a type of missile that uses projectile motion to deliver warheads on a target
9. Which of the following statements accurately describes the Strategic Forces Command (SFC)?
 - (a) The SFC was formed in collaboration with international defense organizations to enhance India’s ballistic missile capabilities.
 - (b) The SFC’s main role is to oversee India’s space exploration programs and satellite launches.
 - (c) The SFC was established on January 4, 2003, and operates under the authority of India’s Nuclear Command Authority (NCA).
 - (d) The SFC’s operational readiness has been consistently low since its inception, hindering its effectiveness in managing nuclear weapons.
10. What was the objective of Operation Meghdoot?
 - (a) To secure control over strategic islands in the Indian Ocean region.
 - (b) To capture and secure the Siachen Glacier, strategically crucial for dominating Northern Ladakh.
 - (c) To conduct counter-insurgency operations in the dense forests of Northeast India.
 - (d) To establish military outposts along the Line of Control in Kashmir.
11. Consider the following statements about INS Talwar:
 1. It is a guided-missile frigate.
 2. It is a modified version of Krivak III-class frigates made by Russia.Which of the above statements are correct?
 - (a) 1 only
 - (b) 2 only
 - (c) Both 1 and 2
 - (d) None
12. With reference to International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA), consider the following statements:
 1. It is a multi-country, multi-agency coalition of range countries that aims to ensure cooperation for the conservation of tiger, cheetah, leopard and snow leopard.

2. It is headquartered in the UAE.
Select the incorrect answer using the codes given below:
(a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2
13. Consider the following statements about Rampage Missile:
1. It is a long-range, supersonic, air-to-ground missile.
2. It was related to the Iranian Military.
Which of the above statements are true?
(a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) None
14. Exercise Poorvi Lehar was conducted in which of the following area?
(a) Eastern Coast (b) Western Coast
(c) Northern Himalayas (d) North East India
15. Consider the following statements:
1. Crystal Maze 2 is an air-launched long range hypersonic missile.
2. Crystal Maze 2 can not operate effectively in GPS denied areas.
3. Crystal Maze 2 missile is an indigenously developed missile by Defence Research Development Organisation of India.
How many of the above statements regarding the Crystal maze 2 missiles are correct?
(a) Only one (b) Only two
(c) All three (d) None
16. What is the significance of DURGA-2 in warfare and aerospace technology?
(a) It enhances traditional ballistic missile capabilities.
(b) It revolutionizes the use of chemical weapons on the battlefield.
(c) It transforms warfare by introducing weapons utilizing focused energy.
(d) It improves satellite communication systems for military use.
17. Which of the following vehicle of Indian Navy intercepted of drugs in the Arabian Sea during an operation coordinated by the Combined Maritime Forces (CMF)?
(a) INS Vikrant (b) INS Talwar
(c) INS Arihant (d) INS Sumedha
18. Where is the 5th edition of the India-Uzbekistan joint military Exercise DUSTLIK taking place?
(a) Delhi (b) Termez
(c) Tashkent (d) Goa
19. Recently, India has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on cooperation in Human Resource Development in Civil Service with which of the following countries?
(a) Thailand (b) Cambodia
(c) Laos (d) Myanmar
20. What is the primary objective of the recently MoU signed between IFSCA and CMA of Kuwait?
(a) Enhancing joint cooperation in the defence sector
(b) Sharing information on technological advancements and innovations within the financial and regulatory frameworks
(c) Promoting cultural exchanges between India and Kuwait
(d) Facilitating agricultural trade agreements
21. Consider the following statements with reference to recently launched START Program:
1. The primary objective of the START program is to attract students to the fields of space science and technology.
2. Students from classes IX to XII are the target audience for the program.
Which of the above statements is/are correct?
(a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2
22. With reference to digital prototype SARAH, consider the following statements:
1. It is launched by Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR).
2. It aims to serve as a digital health promoter and provide health-related information and tips.
3. It is available in eight languages via video or text.
Which of the following statements is/are correct?
(a) 1 and 2 only (b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 1,2 and 3 (d) 2 and 3 only
23. Consider the following statements with reference to Castillo:
1. Callisto is the second-largest moon of Jupiter, heavily cratered, and potentially harbors a subsurface ocean.
2. A discovery was made by an international team of scientists regarding the presence of ozone on Callisto.
Which of the above statements is/are correct?
(a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2
24. Consider the following statements regarding Atomic Clocks:
1. Atomic clocks are more precise timekeepers compared to traditional clocks.
2. Atomic standard time is based on the periodic vibrations produced in cesium atoms.
Which of the above statements is/are correct?
(a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2

25. Consider the following statements regarding the POEM 3 (PSLV Orbital Experimental Module 3) mission:
1. The mission has been jointly launched by ISRO, NASA and JAXA.
 2. It returned to Earth's atmosphere after completing 400 orbits and spending 73 days in space.
 3. It was deployed using the used PS4 stage of the PSLV-C58 spacecraft,
- Which of the above statements is/are correct?
- (a) 1 and 2 only (b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1,2 and 3 (d) 1 and 3 only
26. Which ministry launched the myCGHS iOS app?
- (a) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
(b) Ministry of Finance
(c) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
(d) Ministry of Panchayati Raj
27. What is the primary objective of RuPay's 'Link it, Forget it' Campaign launched during IPL 2024?
- (a) To promote the use of RuPay credit cards for international transactions
(b) To encourage the adoption of RuPay credit cards on UPI platforms
(c) To introduce a new range of RuPay credit card designs
(d) To provide discounts on RuPay credit card purchases during IPL matches
28. Which of the following countries are involved in the South China Dispute?
1. Brunei
 2. Malaysia
 3. The Philippines
- Select the correct answer from the codes given below:
- (a) 1 and 2 only (b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only (d) 1,2 and 3
29. Which countries are part of the AUKUS Alliance?
- (a) Australia, United Kingdom, United States
(b) Australia, Ukraine, United States
(c) Austria, United Kingdom, United States
(d) Australia, United Kingdom, United Arab Emirates
30. Which of the following became the first country to introduce the Men5CV Vaccine for protection against five strains of the meningococcus bacteria?
- (a) Cameroon (b) Algeria
(c) Nigeria (d) Tunisia
31. Consider the following statements with reference to C-vigil App:
1. It enables citizens to report violations of the Model Code of Conduct during elections
 2. It is developed by the Election Commission of India (ECI).
- Which of the above statements is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2
32. What does "Zero FIR" refer to in the context of filing a First Information Report (FIR)?
- (a) An FIR that is filed without any evidence
(b) An FIR that is filed anonymously without the complainant's details
(c) An FIR that is filed at any police station, regardless of jurisdiction
(d) An FIR that is filed with zero charges or allegations
33. With reference to the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution, consider the following statements:
1. Assam, Nagaland, Manipur, and Arunachal Pradesh are covered under the Sixth Schedule.
 2. It aims to provide measures of autonomy and self-governance to the Scheduled Tribes in the hill regions of Northeast India
- Which of the above statements is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2
34. Consider the following statements with reference to Ayushman Bharat Health Accounts :
1. It is a 14 digit unique number which facilitates hassle free access and sharing of health records digitally.
 2. ABHA is an integral component of AB-PMJAY.
 3. It aims to provide health insurance to all citizens of India.
- Which of the above statements is/are correct?
- (a) 1 and 2 only (b) 1 only
(c) 2 only (d) 1,2 and 3
35. What was India's ranking in terms of global military expenditure in 2023 according to the latest report by SIPRI?
- (a) First (b) Second
(c) Third (d) Fourth
36. Which of the following ports surpassed Deendayal Port in Gujarat to become India's largest major port in terms of cargo volumes in FY24?
- (a) Kolkata Port
(b) Paradip Port
(c) Vishakhapatnam Port
(d) Mormugao Port
37. Which of the following pairs of tagged products with their states is/are correctly matched?
- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Tiranga Barfi | Varanasi |
| 2. Dhalua Murti Metal Casting Craft | Bundelkhand region, Uttar Pradesh |
| 3. Kathiya Gehu | Tamil Nadu |
- (a) 1 only (b) 1 and 2
(c) 2 and 3 (d) 1,2 and 3

38. Consider the following statements accurately describes the recent seismic event in Taiwan?
1. Taiwan experienced its strongest earthquake in 50 years, measuring 7.2 on the Richter scale.
 2. The earthquake in Taiwan was a moderate 6.4 magnitude event, causing minimal damage and no casualties.
 3. The earthquake in Taiwan, measuring 7.4 on the Richter scale, was the strongest to hit the island in 25 years.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct:
- (a) 1 and 2 (b) 3 only
(c) 2 and 3 (d) 1,2 and 3
39. Which of the following organization conducted the study using satellite imagery from 1984 to 2023 to analyze changes in glacial lakes?
- (a) NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration)
(b) ISRO (Indian Space Research Organisation)
(c) ESA (European Space Agency)
(d) Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA)
40. Who secured their place as the youngest-ever challenger for the World Chess Championship by winning the FIDE Candidates tournament?
- (a) Dommaraju Gukesh
(b) Viswanathan Anand
(c) Magnus Carlsen
(d) Ding Liren
41. Dhalua Murti Metal Casting Craft, recently got a GI tag, belongs to which city of Uttar Pradesh?
- (a) Lucknow (b) Ayodhya
(c) Varanasi (d) Kanpur
42. Who recently became India's new number 1 chess player?
- (a) Viswanathan Anand
(b) Arjun Erigaisi
(c) Pentala Harikrishna
(d) Vidit Gujrathi
43. Who was recently appointed as the DirectorGeneral of the National Security Guard (NSG)?
- (a) Nalin Prabhat (b) Ajit Doval
(c) Kiren Rijiju (d) Sapna Tewari
44. Which of the following reserves is the focus of the Eurasian otter study?
- (a) Ranthambore National Park
(b) Kanha National Park
(c) Jim Corbett National Park
(d) Satpura Tiger Reserve
45. Who has been appointed as the next Chief of the Naval Staff of India?
- (a) Admiral R Hari Kumar
(b) Vice Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi
(c) Admiral Karambir Singh
(d) Vice Admiral G. Ashok Kumar
46. Who assumed the role of the 33rd Director General of the Department of Electronics and Mechanical Engineers (DGEME) and Senior Colonel Commandant of the EME Corps?
- (a) General Bipin Rawat
(b) General Manoj Mukund Naravane
(c) Lieutenant General JS Sidanavv
(d) Lieutenant General KJS Dhillon
47. What is the local term used in Kerala to refer to the phenomenon of swell waves inundating coastal areas?
- (a) Coastal flooding (b) Swell surge
(c) Kaal Baisakhi (d) Kallakkadal
48. Who won the prestigious World Literary Prize for her exceptional contributions to literature?
- (a) Arundhati Roy (b) Mamta G. Sagar
(c) Jhumpa Lahiri (d) Kamala Das
49. Consider the following statements about hepatitis diseases, according to WHO report:
1. India has the second highest cases of viral hepatitis.
 2. According to a World Health Organization (WHO) report released to coincide with the World Hepatitis Summit in Paris.
 3. Hepatitis means inflammation of the liver.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 and 2 (b) 2 and 3
(c) 1 and 3 (d) 1,2 and 3
50. Who is being honored with the prestigious Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar Award for his exceptional contributions to Indian cinema?
- (a) Shah Rukh Khan (b) Aamir Khan
(c) Salman Khan (d) Amitabh Bachchan

Answer Key

- | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1. (b) | 2. (a) | 3. (a) | 4. (c) | 5. (a) | 6. (c) | 7. (a) | 8. (d) | 9. (c) | 10. (b) |
| 11. (c) | 12. (a) | 13. (a) | 14. (a) | 15. (d) | 16. (c) | 17. (b) | 18. (b) | 19. (b) | 20. (b) |
| 21. (a) | 22. (d) | 23. (c) | 24. (c) | 25. (b) | 26. (a) | 27. (b) | 28. (d) | 29. (a) | 30. (c) |
| 31. (c) | 32. (c) | 33. (b) | 34. (b) | 35. (d) | 36. (b) | 37. (a) | 38. (b) | 39. (b) | 40. (a) |
| 41. (c) | 42. (b) | 43. (a) | 44. (d) | 45. (b) | 46. (c) | 47. (d) | 48. (b) | 49. (c) | 50. (d) |

Solution

1. (b) **Key Concept:** The Ministry of Culture recently restricted the authority of the Chairman of the Lalit Kala Akademi (LKA), preventing them from engaging in any “administrative actions.”

Explanation:

Attribute	Details
Inauguration Date	August 5, 1954
Registration	Registered under the Societies Registration Act 1860
Purpose	Promotion and propagation of Indian art, both domestically and internationally
Permanent	Reflects contemporary, modern folk, and tribal art in India
Funding	Provided by the Ministry of Culture
Head	New Delhi
Regional Centers	Chennai, Lucknow, Kolkata, Bhubaneswar, Garhi
Key Event	National Exhibition of (annual)
Authority Restriction by Ministry	Chairman barred administrative

2. (a) **Key Concept:** Located on the banks of the Bhima River near Kanaganahalli within the Kalaburagi district of Karnataka, this site holds ancient significance in Buddhism. It is also renowned among tourists for the Chandrala Parameshwari Temple.

Explanation:

Attribute	Details
Location	On the bank of Bhima river near Kanaganahalli, Kalaburagi district Karnataka
Notable Feature	Popular among tourists for Chandrala Parameshwari Temple

Construction Phases	Maurya, Early Satavahana, and Late Satavahana periods (3rd Century B.C. to 3rd Century A.D.)
Ranama Mandala Area	Offers a chronological scale from prehistoric to early historic times
Inscription	Found in Prakrit language using Brahmi script
Precious Stone Sculpture	Portrays Mauryan Emperor Ashoka surrounded by queens and attendants; inscribed “Raya Asoko” in Brahmi
Dome Slabs	Around 60 with sculptural rendering of Jataka stories, events in Buddhist life, Satavahana monarchs
Nagavi Ghatikas thana	Located around 100 km away; term the Takshashila of the South
Historical Significance	Served as a major education center during Rashtrakuta and Chalukya dynasties (10th-12th Centuries)

3. (a) **Key Concept:** Mangal Pandey, born on July 19, 1827, near Faizabad in Uttar Pradesh, played a pivotal role in India’s first rebellion against British rule in 1857.

Explanation:

Military Service	Joined the British East India Company’s army in 1849
Regiment	Served as a sepoy in the 6th Company of the 34th Bengal Native Infantry

Trigger for Rebellion	Protested against cartridges greased with animal fat
Rebellion Outcome	Sparked a mass revolt across India against colonial rule
Date of Execution	April 8, 1857
Place of Execution	Lal Bagan, Barrackpore
Consequences	His regiment disbanded, reflecting widespread resentment against British rule

4. (c) **Key Concept:** For generations, the indigenous Jenu Kuruba tribe dwelling in the Western Ghats forests have been systematically deprived of their fundamental rights and excluded from avenues for progress and advancement.

Explanation:

Aspect	Details
Tribe Name	Jenu Kuruba
Meaning	“Jenu” means honey in Kannada, and “Kuruba” refers to the caste
Traditional Occupation	Primarily known as honey gatherers, they collect minor forest produce, including honey, in the forests of the Western Ghats
Habitat	Indigenous to the forests of the Western Ghats spanning Karnataka, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu
Settlements	Reside in small settlements called Hadi
Occupation	Engaged in food gathering, collection of minor forest produce, particularly honey, through shifting cultivation, leading to a nomadic lifestyle
Social structure	Live a semi-nomadic lifestyle, maintaining their own discipline and power structures within settlements
Governance	Governed at each settlement level by a head-man (yajamana) and a ritual head/shaman (gudda)
Dependency	Self-sufficient lifestyle not reliant on external rulers, police, or religious institutions

5. (a) **Key Concept:** History enthusiasts are actively working to preserve the remnants of Fort Emmanuel, a laterite-brick fortress erected along the shores by the Portuguese in 1503.

Explanation: Located on Fort Kochi Beach in Kochi, Kerala, this once formidable structure served as a symbol of the strategic partnership between the Maharajah of Kochi and the Portuguese Monarch, after whom it was named.

6. (c) **Key Concept:** Qudsia Bagh underwent a revitalization as part of the Delhi Development Authority’s initiative to rejuvenate the floodplains of the Yamuna River

Explanation:

Attribute	Description
Name	Qudsia Bagh
Builder	Qudsia Begum
Date of Establishment	1748
Location	North Delhi
Architecture Style	Persian char-bagh
Remaining Structures	Western gateway Qudsia Mosque Pavilions in carved red sandstone
Entrance Material	Red sandstone, plastered with limestone
Architectural Features	Stucco work on walls Cusped arches with floral patterns above
Historical	Played a role in the 1857 First War of Independence Significance Damaged and destroyed during the conflict

7. (a) **Key Concept:** The Strategic Forces Command (SFC) in collaboration with the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) conducted a successful flight test of the Agni-Prime ballistic missile from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island, located off the coast of Odisha.

Explanation:

Key Feature	Details
Generation	Represents a new generation of advanced nuclear-capable missiles, variant of the Agni class
Configuration	Two-stage canisterised system
Range	1,000 to
Weight	At least 50% lighter than the Agni 3 missile

Guidance and Propulsion Systems	Incorporates new systems for enhanced performance
Transportation and Storage	Designed for easy transport via road and rail, can be stored for extended periods, reducing launch preparation time
Launch Mechanism	Cold launch mechanism
Firing Capability	Supports firing in salvo mode

8. (d) **Key Concept:** Ballistic missiles are rocket-propelled weapons that travel beyond the Earth's atmosphere before descending towards a target.

Explanation:

- Rocket-propelled, self-guided weapons
- Launched directly into the upper layers of the Earth's atmosphere
- Travel beyond the atmosphere
- Warhead separates from the missile
- Descends towards a predetermined target
- Capable of carrying conventional or nuclear payloads
- Deployable from various platforms:
 - Aircraft
 - Ships
 - Submarines
 - Land-based launchers

9. (c) **Key Concept:** The SFC was established on January 4, 2003, and operates under the authority of India's Nuclear Command Authority (NCA).

Explanation:

Attribute	Details
Formation Date	January 4, 2003
Role	Operationalized commands from India's Nuclear Command Authority (NCA), managing and administering tactical and strategic nuclear weapons
Responsibilities	Initiates nuclear weapon delivery processes with NCA approval. Conducts target selection through calibrated processes involving NCA approval Exercises complete command and control over nuclear assets and contingency planning

Operational Status	Attained high operational readiness since inception
Composition	Officers and personnel from Indian Army, Indian Air Force (IAF), and Indian Navy
Commander-in-Chief Appointment	Rotational basis from the three services, appointed as a 3-star General

10. (b) **Key Concept:** The Indian Army recently marked the 40th anniversary of 'Operation Meghdoot,' which initiated the securing of the Siachen Glacier.

Explanation:

Event Description	Details
Operation Name	Operation Meghdoot
Objective	To capture and secure the Siachen Glacier, strategically crucial for dominating Northern Ladakh
Background	Siachen Glacier has been a point of contention between India and Pakistan since the Karachi Agreement of 1949 due to its hostile terrain and extreme weather conditions
Trigger	Intelligence inputs about impending Pakistani military action and "cartographic aggression" in Ladakh
Commencement Date	April 13, 1984
Commanders	Lieutenant General Manohar L Chibber Lieutenant General PN Hoon Major General Shiv Sharma
Execution	Troops deployed via airlifts and air dropping supplies to high-altitude airfields
Milestone	First assault on the world's highest battlefield Successful pre-emption of seizure of Sia La and Bilafond La passes by Pakistan Army
Result	Indian troops gained control of the entire Siachen Glacier
Strategic importance of Siachen	Highest militarized zone globally Dominates Shaksgam Valley, Gilgi Baltistan routes, and Karakoram Pass
Significance	Example of seamless coordination between Indian Army and Air Force

11. (c) **Key Concept:** INS Talwar is a guided-missile frigate, derived from the Krivak III-class frigates manufactured by Russia. This modified version combines Russian technology with significant contributions from India.

Explanation:

Attribute	Details
Ship Name	INS Talwar
Ship Type	Guided-missile frigate
Origin	A modified version of Krivak III-class frigates made by Russia
Equipment	Mostly from Russia, with a significant number of equipment from India
Built	Baltiysky shipyard
Launch Date	May 2000
Sea Trials Completion Date	29th May 2002
Formal Acceptance into the Indian Navy	18 June 2003
Home Port Arrival Date	12 August 2003 (Mumbai)
Length	124.8 meters
Speed	56 km/h
Range	7810 km

12. (a) **Explanation:**

Recently, the Union Cabinet formally announced the establishment of International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) with one-time budgetary support of Rs 150 crore from the central government until 2028.

- The IBCA is an initiative launched by the Indian Prime Minister in April 2023 in Mysuru commemorating the 50th anniversary of Project Tiger.

Statement 1 is incorrect: Modelled on the International Solar Alliance founded in 2015, the IBCA “has been conceived as a multi-country, multi-agency coalition of 96 big cat range countries with an objective to ensure cooperation for the conservation of seven big cats: lion, tiger, leopard, cheetah, snow leopard, jaguar, and puma.

- Five of these cats, apart from jaguar and puma, are found in India.
- Besides range countries (which house one or more of these big cats), the alliance will also include “non-range countries interested in big cat conservation, conservation partners and scientific organisations working in the field of big cat conservation.

Statement 2 is incorrect: The establishment of the IBCA, headquartered in India, marks a major step towards conserving big cats and their habitats, and also reinforcing India’s leadership in global biodiversity conservation.

13. (a) **Key Concept:** Israel recently deployed the highly effective airto-surface missile known as the Rampage during an assault on an Iranian military facility.

Explanation:

Feature	Description
Type	Long-range, supersonic, air-to-ground, seekerless, precision strike missile
Developers	Israel Aerospace Industries and Israe Military Industries Systems
Intended Targets	High-quality, well-protected targets including communication and command centers, air force bases, maintenance centers, and infrastructure
Length	4.7 meters (15.4 feet)
Weight	570 kilograms
Speed	Supersonic, making identify and interce systems
Range	Over 190 miles
Payload	150 kilograms of explosives
Warhead	Blast fragmentation or general-purpose warhead
Guidance System	GPS/INS (Global Positioning System/Inertial Navigation System with anti-jamming capabilities)
Flexibility	Can be fired from an aircraft or as stand-alone system
Mid-flight Adjustment	Capable of adjusting its path mid-flight to precisely hit programmeo targets
Operational Conditions	Can operate in any weathe conditions, day or night

14. (a) **Key Concept:** The Indian Navy recently conducted Exercise Poorvi Lehar on the East Coast.

Explanation:

Aspect	Description
Conducting Authority	Indian Navy, under the operational direction of the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Naval Command
Purpose	Validation of procedures to assess Indian Navy’s preparedness for Maritime Security challenges in the region

Phases	Tactical Phase: Combat training in a realistic scenario; Weapon Phase: Conduct of various firings to reaffirm Indian Navy's capability
Interoperability	High degree of interoperability demonstrated among Eastern Naval Command, Indian Air Force, Andaman and Nicobar command and Coast Guard assets

15. (d) Explanation:

Recently, India successfully tested a new model of its Medium Range ballistic Missile.

Statement 1 is incorrect: The Crystal Maze 2 is a ballistic missile. It is also known as ROCKS.

- It is an air-launched medium-range ballistic missile that is capable of hitting targets at a distance exceeding

Statement 2 is correct: The Crystal Maze 2 missile is equipped with advanced navigation and guidance systems that allow it to operate effectively even in GPS-denied environments.

- This capability is essential for ensuring the missile's accuracy and reliability in combat scenarios where GPS signals may be jammed or denied by adversaries.

Statement 3 is incorrect: Crystal Maze 2 is a missile designed by Israel that can be launched from the air.

- It can hit targets with high precision and is good at avoiding damage to surrounding areas

- 16. (c) Key Concept:** DURGA-2 is significant in warfare and aerospace technology because it introduces weapons that utilize focused energy, such as lasers, microwaves, or particle beams, to damage or destroy targets.

Explanation:

Attribute	Details
Description	Weapons utilising focused energy such as lasers, microwaves, or particle beams to damage or destroy targets
Advantages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transmits lethal force at the speed of light (approximately 300,000 kilometers per second) • Unaffected by gravity or atmospheric drag • Extremely precise • Effects can be tailored by varying energy type/intensity

Significance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transformative impact on warfare, revolutionising the aerospace industry • Enables development of cutting-edge platforms, weapons, sensors, and networks for future warfare
Other Countries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Russia, France, Germany, United Kingdom, Israel, China

Hence the correct answer is option C.

- 17. (b) Key Concept:** Recently, INS Talwar of the Indian Navy intercepted drugs in the Arabian Sea during an operation coordinated by the Combined Maritime Forces (CMF).

Explanation:

Attribute	Details
Ship Name	INS Talwar (F40)
Class	Talwar-class frigates
Meaning of Name	"Sword" in Hindi
Country of Origin	Russia
Commissioned Date	18 June 2003

18. (b) Explanation:

The exercise is being held in Termez, Uzbekistan.

Termez is the location chosen for the 5th edition of Exercise DUSTLIK, where military personnel from India and Uzbekistan are participating in joint training activities

19. (b) Explanation:

- Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) under Ministry of Personnel, Public Administration and Pensions signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Ministry of Civil Service, Cambodia on cooperation in the field of Human Resource Development in Civil Service.
- MoU will focus on strengthening and promoting bilateral exchange and cooperation between the two countries in the field of Human Resource Development in Civil Service.

20. (b) Explanation:

- The India's International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) and the Capitals Market Authority (CMA) of Kuwait, on the sidelines of the India-Kuwait investment conference, signed the MoU aimed at sharing information on technologies and innovations within the financial and regulatory sectors.

- The MoU between IFSCA and CMA reflects the commitment of India and Kuwait to mutual cooperation, knowledge exchange, and progress in the financial domain

21. (a) Explanation:

ISRO has launched 'START' training program for space science enthusiasts.

- START is a new introductory level online training programme called **Space Science and Technology Awareness Training**.
- START is aimed at **postgraduate and final year undergraduate students of physical sciences and technology**. It intends to give them an overview of the different facets of the field, research opportunities and career options.
- The programme will cover various domains of space science, including Astronomy & Astrophysics, Heliophysics & Sun-Earth interaction, Instrumentation, and Aeronomy.
- It will be delivered by scientists from Indian academia and ISRO centres.

22. (d) Explanation:

- SARAH is a digital health promoter prototype launched by the World Health Organization (WHO).
- SARAH is an Generative AI based digital health model with technology supported by Soul Machines Biological AI.
- It represents an evolution of AI-powered health information avatars and uses new
- language models and cutting-edge technology.
- It can engage users 24 hours a day in 8 languages on multiple health topics, on any device.
- Previous versions of SARAH under the name Florence, was used to disseminate critical public health messages, during the COVID19 pandemic on the virus, vaccines, tobacco use, healthy eating and physical activity.

23. (c) Explanation:

- As per the recently published study in the journal Icarus, an international team of scientists including India, has discovered strong evidence indicating the presence of ozone on Jupiter's moon Callisto.
- The study outlines the researchers' investigation into the chemical evolution of "SO₂ astrochemical ice", which is ice primarily composed of sulphur dioxide (SO₂) in the presence of ultraviolet irradiation.
- Scientists are currently studying various celestial bodies in the Solar System that show signs of ozone, suggesting the existence of stable atmospheric conditions and, by extension, the possibility of their being able to host life.

- About Callisto:
- Jupiter has the most moons in the Solar System.
- Callisto is one of Jupiter's second largest moons and the third-largest moon in the Solar System after Ganymede and Titan.
- It is primarily composed of water ice, rocky materials, sulphur dioxide, and some organic compounds.
- These substances make the moon a potential candidate for supporting life in the Solar System beyond the earth.

24. (c) Explanation:

- India is now implementing a major initiative by installing atomic clocks around the country in order to synchronise all digital devices with Indian Standard Time (IST).
- The Council of Industrial and Scientific Research (CSIR)-National Physical Laboratories (NPL) in New Delhi maintains Indian Standard Time (IST) using caesium and hydrogen maser clocks.

About Atomic clocks:

- An atomic clock is a precise timekeeping instrument that integrates a quartz crystal oscillator with an atom, usually caesium or hydrogen.
- By utilising the constant frequency of atoms, this timekeeping device ensures accurate time management, surpassing the stability of traditional quartz clocks.
- Louise Essen invented these clocks in 1955.

25. (b) Explanation:

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) announced that PSLV-C58/XPoSat mission has practically left zero debris in earth's orbit.

About POEM-3 Mission:

- POEM-3 was deployed on January 1, 2024, using the used PS4 stage of the PSLV-C58 spacecraft, which was first used to launch XPoSat.
- Android App | IOSApp | PW Website
- The platform is a three-axis-altitude controlled system equipped with power generation and tele-command & telemetry capabilities. Its purpose is to support various payloads.
- The primary objective of the XPoSat mission was to ensure the absence of any space trash, hence showcasing ISRO's dedication to responsible space operations.
- After being placed in its orbit at an altitude of , POEM-3 was adjusted to a circular orbit with a radius of in order to reduce the amount of time it would take for the orbit to degrade once the experiment was finished.

- POEM-3 returned to Earth's atmosphere after completing 400 orbits and spending 73 days in space.

26. (a) Explanation:

- The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare unveiled the 'myCGHS' app tailored for iOS devices.
- The myCGHS iOS app is developed by the technical teams of the National Informatics Centre (NIC) Himachal Pradesh and NIC Health Team.
- It is a convenient mobile application offering features aimed at enhancing information and accessibility for CGHS beneficiaries.
- The app is designed to enhance access to Electronic Health Records, information, and resources for Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) beneficiaries.
- The myCGHS app facilitates a wide range of services, including booking and cancellation of online appointments, downloading CGHS card and index card, accessing lab reports from CGHS labs, checking medicine history, checking medical reimbursement claim status, accessing referral details, locating nearby wellness centers, staying updated with news and highlights, locating nearby empanelled hospitals, labs, and dental units and accessing contact details of wellness centers and offices.
- The app features security features like 2factor authentication and functionality of mPIN ensuring the confidentiality and integrity of users' data.

27. (b) Explanation:

- The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has launched the 'RuPay - Link it, Forget it' promotion during the Indian Premier League (IPL).
- The campaign, conceptualised by DDB Mudra Group, aims to enhance awareness regarding RuPay Credit cards connected to a Unified Payments Interface (UPI) ID, thereby facilitating direct and secure transactions.

28. (d) Explanation:

- In the midst of Manila's ongoing conflict with Beijing regarding the South China Sea, External Affairs Minister Jaishankar affirmed that India unequivocally backs the Philippines in safeguarding its national sovereignty.
- The South China Sea Dispute revolves around the conflicting island and marine claims made by multiple sovereign governments in the region, all of whom challenge China's assertion of control over the territory in question as per the Asia Maritime Transparency Initiative (AMTI).

- Brunei, Taiwan, Malaysia, Indonesia, Philippines, and Vietnam that are directly involved in the South China Sea dispute with China.

29. (a) Explanation:

- The AUKUS alliance, consisting of Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States, is preparing to engage in talks over the enlargement of its membership.

About AUKUS:

- It was established in 2021, the AUKUS is intended to be a strategic partnership among Australia, the United Kingdom (UK), and the United States to bolster their allied deterrence and defense capabilities in the Indo-Pacific.

30. (c) Explanation:

- Nigeria has achieved a significant milestone in combating meningitis by being the first nation worldwide to implement a novel and exceptionally efficient vaccination.
- The Men5CV vaccine, recommended by the World Health Organisation (WHO), provides immunisation against five strains of the meningococcus bacteria in a single injection.
- The new vaccine protects against strains A, C, W, Y and of the meningococcus bacteria, all of which can cause meningitis and blood poisoning. This broader protection is crucial in regions like the meningitis belt, where multiple strains can circulate.

31. (c) Explanation:

- Launched by the Election Commission of India in 2018, the cVigil is user-friendly and easy to operate application, which connects vigilant citizens with the District Control Room, Returning Officer and Flying Squads Teams.
- Aim: To enable citizens to report violations of the Model Code of Conduct during elections
- The citizens can immediately report on incidents of political misconduct within minutes and without having to rush to the office of the returning officer.
- As soon as the complaint is sent on the cVigil app, the complainant will receive a unique ID through which the person will be able to track the complaint on their mobile.
- The app automatically enables a geotagging feature as soon as the user switches on their camera in the cVIGIL to report a violation.
- Citizens can also report complaints anonymously.

32. (c) Explanation:

- About Zero FIR:
- When a police station receives a complaint regarding an alleged offense in another station's jurisdiction, it registers an First Information Report.
- The police station then transfers the FIR to the relevant police station for further investigation. This process is called a Zero FIR.
- The provision of Zero FIR was established based on the recommendation in the report of the Justice Verma Committee.
- The Justice Verma Committee was formed after the 2012 Nirbhaya gang rape case.
- Zero FIR concept was introduced to provide speedy redressal to the victim so that timely action can be taken after the filing of the FIR.

33. (b) Explanation:

- Sonam Wangchuk, a famous engineer and innovator from Ladakh began a 21-day hunger strike in Leh, Ladakh, to advocate for Ladakh's statehood and inclusion on the Sixth Schedule. Aamir Khan's character in the film 3 idiots was inspired by Sonam Wangchuk.
- About Sixth Schedule of the Constitution:
- The Constitution, under Sixth Schedule, contains special provisions for the administration of tribal areas in the four northeastern states of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.
- The status was given by the fact that the tribes in Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, and Mizoram have not fully merged with the local culture.
- Previously, these places were anthropological specimens. Tribal communities in different regions of India have adopted the culture of their surroundings.
- However, tribes of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, and Mizoram maintain their unique culture, customs, and civilization.

34. (b) Explanation:

- ABHA is a 14 digit unique number which facilitates hassle free access and sharing of health records digitally.
- It enables interaction with verified healthcare providers and makes the process of accessing and sharing of lab reports, prescriptions and digital health records seamless.
- Ayushman Bharat Health Accounts (ABHA) is an integral component of the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM).
- Ayushman Bharat Health Accounts aims to provide seamless and efficient digital health data exchange in the ABDM ecosystem.

35. (d) Explanation:

- With military expenditure worth billion in 2023, India was the fourth largest spender globally in 2023, the latest report by Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) states.

36. (b) Explanation:

- Paradip Port in Odisha surpassed Deendayal Port in Gujarat to become India's largest major port in terms of cargo volumes in FY24, handling 145.38 million tonnes of cargo.
- Paradip Port achieved the highest-ever coastal shipping traffic and improved berth productivity, emerging as a hub for coastal shipping in the country.

37. (a) Explanation:

- Kathiya Gehu, Bundelkhand region Uttar Pradesh:
- Bundelkhand region in Uttar Pradesh, locally known as Kathiya Gehu, has been granted the prestigious Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- Kathiya wheat is known for its nutritional superiority, containing essential vitamins and minerals, high fiber content, and various health benefits.
- Varanasi's Tiranga Barfi:
- It is known for its historical significance and unique ingredients, and receives the prestigious tag.
- Varanasi's Dhalua Murti Metal Casting Craft:
- Dhalua Murti Metal Casting Craft had been accepted into the elite GI category.

38. (b) Explanation:

- Taiwan experienced its strongest earthquake of magnitude 7.4, biggest in 25 years
- The earthquake triggered a tsunami warning, which was later lifted, surprising residents who were accustomed to milder quakes

39. (b) Explanation:

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) conducted a study using satellite imagery from 1984 to 2023, revealing significant changes in glacial lakes.
- 676 glacial lakes larger than 10 hectares have expanded since 1984, with 130 located in India and distributed across different river basins.
- The elevation-based analysis shows that most expanding lakes are situated at higher elevations, with 314 lakes in the 4,000 to range and 296 lakes above .

40. (a) Explanation:

- Indian chess prodigy Dommaraju Gukesh, aged 17, won the FIDE Candidates tournament, becoming the youngest-ever challenger in the history of the World Chess Championship.
- Gukesh's victory secured his place as the challenger for the World Chess Championship, facing Ding Liren.

41. (c) Explanation:

- The GI Registry Office in Chennai announced that the Tiranga Barfi of Varanasi and the Dhalua Murti Metal Casting Craft had been accepted into the elite GI category.
- This recent addition has cemented Uttar Pradesh's reputation as a leader in the GI sector.

42. (b) Explanation:

- Arjun Erigaisi becomes the new number 1 chess player in India with a standard rating of 2756, ranking ninth globally.
- Viswanathan Anand is the second-ranked Indian player with a rating of 2751, followed by Praggnanandhaa R, Gukesh D, and Vidit Santosh Gujrathi.

43. (a) Explanation:

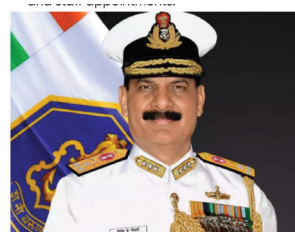
- Nalin Prabhat was appointed as Director General of the National Security Guard (NSG) until August 31, 2028.
- NSG is a specialized force for counterterrorism and high-risk situations.

44. (d) Explanation:

- Eurasian otters in Satpura Tiger Reserve are being studied for understanding their distribution, ecology, and conservation needs.
- The project involves affixing collar IDs and radio chips on otters, marking the first use of such technology for otter study.
- The Eurasian otter is an endangered species with a dwindling population, playing a vital role in environmental conservation efforts.
- The project is a collaboration between Wildlife Conservation Trust and Madhya Pradesh Forest Department, supported by Astral Foundation and Alkyl Amines Foundation.

45. (b) Explanation:

- Vice Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi has been appointed as the next Chief of the Naval Staff of India, effective from April 30, 2024, succeeding Admiral R Hari Kumar.
- Vice Admiral Tripathi has a distinguished career spanning nearly 39 years, with experience in commanding various Indian Naval Ships and holding crucial operational and staff appointments.



46. (c) Explanation:

- Lieutenant General JS Sidana assumed the role of the 33rd Director General of the Department of Electronics and Mechanical Engineers (DGEME) and Senior Colonel Commandant of the EME Corps on April 1, 2024.
- Lt Gen Sidana emphasized the importance of embracing technology and innovation for effective engineering support to the Indian Army and paid tribute to fallen soldiers at the National War Memorial in New Delhi.

47. (d) Explanation:

- Swell waves inundated coastal areas in central and southern districts of Kerala, causing flooding and prompting disaster management machineries to be on alert.
- The phenomenon, locally known as 'Kallakkadal,' is expected to persist for one or two more days along the Kerala coast.
- Coastal areas in Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam, Alappuzha, and Thrissur districts were among the worst-hit by the swell waves.

48. (b) Explanation:

- Mamta G. Sagar, a renowned Kannada poet, writer, academic, and activist, won the prestigious World Literary Prize for her exceptional contributions to literature.
- Sagar's work focuses on themes like identity politics, feminism, and cultural diversity, advocating for social justice and empowerment.

49 (c) Explanation:

- According to a World Health Organization (WHO) report released to coincide with the World Hepatitis Summit in Portugal, India has the second highest cases of viral hepatitis.
- Hepatitis means inflammation of the liver.
- The liver is a vital organ that processes nutrients, filters the blood, and fights infections.

50. (d) Explanation:

- Amitabh Bachchan is being honored with the prestigious Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar Award for his exceptional contributions to Indian cinema.
- The award celebrates the enduring legacy of Lata Mangeshkar and individuals who have made exceptional contributions to the nation and society.

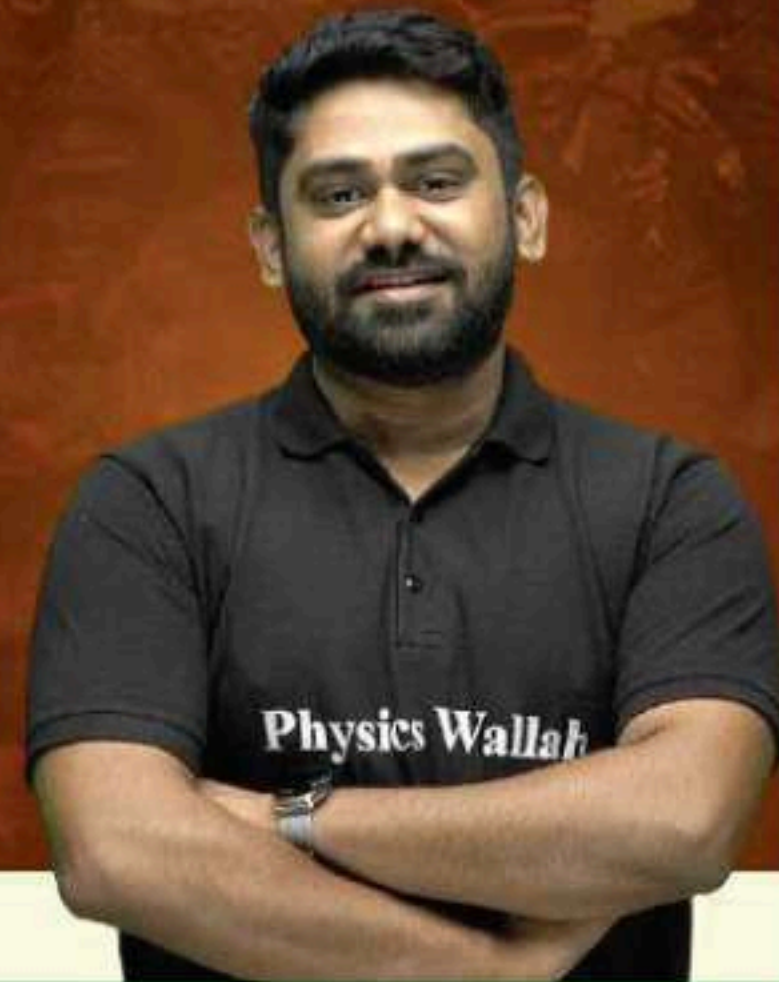


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