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History and Culture

KOYA TRIBE



The Koya tribe in the **Godavari Valley** faces a cultural crisis as raids by the Special Enforcement Bureau threaten their tradition of **Mahua liquor consumption**.

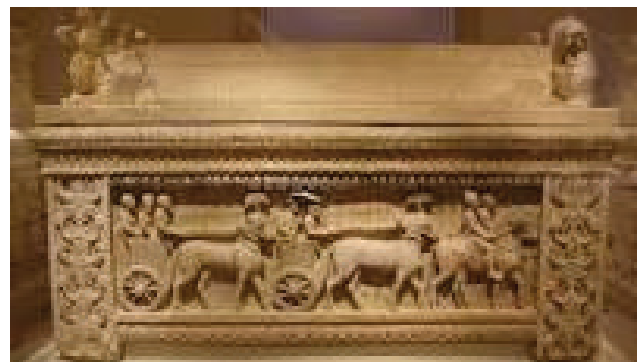
Koya Tribe Overview

- **Multi-Racial and Multi-Lingual:** One of the few multi-racial and multi-lingual tribal communities in India.
- **Geographical Distribution:** They live in the forests, plains, and valleys on both sides of the Godavari River in
 - ♦ Andhra Pradesh,
 - ♦ Telangana,
 - ♦ Chhattisgarh,
 - ♦ Odisha.
- **Migration:** Said to have migrated to central India from **Bastar, northern India**.

Language	Koyi Language
Additional Languages	Most Koya speak either Gondi or Telugu, in addition to Koyi
Traditional Occupation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pastoralists and shifting cultivators
Current Occupation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Settled cultivation, • supplemented by animal husbandry • seasonal forest collections
Crops Grown:	Jowar, Ragi, Bajra, and other millets.

Sub-Divisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gotrams • Five sub-divisions; every Koya belongs to a clan which they cannot leave
Family Structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patrilineal and patrilocal; • The family is called “Kutum”, with nuclear families being predominant
Marital Practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monogamy is prevalent
Religion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practice their ethnic religion, and worship Hindu gods and goddesses, with many deities being female, especially “Mother Earth”
Funeral Practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Either bury or cremate the dead, • erect menhirs in memory of the deceased
Festivals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vijji Pandum (seeds charming festival) • Kondala Kolupu (festival to appease Hill deities)
Dance	Permakok (Bison horn dance)

SARCOPHAGUS



- A sarcophagus, meaning “**flesh-eater**” in Greek, is a coffin primarily used for **inhumation burials**.
- Sarcophagi were widely used throughout the **Roman Empire starting in the second century A.D.**

- They were crafted from various materials including **marble, other stones, lead, and wood**.
- The Romans adopted the use of sarcophagi from earlier cultures such as the **Etruscans and Greeks**.

IKAT DESIGN

Following NABARD's withdrawal, Ikat weavers are taking control to manage and expand their business operations.

- **Ikat Design:** Originates from the Indonesian/Malay word '**mengikat**', meaning to bind, and features a resist dyeing process that results in **unique 'blurred' effects**.



- **Historical References:** Ancient mentions in the '**Lalitavistara Sutra**' and Ajanta caves murals; '**Vichitra Patolaka**' associated with Gujarat's double ikat.

Type of Ikat	Description	Key Regions	GI Tags
Single Ikat	Dyeing involves either the warp or the weft threads, which are simpler and quicker to produce	Odisha (Bandha, Sambalpuri Ikat, Bomkai), Rajkot	Sambalpuri Ikat (2010), Bomkai (2009), Rajkot Patola (2013)
Double Ikat	Both warp and weft threads are intricately resist-dyed for precise alignment, highly complex	Patan (Patola)	Patan Patola (2013)

AHILYA BAI HOLKAR

- **Ahilya Bai Holkar**, the **Holkar Queen of the Maratha Malwa kingdom**, was renowned for her wisdom, courage, and administrative skills, ruling justly for 28 years.
- Under her rule, **Maheshwar became a cultural hub**, and she welcomed many scholars and poets while establishing the famous **Maheshwari saree industry**.
- She built and renovated numerous temples across India, including the famous **Kashi Vishwanath Temple**, and implemented significant social reforms.

Aspect	Details
Birth and Death	31 May 1725 – 13 August 1795
Reign	Crowned Queen of Malwa in 1767, ruled for 28 years
Capital	Maheshwar transformed into a cultural and industrial hub
Military Involvement	Military-trained, personally led armies, appointed Tukoji Rao Holkar as Chief of Army
Justice Administration	Known for fair justice , even sentenced her son to death for a capital offence
Temple Building	Built and renovated hundreds of temples and Dharamshala , including the Kashi Vishwanath Temple
Social Reforms	Removed the traditional law confiscating property of childless widows
Cultural Patronage	Supported scholars and poets like Moropant, Shahir Ananta Gandhi, and Khushali Ram
Industrial Contributions	Established a textile industry in Maheshwar, known today for Maheshwari sarees
Title by Historian	Referred to as 'The Philosopher Queen' by British historian John Keay
Succession	Succeeded by her commander-in-chief and nephew, Tukoji Rao Holkar



NALANDA UNIVERSITY

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the **new Nalanda University** campus near the ancient ruins in Rajgir.

About Nalanda University

- **Historical Significance:**
 - ♦ Most ancient university on the Indian Subcontinent.
 - ♦ Founded by **Kumaragupta of the Gupta dynasty in Bihar** in the early 5th century.
 - ♦ Gained popularity during the era of **Harshavardhan and the Pala monarchs**.
- **Cultural and Intellectual Hub:**
 - ♦ Center of learning, culture, and intellectual exchange with a profound impact on Indian civilisation and beyond.
 - ♦ Primarily a monastic establishment where monks and nuns lived and studied.
 - ♦ Taught all major philosophies of Buddhism.
- **International Students:**
 - ♦ Attracted students from **China, Korea, Japan, Tibet, Mongolia, Sri Lanka, and Southeast Asia**.
- **Academic Life:**
 - ♦ Students followed a strict code of conduct with daily meditation and study sessions.
 - ♦ Subjects taught included **medicine, Ayurveda, religion, Buddhism, mathematics, grammar, astronomy, and Indian philosophy**.
- **Destruction and Rediscovery:**
 - ♦ Destroyed in 1193 by **Turkish ruler Qutbuddin Aibak's general Bakhtiyar Khilji**.
 - ♦ Rediscovered in 1812 by **Scottish surveyor Francis Buchanan-Hamilton**.
 - ♦ Identified as the ancient university by **Sir Alexander Cunningham in 1861**.

- **UNESCO World Heritage Site:**
 - ♦ Recognized for its historical and cultural significance.
- **Notable Contributions:**
 - ♦ Chinese monk **Xuan Zang** documented the academic and architectural grandeur of ancient Nalanda.



GHODBUNDER FORT

- A hidden chamber-like structure was discovered beneath the inner ground layers during conservation and restoration work at **Ghodbunder Fort**.

About Ghodbunder Fort

- **Location:**
 - ♦ Hill Fort is located in **Ghodbunder Village, Thane, Maharashtra**.
 - ♦ Situated on the banks of the **Ulhas River**.

History

- **Construction:**
 - ♦ Originally built by the **Portuguese**, it was completed in 1730.
 - ♦ The name derived from "**Ghod**" (**horses**) and "**bunder**" (**fort**), indicating its use for horse trade with Arabs.
- **Ownership:**
 - ♦ Conquered and occupied by the **Marathas**.
 - ♦ Taken over by the British in 1818 and used as district headquarters by the British East India Company.

Architectural Details

- **Materials:**
 - ♦ Constructed from stones carved out of the mountains.
 - ♦ Joined with **lime, rubble, gravel, stones, molten metal, and sand**.
- **Structures:**
 - ♦ Includes a **Portuguese church** built in the early 16th century AD.

- ◆ Contains several mansions and rooms reflecting the **Maratha rule**.



MUDGAL FORT

1000-year history linked to various dynasties: **Chalukyas, Rashtrakutas, Deccan Sultanate, and Vijayanagara Empire**.

Features

- ◆ Gained prominence during the rule of the **Bahmani Sultans from Gulbarga (now Kalaburagi)**.
- ◆ Later controlled by the **Vijayanagara Empire**.
- ◆ Became a major point of conflict between the **Vijayanagara Empire and Adil Shahi Sultanate** after the Sultanate divided into five states.

Strategic Importance

- **Location:**
 - ◆ Positioned on the border between the **Adil Shahi and Vijayanagara empires**.
 - ◆ Witnessed 11 battles between the **14th and 16th centuries**.
 - ◆ Viewed as a symbol of power and pride by the **Bijapur and Vijayanagara** due to its control over the **Raichur Doab**.
- **Raichur Doab:**
 - ◆ Fertile land for agriculture between the **Tungabhadra and Krishna rivers**.
 - ◆ Rich in mineral resources, including gold.

Inscriptions

- **Languages:**
 - ◆ 99 inscriptions in **Kannada, Sanskrit, Telugu, Persian, Arabic, and Gujarati**.
- **Notable Inscriptions:**
 - ◆ Describe the bravery of **Malik Murad Khan**, military general of **Ibrahim Adil Shah II of Bijapur**, who fought against the **Vijayanagara Empire** between 1590 and 1610.

Architectural Style

- **Mixed Architectural Styles:**
 - ◆ **Ranganathaswamy Temple** and **Hussain Alam Dargah** stand side-by-side, sharing a common wall and compound.
- **Defensive Features:**
 - ◆ Several gates with intricate carvings and strategic placements.
 - ◆ Main entrance on the north side called **Fateh Darwaza**.



AMBUBACHI MELA



- The **annual Hindu fair at Kamakhya Temple** celebrates the menstruation of the goddess **Maa Kamakhya**.
 - ◆ Held during the monsoon season in the **Assamese month of Ahaan (mid-June)**.
 - ◆ Draws devotees from across India for rituals and spiritual activities.
- **Kamakhya Temple:** Historic site on **Nilachal Hill, Guwahati, on the Brahmaputra River's southern bank**.
 - ◆ **Shakti Peetha:** One of the oldest among the **51 Shakti Peethas** in India.
 - ◆ **Tantric Practices:** The center is revered for **Tantric rituals and worship**.
- **Temple Architecture:** Unique blend known as the **Nilachala Style**.

- ♦ Consists of five chambers:
 - ❖ **Garbhagriha**: Sanctuary housing the main deity.
 - ❖ **Antarala**: Vestibule leading to the sanctuary.
 - ❖ **Jagan Mohan**: Principal chamber.
 - ❖ **Bhogmandir**: Ritual chamber, also known as Pancha Ratna.
 - ❖ **Natmandir**: Opera hall for traditional dance and music.

- ♦ Architectural styles include traditional **nagara (North Indian) and Saracenic (Mughal) influences.**

- ♦ Features like a modified Saracenic dome, two-roofed design, five domes, and a shell-roof with apsidal end.

The Kamakhya Temple and its annual Ambubachi Mela are significant cultural and religious landmarks, attracting devotees and scholars interested in its unique architectural and spiritual heritage.

Environment and Geography

PENCH TIGER RESERVE EMBRACES AI FOR ENHANCED FOREST FIRE PROTECTION



- **Introduction of an advanced AI system** for early forest fire detection in the **Pench Tiger Reserve in Maharashtra**.
- Features of the AI system include a high-resolution PTZ camera with a 15 km visual range, satellite integration, and real-time data analysis.
- Benefits of the AI system include faster and more accurate fire alerts, predictive capabilities, improved resource management, enhanced wildlife protection, and setting a new standard for conservation efforts.

INDIA SUCCESSFULLY CONCLUDES HOSTING OF THE 46TH ANTARCTIC TREATY CONSULTATIVE MEETING (ATCM-46) AND THE 26TH COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (CEP-26)



- **India successfully hosted the 46th Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM-46) and the 26th Committee on Environmental Protection (CEP-26) in Kochi, Kerala.**
- Parties adopted 17 revised and new management plans for Antarctic Specially Protected Areas (ASPA) during the meetings.
- A MyStamp featuring the ATCM-46 logo was released in collaboration with India Post to commemorate the event.
- Discussions emphasized global environmental sustainability and peaceful scientific cooperation under the theme "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam".

ANDHRA'S KOYA TRIBE FACES BREWING CONFLICT OVER SACRED MAHUA FLOWER



- **Government Raids and Impact:**
 - ♦ SEB raids seize Mahua liquor despite cultural ties, demanding fines from villagers.
 - ♦ Many Koya families face financial penalties and confiscation of personal documents.
 - ♦ Police actions deter Mahua flower collection, affecting tribal income and traditions.
- **Environmental and Economic Impact:**
 - ♦ Mahua trees are sacred and economically vital for the Koya tribe.
 - ♦ Decline in flower collection due to raids threatens livelihoods and cultural practices.
 - ♦ Interference affects traditional trade at weekly shandies, crucial for tribal economy.

- **Legal and Cultural Rights:**
 - ♦ Conflict between AP Prohibition Act and PESA Act on tribal cultural rights.
 - ♦ Calls for legal amendments to protect Mahua liquor brewing for cultural purposes.
 - ♦ Advocacy for preserving Koya cultural identity amidst government enforcement.

CABINET APPROVES ₹2,869 CRORE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF VARANASI'S LAL BAHADUR SHASTRI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT



- Approval of the proposal for the development of **Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport in Varanasi** with an outlay of ₹2,870 crore.
- Development plans include a new terminal building, apron extension, runway extension, parallel taxi track, and allied works funded by AAI's internal resources.
- Emphasis on showcasing Indian culture through the terminal design and developing the airport as a green airport for environmental sustainability.

NEW ANT SPECIES DISCOVERED FROM SIANG VALLEY IN ARUNACHAL PRADESH



- **Discovery of Parapatrechina neela:** Researchers discovered a new ant species from the Eastern Himalayas, named Parapatrechina neela.
- **Rare Genus:** It belongs to the rare genus Parapatrechina, known for its distinctive blue coloration.

- **Scientific Publication:** The ant was described in the journal ZooKeys by researchers from ATREE and the University of Florida.
- **First in the Indian Subcontinent:** This discovery marks the first addition to the Parapatrechina genus from the Indian subcontinent in over a century.
- **Physical Characteristics:** Parapatrechina neela is less than 2mm long, predominantly metallic blue, with notable features like large eyes and a triangular mouthpart.
- **Biodiversity Expedition:** Discovered during an expedition to Siang Valley in Arunachal Pradesh, funded by the National Geographic Society.
- **Threats to Habitat:** The Siang Valley faces threats from large-scale infrastructure projects and climate change, endangering its diverse ecosystems.

TWO BIRD SANCTUARIES OF BIHAR ADDED TO RAMSAR LIST



- **Nagi and Nakti bird sanctuaries in Bihar's Jamui district** have been added to the global list of wetlands of international importance under the **Ramsar Convention**, increasing **India's total to 82**.
- Nagi and Nakti Bird Sanctuaries in Bihar are recognized as wetlands of international importance under the Ramsar Convention on **World Environment Day that is on 5th of June**.
- Both sanctuaries are human-made wetlands developed for irrigation, designated as Bird Sanctuaries in 1984 for wintering habitats of migratory species.
- Habitats for over 150 species of birds, mammals, fish, plants, reptiles, and amphibians, including globally threatened species like the Indian elephant and native catfish.

IUCN URGED COUNTRIES WORLDWIDE "TO STRIVE FOR A FULLY FUNCTIONAL HIGH SEAS BIODIVERSITY TREATY" ON WORLD OCEANS DAY 2024

- **On World Oceans Day (June 08)**, director general of the International Union for Conservation of Nature

(IUCN) urged countries worldwide “to strive for a fully functional High Seas Biodiversity Treaty”.



- Action theme for World Oceans Day 2024 was ‘Catalyzing Action for Our Ocean & Climate’.
- Aguilar emphasized the importance of ratifying the High Seas Biodiversity Treaty to protect the vast high seas, covering nearly half of the Earth’s surface.
- Only seven countries have ratified the treaty so far, with 90 countries having signed it, indicating potential future ratification.
- The high seas are critical for global biodiversity but are poorly protected, facing threats like overfishing and deep-sea mining.
- The IUCN Director General urged nations to expedite ratification to enact stronger regulations for high seas conservation.
- A moratorium on deep-sea mining was proposed due to its significant risks to marine ecosystems.
- The High Seas Alliance has been instrumental in promoting the treaty and advocating for its ratification globally.

RAPID URBANISATION IN ASSAM IS AFFECTING GREATER ADJUTANT STORK SURVIVAL

- The **greater adjutant stork** is an **endangered bird species found in Assam, primarily in Guwahati, Morigaon, and Nagaon districts.**
- Habitat loss due to urbanization, encroachment, and habitat destruction is a major threat to the survival of these storks.



- The storks rely on wetlands for foraging and tall trees for roosting and nesting, facing challenges like overfishing and drainage projects.
- Competition for food sources with land animals like dogs due to wetland usurpation is a concern for the storks.

MONTREAL PROTOCOL EFFECTIVE IN REDUCING EMISSIONS OF OZONE-DEPLETING SUBSTANCES (ODS)

- Impact of **Hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs)** on Earth’s energy balance and globally averaged chlorine content of ODS in the troposphere has decreased since 2021, five years earlier (2026) than expected.
- HCFCs are compounds containing carbon, hydrogen, chlorine and fluorine.
- HCFC-22, the most abundant HCFC, has declined significantly. Its Global Warming Potential (GWP) is thousands of times more than carbon dioxide (CO₂).
- HCFC-22 is used as a refrigerant in air conditioners, cold storage, retail food refrigeration, etc.
- Minor declines were observed in HCFC-141b, second most abundant HCFC.
- HCFC-141b is used as a blowing agent in production of rigid polyurethane foams.
- India has achieved complete phase-out of HCFC-141b under ODS (Regulation and Control) Amendment Rules, 2014.
- This is in line with India’s commitment under Montreal Ozone and Ozone-Depleting Substances (ODS) Protocol for Substances that Deplete Ozone Layer.

PLACES IN NEWS



Slovenia (Capital: Ljubljana):

- Slovenia becomes the latest European country to recognize a Palestinian state.

Political Features:

- Slovenia is a country in central Europe.

Land boundaries:

- Austria (North), Hungary (far Northeast), Croatia (East, Southeast, and South), and Italy (West and South west).
- It has an important coastline along the Gulf of Venice (northern arm of the Adriatic Sea).



Panama (Capital: Panama City):

- Panama becomes first nation to evacuate island community from Gardi Sugdub Island over climate change impact.

Political Features:

- Location: Country of Central America, located on the Isthmus of Panama.
- Isthmus of Panama is a narrow bridge of land that connects North and South America.
- Territorial Boundaries: Costa Rica (West) and Colombia (East).
- Maritime Boundaries: Caribbean Sea (North) and Pacific Ocean (South).



Italy (Capital: Rome):

- The 50th G7 summit is set to be held in Italy.

Political Features:

- Land Boundaries: France, Switzerland, Austria, Slovenia, Vatican City and San Marino.
- Water Bodies: Mediterranean Sea, Adriatic Sea (northeast), Ionian Sea (southeast), Tyrrhenian Sea (southwest), and Ligurian Sea (northwest).

Geographical Features:

- Major Mountains Range: Alps, Apennines
- Highest Point: Mont Blanc (Monte Bianco)
- Major Rivers: Po, Tiber, Adige, Arno
- Climate: Mediterranean type



Cabinet approves 'Development of an all-Weather Greenfield deepdraft Major Port at Vadhavan in Maharashtra':

- This project will be undertaken by **Vadhavan Port Project Limited (VPPL)**, a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) jointly formed by the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA), which holds 74%, and the Maharashtra Maritime Board (MMB), which holds 26%.



Denmark (Capital: Copenhagen):

- Denmark, a major pork and dairy exporter, will introduce a tax on livestock carbon dioxide emissions from 2030, making it the first country to do so.

Political Features:

- Location:** It is a Nordic country of northern Europe and is part of the Jutland Peninsula.
- Territorial boundary:** Germany (in South)
- Surrounding water bodies:** North Sea (west coast), Kattegat Bay (East Coast)



Togo (Capital: Lomé)

- India & Togo have recently reviewed their bilateral relations.

Political Features:

- Location:** Western Africa
- Land Boundaries:** Ghana (west), Benin (east), and Burkina Faso (north).
- Water Bodies:** Gulf of Guinea (south)

CHEETAHS' SECOND HOME IN INDIA, GANDHI SAGAR WILDLIFE SANCTUARY



- Madhya Pradesh (MP) government** has announced that it has completed the preparation for the Cheetah's translocation to Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary.
- Translocation is under the Project Cheetah through which the first slots of 20 Cheetahs were introduced in **Kuno National Park (KNP)** from **Namibia and South Africa**.
- About Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary:** Located along the border between MP and Rajasthan, spanning over 368.62 sq. km.
- River Chambal** flows through the sanctuary and Gandhisagar dam lies within the sanctuary.
- Flora and Fauna:** Arjuna and Jal jamun trees along with Panther, Nilgai, Chinkara, wolf, etc.

- **Factors behind selecting Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary as Cheetahs Home:**
- **Topography:** Due to the rocky terrain and exposed sheetrock, the topsoil is shallow.
- Topography also includes hills, plateaus, and river catchment areas.
- **Ecosystem:** Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary has a savanna ecosystem comprising open grasslands interspersed with dry deciduous trees and shrubs. However, Chambal valley is evergreen.
- **Challenges:** An insufficient prey base is still an issue in Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary, much like it has been in Kuno National Park
- **Leopard** population in Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary will pose a threat to cheetahs, they will compete for the same prey, and possibly even clash with each other in wild encounters.
- **About Project Cheetah:** The Cheetah Reintroduction Project in India formally commenced on **September 17, 2022**, to **restore the population of cheetahs**, which were declared extinct in the country in **1952**.
- The project involves the translocation of cheetahs from South Africa and Namibia to Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh.

RAILWAYS CONDUCTS TRIAL RUN ON WORLD'S HIGHEST ARCH RAIL BRIDGE IN J&K



- **Indian Railway conducted a successful trial run on the world's highest railway bridge, the Chenab Rail Bridge, in Jammu and Kashmir**, paving the way for rail services on the route from **Reasi to Baramulla**.
- The electrification work on this section was executed with state-of-the-art technology, ROCS, at 25 kV for the first time on railways.
- The completion of the railway line from Udhampur to Baramulla under the USBRL project aims to integrate the Kashmir valley with the broader Indian landscape, fostering social integration and boosting economic activities .
- **Chenab Rail Bridge (Chenab Arch Bridge):**
 - ♦ World's highest railway bridge on the Himalayan ranges.

- ♦ 359 meters (around 109 feet) above the Chenab river, and 35 meters taller than Paris' Eiffel Tower.
- ♦ Can resist high-velocity winds up to 260 kmph, extreme temperatures, earthquakes, etc.
- **Chenab River (aka Chandrabhaga):**
 - ♦ Formed by the confluence of the **Chandra and Bhaga rivers in the Lahaul-Spiti, Himachal Pradesh**.
 - ♦ Flows southwest into Pakistan, meeting Jhelum, Ravi and finally the Sutlej.

PM MODI INAUGURATES NEW NALANDA UNIVERSITY CAMPUS IN BIHAR



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited the ruins of **Nalanda Mahavihara** and **inaugurated the new campus of Nalanda University in Bihar**, emphasizing its significance in India's academic heritage and cultural exchange.
- Nalanda University was established through the Nalanda University Act, 2010, with participation from 17 countries, offering scholarships and various courses.
- The aim is to make India a prominent knowledge center globally, with a focus on developing a comprehensive skill system and advanced research-oriented higher education.

CABINET APPROVES VIABILITY GAP FUNDING (VGF) SCHEME FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF OFFSHORE WIND ENERGY PROJECTS



- The Union Cabinet approved the **Viability Gap Funding (VGF)** scheme for offshore wind energy projects.

- ₹7453 crore allocated, including ₹6853 crore for installing 1 GW of offshore wind energy in Gujarat and Tamil Nadu.
- ₹600 crore granted for upgrading two ports to support logistics for offshore wind projects.
- Aim to implement the National Offshore Wind Energy Policy to harness India's offshore wind potential.
- Projects to be developed by private developers via transparent bidding; infrastructure by Power Grid Corporation.
- Offshore wind offers higher reliability, lower storage needs, and greater employment potential than onshore alternatives.
- Expected benefits include investment attraction, job creation, and technology advancement for India's energy transition.
- 1 GW projects will annually produce 3.72 billion units of renewable electricity, reducing 2.98 million tons of CO2 emissions annually for 25 years.

MINISTRY OF COAL INITIATES INDIA'S FIRST EVER PILOT PROJECT FOR UNDERGROUND COAL GASIFICATION IN JHARKHAND



- The **Ministry of Coal** initiated India's first **Underground Coal Gasification (UCG) pilot project** at the **Kasta coal block in Jharkhand** to **convert coal into valuable gases like methane and hydrogen**.
- UCG unlocks economically unfeasible coal deposits and aims to revolutionize the coal industry with industrial applications like synthetic natural gas production.
- The project, managed by Eastern Coalfields Limited, Central Mine Planning and Design Institute, and Ergo Exergy Technologies Inc., is set to last two years with a focus on pilot-scale coal gasification.

PAKISTANI DELEGATION TO INSPECT TWO HYDROELECTRIC POWER PROJECTS (HEPS) UNDER INDUS WATER TREATY (IWT)

- A Pakistani delegation visited Jammu's Kishtwar to inspect **Kishanganga (330MW) and Ratle (850 MW) Hydroelectric Power Projects** under the **Indus Water Treaty (IWT) of 1960**.



- **Kishanganga Hydroelectric Power Projects:** Run-of-the-river hydroelectric project which diverts water from **Kishanganga River** to a **power plant in Jhelum River basin in J&K**.
- **Ratle Hydroelectric Power Projects:** Situated on **Chenab River in Kishtwar district, J&K**.
- Pakistan raised objections to several Indian hydropower projects in Jammu Kashmir and Ladakh.
- The Indus Water Treaty grants India rights over the eastern rivers and Pakistan rights over the western rivers, with limited Indian use of the western rivers.

KERALA FOREST DEPT. JOINS HANDS WITH KPPL TO ERADICATE INVASIVE PLANTS FROM WAYANAD WILDLIFE SANCTUARY



- The Forest department is working with **Kerala Paper Products Limited** to **remove invasive plants** like **Senna spectabilis** from the **Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary** to **protect wildlife habitats**.
- Trees with a girth above 10 cm will be girdled, while smaller trees will be uprooted as part of the removal process.
- The income generated from the project will be used for eco-restoration efforts within the sanctuary.

Defence and Military Exercises

INS SHIVALIK

INS Shivalik departed from Singapore for Yokosuka, Japan, on Saturday and is set to engage in the **Japan-India maritime exercise (Jimex)** and the **Rim of Pacific (Rimpac)** military exercise.

INS Shivalik Overview:

- The lead ship of the **Shivalik-class stealth multi-role frigates** in the **Indian Navy**.
- First stealth warship constructed by India.
- Built at Mazagon Dock Limited (MDL) in Mumbai.
- Commissioned into the Indian Navy on April 29, 2010.

Feature	Details
Class	Shivalik-class stealth multi-role frigates
Builder	Mazagon Dock Limited (MDL), Mumbai
Commissioned	April 29, 2010
Length	142.5 m (468 ft)
Beam	16.9 m (55 ft)
Draft	4.5 m (15 ft)
Displacement	Normal load: 4,900 tonnes (4,800 long tons; 5,400 short tons)
	Full load: 6,200 tonnes (6,100 long tons; 6,800 short tons)
Maximum Speed	32 knots (59 km/h)
Propulsion	CODOG (Combined Diesel or Gas)
Weapon Systems	3.0-inch Otobreda naval gun
	Klub and BrahMos supersonic anti-ship missiles
	Shtil-1 anti-aircraft missiles
	RBU-6000 anti-submarine rocket launchers
	DTA-53-956 torpedo launchers
Capabilities	Improved stealth and land-attacking features compared to Talwar-class frigates



IRIS-T MISSILE

A recent report indicates that the **Bundeswehr, Germany's armed forces, experienced the loss of an Iris-T missile**, raising serious concerns about the potential compromise of crucial technology.

- Developed under a **six-nation program led by Germany**, with Diehl BGT Defence as the industrial prime contractor.
- Participating nations: **Germany, Greece, Norway, Italy, Spain, and Sweden**.
- Capable of **neutralising threats posed by aircraft, cruise missiles, drones, and helicopters within a range of up to 40 km (25 miles)**.

Features

Feature	Description
Type	Next-generation short-range air-to-air missile
Range	Up to 40 km (25 miles)
Capability	Short-range and medium-range air defence
Target Engagement	Aircraft, cruise missiles, drones, helicopters
Maneuverability	Extreme maneuverability for close-in air-to-air combat
Seeker	Innovative infrared seeker
Control	Thrust-vector control
Motor	Dogfight-optimized motor

Operations	Point-blank to maximum range engagement
Launch Capabilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lock-on before launch (LOBL), • Lock-on after launch (LOAL)

STANDARD MISSILE 6 (SM-6)



- A multi-mission missile was capable of **antiair warfare, terminal ballistic missile defence, and antiship strike roles**.
- Raytheon Company developed it for the **United States Navy**.
- The first version became operational in **December 2014**.

Feature	Description
Role	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multi-mission: • Antiair warfare, • Terminal ballistic missile defence, • Anti-ship strike
Length	6.6 meters
Diameter	0.5 meters
Weight	1,500 kg
Warhead	64 kg blast fragmentation
Type	Extended-range active missile (ERAM)
Guidance Technologies	AMRAAM (Advanced Medium-Range Air-to-Air Missile)
Guidance Method	Semi-active homing and active homing
Surface-to-Air Published Range	240 km
Estimated Maximum Range	Up to 463 km

MATSYA-6000



India's Deep-Sea Mission

- **India's Position:** Set to be the 6th country to have its own deep-sea mission.
- **1st Stage of Harbour Trial:** Planned for September 2024, to a depth of 40-50 meters.
- **Economic Potential:** Expected to significantly contribute to the overall growth of the Indian economy.

Matsya 6000

- **Type:** Three-person submersible.
- **Depth Capability:** Can go 6,000 meters under the sea.
- **Developer:** National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), Chennai.
- **Structure:** Made of 80mm-thick titanium alloy, capable of withstanding pressure 600 times greater than sea level.
- **Operational Duration:** Can operate from 12 to 16 hours straight.
- **Oxygen Supply:** 96 hours.

National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT)

- **Establishment:** November 1993.
- **Status:** Autonomous society under the Ministry of Earth Sciences.
- **Objectives:** Develop reliable indigenous technologies to solve engineering problems related to harvesting non-living and living resources in the **Indian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)**, about two-thirds of India's land area.

Deep Ocean Mission (DOM)

- **Purpose:** Explore and harness the ocean's depths.
- **Duration:** Five-year mission.
- **Approval:** Union Cabinet approved in 2021.
- **Budget:** Nearly ₹4,077 crore.

- **Aims:**
 - ♦ Develop technologies for deep-sea mining.
 - ♦ Develop manned submersibles and underwater robotics.
 - ♦ Provide ocean climate change advisory services.
 - ♦ Conduct deep-ocean survey and exploration.

EXERCISE RED FLAG 2024



The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** contingent participated in **Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska, USA**. It was conducted between **04 June and 14 June 2024**.

About Exercise Red Flag 2024

- **Edition:** Second edition of **Exercise Red Flag 2024**.
- **Frequency:** Advanced aerial combat training exercises are **held four times a year** by the US Air Force.
- **Participants:**
 - ♦ Indian Air Force (IAF)
 - ♦ Republic of Singapore Air Force (RSAF)
 - ♦ Royal Air Force (RAF) of the United Kingdom
 - ♦ Royal Netherlands Air Force (RNLAf)
 - ♦ German Luftwaffe
 - ♦ United States Air Force (USAF)

Exercise Details

- **Nature:** Air combat exercise featuring realistic combat scenarios.
- **Forces:**
 - ♦ **Red Force:** Simulating Air Defence, primarily with USAF Aggressor Squadron's F-16 and F-15 aircraft.
 - ♦ **Blue Force:** Simulating Offensive Composite Elements.
- **IAF Debut:** This year marked the debut of the Indian Air Force's Rafale aircraft in the exercise.
- **Aircraft:** IAF Rafale operates alongside RSAF and USAF F-16s, F-15s, and A-10s.

- **Missions:** Included Beyond Visual Range combat exercises in Large Force Engagements, focusing on Offensive Counter Air and Air Defence roles.

EXERCISE TARANG SHAKTI



- The Indian Air Force (IAF) will host an air exercise, **Tarang Shakti-2024, in August**.

About Exercise Tarang Shakti

- **First Multinational Air Exercise** hosted by the Indian Air Force.
- **Schedule:**
 - ♦ **Phase 1:** Southern India, first two weeks of August.
 - ♦ **Phase 2:** Western sector, end of August to mid-September.
- **Participating Countries:**
 - ♦ Australia, France, Germany, Japan, Spain, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, and the United States.
 - ♦ Germany will deploy fighter jets and an **A-400M transport aircraft**.
- **Aims:**
 - ♦ Foster professional interactions.
 - ♦ Enrich the employment philosophy of participating forces.
 - ♦ Facilitate the exchange of valuable insights.
 - ♦ Enhance tactical and operational capabilities through collaboration.

INS SUNAYNA

- **Event:** **INS Sunayna visited Mombasa, Kenya, from 20-23 June 2023**.
- **Purpose:** Strengthening bilateral ties with maritime neighbours on the Ocean Ring of Yoga theme.

About INS Sunayna

- **Class:** Saryu class Offshore Patrol Vessel.
- **Commissioning:** Commissioned at Kochi.

- **Command:** Based under Southern Naval Command.
- **Builder:** Goa Shipyard Limited.

Features

- **Operations:** Designed for fleet support, coastal and offshore patrolling, ocean surveillance, monitoring Sea Lines of Communications and offshore assets, and escort duties.
- **Speed:** Can achieve speeds of **25 knots**.
- **Systems:** Equipped with an automatic power management system.
- **Technology:** Fitted with the latest Navigation, Communication, and Electronic Support Systems.
- **Other Saryu Class Ships:** Includes INS Sumitra and INS Sumedha



FIRE DRAGON 480

Developed by China's Norinco Group, the Fire Dragon 480 is a **Chinese long-range rocket designed for export purposes**.

Specifications:

- **Size and Type:** It is a 750-mm tactical ballistic missile equipped with precision-guidance sensors, enabling it to target moving objects accurately.
- **Launch Capability:** Deployed from a high-speed wheeled platform capable of operating in rugged environments.
- **Warhead:** Features a warhead that exceeds 400 kg and is significantly larger than conventional anti-ship missiles.
- **Impact Velocity:** With an impact velocity surpassing 500 meters per second, it is capable of sinking a 10,000-tonne cruiser with just two missiles.
- **Range:** Initially thought to have a range limit of 290 km (180 miles), recent Chinese studies suggest it could effectively reach over 500 km.

Adoption: Officially adopted by the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) in 2019.

Export Deal: The only publicly known export transaction was a \$245 million agreement with the United Arab Emirates.



STRYKER ARMoured INFANTRY COMBAT VEHICLES (ICVS)



- A family of eight-wheel-drive combat armoured infantry combat vehicles (ICVs). It is jointly developed by **General Dynamics Land Systems (GDLS) Canada and the General Dynamics Land Systems Division in the United States**.
- The first new military vehicle inducted into **US Army service** since the **Abrams tank** in the 1980s.
- **Mobility:** Capable of swift response to insurgencies or **war-like situations, moving faster than tanks** on paved roads to deploy infantry squads quickly.
- **Protection:** Demonstrated higher survivability against improvised explosive devices (IEDs) compared to other light military vehicles.
- **Transportability:** It can be transported via **Chinook helicopters** by the **Indian Air Force**.

Features

- **Armament:** Equipped with a 30 mm cannon and a 105 mm mobile gun.
- **Armor:** V-hull design with a **high-hardness steel hull and ceramic tile armour** for enhanced protection.
- **Crew and Capacity:** Manned by a two-person crew and can carry a nine-man infantry squad.

- **Performance:** Offers a range of 483 kilometres and achieves a top speed of approximately 100 km/h.

JAVELIN ANTI-TANK MISSILE

It is a type of **man-portable antitank-guided missile (ATGM) system**.

American defence majors Raytheon and Lockheed Martin jointly developed and produced it.

Purpose: Designed to defeat heavily armoured vehicles, including **main battle tanks and lighter-skinned military vehicles**.

Versatility: Capable of targeting fortifications, bunkers, and helicopters.

Service Entry: First entered service with the U.S. military in 1996.

Dimensions and Weight:

- Length: Approximately 1.2 meters
- Diameter: 127 mm
- Weight: 22.1 kg

Warhead: Carries an **8.4 kg tandem-charge, high-explosive antitank (HEAT) warhead**.

Range: Qualified maximum range of 2,500 meters.

Guidance System: Uses **“fire-and-forget” technology** with automatic infrared guidance for autonomous target engagement.

Deployment: Typically shoulder-fired but can be mounted on wheeled or tracked vehicles.

Additional Capabilities: It can be fired in direct attack mode to destroy ground targets or upwards to engage low-flying aircraft like helicopters.

Reload Time: Approximately one minute for reload and reacquire readiness



INDIAN ARMY'S SKIN BANK

Indian Army started a facility for **collecting, processing, and storing donated skin for medical use**.

- **Donor Eligibility:**
 - ♦ Skin can be donated within **six hours of death**.
 - ♦ Donors must be at least 18 years old and free from specific conditions like AIDS, Hepatitis B & C,

sexually transmitted diseases, skin cancer, active skin diseases, and septicemia.

Donation Process:

- ♦ Skin is collected and processed over five to six weeks after donation.
- ♦ Preserved in **85% glycerol solution and stored at 4-5 degrees Celsius** for up to five years.

Utilisation:

- ♦ Provides critical resources for treating severe burn injuries and other skin-related conditions.
- ♦ Used in surgical procedures like skin grafting.

Skin Grafting

- **Definition:** Surgical procedure to transplant healthy skin to damaged or missing skin areas.

Types:

- ♦ **Autograft:** Skin taken from another part of the patient's own body.
- ♦ **Allograft:** Skin taken from a donor, often sourced from a skin bank.

- **Medical Use:** Essential for treating burn victims and patients with extensive skin damage.

These facilities and procedures are crucial in providing timely and effective treatment for severe skin injuries within military medical services and beyond.

TAPAS UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLE (UAV)

Recently, the central government purchased **10 TAPAS drones**.

About TAPAS UAV:

- Full Name: Tactical Airborne Platform for Aerial Surveillance Beyond Horizon-201 (Tapas BH-201)
- It was previously known as **Rustom-II**
- Developed By: **Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE) of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)**
- Purpose: Designed to fulfil the
 - ♦ Intelligence,
 - ♦ Surveillance,
 - ♦ Target Acquisition,
 - ♦ Tracking & Reconnaissance (ISTAR) requirements of the tri-services
- Operational Capabilities: Effective operation both day and night

Features:

Feature	Details
Operating Altitude	30,000 feet
Endurance	24 hours
Range	250 km

Payload Capacity	Up to 350 kg
Wing Span	20.6 meters
Maximum Speed	225 km/h
Control	Remote control and autonomous execution of pre-programmed flight plans
Enhanced Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aerodynamic configuration • Digital flight control • Navigation system • Communication Intelligence • Medium and long-range electro-optic payloads • Synthetic aperture radar for seeing through clouds

KALIBR MISSILE



- A Russian submarine recently used a **Kalibr cruise missile** in the Sea of Japan to hit a land target over 1,000 kilometres away in a drill.

About Kalibr Missile:

- Family of **Russian cruise missiles**
- Can be launched from ships, submarines, containers, aeroplanes, or transport erector launchers

Variants	Anti-ship, anti-submarine, land attack purposes
Developer/Producer	Russia's Almaz-Antey corporation
Mass	1,300 kg to 2,300 kg (depending on variant)
Length	6.2 m to 8.9 m (depending on variant)
Diameter	0.533 m
Warhead Weight	400-500 kg
Warhead Type	High explosive or thermonuclear material

Engine	Multi-stage solid-fuel rocket engine , some versions with turbojet or solid-fuel rocket
Guidance System	Inertial guidance with satellite navigation update
Terminal Stage	Accelerates to supersonic speed to avoid enemy defences
Range	200 km to 2,500 km (depending on type)

EXERCISE HOPEX



Exercise HOPEX

- Fourth joint exercise of **IAF (Indian Air Force)** and **EAF (Egyptian Air Force)**
- Held in Egypt from 21 to 26 June
- Aim: To promote bilateral and regional cooperation
- Symbol of long-standing relations between India and Egypt

Participation

- Indian Air Force's Rafale fighter jets in Egypt for Ex-HOPEX
- C-17 Globemaster and IL-78 tankers also participating in the weeklong exercise

India and Egypt Relationship

- Diplomatic relations began on 18 August 1947 at the ambassadorial level
- Both countries are founding members of the Non-Aligned Movement
- In 2022, India and Egypt celebrated the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations, reflecting the depth of their relationship

RIM OF THE PACIFIC (RIMPAC) EXERCISE

- It is the world's largest **international maritime exercise, held in Hawaii**.
- It aims to **enhance interoperability and build trust among friendly foreign countries' navies**.
- The exercise is held under the "**Partners: Integrated and Prepared**" theme until August 1.



- It is led by the US Navy, with approximately **29 countries participating in the current edition.**

Harbour Phase (27 June - 07 July 2024)

- The harbour phase will see participation in multiple symposiums.
- It will include exercise planning discussions.
- Participants will engage in sports competitions.
- There will be reciprocal deck visits.

Sea Phase (RIMPAC-24)

- The sea phase is divided into three sub-phases.
- The first two sub-phases will witness ships **undertaking basic and advanced-level integration exercises.**
- The exercise will involve an **aircraft carrier battle group, submarines, and maritime reconnaissance aircraft.**
- Unmanned aerial vehicles and remotely piloted surface ships will also participate.
- There will be amphibious force landing operations.
- Joint operations with special forces of multinational navies will take place.

Significance

- The exercise provides a unique training opportunity.
- It fosters and sustains cooperative relationships among participants.
- It is critical for ensuring the safety of sea lanes and the security of the world's oceans.

RBI KEEPS REPO RATE UNCHANGED TO CONTROL INFLATION, UPS THIS YEAR'S GDP GROWTH FORECAST TO 7.2%



- **RBI Monetary Policy** decisions for June 2024 were announced, maintaining the **policy repo rate at 6.5% with other rates unchanged.**
- Key decisions included CPI inflation projections, FPI inflows, third-party UPI apps usage, and a new mobile app for retail investors.
- Real GDP growth for FY25 is projected at 7.2%, with quarterly growth rates specified.

NEW ZEALAND TO HELP J&K GOVT. DOUBLE FARM PRODUCE



- **New Zealand** signed a Memorandum of Cooperation with the JK government to transform the sheep farming sector, aiming to double produce and improve quality of livestock products.
- OYO Group partnered with the JK government to launch rural home stays, promoting economic opportunities and sustainable tourism in underpenetrated areas.

US BECOMES INDIA'S TOP DEFENCE EXPORT PARTNER, TAKES OVER 50% MARKET SHARE



- **India's defence exports to the US** exceeded \$2.8 billion over 5 years, comprising over **50% of total exports.**
- US-India defence partnerships emphasize co-production and co-development, making the US India's top defence exports destination.
- India's defence exports grew ten-fold in 5 years, reaching \$1.6 billion in FY22-23, supported by US acquisitions.
- US companies collaborate with Indian entities, including PSUs and MSMEs, fostering technology transfer and innovation.
- US defence industry investments in India have created 28,000 direct jobs and benefited over 2.6 million people through various social initiatives.

NATIONAL STOCK EXCHANGE (NSE) CHIEF CAUTIONED RETAIL INVESTORS AGAINST DERIVATIVES TRADING

- Retail investors are cautioned against **trading in derivatives and advised to invest in equities through mutual funds by NSE chief Ashishkumar Chauhan.**
- Retail investors are losing money in the equity FO segment, with 89% suffering losses in FY22 .
- SEBI proposed stricter norms for entry of individual stocks in the derivatives segment to weed out low turnover stocks.



IEP' GLOBAL PEACE INDEX 2024: INDIA STANDS AT 116TH RANK OUT OF 163 COUNTRIES



- The **Global Peace Index (GPI) 2024**, published by the **Institute for Economics & Peace (IEP)**, provides a comprehensive measure of global peacefulness, evaluating 163 independent states and territories.
- **India stands at 116th Rank out of 163 countries.** In the Global Peace Index (GPI) 2024, India has climbed 10 positions from the previous year and is now ranked 116th out of 163 countries.
- Europe is the most peaceful region, while the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) is the least peaceful.
- North America saw the largest deterioration due to increased violent crime.
- Safety and Security domain improved slightly, with reductions in violent demonstrations and terrorism impact.

INDIA IS WORLD'S SECOND LARGEST EMITTER OF NITROUS OXIDE



- **India is the world's second largest source of nitrous oxide (N2O)**, a greenhouse gas that heats the atmosphere far more than carbon dioxide.
- India is the world's second largest emitter of nitrous oxide (N2O), **mainly from fertilizer use, contributing 10.9% of global man-made emissions in 2020.**
- N2O concentrations are rising faster than predicted by the IPCC, reaching 336 parts per billion in 2022, significantly impacting global warming.
- To limit global temperature rise, anthropogenic N2O emissions must decrease by at least 20% by 2050, as per the IPCC.

INDIA AT 176 AMONG 180 COUNTRIES IN ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE INDEX 2024



- **India ranks 176th out of 180 countries in the 2024 Environmental Performance Index**, indicating poor environmental performance.
- Major challenges include poor air quality, biodiversity concerns, and high greenhouse gas emissions.
- Despite challenges, India shows progress in climate change initiatives like renewable energy projects and aiming for net-zero emissions by 2070.
- **Challenges:** India faces severe challenges in air quality, biodiversity, and greenhouse gas emissions.
- **Progress:** Despite challenges, India shows improvement in climate change initiatives and sector-specific improvements.
- **Policy:** Heavy reliance on coal hampers India's environmental performance despite some sector-specific gains.
- **Needs:** India requires significant financial investments, estimated at \$160 billion annually, to meet sustainability and climate goals.

INDIA NOW 3RD-LARGEST DOMESTIC AIRLINE MARKET; CAPACITY DOUBLES IN 10 YEARS



- India's remarkable growth in the domestic aviation sector over the past decade, becoming the **world's third-largest market**.
- Dominance of low-cost carriers (LCCs) like IndiGo, holding 78.4% of the domestic airline market.
- Significant infrastructure development with the number of airports doubling from 74 to 157 in the last ten years.
- India's sustained growth trajectory amidst global challenges, positioning it as a key player in the global aviation industry.

STAGNANT MILLET PRODUCTION IN INDIA: RBI ANNUAL REPORT 2023-24



- Report highlighted that while India accounts for nearly **80% of Asia's and 20% of global millet production**, the acreage and production of millets have stagnated over the years.
- India accounts for a significant portion of millet production in Asia and globally, but production has stagnated due to reasons like labor shortages and consumer preference shifts.
- Millets are small cereal grains rich in nutrients like protein, fat, carbohydrates, and dietary fiber, with major types including sorghum and pearl millet.

- Initiatives like National Food Security Mission and observance of National and International years of millets aim to promote millet production and consumption in India.

UNESCO RELEASES STATE OF THE OCEAN REPORT (2024)

STATE OF THE OCEAN REPORT 2024

- Recently, the **UNESCO State of Ocean Report 2024** highlighted the need for enhanced **oceanographic research** and **data collection** to address escalating ocean crises, including **warming, acidification, deoxygenation and rising sea levels**.
- The State of the Ocean Report aims to inform policymakers about the current state of the ocean.
- It supports the 2030 Agenda and SDG 14, along with global frameworks like the UNFCCC and the Convention on Biological Diversity.
- Structured around the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, the Report assesses progress and future goals.
- Over 100 authors from 28 countries contributed to the comprehensive analysis.
- It covers ocean science, addressing physical, chemical, ecological, socio-economic, and governance aspects.

UNICEF RELEASES "CHILD NUTRITION REPORT, 2024"



- **Global Child Food Poverty:** Unicef's metric reveals a crisis affecting 181 million children under 5 worldwide.
- **Severity of Poverty:** 27% of these children are surviving on poor diets categorized as severe child food poverty.

- **India's Status:** India is among the top countries with 40% of children facing severe child food poverty, defined by inadequate access to nutritious diets.
- **Causes and Impacts:** Factors include poor food environments, feeding practices, and poverty, impacting both poor and non-poor households.
- **Nutrition and Development:** Children facing severe food poverty are three times more likely to suffer from stunting, affecting educational outcomes and future earning potential.
- **Dietary Diversity:** Proper nutrition requires children to consume foods from at least five of eight food groups, crucial for healthy development.
- **Global Perspective:** Two-thirds of children under 5 globally are affected by child food poverty, hindering their access to diverse and nutritious diets.

Child food poverty is measured using the UNICEF and World Health Organization (WHO) dietary diversity score. To meet the *minimum dietary diversity* for healthy growth and development, children need to consume foods from **at least five out of the eight** defined food groups.

If children are fed:	0-2 food groups/day they are living in severe child food poverty	3-4 food groups/day they are living in moderate child food poverty	5 or more food groups/day they are not living in child food poverty
	Breastmilk Grains, roots, tubers and plantains Pulses, nuts and seeds Dairy products Flesh foods (meat, poultry and fish) Eggs Vitamin A-rich fruits and vegetables Other fruits and vegetables		

WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM (WEF) RELEASED 'GLOBAL GENDER GAP REPORT 2024'



- The **Global Gender Gap Report 2024** by the **World Economic Forum** benchmarks gender parity across **146 economies, tracking progress in health, education, economy, and politics.**
- The global gender gap score, interpreted as the percentage of the gender gap that has been closed, stands at **68.5 per cent** for 2024, improving by a mere **0.1 percentage point** from last year.
- Overall, **India was ranked 129th (ranked 127 in 2023), and 5th in South Asia after Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Bhutan.**
- Saw small declines in Educational Attainment and Political Empowerment while Economic Participation and Opportunity slightly improved.

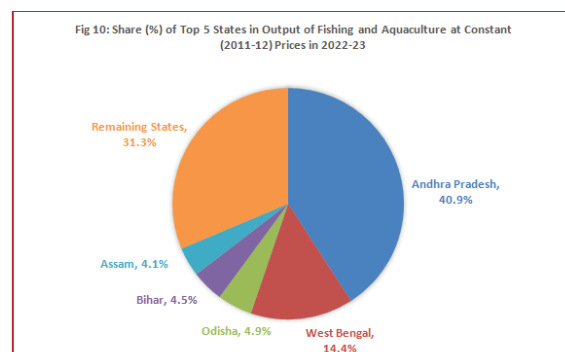
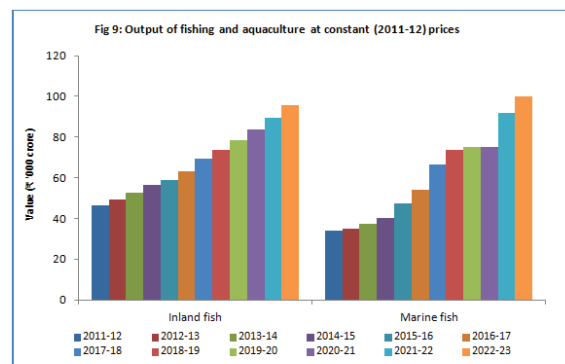
- Shares of women are high in primary, secondary and tertiary education enrolments.

CONTAINER PORT PERFORMANCE INDEX (CPPI) 2023



- **India's port** development program received a significant boost with **9 ports included in the Global Top 100 for the first time in the Container Port Performance Index (CPPI) 2023.**
- High turnaround times at Indian ports impact efficiency and increase costs for shipping companies, with average turnaround times at major Indian ports being 2.48 days in 2022, compared to the global average of 0.97 days

RELEASE OF PUBLICATION 'STATISTICAL REPORT ON VALUE OF OUTPUT FROM AGRICULTURE AND ALLIED SECTORS 2024



- **The National Statistical Office (NSO)**, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) is releasing Publication- 'Statistical Report on Value of Output from Agriculture and Allied Sectors 2024'.

Key Highlights

- Agriculture and allied sectors accounted for 18.2% of the Gross Value Added (GVA) at current prices in 2022-23.
- Share of various sub-sectors are Crop (54.3%), Livestock (30.9%), Forestry (7.9%), and Fishing and aquaculture (6.9%).
- Output trend of sub-sectors (2011-12 to 2022-23):
 - ♦ **Crop:** Declined from 62.4% to 54.3%.
 - ♦ **Livestock:** Increased steadily from 487.8 thousand crore to 878.5 thousand crore.
 - ♦ **Forestry:** Increased from ₹ 149 thousand crore to ₹ 223 thousand crore.
 - ♦ **Fishing:** Increased steadily from thousand crore to ₹ 195 thousand crore.

India and The World

AMENDMENTS TO INTERNATIONAL HEALTH REGULATIONS 2005



- The **77th World Health Assembly** adopted amendments to International Health Regulations 2005 based on 300 proposals by member states after the Covid-19 pandemic.
- The targeted amendments to the International Health Regulations (IHR) aim at improving countries' ability to prepare for and respond to **Public Health Emergencies of International Concern (PHEIC) and Pandemic Emergencies (PE)**.
- They include provisions for **facilitating equitable access** to relevant health products during PHEIC and PE, as well as **mobilizing financial resources** to support developing countries in building, strengthening, and maintaining the core capacities required under the IHR (2005).

Key Amendments Agreed to IHR

- Introduction of a definition of pandemic emergency to **enhance international collaboration in response to potential pandemics**.
- It includes criteria such as wide geographical spread, exceeding health system capacity, causing social and economic disruption, and requiring rapid international action.
- **Commitment to Solidarity and Equity** includes establishing a Coordinating Financial Mechanism to support the identification and access to financing needed to address the needs and priorities of developing countries.
- **Cooperation for Effective Implementation** involves creation of a States Parties Committee to promote

cooperation and effective implementation of the amended regulations

- The creation of **National IHR Authorities** to improve coordination of implementation within and among countries.

About World Health Assembly

- The World Health Assembly (WHA) is **WHO's decision-making body** attended by delegations from all of WHO's member states.
- It is held yearly at the headquarter of WHO, i.e., **Geneva, Switzerland**.

COLUMBO PROCESS

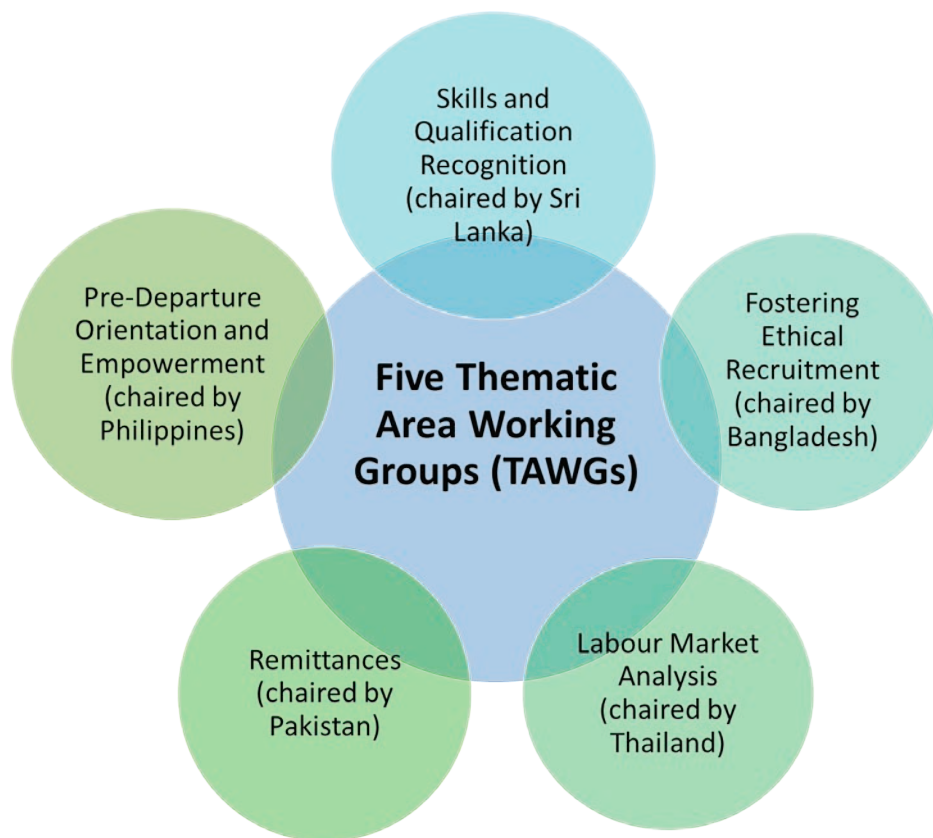


- India assumed the **Chair of Colombo Process for 2024-26, for the first time since its inception**.
- The chairmanship aims to **promote safe, orderly and legal migration**.

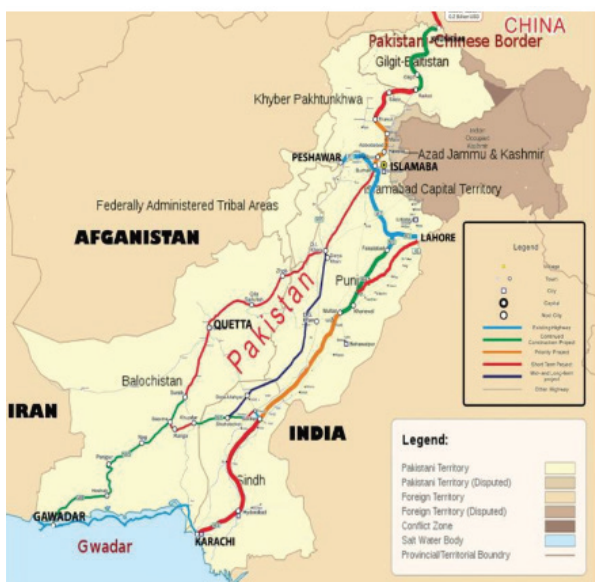
About Colombo Process

- Colombo Process is a **Regional Consultative Process** of migrant worker origin countries from **South and South East Asia**.
- It serves as a forum for exchange of best practices on overseas employment.
- It comprises **12 Member States of Asia (countries of origin of migrant workers)**.
- Its members are **Afghanistan, Bangladesh, China, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Vietnam**.
- India has been a member of the Colombo Process since its inception in **2003**.

- The process is **non-binding**, and decision-making is by consensus.
- There are **five Thematic Working Area Groups**:
- The process is coordinated through the Permanent Missions of Member States at the United Nations in Geneva.



CHINA-PAKISTAN ECONOMIC CORRIDOR (CPEC)



- The **second phase of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)** is expected to be **formally announced** during the visit of Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to China.
- The **\$62-billion CPEC**, which was launched in **2015**, is part of President Xi Jinping's **Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)**, aimed at expanding China's geopolitical influence through billions of dollars of investments in infrastructure projects in around 100 countries.
- It is a **development project** that raises significant **security concerns for India** due to its strategic location and potential military implications.
- The main objectives of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) include the **development of Pakistan's economy** through the **modernization of its road, rail, air, and energy transportation infrastructure**.
- The project aims to provide connectivity between **Pakistan's Gwadar and Karachi deep-sea ports** and China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region and other areas through land roads.

NEW NON-PERMANENT MEMBERS OF UNSC

Security Council Elections 2024 RESULTS					
Elected Candidates	Denmark	Greece	Pakistan	Panama	Somalia
					
Number of Votes	184	182	182	183	179

- **Pakistan, Somalia, Denmark, Greece, and Panama** have been elected as non-permanent members of the UN Security Council for a **two-year period starting in 2025**.
- The five individuals were chosen through a confidential voting process in the United Nations General Assembly to serve a two-year period commencing on **January 1, 2025, and concluding on December 31, 2026**.

Election process for non-permanent seats on the UNSC

- The United Nations Security Council is a **15 member body** consisting of five permanent members (China, France, Russian Federation, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America) and **10 non-permanent members** elected by the General Assembly for a **term of two years**.
- **Rule 142 of the rules of procedure:** The United Nations General Assembly has to elect each year five non-permanent members of the Security Council based on the following pattern,
 - ♦ Five from African and Asian States
 - ♦ One from Eastern European State
 - ♦ Two from Latin American States
 - ♦ Two from Western European and other States.
- **Election:** The members are elected by a secret ballot **with 2/3 majority** and there are no nominations.
- **Re-election:** The rule 144 of the rules of procedure states that, a retiring member is not eligible for immediate re-election.
- **Current and Incoming Members:** The new members will replace outgoing countries such as Mozambique, Japan, Ecuador, Malta, and Switzerland.

BIOPHARMACEUTICAL ALLIANCE

- Recently, **India, South Korea, the US, Japan, and the EU** launched the Biopharmaceutical Alliance.



- It was launched in response to the **drug supply shortages experienced during the Covid-19 pandemic**.
- The announcement was made at the inaugural meeting of the Biopharmaceutical Alliance, held in **San Diego, California**, during the Bio International Convention 2024, the world's largest biopharmaceutical exhibition.
- The alliance will help in building a **detailed pharmaceutical supply chain map** to reduce dependence on other countries (China) where the production of essential raw materials and ingredients is concentrated.

FIVE NEW COUNTRIES JOINED BRICS



- India welcomed **Egypt, Iran, UAE, Saudi Arabia and Ethiopia** joining the BRICS as their representatives attended for the first time a key meeting of the **grouping hosted by Russia**.
- It was the **first ministerial meeting following BRICS expansion in 2023** when **Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE** joined the grouping as full-fledged BRICS members.

About BRICS

- BRICS is an **acronym for the grouping** of the world's leading **emerging economies**, namely Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.
- The **BRICS Leaders' Summit is held every year**.
- The **15th BRICS Summit was hosted by South Africa in 2023**, and **Russia will host the 16th Brics summit in October 2024**.

INDIA-AUSTRALIA COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC COOPERATION AGREEMENT (CECA)

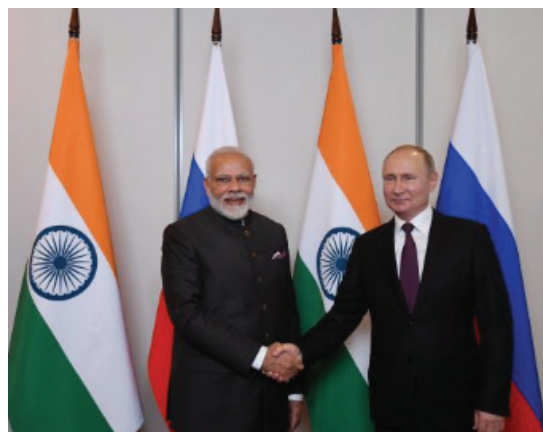


- Australia is actively working towards completing the **Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA)** with India over the next 6-7 months, before their federal elections in mid-2025.

About CECA

- The CECA agreement between the two countries is expected to include **deeper market access and impact digital trade**, goods, services, rules of origin and government procurement, and cooperation.
- CECA are types of agreements that primarily **address trade tariff and tariff rate quotas**.
- **Australia and India first launched negotiations** for a CECA in **May 2011**.
- After suspension in 2016, it was **re-launched in 2021** with the intention of quickly concluding an ECTA to **liberalise and deepen bilateral trade in goods and services**.
- The CECA is intended to **cover 5 main tracks** i.e. goods, services, digital trade, government procurement and Rules of Origin/Product Specific Rules Schedule.
- New areas of interest include **competition policy, MSMEs, innovation, agri-tech, critical minerals and sports**.

DRAFT RECIPROCAL EXCHANGE OF LOGISTICS AGREEMENT (RELOS)



- Russia has recently approved a **draft logistics agreement with India**, ending years of delays.

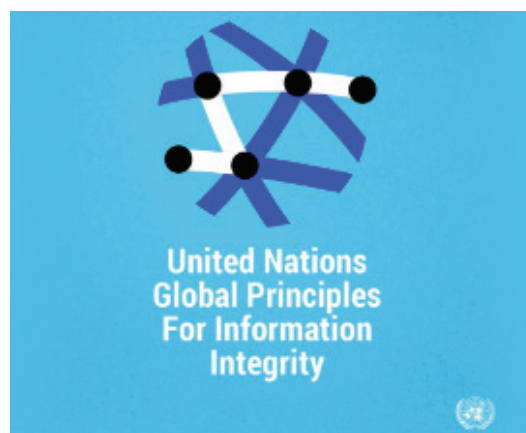
About RELOS

- The **Reciprocal Exchange of Logistics Agreement** is an **administrative agreement** that would **enable the militaries of both the countries** to access logistics and support facilities at each other's bases and ports.
- It would **facilitate the replenishment of fuel, rations, spare parts** and berthing for troops, warships and aircrafts while operating away from home ports and bases during the war and peacetime missions.
- The agreement would enable maintenance facilities to warships and military aircraft at each other's bases.
- It streamlines **military logistics support**, making joint operations more efficient and cost-effective.

Significance of RELOS

- An agreement such as **RELOS** would **enable the Indian Navy to have greater operational reach in the Arctic**.
- It would **provide logistics** and other required facilities to Indian naval ships venturing through the region.

UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL PRINCIPLES FOR INFORMATION INTEGRITY



- Recently, the **United Nations (UN)** unveiled the **Global Principles for Information Integrity**, a comprehensive framework aimed at addressing the escalating threats posed by misinformation, disinformation, and hate speech in the digital realm.
- The United Nations stressed the **importance of protecting human rights** and highlighted the immediate requirement for a well-coordinated global effort to enhance the safety and humanity of online platforms.

About Global Principles for Information Integrity

- Its origins are in the **2021 UN report Our Common Agenda**, which envisioned future global cooperation and multilateral action.

- It aims to **create healthier, safer information environments that uphold human rights and promote peaceful societies** and a sustainable future.
- At a time when billions of people are exposed to false narratives, distortions, and lies, these principles lay out a clear path forward, firmly rooted in human rights, including the **right to freedom of expression and opinion**.

GOLDEN VISA SCHEME OF PORTUGAL

- Portugal plans to adapt its golden visa scheme to allow wealthy foreigners seeking residency rights to invest in **affordable housing for locals or accommodation for migrants**.

About Golden Visa Programme

- The golden visa programme was **established with the purpose of attracting non-EU individuals** to make

investments in Portugal, granting them the privilege of residing in the country.

- Investing in real estate, allocating funds to **specific investment vehicles, and contributing to cultural or research initiatives** that provide employment.



MOU and Agreements

SPARSH SERVICE CENTRES

SPARSH

System for Pension Administration (Raksha)

- **Defence Accounts Department (DAD)**, Ministry of Defence has signed Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with **four banks** namely- Bank of India, Canara Bank, Central Bank of India and Utkarsh Small Finance Bank in New Delhi to onboard them as **SPARSH [System for Pension Administration (Raksha)]** Service Centres.
- The centres will be opened across 1,128 branches of the four banks across the country.
- The MoUs will provide **last-mile connectivity to pensioners**, especially in remote areas where they do not have technical wherewithal to log on to SPARSH.
- These Service Centres will become an interface for pensioners for SPARSH, providing an effective medium to update their profile; **register grievances**; digital annual identification; data verification, besides fetching detailed information regarding their monthly pension. The access to these centres would be provided free of cost, with nominal service charges being borne by the DAD.

What is SPARSH [System for Pension Administration (Raksha)] initiative?

- SPARSH is an initiative of the **Ministry of Defence** which aims to provide **comprehensive solutions to the defence pensioners**.

- It is a fundamental change in managing defence pensions as it focuses on bringing in **efficiency, responsiveness and transparency**.

CSC SIGNS MOU TO CONVERT 10,000 FPOS INTO CSCS



- An **MoU between CSC SPV and Ministry of Agriculture & Farmer's Welfare** was signed to convert FPOs registered under 'Formation & Promotion of 10,000 FPOs scheme' into CSCs and help them to deliver citizen-centric services.
- As per MoU, **10,000 FPOs will be converted into CSCs**.
- CSC SPV will enable them to provide the services that are available on the **Digital Seva Portal**. Training and Capacity Building of FPOs will be done by CSCs.
- The **delivery of CSC services through FPOs** will increase employment opportunities in rural areas.
- CSCs scheme, which is one of the mission mode projects of the Digital India Programme, are providing various services to farmers, **including tele-consultation, crop insurance, e-veterinary, Kisan Credit Card, and PM Kisan schemes**.

NO GOVT. SERVANT CAN CLAIM PROMOTION AS THEIR RIGHT



- The Supreme Court in its **recent judgement** has **declared that promotion** is not a fundamental right for government servants in India, as the Constitution does not prescribe any criteria for filling promotional posts.
- The SC stated that- The terms '**merit-cum-seniority**' or '**seniority-cum-merit**' are not statutorily defined by legislature.
- These principles are judicial connotations that have evolved over a period of years through various decisions of this court & HCs whilst dealing with matters of promotion pertaining to different statutes and service conditions.
- Hence, the above **two parameters are not mandatory** since these are not backed by law enacted by legislature.
- These are **products of judicial interpretation**, which evolved while dealing with different types of promotion policies.

Constitutional Provisions Related to Reservation

- **Article 15 (6)**: It enables the State to make special provisions for the advancement of any **economically weaker section of citizens**, including reservations in educational institutions. The amendment was added through the **103rd Constitutional Amendment Act 2019**.
- **Article 16 (4)**: Provides that the State can make any provision for the reservation of appointments or posts in favour of any backward class of citizens who, in the

opinion of the state, are not adequately represented in the services under the State.

- **Article 16 (4A)**: Provides that the State can make any provision for reservation in matters of promotion in favour of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes if they are not adequately represented in the services under the State.
- **Article 16(4B)**: It enabled the unfilled SC/ST quota of a particular year to be carried forward to the next year.
- **Article 16 (6)**: It enables the State to make provisions for reservation in appointments. These provisions will be **subject to a 10% ceiling**, in addition to the existing reservations. The amendment was also added through the 103rd Constitutional Amendment Act 2019.
- **Article 335**: It recognises that special measures need to be adopted for considering the claims of SCs and STs to services and posts, in order to bring them at par.
- **82nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 2000**: It inserted a condition at the end of Article 335 that enabled the state to make any provision in favour of the members of the SC/STs for relaxation in qualifying marks in any examination.

GENERAL ELECTIONS 2024

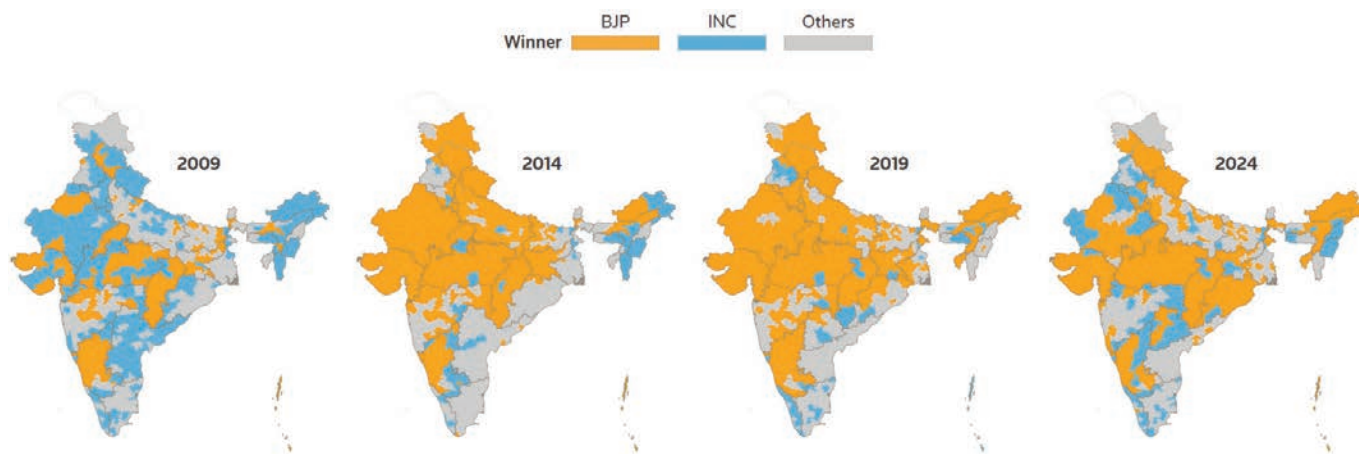


GENERAL ELECTIONS 2024



- Recently, for the **first time since 1962**, a government has returned for a **third term** after completing **two consecutive terms** spanning a decade. However, the result signifies the **end of single-party dominance** and heralds the return of a true coalition government at the Centre.
- The Bharatiya Janata Party suffered a major setback as it fell short of a majority – with 240 seats – on its own as it was heavily dependent on alliance partners such as the **TDP and JD(U) to secure 272 seats required to form the government**.

- **Seats won:**
- The **Opposition INDIA bloc** combined by the Congress, the Samajwadi Party, Trinamool Congress, Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam won a total of 232 seats.
- The Congress got back on its feet with 99 seats and the SP gave a stunning show by winning 37 seats from a mere 5 seats in Uttar Pradesh in 2019.
- The TMC won 29 seats in West Bengal while the DMK had leads in 22 seats.
- The Sharad Pawar-led NCP won 7 seats and the Shiv Sena of Uddhav Thackeray secured 9 seats.
- In Bihar, the RJD was ahead in 4 constituencies and the AAP and JMM in 3.

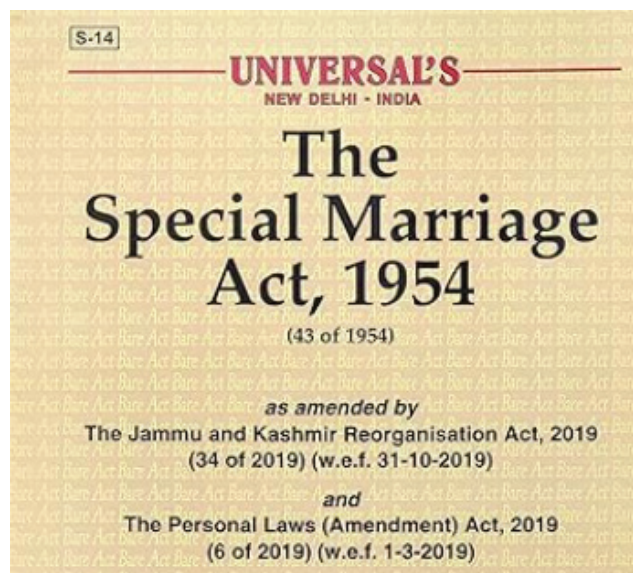


- The **Lok Sabha elections in Indore**, Madhya Pradesh saw a remarkable outcome, with the **NOTA (None of the Above) option receiving over 2 lakh votes**, making it the highest ever for NOTA in any constituency.
- The NOTA option secured 16.28% of the total vote cast in the Indore Lok Sabha seat.

About NOTA

- NOTA is a **ballot option that allows voters to disapprove all contesting candidates** contesting from a constituency without selecting any of them.
- This option empowers voters to express their negative opinions and lack of support for the candidates. It also gives them the right to reject candidates while maintaining the secrecy of their decision.
- **NOTA was first implemented in the 2013 Assembly elections** in five states: **Chhattisgarh, Mizoram, Rajasthan, Delhi, and Madhya Pradesh**, and later in the 2014 General Elections.
- Its introduction into the electoral process followed the 2013 Supreme Court directive in the **PUCI vs. Union of India case**.

SPECIAL MARRIAGE ACT, 1954



- The **Madhya Pradesh High Court's** ruling on the marriage between a Muslim man and a Hindu woman,

even though it was registered under the **Special Marriage Act (SMA)**, has attracted considerable attention.

- The court rejected the couple's request for protection and **assistance in registering their marriage**, stating that it was not compatible with personal laws.
- A 'registered marriage' refers to a civil marriage conducted in a registrar's office without any religious ceremonies, as defined by the SMA.

About Special marriage Act 1954

- **Marriages in India can be registered** under the respective personal laws Hindu Marriage Act, 1955, Muslim Marriage Act, 1954, or under the Special Marriage Act, 1954.
- It is the duty of the Judiciary to ensure that the **rights of both the husband and wife are protected**.
- The Special Marriage Act, 1954 is an **Act of the Parliament of India with provision for civil marriage for people of India and all Indian nationals in foreign countries, irrespective of religion or faith** followed by either party.
- When a person solemnised marriage under this law, then the **marriage is not governed by personal laws** but by the Special Marriage Act.
- The Special Marriage Act of 1954 ought to **apply to a marriage between any two persons, regardless of their gender identity and sexual orientation**.

NATIONAL TESTING AGENCY



NATIONAL TESTING AGENCY

Excellence in Assessment

- The NEET UG results, recently announced by the National Testing Agency (NTA), have brought focus to the remarkably high number of candidates achieving a **flawless score of 720/720, as well as the contentious near-perfect scores of 718 or 719**.
- The government has opted to not cancel the medical entrance examination NEET, despite a raging controversy and an ongoing investigation of the paper being leaked a day before the exam.

About National Testing Agency

- The National Testing Agency (NTA) was **established as a Society registered** under the Indian Societies Registration Act, of 1860.
- It is an autonomous and self-sustained testing organisation to conduct entrance examinations for admission in higher educational institutions.
- NTA is **chaired by an eminent educationist appointed by the Ministry of Education**.
- The Board of Governors comprises members from user institutions.

Functions

- To identify partner institutions with adequate infrastructure from the existing schools and higher education institutions that **would facilitate the conduct of online examinations** without adversely impacting their academic routine.
- To **create a question bank for all subjects** using modern techniques.
- To establish a strong **R&D culture as well as a pool of experts in different aspects of testing**.
- To collaborate with international organisations like ETS (Educational Testing Services).
- To undertake any other examination that is **entrusted to it by the Ministries/Departments of Government of India/State Governments**.

ANDHRA PRADESH DEMANDS FOR SPECIAL CATEGORY STATUS

- As **Chandrababu Naidu's Telugu Desam Party** played a key role in government formation at the Centre, the demand for Special Category Status to Andhra Pradesh has risen again.

About Special Category Status (SCS)

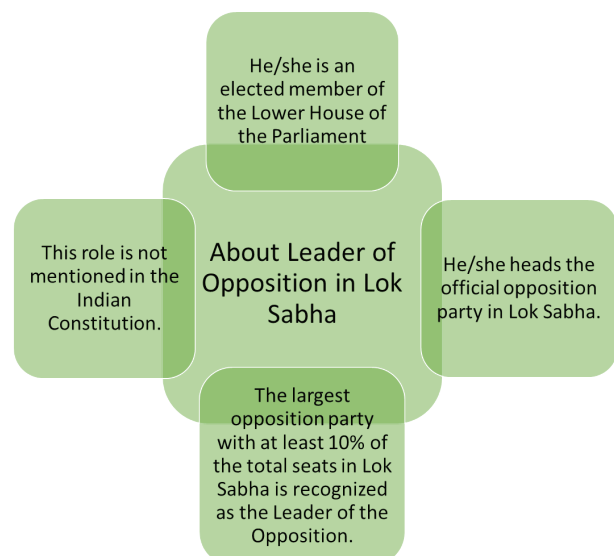
- It is a **designation that the central government provides** to aid states with geographical and socio-economic challenges.
- It was **introduced in 1969** on the recommendations of the Fifth Finance Commission (chaired by Mahavir Tyagi) to benefit certain backward states.
- At that time, this was provided to Assam, Jammu and Kashmir and Nagaland.
- The idea of SCS was **first formalised in April 1969** when the Gadgil formula of fund allocation was cleared by the National Development Council (NDC).
- On the basis of this formula, more states were given the SCS when they attained statehood.



- These include **Himachal Pradesh in 1970-71, Manipur, Meghalaya and Tripura in 1971-72;** Sikkim in 1975-76; Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram in 1986-87 and Uttarakhand in 2001-02.
- Currently, **11 states have the SCS** in the country including **Assam, Nagaland, Himachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Sikkim, Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Uttarakhand, and Telangana.**
- Telangana, the newest state of India, is accorded the status as it was carved out of another state - Andhra Pradesh.
- The **14th Finance Commission** abolished most states 'special category status', retaining it only for the Northeastern states and three hill states.
- The Congress Working Committee (CWC) has passed a resolution to appoint **Rahul Gandhi as the Leader of the Opposition (LoP) in the 18th Lok Sabha, unanimously.**
- Rahul Gandhi is the third family member from the Gandhi family to be appointed as the Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha.
- The Congress party nearly doubled its seats in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, securing 99 seats compared to 52 seats in 2019.

About Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha

RAHUL GANDHI APPOINTED LEADER OF OPPOSITION IN LOK SABHA



FIRST ALL-INDIA SURVEY ON AYUSH



आयुष मंत्रालय
Ministry of
AYUSH

- Recently, the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** released the findings of a national survey on **Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH)** systems of medicine.
- The first exclusive all-India survey on 'Ayush' was conducted by the **National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) from July 2022 to June 2023**, as part of the 79th round of the National Sample Survey (NSS).
- This survey covered the entire Indian Union, excluding a few inaccessible villages in the **Andaman & Nicobar Islands**.
- The broad objectives of the survey were to collect information on:
 - Awareness of people about the traditional system of healthcare (Ayush system of medicine),
 - Uses of Ayush for prevention or treatment of ailments,
 - Awareness of the households about home remedies, medicinal plants, local health tradition/folk medicine

Key Findings

- Approximately 95% of rural and 96% of urban respondents are aware of Ayush.
- At least one member is aware of **Medicinal Plants/Home remedies/Local Health Tradition/Folk medicine** in about 85% of rural and 86% of urban households.
- Around 46% of rural and 53% of urban individuals used Ayush for prevention or treatment of ailments in the past 365 days.
- Ayurveda is the most commonly used system across both rural and urban areas for treatment.
- Ayush is **predominantly used for rejuvenation and preventive measures**.

About AYUSH

- AYUSH is the **acronym of the medical systems** that are being practiced in India such as Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy.
- These systems are built on well-defined medical theories and include a lifestyle that promotes good health through recognised principles of **disease prevention and health promotion**. All of these systems about health, sickness, and treatment use a holistic perspective.

DARK PATTERNS IN E-COMMERCE



- The Department of Consumer Affairs participated in an interactive session on **"Dark Patterns and Strategies to implement the guidelines"**.
- The objective was to discuss in detail the issues related to dark patterns, persisting **practice of using deceptive designs on online platforms** and effective ways to implement the guidelines on dark patterns.

About Dark Patterns

- **"Dark patterns" is the term for the online use of deceptive practices** that are "carefully crafted to manipulate users into doing things that are not in their interest and usually at their expense."
- A consumer is tricked into buying a more expensive product, paying more than what was initially disclosed, sharing data or making choices based on false or paid-for reviews by **deploying 'dark patterns'**.
- The guidelines issued by the Ministry of Consumer Affairs list 13 specific types of dark patterns, including **drip pricing, disguised advertisements**, bait and switch, and creating false urgency. These practices are considered unfair trade practices under the Consumer Protection Act, 2019.

PRO-TEM SPEAKER



- **Bhartruhari Mahtab has been appointed** and administered oath by the President of India as the **pro-tem Speaker of the 18th Lok Sabha**.

About Pro-tem Speaker

- Pro-tem is a Latin phrase which translates to **‘for the time being’ in English.**
- The Constitution does not expressly use the term ‘Pro-tem Speaker’.
- Pro-tem Speaker is appointed by the President\ Governor temporarily to conduct proceedings in State legislatures till the Speaker gets elected.
- **He/she is ordinarily elected for the first sitting of a new legislative assembly.**
- Once the new speaker is elected, the office of the pro-tem speaker ceases to exist.
- Power: Usually, a **pro-tem Speaker administers the oath to Assembly Members.**
- The appointment of **Protem Speaker, is dictated by a constitutional convention which provides** that, the senior most member of the House to be chosen as pro-tem speaker (Seniority in this context refers to the membership in the House and not the age of the member).

THE PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS (PREVENTION OF UNFAIR MEANS) BILL, 2024



- Public examinations have faced heightened scrutiny due to the recent controversy involving the NEET UG-2024 and the cancellation of the UGC-NET.
- The UGC-NET 2024 was terminated on June 19 due to concerns raised by the Union Home Ministry over potential compromises to the examination's integrity.
- The **Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Bill, 2024** by the Indian Parliament in February 2024.
- It aims to **prevent unfair means in order to bring greater transparency, fairness and credibility** to the public examinations system.
- Unfair means in an examination has been defined under Section 3 of the Act which lists at least **15 actions that amount to using unfair means** in public examinations for monetary or wrongful gain.
- **Section 2(k) of the Act defines a public examination** as any exam conducted by a public examination

authority listed in the Act's Schedule or designated by the Central Government through notification.

- Prison terms of **3-5 years for paper leak involvement.**
- Up to **10 years if linked to organized crime.**
- A **fine of Rs 1 crore; exam organizing firms** may be barred from conducting exams.

POST OFFICE ACT 2023



- New Post Office Act 2023 came into effect from June 18.
- The objective is to **optimise the provision of services that prioritise the needs of citizens** and expand government assistance to remote regions, thereby enhancing the overall standard of living.
- The Post Office Act of 2023 **replaced the Indian Post Office Act of 1898.**

About the Post Office Bill 2023

- It aims to provide a **simple legislative framework for post offices**, facilitating their evolution into a network for citizen-centric services.
- Postal services come under the Union List of the Constitution.
- The Act does away with the government's exclusive privilege over the collection, processing, and delivery of letters. The post office will now have the **exclusive privilege over postage stamps.**
- The Act provides for the appointment of a Director General of Postal Services to head the India Post. He will be given powers to make regulations on various matters such as tariffs for services.
- The Act grants the central government the power to **intercept, open, or detain any postal article** on grounds such as national security, public order, and public safety.
- The Act exempts the Post Office and its officers from liability for any loss, misdelivery, delay, or damage in

the course of providing postal services, except for what may be prescribed through rules.

- The Act provides that the India Post officers need to forward suspicious or **duty-liable goods to customs** or relevant authorities for examination purposes.

KERALA ASSEMBLY PASSES RESOLUTION TO CHANGE STATE'S NAME TO 'KERALAM'



- Recently, the Kerala Assembly unanimously passed a resolution seeking permission of the Centre to rename the state as “**Keralam**” in the Constitution.

Provisions related to Renaming of State

- **Article 3 of the Indian Constitution empowers the Centre** to change the name of existing states which also needs amendment in the name of the state listed under Article 1 of the constitution.
- Kerala is the **English word for the Malyali Keralam and the earliest mention of the word** can be found in Emperor Ashoka's Rock Edict II of 257 BCE which mentions “Keralaputra”.
- Keralaputra in **Sanskrit literally means “son of Kerala”** which refers to the dynasty of the Cheras, one of the three main kingdoms of southern India (the other two dynasties being Chola and Pandya).
- The demand for a united Malayalam-speaking state was first raised in the 1920s and after independence, in 1949, the state of Travancore-Cochin was formed by integrating the two Malayalam-speaking princely states of Travancore and Cochin.
- Based on the **recommendation of the State Reorganisation Commission**, the state of Kerala was finally created on a linguistic basis.

LADAKH ACHIEVES FULL FUNCTIONAL LITERACY

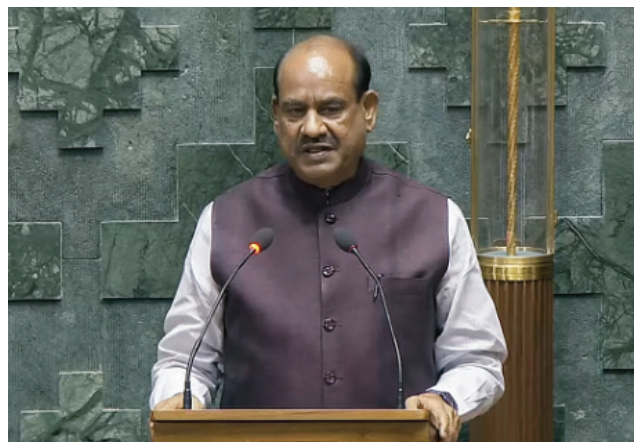
- Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Dr. B.D. Mishra, on 24 June 2024 declared Ladakh as the administrative unit to achieve Full Functional Literacy under the **ULLAS – Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram**, after having achieved more than 97% literacy.



About ULLAS

- ULLAS - Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram or New India Literacy Programme (NILP) is a centrally sponsored scheme implemented from 2022-2027.
- The scheme aligns with the recommendations of the **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020** and aims to empower those **aged 15 years and above from all backgrounds**.
- The scheme is being implemented on volunteerism.
- The scheme consists of five components – **Foundational Literacy and Numeracy**, Critical Life Skills, Basic Education, Vocational Skills, and Continuing Education.
- The programme includes Foundational Literacy and Numeracy, Critical Life Skills, Basic Education, Vocational Skills, and Continuing Education. The volunteer-based ULLAS Scheme aims to make Bharat-Jan-Jan Saakshar in the spirit of Kartvya Bodh. The project has helped over 77 lakh people nationwide.

OM BIRLA RE-ELECTED AS SPEAKER OF 18TH LOK SABHA



- Om Birla, the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) candidate and MP from Kota, was **re-elected Speaker of the 18th Lok Sabha**.

- Om Birla, was elected for a second consecutive term by a voice vote. This is a rare occurrence, as the **position of Lok Sabha Speaker** is typically filled through consensus between the ruling party and the opposition.

About the Lok Sabha Speaker

- The presiding officer of India's Lower House of Parliament, the Lok Sabha Speaker, is the constitutional and ceremonial head of the House.
- According to the Indian Constitution, **Article 93 provides for the election of both the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker.**
- It is the members of the Lok Sabha who elect its presiding officer by a simple majority.
- The election of the Speaker is usually the first item of business in the newly constituted Lok Sabha, and the process is overseen by the **Pro-tem Speaker, who is appointed by the President of India.**
- Generally, a member belonging to the ruling party is elected as Speaker, whereas a **Deputy Speaker is elected by the Opposition.**

CIC JURISDICTION OVER FUNDS OF MPLADS

MPLADS

*Member of Parliament Local Area
Development Scheme*

- The Delhi High Court has recently ruled that the Central Information Commission (CIC) lacks the authority to make recommendations on the allocation of funding under the **Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS)**.
- In 2018, the **Central Information Commission (CIC)** issued an order that raised concerns over certain Members of Parliament (MPs) deliberately withholding their MPLADS funding until the final year of their mandate. The CIC had suspicions that this strategy was employed to obtain an unjust advantage in electoral processes.
- The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) then filed a legal challenge in the Delhi High Court against a ruling by the CIC on a **Right to Information (RTI) application**.
- Delhi High Court held that the CIC has no jurisdiction to comment upon the utilisation of funds by the MPs under the MPLADS.
- Court said that as per **Section 18 of the RTI Act, the CIC can "only deal with** issues relating to the information sought for under the RTI Act or any other issue which leads to dissipation of information as sought for by the applicant".
- The Court however retained the portion of the order of CIC where it has instructed the public authority to publish details of the funds MP-wise, Constituency-wise, and work-wise under the RTI Act.

AGNIPATH SCHEME



- Agnipath scheme, announced in June 2022, has **faced opposition** from political parties and Armed Forces veterans.

About Agnipath scheme

- It is a central government scheme **launched in 2022** for recruitment to the armed forces.
- It is a recruitment process for individuals below the rank of officer, with the goal of deploying fitter, younger troops on the front lines, many of whom will be on four-year contracts.
- At the end of this tenure, upto **25% of these recruits**, the so called 'Agniveers', can join the services on a permanent commission (another 15 years), subject to merit and organisational requirements. The armed forces would also have the option to retain some of the best '**Agniveers**'.
- Candidates between the **age of 17.5 years to 21 years** will be eligible for enrolling in the Agnipath scheme.
- Girls under the given **age limit are open for the agnipath entry**, while there is no such reservation for women under this scheme.
- The recruitment standards will remain the same, and recruitment will be done **twice a year through rallies**.

Pay and Benefits

Death on Duty

- The family gets a combined sum of Rs 1 crore, which includes both the Seva Nidhi package and the soldier's unserved salary.

Disability

- An Agniveer can receive compensation up to Rs 44 lakh depending on the severity of the disability. This amount is provided only if the disability is caused by or worsened due to military service

Pensions

- Agniveers won't receive a regular pension after their 4-year service, unlike soldiers in the traditional system.
- Only the 25% who get selected for permanent commission will be eligible for a pension.

NATIONAL HEALTH CLAIM EXCHANGE



- Recently, the Health Ministry and the **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** are working together to launch the **National Health Claim Exchange (NHCX)**.

About National Health Claim Exchange

- It is created by the **National Health Authority (NHA)**, is a digital platform aimed at **streamlining the sharing of claims-related data among stakeholders** in the healthcare and health insurance sectors.
- NHCX is built to be interoperable, machine-readable, auditable, and verifiable. This guarantees the

accuracy and reliability of the shared information, promoting transparency and **enhancing efficiency in processes**.

- It serves as a single platform for all health claims, alleviating administrative burdens on hospitals that currently manage various portals for different insurers.
- The National Health Authority has to promote the adoption of digital health transactions.introduced financial incentives
- Starting January 2023, **hospitals receive ₹500 per claim or 10% of the claim amount**, whichever is lower, for transactions conducted through the NHCX.
- These incentives aim to encourage widespread use of the platform and the digitization of patient health records.

About IRDAI

- Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)
- The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) is a **statutory body** established under the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Act, 1999, tasked with the overall supervision and development of the insurance sector in India.

VIABILITY GAP FUNDING (VGF) SCHEME FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF OFFSHORE WIND ENERGY PROJECTS

- The **Viability Gap Funding (VGF) scheme for offshore** wind energy projects, with a total budget of Rs. 7453 crore, was recently authorised by the Union Cabinet.



- The scheme comprises the implementation and commissioning of 1 GW (Gigawatt) of offshore wind energy projects, costing Rs. 6853 crore. This involves the establishment of **500 MW wind energy projects along the coastlines of Gujarat and Tamil Nadu**.
- The VGF programme, supervised by the **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy**, is a significant measure in the implementation of the National Offshore Wind Energy Policy, which was officially announced in 2015.
- The Vehicle-to-Grid (VGF) is a government grant that offers financial assistance of up to 40% of the overall project expenses. It is specifically designed to provide support to infrastructure projects that are economically justified but lack financial feasibility.
- The Government's provision of VGF support will decrease the expenses associated with offshore wind projects and render them feasible for acquisition by **Distribution Companies (DISCOMs)**.

About Offshore wind Energy

- Offshore wind is a renewable energy source that provides several benefits, including increased reliability and adequacy, as well as reduced storage needs.
- Electricity generated by offshore wind turbines is transmitted back to the shore through cables laid beneath the ocean floor.

KRISHI SAKHI PROGRAM

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi granted certificates to over 30,000 self-help groups designated as Krishi Sakhis in Varanasi. For this, a Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Ministry of

Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare and the Ministry of Rural Development.

About Krishi Sakhi Convergence Programme

- The Krishi Sakhi Convergence Programme is the flagship initiative under this MoU, **aimed at enhancing the skills and empowerment of rural women engaged in agriculture across India**.



- Under the '**Lakshpati Didi**' programme, the aim is to create 3 crore Lakshpati Didis, one dimension of which is Krishi Sakhi.
- Krishi Sakhi Convergence Programme aims to transform rural India through the empowerment of rural women as Krishi Sakhi, **by imparting training and certification of Krishi Sakhis as Para-extension Workers**.
- This certification course aligns with the objectives of the 'Lakshpati Didi' programme.
- Krishi Sakhis are chosen as **agriculture para-extension workers** because they are trusted community resource persons and experienced farmers themselves.
- Their deep roots in farming communities ensure they are welcomed and respected.
- Krishi Sakhis have already been trained on various **extension service for 56 days** on the following modules:
 1. Agro Ecological Practices from land preparation to harvest
 2. Organising Farmer Field schools
 3. Seed banks + Establishment and Management
 4. Soil health, soil and moisture conservation practices
 5. Integrated Farming Systems
 6. Basics of Livestock Management
 7. Preparation and use of Bio inputs and establishment of Bio inputs shops
 8. Basic communication skills
- Now these Krishi Sakhis are undergoing refresher training with a special focus on Natural Farming and Soil Health Card through **DAY-NRLM agencies in coordination with MANAGE**.

- Following the training, Krishi Sakhis will take a proficiency test. Those who qualify will be certified as Para-extension Workers, enabling them to undertake below mentioned **MoA&FW schemes activities on the fixed resource fees.**

NATIONAL FORENSIC INFRASTRUCTURE ENHANCEMENT SCHEME (NFIES)



- The Union Cabinet approved the Central Sector Scheme of "National Forensic Infrastructure Enhancement Scheme (NFIES) with a total financial outlay of ₹2254.43 crore during the period from 2024-25 to 2028-29.
- Financial outlay of the **Central Sector Scheme** will be provisioned by the Ministry of Home Affairs from its own budget.
- **The three components of the scheme are:**

Objectives of the Scheme

- It aims to address the shortage of trained forensic manpower, strengthening the capacity and capabilities of the **National Forensic Sciences University.**
- The establishment of **new Central Forensic Science Laboratories across the country** is intended to alleviate the caseload and pendency in the existing forensic laboratories.



Summit and Conferences

COLOMBO PROCESS

India has assumed the chairmanship of the **Colombo Process** for the first time since its inception in **2003**.



Objective	Provides a platform for consultations on managing overseas employment and contractual labor for Asian countries of origin .
Founded in	Sri Lanka 2003

Total Members:	12 Asian countries of origin of migrant workers
Member State	Afghanistan, Bangladesh, China, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam.
India Membership	Member since inception in 2003 and has become chair for the first time.

60TH MEETING OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODIES (SB60)



The **60th meeting of the Subsidiary Bodies (SB60)**, scheduled from **June 3-13, 2024, in Bonn, Germany**, is a mid-year climate conference gathering countries that are parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

Focus Areas:

- Climate finance
- Advancing NDCs (Nationally Determined Contributions)
- Timely submission of First Biennial Transparency Reports
- National Adaptation Plans
- Just transition for accelerating climate action
- Inaugural Annual Global Stock take (GST) Dialogue to share strategies for achieving Paris Agreement goals

- **Location:** Bonn Germany
- **Participants:** Expected around 6,000 participants, including national delegates and civil society representatives
- **Purpose:** Mid-year climate conference for signatories of the UNFCCC

KAZA SUMMIT

At the KAZA Summit 2024, leaders from the **Kavango-Zambezi Trans-Frontier Conservation Area (KAZA-TFCA)** resolved to advocate against the ivory trade ban at the upcoming **CoP 20 of CITES**.

CITES Overview

- **Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES):**
 - ♦ It is an International agreement among **184 governments**.
 - ♦ The agreement ensures **international trade does not threaten species survival**.
 - ♦ It was entered into force in **1975**.
 - ♦ **India** as a party since **1976**.
- **Appendices of CITES:**

Appendix	Purpose
I	Prohibits commercial trade of critically endangered species
II	Regulates trade to prevent over-exploitation
III	Protects species under national laws

Ivory Trade

- **Definition:** Commercial trade in elephant ivory tusks and products.
- **Impact:** Threatens elephant survival, ecosystems, local communities, and security.
- **Illegal Killing:** At least 20,000 African elephants are killed annually for tusks.
- **Demand:** Mainly fueled by Asian markets, particularly China.

Reasons for Advocating Trade Ban Lift

- **Economic Gain:** Southern African leaders argue for **lifting the ivory ban**, citing a **\$1 billion** potential market.
- **Stockpiles:** KAZA states hold significant **ivory stockpiles**, such as **Zimbabwe's 166-ton stash**, valued at **\$600 million**.

WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

- On **May 29, 2024**, member states, led by Spain, approved a new resolution at the **77th World Health**

Assembly to enhance the **availability, ethical access, and oversight of human cells, tissue, and organ transplantation**.

About the Draft Resolution

- The draft resolution urged member states to adopt the World Health Organization's **(WHO) Guiding Principles on Human Cell, Tissue, and Organ Transplantation**.
- It emphasised the importance of **encouraging donations after the neurological and, where appropriate, circulatory determinations of death**.
- It tasked countries with developing a global strategy to be presented for **adoption in 2026** and encouraged the establishment of a **World Donor Day** to raise **public awareness and donations**.

About the World Health Assembly

- The World Health Assembly is the **World Health Organization's (WHO) decision-making body**.
- Delegations from all WHO Member States attend, and the meeting **focuses on a specific health agenda prepared by the Executive Board**.
- The main functions of the **World Health Assembly** are to determine the organisation's policies, appoint the **Director General**, supervise financial policies, and review and approve the proposed program budget.
- The Health Assembly is held **annually in Geneva, Switzerland**.



112TH INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONFERENCE AT GENEVA, SWITZERLAND



112th International Labour Organization (ILO)

- The **112th International Labour Conference (ILC)** was held in **Geneva from June 3-14, 2024**.
- More than 4,900 delegates attended the conference, representing governments, employers' and workers' organisations.
- The **113th ILC is scheduled to be held in June 2025**.

112th Annual International Labour Conference

- The International Labour Organization held its **112th annual International Labour Conference in Geneva from June 3-14, 2024**.
- Delegates included **workers, employers, and government representatives from the ILO's 187 member states**.
- Key issues addressed included:
 - ♦ A standard-setting discussion on protection against biological hazards.
 - ♦ A recurrent discussion on the strategic objective of fundamental principles and rights at work.
 - ♦ A general discussion on decent work and the care economy.
- The conference also elected members of the Governing Body for the 2024-27 term of office.

International Labour Organization (ILO)

- The **International Labour Organization (ILO)** is a United Nations agency focused on advancing social and economic justice by setting **international labour standards**.
- Founded in **October 1919 under the League of Nations**, it is one of the oldest specialized agencies of the UN.
- The ILO has 187 member states, which include **186 of the 193 UN member states plus the Cook Islands**.
- The ILO is headquartered in **Geneva, Switzerland**, and operates around 40 field offices worldwide.

G7 SUMMIT

Recently, the Prime Minister attended the **50th annual G7 summit in Italy**, held from June 13 to 15, 2024.

Promotion to G7 PGII (Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment)

- Leaders decided to promote concrete **G7 PGII initiatives at the 50th G7 Summit**.
- The PGII initiative was launched by the US and G7 allies at the **48th G7 Summit in 2022** to address the USD 40 trillion infrastructure gap in the developing world.
- It aims to create a **values-driven, high-impact, and transparent infrastructure partnership to meet the enormous infrastructure needs** of low and middle-income countries.

- The G7 will mobilize **USD 600 billion by 2027 to deliver infrastructure projects to developing and middle-income countries**.

Support and Promotion to India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC)

- G7 nations committed to promoting the **India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC)**.
- IMEC aims to create a comprehensive **transportation network comprising rail, road, and sea routes, connecting India, the Middle East, and Europe**.
- The IMEC project was signed at the G20 Summit in **New Delhi** in September 2023 as part of the PGII.
- The proposed IMEC will include **railroad, ship-to-rail networks, and road transport routes** extending across two corridors:
 - ♦ **East Corridor:** Connecting India to the Arabian Gulf.
 - ♦ **Northern Corridor:** Connecting the Gulf to Europe.
- It will also include an **electricity cable, a hydrogen pipeline, and a high-speed data cable**.
- India, the **US, Saudi Arabia, UAE, the European Union, Italy, France, and Germany** are the signatories of IMEC.

Support to Infrastructure Projects

- The G7 extended support for the **Lobito Corridor in Central Africa, the Luzon Corridor, and the Middle Corridor**.
- The Lobito Corridor extends from the port city of Lobito on the **Atlantic coast of Angola through the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and into Zambia**.
- The **Luzon Corridor** is a strategic economic and infrastructure corridor located on **Luzon**, the largest and most populous island in the Philippines.
- The **Middle Corridor, the Trans-Caspian International Transport Route (TITR)**, is a logistics and **transportation network connecting Europe and Asia**.
- This route is an alternative to the **traditional Northern and Southern corridors**, enhancing trade and **economic cooperation** between the regions it traverses.

The Great Green Wall Initiative

- The Great Green Wall Initiative aims to combat desertification and land degradation in the **Sahel region of Africa**.
- It involves creating a wall of trees stretching across Africa from west to east to help prevent the spread of the **Sahara Desert**.
- The project aims to improve biodiversity and provide **economic opportunities for local communities**.



BONN CLIMATE CONFERENCE 2024

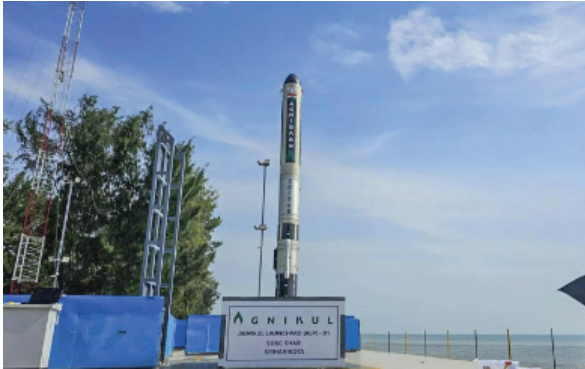
- **Recent Climate Meeting in Bonn, Germany:**
 - ♦ The recent climate meeting in **Bonn, Germany**, did not achieve significant progress in defining a new climate finance goal.
 - ♦ Countries have yet to make concrete advancements **concerning the funding required to address the climate crisis.**

What is Climate Financing?

- **About Climate Financing:**
 - ♦ Climate financing refers to the **large-scale investments required for actions to mitigate or adapt to climate change.**

- ♦ Mitigation involves reducing greenhouse gas emissions, such as **increasing renewable energy sources and expanding forest cover.**
- ♦ Adaptation involves taking action to **prevent or minimise the damage** from the adverse effects of climate change, such as building infrastructure to protect coastal communities from sea-level rise.
- **Current Agreed Amount for Climate Financing:**
 - ♦ The 1992 **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)** mandated high-income countries to provide climate finance to the developing world.
 - ♦ As per the **Copenhagen Commitment in 2009**, developed countries agreed to provide **USD 100 billion** annually to developing countries by 2020.
 - ♦ The **Green Climate Fund** was established in 2010 as a key mechanism to **deliver climate finance.**
 - ♦ The **Paris Agreement 2015** reinforced the USD 100 billion target and extended it to 2025.

AGNIKUL LAUNCHES WORLD'S FIRST ROCKET WITH FULLY 3D PRINTED ENGINE



- IIT Madras-incubated start-up Agnikul, has launched the **world's first rocket with a single piece 3D printed engine** from Sriharikota.
- This remarkable feat has been achieved entirely through indigenous design and development.
- '**Agnibaan - SOrTeD**' **Sub-Orbital Technology Demonstrator** also has the unique distinction of having been launched from India's first private launch pad called 'Dhanush' established by Agnikul.
- It is also **India's first semi-cryogenic engine-powered rocket launch**.
- The key purpose of this mission, which is also Agnikul's first flight, is to serve as a test flight, to demonstrate the in-house and home grown technologies, gather crucial flight data and ensure optimal functioning of systems for **Agnikul's orbital launch vehicle, the 'Agnibaan'**.

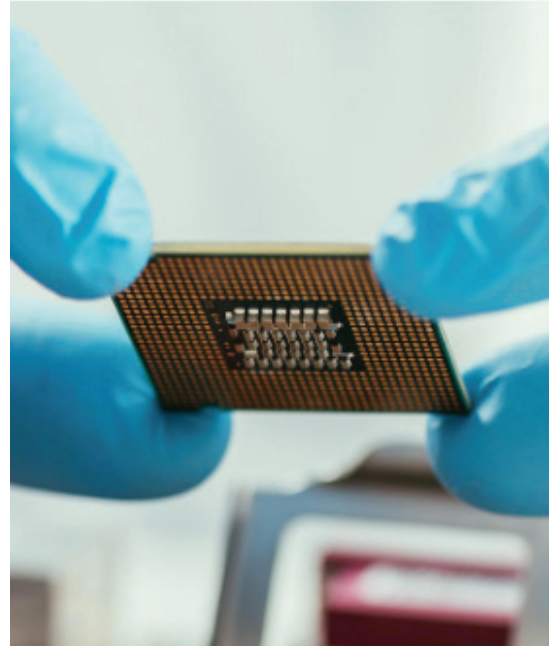
About Agnikul

- The vision of Agnikul is to bring space within everyone's reach, aiming to enable launches from **Anywhere, Anytime, Affordably**.
- It aims to develop launch vehicles that are both affordable and customizable according to customer needs.

TCS & IIT-BOMBAY PARTNER TO DEVELOP INDIA'S 1ST QUANTUM DIAMOND MICROCHIP IMAGER

- **Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)** and the **Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay (IIT-Bombay)**

have formed a strategic relationship to create India's inaugural Quantum Diamond Microchip Imager.



- This cutting-edge sensing instrument seeks to transform the analysis of semiconductor chips, minimising malfunctions and optimising the energy efficiency of electronic equipment.
- The aim is to create an **advanced sensing device to optimise accuracy** in the inspection of semiconductor chips, minimise chip malfunctions, and promote energy efficiency..
- It uses **nitrogen-vacancy centres in diamonds** along with specific gear and software to greatly improve failure analysis, device creation, and optimisation procedures.
- Additionally, it displays the movement of electric charge in three dimensions within multi-layer chips, which aids in the discovery of complex defects.
- The **Quantum Diamond Microchip Imager**, is similar to magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), provides a means of **non-invasively and non-destructively imaging semiconductor chips**.
- This technology surpasses the constraints of conventional technologies in identifying abnormalities as chip dimensions diminish.

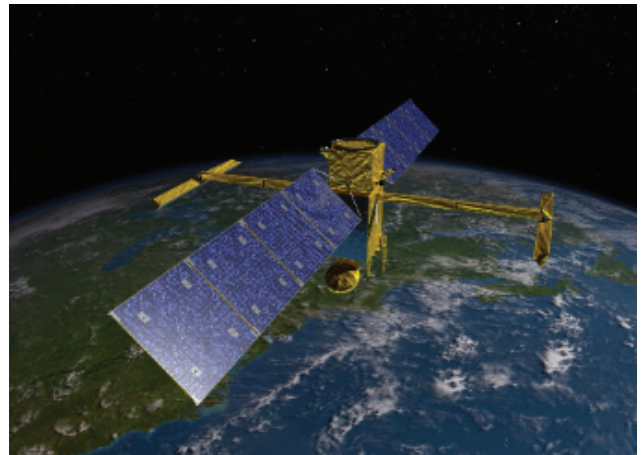
CHINA'S CHANG'E- LUNAR PROBE



- Recently, **China's Chang'e-6 probe** successfully collected rock and soil samples from the moon's far side and lifted off from the lunar surface to return to Earth.
- The probe landed down at the **South Pole-Aitken Basin**, a massive crater formed over 4 billion years ago.
- This crater is **13 kilometres deep and spans 2,500 kilometres in diameter**.
- The designated landing location for Chandrayaan-3 was in close proximity to the southern region of the moon.
- The mission to the far side of the moon presents challenges due to the absence of direct communication with Earth, necessitating the use of a relay satellite, as well as the rough and uneven surface that offers fewer suitable landing sites.
- The mission is the **sixth installment in the Chang'e lunar exploration** programme, which derives its name from a Chinese moon deity.
- The current mission, following the successful retrieval of samples from the near side in 2020 by Chang'e 5, is the second endeavour to bring back samples.
- China aims to **land astronauts on the moon before 2030**, and this mission is a significant step towards that goal.

SWOT (SURFACE WATER AND OCEAN TOPOGRAPHY)

- Recently, **NASA has launched a satellite to conduct** a comprehensive study of Oceans, rivers and Lakes around the world.
- SWOT is being jointly developed by NASA and Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales (CNES) with contributions from the Canadian Space Agency (CSA) and United Kingdom Space Agency.



- The launched satellite is named as **SWOT (Surface Water and Ocean Topography)**.
- The advanced radar satellite is specifically engineered to provide an unparalleled perspective of the biosphere, which encompasses **70% of the Earth's surface**. This will offer novel insights into the mechanisms and ramifications of climate change.
- The satellite utilizes state-of-the-art microwave radar technology to gather precise surface measurements of oceans, lakes, reservoirs, and rivers with exceptional clarity and detail.

PRAVAHA SOFTWARE



The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) recently developed **Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD) software named PraVaHa**.

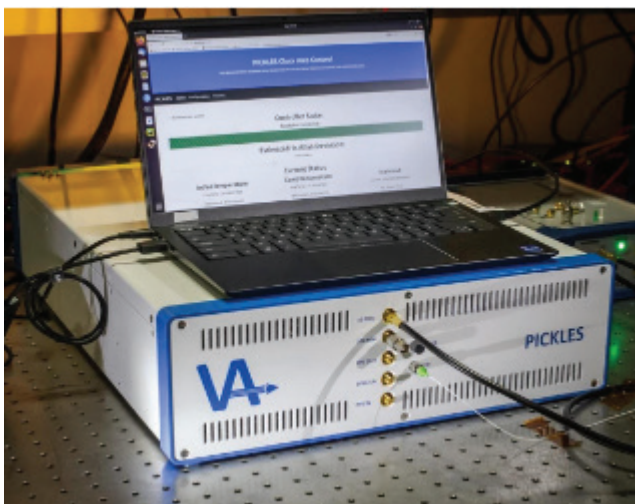
About PraVaHa

- Parallel RANS Solver for Aerospace Vehicle Aero-thermo-dynamic Analysis (PraVaHa) is a Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD) software developed in **ISRO's Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC)**.
- The software has the capability to replicate both the external and internal fluid dynamics of launch vehicles, as well as winged and non-winged re-entry vehicles.
- PraVaHa has been widely employed in the Gaganyaan programme to do thorough aerodynamic analysis of launch vehicles designed for human spaceflight,

specifically the **HLVM3, Crew Escape System (CES), and Crew Module (CM)**.

- The programme possesses robust security measures and exhibits sufficient adaptability to facilitate collaborative development with academic institutions and government laboratories.
- PraVaHa is anticipated to supplant the majority of the present aero characterization **computational fluid dynamics (CFD) simulations** that are conducted using commercial software.
- In addition, this programme is anticipated to assist academics and other institutions involved in the development of missiles, aircraft, and rockets in identifying resolutions to intricate aerodynamic issues.

NEW PORTABLE ATOMIC CLOCK



Researchers in a study published in the scientific journal Nature, have introduced a portable optical atomic clock that can be used onboard ships.

About Atomic Clock

- An atomic clock is a device that **measures time using the vibrations of atoms**.
- Specifically, it uses the oscillations of the electrons in atoms to keep time.
- It is the most accurate time-keeping device available, with a margin of error of just a few billionths of a second per day.
- Atomic clocks contain an element like **caesium (Cs-133) or calcium and microwave radiation source**.
- Atomic clocks are the backbone of the Global Positioning System (GPS), the network of satellites above the earth that we use every day to navigate cities, respond to emergencies, and organise military operations, among other things.
- This frequency is used as the basis for the atomic clock's timekeeping.

- To measure time using cesium atoms, an atomic clock uses a device called a **"microwave cavity"**.
- The microwave cavity is a chamber that is filled with cesium vapor.
- A microwave signal is then sent into the cavity, which causes the cesium atoms to vibrate.
- As the **cesium atoms vibrate**, they emit 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's timekeeping.

About Portable Atomic Clocks

- The spectrometer, laser system, and frequency comb of the **new clock have been miniaturised** to enhance portability while Traditional optical atomic clocks are large and not easy to transport.
- The optical atomic clock utilises molecular iodine as its frequency standard.
- The researchers also equipped the clock with a software control system that could autonomously **initialise the clock from an 'off' state to a fully operational state**.

IIT MADRAS & NASA RESEARCHERS STUDY MULTIDRUG-RESISTANT PATHOGENS ON THE INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION



- Scientists from the Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT-M) and NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) have carried out a collaborative study of the behaviour of multi-drug resistant pathogens aboard the International Space Station (ISS).
- Enterobacter bugandensis is a relatively new species within the **Enterobacter genus**.
- It was **first described in 2013**, after being isolated from cases of bloodstream infections in Uganda.
- It is listed by **the World Health Organization (WHO) as a priority** for developing new antimicrobials.
- The International Space Station's unique conditions of microgravity, increased carbon dioxide levels, and

enhanced radiation have led to the emergence of rapid genetic and functional mutations that differentiate its inhabitants from their counterparts on Earth.

What is a Multidrug-resistant Pathogen

- When microorganisms become resistant to more than one type of antibiotic, usually three or more, they are called multidrug-resistant.
- This kind of resistance can be seen in bacteria, viruses, and parasites, among other microorganisms.
- MDR bacteria that are resistant to more than one drug are the most dangerous to public health.

NEW FRAMEWORK TO COMBAT KALA-AZAR LAUNCHED BY WHO

KALA-AZAR



- The World Health Organisation (WHO) has introduced a new framework on June 12 to provide guidance to health authorities, policy makers, and other stakeholders in order to eliminate the parasitic infection visceral leishmaniasis (VL), also known as kala-azar in Hindi, which poses a rising public health risk in eastern Africa.
- The framework outlines five main strategies for guiding VL elimination:
 - ◆ Early diagnosis and treatment
 - ◆ Integrated vector management
 - ◆ Effective surveillance
 - ◆ Advocacy, social mobilisation and partnership-building
 - ◆ Implementation and operational research

About Visceral leishmaniasis or Kala-Azar

- It is a slow-progressing indigenous disease caused by a protozoan parasite of the genus *Leishmania*.
- It spreads through the bite of infected female sandflies.

TRUENAT: INDIA-MADE TB DIAGNOSTICS PLATFORM

The 77th World Health Assembly in Geneva praised India's Truenat platform, a rapid molecular test for

pulmonary, extrapulmonary, and rifampicin-resistant tuberculosis, for its role in fighting TB and as a potential part of global healthcare solutions.



About Truenat

- Developed by Goa-based Molbio, a point-of-care molecular diagnostics company, Truenat, first launched in 2017 is a **portable, battery-operated machine that can be deployed at labs, health centres, and in the field.**
- This battery-operated, portable equipment tests over 40 diseases in under one hour.
- Over **7,000 National TB Elimination Programme** primary and community health clinics and 1,500 private labs utilise it in India.
- The WHO's World Health Assembly praised India's **TB elimination** efforts and its innovative usage of Truenat machines and handheld X-ray equipment as worldwide examples.

PHENOME INDIA-CSIR HEALTH COHORT KNOWLEDGEbase' (PI-CHECK)



- The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has declared the successful completion of the initial stage of its pioneering longitudinal health monitoring project, known as the '**Phenome India-CSIR Health Cohort Knowledgebase' (PI-CheCK).**

- The **PI-CHeCK project aims to assess risk factors in non-communicable** (cardio-metabolic) **diseases** within the Indian populace.
- This unique initiative has enrolled nearly 10,000 participants, who have volunteered to provide comprehensive health data.
- The collected data encompasses a wide range of parameters, including clinical questionnaires, **lifestyle and dietary habits, anthropometric** measurements, imaging/scanning data, and extensive biochemical and molecular data.
- A pan-India longitudinal study is being conducted with an aim to develop an enhanced prediction model for **cardio-metabolic disease, especially diabetes, liver diseases and cardiac diseases.**

PUSHPAK: ISRO'S REUSABLE LAUNCH VEHICLE



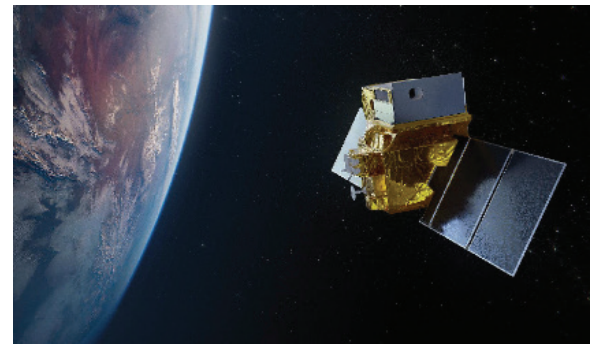
- Recently, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) completed the third Reusable Launch Vehicle (RLV) Landing Experiment (LEX) at the Aeronautical Test Range (ATR) in Chitradurga, Karnataka.
- Isro successfully conducts **Reusable Launch Vehicle technology demonstration.**
- The experiment successfully showcased autonomous landing capabilities under more demanding conditions.
- Pushpak conducted cross-range correction maneuvers and executed a precise horizontal landing at the centerline of the runway.
- The mission **simulated high-speed landing scenarios typical of vehicles returning from space.**

Advanced guidance algorithms were validated for error corrections, crucial for future orbital re-entry missions.

About Pushpak

- Pushpak RLV is designed as a **fully reusable single-stage-to-orbit (SSTO) vehicle**, utilizing advanced technology derived from earlier prototypes such as the X-33, X-34, and the upgraded DC-XA.
- During the mission, RLV simulated high-speed landing conditions and approaches used when returning from space.
- ISRO had previously conducted successful RLV missions in 2016.
- The experiment involved launching a winged spacecraft into space using a rocket powered by ISRO's conventional solid booster engine (HS9).

TRISHNA MISSION



ISRO has recently announced a satellite mission, TRISHNA. This TRISHNA mission is a joint infrared earth observation satellite mission between India and France.

About TRISHNA Mission

- TRISHNA refers to Thermal Infra-Red Imaging Satellite for High-Resolution Natural Resource Assessment.
- The objective of TRISHNA mission is to monitor surface temperature and water management globally. It will address extreme heat issues in India and Europe.
- The mission will be for five years and is scheduled to be launched in 2025.

- **Features:** The mission has two components:

1. The Thermal Infra-Red (TIR) payload

- It will be provided by the French space agency CNES (National Centre for Space Studies).
- The TIR payload will feature a four-channel long-wavelength infrared imaging sensor for studying high-resolution surface temperatures.
- It will also map the heat radiated back from land in different regions.

2. The Visible Near Infrared-Red Short Wave Infrared-Red (VNIR-SWIR) payload

- It will be developed by ISRO
- The VNIR-SWIR payload will map the reflectivity (albedo) of the Earth's surface across seven bands.
- This mapping will measure the amount of heat reflecting off the Earth's surface.
- It will also calculate various biophysical and radiation budget variables.

DIGIYATRA TECHNOLOGY



Recently, the **CEO of Digi Yatra Foundation** proposed that the DigiYatra technology used at airports could be

implemented at hotels and public places such as historical monuments.

About Digi Yatra

- The 'DigiYatra' is a travel experience that utilises facial-recognition technology to provide a seamless and secure journey, enabled by biometrics.
- The service offers biometric-based check-in at airports, allowing for seamless passage through airport checkpoints without the need for paper documents.
- This programme is **led by the industry and coordinated by the Ministry of Civil Aviation**.
- The implementation of **Digi Yatra took place in 2022**, and presently encompasses 14 airports, with an additional 15 airports scheduled to be incorporated by the end of 2024.
- The possible utilisation of Digi Yatra in hotels and other public locations implies that its function may extend beyond solely air travel.

Books and Authors

BILL GATES RELEASES “SOURCE CODE”: A MEMOIR DETAILING HIS EXTRAORDINARY JOURNEY



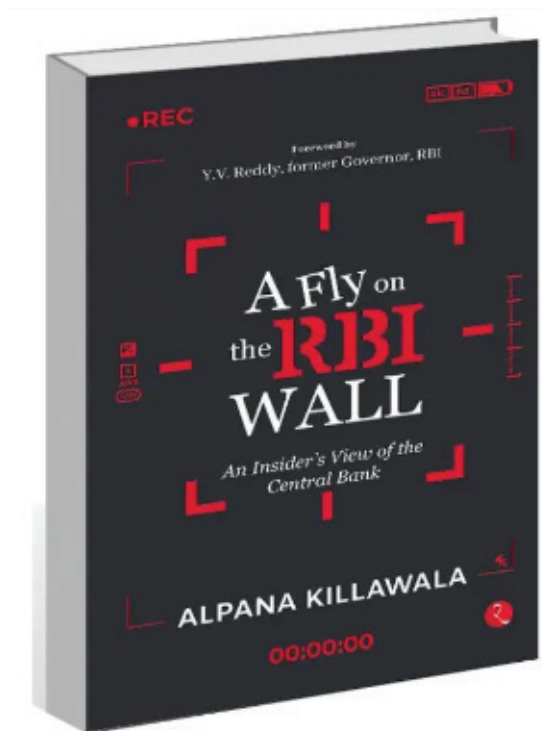
- Microsoft co-founder **Bill Gates** has announced plans to release his highly anticipated memoir, “**Source Code: My Beginnings**”.
- The memoir is set to be published on **February 4, 2025**.
- This literary work offers an intimate look into the life and experiences of one of the world’s most influential tech pioneers.

Exploring the Formative Years and Early Beginnings

- Gates is a renowned author of several books on topics ranging from **business and technology to global health and climate change**.
- In “**Source Code**”, Gates turns his focus inward to explore his early life.

- The memoir traces his journey from a misfit kid facing the challenges of adolescence to a rebellious teen dealing with complex family dynamics.

“A FLY ON THE RBI WALL” BY ALPANA KILLAWALA



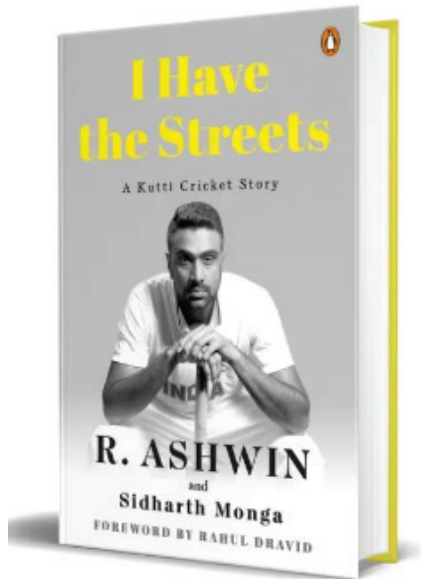
- When **Alpana Killawala** joined the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**, the bank’s communication department was just beginning to take shape.
- Over a career spanning more than two decades, Alpana witnessed and actively contributed to the evolution of the RBI’s communication strategies.
- Her book, ***A Fly on the RBI Wall: An Insider’s View of the Central Bank***, provides insight into her journey and the institution’s transformation over 25 years.

The Early Days

- Alpana’s entry into the RBI marked the beginning of a new era for the bank’s communication function.
- Described by a former executive director as integral to the evolution of the RBI’s communication.

- Alpana's story is closely tied to the bank's efforts to manage its public image and internal communications.

R. ASHWIN'S 'I HAVE THE STREETS: A KUTTI CRICKET STORY' – A LOOK INTO THE LIFE OF A CRICKETING LEGEND



Off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin, one of the most accomplished cricketers in history, released his autobiography titled *I Have the Streets: A Kutti Cricket Story* on June 10, 2024. Co-authored with acclaimed writer Sidharth Monga, this book promises to take readers on a captivating journey through Ashwin's life and times before he became a professional cricketer.

A Cricketing Titan

- He boasts an impressive tally of **744 international wickets and over 4,000 runs**.
- Ashwin debuted for **India in June 2010 against Sri Lanka in an ODI Tri-series featuring Zimbabwe**.
- In the Test arena, Ashwin's prowess is undeniable:
 - He ranks ninth all-time and fifth among spinners with a staggering 516 wickets in 100 games.
- His achievements extend beyond individual milestones:
 - Ashwin has been integral to **India's title-winning teams in the 2011 ODI World Cup** and the 2013 Champions Trophy.

MAHARASHTRA GOVERNOR UNVEILS MARITIME HISTORY BOOK: GATEWAYS TO THE SEA



On June 22, 2024, a significant literary event took place at Raj Bhavan, Mumbai, highlighting the **rich maritime heritage of the Mumbai region**. The Governor of Maharashtra, Shri Ramesh Bais, released a book titled *Gateways to the Sea: Historic Ports and Docks of Mumbai Region*, shedding light on the area's ancient and modern maritime history.

Book Launch and Felicitation Ceremony

Release: Governor Ramesh Bais officially unveiled the book.

Historical Coverage

The book provides an in-depth look at various ports and docks, both ancient and modern:

- Ancient Ports:**
 - Sopara
 - Vasai
 - Versova
 - Mahim
 - Kalyan
 - Thane
 - Panvel
 - Alibag
 - Chaul
 - Mandad
 - Janjira
- Modern Ports and Docks:**
 - Mazagon Dock
 - Mumbai Port
 - Bombay Dock
 - Sassoon Dock
 - Ferry Wharf (Bhaucha Dhakka)

T20 WORLD CUP 2024 WINNER INDIA LIFTS THE TROPHY



- India's national cricket team won the ICC 2024 Men's T20 World Cup by defeating South Africa in Barbados, marking their second T20 World Cup title after 17 years.
- Virat Kohli (India) was awarded the Player of the Match, while Jasprit Bumrah (India) received the Player of the Tournament title.
- The victory is analyzed, focusing on the team's performance and the legacy of key individuals, some of whom have departed from the team.

INDIA TO HOST JUNIOR HOCKEY WORLD CUP IN 2025



- India has been designated as the host country for the inaugural FIH Hockey Men's Junior World Cup in December 2025, showcasing the FIH's commitment to diversity and expanding opportunities for National Associations.

- India, with a rich hockey legacy, has previously hosted the tournament thrice and won the title twice on home turf, aiming to continue its legacy of excellence in hosting and competing at the event.

SHRUTI VORA FIRST INDIAN TO WIN 3 STAR GP IN DRESSAGE, CLOSES IN ON PARIS DREAM



- Shruti Vora, an Indian equestrienne, made history by winning a three-star Grand Prix event in Lipica, Slovenia.
- The arena for equestrian events has 12 lettered markers and seven stages for different levels of competition.
- Scoring in equestrian events is done on a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 being very bad and 10 being excellent.

INDIA WINS 11 MEDALS AT THE U-17 ASIAN WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIP 2024



- Indian wrestlers excelled in the Under-17 Asian Wrestling Championship 2024, winning 11 medals, including four gold, two silver, and five bronze.
- The event took place in Amman, Jordan, from 22-24 June 2024, with women wrestlers securing all four gold medals.
- The championship included men's and women's freestyle and men's Greco-Roman categories with 10 weight divisions in each wrestling format per age group.
- The Indian women's team dominated by securing all four gold medals:

Gold Medals by Women Wrestlers	Silver Medals by Wrestlers	Bronze Medals by Men Wrestlers
Dipanshi – Gold in 46kg	Raja Bala – Silver in 40kg (Women)	Akash – Bronze in 65kg
Muskan – Gold in 53kg	Samarth Gajanan Mhakave – Silver in 55kg (Men)	Sachin Kumar – Bronze in 71kg
Rajnita – Gold in 61kg		Bikash Kacchap – Bronze in 48 kg
Mansi Lather – Gold in 69 kg		Tushar Tukaram Patil – Bronze in 60kg
		Ronak – Bronze in 110kg

REAL MADRID'S HISTORIC 15TH CHAMPIONS LEAGUE TITLE



- Real Madrid secured their 15th UEFA Champions League title, showcasing resilience and clinical edge.
- They won a record-extending 15th Champions League title (the fifth in nine seasons), recognised as such by the Guinness World Records.

- Real Madrid is the first club in Europe's top-five leagues to win 100 trophies in all competitions.
- Dortmund missed scoring opportunities, leading to Real Madrid's victory.
- Real Madrid extended their European dominance with their sixth Champions League title in 11 seasons.
- Carlo Ancelotti achieved his fifth Champions League success as a coach, solidifying his managerial legacy.

LONDON TO HOST GLOBAL CHESS LEAGUE'S SECOND EDITION



- The Global Chess League's second edition will take place in **London** from 3rd to 12th October 2024 at Friends House.
- The league aims to unite top chess players globally in a unique team format and revolutionize the fan experience through innovative formats and ecosystems.
- Tech Mahindra and FIDE plan to promote chess using advanced technologies like 5G, artificial intelligence, and virtual reality.

CRICKET LEGEND KAPIL DEV TAKES OVER AS PROFESSIONAL GOLF TOUR OF INDIA PRESIDENT



- **Kapil Dev, the legendary cricketer**, has been elected as the **new president of the Professional Golf Tour of India (PGTI)**, marking a significant development in Indian golf.
- Kapil Dev's involvement in golf has been notable, including hosting the Kapil Dev-Grant Thornton Invitational to promote professional golf in India.
- The Professional Golf Tour of India (PGTI) plays a crucial role in organizing tournaments, nurturing talent, and elevating Indian golf on the global stage.

INDIAN ATHLETES SHINE AT TAIWAN ATHLETICS OPEN 2024



- **Nayana James** won the **gold medal in the women's long jump** event at the Taiwan Athletics Open 2024, with a jump of 6.43 m, surpassing Sumire Hata and Yu Jeongmi.
- Indian athletes achieved a total of **seven medals at the event, including three golds, three silvers, and one bronze.**
- Nayana James' consistent performances throughout the season solidified her position as one of India's top long jumpers.

SARABJOT SINGH WINS GOLD AT ISSF MUNICH WORLD CUP 2024



- The **International Shooting Sports Federation (ISSF) World Cup** is taking place in **Munich, Germany**, with **Indian shooter Sarabjot Singh** winning India's **first medal, a gold in the men's 10-meter air pistol event.**

- Sift Kaur Samra also secured a bronze medal for India in the women's 50-meter Rifle event.
- India currently holds the third position in the medal tally at the event, tied with France, with two medals each.

SUMIT NAGPAL WINS HIS 6TH ATP CHALLENGER TENNIS TITLE



- **Sumit Nagpal** won the **Heilbronn Neckar Cup 2024 ATP Challenger Tennis tournament in Germany**, marking his **sixth ATP Challenger title** and solidifying his position as India's top-ranked men's singles player.
- Nagpal's victory in the tournament secured his spot among the top 80 male players in the world, making him eligible for the 2024 Summer Paris Olympics.
- The ATP Challenger Tour is organized by the Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) and is the second-highest-ranking tennis tournament after the ATP tour.

DIVYA DESHMUKH AND KAZYBEK NOGERBEK TRIUMPH AT FIDE U-20 WORLD CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP 2024



- **Divya Deshmukh** from Nagpur, India, won the **FIDE Under-20 Girl's World Chess Championship title**, remaining unbeaten throughout the tournament.
- Mariam Mkrtchyan of Armenia secured the second spot, and Ayan Allahverdiyeva of Azerbaijan claimed the third position in the championship.

- Kazybek Nogerbek from Kazakhstan won the FIDE World Junior Chess Championship title in the men's section after a tie-break thriller

NEERAJ CHOPRA WINS GOLD MEDAL AT PAAVO NURMI GAMES 2024



- **Neeraj Chopra won the gold medal in the men's javelin throw** event at the **Paavo Nurmi Games 2024 in Turku, Finland**, with a winning throw of 85.97m.
- Neeraj has been in consistent form, finishing second at the Diamond League meeting in Doha and winning the Federation Cup in Bhubaneswar.
- Neeraj decided not to participate in the Ostrava Golden Spike 2024 due to an issue with his adductor muscles and will next compete in the Diamond League meeting in Paris on July 7.

OLYMPICS MEDALIST BAJRANG PUNIA SUSPENDED BY NADA FOR ANTI-DOPING RULE VIOLATION



- **Olympic bronze medalist wrestler Bajrang Punia** suspended by NADA for a second time for allegedly refusing to provide a urine sample during selection trials.
- Punia's legal team plans to challenge the suspension, arguing that he sought clarification on expired kits used for sample collection .
- NADA served Punia with a formal notice of charge, reinstating his provisional suspension, citing a violation of anti-doping rules.
- NADA emphasized the potential consequences of the Anti-Doping Rule Violation, including disqualification of results and financial penalties.

Person in News

OM BIRLA BECOMES FIRST LOK SABHA SPEAKER IN 20 YEARS TO BE RE-ELECTED AS MP



- **Om Birla, the current Lok Sabha Speaker**, won the Kota parliamentary seat with a significant margin, **becoming the first presiding officer in 20 years to be re-elected to the Lower House of Parliament.**
- Past Lok Sabha Speakers like P.A. Sangma, G.M.C. Balayogi, Manohar Joshi, Somnath Chatterjee, Meira Kumar, and Sumitra Mahajan have had varying electoral journeys and outcomes.

KUWAIT'S EMIR MAKES SHEIKH SABAH AL-KHALID CROWN PRINCE



- **Sheikh Sabah al-Khalid al-Sabah** was nominated as **crown prince by Emir Sheikh Meshal al-Ahmad al-Sabah in Kuwait.**
- Sheikh Sabah al-Khalid previously served as Prime Minister and faced challenges from opposition MPs.
- Kuwait's elected assembly has significant influence, including passing laws, questioning ministers, and submitting no-confidence motions.

- Sheikh Sabah al-Khalid has a background in Political Science and held various ministerial positions before becoming Prime Minister.

PHILEMON YANG OF CAMEROON ELECTED PRESIDENT OF UPCOMING GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION



- **Philemon Yang** elected as **president of the 79th UNGA session, succeeding Denis Francis.**
- Philemon Yang's motive includes promoting peace, sustainable development, and human dignity globally.
- **Theme of the 79th UNGA session is "Unity in Diversity" for peace, sustainable development, and human dignity for all .**

PRESIDENT MURMU INVITES PM MODI TO FORM A NEW GOVERNMENT; SWEARING-IN JUNE 9



- **President Droupadi Murmu** invited **Narendra Modi** to form the next union government after the 2024 Lok Sabha election victory.
- Narendra Modi will take oath along with his new cabinet on June 9 at 7:15 pm.
- Modi assured the nation of fulfilling their hopes, stabilizing the government, and focusing on economic growth and youth development.
- The NDA will establish a strong, stable, and growth-oriented government for the country's development.

PREM SINGH TAMANG SWORN IN AS SIKKIM CHIEF MINISTER FOR SECOND CONSECUTIVE TERM



- **Prem Singh Tamang**, the SKM supremo, was sworn in as the **Chief Minister of Sikkim for the second consecutive term**, along with 11 other Ministers.
- SKM secured a landslide victory in the 2019 assembly elections, winning 31 out of 32 seats, with the opposition SDF winning only one seat.
- In the 2019 assembly elections, SKM won 17 seats, while SDF secured 15 seats out of 32.

LT. GENERAL UPENDRA DWIVEDI TO BE NEXT ARMY CHIEF



- **Lieutenant General Upendra Dwivedi** is set to **become the next Chief of the Army Staff (COAS)** on June 30, with a career spanning over 39 years.
- Lt General Dwivedi has held various significant roles, including Northern Army Commander, Director General (DG) Infantry, and Vice Chief of Army Staff.
- He has received commendation cards and has a strong educational background with multiple degrees and courses in defense and military studies.

CENTRE REAPPOINTS AJIT DOVAL AS NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR



- **Ajit Doval**, the **current National Security Advisor of India**, was **reappointed** by the Centre and his tenure is linked to the Prime Minister's term or further orders.
- Doval is a former spymaster and Intelligence Bureau chief with a background in the Indian Police Service.
- He has a history of successful intelligence operations, including missions in Pakistan, Iraq, and against terror organizations.
- Doval is the founder director of the Vivekananda International Foundation.

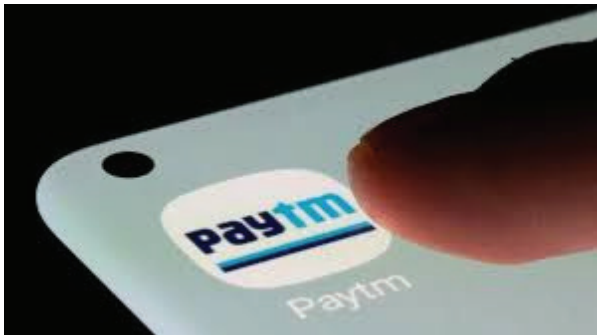
JANA SENA PARTY CHIEF PAWAN KALYAN TAKES CHARGE AS DEPUTY CM OF ANDHRA PRADESH



- **Pawan Kalyan** was appointed as the **Deputy Chief Minister in Andhra Pradesh**, with portfolios in Panchayat Raj, Rural Development, Environment, Forests, and Science and Technology.

- The post of Deputy Chief Minister is considered equivalent in rank to that of a Cabinet Minister in the state, with similar pay and perks.

PAYTM APPOINTS RAJEEV AGARWAL AS NON-EXECUTIVE INDEPENDENT DIRECTOR



- Paytm appointed **Rajeev Agarwal** as a **non-executive independent director**, following **Neeraj Arora's** resignation.
- Rajeev Agarwal brings extensive experience in securities markets and regulatory affairs to Paytm's board.
- Paytm is focused on innovation, growth, and financial inclusion in India's digital economy.
- The company offers digital payment services, financial products, and has a significant market presence with millions of active users.

BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB TAKES OATH AS PRO-TEM SPEAKER OF 18TH LOK SABHA



- **Bhartruhari Mahtab**, a **seven-term Lok Sabha member**, has been appointed as the **pro tem Speaker of the Lower House** by Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju.
- The pro tem Speaker is appointed in situations where there is a vacancy for the Speaker before a new Lok Sabha is formed to carry out essential duties temporarily.
- The duties of the pro tem Speaker include administering oaths to new Members of Parliament according to Article 99 of the Constitution.

MANOJ JAIN APPOINTED AS CHAIRMAN AND MANAGING DIRECTOR OF BHARAT ELECTRONICS LIMITED



- **Manoj Jain** has been appointed as the **new Chairman and Managing Director of Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)**, a prominent Indian defense electronics company.
- Jain's career at BEL spans over three decades, showcasing his expertise in Research and Development through various roles and contributions to technology and defense.
- With Jain's leadership, BEL is expected to continue its trajectory of innovation and excellence in defense electronics, driving the company forward in a technology-driven defense landscape.

TRAI APPOINTS ATUL KUMAR CHAUDHARY AS THE NEW SECRETARY



- **Atul Kumar Chaudhary** has been appointed as the **new Secretary of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)** after the retirement of V Raghunandan.
- Chaudhary is an Indian Telecom Service (ITS) officer with experience in various roles within BSNL, Department of Telecommunications (DoT), and Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI).

REAR ADM NELSON D'SOUZA TAKES OVER AS COMMANDANT, MILITARY INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, PUNE

- **Rear Admiral Nelson D'Souza** has taken over as **Commandant of Military Institute of Technology**

(MILIT), Pune, focusing on strengthening academic programs and jointness integration in training.



- MILIT plays a crucial role in preparing officers from the Indian Army, Navy, Air Force, and the Coast Guard, specializing in the Defence Services Technical Staff Course (DSTSC).
- The transition of leadership aims to uphold the tradition of excellence and enhance the technical acumen of military officers for modern warfare challenges.

PRADEEP SINGH KHAROLA HAS BEEN ASSIGNED THE ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF NTA DG



- **India Trade Promotion Organisation** Chairman and **MD Pradeep Singh Kharola** was assigned additional charge of **NTA DG** till appointment of a regular incumbent or until further orders. Removal of the Director General of the **National Testing Agency, Subodh Kumar Singh**, due to irregularities in exams .
- Formation of a high-level expert committee by the Union Ministry of Education to ensure fair examination conduct, with Dr. K Radhakrishnan as the head .
- Allegations of irregularities in the NEET-UG examination, with suspicions raised about grace marks contributing to top scores.

LT GENERAL NS RAJA SUBRAMANI AS THE NEXT VICE CHIEF OF ARMY STAFF

- **Lt General NS Raja Subramani** is set to become the next Vice Chief of Army Staff, succeeding Lt Gen

Upendra Dwivedi.



- The Vice Chief of the Army Staff (VCOAS) is a crucial position in the Indian Armed Forces, typically held by a three-star lieutenant general, serving as the deputy professional head of the Indian Army.
- Lt Gen Subramani has had a distinguished military career spanning over 37 years, holding various key positions and commands.

J.P. NADDA APPOINTED AS LEADER OF THE HOUSE IN RAJYA SABHA



- **Jagat Prakash Nadda** has been appointed as the Leader of the House in the Rajya Sabha, replacing Piyush Goyal.
- The **Leader of the House in the Rajya Sabha** is responsible for organizing government meetings and business in the House.
- Nadda began his political career with the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad and has served as a legislative assembly member in Himachal Pradesh.

INDIAN-AMERICAN STUDENT FROM FLORIDA CLINCHES VICTORY AT 2024 SCRIPPS NATIONAL SPELLING BEE

- **Bruhat Soma**, a 12-year-old Indian-American, won the Scripps National Spelling Bee by correctly spelling 29 words in a tiebreaker round.
- Indian-Americans have historically excelled in the competition, with 29 champions since 1999 and five Indian-American finalists in the 2024 event .



- Bruhat was coached by former speller Sam Evans and won previous spelling bees before his victory, showcasing dedication and preparation.

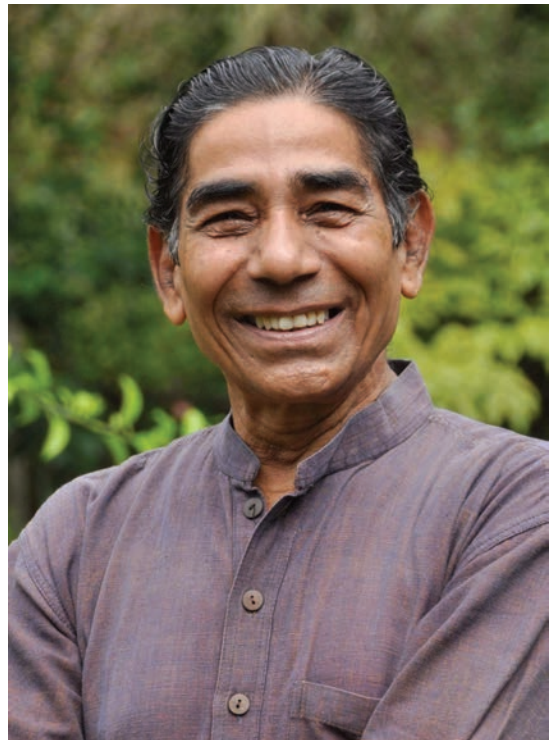
NIMHANS BAGS WHO NELSON MANDELA AWARD FOR HEALTH PROMOTION



- **NIMHANS**, a leading mental health institution in India, received the **Nelson Mandela Award for Health Promotion for 2024** from WHO.
- The award recognizes NIMHANS' significant contributions to mental health promotion and inclusive healthcare efforts in India.
- NIMHANS has been pivotal in pioneering mental health care initiatives, integrating mental health into general healthcare, and developing digital health interventions.
- The institute's recognition coincides with its 50th anniversary, highlighting its rich legacy and commitment to mental health promotion.

POET SIDDHALINGA PATTANASHETTI CHOSEN FOR GUDLEPPA HALLIKERI AWARD

- **Siddalinga Pattanashetty** has been awarded the **Gudleppa Hallikeri Award** for 2024 for his significant contributions to literature and society.
- Pattanashetti, a poet-translator-columnist, was deeply influenced by plays in his childhood and is recognized for his works like Neena, Re-Bandidala, and Parampara.
- His passion for writing and unique contributions to Kannada poetry are highlighted, leaving a lasting impact on readers.



C-DOT WINS UN WSIS AWARD FOR DISASTER RESILIENCE TECHNOLOGY



- Establishment and mission of the **Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT)** by the Government of India to revolutionize the telecom sector.
- Recognition of C-DOT at the WSIS20 Forum for its project on disaster resilience through mobile-enabled Cell Broadcast Emergency Alerting.
- C-DOT's focus on leveraging technology for societal impact, particularly in disaster management and emergency preparedness.
- Overview of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) and its goal to address the global digital divide.

SAHITYA AKADEMI ANNOUNCES YUVA PURASKAR, BAL SAHITYA PURASKAR WINNERS FOR 2024



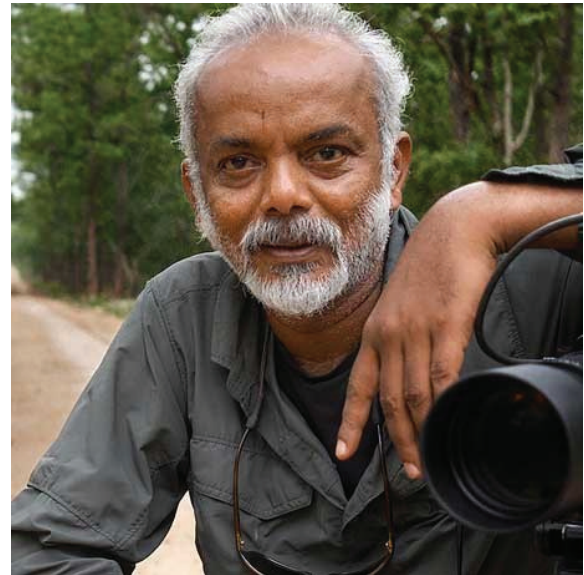
- The **Sahitya Akademi** on June 15, announced the names of 23 writers, including English writer **K Vaishali** and Hindi author **Gaurav Pandey**, who will receive the prestigious Yuva Puraskar.
- Sahitya Akademi announced 23 writers for the prestigious Yuva Puraskar across various languages, including poetry books, short stories, articles, essays, novels, ghazals, and memoirs.
- Bal Sahitya Puraskar recipients include writers of novels, poetry books, stories, short stories, plays, and historical fiction.
- Sahitya Akademi Award is given annually to writers of outstanding literary merit in various languages, including English and Rajasthani, with a cash prize and plaque.

ARYA VAIDYA SALA CELEBRATES AWARD OF HONORARY DSC DEGREE TO P.M. VARIER



- **Dr. P. Madhavankutty** Varier of Kottakkal Arya Vaidya Sala received an honorary Doctor of Science degree for his scientific contributions to Ayurveda.
- The recognition highlights the resurgence of Ayurvedic medicine and its holistic approach to health.
- The Kottakkal Arya Vaidya Sala has been instrumental in promoting and advancing Ayurveda through scientific research and holistic health practices.

WILDLIFE FILMMAKER SUBBIAH NALLAMUTHU HONORED WITH V. SHANTARAM LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



- **Subbiah Nallamuthu** was awarded the 18th V. Shantaram Lifetime Achievement Award for wildlife filmmaking.
- The award was presented at the Mumbai International Film Festival by L. Murugan.
- Nallamuthu is known for tiger-centric documentaries and environmental series.
- Award carries a citation, trophy, and Rs 10 lakh cash prize.
- Mumbai International Film Festival expanded to venues in Delhi, Chennai, Pune, and Kolkata for screenings.

ARUNDHATI ROY AWARDED PEN PINTER PRIZE FOR HER 'UNFLINCHING' WRITING



- **Arundhati Roy**, a Booker Prize-winning author, was honored with the prestigious Pen Pinter Prize 2024 for her unflinching writings on social justice and human rights.

- The prize celebrates literature in memory of Harold Pinter and defends freedom of expression.
- Roy's work focuses on urgent stories of injustice, environmental degradation, and human rights abuses, advocating for the marginalized and challenging the status quo.



USHA THAKUR HONORED WITH 12TH VISHWA HINDI SAMMAN





Dr. Usha Thakur Receives Prestigious 12th Vishwa Hindi Samman

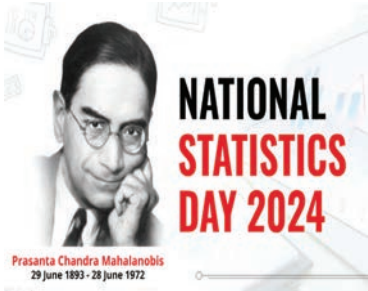

- **Dr. Usha Thakur was honored** with the **12th Vishwa Hindi Samman** for her contributions to Hindi literature and promoting Hindi-Nepali linguistic ties.
- Award presented during a special event at Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu, by the Embassy of India in Nepal.
- Originally scheduled for Fiji, the ceremony moved to Nepal, celebrating Dr. Thakur's achievements closer to home.
- Dr. Thakur's contributions include translating over 40 literary works and advancing Hindi literature globally.
- Hindi serves as a vital language for communication in Nepal, fostering cultural exchange between the two nations.
- The World Hindi Conference celebrates Hindi's global significance and promotes its development since 1975.
- Recognizing Dr. Thakur strengthens Indo-Nepal ties and promotes linguistic diversity through translation and cultural exchange.
- Her work highlights language's role as a bridge between cultures, inspiring future generations of linguists and translators.

Important Days

Date	Observance	Explanation
June 3	World Bicycle Day 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The day highlights the health, transportation, and environmental benefits of cycling, promoting sustainable mobility and cycling-friendly infrastructure. This year, World Bicycle Day's theme is "Promoting Health, Equity, and Sustainability through Cycling".
June 4	International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression honours children affected by conflict and violence, raising awareness about their plight and advocating for their protection and well-being. This year's theme is "Ending Violence Against Children in All Forms".
June 5	World Environment Day 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Environment Day raises awareness about environmental issues, promoting action for nature conservation and encouraging sustainable practices. The theme for 2024 is "Our Land, Our Future".
June 7	World Food Safety Day 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It emphasises the importance of safe food practices to prevent foodborne illnesses, promoting awareness and action for food safety standards. This year's theme is "Food Safety: Prepare for the Unexpected".

June 8	World Oceans Day 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It highlights the importance of oceans in sustaining life and promoting ocean conservation and sustainable use of marine resources. “Awaken New Depths” is the world’s ocean day theme.
June 12	World Day Against Child Labor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It raises awareness about child labour exploitation, advocating for children’s rights to education, play, and a safe environment. “Let’s act on our commitments: End Child Labour” is the year’s theme.
June 14	World Blood Donor Day 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognises the life-saving contributions of blood donors, promoting awareness about the need for regular blood donations. The theme is “20 years of celebrating giving: thank you, blood donors!”
June 15	World Elder Abuse Awareness Day 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Raises awareness about elder abuse and neglect, calling for action to protect older adults’ rights and dignity. The theme is “Spotlight on Older Persons in Emergencies”.
June 17	World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Raises awareness about land degradation’s impact on ecosystems and communities. It is promoting efforts to combat desertification and ensure sustainable land management. This year, the theme of Desertification and Drought Day is “United for Land. Our Legacy.

June 19	World Sickle Cell Awareness Day 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Raises awareness about sickle cell disease, advocating for improved care, treatment, and support for those affected. The theme is Hope Through Progress: Advancing Sickle Cell Care Globally.
June 19	World Sauntering Day 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourages people to slow down, relax, and enjoy a leisurely stroll, embracing a relaxed pace of life and savouring simple pleasures. The theme is observed all over the world to encourage us to slow down our work and enjoy life without racing for things.
June 20	World Refugee Day 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It honours the courage and Resilience of refugees, raising awareness about their plight and advocating for their rights and well-being. The theme for World Refugee Day 2024 is "Everyone is Welcome".
June 21	International Yoga Day 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promotes yoga's physical, mental, and spiritual benefits, encouraging worldwide participation in yoga practices for overall well-being. The theme for International Yoga Day 2024 is "Yoga for Self and Society".
June 23	International Olympic Day 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It commemorates the founding of the modern Olympic Games, promoting sports participation and the Olympic values of excellence, friendship, and respect. The theme is 'Let's Move and Celebrate'.
June 23	United Nations Public Service Day 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It recognises the crucial role of public servants in sustainable development and delivering essential services. It highlights effective public administration. The theme is 'Fostering Innovation amid Global Challenges: a Public Sector Perspective'.
June 26	International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Raises awareness about the global drug problem, promoting efforts to prevent drug abuse and combat illicit trafficking. The theme for World Drug Day 2024 is "The evidence is clear: Invest in prevention".

June 29	<p>National Statistics Day</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It commemorates the birth anniversary of statistician Professor Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis. • It highlights the importance of statistics in decision-making and policy. • The theme for Statistics Day 2024 is “Use of Data for Decision-Making”.
June 30	<p>World Asteroid Day</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It raises awareness about asteroid impact risks and promotes efforts to detect, track, and mitigate potential collisions with Earth. • The day is observed to raise public awareness about the threat posed by near-Earth objects (NEO) like asteroids or comets to the Earth and its population.

Practice Set

1. Iris-T missile was recently in news. It is a joint program of six nation. Which of the following nations were part of this program?

1. Germany 2. Greece
3. Norway 4. USA

Select the correct code below:

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

2. Consider the following the statements about Standard Missile 6:

1. It is Multi-mission missile capable of anti-air warfare, terminal ballistic missile defense, and antiship strike roles.
2. It is developed by the United States Navy.

Which of the above given statements is/are correct?

(a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2

3. Exercise Red Flag 2024 was held in which of the following region?

(a) Alaska (b) Umroi
(c) Pune (d) Cherapunji

4. How many of the following countries will participate in the "Exercise Tarang Shakti"?

1. Australia 2. France
3. Germany 4. Japan
5. South Korea

Select the correct code below:

(a) Only two (b) Only three
(c) Only four (d) All five

5. INS Sunayana is a type of

(a) First stealth warship
(b) Saryu class Offshore Patrol Vessel.
(c) First stealth frigate
(d) None of the above

6. Fire Dragon 480 is related to which of the following countries?

(a) India (b) USA
(c) Israel (d) China

7. What type of warhead does this ATGM system carry?

(a) High-explosive fragmentation warhead
(b) Nuclear warhead
(c) High-explosive antitank (HEAT) warhead
(d) Chemical Warhead

8. Queen Ahilya Bai Holkar was recently in news. Which of the following acts were done by him?

1. Created Maheshwar as a cultural hub
2. Started Maheshwari Saree industry
3. Founded Kashi Vishwanath temple

Select the correct code below:

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

9. What is the maximum time after death within which skin can be donated to the Indian Army's Skin Bank?

(a) 3 hours (b) 6 hours
(c) 5 hours (d) 8 hours

10. TAPAS UAV is developed by:

(a) Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)
(b) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)
(c) Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)
(d) Indian Army Aviation Corps

11. Kalibr cruise missile is related to which of the following countries?

(a) Russia (b) India
(c) China (d) None

12. Exercise HOPEX was conducted between which of the following countries?

(a) India and Egypt (b) India and Russia
(c) India and China (d) India and France

13. Ambubachi festival is celebrated in which of the following temple?

(a) Kedareswara Temple
(b) Asvakranta Temple
(c) Basistha Temple
(d) Kamakhya Temple

14. 77th World Health Assembly was held in which of the following locations?

- (a) Geneva (b) Milan
(c) Rome (d) New York

15. Consider the following statements about the International Labour Organisation:

1. The 112th International Labour Conference (ILC) was held in Geneva.
2. **The International Labour Organization (ILO)** is a United Nations agency focused on advancing social and economic justice by setting international labour standards.

Which of the above statements are true?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) None of the above

16. "Source Code: My Beginning" is the epic memoirs was related to:

- (a) Bill Gates (b) R Ashwin
(c) Mark Zuckerberg (d) None

17. Fly on the RBI Wall was written by which of the following personality?

- (a) B. N. Adarkar
(b) H. V. R. Iyengar
(c) K. G. Ambegaonkar
(d) Alpana Killawala

18. Consider the following pairs:

Days	Theme
World Environment Day	Our Land, Our Future
World Oceans Day	Awaken New Depths
World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought	United for Land. Our Legacy.

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

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

19. Which country has recently assumed the chair of the Colombo Process for the term 2024-26?

- (a) Sri Lanka (b) Indonesia
(c) China (d) India

20. Consider the following statements United Nations Security Council (UNSC):

1. It is the only UN body with the authority to issue binding resolutions to member states.
2. There are 10 non-permanent members, five of which are elected each year by the General Assembly for a two-year term.
3. Pakistan is elected to the UNSC as a nonpermanent member for 2025-26.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

21. How many of the following statements regarding the Biopharmaceutical Alliance is incorrect?

1. The Biopharmaceutical Alliance is a joint initiative of South Korea, India, the United States, Japan, and the European Union (EU).
2. It aims to build a reliable, sustainable and resilient supply chain in the biopharmaceutical sector.
3. It was launched in response to the drug supply shortages experienced during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Select the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

22. How many of the following countries have joined as full-fledged members of BRICS:

1. Egypt
2. Iran
3. Saudi Arabia
4. Oman

Select the correct answer from the codes given below:

- (a) Only one (b) Only two
(c) Only three (d) All four

23. Which of the following statements is correct regarding the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA)?

1. CECA are types of agreements that primarily address trade tariff and tariff rate quotas.
2. The CECA between India and Australia intends to cover 5 main tracks i.e. goods, services, digital trade, government procurement and Rules of Origin/Product Specific Rules Schedule

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. With reference to the elections in India, consider the following statements:

1. The NOTA option was first implemented in 2013 State legislative assemblies elections.
2. If NOTA receives the highest number of votes in the constituency, the second most successful candidate wins.
3. In 2024 General Elections, Bhopal witnessed highest number of votes polled to NOTA, making it the highest ever for NOTA in any constituency.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

25. Consider the following statements about Special Marriage Act, 1954:
1. It is an Indian law that provides a legal framework for the marriage of people belonging to different religions or castes.
 2. The minimum age to get married under the SMA is 21 years for males and 18 years for females.
- Which of the above statements is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2
26. Consider the following statement with reference to Special Category Status(SCS) for States:
- Statement-I:** It is a designation that the central government provides to aid states with geographical and socio-economic challenges.
- Statement-II:** Currently, only seven states have the Special Category Status in the country including Assam, Nagaland, Himachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Uttarakhand, and Telangana.
- Which of the above statements is correct in respect of the above statements?
- (a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II explains Statement-I
(b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, but Statement-II does not explain Statement-I
(c) Statement-I is correct, but Statement-II is incorrect
(d) Statement-I is incorrect, but Statement-II is correct
27. Consider the following statements about Agnipath scheme:
1. Agnipath was aimed at recruiting personnel for officers and non officer ranks to the Indian Armed Forces for a period of four years.
 2. Candidates between the age of 17.5 years to 21 years will be eligible to enroll in the scheme.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2
28. With reference to 'Digi Yatra', consider the following statements:
1. It aims to achieve seamless and contactless processing of passengers at airports.
 2. It will use Facial Recognition Technology for the identification of the passengers.
 3. As of now, Digi Yatra has been launched at 14 airports.
- How many of the statements given above are correct?
- (a) Only one (b) Only two
(c) All three (d) None
29. Consider the following statements:
1. The National Health Claim Exchange (NHCE) is a government-funded program that subsidizes healthcare costs for low-income patients.

2. It has been developed by the National Health Authority.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2
30. Which of the following best describes the objective of the National Forensic Infrastructure Enhancement Scheme (NFIES)?
- (a) Improving forensic facilities and services in law enforcement agencies
(b) Address the shortage of trained forensic manpower
(c) Promoting international cooperation in forensic sciences
(d) Providing financial support for victims of cybercrimes
31. Which one of the following has been launched by Agnikul, a Chennai-based startup?
- (a) Air Independent Propulsion System
(b) Integrated Circuits
(c) Indigenous air defence system
(d) 3D Printed Rocket Engine
32. With reference to the satellite 'Surface Water and Ocean Topography', consider the following statements:
1. It is jointly developed by NASA and JAXA.
 2. It is the first mission to observe nearly all water on the planet's surface.
 3. The satellite utilizes state-of-the-art microwave radar technology to gather precise surface measurements of oceans, lakes, reservoirs, and rivers
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) 2 and 3 only (d) 1 and 3 only
33. Which space organization recently developed Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD) software named 'PraVaHa'?
- (a) JAXA (b) Roscosmos
(c) NASA (d) ISRO
34. Consider the following statements regarding 'kalaazar':
1. It is a slow-progressing indigenous disease caused by a protozoan parasite of the genus Leishmania.
 2. Integrated vector management is one of the main strategies for guiding kala-azar elimination.
- Which of the above statements is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2

35. Which among the following became the first Lok Sabha Speaker in 20 years to be re-elected as an MP?
- Sumitra Mahajan
 - Meira Kumar
 - Om Birla
 - Manohar Joshi
36. Consider the following statements:
- Bhartruhari Mahtab has been appointed as the pro tem Speaker of the Lower House.
 - The pro-tem Speaker is appointed by the President of India on the advice of the Prime Minister.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- 1 only
 - 2 only
 - Both 1 and 2
 - Neither 1 nor 2
37. Consider the following statement:
- Pench Tiger reserve is located in Chhattisgarh.
 - The primary objective of introducing an advanced AI system in the Pench Tiger Reserve is to detect and prevent forest fires early.
- Which of the above given statement is/are correct?
- 1 only
 - 2 only
 - Both 1 and 2
 - Neither 1 nor 2
38. Which among the following is set to become the next Chief of the Army Staff?
- General Bipin Rawat
 - Lieutenant General Upendra Dwivedi
 - General Manoj Mukund Naravane
 - General Dalbir Singh Suhag
39. Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport is located in which city?
- Varanasi
 - Lucknow
 - Kanpur
 - Prayagraj
40. Consider the following statements:
- Rear Admiral Nelson D'Souza is the first Navy officer to serve as Commandant of MILIT, Pune.
 - MILIT, Pune, is primarily focused on research and development in aerospace technology.
 - MILIT is affiliated with the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Bombay, for collaborative research programs.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- 1 only
 - 2 only
 - 1 and 3
 - 1, 2 and 3
41. Consider the following statements:
- There are 82 Ramsar sites in India in 2024.
 - Nagi and Nakti bird sanctuaries in Jharkhand have been designated in global list of wetlands of international importance under the Ramsar Convention.
3. Nagi and Nakti Bird Sanctuaries are added in the list on World Earth day.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- 1, 2 and 3
 - 1 only
 - 1 and 3
 - 3 only
42. India's rank in the 2024 Environmental Performance Index (EPI)?
- 150th
 - 160th
 - 170th
 - 176 th
43. Consider the following statements:
- India's national cricket team won the ICC 2024 Men's T20 World Cup by defeating South Africa in Barbados.
 - This victory marked India's third T20 World Cup title.
 - India last won the T20 World Cup in 2007.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- 1, 2 and 3
 - 1 only
 - 1 and 3
 - 2 and 3
44. Which country recently hosted the 50th G7 Summit in June 2024?
- Japan
 - United Kingdom
 - Italy
 - France
45. Consider the following statements:
- The Gujarat government has announced that it has completed the preparation for the Cheetah's translocation to Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary.
 - The translocation is under Project Cheetah.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- 1 only
 - 2 only
 - Both 1 and 2
 - Neither 1 nor 2
46. Recently, which of the following country became India's top defence export partner?
- France
 - Russia
 - Israel
 - United States
47. Recently, in which of the following state/UT the Indian Railway completed a successful trial run of the world's highest railway bridge, the Chenab Rail Bridge?
- Himachal Pradesh
 - Jammu and Kashmir
 - Ladakh
 - Uttarakhand
48. Consider the following statements:
- The Ministry of Coal initiated India's first Underground Coal Gasification (UCG) pilot project in Chhattisgarh.

2. The project aims to convert coal into valuable gases like methane and hydrogen.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2

49. Recently, Cabinet approves 'Development of an allWeather Greenfield deepdraft Major Port in which of the following state?

- (a) Maharashtra (b) Gujarat
(c) Kerala (d) Karnatka

50. Consider the following statement:

1. The Global Peace Index (GPI) published by the Institute for Economics & Peace (IEP).
2. India stands at 116th Rank out of 163 countries in the Global Peace Index (GPI) 2024.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer Key

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

Solution

1. (c) Explanation:

A recent report indicates that **the Bundeswehr, Germany's armed forces, experienced the loss of an Iris-T missile**, raising serious concerns about the potential compromise of crucial technology.

- Developed under a **six-nation program led by Germany**, with Diehl BGT Defence as the industrial prime contractor.
- Participating nations: **Germany, Greece, Norway, Italy, Spain, and Sweden.**
- Capable of **neutralising threats posed by aircraft, cruise missiles, drones, and helicopters within a range of up to (25 miles).**

Feature	Description
Type	Next-generation short-range air-to-air missile
Range	Up to miles
Capability	Short-range and medium-range air defence
Target Engagement	Aircraft, cruise missiles, drones, helicopters

2. (c) Explanation:

- Multi-mission missile capable of **antiair warfare, terminal ballistic missile defense, and antiship strike roles.**
- Developed by Raytheon Company for the **United States Navy.**
- First version became operational in **December 2014.**

Feature	Description
Role	Multi-mission: antiair warfare, terminal ballistic missile defense, antiship strike
Developer	Raytheon Company
Operational Since	December 2014
Type	Extended-range active missile (ERAM)
Guidance Technologies	AMRAAM (Advanced Medium-Range Air-to-Air Missile)

Guidance Method	Semi-active homing and homing
Surface-to-Air Published Range	240 km
Estimated Maximum Range	Up to 463 km

3. (a) Explanation:

The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** contingent participated in **Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska, USA.** It was conducted between **04 June and 14 June 2024.**

About Exercise **Red Flag 2024:**

- **Edition:** Second edition of **Exercise Red Flag 2024.**
- **Frequency:** Advanced aerial combat training exercises are **held four times a year** by the US Air Force.
- **Participants:**
 - ♦ Indian Air Force (IAF)
 - ♦ Republic of Singapore Air Force (RSAF)
 - ♦ Royal Air Force (RAF) of the United Kingdom
 - ♦ Royal Netherlands Air Force (RNLAf)
 - ♦ German Luftwaffe
 - ♦ United States Air Force (USAF)

4. (c) Explanation:

- The Indian Air Force (IAF) will host an air exercise, **Tarang Shakti-2024, in August.**

About Exercise **Tarang Shakti:**

- **First Multinational Air Exercise:** Hosted by the Indian Air Force.
- **Objective:** Invite friendly foreign countries with regular IAF interactions and a degree of interoperability.
- **Participating Countries:**
 - ♦ Australia, France, Germany, Japan, Spain, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, and the United States.
 - ♦ Germany will deploy fighter jets and an A400M transport aircraft.

5. (b) **Explanation:**

- **Event:** INS Sunayna visited Mombasa, Kenya from 20-23 June 2023.
- **Purpose:** Strengthening bilateral ties with maritime neighbours on the theme of the Ocean Ring of Yoga.

About INS Sunayna:

- **Class:** Saryu class Offshore Patrol Vessel.
- **Commissioning:** Commissioned at Kochi.
- **Command:** Based under Southern Naval Command.

6. (d) **Explanation:**

Developed by China's Norinco Group, the Fire Dragon 480 is a Chinese long-range rocket designed for export purposes.

Specifications:

- **Size and Type:** It is a tactical ballistic missile equipped with precision-guidance sensors, enabling it to target moving objects accurately.
- **Launch Capability:** Deployed from a high-speed wheeled platform capable of operating in rugged environments.
- **Warhead:** Features a warhead that exceeds and is significantly larger than conventional antiship missiles.
- **Impact Velocity:** With an impact velocity surpassing 500 meters per second, it is capable of sinking a 10,000-tonne cruiser with just two missiles.
- **Range:** Initially thought to have a range limit of (180 miles), recent Chinese studies suggest it could effectively reach over .

Adoption: Officially adopted by the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) in 2019.

7. (c) **Explanation:**

- The warhead carried by this man-portable **antitank-guided missile (ATGM)** system is specifically designed to **defeat heavily armoured targets**.
- A tandem-charge HEAT warhead consists of two charges: **a precursor charge and a main charge**.
- The precursor charge initiates the explosive effect and **neutralizes any reactive armor that might be present on the target, while the main charge penetrates the primary armor of the vehicle**.
- This design ensures that the warhead can effectively penetrate advanced armor systems, making it suitable for engaging and destroying main battle tanks and other heavily armored vehicles.

- The HEAT warhead is a common choice for **ATGMs due to its effectiveness against armored targets**.

8. (d) **Explanation:**

- **Ahilya Bai Holkar, the Holkar Queen of the Maratha Malwa kingdom**, was renowned for her wisdom, courage, and administrative skills, ruling justly for 28 years.
- Under her rule, **Maheshwar became a cultural hub**, and she welcomed many scholars and poets while establishing the famous **Maheshwari saree industry**.
- She built and renovated numerous temples across India, including the famous **Kashi Vishwanath Temple**, and implemented significant social reforms.

9. (b) **Explanation:**

- The **Indian Army's Skin Bank** allows for skin donation within **6 hours of a person's death**.
- This timeframe is crucial because skin needs to be collected and processed promptly to ensure its viability and effectiveness for medical use, particularly in treating severe burn injuries and other skin-related conditions.
- After death, the skin preservation process begins quickly to maintain its **integrity and suitability for transplantation**.
- Thus, the 6-hour window ensures that the donated skin can be effectively **utilized for medical purposes**.

10. (c) **Explanation:**

- The TAPAS UAV, previously known as **Rustom-II**, was developed by the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** through its **Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE)**.
- DRDO is India's premier agency responsible for research and development in defense and military technology.
- The TAPAS UAV was specifically designed to meet the Intelligence, Surveillance, Target Acquisition, Tracking & Reconnaissance (ISTAR) requirements of the Indian Armed Forces, demonstrating DRDO's expertise in developing advanced aerospace systems for defense applications.

11. (a) **Explanation:**

- A Russian submarine recently used a Kalibr cruise missile in the Sea of Japan to hit a land target over 1,000 kilometers away in a drill.

About Kalibr Missile:

- Family of Russian cruise missiles.

- Can be launched from ships, submarines, containers, airplanes, or transport erector launchers

Variants	Anti-ship, anti-submarine, land attack purposes
Developer/ Producer	Russia's Almaz-Antey corporation
Mass	1,300 kg to 2,300 kg (depending on variant)
Length	6.2 m to 8.9 m (depending on variant)
Diameter	0.533 m
Warhead Weight	400-500 kg
Warhead Type	High explosive or thermonuclear material
Engine	Multi-stage solid-fuel rocket engine, some versions with turbojet or solid-fuel rocket
Guidance System	Inertial guidance with satellite navigation update
Terminal Stage	Accelerates to supersonic speed to avoid enemy defenses
Range	200 kg to 2,500 kg (depending on type)

12. (a) Explanation:

Exercise HOPEX:

- Fourth joint exercise of IAF (Indian Air Force) and EAF (Egyptian Air Force)
- Held in Egypt from 21 to 26 June
- Aim: To promote bilateral and regional cooperation
- Symbol of long-standing relations between India and Egypt

13. (d) Explanation:

- The Ambubachi Mela is an annual Hindu mela (gathering) held at **Kamakhya Temple in Guwahati, Assam**.
- It is one of the major annual festivals that happens in Assam.

14. (a) Explanation:

- The World Health Assembly (WHA) is the decision-making body of the World Health Organization (WHO).
- It convenes annually in Geneva, Switzerland. Delegates from all WHO member states attend the assembly, where they discuss and decide on health policies, appoint the Director General, supervise financial policies, and review and approve the program budget.

- Geneva has been the traditional location for the WHA because it is the WHO headquarters.

15. (c) Explanation:

- The 112th International Labour Conference (ILC) was held in **Geneva from June 3-14, 2024**.
- The **International Labour Organization (ILO)** is a United Nations agency focused on advancing social and economic justice by setting **international labour standards**.
- Founded in **October 1919 under the League of Nations**, it is one of the oldest specialized agencies of the UN.
- The ILO has 187 member states, which include **186 of the member states plus the Cook Islands**.

The ILO is headquartered in Geneva, **Switzerland**, and operates around 40 field offices worldwide.

16. (a) Explanation:

- **Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates** has announced plans to release his highly anticipated memoir, titled **"Source Code: My Beginnings"**.
- The memoir is set to be published on **February 4, 2025**.
- This literary work offers an intimate look into the life and experiences of one of the world's most influential tech pioneers.

17. (d) Explanation:

Alpana Killawala's book, **A Fly on the RBI Wall: An Insider's View** of the Central Bank, offers insight into her career at the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the evolution of the bank's communication strategies over more than two decades. She played a significant role in shaping the RBI's communication department and has documented her experiences and the institution's transformation in her book.

18. (c) Explanation:

Date	ance	Explanation
June 5	World Environment Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raises awareness about environmental issues, promoting action for nature conservation and encouraging sustainable practices. • The theme for 2024 is "Our Land, Our Future".

June 8	World Oceans Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It highlights the importance of oceans in sustaining life and promoting ocean conservation and sustainable use of marine resources. "Awaken New Depths" is the world's Ocean Day theme.
June 17	World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Raises awareness about land degradation's impact on ecosystems and communities. It is promoting efforts to combat desertification and ensure sustainable land management. This year, the theme of Desertification and Drought Day is "United for Land. Our Legacy".

19. (d) Explanation:

- India assumed the Chair of Colombo Process for 2024-26, for the first time since its inception in 2002.
- The chairmanship aims to promote safe, orderly and legal migration.

About Colombo Process:

- Colombo Process is a **Regional Consultative Process of migrant worker origin countries from South and South East Asia**.
- It serves as a forum for exchange of best practices on overseas employment.
- It comprises 12 Member States of Asia (countries of origin of migrant workers).
- Its members are **Afghanistan, Bangladesh, China, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Vietnam**.

20. (c) Explanation:

- Pakistan, Somalia, Denmark, Greece, and Panama** have been elected as non-permanent

members of the UN Security Council for a **twoyear period starting in 2025**.

- The **five individuals** were chosen through a **confidential voting process in the United Nations General Assembly** to serve a two-year period commencing on **January 1, 2025, and concluding on December 31, 2026**.
- Election process for non-permanent seats on the UNSC:**
- The **United Nations Security Council** is a **15 member body consisting of five permanent members** (China, France, Russian Federation, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America) and **10 nonpermanent members elected by the General Assembly for a term of two years**.
- Rule 142 of the rules of procedure: The United Nations General Assembly has to **elect each year five non-permanent members of the Security Council based on the following pattern:**
 - Five from African and Asian States
 - One from Eastern European State
 - Two from Latin American States
 - Two from Western European and other States

21. (c) Explanation:

- Recently, **India, South Korea, the US, Japan, and the** launched the **Biopharmaceutical Alliance**.
- It was **launched in response to the drug supply shortages experienced during the Covid-19 pandemic**.
- The **announcement was made at the inaugural meeting of the Biopharmaceutical Alliance**, held in San Diego, California, during the Bio International Convention 2024, the world's largest biopharmaceutical exhibition.
- The alliance will **help in building a detailed pharmaceutical supply chain** map to reduce dependence on other countries(China) where the production of essential raw materials and ingredients is concentrated.

22. (c) Explanation:

- Egypt, Iran, UAE, Saudi Arabia and Ethiopia** joined the BRICS as its new members. Their representatives attended for the first time a key meeting of the grouping hosted by Russia.
- It was the **first ministerial meeting following BRICS expansion** in 2023 when **Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE** joined the grouping as full-fledged BRICS members.

- **About BRICS:**
 - ♦ **BRICS is an acronym for the grouping of the world's leading emerging economies, namely Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.**
 - ♦ **The BRICS Leaders' Summit is held every year.**
 - ♦ The 15th BRICS Summit was hosted by South Africa in 2023, and Russia will host the 16th Brics summit in October 2024.

23. (c) Explanation:

Australia is actively working towards completing the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) with India over the next 6-7 months, before their federal elections in mid-2025.

About CECA:

- The CECA agreement between the two countries is expected to include deeper market access and impact digital trade, goods, services, rules of origin and government procurement, and cooperation.
- CECA are types of agreements that **primarily address trade tariff and tariff rate quotas.**
- **Australia and India first launched negotiations for a CECA in May 2011.**
- After suspension in 2016, it was re-launched in 2021 with the intention of quickly concluding an ECTA to liberalise and deepen bilateral trade in goods and services.
- **The CECA is intended to cover 5 main tracks i.e. goods, services, digital trade, government procurement and Rules of Origin/Product Specific Rules Schedule.**
- New areas of interest include competition policy, MSMEs, innovation, agri-tech, critical minerals and sports.

24. (b) Explanation:

- **In the 2024 Lok Sabha elections - Indore, Madhya Pradesh saw a remarkable outcome, with the NOTA (None of the Above) option receiving over 2 lakh votes, making it the highest ever for NOTA in any constituency.**
- The NOTA option secured **16.28%** of the total vote cast in the Indore Lok Sabha seat.
- **About NOTA:**
 - ♦ **NOTA is a ballot option that allows voters to disapprove all contesting candidates** contesting from a constituency without selecting any of them.
 - ♦ This option **empowers voters to express their negative opinions and lack of support for the candidates.** It also gives them the

right to reject candidates while maintaining the secrecy of their decision.

- ♦ **NOTA was first implemented in the 2013 Assembly elections in five states: Chhattisgarh, Mizoram, Rajasthan, Delhi, and Madhya Pradesh, and later in the 2014 General Elections.**
- ♦ Its introduction into the **electoral process followed the 2013 Supreme Court directive in the PUCVs. Union of India case.**

25. (c) Explanation:

- The **Special Marriage Act (SMA), 1954** is an Indian law that provides a **legal framework for the marriage of people belonging to different religions or castes.**
- The Special Marriage Act, 1954 is an Act of the Parliament of **India with provision for civil marriage for people of India and all Indian nationals in foreign countries, irrespective of religion or faith followed by either party.**
- The Indian system, where both civil and religious marriages are recognised, is similar to the laws in the UK's Marriage Act of 1949.
- The **minimum age to get married under the SMA is 21 years for males and 18 years for females.**

26. (c) Explanation:

Andhra Pradesh demand for Special Category Status has risen again as Chandrababu Naidu's Telugu Desam Party played a key role in government formation at the Centre.

About Special Category Status (SCS):

- It is a designation that the **central government provides** to aid states with geographical and socioeconomic challenges.
- It was **introduced in 1969 on the recommendations of the Fifth Finance Commission** (chaired by Mahavir Tyagi) to benefit certain backward states.
- At that time, this was provided to Assam, Jammu and Kashmir and Nagaland.
- The idea of SCS was **first formalised in April 1969 when the Gadgil formula** of fund allocation was cleared by the National Development Council (NDC).
- On the basis of this formula, more states were given the SCS when they attained statehood.
- Currently, **11 states have the SCS in the country including Assam, Nagaland, Himachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Sikkim, Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Uttarakhand, and Telangana.**

- Telangana, the newest state of India, is accorded the status as it was carved out of another state Andhra Pradesh.

27. (c) Explanation:

Agnipath scheme, announced in June 2022, has faced opposition from political parties and Armed Forces veterans.

About Agnipath scheme:

- It is a **central government scheme launched in 2022 for recruitment** to the armed forces.
- It is a recruitment process for **individuals below the rank of officer, with the goal of deploying fitter**, younger troops on the front lines, many of whom will be on four-year contracts.
- The **armed forces would also have the option to retain some of the best ‘Agniveers’**.
- **Candidates between the age of 17.5 years to 21 years will be eligible** for enrolling in the Agnipath scheme.
- Girls under the given age limit are open for the agnipath entry, while there is no such reservation for women under this scheme
- The recruitment standards will remain the same, and recruitment will be done twice a year through rallies.

28. (c) Explanation:

Recently, the CEO of Digi Yatra Foundation proposed that the DigiYatra technology used at airports could be implemented at hotels and public places such as historical monuments.

About Digi Yatra:

- The ‘DigiYatra’ is a **travel experience that utilises facial-recognition technology to provide a seamless and secure journey**, enabled by biometrics.
- The service offers **biometric-based check-in at airports**, allowing for seamless passage through airport checkpoints without the need for paper documents.
- This programme is led by the industry and **coordinated by the Ministry of Civil Aviation**.
- The implementation of Digi Yatra took place in 2022, and presently encompasses 14 airports, with an additional 15 airports scheduled to be incorporated by the end of 2024.

29. (b) Explanation:

Recently, the Health Ministry and the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) are working together to launch the National Health Claim Exchange (NHCX).

About National Health Claim Exchange:

- It is **created by the National Health Authority (NHA)**, is a **digital platform aimed at streamlining the sharing of claims-related data among stakeholders in the healthcare and health insurance sectors**.
- NHCX is built to be **interoperable, machinereadable, auditable, and verifiable**. This guarantees the accuracy and reliability of the shared information, promoting transparency and enhancing efficiency in processes.
- It serves as a **single platform for all health claims, alleviating administrative burdens on hospitals** that currently manage various portals for different insurers.
- The National Health Authority has developed the NHCX to promote the adoption of digital health transactions

30. (b) Explanation:

The Union Cabinet approved the **Central Sector Scheme of “National Forensic Infrastructure Enhancement Scheme (NFIES)** with a **total financial outlay of Rs. 2254.43 crore during the period from 2024-25 to 2028-29**.

About NFIES:

- **Objectives of the scheme:** It aims to **address the shortage of trained forensic manpower, strengthening the capacity and capabilities of the National Forensic Sciences University**.
- **Components:**
 - ♦ Establishment of Campuses of the **National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU)** across the country.
 - ♦ Establishment of **Central Forensic Science Laboratories** in the country.
 - ♦ **Enhancement of existing infrastructure** of the Delhi Campus of the NFSU.
- The establishment of new Central Forensic Science Laboratories across the country is intended to alleviate the caseload and pendency in the existing forensic laboratories.

31. (d) Explanation:

- **IIT Madras-incubated start-up Agnikul, has launched the world’s first single piece 3D printed rocket engine from Sriharikota**.
- This remarkable feat has been achieved entirely through indigenous design and development.
- **‘Agnibaan - SOrTeD’ Sub-Orbital Technology Demonstrator** also has the unique distinction of having been launched from India’s first private launch pad called **‘Dhanush’ established by Agnikul**.

- It is also **India's first semi-cryogenic enginepowered rocket launch**.
- The key purpose of this mission, which is also Agnikul's first flight, is to serve as a test flight, to demonstrate the in-house and home grown technologies, gather crucial flight data and ensure optimal functioning of systems for Agnikul's orbital launch vehicle, the 'Agnibaan'.

32. (c) Explanation:

- Recently, **NASA has launched a satellite to conduct a comprehensive study of Oceans, rivers and Lakes around the world**.
- **SWOT is being jointly developed by NASA and Centre National D'Etudes Spatiales (CNES)** with contributions from the Canadian Space Agency (CSA) and United Kingdom Space Agency.
- The launched satellite is named as **SWOT (Surface Water and Ocean Topography)**.
- The advanced radar satellite is specifically engineered to provide an unparalleled perspective of the biosphere, which encompasses 70% of the Earth's surface. This will offer novel insights into the mechanisms and ramifications of climate change.
- The satellite utilizes **state-of-the-art microwave radar technology to gather precise surface measurements of oceans, lakes, reservoirs, and rivers with exceptional clarity and detail**.

33. (d) Explanation:

The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** recently developed **Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD) software named PraVaHa**.

About PraVaHa

- Parallel RANS Solver for Aerospace Vehicle Aerothermo-dynamic Analysis (PraVaHa) is a Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD) software developed in **ISRO's Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC)**.
- The software has the capability to replicate both the **external and internal fluid dynamics of launch vehicles**, as well as winged and nonwinged re-entry vehicles.
- PraVaHa has been widely employed in the Gaganyaan programme to do thorough aerodynamic analysis of launch vehicles designed for human spaceflight, specifically the HLVM3, Crew Escape System (CES), and Crew Module (CM).

34. (c) Explanation:

- The World Health Organisation (WHO) has **introduced a new framework on June 12 to provide guidance** to health authorities, policy makers, and other stakeholders in order to eliminate the **parasitic infection visceral leishmaniasis (VL), also known as kala-azar**, which poses a rising public health risk in eastern Africa.
- The **framework outlines five main strategies for guiding VL elimination**:
 - ♦ Early diagnosis and treatment
 - ♦ **Integrated** vector management
 - ♦ Effective surveillance
 - ♦ Advocacy, social mobilisation and partnershipbuilding
 - ♦ Implementation and operational research
- **About Visceral leishmaniasis or Kala-Azar**:
 - ♦ It is a **slow-progressing indigenous disease caused by a protozoan parasite of the genus Leishmania**.
 - ♦ It spreads through the bite of infected female sandflies.

35. (c) Explanation:

- **Om Birla becomes first Lok Sabha Speaker in 20 years to be re-elected as MP**.
- Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla won the Kota parliamentary seat by over 41,139 votes, making him the first presiding officer in 20 years to be reelected to the Lower House.
- Historical re-election instances of Lok Sabha Speakers like P A Sangma, G M C Balayogi, Manohar Joshi, Somnath Chatterjee, Meira Kumar, and Sumitra Mahajan were highlighted

36. (a) Explanation:

- **Bhartruhari Mahtab** has been appointed as the **pro tem Speaker of the Lok Sabha**.
- The **pro tem Speaker is appointed by the President of India**, usually on the recommendation of the outgoing Speaker or based on consensus among various parties, and not specifically on the advice of the Prime Minister.

37. (b) Explanation:

- **Pench National Park** is located in the districts of **Seoni and Chhindwara of Madhya Pradesh**, which also **shares a boundary with Maharashtra**.
- **Introduction of an advanced AI system** for early forest fire detection in the **Pench Tiger Reserve in Maharashtra**.

- Features of the AI system include a high-resolution PTZ camera with a visual range, satellite integration, and real-time data analysis.

38. (b) **Explanation:**

- **Lieutenant General Upendra Dwivedi** is set to **become the next Chief of the Army Staff (COAS)** on June 30, with a career spanning over 39 years.
- Lt General Dwivedi has held various significant roles, including Northern Army Commander, Director General (DG) Infantry, and Vice Chief of Army Staff.

39. (a) **Explanation:**

- The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, approved the Airports Authority of India (AAI) proposal for the development of **Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport in Varanasi**, with an outlay of Rs 2,870 crore.

40. (b) **Explanation:**

- **Rear Admiral Nelson D'Souza** has taken over as **Commandant of Military Institute of Technology (MILIT), Pune**, focusing on strengthening academic programs and jointness integration in training.
- MILIT plays a crucial role in preparing officers from the Indian Army, Navy, Air Force, and the Coast Guard, specializing in the Defence Services Technical Staff Course (DSTSC).

41. (b) **Explanation:**

- **Nagi and Nakti bird sanctuaries in Bihar's Jamui district** have been added to the global list of wetlands of international importance under the **Ramsar Convention, increasing India's total to 82.**
- Nagi and Nakti Bird Sanctuaries in Bihar are recognized as wetlands of international importance under the Ramsar Convention on **World Environment Day that is on 5th of June.**

42. (d) **Explanation:**

- **India ranks 176th out of 180** countries in the 2024 **Environmental Performance Index**, indicating poor environmental performance.
- Major challenges include poor air quality, biodiversity concerns, and high greenhouse gas emissions.

43. (c) **Explanation:**

- **India defeated South Africa in Barbados to win the ICC 2024 Men's T20 World Cup.**
- This victory marked India's **second T20 World Cup title, not the third.**

- India last won the T20 World Cup in **2007.**
- **Virat Kohli (India)** was awarded the **Player of the Match, while Jasprit Bumrah (India)** received the **Player of the Tournament** title.

44. (c) **Explanation:**

- The **50th G7 summit** was held from 13 to 15 June 2024 at **Borgo Egnazia in the city of Fasano in Apulia, Italy.**
- In the 50th G7 Summit, leaders decided to promote concrete G7 PGII (Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment) initiatives.
- It also support and promote India-Middle EastEurope Economic Corridor (IMEC). IMEC aims to create a comprehensive transportation network, comprising rail, road, and sea routes, connecting India, the Middle East, and Europe.

45. (b) **Explanation:**

- **Madhya Pradesh (MP) government** has announced that it has completed the preparation for the Cheetah's translocation to Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary.
- Translocation is under the Project Cheetah through which the first slots of 20 Cheetahs were introduced in **Kuno National Park (KNP) from Namibia and South Africa.**

46. (d) **Explanation:**

- **India's defence exports to the US** exceeded billion over 5 years, comprising over **50% of total exports.**
- US-India defence partnerships emphasize coproduction and co-development, making the US India's top defence exports destination.

47. (b) **Explanation:**

- **Indian Railway conducted a successful trial run on the world's highest railway bridge, the Chenab Rail Bridge, in Jammu and Kashmir,** paving the way for rail services on the route from **Reasi to Baramulla.**

48. (b) **Explanation:**

- The **Ministry of Coal** initiated India's first **Underground Coal Gasification (UCG) pilot project at the Kasta coal block in Jharkhand to convert coal into valuable gases like methane and hydrogen.**

49. (a) **Explanation:**

- Cabinet approves '**Development of an allWeather Greenfield deepdraft Major Port at Vadhavan in Maharashtra.**'
- This project will be undertaken by Vadhavan Port Project Limited (VPPL), a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) jointly formed by the Jawaharlal

Nehru Port Authority (JNPA), which holds 74%, and the Maharashtra Maritime Board (MMB), which holds 26%.

50. (c) Explanation:

- **The Global Peace Index (GPI) 2024**, published by the **Institute for Economics & Peace (IEP)**,

provides a comprehensive measure of global peacefulness, evaluating 163 independent states and territories.

- **India** stands at **116th Rank out of countries**. In the Global Peace Index (GPI) 2024, India has climbed 10 positions from the previous year and is now ranked 116th out of 163 countries.



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