

INTERNATIONAL

India 2nd largest user of non-tariff measures in 2023: WTO Report



About News:-

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the World Trade Organization (WTO) collaborated to release the report "World Tariff Profiles (WTP) 2024" in Geneva, Switzerland on July 27, 2024.

Key Points:-

- ❖ According to the analysis, India will be the second-largest WTO member in terms of non-tariff measures (NTMs) in 2023, mostly through the introduction and enforcement of anti-dumping charges.
- ❖ In 2023, the USA is recognized as the country using NTMs the most.
- ❖ NTMs are policies that impact international commerce in goods by changing traded quantities, prices, or both. They differ from standard customs tariffs.
- ❖ The average tariff in India fell from 18.1% in 2022 to 17% in 2023.
- ❖ Tariffs on trade-weighted average rose from 11.4% in 2022 to 12% in 2023.
- ❖ Agriculture tariffs dropped from 39.6% in 2022 to 39% in 2023, while non-agricultural import taxes reduced from 14.7% in 2022 to 13.5% in 2023.
- ❖ Agriculture tariffs weighted by trade increased to 65% in 2023 from 48.5% in 2022, while duties on non-agricultural goods saw a minor decline to 9% in 2023 from 9.2% in 2022.

About World Trade Organization (WTO):-

- ❖ **Established:-** 1995
- ❖ **Headquarters:-** Geneva, Switzerland
- ❖ **Director:-** General-Okonjo-Iweala
- ❖ **Members:-** 164

NATIONAL

Education Ministry launches week-long 'Shiksha Saptah' campaign to celebrate 4 years of NEP 2020



About News:-

- ❖ The Ministry of Education (MoE), Government of India (GoI), and the Akhil Bharitya Shiksha Samagam (ABSS) 2024 held their week-long "Shiksha Saptah" campaign from July 22–28, 2024, at the Manekshaw Centre Auditorium in New Delhi, Delhi, to commemorate the National Education Policy's (NEP) fourth anniversary on July 29, 2024.
- ❖ On the seventh and final day of the campaign, schools across emphasized the importance of community involvement in education by implementing the Vidyanjali and Tithi Bhojan initiatives, according to the campaign.

Key Points:-

- ❖ The idea behind ABSS 2024 was to commemorate the adoption of NEP 2020, encourage the dedication of different stakeholders for its successful implementation, and promote the group's strength in achieving common objectives through teamwork.
- ❖ It arranged six thematic sessions covering various NEP 2020 themes and activities about higher education and schools, including:
- ❖ The significance of sustainability in curricula, employment opportunities, and industry-academia cooperation.
- ❖ Education and skill development through PM Schools for Rising India (PM SHRI).
- ❖ The function of certification and ranking in raising quality

- ❖ Higher Education Institutions' (HEIs)' role is to increase the Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER) through Vidyashakti and boost STEM fields (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics).
- ❖ curriculum and evaluation uniformity throughout school boards.

About the Ministry of Education (MoE):

- ❖ Union Minister:- Dharmendra Pradhan (Lok Sabha Constituency- Sambalpur, Odisha)
- ❖ MoS :- Jayant Chaudhary (Rajya Sabha-Uttar Pradesh (UP))
- ❖ Dr. Sukanta Majumdar (Lok Sabha Constituency- Balurghat, West Bengal (WB))

ECONOMICS

Shriram Group gets RBI approval to enter asset reconstruction business

About News:-

- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has given the Chennai, Tamil Nadu (TN)-based Shriram Group permission to enter the Asset Reconstruction (ARC) market in the fiscal year 2024–2025 (FY25).
- ❖ While SCL will directly control ARC operations, Shriram Credit, a subsidiary of Shriram Capital Limited (SCL), will handle the wealth management portion and work with several partners.



Key Points:-

- ❖ The largest retail non-banking financial company (NBFC) in India, Shriram Finance Limited (SFL), anticipates a 15% increase in assets under management (AUM) for the upcoming fiscal year.
- ❖ SFL's total assets under management (AUM) increased by 21% by the end of Q1FY25, from Rs 1,93,214.67 crore in FY24 to Rs 2,33,443.63 crore.
- ❖ To obtain growth capital and concentrate on core activities, SFL's Board approved the sale of its housing-finance subsidiary, Shriram Housing Finance (SHFL), to Warburg Pincus in June 2024 for a sum of Rs 4,630 crore.

- ❖ It is anticipated that the deal will be approved by the end of Q3FY25, following RBI clearance.
- ❖ SFL is expected to collect Rs 3,900 crore from the deal.

About Shriram Capital Limited (SCL):-

- ❖ Establishment:-1974
- ❖ Headquarters:- Chennai, Tamil Nadu

SEBI launches chatbot "SEVA" for investors



About News:-

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) released SEVA (Sebi's Virtual Assistant), an AI-based chatbot, on July 29, 2024, to help investors get information and answers on various processes. With ambitions to grow based on user feedback, this chatbot presently answers questions about master circulars, the securities market, and grievance redressal procedures.

Key Points:-

- ❖ In its alpha version, SEVA can handle follow-up questions and has speech-to-text and text-to-speech capabilities in addition to citation support for responses.
- ❖ The SAARTHI mobile app, compatible with both Android and iOS and SEBI's investor website offer access to the beta version of SEVA.

About SEBI:-

- ❖ Establishment :-1992
- ❖ Headquarters:- Mumbai, Maharashtra
- ❖ Chairperson:- Madhabi Puri Buch

Appointment

Manoj Mittal takes charge as Chairman and Managing Director of SIDBI

About News:-

Following his appointment by the Indian government, Manoj Mittal assumes leadership of the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) as Chairman and Managing Director (CMD).



Key Points:-

He has over 33 years of extensive experience in the Finance sector, including his previous tenures as Managing Director and CEO at the Industrial Finance Corporation of India (IFCI) and Deputy Managing Director at SIDBI.

Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI):-

- ❖ Formed:- 2 April 1990
- ❖ Headquarters:- Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, India

Award

Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh conferred the prestigious "Lifetime Achievement Award"

About News:-

- ❖ Presenting the prestigious 'Lifetime Achievement Award' to Union Minister of State (MoS - Independent Charge, IC) Dr. Jitendra Singh, Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST); Ministry of Earth Sciences (MOES) during the 2024 International Meet of eminent medical celebrities, professionals, and medicos from all over the country and abroad in Chennai, Tamil Nadu (TN).
- ❖ The award is given in recognition of his exceptional dedication to the advancement of diabetology, diabetes care, and diabetes research, for which he has won recognition both domestically and internationally.



Key Points:-

- ❖ Jitendra Singh is a well-known educator, researcher, professor, and diabetologist from India.
- ❖ In addition to writing a chapter on diabetes in each of the twelve editions of the API Textbook of Medicine published by the Association of Physicians of India (API), he has authored eight volumes and three monographs on various aspects of diabetes.

- ❖ His book "Diabetes Made Easy" was on display in the Pragati Maidan in New Delhi, Delhi, World Book Fair's Best-seller area.
- ❖ His innovative work on 'Stress Diabetes among Kashmiri Migrants' was praised by the World Health Organization (WHO).
- ❖ In addition, he was a part of the DIPSY Group study team that concluded the "Guidelines for Management of Diabetes in Pregnancy."
- ❖ He is a well-known medical professional who has shown equal success in the public sphere by winning seats in the House of People (Lok Sabha) three times in a row and became the first person from Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) to secure a seat in the Union Council of Ministers for a third term.
- ❖ JIPMER, Puducherry's Jawaharlal Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education & Research, has awarded Jitendra Singh the "Gold Medal for Orator."
- ❖ The 'Jamna Devi Gian Devi Award' for journalism was also given to him.

Sport

Manu Bhaker and Sarabjot Singh Win Historic Bronze in 10m Air Pistol Mixed Team Event at Paris Olympics 2024

About News:-

- ❖ Manu Bhaker and Sarabjot Singh won a bronze medal in the 10m Air Pistol Mixed Team event at the Paris Olympics with an incredible feat of skill and accuracy.
- ❖ The Indian duo defeated Oh Ye Jin and Lee Wonho of South Korea to win the second medal of the Games for India.
- ❖ This accomplishment is also noteworthy because it gives Manu Bhaker her second bronze at the Olympics in Paris, making her the first Indian to win two medals in one Olympic Games since Independence.



The First Olympic Medal of Sarabjot Singh:-

- ❖ With this bronze, Sarabjot Singh has won his first Olympic medal—a noteworthy accomplishment in his shooting career. His

performance and Bhaker's astute coaching turned out to be a potent combination

The Double Medal Triumph of Manu Bhaker: -

- ❖ As the first Indian to win numerous medals at one Olympic Games, Manu Bhaker has created history. Earlier in the Games, she had won a medal in the women's 10m air pistol competition. With her accomplishment, she joins the select group of Indian athletes that have won numerous Olympic medals, which also includes athletics great Norman Pritchard, wrestling great Sushil Kumar, and badminton great PV Sindhu.

Miscellaneous

Union Minister Bhupender Yadav launches Ideas4LiFE initiative at IIT Delhi

About News:-

- ❖ At the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) - Delhi in New Delhi, Delhi, on July 29, 2024, Union Minister Bhupender Yadav of the Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) launched the 'Ideas4LiFE' program.
- ❖ With an emphasis on products and services that encourage eco-friendly lives, participants in this program, which is housed on the Ideas4Life.nic.in the portal, can submit their ideas and creations online
- ❖ In collaboration with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) YuWaah, MoEF&CC developed this website for submitting, organizing, and analyzing creative ideas.
- ❖ To inspire scholars, educators, and learners to incorporate innovative, citizen-focused ideas and technology into the global Mission Lifestyle for Environment, or LiFE



Key Points:-

- ❖ The project is in line with to use of resources thoughtfully and intentionally.

- ❖ Prizes for the best ideas will be given out by Ideas4LiFE Ideathon under each of the seven Mission LIFE topics, for both individuals and organizations.
- ❖ The topics are: Say No to Single-Use Plastics; Adopt Sustainable Food Systems; Conserve Water; Reduce Waste; Reduce E-Waste; and Adopt Healthy Lifestyles.
- ❖ The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), Indian Institute of Management (IIMs), University Grants Commission (UGC), and other academic institutions in India will all be promoting this ideaathon.
- ❖ Union Minister Bhupender Yadav participated in the occasion and planted a sapling at the IIT Delhi campus as part of the 'EkPedMaakeNaam' or 'Plant4Mother' program, which was launched on June 5, 2024, World Environment Day.

India Post releases commemorative Postage Stamp on 25 years of Kargil Vijay Diwas

About News:-

To commemorate the Silver Jubilee (25th anniversary) of Kargil Vijay Diwas at Dras, Kargil in Ladakh, the Department of Posts (DoP), a division of the Ministry of Communications (MoC), has published a commemorative postage stamp in the denomination of Rs 5.



Key Points:-

- ❖ In addition to marking the military's historic triumph, the stamp guarantees that future generations will remember and honor the bravery and sacrifices made by the warriors.
- ❖ In observance of Kargil Vijay Diwas, Rajat Jayanti was held to honor the valor and sacrifices made by the Indian Armed Forces.

- ❖ This day, 25 years ago, the Indian Armed Forces bravely and gallantly carried out Operation Vijay (1999), driving Pakistani invaders from the frozen heights of the Dras, Kargil, and Batalik Sectors of Ladakh.
- ❖ This action, which is sometimes called the Kargil War, is evidence of the valor and unwavering resolve of our young soldiers and officers.

Important Day

World Ranger Day - 31 July



About Day:-

On July 31, people all across the world celebrate World Ranger Day, honoring those Rangers who have died or been injured while performing their duties and honoring the work that Rangers do to preserve the planet's natural resources and cultural legacy.

History:-

- ❖ The International Ranger Federation created World Ranger Day as a way to honor those who have died while performing their duties and to recognize the important work rangers do in preserving the planet's natural resources. Every day, rangers risk their lives in hostile environments to keep animals safe from poachers.
- ❖ On July 31, 2007, the first-ever Ranger Day is observed.
- ❖ The purpose of the day is to honor rangers, who play a vital role in preserving the natural legacy of the planet, especially in national parks and other protected areas. It also seeks to recognize the commitment and selflessness of rangers, who frequently labor in hazardous and difficult environments.
- ❖ The day's goal is to raise awareness of the value of helping rangers, who play a critical role in protecting natural areas and conserving species. It aims to encourage gratitude and acknowledgment on a global scale for their struggles and achievements.

significance:-

- ❖ Awareness and Advocacy: The goal of World Ranger Day is to raise public awareness of the risks and difficulties that rangers encounter daily. It also promotes providing these front-line conservationists with greater resources and support.
- ❖ To commemorate the Sacrifice: The day pays tribute to rangers who have died or sustained injuries while defending wildlife and their natural environments. Numerous rangers deal with threats such as illicit logging, poaching, and other high-risk situations.
- ❖ Encouraging Conservation Efforts: By providing a venue for the collection of money, the day supports conservation efforts and ranger programs, enhancing their resources and working conditions.

