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PAHUJA LAW ACADEMY

BEST COACHING FOR JUDICIARY & CLAT

CURRENT AFFAIRS

ENGLISH



JULY 2024

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BEST COACHING FOR JUDICIARY & CLAT



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"CURRENT AFFAIRS MONTH OF JULY' 2024"

LAW AND AMENDMENT

Three New Criminal Laws of India

- New Laws Enacted: The Parliament passed three new criminal laws in December 2023:
 - ✓ Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS)
 - ✓ Bharatiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS)
 - ✓ Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA)
- Presidential Assent: President Droupadi Murmu granted assent on December 25, 2023.
- Effective Date: These laws came into effect on July 1, 2024.
- Replaced Laws: BNS replaces the Indian Penal Code (IPC), 1860; BNSS replaces the Criminal Procedure Code (Cr PC), 1973; BSA replaces the Indian Evidence Act, 1872.
- Justice Focus: The new laws emphasize justice delivery over punitive measures, aiming to expedite legal processes.
- Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita will have 358 sections (instead of 511 sections in the IPC).
- A total of 20 new crimes have been added to the bill. The imprisonment sentence has been increased for 33 of them.
- For 23 crimes, a mandatory minimum punishment has been introduced.
- The penalty of community service has been brought in for six crimes.
- To address sexual crimes, Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita has added a new chapter titled "Crimes against Women and Children."
- There is the provision of 20 years imprisonment or life imprisonment in all cases of gang rape and the new crime category of gang rape of a woman under 18 years of age.
- For the first time, Terrorism has been defined in the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. It has been made a punishable offence.
- There will be 531 sections in Bharatiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita (instead of 484 sections in the Cr PC).
- Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam will have 170 provisions.

Supreme Court to Review Governors' Immunity under Article 361

- The Supreme Court has agreed to examine the scope of Article 361, which provides governors with immunity from criminal prosecution.
- The concept of a governor's immunity is rooted in the Latin maxim "rex non potest peccare," which translates to "the king can do no wrong."
- The review was prompted by a former female employee of West Bengal Raj Bhavan, who has accused Governor C.V. Ananda Bose of molestation and wrongful confinement.
- Court Orders: The bench, including Chief Justice DY Chandrachud, Justices JB Pardiwala, and Manoj Misra, has issued a notice to the West Bengal government regarding the woman's plea.
- The court has granted the woman permission to involve the Union of India in the petition filed under Article 32 of the Constitution.
- The Supreme Court has sought the guidance of Attorney General R. Venkataramani to address the constitutional issues involved.
- Judicial Proceedings: The case will explore the limits of the constitutional immunity granted to governors and its implications.
- In **Rameshwar Prasad v. Union of India**, the Supreme Court established that the Governor of a state in India enjoys complete immunity from judicial accountability for actions performed in their official capacity. This immunity covers both the exercise of constitutional powers and duties, but does not extend to criminal complaints. An example of this is in 2017 when the Supreme Court allowed criminal charges against various

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leaders for the 1992 Babri Masjid demolition but delayed the trial for former UP Chief Minister Kalyan Singh, who was then serving as Governor of Rajasthan.

Bharatiya Vayuyan Vidheyak Bill introduced in Lok Sabha.

- On July 31, Union Civil Aviation Minister Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu introduced the Bharatiya Vayuyan Vidheyak 2024 in the Lok Sabha.
- Purpose of New Legislation: The new Bill aims to replace the outdated Aircraft Act of 1934, which has been amended piecemeal over the years.
- Central Government Authority: The Bharatiya Vayuyan Vidheyak will grant the Central Government power to legislate on various aspects of aircraft, including design, maintenance, and safety.
- Pilots will benefit from a streamlined process as all their certification will now be managed by a single authority.
- New Certification Authority: The Bill proposes moving the Radio Telephone Operator Restricted (RTR) certificate and license testing from the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) to the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).
- The proposed law includes provisions for enhancing the investigation of air accidents and incidents.
- The Bharatiya Vayuyan Vidheyak aims to consolidate and clarify existing regulations, addressing confusion from past amendments.
- The Bill will cover the governance of aircraft operations, including their use, sale, and international trade.
- This new legislation reflects efforts to modernize and streamline the regulatory framework governing aviation in India.

Supreme Court allowed states to levy mineral cess.

- The Supreme Court has allowed states to levy mineral cess.
- A nine-judge Constitution bench confirmed that states have the constitutional authority to tax mines and mineral-bearing lands.
- The Court clarified that the royalty paid by mining operators to the Central government is not considered a tax.
- This ruling is expected to increase revenue for mineral-bearing states, primarily in eastern India.
- The judgment provides clarity on the division of taxing powers between states and the Center over minerals.
- The Supreme Court declared that state legislatures have the legislative power to tax mineral rights.
- The decision came after hearing 80 appeals from private mining companies challenging the states' right to levy cess on mining.
- This verdict settles the issue of state versus Central authority on mineral taxation.

APPOINTMENTS

Ravi Agrawal has been appointed as the new CBDT chief.

- Ravi Agrawal has been appointed as the new Chairman of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT).
- He succeeds Nitin Gupta, whose tenure ended on June 30.
- Previously, Ravi Agrawal served as a member (administration) on the CBDT board.
- Ravi Agrawal's appointment was approved by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC).
- He will serve as the CBDT chief until June 2025.
- Other members of the CBDT board include Pragya Sahay Saksena, HBS Gill, Pravin Kumar, Sanjay Kumar, and Sanjay Kumar Verma.
- The CBDT, headed by a chairman, comprises up to six members in total.
- The CBDT is responsible for administering and enforcing direct tax laws in India, ensuring compliance and efficient tax administration nationwide.

Justice Sheel Nagu has been appointed Chief Justice of Punjab and Haryana High Court.

- Justice Sheel Nagu has been appointed as the Chief Justice of the Punjab and Haryana High Court.
- His appointment will be effective from the date he assumes office.
- The Supreme Court Collegium recommended his name following the retirement of Chief Justice Ravi Shankar Jha, who retired on October 13, 2023.
- Prior to this, Justice Sheel Nagu served as the Acting Chief Justice of the Madhya Pradesh High Court.

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- Justice Sanjeev Sachdeva has been appointed as the new Acting Chief Justice of the Madhya Pradesh High Court.
- Justice BR Sarangi was appointed as the Chief Justice of the Jharkhand High Court on July 3.
- The changes follow recent retirements and new appointments within the judiciary.

Dick Schoof Sworn in as Dutch Prime Minister

- On June 3, Dick Schoof, former head of the Dutch secret service, became the new Prime Minister of the Netherlands.
- He leads a broad right-wing coalition and promises the "strictest-ever" immigration policy.
- King Willem-Alexander officiated the swearing-in ceremony at Huis ten Bosch Palace in The Hague.
- The coalition includes Geert Wilders' Freedom Party (PVV), the Farmers Party (BBB), the liberal-conservative VVD, and the anti-corruption party NSC.
- Schoof succeeds Mark Rutte, who will become NATO's next Secretary-General on October 1, replacing Jens Stoltenberg.

New Appointment in National Security

- TV Ravichandran and Pawan Kapoor have been appointed as deputy National Security Advisors (NSAs).
- Ravichandran, a 1990 batch IPS officer, is currently the special director in the Intelligence Bureau.
- Kapoor, a 1990 batch IFS officer, has served in the Ministry of External Affairs and the Prime Minister's Office.
- Rajendra Khanna, previously deputy NSA, has been named additional NSA.
- Deputy NSA Vikram Misri was recently appointed as the Foreign Secretary.

Dr. B.N. Gangadhar has been appointed as National Medical Commission's chairperson.

- Dr. B.N. Gangadhar has been named chairperson of the National Medical Commission by the Appointment Committee of the Cabinet (ACC).
- He previously served as the President of the Medical Assessment and Rating Board.
- Dr. Sanjay Behari, the Director of Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology, Thiruvananthapuram, is now the President of the Medical Assessment and Rating Board.
- Both appointments are for four years or until they reach the age of 70, whichever comes first.
- The National Medical Commission, a statutory body, was established on September 25, 2020.
- It succeeded the Medical Council of India and is headquartered in New Delhi.
- The Commission oversees medical education, professionals, institutions, and research.

Masoud Pezheshkian to be Iran's new president

- Reformist leader Masoud Pezheshkian won Iran's presidential election.
- He defeated hardline leader Saeed Jalili on 6 July 2024.
- Pezheshkian's victory came over the radical candidate Saeed Jalili.
- During his campaign, Pezheshkian promised to implement the mandatory headscarf law.
- This law was introduced following years of restrictions and protests in the Islamic Republic.
- The election results were announced on 6 July 2024.
- Pezheshkian's commitment to the headscarf law was a key part of his campaign.

Rachel Reeves has become UK's first female Chancellor of the Exchequer.

- Rachel Reeves has made history as the UK's first female Chancellor of the Exchequer.
- Angela Rayner has been appointed as the Deputy Prime Minister of the UK.
- David Lammy is the new Foreign Secretary, and Yvette Cooper has been appointed as Home Secretary.
- Prime Minister Keir Starmer has announced his new cabinet.
- Starmer's cabinet includes a record 11 women in a team of 25 members.
- Rachel Reeves, the first woman to serve as Britain's finance minister, is a former economist at the Bank of England.
- The Labour Party plans to establish Great British Energy, a publicly owned company to support the transition to green energy in partnership with the private sector.

Gautam Gambhir appointed as the new head coach of the Indian men's cricket team.

- Gautam Gambhir has been appointed as the new head coach of the Indian men's cricket team

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- Gambhir signed a three-year contract, replacing Rahul Dravid.
- The Cricket Advisory Committee, headed by Ashok Malhotra, interviewed Gambhir and W.V. Raman.
- Gambhir's term begins this month and will last until December 31, 2027.
- The year 2027 coincides with the next ODI World Cup.
- Gambhir served as a member of the 17th Lok Sabha from 2019 to 2024.
- He received the Arjuna Award in 2008 and the Padma Shri in 2019.
- Gambhir is the only Indian batsman to score over 300 runs in four consecutive Test series.

Rajat Sharma was elected president of the News Broadcasters and Digital Association

- Rajat Sharma, a veteran television journalist and India TV chairman, was elected president of the News Broadcasters and Digital Association (NBDA).
- His election as president was unanimous at a board meeting.
- He replaces Avinash Pandey, the former CEO of ABP Network.
- The NBDA is the largest organization of news broadcasters and digital media in India.
- Formerly Known as NBA: Previously, the association was called the News Broadcasters Association.
- It is a private body comprising various current affairs and news television broadcasters in India.
- Established in 2007: The association was founded in 2007.
- The NBDA currently includes 27 leading news and current affairs broadcasters as members.

K P Sharma Oli appointed Nepal's new Prime Minister

- K.P. Sharma Oli was sworn in as Nepal's Prime Minister for the fourth time on 15 July 2024.
- Oli succeeded Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda', who lost a trust vote in the House of Representatives on June 12.
- The new government was formed with the support of the Nepali Congress.
- Oli is required to seek a vote of confidence from Parliament within 30 days of his appointment.
- He will need at least 138 votes in the 275-seat House of Representatives to secure the vote of confidence.
- This appointment marks another significant milestone in Oli's political career.

Justice N. Kotiswar Singh and Justice R. Mahadevan Sworn in as Supreme Court Judges

- Justice Nongmeikapam Kotiswar Singh and Justice R. Mahadevan were sworn in as Supreme Court judges on July 18, 2024.
- The oath of office was administered by Chief Justice of India, Justice DY Chandrachud, in a ceremony held at the Supreme Court in New Delhi.
- With their appointment, the total number of Supreme Court judges, including the Chief Justice, is now 34.
- The Supreme Court Collegium, led by the Chief Justice of India, recommended their appointments to the Government of India on July 11, 2024.
- President Droupadi Murmu appointed them as Supreme Court judges on July 16, 2024, exercising her authority under Article 124(2) of the Constitution.
- The President appoints Supreme Court judges in consultation with the Chief Justice of India, other Supreme Court judges, and High Court judges.
- The appointments follow a formal process of recommendation by the Collegium and approval by the President.
- The inclusion of Justice Singh and Justice Mahadevan brings additional expertise to the Supreme Court.

Vikram Misri's Appointment as India's Foreign Secretary

- Vikram Misri has taken office as India's Foreign Secretary, succeeding Vinay Kwatra.
- Misri is a seasoned diplomat with extensive expertise in China, making him a strategic choice for the role.
- His career includes significant contributions to India-China relations, especially following the Galwan Valley clashes.
- Misri has served as India's ambassador to China, Spain, and Myanmar, demonstrating his wide-ranging diplomatic skills.
- His appointments reflect his strategic depth and diplomatic acumen, crucial for navigating complex international relations.

Vinay Mohan Kwatra has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the U.S.

- Vinay Mohan Kwatra has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the United States.

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- He will assume office shortly.
- Kwatra is a 1988 batch officer who was appointed as Foreign Secretary in April 2022.
- He has extensive experience dealing with India's neighborhood, as well as with the U.S., China, and Europe.
- From August 2017 to February 2020, he served as the Ambassador of India to France.
- He also held the position of Joint Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) from October 2015 to August 2017.
- Kwatra's appointment highlights his significant diplomatic expertise and experience.
- His diverse background and previous roles position him well for his new responsibilities as Ambassador to the U.S.

Manolo Marquez appointed head coach of Indian men's football team.

- Manolo Marquez has been appointed as the head coach of the Indian men's football team.
- The All India Football Federation (AIFF) announced Marquez's appointment on July 20.
- Marquez is currently the head coach of Indian Super League (ISL) team FC Goa.
- He will continue his role with FC Goa through the 2024-25 season, managing both club and national team responsibilities before fully transitioning to the national team.
- Marquez has been coaching in India since 2020.
- He previously coached ISL clubs Hyderabad FC (2020-23) and FC Goa (2023-present).
- Marquez led Hyderabad FC to win the ISL Cup in the 2021-22 season.

Ajinkya Naik became the youngest president of Mumbai Cricket Association

- Ajinkya Naik became the youngest president of the Mumbai Cricket Association at age 37.
- He defeated Mumbai BJP chief Ashish Shelar's candidate Sanjay Naik by 107 votes in a one-sided election.
- Ajinkya Naik secured 221 votes, while Sanjay Naik received 114 votes.
- Previously, Ajinkya served as the secretary of the association under Amol Kale.
- Following Amol Kale's death last month, MCA conducted elections for the president's post.
- Ajinkya, a former school and club cricketer, was a member of the MCA Apex Council in 2019.
- He was later elected as the Secretary of the Mumbai Cricket Association in 2022.

President Droupadi Murmu Appoints Governors in Nine States & the Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry

- On 28 July 2024, President Droupadi Murmu appointed Governors to nine states and the Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry.
- The President also accepted the resignation of Banwarilal Purohit as Governor of Punjab and Administrator of Chandigarh.
- Article 153 of the Constitution mandates a Governor for each state in India.
- Governors are appointed by the President of India based on the advice of the Union Council of Ministers, led by the Prime Minister.
- The state Governor serves as the head of the state's executive branch.
- The President has the authority to transfer Governors from one state to another.
- Newly Appointed Governors as mentioned below:-
 - ✓ Ramen Deka- Governor of Chhattisgarh.
 - ✓ C H Vijayashankar- Governor of Meghalaya.
 - ✓ Jishnu Dev Varma- Governor of Telangana.
 - ✓ Haribhau Kisanrao Bagde- Governor of Rajasthan.
 - ✓ Om Prakash Mathur- Governor of Sikkim.
 - ✓ Santosh Kumar Gangwar- Governor of Jharkhand.
 - ✓ C.P. Radhakrishnan- Governor of Maharashtra (He was earlier Governor of Jharkhand with Additional Charge of Telangana).
 - ✓ Gulab Chand Kataria- Governor of Punjab. He has also been appointed as Administrator of the Union Territory of Chandigarh (He was earlier Governor of Assam).
 - ✓ Lakshman Prasad Acharya- Governor of Assam and has also been given additional charge of the Governor of Manipur (He was earlier the Governor of Sikkim).
 - ✓ K. Kailashnathan- Lt. Governor of Puducherry.

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IMPORTANT DAYS

Goods and Services Tax (GST) Day 2024 observed on 1 July

- Goods and Services Tax (GST) Day is observed every year on 1 July.
- The idea of implementing GST was initially proposed during the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government in 2000.
- The Constitution (101st Amendment) Act of 2016 empowered the central government to enforce GST, leading to its implementation on July 1, 2017.
- GST Day was first celebrated on July 1, 2018, marking the inaugural anniversary of GST adoption.
- GST in India operates with a structured framework comprising five tax slabs: 0%, 5%, 12%, 18%, and 28%.
- It replaced a multitude of indirect taxes previously levied by both central and state governments, such as excise duty, service tax, and VAT.
- The GST Council, comprised of finance ministers from both central and state governments, oversees the implementation and evolution of GST policies.
- The Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN) was established in 2013 as a private entity by the government to manage the technological infrastructure for GST operations.

National Doctors' Day 2024 observed on 1 July

- National Doctors' Day in India is observed annually on July 1st, commemorating the birth anniversary of Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy.
- Theme of National Doctors' Day 2024: "Healing Hands, Caring Hearts" has been chosen to highlight the compassionate and dedicated service of doctors.
- The first National Doctors' Day was celebrated on July 1, 1991, to honour the contributions of doctors across the country.
- It serves as a tribute to the invaluable role of physicians and healthcare professionals in society.
- Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy was a distinguished physician, educator, freedom fighter, and social reformer.
- He served as the second Chief Minister of West Bengal from 1948 to 1962, contributing significantly to the state's development.
- The Indian Medical Association (IMA) leads the observance of National Doctors' Day in India, honouring all physicians and healthcare professionals for their selfless service.

International Plastic Bag Free Day observed on 03 July

- International Plastic Bag Free Day is observed every year on 3rd July to raise awareness about the harmful effects of plastic.
- It was first observed on 3 July 2008 by Rezero, a member of Zero Waste Europe (ZWE).
- In 2002, Bangladesh became the first nation to ban plastics.
- A plastic bag takes 1,000 years to disintegrate in a landfill.
- India has imposed a ban on single-use plastics from 1 July 2022.
- Single-use plastics are non-recyclable plastic products that cannot be used after a single use.

World Environment Day 2024 observed on 5 June

- World Environment Day is observed annually on 5 June.
- In 2024, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia will host World Environment Day, focusing on the theme "Land Restoration, Desertification, and Drought Resilience."
- It was established by the United Nations in 1972 at the Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment, with the first celebration occurring in 1973.
- This year also marks the 30th anniversary of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.
- According to the Convention, 40% of the Earth's land is degraded, directly affecting half of the global population.
- Additionally, over 400 million tonnes of plastic are produced each year, with 50% being single-use plastics.
- Microplastics, defined as particles up to 5mm in diameter, contribute significantly to environmental pollution.

World Zoonoses Day 2024 observed on 6 July

- World Zoonoses Day Observed annually on 6 July to raise awareness about diseases that can spread from animals to humans.

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- Inaugurated on 6 July 1885 to highlight zoonotic diseases; commemorates Louis Pasteur's first successful rabies vaccine administration on the same date.
- A CDC study reveals approximately 60% of current diseases are zoonotic, with 70% of emerging infections originating in animals.
- Caused by viruses, parasites, bacteria, and fungi; they can transmit to humans through direct contact or via contaminated food, water, or environments.
- Common Examples: Include Plague, Rabies, Tuberculosis, Scabies, and Roundworms.
- Awareness and Precautions: Essential to comprehend the human health impact of zoonotic diseases and implement necessary preventive measures.

World Population Day celebrated on July 11

- World population day Celebrated every year on July 11 to raise awareness about global population issues.
- 2024 Theme: "Leave no one behind, count everyone."
- The day Created by the UN Development Programme in 1989, inspired by the Day of Five Billion (July 11, 1987).
- First Observance: July 11, 1990; UN General Assembly formalized it in December 1990.
- The global population reached five billion on July 11, 1987.
- Origin: Idea proposed by Dr. KC Zachariah, a senior demographer at the World Bank.

International Malala Day is observed on July 12th

- International Malala Day is observed annually on July 12th, marking the birthday of Malala Yousafzai.
- In 2013, the United Nations officially designated July 12th as Malala Day to celebrate and honor her courageous advocacy for girls' education worldwide.
- Malala Yousafzai became renowned globally as an emblematic figure in the fight for girls' right to education.
- In 2012, Malala was targeted and survived an assassination attempt by the Taliban due to her outspoken opposition to their restrictions on educating girls in Pakistan.
- At just 17 years old, Malala Yousafzai made history by becoming the youngest-ever Nobel Peace Prize laureate in December 2014.
- In recognition of her inspirational efforts, an asteroid was named (316201 Malala) in 2015, highlighting her impact on promoting education and peace.
- International Malala Day serves as a poignant reminder of Malala Yousafzai's resilience and the ongoing global struggle for equal access to education for all children, especially girls.

Nelson Mandela International Day 2024 observed on July 18

- Nelson Mandela International Day is observed annually on July 18 to honor the birthday of Nelson Mandela.
- The United Nations officially established Nelson Mandela International Day in November 2009, with the first celebration taking place on July 18, 2010.
- The theme for Nelson Mandela International Day 2024 is "Combating poverty and inequality is in our hands."
- On May 10, 1994, Nelson Mandela became South Africa's first democratically elected Black President, earning him the title 'Father of the Nation' in South Africa.
- Mandela dedicated his life to the fight for freedom and justice, which led to his imprisonment for 27 years.
- In 1964, he was sentenced to life imprisonment for his efforts to overthrow South Africa's apartheid regime.
- Mandela was released in 1990 and continued his work to eradicate racism and promote equality in the country.
- Nelson Mandela International Day serves as a reminder of his legacy and the ongoing struggle against poverty and inequality.

International Chess Day 2024 celebrated on 20 July

- International Chess Day is celebrated globally every year on July 20.
- The day honors chess players such as Viswanathan Anand, Rameshbabu Praggnanandhan, and Magnus Carlsen, recognizing their positive contributions to society.
- UNESCO proposed the idea of celebrating July 20 as International Chess Day.
- This celebration has been observed since 1966 to mark the founding of the International Chess Federation (FIDE).
- The date, July 20, was chosen because FIDE was established on this day in 1924 in Paris.

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- On December 12, 2019, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) officially declared International Chess Day as an international event.
- The International Olympic Committee acknowledged FIDE in 1999.
- International Chess Day highlights the importance of chess in promoting intellectual development and international camaraderie.

National Broadcasting Day is observed on July 23.

- National Broadcasting Day is observed annually in India on July 23.
- The first radio broadcast in India was made by a private Indian Broadcasting Company from Bombay on this day in 1927.
- Italian inventor Guglielmo Marconi developed the radio in the 1890s.
- This day marks the evolution of India's broadcasting landscape since 1927.
- India's broadcasting history began with the Radio Club of Bombay's first transmission in June 1923.
- All India Radio (AIR) was established in 1936, originating from the Indian State Broadcasting Service.
- AIR was renamed AKASHVANI in 1956.

Income Tax Day 2024 (Aaykar Diwas) celebrated on July 24

- Income Tax Day 2024 celebrated annually on July 24.
- Aims to spread awareness about the importance of taxes and encourage citizens to contribute to national development by paying taxes.
- The 165th Income Tax Day was celebrated in 2024.
- Income tax was introduced in India on July 24, 1860, by Sir James Wilson to offset losses incurred by the British government after the First War of Independence in 1857.
- The Income Tax Department designated July 24 as Income Tax Day in 2010.
- Functions under the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance.
- Overseen by the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT).
- Responsible for the administration of direct taxes, including personal income tax and corporate tax.
- Provisional figures up to April 21, 2024, indicate personal income tax collections, including Securities Transaction Tax (STT), reached ₹12.01 lakh crore for the fiscal year 2023-24.
- Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT):- A statutory body established under the Central Revenue Act, 1963.
- Administers and oversees the Income Tax Department.
- Handles matters related to the imposition and collection of direct taxes.
- Headquarters located in New Delhi.

Kargil Vijay Diwas observed on July 26

- Kargil Vijay Diwas is observed annually on July 26 to honor the soldiers who fought in the Kargil War.
- This year marks the 25th anniversary of the Kargil War.
- The day also celebrates India's victory over Pakistan in the 1999 Kargil War and the successful completion of Operation Vijay.
- The Kargil War lasted over 60 days, ending with India regaining control of all its territories.
- The conflict occurred from May 3 to July 26, 1999, along the Line of Control (LOC).
- India lost more than 500 soldiers during the Kargil War.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Drass in Ladakh on July 26 to commemorate the 25th anniversary of Kargil Vijay Diwas.

CRPF Raising Day celebrated on 27 July

- The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) is celebrating its Raising Day on 27 July 2024.
- CRPF was established as Crown Representative Police on this day in 1939 by the British rulers of India.
- It is the largest paramilitary force under the central government.
- CRPF is one of the seven Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) of India.
- The other CAPFs include Assam Rifles, Border Security Force (BSF), Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), Indo-Tibetan Police Force (ITBP), National Security Guard (NSG), and Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB).
- CRPF plays a crucial role in maintaining internal security.
- The force is dedicated to various tasks, including crowd control, counter-insurgency, and anti-terrorism operations.

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- CRPF's contribution to India's internal security is significant and extensive.

World Hepatitis Day 2024 observed on 28 July

- World Hepatitis Day is observed annually on July 28.
- The 2024 theme for World Hepatitis Day is "It's time to act."
- The day aims to raise awareness and prompt global action against viral hepatitis.
- The World Hepatitis Alliance, established in 2007, organized the first World Hepatitis Day in 2008.
- It commemorates the birth anniversary of Dr. Baruch Blumberg, who discovered the Hepatitis B virus in 1967.
- Originally observed on May 19, World Hepatitis Day was moved to July 28 in 2010.
- WHO's goal is to reduce new hepatitis infections by 90% and deaths by 65% between 2016 and 2030.
- Hepatitis, an inflammation of the liver, can be caused by five main virus strains: A, B, C, D, and E, with B and C being the most lethal.

International Tiger Day 2024 celebrated on 29 July

- International Tiger Day is celebrated on 29 July.
- The day aims to promote global protection of tiger habitats.
- It also seeks to raise awareness and support for tiger conservation efforts.
- The World Wildlife Fund reports that tiger populations in India are stable or increasing.
- India established tiger reserves in 1973 under Project Tiger.
- Project Tiger is managed by the National Tiger Conservation Authority.
- India is home to 80% of the world's tiger population.
- International Tiger Day underscores the importance of protecting tigers and their natural habitats globally.

World Day against Trafficking in Persons 2024 observed on 30 July

- World Day against Trafficking in Persons is observed annually on 30 July.
- The theme for 2024 is "Leave No Child Behind in the Fight against Human Trafficking".
- The United Nations General Assembly designated 30 July as World Day against Trafficking in Persons in 2013.
- This day aims to raise awareness about the crime of human trafficking.
- Global crises, conflicts, and climate emergencies increase the risks of trafficking.
- Trafficking in persons is a serious violation of human rights.
- Every year, thousands of men, women, and children are trafficked worldwide.
- The day highlights the need for action to combat human trafficking and protect victims.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Denmark's Tax on Livestock Farmers

- Denmark has introduced a ground breaking tax on livestock farmers for the greenhouse gases emitted by their cows, sheep, and pigs.
- The aim is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 70% from 1990 levels by 2030.
- According to a UN report, livestock contribute approximately 32% of human-caused methane emissions, a potent greenhouse gas.
- A normal cow can generate up to 200kg of methane annually while a Danish cow produce 6.6 tons of carbon dioxide per year.
- Danish livestock farmers will be taxed 300 kroner (\$43) per ton of CO₂, which will be increased to 750 kroner (\$108) by 2035.
- The tax is part of Denmark's strategy to meet climate goals.
- The collected tax amount will be invested in environmental restoration projects.

On July 3, Japan will introduce new banknotes.

- Japan will start releasing new banknotes from July 3rd, featuring cutting-edge holography.
- These holograms create 3D rotating portraits of historical figures, a global first.
- The new banknotes include tactile features for recognition by people who are blind or visually impaired.
- Tactile markings facilitate easy identification of currency by touch.

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- By March 2025, Japan plans to print nearly 7.5 billion of these new banknotes.
- Existing banknotes will continue to be accepted even after the new ones are introduced.
- Holography is a technique used to generate three-dimensional images by manipulating light waves.

India Participates in Third UN-led Conference on Afghanistan

- India participated in the third UN-led conference on Afghanistan in Doha, among 25 other countries.
- This meeting is significant as it marks the first time the Taliban are attending the talks.
- India was represented by J.P. Singh, MEA Joint Secretary of the Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Iran (PAI) division.
- The conference faced strong criticism from women's rights activists, who highlighted concerns over the plight of women in Afghanistan.
- Key topics discussed included Afghanistan's economy and the impact of Western sanctions.
- Discussions also focused on the threat of drugs and other issues.
- Prior to the UN meeting, the Taliban held talks with diplomatic delegations from Uzbekistan, Russia, and Saudi Arabia.

World's oldest cave painting has been discovered in Indonesia.

- The world's oldest cave painting has been found in Indonesia on the island of Sulawesi.
- The artwork shows three human-like figures interacting with a wild pig on the ceiling of a limestone cave.
- Scientists used a novel scientific technique to establish the minimum age of the painting in Leang Karampuang cave.
- This painting is at least 51,200 years old, making it the oldest known cave painting in the world.
- The artwork includes a pig standing upright, about 36 inches by 15 inches, along with three smaller human-like figures.
- Painted in a single shade of dark red pigment, the cave also contains other images of pigs.
- Researchers believe the painting represents a narrative scene.
- Previously, the oldest known cave painting was in Leang Tedongnge Cave, dated to around 45,500 years old.

Halla Tomasdottir Becomes New President of Iceland

- Halla Tomasdottir, a distinguished businesswoman and investor, has won Iceland's presidential election, securing 34.3% of the vote and defeating former Prime Minister Katrin Jakobsdottir.
- She will succeed President Gudni Th. Johannesson, who opted not to seek re-election after serving two four-year terms.
- Iceland, a Nordic island nation located in the North Atlantic, has a population of 384,000.
- Vigdis Finnbogadottir was Iceland's first elected female president.
- Halla Tomasdottir is also recognized as the co-founder of Audur Capital.

India and Russia agreed to increase bilateral trade to 100 billion dollars by 2030

- India and Russia aim to boost bilateral trade to \$100 billion by 2030.
- PM Narendra Modi and President Vladimir Putin attended the 22nd Annual Summit.
- Both countries emphasized the peaceful resolution of the Ukraine conflict in a joint statement.
- They agreed on a cooperation statement for projects in Russia's Far East.
- A joint vision statement on trade and economic cooperation was issued, focusing on eliminating non-tariff barriers and developing bilateral settlement systems using national currencies.
- Development plans include the Chennai-Vladivostok maritime route, the Northern Sea Route, and the International North-South Transport Corridor via Iran.
- India and Russia signed MoUs on climate change, polar research, legal arbitration, and pharmaceutical certification, among other issues.
- Both nations will open new consulates in Kazan and Yekaterinburg to support their growing communities.
- Trade between Russia and India increased by 66% in 2023 and by 20% in the first quarter of 2024.

Narendra Modi became the first Prime Minister to visit Austria

- Narendra Modi is the first Indian Prime Minister to visit Austria in 41 years, with the previous visit being by Indira Gandhi in 1983.
- The visit coincides with the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations between India and Austria.

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- PM Modi was hosted by Austrian Chancellor Karl Nehammer for a private engagement.
- They discussed bilateral cooperation in infrastructure, renewable energy, high technology areas, start-up sectors, media and entertainment.
- Trade Agreement Focus: Both leaders agreed to expedite the India-European Union Free Trade Deal.
- Emphasis was placed on the importance of India and the EU having the largest and most vibrant free-market space globally.

Colombo Security Conclave Welcomes Bangladesh As Fifth Member

- Bangladesh was officially welcomed as the fifth member of the Colombo Security Conclave (CSC) during the 8th Deputy National Security Adviser (DNSA) level meeting.
- The meeting, which marked Bangladesh's induction, was hosted virtually by Mauritius.
- The existing members, India, Sri Lanka, Mauritius, and the Maldives, warmly received Bangladesh into the group.
- Established in 2020, the CSC originally included India, Sri Lanka, and the Maldives, with Mauritius joining in 2022.
- During the recent meeting, member states reviewed the progress of the CSC's Roadmap for 2023-2024.
- The meeting also covered decisions from earlier meetings, including the 7th DNSA meeting hosted by the Maldives in July 2023 and the 6th NSA meeting in Mauritius in December 2023.
- Key participants from all member states and observer Seychelles engaged in discussions on regional security.
- Upcoming NSA Meeting in India: It was agreed that the 7th NSA level meeting of the CSC will be held in India later this year, aiming to further strengthen regional security cooperation among member states.

Philippines Hosting the "Loss and Damage" Fund Board

- The Philippines has been chosen to host the board of the "Loss and Damage" fund.
- This selection marks a crucial step in providing financial assistance for countries affected by global warming to recover and rebuild.
- The U.N. "Loss and Damage" fund was established during COP27 in Egypt in 2022.
- The fund is dedicated to addressing irreparable climate-driven damage caused by drought, floods, and rising sea levels.
- The Philippines will also hold a seat on the fund's board.
- The World Bank will serve as the interim host for the fund for a period of four years.
- The fund aims to provide financial support for countries dealing with severe climate impacts.
- Hosting the fund's board highlights the Philippines' role in global climate action and international cooperation.

India and Switzerland aim for a \$100 billion investment and 1 million jobs in the next 15 Years.

- India and Switzerland aim to achieve \$100 billion in investment and create 1 million jobs within the next 15 years.
- Union Minister for Commerce and Industry, Piyush Goyal, was on a two-day visit to Switzerland.
- During his visit, Goyal encouraged Swiss companies to invest in India's growing and dynamic market.
- The main objective of the visit was to discuss the implementation of the historic India-EFTA Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA), signed on March 10.
- Switzerland is India's 20th largest trading partner globally, with bilateral trade amounting to USD 21 billion in 2023.
- Switzerland is also the 12th largest investor in India, having invested SD 10 billion from April 2000 to March 2024 under FDI.
- Approximately 330 Swiss companies operate in India, creating over 166,000 jobs in the country.
- Both nations have set an ambitious target to reach \$100 billion in investment and generate 1 million jobs in India over the next 15 years.

India's first overseas Jan Aushadi Kendra has been inaugurated by External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar in Mauritius.

- External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar inaugurated India's first overseas Jan Aushadi Kendra in Mauritius.
- Mauritius Prime Minister Pravind Kumar Jugnauth joined Jaishankar during the inauguration.
- Jaishankar highlighted that the India-Mauritius health partnership project will provide cost-effective, made-in-India medicines.

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- Previously, the Mediclinic project at Grand Bois in Mauritius was inaugurated by Dr. Jaishankar with Indian grant assistance.
- Dr. Jaishankar mentioned that the Mediclinic will offer secondary healthcare services to 16,000 people in the Grand Bois area.
- India shares close relations with Mauritius, an island nation in the Western Indian Ocean.
- Approximately 70% of Mauritius' 1.2 million population is of Indian origin.

The first sweeping climate change law passed by South Africa

- South Africa has passed its first comprehensive Climate Change Act, signed by President Cyril Ramaphosa.
- The law will impose limits on large emitters and mandate adaptation plans for every city and town.
- The act aims to help South Africa meet its emissions reduction commitments under the Paris Climate Agreement.
- As one of the top 15 greenhouse gas emitters, South Africa is struggling to meet these targets due to its reliance on coal for electricity.
- Emissions targets will be set for high-emitting sectors such as industry, transportation, and agriculture.
- Each relevant ministry will be required to implement measures to meet these emissions targets.
- The law is a significant step in addressing South Africa's status as the world's most carbon-intensive major economy.

UK Foreign Secretary David Lammy's Visit to New Delhi on July 24, 2024

- UK Foreign Secretary David Lammy met with S Jaishankar, the Indian Minister of External Affairs, and Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- A major highlight of the meetings was the announcement of the Technology Security Initiative, aimed at enhancing cooperation in key sectors.
- The initiative targets sectors such as semiconductors, artificial intelligence, critical minerals, and telecommunications.
- The goal is to elevate the strategic partnership between India and the UK to a higher level through the Technology Security Initiative.
- Both nations agreed to bolster defence and security cooperation, particularly in the Indo-Pacific region and beyond.
- Lammy also met with India's National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval to discuss the initiative.
- The Technology Security Initiative will be overseen and managed by the NSAs of both countries.
- The initiative will support the development of an expanded "Future Telecoms Partnership" between India and the UK.
- During their discussions, Jaishankar and Lammy reviewed the Roadmap 2030 for enhancing bilateral relations between India and the UK.

NATIONAL NEWS

The Union government has reconstituted eight Cabinet committees.

- The Cabinet Committee on Security remains unchanged, with members including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Defense Minister Rajnath Singh, Home Minister Amit Shah, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar.
- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet also remains unchanged, comprising Prime Minister Modi and Home Minister Shah, and is responsible for appointing bureaucrats.
- HD Kumaraswamy and Lalan Singh have been added to the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs.
- This committee is responsible for decisions related to industrial policies, big-ticket investment proposals, and major infrastructure projects.
- Defense Minister Rajnath Singh will head the Cabinet Committee on Parliamentary Affairs, which includes nine other ministers.
- Prime Minister Modi will head the Cabinet Committees on Investment and Growth, as well as on Skill, Employment, and Livelihood.

NITI Aayog Launches 'Sampoornata Abhiyan'

- NITI Aayog initiated the Sampoornata Abhiyan to achieve saturation in 12 key social sector indicators across

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500 aspirational blocks and 112 aspirational districts.

- The campaign targets health, nutrition, agriculture, social development, and education.
- Running until September, it includes awareness activities such as Gram Sabhas, Nukkad Natak, Paushtik Aahar Mela, health camps, exhibitions, and competitions.
- Activities involve district and block officials, elected representatives, and community members.
- The campaign saw participation from regions including Jammu and Kashmir and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- Significant participation was noted in health and nutrition activities in districts like Ratlam, Singrauli, Udham Singh Nagar, Nuh, and Annamayya.
- The launch events actively involved officials, frontline workers, and local representatives.

16th Finance Commission formed the Advisory Council

- A five-member Advisory Council was constituted by the 16th Finance Commission.
- Poonam Gupta, Director General of the National Council of Applied Economic Research.
- Economists D.K. Srivastava, Neelkanth Mishra, Pranjul Bhandari, and Rahul Bajoria.
- Advise on Terms of Reference (ToR) and related matters.
- The role and functions of the Advisory Council will include assisting the Commission in preparing papers or research studies and monitoring or evaluating studies ordered by the Finance Commission.
- This will enhance the Commission's understanding of the issues involved in its rules of engagement.
- Distribution of net tax proceeds between Union and states (Chapter I, Part XII of the Constitution).
- Principles for grants-in-aid for state revenues from the Consolidated Fund of India.

CJI Chandrachud Inaugurates Multi Facilitation Centre In Supreme Court

- Chief Justice of India (CJI) DY Chandrachud inaugurated a new multi-facilitation centre at the Supreme Court in New Delhi.
- The centre aims to improve access to justice by providing centralized access to case-related documents for lawyers.
- CJI Chandrachud emphasized that the new facility will enhance the quality of service provided by the Supreme Court to Indian citizens.
- The centre is expected to streamline workflow and increase efficiency within the judicial system.
- During the inauguration, CJI Chandrachud welcomed Brazilian judge Justice Antonio Benjamin, who is set to become the Chief Justice of the Brazilian Supreme Court.
- The event underscored the strong judicial ties and friendship between India and Brazil.
- The inauguration of the center reflects a commitment to improving judicial infrastructure and services, benefiting both lawyers and the public.

Govt of India declares June 25 as 'Constitution Assassination Day' to remind people of 'emergency'

- The Ministry of Home Affairs announced the designation of June 25 as 'Samvidhaan Hatya Diwas' (Constitution Murder Day) on July 12, 2024.
- Purpose of the Day: The day is intended to honor the struggles and sacrifices of those who opposed the abuse of power during the Emergency era in India.
- 'Samvidhaan Hatya Diwas' recognizes the efforts made to defend constitutional values and uphold democracy during this challenging period.
- Historical Significance: June 25 marks the anniversary of the Emergency imposed in 1975, a critical event in India's political history.
- The observance underscores the importance of protecting constitutional principles and democratic freedoms.
- The day commemorates the resistance against authoritarianism and the preservation of democratic rights.

Prime Minister Modi crosses 100 million followers on X

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has become the world's most followed leader on the social media platform X (formerly Twitter).
- Katy Perry, an American singer-songwriter and television personality, was the first to reach 100 million followers on X.
- Modi has added another feather to his cap with this social media achievement.
- The Morning Consult of the USA reports that Narendra Modi is the most popular leader globally.

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- Modi's social media presence on X outpaces all other global leaders.
- This accomplishment further solidifies Modi's significant influence and popularity worldwide.

'Saushrutam 2024' successfully organised by All India Institute of Ayurveda

- The All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) successfully organized 'Saushrutam 2024,' featuring live surgical demonstrations.
- The 2nd National Seminar, Saushrutam Shalya Sammelan, was held by AIIA's Department of Shalya Tantra in New Delhi, coinciding with Sushruta Jayanti-2024.
- Sushruta Jayanti is celebrated annually on July 15th to honor Sushruta, the father of surgery; the seminar ran from July 13th to 15th.
- The inaugural ceremony's chief guest was Professor Sandeep Kumar, Founding Director of AIIMS Bhopal.
- Over the first two days, 25 complex surgical procedures were conducted successfully.
- Participants had the chance to observe and learn from live demonstrations of various surgical techniques by expert surgeons, addressing conditions like Fistula-in-Ano, Piles, Pilonidal Sinus, Gallstones, and Hernia.
- In the past year, around 1500 patients have benefitted from the surgical procedures at AIIA.

New Delhi hosts the World Heritage Young Professionals Forum

- The 2024 World Heritage Young Professionals Forum began in New Delhi on 15 July 2024.
- This forum is part of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee Meeting.
- New Delhi will host the 46th session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee from 21 to 31 July 2024.
- The forum will see participation from 50 young heritage professionals, including 20 from India and 30 from other countries.
- The Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya Institute of Archaeology is organizing the forum.
- The institute is part of the Archaeological Survey of India.
- The Archaeological Survey of India operates under the Union Ministry of Culture.
- The World Heritage Young Professionals Forum will take place from 14-23 July in New Delhi.

Government of India reconstituted NITI Aayog

- The Union government reconstituted the NITI Aayog, with four full-time members and 15 Union Ministers, as either ex-officio members or special invitees.
- The full-time members are unchanged: V K Saraswat, Prof. Ramesh Chand, Dr. V K Paul, and Anand Virmani.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will continue as the chairperson of NITI Aayog.
- Suman Bery remains in the position of Vice President, NITI Aayog.
- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has been added as an ex-officio member along with Home Minister Amit Shah, Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.
- National Institution for Transforming India, better known as NITI Aayog, was formed via a resolution of the Union Cabinet on 1 January 2015.
- The government constituted NITI Aayog to replace the Planning Commission, which had been instituted in 1950.
- Special Invitees in the Reconstituted NITI Aayog:-
 - ✓ Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari
 - ✓ Health Minister Jagat Prakash Nadda
 - ✓ Steel Minister H D Kumaraswamy
 - ✓ MSME Minister Jitan Ram Majhi
 - ✓ Panchayati raj Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh
 - ✓ Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Dr Virendra Kumar
 - ✓ Civil Aviation Minister K Rammohan Naidu
 - ✓ Tribal Affairs Minister Jual Oram
 - ✓ Women and Child Development Minister Annapurna Devi
 - ✓ Food Processing Minister Chirag Paswan
 - ✓ Minister for Planning Rao Inderjit Singh.

New Bills in the Monsoon Session of Parliament

- The government plans to introduce six new bills during the monsoon session of Parliament.

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- The monsoon session will run from July 22 to August 12, as stated in a bulletin by the Lok Sabha Secretariat on July 18.
- The Finance Bill, to be introduced along with the Union Budget on July 23, is one of the key bills of the session.
- The session will also see the introduction of the Boilers Bill, Coffee (Promotion and Development) Bill, Rubber (Promotion and Development) Bill, Bhartiya Vayuyan Vidheyak 2024, and an amendment to the disaster management law.
- The Bhartiya Vayuyan Vidheyak 2024 aims to replace the Aircraft Act of 1934 to simplify civil aviation laws and facilitate business dealings.
- On July 18, Speaker Om Birla nominated 14 members to the Business Advisory Committee (BAC), which he will chair.
- The BAC's primary role is to set the parliamentary agenda.
- The introduction of these bills reflects the government's legislative priorities for the monsoon session.

46th World Heritage Committee session of UNESCO

- New Delhi is set to host the 46th World Heritage Committee session of UNESCO from July 21 to 31, 2024.
- This marks the first time that India will host this significant event.
- Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the session on July 21, 2024, with Union Minister for Culture G. Kishan Reddy in attendance.
- The event will take place at the Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi.
- UNESCO Director-General Audrey Azoulay, along with Culture Ministers, Ambassadors, and domain experts from various countries, will participate in the event.
- The Union Ministry of Culture is organizing the session in collaboration with UNESCO.
- The 46th World Heritage Committee session will review proposals from various countries to add 27 sites to the World Heritage List.
- Among the proposed sites is India's Maidams – the Mound-Burial System of the Ahom Dynasty.

G Kishan Reddy launched landslide forecast system in Kolkata.

- Union Minister of Mines, G. Kishan Reddy, launched a landslide forecast system in Kolkata.
- The Geological Survey of India (GSI) will start providing landslide forecasts from July 20, 2024, for Darjeeling and Kalimpong in West Bengal, and Nilgiri in Tamil Nadu.
- GSI will generate these forecasts and send them to the state government, which will then distribute the information to the district administration.
- The district administration will ensure the information reaches the local population.
- The landslide forecast system will initially cover 36 landslide-prone areas.
- The system is expected to be available nationwide by 2030.
- Additionally, the Union Minister of Mines inaugurated a portal and mobile app related to landslides.'

Department of School Education and Literacy is observing Shiksha Saptah.

- The Department of School Education and Literacy is observing Shiksha Saptah.
- Shiksha Saptah is scheduled to take place from July 22 to 28.
- The primary aim of Shiksha Saptah is to promote collaboration and the educational reforms introduced by National Education Policy 2020 among students, educators, and stakeholders.
- The event marks the completion of four years of the National Education Policy 2020.
- Shiksha Saptah will be celebrated in government schools across the country.
- The week-long celebration will feature theme-based days.
- Themes include Teaching-Learning Material Day, focusing on educational resources.
- Foundational Literacy and Numeracy Day, emphasizing basic skills in reading and math.
- Other themes include Sports Day, promoting physical education, and Cultural Day, celebrating diverse cultural activities.

Airbus plans to introduce the first Made in India H-125.

- By 2026, Airbus aims to introduce the first Made-in-India H-125 helicopter.
- Airbus and Tata will begin establishing the Final Assembly Line (FAL) for H-125 helicopters this winter.
- Airbus has shortlisted eight locations for the FAL and will soon finalize the site.

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- The first Made-in-India helicopter is set for delivery in 2026.
- The initial production rate will be 10 helicopters annually, with potential future increases to 20, 30, or 50.
- Airbus is confident in the H-125's market success, inspired by the A-320 commercial aircraft's achievements.
- Airbus's partnership with India extends beyond manufacturing to maintenance, repair, and overhaul (MRO) of helicopters.
- In December 2023, Airbus and Indamer partnered to support helicopter MRO operations in Mumbai, New Delhi, and Nagpur, and Airbus has also made significant contributions to the defense sector through the C-295 program.

Rashtrapati Bhavan's Durbar Hall and Ashok Hall have been renamed.

- President Droupadi Murmu has renamed Rashtrapati Bhavan's Durbar Hall to 'Ganatantra Mandap' and Ashok Hall to 'Ashok Mandap'.
- The renaming aims to reflect Indian cultural values and ethos in the ambience of Rashtrapati Bhavan.
- Rashtrapati Bhavan serves as the official residence of the President of India.
- 'Ganatantra Mandap' is the new name for Durbar Hall, where significant ceremonies like the presentation of National Awards are held.
- Historically, "Durbar" refers to the courts and assemblies of Indian rulers and the British.
- 'Ashok Hall', originally a ballroom, has been renamed 'Ashok Mandap' to ensure language uniformity.
- The term Ashok signifies 'free from all sufferings'.

India has assumed the Chair of the Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC).

- India has taken over as the Chair of the Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC).
- Rajendra Singh, a member of the National Disaster Management Authority, represents India in this role.
- He succeeded China as ADPC Chair for the 2024-25 term in Bangkok, Thailand.
- ADPC is an autonomous international organization focused on disaster risk reduction and climate resilience in Asia and the Pacific.
- Established in 1986, it started as a regional disaster preparedness center at the Asian Institute of Technology in Bangkok.
- ADPC's headquarters are located in Bangkok, Thailand.
- India and eight neighboring countries are founding members of ADPC.
- The founding countries include Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, and Thailand.

Shinkun La Tunnel construction launched by PM Modi

- PM Modi inaugurated the Shinkun La Tunnel construction marking the 25th Kargil Vijay Diwas anniversary.
- The Shinkun La Tunnel will be the world's highest, situated at approximately 15,800 feet above sea level.
- Spanning 4.1 km with twin tubes, the tunnel will be built on the Nimu-Padum-Darcha road.
- The project, costing Rs 1,681 crore, will be executed by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO).
- Estimated to be completed in two years, the tunnel will feature cross-passages every 500 meters.
- The tunnel aims to enhance economic development in Ladakh and Himachal Pradesh and support military operations near the China border.
- The route is snow-covered for about five months annually, highlighting the tunnel's strategic importance.
- The Cabinet Committee on Security, chaired by the Prime Minister, approved the tunnel project in February 2023.

India assumes Chair of Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre

- India has taken over the Chair of the Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC) for 2024-25.
- Rajendra Singh from the National Disaster Management Authority is the new Chair, succeeding China.
- ADPC was established in 1986 and is headquartered in Bangkok, Thailand.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership has enhanced India's global and regional role in disaster risk reduction.
- India's initiatives include the International Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure.
- ADPC focuses on disaster risk reduction and climate resilience in Asia and the Pacific.
- The ADPC has additional country offices in Bangladesh, Lao PDR, and Myanmar.

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'One DAE One Subscription' has been inaugurated by the Department of Atomic Energy

- The Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) has launched the 'One DAE, One Subscription' (ODOS) initiative.
- The ODOS inauguration took place at Tata Memorial Hospital in Mumbai.
- ODOS allows all DAE units and subunits (about 60) to access and publish research papers and scientific journals.
- The initiative will eventually merge with the national 'One Nation, One Subscription' (ONOS) program.
- The first ODOS agreement was made with M/s. Wiley India Private Limited.
- This agreement grants access to 1353 Wiley journals, including archives from 1997, to the DAE community.
- ODOS Transformative Agreements (TA) were signed with M/s. Wiley India Private Limited and M/s. Springer Nature Group.
- This marks a significant milestone for the DAE scientific community, enhancing access to global research.

STATE NEWS

Rajasthan CM Bhajan Lal launched 'Chief Minister Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana'.

- Rajasthan CM Bhajan Lal launched the 'Chief Minister Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana' in Tonk.
- The scheme is modeled after the Prime Minister's Kisan Samman Nidhi.
- It aims to provide financial support to farmers through direct benefit transfer (DBT).
- Beneficiary Support: Under this scheme, Rs 2,000 will be transferred annually to each beneficiary farmer's account.
- The amount will be given in three instalments of Rs 1000, Rs 500 and Rs 500. The Chief Minister transferred the first instalment directly on June 30, 2024.
- Farmers are already getting 6 thousand rupees per year under the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi.
- It will farmers in buying fertilizers and seeds and to do other agriculture related works.

Five and a half crore trees will be planted in Madhya Pradesh under the One Tree Maa Ki Naam campaign launched by PM Modi

- Five and a half crore saplings will be planted in Madhya Pradesh under the 'Ek Tree Maa Ki Naam' campaign.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the campaign, which was inaugurated by Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav.
- The campaign coincides with the birth anniversary of Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee.
- In Bhopal district, the target is to plant 20 lakh saplings over 480 hectares.
- 12 lakh saplings are already being planted in various locations within Bhopal district.
- Indore aims to plant 51 lakh saplings, making it a significant part of the campaign.
- The 'Ek Tree Maa Ke Naam' campaign is being conducted across all cities and villages in the state until July 15.

Uttar Pradesh government has announced the setting up of Mitra Van.

- Mitra Van Initiative: Under the Vriksharopan Jan Abhiyan-2024, the Uttar Pradesh government will establish Mitra Van along the UP-Nepal border.
- The UP Forest Department, in collaboration with neighboring states and Nepal, aims to plant 35 crore saplings to increase greenery.
- 35 forest divisions have selected specific locations for this massive plantation drive.
- The campaign will include participation from dignitaries of other states to enhance its impact.
- The Forest Department aims to meet the July 20 target date for the Vriksharopan Jan Abhiyan-2024.
- Each district is also instructed to develop other types of forests under the initiative, including "Shakti Van," "Yuva Van," and "Bal Van."

Rajasthan to become the first State to adopt an action plan for road safety for 10 years

- Rajasthan will be the first state to implement a 10-year road safety action plan.
- The goal is to reduce road accidents in Rajasthan by 50% by 2030.
- The action plan is being developed by the Transport Department's road safety cell.
- This plan aims to increase public awareness and change behavior regarding road safety rules.
- The action plan will be executed in three phases: 2025-2027, 2027-2030, and 2030-2033.

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- Key focus areas include speed limits, safe distances, traffic signals, road barriers, pedestrian safety, seatbelt and helmet use, and vehicle insurance.
- The policy aims to educate the public on road safety provisions and promote adherence to safety regulations.

Indore created a world record by planting 11 lakh saplings in a day.

- Indore set a new Guinness World Record by planting over 1.1 million saplings in 24 hours on July 14.
- The tree plantation program was organized by the state government.
- Union Home Minister Amit Shah participated in the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign and planted a sapling earlier in the day.
- Campaign Launch: The "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" campaign was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on World Environment Day, June 5.
- The campaign aims to plant 51 lakh saplings in Indore.
- Plantation Drive Location: The drive took place in the Revati range of the BSF Academy, divided into nine zones and 100 sub-zones.
- The drive involved 2000 BSF jawans, more than 100 NRIs, NCC cadets from 50 schools, citizens, and various social organizations.
- The previous record of 9,21,730 saplings was set by the Forest Department of Assam at Udalguri on September 13 and 14, 2023.
- According to the Guinness World Records website, Indore's achievement surpassed the previous record.

Kharchi Puja was celebrated in Tripura.

- Kharchi Puja, also known as the Festival of the 14 Gods, was celebrated in Tripura.
- Annual Festival: This festival is observed annually on Shukla Ashtami, the eighth day of the lunar month of Ashadha.
- This year, Kharchi Puja began on July 14.
- The people of Tripura pay homage to their ancestral deity, Chaturdasa Devata, during this week-long festival.
- Royal priests carry idols of the fourteen gods from the ancient Ujjayanta Palace in Agartala to the Saidra River.

Kerala becomes first state to record biodiversity with the help of local communities

- Kerala has become the first state in India to complete the preparation of People's Biodiversity Registers (PBR) for every local self-government (LSG) body.
- The state accomplished this task ahead of the National Green Tribunal's deadline of January 31, 2020.
- PBRs in Kerala detail local biological resources and the traditional knowledge related to them.
- Diverse Biodiversity: The registers encompass wild, aquatic, urban, and agro biodiversity, documenting various species of flora and fauna.
- The initiative captures traditional knowledge, usage patterns, and the economic benefits derived from these biological resources.
- Community-Focused: PBRs also highlight the ongoing changes affecting biodiversity within local communities.
- This effort not only catalogues biodiversity but also aims to promote the conservation and sustainable use of biological resources at the local level.

Karnataka Cabinet cleared the Karnataka State Employment of Local Candidates in the Industries

- The Karnataka Cabinet has approved the Karnataka State Employment of Local Candidates in Industries, Factories, and Other Establishments Bill, 2024.
- Mandates 50% reservation for local candidates in management positions and 75% in non-management roles.
- Industries, factories, and establishments violating the bill's provisions face a penalty of up to Rs 25,000.
- Candidates must pass a Kannada proficiency exam or have a secondary school diploma with Kannada as a language.
- Establishments must train and engage local candidates within three years if qualified locals are not available.
- Businesses can appeal to the government for relaxation of the Bill's provisions if no local candidates are available.
- A nodal body will be established to verify employment information and report to the government regularly.
- All private industries are required to hire only Kannadigas for group 'C' and 'D' jobs.

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Madhya Pradesh's Performance in the PM SVANidhi Scheme

- Madhya Pradesh has been recognized as the 'best performing state' under the Pradhan Mantri SVANidhi Yojana.
- The Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry announced Madhya Pradesh's achievement on July 18.
- The PM SVANidhi Scheme, launched during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, provides collateral-free loans of up to Rs 50,000 to urban street vendors.
- Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Manohar Lal Khattar presented the awards to the winners.
- Assam secured second place in the 'Best Performing State – Innovation and Best Practices Awards' category.
- In the 'Best Performing ULBs - Loan Performance with mega and million plus cities' category, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) took first place, followed by Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara.

The Muslim Marriage and Divorce Registration Act was repealed by the Assam Government.

- The Assam Government has repealed the Muslim Marriage and Divorce Registration Act.
- Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma announced that the Assam Cabinet approved the repeal bill on July 18.
- The bill seeks to repeal the Assam Muslim Marriage and Divorce Registration Act and Rules of 1935.
- The 1935 Act permitted underage marriages under certain conditions.
- By passing the Assam Repealing Bill 2024, the government aims to abolish the outdated act.
- The Repeal Bill 2024 will be introduced in the upcoming Monsoon Session of the Assembly.
- The old act allowed the registration of marriages even if the bride and groom had not reached the legal ages of 18 and 21, respectively.
- The decision reflects the government's effort to align marriage laws with contemporary legal standards.

Rajiv Gandhi Civils Abhayastam scheme launched by the Chief Minister of Telangana.

- Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy launched the Rajiv Gandhi Civils Abhayastam scheme.
- This unique program aims to provide financial assistance to Civil Services aspirants from Telangana.
- Under the scheme, candidates who qualify for the Mains exams will receive ₹1 lakh for their preparation.
- The scheme is expected to benefit around 400 candidates from the Telangana region who qualify for the Mains exam each year.
- As part of its 'Nirman' program, Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) will provide assistance for this initiative.
- Eligible candidates include those from Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe, Other Backward Class, Women, and Economically Weaker Section (EWS) categories, provided their family annual income does not exceed ₹8 lakh.
- The government will also announce a job calendar in the upcoming state assembly budget session.
- The Chief Minister stated that the government will compile data on vacancies in every department before March each year.
- Notifications for vacancies will be issued by June 2, and the recruitment process will be completed by December 9.
- He highlighted that the Congress government provided 30,000 jobs within three months of coming to power.

Madhya Pradesh Leads in PM SVANidhi Scheme as Top Performing State

- Madhya Pradesh has been recognized as the 'Best Performing State' under the PM SVANidhi scheme.
- The award is for its effective support of urban street vendors through collateral-free loans.
- Launched in June 2020, the PM SVANidhi scheme provides urban street vendors with loans up to ₹50,000 without requiring collateral.
- The scheme aims to help vendors recover from the economic impact of COVID-19.
- Loans under PM SVANidhi are repayable within a year.
- The scheme is designed to enhance financial stability and support small businesses.
- Madhya Pradesh's recognition highlights its successful implementation and support for street vendors under this initiative.

UP Prohibition of Unlawful Religious Conversion (Amendment) Bill

- The UP Prohibition of Unlawful Religious Conversion (Amendment) Bill now includes a broader definition of "love jihad."

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- The amended bill proposes life imprisonment for individuals accused of "love jihad."
- Punishments for offenses defined in the bill have been increased, with the penalty for conversion now ranging from one to 10 years.
- Previously, the bill invalidated conversions done solely for marriage and deemed conversions obtained through deceit a crime.
- Individuals must notify a magistrate two months in advance for voluntary conversions.
- The bill aims to prevent any direct or indirect conversions.
- The proposed amendments were discussed and approved in the Uttar Pradesh state Assembly.

SPORTS

Neeraj Chopra will lead the Indian track and field contingent at Paris Olympics.

- Neeraj Chopra has been chosen to lead the Indian track and field team at the 2024 Paris Olympics, as announced by the Athletics Federation of India.
- Three years ago, Neeraj Chopra made history by becoming India's first track and field athlete to win an Olympic gold medal.
- The track and field events will take place at the Stade de France from August 1 to August 11.
- Milestone for Indian Athletics: Jyothi Yarraji will make history as the first Indian 100-meter hurdler to compete in the Olympics.
- 2024 Paris Olympics: Scheduled from July 26 to August 11, 2024, in Paris, the Games will showcase global athletic talent.
- Official Theme Song: "Parade," composed by Victor Le Manse, serves as the official theme song for the 2024 Paris Olympics.

Dhruv Sitwala wins his third Asian Billiards Title at Riyadh

- Dhruv Sitwala defeated Pankaj Advani to win the 2024 Asian Billiards Championship.
- Championship held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.
- Championship organised by the Asian Confederation of Billiard Sports (ACBS).
- Event dates: 27th June to 5th July 2024.
- Championship Included Men's Snooker Team, Men's Billiards, and Women's Snooker Championships.
- This win marks Dhruv Sitwala's third Asian billiards title.
- Previous titles won by Dhruv Sitwala in 2015 and 2016.

India achieved top position at the Under 23 Asian Wrestling Championship 2024 in Amman, Jordan

- India secured the top spot at the Under 23 Asian Wrestling Championship 2024 in Amman, Jordan.
- Indian wrestlers clinched a total of eight freestyle wrestling medals: four gold, two silver, and two bronze.
- Gold medals were won by Abhimanyu (70 kg), Jointy Kumar (92 kg), Sahil Jaglan (97 kg), and Anirudh Kumar (125 kg).
- Silver medals went to Rohit (65 kg) and Jaideep (74 kg).
- Bronze medalists were Shubham (57 kg) and Amit (79 kg).
- Kazakhstan finished in second place, with Kyrgyzstan in third.

India wins two titles at the Asian Squash Doubles Championship 2024

- Indian Squash players won two titles at the 2024 Asian Squash Doubles Championship in Johor, Malaysia.
- India secured the men's doubles and mixed doubles titles.
- The Indian men's team previously won the 2022 Asian Team Championship in Cheongju, South Korea.
- In mixed doubles, Abhay Singh and Joshna Chinappa defeated Hong Kong China's Tong Tsz Wing and Ming Hong Tang 2-1 in the finals.
- The mixed doubles final took place on 7 July 2024 at the Arena Emas in Johor, Malaysia.
- In men's doubles, Abhay Singh and Velavan Senthilkumar defeated Malaysia's Ong Sai Hung and Syafiq Kamal in straight sets.

Gagan Narang replaced Mary Kom as India's Chef-De-Mission for the 2024 Olympics.

- Gagan Narang has been appointed as India's Chef-De-Mission for the 2024 Olympics.
- He replaced Mary Kom, who stepped down due to health issues.

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- The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) President, P.T. Usha, announced Narang's promotion from deputy chef-de-mission.
- PV Sindhu and table tennis star Sharath Kamal will be the flag bearers at the Paris Olympics.
- The Paris Olympics will take place from July 26 to August 11, 2024.
- Mary Kom and former hockey captain Manpreet Singh were the flag bearers at the Tokyo Olympics. Gagan Narang's appointment marks a leadership change for India at the 2024 Paris Olympics

Sabeera Haris won the bronze medal in the Shotgun Junior World Cup in Italy.

- India's Sabeera Haris won the bronze medal in the women's trap event at the ISSF Junior World Cup in Porpetto, Italy.
- She shot 29 out of 40 targets in the final.
- Gold Medal Winner: Carey Garrison from the US clinched the gold medal, hitting 40 out of 50 targets.
- Silver Medalist: Italy's Sofia Gori secured the silver with 39 hits out of 50 targets.
- Bhavya Tripathi's Performance: Bhavya Tripathi finished in 26th place, scoring 102 in the junior women's trap event.
- Rajkuwar Ingle's Standing: Rajkuwar Ingle ended up in 33rd place with 100 points.
- The competition took place in Porpetto, Italy, showcasing young shooting talents from around the world.

Carlos Alcaraz 2024 Wimbledon Mens' Singles Champion

- Carlos Alcaraz defended his Wimbledon title, defeating Novak Djokovic 6-2, 6-2, 7-6(4).
- This win marks Alcaraz's fourth Grand Slam trophy.
- Alcaraz's victory stopped Djokovic from claiming his 25th Grand Slam title.
- Djokovic also missed the chance to equal Roger Federer's record of eight Wimbledon men's singles titles.
- Alcaraz celebrated achieving his childhood dream of winning Wimbledon.
- He became the ninth man in the professional era to retain the Wimbledon title.

ICC Men's Player of the Month for June 2024

- ICC Men's Player of the Month for June 2024 given to Indian pace bowler Jasprit Bumrah.
- His outstanding performance in the ICC T20 World Cup, taking 15 wickets in 8 matches, earning Player of the Tournament.
- Women's Award: Smriti Mandhana named ICC Women's Player of the Month for June 2024 for her excellent batting against South Africa.
- ICC Player of the Month awards introduced in January 2021 to recognize top performances in international cricket for both men and women.

9th Edition of Women's Cricket Asia Cup to Begin on July 19, 2024

- The 9th edition of the Women's Cricket Asia Cup will kick off on July 19, 2024, in Dambulla, Sri Lanka, with a match between Nepal and the United Arab Emirates.
- The tournament will be played in the T20 format, with all matches, including the final, taking place at the Rangiri Dambulla International Stadium.
- The event is scheduled to run from July 19 to July 28, 2024.
- The Women's Asia Cup is organized by the Asian Cricket Council (ACC), the governing body for cricket in Asia.
- The ACC is affiliated with the International Cricket Council (ICC), which oversees global cricket.
- Jay Shah, General Secretary of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), serves as the President of the Asian Cricket Council.
- India is the reigning champion, having won the 2022 edition by defeating Sri Lanka in the final held at Sylhet International Cricket Stadium, Sylhet, Bangladesh.
- The tournament promises to showcase top-level women's T20 cricket and bring together leading teams from across Asia.

Swiss Open 2024 doubles title

- Yuki Bhambri and his French partner Albano Olivetti won the Swiss Open 2024 doubles title.
- They secured the title by defeating Fabrice Martin and Ugo Humbert of France in the final with scores of 3-6, 6-3, and 10-6.

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- This victory marks the second ATP Tour title of the year for Bhambri and Olivetti.
- Earlier in the year, they won the Bavarian International doubles title by defeating the German duo Andreas Mies and Jan-Lennard Struff.
- Bhambri claimed his first ATP Tour title in 2023 alongside Lloyd Harris at the Mallorca Championships in Spain.
- The Swiss Open Tournament 2024 was held from July 16 to July 20, 2024.
- The 56th edition of the Swiss Open took place at the Roy Emerson Arena in Gstaad, Switzerland.

Leander Paes, and Vijay Amritraj inducted into Tennis Hall of Fame.

- On July 21, Leander Paes and Vijay Amritraj, legendary Indian tennis players, were inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame.
- They are the first Asian players to receive this honor, marking a significant milestone for Asian athletes in tennis history.
- Leander Paes, aged 51, was inducted in the 'Player Category.'
- Paes' achievements include a men's singles bronze at the 1996 Atlanta Olympic Games, eight men's doubles, and 10 mixed doubles Grand Slam titles.
- He also secured several notable Davis Cup triumphs and spent 37 weeks as the No. 1 player in the world doubles rankings.
- Paes has won 54 doubles titles on the ATP tour.
- Vijay Amritraj, aged 70, was inducted in the 'Contributor Category' alongside Richard Evans.
- Amritraj reached the men's singles quarterfinals twice each at Wimbledon and the US Open and led India to the Davis Cup finals in 1974 and 1987.
- At his peak, Amritraj was ranked world No. 18 in singles and No. 23 in doubles.
- With their induction, the Tennis Hall of Fame now includes 267 members from 28 countries.

Abhinav Bindra has been awarded the Olympic Order by the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

- Abhinav Bindra has been honored with the Olympic Order by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) for his exceptional contributions to the Olympic movement.
- Bindra, the first Indian to win an individual gold medal at the Olympics, achieved this feat at the 2008 Beijing Olympics in the men's 10-meter air rifle event.
- He is a member of the IOC Athletes Commission and the first Indian to receive the prestigious Olympic Order.
- The Olympic Order is the highest honor awarded by the IOC for outstanding service to the Olympic Movement, established in 1975.
- The award can be given to IOC members, athletes, and other distinguished individuals who have made significant contributions to the Olympic Movement.
- The Olympic Order is awarded in three grades: gold, silver, and bronze, with the gold medal being the highest distinction.
- Bindra's recognition underscores his pivotal role in promoting and supporting the Olympic values and sportsmanship.

Paris Olympics 2024 started in France on July 26 2024.

- The Paris Olympics 2024 commenced in France on July 26 and will run until August 11.
- This marks the 33rd edition of the Summer Olympic Games.
- The Phrygian caps are the official mascots for Paris 2024.
- For the first time, athletes will sail through a river to enter the Olympics ceremony event.
- PV Sindhu and Sharath Kamal led the Indian contingent as flag bearers at the opening ceremony.
- India's team at the Paris 2024 Olympics includes 117 athletes (70 men and 47 women) competing in 16 sports.
- In the previous Olympics, India achieved its best performance with 7 medals, including a gold from javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra.
- Paris, hosting the Games for the third time (previously in 1900 and 1924), joins London as the only cities to host the Summer Olympics three times.

Women's T20 Asia Cup 2024

- Sri Lanka won their first Women's Cricket Asia Cup by defeating India on 28 July 2024.

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- The final was held at the Rangiri Dambulla International Stadium in Dambulla, Sri Lanka.
- The Sri Lankan team beat the defending champion Indian team by 8 wickets with 8 balls remaining.
- Sri Lanka became the third team to win the Women's Cricket Asia Cup, after India and Bangladesh.
- The 9th edition of the Women's Cricket Asia Cup was entirely played at Rangiri Dambulla.
- India has previously won the Women's Cricket Asia Cup seven times.
- Bangladesh has won the Women's Cricket Asia Cup once.
- The victory marked a significant upset as Sri Lanka defeated the favorite Indian team.

India will host the Asia Cup after 34 years.

- India will host the Asia Cup in 2025 after a gap of 34 years.
- The Asia Cup will be a T20 edition, serving as a warm-up for the T20 World Cup in 2026.
- Bangladesh will host the 2027 Asia Cup, which will be in a 50-over format, aligning with the ODI World Cup in South Africa.
- The Asian Cricket Council (ACC) announced the hosting details in its Expression of Interest (IEOI).
- The Asia Cup has acted as a preparatory tournament for international competitions since its first T20 edition in 2016.
- In 2023, the Asia Cup was hosted by Pakistan in a 'hybrid model,' with India playing its matches in Sri Lanka.
- India are the defending Asia Cup champions, having won three of the last four editions.
- The first Asia Cup was held in Sharjah, UAE, in 1984.

Jiya Rai is now the youngest and fastest female paraswimmer in world

- Jiya Rai, at 16, is the youngest and fastest female paraswimmer to swim solo across the English Channel.
- She swam 34 kilometers in 17 hours and 25 minutes, from Abbots Cliff, England to Pointe de la Courte-Dune, France.
- Rai holds a world record in open water swimming and competes internationally as a paraswimmer.
- She dedicated her English Channel swim to promoting autism awareness.
- In 2022, she received the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar, India's highest award for citizens under 18.
- Jiya is the daughter of a navy officer based in Mumbai.
- The English Channel, an arm of the Atlantic Ocean, separates Southern England from Northern France.
- Her achievements highlight her commitment to both her sport and social causes.

Manika Batra became the first Indian to reach the Olympics Round of 16 in Table Tennis.

- Manika Batra became the first Indian table tennis player to reach the singles pre-quarterfinals at the Olympic Games.
- She reached the round of 32 at the Tokyo Olympics.
- Manika Batra defeated Prithika with scores of 11-9, 11-6, 11-9, and 11-7.
- She is recognized as the top female table tennis player in India.
- Manika Batra was awarded the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna in 2020.
- This achievement marks her as the first Indian to reach the Olympics Round of 16 in Table Tennis.
- Her advancement to the pre-quarterfinals is a significant milestone for Indian table tennis.
- Manika's performance at the Olympics showcases her exceptional talent and dedication.

Manu Bhaker Becomes First Indian Woman to Win Olympic Medal in Shooting

- Manu Bhaker won a bronze medal in the women's 10m air pistol event at the Paris Olympics on July 28.
- She became the first Indian woman to win an Olympic shooting medal.
- The 22-year-old from Haryana secured India's first medal at the Paris Olympics.
- Bhaker overcame previous disappointments in Tokyo to achieve this milestone.
- The historic win occurred at the Chateauroux Shooting Centre in Paris.
- This victory marks a significant moment for Indian sports and Bhaker's career.
- Manu Bhaker's achievement brings pride to India, highlighting her perseverance and skill.
- The win adds to India's growing presence in Olympic shooting events.

AWARDS

Dr Usha Thakur received the 12th Vishwa Hindi Samman.

- Dr. Usha Thakur was honored with the 12th Vishwa Hindi Samman.
- She received this prestigious award during a Hindi Samvad event organized by the Embassy of India in Nepal.
- The Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, conferred the award.
- Dr. Usha Thakur has translated over 40 literary works into Hindi and Nepali, significantly enriching both languages.
- Her efforts have played a pivotal role in promoting and strengthening the Hindi language.
- The 12th World Hindi Conference took place in Fiji in 2023, emphasizing the global significance and outreach of Hindi language initiatives.
- Such international conferences underscore the importance of Hindi as a cultural and linguistic bridge across borders.

Sivashankari will receive the 'Vishwambhara' Dr C Narayana Reddy National Literary Award-2024.

- Tamil writer Sivashankari will receive the 'Vishwambhara' Dr. C Narayana Reddy National Literary Award-2024 for her significant contributions to literature.
- The award will be presented during the 93rd birth anniversary celebrations of Dr. C Narayana Reddy in Hyderabad on July 29.
- Sivashankari will be honored with a cash prize of Rs 5 lakh, a memento, and a shawl.
- Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy will serve as the chief guest at the award ceremony.
- Sivashankari is also a recipient of the Saraswati Samman Award, recognizing her literary excellence.
- The 2023 'Vishwambhara Dr. C. Narayana Reddy National Literary Award' was awarded to the renowned lyricist Javed Akhtar.

Maharashtra bags the Best Agriculture State Award for 2024

- Maharashtra wins Best Agriculture State Award for 2024.
- Award announced by the 15th Agriculture Leadership Awards Committee.
- Committee headed by Justice P Sathasivam, former Chief Justice of India and Governor of Kerala.
- Announcement made by the 15th Agriculture Leadership Awards Committee.
- Maharashtra Chief Minister, Eknath Shinde, to receive the award.
- Award ceremony to be held in New Delhi on 10 July 2024.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi received Russia's Highest Civilian Honour

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi received Russia's highest civilian honor, the Order of St Andrew the Apostle.
- The Russian Embassy in India announced the award for PM Modi in 2019.
- The award acknowledges Modi's significant contribution to the strategic partnership between Russia and India.
- It also highlights Modi's efforts in strengthening friendly relations between the two countries.
- The Order of St Andrew the Apostle, established in 1698 by Tsar Peter the Great, honors exceptional civilian or military merit.
- Russia agreed to discharge and return all Indians working for the Russian Army.
- During his two-day visit to Russia, PM Modi co-chaired the 22nd India-Russia annual summit, laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, and visited the ROSATOM pavilion.

Hindi Sahitya Bharati Award

- Krishna Prakash, head of Mumbai Police's elite counter-terrorism unit, Force One, has been honored with the prestigious Annual Hindi Sahitya Bharati Award.
- The award was presented during the Sab Me Ram Shashwat Shri Ram multicultural festival in Mumbai.
- The Hindi Sahitya Bharati initiative aims to bring together intellectuals on a common platform to promote cultural and literary endeavors.
- Krishna Prakash is also a two-time Guinness World Record holder for initiating the maximum number of letters through postcards to Lord Ram.

Poet Siddhalinga Pattanashetti Selected for Gudleppa Hallikeri Award

- Poet and playwright Siddhalinga Pattanashetti has been chosen to receive the prestigious Gudleppa Hallikeri

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Award for 2024, presented by the Gudleppa Hallikeri Memorial Foundation

- Prof. Pattanashetti will be the 19th recipient of this award, which includes a purse of ₹25,000 and a memento.
- The Gudleppa Hallikeri Award honors individuals who have made significant contributions to literature, society, or social service.
- The award ceremony will take place on June 6, with the Chairman of the Legislative Council, Basavaraj Horatti, presiding over the event.

Indian victimology expert K. Chockalingam has been selected for the Hans von Hentig Award.

- Indian Professor K. Chockalingam has been chosen for the Hans von Hentig Award by the World Society of Victimology.
- Highest Honor in Victimology: This is the highest award given by the society, named in honor of victimology pioneer Hans von Hentig.
- The award is presented once every three years to individuals with significant contributions to victimology.
- Dr. Chockalingam's Contributions: Dr. Chockalingam is recognized for his extensive work in education and youth development within the field.
- He has received multiple awards for his research in criminology and victimology.
- Dr. Chockalingam serves as a professor emeritus in victimology at RV University in Bengaluru.
- His selection underscores his global influence and dedication to advancing victimology.

Nagaland was awarded the title of best state in horticulture

- Nagaland received the award for the best state in horticulture at the Agriculture Leadership Awards 2024.
- This recognition was given for the state's innovative agricultural practices.
- The award was presented at the 15th Agriculture Leadership Conclave in New Delhi.
- Nagaland's contributions to agricultural development were a key focus of the award.
- Salhoutuonuo Kruse, Minister for Women's Resource Development and Horticulture, accepted the award.
- Kruse highlighted Nagaland's progressive policies and programs that support farmers and rural communities.

Indian Space Scientists Honored at International Space Scientists Meet

- Two Indian space scientists were honored at the International Space Scientists Meet.
- The Committee on Space Research (COSPAR), the first scientific organization dedicated to space science research, presented the awards.
- Prahlad Chandra Agrawal received the Harrie Massey Award at the 45th COSPAR Scientific Assembly in Busan, South Korea.
- Agrawal, one of India's most senior space scientists, is a retired professor from the Department of Astronomy and Astrophysics at the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research.
- The Harrie Massey Award recognizes outstanding contributions to space research, emphasizing leadership roles.
- Anil Bhardwaj was awarded the Vikram Sarabhai Medal, which honors outstanding space science research in developing countries.
- Bhardwaj is the director of the Physical Research Laboratory in Ahmedabad.
- The COSPAR and ISRO have jointly instituted the Vikram Sarabhai Medal.
- Along with a medal and citation, Agrawal's award includes the naming of a minor planet after him.
- COSPAR, established in 1958 shortly after the launch of the first satellite by the Soviet Union in 1957, is one of the largest forums for space scientists.

Greta Gerwig's 2024 Pioneer of the Year Award

- Greta Gerwig was honored with the 2024 Pioneer of the Year Award by the Will Rogers Motion Picture Pioneers Foundation.
- She was recognized for her impactful work in directing acclaimed films such as "Lady Bird," "Little Women," and "Barbie."
- Gerwig's "Barbie" became the first solo female-directed film to exceed \$1 billion in global box office earnings.
- This milestone underscores her significant influence and success in the filmmaking industry.
- The award celebrates her outstanding contributions and pioneering role in advancing the art of filmmaking.

Global CSR & ESG Award 2024

- The Global CSR & ESG Award 2024 was presented to Sobha Group's Sri Kurumba Trust for its initiatives in child and women development.
- The award for "Best Child and Women Development Initiatives of the Year 2024" was received by Sri Kurumba Educational and Charitable Trust, the CSR arm of the Sobha Group.
- Mr. Nagarajan S, Project Vice President of Sobha Limited, accepted the award on behalf of the organization.
- The prestigious award was presented at the Global CSR, Sustainability and ESG Awards 2024 held at Hyatt Regency, Gurgaon.
- The event was organized by marketing and brand experts and brought together industry leaders and advocates of social responsibility.
- This accolade recognizes the groundbreaking efforts of Sri Kurumba Educational and Charitable Trust in empowering children and women through top-notch education and community development programs.
- The aim of the Global CSR & ESG Awards 2024 is to acknowledge and honor social and visionary leaders, organizations, and individuals who are engaged in humanitarian or social welfare work that creates positive change or impact in society.

The Indian Institute of Spices Research (IISR) has got the best technology award.

- The Indian Institute of Spices Research (IISR) has received the best technology award for its groundbreaking work in horticultural sciences.
- The award was presented by Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan during the 96th Foundation Day of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).
- IISR was recognized for its technology called 'Process for instant soluble turmeric enriched spice flavoured milk powder.'
- This technology was one of the top five innovations under ICAR's Horticulture Sciences Division.
- The technology has been commercialized in partnership with Malabar Regional Co-operative Milk Producers' Union Limited.
- Two products, Golden Milk and Golden Milk Mix, have been developed and marketed using this technology.
- The Indian Institute of Spices Research is headquartered in Moozhikkal, Silver Hills, Kozhikode, Kerala.
- IISR was established in 1975 and continues to contribute significantly to horticultural science and technology.

The Gandhi Mandela Award 2020 has been given to Rigoberta Menchú Tum

- The Gandhi Mandela Award 2020 was awarded to Nobel Peace Prize laureate Rigoberta Menchú Tum.
- The award was presented on July 18, 2024, coinciding with Nelson Mandela's 106th birth anniversary.
- His Holiness Dalai Lama received the Gandhi Mandela Award in 2019.
- Rigoberta Menchú Tum, a Guatemalan human rights activist, is recognized for her dedication to Indigenous rights.
- Her efforts have earned her numerous accolades, including the Nobel Peace Prize in 1992 and the Princess of Asturias Award in 1998.
- The Gandhi Mandela Foundation established the award to honor individuals who embody the principles of Gandhi and Mandela.
- The award includes a gold medal crafted by the India Government Mint, a pine wood box, and a certificate.
- The certificate is signed by a distinguished jury of former Chief Justices from India, Nepal, and Bangladesh.

10th National Community Radio Awards

- On July 25, 2024, Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Ashwini Vaishnaw, announced the winners of the 10th National Community Radio Award.
- The minister also inaugurated India's 500th Community Radio Station.
- The 500th Community Radio Station, named Apna Radio 90.0 FM, is located at the Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC) in Aizawl, Mizoram.
- Apna Radio 90.0 FM will provide daily weather updates, government scheme information, and agriculture-related news.
- The National Community Radio Award was established by the Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in 2011-12.
- The awards recognize excellence in community radio, fostering better communication and information

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dissemination at the grassroots level.

Shah Rukh Khan, First Indian Actor, Honored with Gold Coins

- Shah Rukh Khan has been honored with a customized gold coin by the Grevin Museum in Paris.
- He is the first Indian actor to receive a coin in his name at the Grevin Museum.
- The Grevin Museum is renowned for its wax figures of celebrities, including a wax statue of Shah Rukh Khan.
- Shah Rukh Khan is the second Indian, after Mahatma Gandhi, to be honored with a coin at the Grevin Museum.
- He will also receive the Career Achievement Award from the Locarno Film Festival for his prolific career of over 100 feature films.
- The 77th edition of the Locarno Film Festival is set to take place from August 7 to 17 in Locarno, Switzerland.
- The award will be presented to Shah Rukh Khan on August 10 at the open-air venue Piazza Grande.

'Rajbhasha Gaurav Samman' has been awarded to PSUs located in Visakhapatnam

- The 'Rajbhasha Gaurav Samman' was awarded to PSUs in Visakhapatnam by the Town Official Language Implementation Committee (TOLIC) for the year 2023-24.
- This award recognizes exceptional performance in implementing the Official Language.
- Hindi Officers and Coordinators of the organizations received the 'Nagar Rajbhasha Samman'.
- In category-I, HPCL-Visakha Refinery secured 1st place, followed by NTPC Simhadri and Airport Authority of India in 2nd and 3rd places, respectively.
- For category-II, GAIL received the 1st prize, HPCL-Visakha Regional Office the 2nd, and SAIL – Branch Transport & Shipping Office the 3rd prize.
- MSTC, HPCL LPG, and ECGC (Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India) won 1st, 2nd, and 3rd positions in category-III.
- The awards highlight the commitment to promoting and implementing the Official Language within these organizations.
- The ceremony celebrated the achievements in enhancing the use of Hindi in official capacities across various public sector units.

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

- Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh was honored with the "Lifetime Achievement Award" for his significant contributions to diabetes care and research.
- The award ceremony took place in Chennai during the International Meet of leading medical professionals from around the world.
- Dr. Jitendra Singh is the first person from Jammu & Kashmir to serve in the Union Council of Ministers for three consecutive terms.
- He has been elected to the Lok Sabha three times in a row.
- In the past, he has received the "Gold Medal for Oration" from JIPMER, Puducherry.
- He is also a recipient of the prestigious "Jamna Devi Gian Devi Award" for journalism.
- Dr. Jitendra Singh authored the book "Diabetes Made Easy".
- The award acknowledges his dedication to advancing diabetology and diabetes research.

RANKING AND INDEX

Henley Passport Index's 2024

- India has dropped to 82nd place in the Henley Passport Index's 2024 ranking of the world's most powerful passports, allowing visa-free travel to 58 countries.
- This marks a decline from the previous year, when India was ranked 80th.
- The 2024 Index sees Singapore reclaiming the top spot, with its passport providing visa-free or visa-on-arrival access to 195 countries.
- Afghanistan remains at the bottom of the list, with its passport holders able to enter only 26 destinations without a visa.

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- The Henley Passport Index, established in 2006, evaluates 199 passports and 227 travel destinations.
- The rankings are based on data from the International Air Transport Association (IATA).
- The Index scores passports based on the total number of destinations that can be accessed visa-free, offering a detailed and practical measure of passport strength.
 - ✓ 1st Place: Singapore – 195 destinations.
 - ✓ 2nd Place (tied): France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Spain – 192 destinations.
 - ✓ 3rd Place (tied): Austria, Finland, Ireland, Luxembourg, Netherlands, South Korea, Sweden – 191 destinations.
 - ✓ 4th Place: UK, Belgium, Denmark, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland – 190 destinations.
 - ✓ 8th Place: USA – 186 destinations.
 - ✓ 82nd Place (tied): India, Senegal, Tajikistan – 58 destinations.
 - ✓ In 2014, the UK and USA held the top spot but have since fallen in rankings.
 - ✓ Afghanistan has the weakest passport, with access to only 26 countries.

NITI Aayog's SDG India Index Released

- The SDG India Index 2023-24 was released by NITI Aayog.
- India's overall SDG score increased to 71 in 2023-24 from 66 in 2020-21.
- Progress in poverty reduction, economic growth, and climate action contributed to the score improvement.
- State scores now range from 57 to 79, with UTs scoring between 65 and 77.
- Top-Performing States: Uttarakhand and Kerala topped the index with scores of 79, followed by Tamil Nadu (78) and Goa (77).
- Lowest-Performing States: Bihar (57), Jharkhand (62), and Nagaland (63) were the lowest performers.
- Top-Performing UTs: The leading union territories were Chandigarh, Jammu and Kashmir, Puducherry, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, and Delhi.
- Fastest Progressing States: Uttar Pradesh, J&K, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, Haryana, Assam, Tripura, and Punjab showed the fastest progress between 2018 and 2023-24.
- Highest Score Increases: Punjab, Manipur, West Bengal, and Assam recorded the highest score increases of 8 points compared to 2020-21.
- Indicators Used: The index ranks states and UTs on 113 indicators aligned with the National Indicator Framework (NIF).
- The SDG India Index computes scores for each state and UT on 16 SDGs.

India Slips to 124th in FIFA Men's Rankings

- India has dropped to 124th in the FIFA men's rankings, down from a peak of 99 last year.
- In the Asian rankings, India is currently 22nd, behind Lebanon, Palestine, and Vietnam.
- Argentina is at the top of the FIFA men's rankings.
- Argentina secured the top spot after successfully defending its Copa America title.
- India's fall in rankings highlights a challenging period for the national team.
- The FIFA rankings reflect the performance and success of national teams in international competitions.

According to the FAO report, China, Australia and India registered most increased forest areas.

- The FAO's report "The State of the World's Forests" highlights the countries with the most significant forest area gains.
- As of 2020, global forests covered approximately 4.1 billion hectares, constituting 31% of the land area.
- India ranked third among the top 10 countries for forest area gains, increasing by 266,000 hectares annually from 2010 to 2020.
- China topped the list with the highest forest area gain of 1,937,000 hectares, followed by Australia with 446,000 hectares.
- Other countries in the top 10 for forest area gains include Chile, Vietnam, Turkey, the United States, France, Italy, and Romania.
- Indonesia experienced an 8.4% decline in deforestation from 2021 to 2022, while Brazil's Amazon saw a 50% reduction in deforestation in 2023.
- The report notes that climate change has increased forest vulnerability to wildfires, pests, and other stressors, and it mentions a 23% decrease in the rate of gross global mangrove loss over the last two decades.

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As per RBI report, India accounts for nearly half of the global digital payments.

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) reported that India accounts for 48.5% of global real-time payment volumes.
- India's digital economy, which currently makes up about 10% of the GDP, is expected to grow to 20% by 2026.
- Digital payments in India have seen a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 50% in volume and 10% in value over the past seven years.
- India led the world in remittances in 2023, receiving US\$115.3 billion.
- The RBI report highlighted that cybersecurity remains a significant challenge due to the diverse nature of cyber threats.
- Security incidents increased from 53,117 in 2017 to 1,320,106 from January to October 2023.
- The digital revolution has significantly enhanced banking infrastructure and public finance management systems in India.
- The report emphasized that India's digital technology infrastructure will be a crucial driver of future growth.

DEFENCE

Development of SEBEX 2

- Indian Navy has developed and certified a new explosive bomb called ‘SEBEX 2’.
- It is 2.01 times more powerful than standard TNT (Trinitrotoluene).
- Developed under the Defence Export Promotion Scheme to enhance weapon potency and efficiency.
- Economic Explosives Limited (EEL) developed SEBEX 2 as part of the Make in India initiative.
- SEBEX 2 surpasses India's current most powerful conventional explosive, which has a TNT equivalence of about 1.50.
- Most warheads typically range from 1.25 to 1.30 TNT equivalence
- Indian Navy has also certified EEL's first thermobaric explosive, known as SITBEX 1.

"Birlestik-2024" Joint Military Exercises in Kazakhstan

- The Azerbaijan Army participated in the "Birlestik-2024" joint military exercises in Kazakhstan.
- Several Central Asian nations were involved in these exercises.
- The exercises aimed to strengthen regional defence cooperation.
- Joint operational planning and training scenarios were key focuses.
- Azerbaijan's participation highlights its commitment to regional security.
- The exercises foster collaborative efforts in defence and military operations.
- Kazakhstan hosted the "Birlestik-2024" military exercises.
- These exercises emphasize enhancing cooperation with neighbouring countries.

Exercise ‘Nomadic Elephant’ Begins in Umroi, Meghalaya on 3 July

- The 16th edition of 'Nomadic Elephant,' an India-Mongolia joint military exercise, started in Umroi, Meghalaya on 3 July.
- This two-week training event will conclude on 16 July.
- The exercise aims to enhance communication between the troops of both countries in semi-conventional operations in semi-urban and mountainous areas.
- The training event alternates each year between Mongolia and India.
- The 15th edition took place in 2023 in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.
- In 2023, soldiers from the Indian Army's Jammu and Kashmir Light Infantry Regiment and Mongolian Armed Forces Unit 084 participated in the drill.
- The 12th Joint Working Group conference between the Indian and Mongolian defence ministries was held in Ulaanbaatar from May 16–17 this year.
- The status of several bilateral defence cooperation projects was reviewed during the meeting.

India-Thailand Joint Military Exercise "Maitree" 2024

- The 13th edition of the India-Thailand Joint Military Exercise "Maitree" is taking place from 1 to 15 July 2024 at Fort Wachiraprakan, Tak Province, Thailand.
- Both armies have sent contingents of 76 personnel each.

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- The Indian Army contingent primarily includes a battalion of the Ladakh Scouts and personnel from other branches and services.
- The Royal Thailand Army contingent mainly consists of the 1st Battalion of the 14th Infantry Regiment of the 4th Division.
- The previous edition of this exercise was held in September 2019 at Umroi, Meghalaya.
- Exercise "Maitree" aims to promote military cooperation between India and Thailand.
- The exercise focuses on enhancing joint capabilities to conduct counter-insurgency and counter-terrorism operations in jungle and urban environments under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter.

Indian Army contingent to participate in joint military Ex Khaan Quest 2024 in Mongolia

- The Indian Army is taking part in the 21st multinational military exercise Khan Quest in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, from July 27 to August 9, 2024.
- Khan Quest started in 2003 as a bilateral exercise between U.S. and Mongolian armed forces and became a multinational exercise in 2008.
- The Indian contingent consists of 40 personnel from the Madras Battalion, including three women soldiers (one officer and two soldiers).
- India and Mongolia maintain strong defense ties, with regular joint exercises like Nomadic Elephant.
- The 16th edition of the Nomadic Elephant exercise was held in July 2024 in Meghalaya, India.
- Khan Quest now involves multiple nations and focuses on enhancing military cooperation.
- The participation highlights India's ongoing commitment to strengthening international military relations.

BANKING, ECONOMY AND FINANCE

Government hiked interest rate EPF annual interest rate to 8.25% for FY 2024-25.

- The government has increased the EPF annual interest rate to 8.25% for FY 2024-25, up from 8.15%.
- The Union Finance Ministry approved the proposal for this rate hike.
- This decision will benefit millions of EPF members across the country.
- The revised interest rates have been disbursed to retiring members as part of their final PF settlements.
- The interest rate for EPF members is not declared on a quarterly basis.
- EPFO has settled 23,04,516 claims, disbursing Rs. 9260,40,35,488 to members.
- The Employees' Provident Fund Organization (EPFO) manages and regulates provident funds in India.
- Universal Account Number: A Universal Account Number (UAN) for employees covered by EPFO was launched by the Government of India on October 1, 2014.

India's services sector growth picks up in June.

- India's services sector growth accelerated in June, driven by new orders and a significant increase in international sales.
- The HSBC India Services Business Activity Index increased from 60.2 in May to 60.5 in June.
- A record rise in international orders was observed, with new work coming from Australia, Europe, Latin America, the Middle East, and the US.
- The HSBC India Composite Output Index improved from 60.5 in May to 60.9 in June.
- Private sector employment grew rapidly, marking the fastest expansion since 2005.
- The HSBC India Services PMI, compiled by S&P Global, is based on responses from 400 service sector companies.

IMF raises India's GDP forecast to 7% for 2024-25

- The IMF has raised India's growth forecast for 2024 to 7%, up from the previous estimates of 6.5% and 6.8%.
- Fastest Growing Economy: India remains the fastest growing country among emerging markets and developing economies.
- Growth Rate for 2025: The IMF projects India's growth rate at 6.5% for the year 2025.
- Strong domestic demand and a growing working population are key drivers behind the revised growth forecast.
- India and China together are expected to contribute nearly half of global growth in 2024.
- China's growth forecast for 2024 has been revised upward to 5% due to increased private consumption and strong exports.

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- India's GDP grew by 8.2% in the financial year 2023-24, according to official government data.
- India's economy grew by 7.2% in 2022-23 and 8.7% in 2021-22.

India's Wholesale Inflation Rate

- India's wholesale inflation rate surged to a 16-month high of 3.36 percent in June.
- Wholesale inflation climbed to 3.36 percent in June 2024.
- The inflation increase was driven by higher prices for food articles, crude petroleum & natural gas, mineral oils, and other manufactured items.
- In May 2024, the wholesale inflation rate was recorded at 2.61 percent.
- The WPI Food Index inflation rate rose from 7.40 percent in May 2024 to 8.68 percent in June 2024.
- Inflation for food articles increased to 10.87 percent in June, up from 9.82 percent in May.
- The inflation rate for primary articles went up from 7.20 percent in May to 8.80 percent in June.
- Inflation for fuel and power decreased slightly, from 1.35 percent in May to 1.03 percent in June.

ADB Retains India's FY25 GDP Growth Forecast at 7%

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has retained India's FY25 GDP growth forecast at 7% in its Asia Development Outlook.
- ADB projects that India will experience 4.6% inflation in 2025.
- India is expected to remain the fastest-growing economy in the region.
- For 2025-26, ADB forecasts India's GDP growth at 7.2% with an average inflation rate of 4.5%.
- ADB has slightly raised its growth forecast for Asia and the Pacific for 2024 to 5% from the previous projection of 4.9%.
- India's industrial sector is expected to grow robustly, driven by manufacturing and strong demand in construction.
- The latest forecast indicates a potential impact on India's agriculture sector due to a one-month delay in the La Nina climate pattern.
- Investment demand in India is projected to remain strong, led by public investment.
- In the Asia and Pacific region, inflation is forecast to slow down to 2.9% this year.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman presented the Economic Survey 2023-24

- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman presented the Economic Survey 2023-24 to the parliament, forecasting continued economic expansion despite geopolitical challenges.
- The survey predicts GDP growth of 6.5-7% for FY25, aligning with the IMF's forecast but lower than the RBI's 7.2%.
- Retail inflation dropped to 5.4% in FY24, down from 6.7% in FY23, while FDI flow decreased from USD 47.6 billion in FY23 to USD 45.8 billion in FY24.
- The services sector grew by 7.6% in FY24, and the agriculture sector expanded by 4.18% over the past five years.
- The survey noted that global financial markets reached new heights, driven by investor optimism about global economic expansion.
- Employment in unincorporated non-agricultural enterprises fell to 10.96 crore from 11.1 crore in 2015-16, but public and private investment sustained capital formation growth.
- The trade deficit and current account deficit improved in FY24, with broad-based bank credit growth and significant capital formation facilitated by primary capital markets.

Bhartiya Bhasha Anubhag will be established by the Government of India

- The government will set up the Bhartiya Bhasha Anubhag (Indian Languages Department) to facilitate translations to and from Hindi.
- ₹56 crore has been allocated for this initiative to develop a translation platform.
- As per the Official Languages Act, 1963, both Hindi and English are used for communication between Ministries and State governments.
- For the first time, real-time proceedings of the Lok Sabha are available in 10 different languages.
- A budget of ₹88 crore has been set aside for the comprehensive development of islands in Union Territories.
- An allocation of ₹700 crore has been made for the modernization of forensic capacities.
- Additionally, ₹150 crore has been designated for enhancing national forensic infrastructure.

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- Funding for the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network Systems (CCTNS) has been increased significantly from ₹264 crore to ₹520 crore for the fiscal year 2024-25.
- The budget for border infrastructure maintenance and capital outlay has been increased by ₹211 crore.
- A substantial allocation of ₹1,050 crore has been made for the Vibrant Villages Programme to support rural development.

Fiscal deficit target reduced to 4.9% in Budget 2024

- The fiscal deficit target for the current financial year has been set at 4.9% of GDP, announced by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.
- This target is lower than the 5.1% set in the interim budget on February 1 and the 5.9% target for the previous fiscal year, 2023-24.
- The fiscal deficit measures the difference between total revenue and total expenditure, indicating the level of government borrowing required.
- The government is dedicated to fiscal consolidation, aiming to reduce the deficit to below 4.5% of GDP by the fiscal year 2025-26.
- Lowering the fiscal deficit will enhance India's prospects for an improved sovereign rating, aligning with the goal of reducing the deficit to below 4.5% of GDP by 2025/26.
- A record surplus transfer of 2.11 trillion rupees (\$25.3 billion) from the Reserve Bank of India has significantly aided in reducing the fiscal deficit.
- The surplus transfer from the Reserve Bank of India is more than double the amount estimated in February, providing a substantial boost to government finances.
- The government's strategic management of finances, including the significant surplus transfer from the RBI, reflects a strong commitment to achieving fiscal targets and improving economic stability.

SUMMIT AND CONFERENCES

Global IndiaAI Summit 2024

- The Global IndiaAI Summit 2024 will take place on July 3-4 in New Delhi.
- The summit is organized by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).
- It will be attended by leading AI experts, industry representatives, international organizations, and academia members.
- The summit will focus on advancing AI development in seven key areas outlined by the India AI Mission: compute capabilities, foundational models, datasets, application development, future skills, startup financing, and safe AI.
- The IndiaAI Mission aim is to build a comprehensive ecosystem that fosters AI innovation and ensures responsible and inclusive growth of AI in the country.
- As the lead chair of the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI), India will also host member countries and experts to advance GPAI's mission of promoting safe, secure and trustworthy AI.

12th India-UAE JDCC Meeting in Abu Dhabi

- The 12th meeting of the India-UAE Joint Defense Cooperation Committee (JDCC) took place in Abu Dhabi.
- Indian delegation led by Joint Secretary Amitabh Prasad; UAE delegation led by Brigadier General Staff Jamal Ebrahim Mohamed Almazrooqi.
- Key Discussions:
 - ✓ Training cooperation and joint military exercises.
 - ✓ Defense industrial partnerships and R&D initiatives.
 - ✓ Exchange of subject matter experts and experiences.
 - ✓ Regional security, especially maritime issues.
- The meeting aims to strengthen the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between India and UAE.
- The JDCC, formed in 2006, advances defense relations between India and UAE.

2nd BIMSTEC Foreign Ministers' Retreat to start on July 11

- The 2nd BIMSTEC Foreign Ministers' Retreat is scheduled to take place in New Delhi from July 11-12, 2024.

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- S. Jaishankar, the Foreign Minister of India, will host his counterparts from BIMSTEC countries during this event.
- The inaugural BIMSTEC Foreign Ministers' Retreat was held in Bangkok, Thailand, in 2023.
- Foreign Ministers from the seven BIMSTEC countries will attend, namely Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Thailand.
- Agenda: Discussions will focus on enhancing cooperation in sectors such as security, connectivity, trade and investment, and people-to-people contacts.
- The retreat aims to strengthen and expand collaboration within the BIMSTEC framework across various domains for mutual benefit.
- This retreat underscores the commitment of BIMSTEC countries to regional cooperation and integration across South and Southeast Asia.

Bangladesh Joins Colombo Security Conference

- Bangladesh becomes the fifth member of the Colombo Security Conference (CSC) on June 10.
- The announcement took place during the 8th Deputy National Security Advisor (DNSA) level meeting, hosted virtually by Mauritius.
- India, Sri Lanka, Mauritius, and Maldives welcomed Bangladesh. Seychelles participated as an observer.
- CSC was established in 2020 by India, Sri Lanka, and the Maldives to enhance maritime cooperation.
- Member States reviewed the CSC Roadmap for 2023-2024 and previous decisions from high-level meetings.
- Indian Representation: Deputy National Security Advisor (Internal Affairs) Pankaj Kumar Singh represented India.
- The 7th NSA level meeting of the CSC is scheduled to be held in India later this year.

2nd Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Civil Aviation

- India will host the 2nd Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Civil Aviation on September 11 and 12.
- The conference is jointly organized by the Government of India and the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) Asia-Pacific.
- The first Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Civil Aviation was held in Beijing in February 2018.
- Approximately 40 countries will participate, including Australia, Singapore, France, the US, the UK, China, Vietnam, Indonesia, North Korea, Pakistan, and Japan.
- The conference aims to enhance regional collaboration and promote a culture of innovation and safety within the Asia Pacific region.
- In 2023, the Asia Pacific region accounted for over 33% of total global flight departures.
- India is emerging as one of the fastest-growing markets globally, currently the third largest in the domestic sector.
- Over the past decade, India's aircraft fleet has grown from 400 to more than 800, and the number of airports has increased from 74 to 157.

4th BIMSTEC Security Chiefs meeting

- The 4th BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) Security Chiefs meeting took place in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, on 27 July 2024.
- India was represented by National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval.
- Ajit Doval participated in the meeting as part of the Indian delegation.
- During his visit, Doval also met Myanmar's Prime Minister, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing.
- During the BIMSTEC meeting, Doval called on member countries of the grouping to strengthen cooperation in counter-terrorism; combating drug trafficking, arms smuggling and organized crime.

9th governing council meeting of NITI Aayog is chaired by PM Narendra Modi.

- The 9th Governing Council meeting of NITI Aayog, chaired by Prime Minister Modi, aims to transform India into a developed nation.
- The theme for this year's meeting is "Viksit Bharat@2047," focusing on long-term development goals.
- The Vision Document on Viksit Bharat was a key topic discussed at the meeting.
- The meeting emphasizes participative governance and enhancing collaboration between the Centre and State Governments.
- Detailed discussions were held on the role of states in achieving the Viksit Bharat objectives.

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- NITI Aayog, chaired by the Prime Minister, was established on January 1, 2015.
- Suman Bery is the current Vice Chairperson of NITI Aayog.
- The Governing Council meeting seeks to foster effective governance and state involvement in national development goals.

The GEEF Global WaterTech Award honored to CWS at the Global Water Tech Summit 2024.

- The Central Water Commission (CWC) received the GEEF Global WaterTech Award for 'Water Department of the Year' at the Global Water Tech Summit 2024.
- The award was presented at the Global Water Tech Summit, organized by the Global Energy and Environment Foundation (GEEF) in New Delhi.
- The Global WaterTech Award recognizes achievements in water technology, innovation, and sustainable development.
- The CWC was honored for its role in hydro-meteorological data collection, flood forecasting, and water quality monitoring.
- The award also acknowledged CWC's efforts in managing reservoir storage and resolving inter-state water issues.
- The GEEF highlighted CWC's initiatives to improve coordination with state water departments.
- The Global Water Tech Summit celebrates advancements in water, sewage, and desalination sectors.
- The CWC's collaboration with state departments aims to enhance overall synergy in water resource management.

Tech Leaders Forum of India has been launched at the World Education Conference 2024

- The Tech Leaders Forum of India (TELFI) was launched at the World Education Conference 2024 in Dubai.
- The launch was hosted by the Federation of Economic Development Association (FEDA) at Hamdan Bin Mohammed Smart University.
- TELFI aims to empower engineers by providing resources, knowledge, and networking opportunities.
- The forum will offer various professional activities such as webinars, workshops, and training sessions.
- Its goal is to help engineers excel in their careers and drive technological advancements in India and globally.
- Over 150 attendees from diverse academic fields participated in the event.
- The FEDA Appreciation Awards 2024 honoured exceptional educators and advocates.
- Honorary doctorates were awarded to distinguished individuals in education.

2024 World Leaders Summit

- The 2024 World Leaders Summit was held at the UK Parliament's House of Lords.
- This summit marks a critical moment for global diplomacy, providing a venue for influential policy discussions.
- It underscores a commitment to international cooperation among global leaders.
- Key topics included sustainable development, AI's societal impact, health care access, and technology's role in policy-making.
- The digital revolution's effect on public participation and governance was a significant theme.
- Notable attendees included Dr. Vivek Lall, Osama Ben Saleh Bukhari, and others, with Baroness Sandy Verma as the Guest of Honour.
- Vikash Sorout, founder of VS International Limited, played a key role in organizing the summit.

BOOKS AND AUTHORS

Release of 'Wings to Our Hopes, Volume I'

- The book 'Wings to Our Hopes, Volume I' has been released.
- It compiles 75 significant speeches from the first year of President Droupadi Murmu's tenure.
- Published by the Publication Division, the book is available in both Hindi and English.
- Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan released the e-book.
- Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw was present at the release event.
- The book aims to highlight the key messages and visions of President Murmu during her first year in office.
- The release underscores the importance of documenting and sharing presidential speeches for public reference.

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"The Prisoner of Bhopal" Commemorates 40th Anniversary of the Bhopal Gas Tragedy

- Tim Walker, an award-winning designer turned author, released a historical fiction novel for young readers titled "The Prisoner of Bhopal."
- The novel commemorates the 40th anniversary of the Bhopal gas tragedy.
- Tim Walker, originally a graphic designer, shifted to children's literature at age 45, building a successful writing career focused on complex global issues.
- Walker's personal connection to the Bhopal gas tragedy inspired the novel.
- His storytelling skills have produced a novel that both educates and engages readers about this significant historical event.
- "The Prisoner of Bhopal" is a testament to Walker's ability to address serious topics in a way that resonates with young readers.
- The novel aims to raise awareness and understanding of the Bhopal gas tragedy among the younger generation.

Jamsetji Tata: Powerful Learnings for Corporate Success

- "Powerful Learnings for Corporate Success," by R. Gopalakrishnan and Harish Bhat, explores the entrepreneurial principles of Jamsetji Tata.
- The book highlights Jamsetji Tata's transformative impact on India's industrial landscape.
- It details how his vision led to the creation of iconic Indian brands like Tata Tea, Tata Motors, Titan, and Tanishq.
- The authors showcase Tata's pioneering spirit and remarkable business acumen.
- The book emphasizes Jamsetji Tata's humaneness and the enduring values he instilled in the Tata organization.
- These values have significantly contributed to the company's ongoing success and impact on India's industrial development.
- The work illustrates the lasting influence of Tata's principles on corporate success and national growth.

SCHEMES

Government Launches India's First Toll-Free National Anti-Narcotics Helpline

- The government has introduced India's first toll-free national anti-narcotics helpline number, 1933, known as 'MANAS' (Madak Padarth Nisedh Asuchna Kendra or Narcotics Prohibition Intelligence Centre).
- Union Home Minister Amit Shah launched the helpline during the seventh apex-level meeting of the Narco-Coordination Centre (NCORD).
- The helpline will enable individuals to report illegal narcotics activities and related issues to the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB).
- MANAS aims to provide a user-friendly platform for citizens to report drug-related matters 24/7.
- Amit Shah also inaugurated the NCB zonal office in Srinagar virtually.
- He released the NCB's 2023 annual report and a compendium on "Nasha Mukta Bharat" (Drug-Free India).
- The launch of this helpline underscores the government's commitment to combating drug abuse and trafficking.

Project PARI (Public Art of India) launched by the Ministry of Culture

- The Ministry of Culture has launched Project PARI (Public Art of India) in conjunction with the 46th World Heritage Committee meeting.
- First Initiative in Delhi: The first exercise of Project PARI is being conducted in Delhi, coinciding with the World Heritage Committee session from July 21-31, 2024.
- India has a rich history of folk art, ranging from ancient temples and murals to modern street art and public sculptures.
- Lalit Kala Akademi and the National Gallery of Modern Art are overseeing the implementation of Project PARI.
- Objective: The project aims to merge India's ancient artistic heritage with modern themes and techniques.
- Over 150 visual artists from across India are contributing to the project by creating wall paintings, murals, and sculptures.

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- The sculptures cover various themes, including respect for nature, ideas from Natya Shastra, Gandhiji, Indian toys, hospitality, ancient wisdom, Naada (primal sound), harmony of life, and Kalpataru (the divine tree).

MISCELLANEOUS

Helen Mary Roberts: First Female Brigadier from Minority Community in Pakistan Army

- Dr. Helen Mary Roberts has made history by becoming the first woman from the Christian and minority community to achieve the rank of Brigadier in the Pakistan Army.
- Serving in the Pakistan Army Medical Corps, Brigadier Dr. Helen was among the officers promoted to Brigadier and full Colonel by the selection board.
- With 26 years of experience, Brigadier Dr. Helen is a senior pathologist within the Pakistan Army.
- According to the 2021 data from the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, the country's population is 96.47% Muslim, 2.14% Hindu, 1.27% Christian, 0.09% Ahmadiyya Muslim, and 0.02% others.

Scientists discovered a new horned frog species in Arunachal Pradesh.

- Scientists from the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) have found a new horned frog species in Tale Wildlife Sanctuary, Arunachal Pradesh.
- Resemblance to Maoson's Horned Frog: The new species closely resembles Maoson's horned frog, typically found in Vietnam and China.
- This species had previously been mistaken for the Maoson horned frog (*Xenophrys maosonensis*).
- Researchers identified a genetic disparity of 4.4% to 5.5% between the new species in Arunachal Pradesh and its Vietnamese counterpart.
- The new species is named after the Apatani tribe, who live in the Lower Subansiri Valley of Arunachal Pradesh.
- The study also shed light on the biogeographic distribution of *Xenophrys* species within India.

Adani Group Sponsors Team India for Paris Olympics

- Adani Group chairman Gautam Adani announced the group's sponsorship of the Indian team for the 2024 Paris Olympics.
- Campaign Theme: The campaign, #DeshkaGeetAtOlympics, highlights athletes' dedication and aims to support them in hearing the national anthem at the victory podium.
- Indian athletes are intensively training for the Olympic Games, scheduled from July 26 to August 11, 2024.
- India won a record 7 medals at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics.
- Since 2016, the Adani Group has backed over 28 athletes in sports including boxing, wrestling, tennis, javelin throw, shooting, running, shotput, and archery.

India's Energy Storage Capacity Update

- India's battery energy storage system (BESS) capacity reached over 210 MW.
- As of March 2024, cumulative energy storage capacity is 219.1 MWh (111.7 MW), with 120 MWh (40 MW) added in Q1 2024 alone.
- Solar PV systems combined with BESS account for 90.6% of the total installed capacity.
- Leading State: Chhattisgarh installed the highest BESS capacity, contributing 54.8% of the total.
- Pumped Hydro Storage: India's operational pumped hydro storage capacity is 3.3 GW, mainly in Telangana and West Bengal.
- By 2027, India is expected to add 1.6 GWh of standalone BESS and 9.7 GW of renewable projects with energy storage.
- Currently, 1.6 GW of standalone BESS, 9.7 GW of renewable projects with storage, and 78.1 GW of pumped hydro projects are in various development stages.

India and Bhutan agreed to work together in the field of environment and climate change.

- India and Bhutan agreed to collaborate on environment and climate change initiatives.
- The cooperation includes climate change, air quality improvement, forest conservation, wildlife management, and capacity building in environmental sectors.
- A Bhutanese delegation led by Energy and Natural Resources Minister Jam Tshering met with Union Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Kirti Vardhan Singh in New Delhi.

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- Minister Tshering highlighted Bhutan's carbon-negative status and reliance on hydropower for energy.
- Discussion Topics: The leaders discussed air quality, climate change, forests, natural resources, wildlife, and renewable energy.
- Future Meetings: India proposed holding a meeting of the Joint Working Group to further these discussions.
- Both nations committed to enhancing cooperation for sustainable environmental and climate practices.

ICAR's 'One Scientist-One Product' Program Initiation

- The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) launched the 'One Scientist-One Product' program.
 - A total of 5,521 scientists are involved in developing various products, technologies, models, or publications to enhance agricultural research.
 - The program includes a system for tracking scientific progress every three to six months, ensuring ongoing development and improvement.
 - For the year 2024, the program emphasizes the development of high-yielding oilseeds and pulses.
 - This focus aligns with the Centre's 100-day action plan to boost agricultural productivity and sustainability.
 - The tracking system is designed to ensure continuous development and advancement in the agricultural sector.
 - The emphasis on high-yielding crops aims to significantly increase agricultural productivity.
- The program is part of a broader effort to promote sustainability in agriculture through innovative research and development

Ivory Coast joined the UN Water Convention as the 10th African country.

- Ivory Coast has joined the United Nations Water Convention, becoming the 10th African country to do so.
- By joining, Ivory Coast aims to enhance cooperative water management.
- It is now the 53rd Party to the 1992 UN Water Convention, also known as the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes.
- The convention was originally established as a regional framework for the pan-European region.
- Under this framework, member countries must cooperate for the sustainable management of transboundary waters.
- Ivory Coast is ranked as the 40th most water-insecure country on the continent.
- Sierra Leone, Zambia, and Zimbabwe are in the final stages of joining the convention.
- The accession of Ivory Coast underscores its commitment to sustainable and cooperative water resource management.

Azerbaijan, the host of COP29 climate summit

- Azerbaijan, hosting the COP29 climate summit, has launched the "Climate Finance Action Fund" (CFAF).
- The CFAF will receive annual contributions from fossil fuel-producing nations and companies.
- The fund aims to assist developing and other countries in achieving the 1.5°C temperature goal.
- An initial \$1 billion will be raised through member contributions, either as fixed amounts or based on production volume.
- COP29 will take place in Baku from November 11 to 22, 2024.
- Half of the fund will support climate projects in developing countries, focusing on clean energy, energy efficiency, climate resilience, and new technologies.
- The other half will help countries meet their NDC targets to achieve the 1.5°C goal.
- Twenty percent of the revenues will go to a Rapid Response Funding Facility for immediate, concessional, and grant-based disaster response support.

Ivory Coast Becomes 10th African Country to Join UN Water Convention

- Ivory Coast has become the 53rd Party to the 1992 United Nations Water Convention, also known as the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes.
- It is now the 10th African nation to join the Water Convention.
- This milestone precedes the 10th session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention, set for October 23-25, 2024, in Ljubljana, Slovenia.
- Ivory Coast joins Nigeria, Ghana, and Senegal as one of the four largest West African economies in the Water Convention.
- The country shares eight trans boundary river basins with its neighboring countries.

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- Joining the Water Convention underscores Ivory Coast's commitment to international water cooperation and management.
- The participation of major West African economies strengthens regional collaboration on trans boundary water issues

Goa Shipyard launches advanced Talwar class frigate 'Tripur'

- The first indigenously built Talwar Class frigate, 'INS Tripur', was launched by Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL) on July 24, 2024, for the Indian Navy.
- India and Russia agreed in 2016 to acquire four Admiral Grigorovich-class stealth frigates, with two built in Russia and two in India under a technology transfer arrangement.
- Goa Shipyard Limited signed a \$500 million agreement with Russia's Rosoboronexport in 2018 for technology transfer and assistance in building two frigates in India.
- The frigate is equipped with BrahMos missiles and the Shtil-1 air defense system, measures 125 meters in length, and can reach speeds of up to 28 knots with Zorya gas-turbine engines.
- The Talwar-class frigates, including the newly launched 'INS Trikand', feature advanced weaponry and sensors, such as BrahMos or Klub anti-ship missiles and the Shtil-1 air defense system.
- The delivery of these frigates faced delays due to COVID-19 and the Russia-Ukraine conflict.
- 'INS Tripur' marks a significant milestone in India's naval capabilities with indigenous construction.

628 tigers have died in India during the past five years.

- In the past five years, India has seen the deaths of 628 tigers due to various causes.
- Government data shows 349 people were killed in tiger attacks, with Maharashtra alone accounting for 200 deaths.
- The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) reported tiger deaths as follows: 96 in 2019, 106 in 2020, 127 in 2021, 121 in 2022, and 178 in 2023.
- The number of tiger deaths in 2023 is the highest since 2012.
- Uttar Pradesh recorded 59 human deaths due to tiger attacks, while Madhya Pradesh reported 27 such deaths.
- India has a tiger population of 3,682, which is approximately 75% of the global wild tiger population.
- Project Tiger, launched on April 1, 1973, aims to promote tiger conservation in India.
- India has 55 tiger reserves covering over 78,735 square kilometers.

Engineering exports in June 2024 have grown 10.27% (year-on-year) to \$9.39 billion

- Engineering exports in June 2024 increased by 10.27% year-on-year to reach \$9.39 billion, driven by higher shipments of electrical machinery, motor vehicles, iron and steel products, auto components, and industrial machinery.
- Cumulative engineering exports from April to June 2024 grew by 4.34% to \$27.92 billion.
- Overall goods exports from India in June 2024 rose by 2.6% year-on-year, totaling \$35.2 billion.
- For the April-June 2024-25 period, total goods exports increased by 5.84% to \$109.96 billion.
- North America and the EU were the top destinations for engineering exports, with shares of 21% and 17%, respectively.
- The US, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Singapore, the UK, and Mexico showed growth in exports during April-June 2024-25, while exports to Germany, Italy, Korea, Nepal, and Bangladesh declined.
- In June 2024, exports of iron and steel, non-ferrous products, and other items like industrial boilers and office equipment saw a decline.

Current Affairs MCQs

1. Which of the following new appointments occurred in July 2024?
(a) Dick Schoof as Dutch Prime Minister (b) Rachel Reeves as UK Foreign Secretary
(c) Gautam Gambhir as head coach of the Indian men's cricket team
(b) K.P. Sharma Oli as Nepal's Prime Minister
2. Which organization recently released the report titled "Aid for Trade in Action: Supporting the transition to clean energy"?
(a) World Bank (b) United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

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- (c) World Trade Organization (WTO) (d) International Monetary Fund (IMF)
3. What is the name of the highest civilian award of Russia received by PM Modi during his visit in July 2024?
(a) Order of Saint George (b) Order of St Andrew the Apostle
(c) Order of Alexander Nevsky (d) Order of Friendship
4. Consider the following statements about the Article 341 of the Indian Constitution.
1. Article 341 of the Indian Constitution empowers the President to specify castes, races, or tribes as SC for various states and union territories.
2. Parliament has the authority to include or exclude any caste, race, or tribe from the list of Scheduled Castes specified in the Presidential notification.
Which of the statements given above is/are not correct?
(a) 1 only (b) 2 only (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2
5. Who has been named as the Chef-de-Mission of the Indian contingent for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games?
(a) MC Mary Kom (b) PV Sindhu (c) Gagan Narang (d) Achanta Sharath Kamal
6. Which three new criminal laws were enacted by the Indian Parliament in December 2023?
(a) Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), Bharatiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA)
(b) Bharatiya Penal Code (BPC), Bharatiya Criminal Code (BCC), Bharatiya Evidence Act (BEA)
(c) Indian Penal Code (IPC), Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC), Indian Evidence Act (IEA)
(d) Bharatiya Nyaya Adhiniyam, Bharatiya Criminal Sanhita, Bharatiya Evidence Code
7. When did the new Indian criminal laws come into effect?
(a) December 25, 2023 (b) January 1, 2024 (c) July 1, 2024 (d) August 15, 2024
8. Which act does the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) replace?
(a) Indian Penal Code (IPC), 1860 (b) Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC), 1973
(c) Indian Evidence Act, 1872 (d) Civil Procedure Code, 1908
9. What is the focus of the new criminal laws in India?
(a) Punitive measures (b) Justice delivery and expediting legal processes
(c) Increasing penalties for all crimes (d) Simplifying legal jargon
10. Which two Indian cricket players announced their retirement from international T20 cricket after winning the 2024 T20 World Cup?
(a) Virat Kohli and MS Dhoni (b) Rohit Sharma and Shikhar Dhawan
(c) Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma (d) KL Rahul and Hardik Pandya
11. Which new crime category has been added to the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS)?
(a) Cybercrime (b) Gang rape of a woman under 18 years of age
(c) Financial fraud (d) Environmental violations
12. Which state was identified as the lowest performer in the SDG India Index 2023-24?
(a) Jharkhand (b) Bihar (c) Nagaland (d) Odisha
13. Which of the following is the oldest football tournament in Asia?
(a) Durand Cup (b) Santosh Trophy (c) Federation Cup (d) IFA Shield
14. Which team did India defeat to win the ICC Men's T20 Cricket World Cup 2024?
(a) England (b) Australia (c) South Africa (d) New Zealand
15. Where was the Asian Squash Doubles Championship 2024 held?
(a) Medan, Indonesia (b) New Delhi, India (c) Johor, Malaysia (d) Kolkata, India
16. According to the FAO report, which country had the highest increase in forest area from 2010 to 2020?
(a) India (b) Australia (c) China (d) Brazil

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17. What is the new role of Ravi Agrawal in the Indian government?
(a) Chief Justice of the Supreme Court
(b) Chairman of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)
(c) Foreign Secretary
(d) Chief Minister of Maharashtra
18. Who has been appointed as the Chief Justice of the Punjab and Haryana High Court?
(a) Justice BR Sarangi
(b) Justice Sheel Nagu
(c) Justice Sanjeev Sachdeva
(d) Justice R. Mahadevan
19. Where is the 13th edition of India-Thailand joint military Exercise MAITREE being conducted?
(a) Fort Vachirapakan, Tak Province, Thailand
(b) Umroi, Meghalaya, India
(c) Bangkok, Thailand
(d) New Delhi, India
20. What is the new name for the Durbar Hall of Rashtrapati Bhavan?
(a) Ashok Mandap
(b) Ganatantra Mandap
(c) Sarnath Mandap
(d) Republic Hall
21. How many new biosphere reserves recently added to World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR)?
(a) 09
(b) 10
(c) 11
(d) 12
22. Which of the following bill aims to replace the outdated Aircraft Act of 1934?
(a) Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita 2024
(b) Bharatiya Vayuyan Vidheyak 2024
(c) Bharatiya Aviation Act
(d) Indian Aircraft Safety Act
23. Which day is observed as World Population Day?
(a) January 1st
(b) March 8th
(c) July 11th
(d) September 21st
24. What authority will manage pilot certification under the Bharatiya Vayuyan Vidheyak?
(a) Department of Telecommunications (DoT)
(b) Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)
(c) Ministry of Civil Aviation
(d) Indian Air Force
25. When was the World hottest day on record according to the preliminary data from a European Union monitoring agency?
(a) July 21, 2024
(b) July 22, 2024
(c) July 24, 2024
(d) July 20, 2023
26. What recent Supreme Court ruling affects states' ability to tax mining?
(a) States cannot levy mineral cess.
(b) States can levy mineral cess.
(c) Central government controls all mineral taxation.
(d) States can only levy a fixed tax on mining.
27. Where will the Women's T20 Asia Cup 2024 be held?
(a) Colombo, Sri Lanka
(b) Mumbai, India
(c) Dambulla, Sri Lanka
(d) Dubai, UAE
28. Who is the new head coach of the Indian men's football team as of July 2024?
(a) Manolo Marquez
(b) Gautam Gambhir
(c) W.V. Raman
(d) Stephen Constantine
29. Which country was officially welcomed as the fifth member country of the Colombo Security Conclave (CSC) in July 2024?
(a) Seychelles
(b) Bangladesh
(c) Pakistan
(d) Nepal
30. Which player set a new national record in the 3000m steeplechase at the Paris Diamond League in 2024?
(a) Amos Serem
(b) Avinash Sable
(c) Abrham Sime
(d) Conseslus Kipruto
31. Which passport is ranked first in the Henley Passport Index's 2024?
(a) France
(b) Germany
(c) Singapore
(d) Japan
32. Who has been appointed as the National Medical Commission's chairperson?
(a) Dr. Sanjay Behari
(b) Dr. B.N. Gangadhar
(c) Dr. P.K. Sharma
(d) Dr. R. Venkataramani

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33. Which of the following theme was observed for World Environment Day 2024?
(a) Climate Action (b) Plastic Pollution
(c) Land Restoration, Desertification, and Drought Resilience (d) Clean Water and Sanitation
34. Who was the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court before the appointment of Justice N. Kotiswar Singh and Justice R. Mahadevan?
(a) Justice Ravi Shankar Jha (b) Justice DY Chandrachud
(c) Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul (d) Justice A.M. Khanwilka
35. Who administered the oath to Justice Nongmeikapam Kotiswar Singh and Justice R. Mahadevan as judges of the Supreme Court on 18 July 2024?
(a) Justice Ranjan Gogoi (b) Justice SA Bobde
(c) Justice NV Ramana (d) Justice DY Chandrachud
36. Which prominent figure became the UK's first female Chancellor of the Exchequer?
(a) Rachel Reeves (b) Angela Rayner (c) Yvette Cooper (d) Priti Patel
37. Who was reappointed as the president of the European Parliament on July 16, 2024?
(a) Martin Schulz (b) Angela Merkel (c) Roberta Metsola (d) Ursula von der Leyen
38. What is the theme for International Malala Day 2024?
(a) "Empowering Girls through Education" (b) "Education for All"
(c) "Girls' Education Matters" (d) "Celebrating Girls' Rights to Education"
39. Who won the men's doubles title at the Swiss Open ATP Tour tennis tournament on 21 July 2024?
(a) Yuki Bhambri and Ugo Humbert (b) Albano Olivett and Fabrice Martin
(c) Yuki Bhambri and Albano Olivett (d) Ugo Humbert and Fabrice Martin
40. Which country remains at the bottom of the Henley Passport Index with the weakest passport?
(a) Pakistan (b) Afghanistan (c) North Korea (d) Yemen
41. Who has been appointed as the Governor of Punjab and Administrator of Union Territory of Chandigarh in place of Banwarilal Purohit?
(a) Shri Haribhau Kisanrao Bagde (b) Shri Lakshman Prasad Acharya
(c) Shri Gulab Chand Kataria (d) Shri Om Prakash Mathur
42. Which Indian player was awarded the Olympic Order by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in July 2024?
(a) PV Sindhu (b) Abhinav Bindra (c) Sachin Tendulkar (d) Saina Nehwal
43. In the SDG India Index 2023-24, which state topped the list with the highest score?
(a) Tamil Nadu (b) Goa (c) Kerala (d) Uttarakhand
44. What is the expected growth of India's digital economy by 2026?
(a) 15% (b) 20% (c) 25% (d) 30%
45. In the FIFA men's rankings, what position did India drop to?
(a) 110th (b) 124th (c) 130th (d) 140th
46. Which of the following day observed annually as Kargil Vijay Diwas?
(a) June 26 (b) July 26 (c) July 27 (d) July 28
47. Which union territory scored highest in the SDG India Index 2023-24?
(a) Delhi (b) Jammu and Kashmir (c) Puducherry (d) Andaman & Nicobar Islands
48. Who has been named captain of the Indian T20 team for the series against Sri Lanka starting on July 27, 2024?
(a) Rohit Sharma (b) Virat Kohli (c) Suryakumar Yadav (d) Shubman Gill

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49. What decision did the Supreme Court make regarding the NEET-UG 2024 examination?
(a) Ordered a re-test (b) Cancelled the examination
(c) Refused to cancel the examination and allowed the counselling process to commence
(d) Postponed the examination date
50. Who became the first Indian woman to win an Olympic medal in shooting?
(a) Heena Sidhu (b) Apurvi Chandela (c) Manu Bhaker (d) Anjum Moudgil

ANSWER – KEY

1	D	11	B	21	C	31	C	41	C
2	C	12	B	22	B	32	B	42	B
3	B	13	A	23	C	33	C	43	D
4	B	14	C	24	B	34	A	44	B
5	C	15	C	25	B	35	D	45	B
6	A	16	C	26	B	36	A	46	B
7	C	17	B	27	C	37	C	47	A
8	A	18	B	28	A	38	A	48	C
9	B	19	A	29	B	39	C	49	C
10	C	20	B	30	B	40	B	50	C

PLA

PAHUJA LAW ACADEMY

JUDICIARY RESULTS

★ SHINING STARS ★

DELHI



MADHYA PRADESH



**NITIN
AGNIHOTRI**
(Test Series & IGP)

JHARKHAND



GUJARAT



ODISHA



ALL INDIA RANK - 2

UPSC (2021), PROSECUTING
ATTORNEY, MINISTRY OF
CORPORATE AFFAIRS, GOI

BIHAR



UTTAR PRADESH



UTTRAKHAND



UPSC P.P CBI Results-2022



RAJASTHAN



UTTRAKHAND APO



UPSC A.P.P CBI Results-2022



HARYANA



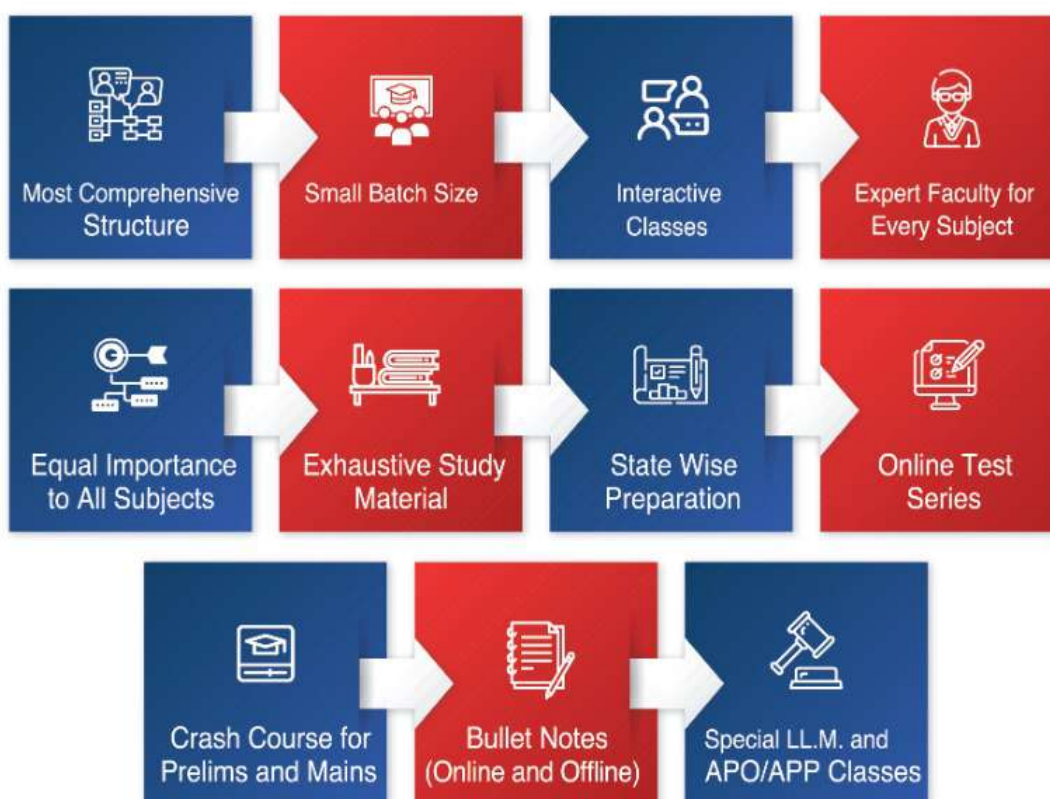
DELHI A.P.P



CURRENT AFFAIRS

ENGLISH JUDICIARY

WHY PLA FOR JUDICIARY?



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