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PAHUJA LAW ACADEMY

BEST COACHING FOR JUDICIARY & CLAT

CURRENT AFFAIRS

ENGLISH



JUNE, 2024

HEAD OFFICE

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MONTH OF JUNE '2024"

LAW AND AMENDMENT

Supreme Court Reconstitutes Gender Sensitisation and Internal Complaints Committee

- The Supreme Court of India has reconstituted its Gender Sensitisation and Internal Complaints Committee, with Justice Hima Kohli appointed as Chairperson and Justice BV Nagarathna as a Member.
- This reconstitution, initiated by the Chief Justice of India, adheres to the Gender Sensitisation and Sexual Harassment regulations of 2013, ensuring proper representation and compliance.
- Key details of the committee are as follows:
 - ✓ Leadership: Justice Hima Kohli (Chairperson) and Justice BV Nagarathna (Member).
 - ✓ Committee Members: The committee comprises members from various legal bodies and professionals nominated by the Chief Justice, including Shruti Pandey, Jaideep Gupta, Dr. Leni Chaudhuri, and Dr. Menaka Guruswamy.
 - ✓ Objective: The reconstituted committee reflects a comprehensive approach to addressing issues of gender sensitisation and harassment within the judiciary.
- This move underscores the Supreme Court's commitment to fostering a safe and equitable environment, ensuring that gender sensitisation and harassment issues are effectively managed and resolved.

Patna High Court quashed the Bihar government's 65% reservation in jobs and education.

- The Patna High Court struck down the Bihar government's policy to increase job and education reservations to 65%.
- This decision annulled the state laws that aimed to raise reservations for SCs, STs, BCs, and EBCs from 50% to 65%.
- On November 9, the Bihar Assembly passed the Bihar (in admission in Educational Institutions) Reservation (Amendment) Act, 2023, and the Bihar Reservation of Vacancies in Posts and Services (Amendment) Act, 2023.
- These amendments made Bihar the state with the second-highest reservation rate for backward classes, following Tamil Nadu.
- The High Court found that these laws breached the equality clause under Articles 14, 15, and 16 of the Constitution.
- Chief Justice K. Vinod Chandran and Justice Harish Kumar issued the ruling.
- The PIL argued that constitutional reservations are meant to ensure fair representation for socially and educationally disadvantaged groups.
- It was also noted that the Constitution does not support reservations based on population size.

New postal law 'Post Office Act 2023' came into force.

- The Post Office Act 2023 has come into force following a Central Government notification effective from June 18.
- This new law replaces the Indian Post Office Act of 1898.
- The "Post Office Bill, 2023" was introduced in Rajya Sabha on August 10, 2023, and passed on December 4, 2023.
- It was subsequently passed in Lok Sabha on December 18, 2023.

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- The President of India gave his assent to the Act on December 24, 2023, and it was published by the Ministry of Law & Justice in the Gazette of India.
- The Act aims to simplify the legislative framework for citizen-centric services, ensuring government scheme benefits reach the last mile and enhancing ease of living.
- The special facility for storage, processing, and distribution of letters previously available to the post office has been discontinued.
- To promote "maximum governance and minimum government," the Act includes no penal provisions.
- The new postal law sets standards for item addressing, address identifiers, and the use of postcodes.

The law to curb irregularities in competitive examinations has come into effect.

- A new law to address irregularities in competitive examinations has come into force.
- The law stipulates a maximum jail term of 10 years and a fine of up to 1 crore rupees for offenders.
- The Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Bill, 2024, was passed by the Lok Sabha on February 6 and the Rajya Sabha on February 9.
- President Droupadi Murmu approved the bill on February 12, making it a law.
- This Act aims to prevent cheating in public examinations conducted by UPSC, SSC, National Testing Agency (NTA), Railway Recruitment Board, and banking recruitment bodies, among others.
- The Act mandates a minimum imprisonment of three to five years for cheating offenses.
- For organized cheating crimes, the Act prescribes five to 10 years of imprisonment and a minimum fine of 1 crore rupees.
- The Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) issued a notification that the Act is effective from June 21, 2024.
- The Act also includes penalties for service providers involved in conducting public examinations, with fines up to ₹1 crore and recovery of examination costs.
- Additionally, service providers found guilty will be banned from conducting any public examinations for four years.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Milk Day celebrated on June 1

- World Milk Day is celebrated annually on June 1.
- The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations established this day in 2001 to highlight the significance of milk as a global food and to honor the dairy industry.
- The theme for this year emphasizes the crucial role of dairy in providing quality nutrition to nourish the global population.
- According to the Food and Agriculture Organization Corporate Statistical Database (FAOSTAT), India ranks as the world's largest milk producer.
- World Milk Day has been observed since its inception in 2001.

World Bicycle Day 2024 celebrated on June 3

- Every year on June 3rd, World Bicycle Day is celebrated globally.
- Theme for World Bicycle Day 2024 "Cycling for Health, Equity, and Sustainability."
- Purpose: Recognizes the bicycle's versatility, longevity, and importance as a simple, sustainable, and affordable mode of transportation.
- This day was established by the United Nations General Assembly in April 2018.
- Highlights the crucial role of bicycles in promoting sustainable development, health, and physical well-being.

International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression celebrated on June 4

- Celebrated every year on June 4, the International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression highlights the plight of children who suffer from violence and conflict.
- This day was established by the United Nations on August 19, 1982, to raise awareness about the pain and suffering faced by child victims of aggression.
- The day aims to spread awareness about the challenges and traumas endured by children who are victims of aggression and conflict.
- UN Report Findings: According to the UN Secretary-General's Annual Report on Children and Armed Conflict, over 8,630 children were killed or maimed in 2022 alone.
- In 2022, 7,622 children were recruited or used in armed conflicts.
- The report documented 3,985 children being abducted.
- Sexual Violence: There were 1,166 cases of children being victims of sexual violence.
- The report also noted 3,931 incidents of denial of humanitarian access to children.
- This observance underscores the global commitment to protecting children from the horrors of war and aggression, ensuring their rights and well-being are safeguarded.

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 Oceans Day 2024 celebrated on 8 June

- World Oceans Day is celebrated annually on June 8 to underscore the importance of oceans in sustaining life on Earth and to motivate actions towards their preservation.
- The theme for World Oceans Day 2024 is 'Awaken New Depths'.
- The United Nations officially designated June 8 as World Oceans Day in 2008.
- The concept of World Oceans Day was first proposed in 1992 during the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
- International Marine Organization established in 1973, the International Marine Organization was created to address issues such as marine pollution from ships, oceanic garbage, and air pollution caused by maritime vessels.

International Day of Play 2024 celebrated on June 11

- The first International Day of Play will be celebrated on June 11, 2024.
- This day marks a pivotal effort to preserve, promote, and prioritize sports, ensuring that everyone, particularly children, benefits and achieves their full potential.
- UN Declaration: The United Nations has officially designated June 11 as the "International Day of Play."
- The day emphasizes the right to play for all children under the age of 18.
- Impact on Wellbeing: Engaging in playful activities significantly enhances the wellbeing and mental health of children, parents, and caregivers.
- Initiative in India: The Department of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj in India will organize sports activities for children at Gram Panchayat Awareness Centres to celebrate International Sports Day.
- These centres will host various activities monthly as part of the 'Light of Reading' programme.

World Day against Child Labour 2024 observed on 12 June

- World Day against Child Labour is observed annually on 12 June to raise awareness and encourage action to eliminate child labour in all its forms.
- The theme for this year's World Day against Child Labour is "Let's act on our commitments: End Child Labour."
- The United Nations reports that approximately 160 million children worldwide are victims of child labour.
- This year's observance also marks the 25th anniversary of the adoption of the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention (1999).
- Despite global efforts, 160 million children, or one in ten children worldwide, are still engaged in child labour.
- Africa has the highest percentage of children in child labour and the highest absolute number of child labourers.
- Asia and the Pacific rank second highest in both the percentage and absolute number of children in child labour.

World Blood Donor Day 2024 celebrated on 14 June

- World Blood Donor Day is commemorated annually on June 14th to emphasize the critical role of blood and blood products, advocate for blood donation, and ensure the safety of blood transfusions.
- The theme for World Blood Donor Day 2024 is "20 years of celebrating giving: thank you blood donors!", marking two decades of honoring blood donors worldwide for their life-saving contributions.
- This date coincides with the birth anniversary of Karl Landsteiner, credited with the discovery and classification of the ABO blood groups.
- In 2004, the World Health Organization (WHO) established World Blood Donor Day, officially recognizing it as an annual event the following year during the World Health Assembly.
- The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, founded in 1919, plays a pivotal role in promoting global awareness of the importance of safe blood donations for maintaining public health.

World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought observed on June 17

- Each year on June 17, the World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought is observed to raise awareness about the urgent need to address desertification and drought.
- This year's theme is "United for Land. Our Legacy. Our Future."
- Historical Context: At the 1992 Rio Earth Summit, desertification, biodiversity loss, and climate change were identified as significant obstacles to sustainable development.
- UNCCD Formation: In 1994, the UN General Assembly established the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), creating a legally binding international agreement that links environmental protection, development, and sustainable land management.
- Decade Declaration: In 2007, the UN General Assembly designated 2010-2020 as the United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight Against Desertification.

International Day for Countering Hate Speech 2024 observed on June 18

- On June 18th, nations worldwide observe the International Day for Countering Hate Speech, aiming to raise awareness about the detrimental impacts of hate speech and to promote strategies for its identification, address, and counteraction.
- This year's theme, "The Power of Youth for Countering and Addressing Hate Speech," emphasizes the pivotal role of young people in fostering a more inclusive and harmonious society.
- UN's Concern: The United Nations acknowledges the rise of hate speech globally, particularly its rapid spread through social media platforms.
- UNESCO's Findings: According to UNESCO, hate speech manifests as xenophobia, racism, antisemitism, anti-Muslim hatred, anti-LGBTQI+ hatred, misogyny, and other forms of intolerance, becoming increasingly common both online and offline.

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- Key Focus: The day focuses on empowering youth to counter hate speech and promotes a united effort to create a tolerant and respectful global community.

World Sickle Cell Day celebrated on 19 June

- World Sickle Cell Day is observed every year on June 19 to raise awareness about sickle cell disease.
- The theme for this year is "Hope Through Progress: Advancing Sickle Cell Care Globally."
- On December 22, 2008, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution recognizing sickle cell disease as a major public health issue.
- The resolution also acknowledged sickle cell disease as one of the world's most significant genetic disorders.
- It calls on Member States to promote awareness of sickle cell disease both nationally and internationally on June 19 each year.
- Sickle cell disease comprises a group of inherited blood disorders that affect red blood cells, making them stiff and sickle-shaped.

World Refugee Day 2024 celebrated on 20 June

- Annual Observance: Celebrated annually on 20 June, World Refugee Day honors the courage and resilience of refugees worldwide.
- The day aims to raise awareness about the challenges faced by refugees and to acknowledge their strength in rebuilding their lives.
- 2024 Theme: This year's theme is "Solidarity with Refugees."
- The World Health Organization (WHO) has teamed up with UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, and other partners to commemorate World Refugee Day 2024.
- Historical Context: First observed on 20 June 2001, the day marks the 50th anniversary of the 1951 Refugee Convention, which established key protections for refugees.
- Initially known as Africa Refugee Day, the UN General Assembly rebranded it as World Refugee Day in December 2000.
- India has not signed the 1951 Refugee Convention or its 1967 Protocol and lacks a national framework for refugee protection.
- By mid-2023, over 110 million people were forcibly displaced worldwide, with children making up 40% of this number, according to UNHCR estimates.

International Day of Yoga 2024 celebrated on 21 June

- International Day of Yoga is celebrated annually on June 21 to highlight the benefits of yoga and encourage its integration into daily life.
- The 2024 celebration marks the tenth anniversary of this event, with the theme "Yoga for Self and Society."
- The United Nations General Assembly designated June 21 as International Yoga Day on December 11, 2014, due to its significance as the longest day in the Northern Hemisphere.
- The first celebration in 2015 featured the theme "Harmony and Peace." Yoga, recognized as a UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage in 2016, supports physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual well-being.
- In 2024, Prime Minister Narendra Modi led the celebrations at Dal Lake in Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir.

United Nations Public Service Day 2024 celebrated on June 23

- United Nations Public Service Day is celebrated annually on June 23.
- This day highlights the essential role of public service in fostering community development and welfare.
- The theme for the 2024 United Nations Public Service Day is 'Fostering Innovation amid Global Challenges: a Public Sector Perspective.'
- The United Nations General Assembly declared June 23 as Public Service Day on December 20, 2002.
- The United Nations Economic and Social Council established the United Nations Public Service Awards, which are presented on Public Service Day.

- These awards recognize individuals and organizations for their exceptional contributions to enhancing the role, prestige, and visibility of public service.

International Day of Women in Diplomacy 2024 observed on 24 June

- The International Day of Women in Diplomacy is observed annually on June 24.
- This day celebrates the crucial contributions of women in shaping international relations and promoting peace.
- The 76th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) declared June 24 as the International Day of Women in Diplomacy in 2022.
- Women have been integral to the United Nations since the UN Charter's creation and signing in 1945.
- Hansa Mehta, a prominent Indian feminist leader, activist, and diplomat, was honored by UNGA President Dennis Francis on this day.
- She played a key role in altering the phrase "All men are born free and equal" to "All human beings are born free and equal" in Article 1 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
- As president of the All India Women's Conference (AIWC) in 1946, Mehta led the drafting of the "Indian Charter of Women's Rights," advocating for gender equality, civil rights, and justice for women in India.

International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking 2024 observed on June 26

- The International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking is observed annually on June 26th.
- The theme for 2024 is "The evidence is clear: invest in prevention."
- The theme underscores the importance of evidence-based approaches to prevent drug abuse and illicit trafficking.
- The day highlights global efforts to combat drug abuse and trafficking.
- It emphasizes the need for international cooperation to address these challenges.
- The day aims to raise awareness about the harmful effects of drug abuse on individuals, families, and communities.

MSME Day 2024 observed on 27 June

- Every year on June 27, Micro, Small, and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs) Day is observed.
- Theme for 2024: "Leveraging Power and Resilience of Micro-, Small, and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs) to Accelerate Sustainable Development and Eradicate Poverty in Times of Multiple Crises."
- The UN General Assembly decided to celebrate this day on April 6, 2017, to increase public awareness of the role of MSMEs in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- According to a report by the International Council for Small Business (ICSB), MSMEs make up more than 90% of all firms.
- They contribute an average of 60-70% of total employment.
- Union Minister for Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises Jitan Ram Manjhi presided over the 'Udyami Bharat' - MSME Day celebrations.
- According to the MSME Ministry's FY23 annual report, India has around 63 million MSMEs, second only to China's approximately 140 million micro and small enterprises.

Celebration of 18th Statistics Day on 29th June, 2024

- India celebrates Statistics Day on June 29 every year to honor the contributions of Prof. Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis.
- The 2024 theme, "Use of data for decision-making," focuses on the critical role of data in modern governance.
- The day commemorates Mahalanobis's pioneering role in applying statistics to socio-economic planning and policy formulation.
- Statistics Day was first observed during the tenure of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, recognizing Mahalanobis's impact on India's economic planning.

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- The observance highlights the significance of statistics in driving evidence-based decision-making in various sectors.
- This annual celebration aims to raise awareness about the importance of statistics in shaping effective policies and strategies.

APPOINTMENTS

Indian badminton maestro, Ms PV Sindhu, announced as brand ambassador for Tobacco Control

- Renowned Indian badminton player, Ms. PV Sindhu, was appointed as the brand ambassador for Tobacco Control today.
- At the event, she called upon everyone to join the fight against tobacco use, advocating for a tobacco-free lifestyle and healthier choices for a brighter future.
- The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, hosted an event to mark World No Tobacco Day 2024, focusing on the theme "Protecting Children from Tobacco Industry Interference."

The Delhi High Court has appointed an ad-hoc administrative committee to oversee the affairs of the Equestrian Federation of India

- The Delhi High Court has taken the following actions in response to allegations of impropriety within the Equestrian Federation of India (EFI).
- An ad-hoc administrative committee (AAC) has been appointed to oversee the affairs of the EFI.
- Retired Justice Najmi Waziri will serve as the chairperson.
- Former Chief Election Commissioner S Y Quraishi has been appointed as an observer and member of the committee.
- Advocate Rohini Musa will also serve as a member of the committee.
- The formation of this committee aims to ensure proper governance and address the concerns raised about the EFI's operations.

Lieutenant General Upendra Dwivedi will be the next Chief of Army Staff.

- Lieutenant General Upendra Dwivedi will become the next Chief of Army Staff, assuming charge on June 30th.
- He will succeed General Manoj C Pande, who will step down on June 30th.
- Commissioned into the Infantry (Jammu and Kashmir Rifles) of the Indian Army in 1984, Lt. Gen. Dwivedi has had a distinguished career.
- He served as General Officer Commanding in Chief of the Northern Command from 2022 to 2024.
- Following this, he was appointed as the Vice Chief of the Army Staff.
- Lt. Gen. Dwivedi is an alumnus of Sainik School, Rewa, the National Defence College, and the US Army War College.
- He has been honored with the Param Vishisht Seva Medal and the Ati Vishisht Seva Medal.

Bhartruhari Mahtab has been appointed pro tem Speaker of 18th Lok Sabha.

- Bhartruhari Mahtab has been appointed as the pro tem Speaker of the 18th Lok Sabha by President Droupadi Murmu.
- Mahtab, a seven-term MP from Cuttack, will serve until the election of the new Speaker.
- Opposition leaders criticized the decision, stating that the convention of appointing the senior-most MP, Kodikunnil Suresh of Congress, who is an eight-term MP, was disregarded.
- Under Article 95(1) of the Constitution, the President made this appointment.
- Newly elected members of the 18th Lok Sabha will take their oath before the pro tem Speaker.

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- A panel of chairpersons will assist Mahtab, including Kodikunnil Suresh, DMK's T.R. Baalu, Trinamool Congress's Sudip Bandyopadhyay, and BJP's Radha Mohan Singh and Faggan Singh Kulaste.
- Traditionally, the longest-serving MP is chosen as the pro tem Speaker.
- Apart from Suresh, another senior MP in the 18th Lok Sabha is BJP's Virendra Kumar, who is also serving his eighth term and is currently a Union Minister.
- The first session of the 18th Lok Sabha will commence on June 24, with the Speaker election scheduled for June 26.

Atul Kumar Chaudhary has been appointed as the Secretary of TRAI.

- Atul Kumar Chaudhary has been appointed as the new Secretary of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), succeeding V. Raghunandan.
- Prior to this role, Atul Kumar Chaudhary served as Deputy Director General (DDG) at the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI).
- The position of Secretary at TRAI became vacant following V. Raghunandan's retirement on May 31.
- Chaudhary has extensive experience in various roles within BSNL and the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), including Personnel, HR, Administration, Licensing, and the Vigilance wing.
- In his new role, Chaudhary will oversee the development of guidelines and policies in collaboration with stakeholders to ensure quality of services.
- Separately, Manoj Jain has taken over as the chairman and managing director (CMD) of Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), a position effective from June 20.

Jyoti Vij has been appointed as director-general of the FICCI.

- Jyoti Vij has been appointed as the new Director-General of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).
- She has immediately taken up her new role as Director-General.
- Prior to this, Vij served as the Additional Director General at FICCI and has experience working across various sectors.
- Shailesh Pathak has stepped down from his position as Secretary General of FICCI for personal reasons.
- Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI): Founded in 1927, following the guidance of G.D. Birla and Purshottamdas Thakurdas.
- Its main objective is to support and advocate for the interests of Indian businesses both within the country and internationally.
- Headquartered in New Delhi, it is the oldest, largest, and premier non-governmental trade association in India.

Vikram Misri appointed new Foreign Secretary of India.

- Vikram Misri has been appointed as the new Foreign Secretary of India.
- The Government of India officially announced Misri's appointment to this significant diplomatic position.
- Misri will take over from Vinay Mohan Kwatra, whose extended term ends on July 14, 2024.
- On July 15, 2024, Misri, who is currently the Deputy National Security Adviser, will begin his new role.
- He has previously served as Private Secretary to three Prime Ministers: Inder Kumar Gujral (1997), Manmohan Singh (2012), and Narendra Modi (2014).
- Misri's extensive experience in various key governmental roles makes him well-suited for the position of Foreign Secretary.

Kapil Dev is appointed as President of the Professional Golf Tour of India.

- Kapil Dev, the renowned Indian cricketer, has been appointed as the President of the Professional Golf Tour of India (PGTI).
- Prior to this, he served as the Vice President of PGTI.
- He succeeds H R Srinivasan in this role.

- Golf has played a significant role in Kapil Dev's life for more than 30 years.
- He had ambitions to represent India in golf at the Asian Games.
- Kapil Dev has an impressive cricket career, having played 131 Test matches and 225 ODIs for India.
- He famously led the Indian cricket team to victory in the 1983 World Cup.

NATO appointed Mark Rutte as its next secretary-general.

- Mark Rutte, the outgoing Prime Minister of the Netherlands, has been appointed as the next secretary-general of NATO.
- His appointment was approved by NATO ambassadors during a meeting at the headquarters in Brussels.
- Rutte will assume the role on October 1, succeeding Norway's Jens Stoltenberg.
- The NATO secretary-general chairs meetings and facilitates consultations among member countries to maintain the organization's operations.
- NATO, established on April 4, 1949, is an intergovernmental political and military alliance comprising North American and European countries.
- Initially formed by 12 countries, NATO now has 32 member countries.
- The headquarters of NATO is situated in Brussels, Belgium.

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 J 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.

IAS Ashwani Kumar Appointed MCD Commissioner

- IAS officer Ashwani Kumar has been appointed as the Commissioner of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), effective immediately.
- He succeeds Gyanesh Bharti in this role.
- Ashwani Kumar is presently serving as Additional Chief Secretary and Divisional Commissioner in the Revenue Department of the Delhi government.
- Amit Yadav, the former chairperson of the New Delhi Municipal Council, has also been transferred following the Home Ministry's directives.

First woman helicopter pilot was appointed in the Indian Navy.

- The Indian Navy appointed its first woman helicopter pilot, Sub Lieutenant Anamika B. Rajeev, during the Passing Out Parade at Naval Air Station INS Rajali in Arakkonam, Ranipet district.
- Vice Admiral Rajesh Pendharkar, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Eastern Naval Command, awarded the prestigious "Golden Wings" to 21 officers.
- The parade, held on June 7, celebrated the graduation of the 102nd Helicopter Conversion Course.
- The trainees completed an intensive 22-week program that included rigorous flying and ground training at Indian Naval Air Squadron 561.
- The Helicopter Training School in Arakkonam has trained 849 pilots from the Indian Coast Guard, Indian Navy, and friendly foreign nations.

Cyril Ramaphosa Re-Elected as President of South Africa

- Re-Election: Cyril Ramaphosa has been re-elected as the president of South Africa following a coalition agreement between his African National Congress (ANC) and several opposition parties.
- The new government includes the ANC, the centre-right Democratic Alliance (DA), and other smaller parties.
- This coalition marks the first national coalition government in South Africa's history.

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- Ramaphosa secured his second term by winning a parliamentary vote against Julius Malema, leader of the far-left Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF).
- The agreement was reached just before the vote, necessary as the ANC lost its 30-year majority in the national assembly.
- In the recent elections, the ANC's vote share fell to 40%.
- The Democratic Alliance emerged as the second largest party, capturing 22% of the votes.
- The African National Congress has been the dominant political party since South Africa's first democratic elections in 1994.

General Upendra Dwivedi took charge as 30th Indian Army chief

- On June 30, General Upendra Dwivedi took charge as the 30th Indian Army Chief, succeeding General Manoj Pande.
- Dwivedi was commissioned into the 18 Jammu and Kashmir Rifles in 1984.
- He served as the army's Vice Chief starting February 2024.
- Prior to becoming the Army Chief, Dwivedi was the Northern Army Commander for two years.
- His overseas assignments included stints in Somalia and Seychelles.
- Lt. Gen. N. S. Raja Subramani will take over as the Vice Chief of Army Staff.
- Subramani is currently the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Central Command.
- Lt. Gen. Anindya Sengupta is set to succeed Subramani as the Central Army Commander.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

New Non-Permanent Members of the UN Security Council

- Pakistan, Denmark, Greece, Panama, and Somalia have been elected as non-permanent members of the United Nations Security Council.
- Their terms will commence on January 1, 2025, following their election by secret ballot in the UN General Assembly.
- New Members: Pakistan, Denmark, Greece, Panama, and Somalia will replace Mozambique, Japan, Ecuador, Malta, and Switzerland on the Security Council.
- This marks the eighth time Pakistan has been elected as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council.
- Somalia received 179 votes. Pakistan secured 182 votes in the category for African and Asia-Pacific countries.
- In the Latin American and Caribbean States group, Panama received 183 votes.
- For the Western European and other States, Denmark received 184 votes, and Greece got 182 votes.
- The five permanent members of the Security Council are the United States, Russia, China, the United Kingdom, and France.
- In 2023, Algeria, Guyana, South Korea, Sierra Leone, and Slovenia were elected as non-permanent members.

Netherlands emerged as India's 3rd largest export destination in 2023-24.

- 2023-24, the Netherlands became India's third-largest export destination, following the US and UAE.
- Key exports to the Netherlands included petroleum products (\$14.29 billion), electrical goods, chemicals, and pharmaceuticals.
- India's trade surplus with the Netherlands rose significantly, reaching \$17.4 billion from \$13 billion in the previous fiscal year.
- This growth allowed the Netherlands to surpass traditional export markets for India such as the UK, Hong Kong, Bangladesh, and Germany.

- India's exports to the Netherlands saw an increase of approximately 3.5%, growing from \$21.61 billion in 2022-23 to \$22.36 billion in 2023-24.
- Previously, in 2021-22, the Netherlands ranked as the fifth-largest destination for Indian exports.
- Diplomatic relations between India and the Netherlands were established in 1947.

South American nation, Paraguay, has become the 100th full member to join the International Solar Alliance (ISA).

- Paraguay has joined the International Solar Alliance (ISA) as its 100th full member.
- The Instrument of Ratification was officially handed over by Paraguay on June 26, 2024, in New Delhi.
- Abhishek Singh, Joint Secretary of Economic Diplomacy and States Division at India's Ministry of External Affairs, received the document on behalf of the ISA.
- Singh also acts as the Head of Depository for the ISA, an organization co-founded by India and France during the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP21) in Paris.
- The ISA's mission is to promote the global adoption of solar energy, serving as a collaborative platform for its member countries to enhance energy security, increase energy access, and support the transition to sustainable energy sources.
- To date, 119 countries have signed the ISA Framework Agreement, with 100 of them having completed the ratification process and achieved full membership.
- Spain became the 99th member in May 2024.

India announced a medical e-visa facility for Bangladesh citizens

- India introduced a medical e-visa facility specifically for Bangladeshi citizens.
- India and Bangladesh signed 10 agreements covering various areas such as defence, digital partnership, and maritime cooperation.
- The medical e-visa facility for Bangladeshi citizens will soon be available.
- India plans to open a new consulate in Rangpur, Bangladesh, to serve the north-western region.
- The agreements between India and Bangladesh include digital partnership, green partnership, maritime cooperation, blue economy, space cooperation, railway connectivity, oceanography, defence, and strategic operation studies.
- This marks the first bilateral state visit by a foreign leader since the formation of the new Indian government.
- A technical team will visit Bangladesh to assess the protection and management of the Teesta River.
- Bangladesh plays a key role in India's Neighbourhood First policy, Act East Policy, Vision SAGAR, and Indo-Pacific vision.
- The sixth rail link between India and Bangladesh has been inaugurated, connecting Jakhoda and Agartala.
- The Bharat-Bangladesh Maitri Satellite is expected to strengthen bilateral relations.
- Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina was on a two-day official visit to India.

PM Modi departed for his first overseas tour of the third term to participate in the G7 conference in Italy.

- On June 13, Prime Minister Narendra Modi departed for his first overseas tour of his third term to attend the G7 conference in Italy.
- Prime Minister Modi will participate in the 50th G7 Leaders' Summit.
- This marks his first international visit since assuming office for the third time.
- Italy extended an invitation to India to join the G7 Summit on June 14 as an outreach country.
- During the summit, Prime Minister Modi is scheduled to hold a bilateral meeting with Italian Prime Minister Giorgio Meloni.
- Italy, as the current chair of the G7, is hosting the summit, which includes the European Union, Canada, France, Germany, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States.
- The summit, taking place from June 13 to 15 at the Borgo Egnazia resort in Italy's Apulia region, will focus on global challenges such as the Russia-Ukraine war and the Israel-Hamas conflict.

- India has attended ten previous G7 summits, with this being Prime Minister Modi's fifth consecutive appearance.

Strengthening India-US Bilateral Relations: Jake Sullivan's Visit

- Jake Sullivan's Visit: The US National Security Advisor's visit to India aims to fortify the bilateral relationship between the two nations.
- The visit focuses on expanding cooperation in crucial areas between India and the US.
- Sullivan briefed Prime Minister Modi on the advancements in various sectors of bilateral collaboration, particularly under the Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technologies (iCET).
- Dates and Engagements: Sullivan is in Delhi from June 17 to 18 for a series of bilateral engagements.
- Sullivan and his Indian counterpart, Ajit Doval, co-chaired the US-India tech initiative, iCET.
- This marks the second meeting of the India-US Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology since its launch in January 2023.
- A significant highlight of the meeting was the inaugural India-US-ROK Trilateral Technology Dialogue held in Seoul in March.

United Nations said that 2025 will be designated the "International Year of Quantum Science and Technology."

- The United Nations has designated 2025 as the "International Year of Quantum Science and Technology."
- This year-long, worldwide initiative aims to raise public awareness about the significance of quantum science and its applications through various activities at all levels.
- The designation follows a proposal by Mexico in May 2023, which garnered support from other nations.
- In May 2024, Ghana, backed by over 70 countries, presented a draft resolution to the UN General Assembly, which was approved on June 7.
- The year 2025 will also commemorate a century since German physicist Werner Heisenberg published his seminal paper that reinterpreted classical mechanics, laying the groundwork for quantum mechanics.
- Additionally, in April 2023, the Indian government launched the 'National Quantum Mission' with a budget of Rs 6,000 crore, to be implemented by the Department of Science and Technology from 2023 to 2031.
- The inaugural ceremony of the "International Year of Quantum Science and Technology" is scheduled for January 14, 2025, in Berlin.

Tajikistan government passed a bill to ban hijab and other traditional Islamic clothing.

- The government of Tajikistan has passed a bill banning the hijab and other traditional Islamic clothing.
- The law was approved by Tajikistan's parliament, with the upper house, Majlisi Milli, and the lower house, Majlisi Namoyandagon, both passing the bill.
- This legislation officially bans the Islamic hijab, which had been unofficially restricted for years.
- The Tajik government began enforcing the removal of the hijab in 2007 when the Ministry of Education banned Islamic attire and Western-style miniskirts for students.
- In recent years, the Tajik government has actively promoted traditional Tajik clothing through various campaigns.

Russian President Vladimir Putin will visit Pyongyang.

- Russian President Vladimir Putin is set to visit Pyongyang for the first time in 24 years.
- His last visit to North Korea was in July 2000, following his first election.
- During his previous visit, he met Kim Jong Il, the father of current leader Kim Jong-un.
- Putin and Kim Jong-un aim to strengthen their bilateral military partnership.
- This visit could have significant security implications for the Korean Peninsula and beyond.
- Kim Jong-un extended the invitation to Putin during his visit to Russia's Far East in September 2023.
- A partnership agreement between Russia and North Korea may be signed during this visit.
- After visiting North Korea, Putin will proceed to Vietnam.

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Thailand became the first South Asian country to recognize same-sex marriage.

- Thailand has made history by becoming the first South Asian country to recognize same-sex marriage.
- The country's Senate passed the final reading of the marriage equality law, which will come into effect 120 days after receiving royal approval.
- This makes Thailand the third Asian nation, following Nepal and Taiwan, to enact such legislation.
- Known for its vibrant LGBT culture and high level of tolerance, Thailand is already a popular destination for tourists from around the world.
- The new law further solidifies its reputation as a progressive and inclusive nation.

India's outstanding outcome in the FATF mutual evaluation 2023-24:

- India achieved an outstanding result in the Mutual Evaluation conducted by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) for the period 2023-24.
- India was classified under the regular follow-up category in its Mutual Evaluation Report, a distinction shared by only four other G-20 countries.
- The Mutual Evaluation Report of India was adopted during the FATF plenary session held in Singapore from June 26-28.
- India demonstrated a high degree of technical compliance with the FATF's standards, highlighting its robust framework against financial crimes.
- The report noted India's positive outcomes from its anti-money laundering (AML), countering financing of terrorism (CFT), and counter-proliferation financing efforts.
- Despite the positive evaluation, the FATF identified the need for stronger oversight and preventive measures in several non-financial sectors.
- India has been a member of the FATF since 2010 and is also part of the organization's steering group.
- Founded in 1989, the FATF is an intergovernmental body that sets international standards for combating money laundering and terrorism financing.

Turkiye being removed from the FATF money laundering gray list

- On June 28, Türkiye was removed from the Financial Action Task Force's (FATF) gray list, which includes countries requiring special scrutiny for money laundering and terrorism financing.
- This removal is expected to enhance Türkiye's economic recovery plan, improving the country's economic outlook and investor confidence.
- Gray List Since 2021: Türkiye had been on the gray list since 2021 due to inadequate measures to combat money laundering and terrorism financing involving groups like Daesh and al-Qaeda.
- The decision was made during the closing plenary session of the FATF held in Singapore, highlighting Türkiye's progress in addressing financial crimes.
- Being removed from the gray list is anticipated to positively impact Türkiye's currency (lira), assets, and overall economic confidence.
- Recently, Türkiye implemented new legislation to enhance oversight over cryptocurrencies, aligning with international standards to prevent financial crimes.
- In 2023, a significant crackdown on financial crimes in Türkiye resulted in the arrest of over 3,000 suspects and the seizure of assets worth \$3.2 billion, demonstrating the country's commitment to combating financial crime.

NATIONAL NEWS

New Portfolios Announced for Union Council of Ministers

- A day after taking oath of office for a historic third consecutive term, Prime Minister Narendra Modi assigned portfolios to his 71 council of ministers.
- Rajnath Singh: Continues as the Defence Minister.

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- Amit Shah: Retains his roles as the Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation.
- Nirmala Sitharaman: Remains the Finance Minister.
- Dr. S. Jaishankar: Continues as the External Affairs Minister.
- Nitin Gadkari: Maintains his position as the Minister of Road Transport and Highways.
- Piyush Goyal: Once again entrusted with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- Dharmendra Pradhan: Retains his role as the Education Minister.
- J.P. Nadda: Appointed as the new Health and Chemical and Fertilizers Minister.
- Shivraj Singh Chouhan: Former Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, now the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development.
- Ashwini Vaishnaw: Continues as the Rail Minister and additionally takes on the role of Minister of Information and Broadcasting.
- Dr. Virendra Kumar: Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment
- Shri Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu: Minister of Civil Aviation
- Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia: Minister of Communications; and Minister of Development of North Eastern Region
- Shri Bhupender Yadav: Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
- Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat: Minister of Culture; and Minister of Tourism
- Smt. Annpurna Devi: Minister of Women and Child Development
- Shri Kiren Rijiju: Minister of Parliamentary Affairs; and Minister of Minority Affairs
- Shri C R Patil: Minister of Jal Shakti
- Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya: Minister of Labour and Employment; and Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports etc.

Narendra Modi Takes Oath for Unprecedented Third Term as Prime Minister

- On June 9, 2024, Narendra Damodardas Modi was sworn in as India's Prime Minister for the third consecutive term by President Droupadi Murmu.
- The oath of office and secrecy was administered to him in a modest ceremony held at the Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi.
- Modi becomes the second person, after Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, to assume the office of Prime Minister for three consecutive terms.
- In addition to the Prime Minister, 71 other ministers were sworn in by President Murmu. This group comprised 30 Cabinet Ministers and 41 Ministers of State, five of whom hold independent charge.
- Narendra Modi was sworn in as the 15th Prime Minister of India in 2014 after his Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) led coalition National Democratic Alliance (NDA) secured a majority in the 16th Lok Sabha (2014-19).
- Narendra Modi was again sworn in as Prime Minister a second time when the ruling coalition NDA secured a majority in the 17th Lok Sabha. He was sworn in by the President Ram Nath Kovind.

Development of Prerana Sthal by Lok Sabha Secretariat

- The Lok Sabha Secretariat is developing Prerana Sthal within the Parliament House Complex.
- This dedicated area will feature statues of the country's great leaders and freedom fighters, which were previously scattered across different parts of the Complex.
- Statues of prominent leaders and freedom fighters are being consolidated at Prerana Sthal to ensure they are easily visible to visitors.
- Modern technology will be employed to provide detailed information about these leaders, their lives, and their philosophies, thereby inspiring visitors.
- Following the construction of the new Parliament Building, a comprehensive action plan has been initiated to enhance the aesthetics of the Parliament Complex.
- Jurisdiction: The Parliament House Complex falls under the jurisdiction of the Speaker of the Lok Sabha.
- Prerana Sthal is designed to not only honor the legacy of the nation's great leaders but also to educate and inspire all who visit the Parliament Complex.

India's first biosphere within a tiger reserve has been created in the Rajaji National Park.

- India's first biosphere within a tiger reserve has been established in Rajaji National Park. Jai Dhar Gupta and Vijay Dhasmana have been spearheading this project.
- The Rajaji Raghati Biosphere (RRB) encompasses a 35-acre private forest within Rajaji National Park in Uttarakhand.
- Gupta, Dhasmana, and their team carried out extensive surveys to identify suitable native plant species, with a focus on those that are rare or disappearing in the region.
- The first phase of planting commenced in 2023, featuring approximately 80 species.
- In the upcoming monsoon season, an additional 35 to 40 species will be introduced into the biosphere.
- Additionally, Jai and Vijay are working on creating a second biosphere in the Western Ghats.

NDA got absolute majority, BJP emerges as the largest party with 240 seats.

- In the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, the BJP-led NDA secured an absolute majority with a total of 292 seats, including 240 won by the BJP alone, making it the largest party.
- The I.N.D.I.A block secured 233 seats, while other parties won 18 seats.
- Prominent winners include Prime Minister Narendra Modi (Varanasi), Union Minister Amit Shah (Gandhinagar), Om Birla (Kota), Arjun Ram Meghwal (Bikaner), Gajendra Singh Shekhawat (Jodhpur), and Jyotiraditya M. Scindia (Guna).
- In Uttar Pradesh, out of 80 constituencies, the Samajwadi Party won 37 seats, the BJP 33, Congress six, and Rashtriya Lok Dal two.
- Notably, Pushpendra Saroj of the Samajwadi Party won the Kaushambi seat, becoming India's youngest MP.

Hyderabad Exclusively Belongs to Telangana, No Longer Andhra Pradesh Capital

- Hyderabad is no longer the joint capital of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.
- Originally, Hyderabad was designated as the joint capital for 10 years following the bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh in 2014.
- Telangana was officially formed on June 2, 2014.
- According to the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act of 2014, Hyderabad ceased being the shared capital on June 2, 2024, and is now exclusively the capital of Telangana.
- Section 5(1) of the Act specified that Hyderabad would serve as the capital of Telangana for a decade, after which Andhra Pradesh would establish a new capital.
- The Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Bill was passed in Parliament in February 2014.
- Andhra Pradesh has yet to establish a permanent capital, with ongoing disputes over Amaravati and Visakhapatnam pending in courts.

Women Representation in the 18th Lok Sabha

- In the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, 74 women were elected, a slight decrease from the 78 women elected in 2019.
- Among these elected women, 16 percent are under the age of 40, and 41 percent (30 MPs) have previously served in the Lok Sabha.
- A total of 797 women contested the elections.
- The BJP fielded the most women candidates with 69. The election results saw 30 women from the BJP, 14 from Congress, 11 from TMC, 4 from the Samajwadi Party, 3 from DMK, and 2 each from JDU and LJP(R) winning seats.
- This election marks the first since the passage of the women's reservation bill in Parliament. The 17th Lok Sabha held the record for the highest number of women parliamentarians with 78.
- In comparison, the first and second Lok Sabha each had 24 women MPs.

WHO designated the National Institute of Indian Medical Heritage as the 3rd Indian Institute for Traditional Medicine Research.

- WHO Designation: The National Institute of Indian Medical Heritage (NIIMH) in Hyderabad has been designated by the World Health Organization as the third Indian institute for traditional medicine research.
- NIIMH operates under the Ministry of Ayush.
- It is a unit of the Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS).
- Role and Recognition:
- NIIMH will serve as a WHO Collaborating Centre for 'Fundamental and Literary Research in Traditional Medicine.'
- This designation is valid for four years.
- The Institute for Teaching & Research in Ayurveda, Jamnagar.
- The Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga (MDNIY), New Delhi.
- Established in 1956, the NIIMH has been a pioneer in various digital initiatives of Ayush, including the AMAR Portal.
- This recognition by WHO further solidifies India's role in the global landscape of traditional medicine research.

President Droupadi Murmu has officially dissolved the 17th Lok Sabha

- The President Droupadi Murmu has accepted the advice of the Cabinet and signed the Order dissolving the 17th Lok Sabha in exercise of the powers conferred upon her by sub-clause (b) of Clause (2) of Article 85 of the Constitution.
- Following this, Prime Minister Modi submitted his resignation, which was accepted by President Murmu.
- In the 543-member Lok Sabha, the NDA enjoys a strong majority, with the BJP holding 240 seats.
- Other key parties include the Congress with 99 seats, the Samajwadi Party with 37 seats, and the Trinamool Congress with 29 seats.

First session of the 18th Lok Sabha will begin from June 24.

- The inaugural session of the 18th Lok Sabha is set to commence on June 24.
- This initial session will span from June 24 to July 7, during which newly elected members will be sworn in or confirm their offices.
- The 264th session of the Rajya Sabha will start on June 27 and conclude on July 3.
- During the first three days, newly elected members of the Lok Sabha will take their oaths or confirm their membership and elect the Speaker of the House.
- On June 27, President Draupadi Murmu will address a joint session of the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, presenting the new government's roadmap for the next five years.
- Article 87 of the Indian Constitution empowers the President to address both the Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha at the beginning of the first session following a general election and at the start of the first session of each year.

Current Chief Ministers for each state and union territory in India:-

- In India, each of the 28 states and occasionally a union territory (UT) is governed by an elected Chief Minister.
- At present, the UTs of Delhi, Jammu and Kashmir (vacant), and Puducherry have Chief Ministers in office. Although the governor is the constitutional head of a state, but de facto executive authority rests with the chief minister
- Article 164 of the Constitution envisages that the Chief Minister shall be appointed by the governor.
- List of currently serving Chief Ministers:-
 - ✓ **Andhra Pradesh:** Sri Nara Chandrababu Naidu is the Chief Minister. (Telugu Desam Party)
 - ✓ **Arunachal Pradesh:** Shri Pema Khandu is the Chief Minister. (Bharatiya Janata Party)
 - ✓ **Assam:** Shri Himanta Biswa Sarma is the Chief Minister. (Bharatiya Janata Party)

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- ✓ **Bihar:** Shri Nitish Kumar is the Chief Minister. (Janata Dal (United))
- ✓ **Chhattisgarh:** Shri Vishnu Deo Sai is the Chief Minister. (Bharatiya Janata Party)
- ✓ **Delhi (NCT):** Shri Arvind Kejriwal is the Chief Minister. (Aam Aadmi Party)
- ✓ **Goa:** Shri Pramod Sawant is the Chief Minister. (Bharatiya Janata Party)
- ✓ **Gujarat:** Shri Bhupendra Patel is the Chief Minister. (Bharatiya Janata Party)
- ✓ **Haryana:** Shri Nayab Singh Saini is the Chief Minister. (Bharatiya Janata Party)
- ✓ **Himachal Pradesh:** Shri Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu is the Chief Minister. (Indian National Congress)
- ✓ **Jharkhand:** Shri Champai Soren is the Chief Minister. (Jharkhand Mukti Morcha)
- ✓ **Karnataka:** Shri Siddaramaiah is the Chief Minister. (Indian National Congress)
- ✓ **Kerala:** Shri Pinarayi Vijayan is the Chief Minister. (Communist Party of India (Marxist))
- ✓ **Madhya Pradesh:** Shri Mohan Yadav is the Chief Minister. (Bharatiya Janata Party)
- ✓ **Maharashtra:** Shri Eknath Shinde is the Chief Minister. (Shiv Sena)
- ✓ **Manipur:** Shri N. Biren Singh is the Chief Minister. (Bharatiya Janata Party)
- ✓ **Meghalaya:** Shri Conrad Kongkal Sangma is the Chief Minister. (National People's Party)
- ✓ **Mizoram:** Shri PU Lalduhoma is the Chief Minister. (Zoram People's Movement)
- ✓ **Nagaland:** Shri Neiphiu Rio is the Chief Minister. (Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party)
- ✓ **Odisha:** Shri Mohan Charan Majhi is the Chief Minister. (Bharatiya Janata Party)
- ✓ **Puducherry (UT):** Shri N. Rangaswamy is the Chief Minister. (All India N.R. Congress)
- ✓ **Punjab:** Shri Bhagwant Singh Mann is the Chief Minister. (Aam Aadmi Party)
- ✓ **Rajasthan:** Shri Bhajan Lal Sharma is the Chief Minister. (Bharatiya Janata Party)
- ✓ **Sikkim:** Shri PS Tamang is the Chief Minister. (Sikkim Krantikari Morcha)
- ✓ **Tamil Nadu:** Shri M. K. Stalin is the Chief Minister. (Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam)
- ✓ **Telangana:** Shri A Revanth Reddy is the Chief Minister. (Indian National Congress)
- ✓ **Tripura:** Dr. Manik Saha is the Chief Minister. (Bharatiya Janata Party)
- ✓ **Uttar Pradesh:** Shri Yogi Adityanath is the Chief Minister. (Bharatiya Janata Party)
- ✓ **Uttarakhand:** Shri Pushkar Singh Dhami is the Chief Minister. (Bharatiya Janata Party)
- ✓ **West Bengal:** Km. Mamata Banerjee is the Chief Minister. (Trinamool Congress)

Nagi and Nakti Bird Sanctuaries Designated as Ramsar Sites

- The Nagi and Nakti bird sanctuaries, both man-made reservoirs, are situated in the Jhajha forest range of Jamui district in Bihar.
- The Nakti Bird Sanctuary was initially developed for irrigation purposes but was later designated as a bird sanctuary in 1984.
- The Nagi Bird Sanctuary, on the other hand, was established following the damming of the Nagi River. This sanctuary supports over 75 species of birds, 33 species of fish, and 12 aquatic species.
- It hosts one of the largest congregations of bar-headed geese in the Indo-Gangetic Plain.
- With the addition of these sanctuaries, the total number of Ramsar Sites in India has reached 82. Globally, the United Kingdom leads with 175 Ramsar Sites, followed by Mexico with 144. India and China share the third position.
- Over the past decade, India has significantly increased its number of Ramsar Sites from 26 to 82, with 40 of these added in the last three years alone.
- Ramsar Convention, adopted in 1971, aims to provide a framework for the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands.

Inauguration of Prerna Sthal at Parliament House Complex

- Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar inaugurated the Prerna Sthal at the Parliament House Complex, a site consolidating statues of India's eminent leaders and freedom fighters.
- The Prerna Sthal enhances the visitor experience by providing easier access and incorporating QR code-based life stories of the commemorated figures.
- Vice President Dhankhar highlighted the Prerna Sthal as a source of inspiration, expressing hope that visitors would feel energized and motivated by the stories of the great leaders featured there.

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- The inauguration ceremony was attended by prominent dignitaries, including the Speaker of Lok Sabha and several Union Ministers.
- Memorable Event: The event was marked by floral tributes and heartfelt reflections on the contributions of India's historical figures, making it a memorable and significant occasion.

Government of India Launches BIMReN Initiative for PhD Students

- The Government of India has introduced the BIMReN initiative, a collaborative effort between the Ministry of External Affairs and the Bay of Bengal Programme-Inter Governmental Organization (BOBP-IGO).
- This initiative aims to promote the sustainable development of the blue economy by fostering connections among researchers and research institutions in BIMSTEC countries.
- BIMReN will enable PhD students from BIMSTEC countries to undertake their doctoral research in India. Researchers and academic institutions focused on fisheries, marine, or ocean sciences across the BIMSTEC region will benefit from this program.
- Under this initiative, BIMSTEC member countries will collaborate on projects with grants of up to INR 5 million each, over a tenure of 24 months.
- Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC): BIMSTEC is an international organization comprising South Asian and Southeast Asian countries, including Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Thailand.
- Established on June 6, 1997, through the Bangkok Declaration, its headquarters are located in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Om Birla elected as the speaker of the 18th Lok Sabha

- Om Birla was re-elected as the Speaker of the 18th Lok Sabha on June 26, 2024.
- He is a member of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).
- NDA Candidate: Birla was the candidate of the ruling National Democratic Alliance (NDA).
- His election was conducted by voice vote, with the opposition not pressing for a vote count.
- Om Birla previously served as the Speaker of the 17th Lok Sabha.
- He is the 17th person to be elected as the Speaker of the Lok Sabha.
- He is the fifth person to hold the office of Lok Sabha speaker twice.
- According to Article 93 of the constitution, members of the Lok Sabha are to elect a Speaker and a Deputy Speaker from among the members of the House. The Speaker and Deputy Speaker are elected by a simple majority.
- A simple majority means the majority of the members in the house are present at the time of voting.

ISO Council Meeting in New Delhi

- India's Role in Sugar Industry: Host of the meeting, India, is the world's largest consumer and second largest producer of sugar.
- The meeting brings together over 30 countries to tackle issues in the sugar and biofuel sectors.
- Workshop Title: 'Sugar and Biofuels – Emerging Vistas'
- Inaugurated by: Shri Pralhad Joshi, Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution and New & Renewable Energy
- Attendees: Over 200 delegates, including international experts and industry leaders.
- Aligned with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Global Biofuel Alliance initiative, the meeting aims to strengthen international collaboration on sustainable biofuels.
- Discussions will focus on reducing greenhouse gas emissions through ethanol production from sugarcane, highlighting India's technological advancements in biofuel production at the industrial tour in Muzaffarnagar, Uttar Pradesh.

India's first 'Chadwick House: Navigating Audit Heritage' Museum has been inaugurated at Shimla.

- India's first 'Chadwick House: Navigating Audit Heritage' Museum has been inaugurated in Shimla.

- The inauguration was carried out by Girish Chandra Murmu, the 14th Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India.
- This event signifies a significant step in preserving and celebrating the rich heritage and contributions of the CAG institution to national governance.
- The museum is situated at Chadwick House, a historic landmark in Shimla.
- It highlights the evolution, achievements, and milestones of the CAG institution.
- Notably, Mahatma Gandhi stayed at Chadwick House in 1946 during his visit to Shimla for the Cabinet Mission.
- The process to establish Chadwick House as a museum began with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with its then-owner, Prasar Bharati (All India Radio), in December 2020.
- The museum features ten distinct galleries, each offering a detailed exploration of various aspects of CAG's history, roles, and significance.
- The museum also preserves artifacts, including Remington typewriters and British-era franking machines.

Kozhikode Declared India's First UNESCO 'City of Literature'

- Kozhikode in northern Kerala was officially recognized as India's first UNESCO 'City of Literature'.
- This honor highlights Kozhikode's rich cultural heritage.
- In October 2023, Kozhikode was added to the UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN) under the 'Literature' category.
- The efficient administration of the Kozhikode City Corporation was pivotal in securing this designation, surpassing culturally rich cities like Kolkata.
- Gwalior and Kozhikode are among the 55 new cities worldwide to join the UCCN.
- Gwalior, located in Madhya Pradesh, was recognized in the 'Music' category, while Kozhikode was acknowledged for 'Literature'.
- The Kerala state government announced that starting next year, June 23 will be celebrated annually as 'City of Literature' day in Kozhikode, in honor of literary icons such as S K Pottakkad and Vaikom Muhammad Basheer.
- Special awards across six categories will be introduced on this day.
- The newly designated creative cities are invited to the 2024 UCCN Annual Conference, themed 'Bringing Youth to the Table for the Next Decade', scheduled for July 1-5, 2024, in Braga, Portugal.

National STOP Diarrhoea Campaign 2024

- Launched by Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Jagat Prakash Nadda, in New Delhi.
- The campaign was initiated with the distribution of oral rehydration salts (ORS) and zinc tablets to children.
- Campaign Duration: Runs from July 1 to August 31, 2024.
- Aim to reduce child mortality due to childhood diarrhoea to zero.
- Campaign Strategy: Transitioned from a two-week to a two-month long campaign.
- Children up to five years old will receive ORS solutions and zinc tablets.
- Includes extensive Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) through various platforms.
- Involves cooperation across multiple sectors including health, water and sanitation, education, and rural development.

First International Solar Festival

- The International Solar Alliance (ISA) is organizing the inaugural international solar festival in New Delhi, India.
- The festival will take place from September 5-6, 2024, in New Delhi.
- The event aims to create an enabling environment for significant international collaborations to accelerate the transition to solar-powered energy.
- The festival will bring together businesses, academia, young people, and community leaders to share knowledge, encourage innovation, and build global partnerships.

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- Core Themes: The festival will focus on four main themes: the role of youth, communities, women, and the private sector in the solar energy transition.
- These themes are designed to attract and engage stakeholders from around the world, promoting a collaborative effort towards a solar-powered future.
- The festival is expected to foster international cooperation and innovation in the solar energy sector, contributing to a more sustainable global energy landscape.

Union Minister Jitan Ram Manjhi launched two new initiatives on World MSME Day.

- On World MSME Day, Union Minister Jitan Ram Manjhi introduced two new initiatives aimed at boosting trade for micro and small businesses through e-commerce.
- The MSME Trade Enablement and Marketing (TEAM) initiative was launched to encourage small businesses to engage in online trade via the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) platform.
- The TEAM initiative aims to assist over 5 lakh micro and small businesses, with a focus on ensuring that at least half of the beneficiaries are women-led businesses.
- The 'Yashaswini' initiative is a comprehensive awareness campaign designed to support informal women-led businesses by providing them with necessary capital and more trade opportunities.
- The government's focus through these initiatives includes improving access to credit, expanding market reach, enhancing digitization, and empowering women and artisans.
- A significant aspect of these initiatives is the empowerment of women entrepreneurs, ensuring they have better access to resources and opportunities to grow their businesses.

India launched the first National Additive Manufacturing Symposium

- India launched the first National Additive Manufacturing Symposium (NAMS) 2024, inaugurated by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).
- The event saw the release of the Additive Manufacturing Scenario Report and the unveiling of an indigenously developed Additive Manufacturing Machine.
- This symposium marks a significant step towards embracing advanced manufacturing technologies in India.
- NAMS 2024 aims to provide an overview of the additive manufacturing (AM) ecosystem in the country.
- The symposium builds on the National Strategy for Additive Manufacturing (NSAM), released in 2022, which seeks to harness the full potential of AM technology to promote industrial development, innovation, and inclusive growth.
- Currently, there are seven centres dedicated to AM technologies operational in India.
- The event saw participation from industry associations such as ELCINA and ICEA, various government ministries, and state representatives, showcasing the involvement of diverse stakeholders.

STATE NEWS

NOTA created a new record in Indore, Madhya Pradesh.

- NOTA (None of the above) set a new record in Indore, Madhya Pradesh.
- For the first time in the country's electoral history, NOTA received 218,000 votes.
- BJP candidate Shankar Lalwani from Indore made history by winning with a margin of approximately 700,000 votes.
- Fourteen percent of the total voters opted for NOTA.
- Previously, in 2019, Gopalganj in Bihar held the record with 51,660 NOTA votes.
- In the 2019 general elections, 65,14,558 (1.06 percent) of the total 61,31,33,300 votes were cast for NOTA.
- NOTA was introduced in 2013 following an order by the Supreme Court.

Railways is planning to build canopy bridges across the track in Hollangapar Gibbon Sanctuary.

- The Indian Railways has announced plans to construct canopy bridges across the railway tracks in the Hollangapar Gibbon Sanctuary to facilitate the movement of apes.
- The Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) will build these canopy bridges to aid apes in safely crossing the tracks that divide the sanctuary.
- The Wildlife Institute of India, in partnership with the NFR, will design the canopy bridges to blend seamlessly with the natural environment.
- The railway track, which is 1.65 kilometers long, is set for doubling and electrification. This track bisects the 2,098.62-hectare Hollongapar Gibbon Sanctuary located in the Jorhat district of Assam.
- The Hollangapar Gibbon Sanctuary hosts the largest population of hoolock gibbons, which predominantly live in the upper canopy of tall trees.
The fragmentation caused by the railway track has disrupted the natural habitat of the gibbons, prompting the need for these canopy bridges to restore connectivity and ensure their safety

Sikkim High Court introduces menstrual leave policy for its women employees

- The Sikkim High Court has introduced a groundbreaking menstrual leave policy, becoming the first in India to do so.
- Under this policy, female employees in the court's registry are entitled to 2-3 days of menstrual leave each month.
- Importantly, this leave is granted based on the recommendation of the High Court's Medical Officer and does not count against the employee's overall leave balance.
- The Sikkim High Court, which is the smallest high court in the country, comprises three judges and nine officers in its registry, including one female officer.

'Mukhyamantri Majhi Ladki Bahin' scheme has been announced by the Maharashtra government.

- Maharashtra's Deputy CM and Finance Minister Ajit Pawar has announced the 'Mukhyamantri Majhi Ladki Bahin' scheme.
- This new scheme will provide financial assistance of Rs 1500 per month to all women aged 21 to 60, starting from July 2024.
- The Maharashtra government has allocated a budget of Rs 46,000 crore for the implementation of this scheme.
- The initiative appears to be inspired by the Laadli Behna scheme from Madhya Pradesh.
- The scheme aims to support women financially and is part of the government's broader efforts to empower women in the state.
- Additionally, the Maharashtra government launched the Lek Ladki scheme in 2023-24 to support families with girls and reduce school dropout rates among girls.
- Under the CM Anna Chhatra Yojana, the state will also provide three free cylinders annually to families of five members.
- Furthermore, the government will continue to offer a Rs 5 per litre bonus to milk-producing farmers in Maharashtra.

First plastic waste road inaugurated at Jaipur Military Station

- Jaipur Military Station inaugurated its first plastic waste road, a 100-meter stretch from Sagat Singh Road Under Bridge to Cubes Corner Complex.
- Jaipur Military Station is the second military station to construct a plastic waste road and the first to integrate it into its maintenance programme.
- The Narangi Military Station in the North East was the first to build a plastic waste road, completed in 2019.
- Major General RS Godara, General Officer Commanding of the 61 Sub Area, inaugurated the road and planted a tree to symbolize development.
- The construction was carried out under the supervision of GE (South), CE Jaipur Zone, aligning with the Indian Army's policy of sustainable and green military stations.

Suhelwa Wildlife Sanctuary to be the fifth tiger reserve in Uttar Pradesh.

- Suhelwa Wildlife Sanctuary will become the fifth tiger reserve in Uttar Pradesh after evidence of a tiger population was confirmed.
- The sanctuary spans the districts of Balrampur, Shravasti, and Gonda.
- The announcement was made during the 10th anniversary of the Pilibhit Tiger Reserve.
- Uttar Pradesh recently approved its fourth tiger reserve in Ranipur Wildlife Sanctuary.
- Other tiger reserves in Uttar Pradesh include Amangarh Tiger Reserve, Dudhwa Tiger Reserve, and Pilibhit Tiger Reserve.
- As of March 2024, there are 55 designated tiger reserves in India.
- Suhelwa Wildlife Sanctuary covers an area of 452 square kilometers and was designated a wildlife sanctuary in 1998.

Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary will become the second home for cheetahs.

- Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary is set to become the second habitat for cheetahs in Madhya Pradesh, following extensive preparations by the state government.
- Expert teams from South Africa and Kenya have visited the sanctuary to assess its suitability for cheetah reintroduction.
- Prey animals have been relocated to Gandhi Sagar from the Kanha, Satpura, and Sanjay tiger reserves to support this initiative.
- As part of the cheetah reintroduction project, eight cheetahs from Namibia (comprising five females and three males) were released at Kuno National Park (KNP) in Sheopur district on September 17, 2022.
- An additional twelve cheetahs were brought from South Africa in February 2023.
- Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary, located in Mandsaur district, is now ready to accommodate more cheetahs.
- In a recent meeting chaired by Chief Minister Mohan Yadav, the state wildlife board discussed further wildlife conservation plans.
- The CM directed officials to explore the feasibility of introducing rhinos and other rare and endangered species to the forests of Madhya Pradesh.

'Mukhya Mantri Nijut Moina' Scheme has been launched by the Assam government

- The Assam government has introduced the 'Mukhya Mantri Nijut Moina' (MMNM) Scheme to tackle child marriage and empower young girls.
- Approximately 1 million girl students are expected to benefit from this initiative, which primarily aims to curb child marriage.
- Under the MMNM scheme, girls in their first year of higher secondary education will receive Rs. 1,000 on the 11th of each month.
- Girls pursuing three-year or four-year degree courses will be provided with Rs. 1,200 per month.
- Post-degree and B.Ed. students will receive Rs. 2,500 per month.
- The scheme excludes students attending private colleges and universities and does not apply to married girls up to the degree level.
- The Assam government has allocated Rs. 300 crore for the successful execution of this scheme.

Joshimath has been renamed as Jyotirmath and Kosiyakutoli as Kainchi Dham.

- The Central government has approved the Uttarakhand government's proposal to rename Joshimath tehsil in Chamoli district to Jyotirmath and Kosiyakutoli tehsil in Nainital district to Pargana Shri Kainchi Dham.
- Joshimath, historically known as Jyotirmath after Adi Guru Shankaracharya's 8th-century visit, serves as the gateway to Badrinath Dham.
- Kosiyakutoli in Nainital has been renamed Pargana Shri Kainchi Dham tehsil in honor of Baba Neem Karoli Maharaj's ashram.
- The renowned Kainchi Dham has also been integrated into the Manaskhand Mandirmala Mission.

Tamil Nadu government launched the 'Chief Minister's Mannuyir Kaathu Mannuyir Kaappom' scheme.

- The Tamil Nadu government has introduced the 'Chief Minister's Mannuyir Kaathu Mannuyir Kaappom' scheme, initiated by Chief Minister M.K. Stalin to enhance soil health.
- The scheme will allocate ₹20 crore towards preserving soil fertility through the use of green manure, with a total expenditure of ₹206 crore planned for the scheme.
- In the first phase, starting in 2024-25, green manure seeds will be distributed.
- By protecting the soil and preserving its microorganisms, the nutrient content in the soil will be enhanced.
- Chief Minister M.K. Stalin also launched a program to rent tractors and agricultural equipment to farmers at nominal fees, as announced in the 2023-24 state budget.
- The agricultural engineering department has procured machinery, including 90 tractors, 90 rotavators, and harvesters, at a cost of ₹10.25 crore for this rental scheme.
- Skill development training workshops for operating tractors and harvesters will be set up in Vellore, Coimbatore, Trichy, Tiruvarur, Madurai, and Thirunelveli.

UP government to establish a Bioplastic Park in Lakhimpur Kheri district.

- The Uttar Pradesh government plans to establish a Bioplastic Park in Kumbhi village, Lakhimpur Kheri district, to combat environmental pollution.
- This initiative will involve an investment of Rs 2000 crore, spearheaded by Balrampur Sugar Mill Firm.
- The park is expected to generate numerous job opportunities in the region, boosting local employment.
- The Uttar Pradesh Expressways Industrial Development Authority (UPEIDA) will act as the nodal agency overseeing the park's development.
- Bioplastic, made from natural materials like corn, sunflower, and sugar beet, will be a primary focus of the park.
- The park will emphasize developing and researching various plastic-related technologies to enhance effective use and recycling.

Caste-based survey has been approved by Jharkhand government in the state.

- The Jharkhand government has sanctioned a caste-based survey within the state.
- This decision was made during a cabinet meeting led by Chief Minister Champai Soren.
- The CM has directed the personnel department to develop a Standard Operating Procedure (SoP) for conducting the survey.
- According to the CM, the purpose of the caste-based survey is to examine the distribution of various communities across the state.
- Additionally, the survey aims to assess the social and economic challenges faced by different population groups.
- Jharkhand's caste survey will be modeled after the one conducted in Bihar.
- In Bihar, the data collection for the caste survey was performed from January 7 to October 2 of the previous year.

18th Mumbai International Film Festival (MIFF) 2024

- The 18th Mumbai International Film Festival (MIFF) 2024 commenced on June 15 in Mumbai.
- The festival began with the India premiere of 'Billy and Molly: An Otter Love Story,' directed by Charlie Hamilton-James.
- Duration: MIFF 2024 will run from June 15 to June 21, 2024.
- A total of 314 films from 59 countries in 61 languages will be showcased.
- In this, 8 world premieres, 5 international premieres, 18 Asia premieres and 21 India premieres are also included.
- Parallel Screenings: Besides Mumbai, parallel screenings will also take place in Delhi, Kolkata, Pune, and Chennai.
- This year introduces the first-ever Doc Film Bazaar.

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- It serves as a dedicated marketplace for independent filmmakers to find buyers, sponsors, and collaborators for their projects.
- MIFF was established in 1990.
- It is one of the oldest film festivals in South Asia.
- The festival is held biennially.
- It focuses on documentaries, short films, and animations.

Haryana Government Increases OBC Reservation and Income Limit for Creamy Layer

- Haryana Chief Minister Naib Singh Saini announced an increase in the annual income limit for the creamy layer from Rs 6 lakh to Rs 8 lakh, aligning with Central Government policies.
- Income from salary and agricultural sources will be excluded from this limit, similar to Central Government provisions.
- The reservation for backward classes in Group-A and Group-B jobs will be raised from the current 15% to 27%, as per Central Government policy.
- This new reservation limit will be applied to state government jobs after approval from the Haryana State Backward Classes Commission.
- The state government will prioritize filling the pending vacant posts for backward classes in Group A and B through special recruitment drives.
- Haryana is also supporting OBC children's education by offering scholarships ranging from Rs 12,000 to Rs 20,000 to ensure they receive quality education.

Kerala Assembly Passes Resolution Seeking To Rename State As Keralam

- The Kerala Assembly unanimously passed a resolution for the second time in a year.
- Name Change Proposal: The resolution requests the Indian Central Government to change the state's name in the Constitution from "Kerala" to "Keralam."
- Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan is leading the initiative.
- Linguistic Alignment: The aim is to align the state's constitutional name with the Malayalam term "Keralam."
- The resolution received unanimous support from the Kerala Assembly.
- This reflects a collective push to officially recognize the state's name as "Keralam."

Uttar Pradesh could become the leading producer of compressed biogas.

- Uttar Pradesh has the potential to become India's leading producer of compressed biogas (CBG).
- According to the Delhi-based think tank Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), the state could generate 24% of the nation's CBG output.
- A symposium organized by CSE, in collaboration with the Uttar Pradesh New and Renewable Energy Development Agency (UPNEDA) in Muzaffarnagar, underscored this potential.
- The event highlighted that Western Uttar Pradesh, particularly regions like Muzaffarnagar, Meerut, Saharanpur, Bijnor, Bulandshahar, and Aligarh, has abundant feedstock availability.
- Under the Sustainable Alternative towards Affordable Transportation (SATAT) scheme, Uttar Pradesh could develop 1000 CBG projects.

AWARDS

Vellayan Subbiah has been selected for the EY World Entrepreneur of the Year 2024

- Vellayan Subbiah has been named the EY World Entrepreneur of the Year 2024.
- He is the fourth recipient from India in the 24-year history of this prestigious award, making India the only country among EY regions to achieve this honor four times. Previous Indian winners include Narayana Murthy, Uday Kotak, and Kiran Mazumdar Shaw.

- Subbiah serves as the Executive Vice-Chairman of Tube Investments of India (TII) and the Chairman of Cholamandalam (Chola) Investment and Finance Co. Ltd.
- He was selected from nearly 5,000 participants in the program, which included 51 winners from 47 countries and jurisdictions. In 2023, Subbiah was honored with the title of EY Entrepreneur of the Year for India.

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.

Sanya Malhotra won the Best Actress award for 'Mrs' at the New York Indian Film Festival

- Sanya Malhotra's film "Mrs" premiered at the 2024 New York Indian Film Festival (NYIFF), where she received the Best Actress Award for her performance.
- Directed by Aarti Kadav, "Mrs" is a Hindi remake of the Malayalam blockbuster "The Great Indian Kitchen," originally featuring Nimisha Sajayan in a pivotal role.
- In "Mrs," Malhotra portrays Richa, a woman navigating the demands of her household and kitchen duties.
- The film also stars talented actors such as Nishant Dahiya and Kanwaljit Singh, contributing to its compelling narrative.

Poet Siddhalinga Pattanashetti Selected for Gudleppa Hallikeri Award

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

NIMHANS Bengaluru Wins Nelson Mandela Award for Health Promotion 2024

- The World Health Organization (WHO) has honored the National Institute of Mental Health & Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS) in Bengaluru with the Nelson Mandela Award for Health Promotion for 2024. Union Health Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya congratulated NIMHANS, highlighting the award as a testament to India's efforts in inclusive healthcare.
- This recognition comes as NIMHANS celebrates its 50th anniversary and the 70th anniversary of its predecessor, the All India Institute of Mental Health (AIIMH).
- The Nelson Mandela Award for Health Promotion, established by WHO in 2019, acknowledges individuals, institutions, and organizations that have made significant contributions to health promotion.
- This year, NIMHANS has been recognized for its outstanding work in the field of mental health.

PEN Pinter Prize 2024

- Arundhati Roy, the acclaimed author known for her bold and unwavering literary voice, has been honored with the PEN Pinter Prize 2024.
- Award Background: The PEN Pinter Prize, established in 2009 by English PEN in memory of the Nobel Prize-winning playwright Harold Pinter, celebrates literature that upholds freedom of expression.

- This year's panel of judges included notable figures such as writer and musician Roger Robinson, actor and activist Khalid Abdalla, and English PEN president Ruth Borthwick.
- Recognition Ceremony: Arundhati Roy will be formally presented with the award on October 10 at a ceremony held in collaboration with the British Library.
- The award is given annually to authors from the UK, Ireland, and the Commonwealth who demonstrate a fearless pursuit of truth in their literary work.
- Arundhati Roy previously won the Booker Prize for her debut novel, "The God of Small Things," which brought her international acclaim.
- The PEN Pinter Prize not only honors exceptional literary achievements but also highlights the importance of literature in addressing and reflecting on contemporary societal issues.

Vinod Ganatra Receives Nelson Mandela Lifetime Achievement Award

- Renowned children's filmmaker Vinod Ganatra has been awarded South Africa's esteemed 'Nelson Mandela Lifetime Achievement Award' for his contributions to cinema.
- Historic Achievement: Ganatra is the first Indian to receive this prestigious accolade.
- The award was presented at the 7th Nelson Mandela Children's Film Festival in recognition of his exceptional work in children's films.
- Ganatra's work in children's cinema has been widely acclaimed, earning him this distinguished honor.
- Nelson Mandela is perhaps the most famous personality in South Africa who has the distinction of being the first black President of South Africa.

Subbiah Nallamuthu Receives 18th V. Shantaram Lifetime Achievement Award

- Renowned wildlife filmmaker Subbiah Nallamuthu has been honored with the prestigious 18th V. Shantaram Lifetime Achievement Award.
- Union Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting, L Murugan, presented the award to Nallamuthu during the inaugural ceremony of the 18th Mumbai International Film Festival in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- Nallamuthu received this accolade for his exceptional contributions to non-feature and wildlife documentary filmmaking.
- Award Background: Instituted in 1990 by the Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, the V. Shantaram Lifetime Achievement Award honors filmmakers who have significantly contributed to documentary films, in memory of the legendary filmmaker V. Shantaram.
- First Recipient: The inaugural recipient of this award was Ezra Mir in 1990.

Gujarat Achieves Top Rank in Wind Power Installed Capacity

- Gujarat has been awarded the "1st-rank" for the highest installed wind power capacity.
- The award was presented at an event organized by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) to celebrate Global Wind Day on June 15, 2024.
- Event Theme: The central theme of the event was "Pawan-Urja: Powering the Future of India."
- By the end of May 2024, Gujarat had an installed wind power capacity of 11,823 MW.
- State Comparisons: Tamil Nadu followed with 10,743 MW, and Karnataka ranked third with 6,312 MW.
- Solar Power Ranking: In solar power, Gujarat ranks second to Rajasthan, with an installed capacity of 14,182 MW compared to Rajasthan's 22,180 MW.
- Gujarat led all states with the highest renewable energy capacity, totaling 28,200 MW at the end of May 2024.
- Gujarat aims to achieve a cumulative 100 GW of installed renewable energy capacity by 2030.

RBI Receives 'Risk Manager of the Year Award 2024'

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has been honored with the "Risk Manager of the Year Award 2024."
- The award is presented by Central Banking, a London-based publication.
- The RBI was recognized for its efforts in enhancing risk culture and awareness.
- Award Acceptance: Executive Director Shri Manoranjan Mishra accepted the award on behalf of the

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- The RBI established a regulatory sandbox to support controlled experimentation with new financial technology products and services.
- Digital Mission: As part of its digital strategy, the RBI promoted the use of artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) in crucial areas such as infrastructure, payments, risk management, audit, and analytics.

Global Central Banking Award 2024

- The Global Central Banking Award 2024 for Technology Services was given to IRIS Business Services in London.
- IRIS Business Services Limited is recognized as a leading Global RegTech company.
- The award was presented by 'Central Banking,' a well-known industry publication based in London.
- Over the past two years, this magazine has honored Indian nationals or Indian entities with three awards.
- At the same event, the Reserve Bank of India was named "Risk Manager of the Year."
- In 2023, the Governor of the RBI, Shaktikanta Das, was honored with the 'Governor of the Year' award.

The Golden Thread' Awarded As Best Documentary In International Category With Golden Conch Award

- 'The Golden Thread', directed by Nishita Jain, clinched the Best Documentary accolade in the international segment at the 18th Mumbai International Film Festival, an event graced by actress Poonam Dhillon.
- Edmond Ranson's 'Life In Loom' was honored with the Best Short Film award in the 'India in Amrit Kaal' category, while Sreemoyi Singh received the prestigious Dadasaheb Phalke Chitranagari Award for Best Debut Director for her work 'And, Towards Happy Alleys'.
- Within the National Competition, '6-A Akash Ganga' emerged victorious as the Best Documentary, 'Salt' claimed the Best Short Fiction award, and 'Nirjara' was recognized as the Best Animation film.
- Internationally, 'Zima' from Poland was celebrated with the Best Animation award, and 'Sour Milk' from Estonia took home the Best Short Fiction award.
- The Mumbai International Film Festival's 18th edition witnessed a diverse array of cinematic achievements, highlighting outstanding contributions from both Indian and international filmmakers.
- Actress Poonam Dhillon played a pivotal role in presenting the awards, underscoring the festival's commitment to honoring excellence in global cinema.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

India-France TRISHNA Mission Details by ISRO

- On World Environment Day, ISRO shared information about the collaborative TRISHNA mission with the French National Space Agency (CNES).
- Mission Name: TRISHNA (Thermal Infrared Imaging Satellite for High-resolution Natural Resources Assessment).
- TRISHNA aims to monitor Earth's surface temperature, emissivity, and biophysical and radiative variables to assess the surface energy budget on regional to global scales.
- The mission will tackle critical issues related to water and food security by examining the effects of human-induced climate change and promoting efficient water resource management through evapotranspiration monitoring.
- This mission is designed to address significant environmental challenges, leveraging advanced thermal infrared imaging to provide critical data for sustainable resource management and climate change mitigation.

Russian astronaut becomes first person to spend 1,000 days in space

- Russian cosmonaut Oleg Kononenko became the first person to spend 1,000 cumulative days in space.
- Kononenko, who has made five trips to the International Space Station (ISS) since 2008, began his latest mission on September 15, 2023, alongside NASA astronaut Loral O'Hara and fellow Russian Nikolai Chub.
- In February 2024, Kononenko broke the previous record for cumulative space time set by Gennady Padalka in 2015, which was 878 days, 11 hours, 29 minutes, and 48 seconds.
- If his mission concludes as scheduled on September 23, 2024, Kononenko will have spent a total of 1,110 days in orbit.
- Despite geopolitical tensions, the ISS remains a rare area of cooperation between the United States and Russia.
- In December, Roscosmos announced the extension of its cross-flight program with NASA to transport astronauts to the ISS through 2025, highlighting ongoing collaboration even after Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022.

China and France launched a satellite to study farthest explosion of stars.

- China and France successfully launched a jointly developed satellite to study the most distant explosions of stars.
- The satellite was carried by a Long March-2C rocket, which lifted off from the Xichang Satellite Launch Center in Sichuan province.
- This advanced astronomical satellite, named Space Variable Objects Monitor, is equipped with four instruments—two French and two Chinese.
- The mission marks the first collaborative venture in astronomy between China and France.
- Previously, in 2018, China and France launched the China-France Oceanography Satellite (CFOSat).
- In 2011, the United States imposed a ban on direct collaboration between NASA and Chinese entities.

Pushpak – ISRO's Reusable Launch Vehicle, Clears Landing Test

- ISRO successfully conducted the third and final landing experiment of its reusable launch vehicle 'Pushpak' on June 23.
- The experiment took place at the Aeronautical Test Range in Chitradurga, Karnataka.
- Known as RLV LEX-03 (Reusable Launch Vehicle Landing Experiment 3), this test re-demonstrated Pushpak's autonomous landing capability under more severe wind conditions.
- Pushpak was released by a Chinook helicopter at an altitude of 4.5 kilometres from the runway.
- After aerial release, Pushpak performed cross-range correction manoeuvres and executed a precise horizontal landing on the runway centerline.
- Pushpak achieved a speed of 320 kmph during the landing, compared to a normal fighter aircraft's speed of 280 kmph, due to its lower lift-to-drag ratio.
- The vehicle used multi-sensor fusion technology, incorporating inertial sensors, radar altimeter, flush air data system, pseudolight system, and navigation system.

BANKING, ECONOMY AND FINANCE

Introduction of King Charles III Currency Notes

- For the first time, banknotes featuring King Charles III have entered circulation.
- The Bank of England has requested that people return their old banknotes bearing the image of Queen Elizabeth II as these new notes are introduced.
- The new banknotes will feature the image of King Charles III, making him the second British monarch to appear on Bank of England notes.

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- Design Changes: The only change in the new notes is the image of King Charles III; all other details remain unchanged.
- Images of the new notes were first unveiled in December 2022, following the death of Queen Elizabeth II in September of that year.
- New notes will be printed only to replace old ones and to accommodate the overall increase in demand for currency.
- People can exchange their old banknotes worth up to £300 for new ones from June 5 to June 30.
- The old banknotes with Queen Elizabeth II's image will still be valid and will circulate alongside the new ones.
- The Bank of England's initiative marks a significant transition in British currency, honoring the new monarch while maintaining the practicality and continuity of existing banknotes.

SBI Achieves Milestone with Market Capitalization Surpassing Rs 8 Lakh Crore

- Market Capitalization Milestone: SBI's market capitalization crossed Rs 8 lakh crore.
- SBI's shares increased by 9%, reaching an all-time high of Rs 912.
- Over the past six months, SBI's shares have surged by more than 50%.
- India's banking sector recorded its highest-ever net profit, exceeding Rs 3 lakh crore.
- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced banks recovered over Rs 10 lakh crore from bad loans between 2014 and 2023.
- Nifty Bank Index: On June 3, 2024, the Nifty Bank index reached a record high, crossing the 50,000 mark for the first time.
- SBI reported a standalone net profit of Rs 20,698.35 crore, reflecting a 24% year-on-year (Y-o-Y) growth.
- This growth was driven by increased interest income and minimal provisions.
- SBI reported a 15.24% year-over-year (YoY) credit growth as of the end of March 2024.

India growth forecast raised by World Bank for FY25 to 6.6%

- The World Bank has revised India's growth forecast upward for fiscal year 2025 to 6.6%.
- India is anticipated to maintain its position as the fastest-growing economy among major global economies.
- However, according to the World Bank's June Global Economic Outlook, India's growth rate is expected to stabilize at an average annual rate of 6.7% from fiscal year 2025 to fiscal year 2027.
- The forecast for India's growth in fiscal year 2025 has been increased by 0.2 percentage points to 6.6%, and for fiscal year 2026 to 6.7%, compared to earlier projections in January.
- Despite this upward revision, the World Bank's forecast is lower than the 7.2% growth projected by the Reserve Bank of India recently.
- According to the bank's report, global growth is expected to remain steady at 2.6% this year, marking the first time in three years without significant changes, despite challenges such as geopolitical tensions and high interest rates.

India's Core Sector Growth Reaches 6.2% in April

- April Growth: India's index of eight core sectors saw a 6.2% growth in April 2024.
- March Growth: This follows a 6.6% growth in March 2024, compared to 4.6% in April 2023.
- April witnessed positive growth in the production of electricity, natural gas, coal, steel, refinery products, crude oil, and cement.
- Despite overall growth, the coal sector's output declined by 7.5% year-on-year (YoY) in April, down from an 8.7% increase in March 2024.
- The crude oil sector recorded a 1.6% growth in April, slightly down from 2% in March 2024.
- Natural gas output surged by 8.6% in April 2024.
- The output of refinery products increased by 3.9% in April 2024.
- The fertilizers sector saw a decline of 0.8% in April 2024.
- The cement sector increased by 0.6%, while the steel sector grew by 7.1% in April 2024.

- The electricity sector saw a significant increase of 9.4% in April 2024.

India's Fiscal Deficit in FY24

- India's fiscal deficit for FY24 amounted to Rs 16.54 lakh crore, falling short of the budgetary target of Rs 17.86 lakh crore.
- Data from the Comptroller General of Accounts reveals that the fiscal gap is now 95.3% of the projected target.
- The central government's fiscal deficit for FY24 was 5.6% of GDP, which is lower than the revised estimate of 5.8%. Net tax receipts for the center exceeded expectations, reaching Rs 23.27 lakh crore, or 100.1% of the year's target.
- Total expenditure was Rs 44.43 lakh crore, representing 99% of the targeted spending for FY24.
- The government's capital expenditure on infrastructure projects stood at Rs 9.49 lakh crore.
- In April 2024, the fiscal deficit was Rs 2.1 lakh crore, amounting to 12.5% of the FY24 target.

India's Trade Performance in May 2024

- India's goods exports grew by 9.1%, reaching \$38.13 billion in May 2024.
- Imports rose by 7.7% to \$61.91 billion.
- Textile Sector: The textile industry experienced nearly 10% growth.
- The merchandise trade deficit widened to a seven-month high of \$23.78 billion in May.
- This deficit was 5.5% higher compared to May 2023.
- It also marked a 24.5% increase from April's trade deficit of \$19.1 billion.
- Compared with April, imports in May were 14.4% higher and exports increased 8.9%.
- 7.4% growth was recorded in exports of engineering goods in May.
- Several sectors, including electronics (23%), drugs and pharma products (10.45%), and plastics and linoleum (16.6%) have shown double digit growth.
- Imports of gold reached \$3.33 billion in May 2024. This is a three-month high level.
- Gold imports had tripled year-on-year in April to \$3.11 billion. The value of silver imports increased by more than 400%.

India Becomes the Third-Largest Domestic Airline Market

- India now ranks third globally in the domestic airline market, moving up from the fifth position.
- This shift places India ahead of Brazil and Indonesia, boasting an airline capacity of 15.6 million seats.
- The United States and China maintain the top two spots in domestic aviation.
- A decade ago, India had the smallest domestic airline market, with only 8 million seats.
- The annual growth rate of airline seat capacity in India has been 6.9%.
- Low-cost carriers (LCCs) make up approximately 78.4% of India's domestic airline capacity.
- The number of airports in India has nearly doubled over the past ten years, increasing from 74 to 157, according to government data.

UK surpassed China as India's fourth-largest export market in May 2024, as per commerce department data.

- The UK became India's fourth-largest export market in May 2024, surpassing China, according to commerce department data.
- In May 2023, the UK was India's sixth-largest export destination.
- Exports to the UK reached \$1.37 billion in May 2024.
- Exports to China rose by 3%, amounting to \$1.33 billion in May 2024.
- Major exports to the UK included machinery, food items, pharmaceuticals, textiles, jewellery, iron, and steel.
- Commerce department data showed positive growth in India's top 10 export markets in May 2024.
- These top 10 markets accounted for 52% of India's total export value in May 2024.
- India's merchandise exports increased by 9.13% in May 2024, totaling \$38 billion.

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- The top five export destinations for India in May 2024 were the US, UAE, the Netherlands, UK, and China.
- Imports from Saudi Arabia and Switzerland declined by 4.11% and 32.33%, respectively, in May 2024.
- The other eight of India's top 10 import markets showed growth in May 2024.
- Overall merchandise imports grew by 7.7%, reaching \$61.91 billion.
- Russia remained India's second-largest import source, following China.

India recorded all-time High seafood exports in FY24.

- India achieved a record high in seafood exports for the financial year 2023-24, exporting 17,81,602 MT worth ₹60,523.89 crore (US\$7.38 billion).
- Frozen shrimp was the top export in both volume and value, with the USA and China as the main importers
- Overall seafood export volume increased by 2.67%, with shrimp exports rising by 0.69%.
- Frozen fish was the second largest export, showing a 3.54% increase in quantity and a 0.12% increase in value.

Growth in India's Textile and Apparel Exports for May 2024

- In May 2024, India's textile exports increased by 9.59%, despite challenging conditions in major markets such as the EU, US, and West Asia.
- Apparel exports from India also rose by 9.84% during the same period.
- The combined exports of textiles and apparel saw a 9.70% growth in May 2024 compared to May 2023.
- India's total exports for May 2024 reached 68.29 billion US Dollars, marking a year-on-year increase of 10.2%, as reported by the Commerce Ministry on June 14.
- Growth in April-May 2024: During April-May 2024, textile exports grew by 6.04%, while apparel exports increased by 4.46% over the previous year.
- Top Export Markets: The US, UAE, Netherlands, UK, China, Singapore, Saudi Arabia, Bangladesh, Germany, and France were among India's top ten export destinations.
- Merchandise exports grew by 9.1%, reaching USD 38.13 billion, while service exports increased by 11.7%, totaling USD 30.16 billion.

DEFENCE

Japan India Maritime Exercise 2024 (JIMEX-24) started at Yokosuka, Japan.

- The Japan-India Maritime Exercise 2024 (JIMEX-24) commenced at Yokosuka, Japan.
- The Indian Navy's indigenous Stealth Frigate, INS Shivalik, arrived in Yokosuka to participate in JIMEX-24.
- This is the eighth edition of the exercise, which began in 2012.
- Japan is represented by the Guided Missile Destroyer, JS Yugiri.
- The exercise consists of both harbour and sea phases. The harbour phase includes professional, sports, and social interactions.
- The navies will demonstrate their warfighting skills at sea and improve interoperability through complex multi-discipline operations across surface, sub-surface, and air domains.
- The exercise promotes learning from each other's best practices and enhances operational interactions between the Indian Navy (IN) and the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF).
- It also aims to strengthen cooperation for maritime security in the Indo-Pacific region.

Exercise-HOPEX

- The Indian Air Force (IAF) and Egyptian Air Force (EAF) conducted Exercise-HOPEX to enhance defense cooperation.

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- This fourth joint exercise took place in Egypt from June 21 to 26.
- IAF's Rafale fighter jets participated in the exercise, along with C-17 Globemaster and IL-78 tankers.
- The aim of the exercise is to promote bilateral and regional cooperation, reflecting the enduring relationship between India and Egypt.
- The IAF contingent arrived in Egypt while returning from the 'Red Flag' exercise in Alaska.
- India and Egypt established diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level on August 18, 1947.
- In 2022, the two countries celebrated the 75th anniversary of their diplomatic ties, highlighting the depth of their connection.

Developmental trials successfully completed by High Speed Expendable Aerial Target 'Abhyas'.

- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully completed six consecutive developmental trials of the High Speed Expendable Aerial Target (HEAT) 'Abhyas'.
- Testing Location: The trials were conducted at the Integrated Test Range (ITR) in Chandipur, Odisha.
- With these six trials, 'Abhyas' has completed a total of 10 developmental trials, demonstrating its system reliability.
- The trials involved advanced configurations such as radar cross section enhancement, visual and infrared enhancement systems.
- Key objectives during the tests included safe discharge of the booster, launcher clearance, and verifying endurance performance.
- 'Abhyas' was designed by the Aeronautical Development Establishment of DRDO in Bengaluru and developed in collaboration with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and Larsen & Toubro.
- The system is designed for autonomous flight, featuring an auto pilot, aircraft integration, pre-flight checks, and a laptop-based ground control system, providing a realistic risk combat scenario for testing weapon systems.

US emerging as India's top defense export partner

- The United States has emerged as India's leading defense export partner, accounting for more than 50% of India's total defense exports.
- Over the past five years, India's defense exports to the U.S. have surpassed \$2.8 billion.
- Recent Growth: In the financial year 2022-23 alone, India's defense exports reached \$1.6 billion, reflecting a ten-fold increase over the last five years.
- AMCHAM Report: This significant progress in the India-US defense alliance was reported by the American Chamber of Commerce in India (AMCHAM), highlighting the strategic importance of the partnership.
- Collaboration between American and Indian firms is promoting tech transfer, innovation, and skill development through joint ventures such as Lockheed Martin-Tata Advanced Systems, Boeing-HAL, BAE Systems-HAL, and GE-HAL.
- The U.S. defense industry's presence in India has directly created over 28,000 jobs and provided gainful employment for an additional 20,000 individuals.

CDS Anil Chauhan released India's first joint doctrine for cyberspace operations

- CDS Anil Chauhan has unveiled India's first joint doctrine for cyberspace operations.
- Cyberspace has become a vital and complex area in modern warfare.
- This doctrine offers a strategic guide for military commanders, staff, and practitioners.
- Hostile actions in cyberspace can affect India's economy, social cohesion, political decision-making, and defense capabilities.
- The doctrine focuses on the military aspects of cyberspace operations.
- Developing joint doctrines is key to achieving jointness and integration within the armed forces.
- Cyberspace is now recognized as a critical domain, alongside traditional areas like land, sea, and air.

INDEX AND RANKINGS

World Economic Forum's (WEF) Global Gender Gap index

- India has fallen to 129th place in the World Economic Forum's (WEF) Global Gender Gap Index, dropping two positions from the previous ranking.
- Iceland continues to hold the top spot, followed by Finland, Norway, New Zealand, and Sweden.
- India remains among the nations with the lowest economic parity levels but has achieved the highest gender parity in secondary education enrollment.
- In terms of political empowerment of women, India ranks 65th globally and has closed 64.1% of its overall gender gap as of 2024.
- The decline in India's ranking from 127th to 129th is attributed to drops in the 'Educational Attainment' and 'Political Empowerment' categories, despite improvements in 'Economic Participation and Opportunity.'
- The United Kingdom is positioned at 14th, while the United States stands at 43rd in this index.
- Within South Asia, India ranks fifth behind Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Bhutan, with Pakistan at the bottom.
- Sudan occupies the last place out of the 146 countries on the Global Gender Gap Index.

NSE Indices Limited Launches Nifty EV & New Age Automotive Index

- NSE Indices Limited has introduced the Nifty EV & New Age Automotive Index, which is designed to track the performance of companies in the electric vehicle (EV) sector. This index also monitors businesses involved in the development of new-age automotive vehicles and related technologies.
- As a new thematic index, it has a base date of April 2, 2018, with a base value set at 1000. The index will be reconstituted semi-annually and rebalanced on a quarterly basis, marking it as the country's first-ever electric vehicle (EV) index.
- This new index will serve as a benchmark for asset managers and will be a reference index for passive funds, such as Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs), index funds, and structured products.
- Currently, NSE hosts 17 thematic indices, including Nifty Commodities, Nifty India Consumption, Nifty CPSE, Nifty Energy, and Nifty Infrastructure.

According to UNHCR Report: Record 117 million people forcibly Displaced in 2023

- In 2023, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reported a record 117.3 million people forcibly displaced.
- Affected Groups: This figure includes refugees, asylum seekers, and internally displaced persons (IDPs) who have been uprooted due to conflict, persecution, and various forms of violence.
- For the past 12 years, there has been a consistent annual increase in the number of forcibly displaced individuals.
- Currently, 1.5% of the global population is forcibly displaced, which is approximately double the proportion from a decade ago.
- UNHCR notes that forced displacement has continued to rise in the first four months of 2024.
- Sudan: The ongoing war has led to over 9 million people being internally displaced and another 2 million seeking refuge in neighboring countries.
- Gaza: Due to Israel's bombardment, 1.7 million people (80% of the Palestinian population) have been internally displaced.
- The United States received the highest number of new asylum applications in 2023, totaling 1.2 million.
- The UNHCR report highlights that 40% of all forcibly displaced individuals are minors.

India among world's worst five on green performance index

- India ranked 176th out of 180 countries in the 2024 Environmental Performance Index.
- Air Quality Concerns: The country was ranked 177th in terms of air quality.

- Projected Emissions: India is ranked 172nd in projected emissions by 2025.
- These rankings reflect pressing environmental issues that require urgent action.
- India's heavy reliance on coal significantly contributes to its poor environmental performance.
- High emissions and deteriorating air quality are major factors in India's low ranking.

Artificial Intelligence readiness of 174 countries mapped by IMF

- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) released the Artificial Intelligence Readiness Index (AIPI) dashboard on June 25, mapping the AI readiness of 174 countries.
- The index categorizes each country as an advanced economy (AE), emerging market economy (EM), or low-income country (LIC).
- Singapore is ranked 1st with a score of (0.80), Denmark is ranked 2nd (0.78), and the United States is ranked 3rd (0.77) are the top-ranked advanced economies in AI readiness.
- India is ranked 72nd with a score of 0.49, while Bangladesh (0.38) is 113th, Sri Lanka (0.43) is 92nd, and China (0.63) is 31st. South Sudan is ranked last at 174th.
- The ratings are based on an assessment of four key areas: digital infrastructure, human capital and labor market policies, innovation and economic integration, and regulation.
- The AIPI dashboard aims to provide insights into each country's preparedness to adopt and integrate AI technologies.

India dropped to the 15th spot in 2023 from the 8th position in 2022 in terms of FDI inflows.

- India saw a significant shift in its Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) landscape in 2023, dropping to the 15th position globally from 8th place in 2022.
- FDI inflows into India experienced a notable decline of 43%, amounting to \$28 billion during the year.
- Despite this decline, India maintained its stature among the top five destinations for FDI, excelling in both greenfield projects and international project finance deals.
- In contrast to the previous year when FDI inflows rose by 10% to \$49 billion, India's performance in 2023 reflected a different trend.
- However, India retained its position as the fourth-largest recipient of greenfield project announcements globally.
- According to UNCTAD, several developed countries, including France, Australia, China, the US, and India, observed substantial decreases in FDI inflows, influenced by multinational enterprise financial transactions.
- In Asia, FDI declined by 8% to \$621 billion, with China remaining the world's second-largest recipient of FDI.
- India, along with Bangladesh, China, Singapore, and Thailand, implemented supportive policies aimed at bolstering the banking industry amidst these economic shifts.

India's Ranking in the Environmental Performance Index 2024

- EPI 2024 Ranking: In the Environmental Performance Index (EPI) 2024, India is ranked 176th out of 180 countries.
- Low Ranking Factors: As the third-largest emitter of greenhouse gases, India is among the lowest-ranked countries due to poor air quality, high projected emissions, and challenges in biodiversity and habitat conservation.
- The composite index, released on June 5 by the Yale Center for Environmental Law and Policy and the Columbia Center for International Earth Science Information Network, places India just above Pakistan, Vietnam, Laos, and Myanmar.
- The EPI 2024 evaluates countries across three primary categories: ecosystem vitality, environmental health, and climate change, using 58 indicators including biodiversity, air and water quality, waste management, and emissions.
- Performance in Climate Change: India's performance in climate change metrics is slightly better, keeping it out of the bottom ten countries in this category.

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- **New Biodiversity Category:** The 2024 EPI introduced a Biodiversity and Habitats category to assess countries' efforts in protecting biodiversity and ecosystems, revealing that protected areas are often encroached upon by development or agriculture.
- **Contributing Factors:** India's reliance on coal significantly contributes to its greenhouse gas emissions and poor air quality, impacting its EPI ranking.
- **Air Quality and Emissions:** India ranks 177th in air quality, ahead of only Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Nepal, and 172nd in projected emissions by 2025.

As per the UN, the world is falling behind on environmental, health and hunger goals.

- According to the UN's annual Sustainable Development Report, the world is falling behind on achieving environmental, health, and hunger goals.
- **Ranking Performance:** The report ranks the performance of 193 member states in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- The report revealed that none of the 17 SDGs are on track to be met by 2030, with most targets showing limited or reversed progress.
- Political objectives, such as press freedom, have also experienced a decline.
- **Top Performers:** Finland, Sweden, and Denmark lead in implementing SDG goals, while China has shown faster-than-average progress.
- The report urges countries to address chronic funding gaps and overhaul the UN system to better support SDG implementation.
- Developing nations require greater access to international finance to meet their development goals.
- Key areas of concern include tackling hunger and protecting biodiversity both on land and in water.

India secured 63rd position in the Energy Transition Index.

- India secured 63rd position on the Global Energy Transition Index, released by the World Economic Forum.
- Sweden topped the Index, followed by Denmark, Finland, Switzerland, and France in the top five positions.
- Out of 120 countries, 107 demonstrated progress in their energy transition journeys over the past decade.
- Over the last decade, populous countries like India and China showed an 8% improvement in the Energy Transition Index.
- India is driving the adoption of electric vehicles (EVs) and the production of green hydrogen with an annual investment of around \$10 billion.
- The World Economic Forum highlighted India's focus on using energy for income generation and supporting microenterprises through the productive use of renewable energy sources.
- India's efforts in clean energy infrastructure were lauded, with renewable energy and biomass contributing 42% of its power generation capacity.
- The report noted that the momentum of the global energy transition towards a more equitable, secure, and sustainable energy system has slowed due to increasing worldwide uncertainty.

BOOKS AND AUTHORS

Alia Bhatt Launches Children's Picture Book

- Alia Bhatt has embarked on a new journey as a storyteller.
- **First Book:** The actress launched her debut children's picture book, "Ed Finds A Home," on June 16.
- Alia is working on a series of books, with "Ed Finds A Home" being the first installment.
- **Book Theme:** The book is part of a series designed to inspire a love of nature in young readers.
- **Brand Extension:** This marks the first venture into publishing for her kid's wear brand, Ed-a-Mamma.

- Publishing Collaboration: Ed-a-Mamma collaborated with Puffin, an imprint of Penguin Random House India, for this project.

SPORTS

Boxing Federation of India (BFI) has joined World Boxing.

- The Boxing Federation of India (BFI) joined World Boxing, a breakaway organization, in response to concerns about the sport's future in the Olympics.
- The move aims to "counter the threat" to boxing's Olympic status.
- Recently, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) cautioned national federations affiliated with the International Boxing Association (IBA) that their athletes might be barred from participating in the Los Angeles Olympics if boxing is part of the event.
- In June 2023, the IOC revoked the IBA's accreditation, citing unresolved issues related to governance, finance, and ethics.
- While the IOC is organizing the boxing competition for the Paris Olympics, there are growing fears that boxing could be excluded from future Olympic Games, as it is currently not included in the preliminary program for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics.

Nishant Dev Becomes 1st Indian Male Boxer To Qualify For 2024 Paris Olympic Games

- Nishant Dev is the first Indian male boxer to qualify for the 2024 Paris Olympics.
- He earned his Olympic berth by winning against Vasile Cebotari of Moldova with a 5-0 unanimous decision in the World Boxing Qualifiers.
- He joins three other Indian boxers who have already secured their spots for the Paris Olympics:
 - ✓ Nikhat Zareen (women's 50 kg)
 - ✓ Preeti (54 kg)
 - ✓ Lovlina Borgohain (75 kg), a bronze medalist from the Tokyo Olympics.
- Nishant Dev is currently the only Indian male boxer to have qualified for the 2024 Summer Games.

India will host men's Junior Hockey World Cup in 2025.

- India is set to host the Men's Junior Hockey World Cup in 2025.
- The tournament will take place in December.
- The previous edition of the Junior Hockey World Cup was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in 2023.
- For the first time, the Junior Hockey World Cup will feature 24 teams.
- Germany won the 2023 tournament, defeating France 2-1 in the final.
- Spain secured third place, while India finished in fourth place in the 2023 edition.
- India has previously hosted the tournament three times: in New Delhi (2013), Lucknow (2016), and Bhubaneswar (2021). India emerged victorious in the 2016 edition.

India became the first team to win the T20 World Cup by winning all the matches.

- India won their second T20 World Cup title by defeating South Africa by seven runs at the Kensington Oval in Barbados, becoming the first team to win the tournament without losing a single match.
- Led by Rohit Sharma, India played nine matches, winning eight while one was washed out due to rain, achieving an undefeated run in the tournament.
- With this victory, India joins West Indies (2012, 2016) and England (2010, 2022) as the only teams to have won the Men's T20 World Cup twice, having previously won in 2007.
- Indian captain Rohit Sharma has become only the ninth player to win two T20 World Cup titles.
- Virat Kohli was named "Player of the Match" in the final, and Jasprit Bumrah received the "Player of the Tournament" award.

- Following the victory, Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma, and Ravindra Jadeja announced their retirement from T20 Internationals.
- The BCCI announced a prize of Rs 125 crore for the Indian team in recognition of their World Cup victory.
- The ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 will feature 20 international teams playing 55 matches from June 1-29 in the West Indies and the USA.

Shafali Verma became the fastest woman to score a double century in Test cricket.

- India's Shafali Verma became the fastest woman to score a double century in Test cricket.
- Shafali surpassed Australia's Annabel Sutherland by completing her double century in just 194 balls during the one-off Test against South Africa.
- Sutherland had previously held the record with a double century in 248 balls against South Africa earlier this year.
- Shafali's innings included 23 fours and eight sixes.
- Shafali is the second Indian woman to score a double century in Test cricket, after former captain Mithali Raj.
- In August 2002, Mithali Raj scored 214 runs off 407 balls in a Test against England in Taunton.
- Shafali's double century came almost 22 years after Mithali's achievement.
- Shafali's aggressive performance significantly impacted the one-off Test against South Africa.

Neeraj Chopra Wins Gold at Paavo Nurmi Games

- Gold Medal Achievement: Neeraj Chopra clinched a gold medal at the Paavo Nurmi Games.
- Pre-Olympics Success: This marks his first gold at the Paavo Nurmi Games, achieved before the 2024 Olympics.
- Winning Throw: He secured the top position with an impressive throw of 85.97 meters on his third attempt, maintaining his lead throughout most of the event.
- Silver Medalist: Toni Keranen earned the silver medal with a personal best throw of 84.19 meters.
- Bronze Position: Oliver Helander took the third spot, achieving a throw of 83.96 meters.
- Fourth Place: Anderson Peters from Grenada finished in fourth place with a throw of 82.58 meters.
- Previous Performance: In 2022, Neeraj Chopra won the silver medal at the Paavo Nurmi Games.

Under-17 Asian Wrestling Championship

- India achieved notable success at the Under-17 Asian Wrestling Championship held in Amman, Jordan, securing a total of 11 medals.
- The Indian team concluded its campaign on a high note, with the young wrestlers winning four gold, two silver, and five bronze medals.
- Impressively, all four gold medals were won by women wrestlers:
 - ✓ Deepanshi triumphed in the 46 kg category.
 - ✓ Muskan excelled in the 53 kg category.
 - ✓ Rajnita dominated the 61 kg category.
 - ✓ Mansi Lather shone in the 69 kg category.
- In addition to the gold medalists, Raja Bala earned a silver medal in the 40 kg category, while Samarth Gajanan Makave secured silver in the men's 55 kg category.
- The bronze medalists included:
 - ✓ Akash in the 65 kg category
 - ✓ Sachin Kumar in the 71 kg category
 - ✓ Vikas Kachhap in the 48 kg category
 - ✓ Tushar Tukaram Patil in the 60 kg category
 - ✓ Raunak in the 110 kg category.

French Open Tennis Singles title 2024

- Carlos Alcaraz from Spain and Iga Swiatek from Poland emerged as the champions of the 2024 French Open men's and women's singles titles, respectively.
- For Alcaraz, this victory marked his first French Open singles title, while Swiatek claimed her fourth singles title as the world's top-ranked player.
- The 123rd edition of the French Open, also known as Roland Garros, took place at the Stade Roland Garros in Paris, France, from May 26 to June 9, 2024.
- This tournament is the second Grand Slam event of the year, following the Australian Open.
- Stade Roland Garros features numerous courts, with the finals traditionally held on the Philippe Chatrier Court.
- The French Open is renowned for being played on clay courts

Four officers from India's Armed Forces Medical Services (AFMS) won a record 32 medals.

- Four officers from India's Armed Forces Medical Services (AFMS) achieved an impressive feat by securing a total of 32 medals at the prestigious 43rd World Medical and Health Games held in Saint-Tropez, France, from June 16 to 23, 2024.
- Lt Col Sanjeev Malik: He excelled in the above 35 years male category, clinching five gold medals.
- Maj Anish George: In the under 35 years male category, Maj Anish George demonstrated remarkable prowess with four gold, six silver, and two bronze medals.
- Capt Stephen Sebastian: Capt Stephen Sebastian dominated the under 35 years male category, securing an impressive tally of six gold medals.
- Capt Dania James: Capt Dania James showcased exceptional talent in the under 35 years female category, earning four gold, three silver, and two bronze medals.
- Established in 1978, the World Medical and Health Games attract over 2,500 participants annually from more than 50 nations worldwide.
- This year's event highlighted India's AFMS officers' exemplary skills and dedication in competitive healthcare sports.

Divya Deshmukh Wins World Junior Girls' Chess Championship

- India's Divya Deshmukh won the World Junior Girls' Chess Championship by defeating Bulgaria's Beloslava Krasteva.
- The final round took place at the Gift City Club in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- Divya clinched her first U-20 title in just 26 moves during the tenth round.
- She remained undefeated, winning nine games and drawing two.
- Divya Deshmukh hails from Nagpur, Maharashtra.
- Other Winners: Kazakhstan's Kazybek Nogerbek won the open section title.
- Pranav Anand was the highest-ranked Indian in the open section, starting as the third seed and finishing tenth.
- Mariam Mkrtchyan finished second in the girls' division, just half a point behind Divya. Ayan Allahverdiyeva from Azerbaijan secured third place.

Puja Tomar scripts history becomes first Indian to win a bout in the UFC

- Puja Tomar has become the first Indian mixed martial artist to win a bout in the Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC).
- In her inaugural fight in the strawweight (52kg) division, Tomar achieved a split-decision victory against Brazil's Rayanne dos Santos.
- The judges' scores were 30-27, 27-30, and 29-28 in favor of Tomar.
- Nicknamed "Cyclone": The 30-year-old fighter, also known as "Cyclone," signed with the UFC in October of the previous year.
- Pioneering Woman: Tomar's signing made her the first Indian woman to compete in the esteemed MMA organization.

- Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC) is a prominent American mixed martial arts promotion company known worldwide.

Shruti Vora's Historic Achievement in Equestrian Sports

- Shruti Vora made history by becoming the first Indian to secure a victory at a three-star Grand Prix equestrian event.
- Vora scored an impressive 67.761 points in the CDI-3 event held in Lipica, Slovenia.
- Top Competitors: She surpassed Moldova's Tatiana Antonenco, who scored 66.522 points, to claim the top position.
- Previous Competitions: Shruti Vora has represented India in significant events, including the Dressage World Championship in 2022 and the Asian Games in 2010 and 2014.
- Asian Games Performance: At the 2014 Asian Games in Incheon, Vora finished in 8th place.
- Indian Equestrienne: Vora's achievements highlight her status as a prominent Indian equestrienne on the international stage.

Pooja Tomar created history by becoming the first Indian to win in UFC.

- Pooja Tomar made history by becoming the first Indian to secure a victory in the UFC.
- At UFC Louisville 2024, she triumphed over Brazil's Rayanne dos Santos, marking a significant milestone. Hailing from Muzaffarnagar, Uttar Pradesh, Pooja had previously made headlines in 2023 as the first Indian woman to earn a UFC contract.
- In her debut fight in the women's strawweight division, she won by split decision, with scores of 30–27, 27–30, and 29–28.
- India has a rich history of women excelling in combat sports, and since 2013, the UFC has provided a platform for female athletes to shine.

SCHEMES

Witness Protection Scheme was launched by Assam for the first time to provide better justice.

- Assam launched its first witness protection scheme, approved by Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, to enhance the justice delivery system.
- The Assam Witness Protection Scheme, 2024, was approved to comply with Section 398 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023, ensuring protection for witnesses during investigations and trials.
- Witnesses in any case can apply for protection through the Member Secretary of the competent authority to obtain a witness protection order.
- Each district will have a standing committee, headed by the District and Sessions Judge, to oversee the witness protection process.
- Witnesses will be categorized into A, B, and C based on the level of threat they face.
- A State Witness Protection Authority and a Witness Protection Fund will be established to support the scheme.
- Measures include in-camera hearings, installation of security equipment at witnesses' homes, increased security and patrolling, temporary relocation, court escorts, and provision of government transport on hearing dates.
- The scheme aims to provide comprehensive protection for witnesses against imminent threats, ensuring fair and secure judicial proceedings.

A mobile App 'NCRB Sankalan of Criminal Laws' launched by NCRB.

- The NCRB has launched a mobile app called 'NCRB Sankalan of Criminal Laws.'

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- This app serves as a comprehensive resource, offering complete information about the new criminal laws in one place.
- The new criminal laws will be effective starting from July 1st.
- The app includes a compilation of new criminal laws such as the Bharatiya Nayaya Sanhita, Bharatiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita, and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam.
- Additionally, the app features a corresponding chart for section-wise comparison between the old and new laws, equipped with a search and linking facility for quick access to information.
- This app is beneficial for the general public, court officials, advocates, law students, and police officers, enhancing their understanding of the new criminal laws.

Launch of the Digital Agriculture Mission

- Government Initiative: As part of its agenda for the first 100 days, the government is set to launch the Digital Agriculture Mission with a budget of Rs 2800 crore.
- This two-year mission aims to establish a farmer registry, a crop-sown registry, and georeferenced village maps.
- Each farmer will receive a unique ID, facilitating the creation of a comprehensive farmers' registry.
- The unique ID will enable farmers to access various government schemes, including PM-Kisan and Fasal Bima Yojana, as well as financial services like farm loans and insurance.
- Originally scheduled for 2021-22, the launch was postponed due to the Covid-19 pandemic.
- In some states, the creation of unique farmer IDs has already started as part of a pilot project.
- The mission will also develop a crop-sown registry, documenting the crops grown by farmers on their land.

SUMMIT AND CONFERENCES

US and Indo-Pacific Partners Hold Clean Energy Talks in Singapore

- The U.S.-led Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF) ministerial meeting was held in Singapore, marking the first in-person IPEF session since the negotiations for the IPEF Clean Economy Agreement and the Fair Economy Agreement concluded in November in San Francisco.
- The IPEF Clean Economy Investor Forum includes 22 major U.S. companies such as Amazon's AWS, Bechtel, Alphabet's Google, Microsoft, and BlackRock.
- IPEF countries have submitted their top clean economy projects, focusing on renewable energy generation (solar and wind), energy transmission, and other infrastructure.
- This forum is expected to lead to multibillion-dollar investments in regions like Thailand and Malaysia in the near future.
- The participating countries aim to achieve their climate goals and enhance their infrastructure. Participants in the IPEF meeting include Australia, Brunei, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Philippines, and Singapore.

India-UAE Digital Payments Advancements Unveiled at Dubai Conclave

- The Indian Business and Professional Council (IBPC) in Dubai, along with representatives from NPCI and RBI, highlighted major advancements in digital payments at a recent conclave held at the Taj Dubai.
- Objective: The conclave aimed to boost economic cooperation and streamline cross-border transactions between India and the UAE.
- A key highlight was the Local Currency Settlement framework, a significant outcome of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the UAE earlier this year.
- This framework leverages the Indian Rupee's stability and advanced digital payment technologies to reduce transaction costs and enhance financial transparency.

- The initiative aims to create a seamless financial ecosystem benefiting businesses and consumers while strengthening economic ties between the two nations.
- RuPay and UPI: RuPay cards are now accepted in the UAE through the Mercury payment gateway, and UPI payments are supported via Mashreq Bank.
- Future Launches: The RuPay stack, named "JAYWAN" in the UAE, is set to launch in July 2024, with further enhancements planned for October 2024.

G-7 Summit

- Summit Focus: On the last day of their summit in Italy, G-7 leaders discussed migration, artificial intelligence, economic security, and issues in the Indo-Pacific region.
- Other discussions included financial aid for Ukraine, the war in Gaza, climate change, the situation in Iran, and economic security.
- Migration and Smuggling: Leaders explored ways to combat human trafficking and increase investments in countries that migrants are leaving.
- They launched the G7 Coalition to prevent and counter migrant smuggling.
- Economic Initiatives: The leaders committed to promoting the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor.
- The summit took place at the luxury resort of Borgo Egnazia in Italy's Apulia region from June 13 to 15.
- The G7 is an informal bloc of industrialized democracies—the United States, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, and the United Kingdom (UK).
- India-Italy Partnership: India and Italy reviewed the progress of their strategic partnership.
- Warning to China: The G-7 leaders concluded the summit by issuing a strong warning to China, emphasizing the security threats it poses to the global economy.

Switzerland to host Summit on Peace in Ukraine

- An international peace conference focused on Ukraine, officially titled the Summit on Peace in Ukraine, took place at the Bürgenstock Resort in Switzerland on June 15-16, 2024.
- The event, hosted by Swiss President Viola Amherd, aimed to formulate a comprehensive roadmap towards achieving a peaceful resolution to the ongoing Russo-Ukrainian War.
- The conference gathered international leaders, diplomats, and experts to discuss strategies and foster dialogue, emphasizing the importance of collaborative efforts in restoring peace and stability in the region.
- This significant diplomatic endeavor underscored Switzerland's role in mediating and facilitating negotiations for conflict resolution on the global stage.

The first Command and Control Compatibility Board meeting for 2024 between India and the US was organized.

- The first Command and Control Compatibility Board (CCCB) meeting of 2024 between India and the United States took place from June 4 to June 7 at the Manekshaw Centre in New Delhi.
- This event featured a 29-member U.S. delegation led by Mr. Paul Nicholson, Executive Director of US INDOPACOM, and a 38-member Indian delegation headed by Brigadier Rahul Anand of the Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff.
- The CCCB, which convenes twice a year, is a Technical Expert Group established under Article XI of the Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA) between India and the United States.
- This seventh meeting aimed to evaluate, strengthen, and advance the bilateral defense partnership, continuing the progress made since the landmark agreement was signed in September 2018.
- Throughout the four-day meeting, subject matter experts from both nations engaged in multiple rounds of comprehensive discussions focused on interoperability scenarios and operational communication requirements.
- The in-depth discussions with the U.S. delegation were instrumental in developing mutually agreed-upon solutions to meet the current communication interoperability needs of India's tri-services.

Conference on "Yoga for Space" Organized by CCRYN and Svyasa

- The Central Council for Research in Yoga & Naturopathy (CCRYN), in partnership with Svyasa, hosted a conference titled "Yoga for Space" in Bengaluru.
- The conference aimed to bring together experts from various disciplines, including astronauts, to discuss the benefits of yoga and its applications in space and society.
- The event included several activities such as the "Yoga with Family" global video contest, YogaTech Challenges for innovative yoga ideas by Indian startups, Yoga Quiz, and Yoga Jingles.
- The conference opened with Dr. Manjunath NK, Vice Chancellor of Svyasa University, welcoming all keynote speakers.
- Yoga Day Theme: The theme for the International Day of Yoga 2024 is "Yoga for Self & Society".

India took part in the BRICS Foreign Ministers Meeting in Russia.

- India participated in the BRICS Foreign Ministers Meeting held in Russia.
- The meeting commenced on June 10, 2024, in Nizhny Novgorod.
- Dammu Ravi, the Secretary (Economic Relations) at the Ministry of External Affairs, led the Indian delegation.
- This was the first foreign ministers' meeting since BRICS expanded in 2023 to include ten members.
- The original members—Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa—were joined by Egypt, Iran, the UAE, Saudi Arabia, and Ethiopia. Russia assumed the BRICS chairmanship on January 1, 2024.

MISCELLANEOUS

National Coordination Committee Begins Work on the World's Largest Grain Storage Plan

- The first meeting of the National Level Coordination Committee (NLCC) for the world's largest grain storage plan was held on May 3 at the Ministry of Cooperation in New Delhi.
- The Committee reviewed the status of the pilot project launched in 11 states in 2023.
- The plan aims to develop various agricultural infrastructures at the Primary Agricultural Cooperative Societies (PACS) level, including warehouses, custom hiring centres, processing units, and fair price shops.
- Integration with Government Schemes: This initiative integrates several existing government schemes such as the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF), Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure Scheme (AMI), Sub Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM), and the Pradhan Mantri Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises Scheme (PMFME).
- The pilot project is implemented by the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) with support from NABARD, Food Corporation of India (FCI), Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC), and NABARD Consultancy Services (NABCONS), in collaboration with the respective States and Union Territories.
- The pilot project will be expanded to an additional 500 PACS in collaboration with state governments, the National Cooperative Consumers Federation (NCCF), and the National Buildings Construction Corporation (NBCC).

India's TB Elimination Efforts Recognized at the World Health Assembly in Geneva

- The Truenat TB diagnostic test was acknowledged at the 77th World Health Assembly in Geneva.
- Truenat delivers test results in under an hour.
- The device is portable, enhancing its utility in various healthcare settings.
- Truenat is crucial for India's National TB Elimination Programme, particularly in primary health centers and private laboratories.
- The World Health Assembly commended India's innovative strategies for TB elimination.
- The role of diagnostic tools like Truenat is highlighted as essential in the global fight against tuberculosis.

The National Archives of India launched its first overseas project, "The Oman Collection," in Oman

- The National Archives of India has introduced "The Oman Collection," its inaugural international project, aimed at digitizing and preserving documents of the Indian diaspora in Oman.
- This initiative has digitized over 7,000 historical documents, dating back to 1838 and in various languages, showcasing the rich heritage and contributions of the Indian community in Oman.
- This project underscores the collaborative efforts between India and Oman in preserving historical records, enhancing bilateral relations, and making these invaluable resources accessible to future generations.

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.

Environmentalists Jai Dhar Gupta and Vijay Dhasmana have established India's first biosphere within a tiger reserve

- The Rajaji Raghathi Biosphere (RRB), located within Rajaji National Park in Uttarakhand, encompasses a 35-acre private forest initiative.
- This biosphere is dedicated to identifying and reviving rare and endangered native tree species, transforming formerly barren and degraded land by removing invasive eucalyptus trees and implementing water retention, erosion prevention, and groundwater recharge techniques.
- Environmentalists Jai Dhar Gupta and Vijay Dhasmana have established India's first biosphere within a tiger reserve, the Rajaji Raghathi Biosphere (RRB), situated in Rajaji National Park, Uttarakhand.
- This initiative aligns with their ongoing mission to protect and restore native ecosystems while addressing threats such as poaching and mining.

India is the second largest emitter of nitrous oxide in the world.

- India is the second-largest emitter of nitrous oxide (N₂O) globally, a potent greenhouse gas that has a greater warming effect on the atmosphere than carbon dioxide.
- In 2020, India was responsible for about 11% of global man-made N₂O emissions, second only to China, which accounted for 16%.
- A global assessment published in the journal Earth System Science Data on June 12 attributes the primary source of these emissions to fertilizer use.
- The study reports that atmospheric N₂O concentrations reached 336 parts per billion in 2022, a 25% increase from pre-industrial levels.
- For comparison, the concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere was 417 parts per million in 2022, making CO₂ levels a thousand times greater than those of N₂O, thus highlighting the priority of CO₂ reduction in climate change efforts.
- Over the past four decades, N₂O emissions from human activities have surged by 40%, equating to an additional three million metric tonnes of N₂O annually.
- Between 2020 and 2022, the growth rate of N₂O emissions was the highest since reliable measurements began in 1980.
- In 2020, the top five countries by volume of anthropogenic N₂O emissions were China (16.7%), India (10.9%), the United States (5.7%), Brazil (5.3%), and Russia (4.6%).

Current Affairs MCQs

1. Who is the first Indian to receive the prestigious ‘Nelson Mandela Lifetime Achievement Award’ from South Africa for his contribution to films?
(a) Satyajit Ray
(b) Mira Nair
(c) Shyam Benegal
(d) Vinod Ganatra
2. What is the primary purpose of World Milk Day celebrated on June 1?
(a) To promote the consumption of plant-based milk alternatives
(b) To honor the dairy industry and highlight the significance of milk as a global food
(c) To encourage milk-free diets
(d) To raise awareness about lactose intolerance
3. The maritime exercise (JIMEX 24) conducted in June 2024 was between the navies of which countries?
(a) India and China
(b) India and Japan
(c) Japan and South Korea
(d) India and Australia
4. When do we celebrate the International Day of Yoga every year?
(a) June 11
(b) June 21
(c) July 20
(d) July 21
5. Where was the main function for the 10th International Day of Yoga held in 2024?
(a) New Delhi
(b) Leh
(c) Srinagar
(d) Lucknow
6. In which of the following locations and during what timeframe did the G7 Summit 2024 occur?
(a) Berlin, Germany in 10th to 12th May 2024
(b) Ottawa, Canada in 23th to 25th December 2023
(c) Tokyo, Japan in 03th to 05th April 2024
(d) Apulia, Italy from June 13th to 15th, 2024
7. Who won the World Junior Girls’ Chess Championship in 2024?
(a) Magnus Carlsen
(b) Viswanathan Anand
(c) Beloslava Krasteva
(d) Divya Deshmukh
8. Who received the V. Shantaram Lifetime Achievement Award for 2024?
(a) Madhur Bhandarkar
(b) Randeep Hooda
(c) Subbiah Nallamuthu
(d) Divya Dutta
9. Which film will be the opening film of the 18th Mumbai International Film Festival (MIFF)?
(a) “The Journey of a Lifetime”
(b) “Tales of the Heart”

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- (c) "Billy and Molly, an Otter Love Story"
(d) "Echoes of the Past"
10. What is the main focus of the International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression?
(a) To promote children's sports activities
(b) To highlight the plight of children who suffer from violence and conflict
(c) To celebrate children's achievements
(d) To raise funds for children's education
11. On which date is World Environment Day observed?
(a) June 3
(b) June 5
(c) June 7
(d) June 9
12. Who did Carlos Alcaraz defeat to win his first French Open title?
(a) Novak Djokovic
(b) Roger Federer
(c) Alexander Zverev
(d) Rafael Nadal
13. Which Indian documentary won the Golden Conch Award for Best Documentary in the international category at the 18th Mumbai International Film Festival?
(a) Life In Loom
(b) And, Towards Happy Alleys
(c) The Golden Thread
(d) 6-A Akash Ganga
14. What is the theme for World Environment Day 2024?
(a) Ocean Preservation
(b) Plastic Pollution
(c) Land Restoration, Desertification, and Drought Resilience
(d) Renewable Energy
15. Who was re-elected as the Speaker of the 18th Lok Sabha on 26 June 2024?
(a) K. Suresh
(b) Rahul Gandhi
(c) Om Birla
(d) Kiren Rijiju
16. When is Statistics Day celebrated in India?
(a) June 15
(b) June 29
(c) July 1
(d) July 29
17. What is the theme for Statistics Day 2024?
(a) "Big Data in Action"
(b) "Data for Sustainable Development"
(c) "Use of data for decision-making"
(d) "Innovative Statistical Methods"
18. Who is honored on Statistics Day in India?
(a) Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam
(b) Prof. Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis

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- (c) Dr. Manmohan Singh
(d) Dr. C.R. Rao
19. Who has been re-appointed as the National Security Advisor (NSA) in the Narendra Modi-led NDA government?
(a) Rajiv Gauba
(b) Amit Shah
(c) Ajit Doval
(d) S. Jaishankar
20. Who has been appointed as the new Foreign Secretary of India?
(a) S. Jaishankar
(b) Vinay Mohan Kwatra
(c) Vikram Misri
(d) Harsh Vardhan Shringla
21. Who has been elected Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh for the third time in 2024?
(a) Kiren Rijiju
(b) Nabam Tuki
(c) Pema Khandu
(d) Tapir Gao
22. Who qualified for the Paris Olympics 2024 in the women's 400m event?
(a) Kiran Pahal
(b) Hima Das
(c) Devy Aniba Zala
(d) Sneha K
23. Where is the 64th International Sugar Organisation (ISO) Council Meeting held in India ?
(a) Mumbai
(b) New Delhi
(c) Bengaluru
(d) Hyderabad
24. Who is the captain of the Indian men's hockey team for the Paris 2024 Olympics?
(a) PR Sreejesh
(b) Manpreet Singh
(c) Harmanpreet Singh
(d) Hardik Singh
25. Which Lok Sabha seat set a record for the highest votes secured by NOTA in the 2024 elections?
(a) Mumbai South
(b) Indore
(c) Bangalore North
(d) Delhi Central
26. In which year did India achieve an outstanding result in the FATF Mutual Evaluation?
(a) 2021-22
(b) 2022-23
(c) 2023-24
(d) 2024-25
27. What is the name of the mission in which Sunita Williams and Barry Wilmore were safely safely docked with the International Space Station (ISS) on June 7, 2024?

- (a) Starliner Test Flight
 - (b) NASA Crew Mission
 - (c) Boeing Crew Flight Test (CFT)
 - (d) SpaceX Crew Mission
28. How many seats did the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) win in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections?
- (a) 240
 - (b) 220
 - (c) 200
 - (d) 260
29. How many seats did the Indian National Congress (INC) win in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections?
- (a) 75
 - (b) 99
 - (c) 120
 - (d) 135
30. Where was the third and final landing experiment of ISRO's Reusable Launch Vehicle 'Pushpak' successfully conducted?
- (a) Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh
 - (b) Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre, Kerala
 - (c) Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore
 - (d) Aeronautical Test Range, Chitradurga, Karnataka
31. Where was the FATF plenary session held where India's Mutual Evaluation Report was adopted?
- (a) Paris
 - (b) New York
 - (c) Geneva
 - (d) Singapore
32. Who won the 2024 T20 World Cup semifinal between India and England?
- (a) India
 - (b) England
 - (c) The match was abandoned
 - (d) It ended in a tie
33. Which scheme was announced by the Maharashtra government to provide financial assistance to women?
- (a) Lek Ladki
 - (b) Mukhyamantri Majhi Ladki Bahin
 - (c) Laadli Behna
 - (d) CM Anna Chhatra Yojana
34. Where does the Hajj, an annual Muslim pilgrimage take place?
- (a) Jerusalem
 - (b) Mecca
 - (c) Medina
 - (d) Cairo
35. Who has been elected as the first woman President of Mexico?
- (a) Xochitl Galvez
 - (b) Claudia Sheinbaum
 - (c) Margarita Zavala
 - (d) Rosario Robles

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36. Who became the youngest man to win Grand Slam titles on all three surfaces (clay, grass, and hard court) at the age of 21?
- (a) Novak Djokovic
 - (b) Roger Federer
 - (c) Rafael Nadal
 - (d) Carlos Alcaraz
37. Who chairs the meetings of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council?
- (a) The Union Finance Minister
 - (b) The President of India
 - (c) The Prime Minister of India
 - (d) The Governor of the RBI
38. Who became the first Indian male to qualify for the 2024 Paris Olympic Games?
- (a) Vasile Cebotari
 - (b) Nikhat Zareen
 - (c) Nishant Dev
 - (d) Lovlina Borgohain
39. What act has the Central Government enacted to prevent unfair means in public examinations?
- (a) Public Examination (Prevention of Cheating) Act, 2024
 - (b) Public Examination (Prevention of Malpractices) Act, 2024
 - (c) Public Examination (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024
 - (d) Public Examination (Integrity and Fairness) Act, 2024
40. Which institution received the 2024 Nelson Mandela Award for Health Promotion from the WHO?
- (a) AIIMS
 - (b) NIMHANS
 - (c) IIT Bengaluru
 - (d) PGIMER
41. Which major crops are aided by the monsoon rains in India?
- (a) Wheat, barley, oats, and rye
 - (b) Rice, corn, cotton, soybeans, and sugarcane
 - (c) Potatoes, tomatoes, onions, and garlic
 - (d) Apples, oranges, bananas, and mangoes
42. What significant infrastructure did the Jaipur Military Station inaugurate recently?
- (a) Solar Power Plant
 - (b) First plastic waste road
 - (c) Military Hospital
 - (d) Training Academy
43. Recently, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) has declared which year as the 'International Year of Quantum Science and Technology'?
- (a) 2024
 - (b) 2025
 - (c) 2026
 - (d) 2027
44. Recently, who won the FIDE under-20 Girl's World Chess Championship 2024?
- (a) Mariam Mkrtchyan
 - (b) Salonika Saina
 - (c) Divya Deshmukh
 - (d) Shubhi Gupta

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45. The Mid-year climate conference, also known as the 60th meeting of the Subsidiary Bodies (SB60), recently organized in which country?
- (a) France
 - (b) Russia
 - (c) Germany
 - (d) Poland
46. Which district in Uttar Pradesh will have a Bioplastic Park established?
- (a) Lucknow
 - (b) Kanpur
 - (c) Lakhimpur Kheri
 - (d) Varanasi
47. Which organization recently released the "UNTAPPED: Collective Intelligence for Climate Action" report?
- (a) UNEP
 - (b) UNESCO
 - (c) UNDP
 - (d) World Bank
48. Akatsuki Mission, recently seen in news, is associated with space agency?
- (a) NASA
 - (b) JAXA
 - (c) ISRO
 - (d) CNSA
49. Which country is the largest consumer and second-largest producer of sugar?
- (a) Brazil
 - (b) India
 - (c) China
 - (d) Thailand
50. When will the new criminal laws Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita, Bharatiya Suraksha Sanhita, and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam come into force?
- (a) July 1, 2024
 - (b) October 1, 2024
 - (c) January 1, 2024
 - (d) April 1, 2024

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ANSWER – KEY

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

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UPSC P.P CBI Results



UPSC A.P.P CBI Results



BIHAR APO



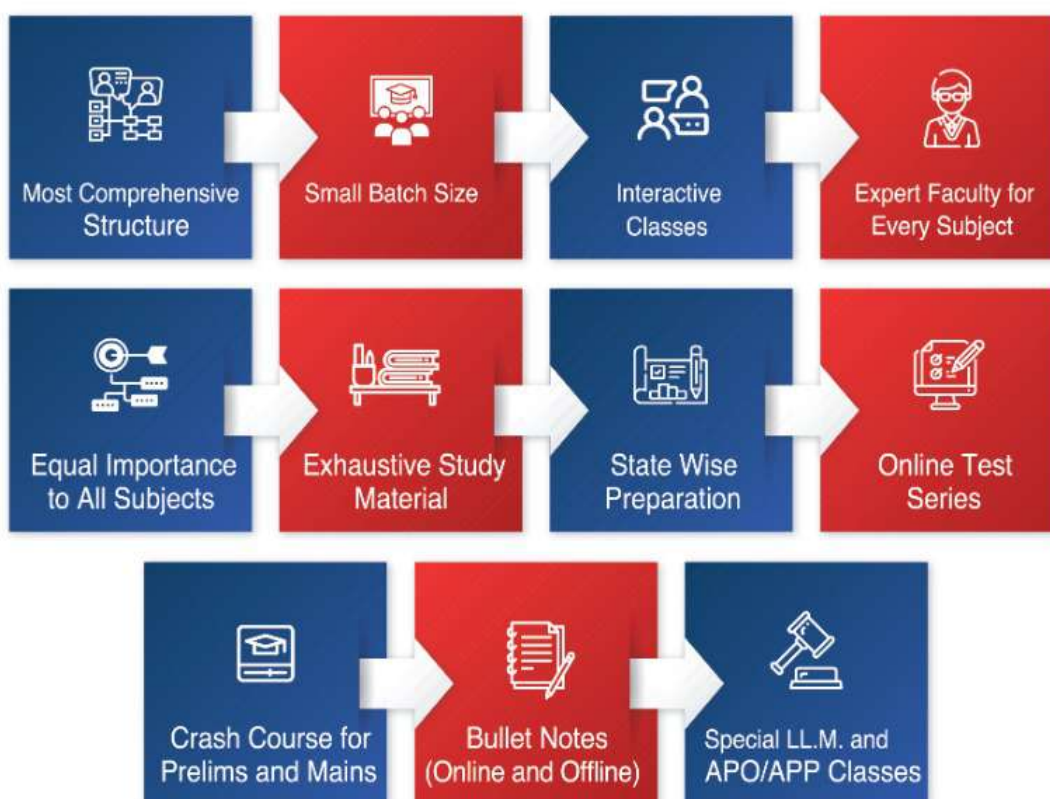
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