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Academy for Civil Services Pvt. Ltd.
CREATING CIVIL SERVANTS FOR THE NATION

MAY 2024



Tiger Hill



Climate Budget



National Crisis
Management Committee
(NMC)



Internet Shutdown



Igla-S Air Defence
Systems



Sunil Chhetri



International
Booker Prize

A MONTHLY CURRENT AFFAIRS FOR ASPIRANTS OF WBCS EXAMINATION



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SALT LAKE

AMP Mall Vaisakhi, 8th floor, Office no. 803, AG 112, Salt Lake, Sector-II, Kolkata 700091
mail: saltlake@aptiplus.in Ph: 033 3547 2686, 8820341777

ELGIN ROAD

Room No-302, 3rd Floor, Elgin Chambers, 1A, Ashutosh Mukherjee Road, Kolkata- 700020
mail: elginroad@aptiplus.in Ph.: +91 33 4064 5777, +91-8100765577

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WEST BENGAL SPECIAL

Tiger Hill

- The National Green Tribunal (NGT) issued notices to several government departments and the district administration of Darjeeling for unplanned activities that have severely deteriorated the environmental status of Tiger Hill.
- **Tiger Hill is part of the Senchal Wildlife Sanctuary** and was declared a Protected Area in 2017.
- **Tiger Hill, located in Darjeeling, West Bengal**, offers a panoramic view of Mount Everest and Mount Kanchenjunga.
- Tiger Hill is home to several tea estates.

National Green Tribunal (NGT)

- **Established in 2010** under the National Green Tribunal Act to handle environmental protection cases.
- The Tribunal has a **mandate to dispose of applications and petitions within six months**.
- The Tribunal's composition includes a chairperson, ten Judicial Members, and ten Expert Members.
- The tribunal has the power to decide on questions for implementing laws and be heard on all civil cases dealing with environmental issues.
- The tribunal handles all violations related to these laws or any Government decision or order covered under these laws.
- An order can be reviewed as per Rule 22 of the National Green Tribunal Rules or challenged within 90 days before the Supreme Court.
- **The principal NGT bench is located in Delhi**, with other benches in Bhopal, Pune, Kolkata, and Chennai.
- The tribunal is **governed by principles of natural justice and is not bound by the Indian Evidence Act**.

Climate Budget

- West Bengal's State Finance Department proposes a **separate climate budget at a key inter-departmental workshop**.
- The World Bank to assist in developing the budget.
- West Bengal, known for its vulnerability to climate change, spans across seven agro-climatic zones.
- The finance department emphasizes the importance of comprehensive carbon pricing. Carbon pricing captures external costs of greenhouse gas emissions, such as crop damage, healthcare costs, and property loss.
- All departmental proposals will be incorporated into the final plan and submitted to the State Level Steering Committee for approval.
- West Bengal Pollution Control Board chairman, highlights significant climate changes and the warmest year on record since 1901.

HEAT OF THE MATTER

- **Global surface temperature** increased by **1.1°C** between **2011 and 2020**
- **West Bengal's 2023 average annual mean land surface air temperature was 0.83°C warmer than the long-period average (1981-2010)**
- **2023 was the warmest year in Bengal on record since 1901**
- **Annual Rainfall Deficit in Bengal stands at 8.1% below long-period average (1971-2020)**



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NATIONAL

India's Renewable Energy Sector Growth in FY 23-24

- Renewable energy (RE) contributed 71% of the 26 GW of new power generation capacity added in FY 23-24.
- RE's share in India's total installed energy capacity increased to approximately 33%, surpassing coal for the first time.
- The share of coal in India's total installed capacity has dipped below 50% for the first time, indicating a shift towards cleaner energy sources.
- Government initiatives, declining costs, and growing awareness of the need for clean energy are contributing to the growth of the RE sector.

National Crisis Management Committee (NCCM)

- The National Crisis Management Committee (NCCM) met to discuss the cyclone in the Bay of Bengal.
- The Indian government has established the National Crisis Management Committee (NCCM) to coordinate relief efforts during natural disasters.
- **The committee, chaired by the Cabinet Secretary**, includes key members such as the Secretary to the Prime Minister, the Secretary of Home Affairs, and the Secretary of Agriculture and Cooperation.
- It also includes the Director of the Intelligence Bureau, the Secretary of the Research and Analysis Wing, and a co-opted member from the Cabinet Secretariat.

Cabinet Secretary

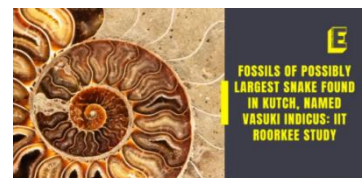
- The Cabinet Secretary is the highest-ranking civil servant and executive official in the Indian government, overseeing the Civil Services Board, Cabinet Secretariat, and all Civil Services of India.
- They are chosen by the Prime Minister and serve a maximum of four years.
- Their functions include heading the Cabinet Secretariat, coordinating the central government, chairing the Civil Services Board, Committee of Secretaries on Administration, and Conference of Chief Secretaries of States.

Veeranam Lake

- Veeranam Lake, one of Chennai's primary water sources, has run dry.
- It is a **water reservoir located in the Cuddalore district of Tamil Nadu**.
- The lake was **built in the 10th century by Rajaditya Chola** and his soldiers during a war against Pallava kings.
- The lake receives water from the Vadavaru River and remains dry for most of the year.

Vasuki indicus

- **The fossils of a giant predator snake "Vasuki indicus"** estimated to be as large as the **longest snake ever discovered were found in Gujarat**.
- Vasuki indicus, named after the mythical serpent associated with Lord Shiva, belonged to the now-extinct Madtsoiidae snake family.



FOSSILS OF POSSIBLY LARGEST SNAKE FOUND IN KUTCH, NAMED VASUKI INDICUS- IIT ROORKEE STUDY

Internet Shutdowns

- **India recorded the highest number of internet shutdowns globally in 2023**, marking the sixth consecutive year it has held this record.
- The Keep It On coalition reported 116 internet disruptions in India last year, impacting communication, access to information, and economic activities.

- These shutdowns are often implemented by authorities for reasons such as maintaining public order during protests or preventing misinformation during sensitive periods. However, they also draw criticism for curbing freedom of expression and disrupting daily life and business operations.

India's Human Rights Accreditation under Review by UN Body

- The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) of India faces scrutiny from a Geneva-based UN-related body regarding its accreditation status.
- The **Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI), affiliated with the United Nations, is scheduled to review India's NHRC accreditation.** This process happens every five years to ensure compliance with the UN-mandated Paris Principles, which outline the key characteristics of effective national human rights institutions.
- The outcome of the review will determine whether the NHRC retains its "A status" or is downgraded to a "B status." An "A status" allows India to vote at the UN Human Rights Council and other UN bodies, while a "B status" restricts such participation.

National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)

- The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) was **established in 1993 under the Protection of Human Rights Act (PHRA), the NHRC is a statutory body, not a constitutional one.**
- Its primary mandate is to protect and promote human rights: "Rights Relating To Life, liberty, equality and dignity of the individual guaranteed by the constitution or embodied in the international covenants and enforceable by courts in India."
- **Functions of the NHRC:**
 - The NHRC can investigate human rights violations on its initiative or based on complaints filed by individuals or organizations.
 - Following investigations, the NHRC can recommend appropriate action to the government or relevant authorities, including compensation for victims.
 - The NHRC plays a vital role in educating the public about their human rights through campaigns, workshops, and publications.
 - The NHRC reviews laws and policies to ensure they are consistent with human rights principles and recommends changes where necessary.
 - The NHRC actively monitors the human rights situation in India and issues recommendations to improve it.
- The **NHRC consists of a Chairperson and eight other members**, selected through a rigorous process by a committee headed by the Prime Minister.

BHISHM Portable Hospital

- The **Indian Air Force (IAF) conducted its first test of the BHISHM Portable Hospital in Agra**, designed to be airdropped from aircraft to provide rapid medical response in emergencies.
- The hospital can accommodate up to 200 casualties and is part of a broader initiative.
- The hospitals are durable, waterproof, and lightweight, allowing quick setup during large-scale accidents.



Outlook Planet Sustainability Summit

- The **inaugural Outlook Planet Sustainability Summit & Awards 2024 recently took place in Goa**, organized by the Outlook Media Group and supported by BDO India and IIT Goa.
- The event aimed to recognize the sustainability efforts of government-owned companies.
- Several categories were acknowledged, including Sustainable Governance Champion, Corporate Responsibility Champion, Circularity Champion, and Climate Action Champion.

- **Winners included Coal India Limited for Sustainable Governance, NHPC Limited for non-fossil fuel initiatives, GAIL (India) Limited for Corporate Responsibility, Power Finance Corporation Limited for non-fossil fuel sub-category, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited for Circularity, NTPC Limited for Climate Action, and Bharat Electronics Limited for non-fossil fuel award.**



INTERNATIONAL

Hokkaido

- **Hokkaido, Japan's second-largest island, is experiencing warming due to climate change.**
- Sapporo, the main city of Hokkaido, recorded a temperature of 26 degrees Celsius on April 15, 2024. Hokkaido's climate is subarctic, with an annual average temperature of 8°C.
- **Hokkaido, once considered the "Garden of the Gods," may no longer maintain its wilderness due to warming temperatures.**
- **The Ainu people, Hokkaido's indigenous population, are likely to be disproportionately affected by climate change.**



Fastest-warming Continent

- According to a report by the **World Meteorological Organization (WMO)**, **Europe experienced an alarming rate of warming in 2023, making it the fastest-warming continent.**
- Europe warmed at double the global average rate, marking it as the fastest-warming continent in 2023.
- Some parts of Eastern Europe experienced temperature increases up to 2.6°C above pre-industrial levels.
- Europe saw an increased number of days with 'extreme heat stress,' defined by the WMO as when the 'feel like' temperature exceeds 46°C.
- **The Alps lost 10% of their glacier volume over the last two years.**

Sustainable Finance for Tiger Landscapes Conference

- The **Sustainable Finance for Tiger Landscapes Conference held in Bhutan** focused on mobilizing financial resources and technical expertise for tiger conservation efforts.
- Attendees included Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, India, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Nepal, Thailand, and Vietnam.
- **The countries have pledged \$1 billion over the next decade towards protecting and expanding vital tiger habitats.**

World Bank-IMF Spring Meetings 2024

- The World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) held spring meetings in Washington DC, USA.
- Eleven wealthy countries pledged \$11 billion to fund the **World Bank's three new financing tools: The Liveable Planet Fund, a portfolio guarantee platform, and a hybrid capital instrument.**
- Japan committed to making the first contribution to the Liveable Planet Fund. A coalition of ten multilateral development banks launched a co-financing platform to pull in concessional resources.

Akhal-Teke

- **Turkmenistan to Hold International Beauty Contest for Akhal-Teke Horses.**
- The Akhal-Teke breed is known for its great variety and gradation of colours, particularly golden.



- The art of breeding the Akhal-Teke horse and the traditions of horse decoration were included in the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity last year.

World Press Freedom Index 2024

- The World Press Freedom Index 2024, is published annually by Reporters Without Borders (RSF).
- The index evaluates 180 countries based on the freedom and independence journalists have to work and report.
- India ranks 159th out of 180 countries in the World Press Freedom Index 2024, indicating significant challenges faced by journalists.
- No Asian country made it to the Index's top 15 this year, indicating a pervasive challenge to press freedom in the region.
- Norway dominated the World Press Freedom Index, followed by Denmark in second place and Sweden in third place.

India's Participation in Arabian Travel Mart 2024

- The Indian Ministry of Tourism participated in the Arabian Travel Mart 2024 in Dubai.
- This participation is a significant step towards boosting India's visibility in the Middle East, a key tourist source region.
- The Ministry launched the "Cool Summers of India" campaign, aiming to break the stereotype of India as a hot destination.
- The campaign focuses on India's diverse summer tourism offerings, particularly the refreshing hill stations and the majestic Himalayas.

Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM)

- India hosted and participated in the 46th ATCM in Kochi, Kerala from May 20th to May 30th, 2024.
- The Ministry of Earth Sciences, through the National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR), served as the primary organizer, demonstrating India's growing role as a responsible stakeholder in Antarctic affairs.

- Over 400 delegates from 56 member nations of the Antarctic Treaty participated in the meeting, facilitating international dialogue and collaboration on vital issues concerning Antarctica.
- India's Antarctic program has a longstanding history dating back to 1981.
- India has established three permanent research stations: Dakshin Gangotri (1983), Maitri (1989), and Bharati (2012).
- The announcement of the upcoming Maitri II station, projected to be operational by 2029, highlights India's interest in expanding its research capabilities in Antarctica.

World-First Laws on Smart Gadget Security

- The UK government has implemented regulations to enhance the security of internet-connected smart devices.
- The laws target both manufacturers and consumers to create a more secure smart device ecosystem.
- Key points include:
 - Focus on Minimum Security Standards: All internet-connected smart devices must adhere to established minimum security standards.
 - Ban on Weak Passwords: Manufacturers are prohibited from using weak and easily guessable default passwords.
 - Prompt for Password Changes: Users will be prompted to change common passwords during the initial setup process.
- The expected benefits include reducing successful cyberattacks, protecting consumer privacy and data, and minimizing potential financial losses from cybercrime.
- The regulations set a precedent for other countries and raise the bar for smart device security globally.

Spain Joins the International Solar Alliance

- Spain's entry to the International Solar Alliance (ISA) as the 99th member marks a significant milestone in the global push for renewable energy adoption.
- The ISA, a member-driven initiative, aims to boost solar energy deployment, expand

energy access, enhance energy security, and facilitate energy transition.

- Currently, 119 countries have signed the framework agreement, and 99 countries have

completed the formal process by submitting the Instrument of Ratification.

- The ISA's headquarters are located in Gurugram, Haryana, India.

Moldova

- India and Moldova signed a visa waiver agreement specifically for holders of diplomatic and official passports.
- Once the agreement comes into effect, diplomatic and official passport holders from both countries can travel visa-free to the other nation.
- This move is expected to further strengthen the already friendly relations between India and Moldova.
- The agreement was signed on May 10, 2024, by Shri Pavan Kapoor (India) and H.E. Mrs Ana Taban (Moldova) representing their respective governments.



Moldova

- Moldova, a landlocked country in Eastern Europe, is bordered by Romania to the west and Ukraine to the north, east, and south.
- It is a unitary parliamentary representative democratic republic with its capital in Chişinău.
- Moldova is the second poorest country in Europe by GDP per official capita after Ukraine, with much of its GDP dominated by the service sector.
- It has one of the lowest Human Development Indexes in Europe.

UNESCO Recognizes Three Indian Literary Treasures

- UNESCO has inscribed the **Ramcharitmanas**, **Panchatantra**, and **Sahṛdayāloka-Locana** in the Memory of the World Asia-Pacific Regional Register.
- These works are recognized for their historical, literary, and cultural significance.
- The **Ramcharitmanas**, composed by **Tulsidas** in the 16th century, is a foundational text of Hinduism and a cornerstone of Indian literature.
- The **Panchatantra**, attributed to **Pt. Vishnu**

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

- The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations (UN) that promotes global peace and security through international cooperation in education, arts, sciences, and culture.
- 194 member states and 12 associate members, UNESCO also collaborates with various partners in the non-governmental, intergovernmental, and private sectors. Headquartered in Paris, France.
- Established in 1945 as the successor to the League of Nations' International Committee on Intellectual Cooperation, UNESCO's constitution outlines its goals, governing structure, and operating framework.
- UNESCO supports projects that enhance literacy, provide technical training and education, advance science, protect independent media and press freedom, preserve cultural history, and promote cultural diversity.

Sharma around the 3rd century BCE, is renowned for its captivating storytelling style and use of the "story within a story" structure.

- **Sahṛdayāloka-Locana**, written by **Acharya Anandvardhan** with commentary by **Abhinava Gupta**, delves into Indian poetics and the concept of aesthetic appreciation.



ECONOMICS

Government Expands RoDTEP Scheme

- The Indian government is taking a big step to support e-commerce exports by extending the benefits of the **Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) scheme**.
- This policy aims to make Indian exports more competitive globally. Here's a breakdown of the announcement:
- The RoDTEP scheme will now cover products shipped internationally through courier or e-commerce channels. This includes goods from key sectors like gems & jewellery, pharmaceuticals, leather, textiles, and handicrafts.
- This move is particularly helpful for **Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)**. The government estimates it could increase MSME exports by **USD 1-2 billion annually**. MSMEs often rely on e-commerce and courier services for international sales.

Kutch Ajrakh

- **Kutch Ajrakh, a traditional textile craft from Gujarat**, has received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- The GI certification was **awarded by the Controller General of Patents, Designs, and Trademarks (CGPDTM)**.
- The GI tag acknowledges the unique characteristics and production methods of Kutch Ajrakh, safeguarding its distinct identity and origin.
- The GI tag recognizes the unique production methods and characteristics of Kutch Ajrakh, but also acknowledges the broader history and presence of the Ajrakh craft.
- The GI tag empowers traditional artisans, protects their craft from imitations, and potentially paves the way for better market access and economic benefits.



DEFENCE & SECURITY

RUDRAM-II MISSILE

- The **Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO)** has successfully flight-tested the RudraM-II missile
- It is an indigenously developed solid-propelled air-launched missile system designed for air-to-surface neutralization of enemy assets.
- It is developed as next-generation anti-radiation missiles (NGARMs), targeting and destroying enemy surveillance, communication systems, radars, and command and control centres on the ground.
- The RudraM-I missile has a **range of 150 km**.



Exercise Tarkash

- India and the US have concluded a **joint exercise to counter urban terrorism contingencies, known as "Tarkash" in Kolkata**.
- The exercise aimed to build functional relations and enhance interoperability between the two special forces in conducting coordinated counter-terror operations in urban counter-terrorism contingencies.
- The exercise also aimed to improve bilateral cooperation between India and the US in combating terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.
- The exercise involved intense training and mock drills in urban counter-terrorism scenarios, as well as sharing best practices, tactics, techniques, and procedures across a wide spectrum of counter-terror operations in urban environments.

Igla-S Air Defence Systems

- The Indian Army is set to receive the **Russian Igla-S Very Short Range Air Defense (VSHORAD) systems**, a technology transfer agreement between Adani Defence Systems and Technologies Limited (ADSTL) and Russia's Rosoboron export.
- The Igla-S VSHORAD system is a portable missile system designed to counter low-altitude aerial threats.
- The partial assembly of the Igla-S systems in India signifies progress towards indigenous production capabilities, aligning with the government's vision for Make in India initiatives.
- The delivery of the Igla-S systems follows the resolution of a prolonged payment dispute between India and Russia, expected to streamline future collaborations.



'Red Flag 24' Exercise

- The **Indian Air Force (IAF) has joined a 16-day multi-nation mega military exercise in Alaska, United States.**
- The exercise, known as **'Red Flag 24'**, aims to **provide realistic training to participating forces in a simulated combat environment.**
- The IAF has deployed its advanced Rafale fighter jets for the exercise, expected to enhance training experience and interoperability.
- The US Pacific Air Forces reports approximately 3,100 service members are expected to participate, with over 100 aircraft being flown, maintained, and supported.



- The exercise aims to improve interoperability among service members from different nations and enhance combat readiness.



SCIENCE

World's First 3D Printed Space Rocket Engine

- Chennai-based startup **Agnikul Cosmos successfully launched the world's first space rocket with a single-piece 3D printed engine.**
- The rocket, named **Agnibaan**, was designed and manufactured entirely in India, marking India's first semi-cryogenic engine-powered rocket.
- Inconel material, known for its oxidation-corrosion resistance, was used in the 3D-printed rocket.
- **Agnikul Cosmos became the second Indian private company to launch its rocket into space**, following Skyroot Aerospace's launch of the Vikram-S rocket.
- The Agnibaan rocket is a customizable two-stage rocket with a payload capacity of up to 300 kg to low Earth orbits.
- The company was founded in 2017 and specializes in building small launch vehicles for commercial space missions.
- **Agnikul designed India's first privately built rocket launchpad, 'Dhanush,' at ISRO's Satish Dhawan Space Center-SHAR.**



Gaia BH3

- The discovery of the **largest stellar black hole in the Milky Way "Gaia BH3"**.
- Gaia BH3 is a stellar black hole with a mass 33 times that of the Sun, making it the largest known black hole of stellar origin in the Milky Way.

- It is also the second closest black hole to Earth, located just 2,000 light years away.

WHO Prequalifies Second Dengue Vaccine

- World Health Organization (WHO) has prequalified TAK-003, a second vaccine developed by Takeda Pharmaceuticals, to combat dengue fever.
- The vaccine is a live-attenuated design, containing weakened versions of all four dengue virus serotypes.
- It is recommended for children aged 6 to 16 years due to their higher risk of dengue infection and potentially severe illness.
- The recommended vaccination schedule involves two doses administered three months apart.
- Prior to TAK-003, the only WHO-prequalified dengue vaccine was CYD-TDV, developed by Sanofi Pasteur.

Dengue Fever

- A mosquito-borne disease caused by the dengue virus, prevalent in tropical and subtropical areas.
- Symptoms appear 3 to 14 days after infection, including high fever, headache, vomiting, muscle and joint pains, and skin itching and rash.
- Recovery usually takes two to seven days. In a small proportion of cases, the disease can develop into severe dengue, causing bleeding, low blood platelets, blood plasma leakage, and dangerously low blood pressure.
- Dengue virus has four confirmed serotypes, with one type providing lifelong immunity, while the others provide short-term immunity.
- Dengue is spread by several species of female mosquitoes of the **Aedes genus**, principally *Aedes aegypti*.
- Dengue is endemic in over one hundred countries and is spreading from tropical and subtropical regions to the Iberian Peninsula and the southern states of the US.
- In 2023, over 5 million infections were reported, with over 5,000 dengue-related deaths.

First Lunar Railway System

- NASA plans to construct the first lunar railway system, FLOAT (Flexible Levitation on a Track), to revolutionize payload transport on the Moon.
- The system uses unpowered magnetic robots that levitate over a 3-layer flexible film track, minimizing lunar dust abrasion and wear.
- Key features of FLOAT include Magnetic Levitation Technology, a payload capacity of approximately 1.61 kilometres per hour, and targeted applications for areas where astronauts are active.
- FLOAT is a robotic transport system designed to support daily operations on the lunar surface, transporting materials and facilitating equipment movement.
- The system uses magnetic levitation technology similar to high-speed rail systems, allowing for efficient and reliable transport of payloads across the lunar surface.



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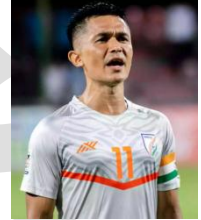
Consistent selections year after year



SPORTS

Sunil Chhetri

- Sunil Chhetri, India's most famous footballer announces his retirement from international football.
- Chhetri's career began in 2002 with Mohun Bagan, and he played for various clubs in the USA and Portugal.
- Chhetri's international success is a highlight, with his contributions to India's victories in the Nehru Cup, SAFF Championship, and the 2008 AFC Challenge Cup.
- His goal-scoring prowess is his most notable achievement, ranking third in active international goal-scorers.



Kolkata Knight Riders Win IPL 2024

- Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) won their third IPL title after an eight-wicket victory over Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH).
- The Knights, led by captain Shreyas Iyer, showcased dominance throughout the tournament.
- KKR's Sunil Narine was named the Most Valuable Player of the Season.

IPL Awards Recipients

- Kolkata Knight Riders win (Rs. 20 crore)
- Sunrisers Hyderabad runner-up (Rs. 12.5 crore)
- Nitish Kumar Reddy emerges as Emerging Player of the Season (Rs. 10 Lakh)
- Sunil Narine wins as Ultimate Fantasy Player of the Season (Rs. 10 Lakh)
- Virat Kohli and Harshal Patel win as Orange Cap and Purple Cap respectively (Rs. 10 Lakh).
- Abhishek Sharma wins as Most Sixes and Most Fours respectively (Rs. 10 Lakh).
- Jake Fraser-McGurk wins as Best Strike Rate.
- Ramandeep Singh wins as Catch of the Season (Rs. 10 Lakh).
- Sunrisers Hyderabad wins as Fair Play Award (Rs. 10 Lakh).
- Pitch and Ground Award (Rs. 50 Lakh) at Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium, Hyderabad.



WBCS Mains Test Series 2023

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Year	IPL Winners List	Runner up	Venue
2008	Rajasthan Royals	Chennai Super Kings	Mumbai
2009	Deccan Chargers	Royal Challengers Bangalore	Johannesburg
2010	Chennai Super Kings	Mumbai Indians	Mumbai
2011	Chennai Super Kings	Royal Challengers Bangalore	Chennai
2012	Kolkata Knight Riders	Chennai Super Kings	Chennai
2013	Mumbai Indians	Chennai Super Kings	Kolkata
2014	Kolkata Knight Riders	Kings XI Punjab	Bangalore
2015	Mumbai Indians	Chennai Super Kings	Kolkata
2016	Sunrisers Hyderabad	Royal Challengers Bangalore	Bangalore

2017	Mumbai Indians	Rising Pune Supergiants	Hyderabad
2018	Chennai Super Kings	Sunrisers Hyderabad	Mumbai
2019	Mumbai Indians	Chennai Super Kings	Hyderabad
2020	Mumbai Indians	Delhi Capitals	Dubai
2021	Chennai Super Kings	Kolkata Knight Riders	Dubai
2022	Gujarat Titians	Rajasthan Royals	Ahmedabad
2023	Chennai Super Kings	Gujarat Titians	Ahmedabad
2024	Kolkata Knight Riders	Sunrisers Hyderabad	Chennai

Charles Leclerc

- Charles Leclerc, a Ferrari driver, has become the first Monegasque driver to win the Monaco Grand Prix since Louis Chiron in 1931, ending a 92-year drought.
- Leclerc's victory, his first since the 2022 Austrian Grand Prix, came after a chaotic race with two standing starts and several first-lap collisions.
- McLaren's Oscar Piastri finished second, trailing Leclerc by 7.1 seconds, while Ferrari's Carlos Sainz secured third place.



Dipa Karmakar

- Dipa Karmakar, an Indian gymnast, became the first-ever Indian to secure a gold medal in any Asian Championships.
- She won the gold medal in the women's vault individual final at the Asian Women's Artistic Gymnastics Championships 2024 in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.
- Karmakar scored an average of 13.566 points, securing the gold medal.
- Karmakar is one of India's most renowned and inspiring women gymnasts.
- She was the first Indian woman gymnast to qualify for the Summer Olympics in 2016.
- In 2018, she won the first gold medal at a global gymnastics event at the FIG World Cup in Mersin, Turkiye.
- She was bestowed with India's highest sports honour, the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award, in 2016.



Sultan Azlan Shah Hockey Trophy

- Japan won the Sultan Azlan Shah Hockey Trophy for the first time, defeating Pakistan 4-1 in a penalty shootout.
- The tournament final was held in Ipoh, Malaysia, on 11 May 2024.
- Six teams participated, including Japan, Pakistan, Canada, South Korea, New Zealand, and Malaysia.
- Japan emerged as the champions, with Pakistan securing the runner-up position.
- Malaysia finished third, followed by New Zealand, South Korea, and Canada.
- India, a regular participant and five-time winner, skipped the tournament to focus on the 2024 Paris Olympics.

Deepthi Jeevanji

- Deepthi Jeevanji, an Indian para-athlete, won the gold medal in the women's T20 400m event at the World Para Athletics Championships 2024.
- Jeevanji's performance set a new world record time of 55.07 seconds, India's first at the event.
- Jeevanji qualified for the finals by setting an Asian record with an impressive time of 56.18 seconds.

Colin Munro

- Colin Munro, a top-order batsman from New Zealand, announces his retirement from international cricket after being overlooked for the upcoming T20 World Cup.
- Munro's career stats include 3,010 runs in 1 Test, 57 ODIs, and 65 T20Is, with an impressive strike rate of 156.44 in T20Is.
- He has scored 10,961 runs from 428 T20s at an average of 30.44 and a strike rate of 141.25.
- His records include the fastest T20I fifty by a New Zealand batsman and the fourth-fastest T20I fifty by a New Zealand batsman.
- He became the first player to score three T20I centuries, cementing his status as one of the most prolific batters in the shortest format of the game.



Thailand Open

- Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty, the world's third-ranked Indian badminton pair, won the coveted Thailand Open 2024 men's doubles title. The match took place on May 19, 2024, at the Nimibutr Stadium in Bangkok.
- The 2024 Thailand Open final was the fifth BWF Super 500 final for the Indian pair, showcasing their consistent dominance.
- The victory earned them 9200 ranking points, propelling them closer to the world number one ranking in the men's doubles category.
- The title marked the eighth BWF World Tour title for the Indian pair, following victories at the Swiss Open, Indonesia Open, and Korea Open.



World Football Day

- The United Nations General Assembly unanimously declared May 25 as World Football Day.
- The decision coincides with the 100th anniversary of the first international football tournament with representation from all regions - the 1924 Summer Olympic Games in Paris.
- The resolution, introduced by Taher M. El-Sonni, Permanent Representative of the State of Libya to the United Nations, emphasizes the power of football to promote peace, development, and unity.
- The day aims to celebrate diversity and inclusivity, reminding everyone of the sport's universality
- The selection of May 25 as World Football Day holds historical significance, commemorating the first international football tournament with representation from all regions.



PERSON IN NEWS

Alok Shukla

- Alok Shukla, convenor of the Chhattisgarh Bachao Andolan and founding member of the Hasdeo Aranya Bachao Sangharsh Samiti, has been awarded the 2024 Goldman Prize from Asia for his efforts to save the forests of Hasdeo Aranya in Chhattisgarh.
- The campaign saved 445,000 acres of biodiversity-rich forests from 21 planned coal mines in the central Indian state of Chhattisgarh.
- In July 2022, the government cancelled the 21 proposed coal mines in Hasdeo Aranya, whose pristine forests are one of the largest intact forest areas in India.



Seven individuals are chosen for the 2024 Goldman Environmental Prize

Winner	Country/Region
Marcel Gomes	Brazil

Murrawah Maroochy Johnson	Australia
Alok Shukla	India
Teresa Vicente	Spain
Andrea Vidaurre	United States of America
Nonhle Mbuthuma and Sinegugu Zukulu	South Africa

Sanya Malhotra

- Sanya Malhotra won the Best Actress award at the New York Indian Film Festival 2024 for her performance in "Mrs."
- "Mrs" is a remake of the Malayalam film "The Great Indian Kitchen," addressing societal pressures and marital expectations.
- Malhotra's portrayal of a woman navigating societal expectations resonated with audiences and critics.
- Her performance in "Kathal" was recognized with the Dadasaheb Phalke Award.



Meryl Streep

- Meryl Streep was awarded the honorary Palme d'Or by the prestigious Cannes Film Festival on May 14, 2024.
- Streep was not only the recipient but also the guest of honour at the ceremony.
- She is a celebrated Hollywood actress with a record-breaking 21 Academy Award nominations and three wins.
- Streep's presence as the guest of honour and recipient of the award elevated the opening ceremony of the Cannes Film Festival.



Purnima Devi Barman

- Dr Purnima Devi Barman, a wildlife biologist from Assam, has been awarded the 'Green Oscar' for her conservation efforts aimed at protecting the endangered Greater Adjutant Stork and its wetland habitat.
- Barman's conservation leadership began with her fascination for the Greater Adjutant Stork, known as "Hargila" in Assamese.
- Barman's project focuses on community-driven conservation and empowering local women as conservation advocates.
- The Whitley Awards provide winners with GBP 50,000 in project funding over one year, enhanced visibility, networking opportunities, and training.



Radhika Sen

- Indian Peacekeeper Major Radhika Sen Receives Military Gender Advocate Award.
- Major Radhika Sen, an Indian peacekeeper, received the Military Gender Advocate Award for her exceptional contributions during her deployment with the United Nations Mission in Congo (MONUSCO).
- UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres praised Sen as a role model for her dedication and service.



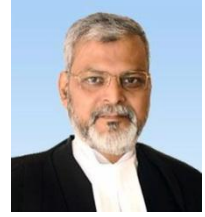
Sen served as the commander of the Indian battalion in the eastern part of the Republic of Congo from March 2023 to April 2024.

- India ranks 11th in contributions of female military peacekeepers in UN peacekeeping efforts.

Sanjaya Kumar Mishra

- Sanjaya Kumar Mishra, a former Chief Justice, has been appointed as the President of the GST Appellate Tribunal (GSTAT) for a four-year term.

- Eligibility criteria include serving as a Judge of a High Court in India, a retired District Judge or Additional District Judge with a minimum of ten years of combined experience, and a lawyer with ten years of experience specializing in indirect tax litigation.
- The GSTAT is a crucial body established to address disputes arising from the Goods and Services Tax (GST) implemented in India. It functions as the appellate authority, handling appeals against orders passed by the first appellate authority under the Central GST Act and respective State GST Acts.



Goods and Services Tax (GST)

- **GST is a successor to VAT in India**, a destination-based tax collected at the point of consumption.
- It is a multi-stage tax, imposed at every stage of production except the final consumer.
- Goods and services are divided into **five tax slabs**: 0%, 5%, 12%, 18%, and 28%.
- Petroleum products, alcoholic beverages, and electricity are not taxed under GST but are taxed separately by individual state governments.
- The GST Council governs the tax rates, rules, and regulations.
- The Central Goods and Services Tax Bill 2017 (CGST Bill), the Integrated Goods and Services Tax Bill 2017 (IGST Bill), the Union Territory Goods and Services Tax Bill 2017 (UTGST Bill), and the Goods and Services Tax (Compensation to the States) Bill 2017 were passed by the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha respectively.
- The Goods and Services Tax was **launched nationwide on 1 July 2017**.

Jeremiah Manele

- Jeremiah Manele, the new Prime Minister of the Solomon Islands, has been elected after serving as the Foreign Minister for the country.
- Manele, a native of Isabel Province, has a strong background in diplomacy and international relations.
- The election was conducted by the Members of Parliament in a secret ballot, with Manele receiving 31 votes, securing his position as the first Prime Minister from that region. This victory follows the resignation of Manasseh Sogavare, who served as Prime Minister for multiple terms from 2000 to 2024.



Lawrence Wong

- Singapore's new Prime Minister, Lawrence Wong, has been sworn in after two decades of Lee Hsien Loong's tenure.
- Wong took his oath of office at the Istana government office, becoming the second person outside the Lee family to lead the nation.
- Wong, the 4th prime minister in Singapore's history, must lead the PAP to the next general elections, which are not due until November 2025 but could be called as early as this year (2024).



Kapil Sibal

- Senior advocate Kapil Sibal has been elected as the president of the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA), marking his fourth term in the position.
- Sibal's previous terms were from 1995-96, 1997-98, and 2001.
- The election was held with 2,330 advocates out of 2,850 members in the voter list. Sibal received 1,066 votes, followed by Pradeep Rai with 689 votes, and the current president, Adish Agarwala, with 307 votes.



Supreme Court of India

- The Supreme Court of India is the highest court in India, responsible for the final appeal of all civil and criminal cases. It has extensive powers in original, appellate, and advisory jurisdictions.
- Under judicial review, the court invalidates both normal laws and constitutional amendments that violate the Basic structure doctrine.
- It is required to safeguard citizens' fundamental rights and settle legal disputes between the central government and state governments.
- The **Supreme Court's decisions are binding on other Indian courts, union, and state governments.** It replaced the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council as the highest court of appeal since January 28, 1950, two days after India was declared a republic.

Klaus Schwab

- Klaus Schwab, the founder and Executive Chairman of the World Economic Forum (WEF), will step down from his day-to-day executive role by January 2025.
- Schwab will take up the role of Chairman of the Board of Trustees, a non-executive role, ensuring he won't be involved in the day-to-day operations of the WEF.
- The transition is part of a planned "governance evolution" aimed at transitioning the WEF from a founder-led structure to one where a president and managing board hold full executive responsibility.

World Economic Forum (WEF)

- The World Economic Forum (WEF) is an international non-governmental organization and think tank based in Geneva, Switzerland.
- **Founded in 1971 by Klaus Schwab**, its mission is to improve the state of the world by engaging leaders from various sectors.
- It is primarily funded by its 1,000 multinational member companies. The WEF is best known for its annual meeting in Davos, Switzerland, which brings together around 3,000 participants including investors, business leaders, politicians, economists, and celebrities to discuss global issues.
- In addition to Davos, the WEF organizes regional conferences and produces reports on various topics. It also facilitates collaboration among stakeholders and promotes sector-specific initiatives.

Payal Kapadia

- Payal Kapadia's film 'All We Imagine as Light' won the prestigious Grand Prix award at the 77th Cannes Film Festival.
- The film, a poignant exploration of two nurses' experiences, was nominated for the Palme d'Or, the highest award at Cannes.
- The film was granted official Indo-French co-production status by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.
- The festival also celebrated the work of Indian director Shyam Benegal, with his iconic film 'Manthan' showcased in the classic section.
- The Bharat Pavilion, set up by the National Film Development Corporation (NFDC), facilitated over 500 B2B meetings and hosted the inaugural Bharat Parv in Cannes.

Arti

- Arti, an 18-year-old woman from Uttar Pradesh, has been awarded the prestigious Amal Clooney Women's Empowerment Award by King Charles III of the United Kingdom.
- The award ceremony took place at Buckingham Palace in London, England, and celebrated Arti's journey as an e-rickshaw driver.
- Arti was honoured for her role in empowering other young women in her community through the government's Pink E-Rickshaw initiative.
- The Pink E-Rickshaw scheme provides women with e-rickshaws at a low-interest rate loan and a subsidy of Rs. 49,500.



Srinivas R. Kulkarni

- Srinivas R. Kulkarni, an Indian-origin U.S. scientist and brother of renowned author Sudha Murty, has been awarded the Shaw Prize in Astronomy for 2024.
- Kulkarni's groundbreaking work in astronomy includes work on millisecond pulsars, gamma-ray bursts, supernovae, and other transient astronomical phenomena.
- Kulkarni's career spans decades of pioneering research and leadership roles in astronomy.
- The Shaw Prize, established by the late Hong Kong philanthropist Run Run Shaw, consists of three annual awards in Astronomy, Life Science and Medicine, and Mathematical Sciences.
- The 21st edition of the Shaw Prize is scheduled for November 12, 2024, in Hong Kong.



Hemant Khatri

- Hemant Khatri, Chairman and Managing Director of Hindustan Shipyard Limited, was awarded the 'PSU Samarpan Award' by Gov Connect.
- The award recognizes Khatri's leadership and pivotal role in driving the shipyard's transformation.
- Khatri received the award in the 'Other PSU' category, alongside other Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) in the Navratna and Miniratna categories.
- Khatri's leadership has led to transformative growth and positioning of Hindustan Shipyard Limited as a key player in the maritime industry.
- The 'PSU Samarpan Award' initiative by Gov Connect reinforces the importance of strong leadership and commitment in the public sector.



Dr. Soumya Swaminathan Honoured

- Dr. Swaminathan, a globally recognized leader in public health and infectious diseases, has been named among the 10 exceptional individuals to receive an honorary degree from Canada's prestigious McGill University.
- She has a career spanning over 40 years in clinical care and research.
- She joined the World Health Organization (WHO) in 2017 as the Deputy Director-General (Programmes) and was appointed as the organization's first Chief Scientist in March 2019.
- Swaminathan's leadership during the global response to the COVID-19 pandemic was instrumental in coordinating research efforts and advising policymakers on effective virus control strategies.



Shah Rukh Khan

- Muthoot Pappachan Group (MPG), known as Muthoot Blue, has appointed Shah Rukh Khan as its new brand ambassador.
- The strategic collaboration aims to strengthen MPG's brand presence and connect with a diverse audience across India.
- MPG promotes leading Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs), including Muthoot FinCorp Limited, Muthoot Microfin Limited, Muthoot Capital Services Limited, and Muthoot Housing Finance Company Limited.



Jetha Ahir

- Jetha Ahir, former deputy speaker of the Gujarat Assembly, has been elected uncontested as the chairman of the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED).
- Ahir also holds the positions of chairman of Panchmahal's Pancharmrut Dairy and the Panchmahal District Cooperative (PDC) Bank.



- Ahir's experience in the cooperative sector and his position as an MLA make him a crucial candidate for the NAFED chairman.
- His appointment suggests a balance between political interests and the welfare of farmers and the cooperative sector.

National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED)

- NAFED is a group of marketing cooperatives in India, established in 1958 to promote the trade of agricultural produce and forest resources.
- It is **registered under the Multi-State Co-operative Societies Act** and has four regional offices in Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, and Kolkata.
- NAFED is responsible for price stabilization measures under Operation Greens.
- It also procures oilseeds, pulses, and copra under the Price Support Scheme (PSS), under PM-AASHA.
- In 2008, it established the National Spot Exchange as a joint venture of FTIL.

Kareena Kapoor

- Bollywood actress Kareena Kapoor Khan has been appointed as the National Ambassador for UNICEF India.
- The appointment is a recognition of her long-standing association with the organization since 2014.
- UNICEF India has introduced its first-ever Youth Advocates, four individuals who will serve as peer leaders and champions for various issues affecting children and young people.
- The Youth Advocates include Gauranshi Sharma from Madhya Pradesh, Kartik Verma from Uttar Pradesh, Nahid Afrin from Assam, and Vinisha Umashankar from Tamil Nadu.
- The appointment of Youth Advocates is a step towards empowering young leaders and driving positive change.



AWARDS

Nelson Mandela Award for Health Promotion

- The National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS), Bengaluru, India, has been awarded the prestigious Nelson Mandela Award for Health Promotion for 2024 by the World Health Organization (WHO).
- The award recognizes individuals, institutions, and organizations that have made significant contributions to health promotion.
- NIMHANS director, Pratima Murthy, expressed gratitude for the award, highlighting its commitment to promoting mental health and well-being.
- Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya congratulated NIMHANS for the award, highlighting India's efforts in inclusive healthcare.

International Booker Prize

- "**Kairos**" by **Jenny Erpenbeck**, translated by Michael Hofmann, won the International Booker Prize 2024.
- The novel tells the story of a complex love affair set against the fall of the Berlin Wall and the final years of East Germany.
- The International Booker Prize is awarded annually for the finest single work of fiction translated into English from anywhere in the world.
- Established in 2005 as the Man Booker International Prize, it was originally awarded biennially for an author's entire body of work.
- The prize changed format in 2016 to focus on a single translated work, similar to the Man Booker Prize for English-language novels.



Sahitya Akademi Fellowship

- Ruskin Bond, a renowned author, has been awarded the Sahitya Akademi Fellowship, the highest literary honour by India's Sahitya Akademi.
- The award ceremony took place at Bond's residence in Mussoorie due to his ill health.
- Bond's literary career spans over five decades, including short stories, children's books, novels, autobiographical works, and non-fiction works.
- The Sahitya Akademi Fellowship is considered the pinnacle of literary achievement in India and serves as inspiration for aspiring writers.
- Bond's storytelling and ability to evoke the beauty of the Indian Himalayas have captivated readers for generations.



Geospatial World Forum Leadership Award

- IN-SPACE was awarded the "Public Policy: Enabling Industry Development" award at the 2024 Geospatial World Forum in Rotterdam.
- The award recognizes IN-SPACE's contributions to the global geospatial industry and its support for non-government entities in the space economy.
- Since 2007, the awards have celebrated the achievements of over 200 organizations in advancing geospatial technologies and applications.

UNESCO Guillermo Cano Prize

- Palestinian journalists covering the Gaza crisis have been named laureates of the 2024 UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize.
- The award is a gesture of solidarity and recognition for their dedication amidst challenging circumstances.
- UNESCO has been actively supporting journalists in conflict and crisis zones, including Gaza, Ukraine, Sudan, Haiti, and Afghanistan.
- The prize, established in 1997, recognizes individuals who have made exceptional contributions to press freedom defence and promotion.
- UNESCO, headquartered in Paris, promotes peace and security through education, science, culture, communication, and information.



C-DOT Wins UN WSIS Award

- C-DOT, a premier telecom research and development centre, won the 'Champion' award at the WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event 2024 for its project "Mobile-Enabled Disaster Resilience through Cell Broadcast Emergency Alerting."
- The award recognizes C-DOT's contribution to disaster management and emergency preparedness.
C-DOT's innovative solution, the Cell Broadcast Emergency Alerting Platform, allows real-time messages during emergencies.
- The platform can send messages in multiple Indian regional languages, ensuring emergency alerts reach a wider audience.
- The WSIS+20 Forum is organized by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

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(UNCTAD), and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Global Excellence Award 2024

- Chandrakant Satija, founder/CEO of Chandra Admission Consultants, was honoured with the Global Excellence Award 2024.
- The award, presented by Bollywood actress Shilpa Shetty Kundra, recognized Satija as the Most Trusted Admissions Consultant in the Vidarbha Region.
- Satija has over 21 years of experience in the education sector, providing quality education, career counselling, and admission guidance. Satija's firm assists students in making informed career decisions and securing admissions to top universities and colleges.



IMPORTANT DAYS

International Labour Day

- **International Labour Day, also known as May Day,** is a global celebration held on **May 1st** to honour the historical struggles and achievements of workers and the labour movement in their fight for fair working conditions and rights.
- The day's origins can be traced back to the Eight-Hour Workday Movement, which began in the United States in 1886 and resonated with workers worldwide.
- In 1889, the Second International, an international federation of socialist parties and trade unions, designated May 1st as "International Workers' Day" to commemorate the ongoing fight for workers' rights and the events of the 1886 strikes.



World Press Freedom Day

- World Press Freedom Day, observed annually on **May 3rd**, is a significant day dedicated to upholding the fundamental principles of a free press.
- This day emphasizes press freedom, freedom of expression, media independence, and journalist safety, emphasizing the increasing threats faced by journalists worldwide.
- The **theme for World Press Freedom Day 2024 was: "A Press for the Planet: Journalism in the Face of the environmental crisis"**.
- The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) is the leading organization behind World Press Freedom Day.



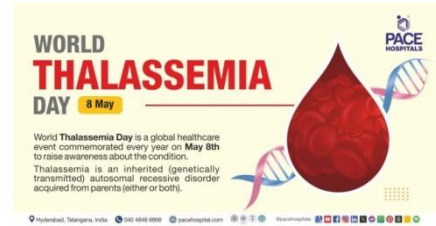
World Asthma Day 2024

- World Asthma Day is a global event held annually on the first Tuesday of May. This year (2024), World Asthma Day was celebrated on **May 7**.
- The day aims to raise awareness about asthma, a chronic respiratory condition affecting millions worldwide.
- The **2024 theme, "Asthma Education Empowers,"** emphasizes the importance of providing accurate and accessible information about asthma.
- The event is a global initiative spearheaded by the Global Initiative for Asthma (GINA), a collaborative organization founded in 1993 by the World Health Organization.



World Thalassaemia Day

- **World Thalassaemia Day, observed annually on May 8th**, is a global event highlighting the challenges of thalassaemia.
- The theme of the year is "**Empowering Lives, Embracing Progress: Equitable and Accessible Thalassaemia Treatment for All.**"
- The day was established in 1994 by the Thalassaemia International Federation (TIF) in memory of George Englezos, the son of TIF's founder, Panos Englezos.
- Thalassaemia is an inherited blood disorder affecting haemoglobin production, with two main types: alpha and beta. Symptoms include fatigue, weakness, pale skin, bone deformities, slow growth, abdominal swelling, and dark urine.

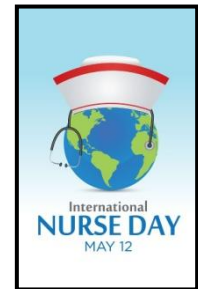


National Technology Day 2024

- National Technology Day in India, **observed annually on May 11th**, is a day to celebrate scientific achievements and promote technological awareness.
- It honours Indian scientists, engineers, and researchers who have contributed significantly to the nation's technological advancement.
- The day also aims to raise public awareness about the importance of technology in everyday life and inspire the next generation to pursue careers in science and technology (STEM) fields.
- The theme for this year's event is "**School to Startups - Inspiring Young Minds to Innovate**".

International Nurses Day

- International Nurses Day, celebrated **annually on May 12th**, is a global celebration honouring the vital role nurses play in healthcare.
- **The theme for 2024 is "Our Nurses. Our Future. The Economic Power of Care,"** emphasizing the role nurses play in patient well-being and the economic strength of the healthcare system.
- International Nurses Day is celebrated to honour the legacy of Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing. Born on May 12, 1820, in Florence, Italy, Nightingale was an English social reformer and statistician who contributed significantly to the improvement of the health sector. She authored over 150 books, pamphlets, and reports on health-related issues.
- Nightingale known as the 'Lady with the Lamp', took care of wounded soldiers during the Crimean War and was awarded the Order of Merit in 1907. She opened the first modern nursing school at St Thomas' Hospital in London in 1860.



International Day of Families

- International Day of Families 2024, **celebrated on May 15**, aims to raise awareness about the importance of families and their role in the fight against climate change.
- **The theme for 2024 is "Families and Climate Change."**
- The United Nations General Assembly first observed the day in 1994 and is celebrating its 30th anniversary.

World Metrology Day

- World Metrology Day, **observed annually on May 20th**, highlights the critical role of **metrology**.
- This day celebrates the science of measurement, known as metrology. Accurate measurements are crucial in various fields, from scientific research to international trade.
- Established in 1875, the Metre Convention is an international treaty ensuring the



global uniformity of measurements. The signing of this convention serves as the basis for celebrating World Metrology Day.

- The **inaugural World Metrology Day was held in 1961**, recognizing the importance of a unified global measurement system.

World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development

- **World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development celebrated annually on May 21st**, promotes the value of **cultural diversity**.
- This day promotes the value of cultural diversity and its role in fostering dialogue and development.
- The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) adopted this day in 2001 to celebrate the richness of cultures around the world.
- World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development encourages respect for different cultures and appreciation for their contributions to a more inclusive and prosperous world.

International Day for Biological Diversity

- The International Day for Biological Diversity, observed annually on **May 22nd**.
- This day raises awareness about the vast array of life on Earth, also known as biological diversity.
- **Theme for 2024: "Be Part of the Plan"**, the year's theme emphasizes the importance of individual and collective action in conserving biodiversity.
- International Day for Biological Diversity serves as a reminder of our responsibility to protect the planet's rich tapestry of life and find solutions to address biodiversity loss.



International Day of UN Peacekeepers

- The International Day of UN Peacekeepers **observed annually on May 29th**.
- The United Nations General Assembly officially established the day in 2002.
- The theme for the 2024 International Day of UN Peacekeepers is "Fit for the Future, Building Better Together"
- The day honours the professionalism, dedication, and courage of all men and women who have served in UN peacekeeping operations.
- UN's Department of Peace Operations is responsible for peacekeeping, a tool developed to help countries in conflict create lasting peace conditions. UN peacekeepers can include soldiers, police officers, and civilian personnel.



World No Tobacco Day

- World No Tobacco Day, a global campaign led by the **World Health Organization**, is celebrated on **May 31st**.
- **The theme for 2024 is "Protecting Children from Tobacco Industry Interference"**, highlighting the industry's tactics to attract young people.
- The day's roots date back to 1987 when the World Health Assembly called for a global day to highlight the tobacco epidemic.



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BOOSTER DOSE

- **7th Pay Commission:** The 7th Pay Commission has confirmed a 25% increase in the government staff gratuity limit, aligning with the 4% Dearness Allowance (DA) hike announced by the central government. This adjustment aims to enhance financial benefits for government employees.
- **Goa Statehood Day 2024:** Celebrated annually on May 30th, Goa Statehood Day commemorates the integration of Goa as an official state into the Indian Union after centuries of Portuguese colonial rule. Known for its picturesque beaches, Goa holds cultural and historical significance for India.
- **Russia's Plans Regarding Taliban:** Russia plans to remove the Taliban from its list of banned terrorist organizations, three years after the group regained power in Afghanistan. This decision reflects evolving geopolitical dynamics and diplomatic considerations in the region.
- **Shah Rukh Khan:** Muthoot Pappachan Group appointed Shah Rukh Khan as its new brand ambassador, aiming to strengthen its brand presence and connect with a diverse audience through the renowned actor's popularity and influence.
- **Rakesh Ranjan as SSC Chairman:** Rakesh Ranjan, a 1992 batch IAS officer from Manipur Cadre, has been appointed as the Chairman of the Staff Selection Commission (SSC). This appointment underscores his

administrative experience and leadership in overseeing recruitment processes.

- **Dr. Emmanuelle Soubeyran**: France's Dr. Emmanuelle Soubeyran has been elected as the new Director General of the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH) for the term 2024-2029. Her election highlights global confidence in her leadership to address animal health challenges worldwide.
- **Quantum Diamond Microchip Imager**: Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) and IIT-Bombay are collaborating to develop India's first Quantum Diamond Microchip Imager. This innovation aims to enhance semiconductor chip examination, reduce failures, and improve energy efficiency in electronic devices.
- **Agnibaan Rocket**: Agnikul Cosmos successfully launched India's first semi-cryogenic engine-powered rocket, Agnibaan, featuring a single-piece 3D printed engine. This marks a milestone in India's indigenous rocket technology capabilities.
- **'Red Flag 24' Exercise**: The Indian Air Force (IAF) is participating in the 'Red Flag 24' exercise in Alaska. This 16-day exercise provides realistic combat training, enhancing interoperability and operational readiness with international partners.
- **China's Dominance in Watermelon Production**: China leads global watermelon production, contributing 60% of the total output. Factors such as diverse climate conditions, skilled workforce, advanced agricultural techniques, and government support contribute to its dominance in this sector.
- **PRAGATI-2024**: The Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS) launched "PRAGATI-2024" to promote research collaboration and innovation in the Ayurveda drug industry. This initiative aims to advance scientific understanding and application of Ayurvedic medicine.
- **eMigrate Services**: The Ministry of External Affairs, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, and Common Service Centre eGovernance Services India Limited signed an MoU to provide eMigrate services through Common Service Centres. This aims to facilitate safe and legal migration for blue-collar workers.
- **Sangam Initiative**: The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) launched the Sangam Initiative, leveraging advanced technologies for infrastructure planning and design in telecommunications. This initiative aims to enhance connectivity and network efficiency across India.
- **Cyclone Remal**: Cyclone Remal, the first cyclone of the 2024 pre-monsoon season, poses potential risks to the Sundarbans region in the Bay of Bengal. Authorities are monitoring its trajectory and preparing measures to mitigate its impact.
- **DD Kisan's AI Anchors**: DD Kisan, a government TV channel dedicated to farmers, is launching AI anchors named AI Krish and AI Bhoomi on May 26, 2024. These AI-powered anchors will deliver agricultural information, research updates, market trends, weather forecasts, and government schemes in 50 languages, aiming to reach viewers across India and beyond.
- **MEDITECH STACKATHON 2024**: The MEDITECH STACKATHON 2024, initiated by the Department of Pharmaceuticals under the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, focuses on analyzing the medical devices value chain. The event aims to address challenges in India's MedTech sector, promote domestic manufacturing, and reduce import dependency.
- **Exercise Cyber Suraksha 2024**: Conducted by the Defence Cyber Agency, Exercise Cyber Suraksha 2024 aims to enhance cyber defence capabilities across various security organizations and foster synergy among stakeholders in India.

- **World Telecommunication and Information Society Day**: Celebrated on May 17, 2024, this day focuses on the theme "Digital Innovation for Sustainable Development". It commemorates the founding of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and highlights the role of digital technologies in advancing sustainable development goals globally.
- **Exercise SHAKTI**: India-France Joint Military Exercise SHAKTI was held in Umroi, Meghalaya, aimed at enhancing interoperability and mutual understanding between the armed forces of both countries through joint training exercises.
- **International Nurses Day 2024**: Observed on May 12th annually, International Nurses Day honours Florence Nightingale, considered the founder of modern nursing. The theme for 2024 is "Our Nurses Our Future, The Economic Power of Care", recognizing the critical role of nurses in healthcare and their economic impact.
- **HD 3386 Wheat Variety by IARI**: The Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) introduced a new high-yielding wheat seed variety named HD 3386, aimed at improving agricultural productivity and addressing food security challenges in India.
- **Exercise "Poorvi Lehar"**: The Indian Navy conducted Exercise "Poorvi Lehar" on the Eastern Coast of India, involving participation from the Indian Air Force, Andaman & Nicobar Command, and Coast Guard. This exercise focused on enhancing maritime security and operational preparedness in the region.
- **Pandit Lacchu Maharaj Award**: Established in memory of kathak exponent Pandit Lacchu Maharaj, this award will honour 10 prominent personalities in an upcoming ceremony on August 31, 2024, in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. Notable personalities like Hema Malini and Saira Banu will also be recognized during this event.
- **Commemoration of Gujarat Day**: Celebrated annually on May 1st, Gujarat Day marks the formation of Gujarat in 1960 under the Bombay Reorganization Act. It recognizes the creation of the state for Gujarati-speaking populations, separate from Maharashtra.
- **World Tuna Day**: Observed on May 2nd every year, World Tuna Day raises awareness about the conservation of tuna species and promotes sustainable fishing practices to ensure their long-term viability.
- **Coal Miners' Day in India**: Celebrated on May 4th annually, Coal Miners' Day honours the contributions and sacrifices of coal miners in India's industrial development. It commemorates the Mines Act of 1952, which aimed to improve miners' welfare and safety standards.
- **World Laughter Day**: Observed on the first Sunday of May each year, World Laughter Day promotes the health benefits of laughter, emphasizing its role in improving mood, reducing stress, and enhancing overall well-being.
- **World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day**: Celebrated annually on May 8th, World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day honours the humanitarian efforts of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. It commemorates the establishment of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in 1863 by Henry Dunant.
- **World Hypertension Day 2024**: Observed on May 17, World Hypertension Day aims to raise awareness about hypertension and promote measures to control and manage high blood pressure effectively, thereby reducing related health risks and improving longevity.
- **International Museum Day 2024**: Celebrated on May 18, International Museum Day focuses on the role of museums in education and research within society. The day is promoted by the International Council of

Museums (ICOM) to highlight the cultural significance and educational value of museums worldwide.

- **World AIDS Vaccine Day (HIV Vaccine Awareness Day)**: Observed annually on May 18th, this day raises awareness about the ongoing efforts and importance of developing vaccines against HIV/AIDS. It underscores the global initiative to combat the spread of HIV and its devastating impact.
- **World Metrology Day 2024**: Celebrated on May 20, World Metrology Day promotes awareness and understanding of metrology – the science of measurement. It highlights the crucial role of accurate measurements in various scientific, industrial, and societal applications.
- **International Everest Day 2024**: Observed on May 29, International Everest Day commemorates the first successful ascent of Mount Everest by Sir Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay Sherpa on May 29, 1953. It honours their achievement and celebrates Nepal's rich mountaineering heritage.
- **Ban on Unlicensed WiFi 6E Routers**: A telecom operators group in India has urged the government to ban the sale of unlicensed WiFi 6E routers, citing concerns about their unauthorized availability on e-commerce platforms and offline retailers.
- **Deregistration of Aircraft Leased to Go First**: The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has deregistered all 54 aircraft leased to Go First following a court order. This action came after Go First filed for bankruptcy, and the Delhi High Court directed the DGCA to deregister the planes, providing relief to the lessors.
- **Changes in CoWIN Certificates**: The Union health ministry has removed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's image from CoWIN vaccination certificates, replacing it with a quote symbolizing India's collective resolve in combating the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Inauguration of Constitution Park in Pune**: The Indian Army and Punit Balan Group inaugurated Pune's first Constitution Park, symbolizing unity and honouring India's founding leaders. Lt Gen Ajai Kumar Singh presided over the inauguration ceremony.
- **Renewable Energy Sector in India**: India's renewable energy sector contributed significantly to new power generation, accounting for 71% of the new capacity in FY 2023-24. This marks a notable shift with renewable energy surpassing coal's share, reflecting India's commitment to sustainable energy sources.
- **'Cool Summers of India' Campaign**: Launched at the Arabian Travel Mart 2024, this campaign challenges the perception of India as too hot for summer travel. It promotes hill resorts and other destinations known for their cooler climates, aiming to attract tourists during the summer months.
- **Kutch Ajrakh Geographical Indication (GI)**
Tag: Kutch Ajrakh, a traditional textile craft from Gujarat, has received a Geographical Indication (GI) tag. This recognition highlights its cultural significance and unique craftsmanship in regions like Sindh, Barmer, and Kutch.
- **India's Contribution to UN Counter-Terrorism Trust Fund**: India has pledged \$500,000 to the UN Counter-Terrorism Trust Fund, reaffirming its commitment to international efforts in combating terrorism. Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj announced this contribution at the United Nations, underscoring India's support for multilateral initiatives against terrorism.
- **Hanooman: India's Multilingual GenAI Platform**: Launched by 3AI Holding Limited and SML India, Hanooman is an AI platform capable of operating in 98 global languages, including 12 Indian languages. It aims to build a robust GenAI ecosystem in India, leveraging the country's linguistic diversity.

- **Unified Portal for Digital Public Goods (DPGs)**: The Indian government plans to create a unified portal listing all Digital Public Goods (DPGs) such as Aadhaar, Unified Payments Interface (UPI), and Open Network for Digital Commerce. This initiative aims to facilitate easier access to essential digital infrastructure across ministries.
- **NTPC Talcher Thermal's "Girl Empowerment Mission 2024"**: NTPC Talcher Thermal has launched a mission to support 40 young girls across government schools in four Gram Panchayats. The initiative focuses on providing quality education, health services, life skills training, and mentorship to empower girls in rural areas.
- **Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) Implementation**: 14 Indian citizens have been granted citizenship certificates under the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, reducing the qualification period for persecuted non-Muslim migrants from Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Bangladesh from 11 to 5 years.
- **Internet Shutdowns in India**: India recorded the highest number of internet shutdowns globally in 2023 for the sixth consecutive year. The Keep It On coalition reported 116 instances of internet disruptions impacting communication, information access, and economic activities.
- **BHISHM Portable Hospital Testing by Indian Air Force**: The Indian Air Force tested the BHISHM Portable Hospital in Agra, enhancing its emergency medical response capabilities. This portable hospital is designed to provide critical medical care during emergencies and disaster relief operations.
- **IndiaAI Mission Approval by Cabinet**: India's Cabinet has approved the IndiaAI Mission with an investment of Rs. 10,371.92 crore. This initiative aims to democratize and catalyze India's AI innovation ecosystem, ensuring the global competitiveness of Indian AI startups and researchers.
- **India Hosts ATCM 46 in Kochi**: India hosted the 46th Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM 46) in Kochi, bringing together representatives from 56 member nations. The meeting discussed Antarctic governance, scientific research, and environmental protection efforts.
- **Digitization of Diaspora Records in Oman**: The Indian Embassy in Muscat and the National Archives of India are collaborating on the digitization of diaspora records in Oman. Titled "The Oman Collection - Archival Heritage of the Indian Community in Oman," this project aims to preserve the rich heritage of the Indian community in Oman.
- **UK Laws on Smart Device Cybersecurity**: The UK government has introduced new laws to enhance cybersecurity for smart devices, including requirements for strong passwords and user prompts for password changes. These measures aim to protect consumers and businesses from cyber-attacks.
- **UNCTAD Rebranding to UN Trade and Development**: UNCTAD has rebranded as "UN Trade and Development" to commemorate its 60th anniversary. This change reflects its continued advocacy for developing countries in trade, development, finance, technology, and investment.
- **Marrakesh Agreement**: The World Trade Organization (WTO) celebrated the 30th anniversary of the Marrakesh Agreement, a landmark in global trade history. The agreement aimed to promote sustainable development through trade, raise living standards, and increase employment worldwide.
- **G7 Agreement to Phase Out Coal-Fired Power Plants**: The Group of Seven (G7) nations have agreed to phase out their coal-fired power plants by 2035. This decision aligns with the objectives of the COP28 United Nations climate summit, emphasizing a global transition away from fossil fuels.

- **World's Largest Airport Terminal in Dubai:** Dubai plans to build the world's largest airport terminal at Al Maktoum International Airport. This project aims to revolutionize the aviation industry and solidify Dubai's position as a major global transportation hub.
- **Nepal's Population Growth Rate:** Nepal's population growth rate has reached its 80-year low at 0.92% per annum over the past decade. This decline reflects demographic trends and has implications for the country's development and planning.
- **International Conference on Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI):** India led the inaugural UN International Conference on Digital Public Infrastructure in New Delhi. The conference aimed to leverage technology to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and promote inclusivity. India introduced its DPI framework as a global standard for digital infrastructure.
- **UNESCO Recognition of Indian Works:** Ramcharitmanas, Panchatantra, and Sahrdayaloka-Locana have been added to the UNESCO Memory of the World Asia-Pacific Regional Register. This recognition, facilitated by the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, acknowledges their cultural significance.
- **Loss of Glaciers:** Venezuela has lost all its glaciers, with the Pico Humboldt peak's last glacier downgraded to an ice field. This marks a significant environmental change, highlighting the impact of climate change on glaciers worldwide.
- **UAE's 10-Year Blue Residence Visa:** The UAE Cabinet approved a 10-year Blue Residence visa for individuals who have made substantial environmental contributions. This initiative aligns with the UAE's sustainability goals and promotes environmental protection practices.
- **Dengue Vaccine TAK-003:** The World Health Organization (WHO) has prequalified TAK-003, the second dengue vaccine developed by Takeda Pharmaceuticals. It targets children aged 6-16 and consists of weakened forms of four dengue virus serotypes.
- **Ibu Volcano Eruption:** Indonesia's Ibu volcano on Halmahera Island erupted, prompting evacuations due to the highest alert level. The volcano emitted ash and smoke up to 5,000 meters into the sky, affecting local communities.
- **Patanjali Ayurved Products:** The Uttarakhand State Licensing Authority suspended manufacturing licenses for 14 products of Patanjali Ayurved Limited and Divya Pharmacy. This action follows repeated violations of the Drugs and Cosmetic Rules, aiming to ensure compliance with regulatory standards.
- **GI Tag for Ambaji Marble:** Ambaji Marble from Gujarat has been awarded a GI tag by the Central Government, recognizing its unique characteristics and geographical origin. The GI tag is valid for 10 years and highlights the craftsmanship associated with Ambaji Marble.
- **Uttarakhand's 'Pirul Lao-Paise Pao' Campaign:** The Uttarakhand government launched the 'Pirul Lao-Paise Pao' campaign to address forest fires by incentivizing the collection and utilization of pine needles (Pirul). The campaign involves cooperatives and local organizations, aiming to reduce forest fire risks.
- **SEBI Awarded 'Best Conduct of Business Regulator':** The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) received the 'Best Conduct of Business Regulator' award in the Asia-Pacific region from The Asian Banker. This recognition applauds SEBI's regulatory enhancements, including the introduction of the T+1 settlement cycle.
- **AITA's Dilip Bose Lifetime Achievement Award:** The All India Tennis Association (AITA) announced the Dilip Bose Lifetime Achievement Award for coach Nar Singh and

Rohini Lokhande. Rohini Lokhande is the first female National Institute of Sports qualified tennis instructor.

- **Hindi Sahitya Bharati Award for Krishna Prakash:** Mumbai Police's Krishna Prakash, awarded the Hindi Sahitya Bharati Award, was recognized for his leadership in Force One, the elite counterterrorism unit. He has also organized a festival highlighting the story of Lord Ram through various cultural forms.
- **ADB Loan for Sikkim's Electricity Modernization:** The Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved a \$148 million loan to modernize Sikkim's electricity supply, supporting the Power for All initiative. The project aims to upgrade power distribution systems, install street lighting, and promote energy conservation.
- **India's Potential 3rd Unicorn - Porter:** Porter, a logistics services platform, is poised to become India's 3rd unicorn with a valuation exceeding \$1 billion in 2024. Founded in 2014, Porter operates an on-demand marketplace for logistics services including trucks, bikes, and packers & movers.
- **Maldives to Launch India's RuPay Service:** The Maldives is set to launch India's RuPay service, aiming to strengthen bilateral ties. This initiative is expected to enhance the value of the Maldivian currency and contribute to savings on import bills between the two countries.
- **RBI's Record Surplus Transfer to Central Government:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) approved a record-high surplus transfer of Rs 2.11 lakh crore to the Central government for the accounting year 2023-24. This surplus was determined based on the Economic Capital Framework (ECF), ensuring appropriate risk provisions and profit distribution.
- **NPCI's Role in Indian Payments Systems:** The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), established in 2008 by the RBI and Indian Banks' Association, operates retail payments and settlement systems in India. It plays a crucial role in facilitating digital payments across the country.
- **IRDAI's Directives on Senior Citizens' Health Insurance:** The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) directed health insurers to create specialized policies for senior citizens. Additionally, insurers must establish dedicated channels to address grievances and process claims efficiently.
- **RBI's New Initiatives:** The RBI launched three initiatives: the PRAVAAH portal, a retail direct mobile app, and a fintech repository for G-Secs. These aim to enhance accessibility for retail investors in government securities and streamline financial transactions.
- **HDFC Bank's Decision on UPI Transaction Alerts:** HDFC Bank announced the discontinuation of SMS alerts for UPI transactions below ₹100 or receipt of money less than ₹500 starting June 25, 2024. This decision aims to manage costs associated with sending bulk messages due to high transaction volumes.
- **UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize:** Palestinian journalists covering the Gaza conflict were awarded the 2024 UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize. This recognition underscores the challenges faced by journalists in conflict zones and honours their dedication to reporting under difficult circumstances.
- **Sahitya Akademi Fellowship:** Renowned author Ruskin Bond was awarded the Sahitya Akademi Fellowship, India's highest literary honour. The award ceremony was held at Bond's residence due to his health condition, celebrating his significant contributions to literature.
- **Cannes Film Festival:** Meryl Streep received the Honorary Palme d'Or at the 77th Cannes

Film Festival for her lifetime achievements in cinema. This prestigious award recognizes her profound impact and legacy in the film industry.

- **Oxford Bookstore's Book Cover Prize:** Bhavi Mehta won the 9th edition of the Oxford Bookstore Book Cover Prize for her design of "The Book Beautiful." This award celebrates excellence in book cover design and highlights Mehta's artistic contribution to the publishing industry.
- **India's 'Bharat Parv' at Cannes Film Festival:** India is set to host a 'Bharat Parv' at the 77th Cannes Film Festival, showcasing its creative opportunities to global delegates. This event will also unveil the official poster and trailer for the 55th India International Film Festival.
- **IN-SPACE's Geospatial World Forum Leadership Award:** IN-SPACE received the Geospatial World Forum Leadership Award for "Public Policy: Enabling Industry Development." This accolade recognizes IN-SPACE's role in fostering India's space sector growth and supporting private entities in the space economy.
- **Global Pride of Sindhi Award:** Pawan Sindhi received the Global Pride of Sindhi Award 2024 for his significant contributions to society. This prestigious honour acknowledges his outstanding achievements and commitment to serving humanity.
- **Dr. Soumya Swaminathan:** Dr. Soumya Swaminathan, WHO's Chief Scientist, was awarded an honorary degree by McGill University. This recognition highlights her exceptional contributions to global health and her tenure at WHO from 2017 to 2022.
- **Global Excellence Award 2024:** Chandrakant Satija, CEO of Chandra Admission Consultants, received the Global Excellence Award 2024 for his significant contributions to the field of education. He was recognized as the most trusted admission consultant in

the Vidarbha Region, presented by Bollywood actress Shilpa Shetty Kundra.

- **Richard Slayman:** Richard Slayman, the first recipient of a genetically modified pig kidney transplant, passed away two months after the operation performed at Massachusetts General Hospital. His death was reported to be unrelated to the transplant.
- **Sushil Kumar Modi's Demise:** Sushil Kumar Modi, a prominent Indian politician, passed away at the age of 72 after battling cancer. Modi had a distinguished political career, serving as Deputy Chief Minister of Bihar and a Member of Parliament.
- **Cannes Film Festival 2024:** India achieved notable success at the 77th Cannes Film Festival, with Payal Kapadia's film "All We Imagine as Light" winning the Grand Prix, marking a historic moment for Indian cinema.
- **Major Radhika Sen:** Major Radhika Sen, an Indian peacekeeper serving with MONUSCO in the Democratic Republic of Congo, received the United Nations Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award for her exceptional contributions to gender equality.
- **Sanjaya Kumar Mishra:** Sanjaya Kumar Mishra, a former Chief Justice, has been appointed as the President of the Goods and Services Tax Appellate Tribunal (GSTAT) for a four-year term.
- **Subodh Kumar:** Subodh Kumar, a 2010-batch IAS officer, has been appointed as Director in the Ministry of Ayush.
- **Jeremiah Manele:** Jeremiah Manele has been elected as the new Prime Minister of Solomon Islands, succeeding Manasseh Sogavare, marking a significant political change in the country.
- **Bhushan Singh:** Bhushan Singh from the Indian Railway Traffic Service (IRTS) has been appointed as Secretary of the National

Jute Board, Kolkata, under the Ministry of Textiles for a term of five years.

- **Dr. Mallika Nadda**: Dr. Mallika Nadda, President of Special Olympics Bharat, has been appointed as the chairperson of the Special Olympics Asia Pacific Advisory Council for a three-year term.
- **Xu Feihong**: Xu Feihong has been appointed as the new Ambassador of China to India by President Xi Jinping.
- **Melinda Gates**: Melinda Gates announced her resignation as co-chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, after leading the organization since 2000 and overseeing significant philanthropic efforts worldwide.
- **Lawrence Wong**: Lawrence Wong was sworn in as Singapore's new Prime Minister, succeeding Lee Hsien Loong after his two-decade tenure.
- **Kapil Sibal**: Senior advocate Kapil Sibal has been elected as the president of the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) for the fourth time, marking his return to the position.
- **David Salvagnini**: NASA appointed David Salvagnini as its first Chief Artificial Intelligence Officer to lead the agency's efforts in AI innovation and responsible AI use.
- **Lai Ching-te**: Lai Ching-te was sworn in as Taiwan's new President, succeeding Tsai Ing-wen amid challenges from China, becoming the third member of the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) to hold the presidency.
- **Ramesh Babu**: Shri Ramesh Babu has been appointed as a member of the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) by the Union Minister for Power and New & Renewable Energy, Shri R. K. Singh.
- **To Lam**: Vietnam's National Assembly has approved To Lam as the country's new President for the term 2021-2026, succeeding former President Vo Van Thuong amid corruption allegations.
- **Gurcharan Singh**: Vice Admiral Gurcharan Singh, an alumnus of the National Defence Academy (NDA), has been appointed as the Commandant of NDA, succeeding Vice Admiral Ajay Kocchar.
- **Sanjay Sharma**: Sanjay Sharma has been appointed as the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of Air India, effective June 10, 2024, succeeding Vinod Hejmadi.
- **Klaus Schwab**: Klaus Schwab, the founder of the World Economic Forum (WEF), will transition from day-to-day management to become Chairman of the Board of Trustees by January 2025.
- **Yuzvendra Chahal**: Yuzvendra Chahal, playing for Rajasthan Royals, became the first Indian bowler to take 350 wickets in T20 cricket.
- **Manoj Pande**: The Appointments Committee of Cabinet approved a one-month extension for General Manoj Pande as Chief of Army Staff until June 30, 2024, beyond his normal age of superannuation. This extension aims to utilize his experience and leadership in strategic military roles.
- **Astro Tourism Campaign 'Nakshatra Sabha'**: Uttarakhand Tourism launched India's first Astro Tourism Campaign in collaboration with Starscapes, titled 'Nakshatra Sabha'. This initiative offers a range of Astro Tourism experiences including stargazing, solar observations, photography contests, and camping under the stars, promoting the state's natural beauty and celestial attractions.
- **India-Moldova Visa Waiver Agreement**: India and Moldova signed a visa waiver agreement allowing diplomatic and official passport holders from both countries to travel visa-free. This agreement aims to strengthen bilateral relations and facilitate easier

diplomatic exchanges between India and Moldova.

- **India-Iran Chabahar Port Contract:** India signed a 10-year contract with Iran to develop and operate the Chabahar Port, a crucial strategic port in the Middle East. The agreement, valued at \$370 million, includes investments and financing aimed at enhancing connectivity and trade opportunities between India, Iran, and Central Asia.
- **Gopi Thotakura:** Gopi Thotakura became the first Indian space tourist and the second Indian overall to travel into space as part of Blue Origin's NS-25 mission, led by Jeff Bezos. His journey marks a significant milestone in India's space exploration ambitions and private space tourism sector.
- **India-US Joint Exercise 'Tarkash':** India and the United States conducted a joint exercise named "Tarkash" to counter urban terrorism contingencies. The exercise focused on enhancing interoperability and coordination between their Special Forces for conducting effective counterterrorism operations in urban environments.
- **In Nyoma:** The Indian Army established a tank repair facility at 14,500 feet near the China border in Nyoma. This facility aims to ensure the operational readiness of its combat fleet, including tanks and infantry combat vehicles, in challenging Himalayan terrain and adverse weather conditions.
- **PREFIRE Mission:** NASA is preparing to launch the Polar Radiant Energy in the Far-Infrared Experiment (PREFIRE) mission to study Earth's polar regions. This mission will investigate the heat radiated from Earth's polar areas into space, providing crucial data on climate dynamics and global climate impact.
- **Shane Watson:** Australian cricketer Shane Watson launched a motivational book titled 'The Winner's Mindset'. The book focuses on overcoming the fear of failure, achieving success during challenging times, and fostering a strong self-belief and goal-setting mindset.
- **Indian Migrants and Remittances:** The United Arab Emirates (UAE) remains the top destination for Indian migrants, hosting 3.47 million Indians. India received over \$111 billion in remittances in 2022, marking a significant milestone as the first country to surpass the \$100 billion mark in remittance receipts.
- **India's Import Partners and Trends:** China remained India's top import partner in the fiscal year 2023-24, with imports increasing by 3.29% to \$101.74 billion. High-tech goods and industrial inputs constituted significant portions of India's total goods imports, which decreased by 5.66% to \$675.44 billion. Russia also emerged as a prominent import source, surpassing the UAE and the US with a notable 34% increase in imports to India.
- **India's Forest Conservation:** India showcased its achievement at the UN Forum on Forests, emphasizing its substantial increase in forest area between 2010 and 2020. This is a significant environmental milestone as forests play a crucial role in biodiversity conservation, climate regulation, and sustainable development.
- **ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024:** The ICC released the official anthem 'Out of this World' for the upcoming T20 World Cup. Featuring prominent artists like Sean Paul and Kes, along with Usain Bolt, the anthem aims to generate excitement and enthusiasm among fans globally, enhancing the tournament's appeal and visibility.
- **Iga Swiatek's Tennis Victory:** Swiatek won the Madrid Open, adding to her impressive career tally with her 20th title and maintaining a winning streak in finals. Her consistent performance highlights her growing stature in women's tennis and underscores her ability to perform under pressure in prestigious tournaments.

- **China's Badminton Success:** China achieved a remarkable double victory in badminton's Thomas and Uber Cup, securing both the men's and women's titles. This achievement reaffirms China's dominance in international badminton and underscores the depth of talent in both genders.
- **India's Hybrid Cricket Pitch:** India introduced its first hybrid cricket pitch at Dharamshala Cricket Stadium. This innovation is expected to improve the quality and durability of pitches used in cricket matches across various levels, enhancing playing conditions and reducing maintenance costs.
- **Neeraj Chopra:** Neeraj Chopra delivered a strong performance in the Doha Diamond League javelin throw event, finishing second with a competitive throw. His consistent presence at international events underscores his status as a top contender in the sport, contributing to India's achievements in athletics.
- **Jyoti Ratre:** Jyoti Ratre became the oldest Indian woman to summit Mount Everest. Her successful ascent represents a personal triumph and contributes to India's mountaineering legacy, inspiring others with her determination and courage.
- **Dipa Karmakar:** Dipa Karmakar clinched the gold medal in the vault event at the Asian Championships, making history as the first Indian gymnast to achieve this feat. Her victory marks a significant milestone in Indian gymnastics, highlighting her technical skill and perseverance.
- **Amal Clooney Women's Empowerment Award:** Arti, an e-rickshaw driver from Uttar Pradesh, received the prestigious Amal Clooney Women's Empowerment Award in London. Her recognition celebrates her role in breaking societal barriers and empowering women through her profession, serving as an inspiration globally.
- **Dr. Bina Modi:** Dr Bina Modi was honoured for her outstanding contribution to Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). Her recognition underscores the importance of ethical business practices and community engagement, setting a benchmark for corporate leadership in India.
- **Women's World Cup:** Brazil secured the hosting rights for the 2027 Women's World Cup, marking a historic moment for South American football. This decision recognizes Brazil's passion for football and aims to promote women's sports across the region and globally.
- **Amul's Sponsorship in Cricket:** Amul partnered with the USA's cricket team for the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024. This initiative aims to popularize cricket in the United States, leveraging Amul's brand presence to enhance the sport's visibility and participation in a new market.
- **Maushumi Chakravarty:** Maushumi Chakravarty was appointed as the Director General of Akashvani News, continuing her career in the Indian Information Service (IIS). Her appointment highlights her expertise in media management and commitment to public service through communication.



PRACTICE QUESTIONS

Q1. What is the theme for International Nurses Day 2024?

- A) "Nurses: A Voice to Lead"
- B) "Nurses Make a Difference"
- C) "Our Nurses. Our Future. The Economic Power of Care"

D) "Nursing the World to Health"

Q2. The Indian Army developed a Constitution Park in which city?

- A) Patna
- B) New Delhi

- C) Chennai
- D) Pune

Q3. Which individual has been awarded the 2024 Goldman Prize from Asia:

- A) Rajendra Goyal
- B) Rakesh Prasad
- C) Alok Shukla
- D) Amit Shah

Q4. In which city India hosted the 46th Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM 46) and the 26th Meeting of the Committee for Environmental Protection (CEP 26) from 20 to 30 May 2024?

- A) Bengaluru
- B) New Delhi
- C) Kochi
- D) Thiruvananthapuram

Q5. What is the theme for World Thalassaemia Day 2024?

- A) "Empowering Lives, Embracing Progress: Equitable and Accessible Thalassaemia Treatment for All"
- B) "Thalassaemia: Cure and Care for All"
- C) "United for a Thalassaemia-Free Future"
- D) "Awareness and Action: Ending Thalassaemia"

Q6. Payment aggregators aggregate _____ under a single payment gateway account.

- A) Financial data
- B) Merchants
- C) Insurance policies
- D) Customer reviews

Q7. Jeremiah Manele has recently been elected as the new Prime Minister of which country?

- A) Mongolia
- B) Solomon Islands
- C) Sudan
- D) Namibia

Q8. Who was awarded the Whitley Gold Award in 2024 for their outstanding contribution to wildlife conservation?

- A) Purnima Devi Barman

- B) Jane Goodall
- C) David Attenborough
- D) Wangari Maathai

Q9. What is the theme of World Press Freedom Day 2024?

- A) Shaping a Future of Rights
- B) Journalism under Digital Siege
- C) A Press for the Planet
- D) Journalism without Fear or Favour

Q10. The Appointment Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of _____ as the President of the GST Appellate Tribunal (GSTAT) for 4 years.

- A) Sanjaya Kumar Mishra
- B) Arindam Bagchi
- C) Indra Mani Pandey
- D) Tanu Singh

Q11. The World Press Freedom Index is released annually by which organization?

- A) United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
- B) International Press Institute (IPI)
- C) Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ)
- D) Reporters Without Borders (RSF)

Q12. Which country was ranked at the bottom of the World Press Freedom Index 2024?

- A) Afghanistan
- B) Iraq
- C) Iran
- D) Eritrea

Q13. What was the rank of India in the World Press Freedom Index 2024?

- A) 152
- B) 159
- C) 161
- D) 180

Q14. The Reserve Bank of India uses various tools to manage the money supply and influence interest rates. These tools include:

- A) Open market operations
- B) Direct credit control
- C) Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR)
- D) All of the Above

Q15. What is neobanking?

- A) Traditional banking is conducted through physical branches.
- B) Banking services are provided exclusively through mobile apps or online platforms.
- C) Banking services for the elderly population.
- D) Investment banking services.

Q16. UNICEF India has appointed _____ as its new National Ambassador.

- A) Anushka Sharma
- B) Kareena Kapoor Khan
- C) Priyanka Chopra
- D) Katrina Kaif

Q17. The Thomas Cup is associated with which sport?

- A) Tennis
- B) Badminton
- C) Table Tennis
- D) Squash

Q18. The West Bengal finance department emphasizes the importance of comprehensive carbon pricing in the climate budget. What is the most likely purpose of carbon pricing in this context?

- A) To increase the cost of tea production in Darjeeling.
- B) To generate additional revenue for the state government.
- C) To encourage a shift towards more sustainable practices by making carbon emissions more expensive.
- D) To penalize individuals and businesses for past environmental damage.

Q19. Which organization will assist in developing West Bengal's climate budget?

- A) United Nations
- B) World Health Organization
- C) World Bank
- D) International Monetary Fund

Q20. In FY 23-24, what percentage of India's new power generation capacity came from renewable energy?

- A) 50%
- B) 71%
- C) 33%
- D) 90%

Q21. Who chairs the National Crisis Management Committee (NCMC)?

- A) Prime Minister
- B) Home Minister
- C) Cabinet Secretary
- D) Defense Minister

Q22. What is the Vasuki indicus, recently discovered in Gujarat?

- A) Largest fossil frog
- B) Largest fossil snake
- C) Largest fossil bird
- D) Largest fossil tiger

Q23. Which UN-affiliated body reviews India's National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) accreditation?

- A) United Nations Security Council (UNSC)
- B) Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI)
- C) United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
- D) United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

Q24. Which company won the Climate Action Champion award at the Outlook Planet Sustainability Summit 2024?

- A) Coal India Limited
- B) NHPC Limited
- C) GAIL (India) Limited
- D) NTPC Limited

Q25. Which continent experienced the highest rate of warming in 2023, according to the World Meteorological Organization?

- A) Africa
- B) Europe
- C) Asia
- D) South America

Q26. Which committee recommended the establishment of Small Finance Banks in India?

- A) Nachiket Mor Committee
- B) Raghuram Rajan Committee
- C) Narasimham Committee
- D) Malegam Committee

Q27. Which horse breed was the focus of an international beauty contest in Turkmenistan?

- A) Arabian horse
- B) Mustang
- C) Akhal-Teke
- D) Clydesdale

Q28. Which city hosted the 46th Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM 46) in 2024?

- A) New Delhi
- B) Kochi
- C) Mumbai
- D) Chennai

Q29. Which country recently joined the International Solar Alliance (ISA) as its 99th member?

- A) United States
- B) Russia
- C) Spain
- D) China

Q30. Which Indian literary works were recently inscribed in UNESCO's Memory of the World Asia-Pacific Regional Register?

- A) Mahabharata and Ramayana
- B) Bhagavad Gita and Manusmriti
- C) Ramcharitmanas, Panchatantra, and Sahṛdayāloka-Locana
- D) Arthashastra and Kamasutra

Q31. What is the primary objective of the RoDTEP scheme expanded by the Indian government?

- A) To promote domestic consumption of goods
- B) To support e-commerce exports
- C) To reduce import tariffs on essential commodities
- D) To enhance agricultural productivity

Q32. Which traditional textile craft from Gujarat recently received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag?

- A) Bandhani
- B) Patola
- C) Kutch Ajrakh
- D) Pashmina

Q33. Where was the joint India-US exercise "Tarkash" conducted?

- A) New Delhi
- B) Kolkata
- C) Mumbai
- D) Chennai

Q34. Which mega military exercise did the Indian Air Force participate in Alaska, USA?

- A) Exercise Malabar
- B) Exercise Garuda
- C) Exercise Red Flag 24
- D) Exercise Varuna

Q35. Which Chennai-based startup successfully launched the world's first space rocket with a single-piece 3D printed engine?

- A) Skyroot Aerospace
- B) Agnikul Cosmos
- C) Bellatrix Aerospace
- D) TeamIndus

Q36. Which country's space agency plans to construct the first lunar railway system called FLOAT?

- A) Russia
- B) China
- C) India
- D) USA

Q37. Which vaccine has recently been prequalified by the World Health Organization (WHO) for combating dengue fever?

- A) CYD-TDV
- B) TAK-003
- C) AAK-001
- D) Vaxelis

Q38. Which Indian gymnast recently won a gold medal in the women's vault at the Asian Women's Artistic Gymnastics Championships?

- A) Dipa Karmakar
- B) Aruna Reddy
- C) Pranati Nayak
- D) Pranati Das

Q39. Who won the Sultan Azlan Shah Hockey Trophy in 2024?

- A) Japan
- B) Pakistan
- C) Malaysia
- D) New Zealand

Q40. Who recently assumed office as Singapore's new Prime Minister?

- A) Lawrence Wong
- B) Lee Hsien Loong
- C) Klaus Schwab
- D) Su Chan

Q41. Who has been elected as the president of the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA)?

- A) Maanish Kashyap
- B) Radhika Sen
- C) Sanjaya Kumar Mishra
- D) Kapil Sibal

Q42. Who among the following Indian-origin scientists was awarded the Shaw Prize in Astronomy for 2024?

- A) Srinivas R. Kulkarni
- B) Lawrence Wong
- C) Hemant Khatri
- D) Dr Soumya Swaminathan

Q43. Which institution received the Nelson Mandela Award for Health Promotion in 2024?

- A) All India Institute of Medical Sciences
- B) National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences
- C) Tata Memorial Hospital
- D) Fortis Healthcare

Q44. Who won the International Booker Prize in 2024?

- A) Haruki Murakami
- B) Jenny Erpenbeck
- C) Olga Tokarczuk
- D) Margaret Atwood

Q45. What notable achievement is celebrated on National Technology Day in India?

- A) Launch of ISRO's first satellite
- B) India's first nuclear test
- C) India's first manned space mission
- D) Invention of Zero

Q46. What is the theme for the International Day for Biological Diversity 2024?

- A) Save Our Species
- B) Biodiversity and Sustainable Development
- C) Be Part of the Plan
- D) Protect Our Oceans

Q47. What is green hydrogen and how is it produced?

- A) Hydrogen produced from fossil fuels
- B) Hydrogen produced through electrolysis using renewable energy sources
- C) Hydrogen produced by burning natural gas
- D) Hydrogen produced from biomass

Q48. What is the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY)?

- A) A housing scheme for low-income families
- B) A national public health insurance scheme
- C) A rural employment guarantee program
- D) An education initiative for underprivileged children

Q49. What role do zooxanthellae play in coral reefs?

- A) They provide energy and nutrients to coral polyps through photosynthesis.
- B) They are predators of coral polyps.
- C) They form the skeleton of coral reefs.
- D) They clean the coral reefs by consuming detritus.

Q50. Which country is the world's leading watermelon producer, contributing 60% of global production?

- A) India
- B) Brazil
- C) China
- D) Mexico

ANSWERS

1. Answer: C

Explanation: International Nurses Day, celebrated annually on May 12th, is a global celebration honouring the vital role

nurses play in health-care. The theme for 2024 is "Our Nurses. Our Future. The Economic Power of Care," emphasizing the role nurses play in patient well-being and the economic strength of the healthcare system.

2. Answer: D

Explanation: The Constitution Park in Pune, jointly developed by the Indian Army and the Punit Balan Group, was recently inaugurated. This park serves as a symbolic representation of our Fundamental Rights and emphasizes the importance of our Fundamental Duties. It aims to educate every citizen about their rights and encourages them to fulfil their duties conscientiously.

3. Answer: C

Explanation: Alok Shukla, a dedicated environmental activist from India, has been honoured with the 2024 Goldman Environmental Prize, often referred to as the "Green Nobel Prize." This prestigious award is given annually to grassroots environmental activists from each of the world's six inhabited continents. The Goldman Prize recognizes individuals for their sustained and significant efforts to protect and enhance the natural environment, often at great personal risk.

4. Answer: C

Explanation: India hosted the 46th Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM 46) and the 26th Meeting of the Committee for Environmental Protection (CEP 26) from May 20 to May 30, 2024, in Kochi, Kerala. Organized by the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) through the National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR), the meetings aim to facilitate global discussions on environmental conservation and scientific cooperation in Antarctica.

5. Answer: A

Explanation: World Thalassaemia Day 2024, celebrated on May 8, aims to raise awareness about genetic disorders and the struggles of patients. The theme is "Empowering Lives, Embracing Progress: Equitable and Accessible Thalassaemia Treatment for All". The day's history dates back to 1994 when the Thalassaemia International Federation (TIF) first established it.

6. Answer: B

Explanation: Payment aggregators aggregate merchants under a single payment gateway account, simplifying the process for small businesses by handling payment processing and security requirements. Merchants sign up with the aggregator, which processes transactions on their behalf and deposits funds into their accounts, minus fees. This reduces complexity and costs and provides abstraction from the direct handling of financial data.

7. Answer: B

Explanation: Jeremiah Manele has been elected as the new Prime Minister of the Solomon Islands, succeeding former Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare. Manele, who previously served as Foreign Minister, secured the position with 31 votes, against 18 for his rival candidate, former opposition leader Mathew Wale. This election is significant for the Solomon Islands, a South Pacific nation with growing closeness with China, suggesting the country may continue to maintain these ties.

8. Answer: A

Explanation: Dr Purnima Devi Barman, a wildlife biologist from Assam, has won her second Whitley Gold Award, also known as the Green Oscar, for her conservation efforts for the Hargila bird and its wetland habitat. The award was presented by Princess Anne, the sister of King Charles III, and celebrated six other grassroots conservationists.

9. Answer: C

Explanation: World Press Freedom Day, observed annually on 3 May, is a global celebration of press freedom and the challenges faced by journalists. The theme for 2024 is "A Press for the Planet: Journalism in the Face of the Environmental Crisis." The day was first declared by the United Nations General Assembly in 1993.

10. Answer: A

Explanation: Sanjaya Kumar Mishra has been appointed as the President of the GST Appellate Tribunal (GSTAT) for a four-year term. Mishra, a former Chief Justice of Jharkhand High Court, was chosen based on the recommendations of a Search-Cum-Selection Committee. The appointment aims to expedite the GSTAT's functionalization. The Tribunal will have a Principal Bench in Delhi and 31 State benches across the states. The Department of Revenue invited applications for 63 judicial and 32 technical member posts in February 2024.

11. Answer: D

Explanation: The World Press Freedom Index is compiled and released annually by Reporters Without Borders (RSF), an international non-governmental organization that promotes and defends press freedom around the world.

12. Answer: D

Explanation: Eritrea has been ranked at the bottom of the World Press Freedom Index 2024 due to its strict media control and lack of press freedom. The government is known for repressing independent journalism, with no privately owned or independent media outlets operating within the country. Journalists face severe restrictions, and many have been arrested or forced to flee the country.

13. Answer: B

Explanation: India has been ranked 159th out of 180 countries in the World Press Freedom Index 2024, a slight improvement from the previous year's ranking of 161st. The ranking reflects the challenges faced by journalists in India, including pressures and attacks against the press. Despite the slight improvement, concerns remain regarding media freedom and the safety of journalists in the country.

14. Answer: D

Explanation: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) employs various tools to manage the money supply and influence interest rates in the economy. These tools include Open Market Operations (OMOs), Direct Credit Control, and the Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR). OMOs involve buying and selling government securities in the open market, injecting liquidity into the market and absorbing it when sold. Direct Credit Control involves specific instructions given to banks regarding credit sanctioning to specific sectors or borrowers, setting limits on advances or imposing conditions for loans. SLR regulates credit growth in India by determining the percentage of

deposits banks must maintain before providing credit. These tools are part of the RBI's monetary policy toolkit.

15. Answer: B

Explanation: Neobanking is a fintech concept that offers banking services exclusively through mobile apps or online platforms, eliminating the need for traditional branch networks. These fintech firms, also known as "challenger banks," focus on specific financial products like checking and savings accounts, aiming to make banking more accessible, convenient, and user-friendly. They leverage technology to enhance the user experience and make banking more accessible.

16. Answer: B

Explanation: UNICEF India has appointed Kareena Kapoor Khan as its new National Ambassador, marking the 75th anniversary of its partnership with India. Kapoor will advocate for the rights and well-being of children across India, using her fame in Indian cinema to raise awareness and support UNICEF's mission #ForEveryChild. This move reflects UNICEF's commitment to upholding every child's rights and ensuring they reach their full potential.

17. Answer: B

Explanation: The Thomas Cup, also known as the World Men's Team Championships, is an international badminton competition organized by the Badminton World Federation (BWF). Established in 1949 by George Alan Thomas, it has been held every two years since 1982. As of 2024, China is the most recent champion. The tournament is one of the most prestigious in the sport, and it has been a part of the Badminton World Federation's global governing body since its inception.

18. Answer: C

Explanation: Carbon pricing is a method that incentivizes businesses and individuals to reduce their carbon footprint by making it more costly to emit greenhouse gases. This economic approach aims to shift consumption and production patterns towards cleaner alternatives, reducing overall emissions and mitigating climate change. The West Bengal finance department emphasizes the purpose of carbon pricing in its climate budget, which aims to make carbon emissions more expensive. The Carbon Tracker Initiative provides detailed information on carbon budgets and their significance in addressing climate change.

19. Answer: B

Explanation: The World Bank is to assist West Bengal in developing its climate budget, as it has been supporting projects related to climate resilience, such as the 'West Bengal Accelerated Development of Minor Irrigation Project'. The World Bank provides financial and technical assistance to member countries for development programs aimed at reducing poverty and supporting sustainable economic growth, including addressing climate change and its impacts.

20. Answer: B

Explanation: India's new power generation capacity accounted for 71% of the country's new power generation in the fiscal year 23-24, with over 70% coming from renewable energy sources. This significant contribution, particularly from the 26 GW of new power generated, reflects India's growing

commitment to sustainable energy sources and its efforts to transition towards a greener energy mix. The correct answer is 71%.

21. Answer: C

Explanation: The National Crisis Management Committee (NCMC) is led by the Cabinet Secretary, the highest-ranking civil servant in the Indian government. They coordinate and implement relief measures and operations in the wake of natural calamities or crises. The correct answer is the Cabinet Secretary. The committee's role is to ensure the safety and well-being of the Indian people during natural disasters.

22. Answer: B

Explanation: Vasuki indicus, fossilized remains of the largest snake to have ever existed, was discovered in Gujarat, India. Named after the mythological snake king associated with the Hindu deity Lord Shiva, this colossal serpent was found in the lignite mines of Gujarat. The discovery suggests that Vasuki indicus may have been one of the largest snakes ever, reaching up to 15 meters in length and dating back 47 million years. The fossil suggests that Vasuki indicus may have been one of the largest to slither the earth.

23. Answer: B

Explanation: India's National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) is under review by the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI), a UN-related body. The review, which occurs every five years, aims to ensure compliance with the UN-mandated Paris Principles. The outcome will determine whether the NHRC retains its "A status" or is downgraded to a "B status," which allows India to vote at the UN Human Rights Council and other UN bodies, while a "B status" restricts such participation.

24. Answer: D

Explanation: NTPC Limited was recognized as the Climate Action Champion in the fossil fuel category at the Outlook Planet Sustainability Summit & Awards 2024. Bharat Electronics Limited received the non-fossil fuel award, and Mangalore Refinery & Petrochemicals Limited received the Jury Special Recognition. PFC received the "CSR Champion Award" at the summit.

25. Answer: B

Explanation: Europe experienced the highest rate of warming in 2023, with temperatures rising twice the global average rate since the 1980s. This has led to extreme weather events and significant impacts. The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) confirmed that 2023 is the hottest year globally, and concerted efforts are needed to mitigate its effects. Europe is warming twice as fast as other continents, emphasizing the urgency of addressing climate change.

26. Answer: A

Explanation: The Nachiket Mor Committee, formed in 2013, recommended the establishment of Small Finance Banks in India to address financial inclusion issues. The committee suggested differential licensing in two categories: Payments Banks and Small Finance Banks. The aim was to provide basic banking services to small businesses and unorganized sector entities, which are not served by traditional banks.

27. Answer: C

Explanation: The Akhal-Teke horse breed, known for their long necks, graceful legs, and shimmering coats, has been the focus of an international beauty contest in Turkmenistan. The contest aims to stimulate the development of horse breeding traditions and draw global attention to this remarkable breed. The best horses are chosen to promote the glory of the Akhal-Teke worldwide.

28. Answer: B

Explanation: The 46th Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM 46) was held in Kochi, Kerala, from May 20 to 30, 2024. Hosted by the Ministry of Earth Sciences and the National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research, the meeting focused on critical topics such as the Antarctic Treaty System, climate change implications, and tourism management. An ambitious framework for regulating tourism and non-governmental activities in Antarctica was adopted during the event. India is set to host the prestigious 46th ATCM and 26th Meeting of the Convention on the Antarctic Treaty in 2024.

29. Answer: D

Explanation: Spain has become the 99th member of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) by transferring the Instrument of Ratification. This move strengthens the global commitment to solar energy and encourages Spain to promote sustainable and re-newable energy solutions. Spain joins other nations in promoting sustainable and renewable energy solutions.

30. Answer: C

Explanation: The Memory of the World Asia-Pacific Regional Register has inscribed three significant Indian literary works: Ram-charitmanas, an epic poem in Awadhi language, attributed to Goswami Tulsidas in the 16th century, Panchatantra, a collection of animal fables in poetry and prose, and Sardayaloka-Locana, a seminal text on Indian poetics and dramaturgy dating back to the 9th and 10th centuries AD. These works reflect India's rich cultural and literary heritage, and their inscription is a testament to their enduring significance and influence.

31. Answer: B

Explanation: The RoDTEP Scheme aims to make exporting goods more profitable by providing a rebate on taxes and duties in-curred during the production and distribution of exported products. These hidden costs can impact export profitability and enhance India's competitiveness in the global market. The scheme aims to alleviate this burden and enhance India's competitiveness in the global market.

32. Answer: C

Explanation: Kutch Ajrakh, a traditional textile craft from Gujarat, has been awarded the Geographic Indication (GI) tag. This centuries-old craft involves intricate hand-block printing on treated cotton cloth, which takes up to three weeks. The process involves treating textiles with vegetable and mineral colours, washing them multiple times, and using around blocks for resist printing and dyeing. The result is stunning textile art, featuring blue or red vegetable dyes.

33. Answer: B

Explanation: The India-US exercise "Tarkash" was held in Kolkata to enhance interoperability, coordination, and bilateral cooperation in urban counter-terrorism scenarios.

The elite National Security Guard (NSG) and US Special Operations Forces (SOF) conducted the drill, strengthening relations and equipping them to combat terrorism effectively. The exercise also included a response to nuclear and bio-terrorist attacks for the first time.

34. Answer: C

Explanation: The Indian Air Force (IAF) participated in the multi-nation mega military exercise called Exercise Red Flag 24 in Alaska, USA. The exercise aimed to enhance interoperability with global air forces. The IAF crew actively participated in mission planning and even assumed the role of mission leaders for designated tasks. This marked the first time IAF Rafale aircraft were part of the exercise.

35. Answer: B

Explanation: Chennai-based private space technology startup Agnikul Cosmos successfully launched the world's first rocket with a single-piece 3D-printed engine, Agnibaan. The launch took place from their launch pad, 'Dhanush', at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota. This sub-orbital test flight marks a significant milestone for India's private space sector and is the second time an Indian entity other than the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has launched such a mission.

36. Answer: D

Explanation: NASA is planning to construct the first lunar railway system, FLOAT, using levitating robots that move at 1 mph over a three-layer film track on the Moon. The goal is to reduce abrasion caused by lunar dust and facilitate efficient material transport for future lunar base operations. NASA has funded the project to develop a floating robot railway on the Moon.

37. Answer: B

Explanation: The World Health Organization (WHO) has prequalified a live-attenuated vaccine, TAK-003, for combating dengue fever. Developed by Takeda, the vaccine contains weakened versions of the four dengue virus serotypes. It is now eligible for procurement by UN agencies like UNICEF and PAHO. TAK-003 is recommended for children aged 6-16 years in high dengue burden and transmission intensity settings. Administered in a 2-dose schedule with a 3-month interval, TAK-003 aims to enhance global access to dengue protection.

38. Answer: A

Explanation: Dipa Karmakar, an Indian gymnast, won the gold medal in the women's vault apparatus at the Asian Women's Artistic Gymnastics Championships 2024, marking the first time an Indian gymnast has won a gold medal in any event at the Asian Championships.

39. Answer: A

Explanation: The Sultan Azlan Shah Hockey Trophy in 2024 was won by Japan, after a shoot-out 3-1 victory over Pakistan in the final match. The tournament took place at the Azlan Shah Stadium in Ipoh, Malaysia, from May 4 to 11, 2024. Japan secured their first title in this tournament, marking their first win in the tournament. The event was organized by the Asian Hockey Federation.

40. Answer: A

Explanation: Singapore's new Prime Minister, Lawrence Wong, has succeeded Lee Hsien Loong, the son of the founding father. Wong, who has been Deputy Prime Minister since 2022, will lead the People's Action Party into the general election. His expertise in handling Singapore's COVID-19 response earned him the confidence of his predecessor.

41. Answer: D

Explanation: Kapil Sibal, a Senior Advocate, has been elected as the President of the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) for 2024. His victory in the elections reflects his leadership within the legal community and his commitment to upholding constitutional values, the rule of law, and the independence of the judiciary. Sibal defeated Pradeep Rai to become the president of the Supreme Court Bar Association of India.

42. Answer: A

Explanation: Indian-origin astronomer Shrinivas R. Kulkarni has been awarded the 2024 Shaw Prize in Astronomy for his groundbreaking discoveries in millisecond pulsars, gamma-ray bursts, and supernovae. Kulkarni's work includes the Palomar Transient Factory and its successor, the Zwicky Transient Facility, which have significantly advanced our understanding of the time-variable optical sky.

43. Answer: B

Explanation: The National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS) in India was awarded the 2024 Nelson Mandela Award for Health Promotion at the Seventy-seventh World Health Assembly in Geneva. The award recognizes outstanding contributions to public health.

44. Answer: B

Explanation: The 2024 International Booker Prize was awarded to Jenny Erpenbeck for her novel "Kairos," which explores a de-structive affair between a young woman and an older man in 1980s East Berlin. The novel explores themes of freedom, loyalty, love, and power, with the £50,000 prize shared equally between the author and translator.

45. Answer: B

Explanation: National Technology Day in India, celebrated annually on May 11, commemorates the historic nuclear tests conducted by India at Pothran in 1998, marking the country's emergence as the sixth country to possess nuclear technology. The day honours the contributions of Indian scientists and engineers who have advanced technology across various fields and serves as a reminder of the nation's scientific innovation. It encourages the younger generation to explore careers in technology, engineering, and mathematics.

46. Answer: C

Explanation: The International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB) 2024 theme is "Be part of the Plan," emphasizing the

need for global cooperation to protect nature and reverse biodiversity loss. It encourages all stakeholders to support the implementation of the Kyoto-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, also known as the Biodiversity Plan. The event coincides with the Convention on Biological Diversity in Nairobi and aims to boost momentum for the COP 16 conference in Colombia later this year.

47. Answer: B

Explanation: Green hydrogen is produced through electrolysis, a process that splits water into hydrogen and oxygen. It is produced using renewable energy sources like solar, wind, and hydroelectric power, which do not emit greenhouse gases. Green hydrogen has advantages such as zero emissions, energy storage, and industrial applications in sectors like industry, transportation, and power generation. However, it faces challenges such as high costs and infrastructure development. Despite these challenges, green hydrogen is a promising avenue for achieving sustainable energy goals, but further research, investment, and policy support are needed to make it economically viable and widely accessible.

48. Answer: B

Explanation: The Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY) is a public health insurance scheme in India, offering up to ₹5 lakh per family per year for hospitalization. It targets over 12 crore poor and vulnerable families and was launched in 2018, in Ranchi, Jharkhand. PM-JAY aims to provide financial protection against health-related expenses and is part of the government's aim to achieve Universal Health Coverage.

49. Answer: A

Explanation: Zooxanthellae are essential partners in coral reefs, providing a mutualistic relationship, nutrient recycling, and colour and coral health. They provide a protected environment and necessary photosynthesis compounds, while corals provide oxygen, waste removal, and nutrients. Zooxanthellae also facilitate nutrient recycling, transferring up to 90% of organic material to coral tissue. Coral bleaching can result from zooxanthellae expulsion, and they grow in low turbidity and nutrient-poor conditions. Overall, zooxanthellae are crucial for coral survival and nutrient cycling.

50. Answer: C

Explanation: China is the world's leading watermelon producer, contributing 60% of global production. In 2021, China produced 60.37 billion kilograms of watermelons, equivalent to the combined production in Africa, the Americas, and Europe. Watermelons grow in China's diverse climate and are a staple fruit enjoyed by millions worldwide. China's watermelon production is equivalent to the combined production in Africa, the Americas, and Europe.