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Mohan Charan Majhi takes oath as Odisha CM



Manas Ranjan Samal will receive the Bal Sahitya Puraskar



Odisha's 'Raja' festival for the first time at Rashtrapati Bhavan



Maguni Charan Kuanr, pioneer of rod puppetry in Odisha and Padma Shri awardee, passed away



ZSI Scientists discovered a new species of snake eel across Odisha

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COMPREHENSIVE COVERAGE OF CURRENT AFFAIRS FOR ODISHA STATE CIVIL SERVICES EXAMS

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SUCHISMITA PANIGRAHI

RANK 2



And many more...

Odisha Current Affairs

Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary in Odisha has introduced a unique initiative of ‘Stargazing’, offering visitors a chance to observe constellations and enjoy the night sky in the natural beauty of the sanctuary.

- Elaborate and systematic stargazing at Debrigarh is the first- of-its-kind in the state. The sanctuary has developed six new stargazing cottages with glass roofs to facilitate night time star viewing, a first-of-its-kind initiative in the state.
- Spread over 353 square kilometers, along with 700 square kilometers of Hirakud wetland without human habitation, Debrigarh offers more than 1,000 square kilometers of dark sky, ensuring clear visibility for identifying stars, constellations, and even planets like Jupiter.

Koraput experienced an astonishing 15,000 lightning strikes within a mere seven-minute span.

- This event coincided with a nor’wester rain that swept through the region.
- The ‘Damini’ app of the Ministry of Earth Sciences confirmed these strikes, which affected various areas including Borigumma, Jeypore, Koraput, and Damanjodi.
- Lightning is a potent and visible electrical phenomenon occurring due to the accumulation of electrical charges within clouds and between clouds and the ground.
- When analyzing the geographical distribution of lightning strikes in India, it is observed that the northeastern states, along with West Bengal, Sikkim, Jharkhand, Odisha, and Bihar, experience the highest frequency of lightning strikes.
- Despite such measures, lightning remains a significant cause of accidental deaths, with 2,880 fatalities attributed to it in 2021, accounting for 40% of all accidental deaths due to “forces of nature,” as per the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data.

Maguni Charan Kuanr, pioneer of rod puppetry in Odisha and Padma Shri awardee, passed away.

- Founded the Utkal BiswakarmaKalakunjaKandhei Nacha troupe and is credited with developing over 20 puppetry productions with 300 characters based on mythological stories of the Ramayana and Mahabharata.
- He transformed Kathi Kandhei Nacha from a crude puppetry style to a polished art form, handling all aspects of production including

puppet creation, costume design, screenplay writing, music composition, stage design, and character portrayal.

- Kuanr’s contributions to puppetry were recognized with several awards, including the Central Sangeet Natak Akademi award in 2004.

Odia varsity to get its syndicate & statute soon

- The university was made operational in the last academic session of 2023-24 with three departments and the first batch of 72 students have recently appeared in the first semester examinations.
- Currently, the new university has one member in its syndicate who is the vice-chancellor of Utkal University Sabita Acharya.
- Odia University is the second language university in the state after the Shree Jagannath Sanskrit University at Puri.
- As per the Odia University Act, 2017, the syndicate is integral to the university as it is responsible for establishing and maintaining departments, fixing fees, overseeing exam preparations and publication of results, appointing faculty members and members to the board of studies, among other things.
- This apart, based on the framework provided under the Odisha Universities First Statute 1990, the university is framing its own statute which will govern the overall functioning of the university.

Mohan Charan Majhi takes oath as Odisha CM

- A member of the Santali community, Majhi is renowned for his public service and organizational skills.
- He chaired the Public Accounts Committee in the last Assembly and was a member of the Standing Committee on SC and ST under the ORV Act.
- Additionally, he served as the government deputy chief whip from 2005 to 2009 during the BJD-BJP coalition government.
- Majhi won the Keonjhar seat in 2000 and again in 2004, marking the beginning of his political ascent.
- Although he faced defeats in the 2009 and 2014 elections, he remained active at the grassroots level.
- His perseverance paid off when he won the Keonjhar seat again in the 2019 election.
- As the Opposition Chief Whip in the Assembly, Majhi played a crucial role in holding the BJD government accountable, exposing various irregularities and leveraging his legal knowledge.

Sl.	Name of Minister	Portfolios
1	Mohan Charan Majhi (Chief Minister)	Home, General Administration and Public Grievance, Information and

		Public Relations, Water Resources, Planning and Convergence
2	Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo (Deputy CM)	Agriculture and Farmers' empowerment, Energy
3	PravatiParida (Deputy CM)	Women and Child Development, Mission Shakti, Tourism
4	Suresh Pujari	Revenue and Disaster Management
5	Rabi Narayan Naik	Rural Development, Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water
6	Nityananda Gond	School and Mass Education, ST & SC Development, Minorities & Backward Classes Welfare
7	Krushna Chandra Patra	Food Suppliers and Consumer Welfare, Science & Technology
8	PrithvirajHarichandan	Law, Works, Excise
9	Mukesh Mahaling	Health and Family Welfare, Parliamentary Affairs, Electronic and Information Technology
10	Bibhuti Bhusan Jena	Commerce and Transport, Steel & Mines
11	Dr Krushna Chandra Mohapatra	Housing and Urban Development, Public Enterprises
12	Ganesh Ram Singh Khuntia (Minister of State (MoS) with Independent Charge)	Forest, Environment & Climate Change, Labour & Employees State Insurance
13	Suryabanshi Suraj Sthitaprajna (Minister of State (MoS) with Independent Charge)	Higher Education, Sports and Youth Services, Odia Language Literature and Culture
14	Pradeep Bal Samanta (Minister of State (MoS) with Independent Charge)	Co-operation, Handlooms, Textiles & Handicrafts
15	Gokula Nanda Mallik (Minister of State (MoS) with Independent Charge)	Fisheries and Animal Resources, Development, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
16	Sampad Chandra Swain (Minister of State (MoS) with Independent Charge)	Industries, Skill Development and Technical Education

Ranendra Pratap Swain, the Athagarh MLA, has been sworn in as the Pro-tem Speaker of the Odisha Assembly.

- The oath of office was administered by Odisha Governor Raghubar Das in a ceremony attended by Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi at Raj Bhawan in Bhubaneswar.
- **Pro-tem Speaker:**
- As per the second provision to **article 94** of the Constitution, the office of the Speaker becomes vacant immediately before the first meeting of the new Lok Sabha.
- In that case, the duties of the Speaker are to be performed by a Member of the House appointed for this purpose by the President as Speaker pro tem.

Similipal Tiger Reserve (STR) is enhancing its surveillance efforts by adding 500 additional camera traps in and around the protected area, bringing the total to around 900 cameras.

- The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) mandates annual surveillance to track tiger movements, along with those of co-predators, prey, and other ecological changes.
- According to the All Odisha Tiger Estimation (AOTE) 2023-24 report, Similipal is home to approximately 27 tigers.
- However, evidence suggests the presence of three adult tigers not yet captured on camera. The new cameras are expected to improve surveillance and

aid in monitoring the reserve's rich biodiversity more effectively.

The President of India, Droupadi Murmu, celebrated Odisha's 'Raja' festival for the first time at Rashtrapati Bhavan, offering a unique glimpse of Odia culture and lifestyle.

- **Raja or Raja Parba or Mithuna Sankranti** is a three-day-long festival of **womanhood celebrated in Odisha, India.**
- On this occasion, people enjoy cooking traditional delicacies, relishing paan, playing cards and other games with family and friends.
- First day of the festival is called "**Pahili Raja**" which marks the beginning of the festival in which people do all types of preparations for the festival.
- Second day is called "**Raja/Mithuna Sankranti**" which signifies the beginning of the solar month of Mithuna (June/July) from which the season of rains starts.
- Third day is called "**Bhumi Dahana or Basi Raja**" which signifies the middle day of the festival in which people take a break from their routine work to relax and enjoy.
- On the fourth day called "**Basumatisnana**", people give bath to mother earth with turmeric paste and adore it with flower, sindoor etc.

The Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has declared an Eco-sensitive Zone (ESZ) around

Bhitarkanika National Park, Bhitarkanika Wildlife Sanctuary, and Gahirmatha (Marine) Wildlife Sanctuary.

- This zone spans an area measuring 497.67 sq. km and extends from 0.10 km to 8.7 km around the boundaries of these protected areas.
- The draft notification for this ESZ was issued on September 6, 2023, and was published on June 9, 2024.
- The ESZ designation aims to protect critical habitats, migration routes, and nesting sites within the Mangrove Forest (Wildlife) Division, which includes Bhitarkanika Wildlife Sanctuary (1975), Gahirmatha Marine Sanctuary (1997), and Bhitarkanika National Park (1998).
- These areas are home to 88 species of rare mangroves and a renowned crocodile project, boasting the largest population of estuarine crocodiles in India. Bhitarkanika is also known for its reptilian diversity.
- The region is a wetland of international importance under the Ramsar convention, with Gahirmatha globally celebrated for the mass nesting of Olive Ridley Sea Turtles.

Scientists from the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) have discovered a new species of snake eel in various estuarine ecosystems across Odisha.

- The discovery was made at the ZSI's regional centre in Gopalpur, Ganjam district.
- The new species has been named 'OphichthusSuryai' in honor of Surya Kumar Mohanty, a former joint director of the state fishery department.
- The new species, OphichthusSuryai, is distinguishable from other species in the genus by its unique dorsal fin origin (DFO), vertebral count, and teeth patterns.
- Mohapatra, who led the discovery, noted that the new species was initially identified as belonging to the genus Ophichthus.
- Further examination of morphological, meristic, and molecular characters confirmed that the specimens were indeed unique and warranted classification as a new species.

Two Odia authors have been honored with prestigious awards by the Central Sahitya Akademi for 2024.

- Sanjay Kumar Panda has been selected for the YuvaPuraskar for his book of short stories titled 'Hu Baieaa,' while Manas Ranjan Samal will receive the Bal Sahitya Puraskar for his collection of short stories 'Gapa Kalika.'
- 'Gapa Kalika' comprises ten stories. Similarly, Panda's 'Hu Baieaa,' released in 2021, features ten

stories that focus on individuals from marginalized communities.

- This book is Panda's first collection of short stories, although he has been writing poetry and prose since a young age.
- In 2023 Panda published his second collection of short stories, 'Takia.'
- Manas Ranjan Samal, the editor of one of Odisha's oldest magazines, 'Jhumuka,' has previously won the Odisha Sahitya Akademi award for children's literature.
- Both authors will receive engraved copper plaques and a cash prize of ₹50,000 each at a special function organized by the Sahitya Akademi.

The Odisha state government is set to initiate an extensive sickle cell disease (SCD) screening and awareness campaign across 21 districts with significant tribal populations.

- This campaign aligns with the observance of World Sickle Cell Awareness Day and will run from June 19 to July 3.

World Sickle Cell Awareness Day:

- World Sickle Cell Awareness Day is observed annually on June 19th to raise awareness about sickle cell disease (SCD) and its profound impact on individuals, families, and communities worldwide.
- Sickle cell disease is a genetic blood disorder characterized by abnormal red blood cells that assume a crescent or sickle shape.
- These irregularly shaped cells can cause blockages in blood vessels, leading to a range of health complications.
- World Sickle Cell Awareness Day has its roots in a resolution passed by the United Nations General Assembly on December 22, 2008.
- This resolution acknowledged sickle cell disease as a global health concern and designated June 19th as the official day to raise awareness about the disease worldwide.

The Odisha government has decided to conduct genome sequencing of diphtheria-positive samples amid a special vaccination drive in Rayagada district.

- This step aims to identify the emergence of any new variants and understand the reasons behind the transmission of the disease among vaccinated children.
- Diphtheria is a vaccine-preventable disease, and its inclusion in the universal vaccination program had almost eradicated it.

Genome Sequencing:

- Genome sequencing refers to the process of determining the complete DNA sequence of an organism's genome.
- It involves reading the genetic code of an organism and understanding the arrangement of the nucleotides (A, T, G, and C) that make up its DNA.

Diphtheria:

- Diphtheria is a serious and potentially fatal bacterial infection caused by the bacterium *Corynebacterium diphtheriae*.
- It primarily affects the nose, throat, and respiratory tract.
- The infection can cause a thick, grayish-white coating in the back of the throat, which can lead to difficulty breathing and swallowing.

SuramaPadhy has been elected as the Speaker of the 17th Odisha Legislative Assembly.

- This election makes her the second woman to hold the Speaker's post in Odisha, following BJD's Pramila Mallik.
- The 67-year-old leader first won the Assembly seat from the Ranpur Constituency in 2004. She served as the Minister of State with independent charge of the Department of Cooperation in the BJD-BJP coalition government in Odisha from 2004 to 2009.

The Odisha government has proposed to construct multi-purpose community centres across the state and urban residential programmes in and around Bhubaneswar for tribal people.

- Minister of ST & SC Development, Minorities & Backward Classes Welfare, Nityananda Gond suggested making the Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jati Abhyuday Yojna (PM-AJAY) more people-centric, organizing district-level meetings, and conducting awareness programmes at the panchayat level.
- Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhyuday Yojana (PM-AJAY) is a merged scheme of 03 Centrally Sponsored Scheme namely Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana (PMAGY), Special Central Assistance to Scheduled Castes Sub Plan (SCA to SCSP) and Babu Jagjivan Ram Chhatrawas Yojana (BJRCY) and has been implemented since 2021-22. Aim: to reduce poverty of the SC communities by generation of additional employment opportunities through Skill development, income generating schemes and other initiatives and to improve socio-economic developmental indicators by ensuring adequate infrastructure and requisite services in the SC dominated villages.

The Odisha government has announced the extension of its sponsorship for Indian hockey by an additional three years, now covering until 2036.:

- The decision to extend Odisha's sponsorship by another three years was made to celebrate the State's 100th year of formation and in consideration of the potential of Gujarat hosting the 2036 Olympics.
- Odisha's contribution to the rise of hockey has been crucial, and this sponsorship extension could be transformative for the State in the sports sector.
- This extension marks the second renewal of the sponsorship.
- The initial phase, which started in 2018, concluded in 2023.
- In April, the previous government decided to extend the sponsorship for both senior and junior Men's and Women's Indian Hockey Teams for another decade, from 2023 to 2033.

The Forest Department released a pangolin with a tracking device into the Similipal Tiger Reserve (STR).

- The aim is to study the pangolin's behavior and habitat utilization for better conservation efforts.
- Two teams from Nandankanan and Similipal North are monitoring the pangolin.
- Monitoring tools include trap cameras and VHF signal receivers with directional (Yagi) antennas.
- Data gathered will provide insights into the pangolin's habitat use, health status, and survival.
- This information will contribute to the conservation efforts for the species in the state.

About:

- A pangolin is a mammal of the order Pholidota, the only member of the family Manidae.
- Pangolins are typically covered in tough scales made of keratin, which protect them from predators.
- They are found in tropical regions of Africa and Asia.
- The Indian Pangolin, native to the Indian Subcontinent, finds itself under severe threat due to illegal wildlife trade. Despite being protected under Schedule-I of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, and listed in Appendix-I of CITES, prohibiting trade in pangolin parts, the species is classified as 'Critically Endangered' on the IUCN Red List.

Odisha plays a critical role in supporting the UAE-India bilateral partnership, highlighted by Abdulnasser Alshaali, UAE Ambassador to India

- Business roundtable meeting organized by UAE-India CEPA Council and the Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) in Bhubaneswar.
 - Odisha's developed minerals and industrial sectors and strong human capital attract UAE investors.
 - Trade between UAE and Odisha reached \$2.63 billion in the 2023-2024 fiscal year.
 - Odisha is UAE's eighth-largest trading partner among India's 28 states and eight union territories.
 - Odisha is a leading producer of steel, stainless steel, ferroalloys, alumina, and aluminum.
 - Holds significant reserves of nickel, bauxite, iron ore, and coal.
 - Recent steps to deepen investment and trade collaboration between UAE and India.
 - June 2022: Memoranda of understanding valued at USD 2.76 billion signed between Odisha and UAE companies.
 - Lulu Group plans to establish hypermarkets, shopping malls, and agricultural and seafood processing hubs in Odisha.
- CEPA's Role:**
- CEPA has been instrumental in enhancing economic ties between UAE and India.
 - Total trade between UAE and India was \$83.64 billion for the 2023-2024 fiscal year.
- IMEEEEC Digital Platform:**
- India-UAE sea corridor project to launch a digital platform within 100 days.
 - Aims to enhance trade connectivity and streamline cargo movement between India and UAE.



OPSC Current Affairs

NATIONAL

India's First Coal Gasification Pilot Project

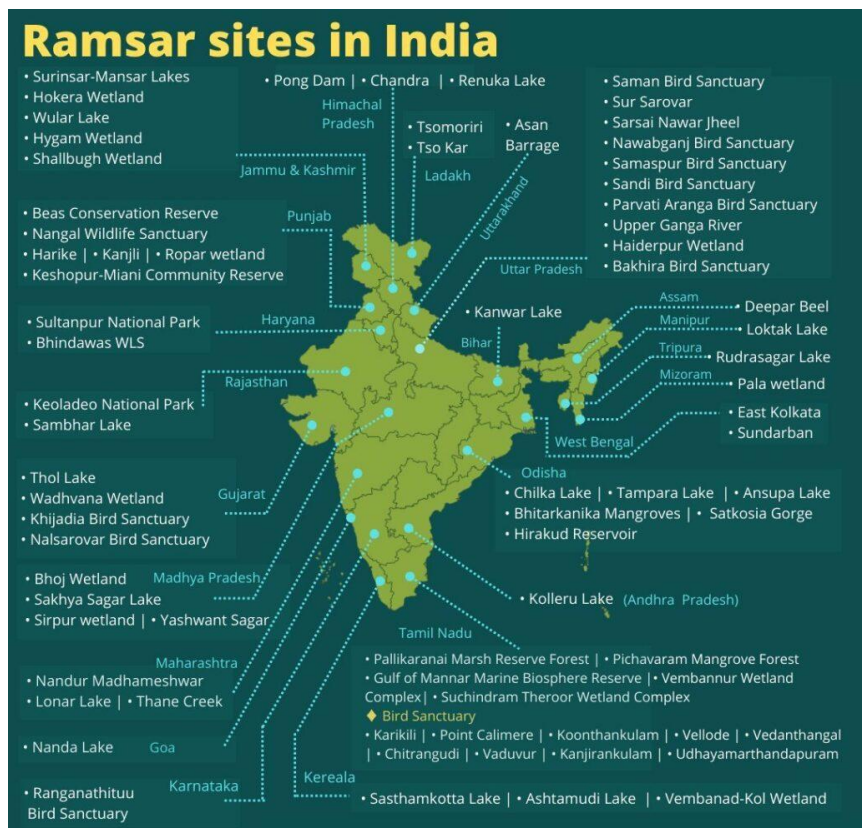
- Eastern Coalfields Limited **launched India's first underground coal gasification pilot project in Jharkhand's Kasta coal block.**
- The project aims to convert coal into valuable gases like methane and hydrogen, potentially revolutionizing India's energy sector.
- The project, launched on June 22, 2024, is being implemented in two phases over two years.
- Funded by the Coal India Limited Research and Development Board, it's executed in collaboration with CMPDI Ranchi and Ergo Exergy Technologies Inc.
- The project aims to demonstrate the economic viability of underground coal gasification, potentially leading India in this field.

Coal Gasification

- The process involves breaking down coal into its fundamental chemical constituents, resulting in the formation of syngas.
- **Syngas primarily consists of carbon monoxide (CO) and hydrogen (H₂),** along with other gaseous compounds.
- In the past, coal gasification was used to create "town gas," a combustible fuel for illumination, heating, and cooking.
- Modern applications include electricity generation in thermal power stations and molten carbonate fuel cell power stations, producing chemical feedstocks, hydrogen production, and transportation fuels like gasoline, diesel, or methanol.

India Adds Two Bird Sanctuaries to Ramsar List

- India has added **two bird sanctuaries from Bihar, Nagi and Nakti, to the 'Ramsar Sites' list, bringing the total to 82.**
- These man-made reservoirs, located in the Jhajha forest range of Jamui District, were added to the list on World Environment Day.
- Nagi and Nakti Bird Sanctuaries have dry deciduous forests surrounding their catchments and provide habitat to over 150 species of birds, mammals, fish, aquatic plants, reptiles, and amphibians.
- A Ramsar site is a wetland site of international importance designated under the **Ramsar Convention, an international environmental treaty signed in Ramsar, Iran.**
- **India becomes a joint third with China in terms of having 82 such sites in the global list.** Currently, the highest number of such sites is in the UK (175) followed by Mexico (144).



Sangyaan App

- The **Railway Protection Force (RPF) has launched the Sangyaan App, a comprehensive legal reference application aimed at providing RPF personnel with in-depth information on new and old criminal laws.**
- Director General of Railway Protection Force (RPF) Manoj Yadava launched the Sangyaan App to provide RPF personnel with in-depth information on three new Criminal Acts: Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) 2023, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) 2023, and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam (BSA) 2023.
- The app aims to educate and empower RPF personnel with comprehensive information on both new and old criminal laws.
- Key features include comprehensive legal access, comparison of laws, section-wise analysis, advanced search tools, an inclusive legal database, and user-friendly design.

Hemis Festival

- The Hemis Festival, also known as HemisTsechu, is a two-day celebration in Ladakh, commemorating the birth anniversary of Guru Padmasambhava.
- Key features include the Chaam Dance, cultural displays like Buddhist paintings, local handicrafts, and traditional Ladakhi attire.
- Religious ceremonies include the blowing of Dungchen (long trumpets) and rituals performed by lamas.
- The festival transforms Ladakh into a hub of activity and colour, offering a glimpse into the rich Buddhist culture of the region.



National Forensic Infrastructure Enhancement Scheme (NFIES)

- The Union Cabinet, led by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved the National Forensic Infrastructure Enhancement Scheme (NFIES).
- The scheme aims to boost India's forensic capabilities through strategic investments in infrastructure and manpower.
- Key components include the establishment of National Forensic Sciences University Campuses, the creation of Central Forensic Science Laboratories (CFSLs), and the upgrade of the Delhi campus of the National Forensic Sciences University.
- The scheme aligns with the government's objective of achieving a conviction rate exceeding 90% by mitigating case backlogs and ensuring timely forensic analyses.

Largest Spinach Producing State

- Uttar Pradesh is the largest spinach-producing state in India.
- The state has favourable weather conditions and rich soil, as it is part of the Indo-Gangetic plain known for its fertile land. The presence of rivers like the Ganges and Yamuna provides ample water for irrigation, which is crucial for spinach cultivation.
- The government of Uttar Pradesh supports spinach farmers by offering crop insurance, setting minimum prices, providing training programs, and giving subsidies for seeds and tools.
- Spinach, also known as "palak" in India, is considered a superfood due to its high nutritional value. It is packed with vitamins A, C, and K, iron, calcium, and antioxidants, which help maintain good health and fight off diseases.



National STOP Diarrhea Campaign

- Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda launched the National STOP Diarrhoea Campaign 2024 on June 24.
- The campaign aims to achieve zero child deaths due to childhood diarrhoea.
- It involves a 2-month long campaign with pre-positioning of 2 ORS packets and zinc as co-packaging to under-5 children.
- The campaign will be implemented in two phases: the Preparatory Phase from 14th to 30th June 2024, and the Campaign Phase from 1st July to 31st August 2024.
- Key activities during this period include the distribution of ORS and Zinc co-packages by ASHA workers to households with children under five, setting up ORS-Zinc corners at health facilities and Anganwadi centres, and intensifying advocacy and awareness efforts for effective diarrhoea management.



- The campaign's focus areas include strengthening health infrastructure, improving access to clean water and sanitation, enhancing nutritional programs, and promoting hygiene education.

Diarrhoea

- Diarrhea is a condition characterized by having at least three loose, liquid, or watery bowel movements in a day.
- It can lead to dehydration due to fluid loss. Signs of dehydration include a decrease in skin elasticity and irritability, which can progress to decreased urination, loss of skin colour, a rapid heart rate, and decreased responsiveness.
- The most common cause of diarrhoea is an infection of the intestines, usually caused by a virus, bacterium, or parasite. This type of infection, known as gastroenteritis, can be acquired from contaminated food or water, or by direct contact with an infected individual.
- Non-infectious causes of diarrhoea include lactose intolerance, irritable bowel syndrome, gluten sensitivity, celiac disease, inflammatory bowel disease, hyperthyroidism, bile acid diarrhoea, and certain medications.
- The treatment of choice for diarrhoea is oral rehydration solution (ORS), which is a mixture of clean water, salts, and sugar. Zinc tablets are also recommended.

'Chadwick House: Navigating Audit Heritage' Museum

- The **Comptroller and Auditor General of India inaugurated the 'Chadwick House: Navigating Audit Heritage Museum in Shimla** on June 24.
- Chadwick House, located in Shimla, holds great historical significance. Mahatma Gandhi stayed there during his visit in 1946. After independence, it served as a training school for the Indian Audit and Accounts Service.
- It offers interactive displays, digital archives, audio-visual presentations, and interactive kiosks across its 10 galleries, each showcasing different aspects of the institution's history and contributions.



**CAG of India inaugurates
'Chadwick House' Museum in Shimla**

Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG)

- The **Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) was established under Article 148 of the Indian constitution.**
- Its authority includes auditing the government's finances at the national and state levels, as well as those of government-owned corporations and autonomous bodies that receive significant government funding.
- The CAG also serves as the statutory auditor for government-owned corporations and conducts supplementary audits for companies in which the government holds a majority stake.
- The CAG's reports are presented to the Parliament and state legislatures, where they are discussed by the Public Accounts Committees and Committees on Public Undertakings.
- **The CAG is also the head of the Indian Audit and Accounts Department, the office is currently represented by Girish Chandra Murmu.**

Krishi Sakhi Program

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi awarded certificates to over 30,000 self-help groups as Krishi Sakhis in Varanasi on June 18, 2024.
- The program aims to **enhance the skills of rural women in agriculture.**
- The **Krishi Sakhi Convergence Program (KSCP) is part of the 'Lakhpati Didi' program, aiming to create 3 crore (30 million) LakhpatiDidis.**
- The program aims to transform rural India by empowering women such as Krishi Sakhis and training and certifying them as para-extension workers.
- The training program includes 56-day modules on agro-ecological practices, farmer field schools, seed bank establishment and management, soil health and conservation practices, and basic communication skills.



- After training, **Krishi Sakhis can work on various Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare schemes, earning between INR 60,000 to 80,000 per year.**

Mission Nishchay

- Punjab Police, Border Security Force (BSF), and Village Defence Committees (VDCs) launched a **one-week drive against drugs in the Fazilka district.**
- The initiative aims to instil community participation in border villages and curb the drug menace.
- The **focus is on youth and women to gather actionable intelligence about drug demand and supply.**
- Fazilka district is targeted due to the recent arrests of seven individuals, including two brothers, and the seizure of heroin, mobile phones, and drug money.
- The arrested individuals were students and had planned to smuggle heroin from Pakistan during their army recruitment preparations.

Deep Sea Mission

- India is set to become the **sixth country to launch its own Deep Sea Mission, marking a significant milestone in oceanic exploration.**
- Union Minister of State, Dr. Jitendra Singh, emphasized the mission's focus on a resilient blue economy, encompassing ocean sciences, flora and fauna exploration, and marine biodiversity conservation.
- The National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) developed the **Matsyayaan 6000 submersible, capable of diving 6,000 meters deep into the ocean.**
- The mission will explore deep-sea flora and fauna, rare earth metals, commercial resource exploitation, and the discovery of metals and polymetallic nodules in the Indian seabed.
- The mission promises to unlock new frontiers in oceanic exploration, scientific research, and economic opportunities for India.



🌐 **INTERNATIONAL**

Carbon Tax on Gassy Cattle

- **Denmark is planning to implement the world's first carbon tax on livestock farmers starting in 2030.**
- The tax aims to target methane emissions from cows, sheep, and pigs, which are significant contributors to global warming.
- **Denmark hopes to achieve a 70% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from 1990 levels by 2030.** This initiative is seen as groundbreaking and is expected to inspire other nations to follow suit.
- The **carbon tax will work by taxing livestock farmers based on their emissions.** From 2030, farmers will be taxed 300 kroner (\$43) per ton of carbon dioxide equivalent, rising to 750 kroner (\$108) by 2035.
- Denmark also plans to invest 40 billion kroner (\$3.7 billion) in various environmental measures, including reforestation and the creation of wetlands. The government aims to reforest 250,000 hectares of agricultural land by 2045 and set aside 140,000 hectares of lowland by 2030.



Largest Flax Producer

- **Russia is the largest flax producer in the world, accounting for 75% of global production.** It has a rich tradition of flax cultivation dating back to the 8th century.
- The top 10 flax-producing countries are Russia, Canada, China, Kazakhstan, the United States of America, India, Ukraine, Italy, Argentina, and France.
- **Flax is a versatile plant known for its fibre and nutritious seeds.** Linen, a type of linen, is a traditional textile used for bed sheets, underclothes, and table linen.



- These seeds are rich in omega-3 fatty acids, provide dietary fibre, aid digestion, and promote satiety. Flax seeds also contain unique plant compounds with potential health benefits.

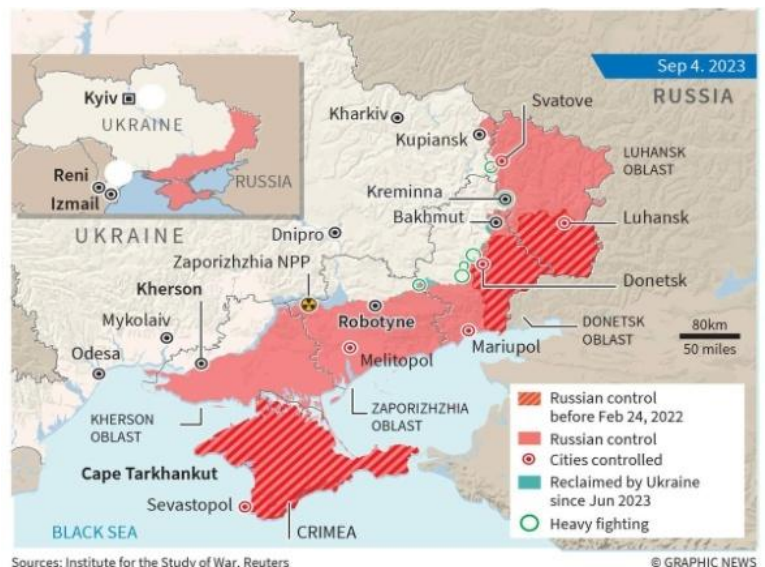
International Solar Alliance

- **Paraguay becomes the 100th full member of the International Solar Alliance (ISA)**, marking a significant milestone in global solar energy cooperation.
- The ISA, **launched in 2015 by India and France**, aims to accelerate global solar energy deployment to support climate action.
- The ISA aims to attract over USD 1 trillion in investments by 2030, with India leading initiatives like the Solar Pumping Programme and Solar Electrification of Health Centres.
- The alliance's guiding philosophy is "One Sun One World One Grid," which mobilizes efforts to reduce solar energy costs and attract over \$1 trillion in investments by 2030.
- The **headquarters of the alliance are located in Gurugram, Haryana.**



Ukraine Declaration

- **India, along with several other nations, chose not to sign the final draft at the recent Summit on Peace in Ukraine hosted by Switzerland.**
- This decision was influenced by India's strategic relationship with Russia, its main defence supplier. India believed that any lasting peace agreement involving Ukraine should include Russia, and since Russia was absent from the summit, India decided not to endorse the draft.
- India's decision was based on the belief that a solution acceptable to all parties involved, including Russia, is necessary for sustainable peace in Ukraine. India stressed the importance of dialogue and diplomacy involving all stakeholders to effectively resolve the conflict.
- **Over 80 countries and four international organizations supported the draft at the summit, emphasizing Ukraine's territorial integrity and advocating for peaceful conflict resolution through international law principles.** However, the absence of key players like Russia and China, combined with India's refusal to sign, highlights the complexities and challenges in achieving international consensus on the Ukrainian crisis.



Biopharmaceutical Alliance

- **India, the United States, South Korea, Japan, and the European Union have come together to form a Biopharmaceutical Alliance** in response to global drug supply chain disruptions.
- The alliance was launched during the Bio International Convention 2024 in San Diego, which is the world's biggest pharmaceutical exhibition.
- **Biopharmaceuticals are medicinal drugs that are produced using living organisms or genetically modified cells, unlike chemically manufactured drugs.** It is estimated that biopharmaceuticals will make up around 50% of new medical drugs within the next 5 to 10 years.
- The main objective of the alliance is to prevent future breakdowns in the drug supply chain by diversifying and mapping the pharmaceutical supply chain in detail. This includes building a resilient biopharmaceutical supply chain and coordinating bio policies, regulations, and research and development support among member countries.



Global Energy Transition Index

- Sweden has ranked first in the Global Energy Transition Index released by the World Economic Forum (WEF).
- India has improved its ranking to 63rd out of 120 countries, up from 67th last year. The WEF highlighted India's advancements in energy equity, security, and sustainability.
- The Global Energy Transition Index evaluates nations' progress in building an equitable, secure, and sustainable energy future. It tracks government policies and their effectiveness in reducing carbon dioxide emissions, promoting non-fossil-based power sources, and enhancing energy efficiency.
- Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Switzerland, and France dominate the top ranks of the 2024 Index. China is ranked 20th, while India stands at 63rd. Despite challenges such as economic volatility and geopolitical tensions, 107 out of 120 countries have made progress in their energy transition over the past decade.
- The World Economic Forum is a non-profit international organization founded in 1971. It aims to foster collaboration between global stakeholders to address common challenges. The WEF publishes influential reports, including the Global Gender Gap Report, Global Competitiveness Report, Energy Transition Index, and Global IT Report.



Artemis Accords

- Peru and Slovakia have recently signed NASA's Artemis Accords, joining a growing number of countries in the U.S.-led agreement for safe space exploration.
- The Artemis Accords were launched by NASA and seven other nations in 2020. They are a nonbinding political commitment that outlines principles guiding the conduct of civil space exploration.
- The accords aim to establish a sustainable human presence on the Moon, as part of the Artemis Program, led by NASA, industry partners, and international collaborators.
- While the accords do not imply participation in the NASA-led program, they represent U.S.-led diplomatic efforts to promote the peaceful use of space in this new era of exploration. These accords build upon the principles established in core space treaties but adapt them to the evolving landscape of space activities.



Environmental Performance Index

- The Environment Performance Index EPI is published by the Yale Center for Environmental Law and Policy and the Center for International Earth Science Information Network, Columbia University.
- India ranks 176th out of 180 countries in the 2024 Environmental Performance Index. This reflects a slight improvement from previous years but still positions India among the world's lowest performers.
- Despite the low overall ranking, India has shown progress in climate change mitigation, waste management, forest conservation, and agricultural practices.
- Top 10 countries include Estonia, Luxembourg, Germany, Finland, the United Kingdom, Sweden, Norway, Austria, Switzerland, and Denmark.

INDIA'S RANK IN THE ENVIRONMENT PERFORMANCE INDEX OVER THE LAST 10 EDITIONS	
YEAR	RANKS
2024	176 out of 180
2022	180 out of 180
2020	170 out of 180
2018	177 out of 180
2016	141 out of 180
2014	155 out of 180
2012	125 out of 132
2010	123 out of 163
2008	120 out of 149
2006	118 out of 133

Source: epi.yale.edu ThePrint

G7 Summit

- The 2024 G7 Summit, featured participation from Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States.
- **Italy, as the host country, invited African leaders to discuss development and migration in Africa.** Other guests included the presidents of Ukraine and Brazil, as well as the Indian Prime Minister.
- The **theme of this year's summit is "rules-based international system."**
- The G7 Summit is an annual forum for leaders of the G7 member states, including France, the United States, the United Kingdom, Germany, Japan, Italy, and Canada.
- The G7 Summit is an international forum where leaders of the G7 exchange views on global issues and issue a document as a result.
- The focus of this year's summit includes supporting Ukraine's fight for freedom, advancing international peace, security, and prosperity, promoting economic resilience and security, partnering with developing countries, accelerating the clean energy transition, addressing health and food security, investing in childcare, enhancing partnership on migration, enhancing cooperation on AI, and increasing coordination to promote AI safety.



Global Peace Index

- The **Global Peace Index (GPI)**, published by the **Institute for Economics & Peace (IEP)**, evaluates 163 independent states and territories to provide a comprehensive measure of global peacefulness.
- This report examines trends, results, and economic impacts of violence, offering insights into the current state of peace and the factors influencing it.

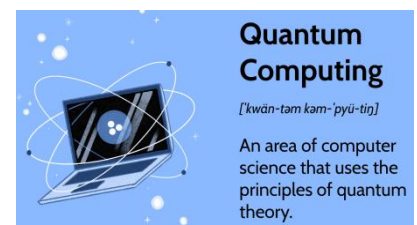
Key Findings

- Global peacefulness declined by 0.56% in 2024, marking the fifth consecutive year of deterioration.
- Last year, 65 countries improved in peacefulness, while 97 countries saw deterioration, the highest number in a single year since the index's inception.
- **In 2023, India ranked 126 out of 163 countries**, with an overall score of 2.31. In previous rankings, it stood at 139 in GPI 2020 and 141 in GPI 2019.
- **Iceland remains the most peaceful country**, followed by Ireland, Austria, New Zealand, and Singapore.
- Yemen is now the least peaceful country, followed by Sudan, South Sudan, Afghanistan, and Ukraine.
- Europe remains the most peaceful region, while the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) remain the least peaceful due to conflicts in Yemen and Sudan. North America recorded the largest regional deterioration.
- The economic impact of violence in 2023 was \$19.1 trillion, equivalent to 13.5% of global GDP or \$2,380 per person.
- The conflict in Ukraine caused a 30% shrinkage in the economy, while the Syrian civil war led to an 85% drop in GDP.



International Year of Quantum Science and Technology

- The **United Nations General Assembly has designated 2025 as the International Year of Quantum Science and Technology**, recognizing the significance of this field of study.
- The United Nations aims to raise awareness about quantum science and technology and encourage young people to pursue its study. It also seeks to promote the use of quantum advancements to address global challenges.



- **Quantum mechanics is a fundamental theory in physics that describes the behaviour of nature at the sub-atomic level.** It has contributed to advancements in various scientific fields, including physics, chemistry, biology, material science, and information science.



ECONOMICS

SAARC Currency Swap Framework

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced a **revised Framework on Currency Swap Arrangements for SAARC countries for the period 2024 to 2027.**
- Under this framework, the RBI will enter into bilateral swap agreements with SAARC central banks that wish to avail of the swap facility. A separate INR Swap Window has been introduced with concessions for swap support in the Indian Rupee, with a total corpus of ₹250 billion.
- The RBI will also continue to offer swap arrangements in US dollars and Euros under a separate US Dollar/Euro Swap Window, with a total corpus of US\$2 billion.
- The SAARC Currency Swap Facility was established on November 15, 2012, to provide a line of funding for short-term foreign exchange liquidity requirements or balance of payment crises in SAARC countries until longer-term arrangements are in place.



South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)

- It is a regional intergovernmental organization formed in 1985.
- It includes Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka.
- SAARC's main objectives are to promote welfare, economic growth, and cooperation in the region.
- Some of its key goals are to boost regional trade, address common challenges, and strengthen cultural ties among member states.
- The SAARC Secretariat, based in Kathmandu, Nepal, oversees various activities and initiatives.

53rd GST Council Meeting

- The 53rd GST Council met in New Delhi under the Chairpersonship of Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman.
- Key officials attended the meeting, including Union Minister of State for Finance Shri Pankaj Chaudhary, Chief Ministers of Goa and Meghalaya, Deputy Chief Ministers of Bihar, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, and Odisha, Finance Ministers of States & UTs, and senior officers of the Ministry of Finance & States/ UTs.
- **Key Recommendations and Decisions**
 - A uniform rate of 5% will apply to imports of parts, components, testing equipment, tools, and toolkits of aircraft.
 - **All milk cans (steel, iron, aluminium) will attract a 12% GST rate.**
 - The GST rate on cartons, boxes, and cases of both corrugated and non-corrugated paper and paper-board has been reduced from 18% to 12%.
 - **All solar cookers, whether single or dual energy sources, will attract a 12% GST rate.**
 - The IGST exemption on imports of specified items for defence forces has been extended for five years till 30th June 2029.

GST Council

- The GST Council was constituted by the President in 2016 under the 101st Amendment Act of 2016.
- The Secretariat is located in New Delhi, with the Union Revenue Secretary acting as the ex-officio Secretary.
- It is a joint forum of the centre and the states, comprising the Union Finance Minister as the Chairperson, the Union Minister of State in-charge of Revenue or Finance, and the Minister in-charge of Finance or Taxation or any other Minister nominated by each state government.
- The Council's decisions are taken at its meetings, with a majority of not less than three-fourths of the weighted votes of the members present and voting at the meeting.

RBI Monetary Policy June 2024

- RBI Governor **Shaktikanta Das** announced that the **Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)** has chosen to maintain the **policy repo rate at 6.5%, with a 4:2 majority decision.**
- The standing deposit facility (SDF) rate remains unchanged at 6.25%, while both the marginal standing facility (MSF) rate and the bank rate stand firm at 6.75%.
- **Real GDP growth for FY25 is projected at 7.2%.**
- The RBI MPC is comprised of six members, including the RBI Governor, 2 deputy governors, and 3 external members.
- The RBI Repo Rate is one of the instruments of Monetary Policy, which includes the Repo Rate, Standing Deposit Facility (SDF), Marginal Standing Facility (MSF), Bank Rate, Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR), and Open Market Operations (OMOs).

Monetary Policy Tools of RBI

Monetary Policy Tool	Description	Purpose/Impact
Repo Rate	The rate at which the RBI lends money to commercial banks.	Lowering repo rates makes borrowing cheaper, encouraging investment and spending; raising it has the opposite effect.
Reverse Repo Rate	The rate at which the RBI borrows money from commercial banks.	Higher reverse repo rate encourages banks to park excess funds with the RBI, reducing liquidity in the system.
Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR)	The percentage of a bank's total deposits that must be maintained with the RBI as reserves.	Increasing CRR reduces the amount of funds available for banks to lend, tightening liquidity; decreasing it has the opposite effect.
Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR)	The percentage of a bank's net demand and time liabilities that must be maintained in the form of liquid assets.	Higher SLR means banks have to hold more in safe and liquid assets, reducing their ability to lend; lower SLR has the opposite effect.
Open Market Operations (OMOs)	Buying and selling of government securities by the RBI in the open market.	Buying securities injects liquidity into the system; selling securities absorbs liquidity.
Marginal Standing Facility (MSF)	A facility under which scheduled commercial banks can borrow additional money overnight from the RBI.	Helps banks manage liquidity mismatches and maintain SLR in case of emergency shortfalls.
Bank Rate	The rate at which the RBI is willing to lend to commercial banks.	Similar to the repo rate, but used for longer-term loans.
Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF)	A tool used by the RBI to aid banks in adjusting their daily liquidity mismatches.	Provides liquidity to banks through repo and reverse repo operations on a daily basis.
Market Stabilization Scheme (MSS)	Securities issued with the objective of managing liquidity.	Helps in absorbing excess liquidity through the issuance of government securities.
Standing Deposit Facility (SDF)	A mechanism to absorb liquidity without collateral.	Enhances the RBI's toolkit for liquidity management.



DEFENCE & SECURITY

High-Speed Expendable Aerial Target (HEAT) 'Abhyas'

- India's Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has achieved successful trials of the High-Speed Expendable Aerial Target (HEAT) called 'Abhyas', with an improved booster configuration.
- Abhyas is designed for **autonomous flying using an autopilot system and has Radar Cross Section**

(RCS), visual, and infrared augmentation systems to simulate real-world conditions.

- **Abhyas was designed by DRDO** and developed by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited and Larsen & Toubro.
- **DRDO, founded in 1958**, is the organization behind successful aircraft designs such as Nishant, Lakshya, and Avatar. The agency is **headed by Chairman Sameer V. Kamat.**

Freedom Edge

- **South Korea, the United States, and Japan have initiated their first trilateral multi-domain exercise called Freedom Edge.**
- The purpose of Freedom Edge is to enhance trilateral interoperability and ensure peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region, including the Korean Peninsula.
- The focus of the exercise was on cooperative defence, including ballistic missile defence, air defence, anti-submarine warfare, search and rescue, maritime interdiction, and defensive cyber training.

Nagastra-1

- **Nagastra-1, an indigenous kamikaze drone developed by Solar Industries, has been inducted by the Indian Army.**
- The drone, weighing 9 kg, offers GPS-enabled precision strikes with an accuracy of 2 meters.



- It has a fixed-wing design, a flight endurance of 30 minutes, and can operate up to 15 kilometres in man-in-loop mode and up to 30 kilometres autonomously.
- The drone's low acoustic signature and stealth capabilities make it difficult for adversaries to detect at altitudes exceeding 200 meters.
- **It is equipped with day and night surveillance cameras and a 1-kilogram High Explosive Fragmenting Warhead, effectively neutralizing soft-skin targets.**

Exercise JIMEX-24

- **The 8th edition of the Japan-India Maritime Exercise (JIMEX-24) has commenced in Yokosuka, Japan.**
- The exercise consists of both harbour and sea phases. The harbour phase focuses on fostering stronger bonds and interaction between sailors from both navies, while the sea phase aims to test warfighting skills and improve interoperability through multi-domain operations.
- The exercise aims to facilitate operational interactions, learn from each other's best practices, and reaffirm their shared commitments to maritime security in the Indo-Pacific region.



SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

GOES-U: Weather Satellite

- **NASA and SpaceX have successfully launched the GOES-U satellite, which will greatly enhance continuous weather monitoring across the Western Hemisphere.**
- It will improve the US's ability to monitor solar flares, increasing the monitoring frequency from every eight hours to every 30 minutes.
- The GOES-U satellite was launched from NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida aboard a SpaceX Falcon Heavy rocket.
- **GOES-U will provide continuous monitoring of weather conditions over a wide range of regions, including North America, Central and South America, the Caribbean, the Atlantic Ocean, and the west coast of Africa.**



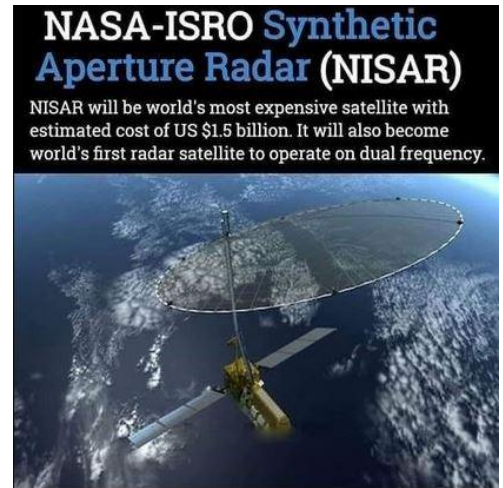
Methuselah Star

- **Methuselah Star, or HD 140283, is the oldest star in the universe, located 190 light-years from Earth.**
- Identified using the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST), it is one of the oldest spherical groups in the cosmos.
- Its estimated age is 14 billion years, making it older than the universe itself.
- **Methuselah Star is primarily composed of hydrogen and helium, with minimal traces of heavier elements like iron.**
- Astrophysical studies published in Astrophysical Journal Letters provide insights into Methuselah Star's energy production mechanisms and its evolutionary stages.

NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar

- **The United States and India have announced plans to launch the NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) in a joint effort to combat climate change and address global challenges.**
- The partnership between the US Space Force and Indian startups will focus on advancements in space situational awareness, data fusion technologies, and infra-red sensor semiconductor manufacturing.

- The NISAR satellite, a collaborative effort between NASA and the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), is nearing completion, the satellite, equipped with two synthetic aperture radars, will provide valuable data on Earth's changing surface, including ice sheets, glaciers, wetlands, forests, volcanoes, and earthquake faults.



TRISHNA Mission

- The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) has provided information about the joint Indo-French TRISHNA mission, a satellite project aimed at monitoring surface temperature and water management around the world.
- The project, called Thermal Infra-Red Imaging Satellite for High-Resolution Natural Resource Assessment (TRISHNA), will provide data on climate impacts through monitoring evapotranspiration, the process of water evaporation from land and plants.
- The satellite will study aerosols, water vapour, and clouds in the atmosphere. The launch is tentatively scheduled for 2025, with an estimated lifespan of 5 years.
- The mission aims to boost remote sensing technology for monitoring Earth from orbit, particularly in light of extreme temperatures and weather events. It will provide essential data for addressing water and food security issues, assisting in the development of sustainable policies for water management, and supporting efforts to mitigate climate change.

SPORTS

T20 World Cup 2024

- India won the T20 World Cup 2024 under the leadership of Rohit Sharma, defeating South Africa by 7 runs in the final.
- This win ended India's 11-year trophy drought and secured their second T20 World Cup title, the first being in 2007 under the leadership of M.S. Dhoni.
- Virat Kohli was awarded the Player of the Match, while Jasprit Bumrah was named the Player of the Tournament.
- Arshdeep Singh from India and Fazalhaq Farooqi from Afghanistan have emerged as the top wicket-takers in the T20 World Cup 2024. Farooqi and Singh have both taken an impressive 17 wickets in the tournament.
- Afghanistan's Rahmanullah Gurbaz finished the tournament with the most runs - 281 in eight innings at a strike rate of over 124. Rohit Sharma was second in the list with 257 runs at a strike rate of 156.70.

Year	Winner	Runner-Up	Player of the Series	Top Run Scorer	Highest Wicket Taker	Venue
2007	India	Pakistan	Shahid Afridi	Matthew Hayden	Umar Gul	South Africa
2009	Pakistan	Sri Lanka	Tillakaratne Dilshan	Tillakaratne Dilshan	Umar Gul	England
2010	England	Australia	Kevin Pietersen	Mahela Jayawardene	Dirk Nannes	West Indies
2012	West Indies	Sri Lanka	Shane Watson	Shane Watson	Ajantha Mendis	Sri Lanka
2014	Sri Lanka	India	Virat Kohli	Virat Kohli	Ajantha Mendis	Bangladesh
2016	West Indies	England	Virat Kohli	Tamim Iqbal	Mohammad Nabi	India
2021	Australia	New Zealand	Mitchell Marsh	Babar Azam	Adam Zampa	UAE/Oman
2022	England	Pakistan	Sam Curran	Virat Kohli	WaninduHasaranga	Australia
2024	India	South Africa	Jasprit Bumrah	RahmanullahGurbaz	Fazalhaq Farooqi and Arshdeep Singh	US/West Indies

Virat Kohli

- Indian cricket legend **Virat Kohli has announced his retirement from T20Is after India's victory in the T20 World Cup 2024 Final against South Africa.**
- With 4,188 runs in T20Is, he is the second-highest scorer, behind Rohit Sharma's 4,231 runs. Kohli achieved this in 34 fewer innings than Rohit, and both are the only players to have scored over 4,000 runs in all three international formats.
- Kohli has an average of 48.69 in T20Is, the second-highest after Pakistan's Mohammad Rizwan.
- **Kohli holds the record for the highest number of runs in T20 World Cups**, with 1,292 runs. His average of 58.72 in the tournament is the highest among players who have scored over 500 runs.
- He has won 8 Player of the Match awards and is the only player to have won the Player of the Tournament award twice.
- Kohli is the only player to have featured in the winning 11 of all four major ICC white ball events: the Under-19 World Cup (2008), the ODI World Cup (2011), the Champions Trophy (2013), and the T20 World Cup (2024).



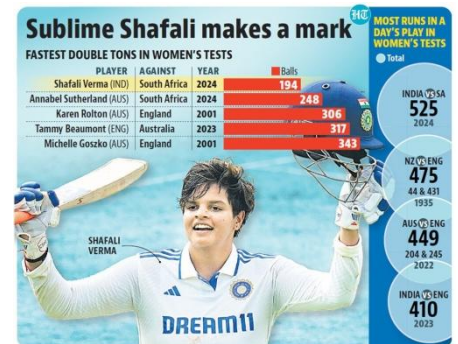
Rohit Sharma

- **Indian captain Rohit Sharma has announced his retirement from T20 international cricket** following India's victory in the T20 World Cup.
- Sharma's T20 international career began in 2007, and he became known as one of the best batsmen in the shortest format of the game.
- His record-breaking career includes playing 159 matches and scoring 4,231 runs, making him the **highest run-scorer in T20I history.**
- With an average of 32 and a strike rate of 141, Sharma consistently provided explosive starts and earned the **nickname "Hitman" for his ability to hit sixes.**



Shafali Verma

- **Indian opener Shafali Verma made history with her record-breaking double century against South Africa** in the one-off Test match at Chennai's Chepauk Stadium, Tamil Nadu.
- **Scoring 205 runs off just 194 balls, Shafali broke the record for the fastest double century in women's Test cricket**, surpassing Annabel Sutherland's previous record of 248 balls. This marked Shafali as the second Indian woman after Mithali Raj to score a Test double century.
- Shafali's partnership with Smriti Mandhana made history, with their 292-run opening partnership becoming India's highest for any wicket in women's Tests and the second-highest partnership in women's Test cricket history.



Pat Cummins

- **Pat Cummins, an Australian fast bowler, made history by becoming the first player to achieve two hat-tricks in T20 World Cups.** During the Super 8 clash between Australia and Afghanistan in St. Vincent.
- It was only the eighth time that a bowler had achieved a hat-trick in a Men's T20 World Cup, and Cummins is now part of an illustrious group of seven players to have achieved this milestone. Previously, hat-tricks were taken by Brett Lee (2007), Curtis Campher (2021), Wanindu Hasaranga (2021), Kagiso Rabada (2021), Karthik Meiyappan (2022), and Josh Little (2022).



U-17 Asian Wrestling Championship 2024

- **Indian wrestlers won a total of 11 medals at the U-17 Asian Wrestling Championship in Jordan.**
- The Indian team's medal haul included four golds, two silvers, and five bronzes.
- In the women's division, India dominated, winning all four gold medals. Dipanshi took gold in the 46 kg category, Muskan won in the 53kg category, Rajnita triumphed in the 61 kg category, and Mansi Lather emerged victorious in the 69kg category.

- Raja Bala won a silver medal in the 40 kg category for women, while Samarth Gajanan Mhakave secured silver in the 55kg category for men.
- The bronze medals were won by Akash (65kg), Sachin Kumar (71kg), Bikash Kacchap (48kg), Tushar Tukaram Patil (60kg), and Ronak (110kg).

David Warner

- Legendary cricketer **David Warner** has announced his retirement from international cricket after a remarkable 15-year career with the Australian national team.
- His retirement was marked by his last Test match against Pakistan, the final ODI in November 2023 against India in the 50-over World Cup 2023 Final, and the T20 against India in the World Cup 2024.
- Warner's decision came after Australia's elimination from the T20 World Cup. His final international appearance was against India in the T20 World Cup.
- Test cricket, he played 112 matches, scoring 8,786 runs with 25 centuries. In ODIs, he played 161 matches, scoring 6,932 runs with 22 centuries. In T20 internationals, he played 99 matches, scoring 2,894 runs with a strike rate of 141.22.
- Warner's notable achievements include winning the 2015, 2021, and 2023 World Cups and multiple Ashes series victories. He was also honoured with the Allan Border Medal in 2016, 2017, and 2020.



Smriti Mandhana

- **Smriti Mandhana** created history in Indian women's cricket by becoming the first Indian woman cricketer to score consecutive centuries in One-Day Internationals (ODIs).
- She achieved this feat during the second ODI against South Africa at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru on June 19.
- She also broke the record for the most runs by an Indian woman in a bilateral ODI series.
- Mandhana's impressive performance in the series also saw her equal Mithali Raj's record for the most hundreds by an Indian woman in ODIs (7).
- Her tally of 343 runs in the series made her the highest scorer ever in a three-match bilateral ODI series in women's cricket, surpassing Laura Wolvaardt of South Africa.



Carlos Alcaraz

- **Carlos Alcaraz** emerged as the winner of the men's singles final at the French Open 2024. At just 21 years old, Alcaraz made history by becoming the youngest man in the Open era to win Grand Slam titles on all three surfaces - hard court, clay, and grass.
- In the **women's singles final**, **IgaSwiatek** continued her dominance at Roland Garros by winning her fourth French Open title.
- Other winners at the French Open 2024 include **Marcelo Arevalo & Mate Pavic** in men's doubles, **Coco Gauff & Katerina Siniakova** in women's doubles, and **Laura Siegemund and Edouard Roger-Vasselin** in mixed doubles. The complete list of winners can be checked for more details.

Title	Winner	Runner up
Men's Singles	Carlos Alcaraz	Alexander Zverev
Women's Singles	IgaSwiatek	Jasmine Paolini
Men's doubles	Marcelo Arevalo & Mate Pavic	Simone Bolelli and Andrea Vavassori
Women's doubles	Coco Gauff & Katerina Siniakova	Sara Errani & Jasmine Paolini
Mixed doubles	Laura Siegemund and Edouard Roger-Vasselin	Desirae Krawczyk and Neal Skupski

APPOINTMENTS

Antonio Costa

- **António Costa, former Prime Minister of Portugal, has been elected as the President of the European Council**, the second highest position in the EU.
- Costa succeeds Belgian Charles Michel, who has been in office since 2019.
- Costa is the first Portuguese leader to hold this position, demonstrating Portugal's growing influence within the EU.
- His leadership style combines pragmatism with a commitment to social justice, making him a respected figure both locally and internationally.
- He served as a cabinet minister, Vice President of the European Parliament, and later as the Mayor of Lisbon.



European Union (EU)

- **EU is a political and economic union of 27 European countries.**
- Promotes cooperation and integration among member states.
- Core functions include economic integration, political cooperation, and the promotion of democratic values.
- **The UK left the EU in 2020 through Brexit.**
- Benefits include economic growth, free movement, and increased political stability.

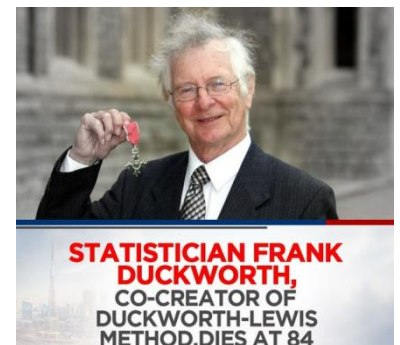
Vikram Misri

- **Vikram Misri, a former Indian ambassador to China, to become the new Foreign Secretary of India** on July 15.
- Misri, a Deputy National Security Advisor, will succeed current Foreign Secretary Vinay Mohan Kwatra.
- He is known for his expertise in India-China relations and is expected to focus on the ongoing tension between Delhi and Beijing.
- He previously served as the Deputy National Security Advisor of India from January 2022 to July 2024.
- Misri's diplomatic career includes stints in Myanmar, China, Pakistan, the U.S., Belgium, and Spain.



Frank Duckworth

- **Frank Duckworth, the English statistician who co-invented the Duckworth-Lewis-Stern (DLS) method for determining cricket match results under rain-affected conditions, died** at the age of 84 on June 21.
 - The DLS method, introduced in 1997 and adopted by the International Cricket Council (ICC) in 2001, is widely used in international cricket.
 - The Duckworth-Lewis-Stern (DLS) method, formerly known as the Duckworth-Lewis (D/L) method, is a mathematical formulation used to calculate the target score for the team batting second in a limited-overs cricket match interrupted by weather or other circumstances.
- He worked as a mathematical scientist in the English nuclear power industry before retiring. Duckworth served as a consultant statistician to the ICC and was the editor of the Royal Statistical Society's monthly news magazine until his retirement in 2014.
- **He was known for developing the "Duckworth scale," a system for quantifying personal risk perception.**



Arundhati Roy

- **Arundhati Roy, the Booker Prize-winning author, has been honoured with the prestigious Pen Pinter Prize for 2024** in recognition of her literary contributions.
- The Pen Pinter Prize was established in 2009 by the charity English PEN to defend freedom of expression, celebrate impactful literature, and honor the memory of Nobel-Laureate playwright Harold Pinter.
- She is known for her unflinching and unswerving writing style, Roy's debut novel "The God of Small Things" won her the Booker Prize.
- She is renowned for her non-fiction works and political activism, tackling difficult subjects



head-on and focusing on issues of injustice.

Mark Rutte

- **Mark Rutte, the outgoing Dutch Prime Minister, has been appointed as the next Secretary General of NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization).**
- He is known for his diplomatic skills and ability to build consensus and is considered a strong leader and a reliable choice to lead NATO through turbulent times.
- Rutte has been serving as the Dutch Prime Minister for 14 years, making him one of Europe's longest-serving leaders. He is known for his commitment to strong US-Europe relations and his track record in Dutch politics.
- His appointment was supported by major powers, including the United States, and was approved by NATO's 32 member nations. Rutte is expected to officially take over from the current Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg on October 1, 2024.



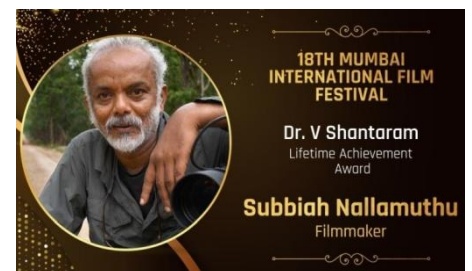
Simon Mak

- Simon Mak, an international strategist and multiple award-winning professors, has been appointed as the vice-chancellor of India's first artificial intelligence university, **Universal AI University (UAIU).**
- Mak is the first non-Indian to hold the position of founding vice chancellor of an Indian institution.
- His academic background includes an MBA and PhD from the SMU Cox School of Business and a B.Tech from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).
- **Universal AI University (UAIU) located in Karjat, Maharashtra,** is an innovative educational institution focused on artificial intelligence (AI) and emerging technologies. It offers degree programs in fields like AI, Business Management, and Liberal Arts, aiming to equip future leaders with technological skills.



Subbiah Nallamuthu

- **Renowned wildlife filmmaker Subbiah Nallamuthu has been awarded the prestigious 18th V. Shantaram Lifetime Achievement Award** for his outstanding contributions to non-feature and wildlife documentary filmmaking.
- The award, presented by Union Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting, L. Murugan, was given at the 18th Mumbai International Film Festival in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- The V. Shantaram Lifetime Achievement Award is a highly esteemed honour established in 1990 by the Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, in memory of acclaimed filmmaker V. Shantaram.
- The Mumbai International Film Festival, organized biennially by the Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and executed by the National Film Development Corporation, provides a platform for documentary filmmakers to showcase their work.



Vinod Ganatra

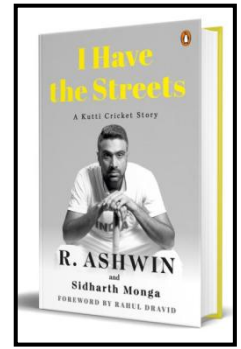
- **Vinod Ganatra, a renowned children's filmmaker, has been awarded South Africa's 'Nelson Mandela Lifetime Achievement Award'.**
- Ganatra, based in Mumbai, has edited and directed about 400 documentaries and newsreels.
- He has produced 25 multilingual television programs for children and youth.
- Ganatra's first TV program, 'Baingan Raja', won the 'Janakinath Gaur Award' from Doordarshan.
- He has received 36 national and international awards and served as a jury member for over 100 film festivals worldwide.
- Nelson Mandela, the first black President of South Africa, was born in South Africa, participated in the anti-apartheid struggle, and was released from prison in 1990. He was elected as the first black President of South Africa in 1994 elections.

Vinod Ganatra Becomes First Indian Honoured With 'Nelson Mandela Lifetime Achievement Award'



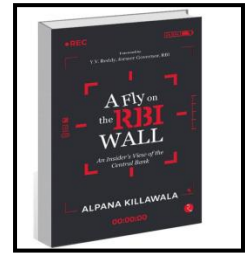
Ravichandran Ashwin

- **Off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin released his autobiography, "I Have the Streets: A Kutti Cricket Story," on June 10, 2024.**
- The book, co-authored with writer Sidharth Monga, takes readers on a journey through Ashwin's life before he became a professional cricketer.
- Ashwin, a 37-year-old cricketer, has an impressive tally of 744 international wickets and over 4,000 runs.
- The book aims to inspire budding cricketers by sharing his childhood struggles and the unwavering support of his family.



Alpana Killawala

- **Alpana Killawala's book, "A Fly on the RBI Wall," provides an insightful look into her 25-year journey in the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the institution's transformation.**
- The book explores the early days of Killawala's entry into the RBI, which marked a new era for the bank's communication function. Her story is intertwined with the bank's efforts to manage its public image and internal communications.
- Killawala's adept handling of major crises, such as the Harshad Mehta scam, and pivotal reforms, such as the liberalization of the Indian economy in the 1990s, helped maintain the RBI's credibility and public trust.



Puja Tomar

- **Puja Tomar, an Indian professional mixed martial artist, has become the first Indian to win a bout in the Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC).**
- She defeated Brazil's Rayanne Amanda dos Santos via split decision at the UFC Louisville, United States.
- She is a five-time national wushu champion and has a background in karate and taekwondo.
- The UFC is an American mixed martial arts promotion company based in Las Vegas, Nevada, owned and operated by TKO Group Holdings.



Sanya Malhotra

- **Sanya Malhotra won the Best Actress award at the New York Indian Film Festival 2024 for her performance in the film "Mrs."**
- "MRS" is a remake of the Malayalam movie "The Great Indian Kitchen," exploring the complexities of societal pressures and marital expectations. The film tackles the sensitive topic of societal conformity, capturing the essence of a woman's struggle to find her own identity.
- This year has been filled with accolades for Sanya Malhotra, as she previously received the prestigious Dadasaheb Phalke Award for her outstanding performance in the critically acclaimed film "Kathal." Her ability to bring diverse characters to life on the silver screen has garnered widespread admiration.



Ruchira Kamboj

- **Ruchira Kamboj, India's first female UN Ambassador, retired on 1 June after 35 years.**
- She held the position of Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations from August 2022 to May 2024.
- Kamboj was also the First Female Indian Ambassador to Bhutan and ranked as the top woman in the 1987 Foreign Service and Civil Services batches in India.
- Throughout her career, she held positions such as Counsellor at India's Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York, India's Consul General in Cape Town, and High Commissioner of India to South Africa and the Kingdom of Lesotho.
- She became India's designate ambassador and permanent representative to the UN in New York in June 2022.



AWARDS

Vishwa Hindi Samman

- **Dr Usha Thakur has been awarded the 12th Vishwa Hindi Samman for her exceptional contributions to Hindi literature and her efforts in strengthening the relationship between Hindi and Nepali languages.**

- The prestigious award was presented during a special ceremony organized by the Embassy of India in Nepal, held at Tribhuvan University in Kathmandu, Nepal.
- Dr. Thakur's work highlights the power of translation in bringing cultures together. She has translated over 40 literary works between Hindi and Nepali, significantly contributing to the development of Hindi literature and promoting it as a language of cultural exchange.



YuvaPuraskar and Bal Sahitya Puraskar

- The Sahitya Akademi has announced the winners of the YuvaPuraskar and Bal Sahitya Puraskar for the year 2024.
- Among the 23 writers who will be awarded the prestigious YuvaPuraskar, K Vaishali and Gaurav Pandey stand out for their contributions to English and Hindi literature respectively.
- The YuvaPuraskar has been awarded across various languages for 10 poetry books, seven collections of short stories, two collections of articles, one of essays, one novel, one book of ghazals, and one memoir.
- The winners of the YuvaPuraskar will receive a casket containing an engraved copper plaque and a prize of Rs 50,000 at an awards ceremony in the future.
- **Nandini Sengupta has been chosen for the Bal Sahitya Puraskar for her historical fiction book titled "The Blue Horse and Other Amazing Animal Stories from Indian History,"** while Devender Kumar has been selected for his collection of children's stories called "51 Baal Kahaniyan."
- The Bal Sahitya Puraskar has been awarded for seven novels, six books of poetry, four stories, five short stories, one play, and one historical fiction.
- The winners of the Bal Sahitya Puraskar will also receive a casket containing an engraved copper plaque and a cash prize of Rs 50,000 at a special function.

Sahitya Akademi

- The Sahitya Akademi was established in 1954.
- It is an organization supported by the Indian government and is dedicated to promoting literature in India's languages.
- The Sahitya Akademi Library is one of India's largest multi-lingual libraries, with an extensive collection of literature and related materials. It publishes two literary journals, Indian Literature in English and SamkaleenBharatiya Sahitya in Hindi.
- Sahitya Akademi is a prestigious institution that supports work in 24 languages, including 22 that are recognized by the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution of India.

Commonwealth Short Story Prize

- **Sanjana Thakur, a 26-year-old Mumbai-based writer, won the Commonwealth Short Story Prize 2024 in London.**
- Thakur's story, "Aishwarya Rai," reimagines the traditional adoption story, focusing on a young woman, Avni, who chooses between two mothers from a local shelter. The story uses brutal irony, sarcasm, cynicism, and wry humour to confront the fracturing of family and self in modern urban existence.
- The Commonwealth Short Story Prize is an annual award for unpublished short fiction, administered and funded by the Commonwealth Foundation. The international judging panel comprises one judge from each of the five regions.
- The winner receives £5,000, with the remaining four regional winners receiving £2,500. If the winning story is a translation into English, the translator receives additional prize money.



2024 Kavli Prize

- The 2024 Kavli Prize was awarded to eight scientists for their contributions to astrophysics, neuroscience, and nanoscience.
- Fred Kavli, a Norwegian-American businessman and philanthropist, was the recipient of the prize.
- The Kavli Prize was established in honour of Kavli, a Norwegian-American businessman and philanthropist.
- The prize was first announced in 2008 and has been awarded to 73 scientists from 19 countries.
- David Charbonneau and Sara Seager were awarded for their discoveries of exoplanets and the characterisation of their atmosphere.



- Robert Langer and Chad Mirkin were awarded for their work in nano-engineering a material for controlled release of therapeutic bio-molecules.
- Nancy Kanwisher and Doris Tsao were awarded for their collective effort to map the linkage between facial recognition and the brain.



IMPORTANT DAYS

World Milk Day

- World Milk Day, established by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, is an annual event on June 1.
- The day aims to highlight the global importance of milk and promote dairy farming and the dairy industry.
- The theme of the 2024 event is "Celebrating Dairy's Role in Nourishing the World."
- According to production data from the Food and Agriculture Organization Corporate Statistical Database (FAOSTAT), India is the highest milk producer i.e., ranked first position in the world contributing 24% of global milk production in the year 2021-22.

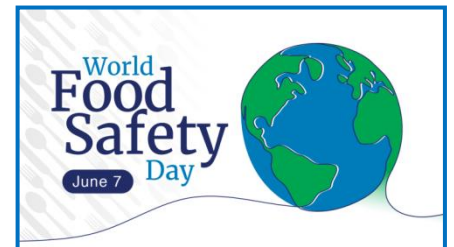
World Environment Day

- World Environment Day (WED) is a global event observed on June 5th each year to raise awareness and promote environmental protection.
- Established by the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) in 1972, it highlights pressing ecological issues and encourages sustainable practices.
- In 2024, the theme for World Environment Day is 'Land restoration, desertification, and drought resilience' with the slogan 'Our land. Our future. We are #GenerationRestoration.'
- World Environment Day plays a significant role in raising awareness, mobilizing action, and promoting environmental sustainability. It brings together individuals, communities, and organizations to address environmental challenges and work towards a sustainable future.



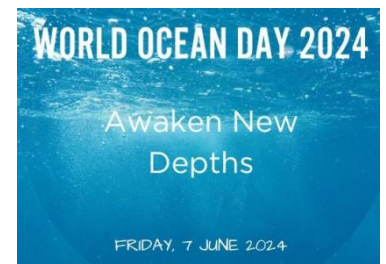
World Food Safety Day

- World Food Safety Day is an annual event celebrated on June 7th to raise awareness about the importance of food safety and prevent foodborne risks.
- The idea for this day was proposed by the UN in 2016, and it was officially recognized on August 3, 2020.
- The WHO estimates that 600 million people fall ill and 420,000 die each year due to contaminated food.
- The theme for World Food Safety Day 2024 is "Food Safety: Prepare for the Unexpected," emphasizing the need to be prepared for any food safety incident.
- Improving food safety is essential for sustaining life, ensuring safety at every stage of the food chain, protecting vulnerable populations, and contributing to economic prosperity and sustainable development. It is a shared responsibility among governments, producers, and consumers, with each having a role to play.



World Oceans Day

- World Oceans Day 2024, observed on June 8th, recognizes the vital role our oceans play in sustaining life on Earth. Covering nearly 70% of the planet's surface, they are home to countless marine species and produce 50% of the world's oxygen.
- The idea of dedicating a day to the oceans was proposed in 1992, and in 2008, June 8th was officially designated as World Oceans Day by the United Nations General Assembly. This annual celebration aims to raise awareness about the profound connection between humans and the oceans.
- The theme for 2024 is "Awaken New Depths," emphasizing the exploration and appreciation of the unexplored depths of our oceans. Healthy oceans are crucial in addressing climate change and providing food and potential medicines.



World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought

- **The world celebrates the World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought on June 17th.** This day aims to raise awareness about the issue of land degradation and its effects on the environment and communities.
- **The theme for this year is "United for Land. Our Legacy. Our Future,"** highlighting the importance of taking care of our land resources for future generations.
- **The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) was established in 1994** to address the challenges of desertification, loss of biodiversity, and climate change.
- The United Nations also declared the Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification from 2010 to 2020 to emphasize the global significance of this issue.
- Desertification and drought fuel demand for natural resources and result in forced migration, putting millions at risk. By raising awareness and promoting sustainable land management practices, this day emphasizes the importance of protecting our land for human survival and prosperity.



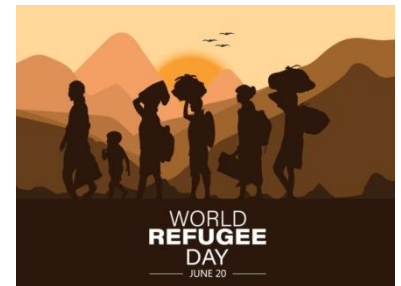
World Sickle Cell Day 2024

- **World Sickle Cell Day is observed on June 19th each year.**
- It was designated by the United Nations General Assembly in 2008 to raise awareness about sickle cell disease, promote early detection, and encourage preventive measures.
- **The theme for World Sickle Cell Day 2024 is "Hope through progress: Advancing Sickle Cell Care Globally."**
- Sickle cell disease is a genetic blood disorder that affects the red blood cells, causing them to become sickle-shaped. This leads to difficulties in their movement and oxygen transportation throughout the body.
- Currently, there is no cure for sickle cell disease, but various treatments are available to manage symptoms and prevent complications. These include bone marrow transplants, pain medications, folic acid tablets to prevent severe anaemia, and antibiotics to combat infections.



World Refugee Day

- **World Refugee Day is observed every year on June 20th** as a way to honour and support the millions of people who have been forced to leave their homes due to war, persecution, or natural disasters.
- **The theme for World Refugee Day 2024 is "Everyone is Welcome,"** emphasizing the need for global unity and inclusion in supporting refugees. This day has its origins in Africa, where it was first established in 1970 to promote refugee rights defined by the United Nations.
- **In 2000, the UN General Assembly designated June 20th as World Refugee Day** to raise awareness, gather support, and celebrate the contributions of refugees worldwide. It highlights the human impact of conflicts and disasters, fostering empathy and understanding.
- According to the UN Refugee Agency, by mid-2023, over 110 million individuals were forcibly displaced globally, with 40% being children. The majority of displaced individuals are hosted in low- and middle-income countries, facing challenges in accessing basic services.



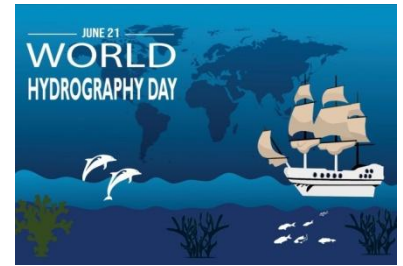
International Yoga Day

- **The 10th International Yoga Day celebrated on June 21, 2024, has the theme "Yoga for Self and Society."** This theme highlights how yoga transcends individual well-being and extends its benefits to society as a whole.
- The day recognizes the benefits of Yoga, which was adopted by the United Nations in 2014. This wellness practice, originating in ancient India, promotes physical and mental well-being.
- **India's Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, initiated the "Yoga Day" in his 2014 UN address.** With broad global support and unanimous approval in the UN General Assembly, the first International Yoga Day was celebrated in 2015.



World Hydrography Day

- World Hydrography Day 2024, organized by the International Hydrographic Organisation (IHO), is celebrated annually on June 21st.
- The theme for 2024 is "Hydrographic Information - Enhancing Safety, Efficiency and Sustainability in Marine Activities."
- India's contribution to hydrography includes the Indian Naval Hydrographic Department (INHD), NAVAREA VIII Coordinator, and the National Institute of Hydrography (NIH).



Hydrography is the applied science that focuses on measuring and describing water-related physical features such as oceans, seas, coasts, lakes, and rivers. Its main goal is to ensure safe navigation and support various marine activities, including economic development, security, defence, scientific research, and environmental protection.

World Rainforest Day

- World Rainforest Day is held annually on June 22nd to raise awareness about the significance of rainforests and promote their protection. The event was established in 2017 by the Rainforest Partnership.
- The theme for World Rainforest Day 2024 is "Empowering the World in Defense of Our Rainforests." Rainforests play a vital role in climate regulation, carbon storage, biodiversity, medicinal resources, and supporting indigenous communities.
- The Amazon rainforest, known as the "lungs of the planet," produces 20% of the Earth's oxygen and stores large amounts of carbon dioxide. However, rainforests face threats such as deforestation, illegal logging, habitat destruction, and climate change.



International Olympic Day

- International Olympic Day is celebrated annually on June 23rd to commemorate the founding of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in 1894.
- The theme for International Olympic Day 2024 is "Let's Move and Celebrate," aiming to inspire people to be active and enjoy the joy of movement.
- The day honours Pierre de Coubertin, the person behind the revival of the modern Olympic Games.
- The day is celebrated worldwide through community sports festivals, marathons, fun runs, educational workshops on topics like sportsmanship, nutrition, and Olympic history.



International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking 2024

- The International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, established by the United Nations in 1987, is observed annually on June 26th.
- The 2024 theme is "The Evidence is Clear: Invest in Prevention," emphasizing the need to invest more resources in preventing drug abuse.
- The day aims to raise awareness about drug abuse, promote prevention methods, and encourage cooperation among countries.
- Key goals include spreading knowledge, asking for more support, empowering communities, bringing people together, using science to guide decisions, involving young people, and working globally.



Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises Day

- Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSME) Day is celebrated worldwide on June 27th each year. This day recognizes the vital role that MSMEs play in our economies and communities.
- The theme for 2024 is "Leveraging Power and Resilience of MSMEs to Accelerate Sustainable Development and Eradicate Poverty in Times of Multiple Crises", acknowledging their potential to contribute to the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- MSMEs are of great importance globally as they make up 90% of

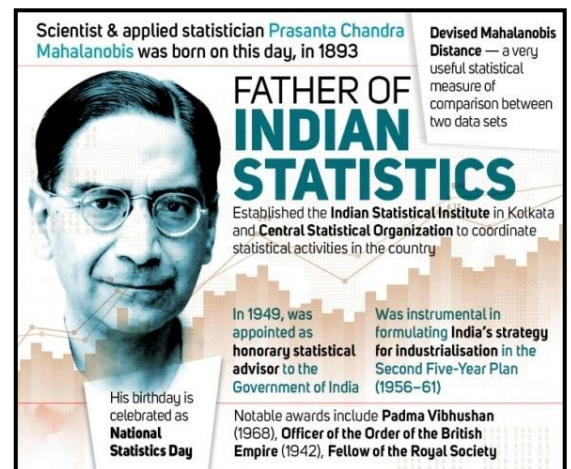


businesses, provide 60-70% of employment, and contribute to 50% of GDP in most countries.

- They play a significant role in supporting local economies, creating jobs, fostering innovation, and promoting inclusive growth.

National Statistics Day

- **National Statistics Day is celebrated in India on June 29th each year to honour the birth anniversary of Professor Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis, a renowned statistician and economist.**
- The day aims to raise awareness about the importance of statistics in socio-economic planning and policy-making.
- For the 18th National Statistics Day in 2024, the **theme is "Use of data for decision-making,"** highlighting the crucial role that accurate data plays in informing important decisions at all levels of society and government.
- Professor Mahalanobis, often referred to as the "Father of Indian Statistics," made significant contributions to the field.
 - He founded the Indian Statistical Institute in Kolkata in 1931 and developed innovative statistical techniques with wide applications in economics.
 - He established the National Sample Survey for data collection and the Central Statistical Organisation in 1950.
 - He was appointed as the honorary statistical advisor to the Indian government in 1949 and served as a member of the Planning Commission from 1955 to 1967.
 - He developed the mathematical model for India's Second Five-Year Plan and chaired the United Nations Sub-Commission on Sampling.



International Day of Parliamentarism

- The **International Day of Parliamentarism is observed annually on June 30th** to celebrate the role of parliaments in democratic governance and their importance in building peace.
- **In 2024, the theme is "Parliamentary diplomacy: Building bridges for peace and understanding,"** highlighting how parliamentarians contribute to international cooperation and conflict resolution. Parliamentary diplomacy encompasses building relationships with counterparts from other countries, promoting cooperation between national parliaments, representing their countries' interests internationally, fostering dialogue on global issues, and working towards consensus on international matters.
- The Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) plays a crucial role in parliamentary diplomacy by providing a platform for meaningful conversations among parliamentarians and contributing to global peace efforts.



Indian Parliament

- The **Indian Parliament is the supreme legislative body in India, operating as a bi-cameral legislature.**
- It comprises two houses: Rajya Sabha (Council of States) and Lok Sabha (House of the People).
- The legislative role is to make laws for the governance of the country, with exclusive power to legislate on Union List and Residuary Subjects.
- The executive branch of the government is controlled by Parliament, approving budgets, scrutinizing policies, and scrutinizing policies.
- The financial role involves approving government budgets, taxation, and expenditure, ensuring financial accountability.
- The constitutional role allows Parliament to amend the Constitution and play a crucial role in constitutional amendments.
- The judicial role involves impeaching the President and judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts and creating or abolishing courts.
- The electoral role involves electing the President and Vice President of India.
- The other roles include debates on national issues, representing citizens' interests, and providing a platform for discussion.

Date	Important Days
June 1, 2024	World Milk Day
	Global Day of Parents
June 2, 2024	International Sex Worker's Day
	Telangana Formation Day
June 3, 2024	World Bicycle Day
June 4, 2024	International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression
June 5, 2024	World Environment Day
	International Day for the Fight against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing
June 6, 2024	UN Russian Language Day
June 7, 2024	World Food Safety Day
	World Oceans Day
June 8, 2024	World Brain Tumour Day
June 9, 2024	World Accreditation Day
	International Archives Day
June 11, 2024	International Day of Play
June 12, 2024	World Day Against Child Labor
June 13, 2024	International Albinism Awareness Day
June 14, 2024	World Blood Donor Day
June 15, 2024	World Elder Abuse Awareness Day
	World Father's Day
June 16, 2024	International Day of Family Remittances
June 17, 2024	World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought
June 18, 2024	International Day for Countering Hate Speech
	Sustainable Gastronomy Day
June 19, 2024	International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict
	World Sickle Cell Day
June 20, 2024	World Refugee Day
June 21, 2024	World Music Day
	World Hydrography Day
	International Yoga Day
	Summer Solstice
June 22, 2024	World Rainforest Day
June 23, 2024	International Olympic Day
	United Nations Public Service Day
	International Widow's Day
June 24, 2024	International Day of Women in Diplomacy
June 25, 2024	International Day of the Seafarer
June 26, 2024	International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking
	International Day in Support of Victims of Torture
June 27, 2024	Micro-, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises Day
	International Pineapple Day
June 28, 2024	National Insurance Awareness Day
June 29, 2024	National Statistics Day
	International Day of Tropics
June 30, 2024	World Asteroid Day



IMPORTANT GK FACTS IN NEWS

Point Nemo:

- Located in the South Pacific Ocean, Point Nemo is the farthest point from any landmass on Earth, surrounded by over 1,000 miles of ocean in every direction. It serves as an underwater space

graveyard for falling debris from NASA and other global space agencies due to its remoteness.

SpaceX:

- Founded by Elon Musk in 2002, SpaceX is an American private aerospace manufacturer and space transportation company. It aims to design, manufacture, and launch advanced rockets and spacecraft, with goals including deploying satellites into orbit, transporting astronauts to the International Space Station (ISS), and enabling human colonization of other planets.

International Space Station (ISS):

- The ISS is a large spacecraft orbiting Earth, functioning as a home for astronauts and a scientific laboratory. Constructed between 1998 and 2011 through international cooperation among NASA (United States), Roskosmos (Russia), JAXA (Japan), ESA (Europe), and CSA (Canada), it continues to host missions and experiments in microgravity.

Reserve Bank of India (RBI):

- Established in 1935 and nationalized in 1949, the RBI is India's central bank operating under the Union Ministry of Finance. It formulates and implements monetary policy, regulates currency issuance, oversees the banking system, and conducts financial sector supervision to maintain economic stability.

Bioplastic Park:

- A bioplastic park is an industrial area focused on producing and researching eco-friendly plastics derived from renewable sources such as vegetable fats, corn starch, straw, and recycled food waste. It aims to reduce reliance on fossil fuels and minimize environmental impact compared to traditional petroleum-based plastics.

Asteroids:

- Asteroids are rocky celestial objects orbiting the Sun, primarily found in the asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter. They lack an atmosphere and were formed around 4.6 billion years ago. Ceres, the largest known asteroid, is almost 1,000 kilometres across and is classified as a dwarf planet.

United Nations (UN):

- Established on October 24, 1945, the UN is an international organization headquartered in New York City. It promotes international peace and security, develops friendly relations among nations, and coordinates global cooperation on issues like climate change, health, poverty eradication, and human rights. The UN has regional offices in Geneva, Vienna, and Nairobi

and uses six official languages: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, and Spanish.

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO):

- Established in 1958 under India's Ministry of Defence, DRDO aims to achieve self-reliance in critical defence technologies. It conducts research, develops indigenous technologies, and collaborates with industry and academia to equip the armed forces with advanced systems and equipment.

Financial Action Task Force (FATF):

- Founded in 1989 by the G7, FATF sets international standards to combat money laundering and terrorist financing. It evaluates countries' compliance through mutual evaluations and identifies jurisdictions with deficiencies in their anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing regimes.

Non-Performing Assets (NPAs):

- NPAs are loans that are in default or arrears due to non-payment by borrowers. They are categorized as Substandard, Doubtful, or Loss Assets. NPAs impact lenders by reducing capital for new loans, and recovery strategies include collateral possession or discounted loan sales.

PM Gati Shakti Scheme:

- The PM Gati Shakti scheme integrates 16 ministries to plan and implement multi-modal infrastructure projects through a digital platform. It aims to ensure seamless connectivity for people, goods, and services across various transport modes in India.

International Finance Corporation (IFC):

- Part of the World Bank Group, IFC supports private sector development in less developed countries by providing investment, advisory, and asset-management services. It focuses on economic growth, job creation, and poverty reduction through partnerships with private enterprises.

Miniratna Status for CPSEs:

- Miniratna status is awarded to Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) meeting specific criteria like profitability and positive net worth. Category I Miniratnas have more financial autonomy, while Category II Miniratnas have slightly less but still more than other CPSEs.

ULLAS - New India Literacy Programme (NILP):

- ULLAS, also known as NILP, is a centrally sponsored scheme aligned with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. It aims to empower adults aged 15 and above, especially those without prior schooling, through literacy programs.

Tehri Dam:

- Located on the Bhagirathi River in Uttarakhand, Tehri Dam is India's largest dam, completed in 2006. It is a multi-purpose rock and earth-fill embankment dam standing 260.5 meters tall and 575 meters long.

Bhakra Nangal Dam:

- Situated on the Sutlej River in Himachal Pradesh, Bhakra Nangal Dam is India's highest dam, completed in 1963. It is a concrete gravity dam standing 226 meters tall and 518.25 meters long.

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD):

- Established in 1964, UNCTAD supports developing countries in benefiting from globalized economies sustainably. It conducts research, provides policy recommendations, and analyzes international trade, investment, and development issues.

World Health Assembly (WHA):

- The WHA is the governing body of the World Health Organization (WHO), convening annually in Geneva, Switzerland. Representatives from WHO member states discuss global health agendas and resolutions proposed by the Executive Board for approval.



BOOSTER DOSE

Tech Mahindra Global Chess League:

- The second edition of the Tech Mahindra Global Chess League will be held in London, England, from October 3rd to 12th, 2024. Organized in collaboration with the International Chess Federation (FIDE), this league aims to innovate the chess fan experience through a new format and ecosystem.

Hales Group and Adani Defence & Aerospace Agreement:

- Thales Group has signed an agreement with Adani Defence & Aerospace to manufacture 70mm rockets in India. This partnership supports India's "Make in India" initiative, aimed at enhancing self-reliance in defence production.

Central Railway's Solar Initiatives:

- The Central Railway in India has installed a 10 MWp floating solar plant on Igatpuri Lake in the Western Ghats, marking a first for Indian Railways. Additionally, they have commissioned 12.05 MWp of solar plants on rooftops of railway stations and buildings, demonstrating their commitment to clean and renewable energy.

External Affairs Minister at SCO Summit:

- External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar is set to attend the annual Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit in Astana, Kazakhstan. India, a full member since 2017, actively participates in enhancing security

cooperation within the SCO, covering a significant portion of Eurasia and the global population.

Uttar Pradesh's Bioplastic Park Initiative:

- The Uttar Pradesh government plans to establish a bioplastic park in Lakhimpur Kheri district to address environmental concerns and boost the local economy. This initiative aligns with global efforts against plastic pollution and positions the state as a leader in sustainable manufacturing.

Asteroid Day:

- Asteroid Day, observed annually on June 30th, raises public awareness about asteroids and near-Earth Objects (NEOs). It commemorates the Tunguska event and aims to educate about asteroid risks, global communication plans in case of threats, and advancements in asteroid study and tracking.

International Day of the Tropics:

- Celebrated on June 29th, the International Day of the Tropics recognizes the diversity and importance of tropical regions. These regions, located between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn, support diverse ecosystems crucial for Earth's climate regulation and biodiversity.

India's Contribution to 'Hindi @ UN' Project:

- India has contributed USD 1,169,746 to the 'Hindi @ UN' project, aimed at promoting the use of Hindi within the United Nations. Launched in

2018, this initiative enhances public outreach and awareness about global issues among Hindi-speaking populations worldwide.

India-Bangladesh E-Medical Visa Facility:

- India and Bangladesh have agreed to launch an e-medical visa facility for Bangladeshi nationals, facilitating medical treatment visits to India. Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced this initiative during recent bilateral discussions, underscoring efforts to strengthen bilateral relations.

Turkey's Removal from FATF Grey List:

- Turkey has been removed from the Financial Action Task Force's (FATF) grey list after implementing substantial reforms to combat money laundering and terrorist financing. Reforms included enhanced oversight of the cryptocurrency market, addressing FATF concerns.

Jagat Prakash Nadda Appointed Leader of the House in Rajya Sabha:

- Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) president and Union Minister Jagat Prakash Nadda has been appointed as the Leader of the House in the Rajya Sabha, succeeding Union Minister Piyush Goyal. This appointment follows Goyal's transition to the Lok Sabha after winning elections.

RBI's Projections on Non-Performing Assets (NPAs):

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) forecasts a decrease in bank Non-Performing Assets (NPAs), with the Gross NPA ratio expected to drop to 2.5% by March 2025. This positive outlook is based on macro stress tests assessing banks' resilience to economic shocks. As of March 2024, scheduled commercial banks reported a record low Gross NPA ratio of 2.8%, indicating improving asset quality due to reduced new NPA additions and increased provisioning by public sector and foreign banks.

NCAER's GDP Growth Projections:

- The National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) predicts India's GDP to grow over 7% in fiscal year 2025, potentially reaching 7.5%. This optimistic forecast is supported by strong domestic economic indicators and anticipated normal monsoon conditions. For the current fiscal year, NCAER projects GDP growth between 7.2% and 6.2%, reflecting sustained economic resilience.

Tajikistan's Ban on Hijabs and Traditional Islamic Clothing:

- Tajikistan's parliament has passed a law banning hijabs and other "alien garments," imposing heavy fines for violations. The law primarily targets traditional Islamic clothing and has sparked significant debate among Tajikistan's predominantly Muslim population. This ban, unofficially enforced since 2007, includes fines for individuals, companies, government officials, and religious leaders who violate it.

Indian Naval Ship (INS) Sunayna's Deployment to Seychelles:

- Indian Naval Ship (INS) Sunayna has arrived at Port Victoria, Seychelles, as part of its deployment in the South West Indian Ocean Region. This deployment coincides with Seychelles' 48th National Day celebrations, with an Indian Navy contingent participating in the military parade, continuing a tradition since 1976.

Jaipur Military Station's Use of Plastic Waste for Road Construction:

- Jaipur Military Station has become the second Indian military station to construct a road using plastic waste, following Narangi Military Station in Guwahati, Assam, which pioneered this initiative in 2019. India's policy on plastic waste roads began in 2015, mandating the use of 10% plastic waste mixed with hot bitumen for road construction and repair on national highways since 2017.

Governor of Maharashtra Unveils "Gateways to the Sea" Book:

- Shri Ramesh Bais, Governor of Maharashtra, has unveiled the book titled "Gateways to the Sea: Historic Ports and Docks of Mumbai Region," highlighting the maritime history of Mumbai. Published by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India, in collaboration with the Maritime Mumbai Museum Society, the book features 18 articles by renowned authors.

Observance of National Insurance Awareness Day:

- National Insurance Awareness Day was observed on June 28, 2024, to promote awareness about insurance and its benefits. This observance recognizes the historical importance of insurance, dating back to Chinese merchants in 3000 BCE, who distributed cargo across multiple ships to mitigate losses.

International Pineapple Day:

- International Pineapple Day, celebrated on June 27, 2024, honours the tropical pineapple and its

cultural significance. Symbolizing warmth and welcome in many cultures during the 17th and 18th centuries, the pineapple has become a popular ingredient in global cuisines, transitioning from a rare fruit to a household favourite.

Tata Sons' Museum of Temples Project in Ayodhya:

- Tata Sons has received approval from the Uttar Pradesh Cabinet to construct a ₹650 crore "museum of temples" in Ayodhya, funded through its corporate social responsibility fund. Additionally, the state cabinet has allocated ₹100 crore for further infrastructure development in Ayodhya and supported the launch of helicopter services in Lucknow, Prayagraj, and Kapilvastu to promote tourism and enhance historical and cultural significance.

Arundhati Roy Honored with Pen Pinter Prize:

- Booker Prize-winning author Arundhati Roy has been honoured with the prestigious Pen Pinter Prize for 2024 in recognition of her literary contributions, highlighting her advocacy for freedom of expression amidst potential legal challenges.

India's External Debt and RBI Report:

- India's external debt reached \$663.8 billion by March 2024, increasing by \$39.7 billion from the previous year. However, the external debt to GDP ratio decreased to 18.7% from 19.0% due to the valuation effect caused by the appreciation of the US dollar against major currencies. The largest component of the debt is denominated in US dollars (53.8%), followed by Indian rupee-denominated debt (31.5%).

Methuselah Star (HD 140283):

- The Methuselah Star, also known as HD 140283, is identified as the oldest star in the universe, located about 190 light-years away near the Milky Way's edge. Discovered through the James Webb Space Telescope, it is estimated to be around 14 billion years old, older than the universe itself and predating the formation of our galaxy.

Extended Maternity and Paternity Leave for Government Employees Involved in Surrogacy:

- Government employees involved in surrogacy will benefit from extended maternity leave of 180 days for commissioning mothers (with fewer than two surviving children) and 15 days of paternity leave for commissioning fathers. This change aims to support families involved in surrogacy arrangements.

Central Electronics Limited (CEL) Awarded "Mini RATNA" Status:

- Central Electronics Limited (CEL) has been granted "Mini RATNA" status (Category-1) during its Golden Jubilee celebration. This recognition highlights CEL's profitability as a PSU, contributing significantly to sectors such as Defence, Railway, Security, Surveillance, and Solar energy with indigenous technologies.

Projected GDP Growth for FY25:

- India's gross domestic product (GDP) growth for the fiscal year 2024-25 (FY25) is anticipated to exceed 7 percent, potentially reaching up to 7.5 percent, according to the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER).

DRDO Hands Over Medium Range-Microwave Obscurant Chaff Rocket (MR-MOCR) to Indian Navy:

- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has delivered the Medium Range-Microwave Obscurant Chaff Rocket (MR-MOCR) to the Indian Navy. Developed by DRDO's Jodhpur lab, this technology provides a shield against threats from radio frequency seekers by creating a microwave obscurant cloud in space.

Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Setu (Ranchi-Patratu Dam Road Bridge):

- The Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Setu, also known as the Ranchi-Patratu Dam Road Bridge, is now the longest bridge in Jharkhand. Spanning across the Patratu Dam Reservoir in the Ramgarh district, it incorporates modern cable-stayed technology using high-strength concrete and steel.

Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE) Receives Sustainable Governance Champion Award:

- Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE), based in Kolkata, was honored with the Sustainable Governance Champion Award at the Outlook Planet Sustainability Summit & Awards 2024. GRSE is renowned for building and repairing commercial and naval vessels, including exports.

South Africa's Record T20 Cricket Run Chase:

- South Africa achieved the highest successful run chase in T20 cricket history by reaching a target of 259/4 in just 18.5 overs against the West Indies during the T20 World Cup, showcasing a remarkable batting performance.

Madhya Pradesh Cabinet's Decision on Income Tax Payment by Ministers:

- The Madhya Pradesh cabinet, under Chief Minister Mohan Yadav, has decided that state ministers will personally pay income tax on their salaries and allowances, a departure from the previous practice where the state government covered these taxes.

China's Successful Moon Mission (Chang'e 6):

- China became the first country to retrieve rocks from the far side of the moon and bring them back to Earth through the Chang'e 6 spacecraft. The sample-return capsule landed in the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region with approximately two kilograms of lunar rock and soil from the South Pole-Aitken Basin.

World Record for Fastest T20 Century by Sahil Chauhan:

- In June 2024, Estonia's Sahil Chauhan set a new world record for the fastest century in T20 cricket, achieving it in just 27 balls, surpassing the previous record of 30 balls held by Chris Gayle since 2013.

SafaiApnao, BimaariBhagao (SABB) Initiative:

- The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) launched the SafaiApnao, BimaariBhagao (SABB) initiative under Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0. It aims to prepare Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) for the monsoon season by focusing on cleanliness, sanitation, and disease prevention from July 1 to August 31, 2024. The initiative aligns with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare's 'STOP Diarrhoea Campaign' and promotes comprehensive interventions and inter-departmental collaboration.

Appointment of Pro Tem Speaker BhartruhariMahtab:

- BhartruhariMahtab, a seven-time Lok Sabha member representing Cuttack, was appointed as the pro tem Speaker of the Lower House. The announcement was made by Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijju, recognizing Mahtab's extensive parliamentary experience.

Re-election of Om Birla as Speaker of the 18th Lok Sabha:

- Om Birla, a Member of Parliament from Kota, Rajasthan, was re-elected as the Speaker of the 18th Lok Sabha. Prime Minister Narendra Modi moved the motion for his election, which was adopted through a voice vote in the house, affirming Birla's role as Speaker.

64th International Sugar Organisation (ISO) Council Meeting:

- India hosted the 64th ISO Council meeting in New Delhi, focusing on global discussions regarding the sugar and biofuel industries. Delegates from over 30 countries and representatives from international organizations participated in the meeting held from June 25-27, 2024, at Bharat Mandapam.

International Day in Support of Victims of Torture:

- The United Nations' International Day in Support of Victims of Torture is observed annually on June 26th to raise awareness about torture and show solidarity with its victims. The day highlights the physical, mental, and emotional impacts of torture, emphasizing the global commitment to eradicate this practice.

Srinagar Designated as World Craft City:

- Srinagar has been recognized as the fourth Indian city to be designated as a 'World Craft City' by the World Craft Council (WCC). This acknowledges Srinagar's rich craft heritage and its inclusion in the UNESCO Creative City Network for crafts and folk arts.

Appointment of Lieutenant General NS Raja Subramani as Vice Chief of Army Staff:

- Lieutenant General NS Raja Subramani has been appointed as the Vice Chief of Army Staff, succeeding General Upendra Dwivedi. His appointment brings his extensive command, staff, and instructional experience to this crucial leadership role.

Rohit Sharma's Record in T20 International Cricket:

- Rohit Sharma made history by becoming the first player to hit 200 sixes in T20 International cricket during the T20 World Cup 2024. His achievement came during a match against Australia, where he scored 92 runs off 41 balls, including eight sixes.

Haryana Increases Reservation for Backward Classes:

- Haryana's Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini announced an increase in reservation for backward classes in Group-A and Group-B posts from 15% to 27%, aligning with the Central government's policy to enhance opportunities for backward communities.

Opening of Khalubar War Memorial in Ladakh:

- The Indian Army opened the Khalubar War Memorial in Ladakh to tourists, commemorating the heroes of the Kargil War. The memorial, located in the Aryan Valley, honours the bravery

and sacrifices of soldiers who played a pivotal role in reclaiming the valley during the war.

Establishment of PM Colleges of Excellence in Madhya Pradesh:

- The Madhya Pradesh government approved the establishment of one P.M. College of Excellence in each district of the state. Chief Minister Mohan Yadav announced plans to integrate 'Bharatiya Gyan Parampara' centres within these colleges, starting from July 1st across all 55 districts of Madhya Pradesh.

SBI Dividend Distribution:

- The State Bank of India (SBI) distributed a dividend of Rs 6,959 crore to the Indian government for the financial year 2023-24. This followed SBI's reporting of a record consolidated net profit of Rs 67,085 crore for the year, highlighting its robust financial performance.

Conservation and Breeding Center for Asian King Vultures:

- Uttar Pradesh is establishing the world's first conservation and breeding centre for Asian king vultures in Maharajganj. Named Jatayu Conservation and Breeding Centre, it aims to revive the critically endangered Asian king vulture population, which has declined due to diclofenac poisoning.

Max Verstappen Wins Spanish Grand Prix:

- Max Verstappen won the Spanish Grand Prix, enhancing his position in the Formula 1 drivers' championship. Verstappen showcased exceptional racing skills by securing the lead early and maintaining it throughout the race.

FDI Decline in India:

- According to a UNCTAD report, foreign direct investment (FDI) in India decreased by 43% in 2023, leading to a drop in global ranking to 15th among FDI recipients. This decline reflects cautious investment trends globally amidst economic uncertainties.

Kozhikode Becomes UNESCO City of Literature:

- Kozhikode, Kerala, achieved the distinction of becoming India's first UNESCO City of Literature. This recognition celebrates Kozhikode's rich literary heritage, including its contributions to literature, cinema, music, and media.

National Award for Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank:

- Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank (KVGB), sponsored by Canara Bank, received a national award from the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) for its effective implementation of the Atal Pension Yojana (APY).

APIX Partners with RBI for HaRBInger 2024 Hackathon:

- APIX, a global innovation platform, partnered with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to host the HaRBInger 2024 hackathon. This collaboration aims to foster innovative solutions that enhance the security and inclusivity of the financial ecosystem.

National Yoga Olympiad 2024 Inaugurated in Mysuru:

- Karnataka Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot inaugurated the National Yoga Olympiad 2024 in Mysuru under the theme 'Yoga for Self and Society'. The event highlights yoga's cultural significance and its benefits for personal and communal well-being.

Development of Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport:

- The Union Cabinet approved the development of Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport in Varanasi with a budget of Rs 2,870 crore. Funded by the Airports Authority of India (AAI), the project includes the construction of a new terminal, runway extension, and other enhancements.

Approval of National Forensic Infrastructure Enhancement Scheme (NFIES):

- The Union Cabinet approved NFIES, allocating Rs. 2254.43 crore from 2024-25 to 2028-29. Managed by the Ministry of Home Affairs, NFIES aims to strengthen India's forensic capabilities through investments in infrastructure, including new campuses and laboratories.

Legalization of Same-Sex Marriage in Thailand:

- Thailand has become the first country in Southeast Asia to legalize same-sex marriage. Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin, a strong advocate for LGBTQ+ rights, supported the marriage equality bill, which received bipartisan support in parliament. This move highlights Thailand's reputation as LGBTQ+-friendly.

Nvidia Becomes World's Most Valuable Company:

- Nvidia, known for its GPUs and AI technology, surpassed Microsoft to become the world's most valuable company with a market capitalization of

\$3.335 trillion. This achievement reflects Nvidia's leadership in artificial intelligence, data science, and high-performance computing.

Inauguration of Nalanda University's New Campus:

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the new campus of Nalanda University in Bihar, an international institution near the ancient Nalanda ruins in Rajgir. Established under the Nalanda University Act, 2010, it aims to revive the historical legacy of learning.

IFC Invests in Brookfield's Bikaner Solar Power Project:

- The International Finance Corporation (IFC) invested \$105 million in Brookfield's Bikaner Solar Power project in Rajasthan. This investment supports renewable energy infrastructure expansion, providing power to commercial clients through long-term agreements and the merchant market.

Indian Railways' Trial Run on Chenab Bridge:

- Indian Railways conducted a successful trial run on the Chenab Bridge, the world's highest rail bridge at 359 meters in Jammu and Kashmir. Part of the USBRL project aims to integrate the Kashmir Valley into India's national railway network.

Chinese Solar Research Breakthrough with CHASE Satellite:

- Chinese scientists using the CHASE satellite made a solar research breakthrough, discovering a new pattern of solar atmospheric rotation. Equipped with advanced technology, the CHASE satellite enhances understanding of solar activity and the Sun's evolution.

Lee Zii Jia Wins BWF Australian Open 2024:

- Lee Zii Jia from Malaysia emerged victorious in an exciting final against NaraokaKodai of Japan at the BWF Australian Open 2024, showcasing his prowess in badminton.

Cyril Ramaphosa Reelected as South African President:

- Cyril Ramaphosa was reelected as South African President for a second term after forming a coalition with a former political adversary. He secured 283 votes compared to Julius Malema's 44, amidst political developments.

Peter Pellegrini Sworn in as Slovakia's President:

- Peter Pellegrini was sworn in as Slovakia's sixth president amid political tensions following an assassination attempt on Prime Minister Robert

Fico. Pellegrini, known for his strong state policies, previously served as Parliament's speaker.

RBI Recognized as "Risk Manager of the Year 2024":

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) received the "Risk Manager of the Year 2024" award from Central Banking, London. This recognition acknowledges the RBI's role in maintaining India's financial system stability through effective risk management.

Siddhesh Sakore Recognized as Land Hero by UNCCD:

- Siddhesh Sakore, a farmer from Maharashtra and founder of AGRO RANGERS, was honoured as a Land Hero by the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) on World Desertification and Drought Day. He has developed cost-effective mechanical devices to convert organic waste into compost, addressing soil degradation issues and empowering small farmers with innovative agroforestry models.

Inauguration of 'Prerna Sthal' by Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar:

- Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar inaugurated 'Prerna Sthal' (Inspiration Site) within the Parliament House Complex. This new site consolidates statues of national icons and freedom fighters previously scattered across different locations. It aims to enhance the visitor experience by providing easier access to these statues and using modern technology like QR codes to narrate their life stories.

Father's Day 2024 Celebration:

- Father's Day was celebrated on Sunday, June 16, 2024. It is observed annually on the third Sunday of June to honour paternal figures and celebrate the special bond between fathers and their children.

India's Nitrous Oxide Emissions:

- India is the world's second-largest emitter of nitrous oxide (N₂O), a potent greenhouse gas contributing significantly to global warming. Approximately 11% of global man-made N₂O emissions in 2020 came from India, primarily due to fertilizer use.

AI-Based Authentication Tool 'Divya Drishti':

- A woman-led start-up has developed "Divya Drishti," an AI-based tool combining facial recognition with gait analysis for robust biometric authentication. Developed under DRDO's Centre for Artificial Intelligence & Robotics (CAIR) in

Bengaluru, it offers enhanced accuracy and finds applications in defence, law enforcement, corporate, and public sectors.

Discovery of Craters on Mars by PRL:

- Ahmedabad-based Physical Research Laboratory (PRL) discovered three craters on Mars named Lal, Mursan, and Hilsa. Lal Crater, named after Professor Devendra Lal, indicates Mars' wet past with sedimentary deposits, contributing to understanding Mars' climate and potential habitability.

Re-appointment of P.K. Mishra as Principal Secretary to PM Modi:

- Former IAS officer P.K. Mishra has been re-appointed as the Principal Secretary to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. This senior position is crucial in the Indian government, overseeing administrative coordination and policy implementation.

Launch of 'Mukhya Mantri Nijut Moina' Scheme in Assam:

- The Assam government launched the 'Mukhya Mantri Nijut Moina' (MMNM) scheme to promote girls' education and combat child marriage. It provides financial incentives to approximately 10 lakh female students, varying based on their educational level from higher secondary to post-graduate courses.

Discovery of Buroniusmanfredschmidi:

- Scientists discovered Buroniusmanfredschmidi, the smallest known great ape species that lived 11 million years ago in Bavaria. This ancient ape species was only about the size of a human toddler, weighing approximately 10 kg.

Return of Stolen Bronze Sculpture:

- Oxford University's Ashmolean Museum has agreed to return a stolen bronze sculpture of Saint Tirumankai Alvar to India. The 60 cm tall, 500-year-old sculpture was acquired by the museum in 1967 from an auction house. This move is part of ongoing efforts to repatriate stolen cultural artefacts.

N. Chandrababu Naidu's Fourth Term as Chief Minister:

- N. Chandrababu Naidu has been sworn in for his fourth term as the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh. His political career began in 1995 when he first became the Chief Minister of undivided Andhra Pradesh. After serving until 2019, he has

returned to power following a landslide victory in the 2024 elections.

Appointment of Lieutenant General Upendra Dwivedi:

- Lieutenant General Upendra Dwivedi has been appointed as the next Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) of India. He will assume the position on June 30, bringing over 39 years of military experience, including roles as Northern Army Commander and Director General (DG) of Infantry.

Mohan Charan Majhi as Chief Minister of Odisha:

- Mohan Charan Majhi has been appointed as the new Chief Minister of Odisha after the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) formed its first-ever government in the state, following their victory in the 2024 Odisha Assembly elections.

Sumit Nagpal's Victory in Heilbronn Neckarcup 2024:

- Indian tennis player Sumit Nagpal won the Heilbronn Neckarcup 2024 ATP Challenger Tennis tournament in Germany. This victory marks his sixth ATP Challenger title, solidifying his position as India's top-ranked men's singles player.

Prem Singh Tamang's Second Term as Chief Minister of Sikkim:

- Prem Singh Tamang, leader of the Sikkim Krantikari Morcha (SKM), has been sworn in as the Chief Minister of Sikkim for his second consecutive term. The ceremony took place in Gangtok's Paljor Stadium.

India's Expansion of Overseas Port Operations:

- India is planning to expand its overseas port operations, particularly in Bangladesh, to counter China's growing influence and enhance regional connectivity. This follows the success of port operations in Chabahar (Iran) and Sittwe (Myanmar), with India now showing interest in operating Mongla Port in Bangladesh.

UN Report on Aquaculture:

- A recent United Nations report reveals that aquaculture has surpassed wild fisheries in terms of production for the first time. The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture 2024 report highlights that aquaculture production reached 94.4 million tons in 2022, accounting for 51% of the total and 57% of production intended for human consumption.

Indian Army's 'Vidyut Rakshak' System:

- The Indian Army has launched an integrated generator monitoring, protection, and control system called 'Vidyut Rakshak'. Developed by the Army Design Bureau (ADB), this IoT-enabled system can be applied to all existing generators in the Indian Army, connecting and exchanging data with other IoT devices and the cloud.

Portugal's Golden Visa Scheme Changes:

- Portugal plans to modify its golden visa scheme to facilitate affordable housing for locals and accommodation for migrants. The scheme, which has attracted over €7.3 billion in investments, will no longer allow real estate purchases for visas but will still permit investments in funds, cultural or research projects, and job creation.

Priyanka Jarkiholi's Lok Sabha Victory:

- Priyanka Jarkiholi, daughter of Congress nominee and Minister Satish Jarkiholi, won the Lok Sabha elections from the Chikkodi constituency in Karnataka. She defeated incumbent BJP leader Annasaheb Jolle, becoming the youngest tribal woman to enter Parliament from an unreserved seat in Karnataka since Independence.

Vellayan Subbiah Named EY World Entrepreneur of the Year 2024:

- Vellayan Subbiah, Executive Vice Chairman of Tube Investments of India (TII) and Chairman of Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Co Ltd., has been named EY World Entrepreneur of the Year 2024. Subbiah's entrepreneurial journey includes leading Cholamandalam Investment and Finance through challenging times before becoming Chairman.

Magnus Carlsen's Sixth Title:

- Magnus Carlsen, a Norwegian chess grandmaster, won his sixth title at the Norway Chess Tournament, reinforcing his position as the top-ranked player in the world. Ju Wenjun won the Women's Championship, adding another achievement to her illustrious career.

Hungary's Bridge of National Unity:

- Hungary unveiled a 700-meter pedestrian bridge called the 'Bridge of National Unity' in Satoraljaujhely. This bridge, one of the longest in the world, is expected to boost tourism in northeastern Hungary. It features a glass floor and is supported by six cable ropes, connecting two hills.

RBI's HaRBInger 2024 Hackathon:

- The Reserve Bank of India launched its third global hackathon, HaRBInger 2024, focusing on preventing financial fraud and enhancing accessibility for people with disabilities ('Being Divyang Friendly'). The hackathon aims to develop real-time solutions using alternate data sources.

Rajaji Raghathi Biosphere:

- India created its first biosphere within a tiger reserve, named Rajaji Raghathi Biosphere, located in Rajaji National Park, Uttarakhand. This 35-acre private forest initiative aims to revive native tree species and protect the area from poaching and mining by transforming previously degraded land.

C-DOT's UN WSIS Award:

- The Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) received the UN WSIS Award for its Disaster Resilience Technology. Established in 1984, C-DOT focuses on developing advanced telecom technologies suited to local conditions in India.

AITA's Dilip Bose Lifetime Achievement Award:

- The All India Tennis Association honoured coach Nar Singh and former national tennis player Rohini Lokhande with the Dilip Bose Lifetime Achievement Award for their contributions to tennis in India.

India's First Astro-Tourism Event:

- Uttarakhand hosted India's first astro-tourism event, 'Nakshatra Sabha,' in Mussoorie, promoting the state as a multidimensional tourist destination. The event was held at George Everest Peak, offering stunning views of the Doon Valley and the Himalayas.

Record NOTA Votes in Madhya Pradesh:

- In the recent elections, 2.18 lakh voters in Indore, Madhya Pradesh, chose the 'None of the Above' (NOTA) option, making it the highest number of NOTA votes in any Lok Sabha election. NOTA allows voters to abstain from voting for any candidates.

'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' Campaign:

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign on World Environment Day, urging people to plant trees. Modi planted a Peepal tree sapling at Buddha Jayanti Park in Delhi to kick off the campaign.

Kedar Jadhav's Retirement:

- Former Indian cricketer Kedar Jadhav announced his retirement from all forms of cricket. He played for India in the 2019 World Cup and last appeared in an ODI against New Zealand in February 2020.

Dinesh Karthik's Retirement:

- Veteran wicketkeeper-batter Dinesh Karthik also announced his retirement from all forms of cricket. He played 180 international games for India and had a successful career with impressive batting and wicketkeeping records.

AI Learning in Kerala Schools:

- Kerala introduced Artificial Intelligence (AI) learning in the Information & Communication Technology (ICT) textbook for Class 7 students. This initiative will expose over 4 lakh students to AI, providing them with practical experience in creating AI programs that recognize facial expressions.



1. Who among the following was recently appointed as the new Chief Secretary of Odisha?
 - A. Manoj Ahuja
 - B. Ranjeet Kar
 - C. Rajeev Mishra
 - D. Loknath Majhi
2. The Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM) signed a memorandum of understanding with which university in Odisha for Lightning and Thunderstorm Study?
 - A. Utkal University
 - B. Fakir Mohan University
 - C. SOA (Siksha 'O' Anusandhan) University
 - D. Ravenshaw University
3. Which district in Odisha is on high alert following the death of a child from Japanese Encephalitis (JE)?
 - A. Angul
 - B. Keonjhar
 - C. Cuttack
 - D. Sambalpur
4. The Odisha government has decided to conduct genome sequencing of samples of which disease?
 - A. Japanese encephalitis
 - B. Diphtheria
 - C. TB
 - D. Malaria
5. The Odisha government has announced the extension of its sponsorship for Indian hockey until which year?
 - A. 2026
 - B. 2028
 - C. 2032
 - D. 2036
6. Consider the following statements regarding the Krushak Assistance for Livelihood and Income Augmentation (KALIA) Scheme:
 1. It was launched by the Odisha Government to reduce poverty and accelerate agricultural prosperity.
 2. It provides financial assistance of Rs. 25,000 for a farm family over five seasons to purchase inputs.Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
 - A. 1 only
 - B. 2 only
 - C. Both 1 and 2
 - D. Neither 1 nor 2
7. "Mission Shakti" is the self-help mission for empowering women through promotion of Women Self Help Groups (WSHGs) launched in which year?
 - A. 2001
 - B. 2007
 - C. 2011
 - D. 2016
8. The Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has released a draft notification proposing an eco-sensitive zone (ESZ) around which National Park/Tiger Reserve?
 - A. Bhitarkanika National Park
 - B. Debrigarh Tiger Reserve
 - C. Similipal Tiger Reserve
 - D. Ushakothi National Park
9. Which state has made significant strides in tobacco control, earning the World No Tobacco Day Award from the WHO for the South-East Asian region?
 - A. Uttar Pradesh
 - B. Odisha
 - C. Chhattisgarh
 - D. West Bengal
10. Which wildlife sanctuary in Odisha has introduced a unique initiative of 'Stargazing', offering visitors a chance to observe constellations and enjoy the night sky?
 - A. Hadagarh Wildlife Sanctuary
 - B. Karlapat Wildlife Sanctuary
 - C. Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary
 - D. Ushakothi (Badrama) Wildlife Sanctuary
11. According to the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG), which state high court has seen a case clearance rate (CCR) of 113.81% in the first five months of 2024?
 - A. West Bengal HC
 - B. Maharashtra HC
 - C. Tamil Nadu HC
 - D. Odisha HC
12. Ambubachi Mela, often mentioned in the news, is associated with which state?
 - A. Assam
 - B. Odisha
 - C. West Bengal
 - D. Jharkhand
13. The book of short stories titled 'Hu Baieaa' was written by:
 - A. Manas Ranjan Samal

- B. Sanjay Kumar Panda
C. Ritika Pattnaik
D. ArbindaKhato
14. Recently, which country unveiled the 700-Metre Pedestrian 'Bridge of National Unity'?
- A. France
B. Hungary
C. Germany
D. Slovakia
15. The book of short stories titled 'Gapa Kalika' was written by:
- A. Manas Ranjan Samal
B. Sanjay Kumar Panda
C. Ritika Pattnaik
D. ArbindaKhato
16. Which state recently launched a Sickle Cell Screening and Awareness Campaign?
- A. Odisha
B. Jharkhand
C. Andhra Pradesh
D. Telangana
17. Who among the following has been elected as the Speaker of the 17th Odisha Legislative Assembly?
- A. Upasana Mohapatra
B. Ranjita Kudu
C. Sucharita Patra
D. SuramaPadhy
18. Who has taken oath as Deputy Chief Minister of Odisha?
- A. Kanak Vardhan Singh Dev
B. Parvati Parida
C. Pramod Bal
D. Both A and B
19. Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary, recently in the news, is located in which state?
- A. Madhya Pradesh
B. Maharashtra
C. Uttarakhand
D. Uttar Pradesh
20. The NaturAfrica initiative is a program associated with which of the following?
- A. African Union
B. G20
C. European Union
D. USA
21. GardiSugdub island recently seen in news is associated with which of the following country?
- A. USA
B. Mexico
C. Panama
D. Brazil
22. Where was the 'Japan India Maritime Exercise 2024 (JIMEX-24)' conducted?
- A. Yokosuka, Japan
B. Ladakh, India
C. Jammu and Kashmir, India
D. Fukuoka, Japan
23. Recently, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) declared which year as the 'International Year of Quantum Science and Technology'?
- A. 2024
B. 2025
C. 2026
D. 2027
24. Satellite mission called TRISHNA is associated with which of the following space agencies?
- A. ISRO and NASA
B. ISRO and ROSCOSMOS
C. ISRO and JAXA
D. ISRO and French Space Agency (CNES)
25. On which date does the world celebrate the World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought?
- A. 17th June
B. 18th June
C. 19th June
D. 20th June
26. Which country will host the men's Junior Hockey World Cup in 2025?
- A. India
B. Bangladesh
C. Sri Lanka
D. Pakistan
27. Which of the following is the trustee of the Global Environment Facility (GEF)?
- A. World Bank
B. IMF
C. Asian Development Bank
D. European Central Bank
28. What is the rank of India among the top DeepTech ecosystems in the world?
- A. 2nd

- B. 4th
C. 6th
D. 9th
29. Which organization recently released the 'Global Economic Prospects' report?
A. World Bank
B. World Economic Forum
C. ILO
D. UNDP
30. The Global Gas Flaring Tracker Report has been released by which organization?
A. World Bank
B. International Energy Agency
C. World Economic Forum
D. UNDP
31. Which state recently launched the 'Mukhya Mantri Nijut Moina (MMNM)' scheme to promote girl education in the state?
A. Manipur
B. Nagaland
C. Sikkim
D. Assam
32. According to recent government data, India got the highest FDI from which country in 2023-24?
A. Mauritius
B. Singapore
C. USA
D. UAE
33. Claudia Shienbaum has been elected as the first woman President of which of the following country?
A. Azerbaijan
B. Mexico
C. Belarus
D. El Salvador
34. 'Nagastar-1', recently seen in the news, is associated with which of the following?
A. Earth observation satellite
B. Suicide drones
C. Ballistic Missile
D. Anti-Personnel Mine
35. Which of the following state governments recently launched the "MannuyirKaathuMannuyirKaappom" scheme to improve soil health?
A. Andhra Pradesh
B. Tamil Nadu
C. Karnataka
D. Kerala
36. Which country hosted the 50th G7 leaders summit?
A. Italy
B. France
C. U.K.
D. USA
37. Weather Satellite called "GOES-U" recently launched by which of the following?
A. ISRO and NASA
B. ROSCOSMOS and ISRO
C. NASA and SpaceX
D. JAXA and NASA
38. Which organization recently released the 'Migration and Development Brief' report?
A. IMO
B. World Economic Forum
C. UNDP
D. World Bank
39. PAROS Treaty is associated with which of the following regions?
A. High Seas
B. Antarctica
C. Space
D. Arctic
40. Which of the following countries recently joined the International Solar Alliance as the 100th Member?
A. Paraguay
B. Uruguay
C. Bolivia
D. Peru
41. Recently, which country has announced plans to implement the world's first carbon tax on livestock emissions, starting in 2030?
A. Denmark
B. New Zealand
C. Finland
D. Sweden
42. Which of the following countries recently banned Hijab and Other 'Alien Garments'?
A. Tajikistan
B. Mongolia
C. Azerbaijan
D. Bhutan
43. Which state government recently launched the 'Mission Nischay'?
A. Punjab
B. Haryana
C. Rajasthan

- D. Gujarat
44. Headquarters of the International Sugar Organisation (ISO) located in:
- A. India
B. UK
C. USA
D. Brazil
45. "Joint Communiqué on a Peace Framework," recently seen in the news in the context of which two countries?
- A. Russia and Ukraine
B. Israel and Palestine
C. Azerbaijan and Armenia
D. Oman and UAE
46. Which of the following countries topped the Global Energy Transition Index released by the World Economic Forum (WEF)?
- A. Finland
B. Switzerland
C. Sweden
D. Ireland
47. Nalanda University, recently seen in the news, is located in which state?
- A. Bihar
B. Jharkhand
C. West Bengal
D. Odisha
48. Recently, which South American country adopted India's UPI system for instant digital payments?
- A. Chile
B. Argentina
C. Uruguay
D. Peru
49. Recently, which country became the first Southeast Asian country to recognize same-sex marriage?
- A. Thailand
B. Vietnam
C. Malaysia
D. Singapore
50. World Food Safety Day is an annual event celebrated on:
- A. 7th June
B. 8th June
C. 9th June
D. 10th June

ANSWERS

1. Answer: A

The Odisha state government appointed senior IAS officer Manoj Ahuja as the new Chief Secretary of Odisha. He will also serve as Secretary to the General Administration and Public Grievances Department. Ahuja succeeds Pradeep Kumar Jena, a 1989-batch IAS officer, who had been Chief Secretary since February 26, 2023.

2. Answer: C

SOA (Siksha 'O' Anusandhan) University and the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM) signed a memorandum of understanding. The agreement will last for five years.

3. Answer: A

Angul district in Odisha is on high alert following the tragic death of a child from Japanese Encephalitis (JE) and two suspected cases of the viral infection. JE is a mosquito-borne flavivirus belonging to the same genus as dengue, yellow fever, and West Nile viruses. The first documented case of Japanese encephalitis viral disease (JE) was in 1871 in Japan.

The Odisha government has decided to conduct genome sequencing of diphtheria-positive samples amid a special vaccination drive in Rayagada district. This step aims to identify any new variants and understand the reasons behind the disease transmission among vaccinated children.

4. Answer: B

In a significant move, the Odisha government has announced the extension of its sponsorship for Indian hockey for an additional three years, now covering until 2036.

5. Answer: D

In a significant move, the Odisha government has announced the extension of its sponsorship for Indian hockey for an additional three years, now covering until 2036.

6. Answer: C

The KALIA Scheme was launched by the Odisha Government in December 2018 to reduce poverty and accelerate agricultural prosperity. The scheme supports cultivators, small farmers, and landless agricultural laborers. It provides financial assistance of Rs. 25,000 over five seasons to farm families (small and marginal farmers) to purchase inputs like fertilizers, seeds, and pesticides. The assistance can also be used for labor and other investments.

7. Answer: A

"Mission Shakti" is the self-help mission for empowering women through promotion of Women Self Help Groups (WSHG), launched in Odisha on 8th March 2001, on the eve of International Women's Day. The mission aims to empower women through gainful activities by providing credit and market linkage.

8. Answer: A

The MoEFCC has released a draft notification proposing an eco-sensitive zone (ESZ) around Bhitarkanika National Park and Gahirmatha Marine Sanctuary in Odisha's Kendrapara district. The proposed zone covers 209 villages with a population of approximately 2.75 lakh.

9. Answer: B

Odisha has made significant strides in tobacco control, earning the World No Tobacco Day Award from the WHO for the South-East Asian region. The state has implemented various initiatives to reduce tobacco usage, including banning tobacco-related products at Puri's Jagannath Temple and conducting comprehensive searches for contraband items at Jharpada jail.

10. Answer: C

Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary in Odisha has introduced a unique initiative of 'Stargazing', offering visitors a chance to observe constellations and enjoy the night sky. The sanctuary has developed six new stargazing cottages with glass roofs, a first-of-its-kind initiative in the state.

11. Answer: D

The Odisha High Court has achieved a remarkable case clearance rate (CCR) of 113.81% in the first five months of 2024. As per the NJDG, there are a total of 1,44,418 pending cases in the High Court, with 65,658 cases being over five years old as of June 5.

12. Answer: A

Ambubachi Mela is a four-day festival marking the annual menstruation of the goddess at Kamakhya temple in Guwahati. It is one of the largest congregations in eastern India.

13. Answer: B

Sanjay Kumar Panda has been selected for the Yuva Puraskar for his book of short stories titled 'Hu Baieaa.'

14. Answer: B

Hungary inaugurated a 700-metre pedestrian bridge on June 4. Known as the Bridge of National Unity, it is one of the longest bridges in the world, located in the eastern Hungarian city of Satoraljaiújhely.

15. Answer: A

Manas Ranjan Samal will receive the Bal Sahitya Puraskar for his collection of short stories titled 'Gapa Kalika.'

16. Answer: A

The Odisha state government initiated an extensive sickle cell disease (SCD) screening and awareness campaign across 21 districts with significant tribal populations. This campaign aligns with the observance of World Sickle Cell Awareness Day and runs from June 19 to July 3.

17. Answer: D

BJP member Surama Padhy has been elected as the Speaker of the 17th Odisha Legislative Assembly. She becomes the second woman to hold the Speaker's post in Odisha, following BJD's Pramila Mallik.

18. Answer: D

Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, along with Deputy Chief Ministers Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo and Pravati Parida, took oath.

19. Answer: A

The Madhya Pradesh government is preparing Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary to become a new cheetah habitat. Teams from Kenya and South Africa have assessed the site, and prey animals were relocated from other tiger reserves. Eight Namibian cheetahs were released at Kuno National Park in 2022, followed by 12 more from South Africa in 2023.

20. Answer: C

The NaturAfrica initiative is a European Union (EU) program aimed at supporting biodiversity conservation in Africa through a people-centered approach.

21. Answer: C

As a result of higher sea levels, Panama is currently dealing with a major effect of climate change by relocating a whole island community. The native Guna people of Gardi Sugdub, an island in the Guna Yala archipelago in Panama's Caribbean region.

22. Answer: A

The 8th Japan-India Maritime Exercise (JIMEX-24) commenced in Yokosuka, Japan. Hosted by the Japan Maritime Self-Defence Force (JMSDF), it featured the Indian Navy's INS Shivalik and JMSDF's JS Yugiri. The exercise included harbour and sea phases, focusing on

naval interaction and warfighting skills, aiming to enhance interoperability and strengthen defense ties between Japan and India.

23. Answer: A

The United Nations General Assembly declared 2024 as the International Year of Quantum Science and Technology. This decision aims to raise public awareness, encourage youth involvement, and support quantum science applications. The year marks the centenary of Werner Heisenberg's foundational quantum mechanics paper.

24. Answer: D

The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) and the French Space Agency (CNES) have agreed to work together on a satellite mission called TRISHNA.

25. Answer: A

The world celebrates the World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought on June 17th. This important day aims to raise awareness about the pressing issue of land degradation and its devastating effects on the environment and communities around the globe.

26. Answer: A

The International Hockey Federation (FIH) has chosen India to host the inaugural FIH Hockey Men's Junior World Cup featuring 24 teams in December 2025. This decision aligns with FIH's strategy to expand opportunities and promote diversity in hockey.

27. Answer: A

The Global Environment Facility (GEF), a multilateral family of funds dedicated to confronting biodiversity loss, climate change, and pollution, is entrusted to the World Bank.

28. Answer: C

India ranked 6th among the top 9 DeepTech ecosystems in the world.

29. Answer: A

The World Bank released its June 2024 Global Economic Prospects report, revising India's GDP growth forecast for 2024-25 to 6.6%, up from 6.4% in January. India is projected to remain the fastest-growing major economy in 2024-25, with a 2025-26 forecast of 6.7% growth. India's economy grew by 8.2% in 2023-24, according to the NSO. The Reserve Bank of India raised its 2024-25 forecast to 7.2%.

30. Answer: A

The World Bank released the Global Gas Flaring Tracker Report, compiled with the help of the Global Flaring and Methane Reduction (GFMR) Partnership. Global gas flaring increased by 7% in 2023 from 2022, leading to a rise of 23 million tonnes of CO2 emissions. Major contributors include Russia, Iran, Iraq, and the USA.

31. Answer: D

The Assam government launched the Mukhya Mantri Nijut Moina (MMNM) scheme in June 2024 to promote girl education and end child marriage. Approved by the state cabinet, the scheme offers financial support to around 10 lakh girl students. Girls in higher secondary education will receive Rs 1000 monthly, those in degree courses Rs 1200, and those in Post Graduation or B.Ed programs Rs 2500.

32. Answer: B

In 2023-24, India received the highest foreign direct investment (FDI) from Singapore, amounting to \$11.77 billion.

33. Answer: B

Claudia Shienbaum has been elected as Mexico's first woman president, marking a historic milestone in its 200-year history.

34. Answer: B

The Indian Army has received Nagastra-1, a unique man-portable suicide drone designed to target launch pads, enemy camps, and infiltrators safely. Under Emergency Procurement Powers, the Army ordered 480 Loiter Munitions from Solar Industries' Economics Explosives Ltd (EEL). Following successful pre-delivery inspections, 120 units have been delivered to an Army Ammunition Depot, according to defense sources.

35. Answer: B

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin launched the "MannuyirKaathuMannuyirKaappom" scheme to promote sustainable farming in the state with a ₹206 crore budget. A key focus is improving soil health using green manure methods. A ₹20 crore start-up fund will support the distribution of green manure seeds across 200,000 acres from 2024-25, benefiting over 200,000 farmers directly.

36. Answer: A

Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended the G7 Outreach session in Borgo Egnazia, Italy, on June 14, discussing AI, energy, Africa, and the Mediterranean. Invited by Italian PM Giorgia Meloni, Modi met leaders including Emmanuel Macron, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, and Rishi Sunak. The 50th G7 Summit ran from June 13-15 in Apulia, Italy.

37. Answer: C

SpaceX has launched NASA's final satellite for the NOAA program, enhancing continuous weather monitoring across the Western Hemisphere.

38. Answer: D

India, the largest remittance recipient globally, is expected to receive \$124 billion in inward remittances in 2024 and \$129 billion in 2025. In 2023, India received \$120 billion, marking a 7.5% growth rate, projected to be 3.7% in 2024. The World Bank's June 2024 Migration and Development Brief highlights these trends, noting India as the leading emigrant origin country with 18.7 million emigrants.

39. Answer: C

In 2008, a draft treaty submitted to the Conference on Disarmament aims to refrain State Parties from placing objects carrying any type of weapon into orbit, installing weapons on celestial bodies, and threatening to use force against objects in outer space.

40. Answer: A

Paraguay has become the 100th full member of the International Solar Alliance (ISA), signifying a milestone in global efforts to accelerate solar energy deployment.

41. Answer: A

Denmark will introduce the world's first emissions tax on livestock in 2030, targeting greenhouse gases from cows, pigs, and sheep. Farmers will initially pay \$43 per metric ton of CO2 equivalent, increasing to \$108 by 2035. However, a 60% tax deduction will reduce the effective rates to \$17 per metric ton in 2030 and \$43 in 2035.

42. Answer: A

Tajikistan's parliament passed a law banning hijabs and other "alien garments," imposing heavy fines for violations. This move is part of broader efforts to promote traditional attire.

43. Answer: A

Punjab Police, in collaboration with the BSF and VDCs, conducted a one-week anti-drug campaign, "Mission Nishchay," in Fazilka district from June 15 to 21. They engaged residents of 42 villages along the India-Pakistan border to gather intelligence on drug demand and supply. The initiative aims to foster community participation, with a special focus on youth and women, in curbing the drug menace.

44. Answer: B

The 64th ISO Council meeting in New Delhi, chaired by India, gathers delegates from 30+ countries to discuss global sugar and biofuel industries. Headquarters: London, United Kingdom.

45. Answer: A

India dissociated from the final document of a Peace Summit in Switzerland, emphasizing peace proposals acceptable to both Russia and Ukraine. The summit, held on June 15-16, 2024, addressed the ongoing Ukraine war's impact. Key points included nuclear safety at Ukraine's plants, global food security, and humanitarian issues like prisoner exchanges and the return of displaced Ukrainians. Attendees reaffirmed commitments to international law and UN resolutions.

46. Answer: C

Sweden topped, India ranked 63rd on the Global Energy Transition Index.

47. Answer: A

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the new Nalanda University campus near the ancient ruins in Rajgir, Bihar. Founded by Kumaragupta in the 5th century, Nalanda was a renowned monastic university for 600 years, flourishing under Harshavardhana and the Pala monarchs. It attracted students from across Asia, teaching subjects like Buddhism, medicine, and astronomy. Destroyed in 1193 by Bakhtiyar Khilji, it was rediscovered in 1812 and is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

48. Answer: D

The latest deal between NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL) and the Central Reserve Bank of Peru (BCRP) is a big step forward for digital payment systems around the world. The goal of this partnership is to set up a system in Peru that works like the Unified Payments Interface (UPI). This would make Peru the first country in South America to use NPCI's technology. This is part of NPCI's larger plan to launch UPI in many parts of the world.

49. Answer: A

Thailand became the first Southeast Asian country to recognize same-sex marriage. Despite its inclusive reputation, Thailand faced decades of challenges passing this law due to conservative societal and governmental values. The bill grants full legal, financial, and medical rights to marriage partners of any gender. It awaits formal endorsement by King Maha Vajiralongkorn and will become effective within 120 days.

50. Answer: A

World Food Safety Day is an annual event celebrated on June 7th. It aims to raise awareness about the importance of food safety and promote actions to prevent, detect, and manage foodborne risks.