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AUGUST 2024



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Lieutenant Bimal Ranjan Behera
honored with the Shaurya
Chakra



Sudarsan Pattnaik, from Odisha,
has achieved the prestigious Golden
Sand Master Award.



Odisha to upgrade 800
schools into PM SHRI
Schools



CUTM, Odisha received the Outstanding
Skill University Award at the
World Education Summit



Decline in Crocodile nest
numbers at Bhitarkanika
National Park

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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

Odisha to add 100 mw of green energy with fresh investments

- The State's Single Window Committee (SWC) approved two major wind energy projects.
- 48 MW wind energy project
- Location: Umerkot, Nabarangpur district
- Investment: Part of the total ₹881.28 crores
- ONGC Tripura Power Company Project:
- 49.5 MW wind energy project
- Location: Astaranga, Puri district
- Investment: Part of the total ₹881.28 crores
- Ongoing Investments:
- Total Investments Approved: Under the Odisha Renewable Energy Policy, 2022, SWC has approved proposals totaling ₹3,723.57 crores.
- Total Capacity: Approved investments will contribute to 499.48 MW capacity in the renewable energy sector.

Orissa High Court has ruled that women who become mothers through surrogacy are entitled to the same maternity leave rights as natural and adoptive mothers.

- Legal Mandate: Directed government to amend rules for equal treatment of surrogacy-born children.
- Case Background: Involves Supriya Jena, denied maternity leave as OFS officer after surrogacy.
- Judicial Perspective: Justice SK Panigrahi's ruling emphasizes:
 - Equality with natural and adoptive mothers.
 - Importance of maternity leave for all new mothers.
 - Constitutional rights under Article 21 for motherhood.
- Reproductive Rights: Supports India's stance on reproductive rights and gender equality.
- Legislative Interpretation: Maternity Benefit Act, 1961, to include all forms of motherhood.

Odisha's Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi recently announced a significant initiative aimed at enhancing the state's green cover by planting over five crore saplings.

- This ambitious effort is part of the nationwide campaign 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam', inspired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call for increased tree plantation across India.
- Emphasizing Odisha's proactive role in the campaign, Chief Minister Majhi stressed the state's commitment to planting trees equivalent to its population of 4.5 crore.
- The initiative aims to plant over five crore saplings across various regions, urging active involvement from citizens to contribute to this greening effort.

Dr. Justice Bidyut Ranjan Sarangi, a judge at the Orissa High Court, has been appointed as the Chief Justice of the Jharkhand High Court by the President of India.

- Throughout his tenure, Dr. Justice Sarangi garnered recognition for his academic excellence, receiving numerous awards including the prestigious 'Haricharan Mukherjee Memorial Award' with a Gold medal in 2002.
- This accolade celebrated his exceptional professional ethics and performance as a lawyer.
- In June 2013, after 27 years of dedicated practice, Dr. Justice Sarangi was elevated to the Bench and took office as a Permanent Judge at the Orissa High Court.

Mousumi, a white tigress born on August 5, 2016 at Nandankanan Zoological Park, Odisha, is confirmed pregnant

- Nandankanan Zoological Park covers a sprawling 437 hectares (1,080 acres) of lush greenery. It was established in 1960 and opened to the public in 1979. This park is not only a zoo but also a botanical garden.
- White Tigers: Nandankanan is renowned for its successful captive breeding programs, especially for white tigers—a rare pigmentation variant of the Bengal tiger. It's the first zoo in India with a white tiger safari.

Vedanta Aluminium, India's largest aluminium producer, won the Kalinga Energy Excellence Award and Kalinga Environment Excellence Award for its Lanjigarh alumina refinery.

- Awards presented by IQEMS, Odisha State Pollution Control Board, and Institute of Public Enterprise, Hyderabad.
- Lanjigarh unit focuses on sustainability: targets include Net Zero Carbon by 2050, Net Water Positivity by 2030.

The Odisha government has established a 22-member committee tasked with advancing medical education in Odia within the state.

- The committee's primary objective is to evaluate the feasibility of translating essential MBBS course materials into Odia.
- Additionally, the committee will assess the scope of work involved in this translation initiative and establish a timeline for its completion. Financial considerations will also be addressed, as the committee plans to outline the budget required for executing this project.

Forest officials are planning to relocate 72 sambar and spotted deer from Taptapani deer park to Chandaka wildlife sanctuary in Bhubaneswar.

- Chandaka-Dampara forest, near Bhubaneswar, is situated at the northeastern edge of the Eastern Ghats.
- Historically, the area was rich in biodiversity, hosting tigers, leopards, Sambar deer, Barking deer, Chital, Wild Boar, and Gaur.
- By the 1960s, tiger populations declined sharply, leading to the last tiger being placed in captivity in 1967 at Nandankanan Zoo.
- In 1982, the state government declared Chandaka-Dampara forest a wildlife sanctuary to protect its ecosystem and provide a safe haven for elephants.
- This sanctuary status marked a critical step in conserving the region's biodiversity and restoring the forest ecosystem.

Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi announced a Rs 200 crore initiative with IIT Delhi's support for urban flood management.

- The project targets cities like Bhubaneswar and Cuttack, focusing on long-term solutions.
- State plans to enhance its disaster response capabilities by increasing Odisha Disaster Rapid Action Force (ODRAF) units from 20 to 30 and establishing regional fire service hubs.
- A significant allocation from the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) will bolster the Fire Services department, supporting their rapid response to emergencies.

Odisha's Daringbadi, renowned as the "Kashmir of Odisha," is set to gain global recognition on the cherry blossom map, announced Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi.

- The hill station's climate in Kandhamal district is ideal for cherry blossom cultivation, attracting numerous winter visitors.
- To kickstart this initiative, the state government has acquired 1,000 cherry blossom plants for an initial planting phase.

Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi recently announced plans to enforce exclusive use of Odia in all official communications, hinting at possible amendments to the Act for broader implementation.

- The Orissa Official Language Act, effective since October 15, 1954, mandates the use of Odia for all official purposes in the state.
- Despite this, English has continued to be widely

used alongside Odia in government operations.

- Since its inception, the Act has undergone several amendments, notably in 1963 and 1985, allowing for the concurrent use of English and specifying the use of Indian numerals in place of Odia ones for official purposes.
- Criticism from language experts prompted further amendments in 2018, introducing penalties for non-compliance and incentives for extensive use of Odia by state officials.

The Bhatrajore Dam in Junagadh, Kalahandi district, which supports thousands of farmers and many species, got clogged.

- The construction of the dam began in 1958 and it was completed in June 1963.
- It irrigates farmlands in both Kharif and Rabi seasons and is also a home to many rare butterfly and bird species.

Lieutenant Bimal Ranjan Behera, a naval officer hailing from Odisha's Kendrapara district, was honored with the Shaurya Chakra gallantry award at a recent ceremonial event in Bhubaneswar.

- Lieutenant Behera was honored for his courageous leadership during an ONGC operational emergency on March 6, 2023.

Monsoon showers have revitalized Bhitarkanika National Park in Kendrapara district, drawing a plethora of resident birds to nest in its lush mangrove trees.

- Among the nesting birds are:
 - Open-billed stork
 - Little Cormorant
 - Median Egret
 - Large Egret
 - Purple Heron
 - Grey Heron
- Local birds utilize the monsoon season for nesting, while migratory birds arrive in winter to escape severe Himalayan conditions.
- This cycle enriches Bhitarkanika's avifauna, sustained by the diverse habitat within its mangrove forests.

In a significant conservation effort, Odisha plans to translocate five tigers to bolster its tiger populations at Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary and Similipal Tiger Reserve by October this year.

- This initiative, approved by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA),

aims to enhance the state's tiger conservation efforts.

- Odisha is currently home to 30 adult tigers and eight cubs, with Similipal alone housing 27 adult tigers (14 females and 13 males) alongside eight cubs.

The Brutang Irrigation Project in Odisha's Nayagarh district has received final forest clearance from the Centre.

- The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has granted approval for the use of forest land for non-forest purposes to facilitate the project.
- The Centre has sanctioned the irrigation of 1,524.17 hectares of forest land under the project.
- In compensation, the state government has committed to undertake afforestation on an equal area of land.
- The Brutang project aims to irrigate approximately 23,000 hectares of cultivable land.
- Farmers in Nayagarh and Daspalla are expected to benefit significantly from this initiative.

The Sagarпали Van Suraksha Samiti (VSS) in Sundargarh district has been conferred with the prestigious Biju Patnaik Award for contributions to forest protection.

- The Sagarпали Van Suraksha Samiti (VSS) in Sundargarh district has been conferred with the prestigious Biju Patnaik Award for exemplary contributions to forest protection.
- Recognised as the best Van Suraksha Samiti in Odisha, Sagarпали VSS received a trophy and Rs 1 lakh cash award at the state-level Van Mahotsav program held recently at Dumduma government high school campus in Bhubaneswar.

President Droupadi Murmu, speaking at Jayadev Bhawan in Bhubaneswar, emphasized the enduring legacy of Pandit Gopabandhu Das.

- She highlighted his profound contributions across various domains such as social service, literature, education, and journalism.
- Murmu remarked that the impact of Pandit Gopabandhu Das's work remains indelible in these fields.
- Pandit Gopabandhu Das's Educational Vision:
- Murmu praised Pandit Gopabandhu Das's educational philosophy, noting his establishment of Muktakash School (Van Vidyalaya) in Satyabadi, Puri.
- She underscored his belief in holistic education that integrated nature with learning, fostering physical, mental, intellectual, and spiritual development among students.

The Orissa High Court recently declined to intervene in the replacement of the Jayadev Award.

- Initially conferred for exceptional contributions to Odia cinema since 1980.
- Replaced by the Mohan Sundar Dev Goswami Award for lifetime achievement in Odia cinema.

The Justice Biswanath Rath Committee has proposed to open the Ratna Bhandar on July 14, pending approval from the state government.

- The proposal, endorsed by the committee, awaits state government approval as per the Shri Jagannath Temple Rules, 1960.
- The committee, chaired by Justice Rath, oversees the inventory and conservation of the temple's treasures.
- A detailed Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) has been drafted for the opening, inventory, and conservation works.

In a significant development aligned with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, Odisha is set to upgrade 800 schools into PM SHRI Schools (PM Schools for Rising India).

- This initiative aims to transform these schools into exemplars of 21st-century education.
- Under this initiative, two schools in every block and urban area will be selected for transformation into PM SHRI Schools.
- These schools will implement the curriculum recommended in NEP-2020, emphasizing a rooted, futuristic, and multilingual educational approach.
- The PM SHRI scheme was launched on September 7, 2022.
- Aim: PM SHRI Scheme (PM Schools for Rising India) aims to qualitatively strengthen the existing schools and showcase the implementation of National Education Policy, 2020 and make them exemplary schools over a period of time.
- Sponsoring Dept: Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Education, GoI
- It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme.
- The total cost of the project will be Rs. 27360 crore spread over a period of 5 years.
- The total central share is Rs. 18,128 crore and state share is Rs. 9,232 crore over a period of 5 years.
- The funding pattern is 60:40 between Centre and State Governments and UTs with legislature (except J&K).
- The sharing pattern is 90 (Centre):10 (State) for North Eastern and Himalayan States and UT of J&K and 100% for the Union Territories without legislature.
- The duration of the scheme is from 2022-23 to 2026-27, after which it shall be the responsibility of

the states/UTs to continue to maintain the benchmarks achieved by these schools.

- There are 6 pillars of PM SHRI schools derived from 9 chapters of NEP 2020 viz-
 - Pillar 1- Access Infrastructure – Adequacy, Functionality, Aesthetics and Safety
 - Pillar 2- Human Resources and School Leadership
 - Pillar 3- Management, Monitoring and Governance
 - Pillar 4- Beneficiary Satisfaction
 - Pillar 5- Curriculum, Pedagogy and Assessment
 - Pillar 6- Inclusive Practices and Gender Equity

Researchers at IIT Bhubaneswar have developed pervious concrete pavements as a sustainable urban solution to address issues like urban flooding and the heat island effect caused by traditional impervious pavements such as bituminous and concrete surfaces.

- Pervious concrete pavements are designed with interconnected voids having at least 15% porosity.
- This unique feature allows stormwater to percolate through the pavement, facilitating groundwater recharge.
- Environmental Benefits:
- Reduced urban heat island (UHI) effect: The pavements showed lower surface temperatures compared to traditional bituminous surfaces during the summer season, thereby mitigating heat buildup in urban areas.

Chilika lagoon, the largest brackish water lake in Asia, is set to undergo a transformation with the introduction of emission-free solar and electric-powered boats.

- This initiative aims to replace traditional diesel-powered boats, addressing concerns over environmental pollution and safeguarding the delicate ecosystem.
- The Odisha Renewable Energy Development Agency (OREDA) has taken the lead to launch the pilot phase of this initiative.
- The project includes introducing new solar and electric-powered tourist boats and retrofitting existing boats for solar conversion.
- Initial plans involve deploying five emission-free boats with a seating capacity of 20 each, with an estimated expenditure of Rs 3 crore.
- Additionally, around Rs 20 crore will be allocated for retrofitting 28 tourist boats and 100 fishing boats operated by Odisha Tourism Development Corporation and Chilika Development Authority.

Recently conducted census at Bhitarkanika National Park, Kendrapara district, shows a decline in crocodile nest numbers compared to previous years.

- DFO reported a total of 114 estuarine crocodile nests across four wildlife and forest ranges within the park.
- Last year, authorities identified 122 estuarine crocodile nests in the same ranges, indicating a decrease from the current census.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, while addressing the Indian diaspora in Moscow, highlighted Odisha's recent electoral achievements by wearing a traditional 'Sambalpuri Bandha' Uttariya.

- He emphasized the significance of Odisha's electoral success, noting that after six decades, a government has been elected for the third consecutive term in India.
- Modi underscored Odisha's transformative role in this success, symbolized by his choice to wear an Odia scarf during his address.

The ambitious Rs 8,000 crore coastal highway project in Odisha, is set to be revived.

- The 346-km coastal highway will be constructed in two parts, divided into five packages.
- It includes a 176-km stretch from Rameshwar to Ratanpur and a 170-km stretch from Ratanpur to Digha, aiming to connect seven coastal districts of Odisha under the Bharatmala Pariyojana.
- Originally planned through ecologically sensitive areas, the highway's alignment was revised to avoid contentious zones like Chilika lake and wildlife sanctuaries.

As of the latest reports from the National Centre for Vector Borne Diseases Control (NCVBDC), Odisha has seen a significant increase in dengue cases.

- Similarly, the state leads nationally in malaria cases, with 12,363 cases reported in the first five months of the year.
- National Centre for Vector Borne Diseases Control (NCVBDC)
- The National Center for Vector Borne Diseases Control (NCVBDC) administers an umbrella programme, namely, National Vector Borne Diseases Control Programme (NVBDCP) for prevention and control of vector borne diseases namely Malaria, Japanese Encephalitis, Dengue, Chikungunya, Kala-azar and Lymphatic Filariasis.

The Chief Minister launched the CM Aspire scheme, which promises a wealth of

opportunities for the youth in government skilling institutions.

- The scheme includes employability skill training, the establishment of vibrant model career centres, research fellowships, overseas fellowships for meritorious youths, senior secondary certificates for ITI students, and the prestigious MukhyamantriDakshyitaPuraskar.
- Additionally, ten BiswakarmaCentres will be set up to provide skill training in construction work.

The state government of Odisha has appointed Arabinda Kumar Padhee as the new chief administrator of the Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA), replacing Veer Vikram Yadav.

- This decision, notified by the Law department, cites the powers conferred under the Shree Jagannath Temple Act, 1954.
- ArabindaPadhee, currently serving as the principal secretary in the Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment department, will now take on the additional role of overseeing the administration of the temple in Puri.

Sudarsan Pattnaik, a globally acclaimed artist from Odisha, has achieved the prestigious Golden Sand Master Award.

- The award was conferred during the International Sand Sculpture Championship held at the Peter and Paul Fortress in Saint Petersburg, Russia.
- Sudarsan's winning sculpture, a 12-foot depiction of Lord Jagannath's Chariot and devotee Balaram Das, garnered international acclaim.

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan has urged Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi to revitalize the Ayodhya Sarovar under a riverfront development project.

- The Ayodhya Sarovar is an artificial lake formed by diverting water from the Mahanadi River, located near Sambalpur town.
- The project aims to transform the riverside into a globally recognized riverfront, enhancing the spiritual and natural appeal of the region.
- Mahanadi River:
 - The Mahanadi is a river in eastern India. The Mahanadi rises in the Satpura Range of central India and flows east to the Bay of Bengal.
 - The Mahanadi drains most of the state of Chhattisgarh and much of Orissa and also Jharkhand and Maharashtra.
 - Near the city of Sambalpur, a large dam – the Hirakud Dam – is built on the river.
 - The Mahanadi rises in the Satpura Range of central India and It has a length of around 860 km.

- It flows east to the Bay of Bengal. The river drains in the state of Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, and Orissa.
- The largest dam, the Hirakud Dam is built on the river

Centurion University of Technology and Management (CUTM), based in Odisha, received the Outstanding Skill University Award at the World Education Summit held in New Delhi.

- The summit, inaugurated by former President Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam in 2011, attracts notable educationists and representatives from schools and colleges worldwide.

Following the onset of monsoon in the state, the sanctuary has witnessed a notable increase in its native bird population.

- More than 50,000 birds have been observed in key regions such as Mathadia, Durgaprasaddia, and Lakshmiprasaddia within the sanctuary.
- Attraction for Nature Enthusiasts: The influx of these birds has transformed Bhitarkanika into a prime destination for nature lovers, drawn by the vibrant chirping and diverse avian species.

Four Royal Bengal Tigers are set to arrive at Sambalpur Zoo in Odisha from various zoos across the country.

- About Royal Bengal Tiger:
 - Geographical Range: Primarily found in India; also in Bhutan, Nepal, Myanmar, Bangladesh, and China.
 - Unique Habitat: The only tiger species living in mangrove forests, particularly in the Sundarbans mangroves of West Bengal.
 - Preferred Environments: Commonly inhabit mangroves, marshes, and grasslands.

Conservation Status:

- IUCN Status: Listed as an endangered subspecies by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN).
- Major Threats: Poaching and habitat conversion to agriculture, roads, and other human-controlled spaces.

The Odisha government plans to establish a pioneering melanistic tiger safari near the Similipal Tiger Reserve in Baripada, a first-of-its-kind initiative globally.

- The project awaits final approval of the detailed project report (DPR) from the technical committees of the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) and Central Zoo Authority (CZA).
- Location and Land Allocation: The safari will span

150 hectares near Manchabandha reserve forest, adjacent to NH-18 in Baripada town, Mayurbhanj district.

- Facilities: Approximately 40 to 50 hectares will be dedicated as a display area, with the remaining land allocated for veterinary care facilities, a rescue center, staff infrastructure, and visitor amenities.

Odisha's overall SDG score increased from 61 in 2020-21 to 66 in 2023-24, transitioning from a performer to a front-runner.

- The headcount ratio for multi-dimensional poverty in Odisha dropped significantly from 35.9% to 15.8%.
- Enhanced SDG Performance:
- Leading Categories: The state has become a front-runner in several SDG categories:
- No Poverty: Increased to 73 points.
- Good Health and Well-being: Scored 73 points.
- Clean Water and Sanitation: Achieved 88 points.
- Affordable and Clean Energy: Recorded 84 points.
- Responsible Consumption and Production: Reached 85 points.
- Life on Land: Also scored 85 points.

The Ratna Bhandar of the 12th Century Lord Jagannath Temple in Puri, Odisha, opened after 46 years. The opening coincided with the Rath Yatra festival.

- The Ratna Bhandar had been previously opened in 1905 by the British administration for inspection and later in 1926 for documentation purposes.
- Subsequently, it was reopened in 1978 under the administration of the then Odisha Governor Bhagabat Dayal Sharma, with the process of inventory taking 70 days.
- The last inventory in 1978 revealed 454 types of gold ornaments (12,883 'bhari') and 293 types of silver ornaments (22,153 'bhari').

Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi inaugurated Odisha's first Kaushal Bhawan.

- The Kaushal Bhawan aims to revolutionize the state's hospitality sector by training youth under the motto 'Atithi Devo Bhava.'
- Nine additional Kaushal Bhawans are planned to be established in phases.
- The Kaushal Bhawan, spread over 35,000 sq ft within the WSC, will offer courses in front office associate, housekeeping services, F&B services, steward, and commis chef with the support of Tata Community Initiatives Trust.
- Approximately 405 students will receive training over a 15-month period. Prestigious hotels like Taj, Mayfair, Ginger, Oberoi, Lemon Tree, ITC Hotels,

and The Fern have been enlisted as placement partners.

Under a species augmentation initiative by the Hirakud Wildlife Division, 115 spotted deer from Sambalpur zoo are set to be released into the Debrigarh sanctuary.

- This translocation program, carried out for the first time in Debrigarh, aims to boost the spotted deer population in the sanctuary while alleviating overcrowding in the zoo, thus making room for new animals.
- About Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary:
- It is located in the Bargarh district of Odisha, and situated near the Hirakud Dam.
- Hirakud Dam is built across the Mahanadi River. It is the longest earthen dam in the world.
- Flora: The vegetation in the sanctuary is predominantly dry deciduous forest, with a mix of teak, sal, bamboo, and other plant species.
- Fauna: Four-horned antelope, Indian leopard, Indian elephant, sambar, chital, gaur, etc.
- It is an important site for in situ conservation of wildlife and its habitat in the state of Odisha.
- In 2016, the Union government approved the Odisha government's proposal to declare boundary periphery areas of Sunabeda and Debrigarh wildlife sanctuaries as eco-sensitive zones (ESZ).

Researchers from IIT Bhubaneswar have introduced an AI-based model designed to enhance the accuracy of cyclone intensity predictions in the North Indian Ocean (NIO) basin.

- This innovative model aims to aid states, especially Odisha, in crafting more effective disaster management strategies.
- The AI model, known as the Mach Band Attention Model (MBAM), can accurately estimate cyclone intensity even when the storm is distant from land.
- Accuracy: The model's mean absolute error (MAE) in intensity measurement is under 0.5 knots, demonstrating high precision in assessing wind speed within the Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea.

Ayushman Bharat – Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) is set to be implemented in Odisha, six years after its nationwide launch.

- Odisha is currently running the Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana (BSKY), covering 1.03 crore families through over 866 empanelled hospitals.
- The BSKY was introduced by the previous BJD government, which opted out of the central

scheme due to disagreements over beneficiary numbers and eligibility criteria.

- AB-PMJAY provides health coverage of ₹5 lakh, compared to ₹10 lakh under BSKY for women beneficiaries.

Ganjam district administration is launching a mangrove plantation project along the coast to mitigate coastal erosion and storm damage.

Mangrove Plantation Project:

- Project: The Berhampur Forest Department is implementing mangrove plantations under the Enhancing Climate Resilience of India's Coastal Communities (ECRICC) project.
- Objective: Combat coastal erosion and enhance climate resilience.

Noted agriculturist Kamala Pujari, renowned for her pioneering work in organic farming and preservation of rare paddy seeds, passed away on July 20, 2024, in Cuttack, Odisha.

Contributions:

- Kamala Pujari was born into a poor farming family and developed an early interest in saving indigenous paddy seeds.
- She preserved over 100 varieties of paddy and other crops critical to the Koraput region, many of which are now rare.
- Trained by the MS Swaminathan Research Foundation in Jeypore, she played a significant role in developing the 'Kalinga Kalajeera' rice, a nearly extinct variety known for its unique aroma and nutty taste.

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman presented the Budget 2024-25, announcing various initiatives aimed at developing tourist places in Odisha.

- The announcement is part of a broader strategy, including the 'Purvodaya' plan, aimed at the holistic development of the eastern region of India.
- Regions Included: The Purvodaya plan covers Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Odisha, and Andhra Pradesh.

Tribal schools in Odisha are adopting a novel approach to enhance education.

- The initiative, known as Building as Learning Aid (BaLA), transforms classroom walls into educational tools.
- The ST and SC Development department has partnered with the organization Shiksharth to introduce BaLA.
- The initiative aims to integrate tribal art into the

classroom environment to boost language, mathematics, and environmental knowledge.

Key Features of BaLA

- Classrooms in SSD schools are being decorated with tribal art to support primary graders.
- The initiative focuses on teaching concepts in students' mother tongues using art forms familiar to their communities.

The Election Commission of India (ECI) has made a significant administrative change in Odisha by appointing a new Chief Electoral Officer (CEO).

- New CEO: R Santhanagopalan, a 2001-batch IAS Officer.

Pitambar Acharya, the newly-appointed Advocate General of Odisha, met with Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi at Lok Seba Bhavan.

- The meeting marked the beginning of Acharya's tenure in his new role, where he will be responsible for advising the state government on legal matters.

On July 24, 2024, Bhabani Shankar Bhoi, a two-time BJP MLA from Talsara, was unanimously elected as the Deputy Speaker of the 17th Odisha Legislative Assembly.

- Article 93: It says that the House of the People shall, as soon as may be, choose two members to be the Speaker and Deputy Speaker and, so often as the office of Speaker or Deputy Speaker becomes vacant, the House shall choose another member.

The central government has allocated an unprecedented amount of Rs 10,586 crore for the railway sector in Odisha, as announced by Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw.

- Over 40 railway projects are currently underway in Odisha, with a total investment of Rs 54,434 crore planned for various railway initiatives in the state.
- Vaishnaw emphasized that Odisha's railway sector is set for substantial transformation during Prime Minister Modi's third term.

The Mohan Majhi government has rebranded several schemes initiated by the previous BJD regime in Odisha.

Renamed Schemes:

- KALIA Scheme: Now called CM-Kisan Yojana.
- Millet Mission: Rebranded as Shree Anna Yojana.
- Ama Odisha, Nabin Odisha: Renamed to Viksit Gaon, Viksit Odisha.

- Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana: Changed to Gopabandhu Jana Arogya Yojana.
- Mo School Abhiyaan: Now known as PanchasakhaSikshyaSetu Abhiyaan.
- Make in Odisha Conclave: Renamed to Utkarsha Utkal.
- Goal: Attract domestic investment of over Rs. 2.5 lakh crore and FDI of over 2 billion USD by 2029.

Budget Allocations:

- CM-Kisan Yojana: Allocated Rs. 1935 crore.
- Gopabandhu Jana Arogya Yojana: Rs. 5450 crore allocation.
- Viksit Gaon, Viksit Odisha: Allocated Rs. 1000 crore.
- PanchasakhaSikshyaSetu Abhiyan: Rs. 332 crore allocated.

New Initiatives:

- Vikasit Gaon Vikasit Odisha:
 - Aim: Provide urban amenities in rural areas.
 - Budget: Rs. 1000 crore.

Gopabandhu Jana Arogya Yojana:

- Implementation: In convergence with Ayushman Bharat PM-Jay Yojana.

- Budget: Rs. 500 crore for cashless treatment at private and government hospitals.

Other Renaming of Schemes:

- Biju Setu Yojana: Setu Bandhan Yojana with Rs. 1990 crore allocation.
- LAccMI Scheme: Renamed to GramanchalParibahan with Rs. 1085 crore allocation.

Odisha faces a significant issue with high dropout rates in secondary education.

- According to the Odisha Economic Survey Report 2023-24, the overall dropout rate at this level is 27.3%.
- Such a high dropout rate hampers students' ability to secure respectable livelihoods in the future.
- Tribal and Dalit Boys' Dropout Rates:
 - The dropout rate among tribal boys at the secondary level is alarmingly high at 35.3%.
 - Comparatively, the dropout rate for tribal girls at this level is 30.9%.
 - For Scheduled Castes, 33% of boys drop out at the secondary level, compared to 29.4% of girls.

ODISHA BUDGET 2024-25 HIGHLIGHTS

Introduction

- On 25.07.2024, Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Mohan Charan Majhi presented a welfare, growth, development, and investment-oriented Annual Budget for 2024-25 in the Odisha Legislative Assembly with an outlay of Rs.2,65,000 crore, which is about 15% more than the Annual Budget for 2023-24.
- The Government has placed the Budget Estimates for 2024-25, along with the Revised Estimates for 2023-24.

Qualitative Aspects of the Budget

- The outlay of Rs.1,55,000 crore for Programme Expenditure represents a 24% increase over the previous year. Programme expenditure constitutes more than 58% of the total budget size.
- The capital outlay in 2024-25 is Rs.58,195 crore, which is 6.3% of GSDP. The proportion of capital expenditure in Odisha to the total budget is the highest among all major states in the country.
- The allocation of Rs.33,919 crore for the Agriculture and Allied sector is an increase of 36% over the previous year.
- Revenue Surplus is projected at 2.96% of GSDP; Fiscal Deficit is projected at 3.5% of GSDP. Year-end debt stock is projected to remain at 13.56% of GSDP.

New Initiatives in Budget 2024-25

- Rs.500 crore has been allocated towards the corpus fund for SJTA for the promotion and propagation of Jagannatha Culture.
- Rs.50 crore for the peripheral development of Maa Tarini Temple at Ghatagaon.
- Rs.10,000 crore allocated for Subhadra Jojana for women empowerment, financial independence, and entrepreneurship development.
- Rs.5,000 crore for SamrudhaKrushaka Yojana for the purchase of paddy @Rs.3,100 per quintal.
- Rs.200 crore allocated towards the corpus fund for Odia Asmita for the promotion and propagation of Odia Asmita.
- Rs.156 crore provided for Madho Singh HaathKharch Yojana to address dropout rates among tribal students.
- Rs.50 crore allocated for Godabarisha Mishra Adarsha Prathamika Vidyalaya to enhance the quality of education at the primary school level.
- Rs.50 crore provided under Din Dayal Karmachari Niwas in Industrial Townships (SCDF) for the construction of workers' hostels in industrial townships.
- Rs.100 crore allocated under state support for Roof Top Solar Projects (PM Surya Ghar).
- Rs.18 crore allocated for the construction of Dharmasala-cum-Guest House for attendants of cancer patients.

- Rs.200 crore allocated for the corpus fund for medical colleges and hospitals.
- Rs.25 crore for the establishment of pediatric cancer facilities.
- Rs.10 crore provided towards solar-based street lighting at the Gram Panchayat level.
- Rs.50 crore allocated for the Mahanadi River Front Development Project to develop the areas alongside the Mahanadi River in Sambalpur and Cuttack into a World Class River Front Project.
- Rs.1.5 crore towards Odisha BalabhadraJaivikChasa Mission for promoting organic farming.
- Rs.500 crore allocated for the implementation of CSS Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY).
- Rs.92 crore for the implementation of CSS Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY).
- Rs.25 crore for the implementation of CSS Pradhan Mantri School for Rising India (PM SHRI).

Important Sectoral Highlights

Agriculture & Allied Sector Activities

- Outlay of Rs.33,919 crore under the Agriculture Budget.
- Rs.5,000 crore for SamrudhaKrushaka Yojana.
- Rs.1,935 crore for CM-KISAN.
- Rs.649 crore for Shree Anna Abhiyan.
- Rs.100 crore for the promotion of agri-entrepreneurship for Women SHG.
- Rs.191 crore for the World Bank-assisted REWARD project.
- Rs.189 crore for the National Food Security Mission.
- Rs.98 crore for the National Horticulture Mission.
- Rs.155 crore for Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana.
- Rs.327 crore for Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana.
- Rs.600 crore under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) for crop insurance for farmers.
- Rs.344 crore for Odisha Matsya Mission.
- Rs.189 crore for PraniSampadSamrudhhi Yojana (PSSY).
- Rs.220 crore for Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana.
- Rs.102 crore for DughdhaBanya Mission.
- Rs.65 crore for Ksheer Dhara Mission.
- Rs.38 crore for GovanshaSurakhya Yojana.
- Rs.37 crore for GOMATA (Goal for Management and Treatment of Animals).

Irrigation, Flood Control & Water Use Efficiency

- Total outlay of Rs.14,111 crore for the irrigation sector.
- Rs.1,125 crore for the 2nd phase of Parvati Giri Mega Lift Irrigation Scheme.

- Rs.400 crore under Mukhya Mantri AdibandhaTiari Yojana (MATY).
- Rs.240 crore for the modernization of irrigation projects under Nabakrushna Choudhury SechaUnayana Yojana.

Health Sector

- Total allocation of Rs.21,200 crore for public healthcare, which is about 8% of the State Budget.
- Rs.5,450 crore is provided for Gopabandhu Jana Arogya Yojana.
 - Rs.1,033 crore for NIRAMAYA (free medicine)
 - Rs.236 crore for NIDAN
 - Rs.122 crore for SAMMPurNA (IMR/MMR reduction)
- Rs.1,314 crore is provided for Ama Hospital.
- Rs.2,462 crore for Mukhya Mantri Swasthya Seva Mission.
- Rs.884 crore is provided for NIRMAL.
- Rs.50 crore for KHUSHI.
- Rs.338 crore for PM-Ayushman Bharat Health Care Infrastructure Mission (PM-BHIM) scheme.
- Rs.500 crore for Ayushman Bharat - Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY).

Education Sector

- Allocation of Rs.35,536 crore for the Education Sector.
- Rs.50 crore for Godabarisha Mishra Adarsha Prathamika Vidyalaya.
- Rs.409 crore under the Gangadhar MeherSikshyaManakbrudhi Yojana.
- Rs.332 crore under PanchasakhaSikshyaSetu.
- Rs.139 crore is provided for MukhyamantriShikshaPuraskar.
- Rs.108 crore is provided for MukhyamantriChhatrachhatriParidhan Yojana.
- Rs.935 crore for Odisha Adarsha Vidyalaya.
- Rs.997 crore for PM POSHAN.
- Rs.258 crore towards State Support to PM POSHAN.
- Rs.3,791 crore for SamagraSikshya.
- Rs.31 crore provided for CM-Aspire.

Sports & Youth Services

- Rs.1,315 crore for the sports sector in 2024-25.

Women & Child Development, Mission Shakti

- Total Rs.17,942 crore has been allocated for undertaking various women and child-centric policy and welfare measures.
- Rs.10,000 crore is provided under Subhadra Jojana for women empowerment, financial independence, and entrepreneurship development.
- Rs.554 crore is provided under Mukhyamantri

Sampoorna Pushti Yojana.

- Rs.83 crore for Jashoda.
- Rs.429 crore is provided under the MAMATA scheme for Conditional Cash Transfer for Pregnant Women.
- Rs.1,366 crore is provided towards state support for the implementation of ICDS in the state.
- Rs.295 crore for POSHAN Abhiyaan.

Social Security & Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities

- Rs.4,487 crore for Madhubabu Pension Yojana for beneficiaries under Social Security Pension Schemes.
- Rs.30 crore for Bhima Bhoi Bhinna Khyama Samarthyaa Abhijan.

Development of SCs, STs, OBCs & Minorities

- The Programme Budget for 2024-25 includes a TASP component of Rs.36,652 crore and an SCSP component of Rs.26,647 crore, totaling Rs.63,299 crore for identified schemes in the Programme Budget.
- Rs.200 crore is provided for MukhyamantriJanajatiJeebika Mission.
- Rs.156 crore is provided for Madho Singh HaathKharch.
- Rs.65 crore is provided for the procurement of minor forest produce in the state under MSP (LABHA).
- Rs.266 crore is provided for Pradhan Mantri Adarsha Gram Yojana (PMAJAY).
- Rs.120 crore for Pradhan Mantri Adi Adarsh Grama Yojana (PMAAGY).
- Rs.100 crore is provided for PM JANMAN.

Urban Development

- Allocation of Rs.9,603 crore to transform Urban Odisha.

Wage Employment, Livelihood, and Basic Services

- Rs.3,651 crore for the material component of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee (MGNREGA) Scheme.
- Rs.1,000 crore for Viksit Gaon Viksit Odisha Roads, Railways & Transport Investment of Rs.15,865 crore under roads, bridges, airports, and railways.

Energy

- Allocation of Rs.3,300 crore for the energy sector for quality and reliable power supply.
- Rs.1,436 crore for Mukhya Mantri Shakti Bikash Yojana.
- Rs.613 crore for Odisha Akshaya Shakti Bikash Yojana.
- Rs.74 crore for Mukhya Mantri Shakti SanrakshanaAbhijan.
- Rs.56 crore for Dindayal Upadhyay Gramin Bidyutikarn Yojana.

Future Growth Engines (Industries & MSMEs)

- Outlay of Rs.1,555 crore for the Industries and MSME sector.

Forest, Environment & Climate Change

- Rs.1,168 crore to be spent under CAMPA for afforestation and wildlife activities.
- Rs.100 crore for MukhyamantriKendu Patra Tolali Yojana.
- Rs.35 crore for increasing green cover in the state.

Tourism Development

- Rs.800 crore has been proposed under the Programme Expenditure for the overall development of the tourism sector.

Disaster Management

- Rs.3,900 crore for disaster management, including Rs.2,476 crore under the State Disaster Response and Mitigation Fund (SDRMF) and Rs.1,424 crore under the National Disaster Response and Mitigation Fund (NDRMF).

Internal Security and Administration of Justice

- Rs.8,994 crore during 2024-25 for the delivery of justice, maintenance of internal security, prevention and control of crimes, and fire services, etc.

Odia Language, Culture, and Heritage

- Rs.420 crore is provided for the promotion of Odia language, culture, and heritage.
- Rs.200 crore for the corpus fund for Odia Asmita.
- Rs.72 crore for MukhyamantriKalakaraSahayata Yojana.

ODISHA ECONOMIC SURVEY 2023-24 HIGHLIGHTS

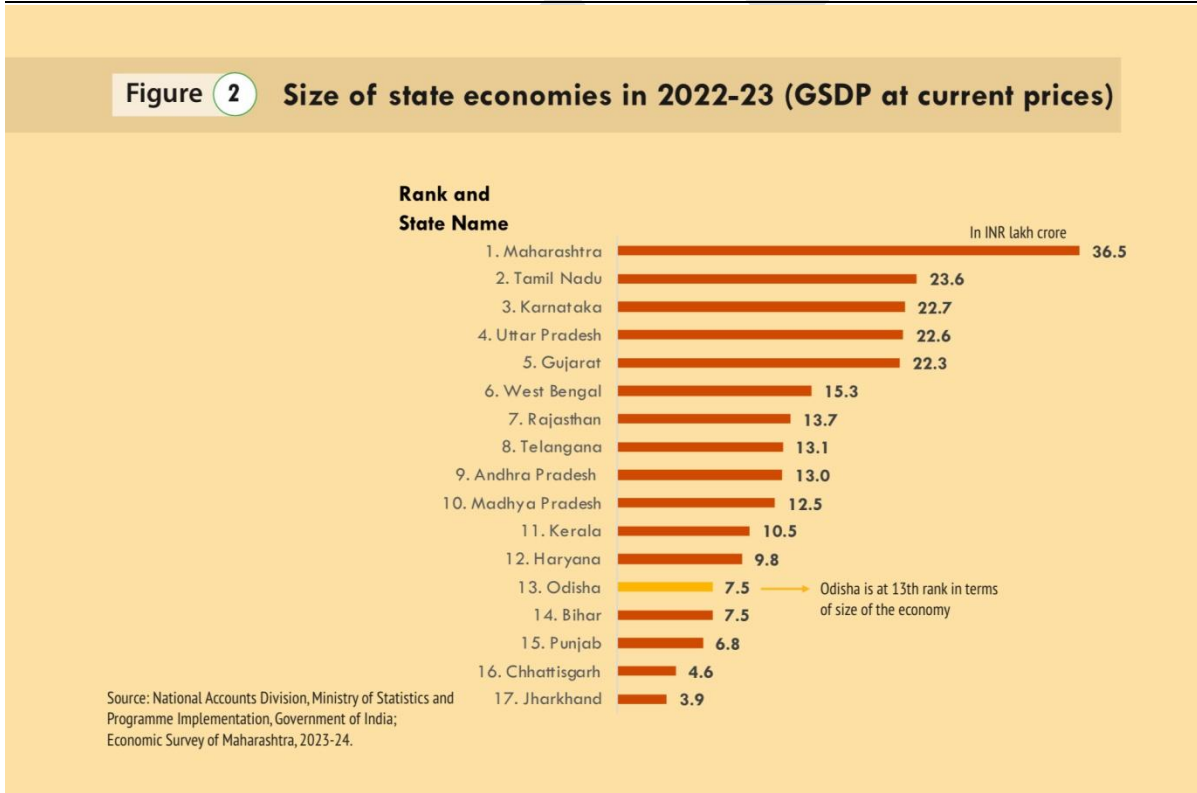
Introduction

- India is one of the fastest growing economies in the world. As per International Monetary Fund (IMF), **India is the world's fifth largest economy (2023)**.
- India's rapid growth is witnessed across sectors registering a growth rate of 8.2 per cent in 2023-24.

- Odisha's economy has recovered well from the slump of the COVID-19 and witnessed growth across sectors.

Economic Growth

- In 2023-24 (Advance estimates (AE)), the size of the Odisha economy is estimated to be INR 8.3 lakh crore, which is nearly USD 100 billion.
- In the preceding year, i.e., 2022-23, in comparison with 17 major states, Odisha ranked 13th as shown in Figure

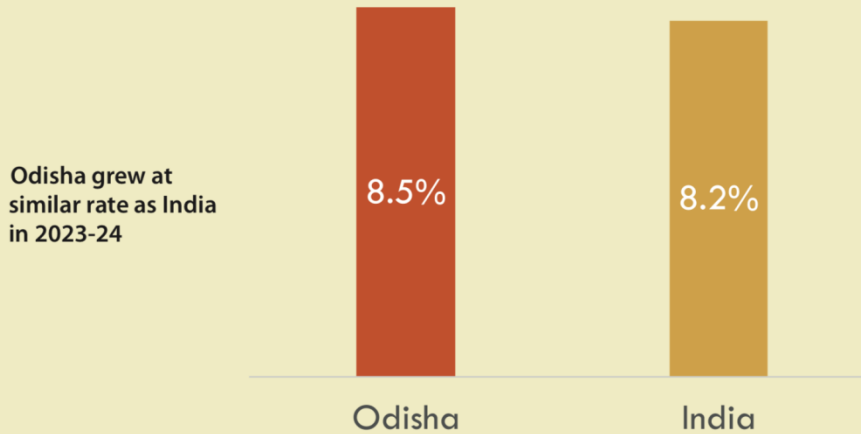


Growth Rate:

- Odisha grew at 8.5% in 2023-24 while India at 8.2%

X

Figure 6 Growth in 2023-24- Odisha and India at constant prices



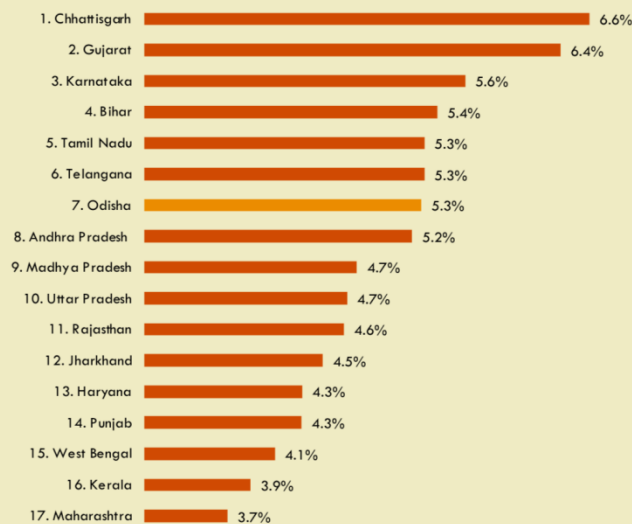
Odisha grew at similar rate as India in 2023-24

Note: Odisha's GSDP estimates are first advance estimates and India's GDP estimates are provisional estimates.
Source: Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Government of Odisha; National Accounts, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Government of India.

Gross State Domestic Product(2018-19 to 2022-23)

- State's GSDP rate was 5.3% and it was 7th in all India levels.

Figure 7 State wise Average GSDP Growth at constant prices(2018-19 to 2022-23)



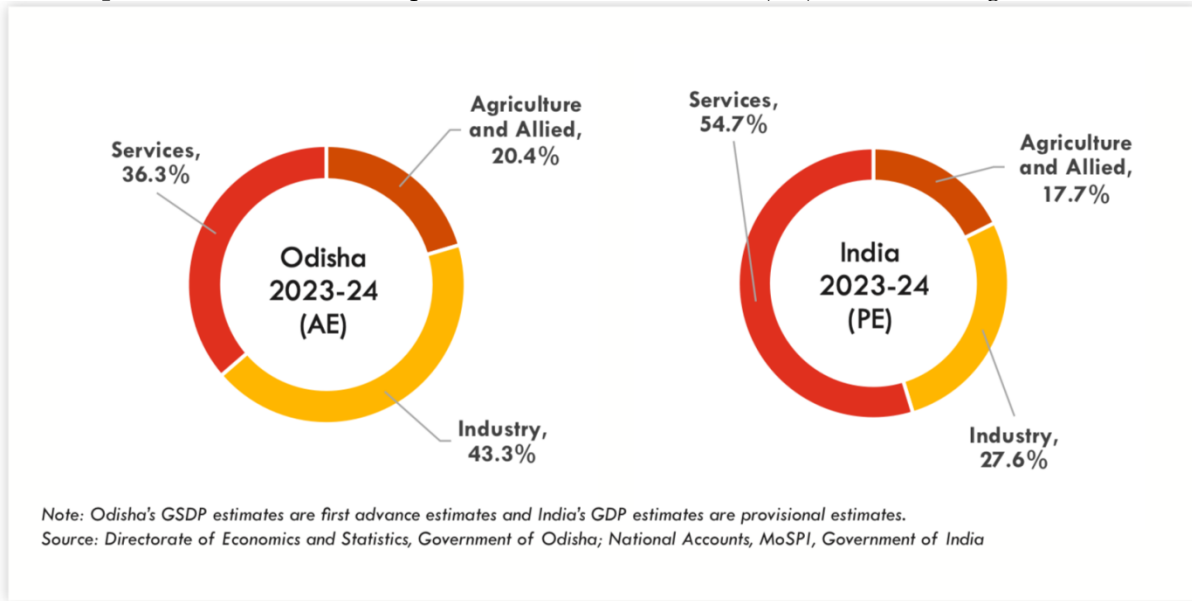
Source: Directorate of Economics and Statistics, GoO; National Accounts, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Government of India.

Sectoral composition and growth

Sectoral Composition

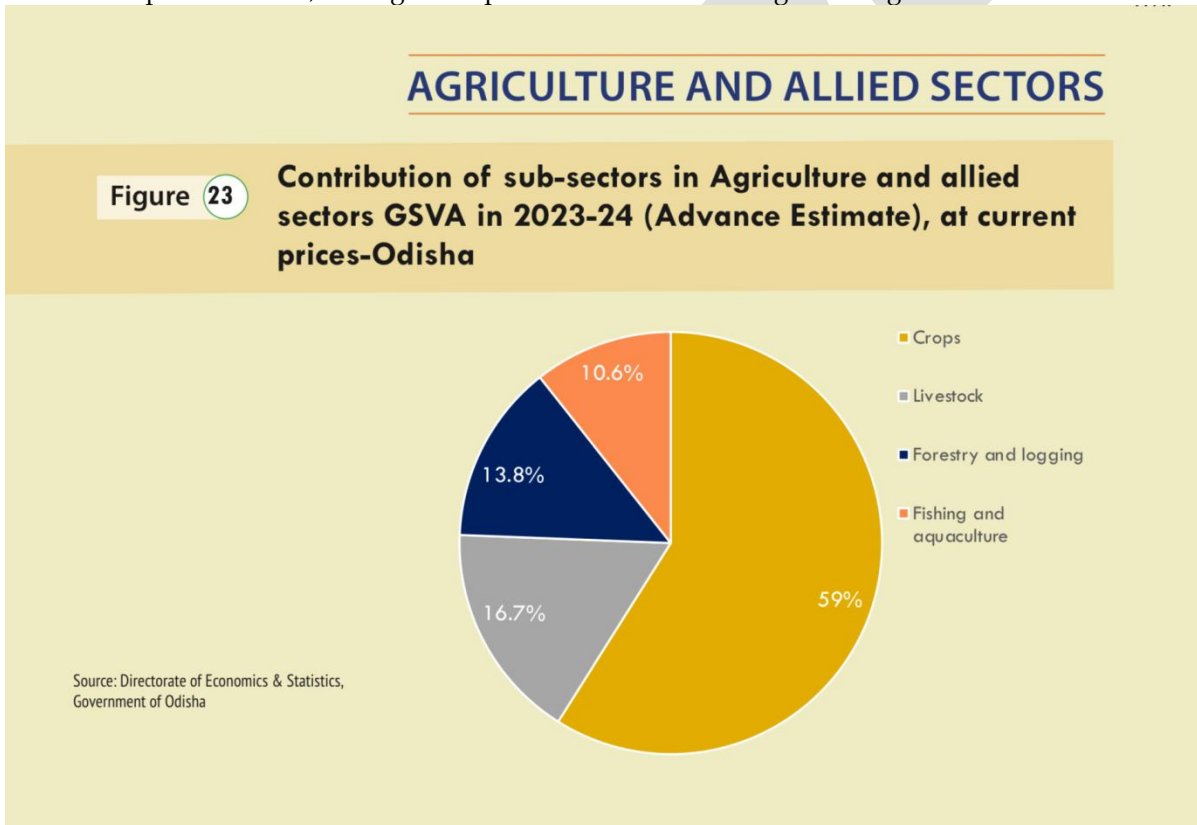
- With the size of nearly INR 1.5 lakh crore in 2023-24 (AE), the Agriculture and Allied sector contributes around 20.4 per cent to State GVA.
- Industry sector holds a prominent position in Odisha economy, contributing INR 3.1 lakh crore with a share of 43.3 percent in State GVA.
- Services sector contribution to State GVA in 2023-24 (AE) is approximately INR 2.6 lakh crore with a share of

36.3 per cent. The sectoral composition of Odisha in 2023-24 (AE) is shown in Figure 1.4.



Agriculture and Allied sector

- In terms of contribution of sub-sectors in Agriculture and allied sectors GVA in 2023-24 (Advance Estimate), at current prices-Odisha, fishing and aquaculture contributes highest in agriculture and allied sector component.

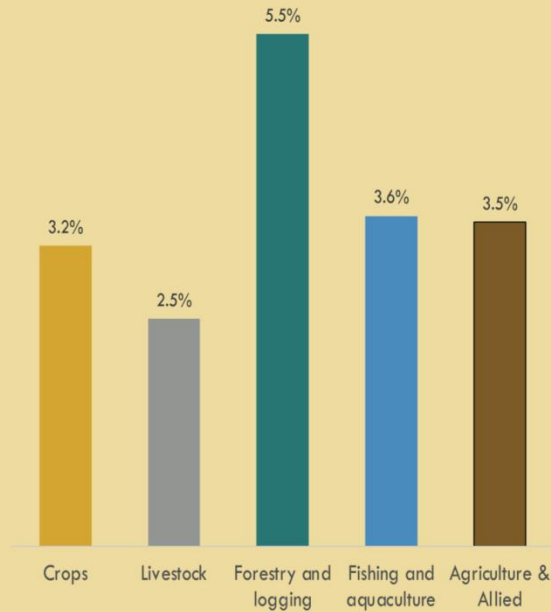


Growth of sub-sectors of agriculture:

- Growth of sub-sectors of agriculture and allied sectors- 2023-24 (Advance Estimate), at constant prices was highest in Forestry and logging.

Figure 24

Growth of sub-sectors of agriculture and allied sectors- 2023-24 (Advance Estimate), at constant prices



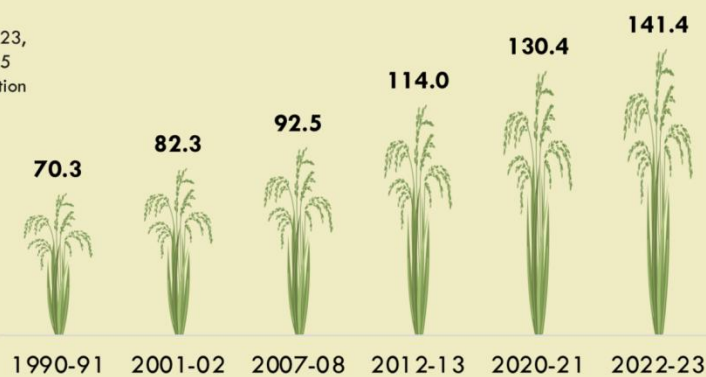
Source: Directorate of Economics & Statistics, Government of Odisha, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Government of India.

Food grain production

- Between 1990-91 to 2022-23, Population multiplied by 1.45 times and foodgrain production grew by 2.0 times.

Figure 26 Foodgrain Production (in Lakh MT)

Between 1990-91 to 2022-23, Population multiplied by 1.45 times and foodgrain production grew by 2.0 times

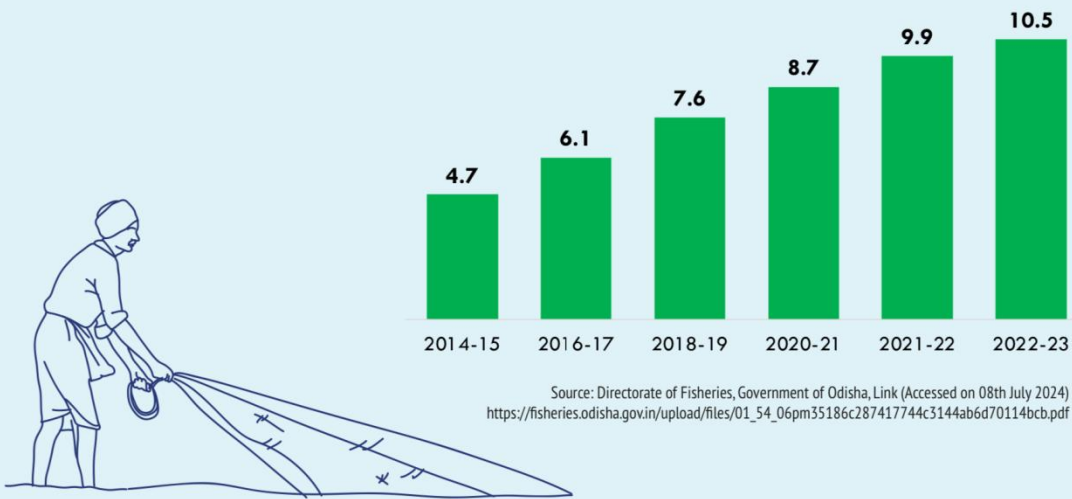


Source: Directorate of Agriculture and Food Production, Government of Odisha.

Fish production

- It was 10.5 Lakh Million tonnes in 2022-23 as compared to 4.7 lakh million tonnes in 2014-15.

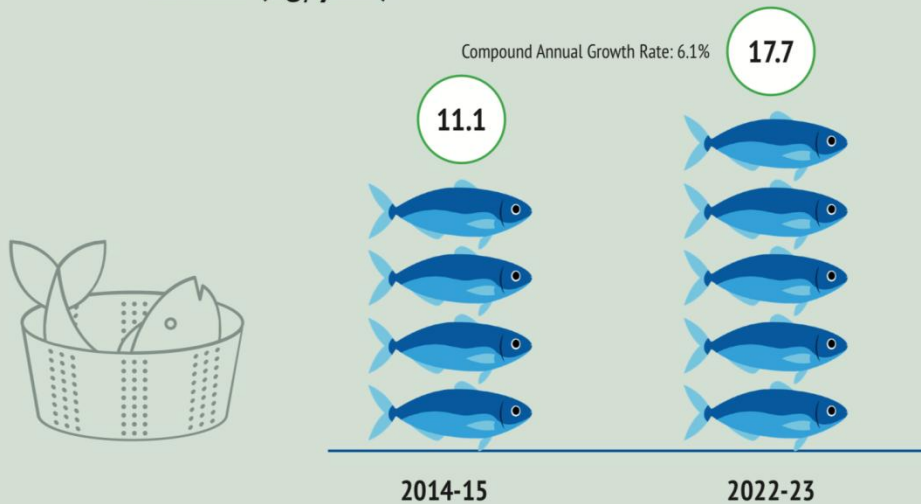
Figure 31 Fish Production in lakh MT in Odisha



Fish Consumption

- Per capita fish consumption grew to 17.7kg per year from 2014-15 to 2022-23.

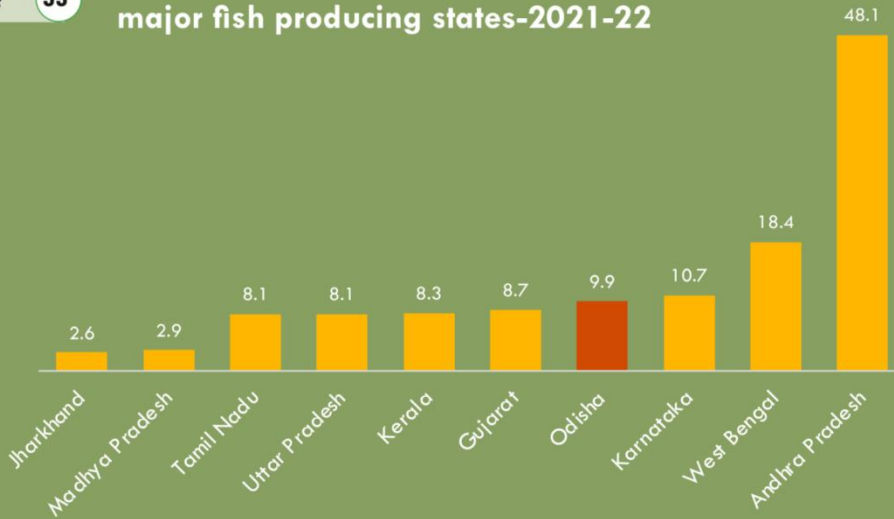
Figure 32 Per capita fish consumption in Odisha (kg/year)



Source: Directorate of Fisheries, Government of Odisha, Link (Accessed on 08th July 2024)
https://fisheries.odisha.gov.in/upload/files/01_54_06pm35186c287417744c3144ab6d70114bcb.pdf

Figure 33

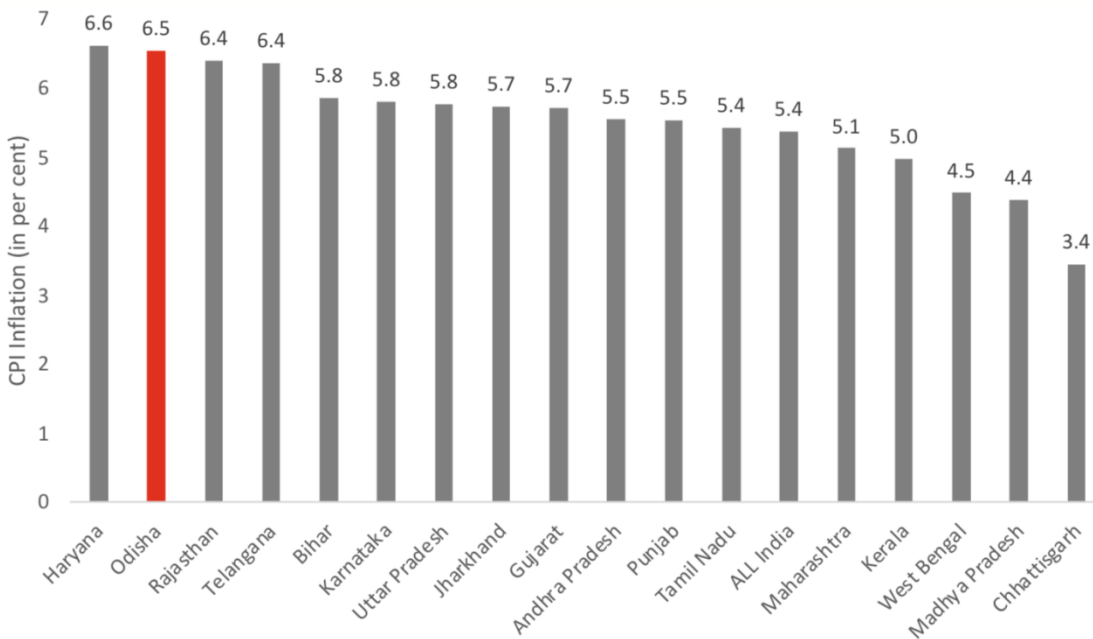
Fish production in lakh MT among major fish producing states-2021-22



Source: Handbook on Fisheries Statistics, 2022, Government of India.

Prices

- At All-India level, inflation in 2023-24 was 5.4 per cent (Figure 1.5). Rising prices of primary goods have hold the inflation at a higher level besides some imported inflation due to global supply shocks in select commodities.
- Inflation in India is typically a supply side phenomenon and the Central Bank largely manages the second-round impact. On the supply side, the key commodity prices are governed by international price movement like the price of Oil which is largely imported. The primary articles like agricultural items, food items etc. are largely impacted by monsoon, natural calamities and crop losses due to exogenous factors. With respect to inflation management, typically, states can play a role of easing the supply constraint at the local level.
- In 2023-24, Inflation in Odisha was 6.5 per cent higher than All-India average of 5.4 per cent (Figure 1.5).
- In comparison with 17 major states as well, the inflation in Odisha was second highest. Haryana reported inflation of 6.6 per cent higher than Odisha. Other 15 major states reported inflation lower than Odisha.



Source: CPI Division, MoSPI, Government of India

Employment

- Out of the total labor force, almost 96 per cent (205.3 lakh) are employed.

- Out of the total employed labour force (in the age group of 15+), **64 per cent (131.6 lakh) are self-employed and the remaining 36 per cent are either regular wage/salaried (29.6 lakh) workers or casual workers (44.1 lakh).**

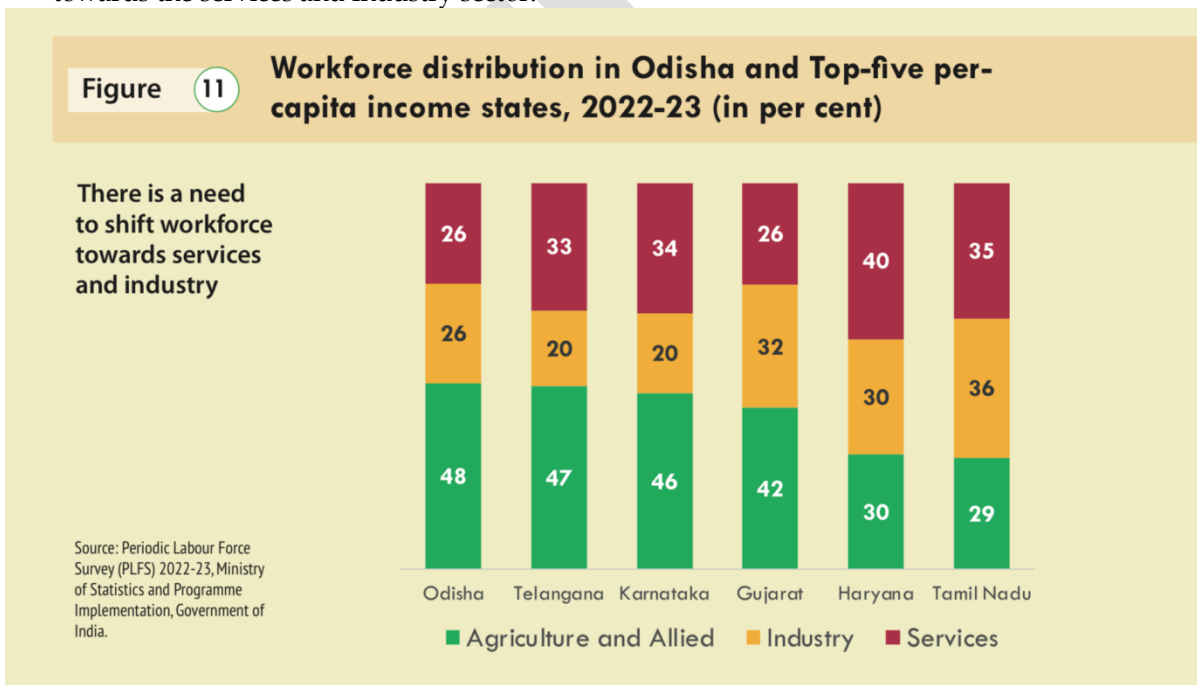
Table 1.4 | Trend in workforce (15+ age)

Indicator	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Total Workforce (in lakh), 15+ age	145.5	153.2	178.1	189.8	180.5	205.3
By sector						
	Share					
Agriculture	48.8%	44.1%	48.3%	46.8%	45.6%	48.1%
Industry	26.4%	29.5%	26.9%	28.5%	27.2%	25.8%
Services	24.8%	26.4%	24.8%	24.7%	27.2%	26.1%
By type						
	Share					
Casual worker	27.2%	27.1%	25.9%	25.8%	24.6%	21.5%
Regular Wage/Salaried	15.4%	16%	14.9%	14.7%	16.5%	14.4%
Self-employed	57.4%	56.9%	59.3%	59.5%	58.8%	64.1%

Source: Periodic Labor Force Survey, 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22, 2022-23, MoSPI, Government of India

Workforce distribution compared with top per capita states:

- There is a significantly higher number of people in Odisha in the agriculture sector and they need to be shifted towards the services and Industry sector.



Per capita Income:

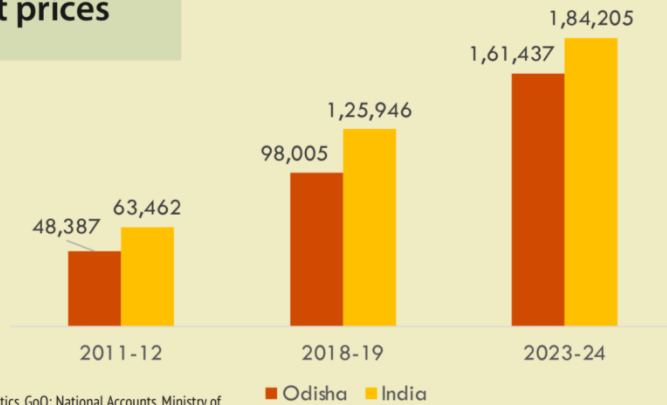
- Per capita income (PCI) of Odisha is nearly INR 1.6 lakh as compared to India's INR 1.8 lakh in 2023-24.
- The gap between per-capita income of Odisha and India was 12% in 2023-24.

XIII

Figure 13

Odisha and India's per-capita income (INR), at current prices

Per capita income (PCI) of Odisha is nearly INR 1.6 lakh as compared to India's INR 1.8 lakh in 2023-24. The gap between per-capita income of Odisha and India was 12% in 2023-24.



Source: Directorate of Economics and Statistics, GoO; National Accounts, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Government of India.

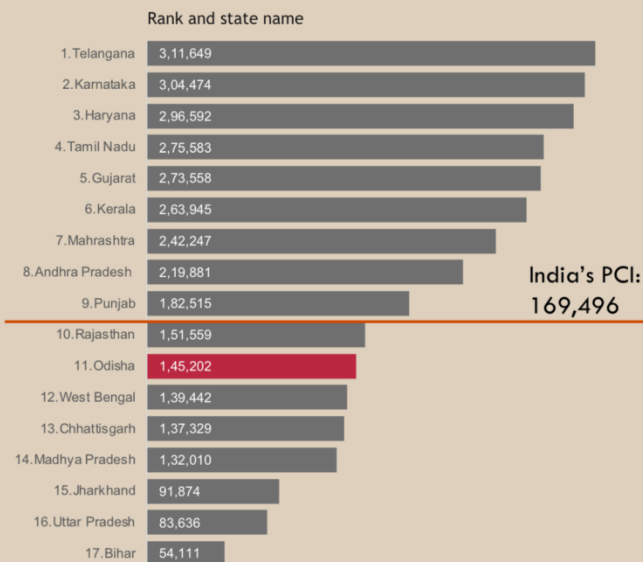
Per capita income of other states:

- Telangana has highest per capita income in India and Odisha ranks 11th.

of 213

Figure 14

Per-capita income of major states, 2022-23 (INR), at current prices



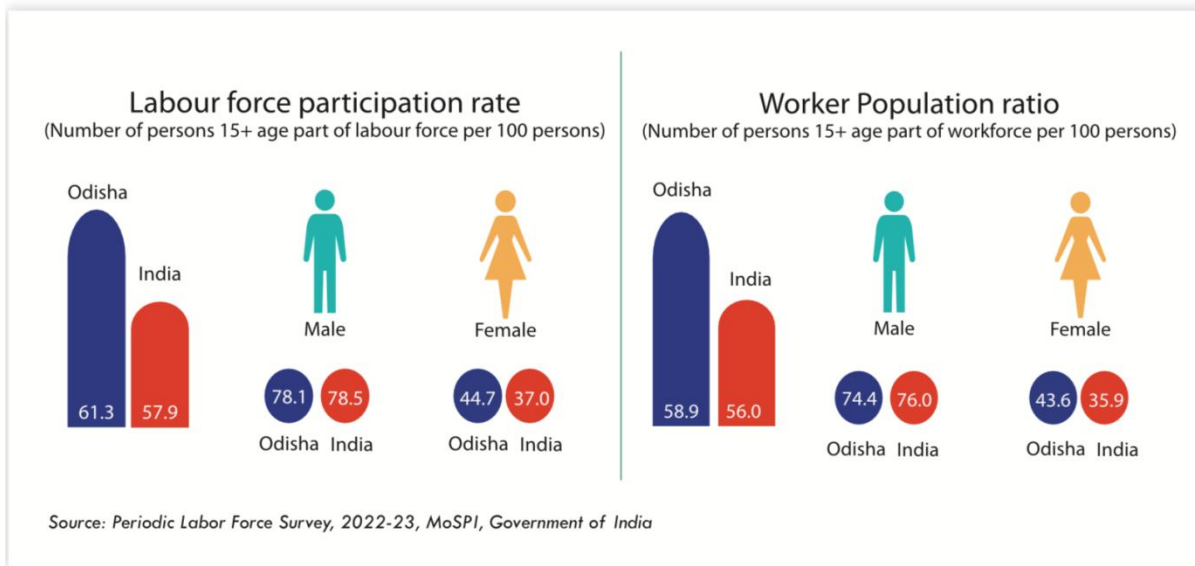
Source: Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Government of Odisha; National Accounts, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Government of India.

Labour and Worker force participation rate

- At an aggregate level, Odisha has a higher number of individuals in the labor force per 100 persons in the age group of 15 and above compared to the All-India average.
- Similarly, there are more persons working per 100 persons in the age group of 15 and above in Odisha.
- The primary factor contributing to the improved employment situation in Odisha is higher participation of women in labor force.
- In 2022-23, Odisha recorded one of the highest female labor force participation rates at 44.7 per cent. Further,

worker population ratio for women is considerably higher in the State.

Figure 1.12 | Key employment indicators, Odisha and India, 2022-23



Fiscal Developments

Revenue:

- In 2023- 24, the **budget size of the Government of Odisha was INR 2.3 lakh crore. The state has seen growth in total revenue receipts supported by buoyant tax and in particular non-tax revenues.**
- State's own tax revenues are buoyant with tax buoyancy of more than one (1.04). This implies that if GSDP grows at 10 per cent then the state's own tax revenues would grow at 10.4 per cent.

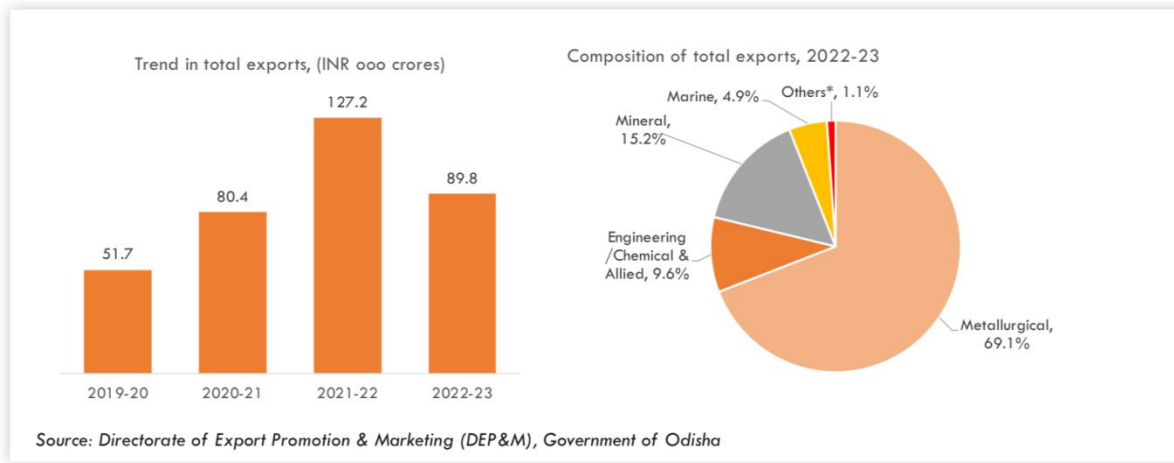
Expenditure

- On the expenditure side, **nearly 70 per cent of the budget is directed towards development spending and nearly 21 per cent towards non-development spending and remaining towards grants to local bodies and repayment of debt.**
- **A substantial portion of development spending is allocated towards education (constituting nearly 17.2 per cent of total development expenditure) followed by transport, health, rural development, agriculture, irrigation and water and sanitation.**

Exports

- **The total merchandise exports of Odisha increased from INR 51.7 thousand crore in 2019-20 to INR 89.8 thousand crore in 2022-23, growing at a CAGR of 20.2 per cent. However, between 2021-22 and 2022-23, merchandise exports of Odisha declined by INR 37.4 thousand crore (Figure 1.13).**
- **The State is ranked 10th among major states in terms of merchandise exports (by values) with an All-India share of 2.5 per cent in 2022-23.**
- **The first three states in terms of highest share of merchandise exports from India includes Gujarat (33.1 per cent), Maharashtra (16.1 per cent) and Tamil Nadu (9.0 per cent).**
- **Major contributors to State exports are metallurgical products (69.1 per cent), minerals (15.2 per cent), and engineering, chemical and allied products (9.6 per cent). Other exports include marine products (4.9 per cent) and textiles (0.6 per cent) (Figure 1.13).**
- **Between 2019-20 and 2022-23, the share of metallurgical products has increased by 21 percentage points, from 48 per cent to 69 per cent. This indicates concentration in the export basket.**

Figure 1.13 | Trend of exports from Odisha and composition (2022-23)



Conclusion

- In 2023-24, Odisha was INR 8.3 lakh crore economy or equivalent to USD 100 billion. Among 17 major states, the State is ranked 13th in terms of economy size (2022-23). In terms of per-capita income, among the 17 major states, the State is ranked 11th in 2022-23 (for which data is available for all major states).
- The State has potential to grow at higher rate on a medium-term basis. There are several growth opportunities which if tapped can move Odisha to a new growth path.



OPSC Current Affairs



NATIONAL

The first International Solar Festival

- The International Solar Alliance will host the **first International Solar Festival at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi**. The festival aims to drive global solar energy adoption by bringing together industry leaders, innovators, and policymakers.
- The festival will be organized from **5th September to 6th September 2024**.
- The festival will showcase innovative solutions and entrepreneurial approaches that can help drive the transition to a sustainable and solar-powered future.
- Countries across the globe, including African and Western countries, and many international forum organizations, including the Asian Development Bank, United Nations, and the World Bank, will participate in the festival.
- **India aims to install 500 GW of non-fossil fuel energy capacity by 2030. Around 485 GW will be from renewables, and 300 GW is targeted to be solar.**



International Solar Alliance:

- The ISA was conceived as a joint effort by India and France to mobilize efforts against climate change through the deployment of solar energy solutions. It was conceptualized on the sidelines of the 21st Conference of Parties (COP21) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) held in Paris in 2015.
- Headquarters: Gurugram, Haryana
- Director General: Ajay Mathur

Geoportals

- Union Minister of Science & Technology (Independent Charge) Dr Jitendra Singh launched two **Geoportals** namely the **'Bhuvan Panchayat (Ver. 4.0)'** portal for rural land records and **"National Database for Emergency Management (NDEM Ver. 5.0) developed by the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)**.
- These latest geospatial tools are meant for visualization and planning to provide high-resolution satellite imagery of 1:10K scale for different locations across the entire country.

Bhuvan Panchayat Portal:

- It aims to support space-based Information Support for Decentralized Planning (SISDP) and empower the citizens at the grassroots level in Panchayats.

National Database for Emergency Management (NDEM Ver. 5.0):

- **It aims to provide space-based inputs on natural disasters and aid in disaster risk reduction in India as well as neighbouring countries.** It will provide space-based inputs on natural disasters and aid in disaster risk reduction in India as well as neighbouring countries.
- It aims to put in place an effective early warning system so that the administration can proactively prevent the disasters and inform us regarding the Land use Land change (LULC).

Smart Cities Mission

- The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has **extended the deadline for the Smart Cities Mission till March 2025, allowing cities to complete ongoing projects, which account for around 10% of the total projects.**
- This is the second time that the mission deadline, which was earlier June 2024, has been extended.
- **As of July 3, 2024, the 100 Cities have completed 7,188 projects (90% of total projects) amounting to Rs.1,44,237 crore as part of the Mission. The balance of 830 projects amounting to Rs.19,926 crore is also in**

Smart Cities Mission:

- It was launched on 25 June 2015.
- The main objective of the Mission is to promote cities that provide core infrastructure, clean and sustainable environment, and give a decent quality of life to their citizens through the application of 'smart solutions'. The Mission is operated as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme.

advanced stages of completion.

- The Mission has an allocated GOI budget of Rs.48,000 crore for the 100 Cities.
- As of date, GOI has released Rs.46,585 crore (97% of the allocated GOI budget) to 100 Cities. Out of these funds released to the Cities, 93% have been utilized as of date. The Mission has also released full GOI financial support under the Mission to 74 out of 100 Cities.
- More than 8,000+ multi-sectoral projects are being developed by the 100 Cities amounting to around Rs.1.6 lakh crore.

Sahkar Se Samridhhi

- Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Amit Shah addressed the “Sahkar Se Samridhhi” conference on the occasion of the 102nd International Day of Cooperatives in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- The International Day of Cooperatives is an annual celebration of the cooperative movement around the world. It has been observed on the first Saturday of July ever since 1923 by the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA).
- The International Cooperative Day 2024 is observed on the 6th of July, which is also the 3rd Foundation Day of the Ministry of Cooperation.
- The theme for the 102nd International Cooperative Day is- “Cooperatives Build a Better Future for All.”
- He also inaugurated the launch of ‘Bharat Organic Atta’ produced by the National Cooperative Organics Limited (NCOL).
- He also distributed Rupay KCC at zero interest rate to women cooperative members in Banaskantha.



Note: The year 2025 has been declared as the International Year of Cooperatives (IYC2025) by the United Nations General Assembly.

Centre declares June 25 as “SamvidhaanHatya Diwas”

- The Union government announced that June 25 will be observed annually as “SamvidhaanHatya Diwas” to honor those who opposed and fought against the injustices during the Emergency imposed by Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in 1975.
- To observe 25th June as SamvidhaanHatya Diwas will serve as a reminder of what happened when the Constitution of India was trampled over.
- It is also a day to pay homage to each and every person who suffered due to the excesses of the Emergency, a Congress unleashed dark phase of Indian history.”
- On 25 June 1975, the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, showing her dictatorial mindset, strangled the soul of Indian democracy by imposing an emergency in the country. Lakhs of people were jailed without any reason and the voice of the media was suppressed. The Government of India has decided to celebrate 25 June every year as ‘SamvidhanHatya Diwas.

Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) and Indian Olympic Association (IOA) MoU.

- The Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL), a ‘Maharatna’ and a Fortune Global 500 Company, has partnered with the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) as the official Principal Partner for four years, starting from Paris Olympics 2024 through Los Angeles Olympics 2028.
- The partnership aims to support and salute the determination of Indian athletes, particularly those from humble backgrounds and remote areas of India.

NIRMAN

- Union Minister for Coal and Mines, G Kishan Reddy, launched a portal “Noble Initiative for Rewarding Mains Aspirants of National Civil Services Examination (NIRMAN)” in New Delhi.

- This is a **unique CSR scheme** by Coal India Limited (CIL) for meritorious youth of its operating districts who **have qualified the Preliminary round of the UPSC examination (for Civil Services & Forest Service) in 2024.**
- This aligns with the **vision of “Mission Karmayogi” of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.**
- The scheme is aimed towards **providing support of Rs 1,00,000 to the Preliminary examination qualified candidates with annual family income less than 8 lakhs and belonging to Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe, female or third gender; who are permanent residents of any of the 39 operational districts of CIL.**

South Asia’s largest Flying Training Organisation (FTO)

- Air India will set up **South Asia’s largest Flying Training Organisation (FTO) at Amravati (Maharashtra) in the Vidarbha area.** This FTO will strengthen the available pilot training capacity in India.
- **The FTO, the first by any Indian airline in the country, will have 31 single-engine and 3 twin-engine aircraft for training.**
- The flying school will be operational by mid-2026 and 180 commercial pilots will pass out every year.
- Air India was awarded a tender by the MADC to establish and operate this DGCA-licensed FTO for a period of 30 years.

Workshop on the Revitalizing Indian Ship Building Industry

- The Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways (MoPSW) hosted a workshop on the Revitalizing Indian Ship Building Industry, **chaired by the Secretary, Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW), TK Ramachandran.**
- The event brought together key stakeholders, representatives from various government ministries, departments, shipping operators and PSU/ private sector shipyards to **discuss strategies for revitalizing the shipbuilding and repair ecosystem within India and aligning it with India's ambitious Maritime India Vision 2030 (MIV 2030) and Amrit Kaal Vision 2047.** Through this interactive workshop, MoPSW aims to present specific policies based on stakeholder inputs and invite further valuable contributions to drive demand and capacity growth in these sectors.

- **MIV 2030 has set a bold target to elevate India's global ranking in shipbuilding and ship repair from over 20th place to the top 10 and an ambitious goal has been set for the top 5 position, as outlined in the Amrit Kaal Vision 2047.**
- **The major target under MAKV 2047 is handling 1300 MMTPA of coastal cargo carriage and a greater proportion of Indian overseas cargo to be carried out on Indian owned/Indian-built ships.**

The 46th session of the World Heritage Committee

- It will be held in New Delhi, India from 21st to 31st July 2024 **at the Bharat Mandapam International Exhibition and Convention Centre (IECC), New Delhi.**
- The Ministry of Culture (MoC), Government of India, and its attached office, the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) are the nodal agencies to host the 46th session of the World Heritage Committee in India in 2024.
- The Archaeological Survey of India is the custodian of 3697 ancient monuments and archaeological sites of national importance in India and is responsible for their protection, preservation, and conservation.

There are 3 World Heritage Sites in Delhi:

- Qutb Minar and its Monuments
- Humayun's Tomb
- Red Fort Complex

World Heritage Committee:

- The World Heritage Committee **comprises representatives from 21 States Parties to the World Heritage Convention (1972) elected by the General Assembly of UNESCO.**
- Current members of the World Heritage Committee as on elections in the 24th General Assembly of UNESCO (November 2023), are as follows: Argentina, Belgium, Bulgaria, Greece, India, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Lebanon, Mexico, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Rwanda, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Senegal, Türkiye, Ukraine, Viet Nam, and Zambia.

New Cabinet committees

- The Union Government has constituted eight Cabinet committees.
- The eight Cabinet Committees are the **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC), Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS), Cabinet Committee on Accommodation, Cabinet Committee on Parliamentary Affairs, Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs, Cabinet Committee on Investment and Growth, and Cabinet Committee on Skill, Employment and**

Livelihood.

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi heads six committees but is not part of two: **Cabinet Committee on Accommodation and Cabinet Committee on Parliamentary Affairs**. The three new faces in the CCEA are Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Heavy Industries Minister H D Kumaraswamy, and Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Minister Rajiv Ranjan 'Lalan' Singh. **The total number of members in CCEA is 11.**
- **The Cabinet Committee on Security will be headed by PM Narendra Modi.** Rajnath Singh, Amit Shah, Nirmala Sitharaman, and External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar will be members of the committee.
- **The ten-member Cabinet Committee on Parliamentary Affairs will be headed by Rajnath Singh.**
- **The Cabinet Committee on Accommodation will be headed by Amit Shah.**
- The Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs will have 14 members including the Prime Minister. No change has been made in the powerful Appointments Committee, which is headed by Narendra Modi and where Amit Shah is the sole member.

Fee concessions and safety measures for the petroleum and explosives sector

- Union Minister Piyush Goyal has unveiled significant fee concessions and safety measures for the petroleum and explosives sector during a Stakeholder Consultation in New Delhi.
- The event, **organized by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), aimed to enhance efficiency within the Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation (PESO) and improve dialogue with industry stakeholders.**
- During an event, he announced an 80 percent concession for women entrepreneurs and a 50 percent concession for MSMEs in licensing fees for licenses granted by PESO.
- He **directed PESO to collaborate with the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG) to establish new safety guidelines for petrol pumps operating within 30-50 meters of residential areas.** This initiative aims to balance public safety with industry operations.
- The recommendations focused on digitalization, increased transparency through the PESO online portal, and expedited clearance issuance.

Colombo Security Conclave (CSC)

- The Colombo Security Conclave (CSC), a regional security grouping, **officially welcomed Bangladesh as its fifth member country during the 8th Deputy National Security Adviser (DNSA) level meeting, hosted by Mauritius.**
- The existing members, India, Sri Lanka, Mauritius, and Maldives welcomed Bangladesh as its new member.
- Seychelles participated as an observer state.
- During the meeting, member states reviewed the progress of activities outlined in the CSC's Roadmap for 2023-2024.
- **They also discussed decisions taken at previous high-level meetings, including the 7th DNSA level meeting hosted by the Maldives in July 2023 and the 6th NSA level meeting in Mauritius in December 2023.**
- Member states agreed that the 7th NSA-level meeting of the Colombo Security Conclave will be held in India later this year.



INTERNATIONAL

Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI)

- **The 6th meeting of the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI) was held at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi in a hybrid mode.** The meeting was chaired by Jitin Prasad, Minister of State Electronics and Information Technology and Commerce & Industry.
- During the meeting, the members of GPAI reaffirmed their commitment to the future vision of the global initiative and agreed to strengthen synergies to harness the potential of human-centric and trustworthy AI for the good of all.
- **The member countries agreed to a shared commitment to a 19-point common agenda.**



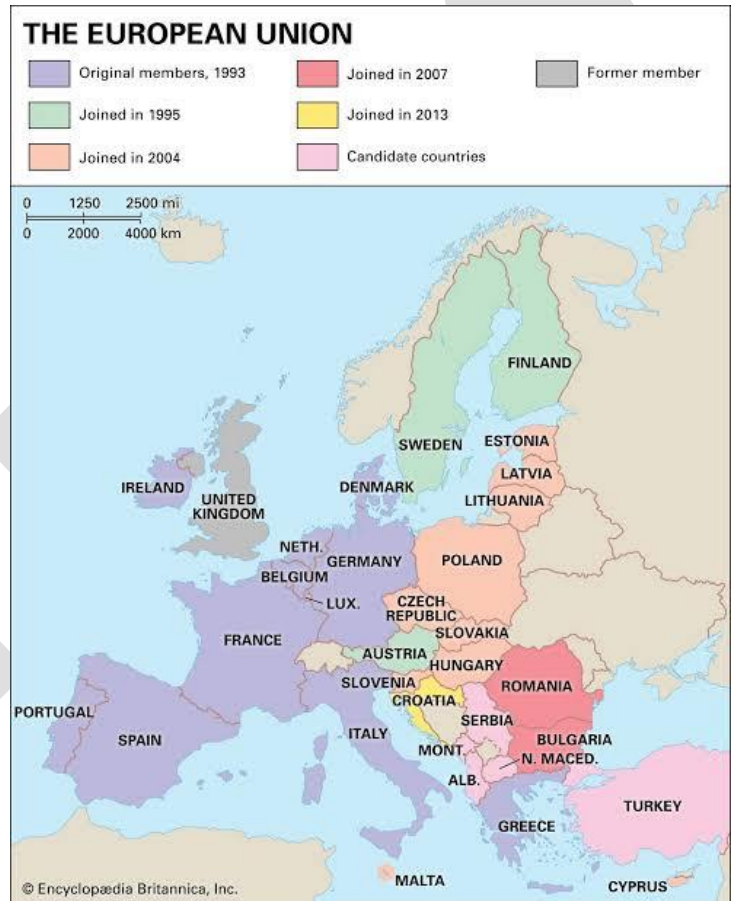
- The members welcomed the election of Serbia as the lead chair of GPAI for 2024-25.
- Some of the key points in the consensus agenda included acknowledging the emerging risks and challenges posed by AI systems, commitment to fostering trustworthy and human-centric AI, collective commitment to the OECD recommendation on AI, the Unesco recommendation on the ethics of AI, and following the New Delhi 2023 GPAI Ministerial declaration.

Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI):

- GPAI is a multi-stakeholder initiative that aims to bridge the gap between theory and practice on AI by supporting cutting-edge research and applied activities on AI-related priorities. It was launched in June 2020.
- **Member countries: 29**

Malta’s Metsola to head EU Parliament for 2nd term

- Roberta Metsola secured broad backing for a new term as president of the European Parliament, becoming the first woman to win a second term as head of the EU assembly.
- Metsola, a **Maltese lawmaker who in 2022 became the first woman in 20 years to head the European Union assembly, is only the second president, after Germany’s Martin Schulz, to win another term since the EU Parliament became a directly elected institution in 1979.**
- Metsola was approved by a large majority of EU lawmakers to lead the EU assembly for a further two and a half years, with 562 backing her reappointment, out of the 623 that voted.
- She was the first leader of an EU institution to visit Kyiv following Russia’s February 2022 invasion, and has consistently backed Ukraine’s bid to join the EU.
- **About European Union (EU)**
 - Founded: 1 November 1993
 - Founders: Germany, France, Italy, Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg
 - Headquarters – Brussels, Belgium
 - Members Country – 27
 - President of European Council – Antonion Costa
 - President of Commission – Ursula von der Leyen
 - President of European Parliament – Roebert Metsola



Global INDIAai Summit 2024

- The **two-day Global INDIAai Summit 2024 was held at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi** from 3rd to 4th July 2024. The summit focuses on advancing AI development in areas like Compute Capacity, Foundational Models, Datasets, Application Development, Future Skills, Startup Financing, and Safe AI, which are the seven key pillars of IndiaAi Mission.
- Union Minister of Electronics and Information Technology, Railways, and Information & Broadcasting, Government of India, Ashwini Vaishnaw, the Vice Minister, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, Government of Japan, Hiroshi Yoshida, Union Minister of State for Electronics and IT, and Commerce & Industry, Government of India, JitinPrasada, Secretary, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), S Krishnan, President, NASSCOM, Debjani Ghosh, Vice President, OpenAI, Srinivas Narayanan and Additional Secretary, MeitY, Abhishek Singh have participated in the summit.
- **The summit featured 12 sessions which covered the 7 pillars of the IndiaAi Mission.**

Note: IndiaAi Mission has been approved by the Union Cabinet in March 2024 with an outlay of USD 1.25 Billion.

Global Conclave on Plastic Recycling and Sustainability (GCPRS) 2024

- The Global Conclave on Plastic Recycling and Sustainability (GCPRS) 2024 was held at the Bharat Mandapam, Pragati Maidan in New Delhi from 4 to 7th July 2024.
- The conclave, jointly organized by the All-India Plastics Manufacturers Association (AIPMA) and the Chemicals and Petrochemicals Manufacturers' Association (CPMA), focuses on the rising use of plastic, its impact on the environment and also on the steps needed for solutions.

- India introduced the Plastic Waste Management Rules in 2016, which mandated extended producer responsibility, enforced stricter recycling packages & banned specific single-use plastic, and various amendments have also been made to the rules over the years to widen its ambit.
- India's plastic recycling industry is rapidly growing and is expected to reach \$6.9 billion by 2033.

Space Exploration and Research Agency (SERA)

- The US-based Space Exploration and Research Agency (SERA) has named India as a partner nation in their human spaceflight programme for citizens from countries who have sent a few or no astronauts to space.
- The programme, being executed in collaboration with Blue Origin, will offer citizens from across the world six seats on a future mission of New Shepard, Blue Origin's reusable suborbital rocket.
- New Shepard will fly the selected astronauts on an 11-minute journey past the Kármán line (100 km), the internationally recognised boundary of space.



100 Octane, XP100

- High Commissioner of India to Sri Lanka Santosh Jha has inaugurated the premium petrol with 100 octane, XP100, in Colombo, Sri Lanka.
- With this, Sri Lanka has become the 8th country in the world to offer 100-octane petrol to its customers.
- XP100 reduces carbon emissions contributing to Lanka IOC's commitment towards a cleaner and healthier environment.

XP100:

- It provides faster acceleration, smoother drivability, enhanced fuel economy, lower engine deposits, and significant reduction in emissions in High Compression Ratio Engine.
- It results in boosting vehicle performance and results in longer engine life, hence lower maintenance. It is a petrol developed by Indian Oil with octane number 100.

22nd India - Russia Annual Summit.

- Prime Minister of the Republic of India Narendra Modi paid an official visit to the Russian Federation on July 8-9, 2024, at the invitation of President of the Russian Federation H.E. Vladimir Putin for the 22nd India - Russia Annual Summit.

Key highlights of the summit:

- Both sides welcomed the Protocol on Foreign Office Consultations for the period 2024-28 signed in December 2023 between the Ministry of External Affairs of India and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation which lays down the foundation for exchanges and dialogue on most pressing bilateral, global and regional issues.
- Both sides noted the close inter-parliamentary interaction and underlined the importance of regular meetings of the Inter-Parliamentary Commission and Parliamentary Friendship Groups of both Houses as a valuable component of India-Russia relations.
- Both sides agreed to increase bilateral trade to \$100 billion dollars by 2030, including the use of national currencies to circumvent Western sanctions.
- Both sides agreed to continue cooperation on the sustainable supply of fertilizers to India on the basis of company-to-company long-term contracts within the framework of the Joint India-Russia Committee on Fertilizers.

- Both Sides welcomed the enhanced partnership between the Indian Space Research Organization and the Russian State Space Corporation "Roscosmos" in the use of outer space for peaceful purposes, including in human spaceflight programs, satellite navigation, and planetary exploration.
- **Both sides agreed to hold the Intergovernmental Commission on Military and Military Technical Cooperation (IRIGC-M&MTC) in Moscow in the second half of 2024.**
- Both sides agreed to continue their joint efforts in promoting the Russian language in India and Indian languages in Russia comprehensively, including by developing contacts between relevant educational institutions.
- Both Sides expressed their commitment to working together for the success of the XVI BRICS Summit in October 2024 in Kazan. The 23rd India-Russia Annual Summit in 2025 will be held in India.

Rwanda's 2024 presidential election

- **President Paul Kagame has secured a decisive victory in Rwanda's 2024 presidential election, capturing 99.15% of the votes. This marks his fourth consecutive term in office.**
- Two challengers, Frank Habineza of the Democratic Green Party and independent candidate Philippe Mpayimana, garnered 0.53% and 0.32% of the counted votes, respectively.
- Approximately 65% of Rwanda's population, predominantly under 35 years old, participated in the election.
- **About Rwanda**
 - Capital- Kigali
 - Currency- Rwandan Franc
 - President- Paul Kagame
 - Prime Minister- Édouard Ngirente
 - Official languages- Kinyarwanda, French, English, Swahili
- **Newly Appointed Prime Minister & President**
 - PM of Nepal – K.P. Sharma Oli (replace Pushpa Kamal Dahal)
 - President of Lithuania – Gitanas Nausėda
 - President of Iran – Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf
 - PM of the United Kingdom – Keir Starmer (replace Rishi Sunak)
 - PM of Netherlands – Dick Schoof



ECONOMICS

86th session of the Executive Committee (CCEXEC) of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC)

- India, as a member elected on a geographic basis (Asia), participated in the 86th session of the Executive Committee (CCEXEC) of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC).
- **G Kamala Vardhana Rao, CEO of the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) represented India in the session held at the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Headquarters in Rome from July 1st to 5th, 2024.**
- During the session, India strongly supported the advancement of standards development for various spices, including small cardamom, turmeric, and vanilla.

India participates in the 86th session of the Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission



Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC):

- The Codex Alimentarius Commission, an international body established by FAO and the World Health Organization (WHO), aims to protect consumer health and promote fair practices in food trade. The CCEXEC plays a critical role in reviewing proposals for new work and monitoring the progress of standards development.

Employees' Pension Scheme (EPS), 1995 extension

- The Government of India (GoI) has amended the **Employees' Pension Scheme (EPS), 1995 to ensure that EPS members with less than 6 months of contributory service also receive withdrawal benefits.**
- This amendment will benefit more than **7 lakh EPS members every year who leave the scheme with less than 6 months of contributory service.**
- The GoI has modified Table D and has ensured that every completed month of service rendered is taken into

account to give proportionate withdrawal benefits to the members. The amount of withdrawal benefit will henceforth depend upon the number of completed months of service rendered by the member and the wages on which the EPS contribution was received.

- It is estimated that every year more than 23 lakh members will benefit from this modification of Table D.

'Bridge the Gap' campaign

- HDFC Life Insurance Company has introduced the 'Bridge the Gap' campaign to educate the public about the role of life insurance.
- This initiative aims to clarify the benefits of life insurance and inform the public about its importance.

Receivables Exchange of India Limited (RXIL)

- Singapore-headquartered DBS Bank in India has teamed up with Receivables Exchange of India Limited (RXIL), the first RBI-licensed exchange platform under the Trade Receivables Electronic Discounting System (TReDS).
- DBS Bank India will be the first bank to partner with RXIL to offer end-to-end supplier financing by harnessing platform data to perform credit assessment and sanction limits. This offering will be particularly relevant for MSMEs and SMEs across India, enabling them to enhance cash flows to fulfill orders even before goods are delivered to buyers.
- TReDS is an online digital platform set up to facilitate MSMEs to unlock working capital by converting their receivables into cash.

RXIL:

- RXIL is a joint venture of SIDBI, NSE along with State Bank of India, ICICI Bank, and Yes Bank. MD & CEO: Ketan Gaikwad
- **Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra**

Ways and Means Advances (WMA) Limit

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has raised the Ways and Means Advances (WMA) limit of state governments and Union Territories to Rs 60,118 crore against the existing limit of Rs 47,010 crore.
- This is effective from 1st July 2024.

Ways and Means Advances (WMA):

- Ways and Means Advances (WMA) are temporary loan facilities provided by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to the central and state governments to help them manage temporary mismatches in their receipts and expenditures.
- These borrowings are meant purely to help them tide over temporary mismatches in cash flows of their receipts and expenditures. The WMA scheme was introduced on 1st April 1997.



Financial Action Task Force's (FATF) Mutual Evaluation Report 2023-24

- Muthoot Finance has been selected for the Financial Action Task Force's (FATF) Mutual Evaluation report 2023-24. It is the only NBFC in India to have been selected to represent the entire NBFC segment in the On-site Evaluation by the FATF team which visited India in November 2023.
- This recognition underscores the company's adherence to global standards in combating money laundering and terrorist financing. The evaluation will enhance Muthoot Finance's reputation and open up new international collaboration opportunities.
- FATF placed India in its 'regular follow-up category', in a select group with only four other G20 countries.
- The FATF Mutual Evaluation is a comprehensive review process that assesses a country's compliance with international anti-money laundering (AML) and counter-terrorist financing (CTF) standards.

Financial Action Task Force (FATF):

- The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is an intergovernmental organization established in 1989 by the G7 countries to develop policies to combat money laundering and terrorist financing. It sets international standards and conducts evaluations to ensure compliance with these standards.
- **Headquarters: Paris, France**
- MIV 2030 has set a bold target to elevate India's global ranking in shipbuilding and ship repair from over 20th place to the top 10 and an ambitious goal has been set for the top 5 position, as outlined in the Amrit Kaal Vision 2047.
- The major target under MAKV 2047 is handling 1300 MMTPA of coastal cargo carriage and a greater proportion of Indian overseas cargo to be carried out on Indian owned/Indian-built ships.

National Forensic Science University (NFSU)

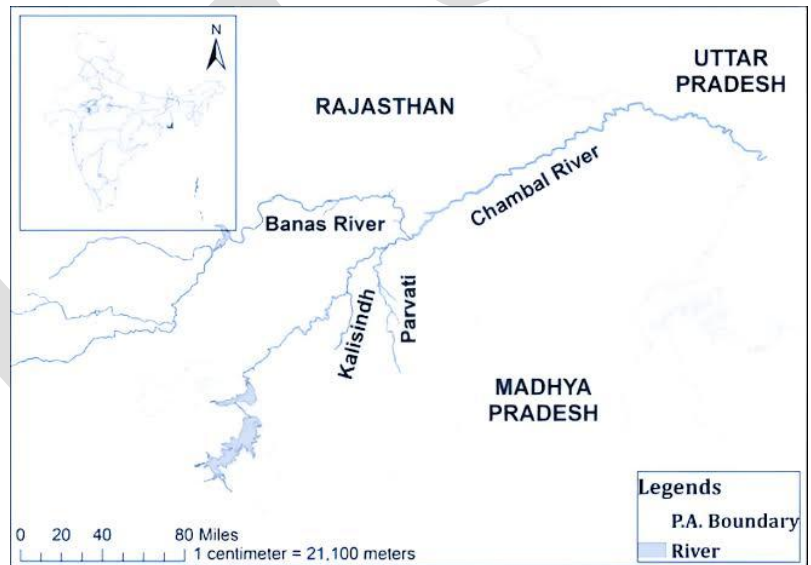
- The National Forensic Science University (NFSU) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Haryana Government to establish the Centre of Excellence for matters related to identified crime cases.
- A 50-acre campus will be built in Panchkula, Haryana in collaboration with NFSU.
- It will be the country's first Center of Excellence which will be built in the state. There are currently 4 forensic labs running in the state.
- The center will provide scientific help in implementing the three new criminal laws at the ground level.
- A training institute will be opened at this center to help provide training facilities to students and officers of Haryana and the surrounding states.

Udupi Cochin Shipyard Limited (UCSL)

- The Udupi Cochin Shipyard Limited (UCSL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL), has bagged a Rs 1,100 crore-worth international order from Wilson ASA, Norway for the design and construction of eight dry cargo vessels.
- Each vessel, with 100 meters in length, will have a deadweight of 6300 metric tonnes.
- It will be an environment-friendly diesel-electric vessel and will be utilized for the transport of general cargo in the coastal waters of Europe.
- As per the agreement, the order should be executed within September 2028.

Parvati-Kalisindh- Chambal (PKC) link project

- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between the Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan governments for the implementation of the modified Parvati-Kalisindh- Chambal (PKC) link project worth Rs 72,000 crore under the center's interstate rivers linking campaign.
- The agreement on the Parvati-Kalisindh-Chambal inter-state river link project will increase drinking water and irrigation facilities in 13 districts of Madhya Pradesh including Morena, Gwalior, Sheopur, and Rajgarh. 13 districts of Rajasthan will also benefit from this project.



DEFENCE & SECURITY

Exercise MAITREE

- The 13th edition of India-Thailand joint military Exercise MAITREE was held at Fort Vachiraprakan in Tak Province of Thailand from 1st to 15th July 2024.

Participants:

- **Indian side:** 76 personnel represented mainly by a Battalion of the Ladakh Scouts along with personnel from other arms and services.
- **Thailand side:** The Royal Thailand Army contingent comprises 76 personnel mainly from the 1st Battalion, 14 Infantry Regiment of 4 Division.
- Exercise MAITREE aims to foster Military Cooperation between India and Thailand.
- **This Exercise enhances combined capabilities in executing Joint Counter Insurgency and Terrorist Operations**



in Jungle and Urban Environments under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter.

- The Exercise focuses on a high degree of physical fitness, joint planning, and joint tactical drills.

Note: The 12th edition of Exercise MAITREE was conducted at Umroi, Meghalaya in September 2019.

Weapon System School (WSS)

- The Weapon System School (WSS) of the Indian Air Force (IAF) has recently (July 2024) been **inaugurated by Air Chief Marshal V.R. Chaudhari, Chief of the Air Staff, at Air Force Station Begumpet, Hyderabad.**
- This follows the approval of a new branch of officers in the IAF, the Weapon System (WS) branch in 2022.
- The WSS will impart effect-based training that is contemporary in nature and prepare officers of the newly formed branch in line with the requirements of the IAF.
- With the inauguration of the WSS, Flight Cadets of the WS Branch will undergo their second semester of training at this institute.



The new branch will have four streams:

- Flying stream to operate the weapons and systems in airborne platforms like the Sukhoi-30 MKI and C-130J;
- Remote stream to operate Remotely Piloted Aircraft;
- Mission Commanders and operators for Surface to Air and Surface-to-Surface weapon systems;
- Intelligence stream for handling space-based intelligence and imagery.

Military Exercise 'Nomadic Elephant'

- **The 16th edition of the Joint Military Exercise 'Nomadic Elephant' between the armies of India and Mongolia was conducted in Umroi, Meghalaya from 3rd to 16th July 2024.**
- The exercise aims to enhance interoperability between two armies in carrying out semi-conventional operations in semi-urban/mountainous terrain.
- This annual training event alternates between locations in India and Mongolia, with the previous edition held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia in 2023.
- Soldiers of the Mongolian Armed Forces Unit 084 and Indian Army soldiers from the Jammu and Kashmir Light Infantry Regiment participated in the exercise in 2023.

Exercise Pitch Black 2024

- The Indian Air Force (IAF) contingent participated in Exercise Pitch Black 2024 conducted at the **Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) Base Darwin in Australia from 12th July to 2nd August 2024.**
- The exercise witnessed 20 countries, featuring over 140 aircraft and 4,400 military personnel. The name 'Pitch Black' reflects the exercise's emphasis on nighttime flying over vast, unpopulated areas.
- The IAF contingent comprises more than 150 skilled personnel, including pilots, engineers, technicians, and controllers.



SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Aditya-L1 spacecraft

- The Aditya-L1 spacecraft has successfully completed its first halo orbit around the Sun-Earth L1 point.
- **The Aditya-L1 mission is an Indian solar observatory at Lagrangian point (L1), launched on September 2, 2023 and was inserted in its targeted halo orbit on January 6, 2024. Aditya-L1 spacecraft in the Halo orbit takes 178 days to complete a revolution around the L1 point.**
- This journey of Aditya L1 around the Sun-Earth L1 point involves modeling of complex dynamics. The understanding of various perturbing forces acting on the spacecraft helped in determining the trajectory

accurately and planning precise orbit maneuvers.

- With this success, the state-of-the-art flight dynamics software developed in-house at URSC- ISRO for the Aditya-L1 missions stands fully validated.

'NITI GearShift Challenge'

- NITI Aayog has launched the 'NITI GearShift Challenge' as part of the e-FAST India initiative.
- This hackathon aims to foster innovative business models for the adoption of zero-emission trucks in India, addressing the nation's pressing economic and environmental challenges.
- The 'NITI GearShift Challenge' is being organized in collaboration with IIM Bangalore, Smart Freight Centre India, WRI India and other institutions.



'HH70'

- China has developed the 'HH70', the world's first fully high-temperature superconducting Tokamak device, in its eastern Municipality of Shanghai.
- It is developed and constructed by Energy Singularity.
- HH70 has conducted discharge experiments based on two types of pre-ionization methods: localized helical magnetic flux injection (electron gun) and ion cyclotron heating (ICRF) and has successfully obtained the first plasma.
- With this development, China made its foray into the fusion-based clean energy market. This device is an "artificial sun" because it works on the principle of the nuclear fusion of hydrogen atoms that occurs in the sun.



Tokamak:

- A tokamak is a machine that controls the nuclear fusion of hydrogen atoms in superheated plasma via magnets. The reaction creates helium and releases enormous energy, with no nuclear waste, unlike nuclear fission.

SPORTS

10th Leon Masters

- Indian chess legend Viswanathan Anand has won his 10th Leon Masters title in Spain after defeating GM Jaime Santos 3-1 in the final match.
- He won the Leon Masters for the first time in 1996.



Wimbledon 2024: Barbora Krejčíková Lifts Women's Singles Trophy Beating Jasmine Paolini

- Barbora Krejčíková of the Czech Republic defeated Jasmine Paolini of Italy 6-2, 2-6, 6-4 to win her maiden Wimbledon women's singles title in London.
- While, Carlos Alcaraz of Spain won the Men's Singles title at Wimbledon, defeating Novak Djokovic 6-2, 6-2, 7-6.
- Despite Djokovic's efforts, Alcaraz secured the third set and the championship.
- This was Alcaraz's second appearance in a Wimbledon final, while Djokovic is a seven-time champion of the tournament.



Wimbledon Open title 2024

Men's Singles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Winner – Carlos Alcaraz (Spain) • Runner Up – Novak Djokovic (Serbia)
Women's Singles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Winner – Barbora Krejčíková (Czech Republic) • Runner Up – Jasmine Paolini (Italy)
Men's Doubles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Winner – Henry Patten (British) & Harri Heliövaara (Finland) • Runner Up – Max Purcell (Australia) & Jordan Thompson (Australia)
Women's Doubles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Winner – Taylor Townsend (USA) & Katerina Siniakova (USA) • Runner Up – Gabriela Dabrowski (Canada) & Erin Routliffe (New Zealand)
Mixed Doubles title	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Winner – Hsieh Su-Wei (Taiwan) & Jan Zielinski (Poland) • Runner Up – Santiago Gonzalez (Mexico) & Giuliana Olmos (Mexico)

Indian Deaf Cricket Team

- **Dr. Virendra Kumar, Union Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment, honored the Indian Deaf Cricket Team at the Dr. Ambedkar International Centre for their historic triumph in the Bilateral International Deaf Cricket Series against England.**
- The team secured a decisive 5-2 victory in the T20 matches held from June 18 to June 27, 2024, in England.
- Abhishek Singh was awarded the man-of-the-match in the final game, while Sai Akash was awarded the player-of-the-series honour.

Indian Deaf Cricket Association (IDCA):

- IDCA is a governing body for deaf cricket in India. The Association was formed in 2020 in lieu of the Deaf Cricket Society under the NCT of Delhi Societies Registration Act 1860. Headquarters: New Delhi
- **CEO: Roma Balwani.**

Argentina won Copa America 2024 defeating Colombia

- Defending champions Argentina has won the Copa America 2024 final at the Hard Rock Stadium in Miami Gardens, Florida after defeating Colombia.
- **It is Argentina's record 16th Copa America title. With this victory, Argentina secured its third consecutive major title,** following the 2021 Copa America and 2022 World Cup, matching Spain's achievement of winning the 2008 and 2012 European Championships alongside the 2010 World Cup.
- Additionally, Argentina ended Colombia's 28-game unbeaten streak, which had lasted since a February 2022 loss to the Albiceleste.
- **Lautaro Martinez's goal was his fifth of the tournament, cementing his position as the top scorer and earning him the Copa America 2024 Golden Boot.**

Saudi Arabia to host first 'Olympics Esports Games' in 2025

- Saudi Arabia and the International Olympic Committee have announced a **12-year agreement to host the new esports Olympics in the oil-rich kingdom starting from 2025.**
- This is a natural next step for our young athletes, our country and the global esports community," said Prince Abdulaziz, who also heads the Saudi national Olympic committee.
- The IOC said last month it planned to launch video gaming Olympics to try to attract and retain young fans and audiences.
- Saudi Arabia and the International Olympic Committee have announced a 12-year agreement to host the new esports Olympics in the oil-rich kingdom starting from 2025.



PERSON IN NEWS

Challa Sreenivasulu Setty

- **The Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB), headed by Bhanu Pratap Sharma, has selected Challa Sreenivasulu Setty as the new Chairman of the State Bank of India (SBI).**
- He will succeed current chairman Dinesh Kumar Khara, whose extended term is set to end on 28th August 2024.
- He will join SBI as its 27th Chairman.
- Currently, he is serving as the Managing Director (MD) of the SBI from 2020.



António Luís Santos da Costa

- Former Prime Minister of Portugal, António Luís Santos da Costa, has been named as the next President of the European Council in Brussels. He became the first Portuguese leader to hold this position.
- He will succeed Charles Michel on 1st October 2024.
- Notably, in 2017, he was presented the PravasiBharatiya Samman by the President of India. He also holds an Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) card.
- The European Council also selected Estonian Prime Minister KajaKallas as the next High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy.



Usha Thakur

- Usha Thakur has been given the **12th Vishwa Hindi Samman in a Hindi Samvad event organized by the Embassy of India in Nepal recognizing her contribution in the development of Hindi literature. This event took place at Tribhuvan University in Kathmandu.**
- She has translated more than 40 literatures in Hindi and Nepali and strengthened the Hindi language.
- This award is given by the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India.
- Originally, the award was to be presented at the 12th World Hindi Conference held in Fiji in 2023.



Ravi Agrawal

- Ravi Agrawal, a 1988-batch IRS officer, has been appointed as the new Chairman of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), the administrative body for the Income Tax Department.
- He has succeeded Nitin Gupta, a 1986-batch Indian Revenue Service officer.
- He is currently working as a member (administration) of the board.
- He will head the CBDT till June 2025.
- The other serving members in the board are Pragya Sahay Saksena, HBS Gill, Pravin Kumar, and Sanjay Kumar.
- Note: The CBDT is headed by a chairman and can have six members who are in the rank of special secretary.



Vikram Misri

- The Government of India has announced the appointment of a new foreign secretary of India, Vikram Misri, a 1989-batch Indian Foreign Service officer. His appointment will be effective from 15th July 2024.
- He will succeed Vinay Kwatra.



Dick Schoof

- Former Dutch intelligence Chief Dick Schoof has been sworn in as the Prime Minister of the Netherlands by King Willem-Alexander at the royal Huis ten Bosch Palace in The Hague.
- He succeeds Mark Rutte, who will become NATO's next secretary-general.



Sujata Saunik

- Sujata Saunik, an IAS officer of the 1987 batch, has become the first woman Chief Secretary (CS) of Maharashtra. She has succeeded Nitin Kareer.
- Earlier, she worked as an additional chief secretary in the Home Department and General Administration Department, Government of Maharashtra.
- She will be the 45th CS of Maharashtra since 1960, when the state came into being.



Dr B.N. Gangadhar

- The Appointment Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has appointed Dr B.N. Gangadhar as the Chairman of the National Medical Commission (NMC). He has been appointed for a period of 4 years, until the appointee attains the age of 70 years, or until further orders, whichever is earliest.
- He was the former Director of NIMHANS and also served as the President of the autonomous Medical Assessment and Rating Board.



Dhirendra K Ojha

- Senior Indian Information Service (IIS) officer Dhirendra K Ojha, a 1990-batch officer, has been appointed as the Director General of the Press Information Bureau (PIB).
- He succeeds Sheyphali B Sharan, who has been appointed as the Director General of the Publications Division.
- Earlier, he served as the Director General of the Central Bureau of Communications (CBC).



Press Information Bureau (PIB):

- PIB is the nodal agency of the Government of India to disseminate information to the print and electronic media on government policies, programmes, initiatives, and achievements. It is an attached office under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India headquartered in New Delhi.

Sheel Nagu

- The President of India, in the exercise of the powers conferred by clause (1) of Article 217 of the Constitution of India, has appointed Sheel Nagu, Judge of the High Court of Madhya Pradesh as the Chief Justice of the High Court of Punjab, and Haryana with effect from the date he assumes charge of his office.
- The Punjab & Haryana High Court has been without a full-time Chief Justice since October 2023.



JUSTICE SHEEL NAGU

Other appointments:

- Justice BR Sarangi has been named the Chief Justice of Jharkhand High Court for a period of two weeks. He will retire on 20th July 2024.



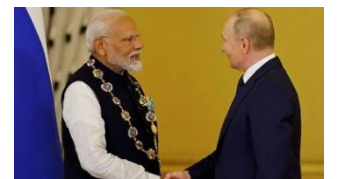
AWARDS

Golden Peacock Award

- L&T Metro Rail (Hyderabad) Ltd. (L&TMRHL) has been given the Golden Peacock Award in the Transportation (Railways) category for Excellence in Occupational Health & Safety (GPOHSA).
- The award ceremony was held at the Institute of Directors' (IOD's) 25th International Conference on Environment Management and Climate Change in Bengaluru.
- This award underscores Metro Rail's unwavering dedication to the safety of its workforce, exceeding 126 direct employees and 2,600 total personnel.
- KVB Reddy, MD & CEO, L&TMRHL, received the award.

Order of Saint Andrew the Apostle

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been awarded Russia's highest civilian honour, the Order of Saint Andrew the Apostle, for "exceptional services in promoting special & privileged strategic partnership between Russia and India and friendly relations between the Russian and Indian peoples."
- The award was announced in 2019.
- He is the first Indian leader to be conferred with this award.



Details about the Order of St. Andrew the Apostle:

- Tsar Peter the Great (1672-1725) established the Order of Saint Andrew in 1698. The order was abolished in 1918 following the Russian Revolution, which overthrew the Tsarist regime. It was re-established in 1998 by an Executive Order of the President of Russia.
- The award is given to prominent government and public figures, military leaders, and outstanding representatives of science, culture, art, and various sectors of the economy for exceptional services to Russia.
- It can also be awarded to heads of foreign states for outstanding services to the Russian Federation.
- Its name comes from Saint Andrew, who is believed to be one of the apostles or 12 original followers of Jesus.

Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur

- Roshni Nadar Malhotra, Chairperson of HCL Tech, has been awarded the "Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur" (Knight of the Legion of Honour) by France.

- The award was presented by **Thierry Mathou, Ambassador of France to India, in New Delhi.**
- The award recognizes her contributions to the business world, constant endeavor to promote economic ties between France and India, as well as her unwavering commitment to social and environmental causes.
- Her forward-thinking focus on AI and cybersecurity has kept HCL at the industry's cutting edge and promoted strong business relations between France and India.
- She took charge as the Chairperson of HCL Tech in July 2020 and became the first woman to lead a listed IT company in India.

Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur:

- It was established in 1802 by Napoleon Bonaparte. The award is given by the French Republic for outstanding service to France, regardless of the recipient's nationality.

International honour Andhra Pradesh Community Managed Natural Farming

- The **Andhra Pradesh Community Managed Natural Farming (APCNF) program, led by the Government of Andhra Pradesh, has been awarded the prestigious Gulbenkian Prize for Humanity 2024.**
- The announcement was made by Dr. Angela Merkel, chair of the Jury and former Federal Chancellor of Germany, during a ceremony in Lisbon, Portugal.
- **APCNF shares the €1 million prize with Dr. Rattan Lal, a renowned soil scientist from the USA, and SEKEM, an Egyptian network promoting biodynamic farming.**
- The Andhra Pradesh Community Managed Natural Farming (APCNF), a state-wide program of the Government of Andhra Pradesh, has been recognized for its significant contributions to global food security, climate resilience, and ecosystem protection.
- This initiative specifically supports smallholder farmers, with a focus on empowering predominantly women farmers.

Recent Awards

- CSR Leadership Award 2024 – Parijat Industries India Pvt. Ltd
- Best Agriculture State Award for 2024 – Maharashtra
- France Highest Civilian Award “Chevalier de la Légion d’Honneur” – Roshini Nadar
- C. Narayana Reddy National Literary Award– Tamil writer Sivashankari
- First K. Saraswathi Amma Award – P Geetha
- Atal Pension Yojana Annual Award for FY24 by PFRDA – Bank of India



IMPORTANT DAYS

Hul Kranti Diwas

- It is observed on 30th June across the Jharkhand state to remember the sacrifice of tribal leaders Sidhu-Kanhu, Chand-Bhairav, and Phoolo-Jhano.
- The event was organized at Bhognadih in Sahibganj, the birthplace of martyrs Sido-Kanhu and others.
- **The day marks the independence movement of 1855 led by tribal heroes Sidho, Kanho, Chand, Bhairav, among others. More than 50,000 tribals from 400 villages of Jharkhand had revolted against British Rule. The number of casualties was more than 20,000 in this heroic episode of India's prolonged struggle for freedom.**

National Chartered Accountants Day

- It is observed annually across India on 1st July to commemorate the foundation of the **Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) on July 1, 1949.** The ICAI is the only licensing and regulatory body for the financial audit and accounting profession in the country.

International Sports Journalists Day

- Also known as World Sports Journalists Day, is observed annually on 2nd July to honor all sports journalists around the world and also brings awareness regarding sports journalism to the common public.
- **The day was first observed in 1994 when the International Sports Press Association (AIPS) decided to commemorate it in honor of its 70th anniversary.**

Goods and Services Tax (GST) day

- It is observed annually across India on 1st July.

- The day commemorates the implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) system. The year 2024 marks the celebration of the 7th anniversary of the implementation of the GST system. The day was first observed in 2018.

GST:

- Goods and Services Tax (GST) was launched on 1st July 2017.
- It is an indirect, multi-stage, consumption-based tax system. It subsumes several domestic indirect taxes like service tax, purchase tax, value-added tax, excise duty, and others under one head. **However, items including petroleum, liquor, and stamp duty have not been added to GST. Currently, there are four tax slabs under GST viz. 5 %, 12 %, 18 %, and 28 %.**

International Plastic Bag Free Day

- The day is observed annually on 3rd July to spread awareness around the need to bring in eco-friendly alternatives and curb plastic pollution. The day was first observed in 2008, when Rezero, a member of Zero Waste Europe (ZWE), initiated it.
- The year 2024 marks the 15th edition of the celebrations.

World Zoonoses Day

- It is observed annually on 6th July to raise awareness for the risk of zoonotic diseases. The day commemorates 6th July 1885, when French biologist Louis Pasteur successfully administered the first vaccine against Rabies virus, a zoonotic disease.
- Zoonoses are infectious diseases that can be spread from animals to humans, and vice versa. It can spread from direct contact with animals or indirectly, vector-borne or food-borne.

The International Day of Cooperatives

- It is an annual celebration of the cooperative movement around the world. It has been observed on the first Saturday of July ever since 1923 by the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA).
- **The International Cooperative Day 2024 is observed on the 6th of July, which is also the 3rd Foundation Day of the Ministry of Cooperation.**
- **The theme for the 102nd International Cooperative Day is- "Cooperatives Build a Better Future for All."**
- Note: The year 2025 has been declared as the International Year of Cooperatives (IYC2025) by the United Nations General Assembly.

World Population Day

- It is observed annually on 11th July to raise awareness about global population issues. The United Nations Development Programme's Governing Council established the 'World Population Day' in 1989 after the global population crossed five billion in 1987. The day was first observed in 1990.
- **Theme 2024: "Leave no one behind, count everyone"**

World Youth Skills Day

- It is observed annually on 15th July to highlight the importance of equipping young people with skills for employment and entrepreneurship. The day was first observed in 2015.
- **Theme 2024: "Youth Skills for Peace and Development"**

World Day for International Justice

- World Day for International Justice is observed every year on 17 July.
- **It is a day dedicated to promoting international criminal justice and honouring the fight against impunity for the most serious crimes that affect the international community.**
- **The origin of the World Day for International Justice dates back to July 17, 1998, when the Rome Statute was adopted, establishing the International Criminal Court (ICC).**
- The ICC is the first permanent international court capable of prosecuting individuals accused of genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, and crimes of aggression when national courts are unable or unwilling to do so.

World Emoji Day

- World Emoji Day is observed every year on 17 July.

- The main objective of World Emoji Day is to promote and celebrate the widespread use of emojis, which have become an integral part of modern communication.
- The evolution of emojis has transformed simple text-based messages into expressive exchanges.
- The journey began in the 1980s with basic text-based emoticons like “:-)” and “:-(.” In 1999, a Japanese designer created the first set of emojis for a mobile company, leading to their global adoption.



INDICES

Global Liveability Index 2024

- The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) has released the Global Liveability Index 2024. The 2024 index rates towns around the world based on things like education, healthcare, culture the environment, stability, and infrastructure.
- The EIU index ranks 173 cities across the world with the aim of showing, how comfortable these cities are to live in.

Key highlights:

- **Vienna (Austria) has topped the index for the third consecutive year with an index value of 98.4.**
- **Copenhagen (Denmark) secured the second place, and Zurich (Switzerland) secured the third place in the index.**
- Damascus (Syria) secured the bottom place (173rd) in the index.
- No Indian city is ranked on the 2024 list of top 10 liveable cities in the world.

CRISIL Ratings report

- The CRISIL Ratings in its report stated that India’s fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) sector is expected to see revenue growth of 7-9% in FY25, riding on higher volume growth, supported by an expected revival in rural demand and steady urban demand.
- **CRISIL’s study, which analysed 77 FMCG companies representing about a third of the sector’s Rs 5.6 lakh crore revenue last fiscal, reveals that premiumisation and volume growth will expand operating margins by 50-75 basis points to 20-21%.**
- The report paints an optimistic picture of rural consumer growth, projecting a 6-7% increase in fiscal 2025.

Artificial Intelligence Preparedness Index (APII) Dashboard

- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has released an Artificial Intelligence Preparedness Index (APII) Dashboard on its website. It tracked the level of AI preparedness across 174 countries.
- **The Index has categorized each country into Advanced Economy (AE), Emerging Market Economy (EM), and Low-Income Country (LIC).**
- Singapore (0.80), Denmark (0.78), and the United States (0.77) are among the highest- rated AEs,
- India is categorized as an EM with a 0.49 rating.
- India ranks 72 in a total of 174 countries, with Bangladesh (0.38) on 113, Sri Lanka (0.43) on 92, and China (0.63) on 31.

The rating for each country is given based on the assessment of readiness in four key areas:

- Digital infrastructure
- Human capital
- Legal Frameworks
- Technological innovation

Financial Stability Report (FSR)

- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has released the 29th issue of the Financial Stability Report (FSR).**
- **FSR is a half-yearly publication, with contributions from all financial sector regulators.**

Key highlights:

- As of March 2024, the **Scheduled commercial banks (SCBs) have been boosted by rising profitability and declining non-performing assets.** Return on assets (RoA) and return on equity (RoE) are close to decadal highs at 1.3 percent and 13.8 percent, respectively, while gross non-performing assets (GNPA) ratio and net non-performing assets (NNPA) ratios fell to multi-year lows of 2.8 percent and 0.6 percent, respectively.
- **SCB capital to risk-weighted assets ratio (CRAR) and the common equity tier 1 (CET1) ratio stood at 16.8 percent and 13.9 percent, respectively.**

- The CRAR of urban co-operative banks (UCBs) inched up to 17.5 percent in March 2024 while that of non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) declined marginally to 26.6 percent.
- NBFCs remain healthy, with a GNPA ratio of 4.0 percent and return on assets (RoA) at 3.3 percent, respectively, at the end of March 2024.
- The consolidated solvency ratio of the insurance sector remains above the minimum threshold limit of 150 percent.

SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) Currency Swap Framework for 2024-27

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced the SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) Currency Swap Framework for 2024-27.
- Under the framework for 2024-27, a separate INR (Indian Rupee) swap window has been introduced with various concessions for swap support in Indian Rupee.
- The total corpus of the rupee support is Rs. 250 billion.

Currency Swap Arrangement (CSA):

- It is a contract under which two counterparties agree to exchange two currencies at a set rate and then to re-exchange those currencies at an agreed-upon rate at a fixed date in the future.



MISCELLANEOUS

“Transforming Rural Landscape: Designing 5 G Intelligent Villages”

- **The Department of Telecommunications (DoT)** organized a workshop on “Transforming Rural Landscape: Designing 5 G Intelligent Villages” to integrate technology and rural development to enhance quality of life. The integration of cutting-edge innovations, like 5G, with traditional rural practices was highlighted as a pathway to foster sustainable growth and improve living standards in rural areas.
- The workshop showcased initiatives aimed at improving connectivity, digital literacy, and sustainable practices to significantly enhance the quality of life for rural communities.

Reservation for Agniveers

- **The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) and the Border Security Forces (BSF) have allocated 10% of their constable positions for Agniveers.**
- Under the new policy, CISF will reserve 10% of all future constable vacancies for ex-Agniveers, providing exemptions from certain physical tests and age relaxations. The first batch will enjoy a five-year age relaxation, with subsequent batches receiving a three-year relaxation period.

Agniveer scheme:

- The Agniveer scheme, introduced in 2022, allows selected candidates to enroll in the Indian Armed Forces for a four-year period.
- **Up to 25% of these Agniveers may be offered permanent positions based on organizational requirements and performance.**

The 3rd Meeting of the National Traders’ Welfare Board (NTWB)

- It was **held in New Delhi under the chairmanship of Sunil J. Singhi.**
- During the meeting, an Open VC link on the website of the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) was launched to enable weekly interactions with traders across the country.
- The meeting was attended by the non-official members nominated by the Central Government representing Trade Associations and States/UTs as well as the ex-officio members representing Nine Ministries/ Departments of the Government of India.

Index of Industrial Production (IIP)

- The Index of Industrial Production (IIP) in India rose 5.9 percent in May 2024 over the corresponding period of the previous year. The IIP growth rate in May 2023 was 5.7 percent.
- **This is according to the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation data released on 12th July 2024.**
- **Mining experienced a year-on-year growth of 6.6 percentage points. Manufacturing saw a growth of 4.6 percent while Electricity recorded a significant year-on-year growth of 13.7 percentage points.**
- The capital goods segment increased by 2.5 percent, consumer durables surged by 12.3 percent, non-durable consumer goods saw a 2.3 percent growth, and goods related to infrastructure and construction experienced a

growth of 6.9 percent.

- The data also showed that the output of primary goods grew by 7.3 percent.

Digital Shakti Campaign

- **The National Commission for Women (NCW) and CyberPeace Foundation launched the fifth phase of the Digital Shakti Campaign to digitally empower and upskill women and girls in cyberspace.**
- Digital Shakti was started in 2018 with the vision of introducing women to the digital era to enhance their skills.
- So far, this campaign trained 6 lakh women to be safe in the digital world. The Phase-V aims to increase that number to 10 lakh (1 million).

PARI (Public Art of India)

- The Ministry of Culture initiated Project PARI (Public Art of India) to bring forth public art that draws inspiration from millennia of artistic heritage (lok kala/loksanskriti) while incorporating modern themes and techniques.
- **This project is being executed by Lalit Kala Akademi and National Gallery of Modern Art. The first intervention under Project PARI is taking place in Delhi. It coincides with the 46th session of the World Heritage Committee scheduled to be held in New Delhi, India between 21-31 July 2024.**
- More than 150 visual artists from all over the country have come together to create the various wall paintings, murals, sculptures, and installations being prepared under this project.

Satyanarayan Goel

- Indian Energy Exchange (IEX) board has approved the proposal to reappoint Satyanarayan Goel as its Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) for a period of 3 years. His appointment is effective from 10th August 2024.
- **The board also decided to elevate Rohit Bajaj, currently serving as Executive Director (non-board) -- Business Development, Strategy, Regulatory Affairs, and IT, as the Joint Managing Director for three years.**
- The board also approved the appointment of Rajeev Gupta as the Non-Executive Independent Director of the company.

Prof. (Dr.) Soumya Swaminathan

- She has been appointed as the Principal Advisor at the Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare for the National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme on a pro bono basis.
- She will provide technical advice on the overall strategy to achieve program goals, suggest policy directions and necessary course corrections for optimal outcomes, and advise on research strategy.



1. **Mo School Abhiyaan has been renamed to:**
 - A. PanchasakhaSikshyaSetu Abhiyaan
 - B. Madhusudan SikshyaSetu Abhiyaan
 - C. Chintamani SikshyaSetu Abhiyaan
 - D. SurendrasaiSikshyaSetu Abhiyaan
2. **Make in Odisha Conclave has been renamed to**
 - A. Conclave Utkal
 - B. Utkarsha Utkal
 - C. Utpala Utkal
 - D. Utkalika Utkal
3. **Who among the following was recently elected as the Deputy Speaker of the 17th Odisha Legislative Assembly?**
 - A. Sanat Kumar Gartia
 - B. Ashwini Kumar Sarangi
 - C. Nihar Ranjan Mahananda
 - D. Bhabani Shankar Bhoi
4. **Who among the following was appointed as Advocate General of Odisha?**
 - A. Amrendra Rout
 - B. Pitambar Acharya
 - C. Sovan Ranjan Dutta
 - D. Biswajit Swain
5. **The initiative of the Odisha Government, known as BaLA, often mentioned in news is associated with which of the following sectors?**
 - A. Health
 - B. Transport
 - C. Education
 - D. Agriculture
6. **Recently who among the following was appointed as the new Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) of Odisha by the Election Commission of India (ECI)?**
 - A. R. Santhanagopalan
 - B. S. Namirthan
 - C. Prakash Balaji
 - D. M.Kartikeyan
7. **Which hill station of Odisha has been selected for a pilot project to cultivate cherry blossom to gain global recognition on the cherry blossom map?**
 - A. Dumuriput
 - B. Mahendragiri
 - C. Chandragiri
 - D. Daringbadi
8. **Kamala Pujari, a renowned personality of Odisha recently passed away. She was associated with which of the following?**
 - A. Sand Artist
 - B. Silver Filigree
 - C. Pattachitra Artist
 - D. Agriculturist
9. **Which high Court has ruled that women who become mothers through surrogacy are entitled to the same maternity leave rights as natural and adoptive mothers?**
 - A. Delhi High Court
 - B. Orissa High Court
 - C. Bombay High Court
 - D. Chandigarh High Court
10. **Who among the following was a judge at the Orissa High Court, and recently has been appointed as the Chief Justice of the Jharkhand High Court?**
 - A. Justice Bidyut Ranjan Sarangi
 - B. Justice Rakesh Ranjan Sarangi
 - C. Justice Khetawasi Panda
 - D. Justice Sudhananda Sarangi
11. **A committee led by Manash Ranjan Sahoo, has been recently formed by the Odisha Government for:**
 - A. Medical Education in Odia Language.
 - B. Addition of Tribal dialect to tribal district schools.
 - C. Increase the Minimum Support Price of Minor Forest Produce.
 - D. Metro Rail Project.
12. **Justice Biswanath Rath committee recently seen in the news is associated with which of the following?**
 - A. Tribal Education
 - B. Immunization of Children
 - C. Ratna Bhandara Issue
 - D. Development of Cultural Sites
13. **SEHER programme is associated with which of the following?**
 - A. Urban Development
 - B. Restrict Urban Expansion
 - C. Women entrepreneurs
 - D. Poverty Alleviation
14. **Badjore Dam frequently seen news is located in which district of Odisha?**
 - A. Mayurbhanj
 - B. Bolangir
 - C. Nayagarh
 - D. Ganjam
15. **Brutang Irrigation Project is associated with which of the following districts?**
 - A. Dhenkanal
 - B. Sambalpur
 - C. Jajpur

- D. Nayagarh
16. Odisha government plans to establish a pioneering melanistic tiger safari near which Tiger Reserve/Wildlife sanctuary?
- A. Satkosia Tiger Reserve
B. Similipal Tiger Reserve
C. Debrigarh Tiger Reserve
D. Kapilash Wildlife Sanctuary
17. "MeDevIS" platform often mentioned in the news is associated with which of the following organizations?
- A. WHO
B. UN Population
C. World Bank
D. IMF
18. Which of the following countries was recently included as the fifth member in the Colombo Security Conclave (CSC) ?
- A. Bangladesh
B. Nepal
C. Bhutan
D. Myanmar
19. Manjeera Wildlife Sanctuary is located in which state?
- A. Andhra Pradesh
B. Odisha
C. Telangana
D. Karnataka
20. Odisha's overall SDG score increased from which number in 2020-21 to which number in 2023-24?
- A. 30 to 42
B. 25 to 50
C. 50 to 72
D. 61 to 66
21. The Ayodhya Sarovar is an artificial lake located in which city?
- A. Bhubaneswar
B. Cuttack
C. Sambalpur
D. Raurkela
22. "Order of St Andrew the Apostle the First-Called" is the highest civilian award of which country?
- A. France
B. USA
C. Russia
D. UK
23. World Population Day is observed annually on which of the following dates?
- A. 9th June
B. 10th June
C. 11th June
D. 12th June
24. Debrigarh wildlife sanctuary is located in which district of Odisha?
- A. Ganjam
B. Kalahandi
C. Malkanagiri
D. Baragarh
25. 46th meeting of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee was held in:
- A. Kolkata
B. Mangalore
C. Varanasi
D. New Delhi
26. The Central Railway has installed a floating solar plant of 10 MWp capacity in which lake?
- A. Igatpuri Lake
B. Pookode lake
C. Kodaikanal Lake
D. Berijam Lake
27. Sangyaan App has been recently launched by:
- A. CRPF
B. ITBP
C. BSF
D. RPF
28. Who among the following recently won the 10th Leon Masters Title?
- A. Viswanathan Anand
B. Praggnanandhaa R
C. ViditGujrathi
D. Arjun Erigaisi
29. Which country becomes the first Nation to prepare full list of fauna?
- A. USA
B. Norway
C. Australia
D. India
30. The "kallakkadalphenomenon" often mentioned in the news is associated with which of the following?
- A. Avalanches.
B. Landslides.
C. Heatwave.
D. Coastal flooding.
31. International Plastic Bag Free Day 2024 is celebrated on which date?
- A. 1st July
B. 2nd July
C. 3rd July
D. 4th July

32. **Ratapani Wildlife Sanctuary is located in which state?**
- Odisha
 - Madhya Pradesh
 - Chhattisgarh
 - Bihar
33. **Which of the following states recently decided to establish a Rs 2000 crore bioplastic park?**
- Uttar Pradesh
 - Madhya Pradesh
 - Maharashtra
 - Gujarat
34. **Gandhi Sarovar lake is located in which state?**
- Uttar Pradesh
 - Himachal Pradesh
 - Uttarakhand
 - Bihar
35. **MSME Sahaj, a 15-Minute Online Loan Solution, has been launched by:**
- RBI
 - SBI
 - NABARD
 - HDFC
36. **Statistics Day is observed on which date?**
- 29th June
 - 30th June
 - 1st July
 - 2nd July
37. **Which country recently took over the Presidency of the European Council?**
- France
 - Georgia
 - Hungary
 - Poland
38. **Exercise Maitree 2024 is a military exercise between India and which country?**
- Thailand
 - Indonesia
 - Myanmar
 - Sri Lanka
39. **SopnaKallingal was recently honored with the prestigious Spice Award 2024. Which of the following Organization gave this award?**
- Indian Space Research Organization.
 - The Ministry of Science and Technology.
 - Indian Institute of Spices Research.
 - Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology.
40. **Bhetnoi landscape often mentioned in the news is located in which of the following districts of Odisha?**
- Ganjam
 - Khordha
 - Koraput
 - Nayagarh
41. **World Zoonoses Day is observed annually on:**
- 6th July
 - 7th July
 - 8th July
 - 9th July
42. **Which of the following countries becomes the 10th Member to join SCO?**
- Tajikistan
 - Turkmenistan
 - Belarus
 - Afghanistan
43. **The famous active volcano 'Mount Etna' is located in which country?**
- Peru
 - Japan
 - Italy
 - Turkey
44. **The International Olympic Committee headquarters is located at**
- Lausanne, Switzerland
 - Vienna, Austria
 - Ottawa, Canada
 - Paris, France
45. **The Indian government has released the first tranche of USD 2.5 million for refugees in which of the following countries?**
- Palestine
 - Syria
 - SR Congo
 - Somalia
46. **Which of the following countries is the largest producer of Solar Energy?**
- USA
 - India
 - Australia
 - China
47. **Which state are Patkai Hill Ranges located in?**
- Meghalaya
 - Mizoram
 - Assam
 - Manipur
48. **Axiom-4 mission often mentioned in the news is associated with which of the following space agencies?**
- NASA
 - JAXA
 - ESA

D. ROSCOSMOS

49. Koderma and Giridih districts of Jharkhand are famous for which of the following minerals?

- A. Gold
- B. Mica
- C. Bauxite
- D. Thorium

50. Digital Economy Report 2024 was recently released by:

- A. WTO
- B. WEF
- C. IMF
- D. UN Trade and Development.

ANSWERS

1. Answer A

2. Answer B

3. Answer D

4. Answer B

Senior advocate Pitambar Acharya (59) assumed office as new advocate general (AG).

Government advocate Jyoti Prakash Pattnaik was officiating as in-charge AG on orders of law department.

5. Answer C

The initiative, known as Building as Learning Aid (BaLA), transforms classroom walls into educational tools. The ST and SC Development department has partnered with the organization Shiksharth to introduce BaLA.

6. Answer A

R Santhanagopalan, a 2001-batch IAS Officer.

7. Answer D

Odisha's Daringbadi, renowned as the "Kashmir of Odisha," is set to gain global recognition on the cherry blossom map, announced Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi. The hill station's climate in Kandhamal district is ideal for cherry blossom cultivation, attracting numerous winter visitors. To kickstart this initiative, the state government has acquired 1,000 cherry blossom plants for an initial planting phase.

8. Answer D

Noted agriculturist Kamala Pujari, renowned for her pioneering work in organic farming and preservation of rare paddy seeds, passed away on July 20, 2024, in Cuttack, Odisha.

9. Answer B

In a landmark decision, the Orissa High Court has ruled that women who become mothers through surrogacy are entitled to the same maternity leave rights as natural and adoptive mothers.

10. Answer A

Dr. Justice Bidyut Ranjan Sarangi, a judge at the Orissa High Court, has been appointed as the Chief Justice of the Jharkhand High Court by the President of India.

11. Answer A

The Odisha government has established a 22-member committee tasked with advancing medical education in Odia within the state. The committee's primary objective is to evaluate the feasibility of translating essential MBBS course materials into Odia.

12. Answer C

Ratna Bhandar, the sacred treasury of Shree Jagannath Temple, Puri reopened after 46 years. Odisha government established high level committee led by retired Justice Biswanath Rath to supervise inventorisation of valuables including jewellery stored in Ratna Bhandar.

13. Answer C

NITI Aayog's Women Entrepreneurship Platform and Credit Bureau have collaborated to launch the SEHER programme. A comprehensive credit education skills program aimed at enhancing financial literacy and business skills among women entrepreneurs.

14. Answer A

It is situated on Badjore nalla.

15. Answer D

The proposed irrigation project over river Brutang in Odisha's Nayagarh district has been issued final forest approval from the Centre. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has extended its approval to the use of forest area for non-forest purposes to execute the project.

16. Answer B

The Odisha government plans to establish a pioneering melanistic tiger safari near the Similipal Tiger Reserve in Baripada, a first-of-its-kind initiative globally.

17. Answer A

The MeDevIS platform is recently launched by the World Health Organization (WHO). First global open access clearing house for information on medical devices.

18. Answer A

Recently, CSC officially included Bangladesh as its fifth member. Aim: To make maritime security, marine pollution response and maritime search & rescue priorities for the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).

19. Answer C

The Manjeera Wildlife Sanctuary in Telangana is being studied to potentially become the state's first Ramsar site.

Location: Medak district, Telangana.

Original Purpose: Established as a crocodile sanctuary.

20. Answer D

Odisha's overall SDG score increased from 61 in 2020-21 to 66 in 2023-24, transitioning from a performer to a front-runner.

21. Answer C

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan has urged Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi to revitalize the Ayodhya Sarovar under a riverfront development project.

22. Answer C

Prime Minister Narendra Modi ceremoniously presented with the Order of St Andrew the Apostle the First-Called, which was bestowed on him in the year 2019 at St Catherine's Hall of the Moscow Kremlin. Russia's highest civilian honor.

23. Answer C

World Population Day, also known as International Population Day is a global observance celebrated annually on July 11 to raise awareness about the complexities of global population issues. This day commemorates the "Day of Five Billion" (July 11, 1987), when the world's population reached five billion people.

24. Answer D

The Debrigarh wildlife sanctuary is located in the Bargarh district in the Indian state of Odisha, covering a total area of 346.91 km². It is situated near the city of Sambalpur's Hirakud Dam.

25. Answer D

46th meeting of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee was held in New Delhi at the Bharat Mandapam. This important meeting took place from July 21st to July 31st.

26. Answer A

The Central Railway has installed a floating solar plant of 10 MWp capacity in the Igatpuri lake located in the Western Ghats, a first-of-its-kind initiative by the Indian Railways.

27. Answer D

DG RPF Manoj Yadava launched the Sangyaan App to provide RPF personnel with comprehensive information on new and old criminal laws.

28. Answer A

Anand beat Jaime Santos Latasa 3-1 in the finals to win his 10th title at the Leon Masters in Spain. Anand has been a world chess winner five times.

29. Answer D

The Fauna of India Checklist Portal is the first comprehensive document on the faunal species reported from India.

30. Answer D

Weather agencies have sent an alert in coastal areas of Kerala and Tamil Nadu about the possibility of the 'Kallakkadal' phenomenon. It is essentially coastal flooding usually in pre-monsoon (April May) or post - monsoon season by swell waves on the southwest coast of India.

31. Answer C

International Plastic Bag Free Day is celebrated on July 3 every year. This special day aims to raise awareness about the harmful effects of plastic bags on our environment.

32. Answer B

The Madhya Pradesh State Wildlife Board has approved the declaration of Ratapani Wildlife Sanctuary, located on the outskirts of Bhopal, as the eighth tiger reserve in the state.

33. Answer A

Uttar Pradesh's government has made it official that a bioplastic park will be built in the Lakhimpur Kheri area.

34. Answer C

A massive avalanche hit the Gandhi Sarovar also known as Chorabari Tal located near Kedarnath Temple in Uttarakhand.

35. Answer B

State Bank of India introduces MSME Sahaj enabling MSMEs to secure up to ₹1 lakh against GST invoices within 15 minutes leveraging automated processing and data-driven credit assessments through Yono.

36. Answer A

On 'Statistics Day (June 29)', MoSPI launched eSankhyiki portal to establish comprehensive data management and facilitate ease of dissemination of official statistics in the country.

37. Answer C

Hungary has begun its six-month presidency of the EU Council, focusing on enhancing EU competitiveness, strengthening defense

policy, managing migration, reforming agricultural policy, and addressing.

38. Answer A

The exercise began in 2006 as the Thai-Indian Cooperation Field Exercise (TICAFE). In 2013, it was changed its name to Maitree, which means "friendship" in Hindi. India and Thailand take turns hosting the event every year. The goal is to improve military ties by sharing training operations.

39. Answer A

SopnaKallingal, an agriculturist from Kallingal Plantation in Thrissur, was recently honored with the prestigious Spice Award 2024. The ICAR-Indian Institute of Spices Research gave her this award to recognize her outstanding work in business diversification and integrated crop management.

40. Answer A

The Bhetnoi landscape in Ganjam is currently the sole habitat for blackbucks in Odisha, with a population of 7,743 as of 2023.

41. Answer A

World Zoonoses Day is an important annual observance that aims to raise awareness about zoonotic diseases - infections that can spread from animals to humans.

42. Answer C

43. Answer C

Mount Etna is an active stratovolcano on the east coast of Sicily, Italy in the Metropolitan City of Catania between the cities of Messina and Catania.

44. Answer A

Lausanne is a city on Lake Geneva, in the French-speaking region of Vaud, Switzerland. It's home to the International Olympic Committee headquarters, as well as the Olympic Museum and lakeshore Olympic Park.

45. Answer A

The Indian government has released the first tranche of USD 2.5 million to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).

46. Answer D

China leads the world in solar energy production with an impressive capacity of 250 gigawatts.

47. Answer C

Foothills of the Patkai Ranges are located in eastern Assam.

48. Answer A

ISRO has selected 2 Gaganyaan Astronauts for International Space Station Mission under Axiom-4. The Axiom-4 mission, which will take the Indian astronauts to the ISS, is the fourth private astronaut mission of NASA and a private US company Axiom Space.

49. Answer B

The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) declared the mica mines of Jharkhand 'child labour-free' at an event in Koderma, Jharkhand, on 5 July 2024.

50. Answer D

Digital Economy Report 2024 Released by UN Trade and Development. Report highlights urgent need for sustainable strategies throughout life cycle of digitalization for environmentally sustainable and inclusive digital future.