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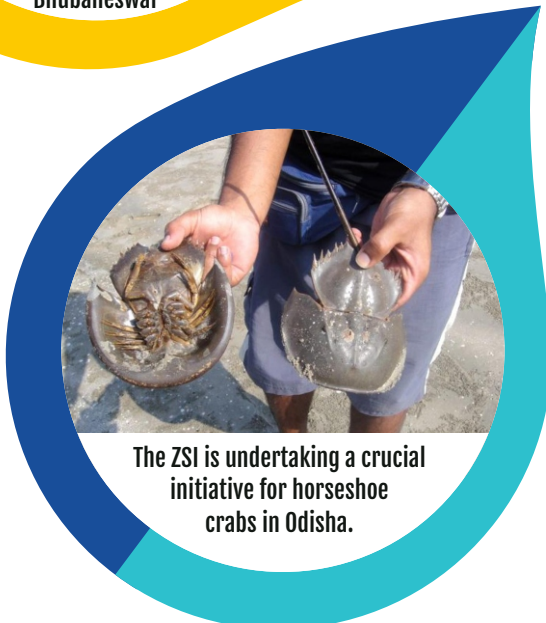
Odisha govt. declared a 10% reservation for Agniveers



India's First Rice ATM at Bhubaneswar



The PESA Act to be implemented in Odisha, Rural Development Minister said



The ZSI is undertaking a crucial initiative for horseshoe crabs in Odisha.



The Odisha govt. plans to establish over 100 new Cooperative Societies

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COMPREHENSIVE COVERAGE OF CURRENT AFFAIRS FOR ODISHA STATE CIVIL SERVICES EXAMS



CONTENT

ODISHA CURRENT AFFAIRS

4-13

OPSC CURRENT AFFAIRS

14-42

National	15
International	18
Economics	20
Defense & Security	21
Science & Technology	22
Sports	23
Person in News	25
Awards	29
Important Days	30
Booster Dose	33

OPSC MCQ

43-49



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Odisha Current Affairs

Odisha plans to bring 12 tigers to Satkosia with National Tiger Conservation Authority approval

- Four years after suspending the country's first big cat relocation project in Satkosia Tiger Reserve, the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) has finally given approval to the state government to resume the programme.
- Earlier, a pair of tigers - Sundari and Mahavir - was brought to Satkosia from Kanha National Park in Madhya Pradesh in 2018.
- However the project was suspended by NTCA in 2019 as Mahavir died and Sundari was sent back to Kanha after spending 28 months in the reserve's Raigoda enclosure.

The state government aims to achieve 100% saturation under the Jal Jeevan Mission by providing tap water connections to all households by the end of the current fiscal year.

- As of now, 207 Jal Jeevan projects are underway with an estimated cost of ₹35,193 crore. Out of these, 71 projects are nearing completion.
- Of the 88.68 lakh households in the state, 65.7 lakh have been provided with piped water, which equates to approximately 74%. However, less than half of these connected households are receiving a steady water supply.
- The Jal Jeevan Mission was launched on 15th August 2019 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- The Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) is an initiative by the Government of India aimed at providing safe and adequate drinking water through individual household tap connections by 2024 to all households in rural India.

Targets:

- Achieve 100% coverage of rural households with functional household tap connections (FHTCs) by 2024.
- Ensure that all households have access to safe and adequate drinking water that meets prescribed quality standards.
- Promote sustainable water management practices to ensure long-term water availability.

Bhitarkanika National Park reopened to tourists on August 1, following a three-month closure.

- The park was closed from May 1 to July 31. This closure was due to the mating and nesting season of saltwater crocodiles, which typically makes them more aggressive.
- During this time, around 114 saltwater crocodiles laid eggs in the park.

About the NP

- Bhitarkanika National Park is located in the Kendrapara district.
- Bhitarkanika is home to the second-largest

mangrove ecosystem in India, after the Sundarbans.

- The park is intersected by a network of rivers and estuaries, including the Brahmani, Baitarani, Dhamra, and Pathsala rivers.
- It hosts a diverse range of species, including saltwater crocodiles, Indian pythons, king cobras, black ibises, and many migratory birds.
- Bhitarkanika was officially designated as a national park on 16th September 1998.
- It was designated as a Ramsar site on 19th August 2002, highlighting its importance as a wetland of international significance.
- The park is a designated crocodile conservation area and is home to one of the largest populations of saltwater crocodiles in India.
- Efforts are made to protect and sustain the mangrove forests, which are crucial for the ecosystem

RBI holds financial literacy drive in Puri

- Around 140 participants from various target groups such as students, SHG women, farmers, entrepreneurs and senior citizens attended the programme.
- Officials from RBI took sessions covering various topics such as financial planning, savings and responsible borrowing, investment, insurance, social security schemes, pension, Vidya Lakshmi portal for education loans among others.

Bargarh Lok Sabha MP Pradeep Purohit has called for a comprehensive survey of medicinal plants on the Gandhamardan Hill range in Odisha.

About the mountain

- **Location:** Between Balangir and Bargarh districts, Odisha, India
- **Elevation:** Approximately 3,250 feet (990 meters)
- Known for its rich diversity of medicinal plants, with over 220 species identified by the **Botanical Survey of India**.
- **AYUSH Minister Jadhav Prataprao Ganpatrao confirmed a 2009 survey identified 912 types of herbs, including 344 medicinal plants.** Local claims suggest there are more than 500 species.
- **Declared as a Biodiversity Heritage Site 'Ayurvedic Paradise' by the Odisha government in 2023. The area covers 18,963.898 hectares, including the Gandhamardan Reserve Forest.**
- **Mythological Significance:** Believed to be the hill carried by Lord Hanuman from the Himalayas to save Lakshman's life during the Ramayana. Home to the Nrusinghanath Temple on the northern slope and the Harishankar Temple on the southern slope, both significant pilgrimage sites.

- **Biodiversity:** Includes 1,055 plant species, such as angiosperms, pteridophytes, bryophytes, lichens, and gymnosperms. Hosts 500 species of animals, including mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, butterflies, dragonflies, damselflies, and spiders.

The Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) has taken up a study to examine the extent of chromium concentration in the groundwater in Sukinda mining area.

- The study will be completed by 2025.
- The NGT's East Zone bench on Friday heard the case suo motu registered by it on a complaint letter submitted by a resident of Jajpur Sadar, alleging alarming level of water pollution and deaths due to kidney-related ailments in Kaliapani area under Sukinda tehsil.

The Odisha government declared a 10% reservation and a five-year age relaxation for Agniveers in the state's uniformed services.

- The Agnipath Scheme is a recruitment initiative launched by the Indian government on June 14, 2022, aimed at enlisting personnel into the Indian Armed Forces for a short tenure.
- Agniveers are recruited for a period of four years, which includes six months of training followed by 3.5 years of active service.
- After four years, up to 25% of Agniveers may be selected for permanent roles in the armed forces, extending their service for an additional 15 years.
- Upon completion of service, Agniveers receive a one-time Seva Nidhi package of approximately ₹11.71 lakh, which includes their contributions and interest.
- They are provided with a ₹48 lakh life insurance cover during their service.
- In case of death on duty, the family receives a total of over ₹1 crore, including the Seva Nidhi and unserved salary.
- Unlike traditional recruitment, Agniveers will not receive a regular pension after their four-year tenure, except for those selected for permanent commission.
- **Objective:** The scheme aims to modernize the armed forces, reduce the average age of personnel, and decrease government pension liabilities. Agniveers will be offered skill certificates and training to facilitate their transition into civilian life after service.

The Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana (BSKY) has been rebranded as Gopabandhu Jan Arogya Yojana (GJAY).

- This rebranding was included in the 2024-25 budget, presented by Chief Minister Mohan

Charan Majhi.

- The issuance of GJAY cards will begin after the budget appropriation bill is passed in September.
- **Financial Support:** The government has allocated Rs 5,450 crore for GJAY, which will replace the BSKY scheme launched by the previous BJD government.

Odisha has witnessed a significant 16% growth in GST collection for the month of July.

- The state's revenue from GST has reached Rs 4,925.02 crore, surpassing the previous year's collection by a considerable margin.
- This positive trend indicates a robust economic activity within the state and contributes to Odisha's overall financial health.
- The consistent growth in GST revenue is a promising sign for the state's economy.

About GST:

- GST stands for Goods and Services Tax.
- It is a comprehensive, multi-stage, destination-based tax levied on the supply of goods and services.

Constitutional Provisions:

- **122nd Amendment:** This amendment introduced Articles 246A, 269A, and 279A to the Constitution.
- **Article 246A:** Grants concurrent powers to the Centre and states to make laws on GST.
- **Article 269A:** Defines the levy and collection of Integrated GST (IGST) on inter-state supply of goods and services.
- **Article 279A:** Establishes the GST Council, a body consisting of representatives from the Centre and states, to make recommendations on GST-related matters.

Rural Development Minister Rabi Narayan Naik informed that The Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, or PESA, is set to be implemented in Odisha soon.

- **PESA stands for Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996.**
- It was enacted to extend the provisions of **Part IX** of the Constitution (related to Panchayats) to the Scheduled Areas, ensuring a degree of self-governance for Panchayats and Gram Sabhas
- It's a law designed to empower tribal communities living in Scheduled Areas of India by granting them greater self-governance.
- The PESA Act is applicable to 10 Indian states with significant Scheduled Areas: Gujarat, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Mizoram, Tripura

Odisha Govt. urges Centre to raise wheat quota to 20 per cent under public distribution system.

- The Centre reduced the wheat quota of the state in 2016 following a request from the then government to provide more rice to Odisha as it is a rice consuming state.
- Of the 21 lakh tonne foodgrains allocated to the state for PDS sale back then, the state was getting rice and wheat in the ratio of 79:21.
- The state government asked for more rice in the ratio of 85:15.
- As the state was a major rice producing state with availability of surplus rice, the Centre acceded to the government's proposal as a special case

The Odisha government plans to establish over 100 new cooperative societies in Ganjam district.

- This initiative aims to strengthen the cooperative sector in the region.
- The focus is on agriculture and dairy, with plans to set up new primary agriculture cooperative societies (PACS) and primary milk cooperative societies.
- Additionally, existing PACS will be upgraded to offer a wider range of services.
- This move is expected to benefit farmers and dairy producers in the district by providing better access to credit, inputs, and markets

Cooperative Societies:

- The Indian Constitution, through the 97th Amendment Act of 2011, accorded constitutional status to cooperative societies.

Odisha has effectively utilized around 95% of the central funds allocated under the Smart Cities Mission, according to the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.

- Data revealed that the total cost of 107 projects sanctioned for Bhubaneswar and Rourkela was about Rs 3,589 crore.
- Of these, 104 projects have already been completed at an investment of Rs 3,426.64 crore.
- The Smart Cities Mission was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on June 25, 2015.
- This visionary project aims to revolutionize urban living in India by focusing on three key areas:
 - ✓ Providing core infrastructure
 - ✓ Creating a clean and sustainable environment
 - ✓ Ensuring a decent quality of life for citizens
- The Government of India announced a significant extension to one of its flagship urban development initiatives.
- The Smart Cities Mission, originally set to conclude on June 30, 2024, will now continue until March 31, 2025.

- Uttar Pradesh leads with 13 smart cities, followed closely by Tamil Nadu with 12, and Maharashtra with 10.
- Odisha has two cities: Bhubaneswar, Raurkela

The Opposition has strongly criticized the government for overlooking the demand to waive the Goods and Services Tax (GST) on Kendu Leaf.

- The imposition of an 18% Goods and Services Tax (GST) on this product has raised significant concerns and led to demands for its waiver.

Kendu Leaf:

- **Kendu leaf**, also known as **tendu leaf**, is a crucial non-wood forest product primarily used for wrapping bidis (local cigarettes).
- It's often referred to as the "green gold" of Odisha, where it's a major source of livelihood for tribal communities.
- Its unique aroma, hygroscopic nature, thinness, pliability, slow burning, and resistance to fungus make it ideal for bidi making.
- India is the primary producer, with Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, and Odisha being the top states

The highest number of children who lost a single parent to the Covid-19 pandemic in the country are from Odisha.

- This was followed by Maharashtra which accounted for 27,302 such children and Uttar Pradesh with 19,437 kids.
- As per the Baal Swaraj portal data, 1,82,671 children lost a single parent due to Covid in the country.

Baal Swaraj portal data:

- National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) for tracking and monitoring children in need of care and protection.
- Tracks children who have lost one or both parents due to COVID-19 or other reasons after March 2020.
- **Children in Street Situations (CISS):** Monitors the rescue and rehabilitation process of children living on the streets.

The Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) is undertaking a crucial initiative to study and conserve horseshoe crabs in Odisha.

- To understand the migratory patterns of these ancient creatures, ZSI is attaching metallic flipper tags to horseshoe crabs. This innovative method will help researchers monitor their movement across vast oceanic distances.
- The study aims to gather valuable data on horseshoe crab populations, their habitats, and

threats they face. This information will be instrumental in developing effective conservation strategies.

- **Odisha's Significance:** Odisha's coastline, particularly areas like **Balaramgari, Chandipur, and Hukitola**, is known for its significant horseshoe crab population.

Horseshoe Crabs:

- Horseshoe crabs are often referred to as "living fossils" due to their ancient lineage.
- They belong to the class **Merostomata** and have existed for over **450 million years, predating dinosaurs.**
- **IUCN Status: Vulnerable**

Zoological Survey of India

- The Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) is India's premier organization dedicated to studying and documenting the country's diverse animal life. **Established in 1916**, it has played a crucial role in exploring, researching, and conserving India's fauna.

The Juang tribals of Odisha's Jajpur district have become the fifth Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG) in the country to receive habitat rights under the Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006.

- This landmark decision grants the Juangs legal recognition and access to their ancestral land and resources, ensuring the protection and conservation of their natural and cultural heritage.

List of PVTG's to receive habitat rights under the Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006.

- Bharia Tribe (MP): 1st PVTG to get habitat right.
- Kamar Tribe (Chhattisgarh)
- Baiga Tribe (Chhattisgarh)
- PaudiBhuyan (Odisha)
- Juang Tribe (Odisha)

Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)

- PVTGs are a sub-group of Scheduled Tribes in India, identified as being even more vulnerable and marginalized.

Characterized by:

- **Small population:** Often numbering in the thousands or even hundreds.
- **Geographical isolation:** Living in remote, inaccessible areas.
- **Primitive technology:** Relying on traditional, often unsustainable means of subsistence.
- **Lack of written language:** Oral traditions are predominant.
- **Slow rate of change:** Resistant to adopting modern practices and lifestyles

Benefits of Habitat Rights under Forest Act 2006

- The Forest Rights Act (FRA) of 2006 provides significant benefits to forest-dwelling communities

by recognizing their habitat rights. Some key advantages include:

- It grants legal recognition to the traditional homes and lands of forest dwellers, providing a sense of security and ownership.
- By securing their habitat, it protects and promotes traditional livelihoods that depend on forest resources.
- It encourages sustainable forest management by empowering local communities to protect and conserve their natural environment.
- It addresses historical injustices by recognizing the rights of marginalized forest-dwelling communities.
- It provides a platform for these communities to participate in decision-making processes related to forest management.

Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006

- The Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006 is a landmark legislation in India that aims to recognize and protect the rights of forest-dwelling tribal and other traditional forest dwellers.
- It seeks to correct historical injustices inflicted on these communities due to colonial-era forest laws.
- Forest dwellers have the right to own and cultivate land up to a **maximum of 4 hectares.**
- Communities have rights over common forest resources like water bodies, grazing grounds, and non-timber forest products.
- The Gram Sabha (village assembly) plays a crucial role in identifying beneficiaries and verifying claims.
- Local communities are involved in forest management and conservation.

Odisha sees 11% increase in organ transplantation.

- Organ transplantation in Odisha has witnessed around 11 per cent jump in one year owing to increased awareness on organ donations and improved medical facilities.
- Cadaveric organ transplantation has gone up by 50 per cent during the period.
- As per the latest data released by National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (NOTTO), as many as 197 organs were transplanted in the state in 2023 as compared to 178 in 2022.
- The state so far conducted 1,540 organ transplants of which 29 were retrieved from deceased donors. Odisha is among a few states that saw the rise in cadaveric organ transplantation over the years.
- While four cadaveric transplants were conducted in 2022, it was six in 2023 and around 10 so far this year.
- Of the 197 organs transplanted last year, all were kidneys and six among those were retrieved from

the deceased donors.

- While a private hospital conducted the first live liver transplantation in the state in 2020, two liver transplants have been carried out in 2024.
- Renal transplantation was first started in SCB Medical College and Hospital at Cuttack in 2012.

NITI Aayog has pledged its support to the state of Odisha in crafting two comprehensive vision documents.

- These documents will outline Odisha's developmental trajectory towards becoming a Viksit Odisha (Developed Odisha) by the year 2036 and a leading economic powerhouse in India by 2047.
- Odisha aims to achieve a \$500 billion economy by 2036 and a \$1.5 trillion economy by 2047.
- **NITI Aayog's role:** Providing expert guidance and support in developing the vision documents. A steering committee will be established to finalize the roadmap within three months.
- The vision documents will likely encompass various sectors such as agriculture, industry, infrastructure, education, and healthcare.

Archaeologists are pushing for the inclusion of Odisha's Buddhist sites, particularly Lalitgiri, Langudi, Udayagiri, and Ratnagiri, in the UNESCO World Heritage List.

- The decision was taken after the 46th session of the World Heritage Committee of UNESCO which concluded in New Delhi recently.
- These sites, dating back to the **3rd century BC**, are believed to meet the criteria for this **prestigious recognition due to their historical, archaeological, and social significance.**
- Securing the World Heritage status would not only preserve these invaluable sites but also elevate Odisha's cultural standing on the global stage.
- The proposal comes after the successful bid for **Konark Sun Temple as India's sole World Heritage site.**

Bhubaneswar has become a pioneer in food distribution technology with the inauguration of India's first rice ATM.

- This innovative machine aims to streamline the Public Distribution System (PDS) and ensure beneficiaries receive the correct amount of rice.
- Ration card holders can withdraw up to 25 kg of rice by entering their card number and undergoing biometric authentication.
- The ATM is expected to reduce delays, prevent theft, and ensure accurate weight distribution.
- If successful, the rice ATM model may be

replicated across Odisha and other states under the One Nation One Ration Card scheme.

Puri district in Odisha has been selected as one of the five locations in India to pilot a state-of-the-art Advanced Emergency Care System (EMS).

- The project is initiated by the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**
- It aims to significantly reduce preventable and treatable mortality rates in the country.

Emergency Care System (EMS):

- India-EMS is a pilot project initiated by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) in collaboration with national health institutes to establish a state-of-the-art Advanced Emergency Care System (EMS).
- The primary goal of the project is to significantly reduce preventable and treatable mortality rates in India by providing timely and effective emergency care.
- The seven key health emergencies that will be dealt under EMS is – heart attack, brain stroke, trauma, snake bite, poisoning, neonatal and maternal complications.

The project is being piloted in five districts across India:

- Puri (Odisha)
- Ludhiana (Punjab)
- Vidisha (Madhya Pradesh)
- Vadodara (Gujarat)
- Puducherry.

In a move aimed at boosting the state's biodiesel production, the Odisha government has announced that it will exempt import fee and excise duty on methanol.

- The exemption is expected to significantly **reduce the cost of methanol**, a key ingredient in biodiesel production, **making it more attractive for investors and manufacturers.**

Methanol:

- Methanol, also known as wood alcohol, is the simplest alcohol.
- It is a colorless, volatile, and flammable liquid with a distinctive odor.
- Methanol is primarily produced synthetically from carbon monoxide and hydrogen gas.
- Methanol is a clean-burning fuel that can be used in internal combustion engines and fuel cells. It produces fewer greenhouse gasses than gasoline or diesel.

The Government of Odisha has launched a digital crop survey initiative called "e-Chasa."

- This initiative aims to modernize the traditional

- crop survey process by utilizing technology.
- Through e-Chasa, farmers will be able to record their crop data digitally, including details such as crop type, area under cultivation, and estimated yield.
- This data will be collected using smartphones or tablets, making the process more efficient and accurate.
- The collected data will be used by the government to assess crop production, monitor agricultural trends, and provide better support to farmers.
- Odisha is the first state to adopt digital survey policy in the field of agriculture and around 48 lakh farmers will benefit due to the app and portal.

The Odisha government has invoked the Essential Services Maintenance Act (ESMA) to prohibit strikes by nurses and paramedics in the state.

- This move comes in response to the ongoing protests and demands for higher salaries, better working conditions, and job security by healthcare workers.
- ESMA is a law in India that provides for the maintenance of essential services and prohibits strikes and lockouts in certain industries.
- The act was enacted in 1969 and aims to ensure the continued supply of essential goods and services to the public.
- The act defines essential services as those that are necessary for the life, safety, or health of the community.
- This includes services such as electricity, water, transportation, and healthcare.
- The act prohibits strikes and lockouts in industries that provide essential services.

Powers of the government:

- The government has the power to declare certain industries as essential services and to prohibit strikes and lockouts in these industries.
- The government can also take over the management of essential services if it deems it necessary.
- The act provides for penalties for violations of its provisions.
- These penalties can include fines and imprisonment.

Skill Development and Technical Education (SDTE) Minister Sampad Chandra Swain inaugurated a series of skill development initiatives for students under the NUA Odisha Scheme.

- The department has partnered with IIT-Delhi to launch an upskilling programme focused on future technologies.

- Under the programme, training and certification will be provided by IIT-Delhi to 4,000 youths in areas including blockchain development, augmented reality, virtual reality, artificial intelligence (AI), and the Internet of Things (IoT).
- The programme will be launched in Kalahandi, Bhawanipatna and Cuttack, with focus on project-based learning approach.
- Till date, 1,670 candidates from over 130 institutions have registered for the cutting-edge courses.
- Besides, SDTE is collaborating with Air India SATS Airport Services Private Limited, GMR and Bird group to offer certification in aviation to students under Nua Odisha.

NUA Odisha scheme:

- The NutanaUnnata Abhilasha (NUA) Odisha scheme is a comprehensive initiative launched by the Odisha government to empower its youth with continuous skilling, re-skilling, and up-skilling opportunities.
- With a focus on enhancing their employability and competitiveness in the job market, the scheme offers a wide range of training programs in various sectors.

IIT Bhubaneswar researchers have developed a solar-powered microwave pyrolysis reactor capable of converting waste materials into valuable resources like biochar and bio-oil.

- This innovative technology offers a sustainable solution to waste management by extracting valuable products from both segregated and mixed waste, including biomass and plastics.
- The reactor's microwave-assisted pyrolysis technique ensures rapid conversion, making it an efficient and environmentally friendly method.

The LAccMI Bus Scheme in Odisha has been experiencing significant financial losses, according to the state's transport minister.

- This scheme, aimed at providing affordable transportation to rural areas, has faced challenges in generating sufficient revenue to offset its operational costs.
- LAccMI (Location Accessible Multi-modal Initiative) is a comprehensive bus transportation scheme launched by the Odisha government.
- The primary objective of this scheme is to enhance connectivity between rural areas and urban centers within the state.

Odia space scientist Dr. Digendranath Swain was conferred Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar: Vigyan Yuva- Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar for the year 2024 in Space Science

and Technology.

- President Droupadi Murmu presented him the coveted award which comprises a Medallion and Sanad at Rastrapati Bhavan.
- In the first edition of the Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar, 33 awards were presented to distinguished scientists in four categories – Vigyan Ratna, Vigyan Shri, Vigyan Yuva, and Vigyan Team.
- Swain was awarded in Vigyan Yuva category i.e Vigyan Yuva- Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar.
- The Vigyan Yuva Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Award is a prestigious scientific honor in India, named after the distinguished Indian scientist Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar.

Gajapati district in Odisha is the only district identified as landslide-prone.

- According to the Revenue & Disaster Management Minister, Suresh Pujari, 129 such areas have been pinpointed.
- To mitigate landslide risks, the state is collaborating with various departments, the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD), and Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, Kerala.
- A survey is underway in Gajapati district under a partnership between the Odisha State Disaster Management Authority (OSDMA) and Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham.
- Additionally, the State Emergency Operation Center (SEOC) plays a crucial role in disaster management and providing early weather forecasts.

The Geological Survey of India (GSI) has discovered a significant gold deposit in the Deogarh district of Odisha.

- The Odisha Mines Minister made the revelation during the Question Hour period of the second phase of the Budget session of the Odisha Assembly
- The exact location and size of the deposit have not been disclosed yet, but the finding is expected to boost the state's mining industry and attract investments.

The Odisha government has announced the Subhadra Yojana to provide financial assistance to one crore women in the state.

- It will include around 79.14 lakh women from 65.25 lakh families.
- Under this scheme, each eligible woman will receive Rs 10,000 in two installments during the financial year 2024-25.
- The scheme aims to empower women and improve their economic condition.

Eligibility:

- As per the draft beneficiary list prepared by the Women and Child Development (W&CD) department, 79,14,491 women, who have ration cards and none of their family members is a government employee or have four-wheeler or land more than five acres, or a government pensioner or receiving Rs 1000 a month (Rs 12,000 a year) under any other scheme, are eligible for the scheme
- Women aged between 21 and 60 years are eligible to benefit from this scheme.
- Beneficiaries receive Rs 10,000 annually for five years. This amount is disbursed in two installments: Rs 5,000 on Rakhi Purnima and Rs 5,000 on International Women's Day.
- The financial assistance is transferred directly to the beneficiaries' bank accounts through DBT.
- There are specific eligibility criteria, such as income limits and exclusion of certain categories of women, to ensure that the benefits reach the most deserving individuals

The Machkund Hydroelectric Project (MHEP), located in the Eastern Ghats along the Andhra Pradesh-Odisha border, has completed 69 years since its inauguration on August 19, 1955.

- Inaugurated by the nation's first President, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, this landmark facility has been providing electricity to the region for nearly seven decades.
- India's first President, Babu Rajendra Prasad, inaugurated the plant.
- The project was initially proposed in the 1920s by Maharaja Vikram Dev Varma of Jeypore, Odisha, to supply electricity to local villages.
- Situated 185 km from Visakhapatnam, the MHEP is on the Machkund river, locally known as Matsyagedda, in Jolaput, Koraput district, Odisha.
- The plant originally had an installed capacity of 120MW and currently generates 63MW to serve both Andhra Pradesh and Odisha.

EkamraKshetra, a significant historical and religious site in Bhubaneswar, Odisha, faces a major obstacle in its bid to become a UNESCO World Heritage Site (WHS).

- The primary challenge is widespread encroachment and unauthorized construction within the site's boundaries.
- EkamraKshetra or the temple city of Bhubaneswar is a series of ancient sandstone temples, heritage ponds and water tanks, its wealth of monuments is testament to an ancient continuous architectural and historical heritage

covering over 2,000 years from the 3rd century BC to the 15th century AD.

- It has been listed as a tentative site in UNESCO World Heritage list.

Ramjit Tudu, a dedicated techie from Mayurbhanj, Odisha, is using digital tools to revitalize the Santali language.

- Recognizing the decline of Santali, Tudu has been working tirelessly to create a digital space where the language can thrive.

His initiatives include:

- Tudu has established an online platform to connect Santali speakers worldwide. This platform serves as a hub for sharing literature, cultural resources, and fostering a sense of community.
- He has developed digital tools and resources such as keyboards, fonts, and translation aids to make Santali accessible on computers and smartphones.
- Tudu conducts workshops and training programs to teach people how to use these digital tools and promote the use of the Santali language.

Santali Language:

- Santali is a Munda language spoken primarily in eastern India, Bangladesh, and Nepal.
- It belongs to the Austroasiatic language family, a group of languages found in Southeast Asia and parts of India.

The Odisha government is proposing to increase the reservation quota for Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) students in technical education courses.

- Currently, these communities have a 20% reservation in state government technical colleges, which is lower than their actual population share of 39.98%.
- The increase aims to ensure equitable representation of SC and ST students in technical fields, promoting social justice and inclusivity.

Two teachers from Odisha have been selected for the National Teachers' Awards 2024.

- The two teachers are- Dwiti Chandra Sahu of Government High School at Billesu (Rayagada) and Santosh Kar of Jaya Durga High School in Narla (Kalahandi).
- Both the teachers will be awarded at a special ceremony scheduled to be held at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi on September 5, 2024.
- The National Teachers' Awards are a prestigious recognition bestowed upon exceptional teachers in India.
- Instituted in 1958, these awards aim to honor teachers who have made significant contributions to the field of education.

Features of the Award:

- The awards are a symbol of the highest recognition for teachers who have demonstrated exceptional dedication, innovation, and impact in their teaching profession.
- Awardees receive a cash prize and a silver medal as a token of appreciation for their outstanding work.
- The selection process is rigorous and involves evaluation based on various criteria such as teaching effectiveness, innovative practices, student achievements, and community engagement.
- The awards serve as an inspiration for aspiring teachers, motivating them to strive for excellence in their profession.

Even as lightning strikes claim more than 300 lives in Odisha annually, the state government is yet to prepare a lightning action plan as directed by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA).

- The NDMA in its key policy document issued in 2019 to address lightning hazards had instructed states to prepare state lightning action plans as per the guidelines on prevention and management of thunderstorms and lightning/squall, dust/hailstorm and strong winds.
- However so far, only seven out of 36 states and Union territories have developed the action plans.

National Disaster Management Authority:

- The NDMA is the apex body in India responsible for coordinating and overseeing disaster management activities. Established under the Disaster Management Act of 2005, it is chaired by the Prime Minister.

A significant step towards self-sufficiency in edible oils has been taken in Bhainsa village, Balangir district, Odisha.

- A grand oil palm plantation drive has been launched under the National Mission on Edible Oils – Oil Palm (NMEO-OP).
- Sangita Kumari Singhdeo, Member of Parliament from Balangir inaugurated the event.
- This initiative aims to boost the production of edible oils within the country, reducing dependence on imports.

National Mission on Edible Oils – Oil Palm (NMEO-OP):

- The NMEO-OP is a **government-backed program** designed to promote oil palm cultivation in suitable regions of India.
- By encouraging farmers to adopt oil palm cultivation, the mission seeks to enhance the country's agricultural productivity and reduce the

import bill for edible oils.

- The target fixed for Oil palm area expansion by 2025-26 under NMEO-Oil palm is given below:
- To increase area of oil palm to 10 lakh hectares from 3.5 lakh ha during 2019-20 by 2025-26 (additional 6.50 lakh ha) of which it is targeted 3.22 lakh hectares for general state and 3.28 lakh ha in North Eastern states with targeted FFBs production of 66.00 lakh tonnes.

Odisha CMhas expressed gratitude to PM Modi for approving two new railway projects for the state, worth a total of Rs 4,286 crore.

- 138 km Bargarh Road-Nuapara railway line. It will be implemented at a cost of Rs 2,926 crore.
- 37 km long Sardega-Bhalumunda new double line. It was allocated Rs 1,360 crore.
- The new projects are expected to create 72 lakh man-days, generating ample employment opportunities for local residents.

Odisha has been awarded the Best State Award for its innovative initiatives and effective implementation of road safety measures.

- The award was presented by Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari, during the sixth edition of FICCI's Road Safety Conclave held in New Delhi
- This recognition by the central government highlights Odisha's commitment to reducing road accidents and ensuring the safety of its citizens.

Odisha CM has declared September 9, 2024, as a public holiday in the state to celebrate Nuakhai

- Nuakhai is a significant harvest festival.
- On this occasion, all state government offices, magisterial courts, and educational institutions will remain closed.
- Nuakhai is a significant agricultural festival celebrated primarily in Western Odisha.
- It marks the arrival of the new rice crop, symbolizing abundance and prosperity.

- The festival is observed on the fifth day of the lunar fortnight of the month of Bhadrapada (August-September).

The Government of Odisha is set to launch the CM-KISAN Yojana.

- It is a significant initiative aimed at providing financial support to farmers in the state.
- The scheme includes a provision for disbursing a total of Rs 4000 in two equal installments of Rs 2000 each and a total of Rs 12,500 to each landless agricultural family in three installments.
- Payments are scheduled for Akshay Tritiya and Nuakhai, with beneficiaries required to apply through the designated portal.

The Odisha government has announced the recipients of the prestigious Biju Patnaik Sports Award for the year 2023-24.

- Among the awardees is the renowned Javelin-thrower, Kishore Jena.

Recipients:

- Lifetime Achievement In Promotion of Sports and Games: Lazarus Barla.
- Outstanding Performance in Sports and Games: Kishore Kumar Jena.
- Best Contribution to Promotion of Sports and Games: National Aluminum Company (NALCO).
- Excellence in Coaching (Male): Bijay Kumar Lakra.
- Best Para-Sportsperson of the Year: Mohammed Zafar Iqbal.
- Excellence in Coaching (Female): Rupanwita Panda.
- Best Upcoming Athlete (Junior) of The Year: Priteesmita Bhoi.
- Excellence in Sports Journalism: Sukesh Ranjan Behera.
- Biju Patnaik Bravery Award: Rudra Prasad Malik.
 - Each of the awardee was given cash award of Rs 2 lakh each along with the trophy and certificate.
- Kishore Jena received Rs 3 lakh while Lazarus Barla was presented a cash award of Rs 4 lakh along with the trophy and certificate.

OPSC Current Affairs



NATIONAL

eSankhyiki Portal

- The **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** launched the **eSankhyiki Portal** to enhance user experience and data accessibility.
- This initiative seeks to align India's national statistical system with global standards and practices by leveraging advanced technologies.
- The **eSankhyiki Portal is designed to provide real-time data for planners, policy-makers, researchers, and the public.** It facilitates a comprehensive data management and sharing system for official statistics.
- The portal aims to improve data accessibility, streamline data management processes, and support decision-making with up-to-date information.

Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY)

- The Union Ministers of State for Health and Family Welfare, Shri Prataprao Ganpatrao Jadhav and Smt. Anupriya Singh Patel unveiled three key initiatives at the Ayushman Bharat Quality Health event.
- The **Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY)** is a national public health insurance scheme in India that provides free health insurance coverage to low-income earners.
- The scheme, which is part of the Indian government's National Health Policy, was means-tested and launched in September 2018 by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- **The program offers services to 50 crore people,** making it the world's largest government-sponsored healthcare program.

Mutual Evaluation Report of India

- India has been recognized for its successful performance in the Mutual Evaluation conducted by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) during 2023-24.
- The evaluation report, adopted during the FATF plenary in Singapore, places India in the 'regular follow-up' category.
- This achievement highlights India's significant progress in combating money laundering (ML) and terrorist financing (TF), marking a key milestone in the country's efforts to enhance its financial integrity.
- **About FATF:** Founded in 1989, it serves as an international watchdog against money laundering,

terrorist financing, and related threats. India has been a member since 2010.

Sampoornata Abhiyan Campaign

- The **Sampoornata Abhiyan campaign launched by the NITI Aayog aims to achieve comprehensive coverage of key performance indicators (KPIs) in 112 Aspirational Districts and 500 Aspirational Blocks across India.**
- The campaign operates under the Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP) and the Aspirational Blocks Programme (ABP), focusing on improving various developmental indicators in targeted areas.
- **Aspirational Districts and Blocks:**
 - **Aspirational Districts:** These are districts identified as lagging in socio-economic development. They require focused attention to improve performance in various developmental parameters.
 - **Aspirational Blocks:** Similarly, these blocks are selected for their developmental needs, and efforts will be made to uplift their status in alignment with national goals.
- The campaign will run for approximately three months, during which intensive efforts will be made to achieve the desired outcomes across the targeted regions.
- **National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog) was established on January 1, 2015, to replace the Planning Commission.** It serves as the apex body for formulating and monitoring policies and programs of the Government of India.

NITI Aayog

- The Union Government has reconstituted NITI Aayog, the think tank of the Union government, reflecting recent changes in the council of ministers.
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** remains the chairperson of NITI Aayog.
- **Suman K Bery**, an economist, continues in his role as vice-chairperson.
- **Full-Time Members:** The reconstituted NITI Aayog includes **four full-time members.**
- There are **15 Union Ministers** who are part of the reconstituted body.
- The NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India) is a policy think tank of the Government of India established to promote cooperative federalism and sustainable development. It was formed on January 1, 2015, replacing the Planning Commission.

GPAI Ministerial Council

- The 6th meeting of the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI) Ministerial Council was held at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi. The meeting was conducted in a hybrid format, combining both physical and virtual participation.
- The GPAI aims to support and guide the responsible development and use of artificial intelligence (AI) globally. The organization fosters international cooperation on AI policy and research.

Cabinet Committees

- The Indian Union government has reconstituted its eight key Cabinet committees.
 - **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA):** Deals with matters related to the economy, including policy formulation and economic strategies.
 - **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC):** Responsible for making senior appointments to various posts, including those in government departments and public sector enterprises.
 - **Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS):** Focuses on matters related to national security, defence, and internal security issues.
 - **Cabinet Committee on Accommodation:** Handles issues related to the accommodation needs of ministers, senior officials, and other government employees.
 - **Cabinet Committee on Parliamentary Affairs:** Manages parliamentary affairs, including the scheduling of parliamentary sessions and handling of legislative matters.
 - **Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs:** Addresses political issues and strategies, including policy and electoral matters.
 - **Cabinet Committee on Investment and Growth:** Focuses on promoting investment and economic growth, and addressing related issues.
 - **Cabinet Committee on Skill, Employment, and Livelihood:** Deals with matters related to skill development, employment generation, and livelihood opportunities.
- The Prime Minister chairs six of the eight committees, reflecting the importance of economic, security, and political matters in the administration's focus.
- The Cabinet Committee on Accommodation and the Cabinet Committee on Parliamentary Affairs are exceptions, with their leadership assigned to other senior ministers.

SIGHT Programme

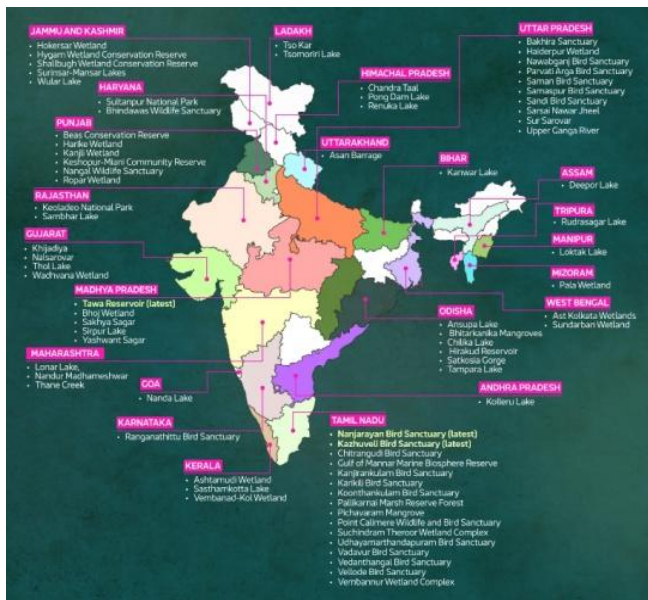
- The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has issued new scheme guidelines for the implementation of the Green Hydrogen initiative under the Strategic Interventions for Green Hydrogen Transition (SIGHT) Programme.
- The scheme aims to incentivize and boost the production of green hydrogen, which is produced using renewable energy sources, such as solar or wind power, rather than fossil fuels.
- By providing financial support and incentives, the scheme is designed to encourage investments in green hydrogen technology, facilitate research and development, and support infrastructure development for green hydrogen production.

Project SwasthyaNagaram

- **Telangana launched Project SwasthyaNagaram, an ambitious initiative aimed at creating TB-free municipalities.**
- The main goal of Project SwasthyaNagaram is to eliminate tuberculosis in select urban municipalities. The project aims to reduce TB incidence by one-third and decrease TB-related mortality within three years.
- The project will utilize a digital app for active TB screening. This modern approach aims to streamline the process of identifying individuals at risk.

Bhoj Wetland

- **Bhoj Wetland in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, is at risk of being removed from the Ramsar Convention's list of Wetlands of International Importance.**
- Local citizens and environmental groups have voiced their worries about how the road project could harm the wetland's ecological balance and biodiversity.
- **The Ramsar Convention Secretariat, based in Switzerland, has sought clarification from the Indian government regarding the proposed activities and their potential impact on Bhoj Wetland.**
- Ramsar Convention is designed to protect wetlands around the world, recognizing their vital role in maintaining biodiversity, supporting livelihoods, and regulating the environment. **The convention was signed in Ramsar, Iran, in 1971.**
- **As of August 2024, India has designated 85 Ramsar Sites, which are wetlands recognized for their international significance under the Ramsar Convention. These sites are crucial for biodiversity conservation, ecosystem services, and supporting local communities.**



one-year apprenticeship in a factory. This experience is aimed at enhancing their employability by providing practical work experience.

- The scheme aims to prepare a skilled workforce by offering financial support while the youth gain hands-on experience.

One India-One Ticket Initiative

- Indian Railways, Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC), and the Centre for Railway Information System (CRIS) have partnered to launch the initiative.
- The One India-One Ticket initiative aims to simplify travel by integrating ticketing systems for both mainline rail and metro services.
- The initiative is designed to enhance convenience for travellers moving between trains and metros, particularly in the Delhi/NCR area.

Haryana Announces Job Quota for Agniveers

- The Haryana government announced that Agniveers will receive a 10% reservation in government posts for constables, mining guards, forest guards, jail wardens, and special police officers.
- Industrial units hiring Agniveers at a salary of ₹30,000 per month will receive an annual subsidy of ₹60,000.
- Agnipath Scheme was launched in June 2022, it recruits personnel below the rank of officers for a four-year tenure in the Indian armed forces. After four years, up to 25% of Agniveers, may be offered a permanent commission based on merit.
 - Agniveers receive a lump sum of approximately ₹11.71 lakhs (with interest) from the Seva Nidhi upon completion of their tenure.
 - In case of death on duty, families receive ₹1 crore (including Seva Nidhi) and full pay for the unserved period.

National Time Release Study (NTRS) 2024

- The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) has released the National Time Release Study (NTRS) 2024, highlighting improvements and performance metrics related to the cargo clearance process in India.
- This study is an essential tool for assessing how efficiently cargo is processed through customs and aligns with global standards set by the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the World Customs Organization (WCO).
- A Time Release Study (TRS) measures the time taken for cargo clearance in international trade. It evaluates the efficiency of the cargo release

Operation NanheFarishtey

- Operation NanheFarishtey is an initiative launched by the Railway Protection Force (RPF) to rescue children who are at risk while travelling or staying at railway stations across India.
- The primary goal is to identify and rescue children who are in dangerous or vulnerable situations at railway stations and on trains.
- This initiative aims to protect children who may be runaways, missing, left behind, or otherwise in distress, ensuring their safety and providing them with appropriate care.
- After the rescue, children are handed over to the District Child Welfare Committee, which works to reunite them with their families.

Hydropower Stations in Arunachal Pradesh

- India is investing \$1 billion to accelerate the construction of 12 hydropower stations in Arunachal Pradesh.
- The investment aims to boost the region's energy infrastructure and harness the hydroelectric potential of the northeastern Himalayan state.
- The federal finance ministry, led by Nirmala Sitharaman, has approved financial support of up to ₹7.5 billion for each hydropower project.

Ladla Bhai Yojana

- The Ladla Bhai Yojana is a new initiative by the Maharashtra government, announced by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, designed to support young men in the state.
- Benefits of Ladla Bhai Yojana: Monthly Stipend
 - 12th Grade Pass Students: ₹6,000 per month.
 - Diploma Holders: ₹8,000 per month.
 - Graduates: ₹10,000 per month.
- Beneficiaries will have the chance to undertake a

process from the moment the cargo arrives at a customs station until it is officially released for import or export.

Kashmir City Receives World Craft City Certificate

- Kashmir City was awarded the prestigious Certificate of World Craft City by the World Crafts Council International.
- This honour, presented in a grand ceremony attended by notable figures such as Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and Sa'ad Hani Al-Qaddumi, President of the World Crafts Council, marks a significant achievement for the region.
- Kashmir City's new status as a World Craft City positions it as the fourth Indian city to receive this honour. The other Indian cities recognized are Jaipur, Mamallapuram, and Mysore.

CharaideoMaidam

- CharaideoMaidam, a complex of over 90 royal burial mounds in Assam, has been officially recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, marking a significant milestone for the region.
- It is often referred to as the "Pyramids of Assam," these majestic structures are the final resting places

of Ahom kings and nobles who ruled the region for nearly six centuries.

- The Ahom dynasty, which flourished from the 13th to the 18th century, left a legacy in Assam. Their unique burial practices, exemplified by the CharaideoMaidam, provide invaluable insights into their culture, religion, and social structure.
- These mounds, constructed with meticulous care, are not mere burial sites but are revered as sacred places by the Ahom people.
- As of July 2024, there are 43 UNESCO World Heritage Sites in India with the recent inclusion of "Moidams - the Mound-Burial System of the Ahom Dynasty from Assam."

GoemVinamulya Vij Yevjan Scheme

- The Chief Minister of Goa Pramod Sawant has launched the GoemVinamulya Vij Yevjan scheme.
- This initiative aligns with the Prime Minister's Surya GharMuft Bijli Yojana, focusing on increasing solar rooftop installations and empowering residential households to generate their electricity.
- The central Surya GharMuft Bijli Yojana has an outlay of ₹75,021 crore, set to be implemented until FY 2026-27.



INTERNATIONAL

Japan

- Japan is set to introduce new banknotes featuring advanced holography, marking the first redesign in two decades.
- Japan was the first country to use holography that creates a 3D rotating effect on the portraits, significantly elevating the notes' security features. These features are part of Japan's ongoing efforts to combat counterfeiting.
- The currency of Japan is the Japanese yen. It is represented by the symbol ¥.
- Holography is a technique used to create a three-dimensional image of an object, known as a hologram. It relies on the principles of interference and diffraction of light to record and reconstruct the light field reflected off the object.

Asian Development Bank (ADB)

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has signed a \$60 million financing agreement with Aadhar Housing Finance Limited (AHFL) to enhance housing affordability for women in India.
 - This initiative targets low-income and affordable housing sectors, aiming to address

financing gaps and promote home ownership among economically disadvantaged groups.

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is a regional development bank established in 1966 and headquartered in Manila, Philippines. The bank has grown from 31 to 68 members.
- It is modelled on the World Bank and has a weighted voting system. Japan and the United States hold the largest proportion of shares at 15.571%.

World Network of Biosphere Reserves

- The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has recently approved the designation of 11 new Biosphere Reserves across 11 countries.
- This expansion brings the total number of sites in the World Network of Biosphere Reserves to 759, spanning 136 countries.
- Newly Designated Biosphere Reserves:
 - Kempen-Broek Transboundary Biosphere Reserve (Belgium, Kingdom of the Netherlands)
 - Darién Norte Chocoano Biosphere Reserve

- (Colombia)
- **Madre de las Aguas Biosphere Reserve** (Dominican Republic)
- **Niuni Biosphere Reserve** (Gambia)
- **Colli Euganei Biosphere Reserve** (Italy)
- **Julian Alps Transboundary Biosphere Reserve** (Italy, Slovenia)
- **Khar Us Lake Biosphere Reserve** (Mongolia)
- **Apayaos Biosphere Reserve** (Philippines)
- **Changnyeong Biosphere Reserve** (Republic of Korea)
- **Val d'Aran Biosphere Reserve** (Spain)
- **Irati Biosphere Reserve** (Spain)
- As of 2024, India has 18 notified biosphere reserves, with 12 recognized by UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere (MAB) programme.

World's Greatest Places of 2024

- **TIME magazine has included three Indian destinations in its prestigious list of 'World's Greatest Places of 2024,'** celebrating places that offer distinctive and enriching experiences:
- **Museum of Solutions (MuSo), Mumbai**
 - It is an innovative children's museum designed to provide immersive and educational experiences. The 100,000-square-foot facility includes interactive labs focusing on STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) subjects, a 220-seat amphitheatre, a library, and a recycling centre.
- **Manam Chocolate, Hyderabad**
 - It stands out for its commitment to Indian craft chocolates and features a variety of products, including unique flavours such as chai biscuit and pistachio fudge.
 - **Notable Aspects:** The factory's dedication to using Indian-grown cacao has received international recognition, bringing Indian chocolate craftsmanship to a global audience.
- **NAAR, Himachal Pradesh**
- It is a fine dining restaurant that offers a refined take on Himalayan cuisine, with dishes that incorporate regional ingredients like Himachali yak cheese and Naga bamboo shoot pickles.

MeDevIS Platform

- The **World Health Organization (WHO)** has launched the **Medical Devices Information System (MeDevIS)**, an innovative online platform designed to provide comprehensive, standardized information on medical devices.
- This initiative represents a significant advancement in global health technology management, offering a centralized resource for governments, regulators, healthcare providers, and users.

- The platform includes information on **2,301 types of medical devices**, addressing various health conditions such as reproductive, maternal, newborn, and child health, non-communicable diseases (e.g., cancer, cardiovascular diseases, diabetes), and infectious diseases (e.g., COVID-19).
- **WHO: Key Points**
 - **Establishment:** April 7, 1948
 - **Headquarters:** Geneva, Switzerland
 - **Parent Organization:** United Nations (UN)

United Nations' World Population Prospects 2024 report

- According to the United Nations' World Population Prospects 2024 report, **India's population stands at approximately 1.45 billion.**
 - It is expected to increase to 1.69 billion by 2054 and peak at around 1.7 billion in the early 2060s.
 - After peaking, India's population is projected to decline by about 12%, reaching around 1.5 billion by 2100.
- China's population, currently 1.41 billion, is projected to decrease to 1.21 billion by 2054 and further decline to 633 million by 2100 due to its low fertility rate.
- The global population is anticipated to peak at 10.3 billion in the mid-2080s before slightly declining to 10.2 billion by 2100.
- The United States, currently the third most populous country, is expected to be overtaken by Pakistan by 2054.
- By the late 2070s, the number of people aged 65 and older will surpass the number of children under 18.

Loss And Damage Fund

- The **Philippines has been chosen to host the board of the Loss and Damage fund, established through U.N. climate negotiations.**
- This fund aims to offer financial assistance to countries struggling to cope with the adverse effects of climate change, including extreme weather events like typhoons and floods.
- The **Philippines, an archipelago of over 7,600 islands, is particularly vulnerable to climate change-related disasters.** The country frequently experiences severe typhoons and other climate-induced events, highlighting the importance of the fund in supporting its resilience and recovery efforts.
- The **establishment of the fund at COP27 in Egypt in 2022** was a step forward, but detailed mechanisms for its implementation are still being discussed.

World's First 3D-Printed Electric Abra

- Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has launched the world's first electric abra manufactured using 3D printing technology.
- This innovative abra, designed to preserve the traditional abra identity while incorporating modern technology, is currently undergoing trial operations.
- The electric abra supports RTA's environmental sustainability strategy by introducing a cleaner, more efficient mode of transport.

Global Conference on Space Research

- The 45th Scientific Assembly of the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR) took place in Busan, South Korea, marking the first time the country has hosted this prestigious global space research conference.
- The event gathered 3,000 scientists and industry leaders from 60 nations, highlighting South Korea's increasing prominence in the space research community.

Henley Passport Index 2024

- The Henley Passport Index ranks passports based on how many countries their holders can visit without needing a visa.
- In 2024, Singapore holds the top spot for the most powerful passport, providing visa-free or visa-on-arrival access to 195 destinations.

- India ranks 82nd, allowing visa-free entry to 58 countries. This ranking reflects India's moderate level of global mobility compared to other countries.
- Afghanistan remains at the bottom of the index, with visa-free access to only 26 countries, indicating limited global mobility.

Travel and Tourism Development Index

- In the 2024, Travel and Tourism Development Index (TTDI) released by the World Economic Forum (WEF), India has been ranked 39th out of 119 countries.
- In 2021, India was ranked 54th, so moving up to 39th place is a significant improvement. This jump of 15 places in three years indicates progress in various aspects of the tourism sector.
- Globally, there were 975 million international tourist arrivals in 2022. India welcomed 14.3 million of these tourists, holding a 1.47% share of the global market. In the Asia & Pacific region, India's share was 15.66% in 2022.
- USA ranks 1st.
- The World Economic Forum (WEF) is an international non-governmental organization based in Cologny, Geneva, Switzerland. Founded by German engineer Klaus Schwab on January 24, 1971.

ECONOMICS

Project Nexus

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the Bank for International Settlements (BIS), and the central banks of Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand are collaborating on Project Nexus. An agreement was signed in Basel, Switzerland.
- The platform is expected to go live by 2026 and will interlink domestic fast payment systems (FPS) of Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and India.
- Project Nexus aims to make retail cross-border payments more efficient, faster, and cost-effective.

MSME Sahaj Portal

- State Bank of India (SBI) has launched the MSME Sahaj portal, a 15-minute online loan solution for MSMEs.
- The platform allows MSMEs to secure up to ₹1 lakh against GST invoices within 15 minutes, using automated processing and data-driven credit assessments.
- The platform is available through SBI's digital

platform Yono, targeting existing micro SME units and facilitating instant cash flow enhancements.

Cleanest Country

- The Environmental Performance Index (EPI) measures the effectiveness of a country's environmental policies by evaluating various environmental outcomes.
- Developed by Yale and Columbia Universities in collaboration with global institutions, the EPI provides a comprehensive assessment of national sustainability efforts.
- Estonia ranks 1st.

'Safety Ring' Security Feature

- In response to the increasing incidents of cyber fraud, Punjab National Bank (PNB) has launched the 'Safety Ring' security feature.
- This optional mechanism provides an added layer of protection against unauthorized access, specifically designed to minimize potential financial losses for users of PNB's internet and

mobile banking services.

- The 'Safety Ring' feature allows customers to set a daily transaction limit for their term deposits (TDs), specifically focusing on online closure or overdraft facilities.

AgriSURE

- The Government of India is set to launch a new initiative, the 'Agri Fund for Start-Ups & Rural Enterprises' (AgriSURE), aimed at boosting innovation and sustainability in India's agricultural sector.
- This initiative is designed to support start-ups and agripreneurs through a mix of sector-specific and sector-agnostic investments in Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs), along with direct equity support for start-ups in agriculture and allied sectors.
- The fund will have an initial value of ₹750 crore, with contributions from NABARD, the Ministry of Agriculture, and other institutions, each providing ₹250 crore.
- As part of the initiative, AgriSUREGreenathon 2024 was launched to promote innovation by addressing key challenges in agriculture through a hackathon.

SDG India Index 2023-24

- The SDG India Index 2023-24 released by NITI Aayog highlights significant progress in India's efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

- The overall score for India has improved to **71**, up from **66 in 2020-21** and **57 in 2018**. Key advancements were observed in areas such as poverty alleviation, health, water, and sanitation
- **State-wise Progress:**
 - **32 States and Union Territories (UTs)** have achieved scores between **65 and 99**.
 - **Uttar Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, and West Bengal** were notable for their significant improvements, positioning them as front runners in the SDG performance index.
- The score for Climate Action increased from **54 to 67**, reflecting enhanced disaster preparedness and greater adoption of renewable energy sources.
- The SDG India Index remains a crucial tool for evaluating progress and guiding policy decisions towards achieving the **2030 Agenda**. The continued focus will be on **inclusive growth and environmental sustainability**.
- Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):
 - The SDGs comprise **17 goals** established by the United Nations.
 - The SDGs include **169 targets** across all goals to guide national and global efforts towards sustainable development.
 - The SDGs aim to address global challenges, including **poverty, inequality, climate change, environmental degradation, peace, and justice**.
 - The SDGs were adopted by all UN member states in **2015** as part of the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**.



DEFENCE & SECURITY

SEBEX 2

- India has developed **SEBEX 2, a powerful new explosive that is twice as lethal as the standard Trinitrotoluene (TNT), making it one of the most powerful non-nuclear explosives globally**.
- The explosive was developed by Economic Explosives Ltd (EEL), a subsidiary of Nagpur-based Solar Industries, under the Defence Export Promotion Scheme of the Indian Navy.
- The development of SEBEX 2 falls under the Make in India initiative, highlighting India's commitment to advancing its defence capabilities with indigenous technologies.

Maitree Exercise

- The Maitree Exercise is a joint military exercise between the Indian Army and the Royal Thai Army, held in Tak Province, Thailand.
- The exercise has been conducted annually since 2006.

- The exercise aims to boost military cooperation, improve skills in counter-insurgency and counter-terrorism operations, enhance joint planning and tactical drills, and promote physical fitness among troops.
- In addition to the Maitree Exercise, **India and Thailand conduct other joint military exercises, such as Ex-Ayutthaya (naval exercise) and Ex-SIAM BHARAT (air force exercise)**.

Tank 'Zorawar'

- India unveils 'Zorawar' light tank, developed in collaboration with DRDO and Larsen & Toubro.
- Designed for high-altitude operations, featuring advanced weaponry and protection systems.
- Named after General Zorawar Singh, the tank is slated for extensive trials before potential deployment in Ladakh, Sikkim, or Kashmir.
- Developed in response to the strategic needs identified during the Galwan Valley standoff, the

'Zorawar' aims to strengthen India's military presence in high-altitude areas like Ladakh, Sikkim, and Kashmir.

Exercise Pitch Black

- The **Indian Air Force (IAF) participated in Exercise Pitch Black 2024, an international military exercise hosted by the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) at Base Darwin, Australia.**
- This biennial, multinational exercise, held from July 12 to August 2, 2024, serves as a critical platform for enhancing global military cooperation and showcasing advanced air combat capabilities.
- The exercise supports the deployment of forces over large distances and strengthens aviation associations within the Indo-Pacific region, a strategically important area.

Exercise KHAAN QUEST

- The **Indian Army contingent participated in the prestigious multinational military exercise, KHAAN QUEST 2024, in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.**

- This event, which runs from July 27 to August 9, 2024, provides a valuable platform for military forces worldwide to collaborate and enhance their peacekeeping capabilities.
- KHAAN QUEST began in 2003 as a bilateral exercise between the United States and Mongolia. By 2006, it evolved into a Multinational Peacekeeping Exercise, reflecting its growing scope and importance.

Astra Mark 1 Missile

- The Indian Air Force (IAF) has recently **approved the production of 200 Astra Mark 1 air-to-air missiles.**
- The clearance was **granted to the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL).**
- The **Astra Mark 1 is a state-of-the-art air-to-air missile developed by DRDO.** It is designed to enhance the air combat capabilities of Indian fighter aircraft, including the Su-30 and LCA Tejas.
- The missile is equipped with a combination of active radar seekers and infrared homing systems for precise targeting and effective interception of enemy aircraft.



SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Xenophrys Apatani

- The **discovery of a new species of horned frog in Arunachal Pradesh** by a team of researchers from the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI).
- The newly discovered species is named **Xenophrysapatani.**
- The frog was found in the **Talle Wildlife Sanctuary in the Lower Subansiri district of Arunachal Pradesh.**
- The species is named after the Apatani community, which is known for its conservation efforts.

R21/Matrix-M

- The **Serum Institute of India, in collaboration with the University of Oxford, has launched a new high-efficacy malaria vaccine, R21/Matrix-M, in Africa.**
- The R21/Matrix-M vaccine is now officially being administered in Africa, with Côte d'Ivoire becoming the first country in West Africa to start the rollout.
- The vaccine has been approved by the World Health Organization (WHO) following rigorous regulatory and clinical evaluations.
- The R21/Matrix-M vaccine is highly effective and affordable. It is produced at a low cost and can be

scaled up quickly, which is crucial for addressing malaria in large populations.

- Malaria is a deadly, mosquito-borne infectious disease caused by protozoan parasites of the Plasmodium genus. **It spreads through the bite of an infected female Anopheles mosquito.**

Asia's First Pre-Clinical Network Facility

- Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh inaugurated **Asia's first "Pre-Clinical Network Facility" at the Translational Health Science & Technology Institute (THSTI) in Faridabad, Haryana.**
- The facility is equipped to handle Biosafety Level 3 (BSL3) pathogens, which require stringent safety measures due to their potential to cause serious or potentially lethal diseases.
- It has one of the largest small animal housing capacities in India, enabling research on immune-compromised mice and various other species.

Chandipura Virus Infection

- Gujarat has reported its first confirmed death due to Chandipura virus infection, affecting a four-year-old child.
- Chandipura virus (CHPV) **transmitted by sandflies (Phlebotomus papatasi) and mosquitoes (Aedes aegypti).**

- The virus resides in the salivary glands of these insects and is transmitted through their bites, leading to central nervous system infections and encephalitis.
- **Key points**
 - **Initial Symptoms:** Acute fever, body ache, and headache.
 - **Progressive Symptoms:** Rapid progression to altered sensorium, seizures, and encephalitis. Other symptoms may include respiratory distress, bleeding tendencies, or anaemia.
 - **Mortality:** The infection can lead to death within 24-48 hours of hospitalization due to its rapid progression.
 - **Current Treatments:** No specific antiretroviral therapy or vaccine is available.

Discovery of Six New Exoplanets

- NASA recently announced the **discovery of six new exoplanets**, further expanding our knowledge of planets beyond our solar system.
- This latest discovery brings the total number of confirmed exoplanets to 5,502, showcasing significant progress in the search for

extraterrestrial life and the understanding of planetary systems.

- **Newly Identified Exoplanets:**
 - **HD 36384 b:** A super Jupiter, an enormous gas giant orbiting an M giant star nearly 40 times the size of our Sun.
 - **TOI-198 b:** A potentially rocky exoplanet located on the inner edge of its star's habitable zone, where conditions might allow liquid water to exist.
 - **TOI-2095 b and TOI-2095 c:** Two hot super-Earths orbiting an M dwarf star, offering insights into the formation and characteristics of Earth-like planets.
 - **TOI-4860 b:** A rare "hot Jupiter," which completes an orbit around its host star in just 1.52 days, is a phenomenon seen around M dwarf stars.
 - **MWC 758 c:** A giant protoplanet orbiting a young star with a protoplanetary disk, providing valuable data on early planetary formation.
- Exoplanets are planets that exist outside of our solar system, orbiting stars other than our Sun.



SPORTS

Ravindra Jadeja

- Ravindra Jadeja, a star India all-rounder, announced his retirement from T20 internationals following India's T20 World Cup 2024 victory.
- Jadeja's T20 World Cup 2024 campaign was marked by highs and lows, with a mix of highs and lows.
- Career highlights include his T20I debut against Sri Lanka in February 2009, appearances in 74 T20I matches, and scoring 515 runs at an average of 21.45.
- Taken 54 wickets from 71 innings at an average of 29.85 and an economy rate of 7.13.

Viswanathan Anand

- Viswanathan Anand, a former world chess champion from India, has won the Leon Masters chess championship for the 10th time, defeating Jaime Santos Latasa of Spain in the final.
- The Leon Masters is a prestigious chess tournament held in Leon, Spain.
- He became the National Sub-Junior Chess Champion at age 14.
- **Key Achievements:** India's first chess Grandmaster in 1988, a Five-time World Chess Champion, won the FIDE World Chess Championship in 2000 and became the undisputed World Champion in 2007.

- He received the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award (now Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award) in 1991-92, and Padma Vibhushan in 2007.

Asian Championships

- The Indian U23 wrestling team dominated the Asian Championships in Jordan, securing a total of 19 medals across women's wrestling, Greco-Roman, and freestyle categories.
- In women's wrestling; Meenakshi, Pushpa Yadav, and Priya Malik won three gold medals.
- The freestyle wrestling category saw India top the rankings with four gold, two silver, and two bronze medals.

Abhinav Bindra

- Abhinav Bindra, India's first individual Olympic gold medallist, has been honoured with the prestigious Olympic Order by the International Olympic Committee (IOC).
- The Olympic Order is the IOC's highest award, recognizing distinguished contributions to the Olympic Movement. It acknowledges individuals who have demonstrated exceptional merit in sports or provided significant service to the Olympic cause.
- Bindra won the gold medal in the men's 10-meter air rifle event at the 2008 Beijing Olympics,

marking India's first individual Olympic gold.

- Since 2018, Bindra has served as a member of the IOC Athlete Commission.

Copa America Title

- Argentina secured its second consecutive Copa America championship, by defeating Colombia 1-0 in a match that extended into extra time.
- The match remained goalless until the 112th minute, when Lautaro Martínez, who had been substituted in the 97th minute, scored the crucial goal.
- With this victory, Argentina has won its 16th Copa America title, extending its record as the most successful team in the tournament's history.
- The win also ended Colombia's impressive 28-game unbeaten streak, which had been ongoing since a loss to Argentina in February 2022.

Manu Bhaker

- Manu Bhaker made history at the Paris Olympics 2024 by winning a bronze medal in the women's 10m air pistol event.
- This achievement marks a significant milestone for Indian sports, as Bhaker is the first Indian woman to secure a shooting medal at the Olympic Games.
- Manu Bhaker's bronze medal ends a 12-year wait for an Olympic medal in shooting for India. The previous successes were at the London Olympics 2012:
 - **Vijay Kumar:** Silver in rapid-fire pistol
 - **Gagan Narang:** Bronze in 10m air rifle
- At the 2018 Youth Olympics, Manu won gold in the women's 10m air pistol event, becoming the first Indian shooter and female athlete to achieve this.

Paris Olympic Games 2024

- The 2024 Olympic Games in Paris, officially known as the XXXIII Olympiad, were held from July 26 to August 11. This edition was the largest event ever organized in France.
- More than 10,500 from over 200 National Olympic Committees (NOCs) and the IOC Refugee Olympic Team participated.
- The Paris Olympics 2024 included a variety of new sports, returning sports, dropped sports, format changes, and environmental sustainability measures.

Category	Sport/Event
New Sports and Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breaking (Breakdancing) • Sport Climbing • Skateboarding • Surfing • Kayak Cross
Returning Sports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3x3 Basketball

Dropped Sports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baseball • Softball • Karate
Format Changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Artistic Swimming • Boxing • Sailing • Shooting • Track and Field • Volleyball • Weightlifting

India at the 2024 Summer Olympics

- India competed at the 2024 Summer Olympics in Paris, France, from July 26 to August 11, 2024. This was India's 26th appearance at the Summer Olympics since making its debut in 1900.
- The Indian contingent for this year's games consisted of 117 athletes.
- For the first time in Olympic history, India inaugurated its own house. The India House was established by the Reliance Foundation and the Indian Olympic Association.
- India won six medals in total including one silver and five bronze, three of which come from shooting.

Medal	Name	Sport	Event
Silver	Neeraj Chopra	Athletics	Men's javelin throw
Bronze	Manu Bhaker	Shooting	Women's 10 m air pistol
Bronze	Manu Bhaker & Sarabjot Singh	Shooting	Mixed 10 m air pistol team
Bronze	Swapnil Kusale	Shooting	Men's 50 m rifle three positions
Bronze	India Men's National Field Hockey Team	Field Hockey	Men's tournament
Bronze	Aman Sehrawat	Wrestling	Men's freestyle 57 kg

All India Football Federation (AIFF)

- The All India Football Federation (AIFF) recently held its annual awards ceremony for the 2023-24 season, celebrating exceptional contributions and achievements in Indian football.
- **Top Awards**
 - Men's Player of the Year: Lallianzuala Chhangte
 - Women's Player of the Year: Indumathi Kathiresan
 - Men's Promising Player of the Year: David Lalhlansanga

- Women's Promising Player of the Year: Neha
- Men's Coach of the Year: Khalid Jamil
- Women's Coach of the Year: Sukla Dutta

Manolo Marquez

- The All India Football Federation (AIFF) has announced the appointment of Manolo Marquez as the new head coach of the Indian men's football team.
- Marquez, currently the head coach of Indian Super League (ISL) side FC Goa, will take on his new role full-time after the conclusion of the ISL 2024-25 season.
- Marquez has an impressive coaching history in Spain with clubs such as Las Palmas, Las Palmas B, Espanyol B, Badalona, Prat, and Europa.
- In India, he has made a significant impact with Hyderabad FC and FC Goa, showcasing his ability to transform teams and achieve success.

PR Sreejesh

- PR Sreejesh, the Indian hockey team goalkeeper, has announced his retirement from international hockey following the Paris Olympics 2024.
- **Career Highlights:**
 - **International Debut:** 2006
 - **Leadership:** Captained the Indian hockey team at the Rio 2016 Olympics.
 - **Tokyo Olympics 2021:** Played a crucial role in securing a bronze medal.
- **Achievements:**

- **Asian Games:** Gold medals in 2014 and 2023.
- **Commonwealth Games:** Silver medals in 2014 and 2022.
- **Major Awards:** Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna (2021), Padma Shri (2017).
- **wards:** Back-to-back FIH Goalkeeper of the Year awards in 2021 and 2022.
- **Asian Champions Trophy:** Four-time winner.
- He is known for his motivational role and leadership on and off the field.

Women Asia Cup

- The Asia Cup, a cricket tournament held every two years in Asia, is organized by the International Cricket Council (ICC).
- In 2024, Sri Lanka won their first Women's Asia Cup title, defeating India with a run-chase. This was the second time in their nine final appearances that India failed to win the Women's Asia Cup.
- Samarawickrama was the Player of the Match in the Final, while Chamari Athapaththu was the Player of the Tournament for her 304 runs and three wickets in the event.
- India has been the most successful in the tournament, winning seven times out of fifteen editions held so far.
- The Women's Twenty20 Asia Cup 2024 was organized from July 19 to July 28, 2024, the tournament was held at the Rangiri Dambulla International Stadium in Sri Lanka, with all matches available for free entry.



PERSON IN NEWS

Books on the Life and Journey of Venkaiah Naidu

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi released three books on the life and journey of former Vice President of India, M Venkaiah Naidu, via video conferencing.
- The books include a biography of the former Vice President:
 - "Venkaiah Naidu: Life in Service," authored by Shri S Nagesh Kumar.
 - A photo chronicle, "Celebrating Bharat: The Mission and Message of Shri M Venkaiah Naidu as 13th Vice-President of India," compiled by Dr I.V. Subba Rao, Former Secretary to Vice-President of India.
 - A pictorial biography in Telugu, "Mahaneta: Life and Journey of Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu," authored by Shri Sanjay Kishore.

Medusa Dress

- A Google employee, Christina Ernst, has created

the world's first AI dress with robotic snakes attached to it.

- The "Medusa dress" is black with three golden-coloured snakes around her waist and one large robotic snake around her neck.
- Ernst coded an optional mode using artificial intelligence to detect faces and move the snake head towards the person looking at you.

Manoj Bajpayee

- **"Manoj Bajpayee: The Definitive Biography"** by Piyush Pandey is a portrayal of the life and career of one of India's most respected actors, Manoj Bajpayee.
- The book highlights Bajpayee's early struggles, from growing up in a small village in Bihar to overcoming numerous rejections in his pursuit of an acting career.
- Bajpayee's work, especially in films like "Satya," is credited with contributing to a shift in Bollywood towards more realistic and gritty storytelling.

Justice Aalia Neelum

- **Justice Aalia Neelum** made history by becoming the first woman to take oath as the **Chief Justice of the Lahore High Court (LHC)** in Pakistan.
- The oath was administered by **Punjab Governor Sardar Saleem Haider Khan**.
- **Maryam Nawaz**, the first woman Chief Minister of Punjab province, was also present at the ceremony.

Robert Towne

- Robert Towne, the renowned screenwriter known for his impactful contributions to American cinema, passed away at the age of 89 at his home in Los Angeles, USA.
- Towne's most famous work is the 1974 film "Chinatown," for which he won an Academy Award for Best Original Screenplay.
- Towne also wrote several other significant screenplays, including "The Last Detail" (1973), "Shampoo" (1975), and "Greystoke: The Legend of Tarzan, Lord of the Apes" (1984). These films earned him three additional Oscar nominations, solidifying his reputation as one of Hollywood's top screenwriters.

Kamala Pujari

- Kamala Pujari, a celebrated Padma Shri awardee and famous organic farmer, has passed away at the age of 74 due to kidney-related complications.
- **Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi** announced that Pujari's funeral would be held with full state honours and expressed his grief over her loss.
- **Notable Achievements:**
 - **Padma Shri Award:** Conferred in 2019 in recognition of her exceptional work in organic farming.
 - **Equator Initiative Award (2002):** For her innovative contributions to sustainable agriculture.
 - **Best Farmer Award (2004):** Awarded by the Odisha government for her outstanding farming practices.
 - Successfully harvested 100 varieties of rice.

Jon Landau

- Jon Landau, the renowned Oscar-winning producer known for his extraordinary collaborations with director James Cameron, has passed away at the age of 63.
- Landau received three Oscar nominations throughout his career. His most significant win came for "Titanic" in 1997, which won 11 Oscars, including Best Picture.
- Landau's work on "Avatar" utilized

groundbreaking 3D technology, setting new standards in cinematic visuals and surpassing "Titanic" in box-office success. "Avatar" remains the highest-grossing film of all time.

- "Avatar: The Way of Water" (2022): The sequel to "Avatar" continued the legacy of innovation and success, further establishing Landau and Cameron's collaboration as one of the most successful in film history.

Masoud Pezeshkian

- **Masoud Pezeshkian**, a reformist lawmaker and prominent cardiac surgeon, has been elected as Iran's president
- Under Pezeshkian, India's investment in the strategic Chabahar Port is likely to be reinforced. This port is crucial for enhancing trade with Afghanistan and Central Asia, bypassing Pakistan.
- Iran remains a major source of crude oil for India. Pezeshkian's presidency could lead to increased oil exports to India, potentially providing a more stable and cost-effective source of energy.

K.P. Sharma Oli

- On July 15, K.P. Sharma Oli was sworn in as Nepal's Prime Minister for the fourth time.
- His appointment by President Ram Chandra Paudel comes at a crucial time for Nepal, as it seeks to navigate the challenges of political instability and governance.
- He is the leader of Nepal's largest communist party, the Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist-Leninist).
- Oli succeeds Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda,' who lost a vote of confidence in the House of Representatives.

Yamini Krishnamurthy

- Yamini Krishnamurthy, one of the best classical dancers passed away at the age of 83 at Apollo Hospital in New Delhi.
- She is known for her contributions to Bharatanatyam, Kuchipudi, and Odissi.
- At just five years old, she began her formal dance training at the prestigious Kalakshetra School of Dance in Chennai.
- In addition to her dance expertise, Krishnamurthy received training in Carnatic vocals and the veena, reflecting her multifaceted artistic talent.
- **Awards and Honors**
 - **Padma Shri (1968):** Awarded at the age of 28, acknowledging her early contributions.
 - **Sangeet Natak Akademi Award (1977):** Recognizing her excellence in performing arts.
 - **Padma Bhushan (2001):** One of India's highest

civilian honours, reflecting her significant impact on Indian culture.

- **Padma Vibhushan** (2016): The highest civilian honour, awarded for her exceptional contributions to classical dance.

Anshuman Gaekwad

- On July 31, 2024, the former cricketer Anshuman Gaekwad passed away due to blood cancer.
- Gaekwad made his Test debut against the West Indies at Eden Gardens, Kolkata, in 1974.
- He first appeared in One-Day Internationals (ODIs) during the inaugural Cricket World Cup against England in 1975.
- His final Test match was against England at Eden Gardens, Kolkata, in the 1984-85 series.
- Played 40 matches, accumulating 1985 runs with a highest score of 201 against Pakistan in Jalandhar in 1982-83. He set the record for the slowest double-hundred in Test cricket, taking 671 minutes to achieve it.

Dr Soumya Swaminathan

- Dr Soumya Swaminathan has been appointed as the Principal Adviser for the National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme at the Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.
- Dr Swaminathan's background includes her previous positions as Chief Scientist of the World Health Organization (WHO) and Director General of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR).
- The National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme is India's comprehensive initiative aimed at eliminating TB as a public health problem in India and achieving the ambitious target of ending TB by 2025, five years ahead of the global Sustainable Development Goal target.

Rajat Sharma

- Rajat Sharma, Chairman and Editor-in-Chief of India TV, has been elected as the President of the News Broadcasters & Digital Association (NBDA).
- The NBDA is the largest association of news broadcasters in India, it was founded in 2007.
- The NBDA plays a crucial role in shaping news broadcasting standards, advocating for members' interests, and promoting ethical journalism practices.

Shekhar Kapur

- Veteran filmmaker Shekhar Kapur has been appointed as the festival director for the International Film Festival of India (IFFI).
- Kapur began his filmmaking journey with the family drama Masoom in 1983. He gained

widespread acclaim with the 1987 hit Mr. India.

- His international breakthrough came with Bandit Queen (1994), which premiered at Cannes' Directors' Fortnight. Following this, he directed the acclaimed UK royal drama Elizabeth (1998), starring Cate Blanchett, which earned seven Oscar nominations.
- Kapur's notable works also include Elizabeth: The Golden Age, The Four Feathers, and the romantic comedy What's Love Got To Do With It (2022), which premiered in Toronto.

Nicolás Maduro

- Venezuela's National Electoral Council (CNE) announced that Nicolás Maduro has won the presidential election, securing his third term as President of Venezuela. He will govern from 2025 to 2031.
- Nicolás Maduro began his career as a bus driver before becoming a trade union leader. He was elected to Venezuela's National Assembly in 2000 and held several significant roles under President Hugo Chávez, including President of the National Assembly (2005-2006), Minister of Foreign Affairs (2006-2013), and Vice President (2012-2013).
- Following Chávez's death in March 2013, Maduro assumed the presidency.
- Maduro received 5,150,092 valid votes, amounting to 51.2% of the counted votes, with a voter turnout of 59%.

Professor K. Chockalingam

- A retired professor K. Chockalingam from Tamil Nadu, has been awarded the Hans von Hentig award.
- The award recognition highlights his significant contributions to the field of victimology, bringing global attention to Indian scholarship in the study of crime victims and their experiences within the criminal justice system.
- The award is named after Hans von Hentig, a pioneering German criminologist who made significant contributions to victimology in the mid-20th century.
- The award recognizes outstanding contributions to victimology, including innovative research, theoretical advancements, and a significant impact on policy and practice related to victims' rights and support.

Paul Kagame

- Paul Kagame won re-election for his fourth consecutive term as President of Rwanda with 99.15% of the vote.
- This victory continues Kagame's leadership since he first assumed office in 2000.

- Approximately 65% of Rwanda's population participated in the election. The electorate is predominantly under 35 years old.
- Kagame has been a prominent figure in Rwandan politics since the 1990s, coming to power in 2000 after ending the Rwandan Civil War.
- Rwanda is a landlocked country in East Central Africa, known as the "land of a thousand hills."

Roberta Metsola

- Roberta Metsola has been re-elected as President of the European Parliament, making history as the first woman to secure a second term in this role.
- Metsola, a Maltese politician, received majority support, with 562 out of 623 votes cast in her favour.
- Metsola has emphasized the importance of the European Parliament's leadership, particularly in supporting Ukraine amid the ongoing conflict with Russia.
- **The European Parliament (EP)** is one of the two legislative bodies of the European Union (EU) and one of its seven key institutions.
- The European Union (EU) is a unique political and economic union comprising 27 member states, located in Europe. Abolishes passport controls among participating countries, enhancing travel and trade.

Ursula von der Leyen

- Ursula von der Leyen was re-elected for a second five-year term as the President of the European Commission.
- The re-election took place in the European Parliament, where she secured a strong majority, ensuring continued leadership at a critical time for the European Union.
- Her leadership continuity is crucial for the 27-nation bloc, especially as it navigates complex challenges such as the ongoing war in Ukraine, climate change, and migration issues.

Preeti Sudan

- **Preeti Sudan**, the former Union Health Secretary appointed as the Chairperson of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC).
- This appointment is made under Article 316 A of the Indian Constitution.
- **She will succeed Manoj Soni**, the outgoing Chairperson, who has resigned due to "personal reasons."
- Preeti Sudan's tenure as Chairperson is expected to last until April 2025, aligning with her reaching the age of 65, in accordance with the constitutional provisions governing UPSC leadership.
- The UPSC is established under Articles 315-323,

Part XIV, Chapter II of the Indian Constitution, ensuring its autonomy.

- **Key Responsibilities:**

- Conducting various examinations for the Union government.
- Organizing the civil services examinations.
- Recommending candidates for prestigious services like IAS, IFS, IPS, and Central Services – Group A and B.

Parimal Nathwani

- Parimal Nathwani, a Rajya Sabha Member of Parliament, recently presented the first copy of his new book, *Call of the Gir*, to Prime Minister Narendra Modi during a small family gathering at the PM's residence on July 31.
- The book, which captures the essence of the Gir forest and its iconic Asiatic lions, was dedicated to PM Modi as a tribute to his visionary leadership behind Project Lion and Lion@2047: Vision for Amrit Kaal.
- The book highlights the landscapes of the Gir forest, home to the majestic Asiatic lions. Through a combination of stunning photography and engaging narratives.

Muhammad Yunus

- **Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus was appointed to lead Bangladesh's interim government** following a dramatic political upheaval. Former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina stepped down and fled the country amid widespread student-led protests.
- Muhammad Yunus, aged 83, is renowned for his work in microfinance. He founded Grameen Bank in 1983 to provide small loans to entrepreneurs who lacked access to traditional financial services. This initiative helped lift many out of poverty and inspired similar microfinancing efforts globally.
- Yunus was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2006 for his efforts to create economic and social development through microcredit. The Nobel Committee recognized him and Grameen Bank for their innovative approach to alleviating poverty.

Shobhana Ranade

- Shobhana Ranade, a prominent Gandhian and Padma Bhushan awardee passed away at the age of 99 in Pune.
- At 18, Shobhana Ranade had a transformative encounter with Mahatma Gandhi, which deeply influenced her life's work. This meeting set her on a path of dedicated social service guided by Gandhian principles.
- Ranade focused on initiatives that provided education, skills, and opportunities to women and

children, particularly in marginalized communities.

• **Key Projects:**

- **Adim Jati Seva Sangh:** Empowered Naga women in the Northeast by teaching them traditional spinning techniques.

- **Maitri Ashram:** A community development project in North Lakhimpur, Assam, aimed at improving local conditions.
- **Bal Griha and Balsadan:** Institutions in Saswad, Pune, dedicated to the care of vulnerable girls.



AWARDS

Gulbenkian Prize for Humanity 2024

- The **Andhra Pradesh Community Managed Natural Farming (APCNF)** program, initiated by the Government of Andhra Pradesh, has earned global recognition by winning the prestigious **Gulbenkian Prize for Humanity 2024**.
- The announcement was made by **Dr Angela Merkel**, former Federal Chancellor of Germany and chair of the jury, during a ceremony held on **July 11th in Lisbon, Portugal**.
- The APCNF shares the **EURO 1 million** prize with **Dr Rattan Lal**, a renowned soil scientist from the USA, and **SEKEM**, an Egyptian network promoting biodynamic farming.
- The APCNF program was launched in **2016** by the Government of Andhra Pradesh. The program aims to transition smallholder farmers from chemically intensive agriculture to natural farming practices.

K. Saraswathi Amma Award

- P. Geetha, a writer, critic, and feminist activist, has been awarded the first K. Saraswathi Amma Award.
- The award, instituted by WINGS (Women's Integration and Growth Through Sports) Kerala, recognizes feminist contributions to literature and social discourse.
- The award is named after K. Saraswathi Amma, a feminist writer, who began her literary journey in 1938 with her first published short story.

COSPAR (Committee on Space Research) scientific assembly

- At the 45th COSPAR (Committee on Space Research) scientific assembly held in Busan, South Korea, two distinguished Indian space scientists were honoured for their remarkable contributions to space science.
- **Harrie Massey Award: Prahlad Chandra Agrawal**
 - Prahlad Chandra Agrawal, a renowned space scientist and retired professor from the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research's Department of Astronomy and Astrophysics.
 - The Harrie Massey Award is given for outstanding contributions to space research,

particularly recognizing leadership in the field.

○ **Career Highlights:**

- **X-ray Astronomy:** Agrawal is celebrated for his pioneering work in X-ray astronomy.
- **AstroSat Program:** He led India's first multiwavelength astronomy satellite, AstroSat, launched in 2015. AstroSat has significantly impacted space research, being cited in over 300 research papers.
- **Chandrayaan-1 Mission:** He also contributed to India's first lunar probe, Chandrayaan-1.
- **Vikram Sarabhai Medal: Anil Bhardwaj**
 - Anil Bhardwaj, the director of the Physical Research Laboratory (PRL) in Ahmedabad.
 - The Vikram Sarabhai Medal, jointly awarded by COSPAR and ISRO, honours outstanding space science research in developing countries.
 - **Career Specialization:**
 - **Planetary Space Sciences and Solar System Exploration:** Bhardwaj has specialized in these areas, contributing significantly to India's space research.

Gandhi Mandela Award 2020

- **Rigoberta Menchú Tum**, a distinguished Guatemalan human rights activist and Nobel Peace Prize laureate was honoured with the **Gandhi Mandela Award 2020**.
- The award was conferred on July 18, 2023, coinciding with Nelson Mandela's 106th birth anniversary.
- It was established by the Gandhi Mandela Foundation, the award honours those who uphold the ideals of Gandhi and Mandela.

PM SVANidhi Scheme

- The recognition of Madhya Pradesh as the 'Best Performing State' under the Prime Minister SVANidhi (PM SVANidhi) scheme highlights the state's exemplary efforts in supporting urban street vendors.
- The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) launched the Prime Minister Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) Scheme on June 1, 2020, to provide collateral-free

working capital loans to street vendors to restart their businesses impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

- The scheme aims to facilitate loans up to ₹10,000 with enhanced loans of ₹20,000 and ₹50,000 in the

second and third tranches, incentivize regular repayment through a 7% per annum interest subsidy, and reward digital transactions with cashback of up to ₹1,200 per year.



IMPORTANT DAYS

Nelson Mandela International Day

- **Nelson Mandela International Day, observed on July 18**, honours the legacy of Nelson Mandela and his contributions to peace, democracy, and human rights.
- **The theme for 2024:** "It's still in our hands to combat poverty and inequity" – This theme reflects Mandela's commitment to social justice and highlights the ongoing need for collective action to address these critical issues.
- The first Nelson Mandela International Day was held on July 18, 2009, in New York, marking the centenary of Mandela's birth.

International Moon Day 2024

- **International Moon Day is celebrated annually on July 20th** to mark the historic Apollo 11 mission, during which Neil Armstrong became the first human to set foot on the Moon.
- On July 20, 1969, Apollo 11's Lunar Module landed on the Moon, and Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin walked on its surface, marking a significant achievement in space exploration.
- The first global celebration of International Moon Day took place on July 20, 2022.

World Chess Day 2024

- **World Chess Day is celebrated globally on July 20th** to mark the establishment of the International Chess Federation (FIDE) and to promote chess as an accessible and inclusive game for all.
- The International Chess Federation (FIDE) was founded on July 20, 1924, in Paris, France, by chess organizations from Argentina, Czechoslovakia, France, Poland, Romania, Spain, Switzerland, and Yugoslavia.
- The day aims to highlight the cultural and educational value of chess and its role in promoting intellectual development and international friendship.

World Brain Day

- **World Brain Day is observed annually on July 22nd** to raise awareness about brain health, prevent brain-related disabilities, and improve treatment and rehabilitation methods.
- The World Federation of Neurology (WFN)

established World Brain Day as a global event to focus on neurological health and the prevention of brain diseases.

- **The theme for 2024: "Brain Health and Prevention"** emphasizes the importance of maintaining brain health and preventing neurological disorders.
- The World Federation of Neurology was founded on July 22, 1957, in Belgium, and the establishment of World Brain Day aligns with this significant anniversary.

National Broadcasting Day

- **National Broadcasting Day is celebrated in India on July 23rd** to commemorate the first-ever radio broadcast in the country, marking the beginning of broadcasting services in India.
- On July 23, 1927, India's first radio broadcast was conducted, marking the inception of radio broadcasting in the country.
- The Indian Broadcasting Company (IBC) was established in 1927 to manage broadcasting services but faced financial difficulties and was shut down in 1930.
- The Government of India took over the broadcasting service, leading to the creation of the Indian State Broadcasting Service (ISBS) in 1930, which later evolved into All India Radio (AIR).

National Flag Day 2024

- **National Flag Day in India is observed annually on July 22** to honour the adoption of the Indian tricolour flag and the Ashoka Chakra, which represent the nation's freedom, unity, and sovereignty.
- On July 22, 1947, the Constituent Assembly of India officially adopted the national flag.
- It was introduced to symbolize the ideals of self-reliance and resistance, proposed by Badr-ud-Din Tyabji and supported by Mahatma Gandhi.
- In 2002, the Flag Code of India was amended to allow the national flag to be displayed on any day of the year, not just national holidays while maintaining respect and dignity as prescribed in the guidelines.

Income Tax Day 2024

- **Income Tax Day, or Rashtriya Aaykar Divas, is observed annually in India on July 24th** to emphasize the importance of taxation in nation-building and responsible financial citizenship.
- The day marks the introduction of India's first Income Tax Act in 1860, introduced by Sir James Wilson. This marked the beginning of formal taxation in the country.
- The day aims to spread awareness about the taxation system in India and highlight its role in supporting government functions and public services.

Kargil Vijay Diwas

- **Kargil Vijay Diwas is observed annually on July 26** to honour and remember the soldiers who sacrificed their lives during the Kargil War and to celebrate the victory of the Indian Armed Forces in this conflict.
- The Kargil War occurred between May and July 1999 in the Kargil district of Jammu and Kashmir. It was an armed conflict between India and Pakistan, initiated when Pakistani troops infiltrated into Indian territory.
- The day marks the successful operation by the Indian military to reclaim the territory and defeat the Pakistani forces, marking a significant moment in India's military history.

World Nature Conservation Day

- **World Nature Conservation Day is observed on July 28** to raise awareness about the importance of conserving nature and promoting sustainable practices.
- The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), established on October 5, 1948, in Fontainebleau, France, plays a key role in global conservation efforts.

International Tiger Day

- **International Tiger Day is celebrated annually on July 29** to raise awareness about the conservation of tigers and their habitats.
- **Project Tiger (1973)** was launched by India, to protect and revive the tiger population, which had been dwindling due to poaching and habitat loss.

World Day Against Trafficking in Persons

- **World Day Against Trafficking in Persons is observed on July 30** to raise awareness about the plight of human trafficking victims and to advocate for their rights and protection.
- **The theme for 2024: "Leave No Child Behind in the Fight Against Human Trafficking"** focuses on the specific challenges faced by children in

trafficking situations.

- The day aims to educate the public about human trafficking, promote preventive measures, and support victims by improving policies and practices globally.

World Breastfeeding Week

- **World Breastfeeding Week (WBW) is a global initiative observed every year from August 1st to 7th.**
- This week-long event is dedicated to raising awareness about the importance of breastfeeding and advocating for the rights of mothers to breastfeed anywhere, anytime.
- **The theme for World Breastfeeding Week 2024 is "Closing the Gap: Breastfeeding Support for All."**
- Breast milk is made up of 87% water, 7% carbohydrates, 4% fats, and 1% protein, vitamins, and minerals. This unique blend provides all the necessary nutrients an infant needs in the first months of life.
- Breastfeeding reduces the risk of illnesses such as respiratory problems, sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS), diarrhoea, and ear infections. It also lowers the likelihood of obesity and type 1 diabetes later in life.

World Lung Cancer Day

- **World Lung Cancer Day is observed annually on August 1st.**
- **The theme for World Lung Cancer Day 2024 is "Close the Care Gap: Everyone Deserves Access to Cancer Care."**
- World Lung Cancer Day was established in 2012 by the Forum of International Respiratory Societies (FIRS) and the International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer (IASLC).
- The day was created to draw attention to the devastating impact of lung cancer and to promote awareness, education, and preventive measures to combat the disease.
- In India, lung cancer incidence is particularly high due to a combination of widespread tobacco use and exposure to polluted air. Urban areas, with their high levels of industrial and vehicular emissions, are especially vulnerable.

Hiroshima Day

- **Hiroshima Day, observed annually on August 6th, 2024** marks the 79th anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima during World War II.
- **Historical Background**
- **The Manhattan Project:** During World War II, the United States initiated the Manhattan Project, a secret program aimed at developing the first

nuclear weapons. This led to the creation of two atomic bombs, codenamed "Little Boy" and "Fat Man."

- **August 6, 1945:** On this date, the American B-29 bomber Enola Gay dropped the atomic bomb "Little Boy" over Hiroshima at 8:15 AM local time. This event marked the first use of nuclear weapons in warfare.
- The explosion resulted in immediate and massive destruction. An estimated 39% of Hiroshima's population was killed instantly, with the total death toll ranging from 90,000 to 140,000. The bomb's blast, heat, and radiation caused widespread devastation, levelling the city and leaving deep physical and emotional scars.

National Handloom Day

- **National Handloom Day is observed annually on August 7th** to honour India's rich handloom heritage.
- This year marks the 10th anniversary of National Handloom Day, which has been celebrated since 2015.
- The choice of August 7 as National Handloom Day is symbolic of India's struggle for independence. This date commemorates the launch of the Swadeshi Movement in Kolkata in 1905.
- Handlooms were a powerful symbol of resistance against colonial rule, promoting Indian crafts and empowering local artisans. The establishment of National Handloom Day in 2015 was a tribute to this historical significance, marking the centenary of the Swadeshi Movement.

National Javelin Day 2024

- **August 7 marks National Javelin Day.** Established to commemorate Neeraj Chopra's monumental achievement, this day honours his Olympic gold medal win and celebrates the sport of javelin throwing.
- On August 7, 2021, Neeraj Chopra won India's first-ever Olympic gold medal in track and field

with a javelin throw of 87.58 meters. This historic win made him the second Indian to secure an individual Olympic gold, following Abhinav Bindra.

- The Athletics Federation of India (AFI) declared August 7 as National Javelin Day to honour Chopra's achievement and celebrate javelin throwing's contribution to Indian athletics.

International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples

- **The International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples, observed annually on August 9th,** highlights the cultures, challenges, and contributions of indigenous communities worldwide.
- The 2024 celebration emphasizes "Protecting the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in Voluntary Isolation and Initial Contact," focusing on safeguarding the rights and well-being of Indigenous groups with limited or no contact with the outside world.
- **Theme: "Protecting the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in Voluntary Isolation and Initial Contact"**

Nagasaki Day

- **Nagasaki Day is an annual observance held on August 9th** to commemorate the atomic bombing of Nagasaki, Japan, which took place on this date in 1945.
- On August 9, 1945, at 11:02 AM local time, a U.S. B-29 bomber named "Bockscar" dropped an atomic bomb called "Fat Man" on Nagasaki, Japan. This was the second atomic bombing during World War II, following Hiroshima's bombing three days earlier.
- Around 40,000 people were killed instantly. Another 35,000 to 40,000 died in the following months from injuries and radiation.

Date	Important Days	Date	Important Days
July 15, 2024	World Youth Skills Day	July 29, 2024	International Tiger Day
Jul 17, 2024	World Day for International Justice	July 30, 2024	International Day of Friendship
July 18, 2024	International Nelson Mandela Day	July 30, 2024	World Day Against Trafficking in Persons
July 20, 2024	World Chess Day	July 31, 2024	World Ranger Day
July 20, 2024	International Moon Day	August 1 st -7 th , 2024	World Breastfeeding Week
July 22, 2024	National Mango Day	August 1, 2024	World Lung Cancer Day
July 22, 2024	World Brain Day	August 6, 2024	Hiroshima Day
July 23, 2024	National Broadcasting Day	August 7, 2024	National Handloom Day
July 24, 2024	National Income Tax Day	August 7, 2024	National Javelin Day
July 25, 2024	World Drowning Prevention Day	August 9, 2024	The International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples

July 26, 2024	Kargil Vijay Diwas	August 9, 2024	Nagasaki Day
July 28, 2024	World Hepatitis Day	August 10, 2024	World Lion Day



BOOSTER DOSE

- **Tata Group's Valuation:** Tata Group, India's most valuable brand, is valued at \$28.6 billion and is nearing the \$30 billion milestone. It is on track to become the first Indian brand to reach this valuation.
- **World Bank Loan for Green Hydrogen:** The World Bank approved a \$1.5 billion loan to support India's green hydrogen projects, aiming to boost production and enhance the use of renewable energy in India.
- **Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023:** On July 1, 2024, The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, officially replaced the Indian Penal Code (IPC) of 1860, marking a major update in India's criminal justice system.
- **eSankhyiki Portal Launched:** The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) launched the eSankhyiki portal to enhance data accessibility and improve the user experience for accessing statistical information.
- **"Union Premier" Branches:** Union Bank of India introduced "Union Premier" branches in rural and semi-urban areas, offering personalized banking services and a comprehensive range of products.
- **World Sports Journalist Day:** World Sports Journalist Day was celebrated to acknowledge the contributions of sports journalists and to promote sports knowledge among the public.
- **Air India to Establish Flight Training School:** Air India announced plans to set up South Asia's largest flight training school in Amravati, Maharashtra, with an investment exceeding ₹200 crore.
- **Dinesh Karthik:** Former Indian wicketkeeper-batsman Dinesh Karthik was appointed as the brand ambassador for the SA20 League to enhance its global appeal.
- **FAO Report on Forest Areas:** The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) reported that India, China, and Australia made significant progress in increasing their forest areas between 2010 and 2020.
- **Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games:** The International Olympic Committee (IOC) selected Salt Lake City, Utah, USA, to host the 2034 Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games during its 142nd Session in Paris.
- **Hul Diwas Celebration:** Hul Diwas was celebrated to commemorate the Santhal Rebellion of 1855, an important anti-colonial uprising in present-day Jharkhand.
- **Annual World Congress:** The International Association of Stem Cell & Regenerative Medicine (IASRM) and the Anti-Ageing Foundation (India) hosted the 9th Annual World Congress on Longevity Revolution 2024 in New Delhi.
- **Cash Prize for T20 World Cup Squad:** The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has awarded a consolidated cash prize of Rs. 125 crore to the Indian men's T20 World Cup-winning squad.
- **Anti-Paper Leak Bill:** The Bihar Assembly passed the Anti-Paper Leak Bill, imposing a minimum 10-year prison sentence and up to ₹1 crore fine for those involved in exam malpractices.
- **Sapphiro Forex Card:** ICICI Bank introduced the 'Student Sapphiro Forex Card,' a premium forex prepaid card designed for international students pursuing higher education abroad.
- **PV Sindhu:** Olympic medalist PV Sindhu has become an investor and brand ambassador for Hoop, a wellness brand based in Gurugram.
- **Shah Rukh Khan:** Shah Rukh Khan will be honoured with the Pardo allaCarriera award at the Locarno Film Festival for his significant contributions to Indian cinema.
- **NTR Bharosa Pension Scheme:** The Andhra Pradesh government launched the NTR Bharosa Pension Scheme to provide financial support to vulnerable groups in the state.
- **Weapon Systems School in Hyderabad:** The

Indian Air Force (IAF) inaugurated the Weapon Systems School (WSS) in Hyderabad, aimed at enhancing military training and capabilities.

- **CBDT Awards Taxnet 2.0 Project to Bharti Airtel:** The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) awarded Bharti Airtel Ltd. the Taxnet 2.0 project to upgrade the Income Tax Department's digital infrastructure.
- **Rohan Bopanna:** Indian tennis star Rohan Bopanna announced his retirement from representing India in international competitions following his exit from the Paris 2024 Olympics.
- **Global India AI Summit 2024:** The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology hosted the Global India AI Summit in New Delhi to advance responsible AI development and adoption.
- **Puma India Announces New Brand Ambassadors:** Puma India appointed Riyan Parag and Nitish Kumar Reddy as new brand ambassadors to support young cricket talent and connect with the youth.
- **Indian Women's Volleyball Team Wins CAVA Gold:** The Indian women's national volleyball team won gold at the 4th CAVA Women's Volleyball Nations League, defeating Nepal 3-2 in the final.
- **NIRMAN Portal:** The NIRMAN portal, launched by Coal India Limited, aims to support UPSC aspirants from operational districts.
- **Dr. B.N. Gangadhar:** Dr. B.N. Gangadhar has been appointed as the Chairperson of the National Medical Commission.
- **Sampoornata Abhiyan:** NITI Aayog launched the "Sampoornata Abhiyan" initiative to promote holistic development in India's most challenging regions.
- **UNESCO World Heritage Committee Session:** India hosted the 46th session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi.
- **AIIA Hosts Second National Seminar 'Saushrutam 2024':** The All-India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) in New Delhi hosted its Second National Seminar, 'Saushrutam 2024,' celebrating Sushruta Jayanti.
- **Aditya-L1 Mission** India's Aditya-L1 mission, its first solar observatory, successfully completed its halo orbit around the Sun-Earth L1 point.
- **George Russell Wins Austrian Grand Prix:** George Russell of Mercedes won the Austrian Grand Prix 2024.
- **India Chairs Colombo Process:** India has assumed the chairmanship of the Colombo Process, a regional initiative involving 12 Asian countries focused on improving overseas employment governance.
- **Sujata Saunik:** Sujata Saunik, an IAS officer from the 1987 batch, has been appointed as Maharashtra's first woman chief secretary.
- **Smart Cities Mission Extended Until 2025:** The Smart Cities Mission, launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2015, has been extended until March 31, 2025, to continue improving urban living standards.
- **MA in Bhagavad Gita Studies:** Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) introduced a new Master of Arts (MA) program in Bhagavad Gita Studies for the 2024-2025 academic session.
- **Lokpath Mobile App:** Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh Dr. Mohan Yadav launched the Lokpath Mobile App to enhance transparency and accountability in road management.
- **Justice SheelNagu:** Justice SheelNagu has been appointed as the Chief Justice of the Punjab and Haryana High Court.
- **VineshPhogat:** Indian wrestler VineshPhogat was disqualified from the Paris Olympics final for failing to meet the weight requirement for her 50 kg category. As per United World Wrestling (UWW) rules, Phogat will be ranked last and will not be eligible for any medals.
- **eSwasthya Dham:** The Uttarakhand government integrated its eSwasthya Dham portal with the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) to improve health monitoring for Char Dham Yatra pilgrims and support broader digital health goals.
- **International Moon Day:** International Moon Day commemorates the achievements in lunar exploration, notably the Apollo 11 mission, and promotes sustainable space exploration.

- **India's GDP Growth Forecast:** The IMF has revised India's GDP growth forecast to 7% for the fiscal year 2024-25, reflecting improved rural consumption.
- **India's \$2.5 Million Contribution to UNRWA:** India released the first \$2.5 million of its \$5 million annual contribution to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) to support its efforts amid ongoing conflicts.
- **Prime Minister Modi Inaugurates INS Towers:** PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the INS Towers at the Indian Newspaper Society (INS) Secretariat in Mumbai, a development for the Indian media sector.
- **BPCL Partners with the Indian Olympic Association:** Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) has become the Principal Partner of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) for the next four years, supporting the Olympics from Paris 2024 to Los Angeles 2028.
- **'Jeevan Samarth' Initiative:** Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) introduced the 'Jeevan Samarth' initiative to modernize its agency network and align with customer and industry needs.
- **British Grand Prix:** Lewis Hamilton won the British Grand Prix for a record ninth time, extending his F1 career win record to 104 victories.
- **Project PARI:** The Ministry of Culture launched Project PARI to celebrate India's artistic heritage at the World Heritage Committee meeting in Delhi.
- **Elisa de Anda Madrazo:** Elisa de Anda Madrazo has taken over as president of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), a key global body for combating financial crimes.
- **Reciprocal Access Agreement:** The Philippines and Japan signed a Reciprocal Access Agreement (RAA) to ease military access, marking Japan's first such agreement in Asia.
- **Asian Billiards Championship 2024:** Held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, the Asian Billiards Championship showcased top talent in billiards and snooker from across Asia.
- **Shah Rukh Khan:** Shah Rukh Khan is the first Indian actor to receive customized gold coins from the Grevin Museum in Paris, recognizing his global impact.
- **Ajinkya Naik:** Ajinkya Naik has been elected as the youngest president of the Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA) at age 37.
- **Project SwasthyaNagaram:** Telangana launched Project SwasthyaNagaram to create TB-free municipalities through a comprehensive urban approach.
- **Harmanpreet Kaur:** Harmanpreet Kaur surpassed Smriti Mandhana to become India's highest run-scorer in women's T20I cricket.
- **Esports Games in Saudi Arabia:** The International Olympic Committee announced that the inaugural Olympic Esports Games will be hosted in Saudi Arabia in 2025.
- **Best Agriculture State Award:** Maharashtra has been awarded the Best Agriculture State Award for 2024 by the Agriculture Leadership Awards Committee.
- **Asian Squash Doubles Championship:** Indian squash players secured titles in both men's doubles and mixed doubles categories at the Asian Squash Doubles Championship in Johor, Malaysia.
- **Dr. C. Narayana Reddy National Literary Award:** Sivashankari, a prominent Tamil author, was honoured with the Dr. C. Narayana Reddy National Literary Award for her contributions to Indian literature.
- **Generative AI Innovations:** India ranks fifth globally in Generative AI innovations, behind China, the US, the Republic of Korea, and Japan. Despite this, India has demonstrated the highest annual growth rate in GenAI patent publications, indicating significant economic potential.
- **Rachel Reeves:** Rachel Reeves has been appointed as the first female Chancellor of the Exchequer in UK history, marking a significant milestone in gender representation in high-level government positions.
- **Prime Minister Modi:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been awarded Russia's highest civilian honour, the Order of St Andrew the Apostle the First-Called, for his contributions to strengthening the strategic partnership between Russia and India.

- **Himachal Pradesh:** The Himachal Pradesh Cabinet approved a plan to rationalize the zero electricity bill scheme with a 'one family, one-meter' policy, linking power connections with ration cards to limit subsidies.
- **Pradhan Mantri Colleges of Excellence:** Union Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurated the Pradhan Mantri Colleges of Excellence in all 55 districts of Madhya Pradesh, aiming to improve higher education infrastructure.
- **Open University for Physically Challenged Students:** The Jharkhand government is preparing to open India's first university dedicated to physically challenged students in Ranchi, catering to the educational needs of students with disabilities.
- **Aparna Vastarey:** Aparna Vastarey, a celebrated Kannada actress and iconic voice of Namma Metro announcements, passed away at the age of 57.
- **Lok SamvardhanParv:** The Ministry of Minority Affairs organized Lok SamvardhanParv as part of its 100-day program to highlight and celebrate its initiatives and achievements for minority communities.
- **MoHUA Event on PM SVANidhi and DAY-NULM Schemes:** The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) held an event titled "Utkrishtata ki Ore Badhte Kadam" to acknowledge achievements of the PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) scheme and Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM).
- **ICC Annual Conference in Sri Lanka:** The International Cricket Council (ICC) held its Annual Conference in Sri Lanka for the first time, highlighting the growing prominence of Asian cricket.
- **Subhash Dandekar:** Subhash Dandekar, founder of the iconic brand Camlin, passed away at the age of 86. His leadership significantly impacted the Indian stationery and art supplies industry.
- **Framework for Climate-Resilient Farming:** The Union government is developing a framework to support climate-resilient farming practices in 50,000 villages vulnerable to climate change, aiming to enhance agricultural resilience and sustainability.
- **Tata Power Solar's 'GharGhar Solar' Initiative:** Tata Power Solar Systems Limited launched the 'GharGhar Solar' initiative in Uttar Pradesh, starting in Varanasi, to promote rooftop solar solutions with significant subsidies.
- **Thomas Müller:** German footballer Thomas Müller announced his retirement from international football following Euro 2024, ending a distinguished international career.
- **Cost-of-Living Report:** Mercer's report lists Hong Kong, Singapore, and Zurich as the most expensive cities for international workers. Mumbai ranks highest among Indian cities at 136th.
- **Gautam Gambhir:** Gautam Gambhir has been appointed as the Head Coach of the Indian Senior Men's cricket team.
- **'Mitra Van' Initiative:** Uttar Pradesh launched the 'Mitra Van' initiative to enhance greenery along state and international borders, including with Nepal.
- **Flag Bearers for Paris 2024 Olympics:** PV Sindhu (badminton player) and Sharath Kamal (table tennis player) have been announced as the female and male flag bearers for India at the Paris 2024 Olympics.
- **India-Vietnam Joint Venture for Maritime Heritage:** India and Vietnam are collaborating on the National Maritime Heritage Complex (NMHC) in Lothal, Gujarat, to celebrate and deepen cultural and strategic ties.
- **Rashtriya Hindi Vigyan Sammelan 2024:** The conference, organized by CSIR-AMPRI Bhopal, advanced scientific research and communication in Hindi.
- **Conference of Governors:** President DroupadiMurmu inaugurated the two-day Conference of Governors at Rashtrapati Bhavan, focusing on governance and development issues.
- **Turkey Blocks Instagram Access:** Turkey blocked access to Instagram for its 85 million citizens following a decision by the Information and Communication Technologies Authority, with no reasons or duration disclosed.
- **NSDC's Women Entrepreneurship Program:** The National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)

launched a program to support women entrepreneurs and address their unique challenges.

- **Swapnil Kusale:** Indian shooter Swapnil Kusale secured a bronze medal in the 50m rifle 3 positions event at the Paris Olympics, adding to his impressive career achievements.
- **Ministry of Minority Affairs:** The Ministry of Minority Affairs has replaced the Ministry of External Affairs as the nodal ministry for the Haj Committee. The Haj Committee (Amendment) Rules, 2024, reflect this change in the Haj Committee Rules, 2002.
- **BSF and SBI Plantation Drive:** The Border Security Force (BSF) partnered with the State Bank of India (SBI) to organize a plantation drive titled "Grow with the Trees" at the BSF Headquarters in Srinagar to promote a greener environment.
- **Nivahika Web Portal:** The National Institute of Technology Calicut (NITC) launched the Nivahika web portal, enhancing its data management practices with state-of-the-art technology.
- **Youngest Olympic Boxing Referee:** Lieutenant Colonel Kabilan Sai Ashok became the youngest Olympic boxing referee from India at the 2024 Paris Olympics, marking a significant achievement in sports.
- **Birlestik-2024 Joint Military Exercise:** The Birlestik-2024 exercise, a collaborative military drill, involved the Defense Ministries of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan to enhance regional cooperation and operational readiness.
- **Adani Group:** Gautam Adani and the Adani Group have become the principal sponsors of the Indian team for the 2024 Paris Olympics, showing their commitment to Indian sports.
- **Ariane 6 Rocket Launch:** Europe's Ariane 6 rocket successfully launched from Kourou, French Guiana, marking a milestone for European space efforts by deploying satellites into orbit. Observed as the International Day of Reflection and Commemoration of the 1995 Genocide in Srebrenica to honour victims and promote education about the genocide.
- **100 Million Followers:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi surpassed 100 million followers on the social

media platform X (formerly Twitter), becoming the most followed global leader on the platform.

- **World Championship of Legends 2024:** India Champions won the final of the World Championship of Legends 2024, defeating Pakistan Champions by five wickets.
- **Bangladesh:** Bangladesh was officially welcomed as the fifth member of the Colombo Security Conclave (CSC) during the 8th Deputy National Security Adviser (DNSA) level meeting, hosted virtually by Mauritius.
- **Nagaland:** Nagaland was recognized as the best state in horticulture at the Agriculture Leadership Awards 2024 for its innovative agricultural practices and rural development.
- **World Ranger Day:** Celebrated annually to honour and remember rangers who have been injured or killed while protecting natural and cultural heritage.
- **Vietnam:** Vietnam was named the most affordable destination for expatriates for the fourth consecutive year in a 2024 study by InterNations.
- **Nitish Singh:** International mountaineer Nitish Singh from Gorakhpur hoisted the Indian tricolour at the summit of Mount Kinabalu, achieving the feat in just 19 hours.
- **India's Low-Carbon Energy Development:** The World Bank approved \$1.5 billion for India's second operation to advance low-carbon energy development, focusing on green hydrogen, renewable energy, and low-carbon investments.
- **Dr R Balasubramaniam:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi met Dr R Balasubramaniam and signed a copy of his latest book, "Power Within: The Leadership Legacy of Narendra Modi."
- **National Accounts Base Years:** India plans to update the base years for national accounts and macro-indicators starting from January to February 2026 to improve economic data accuracy.
- **MTNL and BSNL Operations Transfer:** The government is considering transferring MTNL's operations to BSNL instead of a full merger of the two telecom entities.
- **Inaugural Meeting of National One Health Mission:** Union Health Minister JP Nadda chaired

the inaugural meeting of the National One Health Mission's executive committee, focusing on comprehensive health management across humans, animals, plants, and the environment.

- **Thane Borivali Twin Tunnel Inauguration:** The Thane Borivali Twin Tunnel, inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, represents a major urban infrastructure advancement in Mumbai.
- **ICAR's 'One Scientist-One Product' Program:** The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) launched the 'One Scientist-One Product' program to boost agricultural and animal husbandry research. Each scientist will focus on a specific product or crop to streamline research efforts and enhance productivity and innovation.
- **India's MANAS Helpline Launch:** India introduced MANAS, a national toll-free helpline dedicated to narcotics crimes, launched by Union Home Minister Amit Shah. It provides a 24x7 platform for citizens to report drug-related activities.
- **India's Football Ranking:** India maintained its 124th place in international football rankings despite challenges, including recent losses in the 2026 World Cup Qualifiers.
- **Crop Loan Limits:** The Indian government is considering raising the upper limit for short-term crop loans under the Modified Interest Subvention Scheme (MISS) from ₹3 lakh to ₹5 lakh. This move aims to provide larger loans at concessional rates to farmers.
- **Mobile Broadband Speed:** Following the launch of 5G services, India's mobile broadband speed improved significantly, with the country advancing from 118th to 15th position internationally.
- **Rise in Teledensity:** India's teledensity increased from 75.2% in March 2014 to 85.7% in March 2024, reflecting the expanded reach of telecommunications services.
- **Renewable Energy Capacity:** India experienced a 165% growth in renewable energy capacity over the past decade, reaching 203.1 GW in 2024, making it the fourth-largest globally in renewable energy capacity.
- **Supreme Court Judgment on Reservations:** The Supreme Court of India delivered a landmark judgment reshaping the framework of reservations for Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) for the first time since the quotas were established in 1950.
- **Dr. V. Vedachalam Honored:** Tamil epigrapher and historian Dr. V. Vedachalam received the V Venkayya Epigraphy Award in 2024 for his exceptional contributions to epigraphy and Indian heritage.
- **Asian Cricket Council (ACC):** Mohsin Naqvi, chairman of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), is expected to become the ACC president later this year, marking a significant leadership shift.
- **"VIRAASAT" Exhibition:** The "VIRAASAT" exhibition celebrating the 10th National Handloom Day commenced at Handloom Haat, Janpath, New Delhi, organized by the National Handloom Development Corporation Ltd (NHDC).
- **International Tennis Hall of Fame Induction:** Asian men were inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame for the first time, honouring their contributions to the sport.
- **Namo Drone Didi Scheme:** Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman allocated ₹500 crore for the Namu Drone Didi scheme to provide drones to 15,000 women self-help groups (SHGs), aiming to enhance agricultural productivity and efficiency.
- **Shinku La Tunnel:** PM Modi will inaugurate the world's highest Shinku La Tunnel in Ladakh, providing all-weather connectivity from Manali to Leh. At 4.1 km long and 15,800 feet high, it surpasses China's Mila tunnel.
- **President Murmu's Diplomatic Visit:** President Droupadi Murmu's visit to Fiji, New Zealand, and Timor-Leste underscores India's growing diplomatic engagement in the Pacific region.
- **Bangladesh Prime Minister's Resignation:** Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina resigned after 15 years in power, leading to significant political unrest and protests in Bangladesh.
- **Noah Lyles Wins Gold:** American sprinter Noah Lyles won the gold medal in the men's 100-meter sprint at the 2024 Paris Olympics, ending a two-decade drought for U.S. sprinters.
- **ICAE Conference Inauguration:** On August 3, 2024, PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the 32nd

International Conference of Agricultural Economists (ICAE) in New Delhi, with the theme "Transformation Towards Sustainable Agri-Food Systems."

- **ViraatRamayan Mandir Project:** The ViraatRamayan Mandir project in East Champaran, Bihar, aims to create the world's largest Ramayan temple, surpassing the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya.
- **Haryana's IT Saksham Yuva Scheme:** The Haryana Cabinet introduced the IT Saksham Yuva Scheme under the 'Mission 60,000' initiative to provide employment to 60,000 youths from economically disadvantaged backgrounds.
- **Spain Named Healthiest Country:** According to the Bloomberg Global Health Index, Spain is recognized as the world's healthiest country for 2024 with a score of 92.7 out of 100.
- **Uttarakhand's First Bird Gallery:** The Uttarakhand Forest Department inaugurated the state's first bird gallery, aiming to showcase the region's avian diversity and promote bird conservation and education.
- **ICAR's 'One Scientist-One Product' Scheme:** The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) launched the 'One Scientist-One Product' scheme on its 96th foundation day, designed to enhance agricultural research and development by linking scientists with specific agricultural products.
- **Wholesale Price Index (WPI) Inflation Rate:** India's WPI showed a provisional annual inflation rate of 3.36%, influenced by rising prices in food articles, manufactured products, and fuel.
- **SYNCHN 2024 Industry Meet:** The Translational Health Science and Technology Institute (THSTI) hosted the SYNCHN 2024 industry meet under the Biotechnology Research and Innovation Council (BRIC), focusing on advancements in health science and technology.
- **ASMITA Project:** The Ministry of Education and the University Grants Commission (UGC) launched the ASMITA project to develop 22,000 books in Indian languages over the next five years, enhancing higher education accessibility.
- **Azerbaijan's Climate Finance Action Fund (CFAF):** On November 11-22, 2024, Azerbaijan will host COP29 and has announced the Climate Finance Action Fund (CFAF) to support green projects and help countries achieve the 1.5°C temperature target of the Paris Agreement.
- **ADB's GDP Growth Forecast for India:** The Asian Development Bank (ADB) maintained India's GDP growth forecast at 7% for FY2024 and 7.2% for FY2025, aligning with the IMF's revised forecast.
- **Defence Budget Allocation:** The Union Budget for FY 2024-25 allocated Rs 6.22 lakh crore to the Ministry of Defence, the highest budgetary allocation among ministries, focusing on enhancing defence capabilities and veteran support.
- **Mumbai's First Underground Metro:** On July 24, 2024, Mumbai's Aqua Line (Mumbai Metro Line 3) commenced operations, marking a major milestone in the city's public transportation system.
- **C.T. Kurien's Passing:** Economist and former Madras Christian College professor C.T. Kurien passed away at 93. His contributions to Indian economics remain influential.
- **Maharashtra's Ladla Bhai Yojana:** Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde announced the Ladla Bhai Yojana to support young men in the state, following the Majhi LadkiBahin Yojana for women's empowerment.
- **ADB Loan for Rooftop Solar Systems:** The Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved a \$240.5 million loan for installing rooftop solar systems in India, supporting renewable energy expansion.
- **Electronics Manufacturing Goal:** India aims to achieve \$500 billion in electronics production by 2030, as outlined in a NITI Aayog report.
- **Belarus:** Belarus introduced a visa-free regime for citizens from 35 European countries, allowing stays of up to 90 days per year, aiming to improve diplomatic relations.
- **Super Kings Academy:** The Chennai Super Kings (CSK) launched their third Super Kings Academy in Sydney, expanding their international presence.
- **Vinay Kwatra:** Former Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra has been appointed as India's new Ambassador to the United States, succeeding Taranjit Sandhu.

- **China's Carbon Fiber Passenger Train:** China unveiled the world's first passenger train primarily made from carbon fibre, enhancing energy efficiency and weight reduction. Named Cetrovo 1.0 or Carbon Star Rapid Transit, it was introduced in Qingdao.
- **Ivory Coast Joins UN Water Convention:** Ivory Coast became the 53rd Party to the 1992 UN Water Convention, focusing on the protection and use of transboundary watercourses and international lakes.
- **Indian Institute of Spices Research Award:** The Indian Institute of Spices Research (IISR) received the Best Technology Award for its contributions to horticultural sciences during ICAR's 96th Foundation Day celebrations.
- **Novak Djokovic's Olympic Gold:** Novak Djokovic won his first Olympic gold medal at the age of 37, marking a historic achievement in tennis. His victory further solidifies his status as one of the sport's greatest players.
- **Inauguration of 6G Communications Centre:** At IITM Research Park, Chennai, The Centre of Excellence on "Classical and Quantum Communications for 6G" was inaugurated. This centre, part of the Telecom Centres of Excellence (TCoE)-India initiative, will focus on advancing 6G technology, aiming for unprecedented speeds and connectivity.
- **Rajiv Gandhi Civils Abhayastam Initiative:** Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy launched this initiative to support civil services aspirants from Telangana, providing financial assistance to candidates who pass the Civil Services Mains examination.
- **Manoj Soni:** Manoj Soni, Chairman of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), resigned due to personal reasons. His resignation comes five years before the end of his term, which was set to conclude in 2029.
- **WaghNakh:** The WaghNakh, a tiger claw-shaped weapon used by Maratha king Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, has been returned to India from London after 350 years. It is now on display at the Satara Museum.
- **Gujarat's ShramikBaser Scheme 2024:** The Gujarat state government introduced this scheme to provide temporary housing for financially unstable labourers, particularly construction workers, to improve their living conditions in key cities.
- **Repeal of Assam Muslim Marriages and Divorce Registration Act:** The Assam Cabinet approved the repeal of the 1935 Act through the Assam Repealing Bill, 2024, aiming to address child marriages and modernize the marriage and divorce registration process.
- **Rahaab Allana Awarded by France:** Rahaab Allana, a curator and author, received the Officier dans l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres from the French government for his contributions to contemporary South Asian photography.
- **Israeli Knesset Designates UNRWA as Terrorist Organization:** The Israeli Knesset approved a bill to label the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees (UNRWA) as a terrorist organization, affecting the agency's operations.
- **Nita Ambani Re-Elected to IOC:** Nita Ambani was unanimously re-elected as an International Olympic Committee (IOC) member from India during the 142nd IOC session, emphasizing her ongoing influence in the Olympic movement.
- **Renaming of Rashtrapati Bhavan Halls:** President Droupadi Murmu renamed Durbar Hall to 'Ganatantra Mandap' and Ashok Hall to 'Ashok Mandap' in Rashtrapati Bhavan to reflect Indian cultural values and ethos.
- **Discovery of Lithium Resources in Karnataka:** The Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD) identified 1,600 tonnes of lithium resources in the Marlagalla area of Mandya district, Karnataka.
- **Hamzah Haz Passes Away:** Hamzah Haz, former Vice-President of Indonesia, passed away at the age of 84. His death was confirmed by a politician from the Development Planning Party (PPP) in Jakarta.
- **Launch of Vriksharopan Abhiyan 2024:** On July 25, 2024, Union Minister Shri G. Kishan Reddy launched this environmental initiative at Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) in Dhanbad to enhance green cover in coalfield regions.
- **Department of Atomic Energy's ODOS Initiative:** The Department of Atomic Energy (DAE)

inaugurated the “One DAE One Subscription” (ODOS) initiative at Tata Memorial Hospital in Mumbai. This initiative aims to improve accessibility to scientific research and publications within the DAE community.

- **Launch of Ideas4LiFE Portal:** Union Minister for Environment, Forest, and Climate Change, Shri Bhupender Yadav, launched the Ideas4LiFE portal at IIT Delhi on 6th August. This initiative promotes innovative, environment-friendly lifestyles in alignment with the global Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment).
- **Ismail Haniyeh:** On August 5, 2024, Ismail Haniyeh, the political chief of Hamas, was assassinated in Tehran, Iran, while attending the inauguration of Iran’s President Masoud Pezeshkian. Haniyeh’s death, along with one of his bodyguards, occurred in a high-profile attack.
- **SEBI Unveils ‘SEVA’ Chatbot:** The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) introduced ‘SEVA,’ an AI-powered chatbot designed to enhance investor engagement and support, modernizing investor services and improving information access.
- **E-SeHAT Module:** The Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS) launched the Electronic Services e-Health Assistance and Tele-consultation (E-SeHAT) module, allowing veterans to receive online medical consultations and reducing the need for in-person visits.
- **Suvidha Software Version 1.0:** On July 30, 2024, The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) launched ‘Suvidha Software Version 1.0’ at the Annual Operational Sea Training Conference in Visakhapatnam. The software aims to enhance training protocols and ensure uniformity across ICG platforms.
- **Santosh Kumar Gangwar:** Former Union Minister Santosh Kumar Gangwar was sworn in as the 12th Governor of Jharkhand, succeeding C.P. Radhakrishnan, who was appointed Governor of Maharashtra.
- **World Wide Web Day:** On August 1st Celebrated annually, World Wide Web Day honours Tim Berners-Lee, the inventor of the World Wide Web in 1989.
- **National Mountain Climbing Day:** On August 1st, this day celebrates the achievements of mountaineers, commemorating Bobby Matthews

and Josh Madigan’s successful ascent of all 46 peaks in the Adirondack Mountains.

- **Tsung-Dao Lee:** Nobel Prize-winning physicist Tsung-Dao Lee passed away at the age of 97. He was renowned for his contributions to particle physics.
- **Indo-Pacific Economic Framework:** India’s election as Vice-Chair of the Supply Chain Council under the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) highlights its growing influence in enhancing supply chain resilience in the region.
- **International Conference of Agricultural Economists (ICAE):** India hosted the 32nd ICAE in New Delhi, an important event in agricultural economics, focusing on global agricultural and food system discussions.
- **ADB Loan for Waste Management:** The Asian Development Bank (ADB) granted a \$200 million loan to improve solid waste management and sanitation across 100 cities in India. This funding supports the Swachh Bharat Mission 2.0 – Comprehensive Municipal Waste Management in Indian Cities Program.
- **India’s Agricultural Export Ranking (2023):** India remained the eighth-largest global exporter of agricultural products in 2023. Despite a decrease in export value from \$55 billion in 2022 to \$51 billion, the country held steady in global rankings.
- **Friendship Day:** In India, Friendship Day is observed on the first Sunday of August, which this year falls on August 4th. Globally, Friendship Day is recognized on July 30th as the International Day of Friendship, a designation made by the United Nations.
- **MukhyamantriMaiyaan Samman Yojana Launch:** The government of Jharkhand, led by Chief Minister Hemant Soren, has launched the MukhyamantriMaiyaan Samman Yojana to enhance the financial stability and empowerment of women in Jharkhand.
- **Organ Donation Day:** India observed its 14th Indian Organ Donation Day on 3rd August, focusing on raising awareness, honouring donors, and encouraging more people to consider organ donation.
- **Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina’s Resignation:** Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina of

Bangladesh resigned after 15 years in power. Her resignation led to widespread protests and security breaches at the Prime Minister's official residence.

- **Inaugural BIMSTEC Business Summit:** on 6th August, the Ministry of External Affairs and the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) hosted the inaugural BIMSTEC Business Summit in New Delhi, aiming to strengthen business ties among BIMSTEC member countries.
- **President DroupadiMurmu Honored:** President DroupadiMurmu received the "Companion of the Order of Fiji" in Suva, Fiji. This high honour recognizes exceptional contributions and services to Fiji.
- **Graham Thorpe:** Former England cricketer and coach Graham Thorpe passed away at 55. His cricketing career from 1993 to 2005 established him as one of England's most reliable batsmen.
- **e-Sankhyiki Portal:** The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) launched the e-Sankhyiki portal to enhance data management and dissemination in India, aiming to improve access to and analysis of official statistics.
- **VineshPhogat:** Indian wrestler VineshPhogat announced her retirement after being disqualified from the Paris 2024 Olympic final due to weight management issues.
- **RBI Monetary Policy Committee Meeting:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) decided to keep the benchmark repo rate unchanged at 6.5% following its Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting.
- **Andhra Pradesh's Two-Child Norm Decision:** The Andhra Pradesh government, led by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, has decided to abolish the two-child norm for candidates contesting local body elections, responding to changing demographic trends and a declining fertility rate.
- **'ParvatPrahaar' Exercise:** On August 8, 2024, the Indian Army conducted the 'ParvatPrahaar' exercise in Ladakh to enhance military readiness and operational capabilities in high-altitude terrain near the India-China border.
- **Neeraj Chopra at Paris 2024:** Neeraj Chopra won the silver medal in javelin throw at the Paris 2024 Olympics with a throw of 89.45 meters. He was narrowly beaten by Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem, who set a new Olympic record with a throw of 92.97 meters.
- **"Million Designers, Billion Dreams" Initiative:** Launched by the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM), this initiative aims to empower individuals in rural India through systems design, promoting development and innovation.

OPSC MCQ

1. Which of the following state has been awarded the Best State Award for its innovative initiatives and effective implementation of road safety measures?
 - A. Odisha
 - B. Andhra Pradesh
 - C. Maharashtra
 - D. Punjab
2. The Prachi, a small river of over 78 km, is part of which larger river basin?
 - A. Rushikulya
 - B. Brahmani
 - C. Mahanadi
 - D. Baitarani
3. Sunabeda Wildlife Sanctuary is located in which of the following districts?
 - A. Boudh
 - B. Bolangir
 - C. Kandhamal
 - D. Nuapada
4. Ikat technique is associated with which of the following?
 - A. Painting
 - B. Stone carving
 - C. Dyeing
 - D. Farming
5. The World Indigenous Peoples Day is celebrated on:
 - A. August 9
 - B. August 10
 - C. August 11
 - D. August 12
6. The Dhamra Port is located in which district?
 - A. Bhadrak
 - B. Balasore
 - C. Kendrapada
 - D. Puri
7. Bhitarkanika National Park was declared as a Ramsar Site in which year?
 - A. 1999
 - B. 2002
 - C. 2006
 - D. 2010
8. The Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana (BSKY) has been rebranded as:
 - A. Harischandra Jan Arogya Yojana (GJAY)
 - B. Gopabandhu Jan Arogya Yojana (GJAY)
 - C. Madhusudan Jan Arogya Yojana (GJAY)
 - D. Ramadevi Jan Arogya Yojana (GJAY)
9. The PESA Act does not apply to which of the following states?
 - A. Punjab
 - B. Gujarat
 - C. Odisha
 - D. Madhya Pradesh
10. Which of the following are smart city/ies under the smart cities mission?
 - A. Bhubaneswar
 - B. Raurkela
 - C. Sambalpur
 - D. Both A and B
11. Which of the following coastline regions of Odisha is/are known for a significant population of horseshoe crabs?
 - A. Balaramgari
 - B. Chandipur
 - C. Hukitola
 - D. All of the above
12. Bhoj Wetland often mentioned in the news is located in which of the following state?
 - A. Rajasthan
 - B. Madhya Pradesh
 - C. Gujarat
 - D. Maharashtra
13. Which of the following is/are Buddhist sites in Odisha?
 - A. Lalitgiri
 - B. Langudi
 - C. Udayagiri
 - D. All of the above
14. India's first rice ATM was inaugurated in:
 - A. Raurkela
 - B. Bhubaneswar
 - C. Baleswar
 - D. Cuttack
15. Which district of Odisha has been selected to pilot a state-of-the-art Advanced Emergency Care System (EMS)?
 - A. Kendrapada
 - B. Jagatsinghpur
 - C. Balasore
 - D. Puri
16. Juanga Tribes, recently seen in the news are mostly concentrated in which of the following districts?
 - A. Keonjhar
 - B. Sambalpur
 - C. Sonapur

- D. Nayagarh
17. The Indian Army recently conducted a military exercise called 'ParvatPrahaar' in which region?
- A. Ladakh
B. Arunachal Pradesh
C. Rajasthan
D. Punjab
18. Bomkai Sareesowe their orginto which of the following districts?
- A. Dhenkanal
B. Cuttack
C. Khordha
D. Sonapur
19. World Lung Cancer Day is observed on which date?
- A. 1st August
B. 2nd August
C. 3rd August
D. 4th August
20. Muhammad Yunus was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2006 for the founding of which of the following?
- A. Self Help Groups.
B. Gramin Banks.
C. Cooperative Banks.
D. Payment Banks
21. India's first GI-Tagged fig juice was exported to which country?
- A. USA
B. UAE
C. Poland
D. UK
22. WHO Global Traditional Medicine Centre (GTMC) is located in:
- A. Ahmadabad
B. Patna
C. Bhopal
D. Jamnagar
23. Declaration of Astana is associated with which of the following?
- A. Elementary Education.
B. Skill development.
C. Primary health care.
D. Terrorism.
24. National Disaster Management Authority is headed by:
- A. Cabinet Secretary.
B. Prime minister of India.
C. President of India.
D. Home Minister.
25. The World Development Report 2024: Middle Income Trap was recently released by:
- A. World Economic Forum.
B. World Bank.
C. International Monetary Fund.
D. UNDP.
26. Which of the following dates is celebrated as National Handloom Day?
- A. 5th August
B. 6th August
C. 7th August
D. 8th August
27. "Thousand Sails" satellite constellation program has been recently launched by which of the following countries?
- A. USA
B. France
C. China
D. India
28. According to World Trade Statistics 2023 which of the following is the largest exporter?
- A. European Union
B. China
C. USA
D. Canada
29. Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya (GSV) is located at:
- A. Ahmadabad
B. Vadodara
C. New Delhi
D. Lucknow
30. Recently Indian Naval Ship Tabar participated in a Maritime Partnership Exercise (MPX) between India and which of the following countries?
- A. Australia
B. Japan
C. USA
D. Russia
31. Global Methane Pledge Commits to a collective 30% cut in methane emissions by which year?
- A. 2030
B. 2035
C. 2040
D. 2045
32. Lake Turkana often mentioned in the news is situated in which country?
- A. Kenya

- B. Mozambique
C. Tanzania
D. DR Congo
33. **Guru Ghasidas-Tamor Pingla Tiger Reserve is located in which state?**
A. Maharashtra
B. Odisha
C. Andhra Pradesh
D. Chhattisgarh
34. **What is the rank of India globally in total renewable energy installed capacity?**
A. 1st
B. 2nd
C. 3rd
D. 4th
35. **World Biofuel Day is observed annually on:**
A. 10th August
B. 12th August
C. 14th August
D. 16th August
36. **CHAMAN programme is associated with which of the following?**
A. Tea Plantation
B. Horticulture
C. Sericulture
D. Wheat cultivation
37. **World Heritage Sites associated with Nelson Mandela are located in which country?**
A. Zimbabwe
B. Nigeria
C. Morocco
D. South Africa
38. **6X6X6 strategy is associated with which of the following diseases?**
A. AIDS
B. Anemia
C. Polio
D. Malaria
39. **Mpox (formerly known as monkeypox) is a disease caused by:**
A. Virus
B. Bacteria
C. Fungus
D. Protozoa
40. **Tamor Pingla Wildlife Sanctuary is located in:**
A. Odisha
B. Andhra Pradesh
C. Telangana
D. Chhattisgarh
41. **Coral Triangle is a marine area located in:**
A. North Atlantic Ocean
B. South Indian Ocean
C. Mediterranean Sea
D. Western Pacific Ocean
42. **UN Human Rights Council's headquarter is located at:**
A. New York City
B. Geneva
C. Vienna
D. Paris
43. **Paetongtarn Shinawatra was recently sworn in as prime Minister of which country?**
A. Vietnam
B. Thailand
C. Philippines
D. Laos
44. **5th ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA) Joint Committee meeting recently held in**
A. Jakarta
B. Kathmandu
C. Bali
D. Bangkok
45. **Which of the following is not a member state of ASEAN?**
A. Philippines
B. Cambodia
C. Laos
D. Bangladesh
46. **Nirbhaya Fund is administered by which ministry/Organisation?**
A. Ministry of Home Affairs
B. Ministry of Finance
C. Ministry of Women and Child Development.
D. RBI
47. **Secretariat of ASEAN is located in:**
A. Bali
B. Jakarta
C. New Delhi
D. Dhaka
48. **Legionnaires' Disease often mentioned in the news is associated with which of the following Organ?**
A. Lungs
B. Kidney

- C. Liver
- D. Large Intestine

49. Kazhuveli Bird Sanctuary is located in which state?

- A. Tamil Nadu
- B. Andhra Pradesh
- C. Odisha
- D. Maharashtra

50. "MukhyamantriLadkiBahin" scheme recently seen in the news is associated with which of the following state?

- A. Madhya Pradesh
- B. Maharashtra
- C. Rajasthan
- D. Uttar Pradesh

ANSWERS

1. Answer A

Odisha has been awarded the Best State Award for its innovative initiatives and effective implementation of road safety measures.

2. Answer C

The Prachi, a small river of over 78 km in length with a catchment area of around 600 km², a part of the Mahanadi River Delta.

3. Answer D

Sunabeda Wildlife Sanctuary is a wildlife sanctuary and a proposed tiger reserve located in the Nuapada district of Odisha, adjoining Chhattisgarh. It has a total area of 600 km² (230 sq mi).

4. Answer C

Ikat is a dyeing technique from Southeast Asia used to pattern textiles that employs resist dyeing on the yarns before dyeing and weaving the fabric. Tikirapada village of Sonepur, the Ikat weaves are an amalgamation of tradition and modernity. Sonepur, the hub of Ikat weaving in western Odisha, is home to at least 6,000 weavers and 200 of them including Rasananda reside in Tikirapada village under Subalaya panchayat.

5. Answer A

Every year, the World Indigenous Peoples Day is celebrated on August 9 to raise awareness about the indigenous people, their culture and their importance to the world.

6. Answer A

The Dhamra Port is a port in Bhadrak district, Odisha, on the shore of the Bay of Bengal about seven kilometres from Dhamra town. The Dhamra Port Company Limited (DPCL) has set a record by handling 4.64 million tonne cargo in July, the highest-ever monthly cargo handled by it since inception.

7. Answer B

It was designated as a Ramsar site on 19th August 2002, highlighting its importance as a wetland of international significance.

8. Answer B

The Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana (BSKY) has been rebranded as Gopabandhu Jan Arogya Yojana (GJAY).

This rebranding was included in the 2024-25 budget, presented by Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi.

The issuance of GJAY cards will begin after the budget appropriation bill is passed in September.

Financial Support: The government has allocated Rs 5,450 crore for GJAY.

9. Answer A

The PESA Act is applicable to 10 Indian states with significant Scheduled Areas:

Gujarat, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Mizoram, Tripura.

10. Answer D

The Government of India announced a significant extension to one of its flagship urban development initiatives. The Smart Cities

Mission, originally set to conclude on June 30, 2024, will now continue until March 31, 2025. Uttar Pradesh leads with 13 smart cities, followed closely by Tamil Nadu with 12, and Maharashtra with 10. Odisha has two cities : Bhubaneswar, Raurkela.

11. Answer D

Odisha's Significance: Odisha's coastline, particularly areas like Balaramgari, Chandipur, and Hukitola, is known for its significant horseshoe crab population.

12. Answer B

The Union Government recently denied any threat of delisting the Bhoj Wetland from the Ramsar Convention list of wetlands of international importance.

13. Answer D

Archaeologists are pushing for the inclusion of Odisha's Buddhist sites, particularly Lalitgiri, Langudi, Udayagiri, and Ratnagiri, in the UNESCO World Heritage List. The decision was taken after the 46th session of the World Heritage Committee of UNESCO which concluded in New Delhi recently.

14. Answer B

Bhubaneswar has become a pioneer in food distribution technology with the inauguration of India's first rice ATM. This innovative machine aims to streamline the Public Distribution System (PDS) and ensure beneficiaries receive the correct amount of rice.

15. Answer D

Puri district in Odisha has been selected as one of the five locations in India to pilot a state-of-the-art Advanced Emergency Care System (EMS). The project is initiated by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR). It aims to significantly reduce preventable and treatable mortality rates in the country.

16. Answer A

The District Level Committee of Keonjhar in Odisha recently approved the habitat rights claim for the Juanga, a particularly vulnerable tribal group, under the Forest Rights Act (FRA).

17. Answer A

The Indian Army recently conducted a military exercise called 'ParvatPrahaar' in the Ladakh region, which is located near the India-China border.

18. Answer D

Bomkai Saree: Originating from the Sonepur district, Bomkai sarees are characterized by their distinctive warp and weft ikat patterns.

19. Answer A

World Lung Cancer Day is observed annually on August 1st to raise awareness about lung cancer and its impact on individuals and communities worldwide. The day aims to educate the public about the risks, symptoms, and treatments of lung cancer, and to support those affected by the disease.

20. Answer B

Muhammad Yunus is a Bangladeshi entrepreneur, banker, economist, politician, and civil society leader who has been serving as the Chief Adviser of the interim government of Bangladesh since 8 August 2024. Yunus was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2006 for founding the Grameen Bank and pioneering the concepts of microcredit and microfinance.

21. Answer C

India has made a breakthrough by exporting its first GI-tagged fig juice to Poland. This follows the successful export of commercial quantities of Purandar figs to Hong Kong, showcasing the potential of Indian agricultural products in global markets.

22. Answer D

India will donate US\$ 85 million over a period of 10 years (2022-2032) to support the operations of the WHO GTMC in Jamnagar, Gujarat, India.

23. Answer C

The 2018 Declaration of Astana on primary health care acknowledges the need to include traditional medicine knowledge and technologies in the delivery of primary health care.

24. Answer B

National Level: NDMA, headed by the Prime Minister.

25. Answer B

World Bank releases the World Development Report 2024: Middle Income Trap. Report provides a comprehensive roadmap to enable developing countries to escape the "Middle-Income Trap".

26. Answer C

In 2015, the Government of India decided to commemorate the 7th of August every year as the National Handloom Day.

27. Answer C

China is launching its "Thousand Sails" satellite constellation to rival SpaceX's Starlink. The first 18 satellites were successfully deployed, with plans for 648 by next year and 15,000 by decade's end.

28. Answer A

The WTO issued "World Trade Statistics 2023". Highlights of World Trade Statistics 2023 on Agriculture Export The top 5 exporters were EU > US > Brazil > China > Canada.

29. Answer B

Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya (GSV), formerly National Rail and Transportation Institute, is a central university located in Vadodara, Gujarat, India. GSV is India's first transport University. It is presently at the campus of the National Academy of Indian Railways (NAIR).

30. Answer D

Recently Indian Naval Ship Tabar participated in maritime Partnership Exercise (MPX) between India and Russia.

31. Answer A

Global Methane Pledge: Commits to a collective 30% cut in methane emissions by 2030.

32. Answer A

Lake Turkana is a saline lake in the Kenyan Rift Valley, in northern Kenya, with its far northern end crossing into Ethiopia.

33. Answer D

Chhattisgarh has recently approved the creation of the Guru Ghasidas-Tamor Pingla Tiger Reserve to address a sharp decline in the state's tiger population.

34. Answer D

India now ranks fourth globally in total renewable energy installed

capacity, fourth in wind power capacity, and fifth in solar PV capacity.

35. Answer A

World Biofuel Day, observed annually on August 10th, commemorates the groundbreaking achievement of German engineer Sir Rudolf Diesel, who successfully operated an engine using peanut oil on August 9, 1893.

36. Answer B

Coordinated programme on Horticulture Assessment and Management using geoinformatics (CHAMAN) to develop and firm up scientific methodology for estimation of area and production under horticulture crops.

37. Answer D

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) has inscribed several iconic South African sites associated with Nelson Mandela as World Heritage Sites.

38. Answer B

6X6X6 strategy: Six target beneficiaries, six interventions and six institutional mechanisms.

39. Answer A

'Deadliest' Mpox Virus has spread across African countries. Mpox (formerly known as monkeypox) is a disease caused by infection with a virus, known as Monkeypox virus (MPXV).

40. Answer D

It is known for Asian elephants, Bengal tigers, Indian leopards, bears, Sambar deer, wild boars, etc. The name of this sanctuary is based on names of Tamor and Pingla Reserve Forests, that are named after TamorPahar and Pingla River.

41. Answer D

Coral Triangle is a marine area located in western Pacific Ocean. It includes waters of Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Papua New Guinea, Timor Leste and Solomon Islands.

42. Answer B

The United Nations Human Rights Council is a United Nations body whose mission is to promote and protect human rights around the world. The Council has 47 members elected for staggered three-year terms on a regional group basis. The headquarters of the Council are at the United Nations Office at Geneva in Switzerland.

43. Answer B

Paetongtarn Shinawatra was elected as Thailand's youngest prime minister at the age of 37. Her election came after the dismissal of Srettha Thavisin, marking a major change in Thailand's political scene amid ongoing instability.

44. Answer A

The 5th AITIGA Joint Committee meeting in Jakarta (July 29 - August 1, 2024) advanced the ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement review. Key discussions included all 8 Sub-Committees and bilateral talks with ASEAN nations.

45. Answer D

Brunei Darussalam, Burma, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam are the members.

46. Answer B

It was created for the implementation of initiatives aimed at enhancing the safety and security for women in the country. It is a non-lapsable corpus fund administered by the Ministry of Finance.

47. Answer B

Recently, 5th AITIGA Joint Committee and related meetings for review of ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA) were held in ASEAN Secretariat, Jakarta (Indonesia).

48. Answer A

Legionnaires' disease is a serious type of pneumonia caused by the Legionella bacteria. It usually happens when people breathe in water droplets contaminated with these bacteria.

49. Answer A

India added three new wetlands to its Ramsar Sites list, making a total of 85. These new sites are the Nanjarayan Bird Sanctuary and

Kazhuveli Bird Sanctuary in Tamil Nadu, and Tawa Reservoir in Madhya Pradesh.

50. Answer B

The MukhyamantriLadkiBahin scheme will provide ₹1,500 per month to eligible women aged 21 to 65 years who come from low-income families (those earning less than ₹2.5 lakh per year). The scheme is inspired by the successful 'Ladli Behna Yojana' from Madhya Pradesh.