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srjan
Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra
Odissi Yojana

**GURU KELUCHARAN MOHAPATRA
YUVA PRATIVA SAMMAN 2024**

Dr. Pompi Paul Odissi Dance	Smt. Rajnita Mehra Odissi Dance	Shri Avijiti Das Kuchipudi	Shri Rohita Pradhan Odissi Music

**Guru Kelucharan
Mohapatra Award
2024**

**Increase in bird
population in Bhitarkanika
National Park**

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ସୁଭଦ୍ରା

**'Subhadra Yojana'
portal**

**Freedom Fighter
Fakir Mohan Das
died**

**ODISHA
MUKHYAMINTRI
KAMDHENU
YOJANA**

**Kamdhenu Yojana Odisha
Apply Online**

**Odisha Cabinet
approves Mukhyamantri
Kamadhenu Yojana**

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Odisha Current Affairs

Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra Award 2024

- The Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra Award 2024 will be presented to renowned Odissi danseuse Kumkum Lal. Guru Lakshmikanta Palit and Guru Dhaneswar Swain will be honoured with lifetime achievement award in the field of music and percussion respectively. In the field of cinema, the award will be presented to veteran actor Uttam Mohanty.
- The award, carrying a cash award of Rs 1 lakh, and a citation, will be presented at the Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra (GKCM) Award Festival 2024.
- The Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra YuvaPrativa Samman with a cash prize of Rs 25,000 and a citation will be presented to four artistes under the age of 40 in the field of classical dance and Odissi music.
- Pompi Paul and Rajnita Mehra will receive the award for Odissi dance, while Avijit Das will be honoured for his dedication to Kuchipudi and Rohita Pradhan to Odissi music (mardala).

In a significant step towards enhancing education, innovation, and research in Odisha, CM signed an MoU with Dharmendra Pradhan for the implementation of the PM-USHA scheme.

- This scheme, aligned with NEP 2020, aims to improve state universities by upgrading their infrastructure and transforming them into world-class multidisciplinary institutions.
- The initiative includes curriculum enhancement, teacher training, accreditation, and employability improvements.
- PM-USHA is a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme** aimed at improving higher education in India. It was launched in 2013 as Rashtriya Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) and was renamed in 2018.
- The scheme focuses on enhancing access, equity, and excellence in higher education by providing strategic funding to state universities and affiliated colleges.
- Objectives of PM-USHA include: Increasing access to higher education, especially for marginalized groups. Improving the quality of teaching-learning processes. Enhancing employability of graduates. Promoting research and innovation. Strengthening institutional governance.

Odisha Deputy CM Pravati Parida launched the 'Subhadra Yojana' portal at the Lok Seva Bhavan in Bhubaneswar.

- Subhadra Yojana is a **social welfare scheme** launched by the government of Odisha. Aim is to

provide financial assistance to economically weaker women in the state.

- The scheme offers cash vouchers worth up to **₹50,000 over five years to eligible beneficiaries, with ₹10,000 to be given every year.**
- **Eligibility:** Women aged between **21 and 60 years**, who are married residents of Odisha and meet certain income criteria, are eligible for the scheme.
- **Benefits:** Eligible women receive cash vouchers in two equal installments of **₹5,000 each, on Raksha Bandhan and International Women's Day.**
- **Purpose:** The financial assistance is intended to help women meet various expenses, such as purchasing rations, education, and healthcare.

The govt. of Odisha has instructed senior officials to set up breastfeeding facilities in both offices and public areas, with the objective of enhancing maternal health and governance.

- The responsibility of establishing breastfeeding cabins in all government offices has been assigned to the secretaries and directors, while district collectors will manage the implementation of these facilities in public spaces and private organizations. This initiative comes in the wake of the government's recent policy granting one day's paid menstrual leave to female employees, effective from August 16.
- Data from the National Family Health Survey-5 (NFHS-5) indicates that Odisha has demonstrated commendable achievements in maternal and child health. Specifically, 68.5 percent of infants in the state are breastfed within the first hour of birth, a figure that significantly exceeds the national average of 41.8 percent. Furthermore, Odisha outperforms the national average in exclusive breastfeeding during the initial six months, recording a rate of 72.9 percent compared to India's overall rate of 63.7 percent.
- This recent information was released in conjunction with World Breastfeeding Week (WBW), which is celebrated from August 1 to August 7.
- Breast milk contains vital antibodies that safeguard infants against illnesses and acts as their primary source of nutrition. Breastfeeding provides enduring health advantages for both mothers and their children, fostering their comprehensive development and well-being.

Saoras have become the fifth tribal group in the state to get the rights

- With Saora tribals of Gajapati district getting habitat rights over their ancestral lands, Odisha

has become the only state in the country to provide such rights to the highest number of particularly vulnerable tribal groups (PVTGs).

- Saoras have become the fifth tribal group in the state to get the rights that allow them to protect and preserve natural entities, sacred sites and places of religious and spiritual importance located within their habitat.
- The district-level committee in Gajapati under the Forest Rights Act (FRA) recently approved habitat rights for the Saora community covering 128 villages in Mohana and R Udayagiri blocks. They will also be responsible for protection and preservation of the natural forest within the habitat rights area.
- As per section 2(h) of the FRA, habitat includes the area comprising the customary habitat and such other habitats in reserved and protected forests of primitive tribal groups, pre-agricultural communities and other forest-dwelling scheduled tribes.
- The Saoras have long been the custodians of their ancestral lands, practising sustainable living and maintaining a unique cultural heritage. With their habitat rights settled, they will face no hindrance in performing all customary religious or cultural ceremonies in their areas.
- Earlier, the ST and SC Development department had facilitated habitat rights for PaudiBhuyans in Deogarh district, Juangs in Keonjhar and Jajpur districts and ChuktiaBhunja in Nuapada district. Habitat rights are given to PVTGs under section 3(1) (e) of The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006.
- Apart from Odisha, Madhya Pradesh has given habitat rights to Bheria PVTG and Chhattisgarh government to Kamar and Baiga PVTGs. 128 villages in the Gajapati district are inhabited by Saora tribe. The ST and SC Development department has already facilitated habitat rights for PaudiBhuyans in Deogarh district, Juangs in Keonjhar and Jajpur districts and ChuktiaBhunja in Nuapada district.

Climate resilience cell opens at Krushi Bhavan

- The CRC has been constituted for implementation and monitoring of the state action plan on climate change (SAPCC).
- “Department of agriculture and farmers’ empowerment in collaboration with international institutional partners planned to create a carbon sensitive policy framework for collaborative research, policy analytics, institutional capacity building and policy engagement and outreach in the backdrop of climate change in Odisha. The

main knowledge partners are International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), and the Centre for Study of Science, Technology and Policy (CSTEP).

- It is a critical need for adopting climate-resilient agricultural practices in the current scenario. To ensure sustainable production and food and nutrition security for all.

The CAF has detected serious financial impropriety involving a cash transfer of Rs 782.26 crore to 12.72 lakh ineligible beneficiaries under Krushak Assistance for Livelihood and Income Augmentation (KALIA).

- KALIA is a flagship agricultural scheme launched by the Odisha government in 2018. Its primary objective is to provide financial assistance to farmers, landless agricultural laborers, and vulnerable agricultural households in the state. It involves providing regular cash transfers to eligible beneficiaries. KALIA aims to reduce poverty and improve the livelihoods of rural communities in Odisha.

Odisha cabinet gives nod to 10% quota for ex-Agniveers in state's uniform services

- The Odisha government approved framing of Odisha Ex-Agniveers (Recruitment to Uniform Services) Rules, 2024 to reserve 10 per cent seats for ex-Agniveers in the uniform service.
- The proposed rules aim to provide ample opportunities to ex-Agniveers to secure job in uniform service like police, forest, excise, fire or any services as decided by the government from time to time by providing 10 per cent horizontal reservation for ex-Agniveers in all Group C and D posts in direct recruitment in the uniform services of the state.
- Such reservation shall be over and above the reservation applicable for ex-servicemen provided they fulfil the required minimum qualifications prescribed for the posts in the relevant recruitment rules as on the date of award of Agniveer certificate.
- There will be three years age relaxation in the prescribed upper age limit for ex-Agniveers in all Group C and D posts in direct recruitment in the uniformed services and exemption from physical efficiency test.

Stroke cases in Odisha higher than national average

- A study published in The Lancet has revealed that the incidence of stroke in Odisha is higher than the national average. This is a growing health issue. Previously seen mostly in older adults, it is now

affecting the younger population due to factors such as sedentary lifestyles, poor dietary habits, rising stress levels and an increasing prevalence of diabetes mellitus and hypertension.

- According to health experts, with nearly one stroke in every 40 seconds and one death in four minutes, brain stroke has emerged as the second commonest cause of death and a major public health concern in the country that reports approximately 2,000 cases daily.
- The risk of stroke among rural people was higher as compared to urban dwellers in the state and the clinical diagnosis of stroke was highest among men.
- The stroke cases are high in states like Odisha and Assam because of high burden of hypertension and diabetes, high salt and carbohydrate intake besides tobacco consumption. Comorbidity is also a major contributor to the rising stroke-related deaths.

Sanjukta Sethi, a 55-year-old nursing officer at the district headquarters hospital in Malkangiri, was conferred with the National Florence Nightingale Award 2024 by President Droupadi Murmu at a ceremony held at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

- Sanjukta, who has served in the hospital's operation theatre (OT) for 24 years, was recognised for her selfless service and dedication.
- The National Florence Nightingale Award is a prestigious honor bestowed upon outstanding nursing personnel in India.
- Instituted by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in 1973, the award is a recognition of the invaluable contributions made by nurses to the healthcare sector.
- The award is given to nurses who have demonstrated exceptional service and dedication to their profession.
- This includes outstanding performance in patient care, nursing education, research, or administrative roles.

Odisha-based industrial designer Komal Panda has been named the India winner of the 2024 James Dyson Award.

- This portable cooling carrier is designed to keep insulin and other medications at the required temperature, making it a lifesaver for diabetic patients who need to travel or live in areas with limited access to refrigeration.
- The national winner will receive a prize money of approximately Rs 5 lakh.
- The James Dyson Award is an international student design competition that encourages young

inventors to develop innovative solutions to real-world problems.

- It is sponsored by the James Dyson Foundation, a charitable trust established by Sir James Dyson, the inventor of the cyclonic vacuum cleaner.

Odisha lost ₹22,400cr in mining revenue due to undervaluing of iron ore grades: CAG

- The CAG also found that there was an abrupt and abnormal decline in the grade of iron-ore soon after those were leased out in auction in 2020 leading to loss of mining revenue of ₹4,162 crore between 2020 and 2022. Though more than 83% production was reported in the grade of 62-65% iron before 2020 when the auctions began, the same came down to 16% in the two years after auction (2020-2022).
- The mines from where higher grade of iron ore was available before 2020 auction, post auction those mines reported higher percentage of lower grade iron ore (ore having less than 60% Fe) from 11% to more than 60%.
- In an iron-ore mine under Joda Circle of Keonjhar district, the average production of iron ore with grades above 60% Fe was about 77% before auction, but after auction, it reduced to 9.88% in 2020-21 and further reduced to zero in 2021-22 after new lessee started operating the mine.

Union minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Rajiv Ranjan Singh released Amrit Catla, a genetically-improved variety of catla (Labeo catla), at Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture (CIFA) in Bhubaneswar.

- The National Freshwater Fish Brood Bank (NFFBB) of the National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) received the Amrit Catla to ensure its wider distribution and availability for farmers across the country.
- The development of genetically-improved variety of catla is a significant milestone in freshwater aquaculture and it aligns with the institute's efforts to enhance fish seed quality and income of fish farmers.
- Field trials of the new variety conducted in Odisha, West Bengal, Assam and Maharashtra demonstrated its ability to reach an average weight of 1.8 kg in polyculture systems, compared to 1.2 kg for local strains in one year. The variety that received the best technology award recently has been officially trademarked as CIFA Amrit Catla.
- The selective breeding program for Catla was initiated by ICAR-CIFA in 2010, focusing on improving the body weight of the species at

harvest.

- On this occasion, technology licensing agreement for two technologies - FRP pabda hatchery and FRP carp hatchery was handed over to Neha Fabrications, Hooghly.
- The ministers also launched the RangeenMachhli app developed by the institute on ornamental fish species.

Odisha cabinet approves Mukhyamantri Kamadhenu Yojana

- The state cabinet approved the new state-sector umbrella scheme Mukhyamantri Kamadhenu Yojana with an outlay of Rs 1,423.47 crore.
- The MKY, which aims to increase milk production in the state, will benefit more than 15.47 lakh farmers. The state government will provide assistance for establishing small dairy units, subsidised calf feed, enhanced coverage under livestock insurance and strengthening dairy cooperatives under the scheme, he said.
- The state government will bear 85 per cent of the insurance premium for livestock while the rest 15 per cent will be paid by the owners. Under the sub-scheme Go Sampad Bima Yojana, the state government has made a provision of Rs 187.42 crore to benefit three lakh farmers.
- Rs 476 crore has been allotted for the Go Palana Yojana which will benefit 31,500 farmers. Besides, Rs 110.23 crore has been provided for buffalo entrepreneurship scheme and Rs 216.09 crore for calf-rearing programme which will cover 75,000 farmers.

Mo School Abhiyan renamed as Panchasakha SikhyaSetu in Odisha

- The state government has also set aside a budget of Rs 332 crore for the scheme this financial year.
- It was launched on November 14 in 2017.
- This initiative created a platform for the people to connect, collaborate and contribute to revamping government and government-aided schools in the state

PM Modi will release the first installment of PMAY-G assistance to nearly 10 lakh beneficiaries across the country.

- He will also launch operational guidelines of PMAY-U 2.0 during his one-day visit to Odisha on September 17 when he rolls out the state's largest women-centric scheme Subhadra.
- Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban 2.0 (PMAY-U 2.0) is a government initiative aimed at providing financial assistance to middle-class and urban impoverished families.
- Target beneficiaries: Economically Weaker Section

(EWS), Low Income Group (LIG), and Middle Income Group (MIG) families.

- Financial assistance: Up to ₹2.67 lakh for EWS, ₹3.35 lakh for LIG, and ₹5 lakh for MIG.
- Aim: To realize the vision of "Housing for All" by addressing the housing needs of EWS, LIG, and MIG segments

Berhampur University in Odisha has been awarded a significant project to study human-wildlife conflict in the Eastern Ghats region.

- The five-year study, funded by the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), aims to understand and address the conflicts involving elephants, blackbucks, leopards, and snakes.
- The university will provide the policy recommendations to the Central and state governments for implementation of the socio-economic and technology models for reconciliation of the conflict between humans and wild animals in the region.

Chief minister Mohan Majhi felicitated winners of the 47th WorldSkills competition with cash rewards at Lok Seva Bhawan.

- Amaresh Kumar Sahu, who won a bronze medal in the sustainable energy category, was awarded Rs 25 lakh, while Gedela Akhil, who received a medallion for excellence in water technology, was given Rs 5 lakh.
- **WorldSkills 2024**, officially known as WorldSkills Lyon 2024, was a prestigious **international vocational and technical skills competition** held in Lyon, France, from September 10 to 15, 2024.
- It showcased the talents of young professionals from around the world in a variety of trades and industries.

Increase in bird population in Bhitarkanika National Park

- The population of nesting birds has registered a marginal increase in Bhitarkanika National Park, located in Odisha's Kendrapara district in this monsoon season.
- The official statistics of the bird census pegged their population at 1,30,123 belonging to ten species. With this, the population of the monsoon birds has increased by 6,265, compared to the last census as forest officials sighted 1,23,867 birds in 2023.
- As many as 27,282 nests atop 1,300 mangrove trees were counted this season. The census report reflects the results only from the direct count method. The census teams monitored all the water bodies and mangrove forest areas of Mathadia, Laxmiprasaddia, Durgaprasaddia and Balidia

heronries in and around the Bhitarkanika national park.

- Bhitarkanika National Park is located in the northeast Kendrapara district of Odisha, India.
- It covers an area of 145 km² and is surrounded by the larger Bhitarkanika Wildlife Sanctuary which spans 672 km².
- The park lies in the estuarine region of the Brahmani, Baitarani, Dhamra, and Pathsala rivers and is inundated by their waters.
- It is the second largest mangrove ecosystem in India after the Sundarbans.

In a major boost to efforts aimed at conservation of wildlife species, breeding of blackbucks and sambar deer has been recorded in Balukhand and Chandaka sanctuaries months after their reintroduction in the two protected areas.

- A decade after blackbucks vanished from Balukhand landscape, the Forest department reintroduced 10 of these Indian antelopes from Nandankanan Zoological Park in the wildlife sanctuary in June to revive their population in the area.
- The blackbuck, also known as the Indian antelope, is a medium-sized antelope native to India and Nepal.
- It is characterized by its distinctive black coat in males, contrasting with their white underbelly and legs.
- Females have a more muted brown coat.
- Both sexes have long, spiraled horns.
- Behavior: Diurnal, social animals forming groups of females, males, and bachelor herds.
- IUCN: Least Concerned

Jhurimal, a small village in Odisha, has garnered international attention for its unique tradition of "Collective Nuakhai."

- This annual harvest festival, celebrated by the entire village, has captivated audiences worldwide, especially in the United States.
- Recently, during the 'NuakhaiBhetghat' celebrations organised by the Odisha Culture Centre in Houston, Texas, a documentary on Jhurimal's unique collective tradition was screened.
- 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 Odisha government has announced that

farmers will receive a Minimum Support Price (MSP) of Rs 3,100 per quintal of paddy from the upcoming Kharif season.

- This is an increase of Rs 90 per quintal from the previous year's MSP.
- MSP is a price floor set by the government to guarantee a minimum price for certain agricultural products.
- It's a safety net for farmers, protecting them from price fluctuations and ensuring a fair return for their crops.
- MSP provides a guaranteed income to farmers, especially in rural areas.
- The MSP is announced before the sowing season, and is based on recommendations from the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP).
- The Government of India fixes Minimum Support Price (MSP) for 22 mandated agricultural crops.

Noted freedom fighter Fakir Mohan Das of Nuagaon village in Derabishi block died of old-age ailments at age of 102.

- Fakir Mohan Senapati (1843-1918), often referred to as the "Vyasa Kabi" (Vyasa of Odisha), was a prominent Indian writer, poet, philosopher, and social reformer.
- He played a pivotal role in establishing the distinct identity of the Odia language, primarily spoken in the Indian state of Odisha.
- Das was arrested in 1942 during the Quit India movement and spent two years in jail.
- He was a prominent member of the Utkal Sammelan, an organization that advocated for the unification of the Odia-speaking regions into a separate state.

New government policy to ensure workplace safety of doctors in Odisha

- As per the new policy, health institutions will have to establish a clear incident reporting process, ensure confidentiality and prompt action on reported incidents besides provisioning escort services or safe transportation options for women doctors, employees and students during night shifts.
- Any incident of violence against medical students would be promptly investigated by the college management and a complaint be lodged with the police within six hours by the head of the institution. He or she should also send a detailed action taken report to the National Medical Commission (NMC) within 48 hours of the incident.
- The SP of the district concerned will take immediate and appropriate action as per law

against miscreants in order to discourage people from such activities. The policy has stipulated to constitute an institutional monitoring committee to undertake monthly review of all the measures and take follow-up action. The committee will have representatives of doctors, faculty, paramedics, students and other stakeholders.

- All government medical college hospitals will have a police outpost on their premises with at least one woman police staff on duty.
- All hospitals will ensure the availability of doctor's duty room and separate washrooms for men and women doctors and nurses in all wards.
- The health institutions must have a perimeter boundary wall with defined entry and exit gates and security guards must be posted in all OPDs 24x7. The entry of the general public and vehicles will be regulated to stop use of health institution premises for thoroughfare.
- "CCTV cameras must be installed at strategic locations of the hospitals, outside all hostels, main gate, roads, stairwells and other strategic points on campus and on each floor of the hostel for monitoring of the activities. If required, security hubs will be set up near high case load departments in the hospitals.
- The state government has also asked hospitals and medical institutions to develop an emergency response plan, including panic buttons and mobile apps to respond quickly to any threat. They will also provide orientation and training to all medicare workers, students and security personnel to handle emergency situations.
- Besides, a grievance redressal system will be developed through which aggrieved attendants can approach the head of the institution at the time of need instead of taking law into their own hands.
- Regular safety audits will be conducted in hospitals to identify and address the potential security risks besides ensuring workplace safety for the medical professionals.

Plan in detail

- Clear reporting process, confidentiality & prompt action.
- Head of institution should report to police within 6 hours.
- All MCHs to have on-campus police outpost.
- CCTV cameras at all strategic locations on campus.
- Security hubs at high caseload depts..
- Grievance redressal system for patient attendants.

Western Odisha, including Sambalpur, is facing a concerning surge in scrub typhus cases, a bacterial infection transmitted by mite bites.

- Earlier, three persons have died with Scrub typhus in Bargarh district of Odisha.
- Scrub typhus, also known as bush typhus or mite typhus, is a bacterial infection caused by *Orientia tsutsugamushi*.
- It's primarily found in the Asia-Pacific region.

The Solarising Rourkela initiative, aimed at replacing 30 percent of conventional energy with solar energy by 2030, is set for a major boost.

- Rourkela is one of three cities in Odisha chosen by the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE) as a model for solar energy generation.
- The initiative supports the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana (PMSGMBY) and aligns with the state's Renewable Energy (RE) Policy.
- Other two cities are: Bhubaneswar and Sundargarh.
- The "Pradhan Mantri Surya Ghar" scheme is a solar rooftop scheme launched by the Indian government.
- It aims to provide free electricity to households in India.
- The households will be able to get 300 units of electricity free every month.
- The scheme provides up to 70% subsidy on the cost of grid-connected solar rooftops to consumers.
- The scheme was launched by Modi on February 15, 2024.
- Under the scheme, households will be provided with a subsidy to install solar panels on their roofs

The Odisha CM launched 158 projects worth over Rs 987 crore during a district-level function to mark the completion of 100 days of his government at a programme in Keonjhar district.

- These projects encompass diverse sectors such as transport, healthcare, infrastructure, and railway development.
- Also, the state's first grievance cell camp was opened in Keonjhar.
- The highlight of the event was the announcement of a trauma care center at the Dharinidhar Medical College.
- This significant initiative aims to enhance healthcare facilities in the region and provide critical medical care.

Odisha is in advanced talks with the National Health Authority (NHA) to join the Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY).

Ayushman Bharat scheme:

- Ayushman Bharat is a flagship healthcare initiative of the Indian government launched on **September 23, 2018** and is aimed at achieving **universal health coverage**.

- It consists of two primary components:

Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY):

- This is the world's largest health insurance scheme, providing free-of-cost health insurance coverage up to **Rs. 5 lakh per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization**.
- It covers over 50 crore beneficiaries from economically weaker sections of society.

Health and Wellness Centres (HWCs):

- These are primary healthcare centers providing comprehensive health care services, including preventive, promotive, curative, and rehabilitative care.

Key benefits of Ayushman Bharat:

- Provides financial protection to poor and vulnerable families.
- Improves access to quality healthcare services.
- Reduces out-of-pocket expenditure on healthcare.
- Promotes preventive healthcare through

Recently, the Ground penetrating radar (GPR) survey was carried out on the premises of the Konark Sun Temple.

- It was done by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) with the help of CSIR-National Geophysical Research Institute (CSIR-NGRI).
- GPR utilizes electromagnetic waves to scan beneath the surface, providing valuable insights into the temple's foundation, underground structures, and potential anomalies.
- The survey is expected to shed light on the construction techniques, modifications, and any hidden chambers or artifacts that may have been overlooked in previous studies.

IIM Sambalpur becomes first B-School to introduce AI-enabled teaching in classrooms

- IIM Sambalpur is a relatively new Indian Institute of Management, established in 2015. It is located in Sambalpur, Odisha.
- The institute offers a two-year flagship MBA program and is known for its focus on experiential learning and industry-oriented curriculum.

First bio-banking facility of critical species at city zoo

- Odisha will soon get its first bio-banking facility where biological samples will be stored and disease and gene research of endangered species undertaken to supplement the ongoing ex-situ wildlife conservation in the state.

- Set to come up at the Nandankanan Zoological Park (NZP), the advanced facility will use cryopreservation technique to store the samples at an ultra-low temperature of -180 degree or -196 degree Celsius.
- The facility will help us in storing gametes of deceased endangered species, DNA and RNA samples of wildlife species, their embryos as well as different tissue and blood samples.
- The facility will act as a gene bank and be helpful in studying the genetic diversity of endangered species. Most importantly, it will help in disease investigation to know genetic disorders.
- It will also help in implementation of assisted reproductive technology such as in vitro fertilisation and artificial insemination. This, however, will require further expansion of the lab as the bio-banking facility, at present, is being set up on a small scale.
- The authorities are in touch with Hyderabad-based Laboratory for the Conservation of Endangered Species (LaCONES) and may soon ink a pact with it for establishment of the advanced lab.

Odisha has been selected as one of the first four states by the Government of India, alongside Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, and Meghalaya, to participate in a study aimed at bolstering private investment in infrastructure.

- The study is to be conducted in collaboration with the World Bank (WB).
- The study aimed to identify the key challenges and opportunities for private sector participation in infrastructure development in these states.

The Odisha government has approved a proposal from Zoho Corporation to set up a semiconductor fabrication unit (fab) in the state.

- The proposed fab is expected to be worth ₹3,000 crore and will create around 10,000 jobs.
- This is a significant development for Odisha as it is the first semiconductor fab to be set up in the state. The fab is expected to be operational by 2026.

The state of Odisha has secured the second position in the World No Tobacco Fortnight activities.

- This achievement highlights Odisha's effective implementation of anti-tobacco measures, including awareness campaigns, smoking bans, and health education initiatives.
- The state's efforts to combat tobacco use have contributed significantly to improving public health outcomes and reducing the burden of tobacco-related diseases.

OPSC Current Affairs



NATIONAL

World's First Asian King Vulture Conservation Center Inaugurated in Uttar Pradesh

- On September 6, 2024, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath inaugurated the **Jatayu Conservation and Breeding Centre in Bharivaisi, Campierganj Range of the Gorakhpur Forest Division.**
- This groundbreaking facility marks a significant milestone in wildlife conservation as the world's first dedicated conservation and breeding center for the Asian King Vulture, also known as the red-headed vulture.



PM chairs 44th PRAGATI Interaction

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi earlier on August 28, chaired the meeting of the **44th edition of PRAGATI**, the ICT-based multi-modal platform for Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation, involving Centre and State governments.
- This was the first meeting in the third term.

Amit Shah Re-Elected as Chairperson of Parliamentary Committee on Official Language

- Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah, has been unanimously re-elected as the Chairperson of the Parliamentary Committee on Official Language.
- Following the formation of the new government, the committee held a meeting in New Delhi to reconstitute itself, leading to Shah's re-election.
- He previously served as the Chairperson from 2019 to 2024.** Shah expressed gratitude for the unanimous support and discussed his vision for Hindi's role in government and education.

Cabinet Approves Setting Up of 12 Industrial Smart Cities In 10 States

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has given the green light to 12 new project proposals

under the **National Industrial Corridor Development Programme (NICDP).**

- This ambitious initiative, with an estimated investment of Rs. 28,602 crore, is set to transform India's economic geography, creating a robust network of industrial nodes and cities that promise to significantly boost economic growth and enhance global competitiveness.

India's 2nd Nuclear Missile Submarine Commissioned by Rajnath Singh

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh is set to commission **India's second nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine (SSBN), INS Arighat (S-3)**, at a quiet event in Visakhapatnam, marking a significant boost to India's nuclear deterrence and second-strike capability.
- This submarine, armed with 750-km range K-15 nuclear ballistic missiles, will patrol the Indo-Pacific under India's strategic command.



NHPC, SECI, Railtel, and SJVN Gain Navratna Status

- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman granted 'Navratna' status to **four Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs): NHPC, Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI), Railtel Corporation of India (RCIL), and Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam (SJVN).**
- This brings the total number of Navratna CPSEs in India to 25. The Navratna status provides these entities with increased financial and operational autonomy.

Prime Minister Modi Flagged Off Three Vande Bharat Trains

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off three new Vande Bharat trains around 12:30 pm on August 31.



- “These new Vande Bharat trains shall provide the people of the region the world-class means to travel with speed and comfort and will cater to **three states – Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, and Karnataka,**” the government said in a press release.

Swachh Vayu Survekshan 2024

- In a significant recognition of efforts to combat air pollution, the Union Environment Ministry has presented the “**National Clean Air City**” Awards during the Swachh Vayu Survekshan 2024.
- This event, held as part of a **national workshop celebrating the “International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies” in Jaipur**, showcased the remarkable strides made by various Indian cities in improving their air quality.

Top Performers: A City-wise Breakdown

- The awards were categorized based on population size, acknowledging the unique challenges and achievements of cities across different scales.

Major Cities (Population over 10 lakh)

1. Surat, Gujarat: Emerged as the top major city in India for air quality improvements
2. Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh: Secured the second position
3. Agra, Uttar Pradesh: Ranked third among large cities

Medium-sized Cities (Population between 3 lakh and 10 lakh)

1. Firozabad, Uttar Pradesh
2. Amravati, Maharashtra
3. Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh

These cities were recognized for their significant efforts in implementing air quality improvement measures.

Smaller Cities (Population under 3 lakh)

1. Raebareli, Uttar Pradesh
2. Nalgonda, Telangana
3. Nalagarh, Himachal Pradesh

Swachh Vayu Survekshan 2024 Results			
Category	Rank	Cities	Award Cash prize (₹ in crores) for FY 2023-24
Category 1	1 st	Surat, Gujarat	1.50
	2 nd	Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh	1.00
	3 rd	Agra, Uttar Pradesh	0.50
Category 2	1 st	Firozabad, Uttar Pradesh	0.75
	2 nd	Amravati, Maharashtra	0.50
	3 rd	Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh	0.25
Category 3	1 st	Raebareli, Uttar Pradesh	0.375
	2 nd	Nalgonda, Telangana	0.25
	3 rd	Nalagarh, Himachal Pradesh	0.125

Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS)

- India is preparing to create a carbon market through the Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS), first announced in June 2023.
- This plan is designed to help reduce harmful

emissions in different industries.

- Under this scheme, sectors that manage to reduce their emissions more than required can sell carbon credits to those that cannot meet their targets.
- Those who fall short of their goals must buy these credits to offset their emissions.

When will the CCTS start?

- The detailed rules for how the CCTS will work were shared by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) in August 2024.
- However, the government has not yet set specific emission reduction targets, which are needed to make the scheme work.
- BEE officials believe that the scheme might start functioning by 2026.



What is the CCTS?

- The CCTS is a system that encourages companies to either reduce or limit their emissions.
- It is part of India’s commitment to the Paris Agreement of 2016, where the country promised to cut its emissions intensity (the amount of emissions per unit of GDP) by 45% from 2005 levels by 2030.
- This means that India is working to produce less pollution while growing its economy.

India’s emission reduction goals

- Apart from the 2030 target, India also has a long-term goal of achieving net-zero emissions by 2070.
- This means that by 2070, India aims to balance the amount of greenhouse gasses it emits with the amount it removes from the atmosphere.
- This is important both for global climate efforts and for managing the impact of climate change within India.

“Rangeen Machhli” Mobile Application

- In a significant development for India’s ornamental fisheries sector, Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, **Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh Alias Lalan Singh**, unveiled the “Rangeen Machhli” mobile application.
- The launch event took place at the prestigious ICAR-Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture (ICAR-CIFA) in Bhubaneswar.

About the “Rangeen Machhli” App

Development and Support

- **Developed by:** ICAR-Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture (ICAR-CIFA)
- **Supported by:** Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)

Target Audience

The app caters to a diverse range of users within the ornamental fisheries ecosystem:

- Hobbyists
- Aquarium shop owners
- Fish farmers

Key Features

1. Multilingual Information

- Provides details on popular ornamental fish species in **eight Indian languages**
- Enhances accessibility for a wide audience across different regions of India

2. Comprehensive Fish Care Information

- Offers detailed guidance on care, breeding, and maintenance practices for various ornamental fish species
- Useful for both beginners and experienced aquarists

3. "Find Aquarium Shops" Tool

- A dynamic directory of aquarium shops
- Allows users to locate nearby shops easily
- Shop owners can update their information, promoting local businesses
- Connects users with reliable sources for ornamental fish and related products

4. Educational Modules

The app includes two primary educational modules:

a) Basics of Aquarium Care

Covers essential topics for beginners:

- Types of aquariums
- Fish species
- Water filtration techniques
- Lighting requirements
- Feeding practices
- Day-to-day maintenance

b) Ornamental Aquaculture

- Focuses on advanced topics for professionals:
 - Breeding techniques
 - Rearing of different ornamental fish species

Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana - IV (PMGSY-IV)

- The Union Cabinet has approved the **Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana - IV (PMGSY-IV)** for the financial years **2024-25 to 2028-29**, with a total outlay of **₹70,125 crore**.
- This initiative aims to construct 62,500 kilometers of roads to connect 25,000 previously unconnected habitations, enhancing accessibility and promoting socio-economic development in remote rural areas.

Key Details of the Scheme

- **Financial Outlay:** ₹70,125 crore, with a central share of ₹49,087.50 crore and a state share of ₹21,037.50 crore.
- **Coverage:** Targeting 25,000 habitations with a population of 500+ in plains, 250+ in Northeast & Hill States/UTs, special category areas, and 100+ in LWE affected districts, based on the Census 2011.
- **Infrastructure Development:** Construction of 62,500 km of all-weather roads and necessary bridges to provide connectivity.

Benefits

- **Enhanced Connectivity:** The scheme will provide all-weather road connectivity to 25,000 unconnected habitations, linking them to educational, health, and market centers.
- **Socio-Economic Impact:** The new roads are expected to be catalysts for socio-economic development in rural areas.
- **Advanced Construction Practices:** Incorporation of international benchmarks such as Cold Mix Technology, Waste Plastic, and Full Depth Reclamation, along with the use of construction waste like Fly Ash and Steel Slag.
- **Planning and Execution:** Road alignment planning and DPR preparation will be facilitated through the PM Gati Shakti portal.

2nd International Conference on Green Hydrogen

- On September 11, 2024, Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually inaugurated the **2nd International Conference on Green Hydrogen**, which was held at **Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi from September 11-13, 2024**.
- The conference aims to position India as a leader in the global green hydrogen ecosystem.
- The conference is **organized by the Union Ministry of New and Renewable Energy and the Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India**, with associate partners including the Union Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, the Department of Science and Technology, and the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research.
- **The Gujarat government is the state partner, while the Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) serves as the implementation partner.**
- EY is the knowledge partner, and FICCI is the industry partner.

About Green Hydrogen and the National Green Hydrogen Mission

- Green hydrogen is produced by electrolyzing water using electricity from renewable sources like solar, wind, and hydro power.
- This hydrogen is used in fuel cells for powering

vehicles, which produce minimal pollution compared to fossil fuels.

- **The National Green Hydrogen Mission, launched on January 4, 2023, aims to develop a 5 Million Metric Ton per year green hydrogen production capacity by 2030, with a total outlay of Rs 19,744 crores.**
- The mission will run from 2023-24 to 2029-30.

Ashtalakshmi Mahotsav

- **Union Minister Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, Hon'ble Minister for Communications and Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), has officially launched the website for the Ashtalakshmi Mahotsav.**
- The launch, held at **Sanchar Bhawan in New Delhi**, highlights the government's dedication to showcasing Northeast India's cultural and economic richness on both national and international platforms.

Event Overview

- The **Ashtalakshmi Mahotsav** is set to take place from December 6th to 8th, 2024, at **Bharat Mandapam, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.**
- The festival celebrates the eight Northeastern states – Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, and Tripura – collectively known as the “**Ashtalakshmi**,” symbolizing eight forms of prosperity.

Aims of the Mahotsav

- The festival aims at bridging cultural and economic gaps between Northeast India and the rest of the country.
- He noted that the **Ashtalakshmi Mahotsav will showcase the region's rich culture and stimulate economic development** by creating opportunities for artisans, weavers, and entrepreneurs.

Event Highlights

- **Fashion and Design Conclave:** Includes a Fashion Show featuring traditional Northeastern clothing and a Design Conclave highlighting regional textiles.
- **Artisanal Crafts and GI Products:** Features live demonstrations of Muga and Eri Silk weaving and showcases Geographical Indication (GI) products.
- **Business and Investment Opportunities:** Includes a Buyer-Seller Meet and an Investment Round Table to facilitate business collaborations and investments.

World's largest low-carbon hydrogen facility

- **Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) and ExxonMobil** have announced a landmark partnership to develop the world's largest low-carbon hydrogen facility.

- This ambitious project, set to be located in **Baytown, Texas**, marks a significant milestone in the race to lead sustainable energy production and combat climate change.

Project Overview and Significance

Strategic Location and Ownership

- The facility will be situated in **Baytown, Texas, leveraging the region's abundant natural gas resources and existing infrastructure.**
- Under the terms of the agreement, ADNOC will acquire a **35% equity stake** in the project, demonstrating its commitment to diversifying its energy portfolio and expanding its global footprint in the low-carbon energy sector.

Unprecedented Scale and Production Capacity

Once operational, the facility is expected to set new benchmarks in clean hydrogen production:

- Daily production capacity of up to **1 billion cubic feet** of low-carbon hydrogen
- Annual production of more than **1 million tonnes** of low-carbon ammonia

These figures position the project as the **largest of its kind globally**, underlining its potential to significantly impact the emerging low-carbon hydrogen market.

World's second-largest market for 5G smartphones

- In a significant development for the global telecommunications industry, **Counterpoint Research** has reported that India has surpassed the United States to become the **world's second-largest market for 5G smartphones.**
- This shift underscores India's rapid technological advancement and the growing demand for high-speed connectivity across the nation.

Global 5G Market Share: A New Hierarchy

The research highlights a reshuffling of the global 5G device market:

1. **China** maintains its leadership with a dominant **32% market share**
2. **India** has ascended to second place, capturing a substantial **13% share**
3. The **United States** has been relegated to third position, holding **10% of the market**

Factors Driving India's 5G Smartphone Growth

1. **Significant contributions from major brands:** Samsung, Vivo, and Xiaomi have played pivotal roles in popularizing 5G devices.
2. **Focus on the budget segment:** These brands have successfully introduced affordable 5G smartphones, making the technology accessible to a broader consumer base.
3. **Diverse price segments:** 5G smartphones are gaining traction across various price points, catering to different consumer needs and preferences.

Akurli Bridge

- Shri Piyush Goyal, as he inaugurated the **Akurli bridge on the Western Express Highway in Mumbai** on 10th September, and he stated that this will not just benefit North Mumbai but will benefit the entire city.
- He is also Member of Parliament from Mumbai North.

How it will be beneficial

- The completion of this road work brings significant relief to lakhs of Mumbaikars, as it addresses a major traffic bottleneck on one of the city's arterial roads.
- The project is expected to bring dual benefits to the citizens, save valuable time and fuel.

LinkedIn's Global MBA Ranking 2024

- The Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT), under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, has been ranked No. 1 globally for Networking in LinkedIn's Global MBA Ranking 2024, while securing the **51st position** among the **top 100 MBA programmes worldwide**.
- **Minister of Commerce and Industry, Shri Piyush Goyal**, lauded this achievement as a reflection of IIFT's global networking prowess.
- Commerce Secretary, Shri Sunil Barthwal, emphasized that this ranking showcases the Institute's dedication to excellence in academics, research, and strong partnerships with alumni, corporates, and international organizations.

National Security Strategies Conference 2024

- **Union Home Minister of India Shri. Amit Shah** inaugurated 2 days National Security Strategies Conference 2024 in the capital of India at **New Delhi**.

- This conference will hold talks on various aspects of security and its challenges.

Roadmap

- This conference will discuss different solutions to **emerging national security challenges** that will be chalked out with the top police leadership of states, UTs (Union Territories), CAPFs (Central Armed Protection Forces), and CPOs (Central Police Organization).

Objective

- The Objective of the National Security Strategy Conference is **to find Solutions to major national security challenges through discussion** amongst a unique mix of senior police leadership managing national security challenges, young police officers working at the cutting-edge level, and domain experts of personalized fields.

Participants

- Chaired By Home Minister Amit Shah,
- Minister of State for Home Shri Nityanand Rai and Bandi Sanjay Kumar
- Heads of CAPFs(Central Armed Protection Forces) and CPOs(Central Police Organization)
- Home Secretary General Govind Mohan
- Additional and Deputy National Security Advisor's (NSAs)
- Over 750 officers are participating in the conference from all over India and also this conference is held in hybrid format combining physical and virtual mode.

Dashboard will be launched

- In order to implement the decisions taken during **the annual DGsP/IGsP Conference** (Director General of Police/Inspector General of Police), 2020, Union Home Minister launched the **DGsP/IGsP Conference Recommendations' Dashboard** which is developed by the **NCRB** (National Crime Records Bureau).



INTERNATIONAL

India and UAE Sign Landmark Civil Nuclear Energy Agreement

- India and the UAE have signed a significant Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for civil nuclear cooperation **during Sheikh Khalid bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan's visit to New Delhi**.
- The deal, involving the **Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) and the Emirates Nuclear Energy Company (ENEC)**, marks a historic step in bilateral relations and reflects a commitment to peaceful nuclear energy utilization.



Nepal to Export 1000 MW Electricity to India

- Nepal will export nearly 1,000 MW of electricity to India, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said after meeting his Nepalese counterpart Arzu Rana Deuba in New Delhi on August 19.
- He went on to describe the development as a "new milestone".

PM Modi Presents BHISHM Cubes to Ukraine

- In a historic visit to Ukraine, Prime Minister Narendra Modi pledged extensive humanitarian support and handed over **four BHISHM (Bharat Health Initiative for Sahyog Hita and Maitri) Cubes to the Ukrainian government.**
- This marks the first visit by an Indian Prime Minister to Ukraine since its independence in 1991, emphasizing India's stance for peace amidst the ongoing conflict with Russia.



Key Takeaways From PM Modi's Ukraine Visit

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has wrapped up his trip to Ukraine.
- **Modi became the first Indian prime minister to make a state visit to Ukraine since the two countries established relations over three decades ago.**

24th International Mother Teresa Awards Celebrated in Dubai

- **The 24th International Mother Teresa Awards Ceremony took place on August 26, 2024, at Millennium Plaza Dubai, marking the 114th birth anniversary of the esteemed humanitarian.** Organized by the All-India Minority and Weaker Sections Council, this event was held outside.

COP9 Bureau and Fund Committee Meetings

- India will host two important international meetings on **September 17-18, 2024 in New Delhi as part of its role in the global fight against doping in sports.**
- These meetings are part of the UNESCO International Convention against Doping in Sport, where countries come together to discuss and improve anti-doping efforts.

Roles and Responsibilities

- **2nd Formal Meeting of the COP9 Bureau:** This meeting is focused on overseeing and guiding anti-doping initiatives.
- **3rd Formal Meeting of the Fund Approval Committee:** This committee discusses how to distribute funds to support anti-doping activities globally.
- India is the Vice-Chairperson of the COP9 Bureau, meaning it plays an important role in organizing and leading these meetings. The Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports in India is in charge of hosting the event.

International Participation

- Delegates from many countries, such as Azerbaijan, France, and Saudi Arabia, will attend the meetings.
- High-level officials from UNESCO, the organization that promotes global anti-doping efforts, will also be involved.
- This shows that countries all over the world are working together to stop doping in sports.
- The meetings will be held in a hybrid format, meaning that some participants will attend in person, while others will join online. This makes it easier for more people from different countries to participate.

About the COP9 Bureau

- **The COP9 Bureau is a group that helps run the Conference of the Parties (COP) under the Convention on Biological Diversity, but in this case, it also oversees anti-doping measures.**
- It brings together representatives from different regions to ensure that global discussions on important issues like anti-doping and biodiversity conservation are fair and transparent.

Typhoon Yagi

- In early September 2024, **Typhoon Yagi became the strongest storm of the year in Asia, hitting several countries like Myanmar, Vietnam, Laos, and Thailand.**
- It caused devastating winds and heavy rainfall, leading to flooding and landslides.
- These natural disasters forced hundreds of thousands of people to leave their homes and resulted in the deaths of more than 400 people.

Impact on Affected Countries

Vietnam:

- Vietnam was the worst affected.
- The typhoon caused 292 deaths and destroyed a lot of property, especially in Quang Ninh province and Hai Phong City.

- The damage is estimated at 40 lakh crore, which will hurt the country's economy significantly.

Myanmar:

- In Myanmar, many people died, and more than 320,000 people had to move to temporary shelters.
- Due to the severe situation, the country's ruling government has asked for international help, which is rare given its usual stance.

Laos & Thailand:

- Both Laos and Thailand also suffered from the storm.
- Thailand experienced its worst flooding in 80 years, causing 10 deaths and disrupting transportation.
- Even though Typhoon Yagi has weakened into a tropical depression, it is still causing heavy rain.
- There is a continuing risk of more flooding and landslides, especially as water levels in the Mekong River are rising due to the additional rainfall.



Operation Sadbhav

- In response to the disaster, India has launched a relief effort called Operation Sadbhav.
- India has pledged \$1 million in aid and is sending essential supplies like food, clothing, and medicines.
- UNICEF has also warned about the serious impact on children, many of whom have lost their homes and can no longer attend school.

Turkey officially applied to join BRICS

- Turkey has officially applied to join BRICS, a group of emerging economies that originally included Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa.
- The country is waiting for approval of its membership, with Turkish officials confirming the application is under consideration.
- Russia's President Vladimir Putin has openly supported Turkey's interest in joining.

What is BRICS?

- BRICS is a coalition of major emerging economies that work together primarily on trade and economic cooperation.
- Unlike the European Union (EU), BRICS does not have unified security or foreign policies. Instead, it focuses on boosting economic growth and development for its members.
- Recently, **BRICS has expanded to include countries like Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, and the UAE, and over 20 other countries have expressed interest in joining.**
- BRICS stands for Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa, with the group officially established in 2010.
- Together, these countries represent over 40% of the world's population and about 25% of the global economy. BRICS holds annual summits, with the first one taking place in Russia in 2009.**
- One of its key initiatives is the New Development Bank, founded in 2014 to finance infrastructure projects in member countries.
- The idea of BRICS came from economist Jim O'Neill in 2001 to highlight the growing importance of these emerging economies.



Global Bio-India 2024

- The fourth edition of Global Bio-India 2024 recently ended, showcasing India's strength in biotechnology.
- The event was organized by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) and the Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) and took place from September 12-14 at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.

Event Overview

- The event was officially opened by Dr. Jitendra Singh, the Union Minister of State for Science and Technology.
- Over three days, many national and international participants from the biotechnology field gathered to share ideas and innovations.

Themes and Highlights

- The theme for this year was 'Biotech Innovation' and 'Bio-manufacturing', emphasizing the importance of these areas in boosting India's Bioeconomy.
- During the event, 11 new products developed by Indian biotech startups were introduced, showing the growing talent and creativity in the country.
- At the closing session, important partnerships were formed, including an agreement between the Children's Investment Fund Foundation and IPE Global to fund projects that will help grow the biotech sector in India.

Awards and Recognitions

Several awards were given to recognize exceptional contributions to the biotech industry, including:

- BIRAC Innovators Awards
- Best Startup Exhibitor Awards
- Best Incubator Exhibitor Awards
- BioE3 Competition Awards

About Global Bio-India 2024

- This event is one of India's top biotechnology gatherings, aimed at building global partnerships. It featured over 500 exhibitors and attracted more than 20,000 attendees.
- The focus was on innovation in areas like healthcare, agriculture, and the environment, as well as boosting investment opportunities.
- The event emphasized India's commitment to biotechnology and its potential to lead in global biotech advancements.

The 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)

- The 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) started on 10th September 2024.
- This session brings together representatives from 193 countries to discuss important global issues.

What is the Purpose of the UNGA?

- The UNGA is a place where leaders from all over the world come together to talk about big issues like international peace, security, development, disarmament (reducing weapons), human rights, and international law.
- It allows countries with different perspectives to share their ideas and solutions.

Who is Leading the 79th Session?

- Philemon Yang from Cameroon has been chosen as the President of this session of the UNGA.
- He has stressed the importance of countries working together to promote sustainable development and human dignity.

When is the General Debate?

- The general debate, where representatives from all member states will speak, is set to happen from 24th to 30th September 2024.
- These discussions will follow the theme of the session.

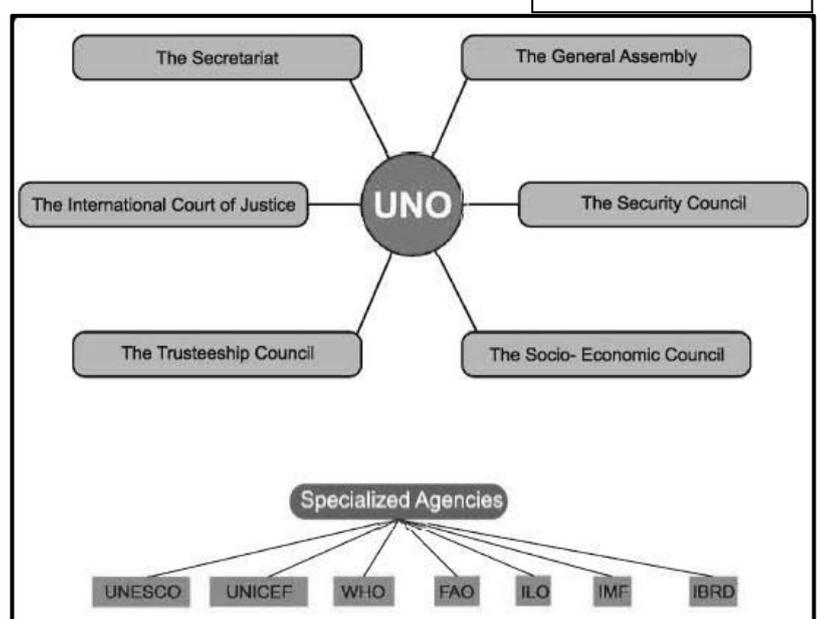
What is the Theme for This Session?

- The theme for the 79th UNGA session is "Leaving no one behind: acting together for the advancement of peace, sustainable development, and human dignity for present and future generations."
- This theme focuses on the shared responsibility of making the world a fairer and more sustainable place for everyone.

About the United Nations General Assembly

- The UNGA meets every year in **September** and includes **all 193 member countries**, making it the only UN body where every country has an equal say.
- The resolutions passed here are **not legally binding** but still carry significant influence.
- The first UNGA meeting was held in London in 1948.
- The UNGA also elects non-permanent

Structure of UNO:



members to the Security Council for two-year terms and helps approve the UN's budget.

- One of the important resolutions passed was the "Uniting for Peace" resolution in 1950, which allows the UNGA to discuss peace matters if the Security Council is unable to.

U.S.-India 2+2 Intersessional Dialogue

- Indian and American officials gathered in New Delhi for the U.S.-India 2+2 Intersessional Dialogue.
- **This meeting happened right before a planned meeting between Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and U.S. President Joe Biden, highlighting its importance in strengthening the relationship between the two countries.**

Key Participants

The meeting included key officials from both sides:

- From the U.S.: Donald Lu, Assistant Secretary of State, and Jedidiah P. Royal, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense.
- From India: Nagaraj Naidu, Joint Secretary from the Ministry of External Affairs, and Vishwesh Negi, Joint Secretary from the Ministry of Defense.

Discussion Focus

The talks focused on several important issues:

- **Indo-Pacific Strategy:** Ensuring security and stability in the Indo-Pacific region, an area both countries are committed to protecting.
- **Global Crises:** They discussed the ongoing war in Ukraine and the humanitarian needs in Gaza.

Areas of cooperation

Both countries emphasized working together in different areas:

- **Defense Cooperation:** Strengthening military ties between the U.S. and India.
- **Space and Civil Aviation:** Increasing cooperation in aerospace technologies.
- **Clean Energy Initiatives:** Working on projects that focus on sustainable energy.
- **Industrial and Logistics Coordination:** Improving how both countries manage supply chains and industrial coordination.

About the U.S.-India 2+2 Intersessional Dialogue

- This dialogue, **started in 2018, is a way for both countries to strengthen their strategic partnership.**
- It involves discussions between officials from foreign and defense ministries of both countries.
- The main topics usually include regional security, military cooperation, and technology sharing.
- India is considered a major defense partner of the U.S., and they work closely on issues like counterterrorism, maritime security, and defense trade.
- This dialogue helps both countries coordinate on joint military exercises and intelligence sharing, and it's a key part of maintaining stability in the Indo-Pacific region.

Typhoon Shanshan Makes Landfall On Japan's Kyushu Island

- Typhoon Shanshan made landfall on Japan's southwestern main island of Kyushu on August 29, the weather agency said, bringing heavy rain and strong winds that left at least 40 people injured in three prefectures.
- **The Japan Meteorological Agency urged residents in affected areas to remain on high alert for natural disasters,** while public transport operators canceled trains and flights, and some homes were left without power as the storm advanced.



Booker Prize

- The Booker Prize for fiction has announced its six finalists for 2024, with the shortlist revealed on September 16, 2024.
- In an exciting turn, **five out of the six nominees are women, making this a historic moment in the award's 55-year history.**

Key Nominees:

Here are some of the notable finalists:

- **Percival Everett:** Nominated for his novel James, which gives a fresh look at Mark Twain's classic Huckleberry Finn.
- **Rachel Kushner:** Shortlisted for her book Creation Lake, a spy story. Kushner is known for her previous book,

The Mars Room.

- **Samantha Harvey (Orbital), Anne Michaels (Held), and Charlotte Wood (Stone Yard Devotional)** are also among the finalists.
- **Yael van der Wouden:** She's the first Dutch author to be nominated for her debut novel, *The Safekeep*.

Prize Details:

- The Booker Prize, which began in 1969, recognizes exceptional fiction and is open to novels published in the U.K. and Ireland.
- The winner will receive £50,000, and the announcement will be made at a ceremony in London on November 12, 2024.

About Booker Prize

- **The Booker Prize, started in 1969, is given for the best novel written in English. Originally, it was only for authors from the Commonwealth countries, Ireland, and Zimbabwe.**
- In 2014, it was expanded to include authors from the U.S. The prize helps promote literary fiction and greatly increases book sales for the winners.
- In 2020, a new category called the "Booker Prize for Fiction" was introduced to adapt to the publishing changes caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Each winner gets £50,000 and international fame.

Iran Appoints Fatemeh Mohajerani as First Female Government Spokesperson

- In Iran, for the first time, a woman will be the government spokesperson.
- At the suggestion of Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian and with the approval of the Cabinet of Ministers, **Fatemeh Mohajerani was appointed as the first female government spokesperson.**

Michel Barnier

- French President **Emmanuel Macron** has made a significant political decision by appointing **Michel Barnier**, the former EU Brexit negotiator, as France's new Prime Minister on September 5, 2024.
- This appointment comes after an extended period of political uncertainty and marks a crucial moment in France's ongoing efforts to form a stable government.

Michel Barnier: Career Highlights

1. **EU's Chief Brexit Negotiator:** Led complex talks with Britain over its departure from the European Union.
2. **Extensive Ministerial Experience:** Served as French Foreign, European Affairs, Environment, and Agriculture Minister.
3. **European Commissioner:** Held this position twice during his career.



ECONOMICS

NCLT Approves Slice and North East Small Finance Bank Merger

- Fintech company Slice has received approval from the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) for its merger with North East Small Finance Bank.



- The Guwahati bench of the NCLT has sanctioned the scheme of arrangement and amalgamation involving several entities, including Garagepreneurs Internet, Quadrillion Finance, Intergalactic Foundry, RGVN (North East) Microfinance, and North East Small Finance Bank.

Net FDI Rises to \$6.9 Billion in Q1 FY25

- According to the latest data from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), net foreign direct investment (FDI)

in India surged to \$6.9 billion during the April-June quarter of FY25, compared to \$4.7 billion in the same period last year.

- This increase was driven by a significant rise in gross inward FDI, which grew by 26.4% year-on-year (Y-o-Y) to reach \$22.5 billion.
- Key sectors such as manufacturing, financial services, communication services, computer services, and energy accounted for about 80% of the total inflows.

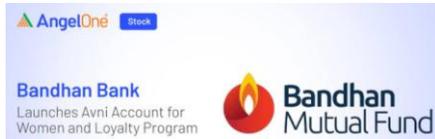
NPCI Launches 'UPI Circle' for Secure Payments among Trusted Users

- The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has unveiled a **new feature called 'UPI Circle' on the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) platform**, allowing primary UPI account holders to securely delegate payment responsibilities to trusted secondary users.
- This feature aims to enhance convenience and

security in digital transactions by enabling primary users to link their UPI accounts with secondary users, who can then make payments on their behalf within predefined limits.

Bandhan Bank Launches Avni Savings Account for Women

- On August 22, 2024, **Bandhan Bank**, celebrating its **Foundation Day**, introduced **Avni**, a savings account tailored specifically for women.
- This launch is accompanied by the Bandhan Bank Delights loyalty program, designed to offer rewards, discounts, and exclusive benefits.



GAIL and Petron to Establish 500 KTA Bio-Ethylene Plant in India

- On August 21, 2024, **GAIL (India) Limited** and **US-based Petron Scientech Inc** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to explore the development of a **500 Kiloton per Annum (KTA) bio-ethylene plant in India**.
- This initiative will involve a **50:50 joint venture**, where both companies will conduct feasibility studies to evaluate the technical and financial viability of the project before seeking investment approval.

Mumbai Ranks 2nd, New Delhi 3rd in Global Property Price Index

- Mumbai and Delhi are at the second and third positions, respectively, among 44 cities globally in annual price rise of prime residential properties during the June quarter, Knight Frank said in a report.
- The annual price growth across the 44 cities globally slowed to 2.6 per cent in the second quarter of the 2024 calendar year, from 4.1 per cent

Rank	City	12-month % change
1	Manila	26.0
2	Mumbai	13.0
3	Delhi	10.6
4	Los Angeles	8.9
5	Miami	7.1
6	Nairobi	6.6
7	Madrid	6.4
8	Lisbon	4.7
9	Seoul	4.6
10	San Francisco	4.5
15	Bengaluru	3.7
42	Vienna	-3.2
43	Bangkok	-3.9
44	Wellington	-5.9

Source: Knight Frank, Macrobond

in the preceding quarter, real estate consultant Knight Frank report said.

SBI Asha Scholarship Programme

- The **State Bank of India (SBI) Foundation** has unveiled the third edition of its flagship initiative, the **SBI Asha Scholarship Programme**.
- This ambitious program aims to support **10,000 talented students** from underprivileged backgrounds across India, offering substantial financial assistance to help them pursue their educational dreams.

Scope and Objectives

- The SBI Asha Scholarship Programme is designed to provide financial support to students ranging from **Class 6 to postgraduate level**.
- The scholarship amount varies significantly, offering between **Rs 15,000 to Rs 20 lakh** depending on the level of study and the specific category of scholarship.

Key Features

- Wide Range:** Covers school students, undergraduates, postgraduates, and those studying at premier institutions like **IITs and IIMs**.
- Study Abroad Option:** A specialized category for **SC and ST students** pursuing master's degrees and higher education at renowned institutions worldwide.
- Application Deadline:** Interested students must submit their applications by **October 1, 2024**.
- Official Website:** All relevant information, including eligibility criteria and application forms, is available at **sbifashascholarship.org**.

Scholarship Categories and Eligibility Criteria

1. SBI Asha Scholarship for School Students

Eligibility:

- Currently studying in **Class 6 to 12**
- Secured **75% or above** in the previous academic year
- Gross annual family income** not exceeding **INR 3,00,000**
- Open to Indian nationals
- 50% of slots reserved for female applicants
- Preference given to **SC/ST** applicants

Benefit: Each selected student receives **INR 15,000**

2. SBI Asha Scholarship for Undergraduate Students

Eligibility:

- Pursuing undergraduate courses from **premier universities/colleges** in India (as per **NIRF Top 100 rankings**)
- Secured **75% or above** in the previous academic year
- Gross annual family income** not exceeding **INR 6,00,000**
- Preference for students with family incomes below **INR 3,00,000**
- 50% of slots reserved for female applicants
- Preference for **SC/ST** applicants

Benefit: Selected students can receive up to **INR 50,000**

3. SBI Asha Scholarship for Postgraduate Students

Eligibility:

- Pursuing postgraduate courses from **premier universities/colleges** in India (as per **NIRF Top 100 rankings**)
- Secured **75% or above** in the previous academic year
- **Gross annual family income** not exceeding **INR 6,00,000**
- Preference for students with family incomes below **INR 3,00,000**
- 50% of slots reserved for female applicants
- Preference for SC/ST applicants

Benefit: Selected students can receive up to **INR 70,000**

4. SBIF Asha Scholarship for IIT Students

Eligibility:

- Pursuing undergraduate courses from any **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)** in India
- Secured **75% or above** in the previous academic year
- **Gross annual family income** not exceeding **INR 6,00,000**

Additional Notes:

- Preference for students with family incomes below **INR 3,00,000**
- 50% of slots reserved for female applicants
- Preference for SC/ST applicants

Benefit: Selected students can receive up to **INR 2,00,000**

5. SBI Asha Scholarship for IIM Students

Eligibility:

- Pursuing **MBA/PGDM courses** from any **Indian Institute of Management (IIM)** in India
- Secured **75% or above** in the previous academic year
- **Gross annual family income** not exceeding **INR 6,00,000**

- Preference for students with family incomes below **INR 3,00,000**
- 50% of slots reserved for female applicants
- Preference for SC/ST applicants

Benefit: Selected students can receive up to **INR 7,50,000**

Tata Motors Finance Limited merger into the Tata Capital Limited

- **The Competition Commission of India (CCI)** has cleared the proposal of India's giant business group **Tata Motors Finance Limited** merger into the **Tata Capital Limited** marking a significant consolidation into Tata group financial services.
- The merger will be carried out through a scheme of arrangement to be submitted to the **National Company Law Tribunal**.

Equity shares distribution after merger

- TCL will issue its equity shares to **TMFL** shareholders.
- This transaction will ultimately lead to **Tata Motors** owning a **4.7% stake** in the combined entity, further solidifying their position within the industry.

What is Tata Capital Limited?

- **TCL**, a subsidiary of **Tata Sons**, operates as a **non-banking financial company engaged in lending, leasing, factoring, and financing**, while **TMFL (Tata motors finance limited)** focuses on providing loans for purchasing new and pre-owned vehicles, particularly those manufactured by **Tata Motors** and its group companies.

TIME's World's Best Companies 2024

- **TIME magazine's World's Best Companies of 2024 list** has brought significant recognition to **Indian businesses, highlighting their growing influence on the global stage**.
- This prestigious ranking, which includes 1000 companies worldwide, features 22 Indian-born enterprises this year, showcasing the country's expanding corporate footprint and economic prowess.

TIME World's Best Companies of 2024

Rank	Company Name	Headquarters	Overall Score	Industry
1	Apple	United States	97.75	IT, Electronics, Hardware & Equipment
2	Accenture	Ireland	97.70	Professional Services
3	Microsoft	United States	97.65	IT, Electronics, Hardware & Equipment
4	BMW Group	Germany	97.41	Automotive Industry & Suppliers
5	Amazon	United States	96.47	Technology, Media & Services
6	Electricite de France	France	96.22	Utilities
7	American Express	United States	96.08	Banking & Financial Services
8	Meta Platforms	United States	96.04	Technology, Media & Services
9	Siemens	Germany	95.96	Conglomerate

10	JPMorgan Chase	United States	95.93	Banking & Financial Services
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This table includes the top 10 companies from the TIME World's Best Companies of 2024 ranking, showing their overall score, sustainability, employee satisfaction, and industry.

Key Highlights

Indian Companies in the Top Rankings

The list reveals impressive standings for several Indian firms:

- **HCLTech** leads the pack among Indian companies, securing the **112th position** globally.
- **Infosys** and **Wipro** follow closely, ranking **119th** and **134th** respectively.
- The **Adani Group**, despite recent controversies, maintains a strong presence at **736th** place.
- **Reliance Industries**, led by Mukesh Ambani, stands at a commendable **646th** position.

Diverse Sector Representation

The Indian entries span various industries, demonstrating the country's economic diversity:

- **Technology:** HCLTech, Infosys, Wipro
- **Conglomerates:** Mahindra Group, Adani Group, Reliance Industries
- **Banking:** Axis Bank, State Bank of India, ICICI Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Yes Bank
- **Manufacturing:** Larsen & Toubro, ITC Limited, Hero MotoCorp
- **Energy:** NTPC Limited
- **Automotive:** Motherson Group, Bajaj Group, MRF

 **DEFENCE & SECURITY**

India-US Joint Military Exercise YUDH ABHYAS-2024

- The 20th edition of the India-US Joint Military Exercise, YUDH ABHYAS-2024, commenced on September 9, 2024, at the Foreign Training Node in Mahajan Field Firing Ranges, Rajasthan.
- This annual exercise, alternating between India and the USA since 2004, is set to run until September 22, 2024, showcasing a remarkable increase in scale and sophistication compared to previous iterations.

Indian Army & IAF Sign MoU with Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya to Boost Logistics Skills

- On September 09, 2024, the Indian Army and Indian Air Force signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya in Vadodara.
- This collaboration aims to enhance the logistics capabilities of personnel and align with national development plans such as the PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan 2021 and the National Logistics Policy 2022.
- The agreement was formalized in New Delhi in the presence of Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh and Railways Minister Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw.



India and Indonesia Resolve to Boost Anti-Terror Cooperation

- India and Indonesia have reaffirmed their

commitment to combating terrorism, including addressing the misuse of new and emerging technologies by terrorists.

- During the sixth meeting of the India-Indonesia Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism held in Jakarta, both nations condemned the use of terrorist proxies for cross-border terrorism, particularly in light of Pakistan's support to terror groups targeting Jammu and Kashmir.

INS Tabar Conducts Maritime Partnership Exercise with Spanish Navy Ship Atalaya

- INS Tabar, a frontline frigate of the Indian Navy, visited Malaga, Spain, on 25 August 2024, for a two-day engagement.
- Upon departure on 27 August, it participated in a Maritime Partnership Exercise (MPX) with the Spanish Navy Ship Atalaya in the Mediterranean Sea.
- This exercise is a significant milestone in the growing maritime cooperation between India and Spain, reflecting the strengthening of bilateral relations in the maritime domain.



Indian Air Force Launches First Comic Book Series Celebrating Its Heroes

- In a groundbreaking initiative to inspire and educate the youth about the rich history and heroic deeds of the Indian Air Force (IAF), Air Chief Marshal V R Chaudhari has launched the

first comic book in a series dedicated to IAF heroes.

- This innovative approach to storytelling marks a significant step in the IAF's efforts to connect with younger generations and foster a sense of pride and duty towards the nation.

Indian Army Launches Project NAMAN: SPARSH-Enabled Service Centres Nationwide

- The Indian Army has launched the first phase of Project NAMAN, aimed at providing dedicated support and services to Defence pensioners, veterans, and their families.
- The project was inaugurated by Chief of the Army Staff General Upendra Dwivedi.
- It is a significant step toward enhancing the care and support for the Defence community.



Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya

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- The agreement was formalized in New Delhi in the presence of Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh and Railways Minister Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw.

Importance of the MoU

- The MoU will focus on developing higher expertise in logistics, enabling the Indian Army and Air Force to build in-house proficiency across various logistics operations.
- This initiative supports the national goal of self-reliance in defense and aims to improve the efficiency of logistics systems, which are crucial for rapid mobilization and resource allocation.

Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya

- Located in Vadodara, Gujarat, Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya is India's first university dedicated to transportation and logistics.
- Sponsored by the Ministry of Railways, it aims to support the logistics and transportation sectors through specialized education and research.

India-Oman joint military exercise, Al Najah

- The Indian Army contingent has departed for the fifth edition of the India-Oman joint military exercise, Al Najah, which will take place from September 13 to 26, 2024, at the Rabkoot Training Area in Salalah, Oman.
- Al Najah has been held biennially since 2015, alternating between India and Oman. The previous edition was conducted in Rajasthan, India.
- This year, both India and Oman are sending 60 personnel each, with the Indian team represented by the Mechanised Infantry Regiment and the Royal Army of Oman represented by the Frontier Force.

Objective:

- The joint exercise aims to enhance military capabilities, particularly counter-terrorism operations under Chapter VII of the UN Charter.

Focus:

- The exercise will focus on desert operations and include tactical drills such as joint planning, cordon and search operations, fighting in built-up areas, mobile vehicle check posts, counter-drone techniques, and room interventions.

Indian Army:

- **Founded:** April 1, 1895
- **Commander-in-Chief:** President of India
- **Chief of Army Staff:** General Upendra Dwivedi
- **Size:** Over 1.2 million active personnel
- **Headquarters:** New Delhi
- **Motto:** "Service Before Self"
- **Structure:** Divided into 7 commands (Northern, Eastern, Western, Southern, Central, South Western, and Army Training Command)
- **Main Roles:** National security, border defense, counter-terrorism, humanitarian aid
- **Notable Operations:** Kargil War (1999), Operation Vijay, Operation Meghdoot (Siachen), counter-insurgency in Jammu & Kashmir
- **International Missions:** Active contributor to UN Peacekeeping operations
- **Key Regiments:** Infantry, Armored Corps, Mechanized Infantry, Artillery, Army Aviation Corps, Engineers
- **Significant Exercises:** Yudh Abhyas (with USA), Exercise Shakti (with France), Al Nagah (with Oman).



SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Open AI Unveils New Reasoning AI Model O1 in Project Strawberry

- OpenAI has launched a new AI model called o1 under a secret initiative called 'Project Strawberry.' This model is designed to handle more complex reasoning in areas like science, coding, and mathematics.
- It's part of a series of models aimed at making AI think more deeply and tackle tougher problems.



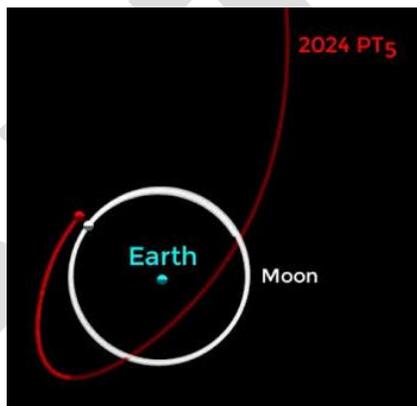
Model Development

The old model is built to process questions in a way that mimics how humans think. It can:

- Look at problems from different angles.
- Learn from its mistakes by reviewing its answers and improving.
- In early tests, the o1 model showed impressive results. It can solve complex problems in physics, chemistry, and biology at a level similar to a PhD student.
- It performed especially well in math and coding, successfully solving 83% of questions in a tough math competition—far better than older AI models.

New Mini Moons

- From September 29 to November 25, 2024, Earth will have a temporary companion called asteroid 2024 PT5.
- This asteroid will orbit around our planet for two months, acting like a mini-moon.
- However, it will not be visible to the naked eye or even most amateur telescopes because it is too faint.



What is a mini-moon?

- A mini-moon is a small asteroid that gets temporarily caught by Earth's gravity. Unlike our permanent Moon, these mini-moons stay for a short period and then move away.
- Asteroid 2024 PT5, which is about 10 meters (33

feet) in size, will be one of these mini-moons, briefly orbiting alongside our Moon during its time near Earth.

Characteristics of Asteroid 2024 PT5

- Asteroid 2024 PT5 was first spotted by NASA's ATLAS program on August 7, 2024.
- Its path is similar to other asteroids from the Arjuna asteroid belt. Instead of making a complete orbit around Earth, it will follow a horseshoe-shaped path before breaking free from Earth's gravity and continuing its journey in space.

Scientific Importance

- This mini-moon gives scientists a chance to learn more about how near-Earth objects behave when they come close to our planet.
- By studying how asteroid 2024 PT5 interacts with Earth's gravity, astronomers can improve their ability to predict the paths of other asteroids in the future.

Historical Context of Mini-Moons

- Yes, Earth has had other mini-moons in the past. For example, one orbited our planet from July 2006 to July 2007.
- Another asteroid, called 2022 NX1, temporarily orbited Earth in 1981 and again in 2022.
- These events show that Earth occasionally catches small asteroids in its gravitational field.

Can we see asteroid 2024 PT5?

- Even though this mini-moon is interesting, it will be very hard to see.
- With a brightness magnitude of 22, only very advanced observatories will be able to detect it.
- Most people, even with good telescopes, won't be able to watch its passage.

About mini-moons

- Mini-moons are temporary natural satellites that orbit Earth after being captured by its gravity.
- They are often small—usually just a few meters in diameter—and stay in orbit for only a short time, typically a few months.
- The most famous mini-moon, called 2006 RH120, orbited Earth for about a year.
- These objects help scientists better understand the movement and dynamics of asteroids in space, but they are very different from our permanent Moon.

IIL Partners with ICMR for India's First Zika Vaccine

- Indian Immunologicals Limited (IIL) has joined hands with the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) to develop India's first Zika virus vaccine.
- They have signed an agreement called a

Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) to work together on this project. **The main goal is to conduct phase I clinical trials, which will test the vaccine for its safety and effectiveness in humans.**

- ICMR will pay for the phase I clinical trials. This includes covering all the costs for running the trials, monitoring the participants, and performing the necessary investigations to see how the vaccine works.
- These trials will be done in different locations in India to make sure the vaccine is thoroughly tested.

ICMR's Phase I Trial Network

ICMR has a network of places across India where early-stage trials, like phase I clinical trials, are conducted. **This network helps researchers carry out their work smoothly within the country.** The trials for the Zika vaccine will take place at these four sites:

- ACTREC in Mumbai
- KEM Hospital in Mumbai
- SRM in Chennai
- PGIMER in Chandigarh

This network allows Indian scientists to test new vaccines for safety without needing to go outside the country.

India's Second Largest Butterfly Species Discovered in Tamil Nadu

- India's second-largest butterfly, the Southern Birdwing, was recently spotted on the satellite campus of The American College in Madurai, Tamil Nadu.
- This discovery sheds light on the region's changing movements of butterfly species.

About the Southern Birdwing

- **The Southern Birdwing was once considered the largest butterfly in, with a wingspan of 190mm.**
- However, in 2020, it was surpassed by the Golden Birdwing, which has a wingspan of 194mm, according to a British researcher, Brigadier William Harry Evans.
- It prefers areas close to water, such as the rivers and streams in the Western Ghats. The males of this species are known for their bright yellow and black colors, while the females, though larger, have more muted tones.
- **As an indicator of ecological health, its presence shows the importance of maintaining a balanced and diverse environment.**
- In both the Southern and Golden Birdwing species, females are generally larger than males.

This size difference is common among butterflies and can affect how they behave during mating.

Chandrayaan-3 Detects Historic 250 Seismic Signatures on Moon



- India's Chandrayaan-3 mission has achieved a significant milestone by becoming the first lunar mission to detect over 250 seismic signals from the Moon's south pole since the Apollo missions.
- This discovery marks a major advancement in lunar exploration and seismic monitoring techniques.

Significance of Seismic Signals

- The Chandrayaan-3 mission identified 250 seismic signals, with 50 of these signals being unique and potentially indicating moonquakes, which are similar to earthquakes on Earth but occur on the Moon.
- **This is the first time that seismic data has been successfully collected from the Moon's south pole, providing valuable insights into the Moon's seismic activity.**

NASA's Europa Clipper Mission

- NASA has officially approved the launch of the Europa Clipper mission, which is **scheduled to take off on October 10, 2024.**
- This decision comes after a successful review of the spacecraft's design to ensure it can handle intense radiation. The announcement was made on September 10, addressing previous concerns about the spacecraft's electronics.



Launch Details

- The Europa Clipper mission has a budget of \$5 billion and will be launched aboard a SpaceX Falcon Heavy rocket.
- The mission must be launched within a specific three-week period to ensure the spacecraft can reach Jupiter using gravity assists from Mars and Earth.
- This carefully timed launch is crucial for the spacecraft to follow its planned trajectory.



SPORTS

Ilkay Gundogan

- Germany Captain Ilkay Gundogan Announces International Retirement from Football.
- Ilkay Gundogan, the 33-year-old captain of the German national football team**, has officially announced his retirement from international football. This decision comes on the heels of Germany's performance at Euro 2024, where Gundogan led his country to the quarterfinals before falling to the eventual champions, Spain, in extra time.

India at Paralympics 2024

- India achieved their **most successful performance in Paralympic history** at the Paris 2024 Games, **securing a total of 29 medals - seven gold, nine silver, and 13 bronze. This achievement surpasses the 19-medal haul from Tokyo 2020, which included five golds.**
- The record haul also meant that India crossed the 50-medal mark in their **Paralympic history**.
- A record 84 para-athletes represented India at the **Paris 2024 Paralympics**, held in the French capital from August 28 to September 8. India competed across 12 disciplines, three more than at Tokyo 2020. Indian para-athletes participated in three new sports at **Paris 2024** – para cycling, para rowing, and blind judo.

Impressive performances at the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games by India:

Avani Lekhara

- Avani Lekhara became the first Indian woman to win two gold medals at the Paralympic Games, defending her title in the women's 10m air rifle standing SH1 **shooting** event with a world record score.

Dharambir and Parnav Soorma

- India recorded a one-two in **athletics** for the first time, with Dharambir and Parnav Soorma clinching gold and silver, respectively, in the men's club throw F51 event. Dharambir also set a new Asian record of 34.92m.
- Later, Praveen Kumar also logged an Asian record to win the **high jump** T64 title and fetched India's sixth gold, their highest ever at the Paralympics.

Sumit Antil

- Javelin ace Sumit Antil too made history as the first Indian man to defend his title at the Paralympics, winning gold in the men's javelin throw F64 with a stunning throw of 70.59m – a new Paralympic record.
- Remarkably, Sumit broke his own previous record, set at the Tokyo 2020 Paralympics, not just once, but three times during the competition.

Mariyappan Thangavelu

- With a bronze in the high jump T42 class, Mariyappan Thangavelu **became the first Indian to win medals at three consecutive Paralympics.**
- He won the gold medal at Rio 2016 and silver at Tokyo 2020.

Preethi Pal

- Preethi Pal secured her bronze in the women's 100m T35 race with a personal best time.
- It was India's first-ever medal in a track event at the Paralympics.
- Her bronze in the 200m made her India's most successful athlete at the Games, as she was the only one to secure two medals.

Deepthi Jeevanji

- In all, India won four medals in track events at Paris 2024. It included Deepthi Jeevanji, who became the first intellectually impaired Indian athlete to win a Paralympic medal with a bronze in the women's 400m T20 class.

Indian medal winners at Paris 2024 Paralympics

No.	Athlete	Sport	Event	Medal
1	Avani Lekhara	Shooting	Women's 10m Air Rifle Standing SH1	Gold
2	Mona Agarwal	Shooting	Women's 10m Air Rifle Standing SH1	Bronze
3	Preethi Pal	Athletics	Women's 100m T35	Bronze
4	Manish Narwal	Shooting	Men's 10m Air Pistol SH1	Silver
5	Rubina Francis	Shooting	Women's 10m Air Pistol SH1	Bronze
6	Preethi Pal	Athletics	Women's 200m T35	Bronze
7	Nishad Kumar	Athletics	Men's High Jump T47	Silver
8	Yogesh Kathuniya	Athletics	Men's Discus Throw F56	Silver

9	Nitesh Kumar	Badminton	Men's Singles SL3	Gold
10	Thulasimathi Murugesan	Badminton	Women's Singles SU5	Silver
11	Manisha Ramadass	Badminton	Women's Singles SU5	Bronze
12	Suhas Yathiraj	Badminton	Men's Singles SL4	Silver
13	Rakesh Kumar/Sheetal Devi	Archery	Mixed Team Compound Open	Bronze
14	Sumit Antil	Athletics	Javelin Throw F64	Gold
15	Nithya Sre Sivan	Badminton	Women's Singles SH6	Bronze
16	Deepthi Jeevanji	Athletics	Women's 400m T20	Bronze
17	Mariyappan Thangavelu	Athletics	Men's High Jump T63	Bronze
18	Sharad Kumar	Athletics	Men's High Jump T63	Silver
19	Ajeet Singh	Athletics	Men's Javelin Throw F46	Silver
20	Sundar Singh Gurjar	Athletics	Men's Javelin Throw F46	Bronze
21	Sachin Khilari	Athletics	Men's Shot Put F46	Silver
22	Harvinder Singh	Archery	Men's Individual Recurve Open	Gold
23	Dharambir	Athletics	Men's Club Throw F51	Gold
24	Parnav Soorma	Athletics	Men's Club Throw F51	Silver
25	Kapil Parmar	Judo	Men's -60kg J1	Bronze
26	Praveen Kumar	Athletics	Men's High Jump T64	Gold
27	Hokato Hotozhe Sema	Athletics	Men's Shot Put F57	Bronze
28	Simran	Athletics	Women's 200m T12	Bronze
29	Navdeep Singh	Athletics	Men's Javelin Throw F41	Gold

India's medals at Paris 2024 Paralympics sport-by-sport

Sport	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
Archery	1	0	1	2
Athletics	4	6	7	17
Badminton	1	2	2	5
Judo	0	0	1	1
Shooting	1	1	2	4
TOTAL	7	9	13	29

Paris 2024 Paralympics medals tally

Rank	Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	People's Republic of China	94	76	50	220
2	Great Britain	49	44	31	124
3	United States of America	36	42	27	105
4	Netherlands	27	17	12	56
5	Brazil	25	26	38	89
18	India	7	9	13	29

Shikhar Dhawan Announces Retirement from International Cricket

- Indian cricket's prolific white-ball opener, Shikhar Dhawan, has officially announced his retirement from international cricket at the age of 38.
- While stepping away from representing India, Dhawan hinted at his intention to continue participating in league cricket, most notably the Indian Premier League (IPL).



India Shines at Asian Surfing Championships 2024: A Milestone for Indian Surfing

- In a significant achievement for Indian surfing, the national team secured a **silver medal at the prestigious Maruhaba Cup**, a team event at the Asian Surfing Championships 2024.
- The competition, held in Thulusdhoo, Maldives, concluded on Sunday, marking a new chapter in India's surfing history.

Indian Prodigy Triumphs at Asian U-15 Junior Badminton Championships 2024

- In a remarkable display of skill and determination, 14-year-old **Tanvi Patri from Odisha, India**, has etched her

name in the annals of badminton history.

- Patri clinched the women’s singles title at the prestigious Asian U-15 Junior Championships 2024, held in Chengdu, People’s Republic of China, from August 20-25, 2024.

England’s Dawid Malan Retires from International Cricket

- Dawid Malan, the former top-ranked T20 batter and a versatile player **who achieved the rare feat of scoring centuries for England in all formats, has announced his retirement from international cricket.**
- At 36 years old, Malan leaves behind a legacy marked by significant achievements, particularly in the shorter formats of the game.

India’s bid for the 2030 Youth Olympics

- **Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya**, India’s Union Minister of Youth Affairs & Sports, announced India’s bid for the 2030 Youth Olympics during his speech at the of the **Olympic Council of Asia (OCA)44th General Assembly** on September 8, 2024.
- India will compete against Peru, Colombia, Mexico, Thailand, Mongolia, Russia, Ukraine, and Bosnia and Herzegovina for hosting rights.
- This bid is seen as a precursor to India’s ambition to host the 2036 Olympics.

Highlights from Dr. Mandaviya’s Address

- Dr. Mandaviya detailed India’s sports initiatives, emphasizing the ‘**Khelo India’ scheme, ‘Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS)’**, and ‘**Achieving Sports Milestone by Inspiring Women Through Action (ASMITA)’**’.
- He noted the government’s substantial increase in the sports budget from USD 143 million in 2014-15 to approximately USD 417 million today.
- This funding has led to record-breaking performances at the Asian Games and Asian Para Games.

Khelo India Scheme

- With an annual budget of USD 119 million, the scheme focuses on grassroots talent development, providing scholarships to over 2,700 children annually, and organizing four Khelo India Games each year.
- It supports over 1,050 district-level centers to improve sports infrastructure.

Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS)

- This program aids athletes in preparing for the Olympics and international competitions.
- Of the 117 Indian athletes at the Paris Olympics, 28 were Khelo India alumni, and India’s Paralympic team, including 18 Khelo India athletes, won a record 29 medals at the Paris Paralympics 2024.

ASMITA Program

- This initiative promotes gender equality and women’s participation in 18 sports disciplines, aligning with Olympic ideals and strengthening Asia’s sporting legacy.

Karthik Venkataraman Clinches Second Indian National Title

- Karthik Venkataraman won the 61st edition of the **Indian National Championship after scoring 9/11** points at the event organized by the Haryana Chess Association.
- This is the second victory in a national championship for Karthik, who had also won the tournament in 2022.
- Surya Ganguly and Neelash Saha scored as many points as the champion, but finished in second and third place on tiebreaks.



US Open 2024

- The 2024 US Open, held from August 19 to September 8 at Flushing Meadows, Queens, New York City, concluded with groundbreaking victories in both the men’s and women’s singles categories.
- **Jannik Sinner of Italy and Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus emerged as champions**, each claiming their first US Open title and adding to their growing list of Grand Slam achievements.



Winners List of the 2024 US Open

Event	Winners	Event	Winners
Men’s Single	Jannik Sinner (Italy)	Men’s Double	Max Purcell and Jordan Thompson (Both Australian)

Women's Single	Aryna Sabalenka (Belarus)	Women's Double	Lyudmyla Kichenok (Ukraine) and Jelena Ostapenko (Latvia)
Mixed Doubles	Sara Errani and Andrea Vavassori (Both from Italy)		



PERSON IN NEWS

Centenary Commemorative Coin Honoring M. Karunanidhi

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on August 18, released the centenary commemorative coin of Dr. Kalaignar M. Karunanidhi in Chennai.
- Speaking on the occasion, the Minister paid rich tributes to the late leader and described him as one of the icons of Indian politics.



Ashok Kumar Singh Takes Over as Director General, ESIC

- Shri Ashok Kumar Singh, IAS took over the charge of Director General of Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) under Ministry of Labour & Employment, Govt. of India at its Headquarters in New Delhi on August 19.



ICG DG Rakesh Pal Dies of Cardiac Arrest

- Director General of the Indian Coast Guard, Rakesh Pal, died of a severe cardiac arrest in Chennai. He was 59. He was in Chennai to participate in the Coast Guard function led by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.



Amardeep Singh Bhatia Appointed as DPIIT Secretary

- Amardeep Singh Bhatia, a 1993-batch IAS officer from the Nagaland cadre, has officially assumed the role of Secretary in the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).
- He succeeds Rajesh Kumar Singh, who has been appointed as Officer on



Special Duty in the Department of Defence.

- Bhatia's extensive experience includes key roles in both central and state governments, particularly in the Ministries of Corporate Affairs and Health & Family Welfare.

Rajesh Nambiar Named NASSCOM President-Designate, Succeeds Ghosh

- Rajesh Nambiar has been appointed as the president-designate of the National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM), succeeding Debjani Ghosh, whose tenure concludes in November 2024.
- Following this appointment, Nambiar has resigned from his role as Chairman and Managing Director of Cognizant India.
- His extensive industry experience, including leadership roles at TCS, IBM, Ciena, and Cognizant, positions him as a key figure in guiding India's tech sector through its next phase of growth.



Former CSIR Director-General Girish Sahni Passes Away at 68

- Dr. Girish Sahni, the former director-general of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), passed away on August 19, 2024, at the age of 68. Sources reported to The Hindu that the cause of death was a heart attack.
- CSIR expressed its mourning through a post on X (formerly Twitter) at 5:40 pm on the same day.



Nestlé Announces Laurent Freixe to Succeed Mark Schneider as CEO

- Nestlé made public its decision to appoint Laurent Freixe as the new Chief Executive Officer, replacing the outgoing Mark Schneider.
- This announcement marks a



new chapter in the company's storied history and sets the stage for potential shifts in strategy and direction.

Nasscom Appoints Sindhu Gangadharan as New Chairperson

- The National Association of Software and Service Companies (Nasscom), India's premier IT industry body, has announced a significant change in its leadership.
- **Sindhu Gangadharan, the Managing Director of SAP Labs India, has been appointed as the new chairperson of Nasscom.**
- This appointment marks a crucial moment in the organization's history and sets the stage for new directions in India's technology sector.



Vice Admiral Rajesh Dhankhar Takes Over as Director General Project Seabird

- On August 28, 2024, Vice Admiral Rajesh Dhankhar, NM, assumed duties as the Director General of Project Seabird, taking over from Vice Admiral Tarun Sobti.
- He is now responsible for overseeing India's largest defense infrastructure project at the Karwar Naval Base. The change of guard took place at the Headquarters of Project Seabird in New Delhi.



Olympic Cyclist Daniela Chirinos Passes Away at 51

- The cycling world mourns the loss of Daniela Larreal Chirinos, a celebrated Venezuelan Olympic cyclist who passed away at the age of 51.
- Chirinos, known for her remarkable career spanning over a decade, left an indelible mark on the sport of track cycling and represented her nation with distinction on the global stage.



Dr. T.V. Somanathan takes over as Cabinet Secretary

- Dr. T.V. Somanathan, a senior IAS officer of the 1987 Tamil Nadu cadre, has assumed the role of Cabinet Secretary for the Government of India, succeeding Rajiv Gauba after his superannuation.
- Dr. Somanathan brings extensive experience from both central and state government positions, as well as international roles, notably at the World Bank.
- His academic credentials include a Ph.D. in Economics, and he is a qualified Chartered Accountant, Cost Accountant, and Company Secretary.



Satish Kumar Appointed as Railway Board Chairman and CEO

- In a significant development for Indian Railways, the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved a change in leadership at the highest level.
- This decision marks a new chapter in the administration of one of the world's largest railway networks.

AWARDS

National Geoscience Awards 2023: Honoring Excellence in Earth Sciences

- President Droupadi Murmu presided over a distinguished ceremony at the Rashtrapati

- Bhavan in New Delhi to confer the prestigious 2023 National Geoscience Awards to outstanding individuals and teams in the field of geosciences.
- The highlight of the event was the presentation of

the Lifetime Achievement Award to Prof. Dhiraj Mohan Banerjee, Emeritus Scientist at the Indian National Science Academy (INSA).

Union Minister Giriraj Singh Presents Handicrafts Exports Awards

- The Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH) organised its 24th Handicrafts Export Awards Function on August 21, at the Convention Hall, The Ashok Hotel, New Delhi.
- Union Minister of Textiles Giriraj Singh has highlighted the handicrafts sector's pivotal role in the growth of the Indian economy.



bringing together a diverse array of talented individuals from various fields.

- The ceremony was graced by two outstanding personalities who received the coveted FICCI Young Leaders Youth Icon award:**
- Ayushmann Khurrana: Bollywood superstar and versatile actor Neeraj Chopra: Olympic gold medalist in javelin throw.

President Murmu Gives Away First-Ever Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar

- President Droupadi Murmu presided over the first-ever investiture ceremony for the Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar (National Science Awards).
- These awards, instituted last year to replace all existing science accolades, mark a new chapter in recognizing scientific excellence in the country.

11th Puthiya Thalaimurai Tamilan Awards

- The 11th edition of the Puthiya Thalaimurai Tamilan Awards recently honored outstanding individuals across various fields, recognizing both seasoned professionals and emerging talents.
- This prestigious event showcased the rich diversity of accomplishments in Tamil Nadu and beyond.

FICCI Honours Ayushmann Khurrana and Neeraj Chopra as Youth Icons of India



- The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) recently organized its prestigious Young Leaders Awards in New Delhi,

Kerala Tourism Clinches PATA Gold Award 2024 for Innovative 'Holiday Heist' Campaign

- In a significant achievement for Indian tourism, Kerala Tourism has once again put India on the global tourism map by winning the prestigious Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) Gold Award 2024.
- This accolade recognizes the state's innovative online contest, 'Holiday Heist', in the Digital Marketing Campaign category, further cementing Kerala's position as a leader in creative tourism promotion.

National Florence Nightingale Awards 2024

- On September 11, 2024, the President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu, presided over a distinguished ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhavan to present the National Florence Nightingale Awards for the year 2024.
- This prestigious event recognized outstanding contributions in the field of nursing, highlighting the crucial role that nursing professionals play in the healthcare system.

Background of the Awards Origin and Purpose

- The National Florence Nightingale Awards were established by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India.

These awards serve a dual purpose:

- To recognize the exceptional services provided by nursing personnel across the country.
- To honor the legacy of Florence Nightingale, the pioneering British nurse who set the standards for modern nursing practices.

Categories of Awards

The 2024 National Florence Nightingale Awards were presented in three main categories:

- ANM (Auxiliary Nurse Midwife): Recognizing grassroots-level healthcare workers.
- LHV (Lady Health Visitor): Honoring supervisory nursing personnel.

3. Nurse: Acknowledging registered nurses across various specializations.

The Awardees

- This year’s awards celebrated the diverse contributions of nursing professionals from across India.
- The recipients represented various states and union territories, reflecting the nationwide impact of nursing excellence.

Sl.	Category	Name	State/UT
1	ANM	Smt. Sheela Mondal	Andaman & Nicobar
2	ANM	Ms. Iken Lollen	Arunachal Pradesh
3	ANM	Ms. Vidjeyacoumary V	Puducherry
4	ANM	Ms. Januka Pandey	Sikkim
5	ANM	Smt. Anindita Pramanik	West Bengal
6	LHV	Ms. Brahmacharimayum Amusana Devi	Manipur
7	Nurse	Maj Gen Ignatius Delos Flora	Delhi
8	Nurse	Ms. Prem Rose Suri	Delhi
9	Nurse	Dr. Tabasum Irshad Handoo	Jammu & Kashmir
10	Nurse	Dr. Nagarajiah	Karnataka
11	Nurse	Ms. Shamshad Beegum Attalada	Lakshadweep
12	Nurse	Ms. Asha Wamanrao Bawane	Maharashtra
13	Nurse	Ms. H Mankimi	Mizoram
14	Nurse	Ms. Sanjukta Sethi	Odisha
15	Nurse	Mr. Radhey Lal Sharma	Rajasthan

 **IMPORTANT DAYS**

World Humanitarian Day 2024

- World Humanitarian Day, **observed annually on August 19th, takes on a somber tone in 2024 as the global community faces a grim reality:** humanitarian workers are increasingly becoming targets in conflict zones.
- The year 2023 marked the deadliest year on record for aid workers, and 2024 threatens to surpass this grim milestone.
- This alarming trend underscores a critical failure in protecting those who dedicate their lives to helping others in the world’s most challenging environments.
- **The theme of the 2024 World Humanitarian Day global campaign is #ActForHumanity.**
- As the UN explains, the campaign aims to “mobilize our collective efforts to ensure the protection of humanitarians and civilians and to demand accountability for violations of international humanitarian law and other international norms”.

recognising the importance of providing victims of acts of violence based on religion or belief and members of their families with appropriate support and assistance in accordance with applicable law.

- Freedom of religion or belief is a fundamental human right that intersects with several other crucial freedoms.
- These rights are not only important individually but also work together to create a framework for a just and tolerant society.

World Water Week 2024: 25-29 August

- The Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) is organising the next World Water Week on 25-29 August 2024.
- World Water Week is the leading conference on global water issues, held every year since 1991.
- **The theme of World Water Week 2024 is "Bridging Borders: Water for a Peaceful and Sustainable Future".**
- The theme emphasizes the need for water cooperation and collaboration to achieve a peaceful and sustainable future.
- It also calls attention to the interconnectedness of communities and nations around the world.

International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief 2024

- **The General Assembly, in its resolution A/RES/73/296, designated August 22 as the International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief**

International Day against Nuclear Tests 2024 Observed on 29th August

- Every year on August 29, the world observes the International Day Against Nuclear Tests.
- On December 2, 2009, the 64th session of the United Nations General Assembly unanimously adopted **resolution 64/35, declaring August 29 as the International Day against Nuclear Tests**. This resolution was a significant step towards raising global awareness about the effects of nuclear weapon test explosions.
- **The choice of August 29 commemorates the closure of the Semipalatinsk Nuclear Test site in Kazakhstan on August 29, 1991.** This site was one of the primary testing grounds for Soviet nuclear weapons and its closure marked a pivotal moment in the global movement against nuclear testing.
- **The theme for 2024 is #StepUp4Disarmament**, which calls on young people to raise awareness about the humanitarian consequences of nuclear explosions.
- This significant day serves as a global reminder of the devastating effects of nuclear weapons testing and the urgent need for a world free from the threat of nuclear destruction.
- Since the dawn of the nuclear age in 1945, over 2,000 nuclear tests have been conducted, leaving a legacy of environmental damage and human suffering.

National Sports Day 2024, Date, Significance and History

- **Every year on August 29, India celebrates National Sports Day, a special occasion dedicated to honouring the spirit of sports in the country.**
- This day goes beyond celebrating India's athletic achievements; it emphasizes the crucial role of sports in maintaining health, fostering community, and inspiring generations.
- At the heart of this celebration is the legacy of India's legendary hockey player, Major Dhyan Chand, whose extraordinary skills and contributions to the sport have left an indelible mark on the nation's sporting history.
- While the theme for 2024 has not been announced at the time of writing, the previous year's **theme was "Sports are an enabler to an inclusive and fit society."**

International Day for People of African Descent 2024

- The International Day for People of African Descent **Observed on 31st August to mark a significant milestone in the global recognition of the contributions and challenges faced by individuals of African descent worldwide.**
- As we commemorate this day, we also approach

the conclusion of the International Decade for People of African Descent, an initiative launched by the United Nations General Assembly to safeguard the human rights of people of African descent, particularly in the Americas.

National Nutrition Week

- Nutrition awareness week is celebrated in India annually from **September 1-7** to raise awareness about the importance of nutrition and promote healthy lifestyles.
- **The theme for National Nutrition Week 2024 is "Nutritious Diets for Everyone".**
- This theme focuses on the importance of making healthy diets accessible to everyone, regardless of income.
- It also supports the United Nations' goals for sustainable development by promoting diets that meet the nutritional needs of people at all stages of life.

The week's activities include:

- **Raising awareness:** People learn about the importance of proper nutrition and how to promote health and well-being
- **Addressing malnutrition:** Efforts are made to reduce malnutrition-related health disparities
- **Promoting healthier lifestyles:** People learn how to make healthier lifestyle choices
- **Ensuring access to balanced diets:** People learn how to access balanced diets.

World Coconut Day

- World Coconut Day is celebrated on **September 2** every year to highlight the importance of coconuts and their many uses.
- The day also promotes sustainable farming practices and encourages people to eat more coconuts.
- **The theme for World Coconut Day 2024 is "Coconut for a Circular Economy: Building Partnership for Maximum Value".** This theme highlights sustainable practices and partnerships in the coconut industry.

Here are some reasons why coconuts are important:

- **Nutrition:** Coconuts are a versatile fruit that offer many nutritional benefits. Coconut water is a natural electrolyte drink that's rich in potassium and other minerals.
- **Economy:** Coconuts are crucial to the economies of many tropical regions. Coconut farming provides jobs for millions of people, and coconut products are a significant part of international trade.
- **Traditional medicine:** Different parts of the coconut palm have been used for centuries in traditional medicine. For example, coconut oil is used for its potential healing properties.

- **Symbol of tropical paradise:** Coconuts are often associated with tropical beaches and paradise.
- **Floating wonder:** Coconuts can float in saltwater for months and travel long distances across the ocean

The International Day of Charity

- It is observed annually on **September 5 in honor of Mother Teresa.**
- Mother Teresa is one of the most well-known recent saints in the Roman Catholic Church.
- She is best known for her work with the poor in Calcutta and for founding the Missionaries of Charity.
- St Teresa of Calcutta became renowned worldwide and even won the Nobel Peace Prize.
- This day was established by the **General Assembly of the United Nations to educate individuals, NGOs, and stakeholders about the significance of participating in charitable causes.**
- On this day, people join together to support various causes of the International Charity Day 2024 Theme, such as fighting poverty and improving education and health.
- Charities, community groups, and individuals take part in activities to help those in need.

Teacher's Day

- India celebrates Teachers' Day annually on September 5, the birth anniversary of former President Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan (1888-1975).
- The theme for Teachers' Day 2024 is **"Empowering Educators for a Sustainable Future."**
- This theme focuses on the importance of providing teachers with the essential tools and knowledge to nurture a generation that is environmentally aware, socially responsible, and capable of addressing future challenges.

Hindi Diwas

- **Hindi Diwas**, observed annually on **September 14th**, stands as a testament to India's rich linguistic diversity and cultural heritage.
- This day marks the **adoption of Hindi as an official language** of the Indian federal government, a decision made by the Constituent Assembly in 1949.
- As we approach Hindi Diwas 2024, it's crucial to reflect on the significance of this celebration, its historical roots, and its contemporary relevance in promoting linguistic unity across the nation.
- **The theme for 2024 is "Hindi - the bridge between traditional knowledge and artificial intelligence."**
- This color is symbolic, which reflects the intention of combining Indian cultural values with modern

technologies, particularly Artificial Intelligence.

Historical Background

- The roots of Hindi Diwas can be traced back to a pivotal moment in India's post-independence era.
- On **September 14, 1949**, the Constituent Assembly of India made a landmark decision to adopt Hindi, written in the **Devanagari script**, as one of the official languages of the newly independent nation.
- This decision was not merely administrative but carried profound cultural and political implications.
- **Jawaharlal Nehru**, India's first Prime Minister, recognized the importance of this decision and proposed the observance of September 14th as Hindi Diwas.
- This date also coincides with the birth anniversary of **Beohar Rajendra Simha**, a renowned Hindi scholar and poet who played a significant role in advocating for Hindi's official status.

Constitutional Recognition

- The Indian Constitution, which came into effect on January 26, 1950, formalized the status of Hindi. **Article 343 (1)** of the Constitution explicitly states that "the official language of the Union shall be Hindi in Devanagari script."
- However, recognizing India's linguistic diversity, the Constitution also allowed for the continued use of English in official matters.

Early Celebrations and Evolution

- The first official celebration of Hindi Diwas took place on **September 14, 1953**.
- Since then, it has evolved into a nationwide observance, with various institutions and organizations participating in events and activities promoting the Hindi language.

World Ozone Day

- On the **30th World Ozone Day** event, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (**MoEFCC**), organizes a dialogue on the theme of **"Montreal Protocol: Advancing Climate Action."**

About Ozone Day

- World Ozone Day, **held on September 16**, celebrates this achievement.
- It shows that collective decisions and action, guided by science, are the only way to solve major global crises.
- World Ozone Day reminds us that the **ozone layer is essential for life on Earth and highlights the need for ongoing climate action to protect it for future generations.**

Theme of Ozone Day

- **"Montreal Protocol : Advancing Climate Action** in which reflects the Montreal Protocol's crucial role in **both protecting the ozone layer and**

driving broader climate action initiatives globally.

What is the Montreal Protocol and Vienna Convention?

- The principal aim of the Montreal Protocol is to protect the ozone layer by taking measures to control total global production and consumption of substances that deplete it.
- The Montreal Protocol sits under the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer (the Vienna Convention).

- Adopted on 16 September, 1987, the Protocol is, to date, one of the rare treaties to achieve universal ratification.
- The Montreal Protocol phases down the consumption and production of the different ODS (Ozone Depleting Substances) in a stepwise manner, with different timetables for developed and developing countries (referred to as “Article 5 countries”).



BOOSTER DOSE

Odisha CM Majhi Launches Subhadra Scheme

- Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Majhi has unveiled the Subhadra scheme, a significant initiative under the BJP government. The scheme promises ₹50,000 to one crore women aged 21 to 60 over the next five years, with a total budget allocation of ₹55,825 crore.
- The funds will be disbursed in annual installments of ₹10,000, divided into two payments of ₹5,000 each on Rakhi Purnima and International Women’s Day.

- The Spices Board of India has introduced the SPICED scheme, a strategic initiative to enhance spice exports and productivity.
- This scheme, officially named ‘Sustainability in Spice Sector through Progressive, Innovative and Collaborative Interventions for Export Development,’ will be implemented throughout the remainder of the 15th Finance Commission cycle.

Postal Dept launches Deen Dayal SPARSH Yojana to Encourage Philately

- The Department of Post under the Union Ministry of Communication has launched the Deen Dayal SPARSH Yojana to promote research and scholarship in philately among students across India.
- Announced by the Postmaster General of North Gujarat Region, Ahmedabad, Krishna Kumar Yadav, during the closing ceremony of the ‘The Ideal and Great Stamps’ Paintings exhibition, the scheme aims to foster the hobby of stamp collection among children.

Maharashtra Adopts Unified Pension Scheme Ahead of Assembly Polls

- In a significant move ahead of the October 2024 Legislative Assembly election, Maharashtra has become the first state to adopt the Unified Pension Scheme (UPS) for its employees, just hours after the central government introduced the scheme.
- This decision is poised to benefit approximately 13.5 lakh state employees across various sectors, including recognized and grant-aided educational institutions, non-agricultural universities, and zilla parishads. The scheme will take effect from March 2024.

Soumya Swaminathan Releases Autobiography of Activist Kalpana Sankar

- In a significant event celebrating women’s empowerment and social entrepreneurship, Dr. Kalpana Sankar’s autobiography, “The Scientist Entrepreneur: Empowering Millions of Women”, was unveiled at Cathedral Road.
- The book launch brought together notable figures from various fields, highlighting the impact of grassroots initiatives on women’s economic empowerment and community development.

Mithun Recorded for the First Time in Assam

- In a groundbreaking development, the state of Assam has officially recorded the presence of mithun (Bos frontalis) for the first time.
- This discovery comes generations after the semi-wild, gaur-like animal began to be reared by tribal communities in the state’s hill district of Dima Hasao.

Spices Board Launches SPICED Scheme to Boost Spice Exports and Productivity

BPCL Launches Drone-Aided Aerial Seeding for Bihar Hills

- Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) has introduced an advanced afforestation initiative named “Aranya” in Bihar, utilizing drone technology for aerial seeding.

- This project aims to enhance the state's green cover by deploying 100,000 seedballs across 50 hectares in three targeted forest regions.

Uttar Pradesh Digital Media Policy: Influencer Incentives and Scheme Promotion

- The Uttar Pradesh government has introduced the Digital Media Policy, 2024, which incentivizes social media influencers to promote state initiatives, schemes, and achievements through various online platforms.
- This policy aims to enhance the visibility of government projects and create employment opportunities within the state.

Pakistani Christian Becomes First Goan to Obtain Indian Citizenship Under CAA

- On August 28, 2024, Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant awarded Indian citizenship to Joseph Francis Pereira, a 78-year-old Pakistani Christian, under the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA).
- **This marks the first instance of a Goan receiving citizenship through this amendment.**

2nd Meeting of Joint Russian- Indian Commission

- The Second Meeting of the Joint Russian- Indian Commission on the Cooperation in the Field of Emergency Management was held on 28th August 2024 in Moscow, Russia.
- **Shri Nityanand Rai, Minister of State for Home Affairs, India is leading the Indian delegation.**

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Q1. PM Electric Drive Revolution in Innovative Vehicle Enhancement (PM E-DRIVE) Scheme has been proposed by which Ministry?

- A. Ministry of Heavy Industries.
- B. Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.
- C. Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.
- D. Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Q2. Odisha secured what position in World No Tobacco Fortnight activities?

- A. 1st
- B. 2nd
- C. 3rd
- D. 4th

Q3. Headquarters of UN Environment Programme (UNEP) is located at:

- A. Rome, Italy
- B. Vienna, Austria.
- C. Paris, France.
- D. Nairobi, Kenya.

Q4. Valley fever (coccidioidomycosis) is a:

- A. Viral Infection
- B. Fungal Infection
- C. Protozoan Infection
- D. Bacterial Infection

Q5. Which of the following becomes the 6th PVTG to get Habitat Rights?

- A. PaudiBhuyans.
- B. Juangs.
- C. ChuktiaBhunja.
- D. Mankidia.

Q6. The 'Loss and Damage' (L&D) fund was formally established at:

- A. COP 19 in Warsaw
- B. COP 20 in Lima
- C. COP 21 in Paris
- D. COP 22 in Marrakech

Q7. Smart Cities Mission (SCM) was launched in which year?

- A. 2015
- B. 2017
- C. 2019
- D. 2021

Q8. Kumkum Lal is associated with which of the following Art?

- A. Odissi Dance
- B. Kuchipudi Dance
- C. Kathak Dance

D. Bharatanatyam

Q9. PM-USHA scheme is associated with which of the following?

- A. Elementary education
- B. Higher Education
- C. Pre Schooling
- D. Gross enrolment ration from class 1 to 10

Q10. Who among the following received the prestigious National Florence Nightingale Award-2024?

- A. Sanjukta Sethi
- B. Nirmala Nayak
- C. Ranjita Kar
- D. NirliptaSethi

Q11. Project REPLAN is associated with which of the following?

- A. River Rejuvenation
- B. Tribal Empowerment
- C. Plastic Pollution
- D. Organ Transplantation

Q12. India's first silicon carbide manufacturing facility is to be set up in which state?

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

Q13. Bhadra Tiger Reserve is located in:

- A. Karnataka
- B. Maharashtra
- C. Kerala
- D. Madhya Pradesh

Q14. Pradhan Mantri Matsya SampadaYojna (PMMSY) was launched in which year?

- A. 2019
- B. 2020
- C. 2021
- D. 2022

Q15. National Florence Nightingale Award is associated with which of the following professionals?

- A. Doctor
- B. Teacher
- C. Nursing
- D. Social Reformer

Q16. Montelukast, is a medication approved to be prescribed daily for long-term use as a "preventer" or "controller" of:

- A. Heart Attack

- B. Blood Sugar
- C. Asthma Attack
- D. Malaria

Q17. The Parliamentary Committee on Official Languages is chaired by:

- A. Home Minister
- B. Prime Minister
- C. Speaker of Lok Sabha
- D. Education Minister

Q18. Which state assembly recently passed the "Aparajita" Woman and Child Bill 2024' for women safety?

- A. West Bengal
- B. Odisha
- C. Gujarat
- D. Rajasthan

Q19. Union Cabinet approves establishment of semiconductor unit in

- A. Mumbai, Maharashtra
- B. Sanand, Gujarat
- C. Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh
- D. Bhubaneswar, Odisha

Q20. National Nutrition Week (NNW) is an annual observance in India, taking place from which date to which date?

- A. September 1 to 7
- B. September 7 to 14
- C. September 14 to 21
- D. September 21 to 27

Q21. The port city of Volos often mentioned in news is located in which country?

- A. Bulgaria
- B. Italy
- C. Greece
- D. Latvia

Q22. Which of the following state recently launched Operation Bhediya?

- A. Uttarakhand
- B. Uttar Pradesh
- C. Bihar
- D. Jharkhand

Q23. Which of the following states has the largest reserves of Copper ore in India?

- A. Rajasthan
- B. Madhya Pradesh
- C. Chhattisgarh
- D. Karnataka

Q24. Which of the following states is the leading

producer of Copper in India?

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

Q25. What is the IUCN conservation status of Elongated Tortoise?

- A. Vulnerable
- B. Extinct in wild
- C. Endangered
- D. Critically Endangered

Q26. Recently, which of the following state cabinet has approved 33% reservation for women in the police force?

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

Q27. Which ministry has been awarded a National Award for e-Governance 2024 for its Poshan Tracker initiative?

- A. Ministry of Women and Child Development.
- B. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- C. Ministry of Education
- D. Ministry of Social Justice.

Q28. Graphene Aurora program (GAP) was launched by which of the following Ministry/Organisation?

- A. Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)
- B. Ministry of Mines.
- C. Ministry of Earth Science.
- D. NITI Ayog.

Q29. Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC) is an autonomous Institution of which Ministry?

- A. Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers.
- B. Ministry of AYUSH
- C. Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- D. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Q30. The 19th Divya Kala Mela was recently launched in:

- A. Pune
- B. Bhubaneswar
- C. Vishakhapatnam
- D. Chennai

Q31. Which of the following countries will host the World Audio Visual & Entertainment Summit 2025?

- A. India
B. Sri Lanka
C. Nepal
D. Bhutan
- Q32. Which of the following became the first country to eliminate Leprosy?**
A. Lebanon
B. Jordan
C. UAE
D. Oman
- Q33. Ax-4 mission is associated with which of the following space agencies?**
A. ISRO
B. NASA
C. JAXA
D. ESA
- Q34. Which of the following countries has recently officially recognized same-sex marriages?**
A. Taiwan
B. Vietnam
C. China
D. Laos
- Q35. Which of the following countries plans to cull 200 Elephants amid drought?**
A. Angola
B. Namibia
C. Botswana
D. Zimbabwe
- Q36. Kakrapar Atomic Power Station (KAPS) is located in:**
A. Maharashtra
B. Rajasthan
C. Madhya Pradesh
D. Gujarat
- Q37. Which state has secured the top spot in the 2024 State Food Safety Index (SFSI)?**
A. Karnataka
B. Maharashtra
C. Andhra Pradesh
D. Kerala
- Q38. What is the IUCN Red List status of Spotted Deer?**
A. Endangered
B. Critically Endangered
C. Vulnerable
D. Least Concern
- Q39. TRISHNA mission is a collaboration between India and which country?**
A. Germany
B. France
C. United Kingdom
D. USA
- Q40. Brunei, a tiny nation, is surrounded by which of the following countries?**
A. Philippines
B. Malaysia
C. Indonesia
D. Vietnam
- Q41. Chamran-1 satellite recently seen in the news is associated with which of the following countries?**
A. UAE
B. USA
C. Israel
D. Iran
- Q42. India's humanitarian assistance named "Operation Sadbhav" is associated with?**
A. Myanmar, Laos and Vietnam
B. Iraq, Iran and Syria
C. Namibia, Botswana and Angola
D. Poland and Ukraine
- Q43. Which of the following is the largest oilseed-producing state?**
A. Rajasthan
B. Madhya Pradesh
C. Karnataka
D. Kerala
- Q44. The phrase "Tragedy of the Commons" often mentioned in the news is associated with which of the following?**
A. Poverty alleviation
B. Public health management
C. Natural Resource depletion
D. Public employment
- Q45. The IUCN status of the Bengal Tiger is:**
A. Vulnerable
B. Endangered
C. Critically Endangered
D. Extinct in Wild
- Q46. Headquarters of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association is located at:**
A. Canberra
B. London
C. Delhi
D. Johannesburg
- Q47. Which state government has recently approved**

the culling of Nilgai (also known as blue bulls) and wild boars to reduce the significant crop damage?

- A. Uttar Pradesh
- B. Uttarakhand
- C. Bihar
- D. Madhya Pradesh

Q48. AH-64E Apache attack helicopters are associated with which of the following countries?

- A. Russia
- B. Israel
- C. France
- D. USA

Q49. Exercise Eastern Bridge VII is an air force exercise between India and which of the following countries?

- A. USA
- B. France
- C. Oman
- D. UAE

Q50. World Pharmacist Day is observed annually on:

- A. September 23
- B. September 24
- C. September 25
- D. September 26

ANSWERS

1. Answer: A

The scheme has been proposed by the Ministry of Heavy Industries. The scheme has an outlay of ₹10,900 crore over two years. It aims to promote electric mobility across the country.

2. Answer: B

The state of Odisha has secured the second position in the World No Tobacco Fortnight activities. This achievement highlights Odisha's effective implementation of anti-tobacco measures, including awareness campaigns, smoking bans, and health education initiatives.

3. Answer: D

Established in 1972 by the United Nations General Assembly in response to the Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment. UNEP is a member of the United Nations Development Group. Headquarters: Nairobi, Kenya.

4. Answer: B

Valley fever (coccidioidomycosis) is a fungal infection. It lives in the soil in the southwestern U.S., parts of Washington state, and Central and South America. Non-contagious: It does not spread from person to person but is contracted by inhaling fungal spores from the environment.

5. Answer: D

Recently, the Mankidia community was formally provided habitat rights under the legal sanction of the scheduled tribes under the Forest Rights Act, of 2006. So far, PaudiBhuyans (the first PVTG to receive habitat rights title in Odisha), Juangs, ChuktiaBhunja, Saora and Dongria Kondh were the five PVTGs that have been approved for getting habitat rights under FRA.

6. Answer: A

The 'Loss and Damage' (L&D) fund addresses severe climate change impacts that cannot be avoided or adapted to. At COP 19 in Warsaw, in 2013, the UNFCCC formally established the L&D fund.

7. Answer: A

It was launched in 2015 to transform urban areas into more efficient, sustainable, and livable spaces. It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme designed to address the growing urban challenges in India. The aim is to enhance the quality of life in 100 selected cities by improving infrastructure, services, and sustainability.

8. Answer: A

Kumkum Lal, a renowned Odissi dancer awarded with The prestigious Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra Award.

9. Answer: B

PM-USHA is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme aimed at improving higher education in India. It was launched in 2013 as RashtriyaUchchar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) and was renamed in 2018.

10. Answer: A

Sanjukta Sethi, a nursing officer at Malkangiri district headquarters hospital (DHH), received the prestigious National Florence Nightingale Award-2024 from President DroupadiMurmu at Rashtrapati Bhawan recently

11. Answer: C

It is a collaborative effort involving companies, NGOs, and government bodies to redesign plastic packaging to reduce plastic usage and enhance recycling.

12. Answer: D

Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Friday graced the ground-breaking ceremony of India's first silicon carbide manufacturing facility to be set up in Odisha at an investment of Rs 620 crore.

13. Answer: A

It is located in the Western Ghats of Karnataka, spreading over Chikmagalur and Shimoga districts. The habitat is well drained by the river Bhadra and its tributaries. The sanctuary is surrounded by Mullayanagiri, Hebbegiri, Gangegiri and Bababudangiri hills.

14. Answer: B

Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying launched various initiatives at 4th Anniversary of PMMSY. Launched in 2020 to bring Blue Revolution through sustainable and responsible development of fisheries sector in India. Tenure: FY 2020-21 to FY 2024-25.

15. Answer: C

The President of India presented the National Florence Nightingale Awards for the year 2024. This award is given as a mark of recognition for the meritorious services rendered by the nurses and nursing professionals to the society.

16. Answer: C

Montelukast, sold under the brand name Singulair, is a medication approved to be prescribed daily for long-term use as a "preventer" or "controller" of asthma attacks in adults and children at least 2 years old. Developed by Merck and Co., it was approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in 1998. It is generally less preferred for this use than inhaled corticosteroids.

17. Answer: A

The Parliamentary Committee on Official Languages was formed in 1976 under Section 4 of the Official Languages Act 1963. Its main objective is to promote and ensure the efficient use of Hindi in government workings. The committee is made up of 30 members: 20 members from the Lok Sabha, 10 members from the Rajya Sabha, The Union Home Minister acts as the chairman of the committee.

18. Answer A

The West Bengal Assembly has unanimously passed the 'Aparajita Woman and Child Bill (West Bengal Criminal Laws and Amendment) 2024', marking a significant development in the state's legal framework against sexual crimes.

19. Answer B

Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved the proposal of KaynesSemicon Pvt Ltd to establish a semiconductor manufacturing unit in Sanand, Gujarat.

20. Answer A

National Nutrition Week (NNW) is an annual observance in India, taking place from September 1 to 7.

21. Answer C

The port city of Volos in Greece has declared a month-long state of emergency. This is because an unusually large number of dead fish have washed up in the Pagasetic Gulf, creating a major problem for residents and businesses.

22. Answer B

The Uttar Pradesh government has launched Operation Bhediya to capture a pack of wolves in Bahraich district. The forest department has initiated an innovative effort of using colourful teddy dolls soaked in children's urine as bait to capture them.

23. Answer: A

Largest reserves of copper ore to the tune of 868 million tonnes (52.25%) are in the State of Rajasthan followed by Jharkhand with 251 million tonnes (15.14%) and Madhya Pradesh with 387 million tonnes (23.28%).

24. Answer: B

Madhya Pradesh is the leading producer of copper accounting for about 60% of the production, followed by Rajasthan with 39% and Jharkhand with 1 percent.

25. Answer: D

The elongated tortoise is critically endangered under IUCN Red list and facing a severe population decline across its natural range. Appendix II under the CITES.

26. Answer B

Rajasthan Cabinet approves 33% reservation for women in police force. Earlier states like Bihar, Gujrat, Odisha, and Maharashtra have also provided for women quotas in the police force.

27. Answer A

The Ministry of Women and Child Development has been awarded a National Award for e-Governance 2024 for its Poshan Tracker initiative. Poshan Tracker initiative It is a tech tool to monitor Mission Poshan 2.0's progress, including growth measurements, Aadhar verification, and real-time tracking of nutrition services.

28. Answer A

Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) launched IGEIC under the Graphene Aurora program (GAP). GAP was launched in 2022 to nurture the deep/emerging Graphene technology & innovation ecosystem. It is implemented by Digital University Kerala.

29. Answer D

Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC) is a separate Autonomous Institution of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, responsible to set standards of drugs in the country.

30. Answer: C

The 19th Divya Kala Mela was recently launched in Visakhapatnam by Governor Shri S. Abdul Nazeer, with support from dignitaries like Union Minister Dr. Virendra Kumar. This event is focused on empowering artisans with disabilities (Divyang artisans) and promoting inclusivity in society.

31. Answer: A

The Indian government will host the World Audio Visual & Entertainment Summit (WAVES) from February 5 to 9, 2025. This event is aimed at boosting India's media and entertainment sector and strengthening its global influence.

32. Answer: B

The World Health Organization (WHO) has officially recognized Jordan as the first country in the world to eliminate leprosy. This recognition was praised by WHO Director-General Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, who highlighted the collective effort by Jordan to stop the spread of the disease and tackle the stigma associated with it.

33. Answer: A

In 2025, India will make history again in space with Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla piloting the Axiom-4 (Ax-4) mission. This mission will be India's first human presence on the International Space Station (ISS) and only the second government-sponsored human spaceflight from India, after Wing Commander Rakesh Sharma's mission in 1984.

34. Answer: A

Taiwan has officially recognized same-sex marriages between Taiwanese and Chinese partners, which is a big step in supporting the rights of LGBTQ individuals in cross-strait relationships. This decision comes after Taiwan made history in 2019 by becoming the first country in Asia to legalize same-sex marriage.

36. Answer: D

Kakrapar Atomic Power Station is a nuclear power station in India, which lies in the proximity of Mandvi, Surat and Tapi rivers in the state of Gujarat.

37. Answer: D

Kerala has once again secured the top spot in the 2024 State Food Safety Index (SFSI), marking its second consecutive year as the leader in food safety across India. The Index, released by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) on Friday, saw Tamil Nadu reclaim the second position, having dropped to third last year, while Jammu and Kashmir secured the third spot.

38. Answer: D

It is also known as the spotted deer, chital deer and axis deer. It is a deer species native to the Indian subcontinent. They are categorized as Least Concern IUCN Red List.

39. Answer: B

The TRISHNA mission was first announced during bilateral talks between India and France in July 2023. It is slated for launch in 2026 aboard a Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre. This mission follows the successful Indo-French collaborations on the Megha-Tropiques and SARAL satellites, marking another significant milestone in space cooperation between the two countries.

40. Answer B

Brunei is a tiny nation on the island of Borneo, in 2 distinct sections surrounded by Malaysia and the South China Sea.

41. Answer: D

It is an Iranian research satellite. This satellite was launched using the Qaem-100 rocket. Weight: 60 kilograms. Orbit Altitude: 550 kilometers.

42. Answer: A

India launches Operation Sadbhav to assist Myanmar, Laos and Vietnam in dealing with the impact of typhoon Yagi.

43. Answer: A

The largest oilseed-producing states in India include Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, and Telangana. Out of these states, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, and Maharashtra were the top producers during 2021-22 with a share of about 23%, 21%, 18% and 16% of the total production, respectively.

44. Answer: C

The term was created by ecologist Garrett Hardin in the 1960s. It refers to individuals overusing and depleting shared resources.

45. Answer: B

Found in a variety of habitats across India, including tropical forests, grasslands, and mangroves.

Behaviour: Solitary and territorial. Known for its powerful build and strength.

IUCN Status: Endangered due to habitat loss and poaching, but conservation efforts like Project Tiger have been effective in increasing their numbers.

46. Answer: B

The Indian Parliament will host the 10th Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) India Region Conference in New Delhi. This two-day event reflects the commitment of Commonwealth countries to improving legislative practices and strengthening democracy.

47. Answer: C

The Bihar government has approved the culling of Nilgai (also known as blue bulls) and wild boars to reduce the significant crop damage caused by these animals. This decision aims to help farmers who are struggling with repeated losses due to the destruction of their crops.

48. Answer: D

The Indian Army is set to receive its first three AH-64E Apache attack helicopters from Boeing in December 2024, after a delay of more than six months caused by supply chain problems. The helicopters were originally expected to be delivered between May and July, but the schedule was revised after discussions between India and the U.S. to prioritize delivery.

49. Answer: C

Exercise Eastern Bridge VII was a joint military exercise between the Indian Air Force (IAF) and the Royal Air Force of Oman (RAFO). This important collaboration took place at the RAFO airbase in Masirah, Oman. The exercise successfully concluded, strengthening the bond between India and Oman and improving their military readiness.

50. Answer: C

World Pharmacist Day is observed annually on September 25th. In 2024, providing an opportunity for global recognition of pharmacists' contributions to healthcare.