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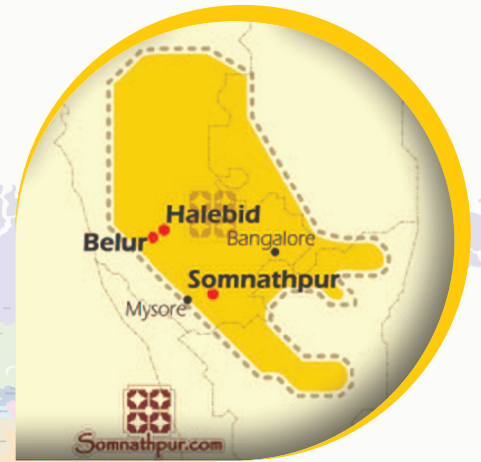
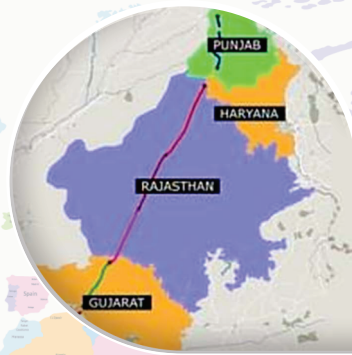
## Monthly

# Current Affairs

## June - 2024

### Index

- International
- National
- Rajasthan
- Science & Tech
- Summary
- Sports



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# CURRENT AFFAIRS



## INDEX

		Page No.
1	Rajasthan Affairs	1 – 22
2	National Affairs	23 – 31
3	Economy	32 – 38
4	International Affairs	39 – 48
5	Science and Technology	49 – 57
6	Sports	58 – 61
7	Awards and Honors	62 – 65
8	Person in news	66 – 71
9	Places in news	72 – 74
10	Important Facts	75
11	Index and reports	76 – 81
12	Important days & weeks	82 – 87
13	Yojana-Kurukshetra (Gist)	88 – 100
14	Editorials	101 – 104
15	Terms in news	105 – 110
	Model questions	111 – 120

## MONTHLY CURRENT AFFAIRS JUNE : 2024



Near Riddhi-Siddhi Circle, Gopalpura Bypass, Jaipur



# 1. RAJASTHAN AFFAIRS

## Rajasthan in 18th Lok Sabha

Political Party	Seats
Bharatiya Janata Party	14
Indian National Congress	8
Communist Party of India Marxist	1
Rashtriya Loktantrik Party	1
Bharatiya Adivasi Party	1
Total	25

- Rajasthan currently has 3 women MPs in the 18th Lok Sabha-

- Mrs. Sanjana Jatav (Bharatpur) (Indian National Congress)
  - Mrs. Manju Sharma (Jaipur) (Bharatiya Janata Party)
  - Mrs. Mahima Kumari Mewar (Rajsamand) (Bharatiya Janata Party)
- Biggest victory: Mrs. Mahima Kumar Mewar, Rajsamand (BJP) 3,92,223 votes
  - Smallest victory: Mr. Rao Rajendra Singh, Jaipur Rural (BJP) 1615 votes
  - Youngest MP from Rajasthan: Mrs. Sanjana Jatav (Bharatpur) 26 years
  - Oldest MP from Rajasthan: Mr. Brijendra Singh Ola (Jhunjhunu) 72 years

S.No.	Parliamentary Constituency	MP	Political Party
1.	Ajmer	Mr. Bhagirath Chaudhary	Bharatiya Janata Party
2.	Alwar	Mr. Bhupendra Yadav	Bharatiya Janata Party
3.	Banswara (ST)	Mr. Rajkumar Roat	Bharatiya Adivasi Party
4.	Barmer	Mr. Umedaram Beniwal	Indian National Congress
5.	Bhilwara	Mr. Damodar Agarwal	Bharatiya Janata Party
6.	Bhilwara	Mr. Damodar Agarwal	Bharatiya Janata Party
7.	Bikaner (SC)	Mr. Arjun Ram Meghwal	Bharatiya Janata Party
8.	Chittorgarh	Mr. Chandra Prakash Joshi	Bharatiya Janata Party
9.	Churu	Mr. Rahul Kaswan	Indian National Congress
10.	Dausa (ST)	Mr. Murari Lal Meena	Indian National Congress
11.	Sriganganagar (SC)	Mr. Kuldeep Indora	Indian National Congress
12.	Jaipur	Mrs. Manju Sharma	Bharatiya Janata Party
13.	Jaipur Rural	Mr. Rao Rajendra Singh	Bharatiya Janata Party
14.	Jalore	Mr. Lumbaram	Bharatiya Janata Party
15.	Jhalawar-Baran	Mr. Dushyant Singh	Bharatiya Janata Party
16.	Jhunjhunu	Mr. Brijendra Singh Ola	Indian National Congress
17.	Jodhpur	Mr. Gajendra Singh Shekhawat	Bharatiya Janata Party
18.	Karauli-Dholpur (SC)	Mr. Bhajan Lal Jatav	Indian National Congress
19.	Kota	Mr. Om Birla	Bharatiya Janata Party
20.	Nagaur	Mr. Hanuman Beniwal	Rashtriya Loktantrik Party

21.	Pali	Mr. P.P. Chaudhary	Bharatiya Janata Party
22.	Rajsamand	Mrs. Mahima Kumari Mewar	Bharatiya Janata Party
23.	Sikar	Mr. Amararam	Communist Party of India Marxist
24.	Tonk - Sawai Madhopur	Mr. Harish Chandra Meena	Indian National Congress
25.	Udaipur (ST)	Mr. Manna Lal Rawat	Bharatiya Janata Party

- The number of Lok Sabha seats in Rajasthan at present is 25.
- The number of Rajya Sabha seats in Rajasthan is 10.
- A total of 35 MPs are elected from Rajasthan.
- In Rajasthan, 4 Lok Sabha seats are reserved for Scheduled Caste (SC), which are as follows-
  - Bharatpur
  - Bikaner
  - Sri Ganganagar
  - Karauli-Dholpur
- In Rajasthan, 3 Lok Sabha seats are reserved for Scheduled Tribe (ST) category, which are as follows-
  - Banswara
  - Dausa
  - Udaipur
- Kota MP from Rajasthan, Shri Om Birla of Bharatiya Janata Party is currently the Speaker of Lok Sabha.
- Om Birla is the first MP from Rajasthan to become the Speaker of Lok Sabha for the second consecutive time.
- Note: Shri Balram Jakhar became the Speaker of Lok Sabha while being a Lok Sabha MP from Ferozepur (Punjab) and Sikar (Rajasthan).
- Till now two persons have become the Speaker of Lok Sabha from Rajasthan-
  - Balram Jakhar (Sikar)
  - Om Birla (Kota)
- Balram Jakhar has had the longest tenure as Speaker of Lok Sabha.

### Rajya Sabha MP from Rajasthan

S. No.	MP	Party	Term
1.	Shri Neeraj Dangi	Indian National Congress	22.06.2020 - 21.06.2026
2.	Shri Rajendra Gehlot	Bharatiya Janata Party	22.06.2020 - 21.06.2026
3.	Shri Ghanshyam Tiwari	Bharatiya Janata Party	05.07.2022 - 04.07.2028
4.	Shri Randeep Singh Surjewala	Indian National Congress	05.07.2022 - 04.07.2028
5.	Shri Mukul Balkrishna Wasnik	Indian National Congress	05.07.2022 - 04.07.2028
6.	Shri Pramod Kumar	Indian National Congress	05.07.2022 - 04.07.2028
7.	Shri Chunnilal Garasiya	Bharatiya Janata Party	04.04.2024 - 03.04.2030
8.	Mr. Madan Rathore	Bharatiya Janata Party	04.04.2024 - 03.04.2030
9.	Mrs. Sonia Gandhi	Indian National Congress	04.04.2024 - 03.04.2030
10.	-		

- Rajasthan currently has 4 MPs of Bharatiya Janata Party and 5 MPs of Indian National Congress in Rajya Sabha.
- Currently, only Sonia Gandhi is the elected woman MP from Rajasthan in Rajya Sabha, thus out of total 35 elected MPs from Rajasthan, the number of women MPs is 4.
- Mr. Jagdeep Dhankar of Jhunjhunu district of Rajasthan is currently the

Vice President of India and ex-officio Chairman of Rajya Sabha.

### Representation of Rajasthan in the Union Council of Ministers

- Rajasthan currently has 4 ministers in the Central Government, including 2 Cabinet Ministers, 1 Minister of State with Independent Charge and 1 Minister of State.

1. Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat MP, Jodhpur - Minister for the third time in a row Union Ministry of Culture and Tourism Cabinet Minister
  2. Shri Bhupendra Yadav MP, Alwar - Minister for the second time in a row Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Cabinet Minister
  3. Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal MP, Bikaner - Minister for the third time in a row Union Minister of State for Law and Justice Ministry with Independent Charge Parliamentary Affairs Ministry - Minister of State
  4. Shri Bhagirath Chaudhary MP, Ajmer - Minister for the first time in a row Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Ministry
- Note: Ashwini Vaishnav, originally from Jeevand Kalan village, Pali in Rajasthan, is also a Union Cabinet Minister for the second time in a row, but he is a Rajya Sabha MP from Odisha.
  - Note: There are 4 ministers in the Union Council of Ministers from among the MPs elected from Rajasthan, while there are 5 ministers in the Union Council of Ministers who are natives of Rajasthan.

**Representation of Rajasthan at the Centre**

- In the first general election in 1952, Rai Bahadur from Rajasthan was deputy minister and then cabinet minister in the first Lok Sabha.
- The leaders from the state who were ministers at the Centre three or more times include Ramniwas Mirdha, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Arjunram Meghwal, Jagannath Pahadia, Ashok Gehlot, Buta Singh and Sheeshram Ola.
- Ramniwas Mirdha was minister maximum four times, in which he was minister of state three times and cabinet minister once.
- Jagannath Pahadia was deputy minister twice and minister of state once.
- Gehlot was deputy minister once and minister of state twice.
- Buta Singh was a cabinet minister in 1984-1989, 1995-1996 and 1998.
- Shishram Ola was a Minister of State one and a Cabinet Minister in both the tenures of the UPA government.

**First full budget in the 16th Legislative Assembly of Rajasthan on July 10, session started from 3**

- The budget session of the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly began on July 3. The Rajasthan government will present its first full budget on July 10.
- After the election of the 16th Legislative Assembly, Finance Minister and Deputy Chief Minister Diya Kumari presented the interim budget on 8 February 2024.
- At present, there are only 195 elected MLAs in the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly as 5 MLAs have been elected as Lok Sabha MPs.

**Constitutional provisions**

- At the state level, the session is summoned by the Governor on the recommendation of the State Council of Ministers.
- Under Article 174, the Governor can convene the session of the State Legislature, adjourn it and can also dissolve the Assembly.
- Article 175 mentions the right of the Governor to address and send messages in the Legislature.
- Article 176 mentions the special address of the Governor.
- The special address of the Governor is the first session after the formation of the new government and the first session of the year is the budget session.

**Rajasthan Advocate Protection Bill, 2023 sent for reconsideration by the President**

- The Rajasthan Advocate Protection Bill 2023 passed by the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly did not get the approval of the President and it has been returned for reconsideration.
- Note: The then Ashok Gehlot government passed this bill in 2023 and sent it to the Governor and the Governor sent it to the President for approval.
- Recently, President Draupadi Murmu has directed the Governor to reconsider this bill in the Assembly.
- After being passed again by the State Assembly within 6 months, this bill can now become a law after the approval of the President.

- Recently, the state of Karnataka officially implemented the Prohibition of Violence against Lawyers Act 2023.
- Rajasthan is the first state in the country to pass a bill towards the protection of advocates, while Karnataka is the first state in the country to implement the Act for the protection of advocates.
- This law has been made with the aim of protecting lawyers from violence, so that they can perform legal duties without any fear or harassment.

**Constitutional provision of Governor's assent to the bill**

- Article 200 mentions that in the context of a bill passed by the Legislature of a State, the Governor can either give assent, withhold assent or reserve the bill for consideration by the President.
- The Governor can send a Bill back to the Legislature for reconsideration.
- Under Article 201 when a Bill is reserved for the President's consideration, the President can either assent to the Bill or withhold it.
- The President can also direct the Governor to send the Bill back to the House or Houses of the State Legislature for reconsideration.
- He can reserve a Bill for the President's consideration, but this can be done only if the Governor is of the opinion that the Bill may curtail the power of the High Court or is not in conformity with the Constitution.

**Rajasthan Advocate Protection Bill 2023**

- It was passed by the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly on 21 March 2023.
- This bill is to prevent attack, grievous hurt and criminal force and criminal intimidation against the advocate during the discharge of duty.
- If the property of an advocate is damaged, its compensation will be recovered from the culprit.
- Prompt recovery of this amount will be done on the lines of arrears of land revenue.
- The attack will be investigated by an officer of the rank of Deputy SP.
- The accused of the attack will be imprisoned for 2 years and fined Rs 25,000.

- There is also a provision of 7 years imprisonment and fine of Rs 50,000 for causing serious injury to the lawyer
- In case of a suicide attack, there will be 7 years imprisonment.
- There is a provision of punishment up to 2 years for misuse of law by lawyers.

**Rajasthan government will withdraw the 'Rajasthan Dharma Swatantra Bill-2008' related to religious conversion**

- Under the 'Rajasthan Dharma Swatantra Bill-2008', there was a provision of not converting religion without the approval of the collector and 5 years imprisonment for the guilty.
- It was passed by the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly in the year 2008, but the Governor had reserved this bill for the President, which has not been approved yet.
- Rajasthan government will withdraw the bill passed 16 years ago during the Vasundhara government to curb cases like love jihad and religious conversion.
- Cases of religious conversion are increasing in Rajasthan. A new bill will be brought in this regard.
- At present, the state government has only guidelines to curb religious conversion, there is no law in this regard.

**Draft of the new bill related to religious conversion**

- In the new bill, there will be a punishment of up to 3 years and a fine of Rs 25 thousand in cases of greed, fraud or forced religious conversion.
- There is a provision of 5 years imprisonment and fine up to 50 thousand for converting the religion of children below 18 years of age, women or people of Scheduled Caste and Tribe.
- If someone converts religion, then information has to be given to the Collector 30 days in advance in this regard and it will also be necessary to inform the Collector about the returning to the religion.

**Committee formed for investigation and reorganization of new districts in Rajasthan**

- The Rajasthan government has constituted a cabinet level committee on 12 June 2024 for the review of new districts, whose convener is Deputy Chief Minister Premchand Bairwa. Industry Minister Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore, Water Supply Minister Kanhaiyalal Choudhary, Revenue Minister Hemant Meena and Water Resources Minister Suresh Singh Rawat have been made members of this committee.
- A committee has been formed under the chairmanship of retired IAS Lalit K-Panwar to assist this committee.
- This committee will investigate the status of the newly formed districts and submit its report to the cabinet level sub-committee. The previous government had created new districts and divisions before the elections, but apart from the appointment of collectors and superintendents of police, nothing happened at the ground level.
- This committee will report on the functioning of these districts and divisions, administrative requirements and availability of financial resources etc. in the current circumstances.
- The administrative department of this committee will be the Revenue Department.
- This committee will take feedback from MPs, MLAs as well as other public representatives, district administration as well as officials of other departments.
- Note: During the previous Gehlot government, a committee was formed under the chairmanship of retired IAS Ramlubhaya to recommend new districts.
- These new districts will be reviewed:- The new districts include Anupgarh, Gangapur City, Kotputli, Balotra, Jaipur Rural, Khairthal, Beawar, Neemkathana, Deeg, Jodhpur Rural, Phalodi, Didwana, Salumber, Dudu, Kekri, Sanchore and Shahpura.

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**Kuchaman, Malpura and Sujangarh will not be formed as districts.**

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- The 19 new districts were formed by the then government in Rajasthan before the code of conduct of assembly

elections came into force. Kuchaman, Malpura and Sujangarh will not be made districts.

- Recently, the state government has dissolved the high level committee constituted for the reorganization/creation of new districts.

**Important facts regarding districts in Rajasthan**

- Rajasthan currently has 50 districts and 10 divisions.
- Uttar Pradesh has the highest number of districts in India with 75 districts. After this, Madhya Pradesh comes second with 53 districts. Rajasthan ranks third in the country on the basis of number of districts with 50 districts.
- Jaipur Rural is the district with the most number of tehsils in Rajasthan. It has 18 tehsils, while Dudu is the district with the least number of tehsils in Rajasthan. It has only 3 tehsils.
- Dudu is the smallest district in the country in terms of number of assembly constituencies. It has only 1 assembly constituency.
- Jaisalmer is the largest district in Rajasthan in terms of area.
- The divisions with the most number of districts in Rajasthan are Jaipur and Ajmer, while the division with the least number of districts is Banswara.

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**Citizenship Amendment Act implemented in Rajasthan**

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- Under the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) in Rajasthan, for the first time on 7 June 2024, 17 people were granted citizenship.
- These people came from Pakistan 15-20 years ago and were living illegally in Anupgarh, Sirohi and Jodhpur districts.

**Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA)**

- Citizenship Amendment Act came into force in the country on 11 March 2024.
- Under this Act, the Citizenship Act, 1955 was amended.
- This Act provides for granting Indian citizenship to migrants of Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, Parsi and Christian communities who came to India from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan before 31 December 2014.



- This is a law to grant Indian citizenship to refugees who came to India after being persecuted on religious grounds from three neighboring countries of India.
- Before CAA 2019, it was mandatory for any person to live in India for at least 11 years to get Indian citizenship, but now this time period has been reduced to 5 years for minorities from neighboring countries.

### **No-confidence motion passed against Municipal Chairman**

- Recently, in Pilibanga, Hanumangarh, a no-confidence motion was passed against Pilibanga Municipal Chairman Sukhchain Singh Ramana despite Congress having a majority in the municipality.
- In the board of total 35 councilors, a total of 28 councilors of Congress and BJP voted in favor of the no-confidence motion through secret ballot system.

### **Method of removing the Municipal Chairman**

- No-confidence motion: The Municipal Chairman and Vice Chairman can be removed by a no-confidence motion.
- A no-confidence motion cannot be brought for the first 2 years of the formation of the municipality.
- A minimum of 1/3 support is required to bring a no-confidence motion.
- Support of 3/4 members is required to pass the motion. If the proposal is not passed, then no no-confidence motion will be brought for the next 1 year.

### **Approval of Rajasthan's first Regional and Urban Planning Bill Draft**

- The draft of the state's first Regional and Urban Planning Bill has been approved by the Urban Development Ministry.
- Under this, integrated development plan for cities and rural areas will be ensured.
- Currently, in Rajasthan, Vikas Pradhikaran and Nagar Vikas Nyas prepare master plans according to their Act.
- Due to this, different provisions have been made in cities despite the same need.

- According to this bill, master plan can be made in Rajasthan under a single Act.
- In this, Regional Plan, Master Plan, Development Plan of new cities, Special Area Plan can be prepared under a single Act.

### **Rajasthani Development Board will be formed for the development of Rajasthani language**

- The state government will constitute 'Rajasthani Bhasha Vikas Board' for the development of Rajasthani language, in which there will be the post of Chairman, Member, Language Experts and Secretary.
- Separate budget will be allocated to this board by the state government.
- Note: Postgraduate courses in Rajasthani language are being conducted in many universities of Rajasthan.
- This board will underline the importance of Rajasthani language and dialects.
- In this, research will be done on the mythological connection of the language and the development of various dialects.

### **50 percent reservation for women in third grade teacher recruitment in Rajasthan**

- On June 14, the Rajasthan government has increased the women reservation from 30 percent to 50 percent in third grade teacher recruitment examinations.
- Its purpose is to encourage women empowerment in the state.
- For this, Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma has approved the proposal to amend the Rajasthan Panchayati Raj Act.
- This will provide more employment opportunities to women in the state and they will be coming self-reliant and empowered.

### **Justice Gangaram Mulchandani**

- Recently retired Justice Gangaram Mulchandani has been appointed as the Chairman of Rajasthan State Human Rights Commission.
- The Chairman and Member of Rajasthan State Human Rights Commission are appointed by the Governor of the State.

- Apart from this, retired IPS officer Ashok Gupta has been appointed as a member of the State Human Rights Commission.
- Ramchandra Singh Jhala is currently a member of the State Human Rights Commission.

### Rajasthan State Human Rights Commission

- Notification issued by the Rajasthan Government on January 18, 1999.
- Establishment: On March 20, 2000.
- Formation: Under Section 21 of the Protection of Human Rights Act 1993.
- Currently there is a provision of 1 Chairman and 2 members.
- Appointment: On the recommendation of the committee constituted by the Governor under the chairmanship of the Chief Minister.
- Members of the Committee:- Chief Minister, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Leader of the Opposition
- Qualification for the post of Chairman: Retired Judge or Chief Justice of the State High Court
- Tenure: 3 years or 70 years of age, whichever is earlier
- Resignation: To the Governor.
- First Chairman: Kanta Bhatnagar

### Naveen Mahajan

- Naveen Mahajan has been appointed as the Chief Electoral Officer of Rajasthan.
- His appointment is done by the Election Commission of India. A notification was issued in this regard by the Election Commission of India Secretariat.
- Naveen Mahajan replaced Praveen Gupta.
- Earlier, 1997 batch IAS officer Naveen Mahajan was the Chairman and Managing Director of Rajasthan State Warehousing Corporation.
- The Chief Electoral Officer in the state is appointed by the Election Commission of India on the recommendation of the State Government.
- He is an officer of the Indian Administrative Service in the state.
- Its main function is to conduct elections for Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, MLA, President etc.
- The function of the State Election

Commission is to conduct elections of Panchayati Raj institutions and municipalities in the state.

### Important facts

- The only woman Chief Election Officer of Rajasthan was CEO Sangeeta Gairola.
- Till now no woman has held the post of State Election Commissioner.
- State Election Commission is a one-member constitutional body.
- Mention: Article 243K and Article 243ZA.
- It was established under the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendment.
- Presently the State Election Commissioner of Rajasthan is Madhukar Gupta.
- Presently the Chief Election Commissioner of India is Shri Rajiv Kumar.
- V.S. Ramadevi has been the only woman Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) in the country.

### Jaswant Singh Rathi

- Member and former acting chairman of Rajasthan Public Service Commission Jaswant Singh Rathi passed away on 2 June.
- Jaswant Singh Rathi was a commission member from 14 October 2020. His tenure was till 13 October 2026.

### Rajasthan Public Service Commission

- Sanjay Kumar Shrotriya is currently the Chairman of Rajasthan Public Service Commission.
- Currently, only 5 out of 7 members are working in RPSC.
- RPSC member Babulal Katara has been suspended in the paper leak case.

### Members of RPSC

1. Dr. Sangeeta Arya
2. Dr. Manju Sharma
3. Lt. Col. Kesari Singh
4. Kailashchand Meena
5. Prof. Ayub Khan

### Rajasthan government appoints 8 new additional Advocates General in High Court

- Law and Legal Affairs Department has appointed eight Additional Advocates

General (AAG) to plead on behalf of the state government in the High Court.

- Advocates Manoj Sharma, Kapil Prakash Mathur and Mahi Yadav have been appointed as AAG in Jaipur bench. While Sajjan Singh Rathore, Narendra Rajpurohit, Shyam Sundar Ladrecha, Indra Raj Chaudhary and Nathu Singh Rathore have been appointed as AAG in Jodhpur main bench.

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**Jai Krishna Patel**

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- Jai Krishna Patel won the assembly by-election from Bagidora in Banswara
- This seat was vacant due to the resignation of former Congress MLA Mahendrajit Singh Malviya. Jaikrishna Patel is from Bharat Adivasi Party. He won Won by 51434 votes.

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**Mukhyamantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana**

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- This scheme was started from Tonk on June 30, 2024.
- Its motto is 'Prosperous Farmer - Happy Rajasthan'.
- Under this, an amount of Rs 6000 of Prime Minister Kisan Samman Nidhi along with additional assistance of Rs 2000 will be given by the state government.
- Under this scheme, Rs 1000 will be provided to the farmers in two installments by the state government.
- Its objective is to make the farmers empowered, prosperous and progressive.

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**Mukhyamantri Vriksharopan Mahabhiyan**

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- This Mahabhiyan was started from Jaipur on 5 June 2024.
- Its objective is to promote environmental conservation and tree plantation in the state.
- 7 crore plants will be planted in this campaign. Out of which 3 crore will be made available to the general public at concessional rates. Apart from this, 3 crore will be planted on government land and 1 crore on forest and pasture land.
- This has been started under the joint aegis of Rajasthan State Pollution Control Board and Forest, Environment and Climate Change Department.

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**Shri Annapurna Rasoi Yojana**

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- This scheme was previously known as 'Indira Rasoi Yojana'.
- This scheme is being implemented by the Department of Local Self Governance of Rajasthan.
- Recently, in June 2024, by amending this scheme, now provision has been made for only one food coupon at a time to a beneficiary.
- The reason for this is that the amount of food in the plate has been increased from 450 grams to 600 grams.
- In January 2024, the name of 'Indira Rasoi Yojana' was changed to 'Shri Annapurna Rasoi Yojana'.
- Currently, under this scheme, food is being given for Rs 8.
- Its menu includes 300 grams of chapati, 100 grams of dal, 100 grams of vegetable, 100 grams of rice and coarse grain khichdi and pickle.

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**Chief Minister Fellowship Program**

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- This scheme will replace Rajiv Gandhi Yuva Mitra Internship Program.
- Under this, youth will be attached with bureaucrats holding important government posts in the state.
- In this, 200 youth will be attached with District Collector, Additional Chief Secretary ACS and Principal Secretaries.
- Out of these, 50 youth will be linked with District Collectors and the other 150 will be linked with Additional Chief Secretary, Principal Secretary and Secretary rank officers.
- 200 youths, who have passed class 10th or graduation-post graduation in first division and have creativity in their work will be selected.
- Under this, the creativity and ideas of the youth will be included in how the work and schemes of the government can be made better.
- The eligibility age of the youth for this scheme will be between 21 to 30. Under this program, the youth will work for 2 years initially and then it can be extended for one more year.

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**Naunera Dam Project**

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- This is the biggest water scheme of Hadoti region. Through this project, Water will be supplied from Naunera Dam.
- Under this project, river water will be supplied to 749 villages of Kota and Bundi district.
- Under this, water is to be supplied to the houses of Etawah, Sultanpur, Ladpura, Keshavrayapatan, Kapren, Khatauli and other places through pipeline by making intake well at Naunera Dam under Parvati-Kalisindh-Chambal PKC-ERCP.
- This project will be completed in 2 years. In this, filter plants will be built at three places in Etawah, Sultanpur and Kapren.

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**Increase in Social Security Pension in Rajasthan**

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- In Rajasthan, Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma distributed the increased amount under the Social Security Pension Scheme in Jhunjhunu on 27 June 2024.
- In the interim budget of Rajasthan 2024-25, a provision was made to increase the pension amount from Rs 1000 to Rs 1150.
- Its objective is to provide economic social security to the elderly and the needy by giving them pension and to connect the deprived and backward classes of the society with the mainstream.
- This increase came into effect in Rajasthan from 1 April 2024. The following schemes are being operated by the Social Justice and Empowerment Department of the state-
  - Chief Minister Old Age Pension Scheme
  - Chief Minister Ekal Nari Pension Scheme
  - Chief Minister Vishesh Yogyajan Samman Pension Scheme
  - Small and Marginal Old Age Farmers' Honor Pension Scheme
  - "Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme
  - Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme
  - Indira Gandhi National Disabled Pension Scheme

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**MGNREGA Lokpal appointed in 15 districts of Rajasthan**

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- MNREGA Lokpal have been appointed in 15 districts of Rajasthan, Alwar, Bikaner, Jaipur, Jhunjhunu, Sikar, Bikaner, Bharatpur, Banswara, Dungarpur, Hanumangarh, Jalore, Sri Ganganagar, Bhilwara, Jaisalmer and Rajsamand.
- In the coming year, the state government will deploy MNREGA Lokpal in all the districts.
- Lokpal appointed in these districts under MNREGA will work to resolve complaints, deficiencies and charges related to MNREGA.
- The appointment of MNREGA Lokpal will be for 2 years.
- It is worth noting that district wise Lokpal will be given Rs 2250 per sitting or maximum Rs 45 thousand.
- It is mandatory for them to settle the complaint within 15 days.

**Qualifications for MNREGA Lokpal**

- At least 10 years of experience in public, administration, law, education, social work, and management. Must be honourable, honest, fo absolute integrity without controversy.
- The age of the applicant should not be more than 66 years.
- Educational qualification should be at least graduation.

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**Dr. Saumya Gurjar**

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- She is the Mayor of Jaipur Nagar Nigam (Greater).
  - She represented India at the World Cities Summit (WCS) 2024 in Singapore on 2-4 June 2024.
  - Dr. Saumya addressed various workshops on urban development, Smart City Mission, innovations, heritage and culture on the global platform in the three-day summit.
  - This is the 9th edition of the World Cities Summit.
  - Mayors, industrialists and international organizations from more than 250 cities of the world participated in it.
  - Discussions were held on improving life in urban areas in the future.
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**Herbal Park Dhanvantari Upvan**

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- It is being established in Jaipur, Rajasthan. Here medicinal plants of many species will be grown.
- This park is being developed by the National Institute of Ayurveda in 21 acres near Jagga ki Bawdi among the hills of Galta.
- 2000 medicinal plants of 250 species have been planted here. And in the next 1 year, 8000 more of 400 species will be planted.
- 21 Vatikas have been built in Dhanvantari Upvan for different medicines used in the treatment of diseases.
- Along with Ayurveda, Astrology has also been taken care of in these vaticas.
- In this park, *Jyotish Vatikas* have also been made according to the effect of planets on zodiac signs and constellations.
- In this, a nursery of special species of plants found in Rajasthan is being prepared.
- These plants are useful for the environment along with medicine. These will be conserved in Dhanvantari Upvan.
- The main objective of Dhanvantari Upvan is to conserve the environment and medicinal plants.

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**Queue Management System will be implemented in the state hospitals**

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- Queue Management System will be developed in Rajasthan to manage the crowd on the lines of AIIMS, New Delhi.
- Health services in Rajasthan will be made more robust and patient friendly with innovations and artificial intelligence based technologies.
- For this, a team of officials of the Medical Education Department will study the latest work, innovations and technologies being done in the field of medicine.

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**Rajasthan's first waste water treatment plant**

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- This has been set up in Mansarovar Stone Park, Jaipur.
- Under this, sewerage water will be cleaned and supplied to the plants.

- Rajasthan Urban Infrastructure Development Project (RUIDP) has installed a small STP with new technology in the Stone Park of Mansarovar.
- This technology will be provided free of cost by RUIDP to improve the conditions of the parks. It has been named as Waste Water Treatment Plant WWTP. It has the capacity of 50 kilolitres
- The WWTP project will be able to supply water to every part and all the plants and trees in the park through drip irrigation system.
- RUIDP has also got this technology patented from the Government of India for 20 years.
- Rajasthan Urban Infrastructure Development Project (RUIDP) has become the first engineering department of Rajasthan to have got an invention patented in its own name.

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**MOU between Rajasthan Government and National Stock Exchange**

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- Recently, the Industry and Commerce Department of Rajasthan has signed an MoU with National Stock Exchange (NSE) to bring Initial Public Offering IPO and explain the process of fund raising.
- Under this, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises of Rajasthan will be able to bring their IPO to raise MSME funds.
- Due to the presence of IPO platform for MSME in Maharashtra and Gujarat, the MSME traders there are getting its benefit.
- In this, MSME will be taken to the capital market using NSE Emerge platform and funds will be raised through IPO.
- Under this agreement, the Industry Department and NSE will organize MSME camps, knowledge sessions, road shows, workshops, seminars, awareness programs in the state, which will help in listing MSMEs on the National Stock Exchange platform.

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**First Forest Division of Rajasthan to provide pockets for Green Credit**

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- Ajmer Forest Division has become the first Forest Division of Rajasthan to provide pockets for Green Credit.
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- Work will be done under Green Credit on 265 hectares of forest land in Ajmer and Bhilwara area of the Forest Division.
- State Forest Department has given approval for 165 hectares of land in Ajmer for Industry Green Credit.
- Industry has reserved a pocket in Bhilwara but its approval is pending.
- 7 pockets have been created for this in Ajmer.
- Industries across the country have to spend two percent of their net profit in social responsibilities and environmental sector.

**Green Credit**

- Under Green Credit, voluntary environmental work is encouraged in various fields by various stakeholders like individuals, communities, private sector industries and companies.
- Earlier, industries used to get green credit by getting work done in the field of environment through NGOs.
- To work in the field of environmental conservation, the Central Government has changed the rules in 2019 and directed to give the amount directly to the Central Government.
- Note: Every industry has a CSR Corporate Social Responsibility Fund. From this fund, the company has to spend 2% of the net profit for environmental conservation and human welfare.
- In return, green credit is given to the industry by the government.
- Under this, Ajmer Forest Department had sent a proposal for Green Credit Pocket.
- This amount is given to the Forest Department of the concerned State or District through the Indian Council of Forestry Research, Dehradun, after the pocket is booked.

**Rajasthan has the highest dark zone of groundwater in the country**

- According to the report released by Ground Water Survey, 2023, some parts of Punjab, Haryana, Delhi and Western Uttar Pradesh are over-exploited areas.
- Due to good rains and recharge

initiatives in some areas of the country, the condition of groundwater has improved. Rajasthan has the worst condition of groundwater in the country. There are 203 dark zones here.

- Out of 6,533 blocks in the country, groundwater has reached a dangerous level in 27 blocks of the country's groundwater. Out of this, 11 blocks are in the category of dark zone.
- In this, some parts of Rajasthan and Gujarat come under highly exploited water areas of the country.
- According to this survey, the southern part of peninsular India including parts of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh have low groundwater availability due to hard surface.

**IIT Jodhpur developed smart charging adapter for e-vehicles**

- IIT Jodhpur has developed a charging adapter to charge electronic vehicles (EV) in emergency situations.
- With this, if the vehicle stops working anywhere on the way, then the vehicle can be easily charged with solar panels.
- Currently, the battery of EV is charged from the grid. Solar panels are also connected to the grid through inverter-converter, but cannot take electricity directly from the solar panel.
- Dr. Nishant Kumar of the Electrical Engineering Department of IIT Jodhpur has developed this adapter.
- This adapter will be able to take electricity directly from the solar panel.
- This adapter has a special algorithm, which works on maximum power point tracking.
- It will charge the battery of EV in emergency with the electricity of solar panel at any voltage.
- Under this, single solar panels can be installed in villages, forests and expressways, which will only have sockets.
- This adapter has to be connected to the socket of the solar panel, which will take electricity from the solar panel and charge the car for 5 to 10 minutes as per the need.

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**DRDO Jodhpur developed Microwave Obscurant Chaff Rocket**

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- Jodhpur DRDO has developed Microwave Obscurant Chaff Rocket using a new technology to protect the rocket from enemy radar.
- It was handed over to the Indian Navy at a program held in Delhi on 26 June 2024.
- This technology obscures radar signals and creates a microwave shield around platforms and assets.
- Due to which the rocket is less likely to be caught by the radar.
- When this rocket is fired, it creates a microwave cloud in space spread over a sufficient area for a specified time. It forms an effective shield against threats that capture radio frequencies.
- The medium-range Chaff rocket uses a special type of fiber with a diameter of a few microns and microwave implantation properties.

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**Phase-1C of Jaipur Metro**

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- Under this, a metro line will be established in Jaipur between Badi Chaupad and Transport Nagar.
- In this project, two metro stations will be built within a radius of 2.85 km.
- The first station will be at Ramganj and the second at Transport Nagar.
- The metro line will be elevated from 0.59 km, while the 2.26 km line will be established underground.
- Rs 980 crore will be spent on this project and it is targeted to be completed in 2027.

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**The country's first trans LGBT India's Got Talent Show and Beauty Contest**

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- It was organized in Jaipur on 28 June.
- It was organized by Shri Hari Vaishvik Vaishnav Sansthan.
- The objective of this program is to provide a platform to the hidden art and culture of transgenders.
- 40 participants from the LGBT community from all over the country participated in this program.

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**Tejaswi Chandela awarded 'Gran Gala de la Pasticceria Catalana' Award**

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- Jaipur's chef Tejaswi Chandela was honored with the 'Gran Gala de la Pasticceria Catalana' Award in Barcelona, Spain.
- She has obtained a Master's degree in Chocolate and Pastry from EPGB Escuela o de Pasteleria del Gremio de Barcelona, Barcelona.
- Tejaswi teaches as a visiting professor.
- Note: Tejaswi has won the 'Pastry Talent of the Year' Award in 2023.
- She has been honored with the 'Young Pastry Chef of the Year' Excellence Award in Mumbai.

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**Thermal plants will be set up in Kota-Jhalawar-Baran**

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- Rajasthan has signed MoUs to increase the production by 18000 MW in the state to reduce electricity dependence on other states.
- Under this, 3 thermal plants will be set up in Kota, Jhalawar, Baran.

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**Loan will be available from the World Bank for the development of infrastructure in cities**

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- Under the Rajasthan Urban Infrastructure Development Project RUIDP, a loan of Rs 3674 crore will be available from the World Bank for the development of infrastructure in the cities of Rajasthan.
- Development work will be done in the 5th phase of RUIDP.
- With the help of the World Bank, solid waste management, urban mobility, green energy, livelihood and market development, institutional capacity of urban bodies will be increased.

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**ECH Incubation Center of Rajasthan University will become 'Center of Excellence'**

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- ECH Incubation Center of Rajasthan University will be made 'Center of Excellence'.
  - This center has advanced machines to promote startups.
  - Along with state-of-the-art machines, research facilities are also available here.
  - With the help of these facilities, startups can test and research their products and develop them as a new product.
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**'Nazar Citizen' App**

- Jaipur Police Administration has launched 'Nazar Citizen' App for monitoring vacant houses and verification of servants and tenants.
- Through this app, monitoring of vacant houses, tenants and servants will be done.
- With this, the police will also have a record of migrants.
- Details of servants, tenants, employees can be uploaded on this app. Name, mobile number, valid ID and photo have to be uploaded.

**23 child scientists selected in Inspire Award Exhibition**

- The state level INSPIRE-Award-MANAK Exhibition was organized by the Education Department on 12 June 2024.
- In this exhibition, 23 child scientists of Rajasthan were selected at the national level.
- Many working models related to living a comfortable life in the society were displayed.

**Rajasthan will get air-conditioned electric buses under Pradhan Mantri e-Bus Service**

- Under this scheme, 150 air-conditioned electric buses will be made available for Jaipur.
- Apart from this, 50 electric buses each will also be run for Kota, Ajmer, Jodhpur, Udaipur, Alwar, Bhilwara, Bikaner city.
- According to the guidelines of this scheme, 60% central assistance will be received for the new depot and 100% for meter infrastructure.

**PM-e-Bus Service**

- This scheme was approved by the Central Government on 16 August 2023.
- Under this, city bus operations will be expanded based on the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model.
- 10,000 e-buses will be run through this.
- The estimated cost of this scheme will be Rs 57,613 crore, out of which support of Rs 20,000 crore will be provided by the Central Government.

- This scheme will support bus operations for 10 years.
- The propulsion and auxiliary systems of e-buses are powered exclusively by zero-emission power source.
- This scheme will cover cities with a population of three lakh and above as per the 2011 census, including all the capitals of Union Territories, North-Eastern region and hilly states. Under this scheme, priority will be given to those cities where no well-organized bus service is available.

**Parts of the scheme-**

- This scheme has two sections-

**Section A**

- In this, 10,000 e-buses will be run in 169 cities on the public-private partnership model.
- Through this, city bus operations will be expanded with 10,000 e-buses on the Public-Private Partnership PPP model.

**Section B -**

- In this, infrastructure will be upgraded in 181 cities under the Green Urban Mobility initiative.
- This scheme envisages green initiatives like bus priority, infrastructure, multimodal interchange facilities, NCMC-based automatic fare collection system, charging infrastructure, etc.

**Statue of Colonel Kirori Bainsla**

- The statue of Colonel Kirori Bainsla was unveiled at Mundia village Karauli.
- This statue is 7.5 feet tall.
- Colonel Bainsala was the convener of the Gurjar Reservation Struggle Committee, which got 5% reservation for the extremely backward class MBC.
- Apart from this, an educational institute will be opened in the name of Colonel Kirori Singh Bainsala.

**Colonel Kirori Singh Bainsala**

- He was born on 12 September 1940 in Mundiya village of Karauli district of Rajasthan.
- Kirori Singh Bainsala was a colonel in the army.
- Colonel Bainsala also participated in the 1962 India-China and 1965 India-Pakistan wars.



- He was in the Rajputana Rifles and was also a prisoner of war of Pakistan.
- He is also called the 'Rock of Gibraltar' and 'Indian Rambo'.
- After coming into public life, he headed the Gurjar Reservation Committee. Colonel Bainsala took command of the reservation movement in his hands since 2004, demanding separate reservation for the Gurjar community.
- In 2007, under the leadership of Bainsala, the president of Gurjar Reservation Struggle Committee, the Gurjars organized a big movement in Rajasthan.
- He played an important role in getting 5% reservation in government jobs for the Gurjars of Rajasthan under the Other Backward Classes (MBC).

### **Two students from Rajasthan will participate in Science Sakura Program in Tokyo**

- Students Preeti Swami of Kasturba Gandhi Balika Awasiya Vidyalaya, Karanpura, Hanumangarh and Ayushi Paliwal of Vivekanand Model School, Pokaran, Jaisalmer from Rajasthan have been selected to participate in Sakura Science Program organized from 16 June to 22 June in Tokyo, Japan.
- This selection has been done by Japan Science and Technology Agency as per the guidelines of School Education and Literacy Department of Rajasthan, Ministry of Education and Government of India.

### **MoU for India Stone Mart**

- MoU was signed on 14 June 2024 for the 13th edition of India Stonemart.
- It was signed by RIICO, Laghu Udyog Bharati Rajasthan and CIDOS.
- India Stonemart will be organized from 5 to 8 February in the year 2026 at JECC, Sitapura Jaipur. Its objective is to develop markets for the Indian stone industry and provide a platform to all the stakeholders of the industry.

### **4 officers of Rajasthan Police selected for UN Mission**

- 4 officers including 2 women officers from Rajasthan Police have been

selected for police service abroad for the United Nations Peace Mission.

- Additional SP Sushila Yadav, Sub Inspector Aarti Singh Tanwar, Deputy SP Deepak Joshi and ASI Ratnadeep posted at Rajasthan Police Academy have been selected.
- Officers from various police organizations, paramilitary forces and state police of India take part in the examination conducted for this purpose.
- They have been selected for the next 2 years.

### **4 solar projects will be installed in Pugal, Chhattargarh and Bhadla**

- 4 solar projects will be installed in Pugal of Bikaner, Chhattargarh and Bhadla of Phalodi in Western Rajasthan.
- These solar projects will produce 2,950 MW of electricity.
- Recently, the government in Rajasthan has approved the proposal for land allocation for 4 solar projects.
- In this, 3 solar parks of 2450 MW will be established in Pugal and Chhattargarh tehsils of Bikaner. A 500 MW solar project will be established in Bhadla of Phalodi.
- This will fulfill the resolution of making the state a surplus energy state in the field of energy.
- These projects will bring an investment of Rs 10,000 crore in the state.
- With these solar projects, Rajasthan will be self-sufficient in the field of energy. These projects will create employment opportunities at the local level.
- Along with this, economic activities in the region will get a new impetus.
- These solar projects will also play an important role in environmental protection and will reduce carbon emissions by about 2 lakh tonnes annually.
- State-of-the-art solar panels and grid technology will be used in these solar parks, which will increase the capacity of energy production.
- Note: On 10 March 2024, Rajasthan signed MoUs with Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Limited, NTPC Limited, NTPC Green Energy Limited, Coal India

Limited and NLC India Limited to set up 3325 MW thermal projects and 28500 MW renewable energy projects under joint venture.

### 3 Solar Projects in Bikaner

- 4780 hectares have been allotted to Rajasthan Solar Park Development Company for setting up 3 solar parks of 2450 MW in Bikaner district.
- Two solar parks of 1000 MW each and one of 450 MW will be set up in Bikaner district.
- For the first solar park, about 1881 hectares of land will be allotted in village Surasar of Pugal tehsil.
- Two thousand hectares of land will be allotted for the second solar park of one thousand megawatt, out of which 1194 hectares of land is located in village Surasar and about 807 hectares of land is located in village Bhanawatwala.
- For the third solar park of 450 megawatt, 900 hectares of land will be allotted in village Sardarpura of Chhatargarh tehsil.

### 1 solar project in Phalodi

- NTPC Renewable Energy Limited will set up a 500 megawatt solar project in Phalodi. 910 hectares of land will be allotted in village Bhadla in Bap tehsil.

### Rajasthan's first Vande Bharat maintenance depot

- Rajasthan's first Vande Bharat maintenance depot will be set up in Khatipura Jaipur.
- Due to this, trains from other railways and divisions will also be able to come to Khatipura Jaipur for maintenance. The cost of this project being developed in the second phase of Khatipura is Rs 180 crore.
- This is the first depot of Rajasthan and Railways, which will be built by the Railways itself.
- Earlier, such maintenance depots were built by Railway's PSU WPO Patna.

### Inauguration of 'Constitution Park' at Rajasthan University

- Governor Kalraj Mishra inaugurated the

'Constitution Park' on 19 June 2024 at Rajasthan University Campus, Jaipur.

- The height of the pillar in this newly built Constitution Park is 75 feet.
- The Constitution Pillar consists of three pillars, the first is based on fundamental rights, the second on duties and the third on fundamental principles.
- The students coming to the University will be made aware about the Constitution through these artworks.
- It has been designed by architect Anoop Bartaria.

### Main features

- The sacrifice and struggle of freedom fighter Mahatma Gandhi is depicted through Dandi Yatra.
- There are pictures of Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi, the country's first President Rajendra Prasad and the first Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru.
- Through the artworks on the Constitution Pillar, you will be able to see the entire story of the making of the Constitution from 1946 to 1950.

### IPD Tower renamed as Ayushman Tower

- The IPD Tower being built in Sawai Mansingh Hospital, Jaipur has now been renamed as Ayushman Tower.

### Ayushman Tower

- This is the tallest hospital in the country. The height of this hospital will be 116 meters.
- This is the tallest building in Rajasthan till date. A two-storey basement and a helipad will be built on its roof.
- It will have about 24 floors. This hospital will have all the facilities from helipad to state-of-the-art OT, to super luxury cottages.
- This tower will have 1200 beds - 792 general, 150 cottages, 166 ICU and 92 premium rooms.
- Apart from this, there will be double basement parking, two large waiting halls for patient's family, medical science gallery, 20 operation theatres, food court as well as advanced labs related to radio and microbiology tests.

### Rajasthan Government will sign MoU with Tata Technologies Limited

- To prepare skilled workers in the industries of Rajasthan, the state government will sign MoU with Tata Technologies Limited.
- Under this, Tata Technologies will operate and maintain 150 ITI and 48 polytechnic colleges.
- The students will be trained by Tata Technologies.
- Tata will open 6 high skilled Common Engineering Facility Centres (CEFC) for these institutions.
- With this, polytechnic colleges and ITIs will be equipped with heavy and upgraded machinery.
- Tata will also provide highly trained trainers for these machines.

### ML Garg

- ML Garg has become the new IG of BSF Rajasthan Frontier.

### "Jiman" 2024

- It is the biggest festival of expatriate Rajasthanis organized in London
- It was organized by Rajasthan Association UK on 30 June 2024.
- It is a cultural festival that connects people with Rajasthani culture and people with each other in the UK.

### Sahitya Akademi Yuva Puraskar 2024

- Sahitya Akademi announced the winners of Yuva Puraskar Bal Sahitya Puraskar for the year 2024 on 15 June 2024.
- The names of 23 writers were announced for the Sahitya Akademi Yuva Puraskar.

#### Yuva Puraskar for Rajasthani language

Year	Work	Winner
2024	Sudh Sodhun Jag Angne Poem	Sonali Suthar
2023	Antas Ro Olmo Poem	Devilal Mahiya
2011 (First Prize)	Peed Kahani Sangrah	Dularam Saharan

- Sahitya Akademi started Yuva Puraskar from the year 2011 to encourage youth writing in 24 Indian languages recognized by it.

- Books for Yuva Puraskar are selected on the basis of the recommendation of the respective language selection committees.
- This award is given to the published books of young writers up to the age of 35 years or below on 1 January.
- The award consists of a Copper Plaque and a sum of Rs 50,000/-.

### Sahitya Akademi Bal Sahitya Puraskar 2024

- Sahitya Akademi announced the winners of the Yuva Puraskar Bal Sahitya Award for the year 2024 on 15 June 2024.
- The names of 24 winners were announced for the Sahitya Akademi Bal Sahitya Award.

#### Bal Sahitya Puraskar for Rajasthani Language

Year	Work	Winner
2024	'Mhari Dhani' Poetry Collection	Prahlad Singh 'Jhorda'
2023	'Tabra Ri Duniya' Memoir	Kiran Badal
2011 (First Prize)	'Bulbul Ra Bol' Story Collection	Damyanti Jadawat 'Chanchal'

- Sahitya Akademi started the Bal Sahitya Puraskar from 2010 to encourage children's literature in 24 Indian languages recognized by it.
- Books for Bal Sahitya are selected on the basis of recommendations of the respective language selection committees.
- The award consists of a Copper Plaque and a sum of Rs 50,000/-.

### Diya Kumari will be honored with 'Woman Tourism Minister of the Year Award'

- Rajasthan's Deputy Chief Minister and Tourism Minister Diya Kumari will be honored with the 'Woman Tourism Minister of the Year India' honor at ITB Berlin, Germany.
- Apart from this, Rajasthan will also be honored with the 'PATWA International Travel Award' for 'Destination of the Year'. These awards will be given by PATWA in 2025.

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**8 New academies will be formed in Rajasthan**

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- 8 new academies will be established by Rajasthan Government in various fields in the state.

**New Academies-**

1. Jaipur: Sawai Jaisingh, Dhundhar Academy
  2. Bharatpur: Maha- Surajmal Braj Academy
  3. Kota: Sardar Bunda Meena Hadaut Academy
  4. Udaipur: Rana Sanga Mewar Academy
  5. Jodhpur: Rao Jodha Rathore Academy
  6. Ajmer: Prithviraj Chauhan Academy
  7. Bikaner: Jilai Bai Mand Academy
  8. Sikar: Maharao Shekhaji Shekhawat Academy
- Thus, the number of major academies and centers in Rajasthan will increase from 18 to 26.
  - Earlier, the previous Gehlot government had approved the establishment of Rajasthan Prakrit Bhasha and Sahitya Academy.
  - This academy is for the publication of folk literature of Jainism and renovation and preservation of temples.
  - The first academy of Rajasthan was Rajasthan School of Arts Crafts, established in Jaipur in 1866. Later its name was changed to School of Art.

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**Jhakhrada Sanctuary**

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- It is located in Barmer.
- It has been in the news due to Greater Flamingo. It is also called 'Island of the Desert'.
- This species of flamingo is found in European countries as well as South Asia, but in winters it migrates to various places in India.
- The Greater Flamingo is the tallest of the six species, ranging from 3.9 to 4.7 feet (1.2 to 1.4 meters) in height. It weighs 3-5 kg.

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**4 worst methane hot spots of Rajasthan**

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- The 4 worst methane hot spots of Rajasthan are Barmer, Jaisalmer, Taranagar and Chirawa. Excessive methane emissions are occurring from the garbage dumps at these hot spots.

- Methane emissions are leading to climate change and increase in temperature.
- This has been revealed in a study by the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO).
- Under this study, the landfill sites of Barmer, Jaisalmer, Taranagar and Chirawa were found to be among the top 22 methane hotspots in the country.
- Among these, Barmer is at fourth, Jaisalmer at sixth, Taranagar at eighth and Chirawa at eleventh place.
- Researchers identified different methane plumes emanating from solid waste landfill sites, dumping yards, sewerage treatment plants, wetlands, oil and gas fields, oil refineries and textile industries.
- The main reason for the increase in methane in this was considered to be improper disposal of waste.
- The methane gas heats the atmosphere. This causes global warming and increases the temperature.

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**Santosh Khedar got National Award for innovations in organic farming**

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- Santosh Khedar, a farmer of Beri village of Sikar, has been awarded the National Award on 8 June 2024 for innovations made in organic farming.
- This honor was given at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi.
- Santosh Khedar has been doing organic farming for the last 16 years.
- She herself prepares dozens of varieties of plants through organic method in the nursery of her garden.

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**Jaipur: Country's first city with maximum wildlife safaris**

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- With the support of Rajasthan Government, Jaipur has become the city with the maximum number of wildlife safaris in the country.
  - Currently, there are 3 panther safaris in Jaipur-
    1. Jhalana Panther Safari
    2. Aamagarh Panther Safari
    3. Nahargarh Panther Safari
-

- Apart from this, lion safari is available in Nahargarh, elephant safari in Amer.
- Note: Jaipur is also the center of breeding of wildlife.
- Tiger safari will start in Nahargarh Biological Park by August 2024.
- Nahargarh Biological Park will be the first such biological park in Rajasthan, where tourists will get both lion and tiger safari facilities.
- Tiger safari has been developed on 30 square kilometers of land in Nahargarh Biological Park.

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**Infrastructure will be developed for investment in 40 cities of Rajasthan**

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- Rajasthan Government will develop 40 cities of the state, on which about Rs 18500 crore will be spent.
- 70% of this amount i.e. Rs 13,000 crore will be taken as loan from World Bank and Asian Development Bank and the remaining Rs 5,500 crore will be borne by the state government.
- Under this, the development of the cities of the state will be linked with investment.
- Development work in these cities will be done in the fifth phase of Rajasthan Urban Infrastructure Development Project (RUIDP).
- It will be sent to the Department of Economic Affairs of the Central Government for approval by the state government.

**These include the following cities-**

- 12 satellite towns of Jaipur- Dudu, Chaumu, Bassi, Bagru, Chaksu, Jobner, Phulera, Shahpura, Ringas, Shrimadhapur, Khatushyamji, Dausa The proposal includes the cities of Sikar and Dausa in the Jaipur zone.
- 4 satellite towns of Jodhpur- Pipar City, Bilada, Sojat, Balesar
- 3 satellite towns of Ajmer- Pushkar, Kishangarh, Beawar
- 3 satellite towns of Kota- Bundi, Kaithun, Keshoraipatan
- 4 satellite towns of Bharatpur- Kumher, Nagar, Nadbai, Deeg
- 10 divisional headquarters- Jaipur, Jodhpur, Bharatpur, Kota, Ajmer, Bikaner,

Udaipur, Pali, Sikar and Banswara.

- 4 Medium population cities- Churu, Sriganganagar, Jhunjhunu and Tonk.

**Provisions for development of infrastructure in cities**

- 24 hours drinking water supply on the basis of public private partnership.
- Providing sewerage facilities, availability of treated water for industries and agriculture.
- Work will be done on zero waste model by effectively implementing solid waste management.
- Bio medical waste management and hazardous waste management will be improved.
- Heritage will be preserved, recreational facilities will be developed, beautification and medical facilities will be increased.
- Promoting solar energy for road lights, setting up charging stations for electric vehicles.
- Reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- Relieving traffic jams, re-modeling of roads, construction of parking spaces.
- Bus stand development, improvement in city transport system and inter city transport system.

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**Jodhpur: Remote Pilot Training Center will be opened**

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- Western Rajasthan's first Remote Pilot Training Organization Center will be opened in Jodhpur's Agricultural University.
- Its objective is to promote the use of technology in the agricultural sector, so that the income of farmers increases with better yield.

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**Maharao Shekhaji Military Academy**

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- It is located in Mohanpura village of Sikar.
  - It is the first military academy of Rajasthan.
  - The construction of this academy has been completed, but its inauguration is yet to be done.
  - In the first year, 100 youth will be admitted in the academy.
  - Students will get facilities for studies, sports and accommodation in this academy campus itself.
-

**Key points**

- Announcement of the project: 2017
- Start of the work on the military academy: 2019
- Project cost: Rs 31 crore
- Area: 10 hectares

**Rajasthan's military station's first road made from plastic waste**

- The Indian Army has built a road from plastic waste in Jaipur's military station.
- It has become the second military station in the country to do so.
- The Indian Army has built a 100 meter long plastic waste road from Sagat Singh Road Under Bridge to Cubs Corner Complex in the military station.
- This is the first plastic waste road of a military station located in Rajasthan and the second plastic waste road of a military station in the country.
- Earlier in the year 2019, a plastic waste road has been built in Narangi Military Station of Assam.
- This plastic waste road has been constructed in accordance with the Indian Army's policy of making green military stations under the aegis of Garrison Engineer South, Chief Engineer Jaipur Zone.

**Bahaj village Deeg: Utensils and tools from the time of Shri Krishna found along the extinct river**

- Recently, evidence of the pottery culture of Mahabharata period Hastinapur has been found along the extinct river in Bahaj village of Deeg district, just 6 kilometers away from Govardhan Girirajji.
- The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has found a 2 meter thick deposit of grit-sand of the river 24 meters below the ground.
- Apart from this, utensils and tools of the time of Lord Krishna have also been found.
- It also has a 9 meter thick deposit of pottery culture.
- The evidence found in this excavation will be helpful in proving the antiquity of the Braj region as well as the time period of Lord Krishna.
- Here different clay idols of Lord Shiva and Mother Parvati have been found, which are more than 3 thousand years

old.

- Till now only 2 evidences of the time period of Lord Krishna are available after excavation, which include Yamuna river and Govardhan mountain.
- Evidence of Mesolithic culture has also been found in the Bahaj excavation.
- The Archaeological Survey of India ASI started excavation work in Bahaj village from 10 January 2024 onwards.
- Tools made of bones have also been found here, which include unique needle-shaped tools, which have been found for the first time in the country.
- During excavation, remains of Kushan period, followed by Shunga period, Maurya period, Mahajanapada period culture have also been found.
- As per the excavation done from 1973 to 1977, the antiquity of Mathura was estimated to be 2600 to 2700 years ago according to the archaeological date of it.
- After excavation in Bahaj village, evidence of the ancientness of Mathura being 5100 years old has been found.

**Red Cross Society will be formed in the newly formed districts of Rajasthan**

- Governor Mishra directed to form Red Cross Society in 17 new districts on 24 June 2024.
- Apart from this, an initiative will be taken to provide one-day free training to the students regarding first aid.
- This work will be done in coordination with the Department of Medical and Health, Department of Education and Red Cross Society.
- For this, 10 master trainers will be arranged from every district with the cooperation of the Health Department.

**9 industrial parks will be developed in Rajasthan**

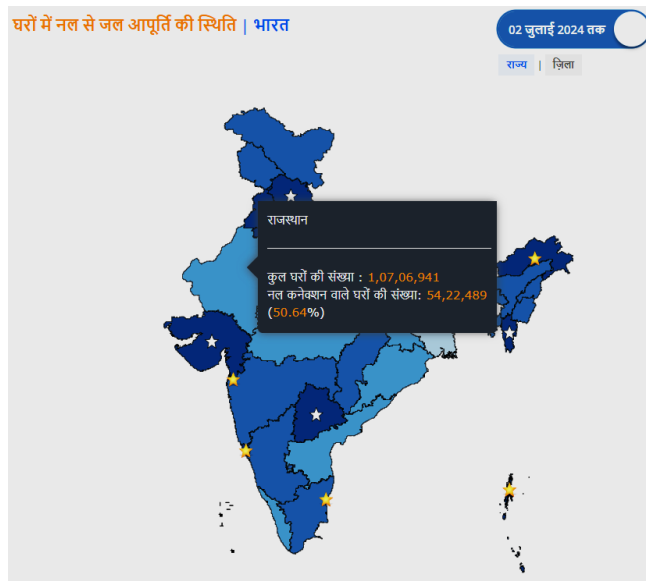
- 9 industrial parks will be developed in Rajasthan for industrial development and employment generation.
- Recently, the state government has approved the allotment of land for a textile park in Bhilwara.
- This will increase the opportunities for investment as well as employment generation in the state. 9 industrial parks will be developed in the following sectors in Rajasthan-

1. Textile
2. Toys manufacturing cluster
3. Pharmaceutical
4. Gems-Jewellery
5. Defence manufacturing
6. Stone carving
7. Software technology
8. Electronics
9. IT sector

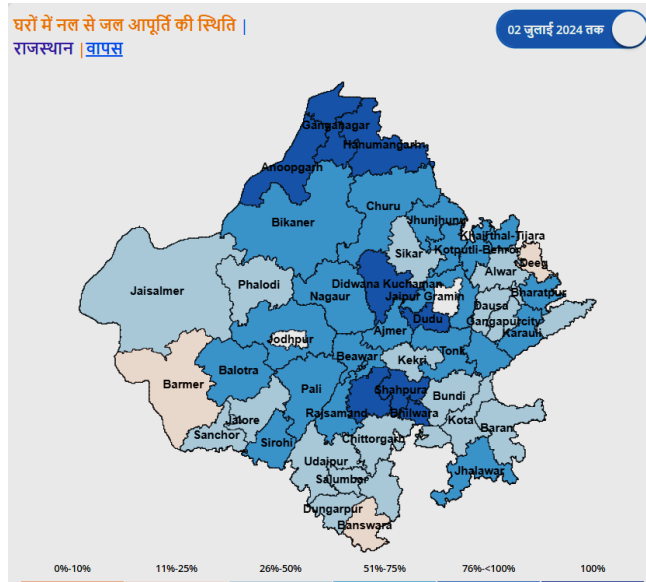
## Status of tap connection in Rajasthan

- District with the highest number of houses with tap connections in Rajasthan: Dudu 93.51%.
- District with the lowest number of houses with tap connections in Rajasthan: Barmer 13.55%.
- Out of a total of 1,07,06,941 houses in Rajasthan, tap connections have been provided to 54,22,489 (50.64%) houses till now.

## Har Ghar Jal notified districts



## Har Ghar Jal certified districts



## In Rajasthan, a green corridor will be built along with the development area in the Amritsar-Jamnagar Bharatmala project

- Along with the Amritsar-Jamnagar Bharatmala project, a green corridor will be established in the related area.
- Under this project, lakhs of plants are being planted in place of the trees and bushes that were cut down, and they are also being irrigated with drip irrigation.
- Under the Bharatmala project, the road construction work is in its final stage and the establishment of a green corridor has already begun in Rajasthan.
- Under the Amritsar-Jamnagar project, access controlled 6 lane green field national highway number 754-A is being constructed in Rajasthan.
- Lakhs of plants are being planted on both sides of this highway and on the divider portion in the middle of the highway.
- A water tank of 5000 litres will be installed at every 5 km distance, which will be connected to the drip irrigation system.



## Amritsar-Jamnagar Expressway

- Under this, Amritsar-Jamnagar Expressway (NH 754A) will be a 1,257 km long 6 lane access controlled greenfield project. Which will cost around Rs 22,500 crore.
- It will connect Amritsar Punjab to the port city of Jamnagar Gujarat.
- It is a part of Bharatmala and Amritsar-Jamnagar Economic Corridor.
- It will pass through four states of Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan and Gujarat.

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**Plastic bottle flaking machines will be installed in Rajasthan**

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- Plastic bottle flaking machines will be installed at 50 places in Rajasthan.
- Its objective is to improve the environment, eliminate pollution and plastic.
- For this, flaking machines will be installed at public places including tourist places to destroy plastic bottles in the state.
- Under this, when people put bottles in the machine, points will be given by private companies.
- On the basis of these points, discounts will be given on shopping from shopping malls.
- These machines will be installed by Rajasthan State Pollution Control Board.

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**Air quality early warning system will be installed in Jaipur and Alwar**

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- Air quality early warning system was launched by the Rajasthan government for Jaipur on 5 June 2024.
- Through this, warnings about air quality can also be issued in advance on the lines of weather predictions.
- On the lines of Jaipur, Early Warning and Decision Support System for Air Quality Management will be developed for air quality management in Alwar.
- Note: The highest level of air pollution in Rajasthan is highest in Alwar, Bhiwadi and nearby places.

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**Maya Bishnoi won silver medal in Asia Cup in compound team competition**

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- The Indian archery women's compound team has won the silver medal in the Junior Asia Cup held in South Korea.
- Maya Bishnoi of Bikaner performed brilliantly for the Indian team and played a big role in taking the team to the finals.

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**Manju Bala won gold medal in hammer throw**

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- In the 63rd National Inter State Senior Athletics Championship held in Panchkula, Haryana, Rajasthan athlete Manju Bala won the gold medal by throwing hammer to a distance of 63.66 meters in hammer throw.

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**Sanjay Kumar won gold medal in 20 km walk**

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- Sanjay Kumar performed brilliantly in 20 km walk and won the gold medal with a time of 1 hour 26 minutes 13 seconds.

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**Pawan Kumawat**

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- Pawan Kumawat of Rajasthan has been selected in the Indian team in the 76 kg weight category for the World Strength Lifting Kazakhstan.
- Pawan has been selected on the basis of the recently held Senior Strength Lifting Competition Udaipur trials.

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**Anil Joshi coach Shyam Sundar selected in Indian team**

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- Indian Para team has been announced for the World Para Ranking Archery Competition to be held in Czech Republic, Europe.
- Experienced coach of Rajasthan Anil Joshi has been appointed as the coach of the Indian Para Archery team.
- Bikaner archer Shyam Sundar has been selected in the Indian team.

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**Nitika Bansal won silver and Jahnvi Mehra won bronze medal in BRICS Games 2024**

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- Nitika Bansal of Rajasthan won silver and Jahnvi Mehra won bronze medal in Wushu sport in BRICS Games 2024 held in Kazan, Russia.
- Nitika Bansal of Sriganganagar won silver medal in 65 kg weight category while Jahnvi Mehra of Jaipur won bronze medal in 56 kg weight category.

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**19th National Youth Athletics Championship**

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- The 19th National Youth Athletics Championship was organized in Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh under the aegis of Athletics Federation of India.
- In this, Khushboo Yadav of Rajasthan won gold medal in 3000 meter racewalk (Girls category) while Muskan won gold medal in 1000 meter race.

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**Anantjit Singh Naruka and Maheshwari Chauhan will participate in Paris Olympics**

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- The pair of Anantjit Singh Naruka and Maheshwari Chauhan of Jaipur will represent the country in shooting at the



Paris Olympics 2024.

- They were selected in the Skeet Mixed Team event.
- Apart from this, Naruka will also participate in Clay Pigeon Trap Men Individual and Maheshwari Chauhan in Clay Pigeon Trap Women Individual.

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**Manini Kaushik won gold medal in shooting**

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- In the 22nd Kumar Surendra Singh Memorial Shooting Championship organized by the National Rifle Association in Bhopal, on 8 June, Manini Kaushik of Jaipur won her fourth medal of the competition by winning an individual gold medal in the 50m rifle prone event.
- Earlier, Manini had won the silver medal in the 50m rifle prone women's team

event along with Sweety Chaudhary and Monica Jakhar.

- Manini has also won an individual bronze and a team silver medal in the 50m rifle event.
- In this championship, Anuya Prasad of Rajasthan won silver and Vedika Sharma won bronze medal in 25 meter pistol women's competition.

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**Ashwini and Kashish won gold medals in Under-17 Asian Wrestling Championship**

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- The Under-17 Asian Wrestling Championship was organized in Amman, Jordan.
  - In this, Kashish Gurjar of Rajasthan won gold medal in 43 kg weight category and Ashwini Bishnoi won gold medal in the 65 kg weight category.
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## 2. National Affairs (Polity and Governance)

### Indian General Election 2024: BJP-led NDA wins absolute majority

- The counting of votes for the recently held elections for the 18th Lok Sabha was held on June 4. In this election, the BJP-led NDA alliance won an absolute majority by winning 292 seats.

#### General Elections 2024: Key Points

- This general election was for the 18th Lok Sabha. The term of the current 17th Lok Sabha is ended on 16 June.
- In this election, voting was held in seven phases for 543 Lok Sabha seats across the country. The election process began on April 19 and continued till June 1.
- In this election, the BJP-led NDA alliance won an absolute majority by winning 292 seats. The BJP won the maximum number of 240 seats. Telugu Desam got 16 seats and Janata Dal United got 12 seats.
- The INDIA Alliance has got 233 seats while Others secured 18 seats. Congress got 99 seats whereas Samajwadi Party got 37 seats and Trinamool Congress got 29 seats and DMK has managed to win 22 seats.
- According to the Election Commission, the number of registered voters in the Lok Sabha elections 2024 was 96.86 crores. Among these, the number of male voters were 49.72 crores and female voters were 47.15 crores. While a total of 48,044 third gender voters also voted.
- 1.82 crore voters voted for the first time. The number of voters above 100 years of age also was more than 2 lakh. More than 10.5 lakh polling booths were set up across the country and elections were conducted with the help of more than 55 lakh Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs).

### 74 women MPs were elected in the 18th Lok Sabha.

- India has elected 74 women MPs to the 18th Lok Sabha this year, four fewer than

in 2019 and 52 more than in India's first elections in 1952.

- These 74 women constitute only 13.63% of the elected members of the Lower House, which is much less than the prescribed 33% reserved seats for women after the next delimitation commission.
- The BJP leads the list with 31 women MPs, followed by Congress (13), TMC (11), SP (5), DMK (3) and Chirag Paswan-led LJP and JDU with two women MPs each.
- The 17th Lok Sabha had the highest number of women MPs at 78. The first and second Lok Sabhas had 24 women MPs each.

### Narendra Modi took oath as Prime Minister for the third consecutive time

- Narendra Modi took oath of office and secrecy as the Prime Minister for the third consecutive term on 9 June. President Draupadi Murmu administered the oath of office and secrecy to Mr Modi and members of the new Council of Ministers at a ceremony held at Rashtrapati Bhavan. 30 Cabinet Ministers, 5 Ministers of State (Independent Charge) and 36 Ministers of State were sworn in at the ceremony.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi is the second person after Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru to be sworn in as the Prime Minister of India for the third consecutive time. Indira Gandhi holds the record of being the Prime Minister of India for the maximum number of times, i.e. four times.

#### Key Points:

- The swearing-in ceremony was attended by top leaders from India's neighbouring countries and the Indian Ocean region, including Maldives President Mohammed Muizzu, Nepal Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' and Sri Lanka President Ranil Wickremesinghe.

- Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Mauritius Prime Minister Pravind Kumar Jugnauth, Bhutan's Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay and Seychelles Vice President Ahmed Ajij also attended the ceremony.
- The Prime Minister reiterated India's commitment to the 'Neighbourhood First' policy and the 'SAGAR Approach'. Shri Modi said that India will continue to raise the voice of the Global South in the international arena.

**The Prime Minister distributed ministries for his third term**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi distributed ministries for his third term on June 10. Senior ministers have been given the same positions as last time.

**Ministers and their Ministries (10 June 2024)**

Cabinet Minister	Ministry
Rajnath Singh	Ministry of Defence
Amit Shah	Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Cooperation
Nitin Gadkari	Ministry of Road Transport
JP Nadda	Ministry of Health, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers
Shivraj Singh Chauhan	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
Nirmala Sitharaman	Ministry of Finance and Corporate Affairs
S Jaishankar	foreign Ministry
Manohar Lal Khattar	Ministry of Power and Urban Development
HD Kumaraswamy	Ministry of Heavy Industries and Steel
Piyush Goyal	Ministry of Commerce
Dharmendra Pradhan	Ministry of Education
Jitan Ram Manjhi	Ministry of Small Scale Industries
Rajiv Ranjan alias Lallan Singh	Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Department of Fisheries and Animal Husbandry

Sarbananda Sonowal	Ministry of Shipping and Waterways
K. Rammohan Naidu	Ministry of Civil Aviation
Dr. Virendra Kumar	Ministry of Social Welfare and Empowerment
Jual Oran	Ministry of Tribal Affairs
Pralhad Joshi	Ministry of Consumer Affairs and Ministry of Renewable Energy
Ashwini Vaishnav	Ministry of Railways, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Ministry of IT
Giriraj Singh	Ministry of Textiles
Jyotiraditya Scindia	Minister of Telecommunications and Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region
Bhupendra Yadav	Ministry of Environment and Forests
Gajendra Singh Shekhawat	Ministry of Tourism and Culture
Annapurna Devi	Ministry of Women and Child Development
Kiren Rijju	Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs and Department of Minority Welfare
Mansukh Mandaviya	Ministry of Labour, Ministry of Youth and Sports
Hardeep Singh Puri	Petroleum and Natural Gas
G. Kishan Reddy	Ministry of Coal and Mines
Chirag Paswan	ministry of food processing
CR Patil	Ministry of Jal Shakti
Minister of State with Independent Charge	Ministry
Rao Inderjeet Singh	for Statistics and Plan Implementation, Ministry of Culture
Jitendra Singh	Ministry of Science & Technology and Earth Sciences

Arjun Ram Meghwal	Minister of Law and Justice and Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs
Prataprao Jadhav	Minister of AYUSH, Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare
Jayant Chaudhary	Minister of State for Education, Ministry of Skill Development
State Minister	Ministry
Jitin Prasad	Minister of State for Steel and Commerce, Minister of State for IT
Shripad Naik	Minister of State for Power and Minister of State for Renewable Energy
Pankaj Chowdhary	Minister of State for Finance
Krishan Pal Gurjar	Minister of State for Cooperation
Ramdas Athawale	Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment
Ramnath Thakur	Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
Nityanand Rai	State home Minister
Anupriya Patel	Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers
V. Somanna	Minister of State for Jalshakti and Railways
Chandrasekar Pemmasan	Minister of State for Rural Development, Minister of State for Communications
SP Singh Baghel	Minister of State for Panchayati Raj and Fisheries and Animal Husbandry
Shobha Karandlaje	Minister of State for Small Scale Industries and Labour

Kirti Vardhan Singh	Minister of State for External Affairs, Minister of State for Forests and Environment
BL Verma	Minister of State for Consumer Affairs
Shantanu Thakur	Minister of State for Shipping and Waterways
Kamlesh Paswan	Minister of State for Rural Development
Bandi Sanjay Kumar	State Home Minister
Ajay Tamta	Minister of State for Road Transport
Dr. L Murugan	Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting and Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs
Suresh Gopi	Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas
Ravneet Singh Bittu	Minister of State for Food Processing and Railways
Sanjay Seth	Secretary of State for Defence
Raksha Khadse	Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Sports
Bhagirath Chowdhary	Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
Satish Chandra Dubey	Minister of State for Coal and Mines
Durgadas Uikey	Minister of State for Tribal Affairs
Sukanta Majumdar	Minister of State for Education and Development of North Eastern Region
Savitri Thakur	Minister of State for Women and Child Development
Tokhan Sahu	Minister of State for Urban Development
Rajbhushan Chowdhary	Minister of State for Jalshakti

Bhupati Raju Srinivas Varma	Minister of State for Heavy Industries and Steel
Harsh Malhotra	Minister of State for Road Transport
Nimuben Bambhaniya	Minister of State for Consumer Affairs
Murlidhar Mohol	Minister of State for Cooperation and Civil Aviation
George Kurien	Minister of State for Minority Welfare and Animal Husbandry
Pabitra Margherita	Minister of State for External Affairs and Textiles

### **The first session of the 18th Lok Sabha began on June 24**

- The 1<sup>st</sup> session of 18th Lok Sabha held from June 24 to July 7 for the swearing-in of the newly elected members or confirmation of their offices .
- The 264th session of the Rajya Sabha will begin on June 27 and ended on July 3 .
- In the first three days of the first session, the newly elected leaders took oath or confirm their membership in the Lok Sabha and elect the Speaker of the House.
- President Draupadi Murmu addressed a joint sitting of the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha on June 27 and outline the roadmap of the new government for the next five years.
- The Indian Constitution, particularly Article 87, gives the President the power to address the Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha at the commencement of the first session after each general election and at the commencement of the first session of the year.

### **MP Bhartruhari Mahtab appointed as the Protem Speaker of Lok Sabha**

- President Murmu appointed MP Mahtab as the Pro tem Speaker under Article 95(1) of the Constitution to perform the duties of the presiding officer of the Lok Sabha until the election of the Speaker.

- Being the presiding officer of the Lok Sabha, the Speaker has to perform certain key duties related to its day-to-day proceedings.
- Article 94 of the Indian Constitution states: Whenever the House of the People is dissolved, the Speaker thereof shall not vacate his office until immediately before the first meeting of the House after the dissolution of the House.
- Pro tem means ' temporarily ' . The post of Pro tem Speaker is not mentioned in the Constitution. However, the official handbook on the functioning of the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs mentions the ' Appointment and Swearing-in of Pro tem Speaker ' .
- The most senior member of the Lok Sabha (number of years in parliament) is usually chosen to assist the Pro tem Speaker.
- The primary duty of the Protem Speaker is to administer the oath to the new MPs.

### **Om Birla elected speaker of 18th Lok Sabha**

- Mr Om Birla was elected Speaker of the 18th Lok Sabha on 26 June 2024. An NDA candidate and an MP from Kota.
- The motion, moved by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and supported by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, was accepted by the House by voice vote.
- The opposition party India Bloc, which had declared K. Suresh as its candidate for the post of Lok Sabha Speaker, did not press for a division of votes.
- He became the 17th person to be elected Speaker of the Lok Sabha . Om Birla was also the speaker in the 17th Lok Sabha .
- Om Birla, a three-time Lok Sabha member, has been elected from the Kota constituency of Rajasthan in the 2014, 2019 and 2024 Lok Sabha elections.
- This was the fourth contest for the post of Lok Sabha Speaker after the contests held in 1952, 1967 and 1976. However, this time there was no division of votes.
- Elections to elect the Speaker were held in 1952, when the first Lok Sabha Speaker contested between G.V. Mavalankar and Shankar Shantaram More, who was then with the Peasants and Workers Party of India ; and again in 1976, during the

Emergency, between Baliram Bhagat and Jagannath Rao.

- Birla will be the second Speaker after Balram Jakhar (1980-89) to get two full terms. Other Lok Sabha Speakers M.A. Ayyangar and Gurdial Singh Dhillon had got this post twice, but the second term of both the leaders did not last more than one and a half years.
- Ganesh Vasudev Mavalankar was the first Speaker of the Lok Sabha. Five people have been Speaker of the Lok Sabha twice: Dr. Neelam Sanjiva Reddy, Gurdial Singh Dhillon, Balram Jakhar, G.M.C. Balayogi and Om Birla.
- The first person to be elected unanimously as president was Madabhushi Ananthasayanam Iyengar. P.R. Sangma was the first opposition party candidate to be elected Speaker of the Lok Sabha.
- Congress' Meera Kumar is the first woman to become the Speaker of the Lok Sabha. The longest tenure as Speaker has been of 9 years by Balram Jakhar.

### Speaker of Lok Sabha: An Overview

- According to Article 93 of the Constitution, the members of the Lok Sabha have to elect a Speaker and a Deputy Speaker from among the members of the House.
- The Speaker and Deputy Speaker are elected by a simple majority. Simple majority means the majority of the members present in the House at the time of voting. There is no provision for any oath for the office of Speaker or Deputy Speaker.

### Powers of the Speaker of Lok Sabha

- He is the final authority to interpret the provisions of the Constitution of India, the rules of procedure and conduct of business of the Lok Sabha, and parliamentary precedents within the House.
- The Speaker of the Lok Sabha presides over joint sittings of the two Houses of Parliament, called by the President to resolve a deadlock between the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha on a particular bill.
- The Lok Sabha speaker has the power to adjourn the House or suspend a

sitting in the absence of one-tenth of the total strength of the House, known as quorum.

- If during voting on any proposal in the House, there are equal votes in favour and against, then he casts the deciding vote, which is known as the 'casting vote'.
- The Speaker has the **exclusive power** to decide whether a Bill is a "Money Bill" or not, and this decision is final and cannot be challenged.
- The Speaker of the Lok Sabha serves as the ex-officio Chairman of the Indian Parliamentary Group (IPG), which acts as a link between the Parliament of India and various parliaments of the world.

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### Congress MP Rahul Gandhi became the leader of opposition in Lok Sabha

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- After a gap of 10 years from 2014, the lower house will again have an official opposition leader.
- This announcement was made by Congress General Secretary KC Venugopal. Rahul Gandhi is an MP from Rae Bareilly.
- As no opposition party had the minimum 10% of total Lok Sabha seats, the post of LoP was vacant for the last ten years.
- The leader of the largest opposition party having more than one-tenth of the total number of seats in the Lok Sabha is considered the Leader of the Opposition.
- They will serve on various committees like Public Accounts Committee, Public Undertakings, Estimates and several Joint Parliamentary Committees.
- He is empowered to serve on several selection committees that select the heads of statutory organisations such as the NHRC, Lokpal, CBI, Central Vigilance Commission and Central Information Commission.
- The Salary and Allowances of the Leader of the Opposition is drawn as per the Parliament Act, 1977 and gave statutory status to the Leader of the Opposition in each House.
- He is eligible for benefits like salary, allowances and other benefits of a Cabinet Minister.
- There is no mention of the post of Leader of the Opposition in the Constitution.

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**The Kerala Assembly passed a resolution to change the name of the state to ' Keralam ' .**

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- The Kerala Assembly unanimously passed a second resolution to officially change the name of ' Kerala ' to ' Keralam ' .
- The Kerala government urged the Central government to change the name of the state in all languages listed in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.
- The proposal will be sent to Parliament for approval.
- The state was called ' Keralam ' in Malayalam, and the demand for creating a united Kerala for the Malayalam-speaking communities had been strongly raised since the national independence struggle.
- Under Article 3 of the Constitution, Parliament is empowered to create new boundaries for states or change the names of existing states.
- A constitutional amendment is required to change the name of an official language.

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**Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Odisha and Sikkim**

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Along with the recently concluded 18th Lok Sabha elections, Assembly elections were also held in Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Odisha and Sikkim .

**Arunachal Pradesh**

- Arunachal Pradesh has a 60 -member Legislative Assembly. However, the election was held for 50 seats as BJP candidates were elected unopposed in 10 seats, including Pema Khandu .
- 50 seats where the polling was held, BJP won 36 seats, taking its total number of seats in the Legislative Assembly to 46 .
- Pema Khandu was earlier in the Congress party and in 2016 he left the Congress party along with his 43 MLAs and joined the BJP, since then BJP is in power in the state.

**Sikkim**

- Sikkim Krantikari Morcha (SKM) led by Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang won a landslide victory in the 2024 Sikkim Legislative Assembly election. SKM won 31 out of 32 assembly seats.

- Pawan Chamling, five-time Chief Minister of Sikkim and eight-time MLA, lost the elections from both Poklok Kamrang and Namcheybung assembly constituencies.
- Pawan Chamling was the Chief Minister of Sikkim from 1994 to 2019. Pawan Chamling is the longest-serving Chief Minister of India. Naveen Patnaik of the Biju Janata Dal and the outgoing Chief Minister of Odisha is the second longest-serving Chief Minister of India.

**Odisha**

- In Odisha, BJP won 78 assembly seats. Ruling BJD won 51, Congress won 14 and others won 4 seats. There are a total of 147 seats in Odisha Assembly. Any party needs 74 seats to form the government.
- Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik also lost the election from his assembly seat. CM Patnaik, who has been in power in Odisha for the last 24 years, had not lost the election even once till now.

**Andhra Pradesh**

- In Andhra Pradesh, Telugu Desam Party became the largest party and NDA won 135 seats. Jansena Party got 21 seats and BJP got 8 seats. Ruling YSRCP got 11 seats.
- There are 175 seats in the Andhra Pradesh Assembly and Any party needs 88 seats to form the government.

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**New assemblies to be formed in Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Odisha and Sikkim**

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- Recently, new assemblies have been formed in four states of India. These states are - Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Odisha and Sikkim. Assembly elections were also held in these states along with the recently concluded 18th Lok Sabha elections. Counting of votes in Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim took place on June 2, while in Andhra Pradesh and Odisha, counting of votes took place on June 4 .

**Sikkim**

- The 11th Legislative Assembly has been formed in Sikkim . Prem Singh Tamang took oath as the Chief Minister of Sikkim for the second consecutive time on 10 June 2024. Sikkim Governor Laxman Acharya administered the oath of office and secrecy to him.
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**Arunachal Pradesh**

- The 11th Legislative Assembly has been formed in Arunachal Pradesh . Pema Khandu took oath as the Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh for the third consecutive time on 13 June 2024. Arunachal Pradesh Governor Lieutenant General (Retired) KT Parnaik administered the oath of office and secrecy to him.

**Andhra Pradesh**

- The 17th Legislative Assembly has been formed in Andhra Pradesh . Here on 12 June 2024, Nara Chandrababu Naidu took oath as the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh for the fourth time. Governor S Abdul Nazir administered the oath of office and secrecy to him at the swearing-in ceremony held in Vijayawada. He is the 18th Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh.

**Odisha**

- The 17th Legislative Assembly has been formed in Odisha . Here Mohan Charan Majhi took oath as the new Chief Minister of the state on 12 June 2024. Governor Raghubar Das administered the oath of office and secrecy to him.
- Hyderabad will no longer be the joint capital of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh from 2 June 2024. As per the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014, Hyderabad will be the capital of Telangana only from 2 June 2024 onwards.

**Key Points**

- Hyderabad was made the joint capital of both states for 10 years when Andhra Pradesh was bifurcated in 2014. Telangana came into existence on 2 June 2014
- The state of Telangana was formed on 2 June 2014 after the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Bill was passed in Parliament in February 2014. The demand for the formation of Telangana state had been there for decades.
- Till now Andhra Pradesh has not been able to get its own capital. There is a fight between Amaravati and Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh. There are movements going on in both the cities to make the capital there.
- Following the passing of the Andhra

Pradesh Reorganisation Act 2014, the Union Home Ministry appointed K. Chandrasekhar to study options for the new capital for the state of Andhra Pradesh. A committee was appointed under the chairmanship of Sivaramakrishnan.

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**Patna High Court struck down Bihar government's 65% reservation in jobs and education.**

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- The Patna High Court struck down Bihar government's laws increasing reservation for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Backward Classes and Extremely Backward Classes from 50% to 65% .
- On November 9, the Bihar Assembly approved the Bihar Reservation in Admission to Educational Institutions (Amendment) Act, 2023, and the Bihar Reservation of Vacancies in Posts and Services (Amendment) Act, 2023 .
- With these laws, Bihar provided the second largest percentage of reservation to backward classes after Tamil Nadu.
- The High Court said that these laws violate the equality clause under Articles 14, 15 and 16 .
- Chief Justice K Vinod Chandran and Justice Harish Kumar delivered the verdict.
- According to the PIL, reservation was provided in the Constitution to provide adequate representation to socially and educationally disadvantaged groups.
- However, there was no provision to provide reservation on the basis of population size.

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**Post Office Act, 2023 comes into force**

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- Post Office Act, 2023 came into force on 18 June 2023. It has repealed the Indian Post Office Act, 1898 .
  - The "Post Office Bill, 2023" was introduced in Rajya Sabha on 10.08.2023 and passed in Rajya Sabha on 04.12.2023. The Bill was subsequently considered and passed in Lok Sabha on 13.12.2023 and 18.12.2023 .
  - It's aim is to provide a simple legislative framework for delivering the benefits of citizen centric services, banking services and Government schemes to the last mile of the country.
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- It abolishes provisions such as special privileges for collection, processing and delivery of letters in order to ensure ease of doing business and smooth living.
- In this Act, the provision of punishment in case of any default in service has been abolished.
- The provisions of this Act give the government the power to stop goods being sent through India Post for various reasons including public order and security of the country.
- In case of public emergency or to maintain peace and security, material being sent through post may be stopped.
- There will be no accountability in respect of the service provided by the post office except for certain prescribed responsibilities. No officer of the post office will take any kind of responsibility in respect of the service provided by the post office.

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**Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024 came into force**

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- The Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024, which aims to prevent the use of unfair means in government examinations and common entrance tests conducted across the country, came into force on June 21, 2024 .
- On February 13, President Draupadi Murmu gave her assent to the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Bill, 2024 .
- This act is brought to prevent the use of “unfair means” and bring “greater transparency, fairness and credibility” in examinations conducted by government agencies. The examinations mentioned in the Act include those conducted by central government organisations.
- The Act identifies 15 acts of unfair conduct, including paper leak, creating fake websites and conducting fake examinations for monetary gains.
- Importantly, the law keeps students/ candidates outside the purview of the Act. Administrative control over candidates will continue.
- The Act also prohibits premature disclosure of confidential information relating to the examination and unauthorized persons from entering the examination centres and causing disruption.
- The offence is punishable with imprisonment of three to five years and a fine of up to Rs 10 lakh.
- All offences under the law will be cognizable, non-bailable, and non-compoundable.
- According to the Act, any service provider appointed by the public examination authority for conducting the examination can also be fined up to Rs 1 crore and “shall also be charged proportionate cost of the examination”.

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**A law has come into force to curb irregularities in competitive examinations.**

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- The law provides for a maximum prison sentence of 10 years.
  - There is also a provision for a fine of up to Rs 1 crore on the offenders .
  - The Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha passed the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Bill, 2024 on February 6 and 9 respectively.
  - The bill was approved by President Draupadi Murmu on 12 February and became a law.
  - This act is brought to prevent unfair means in public examinations conducted by UPSC, SSC, National Testing Agency (NTA), Railway Recruitment Boards and banking recruitment examination bodies.
  - The Act provides for a minimum imprisonment of three to five years to curb fraud.
  - In case of organised crimes of fraud, the Act provides for imprisonment of five to 10 years and a minimum fine of Rs 1 crore.
  - According to the notification issued by the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT), the Act has come into effect from June 21, 2024 .
  - The Act also provides for punishing the service providers appointed by the Public Examinations Authority for conducting the examinations.
  - The culprits will be punished with a fine of up to Rs 1 crore. The proportionate cost of the examination will also be recovered from the service providers.
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- The culprits will also be barred from conducting any public examination for four years.

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**Notified Disasters**

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- The severe heat wave prevailing in many parts of the country has once again started the discussion on including heatwave in the notified disasters under the Disaster Management (DM) Act, 2005 .
- If the heat wave is included as a notified disaster, states will be allowed to use their disaster response funds to provide compensation and relief.
- Currently, states have to use their own funds for these activities.
- At present, there are 12 categories of disasters that have been notified under the Disaster Management Act, 2005.
- These are cyclone, drought, earthquake, fire, flood, tsunami, hailstorm, landslide, avalanche, cloudburst, pest attack and frost and cold waves.
- The provisions of the Disaster Management Act allow states to withdraw funds from two funds established under this law – the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) and the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) at the state level .
- States first use the funds available in the SDRF, and only when the SDRF funds prove inadequate to deal with the magnitude of the disaster, do they seek funds from the NDRF .
- NDRF comes from the Central Government, states contribute 25% of the funds to SDRF (10% in case of special category states), the rest comes from the Centre.

- The money in these funds cannot be used for any purpose other than combating and managing notified disasters.

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**Approval to change the name of Joshimath tehsil to Jyotirmath**

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- The Government of India has approved the proposal of the Uttarakhand government to change the name of Joshimath tehsil in Chamoli district to Jyotirmath and Kosiyakutoli tehsil in Nainital district to Pargana Shri Kainchi Dham Tehsil, named after the ashram of Baba Neem Karoli Maharaj.
- The Union Ministry of Science and Technology has also given a no objection certificate. This is necessary because the Survey of India, the institution responsible for preparing maps in India, comes under the Union Ministry of Science and Technology.
- Jyotirmath (also known as Jyotir Peetha) is one of the four major monastic institutions (monasteries) believed to have been established by the 8th-century philosopher Adi Shankaracharya to spread Advaita Vedanta philosophy across India .
- Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami had announced the name change last year. It was a long-standing demand of local residents, who had raised the issue with the CM, citing the historical and spiritual importance of Joshimath.
- It is believed that the Joshimath area was originally called Jyotirmath, as Adi Guru Shankaracharya came here in the 8th century to meditate under the Amar Kalpa tree and attained enlightenment. However, over time, it became popular as Joshimath.

## 3. ECONOMY

### Digital Health Incentive Scheme (DHIS)

- Indian Government has given a one-year extension to the Digital Health Incentive Scheme (DHIS) to digitise the health records of patients and link them to the Ayushman Bharat Digital Health Account (ABHA ID).
- The scheme will now be effective till June 30, 2025. The Centre has also sought details from states and union territories on the utilisation of funds received through the scheme.
- Under the scheme, government and private hospitals, clinics, nursing homes, diagnostic labs and pharmacies are paid Rs 20 for every additional record digitised by them beyond the limit of 100 transactions per month.
- The scheme is applicable to both public and private hospitals and Digital Solution Companies (DSCs) that create digital health records. Under this, each facility or digital solution company can earn incentives up to Rs 4 crore.

### National Forensic Infrastructure Augmentation Scheme (NFIES)

- The Union Cabinet on June 19 approved the proposal for the Central Sector Scheme of the Ministry of Home Affairs "National Forensic Infrastructure Enhancement Scheme (NFIES)" with a total financial outlay of Rs 2254.43 crore for the period 2024-25 to 2028-29.
- The financial outlay for the Central Sector Scheme will be provided by the Home Ministry from its budget.
- This Scheme includes establishment of campuses of National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU) in the country.
- With the enactment of new criminal laws, which mandates forensic investigation for crimes punishable with imprisonment of 7 years or more, the workload of forensic science laboratories is expected to increase significantly.

- To meet this increased demand, significant investment and enhancement in the national forensic infrastructure is necessary.

### Union Cabinet approves setting up of Vadhavan Greenfield Port in Maharashtra

- The Union Cabinet on June 19 approved setting up of a Major Port at Vadhavan near Dahanu in Maharashtra.
- The project will be constructed by Vadhavan Port Project Limited (VPPL), a special purpose vehicle formed by the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA) and Maharashtra Maritime Board (MMB).
- Vadhavan Port will be developed as an all-weather Greenfield Deep Draft Major Port at Vadhavan in Palghar district of Maharashtra.
- The port will consist of nine container terminals.
- The project is in line with the objectives of the PM Gati Shakti program.
- The capacities created at the port will assist EXIM trade flows through IMEEC (India Middle East Europe Economic Corridor) and INSTC (International North South Transport Corridor).

### Virtual Orientation Programme for Teachers of " PM SHRI Schools "

- Organised a five-day virtual orientation programme on National Mentoring Mission (NMM) and National Professional Standards for Teachers (NPST) for teachers of PM SHRI Schools.

### PM SHRI School: Key Features

- PM SHRI Schools (PM Schools for Rising India) is a centrally sponsored scheme by the Government of India.
- The aim of this initiative to develop over 14500 PM SHRI Schools managed by Central Government/State/UT Government/Local bodies including Kendriya Vidyalayas and Navodaya Vidyalayas.

- PM SHRI Schools will provide leadership by providing mentorship to other schools in their respective areas.
- PM Shri schools will be developed as Green Schools, incorporating eco-friendly aspects like solar panels and LED lights, nutrition gardens with natural farming, waste management, plastic free, water conservation, study of traditions/practices related to environmental protection etc.
- It will nurture students in such a way that they become engaged, productive and contributing citizens towards building an equitable, inclusive and pluralistic society as envisioned by the National Education Policy 2020 .

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**PM gives away Krishi Sakhi certificates to over 30,000 self-help groups**

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- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on 18th June 2024 released the 17th instalment of about Rs20,000 crore under PM-KISAN and distributed certificates to over 30,000 self-help groups known as Krishi Sakhi in Varanasi.
- Under the ' Lakhpati Didi ' programme, there is a target to create 3 crore Lakhpati Didi, one dimension of which is Krishi Sakhi.

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**Agriculture friend (Krishi Sakhi)**

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- Krishi Sakhi Convergence Program (KSCP) aims to transform rural India by empowering rural women as Krishi Sakhis and by providing training and certification to Krishi Sakhis as para-extension workers.
- This certification course is in line with the objectives of " Lakpati Didi " programme.
- Krishi Sakhis are selected as agricultural para-extension workers because they are trusted community resource persons and experienced farmers themselves.
- Krishi Sakhi Training Programme has been launched in 12 States in Phase- I.
- After training, Krishi Sakhis will take a proficiency test. Those who pass will be certified as para-extension workers and will be able to undertake activities under the schemes of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare. In return, they will be paid a fixed resource fee.

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**Union Minister Jitan Ram Manjhi launched two new initiatives on World MSME Day.**

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- Union Minister Jitan Ram Manjhi launched two new initiatives to boost the business of micro and small enterprises using e-commerce.
- The MSME Trade Enablement and Marketing Team initiative has been launched to promote small businesses to participate in online trade using the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) platform.
- This will help over 5 lakh micro and small businesses and half of the beneficiaries of this initiative will be women-led businesses.
- 'Yashaswini' initiative is a public awareness campaign to support informal women-led businesses by providing them capital and more business opportunities.
- Government is focusing on access to credit, increasing access to markets and e-commerce, enhancing digitalisation, and empowerment of women and artisans.

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**Netherlands will emerge as India's third largest export destination in 2023-24 .**

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- During 2023-24, the Netherlands has emerged as India's third largest export destination after the US and the UAE.
  - India mainly exported petroleum products (\$14.29 billion), electrical goods, chemicals and pharmaceuticals to the Netherlands.
  - In the last fiscal year, India's trade surplus with the Netherlands increased from \$13 billion to \$17.4 billion.
  - Netherlands has overtaken major export destinations for India like the UK, Hong Kong, Bangladesh and Germany.
  - In 2023-24, India's exports to the Netherlands are expected to grow by about 3.5 per cent to \$22.36 billion from \$ 21.61 billion in 2022-23 .
  - In 2021-22, the Netherlands was the fifth largest destination for Indian exports.
  - India and the Netherlands established diplomatic relations in 1947 .
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**According to government data, India received the highest FDI from Singapore in 2023-24 .**

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- Singapore has been the largest source of FDI investment for India since 2018-19 .
- However, FDI from Singapore is projected to decline by 31.55% to \$11.77 billion in 2023-24 .
- FDI inflows into India have declined by about 3.5% due to global economic uncertainties.
- FDI equities from Singapore, USA, the UK, the UAE, the Cayman Islands, Germany, and Cyprus has declined in FY24.
- Investment from the Netherlands and Japan increased.
- India received the highest FDI from Mauritius in 2017-18 .
- FDI equity inflows into India dropped 3.49% to \$ 44.42 billion in 2023-24 .
- During 2023-24 total FDI reduced by 1 percent to to \$70.95 billion.
- Total FDI includes equity inflows, reinvested earnings and other capital. In 2021-22, India received the highest ever FDI inflow of \$84.83 billion .
- FDI inflows have declined in sectors such as services, computer software and hardware, trading, telecom, automobiles, pharma and chemicals.
- An increase in inflows was recorded in construction (infrastructure) activities, development and power sectors.
- During previous financial year FDI from Mauritius decreased to the sum of 7.95 bn USD.
- Mauritius was the second largest investor. The US was the third largest investor in India in 2023-24 . It was followed by the Netherlands, Japan, UAE, UK, Cyprus, Germany and the Cayman Islands .
- 25% share in the total FDI received by India during April 2000 to March 2024. Singapore's share is 24%, while the US's share is 10% .

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**Announcement of Minimum Support Price for Kharif Crops for Marketing Year 2024-25**

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- The Economic Affairs Committee of the Cabinet has decided to increase the

Minimum Support Price (MSP) of 14 Kharif crops for the year 2024-25 . This decision was taken in the Union Cabinet meeting held on June 17 under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister. The new MSP will cost Rs 2 lakh crore.

- The MSP of Normal category Paddy has been increased by Rs 117 to Rs 2300 per quintal for the crop year 2023-24 .
- MSP for cotton has been approved at Rs 7121 and for another variety at Rs 7521, which is Rs 501 more than the previous MSP.
- In the recently announced MSP for 2024-25 Kharif, the highest margin over production cost to farmers is on bajra (77 per cent), followed by tur (59 per cent), maize (54 per cent) and urad (52 per cent).

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**Main Kharif Crops**

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- Paddy (rice), maize, jowar, bajra, green gram, groundnut, sugarcane, soybean, urad, tuar, horse gram, jute, flax, cotton etc. Kharif crops are sown in June-July and harvested in September-October.

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**What is MSP (Minimum Support Price) ?**

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- MSP (Minimum Support Price) means the minimum support price is the price at which the government buys grains from farmers. It can also be called government price.
- The Government fixes MSP of crops every year so that farmers can get a fair price for their produce. Under this, the government purchases crops from farmers with the help of government agencies like Food Corporation of India, NAFED.

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**RBI Bi-monthly Monetary Policy Review: Repo rate unchanged at 6.5%**

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- The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) met in Mumbai on 5-7 June. The meeting was chaired by the bank's governor Shaktikanta Das. This was the second bi-monthly June-July monetary policy review meeting of the current financial year 2024-25 . The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) consists of three RBI officials and three external members. The MPC took the decision on the policy rate by a 4:2 majority.
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**MPC Meeting, June 2024: Key highlights**

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- In this meeting, RBI decided to keep the repo rate unchanged at 6.5 percent . This is the seventh consecutive time in which RBI has not made any change in the main rates. The reverse repo rate is at 3.35 percent and the bank rate has been kept stable at 6.75 percent. The MPC last increased the repo rate in February 2023 and it was increased from 6.25 percent to 6.5 percent .
- The expected growth rate of GDP (gross domestic product) for 2024-25 has been increased to 7.2 percent. According to the RBI, the Indian economy will grow at a rate of 8.2 percent in 2023-24 .
- The RBI governor said that on 29 March 2024, India's foreign exchange reserves reached an all-time high of \$645.6 billion.

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**NSO provisional estimates: GDP growth rate in last financial year was 8.2 percent**

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- The National Statistical Organization (NSO) released provisional estimates of the Indian Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth rate for the last financial year 2023-24 on 31 May. According to this, GDP grew by 8.2 percent in the financial year 2023-24. In the previous financial year 2022-23, the GDP growth rate was recorded at 7 percent. The GDP based on constant prices in the last financial year is also estimated to be more than Rs 173 lakh crore.

**Salient Features**

- In the January-March quarter of the financial year 2023-24, the GDP growth rate increased by 7.8 percent on an annual basis . With this, the GDP growth rate increased to 8.2 percent in the entire financial year.
- This is the ninth time since 1960-61 that Indian GDP has grown at 8 per cent or more in a financial year.
- The GDP growth rate in the January-March quarter of the financial year 2023-24 was 6.2 percent on an annual basis . However, the growth rate in the March quarter has slowed down as compared to October-December, 2023. The country's economy grew at a high rate of 8.6 percent in the December quarter .

- In its second advance estimate, the NSO had projected the GDP growth rate for the financial year 2023-24 to be 7.7 percent. On the economic front, India's main rival China's economic growth rate was 5.3 percent in the January-March quarter.
- Gross domestic product (GDP), a basic measure of an economy's economic performance, is the market value of all final goods and services produced within a nation's borders in a given year.

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**In agriculture and allied sectors, the share of crops declined while the share of fishing increased**

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- The National Statistical Office (NSO ) of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI ) has released the publication - ' Statistical Report on Gross Value of Output from Agriculture and Allied Sectors 2024'.

**Key findings of the report**

- GVO of Agriculture and Allied Sectors declined from 62.4 per cent to 54.3 per cent between 2011-12 and 2022-23.
  - The share of livestock has increased from 25.6 percent to 30.9 percent, while the share of fishing and aquaculture has increased from 4.2 percent to 6.9 percent.
  - Thus, the share of crop, livestock, forestry and fishing sub-sectors in the value of production of agriculture and allied sector was 54.3%, 30.9%, 7.9% and 6.9% respectively in 2022-23 .
  - The production of the livestock sub-sector is expected to increase from ₹487.8 thousand crore in 2011-12 to ₹878.5 thousand crore in 2022-23 .
  - Rajasthan (12.5%) and Uttar Pradesh (12.3%) together accounted for nearly a quarter of the production of the livestock sub-sector at constant prices in 2022-23.
  - The production of the fishing and aquaculture sub-sector is expected to increase from about ₹80 thousand crore in 2011-12 to about ₹195 thousand crore in 2022-23. The share of fisheries and aquaculture in the value of production of agriculture and allied sector is expected to increase from 4.2 percent in FY12 to 6.9 percent in FY23 .
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- Andhra Pradesh remained the largest producer of fishing and aquaculture during the period 2015-16 to 2022-23 .
- West Bengal still remains the largest fruit and vegetable producing state.

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**The Department of Public Enterprises granted "Navratna" status to Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders.**

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- Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders has become the 18th public sector undertaking in the country to receive this status.
- With this, Mazagon Dock Engineers India has joined the companies like Concor, Bharat Electronics, Hindustan Aeronautics, RCF, NALCO, NMDC, RVNL, IRCON and IREDA.
- Being a Navratna company, Mazagon Dock does not require central government approval for investments up to ₹ 1,000 crore.
- These companies also have the freedom to invest up to 30% of their total assets within a year, provided it remains within Rs 1,000 crore.
- Navaratna companies are also permitted to form joint ventures, alliances and set up subsidiaries abroad.
- To become a Navaratna company, the PSU must first be a Miniratna company.
- Additionally, the company will have to register a net profit of Rs 5,000 crore for three consecutive years and maintain an average annual turnover of over Rs 25,000 crore for three years.
- Also, its average annual net worth should be more than Rs 15,000 crore for three years .
- Mazagon Dock recorded an annual turnover of ₹9,466 crore for FY24 .
- In April 2024, IREDA was granted Navaratna status by the Department of Public Enterprises.

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**Central Electronics Limited (CEL) has been accorded " Mini Ratna " Category- I status**

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- The Union Ministry of Science and Technology has announced the conferment of " Mini Ratna " Category- I status to Central Electronics Limited (CEL) .
- Central Electronics Limited is a Government of India enterprise under the Department of Scientific and

Industrial Research (DSIR), Ministry of Science and Technology.

- It is the country's leading company in the manufacturing of Solar Photovoltaic (SPV).
- CEL has developed several critical components for tactical use and is supplying these items to defence forces.
- Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh announced granting of ' Mini Ratna 'Category- I status to Central Electronics Limited (CEL).

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**Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh attended the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of Central Electronics Limited (CEL) at Ghaziabad Campus.**

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- He said CEL has transformed from a loss-making PSU to a dividend-paying PSU. CEL has paid dividend for the third consecutive year.
- The net profit of Central Electronics Limited (CEL) has reached about Rs 58 crore.
- Central Electronics Limited has achieved all the performance parameters required for granting Mini Ratna Category-I status.

**Central Electronics Limited:**

- It is an enterprise under the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR).
- It was established in 1974 to commercially exploit indigenous technologies developed by national laboratories and research and development institutions in the country.
- It is a leader in the country in the field of Solar Photovoltaic (SPV).
- CEL has developed a number of critical components for strategic applications and is supplying these items to the defence sector.

**The Indian Army recommended major changes to the Agniveer plan.**

- The Indian Army has reviewed the Agniveer plan and made several recommendations.
  - The Indian Army has suggested increasing the service period from 4 to 7-8 years.
  - It has also recommended increasing the entry age for Agniveers in technical field to 23 years.
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- It has also been recommended that ex-gratia be provided for disability during training and exit management should be handled by a professional agency.
- It has recommended that if any Agniveer dies in war, his family should get subsistence allowance.

**Agneepath Scheme:**

- It was launched to promote the recruitment of youth in the armed forces and reduce the pension bill.
- Under this scheme, both male and female candidates are recruited as Agniveers for a period of four years in the ' Below Officer Rank ' cadre of all three services of the country.
- The government launched the Agnipath scheme on June 15, 2022 .

**Bihar Deputy Chief Minister appointed as convener of GST Rate Rationalisation Panel**

- Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary has been appointed the convener of the Group of Ministers (GoM) on GST rate rationalization . Samrat Choudhary will replace Uttar Pradesh Finance Minister Suresh Khanna.
- The seven-member GoM is tasked with suggesting necessary rate rationalisation and improvements in the inverted duty structure, aimed at simplifying the GST rate framework, reviewing the GST exemption list and enhancing revenue from Goods and Services Tax (GST Rate).
- This is the second time the GST Rate Rationalisation Panel has been reconstituted. The GoM was originally set up in September 2021 under then Karnataka chief minister Basavaraj Bommai.
- Currently, the GST regime has five broad tax slabs of zero, 5, 12, 18 and 28 per cent.
- Luxury and demerit goods are subject to a cess in addition to the highest GST rate of 28 per cent .

**Demerit goods**

- Demerit goods are defined as items that may have a negative impact on the consumer – but these harmful effects are either not known to the consumer or are ignored.
- Examples of these are; tobacco, alcoholic beverages, recreational drugs, gambling, junk food.

**Committee formed to prevent digital payment fraud**

- The Reserve Bank of India has constituted a committee headed by A.P. Hota, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of National Payment Corporation of India (NPCI), to examine various aspects of public digital infrastructure for digital payment platforms. Currently, various digital payment platforms, banks, NPCI, card networks and payment apps take various measures to avoid fraud.

**NSE Indices Limited launches Nifty EV and New Age Automotive Index**

- This index will monitor the performance of businesses in the electric vehicle (EV) sector.
- The index is also designed to monitor the performance of businesses engaged in the development of new-age automotive vehicles and related technology.
- This is a new thematic index. The base date of the index is April 2, 2018. Its base value is 1000 .
- It will be reconstituted semi-annually and rebalanced on a quarterly basis.
- This will be the country's first electric vehicle (EV) index.
- The new index will act as a benchmark for asset managers.
- It will be a reference index based on passive funds in the form of exchange traded funds (ETFs), index funds and structured products.
- As of now, NSE hosts 17 thematic indices. These include Nifty Commodities, Nifty India Consumption, Nifty CPSE, Nifty Energy and Nifty Infrastructure.

**RBI launches PRAVAAH portal, Retail Direct mobile app and Fintech repository**

- Recently, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has launched three new initiatives to enhance the regulatory process, ease retail investment and provide large amounts of data to the fintech sector. These are; PRAVAAH portal, Retail Direct mobile app and Fintech repository.
- The PRAVAAH portal is a centralized, secure web-based platform that allows individuals or entities to apply online for regulatory approvals, licenses



and authorizations from the RBI. 60 applications from various regulatory and supervisory departments of the RBI can be found on this portal.

- Retail Direct Mobile App is a retail investment app that allows investors to buy and sell government securities (G-Sec) on their smartphones. Some time ago, RBI launched the Retail Direct portal to open an account with RBI to allow retail investors to invest directly in government securities i.e. bonds. Now its app has been launched.
- The FinTech Repository will provide comprehensive information on FinTech firms, their activities and technology uses. This repository is designed to support policymakers and industry participants by providing insights on FinTech.

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### **National Stop Diarrhoea Campaign 2024 launched**

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- The Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare launched the National Stop Diarrhoea Campaign on 24 June 2024.
- The National Stop Diarrhoea Campaign 2024 aims to prevent child deaths due to childhood diarrhoea.
- The earlier diarrhoea strategy involved providing ORS packages and information to children under 5 years of age and it was a 2-week campaign.
- The new strategy involves providing Zinc packing along with 2 ORS packets for children below 5 years of age and it is a 2-month campaign.

- To address the persistent problem of childhood diarrhoea and to completely prevent child mortality due to it, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) has rebranded its long-running Intensive Diarrhoea Control Fortnight (IDCF) as Stop Diarrhoea Campaign.
- Launched in 2014, the initiative focuses on disseminating a prevention, protection and treatment (PPT) strategy and increasing the use of oral rehydration solutions (ORS) and zinc. The STOP Diarrhoea campaign will be implemented in two phases.

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### **NCLT approves merger of Air India and Vistara.**

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- The National Company Law Tribunal, Chandigarh Bench has approved the merger of Tata Sons-owned Air India with Vistara.
  - Both airlines may start integrating their networks, human resources and fleet deployment.
  - This merger has resulted in the creation of one of the world's largest airline groups.
  - As per the deal, Singapore Airlines will have 25.1% stake in Air India.
  - The Competition Commission of India (CCI) had approved the merger in September 2023 itself.
  - Vistara is a joint venture between Tata Sons Private Limited and Singapore Airlines Limited (SIA).
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## 4. INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

### S. Korea, India, USA, Japan and EU launched "Biopharmaceutical Alliance"

- South Korea, India, the United States, Japan and the European Union (EU) have launched the Biopharmaceutical Alliance to make a joint effort to build a resilience to supply chain in the biopharmaceutical sector.
- The first meeting of the Biopharmaceutical Alliance was held in San Diego during the Bio International Convention 2024.
- The Biopharmaceutical Alliance has been launched to address future drug supply disruptions experienced during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- At its first meeting, members acknowledged that production of essential raw materials and ingredients is concentrated in a few countries and agreed to work together to expand a pharmaceutical supply chain.

### BIO International Conference 2024 held in USA

- India, the United States, South Korea, Japan, and the European Union have launched a Biopharmaceuticals Alliance. The first meeting of the alliance was held in San Diego, United States, during the Bio International Conference 2024. Biopharmaceuticals are a type of medical drug made using organs and tissues of a living being, microorganisms, animal fluids, or genetically modified cells and organisms.

### 50th G-7 summit held in Italy, IMEC project agreed

- The 50th G7 summit was held in Apulia, Italy, from 13 to 15 June 2024. The meeting was attended by the G7 member states - President of the United States Joe Biden, President of France Emmanuel Macron, Prime Minister of Canada Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom Rishi Sunak, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, and Prime Minister of the host Italy Giorgia Meloni.

### Salient Features

- the G7 summit, member countries supported Ukraine in its fight against Russian aggression. During the summit, US President Joe Biden signed a 10-year security agreement with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky.
- Under the agreement the United States will provide Ukraine with modern weapons and ammunition, but it will not help Ukraine in a war with Russia by sending American troops to Ukraine.
- The G7 countries also agreed to provide Ukraine with \$ 50 billion loan using interest from Russian assets seized after Russia's invasion of Ukraine.
- The next (51<sup>st</sup>) summit will be held in Kananaskis, Alberta, Canada in 2025.

### PM Modi participates in outreach session

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended the summit. This was India's 11th and Mr Modi's fifth consecutive participation in the summit.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi was invited by Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni to participate in outreach sessions on Artificial Intelligence, Energy, Africa and the Mediterranean.
- Apart from the summit, Mr Modi also held bilateral meetings with the leaders of the G-7 countries.
- Prime Minister Modi held discussions with Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, French President Emmanuel Macron, President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelensky and Prime Minister of the United Kingdom Rishi Sunak.

### What is an outreach session ?

- The G7 host country has the right to invite other countries or multilateral institutions to participate in outreach sessions where a particular issue or a range of global and regional issues are discussed.
- The first Indian Prime Minister to be invited to attend a G7 outreach session was Atal Bihari Vajpayee (2003).

- This time in 2024, Italy had invited Algeria, Argentina, Brazil, India, Jordan, Kenya, Mauritania, Tunisia, Turkey and the UAE. Apart from these countries, the heads of the African Development Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the United Nations and the World Bank were also invited.

### Consent for IMEC project

- At the summit, the G-7 countries agreed to support specific infrastructure projects like the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC).
- The IMEC framework was finalised during the G20 summit hosted by India in Delhi. The initiative aims to promote integration among Asian, Middle East and Western countries.
- IMEC plans to establish an extensive network of roads, railways, and shipping routes linking Saudi Arabia, India, the United States, and Europe.
- IMEC is also seen as an attempt by partner countries to increase their strategic influence, particularly in response to China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).
- The BRI is a major infrastructure project of China that links Southeast Asia, Central Asia, Russia and Europe with China.

### G7 Organization: A Look at the Facts

- The G7 is an informal group of the seven most industrialized democratic countries. The G7 group was formed on the initiative of France after the Arab countries increased the prices of crude petroleum oil after the 1973 Arab Israeli War. The member countries of the G7 are Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States.
- In the year 1975, on the call of the then President of France, Valery Giscard d'Estaing, the world's six most industrialized, democratic and non-socialist nations - France, America, Britain, Italy, Germany and Japan organized a meeting in the French capital, Paris, in which this group was formed.
- Canada was included in this group in the year 1976. After Canada's participation, this group came to be known as 'G7'.
- With the inclusion of Russia in 'G7' in the year 1994, this group came to be known as 'G8'.

- On March 27, 2014, Russia was suspended from this organization indefinitely. Now this group is again known as 'G7'.
- 'G7' is an informal organization which has no headquarters or secretariat. Its president is selected on the basis of rotation system.
- 10.3% of the world's population lives in 'G7' countries. The GDP of the member countries is 32.2% of the world's GDP, while its share in world exports is 34.1% and in imports it is 36.7%.

### G7 Leaders Summit to be held in Canada in 2025

- The next G7 Leaders Summit will be held in Kananaskis, in the Canadian province of Alberta, in 2025.
- In a post on X, Canadian PM Justin Trudeau said, "Just announced: The next @G7 Leaders Summit will be held in Kananaskis, Alberta, Canada, in 2025."
- G7 countries pledged to support infrastructure projects
- Key projects include coordination and financing efforts for corridors such as the Lobito, Luzon, Central, and India-Middle East-Europe.
- They also plan to advance existing initiatives such as the European Union's Global Gateway (Lobito Corridor), the African Union's Great Green Wall Initiative and Italy's Mattei Plan for Africa.
- The leaders supported promoting concrete efforts under the "Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment (PGII) initiatives, flagship projects and complementary initiatives to develop transformational economic corridors for quality infrastructure and investment.
- It includes increasing coordination and financing for the Lobito Corridor (Africa), Luzon Corridor (Philippines), Central Corridor, and the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor.

### Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment (PGII) Initiative

- Recently, G7 leaders gave strong support to further advance the Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment (PGII) initiative.
- The PGII scheme was first announced in June 2021 during the G7 (Group of Seven) summit in the UK.

- In 2022, during the G7 summit in Germany, the PGII was officially launched as a joint initiative to help fund infrastructure projects in developing countries through public and private investment.
- The India–Middle East–Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) is part of the Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment (PGII).

### **Great Green Wall initiative**

- Launched in 2007 by the African Union, the African-led Great Green Wall initiative aims to restore degraded landscapes across the continent of Africa and transform the lives of millions of people in the Sahel region.

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### **European Union's Global Gateway**

- The European Commission and the EU High Representative have outlined the Global Gateway, a new European strategy to promote smart, clean and safe connectivity in the digital, energy and transport sectors, and to strengthen health, education and research systems around the world.

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### **Pakistan, Denmark, Greece, Panama and Somalia elected members of UNSC**

- Pakistan, Denmark, Greece, Panama and Somalia have been elected as temporary members of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC). The 193 -member UN General Assembly held elections for five vacant seats through secret ballot on June 6. The 2- year term of these countries will begin from 2025.

### **Salient Points**

- 6 June for the five vacant seats of temporary members in the UNSC. Pakistan, Somalia, Denmark, Greece and Panama were elected as temporary members in the election.
- Pakistan and Somalia were elected to the two seats from African and Asia-Pacific countries. Panama was elected from the Latin America and Caribbean group. Denmark and Greece were elected from the Western Europe and Other States group.
- These newly elected members will replace Japan, Mozambique, Ecuador,

Malta and Switzerland. Their term will end on 31 December 2024. The two-year term of the five new members will begin from January 1, 2025.

- The other non-permanent members currently in the UNSC are Algeria, Guyana, the Republic of Korea (South Korea), Sierra Leone, and Slovenia.

### **United Nations Security Council (UNSC)**

- The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) is the most important body of the United Nations which is primarily responsible for maintaining international peace and security. The UNSC has 15 members, of which 5 are permanent and 10 are temporary.
- 5 permanent members of the United Nations Security Council—the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Russia, and China. They have veto power, and if they vote against any resolution in the United Nations Security Council, then that resolution cannot be passed.
- The 10 non-permanent members of the UN Security Council are elected for a two-year terms and do not have veto power.
- The 10 non-permanent seats are distributed among four regional groups: African and Asia-Pacific, Eastern Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Western Europe and Other States. Members can only be candidates from their regional groups
- India has been elected as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council eight times. India was a member in 1950–1951, 1967–1968, 1972–1973, 1977–1978, 1984–1985, 1991–1992, 2011–2012 and 2021–2022.

### **United Nations**

- The United Nations is an international organization formed on 24 October 1945 following the failure of the League of Nations to prevent World War II.
- Initially, it consisted of 51 member countries including India, but now, it has 193 member countries. The headquarters of the United Nations is in New York, and the current Secretary-General is Antonio Guterres.

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**First IPEF Clean Economy Investor Forum meets in Singapore**

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- Singapore hosted the first IPEF (Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity) Clean Economy Investor Forum meeting on 5 and 6 June 2024. The Indian delegation was led by Sunil Barthwal, Secretary, Department of Commerce. IPEF comprises 14 member countries – the United States, India, Australia, Brunei, Fiji, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam.

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**BRICS Foreign Ministers meeting held in Russia**

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- The BRICS Foreign Ministers' meeting was held in Nizhny Novgorod, Russia on June 10. Global and regional issues were discussed in the meeting.
- The BRICS foreign ministers expressed concern over the ongoing conflicts in many parts of the world. They expressed commitment to peaceful resolution of disputes through diplomacy and inclusive discussions.
- In a point statement, the Foreign Ministers stressed the need for full respect for international humanitarian law in situations of conflict and for humanitarian assistance in accordance with fundamental principles of humanity.
- Dr. Subramanyam Jaishankar was reappointed as Foreign Minister on June 10, that is why he could not attend the meeting.
- India warmly welcomed the representatives of the new member countries - Egypt, Iran, United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and Ethiopia - participating for the first time in the BRICS meeting. These countries were included BRICS in 2023.

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**Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology (iCET)**

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- National Security Advisor (NSA) of India Shri Ajit Doval and National Security Advisor of the United States of America Jake Sullivan chaired the review meeting of India-US "Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technologies (iCET)" on June 17, 2024 at Hyderabad House, New Delhi.

- They took stock of the significant steps taken by India and the United States towards strengthening and enhancing strategic cooperation in key technology areas, including Space, Semiconductors, Advanced Telecommunications, Artificial Intelligence, Quantum, STEM, Biotechnology, Critical Minerals and Clean Energy.
- iCET was launched in January 2023.
- iCET enables India and the US to support each other, promote greater cooperation in the technology sector, innovate jointly and find solutions to challenges.

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**Important Points**

- The two NSAs resolved to enhance cooperation on semiconductor technology and manufacturing, sustainable agriculture and food security.
- They also agreed to enhance cooperation in the areas of clean energy, pandemic preparedness and other critical and emerging technologies.
- India and US will provide \$ 90 million each to the US-India Global Challenges Institute for the next five years.
- US-based General Atomics Company and Indian company 3rd iTech will jointly focus on co-development of semiconductor design and manufacturing.

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**India-US Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology (iCET) Initiative**

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- iCET initiative was agreed upon during the visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the US in May 2022.
  - The iCET initiative was aimed at expanding bilateral strategic technology partnerships, defense and industrial cooperation between academic institutions and businesses of the two countries.
  - The iCET initiative focuses on expanding strategic cooperation between the two countries in Space, Semiconductors, Advanced Telecommunications, Artificial Intelligence, Quantum, Biotechnology and Clean Energy.
  - The first iCET meeting was held in January 2023 in Washington DC, USA.
  - The Indian Space Research Organisation and US space agency NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration)
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will jointly develop and launch the Synthetic Aperture Radar Satellite.

- NASA will provide training to ISRO astronauts in space flights and human space missions.

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### **Paraguay becomes International Solar Alliance (ISA)' 100th full member**

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- Paraguay has become the 100th country to join the International Solar Alliance (ISA) as a full member. The South American nation Paraguay officially submitted its letter of ratification to the ISA on 26 June 2024 in New Delhi.

### **International Solar Alliance**

- India and France launched the ISA during the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP21) in Paris. It aims to promote the adoption of solar energy worldwide.
- It serves as a collaborative platform for member countries to enhance energy access, ensure energy security and adopt sustainable energy sources.
- ISA's main objective is to contribute to the implementation of the Paris Climate Agreement through the rapid and large-scale adoption of solar energy technologies.
- This collaborative effort is seen as vital to the global fight against climate change and for moving towards renewable energy sources.
- With the amendment of its Framework Agreement in 2020, all UN Member States are now eligible to join the ISA.
- ISA is guided by its 'Towards 1000' strategy, which aims to mobilize US\$ 1,000 billion of investment in solar energy solutions by 2030, while providing energy access to 1,000 million people using clean energy solutions and resulting in the installation of 1,000 gigawatts of solar power capacity.
- Its headquarter is in Gurugram, Haryana.

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### **Thailand became the first South Asian country to recognise same-sex marriage.**

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- Thailand's Senate passes the final reading of the Marriage Equality Law.
- This paved the way for Thailand to become the first South Asian country to recognise same-sex marriage.
- This law will come into force after 120 days. It also requires royal assent.

- Thailand is the third country in Asia, after Nepal and Taiwan, to enact marriage equality law.
- Thailand, one of Asia's most popular tourist destinations, is already known for its vibrant LGBT culture and tolerance.

### **Elections to the European Parliament**

- Elections held on 6-9 June for the European Parliament have shown that right-wing and far-right parties have got more success than left-wing and liberal parties. In these elections, about 51% of the 37 crore voters of the 27 member countries of the European Union (EU) voted.
- The members of the European Parliament are directly elected by the citizens of the 27 member countries. Therefore, it provides a certain democratic legitimacy to all the activities of the EU.
- 720 seats in Parliament are allocated on the principle of 'degressive proportionality', meaning that smaller countries elect more Members of European Parliament (MEPs) in proportion to their population.
- MEPs are elected by proportional representation, ensuring that the number of MEPs elected is proportional to the votes they receive.
- In European Parliament elections, voters choose from their national political parties. Winning candidates then become part of **Europe-wide political groups** in the European Parliament.
- These groups are formed on the basis of political ideologies (e.g., European People's Party (EPP)). According to the rules of procedure of the parliament.
- A political group of the European Parliament shall consist of at least 23 members elected from at least seven Member States.
- The Parliament has three major functions. First, it adopts and amends EU law together with the Council of the European Union. Second, it monitors the functioning of all other EU institutions and bodies, particularly the European Commission. It approves or rejects appointments to the European Commission. Third, the Parliament shares powers with the Council over the EU budget, which allows it to influence EU spending.

- The European Parliament also ratifies international agreements, including agreements on trade and investment.

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**Summit on Peace in Ukraine 2024**

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- The two-day Ukraine Peace Summit titled "Summit on Peace in Ukraine" was held on 15-16 June 2024 at the Bürgenstock resort in Switzerland.
- 90 countries and global institutions participated in the event. It was the largest summit on peace in Ukraine after the Full scale attack on Ukraine.
- Russia was not invited, and China did not attend the summit. US Vice President Kamala Harris represented the United States.
- India was represented by Secretary of the Ministry of External Affairs, Ambassador Pawan Kapoor.
- A draft declaration was issued at the summit that reaffirms Ukraine's territorial integrity and explicitly rejects any nuclear threat against the country.

**Summit on peace in Ukraine, India refuses to support the communiqué**

- A summit was held in the Swiss city of Bürgenstock on June 15-16 regarding peace in Ukraine. More than 90 countries from Europe, Asia, Africa and Latin America and four international organizations participated in the conference. Russia refused to participate in the conference.

**Important Points**

- At this summit, many countries supported the territorial integrity of Ukraine and called on all parties to find a lasting solution to the conflict.
- India said that if the peaceful solution is acceptable to both the parties then there can be lasting peace in the region.
- India's stance was that there could be no peace in the region without Russia's participation and since the communiqué was issued without taking Russia's point of view into account, India refused to sign the communiqué.
- Apart from India, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Thailand, Indonesia, Mexico and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) were among the major countries that did not sign the final communique.

- The Russia-Ukraine War began on 24 February 2022 when Russian President Vladimir Putin sent troops into Ukraine to prevent Ukraine from joining the Western military alliance North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

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**US grants Kenya "Major Non-NATO Ally" (MNNA) status**

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- The United States has granted Kenya the status of a "Major Non-NATO Ally (MNNA)". A memorandum published by the US White House states that MNNA status is a designation under US law that provides foreign partners with certain benefits in the areas of defense trade and security cooperation.
- President Biden had pledged to designate Kenya as a Major Non-NATO Ally during Kenyan President William Ruto's three-day visit to the US.
- According to the US Department of State, MNNA status is a powerful symbol of the United States' close ties with those countries.
- Although MNNA status confers military and economic privileges, it does not pledge any collective security to countries.
- This commitment is only available to NATO member states. Countries with MNNA status are eligible to receive loans of material, logistics or equipment for collaborative research, development, testing or evaluation purposes.
- These countries have been able to provide space in their territory to store US-owned war reserve stockpiles.
- Currently 19 countries are accorded the status of "Major Non-NATO Allies" (MNNAs). These are: Argentina, Australia, Bahrain, Brazil, Colombia, Egypt, Israel, Japan, Jordan, Kuwait, Morocco, New Zealand, Pakistan, the Philippines, Qatar, South Korea, Thailand and Tunisia.

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**21st 'Shangri-La Dialogue' held in Singapore**

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- The international defense and security conference Shangri-La Dialogue was held at the Shangri-La Hotel in Singapore from 31 May to 2 June 2024. It was attended by more than a hundred delegates from the Asia-Pacific region and other parts of the world.
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### 21st Shangri-La Dialogue: Key Points

- It was the 21st edition of the Shangri-La Dialogue, which was inaugurated by US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin. The dialogue also involved defense ministers from China, Indonesia, Maldives, France, South Korea and other countries.
- The Dialogue was also attended by Ukrainian President Vladimir Zelensky, Philippines President Ferdinand Marcos Jr and Timor Leste President Dr Jose Horta. India was not represented this time.
- This year China was represented by its Defense Minister Admiral Dong Jun. Addressing the event, he called for firm action to prevent Taiwan's independence.

### Shangri-La Dialogue

- The Shangri-La Dialogue or Asian Security Summit seeks to provide an environment for countries in the Asia Pacific to discuss and find solutions to the region's security problems.
- It was organized by International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) London in collaboration with the Government of Singapore.
- The permanent venue of the meeting is the Shangri-La Hotel in Singapore. The meeting is now more popularly known as the Shangri-La Dialogue.
- The Shangri-La Dialogue is credited to British strategist Sir John Chipman. Sir Chipman approached former Singapore Prime Minister Lee Koon Yew in the 1990s to discuss issues related to the region's security.
- First Asian Security Summitor Shangri-La Dialogue, was held in 2002, in collaboration with Lee Koon Yew.
- It is always inaugurated by the United States Secretary of Defense. The Chinese Defense Minister always inaugurates the next day's session.
- In 2018, Prime Minister Narendra Modi was the first Indian Prime Minister to address the Shangri-La Dialogue.

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### Adani Group bags 30 -year lease for Dar es Salaam port

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- Gautam Adani-owned Adani Group has entered the port business in the African country Tanzania by securing a 30-year lease of Container Terminal 2 at the

Dar es Salaam port in Tanzania. Adani International Ports Holdings Private Limited is a subsidiary of Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Limited (APSEZ).

- Adani Ports signed a 30 -year deal to operate the Dar es Salaam Port Terminal in Tanzania.
- Adani International Ports Holdings Pvt. Ltd. (AIPH), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone (APSEZ), signed a 30 -year concession agreement with the Tanzania Ports Authority.
- The agreement will enable AIPH to operate and manage Container Terminal 2 at the Dar es Salaam Port in Tanzania.
- Dar es Salaam Port is a gateway port, with a well-connected network of roads and railways.
- APSEZ will be the controlling shareholder and will consolidate EAGL in its accounts.
- East Africa Gateway Limited (EAGL) has been incorporated as a joint venture of AIPH, AD Ports Group and East Harbour Terminals Limited (EHTL).
- Container Terminal 2 has an annual cargo handling capacity of 1 million twenty-foot equivalent units (TEU).

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### US Congress passed the "Resolve Tibet Act"

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- The United States Congress (US Parliament) passed an Act Promoting resolution of the Tibet-China Conflict Act, known as the Resolve Tibet Act, on June 12.
  - The bipartisan legislation now awaits approval from President Joe Biden, after which it will become law.
  - This Act is the third notable legislation taken by the US with regards to Tibet after the Tibet Policy Act or TPA (2002), and the Tibetan Policy and Support Act or TPSA (2020).
  - The Resolve Tibet Act authorizes the use of funds to counter Chinese disinformation about Tibet.
  - The Act also challenges the Chinese claim that Tibet has been part of China since ancient times. It urges China to hold meaningful and direct dialogue with the Dalai Lama or his representatives, as well as democratically elected leaders of the Tibetan community, to resolve differences and reach an agreement
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without any preconditions.

- The Resolve Tibet Act seeks to recognize and address the multidimensional socio-cultural identity of the Tibetan people, particularly their “distinct historical, cultural, religious, and linguistic identity.”
- Finally, it amends the Tibet Policy Act to define the exact geographical areas of the Tibet Autonomous Region.

### Kavango-Zambezi Trans-Frontier Conservation Area (KAZA-TFCA)



- The KAZA 2024 Heads of State Summit was held in Livingstone, Zambia. Delegates at the summit called on member countries to withdraw from the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) so that they can have the freedom to sell ivory and other wildlife products.
- It is worth noting that the number of elephants in the Kavango-Zambezi Trans-Frontier Conservation Area is quite high and these countries are troubled by them. They want to trade ivory but this is not possible due to the restrictions of CITES.

### Kavango-Zambezi Trans-Frontier Conservation Area (KAZA-TFCA)

- The Kavango-Zambezi Trans-Frontier Conservation Area (KAZA-TFCA) is a 520,000 square kilometre wildlife sanctuary spanning five South African countries that share common borders along the Okavango and Zambezi river basins.

- The region is located in the Kavango and Zambezi river valleys, where the borders of Angola, Botswana, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe meet.
- The region is home to the Okavango Delta (the world's largest inland delta) and the Victoria Falls (a World Heritage Site and one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World).
- These five countries along with South Africa, have a population of African elephants of approximately 450,000.
- These countries are part of the 19 African elephant range states, of which Botswana alone has a population of 132,000 elephants, followed by Zimbabwe with 100,000, while other large numbers are in South Africa, Zambia, Namibia and Angola.

### Bangladesh Prime Minister's visit to India, several MoUs signed

- Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was on a visit to India on June 22. During this visit, she met President Draupadi Murmu and Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar. She held a bilateral meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in which several agreements were signed between the two countries in various fields.

### India-Bangladesh bilateral meeting key points

- A bilateral meeting was held between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in New Delhi. In the meeting, several MoUs related to various sectors were signed and several MoUs were renewed.
- These agreements cover the areas of Digital and Green Partnership, maritime cooperation, health and medicine, space cooperation, railway connectivity, oceanography, disaster management and fisheries.
- India and Bangladesh shared a vision document for the future to enhance connectivity, commerce and cooperation for prosperity of both the countries. The document outlines India's Developed India Vision- 2047 and Bangladesh's Smart Bangladesh Vision- 2047.
- The two leaders also agreed to accelerate counter-terrorism activities, combat radicalism and peaceful management of the long land border.

- Prime Minister Modi said that Bangladesh is the pillar of India's Neighbourhood First and Act East policies. In his address, he said, Bangladesh is going to become a developing country in 2026. I am confident that together we will take the resolutions of Developed India 2047 and Smart Bangladesh 2041 to fruition.
- Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina described India as a trusted friend and regional partner. Later, Sheikh Hasina met President Draupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

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### China announces gift of two giant pandas to Australia

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- In June 2024, Chinese Premier Li Keqiang visited Australia and focused on the positive aspects of bilateral relations. On this occasion, Li Keqiang announced to gift two new giant pandas to an Australian zoo.
- Li's visit marks the first visit by a Chinese premier to Australia in seven years, thanks to trade partnerships. Mr Li Qiang visited Adelaide Zoo, where Chinese-born giant pandas Wang Wang and Fu Ni have been living since 2009.
- He announced that two more pandas would be loaned to the zoo after the pair returns to China in November.
- Wang Wang and Fu Ni are the only panda pair in the Southern Hemisphere and have failed to produce offspring in Australia.

### The Giant Panda

- The giant panda is the rarest member of the bear family. Only 1,500 of these black and white bears survive in the natural wild.
- Pandas eat nothing but bamboo shoots and leaves. Pandas eat fast, they eat a lot, and they spend about 12 hours a day eating. The reason for this is that they only digest about a fifth of what they eat.
- Pandas are shy ; they do not venture into areas where humans live. Giant pandas live in a few mountain ranges in Sichuan, Shaanxi, and Gansu provinces in south central China.

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### World's oldest inhabited termite mound discovered in Namaqualand region of South Africa

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- Scientists have discovered the world's oldest inhabited termite mounds along the Buffels River in South Africa's Namaqualand region.
- Locally, these mounds are called heuweltjies (the word means " little hills " in Afrikaans ).
- These termite mounds contain an underground network of tunnels and nests of the southern harvester termite, *Microhodotermes viator*.
- The oldest known inhabited mounds were 4,000 years old. Termites are called ecosystem engineers.
- They modify the surrounding soil to maintain favourable moisture and temperature conditions, and their food supply routes extend over several tens of metres.

### Ecosystem Engineer

- Ecosystem engineers are those species that modify the environment around them in a good way, create new habitats or modify existing habitats according to their needs.
- Examples of ecosystem engineers are ; corals, elephants, Gopher Tortoises, Red-cockaded woodpecker, Eurasian beaver, European native oyster, Parrotfish, kelp seaweed).

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### India and Sri Lanka launched "Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre"

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- In June 2024, India and Sri Lanka launched the Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC), reflecting strong maritime security cooperation between the two sides.
- It was inaugurated during the visit of Indian Foreign Minister S. Jaishankar to Sri Lanka.
- The Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre consists of a main centre at the Sri Lanka Navy Headquarters in Colombo and a sub-centre at Hambantota.
- The MRCC built from 6 million grant from India, consists of seven unmanned facilities at strategic locations along the Sri Lankan coast – Galle, Arugam Bay, Batticaloa, Trincomalee, Kallarawa, Point Pedro and Mullikulam.
- The MRCC, set up by state-owned Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), will serve as the nodal centre for search and rescue operations at sea.

- A MoU for this centre was signed in March 2022, and Sri Lankan Navy teams have been trained by BEL in Bengaluru and Colombo to operate the MRCC.

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**Financial Action Task Force (FATF) included India in the ' Regular Follow Up ' category**

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- India has been placed in the ' Regular Follow Up ' category in the "Mutual Evaluation Report of India" by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).
- The report was adopted at the FATF plenary held from 26 to 28 June in Singapore.
- Only four other G20 countries are included in the ' regular follow up ' category.
- FATF places member countries into one of four categories, namely ' Regular Follow Up ', ' Enhanced Follow Up ', ' Grey List ' and ' Black List '. Regular Follow Up is the highest of these four categories.
- Out of the 177 countries covered by FATF and its regional bodies FSRB, only 24 countries, including India, are in regular follow up.
- FATF has recognised the efforts made by India in reducing risks arising from money laundering and terrorist financing, promoting digital economy and implementation of JAM- Jan Dhan, Aadhar, Mobile-Trinity.
- The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is an intergovernmental organization established in 1989 as an international watchdog to combat money laundering, terrorist financing and other related threats to the integrity of the international financial system.
- India became a member of FATF in 2010.

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**64th Council Meeting of the International Sugar Organization (ISO)**

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- Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution inaugurated the 64th Council Meeting of the International Sugar Organization (ISO) at Bharat Mandapam (New Delhi) on 25 June 2024.
- This meeting was concluded on 27 June 2024. Experts from more than 30 countries participated in the meeting and discussed future prospects, challenges and strategies in sugarcane, sugar and allied sectors.
- Earlier, India hosted the 41st session of the ISO Council meeting in 2012.
- The International Sugar Organization is a unique inter-governmental body dedicated to improving the conditions of the world sugar market through discussion, analysis, special studies, transparent statistics, seminars, conferences and workshops.
- The International Sugar Organization exists to administer the 1992 International Sugar Agreement (ISA).
- ISO is the only worldwide forum for the exchange of views between major producing, consuming and trading countries at the inter-governmental level. The International Sugar Organization is based in London. It has 87 member countries.

# 5. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

## **Nagstra- 1: Indian Army receives first batch of killer drones**

- Indian Army has received the first batch of man-portable suicide drones called Nagastra-1 from Economic Explosives Limited (EEL) a subsidiary of Nagpur-based Solar Industries.
- Nagastra -1 is a UAV- based loitering munition designed to act as an aerial ambush system.
- Its primary function is to hover over targets and deliver precision strikes with GPS-enabled accuracy,achieving a remarkable accuracy of 2 metres.
- Nagastra -1 is capable of carrying out precision strikes on enemy training camps, launch pads and infiltrators. This drone can fly at an altitude of over 4,500 metres,making it difficult to detect by radar.
- The drones have more than 75 per cent indigenous parts. The addition of these drones will enhance the Indian Army's ability to carry out cross-border general strikes if required. Drones like the Nagastra-1 with in-built warheads are known as kamikaze or explosive drones.

## **RLV LEX-03: ISRO completes third and final test of "Pushpak"**

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) completed the third Reusable Launch Vehicle (RLV) Landing Experiment (LEX) at the Aeronautical Test Range (ATR) in Chitradurga, Karnataka on June 23. This was the third and final test in the series of LEX 03.
- Following the success of RLV LEX-01 and LEX-02 missions, RLV LEX-03 redemonstrated the autonomous landing capability of RLV under more challenging release conditions (cross range of 500 m against 150 m for LEX-02) and stronger wind conditions.
- During the third test,the winged vehicle "Pushpak" was released from a Chinook helicopter of the Indian Air Force at an altitude of 4.5 km. From a release point 4.5 km away from the runway, Pushpak

autonomously executed cross - range correction maneuvers, approached the runway and made a precision horizontal landing on the centre line of the runway, ISRO said.

- The RLV LEX-03 mission reused the wing structure and flight systems of the LEX- 02 mission without any modifications,demonstrating ISRO's capability to design reusable flight systems for multiple missions.

## **India successfully test fired 'Abhyas ' system**

- India successfully test fired High Speed Expendable Aerial Target (HEAT) ' Abhyaas ' on 27 June 2024. The test was conducted by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) from Integrated Test Range at Chandipur, Odisha.

### **Abhyas**

- This test tested the new advanced radar cross section, visual and infrared enhancements made to the 'Abhyaas' system.
- With this testing it is now ready for production and induction into the Indian Armed Forces.
- Abhyas is essentially a drone designed to dummy enemy aerial vehicles.
- It is being produced by the public sector undertaking Hindustan Aeronautics Limited and the private sector company Larsen & Toubro.

## **Discussion on joint development of Javelin missiles**

- India and the US discussed joint production of US Javelin missiles in India for the Indian Army.
- The Javelin is an anti-tank missile jointly developed and manufactured by American defense companies Raytheon and Lockheed Martin.
- Indian Army had to acquire a limited number of Israeli Spike Anti Tank Guided Missile (ATGM) under emergency procurement to meet its requirements of new ATGMS.

- Requirement of a third generation ATGM has been there for a long time.

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**Defence Ministry begins process to procure 156 Light Combat Helicopters from HAL**

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- The Ministry of Defense has started the process of purchasing 156 Light Combat Helicopters (LCH) from the Government Aerospace Company Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL). Of these, 90 helicopters are for the Army and 66 helicopters are for the Indian Air Force.
- Request for Proposal (RFP) or preliminary tender has been issued by the Ministry for the procurement project.
- The Light Combat Helicopter, also known as Prachand, is the only attack helicopter in the world that can land and take off at an altitude of 5,000 metres (16,400 ft), making it ideal for deployment in high altitude areas of Siachen Glacier and eastern Ladakh.
- It is also capable of firing air-to-ground and air-to-air missiles and can destroy enemy air defence operations.
- It is believed that it can be deployed in the high altitude areas of Siachen Glacier and Eastern Ladakh. This initiative is going to play a major role in increasing the strength of our Indian Army. This is a big step towards self-reliance in the defense sector.

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**Wipro 3D and ISRO join hands for Sustainable Space Exploration through Additive Manufacturing.**

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- Wipro 3D in collaboration with ISRO achieved a milestone in space technology with the successful fabrication of the PS4 3D -printed rocket engine.
- The PS4 3D printed rocket engine powers the fourth stage of the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV).
- The PS4 engine was traditionally manufactured through conventional machining and welding.
- It has been redesigned through additive manufacturing technology.
- Wipro 3D and ISRO used Design for Additive Manufacturing (DfAM) and Laser Powder Bed Fusion (LPBF) technologies to consolidate many more variants into an integrated production unit.
- The 3D -printed PS4 engine has been

developed with minimal material waste and post-print machining operations.

- Adoption of additive manufacturing by ISRO will result in better precision, minimal resource usage and significant reduction in material wastage.
- Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) is used to place earth observation and scientific satellites.

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**Developmental trials of High Speed Expendable Aerial Target ' Abhyaas ' successfully completed.**

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- Six consecutive developmental trials of High Speed Expendable Aerial Target (HEAT) ' Abhyaas ' with advanced booster configuration were successfully completed by DRDO from the Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Chandipur, Odisha.
- With this, ' Abhyaas ' has successfully completed 10 developmental trials demonstrating the reliability of the system.
- Trials were conducted with advanced radar cross section, visual and infrared enhancement systems.
- During the trials, various mission objectives covering safe discharge of booster, launcher clearance and endurance demonstration were successfully accomplished.
- 'Abhyaas' has been designed by DRDO's Aeronautical Development Establishment, Bengaluru and developed through production agencies - Hindustan Aeronautics Limited and Larsen & Toubro.
- It provides a realistic risk combat scenario for weapon systems.
- This indigenous system is designed for autonomous flights with the help of laptop-based ground control system for auto pilot, aircraft integration, pre-flight checks.

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**CDS Anil Chauhan released India's first ' Joint Doctrine ' for cyberspace operations.**

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- In modern warfare, cyber space has emerged as an important and challenging domain.
- 'Joint Doctrine' for Cyberspace Operations will provide guidance to commanders, staff and practitioners in the planning of armed forces.

- Hostile actions of cyberspace can affect India's economy, cohesion, political decision-making, and ability to defend itself.
- This doctrine emphasized on understanding the military aspects of cyberspace operations.
- Development of 'Joint Doctrine' is an important aspect of jointness and integration.
- Apart from traditional areas of warfare like land, sea and air, cyberspace has emerged as an important and challenging domain.

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**Indian Army receives indigenous man-portable counter drone system.**

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- AxisCads Technologies Limited has developed first of its kind Man Portable Counter Drone System (MPCDS).
- AxisCads Technologies Limited had received an MPCDS order worth Rs 100 crore from the Indian Army.
- Man Portable Counter Drone System (MPCDS) will help strengthen India's defence capabilities.
- The MPCDS is compact and portable and operates on batteries and electricity.
- It can detect and intercept various types of drones within a range of up to 5 kilometres.
- In the man-portable category, it is the first counter-drone system to be inducted into the Indian Army.
- This system is being deployed at various locations in different commands of the Indian Army.

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**Information about the India-France TRISHNA mission provided by ISRO.**

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- On the occasion of World Environment Day on June 5, ISRO provided details about its collaborative effort with the French National Space Agency CNES for the upcoming Trishna mission.
- TRISHNA stands for "Thermal Infra-Red Imaging Satellite for High Resolution Natural Resource Assessment."
- TRISHNA is designed to monitor biophysical and radiative variables relevant to Earth's surface temperature, emissivity, and surface energy budget from regional to global scales.
- This mission addresses critical water and food security challenges, focusing

on the impacts of human-induced climate change and efficient water resources management through evapotranspiration monitoring.

- TRISHNA's primary objectives include detailed monitoring of the energy and water budgets of the continental biosphere to quantify terrestrial water stress and water use, and high-resolution observations of water quality and dynamics in coastal and inland waters.
- Additionally, the secondary objectives of Trishna will also help in comprehensive assessment of urban heat islands, detection of thermal anomalies associated with volcanic activity and geothermal resources.

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**Sunita Williams: Pilot of the first flight of Starliner**

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- Indian-origin astronaut Sunita Williams created history by becoming the first woman to fly to the International Space Station on the first mission of Boeing's Starliner test flight
- Veteran NASA astronaut Sunita Williams took off for her third space mission on June 5, 2024 aboard Boeing's Starliner, she was accompanied by American astronaut Butch Wilmore.
- Sunita Williams (58) is the flight test pilot, while Wilmore (61) is the mission commander. Williams made history by becoming the first woman to fly on the first mission of the new human-rated spacecraft.
- Upon arrival at the orbiting laboratory, they will dock and remain there for about a week.
- During this period, Williams and Wilmore will conduct various tests to verify the Starliner's functionality before beginning a parachute-assisted landing in the western United States upon returning to Earth.
- As part of NASA's Commercial Crew Program, this mission marks the first crewed trip for the Starliner spacecraft.
- Its objective is to evaluate the spacecraft's capabilities from launch to docking and culminating with its return to Earth over the western United States.
- Sunita Williams has become the first woman to fly a new spacecraft on a test mission in space.

- Boeing Crew Flight Test (CFT), has been launched as part of NASA's Commercial Crew Program.
- This is a key step toward certifying Starliner for regular crewed flights to the International Space Station.
- If the mission is successful, it will make Starliner the second private spacecraft to carry astronauts to and from the orbiting lab, after SpaceX's Crew Dragon.
- Earlier, Sunita Williams held the records for most spacewalks by a woman (7) and maximum spacewalk time (50 hours, 40 minutes) during her missions on the International Space Station in 2006–2007 and 2012.
- Starliner Capsule will attempt to dock with the International Space Station about 26 hours after liftoff, carrying Sunita Williams, Wilmore and more than 500 pounds of cargo for the orbiting outpost.
- In 2012, Sunita Williams became the first woman to complete a triathlon in space during her visit to the International Space Station.
- During this period, she simulated swimming using a weight lifting machine and ran on a treadmill while tied to a harness.

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### **Chang'e-6: The world's first spacecraft to bring back samples from the far side of the Moon**

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- China's Chang'e - 6 spacecraft on June 25, 2024 became the world's first spacecraft to bring back samples from that side of the Moon that is never visible from Earth. Chang'e - 6 is the first mission in human history to bring back samples from the far side of the Moon.
- Examining samples from the far side could help scientists solve mysteries about the moon's origin and evolution.
- Chang'e - 6 spacecraft was a 53 -day mission. After reaching the Moon's orbit, the mission's orbiter orbited this natural satellite of the Earth, while its lander landed on the lunar surface in the 2,500 kilometer-wide South Pole-Aitken basin.
- Chang'e - 6 spacecraft successfully landed on the far side of the moon to collect samples.
- Chang'e - 6 landed in the vast South Pole–Aitken basin, one of the largest impact craters known in the Solar System.

- This is the first time that samples will be collected from a rarely explored region of the Moon.
- The probe will use two methods for sample collection: a drill to collect samples from below the surface and a robotic spacecraft to take samples from the surface.
- In 2019, China's Chang'e-4 mission landed on the far side and explored the Moon's Von Karman crater with the help of a rover.

### **Far side of the moon**

- The far side of the Moon is often called the dark side because it cannot be seen from Earth, not because it receives no sunlight.
- The Moon is tidally locked with the Earth and hence, we always see only one side or part of the Moon, also called the near side.
- In fact, the Earth's only moon also rotates on its axis, but the Moon takes exactly the same amount of time to rotate on its axis as it takes to complete its monthly orbit around the Earth. As a result, the Moon never turns its back to us, that is, we always see only one side of it.

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### **Craters on Mars named after cities in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar**

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- Scientists of the Ahmedabad-based Physical Research Laboratory (PRL) have discovered three new craters on Mars. These have been discovered in the Tharsis volcanic region on Mars. Tharsis is a vast volcanic plateau centered near the equator in the western hemisphere of Mars. This region contains the largest volcanoes in our solar system.
  - On the recommendation of the Physical Research Laboratory, the Planetary System Nomenclature Working Group of the International Astronomical Union (IAU) approved the naming of three craters on Mars.
  - These three craters are ; Lal crater, Mursan crater and Hilsa crater.
  - "Red Crater" is named after Professor Devendra Lal, a renowned Indian geophysicist and former director of PRL from 1972-1983. The entire area of Red Crater in the Tharsis volcanic region on Mars is covered with lava.
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- "Mursan Crater" is named after a city in Uttar Pradesh, India.
- The Hilsa Crater is named after a town in Bihar, India. The Hilsa Crater is an approximately 10 km wide crater located on the western edge of the rim of the Red Crater.

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### Space MAITRIMission

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- Space Machine Company, Australia has signed a launch service agreement with NewSpace India Limited (NSIL) to launch its second Optimus spacecraft.
- It is the largest Australian-designed and built spacecraft.
- NSIL is a Government of India company under the Department of Space and is the commercial arm of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).
- This mission has been named Space MAITRI (Mission for Australia-India's Technology, Research and Innovation).
- The spacecraft will be launched by NSIL's Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV) in 2026.
- 450 kg Optimus spacecraft will be an important milestone in Australia-India space cooperation. This mission reflects the growing strategic partnership between the two countries.

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### EarthCare Satellite

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- Launched by ESA to study the impact of clouds on climate change.
- The European Space Agency's latest scientific mission has successfully launched into space from the United States, carrying a satellite that could provide vital information about one of the most serious issues facing the world — climate change.
- It is a collaboration between ESA and the Japanese Space Agency JAXA.
- The satellite will study how the formation of clouds and the density of aerosols in the atmosphere affect Earth's temperature.
- After being hidden by low-lying clouds over Vandenberg Space Force Base in Southern California, the satellite lifted off from the launchpad on a SpaceX Falcon 9 launcher.
- The satellite separated from the rocket about 10 minutes after launch and established first contact with the

Hartebestok ground station in South Africa less than an hour after launch.

- First conceived in 2004, the EarthCare Earth Cloud Aerosol and Radiation Explorer was designed and built by Airbus with 75 sub-contracted firms.

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### "Space Variable Objects Monitor (SVOM)" was launched to study gamma-ray bursts

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- Space Variable Objects Monitor (SVOM) spacecraft, jointly developed by China and France, was launched into orbit on June 22 from the Xichang Satellite Launch Center in Sichuan province.
- The satellite is the most powerful mission ever launched to study gamma-ray bursts (GRBs).
- SVOM's primary purpose is to look for GRBs in the universe. Once found, the satellite will measure and study their electromagnetic radiation properties.

### Gamma-ray burst (GRB)

- Gamma-ray bursts (GRBs) are the result of some of the most explosive events in the universe ; such as the birth of black holes and neutron star collisions.
- GRBs are highly energetic gamma-ray bursts, lasting from less than a second to several minutes.
- They are known to occur in remote regions of the universe.
- There are two types of GRBs, short GRBs and long GRBs.
- Short GRBs are the result of the collision of either two neutron stars or a neutron star and a black hole, resulting in the formation of a black hole. They last for less than two seconds.
- Long GRBs are produced by the explosive deaths of massive stars. They can last two seconds or more.
- Scientists observe GRBs because they carry information about explosive events such as the end of massive stars' lives, the formation of black holes in distant galaxies, and how they shape the universe.

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### China and France launched a satellite to study the most distant explosions of stars.

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- The satellite, jointly developed by China and France, was successfully launched on June 22.
  - This satellite is designed to study the most distant explosions of stars.
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- The Long March- 2C rocket carrying this advanced astronomical satellite was launched from the Xichang Satellite Launch Center in Sichuan province.
- The satellite is equipped with four instruments: two French and two Chinese.
- The satellite mission called Space Variable Objects Monitor, is the first joint venture in astronomy between China and France.
- The China-France oceanography satellite (CFO Sat) was launched in 2018.
- In 2011, the United States banned any direct collaboration between NASA and entities based in China.

### **India will be the sixth country to launch its own deep-sea mission.**

- India is going to become the sixth country to launch its own deep-sea mission.
- The deep sea mission will not be limited to just mineral exploration ; it aims to discover new aspects of ocean science.
- This mission will also be very useful for exploration of flora and fauna, conservation of marine biodiversity, etc.
- 'National Institute of Ocean Technology' has developed Matsyayan 6000, which can go up to a depth of 6000 meters in the sea.
- For this mission, a 'Titanium Hull' has been developed in collaboration with ISRO to withstand the extreme pressure.
- The first phase of the mission is likely to be completed by September 2024 and subsequent tests will be conducted by 2026.
- This mission will have a huge impact on flora and fauna, deep sea exploration, commercial exploitation of rare earth metals and discovery and exploration of metals and polymetallic nodules in the Indian seabed.

### **LignoSat: The world's first artificial satellite made of wood**

- Japan's Kyoto University and Sumitomo Forestry announced the completion of construction of the world's first artificial satellite made of wood, "LignoSat".
- Lignosat will launch to the International Space Station from the Kennedy Space

Center in Florida in September 2024. Lignosat is made of magnolia wood.

- This wood has been chosen for its strength and functionality. The wood was obtained from the forest of Sumitomo Forestry Company. The Lignosat project aims to tackle space debris and promote environmentally friendly space activity.
- Current international rules require satellites to re-enter the atmosphere after their missions so that they do not turn into space debris.
- Conventional satellites cause air pollution due to metal particles produced during re-entry. Wooden satellites burn up upon re-entry into the Earth's atmosphere, thus reducing the risk of pollution and debris.

### **Sangam-First Networking Event of Digital Twin Initiative**

- The first networking event of Sangam – Digital Twin initiative of Department of Telecommunications (DoT), Government of India was successfully organised by IIT Delhi on 18-19 June 2024.
- It was attended by more than 100 participants including representatives from large companies to discuss innovative digital solutions in various sectors.
- Department of Telecommunications (DoT) Sangam – Digital Twin initiative aims to revolutionise infrastructure planning and design through the use of cutting-edge technologies and collective intelligence.
- Digital Twin is the presentation of any worldly object, person or process in a live digital form.
- In this, two-way data flows in real time, that is, from the physical object to its digital form and then again from that digital form to the physical object.

### **Immersive Audio and Video Service**

- Nokia CEO Pekka Lundmark made a phone call using a new technology called "immersive audio and video services" (IVAS).
- The new technology improves call quality with three dimensional sound, making conversations more lifelike.

- Current smartphone calls are monophonic which compresses the audio elements together making the sound flat and less detailed, but the new technology will bring 3D audio where a caller will hear everything as if he or she is sitting next to the person calling him or her.
- Nokia made the call using a regular smartphone over a public 5G network.
- In addition to person-to-person immersive calls, it can also be used in conference calls, where participants' voices can be separated based on their spatial locations.
- IVAS allows consumers to hear sound spatially in real time, rather than the monophonic voice experience used in smartphones and personal computers today.
- Ethanol is a legal alcohol that can be consumed. It is produced organically. In contrast, methanol in India is produced from fuels like coal, which is poisonous.
- Methanol, a form of alcohol, is added to increase the strength of moonshine. It is toxic and even a small amount can cause liver failure, blindness and death.
- Methanol is made from high ash coal, agricultural wastes, CO<sub>2</sub> from thermal power plants and natural gas.
- While ethanol can be made edible, methanol is poison. Even very low concentrations of methanol can be toxic, often fatal.
- However, methanol is essential in the manufacture of many products. For example, paints cannot be made without methanol.
- Like ethanol, methanol is also a highly regulated substance.
- Most alcohol-related deaths in India are caused by mixing methanol in alcohol. Methanol can replace petrol and diesel fuel in the transport sector.

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**Discovery of a new protein called Balon**

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- Scientists have discovered a protein called Balon that helps bacteria called *Psychrobacter urativorans* to suddenly go inactive (hibernation) when exposed to adverse climatic conditions (extreme cold or heat) and then become active again when the conditions become normal.
- Ribosome hibernation results in bacteria becoming inactive. Ribosomes are the body's machines that make proteins in cells.
- Scientists knew that there were special proteins that would cover the ribosomes under adverse conditions, such as extremely cold weather, and interfere with their activity, causing the cell to become inactive.
- The scientists found that Balon bound to the active centers of the bacterial ribosomes.
- Thus the state of hibernation prevents the frozen ribosomes from making new proteins. The study related to the discovery has been published in the journal Nature.

**What is methanol ?**

- In June 2024, 58 people died after consuming poisonous liquor in Kallakurichi, Tamil Nadu. According to the post-mortem report, poisonous methanol was mixed in the illicit liquor, which caused the deaths.

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**Indian Air Force to conduct exercise Tarang Shakti- 2024**

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- The Indian Air Force's first multinational air exercise, Tarang Shakti -2024, will be held in August 2024.
- Ten countries are likely to participate in it apart from some other countries as observers. The exercise is to be conducted in two phases.
- The first phase will be held in South India in the first two weeks of August and the second phase will be held in the western region from late August to mid-September.

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**"Vidyut Rakshak"**

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- "Vidyut Rakshak" was unveiled by Indian Army for better monitoring and control of generators.
  - "Vidyut Rakshak" has been developed by Army Design Bureau (ADB).
  - On June 10, it was launched by Vice Chief of Army Staff (VCOAS) Lieutenant General Upendra Dwivedi.
  - 'Vidyut Rakshak' is an Internet of Things-enabled system designed to monitor, protect and control generators.
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- This innovation reflects the Indian Army's dedication towards adopting advanced technologies for operational efficiency.
- This system will be applicable to all generators present in the Indian Army, irrespective of their type, construction, rating or age.
- Moreover, it will predict and prevent errors, automate manual operations with a user-friendly interface, thereby saving manpower.
- An MoU for innovation generation was signed by the Indian Army and the Foundation for Innovation and Technology Transfer (FITT), IIT Delhi during Aero India 2023.
- Vidyut Rakshak is the first innovation launched under this MoU.

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### Red Flag Exercise 2024

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- A contingent of the Indian Air Force (IAF) participated in Exercise Red Flag 2024 conducted by the United States Air Force at Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska from 04 June to 14 June 24.
- It was the second edition of Red Flag 2024, an advanced air combat training exercise conducted four times a year by the US Air Force.
- The exercise saw participation of the Indian Air Force as well as the Republic of Singapore Air Force, the United Kingdom's Royal Air Force, the Royal Netherlands Air Force, the German Luftwaffe, and the US Air Force.
- Indian Air Force contingent participated with Rafale aircraft and its personnel.
- Red Flag is an aerial warfare exercise, conducted with multiple scenarios designed to provide realistic combat settings.
- This was the first time when IAF Rafale aircraft took part in the Red Flag exercise, where they operated alongside RSAF and USAF F-16, F-15s and USAF A-10 aircraft.

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### Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) Exercise 2024

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- The Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) exercise is the world's largest naval exercise. RIMPAC 2024 is the 29th edition of the biennial Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) exercise.

- The Harbour phase of the exercise was conducted at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, USA from 27 June to 07 July 2024. The sea phase of RIMPAC-24 is divided into three sub-phases.
- Indian stealth frigate INS Shivalik also participated in the exercise. INS Shivalik is an indigenously designed and built 6000 tonne guided missile stealth frigate.
- RIMPAC is organised under the leadership of the US Navy and this year navies of about 29 countries participated.

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### 'JIMEX 24' conducted between Japan and India

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- The maritime exercise between Japan and India 'JIMEX 24' was conducted on 11-13 June. This was the 8th edition of JIMEX between the two countries which was held at Yokosuka, Japan.

#### Important Points

- The JIMEX- 24 exercise was hosted by the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF). The Japanese navy is called the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force.
- The Indian Navy's indigenously built stealth frigate INS Shivalik took part in the exercise. The JMSDF was represented by its guided missile destroyer JS Yugiri.
- The exercise included both harbour and sea phases. The aim of this bilateral exercise was to improve interoperability between the maritime forces of the two countries.

#### India-Japan Maritime Exercise

- The India-Japan maritime exercise JIMEX is being conducted biennially between the Indian Navy and the Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) since 2012. The last JIMEX was held in the Bay of Bengal in September 2022.
  - Apart from JIMEX, India and Japan conduct a joint land military exercise called 'Dharma Guardian' annually. A joint air force exercise called 'Shinyu Maitri' is also conducted between the two countries. India and Japan are also involved in a trilateral maritime exercise called Malabar with the US.
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**Freedom Edge Exercise**

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- South Korea, the United States and Japan conducted their first trilateral multi-domain exercise named "Exercise Freedom Edge".
- The three-day exercise was held in Jeju, the southern island of South Korea.
- The exercise comes amid efforts to deepen security cooperation against threats from North Korea fueled by its deepening ties with Russia.
- The exercise focused on ballistic missile defense, air defense, anti-submarine warfare, search and rescue, maritime interception, and defensive cyber training.

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**HOPEX 2024 Exercise**

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- The HOPEX 2024 exercise was a joint exercise between India and Egypt. It was the fourth joint exercise between the Indian Air Force and the Egyptian Air Force.
  - The exercise was conducted in Egypt between 21-26 June.
  - Rafale fighter jets, C-17 Globemaster and IL-78 tankers of the Indian Air Force (IAF) participated in the exercise.
  - The exercise was aimed at promoting bilateral and regional cooperation, symbolizing the long-standing ties between the two countries.
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## 6. SPORTS

### India became the winner of 9th ICC T20 World Cup

- India became the winner of the 9th ICC Men's T20 World Cup (ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024).
- The Indian team won the tournament by defeating the South African team by 7 runs in the final played on 29 June 2024.
- In the final match, India won the toss and chose batting first, the Indian team scored 176 runs at the loss of 7 wickets in the stipulated 20 overs. Chasing the target of 177 runs, South Africa could only score 169 runs at the loss of 8 wickets in 20 overs.
- India won T20 World Cup for the second time. India had earlier won the first ICC Men's T20 World Cup held in South Africa in 2007 under the leadership of Mahendra Singh Dhoni.
- Rohit Sharma became the third Indian captain to win an ICC World Cup after Kapil Dev (1983 ODI World Cup) and Mahendra Singh Dhoni (2007 T20 World Cup, 2011 ODI World Cup).
- With this victory, three Indian players Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli and Ravindra Jadeja retired from T20 International.
- After winning the first Men's T20 World Cup in 2007, India is now the third team to win the tournament twice.
- Apart from India, West Indies have won two T20 World Cup titles in 2012 and 2016 and England in 2010 and 2022.
- Virat Kohli was named "Player of the Match" and Jasprit Bumrah was named "Player of the Tournament".

### India won a total of seven medals in the Taiwan Athletics Open

- The Taiwan Athletics Open was played in Taiwan on 1-2 June 2024. Indian athletes won a total of 7 medals including 3 gold, 3 silver and 1 bronze medal in this tournament. The Taiwan Athletics Open is a World Athletics Continental Tour tournament held in Taipei, the capital of Taiwan.

### Taiwan Athletics Open 2024: Key points

- D.P. Manu won the first gold medal for India in the javelin throw competition. She won the gold medal by throwing the javelin at 81.58 meters. Cheng Chao-Tsun of Chinese Taipei, who holds the Asian record of 91.36 meters, won the silver medal with 76.21 meters.
- Nayana James of Kerala won the gold medal in women's long jump by jumping a distance of 6.43 meters. Japanese player Sumire Hata won the silver medal while Yu Jeongmi of Republic of Korea got the bronze medal.
- Ankesh Chaudhary won the gold medal in the men's 800m race while Somnath Chauhan won the silver medal in the same event.

### Shruti Vora is the first Indian equestrian to win a three-star Grand Prix competition

- Shruti Vora has become the first Indian equestrian to win a three-star Grand Prix competition in equestrian. Shruti won the FEI Dressage World Cup competition held in Lipica city of Slovenia. Shruti Vora, riding her horse Magnanimous, left behind Tatiana Antonenko of Moldova and Juliane Gerich of Austria.

### Dheeraj Bommadevara won two bronze medals at Archery World Cup

- Indian archer Dheeraj Bommadevara won two bronze medals for India at the Archery World Cup 2024 Stage 3 on 23 June 2024. The Indian team in Antalya won four medals - one gold, one silver and two bronze. The Archery World Cup 2024 Stage 3 was held in Antalya, Turkey from 18 to 23 June 2024.

### India won gold medal in compound team event at Antalya Archery World Cup

- India's Jyothi Surekha Vennam, Preneet Kaur and Aditi Swami have won the gold medal in the compound team event at the Antalya Archery World Cup in Turkey. With this win, the Indian team completed a clean sweep this season and won all three gold medals of the World Cup in the compound team event.

## India's Tanvi Sharma won the women's singles title of the Bonn International badminton tournament in Germany on 1 June.

- The young Indian shuttler defeated Wang Pei Yu of Taiwan in straight sets 21-19, 22-20.
- 15 -year-old Tanvi won her first senior title.
- This tournament was organised for the first time in 2019.

### List of winners:

Category	Winner
Men's Singles	Cheng Kai
Women's Singles	Tanvi Sharma
Men's Doubles	Cheng Kai and Su Wei-cheng
Women's Doubles	Yasemen Bektas and Zehra Erdem
Mixed Doubles	Alden Lefilson Putra Menaki and Fitriani

## Divya Deshmukh of India won the World Junior Girls Chess Championship defeating Beloslava Krasteva of Bulgaria.

- Divya defeated Krasteva in the final round at the GIFT City Club in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- Divya won her first Under- 20 title by defeating Krasteva in the tenth round in just 26 moves.
- She won nine games and drew the other two to finish the championship undefeated.
- Divya Deshmukh is from Nagpur, Maharashtra.
- Kazybek Nogerbek of Kazakhstan won the title in the open section.
- Starting as the third seed, the highest-ranked Indian was Pranaav Anand, ranked tenth.
- Mariam Mkrtchyan finished second in the girls' category, half a point behind Divya. Ayan Allahverdiyeva of Azerbaijan was third.

## French Open Tennis 2024: Alcaraz wins men's and Iga women's singles title

- The French Open Tennis 2024 tournament was played at Stade Roland Garros in Paris, France from 26 May to 9

June 2024. It was the 123rd edition of the French Open. The men's and women's singles titles of this tournament were won by Carlos Alcaraz and Iga Swiatek respectively.

### Important Points

- Spain's Carlos Alcaraz won the title by defeating Tokyo Olympic champion Alexander Zverev of Germany in the final. This was Alcaraz's first French Open and third Grand Slam title of his career. Carlos Alcaraz previously won the US Open in 2022 and Wimbledon in 2023.
- World number one Iga Siatek of Poland defeated Jasmine Paolini of Italy in the final. Iga won the French Open singles title for the third consecutive time. This was Iga's fifth Grand Slam title. She also won the US Open women's singles title in 2022.

### List of winners and runners-up of French Open 2024

Category	Winner
Men's Singles	Carlos Alcaraz (Spain)
Women's Singles	Iga Swiatek (Poland)
Men's Doubles	Mate Pavjc (Croatia) and Marcelo Alvaro (El Salvador)
Women's Doubles	Coco Gauff (USA) and Katerina Siniakova (Czech)
Mixed Doubles	Desirae Krawczyk (USA) and Neil Skupski (UK)

### French Open and Grand Slam Tennis Tournaments

- The French Open is an annual tennis tournament. It is played in late May and early June. It is the second Grand Slam in the annual tennis calendar.
- The first of the four Grand Slam tournaments, Wimbledon, began in 1877, followed by the US Open in 1881, the French Open in 1891, and the Australian Open in 1905. All four Grand Slams are played annually.
- The Australian Open is the first Grand Slam of the year (January), followed by the French Open (May–June), Wimbledon (June–July) and the US Open (August–September).
- Wimbledon is played on grass, which

is why it is also known as Lawn tennis. The Australian Open and US Open are played on hard courts while the French Open is played on clay courts.

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**Neeraj Chopra won the gold medal at the Paavo Nurmi Games.**

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- Neeraj Chopra wins his first gold medal at the Paavo Nurmi Games ahead of Olympics 2024.
- He led the majority of the competition, throwing 85.97 metres in his third attempt.
- Tony Keranen won the silver medal with a personal best throw of 84.19m.
- Oliver Helander finished third with a throw of 83.96m. Anderson Peters of Grenada finished fourth with 82.58m.
- In 2022, Neeraj Chopra won a silver medal at the Paavo Nurmi Games.

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**Sreeja Akula became the first Indian player to win the WTT Contender Singles title**

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- Sreeja Akula of Hyderabad has become the first Indian table tennis player to win the WTT World Table Tennis Contender singles title. Sreeja Akula won both the women's singles and doubles titles at the WTT Contender Lagos 2024 competition.

**WTT Contender Lagos 2024: Key highlights**

- The WTT Contender Lagos 2024 event, with a prize money of US\$ 80,000, was held from June 19 to June 23, 2024 in Lagos, Nigeria.
- Sreeja Akula, India's number one women's singles table tennis player, won her first WTT Contender title by defeating Yijie Ding of China in the final of the event.
- Sreeja Akula had made her way to the final by defeating fellow Indian Sutirtha Mukherjee in the semi-finals.

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**Shafali Verma became the fastest female player to score a double century in Test cricket.**

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- On 28 June, India opener Shafali Verma scored the fastest double century in the history of women's Test cricket, surpassing Australia's Annabel Sutherland during any Test match against South Africa.
- Shafali reached her double hundred in just 194 balls, breaking the record

of Sutherland, who scored a double hundred in 248 balls against South Africa earlier this year.

- She hit 23 fours and eight sixes during her aggressive innings.
- After a long gap of almost 22 years, Shafali also became the second Indian after former captain Mithali Raj to score a double century in Test cricket.

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**India's Gulveer Singh won silver medal in Portland Track Festival Athletics Meet**

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- India's Gulveer Singh won the silver medal in the men's 5000 meter race at the Portland Track Festival High Performance Athletics Meet in the USA. Gulveer Singh has also become the fastest Indian runner in the men's 5000 meter race. Gulveer set a national record with 13.189 minutes. Dylan Jacobs of the USA won the gold medal and Eric van der Els won the bronze medal.

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**India won a total of 11 medals in the Under-17 Asian Wrestling Championships.**

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- India concluded the championship with a stellar performance at the Under -17 Asian Wrestling Championship being played in Amman, Jordan.
- The young Indian contingent won a total of 11 medals including four gold, two silver and five bronze medals.
- All four gold medals for India were won by women wrestlers.
- Deepanshi in the 46 kg category, Muskan in the 53 kg category, Rajnita in the 61 kg category and Mansi Lathar in the 69 kg category performed brilliantly and won the gold medals.
- Raja Bala won the silver medal in the 40 kg category.
- In the men's category, Samarth Gajanan Makave won the silver medal in the 55 kg category.
- Whereas, Akash in 65 kg category, Sachin Kumar in 71 kg, Vikas Kachhap in 48 kg, Tushar Tukaram Patil in 60 kg and Raunak in 110 kg weight category won the bronze medal.

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**Pooja Tomar created history by becoming the first Indian to win in the UFC.**

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- Pooja Tomar created history by becoming the first Indian to win a fight in the Ultimate Fighting Championship

(UFC) at UFC Louisville 2024 by defeating Ryan dos Santos of Brazil.

- Hailing from Muzaffarnagar in Uttar Pradesh, Pooja created a new record in 2023 by becoming the first Indian woman to bag a UFC contract.
- In her very first fight in the women's strawweight division, she won via split decision with scores of 30-27, 27-30, and 29-28.
- India has a long tradition of women excelling in combat sports, and since 2013 the UFC has been a platform for women to shine.

#### **Bharat Centre for Olympic Research and Education (B-CORE) was inaugurated.**

- Rashtriya Raksha University celebrated Olympic Day on June 23, 2024 with the inauguration of B-CORE.
- The inauguration took place at the RRU campus in Lavad-Dehgam, Gandhinagar.
- B-CORE was inaugurated by Indian Olympic Association President Dr. PT Usha and others.
- Highlights of the inauguration included the inauguration of the first Olympic Research Centre.
- B-CORE is designed to promote excellence in Olympic sports across India.
- B-CORE is the first centre of its kind in India and South Asia and the 71st in the world.

#### **Magnus Carlsen won the Norway Chess 2024 tournament with 17.5 points.**

- Magnus Carlsen defeated Fabiano Caruana pieces in Armageddon.
- Hikaru Nakamura finished second with 15.5 points, while Chennai's Praggnanandhaa was third with 14.5 points.

- On the other hand, in the women's category of Norway Chess, Ju Wenjun won the title with 19 points, while Anna Muzychuk finished second, three points behind her.
- The annual chess tournament, Norway Chess, is usually held in the period from May to June each year.

#### **Kedar Jadhav and Dinesh Karthik announced their retirement**

- Former Indian all-rounder Kedar Jadhav has announced his retirement from all forms of cricket. Earlier, former Indian wicketkeeper-batsman Dinesh Karthik had announced his retirement. Kedar scored 1389 runs and took 27 wickets in 73 ODIs. Karthik scored 4842 runs at an average of 26.32 in his 257-match career.

#### **Real Madrid won the UEFA Champions League title for the 15th time**

- Spanish Football Club Real Madrid won the 2023-24 UEFA Champions League title for the 15th time by defeating German football club Borussia Dortmund by 2-0 in the final. The European Domestic Professional Football Season 2023-24 has also come to an end with the final match of the UEFA Champions League.

#### **Max Verstappen won the Canadian Grand Prix for the third time in a row.**

- For the third consecutive year, Red Bull driver Max Verstappen emerged victorious at the Canadian Grand Prix, his 60th Formula 1 victory, and sixth in nine races this year.
- Max Verstappen has won 50 of the last 75 Formula 1 races.
- Verstappen finished 3.879 seconds ahead of McLaren's Lando Norris in the 70-lap race on the 2.71-mile (4.36-kilometer) road course.



## 7. AWARDS AND HONOURS

### **Sahitya Akademi announces Yuva Puraskar, Bal Sahitya Puraskar winners for 2024**

- The Sahitya Akademi on Saturday announced the names of 23 authors, including English writer K. Vaishali and Hindi writer Gaurav Pandey, who will be awarded the prestigious Yuva Puraskar for two languages each.
- The National Sahitya Akademi also announced the names of the 24 winners of the Bal Sahitya Puraskar for 2024.
- The winner of the Sanskrit Yuva Puraskar will be announced later.
- The Executive Board of the Sahitya Akademi under the chairmanship Madhav Kaushik, approved the selection of 23 writers, selected on the basis of the recommendations of the Jury Committee consisting of three members each from the respective languages, as per the prescribed rules and procedures.
- Ms Vaishali will be honoured for her memoir "Homeless: Growing Up Lesbian and Dyslexic in India", while Gaurav Pandey will receive the prestigious award for his poetry collection "Smritiyon Ke Beech Ghiri Hai Prithvi".
- The Yuva Puraskar has been awarded for 10 poetry books, seven story collections, two articles and one essay collection, one novel, one ghazal book and one memoir.
- The other winners of the Yuva Puraskar are Nayanjyoti Sarma (Assamese), Sutapa Chakraborty (Bengali), Self Made Rani Baro (Bodo) and Heena Choudhury (Dogri).
- Rinku Rathod (Gujarati), Shruti BR (Kannada), Mohammed Ashraf Zia (Kashmiri), Advait Salgaonkar (Konkani), Rinki Jha Rishika (Maithili) and Shyamkrishnan R. (Malayalam) are also among the winners.
- Waikhom Chingkhenganba (Manipuri), Devidas Saudagar (Marathi), Suraj Chapagain (Nepali), Sanjay Kumar Panda (Odia), Randhir (Punjabi), Sonali Suthar (Rajasthani) have also been selected for the Yuva Puraskar.
- The other winners are Anjan Karmakar (Santhali), Geeta Pradeep Rupani (Sindhi), Lokesh Raghuraman (Tamil), Ramesh Karthik Nayak (Telugu) and Javed Ambar Misbahi (Urdu).
- The young awardees will be presented with a casket containing an engraved copper plaque and a cheque of Rs 50,000.
- For the Bal Sahitya Puraskar, the Academy has selected English writer Nandini Sengupta for her historical novel "The Blue Horse and Other Amazing Animal Stories from Indian History" and Devendra Kumar for his collection of children's stories "51 Children's Stories".
- The Children's Literature Award has been awarded to seven novels, six poetry books, four stories, five short stories, one play and one historical fiction.
- The winners of the Bal Sahitya Puraskar are Ranju Hazarika (Assamese), Dipanwita Roy (Bengali), Birgin Jacoba Machahari (Bodo), Bishen Singh ' Dardi ' (Dogri), Gira Pinakin Bhatt (Gujarati) and Krishnamurthy Biligere (Kannada).
- Muzaffar Hussain Dilbar (Kashmiri), Harsha Sadguru Shetty (Konkani), Narayangi (Maithili), Unni Ammayambalam (Malayalam), Kshetrimayun Subadani (Manipuri), Bharat Sasane (Marathi), Basant Thapa (Nepali) and Manas Ranjan Samal (Odia) are also among the winners.
- The remaining winners are Kuldeep Singh Deep (Punjabi), Prahlad Singh ' Jhorda ' (Rajasthani), Harshdev Madhav (Sanskrit), Dugal Tudu (Santhali), Lal Hotchandani ' Lachar ' (Sindhi), Yuva Vasuki (Tamil), P. Chandrasekhar Azad (Telugu) and Shamsul Islam Farooqui (Urdu).
- The winners of the Bal Sahitya Puraskar will be presented with a box containing an engraved copper plaque and a cheque for Rs 50,000 at a special function.

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**Naik Dhananjay Kumar Singh was awarded the Dag Hammarskjöld Medal posthumously**

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- Naik Dhananjay Kumar Singh, an Indian peacekeeper who sacrificed his life while serving under the flag of the United Nations, was on 30 May posthumously awarded the prestigious United Nations Dag Hammarskjöld Medal for his service and supreme sacrifice.
- Along with him, more than 60 military, police and civilian peacekeepers were honoured.
- Naik Dhananjay Kumar Singh served with the United Nations Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUSCO).
- He was awarded the Dag Hammarskjöld Medal by the United Nations during a ceremony marking the International Day of UN Peacekeepers.
- India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Ruchira Kamboj received this medal from UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres.
- On this occasion, Major Radhika Sen of the Indian Army, who serves under the United Nations, was honoured with the prestigious Gender Advocate Award.

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**Vinod Ganatra became the first Indian to be awarded the ' Nelson Mandela Lifetime Achievement Award '**

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- Globally acclaimed Indian filmmaker Vinod Ganatra has been honoured with South Africa's prestigious 'Nelson Mandela Lifetime Achievement Award '.

**Important Points**

- He was honoured with this prestigious award on June 17 at the 7th Nelson Mandela Children's Film Festival. The honour was given for his contribution to the world of cinema for children.
- Vinod Ganatra has become the first Indian to be awarded the ' Nelson Mandela Lifetime Achievement Award '.
- Ganatra has won 36 national and international awards, including the Jankinath Gour Award from Doordarshan for his children's programme ' Baingan Raja '.
- He is the only Indian filmmaker to receive the ' Liv Ullman Peace Prize ' in Chicago for his Gujarati film ' Harun-Arun '.

- Ganatra has edited and directed over 400 documentaries and newsreels, as well as produced 25 multilingual television programmes for children and youth.

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**RBI honoured with "Risk Manager of the Year Award 2024"**

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- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has been awarded the "Risk Manager of the Year Award 2024" by Central Banking, a renowned London-based publication.
- Executive Director Shri Manoranjan Mishra received the award on behalf of RBI. The award reflects RBI's 's significant progress in developing strong risk management and enhanced awareness, reinforcing its essential role in maintaining the stability of India's financial system.
- During the recent global economic turmoil, the RBI adopted a cautious approach to monetary policy. The Indian central bank, unlike many other central banks, did not raise interest rates drastically, which could have hampered economic growth in India. However, it maintained an accommodative stance by keeping interest rates stable while closely monitoring inflation.
- RBI set up a regulatory sandbox to facilitate live testing of new financial technology products and services in a controlled regulatory environment.
- On June 7, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) eased foreign investment regulations and clarified policies for wealthy Indians, business families and startups wishing to invest in foreign securities, funds and companies.

**Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) Framework**

- RBI received praise for introducing a new ERM framework.
  - Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) is the process of planning, organizing, directing, and controlling an organization's activities to reduce the harmful effects of risk on its capital and income.
  - Enterprise risk management can include financial, strategic, and operational risks, as well as risks associated with accidental losses.
  - ERM is designed to manage and identify risks across an organization and its extended network.
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**WHO 's Nelson Mandela Award to Indian Institute of Health 'NIMHANS'**

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- The World Health Organization (WHO) has awarded the National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS) in Bengaluru the Nelson Mandela Award for Health Promotion 2024. NIMHANS was given this award jointly with Professor Bontle Mbongwe of Botswana.

**Important Points**

- NIMHANS Director Dr. Pratima Murthy received the award at a special ceremony at the 70th World Health Assembly in Geneva on 31 May 2024. WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus was present on the occasion.
- WHO selects eight winners from each of the four regions—Africa, Eastern Mediterranean, Southeast Asia, and Western Pacific. Each winner is an individual or institution that has made a unique contribution to public health in their country or globally.
- NIMHANS (National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences) was established on 27 December 1974 by merging the Mental Hospital established by the Government of Mysore and the All India Institute of Mental Health of the Government of India.
- NIMHANS is under the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. In 2012, NIMHANS was declared an Institute of National Importance.
- WHO is a subsidiary unit of the United Nations. It was established on 7 April 1948. The headquarters of WHO is located in Geneva, Switzerland. India is a member country of WHO. Director General of WHO: Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus (since May 2017 ).

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**Arundhati Roy awarded the PEN Pinter Prize for her 'Suflinching' writing.**

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- On June 27, the prestigious PEN Pinter Prize 2024 was awarded to Booker Prize-winning author Arundhati Roy for her "unflinching and uncompromising" writing.
- Established in 2009 by the charity English PEN, the award defends freedom of expression and celebrates literature in memory of Nobel Laureate playwright Harold Pinter.

- She won the Booker Prize for his first novel, *The God of Small Things*.
- The jury this year included writer and musician Roger Robinson, actor and activist Khalid Abdullah, and Ruth Borthwick, president of English PEN.
- She will receive the award on October 10 at a ceremony co-hosted by the British Library.
- It is an annual award given for outstanding literary works in English.
- The award is given to a writer resident in the UK, Ireland and the Commonwealth whose work shows a 'fierce intellectual determination' to define the real truth of our lives and our societies.

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**Wildlife filmmaker Shri Subbiah NallaMuthu honoured with V. Shantaram Lifetime Achievement Award**

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- Wildlife filmmaker Shri Subbiah NallaMuthu has been announced as the recipient of the V. Shantaram Lifetime Achievement Award at the 18th Mumbai International Film Festival (MIFF).
- Shri Subbiah NallaMuthu has made an outstanding contribution in the making of wildlife based films, which has earned him appreciation all over the world. Shri Subbiah NallaMuthu is an alumnus of the Film and Television Institute of India.
- She gained recognition for her work on India's longest-running Panda Awards winning environmental series called *Living on the Edge*.
- Her documentary on the Royal Bengal Tiger has aired on the National Geographic Channel and the BBC. His prolific filmography includes *Tiger Dynasty* (2012-2013 ), *Tiger Queen* (2010) and *The World's Most Famous Tiger* (2017).
- She has made numerous documentary films, including *Earth File* (2000) for BBC World and *The World Gone Wild* (2001) for Animal Planet, focusing on the environment as well as the interdependence between humans and ecosystems.

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**Dr. V Shantaram Lifetime Achievement Award**

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- Dr. V Shantaram Lifetime Achievement Award is given at each edition of the Mumbai International Film Festival to a filmmaker for his/her significant contribution to the world of
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documentary films and its circulation in India.

- A cash prize of Rs 10 lakh, a trophy and a citation is given.

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**Vellayan Subbiah honoured with EY World Entrepreneur of the Year Award 2024**

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- Indian entrepreneur Vellayan Subbiah was awarded the EY World Entrepreneur Of The Year Award 2024 on June 6. He was given this honor at a ceremony held at the Salle des Etoiles in Monaco.
- Vellayan Subbiah is the fourth Indian to win this prestigious award. Before him, NR Narayana Murthy of Infosys, Uday Kotak of Kotak Finance and Kiran Mazumdar Shaw of Biocon Limited were given this honor.
- Vellayan Subbiah is the Executive Vice Chairman of Tube Investments of India (TII) and Chairman of Cholamandalam Chola Investment and Finance Limited, a non-banking finance company.
- Vellayan Subbiah was honoured for his transformational leadership. He helped Cholamandalam Chola Investment and Finance Ltd grow its business manifold during the time of global recession.
- EY Global Limited hosts the annual World Entrepreneur of the Year event to celebrate the achievements of visionary leaders who are transforming industries, growing the economy and providing solutions to global challenges.

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**C-DOT honoured with United Nations' WSIS 2024 "Champion" Award**

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- Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT), the premier telecom research and development centre of the Government of India has won the United Nations World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) 2024 'Champion' Award. The award to C-DOT was announced at the WISS+ 20 Forum High-Level Event 2024.

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**Siddhesh Sakore named UNCCD- Land Hero**

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- Sakore, a farmer from Maharashtra and founder of Agro Rangers, has been named a Land Hero by the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).

- On the occasion of World Desertification and Drought Day on June 17, UNCCD announced the names of 10 Land Heroes at an event in Bonn, Germany.
- The UNCCD Land Hero campaign recognises and supports young individuals and youth organisations who are making a positive impact against desertification, land degradation and drought.
- The campaign aims to engage youth in the age group of 18-35 years as agents of change for sustainable land management and implementation of the Convention.

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**IPBES will receive the 2024 Blue Planet Prize**

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- The Blue Planet Prize for the year 2024 has been awarded to Robert Costanza and an organization named "Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services" (IPBES).

**Blue Planet Prize**

- The Blue Planet Prize is awarded by the Asahi Glass Foundation of Japan.
- It is awarded annually to individuals and organisations to recognise outstanding achievements in scientific research and its uses that have helped provide solutions to global environmental problems.
- The prize carries a sum of \$500,000.

**IPBES**

- The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) is an independent intergovernmental body established by governments to strengthen the science-policy interface for biodiversity and ecosystem services, in order to promote the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, long-term human well-being and sustainable development.
- It was established on 21 April 2012 in Panama City by 94 governments.
- It is not a United Nations agency, although the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) provides secretariat services to IPBES.
- The Plenary is the governing body of IPBES – composed of representatives from IPBES Member Countries and usually meets once per year.

## 8. PERSON IN NEWS

### **Lieutenant General Upendra Dwivedi appointed new Army Chief**

- Current Vice Chief of Army Staff Lieutenant General Upendra Dwivedi has been appointed as the new Chief of Army Staff. He took charge on 30 June 2024. He replaced the current Army Chief General Manoj C Pandey who retired on 30 June.
- The government had given a one-month extension to Army Chief General Manoj Pandey. Due to this, he will remain in this post till June 30. Earlier, he was to retire on May 31.
- Lieutenant General Upendra Dwivedi will be the 30th Chief of the Indian Army. Currently, he is the Deputy Chief of the Army Staff. He has been awarded the Param Vishisht Seva Medal (PVSM), Ati Vishisht Seva Medal (AVSM) and three GOC-in-C commendations.

### **Indian Army: A Glimpse**

- With approximately 1.46 million active personnel, the Indian Army is the second largest army in the world after China. The Indian Army is under the Union Ministry of Defence, and the President of India is its Commander in Chief.
- At the time of independence, the Indian Army Chief was General Sir Robert Lockhart. The first Indian Army Chief of India was KM Cariappa. He became the Army Chief on 15 January 1949.
- The Indian Army is headquartered in New Delhi, where the Army Chief sits. The Army has six operational commands and one training command, each commanded by a Lieutenant General.

### **Lieutenant General NS Rajasubramani will be the new Vice Army Chief.**

- Lieutenant General NS Rajasubramani, who is currently heading the Army's Central Command, will replace Lieutenant General Upendra Dwivedi.
- Lieutenant General Dwivedi will retire as Vice Chief of Army Staff on June 30.

- Lieutenant General NS Rajasubramani joined the Indian Army in 1985 in the Garhwal Rifles.
- He has over 37 years of experience in the Indian Army, serving in various positions.
- He also commanded the Premier Kharga Corps in North India and Ambala in 2020.

### **Ajit Doval appointed Security Advisor and PK Mishra appointed Principal Secretary**

- Ajit Doval has once again been appointed as the National Security Advisor and PK Mishra as the Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet approved these appointments. Both these officers have been given the status of Cabinet Minister in seniority. The Appointments Committee has also approved the appointment of Amit Khare and Tarun Kapoor as advisors to the Prime Minister.

### **Anamika B Rajeev is the first woman helicopter pilot of the Indian Navy**

- Indian Navy Sub Lieutenant Anamika B Rajeev has become the first woman helicopter pilot of the Indian Navy. Now she will fly naval helicopters like Sea Kings, ALH Dhruv, Chetak and MH-60R Seahawks. Earlier in 2018, three women pilots, Avani Chaturvedi, Mohana Singh and Bhawana Kanth were commissioned as fighter pilots in the Indian Air Force.

### **Extension of service to Intelligence Bureau Director General Tapan Kumar Deka**

- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet, headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved a one-year extension to the current Director General of Intelligence Bureau Tapan Kumar Deka. Tapan Kumar Deka will remain in office till June 30, 2025.

### **Pradeep Singh Kharola**

- Pradeep Singh Kharola has replaced

Subodh Kumar Singh as the new Director General (DG) of the National Testing Agency (NTA).

- Pradeep Singh Kharola is a 1985 batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer.
- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved giving additional charge of the post of Director General, NTA, Ministry of Education to Pradeep Singh Kharola.
- Kharola is the Chairman and Managing Director of India Trade Promotion Organisation.
- He has been given additional charge till the appointment of a regular incumbent or till further orders, whichever is earlier.

#### **National Testing Agency:**

- It was established in November 2017. Pradeep Kumar Joshi is the current Chairman of NTA.
- It is an autonomous agency under the Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education.
- It has been established to conduct entrance examinations for admission/fellowship in higher educational institutions.

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#### **Kapil Dev elected as the new President of PGTI**

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- Cricketer and golfer Kapil Dev has been unanimously elected as the new president of the Professional Golf Tour of India (PGTI). Kapil Dev was unanimously elected as the new president after the current president H Srinivasan withdrew his candidature for the post of President.

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#### **Inder Pal Singh Bindra has been appointed CCI Secretary.**

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- Inder Pal Singh Bindra has been appointed as Secretary of the Competition Commission of India (CCI) for a term of three years.
- He will replace Anupama Anand, who has resigned after appointment in September 2023.
- Prior to the appointment, Bindra was posted as an officer in the Income Tax Department.

#### **Competition Commission of India (CCI):**

- It was constituted on 14 October 2003 under the Competition Commission Act, 2002.

- It has a Chairman and six members. It is a quasi-judicial body.
- The Chairperson and Members are appointed by the Central Government.
- It aims to eliminate practices which affect competition in the Indian market and to protect the interests of consumers.

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#### **Helen Mary Roberts became the first female brigadier in the Pakistan Army from a minority community**

- Dr Helen Mary Roberts, serving in the Pakistan Army Medical Corps, has created history by becoming the first woman from a Christian and minority community to attain the rank of Brigadier.
- Helen was among the officers of the Pakistan Army who were promoted as Brigadier and Colonel by the selection board.
- With 26 years of experience, Brigadier Dr. Helen is a senior pathologist serving in the Pakistan Army.
- According to data released in 2021 by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, the country is 96.47% Muslim, followed by 2.14% Hindus, 1.27% Christians, 0.09% Ahmadiyya Muslims and 0.02% others.

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#### **Ruchira Kamboj has retired after 35 years of service.**

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- Ruchira Kamboj was India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations.
- She was India's first woman UN ambassador. She joined the Indian Foreign Service in 1987.
- She formally assumed office as Permanent Representative/Ambassador of India in New York on August 2, 2022.
- She also served as Deputy Head of the Office of the Secretary-General at the Commonwealth Secretariat in London.
- She was the Chief of Protocol of India from 2011-2014. She is the first and only woman to have held this position in the government so far.

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#### **Vikram Misri appointed as 35th Foreign Secretary of India**

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- Vikram Misri has been appointed as the 35th Foreign Secretary of India. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet, headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved his appointment on June 28.
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- He replaced Vinay Mohan Kwatra, whose term ended on July 14.
- Vikram Misri, 1989 batch Indian Foreign Service officer, is currently serving as Deputy National Security Adviser in the National Security Council Secretariat.
- He has served as the Indian envoy to China, Myanmar and Spain. Vikram Misri is considered a China expert and was India's ambassador to China from January 2019 to December 2021 (during the Galwan Valley clash).
- Vikram Misri is the 35th Foreign Secretary of India. KPS Menon was the first Foreign Secretary of India, who was appointed by the Government of India after independence in 1948.

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**Atul Kumar Chaudhary has been appointed Secretary of TRAI.**

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- Atul Kumar Chaudhary has replaced V Raghunandan as Secretary of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI).
- Atul Kumar Chaudhary was presently working as Deputy Director General (DDG) in Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI).
- The post was vacant after the retirement of V Raghunandan on May 31.
- He has worked in various positions in Personnel, Human Resources, Administration, Licensing, Vigilance Branch of BSNL and Department of Telecommunication (DOT).
- He will be responsible for developing guidelines and policies in collaboration with stakeholders regarding quality of services.
- Manoj Jain took charge as Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of defence PSU Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL). His appointment has become effective from June 20.

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**NATO appointed Mark Rutte as its next Secretary General.**

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- Mark Rutte, the outgoing Prime Minister of the Netherlands, will be the new Secretary General of NATO.
- His appointment was approved by NATO ambassadors during a meeting at its headquarters in Brussels.
- He will take over from the current Secretary-General, Jens Stoltenberg of Norway, on October 1.

- The Secretary-General presides over meetings and guides often intense consultations among member countries to ensure the stability of the organization.

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**North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO):**

- It is an intergovernmental political and military alliance of North American and European countries.
- It was created on 4 April 1949 by 12 countries from Europe and North America.
- Currently, NATO has 32 member countries.
- Its headquarter is located in Brussels, Belgium.

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**Cyril Ramaphosa re-elected President of South Africa**

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- Cyril Ramaphosa has been re-elected President of South Africa. The South African Parliament elected Cyril Ramaphosa as President at the first meeting of the National Assembly of the 7th Parliament on 14 June 2024.
- In the presidential elections in Africa, the ruling African National Congress did not get a majority for 30 years. Ramaphosa is the President of the African National Congress.
- There is a broad consensus among the main opposition party African Congress and other parties to end the political deadlock.
- African National Congress MP Mdumiseni Ntuli proposed Ramaphosa's name for President and was supported by Inkatha Freedom Party leader and MP Velenkosini Hlabisa during the process presided over by Chief Justice Raymond Zondo.
- The African National Congress has been the dominant political force in South Africa since its first democratic elections in 1994.
- Ramaphosa was first sworn in as President of South Africa on 15 February 2018 and again on 22 May 2019. The South African President is elected for a term of five years.

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**Claudia Scheinbaum elected first woman President of Mexico**

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- Mexico has elected a female President for the first time in its 200-year history.
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Mexico holds elections for a new President and more than 20,000 political positions on June 2, 2024.

- There were three candidates for President of Mexico—Claudia Schienbaum of the ruling MORENA Party, Xochitl Gálvez, and Jorge Álvarez Mánez, candidate of the opposition party.
- Claudia Scheinbaum, 61, is a climate activist and former mayor of Mexico City. She is the first Jew to become President of Mexico, a predominantly Catholic city.
- Claudia Schienbaum will replace the current President of Mexico, Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador. Obrador is a leftist leader and is considered the second most popular leader in the world after Narendra Modi.
- Incumbent President Andrés Obrador was unable to contest the election because Mexico's Constitution states that a person can only serve once.

### **Mexico**

- The official name of Mexico is the United Mexican States. It is located in North America, but culturally it is considered part of Latin America. The capital of Mexico is Mexico City. It has the largest Spanish-speaking population in the world. The currency of Mexico is Mexican peso.

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### **Halla Tomasdottir elected as the 7th President of Iceland**

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- Businesswoman and investor Halla Tomasdottir has been elected as the seventh President of Iceland.
- She will replace Guðna Johansson on August 1, 2024.
- The President of Iceland serves a term of four years. The presidential election in Iceland was held on 1 June 2024.
- Iceland is a parliamentary democracy and the position of the President is largely ceremonial. Actual executive power rests with the Council of Ministers headed by the Prime Minister.
- Iceland is a Nordic island nation located in the North Atlantic, with a population of 384,000.

- Vigdís Finnbogadóttir was the first elected female President of Iceland.

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### **Sheikh Sabah Khalid Al Sabah has been appointed the new Crown Prince by the ruling Emir of Kuwait.**

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- Sheikh Sabah previously served as Prime Minister and Foreign Minister in Kuwait.
- Sheikh Meshal Al Ahmad Al Jaber is the ruling Emir of Kuwait. He appointed the new Crown Prince about six months after ascending the throne.
- Sheikh Meshal recently dissolved parliament for four years. The Emir is the Head of State.
- Kuwait has the sixth largest known oil reserves in the world. It is located at the tip of the Persian Gulf.
- It is bordered by Iraq to the north and Saudi Arabia to the south. It also shares a maritime border with Iran. Its capital is Kuwait City.

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### **Indian-American Suhas Subramanyam won the Democratic Congressional Primary in Virginia.**

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- Indian-American Suhas Subramanyan defeated eleven other candidates, including fellow Indian-American Crystal Kaul, to win the Democratic Primary for a Virginia Congressional seat.
- Subramanyam was the first Indian-American, South Asian, and Hindu to be elected to the Virginia General Assembly in 2019 and to the Virginia State Senate in 2023.
- Subramanyan was contesting for the US House of Representatives from Virginia's 10th congressional district, which has a large Indian-American population.
- In 2023, its representative, Democratic Congresswoman Jennifer Wexton, announced she will not run for the seat.
- Subramanyam was born in Houston to Indian-American parents who had immigrated to the United States from Bengaluru.
- He was appointed to the position of White House Technology Policy Advisor by then-President Barack Obama in 2015.



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**Lieutenant General Waker-uz-Zaman has been appointed as the new Army Chief of Bangladesh.**

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- Lieutenant General Waker-uz-Zaman is the new Army Chief of Bangladesh.
- He took charge on June 23 for a term of three years.
- Zaman was currently serving as the Chief of General Staff of the Bangladesh Army. He replaced General SM Shafiuddin Ahmed.
- Wakar-uz-Zaman was commissioned as an Infantry Corps officer in 1985.
- Zaman will oversee military operations, military intelligence, UN peacekeeping affairs and the budget, as well as other military-related issues.
- He also headed the Bangladesh National Authority for Chemical Weapons Convention as Chairman.
- He is an alumnus of Bangladesh Defence Services Command.

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**Jyoti Vij has been appointed Director General of FICCI.**

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- Jyoti Vij has assumed charge as the Director General of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) with immediate effect.
- Vij is currently the Additional Director General at FICCI. He has worked in various sectors.
- Shailesh Pathak has resigned from the post of Secretary General of FICCI due to personal reasons.

**Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI):**

- It was established in 1927 on the advice of G.D. Birla and Purushottamdas Thakurdas.
- Its primary goal is to promote and protect the interests of Indian businesses domestically and internationally.
- Its headquarters is in New Delhi.
- It is India's largest, oldest and apex non-governmental trade association.

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**The Russian cosmonaut became the first person to spend 1,000 days in space.**

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- Oleg Kononenko, who has made five trips to the International Space Station since 2008, achieved this feat on June 4.
- His current journey to the ISS began on

September 15, 2023, when he flew into space alongside NASA astronaut Loral O'Hara and her compatriot Nikolai Chub.

- In February 2024, Kononenko set the total space time record for the first time when he surpassed the record of 878 days, 11 hours, 29 minutes and 48 seconds set by fellow Russian Gennady Padalka in 2015.
- On September 23, 2024, if Kononenko's mission ends as scheduled, he will have spent a total of 1,110 days in orbit.
- The International Space Station is one of the few areas in which the United States and Russia are still cooperating closely, even after Moscow's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022.
- In December, Roscosmos announced that its cross-flight programme with NASA to ferry astronauts to the ISS had been extended to 2025.

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**Chandrayaan- 1 mission director Srinivas Hegde passed away**

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- Srinivas Hegde, mission director of India's first lunar mission Chandrayaan -1, passed away in Bengaluru.
- Mr Hegde was associated with the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) for over three decades. He was associated with several landmark missions undertaken by ISRO and notable among them was Chandrayaan -1 launched in 2008.

**Chandrayaan- 1 Mission**

- India's first lunar mission Chandrayaan-1 made the pioneering discovery of water molecules on the Moon.
  - India's first Moon Mission Chandrayaan-1 was successfully launched by PSLV-C11 launch vehicle on October 22, 2008 from SHAR, Sriharikota.
  - This spacecraft was orbiting the Moon at an altitude of 100 km from the lunar surface.
  - The spacecraft also carried 11 scientific instruments made in India, the US, Britain, Germany, Sweden and Bulgaria.
  - This mission made more than 3,400 orbits around the Moon and ended on August 29, 2009 when communications with the spacecraft were lost.
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**Ramoji Film City founder Ramoji Rao passes away**

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- Ramoji Rao, founder of Ramoji Film City, died on June 8. He was 87 years old. Ramoji Rao's full name was Cherukuri Ramoji Rao. He was born on 16 November 1936 in a farmer family in Pedaparupudi village of Krishna district of Andhra Pradesh.
- Ramoji Rao founded the Ramoji Group in 1962, which includes Ramoji Film City, the world's largest film studio in Hyderabad, Usha Kiran Movies, Mayuri Film Distributors, Margdarshi Chit Funds and Dolphin Group of Hotels.
- Ramoji was awarded the Padma Vibhushan, the country's second highest civilian award, in 2016 for his contributions to journalism, literature and education.
- Ramoji Film City is listed in the Guinness Book of World Records as the world's largest film studio complex.
- He also started the ETV Network, with multiple channels broadcasting in eight languages: Telugu, Bengali, Marathi, Kannada, Odia, Gujarati, Urdu, and Hindi.

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**Sarod player Pandit Rajeev Taranath passed away on June 11 in Mysore at the age of 92.**

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- Pandit Rajeev Taranath received music lessons from Ustad Ali Akbar Khan and dedicated his life to music.
- He was also the music director for several Kannada films, including Samskara, Pallavi, Anurupa, Paper Boats and Agunthaka, apart from Malayalam films such as Kadavu and Kanchanseetha.
- Pandit Taranath, an eminent artist of the Senia Maihar Gharana, was awarded the Padma Shri by the Government of India in 2019 and the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 2000.

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**Wildlife Conservationist AJT John Singh passes away**

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- Eminent Indian Wildlife Conservationist and Biologist Asir Jawahar Thomas John Singh (AJT John Singh) passed away on 7 June 2024 in Bengaluru. He was 78 years old. He was awarded India's fourth highest civilian award - Padma Shri.
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## 9. PLACE IN NEWS

### **Smritivan Bhuj selected for the World Selection 2024 of the Prix Versailles Museum**

- Smritivan Earthquake Memorial Museum located in Bhuj, Gujarat has been included in the World Selection for the Prix Versailles Museums 2024.
- Smritivan has been selected by UNESCO as one of the seven most beautiful museums for the prestigious Prix Versailles award.
- Smritivan located in Kutch is built in memory of those who died in the 2001 earthquake
- Smritivan is built in a vast area of more than 470 acres.
- It is located on a small hill – Bhujijo Dungar – in Bhuj. More than 3 lakh plants have been planted here. In this way, it is also the largest Miyawaki forest in the world.

#### **About the Prix Versailles**

- The Prix Versailles Architecture, announced annually by UNESCO since 2015, is a type of competition that highlights the best contemporary projects around the world.
- Twenty-four of the selected destinations are awarded World Titles. These awards are given in the categories of airports, campuses, passenger stations, ports, museums, emporiums, hotels and restaurants.

### **PM inaugurates new campus of Nalanda University in Rajgir**

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated the new campus of Nalanda University in Rajgir, Bihar on June 19.
- The university is envisioned as a collaboration between India and the East Asia Summit (EAS) countries. The Nalanda University campus has two academic blocks with 40 classrooms, with a total seating capacity of about 1900.
- The new campus is a 'Net Zero' green campus. It is self-sufficient with a solar

plant, domestic and drinking water treatment plant, water recycling plant for reuse of waste water, 100 acres of water body and many other eco-friendly features.

- The new university has a deep connection with history.

#### **Original Nalanda University**

- Nalanda University established around 1600 years ago, is believed to be one of the world's first residential universities.
- It consists of the archaeological remains of a vihara or monk dwelling and educational institution dating from the 3rd century BCE to the 13th century CE.
- The ruins of Nalanda were declared a United Nations Heritage Site in 2016.

### **Train trial conducted on world's highest Chenab Bridge in Jammu and Kashmir**

- Indian Railways on June 17 completed a successful trial run of an electric engine from Sangaldan to Reasi crossing the world's tallest steel arch rail bridge, the Chenab Bridge.
- The Chenab Bridge built in Jammu and Kashmir is taller than the Eiffel Tower in Paris.
- This bridge is part of the Udhampur Srinagar Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) project.
- It is built 359 m (about 1,178 ft) above the Chenab River stream, which is 35 metres higher than the Eiffel Tower.
- Once completed, the bridge will be able to withstand winds of up to 260 kmph and will have a lifespan of 120 years.

### **'PM Shri Tourism Air Service' inaugurated in Madhya Pradesh**

- Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav inaugurated the inter-state air service facility 'PM Shri Tourism Air Service'. PM Shri Tourism Air Service is an inter-state air service that connects religious and tourist places of the state by air.

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**Popular Hemis festival begins in Ladakh**

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- In Ladakh, the popular Hemis Festival is started from June 16. This festival is organized on the birth anniversary of Guru Padmasambhava. Prayers are offered on this occasion, Mukhota dance is performed. A large number of people from India and abroad reach Ladakh to see the festival.

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**Kozhikode declared India's first UNESCO 'City of Literature'**

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- Kozhikode in Kerala was formally declared India's first UNESCO 'City of Literature' on June 23.
- On this occasion, the Kerala Government also announced that 23 June every year will be celebrated as 'City of Literature Day'.
- In October 2023, Kozhikode made it to the 'Literature' category of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN).
- On this occasion, Kerala Tourism Minister P A Mohammed Riyas unveiled the logo of 'City of Literature' by UNESCO.
- Kozhikode is a city that has more than 500 libraries, and has been the base of literary activities of the renowned Malayalam writer M. T. Vasudevan Nair for many decades.
- Gwalior and Kozhikode are among the 55 new cities from India that have joined UCCN. Gwalior in Madhya Pradesh has made it to the list in the 'Music' category.

**UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN)**

- The UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN) was established in 2004 to promote cooperation among cities that have adopted creativity as an approach to sustainable urban development.
- With the addition of the new cities, UCCN now comprises 350 cities from over a hundred countries. These cities represent seven creative sectors: Crafts and Folk Arts, Design, Film, Gastronomy, Literature, Media arts and Music.

**Kozhikode**

- Earlier, Kozhikode was known as Zamorin's City. It was also known as Calicut during British rule.
- The city served as the gateway to the coast for many foreigners centuries ago,

such as the Persians, Arabs, Chinese, and eventually the Europeans.

- It was called the "City of Spices" for its role as a major trading point of eastern spices.
- The Portuguese navigator Vasco da Gama anchored at Kozhikode on 20 May 1498, thus opening a trade route between Europe and Malabar. A Portuguese factory and fort operated at Kozhikode for a short time (1511–1525, until the fall of Calicut).
- On 7 June 2012, Kozhikode was given the tag of "City of Sculptures" (Shilpa Nagaram) due to the various architectural sculptures located in various parts of the city.
- Indian cities included in the UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN)
  - Kozhikode: City of Literates
  - Gwalior: City of Music
  - Srinagar: City of Crafts and Folk Art
  - Hyderabad: City of Culinary Art (City of Gastronomy)
  - Mumbai: The Film City
  - Chennai: City of Music
  - Varanasi: City of Music
  - Jaipur: The City of Crafts and Folk Art

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**World Craft Council (WCC) gave Srinagar the status of 'World Crafts City'**

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- The World Craft Council (WCC) has given the status of 'World Craft City' to Srinagar, the capital of Jammu and Kashmir. Srinagar is the fourth Indian city to receive such status.
  - Jaipur, Malappuram and Mysore are other Indian cities that have been earlier recognised as the World Crafts Cities.
  - The Jammu and Kashmir administration applied for recognition of Srinagar as a World City of Crafts in 2021, as well as for its recognition as a UNESCO Creative Cities Network.
  - To date, at least 10 different forms of craftsmanship exist in Srinagar and its suburbs, including papier-mâché, walnut wood carving, carpets, Sozni embroidery and Pashmina and Kani shawls.
  - In 2021, Srinagar also earned the title of UNESCO Creative City under Crafts and Folk Arts i.e. it was included in the UNESCO City of Crafts and Folk Arts.
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**Coal Ministry launches India's first pilot project for Underground Coal Gasification in Jharkhand**

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- Eastern Coalfield Limited (ECL) has launched a pilot project for Underground Coal Gasification (UCG) in Kasta coal block in Jamtara district of Jharkhand.
- This is India's first pilot project for Underground Coal Gasification in Jharkhand.
- The project aims to revolutionize the coal industry by using coal gasification (in-situ) near the mine to convert it into valuable gases such as methane, hydrogen, carbon monoxide and carbon dioxide.
- These gases can be used to produce synthetic natural gas, fuels, fertilizers, explosives, and chemical feedstocks for other industrial activities.
- Underground coal gasification process can also utilise coal resources that are not profitable to exploit using conventional mining techniques.
- In December 2015, the Ministry of Coal approved a comprehensive policy framework for underground coal gasification in coal and lignite bearing areas.
- The Indian government aims to achieve 100 million tonnes (MT) of coal gasification by 2030, with an investment of over Rs 4 trillion.
- Adoption of Gasification Technology in India will revolutionize the coal sector, reducing dependence on import of natural gas, methanol, ammonia and other essential products.

- Ammonia can be produced through coal gasification as China produces more than 90% of its ammonia through coal gasification. Methanol can be produced from coal through gasification technology.

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**Ladakh achieves full functional literacy under ULLAS Scheme**

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- Ladakh has become the first administrative unit to achieve full functional literacy under ULLAS- Nav Bharat Saksharta Karyakram. The Union Territory of Ladakh has crossed 97% literacy.
  - ULLAS-Nav Bharat Saksharta Karyakram or New India Literacy Programme (NILP), is a centrally sponsored scheme implemented from 2022-2027.
  - The scheme is in line with the recommendations of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and aims to empower underprivileged children of 15 years and above from all backgrounds who have not been able to receive proper schooling and bring them into the mainstream of society so that they can contribute more to the development journey of the country.
  - It consists of five major components: foundational literacy and numeracy, critical life skills, basic education, vocational skills and sustainable education.
  - The slogan of the Ullas scheme is "Jan Jan Sakshar". More than 77 lakh people have benefited from this program across the country, and more than 1.29 crore learners and 35 lakh volunteer teachers have been connected with the Ullas mobile app.
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# 10. IMPORTANT FACTS

## **The Ministry of Education has notified a seven-member panel to reform the process of competitive examinations.**

- Former ISRO chief K. Radhakrishnan will head the high-level committee of experts.
- The committee has been formed to ensure transparent, smooth and fair conduct of examinations through National Testing Agency (NTA).
- The Committee will give recommendations on improving the mechanism of the examination process, structure and functioning of NTA and improving data security protocols.
- The committee will submit its report to the Education Ministry within two months.
  - The other six members of the committee are:
    - Former director of AIIMS-Delhi Randeep Guleria
    - Hyderabad University Vice Chancellor B.J. Rao
    - K. Ramamurthy, professor emeritus at the Department of Civil Engineering, IIT-Madras
    - Pankaj Bansal, co-founder of People Strong and member of the board of Karmayogi Bharat
    - Aditya Mittal, Dean of Student Affairs, IIT-Delhi
    - Govind Jaiswal, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Education

## **Nvidia becomes the most valuable company in the world**

- Nvidia has replaced Microsoft as the world's most valuable company.
- Its market capitalization rose to \$3.335 trillion. Microsoft's stock market value was \$3.317 trillion.
- Earlier, it surpassed iPhone producer Apple to become the second most valuable company. Apple's stock market value was \$ 3.286 trillion.
- Additionally, Nvidia has emerged as Wall Street's most traded company.
- According to LSEG data, its average daily turnover recently was \$50 billion.
- Apple, Microsoft, and Tesla had average daily turnover of around \$10 billion.
- Currently, 16% of all trades in S &P 500 companies are made by Nvidia.
- In just nine months, the company's market value grew from \$1 trillion to \$2 trillion in February, and it took a little more than three months to reach \$3 trillion in June.
- Nvidia is an American multinational corporation and technology company.

# 11. INDEX AND REPORTS

## Global Gender Gap Index 2024:

- The World Economic Forum (WEF) released the Global Gender Gap Index 2024 on June 12. India has slipped two places to 129th position in the Global Gender Gap Index 2024. In 2023, India was ranked 127th.
  - Iceland has retained its top position in this ranking.
  - In South Asia, India was ranked fifth after Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Bhutan, while Pakistan was last. Globally, Sudan ranked last in the index of 146 countries.
  - India showed the best gender equality in terms of enrolment in secondary education, and performed well on women's political empowerment globally, ranking 65th.
  - India was ranked 10th in terms of the number of female heads of state/government for the last 50 years. With a population of over 1.4 billion, India has closed its gender gap by 64.1% in 2024.
  - Global Gender Gap Index measures the current state and progress of gender equality across four key dimensions: Economic Participation and Opportunity ; Educational Attainment ; Health and Survival ; and Political Empowerment. The World Economic Forum has been publishing it since 2006.
- The rankings show that emissions in the world's largest economies are falling too slowly and even rising. For example, the US ranks 34th. The Russian Federation ranks 84th. China and India rank 154th and 176th, respectively.
  - The Yale Center for Environmental Law and Policy at Yale University and the Center for International Earth Science Information Network at Columbia University have developed the Environmental Performance Index (EPI) 2024 in collaboration with the McCall MacBain Foundation.
  - India ranked 63rd in the Global Energy Transition Index **2024**
  - India has been ranked 63rd in the Global Energy Transition Index 2024 (GETI) released by the World Economic Forum on June 19.
  - Sweden topped the index, followed by Denmark, Finland, Switzerland and France.
  - China ranked 20th.
  - The Global Energy Transition Index measures 120 countries based on the performance of their current energy systems and their readiness to adopt green energy.
  - Renewable Energy and Biomass account for 42% of India's electricity generation capacity, making India the fourth largest renewable market globally.

## Environmental Performance Index 2024

- Environmental Performance Index (EPI) 2024 tracks progress towards the SDGs, the goals of the Paris Agreement on climate change and the targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF).
- The EPI 2024 ranks 180 countries based on progress in mitigating climate change, protecting ecosystems and promoting environmental health across 58 indicators across 11 issue categories.
- Estonia leads this year's ranking, largely due to the replacement of oil shale power plants with cleaner energy sources.

## India's per capita emissions, at 1.7 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>, are already 60% lower than the global average of 4.4 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per capita.

- India Slipped will slip from 8th position in 2022 to 15th position in 2023 **in terms of FDI inflows.**
- Foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows into India fell 43% to \$ 28 billion in 2023.
- India remained in the top five for both types of FDI – Greenfield Projects and International Project Finance Deals.
- In 2022, India's FDI inflows grew by 10 percent to \$ \$49 billion.

- India emerged as the fourth largest host country for Greenfield Project Announcements in 2023.
- France, Australia, China, the United States and India recorded the biggest declines in FDI inflows.
- According to UNCTAD, developed countries have been greatly affected by the financial transactions of multinational enterprises.
- In Asia, FDI fell 8 percent to \$ 621 billion. China remains the second-largest FDI recipient in the world.
- India, along with Bangladesh, China, Singapore and Thailand, issued policies to support the banking industry.

Rank in 2023	Country	FDI inflows by 2023 (\$ billion)
1	United States (1)	311
2	China (2)	163
3	Singapore (3)	160
4	Hong Kong, China (4)	113
5	Brazil (6)	66
15	India (8)	28

**World Investment Report 2024**

- The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) released the “World Investment Report 2024”.

**Key points of the report**

- FDI in India fell by 43 percent to \$ 28 billion in 2023,while globally it declined by 2 percent.
- India dropped from 8th position in 2022 to 15th in 2023 in terms of FDI inflows, but it remained in the top- 5 in terms of both types of FDI – Greenfield Projects and International Project Finance Deals.
- In 2022, FDI in India increased by 10 percent to \$ 49 billion.
- Global Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) fell by 2% to \$1.3 trillion in 2023 amid an economic slowdown and rising geopolitical tensions.
- In FDI outflow, India's rank improved from 23rd in 2022 to 20th in 2023.
- Among the top- 20 largest economies, the biggest declines in FDI flows were recorded in France, Australia, China, the US and India.

- The report emphasises that trade facilitation and digital government solutions can address the problem of lack of investment by creating a transparent and streamlined environment.

**SIPRI Year Book 2024: India has more nuclear weapons than Pakistan**

- According to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) Year Book 2024,India has more nuclear weapons than Pakistan,while China has increased its nuclear arsenal from 410 warheads in January 2023 to 500 by January 2024.

**Key points of the report**

- China's nuclear arsenal has grown from 410 warheads in January 2023 to 500 in January 2024, and is expected to continue growing.
- The United States,Russia,Britain,France, China, India, Pakistan, North Korea, and Israel, continue to modernize their nuclear arsenals,and several of them deployed new nuclear-capable weapon systems in 2023.
- India's " stored " nuclear weapons stood at 172 in January 2024,while the number for Pakistan was 170. India expanded its nuclear arsenal slightly in 2023,with both India and Pakistan continuing to develop new types of nuclear delivery systems in 2023.
- While Pakistan remains the main focus of India's nuclear deterrent,India is placing greater emphasis on long-range weapons, including weapons capable of targeting all of China.
- 2,100 weapons deployed in the world were placed on high operational alert status on ballistic missiles,and nearly all of those belonged to either Russia or the United States.
- Russia and the United States possess nearly 90 percent of all nuclear weapons.
- It is estimated that Russia has deployed approximately 36 more nuclear warheads with operational forces than it has as of January 2023.

**Three Indian companies in Times Magazine Global 100 most influential companies**

- The annual Times Magazine Global 100 Most Influential Companies 2024 features three Indian companies-



Reliance Industries Limited (RIL), Tata Group and Serum Institute of India. This was the fourth edition of the annual Times Magazine Global 100 Most Influential Companies. The first edition was published by the American Time magazine in 2021.

**SBI is the seventh Indian company to reach Rs 8 lakh crore in market capitalisation**

- State Bank of India (SBI) has become the seventh listed company in India to reach Rs 8 lakh crore in market capitalisation. SBI shares hit a new high of Rs 899.55 on June 3, 2024. SBI, Reliance Industries, Tata Consultancy Services, HDFC Bank, Bharti Airtel, Infosys and ICICI Bank are among the companies to achieve this feat.

**The Indian domestic equity market has once again overtaken Hong Kong to become the fourth largest global market.**

- India's market capitalisation rose by 10% to \$5.2 trillion or Rs 435 trillion (BSE-listed companies).
- Hong Kong's market cap is \$ 5.17 trillion, down 5.4% from this year's high of \$ 5.47 trillion.
- India overtook Hong Kong's market value for the first time in January.
- Hong Kong's market capitalisation rose by 27% from this year's low of \$ 4.3 trillion.

MCAP (\$trillion)	
World	118.4
US	56.49
China	8.84
Japan	6.30
India	5.20
Hong Kong	5.17
France	3.28
UK	3.23
Source: Bloomberg	

**Container Port Performance (CPP) Index 2023**

- 'Container Port Performance (CPP) Index 2023' was released by the World Bank

and S&P Global Market Intelligence. Nine Indian ports have made it to the top 100 ports in the world in the latest edition of the Container Port Performance Index.

- Visakhapatnam Port has ranked 19th among the world's top 20 ports in 2023, while Mundra Port has also moved up to 27th position in the current ranking.
- The Global Container Port Performance Index is a port benchmark that assesses the performance of ports on parameters such as productivity, efficiency and reliability.
- It serves as a reference point for key stakeholders, including National Governments, Port Authorities, Development Agencies, Supra-national Organisations and Private Operators of Trade, Logistics and Supply Chain Services.

**QS World University Rankings 2025**

- IIT Bombay has moved up 31 places to 118th position in the QS World University Rankings 2025.
- With an overall score of 56.3 out of 100, IIT Bombay has moved up significantly in the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings from 149th last year to 118th this year.
- IIT Bombay has been ranked among the top 150 institutions since it started participating in these rankings.
- This year IIT Delhi has also got 150th position.
- The US-based Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) has topped the rankings for the twelfth consecutive year.
- After MIT, there is Cambridge University and Oxford University of Britain.

**Global Data on Women Leaders 2024**

- According to UN Women's "Global Data on Women Leaders 2024" report, 113 countries around the world have never had a female Head of Government or Head of State, and only 26 countries are currently led by women.
- This data report was released on June 24 on the occasion of "International Day for Women in Diplomacy".
- According to the report, women are

still largely excluded from positions of power and diplomacy. Globally, low participation of women in decision-making is a reality, according to the United Nations.

- Currently, only 23 percent of ministerial positions in the world are held by women, and in 141 countries, women make up less than a third of all cabinet ministers by January 1, 2024. Seven countries have no female representation in their cabinets.

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### Artificial Intelligence Preparedness Index (AIPI) Dashboard 2024

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- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has released the Artificial Intelligence Preparedness Index (AIPI) Dashboard 2024. The AI Preparedness Index Dashboard for 174 economies is based on the readiness of countries to adopt AI in four areas.
- These four areas are: digital infrastructure, human capital and labour market policies, innovation and economic integration, and regulation.
- India has been ranked 72nd in the index, with Bangladesh (0.38) 113th, Sri Lanka (0.43) 92nd and China (0.63) at 31st.
- Singapore (0.80), Denmark (0.78), and the United States (0.77) are among the highest rated AE (Advanced Economy), while India is classified as an EM (Emerging Market) with a rating of 0.49.
- According to the index, AI could threaten 33 percent of jobs in developed countries, 24 percent in emerging countries and 18 percent in low-income countries.

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### India becomes the world's third largest Domestic Airline Market

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- India's position in terms of Domestic Airline Market has moved up from fifth to third position.
- India has overtaken Brazil and Indonesia and has become the third largest market with an airline capacity of 1.5 million seats.
- Currently, the US and China are the top 2 largest Domestic Airline Markets.
- About 10 years ago, India was the smallest Domestic Airline Market with 8 million seats.

- India's seat capacity growth rate increased by 6.9 percent annually.
- In India, low-cost carriers (LCCs) account for about 78.4 percent of total domestic airline capacity.
- According to the government, the number of airports in India has increased from 74 to 157 in the last 10 years.

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### India is the second largest emitter of Nitrous Oxide Gas

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- According to the Global Assessment of N<sub>2</sub>O Emissions study by the Global Carbon Project, emissions of laughing gas Nitrous Oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O) have increased by 40 percent in the world between 1980 and 2020. This study has been published in the journal Earth System Science Data.
- The five largest emitters of Nitrous Oxide gas are China (16.7 percent), India (10.9 percent), the United States (5.7 percent), Brazil (5.3 percent), and Russia (4.6 percent).
- After China, India is the world's second-largest source of nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O). However, the situation is slightly different in terms of per capita emissions.
- India has the lowest per capita emissions at 0.8 kg N<sub>2</sub>O / capita, while the N<sub>2</sub>O kg / capita figures for other top emitters are China (1.3), the United States (1.7), Brazil (2.5), and Russia (3.3).

### Nitrous Oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O)

- Nitrous Oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O) is a greenhouse gas that has a much greater warming potential than carbon dioxide. N<sub>2</sub>O is available in the atmosphere in much smaller quantities than carbon dioxide or methane, but its global warming potential is about 300 times that of carbon dioxide on a 100-year time scale.
  - N<sub>2</sub>O is also a strong ozone-depleting substance. The concentration of atmospheric N<sub>2</sub>O in 2022 reached 336 parts per billion, or about 25% higher than levels seen before the industrial era.
  - Nitrous Oxide lasts a long time in the atmosphere and is increasing rapidly in recent years, leading scientists to warn that it too must be dealt with more urgency.
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## Environment

### World's first Conservation and Breeding centre for Asian King Vultures

- The Uttar Pradesh government will set up the world's first Conservation and Breeding Centre for Asian King Vultures or Red-Headed Vultures in the state's Maharajganj.
- The centre will help increase the population of the Asian King Vulture, a Critically Endangered species listed on the IUCN Red List since 2007.
- The name of this centre is Jatayu Conservation and Breeding Centre.
- Asian King Vulture is on the verge of extinction due to loss of habitat and excessive use of a painkiller called diclofenac in livestock. This drug is proving to be poisonous for vultures.
- However, this medicine has been banned.

### On the occasion of World Environment Day, 'Ek Ped Maa ke Naam' campaign was launched

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign in New Delhi on the occasion of World Environment Day on 5 June 2024. Earth is considered as mother in India. Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam campaign symbolizes the protection of the earth's environment by afforestation to prevent land degradation, soil erosion and falling ground water levels.

### New Zealand Government ends Livestock 'Burp Tax'

- New Zealand Government has announced the end of the 'burp tax' plan to tax greenhouse gas emissions from livestock. The burp tax was introduced in October 2022 during the tenure of then Prime Minister Jacinda Adern.
- The introduction of the burp tax led to protests by farmers across the country. The primary objective of the scheme was to reduce methane emissions from ruminant animals.
- Ruminant animals are actually hoofed

grazing herbivorous animals that chew cud. Ruminant animals such as cows, sheep, goats and buffalos have a special type of digestive system that helps them break down and digest food that non-ruminant animals would be unable to digest.

- Ruminant animals have four stomach compartments, one of which, the rumen, helps them store partially digested food and process it.

### Nagi and Nakti Bird Sanctuaries declared as Ramsar sites

- Sanctuaries of Bihar have been recognised as Wetlands of International Importance under the Ramsar Convention.
- Both these wetlands, located in the Jamui district of Bihar, are considered protected areas. With their inclusion in the Ramsar Convention, the total number of Ramsar wetlands in India has increased to 82.
- Kanwar Lake in Begusarai district was designated as Bihar's first Ramsar site in 2020. The Nagi and Nakti Bird Sanctuaries are built on man-made wetlands and provide a natural haven for a variety of flora and fauna, especially flocks of birds.
- Both the bird sanctuaries are man-made wetlands that were developed primarily for irrigation through the construction of the Nakti Dam.
- Because of its importance for migratory bird species, the Nagi site was recognised locally as a Bird Sanctuary in 1984 and internationally by BirdLife International as an Important Bird and Biodiversity Area (IBA).
- The Ramsar Convention is an international convention for the conservation of wetlands and was signed in 1971 in the Iranian city of Ramsar.

### India's largest leopard safari

- Recently, India's largest leopard safari was inaugurated at the Bannerghatta Biological Park (BBP) in Bengaluru, Karnataka.

- The Leopard Safari at BBP is spread over an area of 20 hectares. It has an undulating terrain with naturally occurring rocky formations and partly deciduous forests, and is currently home to 8 leopards.
- Bannerghatta Biological Park (BBP) was separated from Bannerghatta National Park (BNP) in 2004 and was granted the status of a national park in 1974.
- It is home to freely roaming leopards (*Panthera pardus*).
- It has four sections: Zoo, Safari, Butterfly Park and Rescue Centre.

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### **India's first biosphere was created in Rajaji National Park within a tiger reserve.**

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- Jai Dhar Gupta and Vijay Dhasmana are working on a project to create India's first biosphere within a tiger reserve.

- Rajaji Raghathi Biosphere is a 35- acre private forest within the Rajaji National Park in Uttarakhand.
- Jai Dhar Gupta and Vijay Dhasmana and their team conducted extensive surveys to identify suitable native plant species, especially of those rare or endangered species that are found in the region.
- The first phase of plantation was started in 2023 with about 80 species.
- In the upcoming monsoon season, an additional 35 to 40 new species will be planted in the biosphere.
- Jai and Vijay are also working on creating another Biosphere in the Western Ghats.

# 12. IMPORTANT DAYS

## 1 June: World Milk Day

- Every year on June 1, World Milk Day is celebrated.
- This day is celebrated to spread awareness among people about the important contribution of dairy products to economic development, livelihood and nutrition.
- The main theme of World Milk Day this year i.e. 2024 is 'Dairy milk and other milk products and its role in giving people the nutrients they need to stay healthy'.
- The celebration of World Milk Day was announced by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). World Milk Day was celebrated for the first time all over the world in 2001.
- India celebrates National Milk Day on 26 November on the birthday of Verghese Kurien.
- Kurien is known as the Father of the Milk Revolution in India.
- Operation Flood was started under his leadership in 1970 to increase milk production in the country.

## 1 June: Global Day of Parents

- Global Day of Parents is celebrated every year on 1 June.
- The purpose of celebrating this day is to show respect towards parents.
- This year the main theme of Global Day of Parents 2024 is - 'The Promise of Playful Parenting'.
- In the year 2012, the United Nations General Assembly declared that this day would be celebrated on 1 June.

## 2 June 2024: Telangana Foundation Day

- Every year on 2 June, the state of Telangana celebrates its foundation day (Telangana Formation day).
- In the year 2014, Telangana became the 29th state of India by dividing Andhra Pradesh.
- This year i.e. in 2024, Telangana celebrated its 10th Foundation Day.

## Telangana State

- Telangana is an Indian state located in southern India. The word 'Telangana' means-'land of Telugu speaking people'.
- Telangana was formally the 29th state of India, carved out of the state of Andhra Pradesh in 2014 following parliamentary approval.
- At the time of partition, Hyderabad was made the joint capital of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh for ten years.

## June 3, 2024: World Bicycle Day

- Every year on 3 June 'World Bicycle Day' is celebrated all over the world.
- It is celebrated with the aim to promote a simple, affordable, reliable and environmentally friendly mode of transportation.
- This year the main theme of 'World Bicycle Day 2024' is 'Promoting Health, Equity, and Sustainability through Cycling'.
- The first official World Bicycle Day was celebrated by the United Nations on June 3, 2018.
- Thus, the 7th World Bicycle Day was celebrated this year i.e. in 2024.

## 5 June 2024: World Environment Day

- World Environment Day is celebrated every year on 5 June.
- This day is celebrated across the world to create awareness about the environment so that constructive steps can be taken to protect Nature and the Earth.
- The year 2024 marks the 51st anniversary of World Environment Day.
- The theme of World Environment Day 2024 is 'Land Restoration, Desertification and Drought Resilience'.
- Every year World Environment Day is hosted by a different country in the world, where formal celebrations are held. India hosted the World Environment Day celebrations for the first time in the year 2018.

- The year 2024 marks the 51st anniversary of World Environment Day and this year Saudi Arabia is hosting it.

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**6 June: United Nations Russian Language Day, Birthday of Russian poet Aleksandr Pushkin**

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- Every year on 6 June the United Nations Russian Language Day is celebrated.
- The purpose of celebrating Language Day is to promote multilingualism and cultural diversity.

**Birthday of Russian poet Aleksandr Pushkin**

- Russian Language Day is celebrated on the birthday of the great Russian poet Aleksandr Pushkin.
- He is considered the Father of Modern Russian Literature.
- Pushkin's most famous poem is ' Ode to Liberty '.
- The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) chose his birthday as Russian Language Day.

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**The United Nations has different days for the six official languages**

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- United Nations Language Day was launched by UNESCO in the year 2010.
- The United Nations has 6 official languages. Different days have been set for these 6 official languages:
  1. Arabic language: 18 December
  2. Chinese language: April 20
  3. English Language: April 23
  4. Spanish language: April 23
  5. French language: April 20
  6. Russian language: 6 June

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**7 June: Food Safety Day**

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- 'World Food Safety Day' is celebrated every year on 7 June.
- This day is celebrated to draw attention and inspire to work for food security, human health, economic prosperity, agriculture, market access, tourism and contributions to sustainable development.
- The theme of World Food Safety Day this year is - ' Food Safety: Prepare for the Unexpected'.
- The United Nations General Assembly declared World Food Safety Day in December 2018 in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization

(FAO).

- The first World Food Safety Day was celebrated on 7 June 2019. This year the sixth World Food Safety Day was celebrated.

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**8 June: World Oceans Day**

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- World Oceans Day is celebrated every year on 8 June.
- This day is celebrated to understand the importance of oceans and to make people aware about the dangers of increasing pollution in the oceans and their conservation.
- The main theme of this day in the year 2024 is 'Awaken New Depths'.
- The United Nations officially recognized the celebration of this day in the year 2008.
- The first World Oceans Day was celebrated on June 8, 2009.

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**12 June: World Day Against Child Labor**

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- World Day Against Child Labour is celebrated every year on 12 June.
- This day is celebrated with the objective of spreading awareness against child labour and freeing children below the age of 14 from child labour and providing them education.
- The theme of ' World Day Against Child Labour ' in the year 2024 is - ' Let's act on our commitments: End Child Labour! '.
- The International Labour Organization (ILO) started World Day Against Child Labour in the year 2002.
- According to the ILO, even today 152 million children work as laborers. Child laborers are present in every sector, while 7 out of 10 children work in the fields.

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**13 June: International Albinism Awareness Day**

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- Every year on 13 June, ' International Albinism Awareness Day ' is celebrated all over the world.
- The purpose of celebrating this day is to spread awareness against the discrimination faced by people suffering from albinism in the world.
- The theme of International Albinism Awareness Day in the year 2024 is - '10 Years of IAAD : A Decade of Collective Progress'.

- The United Nations General Assembly had announced on 18 December 2014 to celebrate this day every year on 13 June.
- The first International Albinism Awareness Day was observed on 13 June 2015.

### Albinism

- Albinism is a congenital disease caused by lack of melanin pigment in the skin, hair and eyes.
- People affected by this have white spots on their skin or sometimes the entire skin turns white.

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### 14 June: World Blood Donation Day, Birth Anniversary of Nobel Laureate Karl Landsteiner

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- ' World Blood Donor Day ' is celebrated every year on 14 June.
- The purpose of celebrating this day is to raise awareness about the need for safe blood and to thank blood donors while encouraging them for donating safe life-saving blood.
- The main theme of World Blood Donor Day in the year 2024 is '20 years of celebrating giving : Thank You Blood donors!
- The World Health Organization (WHO) declared in 2004 that World Blood Donation Day will be celebrated every year on 14 June.
- World Blood Donor Day was first celebrated on 14 June 2004.
- This day is celebrated on 14 June on the birth anniversary of Nobel Laureate Karl Landsteiner.
- Karl Landsteiner is credited with discovering the Blood Group System.
- He was awarded the Nobel Prize in 1930 for discovering blood groups.

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### WHO has announced eight Global Health Campaigns

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- The World Health Organization (WHO) has declared eight Global Health Campaigns, including World Blood Donor Day. Other health campaigns are World Tuberculosis Day (March 24 ), World Health Day (April 7 ), World Malaria Day (April 25), World

Immunization Week (last week of April), World No Tobacco Day (May 31 ), World Hepatitis Day (July 28 ) and World AIDS Day (December 1 ).

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### 15 June: World Elder Abuse Awareness Day

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- Every year on 15 June 'World Elder Abuse Awareness Day' is celebrated across the world.
- This day is celebrated with the aim of spreading awareness among people to prevent abuse of the elderly.
- In the year 2024, Elder Abuse Prevention Awareness Day was celebrated on the theme 'Spotlight on Older Persons in Emergencies'.
- The United Nations recognized this day in December 2011. The first ' World Elder Abuse Prevention Awareness Day' was celebrated on 15 June 2012.

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### 17 June: World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought

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- Every year on 17 June ' World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought' is celebrated.
- The purpose of this day is to promote public awareness to combat the effects of desertification and drought through international cooperation.
- The main theme of this day in the year 2024 is – 'United for Land. Our Legacy. Our Future'.
- In the year 1994, the United Nations General Assembly declared World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought to mark the implementation of the Convention to Combat Desertification.
- The first World Day to Combat Desertification (WDCD) was celebrated in the year 1995.
- Desertification is the process of land becoming infertile. Due to many reasons including climate change and human activities, the land of dry, semi-arid and waterless semi-moist areas turns into desert. This leads to a decrease and decline in the productive capacity of the land.
- At present, 20 percent of the total area of the world is in the form of desert land, While drought-prone land is one-third of the total global area.

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**17 June: World Crocodile Day**

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- World Crocodile Day was celebrated on June 17, 2024.
- In the year 2024, India's Crocodile Conservation Project will also be completing 50 years.
- In 1975, India launched a Crocodile Conservation Project in the Bhitarkanika National Park in Odisha, the former hunting ground of the kings of the princely state of Kanika.
- Since all the three species of Indian crocodiles are found in Odisha, the Gharial and Saltwater Crocodile Conservation Programme was first implemented in Odisha in early 1975.

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**18 June: Autistic Pride Day**

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- ' Autistic Pride Day ' is celebrated every year on 18 June.
- Its purpose is to create awareness that autism is not a disease but a disorder of the nervous system due to which there is imbalance in the behavior and social interaction of a person.
- The theme of Autistic Pride Day 2024 is ' Taking the Mask Off '.
- The day is symbolized by a Rainbow Infinity Sign, representing the infinite possibilities of autistic people.
- ' World Autism Day ' is celebrated every year on 2 April. It is one of the 7 official health special days of the United Nations.

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**Autism**

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- It is a neurological disorder that limits the ability to communicate and interact with other people.
- Every child has different symptoms. Some children are very genius. Some also have difficulty in learning and understanding. 40 percent of autistic children cannot speak.
- According to data from the World Health Organization (WHO), one in 160 children is autistic.

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**19 June: World Sickle Cell Awareness Day**

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- World Sickle Cell Day is celebrated every year on 19 June.
- It is celebrated to raise awareness

about sickle cell disease, its treatment measures and to get effective control over this disease across the world.

- The theme of World Sickle Cell Day 2024 was – Hope Through Progress: Advancing Sickle Cell Care Globally.
- In 2008, the United Nations declared that World Sickle Cell Day would be observed every year on 19 June.
- The first World Sickle Cell Day was celebrated in the year 2009.

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**Sickle cell disease**

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- Sickle cell disease (SCD) anemia is a dominant inherited abnormality of the red blood cells (RBCs).
- In normal condition, RBCs are spherical and their lifespan is up to 120 days. But in sickle cell disease, the shape of RBCs is like a crescent/sickle and their lifespan is only up to 10-20 days.
- These abnormally shaped RBCs become stiff and sticky and get trapped in blood vessels, reducing or stopping the flow of blood and oxygen to many parts of the body.
- It also reduces the life span of RBCs and causes anemia, known as sickle cell anemia. A person suffering from this disease needs frequent blood transfusions.

**Sickle Cell Eradication Mission- 2047**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Sickle Cell Elimination Mission – 2047 at the national level on 1 July 2023 from Shahdol district of Madhya Pradesh.

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**20 June: World Refugee Day**

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- World Refugee Day is celebrated every year on 20 June.
  - The purpose of celebrating this day is to remember the struggle and contribution of refugees.
  - The main theme of World Refugee Day in the year 2024 is - ' For a World Where Refugees Are Welcomed '.
  - The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) declared World Refugee Day to be celebrated every year in 2000.
  - African Refugee Day was formally celebrated in several countries on 20 June before it was declared a World Refugee day.
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## Refugee

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- Refugee means a person or a group of people who are helpless, powerless, homeless and seeking protection and shelter.
- Thus, a particular person or a group of people who for any reason leaves their home or country and takes refuge elsewhere is called a refugee.
- According to the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC), the largest number of refugees in the world at 6.6 million (68%) are from Syria.
- This is followed by Venezuela (3.7 million), Afghanistan (2.7 million), South Sudan (2.2 million) and Myanmar (1.1 million).

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## 21 June: World Music Day

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- World Music Day is celebrated every year on 21 June.
- The purpose of this day is to make people aware about music so that people's faith in music does not fade away.
- World Music Day is also known as ' Fête de la Musique '. It means Music Festival.
- World Music Day was started in France in the year 1982, the credit for which goes to the then Cultural Minister Mr. Jacques Lo.

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## 21 June: World Hydrography Day

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- ' World Hydrography Day ' is celebrated every year on 21st June.
- This day is celebrated with the aim to promote hydrographic surveys and the importance of water.
- This day was adopted by the International Hydrographic Organization as an annual celebration.

## Hydrography

- Hydrography gives details of the water reserves of rivers, lakes, ponds and seas present on the earth. Its main purpose is to provide data for the convenience of navigation (operation of ships and boats).

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## International Yoga Day 2024: June 21

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- International Yoga Day is celebrated every year on 21st June.
- It is celebrated to recognize the various benefits of yoga and to promote yoga as a part of life.

- This year the tenth International Yoga Day was celebrated across the world.
- The theme for International Yoga Day 2024 is "Yoga for Self and Society".
- The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted a resolution on 11 December 2014 to celebrate 21 June as International Yoga Day.
- 21 June was chosen as Yoga Day because it is the longest day in the Northern Hemisphere and has great significance for many people around the world.
- The day was first celebrated in 2015 with the theme "Harmony and Peace".
- Yoga is an ancient practice that deals not only with physical and mental health but also emotional and spiritual health.
- Yoga was declared a UNESCO intangible cultural heritage in 2016.
- 2024 International Yoga Day was celebrated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the banks of Dal Lake in Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir.

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## 23 June: United Nations Public Service Day

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- ' United Nations Public Service Day ' is celebrated every year on 23 June.
- The purpose of celebrating this day is to make people aware about the value and qualities of public service.
- The United Nations General Assembly declared in December 2002 to celebrate '23 June ' every year as United Nations Public Service Day.
- The United Nations Public Service Awards are presented on this day.
- This award is an internationally prestigious award given for outstanding contribution in the public service sector.
- In India, Civil Services Day is celebrated every year on 21 April.

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## 23 June: International Olympic Day

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- International Olympic Day is celebrated every year on 23 June.
  - This day is celebrated across the world to increase participation in various sports irrespective of any discrimination.
  - This year i.e. in 2024, the theme of this day was 'Let's Move and Celebrate'.
  - This day is celebrated to commemorate the beginning of the modern Olympic Games held on 23 June 1894 in Paris.
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- The International Olympic Committee recommended all National Olympic Committees (NOCs) to celebrate Olympic Day in 1978.
- Its aim is to promote Olympics.

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**International Olympic Committee**

- The International Olympic Committee (IOC) was founded on 23 June 1894 by Pierre de Coubertin and Demetrios Vikelas.
- Its headquarter is in Lausanne, Switzerland.
- It is a regulatory body for organizing the Olympic Games.

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**23 June: International Widows Day**

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- Every year 23 June is celebrated as International Widows Day.
- This day is celebrated with the aim of spreading awareness in the society about the problems of widowed women.
- The theme of this year was ' Invisible Women, Invisible Problems '.
- The General Assembly of the United Nations declared 23 June as International Widows' Day in 2010.

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**27 June: International Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Day**

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- "International Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Day" (International MSME Day) was celebrated on 27 June 2024.
- This year the day was celebrated with the theme "MSME and SDG".
- The United Nations General Assembly designated June 27 as International MSME Day to raise awareness about the greater contribution of MSMEs in achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- MSMEs represent 90% of businesses, 60 to 70% of employment and 50% of GDP worldwide.
- United Nations data shows that MSMEs play a vital role in the development of a country. It connects new entrepreneurs at local and national levels and provides income earning opportunities to youth, working class, women and others.
- According to the Union MSME Ministry's annual report for FY23, India has over 63 million MSMEs. This number is only second to China which has 140 million micro and small enterprises.

- These MSMEs contribute to 30 per cent of India's GDP and 40 per cent of exports and have created over 110 million jobs across the country.

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**29 June: National Statistics Day, Birth anniversary of PC Mahalanobis**

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- National Statistics Day is celebrated every year on 29 June.
- The main objective of celebrating this day is to create awareness about the role of Statistics in socio-economic planning and policy regulation in the development of the country, especially among the younger generation.
- The 18th Statistics Day was celebrated on 29 June 2024. The main theme of Statistics Day 2024 is ' Use of Data for Decision Making '.

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**UN declares 2025 as ' International Year of Quantum Science and Technology '**

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- The United Nations has declared 2025 as the 'International Year of Quantum Science and Technology'.
- The year 2025 was chosen as the International Year of Quantum Science and Technology because 2025 marks the 100th anniversary of the initial development of quantum mechanics.
- The UN said the initiative will be "year-long", "global" and will be "celebrated through activities at all levels aimed at raising public awareness of the importance of quantum science and its uses."
- Mexico first introduced a proposal for this in the United Nations General Assembly in May 2023 and soon other countries also participated in it.
- Quantum science and technology have been appearing more frequently in common parlance and issues lately, thanks to Quantum Computers. Although fully operational machines of this type do not yet exist, researchers and industry experts believe that such machines will soon become a reality.
- In fact, quantum mechanics is the field of physics that explains how extremely small objects have the properties of both particles (small pieces of matter) and waves (waves that transfer energy). Physicists call this "wave-particle duality"

# 13. GIST-YOJANA, KURUKSHETRA

## Role of Forts in Indian History

- Forts, fortifications, and palaces are one of the most abundant typologies in India's built heritage. The fortifications range from various historic periods constructed by different dynasties through centuries. Most of these show the spread of Sultanate and Mughal Imperial rule, the Maratha kingdom, along with regional dynasties Rajput, Sikhs, Kakatiyas, Bahmani, Qutb Shahis, or even the Ahom dynasty in the Assam region. The coastal region of India also has some Portuguese and British-era fortifications.

### Fort

- **Meaning:** A strong protective building or a place with a wall, wooden palisade, or fence that is often further protected by a moat, deep ditch, or further lines of fortified walls, guarded by warriors.
- **Reason for construction:** Forts add to the defensive features used by a town, city, or capital of a kingdom, as well as the general terrain i.e., the overall cultural and military landscape of a kingdom.
- **Methods used for early fortifications and protected citadels:**
  - ◆ Creation of earthen ramparts using the soil dug out of adjoining protective dry moats or ditches that flanked areas needing protection.
  - ◆ Making large and tall protective ramparts using rubble and earth, with additional earth on the outer side.
  - ◆ Building forts and fortifications from stone and masonry
- **Earliest archaeological evidences of forts:**
  - ◆ **Proto-Historic Harappan Culture:** At sites like Lothal, Rakhigarhi, Dholavira, Kalibangan, Harappa, Banawali, baked brick and unbaked mud bricks were used for gates, bastions, and citadels with protected entrances.

- ◆ **16 Maha-Janapadas:** Remains of fort walls and bastions can be seen at sites like Magadha's ancient hill-protected capital of Rajgriha, that pre-dated Pataliputra, Kausambhi, with its walls of burnt brick, and archaeological sites like Chandraketugarh, etc.

## Classification of forts as per Kautilya's 3rd century text, 'Arthashastra'

1. **Jal-Durga, or Water Fort:** It has the following sub-types:
  - ◆ **Antardvipa-Durga (island fortress):** Surrounded by natural (sea or river) water bodies (like Murud-Janjira).
  - ◆ **Sthala-Durga (plain fortress):** Surrounded by artificial moats or irrigated by a river (like Gagron, Deeg, Lohagarh, and Shergarh- all in Rajasthan).
2. **Dhanvana, or Maru-Durga or Desert Fort:** Surrounded by an arid area of at least 5 yojanas (73 km). Eg, Jaisalmer, Lodrava, and Bhatner (Hanumangarh).
3. **Giri-Durga, or Hill Fort:** It has the following sub-types:
  - ◆ **Prantara-Durga:** Located on a flat hill summit (like Chittorgarh, Gwalior).
  - ◆ **Giri-parshva-Durga:** The fortifications and civilian structures extend down to the hill slope, not just the summit (like Bundi's Taragarh and Ajmer's Taragarh forts).
  - ◆ **Guha-Durga:** Located in a valley surrounded by hills, where the outposts and the signal towers are located.
4. **Vana-Durga (Forest Fort):** Surrounded by a dense forest over a distance of at least 4 koshas (14.6 km), like Ranthambore, with the following sub-types:
  - ◆ **Khanjana-Durga:** Built on a marsh and surrounded by thorny forests.
  - ◆ **Sthambha-Durga:** Built in the forest among tall trees, lacks sufficient water sources.

5. **Mahi-Durga (Earthen Fort):** They have the following sub-types:
- ◆ **Mrid-Durga:** Surrounded by earthen walls.
  - ◆ **Parigha-Durga:** Surrounded by earthen walls as well as stone or brick walls.
  - ◆ **Panka-Durga:** Surrounded by marshy land or quicksand.
6. **Nri-Durga (Human Fort):** Eg, fort of Nagaur, which were defended by experienced warriors and were often part of a city fortress with a large permanent garrison.

**Major Forts of Andhra Pradesh & Telangana**

- The earliest references to forts and fortified towns occur in the accounts of Megasthenes, followed by Pliny, who mentions that there were 30 walled towns and numerous villages in Andhra Desa (comprising modern Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, and parts of Maharashtra). This period has witnessed the emergence of new forts, including local administrative defences, in both Andhra and Telangana States. All these forts, once centres of power, polity, and might, engulfed in the annals of time, yet they remain a source of information about those bygone societies.

<b>Major Forts of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh</b>	
<b>Kondapalli Fort</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Location:</b> NTR district of AP.</li> <li>• <b>Features:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Built on the hills of eastern ghats</li> <li>◆ Accessed through two entry gates known as Durga Darwaza and Golconda Darwaza</li> <li>◆ Built in Indo-Saracenic style.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Early 1530s:</b> It became a strategic coastal fort of Qutb Shahi rulers.</li> </ul>
<b>Kondaveedu and Addanki Forts</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Location:</b> Bapatla and Palnadu districts of AP</li> <li>• <b>Role:</b> Initially served as headquarters of the Reddy kingdom during the early 15th- century</li> <li>• <b>Founder:</b> A subordinate of Kaktiyas of Warangal</li> <li>• <b>Rulers at Kondaveedu Fort:</b> Subjugated to Qutb Shahi rule (1637 and '79 AD) followed by the Mughals (1687 AD), the French (1752 AD), the Nizams and finally the British (1788 AD).</li> <li>• <b>Features:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ <b>Puttakota:</b> A double layer of defence fortification</li> <li>◆ <b>Stone defence ramparts</b> at its foothill</li> <li>◆ <b>Khila:</b> Extensive and marked by high raised security Rowers,/ battlements, and ramparts</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Udayagiri Fort</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Location:</b> PSR Nellore district of AP</li> <li>• <b>Type:</b> Hill fort</li> <li>• <b>Rulers:</b> It was initially under Vijayanagara rule, briefly held by Gajapatis. Krishnadeva Raya re-annexed it to Vijayanagara empire in 1513 AD.</li> <li>• <b>Features:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ <b>Total 13 fortresses:</b> 8 on the hill and five below, which contained bastions, gateways, water reservoirs, granaries, and watch towers.</li> <li>◆ <b>Krishna temple:</b> Krishnadeva Raya carried the Balakrishna idol to Hampi and reinstalled it in the temple in 1515 AD</li> <li>◆ <b>In the latter part of the 16th-century,</b> it came under the control of Qutb Shahi</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>1839 AD:</b> The East India Company accessioned it.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Gooty Fort</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Location:</b> Anantapuramu district of AP</li> <li>• <b>Largest fortification:</b> It covers 11 km in circumference, has seven fortifications, one within another, and the outermost defence stone wall covers two hills, ensuring formidable defence.</li> <li>• <b>Features:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Wide battlements inside ramparts provided by a continuous parapet wall.</li> <li>◆ Summit of the citadel has a granary, powder magazine, store rooms, and magazines.</li> <li>◆ Inscriptions of Kalyana Chalukyans ( 10th-century - 12th-century) were found here, and one of them mentions the Chola attack that was repulsed back.</li> <li>◆ Attained status of Rajya or province under the Vijayanagara monarchs.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Fall of Vijayanagra, 1665 AD:</b> It faced attacks from the Adil Shahis of Bijapur and Qutb Shahis of Golconda armies.</li> <li>• <b>1776:</b> Haider Ali took control of Gooty fort</li> <li>• <b>1799:</b> It was annexed to the East India Company.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Penugonda Fort</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Location:</b> Satya Sai district of AP.</li> <li>• <b>Features:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ 7 massive fortifications</li> <li>◆ A moat</li> <li>◆ Four gateways</li> <li>◆ Number of temples, wells, watch towers</li> <li>◆ Granary at the summit</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Historical significance:</b> It became the capital of the IV dynasty of Vijayanagara kings after the fall of Vijayanagara in the Tallikota War in 1565 AD. It also witnessed multiple attacks by Adil Shahi and Qutb Shahi commanders, which were repelled.</li> <li>• <b>1776:</b> Penugonda also went into control of Haider Ali</li> <li>• <b>1799:</b> East India Company annexed it</li> </ul>
<p><b>Chandragiri Fort</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Location:</b> Tirupati district of Andhra Pradesh</li> <li>• <b>Area:</b> About a mile in circumference and covers an area of 26 acres</li> <li>• <b>Components:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ <b>A lower fort:</b> It covers the plain area &amp; contains three-story Rani Mahal and Raja Mahal and a couple of temples</li> <li>◆ <b>An upper fort:</b> Located on the hill on the northern side &amp; except for strong stone ramparts and the remains of Vishnu temple and Krishna temple, no significant structures were intact on the upper fort.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Late 16th-century:</b> The capital of Vijayanagara was shifted from Penugonda to Chandragiri.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Gandikota Fort</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Location:</b> YSR Kadapa district of AP</li> <li>• <b>Meaning:</b> 'Gandikota' means 'gorge and fort' in Telugu</li> <li>• <b>Features:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ An impregnable fort, marked by a deep gorge with the river Pennar flowing on its north and western sides, respectively.</li> <li>◆ Main entrance is similar to the main entrance of Golconda Fort marked by a cyclopean wall</li> <li>◆ Structural remains include a magazine, jail, granary, Rang Mahal, and mini Charminar, Jama Masjid, Madhavaraya temple, Ranganayakula temple, and Raghunatha temple, dating to the Vijayanagara and Qutb Shahis periods.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>1800 AD:</b> It was ceded to the East India Company under a treaty by Nizam.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Warangal Fort</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Location:</b> Warangal district of Telangana</li> <li>• <b>Related empire:</b> It became the capital of the Kakatiya kingdom during the Ganapatideva Maharajas regime (1199-1261 AD)</li> <li>• <b>Other names:</b> Orugallu, Orumgallu, and Ekasilanagara</li> <li>• <b>Features:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Diameter of the fortification: 7.5 km.</li> <li>◆ 2 concentric circular defence fortifications and two moats</li> <li>◆ The stone fortification has rows of steps running all along its interior to access the ramparts at any time.</li> <li>◆ One high, raised security tower was built atop Ekasila Hill.</li> <li>◆ Has many temples, secular structures, shrines, water tanks, and reservoirs</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Later rulers:</b> After the fall of the Kakatiya Empire (1323 AD) the fort was ruled by several governors, local chieftains, Bahamanis, Qutb Shahis, and Nizams.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Bhongir Fort</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Location:</b> Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district of Telangana</li> <li>• <b>Dynasty:</b> Initially under the Kakatiya supremacy.</li> <li>• <b>Significance:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ One of the earliest forts in Telangana, controlled by the Qutb Shahis.</li> <li>◆ Played an important role in the succession struggle between Daulat Quli and Ibrahim Qutb Shah (4th Sultan).</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Type:</b> A Hill fort that stands on an isolated, steep hill about 500 feet high from ground level and has one mile circumference.</li> <li>• <b>Components:</b> Has lower and upper forts marked by steep slopes all around.</li> <li>• <b>Features:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ The inner walls represent the varying architectural traits of Kakatiyas and Qutb Shahis.</li> <li>◆ Traces of stucco decorative elements in the form of cut plaster and niche decoration indicate Qutb Shahi style, after Qutb Shahis finally took control of the Nizams.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Koilkonda Fort</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Location:</b> Mahbubnagar district of Telangana</li> <li>• <b>Significance:</b> Served as border fort between the Vijayanagara and Qutb Shahi kingdoms.</li> <li>• <b>Features:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Located on a hill covered by ravines on the western side</li> <li>◆ A defence wall encircles the hill with curtains and bastions</li> <li>◆ Arched gateways are decorated - 4 gateways.</li> <li>◆ Important remains: The house of the commander, a number of other apartments, magazines, granary, and an Idgah</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Elgandal Fort / Veligundala</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Location:</b> Karimnagar district of Telangana.</li> <li>• <b>Construction:</b> Said to be built during Kakatiyas and served as one of the strongholds during Musunuri Nayakas rule.</li> <li>• <b>Qutb Shahi rule:</b> It was made into a circar with 21 paraganas during Abdul Hasan Qutb Shah.</li> <li>• <b>Other rulers:</b> Kalyana Chalukyas, later Kakatiyas, Musunuri Nayakas, Bahamanis, Qutb Shahis, and Nizams.</li> <li>• <b>Major structural remains:</b> A temple and Darga datable to the early and late medieval periods.</li> </ul>

## Forts of Gujarat

- Gujarat, a land steeped in history and culture, is adorned with magnificent forts that stand as timeless monuments to the region's rich heritage. From the rugged hills of Junagadh to the serene shores of Diu, each fort narrates a saga of valour, conquest, resilience, and architectural brilliance.

### Uparkot Fort, Junagadh

- **Construction:** 319 BC by the Mauryan emperor Chandragupta.
- **Stronghold for various dynasties:** Mauryas, Guptas, and Chudasamas.
- **Architectural marvels:** A mosque, a set of millennia-old Buddhist caves, and two fine step-wells (Adi Kadi Vav and Navghan Kuvo).
- **2 cannons:** Neelam and Mani

### Pavagadh Champaner Fort

- **A UNESCO World Heritage Site**
- **Construction:** 8th century, when it served as a fortified outpost for the Chavda dynasty.
- **Other ruling dynasties:** Solanki Rajputs (Chalukyas of Gujarat), Khichi Chauhans and the Gujarat Sultanate.
- **Major architectures:**
  - ◆ **Kalika Mata Temple:** A revered Hindu pilgrimage site, nestled within the fort walls.
  - ◆ **Jami Masjid:** Built by Mahmud Begada of the Gujarat Sultanate

### Diu Fort

- **Location:** Island of Diu off the coast of Gujarat
- **Importance:** One of the Seven Wonders of Portuguese Origin in the World.
- **Construction:** Product of a strategic alliance between Bahadur Shah, the Sultan of Gujarat, and the Portuguese against the Mughals, built in the year 1535 by D Nuno da Cunha and rebuilt in the year 1546 by D Joao de Castro.
- **Stones used:** Warm red sandstone.
- **Porta da Barra:** The fort's entrance gate

### Bhujia Fort

- **Location:** On Bhujia Hill on the outskirts of the town of Bhuj in the district of Kutch.
- **Construction:** It began in 1715 under Rao Godji I, the ruler of the Kutch Kingdom & then his son, Deshalji I.

- **Stone used:** Red sandstone

### Bhadra Fort, Ahmedabad (Aark Fort)

- **Construction:** By Ahmad Shah I in 1411.
- **Indo-Islamic architecture:**
  - ◆ Bhadra Kali Temple
  - ◆ Jama Masjid
  - ◆ Teen Darwaza: Formerly an entrance to the royal square, Maidan- Shah.
  - ◆ Clock Tower: A tower clock was brought from London in 1849 and installed here in 1878 by the British East India Company

## Major UNESCO World Heritage Sites of India

- The Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, an international agreement adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO in 1972, was founded on the premise that certain places on Earth are of outstanding universal value and as such should form part of the common heritage of humankind. The nations or States Parties that adhere to the Convention have become part of an international community, united in a common mission to identify and safeguard our world's most outstanding natural and cultural heritage. Whilst fully respecting the national sovereignty, and without prejudice to property rights provided by national legislation, the States Parties to the Convention recognise that the protection of the World Heritage is the duty of the international community as a whole. A total of 42 properties from India are inscribed on the World Heritage List.

### Red Fort of Agra

- **About:** A powerful fortress of red sandstone encompasses, within its 2.5 km-long enclosure walls, the imperial city of the Mughal rulers.
- **Major architectures:** Jahangir Palace and the Khas Mahal, built by Shah Jahan; audience halls, such as the Diwan-i-Khas; and two very beautiful mosques.

### Ajanta Caves

- **About:** The first Buddhist cave monuments that date from the 2nd and 1st centuries BC
- **Development:** During the Gupta period (5th and 6th centuries AD)

**Nalanda Mahavihara at Nalanda, Bihar**

- **About:** It is the archaeological remains of a monastic and scholastic institution dating from the 3rd century BCE to the 13th century CE.
- **Components:** Stupas, shrines, viharas (residential and educational buildings) and important art works in stucco, stone and metal.
- Most ancient university of the Indian Subcontinent: It transmitted knowledge over an uninterrupted period of 800 years.

**Buddhist Monuments at Sanchi**

- **Location:** Over 40 km from Bhopal
- **Specifications:** It has a group of Buddhist monuments (monolithic pillars, palaces, temples and monasteries) dating back to the 2nd and 1st centuries BC.
- **Significance:** It is the oldest Buddhist sanctuary in existence and was a major Buddhist centre in India until the 12th century AD.

**Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus (formerly Victoria Terminus), Mumbai**

- Example of Victorian Gothic Revival architecture in India
- **Architect:** British architect FW Steven
- **Construction:** Started in 1878 with stone dome, turrets, pointed arches and eccentric ground plan

**Dholavira: A Harappan City**

- **About:** An archaeological site inhabited over a period of 1,200 years from 3000 BCE through 1800 BCE.
- **Location:** Near the village of Dholavira, in the Kutch District of the Indian state of Gujarat.
- **Significance:** 5th largest site of the Indus Valley Civilization in the sub-continent.
- **Lies between two seasonal streams:** Mansar (north) and Manhar (South).
- **2 parts:** A walled city and a cemetery to the west of the city.

**Ellora Caves**

- **About:** Has 34 monasteries and temples, extending over more than 2 km, were dug side by side in the wall of a high basalt cliff, not far from Aurangabad, in Maharashtra.
- **Related religions:** Buddhism, Hinduism and Jainism

**Fatehpur Sikri**

- **Construction:** In the second half of the 16th century by the Emperor Akbar,
- **Has Jama Masjid:** One of the largest mosques in India.

**Great Living Chola Temples**

- **Includes 3 great 11th and 12th-century Temples:**
  - ◆ Brihadisvara Temple at Thanjavur
  - ◆ Brihadisvara Temple at Gangaikondacholisvaram: Built by Rajendra I, it was completed in 1035 AD
  - ◆ Airavatesvara Temple at Darasuram: Built by Rajaraja II at Darasuram and features a 24-m vimana and a stone image of Lord Shiva

**Monuments at Hampi**

- **Hampi:** Last capital of the last great Hindu Kingdom of Vijayanagar.
- **Architecture:** Dravidian temples and palaces
- **Conquered by the Deccan Muslim confederacy** in 1565

**Monuments at Mahabalipuram**

- **Founder:** Pallava kings
- **Specifications:** Carved out of rock along the Coromandel coast in the 7th and 8th centuries.
- **Major architectures:** Known for its rathas (temples like chariots), mandapas, giant open-air reliefs such as the famous 'Descent of the Ganges', & temple of Rivage, with thousands of sculptures to the glory of Lord Shiva.

**Monuments at Pattadakal, Karnataka**

- **Components:** Nine Hindu temples, as well as a Jain sanctuary
- **Temple of Virupaksha:** Built c. 740 by Queen Lokamahadevi to commemorate her husband's victory over the kings from the South.

**Hill Forts of Rajasthan**

- **6 majestic forts:** Chittorgarh; Kumbhalgarh; Sawai Madhopur; Jhalawar; Jaipur, and Jaisalmer.
- **Use the natural defences offered by the landscape:** Hills, deserts, rivers, and dense forests.
- **Special Feature:** Have extensive water harvesting structures, largely still in use today.



## Walled City of Ahmedabad

- **Founder:** Sultan Ahmad Shah in the 15th century on the eastern bank of the Sabarmati river
- **Major architecture:** Bhadra citadel, walls and gates of the Fort city & mosques and tombs as well as important Hindu and Jain temples of later periods.

## Humayun's Tomb, Delhi

- **Construction:** 1570
- **Significance:** The first garden-tomb on the Indian subcontinent.

## Jaipur City, Rajasthan

- **Founded:** In 1727 by Sawai Jai Singh II.
- **Specification:** Built according to a grid plan having large public squares called chaupars.

## Kakatiya Rudreshwara (Ramappa) Temple, Telangana

- **Location:** In the village of Palampet ~ 200 km north-east of Hyderabad, Telangana.
- **About:** The main Shiva temple built of sandstone in a walled complex built during the Kakatiyan period (1123-1323 CE) under rulers Rudradeva and Recharla Rudra.
- **Construction:** It began in 1213 CE and has decorated beams and pillars of carved granite and dolerite.

## Khajuraho Group of Monuments

- **Construction:** During the Chandella dynasty, which reached its apogee between 950 and 1050.
- **Only about 20 temples** remain
- **2 different religions:** Hinduism and Jainism.
- **Temple of Kandariya:** A shiva temple & is among the greatest masterpieces of Indian art.

## Mahabodhi Temple Complex at Bodh Gaya

- **About:** One of the four holy sites related to the life of the Lord Buddha, and particularly to the attainment of Enlightenment.
- **Temples:** The first temple was built by Emperor Asoka in the 3rd century BC, and the present temple dates from the 5th or 6th centuries.

## Mountain Railways of India

- **3 railways:**

- ◆ **Darjeeling Himalayan Railway:** The first hill passenger railway opened in 1881.
- ◆ **Nilgiri Mountain Railway:** A 46-km long metre-gauge single-track railway in Tamil Nadu State completed in 1908.
- ◆ **Kalka Shimla Railway:** A 96-km long, single track working rail link built in the mid-19th century to provide a service to the highland town of Shimla.

## Qutub Minar and its Monuments, Delhi

- **Construction:** Early 13th century a few kilometres south of Delhi
- **About:** The red sandstone tower of Qutub Minar is 72.5 m high, tapering from 2.75 m in diameter at its peak to 14.32 m at its base, and alternating angular and rounded flutings.
- **Alai-Darwaza Gate:** The masterpiece of Indo-Muslim art (built in 1311)
- **Quwwatu'l-Islam Mosque:** The oldest in northern India.

## Rani-ki-Vav (the Queen's Stepwell) at Patan, Gujarat

- **Location:** On the bank of Saraswati River
- **Construction:** Initially built as a memorial to a king in the 11th century AD
- **Architecture:** Maru-Gurjara architectural style

## Rock Shelters of Bhimbetka

- **Location:** Foothills of the Vindhyan Mountains on the southern edge of the central Indian plateau.

## Sacred Ensembles of the Hoysalas

- **About:** Has 3 Hoysala-style temple complexes in southern India, dating from the 12th to 13th centuries.

## Santiniketan

- **Establishment:** Rural West Bengal in 1901 by Rabindranath Tagore
- **About:** It was a residential school and centre for art based on ancient Indian traditions and a vision of the unity of humanity transcending religious and cultural boundaries.
- **'World University':** It was established at Santiniketan in 1921, recognising the unity of humanity or 'Visva Bharati'.

## Sun Temple, Konark

- **About:** A monumental representation of the sun god Surya's chariot; its 24 wheels are decorated with symbolic designs and it is led by a team of six horses.

## Taj Mahal

- **About:** An immense mausoleum of white marble, built in Agra between 1631 and 1648 by order of the Mughal emperor Shah Jahan in memory of his wife Mumtaz Mahal.

## The Jantar Mantar, Jaipur

- **About:** An astronomical observation site built in the early 18th century that includes a set of some 20 main fixed instruments.
- **Importance:** It is the most significant, most comprehensive, and the best preserved of India's historic observatories.

## Great Himalayan National Park Conservation Area (GNPS)

- **Location:** Himachal Pradesh
- **Characteristics:** High alpine peaks, alpine meadows and riverine forests.

## Kaziranga National Park

- **About:** Located in Assam, this park is one of the last areas in eastern India undisturbed by a human presence.
- **Importance:** Inhabited by the world's largest population of one-horned rhinoceroses, as well as tigers, elephants, panthers and bears, and thousands of birds.

## Keoladeo National Park

- **About:** One of the major wintering areas for large numbers of aquatic birds from Afghanistan, Turkmenistan, China and Siberia.
- **Importance:** Some 364 species of birds, including the rare Siberian crane, have been recorded in the park.

## Sundarbans National Park

- **About:** It covers an area of 10,000 km<sup>2</sup> of land and water (more than half of it in India, the rest in Bangladesh) in the Ganges delta.
- **Importance:** It contains the world's largest area of mangrove forests.

# Kurukshetra

## Theyyam

- **Other names:** Kaliyattam, Theyyamkettu, or Thirayadiyanthiram
- **About:** A vibrant ritualistic art form indigenous to the northern part of Kerala, specifically Kasaragod, Kannur, Wayanad, and Kozhikode districts.
- **Practise in Karnataka:** The art form is also practised under the name 'Bhuta Kola' in the neighbouring region of Karnataka, occupying the Tulunadu region.

## Communities practising Theyyam

- **Malayar community:** They habit Kasaragod in north to Vadakara in south.
- **Mavilanmar community:** Inhabitants of the hill areas of Kannur and Kasaragod districts, who also engage in basket weaving.
- **Koppalar community:** Found in Kasaragod, it retains their Thulunad culture and are known as 'Nalkedayar' in the Thulu language meaning dance.
- **Kalanadikal:** A matrilineal tribal society believed to have migrated and settled in the hills of Wayanad.

## Structural components of Theyyam

- **Vellattam/ Thottam Paatu:** Initial segment of the performance; the artist in a simple and modest red headdress accompanied by drummers, recites and narrates the myth of the deity of the shrine or Theyyam.
- **Kaavu:** Sacred grove or forest area where Theyyam performances traditionally take place.
- **Symbolising Harvest:** Theyyam performances are commonly held during the winter months, aligning with the agricultural lull when villagers can actively participate without disrupting their farming activities.
- **Caste based nature:** Theyyam performances are often associated with specific castes, particularly those belonging to the lower strata of society.
- **Natural Makeup & Attire:** The makeup transforms the artists into divine or ancestral beings. The attire includes colourful costumes adorned with intricate designs and ornaments.

- **Traditional musical Instruments:** Chenda (drum) and elathalam (cymbals) accompany the performance.

### Types of Theyyam

- ~ 400 diverse forms of Theyyam but broadly classified into:
  - ◆ **Forms of female deities:** Predominantly Mother Goddesses like Bhagawati, Kali, Chamundi, and Bhadrakali
  - ◆ **Deities elevated from human figures and history of the land:** It includes revered scholars and war heroes
  - ◆ **Indigenous and tribal cultures:** Snake gods and goddesses and those associated with curses and blessings
  - ◆ **Animalistic forms of Theyyam:** Tiger and monkey deities celebrate the community's intricate links with nature
  - ◆ **Mappilla Theyyam:** It represents the Muslim community, embodying cultural interactions and engagement of the region and period.

### Symbolism

- **Ecological Symbolism:** Many Theyyam performances feature deities and spirits that are closely associated with elements of nature, such as forests, rivers, animals, and celestial bodies.
- **Sacred Groves/ kaavus and Biodiversity Conservation:** By performing Theyyam in these natural settings, tribal communities reinforce their spiritual connection to the land & contribute to ecosystem conservation.
- **Harvest Festivities and Agrarian Wisdom:** Some Theyyam rituals are associated with harvest festivals and agrarian celebrations, highlighting the importance of agriculture in tribal societies.
- **Environmental Conservation and Advocacy:** By using Theyyam as a for raising environmental consciousness, tribal communities seek to spread awareness and promote sustainable stewardship of natural resources.

### Role of Tribal Art

- It is significant that the tradition and cultural diversity of tribal India are the most ancient and unparalleled in

the world, with its own relevance and rationality, since Indian tribes express their unique artistry in beautiful ways, so factors like geographia, socio-historic transition, transformation and transcreation shape the style of their artistic approach. This art is a precious gem in our rich civilisation, brought to life with vibrant colours by talented indigenous artisans all over the country.

### Warli Paintings

- **About:** A style of tribal art created by the tribes from the North Sahyadri Range in Maharashtra.



- **Practise:** Traditionally practised by women of the Warli tribe/ Suvasinis, who decorated the Lagn Chowk or the wedding square.
- **Theme:**
  - ◆ Daily routine
  - ◆ Relationship of the tribal people with nature, gods, myths, traditions, customs, and festivities.
  - ◆ Employs simple designs like circle, triangle, and square
  - ◆ Central motif - "chauk" or "chaukat"

### Gond Paintings

- **Practise:** By the Gond tribal community of central India.



- **Themes:**
  - ◆ Animals
  - ◆ Mahua tree
  - ◆ Mythological stories
  - ◆ Hindu gods, Local deities
  - ◆ Folktales
- **Designs & Patterns:** Dots, fine lines, curved lines, dashes, fish scales, drops of water, seed shapes, and geometrical shapes

### Hornbill Festival

- **State:** Nagaland in the first week of December
- **About:** One of the largest indigenous festival organised by the state government of Nagaland to promote tourism in the state.
- **Naming:** Named after Hornbill bird - the most revered bird for the Nagas.

### Champa silk/ Kosa silk

- **State:** Produced exclusively in Chhattisgarh - GI Tag (2010)
- **Texture:** Majorly dull golden brownish texture but is also found in natural shades of dark honey, fawn, orange, pale golden, cream and many more.

### Phulkari Embroidery

- **State:** Punjab
- **About:** Embroidery of floral designs on light-colored cloth with contrasting brilliant colors. On the back of the material, the stitches are embroidered.

### Dhokra Metal Casting

- **Dhokra Damar tribe:** Traditional metal smiths of Central India.
- **Origin:** Traced back to the tribal communities residing in the regions of Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, West Bengal, and Odisha, where it evolved as an integral part of their cultural and religious practices.
- **Metal casting system:** It involves using the lost wax casting/ cire perdue method.
- **Theme:** Nature, mythology, and everyday life, incorporating motifs such as animals, birds, deities, and tribal symbols into their creations.

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### Agricultural Festivals of India

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- As a part of their culture heritage, all tribes celebrate various festivals to appease deities and revere mother

nature for blessings. Various agricultural activities, like sowing, caring of crops, harvesting etc., are nature or weather dependent for their best results. Hence, any adversity in weather conditions posed a big challenge to ancient agrarian societies for their survival and sustenance. To keep their crops safe from any calamity, they started worshipping the agricultural fields and related deities with songs, dances, and various offerings.

### Major tribal festivals

#### 1- Bhagoria Haat or Bhagoria tribal festival

- ◆ **Celebrated by:** Bhils and Bhilalas tribes
- ◆ **Month:** March
- ◆ **Type:** A harvest festival
- ◆ **State:** Celebrated in the Jhabua, Dhar, Alirajpur, and Khargone areas of MP

#### 2. Karma or Karam Festival

- ◆ **States:** Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal, Bihar, and Assam
- ◆ **About:** Dedicated to the worship of Karam-Lord/ God to seek his blessings for good harvest and health.
- ◆ **Tribes:** Celebrated by Munda, Ho, Oraon, Bagal, Baiga, Kharia, Kudmi, Lohra, and Korwa tribes
- ◆ **Month:** 'Ekadashi' (11th day) or 'Purnima' (Full Moon) in the Hindu month of 'Bhadon' (August-September)
- ◆ **Type:** Sowing Festival

#### 3. Hareli

- ◆ **State:** Chhattisgarh
- ◆ **About:** Dedicated to crop harvests, trees and greenery in general
- ◆ **Tribes:** Celebrated mainly by Gond tribe on the new moon day in the month 'Shravan' (July-August)
- ◆ **Deity:** Goddess 'Kutki Dai' is worshipped to seek blessings for good monsoon and bumper crops
- ◆ **Major ritual:** 'Pat Jatra' that embraces worship of Sal tree wood locally known as 'Thurlu Kotla' or 'Tika Pata'

- ◆ **Other names:** Hariyali and Riyali in Himachal Pradesh (Kangra, Shimla and Sirmour) and Dakhrail in Jubbal and Kinnaur

#### 4- Bihan Mela

- ◆ **About:** Celebrated by Kondh tribe of Odisha since 2019 & is a celebration of the indigenous crops and varieties grown in the region, especially in Nayagarh district.
- ◆ **Literal meaning:** Seed festival
- ◆ **Objective:** To promote traditional varieties and conventional farming practices such as mixed cropping that were abandoned after Green Revolution.

#### 5- Agricultural tribal festivals of Madhya Pradesh

- ◆ **Makar Sankranti/ Redgram Week Festival:** Newly harvested crop of redgram is first offered to God with prayers, and then cooked for family.
- ◆ **Shiva Ratri/ Poola Pandaga:** Celebrated in February as festival of flowers during which, tribals collect flowers of all kinds from forest for worshipping the Goddess.
- ◆ **Crop seeds and tamarind festivals:** Celebrated in the month of March.
- ◆ **Seeds festival:** Celebrated in May prior to sowing and cultivation.
- ◆ **Mokkalu festival:** Celebrated in July in which tribals pluck out the unwanted plants from their fields to prevent crop diseases and increase productivity.
- ◆ **Nandamma Goddess festival:** It celebrates bringing of harvested crops from fields.
- ◆ **Kanda festival:** It begins in December and culminates in the January as Redgram Week.

#### 6- Agricultural tribal festivals of Assam

- ◆ **Ali- Aye-Ligang:** Celebrated by the Mising tribe marking the beginning of cultivation on the first Wednesday of the month of Phalgun
- ◆ **Porag Festivals:** Celebrated by the Mising tribe in the months of Aghan and Phalgun which is a post-harvest festival. Also known as Nora Siga Bihu, it is a 5-day long festival.

#### 7- Agricultural tribal festivals of Nagaland

- ◆ **Aelong festival:** Celebrated after sowing of new seeds in the fields to seek divine blessings for bumper harvest. Celebrations continue for five days (1-6 April) every year mainly by Konyak tribe.
- ◆ **Moatsii Mong/ Moatsu festival:** After sowing seeds and cleaning the fields, people of Ao tribe celebrate this 3-day long festival in the first week of May. They light a fire, called Sangpangtu, and sit around it.
- ◆ **Bushu Dima festival:** A 3-day long festival of Dimansa tribe on the completion of January harvest & they offer their yield of paddy field to their supreme god, called Brai Sibrai Madai.

#### Agricultural tribal festivals of Arunachal Pradesh

- ◆ **Myoko:** One of the most important festivals of the Apatani tribe celebrated from 20th March to 19th April every year to ensure fertility, both in the fields and its people.
- ◆ **Reh festival:** Celebrated by Idu Mishmi tribe every year from 1st to 3rd February to seek prosperity of family and crops.
- ◆ **Mopin:** An agricultural festival celebrated by the Galo tribe on 5th April every year & rice flour is applied to fellow revelers' faces as rice is the main staple food of this tribe.
- ◆ **Nyokum festival:** Celebrated by Nyish tribe every year on the 26th February. The festival is closely linked with sowing, as during the festival, the goddess of prosperity is worshipped with offerings for a bountiful harvest.

#### Agricultural tribal festivals of Sikkim

- ◆ **Losar:** One of the most popular festivals of Sikkim celebrated by local communities which is basically praying for a good harvest in the current new year.
- ◆ **Sakewa:** Celebrated by mostly Kirat Khamba Rai community, as a homage to Mother Earth for the blessings in many forms.
- ◆ **Losong or Noomsong festival:** It celebrates the end of reaping season of crops. It also marks Sikkimese new year.

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**Tribal Folk Dances of North- east India**

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- Home to over two hundred tribes and ethnic communities, India's North-eastern Region is often referred to as a region of festivals, music and dance. Every tribe or community has its own set of distinct festivals, most of which centre round sowing, harvesting and the New Year. Folk dances are an inseparable part of these festivals which not only display the culture of the tribes, but also reflect their colourful fabrics, musical instruments, and above all, their intrinsic love for Nature.

**Tribal Folk Dances of Arunachal Pradesh**

- **Rikham Pada:** Performed by the Nishyie people who follow an indigenous faith in which the dancers wear elaborate cane headgears, and an antique waist-belt made of beaten bell metal.
- **Ponung:** Performed by the Adi tribe which is a part of the Solung festival to seek a bumper crop, this dance is exclusively performed by women with one male person called Miri guiding them.
- **Delong:** An all-male Adi folk dance performed during the Etor festival which depicts making or mending of fences around village farms to protect them from animals.
- **Daminda:** Performed by the Apatani women to mark the beginning and end of Dree festival which depicts various aspects of traditional agriculture.
- **Cham:** 22 different types of folk dances performed by the Monpa people, who profess Mahayana Buddhism, some of which are performed during Torgya, a three-day monastic festival.
- **Pha Cham:** Performed by the Monpa people. It is performed by a single person in a monk's dress wearing a pha (boar) mask to pacify the gods and spirits so that perfect conditions could be created for the Torgya festival.
- **Shanag cham:** Performed by twelve Monpa dancers who represent Tantric priests, wearing phodka (a richly embroidered gown flowing to the ankles) and pang kheb (a colourful embroidered apron), apart from a black, broad-brimmed hat called Shanag.
- **Gon-Nyin Cham:** Performed by eleven Monpa dancers each holding a ritual

bell in one hand and damaru in the other and represent dakinis who are protectors of the Buddhist faith.

**Tribal Folk Dances of Assam**

- **Bagrumba:** Performed by young Bodo women in Spring to pray for the community's prosperity and well-being.
- **Bardwisikhla:** Another spring time Bodo folk dance performed to welcome the wind goddess.
- **Gumrag Soman:** Performed by Mising people, as a part of Ali-a-ye Ligang (the Springtime seed-sowing festival) to the rhythm of amorous Oinitom songs to the accompaniment of drums, cymbals and flutes.
- **Ritnong Chingdi, Lingpum Sokchon and Hacha Hekan:** Performed by Karbi tribal community & are associated with agriculture.
- **Nimso Kerung and Banjar Kekan:** Associated with death rituals.

**Tribal Folk Dances of Meghalaya**

- **Nongkrem dance:** Performed by Khasis during the Nongkrem festival dedicated to the indigenous deity called U Lei Shyllong by young women clad in their best colourful traditional jewelry.
- **Wangala/ Hundred Drums dance:** Part of the Wangala Festival of the Garos held to mark the end of a period of toil, and pray for a good harvest.
- **Cheraw/ Bamboo dance:** Oldest Mizo dance believed to have existed even in the 1st century AD.

**Tribal Folk Dances of Mizoram**

- **Khuallam/ Dance of the Guest:** A Mizo folk dance generally performed by men which is part of Khuangchawi, a ceremony comprising of community feasting, dance and music.
  - **Chheih Lam:** A dance which embodies the spirit of joy and exhilaration. A group of people sit in a circle and sing a song called Chheih hla which is sung to the beats of a drum or a bamboo tube or just clapping of hands.
  - **Par Lam dance:** To celebrate the beauty of mountains and rivers, girls are dressed in colourful attire with flowers tucked in their hair sing the glory of Nature, a couple of boys play a gong and a string musical instrument.
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**Manipur**

- **Asharai Odo:** Performed by Mao tribe, it is a colourful folk dance known for its vocal rhythms and mellifluous movements.
- **Luivat Pheizak:** Performed by Tangkhul people which depict different stages of cultivation and the simple tribal lifestyle, this dance is performed during all traditional festivals like Luirai Phanit (seed sowing festival), Manei Phanit (festival of tools and equipments), and Chumphu (harvest festival).
- **Shim Lam/ Fly Dance:** Performed by Kabui tribals during the Gang-Ngai festival and depicts the story of Tajuibon, a flying insect with shiny wings, which moves around from one flower to another drinking nectar.
- **Kit Lam:** Performed by Kabui tribals, it is a harvest festival in which the rhythmic dance imitates the movement of the crickets.

**Nagaland**

- **Sovi Kehu:** A community dance performed by Angami tribe in which an elder takes the lead with an "ohh-hoo ohh-hoo" sound, and others follow him in a circular motion.

- **Yimdongsu Tsungsang:** Performed by Ao tribe, it is a celebration of heritage and spirituality, and the dancers traverse the village streets in intricate movements, wearing traditional items.
- **Oh Hio:** Performed by Chakesang men during festivals and celebrations. The dancers imitate actions of different birds and animals, like rooster fights, and flapping of wings by the ducks.

**Tripura**

- **Hozagiri dance:** Performed by Reang tribals during Hozagiri festival or Lakshmi puja. A group of men sing & play the Kham (drum) and Sumui (flute), 4-6 women dance during which they depict the entire cycle of jhum (slash-and-burn) cultivation.
- **Garia dance:** Performed by Jamatia and Kalai tribes during Garia or Shiva puja, in which young men and women go from house to house, place a symbol of Lord Garia in the middle of the courtyard, and sing and dance in an anti-clockwise circle around it.

# 14. EDITORIALS

## 1- Analysing Maharashtra's water crisis - The Hindu

- After the deficient monsoon last year, the Maharashtra government declared many parts of the State to be drought-hit. This situation is in sharp contrast with the State's coastal areas, where rainfall has often been in excess, leading to severe flooding.

### Rain-shadow effect

- **Location of Marathwada in the rain-shadow region of Western Ghats:** Moist winds from Arabian Sea rise and cool, causing heavy rainfall (2,000-4,000 mm) on the western side but upon descending into Western Maharashtra and Marathwada, they lose most of their moisture.
- **Impact:** As a result, Marathwada and North Karnataka have emerged as the second driest regions in India after Rajasthan.

### Impact of crops

- **Sugarcane cultivation:** Sugarcane requires 1,500-2,500 mm of water in its growing season & consumes 61% of the irrigation water. As a result, the average river outflow in the upper Bhima basin has almost halved.
- **Govt support:** Support for sugarcane pricing and sales has expanded sugarcane irrigation, restricting the irrigation of more nutritious crops.

### Impact of soil & topography

- **Type of soil:** Clayey black soil, locally called "regur" which is fertile and retains moisture well but has a low infiltration rate; so water runs off.
- **Low hydraulic conductivity of soil:** So, it holds on to the water for a long time after rains due to which farmers face crop loss.
- **Non-uniform water scarcity:** The area has parallel tributaries of the Godavari and the Krishna flowing southeast. Each tributary flows in the valley and is separated by a gently sloping hill. The valleys have perennial groundwater while the uplands have seasonal groundwater.

## Way Forward

- **Making the most of available resources:** They include classical watershed management work (like building water-conserving structures like contour trenches, earthen bunds, gully plugs, etc.).
- **Curbing rainwater run off of agricultural fields:** Run off carries the very soil that doesn't allow the water to percolate. So many of these structures accumulate silt.
- **Use of funds under the MGNREGS:** Funds could be used to design silt-trapping mechanisms and organise training programmes for farmers on periodic desilting.
- **Managing water demand in low-rainfall region:** It includes practising water-efficient irrigation, cultivating drought-resistant crops, and diversifying livelihoods.
- **Shift in agri practices:** Marathwada must also shift to other high-value, low-water-using crops, while sugarcane production must move to Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and West Bengal.

## 2. How well is India tapping its rooftop solar potential? - The Hindu

### Context

- India's installed rooftop solar (RTS) capacity increased by 2.99 GW in 2023-2024, the highest growth in a year. As of March 31, the total installed RTS capacity in India was 11.87 GW. To meet rising energy demand, India needs to double down on its efforts to expand its RTS potential.

### RTS programme

- **Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission - 2010:** Predecessor to RTS to produce 20 GW of solar energy (including RTS) in three phases: 2010-2013, 2013-2017, and 2017-2022.
- **2015:** The government revised this target to 100 GW by 2022, including a 40-GW RTS component, with yearly targets for each State and Union Territory.



- **December 2022:** India had an installed RTS capacity of 7.5 GW and extended the deadline for the 40-GW target to 2026.
- **India's overall RTS potential:** ~ 796 GW.
- **Current requirement:** To meet India's target of installing 500 GW of renewable energy capacity, with a solar component of 280 GW, by 2030, RTS alone needs to contribute about 100 GW by 2030.

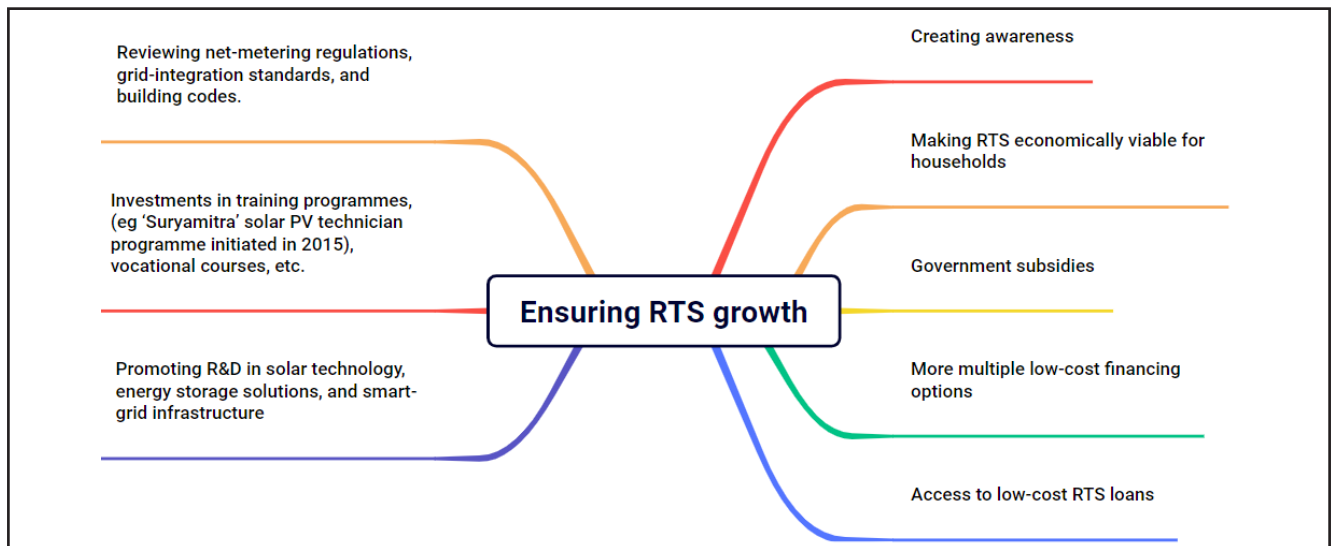
**Performance of states**

- **Latest data:** The RTS capacities of Gujarat, Maharashtra, and Rajasthan had taken big strides.
- **Largest potential:** Rajasthan boasts of the highest RTS potential in the country: 1,154 MW as it provides financial incentives, and promotes RTS through public-private partnerships.

- **Potential States:** Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and Jharkhand, among others, are yet to fully explore their RTS potential.
- **Challenges:** Bureaucratic hurdles, inadequate infrastructure, and lack of public awareness.

**Pradhan Mantri Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana**

- **About:** A flagship initiative to fit one crore households with RTS systems and help them get up to 300 units of free electricity every month.
- **Impact:** An average system size of 2 kW for targeted households will result in a total RTS capacity addition of 20 GW.
- **Other provisions:** It encourages the adoption of advanced solar technologies, energy storage solutions, and smart grid infrastructure.



**3. Indus Water Treaty - The Hindu**

**The Indus Waters Treaty (IWT)**

- The distribution of waters of the Indus and its tributaries between India and Pakistan is governed by the Indus Water Treaty (IWT).
- Was signed on Sept 19, 1960, between India, Pakistan and a representative of World Bank after nine years of negotiations.
- Partition of India cut across the Indus river basin, which has the Indus river, plus five of its main tributaries.

**Western rivers**  
**Chenab, Jhelum, Indus**

India's rights over these rivers: Limited — can set up certain irrigation, run-of-the-river power plants, very limited storage, domestic and non-consumptive use, all subject to conditions

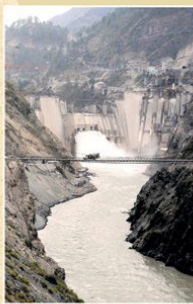
**Eastern rivers**  
**Sutlej, Beas, Ravi**

India's rights over these rivers: All exclusive rights lie with India.

**Indus Waters Commission a success story**

- Once every five years, conducts a general inspection of all rivers in parts. Total inspection tours so far: Over 100
- Regularly meets once a year. Total meetings thus far, including those for taking up Pak objections: Over 100

*MAP NOT TO SCALE*



**Context**

- With a five-member Pakistani delegation currently touring power projects in Jammu and Kashmir along with neutral experts from the World Bank, a leader recently sought the termination of India's Indus Water Treaty (IWT) with Pakistan.
- **About:** A treaty signed between India and Pakistan regulating the use and distribution of the Indus River system.
- **Agreement:** Between the then-Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and former Pakistan President Ayub Khan in 1960.
- **Mediation:** World Bank (It is also a signatory to the treaty).
- **Role of World Bank:** To appoint a neutral expert in case of 'technical' differences, failing which the differences are escalated to a dispute for international arbitration.
- **Conditions:** Water from three eastern rivers, Beas, Ravi, and Sutlej, was allocated to India, and water from the three western rivers – Chenab, Indus, and Jhelum were allocated to Pakistan.
- **Pak's share:** Pakistan got 80% of the water in the Indus drainage system.
- **Monitoring:** The treaty is overseen by the Permanent Indus Commission (PIC).
- **Permanent Indus Commission (PIC):** A bilateral body with commissioners from both countries to implement and manage treaty provisions, and resolve any questions, differences, or disputes that may arise.

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**4. The Story of the Emergency - Indian Express**

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**Context**

- On June 25, India entered the 50th year of the imposition of the Emergency, an extraordinary 21-month period from 1975 to 1977, which saw the suspension of civil liberties, curtailment of press freedom, mass arrests, the cancellation of elections, and rule by decree.

**Emergency in the modern political history of India**

- **Meaning:** June 25, 1975 - March 21, 1977, during which the government of PM Indira Gandhi used special provisions in the Constitution to impose sweeping executive & legislative consequences on the country.

**Progression:**

- ◆ Almost all opposition leaders were put in jail.
- ◆ Fundamental rights, including the freedom of speech and expression guaranteed under Article 19(1)(a), were curtailed, which led to pre-censorship of the press.

**Impact of Emergency:** It converts the federal structure into a de facto unitary one.**Extension of emergency:** Parliament may by law extend the (five-year) term of Lok Sabha one year at a time, make laws on subjects in the State List, and extend the Union's executive powers to the states.**Power to the President:** He can modify constitutional provisions on the allocation of financial resources between the Union and states.**Legal and constitutional sanction of Emergency**

- **Article 352:** The President may, on the advice of the Council of Ministers headed by the PM, issue a proclamation of emergency if the security of India or any part of the country is threatened by "war or external aggression or armed rebellion".
- **1975:** Instead of armed rebellion, the ground of "internal disturbance" was available to the government to proclaim an emergency (Only instance of proclamation of emergency due to "internal disturbance").
- **Other two occasions of emergency:** October 26, 1962, and December 3, 1971, both on grounds of war.
- **Removal of the term "internal disturbance":** By The Constitution (44th Amendment) Act, 1978.
- **Article 358:** It frees the state of all limitations imposed by Article 19 ("Right to freedom") as soon as an emergency is imposed.

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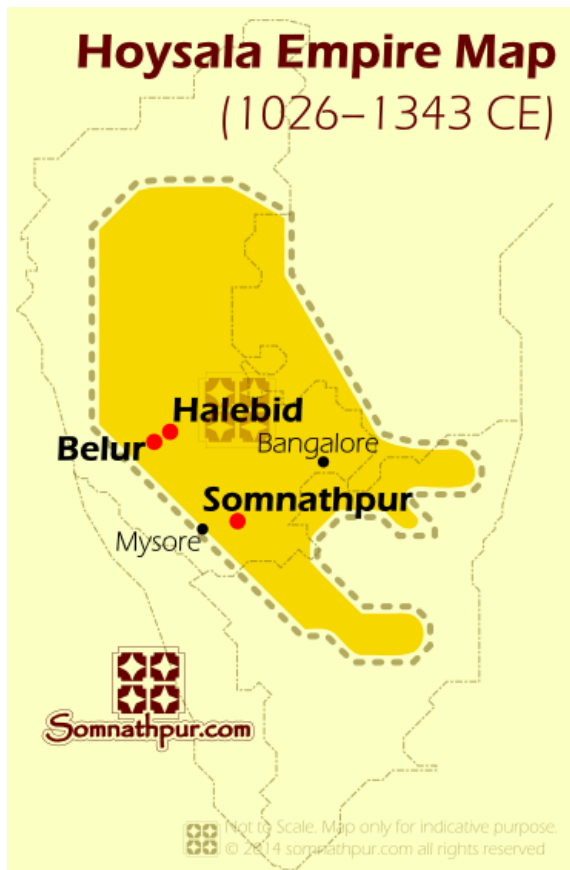
**5. UNESCO World Heritage Site of Somanathapur - The Hindu**

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**Context**

- The Tourism Department in Karnataka is planning to promote the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Somanathapur as part of Mysuru tourism circuit before Dasara this year. This will be through cross-

promotion of the 13th-century heritage site at popular places of tourist interest such as the Mysuru Palace, zoo and the Chamundi Hills so that visitors can plan a visit.



### Hoysalas

- **About:** Provincial governors under the Western Chalukyas who held power in Karnataka from the 10th century to the 14th century.
- **Initial capital:** Belur
- **Later capital:** Halebidu (or Dwarasamudra).

### Hoysala Temples

- **Features:**
  - ♦ **Use of soapstone,** a malleable stone that is easy to carve.
  - ♦ **Built on stellate (star-shaped) platforms,** and have several structures inside the complex.

- ♦ **Amalgamation of 3 distinctive styles** (Dravidian, Vesara and the North Indian Nagara style).
- ♦ **Signed temples** - the sculptors, masons leave behind their names, and sometimes a few more details.
- ♦ **Vaishnava and Shaiva shrine** that were built at the time Jainism was prominent in the region, and thus mark a turn towards Hinduism.

### 3 temples selected for the UNESCO list

- **Chennakeshava temple/ Vijaya Narayana temple:** Dedicated to Lord Vishnu - consecrated around 1117 AD by Hoysala king Vishnuvardhana to mark victory against the Cholas.
- **Kesava temple:** A Vaishnava shrine built in 1268 by Somanatha, a general of Hoysala King Narasimha III in the shape of a 16-point star and has 3 shrines dedicated to Keshava (missing now), Janardhana and Venugopala.
- **Hoysaleswara temple:** Largest Shiva temple built by the Hoysalas, and is dated to the 12th century.

### UNESCO World Heritage Sites

- **World Heritage Site (WHS):** A landmark with legal protection by an international convention administered by the UNESCO under the UNESCO World Heritage Convention, 1972.
- **Classification:** Cultural, natural and mixed (meeting both cultural and natural criteria)
- **Criteria:** To be selected, a WHS must be a somehow unique landmark which is geographically and historically identifiable and has special cultural or physical significance.
- **Maintenance of the list:** By the international World Heritage Program administered by the UNESCO World Heritage Committee.
- **Country with maximum sites:** Italy (59); China is the second with 57 sites

# 15. TERM IN NEWS

## **Pacific Decadal Oscillation (PDO) (Geography)**

- The Pacific Decadal Oscillation (PDO) is a climate pattern that affects the Pacific Ocean's temperature and the weather patterns around it. It's a long-term cycle, with warm and cool phases lasting 20-30 years each. The PDO is similar to El Niño/La Niña, but on a much larger scale. El Niño events last months, while PDO phases last decades. As of April 2024, the PDO is in a cool phase.

## **Urban Heat Island Effect (Geography)**

- The urban heat island (UHI) effect refers to the phenomenon where cities experience significantly higher temperatures than surrounding rural areas.
- City materials trap heat: Cities are full of concrete, asphalt, and metal buildings. These materials absorb the sun's heat all day and release it slowly at night, keeping things warm for longer durations. In contrast, trees and other natural elements in rural areas shade the ground and release water vapor through their leaves, which has a cooling effect.
- Less airflow: Densely packed buildings in cities can block wind, which would normally help circulate cooler air. This trapped air gets hot and stays hot, making it feel even more stifling.
- Urban heat sources: All the activity in a city adds heat. Cars, buses, factories, and even people generate heat, contributing to the overall warmth of the urban environment.

## **Anti-Microbial Resistance (AMR) (Science)**

- Anti-Microbial Resistance (AMR) is a growing global threat where microbes like bacteria, viruses, fungi, and parasites develop the ability to resist the effects of medicines designed to kill or control them.

**AMR can lead to:**

- Longer illnesses and delayed recoveries.
- Increased healthcare costs due to the need for stronger or alternative medications.
- Higher risk of spreading infections.
- Potential treatment failure and even death.

## **Sympatric Speciation (Environment)**

- Sympatric speciation is an evolutionary wonder where a new species emerges from its ancestor within the same area, unlike allopatric speciation where geography splits a population. Subgroups of the original species might adapt to different resources or niches in their shared habitat, causing genetic divergence over time. Changes in mating behavior, like breeding seasons or rituals, can also prevent interbreeding and lead to speciation. Similarly, dietary shifts towards different food sources can isolate subpopulations reproductively. In rare cases, a genetic accident like doubling chromosomes (polyploidy) can instantly create a new, reproductively isolated species. While less common than allopatric speciation, some potential examples include apple maggot flies and African cichlid fish.

## **Rangelands (Geography)**

- Rangelands are vast natural or semi-natural ecosystems grazed by livestock and wild animals, covering around 80 million sq km, making them the most extensive land cover on Earth. This diverse landscape includes grasses, shrubs, bushes, open forests, and even agroforestry systems, with the exact vegetation mix depending on rainfall, temperature, and other climate factors. These vital ecosystems act as carbon sinks, freshwater storehouses, and even prevent desertification, with India alone boasting 1.21 million square kilometers of rangelands stretching from the Thar Desert to Himalayan meadows.

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**Starlink (Science & Technology)**

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- Starlink is a project by SpaceX that aims to revolutionize internet access with a mega constellation of satellites in low Earth orbit. This ambitious project targets high-speed internet to underserved and remote areas globally while offering competitive options in developed regions. The key aspect here lies in the network's altitude - thousands of satellites orbit much closer to Earth than traditional ones, enabling faster data transfer with minimal delay. Starlink is still under development, but with thousands of satellites already launched and initial service available in select regions, it represents a significant leap forward in global internet connectivity.

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**Large Language Models (LLM) (Science & Technology)**

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- Large language models (LLMs) are new-age technology in the field of AI understanding the human language. Trained on massive text datasets, LLMs develop a remarkable understanding of language structure, enabling them to respond fluently. This technology is powered by transformers, a specific neural network architecture. Their applications are vast, from intelligent chatbots for customer service to high-accuracy machine translation and creative content generation. They are also used for academic research purposes. However, critical evaluation remains vital, as LLMs are still under development and can generate inaccuracies. Ethical considerations regarding bias and misuse must be addressed as LLM technology matures. Examples - Bard (Google), GPT-3 (OpenAI), and Jurassic-1 Jumbo (A121 Labs).

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**Climate Tipping Points (Environment)**

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- Climate tipping points are critical factors in Earth's climate system. If global warming pushes the system past these thresholds, even small changes can trigger large, irreversible shifts with potentially catastrophic environmental and societal consequences. Each tipping point has a unique threshold - exceeding it due to rising temperatures can cause the climate to abruptly jump into a new, potentially permanent state. While scientists confirm their existence,

the exact location of these thresholds and the timing of tipping events remain uncertain. The best way to avoid them is through climate change mitigation, requiring a global shift to clean energy and sustainable practices. Even with mitigation, adaptation strategies are crucial to cope with the potential consequences of tipping points that may still occur. Examples include the collapse of ice sheets, coral reef die-offs, and disruptions to ocean circulation patterns.

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**Agrivoltaics (Environment)**

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- Agrivoltaics, or combining solar panels with agriculture, is a land-sharing approach that optimizes space by allowing crops or livestock to coexist under or between the panels. This shade can regulate temperature, reduce water evaporation in hot climates, and potentially improve crop yields. Additionally, the structures can act as windbreaks. By generating income from solar energy, agrivoltaics can boost farm profitability and contribute to sustainable land management, renewable energy production, and economic benefits for farmers. However, initial investment costs can be higher due to specialized design needs, and as a relatively new concept, more research is required to optimize configurations and agricultural practices for different regions and crops.

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**Antimatter (Space)**

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- Antimatter, the mirror image of regular matter, is composed of antiparticles with the same mass but opposite electrical charges and properties as their counterparts. Though the Big Bang likely produced equal parts matter and antimatter, our universe is strangely dominated by matter. Antiprotons, positrons (antielectrons), and antineutrons make up antimatter, annihilating into pure energy upon contact with their regular counterparts. While currently impractical due to its rarity and production difficulties, antimatter holds potential for future applications like PET scans with superior image detail and highly efficient energy generation, though significant hurdles remain.

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**Fissile Materials (Science & Technology)**

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- Fissile materials, like Uranium-235 and Plutonium-239, are special atomic nuclei that readily undergo nuclear fission, a process that splits the nucleus upon neutron impact, releasing tremendous energy. This fission chain reaction has immense potential for both peaceful energy generation in nuclear power plants and destructive weaponization in nuclear bombs. While some materials can undergo fission (fissionable), fissile materials excel at doing so with slow neutrons, making them ideal for sustaining a controlled chain reaction in nuclear reactors. However, this same characteristic makes them dangerous in nuclear weapons, where an uncontrolled chain reaction creates a devastating explosion. Fissile materials are thus a double-edged sword, demanding international regulations to prevent their use in weapons while harnessing their potential for clean energy.

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**Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul (MRO) (Economy)**

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- MRO, encompassing Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul, ensures an asset's smooth operation throughout its life. It involves planned maintenance activities like inspections and lubrication to prevent failures, repairs to fix breakdowns, and overhauls for comprehensive refurbishment. Effective MRO translates to reduced downtime, increased efficiency, enhanced safety, and ultimately, extended asset life and improved cost management. This approach is crucial across various sectors like aviation, manufacturing, and energy, where reliable machinery and infrastructure are paramount. By implementing a well-defined MRO strategy, organizations can optimize their assets and achieve their operational objectives.

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**March 23 Movement(International Relations)**

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- The March 23 Movement (M23), a rebel group formed in 2012 by defectors from a previous rebel group in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), is primarily

composed of the Tutsi minority. M23 has been a source of instability in the eastern DRC, particularly North Kivu, where they've clashed with the government since 2012, displacing many civilians. Accusations of Rwandan support for M23 further complicate the issue, and as of June 2024, the M23 remains active, contributing to ongoing violence in the region.

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**Initial Public Offering (IPO) (Economy)**

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- In an Initial Public Offering (IPO), a private company goes public by selling its shares to investors for the first time. This allows the company to raise capital for growth by being listed on a stock exchange. Before the IPO, investment banks prepare a prospectus detailing the company's finances and plans to attract investors. During the offering, the company sets a share price and investors can apply to buy them. Based on demand, the price may be adjusted before shares are allocated and trading begins. However, IPOs can be risky due to potential price fluctuations after the offering and limited financial history compared to established companies.

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**Direct Seeding of Rice Cultivation (DSR) (Agriculture)**

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- Direct Seeding of Rice (DSR) is a water-saving alternative to transplanting. Unlike the traditional method, DSR involves sowing seeds directly into the field, skipping the nursery stage. This approach offers significant benefits like water conservation, lower labor costs, faster planting and harvesting cycles, reduced methane emissions, and even improved soil health. There are two main methods: dry seeding for rainfed environments and deepwater rice, and wet seeding for irrigated rice, often using pre-germinated seeds for faster establishment. However, challenges like weed management, ensuring proper seed establishment, seed quality, and potentially needing new machinery exist. Despite these hurdles, DSR presents a promising path toward sustainable rice production, offering farmers potential water savings, reduced costs, and even higher yields.

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**Pro-Tem Speaker (Polity)**

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- A pro-tem Speaker, short for “pro tempore speaker,” is a temporary presiding officer in a legislative body, such as the Lok Sabha in India. This role is crucial during the initial phase of forming a new legislative assembly after general elections or when the sitting Speaker is unavailable. The pro-tem Speaker administers the oath of office to newly elected members, allowing them to officially take their seats and participate in legislative activities, oversees the election of the permanent Speaker to ensure a smooth and fair process, and presides over initial sessions until the permanent Speaker is elected, facilitating legislative proceedings and maintaining order. Additionally, the pro-tem Speaker ensures the legislative body’s work continues without interruption in the absence of a regular Speaker. In India, the President appoints the pro-tem Speaker from among the senior-most members of the Lok Sabha, and the appointment is formalized through a presidential order and announced before the first session of the newly elected assembly. The pro-tem Speaker ensures a seamless transition from the old assembly to the new one by administering oaths and conducting the election of a new Speaker and maintains the functionality of the legislative body from the very beginning of its term.

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**Global Initiative on Digital Health (GIDH) (Health)**

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- The Global Initiative on Digital Health (GIDH), a network managed by the World Health Organization (WHO), aims to support countries in their digital health transformation journey. Launched to implement the Global Strategy on Digital Health 2020-2025, GIDH works by bringing together various organizations and institutions to collaborate and share knowledge. Through these efforts, they aim to assess each country’s specific needs, better align resources, and ultimately achieve the goals set out in the Global Strategy, which promotes digital health advancements for everyone. This includes supporting

the local development of digital health technologies to adapt to ever-changing needs.

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**World Gold Council (WGC) (Economy)**

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- The World Gold Council (WGC), founded in 1987 and headquartered in London, is an international trade association that champions the gold industry. Representing miners, investors, and everyone in between, the WGC strives to stimulate and sustain global demand for gold. They achieve this through market development initiatives, publishing research and insights on gold trends, and advocating for responsible practices throughout the gold supply chain. This includes promoting ethical sourcing to ensure the industry operates with integrity and minimizing the environmental impact of gold mining. Their website, gold.org, serves as a comprehensive resource for all things gold, from market analysis to the history and unique properties of the precious metal.

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**Unit Linked Insurance Plan (ULIP) (Economy)**

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- ULIP, or Unit Linked Insurance Plan, is a financial product that combines life insurance protection with investment potential. It offers a dual benefit: a portion of your premium goes towards life insurance coverage for your beneficiaries, while the remaining amount is invested in market-linked funds like mutual funds. The investment returns you earn depend on the performance of these chosen funds. ULIPs typically provide flexibility to choose from various equity and debt funds based on your risk tolerance, allowing you to balance risk and potential returns. However, due to the market-linked nature, ULIPs are suited for long-term goals as the value of your investment units can fluctuate. It’s important to understand the associated charges like premium allocation, policy administration, and fund management fees before investing. Additionally, ULIPs usually come with a lock-in period of 5-6 years, restricting early withdrawals without penalty.
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**Gas Flaring (Environment)**

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- Gas flaring, or burning off natural gas produced during oil extraction, is a common practice despite its drawbacks. While flaring helps manage pressure and prevent explosions (safety concerns), the lack of infrastructure or low gas prices in remote locations can make capturing this valuable resource impractical. However, this practice has significant environmental and economic consequences. Flaring releases harmful greenhouse gases like methane and CO<sub>2</sub>, worsening global warming. Additionally, incomplete combustion pollutes the air with black carbon, impacting public health. Most importantly, this process wastes a clean-burning fuel that could be used for generating electricity, heating homes, or powering industries, leading to economic losses.

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**Cloudburst (Geography)**

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- A cloudburst is a short-lived but intense downpour of exceptional magnitude, characterized by extremely heavy rainfall exceeding 100 millimeters per hour over a small, localized area (typically 20-30 square kilometers) within a mountainous region. Rising warm air currents along slopes cause this phenomenon and can have devastating consequences. The sudden and intense rainfall can trigger flash floods, landslides, and mudflows, leading to widespread destruction and infrastructure damage. Predicting cloudbursts is challenging, but early warning systems, land-use planning, public awareness, stronger infrastructure, and well-established disaster response mechanisms can help mitigate their impact.

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**Front Running (Economy)**

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- Front-running, an illegal practice in the financial world, involves exploiting confidential information about a large upcoming trade by a mutual fund. This information, typically about the specific security, intended purchase, or sale size, is used by someone with insider access (like a fund manager or broker) to buy or sell the security themselves before the mutual fund executes its trade. This allows them to profit from the price movement caused by the mutual fund's

large order, ultimately harming investors who end up buying at a higher price or selling at a lower price. Front-running undermines trust, disrupts fair market function, and is strictly regulated by financial bodies through restrictions on information sharing, codes of conduct, and trade surveillance.

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**Cohabitation (Polity)**

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- In France's semi-presidential system, cohabitation describes a unique situation where the President and Prime Minister belong to opposing political parties. This arises when voters elect a President from one party, while a different party gains a majority in the National Assembly. While the President retains power in foreign policy and national security, domestic policy becomes the domain of the Prime Minister and the opposing majority. This power struggle can lead to political instability, but can also force cooperation and compromise, potentially resulting in more balanced policies. Cohabitation is a rare phenomenon, occurring only three times since 1958: François Mitterrand with Jacques Chirac (1986-1988 & 1993-1995) and Jacques Chirac with Lionel Jospin (1997-2002).

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**Leader of the Opposition (LoP) (Polity)**

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- The Leader of the Opposition (LoP) is a crucial position in the Indian Parliamentary System, though not directly mentioned in the Constitution. It is a statutory position established by the Salary and Allowances of Leaders of Opposition in Parliament Act, 1977. The leader of the largest opposition party in the Lok Sabha or the Rajya Sabha is recognized as the Leader of the Opposition in that respective house. The recognition is granted by the Speaker of the Lok Sabha or the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha. The party should have the highest number of seats among all the parties that are not part of the ruling alliance. In the Lok Sabha, the party should have secured at least one-tenth of the total number of seats (minimum 54 seats in the current Lok Sabha) to qualify for the LoP position. There is no such minimum strength requirement for the Rajya Sabha. A strong LoP keeps the government on its toes, preventing misuse of power and promoting



transparency. The LoP acts as a voice for the people who did not vote for the ruling party, representing their concerns and holding the government accountable to its promises. The LoP and their party prepare themselves as a potential alternative government, presenting policy ideas and highlighting their readiness to take charge if they win the next election. The LoP enjoys a special status under the 1977 Act. The LoP receives a salary and allowances equivalent to that of a Cabinet Minister. The government provides the LoP with an office and staff to assist them in their duties. Security arrangements are made for the LoP and their family. The LoP is entitled to be a member of important parliamentary committees, such as the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) in the Lok Sabha.

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**Dark Web (Science & Technology)**

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- The dark web is a hidden part of the internet, like a secret network requiring special software to access. Imagine the internet as an iceberg: the surface web is the tip, the deep web is the massive part below containing databases and private web pages, and the dark web is a tiny portion even deeper requiring special software like Tor. Anonymity is key on the dark web, making it difficult to track activity. This anonymity attracts criminals who use it to sell stolen data, malware, and illegal goods on black markets. Fake marketplaces abound, and even visiting these sites can infect your device with malware. The dark web can also contain disturbing content. To stay safe, use up-to-date security software, avoid downloads and sharing personal information, and consider using a VPN for added anonymity.

**Model Questions**

1. Who has recently won the presidential election in Iceland ?

- A. Simon Harris
- B. Peter Pellegrini
- C. Bjarni Benediktsson
- D. Halla Tomasdottir

Ans. D Halla Tomasdottir

2. Consider the following statements with reference to MNREGA Lokpal in Rajasthan-

- 1. They will be appointed in 22 districts of Rajasthan.
- 2. They are appointed by the Governor of the State.
- 3. It will be mandatory for MNREGA Lokpal to settle the complaints within 15 days.

Choose the correct option-

- A. 1 and 2
- B. Only 3
- C. 1, 2 and 3
- D. Only 1

Ans.B. Only 3

3. Consider the following statements with reference to Rajasthan Public Service Commission-

- 1. Its current Chairman is Shri Sanjay Kumar Shrotriya.
- 2. The Commission has a total of 7 members (1+6) including the Chairman.
- 3. It is a statutory body under the state government.

Choose the correct option-

- A. 1 and 2
- B. Only 3
- C. 1, 2 and 3
- D. Only 1

Ans. D.Only 1

4. Which woman from Rajasthan participated in the ' World Cities Summit 2024' held in Singapore ?

- A. Neeru Yadav
- B. Dr. Soumya Gurjar
- C. Neena Singh
- D. Ruma Devi

Ans. B Dr. Saumya Gurjar

5. Consider the following statements with reference to Dar es Salaam port-

- 1. It is located in the country of Djibouti.
- 2. Recently, India's Adani Group has signed an agreement for the operation and management of Container Terminal -2 at this port for 30 years.
- 3. This port is located in the Gulf of Aden.

Choose the correct option-

- A. 1 and 2
- B. Only 2
- C. 1, 2 and 3
- D. Only 1

Ans.B. Only 2

6. For what reason has Helen Mary Roberts been in the news recently ?

- A. Pakistan's first minority woman Brigadier
- B. Bangladesh's first minority woman Chief Justice
- C. India's first minority woman Director General of Police
- D. Myanmar's first female Military Chief

Ans. A Pakistan's first minority woman Brigadier

7. Who has recently become the First Woman President of Mexico ?

- A. Judith Suminwa Tuluka
- B. Claudia Sheinbaum
- C. Mette Frederiksen
- D. Giorgia Meloni

Ans. B Claudia Sheinbaum

8. Consider the following statements with reference to India's first Electric Vehicle Index-

- 1. It is launched by Bombay Stock Exchange.
- 2. The name of this index is "Nifty EV & New Age Automotive Index".
- 3. It is designed to promote the electric vehicle (EV) sector and monitor the performance of businesses engaged in cutting-edge automotive vehicles and related technology.

Choose the correct option-

- A. 1 and 2
- B. Only 1
- C. 1, 2 and 3
- D. 2 and 3

Ans.D. 2 and 3

9. Who among the following is not among the 3 women recently elected to the 18th Lok Sabha from Rajasthan ?

- A. Sanjana Jatav
- B. Mahima Kumari
- C. Jyoti Mirdha
- D. Manju Sharma

Ans. C. Jyoti Mirdha

10. Consider the following statements with reference to the 18th Lok Sabha-

- 1. Shankar Lalwani (BJP) won with the highest number of votes from Indore Lok Sabha seat.
- 2. Ravindra Dattaram of Shiv Sena Shinde group won by minimum votes from Mumbai North West Lok Sabha seat.
- 3. Jhunjhunu Lok Sabha seat received the highest number of NOTA votes.

Choose the correct option-

- A. 1 and 2                      B. Only 1  
C. 1, 2 and 3                      D. 2 and 3

Ans.A. 1 and 2

**11. Consider the following statements with reference to the election of women in the 18th Lok Sabha-**

1. A total of 75 women were elected in this Lok Sabha.
2. This Lok Sabha has the highest number of women since independence.

Choose the correct option-

- A. Only 2                      B. Only 1  
C. Both 1                      and 2 D. Neither 1 nor 2

Ans.B.Only 1

**12. With reference to the 18th Lok Sabha elections in Rajasthan, which one of the following pairs is not correctly matched?**

- A. MP who won with the highest number of votes: Mahima Kumari (Rajsamand)
- B. MP who won with minimum votes: Rao Rajendra Singh (Jaipur Rural)
- C. Youngest MP: Sanjana Jatav (Bharatpur)
- D. Oldest MP: Bhagirath Chaudhary, Ajmer)

Ans. D. Oldest MP: Bhagirath Chaudhary, Ajmer)

**13. In Which district has the Rajasthan government launched the ' Air Quality Early Warning System ' to issue advance warning about air quality on the lines of weather change ?**

- A) Jaipur                      B) Ajmer  
C) Jodhpur                      D) Alwar

Ans.A Jaipur

**14. Consider the following statements with reference to LignoSat-**

1. It was developed by the Indian Space Research Organisation in collaboration with the Japanese Space Agency JAXA.
2. It is the world's first satellite made of wood.

Choose the correct option-

- A. Only 2                      B. Only 1  
C. Both 1 and 2                      D. Neither 1 nor 2

Ans.A. Only 2

**15. Recently, in which districts 'Source Apportionment and Emission Inventory' Report has been issued by Rajasthan Government for pollution control ?**

- A) Jaipur and Jodhpur
- B) Kota and Ajmer
- C) Alwar and Kota
- D) Bharatpur and Jaipur

Ans. C Alwar and Kota

**16. Consider the following statements with reference to 'Mukhya Mantri Vriksharopan Abhiyan' -**

1. It was launched in Rajasthan on 5 June 2024.
2. This campaign has been launched in line with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 7.
3. Under this, a target has been set to plant 7 crore trees in the state.

Choose the correct option-

- A. 1 and 2                      B. Only 1  
C. 1, 2 and 3                      D. 1 and 3

Ans.D. 1 and 3

**17. Where has the first Waste Water Treatment Plant been established by Rajasthan Urban Infrastructure Development Project (RUIDP)?**

- A) Kota                      B) Ajmer  
C) Jodhpur                      D) Jaipur

Ans.D Jaipur

**18. Consider the following statements with reference to QS World University Rankings-2025-**

1. It is released by London-based higher education analysts Quacquarelli Symonds (QS).
2. Stanford University of the United States ranks first in this.
3. Under this, IIT Bombay and IIT Delhi are included in the top 150 universities of the world.

Choose the correct option-

- A. 1 and 2                      B. Only 1  
C. 1, 2 and 3                      D. 1 and 3

Ans.D. 1 and 3

**19. Consider the following statements with reference to the International Shooting Sports Federation (ISSF) 2024 World Cup-**

1. It was held in Munich, Germany.
2. In this, Sarabjot Singh of India won the gold medal in 10 meter air pistol.

Choose the correct option-

- A. Only 2                      B. Only 1  
C. Both 1 and 2                      D. Neither 1 nor 2

Ans.C.1 And 2 Both

**20. With whom did the Rajasthan government sign an MoU to provide Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) access to the capital market and raise funds through ' Initial Public Offering ' (IPO) ?**

- A. National Stock Exchange (NSE)
- B. Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE)

- C. Multi-Commodity Exchange (MCX)
- D. Indian Commodity Exchange (ICEX)

Ans. A) National Stock Exchange (NSE)

**21. Recently Maya Bishnoi of Rajasthan won the silver medal in the team event in the Junior Asia Cup, it is related to which sport?**

- A) Shooting
- B) Archery
- C) Sailing
- D) Badminton

Ans.B. Archery

**22. Consider the following statements with reference to ' Smart Charging Adapter'-**

- 1. It is developed by BITS Pilani.
- 2. Using this, e-vehicles can be charged with the help of solar energy.

Choose the correct option-

- A. Only 2
- B. Only 1
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Ans. A. Only 2

**23. 'According to the report published by Ground Water Survey 2023', which state in India has the most secure ground water crisis ?**

- A. Rajasthan
- B. Maharashtra
- C. Gujarat
- D. Telangana

Ans. A. Rajasthan

**24. Consider the following statements with reference to the Starliner 'Calypso' spacecraft-**

- 1. It is designed and developed by SpaceX.
- 2. Sunita Williams has become the first woman to fly a new spacecraft on a test mission in space.
- 3. Its objective is to evaluate the capabilities of the spacecraft from launch to docking.

Choose the correct option-

- A. 1 and 2
- B. Only 1
- C. 1, 2 and 3
- D. 2 and 3

Ans.D. 2 and 3

**25. Who has recently become the first Indian female fighter to win in the "Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC)" ?**

- A. Nikhat Zarin
- B. Ritu Phogat
- C. Pooja Tomar
- D. Lovlina Borgohain

Ans. C Pooja Tomar

**26. Consider the following statements with reference to the Union Council of Ministers-**

- 1. At present the Union Council of Ministers consists of a total of 72 ministers including the Prime Minister.
- 2. The maximum number of members of the Council of Ministers at the Centre and in the States cannot exceed 15% of the total

number of members of the Lok Sabha and the Legislative Assemblies respectively.

- 3. The maximum number of members in the Council of Ministers at the Centre and in the States was provided by the 91st Constitutional Amendment in 2003.

Choose the correct option-

- A. 1 and 2
- B. Only 1
- C. 1, 2 and 3
- D. 2 and 3

Ans. C. 1, 2 and 3

**27. Consider the following statements with reference to the ministers included in the Union Council of Ministers from Rajasthan-**

- 1. At present, 4 MPs from Rajasthan have been appointed to ministerial posts.
- 2. It has 2 Cabinet Ministers, 1 Minister of State with Independent Charge and 1 Minister of State.
- 3. It includes 2 women ministers.

Choose the correct option-

- A. 1 and 2
- B. Only 1
- C. 1, 2 and 3
- D. 2 and 3

Ans. A. 1 and 2

**28. How many women ministers were appointed in the Union Council of Ministers?**

- A. 7
- B. 8
- C. 12
- D. 13

Ans.A.7

**29. Which one of the following pairs is not correctly matched with reference to the 4 ministers recently appointed to the Union Council of Ministers from Rajasthan ?**

- A. Gajendra Singh Shekhawat - Ministry of Industry and Commerce
- B. Bhupendra Yadav - Ministry of Forest and Environment
- C. Arjun Meghwal-Ministry of Law and Justice
- D. Bhagirath Choudhary - Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare

Ans. A. Gajendra Singh Shekhawat - Ministry of Industry and Commerce

**30. Consider the following statements with reference to Prem Singh Tamang-**

- 1. He has been appointed the new Chief Minister of Sikkim.
- 2. His tenure as Chief Minister has been the longest in the country.

Choose the correct option-

- A. Only 2
- B. Only 1
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Ans. B. Only 1

**31. Consider the following statements with reference to Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES) in India-**

1. This index shows equality between income distribution and expenditure.
2. Under this, the highest increase in the Gini Index between 2011-12 to 2022-23 occurred in the state of Nagaland.
3. Rajasthan ranks eighth in terms of growth rate in the Gini Index between 2011-12 to 2022-23.

Choose the correct option-

- A. 1 and 2                      B. Only 1  
C. 1, 2 and 3                 D. 2 and 3

Ans. A. 1 and 2

**32. 'Trans LGBT India's Got Talent Show and Beauty Contest ' will be organized for the first time in which district in Rajasthan ?**

- A. Udaipur                      B. Jodhpur  
C. Jaipur                        D. Ajmer

Ans. C. Jaipur

**33. Who will provide a loan of Rs 3674 crore under the Rajasthan Urban Infrastructure Development Project (RUIDP) for the development and upgradation of infrastructure in the cities of Rajasthan ?**

- A) New Development Bank  
B) Asian Development Bank  
C) World Bank  
D) Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank

Ans. C) World Bank

**34. Consider the following statements with reference to Andhra Pradesh-**

1. Recently Chandrababu Naidu has been appointed as the new Chief Minister.
2. Visakhapatnam has been declared as its new capital.

Choose the correct option-

- A) Only 2                      B) Only 1  
C) Both 1 and 2             D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: B) Only 1

**35. Where will new thermal plants be set up to make Rajasthan self-sufficient in power generation ?**

- A) Kota, Jhalawar, Baran  
B) Kota, Sri Ganganagar, Bundi  
C) Barmer, Bikaner, Ranthambore  
D) Ranthambore, Jhalawar, Bundi

Ans. A) Kota, Jhalawar, Baran

**36. Consider the following statements with reference to the G7 group-**

1. It is an inter-governmental organisation established in the year 1975.

2. It includes Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United States of America and India.
3. Its 50th conference was held on 13-15 June 2024 in the city of Fasano, Apulia, Italy.

Choose the correct option-

- A) 2 and 3                      B) Only 1  
C) 1, 2 and 3                 D) 1 and 3

Answer: D) 1 and 3

**37. Which district ranks first in terms of 'Har Ghar Nai' connection in Rajasthan under the Central Government's Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) ?**

- A) Jodhpur                      B) Alwar  
C) Kota                         D) Jaipur

Answer: D) Jaipur

**38. Consider the following statements with reference to the Global Gender Gap Index-**

1. This index is released by the World Economic Forum (WEF).
2. India is ranked 129th in this index.
3. Finland is at first place in this.

Choose the correct option-

- A) 1 and 2                      B) Only 1  
C) 1, 2 and 3                 D) 1 and 3

Ans. A) 1 and 2

**39. Consider the following statements with reference to the Pardoning Power of the President-**

1. Recently President Draupadi Murmu rejected the mercy petition of terrorist Mohammad Arif alias Ashfaq.
2. The pardon power of the President is mentioned in Article 71.

Choose the correct option-

- A) Only 1                      B) Only 2  
C) Both 1 and 2             D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: A) Only 1

**40. Who is recently appointed as the 15th Chief Minister of Odisha ?**

- A) Dharmendra Pradhan  
B) Mohan Charan Majhi  
C) Prem Singh Tamang  
D) Hemanand Biswal

Ans. B) Mohan Charan Majhi

**41. Who is recently appointed as the National Security Advisor (NSA) of India ?**

- A) Upendra Dwivedi            B) G. Satish Reddy  
C) Ajit Doval                    D) KPS Gill

Ans. C) Ajit Doval

**42. Consider the following statements with reference to the Rajasthan Advocate Protection Bill, 2023-**

1. Recently President Draupadi Murmu has directed the Governor to reconsider this bill in the Assembly.
2. This bill can become a law after being passed by the State Assembly and after the approval of the Governor.
3. Under Article 200 the Governor can reserve a bill for the assent of the President.

**Choose the correct option-**

- A) 1 and 2                      B) Only 1  
C) 1, 2 and 3                 D) 1 and 3

**Answer: D) 1 And 3**

**43. Who has been recently appointed as the Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh ?**

- A) Prem Singh Tamang    B) N. Biren Singh  
C) Manik Saha                 D) Pema Khandu

**Ans. D) Pema Khandu**

**44. Consider the following statements with reference to the Stop-Clock Rule-**

1. Recently America has become the first country to receive a penalty under stop-clock rule.
2. This rule is related to cricket.

**Choose the correct option-**

- A) Only 1                      B) Only 2  
C) Both 1 and 2             D) Neither 1 nor 2

**Ans. C) Both 1 and 2**

**45. When will 3 new criminal codes in India - Indian Justice Code 2023, Indian Civil Defence Code 2023 and Indian Evidence Act 2023 be implemented ?**

- A) 15 August 2024            B) 1 August 2024  
C) 2 October 2024            D) 1 July 2024

**Answer: D) July 1, 2024**

**46. Consider the following statements-**

1. Recently, 8 new Additional Advocate Generals have been appointed to plead on behalf of the State Government in the Rajasthan High Court.
2. In Rajasthan, the Additional Advocate General is appointed by the Law and Legal Affairs Department.
3. The current Advocate General of Rajasthan is Mr. Rajendra Prasad.

**Choose the correct option-**

- A) 1 and 3                      B) Only 1  
C) 1, 2 and 3                 D) 1 and 2

**Answer: A) 1 And 3**

**47. Consider the following statements with reference to India's first indigenous suicide drone-**

1. Its name is 'Nagastra 1'.
2. It has been developed by Economic

Explosives Limited (EEL), a subsidiary of Nagpur-based Solar Industries.

3. Its man-in-loop range is 15 km and autonomous mode range is 30 km.

**Choose the correct option-**

- A) 1 and 3                      B) Only 1  
C) 1, 2 and 3                 D) 1 and 2

**Ans. C) 1, 2 and 3**

**48. Consider the following statements with reference to the 13th India Stone Mart-**

1. Recently an MoU was signed between RIICO, Laghu Udyog Bharati Rajasthan and CIDOS for this purpose.
2. It will be organized in Jodhpur in 2026.

**Choose the correct option-**

- A) Only 1                      B) Only 2  
C) Both 1 and 2             D) Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer: A) Only 1**

**49. In which areas of Rajasthan will 2950 MW electricity be produced by solar project ?**

1. Pugal (Bikaner)
2. Chattargarh (Bikaner)
3. Bhadla (Phalodi)

**Choose the correct option-**

- A) 1 and 3                      B) Only 1  
C) 1, 2 and 3                 D) 1 and 2

**Ans. C) 1, 2 and 3**

**50. Lovlina Borgohain won the silver medal in the women's 75 kg event at the Grand Prix Usti nad Labem recently held in the Czech Republic. This is related to which sport ?**

- A) Shooting                    B) Archery  
C) Wrestling                  D) Boxing

**Ans. D) Boxing**

**51. Recently, the trial was conducted for the first time on the world's highest railway bridge ' Chenab Rail Bridge ', where is it located ?**

- A) Ladakh  
B) Jammu and Kashmir  
C) Himachal Pradesh  
D) Uttarakhand

**Answer: B) Jammu and Kashmir**

**52. Consider the following statements with reference to the officers selected from Rajasthan for United Nations Peace Mission-**

1. 5 officers from Rajasthan Police have been selected for police service abroad for this mission.
2. This also includes two women officers of the state, Sushila Yadav and Aarti Singh Tanwar.

Choose the correct option-

- A) Only 1                      B) Only 2  
C) Neither 1 nor 2 D) Both 1 and 2

Answer: B) Only 2

**53. Consider the following statements with reference to Leader of Opposition (LOP)-**

1. This is a Constitutional Post.
2. It enjoys status equivalent to that of a Cabinet Minister.
3. The first woman Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha was Mrs. Sonia Gandhi.

Choose the correct option-

- A) 1 and 3                      B) Only 2  
C) 1, 2 and 3                D) 1 and 2

Answer: B) Only 2

**54. Recently which writer was awarded the Rajasthani language Sahitya Academy Youth Award 2024 for his poetry work "Sudh Sodhun Jag Aangane"?**

- A) K. Vaishali                B) Sonali Suthar  
C) Gaurav Pandey D) Prahlad Singh Jhorda

Ans. B) Sonali Suthar

**55. Consider the following statements with reference to the Cost of Living Survey 2024-**

1. This survey was conducted by Mercer Consultancy Firm.
2. The most expensive city in the world is Hong Kong.
3. The most expensive city in India is Gurugram.

Choose the correct option-

- A) 1 and 3                      B) Only 2  
C) 1, 2 and 3                D) 1 and 2

Answer: D) 1 and 2

**56. Where is Rajasthan's first Vande Bharat Maintenance Depot being established ?**

- A) Nawan (Didwana-Kuchaman)  
B) Khatipura (Jaipur)  
C) Sambhar (Jaipur Rural)  
D) Bhadla (Phalodi)

Ans. B) Khatipura (Jaipur)

**57. Consider the following statements with reference to Jal Jeevan Mission-**

1. Under 'Har Ghar Jal', 11 states and union territories have achieved 100% target in rural areas.
2. Rajasthan is among the states that have achieved 100% coverage in rural areas under 'Har Ghar Jal'.

Choose the correct option-

- A) Only 1                      B) Only 2  
C) Neither 1 nor 2            D) Both 1 and 2

Answer: A) Only 1

**58. Consider the following statements-**

1. Recently Pilibanga Hanumangarh Municipal Council Chairman Sukhchain Singh Ramana was removed by no-confidence motion.
2. To pass a no-confidence motion against the Municipal Chairman or Vice Chairman, it is necessary to pass the motion with 3/4th majority.

Choose the correct option-

- A) Only 1                      B) Only 2  
C) Neither 1 nor 2            D) Both 1 and 2

Answer: D) 1 And 2 Both

**59. What was the position of India's javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra in the Paavo Nurmi Games held recently in Turkey (Finland) ?**

- A) First                        B) Second  
C) Third                        D) Fourth

Answer: A) First

**60. Where has the world's largest ' net zero green campus ' been established ?**

- A) Vikramshila University  
B) Jawaharlal Nehru University  
C) Nalanda University  
D) Vallabhi University

Ans. C) Nalanda University

**61. Consider the following statements-**

1. Shri Naveen Mahajan has been appointed as Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) of Rajasthan.
2. The Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) is appointed by the Election Commission of India.
3. The current Chief Election Commissioner of Rajasthan is Mr. Madhukar Gupta.

Choose the correct option-

- A) 1 and 3                      B) Only 2  
C) 1, 2 and 3                D) 1 and 2

Ans. C) 1, 2 and 3

**62. Consider the following statements with reference to Minimum Support Price (MSP)-**

1. Recently, the MSP of 14 Kharif crops has been increased by the Central Government.
2. MSP is determined by the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP).
3. The recommendations of CACP are binding on the Central Government.

Choose the correct option-

- A) 1 and 3                      B) Only 2  
C) 1, 2 and 3                D) 1 and 2

Answer: D) 1 and 2

**63. Consider the following statements with reference to ' Samvidhan Park'-**

1. Recently, Constitution Park was inaugurated in Rajasthan University campus, Jaipur.
2. Recently, the country's first Constitution Pillar has been inaugurated in Jodhpur.
3. The country's first Constitution Park was established in Raj Bhavan, Jaipur.

Choose the correct option-

- A) 1 and 3                      B) Only 2  
C) 1, 2 and 3                D) 1 and 2

Ans. A) 1 and 3

**64. Who was recently elected as the new Secretary General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) ?**

- A) Philemon Yunji              B) Mark Rutte  
C) Ursula von der Leyen    D) Nawaf Salam

Ans. B) Mark Rutte

**65. Consider the following statements with reference to the Protem Speaker-**

1. Recently, Bhartruhari Mahtab, MP from Cuttack (Odisha) was appointed as the Protem Speaker of the 18th Lok Sabha.
2. The Pro tem Speaker is appointed by the President under Article 95(1).
3. Under Article 99, the President or a person appointed by him administers the oath to the MPs according to the Third Schedule.

Choose the correct option-

- A) 1 and 3                      B) Only 2  
C) 1, 2 and 3                D) 1 and 2

Ans. C) 1, 2 and 3

**66. Consider the following statements with reference to reservation in educational institutions and government jobs-**

1. Recently, Patna High Court cancelled the decision of Bihar government to give 65% reservation, calling it unconstitutional.
2. In the Indira Sawhney case of 1992 the Supreme Court had fixed the limit of reservation at 50%.
3. The 69% reservation given to Tamil Nadu in 2003 by the 91st Constitutional Amendment was included in the 9th Schedule of the Constitution.

Choose the correct option-

- A) 1 and 3                      B) Only 2  
C) 1, 2 and 3                D) 1 and 2

Answer: D) 1 And 2

**67. Consider the following statements with reference to International Yoga Day-**

1. It is celebrated every year on 21 June.
2. The first International Yoga Day was

celebrated on 21 June 2014.

3. The theme of International Yoga Day 2024 is "Yoga for Self and Society".

**Choose the correct option-**

- A) 1 and 3                      B) Only 2  
C) 1, 2 and 3                D) 1 and 2

Answer: A) 1 And 3

**68. Recently D.P. Manu won the gold medal in Taiwan Athletics Open 2024, he is related to which sport ?**

- A) Javelin throw              B) High jump  
C) Shot put                    D) Hurdle race

Ans.A) Javelin throw

**69. Recently in the G7 summit, the members have agreed for the IMEC project, in this context consider the following statements-**

1. IMEC refers to India-Middle East-Europe-China Corridor.
2. Under this, Saudi Arabia, India, the United States and Europe will be linked by a comprehensive network of roads, railways and shipping routes.
3. It is launched in response to China's Belt and Road (BRI) initiative.

Choose the correct option-

- A) Only 1                        B) 2 and 3  
C) Only 2                        D) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: B) 2 And 3

**70. Recently Oleg Kononenko has become the world's first astronaut to spend 1000 days in space in different missions. He is from which country ?**

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

Ans.C) Russia

**71. Recently, the International Hockey Federation (FIH) has handed over the hosting of Hockey Men's Junior World Cup 2025 to which country ?**

- A) Bhutan                      B) Sri Lanka  
C) India                        D) China

Ans.C) India

**72. India's first reusable rocket is being developed by which company ?**

- A) Agnikul Cosmos  
B) Pixel  
C) Skyroot Aerospace  
D) Abyom Space Tech

Ans. D) Abyom Space Tech

**73. Consider the following statements with reference to the Parliament session-**

1. Under Article 85, the President summons and adjourns the Parliament.



- Under Article 85, the President can dissolve the Parliament.
- Under Article 87, the President addresses the first session of the Parliament after the Lok Sabha elections and the first session of the year.

Choose the correct option-

- A) Only 1                      B) 1 and 3  
C) Only 2                      D) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: B) 1 and 3

**74. Consider the following statements with reference to World Table Tennis (WTT) Contender-**

- It was held in Lagos, Nigeria.
- Sreeja Akula became the first Indian to win the women's singles title.
- Its women's doubles title was won by Sreeja Akula and Archana Kamath of India.

Choose the correct option-

- A) Only 1                      B) 1 and 3  
C) Only 2                      D) 1, 2 and 3

Ans.D) 1, 2 and 3

**75. Where will the biggest festival of expatriate Rajasthanis 'Jeeman' be organized abroad?**

- A) London (United Kingdom)  
B) New York (United States of America)  
C) Paris (France)  
D) Geneva (Switzerland)

Ans.A) London (United Kingdom)

**76. Consider the following statements with reference to the change of name of a state-**

- Recently, a proposal to change the name of the state to 'Keralam' has been passed by the Kerala Assembly.
- The name of a State can be changed by the Parliament under Article 3.
- To change the name of the state, constitutional amendment has to be done.

Choose the correct option-

- A) 1 and 3                      B) Only 2  
C) 1, 2 and 3                      D) 1 and 2

Answer: D) 1 and 2

**77. Who has been announced to be honoured with the title of "Woman Tourism Minister of the Year, India" recently at ITB Berlin (Germany)?**

- A) Manju Baghmar                      B) Diya Kumari  
C) Siddhi Kumari                      D) Deepti Maheshwari

Answer: B) Diya Kumari

**78. Which Space Agency will launch an artificial star into Earth's orbit?**

- A) NASA                      B) Roscosmos  
C) ISRO                      D) JAXA

Answer: A) NASA

**79. Consider the following statements with reference to World Table Tennis (WTT) Contender-**

- In this, India has won 3 gold, 1 silver and 5 bronze medals.
- In this, men's doubles Harmeet Desai and Manav Thakkar won the gold medal.
- This is the first Indian men's pair to win the men's doubles title.

Choose the correct option-

- A) 1 and 3                      B) Only 2  
C) 1, 2 and 3                      D) 1 and 2

Ans. C) 1, 2 and 3

**80. Recently Kashish Gurjar and Ashwini Bishnoi of Rajasthan won the gold medal in the Under- 17 Asian Championship held in Amman, Jordan, they are related to which sport?**

- A) Archery                      B) Shooting  
C) Wrestling                      D) Weightlifting

Answer: C) Wrestling

**81. Consider the following statements with reference to the Leader of the Opposition-**

- This is a constitutional post.
- Recently Rahul Gandhi has been elected Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha.
- The first Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha was Dr. Ram Subhag Singh.

Choose the correct option-

- A) 2 and 3                      B) Only 2  
C) 1, 2 and 3                      D) 1 and 2

Ans.A) 2 and 3

**82. Consider the following statements with reference to the formation of the new state-**

- Recently, the Sunni Yuvajana Sangam (SYS) party of Kerala has demanded the formation of a separate Malabar state from Kerala.
- The provision regarding the formation of new states in the country is mentioned in Article 2.
- Consent of the concerned state is mandatory for the formation of a new state.

Choose the correct option-

- A) 2 and 3                      B) Only 2  
C) 1, 2 and 3                      D) 1 and 2

Answer: D) 1 and 2

**83. Consider the following statements with reference to the Chief Minister Ayushman Arogya Yojana-**

1. Its earlier name was Chief Minister Chiranjeevi Health Insurance Scheme.
2. There is a provision of health insurance of Rs 5 lakh under this.

Choose the correct option-

- A) Only 1                      B) Only 2  
C) Neither 1 nor 2 D) Both 1 and 2

**Ans. D) Both 1 and 2**

**84. In which district is the Jhakharda Sanctuary, which was in the news recently due to the Greater Flamingo (a species of flamingo), located ?**

- A) Bikaner                      B) Jhalawar  
C) Barmer                      D) Udaipur

**Answer: C) Barmer**

**85. Consider the following statements with reference to the Speaker of the Lok Sabha-**

1. Recently Om Birla has been elected Speaker of the 18th Lok Sabha.
2. Om Birla is the first MP from Rajasthan to become the Speaker of the Lok Sabha for the second consecutive time.
3. The tenure of the Speaker of the Lok Sabha is 5 years.

Choose the correct option-

- A) 1 and 2                      B) Only 1  
C) 1, 2 and 3                      D) 2 and 3

**Ans.A) 1 and 2**

**86. Consider the following statements with reference to remittance-**

1. Recently India has become the highest remittance receiving country in the world in the financial year 2023-24.
2. India has received the highest amount in the form of remittances from Gulf countries.

Choose the correct option-

- A) Only 1                      B) Only 2  
C) Neither 1 nor 2 D) Both 1 and 2

**Answer: A) Only 1**

**87. Consider the following statements with reference to ' Microwave Obscurant Chaff Rocket'-**

1. It is developed by Defence Research Laboratory Jodhpur of DRDO.
2. This technology obscures radar signals and creates a microwave shield around platforms and assets, making the rocket undetectable by radar.

Choose the correct option-

- A) Only 1                      B) Only 2  
C) Neither 1 nor 2                      D) Both 1 and 2

**Ans. D) Both 1 and 2**

**88. Consider the following statements with reference to Rajasthan State Human Rights Commission-**

1. Recently Shri Gangaram Mulchandani has been appointed its Chairman.
2. The first chairperson of this commission was Ms. Kanta Bhatnagar.
3. The tenure of its Chairman and members is 5 years or till the age of 70 years, whichever is earlier.

Choose the correct option-

- A) 1 and 2                      B) Only 1  
C) 1, 2 and 3                      D) 1 and 3

**Ans. A) 1 and 2**

**89. Which country has recently become the 100th member of the International Solar Alliance (ISA)?**

- A) Chad                      B) Thailand  
C) Paraguay                      D) Egypt

**Answer: C) Paraguay**

**90. How much has the pension amount been increased from Rs 1,000 under the Social Security Pension Scheme by the Rajasthan Government ?**

- A) Rs 1,150                      B) Rs 1,500  
C) Rs. 1,250                      D) Rs. 1,600

**Answer: A) Rs.1,150**

**91. Consider the following statements with reference to the Global Energy Transition Index-**

1. This index is released by the World Economic Forum (WEF).
2. India is ranked 67th in this index.
3. Sweden is at first place in this.

Choose the correct option-

- A) 1 and 2                      B) Only 1  
C) 1, 2 and 3                      D) 1 and 3

**Answer: D) 1 and 3**

**92. Under Whose Chairmanship a committee was established by the Rajasthan government to investigate and reorganize 17 new districts?**

- A) S. K. Sarin                      B) Ramlubhaya  
C) Lalit K. Pawar                      D) Gangaram Mulchandani

**Ans. C) Lalit K. Pawar**

**93. Consider the following statements with reference to Sahitya Akademi's Bal Sahitya Puraskar 2024-**

1. Devendra Kumar will be honoured for his story collection '51 Bal Kahaniyaan ' in Hindi language.
2. Nandini Sengupta will be honored for the novel ' The Blue Horse and Other Amazing Animal Stories from Indian History ' in the English language.
3. Prahlad Singh ' Jhorda ' will be honored for his ' Mhari Dhani ' poetry collection in Rajasthani language.

**Choose the correct option-**

- A) 1 and 3                      B) Only 2  
C) 1, 2 and 3                D) 1 and 2

Ans. C) 1, 2 and 3

**94. Who has been recently appointed as the new Foreign Secretary of India ?**

- A) Vinay Mohan Kwatra  
B) Vikram Misri  
C) Rajiv Gauba  
D) Pradeep Srivastava

Ans. B) Vikram Misri

**95. Consider the following statements-**

1. India has received the highest Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) from Singapore in the year 2023-24.
2. India received the highest remittance from the United States in the year 2023-24.

**Choose the correct option-**

- A) Only 1                      B) Only 2  
C) Neither 1 nor 2 D) Both 1 and 2

Ans. D) Both 1 and 2