

CURRENT AFFAIRS

May

- TOPIC WISE CURRENT AFFAIRS
- 150 QUESTION FOR PRACTICE
- DETAILED ANALYSIS OF IMPORTANT EVENTS

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PREFACE

This is our special edition of Current Affairs Magazine for various Central & State level Competitive Examinations, covering content from the month of May 2024.

The Magazine is divided into three sections:

Section 1: Topic Wise Current Affairs in Short

The first section is dedicated to Topic Wise Current Affairs with a short description to provide information about all major happenings this month.

Section 2: Practice Questions with Answers

The Second Section contains 150 Multiple Choice Questions based on daily current affairs.

Section 3: Detailed Analysis of important Event

The Third Section covers some major happenings in this month along with analysis. The content has been covered from various online & offline sources including reputed newspapers like The Hindu, Indian Express etc. All the news topics have been explained keeping in mind their underlying issues. Every issue has been covered comprehensively. Some of the information provided may not be directly relevant for the examination. As the content is very wide, we have only covered a limited set of issues. You can utilize it smartly along with Daily Study of News Papers as well as other sources.



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Section 1

Topic Wise Current Affairs

Section 2

Question with Answers

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Section 3

Detailed Analysis of Events

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SECTION 1

Topic Wise Current Affairs in Short



1: Important Days



International Labour Day : 01 May :-

International Labour Day dates back to the late nineteenth-century labor movement in the United States. The date of May 1st was chosen to mark a nationwide strike for an eight-hour workday, which began on that day in 1886. This key event, however, culminated in the Haymarket Affair in Chicago, a tragic affair in which a labor demonstration became violent. A bomb explosion resulted in the loss of life for seven police officers and at least four civilians. Labour Day in Canada and the USA is celebrated on the first Monday in September and not May 1.



World Tuna Day : 02 May :-

The UN General Assembly voted in December 2016 to make World Tuna Day an annual observance. World Tuna Day was first celebrated in May 2017. Since then, World Tuna Day has been honored annually on May 2. The day was declared primarily to raise awareness about the importance of tuna fish and how their populations are dwindling as a result of unregulated fishing practices and

poor conservation management. There are several countries that depend upon tuna resources for food security and nutrition, economic development, employment, livelihood, culture etc.



World Press Freedom Day : 03 May :-

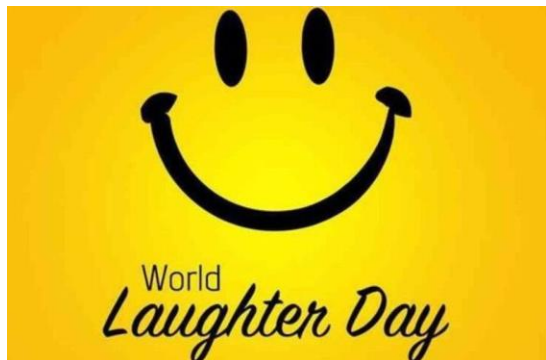
World Press Freedom Day is commemorated annually on May 3. Following a suggestion from UNESCO's General Conference in 1991, the United Nations General Assembly established Press Freedom Day in 1993, which is marked annually on May 3. The inaugural Press Freedom Day occurred in 1994. The day was established to ensure press freedom while also honoring and thanking journalists who died in the line of duty. The theme of this year's Press Freedom Day is "A Press for the Planet: Journalism in the Face of the environmental crisis".



Coal Miners Day : 04 May :-

Coal Miners Day is marked annually on May 4th to recognize and honour coal miners' relentless efforts and substantial contributions in obtaining coal, which is one

of the leading fossil fuels utilized for a variety of reasons, including power generation and industrial manufacturing. Although the first coal mine in Scotland began in 1575, India's first coal mine was created considerably later, in 1774. The Raniganj Coalfield, situated on the banks of the Damodar River, was the site of this mine, which was operated by John Summer and Suetonius Grant Heatly of the East India Company.

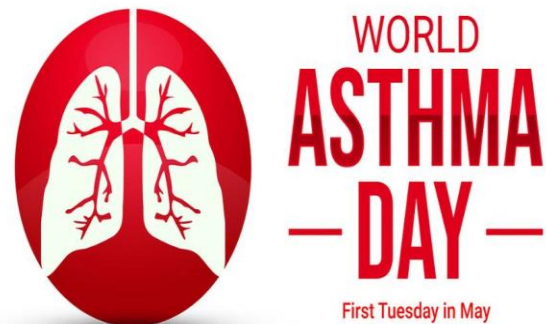
**World Laughter Day 2024 : 05 May :-**

World Laughter Day is an annual festival that takes place on the first Sunday of May. This year, it is May 5th. The day is significant because it strives to raise awareness about the numerous advantages of laughter, including its therapeutic effects, and highlights the need of remaining cheerful. Dr. Madan Kataria, the driving force behind the global Laughter Yoga movement, established World Laughter Day in 1998. Using laughter to foster a sense of global unity and friendship is one of this celebration's primary goals.

**World Portugal Language Day : 05 May :-**

The date of May 5 was formally designated in 2009 by the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries (CPLP), an intergovernmental organization that has been in official partnership with UNESCO since 2000 and brings together peoples who use the Portuguese

language as one of the cornerstones of their unique identity, to celebrate the Portuguese language and Lusophone cultures. In 2019, the 40th session of UNESCO's General Conference decided to proclaim 5 May of each year as "World Portuguese Language Day".

**World Asthma Day 2024 : 07 May :-**

Every year, World Asthma Day is marked on the first Tuesday of May. This year's World Asthma Day will be marked on May 7. The Global Initiative for Asthma (GINA) was founded in 1993. The inaugural World Asthma Day was commemorated in 1998. Asthma is a chronic, long-term lung condition. This narrows or inflames the airways, preventing air from passing to the lungs. This makes breathing difficult for the person. Even minor Asthma can affect daily activities. The theme for World Asthma Day 2024 is "Asthma Education Empowers".

**WORLD ATHLETICS DAY****World Athletics Day : 07 May :-**

The International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) organizes World Athletics Day on May 7 of each year. The first celebration took place in 1996. The International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) was created on July 17, 1912 in Stockholm, Sweden. The IAAF is the world governing body for the sport of field athletics and track.

Athletics is a unique group of sporting events that include competitive activities such as walking, running, throwing, and jumping. The Athletics Federation of India (AFI) is the apex body for running and managing athletics in India and is affiliated with the IAAF and Indian Olympic Association (IOA).



World Thalassaemia Day : 08 May :-

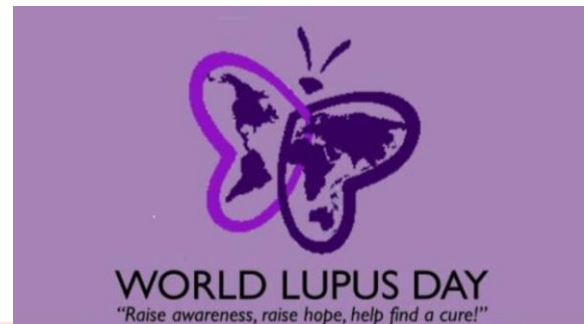
World Thalassaemia Day is observed on May 8 to raise awareness about thalassaemia as a blood ailment, dispel myths about the disease, and assist patients in living a normal life. Thalassaemia is a genetic condition characterized by low quantities of oxygen-carrying proteins called haemoglobin and fewer red blood cells than usual. Symptoms of this illness may include weariness, weakness, and stunted growth. While milder forms of the illness may not require therapy, more severe instances frequently require blood transfusions or stem-cell transplants from a matched donor. The theme of the event this year is "Empowering Lives, Embracing Progress: Equitable and Accessible Thalassaemia Treatment for All."



World Red Cross Day : 08 May :-

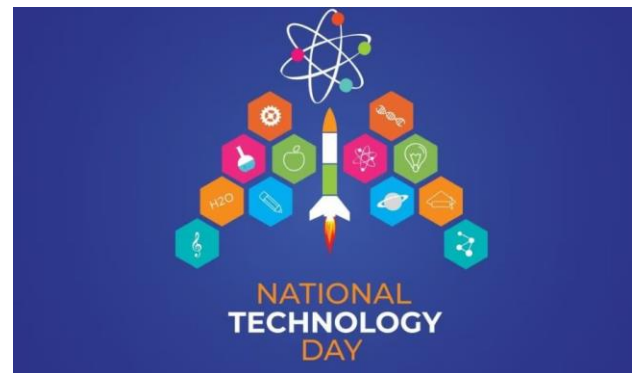
World Red Cross Day is an annual event held on May 8th to commemorate the humanitarian efforts and principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. These organisations play a critical

role in delivering aid and assistance to individuals affected by natural disasters, armed conflicts, and other emergencies around the world. In 1948, the Board of Governors of the League of Red Cross Societies advocated commemorating Henry Dunant's birth anniversary as the founder of the Red Cross and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). The theme announced for World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day in 2024 is "I give with joy, and the joy I give is a reward."



World Lupus Day : 10 May :-

Every year on May 10, World Lupus Day is commemorated to raise awareness of Lupus, a chronic autoimmune disease that can affect almost any organ of the body. In an autoimmune disease, the immune system fails. It is unable to distinguish between pathogens and healthy tissue and produces antibodies that attack and kill healthy tissue. The history of World Lupus Day dates back to 2004 when a global campaign was organized to raise awareness about the autoimmune disease lupus. The day was first established by Lupus Canada in 2004.



National Technology Day (India) : 11 May :-

India observes National Technology Day on May 11 each year to commemorate the successful nuclear test at Pokhran in 1998 and to recognize important

achievements in science and technology, emphasizing its critical role in cementing the country's status as a global leader in technological innovation. Former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee declared May 11 as National Technology Day in India to honor the momentous Pokhran nuclear tests carried out by the Indian Army in Rajasthan in 1998. The following year, on May 11, 1999, the Council for Technology organised the inaugural celebration of National Technology Day. The theme for 2024 is 'School to Startups-Igniting Young Minds to Innovate'.



World Migratory Bird Day : 11 May :-

World Migratory Bird Day is a bi-annual international campaign that raises awareness of migrating birds, their conservation needs, and the necessity of habitat preservation. It is commemorated on the second Saturday of May and again in October. This year, it will be observed on May 11 and October 12, 2024. This year's World Migratory Bird Day focuses on insects and their relevance to migratory birds, as part of a global campaign to promote awareness of migratory birds and the need for international collaboration to conserve them.



International Nurses Day : 12 May :-

The unique occasion of International Nurses Day is observed annually on May 12 to honor Florence

Nightingale's birth anniversary. The purpose of International Nurses Day is to commemorate Florence Nightingale, the "Foundational Philosopher of Modern Nursing," who was born in 1820. International Nurses Day was first observed in 1953. Dorothy Sutherland, a U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare official, proposed to President Dwight D. Eisenhower to establish a day dedicated to nurses. International Council of Nurses has declared the theme for this year as 'Our Nurses Our Future, The Economic Power of Care'.



Mother's Day 2024 : 12 May :-

Mother's Day is celebrated on the second Sunday of May in many countries, including India, and this year's date is May 12, 2024. Mother's Day serves as a reminder of the tremendous significance of mothers and motherhood, and it is a day to express love, appreciation, and recognition for the selfless commitment and unconditional love that mothers provide throughout their lives, making it significant for a variety of reasons. In 1914, President Woodrow Wilson signed a proclamation designating the second Sunday in May as Mother's Day in the United States.



International Day of Families : 15 May :-

Every year on May 15, International Day of Families is observed as an opportunity to promote family unity and harmony. The United Nations first established

International Day of Families more than two decades ago, in 1994, with the goal of promoting family culture and connecting across communities. The theme of this year's International Day of Families is "Families & Climate Change: International Year of the Family + 30". The 2024 International Day of Families intends to increase awareness about how climate change affects families and the role they can play in climate action.



National Dengue Day (India) : 16 May :-

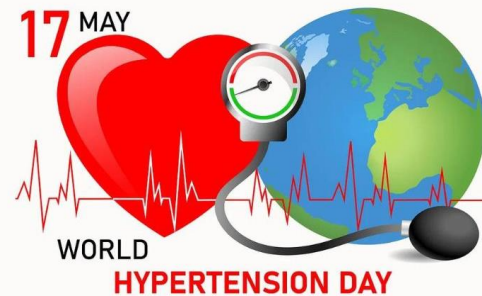
National Dengue Day, held on May 16, acts as a reminder to people and communities to take proactive measures to control the spread of dengue. Preventive actions are critical to controlling the spread of dengue illness. Keeping the environment clean, including avoiding stagnant water where mosquitoes thrive, is critical. Since its beginning in 2010, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has marked National Dengue Day every year in India, offering a forum for discussion on government strategies and initiatives targeted at preventing dengue transmission. The National Dengue Day Theme this year is "Dengue Prevention: Our Responsibility for a Safer Tomorrow".



International Day of Light : 16 May :-

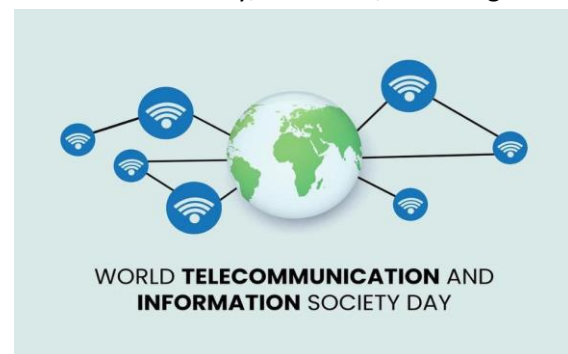
The International Day of Light is commemorated annually on May 16. The first successful laser operation was carried out in 1960 by physicist and engineer Theodore Maiman. International Day of Light was

established to remember the exceptional day, and it is now observed annually on May 16. The United Nations held the International Day of Light in 2015 to raise awareness about light science, light-based technology, and their applications. This year theme of the International Day of Light is "Light in Our Lives, to let the light guide us the way forward".



World Hypertension Day : 17 May :-

World Hypertension Day, observed annually on May 17th, aims to raise awareness of hypertension and advocate its prevention, detection, and control, as high blood pressure is a major risk factor for cardiovascular disease and premature mortality worldwide. World Hypertension Day was established by the World Hypertension League (WHL) to promote awareness of hypertension. The first World Hypertension Day was launched on May 14, 2005, by the WHL. Since 2006, May 17 of every year has been dedicated as World Hypertension Day. This year, 2024, The World Hypertension Day theme is "Measure Your Blood Pressure Accurately, Control It, Live Longer".



World Telecommunication and Information Society Day : 17 May :-

Every year, on May 17, World Telecommunications and Information Society Day (WTISD) is observed. The day

commemorates the founding of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), which occurred on May 17, 1969. The purpose of WTISD is to highlight the importance of universal access to telecommunications services and to promote digital inclusion. The day also offers an opportunity to consider the role of technology in enhancing people's lives and promoting sustainable development. The theme of World Telecommunication and Information Society Day 2024 is 'Digital Innovation for Sustainable Development.'



World AIDS Vaccine Day : 18 May :-

Every year, on May 18, World AIDS Vaccine Day is marked. The day is dedicated to boosting HIV awareness and advocating the development of a viable vaccine. HIV is a worldwide epidemic that has impacted millions of people globally. According to the most recent estimates, around 38.4 million individuals live with HIV, with two-thirds of them residing in the WHO African Region. It also brings attention to the ways in which individuals can be a part of the global effort to end this epidemic. The first World AIDS Vaccine Day was observed in 1998.



International Museum Day : 18 May :-

International Museum Day is an annual global event held on May 18 to support the creation and maintenance of museums in our society. It is an occasion to

commemorate museums around the world and their role in advancing knowledge while also maintaining rich legacy and culture. The International Council of Museums established International Museum Day in 1977. The first celebration of International Museum Day took place in almost 22 countries on 18th May 1978. The theme of International Museum Day 2024, is "Museums for Education and Research."



World Metrology Day : 20 May :-

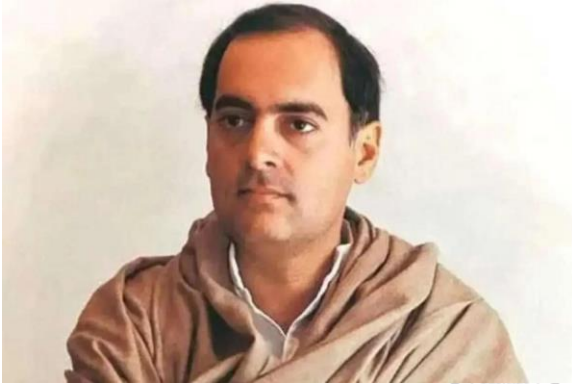
World Metrology Day is observed annually on May 20. This day is dedicated to the science of measuring and its applications in numerous sectors. It provides a chance to increase awareness about the significance of metrology in our daily life. Metrology is the technique of taking precise and repeatable measurements. It covers all areas of measurement, including scientific, industrial, and legal issues. World Metrology Day is an annual celebration of the signature of the Metre Convention on 20 May 1875 by representatives of seventeen nations. The theme for World Metrology Day 2024 is 'Sustainability'.



World Bee Day : 20 May

Every year on May 20, World Bee Day is observed to promote awareness about the importance of pollinators such as bees and other pollinators. It was initially

declared by the United Nations in 2017 to recognize bees' important role in ecosystem maintenance and food supply. The purpose of World Bee Day is to encourage measures that safeguard bees and their habitats, as well as to emphasize the importance of pollinators in maintaining biodiversity and guaranteeing global food security. This year, the theme is "Bee engaged with Youth".



National Anti-Terrorism Day (India) : 21 May :-

Every year on May 21, National Anti-Terrorism Day is observed in India to commemorate the death anniversary of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, India's sixth Prime Minister, who was assassinated on May 21, 1991, by an LTTE (Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam) suicide bomber in Sriperumbudur, a village near Madras (now Chennai). The VP Singh government launched Anti-Terrorism Day in India in remembrance of Rajiv Gandhi, with the goal of educating people about the negative repercussions of terrorism and violence on society and the country.



International Tea Day : 21 May :-

Tea is the world's most widely consumed beverage after water. International Tea Day is observed every year on May 21. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the day provides an opportunity to recognize tea's cultural history, health

advantages, and economic significance. The first International Tea Day was celebrated in India's capital city, New Delhi, in 2005 and the celebrations were later followed by other tea growing countries - Sri Lanka, Nepal, Vietnam, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Kenya, Malawi, Malaysia, Uganda and Tanzania.



International Day of Biodiversity - 22 May:-

This year, the International Day of Biodiversity will be observed on Wednesday, May 22, 2024. The theme for 2024, Be Part of the Plan, emphasises the need for a collective and coordinated approach to address and reverse the loss of biodiversity and supporting the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. This annual celebration serves as a platform to shine a spotlight on the crucial role that biodiversity plays in upholding the delicate equilibrium of ecosystems.



Buddha Purnima - 23 May:-

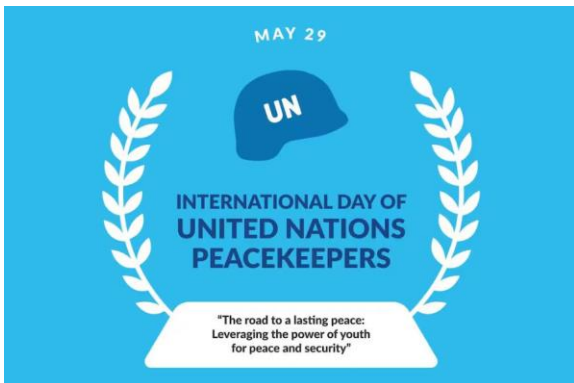
The auspicious festival of Buddha Purnima marks the birth of Prince Siddhartha Gautama, who became the Gautama Buddha and founded Buddhism. Primarily a Buddhist festival, the day is celebrated in most of South, Southeast and East Asia, including India, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan, Tibet, Thailand, Tibet, China, Korea, Laos,

Vietnam, Mongolia, Cambodia, Indonesia, and more. This year, Buddha Jayanti falls on Thursday, May 23. This year marks the 2586th birth anniversary of Gautam Buddha.



World Football Day 2024 : 25 May :-

The 193-member United Nations General Assembly passed a resolution on May 7, 2024, designating May 25 as World Football Day each year. On May 25, 1924, all regions of the world were represented in the 1924 Paris Summer Olympics football competition. This year's Summer Olympics will be held in Paris, and the 100th anniversary of the 1924 football event will be celebrated on May 25, 2024. To celebrate the momentous event, the United Nations unanimously accepted to celebrate 25 May as the World Football Day.



International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers : 29 May :-

The United Nations General Assembly established the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers in 2002 to honor the men and women who serve in UN peacekeeping missions, as well as those who have died in the interest of peace. The General Assembly designated May 29 as International Day of United

Nations Peacekeepers in resolution 57/129 because the first UN peacekeeping force, the 'United Nations Truce Supervision Organisation', or UNTSO, commenced operations in Palestine on May 29, 1948. The 2024 theme is 'Fit for the future, building better together'.



International Everest Day : 29 May :-

On May 29, International Everest Day commemorates Edmund Hillary of New Zealand and Tenzing Norgay Sherpa of Nepal's extraordinary achievement. On May 29, 1953, the two braved ice and storms to reach the summit of the world's highest mountain, becoming the first to accomplish so. International Everest Day was established in 2008, the year Edmund Hillary died. The Nepal government designated May 29 as International Everest Day to highlight the momentous achievement of the climber.



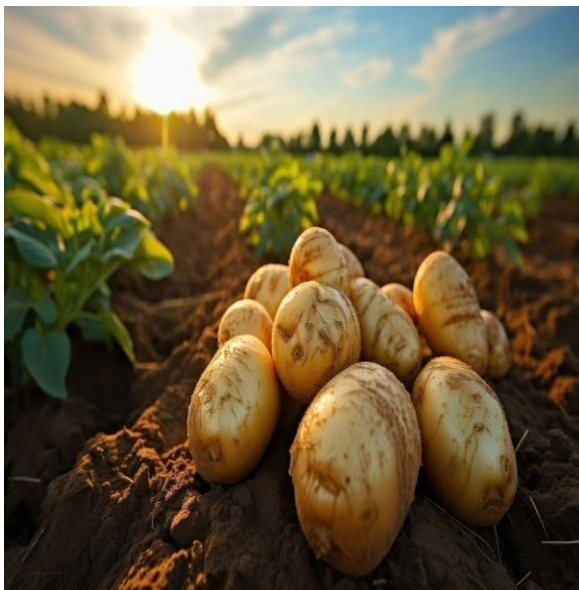
Goa Statehood Day : 30 May :-

Goa Statehood Day is held annually on May 30. Goa was a Portuguese colony for more than 450 years. In 1961, India freed Goa. In 1987, Goa, Daman, and Diu were designated as union territories. Later in 1987, Goa was given the status of a state – Goa became the 25th state of the Indian union that year. Panaji was declared the

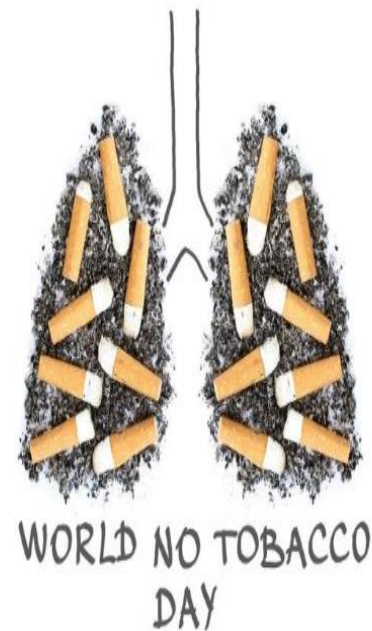
capital of the state and Konkani was announced to be the official language of Goa. Since then, Goa Statehood Day is observed every year on May 30.

**Hindi Journalism Day : 30 May :-**

Hindi Journalism Day is observed every year on May 30. Udat Martand was the first Hindi newspaper published in India. Around that time, India was under British dominion. Udat Martand was published in Calcutta. The date of publishing was May 30, 1826. Hindi journalism has existed in the country for around 198 years. Hindi journalism delivered news to non-English speakers' doorsteps. It helped people to have access to information and grow an informed opinion about things. This is the day to honour journalists who work in Hindi journalism and contribute to the distribution of correct information.

**International Day of Potato : 30 May :-**

On May 30, 2024, the globe will commemorate the first-ever International Day of Potato, highlighting the remarkable crop devoured by billions of people worldwide. In December 2023, the General Assembly designated May 30th as International Potato Day. This day is an occasion to highlight the potato's importance in global food security, nutrition, sustainable agriculture, and economic development. The theme for the International Day of Potato 2024 is "Harvesting Diversity, Feeding Hope." This theme highlights the importance of having a wide variety of potato types.

**World No Tobacco Day : 31 May :-**

The World Health Organization (WHO) observes World No Tobacco Day on May 31 every year. The day is dedicated to raising awareness about the detrimental effects of tobacco and the importance of reducing tobacco intake. The World Health Organization (WHO) was established in 1948, and World No Tobacco Day was first commemorated in 1987. According to the World Health Organization, tobacco-related diseases kill more than 8 million people each year. The theme of World No Tobacco Day 2024 is "Protecting children from tobacco industry interference"

2: Agreements



NHPC Ltd signs MoU with Norwegian firm for floating solar technology:-

The hydropower business NHPC Limited has concluded a Memorandum of Understanding with Ocean Sun, a Norwegian company that provides technology to the floating solar industry. According to the MoU, NHPC and Ocean Sun will explore major areas of collaboration for the demonstration of Ocean Sun's floating solar energy technology based on photovoltaic panels. About 44 per cent of India's energy requirements at present come from non-fossil sources and are likely to touch as high as 65 per cent by 2030, much higher than what the country pledged at the COP summit in 2021.



India Renews Agreement To Train 1500 Bangladeshi Officers :-

Over the next five years, India will teach 1,500 Bangladeshi civil workers through mid-career capacity building workshops on good governance measures, according to a top government official. A letter to extend an existing Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in this regard for an additional five years will be exchanged

soon, according to V Srinivas, Secretary of the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG). The programmes for middle and senior management covers new paradigms of governance like project management, public procurement, blue economy and food processing, among others, he said.



CAG Of India And Auditor General Of Nepal Sign MoU To Enhance Collaboration In Auditing :-

Girish Chandra Murmu, India's Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG), recently inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Toyam Raya, Nepal's Auditor General. The agreement intends to improve collaboration and knowledge exchange in the field of auditing between the two countries' Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs). This MoU will offer a framework for capacity development, knowledge exchange, and mutual aid in auditing. The signing ceremony, held in the presence of dignitaries from both nations, marks a milestone in promoting closer ties and collaboration in auditing practices.



ICC signs MoU with UAE council to boost ties :-

The UAE-India CEPA Council (UICC) recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC), kicking off a strategic relationship to strengthen economic and trade links between the UAE and India. In accordance with their respective missions, the UICC and the ICC will combine their efforts, resources, and ideas to raise awareness in the UAE and India about the great potential of the UAE-India bilateral economic partnership. The UICC is dedicated to promoting economic cooperation and trade relations between the UAE and India.

**India To Manage Iran's Chabahar Port For Ten Years :-**

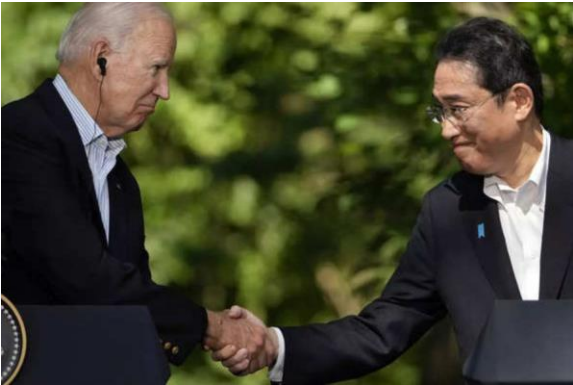
India is likely to sign a 10-year agreement with Iran to administer Chabahar Port, marking New Delhi's first foray into port management abroad. Chabahar Port is now being integrated into the International North South Transport Corridor (INSTC), which would improve India's connectivity with Russia through Iran. India intends to bypass Pakistan and provide direct access to Afghanistan and Central Asia via Chabahar Port. Chabahar Port holds strategic importance for India as it serves as a vital link connecting the country to Afghanistan, Central Asia, and the broader Eurasian region.

**Hero MotoCorp Joins ONDC Network To Revolutionize Two-Wheeler Industry :-**

Hero MotoCorp, a prominent two-wheeler manufacturer, said that it has joined the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) to increase accessibility and convenience and provide customers with a readily accessible digital method. The open network will first provide two-wheeler parts, accessories, and products. Customers may simply find 'Hero Genuine Parts' via any of the network's buying applications, including Paytm and Mystore, according to Hero MotoCorp. "With this initiative, Hero MotoCorp is furthering the government's Digital India mission and we will continue to bring in more innovation in this space," Hero MotoCorp CEO Niranjan Gupta said.

**PhonePe Launches UPI In Sri Lanka In Partnership With LankaPay :-**

PhonePe has established a partnership with LankaPay to enable its users to pay with UPI throughout Sri Lanka. At a ceremony to commemorate the collaboration, PhonePe announced that its app users traveling to Sri Lanka can make payments using UPI at LankaPay QR merchants. The transactions will be handled using the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) and the LankaPay National Payment Network. Users can scan LankaQR code to make secure and quick payments without carrying cash or calculating currency conversions. The amount will be debited in INR, showing the currency exchange rate.



US and Japan sign agreement to co-develop hypersonic interceptor :-

According to a pact they signed, the United States and Japan intend to create interceptors to shoot down hypersonic missiles by the 2030s. The initiative, which is expected to cost over \$3 billion, was first unveiled in August during a summit between the leaders of the two countries and South Korea at Camp David, outside of Washington. "In recent years, around Japan, missile-related technologies such as hypersonic weapons have improved dramatically," the defence ministry said in a statement about the agreement to jointly develop the so-called Glide Phase Interceptor (GPI).



Tata Motors partners with Bajaj Finance to finance their vehicle dealers:-

Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles (TMPV) and Tata Passenger Electric Mobility (TPEM) both of which are subsidiaries of Tata Motors, have partnered with Bajaj Finance, part of Bajaj Finserv Ltd., to extend supply chain finance solutions to its passenger and electric vehicle dealers. Through this memorandum of understanding (MoU), the participating companies will come together

to leverage Bajaj Finance's wide reach to help dealers of TMPV and TPEM access funding with minimal collateral.



DAHD and UNDP signs MoU on Digitalization of Vaccine Cold Chain Management:-

The Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying (DAHD), Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 20 May 2024, with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) India on Digitalization of Vaccine Cold Chain Management, Capacity Building, and Communication Planning. This collaboration marks a significant step towards enhancing animal health and husbandry practices in India, leveraging UNDP's global expertise and DAHD's mandate.



Airbus Helicopters, SIDBI sign MoU for helicopter financing in India :-

Airbus Helicopters and Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) have inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to finance the acquisition of Airbus helicopters in India. Under the terms of the MoU, Airbus Helicopters and SIDBI will identify potential civil helicopter operators in India who are interested in financing alternatives for helicopter purchases. While

Airbus would provide the technical and helicopter-industry knowledge, SIDBI would be responsible for evaluating the prospects and financing them exclusively for Airbus.



DroneAacharya Aerial Innovations signs MoU with Airbots Aerospace Technologies :-

DroneAacharya Aerial Innovations Limited and Airbots Aerospace Technologies Private Limited have inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to grow the agricultural drone business. Under this collaboration, DroneAacharya will deploy Airbots agricultural drones and secure tenders and contracts on their behalf. DroneAacharya will also set up Remote Pilot Training Organizations (RPTOs) to train pilots to operate Airbots drones. Airbots will provide high quality drones and direct customers to DroneAacharyas training programs. Both companies will engage in joint marketing efforts including promotional drone tours across India to showcase their technology.



Ghana Partners With Reliance Jio Arm And Others For Telecom Infrastructure :-

Ghana's state-backed Next-Gen Infrastructure Company (NGIC) has collaborated with Jio's affiliate Radisys, Tech Mahindra, and Nokia to construct the infrastructure required to provide cheap 5G mobile broadband services. Ursula Owusu-Ekuful, the West African country's minister for communication and digitalisation, informed reporters that India was a 'strategic choice' because of its similar demographics, and Ghana hoped to imitate India's telecom penetration success. Ekuful said Ghana is a part of the 33-nation Smart Africa alliance, and other countries in the continent will be closely watching the rollout to see whether they can also emulate the same locally.



Reliance Industries Partners With Norway's Nel To Boost New Energy Investments :-

Reliance Industries Ltd's technical cooperation with Norway's Nel ASA will help speed its new energy projects, including the creation of green hydrogen, which will enable billionaire Mukesh Ambani's transition to green energy. Reliance (RIL) recently signed a technology licensing agreement that grants the corporation an exclusive license for Nel's alkaline electrolyzers in India, as well as the ability to produce the Norwegian company's alkaline electrolyzers for captive purposes around the world.

3: Appointments



MCA Approves Hitesh Sethia As Jio Financial Services' MD And CEO For 3 Years :-

The Corporate Affairs Ministry (MCA) has approved the nomination of Hitesh Kumar Sethia as Managing Director and CEO of Jio Financial Services for three years from November 15, 2023. This permission is, however, subject to the appointee maintaining a valid Employment Visa throughout his stay in India, according to an MCA letter filed with the stock exchanges by Jio Financial Services Ltd. The MCA approval is under and in respect of the provisions of the Companies Act 2013 and should not be considered as covering any requirement of security clearance, for which the company/appointee shall be responsible, said the MCA letter.

appointment, which was authorized by the Central Government, is valid for five years or until further orders. The directive directs Singh to be released of his existing duties immediately so that he can begin his new position. However, if he is engaged in election-related responsibilities as a result of the declaration of Lok Sabha elections, he shall be freed after receiving approval from the Election Commission of India.



Sanjaya Kumar Mishra To Head GST Appellate Tribunal :-

The retired Justice Sanjaya Kumar Mishra has been appointed as the President of the Goods & Services Tax Appellate Tribunal (GSTAT) by the Center. The tribunal was established with the goal of assisting businesses in effectively resolving various issues. The Finance Ministry has previously issued vacancy notices for 63 judicial members and 33 technical members for the Centre and States together. Last September, the Centre issued a notification to set up 31 GSTAT benches with one Principal Bench in Delhi.



Shashi Bhushan Singh Appointed Secretary Of National Jute Board :-

Shashi Bhushan Singh, a 2010-batch Indian Railway Traffic Service (IRTS) officer, was recently appointed Secretary (at the Director level) of the National Jute Board in Kolkata by the Ministry of Textile. The

Ujjivan Small Finance Bank Names Sanjeev Nautiyal As MD & CEO:-

Ujjivan Small Finance Bank said that the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has accepted the nomination of Sanjeev Nautiyal as the bank's managing director (MD) and chief executive officer (CEO) for three years, beginning July 1, 2024. He will join the Bank prior to his appointment as MD&CEO and will serve as President in the meantime. He is a banker with over three decades of extensive strategic domain expertise in retail, SME, financial inclusion, operations, HR, international banking, and treasury.

**IRDAI approves appointment of Keki Mistry as Chairman of HDFC Life :-**

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDAI) authorized Keki Mistry's appointment as Chairman of HDFC Life. Mistry is a trained Chartered Accountant and a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India. He was the Vice Chairman and CEO of HDFC Limited. With the amalgamation of HDFC Limited with HDFC Bank, Mistry superannuated from HDFC Limited and has been appointed as a Non-Executive Director on the Board of HDFC Bank Limited.

**RBI Appoints R. Lakshmi Kanth Rao As Executive Director :-**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has chosen R. Lakshmi Kanth Rao as its new Executive Director. He will be in charge of the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation, the Right to Information Act (FAA), and the Department of Communication, according to the central bank. Rao formerly worked as Chief General Manager-in-Charge of the RBI's Department of Regulation before being appointed Executive Director. With an extensive career spanning over three decades within the Reserve Bank, he brings a wealth of experience in various domains, including Regulation of Banks and NBFCs, Supervision of Banks, and Consumer Protection.

**N Chandrasekaran To Chair Tata Electronics :-**

Tata Sons chairman N Chandrasekaran will also take on the post of chairman of Tata Electronics, at a time when the Tata group company has set aside almost \$14 billion in capital to lead its foray into the semiconductor market. Chandrasekaran will succeed Banmali Agrawala, who has held the job for the past few years. Chandrasekaran, who is already the chairman of several key Tata Group entities, will take over with the necessary regulatory permissions. Agrawala, a key Tata Sons aide, has taken on an advisory role recently in the group.



Dileep Sanghani Elected As Chairman Of IFFCO :-

Dileep Sanghani, a former legislator who served as a cabinet member under then Gujarat Chief Minister Narendra Modi, has been re-elected as chairman of the Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative (IFFCO) for an additional term. Balvir Singh was re-elected as vice-chairman of IFFCO, the world's largest cooperative, for the second time in a row. Singh is a senior member of the ruling BJP in Uttar Pradesh and has previously served as the state convenor of the BJP cooperative cell and as district president of Shahjahanpur.

**Senior IPS Officers A.Y.V. Krishna & N. Venu Gopal Appointed As Additional Directors In CBI:-**

Senior IPS officials A.Y.V. Krishna and N. Venu Gopal have been named as additional directors of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). Mr. Krishna, a 1995-batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer from the Assam-Meghalaya cadre, currently operates as Inspector General of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF). He has been appointed as the CBI's additional director for a term ending on August 6, 2028, according to an order issued by the Personnel Ministry. Mr. Krishna's batchmate Mr. Venu Gopal (Himachal Pradesh cadre) is presently working as joint director in the CBI.

**RBI Approves Appointment Of Pradeep Natarajan As IDFC FIRST Bank's Whole Time Director :-**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has accepted Pradeep Natarajan's appointment as Whole Time Director on the Board of IDFC FIRST Bank, the private sector lender announced. "This decision follows an earlier notification from the bank dated December 30, 2023. In a letter dated May 16, 2024, the RBI confirmed its approval for Mr. Natarajan's appointment, designating him as Executive Director for the next three years," IDFC First Bank said in a statement. It will now undertake the necessary steps to formalise Mr. Natarajan's appointment. This appointment requires approval of the shareholders, the bank added.

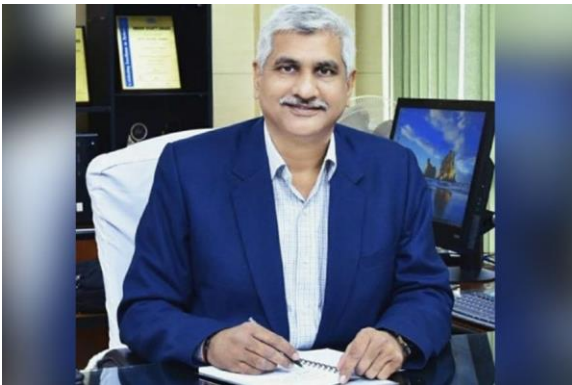
**Sanjiv Puri appointed president of CII for 2024-25:-**

The chairman and managing director of ITC, Sanjiv Puri, has assumed the presidency of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) for the term 2024-25. Puri succeeds R Dinesh, the chairman of TVS Supply Chain Solutions. Puri leads ITC Ltd, with diverse interests in FMCG, hotels, paperboards & packaging, agribusiness, and IT. The CII has also appointed Rajiv Memani, the chairman of EY India, as the president-designate for the same period. Memani holds a position on EY's global management body as the chair of its global emerging markets committee.



John Slaven appointed Vice-Chairman of International Aluminium Institute:-

Vedanta Aluminium has announced the appointment of its CEO, John Slaven, as Vice-Chairman of the International Aluminium Institute (IAI). In this role, Slaven will lead global initiatives aimed at promoting sustainable transformation within the aluminium industry and highlighting aluminium's crucial role in advancing the energy transition towards a zero-carbon future. The International Aluminium Institute (IAI), established in 1972, is the sole organisation representing the global primary aluminium industry.

**Ramesh Babu V. Sworn In As Member Of Central Electricity Regulatory Commission :-**

Ramesh Babu V. has taken the oath of office and secrecy as Member of the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC). Ramesh Babu has a noteworthy background in the power field, having earned an M.Tech degree in Thermal Engineering and a B.Tech in

Mechanical Engineering. Prior to joining CERC, he worked as the Director (Operations) at NTPC from May 2020 until his retirement. His extensive experience at NTPC also includes various other key roles throughout his tenure at the corporation.

**Sony Appoints Disney Veteran Gaurav Banerjee As New India CEO :-**

Sony has appointed Gaurav Banerjee, a Walt Disney executive, as its new India CEO to oversee its television and other media operations. According to one source, Banerjee has resigned from Disney's India operation, where he was the head of content for the streaming service Hotstar as well as the head of business for the company's TV channels in Hindi-speaking areas. Sony runs 26 channels in India, from general entertainment to sports and movies, and also a streaming service. This year, it scrapped a planned merger with India's Zee Entertainment that would have created a \$10-billion enterprise.

4: Awards

**India Today Group's AI anchor Sana wins global media award :-**

Sana, an AI news anchor for India Today Group, has won the 2024 Global Media Award from the International News Media Association (INMA) for AI-driven newsroom transformation. India Today Group has been named the best in South Asia for 'AI-led newsroom transformation', while the company's human-collaborative AI anchor, Sana, has received first place among national brands for 'best use of AI in customer-facing products'. The 2024 Global Media Awards saw 771 multi-platform entries

from 245 market-leading news media brands in 43 countries, competing in different sections.



Alok Shukla Wins Prestigious Goldman Environmental Prize 2024 :-

Alok Shukla, moderator of the Chhattisgarh Bachao Andolan and founding member of the Hasdeo Aranya Bachao Sangharsh Samiti, has been named the 2024 Goldman Prize from Asia, according to a release. The Goldman Environmental Foundation, which awards the prize, acknowledged that the Hasdeo movement's "ability to successfully influence policy has made it a model for environmental justice in India and generated an unprecedented amount of national and regional solidarity". Hasdeo, spanning 657 square miles, is one of India's largest contiguous forest areas.



Eminent Personalities Will Be Honoured With Prestigious Pandit Lacchu Maharaj Award :-

The famous Pandit Lacchu Maharaj Award will be bestowed upon noted Hindi film celebrities Hema Malini and Saira Banu, as well as other notable figures in the arts and culture. The award ceremony will take place on August 31, 2024 in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. The Pandit Lacchu Maharaj Ballet Foundation has opted to honor ten individuals this year, as the prize was not presented after 2014. The esteemed awardees, spanning various

years from 2015 to 2024, represent the pinnacle of artistic excellence in fields such as Kathak, Bharatanatyam, and cinema.



Dr. Bina Modi Honoured For Outstanding Contribution To Corporate Social Responsibility :-

Dr. Bina Modi, Chairperson and Managing Director of Modi Enterprises - KK Modi Group, was awarded by India's Vice President, Jagdeep Dhankar, for her 'Outstanding Contribution to the Cause of Corporate Social Responsibility'. The ceremony commemorated the opening of the Society of Indian Law Firms' (SILF) new headquarters, with the Vice President serving as the principal guest. Dr. Modi has been actively engaged in various Corporate Social Responsibility initiatives aimed at uplifting communities and fostering sustainable development.



Purnima Devi Barman Gets The 'Green Oscar' Whitley Gold Award 2024 :-

A wildlife biologist from Assam has received a prestigious UK wildlife charity award for her conservation efforts involving the vulnerable Greater Adjutant Stork and its wetland habitat. The Whitley Fund for Nature (WFN), which supports frontline conservation leaders around the world, awarded Dr Purnima Devi Barman the GBP 1,000,000 Whitley Gold Award. Ms Barman received the

trophy from charity patron Princess Anne – the Princess Royal, the sister of King Charles III, in recognition of her conservation of the stork known locally as “Hargila” in Assamese.



UNESCO Guillermo Cano Prize 2024 Awarded To Palestine Journalists In Gaza :-

As a show of support and appreciation, Palestinian journalists covering the Gaza situation have been designated UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize laureates for 2024. The declaration is the result of an international jury of media professionals' recommendation, highlighting the bravery and dedication of these journalists in the face of difficult conditions. The ongoing conflict in Gaza has had severe repercussions for journalists, with UNESCO reporting the deaths of 26 journalists and media workers since October 7, 2023.



Dr. Soumya Swaminathan Honoured With Honorary Doctorate By McGill University :-

Dr. Soumya Swaminathan, most recently WHO's Chief Scientist, has been recognized one of ten extraordinary individuals to receive honorary degrees from Canada's famous McGill University during the Spring 2024 Convocation ceremony. Swaminathan joined the World Health Organization (WHO) as Deputy Director General

(Programmes) in 2017 and became the organization's first Chief Scientist in March 2019, was named its first Chief Scientist, a role she filled through the Covid-19 pandemic until late 2022. Spring 2024 Convocation ceremonies would take place from May 28 to June 5.



Hindustan Shipyard Limited's CMD Cmde Hemant Khatri Honored With 'PSU Samarpan Award' :-

Cmde Hemant Khatri, Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL), received the distinguished 'PSU Samarpan Award' from Gov Connect at a prominent occasion in New Delhi. The award celebrates Khatri's remarkable leadership and vital role in spearheading the shipyard's turnaround, which has inspired other industry professionals. The 'PSU Samarpan Award' is a prestigious accolade that acknowledges the significant contributions of Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) to the country's progress.



Chandrakant Satija Honoured With Global Excellence Award 2024 :-

Chandrakant Satija, the Founder and CEO of Chandra Admission Consultants, has received the Global Excellence Award 2024 for being the “Most Trusted Admission Consultant in Vidarbha Region”. With over 21 years of experience in the education sector, Chandrakant

has devoted himself to delivering quality education, career counseling, and admission guidance to students, earning the trust of parents not only in the Vidarbha region but also in the surrounding cities of Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh. His firm, Chandra Admission Consultants helps students in securing admissions in prestigious institutions of India and abroad.



Indian-Origin Professor Shrinivas R Kulkarni Wins Shaw Prize in Astronomy :-

Shrinivas R. (Shri) Kulkarni, George Ellery Hale Professor of Astronomy and Planetary Science at the California Institute of Technology (Caltech), USA, has won The Shaw Prize for 2024. Kulkarni is the younger sibling of Sudha Murty, a renowned author and Rajya Sabha member, and comes from Karnataka. He was born in Kurundwad, near Sangli, Maharashtra, and educated at Hubballi. Also known as the Nobel of the East, the prize from the Hong Kong-based Shaw Prize Foundation recognises contributions one has made to furthering societal progress, enhancing quality of life, and enriching humanity's spiritual civilization.



Jenny Erpenbeck's 'Kairos' Wins International Booker Prize :-

Jenny Erpenbeck, a German novelist, and translator Michael Hofmann won the coveted International Booker

Prize for their novel "Kairos." The novel, which follows the narrative of a complex love affair in East Germany's final years, knocked out five other finalists from an array of 149 submissions. Eleanor Wachtel, chair of the five-person judging panel, applauded Erpenbeck's novel. Set in the dying days of the German Democratic Republic (GDR), leading up to the fall of the Berlin Wall, "Kairos" captures the complexities of a society undergoing profound change.



Anasuya Sengupta Wins Best Actress at Cannes :-

Anasuya Sengupta is the first Indian to win Best Actress at the Cannes Film Festival's Un Certain Regard division. She earned the award for her performance in the film "Shameless," directed by Bulgarian filmmaker Constantin Bojanov. Anasuya is best known for her work as a production designer in Mumbai, but she now calls Goa home. She contributed to the set design of the Netflix show 'Masaba Masaba.' Originally from Kolkata, she pursued her education at Jadavpur University.



Payal Kapadia bags historic Grand Prix Award at Cannes Film Festival 2024 :-

According to a release from the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, for the first time in 30 years, an Indian film titled 'All We Imagine as Light' by Payal Kapadia, which follows the lives of two nurses, has been

nominated for the Palme d'or, the festival's highest honor. This film won the Grand Prix, placing second in the category. Payal Kapadia, an alumnus of the Film and Television Institute of India, becomes the first Indian to receive this coveted prize. Payal's film was granted official Indo-French co production status by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, under the signed Audio-Visual treaty between India and France.



Uttar Pradesh's Arti Receives Amal Clooney Women's Empowerment Award From King Charles III :-

Arti, an 18-year-old e-rickshaw driver from a remote town in Uttar Pradesh, got the coveted Amal Clooney Women's Empowerment Award in London, which was followed by a visit with King Charles III. Arti was honored at the Prince's Trust Awards, an event that recognizes the accomplishments of young people from all over the world. The award recognises "the global work of young women who have succeeded against the odds and made a lasting difference to those around them," according to the official website. "Now, I am able to fulfil not only my dreams but also those of my daughter," she said.



Indian Peacekeeper Receives UN Military Gender Advocate Of The Year Award :-

Major Radhika Sen, an Indian peacekeeper serving in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), has been named the United Nations Military Gender Advocate of the Year for 2023. The renowned award honors her exceptional service and efforts to better local communities, particularly women and girls, throughout her tour of duty from March 2023 to April 2024. Serving with the UN peacekeeping mission MONUSCO as the Commander of the Engagement Platoon for the Indian Rapid Deployment Battalion in eastern DRC, Major Sen played a crucial role in establishing Community Alert Networks.



REC wins 'Sustainability Champion – Editor's Choice Award' at Outlook Planet Sustainability Summit & Awards 2024 :-

REC Limited, a Maharatna CPSE under the Ministry of Power and a leading NBFC, has received the 'Sustainability Champion - Editor's Choice Award' at the 'Outlook Planet Sustainability Summit & Awards 2024'. Outlook Group organized the award presentation in partnership with IIT Goa. Smt. Saraswathi, Senior General Manager of REC's Mumbai Office, received the award at a Goa-based event. This award recognizes REC's commitment to sustainability initiatives and its efforts in driving progress towards a greener future.

5: Banking



RBI Proposes New Rules for Electronic Trading Platforms :-

The Reserve Bank of India has recommended a revamped regulatory framework for Electronic Trading Platforms (ETPs) in response to greater integration of the onshore and offshore currency markets. Market makers have also asked the Reserve Bank to provide access to offshore ETPs that sell Indian Rupee (INR) products. ETP refers to any electronic system, other than a recognized stock exchange, on which transactions in eligible instruments are executed. Eligible instruments mean securities, money market instruments, foreign exchange instruments, derivatives, or other instruments of like nature.



RBI Cancels Acemoney (India) NBFC License For Irregular Lending Practices :-

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has revoked the licence of Acemoney (India), a Delhi-based non-banking financial company (NBFC), alleging improper lending activities. The banking authority, which gave a Certificate of Registration (CoR) to the company in 2017, stated that the revocation was due to a violation of RBI norms. It

added that the company was not complying with the extant regulations pertaining to charging excessive interest and ensuring confidentiality of customer information.



RBI imposes monetary penalty on three co-operative banks for rule violations :-

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has levied a monetary penalty on three cooperative banks for regulation infractions. These banks include Lokmangal Co-operative Bank, Udgir Urban Co-operative Bank, and Satara Sahakari Bank, the RBI stated in a release. The central bank levied a penalty of Rs 5 lakh on Lokmangal Co-operative Bank, Rs 2 lakh on Satara Sahakari Bank, and Rs 1 lakh on Udgir Urban Co-operative Bank. Lokmangal Co-operative Bank received a monetary penalty because it did not conduct periodic reviews of account risk categorization and did not update KYC on a regular basis in accordance with customer risk categorization.



Worldline EPayments India Receives RBI Approval As Payment Aggregator :-

Worldline ePayments India, a digital payments company, announced that it has got permission from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to run as an Online Payment Aggregator (PA) under the Payment and Settlement Systems Act of 2007. Ramesh Narasimhan, Chief Executive Officer, India, Worldline ePayments, stated that the company received this information from the RBI on April 30. The platform worked with merchants from various segments such as e-commerce, BFSI, retail, utilities, education, travel and hospitality for digital payments, it said in a statement.



RBI Approves Re-Appointment Of Atanu Chakraborty As HDFC Bank Part-Time Chairman :-

The Reserve Bank of India has confirmed Atanu Chakraborty's reappointment as part-time Chairman of HDFC Bank for three years, effective May 5. Following the RBI's approval and the suggestion of the Nomination and Remuneration Committee, the bank's board of directors approved Chakraborty's re-appointment. Chakraborty has been the Part-Time Chairman and Independent Director of the Bank since May 2021. He served the Government of India for 35 years as a member of Indian Administrative Service (IAS) in Gujarat cadre.



NPCI signs UPI tech contract with Bank of Namibia :-

In order to help with the development of an instant payment system like to India's Unified Payment Interface (UPI), NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL), the international division of the National Payments

Corporation of India (NPCI), has entered into a contract with the Bank of Namibia. This is UPI's first overseas agreement. In order to achieve digital financial inclusion, NIPL will assist Namibia in putting into place a new digital payment service for merchant and person-to-person payments that can be made in real time. Namibia intends to use the payment system to link individuals, businesses, and govt entities across the country, including the payment of social grants and supporting the growth of digital entrepreneurship.



Zeta Launches Digital Credit As A Service For Banks In India :-

Banking technology unicorn Zeta has created a digital credit-as-a-service platform for banks. The product is based on the NPCI's credit line on UPI scheme, which leverages the UPI network to accelerate credit issuing in India. Zeta believes that the transaction volume on this system would surpass \$1 trillion by 2030, and it seeks to capture 50% of this market opportunity, which can assist banks in launching multi-form credit products. Founded by Bhavin Turakhia and Ramki Gaddipati in 2015, Zeta's platform enables financial institutions to launch banking asset and liability products.



Thomas Cook India Launches Digital Service TCPay For International Money Transfers :-

Thomas Cook (India) Limited has introduced TCPay, a service designed to facilitate international money transfers. According to the corporation, moving money abroad required branch visits, time-consuming documentation, and limited operation hours. TCPay wants to change this by providing a digital interface that enables paperless transactions. The service is further strengthened by Thomas Cook's recently established Video KYC process, which allows consumers to transfer funds from the comfort of their own home. The Video KYC process is made to ensure convenient, safe, and quick transactions for customers.

**Punjab National Bank to close inoperative accounts from June 1 :-**

Punjab National Bank revealed plans to cancel dormant or inactive accounts, as displayed in a recent public notice. The bank will identify accounts that fit the criteria for dormancy or inactivity, which are defined as having been unused for more than three years as of April 30, 2024, and having a zero balance. Account holders can reactivate their inactive accounts by submitting the required Know Your Customer (KYC) documents to the appropriate branch before May 31, 2024. The closure for these identified accounts will commence from June 1, 2024, onwards.

**Public Sector Banks' Profit Surpasses ₹1.4 Lakh Crore In FY24 :-**

In the fiscal year that concluded in March 2024, the combined profit of public sector banks exceeded ₹1.4 lakh crore, indicating a 35 per cent increase over the preceding year, based on a high base of ₹1 lakh crore. In 2022–2023 the 12 public sector banks (PSBs) collectively made ₹1,04,649 crore in net profit. According to figures released on exchanges, market leader State Bank of India (SBI) alone contributed more than 40% of the ₹141,203 crore total profit achieved during the FY24. SBI earned a profit of ₹61,077 crore 22 per cent higher than the previous financial year (₹50,232 crore).

**SBI Raises Short-Term Retail Fixed Deposit Rates Amidst Economic Shifts :-**

The State Bank of India (SBI), India's largest lender, has raised interest rates on short-term retail fixed deposits (FDs) by 25 to 75 basis points (bps), a move that other banks are likely to follow. This is the bank's first hike in fixed deposit rates since December 2023. A fixed deposit is an investment instrument in which a sum is deposited with a bank for a predetermined period of time at a fixed interest rate. Rates on FDs are important for people, especially senior citizens, who are looking for safe investment options.



RBI approves record dividend of Rs 2.11 lakh crore to government for FY24:-

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) approved a dividend of nearly Rs 2.11 lakh crore for the central government for the fiscal year 2024, marking a nearly 140% increase from the previous fiscal year. In FY23, the RBI had transferred Rs 87,416 crore to the Centre as surplus. During the 608th Meeting of the Central Board held in Mumbai, the board discussed the global and domestic economic scenarios, including potential risks to the outlook. The board ultimately decided to transfer a surplus of Rs 2,10,874 crore.

**South African Regulator Fines SBI's South Africa Branch :-**

The Prudential Authority of the South African Reserve Bank issued a financial penalty of 10 million rand (₹4.5 crore) on the State Bank of India's South Africa branch, according to a notice to the exchange. The bank informed the stock exchange that the financial penalty is comprised of an immediately payable amount of 5.50 million rand, which the SBI branch in South Africa has already paid. The remaining 4.50 million rand is suspended for 36 months, contingent on compliance within this period. The bank did not elaborate on the details of the compliance.

**RBI Launches PRAVAAH, Retail Direct Mobile App, And FinTech Repository :-**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced three significant initiatives: the Pravaah portal, the Retail Direct mobile app, and the Fintech Repository. These projects attempt to improve regulatory processes, encourage retail investment, and provide comprehensive statistics on the fintech sector. The Pravaah portal is a centralized, secure web-based platform that allows individuals or companies to apply online for regulatory approvals, licenses, and authorizations from the RBI. Retail Direct mobile app provides retail investors with a seamless and convenient way to transact in government securities (G-Secs) on their smartphones.

**RBI Imposes Penalty On HSBC For FEMA Violations :-**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a penalty of Rs 36.38 lakh on HSBC Limited for violating the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA). Specifically, HSBC failed to comply with FEMA's 1999 Liberalised Remittance Scheme reporting obligations. The central bank's action comes after a thorough analysis of the matter, which included HSBC's answer to an earlier show cause letter. The RBI found that HSBC had not complied with the reporting obligations stipulated under the Liberalised Remittance Scheme of FEMA, 1999.



RBI Imposes Penalty On ICICI Bank And YES Bank :-

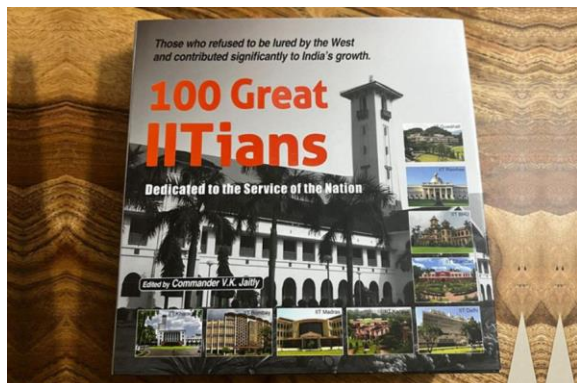
According to a press statement, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed monetary penalties on ICICI Bank and YES Bank for breaking several regulatory rules. ICICI Bank was fined Rs 1 crore for providing a term loan to certain businesses in place of or to supplement

budgetary resources planned for specific projects. The RBI separately conducted a Statutory Inspection for Supervisory Evaluation (ISE 2022) of ICICI Bank and Yes Bank with reference to their financial position as on March 31, 2022. On Yes Bank, the RBI imposed a Rs 91 lakh fine.

6: Books and Author

**Lyricist's book on Punjabis' deep connect with Lahore released :-**

"Hello! Mai Lahore Toh Bolda," a book by acclaimed lyricist and movie artist Gurvinder Singh Gill Raunta, was launched during an event hosted by the Department of Punjabi at Khalsa College in Amritsar. Aatam Singh Randhawa, Head, Department of Punjabi, said, "In times when writers of Punjabi complain of shortage of readers and often say that nobody buys a book, nearly 10,000 copies of Gill Raunta's book have been sold even before it was officially released." Randhawa said that the book was published in the first week of April and has since been in high demand.

**IIT Madras hosts book launch of '100 Great IITians – Dedicated to the Service of the Nation' :-**

IIT Madras hosted a notable felicitation ceremony and book launch for "100 Great IITians - Dedicated to the Service of the Nation". The book pays respect to IITians' tremendous contributions to India's growth. Commander VK Jaitly spent more than four years researching and compiling the stories of 100 remarkable IITians who committed their lives to the nation. These IITians either didn't go abroad or even if they did, they came back to their motherland to serve the nation.

**Screenplay of Anik Dutta's film on Satyajit Ray released as a book :-**

Following the success and universal appreciation of filmmaker Anik Dutta's Aparajito (The Undeclared), the film's screenplay has been published as a book to mark the iconic filmmaker Satyajit Ray's 103rd birth anniversary. The event took place at his family home, 1, Bishop Lefroy Road, in the presence of his son Sandip Ray, filmmaker, music composer Debojyoti Misra, and actor Jeetu Kamal, who played Ray in the film. This book will feature reviews published in various publications and

shooting stills from different periods of making the film in addition to the full movie script.



Veteran journalist Upen Chandra Deka's book 'Emergency' launched :-

In Assam, Morigaon District Commissioner Devashis Sarma launched a book titled 'Emergency', which describes the autobiographical experience of renowned writer Upen Chandra Deka's 13-month imprisonment during the 1975 'Emergency' in India. The book was launched at the DC office. In his speech, the Morigaon DC praised the painstaking work of the book's author, experienced journalist Upen Chandra Deka. He also expressed the hope to receive such valuable books from him in the coming days.



Book on governance and leadership in medical education institutions launched :-

A book on administration and leadership in medical education institutions issued by Sri Balaji Vidyapeeth (SBV) was recently inaugurated at the Mahatma Gandhi Medical College and Research Institute (MGMCRI) in Pondicherry. Gitanjali Batmanabane, Pro Vice-Chancellor, GITAM University, Hyderabad, launched the book, "Effective Leadership and Governance in Medical

Institution of Higher Learning" (published by Elsevier) by handing over the first copy to K.R. Sethuraman, former SBV Vice-Chancellor.



Javaid Rahi's Contribution Figure In A Book Released :-

Prof. K L Johar, Vice-Chancellor of Guru Jambheshwar University of Science and Technology, Hisar, wrote the book "India's Greatest Reformers - 51 Extraordinary Stories," which includes a chapter on the remarkable work of Dr. Javaid Rahi, a well-known tribal researcher in J&K. "India's Greatest Reformers - 51 Extraordinary Stories" pays homage to the trailblazers and innovators who have profoundly impacted our country's social fabric. Fifty-one inspiring stories including the story of Javaid Rahi figured in the book with renowned social reformers like Baba Amte, Dr B R Amedkar, Janki Devi Bajaj, Shalaini Moghe, E V Ramasawami, Raja Ram Mohan Rai, Durga Bhai Deshmukh and others who have shaped Indian society.



A Book "My Career, My Choice: Achieving Success" by Abhishake De Sarkar launched :-

My Career, "My Choice: Achieving Success with Abhishake De Sarkar" is a captivating literary work that seeks to repeat the author's steadfast view, nurtured

over the course of two decades, that destiny is the consequence of conscious choices rather than accident. This book was launched by its author, Abhishake De Sarkar, at The Park Hotel on Park Street in Kolkata. Abhishake De Sarkar book offers practical insights, dispels common myths, and provides a roadmap for young minds seeking direction in their professional journey.



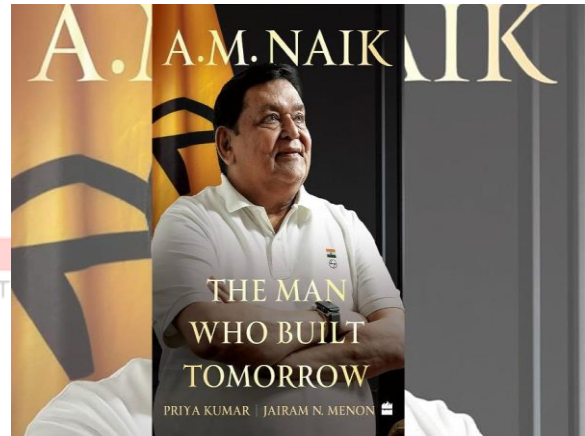
Book on climate change issues released :-

According to climate change lawyer **Jatinder (Jay) Cheema**, the debate and implications of climate change have dominated the last 30 years, with rising global temperatures and the resulting ecological harm. He was addressing at the launch of his book, "Climate Change - Policy, Law, and Practice". Published by Thomson Reuters, the book provides the readers with a holistic view on the climate and the challenges it faces, as well as global responses towards finding solutions to arrest the change.



Four books by senior journalist L.S. Shastri released in Belagavi on 12 May :-

Four novels by senior journalist L.S. Shastri were released in Belagavi, Karnataka. On May 12, the Zilla Chutuku Sahitya Parishad presented the books at the Kannada Sahitya Bhavan. The four books released are Nagemalliyara Nadinalli, Madhyama Darshana, Kannada Marathi Snehasetu K.S. Hegde and Kannadada Bhagya. Critics Ashoka Narode, Rajendra Patil, P.G. Kempannavar and Mamata Shankar spoke about the books. C.K. Jorapur, R.B. Katti, Basavaraja Gargi, Madhukar Gundenatti and others were present.



"A.M Naik: The Man who Built Tomorrow" Book Launched :-

In 1964, A.M. Naik, a fresh engineering graduate, responded to a Larsen & Toubro job advertisement. Despite nearly failing his final interview, he got employed. His supervisor, T. Baker, said, "I've sacked thirty-eight engineers—don't be number thirty-nine." Thus began Naik's odyssey of unwavering hard work, infectious energy, and astounding accomplishments that not only propelled him up the L&T hierarchy but also transformed the company into an international conglomerate with operations in over fifty countries. AM Naik's recruitment interview for L&T in 1964 is what legends are made of. A new book titled 'AM Naik: The Man Who Built Tomorrow', authored by Priya Kumar and Jairam N Menon, and published by HarperCollins, narrates how that fateful interview in November 1964 went.

7: Defence



IAF And Indian Navy Induct Rampage Missile For Enhanced Strike Capabilities :-

The Indian Air Force (IAF) has greatly improved its air warfare capabilities with the introduction of Rampage long-range supersonic air-to-ground missiles. These missiles, which can strike targets at a range of about 250 kilometers, have been integrated into the IAF's arsenal of Russian-origin aircraft, which includes the Su-30 MKI and MiG-29 fighters, as well as the Jaguar fighter jet. Not limited to the IAF, the Indian Navy has also welcomed the Rampage missiles into its arsenal, particularly for the MiG-29K naval fighter jets.



DRDO tests missile-assisted torpedo delivery system :-

On May 1, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) reported the successful flight test of the Supersonic Missile-Assisted Release of Torpedo (SMART) system from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island, off the coast of Odisha. SMART is a next-generation missile-based light-weight torpedo delivery system developed

and designed by DRDO to significantly improve the Indian Navy's anti-submarine warfare capabilities surpassing the traditional range of lightweight torpedoes. The missile was launched from the ground mobile launcher.



Bengaluru's Flying Wedge Defence Unveils India's First Indigenous Bomber UAV :-

Flying Wedge Defence and Aerospace Technologies, an Indian defence and aerospace business, made history in Bengaluru by introducing the FWD-200B, the country's first indigenous bomber unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV). The FWD-200B is a medium-altitude, long-endurance (MALE) unmanned combat aerial vehicle developed and manufactured wholly in India. With a payload capacity of 100 kgs, it can carry optical surveillance payloads as well as precision air-strike weapons, the firm said.



Gagan Strike-II: Indian Army, IAF Conduct Joint Exercise in Punjab:-

The Indian Army's Kharga Corps, operating under the Army's Western Command, recently completed a three-day joint exercise with the IAF at several locations in Punjab. The exercise was designed to enhance protocols and validate the use of attack helicopters in support of mechanized operations in developed terrain. The Gagan Strike-II exercise, which included Apache and ALH-WSI helicopters, unarmed aerial vehicles, and Indian Army special forces, was designed to validate various force multipliers in support of ground offensives by strike corps, as well as live firing by helicopters as required by mechanized forces during offensive maneuvers.



Indian Coast Guard Partners With Jindal Steel & Power For Indigenous Marine Steel Supply:-

The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) and Jindal Steel & Power (JSP) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in New Delhi to promote indigenous production in shipbuilding. This alliance aims to increase the supply of indigenous marine-grade steel, which is critical to the country's maritime security. The MoU emphasizes the need of public-private collaborations in addressing complex security issues. It underscores the necessity of collaboration between government agencies and the private sector to strengthen national interests.



Indian Coast Guard Inks MoU With Hindalco For Indigenous Marine-Grade Aluminium :-

The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) and Hindalco Industries recently inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in New Delhi to manufacture and sell indigenous marine-grade aluminum to Indian public and private shipyards for shipbuilding. The MoU will also include incentives such as quarterly pricing, priority in suppliers, and a turnover discount. The ICG fleet is operating 67 ships with aluminium hulls with capability of operating in shallow waters. To further boost coastal security, it has planned to induct more such vessels where the indigenously manufactured marine-grade aluminium will be utilised.



Vice Admiral Sanjay Bhalla Takes Helm As Chief Of Personnel Of Indian Navy :-

Vice Admiral Sanjay Bhalla, AVSM, NM, is now the Indian Navy's Chief of Personnel. He was commissioned in the Indian Navy on January 1, 1989. His time as Chief of Personnel will be highlighted by a number of significant appointments, both afloat and on shore. Bhalla served on an array of frontline warships after finishing his Communication and Electronic Warfare specialization course. He has held commands at sea including, INS Nishank, INS Taragiri, INS Beas, and the coveted appointment of Flag Officer Commanding Eastern Fleet (FOCEF).



Indian army to induct first Hermes-900 Drone for surveillance along Pakistan border :-

The Indian Army will get its first Hermes-900 Starliner drone on May 18, significantly increasing its surveillance capabilities along the Pakistan border. Adani Defence Systems is supplying the Hermes-900 drone, also known as the Drishti-10, to Indian forces, including the Indian Army and Navy. "The first of the two drones to be acquired by the Indian Army would be handed over to the force on May 18 in Hyderabad. The supplies are part of the deal signed under the emergency powers given to forces by the Defence Ministry," defence officials said.



Navy ship INS Kiltan reaches Vietnam's Cam Ranh Bay, visit to strengthen ties between nations :-

Kiltan, an Indian Navy ship, recently arrived in Cam Ranh Bay, Vietnam. The Indian Navy's Eastern Fleet is conducting the tour as part of its operational deployment. This visit is expected to improve the long-standing friendship and cooperation between the two maritime nations. India and Vietnam have a comprehensive strategic cooperation that continues to strengthen. The Indian Naval Ship Kiltan focusses on professional interactions, sporting, social exchanges and

community outreach reflecting the shared values of both navies.



Indian Air Force Tests BHISHM Portable Hospital For Airdrop In Agra :-

The Indian Air Force tested BHISHM portable cubes in Agra for airdrops from airplanes. This is the first time the Indian Air Force has tested this portable hospital. This test was carried out so that the portable hospital might be deployed to respond to situations anywhere. As per the ministry of information and broadcasting, BHISHM portable cubes are a part of the broader initiative named "Project BHISHM" - Bharat health initiative for Sahyog, Hita and Maitri, which is tailored to treat up to 200 casualties, emphasising rapid response and comprehensive care.



Indian Army Set To Receive Russian Igla-S Air Defence Systems :-

The Army is scheduled to get another batch of Russian Igla-S very short range air defence systems (VSHORAD) by the end of May or early next month, addressing a major gap in its air defense requirements that has been repeatedly postponed. In another development, many

sources verified that the payments dispute between India and Russia, which had stalled vital payments for defense transactions and payments, has been addressed. The Army is also set to receive the first of two Israeli Hermes-900 Medium Altitude Long Endurance Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) assembled by ADSTL in Hyderabad next month.



CDS Gen Anil Chauhan attends Exercise Cyber Suraksha – 2024 :-

Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) Gen Anil Chauhan attended 'Exercise Cyber Suraksha – 2024', on May 22, 2024, and underscored the importance of strengthening India's cyber defence capabilities. The comprehensive cyber defence exercise aims to further develop Cyber Defence Capability of all Cyber security organisations and promote synergy amongst all stakeholders. It focusses on enhancing collaboration and integration among

participants from various military and prominent national organizations.



India Successfully Tests Anti-Radiation Missile 'Rudram-II' :-

An air-surface anti-radiation missile test fired by India from a Su-30MKI fighter jet was successful. The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is developing the Rudram-II anti-radiation supersonic missile. The flight test completed all of the trial objectives, verifying the propulsion system and control and navigation algorithm. Rudram missile is the first indigenously developed anti-radiation missile designed to target enemy ground radars (surveillance, tracking) and communication stations in Suppression of Enemy Air Defence (SEAD) missions.

8: Economy



IREDA Granted Prestigious 'Navratna' Status By Government :-

According to a stock exchange filing, the government has accorded the public sector Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) 'navratna' status. This brings the total number of Navratna Public Sector Enterprises to 17. These companies have the freedom to invest up to ₹1,000 crore. IREDA is a Non-Banking Financial Institution engaged in promoting, developing and extending financial assistance for setting up projects relating to new and renewable sources of energy and energy efficiency/conservation.



MEIL Wins 2,000 MW Sharavathi Pumped Storage Power Project :-

Megha Engineering and Infrastructure (MEIL), an Infrastructure firm announced the acquisition of a 2,000-megawatt Sharavathi pumped storage power project in Karnataka, which will cost Rs 8,000 crore. According to a corporate statement, the Sharavathi river is an important source of hydroelectric power in Karnataka, and with a planned total power output capacity of 2000 MW, it is the country's largest pump storage power generation plant. Karnataka aims to solve the power crisis in the state through this big budget project. The cost of the project is over Rs 8,000 crore, it stated.



India Reduces Windfall Tax On Petroleum Crude :-

The government reduced the windfall tax on locally produced crude oil to ₹8,400 per tonne from ₹9,600 per tonne starting May 1. The tax is imposed in the form of Special Additional Excise Duty (SAED). The SAED on the export of diesel, petrol, and jet fuel (ATF) has been kept at zero. According to an official statement, the higher tariffs will take effect May 1. India first imposed windfall profit taxes on July 1, 2022, joining a host of nations that tax supernormal profits of energy companies. The tax

rates are reviewed every fortnight based on average oil prices in the previous two weeks.



The central government has permitted exports of 14,000 tonne of non-basmati white rice to Mauritius :-

According to an official notification, the central government has allowed the export of 14,000 tonnes of non-basmati white rice to Mauritius. Notably, non-Basmati white rice exports were outlawed in July 2023 to keep domestic prices stable and ensure domestic food security. Earlier, India allowed the export of such a variety of rice to Nepal, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, the Republic of Guinea, Malaysia, Philippines, Seychelles, UAE, Singapore, Comoros, Madagascar, Equatorial Guinea, Egypt, and Kenya, though with varying quantities.



NCLT Approved Sapphire Media's Acquisition Of Big 92.7 FM :-

The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) Mumbai bench has accepted Sapphire Media's resolution plan for Reliance Broadcast Network's FM radio station, Big 92.7 FM. In accordance with the arrangement, Sapphire Media would reimburse operational and secured creditors for Rs. 261 crore, while the total amount of claims is Rs. 947.5 crore. Since February 2023, Reliance Broadcast Network, the owner of Big FM, has been going

through the insolvency procedure. The Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process (CIRP) was initiated under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code of 2016, and Rohit Mehra was appointed as the resolution professional.



IREDA Establishes Subsidiary In GIFT City, Gujarat :-

The Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd (IREDA) has established a wholly owned subsidiary at the International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) in GIFT City, Gujarat. The subsidiary, "IREDA Global Green Energy Finance IFSC Limited," was formally incorporated on February 8 after acquiring the Reserve Bank of India's No Objection notice. Pradip Kumar Das, Chairman & Managing Director of IREDA, said that IREDA's presence in GIFT City signifies a momentous step in its mission to pioneer innovative approaches to green financing.



India's Industrial Production Growth Slows To 4.9% In March 2024 :-

According to data supplied by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), India's Industrial Production (IIP) growth rate dropped to 4.9% in March, down from 5.7% in February. The previous high for IIP was 11.9% in October 2023, which fell to 2.5% in November, 4.2% in December, and 4.1% in January 2024. The data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO)

showed that the manufacturing sector's output grew 5.2 per cent in March 2024, from 5 per cent in February.



Reliance Capital Acquisition: Hinduja Group's IIHL Receives IRDAI Approval :-

Hinduja Group's IndusInd International Holdings (IIHL) has received the long-awaited approval from Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India to acquire Reliance Capital. IRDAI approval was critical for the transfer of Reliance Capital's insurance businesses to IIHL. Reliance Capital is a promoter of Reliance General Insurance and Reliance Nippon Life Insurance. The National Company Law Tribunal on February 27, 2024, approved Hinduja Group firm IndusInd International Holdings Ltd's Rs 9,650-crore resolution plan for Reliance Capital.



India's Retail Inflation Marginally Eases To 4.83% In April :-

The headline retail inflation rate in India remained practically steady at 4.83 percent in April, according to figures issued by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. In March, Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation was 4.85 percent, the lowest level in ten months. Despite the fact that inflation fell to an 11-

month low in April, it will remain above the RBI's medium-term objective of four percent for the 55th consecutive month. The central bank is keen to bring it down to the target on a durable basis. The National Statistical Office (NSO) reported that inflation in the food basket rose to 8.7% in April from 8.52% in March.



RBI's gold holding increases by 27.46 metric tonnes in FY24, reaching 822.10 metric tonnes mark :-

According to the Reserve Bank of India's "Half Yearly Report on Management of Foreign Exchange Reserves," gold holdings climbed by 27.46 metric tonnes in FY24 to 822.10 metric tonnes as of the end of March 2024. In value terms (USD), gold's share of total foreign exchange reserves climbed to over 8.15 percent by the end of March 2024, up from around 7.81 percent in March 2023. World Gold Council, in its latest report, noted that the multi-year trend of net central bank buying appears established, but some central banks may well be willing to wait on the sidelines in response to the recent price surge.



LIC gets 3-yr extension from SEBI to achieve 10% public shareholding :-

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) moved up the Life Insurance Corporation's (LIC) deadline to achieve a 10% public shareholding by three years, to

2027. This expansion gives LIC much-needed flexibility on regulatory obligations, as its present public shareholding is only 3.5%. Previously, LIC received a one-time exemption to fulfill a 25% minimum public shareholding within 10 years of its listing in May 2022. The government divested the stake through an offer for sale (OFS) and raised ₹21,000 crore by selling a 3.5% stake then.



Outlook For India's Export Growth In FY25: FIEO Projections :-

Merchandise exports from India are expected to expand to \$500-510 billion in the current fiscal year (FY25), up from a 3% decline in the previous fiscal year (FY24), according to the Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO), the top group representing exporters. Services exports could be approximately \$390-400 billion, bringing the country's overall exports to around \$890-910 billion, FIEO President Ashwani Kumar told journalists. This will be driven by sectors such as engineering, and advertising services, among others, he added.



UN Revises India's 2024 Economic Growth Projection Upwards To Nearly 7% :-

A robust domestic economy will boost India's growth to 6.9% in 2024, up from 6.2% previously forecast, according to the United Nations' most recent World

Economic Situation and Prospects report's mid-year update. "India's economy is forecast to expand by 6.9 per cent in 2024 and 6.6 per cent in 2025,29 mainly driven by strong public investment and resilient private consumption," the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs said. It noted that even as the government brings down its fiscal deficit, it will continue to increase capital investment.



Mahindra & Mahindra to invest ₹26,000 crore in automotive business in next 3 years :-

Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd. has declared intentions to invest ₹26,000 crore in its automotive industry over the next three years, anticipating a spike in auto demand. Mahindra Electric Automobile Limited (MEAL) would receive an investment of ₹12000 crore. The investment will be undertaken between FY25 and FY27 to create new vehicles and increase capacity. M&M's SUV business will get ₹8,500 crore investments, while commercial vehicles will get ₹4,000 crores. The company will also invest ₹5,000 crore in its farm equipment business.



Coal India, NMDC, ONGC Videsh Seek Overseas Critical Mineral Assets :-

In the past few years, India and China have increased their mining ventures abroad, using quite different techniques with substantial repercussions. While India

concentrates on acquiring important resources through international cooperation, China's push into Tibet has raised significant environmental and cultural concerns. The Indian government is actively seeking mining prospects abroad, led by a team of Secretary-level officials operating inside the SGOS-3 framework. Key entities in this initiative include Khanij Bidesh India Limited (KABIL), National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC), Coal India, and ONGC Videsh Ltd.



HSBC Acquire Stakes In CCIL IFSC :-

HSBC, a significant worldwide bank and financial services company, has executed transaction paperwork through its Gift City branch to purchase a 6.125 percent equity investment in CCIL IFSC Limited (CCIL IFSC). The investment value for this transaction was ₹6.125 crore. The promoter of CCIL IFSC Limited is Clearing Corporation of India Ltd (CCIL), which would own 57.125 percent of the subsidiary. CCIL IFSC is being incorporated with an authorised and paid-up capital of ₹200 crore and ₹100 crore, respectively. State Bank of India (SBI) has also acquired 6.125 per cent stake in CCIL IFSC for ₹6.125 crore.

mahindra FINANCE

Mahindra Finance gets IRDAI nod to sell insurance as corporate agent :-

Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services announced that it has secured a corporate agency licence from insurance regulator IRDAI, allowing it to sell life and general insurance plans supplied by multiple insurers. The

registration would be valid from May 21, 2024 to May 20, 2027, Mahindra Finance stated in a regulatory statement. The registration as 'Corporate Agent (Composite)' will enable the company to undertake supplemental business activity of soliciting and procuring insurance business in the areas of life, health and general insurance -- both group and individual, it said.

NOISE



Noise Acquires Women's Wellness Platform SocialBoat To Bolster Smart Ring Innovation :-

Noise, a leading smartwatch and linked lifestyle business, announced the acquisition of SocialBoat, an AI-powered women's health platform, for an unknown price. This strategic move is part of Noise's overall aim to drive innovation in smart rings. The company stated that this acquisition will broaden its technology offerings and provide specialized innovation capabilities for its flagship smart wearable, Luna Ring. SocialBoat, a start-up with expertise in AI and women's health, analyzes data from various sources, including wearables, to offer personalized recommendations for nutrition, fitness, menstrual health, and overall well-being.



Google Invests \$350 Million In Walmart-Owned Flipkart

According to a person familiar with the subject, Walmart-owned Flipkart has concluded a capital round of approximately \$1 billion, including \$350 million from Alphabet's Google. According to individuals familiar with

the investment conditions, Flipkart has been valued at \$35-36 billion in this round, up from \$33 billion last year after PhonePe separated from the firm. US retail giant Walmart, which holds an 85% stake in the Indian e-tailer, has invested \$600 million in the fundraise that kicked off last year. Flipkart said in a prepared statement that the investment is subject to regulatory approvals.



RBI Imposes Rs 3.1 Lakh Penalty On Hero FinCorp For Fair Practices Code Violation :-

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued a Rs 3.1 lakh penalty on Hero FinCorp Limited for failing to comply with certain requirements of the fair practices rule. The Reserve Bank, however, stated that the penalty is based on inadequacies in regulatory compliance and is not meant to rule on the legitimacy of any transaction or arrangement entered into by the company with its consumers. The statutory inspection of the company was conducted by RBI with reference to its financial position as on March 31, 2023.



India Records Trade Deficit with 9 of Top 10 Partners in 2023-24 :-

According to government data, India has a trade deficit (the difference between imports and exports) with nine of its top ten trading partners in 2023-24, including China, Russia, Singapore, and Korea. The statistics also

revealed that the trade deficit with China, Russia, Korea, and Hong Kong increased in the previous fiscal year compared to 2022-23, while the trade difference with the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Russia, Indonesia, and Iraq narrowed. China has emerged as India's largest trading partner with \$118.4 billion of two-way commerce in 2023-24, edging past the U.S.



Reliance Industries Strikes Deal With Rosneft For Rouble Payments :-

India's Reliance Industries, which operates the world's largest refining complex, has struck a one-year agreement with Russia's Rosneft to buy at least 3 million barrels of oil per month in roubles. The shift to rouble payments follows Russian President Vladimir Putin's call for Moscow and its trading partners to find alternatives to the Western financial system to facilitate trade in the face of US and European restrictions. A term deal with Rosneft also helps privately run Reliance to secure oil at discounted rates at a time when the OPEC+ group of oil producers is expected to extend voluntary supply cuts beyond June.

9: International



Hamza Yousaf resigns as Scottish First Minister following days of political drama :-

Following days of political turmoil after terminating the 'Bute House' power-sharing deal with the Scottish Greens, Scotland's First Minister, Hamza Yousaf, has announced his resignation as First Minister and from the leadership of the Scottish National Party (SNP). Mr Yousaf stated that he would stay as First Minister until a replacement was selected. Policy differences between the Greens and the SNP reached breaking point with the SNP backtracking on climate-related commitments earlier in April.



Sri Lanka to lift vehicle import restrictions :-

The Sri Lankan government is considering removing automobile import restrictions, subject to certain conditions, according to a report. A senior official for the Ministry of Finance stated that measures are underway to abolish automobile import restrictions, subject to certain criteria, by the end of 2024 or early in 2025. The senior Finance Ministry spokesperson further said that recommendations from the Committee appointed by President Ranil Wickremesinghe in this regard would also be considered when arriving at a final decision on the matter.



Zimbabwe launches new currency ZiG in attempt to resolve money crisis :-

Zimbabwe has begun circulating a new currency to replace one that has been pummeled by depreciation and, in many cases, outright rejection by the public. The ZiG was introduced electronically in early April, but consumers can now utilize banknotes and coins. It is the latest attempt by the southern African country to end a long-running currency crisis that has highlighted its ongoing economic problems. The government had previously floated various ideas to replace the Zimbabwe dollar, including introducing gold coins to stem inflation and even trying out a digital currency.



EU allocates \$1 billion aid to Lebanon :-

During a visit to Lebanon, EU leader Ursula von der Leyen offered \$1 billion in aid for the country, which is suffering from an economic downturn aggravated by a migrant crisis and the prospect of war with Israel. "I can announce a financial package of \$1 billion for Lebanon that would be available from this year until 2027," she said, adding that "we want to contribute to Lebanon's socio-economic stability". The European Commission president said the aid was designed to strengthen basic services such as education and health.



José Raúl Mulino Wins Panama's Presidential Election :-

In a remarkable political development, José Raúl Mulino emerged victorious in Panama's presidential election, with about 35% of the counted votes and over 92% of the ballots tabulated. The 64-year-old former security minister had a commanding 9% advantage over his nearest contender, causing three of his closest rivals to declare defeat. The newly elected president is going to inherit an economy that is facing a variety of issues. Panama's economic growth is projected to reach 2.5% in 2024, while grappling with high income inequality and an unemployment rate hovering around 10%. Additionally, a severe drought has impacted traffic in the economically crucial Panama Canal, and the country faces high public debt and declining foreign investment.



Nepal's population witnesses lowest growth rate in eight decades :-

According to an official, Nepal's population growth rate over the last decade has been 0.92 percent per year, the lowest in the previous eight decades. The National Statistics Office (NSO) released its demographic indicators report, revealing that the population growth rate was less than 1% per year during the evaluation period. "The population growth was at the lowest level

compared to the statistics of the last eight decades," said Dhundi Raj Lamichhane, director at the NSO. According to the NSO report, Nepal's population is around 29.2 million at present.



Chad's Military Dictator Idriss Deby Wins Presidential Election :-

Mahamat Idris Deby Itno, the military dictator and interim president of Central African country Chad, has won the presidential election. Mahamat Idris Deby seized control in 2021 with the help of other army generals, becoming the country's interim president following the death of his father, President Idriss Deby. President Idriss Deby was assassinated in 2021 by insurgents in Northern Chad, shortly after being elected President for the sixth time. President Idriss Deby was a dictator who ruled the country with an iron hand for 30 years from 1990 till 2021.



Putin Reappoints Mikhail Mishustin As Russian Prime Minister :-

Russian President Vladimir Putin just reinstated Mikhail Mishustin as the country's Prime Minister. Mishustin and other Cabinet technocrats have been credited with keeping Russia's economy reasonably steady in the face of harsh Western sanctions over its conduct in Ukraine.

The majority of other Cabinet members are anticipated to remain in their positions, however Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu's fate appears doubtful. Mishustin, the former head of Russia's tax service, steered clear of political statements and avoided media interviews during his previous tenure.



Putin Nominates Economist Belousov as New Defence Minister :-

Russian President Vladimir Putin has proposed a surprise new defense minister, proposing civilian Andrei Belousov, a former deputy prime minister with an economics background, for the position more than two years into the Ukraine conflict, according to the Kremlin. This strategic shift in Russia's military leadership comes as the country's onslaught in Ukraine continues, with Russian soldiers advancing in the east and launching a fresh ground operation in the northeastern Kharkiv region. The Kremlin described the Cabinet overhaul as part of a strategy to align the defense ministry's operations more closely with the broader economic needs of the country.



Indian Literary Masterpieces Inscribed On UNESCO's Memory Of The World Register :-

The Ramcharitmanas, Sahridayaloka-Locana, and Panchatantra have been named to UNESCO's Memory of

the World Asia-Pacific Regional Register, an emblem of national pride for India. UNESCO has included 20 items from the Asia Pacific area in its Memory of the World Regional Register for the 2024 cycle. The inclusion of these masterpieces, authored by Goswami Tulsidas, Pt Vishnu Sharma and Acharya Anandvardhan respectively, is a testament to their enduring impact on Indian literature and culture.



Bharat Pavilion Unveiled At The 77th Cannes Film Festival :-

In an effort to highlight its rich cinematic past and promote international collaboration, India has established a pavilion at the 77th Cannes Film Festival, which is now taking place against the gorgeous background of the French Riviera. The pavilion was launched by Sanjay Jaju, India's Information and Broadcasting Secretary, and Jawed Ashraf, Ambassador to France and Monaco. The Bharat Pavilion will host panel discussions and networking sessions throughout the festival, providing a vibrant platform for Indian films, talent, and industry opportunities.



Indonesia Evacuates Hundreds Near Erupting Volcano :-

"Hundreds of people living near an erupting volcano in eastern Indonesia have been evacuated after authorities raised its alert status to the highest level," an official said on May 17. On May 16, authorities increased the alert

status for Mount Ibu, which is located on distant Halmahera island, to the highest level of a four-tiered system after recording two massive eruptions for the second consecutive day. Authorities encouraged residents and tourists to avoid the four-to-seven-kilometer exclusion zone and to use a face mask in case of falling ash. Ibu is one of Indonesia's most active volcanos, erupting more than 21,000 times last year.



Adani's Sri Lankan Wind Energy Project Challenged In Supreme Court:-

Adani Green Energy's wind energy project in Sri Lanka's northern Mannar and Pooneryn districts has been challenged before the island's supreme court on the basis of potential environmental effect and "lack of transparency". The Wildlife and Nature Protection Society (WNPS), one of Sri Lanka's oldest environmental organisations founded over a century ago, filed a Fundamental Rights appeal at the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka with the goal of "protecting the unique ecosystem of Mannar Island."



UN Calls For Global Cooperation And Pandemic Treaty To Fight AMR :-

Amina Mohammed, United Nations Deputy Secretary-General, stated that finalizing the international

pandemic treaty is critical, especially given the world's growing health threat of antimicrobial resistance (AMR). She was addressing during a multi-stakeholder hearing in preparation for the High-Level Meeting on AMR, which will take place on the sidelines of the General Assembly later this year. The call came days ahead of the 77th World Health Assembly scheduled for May 27, 2024 where the treaty draft is expected to be refined, and amid resistance from the United Kingdom government regarding certain aspects of the text.



China Sanctions US Defence Firms Over Taiwan Arms Sales :-

China announced that it will sanction three US defense corporations for selling weaponry to Taiwan, as the self-ruled island installed a new president. General Atomics Aeronautical Systems, General Dynamics Land Systems, and Boeing Defense, Space & Security will be added to Beijing's "unreliable entities" list, according to the country's commerce ministry. "They will be barred from engaging in China-related import or export activities, and are forbidden to make new investments in China," the state-run Xinhua news agency said.



Lai Ching-te sworn in as Taiwan's new President:-

Lai Ching-te of Taiwan's ruling Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) was sworn in as the President of Taiwan on

20 May 2024. on Monday. The national leaders of eight countries that maintain diplomatic relations with Taiwan, attended the inauguration ceremony. The Chinese Communist Party considers the DPP to be a separatist organisation and has threatened to invade Taiwan if the party makes any formal moves towards independence. The DPP says Taiwan already functions as an independent state and needs to make any formal declaration.



Iran's Supreme Leader Approves Mohammad Mokhber As Acting President :-

Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has appointed Vice President Mohammad Mokhber as acting president in the wake of Ebrahim Raisi's death in a helicopter crash. The Supreme Leader also ordered five days of national mourning for Mr. Raisi, who had held the presidency since 2021. According to protocol, Mokhber had been expected to become an interim President. New elections will now have to be held within 50 days. The helicopter carrying Raisi and other senior officials was forced to a hard landing due to dense fog in the mountainous terrain.



Vietnam's security chief To Lam becomes new president:-

Vietnam's top security official To Lam was confirmed as the nation's new president. He oversaw police and intelligence operations over a period when rights groups say basic liberties have been systematically suppressed, and its secret service was accused of violating international law. Mr. Lam was confirmed by Vietnam's National Assembly after his predecessor resigned amid an ongoing anti-corruption campaign that has shaken the country's political establishment and business elites and has resulted in multiple top-level changes in government.



EU Approves World's First Major AI Law :-

The European Union's member states have finalized the world's first significant law regulating artificial intelligence, as organizations around the world scramble to impose restrictions on the technology. The EU Council announced that it has passed the AI Act, a pioneering piece of regulatory legislation that establishes extensive guidelines for artificial intelligence technology. "The adoption of the AI act is a significant milestone for the European Union," Mathieu Michel, Belgium's secretary of state for digitization said in a statement.



European Countries To Recognize Palestine, Israel Recalls Envoys :-

Israel will condemn the ambassadors of Ireland, Norway, and Spain for their governments' plans to

acknowledge a Palestinian state, according to an Israeli official. The delegations have been called to the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem, where they will be shown an earlier unpublished video depicting Hamas abducting female hostages during their October 7 attack on Israel, which sparked the Gaza war, according to an official. Israel has also recalled its own ambassadors in Dublin, Oslo and Madrid for consultations. Some other Western powers say recognition of a Palestinian state should follow negotiations.



UAE President Confers First-Class Medal Of Independence On Ambassador Of Paraguay :-

On the occasion of the end of his stint as Ambassador of the Republic of Paraguay to the UAE, UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan presented Jose Aguero Avila with the First-Class Medal of Independence. The medal was awarded in recognition of Avila's efforts throughout his service, which helped to build and advance bilateral relations in a variety of disciplines. Reem Bint Ebrahim Al Hashimy, Minister of State for International Cooperation, presented the medal to Avila during a meeting held at the headquarters of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



Chinese Military Drills Intensify Near Taiwan After Lai Appointment :-

The US is "extremely worried" about the Chinese army's joint military drills in the Taiwan Strait and around Taiwan. Matthew Miller, an official spokesperson for the US Department of State, asked China to exercise prudence. The US State Department issued the statement following China's two-day military drills on May 23-24, which included land, sea, air, and rocket troops, according to Taiwan News. China launched the exercise days after Lai Ching-te was sworn in as Taiwan's President on May 20. Matthew Miller stated that US remains committed to its longstanding one China policy, guided by the Taiwan Relations Act, the Three Joint Communiques, and the Six Assurances.



Philippines to Attract More Indian Medical Students :-

The Philippines is expected to see a 25-30% increase in the number of Indian students studying medicine after making legislative changes that allow foreign students to practice medicine locally once they gain their Doctor of Medicine degree, according to a foreign education consultant. The move will also benefit students aiming for medical practice in India as it aligns with the National Medical Council's (NMC) rule that mandates possessing a valid practising licence to appear in the Indian screening test after they return from studying abroad.



Myanmar Junta Revives \$3.6 Billion Chinese-Backed Dam Project :-

Myanmar's junta has resumed plans for a \$3.6 billion Chinese-backed dam in the country's north, which were postponed more than a decade ago due to widespread popular resistance. The 6,000-megawatt Myitsone dam project in northern Kachin state was canceled in 2011 by a previous junta. Its opponents said that the dam on the Ayeyarwady River, which would have sent almost 90% of the power generated to China, would cause significant environmental damage while providing little value to the country. A 2015 environmental assessment commissioned by the Myanmar government strongly advised against the dam's construction, saying the move could alter the river flow on a wide scale.



Environmental Activists Sue Norway Over Its Deep-Sea Mining Plans :-

Environmental groups have launched a case in an Oslo court challenging Norway's proposal to conduct seabed mineral exploitation, claiming that officials have not conducted enough impact assessments. The news comes after Norway's parliament approved a plan in January to "open a vast ocean area larger than Britain for seabed mineral exploration after a government-commissioned study concluded that its impact would be minimal," according to Reuters. In recent years, more and more people have been turning to the courts to sue

governments and companies for either not taking adequate steps to mitigate the effects of climate change or taking decisions that severely impact the environment.



Maldives Plans Launch Of RuPay To Enhance Bilateral Ties With India :-

RuPay, an Indian payment provider, will shortly operate in the Maldives. The statement comes amid strains in bilateral relations between India and the Maldives. A top Maldivian minister stated that the RuPay launch 'would support the Maldivian Rufiyaa'. "We are currently engaged in discussions with India to explore avenues for facilitating payments in rupees," added the minister. RuPay had been created by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI). It is the company's first worldwide card payment network in India, with widespread acceptance at ATMs, POS devices, and e-commerce websites throughout the country and beyond.



Lithuania's President Gitanas Nausėda Secures Landslide Reelection Victory :-

Lithuanian President Gitanas Nausėda gained a second five-year term in a resounding victory over Prime Minister Ingrida Šimonyte. Preliminary estimates by the Lithuania's Central Electoral Commission showed that

Nausėda won 74.5 per cent of the votes and Šimonyte 24.1 per cent. The 60-year-old Nausėda is a moderate conservative who has been a strong supporter of Ukraine, a view held by the majority of the political spectrum. During his time in office, Lithuania has also given refuge to many who have fled an authoritarian crackdown in neighbouring Belarus and increased repression in Russia.



Saudi Arabia Names Faisal Bin Saud Al-Mejfel As Ambassador To Syria :-

Saudi Arabia's selection of Faisal bin Saud Al-Mejfel as ambassador to Syria represents a significant shift in bilateral relations, as it is the first such appointment in more than a decade. This move occurs during a period of healing relations between the two countries following years of estrangement caused by the Syrian civil war. The conflict between Saudi Arabia and Syria began in 2011 during the Syrian civil war, with Saudi Arabia supporting rebel groups hostile to the Assad regime. Diplomatic ties were severed in 2012, leading to the closure of Saudi Arabia's embassy in Damascus.



Massive Landslide In Papua New Guinea Buries Entire Village :-

According to a copy of the letter acquired by AFP, Papua New Guinea alerted the United Nations on May 27 that more than 2,000 people had been buried in a large landslide that swept across a remote community. "The landslide buried more than 2,000 people alive and caused major destruction," the country's national disaster centre notified the United Nations office in Port Moresby. A once-bustling remote hillside village in Enga province was almost wiped out when a chunk of Mount Mungalo collapsed in the early hours of morning, burying scores of homes and the people sleeping inside them.



Nepalese Climber Purnima Shrestha Conquers Mount Everest Thrice In A Single Season :-

Purnima Shrestha, a Nepalese mountaineer and photojournalist, made history by being the first person to climb Mt. Everest three times in a single season. Purnima first climbed the 8848.86-meter peak on May 12. She returned to the summit with Pasang Sherpa on

May 19 and again on May 25 at 5:50 a.m., according to Pemba Sherpa, expedition director at Eight K Expeditions, which organized the mission. This was Purnima's fourth ascent to Everest. She climbed Everest for the first time in 2018.



European Banks Seek RBI Approval For Third-Party Transaction Model :-

According to the Economic Times (ET), up to four European banks have petitioned the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to authorize a third-party transaction model. Credit Agricole, Societe Generale, Deutsche Bank, and BNP Paribas are attempting to break a standoff between their home regulators and Indian officials over audit supervision rights. Last month, the banks met with RBI officials to seek clearance for the proposed third-party model in the absence of defined norms. The banks expect to hear the RBI's stance within the coming weeks, the report added.

10: Miscellaneous



Red Sea diversions spew carbon emissions equal to 9 million cars :-

Ships attempting to dodge persistent attacks by Houthi rebels in the Red Sea are emitting millions of tons of carbon, making it more difficult for maritime freight businesses to decrease pollution throughout their supply chains. Since mid-December, hundreds of ships have been sailing around South Africa's Cape of Good Hope rather than traveling via Egypt's Suez Canal, adding at least a week to the route between South Asia and northern Europe. The additional fuel burned has led to approximately an extra 13.6 million tons of CO₂

emissions over the past four months — equivalent to the pollution of about 9 million cars over that same period.



UNICEF India appoints Kareena Kapoor Khan as National Ambassador :-

Kareena Kapoor Khan has been appointed as UNICEF India's National Ambassador. Kareena is UNICEF India's celebrity advocate for education and children's rights. Kareena Kapoor has been working with UNICEF India since 2014, focusing on problems such as girls' education, gender equality, basic learning, immunizations, and breastfeeding. During the event, she talked about child care, the rights of children and nurturing their confidence. She said her being appointed as UNICEF India's National Ambassador, is a very special moment for her.



Gurugram Administration Ropes In Yuzvendra Chahal To Boost Voter Turnout :-

Amid poll boycotts and concerns about poor voter turnout in urban areas, the Gurugram administration has named cricketer Yuzvendra Chahal as its election brand ambassador. Officials stated the well-known bowler will encourage voters to make use of their rights. Haryanvi singers MD Desi Rockstar and Naveen Punia have also been chosen as brand ambassadors. The administration has also launched an app – Voter In Queue – to help

voters find out their position in the polling queue and determine how long it will take for their turn to vote.



National Archives Of India Acquires Invaluable Collection Of Shri Rafi Ahmad Kidwai :-

Former Union minister Rafi Ahmad Kidwai's private paper collection, which includes his original letters to a number of notable figures like Jawaharlal Nehru and Sardar Vallabhai Patel, has been purchased by the National Archives of India, officials announced. These papers were handed over to Director General, NAI, by Faiz Ahmad Kidwai, additional secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, in the presence of Tazeen Kidwai, daughter of the late Hussain Kamil Kidwai, youngest brother Rafi Ahmad Kidwai and Sarah Manaal Kidwai, the Culture Ministry said in a statement.



Amul Named 'Official Sponsor' of Sri Lanka for T20 World Cup :-

Sri Lanka Cricket has announced that Indian milk producer Amul will serve as the 'Official Sponsor' of the Sri Lanka Men's Team for the duration of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024. Ashley De Silva, CEO of Sri Lanka Cricket, stated that Amul's cooperation with Sri Lanka Cricket is a smart choice since associating with an international sports brand will help the firm acquire market share and increase brand visibility among the

international audience. Sri Lanka will kick off the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 campaign on June 3, 2024, facing South Africa in New York.



New Zealand's Colin Munro Announces Retirement From International Cricket :-

Colin Munro of New Zealand, a tough top-order hitter, has declared his retirement from international cricket after being left out of the national team for the forthcoming T20 World Cup. Munro played one Test, 57 ODIs, and 65 T20Is for the Kiwis, totaling 3010 runs, but it was in the shortest format that the left-hander established himself. In T20Is, he struck runs at an impressive 156.44 and the 37-year-old remains one of the handful of players who have made upwards of 10000 runs across all T20 competitions.



Nepal's mountaineer Kami Rita Sherpa breaks own record summits Mt Everest for 29th time :-

Kami Rita Sherpa, a 54-year-old Nepalese climber and guide, has created history by climbing Mount Everest for the 29th time. Kami Rita, also known as the 'Everest Man,' beat his own record set last spring season by ascending the world's highest peak twice in a week, marking his 28th victorious climb. Kami Rita had started his trek from Kathmandu at the end of May, accompanying a mountaineering team of roughly 28

climbers and acting as their guide. Another climber from Solukhumbu, Pasang Dawa Sherpa, had climbed Sagarmatha for the 27th time last year.



Sunil Chhetri Announces Retirement From International Football :-

India's most accomplished footballer, Sunil Chhetri, has declared his retirement from international football. Chhetri's adventure began in 2002, with Mohun Bagan. His talent quickly took him abroad, with stints with the Kansas City Wizards of USA (2010) and Sporting CP reserves of Portugal (2012). Back in India, he played for prominent clubs such as East Bengal, Dempo, Mumbai City FC, and, most recently, Bengaluru FC. It's with Bengaluru that Chhetri truly flourished, lifting trophies like the I-League (2014, 2016), ISL (2019), and Super Cup (2018).



Southwest Monsoon To Reach Kerala Around May 31 :-

According to the India Meteorological Department, the southwest monsoon will most likely arrive in Kerala on May 31, with a four-day margin of error. Mrutyunjay Mohapatra, the IMD's director general, said that this projection closely matches Kerala's typical monsoon onset date of June 1st. Last month, the IMD had predicted above-normal rainfall for the June to

September Southwest Monsoon season. June and July months are particularly significant for agriculture, as this period marks the primary phase for sowing the kharif crop.



Gopi Thotakura Makes History as First Indian Space Tourist:-

Gopi Thotakura, an entrepreneur and a pilot, on 19 May 2024, became the first Indian to venture into space as a tourist aboard Amazon founder Jeff Bezos's Blue Origin's NS-25 mission. Thotakura was selected as one of the six crew members for the NS-25 mission, making him the first Indian space tourist and the second Indian to venture into space after the Indian Army's Wing Commander Rakesh Sharma in 1984. Blue Origin's seventh human flight, NS-25, lifted off from Launch Site One in West Texas. This was its 25th flight for the New Shepard programme.



Artara 24 Celebrates Indian Cultural Diversity In Dubai:-

The Artara'24 Fine Arts Exhibition and Competition has made its mark in Dubai as a platform for discovering and nurturing emerging artistic talents from the country. The event aimed to discover hidden artistic gems, with a particular focus on the Indian talent residing in Dubai. Held at the Al Jalila Cultural Center, a venue under the

Dubai Cultural Center, Artara'24 featured an impressive collection of over 250 pieces of art, each telling its own unique story and reflecting the diverse backgrounds and perspectives of the talented participants.



HDFC Bank Exits Protean EGov Tech, Sells Entire Stake :-

In an open market deal, private lender HDFC Bank sold all 3.20 percent of its ownership in Protean eGov Technologies for ₹150 crore. According to the BSE's bulk trade data, HDFC Bank sold 12,94,326 shares, representing a 3.20 percent stake in Protean eGov Technologies. The transaction value amounted to ₹150.16 crore after the shares were offloaded at an average price of ₹1,160.15 per. Meanwhile, Nippon India Mutual Fund purchased 12.78 lakh shares or 3.16 percent stake in Protean eGov Technologies for ₹148 crore.



Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences Hosted PRAGATI-2024 :-

The Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS), an autonomous agency under the Ministry of Ayush, Government of India, has held "Pharma Research in AyurGyan And Techno Innovation (PRAGATI-2024)" at the India Habitat Centre, New Delhi on May 28, 2024. This interactive seminar aimed to identify research opportunities and develop collaboration between CCRAS and the Ayurvedic medication sector. The program was

inaugurated by Secretary Ministry of Ayush Vd. Rajesh Kotecha.



Indian mountaineer sets record by accomplishing double dual ascent of Mt Everest & Mt Lhotse :-

Satyadeep Gupta, an Indian mountaineer, made history by becoming the first person to climb Mt. Everest and Mt. Lhotse twice in one season, as well as the first Indian to complete the journey in 11 hours and 15 minutes. According to Pioneer Adventure Expedition, which organized the trek, Gupta climbed the 8,516-metre-high Mt Lhotse on May 27 at noon and the 8,849-metre-high Mt Everest at 12:45 a.m., midnight. This feat marks the first Double Dual Ascent of the world's highest and the fourth highest peaks in one season, according to the adventure company.

11: National



Telecom Industry Seeks Ban on Illegal WiFi 6E Routers :-

The telecommunications industry organization COAI has sought a restriction on the sale of wifi 6E routers that use the 6 GHz spectrum band for data transmission because the government has yet to decide on the usage of these frequencies. The Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) claims that such routers are offered on e-commerce platforms such as Amazon, Flipkart, and Moglix, as well as by offline vendors. The COAI said the sale of equipment for 6 GHz band utilization, which has not yet been assigned for this purpose or has not been declared as licence-exempt by the government, is illegal and should be banned immediately in the country.



India to host delegation from Kenya, discuss cheetah sourcing :-

According to people familiar with the situation, India will likely welcome a group of Kenyan officials later this month to discuss the prospect of acquiring cheetahs from the east African country for the next phase of Project Cheetah. During a visit to Kenya by India's President William Ruto in December of last year, the country expressed a desire to obtain cheetahs. Last year, the Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh was chosen as the second cheetah reintroduction site. As part of Project Cheetah, India plans to introduce eight to 14 cheetahs annually for five years, subject to availability.



India's Toy Exports Slip To \$152.34 Million In 2023-24: GTRI Report :-

According to a survey by the economic think tank GTRI, India's toy exports decreased slightly to USD 152.34 million in 2023–24 from USD 153.89 million in the previous fiscal year. According to the Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI), the mandated quality control requirements have little effect on India's toy exports. It claimed that although the domestic policies should have boosted local industry and ensured safety, they had no appreciable impact on India's toy exports. Imports, however, increased to USD 64.92 million in 2023-24 from USD 62.37 million in 2022-23.



India Contributes \$500,000 To UN Counter-Terrorism Trust Fund :-

India has given \$500,000 to the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Trust Fund, demonstrating its steadfast commitment to supporting multilateral efforts in the worldwide battle against terrorism. India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj has recently handed over to Under Secretary General, United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) Vladimir Voronkov the country's voluntary financial contribution of half a million dollars towards the U.N. Counter-Terrorism Trust Fund (CTTF).



Punjabi poet, writer Surjit Patar passes away at 79 :-

Padma Shri recipients Surjit Singh Patar, a Punjabi poet and writer, died on the morning of May 11 at his home near Barewal Colony. He was 79. Patar's poetry works include 'Hawa Vich Likhe Harf', 'Hanere Vich Sulagdi Varanmala', 'Patjhar Di Pazeab', 'Lafzaan Di Dargah', and 'Surzameen'. He was awarded the Padma Shri in 2012. He was the President of the Punjab Arts Council. Dr Patar held prestigious roles, including President of the Punjab Arts Council in Chandigarh and earlier President of the Punjabi Sahit Akademi.



India's Wholesale Inflation Hits 13-Month High: Food And Fuel Surge :-

Wholesale price inflation reached a 13-month high in April, driven by fuel, power, manufactured goods, and food costs, encouraging experts to predict further increases in the coming months. The commerce and industry ministry provided data showing that inflation, as measured by the wholesale pricing index (WPI), grew an annual 1.3% in April, higher than the 0.5% reported in March and higher than the 0.8% decrease in April last year. The ministry said the positive rate of inflation in April was primarily due to increase in prices of food articles, electricity, crude & gas.



RBI Approves Quant MF To Raise Stake In RBL Bank :-

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved Quant Mutual Fund (MF) to expand its investment in RBL Bank to 9.98% by May 12, 2025. This approval, subject to requirements and provisions under the Banking Regulation Act of 1949, was announced in a regulatory filing. Through its different schemes, Quant MF now owns 4.68% of RBL Bank's stock. The RBI's approval allows Quant Money Managers Ltd to acquire an "aggregate holding" of up to 9.98% of the paid-up share capital or voting rights in RBL Bank.



India's Internet Economy Likely To Reach \$1 Trillion By 2030: Experts :-

According to industry experts, India's internet economy is anticipated to reach \$1 trillion by 2030, driven mostly by e-commerce, which is expected to be worth \$325 billion and rank third globally. Last year was a watershed moment for India's e-commerce business, with significant shifts in customer preferences, technology, and legislation. InGovern Research Services, a leading corporate governance advisory firm, hosted a virtual roundtable to deliberate on the notable developments in India's e-commerce sector in 2023, with a particular focus on the essential role of customer trust in fueling its ongoing expansion.



Kapil Sibal Elected As The President Of Supreme Court Bar Association :-

Kapil Sibal, a senior advocate, was chosen president of the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA). He would serve as president of the SCBA for the fourth time. He was previously elected president of the lawyers' association in 2001. He had two separate stints in the mid and late 1990s. Mr. Sibal would succeed senior advocate Adish C. Aggarwala. Mr. Sibal secured 1,066 votes and defeated Mr. Rai who polled 689 votes. Others who contested for the post include Priya Hingorani, Tripurari Ray, Neeraj Srivastava.



DPIIT Reports Over 7 Million Transactions On ONDC Platform In April :-

The government-backed program ONDC (open network for digital commerce) is gaining pace in the e-commerce sector, with five lakh traders now onboarded, according to a senior official. Rajesh Kumar Singh, Secretary at the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), stated that the ONDC was established largely to democratize and make digital commerce more accessible to smaller firms. "It has started getting traction in the last two years. Five lakh sellers have onboarded of which 70 per cent are small and medium

sellers. In April, ONDC facilitated 7.22 million transactions," Singh told reporters.



Thermal coal imports inch up to a five-month high in April :-

April 2024 saw an increase in thermal coal imports for the fourth consecutive month, reaching a five-month high as thermal power plants (TPPs) piled up on the essential commodity in preparation for a spike in summer temperatures and forecasts of prolonged heat waves this month. According to data from energy intelligence firm Kpler, India's imports of thermal coal, largely consumed by the power sector, rose almost 11 per cent m-o-m and 10 per cent y-o-y to 16.23 million tonnes (MT) last month.



Portal launched for 'National Award to Teachers 2024':-

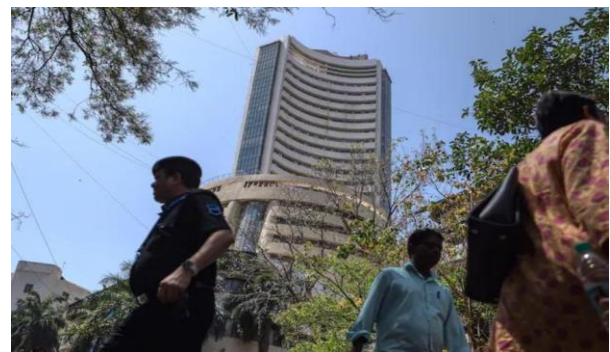
The Secretary of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Shri K. Sanjay Murthy (IAS), and AICTE Chairman Prof. T.G. Sitharam officially launched the Portal for the National Award to Teachers 2024. The selected awardees will be honoured on Teachers' Day. The selection criteria will include teaching and learning effectiveness, outreach activities, research and innovation, sponsored research, faculty development programs, and consultancy. The National Award to

Teachers 2024 aims to recognize the exceptional contributions of distinguished faculty members in the country.



WCD ministry 'officially' dissolves Food and Nutrition Board :-

A board in charge of providing technical and logistical support for the operation of community nutrition projects has been "officially dissolved" as part of a move to rationalize government agencies. The Food and Nutrition Board has been closed by the Women and Child Development (WCD) Ministry. It was the ministry's technical wing, with headquarters at the Centre in Delhi. The board had a wide network of offices, including four regional offices and as many quality control laboratories in Faridabad, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai.



India's Market Capitalization Reaches \$5 Trillion Milestone :-

On May 23, the overall market capitalisation of BSE-listed stocks surpassed \$5 trillion, with the benchmark indices closing at record highs, led by banks and auto stocks. India's market capitalization to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) (a ratio used to judge if a market is undervalued or overvalued) increased to 1.42 times, or 142%, bringing it closer to the peak recorded in 2007. At the close of 23 May trading, the market-cap of all BSE-listed companies

stood at \$5.05 trillion (or ₹420.22 lakh crore). India is the fifth country after the US, China, Japan, and Hong Kong whose market capitalisations have crossed the \$5-trillion mark.



Doordarshan's DD Kisan Embraces AI Revolution With 'Krish And Bhoomi' :-

Doordarshan is set to accomplish a further accomplishment when its farmer-focused DD Kisan debuts a new design and style on May 26, 2024, nine years after its commencement. Doordarshan Kisan will become the country's first government TV channel in the era of 'Artificial Intelligence', with all eyes on an AI anchor, according to the ministry. Doordarshan Kisan plans to introduce two AI anchors (AI Krish and AI Bhoomi). These AI news anchors are exactly like humans, or rather, these can work like a human. They can read news 24 hours and 365 days without stopping or getting tired.



CERT-In Warns of Critical Flaws in Google Chrome :-

The Centre's Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-in) has issued a warning about security flaws discovered in some versions of the Google Chrome web browser, encouraging everyone to update immediately. CERT-In's latest warning report, CIVN-2024-0170, identified many significant security problems in Google Chrome. If hackers exploit these loopholes, they could take entire control of your device. These vulnerabilities are classified as "high severity" because they could be used by "remote attackers to execute arbitrary code in the targeted system", the report said.



Government To Receive Rs 3,662 Crore Dividend From LIC :-

State-run Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) will distribute a dividend of Rs 3,662 crore to the Government of India, which is the largest shareholder in the firm. The state insurance announced a final dividend of Rs 6 per share for the financial year ending March 31, 2024. The government presently owns 96.50% of the corporation, which equates to 6,10,36,22,781 shares out of 6,32,49,97,701 fully paid equity shares. The Total Premium Income for the year ended March 31, 2024, was reported at Rs 4,75,070 crore as against Rs 4,74,005 crore for the year ended March 31 2023.

12: Obituaries



Popular Playback Singer Uma Ramanan Passes Away :-

Uma Ramanan, an Indian playback singer who rose to prominence through her Tamil songs, has died. The vocalist, who worked with music composer Ilaiyaraaja on several songs, died on May 1 in Chennai. Uma was a classically trained vocalist who performed in over 6,000 performances throughout her three-decade career. Her musical adventure began in 1977 with the song Mohanan Kannan Murali, penned by SV Venkatraman for the film Sri Krishna Leela. The song, Poongathave Chocha Thakavai from the musical in Nizhalgal, by Ilaiyaraaja, earned her popularity in the Tamil film industry.



'Titanic', 'Lord of the Rings' actor Bernard Hill passes away :-

Bernard Hill, a British actor best known for his roles in Titanic and the Lord of the Rings trilogy, passed away recently. He was 79. Hill made his Lord of the Rings debut as Thoden, King of Rohan, in the trilogy's second film, The Two Towers, released in 2002. The next year, he reprised his role in Return of the King, which won 11 Oscars. Hill rose to prominence as Yosser Hughes in the 1982 British television drama "Boys From the Blackstuff," which

followed five unemployed men. He was nominated for an award in 1983 from the British Academy of Film and Television Arts for the role, and the show won the BAFTA for best drama series.



Film-serial actor Kanakalatha passes away :-

Kanakalatha, an actor most renowned for her outstanding depiction of character roles, died. The 63-year-old performer, who suffered from Parkinson's disease and dementia, died at her home in Thiruvananthapuram. Kanakalatha appeared in more than 360 films in various languages over the course of her four-decade career. Her noted films include 'Priyam' (2000), 'Kannezhuthi Pottumthottu' (1999), 'Varnapakittu' (1997), 'Spadikam' (1995), 'Kireedam' (1989), 'Rajavinte Makan' (1986) and 'Chillu' (1982). Her maiden film was 'Unarthupaattu' (1980). Her roles in 'Anyar', 'Vakkalathu Narayanankutty', 'Chirikkudukka' and 'Agrahaaram' were also noted. She had also acted in several Tamil movies.



Malayalam filmmaker Harikumar passes away at 68 after a long battle with cancer :-

Harikumar, a veteran Malayalam film director and screenwriter, died at a private hospital in Thiruvananthapuram. He was 68 years old and had been battling cancer for a few years. Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan condoled his passing and issued a statement on his services to the Malayalam cinema industry. Harikumar's first directorial endeavor was 'Ambal Poovu' (1981), which he co-wrote with Perumpadavam Sreedharan. With his career spanning several decades, some of his best films include 'Sukritham', 'Udayanapalakan' and 'Jalakam' amongst others.



Sangeeth Sivan, renowned film maker from Kerala, passes away at 61 :-

Film director Sangeeth Sivan died lately. The 61-year-old was being treated at a private hospital in Mumbai. Sangeeth's first directorial endeavor was the Malayalam action thriller 'Vyooham', which was released in 1990. The battle scenes involving Babu Antony in the film that starred Raghuvaran piqued the interest of moviegoers. He has directed around 20 films in Malayalam and Hindi. His directorial debut in Hindi was 'Zor' with Sunny Deol in the lead. His other notable films in Hindi were 'Sandhya', 'Chura Liyaa Hai Tumne', 'Kya Kool Hain Hum', 'Apna Sapna Money Money', 'Ek: The Power of One', 'Click', and 'Yamla Pagla Deewana'.



Journalist Bipin Chandran passes away :-

Bipin Chandran (52), a journalist, died on May 12 morning. He was the son of CPM politician S. Ramachandran Pillai. Chandran died at a hospital in Thiruvananthapuram while seeking medical treatment for internal organ damage. He worked as a private secretary for the vice chairperson of the Kerala State Planning Board. He has also worked for Business Standard and the Financial Times. Bipin Chandran had a long stint as a journalist in New Delhi. He was executive editor of the business magazine Entrepreneur.



Former Deputy Chief Minister Of Bihar Sushil Kumar Modi Passed Away At 72 :-

Sushil Modi, a senior BJP leader, died in Delhi's All-India Institute of Medical Sciences recently. The 72-year-old was battling cancer and had been confined to AIIMS's intensive care unit for the past month. The veteran politician, who was once the BJP's most well-known face in Bihar, has also withdrawn from the upcoming Lok Sabha elections due to health concerns. He served as Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's deputy for 11 years, from 2005 to 2020, in two spells. He was also one of the few leaders to have achieved the feat of being a member of four legislative Houses - Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, the Bihar Assembly and Legislative Council.



Nobel Prize-Winning Author Alice Munro Dies At 92 :-

Alice Munro, the Nobel Prize-winning Canadian author renowned for her mastery of the short story, died at the age of 92. Munro authored over a dozen volumes of short stories that centered on the flaws of the human condition and were set in the rural Ontario countryside where she grew up. Munro, who won the International Booker Prize for her work in 2009 and the Nobel Prize in Literature in 2013, was diagnosed with dementia almost a decade ago and was residing in a care home. Munro was born on July 10, 1931, in Wingham, Ontario.

**Veteran Congress Leader And Former Governor Kamla Beniwal Passes Away At 97 :-**

Kamla Beniwal, a veteran Congress leader and former governor of Gujarat, died at a private hospital in Jaipur. She was 97. In addition to Gujarat, she served as governor of Tripura and Mizoram. Beniwal, a seven-time MLA, also served as Rajasthan's deputy chief minister

while holding various posts in the state administration and the Congress party. Rajasthan Governor Kalraj Mishra, Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma, former chief minister Ashok Gehlot and other leaders condoled the demise of Beniwal. Mishra expressed grief on the demise of Beniwal and prayed for peace to the departed soul.

**Former Karnataka MP Iqbal Ahmed Saradgi passes away :-**

Veteran Congress leader Iqbal Ahmed Saradgi, who represented Kalaburagi twice in the Lok Sabha, died at a private hospital in Kalaburagi. He was eighty. He was suffering from an age-related ailment. In 1999, Mr. Saradagi won the Lok Sabha elections from Kalaburagi by an enormous margin over his nearest rival, the BJP's Basavaraj Patil Sedam. The two leaders again faced each other in the next Lok Sabha elections in 2004 and Mr. Saradagi won to represent Kalaburagi for the second consecutive term.

13: Ranks & Reports

**Kathmandu Tops The List Of Cities With 'Unhealthy Air' In The World :-**

Nepal's Ministry of Health and Population has recommended citizens to wear masks due to increased air pollution in the Kathmandu valley. Kathmandu's air quality ranked first among cities with 'unhealthy air' in the world. According to IQAir, an organization that evaluates real-time pollution in 101 places across the world, Kathmandu is the most polluted city in the world. In terms of pollution, Kathmandu, New Delhi, Chiang Mai in Thailand, Hanoi in Vietnam, Bangkok in Thailand and Dhaka in Bangladesh are ranked first, second, third, fourth and fifth respectively.



Record High GST Revenue Collection In April 2024 :-

April saw a sharp increase in gross goods and services tax (GST) receipts, reaching a new high of Rs 2.10 lakh crore. Additionally, there has been a 12.4% increase in GST collection year over year. The gain was driven by a strong increase in both domestic transactions, which increased by 13.4%, and imports, which increased by 8.3%, according to a statement from the Ministry of Finance. After accounting for refunds, the net GST revenue for April 2024 stood at Rs 1.92 lakh crore, showcasing an impressive 17.1 per cent growth compared to the corresponding period last year.



Unified Payment Interface (UPI) Transactions Decline Slightly In April :-

In April, Unified Payment Interface (UPI) transactions decreased in volume and value by 1% and 0.7%, respectively, compared to March 2024. Transactions totaled Rs 19.64 trillion in value, down from Rs 19.78 trillion in March. April saw 13.3 billion transactions, compared to 13.44 billion in March. Y-o-Y, UPI transactions increased by 50 per cent in terms of volume and 40 per cent in value. Immediate Payment Service (IMPS) transactions declined by 7 per cent in value and 5 per cent in volume in April compared to March.



OECD Raises Indian Economy Growth Forecast To 6.6% For 2024-25 :-

The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) has boosted its growth prediction for India by 40 basis points to 6.6% in 2024-25, citing strong public investment and better corporate confidence as drivers of GDP growth. The OECD stated that more needs to be done to address indebtedness, including more revenues, improved expenditure efficiency, and stricter fiscal constraints. The outlook also mentions that fiscal consolidation is appropriate in the current context, given the high level of public debt, which holds back private investment.



World Press Freedom Index 2024 Announced, India Ranked 159th Out Of 180 Countries:-

India ranks 159th in Reporters Without Borders' (RSF) 2024 World Press Freedom Index. Pakistan is placed 152, with Sri Lanka at 150. India ranked 161 out of 180 countries last year. The index assesses 180 nations based on journalists' capacity to operate and report freely and independently. The countries with "good" press freedom are all in Europe, specifically the European Union, which has passed its first media freedom law (EMFA). Ireland has dropped out of the Index's top three countries, replaced by Sweden, while Germany is now one of the top ten countries.



India Ratings Raises Sovereign GDP Growth Estimate For FY25 To 7.1% :-

India Ratings and Research has raised its GDP growth prediction for 2024-25 to 7.1% from 6.5%, noting robust support for growth from ongoing government investment and deleveraged business and bank balance sheets, even as consumption demand and exports remain constrained. The rating firm's GDP growth expectations for this year, on the back of a 7.6% rise in 2023-24, are a tad higher than the 7% projected by the Reserve Bank of India. However, it expects a 6.9% uptick in the Gross Value Added in the economy this year, the same level as last year.



India Leads Global Remittances, Surpassing \$100 Billion Mark :-

According to the UN Migration Agency, India was the first country to receive more than \$100 billion in remittances in 2022. The International Organisation for Migration (IOM) stated in its World Migration Report 2024 that India's remittances increased to \$111 billion last year, exceeding all other countries. According to the research, the top five remittance recipients in 2022 were India, Mexico, China, the Philippines, and France. India's

dominance in remittances has been steadily growing over the years. The report's data showed that India led in remittance receipts in 2010 (\$53.48 billion), 2015 (\$68.91 billion), and 2020 (\$83.15 billion), with \$111.22 billion in 2022.



India Surpasses Japan As 3rd Largest Solar Power Generator In 2023 :-

According to a forecast by Ember, the global energy think tank, India has surpassed Japan as the world's third-largest solar power generator by 2023. The Global Electricity Review 2024 provides a detailed overview of power generation systems worldwide in 2023. According to the analysis, solar power's proportion of worldwide electricity production has reached a new high of 5.5 percent in 2023. India witnessed the world's fourth-largest increase in solar generation in 2023 (+18 Terawatt hours or TWh), following China (+156 TWh), the United States (+33 TWh), and Brazil (+22 TWh).



Indian exports up in 115 nations out of 238 destinations in 2023-24 :-

According to a recent Ministry of Commerce study, India's exports to as many as 115 countries out of a total of 238 destinations increased in 2023-24 amid global

economic uncertainty. These 115 export destinations, which account for 46.5% of India's export basket, include the United States, UAE, Netherlands, China, the United Kingdom, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Bangladesh, Germany, and Italy. Overall exports reached \$778.2 billion in 2023-24 as compared to \$776.4 billion in 2022-23, registering a marginal growth of 0.23 per cent.



Moody's Forecasts Indian Economy To Expand At 6.6% In FY25 :-

Moody's Ratings estimates that the Indian economy will grow by 6.6% in the current fiscal year. It stated that strong loan demand, combined with robust economic development, will boost non-bank financing businesses' (NBFCs) profitability. "We expect India's economy to expand 6.6 per cent in the year ended March 2025 (FY25) and 6.2 per cent the following year, and this will lead to robust loan growth at NBFCs, mitigating the impact of rising funding costs on their profitability," Moody's Ratings said. The Indian economy is expected to have grown 8 per cent in the 2023-24 fiscal year.



China's Industrial Output Rises 6.7% In April As Manufacturing Gathers Pace :-

China's industrial output increased by 6.7% yearly in April, up from 4.5% in March, as the manufacturing sector's recovery gained momentum. The official figures

issued by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) outperformed a 5.5% increase in a Reuters poll of analysts. However, retail sales, a measure of consumption, grew 2.3% in April, dropping from a 3.1% growth in March. Analysts had expected retail sales to grow 3.8 per cent. China's exports and imports returned to growth in April after contracting in the previous month.



India's Foreign Exchange Reserves Jump \$2.56 Billion To \$644.15 Billion :-

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said that India's currency reserves increased by USD 2.561 billion to USD 644.151 billion in the week ending May 10. The kitty climbed by USD 3.668 billion to USD 641.59 billion in the previous reporting week, following three weeks of declines. Following several weeks of growth, the reserves reached an all-time high of USD 648.562 billion in the week ending April 5. For the week ended May 10, the foreign currency assets, a major component of the reserves, increased by USD 1.488 billion to USD 565.648 billion, the data showed.



Ronaldo Tops Forbes' List Of Highest-Paid Athletes :-

For the fourth time in his career, Cristiano Ronaldo topped Forbes' list of the highest-paid athletes. Spanish

golfer Jon Rahm rose to the second spot after making the dramatic shift to the Saudi-backed LIV Golf. After joining Al-Nassr of Saudi Arabia, Ronaldo became the highest-paid athlete in the world. According to Forbes, the 39-year-old's estimated total earnings were in an area of \$260 million, which is a record high for a soccer player. His on-field earnings amounted to \$200 million while his off-field earnings were \$60 million thanks to sponsorship deals where brands make use of his 629 million Instagram followers.



Delhi Ranks 350 In Oxford Global Cities Index Report 2024:-

Delhi has achieved the 350th position in the 2024 Oxford Economics Global Cities Index, making it the top-ranked city in India. The index compares the world's 1,000 largest cities. Bengaluru, ranked 411th, surpassing Mumbai, which ranked 427th. Sultanpur in Uttar Pradesh, was at the bottom of the index, ranking 1000th. The Global Cities Index Report, released on May 21, is an annual publication that ranks about 1,000 of the world's largest cities across 163 countries in five key areas. New York topped the list, followed by London and San Jose in the 2nd and 3rd positions, respectively.



India Climbs To 39th Position In Travel & Tourism Development Index :-

India has climbed to the 39th position in the World Economic Forum's Travel & Tourism Development Index 2024, while US topped the list. India also ranks the highest in South Asia among the lower-middle-income economies. Earlier, India was ranked 54th in 2021 published index. On an overall index score of 7, where 1 is the worst, and 7 the best, India scored 4.25. India's significant leap in the rankings underscores its growing competitiveness in the global tourism landscape. The biennial index analyzed the travel and tourism sectors of 119 countries.



NTPC gets 3rd rank at ATD BEST Awards 2024:-

NTPC has achieved 3rd rank globally at the ATD BEST Award 2024, the highest ranking among all Indian companies. Notably, NTPC is the only PSU to have received this prestigious award seven times in the past eight years. The accolade was accepted by Ms. Rachana Singh Bhal, CGM (Strategic HR & Talent Management), at a ceremony held in New Orleans, USA, on 21st May, 2024. The ATD BEST Award, established by the Association for Talent Development (ATD), USA, is one of the most esteemed international recognitions in the field of Learning and Development (L&D).

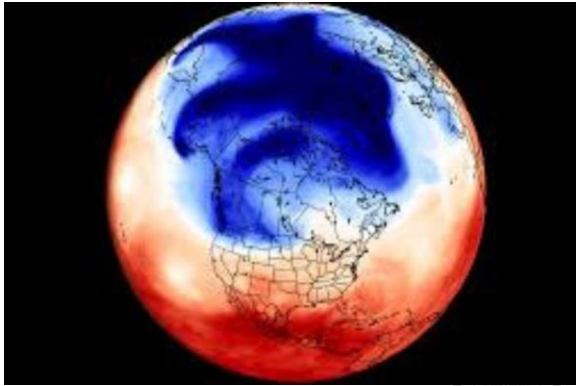


बैंक ऑफ महाराष्ट्र
Bank of Maharashtra
भारत सरकार का उद्यम

Bank of Maharashtra tops among PSU banks in business growth in FY24 :-

Bank of Maharashtra was the best performer among public sector banks in the previous fiscal year, with the highest growth rates in both total business and deposit

mobilisation. According to official financial data, the Pune-based lender saw a substantial 15.94% gain in total business (domestic) in FY24, outpacing even the powerful State Bank of India (SBI), which grew at 13.12%. Despite SBI's dominance in terms of absolute figures, with a total business of Rs 79,52,784 crore compared to Bank of Maharashtra's Rs 4,74,411 crore, it was the latter that led the pack in growth percentages.



La Nina Expected Later This Year, Impacting Global Weather :-

Last month, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) predicted above-normal rain for the upcoming monsoon season in India, with "favourable" La Nina conditions expected by August-September. According to a recent IMD advisory, El Niño conditions have deteriorated since early this year. El Niño (which means "little boy" in Spanish) and La Nina (which means "little girl" in Spanish) are ocean-atmosphere interactions that affect the temperature of the central and eastern tropical Pacific Ocean. These affect global weather.



Over 4000 Gangetic Dolphins In India: Indian Wildlife Institute :-

The Wildlife Institute of India recently reported that there are over 4000 Gangetic dolphins in the Gangetic

River watershed. Over 2000 of these dolphins live in Uttar Pradesh, especially in the Chambal River. This growth shows that river pollution is decreasing and that the government's conservation measures are working. Historically found in the Ganga-Brahmaputra-Meghna and Karnaphuli-Sangu river systems, the dolphin is now present in specific stretches of the Ganga-Brahmaputra-Barak river system in India, as well as in river systems in Nepal and Bangladesh.



India Records Positive Growth Among Top 5 World Steel Producers In April :-

India has emerged as the only country among the world's top five steel manufacturers to see production rise in April, while others faced decreases of up to 7%. According to an ET report by Nikita Periwal, China, the world's leading steel producer, had its April output fall by more than 7% year on year to 85.9 million tons. China's production from January to April this year was 343.7 million tons, a 3% decrease from 2023, according to World Steel Association data. India, the second-largest steel producer worldwide, recorded a 3.6% increase in production, reaching 12.1 million tonnes in April.



Oxford Economics' Global Cities Index: Delhi Leads Indian Rankings :-

Delhi was listed as the highest-ranked Indian city in Oxford Economics' 1,000 global cities survey, ranking 350th overall. Despite this impressive position, several other Indian cities are much lower on the list. The survey states that Delhi beat Mumbai in a variety of metrics, including economics, human capital, and quality of life. However, Delhi lagged in the Environment category, ranking 973rd, which was the second-worst among Indian cities, surpassed only by Sultanpur in Uttar Pradesh, which ranked 989th.



RBI Data Shows Significant Decline In Net FDI To \$10.5 Billion In FY24 :-

Net foreign direct investment (FDI) flows into India fell 62.17 percent to \$10.58 billion in 2023-24 (FY24), the lowest level since 2007, from \$27.98 billion the year before. This was mostly due to increased capital repatriation and foreign investment by Indian

enterprises. According to the latest Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data, \$44.4 billion of the \$70.9 billion gross FDI flows into the country in FY24 was repatriated through dividends, share sale or disinvestment, while another \$15.96 billion was invested overseas by Indians.



Uttar Pradesh Leads Transmission Line Additions In 2023-24 :-

According to the Central Electricity Authority's most recent data, Uttar Pradesh has come out as the leading state in terms of transmission line additions by state transmission firms in 2023-24. This success builds on its prior fiscal year's lead in 2022-23. In fiscal year 2023-24, state-owned power firms added 6,993 km of transmission lines, accounting for around 64% of the total objective of 11,002 km for both private and state government entities. Securing second place, Gujarat Energy Transmission Corporation Ltd (GETCO) added 898 ckm of transmission lines during the same period.

14: Schemes & Committees



HDFC Life Introduced "No Jhanjhat Life Insurance Fatafat" Campaign :-

HDFC Life unveiled the "No Jhanjhat Life Insurance Fatafat" campaign, which aims to simplify and expedite life insurance purchases using its online platform. The advertisement emphasizes the significance of solving India's low insurance penetration and significant protection gap. Through initiatives such as the "No Jhanjhat Life Insurance Fatafat" campaign, HDFC Life reaffirms its commitment to the mission of 'Insurance for All by 2047,' encouraging individuals across the country to financially secure themselves and their families

through the digital platform, which is designed for anytime purchase and service.



Uttarakhand Tourism Announced India's First Astro Tourism Campaign Named 'Nakshatra Sabha' :-

The Uttarakhand Tourism Development Board has partnered with Starscapes, a premier astro-tourism company, to launch Nakshatra Sabha, a fresh venture that will provide people with a holistic astro-tourism experience. The program will feature a variety of activities such as stargazing, unique solar observations, astrophotography contests, camping under the stars, and more. The initiative aims to bring together astronomy enthusiasts, adventurers, and travellers to marvel at the wonders of the cosmos.



IN-SPACe releases guidelines for implementation of Indian Space Policy 2023:-

The Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACe) has announced the norms, guidelines and procedures (NGP) for implementing the Indian Space Policy, 2023, in terms of space activity authorisation. "The NGP document lists space activities which need authorization from IN-SPACe, specifies criteria for granting such authorizations and provides

necessary guidelines/pre-requisites to be fulfilled by an applicant for making authorization application to IN-SPACe," IN-SPACe said.



Manipur Launches "School On Wheels" Initiative For Students In Relief Camps :-

The Manipur government established the "School on Wheels" project to provide education to youngsters housed in relief camps in the state following a year of ethnic conflict. Manipur Governor Anusuiya Uikey has announced the "School on Wheels" project. Under this arrangement, a school bus equipped with a library, computers, and sports equipment would travel to several camps accompanied by a teacher. The Manipur government currently runs around 320 relief camps, housing more than 59,000 men, women, and children. Around 18,000 students are currently staying in relief camps.



India to Spend ₹2 Crore Per Km on China Border Roads

According to project specifications, the government plans to spend nearly ₹2 crore per kilometer of road construction along the China border in Uttarakhand and Sikkim under the Vibrant Village Programme (VVP). In the last five months, the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has approved 113 roads under the VVP in Arunachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and Sikkim to boost

connectivity near the Chinese border. While 105 roads have been sanctioned in Arunachal Pradesh, five roads in Uttarakhand and three roads in Sikkim have also been approved.



DoT selects 144 participants for its 'Sangam: Digital Twin' initiative :-

The Department of Telecommunications (DoT), which is part of the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, revealed the selected participants for Stage 1 of the 'Sangam: Digital Twin with AI-Driven Insights Initiative'. The program, which began in February of this year and promises to revolutionize infrastructure planning and design by harnessing digital twin technology to generate precise, dynamic simulations of physical surroundings, has already picked 144 participants. The initiative has attracted a vibrant array of 112 organisations and 32 individuals, which includes - industry giants, innovative startups, and leading academic institutions.



SEBI proposes to facilitate domestic MFs to invest in overseas funds :-

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has suggested permitting domestic mutual funds to invest in foreign mutual funds that invest a percentage of their assets in Indian stocks. Currently, there is ambiguity

surrounding the laws governing investments in such overseas funds. This discourages mutual funds from investing in international mutual funds and index funds that invest in a variety of nations, including India. Sebi said local mutual fund schemes may invest in such overseas mutual funds that have a total exposure to Indian securities of not more than 20% of their net assets.



Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India

IRDAI directs insurers to put in place a board-approved policy on commission for agents :-

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDA) has required all insurers to have a board-approved policy on commission structure for insurance brokers to ensure fair and appropriate payments. The board's policy on commission structures for intermediaries should include objectives and principles, fairness and reasonableness, sound distribution practice, and regular evaluation, it stated. The commission structure shall be reasonable and not result in excessive compensation for intermediaries at the expense of customers or the insurer, it added.



Finance Ministry prepares new government's first full Budget amid Lok Sabha election heat:-

Whether the NDA holds power or the INDIA bloc wins, the budget would have to accommodate new projects and policy changes. Behind the scenes of the Lok Sabha

elections, a group of key Finance Ministry officials in the North Block is putting together the incoming government's first full budget is headed by T. C. Somnathan, the Finance Secretary, also serves as the Expenditure Secretary. However, this is not a routine annual budget preparation exercise; it is a transition from the interim to the full budget, which might witness a regime change.



Spain Becomes 99th Member Of International Solar Alliance :-

Spain has joined the International Solar Alliance as its 99th member. The International Solar Alliance Instrument of Ratification was handed over by Spain during a meeting in New Delhi between Spain's Ambassador to India, Jose Maria Ridao Domkinguez, and Abhishek Singh, Head of Depository, Joint Secretary (ED and MER), Ministry of External Affairs (MEA). During COP21 in Paris, India and France officially launched the International Solar Alliance (ISA). The ISA aims to contribute to the implementation of the Paris Climate Agreement through the rapid and massive deployment of solar energy, according to MEA press release.



IOC launches 'Let's move India' campaign with Reliance Foundation and Abhinav Bindra :-

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has launched the "Let's Move India" campaign in partnership with the Reliance Foundation and the Abhinav Bindra Foundation, urging everyone to celebrate the Olympians who will compete at the Paris Olympics. People of all ages, areas, and skills are urged to recreate or create their favorite athlete celebrations, with the goal of inspiring and celebrating the Olympians who will compete. The IOC's 'Let's Move' campaign was started on Olympic Day, June 23, 2023, and has witnessed participation from over 1000 athletes and more than 1.5 million people around the world taking part in physical activity.



G7 Commits to Net Zero Emissions by 2050 :-

The G7 countries have urged all major economies, including India and China, to commit to achieving net zero emissions by 2050 and limiting their emissions by 2025. According to the communique, they also committed to working with other developed countries to fully meet the goal of jointly mobilising USD 100 billion annually in climate finance (for the period 2020-2025) this year, three years late, to assist developing and poor countries in combating climate change. The group of seven, comprising the US, France, the UK, Italy, Germany, Canada and Japan, represent the world's richest democracies.

15: Science & Technology



China To Launch Chang'e-6 Lunar Probe Carrying Pakistan's ICUBE-Q Mission :-

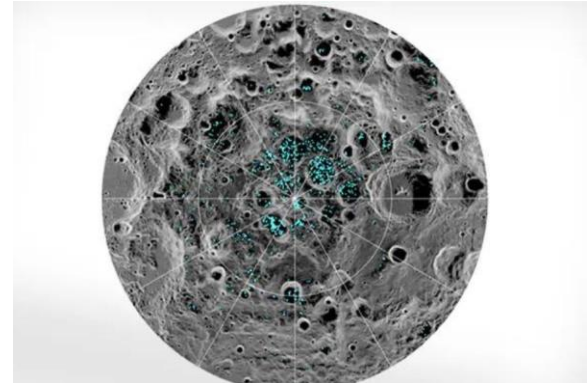
Pakistan's space program will receive a boost with the launch of its maiden lunar mission. According to Dawn, Pakistan's Institute of Space Technology (IST) has announced that the iCube-Q lunar mission would be launched on May 3 atop China's Chang'e 6 lunar probe. The satellite was developed by IST in partnership with China's Shanghai University SJTU and Suparco, which is the national space agency of Pakistan. It carries two optical cameras and will capture images of the Moon's surface.



Archaeologists uncover 7000-year-old Prehistoric Settlement in Serbia :-

According to reports, researchers have unearthed a previously undiscovered prehistoric settlement of significant magnitude in southeastern Europe. According to sources, this pre-historic settlement near the Tamiš River in the Banat area of northern Serbia, a landlocked Balkan country, dates back roughly 7,000 years to the

late Neolithic period. In addition to the mapping, archaeologists surveyed the ground surface for artifacts, indicating an association with the Vinča culture, dated between 5400 BC. and 4400 BC.



New Study Finds More Water Ice On Moon Within Exploitable Depths : ISRO Study :-

A recent study conducted by Indian and international researchers uncovers promising evidence that the Moon's polar craters may contain substantially more subsurface water ice than previously thought, at depths that future missions could utilize. "The research, published in the ISPRS Journal of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing, suggests the amount of ice just a couple meters below the surface is 5 to 8 times greater than at the surface itself," ISRO said. This buried ice could prove crucial for sustaining long-term human presence on Moon.



Sunita Williams 3rd flight to space scrubbed :-

The inaugural crewed flight of Boeing's Starliner spaceship was aborted mere hours before liftoff on May

7 due to a technical issue. Astronaut Butch Wilmore was supposed to accompany Sunita Williams on her third space voyage onboard the spacecraft. The delay was reported during a live NASA broadcast and was attributed to an issue with a valve in the rocket's second stage. This is Williams' third space mission; she previously spent 322 days in space and held the record for the most hours of spacewalk by a woman until being surpassed by Peggy Whitson.



Bajaj Auto Set To Revolutionize Transportation With World's First CNG Motorcycle :-

Bajaj Auto, India's leading two- and three-wheeler manufacturer, plans to introduce the world's first compressed natural gas (CNG) motorcycle on June 18, 2024. According to Bajaj, the new CNG motorbike will be a game changer, providing customers with a more affordable and ecologically responsible alternative to petrol motorcycles. Bajaj had mentioned earlier, fuel reduces the operational cost of automobiles, making it an appealing option for buyers. Bajaj revealed that the company will start with an initial capacity of 20,000 CNG motorcycles.



ISRO Achieves Milestone with Successful Pre-Burner Ignition Test for Semi-Cryo Engine :-

Isro, which is building a 2,000kN thrust semi-cryogenic engine using a Liquid Oxygen (LOX) Kerosene propellant mixture to improve the payload capability of the LVM3 rocket and future launch vehicles, announced a significant milestone. "With the successful ignition of the semi-cryo pre burner, a major milestone in the semi-cryo engine development has been achieved. This will be followed by development tests on the engine powerhead test article and fully integrated engine. The development of a semi-cryo stage with 120-tonne of propellant loading is also under progress," Isro said.



ISRO Successfully Tests 3D-Printed Rocket Engine :-

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) declared a significant breakthrough, announcing that it had successfully conducted a hot test of a liquid rocket engine produced utilizing additive manufacturing (AM) technology, also known as 3D printing. This engine is planned to power the PS4, the upper stage of ISRO's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV). The test, which lasted 665 seconds, utilized the PS4 engine, a key component of the upper stage of the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) rocket, often referred to as 'the Workhorse of ISRO.' It has a track record of delivering satellites into Low-Earth orbit.



First pig kidney transplant recipient dies two months after surgery :-

Richard "Rick" Slayman, the first patient to get a genetically altered pig kidney, died nearly two months after the surgery, according to his family and a statement from Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, where the procedure was performed. The hospital has stressed, however, that there was no evidence that Slayman's death was directly related to his recent kidney transplant. Slayman, aged 62, etched his name in medical history on March 16 by becoming the first living individual to undergo such a transplant. He had been grappling with kidney disease for over ten years.

**NASA Announces Plan To Build First Railway System On Moon :-**

American Space Agency NASA intends to create the first lunar railway system for effective payload transportation on the Moon. NASA published an official blog article describing the long-term robotic transport system, which will play a significant part in the daily operations of a viable lunar station planned for the 2030s. This lunar railway system is part of NASA's Moon to Mars effort, which includes mission concepts such as Robotic Lunar Surface Operations 2 (RLSO2). There is a need for a solution to transport regolith mined for ISRU consumables (H₂O, LOX, LH₂) or construction materials, as well as moving payloads around the lunar base and to/from landing zones or other outposts. To resolve transportation needs, NASA introduced FLOAT (Flexible Levitation on a Track).

**TCS announces to create global AI centre of excellence in France :-**

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) announced the establishment of a Global Artificial Intelligence (AI) Centre of Excellence in Paris at the Choose France Summit. The center, located at the new TCS PacePort in Paris, will focus on the brain-machine interface, building empathy in machines, and unleashing AI creativity, according to the company. "The new centre will focus on boosting human-centered AI capabilities for the banking & financial services (BFS), manufacturing, and consumer sectors, to start with," Rammohan Gourneni, Country Head, TCS France, said in a statement.

**Mangalyaan-2 Unveiled: India Set To Become The Third Nation To Land On Mars :-**

India's prestigious space agency, the Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro), is about to embark on a historic trip to Mars: Mangalyaan-2, which will land a rover and chopper. This enormous project, which has previously only been completed by the United States and China, aims to solidify India's position as a major player in space research. The groundbreaking mission will be blasted off from the surface using India's heaviest rocket developed by Isro yet – the Launch Vehicle Mark-III (LVM3).



Singapore braces for COVID-19 surge with over 25,900 cases recorded in a week :-

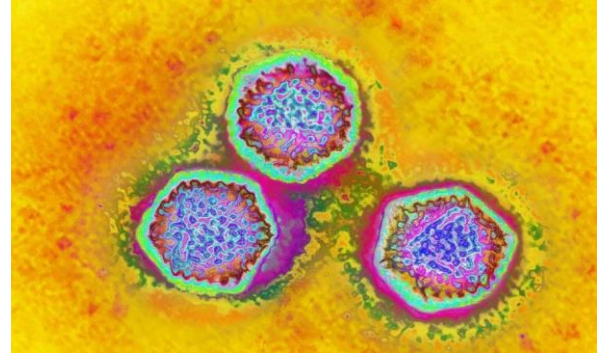
Singapore is experiencing a new Covid-19 wave, with authorities reporting over 25,900 cases between May 5 and 11, despite Health Minister Ong Ye Kung's advice to wear masks again. According to the Ministry of Health (MOH), the projected number of Covid-19 cases from May 5 to 11 increased to 25,900, up from 13,700 the previous week. The average daily Covid-19 hospitalisations rose to about 250 from 181 the week before. The average daily intensive care unit (ICU) cases remained low at three cases, compared with two cases in the previous week.



Swiggy Leverages SHIELD's Device-First Risk AI Platform:-

Swiggy, India's leading on-demand convenience platform has announced its partnership with SHIELD, a device-first risk AI platform, to enhance its Fraud Prevention and Detection capabilities. SHIELD's Device Intelligence will enable Swiggy to reduce promo abuse and deter fraudulent practices within the Delivery Partner ecosystem. SHIELD helps digital businesses worldwide eliminate fake accounts and stop all fraudulent activity.

SHIELD's has enhanced the Swiggy Trust & Safety team's capabilities to proactively detect fraud and abuse on the Swiggy platform



Oldest Known Human Viruses Discovered In 50,000-Year-Old Neanderthal Bones :-

Researchers discovered that Neanderthals from 50,000 years ago were infected with three viruses that continue to plague modern humans today. Researchers from the Federal University of Sao Paulo in Brazil conducted the investigation. These findings are the oldest known relics of human viruses, breaking the previous record by almost 20,000 years. By analysing DNA samples from Neanderthal skeletons unearthed in Russia's Chagyrskaya cave, Briones' team identified fragments resembling three modern viruses: adenovirus (common colds), herpesvirus (cold sores), and papillomavirus (genital warts).



L&T Technology Services Launches Simulation Centre Of Excellence For Airbus In Bengaluru :-

L&T Technology Services opened an Airbus simulation centre of excellence (CoE) on its Bengaluru site. The CoE is intended to provide engineering assistance for Airbus' structural simulation efforts throughout its business divisions in France, Germany, the United Kingdom, and

Spain. The CoE is outfitted with simulation software, hardware, and computing equipment. It aims to standardise processes across all Airbus European business units and aircraft programmes, streamline efficiency, and enhance productivity.



SpaceX Mega-Rocket Starship's Next Launch On June 5

SpaceX announced that Starship, the world's most powerful rocket, will launch its second test mission on June 5. It will be the fourth test for the sleek super rocket, which is critical to NASA's plans to land astronauts on the Moon later this decade and SpaceX CEO Elon Musk's hopes of colonizing Mars. Three earlier efforts resulted in the Starship's destruction, all of which the business claims is an acceptable expense in its quick trial-and-error method to development. "The fourth flight test turns our focus from achieving orbit to demonstrating the ability to return and reuse Starship and Super Heavy," SpaceX said in a statement.



GAIL (INDIA) Ltd.

GAIL (India) Ltd. Commissions India's First Green Hydrogen Plant :-

The state-owned GAIL (India) Ltd's first green hydrogen plant in Vijaipur, Madhya Pradesh, has been operational, marking a significant step in the nation's largest natural gas transmission and distribution firm's move into new and alternate energy, the company announced. The 10-megawatt proton exchange membrane electrolyser for the Vijaipur complex's green hydrogen production unit was imported from Canada. The plant will produce about 4.3 tonnes of green hydrogen per day, with a purity of about 99.999 per cent by volume.



Indian Army And IOCL Join Forces For Hydrogen Fuel Cell Bus Technology Trials :-

In an effort to investigate sustainable transportation options, the Indian Army, in collaboration with Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL), has begun demonstration trials of a Hydrogen Fuel Cell Bus. The cooperation was formalized via a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed by General Manoj Pande, Chief of the Army Staff, and Shrikant Madhav Vaidya, Chairman of Indian Oil. The event also saw the handover of a Hydrogen fuel cell bus to the Indian Army, marking the start of a partnership focused on pioneering sustainable transport technologies.

16: Sports



Asian U20 Athletics Championships 2024: Indian athletes finish the competition with 30 medals, including seven gold :-

On the final day of the Asian U20 Athletics Championships 2024, Indian athletes won 12 more medals, bringing their total to 30, including seven gold, 11 silver, and 12 bronze. Notably, India took the top rank in the medal count. The current season's tally for India is 11 medals higher than the previous Championships, as they finished first for the first time in Championship history. Meanwhile, China secured 29 medals, finishing at the second spot with 16 gold, 10 silver, and three bronze medals.



MS Dhoni Sets New IPL Record In CSK's Dominant Win

At Chepauk in Chennai, Chennai Super Kings (CSK) defeated Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) by 78 runs. This victory marked Dhoni's 150th win in the Indian Premier League (IPL), making him the only player to accomplish this incredible milestone. With this victory, CSK ascended to third place in the points table with 10 points, further confirming their position as a dangerous challenger in

the tournament. A stalwart of the game, Dhoni has been a key figure in CSK's journey since the inception of the IPL in 2008.



Indian Squad Announced For Men's T20 World Cup 2024 :-

Rohit Sharma will head the Indian squad at the Men's T20 World Cup in the United States and the West Indies. Hardik Pandya has been selected Vice-Captain. Yuzvendra Chahal has returned to the squad, while K.L. Rahul has been cut. Full India squad is Rohit Sharma (Captain), Hardik Pandya (Vice Captain), Yashasvi Jaiswal, Virat Kohli, Suryakumar Yadav, Rishabh Pant (WK), Sanju Samson (WK), Shivam Dube, Ravindra Jadeja, Axar Patel, Kuldeep Yadav, Yuzvendra Chahal, Arshdeep Singh, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohd. Siraj. Batter Shubman Gill, Rinku Singh, and pacers Khaleel Ahmed and Avesh Khan have been named as the reserves.



Paris Saint-Germain Clinches Record 12th Ligue-1 Title

In a magnificent display of domination, Paris Saint-Germain won their record 12th Ligue 1 title in 2023-24.

The club's constant pursuit of quality resulted in a third consecutive victory, cementing their status as a force in French football. Under the skilled direction of coach Luis Enrique, PSG demonstrated their prowess with commanding performances throughout the season. With an astonishing tally of 26 goals, Mbappé not only spearheaded PSG's attacking prowess but also clinched the title of the league's top scorer.



Amul Becomes Lead Sponsor For USA And South Africa In T20 World Cup 2024 :-

Amul, the Indian dairy behemoth, has been confirmed as the sponsor of both the USA and South African cricket teams in the upcoming T20 World Cup, which begins in June. The United States will make their tournament debut as one of the co-hosts, with matches beginning on June 1. Notably, the tournament's semifinals and finals are scheduled to take place in the Caribbean. In a ceremony held in New York, Amul was named the Lead Arm sponsor of the USA national cricket team. Having a rich history of sponsoring cricket teams, including the Netherlands, Amul's global presence extends to the USA, where Amul milk is now available for purchase.



Thomas & Uber Cup 2024: China Secure Both Men's And Women's Crowns:-

The People's Republic of China reclaimed their position as the world's top badminton nation, winning both the men's and women's titles at the 2024 BWF Thomas & Uber Cup Finals in Chengdu recently. The hosts defeated Indonesia in the finals, making it the first time since 2012 that China won both the men's and women's global team titles. In the Thomas Cup, the Chinese denied Indonesia – the most successful nation in the history of the tournament – their 15th title to capture their 11th in the process.



2024 Madrid Open, Iga Swiatek And Andrey Rublev Triumph :-

The 2024 Madrid Open, contested in the Spanish city, featured two outstanding singles champions. Iga Swiatek of Poland won her first Madrid Open, while Andrey Rublev of Russia won his second title in this important competition. Iga Swiatek, the world's number one player, made history by winning her maiden WTA 1000 Madrid Open singles title. In a thrilling final, she prevailed over Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus with a hard-fought victory, 7-5, 4-6, 7-6 (9/7). This triumph marked Swiatek's 20th career title and her ninth at the WTA 1000 level.



Real Madrid Clinches 36th La Liga Title :-

Real Madrid, the Spanish football powerhouse, have added another incredible milestone to their famous

history by winning the La Liga 2023-24 season title. Real Madrid won the championship 3-0 over Cadiz, but their nearest rivals Barcelona lost 4-2 to Girona. With four games left in the season, Real Madrid has an incredible 87 points, establishing an insurmountable 13-point advantage over their nearest opponent, Girona. Goals from Brahim Diaz, Jude Bellingham, and Joselu propelled Real Madrid to victory against Cadiz, ensuring they clinched their 36th La Liga title.



Bangladesh gear up to host ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2024 :-

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has announced the schedules for the highly awaited ninth ICC Women's T20 World Cup in 2024, which will be held in Bangladesh from October 3 to 20. Cricket fans worldwide are looking forward to this famous tournament, which promises to be an action-packed display of skill and sportsmanship. The T20 World Cup 2024 will feature ten teams competing in 23 matches spread across 18 action-packed days. The matches will be held at two venues in Bangladesh: the Shere Bangla National Cricket Stadium in Dhaka and the Sylhet International Cricket Stadium in Sylhet, providing fans with an opportunity to witness the best in women's cricket.



Indian women's and men's 4x400m relay teams qualify for Paris Olympics 2024 :-

The Indian men's and women's 4x400m relay teams advanced for the Paris Olympics by finishing second in their respective second-round heats at the World Athletics Relays. In the women's category, the quartet of Rupal Chaudhary, M R Poovamma, Jyothika Sri Dandi, and Subha Venkatesan clocked 3 minutes and 29.35 seconds to place second behind Jamaica (3:28.54) in heat number one, earning a trip to the Paris Games. With this, India now have 19 Paris-bound track and field athletes and the list includes defending javelin throw champion Neeraj Chopra among others.



Nitin Menon, Jayaraman Madangopal, and Javagal Srinath Named as Match Officials for ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 :-

Umpires Nitin Menon and Jayaraman Madanagopal, as well as ICC match referee Javagal Srinath, will represent India at the next T20 World Cup in the Americas next month. There will be 20 umpires overseeing 55 matches across nine venues, including four notable ICC umpires: Richard Illingworth, Kumar Dharmasena, Chris Gaffaney, and Paul Reiffel. Besides Madanagopal, the likes of Sam Nogajski, Allahudien Paleker, Rashid Riaz and Asif Yaqoob will also be making their ICC senior men's competition debut.



Yuzvendra Chahal Creates History To Become First Indian Bowler To 350 T20 Wickets :-

Yuzvendra Chahal continues to make history in the Indian Premier League. The Rajasthan Royals' leg-spinner achieved another historic milestone by taking the wicket of Delhi Capitals captain Rishabh Pant at the Arun Jaitley Stadium in New Delhi. Earlier, Chahal became the first bowler to reach 200 IPL wickets. Following his single wicket against DC, he became the first Indian bowler to reach 350 wickets in T20 cricket. Chahal now sits at 11th in the charts with 350 wickets, making him the only Indian within the top 15.



Bajrang Punia Provisionally Suspended By Wrestling Authorities :-

Following NADA's decision to impose a provisional suspension for refusing to take a drug test, wrestling's world governing organization (UWW) suspended Bajrang Punia till the end of the year. In his defense, the Tokyo Olympics bronze medalist stated that he never refused to submit his sample for testing, but rather requested the Dope Control Officer to explain the existence of expired kits brought to collect his sample. Bajrang told PTI that he has not received any communication from the UWW about his suspension but the world governing body while updating its internal system clearly mentions that he stands suspended.



India Clinches 3 Gold, And 2 Bronze Medals At Asian Open Pickleball Championships In Vietnam :-

India won three gold and two bronze medals in the Asian Open Pickleball Championship in Vietnam after putting on a strong performance. After a thrilling 11-9, 5-11, 11-9 victory over Ruben Hellberg and Chitlada Hemasee, Sachin Pahwa and Priyanka Chhabra took home the gold medal in the mixed doubles intermediate 35+ category. Continuing the winning streak, Isha Lakhani and Pei Chuan Kao emerged victorious in the women's doubles open category with a commanding 15-7, 15-3 win against Dang Kim Ngan and Tyak K.



Brazil to Host 2027 Women's World Cup Soccer :-

Brazil was declared the host of the 2027 Women's World Cup during the FIFA Congress, defeating Belgium, the Netherlands, and Germany in their bid to become the first South American country to host the tournament. Brazil's proposal to host the 10th edition of the competition gained support from 119 FIFA Congress member nations, while the European bid earned 78 votes. Brazil was given a slight edge in the run up to vote after a FIFA technical evaluation gave it a score of four out of five, verses 3.7 for the Belgium-Netherlands-Germany (BNG) bid.



Nikhat Zareen and Minakshi Clinch Gold Medals at Elorda Cup in Kazakhstan :-

Nikhat Zareen, the reigning world champion, and Minakshi both won gold as the Indian team finished the

Elorda Cup campaign with a record-breaking 12 medals in Astana, Kazakhstan. Aside from Nikhat and Minakshi's gold medals, Indian boxers earned two silver and eight bronze medals, surpassing their previous record of five medals. Nikhat (52kg) continued her dominance in the prestigious tournament as she outclassed Zhazira Urakbayeva of Kazakhstan with an unanimous 5-0 scoreline to add yet another gold medal to her impressive resume.



Deepthi Jeevanji wins gold with record time in World Para Athletics Championships:-

Indian para-athlete Deepthi Jeevanji on 20 May 2024, set a world record of 55.06 seconds in the women's 400m T20 category, at the Para Athletics World Championship 2024 in Kobe, Japan. After clocking 55.06 seconds in the women's 400m T20 category, Jeevanji bagged a gold medal. In the qualifying round, Jeevanji secured her place in the finals of the women's 400m T20 heat, setting a new Asian record with a time of 56.18 seconds. In the Asian Para Games 2023, Jeevanji won a gold medal in the women's 400m T20 event.



India's 4x400m mixed relay team wins gold at Asian Relay Championship:-

The Indian mixed 4x400m team of Muhammed Ajmal, Jyothika Sri Dandi, Amoj Jacob and Subha Venkatesan set a new national record to win the gold medal at the Asian

Relay Championships 2024 in Bangkok, Thailand. The relay quartet stopped the clock at 3:14.12 in Bangkok. Team Sri Lanka clocked 3:17.00 to win the silver medal while the bronze went to Vietnam, who timed their run at 3:18.45. Despite the record-breaking effort, India is still not in the mix for a Paris 2024 Olympics quota in the mixed 4x400m event.



Sports Ministry Approves Foreign Training for Lakshya and PV Sindhu Ahead of Olympics :-

Lakshya Sen and P V Sindhu, two Indian shuttlers, will train in France and Germany, respectively, as part of their Olympic preparations after receiving financial support to pay their individual costs from the Sports Ministry's Mission Olympic Cell. Prior to the Olympic Games, Sen, who is a competitor in the men's singles competition in Paris, will train at The Halle des Sports Parsemain from July 8 to July 21 alongside his coach and support team. Sindhu's proposal was for Saarbrücken, Germany to train at the Hermann-Neuberger Sportschule.



Kolkata Knight Riders Win IPL 2024 :-

Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) carved their name in IPL history by winning their third title with an eight-wicket triumph over Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) in the IPL 2024 final at Chennai's MA Chidambaram Stadium. The Sunrisers Hyderabad had a tremendous batting collapse

in the final, being dismissed for 113 runs in just 18.3 overs. Cummins did stage a fightback, top-scoring in his team's 113-run total with a 19-ball 24 at No. 9, but Knight Riders cruised to their third title win with eight wickets in hand and 57 balls to spare after restricting Sunrisers to the lowest score in an IPL final.



Dipa Karmakar Scripts History, Becomes First Indian Gymnast To Win Gold In Asian Gymnastics Championship :-

Dipa Karmakar made history by winning India's first-ever gold medal in the Asian Championships in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. The 30-year-old Olympian had an average score of 13.566 in the women's vault final. This is the first time an Indian gymnast has won gold in any event at the Asian Championships. Dipa's already impressive set of firsts in Indian gymnastics is boosted with the vault gold. She is the first female gymnast from India to compete in the Olympics, and at Rio 2016, she put on the best performance of any gymnast competing in the Summer Games, placing fourth in the women's vault.

17: State



Uttarakhand Suspends Licences Of 14 Patanjali Ayurved Products :-

Uttarakhand has canceled the manufacturing licenses for 14 goods made by Baba Ramdev's Patanjali Ayurveda Ltd and Divya Pharmacy, effective immediately. The state licensing authority informed in an affidavit that the cancellation order was issued for "repeated violations" of the Drugs and Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisements) Act, 1954. Earlier, the Supreme Court, hearing a case on misleading ads by Patanjali Ayurveda, had asked the Ramdev-owned company to issue a public apology in newspapers same size in which it advertises its products.



American Express Announces Inauguration Of 1 Million Sq Ft Campus In Gurugram :-

American Express has announced that it would shortly open its new campus in Sector 74A, Gurugram, Haryana, encompassing roughly one million square feet. The company indicated that staff will begin migrating to the new site gradually, commencing at the end of this month. The facility demonstrates American Express' dedication to establishing a stimulating working environment. It has been awarded LEED Gold certification for Building Design and Construction (BD+C) Core and Shell Development. In addition to Gurugram, the company also has facilities in Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Chennai, and Pune.



REC Receives RBI Approval To Establish Subsidiary In GIFT City :-

State-owned REC Ltd. announced that it has acquired RBI approval to establish a subsidiary in GIFT City, Gujarat. The upcoming subsidiary will operate as a finance firm under GIFT, offering loan, investment, and other financial services, according to a corporate release. According to the release, REC Ltd., a leading NBFC under the Ministry of Power, has acquired a 'No Objection Certificate' (NOC) from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to establish a subsidiary at Gujarat International Finance Tech-City (GIFT) in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.



Alert against West Nile fever in Kerala:-

The Kerala government issued a state-wide notice against West Nile fever, a mosquito-borne viral infection, after one death and around eight cases were recorded in recent days from Kozhikode, Malappuram, and Thrissur. According to official reports, the infection was the cause of death for a 79-year-old man from Vadanappally in Thrissur on May 3. So far, five instances have been reported in Kozhikode. There are two suspected cases in Malappuram too. Symptoms of the infection include high fever, headache, neck stiffness, disorientation, stupor,

coma, tremors, convulsions, muscle weakness, and paralysis.



IAF continues to douse forest fire in Uttarakhand even as State claims in Supreme Court that emergency is over :-

The Uttarakhand administration recently informed the Supreme Court that the forest fire emergency had ended, with only 15 minor to intermediate flames registered. Meanwhile, the Indian Air Force (IAF) continues to assist the State in putting out forest fires. It took 23 sorties, 11 and a half hours, and 44,600 litres of water to extinguish the blazing forest fires in the mountains. In response to the raging forest fires at the Pauri Garhwal sector in Uttarakhand, the IAF provided much-needed relief by undertaking Bambi Bucket operations by its Mi17 V5 helicopters.



Meghalaya Gets First Woman Police Chief :-

Idashisha Nongrang, a 1992-batch IPS officer, has been appointed as Meghalaya's next DGP, marking the state's first female head of police. The former DGP, L R Bishnoi, will leave office on May 19, and Nongrang will take over on May 20. Nongrang, who is now Meghalaya's Director General of Civil Defence and Home Guard, has been

appointed to the top office for a two-year term. She had been one of three officers in the running for the top position and several political parties in the state had voiced their support for her being appointed to the position.



SAIL-Bhilai To Set Up Chhattisgarh's First Floating Solar Plant :-

Bhilai Steel Plant (BSP), a Chhattisgarh-based subsidiary of the state-run Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL), will develop the state's first 15-megawatt (MW) floating solar project in its Maroda-1 reservoir to reduce its carbon footprint. The steel company is working on a number of programs to cut carbon emissions, conserve energy, and promote renewable energy. The project is being implemented through NTPC-SAIL Power Supply Company Limited (NSPCL), a 50:50 joint venture company of National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) and SAIL. The solar plant will be set up in Durg district.



Shinku La Tunnel Work To Begin By Mid-September :-

The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) will start work on the Shinku La tunnel in mid-September, providing all-weather access from Manali to Leh via the Nimmu-Padam-Darcha axis, according to officials. The tunnel, at an altitude of 15,800 feet, is planned to be completed in four years and will become the world's tallest tunnel,

surpassing China's Mila tunnel at 15,590 feet. This development comes amid the ongoing military standoff between India and China in eastern Ladakh, which has entered its fifth year.



Karnataka govt. mandates 33% reservation for women in all outsourced jobs :-

In accordance with the quota policy used in permanent government positions, the State government has now made it essential to provide 33% reservation for women in services and positions outsourced by various government agencies and organizations. This reservation is within the quota stipulated for SC/ST and other backward communities in government outsourced jobs. A Government Order (GO) in this regard was issued by Randeep D., Principal Secretary, Personnel and Administrative Reforms.



Rajasthan's Phalodi simmers at 50°C as heatwave grips western state :-

The blistering heatwave continued to wreak havoc over Rajasthan, killing two more people, with Phalodi in Jodhpur district officially recording a top temperature of 50°C, according to the Meteorological department. The town remained the warmest place in the state, and possibly the country. In Jalore, a 50-year-old man died as a result of heat-related issues, while in Jodhpur, a 45-

year-old man perished from the extreme heat. The Jalore man, Sungaram Mali, was admitted to hospital with complaints of dehydration, vomiting and nausea. Despite receiving treatment, he passed away.



64 Great Indian Bustards spotted during 'Waterhole' survey in Jaisalmer :-

64 Great Indian Bustards, popularly known as 'Godawan,' were seen for the first time in Jaisalmer district during the yearly waterhole survey, which is utilized for wildlife census. The survey commenced on May 23, aligning with Vaishakh Purnima (full moon night), and ran for 24 hours, until May 24. Ashish Vyas, Desert National Park's district forest officer, corroborated the report. The sighting of 64 Great Indian Bustards has sparked widespread enthusiasm among wildlife enthusiasts. Officials reported that during the waterhole census, 21 Great Indian Bustards were seen in the Ramdevra region, while 43 were observed in the Sudasari, Gazai Mata, Jamra, Chouhani, Sipla, and Barna areas of Jaisalmer.



Portion of Hampi's Virupaksha temple collapses :-

A part of Karnataka's Virupaksha temple fell due to severe rains. The temple's pavilion, or saalu mantap, on the historical site of Hampi was damaged, prompting some conservationists to point the finger at Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) officials for allegedly failing to maintain and conserve it. However, ASI officials claimed that the temple's restoration work, including the pavilion, was already underway, and that the rains caused its preemptive collapse. A nationally protected monument and a UNESCO World Heritage Site, the temple is believed to have its origins in the 7th century.



Reliance Industries To Begin Construction On India's First Multimodal Logistics Park Near Chennai :-

According to numerous reports, Reliance Industries will begin building India's first Multimodal Logistics Park at Mappedu near Chennai in June, a project that was conceptualized 12 years ago. In 2022, the company defeated Adani Group to win the bid for the Rs 1,424 crore project on 184.27 acres of land in Tiruvallur district. The project's goal is to provide efficient, cost-effective, and added value logistics services such as cargo aggregation and disaggregation, distribution, intermodal transfer, sorting, packing, and repacking. In 2022, the Centre awarded the contract to Reliance with Prime Minister Narendra Modi laying the foundation stone on May 26, 2022.

18: Summits & Conferences



Switzerland Invites India To Participate In Summit On Peace In Ukraine Next Month:-

Switzerland has invited India to attend the Peace Summit in Ukraine next month. This is an endeavor by Switzerland, a typically neutral country, to put an end to Russia's two-year war with Ukraine. According to the Swiss, the meeting on June 15 and 16 "is to develop a common understanding of a path towards a just and lasting peace in Ukraine." The gathering will take place at the Burgenstock resort, immediately following the G7 summit in Italy. So far, the Russians have not been invited as they have repeatedly said they don't want to participate, the Swiss have said.



AWPO Summit To Be Held In New Delhi On May 8, 2024 :-

The Indian Army will hold a summit to emphasize the qualities, potential, and skills of military veterans as a driving force in the country's prosperity, according to officials. The Army Welfare Placement Organisation (AWPO) will organized the summit, which will take place on May 8. According to a senior source, the event will provide a complete grasp of how veterans may act as a

driving force for national prosperity. It will highlight the capabilities, potential, and skills of military veterans as a driving force in the nation's progress.



India To Host 46th Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting In Kochi :-

The 46th Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM 46) and the 26th Meeting of the Committee for Environmental Protection (CEP 26) will be held in Kochi, Kerala, from May 20 to 30, 2024, by the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) of the Government of India, through the National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research. This is consistent with India's ability to foster constructive global dialogue on environmental stewardship, scientific collaboration, and cooperation in Antarctica. The ATCM and meetings of the CEP are pivotal in the international community's ongoing efforts to safeguard Antarctica's fragile ecosystem and promote scientific research in the region.



Japan, China and South Korea arranging summit for May 26-27 :-

Final preparations are being made for a summit between Japan, China, and South Korea in Seoul on May 26 and 27, according to a South Korean Foreign Ministry official.

It will be the first such gathering since December of 2019. The three Asian countries were unable to have a trilateral summit because to the deterioration of Japan-South Korea relations and the COVID-19 epidemic. At present, South Korea serves as chair of the three-way summit framework. The three countries agreed to hold such a meeting as soon as possible and Seoul has been having talks with Tokyo and Beijing, the official said.



CJI DY Chandrachud To Attend 'J20' Summit Of Heads Of Apex Courts Of G20 Members In Brazil :-

Dr. DY Chandrachud, Chief Justice of India, has been asked to attend the 'J20' summit of all G20 members' heads of supreme and constitutional courts. The Brazilian Federal Supreme Court is organising the J20 summit in light of Brazil's G20 chairmanship in 2024. The event is slated for May 12-14 and will feature major dignitaries and chiefs of various Supreme Courts of G20 nations. As per the official list, these include participation from the African Union, Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, European Union, France, Germany, India, Italy, Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, UK, Portugal and Spain.



Dubai Hosting Food Innovation Conference 2024 :-

The Food Innovation Conference 2024 kicked off on May 13 in Dubai. The event, which runs till May 15th, is organized by Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global

Initiatives (MBRGI) and the World Economic Forum (WEF) under the topic "Reimagining Future Food Systems". The Food Innovation Conference intends to promote knowledge exchange and capacity building through the Food Innovation Hubs Global Initiative by highlighting national innovation modules, global frontiers, and scalable technology advancements.



Switzerland conference on Ukraine futile without Russia, says Kremlin :-

The Kremlin has stated that a summit organized by Switzerland to pave the basis for a peace process in Ukraine will be fruitless if Russia does not participate. "Without Russia, discussing security issues that concern us is absolutely futile," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov informed the Russian newspaper Izvestia. Russia has already stated that it sees no sense in a conference organized by Switzerland to discuss how to end the Ukraine conflict, to which Moscow is not currently invited. Switzerland said that more than 50 countries have signed up for the summit due to be held June 15-16 near the Swiss city of Lucerne.



India And Britain Reaffirm Commitment To FTA At Annual Strategic Dialogue :-

At the annual UK-India Strategic Dialogue in London, India and Britain reiterated their commitment to concluding a mutually beneficial free trade agreement

(FTA), citing "good progress" on the 2030 Roadmap since the previous assessment. Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra, who is visiting the UK, met with his counterpart, Sir Philip Barton, Permanent Under-Secretary at the Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Office (FCDO). Earlier, the High Commission of India in London said Kwatra also had a fruitful meeting with UK Minister of State for Defence Procurement James Cartlidge.



India, UAE Conclude Meeting On India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor :-

A high-level Indian delegation wrapped off its first round of talks with UAE authorities on establishing the ambitious India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEEC), barely three months after the two countries signed a framework agreement for the project. The speed with which these follow-up talks were scheduled following the signing of the bilateral framework agreement in February demonstrates New Delhi and Abu Dhabi's great priority for the corridor. The pact, inked during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's UAE visit this February enables joint investments and technical collaboration for developing the corridor aimed at generating logistical efficiencies and cost reductions.



South Korea, China, Japan to hold first summit in four years on May 26-27 :-

South Korean, Chinese, and Japanese leaders will meet in Seoul for their first trilateral summit in more than four years on May 26-27, according to Seoul's presidential office. South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol is scheduled to hold bilateral talks with Chinese Premier Li Qiang and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida on May 26 ahead of their three-way summit on May 27, according to deputy national security advisor Kim Tae-hyo. The three will adopt a joint statement on six areas including the economy and trade, science and technology, people-to-people exchanges and health and the aging population, he said.



India Assumes Chair Of Colombo Process For 2024-26 :-

For the first time since its creation in 2003, India has assumed leadership of the regional grouping known as the Colombo Process. The Colombo Process is a regional consultative body with 12 Asian member states. "Promoting safe, orderly and legal migration. India assumed the Chair of Colombo Process for 2024-26, for the first time since its inception," External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said on 'X'. "Colombo Process is a Regional Consultative Process of migrant worker origin countries from South and SE Asia. It serves as a forum for exchange of best practices on overseas employment," he said.

SECTION 2

Practice Questions with Answers



PRACTICE QUESTIONS

1. Tirangi Barfi of which of the following state received Geographical Indication (GI) tag recently?

- A) Bihar
- B) Uttar Pradesh
- C) Maharashtra
- D) Uttarakhand

2. Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL) has signed an MoU with _____ for cooperation in research and technology and product development for semiconductors, quantum technologies and drones.

- A) IIT Bombay
- B) IIT Delhi
- C) IIT Kharagpur
- D) IIT Mandi

3. Which edition of joint military exercise 'DUSTLIK 2024' was held between India-Uzbekistan militaries in April 2024?

- A) 8th
- B) 6th
- C) 5th
- D) 3rd

4. Which of the following country has successfully tested Crystal Maze-2 missile capable of striking targets up to 250 kilometres away?

- A) Russia
- B) China
- C) India
- D) North Korea

5. Along with which of the following IIT the Blockchain For Impact (BFI) has announced a strategic partnership to fostering innovations and driving developments in healthcare in India?

- A) IIT Bombay
- B) IIT Delhi
- C) IIT Kanpur
- D) IIT Madras

6. Along with which of the following bank the NPCI Bharat BillPay has partnered to onboard National Common Mobility Card (NCMC) on the Bharat BillPay platform to further improve traveller convenience?

- A) Canara Bank
- B) Punjab National Bank
- C) State Bank of India
- D) Union Bank of India

7. NASA welcomed _____ as the 38th country to sign the Artemis Accords and commit to peaceful and safe space exploration.

- A) Finland
- B) Germany
- C) Sweden
- D) Switzerland

8. Which of the following bank has announced the launch of its eco-friendly NCMC (National Common Mobility Cards) enabled debit and pre-paid cards in collaboration with National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)?

- A) Airtel Payments Bank
- B) India Post Payments Bank
- C) Jio Payments Bank
- D) Paytm Payments Bank

9. JERA has concluded an agreement with ReNew to jointly develop a green ammonia production project in which of the following state?

- A) Rajasthan
- B) Odisha
- C) Maharashtra
- D) Karnataka

10. Who among the following was honored with the Aryabhata Award and the title of 'Distinguished Fellow' by the Astronautical Society of India (ASI)?

- A) A. S. Kiran Kumar
- B) K. Sivan
- C) Pavuluri Subba Rao
- D) S. Somanath

11. Who among the following became new Navy Chief by succeeding Admiral R Hari Kumar?

- A) Anudeep Shinde
- B) Dinesh Kumar Tripathi
- C) Manoj Pande
- D) Ravi Subramanian

12. In April 2024, India completed the delivery of the first batch of BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles to which of the following country?

- A) Germany
- B) Japan
- C) Malaysia
- D) Philippines

13. In April 2024 the Indian Navy conducted which of the following naval exercise on the East Coast?

- A) SIMBEX
- B) Poorvi Lehar
- C) Harimau Shakti
- D) DUSTLIK

14. Along with Indus Tower which of the following company has signed an agreement to develop renewable energy projects?

- A) Tata Power Solar Systems Limited
- B) Hindustan Power Projects Private Limited
- C) NTPC Green Energy Limited
- D) Adani Green Energy Limited

15. Along with CSIR-IICT which of the following company has entered into a collaboration through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to convert carbon dioxide (CO₂) into dimethyl ether (DME)?

- A) Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited
- B) Gas Authority Of India
- C) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation
- D) Steel Authority of India

16. The Armed Forces Medical Services (AFMS) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with which of the following IIT for collaborative research and training?

- A) IIT Bombay
- B) IIT Kharagpur
- C) IIT Delhi
- D) IIT Roorkee

17. Which of the following company received in-principle approval from the Reserve bank of India for a Prepaid Payment Instrument (PPI) Licence in India?

- A) Upgrade
- B) Revolut India
- C) Monzo

D) Chime

18. Along with National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) which of the following organisation has entered into a partnership to establish ECO villages inspired by GEV in Maharashtra?

- A) Vishwa Jain Sangathan
- B) National Hindu Students' Forum
- C) International Swaminarayan Satsang Organization
- D) International Society for Krishna Consciousness

19. Dragonfly mission of which of the following space organization is scheduled to explore Saturn's moon Titan?

- A) China National Space Administration
- B) European Space Agency
- C) Indian Space Research Organisation
- D) NASA

20. Which of the following Spanish player has announced her retirement from professional tennis recently?

- A) Lilí Álvarez
- B) Lara Arruabarrena
- C) Garbiñe Muguruza
- D) Carla Suárez Navarro

21. Along with India which of the following country has signed an MOU to boost bilateral cooperation in the field of human resource development in civil service?

- A) Bangladesh
- B) Cambodia
- C) Myanmar
- D) Vietnam

22. Which of the following organisation has released "Climate Strategy 2030" document to address India's green financing needs?

- A) Centre of Science and Technology for Rural Development
- B) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development
- C) Securities and Exchange Board of India
- D) Small industries Development Bank of India

23. Which of the following bank has launched banking Industry's first ATM Insurance?

- A) Au Small Finance Bank Limited

- B) Capital Small Finance Bank Limited
- C) Equitas Small Finance Bank
- D) Suryoday Small Finance Bank Limited

24. Which of the following bank announced the successful execution of RBI's programmable central bank digital currency (CBDC) pilot, being the first bank in the country?

- A) Bank of Baroda
- B) HDFC Bank Limited
- C) IndusInd Bank
- D) Punjab National Bank

25. Which fintech company has launched its own UPI infrastructure with UPI Switch, a next-generation cloud-based innovation, in partnership with Airtel Payments Bank?

- A) GooglePay
- B) Razorpay
- C) Paytm
- D) PhonePe

26. The first Multi-purpose (Combined Heat & Power) Green Hydrogen Generation Plant of the nation was launched by _____.

- A) GAIL Limited
- B) NLC India Limited
- C) NTPC Limited
- D) SJVN Limited

27. Amitabh Chaudhry has been re-appointed as the managing director (MD) and chief executive officer (CEO) of which of the following bank?

- A) Kotak Mahindra Bank
- B) ICICI Bank
- C) HDFC Bank
- D) Axis Bank

28. The United Nations Secretary-General, António Guterres has appointed _____ as the UN resident coordinator in Indonesia.

- A) Chandan Sharma
- B) Gita Sabharwal
- C) Mamta Rai
- D) Pramod Mehra

29. The board of Srei Infrastructure Finance Limited (SIFL) has appointed _____ as its new managing director and CEO.

- A) Anil Kumar Rao
- B) Geetha Kumari
- C) Hardayal Prasad
- D) Rajeev Kumar Shinde

30. The Central Government has re-appointed _____ as Deputy Governor, Reserve Bank of India for a period of one year with effect from May 03, 2024.

- A) Anil Kumar Rao
- B) Harun Rashid Khan
- C) T. Rabi Sankar
- D) Urjit Patel

31. Along with Alliance of Digital India Foundation (ADIF) which of the following IIT has signed an MoU to boost startup ecosystem in India?

- A) IIT Bombay
- B) IIT Delhi
- C) IIT Guwahati
- D) IIT Madras

32. India's services exports surged by _____ percent to \$345 billion in 2023, as per a UNCTAD report.

- A) 12.7%
- B) 11.4%
- C) 10.4%
- D) 9.4%

33. _____ has partnered with RBI Innovation Hub to fast-track digital agri lending.

- A) Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India
- B) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development
- C) National Housing Bank
- D) Small Industries Development Bank of India

34. Which of the following credit card company launched "Miles Travel credit card" with 3 variants?

- A) American Express
- B) HDFC Card
- C) Mastercard
- D) SBI Card



35. Which of the following payment company has unveiled nation's first upgradable ATM recently?

- A) Aurionpro Payment Solutions Private Limited
- B) Groww Pay Services Private Limited.
- C) Hitachi Payment Services Private Limited
- D) Lemonpay Payment Solutions Private Limited

36. Indian Navy's indigenous, INS _____ participated in Maritime Partnership Exercise with Royal Navy's RFA Argus and RFA Lyme Bay.

- A) INS Jatayu
- B) INS Sahyadri
- C) INS Sandhayak
- D) INS Tir

37. Peerless Financial Products Distribution Ltd. (PFPDL) has partnered with which of the following life insurance company to distribute life insurance products to its customers.?

- A) Edelweiss Tokio Life Insurance
- B) Future Generali India Life Insurance
- C) HDFC Life Insurance
- D) Life Insurance Corporation of India

38. Along with F.I.R.S.T at IIT Kanpur which of the following company has formed strategic partnership to drive next-gen financial solutions innovations in India?

- A) Digividdhi
- B) Ericsson
- C) Flywire corporation
- D) LeRemitt

39. Who among the following was named as Ambassador of ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024?

- A) Ayushmann Khurrana
- B) Dame Valerie Adams
- C) Vinícius Junior
- D) Yuvraj Singh

40. _____ has sanctioned a study on the impact evaluation of Geographical Indication (GI) products.

- A) FSSAI
- B) ISRO
- C) NABARD
- D) SIDBI

41. The gem and jewellery sector has received _____ status by the finance ministry.

- A) International Organization for Standardization
- B) Hallmark Unique Identification number
- C) Bureau of Indian Standards registration
- D) Authorised Economic Operator

42. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has directed which of the following company to halt issuing wallets due to lack of authorization?

- A) TalkCharge Technologies Private Limited
- B) JM Financial Products Limited
- C) Infibeam Avenues Limited
- D) IIFL finance Limited

43. REC Limited has successfully availed a Green Loan of Japanese Yen (JPY) 60.536 billion to finance eligible green projects in India from _____.

- A) Asian Development Bank
- B) SACE
- C) Japan Bank for International Cooperation
- D) Japan International Cooperation Agency

44. Which of the following payment company has launched offline QR code-based 'scan and pay' payments?

- A) Amazon Pay
- B) Cred
- C) PhonePe
- D) Razorpay

45. HCLSoftware, the software business unit of HCLTechnologies was selected by which of the following bank for its digital transformation program?

- A) Yes Bank
- B) RBL Bank
- C) State Bank of India
- D) Bank of Baroda

46. The United Nation's First International Conference on Digital Public Infrastructure was held under the leadership of which of the following country?

- A) Belgium
- B) India
- C) Switzerland
- D) Uganda

47. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced a _____ percent interest rate on the Floating Rate Savings Bond (FRSB) 2034.

- A) 3.8%
- B) 4.5%
- C) 6.5%
- D) 8%

48. Which of the following company has raised \$5 million in a seed funding round led by online payment solutions provider PayU?

- A) PayPal
- B) PayGlobal
- C) Fonepay
- D) BriskPe

49. The Indian economy could grow faster than _____ percent in this financial year, the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) said in its monthly economic review.

- A) 6.1%
- B) 6.8%
- C) 7%
- D) 7.5%

50. _____ inked an MoU with Nagar Nigam Haridwar to launch a Waste to Green Energy Plant.

- A) THDCIL – UJVNL Energy Company Limited
- B) Remine India private limited
- C) Khanij Bidesh India Limited
- D) Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited

51. _____ has obtained a non-banking finance company (NBFC) license from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

- A) Decfin
- B) Fi
- C) Revolut
- D) Worldline ePayments India

52. Groww Pay, the UPI platform of brokerage firm Groww, has secured _____ licence from the Reserve Bank of India recently.

- A) Non-Banking Financial Company
- B) Online Payments Aggregator
- C) Prepaid Payment Instruments

D) Small Finance Bank

53. Which company has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Ocean Sun, a Norwegian company, to explore the potential of floating solar energy technology in India?

- A) Solar Energy Corporation of India Limited
- B) REC limited
- C) NHPC Limited
- D) Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited

54. Who among the following won the 9th Oxford Bookstore Book Cover Prize 2024 for 'The Book Beautiful'?

- A) Salman Rushdie
- B) Pankaj Kumar Chatterjee
- C) Bhavi Mehta
- D) Angela Rodel

55. Who among the following was chosen to serve as the Solomon Islands' new prime minister?

- A) Anh Xuan
- B) Peter Pellegrini
- C) Jeremiah Manele
- D) Bjarni Benediktsson

56. Ministry of Mines has signed an MoU with _____ to provide knowledge support in the field of critical minerals.

- A) CSIR-NGRI
- B) India Energy Storage Alliance
- C) Khanij Bidesh India Limited
- D) Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation

57. _____ has celebrated its silver jubilee on May 1, 2024, and released a Special Postal Cover.

- A) All India Railwaymen's Federation
- B) Army Dental Centre Research and Referral
- C) Department of Posts, Bihar
- D) Supreme Court

58. The Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Auditor General of _____ to enhance collaboration in auditing.

- A) Cuba
- B) Kenya
- C) Nepal

D) UK

59. India has the lowest health insurance coverage among older people, standing at only 21% as per a report by _____.

- A) Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority
- B) Niti Aayog
- C) Reserve Bank of India
- D) Asian Development Bank

60. _____ has raised its growth forecast for India by 40 basis points to 6.6 per cent for 2024-25.

- A) International Monetary Fund
- B) OECD
- C) Reserve Bank Of India
- D) Securities and Exchange Board of India

61. India's first indigenous bomber unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) was launched by which of the following company?

- A) Marut Dronetech Private Limited
- B) IG Drones
- C) Flying Wedge Defence and Aerospace Technologies
- D) Adani Defence and Aerospace

62. Which of the following logistics platform has partnered with India Post to enhance last-mile delivery of e-commerce products across the country?

- A) Fship Logistics
- B) Pai Platforms
- C) RedBus
- D) Uber India

63. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the re-appointment of _____ as Part Time Chairman of HDFC Bank for three years.

- A) S Ravindran
- B) Atanu Chakraborty
- C) Ashwani Kumar
- D) Anil Kumar Lahoti

64. Sanjeev Nautiyal was appointed as Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of which of the following bank?

- A) AU Small Finance Bank
- B) Jana Small Finance Bank
- C) SBM Bank
- D) Ujjivan Small Finance Bank

65. Who was appointed as Chairperson of the Special Olympics Asia Pacific Advisory Council (APAC), for three years?

- A) Shiny Wilson
- B) Narsingh Yadav
- C) Mary Kom
- D) Mallika Nadda

66. Which of the following company has launched Secure IoT, India's first SoC for IoT devices?

- A) Bihar Startup Fund Trust
- B) Mindgrove
- C) OrienSpace
- D) StartupTN

67. Which of the following company has received RBI nod to set up wholly-owned subsidiary in IFSC, GIFT City, Gujarat?

- A) Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited
- B) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited
- C) Power Finance Corporation
- D) REC Limited

68. Who among the following won Panama's presidential elections?

- A) Alexander Stubb
- B) José Raúl Mulino
- C) Laurentino Cortizo Cohen
- D) Prabowo Subianto

69. Who among the following was appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Paytm Money?

- A) Ashish Vijayakar
- B) Matam Venkata Rao
- C) Naveen Tahilyani
- D) Rakesh Singh

70. The Indian Air Force (IAF) has taken the delivery of its second C295 transport aircraft in Spain manufactured by _____.

- A) Airbus Defence and Space
- B) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited
- C) Armoured Vehicles Nigam Limited
- D) Adani Defence and Aerospace

71. The world wrestling governing body United World Wrestling (UWW) has provisionally suspended _____ recently.

- A) Vijay Dahiya
- B) Jitendra Kumar
- C) Deepak Kumar
- D) Bajrang Punia

72. India and Ghana have agreed to work expeditiously towards the operationalization of _____ within a period of 6 months.

- A) Digital Transformation
- B) Double Taxation Agreement
- C) Free Trade Agreement
- D) Unified Payment Interface

73. What is the growth forecast of India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for FY25 as per India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra)?

- A) 6.6%
- B) 7.1%
- C) 7.5 %
- D) 8.5%

74. The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has successfully completed the first ignition test on the Semi Cryogenic Pre-Burner Ignition in which of the following city?

- A) Chitradurga, Karnataka
- B) Mahendragiri, Tamil Nadu
- C) Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh
- D) Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala

75. The Indian Air Force (IAF) and the Army are planning to jointly deploy _____ US-made Predator drones at air bases in Uttar Pradesh's Gorakhpur and Sarsawa.

- A) Agribot Drone
- B) IG Drones
- C) MQ-9B
- D) X8 drones

76. The theme of the International Labour Day 2024 was _____.

- A) All labor that uplifts humanity has dignity and importance
- B) Ensure workplace safety and health amidst climate change
- C) Resilient Recovery
- D) Universal Social Protection to End Child Labor

77. India and Croatia held the 11th session of Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) in which of the following city?

- A) Zagreb
- B) New Delhi
- C) Hyderabad
- D) Chennai

78. Which of the following country won Men's AFC U-23 Asian Cup 2024?

- A) Kazakhstan
- B) Japan
- C) Indonesia
- D) China

79. Constitution Park, jointly developed by Indian Army and Punit Balan Group, was inaugurated in which of the following city?

- A) Varanasi
- B) Pune
- C) Jaipur
- D) Ahmedabad

80. Which of the following company has launched India's first Nifty non-cyclical index fund?

- A) Axis Mutual Fund
- B) Groww Mutual Fund
- C) Invesco Mutual Fund
- D) UTI Mutual Fund

81. When did the Border Road Organization (BRO) celebrated its 65th raising day?

- A) 07 May
- B) 08 May
- C) 09 May
- D) 10 May

82. Orangutan named Rakus in Indonesia used a medicinal plant to treat a wound, a unique behavior observed by scientists recently. What is the IUCN status of Orangutan?

- A) Critically endangered
- B) Endangered
- C) Least concern
- D) Vulnerable

83. Pakistan's mini satellite 'iCube-Qamar' was launched as part of Chang'e-6 lunar mission of which of the following country?

- A) China
- B) India
- C) Iran
- D) Russia

84. An artificial intelligence (AI) generated spokesperson 'Victoria Shi' was launched by which of the following country?

- A) Ukraine
- B) Russia
- C) Iraq
- D) Iran

85. The Kerala government issued an alert against the mosquito-borne West Nile _____ on May 7, after the State reported one death and around eight cases of the infection.

- A) Virus
- B) Protozoa
- C) Fungus
- D) Bacteria

86. Which of the following company has received the ISO 42001:2023 certification for implementing an Artificial Intelligence Management System (AIMS) framework?

- A) Tata Consultancy Services
- B) Infosys
- C) HCL Technologies
- D) Cognizant

87. According to the World's Wealthiest Cities Report 2024 by Henley & Partners, which of the following city topped the list?

- A) Delhi, India
- B) Mumbai, India
- C) New York City, USA
- D) The Bay Area, USA

88. In 2022, India received a record-breaking _____ billion in remittances.

- A) \$ 61.10 billion
- B) \$ 51 billion
- C) \$ 30.4 billion

D) \$ 111 billion

89. Which among the following is India's first Large Language Model (LLM) specifically designed for the banking, financial services, and insurance (BFSI) sector?

- A) Gemini
- B) iMPEL-AI
- C) IndiaAI
- D) Sesame

90. The nonprofit news organization ProPublica received the _____ award for Public Service journalism recently.

- A) Abel Prize
- B) Erasmus Prize
- C) National Creators Award
- D) Pulitzer Prize

91. Which of the following company has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) for providing indigenous marine-grade steel to the shipbuilding industry.

- A) Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited
- B) JSW Steel
- C) Jindal Steel & Power Limited
- D) Jindal Stainless Limited

92. In 2023, India overtook Japan to become the world's third-highest producer of _____ power, said a report by international energy analytics agency Ember.

- A) Wind
- B) Solar
- C) Hydro
- D) Coal

93. In Hengill, Iceland which of the following company launched 'Mammoth' the world's largest direct air capture (DAC) plant recently?

- A) Climeworks
- B) Flywire
- C) JERA Co. Inc
- D) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited

94. The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has published guidelines for acquiring banks to validate merchant details for _____.

- A) Aadhaar Enabled Payment System
- B) Bharat Bill Payment System

- C) BHIM Aadhaar Pay
D) Unified Payments Interface

95. Google recently introduced _____ in India for securely storing private information like store cards, tickets, passes, and IDs.

- A) CSpace
B) Gemini
C) Google Wallet
D) Lumiere

96. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has lifted the restrictions on the mobile app of which of the following bank recently?

- A) Bank of Baroda
B) Canara Bank
C) Jammu & Kashmir Bank
D) Karnataka Bank

97. India has signed a 10-year contract to run the Chabahar port recently. Chabahar Port is located in which of the following country?

- A) UAE
B) Qatar
C) Pakistan
D) Iran

98. Russian President Vladimir Putin has reappointed who among the following as the country's prime minister?

- A) Mikhail Mishustin
B) Luis Filipe Montenegro
C) Ilham Aliyev
D) Gabriel Attal

99. Who among the following was appointed as chairperson of the National Accreditation Board for Hospitals and Healthcare Providers (NABH)?

- A) Shashi Kumar Singh
B) Pramod Kumar Tiwari
C) Rizwan Koita
D) Jagjit Pavadia

100. Which off the following defence manufacturing company has unveiled country's first Loitering Aerial Munitions (LAM) for the Armed Forces?

- A) Bellatrix Aerospace Pvt Ltd.
B) Kadet Defence Systems

- C) Munitions India Limited
D) Skyroot Aerospace Private Limited

101. Bank of India has signed an MOU with the _____ offering a Defence service Salary Package BOI Rakshak Salary/ Pension Savings Scheme.

- A) Indian Navy
B) Indian Army
C) Indian Coast Guard
D) Border Security Force

102. Which of the following bank in collaboration with Atal Innovation Mission, has allocated Rs 19.6 crore in grants to support 170 social startups in FY24?

- A) Yes Bank
B) Karnataka Bank
C) HDFC Bank
D) Bank of India

103. Who among the following was elected as the new chairman of IFFCO?

- A) Anil Kumar Lahoti
B) Balvir Singh
C) Dileep Sanghani
D) Jay Shah

104. Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Chairman S. Somanath has unveiled the carbon reduction initiative of which of the following company?

- A) AgniKul Cosmos
B) SFO Technologies
C) NewSpace India Limited
D) Tata Advanced Systems Limited

105. DRDO developed which of the following fuel for advanced air-breathing engine?

- A) E100 Fuel
B) High-velocity oxygen fuel
C) Liquid Ramjet fuel
D) Polymer Electrolyte Membrane Fuel

106. Which of the following joint military exercise between India and France being held at Umroi, Meghalaya?

- A) Poorvi Lehar
B) Sahyog Kaijin
C) SHAKTI
D) Tiger Triumph

107. The 19th Session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) held in New York was chaired by _____.

- A) Zéphyrin Maniratanga
- B) Vinícius Junior
- C) Mio Oka
- D) Judith Suminwa Tuluka

108. Which of the following Indian literary works were added to UNESCO's Memory of the World Asia-Pacific Regional Register?

- A) Ramcharitmanas
- B) Sahṛdayāloka-Locana
- C) Panchatantra
- D) All the Above

109. Which of the following bank has become the first bank to become a Trading cum Clearing (TCM) Member at India International Bullion Exchange (IIBX)?

- A) AxisBank
- B) Federal Bank
- C) HDFC Bank
- D) State Bank of India

110. Which of the following company has secured a deal to supply renewable ammonia to Norway's Yara Clean Ammonia, the world's largest trader and distributor of ammonia, for an undisclosed sum?

- A) Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited
- B) Greenko ZeroC
- C) Larsen & Toubro
- D) NTPC Green Energy Limited

111. On May 14, 2024 which of the following ship manufacturing company has celebrated its 250th Foundation Day?

- A) Cochin Shipyard Limited
- B) Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Limited
- C) Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited
- D) Naval Dockyard

112. Along with India which of the following country has organised the 7th edition of the counter-terrorism exercise 'Tarkash' held at multiple locations in Kolkata?

- A) Egypt
- B) Guyana
- C) Russia

D) USA

113. Which of the following Indian University has ranked 81 in the Times Higher Education (THE) Young University Rankings 2024?

- A) Anna University, Chennai, Tamil Nadu
- B) IIM Ahmedabad, Gujarat
- C) Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi
- D) Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam, Kerala

114. Which of the following bank has launched a new digital credit card called Pixel Play Credit Card?

- A) Axis Bank
- B) HDFC Bank
- C) Indian Overseas Bank
- D) NSDL Payments Bank Limited

115. Which of the following insurance company has introduced the country's first 'Satellite In-Orbit Third-Party Liability Insurance'?

- A) Future Generali India Life Insurance Company Limited
- B) Star Health and Allied Insurance Company Ltd.
- C) State Bank of India Life Insurance Company Limited
- D) TATA AIG General Insurance Company Limited

116. The Government of India has provided budget support of USD 50 million, for an additional year to _____.

- A) Sri Lanka
- B) Myanmar
- C) Maldives
- D) Kenya

117. SBI General Insurance Company Limited introduced the first industry-wide policyholder servicing platform named _____.

- A) Bima Central
- B) CDP-SURAKSHA
- C) Pratham
- D) SWAYAM Plus

118. Which of the following country lead the Forbes 30 Under 30 Asia list (2024) with 86 entries?

- A) Singapore
- B) Indonesia
- C) India
- D) China

119. Who among the following took over as Prime Minister of Singapore?

- A) Alexander Stubb
- B) Bassirou Faye
- C) Lawrence Wong
- D) Succes Masra

120. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has appointed _____ as Executive Director (ED) with effect from May 10, 2024.

- A) T. Rabi Sankar
- B) Rakesh Mohan
- C) R Lakshmi Kanth Rao
- D) Harun Rashid Khan

121. Idashisha Nongrang recently took office as the first woman Director General of Police (DGP) of which of the following state?

- A) Assam
- B) Meghalaya
- C) Nagaland
- D) Sikkim

122. Which of the following country clinched 30th Sultan Azlan Shah Trophy recently?

- A) China
- B) India
- C) Japan
- D) Malaysia

123. Who among the following script history as the first Indian to won medal in the Asian Trampoline Gymnastics Championships?

- A) Srishti Khandagale
- B) Rucha Divekar
- C) Kalpana Debnath
- D) Dipa Karmakar

124. Surjit Patra, who recently died, was a poet of what language?

- A) Telugu
- B) Tamil
- C) Punjabi
- D) Marathi

125. United Nations General Assembly has unanimously proclaimed _____ as the World Football Day.

- A) 26 May
- B) 25 May
- C) 24 May
- D) 23 May

126. _____ won the Global Excellence Award 2024 for being the “Most Trusted Admission Consultant in Vidarbha Region”.

- A) Chandrakant Satija
- B) Rajaram Jain
- C) Surendra Kishore
- D) Yashwant Singh

127. _____ have signed an agreement to jointly develop interceptors capable of shooting down hypersonic missiles.

- A) China and Russia
- B) India and Japan
- C) Russia and India
- D) US and Japan

128. In which of the following country the world's highest competition pool has been opened?

- A) Bangladesh
- B) Bhutan
- C) Myanmar
- D) Nepal

129. When the World Telecommunication and Information Society Day was observed?

- A) 15 May
- B) 16 May
- C) 17 May
- D) 18 May

130. The third session of the India-Zimbabwe Joint Trade Committee (JTC) was held in which of the following city?

- A) Bengaluru
- B) Chennai
- C) Hyderabad
- D) New Delhi

131. Which of the following payment company has collaborated with LankaPay to promote UPI payment acceptance in Sri Lanka?

- A) Amazon Pay
- B) NPCI Bharat BillPay Ltd



- C) PhonePe
- D) Razorpay

132. The World Economic Situation and Prospects report as of mid-2024 said, "India's economy is forecast to expand by _____ percent in 2024".

- A) 6.1%
- B) 6.5%
- C) 6.8%
- D) 6.9%

133. The annual inflation rate based on all India Consumer Price Index (CPI) number is _____ for the month of April, 2024 as per a government data.

- A) 4.11%
- B) 4.70%
- C) 4.83%
- D) 5.43%

134. _____ has topped Forbes' list of highest-paid athletes for the fourth time in his career.

- A) Cristiano Ronaldo
- B) Lionel Messi
- C) Novak Djokovic
- D) Virat Kohli

135. Sela Tunnel was officially recognised as highest tunnel in India by International Book of Honour. The Sela Tunnel is located in which of the following state/UT?

- A) Arunachal Pradesh
- B) Assam
- C) Gujarat
- D) Jammu and Kashmir

136. The ONDC Startup Mahotsav which was recently held in New Delhi was organised by which of the following ministry?

- A) Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade
- B) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
- C) Ministry of Communications
- D) Ministry of Commerce and Industry

137. An open-ended equity scheme following automotive and allied business activities theme was launched by which of the following mutual fund company?

- A) Groww Mutual Fund
- B) LIC Mutual Fund
- C) SBI Mutual Fund
- D) Tata Mutual Fund

138. Yes Bank launched which of the following banking program for elite customers?

- A) BizFirst
- B) LEO 1 Card
- C) NOMO Card
- D) YES Grandeur

139. The Pakistan Army successfully conducted the test-launch of _____ guided rocket system that has a range of 400 kilometres.

- A) Astra
- B) BHISHM
- C) Crystal Maze-2
- D) Fatah-II

140. Scientists have discovered a new huge cotton candy-like density, super fluffy, and lightweight planet named _____.

- A) WASP-193b
- B) HE 1005-1439
- C) Kepler-51d
- D) KOI-456

141. The Indian arm of German sportswear giant Puma has agreed a multi-year deal with the _____ to become its official kit partner.

- A) Sports Authority of India
- B) Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports
- C) Indian Olympic Association
- D) Athletics Federation of India

142. When the World AIDS Vaccine Day was observed?

- A) 17 May
- B) 18 May
- C) 19 May
- D) 20 May

143. The Disaster Reporting and Information Management System (DRIMS), a digital platform for online reporting of damages incurred during various disasters, was launched in _____.

- A) Arunachal Pradesh
- B) Assam

- C) Ladakh
D) West Bengal

144. Ebrahim Raisi, the President of which of the following country has passed away in helicopter crash recently?

- A) Egypt
B) Iran
C) Iraq
D) Vietnam

145. In which of the following sports Nikhat Zareen clinched gold medal at Elorda Cup 2024?

- A) Badminton
B) Boxing
C) Chess
D) Wrestling

146. _____ has emerged as a top performer among public sector banks in term of business growth in FY24.

- A) Bank of Maharashtra
B) Canara Bank
C) Indian Bank
D) State Bank of India

147. Which of the following company has secured an order from Northern Coal Fields Limited (NCL) for the supply of 28 units of BH100 Rear Dump Trucks?

- A) Ashok Leyland Limited
B) BEML Limited
C) BMW Group
D) JSW MG Motor India Pvt Ltd

148. Who among the following was sworn in as president of Taiwan?

- A) Bernardo Arévalo
B) Felix Tshisekedi
C) Tamas Sulyok
D) Lai Ching-te

149. Who among the following was appointed as Interim President of Iran?

- A) Brian Mulroney
B) Mohammad Mokhber
C) Hage Geingob
D) Sebastian Pinera

150. The Indo-Russian Rifles Private Limited (IRRPL) has delivered close to 27000 _____ to the Indian Army recently.

- A) AK-203 Assault Rifles
B) Bogie Open Military wagons
C) BrahMos
D) Unmanned Aircraft Systems

ANSWERS

1. Correct Answer: B

Nearly eight decades after India's independence, the "Tirangi Barfi" of Kashi, a sweet treat regarded as the "sweet weapon" of freedom fighters during the Quit India Movement, has finally received the prestigious Geographical Indication (GI) tag. With this new addition, Uttar Pradesh retains its position as the state with the most GI-tagged products in India, reaching a total of 75.

2. Correct Answer: D

Defence PSU Bharat Electronics Ltd. (BEL) signed an MoU with the Indian Institute of Technology, Mandi, for co-operation in research and technology, product development, in the areas of semiconductors, quantum technologies, and drones. BEL said that the MoU aims at

leveraging the complementary strengths and capabilities of BEL and IIT-Mandi.

3. Correct Answer: C

The fifth edition of the 'Dustlik' joint military exercise between India and Uzbekistan was held in Uzbekistan's Termez district from 15 to 28 April 2024. The fourth edition of the joint military exercise between the two countries was held on February 20 last year at the Foreign Training Node, Pithoragarh in Uttarakhand.

4. Correct Answer: C

The Indian Air Force (IAF) has successfully carried out a test firing of a new version of an air-launched medium-range ballistic missile that is capable of hitting targets at

a distance exceeding 250 km. The missile, also referred to as ROCKS or Crystal Maze 2, originated from Israel and underwent a test launch from a Su-30 MKI fighter jet in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

5. Correct Answer: C

The Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur has forged a strategic partnership with Bengaluru-based Blockchain For Impact (BFI) under the BFI-Biome Virtual Network Program to nurture innovations and drive advancements in healthcare in the country.

6. Correct Answer: C

NPCI Bharat BillPay Limited (NBBL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) announced its partnership with State Bank of India (SBI) by onboarding SBI NCMC cards on its Bharat BillPay platform. The collaboration aims to boost convenience for travellers. Enabling SBI National Common Mobility Card on Bharat BillPay tries to provide a seamless experience for consumers.

7. Correct Answer: C

NASA has recently welcomed Sweden as the 38th country to sign the Artemis Accords. The Artemis Accords were initially announced by NASA and the US Department of State in 2020 and it now has 38 signatories, including India and Japan.

8. Correct Answer: A

Airtel Payments Bank has launched new debit and prepaid cards that are designed to be more convenient and environmentally friendly for their customers in India. The Bank has partnered with National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to launch these interoperable cards that are powered by RuPay.

9. Correct Answer: B

Nasdaq-listed ReNew Energy Global Plc. has signed an initial agreement with JERA Co. Inc., Japan's largest power-generation company, to jointly evaluate the development of a green ammonia production plant in Paradip, Odisha. Under the agreement, ReNew

subsidiary ReNew E-Fuels Pvt Ltd and JERA will collaborate on the project.

10. Correct Answer: C

Ananth Technologies Founder, CEO and Chairman Pavuluri Subba Rao has been conferred with the 'Aryabhatta Award' instituted by the Aeronautical Society of India (ASI). He was also presented with ASI's 'Distinguished Fellow' title.

11. Correct Answer: B

Vice Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi became India's new naval chief when he took over from Admiral R Hari Kumar on April 30. Tripathi was the Western Naval Command chief before he was appointed as the navy's vice chief in January 2024. He had earlier served as the navy's chief of personnel.

12. Correct Answer: D

Marking a key military export milestone, India delivered the first batch of BrahMos missiles to the Philippines recently. The missiles were delivered to Manila by an Indian Air Force C 17 Globemaster III aircraft and are the first of several missiles that will be dispatched under a \$375 million contract inked in 2022.

13. Correct Answer: B

Indian Navy conducted Exercise Poorvi Lehar on East Coast under the Operational Control of The Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Naval Command. The exercise aimed at validation of procedures towards assessment of Indian Navy's preparedness to meet Maritime Security challenges in the region.

14. Correct Answer: C

State-owned power giant NTPC arm NTPC Green Energy Ltd (NGEL) said it has signed an initial pact with Indus Towers Ltd to address the need for pacing green energy objectives and the Govt of India's efforts towards carbon neutral economy.

15. Correct Answer: A

CSIR-IICT (Indian Institute of Chemical Technology) and BHEL corporate R&D have joined hands to develop a

technology for capturing and converting carbon dioxide (CO₂) into dimethyl ether (DME) through direct catalytic conversion. This clean fuel can be blended with Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG).

16. Correct Answer: C

Armed Forces Medical Services (AFMS) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for collaborative research and training with Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi. The MoU was signed by Director General Armed Forces Medical Services Lt Gen Daljit Singh and Director IIT Delhi Prof. Rangan Banerjee.

17. Correct Answer: B

Revolut India said it has received an in-principle authorization from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to issue Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPI) including prepaid cards and prepaid wallets in the country. This enables it to operate as a domestic player in the market, the global fintech firm said in a statement.

18. Correct Answer: D

Aimed at empowering marginalised communities, the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) and the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) will provide vocational training to tribal and underprivileged youth across multiple states. The first project aims to replicate the success of the Govardhan Eco Village (GEV) in Palghar, Maharashtra, by setting up similar self-sufficient and sustainable establishments in regions.

19. Correct Answer: D

After years trapped in the development doldrums, NASA recently announced that the Dragonfly mission to send a flying rotorcraft to Titan has been approved. Titan is the second-largest moon in the entire solar system, second only to Jupiter's moon Ganymede.

20. Correct Answer: C

Two-time major champion Garbiñe Muguruza from Spain announced she's retiring from professional tennis at age 30 after an extended time away from the court. Muguruza beat Serena Williams in the 2016 French Open

final and Venus Williams in the 2017 Wimbledon final, making her the only player to defeat each Williams sister in a Grand Slam title match.

21. Correct Answer: B

The Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) of India has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Civil Service of Cambodia to promote human resource development in the civil service sector.

22. Correct Answer: B

National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) on the occasion of Earth Day unveiled its Climate Strategy 2030 document which aims to address India's need for green financing. NABARD said since India requires approximately \$170 billion annually to reach a cumulative total of over \$2.5 trillion by 2030, the current green finance inflows are critically insufficient.

23. Correct Answer: A

AU Small Finance Bank (AU SFB) launched on April 23 an array of financial products to enhance customer experience. AU SFB also launched ATM Insurance, for the convenience of customers to buy insurance through AU SFB's ATMs with their debit card.

24. Correct Answer: C

IndusInd Bank said it has executed transactions to pay farmers for carbon credits with a programmable version of the Reserve Bank of India's digital currency, or e-rupee. The RBI piloted its central bank digital currency (CBDC), which uses distributed-ledger technology, in 2022 and allows banks to offer these tokens.

25. Correct Answer: B

Digital payments platform Razorpay has launched its own Unified Payments Interface (UPI) infrastructure, or UPI switch, in partnership with Airtel Payments Bank. The infrastructure is designed to handle up to 10,000 transactions per second, at any given time, and enable five times faster access to UPI innovations for businesses.

26. Correct Answer: D

SJVN Limited, a key player in India's energy sector, inaugurated the country's first multi-purpose Green Hydrogen Pilot Project at the 1,500 MW Nathpa Jhakri Hydro Power Station (NJHPS) in Himachal Pradesh. The project, inaugurated by SJVN's Chairperson and Managing Director Geeta Kapur, on April 24, 2024, is set to produce green hydrogen for both electricity generation and industrial applications.

27. Correct Answer: D

Private lender Axis Bank's board has approved the re-appointment of Amitabh Chaudhry as the Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer of the company for another three years. Chaudhry's reappointment is subject to the approval of the Reserve Bank of India, the bank said.

28. Correct Answer: B

UN Secretary-General António Guterres has appointed Gita Sabharwal of India as the United Nations resident coordinator in Indonesia. Previously, Sabharwal served as the UN resident coordinator in Thailand and as peacebuilding and development adviser for the United Nations in Sri Lanka.

29. Correct Answer: C

Under the new management of the state-owned National Asset Reconstruction Company Limited (NARCL), Srei Infrastructure Finance Limited (SIFL) has announced the appointment of Hardayal Prasad as its new Managing Director and CEO. Prasad, with 36 years of experience, is a former Managing Director & CEO of SBI Cards & Payment Services Ltd and PNB Housing Finance Ltd.

30. Correct Answer: C

The government has extended the term of RBI Deputy Governor T Rabi Sankar for a period of one year, according to sources. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the re-appointment of T Rabi Sankar, Deputy Governor Reserve Bank of India, for a period of one year with effect from May 3, 2024, they said.

31. Correct Answer: C

The Alliance of Digital India Foundation (ADIF) and IIT Guwahati Technology Incubation Centre (IIT Guwahati TIC) said they had signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to promote entrepreneurship and provide support to technology startups.

32. Correct Answer: B

Despite global economic uncertainties, India's services exports surged by 11.4% to \$345 billion in 2023, outpacing China, whose shipments from the sector shrank by 10.1% to \$381 billion, as per a UNCTAD report. Key sectors driving India's growth include travel, transport, medical, and hospitality services.

33. Correct Answer: B

The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) said it has partnered with Reserve Bank's arm Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH) to put in place a system which will enable faster processing of agricultural loans.

34. Correct Answer: D

SBI Card has launched its first travel-focused core credit card, 'SBI Card MILES' in three variants recently. The three variants, SBI Card MILES ELITE, SBI Card MILES PRIME, and SBI Card MILES, have been designed to elevate curated travel benefits.

35. Correct Answer: C

Hitachi Payment Services has launched India's first upgradable ATMs. In September 2023, the company also introduced UPI ATMs on the Android platform for card-less cash withdrawals. In the near future, they are looking to launch Android cash recycling machines that will provide a host of banking services.

36. Correct Answer: B

Indian Navy's indigenous, INS Sahyadri participated in Maritime Partnership Exercise with Royal Navy's RFA Argus and RFA Lyme Bay, part of the UK Littoral Response Group South at Sea, in April 2024. The exercise provided an opportunity for both navies to exchange best practices.

37. Correct Answer: C

HDFC Life, one of India's leading insurers, and Peerless Financial Products Distribution Ltd. (PFDDL) have entered into a corporate agency tie-up. This partnership would enable PFDDL to distribute life insurance products of HDFC Life to its customers.

38. Correct Answer: B

Ericsson and the Foundation for Innovation & Research in Science & Technology (F.I.R.S.T) at Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur have announced a two-year strategic partnership to drive innovation in Mobile Financial Services (MFS) and Fintech solutions.

39. Correct Answer: D

Yuvraj Singh, famed for his six sixes in 2007, is named ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 Ambassador. He joins Chris Gayle and Usain Bolt as ambassadors. Yuvraj will promote the event in the USA, including the India-Pakistan match in New York.

40. Correct Answer: C

The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has sanctioned a study on the impact evaluation of Geographical Indication (GI) products to Symbiosis School of Economics. As of today, 144 products supported by NABARD, are GI tagged.

41. Correct Answer: D

The Ministry of Finance has assigned the Authorised Economic Operator (AEO) status to the gem and jewellery sector. The AEO programme was introduced as a pilot project for export oriented industries to promote ease of doing business.

42. Correct Answer: A

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has directed Gurugram-based company TalkCharge to refund the prepaid funds held in the wallets of its customers. This directive comes as TalkCharge has been issuing Prepaid Payment Instruments (Wallets) without proper authorisation from the central bank.

43. Correct Answer: B

REC Ltd said it has secured a green loan for JPY 60.536 billion (about Rs 3,200 crore) to finance eligible clean energy projects. The green facility benefits from an 80% guarantee by Italian export credit agency, SACE (Italy). In January, the company had issued its first yen-denominated 61.1 billion green bonds under its \$10-billion global medium term notes programme.

44. Correct Answer: B

Fintech company Cred has launched a UPI-based 'Scan and Pay' service that enables members to use any QR code for payments directly from their bank accounts. The launch marks Cred's foray into the offline payments space dominated by PhonePe, Google Pay, and Paytm.

45. Correct Answer: C

HCLSoftware, the software business unit of HCLTech has announced that it has been selected by the country's largest lender, State Bank of India (SBI) for their MarTech solution as part of SBI's digital transformation program.

46. Correct Answer: B

The United Nation's First International Conference on Digital Public Infrastructure was held under India's leadership to harness the technology to propel Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and foster inclusivity, India's Permanent Representative to UN, Ruchira Kamboj said in a press statement.

47. Correct Answer: D

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced an 8 per cent interest rate on the Floating Rate Savings Bond (FRSB) 2034. This is a variable rate bond, and the interest rate will be reset every six months. This 8% rate is calculated by taking an average of the interest rates from the previous three auctions of short-term government debt, plus a small additional fixed amount (0.98%).

48. Correct Answer: D

Digital payments major PayU has invested \$5 million in Mumbai-based cross border payments platform BriskPe, the company said in a press note. The investment is part of PayU's efforts to build a full stack payments platform across both domestic and international payments.

49. Correct Answer: C

The Indian economy could grow more than 7 per cent during the current fiscal amid a benign global outlook and expected above-normal monsoon, economic think tank NCAER has said. In its April 2024 issue of Monthly Economic Review (MER), NCAER said a range of high-frequency indicators reveal the resilience of the domestic economy with the PMI for manufacturing at a 16-year high and UPI, the leading digital payments system, touching the highest volume since its inception in 2016.

50. Correct Answer: A

THDCIL - UJVNL Energy Company Limited (TUECO), a Joint Venture of THDC and UJVNL Ltd, has inked an MoU with Nagar Nigam Haridwar to establish a Waste to Green Energy Plant worth of Rs 140 crores. This initiative aims to convert 400 tonnes per day of municipal solid waste into 140 tonnes of green charcoal.

51. Correct Answer: B

Neobanking startup Fi, backed by investors such as Peak XV and Temasek, has secured a non-banking finance company (NBFC) licence from the Reserve Bank of India. In recent years, fintech startups have pursued NBFC licences to streamline their entry into lending, given the RBI's stringent regulations on online credit disbursal.

52. Correct Answer: B

Groww Pay, the UPI payments platform of broking firm Groww, has received in-principle authorisation from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to operate as a Payments Aggregator (PA). According to the latest RBI data, the online payment aggregator licence was granted on April 29.

53. Correct Answer: C

NHPC Limited, the largest organization for hydropower development in India, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with M/s Ocean Sun, a Norwegian company operating as a technology provider to the floating solar industry.

54. Correct Answer: C

Designer Bhavi Mehta was announced the winner of the ninth edition of Oxford Bookstore Book Cover Prize for creating the book jacket of Pradeep Sebastian's "The Book Beautiful". She was felicitated by art historian and the chair of the jury Alka Pande, Shashi Tharoor, Ambassador of Norway to India May-Elin Stener and CEO of Apeejay Oxford Bookstores Swagat Sengupta.

55. Correct Answer: C

Solomon Islands' lawmakers elected China-friendly former foreign minister Jeremiah Manele as prime minister. Manele won 31 votes in a secret ballot of 50 MPs, said Governor-General David Vunagi. His opponent, democratic reformer and longtime opposition leader Matthew Wale, got 18 votes.

56. Correct Answer: D

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Ministry of Mines and Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation, aimed at providing knowledge support in the field of critical minerals. Critical minerals are crucial for India's economic development, national security, and low-carbon energy transition.

57. Correct Answer: B

On May 1, 2024, the Army Dental Centre of Research & Referral (ADC R&R), Delhi, a specialist dental care facility founded on May 1, 1999, celebrated its 25th anniversary (the Silver Jubilee). Lieutenant General MK Katiyar, General Officer Commanding in Chief (GoC-in-C), Western Command, unveiled the Army Postal Service's Special Postal Cover at the ceremony.

58. Correct Answer: C

Girish Chandra Murmu, the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG), has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Toyam Raya, Auditor General of Nepal. The agreement aims to enhance collaboration and exchange of expertise in the field of auditing between the two countries' Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs).

59. Correct Answer: D

While the South Korea and Thailand have achieved universal health coverage, others lag behind with India having the lowest health insurance coverage among older people at 21%, a report titled 'Aging Well In Asia' prepared by ADB said.

60. Correct Answer: B

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) has raised its growth forecast for India by 40 basis points to 6.6 per cent for 2024-25, holding that buoyant public investment and improved business confidence are expected to propel India's gross domestic product (GDP) growth.

61. Correct Answer: C

Flying Wedge Defence and Aerospace Technologies, an Indian defence and aerospace company has marked a milestone in Bengaluru by unveiling the FWD-200B, pegged to be the country's first indigenous bomber unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV). The FWD-200B is a medium-altitude, long-endurance (MALE) unmanned combat aerial vehicle designed and manufactured entirely in India.

62. Correct Answer: A

Fship, a tech-driven logistics platform, has partnered with the postal service India Post which is the backbone of the country's communication network. This collaboration aims to benefit Direct-to-Consumer (D2C) startups, small and medium businesses (SMBs), and MSMEs across India by enhancing last-mile delivery services for e-commerce products.

63. Correct Answer: B

The Reserve Bank of India has approved the re-appointment of Atanu Chakraborty as part-time Chairman of HDFC Bank for three years with effect from May 5. He served the Government of India for 35 years as a member of Indian Administrative Service (IAS) in Gujarat cadre.

64. Correct Answer: D

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the appointment of Sanjeev Nautiyal as the managing

director and chief executive officer of Ujjivan Small Finance Bank for three years with effect from July 1. Nautiyal will take over from bank's managing director and chief executive officer Ittira Davis.

65. Correct Answer: D

Mallika Nadda, President of Special Olympics Bharat, has been appointed as Chairperson of the Special Olympics Asia Pacific Advisory Council (APAC), for three years. Mallika Nadda, wife of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) National President JP Nadda, has been serving as the Chairperson of Special Olympics Bharat since 2021.

66. Correct Answer: B

Peak XV Partners-backed fabless semiconductor startup Mindgrove Technologies said that it launched what it claimed is India's first commercial high-performance SoC (system on chip). Named Secure IoT, it is designed for Internet of Things (IoT) devices and will likely cost 30% less than other chips in similar segments.

67. Correct Answer: D

REC Limited, a Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprise under the Ministry of Power and a leading NBFC, has received a 'No Objection Certificate' from the Reserve Bank of India, for setting up a wholly owned subsidiary in International Financial Services Centre (IFSC), Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT), Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

68. Correct Answer: B

Panamanians has elected José Raúl Mulino, a former public security minister, as their next president. In a field of eight candidates, Mr. Mulino led the polls, vowing to return Panama to the economic growth it experienced under Ricardo Martinelli, who was president from 2009 to 2014.

69. Correct Answer: D

One97 Communications Limited, which runs Paytm, has announced the appointment of Rakesh Singh as the new CEO of Paytm Money, while Varun Sridhar, the existing CEO, has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer of Paytm Services Private Limited (PSPL).

70. Correct Answer: A

The Indian Air Force (IAF) has taken the delivery of its second C-295 aircraft from Airbus in Spain. Tata Advanced Systems Limited and Airbus are jointly executing the programme. The European plane maker will deliver 16 planes in flyaway condition, while the rest will be assembled in India at a Tata facility in Gujarat's Vadodara city.

71. Correct Answer: D

Wrestling's world governing body United World Wrestling (UWW) has suspended Bajrang Punia till the end of this year following National Anti Doping Agency's (NADA's) decision to hand him a provisional suspension for refusing to undergo a dope test.

72. Correct Answer: D

India and Ghana have agreed to work 'expeditiously' towards the operationalisation of India's instant payment system Unified Payment Interface (UPI) on Ghana Interbank Payment and Settlement Systems (GHIPSS) within six months, the government said.

73. Correct Answer: B

India Ratings and Research has revised upward the country's GDP growth estimate for FY25 to 7.1 per cent from 6.5 per cent earlier. The domestic rating agency said strong support from the sustained government capex, deleveraged balance sheets of corporate and banking sector, and the incipient private corporate capex cycle make it revise its estimate.

74. Correct Answer: B

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has successfully conducted the first ignition trial of a semi-cryogenic pre-burner at its ISRO Propulsion Complex (IPRC) in Mahendragiri, Tamil Nadu. This is the first time this technology has been employed in ISRO's semi-cryogenic engine development.

75. Correct Answer: C

The Indian Army and the Air Force are planning to jointly deploy MQ-9B Predator drones at air bases in Sarsawa and Gorakhpur in Uttar Pradesh, for upgrading their

surveillance capabilities all along the Line of Actual Control with China from Ladakh to Arunachal Pradesh.

76. Correct Answer: B

Every year, International Labour Day is celebrated on May 1 to spread awareness of the contribution that workers and the working class make to society. This year, the theme for International Labour Day is "Ensure workplace safety and health amidst climate change".

77. Correct Answer: B

India and Croatia held the 11th session of Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) on 30 April 2024 in New Delhi. The Indian side was led by Shri Pavan Kapoor, Secretary (West) in the Ministry of External Affairs and the Croatian side was led by Dr. Petar Mihatov, Director General for Political Affairs, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of Croatia.

78. Correct Answer: B

The Japanese men's U-23 football team made history by winning the AFC U-23 Asian Cup for the second time, crushing Uzbekistan in a thrilling final at the Jassim bin Hamad Stadium in Doha, Qatar. The sixth edition of the AFC U-23 Asian Cup took place in Qatar from April 15 to May 3, 2024, with 16 teams from throughout Asia competing for the coveted title.

79. Correct Answer: B

Constitution Park, jointly developed by Indian Army and Punit Balan Group, was inaugurated in Pune on 06 May. The park was inaugurated by General Officer-Commanding-in-Chief (GOC-in-C), Southern Command, Lt Gen Ajai Kumar Singh. Speaking after the inauguration, Singh said that in order to propel India towards development by 2047, every citizen must honor the duties outlined in the Constitution.

80. Correct Answer: B

Groww Mutual Fund launched India's first Nifty Non-Cyclical Consumer Index Fund. The fund is an open-ended scheme replicating/tracking the Non-Cyclical Consumer Index-TRI. The new fund offer or NFO of the

scheme is open for subscription and it will close on May 16.

81. Correct Answer: A

The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) has celebrated its 65th Raising Day on May 07, 2024. Raised with just two projects in 1960 - Project Tusker (now Vartak) in the East and Project Beacon in the North, the BRO has today become a vibrant organisation with 18 projects operating in 11 States and three Union Territories.

82. Correct Answer: A

A wild orangutan has astonished researchers by using a medicinal plant to treat his cheek wound. Orangutans are found only in Indonesia and Malaysia and are listed as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

83. Correct Answer: A

Pakistan, in collaboration with China, launched its first-ever lunar mission, iCube-Qamar, from the Chinese city of Hainan, with authorities saying the satellite will orbit the moon as part of Beijing's Chang'e-6 space mission. The satellite was launched on a Chinese Long March 5 Y8 rocket.

84. Correct Answer: A

Ukraine's Ministry of Foreign Affairs has introduced an AI-generated avatar as its digital spokesperson, marking a first in the world of diplomacy. The ministry introduced 'Victoria Shi' on social media with a small clip of herself introducing herself.

85. Correct Answer: A

Kerala is again on high alert as the state has been reporting cases of West Nile virus — a new vector-borne disease caused by mosquito bites. High fever, headache, neck stiffness, disorientation, stupor, coma, tremors, convulsions, muscle weakness, and paralysis are among the symptoms of West Nile fever.

86. Correct Answer: B

Infosys has announced that it has been certified with ISO 42001:2023, world's first international standard on AI

management systems, by TÜV India (part of TÜV Nord Group). Infosys is among the first IT services companies globally to have earned the certification for implementing an Artificial Intelligence Management System (AIMS) framework.

87. Correct Answer: C

New York leads the pack, boasting 349,500 millionaires and a wealth exceeding \$3 trillion. The Bay Area tech hub, Tokyo, Singapore, London, Los Angeles, Paris, Sydney, Hong Kong, and Beijing complete the top 10. These cities offer diverse opportunities and amenities, attracting affluent individuals and businesses.

88. Correct Answer: D

India received over \$111 billion in remittances in 2022, the largest in the world, becoming the first country to reach and even surpass the \$100 billion mark, the United Nations migration agency the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) said.

89. Correct Answer: D

Setu, a leading Indian fintech company and part of the Pine Labs Group, unveiled Sesame, India's first Large Language Model (LLM) specifically designed for the banking, financial services, and insurance (BFSI) sector. Developed in collaboration with indigenous AI research firm Sarvam AI, the company said this marks a "ChatGPT moment" in financial services.

90. Correct Answer: D

The nonprofit news organization ProPublica received the Pulitzer Prize for Public Service journalism for its investigation into politically connected billionaires lavishing luxurious gifts on US Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas and Samuel Alito. The series of reports called "Friends of the Court" prompted a national conversation and moved the nation's high court to adopt its first ethics code.

91. Correct Answer: C

The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) and Jindal Steel and Power (JSP) have inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in New Delhi, aimed at bolstering the supply of

indigenous marine-grade steel for shipbuilding projects. The MoU underscores the commitment of both entities to boost indigenization efforts and enhance the utilization of marine-grade steel in domestic shipbuilding initiatives.

92. Correct Answer: B

India surpassed Japan to claim the title of the world's third-largest solar power generator in 2023 as it has climbed from ninth ranking in 2015, according to a report from global energy think tank Ember. In 2023, solar energy achieved a milestone as it contributed 5.5 percent to global production and India alone generated 5.8 percent of its electricity from solar energy.

93. Correct Answer: A

Recently, the world's largest facility designed to remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere started operations in Iceland. Dubbed "Mammoth," this plant is Climeworks' second commercial direct air capture (DAC) facility in the nation and is significantly larger than its predecessor, Orca, which began in 2021.

94. Correct Answer: C

The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), in a circular, has issued guidelines that put the onus of verifying merchant details on acquiring banks for BHIM Aadhaar Pay. BHIM Aadhaar Pay enables merchants to receive digital payments from customers over the counter through Aadhaar Authentication, according to the NPCI website.

95. Correct Answer: C

Google Wallet is finally available in India. Google launched the digital wallet app Google Wallet in the US in 2022. As per Google Wallet website, Google Wallet is a 'secure and private digital wallet' that allows users quick access to movie and travel passes, tickets, keys or IDs that they share on the app.

96. Correct Answer: A

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to lift restrictions on Bank of Baroda's BoB World app with immediate effect, allowing it to onboard customers, the

bank said in the exchange filing. Earlier in October 2023, the RBI directed the Bank of Baroda to suspend any onboarding of customers onto its 'BoB World' mobile application, based on certain supervisory concerns.

97. Correct Answer: D

India has inked a 10-year agreement to manage the strategically located Iranian port of Chabahar, aimed at facilitating expanded trade with Central Asia. The Chabahar port, situated on the Gulf of Oman and initially proposed for development by New Delhi in 2003, will serve as a crucial gateway for Indian goods to access landlocked Afghanistan and Central Asia.

98. Correct Answer: A

Russian President Vladimir Putin has reappointed Mikhail Mishustin as prime minister. Mishustin has been credited with keeping the Russian economy stable amid the Covid-19 pandemic and following the war with Ukraine, which led to sanctions from Europe and the United States.

99. Correct Answer: C

Rizwan Koita, Director of Koita Foundation and co-founder of CitiusTech, has been appointed as the chairperson of the National Accreditation Board for Hospitals and Healthcare Providers (NABH). NABH is a constituent board of the Quality Council of India (QCI) that is responsible for setting benchmarks for quality, accrediting and certifying hospitals and other healthcare organisations.

100. Correct Answer: B

The Kadet Defence Systems, along with the Defence Research Development Organisation (DRDO) developed India's 1st indigenous Loitering Aerial Munitions for Armed Forces. Kadet has signed a contract to deliver over 50 systems by the end of the year to meet the future requirements of the operational needs of the Indian armed forces.

101. Correct Answer: C

Bank of India has signed a MOU with the Indian Coast Guard, offering a Defence service Salary Package with

best in class features under its “BOI Rakshak Salary/Pension Savings Scheme”. The signing ceremony was held on May 9, at the Coast Guard Headquarters, New Delhi, with the Indian Coast Guard represented by Narendra Singh, Deputy Inspector General & Principal Director (Administration) and Bank of India was represented by Sharda Bhushan Rai.

102. Correct Answer: C

HDFC Bank said it supported social sector startups in India with grants worth Rs 19.6 crore in FY24, in partnership with Atal Innovation Mission (under NITI Aayog). In FY 2023-24, 170 social start-ups received funding via 41 incubators, with a total of Rs 19.6 crore in the 'Parivartan Start-up Grants programme.'

103. Correct Answer: C

Former parliamentarian Dileep Sanghani, who served as a cabinet minister when Narendra Modi was chief minister of Gujarat, was re-elected as chairman of the Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative (IFFCO) for the second consecutive term.

104. Correct Answer: B

Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) Chairman and Secretary, Department of Space, Government of India, S Somanath unveiled the carbon reduction initiative of SFO Technologies, the flagship company of the NeST Group.

105. Correct Answer: C

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) announced that one of its labs has achieved success in developing liquid Ramjet fuel for an advanced air-breathing engine. This fuel has been tested successfully at Ramjet Test bed at Defence Research and Development Laboratory (DRDL) on May 8.

106. Correct Answer: C

The 7th edition of India- France Joint Military Exercise SHAKTI is being held at Umroi, in a fully developed and modern Foreign Training Node in Meghalaya. The Exercise is scheduled to be conducted from 13th to 26th May 2024.

107. Correct Answer: A

India participated in the 19th Session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF), held at the UN Headquarters in New York from May 6th to 10th May 2024. The forum was headed by Permanent Representative of Burundi to the United Nations Ambassador Zéphyrin Maniratanga.

108. Correct Answer: D

Three Indian literary works, Ramcharitmanas, Panchatantra, and Sahrdayaloka-Locana, were added to UNESCO's Memory of the World Asia-Pacific Regional Register during the tenth meeting of the Memory of the World Committee for Asia and the Pacific (MOWCAP), held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

109. Correct Answer: D

The State Bank of India (SBI) has announced that it has secured the distinction of being the first bank to become a trading-cum-clearing (TCM) Member of India International Bullion Exchange at the GIFT City in Gujarat. This milestone enables SBI IBU Gift City to conduct trades on the IIBX platform and settle them on behalf of its clients, per an official release.

110. Correct Answer: B

Hyderabad-based Greenko ZeroC has entered into an agreement with Norway's Yara Clean Ammonia to supply renewable ammonia. Greenko will supply green ammonia from Phase 1 of its ammonia production facility in Kakinada, India.

111. Correct Answer: C

Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd (MDL) on May 14 celebrated the completion of 250 years. To mark the day, a series of events were organised in Mumbai, presided over by Defence Secretary Shri Giridhar Aramane. The celebration also included the commissioning of a Solar Electric Hybrid boat and the release of MDLs Commemorative Coin.

112. Correct Answer: D

The seventh edition of the Indo-U.S. joint counter terrorism exercise “Tarkash”, between the elite National

Security Guard (NSG) and the U.S. Special Operations Forces (SOF) was held in Kolkata. The previous edition of the exercise was conducted at Chennai in January 2023.

113. Correct Answer: D

Several Indian universities have achieved positions in the annual Times Higher Education- Young University Rankings that were announced recently. As many as two Indian universities have ranked in the top 100 list. The Mahatma Gandhi University, Kerala ranked 81 while Anna University, Chennai is at 96th position.

114. Correct Answer: B

The country's largest private sector lender, HDFC Bank, on May 14, launched PIXEL, its first virtual credit card with Visa's network. The card is available in two variants: PIXEL Play and PIXEL Go and allows users to build their own cards with personalised benefits, offers, etc.

115. Correct Answer: D

TATA AIG has unveiled India's first satellite in-orbit third-party liability insurance policy, targeting the specific needs of satellite operators and manufacturers within the country's rapidly growing space industry. This policy offers coverage for third-party injuries and property damage resulting from satellite operations, complying with global standards and practices.

116. Correct Answer: C

India has decided to continue its budgetary support to the Maldives government with the rollover of a \$50 million treasury bill for another year. These treasury bills are subscribed by SBI under government-to-government, a unique arrangement at zero cost (interest-free) to the Government of Maldives.

117. Correct Answer: A

SBI General Insurance has recently collaborated with Bima Central, developed by CAMS Insurance Repository. Bima Central is industry's first policyholder servicing platform that allows customers to aggregate their insurance portfolio through an electronic Insurance Account (eIA).

118. Correct Answer: C

This year's Forbes 30 Under 30 Asia list represents a diverse group from 21 countries and territories across the Asia-Pacific region, with India leading with 86 entries, followed by China and Japan with 32 each, Singapore with 27, Australia with 26, and Indonesia with 18.

119. Correct Answer: C

Economist Lawrence Wong was on 15 May sworn in as Singapore's fourth prime minister in a planned political transition for the island state. Wong, 51, succeeded Lee Hsien Loong, 72, who relinquished his position after two decades.

120. Correct Answer: C

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has appointed R. Lakshmi Kanth Rao as Executive Director (ED) with effect from May 10, 2024. Prior to being promoted as ED, Rao was serving as Chief General Manager-in-Charge in the Department of Regulation.

121. Correct Answer: B

Idashisha Nongrang has been appointed the first woman Director General of Police (DGP) of Meghalaya, a hill State dominated by three matrilineal ethnic communities. Ms. Nongrang belongs to the Khasi community and served as Director General of Meghalaya Civil Defence before being appointment. She served as the acting DGP in 2021.

122. Correct Answer: C

Japan won their first Sultan Azlan Shah Hockey Trophy, defeating Pakistan 4-1 in a penalty shootout in the 30th Sultan Azlan Shah Trophy final. The final took place at Azlan Shah Stadium in Ipoh, Malaysia, on May 11, 2024.

123. Correct Answer: A

In Trampoline, India's Srishti Khandagale scripted history by becoming the first ever Indian to win a medal at the Asian Trampoline Gymnastics Championships. She clinched the silver medal in Women's Individual Age group category at the 6th Asian Trampoline Gymnastics Championship held in Hong Kong, China.

124. Correct Answer: C

Dr. Surjit Patar, a revered Punjabi writer and poet, passed away at the age of 79 due to cardiac arrest at his residence in Ludhiana's Ashapuri area. Dr. Patar served as a professor of Punjabi at Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana, where he embarked on his journey in Punjabi literature. He was awarded the Padma Shri in 2012.

125. Correct Answer: B

The United Nations General Assembly has proclaimed 25th May as the World Football Day. The year 2024 marks the 100th anniversary of the first international football tournament in history with the representation of all regions as part of the 1924 Summer Olympic Games, held in Paris.

126. Correct Answer: A

Chandrakant Satija, the Founder and CEO of Chandra Admission Consultants, won the Global Excellence Award 2024 for being the "Most Trusted Admission Consultant in Vidarbha Region". The award was presented to him by the famous Bollywood actress Shilpa Shetty Kundra. He was adjudged as the Most Trusted Admissions Consultant in Vidarbha Region.

127. Correct Answer: D

Japan and the US are planning to develop interceptors to shoot down hypersonic missiles by the 2030s under a contract signed by the two countries. The plan, which will reportedly cost more than \$3 billion, was first announced in August when the nations' leaders met at a summit with South Korea in Camp David outside Washington.

128. Correct Answer: B

World Aquatics has announced the opening of the first-ever competitive swimming pool at a record altitude of 2,400 meters above sea level in Bhutan. The pool is part of the Pools for All Program to promote aquatic sports in the region.

129. Correct Answer: C

World Telecommunication and Information Society Day (WTISD) is celebrated every year in May to honour the

founding of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) on May 17, 1969. This year's World Telecommunications and Information Society Day 2024 focuses on the theme, "Digital Innovation for Sustainable Development".

130. Correct Answer: D

India and Zimbabwe have agreed to explore cooperation in digital transformation solutions, tele-medicines, rough diamonds, fast payment systems and traditional medicine. During the third session of India-Zimbabwe Joint Trade Committee held in New Delhi, both sides reviewed the bilateral trade and explored the vast potential that exists between the two countries.

131. Correct Answer: C

PhonePe on May 15, announced its partnership with LankaPay to enable Unified Payments Interface (UPI) payment acceptance across LankaQR merchant points throughout Sri Lanka. The event, held in Colombo, was attended by senior dignitaries from both the Sri Lankan and Indian governments.

132. Correct Answer: D

The World Economic Situation and Prospects report as of mid-2024 said, "India's economy is forecast to expand by 6.9 per cent in 2024 and 6.6 per cent in 2025, mainly driven by strong public investment and resilient private consumption".

133. Correct Answer: C

The annual inflation rate based on all India Consumer Price Index (CPI) number is 4.83% (Provisional) for the month of April, 2024 (over April, 2023). Corresponding inflation rate for rural and urban is 5.43% and 4.11%, respectively. CPI for the months of January, February and March 2024 are 5.10, 5.09 and 4.85 respectively.

134. Correct Answer: A

Cristiano Ronaldo topped Forbes' list of highest-paid athletes for the fourth time in his career while Spanish golfer Jon Rahm moved up to second following his sensational switch to Saudi-backed LIV Golf. Ronaldo became the world's highest-paid athlete after his move

to Saudi Arabian side Al-Nassr and Forbes said the 39-year-old's estimated total earnings were in the region of \$260 million, an all-time high for a soccer player.

135. Correct Answer: A

Located at over 13,000 feet above the sea level, the all-weather accessible Sela Tunnel in Arunachal Pradesh has been officially recognised as the highest tunnel in the country by the International Book of Honour, England. It is an engineering marvel constructed by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO).

136. Correct Answer: A

Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) organised the 'ONDC Startup Mahotsav', a first of its kind event, on 17th May 2024 at Vanijya Bhawan, New Delhi. The event symbolized the celebration and collaboration of two of DPIIT's flagship initiatives – the Startup India initiative and Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC).

137. Correct Answer: C

SBI Mutual Fund has launched its new thematic fund – SBI Automotive Opportunities Fund. The new fund is an open-ended equity scheme following automotive and allied business activities theme. The fund has opened for subscription on May 17 and will close on May 31, 2024.

138. Correct Answer: D

YES Bank has launched YES Grandeur, a banking program targeted at the emerging affluent section of the society. So, only banking customers with an average monthly balance (AMB) of Rs 5 lakh or a net relationship value (NRV) of Rs 20 lakh will be eligible for the program, with additional consideration to loan relationships.

139. Correct Answer: D

The Pakistan Army successfully conducted the test-launch of Fatah-II guided rocket system that has a range of 400 kilometres. The rocket system will significantly upgrade the reach and lethality of the army's conventional arsenal.

140. Correct Answer: A

In a groundbreaking discovery, astronomers have identified a new planet, dubbed WASP-193b, which, despite being larger than Jupiter, possesses a density so low that it has been likened to cotton candy. This remarkable finding was reported by an international team of researchers, shedding light on the unusual properties of some exoplanets.

141. Correct Answer: D

PUMA India has signed a deal with the Athletics Federation of India (AFI) to become its official kit sponsor, the sports brand said. Puma signed a multi-year deal to exclusively supply performance kits, speed suits and travel gear to every athlete under AFI representing India at both domestic and international tournaments.

142. Correct Answer: B

World AIDS Vaccine Day, also recognized as HIV Vaccine Awareness Day, is observed annually on May 18. World AIDS Vaccine Day serves as a global initiative to raise awareness about the urgent need for a vaccine to prevent HIV infection and AIDS.

143. Correct Answer: B

The Disaster Reporting and Information Management System (DRIMS), a digital platform for online reporting of damages incurred during various disasters, was launched in Guwahati by Assam Chief Secretary Dr Ravi Kota.

144. Correct Answer: B

Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi and the country's foreign minister were found dead hours after their helicopter crashed in fog, leaving the Islamic Republic without two key leaders as extraordinary tensions grip the wider Middle East.

145. Correct Answer: B

Reigning world champion Nikhat Zareen and Minakshi clinched gold medals as the Indian team concluded their Elorda Cup 2024 campaign with 12 medals in Astana, Kazakhstan. Besides Nikhat and Minakshi's gold medals, Indian boxers won two silver and eight bronze medals to better their last edition's record of five medals.

146. Correct Answer: A

Bank of Maharashtra has emerged as the best performer among public sector banks in the last fiscal year, boasting the highest growth rates in both total business and deposit mobilisation. According to published financial data, the Pune-based lender recorded a significant 15.94% increase in total business (domestic) in FY24, surpassing even the formidable State Bank of India (SBI), which achieved a growth rate of 13.12%.

147. Correct Answer: B

BEML Ltd has secured an order worth Rs 250 crore from Northern Coal Fields Limited (NCL) for the supply of 28 units of BH100 rear dump trucks, the company said. The BH100 rear dump truck is engineered to transport payloads of up to 100 tonnes, specifically designed for the efficient handling of overburden and coal in mining operations, they said.

148. Correct Answer: D

Taiwan's Lai Ching-te was sworn in as president of the democratic island in the face of growing Chinese military pressure and a hostile parliament. China claims Taiwan

as part of its territory and has branded 64-year-old Lai a "dangerous separatist" who will bring "war and decline" to the island.

149. Correct Answer: B

Mohammad Mokhber is Iran's interim president now after late President Ebrahim Raisi and other officials were confirmed killed in a helicopter crash and Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei approved his accession to the role. As per the constitution, they must set things in motion for a new presidential election to be held within 50 days.

150. Correct Answer: A

The Indian Army has started receiving the Russian AK-203 assault rifles after the deal with Russia saw back-to-back delays, partly due to the war in Ukraine and payment delays. As many as 27,000 rifles have been handed over to the Army so far by the Indo-Russian joint venture Indo-Russian Rifles Private Limited (IRRPL) established at Korwa in Uttar Pradesh, according to official sources.

SECTION 3

Detailed Analysis of Important Events



Economics

SEBI board approves amendment to Mutual Funds rules



Why in the news?

- The SEBI (Mutual Funds) Regulations, 1996 have been amended by the Securities & Exchange Board of India (SEBI) with the intention of improving the regulatory environment for Asset Management Companies (AMCs).
 - These changes require AMCs to set up institutional safeguards against possible market manipulation, such as front-running, in light of previous occurrences that the market watchdog has noticed.

What are Mutual Funds?

- A mutual fund is an investment pool that is professionally managed by a fund manager.
- It is a trust that pools funds from several individuals with similar investing goals and uses those funds to purchase stocks, bonds, money market instruments, and/or other securities.
- And by computing a scheme's "Net Asset Value," or NAV, the income / profits from this collective investment are dispersed proportionately among the investors following the deduction of any appropriate costs and taxes.
- Through the SEBI (Mutual Funds) Regulations, 1996, SEBI oversees mutual funds.

Categories of Mutual Funds:

1. An actively managed fund is a mutual fund scheme where the fund manager uses analytical research to support his or her professional judgment in making decisions about which stocks to buy, sell, or hold. This involves "actively" managing the fund's portfolio and regularly monitoring it.
2. In contrast, a passively managed fund replicates or tracks the scheme's benchmark index exactly in the same proportion as a market index. In other words, the fund manager in a passive fund remains inactive or passive because they do not use their judgment or discretion to choose which stocks to buy, sell, or hold.

Fund Structure

- Mutual funds in India operate under a three-tier structure, comprising the
 1. Trustees, the Asset Management Company (AMC), and Custodians.
 2. The Trustees supervise the fund's operations, the Custodians protect its assets, and the AMC manages the fund's investments.

Key highlights of the recent update:

- Institutional Mechanism: To detect and handle particular forms of wrongdoing, like front-running, insider trading, and misuse of sensitive information, AMCs must put in place strengthened surveillance systems, internal controls, and escalation procedures.
- Whistleblower process: AMCs are required to establish a whistleblower process in order to promote transparency.
- Recording of Communication: SEBI has waived the need for dealers and fund managers to record all face-to-face conversations that take place during market hours. This exception will take effect as soon as AMCs put the institutional framework into place.
- Prudential Standards for Passive Plans: SEBI has simplified the prudential standards for passive

plans, permitting equity passive plans to invest up to the percentage of the underlying index's

weight, with a maximum of 35% in sponsor group firms.

Environment & Diversity

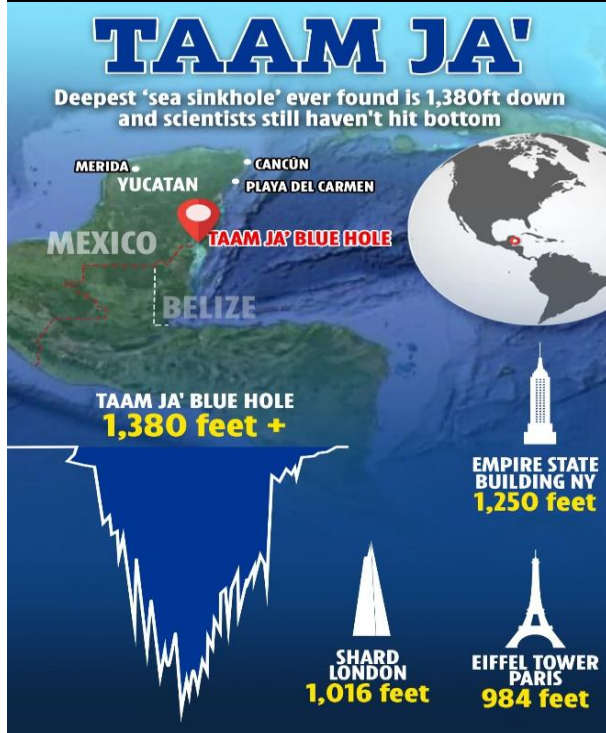
Taam Ja': World's Deepest Blue Hole

Why in the news?

Researchers have made a discovery in Mexico, uncovering the world's deepest blue hole, known as Taam Ja' Blue Hole (TJBH).

What are Blue Holes?

- In coastal areas with soluble bedrock, such as limestone, marble, or gypsum, blue holes, like TJBH, occur.
- Sinkholes arise as a result of water seeping into the rock, dissolving minerals and enlarging fissures.
- Well-known examples are the 328-foot Blue Hole in the Red Sea close to Dahab, Egypt, the 663-foot Dean's Blue Hole in the Bahamas, and the 410-foot Great Blue Hole in Belize.



About Taam Ja' Blue Hole (TJBH)

- TJBH is the world's deepest known underwater sinkhole, extending at least 1,380 feet (420 meters) below sea level.

- It is situated in Chetumal Bay, which is off the Yucatan Peninsula's southeast coast.
- When it was initially found in 2021, its depth was estimated to be 900 feet.
- This find beats the previous record-holder, the Sansha Yongle Blue Hole in the South China Sea, by an astonishing 480 feet.

Research Expedition and Findings

- A conductivity, temperature, and depth (CTD) profiler was used by scientists to gather information on the blue hole's environmental conditions.
- The incredible depth of TJBH was demonstrated by the CTD profiler's inability to reach the bottom, even at 1,640 feet (500 meters).
- The profiler's data indicated that there were distinct water layers inside the blue hole, and that the conditions below 1,312 feet (400 meters) were similar to those in the Caribbean Sea.

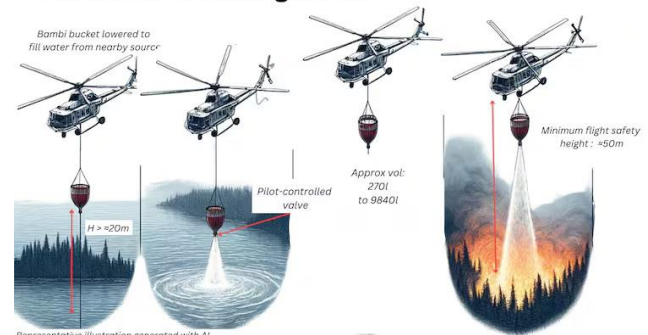
Uttarakhand Forest Fires

Why in the News?

Recently, three instances of forest fire were reported from the **major forest belts in Uttarakhand**.

- Due to the seriousness of the situation, Indian Air Force soldiers and Mi-17 helicopters have been sent in to carry out the vital task of putting out the flames with the Bambi Bucket Method.

How bambi bucketing works?



Causes of Wildfire:

- First off, persistently dry weather and a lack of moisture in the forests are the main causes of forest fires in Uttarakhand.
- Second, 95% of forest fires are caused by human activity, according to the Forest Research Institute (FRI, 2019).
- The most frequent human-caused causes include intentional arson, slash-and-burn agriculture, unattended campfires, and grazers lighting dry grass on fire.

Uttarakhand's Forest Vulnerability:

- The State's Recorded Forest Area (RFA) is 38,000 sq km, of which 26,547 sq km are Reserved Forest, 9,885 sq km are Protected Forest, and 1,568 sq km are Unclassified Forests, according to the most recent report from the Forest Survey of India (FSI).
- Large tracts of very flammable Chir Pine trees raise the risk of fire.
- Prolonged dry spells and the buildup of extra biomass exacerbate this risk.
- Villages' close proximity also makes anthropogenic activities easier, like clearing forests and grazing.

Forest Fires in India: Recent Statistics

- Between April 20 and April 27, 2023, Odisha had 4,237 forest fires, compared to 1,499 in 2022. Comparably, Jharkhand had 633 fires compared to 1,926 last year, Andhra Pradesh recorded 527 fires compared to 1,126 in 2022, and Chhattisgarh recorded 757 fires last year compared to 2,116 this year.
- However, since April 28, Uttarakhand has seen more big forest fires nationwide than any other state, according to data from the Forest Survey of India (FSI).

Mitigation Strategies

1. **Localized Initiatives:**
 - Drone surveillance, prescribed burns, controlled burning, and biomass removal are all effective ways to reduce the risk of forest fires.

- As seen in Kerala, proactive community involvement and engagement offer important insights for managing forest fires.

2. Government Initiatives:

- To help in early detection and response operations, the government has implemented systems like the Forest Survey of India's satellite-based fire alarm system.
- Effective containment and management of forest fires is achieved by forest staff through a variety of tactics, such as the use of fire beaters and counterfires.

Orangutan uses Plant to treat wound

Why in the news?

A tropical plant's medicine was seen being applied to an orangutan's wound, demonstrating how certain creatures use natural cures for illnesses.

- This activity is a unique example of self-medication by wild animals, as reported in a recent study that was published in Scientific Reports.



About Orangutans

- The largest arboreal mammals, orangutans are identified by their bright red fur and spend most of their time in trees and forests.
- In Malay, the word "orangutan" means "man of the forest."
- They can move through the branches more easily since they have long, strong arms and hands and feet that can grasp.
- These highly clever primates have 96.4% of contemporary man's genetic composition in common.

- Primarily found in Southeast Asian tropical rainforests, orangutans are found on the islands of Borneo and Sumatra.
- Conservation Status: Critically Endangered (IUCN Red list)**
- Population:** Bornean (Approximately 104,700); Sumatran (Approximately 13,846); Tapanuli (Around 800);
- Behavioral Features:**
 - In lowland woods, these apes live solitary lives for the most part. They gather water from tree cavities and consume natural fruits such as figs, mangosteens, and lychees.
 - Being mostly frugivores, orangutans also occasionally eat small animals and also devour leaves, bark, insects, and fruits.
 - They build their nests on treetops that have foliage so they may relax during the day and sleep at night.
 - And now they are discovered using a tropical plant's medicine to cure a wound.

The important role that wildlife corridors play in conservation efforts is highlighted by Maharashtra's intention to relocate tigers from Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve (TATR) in Chandrapur, Maharashtra, to the Sahyadri-Konkan Wildlife Corridor.

About Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve (TATR)

- When Tadoba and Kanha National Parks were established in 1955, they became two of India's first national parks.
- The local Gond tribes revere the divinity "Tadoba," also known as "Taru," and the name "Andhari" is derived from the Andhari River that flows through the reserve.
- Later on, it was enlarged, and in 1993 it formally united with the Andhari Wildlife Sanctuary to become the TATR.
- A vital component of Project Tiger, which aims to conserve tigers in India, TATR is considered one of the top spots in the world to see tigers.
- There are 115 tigers in the reserve; 88 of them are found in the forest, and the remaining 27 are in the lands that surround it.

About Sahyadri-Konkan Wildlife Corridor

- In the northern Western Ghats, the Sahyadri-Konkan corridor (Sahyadri-Radhanagari-Goa-Karnataka) is essential for the preservation of wildlife, especially tigers.
- It passes through the Western Ghats, one of the eight biodiversity hotspots in the world, and the states of Maharashtra, Goa, and Karnataka.
- Connected Protected Areas: Bhimgad Wildlife Sanctuary and Kali Tiger Reserve (which includes Anshi National Park and Dandeli WLS) in Karnataka; Mollem National Park and Netravali Wildlife Sanctuary (Goa); Sahyadri Tiger Reserve (which includes Koyna Wildlife Sanctuary (WLS) and Chandoli National Park) and Radhanagari Wildlife Sanctuary (Maharashtra).
- Animal life includes sloth bears (*Melursus ursinus*), dholes (*Cuon alpinus*), tigers (*Panthera tigris*), and Indian leopards (*Panthera pardus*).

Tiger Translocation in Sahyadri-Konkan Wildlife Corridor



Why in the news?

- The exceptional universal worth of the Western Ghats, which includes portions of the corridor, in terms of endemic species and biodiversity led to their designation as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2012.

S No.	Name of Dam	River
1	Supa Dam	Kali
2	Koyna Dam	Koyna
3	Warna/Chandoli Dam	Waarna
4	Kalamawadi Dam	Doodhganga
5	Radhanagri Dam	Bhogwati
6	Gagan Bawda Dam	Kumbha
7	Tulashi Dam	Tulashi
8	Bomanahalli Dam	Kali
9	Patgaon Dam	Ved Ganga
10	Gelawade Dam	Kasari
11	Kadave Dam	Kadave
12	Tillari Dam	Tillari
13	Lakhmapur Dam	Kumbha

Table 1: Some of the major dams within the Sahyadri-Konkan Corridor

Kerala bans Oleander Flowers in Temple Offerings



Why in the news?

Following a woman who accidentally became poisoned after chewing oleander leaves, temple authorities in Kerala have outlawed the use of oleander flowers in offerings.

What is Oleander?

- Nerium oleander, also cultivated in tropical, subtropical, and temperate climates, is a plant generally referred to as oleander or rosebay.
- The shrub, which is well-known for withstanding drought, is frequently utilized for landscaping and ornamentation.

- It is utilized as a natural barrier along roads and beaches in Kerala and is known as arali or kanaveeram.
- Nerium oleander (Oleander) is categorized as Least Concern on the IUCN Red List.

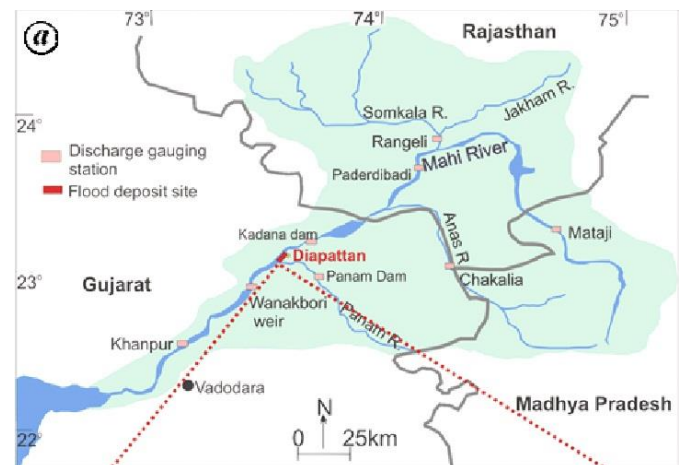
Traditional Medicinal Uses:

- Known as the "desert rose" in historical writings, oleander has long been valued for its therapeutic qualities, which include antiviral, cancer-fighting, and hangover remedies.
- Oleander is mentioned in the Indian Ayurvedic Pharmacopoeia, especially the application of oil derived from the root bark for the treatment of skin ailments.
- The usage of oleander in the treatment of parasites, wounds, leprosy, and itching.

Toxicity of Oleander:

- Because cardiac glycosides are found in every part of the plant, oleander is extremely poisonous.
- Cardiac glycosides, such as digitoxigenin and oleandrin, act pharmacologically on the heart causing irregular beating, nausea, vomiting, and in extreme situations, death.

In News: Mahi River



Why in the News?

Incidences of **people drowning** down into the Mahi River have become more frequent.

About Mahi River

- The Vindhya Range in Madhya Pradesh, a hot, semi-arid watershed region, is where the Mahi River begins its journey, close to Dhar.
- It enters Rajasthan and travels north into Madhya Pradesh before veering west. After there, it flows in a southwesterly direction, across Gujarat, before emptying into the Arabian Sea.
- The river is approximately 580 kilometers long.
 - The soil types found in the Mahi River Basin are Alluvial soil in the northern part and Deep Black dirt in the southern section.
 - Principal Rebas: the Anas, the Panam, the Goma, and the Som.
 - Major Dams: Two important irrigation and hydroelectric projects on the Mahi River are the Mahi Bajaj Sagar (Banswara) Dam and the Kadana Dam.
 - Supports a wide variety of plants and animals, including threatened species like the Gharial and Indian Skimmer.

Key Features:

- The Vindhyas to the south, the Malwa Plateau to the east, the Aravalli Hills to the north and northwest, and the Gulf of Khambhat to the west encircle it.
- The Mahi River's two crossings of the Tropic of Cancer—once in Madhya Pradesh and once close to the Gujarat-Rajasthan border—are among its most prominent characteristics.

10th World Water Forum



Why in the News?

- The 10th World Water Forum in Bali, Indonesia, saw the release of the World Bank report, "Water for Shared Prosperity."
 - It highlights the growing disparity in access to water resources and services, which is made worse by urbanization, population increase, and climate change.

Water for Shared Prosperity: Key Highlights of the Report

- 3.5 billion people lacked access to properly managed sanitation in 2022, while 2.2 billion people lacked access to safely managed drinking water services.
- Almost 800 million people worldwide are at high danger of drought, and twice as many of them reside in places that are prone to flooding.
- Access to clean drinking water has declined in low-income nations; since 2000, an extra 197 million people have lost access.
- Over the past 20 years, access gaps between rural and urban areas have mostly not changed in low-income countries.
- The areas with the greatest water stress are hotspots in the Sahel, Southeast Africa, and South and Central Asia.
- More than half of Africa's water resources are found in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

About World Water Forum:

- It's a major international conference with an emphasis on discussing and creating solutions for the world's water-related problems.
- Every three years, it takes place. In March 1997, the inaugural forum was held in Marrakesh, Morocco.
- An international organization called the World Water Council is in charge of organizing it.
- It brings together stakeholders from a range of industries, including businesses, governments,

organizations, and academic institutions, in order to raise political commitment, raise public awareness, and spark action on important water-related issues at all levels.

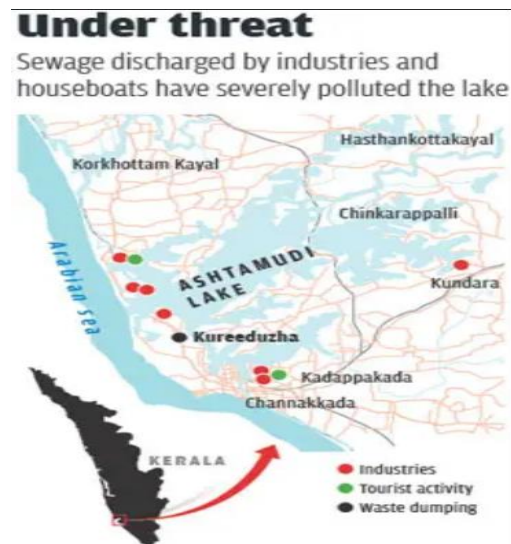
What is the World Water Council (WWC)?

- In 1996, the World Water Council was established.
- Discussions at the 1994 International Water and Sanitation Congress & Exhibition and the 1996 Ministerial Conference on Drinking Water and Environmental Sanitation gave rise to the concept for the WWC.
- Targets connected to SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), among others, are the focus of WWC's work.
- Renowned water experts and international organizations, including universities, businesses, governments, and non-governmental organizations, among others, founded the Council.
- The Council's main goal is to increase public awareness of important water issues at all levels, including the highest decision-making levels, in order to support effective global water resource management, planning, development, conservation, and use.
- Membership: With more than 300 member organizations spread over about 50 countries, the WWC has a diverse membership base.

Key Functions and Contributions:

- **World Water Forums:** This is the biggest water event in the world, bringing together people from different industries to talk and work together on water-related issues.
- **Policy Influence:** The WWC attempts to influence policy by fostering debates among political and economic decision-makers.
- **Research and Advocacy:** Through its publications, policy papers, and strategic projects, the WWC fosters greater understanding and awareness of water issues.

Microplastic Pollution in Ashtamudi Lake



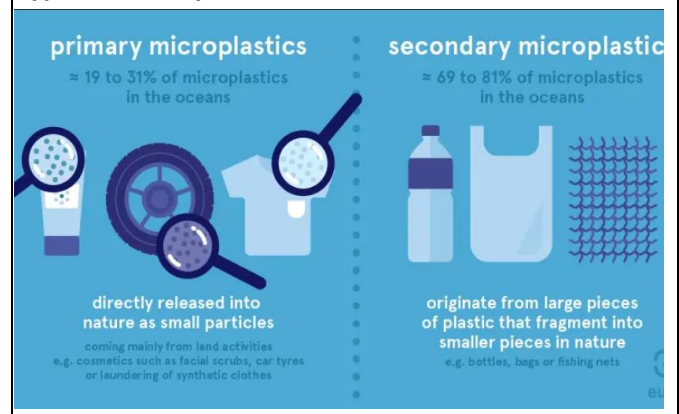
Why in the News?

- The University of Kerala's "Department of Aquatic Biology and Fisheries" recently completed a study that found that Ashtamudi Lake, a Ramsar wetland in the Kollam district, had dangerously high levels of microplastic contamination.

Microplastics:

- **Microplastics** are tiny particles of plastic that are less than 0.2 inches or 5 millimeters.
- They are a particular kind of plastic pollution that results from the direct emission of tiny plastic particles in a variety of goods and activities, as well as from the fragmentation of bigger plastic trash.

Types of Microplastics:

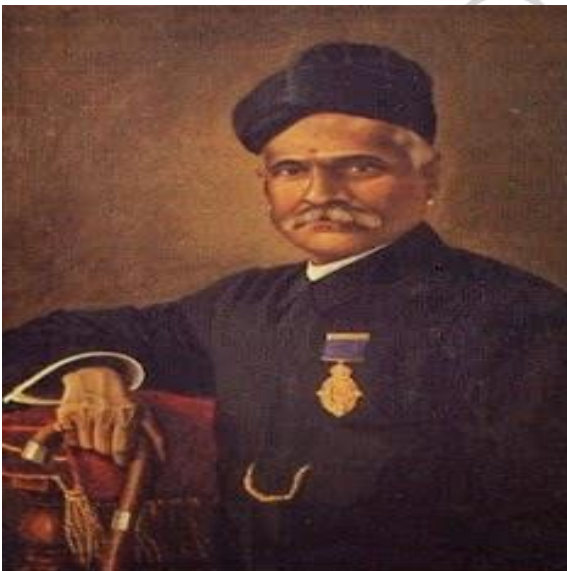


About Ashtamudi Lake

- The Keralan district of Kollam is home to Ashtamudi Lake.
- The "gateway to the backwaters of Kerala" is another name for the lake.
 - **Historical Background:** The importance of *Ashtamudi Kayal* dates back to the times of the *Romans and Phoenicians* in the 14th century.
- Because it is a brackish water lake, a mixture of fresh and saltwater can be found there. It is roughly 61 square kilometers (23.5 square miles) in size.
- One of the main rivers that empties into Ashtamudi Lake is the Kallada River.
- In Malayalam, the word Ashtamudi means "eight coned," alluding to the lake's eight conspicuous arms or channels.
- Rich vegetation, including mangrove forests, coconut groves, and palm trees, envelops the lake.
- The Kollam-Kottapuram Waterway, which links the Arabian Sea with the Keralan backwaters, includes Ashtamudi Lake as a crucial component.
 - Notable Islands: Chavara, Munroe

History

Unveiling of Raja Ravi Varma's Indulekha Painting



Why in the news?

On the occasion of the 176th anniversary of the renowned artist's birth, Kilimanoor Palace, the first authentic replica of his picture "Indulekha," will be unveiled.

Who was Raja Ravi Varma (1848-1906)?

- Raja Ravi Varma was born in April 1848 at Kilimanoor, Kerala, to a family who was very connected to the royals of Travancore.
- Frequently acknowledged as the progenitor of contemporary Indian art, he is extensively

recognized for his authentic depictions of Indian deities and goddesses.

- While he predominantly painted for the royalty, he is also acknowledged for spreading art to the masses with his prints and oleographs.
- He studied watercolor painting with the royal painter Ramaswamy Naidu, who was a patron of Ayilyam Thirunal, the ruler of Travancore at the time.
- He later trained in oil painting from Dutch artist Theodore Jensen.

Fame as a notable painter

- He has commissioned fourteen Puranic paintings for the Durbar Hall of the new Lakshmi Vilas Palace in Baroda, after which there is a portrait of Maharaja Sayajirao of Baroda.
- Varma used scenes from the Ramayana and Mahabharata to depict Indian culture.
- Numerous other kings, such as the Maharaja of Mysore and the Maharaja of Udaipur, also showed him favor.
- The artist, whose fame was rapidly growing, received recognition in 1873 for an exhibition of his paintings in Vienna.
- He was also given three gold medals at the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1893.

- In recognition of his service, Viceroy Lord Curzon awarded him the Kaiser-i-Hind Gold Medal.

Nature of his artforms

- Much of his acclaimed paintings also leans strongly from Indian mythology.
- In fact, because of his more approachable and realistic depictions, which frequently use humans as models, he is frequently given credit for creating the modern conception of Indian gods and goddesses.
- The images include Lakshmi as the goddess of wealth, Saraswati as the goddess of knowledge and wisdom, and Lord Vishnu with his consorts, Maya and Lakshmi.

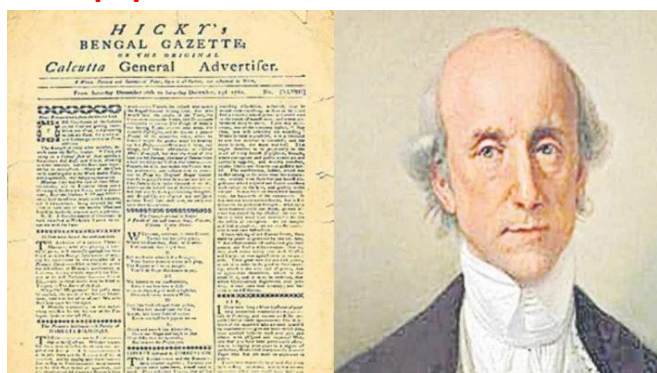
Notable Paintings

- Raja Ravi Varma opened a lithographic press in Bombay in 1894 with the intention of bringing his art to a wider audience.
- The Birth of Shakuntala is said to have been the first image printed at Varma's press, and other images featuring saints and mythological characters like Adi Shankaracharya came next.

Major works

- Before he passed away at the age of 58, it is estimated that he had painted about 7,000 times.
- At Kilimanoor Palace's "Chithrashala," the artist's studio, there is currently only one painting remaining: an incomplete portrait of the "Parsi lady," which was his final creation.

'Hicky's Bengal Gazette': India's First Newspaper



Why in the news?

- Every year on May 3, World Press Freedom Day highlights the importance of journalism in society by tracing its origins to important historical periods.
- James Augustus Hicky launched Hicky's Bengal Gazette in 1780, which functioned as a forum for political criticism and social discourse. This event signaled the beginning of Indian journalism.

Who was James Augustus Hicky?

- James Augustus Hicky, who was born in Ireland in the 1730s, traveled to India, which was dubbed the "Jewel in the Crown of the British Empire," in quest of brighter prospects.
- Despite early hardships, such as debts that resulted in his incarceration, Hicky showed tenacity by establishing a printing press on the jail grounds.

Establishment of 'Hicky's Bengal Gazette':

- First published on January 29, 1780, "Hicky's Bengal Gazette" was the first newspaper ever produced in India, if not all of Asia.
- Its founder and editor, Hicky, intended mostly to assist Calcutta's European population.
- At first, he concentrated on regional problems including upkeep and repairs for the roads.
- Later, the publication covered more general socioeconomic topics like civic engagement and government corruption.
- The Gazette, although known for its gossip and pornographic pieces, also included criticism of the British East India Company and promoted the advancement of sanitation and infrastructure.
- Every Saturday, Hicky's newspaper was printed and sold for one rupee.
- An approximate estimate of its weekly circulation put it at 400 copies, if not more.

Challenges and Legal Battles:

- The Gazette encountered legal difficulties, including several libel cases brought by well-known individuals such as missionary Johann

Zacharias Kiernander and governor general Warren Hastings in the 1780s.

- In an article, he called Hastings Robert Clive's "miserable successor."
- Due to his outspoken criticism of influential people, especially Hastings' expansionist goals, Hicky was imprisoned and faced financial ruin from fines and court bills.
- The last day of publishing was March 30, 1782.

Legacy and Impact:

- "Hicky's Bengal Gazette" made a lasting impression on Indian journalism, even though it was eventually shut down owing to financial difficulties and legal pressure.
- As a result of Hicky's innovative work, India now has a thriving media ecosystem, motivating new generations of press pioneers and journalists.
- The short-lived but significant existence of The Gazette showed the press's ability to advocate for social change and hold the powerful accountable.

Ramcharitmanas, Panchatantra, and Sahridayaloka-Locana enter 'UNESCO's Memory of the World Asia-Pacific regional register'



Why in the news?

The Panchatantra, Sahridayaloka-Locana, and Ramcharitmanas are now part of "UNESCO's Memory of the World Asia-Pacific regional register."

About UNESCO's 'Memory of the World (MOW) Asia-Pacific regional register'

	Details
History and Establishment	Initiated in 1992 by UNESCO. Asia-Pacific Regional Committee (MOWCAP) was set up in 1998.
Parent Organization	Overseen by UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization).
Objective	To safeguard, preserve, facilitate access to, and increase awareness of documentary heritage. Focuses specifically on the Asia-Pacific region.
Examples of Inscribed Items	Includes items like Japan's "Sugihara's Visas for Life", Australia's "Mabo Case Manuscripts", and Vietnam's "Ba Chuc Massacre Archives".
Impact and Outreach	Supports preservation, digitization, accessibility of documents; provides grants and organizes workshops, meetings, and exhibitions to promote knowledge sharing.

About the Texts

Ramcharitmanas:

- The Sanskrit epic Ramayana is retold in the epic poem Ramcharitmanas, an Awadhi dialect of Hindi composed by Tulsidas in the 16th century.
- It tells the story of Lord Rama's life, qualities, adherence to Dharma, and rule during the Ram Rajya.
- A collection of 40 verses from the same epic is known as the Hanuman Chalisa.

Panchatantra:

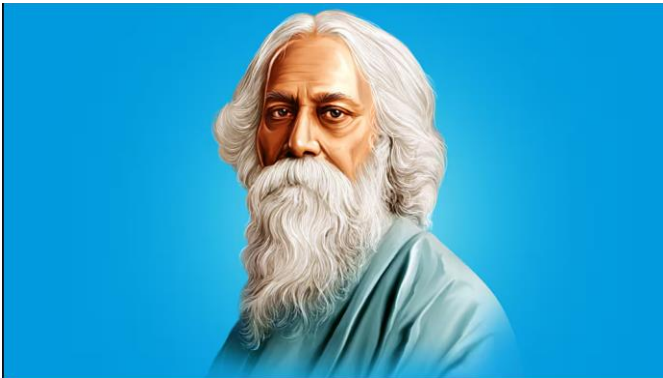
- A compilation of traditional Indian animal tales that go back to the third century BCE is known as the Panchatantra.
- Vishnu Sharma wrote the original text in Sanskrit.
- Its stories are written as vivid, straightforward tales with the goal of teaching readers useful life

lessons via the interactions of anthropomorphized animals.

Sahrdyaloka-Locana

- Jagannatha Paṇḍitaraja wrote a treatise on poetics in Sanskrit in the 17th century, titled Sahrdyaloka-Locana.
- It is regarded as one of the most significant pieces of literary criticism written in Sanskrit.
- The term "Sahrdaya," which denotes a perceptive or sympathetic reader or critic, is discussed in the text.

Rabindranath Tagore and his legacy



Why in the news?

In honor of Rabindranath Tagore's birth anniversary, the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) Conservation and Cultural Archives Division held an exhibition and lecture in New Delhi.

Tagore's Journey to France

- Tagore's profound empathy was highlighted by his tour to the First World War's battlefields.
- Mentions are made in the story of Alexandra David Neel, who gave Tagore recommendations while he was touring Europe, and Victoria Ocampo, who taught him French and helped him become more connected to French culture and intellectual society.

About Rabindranath Tagore

	Details
Birth and Early Life	– Born on May 7, 1861, in Calcutta, India.
Literary Career	– Published his first poems at age 16 under the pen-name ' <i>Bhanusimha</i> '.

	– Key works include " <i>Gitanjali</i> ", " <i>Ghare-Baire</i> ", " <i>Gora</i> ", and " <i>Manasi</i> ".
Music and Art	– Composed over 2,000 songs known as ' <i>Rabindra Sangeet</i> '. – Our National Anthem was composed by him and it was first sung on 27 December 1911 at the Calcutta Session of INC . – Created more than 2,000 paintings, influenced by European expressionism.
Education	– Founded Visva-Bharati University in 1921, integrating Eastern and Western philosophies.
Political Views	– He is said to have given the title of 'Mahatma' to Mohandas – Renounced his ' Knighthood ' (awarded to him in 1915 by the British King George V) in 1919 following the Jallianwala Bagh massacre .
Cultural Influence	– Wrote the National Anthems of India (" <i>Jana Gana Mana</i> ") and Bangladesh (" <i>Amar Sonar Bangla</i> "). – Inspired the national anthem of Sri Lanka through a student.
Awards and Recognition	– Awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1913 for " <i>Gitanjali</i> ", the first non-European to win. – Awarded, and later renounced, a knighthood by British King George V in 1915.
Philosophical Contributions	– Advocated for the incorporation of the best aspects of Western culture with Indian culture to achieve anti-colonialism.
Death	– Passed away on August 7, 1941, in Calcutta.
Legacy	– Revered as ' <i>Gurudev</i> ', ' <i>Kabiguru</i> ', and ' <i>Biswakabi</i> '. Highly influential in introducing Indian culture to the West and reshaping Bengali literature and music.

Additional Contributions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Advocated for 'Unity in Diversity' and 'National Integration'. – Spoke at the World Parliament of Religions, Chicago in 1929 and 1937. – Modernized Bengali prose and poetry, remembered for songs like 'Ekla Chalo Re' and his environmental efforts at Santiniketan.
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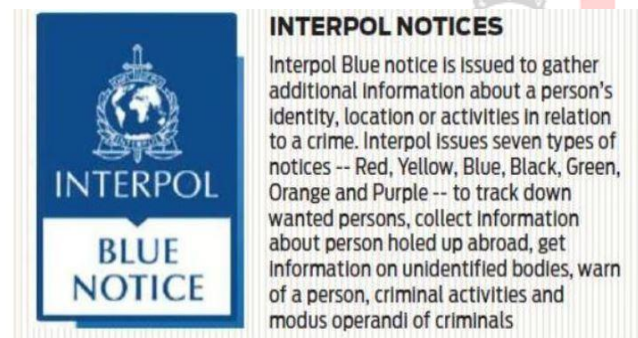
About Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA)

- One of India's leading government-funded arts organizations is the IGNCA in New Delhi.

- Under the Union Ministry of Culture, it functions as an independent institution.
- On November 19, 1985, Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi founded it.
- IGNCA is intended to serve as a hub for the study and exploration of the following artistic disciplines: visual arts, which includes architecture; performing arts, which includes dance, music, and theater; and creative literature, which includes writing, oral history, sculpture, painting, and graphics in addition to general material culture, photography, and film.

International Relations

What is an Interpol Blue Corner Notice?



Why in the news?

- Allegations of sexual abuse against a sitting member of parliament from a well-known political family have upended Karnataka's political hierarchy.
- He is still at large and has been under arrest since Interpol issued a Blue Corner alert in response to suspected obscene video leaks that implicate him.

INTERPOL's Notice System:

- Interpol notifies its member nations in a variety of ways regarding people who are either wanted or missing.
- These notices are frequently used to arrest and extradite suspects, even though they are not legally binding and nations are not obligated to act upon them.

The following entities can request for a notice:

- Notice requests for those accused of heinous crimes like genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity under their jurisdiction may also be made by the International Criminal Court and Member Country International Criminal Tribunals.
- Notices pertaining to the implementation of Security Council-imposed sanctions may be requested by the UN.

What are Blue Corner Notice?

- The purpose of a blue corner sign, often called a "enquiry notice," is to make it easier to share vital crime-related information, such as the whereabouts of people and the verification of criminal histories.
- Example: Nithyananda, a self-proclaimed godman, is a fugitive who was the subject of a blue corner alert issued by Interpol in January 2020.

About INTERPOL (International Criminal Police Organization)

	Details
Overview	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Founded in Vienna, Austria in 1923, it facilitates police collaboration across borders and offers support and assistance to all agencies, authorities, and

	<p>groups whose goal is to prevent or combat international crime.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An intergovernmental body with 195 members that promotes improved international police force collaboration
Functions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Permits data on crimes and offenders to be accessed and shared among member nations Provides member nations with operational and technical support. Oversees 19 police databases that are available in real time and contain data on crimes and offenders. Offers assistance with investigations, including forensics, analysis, and global fugitives' whereabouts assistance.
Working	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under the direction of the Secretary General, with headquarters in Lyon, France Singapore-based global innovation complex. Numerous satellite offices located in various areas. <p>I-24/7 Service: Global Police Communications System that provides a common platform for the member countries' police organizations to share sensitive and urgent police information.</p>
India's Membership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joined in June 1956.
Functioning in Member Countries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Every member nation possesses a National Central Bureau (NCB), which functions as the primary communication hub for the general secretariat and

	<p>additional NCBs across the globe.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Usually housed in the government ministry in charge of policing, NCBs are run by police officers (e.g., CBI in India) Member nations have real-time access to a variety of information stored in Interpol's databases, including names, fingerprints, and stolen passports. helps member nations with their investigations, forensic analysis, and the worldwide capture of runaways.
Notices	<p>Interpol issues seven types of notices:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Red Notice: Seeks the location and provisional arrest of fugitives. 2. Blue Notice: Requests information about a person's identity or activities. 3. Green Notice: Warns about individuals likely to repeat crimes. 4. Yellow Notice: Aids in locating missing persons. 5. Black Notice: Seeks information about unidentified bodies. 6. Orange Notice: Warns of imminent threats to public safety. 7. Purple Notice: Seeks or provides information on criminal methods.

India backs Palestine's bid for full UN membership



Why in the news?

India has voted in favour of a UN General Assembly resolution recommending Palestine's admission as a full member of the United Nations.

Arab push for Palestine's Membership

- The Arab Group called the emergency special session, and the UAE proposed the resolution endorsing Palestine's full membership.
- According to the resolution, the Security Council must "reconsider" Palestine's admission to the UN on the grounds that it has been found to be eligible.
- With 143 votes in favor—including India's—nine against, and 25 abstentions, the resolution had resounding support.
- Palestine is presently unable to propose candidates for UN bodies and is only allowed to vote in the General Assembly as an observer state.

India's Stance on Palestine:

- India granted recognition to the State of Palestine in 1988.
- India first established its Representative Office for the Palestine Authority in Gaza in 1996. Three years later, it moved to Ramallah.

India, Iran sign 10-year contract for Chabahar Port Operation



Why in the news?

- India and Iran signed a 10-year agreement for the operation of the Chabahar port, marking a significant milestone in their cooperation.

Chabahar Port

- The port is situated in the Sistan-Baluchistan province in southeast Iran, at the mouth of the Strait of Hormuz and on the Gulf of Oman.
- The landlocked Central Asian nations of Afghanistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan are connected by what is known as the "Golden Gate."
- It is the only oceanic port in Iran and is made up of two distinct ports called Shahid Beheshti and Shahid Kalantari.
- It is only roughly 170 kilometers to the west of Pakistan's Gwadar port.
- India signed an agreement to develop Chabahar Port in 2015, and PM Narendra Modi visited Iran in 2016 to carry out the project.

About the Agreement

The contract, signed between Indian Ports Global Ltd. (IPGL) and Port and Maritime Organisation (PMO) of Iran, involves substantial investment and development initiatives.

- IPGL plans to equip the Shahid-Behesti terminal with equipment worth about \$120 million, which will increase the port's capacity and efficiency.
- India has demonstrated its commitment to regional development by extending a \$250 million credit window for projects that have been mutually identified and are intended to improve the infrastructure related to Chabahar.

Strategic Importance of Chabahar Port to India

- India's access to Iran through the Chabahar port will be enhanced. Iran is the main entry point to the International North-South Transport Corridor, which connects India, Russia, Iran, Europe, and Central Asia via road, rail, and sea routes.
- India will benefit from the Chabahar port as it works to counter China's efforts to establish a presence in the Arabian Sea by assisting Pakistan in the development of the Gwadar port.
- India can ship goods to Afghanistan without going through Pakistan.
- Chabahar Port is easily accessible from the west coast of India and is located at a strategic location on the Arabian Sea.

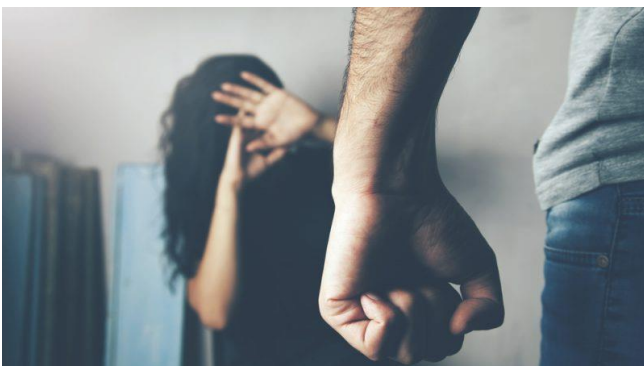


- Chabahar Port is easily accessible from the west coast of India and is located in a strategic location on the Arabian Sea.
- Mumbai is 786 nautical miles away from Chabahar, while the closest port is Kandla port in Gujarat, which is 550 nautical miles away.
- Over 80,000 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) of container traffic and over 8 million tonnes of bulk and general cargo have been handled by the port since 2019.
- Additionally, the port provides a different path for cargo transportation between Afghanistan and Central Asian nations across the Strait of Hormuz.

Economic Significance

Polity

Financial Relief in Domestic Violence Cases



Why in the news?

- The Supreme Court was forced to consider whether the victim's injuries or the abuser's financial situation should determine the amount

of damages for domestic abuse after receiving a recent question.

- The petitioner challenged orders under Section 22 of the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005, from the Bombay High Court and a trial court compelling him to provide his wife Rs 3 crore.

Domestic Violence Law: An Overview

- The DV Act, 2005 aims to safeguard women's rights by addressing violence within the family.
- Key Features of the DV Act:

	Details
Background	Introduced in 2005 to address limitations in civil and criminal courts regarding

	domestic violence (under Section 498A of the Indian Penal Code).
Definitions of Violence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Includes physical, sexual, emotional, verbal, psychological, and economic abuse (Section 3). Even a single act of harm or injury qualifies as domestic violence.
Beneficiaries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any woman in a domestic relationship (Section 2). Children can also file complaints, and any person can file on their behalf (Section 2).
Respondents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adult male members in domestic relationships (Section 2). Relatives of the husband or male partner can also be respondents (Section 2).
Rights to Residence	Women cannot be denied access to resources during legal proceedings (Section 17).
Other Rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access to police, shelter, medical aid, and legal assistance. Can obtain various court orders, including protection, residence, and compensation orders (Section 18).
Remedial Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Victims entitled to medical facilities, counseling, and shelter (Section 12). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Both parties may receive counseling as directed by the court (Section 14). Respondents required to provide compensation for losses incurred by the victim (Section 20). Courts to order respondents to pay damages for injuries, including mental and emotional trauma, resulting from domestic violence (Section 22).

Protection Officers	Appointment of officers in each district, preferably women, with necessary qualifications (Section 8).
Fixed Timeline	All complaints must be heard and disposed of within 60 days (Section 12).

What is Interim Bail?



Why in the news?

The Supreme Court has granted **interim bail** to Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in the liquor policy case till to campaign for the Lok Sabha elections.

What is Interim Bail?

- In India, an accused individual may be granted interim bail, which is a provisional release from custody under Section 439 Cr.
- In order to handle pressing concerns like family problems, medical difficulties, or other important personal situations, permission may be granted.

Legal Provisions for Interim Bail

Interim bail in India is **NOT explicitly defined** under a specific statute but is derived from the **discretionary powers granted to courts** under various legal provisions.

The most relevant laws and principles include:

- Criminal Procedure Code of 1973 (CrPC): The CrPC offers the guidelines for granting bail generally, even though it makes no mention of "interim bail." Based on their discretion, courts use sections such as 437 (bail in non-bailable matters by Magistrate), 438 (anticipatory bail), and 439 (special powers of High Court or Court of Session regarding bail) to award bail, including interim bail.

- Articles of the Constitution: The right to bail is frequently viewed as a component of the fair and just legal process under Article 21 of the Indian Constitution, which guarantees the right to life and personal liberty.

What is Bail?

- Bail is the pledge to appear in court when necessary in exchange for the defendant's conditional release.
- The phrase also refers to the deposit made in exchange for the accused person's release.
- Under the Code of Criminal Procedure, offenses are classified as either non-bailable or bailable in the legal system of India.

Why need Bail?

- An essential component of every criminal justice system is bail.
- When someone is free, they are better able to defend themselves, guaranteeing a fair trial.
- The requirement to protect the inalienable right to liberty gave rise to the practice of bail.
- A person whose guilt has not yet been established is entitled to liberty.

Types of Bail in India

- Depending upon the stage of the criminal matter, there are commonly three types of bail in India:
 - Regular Bail: Given to someone who has already been taken into custody after being arrested. Sections 437 and 439 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 (CrPC) provide for this kind of bail. It permits the accused to be freed from detention while the case is pending.

- Anticipatory Bail: Anticipatory bail is a pre-arrest legal procedure that falls under Section 438 of the CrPC. It is given when someone suspects they may be arrested for a crime for which there is no possibility of bond. If the accused is arrested, this kind of bail guarantees that they will be released on bond.
- Temporary bail given for a brief duration is known as interim bail. In order to give the accused some relief until their regular or anticipatory bail plea is decided, interim bail is frequently granted.

Conditions for Grant of Bail in Bailable Offences

- There are good enough grounds to suspect that the accused did not commit the crime.
- There is enough justification to carry out additional research on the subject.
- The defendant is not charged with any crime that carries a death penalty, life in prison, or a maximum 10-year sentence.

Conditions for Grant of Bail in Non-Bailable Offences

- Section 437 of Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 lays down that the accused does not have the right to apply for bail in non-bailable offences.
- It is discretion of the court to grant bail in case of non-bailable offences if:
 - In an offense that is not subject to bail, if the accused is a woman or a minor, bail may be granted.
 - When there is insufficient evidence, bail may be granted for non-bailable offenses.
 - There is a delay in lodging FIR by the complainant, bail may be granted.
 - The accused is gravely sick.

Science, Technology, Art & Culture

Patachitra Scroll Paintings



Why in the news?

Women's Patachitra paintings from the Pingla block of Paschim Medinipur, West Bengal, have gained international recognition.

About Bengal Patachitra

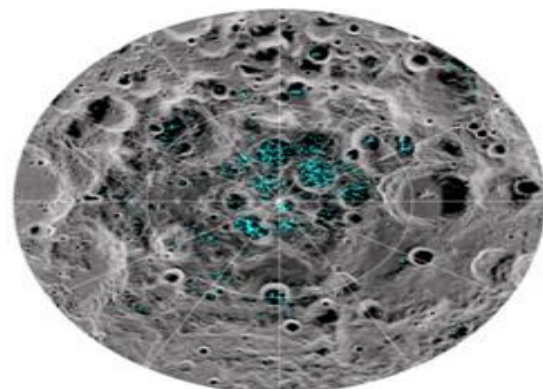
- The eastern Indian states of Odisha and West Bengal, as well as some areas of Bangladesh, are the birthplaces of the traditional scroll painting technique known as patachitra, sometimes written as Pattachitra. The Sanskrit word "patachitra" means "cloth," and the word "chitra" means "picture."
- Usually, paper, palm leaves, or cloth canvas are used to create these paintings. The term Patuas refers to artists who are connected to Patachitra.
- Bengali origin Based on historical references, Patachitra is thought to have originated in rural Bengal during the Pre-Pala period.
- **Themes and Style:**
 - Bengal Patachitra covers a wide range of topics, from secular issues to stories from religion and mythology.
 - Religious themes often depict stories from Hindu epics like Ramayana and Mahabharata, as well as folklore such as Manasha and Chandi.
 - Secular subjects include big news events, accidents, controversies, and societal issues.

- Each Patachitra is accompanied by a song called Patua Sangeet, sung by the artists while unfurling the scroll.

• Aspects of Painting:

- Chalchitra: Background paintings associated with religious idols, such as Durga Pratima.
- Durga Pot: Special Patachitras worshiped during Durga Puja, often featuring images of gods and goddesses.
- Various Technique: Different districts have distinct techniques, colors, and designs. For example, Purulia Patachitras prefer burnt sienna with white and yellow patches, while Hooghly and Manbhum scrolls exhibit modernistic abstract linear treatment.
- Artists: Bengal Patua artists, also known as Chitrakars, are concentrated in villages like Naya in the Medinipur district.
- Colors: Bengal Patachitra commonly employs natural colors derived from materials like chalk dust (for white), pauri (for yellow), cultivated indigo (for blue), bhushakali (for black), and mete sindur (for red).

Studies Suggest More Water Ice on Moon: ISRO



Why in the news?

A study has revealed evidence for enhanced possibility of sub-surface water ice occurrence in the polar craters of the Moon, according to ISRO.

Water Ice on Moon: ISRO's Findings

- According to the research, there is 5-8 times more subsurface ice in the first few meters than there is on the lunar surface.
- Furthermore, the research indicates that the water ice reserves in the Northern Polar zone are twice those in the Southern Polar region.
- It emphasizes how important it is to drill through this ice in order to reach it for upcoming expeditions and a long-term human presence on the moon.

Origin of Water Ice:

- The research supports the theory that subsurface water ice in the lunar poles was created during the Imbrian epoch by volcanic outgassing.
- It implies that the distribution of water ice on the Moon is controlled by favored impact cratering and lunar mare volcanism.

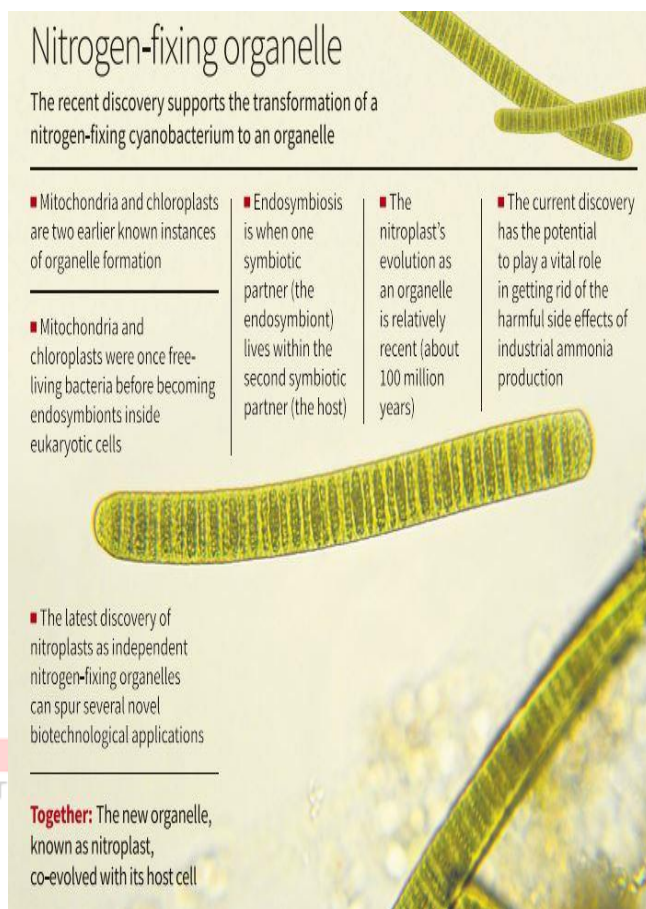
Methodology:

- The research team used radar, laser, optical, neutron spectrometer, ultraviolet spectrometer, and thermal radiometer—seven instruments—onboard NASA's robotic spacecraft, Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter (LRO). Overlooking the Lunar South Pole is LRO.
- Important information about the origin and distribution of water ice on the lunar surface was made possible by these instruments.

Significance of the findings

- Sufficient distribution and depth of water ice are essential for selecting appropriate landing and sample locations for next lunar expeditions.
- The investigation is in line with ISRO's larger lunar exploration goals and helps the organization's future ambitions for in-situ volatile exploration on the moon.

Endosymbiotic Theory and Symbiogenesis



Why in the news?

- According to the endosymbiotic theory, the mitochondria and chloroplasts, two small components of cells, were formerly independent microorganisms.
- The theory that bacteria and cells merged was proposed by biologist Lynn Margulis, who challenged the conventional wisdom that evolution primarily results from genetic changes.

What is the Endosymbiotic Theory?

- According to the endosymbiotic idea, recipient cells ingested free-living bacteria that eventually gave rise to organelles like mitochondria and chloroplasts.
- By introducing symbiogenesis, American biologist Lynn Margulis questioned the consensus among Neo-Darwinists that genetic mutations are the primary cause of evolution.
- Margulis's Struggle:

1. Academic journals rejected Margulis's symbiogenesis manuscript several times before it was eventually accepted and published in The Journal of Theoretical Biology in 1967.
2. Years passed before mitochondria and chloroplasts were recognized as endosymbionts—once free-living bacteria.

Recent Discoveries and Endosymbiotic Theory

- Science and Cell have recently released publications that have rekindled interest in the endosymbiotic idea.
- In living things, nitrogen fixation is essential for the synthesis of proteins and DNA.
- Even in the presence of an abundance of atmospheric nitrogen, plants are unable to effectively utilize it.
- In their root nodules, legumes harbor nitrogen-fixing bacteria that facilitate the synthesis of ammonia for plant usage.

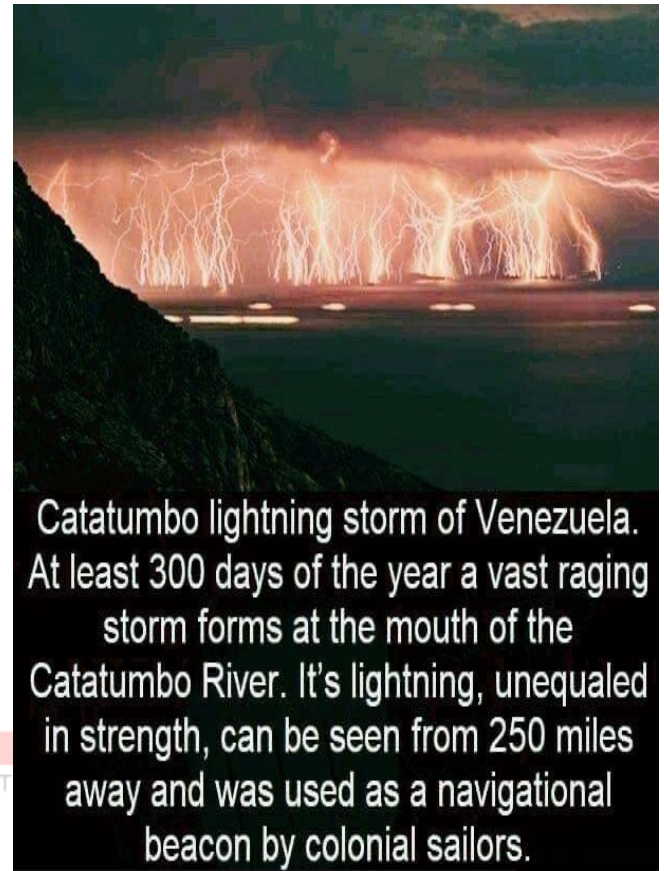
Evolution of Nitroplast

- Marine algae were found to harbor the cyanobacterium UCYN-A, forming a symbiotic association.
- A novel organelle called nitroplast met the requirements for organelle classification by coevolving with its host cell.
- Nitroplast synchronizes growth, imports proteins from the host cell, integrates into the architecture and function of the host cell, and is passed on through cell division.
- Nitroplast proteins have a host cell origin for over half of them.

Significance of the Nitroplasts

- Agriculture: Nitroplasts may be able to lessen the negative impacts of industrial ammonia production.
- Biotechnology: The engineering of host cells and nitroplasts for effective nitrogen fixing in plants is one example of a biotechnological application.

Catatumbo Lightning



Why in the news?

Catatumbo lightning is a type of lightning strike that occurs naturally over the Catatumbo River in Venezuela.

What is Catatumbo Lightning?

- Over the Catatumbo River in Venezuela, there is an atmospheric occurrence known as "Catatumbo Lightning."
- It especially happens in the river's confluence with Lake Maracaibo, the Catatumbo Delta.
- It is regarded as one of the biggest lightning displays in the world.
- This amazing natural event is caused by many, almost constant lightning strikes that light up the night sky with a captivating light display.
- Usually occurring from April to November, the wet season is when Catatumbo Lightning is most common.
- The area is known as "the lightning capital of the world" because to the frequent and extensive lightning activity.



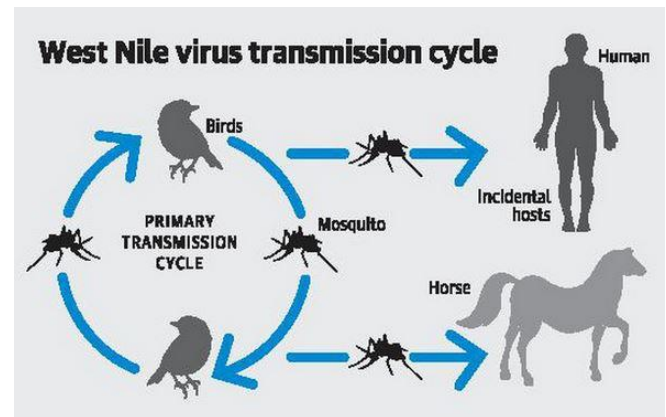
Factors behind Catatumbo Lightning

- Climate Dynamics
- A complex interplay of atmospheric forces is created when cooler air descending from the Andes mountains collides with warm, moisture-laden air rising from the Caribbean Sea.
- This impact, which is emphasized by the surrounding terrain, causes warm air to rise quickly, resulting in the development of massive cumulonimbus clouds.
- Generation of Electrical Charges
- Electrical charges are produced by strong winds and temperature differences within these clouds.
- Massive cumulonimbus clouds that rise over 5 km in the air are a major source of static electricity.
- Lightning Discharge: Lightning strikes occur when the electrical potential inside clouds reaches a critical point.

Characteristics of Catatumbo Lightning

- Catatumbo lightning is extremely long-lived; it happens on about 160 evenings per year.
- The phenomena produces an astounding average of 28 lightning strikes per minute at its peak.

West Nile Fever Outbreak in Kerala



Why in the news?

- The resurgence of West Nile fever cases in the districts of Thrissur, Malappuram, and Kozhikode was revealed by the Kerala government.
- The first incidence of West Nile fever was identified in Kerala in 2011, and a six-year-old child from Malappuram died from the disease in 2019.

What is West Nile Fever?

- The West Nile Virus (WNV), which is spread by bites from infected Culex mosquitoes, is the cause of West Nile fever.
- The WNV is a single-stranded RNA virus that is spread by mosquitoes.
- The World Health Organization states that it is a member of the family Flaviviridae, specifically the Japanese Encephalitis antigenic complex, under the flavi-virus genus.

How does it spread?

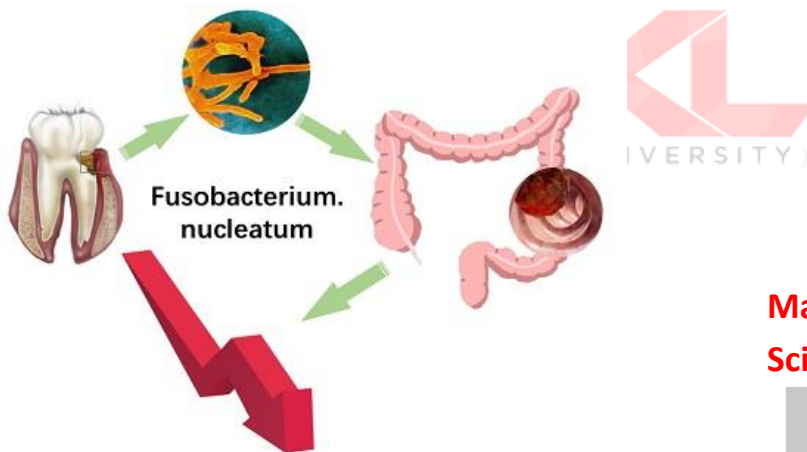
- The virus is spread by infected mosquitoes between humans and animals, particularly birds, which serve as the virus' reservoir host.
- When mosquitoes bite on infected birds, they contract the virus, which stays in their blood for a few days.
- Eventually, the virus enters the salivary glands of the mosquito.
- The virus may be transferred into humans and animals during subsequent blood meals (when mosquitoes bite), where it can proliferate and potentially cause disease.

- In addition, blood transfusions, mother-to-child transmission, and laboratory exposure are three more ways that WNV can spread.
- It is unknown if humans or animals who are afflicted can contract it through touch.

Symptoms of WNV infection:

- For eighty percent of those affected, the disease presents no symptoms.
- The remaining individuals experience what is known as severe West Nile disease or West Nile fever.
- Fever, headache, exhaustion, body aches, nausea, rash, and swollen glands are among the symptoms in about 20% of cases.

Role of Fusobacterium in Colorectal Cancer



Why in the news?

- Certain subtypes of *Fusobacterium nucleatum* have been linked to colorectal cancer (CRC) tumors by researchers at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center in the US.
- These subtypes have been detected in CRC tumors in comparatively larger concentrations, especially *Fusobacterium nucleatum animalis* (Fna).

About *Fusobacterium nucleatum*

- One type of bacteria that is frequently discovered in human mouths is called *Fusobacterium nucleatum*.
- Since it is an anaerobic gram-negative bacteria, oxygen is not necessary for its growth.

- Although it usually lives in the mouth, it has been linked to a number of illnesses, such as colorectal cancer and periodontal problems.

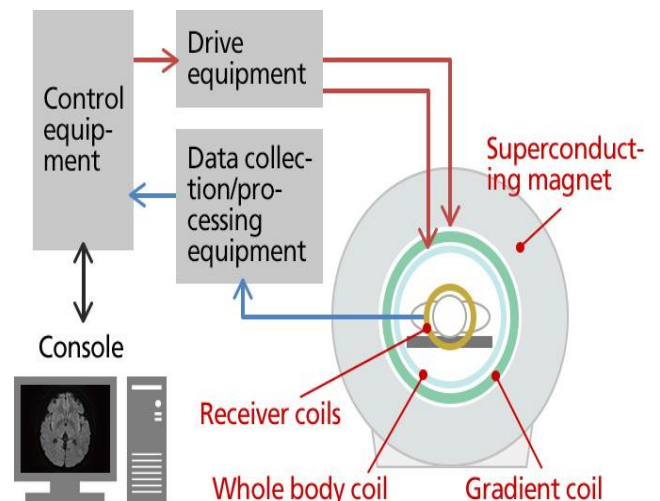
Association with Colorectal Cancer (CRC):

- In gastrointestinal tumors associated with colorectal cancer (CRC), *Fusobacterium nucleatum* has been identified.
- According to studies, this bacterium can help cancer cells resist the immune system and travel to other areas of the body, a process known as metastasis.
- Studies exploring its possible significance in the onset and spread of colorectal cancer have been prompted by its presence in CRC tumors.

Impact:

- Helping cancer cells from being attacked by the immune system.
- Encouraging inflammation and fostering an atmosphere that supports the growth of tumors.
- Interacting with cancer cells and encouraging their dissemination to neighboring tissues, hence facilitating metastasis.

Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) and the Science behind



Why in the news?

- Because it provides non-invasive information about soft tissues, magnetic resonance imaging, or MRI, has completely changed medical diagnostics.

- Its commercialization was made possible by Paul Lauterbur and Peter Mansfield's groundbreaking work, for which they were awarded the 2003 Nobel Prize in Medicine.

What is MRI?

- A non-invasive diagnostic technique called magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) is used to provide finely detailed images of the body's soft tissues.
- It is especially useful for imaging complex systems such as the spinal cord, brain, liver, arteries, joints, muscles, and cardiovascular system.
- A number of diseases, including cancer, neurological disorders (including Alzheimer's and stroke), and cardiovascular diseases, can be diagnosed and tracked with the use of magnetic resonance imaging (MRI).
- By tracking variations in blood flow, functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) can also evaluate brain activity.

Working Principle:

- The magnetic characteristics of hydrogen atoms, which are plentiful in water and fat molecules found throughout the body, are used in magnetic resonance imaging (MRI).
- Hydrogen atoms within the body are aligned by the strong magnetic field produced by the MRI scanner.
- Next, radiofrequency pulses are applied, which cause the energy in hydrogen atoms to be absorbed and released as signals.
- In order to provide precise images of the interior architecture of the body, these released signals are collected by sensors and processed by a computer.

Components of an MRI Machine:

The MRI machine consists:

- **Superconducting Magnet:** A large, stable magnetic field is produced by a superconducting magnet.

- **Gradient Coils:** Using tiny magnetic fields of different intensities and orientations, gradient magnets provide accurate imaging of particular body parts.
- **Radiofrequency coils:** These generate radiofrequency pulses that stimulate the body's hydrogen atoms. The Larmor frequency is the pulse frequency that the "excess" atoms must absorb.
- **Detectors:** They gather signals that hydrogen atoms emit and transform them into visual data so that they can be analyzed.

Advantages of MRI:

- **High-Resolution Imaging:** By providing superior tissue contrast and high-resolution imaging, magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) enables precise diagnosis and treatment planning.
- **Variable Viewing Angles:** It offers thorough information by displaying buildings from a variety of perspectives without requiring repositioning.
- **Safety & Non-Invasiveness:** MRI scans are safe for repeated usage since they are non-invasive and do not emit ionizing radiation.
- **Improved Image Quality:** By emphasizing particular tissues or anomalies, contrast chemicals can improve the quality of images.

Limitations of MRI:

- **Expensive:** MRI machines are costly to buy and operate, which drives up patient healthcare expenses.
- **Patient Stillness:** In order to avoid image distortion, patients getting MRI scans must stay motionless for prolonged periods of time. This can be difficult for some people.
- **Pain or Anxiety:** Patients may experience pain or anxiety from the powerful magnetic fields and loud noises made during an MRI scan.
- **Limitations with Metallic Implants:** MRI scans can be interfered with by some metallic implants or items, which makes them unsuitable for use in patients who have them.

Artificial Rain through Cloud Seeding

Why in the news?

The Uttarakhand government faced **scrutiny** from the **Supreme Court** following Forest fires that claimed lives in the state. Justices highlighted the inefficacy of relying solely on cloud-seeding or rain gods to address the crisis.

HOW CLOUD SEEDING WORKS

The technology involves use of salt flares to target specific types of clouds and stimulate rainfall



Case Study: Experimenting Artificial Rain in India

- An 18% increase in rainfall over average was the outcome of a cloud seeding experiment in the Solapur region of Maharashtra, according to a recent report published in the Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society (BAMS).
- This study was carried out by scientists from the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology in Pune as well as other institutions.
- The experiment released calcium chloride particles to induce rainfall by focusing on

warm convective clouds that were higher than zero degrees Celsius.

- The experiment, which took place between 2017 and 2019, examined 276 clouds using sophisticated instruments such as aircraft, radars, radiometers, and automatic rain gauges.
- The results of the study showed that attempts at glaciogenic seeding in clouds that contained both ice and water had no discernible effect on rainfall at the seeding location.

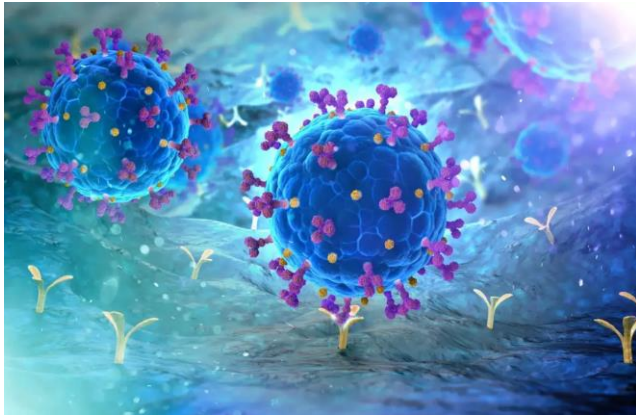
About Cloud-Seeding

- A method of modifying weather patterns called "cloud seeding" involves introducing materials into clouds to encourage precipitation or snowfall.
- It is employed to lessen hail, spread fog, and either cause precipitation or stop it from happening in the days that follow.
- It entails releasing hygroscopic materials into the atmosphere, such as table salt, dry ice, and potassium and silver ions.
- Techniques include:
 1. Static seeding: promotes ice particle formation in supercooled clouds
 2. Dynamic seeding: enhances convective cloud development through the release of latent heat.
- Dispersion methods range from aircraft and ground-based generators to newer approaches like drones delivering electric charges or infrared laser pulses.

Limitations: Impact on Environment and Health

- Though thorough research has revealed few effects, worries about the possible buildup of seeding agents in delicate ecosystems continue.
- When utilized in high concentrations, the compounds, like silver iodide, have the potential to harm the environment and create health problems like iodine poisoning.

FLiRT Variants: Latest Twist in the COVID-19 Saga



Why in the news?

The emergence of new variants *KP.2* and *KP1.1*, known as the *FLiRT* variants, has raised global concerns.

- Despite vaccination efforts, these variants pose challenges, leading to concerns about a potential rise in COVID-19 cases.

What are the FLiRT Variants of COVID-19?

- *KP.2* and *KP1.1*, dubbed 'FLiRT' variants, are descendants of the Omicron JN.1 which spread globally over the winter last year.

Features and Differences from Other Variants

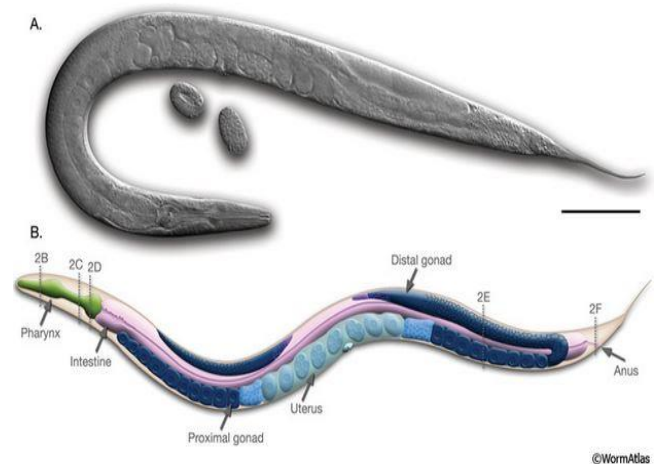
- **New Spike Mutations:** Two distinct mutations in the FLiRT group are thought to improve the virus's capacity to infect human cells.
- **Transmission:** According to preliminary research, *KP.2*, which is the more common of the two, may be better able to avoid immunological reactions brought on by vaccinations and prior infections.

Are FLiRT Variants Riskier than JN.1?

- **Enhanced Immune Evasion:** Studies reveal that *KP.2* exhibits a notable capacity to evade immunity to both the most recent vaccinations and prior infections.
- **Reproduction Number:** *KP.2* may have a higher reproduction number than JN.1, suggesting that it may be more able to spread.
- **Absence of conclusive evidence:** Although FLiRT mutations do not appear to cause more severe illnesses, their capacity to evade immune

responses may increase the number of infections and, consequently, hospital admissions.

Decoding C. Elegans Worm: A Remarkable Discovery



Why in the news?

After first ingesting *Pseudomonas vranovensis*, a disease-causing bacteria, *Caenorhabditis elegans* can pass on its "knowledge" to avoid it for numerous generations, according to research from Princeton University.

C. Elegans: Breakthrough made in Scientific Research

- Through consumption, *C. elegans* can pass on the "knowledge" to protect itself from *Pseudomonas vranovensis*, a bacteria that causes sickness, for numerous generations to come.
- The investigation showed that the worms changed their eating habits to stay away from the bacteria after ingesting short RNA (sRNA) molecules from *P. vranovensis*.
- By interacting with the worm's *maco-1* gene, this sRNA modifies neurological processes.
- At least four more generations inherit these sRNAs, indicating a type of transgenerational epigenetic inheritance.

About C. Elegans Worm

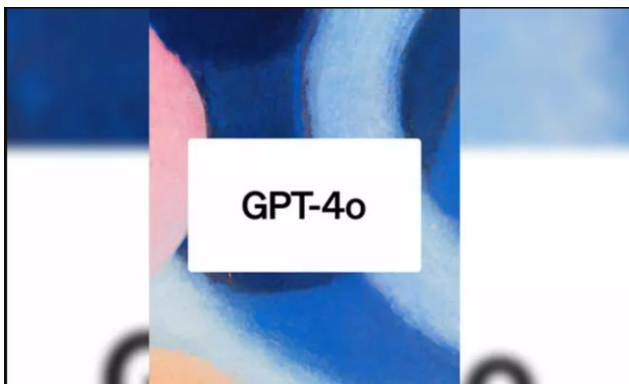
- *Caenorhabditis elegans*, also known as *C. elegans*, is a translucent, tiny nematode that is frequently employed in scientific studies.

- It is simple to examine under a microscope because of its small length of 1 mm.
- Its straightforward body plan makes a lot of biological studies easier.
- In 1998, the whole genome of *C. elegans* became the first multicellular organism to be sequenced.

Key Features of *C. Elegans* Worm

- Short lifespan and rapid regeneration: It only lives for two to three weeks, and it takes three days for an egg to mature into an adult. This makes it possible to study genetics and developmental biology more easily and allows for a rapid generation turnover.
- Transparency: It makes it simple for researchers to view its internal workings and real-time developmental processes.
- Genetic data: This has made it a valuable tool for genetic research and supplied a multitude of genetic data.

GPT-4o: A Free AI Model with Vision, Text, and Voice



Why in the News?

- GPT-4o, a variant of the GPT-4 model that underpins OpenAI's ChatGPT, was released.
- It transforms human-machine interaction and opens up new opportunities for consumers globally by providing faster, smarter, and more efficient text, vision, and voice processing.

About GPT-4o:

- GPT-4o makes human-machine interaction more smooth and natural by providing GPT-4 level intelligence with increased speed and

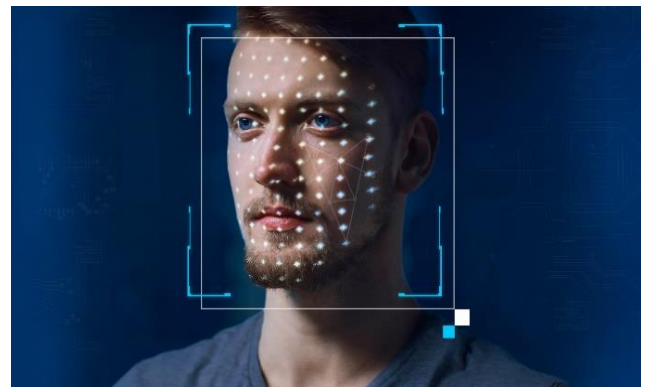
efficiency.(accentuates the sentimental elements)

- Its seamless integration of text-to-speech, intelligence, and transcription features reduces latency and improves voice mode performance.

Features of GPT-4o

- Free Access for All: GPT-4o, which was previously exclusively available to subscribers, is now offering sophisticated tools to all users, enabling the unlocking of over a million GPTs from the GPT store and increasing the opportunities for developers.
- GPT-4o has vision capabilities that allow users to upload documents and photographs and access real-time information while having chats. It also supports more than 50 languages.
- Real-time Conversations: It can recognize the feelings of the user and respond with emotive conversational styles in real-time.
- Support for Vision and code: GPT-4o is able to decipher intricate charts, help with code inquiries, handle challenging math issues, and instantly read facial expressions.
- Translation and Efficiency: Compared to GPT-4 Turbo, GPT-4o is two times faster, 50% less expensive, and has five times greater rate limits. It also provides live real-time translation capabilities.

AI Content Detectors to Combat Deepfakes



Why in the News?

Concerns regarding disinformation were raised during the General Elections of 2024 due to the widespread use

of AI-generated content (AIGC), which included deepfake videos with well-known actors like Ranveer Singh and Aamir Khan.

What is Deepfake Technology?

- It's a kind of AI that makes realistic-looking photo, audio, and video hoaxes. Deepfakes frequently replace one person with another in already-existing source material.
- Generative Adversarial Networks (GANs)—a technique that combines Artificial Neural Networks—are used to create this kind of material.

Legal Safeguards in India:

- The regulations under the IT Act of 2000 and 2021 requires social media intermediaries to promptly remove deepfake content. Failure to do so may result in imprisonment or fines.
 - Section 66D: It penalizes people who use computers or communication devices to personate someone in order to cheat. (Up to three years in prison and a fine of one lakh rupees)
 - Social media intermediaries are required under Rule 3(1)(b)(vii) to prohibit the hosting of content that impersonates other people.
 - Social media sites must delete such content in accordance with Rule 3(2)(b) within 24 hours of receiving a complaint.

Significance of Deepfake Technology:

- Encourages Freedom of Expression: Deepfakes give voice to underrepresented people, giving them a platform to communicate vital messages. Recently, a film was made to convey the last words of a journalist who was murdered by the Saudi government and to demand justice.
- Can Help the Education System: Deepfakes are used by online teachers to make historical figures come to life for captivating lessons. Take a video of Abraham Lincoln delivering his Gettysburg Address, for instance.

- Gives Autonomy: Deepfakes enable people to take charge of their online persona and experiment with different ways to represent themselves. Take the Reface App, for example.
- Offers a practical experience As demonstrated by Salvador Dali's interactive museum advertising, artists employ deepfakes as a tool for collaboration and creative expression. Realistic lip synchronization between performers speaking several languages is made possible by deepfake technology, which improves worldwide accessibility and film immersion.
- Enhancing low-quality footage, bringing back old images, and producing realistic training materials for public safety are all made possible by deepfakes.

What are the limitations of Deepfake Technology?

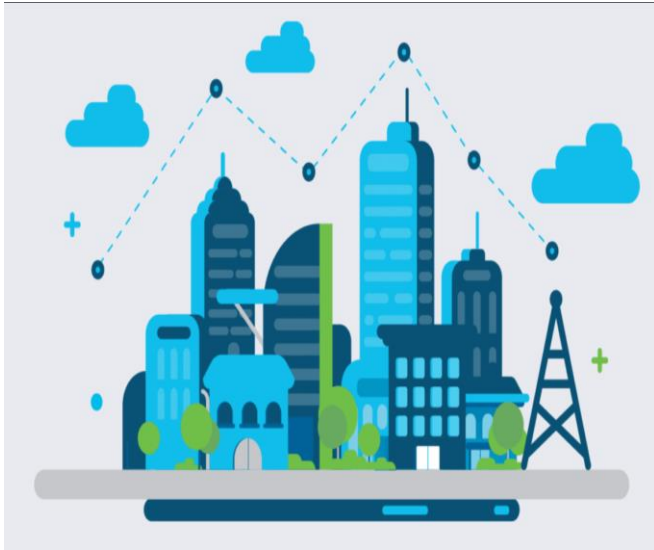
- Disseminating False Information: Deepfakes, such as films featuring politicians or other celebrities, have the ability to influence viewers and sow uncertainty about crucial problems by deliberately disseminating false information. This can have an impact on elections and public opinion.
- Frauds: Deepfake technology allows financial fraudsters to impersonate victims and deceive them into disclosing personal information. They can also cause psychological discomfort and encourage harassment, which primarily targets women.
- Accuracy: Although no artificial intelligence detector can guarantee 100% accuracy, programs such as Originality.ai have a 99% true positive rate. Probability ratings are reported by detection models, which enable sophisticated evaluations in spite of inherent uncertainties.

Future Scope:

- Adversarial AI: Content detectors face a major difficulty in keeping up with the rapid evolution of generative AI models.

- **Cost and Accessibility:** As technology advances and is used more widely, it is anticipated that detection technologies will become more affordable and accessible.

PM WANI Wi-Fi Scheme



Why in the News?

- Under the PM-WANI scheme, India witnesses a swift rise in public Wi-Fi hotspots, reaching approximately 1,99,896 hotspots nationwide, according to government data.

What is the PM WANI Initiative?

- In December 2020, Prime Minister Modi introduced the Prime Minister Wi-Fi Access Network Interface, or PM WANI.
- It is a Department of Telecommunications (DoT) project.
- It advances the objective of building a strong digital communications infrastructure as outlined in the National Digital Communications Policy, 2018 (NDCP).
 - The goal is to make internet connection more accessible to all, especially in isolated and underdeveloped places.
 - Implementation: Makes use of Public Data Offices (PDOs) set up in public areas such as post offices, banks, and train stations, among others. At these

sites, users can connect to the internet over Wi-Fi without a SIM card.

PM-WANI ecosystem consists of four parts:

1. **Public Data Office (PDO):** It creates WiFi hotspots and gives people access to the internet.
2. **Public Data Office Aggregator (PDOA):** It offers PDOs accounting and authorization services.
3. **App Provider:** It shows the hotspots that are available close to the phone.
4. **Details on App Providers, PDOs, and PDOAs** are kept up to date in the Central Registry, which is supervised by the Center for Development of Telematics.

How to Utilize PM WANI?

- Users must download and install the Data PM WANI app on their cellphones in order to enjoy PM WANI services.
- Users can connect to neighboring public Wi-Fi PDOs via the app.
- This app makes it easier for users to connect to Wi-Fi hotspots that comply with PM-WANI, giving them quick access to broadband services.

Data Plans Offered

PM WANI offers various data plans to suit different usage needs:

- Rs 6 plan: 1GB data for 1 day
- Rs 9 plan: 2GB data for 2 days
- Rs 18 plan: 5GB data for 3 days
- Rs 25 plan: 20GB data for 7 days
- Rs 49 plan: 40GB data for 14 days
- Rs 99 plan: 100GB data for 30 days

Role of Public Data Offices (PDOs)

- Public Data Offices (PDOs) can be established by rural entrepreneurs in isolated areas under the PM-WANI program.
- In order to provide Wi-Fi services at low cost, these PDOs purchase internet bandwidth from telecom service providers, or ISPs.
- With this strategy, people can use the internet even in places with spotty or nonexistent data coverage.

EU activated Copernicus EMS to Locate Crashed Iranian Helicopter



Why in the News?

- The European Union had triggered its Copernicus Emergency Management Service (EMS) to support search and rescue operations in reaction to the helicopter crash that involved Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi.

About the Copernicus Programme

- Earth observation agency of the European Union initiated this program in 1998.
- It is named for Copernicus and gathers environmental data via satellites and ground devices.

- With assistance from organizations like the European Environment Agency (EEA) and the European Space Agency (ESA), it is carried out by EU member states.

Utility of GMES: Rapid Response Mapping Service

- Rapid response mapping is a vital feature of the Copernicus EMS that is triggered during crises such as accidents or natural disasters.

How Rapid Mapping Works?

- In order to deliver information quickly, rapid mapping entails gathering, processing, and evaluating pertinent data as well as satellite imagery.
- Pre-event reference and post-event assessments, such as first estimates, demarcation, and grading of the impacted area, are among the items it offers.

Application in the Iranian President's Case

- The EU turned up the quick response mapping service in the event of the Iranian President's helicopter crash to facilitate search and rescue efforts.
- This technology makes it easier to find the crash scene and determine how much damage was done, which speeds up response times.

Security Issues

Exercise Shakti



Why in the news?

Commencing at Umroi, Meghalaya, the 7th iteration of the India-France Joint Military Exercise SHAKTI marks the

beginning of a biannual training exercise designed to improve bilateral military collaboration.

About Exercise Shakti

- The Indian and French army participate in the joint military drill known as the Shakti Exercise.
- It is a biannual training event that alternates between France and India.
- The forces of both nations have participated in it since 2011, with the goal of fostering defense cooperation and interoperability.
- Objectives:
 - In accordance with Chapter VII of the UN Mandate, to strengthen combined military capabilities for multi-domain operations in a sub-conventional setting.

- to conduct operations in mountainous and semi-urban areas while concentrating on developing a high level of physical condition and perfecting tactical drills.

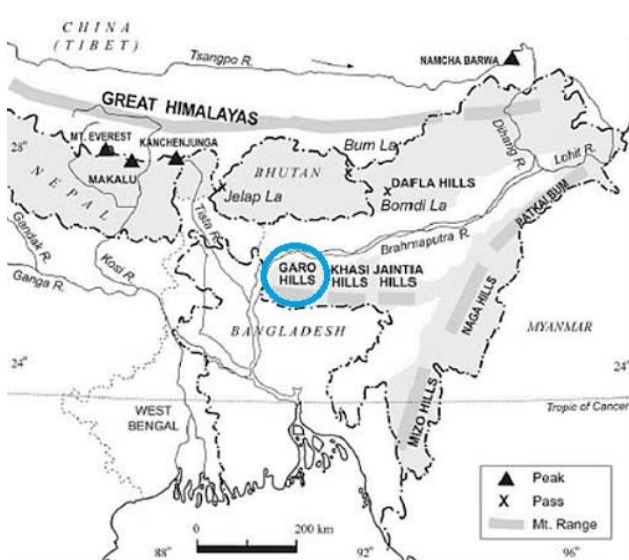
Major Defence Exercise between India and France:

- Garuda is the name of the combined air exercise that the French Air and Space Force and the Indian Air Force conduct.
- Varuna: The Indian and French navies are participating in a joint naval drill.

- Desert Knight-21: From January 20–24, 2021, the Indian Air Force and the French Air and Space Force engaged in a bilateral air exercise at Air Force Station Jodhpur. It was distinct since both sides were using Rafale aircraft in combat.
- FRINJEX: On March 7-8, 2023, the Indian and French armies held their first-ever combined military drill at Pangode Military Station in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.

Trivia

Garro Hills


Why in the news?

- Archaeologists from the Geological Survey of India (GSI) have made significant progress by finding prehistoric fossils in Tolegre, South Garo Hills, Meghalaya.
- The fossils are thought to be related to the extinct taxa *Rhodocetus* or *Amulocetus*, which are thought to be the ancestors of contemporary whales.

About Garo Hills

- One of the hill ranges in northeastern India is the Garo-Khasi range, which includes the Garo Hills in Meghalaya.
- They are located in Meghalaya's western region, with Bangladesh to their west and south.
- The Garo Hills have a rough, hilly topography with deep valleys, steep slopes, and thick woods.
- With an elevation of roughly 1,415 meters (4,642 ft) above sea level, the Nokrek is the tallest peak.
- The monsoon season, which typically lasts from June to September, brings substantial rainfall to the Garo Hills' humid subtropical climate.
- This area is crossed by many rivers and streams, including as the Someshwari, Jinjiram, and Brahmaputra rivers.
- Along with its scenic waterfalls, the area is well-known for the Pelga Falls, which are close to Tura, the biggest town in the Garo Hills.
- Within is the Nokrek National Park, which is home to several endangered species, such as the Asian elephant and the red panda, and is designated as a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve.
- One of the main ethnic groups in Meghalaya, the Garo tribe, resides mostly in the Garo Hills.

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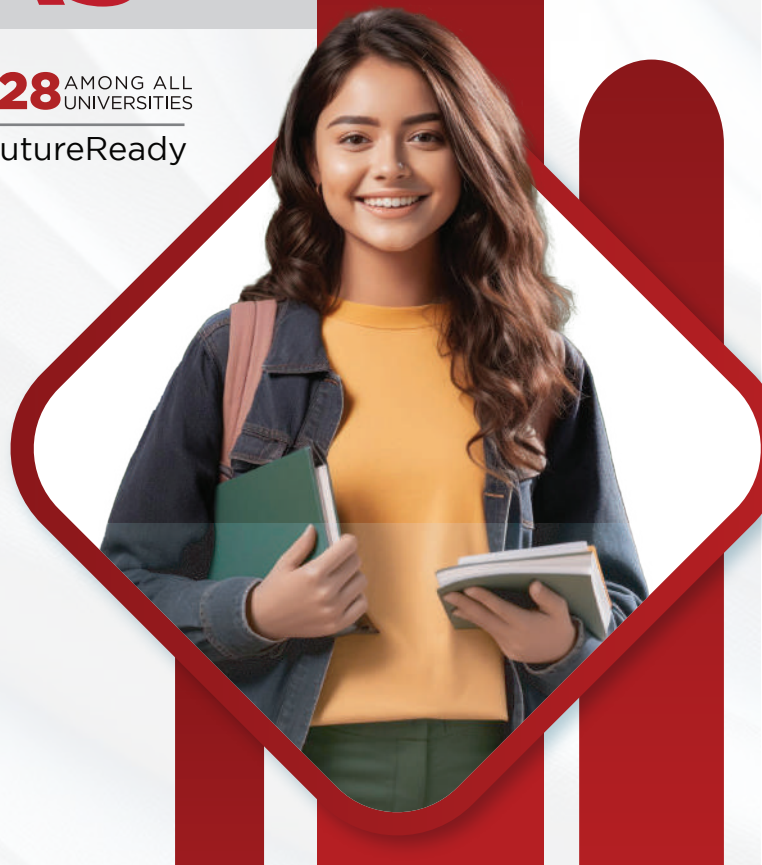
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