

2024 Current Affairs

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Inside the box

This special edition of Current Affairs Magazine is comprised of three sections, featuring 300 multiple-choice questions for practice for the month of *May 2024*.

This Magazine Comprises of

3 Parts:

Part 1

Topic Wise Current Affairs in Short.

Part 2

Detailed Analysis of important Event

Part 3

300 Practice MCQ Questions with Answers & Explanation

The **1st Part** is devoted to topic-wise current affairs, offering brief descriptions of all major events from this month.

The **2nd Part** covers major events from this month with detailed analysis. Each issue is comprehensively addressed.

The **3rd Part** features 300 MCQ based on daily current affairs.





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Part 01

Topic Wise Current Affairs



1: Important Days



May 1st: International Workers' Day :-

The origins of International Labour Day can be traced back to the labor movement in the United States during the late nineteenth century. May 1st was specifically selected as the date to commemorate a widespread protest demanding an eight-hour workday that commenced in 1886. Unfortunately, this significant occurrence led to the tragic Haymarket Affair in Chicago, where a peaceful labor rally turned violent due to a bomb explosion, resulting in the deaths of seven police officers and a minimum of four civilians. It is worth noting that Labour Day in the United States and Canada is observed on the first Monday of September instead of May 1st.



World Tuna Day is observed on the 2nd of May each year. :-

The UN General Assembly decided in December 2016 to establish World Tuna Day as a yearly event. Initially marked in May 2017, it has since been commemorated each year on May 2. The objective of this day is to bring

attention to the significance of tuna fish, highlighting the threats they face due to uncontrolled fishing methods and inadequate conservation efforts. Many nations rely on tuna for various purposes such as food security, economic growth, job opportunities, and cultural practices.



World Press Freedom Day observed on the 3rd of May. :-

World Press Freedom Day is observed every year on May 3. As per a proposal from UNESCO's General Conference in 1991, the United Nations General Assembly established Press Freedom Day in 1993, and it has been celebrated on May 3 each year since its inception in 1994. The purpose of this day is to uphold press freedom and show gratitude to journalists who have lost their lives while performing their duties. The theme for this year's Press Freedom Day is "A Press for the Planet: Journalism confronting the environmental crisis."



Coal Miners Day is observed on May 4th. :-

Coal Miners Day is celebrated every year on May 4th to acknowledge and commend the dedicated work of coal miners and their significant role in extracting coal, a prominent fossil fuel used for multiple purposes such as power generation and industrial production. Even though the inception of coal mining in Scotland dates back to 1575, the first coal mine in India was established much later, in 1774 at the Raniganj Coalfield near the Damodar River, managed by John Summer and Suetonius Grant Heatly from the East India Company.



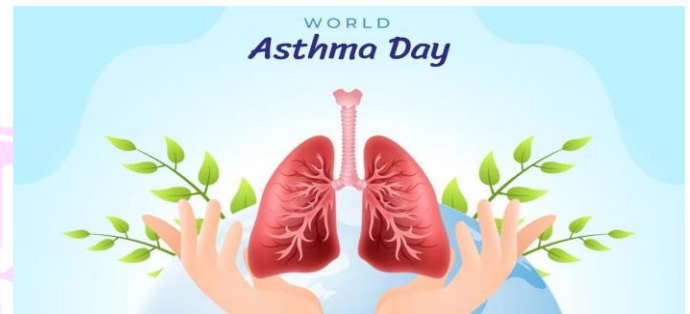
World Laughter Day 2024: 05 May - Pay attention to the Laughter! :-

World Laughter Day is observed every year on the first Sunday of May, with this year falling on May 5th. It aims to promote the benefits of laughter, such as its therapeutic properties, and emphasize the importance of maintaining a positive attitude. Dr. Madan Kataria, who is credited with founding the worldwide Laughter Yoga movement, initiated World Laughter Day in 1998. Encouraging laughter as a means to promote unity and camaraderie across the globe is a key objective of this event.



World Portugal Language Day is celebrated on the 5th of May. :-

In 2009, the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries (CPLP) officially assigned May 5 as a special day to honor the Portuguese language and Lusophone cultures. This decision was made by an intergovernmental organization that has been collaborating with UNESCO since 2000, uniting communities that share the Portuguese language as a key aspect of their distinct cultural identities. Subsequently, during the 40th session of UNESCO's General Conference in 2019, it was determined that May 5th would be recognized annually as "World Portuguese Language Day".



World Asthma Day on 7th May 2024 :-

World Asthma Day is celebrated annually on the first Tuesday of May. This year's World Asthma Day will fall on May 7. The Global Initiative for Asthma (GINA) was established in 1993, and the first World Asthma Day was observed in 1998. Asthma is a persistent respiratory condition that causes the airways to become inflamed or narrowed, obstructing airflow to the lungs and making breathing challenging. Even mild cases of Asthma can impede everyday tasks. The 2024 theme for World Asthma Day is "Asthma Education Empowers".



World Athletics Day falls on the 7th of May each year.

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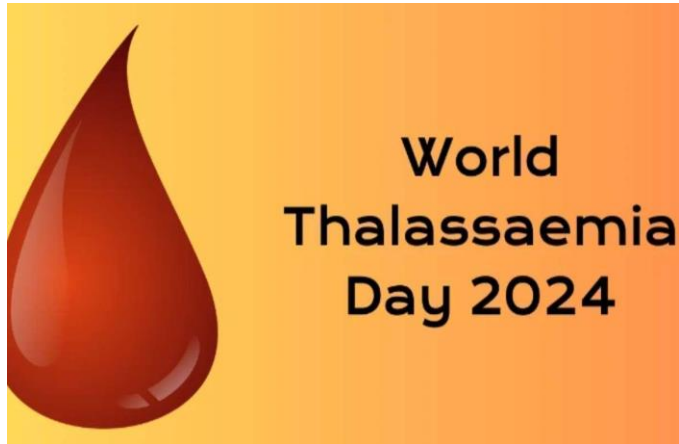
The International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) holds an annual event known as World Athletics Day on May 7. The inaugural celebration occurred in 1996. Established on July 17, 1912 in Stockholm, Sweden, the IAAF serves as the global authority for track and field athletics. Athletics encompasses various competitive activities like running, walking, jumping, and throwing. In India, the Athletics Federation of India (AFI) is the primary organization overseeing athletics and is affiliated with both the IAAF and the Indian Olympic Association (IOA).



World Red Cross Day falls on the 8th of May each year.

:-

World Red Cross Day is celebrated annually on May 8th to honor the humanitarian work and values of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. These organizations have a crucial role in providing assistance and support to individuals impacted by natural disasters, armed conflicts, and other emergencies worldwide. In 1948, the Board of Governors of the League of Red Cross Societies proposed honoring Henry Dunant's birthday as the founder of the Red Cross and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). The theme chosen for the 2024 World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day is "I donate with happiness, and the happiness I give is a gift."



World Thalassaemia Day is observed on 8th May every year. :-

World Thalassaemia Day falls on May 8 and is dedicated to increasing awareness of thalassaemia as a blood disorder, debunking misconceptions surrounding the condition, and supporting patients in leading normal lives. Thalassaemia is an inherited disorder characterized by reduced levels of haemoglobin, which is responsible for carrying oxygen, and fewer red blood cells. Common symptoms of thalassaemia include fatigue, weakness, and impaired growth. While mild cases may not necessitate treatment, severe forms often require interventions such as blood transfusions or stem-cell transplants from a suitable donor. This year's event slogan is "Empowering Lives, Embracing Progress: Equitable and Accessible Thalassaemia Treatment for All."



World Lupus Day occurs on the 10th of May. :-

World Lupus Day, observed annually on May 10, aims to increase awareness about Lupus, a persistent autoimmune illness that can impact various organs in the body. In autoimmune diseases, the immune system malfunctions by attacking healthy tissue alongside pathogens as it produces antibodies. The origin of

World Lupus Day can be traced back to 2004, when a worldwide initiative was launched to shed light on the autoimmune condition lupus. Lupus Canada led the way in establishing this day in 2004.



National Technology Day in India falls on May 11th. :- National Technology Day is celebrated in India on May 11 every year to commemorate the successful nuclear test at Pokhran in 1998 and acknowledge significant advancements in science and technology, underscoring their crucial role in solidifying the nation's position as a frontrunner in technological progress worldwide. Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the former Prime Minister, designated May 11 as National Technology Day in India to pay tribute to the historic Pokhran nuclear tests conducted by the Indian Army in Rajasthan in 1998. The inaugural celebration of National Technology Day was organized by the Council for Technology on May 11, 1999. The theme for the year 2024 is 'School to Startups-Igniting Young Minds to Innovate'.



World Migratory Bird Day falls on the 11th of May. :- World Migratory Bird Day is a global event held twice a year to bring attention to the importance of protecting

migrating birds and their habitats. It takes place on the second Saturday of May and October, with this year's dates being May 11 and October 12, 2024. This year's theme centers on the significance of insects for migratory birds, as part of a broader effort to raise awareness and encourage international cooperation for the conservation of these birds.



International Nurses Day falls on the 12th of May. :- Every year on May 12, International Nurses Day is celebrated in honor of Florence Nightingale's birthday. The day pays tribute to Florence Nightingale, known as the "Foundational Philosopher of Modern Nursing," who was born in 1820. The inaugural observance of International Nurses Day took place in 1953 following a recommendation by Dorothy Sutherland, an official of the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, to President Dwight D. Eisenhower for the establishment of a day dedicated to nurses. The current theme for International Nurses Day, declared by the International Council of Nurses, is 'Our Nurses Our Future, The Economic Power of Care.'



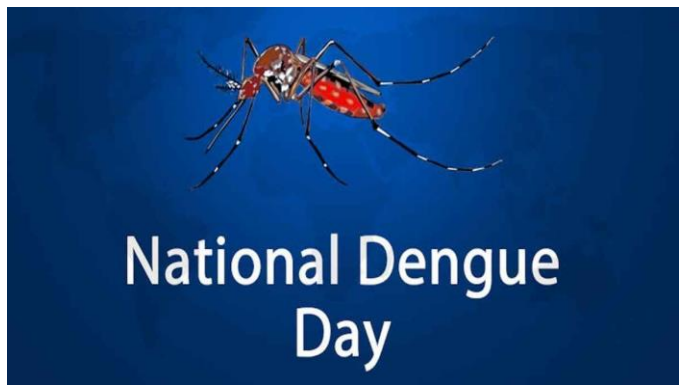
Mother's Day in 2024 falls on the 12th of May. :-

Mother's Day is observed on the second Sunday of May in several nations, such as India, and this year it falls on May 12, 2024. It is a special occasion that underscores the immense importance of mothers and the role of motherhood. The day is dedicated to showing love, gratitude, and acknowledgment for the endless care and unconditional love that mothers give throughout their lives. This day holds great importance for various reasons. In 1914, President Woodrow Wilson officially established the second Sunday in May as Mother's Day in the United States by signing a proclamation.



15 May is recognized as the International Day of Families. :-

The International Day of Families is commemorated annually on May 15 to encourage family togetherness and peace. The United Nations introduced this observance in 1994 to foster family values and strengthen community bonds. This year's theme for the International Day of Families is "Families & Climate Change: International Year of the Family + 30". The focus for the 2024 celebration is on raising awareness of the impact of climate change on families and empowering them to take action against it.



National Dengue Day in India falls on 16th May. :-

National Dengue Day, observed on May 16, serves as a prompt for individuals and communities to proactively address the spread of dengue. It emphasizes the importance of taking preventive measures in combating the disease, such as maintaining cleanliness to eliminate mosquito breeding grounds. Since its inception in 2010, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has annually commemorated National Dengue Day in India, facilitating conversations about governmental efforts to stop dengue transmission. This year's theme for National Dengue Day is "Dengue Prevention: Our Duty Towards a Safer Future".



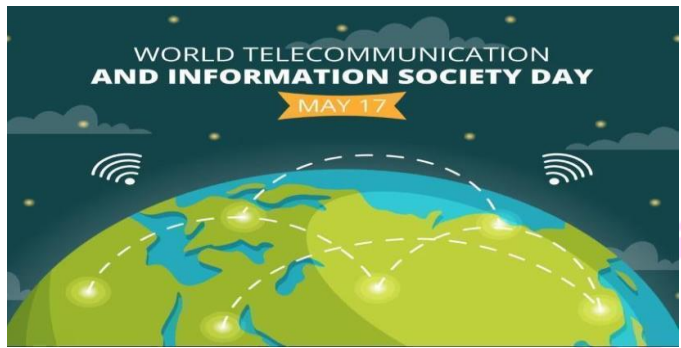
16 May is celebrated as the International Day of Light. :-

The International Day of Light is celebrated every year on May 16. In 1960, physicist and engineer Theodore Maiman achieved the first operational laser. The purpose of establishing the International Day of Light was to honor this significant event, and it continues to be commemorated on May 16 each year. In 2015, the United Nations organized the International Day of Light to promote understanding of light science, technology involving light, and their practical uses. The current theme for this year's International Day of Light is "Light in Our Lives, illuminating the path ahead for us."



World Hypertension Day falls on the 17th of May. :-

World Hypertension Day occurs annually on May 17th and aims to increase awareness about hypertension, promote prevention, detection, and control of high blood pressure, which is a significant risk factor for cardiovascular disease and premature death globally. Established by the World Hypertension League (WHL), the first World Hypertension Day was held on May 14, 2005. Since 2006, May 17 has been recognized as World Hypertension Day. The theme for World Hypertension Day in 2024 is "Measure Your Blood Pressure Accurately, Control It, Live Longer".



17 May is observed annually as World Telecommunication and Information Society Day. :-

Annually, on May 17, the world marks World Telecommunications and Information Society Day (WTISD) to honor the establishment of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) on May 17, 1969. WTISD aims to emphasize the significance of widespread access to telecommunication services and endorse the idea of digital inclusivity. It also encourages reflection on how technology can improve wellbeing and support sustainable progress. The theme for World Telecommunication and Information Society Day 2024 is 'Digital Innovation for Sustainable Development.'



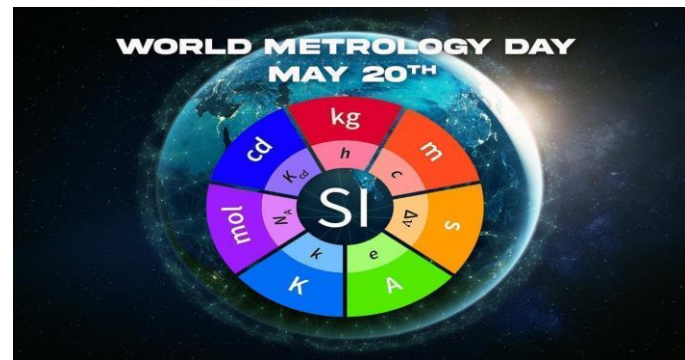
World AIDS Vaccine Day is observed on the 18th of May. :-

World AIDS Vaccine Day is observed annually on May 18th to raise awareness about HIV and support the creation of an effective vaccine. HIV is a global epidemic affecting millions of people worldwide, with approximately 38.4 million individuals living with the virus as per recent data, the majority being in the WHO African Region. This day also highlights opportunities for individuals to contribute to the global fight against HIV. The inaugural World AIDS Vaccine Day was celebrated in 1998.



International Museum Day falls on the 18th of May. :-

International Museum Day occurs annually on May 18th, aiming to promote the establishment and sustainability of museums within our communities worldwide. This event serves as a tribute to museums globally, recognizing their contributions in promoting learning, preserving heritage, and fostering cultural diversity. Originating in 1977 by the International Council of Museums, the first observance of International Museum Day occurred the following year in nearly 22 countries on the same date. The theme for International Museum Day 2024 is "Museums for Education and Research."



World Metrology Day falls on the 20th of May. :-

Every year on May 20, World Metrology Day is observed to honor the field of measuring and its diverse applications across various industries. This day serves as an opportunity to raise understanding about the importance of precise and consistent measurements in our everyday activities. Metrology involves the method of obtaining accurate measurements that can be replicated. It encompasses different realms of measurement, encompassing scientific, industrial, and legal aspects. World Metrology Day commemorates the signing of the Metre Convention on May 20, 1875, by delegates from seventeen nations. The theme for World Metrology Day in 2024 is 'Sustainability'.



World Bee Day falls on the 20th of May. :-

World Bee Day is celebrated every May 20th to raise awareness about the significance of pollinators like bees. The United Nations first established this observance in 2017 to acknowledge the critical role bees play in sustaining ecosystems and food production. The aim of World Bee Day is to promote actions that protect bees and their environments, highlighting the vital role of pollinators in preserving biodiversity and ensuring worldwide food security. The theme for this year is "Bee engaged with Youth."



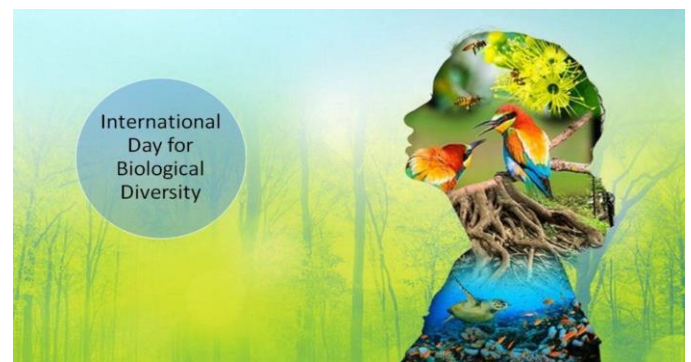
National Anti-Terrorism Day in India falls on 21st May. :-

In India, National Anti-Terrorism Day is acknowledged annually on May 21st in honor of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, who was tragically assassinated on this day in 1991 by an LTTE suicide bomber in Sriperumbudur. Instituted by the VP Singh administration, the day serves as a means to raise awareness about the adverse impacts of terrorism and violence on society and the nation.



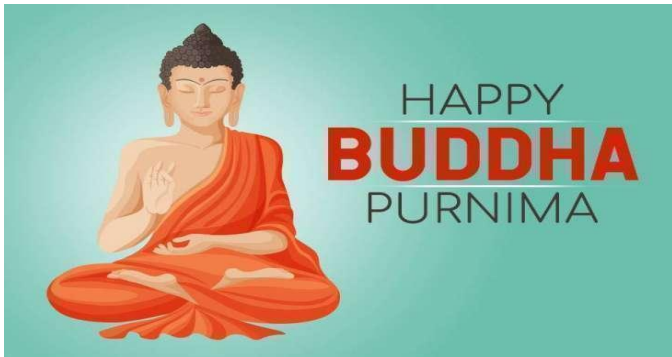
The date for celebrating International Tea Day is 21 May. :-

Tea is the second most popular drink in the world after water. Each year, on May 21, International Tea Day is commemorated. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations emphasizes the importance of this day, as it highlights the cultural, health, and economic importance of tea. The inaugural International Tea Day was marked in New Delhi, India, in 2005, and since then, other tea-producing nations like Sri Lanka, Nepal, Vietnam, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Kenya, Malawi, Malaysia, Uganda, and Tanzania have joined in the celebrations.



International Day of Biodiversity will be observed on May 22nd. :-

The International Day of Biodiversity will be celebrated on May 22, 2024, with the theme for this year focusing on the importance of a united effort to tackle biodiversity loss and promote the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. This yearly event highlights the vital role biodiversity plays in maintaining ecosystem balance.



Buddha Purnima falls on May 23rd. :-

The important event of Buddha Purnima signifies the birth of Prince Siddhartha Gautama, who later became known as Gautama Buddha and established Buddhism. Mainly observed by Buddhists, this festival is widely celebrated across South, Southeast, and East Asia, such as in countries like India, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan, Tibet, Thailand, China, Korea, Laos, Vietnam, Mongolia, Cambodia, Indonesia, and many others. This year, Buddha Jayanti will occur on Thursday, May 23, marking the 2586th birth anniversary of Gautam Buddha.



World Football Day will be celebrated on May 25th, 2024. :-

The United Nations General Assembly, consisting of 193 members, approved a resolution on May 7, 2024, establishing May 25 as World Football Day annually. On May 25, 1924, the 1924 Paris Summer Olympics football tournament saw participation from all global regions. The upcoming Summer Olympics in Paris will coincide with the 100th anniversary of the 1924 football event on May 25, 2024. In honor of this historic occasion, the United Nations has unanimously agreed to observe May 25 as World Football Day.



29 May: International Day dedicated to United Nations Peacekeepers :-

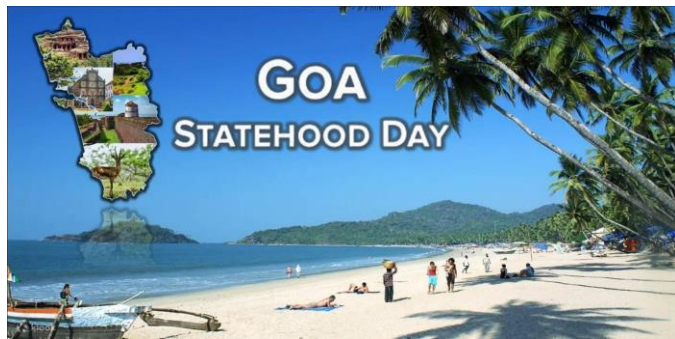
The International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers was created by the United Nations General Assembly in 2002 to pay tribute to the individuals, both living and deceased, who dedicate themselves to UN peacekeeping missions. May 29 was designated as this special day in honor of the establishment of the first UN peacekeeping force, known as the United Nations Truce Supervision Organisation (UNTSO), which began its operations in Palestine on that date in 1948. The theme for 2024 is 'Fit for the future, building better together'.



INTERNATIONAL EVEREST DAY

29 May is celebrated as International Everest Day. :-

International Everest Day, observed on May 29, honors the remarkable feat of Edmund Hillary from New Zealand and Tenzing Norgay Sherpa from Nepal. It was on this day in 1953 that the duo conquered harsh icy conditions and harsh weather to successfully reach the peak of Mount Everest, marking a historic milestone. The establishment of International Everest Day in 2008 coincided with the passing of Edmund Hillary, with the Nepal government officially declaring May 29 to commemorate this significant accomplishment in mountaineering history.



Celebrating the Establishment of Goa as a State: May 30th :-

Annually celebrated on May 30, Goa Statehood Day commemorates the historical event when Goa, a former Portuguese colony of over 450 years, was liberated by India in 1961. Following this, in 1987, Goa, Daman, and Diu were made union territories, with Goa achieving statehood in the same year, becoming the 25th state of India. Panaji was established as the capital of Goa, with Konkani being designated as the state's official language. Goa Statehood Day continues to be observed on May 30 each year since then.



The date for celebrating Hindi Journalism Day is on 30 May. :-

Hindi Journalism Day is celebrated annually on May 30th. Udant Martand marked the initiation of Hindi newspaper publication in India during the British rule, with its first issue released in Calcutta on May 30, 1826. Since then, Hindi journalism has been an integral part of the country's media landscape for almost two centuries, catering news to non-English speaking individuals and enabling them to stay informed and form educated perspectives. On this day, we pay tribute to journalists in the Hindi journalism sector who play a crucial role in disseminating accurate information.



30 May marks the International Day of Potato. :-

The inaugural International Day of Potato will be observed on May 30, 2024, to celebrate the significant role of this widely consumed crop. In December 2023, the General Assembly officially declared May 30th as International Potato Day, stressing the vital contribution of potatoes to food security, nutrition, sustainable farming, and economic progress on a global scale. The 2024 theme for this occasion is "Harvesting Diversity, Feeding Hope," emphasizing the importance of cultivating a range of potato varieties.



World No Tobacco Day falls on the 31st of May. :-

World No Tobacco Day is recognized by the World Health Organization (WHO) on May 31 annually. It focuses on educating people about the harmful consequences of tobacco and the significance of

decreasing tobacco consumption. WHO, founded in 1948, initiated the observance of World No Tobacco Day in 1987. It is reported by WHO that tobacco-related illnesses claim over 8 million lives each year. The theme for World No Tobacco Day 2024 centers on "Shielding children from interventions by the tobacco industry."



2: Agreements



NHPC Ltd has entered into a partnership agreement with a Norwegian company for the implementation of floating solar technology. :-

NHPC Limited, a hydropower company, has finalized a Memorandum of Understanding with Ocean Sun, a Norwegian firm specializing in floating solar technology. The agreement entails NHPC and Ocean Sun partnering to test and showcase Ocean Sun's floating solar energy technology that utilizes photovoltaic panels. Currently, about 44% of India's energy needs are met using non-fossil sources, with projections indicating this could increase to 65% by 2030, surpassing the commitment made at the 2021 COP summit.



India renews a deal to provide training for 1500 Bangladeshi officers. :-

In the upcoming five years, India plans to train 1,500 Bangladeshi civil personnel in advanced workshops focusing on effective governance practices. A senior

government official revealed that there will be a new agreement to extend the existing Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for another five years. V Srinivas, Secretary of the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG), mentioned that the training programs for mid-level and senior management will include topics such as project management, public procurement, blue economy, and food processing, among others.



India's Comptroller and Auditor General and Nepal's Auditor General have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to strengthen cooperation in auditing. :-

Girish Chandra Murmu, the Comptroller and Auditor General of India, recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Toyam Raya, the Auditor General of Nepal. The purpose of this agreement is to enhance cooperation and the sharing of expertise in auditing between the respective Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs) of the two countries. This MoU will establish a structure for enhancing capabilities, exchanging knowledge, and providing mutual assistance in auditing. The official signing event, attended by representatives from both countries, signifies an important step towards fostering stronger relationships and cooperation in auditing processes.



ICC and UAE council sign MoU to enhance relationships :-

The UAE-India CEPA Council, also known as UICC, has recently entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC), marking the start of a strategic partnership aimed at enhancing economic and trade connections between the UAE and India. Aligned with their core objectives, the UICC and ICC will collaborate to raise awareness in both countries about the significant opportunities presented by the bilateral economic partnership between the UAE and India, with the UICC concentrating on fostering economic cooperation and trade relations between the two nations.



India will oversee the operations of Iran's Chabahar Port for a period of ten years. :-

India is expected to finalize a decade-long deal with Iran to oversee the operations at Chabahar Port, representing India's initial venture into foreign port management. Chabahar Port is currently being incorporated into the International North South Transport Corridor (INSTC), which would enhance India's links to Russia via Iran. India aims to circumvent

Pakistan and establish direct connectivity to Afghanistan and Central Asia by utilizing Chabahar Port. Given its strategic significance, Chabahar Port plays a critical role in connecting India to Afghanistan, Central Asia, and the wider Eurasian area.



Hero MotoCorp Partners with ONDC Network to Transform Two-Wheeler Sector :-

Hero MotoCorp, a well-known motorcycle manufacturer, announced its partnership with the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) to enhance accessibility and convenience for customers by providing a digital platform. The ONDC will initially offer various two-wheeler parts, accessories, and products, including 'Hero Genuine Parts' which can be easily found through popular buying applications like Paytm and Mystore. According to Hero MotoCorp CEO Niranjn Gupta, this collaboration aligns with the Digital India initiative and the company remains committed to introducing further innovations in this area.



LankaPay collaborates with PhonePe to introduce UPI in Sri Lanka. :-

PhonePe has teamed up with LankaPay to allow its users to utilize UPI for payments across Sri Lanka. During an event celebrating this partnership, PhonePe revealed that its app users visiting Sri Lanka can conveniently use UPI to make payments at LankaPay QR merchants. Transactions will be processed using the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) and the LankaPay National Payment Network. By scanning the LankaQR code, users can efficiently and safely make payments without the need for cash or the hassle of currency conversion. The payment will be deducted in INR, with the currency exchange rate clearly displayed.



US and Japan agree to collaborate on developing hypersonic interceptor :-

As per an agreement they established, the United States and Japan are planning to develop interceptors capable of destroying hypersonic missiles by the 2030s. This joint effort, with a projected cost exceeding \$3 billion, was announced in August during a gathering of the leaders of the two nations and South Korea at Camp David near Washington. The defense ministry highlighted the significant advancement of missile technologies, including hypersonic weaponry, around Japan in recent years as they disclosed the collaboration to build a Glide Phase Interceptor (GPI).



Tata Motors collaborates with Bajaj Finance to provide financial assistance to their vehicle dealers. :-

Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles (TMPV) and Tata Passenger Electric Mobility (TPEM), two subsidiaries of Tata Motors, have teamed up with Bajaj Finance, a division of Bajaj Finserv Ltd., to provide supply chain finance options to their dealers. The collaboration aims to utilize Bajaj Finance's extensive network to offer funding opportunities to TMPV and TPEM dealers with reduced collateral requirements, as outlined in the partnership agreement.



DAHD and UNDP Establish Agreement for Digitalizing Vaccine Cold Chain Management :-

The Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying's Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying (DAHD) inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) India on 20 May 2024. The MoU focuses on the digitalization of Vaccine Cold Chain Management, Capacity Building, and Communication Planning. This partnership is a crucial advancement in improving animal health and husbandry practices in India, benefiting from UNDP's worldwide knowledge and DAHD's objectives.



Airbus Helicopters and SIDBI ink MoU for helicopter funding in India :-

Airbus Helicopters and Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to fund the procurement of Airbus helicopters in India. As per the agreement, Airbus Helicopters and SIDBI will collaborate to identify potential Indian civil helicopter operators seeking financing options for helicopter acquisitions. Airbus will offer expertise in technical and helicopter industry matters, while SIDBI will assess the opportunities and provide exclusive financing for Airbus helicopters.



DroneAcharya Aerial Innovations enters into a Memorandum of Understanding with Airbots Aerospace Technologies. :-

DroneAcharya Aerial Innovations Limited and Airbots Aerospace Technologies Private Limited have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to expand their presence in the agricultural drone industry. As per the agreement, DroneAcharya will utilize Airbots' agricultural drones, facilitate the acquisition of tenders and contracts, and establish Remote Pilot Training Organizations (RPTOs) to educate pilots on operating Airbots drones. Airbots will supply top-notch drones and refer clients to DroneAcharya's training initiatives. Furthermore, both companies will collaborate on joint marketing campaigns, such as conducting promotional drone tours across India to demonstrate their technology.



Ghana collaborators with Reliance Jio subsidiary and other entities for telecommunications infrastructure. :-

Ghana's government-backed Next-Gen Infrastructure Company (NGIC) has partnered with Radisys, an affiliate of Jio, as well as Tech Mahindra and Nokia to develop the necessary infrastructure for offering affordable 5G mobile broadband services. Ursula Owusu-Ekuful, Ghana's Minister for Communication and Digitalisation, indicated that India was chosen strategically due to its comparable demographics, with Ghana aiming to replicate India's success in expanding telecom services. Ekuful mentioned that Ghana is a member of the Smart Africa alliance consisting of 33 countries, and neighboring nations will be observing the implementation closely to potentially follow suit in their respective regions.



Reliance Industries Collaborates with Nel from Norway to Enhance Investments in New Energy :-

The partnership between Reliance Industries Ltd and Norway's Nel ASA is expected to accelerate the implementation of new energy initiatives, such as the development of green hydrogen, to facilitate Mukesh Ambani's shift towards sustainable energy solutions. Recently, RIL entered into a technology licensing agreement with Nel, securing an exclusive license to utilize Nel's alkaline electrolyzers in India and manufacture them globally for internal use.

3: Appointments



MCA Gives Green Light to Hitesh Sethia as Managing Director and CEO of Jio Financial Services for a 3-Year Term :-

The MCA has granted approval for Hitesh Kumar Sethia to serve as the Managing Director and CEO of Jio Financial Services for a three-year term starting from November 15, 2023. However, this authorization is contingent upon the appointee holding a valid Employment Visa for the duration of his tenure in India, as stated in a letter from the MCA made public by Jio Financial Services Ltd. The MCA's endorsement is in accordance with the regulations outlined in the Companies Act 2013 and should not be interpreted as fulfilling any security clearance obligations, which remain the responsibility of the company/appointee, as per the communication from the MCA.



Shashi Bhushan Singh has been named as the new Secretary of the National Jute Board. :-

Shashi Bhushan Singh, an IRTS officer from the 2010 batch, has been named as the Secretary (at the Director level) of the National Jute Board in Kolkata by the Ministry of Textile. This appointment, sanctioned by the Central Government, has a duration of five years or until revised. Singh is required to be relieved of his current responsibilities promptly to assume his new role. Nevertheless, if he is involved in election-related duties due to the Lok Sabha elections declaration, he will only be released upon clearance from the Election Commission of India.



Sanjaya Kumar Mishra appointed as the head of GST Appellate Tribunal :-

The Center has named former Justice Sanjaya Kumar Mishra as the President of the Goods & Services Tax Appellate Tribunal (GSTAT). The establishment of this tribunal aims to support businesses in finding solutions to their diverse issues. The Finance Ministry has advertised vacancies for 63 judicial members and 33 technical members to be appointed across the Centre and States. In September of last year, the Centre announced the formation of 31 GSTAT benches, with the primary bench located in Delhi.



Sanjeev Nautiyal appointed as MD & CEO of Ujjivan Small Finance Bank. :-

Ujjivan Small Finance Bank announced that Sanjeev Nautiyal has been appointed by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) as the bank's managing director (MD) and chief executive officer (CEO) for a three-year term starting on July 1, 2024. He will assume the role of President before officially taking on the position of MD&CEO. With more than thirty years of experience in banking, he possesses a wealth of knowledge in various areas such as retail banking, SME banking, financial inclusion, operations, human resources, international banking, and treasury operations.



IRDAI has sanctioned the selection of Keki Mistry as the Chairman of HDFC Life. :-

Keki Mistry, a qualified Chartered Accountant and member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India, has been approved by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDAI) to serve as Chairman of HDFC Life. Prior to this role, Mistry held the positions of Vice Chairman and CEO at HDFC Limited. Following HDFC Limited's merger with HDFC Bank, Mistry retired from his role at HDFC Limited and now

serves as a Non-Executive Director on the Board of HDFC Bank Limited.



RBI has named R. Lakshmi Kanth Rao as Executive Director :-

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has appointed R. Lakshmi Kanth Rao as its latest Executive Director, responsible for overseeing the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation, the Right to Information Act (FAA), and the Department of Communication. Rao previously served as the Chief General Manager-in-Charge of the RBI's Department of Regulation before assuming his new role. Bringing with him over thirty years of experience at the Reserve Bank, Rao has a strong background in areas such as Bank and NBFC Regulation, Bank Supervision, and Consumer Protection.



N Chandrasekaran appointed as Chairperson of Tata Electronics :-

Tata Sons chairman N Chandrasekaran will also become the chairman of Tata Electronics, as the company allocates around \$14 billion for its venture into the semiconductor market. Chandrasekaran will replace Banmali Agrawala, who has served in the position for a number of years. Chandrasekaran, currently overseeing various Tata Group businesses, will assume the new role pending regulatory approvals. Agrawala, an important

figure at Tata Sons, has transitioned to an advisory position within the group.



Dileep Sanghani chosen as Chairman of IFFCO :-

Dileep Sanghani, a past lawmaker who held a cabinet position under former Gujarat Chief Minister Narendra Modi, has been re-elected for a further term as chairman of the Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative (IFFCO). Balvir Singh also secured re-election as the vice-chairman of IFFCO, which is the biggest cooperative globally, marking his second consecutive term. A prominent figure within the ruling BJP in Uttar Pradesh, Singh has held roles such as the state convener of the BJP cooperative cell and district president of Shahjahanpur.



Senior IPS Officers A.Y.V. Krishna and N. Venu Gopal Named as Additional Directors in CBI :-

A.Y.V. Krishna and N. Venu Gopal, senior IPS officials, have been appointed as additional directors of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). Mr. Krishna, an IPS officer from the 1995 batch belonging to the Assam-Meghalaya cadre, is currently serving as Inspector General of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF). As per a notification from the Personnel Ministry, he is set to serve as the additional director of the CBI until

August 6, 2028. Mr. Venu Gopal, who is in the same batch as Mr. Krishna and belongs to the Himachal Pradesh cadre, is currently holding the position of joint director at the CBI.



RBI gives the green light for Pradeep Natarajan to take on the role of Whole Time Director at IDFC FIRST Bank. :-

Pradeep Natarajan's appointment as Whole Time Director on the Board of IDFC FIRST Bank has been approved by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), according to the private sector lender. The confirmation from RBI, received on May 16, 2024, designates Mr. Natarajan as Executive Director for a three-year term, the bank said in a statement, following a notification issued by the bank on December 30, 2023. The bank is now in the process of finalizing Mr. Natarajan's appointment, which is subject to shareholder approval.



Sanjiv Puri named as president of CII for the term 2024-25. :-

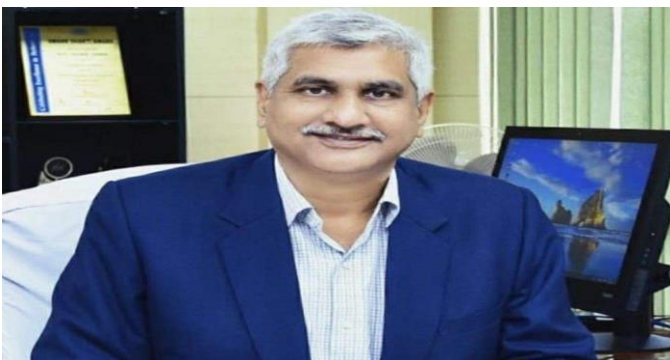
Sanjiv Puri, the chairman and managing director of ITC, has taken over as the president of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) for the term 2024-25 following R Dinesh, chairman of TVS Supply Chain Solutions. Puri leads ITC Ltd, which has various interests spanning

FMCG, hotels, paperboards & packaging, agribusiness, and IT. Rajiv Memani, chairman of EY India, has been appointed as the president-designate for the same time frame. Memani also serves on EY's global management body as the chair of its global emerging markets committee.



John Slaven has been named as the Vice-Chairman of the International Aluminium Institute. :-

Vedanta Aluminium has revealed that John Slaven, the company's CEO, has been named Vice-Chairman of the International Aluminium Institute (IAI). In his new position, Slaven will oversee worldwide efforts to support sustainable changes in the aluminum sector and emphasize the vital contribution of aluminum in driving the shift to a carbon-free future. The International Aluminium Institute (IAI), founded in 1972, is the exclusive entity that represents the primary aluminum industry on a global scale.



Ramesh Babu V. has been officially inaugurated as a member of the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission. :-

Ramesh Babu V. was sworn in as a Member of the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC). He brings a strong background in the power sector, holding an M.Tech in Thermal Engineering and a B.Tech in Mechanical Engineering. Before CERC, he served as the Director (Operations) at NTPC until his retirement in May 2020. His long-lasting career at NTPC involved several significant responsibilities and positions.



Sony has chosen Disney veteran Gaurav Banerjee to serve as the new CEO for India. :-

Sony has named Gaurav Banerjee, a top executive from Walt Disney, as its new CEO in India to manage its television and media activities. Banerjee recently stepped down from his position at Disney in India, where he oversaw content for Hotstar's streaming service and managed the company's TV channels in Hindi-speaking regions. Sony operates a total of 26 channels in India, ranging from general entertainment to sports and movies, along with a streaming platform. Earlier this year, Sony abandoned its proposed merger with Zee Entertainment in India, which would have formed a \$10 billion conglomerate.

4: Awards



Global media award won by India Today Group's AI anchor, Sana :-

The AI news anchor Sana, representing India Today Group, was honored with the 2024 Global Media Award by the International News Media Association (INMA) in recognition of their use of AI in transforming the newsroom. India Today Group was recognized as a top performer in South Asia for their implementation of AI in the newsroom, while Sana, the AI anchor, was specifically acknowledged for the exemplary utilization of AI in customer-facing products among national brands. The competition for the 2024 Global Media Awards included 771 entries from 245 news media brands across 43 countries, participating in various categories.



Alok Shukla has been awarded the esteemed Goldman Environmental Prize in 2024. :-

Alok Shukla, who serves as the leader of the Chhattisgarh Bachao Andolan and is a co-founder of the Hasdeo Aranya Bachao Sangharsh Samiti, has been announced as the recipient of the 2024 Goldman Prize for Asia. The Goldman Environmental Foundation, responsible for presenting the award, recognized the impact of the Hasdeo movement in shaping environmental policies in India, citing it as a role model for promoting environmental justice and fostering substantial nationwide and regional support. Encompassing an area of 657 square miles, Hasdeo stands as one of the largest connected forest regions in India.



Distinguished Individuals to Receive the Esteemed Pandit Lacchu Maharaj Award :-

The prestigious Pandit Lacchu Maharaj Award will be given to renowned Hindi film stars Hema Malini and Saira Banu, along with several other distinguished individuals in the field of arts and culture. The award ceremony is scheduled to be held on August 31, 2024, in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. The Pandit Lacchu Maharaj Ballet Foundation has decided to recognize ten individuals this year, as the award was not presented after 2014. The esteemed recipients, selected from the years 2015 to 2024, are regarded as exemplars of artistic excellence in disciplines like Kathak, Bharatanatyam, and cinema.



Dr. Bina Modi recognized for exceptional contributions to Corporate Social Responsibility :-

Dr. Bina Modi, Chairperson and Managing Director of Modi Enterprises - KK Modi Group, was honored by India's Vice President, Jagdeep Dhankar, for her remarkable efforts in Corporate Social Responsibility. The event took place during the inauguration of the Society of Indian Law Firms' (SILF) new headquarters, where the Vice President was the chief guest. Dr. Modi has been dedicated to carrying out different Corporate Social Responsibility projects focused on enhancing communities and promoting sustainability.



Purnima Devi Barman Receives Whitley Gold Award 2024, Also Known as the 'Green Oscar' :-

A wildlife biologist from Assam was honored with a prestigious award from a UK wildlife charity for her work in conserving the threatened Greater Adjutant Stork and its wetland environment. Dr. Purnima Devi Barman received the GBP 1,000,000 Whitley Gold Award from the Whitley Fund for Nature (WFN), which supports conservation leaders globally. The trophy was presented to her by charity patron Princess Anne – the Princess Royal, sister of King Charles III, in appreciation

of her efforts in protecting the stork, also known as "Hargila" in Assamese.



The 2024 UNESCO Guillermo Cano Prize is presented to Gaza-based Palestinian journalists :-

Palestinian journalists reporting on the Gaza situation have been honored as laureates of the UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize for 2024 to show support and recognition for their efforts. This recognition follows a recommendation by an international panel of media experts, emphasizing the courage and commitment displayed by these journalists in challenging circumstances. The continued conflict in Gaza has had a significant impact on journalists, with 26 journalists and media personnel reported dead by UNESCO since October 7, 2023.



Dr. Soumya Swaminathan has been recognized with an honorary doctorate from McGill University. :-

Dr. Soumya Swaminathan, who previously served as WHO's Chief Scientist, has been chosen as one of ten exceptional individuals to be awarded honorary degrees by McGill University in Canada during the Spring 2024 Convocation ceremony. She initially joined the WHO in

2017 as Deputy Director General (Programmes) and subsequently assumed the position of Chief Scientist in March 2019, making her the first person to hold that role within the organization. Dr. Swaminathan continued in her capacity as Chief Scientist throughout the Covid-19 pandemic until late 2022. The Spring 2024 Convocation ceremonies are scheduled to be held from May 28 to June 5.



Hindustan Shipyard Limited's CMD, Commander Hemant Khatri, Recognized with 'PSU Samarpan Award' :-

Cmde Hemant Khatri, who serves as the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL), was honored with the prestigious 'PSU Samarpan Award' by Gov Connect at a notable event held in New Delhi. This award recognizes Khatri's exceptional leadership and crucial involvement in leading the shipyard's rejuvenation, which has served as an inspiration to fellow professionals in the industry. The 'PSU Samarpan Award' is a respected recognition that highlights the valuable contributions by Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) towards the nation's advancement.



Chandrakant Satija Receives Global Excellence Award 2024 :-

Chandrakant Satija, who is the Founder and CEO of Chandra Admission Consultants, recently won the Global Excellence Award 2024 as the "Most Trusted Admission Consultant in the Vidarbha Region." With more than 21 years of experience in the field of education, Chandrakant has been dedicated to providing high-quality education, career advice, and admission support to students. This commitment has earned him the trust of parents not only in the Vidarbha region but also in neighboring cities like Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh. Through his company, Chandra Admission Consultants, he assists students in gaining admissions to reputable educational institutions in India and overseas.



Indian-American Professor Shrinivas R Kulkarni awarded Shaw Prize in the field of Astronomy :-

Shrinivas R. (Shri) Kulkarni, who holds the George Ellery Hale Professor of Astronomy and Planetary Science position at the California Institute of Technology (Caltech) in the USA, has been awarded The Shaw Prize for the year 2024. Kulkarni, the brother of the well-known author and Rajya Sabha member Sudha Murty, hails from Karnataka. He was born in Kurundwad, located near Sangli, Maharashtra, and received his education in Hubballi. Referred to as the "Nobel of the East," this award from the Shaw Prize Foundation in Hong Kong acknowledges individuals' efforts in advancing societal progress, improving quality of life, and enriching the spiritual life of humanity.



International Booker Prize awarded to Jenny Erpenbeck's novel 'Kairos' :-

German novelist Jenny Erpenbeck and translator Michael Hofmann were awarded the prestigious International Booker Prize for their novel "Kairos." Depicting an intricate love story during the last years of East Germany, the book surpassed five other contenders out of 149 submissions. Eleanor Wachtel, who led the panel of judges, praised Erpenbeck's work for its portrayal of the tumultuous period in East Germany before the fall of the Berlin Wall. The novel "Kairos" delves into the intricacies of a society in the midst of significant transformation during the final days of the German Democratic Republic.



Anasuya Sengupta awarded Best Actress at Cannes. :-

Anasuya Sengupta made history as the initial Indian recipient of the Best Actress award in the Un Certain Regard section of the Cannes Film Festival for her role in "Shameless," a movie directed by Constantin Bojanov from Bulgaria. While Anasuya is renowned for her expertise as a production designer in Mumbai, she has chosen to reside in Goa. She played a role in designing the sets for the Netflix series 'Masaba Masaba' and hails

from Kolkata, where she attended Jadavpur University for her education.



Payal Kapadia makes history by winning the prestigious Grand Prix Award at the 2024 Cannes Film Festival. :-

As per a statement from the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, 'All We Imagine as Light,' an Indian film directed by Payal Kapadia that depicts the stories of two nurses, has made history by being the first Indian film in 30 years to be nominated for the prestigious Palme d'Or award at the film festival. The movie was awarded the Grand Prix, coming in second place. Payal Kapadia, a graduate of the Film and Television Institute of India, has become the first Indian to win this renowned award. The official Indo-French co-production status for Payal's film was granted by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting through the signed Audio-Visual agreement between India and France.



Arti from Uttar Pradesh Honored with Amal Clooney Women's Empowerment Award by King Charles III :-

Arti, an 18-year-old e-rickshaw driver hailing from a remote town in Uttar Pradesh, was presented with the prestigious Amal Clooney Women's Empowerment Award in London. This recognition was followed by a meeting with King Charles III, as part of the Prince's Trust Awards ceremony that celebrates the achievements of youth from around the globe. The award acknowledges the exceptional efforts of young women who have overcome obstacles and positively impacted their communities. Arti expressed her gratitude, stating, "I can now realize not just my own aspirations but also those of my daughter."



A peacekeeper from India wins the UN Military Gender Advocate Of The Year Award. :-

Major Radhika Sen, an Indian peacekeeper stationed in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), has been selected as the United Nations Military Gender Advocate of the Year for 2023. This prestigious recognition commends her outstanding dedication and initiatives to improve the lives of local populations, with a specific focus on women and girls, during her deployment period from March 2023 to April 2024. As the head of the Engagement Platoon for the Indian Rapid Deployment Battalion in eastern DRC under the UN peacekeeping mission MONUSCO, Major Sen significantly contributed to the establishment of Community Alert Networks.



REC has been awarded the 'Sustainability Champion – Editor's Choice Award' at the Outlook Planet Sustainability Summit & Awards 2024. :-

REC Limited, a prestigious Maharatna CPSE operating under the Ministry of Power and a prominent NBFC, was honored with the 'Sustainability Champion - Editor's Choice Award' during the 'Outlook Planet Sustainability Summit & Awards 2024'. The award ceremony was hosted by the Outlook Group in collaboration with IIT Goa, where Smt. Saraswathi, Senior General Manager at REC's Mumbai Office, accepted the award. This accolade acknowledges REC's dedication to sustainable projects and its endeavors in promoting a more environmentally friendly tomorrow.

5: Banking



RBI Introduces Proposed Regulations for Electronic Trading Platforms :-

The Reserve Bank of India has proposed an updated set of rules for Electronic Trading Platforms (ETPs) due to the growing connection between the domestic and international currency markets. Additionally, market makers have urged the Reserve Bank to allow entry to offshore ETPs offering Indian Rupee (INR) products. An ETP is defined as an electronic platform, excluding recognized stock exchanges, where transactions involving eligible instruments like securities, money market instruments, foreign exchange instruments, derivatives, or similar instruments take place.



RBI Revokes Acemoney (India) NBFC License Due to Unconventional Lending Practices :-

The RBI has cancelled the permit of Acemoney (India), an NBFC situated in Delhi, due to alleged irregularities in its lending practices. The bank, which had granted a

Certificate of Registration to the company in 2017, cited a breach of RBI regulations as the reason for the revocation. It mentioned that the company was not adhering to the existing rules regarding charging high interest rates and safeguarding customer data privacy.



RBI levies fines on three co-operative banks for breaching regulations. :-

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed fines on three cooperative banks for breaching regulations. The banks sanctioned by the RBI are Lokmangal Co-operative Bank, Udgir Urban Co-operative Bank, and Satara Sahakari Bank, as per an official statement. Lokmangal Co-operative Bank was fined Rs 5 lakh, Satara Sahakari Bank was fined Rs 2 lakh, and Udgir Urban Co-operative Bank was fined Rs 1 lakh. Lokmangal Co-operative Bank was penalized due to its failure to conduct regular assessments of account risk classification and update Know Your Customer (KYC) details as required by customer risk classification.



Worldline EPayments India has been granted approval by the RBI to operate as a payment aggregator. :-

Worldline ePayments India, a digital payments firm, disclosed that it has been authorized by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to operate as an Online Payment Aggregator (PA) in accordance with the Payment and Settlement Systems Act of 2007. Ramesh Narasimhan, the Chief Executive Officer for the India sector at Worldline ePayments, noted that the company was informed of this approval by the RBI on April 30. In a statement, the platform mentioned that it collaborates with merchants from various sectors such as e-commerce, BFSI, retail, utilities, education, travel, and hospitality for facilitating digital transactions.



RBI has given the green light for the re-appointment of Atanu Chakraborty as the part-time Chairman of HDFC Bank. :-

Atanu Chakraborty's reappointment as part-time Chairman of HDFC Bank for three years, starting on May 5, has been officially confirmed by the Reserve Bank of India. The approval was granted by the RBI, following the recommendation of the Nomination and Remuneration Committee, and subsequently endorsed by the bank's board of directors. Chakraborty, who has been serving as the Part-Time Chairman and Independent Director of the Bank since May 2021, previously held a distinguished 35-year career with the Indian Administrative Service (IAS) in the Gujarat cadre.



NPCI seals UPI technology agreement with Bank of Namibia :-

NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL), the international arm of the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), has partnered with the Bank of Namibia to support the establishment of a real-time payment system akin to India's Unified Payment Interface (UPI). This marks UPI's inaugural international collaboration. NIPL will aid Namibia in implementing a novel digital payment platform for instantaneous merchant and peer-to-peer transactions to promote financial inclusion. Namibia aims to leverage this system to interconnect citizens, enterprises, and governmental bodies nationwide, facilitating transactions such as social grant disbursements and fostering the expansion of digital entrepreneurship.



Zeta Introduces Digital Credit Service for Indian Banks :-

Zeta, a fintech unicorn in the banking sector, has developed a digital platform for offering credit services to banks. This innovative product is built on the NPCI's credit line on UPI initiative, utilizing the UPI network to expedite the process of issuing credit in India. Zeta

anticipates that by 2030, the transaction volume through this platform will exceed \$1 trillion, and aims to secure half of this market share. This endeavor aims to help banks introduce various types of credit products. Established by Bhavin Turakhia and Ramki Gaddipati in 2015, Zeta's platform empowers financial institutions to launch a range of banking products related to assets and liabilities.



Thomas Cook India has introduced TCPay, a new digital service for conducting international money transfers. :-

Thomas Cook (India) Limited has launched TCPay, a service aimed at simplifying global money transfers. Previously, sending money overseas involved visiting branches, extensive paperwork, and restricted operating hours. TCPay aims to revolutionize this process by offering a digital platform for hassle-free transactions. This service is complemented by Thomas Cook's newly introduced Video KYC procedure, enabling users to transfer funds seamlessly from the convenience of their homes. The Video KYC process is designed to guarantee a smooth, secure, and swift experience for customers.



Punjab National Bank to shut down inactive accounts starting June 1 :-

Punjab National Bank has announced intentions to close dormant or inactive accounts, as outlined in a recent public announcement. The criteria for identifying such accounts include a lack of use for over three years as of April 30, 2024, along with a zero balance. Customers with accounts meeting these criteria have the option to reactivate them by providing the necessary Know Your Customer (KYC) documents at their branch before May 31, 2024. Closure proceedings for these identified accounts will start from June 1, 2024.



Public sector banks reported a profit of over ₹1.4 lakh crore in the financial year 2024. :-

During the fiscal year ending in March 2024, public sector banks saw a combined profit exceeding ₹1.4 lakh crore, marking a 35 percent increase from the previous year's profit of ₹1 lakh crore. The 12 public sector banks collectively recorded a net profit of ₹1,04,649 crore in the 2022–2023 fiscal year. As per exchange data, the leading State Bank of India (SBI) contributed over 40% of the total profit of ₹141,203 crore achieved in FY24, with SBI's profits amounting to ₹61,077 crore, showing a 22 percent rise from the previous financial year's ₹50,232 crore.



SBI Increases Short-Term Retail Fixed Deposit Rates in Response to Economic Changes :-

India's largest lender, the State Bank of India (SBI), has increased the interest rates on short-term retail fixed deposits (FDs) by 25 to 75 basis points (bps). Other banks are expected to follow suit. This marks the first rate hike on fixed deposits by the bank since December 2023. Fixed deposits are a type of investment where a specific sum is deposited with a bank for a predefined period at a fixed interest rate. Interest rates on FDs are significant for individuals, particularly senior citizens, seeking secure investment opportunities.



RBI sanctions historic dividend of Rs 2.11 lakh crore to government for FY24 :-

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has sanctioned a dividend of around Rs 2.11 lakh crore for the central government for the fiscal year 2024, showing an almost 140% rise compared to the previous fiscal year. In the fiscal year 2023, the RBI had allocated Rs 87,416 crore to the government as surplus. During the 608th Meeting of the Central Board held in Mumbai, the board deliberated on the worldwide and local economic situations, including possible threats to the future. The board eventually concluded to transfer a surplus amount of Rs 2,10,874 crore.



SBI's Branch in South Africa Fined by South African Regulator :-

The Prudential Authority of the South African Reserve Bank imposed a fine of 10 million rand (₹4.5 crore) on the South African branch of the State Bank of India, as reported in an exchange notice. The bank disclosed to the stock exchange that the penalty consists of a sum of 5.50 million rand due for immediate payment, already settled by the SBI branch. The outstanding 4.50 million rand is suspended for 36 months, subject to meeting compliance requirements within this timeframe. However, the bank did not provide further clarification on the specific compliance conditions.



RBI introduces PRAVAAH, Retail Direct Mobile App, and FinTech Repository. :-

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has introduced three important projects: the Pravaah portal, the Retail Direct mobile app, and the Fintech Repository. These initiatives aim to enhance regulatory procedures, promote retail investment, and offer detailed information on the fintech industry. The Pravaah portal is a secure online platform where individuals or organizations can apply for regulatory approvals, licenses, and authorizations from the RBI. With the Retail Direct mobile app, retail investors can easily and conveniently engage in transactions involving government securities (G-Secs) using their smartphones.

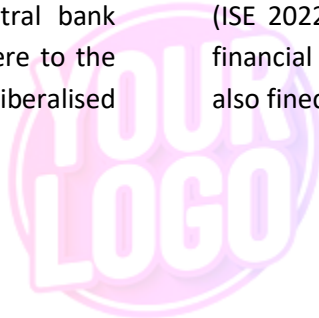


Penalty imposed on HSBC by RBI for violating FEMA regulations :-

The RBI has fined HSBC Limited with a penalty of Rs 36.38 lakh for breaching the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) by failing to fulfill the reporting requirements of the 1999 Liberalised Remittance Scheme. This action followed a detailed examination of the issue, incorporating HSBC's response to a previous show cause notice. The central bank determined that HSBC had neglected to adhere to the reporting requirements outlined in FEMA's Liberalised Remittance Scheme of 1999.

Penalty Imposed by RBI on ICICI Bank and YES Bank :-

As per a press release, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has levied fines on ICICI Bank and YES Bank for breaching multiple regulatory guidelines. ICICI Bank was penalized with a Rs 1 crore fine for extending a term loan to certain enterprises instead of or to support funds allocated for particular projects. The RBI carried out a Statutory Inspection for Supervisory Evaluation (ISE 2022) on ICICI Bank and YES Bank to assess their financial standing as of March 31, 2022. YES Bank was also fined Rs 91 lakh by the RBI.

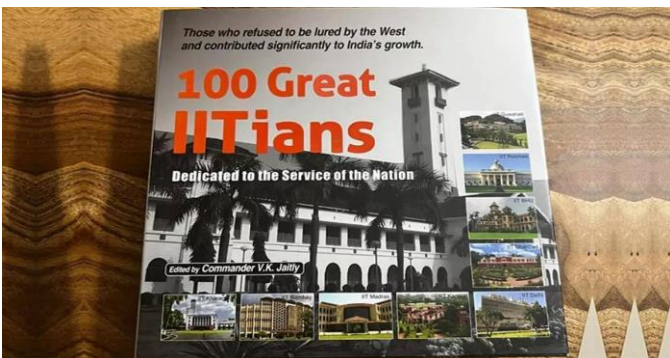


6: Books & Author



Book by a songwriter exploring the strong bond between Punjabis and Lahore published :-

"At a recent event organized by the Department of Punjabi at Khalsa College in Amritsar, the book 'Hello! Mai Lahore Toh Bolda' by well-known lyricist and film artist Gurvinder Singh Gill Raunta was unveiled. Aatam Singh Randhawa, the Head of the Punjabi Department, highlighted the surprising success of the book, with nearly 10,000 copies already sold prior to its official launch. Despite concerns within the Punjabi writing community about a lack of readership and sales, this particular book, published in early April, has proven to be immensely popular."



Book launch of '100 Great IITians – Dedicated to the Service of the Nation' takes place at IIT Madras. :-

IIT Madras organized a significant event to honor and unveil the book "100 Great IITians - Dedicated to the Service of the Nation", which acknowledges the exceptional achievements of IIT alumni in advancing India's development. Commander VK Jaitly dedicated over four years to researching and gathering the narratives of 100 exceptional IITians who have demonstrated unwavering dedication to their country. These individuals chose to remain in India or returned after studying abroad to contribute to the nation's progress.



The screen adaptation of Anik Dutta's movie based on Satyajit Ray's work is now available as a book. :-

In honor of iconic filmmaker Satyajit Ray's 103rd birth anniversary, the screenplay of Anik Dutta's Aparajito (The Undefeated) has been released as a book following the film's widespread success and acclaim. The launch event occurred at Ray's family residence at 1, Bishop Lefroy Road, and was attended by Sandip Ray, his son, Debojyoti Misra, the music composer, and actor Jeetu Kamal, who portrayed Ray in the movie. This publication will include critiques from various sources, along with behind-the-scenes photographs from different stages of the film's production, alongside the complete script of the film.



Open Chandra Deka, an experienced journalist, has released his book 'Emergency'. :-

In Assam, the District Commissioner of Morigaon, Devashis Sarma, introduced a book named 'Emergency', detailing the personal account of acclaimed author Upen Chandra Deka's 13-month detainment during the 1975 'Emergency' in India. The book was unveiled at the DC office. During his address, the Morigaon DC commended the diligent efforts of the book's writer, veteran journalist Upen Chandra Deka. Furthermore, he anticipated receiving more valuable literary works from him in the future.



New book released on leadership and governance in medical educational institutions :-

A recent event occurred at Mahatma Gandhi Medical College and Research Institute (MGMCRI) in Pondicherry where a book on administration and leadership in medical education institutions published by Sri Balaji Vidyapeeth (SBV) was inaugurated. Gitanjali Batmanabane, Pro Vice-Chancellor of GITAM University, Hyderabad, introduced the book titled "Effective Leadership and Governance in Medical Institution of Higher Learning" published by Elsevier by presenting

the first copy to K.R. Sethuraman, the former Vice-Chancellor of SBV.



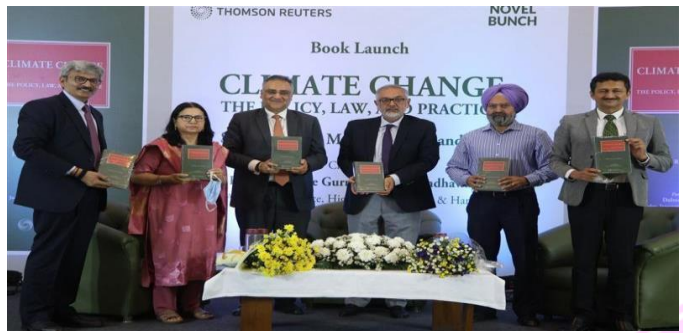
Contribution of Javaid Rahi Highlighted in Newly Released Book :-

Prof. K L Johar, who serves as the Vice-Chancellor of Guru Jambheshwar University of Science and Technology in Hisar, authored a book titled "India's Greatest Reformers - 51 Extraordinary Stories." This book features a chapter dedicated to the commendable efforts of Dr. Javaid Rahi, a prominent tribal researcher in J&K. "India's Greatest Reformers - 51 Extraordinary Stories" celebrates individuals who have made a significant impact on the social landscape of India. With narratives of fifty-one inspirational figures such as Javaid Rahi, the book highlights the contributions of renowned social reformers like Baba Amte, Dr. B R Ambedkar, Janki Devi Bajaj, Shalaini Moghe, E V Ramaswami, Raja Ram Mohan Rai, Durga Bhai Deshmukh, and others who have played instrumental roles in shaping Indian society.



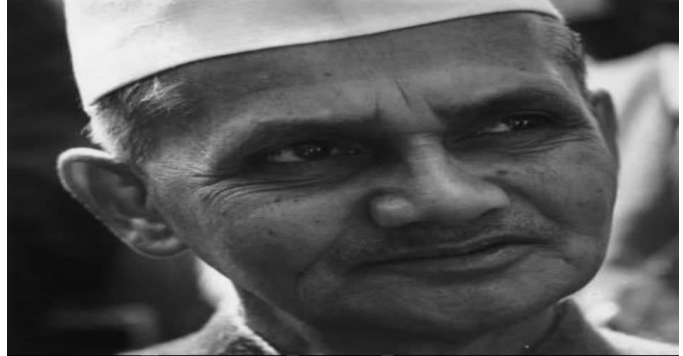
Book titled "My Career, My Choice: Achieving Success" by Abhishake De Sarkar introduced :-

"My Career, 'My Choice: Achieving Success with Abhishake De Sarkar,' is an engaging piece of writing that echoes the author's unwavering belief, cultivated over twenty years, that fate is shaped by deliberate decisions rather than chance. Abhishake De Sarkar officially introduced this book at The Park Hotel on Park Street in Kolkata. Through this book, Abhishake De Sarkar offers practical advice, debunks misconceptions, and presents a guide for aspiring individuals navigating their careers."



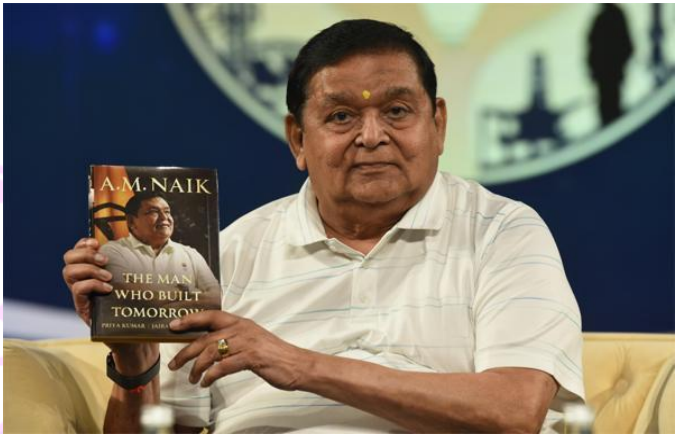
New book addressing climate change concerns published :-

According to Jatinder (Jay) Cheema, a climate change attorney, the discussion and consequences of climate change have been the focal point for the past three decades, as worldwide temperatures continue to increase, leading to ecological damage. Cheema made these remarks during the unveiling of his book titled "Climate Change - Policy, Law, and Practice". Published by Thomson Reuters, the book offers readers a comprehensive understanding of climate issues and the obstacles it encounters, along with the international efforts aimed at addressing and mitigating these changes.



Four publications by experienced journalist L.S. Shastri unveiled in Belagavi on May 12th :-

In Belagavi, Karnataka, four novels written by experienced journalist L.S. Shastri were launched. The Zilla Chutuku Sahitya Parishad unveiled the books at the Kannada Sahitya Bhavan on May 12. The titles of the novels released include Nagemallyara Nadinalli, Madhyama Darshana, Kannada Marathi Snehasetu K.S. Hegde, and Kannadada Bhagya. Critics Ashoka Narode, Rajendra Patil, P.G. Kempannavar, and Mamata Shankar shared their thoughts on the novels. Among the attendees were C.K. Jorapur, R.B. Katti, Basavaraja Gargi, Madhukar Gundenatti, and others.



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

A.M. Naik, a recent engineering graduate, applied for a job at Larsen & Toubro in 1964. Despite struggling during his final interview, he managed to secure the position after a warning from his supervisor, T. Baker, not to become the thirty-ninth engineer to be fired. This marked the beginning of Naik's journey characterized by relentless hard work, boundless enthusiasm, and remarkable achievements that not only propelled his career within L&T but also led to the transformation of the company into a global conglomerate operating in over fifty countries. The recounting of Naik's pivotal recruitment interview in 1964 at L&T is told in a new book called 'AM Naik: The Man Who Built Tomorrow', co-authored by Priya Kumar and Jairam N Menon, and published by HarperCollins.

7: Defence



IAF and Indian Navy have adopted the Rampage missile to improve their striking capabilities. :-

The Indian Air Force (IAF) has enhanced its air combat capabilities by adding Rampage long-range supersonic air-to-ground missiles to its weaponry. These missiles, capable of hitting targets up to 250 kilometers away, have been incorporated into the IAF's fleet of Russian aircraft, such as the Su-30 MKI, MiG-29 fighters, and the Jaguar fighter jet. In addition to the IAF, the Indian Navy has also received the Rampage missiles for its arsenal, especially for the MiG-29K naval fighter jets.



DRDO conducts trial of missile-aided torpedo deployment system :-

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) announced the achievement of a successful flight test of the Supersonic Missile-Assisted Release of Torpedo (SMART) system on May 1 from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island in Odisha. SMART is an advanced missile-powered lightweight torpedo delivery system created by DRDO to enhance the Indian Navy's anti-submarine

warfare abilities beyond the conventional range of light torpedoes. The missile was deployed using a ground mobile launcher during the test.



India's maiden indigenous bomber UAV launched by Bengaluru's Flying Wedge Defence :-

Flying Wedge Defence and Aerospace Technologies, an Indian company in the defense and aerospace sector, achieved a milestone in Bengaluru by unveiling the FWD-200B, India's inaugural locally produced bomber unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV). This aircraft, known as the FWD-200B, is a medium-altitude, long-endurance (MALE) unmanned combat aerial vehicle that has been completely created and built in India. According to the company, it has a carrying capacity of 100 kgs and is capable of transporting optical surveillance equipment along with accurate air-strike weapons.



Indian Army and Indian Air Force collaborate in Punjab for Gagan Strike-II joint exercise. :-

The Kharga Corps of the Indian Army, working in coordination with the Western Command, recently finished a three-day collaborative training with the Indian Air Force across multiple sites in Punjab. This training focused on improving procedures and confirming the effectiveness of utilizing attack helicopters to aid mechanized operations in complex terrain. Known as the Gagan Strike-II exercise, it involved Apache and ALH-WSI helicopters, drones, and specialized forces from the Indian Army. The goal was to test different enhancements that can strengthen the support for ground attacks led by strike units, including helicopter live firing to assist mechanized units during offensive actions.



Indian Coast Guard Signs Agreement With Hindalco For Native Marine-Grade Aluminum :-

An agreement was signed between the Indian Coast Guard and Hindalco Industries in New Delhi to produce and distribute marine-grade aluminum within India. The agreement, which includes benefits like regular pricing updates, supplier priority, and discounts based on turnover, aims to supply Indian public and private shipyards for shipbuilding purposes. Currently, the Indian Coast Guard operates 67 ships with aluminum hulls suitable for shallow waters. In an effort to enhance coastal security, they plan to introduce additional vessels manufactured with the locally made marine-grade aluminum.



Indian Coast Guard collaborates with Jindal Steel & Power for local marine steel procurement. :-

The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) and Jindal Steel & Power (JSP) have agreed through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in New Delhi to encourage local manufacturing in shipbuilding. This partnership seeks to boost the availability of domestic marine-quality steel, which plays a crucial role in safeguarding the nation's marine borders. The MoU highlights the importance of joint efforts between the public and private sectors to tackle intricate security challenges. It stresses the significance of cooperation between governmental bodies and businesses to reinforce national security objectives.



Vice Admiral Sanjay Bhalla assumes role as Chief of Personnel in the Indian Navy. :-

Vice Admiral Sanjay Bhalla, AVSM, NM, has been appointed as the Chief of Personnel for the Indian Navy. Joining the Indian Navy on January 1, 1989, he has a distinguished career with various notable positions both at sea and on land. Following his specialization in Communication and Electronic Warfare, Bhalla served on several prominent warships, taking command of

vessels like INS Nishank, INS Taragiri, INS Beas, and eventually becoming the Flag Officer Commanding Eastern Fleet (FOCEF).



India's military to introduce its initial Hermes-900 Drone for monitoring operations on the border neighboring Pakistan. :-

The Indian Army is set to receive its initial Hermes-900 Starliner drone on May 18th, enhancing its monitoring capabilities along the Pakistan border. Adani Defence Systems will deliver the Hermes-900 drone, referred to as Drishti-10, to Indian military units, which include the Army and Navy. According to defense officials, the first drone out of the two allotted for the Indian Army will be handed over on May 18th in Hyderabad. This distribution is part of an agreement made under the Defense Ministry's emergency authority granted to the military.



Navy vessel INS Kiltan arrives at Cam Ranh Bay in Vietnam, aiming to enhance relations between countries. :-

The Indian Navy vessel Kiltan has recently docked in Cam Ranh Bay, Vietnam as part of the Eastern Fleet's

operational deployment. This visit aims to enhance the enduring friendship and collaboration between the maritime forces of the two countries. India and Vietnam maintain a robust strategic partnership that is deepening over time. The activities aboard the Indian Naval Ship Kiltan are centered around professional engagements, sports, social interactions, and community initiatives, underscoring the common values shared by the two navies.



Indian Air Force Conducts Test of BHISHM Portable Hospital for Airdrop in Agra :-

The Indian Air Force conducted trials on BHISHM portable cubes in Agra to evaluate their suitability for airdrops from aircraft. It marked the inaugural testing of this portable hospital by the Indian Air Force, aiming to assess its capability for deployment in various scenarios. According to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, the BHISHM portable cubes form a critical component of "Project BHISHM," a healthcare initiative focused on providing swift and thorough treatment to a maximum of 200 casualties in any emergency situation.



Indian Army is poised to acquire Russian Igla-S Air Defence Systems. :-

The Army is set to receive additional Russian Igla-S very short-range air defense systems (VSHORAD) by the end of May or in early June, fulfilling a crucial air defense need that has faced delays. Additionally, recent reports confirm the resolution of the payment disagreement between India and Russia, which had halted crucial defense transactions. Next month, the Army will also take delivery of the initial Israeli Hermes-900 Medium Altitude Long Endurance Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) out of the two that are being assembled by ADSTL in Hyderabad.



CDS General Anil Chauhan participates in Exercise Cyber Suraksha – 2024 :-

The Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) Gen Anil Chauhan participated in the 'Exercise Cyber Suraksha – 2024' event on May 22, 2024, emphasizing the significance of enhancing India's cyber defence abilities. This thorough cyber defence drill seeks to advance the Cyber Defence

Capability of all cyber security entities and foster cooperation among all involved parties. The primary goal is to improve cooperation and unity among individuals from different military and prominent national entities.



India has effectively conducted a test on the anti-radiation missile 'Rudram-II'. :-

A test conducted by India using an air-surface anti-radiation missile launched from a Su-30MKI fighter jet was deemed successful. The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is currently working on the development of the Rudram-II anti-radiation supersonic missile. The recent flight test met all trial goals, confirming the performance of the propulsion system, as well as the control and navigation algorithm. The Rudram missile stands out as the first domestically-produced anti-radiation missile specifically engineered to take down enemy ground radars and communication facilities during Suppression of Enemy Air Defence (SEAD) operations.

8: Economy



Government grants prestigious 'Navratna' status to IREDA :-

In line with a stock exchange report, the government has granted the 'navratna' designation to the public sector organization Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA). With this decision, the count of Navratna Public Sector Enterprises now stands at 17. These entities are authorized to invest up to ₹1,000 crore. IREDA functions as a Non-Banking Financial Institution that focuses on encouraging, advancing, and providing financial support for initiatives related to new and sustainable energy sources as well as energy efficiency and conservation.



MEIL Emerges Victorious in 2,000 MW Sharavathi Pumped Storage Power Project :-

MEIL, an infrastructure company, has revealed plans to purchase the 2,000-megawatt Sharavathi pumped storage power project in Karnataka for Rs 8,000 crore. The Sharavathi river is a key hydroelectric power source

in the region, and with a capacity of 2000 MW, it is set to become India's biggest pump storage power project. This initiative aims to address the state's power supply challenges and comes with a hefty price tag of over Rs 8,000 crore.



India cuts excessive tax on crude petroleum :-

Starting from May 1, the government has decided to decrease the windfall tax on domestically produced crude oil from ₹9,600 per tonne to ₹8,400 per tonne. This tax is levied under the Special Additional Excise Duty (SAED). Meanwhile, the SAED on the export of diesel, petrol, and jet fuel (ATF) will remain at zero. As per an official announcement, the revised tax rates will come into effect on May 1. India introduced windfall profit taxes on July 1, 2022, following the lead of other countries that tax the extraordinary profits of energy companies. The tax percentages are reassessed every two weeks based on the average oil prices over the previous fortnight.



Exports of 14,000 tonnes of non-basmati white rice to Mauritius have been approved by the national government :-

As per an official announcement, the federal government has permitted the shipment of 14,000 tons of non-basmati white rice to Mauritius. It is noteworthy that the export of non-basmati white rice was prohibited in July 2023 in order to maintain stable domestic prices and safeguard national food security. Previously, India had authorized the export of this rice variety to several countries including Nepal, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, the Republic of Guinea, Malaysia, the Philippines, Seychelles, the UAE, Singapore, Comoros, Madagascar, Equatorial Guinea, Egypt, and Kenya, each with varying amounts.



IREDA has set up a branch in GIFT City, Gujarat. :-

IREDA has set up a new subsidiary named "IREDA Global Green Energy Finance IFSC Limited" at the International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) in GIFT City, Gujarat. The subsidiary was officially established on February 8 with approval from the Reserve Bank of India. Pradip Kumar Das, the Chairman & Managing Director of IREDA, stated that the establishment of IREDA's presence in GIFT City marks a significant advancement in their efforts to lead in innovative green financing solutions.



Acquisition of Big 92.7 FM by Sapphire Media approved by NCLT :-

The Mumbai bench of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) has approved Sapphire Media's resolution plan for Reliance Broadcast Network's Big 92.7 FM radio station. Under the plan, Sapphire Media will repay operational and secured creditors a total of Rs. 261 crore, out of the Rs. 947.5 crore in claims. Reliance Broadcast Network, which owns Big FM, has been undergoing insolvency proceedings since February 2023. The Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process (CIRP) was initiated under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code of 2016, with Rohit Mehra serving as the appointed resolution professional.



India's industrial production growth decelerates to 4.9% in March 2024. :-

According to statistics provided by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), India's Industrial Production (IIP) growth rate decreased to 4.9% in March compared to 5.7% in February. The peak for IIP was recorded at 11.9% in October 2023, followed by declines to 2.5% in November, 4.2% in December, and 4.1% in January 2024. Data from the National Statistical Office (NSO) indicated that the manufacturing sector's output increased from 5% in February to 5.2% in March 2024.



IRDAI Approval Granted for Hinduja Group's IIHL in Reliance Capital Acquisition :-

IndusInd International Holdings (IIHL), a part of Hinduja Group, has finally obtained the necessary approval from the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India to acquire Reliance Capital. This approval was crucial for the transfer of Reliance Capital's insurance entities to IIHL. Reliance Capital is associated with Reliance General Insurance and Reliance Nippon Life Insurance. The National Company Law Tribunal approved the resolution plan worth Rs 9,650 crores proposed by IndusInd International Holdings Ltd, a firm under Hinduja Group, for Reliance Capital on February 27, 2024.



India's retail inflation slightly decreases to 4.83% in April :-

The retail inflation rate in India held steady at 4.83 percent in April, according to data released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. In March, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation was at 4.85 percent, marking its lowest level in ten months. Despite a decrease in inflation to an 11-month low in April, it is expected to remain above the RBI's target of

four percent for the 55th consecutive month. The central bank is focused on achieving this target consistently. The National Statistical Office (NSO) indicated that food inflation increased to 8.7% in April from 8.52% in March.



RBI's gold reserves rise by 27.46 metric tonnes in FY24, hitting a total of 822.10 metric tonnes. :-

The Reserve Bank of India's "Half Yearly Report on Management of Foreign Exchange Reserves" revealed that gold holdings increased by 27.46 metric tonnes in FY24, reaching a total of 822.10 metric tonnes by the end of March 2024. In terms of USD value, gold's portion of the overall foreign exchange reserves rose to more than 8.15% by March 2024, marking a rise from approximately 7.81% in March 2023. The latest report from the World Gold Council highlighted that the ongoing trend of net central bank purchases is evident, although some central banks may opt to remain on the sidelines due to the recent surge in prices.



SEBI grants LIC a 3-year extension to meet 10% public shareholding requirement. :-

The deadline for Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) to achieve a 10% public shareholding has been advanced by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to 2027, providing LIC with more time to meet regulatory requirements given its current public shareholding of 3.5%. LIC had previously been granted a special exemption to reach a minimum of 25% public shareholding within 10 years of its listing in May 2022. The government successfully divested a 3.5% stake through an offer for sale (OFS), generating ₹21,000 crore in proceeds.



FIEO Projections on India's Export Growth Outlook in FY25 :-

India is anticipated to see an increase in merchandise exports to a range of \$500-510 billion in the present fiscal year (FY25), following a 3% drop in the prior fiscal year (FY24), as outlined by the Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO), the prominent body advocating for exporters. The services exports are projected to reach about \$390-400 billion, resulting in an overall export figure for the country of approximately \$890-910 billion, informed FIEO President Ashwani Kumar during a press briefing. According to him, this growth will mainly be fueled by sectors like engineering and advertising services, among others.



UN has increased its economic growth forecast for India in 2024 to close to 7%. :-

According to the latest mid-year update of the United Nations' World Economic Situation and Prospects report, a strong domestic economy is expected to increase India's growth rate to 6.9% in 2024, surpassing the earlier forecast of 6.2%. The UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs stated that India's economic expansion is predicted to reach 6.9% in 2024 and 6.6% in 2025, primarily supported by robust public investment and resilient private consumption. Despite reducing its fiscal deficit, the government plans to maintain its upward trend in capital investment.



Mahindra & Mahindra plans to allocate ₹26,000 crore towards the automotive sector over the next three years. :-

Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd. has announced plans to invest ₹26,000 crores in its automotive sector in the coming three years, in response to an anticipated rise in demand for vehicles. A significant portion of this investment, ₹12,000 crores, will be allocated to Mahindra Electric Automobile Limited (MEAL). The investment will be spread out between FY25 and FY27 and will be used to develop new vehicles and expand production capacity. The SUV segment of M&M will receive ₹8,500 crores, while ₹4,000 crores will be directed towards commercial vehicles. Additionally, ₹5,000 crores will be invested in its farm equipment business.



Coal India, NMDC, and ONGC Videsh are looking for valuable mineral assets abroad. :-

India and China have both expanded their mining operations overseas in recent years, employing distinct methods that have had significant impacts. India's focus is on obtaining valuable resources through global partnerships, while China's activities in Tibet have sparked environmental and cultural worries. India is actively exploring mining opportunities abroad, led by high-ranking officials working within the SGOS-3 platform. Key players in this effort include Khanij Bidesh India Limited (KABIL), National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC), Coal India, and ONGC Videsh Ltd.



HSBC purchases ownership shares in CCIL IFSC :-

HSBC, a prominent global bank and financial services company, completed the necessary documentation at its Gift City branch to acquire a 6.125 percent equity stake in CCIL IFSC Limited (CCIL IFSC). The transaction amounted to ₹6.125 crore. CCIL IFSC is a subsidiary of Clearing Corporation of India Ltd (CCIL), which will retain a 57.125 percent ownership. CCIL IFSC has been established with an authorized capital of ₹200 crore and a paid-up capital of ₹100 crore. In a similar move, State

Bank of India (SBI) also purchased a 6.125 percent share in CCIL IFSC for ₹6.125 crore.



Mahindra Finance receives approval from IRDAI to offer insurance as a corporate agent. :-

Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services has revealed that it successfully obtained a corporate agency license from the insurance regulatory body IRDAI. This license permits them to offer a variety of life and general insurance plans from various insurers. As per the official statement released by Mahindra Finance, the license will be valid from May 21, 2024 to May 20, 2027. Referred to as a 'Corporate Agent (Composite),' this registration allows the company to engage in additional activities involving the promotion and acquisition of insurance services in categories such as life, health, and general insurance for both individuals and groups.



SocialBoat, a women's wellness platform, has been acquired by Noise to enhance the development of smart ring technology. :-

Noise, a prominent smartwatch and integrated lifestyle company, recently revealed the purchase of SocialBoat, an AI-driven women's health platform, for an

undisclosed amount. This decision is a key step in Noise's objective to advance innovation in smart rings. By acquiring SocialBoat, the company aims to enhance its technological solutions and introduce specialized innovative features for its flagship smart wearable, Luna Ring. SocialBoat, a new venture specializing in AI and women's health, utilizes data from multiple origins, such as wearables, to deliver individualized suggestions related to nutrition, exercise, menstrual health, and general wellness.



Google is putting \$350 million into Flipkart, which is owned by Walmart. :-

Based on insights from a knowledgeable source, Flipkart, a company owned by Walmart, recently completed a funding round of about \$1 billion, with \$350 million of that coming from Google, a subsidiary of Alphabet. According to sources familiar with the terms of the investment, Flipkart's valuation in this latest round stands at \$35-36 billion, an increase from \$33 billion the previous year when PhonePe, a subsidiary of Flipkart, became independent. Walmart, a major retail player in the US and holder of an 85% stake in Flipkart, has contributed \$600 million towards this fundraising effort that began last year. Flipkart has mentioned in a prepared statement that the investment is contingent on obtaining regulatory approvals.



RBI slaps Rs 3.1 lakh fine on Hero FinCorp for breaching Fair Practices Code :-

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a penalty of Rs 3.1 lakh on Hero FinCorp Limited for breaching specific provisions of fair practices regulations. Nevertheless, the RBI clarified that the penalty was a result of regulatory compliance shortcomings and did not imply a judgment on the validity of the company's dealings with its customers. The RBI conducted a statutory audit of the company's financial status as of March 31, 2023.



India experienced a trade deficit with nine out of its top ten partners in the year 2023-24. :-

According to official figures, India experienced a trade imbalance with nine out of its top ten trading partners in the fiscal year 2023-24 such as China, Russia, Singapore, and Korea. The data shows that the trade deficit with countries like China, Russia, Korea, and Hong Kong grew from the previous year, while the deficit with the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Russia, Indonesia, and Iraq decreased. China has become India's leading trading ally with a total trade value of \$118.4 billion in 2023-24, surpassing the United States.



Reliance Industries Agrees with Rosneft for Payments in Roubles :-

India's Reliance Industries, owner of the world's biggest refining complex, has signed a one-year deal with Rosneft of Russia to purchase a minimum of 3 million barrels of oil monthly in Russian rubles. The change to using rubles for payment has been prompted by Russian

President Vladimir Putin's suggestion for Moscow and its trade partners to explore alternatives to the Western financial system for smoother trade in light of restrictions from the US and Europe. The agreement with Rosneft further enables privately owned Reliance to secure oil at reduced prices, particularly as the OPEC+ alliance is likely to prolong voluntary output reductions beyond June.



9: International



Humza Yousaf steps down as Scottish First Minister after a period of political turmoil :-

After ending the power-sharing agreement with the Scottish Greens at 'Bute House', Scotland's First Minister, Hamza Yousaf, has decided to step down from his role as First Minister and as leader of the Scottish National Party (SNP) in the midst of political unrest. Yousaf has expressed his intention to remain in his position until a successor is chosen. Disagreements over policies, particularly regarding climate-related matters, led to a strained relationship between the Greens and the SNP, culminating in this decision.



Sri Lanka is planning to remove limitations on importing vehicles. :-

According to a report, the Sri Lankan government is contemplating the elimination of limitations on automobile imports, with specific conditions to be met. A high-ranking official from the Ministry of Finance mentioned that steps are being taken to lift these

restrictions on automobile imports, contingent upon certain guidelines, by the conclusion of 2024 or the beginning of 2025. Additionally, the spokesperson from the Ministry of Finance highlighted that the suggestions from the Committee assigned by President Ranil Wickremesinghe on this matter will also be taken into account when making the ultimate decision.



Zimbabwe introduces new currency ZiG in a bid to address financial difficulties :-

Zimbabwe has started distributing a fresh currency to substitute one that has been significantly devalued and often not accepted by the population. The electronic ZiG was launched in early April, but people can now use physical money. This move is the most recent effort by the nation in southern Africa to resolve a persistent currency crisis that underscores its enduring economic challenges. Before this, the government had suggested different measures to replace the Zimbabwe dollar, such as introducing gold coins to curb inflation and experimenting with a digital currency.



The European Union earmarks \$1 billion in aid for Lebanon. :-

While in Lebanon, EU leader Ursula von der Leyen pledged \$1 billion in assistance to help the country amidst its struggling economy worsened by a migrant crisis and the looming threat of conflict with Israel. She stated, "I am happy to declare a monetary support of \$1 billion for Lebanon, which will be accessible from now through 2027," expressing a aim to support Lebanon's social and economic well-being. The President of the European Commission emphasized that the aid would focus on enhancing essential services like education and healthcare.



Nepal experiences the slowest population growth rate in eighty years :-

Nepal's population has experienced a minimal growth rate of 0.92 percent per year in the past ten years, the slowest it has been in the past eighty years. The National Statistics Office (NSO) recently published a report on demographic indicators, indicating that the annual population growth rate has remained below 1% during this period. "The population growth has hit an unprecedented low compared to data from the previous eight decades," stated Dhundi Raj Lamichhane, who serves as the director at the NSO. The NSO report estimates that the current population of Nepal stands at approximately 29.2 million.



Panama's Presidential Election Won by José Raúl Mulino :-

José Raúl Mulino achieved a significant win in Panama's presidential election, securing approximately 35% of the votes counted and with over 92% of the ballots already tabulated. The 64-year-old former security minister led by a substantial 9% margin over his closest competitor, prompting three rivals to concede defeat. As the incoming president, Mulino will face economic challenges, with Panama expecting a modest growth rate of 2.5% in 2024, alongside prevalent income inequality and an unemployment rate nearing 10%. Moreover, the Panama Canal has been affected by a prolonged drought, contributing to traffic disruptions. The country is also grappling with high levels of public debt and a decline in foreign investments.



Chad's President Idriss Deby, who is a military dictator, emerges victorious in presidential election. :-

Mahamat Idris Deby Itno, the military dictator and temporary leader of Chad, has emerged victorious in the presidential election. He took power in 2021 with the support of fellow army generals, assuming the role of interim president after his father, President Idriss Deby, passed away. President Idriss Deby was assassinated in 2021 by rebels in Northern Chad, just

after winning his sixth presidential term. He governed the country with a firm grip for three decades from 1990 until 2021.



Putin renews Mikhail Mishustin's term as the Prime Minister of Russia :-

Russian President Vladimir Putin has recently reappointed Mikhail Mishustin as the Prime Minister of the country. Mishustin and other members of the Cabinet, known for their expertise, have been recognized for maintaining Russia's economy stable despite severe sanctions imposed by the West due to its actions in Ukraine. It is expected that most other Cabinet members will retain their roles, although the future of Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu is uncertain. During his previous term, Mishustin, who previously led the Russian tax service, refrained from making political remarks and avoided interacting with the media.



Putin selects economist Belousov as the fresh Minister of Defense :-

Russian President Vladimir Putin has unexpectedly nominated civilian Andrei Belousov, a former deputy prime minister with an economics background, as the

new defense minister after over two years of ongoing conflict in Ukraine. The Kremlin announced this change in Russia's military leadership during the country's ongoing military activities in Ukraine, where Russian troops are progressing in the east and initiating a new ground offensive in the northeastern Kharkiv region. The Kremlin stated that the restructuring of the Cabinet aims to integrate the defense ministry's activities more effectively with the overall economic requirements of the country.



Indian Literary Masterpieces Registered on UNESCO's Memory of the World List :-

The Ramcharitmanas, Sahridayaloka-Locana, and Panchatantra have been recognized on UNESCO's Memory of the World Asia-Pacific Regional Register, symbolizing India's heritage with pride. In the 2024 cycle, UNESCO has selected 20 items from the Asia Pacific region for its Memory of the World Regional Register, featuring these renowned works by Goswami Tulsidas, Pt Vishnu Sharma, and Acharya Anandvardhan. This acknowledgment highlights the profound influence of these literary masterpieces on Indian culture and literature.



The 77th Cannes Film Festival Reveals the Bharat Pavilion :-

India has set up a pavilion at the ongoing 77th Cannes Film Festival on the picturesque French Riviera to showcase its cinematic heritage and foster global partnerships. The inauguration was carried out by Sanjay Jaju, Secretary of Information and Broadcasting in India, and Jawed Ashraf, the Ambassador to France and Monaco. Named the Bharat Pavilion, it will serve as a hub for hosting discussions and connecting professionals during the festival, offering a lively stage for Indian movies, artists, and business prospects.



Indonesia Removes Hundreds from Area Around Erupting Volcano :-

An official stated on May 17 that authorities have evacuated hundreds of people residing near an erupting volcano in eastern Indonesia, as its alert status was raised to the highest level. The alert status for Mount Ibu on Halmahera island was elevated to the top level of a four-tiered system on May 16 after two significant eruptions occurred for the second day in a row. Residents and tourists were advised by authorities to steer clear of the exclusion zone within four to seven kilometers and to wear a face mask due to potential ash fall. Ibu, one of the most active volcanoes in Indonesia, had more than 21,000 eruptions last year.



Supreme Court Challenge for Adani's Wind Energy Project in Sri Lanka :-

Adani Green Energy's wind energy initiative in the northern districts of Mannar and Pooneryn in Sri Lanka faces legal opposition at the country's supreme court due to concerns about its environmental impact and perceived lack of transparency. The Wildlife and Nature Protection Society (WNPS), a longstanding environmental group in Sri Lanka established more than a hundred years ago, has lodged a Fundamental Rights petition at the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka in an effort to safeguard the distinctive ecosystem of Mannar Island.



The United Nations urges worldwide collaboration and recommends a treaty to combat Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR). :-

Amina Mohammed, the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, emphasized the importance of completing the global pandemic treaty, particularly in light of the increasing health risk posed by antimicrobial resistance (AMR). She made these remarks at a multi-stakeholder meeting in anticipation of the upcoming High-Level Meeting on AMR, which is set to coincide with the General Assembly later this year. This appeal was made just before the 77th World Health Assembly on May 27, 2024, where revisions to the treaty draft are anticipated, and amidst objections from the United Kingdom government on specific parts of the agreement.



China imposes sanctions on US defense companies for selling arms to Taiwan. :-

China has declared that it intends to impose sanctions on three American defense companies for supplying weapons to Taiwan, following the inauguration of a new leader in the self-governing island. General Atomics Aeronautical Systems, General Dynamics Land Systems, and Boeing Defense, Space & Security are set to be included in China's list of "unreliable entities," as reported by the nation's commerce ministry. According to the state-owned Xinhua news agency, these companies will be prohibited from conducting any import or export operations related to China, and are not allowed to initiate new investments in the country.



Lai Ching-te takes oath as Taiwan's new President :-

Lai Ching-te, a member of Taiwan's ruling Democratic Progressive Party (DPP), officially became the President of Taiwan on May 20, 2024. The inauguration ceremony was attended by leaders from eight nations that have diplomatic ties with Taiwan. The Chinese Communist Party views the DPP as a separatist group and has warned of potential military action if Taiwan pursues formal independence. The DPP argues that Taiwan

operates as an independent nation and does not require a formal declaration.



Iran's Supreme Leader has given his approval for Mohammad Mokhber to serve as Acting President. :-

Following the tragic helicopter crash that resulted in the death of President Ebrahim Raisi, Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has designated Vice President Mohammad Mokhber as the acting president. A period of five days of national mourning has been declared for Mr. Raisi, who had been serving as president since 2021. As per standard procedure, Mokhber was expected to serve as the interim President. New elections will need to take place within a timeframe of 50 days. The helicopter incident, which led to the hard landing of Raisi and other high-ranking officials, was caused by the challenging conditions of dense fog in the mountainous region.



To Lam, Vietnam's security chief, appointed as the new president :-

Vietnam's new president, To Lam, previously served as the country's top security official, leading police and intelligence operations during a time when human

rights organizations noted a crackdown on basic freedoms and allegations of international law breaches by the secret service. Following his predecessor's resignation amidst an anti-corruption campaign that has caused significant upheaval in Vietnam's political and business circles, Mr. Lam was officially appointed by the National Assembly.



World's First Major AI Law Approved by European Union :-

The European Union's member countries have completed the development of the first major regulation governing artificial intelligence, at a time when various global bodies are racing to implement rules on this technology. The EU Council has confirmed the passing of the AI Act, which is an innovative set of rules that outlines detailed guidelines for artificial intelligence technology. Belgium's digital secretary of state, Mathieu Michel, emphasized the importance of the AI Act as a crucial achievement for the European Union.



European Nations Ready to Acknowledge Palestine, Israel Recalls Diplomatic Representatives :-

An Israeli official stated that Israel will criticize the ambassadors of Ireland, Norway, and Spain for their

governments' intention to recognize a Palestinian state. The officials from these countries have been summoned to the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem, where they will be presented with a previously unreleased video showing Hamas abducting female hostages during their October 7 assault on Israel, which triggered the Gaza conflict. In retaliation, Israel has brought back its own ambassadors from Dublin, Oslo, and Madrid for discussions. Several other Western nations argue that acknowledging a Palestinian state should occur after negotiations.



President of the UAE awards Ambassador of Paraguay with top honors of Independence Medal :-

Upon completing his tenure as the Ambassador of the Republic of Paraguay to the UAE, Jose Aguero Avila was honored with the First-Class Medal of Independence by UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan. Avila received the medal as a token of appreciation for his dedicated work in enhancing bilateral relations across various fields during his term. The medal was presented to Avila by Reem Bint Ebrahim Al Hashimy, Minister of State for International Cooperation, at a meeting hosted at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs headquarters.



Chinese military exercises near Taiwan increase following Lai's appointment. :-

The US expressed significant concerns about China's military exercises in the Taiwan Strait and vicinity Taiwan. Matthew Miller, a spokesperson for the US Department of State, urged China to proceed with caution. The statement was issued by the US State Department following China's recent two-day military drills on May 23-24, involving various branches of the military, as reported by Taiwan News. The drills were conducted shortly after Lai Ching-te assumed the role of Taiwan's President on May 20. Matthew Miller emphasized the US's unwavering commitment to the one China policy, shaped by the Taiwan Relations Act, the Three Joint Communiques, and the Six Assurances.



Philippines Set to Draw Increased Number of Medical Students from India :-

Legislative changes in the Philippines are anticipated to lead to a 25-30% rise in the Indian student population pursuing medical education. These changes enable foreign students to practice medicine in the country upon obtaining their Doctor of Medicine degree. This development is especially advantageous for students planning to practice medicine in India, as it aligns with the requirement set by the National Medical Council (NMC) that individuals must hold a valid practicing license to sit for the Indian screening test post their overseas medical education.



Myanmar's military regime renews \$3.6 billion Chinese-supported dam initiative :-

The Myanmar military government has decided to revive a \$3.6 billion Chinese-funded dam project in the northern region of the country, after being put on hold over ten years ago following strong public opposition. The Myitsone dam venture, with a capacity of 6,000-megawatt in the Kachin state, was terminated in 2011 by a previous ruling military regime. Critics argued that constructing the dam on the Ayeyarwady River, with the majority of electricity going to China, would lead to extensive environmental harm without significant benefits for Myanmar. A 2015 environmental evaluation carried out by the government of Myanmar strongly discouraged moving forward with the dam, warning that it could have far-reaching impacts on the river's ecosystem.



Environmental advocates file a lawsuit against Norway for its intentions to engage in deep-sea mining. :-

Environmental organizations have brought a lawsuit to an Oslo court to contest Norway's plan for deep-sea mineral extraction, arguing that sufficient impact evaluations have not been carried out. This development follows the approval by Norway's parliament in January of a project to expand deep-sea mineral exploration over an area larger than Britain, as outlined in a report commissioned by the government suggesting minimal impact. Increasingly, individuals are resorting to legal action to challenge governments and businesses for failing to address climate change adequately or for making decisions with significant environmental consequences.



Maldives Plans to Introduce RuPay to Strengthen Bilateral Relations with India. :-

The Indian payment provider RuPay is set to begin operating in the Maldives, amidst tensions in relations between the two countries. A leading Maldivian official mentioned that the introduction of RuPay would help strengthen the Maldivian currency, the Rufiyaa. The official also mentioned ongoing talks with India to enable rupee payments. RuPay was established by the National Payments Corporation of India as the nation's initial global card payment network, widely acknowledged across India and abroad at ATMs, POS terminals, and online retail platforms.



Landslide Reelection Victory Achieved by Lithuania's President Gitanas Nausėda :-

Lithuania's President Gitanas Nausėda secured another five-year term in a decisive victory over Prime Minister Ingrida Šimonyte. Initial projections from the Lithuania Central Electoral Commission indicate that Nausėda obtained 74.5% of the votes, while Šimonyte received 24.1%. Nausėda, aged 60, is known as a centrist conservative with a particular focus on supporting Ukraine, a stance widely shared across the political

landscape. Throughout his tenure, Lithuania has sheltered numerous individuals escaping authoritarian measures in neighboring Belarus and escalating suppression in Russia.



Saudi Arabia appoints Faisal Bin Saud Al-Mejfel as its Ambassador to Syria. :-

The appointment of Faisal bin Saud Al-Mejfel as Saudi Arabia's ambassador to Syria marks a notable change in the two countries' relationship, being the first of its kind in over ten years. This decision comes at a time when relations between Saudi Arabia and Syria are improving after a long period of strain due to the Syrian civil war. The conflict between the two nations started in 2011 amid the Syrian civil war, with Saudi Arabia backing rebel factions opposed to the Assad government. Diplomatic relations were cut off in 2012, resulting in the shutdown of the Saudi Arabian embassy in Damascus.



Entire Village Buried by Massive Landslide in Papua New Guinea :-

Based on a document obtained by AFP, Papua New Guinea informed the United Nations on May 27 that

over 2,000 individuals were engulfed by a significant landslide in a remote village. The national disaster center in the country communicated to the United Nations office in Port Moresby that the disaster resulted in the burial of thousands of people and extensive devastation. A formerly vibrant hillside community in Enga province was nearly obliterated as a portion of Mount Mungalo crumbled in the early hours of the day, covering numerous residences and inhabitants who were asleep at the time.



Nepalese Climber Purnima Shrestha Scales Mount Everest Three Times in One Season :-

Nepalese mountaineer and photojournalist Purnima Shrestha achieved a groundbreaking feat of being the first person to summit Mt. Everest three times within a single season. Her consecutive climbs to the 8848.86-meter peak occurred on May 12, May 19 with Pasang Sherpa, and May 25 at 5:50 a.m., as confirmed by

Pemba Sherpa, the expedition director at Eight K Expeditions, the organizing body of the mission. Notably, this marked Purnima's fourth ascent of Everest, with her initial climb taking place in 2018.



European Banks are requesting approval from the RBI to implement a third-party transaction model. :-

Four European banks, including Credit Agricole, Societe Generale, Deutsche Bank, and BNP Paribas, have reportedly requested the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to approve a third-party transaction system. This request aims to resolve a disagreement between their respective regulators and Indian authorities regarding audit oversight. The banks recently held discussions with RBI representatives to seek approval for this new model, despite the lack of established guidelines. A decision from the RBI on this matter is expected in the near future.

10: Miscellaneous



Red Sea diversions release carbon emissions equivalent to those from 9 million cars. :-

Ships trying to evade ongoing assaults by Houthi rebels in the Red Sea are releasing large amounts of carbon dioxide, posing challenges for shipping companies in reducing pollution across their operations. Since mid-December, numerous vessels have opted to navigate around South Africa's Cape of Good Hope instead of using Egypt's Suez Canal, resulting in a prolonged journey between South Asia and northern Europe by at least a week. The increased fuel consumption has led to an estimated extra 13.6 million tons of CO₂ emissions in the last four months – comparable to the pollution generated by approximately 9 million cars during this timeframe.



Kareena Kapoor Khan named National Ambassador by UNICEF India :-

Kareena Kapoor Khan has been named as the National Ambassador for UNICEF India. She serves as a renowned advocate for education and children's rights within the organization. Since 2014, Kareena has actively collaborated with UNICEF India, concentrating on key issues like girls' education, gender equality, fundamental education, vaccinations, and breastfeeding. At a recent event, she discussed child welfare, child rights, and fostering their self-assurance. Kareena expressed that her new role as UNICEF India's National Ambassador holds significant personal importance to her.



Gurugram Administration Enlists Yuzvendra Chahal to Increase Voter Participation :-

In the midst of boycotts and worries over low voter participation in cities, the Gurugram administration has appointed cricketer Yuzvendra Chahal as the face of its election campaign. Authorities mentioned that the popular bowler will motivate citizens to exercise their voting rights. Haryana singers MD Desi Rockstar and Naveen Punia have also been selected as campaign ambassadors. Additionally, the administration introduced an app called Voter In Queue, designed to assist voters in locating their spot in the polling line and estimating their wait time to cast their votes.



National Archives of India Obtains Priceless Collection From Shri Rafi Ahmad Kidwai :-

The National Archives of India has acquired the private collection of former Union minister Rafi Ahmad Kidwai, which includes original letters written to notable figures such as Jawaharlal Nehru and Sardar Vallabhai Patel. The collection was handed over to the Director General of NAI by Faiz Ahmad Kidwai, an additional secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, in the presence of Tazeen Kidwai, Hussain Kamil Kidwai's daughter, and Sarah Manaal Kidwai, as stated by the Culture Ministry.

Cup 2024 will commence on June 3, 2024, with Sri Lanka playing against South Africa in New York.



Colin Munro from New Zealand Decides to Retire from International Cricket :-

New Zealand's Colin Munro has announced his retirement from international cricket, following his omission from the national team for the upcoming T20 World Cup. Munro, known for his aggressive batting at the top of the order, had a successful career representing the Kiwis in one Test, 57 ODIs, and 65 T20Is, accumulating a total of 3010 runs. Particularly excelling in the T20 format, Munro boasted a striking rate of 156.44 in T20Is, placing him among the select few players to have surpassed 10,000 runs in all T20 competitions.



Amul designated as the 'Official Sponsor' for Sri Lanka in T20 World Cup :-

Sri Lanka Cricket has revealed that Indian dairy company Amul will act as the 'Official Sponsor' for the Sri Lanka Men's Team throughout the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024. Ashley De Silva, CEO of Sri Lanka Cricket, highlighted that partnering with an international sports brand like Amul will enable the company to expand its market share and enhance its brand recognition globally. The ICC Men's T20 World



Nepal's climber, Kami Rita Sherpa, sets a new personal record by reaching the summit of Mount Everest for the 29th time :-

Kami Rita Sherpa, a 54-year-old mountaineer and guide from Nepal, made history recently by successfully reaching the summit of Mount Everest for the 29th time. Known as the 'Everest Man,' he surpassed his own

previous achievement from last spring by completing two climbs of the world's highest peak within a week, making it his 28th successful ascent. Departing from Kathmandu at the end of May with a team of about 28 climbers, Kami Rita led the expedition as their guide. Another climber from Solukhumbu, Pasang Dawa Sherpa, had also climbed Sagarmatha for the 27th time in the previous year.



Sunil Chhetri Declares Retirement from National Soccer :-

Sunil Chhetri, considered India's top football player, has announced his retirement from national football. Chhetri kicked off his career in 2002 with Mohun Bagan and later played for foreign teams like the Kansas City Wizards in the USA (2010) and Sporting CP reserves in Portugal (2012). Upon his return to India, he showcased his skills with clubs like East Bengal, Dempo, Mumbai City FC, and most notably Bengaluru FC, where he achieved significant success by winning titles including the I-League (2014, 2016), ISL (2019), and Super Cup (2018).



Southwest monsoon expected to arrive in Kerala by May 31. :-

As per the India Meteorological Department, it is expected that the southwest monsoon will reach Kerala

around May 31, give or take four days. Mrutyunjay Mohapatra, the director general of IMD, mentioned that this forecast aligns closely with Kerala's usual monsoon start date of June 1. Earlier, the IMD had forecasted higher than usual rainfall for the Southwest Monsoon season from June to September. June and July are crucial months for farming activities, especially for planting the kharif crop.



Gopi Thotakura Achieves Milestone as First Indian Space Tourist :-

On 19 May 2024, Gopi Thotakura, both an entrepreneur and pilot, achieved the distinction of being the inaugural Indian space tourist by embarking on a journey into space as part of Blue Origin's NS-25 mission led by Jeff Bezos. Thotakura secured his spot as one of six individuals selected for the NS-25 mission, marking his entrance into space as the first Indian civilian space traveler and the second Indian overall following Wing Commander Rakesh Sharma in 1984. The NS-25 mission, the seventh human flight for Blue Origin, took off from Launch Site One in West Texas, marking the program's 25th flight for New Shepard.



Artara 24 Commemorates Diverse Indian Culture in Dubai :-

The Artara'24 Fine Arts Exhibition and Competition has established itself in Dubai as a space for identifying and supporting new artistic abilities within the country. The main goal of the event was to uncover undiscovered artistic talents, with a special emphasis on Indian artists living in Dubai. Located at the Al Jalila Cultural Center, a facility managed by the Dubai Cultural Center, Artara'24 showcased a remarkable array of more than 250 artworks, each narrating its individual story and showcasing the varied experiences and viewpoints of the skilled contributors.



HDFC Bank has sold off its entire stake and exited from Protean eGov Tech. :-

HDFC Bank recently completed the sale of its entire 3.20 percent ownership in Protean eGov Technologies for ₹150 crore through an open market deal. Records from the BSE's bulk trade data show that HDFC Bank sold 12,94,326 shares, equivalent to a 3.20 percent stake in Protean eGov Technologies. The total value of the transaction was ₹150.16 crore, as the shares were sold at an average price of ₹1,160.15 each. Additionally, Nippon India Mutual Fund acquired 12.78 lakh shares, representing a 3.16 percent stake in Protean eGov Technologies, for ₹148 crore.

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

The Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS), a separate agency overseen by the Ministry of Ayush, Government of India, organized an event named "Pharma Research in AyurGyan And Techno Innovation (PRAGATI-2024)" at the India Habitat Centre in New

Delhi on May 28, 2024. The objective of this interactive seminar was to pinpoint research prospects and foster partnerships between CCRAS and the Ayurvedic pharmaceutical industry. The opening ceremony was presided over by Ministry of Ayush Secretary Vd. Rajesh Kotecha.



Indian climber makes history by completing dual ascent of Mt Everest and Mt Lhotse :-

Indian mountaineer Satyadeep Gupta has created history by being the first person to successfully climb both Mt. Everest and Mt. Lhotse twice in a single season, as well as being the first Indian to achieve this in just 11 hours and 15 minutes. Organized by Pioneer Adventure Expedition, Gupta accomplished the remarkable feat of reaching the 8,516-metre-high Mt. Lhotse at noon on May 27, followed by conquering the 8,849-metre-high Mt. Everest at 12:45 a.m. The expedition company noted that this is the inaugural instance of a Double Dual Ascent of the world's highest and the fourth highest peaks in one season.

11: National



The Telecom Industry Calls for Prohibition of Unauthorized WiFi 6E Routers :-

The industry group COAI has requested a ban on the sale of wifi 6E routers that operate in the 6 GHz spectrum due to the government's indecision on their frequency usage. According to the Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI), these routers are being sold on online platforms like Amazon, Flipkart, and Moglix, as well as in physical stores. They argue that selling equipment to utilize the 6 GHz band, which has not been officially designated for this purpose or made exempt by the government, is unlawful and should be promptly prohibited nationwide.



India will welcome a delegation from Kenya for discussions on sourcing cheetahs. :-

India is expected to host a delegation of Kenyan officials this month to explore the possibility of acquiring cheetahs for Project Cheetah's next stage. Following President William Ruto's visit to Kenya in December, India expressed interest in bringing cheetahs from

Kenya. The Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh has been selected as the second location for reintroducing cheetahs. Under the project, India aims to introduce eight to 14 cheetahs every year for five years, depending on their availability.



India's Toy Exports Decline to \$152.34 Million in 2023-24, According to GTRI Report. :-

In a study conducted by the economic research institute GTRI, it was revealed that India experienced a slight decline in toy exports, dropping from USD 153.89 million in the previous fiscal year to USD 152.34 million in 2023–24. Despite quality control regulations being in place, as stated by the Global Trade Research Initiative, they had minimal influence on the export of toys from India. The research indicates that while local policies were intended to support the industry and ensure safety, they did not significantly impact the country's toy exports. Conversely, imports rose to USD 64.92 million in 2023–24 from USD 62.37 million in 2022-23.



India Donates \$500,000 to UN Counter-Terrorism Trust Fund :-

India has contributed \$500,000 to the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Trust Fund as a show of its dedication to aiding global anti-terrorism initiatives. The country's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj, personally delivered this voluntary donation to the Under Secretary General of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT), Vladimir Voronkov.



Wholesale Inflation in India Reaches Highest Level in 13 Months Due to Increase in Food and Fuel Prices :-

In April, wholesale price inflation hit a 13-month peak, propelled by rising costs of fuel, power, manufactured goods, and food. Experts anticipate more hikes in the upcoming months. Data from the commerce and industry ministry indicated that inflation, measured by the wholesale pricing index (WPI), rose by 1.3% annually in April, surpassing the 0.5% in March and the 0.8% decline from April the previous year. The ministry attributed the rise in April's inflation rate to spikes in prices of food articles, electricity, crude oil, and gas.



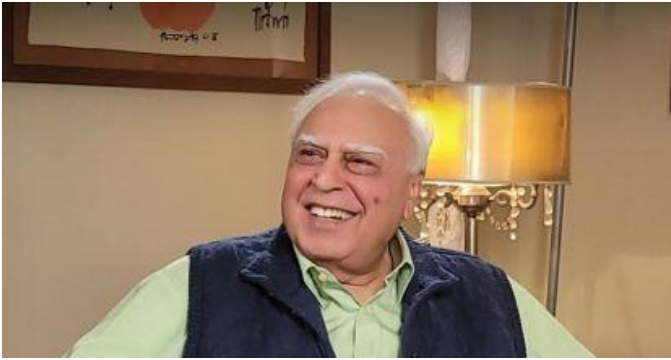
RBI has granted approval for Quant MF to increase its shareholding in RBL Bank. :-

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has given the green light to Quant Mutual Fund (MF) to increase its investment in RBL Bank to 9.98% by May 12, 2025. This approval, which is in accordance with the regulations outlined in the Banking Regulation Act of 1949, was disclosed in a regulatory filing. Currently, through its various schemes, Quant MF holds 4.68% of RBL Bank's shares. The RBI's authorization permits Quant Money Managers Ltd to amass a total holding of up to 9.98% of the paid-up share capital or voting rights in RBL Bank.



Experts predict that India's internet economy is expected to reach \$1 trillion by 2030. :-

Industry experts predict that India's internet economy will achieve a value of \$1 trillion by 2030, mainly fueled by the e-commerce sector. E-commerce is projected to reach \$325 billion, securing the third position worldwide. India's e-commerce industry witnessed significant changes in customer preferences, technology, and regulations in the previous year. InGovern Research Services, a prominent corporate governance consultancy, organized an online discussion to examine the key advancements in India's e-commerce industry in 2023, emphasizing the crucial role of customer trust in driving its continuous growth.



Kapil Sibal Chosen as President of Supreme Court Bar Association :-

Kapil Sibal, an experienced lawyer, was elected as president of the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) for the fourth term. He had previously served as president in 2001 and had two consecutive terms in the mid to late 1990s. Sibal succeeded Adish C. Aggarwala as president, winning the election with 1,066 votes over his opponent Mr. Rai, who received 689 votes. Other candidates in the election included Priya Hingorani, Tripurari Ray, and Neeraj Srivastava.



DPIIT registers more than 7 million transactions on ONDC platform in April. :-

According to a senior official, the government-supported initiative ONDC (open network for digital commerce) is making progress in the e-commerce sector, with five hundred thousand traders now participating. Rajesh Kumar Singh, who serves as the Secretary at the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), highlighted that ONDC was primarily established to democratize and enhance the accessibility of digital commerce for smaller businesses. Singh informed reporters that the initiative has been

gaining momentum over the past two years, with five hundred thousand sellers already onboarded, the majority of which are small and medium-scale sellers. He also mentioned that in April, ONDC facilitated 7.22 million transactions.



Thermal coal imports rise slightly to the highest level in five months during April. :-

In April 2024, there was a continuous rise in thermal coal imports for the fourth month in a row, achieving a peak not seen in five months. Thermal power plants stocked up on this crucial resource in anticipation of soaring summer temperatures and expected prolonged heatwaves in the coming month. Kpler data shows that India's thermal coal imports, primarily used by the power industry, increased by nearly 11% compared to the previous month and by 10% compared to the previous year, reaching 16.23 million tonnes.



New platform introduced for 'National Award to Teachers 2024' :-

The Secretary of Higher Education at the Ministry of Education, Shri K. Sanjay Murthy (IAS), and the AICTE Chairman Prof. T.G. Sitharam have officially introduced

the Portal for the National Award to Teachers 2024. The teachers selected for this recognition will be celebrated on Teachers' Day. Criteria for selection will consider teaching and learning impact, engagement with the community, research and creativity, funded research projects, faculty training initiatives, and consulting services. The objective of the National Award to Teachers 2024 is to acknowledge the remarkable efforts of outstanding educators nationwide.



Towards a new dawn

**Ministry of Women and Child Development
Government of India**

The Ministry of Women and Child Development formally dissolves the Food and Nutrition Board. :-

The official dissolution of the Food and Nutrition Board, responsible for offering technical and logistical assistance to community nutrition projects, is part of a government initiative to streamline agencies. The Women and Child Development (WCD) Ministry has shut down this board, which served as the technical branch of the ministry and was based in Delhi. The board had an extensive presence with multiple offices and quality control labs located across the country in Faridabad, Mumbai, Kolkata, and Chennai.



India has achieved a market capitalization of \$5 trillion. :-

On May 23, the total market value of stocks listed on the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) exceeded \$5 trillion as the key indices achieved record levels, driven by gains in banking and automotive stocks. The ratio of India's market capitalization to Gross Domestic Product (GDP), a measure used to assess the market's value, reached 1.42, or 142%, nearing the previous peak set in 2007. By the end of trading on May 23, the combined market value of all BSE-listed companies reached \$5.05 trillion (or ₹420.22 lakh crore). India joins the United States, China, Japan, and Hong Kong as the fifth nation to surpass the \$5 trillion market capitalization milestone.



Doordarshan's DD Kisan Adopts AI Revolution Through 'Krish And Bhoomi' :-

Doordarshan is preparing to reach a new milestone with the upcoming launch of a revamped design and style for its agriculture-focused channel DD Kisan on May 26, 2024, marking nine years since its inception. This will make Doordarshan Kisan the nation's first government television channel to feature 'Artificial Intelligence', with a focus on an AI anchor, as announced by the ministry. The channel intends to introduce two AI anchors, named AI Krish and AI Bhoomi, who possess abilities similar to those of a human. These AI news anchors are able to deliver news continuously without breaks or fatigue, operating round the clock throughout the year.



CERT-In has issued a warning about severe vulnerabilities in Google Chrome. :-

The Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-in) at the Centre has alerted users about security vulnerabilities found in certain editions of the Google Chrome browser. It is strongly recommended that individuals update their browsers without delay. The most recent warning from CERT-In, under the code CIVN-2024-0170, pinpointed numerous critical security issues in Google Chrome. If these weaknesses are exploited by malicious hackers, they could potentially gain full access to your device. These security gaps are labeled as "high severity" as they have the potential to allow "remote attackers to run unauthorized code on the system," as detailed in the report.



LIC to pay Rs 3,662 crore dividend to the government. :-

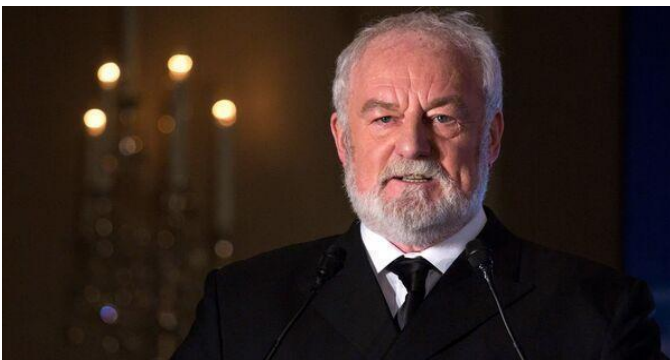
The State-owned Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) is set to pay a dividend of Rs 3,662 crore to the Indian government, its largest shareholder. The insurance company has declared a final dividend of Rs 6 per share for the fiscal year ending on March 31, 2024. Currently, the government holds a 96.50% stake in LIC, equivalent to 6,10,36,22,781 shares out of the total 6,32,49,97,701 fully paid equity shares. The company's Total Premium Income for the financial year ending March 31, 2024, stood at Rs 4,75,070 crore, compared to Rs 4,74,005 crore for the previous year ending on March 31, 2023.

12: Obituaries



Renowned Playback Singer Uma Ramanan Dies :-

Indian playback singer Uma Ramanan, known for her Tamil songs, has passed away. Collaborating with music composer Ilaiyaraaja on numerous tracks, she died in Chennai on May 1. Trained in classical music, Uma had a career spanning three decades and performed in more than 6,000 shows. She began her musical journey in 1977 with the song Mohanan Kannan Murali in the film Sri Krishna Leela, composed by SV Venkatraman. One of her well-known songs, Poongathave Chocha Thakavai from the movie Nizhalgal, composed by Ilaiyaraaja, skyrocketed her fame in the Tamil film industry.



Bernard Hill, known for his roles in 'Titanic' and 'Lord of the Rings', has died :-

Bernard Hill, a renowned British actor recognized for his performances in Titanic and the Lord of the Rings trilogy, has recently passed away at the age of 79. Hill first appeared in the Lord of the Rings series as Thoden,

the King of Rohan, in the second film, The Two Towers, which came out in 2002. The following year, he returned to play the same character in Return of the King, a film that earned 11 Oscars. Hill gained fame for his portrayal of Yosser Hughes in the 1982 British TV series "Boys From the Blackstuff," which depicted the lives of five jobless men. His role earned him a nomination at the 1983 British Academy of Film and Television Arts awards, where the show also won the award for best drama series.



Kanakalatha, a performer in film serials, passes away :-

Kanakalatha, a well-known actress celebrated for her exceptional portrayal of character roles, passed away at the age of 63 due to Parkinson's disease and dementia at her residence in Thiruvananthapuram. Throughout her career spanning four decades, Kanakalatha appeared in over 360 films in different languages. Some of her acclaimed films include 'Priyam' (2000), 'Kannezhuthi Pottumthottu' (1999), 'Varnapakittu' (1997), 'Spadikam' (1995), 'Kireedam' (1989), 'Rajavinte Makan' (1986), and 'Chillu' (1982). Her debut movie was 'Unarthupaattu' (1980), and she also received recognition for her roles in 'Anyar', 'Vakkalathu Narayanankutty', 'Chirikkudukka', and 'Agrahaaram'. Additionally, she had appeared in numerous Tamil films.



Malayalam director Harikumar dies at the age of 68 following a prolonged fight with cancer. :-

Harikumar, a seasoned Malayalam filmmaker and writer, passed away at a private hospital in Thiruvananthapuram at the age of 68 after a battle with cancer. Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan expressed his condolences and highlighted Harikumar's contributions to the Malayalam film industry. 'Ambal Poovu' (1981), co-written with Perumpadavam Sreedharan, marked Harikumar's debut as a director. Throughout his extensive career, which spanned numerous decades, he produced notable works such as 'Sukritham', 'Udayanapalakan', and 'Jalakam', among others.



Renowned filmmaker Sangeeth Sivan from Kerala dies at the age of 61. :-

Recently, film director Sangeeth Sivan passed away at the age of 61 while undergoing treatment at a private hospital in Mumbai. One of Sangeeth's early works was the Malayalam action thriller 'Vyooham', which hit screens in 1990 and gained attention for its intense battle scenes featuring Babu Antony alongside

Raghuvaran. Over the course of his career, Sangeeth directed approximately 20 films in Malayalam and Hindi. Among his Hindi directorial ventures were 'Zor' starring Sunny Deol, as well as 'Sandhya', 'Chura Liya Hai Tumne', 'Kya Kool Hain Hum', 'Apna Sapna Money Money', 'Ek: The Power of One', 'Click', and 'Yamla Pagla Deewana'.



Surjit Patar, a Punjabi poet and writer, dies at the age of 79. :-

Surjit Singh Patar, a noted Punjabi poet and writer who was honored with the Padma Shri award in 2012, passed away on May 11 at his residence close to Barewal Colony at the age of 79. Throughout his career, Patar penned various acclaimed poetry collections such as 'Hawa Vich Likhe Harf', 'Hanere Vich Sulagdi Varanmala', 'Patjhar Di Pazeb', 'Lafzaan Di Dargah', and 'Surzameen'. In addition to his literary contributions, he served as the President of the Punjab Arts Council and held esteemed positions including President of the Punjab Arts Council in Chandigarh and formerly, President of the Punjabi Sahit Akademi.



Journalist Bipin Chandran dies :-

Bipin Chandran, a 52-year-old journalist, passed away on the morning of May 12. He was the son of S. Ramachandran Pillai, a prominent CPM leader. Chandran died at a hospital in Thiruvananthapuram while undergoing treatment for internal organ injuries. He served as a private secretary to the vice chairperson of the Kerala State Planning Board and had previous work experience with Business Standard and the Financial Times. For an extended period, Bipin Chandran pursued a career in journalism in New Delhi, where he held the position of executive editor at the business magazine Entrepreneur.



Sushil Kumar Modi, a former Deputy Chief Minister of Bihar, has died at the age of 72. :-

Recently in Delhi, Sushil Modi, a prominent senior leader of the BJP, passed away at the All-India Institute of Medical Sciences. Aged 72, he had been undergoing treatment for cancer and was under close observation in AIIMS's intensive care unit for the last month. A well-known figure in Bihar politics, Modi, who has a long-standing association with the BJP, has made the decision to step back from participating in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections due to health reasons. Notably, he held the position of Deputy Chief Minister to Nitish Kumar in Bihar for a total of 11 years, spanning from 2005 to 2020. With a remarkable political career, Modi also holds the distinction of being a member of four legislative bodies - the Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, Bihar Assembly, and Legislative Council.



Author Alice Munro, recipient of the Nobel Prize, passes away at the age of 92. :-

The celebrated Canadian writer Alice Munro, famous for her exceptional skill in crafting short stories, passed away at 92. She wrote numerous collections of short stories exploring the imperfections of human nature, often located in the rural landscapes of Ontario where she spent her childhood. Munro, who received the International Booker Prize in 2009 and the Nobel Prize in Literature in 2013, had been battling dementia for nearly ten years and was living in a nursing facility. She was born in Wingham, Ontario, on July 10, 1931.



97-year-old Kamla Beniwal, a long-standing Congress leader and former Governor, has died. :-

Kamla Beniwal, a senior leader of the Congress party and former governor of Gujarat, passed away at a private hospital in Jaipur at the age of 97. In addition to serving as the governor of Gujarat, she also held the position of governor in Tripura and Mizoram. Beniwal, who was elected as a Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) seven times, was also the deputy chief minister of Rajasthan and held several roles within the state government and the Congress party. Rajasthan

Governor Kalraj Mishra, Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma, former chief minister Ashok Gehlot, and other political leaders expressed their condolences on Beniwal's death. Mishra mourned her passing and offered prayers for her soul to rest in peace.



Iqbal Ahmed Saradgi, a former MP from Karnataka, has died. :-

Iqbal Ahmed Saradgi, a long-time Congress leader who served as a Member of Parliament for Kalaburagi, passed away at a private hospital in Kalaburagi at the age of eighty. He had been battling an illness associated with old age. Mr. Saradgi achieved a significant victory in the 1999 Lok Sabha elections for Kalaburagi, defeating his closest rival, Basavaraj Patil Sedam of the BJP. The two politicians contested against each other once more in the 2004 elections, where Mr. Saradgi secured his second consecutive term representing Kalaburagi.



13: Ranks & Reports



Kathmandu ranks first among cities with 'unhealthy air' worldwide. :-

Citizens in Nepal have been advised by the Ministry of Health and Population to wear masks as a result of the rising air pollution levels in the Kathmandu valley. Kathmandu currently holds the top position for having the most 'unhealthy air' among all cities globally. IQAir, an organization that monitors pollution levels in 101 locations worldwide in real-time, has identified Kathmandu as the most polluted city on the planet. In terms of pollution levels, Kathmandu ranks first, followed by New Delhi, Chiang Mai in Thailand, Hanoi in Vietnam, Bangkok in Thailand, and Dhaka in Bangladesh in the second, third, fourth, and fifth positions respectively.



GST Revenue Collection Reaches All-Time High in April 2024 :-

In April, there was a significant rise in gross goods and services tax (GST) earnings, hitting a record high of Rs 2.10 lakh crore. Moreover, there has been a 12.4% year-on-year increase in GST collection. This growth was fueled by a considerable surge in both domestic transactions, up by 13.4%, and imports, up by 8.3%, as reported by the Ministry of Finance. After deducting refunds, the net GST revenue for April 2024 was Rs 1.92 lakh crore, demonstrating a notable 17.1% growth compared to the same period last year.



UPI transactions saw a small decrease in the month of April. :-

In April, there was a slight decrease of 1% in both the volume and value of Unified Payment Interface (UPI) transactions compared to March 2024. The total value of transactions amounted to Rs 19.64 trillion in April, down from Rs 19.78 trillion in March, with 13.3 billion transactions recorded in April as opposed to 13.44 billion in March. Year-on-year, UPI transactions witnessed a 50% increase in volume and a 40% increase in value. Conversely, Immediate Payment Service (IMPS) transactions experienced a 7% decrease in value and a 5% decrease in volume in April compared to March.



OECD Boosts Prediction of Indian Economy Growth to 6.6% for 2024-25 :-

The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) has revised its growth forecast for India from 6.2% to 6.6% for 2024-25, attributing the increase to robust public investment and improved corporate confidence driving GDP growth. The OECD highlighted the importance of tackling indebtedness through measures such as increasing revenues, enhancing expenditure efficiency, and implementing stricter fiscal controls. Additionally, the report suggested that in light of high public debt hindering private investment, it is advisable to pursue fiscal consolidation for the current economic conditions.



India has been placed 159th out of 180 countries in the just-released World Press Freedom Index 2024. :-

In the 2024 World Press Freedom Index by Reporters Without Borders (RSF), India is ranked 159th, with Pakistan at 152 and Sri Lanka at 150. India's position has slightly improved from 161 out of 180 countries in the previous year. The index evaluates nations based on the freedom and independence of journalists to work and report. In terms of press freedom, all countries in

Europe, particularly the European Union, are considered "good." The EU has recently introduced its first media freedom law called EMFA. Sweden has replaced Ireland in the top three countries, while Germany has entered the top ten in the rankings.



India Ratings increases its prediction for economic growth in the fiscal year 2025 to 7.1%. :-

India Ratings and Research has revised its GDP growth forecast for 2024-25 to 7.1% from 6.5%, highlighting strong backing for growth from continued government investment and healthier business and bank balance sheets. Despite ongoing limitations in consumption and exports, the agency anticipates a slight improvement in economic performance compared to the Reserve Bank of India's projection of 7% growth. Additionally, there is an expectation for a 6.9% increase in Gross Value Added for the economy this year, aligning with last year's figures.



India is at the forefront of global remittances, exceeding the \$100 billion milestone. :-

Based on information from the UN Migration Agency, India became the first nation to surpass \$100 billion in

remittances in 2022. The World Migration Report 2024 from the International Organisation for Migration revealed that India's remittance figures rose to \$111 billion last year, surpassing all other countries. The research highlighted that the top five recipients of remittances in 2022 were India, Mexico, China, the Philippines, and France. India's dominance in remittances has been steadily increasing, as evident from the report's data showing India leading in remittance receipts in 2010 (\$53.48 billion), 2015 (\$68.91 billion), and 2020 (\$83.15 billion). This trend culminated in a record \$111.22 billion in remittances for India in 2022.



Indian exports increased in 115 out of 238 countries in 2023-24. :-

In a recent study by the Ministry of Commerce, it was found that India's exports to 115 countries out of a total of 238 destinations grew in 2023-24 despite global economic uncertainties. These 115 export markets represent 46.5% of India's total exports and include countries such as the United States, UAE, Netherlands, China, the United Kingdom, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Bangladesh, Germany, and Italy. The total value of exports in 2023-24 was \$778.2 billion, slightly up from \$776.4 billion in the previous year, marking a marginal growth of 0.23%.



India has overtaken Japan to become the world's third-largest solar power generator in 2023. :-

Based on a projection by Ember, a global energy research organization, India is expected to outpace Japan and become the world's third-largest solar power producer by 2023. The Global Electricity Review 2024 offers an in-depth look at power generation systems across the globe in 2023. The report highlights that solar energy accounted for a record high of 5.5 percent of global electricity production in 2023. India experienced the fourth-largest growth in solar energy production worldwide in 2023, with an increase of 18 Terawatt hours (TWh), following China (+156 TWh), the United States (+33 TWh), and Brazil (+22 TWh).



Moody's predicts that the Indian economy will grow by 6.6% in the fiscal year 2025. :-

Moody's Ratings projects a 6.6% growth rate for the Indian economy in the current fiscal year, attributed to strong loan demand and robust economic development. This growth is expected to lead to increased profitability for non-bank financing businesses (NBFCs). Moody's predicts that India's economy will expand by 6.6% in the year ending March 2025 and by 6.2% the following year, supporting significant loan growth at NBFCs. This

growth is anticipated to offset the impact of rising funding costs on their profitability. The Indian economy is also forecasted to have expanded by 8% in the fiscal year 2023-24.



In April, China's industrial production increased by 6.7% as the manufacturing sector picked up speed. :-

In April, Chinese industrial production grew by 6.7% compared to the previous year, an increase from 4.5% in March, indicating a strengthening recovery in the manufacturing sector. Official data from the National Bureau of Statistics surpassed analysts' expectations, who had forecasted a 5.5% growth. Conversely, retail sales, a measure of consumer spending, saw a 2.3% increase in April, down from a 3.1% rise in March, falling short of the anticipated 3.8% growth. Following a contraction the month before, China's exports and imports rebounded with growth in April.



India's reserves of foreign exchange increase by \$2.56 billion to reach \$644.15 billion. :-

India's central bank, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), reported that the country's foreign exchange reserves rose by USD 2.561 billion to USD 644.151 billion in the week that ended on May 10. In the previous week, the

reserves had increased by USD 3.668 billion to USD 641.59 billion after declining for three consecutive weeks. The reserves hit a record high of USD 648.562 billion in the week ending April 5 following continuous growth. According to the data, the foreign exchange assets, which are a significant part of the reserves, grew by USD 1.488 billion to USD 565.648 billion for the week ending May 10.



Ronaldo is Ranked as the Highest-Earning Athlete on Forbes' List :-

Cristiano Ronaldo has once again claimed the top position on Forbes' ranking of the highest-earning athletes for the fourth time in his career. Spanish golfer Jon Rahm also made a significant leap to the second position following his move to the Saudi-supported LIV Golf. Ronaldo secured his position as the world's highest-paid athlete after his transfer to Saudi Arabian club Al-Nassr. As per Forbes, the 39-year-old athlete's estimated overall income reached an impressive \$260 million, setting a new record for soccer players. His earnings from playing totaled \$200 million, while he further earned \$60 million off the field through sponsorship agreements leveraging his massive following of 629 million Instagram users.



Delhi is placed at 350 in the Oxford Global Cities Index Report 2024. :-

In the 2024 Oxford Economics Global Cities Index, Delhi has secured the 350th spot, making it the highest-ranked city in India, while Bengaluru clinched the 411th position, surpassing Mumbai at 427th. Sultanpur in Uttar Pradesh was placed at the bottom of the index, ranking at 1000th. The Global Cities Index Report, unveiled on May 21, is an annual report that assesses around 1,000 of the world's largest cities across 163 countries based on five key criteria. New York claimed the top spot on the ranking, with London and San Jose following in the 2nd and 3rd positions, respectively.



India has moved up to the 39th spot in the Travel & Tourism Development Index. :-

India has risen to 39th place in the World Economic Forum's Travel & Tourism Development Index 2024, with the US leading the rankings. In addition, India ranks highest in South Asia among lower-middle-income economies. Previously, India was placed 54th in the index published in 2021. With a score of 4.25 on the overall index scale of 1 (worst) to 7 (best), India's notable advancement in the rankings highlights its increasing competitiveness in the international tourism industry. The biennial index evaluated the travel and tourism industries of 119 nations.



NTPC achieves third place in the ATD BEST Awards 2024 :-

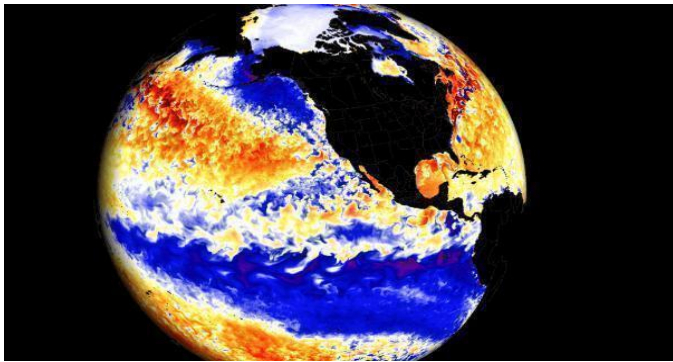
NTPC has secured the 3rd position globally in the ATD BEST Award 2024, making it the top-ranked Indian company. It is worth noting that NTPC is the only public sector undertaking to have won this prestigious award seven times in the last eight years. The award was received by Ms. Rachana Singh Bhal, CGM (Strategic HR & Talent Management), during a ceremony in New Orleans, USA, on 21st May 2024. The ATD BEST Award, founded by the Association for Talent Development (ATD), USA, is highly regarded as a significant international accolade in the field of Learning and Development (L&D).



Bank of Maharashtra leads in business growth among public sector banks in the financial year 2024. :-

Bank of Maharashtra emerged as the top performing public sector bank in the previous financial year, exhibiting the highest growth rates in total business and deposit mobilisation. Official financial data reveals that the Pune-based bank experienced a significant 15.94% increase in total business (domestic) during FY24, surpassing even the renowned State Bank of India (SBI)

which showed a growth rate of 13.12%. Despite SBI's superior 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 in terms of growth percentages.



Anticipated Arrival of La Nina to Affect Worldwide Weather Patterns Later This Year :-

In the previous month, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) forecasted increased rainfall for the forthcoming monsoon season in India, anticipating beneficial La Nina conditions by August-September. As per a current IMD directive, El Niño circumstances have weakened since the beginning of this year. El Niño and La Nina are ocean-atmosphere phenomena impacting the temperature of the central and eastern tropical Pacific Ocean and have an influence on the world's weather patterns.



Indian Wildlife Institute reports a population of more than 4000 Gangetic Dolphins in India. :-

The recent findings from the Wildlife Institute of India revealed that there are more than 4000 Gangetic dolphins residing in the Gangetic River basin. Among them, a significant population of over 2000 dolphins can be found in Uttar Pradesh, particularly within the Chambal River. This increase in numbers indicates a reduction in river pollution and the effectiveness of government-led conservation efforts. While historically known to inhabit the Ganga-Brahmaputra-Meghna and Karnaphuli-Sangu river systems, the dolphins are now also found in specific areas within the Ganga-Brahmaputra-Barak river system in India, as well as in river systems in Nepal and Bangladesh.



India experiences growth and ranks among the top 5 world steel producers in April. :-

India is the sole country among the world's top five steel producers that experienced a growth in production in April, while others saw declines of up to 7%. As per a report by Nikita Periwal in ET, China, the leading steel manufacturer globally, witnessed a drop of over 7% in its steel output in April, totaling 85.9 million tons. Data from the World Steel Association indicates that China's production for the period from January to April this year was 343.7 million tons, reflecting a 3% decrease from 2023. On the other hand, India, ranking as the second-largest steel producer globally, recorded a 3.6% increase in its production, reaching 12.1 million tons in April.



Delhi Tops Indian Rankings in Oxford Economics' Global Cities Index. :-

Delhi emerged as the top-ranked Indian city in Oxford Economics' global cities survey, securing the 350th spot overall. While this achievement is noteworthy, many other Indian cities on the list are positioned lower. The survey reveals that Delhi outperformed Mumbai in various aspects such as economics, human capital, and living standards. Notably, Delhi's performance in the Environment category was subpar, placing 973rd, making it the second-lowest ranked Indian city after Sultanpur in Uttar Pradesh, which stood at 989th place.



RBI data indicates a notable decrease in net foreign direct investment to \$10.5 billion in the fiscal year 2024. :-

Foreign direct investment (FDI) flowing into India decreased by 62.17 percent to \$10.58 billion in the fiscal year 2023-24 (FY24), down from \$27.98 billion the previous year, marking the lowest level since 2007. This decline was largely attributed to heightened capital repatriation and increased foreign investment by Indian companies. Recent data from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) indicates that out of the total gross FDI inflows of

\$70.9 billion in FY24, \$44.4 billion was repatriated through dividends, share sales, or disinvestment, with an additional \$15.96 billion being invested overseas by Indian entities.



Uttar Pradesh Takes the Lead in Adding Transmission Lines in 2023-24 :-

As per the latest data from the Central Electricity Authority, Uttar Pradesh has emerged as the top state in terms of adding transmission lines by state transmission companies in 2023-24. This achievement follows its leading position in the preceding fiscal year of 2022-23. In the fiscal year 2023-24, state-owned power companies installed 6,993 km of transmission lines, representing approximately 64% of the overall target of 11,002 km for both private and public entities. Gujarat Energy Transmission Corporation Ltd (GETCO) secured the second position by adding 898 circuit kilometers of transmission lines during the same timeframe.

14: Schemes & Committees



HDFC Life Launches “No Hassle Life Insurance Quick” Campaign :-

HDFC Life introduced the "No Jhanjhat Life Insurance Fatafat" campaign to make life insurance purchases quicker and easier through its online platform. The campaign is focused on addressing the low insurance penetration and protection gap in India. By launching initiatives like this campaign, HDFC Life is dedicated to its goal of providing 'Insurance for All by 2047.' The campaign encourages people nationwide to safeguard themselves and their loved ones financially through the digital platform, which offers convenient purchasing and service options.



Uttarakhand Tourism has revealed the first Astro Tourism campaign in India called ‘Nakshatra Sabha’. :-

The Uttarakhand Tourism Development Board has collaborated with Starscapes, a leading astro-tourism firm, to introduce Nakshatra Sabha, a new endeavor that offers a complete astro-tourism experience to

participants. The project will include a range of activities like observing stars, engaging in special solar observations, participating in astrophotography competitions, camping beneath the night sky, and other experiences. This effort seeks to unite those fascinated by astronomy, explorers, and tourists to delight in the spectacular beauty of the universe.



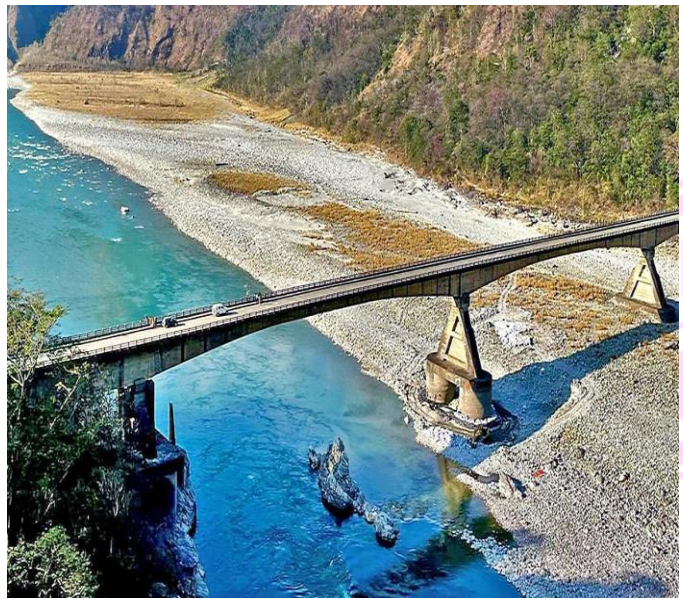
IN-SPACE has issued instructions for carrying out the Indian Space Policy 2023. :-

The Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACE) has released the regulations, rules, and steps (NGP) for executing the Indian Space Policy, 2023, regarding the authorization of space activities. According to IN-SPACE, the NGP document outlines the space activities requiring authorization from IN-SPACE, sets out the conditions for obtaining such authorizations, and offers the essential guidelines and requirements that an applicant must meet when applying for authorization from IN-SPACE.



Manipur Introduces "School On Wheels" Program for Students in Relief Camps :-

The Manipur administration introduced the "School on Wheels" initiative aimed at educating young people residing in relief camps in the state due to ethnic tensions. Governor Anusuiya Uikey of Manipur unveiled the initiative, which involves a school bus carrying educational resources like books, computers, and sports gear, along with a teacher. With approximately 320 relief camps in operation by the Manipur government, accommodating over 59,000 individuals, including around 18,000 students, the initiative will travel to various camps to deliver education.



India is planning to allocate ₹2 crore for every kilometer of border roads with China. :-

As per project guidelines, the government intends to allocate close to ₹2 crore per kilometer for building roads along the China border in Uttarakhand and Sikkim as part of the Vibrant Village Programme (VVP). Over the past five months, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has given the green light to 113 road projects in Arunachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and Sikkim to enhance connectivity close to the Chinese border. While Arunachal Pradesh has received approval for 105 road projects, Uttarakhand and Sikkim have been granted permission for five and three road projects respectively.



The DoT has chosen 144 individuals for its 'Sangam: Digital Twin' initiative. :-

The Department of Telecommunications (DoT), under the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, announced the chosen participants for the first stage of the 'Sangam: Digital Twin with AI-Driven Insights Initiative'. This program, launched in February, aims to transform infrastructure planning and design using digital twin technology to create accurate simulations of the environment. So far, 144 participants have been selected, including a diverse mix of 112 organizations and 32 individuals ranging from major industry players, creative startups, and prominent academic institutions.



SEBI is suggesting to support local mutual funds in investing in foreign funds :-

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has proposed allowing Indian mutual funds to invest in foreign mutual funds that allocate a portion of their funds in Indian stocks. At present, there is uncertainty regarding the regulations governing investments in these foreign funds, which deters mutual funds from investing in international mutual funds and index funds

with exposure to multiple countries, including India. Sebi specified that Indian mutual fund schemes could invest in foreign mutual funds as long as their combined exposure to Indian securities does not exceed 20% of their total assets.



IRDAI instructs insurance companies to establish a board-approved policy regarding agent commissions. :-

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDA) has mandated that all insurance companies develop a board-approved policy regarding commission arrangements for insurance brokers to guarantee equitable and suitable payments. According to the regulation, the board's policy on commission structures for intermediaries must encompass objectives and principles, fairness and reasonableness, prudent distribution practices, and periodic assessments. Additionally, it emphasized that the commission structure should be fair and not lead to overcompensation for intermediaries that comes at the cost of customers or the insurer.



Finance Ministry getting ready to present the inaugural complete Budget of the new government in the midst of Lok Sabha election fervor :-

Regardless of whether the NDA remains in power or the INDIA bloc emerges victorious, the budget will need to make room for fresh initiatives and adjustments in policies. A team of important officials from the Finance Ministry is busy preparing the new government's initial complete budget behind the scenes of the Lok Sabha elections. Led by T.C. Somnathan, who holds roles as the Finance Secretary and the Expenditure Secretary, this task is not just a regular yearly budget planning process; it marks a shift from the provisional to the complete budget, potentially coinciding with a change in government.



Spain has joined the International Solar Alliance as its 99th member. :-

The 99th member to join the International Solar Alliance is Spain, as announced with the presentation of its Instrument of Ratification 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) at the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA). The launch of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) by India and France at COP21 in Paris is aimed at supporting the Paris Climate Agreement's goals through the swift and extensive utilization of solar energy, as stated in a press release by the MEA.



IOC has initiated the 'Let's move India' campaign in collaboration with Reliance Foundation and Abhinav Bindra. :-

The "Let's Move India" campaign, a joint initiative by the International Olympic Committee (IOC), the Reliance Foundation, and the Abhinav Bindra Foundation, calls on individuals to honor the Olympians competing in the upcoming Paris Olympics. People from diverse backgrounds and age groups are encouraged to replicate or design celebrations of their favorite athletes as a means of inspiring and recognizing the efforts of the Olympians. Launched on Olympic Day, June 23, 2023, the IOC's 'Let's Move' initiative has attracted the participation of over 1000 athletes and more than 1.5 million individuals worldwide engaged in physical activities.



G7 Pledges to Achieve Carbon Neutrality by 2050 :-

The G7 nations have called on major economies like India and China to pledge to reach net zero emissions by 2050 and reduce their emissions by 2025. They have also agreed to collaborate with other developed nations to ensure the collective mobilization of \$100 billion per year in climate finance by 2025, which was delayed by three years, to support developing and impoverished countries in addressing climate change. The group of seven countries, which include the US, France, the UK, Italy, Germany, Canada, and Japan, are the wealthiest democracies on the globe.

15: Science & Technology



China is preparing to send the Chang'e-6 lunar probe into space, which will carry Pakistan's ICUBE-Q mission. :-

Pakistan's space program is set to benefit from the upcoming launch of its first lunar mission. As reported by Dawn, the Institute of Space Technology (IST) in Pakistan has revealed that the iCube-Q lunar mission is scheduled to launch on May 3, riding on China's Chang'e 6 lunar probe. Developed through a collaboration between IST, China's Shanghai University SJTU, and Pakistan's national space agency Suparco, this satellite is equipped with two optical cameras to capture images of the Moon's surface.



Archaeologists reveal Prehistoric Settlement dating back 7000 years in Serbia :-

Researchers have reportedly discovered a previously unknown ancient settlement of considerable importance in southeastern Europe. The settlement is located near the Tamiš River in northern Serbia, a country in the Balkans. It is estimated to have originated around 7,000 years ago during the late Neolithic period. Archaeologists have conducted surveys of the area and found artifacts linked to the Vinča culture, which thrived between 5400 BC and 4400 BC.



ISRO Study Reveals Increased Amount of Water Ice on Moon at Depths Suitable for Exploitation :-

A new investigation carried out by a team of Indian and global scientists reveals encouraging data indicating that the Moon's polar craters might hold significantly higher amounts of subsurface water ice than initially believed, at levels that upcoming missions could access. Recently published in the ISPRS Journal of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing, the study indicates that the quantity of ice located just a few meters under the surface is 5 to 8 times more abundant compared to what is found on the surface. This hidden ice could play a vital role in supporting extended human habitation on the Moon.



Sunita Williams' third space flight postponed :-

Boeing's Starliner spaceship had to cancel its first crewed flight on May 7 just before launch due to a technical problem. A valve issue in the rocket's second stage was the reason for the delay, as announced during a live NASA broadcast. Astronaut Butch Wilmore was set to join Sunita Williams for her third space journey aboard the spacecraft. Williams has already completed two space missions, spending 322 days in space and holding the record for the most spacewalk hours by a woman until Peggy Whitson surpassed her.



Bajaj Auto Poised to Transform Transportation With World's First CNG Motorcycle :-

Bajaj Auto, the top manufacturer of two- and three-wheelers in India, is set to launch the first-ever compressed natural gas (CNG) motorcycle globally on June 18, 2024. This innovative product is expected to revolutionize the market by offering customers a cost-effective and environmentally friendly option compared to conventional petrol motorcycles. Bajaj had previously highlighted the cost-saving benefits of CNG as a fuel for vehicles, making it an attractive choice for consumers.

The company has disclosed plans to begin with an initial production capacity of 20,000 CNG motorcycles.



ISRO Makes Progress by Conducting Successful Pre-Burner Ignition Test for Semi-Cryo Engine :-

Isro has reached a significant point in the development of a 2,000kN thrust semi-cryogenic engine, which uses a combination of Liquid Oxygen (LOX) and Kerosene as propellants. This engine aims to enhance the payload capacity of the LVM3 rocket and upcoming launch vehicles. Isro has confirmed the successful ignition of the semi-cryo pre-burner, marking a key achievement in the engine's development process. The next steps involve conducting tests on the engine's powerhead test article and the fully integrated engine. Furthermore, Isro is currently working on developing a semi-cryo stage capable of carrying 120 tonnes of propellant.



ISRO Achieves Successful Test of Rocket Engine Made with 3D Printing Technology :-

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) revealed a significant achievement by successfully conducting a hot test of a liquid rocket engine manufactured using

additive manufacturing (AM) technology, commonly known as 3D printing. This engine is intended to be used to propel the PS4 upper stage of ISRO's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV). The test, lasting 665 seconds, involved the use of the PS4 engine, a crucial element of the PSLV rocket's upper stage, which is famously called 'the Workhorse of ISRO' due to its history of reliably delivering satellites into Low-Earth orbit.



Recipient of first pig kidney transplant passes away two months following surgery. :-

Richard "Rick" Slayman, who was the initial recipient of a genetically modified pig kidney, passed away nearly eight weeks after the operation, as confirmed by his relatives and a report from Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, the site of the surgery. Despite this, the hospital has emphasized that there is no indication linking Slayman's death to his recent kidney transplant. At 62 years old, Slayman made medical history on March 16 as the first person to receive this type of transplant while still alive, after struggling with kidney illness for more than a decade.



NASA Reveals Proposal to Construct Inaugural Lunar Railway System :-

The American Space Agency NASA has proposed the development of a lunar railway system to enhance the transportation of payloads on the Moon. In a recent blog post, NASA announced plans for a robotic transport system that will be crucial for the operations of a sustainable lunar station scheduled for the 2030s. This initiative is part of NASA's Moon to Mars program, which includes projects like Robotic Lunar Surface Operations 2 (RLSO2). The railway system aims to address the transportation requirements for moving regolith for ISRU consumables (H2O, LOX, LH2) and construction materials, as well as for transferring payloads within the lunar base and to and from landing zones and other facilities. To meet these transportation needs, NASA has introduced FLOAT (Flexible Levitation on a Track).



TCS reveals plans to establish a worldwide center of excellence for AI in France. :-

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) revealed the launch of a Global Artificial Intelligence (AI) Centre of Excellence in Paris during the Choose France Summit. Situated at the newly established TCS PacePort in Paris, the facility will prioritize advancements in the brain-machine interface, developing empathy in artificial intelligence, and fostering creativity within AI, as stated by the organization. "Initially, the focus of the new center will be on enhancing AI capabilities centered around humans for the banking and financial services (BFS), manufacturing, and consumer industries," commented Rammohan Gourneni, TCS France's Country Head.



India Unveils Mangalyaan-2: On Track to be the Third Country to Successfully Land on Mars :-

India's renowned space organization, the Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro), is preparing for an extraordinary mission to Mars known as Mangalyaan-2. This significant endeavor will involve deploying a rover and helicopter on the red planet, a feat achieved in the past only by the United States and China. By undertaking this pioneering project, India seeks to establish itself as a prominent contributor to space exploration. The ambitious mission will be launched using Isro's most powerful rocket to date, the Launch Vehicle Mark-III (LVM3).



Singapore is preparing for a surge in COVID-19 cases as more than 25,900 cases were reported in a week. :-

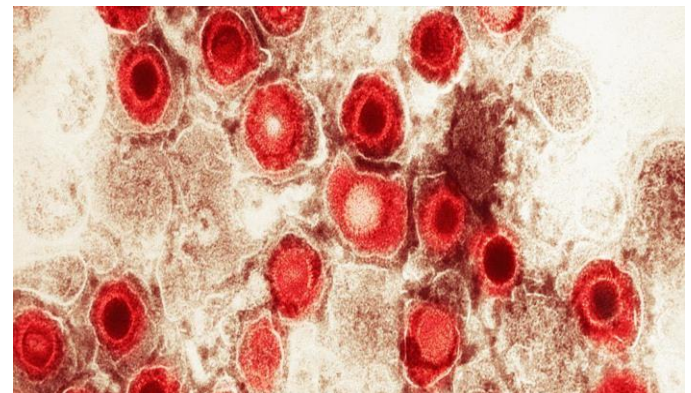
Singapore is currently facing a fresh surge of Covid-19 cases, as authorities have recorded more than 25,900 cases from May 5 to 11. This increase comes despite Health Minister Ong Ye Kung's recommendation for the public to wear masks again. The Ministry of Health (MOH) has reported a rise in the projected number of Covid-19 cases during this period, reaching 25,900 compared to 13,700 the week before. The average daily

hospitalizations for Covid-19 have also gone up to around 250 from 181 in the previous week, while the average daily intensive care unit (ICU) cases have slightly increased to three cases from two cases.



Swiggy makes use of SHIELD's Device-First Risk AI Platform :-

Swiggy, the top on-demand convenience platform in India, has revealed a collaboration with SHIELD, a cutting-edge AI platform focused on device-related risks. This partnership aims to boost Swiggy's ability to prevent and identify fraudulent activities. By utilizing SHIELD's Device Intelligence, Swiggy can minimize misuse of promotions and discourage fraudulent behaviors among its Delivery Partners. SHIELD is known for supporting digital enterprises globally in eradicating fake accounts and putting a halt to all forms of fraud. With the help of SHIELD, the Swiggy Trust & Safety team now possesses advanced tools to actively identify and prevent fraud and misconduct on the Swiggy platform.



Oldest Human Viruses Found in Neanderthal Bones Dating Back 50,000 Years :-

Researchers found that 50,000-year-old Neanderthals were exposed to three viruses which still affect present-day humans. The study was carried out by researchers at the Federal University of Sao Paulo in Brazil, revealing the oldest human virus remnants ever recorded, surpassing the previous record by almost 20,000 years. By examining DNA from Neanderthal remains discovered in the Chagyrskaya cave in Russia, the team led by Briones detected fragments similar to three contemporary viruses: adenovirus (causing common colds), herpesvirus (resulting in cold sores), and papillomavirus (linked to genital warts).



L&T Technology Services Inaugurates Airbus Simulation Center of Excellence in Bengaluru :-

L&T Technology Services inaugurated an Airbus simulation center of excellence (CoE) in Bengaluru. This CoE is dedicated to offering engineering support to Airbus' structural simulation projects across its divisions in France, Germany, the United Kingdom, and Spain. Equipped with simulation technology, hardware, and computing tools, the CoE seeks to establish uniform processes within all European business units of Airbus and aircraft programs, aiming to optimize operations and increase effectiveness.



The upcoming launch of the SpaceX Mega-Rocket Starship is scheduled for June 5. :-

SpaceX has revealed that Starship, considered as the most powerful rocket globally, is scheduled to conduct its second test mission on June 5. This upcoming test will mark the fourth trial for the advanced rocket, which holds significant importance for NASA's lunar astronaut landing plans and the ambition of SpaceX CEO Elon Musk to establish a human settlement on Mars. Despite the prior failures that resulted in the destruction of Starship during previous attempts, the company views these setbacks as justifiable costs within its rapid trial-and-error development approach. "The focus of the fourth test flight shifts from achieving orbit to showcasing the capabilities of Starship and Super Heavy for return and reuse," stated SpaceX in a release.



GAIL (India) Ltd. Inaugurates First Green Hydrogen Plant in India :-

The company, GAIL (India) Ltd, has successfully started operating its initial green hydrogen facility in Vijaipur, Madhya Pradesh, emphasizing a significant advancement in the country's major natural gas distribution firm's transition towards new and alternative energy sources. Imported from Canada, the 10-megawatt proton exchange membrane electrolyser located at the Vijaipur site will generate approximately 4.3 tonnes of green hydrogen daily, boasting a high purity level of around 99.999 percent by volume.



Indian Army collaborates with IOCL to conduct trials on hydrogen fuel cell bus technology. :-

The Indian Army, in partnership with Indian Oil

Corporation Limited (IOCL), has initiated trials of a Hydrogen Fuel Cell Bus as part of their exploration into environmentally friendly transportation alternatives. The collaboration was solidified through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between General Manoj Pande, Chief of the Army Staff, and Shrikant Madhav Vaidya, Chairman of Indian Oil. Additionally, a Hydrogen fuel cell bus was officially handed over to the Indian Army during the event, symbolizing the commencement of a joint effort to advance sustainable transportation solutions.



16: Sports



Indian athletes wrapped up the 2024 Asian U20 Athletics Championships by securing a total of 30 medals, which included seven gold medals. :-

During the last day of the Asian U20 Athletics Championships 2024, Indian athletes achieved an additional 12 medals, boosting their total to 30 medals comprising of seven gold, 11 silver, and 12 bronze. It is significant to mention that India claimed the leading position in the medal standings. This year's overall count for India exceeds that of the prior Championships by 11 medals, marking their inaugural first-place finish in the history of the Championships. In contrast, China garnered a total of 29 medals, securing the second position with 16 gold, 10 silver, and three bronze medals.



MS Dhoni Achieves IPL Milestone During CSK's Convincing Victory :-

At Chepauk Stadium in Chennai, Chennai Super Kings (CSK) secured a 78-run victory over Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH). This win was significant as it marked Dhoni's 150th triumph in the Indian Premier League (IPL), solidifying his status as the only player to achieve this remarkable feat. Following this win, CSK rose to third place in the points table with 10 points, underscoring their reputation as a strong contender in the competition. Dhoni, a cricket legend, has played a crucial role in CSK's journey since the inception of the IPL in 2008.



India's Team Revealed for Men's T20 World Cup 2024 :-

Rohit Sharma will lead the Indian team in the upcoming Men's T20 World Cup in the United States and the West Indies, with Hardik Pandya serving as Vice-Captain. Yuzvendra Chahal has made a comeback to the squad, while K.L. Rahul has not been included. The complete India squad includes Rohit Sharma as Captain, Hardik Pandya as Vice Captain, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Virat Kohli, Suryakumar Yadav, Rishabh Pant as wicketkeeper, Sanju Samson as wicketkeeper, Shivam Dube, Ravindra Jadeja, Axar Patel, Kuldeep Yadav, Yuzvendra Chahal, Arshdeep Singh, Jasprit Bumrah, and Mohd. Siraj. Shubman Gill and Rinku Singh will act as backup batters, while pacers Khaleel Ahmed and Avesh Khan have been named as reserves.



Paris Saint-Germain Secures Historic 12th Ligue-1 Championship :-

Paris Saint-Germain secured their 12th Ligue 1 title in the 2023-24 season through a remarkable show of dominance. Their commitment to excellence led to a third successive championship win, solidifying their reputation as a powerhouse in French soccer. Led by coach Luis Enrique, PSG showcased their strength with impressive displays on the field. Kylian Mbappé's extraordinary achievement of scoring 26 goals not only led PSG's offensive charge but also earned him the distinction of being the league's top scorer.



Amul to act as the primary sponsor for USA and South Africa in T20 World Cup 2024. :-

Amul, the prominent Indian dairy company, has been announced as the sponsor for both the USA and South African cricket teams in the upcoming T20 World Cup, commencing in June. The USA will be participating for the first time in the tournament as one of the co-hosts, with matches set to kick off on June 1. It is noteworthy that the semifinals and finals of the tournament are slated to be held in the Caribbean. During a ceremony conducted in New York, Amul was appointed as the

Lead Arm sponsor for the USA national cricket team. With a strong track record of supporting cricket teams, such as the Netherlands, Amul's worldwide reach now includes the USA, where Amul milk is now on sale.



China wins both men's and women's titles at Thomas & Uber Cup 2024. :-

Recently in Chengdu, the People's Republic of China emerged victorious as the leading badminton nation worldwide, securing the men's and women's titles at the 2024 BWF Thomas & Uber Cup Finals. China's triumph over Indonesia in the finals marked their return to dominance after last achieving double victories in 2012. With their 11th Thomas Cup win, China prevented Indonesia, the historically most successful nation in the tournament, from claiming their 15th title.



Triumph for Iga Swiatek and Andrey Rublev at the 2024 Madrid Open :-

The 2024 Madrid Open, held in the city of Madrid, showcased two impressive singles champions. Poland's Iga Swiatek claimed her inaugural Madrid Open victory, while Russia's Andrey Rublev secured his second title in this prestigious tournament. Swiatek, currently ranked

as the top player globally, made history by clinching her first WTA 1000 Madrid Open singles championship. In a highly competitive final, she defeated Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus with a hard-earned win of 7-5, 4-6, 7-6 (9/7). This win marked Swiatek's 20th career title and her ninth at the WTA 1000 level.



Real Madrid Secures 36th La Liga Championship :-

Real Madrid, the dominant Spanish football team, has achieved yet another remarkable feat in their storied history by emerging as the champions of the La Liga 2023-24 season. Real Madrid sealed the title with a resounding 3-0 victory over Cadiz, while their close rivals Barcelona suffered a 4-2 defeat to Girona. Currently sitting at 87 points with four games left in the season, Real Madrid enjoys a substantial lead of 13 points over their closest competitor, Girona. With goals scored by Brahim Diaz, Jude Bellingham, and Joselu, Real Madrid ensured their triumph over Cadiz and secured their 36th La Liga title.



Bangladesh prepares to host ICC Women's T20 World Cup in 2024 :-

The ICC has revealed the official schedule for the eagerly anticipated ninth edition of the ICC Women's T20 World Cup in 2024, set to take place in Bangladesh from October 3 to 20. Fans of cricket around the globe are eagerly awaiting this renowned competition, which is expected to showcase a thrilling exhibition of talent and fair play. The upcoming T20 World Cup will involve ten teams participating in a total of 23 matches scheduled over an 18-day period. These matches are scheduled to take place at two venues in Bangladesh - the Shere Bangla National Cricket Stadium in Dhaka and the Sylhet International Cricket Stadium in Sylhet - offering spectators an opportunity to witness the pinnacle of women's cricket.



Indian women and men's 4x400m relay squads secure spots for Paris Olympics 2024. :-

The men's and women's 4x400m relay teams from India secured a spot in the Paris Olympics after clinching second place in their respective second-round heats at the World Athletics Relays. The women's team, consisting of Rupal Chaudhary, M R Poovamma, Jyothika Sri Dandi, and Subha Venkatesan, finished with a time of 3 minutes and 29.35 seconds, coming in second after Jamaica (3:28.54) in the first heat. This achievement adds to India's tally of Paris-bound track and field athletes, which now stands at 19, including the reigning javelin throw champion Neeraj Chopra.



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

Umpires Nitin Menon and Jayaraman Madanagopal, along with ICC match referee Javagal Srinath, will be representing India at the upcoming T20 World Cup in the Americas next month. A total of 20 umpires will oversee 55 matches at nine venues, which will include four well-known ICC umpires: Richard Illingworth, Kumar Dharmasena, Chris Gaffaney, and Paul Reiffel. Apart from Madanagopal, newcomers such as Sam Nogajski, Allahudien Paleker, Rashid Riaz, and Asif Yaqoob will also be making their debut in the ICC senior men's competition.



Yuzvendra Chahal's Record-Breaking Achievement as the First Indian Bowler to Reach 350 T20 Wickets :-

Yuzvendra Chahal continues to create records in the Indian Premier League, with the Rajasthan Royals' leg-spinner achieving a significant milestone by dismissing Delhi Capitals captain Rishabh Pant at the Arun Jaitley Stadium in New Delhi. Prior to this feat, Chahal had already made history as the first bowler to attain 200 IPL wickets. His dismissal of Pant marked another accomplishment as he became the inaugural Indian

bowler to reach 350 wickets in T20 cricket. With 350 wickets to his name, Chahal currently occupies the 11th position in the rankings, solidifying his status as the lone Indian player in the top 15.



Wrestling Authorities Issue Provisional Suspension for Bajrang Punia :-

After NADA imposed a temporary ban on Bajrang Punia for declining a drug test, the international wrestling body (UWW) has also suspended him until the year's end. The bronze medalist from the Tokyo Olympics defended himself by stating that he did not refuse to provide a sample for testing, but simply asked the Dope Control Officer for clarification on expired kits being used for his sample collection. Bajrang informed PTI that he has not been officially informed about his suspension by UWW, but the organization's internal records indicate his suspension status.



India Wins 3 Gold and 2 Bronze Medals at Asian Open Pickleball Championships in Vietnam :-

India excelled in the Asian Open Pickleball Championship in Vietnam, clinching three gold and two bronze medals. A standout performance led to Sachin Pahwa and Priyanka Chhabra securing the gold in the mixed doubles intermediate 35+ category after a

thrilling 11-9, 5-11, 11-9 victory over Ruben Hellberg and Chitlada Hemasee. Additionally, Isha Lakhani and Pei Chuan Kao dominated the women's doubles open category, claiming victory with a convincing 15-7, 15-3 win against Dang Kim Ngan and Tyak K.



Brazil has been chosen as the host country for the 2027 Women's World Cup Soccer. :-

During the FIFA Congress, Brazil won the hosting rights for the 2027 Women's World Cup by surpassing Belgium, the Netherlands, and Germany. With 119 votes from FIFA Congress member nations, Brazil's proposal to host the tournament received more support compared to the 78 votes garnered by the European bid. Brazil's slight advantage in the selection process was attributed to a FIFA technical evaluation which assessed their proposal with a score of four out of five, slightly higher than the 3.7 score given to the Belgium-Netherlands-Germany bid.



Nikhat Zareen and Minakshi secure top honors at Elorda Cup in Kazakhstan :-

Nikhat Zareen, the current world champion, and Minakshi both clinched gold medals as the Indian team concluded their Elorda Cup journey in Astana, Kazakhstan with an unprecedented 12 medals.

Alongside Nikhat and Minakshi's gold wins, Indian boxers secured two silver and eight bronze medals, surpassing their prior achievement of five medals. Nikhat, competing in the 52kg category, extended her dominance in the esteemed competition by defeating Zhazira Urakbayeva of Kazakhstan with a unanimous 5-0 victory to claim another gold medal.



Deepthi Jeevanji achieves gold medal with a record-breaking time at World Para Athletics Championships :-

Indian para-athlete Deepthi Jeevanji made history on 20th May 2024 by breaking the world record with a time of 55.06 seconds in the women's 400m T20 category at the Para Athletics World Championship 2024 in Kobe, Japan. This remarkable achievement earned her a gold medal in the event. Jeevanji also set a new Asian record of 56.18 seconds during the qualifying round, securing her spot in the finals. Prior to this, she had won a gold medal in the women's 400m T20 event at the Asian Para Games 2023.



The gold medal at the Asian Relay Championship was secured by India's 4x400m mixed relay team. :-

The Indian mixed 4x400m team comprising Muhammed Ajmal, Jyothika Sri Dandi, Amoj Jacob, and Subha Venkatesan achieved a new national record to secure the gold medal at the 2024 Asian Relay Championships held in Bangkok, Thailand. Their time of 3:14.12 in Bangkok was a remarkable performance. Team Sri Lanka secured the silver medal with a time of 3:17.00, while Vietnam clinched the bronze with a time of 3:18.45. Despite this exceptional achievement, India is not currently in contention for a spot in the mixed 4x400m event at the Paris 2024 Olympics.



Sports Ministry has given the green light for Lakshya and PV Sindhu to undergo foreign training in preparation for the Olympics. :-

Indian shuttlers Lakshya Sen and P V Sindhu have secured financial assistance from the Sports Ministry's Mission Olympic Cell to cover their training expenses in France and Germany, respectively, as part of their preparations for the Olympics. Sen will be training at The Halle des Sports Parsemain in France from July 8 to July 21, while Sindhu will be training at the Hermann-Neuberger Sportschule in Saarbrücken, Germany, ahead of the Olympic Games.



IPL 2024 is won by Kolkata Knight Riders. :-

Kolkata Knight Riders were successful in securing their third IPL title by beating Sunrisers Hyderabad in a thrilling final at Chennai's MA Chidambaram Stadium. Despite a brave effort from Cummins, who top-scored with a quick 24 runs from 19 balls, Sunrisers Hyderabad suffered a collapse and were all out for 113 runs in 18.3 overs. Kolkata Knight Riders comfortably chased down the target and clinched the victory with eight wickets and 57 balls remaining, after restricting Sunrisers to their lowest score in an IPL final.



Dipa Karmakar makes history as the first Indian gymnast to secure a gold medal at the Asian Gymnastics Championship. :-

Dipa Karmakar created history by clinching India's inaugural gold medal at the Asian Championships held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. The 30-year-old athlete achieved an average score of 13.566 during the women's vault final. This victory marks the first instance of an Indian gymnast securing a gold medal at the Asian Championships. Dipa's remarkable list of accomplishments in Indian gymnastics is further enhanced by her success in the vault event. She holds the distinction of being India's first female gymnast to participate in the Olympics, where she delivered an exceptional performance at Rio 2016, ranking fourth in the women's vault event, outshining all other gymnasts at the Summer Games.

17: State



Licences of 14 Patanjali Ayurved Products Temporarily Suspended by Uttarakhand :-

The state of Uttarakhand has revoked the production permits for 14 products manufactured by Baba Ramdev's businesses, Patanjali Ayurveda Ltd and Divya Pharmacy, with immediate effect. The state licensing authority stated in a legal document that the cancellation was due to continuous breaches of the Drugs and Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisements) Act, 1954. Previously, the Supreme Court had instructed Patanjali Ayurveda to publicly apologize in print media of the same size as their product advertisements for misleading advertisements.



American Express has declared the opening of a 1 million square foot campus in Gurugram. :-

American Express unveiled its plan to inaugurate a new campus in Sector 74A, Gurugram, Haryana, covering an approximate area of one million square feet. Employees will transition to the new location gradually starting at the end of this month. This initiative reinforces

American Express' commitment to fostering an engaging workplace environment. The campus has received LEED Gold certification for Building Design and Construction (BD+C) Core and Shell Development. Apart from Gurugram, American Express maintains facilities in Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Chennai, and Pune.



REC has been granted approval by the RBI to set up a subsidiary in GIFT City. :-

REC Ltd., a government-owned entity, has received clearance from the Reserve Bank of India to form a subsidiary in GIFT City, Gujarat. The new subsidiary will function as a financial institution within GIFT, providing services such as lending, investments, and other financial products, as per an official statement. The statement further specifies that REC Ltd., recognized as a prominent NBFC under the Ministry of Power, has been granted a 'No Objection Certificate' (NOC) by RBI to create a subsidiary at Gujarat International Finance Tech-City (GIFT) in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.



Warning about West Nile fever in Kerala :-

The Kerala government has issued a statewide alert regarding West Nile fever, a viral illness transmitted by mosquitoes, following one fatality and approximately eight confirmed cases in recent days in Kozhikode, Malappuram, and Thrissur. Official reports indicate that a 79-year-old man from Vadanappally in Thrissur succumbed to the infection on May 3. To date, five cases have been identified in Kozhikode, with two suspected cases in Malappuram. Symptoms of the disease include high fever, headache, neck stiffness, confusion, unconsciousness, stupor, seizures, muscle weakness, and paralysis.



First Female Police Chief Appointed in Meghalaya :-

The next DGP of Meghalaya will be Idashisha Nongrang, a 1992-batch IPS officer, who will be the first woman to head the state's police force. Nongrang will succeed the current DGP, L R Bishnoi, on May 20, following his departure on May 19. With her current role as Meghalaya's Director General of Civil Defence and Home Guard, Nongrang has been appointed to the top position for a two-year tenure after being chosen among three contenders. Various political parties in the state have expressed their support for her appointment.



IAF is still extinguishing forest fire in Uttarakhand despite State's declaration in Supreme Court that the crisis has ended. :-

The Uttarakhand authorities have reported to the Supreme Court that the forest fire crisis has come to a close, with only 15 minor to moderate fires remaining. Simultaneously, the Indian Air Force (IAF) remains actively involved in assisting the State in extinguishing forest fires. To tackle the intense mountain blazes, a total of 23 sorties, spanning 11 and a half hours and utilizing 44,600 liters of water, were conducted. In light of the severe forest fires in the Pauri Garhwal region of Uttarakhand, the IAF stepped in to provide crucial support through Bambi Bucket operations conducted by its Mi17 V5 helicopters.



SAIL-Bhilai Plans to Establish Chhattisgarh's Inaugural Floating Solar Plant :-

Bhilai Steel Plant (BSP), which is a subsidiary of the state-run Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) in Chhattisgarh, is planning to establish the state's initial 15-megawatt (MW) floating solar project at the Maroda-1 reservoir as part of its efforts to reduce its ecological impact. This initiative is part of the steel company's broader strategy to lower carbon emissions, save energy, and support the use of renewable energy sources. The undertaking is being carried out in partnership with NTPC-SAIL Power Supply Company

Limited (NSPCL), a joint venture between the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) and SAIL, and will be situated in Durg district.



Shinku La Tunnel Construction Scheduled to Commence in Mid-September :-

Authorities have announced that the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) is scheduled to commence construction on the Shinku La tunnel in mid-September. Once completed in four years, this tunnel, located at an elevation of 15,800 feet, will provide round-the-clock connectivity between Manali and Leh via the Nimmu-Padam-Darcha route, surpassing China's Mila tunnel to become the world's highest tunnel. This initiative coincides with the prolonged military conflict between India and China in eastern Ladakh, now in its fifth year.



Karnataka government orders 33% quota for women in all contracted positions. :-

The State government has recently mandated that 33% reservation for women must be provided in services and positions outsourced by government agencies and organizations, in line with the quota policy for SC/ST and other backward communities. This directive was

issued through a Government Order by Randeep D., Principal Secretary of Personnel and Administrative Reforms.



Phalodi in Rajasthan experiences scorching 50°C temperature as heatwave envelops the western state. :-

The intense heatwave persisted in Rajasthan causing further fatalities, with Phalodi in Jodhpur district registering a scorching temperature of 50°C, as reported by the Meteorological department. Phalodi remained the hottest location in the state, and likely in the entire country. In Jalore, a heat-related incident claimed the life of a 50-year-old man, while in Jodhpur, a 45-year-old man succumbed to the extreme temperatures. The individual from Jalore, identified as Sungaram Mali, was hospitalized due to symptoms of dehydration, vomiting, and nausea. Despite medical intervention, he did not survive.



64 Great Indian Bustards were observed during the 'Waterhole' survey in Jaisalmer. :-

During the routine waterhole survey used for wildlife counts, a total of 64 Great Indian Bustards, commonly

known as 'Godawan,' were spotted for the first time in the Jaisalmer district. The survey kicked off on May 23, coinciding with Vaishakh Purnima (full moon night), and continued for a continuous period of 24 hours until May 24. Ashish Vyas, the district forest officer of the Desert National Park, confirmed this sighting. This discovery of 64 Great Indian Bustards has generated significant excitement among wildlife enthusiasts. Officials disclosed that within the Ramdevra area, 21 Great Indian Bustards were observed during the waterhole survey, whereas in the Sudasari, Gazai Mata, Jamra, Chouhani, Sipla, and Barna regions of Jaisalmer, a total of 43 were spotted.



Part of Virupaksha temple in Hampi collapses :-

A portion of the Virupaksha temple in Karnataka collapsed as a result of heavy rains. The saalu mantap, or pavilion, situated in the historic location of Hampi suffered damage, leading some preservationists to blame Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) authorities for purportedly neglecting its maintenance and preservation. Nonetheless, ASI officials asserted that restoration efforts for the temple, including the pavilion, were already in progress, and the collapse was

triggered by the rain. Designated as a nationally protected monument and a UNESCO World Heritage Site, the temple is believed to date back to the 7th century.



Construction on India's inaugural multimodal logistics park near Chennai by Reliance Industries expected to commence :-

Reliance Industries is set to start construction of India's inaugural Multimodal Logistics Park in Mappedu, close to Chennai, in June. The idea for this project was conceived 12 years ago. In a competitive bid in 2022, Reliance outbid the Adani Group to secure the Rs 1,424 crore project on 184.27 acres of land in Tiruvallur district. The key objective of the project is to offer efficient, cost-effective, and value-added logistics services including cargo aggregation and disaggregation, distribution, intermodal transfer, sorting, packing, and repacking. The contract for this project was awarded to Reliance in 2022 by the Centre, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurating the project by laying the foundation stone on May 26, 2022.

18: Summits & Conferences



Switzerland extends invitation to India to take part in summit on peace in Ukraine scheduled for next month. :-

Switzerland has extended an invitation to India to participate in the Peace Summit scheduled to take place in Ukraine next month. This initiative by Switzerland, a traditionally neutral nation, aims to help resolve Russia's ongoing conflict with Ukraine. The Swiss government stated that the goal of the meeting on June 15 and 16 is to establish a shared vision for achieving a fair and enduring peace in Ukraine. The event will be held at the Burgenstock resort, following the conclusion of the G7 summit in Italy. According to the Swiss authorities, the Russians have not been included in the invite list as they have consistently expressed their reluctance to join the discussions.



New Delhi will host the AWPO Summit on May 8, 2024. :-

According to officials, the Indian Army is set to conduct a summit that underscores the attributes, abilities, and expertise of military veterans as a key factor in the nation's advancement. The summit, organized by the Army Welfare Placement Organisation (AWPO), is scheduled for May 8. A senior source mentioned that the event aims to offer a comprehensive understanding of how veterans can contribute significantly to the country's prosperity. It aims to showcase the capacities, potential, and skills of military veterans as crucial drivers of the nation's development.



India is set to hold the 46th Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting in Kochi. :-

The Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) of the Government of India will host the 46th Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM 46) and the 26th Meeting of the Committee for Environmental Protection (CEP 26) in Kochi, Kerala, from May 20 to 30, 2024. Through the National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research, India aims to facilitate meaningful global discussions on environmental protection, scientific partnerships, and collaboration in Antarctica. These gatherings play a crucial role in the global commitment to preserve Antarctica's delicate environment and advance research activities in the area.



Summit scheduled for May 26-27 among Japan, China and South Korea :-

A South Korean Foreign Ministry official has stated that final arrangements are underway for a summit among Japan, China, and South Korea in Seoul on May 26 and 27. This will mark the first meeting of its kind since December 2019. Due to strained Japan-South Korea relations and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the three Asian nations were unable to hold a trilateral summit. South Korea currently holds the chair position in the three-way summit framework and has been in discussions with Tokyo and Beijing to organize the meeting promptly, as agreed upon by all parties involved.



CJ DY Chandrachud is set to participate in the 'J20' Summit involving Judiciary Heads from G20 Member Countries in Brazil :-

Dr. DY Chandrachud, Chief Justice of India, has been invited to the 'J20' summit, where heads of supreme and constitutional courts from all G20 member countries will gather. The Brazilian Federal Supreme Court is hosting this summit as Brazil is assuming the G20 chairmanship in 2024. Scheduled for May 12-14,

the event will bring together prominent figures and leaders from various Supreme Courts of G20 nations. Among the confirmed participants are representatives 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.



2024 Food Innovation Conference to be Held in Dubai :-

The Food Innovation Conference 2024 started in Dubai on May 13 and will continue until May 15. It is hosted by Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives (MBRGI) and the World Economic Forum (WEF), focusing on the theme "Reimagining Future Food Systems". The conference aims to facilitate the sharing of knowledge and the development of skills through the Food Innovation Hubs Global Initiative by showcasing local innovation models, international trends, and innovations in technology that can be implemented on a larger scale.



Kremlin states Switzerland conference on Ukraine pointless without Russia's involvement :-

The Kremlin has declared that a summit coordinated by Switzerland to lay the groundwork for a peace initiative in Ukraine would be ineffective without the involvement of Russia. Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov stated to the Russian newspaper Izvestia that discussing security matters of importance is pointless without Russia's participation. Russia has expressed its view that a conference on resolving the Ukraine conflict, from which Moscow is excluded, is meaningless. Switzerland disclosed that over 50 countries have confirmed their participation in the summit scheduled for June 15-16 near Lucerne.



India and the UAE complete discussions regarding the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor. :-

A senior Indian delegation concluded initial discussions with UAE officials regarding the proposed India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEEC), shortly after the signing of a framework agreement between the two nations just three months ago. The prompt scheduling of these subsequent negotiations highlights the importance that New Delhi and Abu Dhabi place on the corridor. The agreement, established during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the UAE in February, allows for shared investments and technical cooperation to develop the corridor, ultimately aiming to enhance logistical effectiveness and reduce costs.



India and Britain confirm dedication to Free Trade Agreement (FTA) during yearly Strategic Dialogue :-

During the yearly UK-India Strategic Dialogue in London, India and Britain reaffirmed their dedication to finalizing a mutually advantageous free trade agreement (FTA), highlighting the positive advancements made on the 2030 Roadmap since the last review. Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra, currently in the UK, held discussions with Sir Philip Barton, Permanent Under-Secretary at the Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Office (FCDO). The High Commission of India in London previously announced that Kwatra had a productive meeting with UK Minister of State for Defence Procurement James Cartlidge.



First summit in four years among South Korea, China, Japan scheduled for May 26-27 :-

Leaders from South Korea, China, and Japan are set to convene in Seoul for their first trilateral summit in over four years on May 26-27, as stated by Seoul's presidential office. South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol will engage in one-on-one discussions with Chinese Premier Li Qiang and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida on May 26 prior to their tripartite summit on

May 27, as relayed by deputy national security advisor Kim Tae-hyo. The trio is expected to agree on a joint declaration covering six key areas, such as the economy and trade, science and technology, cultural exchanges, and addressing health and aging issues.



India Takes Over Leadership of Colombo Process for 2024-26 :-

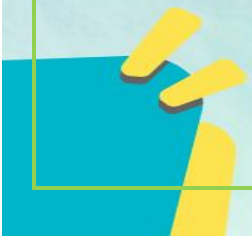
India has taken on the leadership of the regional organization called the Colombo Process for the first time since it was established in 2003. This body consists of 12 Asian member countries and focuses on promoting safe and legal migration. External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal announced that India will be chairing the Colombo Process for 2024-26, marking the first time it has held this position. Jaiswal highlighted that the Colombo Process serves as a platform for migrant worker origin countries in South and Southeast Asia to share best practices related to overseas employment.





Part 02

Detailed Analysis of important Event



Economics

SEBI Board Approves Amendments to Mutual Fund Regulations



Reason for the News:

- The Securities & Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has updated the SEBI (Mutual Funds) Regulations, 1996 to enhance the regulatory framework for Asset Management Companies (AMCs).
 - These amendments mandate AMCs to establish safeguards against market manipulation, such as front-running, based on previous incidents observed by SEBI.

What are Mutual Funds?

- Mutual funds are investment pools managed by a fund manager, collecting funds from multiple investors with similar investment goals to purchase stocks, bonds, money market instruments, and other securities.
- The income/profits from these investments are distributed proportionately among investors after deducting expenses and taxes, based on the scheme's Net Asset Value (NAV).
- SEBI regulates mutual funds through the SEBI (Mutual Funds) Regulations, 1996.

Categories of Mutual Funds:

Actively Managed Funds:

- Fund managers use research and judgment to make decisions on buying, selling, or holding stocks, actively managing the portfolio.

Passively Managed Funds:

- These funds replicate or track a benchmark index, with fund managers not making active decisions on stock selection.

Fund Structure

1. Mutual funds in India operate under a three-tier structure comprising Trustees, the AMC, and Custodians.
2. Trustees oversee fund operations, Custodians safeguard assets, and the AMC manages investments.

Key highlights of the recent update:

- Institutional Mechanism: AMCs must implement enhanced surveillance systems, internal controls, and escalation procedures to detect and address issues like front-running and insider trading.
- Whistleblower Process: AMCs must establish a whistleblower process to encourage transparency.
- Recording of Communication: SEBI has exempted the requirement for dealers and fund managers to record face-to-face conversations during market hours, effective once the institutional framework is established.

Prudential Standards for Passive Plans: SEBI has relaxed standards, allowing equity passive plans to invest up to the index's weight, with a maximum of 35% in sponsor group firms.

Environment & Diversity

Taam Ja': World's Deepest Blue Hole

Reason for the News:

Researchers in Mexico have discovered the world's deepest blue hole, named Taam Ja' Blue Hole (TJBH).

What are Blue Holes?

- Blue holes are underwater sinkholes formed in coastal areas with soluble bedrock like limestone, marble, or gypsum.
- Examples include the 328-foot Blue Hole in Egypt's Red Sea, 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 located in Chetumal Bay off the southeast coast of the Yucatan Peninsula.
- Initially discovered in 2021 with an estimated depth of 900 feet, subsequent research has confirmed it surpasses the previous record-holder, the Sansha Yongle Blue Hole in the South China Sea, by 480 feet.

Research Expedition and Findings

- Scientists conducted a detailed study using a conductivity, temperature, and depth (CTD) profiler to explore TJBH's environmental conditions. Their findings revealed the blue

hole's significant depth and distinct stratification of water layers.

- The lower regions of TJBH, below 1,312 feet (400 meters), were found to have environmental conditions similar to the Caribbean Sea, providing unique insights into marine geology and biology.

Uttarakhand Forest Fires

Reason for 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.



Causes of Wildfire:

- Prolonged dry weather and lack of moisture are primary natural causes of wildfires.
- According to the Forest Research Institute (FRI, 2019), 95% of forest fires in India are human-caused. These include intentional arson, slash-and-burn agricultural practices, unattended campfires, and fires related to grazing.

Uttarakhand's Forest Vulnerability:

- Uttarakhand's Recorded Forest Area (RFA) spans 38,000 square kilometers, including significant portions designated as Reserved, Protected, and Unclassified Forests.

- The state is particularly vulnerable to forest fires due to the prevalence of highly flammable Chir Pine trees, prolonged dry spells, and the accumulation of excess biomass.
- Proximity to villages increases the likelihood of human activities, such as forest clearing and grazing, which can contribute to the ignition and spread of wildfires.

Forest Fires in India: Recent Statistics

- From April 20-27, 2023, Odisha recorded 4,237 forest fires, Jharkhand 633, Andhra Pradesh 527, and Chhattisgarh 757.
- Since April 28, Uttarakhand has experienced the most significant forest fires nationwide, highlighting the urgent need for effective fire management strategies.

Mitigation Strategies

- **Localized Initiatives:** Implementation of drone surveillance, prescribed burns, controlled burning, and biomass removal are essential. Proactive community involvement, as seen in Kerala, plays a crucial role in effective fire management.
- **Government Initiatives:** Early detection and response systems, such as the Forest Survey of India's satellite-based fire alarm system, are vital. Forest staff employ various tactics, including using fire beaters and setting counterfires, to manage and extinguish wildfires.

Orangutan uses Plant to treat wound

Reason for 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.

- An orangutan was observed using a tropical plant to treat a wound, showcasing natural self-medication behaviors. This discovery was reported in a study published in Scientific Reports.



About Orangutans

- Orangutans, known for their bright red fur, are the largest arboreal mammals, primarily living in trees and forests.
- The word "orangutan" translates to "man of the forest" in Malay.
- Their long, strong arms, and grasping hands and feet, enable them to move easily through branches.
- These intelligent primates share 96.4% of their genetic makeup with modern humans.
- Orangutans are found in the tropical rainforests of Southeast Asia, specifically on the islands of Borneo and Sumatra.
- **Conservation Status:** Critically Endangered (IUCN Red List)
- **Population:** Approximately 104,700 Bornean, 13,846 Sumatran, and around 800 Tapanuli orangutans.
- **Behavioral Features:**
 - Typically, these apes lead solitary lives in lowland forests, gathering water from tree cavities and consuming fruits like figs, mangosteens, and lychees.
 - While mostly frugivorous, they also eat small animals, leaves, bark, insects, and various fruits.
 - They construct nests in treetops for daytime rest and nighttime sleep.
 - Recently, they have been observed using a tropical plant's medicine to treat wounds.

Relocation of Tigers in Sahyadri-Konkan Wildlife Corridor



Reason for the news:

Maharashtra plans to relocate tigers from the Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve (TATR) in Chandrapur to the Sahyadri-Konkan Wildlife Corridor, emphasizing the importance of wildlife corridors in conservation.

About Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve (TATR)

- Established in 1955, Tadoba and Kanha National Parks were among India's first national parks.
- The name "Tadoba" comes from the local Gond tribes' deity "Taru," and "Andhari" from the Andhari River flowing through the reserve.
- The reserve expanded and merged with Andhari Wildlife Sanctuary in 1993 to form TATR.
- TATR is a critical part of Project Tiger, aimed at conserving India's tigers, and is renowned for tiger sightings.
- The reserve has 115 tigers, with 88 in the forest and 27 in surrounding lands.

About Sahyadri-Konkan Wildlife Corridor

- Located in the northern Western Ghats, this corridor is vital for wildlife preservation, especially tigers.
- It traverses the Western Ghats, a global biodiversity hotspot, through Maharashtra, Goa, and Karnataka.
- Connected Protected Areas:

- Bhimgad Wildlife Sanctuary and Kali Tiger Reserve (Karnataka)
- Mollem National Park and Netravali Wildlife Sanctuary (Goa)
- Sahyadri Tiger Reserve, Koyna Wildlife Sanctuary, Chandoli National Park, and Radhanagari Wildlife Sanctuary (Maharashtra)
- The corridor hosts diverse wildlife, including sloth bears, dholes, tigers, and Indian leopards.
- The Western Ghats' exceptional biodiversity earned it a UNESCO World Heritage Site designation in 2012.

S No.	Name of Dam	River
1	Supa Dam	Kali
2	Koyna Dam	Koyna
3	Warna/Chandoli Dam	Warna
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

Ban of Oleander Flowers in Temple Offerings at Kerala



Reason for the news:

Following a poisoning incident involving oleander leaves, Kerala temple authorities have banned 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:

- Referred to as the "desert rose" in historical texts, oleander has antiviral, cancer-fighting, and hangover remedies.
- Listed in the Indian Ayurvedic Pharmacopoeia for treating skin ailments with oil derived from its root bark.
- Used for treating 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.

Mahi River in News



Reason for the News:

There have been increasing incidents of drowning in the Mahi River.

About Mahi River

- Originates in the Vindhya Range, Madhya Pradesh, in a semi-arid region.
- Flows through Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh, then southwest through Gujarat to the Arabian Sea.
- Spanning approximately 580 kilometers.
- Soil Types:
 - Northern basin: Alluvial soil
 - Southern basin: Deep black soil
- Principal Tributaries:
 - Anas, Panam, Goma, and Som
- Major Dams:
 - Mahi Bajaj Sagar (Banswara) and Kadana Dam for irrigation and hydroelectric projects.

Key Features:

- Encircled by the Vindhyas, Malwa Plateau, Aravalli Hills, and the Gulf of Khambhat.
- Notable for crossing the Tropic of Cancer twice, once in Madhya Pradesh and near the Gujarat-Rajasthan border.

10th World Water Forum



Reason for the news:

- The World Bank report "Water for Shared Prosperity" was released at the 10th World Water Forum in Bali, Indonesia, highlighting growing disparities in water access exacerbated by urbanization, population growth, and climate change.

Water for Shared Prosperity: Key Highlights of the Report

- In 2022, 3.5 billion people lacked safely managed sanitation, and 2.2 billion lacked safely managed drinking water services.
- Nearly 800 million people are at high risk of drought, with twice as many living in flood-prone areas.
- Since 2000, an additional 197 million people in low-income countries have lost access to clean drinking water.
- The urban-rural access gap has not significantly changed in low-income countries over the past 20 years.
- Water stress hotspots include the Sahel, Southeast Africa, and South and Central Asia.
- Over half of Africa's water resources are 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



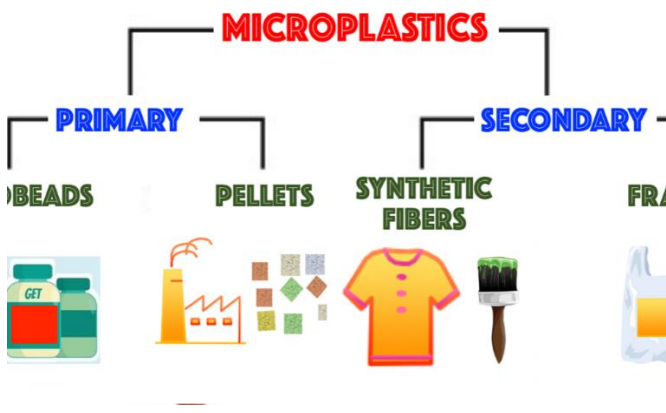
Reason for the news:

- A study by the University of Kerala's Department of Aquatic Biology and Fisheries found high levels of microplastic contamination in Ashtamudi Lake, a Ramsar wetland in Kollam district.

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

- Located in Kollam district, Kerala, known as the "gateway to the backwaters of Kerala."
- Historically significant since Roman and Phoenician times in the 14th century.
- A brackish water lake, mixing fresh and saltwater, covering around 61 square kilometers (23.5 square miles).
- The Kallada River is one of the main rivers feeding the lake.
- Named "Ashtamudi" for its eight distinct arms or channels in Malayalam.
- Surrounded by rich vegetation, including mangrove forests, coconut groves, and palm trees.
- Part of the Kollam-Kottapuram Waterway, linking the Arabian Sea with the Kerala backwaters.
- Notable islands include Chavara and Munroe.

History

Unveiling of the Indulekha painting by Raja Ravi Varma



Reason for the news:

The first true copy of the famous artist's painting "Indulekha" will be displayed at Kilimanoor Palace to commemorate the 176th anniversary of his birth.

Raja Ravi Varma (1848–1906): who was he?

Raja Ravi Varma was born in Kilimanoor, Kerala, in April 1848 into a family with close ties to the Travancore royal line.

- Widely regarded as the founder of modern Indian painting, he is also known for his accurate portrayals of Indian gods and goddesses.
- Although he painted mostly for the royal family, his prints and oleographs are credited with bringing art to a wider audience.
- The royal painter Ramaswamy Naidu, a patron of Ayilyam Thirunal, the Travancore ruler at the time, was his teacher when he studied watercolor painting.
- Theodore Jensen, a Dutch painter, later instructed him in oil painting.

Renown as a prominent painter

- For the Durbar Hall of the new Lakshmi Vilas Palace in Baroda, he has commissioned fourteen Puranic paintings. Following them is a picture of Maharaja Sayajirao of Baroda.
- To illustrate Indian culture, Varma selected passages from the Ramayana and Mahabharata.

- He also received favor from a number of other monarchs, including the Maharaja of Mysore and the Maharaja of Udaipur.
- In 1873, the artist—whose notoriety was soaring—was acknowledged for a Vienna exhibition of his paintings.
- During the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago, he also received three gold medals.
- Viceroy Lord Curzon gave him the Kaisar-i-Hind Gold Medal in appreciation of his service.

Character of his artistic creations

- Indian mythology is another major inspiration for many of his highly regarded paintings.
- In fact, he is often credited with originating the current understanding of Indian gods and goddesses due to his more realistic and approachable portrayals, which often employ people as models.
- Among the images are Lord Vishnu and his consorts, Maya and Lakshmi, as well as Lakshmi, the goddess of wealth, and Saraswati, the goddess of knowledge and wisdom.

Prominent Paintings

- In 1894, Raja Ravi Varma established a lithography press in Bombay with the goal of popularizing his artwork.
- It is reported that Varma's press printed its first image, which was The Birth of Shakuntala. Later prints included saints and mythological figures, such as Adi Shankaracharya.

Major works

- It is estimated that he painted over 7,000 times before he went away at the age of 58.
- The artist's final piece, an incomplete portrait of the "Parsi lady," is the only painting that remains in Kilimanoor Palace's "Chithrashala," the studio.

India's First Newspaper, "Hicky's Bengal Gazette"



Reason for the news:

- World Press Freedom Day, observed on May 3rd each year, traces the history of journalism back to significant historical eras in order to emphasize the role that journalism plays in society.
- In 1780, James Augustus Hicky founded Hicky's Bengal Gazette, a publication that served as a platform for social commentary and political critique. This incident marked the start of Indian journalism.

James Augustus Hicky: who was he?

- In 1730, James Augustus Hicky, an Irishman by birth, set off for India, known as the "Jewel in the Crown of the British Empire," hoping to find better opportunities.
- Despite early adversity, including debts that led to his imprisonment, Hicky demonstrated perseverance by setting up a printing press on the jail premises.

Creation of the "Hicky's Bengal Gazette":

- Published for the first time in India, if not all of Asia, "Hicky's Bengal Gazette" was first published on January 29, 1780.
- Hicky, its creator and editor, primarily wanted to help the European community in Calcutta.
- Initially, he focused on local issues, such as road maintenance and repairs.

- Later on, the newspaper addressed broader socioeconomic subjects like public participation and corruption in government.
- The Gazette, despite being well-known for its rumors and explicit articles, nevertheless supported improvements in infrastructure and sanitation and carried criticism of the British East India Company.
- Hicky's newspaper was printed and sold for one rupee every Saturday.
- Its weekly distribution was roughly estimated to be 400 copies, if not more.

Obstacles and Court Cases:

- The Gazette faced legal challenges in the 1780s, including multiple libel cases brought by prominent figures like governor general Warren Hastings and missionary Johann Zacharias Kiernander.

In one piece, he referred to Hastings as Robert Clive's "miserable successor."

- As a result of his vocal criticism of powerful individuals, particularly Hastings' expansionist objectives, Hicky risked jail time and financial ruin from fines and court costs.

The final day of publication occurred on March 30, 1782.

Repercussions and Legacy:

Even though "Hicky's Bengal Gazette" was ultimately shut down due to financial issues and legal pressure, it left a lasting influence on Indian media.

- India currently boasts a robust media ecosystem as a result of Hicky's inventive work, inspiring future generations of journalists and press pioneers.
- The Gazette's brief but important existence demonstrated the press's capacity to promote social change and hold the powerful responsible.

Panchatantra, Sahrdayaloka-Locana, and Ramcharitmanas are included to the "UNESCO's Memory of the World Asia-Pacific regional register."



Reason for the News:

The Ramcharitmanas, Sahridayaloka-Locana, and Panchatantra are currently included in "UNESCO's Memory of the World Asia-Pacific regional register."

Concerning the "Memory of the World (MOW) Asia-Pacific regional register," maintained by UNESCO

	Details
History and Establishment	UNESCO launched this initiative in 1992. In 1998, the Asia-Pacific Regional Committee (MOWCAP) was established.
Parent Organization	The United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization, or UNESCO.
Objective	The aim is to protect, maintain, enable accessibility to, and raise consciousness of, documentary legacy. especially concentrates on the Asia-Pacific area.
Examples of Inscribed Items	include the "Visas for Life" from Sugihara in Japan, the "Mabo Case Manuscripts" from Australia, and the "Ba Chuc Massacre Archives" from Vietnam.
Impact and Outreach	Provides funding and arranges conferences, workshops, and exhibitions to encourage the exchange of information. Supports the digitization, accessibility, and preservation of materials.

Concerning the Texts

Ramcharitmanas:

- Tulsidas wrote the epic poem Ramcharitmanas in the 16th century, using the Awadhi dialect of Hindi to narrate the story of the Sanskrit epic Ramayana.
- It narrates the life, virtues, and devotion to Dharma of Lord Rama during the Ram Rajya. The Hanuman Chalisa comprises forty verses drawn from the same epic.

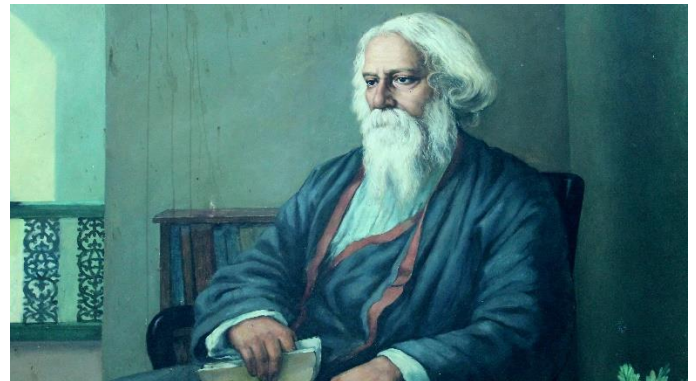
Panchatantra:

- The Panchatantra is an anthology of ancient Indian animal tales that date back to the third century BCE. The original text was written in Sanskrit by Vishnu Sharma.
- Through the interactions of anthropomorphized animals, its stories aim to impart practical life lessons to readers in a clear and colorful manner.

Sahridayaloka-Locana

- In the 17th century, Jagannatha Paṇḍitaraja authored Sahridayaloka-Locana, a Sanskrit treatise on poetics.
- It is considered to be among the most important works of Sanskrit literary criticism.
- The text discusses the term "Sahridaya," which refers to an astute or sympathetic reader or critic.

Rabindranath Tagore and his legacy



Reason for the news:

The Conservation and Cultural Archives Division of the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) hosted a lecture and exhibition in New Delhi to commemorate the anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore's birth.

The Trip of Tagore to France

- Tagore's visit to the sites of the First World War's battles demonstrated his deep empathy.

The narrative mentions Alexandra David Neel, who provided Tagore with recommendations during his European tour, and Victoria Ocampo, who taught him French and assisted him in establishing stronger ties with 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 ' <i>Knighthood</i> ' (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	– 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 ' <i>Ekla Chalo Re</i> ' and his environmental efforts at Santiniketan.

Concerning the Indira Gandhi National Center for the Arts (IGNCA)

- The IGNCA in New Delhi is one of the top government-funded arts institutions in India. It operates as an independent institution within the Union Ministry of Culture.
- It was established by Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi on November 19, 1985.

The purpose of IGNCA is to provide as a center for the study and investigation of the following artistic disciplines: performing arts (dance, music, and theater); visual arts (architecture); and creative literature (writing, oral history, sculpture, painting, and graphics, in addition to general material culture, photography, and film).

International Relations

An Interpol Blue Corner Notice: What Is It?



Reason for the news:

- The political order in Karnataka has been upended by allegations of sexual abuse against a sitting member of parliament who comes from a prominent political family.
- Since Interpol issued a Blue Corner notice in response to alleged obscene film leaks that incriminate him, he has been under arrest but remains at large.

INTERPOL’s Notice System:

- Interpol has a number of methods to notify its member countries on individuals who are either sought or missing.
- Although these notifications are not legally binding and governments are not required to act upon them, they are routinely used to arrest and extradite criminals.

Any of the following organizations may request a notice:

- The International Criminal Court and Member Country International Criminal Tribunals may also issue notice requests for persons charged with horrible crimes such as genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity that fall under its purview.

- The UN may request notices regarding the application of sanctions imposed by the Security Council.

Blue Corner Notice: What Is It?

- A blue corner sign, also known as a "enquiry notice," is intended to facilitate the sharing of critical crime-related information, such as the whereabouts of individuals and the validation of criminal records.
- Nithyananda, a self-described godman, is a fugitive who was the focus of an Interpol blue corner notice in January 2020.

Regarding the International Criminal Police Organization, or INTERPOL

	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 groups whose goal is to prevent or combat international crime. • 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

	<p>that are available in real time and contain data on crimes and offenders.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 additional NCBs across the globe. 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 supports Palestine's application to join the UN fully.



Reason for the news:

India voted in favor of a resolution proposed by the UN General Assembly that calls for Palestine to be admitted as a full member of the organization.

Arab push for Palestine's Membership

- The resolution supporting Palestine's full membership was proposed by the UAE during the emergency extraordinary session called by the Arab Group.
- In light of Palestine's eligibility, the resolution mandates that the Security Council "reconsider"

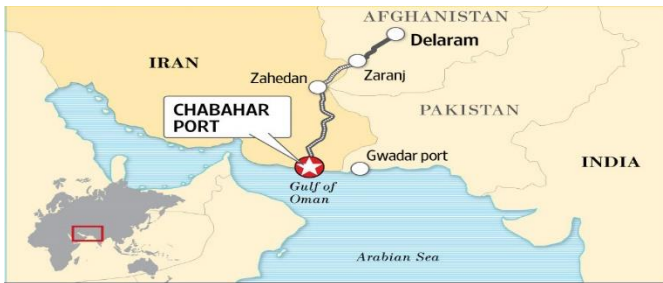
Palestine's admission to the UN.

- The resolution received overwhelming support, with 143 votes in favor (including India's), nine votes against, and 25 abstentions.
- Palestine can only cast an observer state vote in the General Assembly and is not currently permitted to suggest candidates for UN positions.

India's Stance on Palestine:

- In 1988, India recognized the State of Palestine.
- In 1996, India opened its first Representative Office in Gaza for the Palestine Authority. It relocated to Ramallah after three years.

Iran and India sign a ten-year agreement to operate the Chabahar Port.



Reason for the news:

- In an important development for bilateral collaboration, India and Iran inked a 10-year deal for the management of the Chabahar port.

Chabahar Port

- The port is located on the Gulf of Oman near the mouth of the Strait of Hormuz in the Sistan-Baluchistan province of southeast Iran.
- The "Golden Gate" connects Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and Afghanistan, three landlocked Central Asian countries.
- Shahid Beheshti and Shahid Kalantari are two separate ports that make up Iran's only oceanic port.
- The Gwadar port in Pakistan is only about 170 kilometers to the west of it.
- In order to carry out the project, PM Narendra Modi traveled to Iran in 2016 after India and that country struck an agreement in 2015 to establish Chabahar Port.

About the Agreement

The Port and Maritime Organization (PMO) of Iran and Indian Ports Global Ltd. (IPGL) signed a contract entailing significant development and investment projects.

IPGL intends to enhance the port's efficiency and capacity by outfitting the Shahid-Behesti terminal with equipment valued at approximately \$120 million.

- By giving a \$250 million credit window for projects that have been jointly recognized and are meant to strengthen the infrastructure associated to Chabahar, India has shown its commitment to regional development.

Chabahar Port's Strategic Significance to India

- There will be improvements to India's access to Iran via the Chabahar port. The International North-South Transport Corridor, which links India, Russia, Iran, Europe, and Central Asia via land, air, and sea lines, enters the region primarily through Iran.
- As it helps Pakistan develop the Gwadar port in an effort to thwart China's aspirations to create a foothold in the Arabian Sea, India stands to gain from the Chabahar port.
- India does not need to go via Pakistan in order to export commodities to Afghanistan.
- Chabahar Port is situated in a key location on the Arabian Sea and is easily reachable from India's west coast.

Economic Importance

- Chabahar Port is strategically placed on the Arabian Sea and is easily accessible from India's west coast.
- The closest port is Kandla port in Gujarat, which is located 550 nautical miles from Chabahar, whereas Mumbai is located 786 nautical miles away.
- Since 2019, the port has handled more than 8 million tonnes of bulk and general cargo in addition to over 80,000 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) of container traffic.

Furthermore, the port offers an alternative route for cargo transit across the Strait of Hormuz between Afghanistan and Central Asian countries.

Polity

Financial Assistance in Cases of Domestic Abuse



Reason for the news:

- In response to a recent inquiry, the Supreme Court was compelled to decide whether the abuser's financial status or the victim's injuries should dictate the amount of damages for domestic abuse.
- The petitioner contested decisions from the Bombay High Court and a trial court, made in accordance with Section 22 of the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005, requiring him to give 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). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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).

Interim Bail: What is it?



Reason for 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:

1. The Criminal Procedure Code of 1973 (CrPC) provides general guidelines for bail awards, including interim bail, even though it does not specifically mention "interim bail." Courts use sections 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 at their discretion.
2. Article 21 of the Indian Constitution provides the right to life and personal liberty. It is commonly believed that the right to bail is a part of a fair and reasonable legal procedure.

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 is Bail needed?

- 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 sage of the criminal matter, there are commonly three types of bail in India:
 1. 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.
 2. 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.
 3. 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:
 1. In an offense that is not subject to bail, if the accused is a woman or a minor, bail may be granted.
 2. When there is insufficient evidence, bail may be granted for non-bailable offenses.
 3. There is a delay in lodging FIR by the complainant, bail may be granted.
 4. The accused is gravely sick.



Science, Technology, Art & Culture

Patachitra Scroll Paintings



Reason for the news:

Women's Patachitra paintings from the Pingla block of Paschim Medinipur, West Bengal, have gained international recognition.

About Bengal Patachitra

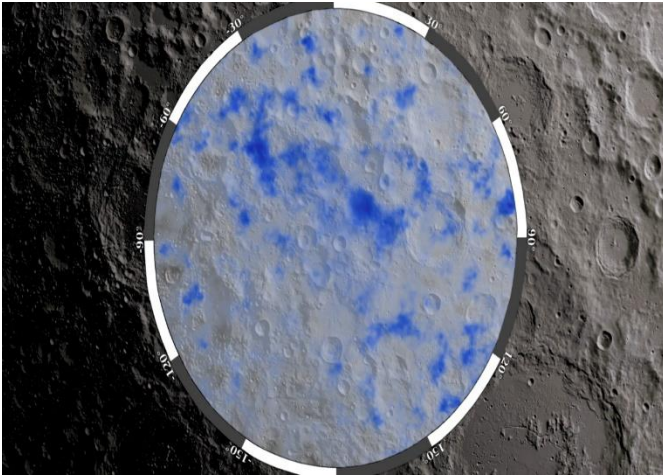
- The eastern Indian states of Odisha and West Bengal, as well as some areas of Bangladesh, are the birthplaces of the traditional scroll painting technique known as patachitra, sometimes written as Pattachitra. The Sanskrit word "patachitra" means "cloth," and the word "chitra" means "picture."
- Usually, 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**



Reason for 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:

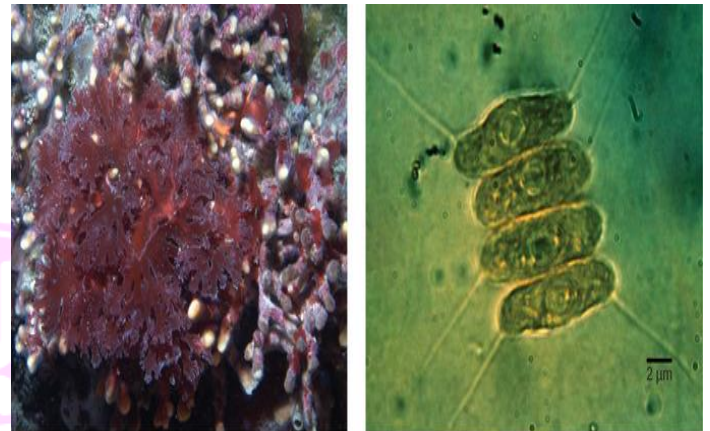
- The research team used radar, laser, optical, neutron spectrometer, ultraviolet spectrometer, and thermal radiometer—seven instruments—onboard NASA's robotic spacecraft, Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter (LRO). Overlooking the Lunar South Pole is LRO.

- 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



(a)

(b)

Reason for 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



Reason for 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

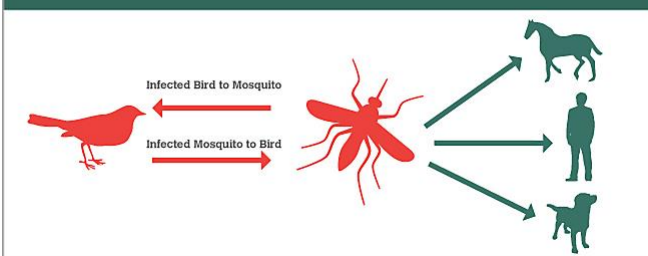
- Electrical charges are produced by strong winds and temperature differences within these clouds.
- Massive cumulonimbus clouds that rise over 5 km in the air are a major source of static electricity.
- Lightning Discharge: Lightning strikes occur when the electrical potential inside clouds reaches 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

How West Nile Virus Is Transmitted



Reason for 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.

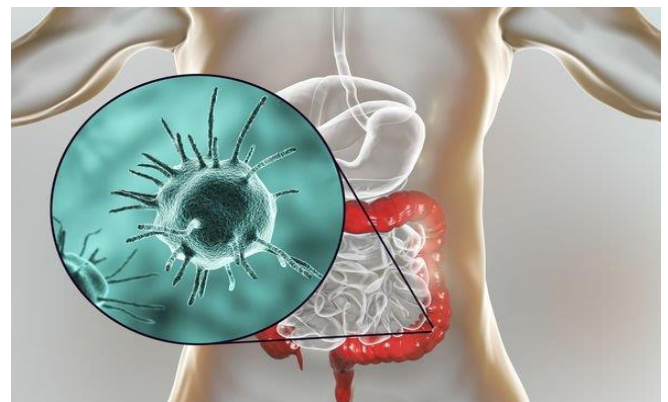
How does it spread?

- 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



Reason for 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



Reason for 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.

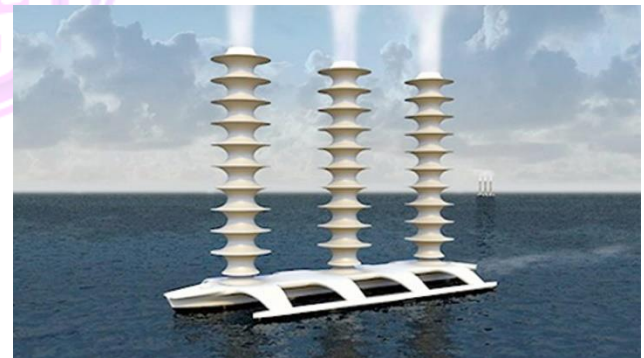
Limitations of MRI:

- 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

Reason for 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.



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.

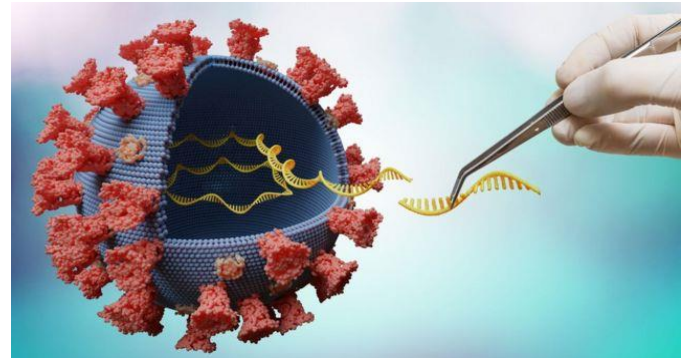
About Cloud-Seeding

- 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



Reason for 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

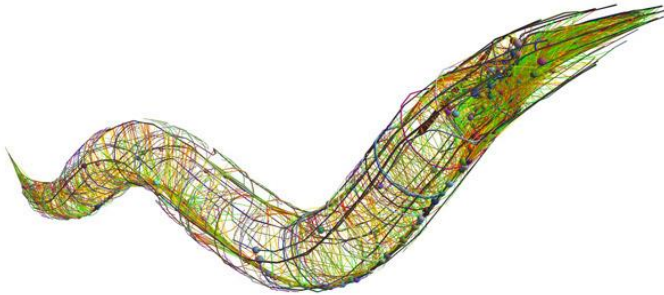
- New Spike Mutations: Two distinct mutations in the FLiRT group are thought to improve the virus's capacity to infect human cells.
- Transmission: According to preliminary research, KP.2, which is the more common of the two, may be better able to avoid immunological reactions brought on by vaccinations 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



Reason for 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

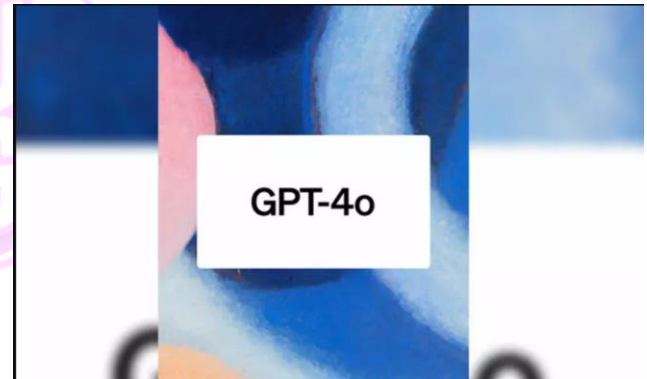
- *Caenorhabditis elegans*, also known as *C. elegans*, is a translucent, tiny nematode that is frequently employed in scientific studies.
- It is simple to examine under a microscope because of its small length of 1 mm.
- Its straightforward body plan makes a lot of biological studies easier.

- 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



Reason for 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



Reason for 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 impersonate 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?

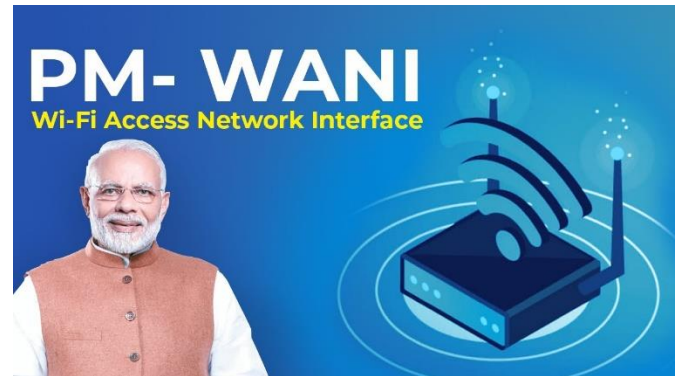
- Disseminating False Information: Deepfakes, such as films featuring politicians or other celebrities, have the ability to influence viewers and sow uncertainty about crucial problems by deliberately disseminating false information. This can have an impact on elections and public opinion.
- Frauds: 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



Reason for 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

Reason for 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

Shakti Exercise



Reason for the news:

The seventh edition of the India-France Joint Military Exercise SHAKTI, which is intended to enhance bilateral military cooperation, is set to commence at Umroi, Meghalaya, and is the first of its kind every two years.

About Exercise Shakti

- The Shakti Exercise is a joint military exercise in which the Indian and French armies take part.
- France and India take turns hosting this twice a year training event.
- Since 2011, both countries' forces have taken part in it, with the intention of promoting defense cooperation and interoperability.
- Goals:

1. To enhance integrated military capabilities for multi-domain operations in a sub-conventional environment in compliance with Chapter VII of the UN Mandate.
2. should focus on improving tactical drills and reaching a high level of physical fitness while conducting operations in hilly and semi-urban locations.

Major Defence Exercise between India and France:

- The joint air exercise between the Indian Air Force and the French Air and Space Force is known as Garuda.
- Varuna: This combined naval exercise involves the navies of France and India.
- Desert Knight-21: At Air Force Station Jodhpur, the French Air and Space Force and the Indian Air Force conducted a bilateral air exercise from January 20–24, 2021. Given that Rafale aircraft were being used by both sides in combat, it was unique.
- FRENJEX: The Indian and French army conducted their first-ever joint military exercise at Pangode Military Station in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, on March 7-8, 2023.

Trivia

Garo Hills



Reason for the news:

- The discovery of ancient fossils in Tolegre, South Garo Hills, Meghalaya, by archaeologists from the Geological Survey of India (GSI) has resulted in notable advancements.
- The extinct genera Rhodocetus or Amulocetus, which are believed to be the ancestors of modern whales, are assumed to be connected to the fossils.

Concerning Garo Hills

- The Garo-Khasi range, which includes the Garo Hills in Meghalaya, is one of the hill ranges in northeastern India.
- They are situated in the western part of Meghalaya, bordered to the west and south by Bangladesh.

- The geography of the Garo Hills is rugged and hilly, featuring steep slopes, deep gorges, and dense forests.

- The Nokrek is the highest peak, rising about 1,415 meters (4,642 feet) above sea level.

- The hot, humid subtropical climate of the Garo Hills receives significant rainfall during the monsoon season, which normally lasts from June to September.

- Numerous rivers and streams, including as the Someshwari, Jinjiram, and Brahmaputra rivers, traverse this region.

- The region is well-known for the Pelga Falls, which are next to Tura, the largest town in the Garo Hills, in addition to its picturesque waterfalls.

- Included within is the Nokrek National Park, a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve and home to numerous endangered species, including the Asian elephant and the red panda.

- The Garo tribe, one of the major ethnic groups in Meghalaya, is primarily found in the Garo Hills.



Part 03

300 Practice MCQ
Questions with

Answers & Explanation



Practice Questions

Q 1) Which state's Tirangi Barfi was recently granted the Geographical Indication (GI) tag?

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

Q 2) An MoU has been signed by Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL) with _____ to collaborate on research, technology, and product development related to semiconductors, quantum technologies and drones.

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

Q 3) In April 2024, which version of the joint military drill 'DUSTLIK 2024' took place involving the military forces of India and Uzbekistan?

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

Q 4) Which nation has recently conducted a successful test of the Crystal Maze-2 missile, which has the capability to target locations up to a distance of 250 kilometers?

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

Q 5) With which IIT has the Blockchain For Impact (BFI) formed a strategic partnership to promote innovations and advancements in healthcare in India?

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

Q 6) BNP Paribas is purchasing Fosun Group's stake of _____ percent in Belgian insurer Ageas for approximately 730 million euros.

- A) 13%
- B) 12%
- C) 11%
- D) 9%

Q 7) Which finance company has introduced a large direct-to-consumer (D2C) fintech application, providing a range of financial products through one digital platform?

- A) Aditya Birla Capital Limited
- B) Kalaari Capital Limited
- C) Piramal Capital and Housing Finance
- D) Reliance Capital Limited

Q 8) In which city did Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurate the 2550th Bhagwan Mahavir Nirvan Mahotsav on the auspicious day of Mahavir Jayanti?

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

Q 9) According to a report, India ranked as the fourth biggest military spender worldwide in 2023.

- A) World Bank
- B) United Nations
- C) Stockholm International Peace Research Institute
- D) NATO

Q 10) In which city was the 2024 Ocean Decade Conference hosted?

- A) Paris
- B) New Delhi
- C) Moscow
- D) Barcelona

Q 11) Which bank has partnered with NPCI Bharat BillPay to integrate the National Common Mobility Card (NCMC) onto the Bharat BillPay platform in order to enhance convenience for travelers?

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

Q 12) NASA was pleased to accept _____ as the 38th nation to endorse the Artemis Accords and pledge to engage in space exploration that is peaceful and secure.

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

Q 13) Which bank recently revealed the introduction of its environmentally-friendly debit and pre-paid cards that are NCMC-enabled (National Common Mobility Cards) in partnership with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)?

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

Q 14) In which state has JERA completed a partnership deal with ReNew for the collaborative development of a green ammonia production project?

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

D) Karnataka

Q 15) Who received both the Aryabhata Award and the title of 'Distinguished Fellow' from the Astronautical Society of India (ASI)?

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

Q 16) India has effectively conducted a flight test of the Indigenous Technology Cruise Missile (ITCM) from the Integrated Test Range at _____.

- A) Chandipur, Odisha
- B) Jaisalmer, Rajasthan
- C) Medinipur, West Bengal
- D) Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh

Q 17) Which company has revealed the development of Hala Point, a neuromorphic system inspired by the brain for sustainable and efficient Artificial Intelligence (AI)?

- A) Apple Inc
- B) HP Corporation
- C) Intel Corporation
- D) Microsoft Corporation

Q 18) From which country does badminton player Kento Momota belong to, who declared his retirement from the sport at the age of 29 due to physical and mental challenges, despite being a two-time world champion?

- A) Vietnam
- B) Japan
- C) Singapore
- D) Indonesia

Q 19) In April 2024, the Department of Public Enterprises conferred 'Navratna' status upon _____.

- A) Hindustan Salts Limited
- B) National Bicycle Corporation of India
- C) National Fertilizers Limited
- D) NEPA Limited

Q 20) Which regulatory body marked its 25th anniversary in April 2024?

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

Q 21) Which individual took over as the new Navy Chief after Admiral R Hari Kumar stepped down?

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

Q 22) Which country received the first batch of BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles delivered by India in April 2024?

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

Q 23) Which naval exercise was carried out by the Indian Navy on the East Coast in April 2024?

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

Q 24) Which company, in addition to Indus Tower, has entered into a partnership to work on renewable energy initiatives?

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

- D) Adani Green Energy Limited

Q 25) Which company, in addition to CSIR-IICT, has partnered in a collaboration via a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to transform 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

Q 26) By which author was the book 'Heavenly Islands of Goa' written by?

- A) Sreedharan Pillai
- B) Satyapal Chandra
- C) Ravi Subramanian
- D) Mrinal Pande

Q 27) Which organization has effectively created a lightweight Bullet Proof Jacket (BPJ) from native resources to safeguard against BIS's most severe threat level 6?

- A) BARC
- B) CSIR
- C) DRDO
- D) ISRO

Q 28) For this year's 'World Immunization Week', what was the main theme of focus?

- A) Humanly Possible: Saving lives through immunization
- B) Long Life for All
- C) Vaccines bring us closer
- D) Vaccines Work for All

Q 29) In which city was the 6th edition of the International Conference on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure held?

- A) Bengaluru
- B) Chennai
- C) Hyderabad

D) New Delhi

D) NASA

Q 30) Vice President of India, Jagdeep Dhankhar presented the 'Outstanding PSU of the Year' award to _____ during the AIMA's Managing India Awards ceremony.

- A) ONGC
- B) IOCL
- C) HAL
- D) BHEL

Q 31) With which IIT has the Armed Forces Medical Services (AFMS) entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for joint research and training?

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

Q 32) Which company has been granted in-principle approval by the Reserve Bank of India to obtain a Prepaid Payment Instrument (PPI) License in India?

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

Q 33) Which other organization has collaborated with the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) to create ECO villages modeled after GEV in Maharashtra?

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

Q 34) Which space agency is planning the Dragonfly mission to investigate Titan, one of Saturn's moons?

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

Q 35) Recently, which Spanish player has declared her retirement from professional tennis?

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

Q 36) On what date was English Language Day celebrated?

- A) 22 April
- B) 23 April
- C) 19 April
- D) 17 April

Q 37) CelerityX, a subsidiary of Hinduja Global Solutions Limited, has introduced its newest innovation aimed at improving banking connectivity in Maharashtra.

- A) Rydoo
- B) Pleo
- C) OneX
- D) Airbase

Q 38) In which state is the Kalesar Wildlife Sanctuary situated, where the construction of four planned dams has been halted by the Supreme Court?

- A) Bihar
- B) Haryana
- C) Jharkhand
- D) Uttar Pradesh

Q 39) Which organization recently published the Global Report on Food Crises (GRFC) 2024?

- A) World Health Organization
- B) International Labour Organization
- C) Food Security Information Network
- D) Food and Agriculture Organization

Q 40) The subject of World Intellectual Property Day 2024 is _____.

- A) IP and the SDGs: Building our common future with innovation and creativity
- B) IP and Youth Innovating for a Better Future
- C) Taking your ideas to the market
- D) Women and IP: Accelerating innovation and creativity

Q 41) Which other country, in addition to India, has agreed to an MOU aimed at enhancing cooperation in human resource development within the civil service sector?

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

Q 42) Which organization has published the "Climate Strategy 2030" paper to tackle India's requirements for green financing?

- 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

Q 43) Which bank has introduced the first ATM insurance in the banking industry?

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

Q 44) What bank recently reported the completion of the RBI's programmable central bank digital currency (CBDC) pilot, becoming the inaugural bank to do so in the nation?

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

Q 45) Which financial technology company has introduced its own UPI infrastructure using UPI Switch, an advanced cloud-based technology, in collaboration with Airtel Payments Bank?

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

Q 46) Australia's diverse financial group Macquarie has recently introduced its electric vehicle (EV) financing and comprehensive solutions platform _____ in India.

- A) Wayflyer
- B) Vertelo
- C) NeoGrowth
- D) LenDenClub

Q 47) On what date was the National Panchayati Raj Day commemorated?

- A) 24 April
- B) 23 April
- C) 21 April
- D) 19 April

Q 48) Which individual received the esteemed KISS Humanitarian Award 2021?

- A) Bill Gates
- B) Gianni Infantino
- C) Rachel Ruto
- D) Ratan Tata

Q 49) Which individual was chosen as the chairperson of the seven-person athletes' panel of the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI)?

- A) Yogeshwar Dutt
- B) Narsingh Yadav
- C) KD Jadhav
- D) Deepak Punia

Q 50) Which country has approved a foreign aid bill, allowing for the delivery of a new weapons package to Ukraine?

- A) USA
- B) UK
- C) Iran
- D) India

Q 51) Who inaugurated the country's initial Multi-purpose (Combined Heat & Power) Green Hydrogen Generation Plant?

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

Q 52) Which bank has named Amitabh Chaudhry to continue serving as the managing director (MD) and chief executive officer (CEO)?

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

Q 53) The UN resident coordinator in Indonesia has been appointed by the United Nations Secretary-General, António Guterres.

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

Q 54) The board of Srei Infrastructure Finance Limited (SIFL) has named _____ as its new managing director and CEO.

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

Q 55) The Central Government has extended the term of _____ as Deputy Governor of the Reserve

Bank of India for another year, starting from May 03, 2024.

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

Q 56) On what date was the International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace celebrated?

- A) 24 April
- B) 21 April
- C) 20 April
- D) 19 April

Q 57) Which state government carried out a coordinated survey in April 2024 to delist Nilgiri Tahr from the endangered category?

- A) Karnataka
- B) Maharashtra
- C) Odisha
- D) Tamil Nadu

Q 58) In which event did Harshit Kumar win a gold medal for India at the 21st Asian U-20 Athletics Championships 2024?

- A) Chess
- B) Hammer throw
- C) Javelin throw
- D) Tennis

Q 59) Which port has been given the shipping ministry's endorsement to function as India's inaugural transshipment port?

- A) Vizhinjam Port
- B) Mumbai Port
- C) Kandla Port
- D) Jawaharlal Nehru Port

Q 60) Which country's men's recurve team made history by winning a gold medal at the Archery World Cup Stage-1?

- A) South Korea
- B) Malaysia
- C) Indonesia
- D) India

Q 61) Which Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) has partnered with Alliance of Digital India Foundation (ADIF) to enhance the startup ecosystem in India?

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

Q 62) According to a report by UNCTAD, India's service exports saw a notable increase to \$345 billion in 2023.

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

Q 63) _____ has collaborated with RBI Innovation Hub to accelerate digital agricultural loans.

- 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

Q 64) Which credit card company introduced the "Miles Travel credit card" with three different versions?

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

Q 65) Which payment company has recently launched the nation's first ATM that can be upgraded?

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

- D) Lemonpay Payment Solutions Private Limited

Q 66) Which company's subscription to Compulsory Convertible Debentures (CCDs) has been approved by the CCI for International Finance Corporation (IFC)?

- A) Napino Auto and Electronics Limited
- B) Intel Corporation
- C) Hitachi Limited
- D) HGM Automotive Electronics

Q 67) Which country sent three astronauts to the Tiangong Space Station using the Shenzhou-18 spacecraft?

- A) China
- B) Japan
- C) Russia
- D) Taiwan

Q 68) On what date was the International Chernobyl Disaster Remembrance Day commemorated?

- A) 20 April
- B) 22 April
- C) 25 April
- D) 26 April

Q 69) In which state is the Shergarh Wildlife Sanctuary located, as announced recently by the authorities declaring it as an eco-sensitive zone?

- A) Gujarat
- B) Kerala
- C) Maharashtra
- D) Rajasthan

Q 70) The gem and jewelry industry has been granted the Authorised Economic Operator (AEO) status by _____.

- A) Ministry of Agriculture
- B) Ministry of Finance
- C) Ministry of Mines
- D) Ministry of Power

Q 71) INS _____ from the Indian Navy took part in a Maritime Partnership Exercise alongside Royal Navy's RFA Argus and RFA Lyme Bay.

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

Q 72) With which life insurance company has Peerless Financial Products Distribution Ltd. (PFPDL) collaborated 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

Q 73) Which company, in addition to F.I.R.S.T at IIT Kanpur, has established a strategic partnership to promote the development of next-generation financial solutions innovations in India?

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

Q 74) Which individual was announced as the Ambassador for the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024?

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

Q 75) A study on the evaluation of the effects of Geographical Indication (GI) products has been approved by _____.

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

Q 76) Which of the following individuals was recently named a Grandmaster by FIDE, the International Chess Federation?

- A) Vaishali Ramesh Babu
- B) Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa
- C) Nihal Sarin
- D) Koneru Humpy

Q 77) Which Indian Institute of Technology was granted a patent by the Government of India for an inverter that is lightweight, compact, and easy to carry and was developed locally?

- A) IIT Delhi
- B) IIT Mumbai
- C) IIT Patna
- D) IIT Varanasi

Q 78) Which individual was designated as the Director in the Department of Promotion of Industry & Internal Trade (DPIIT) from the list below?

- A) Aditi Sinha
- B) Ajay Kumar Sharma
- C) Pratima Singh
- D) Rajiv Shekhar

Q 79) Which organization has effectively conducted a trial of the anti-submarine SMART system?

- A) DRDO
- B) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited
- C) ISRO
- D) None of these

Q 80) Who was designated as the president of the Indian Vaccine Manufacturers Association (IVMA) from the list of individuals provided?

- A) Z. Nahar
- B) S.B. Rajan
- C) S. Sivakumar
- D) Krishna M Ella

Q 81) The gem and jewellery sector has been granted _____ 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

Q 82) Which company has the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) instructed to stop issuing wallets because they do not have the necessary authorization?

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

Q 83) From which institution did REC Limited secure a loan of 60.536 billion Japanese Yen to fund eco-friendly projects in India?

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

Q 84) Which payment company has introduced offline QR code-based 'scan and pay' payments?

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

Q 85) Which bank chose HCLSoftware, the software business division of HCL Technologies, for its digital transformation initiative?

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

Q 86) Who has been appointed by the Government of India as a member of the National Statistical Commission (NSC)?

- A) A Ganesh Kumar
- B) Manoj Panda
- C) Rajiv Gauba

- D) Rakesh Mohan

Q 87) On what date was International Dance Day celebrated?

- A) 28 April
- B) 29 April
- C) 01 May
- D) 02 May

Q 88) In which country was Jeremiah Manele elected as the new prime minister?

- A) Solomon Islands
- B) Singapore
- C) Namibia
- D) Maldives

Q 89) NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL) has entered into a partnership with the Bank of _____ to assist in the creation of a real-time payment system similar to the Unified Payment Interface (UPI).

- A) Ghana
- B) Namibia
- C) Senegal
- D) South Africa

Q 90) When was the World Press Freedom Day celebrated?

- A) 05 May
- B) 04 May
- C) 03 May
- D) 02 May

Q 91) Under whose leadership was the United Nations' First International Conference on Digital Public Infrastructure held?

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

Q 92) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has revealed a _____ percent interest rate for the Floating Rate Savings Bond (FRSB) 2034.

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

Q 93) Which company recently received \$5 million in a seed funding round with PayU, a leading online payment solutions provider, as the primary investor?

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

Q 94) The National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) stated in its monthly economic review that the Indian economy has the potential to expand by more than _____ percent in the current financial year.

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

Q 95) _____ signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Nagar Nigam Haridwar to introduce 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

Q 96) Which individual from Asia was chosen to receive the esteemed 2024 Goldman Environmental Prize?

- A) Alok Shukla
- B) Jadav Payeng
- C) Marcel Gomes
- D) Teresa Vicente

Q 97) Which individual was selected as the regional winner for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) at the 2024 Cambridge Dedicated Teacher Awards?

- A) Akshata Krishnamurthy
- B) Gina Justus
- C) Gopi Thotakura
- D) Meena Mishra

Q 98) Who was selected as the director general of the National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE) from the list of candidates?

- A) Sukhbir Singh Sandhu
- B) Nawaf Salam
- C) Mohammad Rihan
- D) Daljit Singh Chaudhary

Q 99) When was the Satellite Technology Day celebrated in India?

- A) 04 October
- B) 23 August
- C) 19 April
- D) 19 January

Q 100) Recently, which public sector enterprises has been granted 'Navratna status' by the government of India?

- A) IREDA
- B) HMTL
- C) HAL
- D) BHEL

Q 101) Which entity has received a license as a non-banking finance company (NBFC) from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)?

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

Q 102) Groww Pay, the UPI platform operated by Groww brokerage firm, has recently obtained a

_____ license from the Reserve Bank of India.

- A) Non-Banking Financial Company
- B) Online Payments Aggregator
- C) Prepaid Payment Instruments
- D) Small Finance Bank

Q 103) Which organization has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Ocean Sun, a Norwegian firm, to investigate 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

Q 104) Which individual was the recipient of the 9th Oxford Bookstore Book Cover Prize 2024 for the book 'The Book Beautiful'?

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

Q 105) Which individual was selected to act as the new prime minister of the Solomon Islands?

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

Q 106) Which author wrote the book 'Just A Mercenary?: Notes from My Life and Career'?

- A) K.M. Chandrasekhar
- B) Lakshmi Murdeshwar Puri
- C) Duvvuri Subbarao
- D) Vijayadevi Rane

Q 107) At what time was Labour Day celebrated?

- A) 04 May
- B) 03 May
- C) 02 May

D) 01 May

Q 108) How many countries' election management organizations has India invited under the International Election Visitors Program?

- A) 30
- B) 26
- C) 23
- D) 20

Q 109) Where will the 2024 ICC Women's T20 World Cup be held?

- A) Australia
- B) Bangladesh
- C) England
- D) India

Q 110) Which person from the list has been selected as the UNICEF India National Ambassador?

- A) Anushka Sharma
- B) Kareena Kapoor Khan
- C) Katrina Kaif
- D) Priyanka Chopra

Q 111) The Ministry of Mines has entered into a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with _____ to offer expertise in the area of critical minerals.

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

Q 112) _____ marked its 25th anniversary on May 1, 2024, and issued 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

Q 113) The Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) has entered into a Memorandum of

Understanding (MoU) with the Auditor General of _____ to boost cooperation in the field of auditing.

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

Q 114) India's older population has the lowest health insurance coverage at 21%, according to a report by _____.

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

Q 115) The growth forecast for India has been increased by 40 basis points to 6.6 percent for 2024-25.

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

Q 116) Which of the following individuals was the recipient of the Whitley Gold Award, commonly referred to as the Green Oscar?

- A) Shashi Tharoor
- B) Purnima Devi Barman
- C) Kiran Nadar
- D) Ajit Mishra

Q 117) Which one of the individuals below was designated as the President of the Goods and Services Tax Appellate Tribunal (GSTAT) in New Delhi?

- A) Ajay Manikrao Khanwilkar
- B) BR Gavai
- C) PS Dinesh Kumar
- D) Sanjaya Kumar Mishra

Q 118) Which spacecraft has China sent into space using the Long March-5 Y8 rocket to gather and return samples from the far side of the moon?

- A) XPoSat
- B) Chang'e-6
- C) Bandwagon-1
- D) Axiom Mission 3

Q 119) In 2025, which country was designated as the host for the BWF World Junior Championships?

- A) France
- B) Malaysia
- C) India
- D) Thailand

Q 120) On what date was World Tuna Day celebrated?

- A) 02 February
- B) 20 March
- C) 05 April
- D) 02 May

Q 121) By which company was India's inaugural indigenous bomber unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) introduced?

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

Q 122) Which logistics platform has collaborated with India Post to improve the final stage of delivery for online products nationwide?

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

Q 123) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has granted permission for the re-appointment of _____ as Part Time Chairman of HDFC Bank for a period of three years.

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

Q 124) Which bank appointed Sanjeev Nautiyal as its Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO)?

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

Q 125) Who has been designated as the Chairperson of the Special Olympics Asia Pacific Advisory Council (APAC) for a period of three years?

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

Q 126) Recently, which person took over as the Chairman-cum-Managing Director (CMD) of The National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC) among the following?

- A) Dr. Subhansu Sekhar Acharya
- B) P Santhosh
- C) Rajendra Prasad Goyal
- D) Ravindra Kumar Tyagi

Q 127) Who has been selected by the government to serve as Vice-Chief of Naval Staff?

- A) Brajesh Mehrotra
- B) Dinesh K Tripathi
- C) Krishna Swaminathan
- D) Radhakrishnan Hari Kumar

Q 128) On what date was International Firefighters' Day celebrated?

- A) 22 March
- B) 14 April
- C) 04 May

- D) 18 September

Q 129) On which day was International Leopard Day celebrated?

- A) 22 March
- B) 14 April
- C) 03 May
- D) 18 September

Q 130) Which company recently conducted a test flight into space using a rocket fueled by candle wax?

- A) HyImpulse
- B) NASA
- C) Rocket Lab USA, Inc.
- D) Space Exploration Technologies Corporation

Q 131) Which company is responsible for unveiling Secure IoT, the first System on a Chip (SoC) for IoT devices in India?

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

Q 132) Which company has been granted permission by the RBI to establish a wholly-owned subsidiary in the IFSC in GIFT City, Gujarat?

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

Q 133) Which of the following candidates emerged victorious in the presidential elections in Panama?

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

Q 134) Who was designated as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Paytm Money from the following individuals?

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

Q 135) The Indian Air Force (IAF) has received its second C295 transport aircraft from Spain, which was manufactured by _____.

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

Q 136) Which country emerged as the winner of the Badminton World Federation (BWF) Thomas and Uber Cup 2024?

- A) China
- B) Greece
- C) India
- D) Netherlands

Q 137) On which date was World Laughter Day 2024 celebrated?

- A) 03 May
- B) 04 May
- C) 05 May
- D) 06 May

Q 138) On what date was the International Day of the Midwife observed?

- A) 03 May
- B) 04 May
- C) 05 May
- D) 06 May

Q 139) Which railway station in Uttar Pradesh was given the new name of "Tapeshwarnath Dham"?

- A) Akbarganj
- B) Fursatganj Railway Station
- C) Jais City
- D) Misrauli

Q 140) Who has Visa, the worldwide digital payments platform, named as the new Country Manager for India?

- A) Vikram Saxena
- B) Sujai Raina
- C) Deepak Anand
- D) Abhay Kumar

Q 141) The international wrestling organization United World Wrestling (UWW) has currently suspended _____ on a temporary basis.

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

Q 142) India and Ghana have agreed to promptly collaborate to establish _____ within the next 6 months.

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

Q 143) What is India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra) predicting as the growth forecast for India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in FY25?

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

Q 144) In which city did the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) perform the first ignition test on the Semi Cryogenic Pre-Burner Ignition successfully?

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

Q 145) The Indian Air Force (IAF) and the Army are organizing the deployment of _____ US-

manufactured Predator drones at air bases in Uttar Pradesh's Gorakhpur and Sarsawa.

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

Q 146) When did the World Portuguese Language Day take place?

- A) 07 May
- B) 05 May
- C) 09 May
- D) 10 May

Q 147) On which date was the African World Heritage Day celebrated?

- A) 10 May
- B) 05 May
- C) 08 May
- D) 07 May

Q 148) On which date was International No Diet Day celebrated?

- A) 06 May
- B) 08 May
- C) 09 May
- D) 10 May

Q 149) On what date was World Thalassemia Day commemorated?

- A) 10 May
- B) 09 May
- C) 08 May
- D) 07 May

Q 150) In which city is India scheduled to hold the 46th Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM)?

- A) Ahmedabad
- B) Chennai
- C) Kochi
- D) Mumbai

Q 151) The focus of the International Labour Day 2024 centered around _____.

- 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

Q 152) In which city did India and Croatia conduct the 11th session of Foreign Office Consultations (FOC)?

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

Q 153) Which country emerged as the champion of the Men's AFC U-23 Asian Cup 2024?

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

Q 154) In which city was Constitution Park, a collaborative project by the Indian Army and Punit Balan Group, officially opened?

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

Q 155) Which company has introduced India's inaugural Nifty non-cyclical index fund?

- A) Axis Mutual Fund
- B) Groww Mutual Fund
- C) Invesco Mutual Fund
- D) UTI Mutual Fund

Q 156) Which portal has been launched by the government's Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare in partnership with Bank of India?

- A) Vriddhi portal
- B) Vikas portal
- C) Bhavishya portal
- D) Abhyukt portal

Q 157) In which city was the event "Localizing the SDGs: Women in Local Governance in India Lead the Way" held?

- A) London
- B) New Delhi
- C) New York
- D) Paris

Q 158) Which country, in addition to India, is poised to boost collaboration in energy, UPI, and local currency settlement to strengthen economic relations?

- A) Tanzania
- B) Senegal
- C) Nigeria
- D) Kenya

Q 159) In which city was the 7th India-Indonesia Joint Defence Cooperation Committee meeting held?

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

Q 160) In which city was the 26th ASEAN-Indian Senior Officials' meeting held?

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

Q 161) When was the 65th raising day of the Border Road Organization (BRO) celebrated?

- A) 07 May
- B) 08 May
- C) 09 May
- D) 10 May

Q 162) What is the conservation status of the Orangutan named Rakus in Indonesia who was observed using a medicinal plant to heal a wound, a behavior that scientists found to be unusual?

- A) Critically endangered
- B) Endangered
- C) Least concern
- D) Vulnerable

Q 163) In the Chang'e-6 lunar mission, which country launched Pakistan's small satellite 'iCube-Qamar'?

- A) China
- B) India
- C) Iran
- D) Russia

Q 164) Which country unveiled an AI-generated spokesperson named 'Victoria Shi'?

- A) Ukraine
- B) Russia
- C) Iraq
- D) Iran

Q 165) The Kerala government raised a warning about the mosquito-transmitted West Nile virus on May 7, following the State's report of one fatality and approximately eight instances of the disease.

- A) Virus
- B) Protozoa
- C) Fungus
- D) Bacteria

Q 166) When was World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day celebrated?

- A) 10 May
- B) 09 May
- C) 08 May
- D) 07 May

Q 167) Glyptothorax punyabratai, a newly found species, was identified in the Brahmaputra River drainage in Arunachal Pradesh.

- A) Catfish
- B) Frog
- C) Snake
- D) Spider

Q 168) Where did the 5th Joint Group of Customs (JGC) meeting between India and Bhutan occur?

- A) Bhopal
- B) Jaipur
- C) Ladakh
- D) New Delhi

Q 169) Which state government initiated the "Pirul Lao-Paisa Pao" campaign to manage the forest fires currently affecting the state?

- A) Haryana
- B) Himachal Pradesh
- C) Punjab
- D) Uttarakhand

Q 170) A new law has been enacted to address violence against women for the first time.

- A) African Union
- B) ASEAN
- C) European Union
- D) United Nations

Q 171) Which company has been awarded ISO 42001:2023 certification for the adoption of an Artificial Intelligence Management System (AIMS) framework?

- A) Tata Consultancy Services
- B) Infosys
- C) HCL Technologies
- D) Cognizant

Q 172) Based on the 2024 World's Wealthiest Cities Report by Henley & Partners, which city was ranked highest on the list?

- A) Delhi, India
- B) Mumbai, India
- C) New York City, USA

- D) The Bay Area, USA

Q 173) In 2022, India set a new record by receiving _____ billion in remittances.

- A) \$ 61.10 billion
- B) \$ 51 billion
- C) \$ 30.4 billion
- D) \$ 111 billion

Q 174) What is the name of India's initial Large Language Model (LLM) that is tailored for the banking, financial services, and insurance (BFSI) industry?

- A) Gemini
- B) iMPEL-AI
- C) IndiaAI
- D) Sesame

Q 175) Recently, the nonprofit news organization ProPublica was awarded the _____ for its Public Service journalism.

- A) Abel Prize
- B) Erasmus Prize
- C) National Creators Award
- D) Pulitzer Prize

Q 176) Which individual was chosen as the seventh First Minister of Scotland from the following options?

- A) Simon Harris
- B) Ousmane Sonko
- C) Luis Montenegro
- D) John Swinney

Q 177) Which other country, in addition to India, has recently signed an agreement on visa exemption for holders of diplomatic and official passports, enabling them to travel between the two countries without a visa?

- A) Greece
- B) Italy
- C) Moldova
- D) Poland

Q 178) On what date was World Asthma Day 2024 commemorated?

- A) 05 May
- B) 06 May
- C) 07 May
- D) 08 May

Q 179) Researchers have come across a rare and endangered tree species called Kattupovamkurunnila on the Wagamon hills in _____.

- A) Andaman & Nicobar
- B) Himalayan Region
- C) North Eastern Region
- D) Western Ghats

Q 180) In what city was the 19th session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) conducted?

- A) California
- B) London
- C) New York
- D) Paris

Q 181) Which company has entered into a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) to supply locally produced marine-grade steel to the shipbuilding sector?

- A) Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited
- B) JSW Steel
- C) Jindal Steel & Power Limited
- D) Jindal Stainless Limited

Q 182) A report by international energy analytics agency Ember reported that in 2023, India surpassed Japan to become the third-largest producer of _____ power in the world.

- A) Wind
- B) Solar
- C) Hydro
- D) Coal

Q 183) Which company recently launched the world's largest direct air capture (DAC) plant called 'Mammoth' in Hengill, Iceland?

- A) Climeworks
- B) Flywire
- C) JERA Co. Inc
- D) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited

Q 184) The NPCI has issued regulations for acquiring banks to verify merchant information for _____.

- A) Aadhaar Enabled Payment System
- B) Bharat Bill Payment System
- C) BHIM Aadhaar Pay
- D) Unified Payments Interface

Q 185) Google recently launched a new feature in India that allows for the secure storage of personal data such as store cards, tickets, passes, and IDs.

- A) CSpace
- B) Gemini
- C) Google Wallet
- D) Lumiere

Q 186) What state was the new marine tardigrade species, Batillipes Chandrayaani, found in?

- A) Kerala
- B) Maharashtra
- C) Tamil Nadu
- D) West Bengal

Q 187) A new type of green lynx spider has been identified by an arachnologist from Dariyapur in a recent finding.

- A) Peucetia chhaparajnrivin
- B) Indopria Angulata
- C) Cigaritis Conjuncta
- D) Brucethoa isro

Q 188) Which book by the well-known Urdu literary figure Shaikh Abdussalam Abdurrazzaq earned him the Sahitya Akademi Award in 2004?

- A) Shikasta Buton Ke Darmiyan
- B) Shahdaba
- C) Ondu Putada Kathe
- D) Naar Hatun Kazal Wanas

Q 189) Which country does Colin Munro, the powerful batsman, represent and has he recently decided to retire from international cricket?

- A) Australia
- B) Bangladesh
- C) New Zealand
- D) South Africa

Q 190) From which country has India pulled back its troops?

- A) Bangladesh
- B) Iran
- C) Maldives
- D) Nepal

Q 191) Which bank recently had the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) removed restrictions on its mobile app?

- A) Bank of Baroda
- B) Canara Bank
- C) Jammu & Kashmir Bank
- D) Karnataka Bank

Q 192) In which country is the Chabahar Port situated where India has recently entered into a decade-long agreement to operate it?

- A) UAE
- B) Qatar
- C) Pakistan
- D) Iran

Q 193) Who has been reappointed as the prime minister of Russia by President Vladimir Putin?

- A) Mikhail Mishustin
- B) Luis Filipe Montenegro
- C) Ilham Aliyev
- D) Gabriel Attal

Q 194) Who has been designated as the 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

Q 195) Which defense manufacturing company has introduced the nation's initial 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

Q 196) Scientists utilizing NASA's James Webb Space Telescope have identified gases in the atmosphere enveloping a rocky exoplanet called _____.

- A) 2005 EX296
- B) 55 Cancri e
- C) Titan
- D) TOI-715 b

Q 197) Which space-tech company has partnered with IN-SPACE to improve the satellite technology of the country?

- A) AeroSpace Services India
- B) GalaxEye
- C) Skyroot Aerospace
- D) Tata Advanced Systems Limited

Q 198) From which institution did researchers discover two new needlefish species in Indian waters?

- A) Zoological Survey of India
- B) National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources
- C) Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute
- D) Central Institute of Brackishwater Aquaculture

Q 199) What competition did Mohun Bagan Super Giants (MBSG) fail to win against Mumbai City Football Club (MCFC)?

- A) Khelo India University Games
- B) Khelo India Youth Games
- C) Santosh Trophy
- D) Indian Super League

Q 200) In what country was the World Hydrogen Summit 2024 conducted?

- A) China
- B) Japan
- C) Netherlands
- D) USA

Q 201) Bank of India has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the _____ to provide a Defence service Salary Package known as BOI Rakshak Salary/Pension Savings Scheme.

- A) Indian Navy
- B) Indian Army
- C) Indian Coast Guard
- D) Border Security Force

Q 202) In financial year 2024, which bank, in partnership with Atal Innovation Mission, has earmarked Rs 19.6 crore in funding to assist 170 social startups?

- A) Yes Bank
- B) Karnataka Bank
- C) HDFC Bank
- D) Bank of India

Q 203) Which individual from the list was chosen as the new chairman of IFFCO?

- A) Anil Kumar Lahoti
- B) Balvir Singh
- C) Dileep Sanghani
- D) Jay Shah

Q 204) Which company's carbon reduction initiative was revealed by S. Somanath, the Chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)?

- A) AgniKul Cosmos
- B) SFO Technologies

- C) NewSpace India Limited
- D) Tata Advanced Systems Limited

Q 205) Which type of fuel was developed by DRDO for an advanced air-breathing engine?

- A) E100 Fuel
- B) High-velocity oxygen fuel
- C) Liquid Ramjet fuel
- D) Polymer Electrolyte Membrane Fuel

Q 206) Which space agency, in addition to XRISM from NASA, has detected the existence of iron in the active galaxy NGC 4151?

- A) China National Space Administration
- B) ISRO
- C) Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency
- D) Russian Federal Space Agency

Q 207) When did India celebrate National Technology Day?

- A) 10 May
- B) 11 May
- C) 12 May
- D) 13 May

Q 208) Which English cricket player has recently announced his retirement from international cricket?

- A) Adil Rashid
- B) James Anderson
- C) Jos Buttler
- D) Moeen Ali

Q 209) Who among the competitors earned a spot for India in the men's 57kg category at the Paris 2024 quota during the World Wrestling Olympic Qualifiers held in Istanbul, Turkey?

- A) Vivek Chopra
- B) Deepak Dahiya
- C) Bajrang Punia
- D) Aman Sehrawat

Q 210) In which state is the 7th edition of the India-France Joint Military Exercise SHAKTI taking place?

- A) Assam
- B) Meghalaya
- C) Rajasthan
- D) Uttarakhand

Q 211) What is the name of the joint military exercise between India and France taking place in Umroi, Meghalaya?

- A) Poorvi Lehar
- B) Sahyog Kaijin
- C) SHAKTI
- D) Tiger Triumph

Q 212) Who was the chair of the 19th Session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) held in New York?

- A) Zéphyrin Maniratanga
- B) Vinícius Junior
- C) Mio Oka
- D) Judith Suminwa Tuluka

Q 213) Which Indian literary works were included in UNESCO's Memory of the World Asia-Pacific Regional Register?

- A) Ramcharitmanas
- B) Sahṛdayāloka-Locana
- C) Panchatantra
- D) All the Above

Q 214) Which bank has become the inaugural bank to attain Trading cum Clearing (TCM) Membership at the India International Bullion Exchange (IIBX)?

- A) AxisBank
- B) Federal Bank
- C) HDFC Bank
- D) State Bank of India

Q 215) Which company has successfully obtained an agreement to provide renewable ammonia to Yara Clean Ammonia in Norway, the largest ammonia

trader and distributor globally, for an unspecified amount?

- A) Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited
- B) Greenko ZeroC
- C) Larsen & Toubro
- D) NTPC Green Energy Limited

Q 216) Which participant was declared the champion of the 2024 Superbet Poland Rapid & Blitz competition?

- A) Gukesh
- B) Magnus Carlsen
- C) Praggnanandhaa
- D) Wei Yi

Q 217) Which athlete achieved the longest distance in the javelin throw event at the Doha Diamond League 2024, with a winning attempt of 88.38m?

- A) Arshad Nadeem
- B) Jakub Vadlejch
- C) Neeraj Chopra
- D) Sharath Kamal

Q 218) When was the International Day of Plant Health celebrated?

- A) 11 May
- B) 12 May
- C) 13 May
- D) 14 May

Q 219) In which city was the Yachting Association of India (YAI) Senior Nationals – 2024 organized?

- A) Chennai
- B) Cuttack
- C) Mumbai
- D) Visakhapatnam

Q 220) Which of the individuals listed has climbed Mount Everest for the 29th time, exceeding their previous record of 28 ascents?

- A) Kami Rita Sherpa
- B) Lhakpa Sherpa

- C) Pasang Dawa Sherpa
- D) None of these

Q 221) Who was the first Indian to create history by becoming a space tourist recently?

- A) Ashutosh Sharma
- B) Akhilesh Gupta
- C) Gopi Thotakura
- D) Balram Bhargava

Q 222) For what duration has GAIL (India) Ltd secured a LNG carrier from Cool Company, listed on the NYSE?

- A) 12 years
- B) 11 years
- C) 15 years
- D) 14 years

Q 223) Who emerged as the victor of the 2024 Italian Open title in the women's division?

- A) Y. Putintseva
- B) Iga Swiatek
- C) C. Gauff
- D) Aryna Sabalenka

Q 224) How many manned space missions has Blue Origin successfully carried out?

- A) 5th
- B) 6th
- C) 7th
- D) 8th

Q 225) How many glaciers have been located in the Sierra Nevada de Mérida Mountain range in Venezuela?

- A) 5
- B) 4
- C) 6
- D) 7

Q 226) Which corporation has set up a fully owned branch in the International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) located at GIFT City, Gujarat?

- A) SIDBI
- B) SEBI
- C) IRDAI
- D) IREDA

Q 227) What country was designated as the host of the 2027 FIFA Women's World Cup?

- A) Brazil
- B) Thailand
- C) Denmark
- D) Spain

Q 228) In a recent report from the NOAA, what percentage of global coral reefs experienced bleaching over the last year?

- A) 55%
- B) 60%
- C) 70%
- D) 80%

Q 229) Where was the recent subcritical nuclear test conducted by the United States?

- A) Nevada
- B) Colorado
- C) Maryland
- D) Alaska

Q 230) At what time is World Bee Day celebrated worldwide under the auspices of the United Nations?

- A) July 29
- B) April 25
- C) March 18
- D) May 20

Q 231) Which ship manufacturing company marked its 250th Foundation Day on May 14, 2024?

- A) Cochin Shipyard Limited
- B) Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Limited
- C) Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited
- D) Naval Dockyard

Q 232) Which country, in addition to India, co-hosted the 7th edition of the counter-terrorism drill 'Tarkash' conducted in various locations in Kolkata?

- A) Egypt
- B) Guyana
- C) Russia
- D) USA

Q 233) Which Indian University has obtained 81st position 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

Q 234) Which bank has introduced a new digital credit card named Pixel Play Credit Card?

- A) Axis Bank
- B) HDFC Bank
- C) Indian Overseas Bank
- D) NSDL Payments Bank Limited

Q 235) Which insurance company has recently launched the first 'Satellite In-Orbit Third-Party Liability Insurance' in the country?

- 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

Q 236) Not long ago, the renowned English writer Ruskin Bond received the _____ at his residence in Mussoorie.

- A) Kuvempu Rashtriya Puraskar
- B) Mohammed Rafi Award
- C) Sahitya Akademi Fellowship
- D) Young India Fellowship

Q 237) Recently in Uttar Pradesh, the Indian Air Force (IAF) accomplished its first air drop test of _____.

- A) Agni-5 ballistic missile
- B) BHISHM portable cubes
- C) Crystal Maze-2 missile
- D) Nirbhay Cruise Missile

Q 238) Which country recently revealed the world's initial high-speed 6G prototype gadget, which is capable of transmitting at 100 Gbps in the 100 GHz and 300 GHz frequency bands?

- A) Israel
- B) Japan
- C) South Korea
- D) United Arab Emirates

Q 239) Which individual assumed the role of the 85th Grand Master of India from the following options?

- A) Balbir Singh
- B) Salima Tete
- C) Satwiksairaj Rankireddy
- D) P Shyaamnikhil

Q 240) At what time did the International Day of Families get celebrated?

- A) 14 May
- B) 15 May
- C) 16 May
- D) 17 May

Q 241) The Government of India has extended financial assistance of USD 50 million for one more year to _____.

- A) Sri Lanka
- B) Myanmar
- C) Maldives
- D) Kenya

Q 242) The initial platform designed to serve policyholders across the industry was launched by SBI General Insurance Company Limited.

- A) Bima Central
- B) CDP-SURAKSHA
- C) Pratham

D) SWAYAM Plus

Q 243) Which country had the most entries on the Forbes 30 Under 30 Asia list in 2024, totaling 86 individuals?

- A) Singapore
- B) Indonesia
- C) India
- D) China

Q 244) Which individual assumed the role of Prime Minister of Singapore from the options provided?

- A) Alexander Stubb
- B) Bassirou Faye
- C) Lawrence Wong
- D) Succes Masra

Q 245) Who has the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) named as the Executive Director (ED) starting on May 10, 2024?

- A) T. Rabi Sankar
- B) Rakesh Mohan
- C) R Lakshmi Kanth Rao
- D) Harun Rashid Khan

Q 246) __ has declared its intention to build the inaugural lunar train system, named FLOAT (Flexible Levitation on a Track).

- A) Indian Space Research Organisation
- B) Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency
- C) NASA
- D) Roscosmos State Corporation for Space Activities

Q 247) In what field did Malti Joshi, who passed away at the age of 90, receive the Padma Shri award in 2018?

- A) Social Work
- B) Public Affairs
- C) Literature and Education
- D) Art

Q 248) In which nation has PhonePe introduced cross-border UPI payments?

- A) Bangladesh
- B) Ukraine
- C) Sri Lanka
- D) Thailand

Q 249) What distance did Neeraj Chopra achieve to win the gold medal at the 2024 Federation Cup with a throw of 82.27m?

- A) Bhubaneshwar
- B) Guwahati
- C) Patna
- D) Shimla

Q 250) Which Indian football legend has declared his intention to step down from international football?

- A) Lalengmawia Ralte
- B) Manveer Singh
- C) Sahal Abdul Samad
- D) Sunil Chhetri

Q 251) Which state saw the appointment of Idashisha Nongrang as its first female Director General of Police (DGP) in a recent development?

- A) Assam
- B) Meghalaya
- C) Nagaland
- D) Sikkim

Q 252) Which country recently won the 30th Sultan Azlan Shah Trophy?

- A) China
- B) India
- C) Japan
- D) Malaysia

Q 253) Which of the following individuals made history as the first Indian to win a medal in the Asian Trampoline Gymnastics Championships?

- A) Srishti Khandagale
- B) Rucha Divekar

- C) Kalpana Debnath
- D) Dipa Karmakar

Q 254) What language did Surjit Patkar, the late poet, primarily write in?

- A) Telugu
- B) Tamil
- C) Punjabi
- D) Marathi

Q 255) The United Nations General Assembly has declared _____ as the Global Football Day with full consensus.

- A) 26 May
- B) 25 May
- C) 24 May
- D) 23 May

Q 256) When was the International Day of Light celebrated?

- A) 18 May
- B) 17 May
- C) 16 May
- D) 15 May

Q 257) Which city hosted the 10th session of the Memory of the World Committee for Asia and the Pacific (MOWCAP)?

- A) Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia
- B) New Delhi, India
- C) Jakarta, Indonesia
- D) Beijing, China

Q 258) In which city was IndiaSkills 2024, the biggest skill competition in the country, conducted?

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

Q 259) In which city was the second round of the India-US dialogue on Africa conducted?

- A) Washington DC
- B) Varanasi
- C) New Delhi
- D) California

Q 260) Which organization has recently found a sustainable method for purifying muddy river water?

- A) Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Bhopal
- B) Indian Institute of Petroleum & Energy, Visakhapatnam
- C) Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore
- D) Indian institute of Technology, Kanpur

Q 261) Who was awarded the Global Excellence Award 2024 for being recognized as the "Most Trusted Admission Consultant in Vidarbha Region"?

- A) Chandrakant Satija
- B) Rajaram Jain
- C) Surendra Kishore
- D) Yashwant Singh

Q 262) Which organizations have agreed to collaborate in the development of interceptors that can destroy hypersonic missiles?

- A) China and Russia
- B) India and Japan
- C) Russia and India
- D) US and Japan

Q 263) Which country recently inaugurated the world's highest competition pool?

- A) Bangladesh
- B) Bhutan
- C) Myanmar
- D) Nepal

Q 264) On which date was the World Telecommunication and Information Society Day commemorated?

- A) 15 May
- B) 16 May

- C) 17 May
- D) 18 May

Q 265) In which city did the third session of the India-Zimbabwe Joint Trade Committee (JTC) take place?

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

Q 266) In which city was the 12th India-Mongolia Joint Working Group (JWG) meeting on defense conducted?

- A) Bengaluru
- B) Darkhan
- C) New Delhi
- D) Ulaanbaatar

Q 267) At the FIFA Congress, which country was announced as the host of the 2027 Women's World Cup?

- A) Australia
- B) Brazil
- C) India
- D) South Africa

Q 268) NOAA reported that over _____ percent of the world's coral reefs might have undergone bleaching in the previous year.

- A) 80%
- B) 70%
- C) 60%
- D) 55%

Q 269) In which city was the conference on 'India's Progressive Path in the Administration of Criminal Justice System' held?

- A) Bhopal
- B) Chennai
- C) Guwahati
- D) New Delhi

Q 270) The International Finance Corporation (IFC) has offered a \$500 million credit facility to _____ bank in order to offer financial support to women in remote areas through microloans.

- A) Axis bank
- B) HDFC bank
- C) ICICI bank
- D) UCO bank

Q 271) Which payment company has teamed up with LankaPay to boost UPI payment acceptance in Sri Lanka?

- A) Amazon Pay
- B) NPCI Bharat BillPay Ltd
- C) PhonePe
- D) Razorpay

Q 272) According to the mid-2024 World Economic Situation and Prospects report, it was projected that India's economy would grow by _____ percent in 2024.

- A) 6.1%
- B) 6.5%
- C) 6.8%
- D) 6.9%

Q 273) What is the annual inflation rate according to the All India Consumer Price Index (CPI) for April, 2024, as reported by government data?

- A) 4.11%
- B) 4.70%
- C) 4.83%
- D) 5.43%

Q 274) Who has ranked first on Forbes' list of highest-earning athletes for the fourth occasion in his career?

- A) Cristiano Ronaldo
- B) Lionel Messi
- C) Novak Djokovic
- D) Virat Kohli

Q 275) In which state or union territory is the Sela Tunnel located, which has been officially designated as the highest tunnel in India by the International Book of Honour?

- A) Arunachal Pradesh
- B) Assam
- C) Gujarat
- D) Jammu and Kashmir

Q 276) Who was declared the winner in the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) presidential elections?

- A) Kapil Sibal
- B) Indra Mani Pandey
- C) Bhushan Ramakrishna Gavai
- D) Arvind Panagariya

Q 277) Which candidate emerged as the winner of the Chad Presidential election?

- A) Peter Pellegrini
- B) Mahamat Déby
- C) Gabriel Attal
- D) Félix-Antoine Tshisekedi Tshilombo

Q 278) What was the theme around which the World Bee Day was observed this year?

- A) Bee Engaged: Celebrating the diversity of bees
- B) Bee Engaged with Youth
- C) Bee Engaged in Pollinator-Friendly Agricultural Production
- D) Bee engaged – Build Back Better for Bees

Q 279) A respected Congress veteran and former Gujarat governor _____ has recently passed away.

- A) Ved Prakash Nanda
- B) Sreenivasa Prasad
- C) Kamla Beniwal
- D) Aziz Qureshi

Q 280) In what city in Karnataka was the initial rock art discovery made?

- A) Bengaluru
- B) Mangaluru
- C) Shivamogga
- D) Udupi

Q 281) Which ministry was responsible for organizing the ONDC Startup Mahotsav recently held in New Delhi?

- 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

Q 282) Which mutual fund company has introduced an open-ended equity scheme centered around automotive and related industry activities?

- A) Groww Mutual Fund
- B) LIC Mutual Fund
- C) SBI Mutual Fund
- D) Tata Mutual Fund

Q 283) Which banking program did Yes Bank introduce for its high-end customers?

- A) BizFirst
- B) LEO 1 Card
- C) NOMO Card
- D) YES Grandeur

Q 284) The Pakistan Army carried out a successful test launch of a guided rocket system with a 400-kilometre range.

- A) Astra
- B) BHISHM
- C) Crystal Maze-2
- D) Fatah-II

Q 285) Researchers have identified a colossal planet with a density resembling cotton candy, characterized by its incredibly fluffy and lightweight nature, which they have named _____.

- A) WASP-193b
- B) HE 1005-1439
- C) Kepler-51d
- D) KOI-456

Q 286) The Indian division of the German athletic apparel company Puma has entered into a long-term agreement with the _____ to serve as their official kit sponsor.

- A) Sports Authority of India
- B) Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports
- C) Indian Olympic Association
- D) Athletics Federation of India

Q 287) On what date was World AIDS Vaccine Day commemorated?

- A) 17 May
- B) 18 May
- C) 19 May
- D) 20 May

Q 288) The Disaster Reporting and Information Management System (DRIMS), an online platform for reporting different types of damages resulting from disasters, was introduced in _____.

- A) Arunachal Pradesh
- B) Assam
- C) Ladakh
- D) West Bengal

Q 289) Which country's President, Ebrahim Raisi, lost his life in a recent helicopter crash?

- A) Egypt
- B) Iran
- C) Iraq
- D) Vietnam

Q 290) At the Elorda Cup 2024, in which sport did Nikhat Zareen win the gold medal?

- A) Badminton
- B) Boxing
- C) Chess

- D) Wrestling

Q 291) In FY24, _____ has established itself as a leading performer in terms of business expansion among public sector banks.

- A) Bank of Maharashtra
- B) Canara Bank
- C) Indian Bank
- D) State Bank of India

Q 292) Which company has been awarded a contract by Northern Coal Fields Limited (NCL) to provide 28 units of BH100 Rear Dump Trucks?

- A) Ashok Leyland Limited
- B) BEML Limited
- C) BMW Group
- D) JSW MG Motor India Pvt Ltd

Q 293) Which of the following individuals took the oath as the president of Taiwan?

- A) Bernardo Arévalo
- B) Felix Tshisekedi
- C) Tamas Sulyok
- D) Lai Ching-te

Q 294) Which individual from the list was designated as Acting President of Iran?

- A) Brian Mulroney
- B) Mohammad Mokhber
- C) Hage Geingob
- D) Sebastian Pinera

Q 295) The Indian Army has recently received approximately 27,000 _____ from the Indo-Russian Rifles Private Limited (IRRPL).

- A) AK-203 Assault Rifles
- B) Bogie Open Military wagons
- C) BrahMos
- D) Unmanned Aircraft Systems

Q 296) Which AI platform was recently launched jointly by 3AI Holding and Seetha Mahalaxmi Healthcare (SML)?

- A) Assert AI
- B) BharatGPT
- C) Hanooman AI
- D) IndiaAI

Q 297) In May 2024, India's Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty emerged victorious over the Chinese duo of Chen Bo Yang and Liu Yi to claim the _____.

- A) Tokyo Open
- B) Chennai Open
- C) Thailand Open
- D) Australian Open

Q 298) In May 2024, which Formula One title did Max Verstappen of Red Bull win?

- A) Spanish Grand Prix
- B) Miami Grand Prix

- C) Emilia-Romagna Grand Prix
- D) Australian Grand Prix

Q 299) Which disease is prevented by the R21/Matrix-M vaccine recently exported to Africa by the Serum Institute of India?

- A) Small pox
- B) Mumps
- C) Malaria
- D) Dengue

Q 300) When was the National Anti-Terrorism Day (India) commemorated?

- A) 23 May
- B) 22 May
- C) 21 May
- D) 20 May



Answers

1) Right Answer: B (Uttar Pradesh)

Almost 80 years following India's independence, the "Tirangi Barfi" of Kashi, a sweet confection known as the "sweet weapon" of freedom fighters during the Quit India Movement, has been granted the esteemed Geographical Indication (GI) status. By acquiring this recognition, Uttar Pradesh continues to uphold its status as the state with the highest number of GI-tagged items in the country, now totaling 75.

2) Right Answer: D (IIT Mandi)

BEL, a Defence PSU, recently entered into a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Indian Institute of Technology, Mandi, to collaborate on research, technology, and product development in semiconductors, quantum technologies, and drones. The MoU is intended to harness the respective strengths and capabilities of both BEL and IIT-Mandi.

3) Right Answer: C (5th)

The Dustlik joint military exercise between India and Uzbekistan took place in Uzbekistan's Termez district from April 15 to 28, 2024, marking the fifth edition of the event. The previous edition was held on February 20 the year before at the Foreign Training Node in Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand.

4) Right Answer: C (India)

The Indian Air Force (IAF) has completed a successful test launch of an updated air-launched medium-range ballistic missile with a range of over 250 km. Known as ROCKS or Crystal Maze 2, the missile, which was procured from Israel, was tested from a Su-30 MKI aircraft in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

5) Right Answer: C (IIT Kanpur)

The Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur has established a collaboration with Bengaluru's Blockchain For Impact (BFI) through the BFI-Biome Virtual Network Program. This partnership aims to support innovations and promote progress in the healthcare sector in India.

6) Right Answer: D (9%)

BNP Paribas and China's Fosun Group have made a deal where BNP Paribas will buy Fosun Group's approximately 9% share in Ageas, a Belgian insurance company, for around 730 million euros (\$777 million). BNP Paribas and Ageas have been partners for a long time through their joint ownership of AG Insurance, which is the top insurer in Belgium.

7) Right Answer: A (Aditya Birla Capital Limited)

Aditya Birla Capital recently introduced the ABCD omni-channel D2C platform, which operates under its subsidiary, Aditya Birla Capital Digital Limited (ABCDL). The aim of this platform is to attract 30 million new customers within the next 3 years.

8) Right Answer: D (New Delhi)

On 21 April, Prime Minister Narendra Modi officially opened the 2550th Bhagwan Mahaveer Nirvan Mahotsav in New Delhi to celebrate Mahavir Jayanti at Bharat Mandapam. As part of the event, the Prime Minister unveiled a special stamp and coin in honor of the occasion.

9) Right Answer: C (Stockholm International Peace Research Institute)

According to a recent report from the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), India has now risen to the fourth spot as the world's biggest military spender in 2023, showing a notable increase from its previous fifth position.

10) Right Answer: D (Barcelona)

The Ocean Decade Conference of 2024 took place in Barcelona between 10th April and 12th April 2024. UNESCO and Spain jointly organized the conference with the theme of "Providing the necessary science for the desired ocean." The Indian representatives at the Conference were headed by M Ravichandran, Secretary of Earth Sciences.

11) Right Answer: C (State Bank of India)

NPCI Bharat BillPay Limited, a subsidiary of the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), has revealed its collaboration with State Bank of India (SBI) to include SBI NCMC cards on its Bharat BillPay platform. This joint effort is focused on enhancing convenience for commuters. The incorporation of SBI National Common Mobility Card into Bharat BillPay is intended to deliver a smooth and user-friendly experience for customers.

12) Right Answer: C (Sweden)

Sweden has been accepted by NASA as the 38th nation to join the Artemis Accords, which were introduced in 2020 by NASA and the US Department of State. The agreement now includes 38 countries, such as India and Japan.

13) Right Answer: A (Airtel Payments Bank)

Airtel Payments Bank in India has introduced new debit and prepaid cards aimed at offering enhanced convenience and eco-friendliness to their customers. In collaboration with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), the Bank has launched these versatile cards compatible with RuPay.

14) Right Answer: B (Odisha)

ReNew Energy Global Plc., a company listed on Nasdaq, has entered into a preliminary agreement with JERA Co. Inc., the biggest power generation company in Japan, to assess the potential development of a green ammonia production facility in Paradip, Odisha. The agreement involves collaboration between ReNew's subsidiary, ReNew E-Fuels Pvt Ltd, and JERA on the project.

15) Right Answer: C (Pavuluri Subba Rao)

Pavuluri Subba Rao, the Founder, CEO, and Chairman of Ananth Technologies, has been honored with the 'Aryabhatta Award' by the Aeronautical Society of India (ASI). Additionally, he was awarded the title of 'Distinguished Fellow' by ASI.

16) Right Answer: A (Chandipur, Odisha)

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) carried out a successful trial of the Indigenous Technology Cruise Missile (ITCM) from the Integrated Test Range (ITR) in Chandipur, located along the coast

of Odisha on April 18, 2024. All components of the missile functioned as anticipated during the test.

17) Right Answer: C (Intel Corporation)

Intel has garnered attention in the tech industry by developing the biggest neuromorphic system worldwide. Known as "Hala Point," this massive advancement, which was first introduced at Sandia National Laboratories, marks a major progression in AI research, with the potential to transform the efficiency and sustainability of computing.

18) Right Answer: B (Japan)

Kento Momota, a 29-year-old ex-world champion in badminton, revealed his retirement from the sport due to mental and physical challenges. The Japanese player admitted that he has been unable to reach the same performance level as he did prior to his serious car accident in 2019.

19) Right Answer: C (National Fertilizers Limited)

On April 19, National Fertilizers Ltd announced that it had been granted the prestigious "Navratna" status by the Department of Public Enterprise. This designation is reserved for the top-performing Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs), granting them increased independence and financial control.

20) Right Answer: A (Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India)

The 25th anniversary of the establishment of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI), which oversees insurance companies and intermediaries in India, was commemorated on April 19, 2024. The IRDAI, created as a statutory entity according to the IRDAI Act of 1999, was formally established on April 19, 2000.

21) Right Answer: B (Dinesh Kumar Tripathi)

Vice Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi assumed the role of India's new naval chief on April 30, succeeding Admiral R Hari Kumar. Before his appointment, Tripathi held the position of Western Naval Command chief, and had previously served as the navy's vice chief in January 2024, as well as the navy's chief of personnel.

22) Right Answer: D (Philippines)

India achieved a significant military export achievement by sending the initial group of BrahMos missiles to the Philippines. The missiles were transported to Manila via an Indian Air Force C 17 Globemaster III plane as part of a contract worth \$375 million signed in 2022, marking the start of future shipments.

23) Right Answer: B (Poorvi Lehar)

Exercise Poorvi Lehar was carried out by the Indian Navy on the East Coast, under the leadership of the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Naval Command. The main objective of the exercise was to test and confirm the processes involved in evaluating the Indian Navy's readiness to address Maritime Security issues in that area.

24) Right Answer: C (NTPC Green Energy Limited)

The state-owned power company NTPC's subsidiary, NTPC Green Energy Ltd (NGEL), announced that it has entered into a preliminary agreement with Indus Towers Ltd to support the goals of promoting green energy and the Indian Government's initiatives towards achieving a carbon-neutral economy.

25) Right Answer: A (Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited)

The Indian Institute of Chemical Technology (IICT) and BHEL R&D department have collaborated to create a method for capturing and transforming carbon dioxide (CO₂) into dimethyl ether (DME) using direct catalytic conversion. This environmentally friendly fuel can be mixed with Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG).

26) Right Answer: A (Sreedharan Pillai)

At a ceremony held in the New Durbar Hall of the Raj Bhavan in Dona Paula, Goa, Jagadguru Sri Sri Vidhushekhara Bharati Swami, Shankaracharya of Dakshinamnaya Sri Sharada Peetham, Sringeri (Karnataka), unveiled the latest book "Heavenly Islands of Goa" by Goa Governor Sreedharan Pillai.

27) Right Answer: C (DRDO)

The Defense Materials and Stores Research and Development Establishment (DMSRDE) in Kanpur has created the lightest bulletproof jacket in India to provide protection against the most severe threat level 6, as stated by an official report from the Defense

Research and Development Organization (DRDO). This bulletproof jacket is designed to safeguard against 7.62 x 54 R API ammunition, which corresponds to Level 6 of BIS 17051 standards.

28) Right Answer: A (Humanly Possible: Saving lives through immunization)

World Immunisation Week (WIW) is a global health initiative celebrated annually from April 24 to 30. To mark its 50th anniversary in 2024, the World Health Organization's Expanded Programme on Immunisation (EPI) has chosen the theme "Humanly Possible: Saving lives through immunization" for this year's World Immunisation Week.

29) Right Answer: D (New Delhi)

The 6th International Conference on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure took place in New Delhi, under the theme "Investing today for a more resilient tomorrow." Prime Minister Narendra Modi highlighted the importance of investing in infrastructure that can withstand disasters in a video message, emphasizing its role in creating a better future.

30) Right Answer: C (HAL)

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) was honored with the Outstanding Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) of the Year award at the Managing India Awards event organized by the All India Management Association (AIMA). The award was given by Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar in Delhi on April 23rd.

31) Right Answer: C (IIT Delhi)

A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed between the Armed Forces Medical Services (AFMS) and the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi for joint research and training. Lt Gen Daljit Singh from the AFMS and Prof. Rangan Banerjee from IIT Delhi signed the MoU.

32) Right Answer: B (Revolut India)

Revolut India announced that it has obtained preliminary approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to offer Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPI), such as prepaid cards and wallets, within the country. This approval allows the company to function as a local

participant in the market, as stated by the international fintech company.

33) Right Answer: D (International Society for Krishna Consciousness)

The National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) and the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) have joined forces to offer vocational training to marginalized communities, specifically tribal and underprivileged youth in various states. Inspired by the success of the Govardhan Eco Village (GEV) in Palghar, Maharashtra, the initial initiative seeks to establish comparable self-sustaining and environmentally-friendly centers in different areas.

34) Right Answer: D (NASA)

NASA, which had been stuck in a period of slow progress in its projects, has recently revealed the approval of the Dragonfly mission. This mission involves sending a flying rotorcraft to Titan, which is the solar system's second-largest moon, next in size only to Ganymede, a moon of Jupiter.

35) Right Answer: C (Garbiñe Muguruza)

At 30 years old, Spanish professional tennis player Garbiñe Muguruza, who has won two major championships, has decided to retire from the sport after taking a break from competitive play. Notably, she achieved victories against both Serena Williams in the 2016 French Open final and Venus Williams in the 2017 Wimbledon final, making her unique in having triumphed over both sisters in Grand Slam title matches.

36) Right Answer: B (23 April)

English Language Day is observed every year on 23 April as a designated day by the United Nations. This date aligns with the birth and death anniversary of William Shakespeare as well as World Book Day. English is widely spoken and is considered one of the most prevalent languages worldwide.

37) Right Answer: C (OneX)

CelerityX, the division of OneOTT Intertainment Ltd. (OIL) that focuses on enterprise networking solutions and is a subsidiary of Hinduja Global Solutions Limited,

has launched a new product called OneX. The first implementation of OneX aims to improve banking connections for more than 40,000 branches in Maharashtra, as CelerityX partners strategically with the Maharashtra State Cooperative Credit Societies Federation (MAFCOCS).

38) Right Answer: B (Haryana)

The development of four dams in the Kalesar Wildlife Sanctuary in Haryana has been halted by the Supreme Court after the Wildlife Institute of India expressed concerns that the construction would have negative effects on the wildlife and the environment.

39) Right Answer: C (Food Security Information Network)

The 2024 Global Report on Food Crisis, released by the Food Security Information Network (FSIN), disclosed that in 2023, about 282 million individuals in 59 countries experienced severe food insecurity, with extreme weather being identified as the second most influential factor contributing to this crisis.

40) Right Answer: A (IP and the SDGs: Building our common future with innovation and creativity)

Annually, on April 26, World Intellectual Property Day is observed globally to promote understanding of intellectual property (IP) rights and their role in fostering innovation and creativity for advancing society. The official theme for this year is "IP and the SDGs: Building Our Common Future with Innovation and Creativity".

41) Right Answer: B (Cambodia)

India's Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) has entered into an agreement with the Ministry of Civil Service of Cambodia to enhance human resource development within the civil service industry.

42) Right Answer: B (National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development)

The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has introduced its Climate Strategy 2030 document on Earth Day, with a focus on providing green financing to meet India's requirements.

NABARD highlighted the need for around \$170 billion per year to achieve a total of over \$2.5 trillion by 2030, indicating that the current level of green finance is insufficient for India's needs.

43) Right Answer: A (Au Small Finance Bank Limited)

AU Small Finance Bank introduced a variety of financial products on April 23 to improve customer satisfaction. The bank also unveiled ATM Insurance, which allows customers to conveniently purchase insurance using their debit card at AU SFB's ATMs.

44) Right Answer: C (IndusInd Bank)

IndusInd Bank has announced that it has used a digital version of the Reserve Bank of India's currency, known as e-rupee, to compensate farmers for carbon credits. The RBI introduced its digital currency in 2022, utilizing distributed-ledger technology, enabling banks to provide these virtual tokens.

45) Right Answer: B (Razorpay)

Razorpay, a digital payments platform, has introduced its UPI infrastructure, known as UPI switch, in collaboration with Airtel Payments Bank. This infrastructure is capable of managing 10,000 transactions per second and providing businesses with quicker access to UPI advancements, five times faster than before.

46) Right Answer: B (Vertelo)

Australia's Macquarie Group has introduced its electric vehicle financing and comprehensive solutions platform Vertelo in India, aiming to allocate \$1.5 billion towards transitioning fleets of buses and cars to electric power. The Green Climate Fund has provided initial investment in this initiative, pledging to contribute a maximum of \$200 million.

47) Right Answer: A (24 April)

Every year on April 24, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj in India commemorates National Panchayati Raj Day. This day is significant as it marks the enactment of the 73rd Amendment Act of 1992, which established the three-tiered administrative system known as the Panchayati Raj system in India.

48) Right Answer: D (Ratan Tata)

Mr. Ratan N Tata, Chairman of Tata Trusts, has received the esteemed Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS) Humanitarian Award 2021 for his consistent dedication to social progress and exceptional leadership.

49) Right Answer: B (Narsingh Yadav)

Narsingh Pancham Yadav, a past Commonwealth Games champion, was chosen as the chairman of the Athletes' Commission within the Wrestling Federation of India. Joining him as members of the commission are Sahil (Delhi), Smitha AS (Kerala), Bharti Bhaghei (UP), Khushboo S Pawar (Gujarat), Nikki (Haryana), and Sweta Dubey (Bengal).

50) Right Answer: A (USA)

US President Joe Biden has approved a military aid package for Ukraine after a lengthy period of discussions and deliberations. The aid legislation, which has been endorsed by the Senate and is valued at \$95 billion, allocates almost \$61 billion in financial support to Ukraine.

51) Right Answer: D (SJVN Limited)

SJVN Limited, a significant contributor in India's energy industry, launched the nation's inaugural versatile Green Hydrogen Pilot Project at the 1,500 MW Nathpa Jhakri Hydro Power Station (NJHPS) located in Himachal Pradesh. This initiative, unveiled by Geeta Kapur, SJVN's Chairperson and Managing Director, on April 24, 2024, aims to generate green hydrogen for use in electricity production and various industrial purposes.

52) Right Answer: D (Axis Bank)

The board of Axis Bank, a private lender, has granted approval for the extension of Amitabh Chaudhry's role as the Managing Director & CEO for an additional three years. However, Chaudhry's continuation in this position is contingent upon the Reserve Bank of India's endorsement, as stated by the bank.

53) Right Answer: B (Gita Sabharwal)

The UN Secretary-General António Guterres has named Gita Sabharwal from India as the United Nations resident coordinator in Indonesia. Before this appointment, Sabharwal held the position of UN resident coordinator in Thailand and worked as a

peacebuilding and development adviser for the United Nations in Sri Lanka.

54) Right Answer: C (Hardayal Prasad)

Srei Infrastructure Finance Limited (SIFL) has appointed Hardayal Prasad as its new Managing Director and CEO under the management of the state-owned National Asset Reconstruction Company Limited (NARCL). Prasad, who has 36 years of experience, previously held the positions of Managing Director & CEO at SBI Cards & Payment Services Ltd and PNB Housing Finance Ltd.

55) Right Answer: C (T. Rabi Sankar)

Sources have indicated that the government has granted a one-year extension to RBI Deputy Governor T Rabi Sankar. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has given its approval for the re-appointment of T Rabi Sankar as Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India for the period starting from May 3, 2024.

56) Right Answer: A (24 April)

The International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace is observed annually on April 24. This day recognizes the importance of using multilateral cooperation and diplomacy to resolve conflicts peacefully between countries.

57) Right Answer: D (Tamil Nadu)

In an effort to help the Nilgiri Tahr population recover from its endangered status, the Tamil Nadu government has carried out a coordinated survey of the State animal starting from April 29th. This three-day initiative aimed to determine the current population of Tahrs, which used to inhabit the Anamalai and Nilgiris regions extensively.

58) Right Answer: B (Hammer throw)

India secured a total of 29 medals at the Asian U20 Athletics Championships 2024 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, including seven golds, 11 silvers, and 11 bronzes. Their third-place finish was highlighted by Harshit Kumar's victory in the men's hammer throw event, where he claimed the sole gold for India with a throw of 66.7 meters on the third day of the competition.

59) Right Answer: A (Vizhinjam Port)

The shipping ministry has given approval for the Adani Group's Vizhinjam Port to function as India's inaugural transshipment port. The international transshipment project at Vizhinjam, Kerala was initiated by Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd (APSEZ) in December 2015.

60) Right Answer: D (India)

In a landmark victory, the Indian men's recurve team comprising Dhiraj Bommadevara, Tarundeep Rai, and Pravin Jadhav achieved a surprising win over the current Olympic champions South Korea at the Archery World Cup in Shanghai, marking their first gold medal in 14 years.

61) Right Answer: C (IIT Guwahati)

The Alliance of Digital India Foundation (ADIF) and IIT Guwahati Technology Incubation Centre (IIT Guwahati TIC) have announced the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the aim of fostering entrepreneurship and offering assistance to technology startups.

62) Right Answer: B (11.4%)

In spite of uncertainties in the global economy, India experienced a substantial growth in its services exports by 11.4% to \$345 billion in 2023. This surpasses China, whose exports from the sector decreased by 10.1% to \$381 billion, according to a report by UNCTAD. The growth in India's services exports is largely attributed to key sectors such as travel, transport, medical, and hospitality services.

63) Right Answer: B (National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development)

The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) announced a collaboration with Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH), a subsidiary of the Reserve Bank, to establish a system that will allow for quicker approval of agricultural loans.

64) Right Answer: D (SBI Card)

SBI Card recently introduced its inaugural travel-oriented primary credit card known as 'SBI Card MILES' in three different versions. The three versions, namely SBI Card MILES ELITE, SBI Card MILES PRIME, and SBI

Card MILES, have been tailored to enhance exclusive travel perks.

65) Right Answer: C (Hitachi Payment Services Private Limited)

Hitachi Payment Services introduced India's initial upgradable ATMs and in September 2023, they also unveiled UPI ATMs on the Android platform to enable cash withdrawals without cards. Their upcoming plan includes the release of Android cash recycling machines offering various banking services.

66) Right Answer: A (Napino Auto and Electronics Limited)

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the investment by the International Finance Corporation (IFC) in Napino Auto and Electronics Limited (Napino) through the subscription of Compulsory Convertible Debentures (CCDs), as stated in a communication from the commission.

67) Right Answer: A (China)

In April 2024, China's Shenzhou-18 mission, comprising three astronauts, safely arrived at the Tiangong space station. This endeavor forms a crucial component of China's ambitious space exploration strategy, striving to have astronauts land on the Moon by 2030. China's autonomous space station is a product of its non-involvement in the International Space Station, predominantly influenced by US apprehensions regarding potential military implications.

68) Right Answer: D (26 April)

Annually, on April 26, the world commemorates International Chernobyl Disaster Remembrance Day. This date marks the occurrence of the nuclear catastrophe at Chernobyl in 1986, which resulted in the exposure of around 8.4 million individuals to dangerous radioactive substances and led to substantial harm to animals, crops, and farmland.

69) Right Answer: D (Rajasthan)

According to officials, a preliminary notification has been released by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) to define the size and limits of the eco-sensitive zone surrounding Shergarh

Wildlife Sanctuary in Rajasthan. This zone is designed to act as a protective buffer around the main forest areas in order to decrease conflicts between humans and wildlife, support the preservation of wildlife in their natural habitats, and lessen the impact on delicate ecosystems.

70) Right Answer: B (Ministry of Finance)

The gem and jewellery sector has been granted the Authorised Economic Operator (AEO) status by the Ministry of Finance. The AEO status, initially launched as a pilot initiative for export-focused industries, aims to enhance the business environment. By streamlining export processes in different industries, the AEO programme has effectively reduced time and expenses for exporters.

71) Right Answer: B (INS Sahyadri)

During April 2024, INS Sahyadri of the Indian Navy engaged in a Maritime Partnership Exercise with the Royal Navy's RFA Argus and RFA Lyme Bay from the UK Littoral Response Group South at Sea. This drill allowed the two navies to share and learn from each other's best practices.

72) Right Answer: C (HDFC Life Insurance)

HDFC Life, a prominent insurance company in India, has formed a corporate agency alliance with Peerless Financial Products Distribution Ltd. (PFPDL). This collaboration allows PFPDL to offer HDFC Life's life insurance products to its clients.

73) Right Answer: B (Ericsson)

Ericsson and the Foundation for Innovation & Research in Science & Technology (F.I.R.S.T) at Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur have revealed a two-year collaboration aimed at boosting innovation in Mobile Financial Services (MFS) and Fintech solutions.

74) Right Answer: D (Yuvraj Singh)

Yuvraj Singh, known for hitting six sixes in 2007, has been appointed as the Ambassador for the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024, alongside Chris Gayle and Usain Bolt. Yuvraj's role will involve promoting the tournament in the United States, particularly the high-

profile India-Pakistan match set to take place in New York.

75) Right Answer: C (NABARD)

NABARD has approved a research project to evaluate the effects of Geographical Indication (GI) products on behalf of Symbiosis School of Economics. Currently, there are 144 products with GI tags that have received support from NABARD.

76) Right Answer: A (Vaishali Ramesh Babu)

Vaishali Ramesh Babu, an Indian Chess Prodigy, has been granted the prestigious title of Grandmaster by FIDE, the International Chess Federation. FIDE has highlighted India's growing prominence in the world of chess, with Vaishali becoming the third Indian female Grandmaster alongside Koneru Humpy and Harika Dronavalli.

77) Right Answer: C (IIT Patna)

The Indian Institute of Technology-Patna (IIT-P) has achieved a significant milestone by obtaining a patent for its innovatively designed inverter that is lightweight, portable, and user-friendly. This inverter has shown enhanced battery life and robustness when compared to similar products available in the market.

78) Right Answer: C (Pratima Singh)

Pratima Singh, an Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer from the 2009 group, has been appointed as Director at the Department of Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT). She was selected through the Central Staffing Scheme and her term will be for five years starting from her assumption of office or until any new instructions are given, whichever happens earlier.

79) Right Answer: A (DRDO)

The successful test of a long-range Supersonic Missile Assisted Torpedo (SMART) by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) was conducted at the APJ Abdul Kalam Island, situated off the coast of Odisha.

80) Right Answer: D (Krishna M Ella)

The Indian Vaccine Manufacturers Association (IVMA) has appointed Dr. Krishna M Ella as the new President for a two-year term starting from April 2024 until 2026.

Dr. Ella succeeds Adar C Poonawala, who served as President from 2019 to March 2024.

81) Right Answer: D (Authorised Economic Operator)

The gem and jewellery sector has been granted the Authorised Economic Operator (AEO) status by the Ministry of Finance. This status was implemented through the AEO programme, initially launched as a trial initiative for industries focusing on exports with the aim of facilitating business operations.

82) Right Answer: A (TalkCharge Technologies Private Limited)

The RBI has instructed TalkCharge, a company based in Gurugram, to return the prepaid funds stored in its customers' wallets. This order was issued as TalkCharge has been offering Prepaid Payment Instruments (Wallets) without the necessary approval from the central bank.

83) Right Answer: B (SACE)

REC Ltd announced that it has obtained a green loan amounting to JPY 60.536 billion (equivalent to about Rs 3,200 crore) to fund approved clean energy initiatives. This loan is supported by an 80% guarantee from the Italian export credit agency, SACE. Earlier this year, the company launched its initial 61.1 billion yen green bonds as part of its \$10-billion global medium-term notes plan.

84) Right Answer: B (Cred)

Cred, a financial technology company, has introduced a new payment service called 'Scan and Pay' that operates on UPI, allowing users to make payments using any QR code directly from their bank accounts. This move signifies Cred's entry into the in-person payment sector, which is currently led by PhonePe, Google Pay, and Paytm.

85) Right Answer: C (State Bank of India)

HCL Software, a division of HCL Technologies focusing on software products, has revealed that it has been chosen by State Bank of India (SBI), the largest bank in the country, to provide their MarTech solution for SBI's digital transformation initiative.

86) Right Answer: A (A Ganesh Kumar)

A Ganesh Kumar and Debasis Kundu have been selected by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) to serve as members of the National Statistical Commission. The commission's primary responsibility is to enhance the country's statistical system and establish plans for surveys that will furnish administrative statistics.

87) Right Answer: B (29 April)

International Dance Day, also known as World Dance Day, is observed annually on 29th April to honor the art of dance and encourage its appreciation as a universal form of expression. The celebration also seeks to advocate for the recognition of dance in its diverse manifestations around the world.

88) Right Answer: A (Solomon Islands)

Solomon Islands officials have chosen Jeremiah Manele as their latest prime minister, replacing the former foreign minister. Manele has promised to uphold the nation's existing stance of fostering relations with China. The outgoing prime minister, Manasseh Sogavare, opted out of the race and threw his support behind Manele as he did not achieve a majority in the recent election.

89) Right Answer: B (Namibia)

NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL), which is the global division of the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), has signed a deal with the Bank of Namibia (BoN) to create a rapid payment system similar to the Unified Payment Interface (UPI) for Namibia.

90) Right Answer: C (03 May)

World Press Freedom Day 2024 is observed globally on May 3rd. The theme for World Press Freedom Day 2024 is 'A Press for the Planet: Journalism in the Face of the environmental crisis.' According to the 2024 World Press Freedom Index released by Reporters Without Borders (RSF) on a yearly basis, India holds the 159th position, Pakistan is placed at 152, and Sri Lanka at 150.

91) Right Answer: B (India)

India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ruchira Kamboj, stated in a press release that

the First International Conference on Digital Public Infrastructure, organized by the United Nations and led by India, aimed to utilize technology to support Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and promote inclusivity.

92) Right Answer: D (8%)

The RBI has declared an 8 percent interest rate for the Floating Rate Savings Bond (FRSB) 2034. This bond has a fluctuating interest rate that will be adjusted every six months. The 8% rate is determined by averaging the interest rates of the last three auctions of short-term government debt, along with a marginal fixed percentage of 0.98%.

93) Right Answer: D (BriskPe)

According to a statement from the company, PayU, a prominent digital payments provider, has put \$5 million into BriskPe, a cross border payments platform located in Mumbai. This investment is in line with PayU's strategy to establish a comprehensive payments platform encompassing both local and global transactions.

94) Right Answer: C (7%)

According to the economic think tank NCAER, the Indian economy is projected to expand by over 7 percent in the current fiscal year due to favorable global conditions and a predicted above-average monsoon season. The latest issue of the Monthly Economic Review (MER) for April 2024 by NCAER highlighted that various indicators suggest the strength of the local economy, such as the Manufacturing PMI reaching a 16-year peak and the UPI system registering its highest transaction volume since its establishment in 2016.

95) Right Answer: A (THDCIL – UJVNL Energy Company Limited)

The THDCIL - UJVNL Energy Company Limited (TUECO), which is a collaboration between THDC and UJVNL Ltd, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Nagar Nigam Haridwar to set up a Waste to Green Energy Plant valued at Rs 140 crores. The main goal of this project is to transform 400 tonnes of municipal solid waste daily into 140 tonnes of environmentally friendly charcoal.

96) Right Answer: A (Alok Shukla)

Alok Shukla, a prominent environmental advocate and creator of the Chhattisgarh Bachao Andolan, has been selected as the recipient of the prestigious 2024 Goldman Environmental Prize. Referred to as the "Green Nobel Prize," this annual accolade honors local environmental activists globally for their exceptional efforts in conserving the environment.

97) Right Answer: B (Gina Justus)

Gina Justus, an educator at Our Own English High School, Sharjah Girls' Branch, was selected as the regional champion for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region in the 2024 Cambridge Dedicated Teacher Awards. Hailing from Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, Justus has been employed in the UAE since 2005 and was commended for her exceptional guidance and commitment to philanthropy.

98) Right Answer: C (Mohammad Rihan)

Prof. Mohammad Rihan from Aligarh Muslim University's electrical engineering department has been named as the director general of the National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE), which operates as an autonomous organization under the ministry of new and renewable energy (MNRE).

99) Right Answer: C (19 April)

UR Rao Satellite Centre (URSC), located in Bengaluru, observed Satellite Technology Day (STD) - 2024 to honor the launch of India's inaugural satellite, Aryabhata, on April 19, 1975. Marking the commencement of the 50th year since Aryabhata's successful launch, STD-2024 stands as a notable milestone in the history of space technology, guided by the proficient leadership of Prof UR Rao.

100) Right Answer: A (IREDA)

The Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA), a public sector organization, announced that it has been awarded 'navratna' status by the government. This development brings the total number of navratna public sector firms to 17, as reported in a filing made by the company to the stock exchanges.

101) Right Answer: B (Fi)

Fi, a neobanking startup with support from Peak XV and Temasek, successfully obtained a non-banking finance company (NBFC) license from the Reserve Bank of India. The RBI's strict rules on online credit distribution have led many fintech startups to pursue NBFC licenses in order to simplify their foray into lending.

102) Right Answer: B (Online Payments Aggregator)

Groww Pay, the UPI payments platform of brokerage firm Groww, has been granted preliminary approval by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to function as a Payments Aggregator (PA). The most recent data from the RBI shows that the license as an online payment aggregator was approved on April 29.

103) Right Answer: C (NHPC Limited)

NHPC Limited, the leading entity for hydropower development in India, has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with M/s Ocean Sun, a Norwegian firm specializing in technology provision for the floating solar sector.

104) Right Answer: C (Bhavi Mehta)

Bhavi Mehta, a designer, won the ninth Oxford Bookstore Book Cover Prize for her creation of the book cover for "The Book Beautiful" by Pradeep Sebastian. She received the award from Alka Pande, an art historian and the head of the jury, along with Shashi Tharoor, May-Elin Stener, the Norwegian Ambassador to India, and Swagat Sengupta, the CEO of Apeejay Oxford Bookstores.

105) Right Answer: C (Jeremiah Manele)

Jeremiah Manele, a former foreign minister known for his pro-China stance, was elected as the prime minister of the Solomon Islands by lawmakers. Manele secured 31 votes out of the total 50 Members of Parliament in a secret ballot, according to Governor-General David Vunagi. His rival, Matthew Wale, a proponent for democratic reform and a veteran opposition leader, received 18 votes in the election.

106) Right Answer: C (Duvvuri Subbarao)

In his recently released memoir "Just a Mercenary?: Notes from My Life and Career," Duvvuri Subbarao, the ex-Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), shares a

fascinating account of his impressive professional journey - spanning various positions such as sub-collector, finance secretary, and eventually, the head of the central bank.

107) Right Answer: D (01 May)

International Workers Day, or Labour Day, is observed annually on May 1 to acknowledge and appreciate the valuable efforts made by workers and to commemorate the impactful labor movement that sought to advance the rights and prospects of workers.

108) Right Answer: C (23)

The Election Commission of India has extended invitations to 75 international guests from election management bodies (EMBs) of 23 nations to observe the world's biggest elections. According to the commission, this initiative marks the first of its kind in terms of the vast scale and level of involvement.

109) Right Answer: B (Bangladesh)

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has unveiled the schedule for the 2024 Women's T20 World Cup, which will be held in Bangladesh from October 3 to 20. One of the key matches to look forward to is between India and Pakistan on October 6, during the ninth edition of the tournament.

110) Right Answer: B (Kareena Kapoor Khan)

UNICEF India has named Bollywood actress Kareena Kapoor Khan as its new National Ambassador. Having been connected with UNICEF India since 2014, the film star will assist the non-profit organization in advancing the rights of children, focusing on early childhood development, health, education, and gender equality, according to a statement released to the press.

111) Right Answer: D (Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation)

The Ministry of Mines and Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation have signed an MoU to offer knowledge support for critical minerals, essential for India's economic growth, national security, and shift towards low-carbon energy.

112) Right Answer: B (Army Dental Centre Research and Referral)

The Army Dental Centre of Research & Referral (ADC R&R) in Delhi, a specialized dental care institution established on May 1, 1999, marked its 25th anniversary (Silver Jubilee) on May 1, 2024. Lieutenant General MK Katiyar, General Officer Commanding in Chief (GoC-in-C) of the Western Command, revealed the Special Postal Cover of the Army Postal Service during the event.

113) Right Answer: C (Nepal)

Girish Chandra Murmu, the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG), has entered into an agreement with Toyam Raya, Auditor General of Nepal, by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). The main goal of this agreement is to improve cooperation and share knowledge in auditing between the Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs) of both countries.

114) Right Answer: D (Asian Development Bank)

According to a report by the ADB titled 'Aging Well In Asia', South Korea and Thailand have successfully implemented universal health coverage, but other countries have not performed as well. For instance, India has the lowest health insurance coverage for older individuals at 21%.

115) Right Answer: B (OECD)

The OECD has increased its growth projection for India to 6.6 percent for the year 2024-25, citing strong public investment and enhanced business confidence as factors that will drive the country's GDP growth.

116) Right Answer: B (Purnima Devi Barman)

Dr. Purnima Devi Barman, a wildlife biologist from Assam, was honored with the Whitley Gold Award for GBP 100,000 by the Whitley Fund for Nature (WFN) during an awards ceremony at the Royal Geographical Society in London. The WFN aims to empower conservation leaders at the grassroots level globally.

117) Right Answer: D (Sanjaya Kumar Mishra)

The Appointment committee of Cabinet has given the green light to appoint Sanjaya Kumar Mishra, who previously served as Chief Justice of Jharkhand High Court, as the President of GST Appellate Tribunal (GSTAT) for a duration of 4 years. His selection was

based on the suggestions of a Search-Cum-Selection Committee. This decision aims to expedite the establishment of a fully operational GSTAT as soon as possible.

118) Right Answer: B (Chang'e-6)

China has launched a unique spacecraft on an important mission to the side of the moon that is not visible from Earth. This mission is significant as no other nation has attempted such a feat in the past. The spacecraft, known as Chang'e-6, was transported by China's largest rocket, the Long March-5.

119) Right Answer: C (India)

The announcement made by the Badminton World Federation (BWF) stated that India has been chosen as the host for the BWF World Junior Championships 2025, which will take place at the National Centre of Excellence in Guwahati. This upcoming event in 2025 will see the tournament returning to India after a gap of 17 years, with the last time being in Pune in 2008.

120) Right Answer: D (02 May)

World Tuna Day was established by the UN General Assembly in December 2016 to be commemorated annually. The first celebration of World Tuna Day took place in May 2017, and since then, it has been observed on May 2 every year.

121) Right Answer: C (Flying Wedge Defence and Aerospace Technologies)

An Indian defense and aerospace company, Flying Wedge Defence and Aerospace Technologies, has achieved a significant milestone in Bengaluru with the introduction of the FWD-200B. This aircraft is being hailed as India's inaugural domestic bomber unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV). The FWD-200B is a medium-altitude, long-endurance (MALE) unmanned combat aerial vehicle that has been fully developed and produced within India.

122) Right Answer: A (Fship Logistics)

Fship, an innovative logistics platform utilizing technology, has joined forces with India Post, a crucial element of the nation's communication system. This cooperation is designed to improve the final stage of

delivery services for e-commerce goods, ultimately supporting Direct-to-Consumer (D2C) startups, small and medium businesses (SMBs), and MSMEs throughout India.

123) Right Answer: B (Atanu Chakraborty)

Atanu Chakraborty has been granted permission by the Reserve Bank of India to continue serving as part-time Chairman of HDFC Bank for another three years starting from May 5. He has a 35-year background in the Indian Administrative Service (IAS) within the Gujarat cadre while working for the Government of India.

124) Right Answer: D (Ujjivan Small Finance Bank)

Sanjeev Nautiyal has been appointed as the managing director and chief executive officer of Ujjivan Small Finance Bank by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for a three-year term starting on July 1. Nautiyal will succeed the current managing director and chief executive officer of the bank, Ittira Davis.

125) Right Answer: D (Mallika Nadda)

Mallika Nadda, who currently serves as President of Special Olympics Bharat, has been selected to lead the Special Olympics Asia Pacific Advisory Council (APAC) for a three-year term. She has been the Chairperson of Special Olympics Bharat since 2021 and is also the wife of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) National President JP Nadda.

126) Right Answer: A (Dr. Subhransu Sekhar Acharya)

Dr. Subhransu Sekhar Acharya, who previously served as the Chief General Manager of Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI), has assumed the role of Chairman-cum-Managing Director (CMD) at The National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC) within the MSME Ministry, as announced by NSIC.

127) Right Answer: C (Krishna Swaminathan)

On May 1, Vice-Admiral Krishna Swaminathan assumed the role of Vice-Chief of the Indian Navy, while in the Indian Air Force (IAF), Air Marshal Nagesh Kapoor took over as the Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief (AOC-in-C) of the Training Command in Bengaluru.

128) Right Answer: C (04 May)

Firefighters are seen as the protectors of the community, committing themselves to safeguarding both people and property. International Firefighters' Day, celebrated on May 4 each year, serves as a tribute to their bravery, hard work, and selfless acts. The idea for this day originated in 1999 following the tragic deaths of five firefighters during a wildfire in Victoria, Australia.

129) Right Answer: C (03 May)

International Leopard Day is observed annually on May 3rd. Despite being charismatic and majestic animals, leopards are endangered due to various factors such as habitat destruction, illegal hunting, and human-wildlife conflicts. The presence of leopards is often a sign of a thriving ecosystem with abundant biodiversity.

130) Right Answer: A (HyImpulse)

HyImpulse, a German firm, has achieved the inaugural launch of a candle wax-fueled rocket named "SR75," which completed a suborbital test flight carrying commercial satellites for the first time. This 12-meter, 2.5-ton rocket took off from a launch pad in Koonibba, South Australia.

131) Right Answer: B (Mindgrove)

Mindgrove Technologies, a fabless semiconductor startup supported by Peak XV Partners, announced the release of what they believe to be India's inaugural commercial high-performance SoC (system on chip) named Secure IoT. This specialized chip is tailored for Internet of Things (IoT) gadgets and is expected to be priced approximately 30% lower than similar chips available in the market.

132) Right Answer: D (REC Limited)

REC Limited, a prominent NBFC and a Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprise under the Ministry of Power, has obtained approval from the Reserve Bank of India to establish a fully owned subsidiary at Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT) in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, which is an International Financial Services Centre (IFSC).

133) Right Answer: B (José Raúl Mulino)

José Raúl Mulino, a former public security minister, has been chosen as the next president of Panama by the people. Among eight candidates, Mr. Mulino emerged as the frontrunner, promising to revive the economic prosperity Panama enjoyed during the presidency of Ricardo Martinelli, who served from 2009 to 2014.

134) Right Answer: D (Rakesh Singh)

One97 Communications Limited, the company behind Paytm, has appointed Rakesh Singh as the new CEO of Paytm Money, with Varun Sridhar, the current CEO, taking on the role of Chief Executive Officer of Paytm Services Private Limited (PSPL).

135) Right Answer: A (Airbus Defence and Space)

The Indian Air Force (IAF) has received its second C-295 aircraft from Airbus in Spain. Tata Advanced Systems Limited and Airbus are collaborating on the program, with Airbus providing 16 planes in ready-to-fly condition and the remaining aircraft being assembled at a Tata facility in the city of Vadodara, Gujarat, India.

136) Right Answer: A (China)

In the 2024 BWF Thomas & Uber Cup Finals held in Chengdu, China reclaimed their position as the leading badminton nation by clinching the men's and women's titles. Defeating Indonesia in the finals, the hosts secured victory in both categories for the first time since 2012 at the world team championships.

137) Right Answer: C (05 May)

World Laughter Day is an annual event observed on the first Sunday of May. In 2019, it was celebrated on May 5th. The occasion holds great importance as its purpose is to promote understanding of the various advantages of laughter. Dr. Madan Kataria established World Laughter Day in the year 1998.

138) Right Answer: C (05 May)

The International Day of the Midwife is recognized every year on May 5. Established in 1992 by the International Confederation of Midwives (ICM), this day aims to honor and raise awareness of the crucial responsibilities midwives have in supporting women throughout pregnancy, delivery, and the postpartum period.

139) Right Answer: B (Fursatganj Railway Station)

The Centre has given its approval for changing the names of 8 railway stations in Amethi, Uttar Pradesh. A no objection certificate (NOC) has been granted for the renaming of various stations: Fursatganj Railway Station will now be known as Tapeshwarnath Dham, Kasimpur Halt as Jais City, Jais City as Guru Gorakhnath Dham, Bani as Swami Paramhans, Misrauli as Maa Kalikan Dham, Nihalgarh as Maharaja Bijli Pasi, and Akbarganj as Maa Kalikan Dham, as per the home ministry.

140) Right Answer: B (Sujai Raina)

Visa, a digital payments platform, has announced the naming of Sujai Raina as the new India country manager. In this role, Raina will oversee Visa's operations in India, spearheading the implementation of strategic plans for the market and collaborating with clients and the payments industry.

141) Right Answer: D (Bajrang Punia)

The international organization that oversees wrestling, United World Wrestling (UWW), has imposed a suspension on Bajrang Punia until the end of the year. This decision was made after the National Anti Doping Agency (NADA) gave him a provisional suspension for declining to take a doping test.

142) Right Answer: D (Unified Payment Interface)

India and Ghana have committed to promptly collaborate on implementing India's fast payment system Unified Payment Interface (UPI) on Ghana Interbank Payment and Settlement Systems (GHIPSS) within a six-month timeframe, as stated by the government.

143) Right Answer: B (7.1%)

India Ratings and Research has increased its GDP growth projection for FY25 from 6.5 per cent to 7.1 per cent. The domestic rating agency attributed this revision to robust government investments, improved financial positions of businesses and banks, and the beginning of a new cycle of private sector investments.

144) Right Answer: B (Mahendragiri, Tamil Nadu)

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has recently completed the inaugural ignition test for a

semi-cryogenic pre-burner at its ISRO Propulsion Complex (IPRC) in Mahendragiri, Tamil Nadu. This marks the first adoption of this technology in ISRO's advancements in semi-cryogenic engine technology.

145) Right Answer: C (MQ-9B)

The Indian Army and Air Force intend to collaborate in operating MQ-9B Predator drones from air bases located in Sarsawa and Gorakhpur in Uttar Pradesh. This initiative aims to enhance their surveillance abilities across the Line of Actual Control with China, spanning from Ladakh to Arunachal Pradesh.

146) Right Answer: B (05 May)

The global community comes together on May 5th to honor the Portuguese language, a valuable linguistic tool that bridges continents and unites diverse cultures. This particular date was selected to mark a significant gathering of cultural ministers from Portuguese-speaking nations in 2005.

147) Right Answer: B (05 May)

African World Heritage Day is an annual event held on May 5 globally to highlight the importance of preserving Africa's rich cultural and natural heritage. The United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) collaborates with the African World Heritage Fund (AWHF) and its associates to commemorate this day.

148) Right Answer: A (06 May)

International No Diet Day, observed on May 6 globally, aims to encourage body acceptance and celebrate the diversity of body shapes and sizes. The day raises awareness about weight discrimination, fatphobia, and the negative impacts of unhealthy dieting practices.

149) Right Answer: C (08 May)

World Thalassaemia Day is celebrated on May 8th with the aim of raising awareness about Thalassaemia as a hereditary blood disorder, debunking misconceptions surrounding the illness, and supporting patients in maintaining a regular lifestyle. Thalassaemia is a genetic blood disorder that is transmitted from parents to offspring.

150) Right Answer: C (Kochi)

The 46th Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM) and the 26th Meeting of the Committee for Environment Protection (CEP) are scheduled to take place in Kochi from May 20-30. During these meetings, nations involved in southern polar research will exchange the results of their scientific endeavors and discuss their upcoming projects.

151) Right Answer: B (Ensure workplace safety and health amidst climate change)

Annually, on May 1, International Labour Day is observed to highlight the important role workers and the working class play in society. The theme for this year's International Labour Day is focused on "Promoting workplace safety and health in the face of climate change."

152) Right Answer: B (New Delhi)

The 11th session of Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) between India and Croatia took place on 30 April 2024 in New Delhi. Leading the Indian team was Shri Pavan Kapoor, Secretary (West) at the Ministry of External Affairs, while Dr. Petar Mihatov, Director General for Political Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of Croatia, headed the Croatian delegation.

153) Right Answer: B (Japan)

The Japanese men's U-23 football team achieved a historic feat when they secured their second AFC U-23 Asian Cup title by defeating Uzbekistan in an exciting final held at the Jassim bin Hamad Stadium in Doha, Qatar. The tournament, which was the sixth edition of the AFC U-23 Asian Cup, occurred in Qatar from April 15 to May 3, 2024, featuring 16 teams from across Asia vying for the prestigious championship.

154) Right Answer: B (Pune)

Constitution Park, a collaboration between the Indian Army and Punit Balan Group, was opened in Pune on 06 May. The inauguration was conducted by Lt Gen Ajai Kumar Singh, the General Officer-Commanding-in-Chief (GOC-in-C) of the Southern Command. During his address at the event, Singh emphasized the importance of upholding the responsibilities specified in the Constitution to drive India's progress by 2047.

155) Right Answer: B (Groww Mutual Fund)

The first Nifty Non-Cyclical Consumer Index Fund in India was recently introduced by Groww Mutual Fund. It is an open-ended scheme that mirrors the Non-Cyclical Consumer Index–TRI. The scheme's new fund offer (NFO) is currently open for subscriptions and will end on May 16.

156) Right Answer: C (Bhavishya portal)

The Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare of the government has launched a portal in partnership with Bank of India. The integration of the portal, also known as Bhavishya Portal, with the services of State Bank of India, Bank of Baroda, Punjab National Bank, and Canara Bank has been successfully finalized.

157) Right Answer: C (New York)

The event "Localizing the SDGs: Women in Local Governance in India Lead the Way" was co-hosted by the Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations and the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, in partnership with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), on 3rd May, 2024 at the UN Headquarters Secretariat Building in New York.

158) Right Answer: C (Nigeria)

India and Nigeria have pinpointed specific sectors like crude oil, natural gas, pharmaceuticals, Unified Payments Interface (UPI), local currency settlement system, and the power industry to enhance collaboration and strengthen economic relations. The commerce ministry announced on May 3 that these matters, along with others, were deliberated upon during a recent trip by a delegation of seven members from India to Nigeria.

159) Right Answer: D (New Delhi)

Defense Secretary Shri Giridhar Aramane and Secretary General of the Ministry of Defense in Indonesia, Air Marshal Donny Ermawan Taufanto, M.D.S., jointly led the 7th India-Indonesia Joint Defense Cooperation Committee (JDCC) meeting in New Delhi on May 3, 2024.

160) Right Answer: D (New Delhi)

The 26th ASEAN-India Senior Officials' Meeting took place in New Delhi on 03 May with Secretary (East) Jaideep Mazumdar and Singapore's Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Albert Chua, serving as co-chairs. Singapore fulfills the role of Country Coordinator for India in the ASEAN-India Dialogue Relations.

161) Right Answer: A (07 May)

The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) marked its 65th Raising Day on May 07, 2024. Established with only two projects in 1960 - Project Tusker (now known as Vartak) in the East and Project Beacon in the North, the BRO has evolved into a dynamic entity with 18 projects functioning across 11 States and three Union Territories.

162) Right Answer: A (Critically endangered)

Researchers were surprised when a wild orangutan used a medicinal plant to heal a wound on his cheek. Orangutans, which are native to Indonesia and Malaysia, are considered critically endangered according to the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

163) Right Answer: A (China)

Pakistan, working together with China, initiated its initial lunar expedition named iCube-Qamar from Hainan in China, which officials stated will revolve around the moon in alignment with Beijing's Chang'e-6 space trip. The satellite was sent into space using a Chinese Long March 5 Y8 rocket.

164) Right Answer: A (Ukraine)

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Ukraine has unveiled an AI-generated avatar to serve as its digital representative, making history in the field of diplomacy. The introduction of 'Victoria Shi' on social media included a brief video of her self-introduction.

165) Right Answer: A (Virus)

Kerala is once more under increased vigilance due to the emergence of cases of West Nile virus, a novel disease transmitted by mosquitoes. Symptoms of West Nile fever include elevated body temperature, headache, stiff neck, confusion, drowsiness,

unconsciousness, shaking, seizures, muscle weakness, and loss of muscle function.

166) Right Answer: C (08 May)

World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day is observed on May 8 in honor of the birthday of Henry Dunant, the founder of the Red Cross and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), who was born on May 8, 1828 in Geneva and was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

167) Right Answer: A (Catfish)

A new type of catfish called Glyptothorax punyabratai was discovered in the Brahmaputra River drainage in Arunachal Pradesh. This discovery was made by the ICAR-National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources in Lucknow and documented in the journal Ichthyological Exploration of Freshwater.

168) Right Answer: C (Ladakh)

The 5th Joint Group of Customs (JGC) meeting took place on 6th-7th May, 2024 in Leh, Ladakh, with Mr. Surjit Bhujabal and Mr. Sonam Jamtsho co-chairing the event. Mr. Bhujabal represents the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs, Government of India, while Mr. Jamtsho is from the Department of Revenue and Customs, Ministry of Finance, Royal Government of Bhutan.

169) Right Answer: D (Uttarakhand)

Due to the forest fires in various parts of the state, the Chief Minister of Uttarakhand, Pushkar Singh Dhami, initiated the Pirul Lao-Paise Pao Mission. As part of this initiative to combat forest fires, Pine Tree leaves, known as Pirul, will be gathered by local villagers and young residents, weighed, and stored at a specific collection center.

170) Right Answer: C (European Union)

Countries in the European Union have supported the bloc's initial legislation focused on addressing violence against women. This comprehensive law is designed to safeguard women in the EU's 27 member states from gender-related violence, forced marriages, female genital mutilation, and online abuse.

171) Right Answer: B (Infosys)

Infosys has disclosed its accreditation of ISO 42001:2023, which is considered the initial worldwide standard on managing AI systems. This certification was awarded by TUV India, a division of TÜV Nord Group. Infosys stands out as one of the pioneering IT service providers worldwide to receive this certification for establishing an Artificial Intelligence Management System (AIMS) framework.

172) Right Answer: C (New York City, USA)

New York is at the forefront with 349,500 millionaires and over \$3 trillion in wealth. Following closely are the Bay Area tech hub, Tokyo, Singapore, London, Los Angeles, Paris, Sydney, Hong Kong, and Beijing, rounding up the top 10. These urban centers provide a wide range of opportunities and conveniences that draw wealthy individuals and companies.

173) Right Answer: D (\$ 111 billion)

In 2022, India received more than \$111 billion in remittances, the highest amount globally, marking the first time a country has exceeded the \$100 billion milestone, according to the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

174) Right Answer: D (Sesame)

Setu, a prominent Indian fintech company under the Pine Labs Group, recently introduced Sesame, which is India's inaugural Large Language Model (LLM) tailored for the banking, financial services, and insurance (BFSI) industry. Created in partnership with the local AI research company Sarvam AI, this initiative is labeled as a significant advancement in financial services, akin to the ChatGPT breakthrough.

175) Right Answer: D (Pulitzer Prize)

ProPublica, a non-profit news organization, was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for its investigative work on politically influential billionaires giving extravagant gifts to US Supreme Court Justices Clarence Thomas and Samuel Alito. Their series of articles, titled "Friends of the Court," sparked discussion across the country and led to the implementation of the high court's inaugural ethics code.

176) Right Answer: D (John Swinney)

Scotland's Parliament has given the nod to experienced politician John Swinney from the Scottish National Party (SNP) to become the new first minister of the country. The 60-year-old Swinney takes over from Humza Yousaf, who recently stepped down from the position. Swinney secured the support of 64 members of the Scottish Parliament (MSPs) in a vote that was widely expected.

177) Right Answer: C (Moldova)

India and Moldova have agreed in New Delhi to waive visa requirements for diplomatic and official passport holders. This pact enables individuals with diplomatic and official passports from both nations to visit each other without requiring a visa.

178) Right Answer: C (07 May)

World Asthma Day is celebrated annually on the first Tuesday of May. This year, it fell on May 7. The Global Initiative for Asthma (GINA) was founded in 1993, and the inaugural World Asthma Day took place in 1998.

179) Right Answer: D (Western Ghats)

Researchers recently found a rare and endangered tree species, *Uniyala multibracteata* (also called *Kattupoovamkurunnila*), in the Wagamon hills of the Western Ghats, after it had not been seen for 140 years.

180) Right Answer: C (New York)

India took part in the 19th Session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) at the UN Headquarters in New York from May 6th to May 10th, 2024. Throughout the session, India emphasized the notable progress made in forest preservation and sustainable forest administration within the country.

181) Right Answer: C (Jindal Steel & Power Limited)

The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) and Jindal Steel and Power (JSP) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in New Delhi with the goal of increasing the availability of locally-made marine-quality steel for shipbuilding ventures. The agreement highlights the shared dedication of both parties to promoting local production and improving the use of marine-grade steel in national shipbuilding activities.

182) Right Answer: B (Solar)

According to a report by global energy think tank Ember, India rose from ninth place in 2015 to become the third-largest solar power generator in the world in 2023, surpassing Japan. Solar energy reached a significant mark in 2023 by accounting for 5.5 percent of global production, with India alone generating 5.8 percent of its electricity from solar power.

183) Right Answer: A (Climeworks)

A new direct air capture facility named "Mammoth" has recently commenced operations in Iceland, becoming the world's largest plant designed to extract carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. This facility, the second of its kind by Climeworks in Iceland, surpasses the previous Orca facility in size and marks a significant advancement in carbon removal technology.

184) Right Answer: C (BHIM Aadhaar Pay)

The NPCI has issued guidelines in a circular that require acquiring banks to verify merchant details for BHIM Aadhaar Pay. This service allows merchants to accept digital payments from customers using Aadhaar Authentication, as stated on the NPCI website.

185) Right Answer: C (Google Wallet)

Google Wallet has now been made accessible in India. The digital wallet app Google Wallet was introduced by Google in the United States in 2022. According to the Google Wallet website, the app is described as a secure and private digital wallet that enables users to conveniently access movie and travel passes, tickets, keys, or IDs that are shared within the application.

186) Right Answer: C (Tamil Nadu)

Researchers at Cochin University of Science and Technology (Cusat) have named a recently found marine tardigrade species from the southeast coast of Tamil Nadu as Batillipes chandrayaani in honor of the Chandrayaan-3 moon mission. The discovery is credited to the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) for achieving the first moon landing near the south pole.

187) Right Answer: A (Peucetia chhapparajirvin)

Arachnologist Atul Bodkhe from Daryapur has recently identified a new species of spider known as the green lynx spider. This discovery marks the first time this

spider has been formally documented. The species has been named Peucetia chhapparajirvin in honor of the location in Rajasthan where it was found, Tal Chhappar, by Nirmala Kumari and Vinod Kumari.

188) Right Answer: A (Shikasta Buton Ke Darmiyan)

Shaikh Abdussalam Abdurrazzaq, a renowned Urdu writer who was honored with the Sahitya Akademi Award in 2004, passed away at the age of 83. Known by the pseudonym Salam Bin Razzaq, he was born in 1941 in Panvel, Raigad District, Maharashtra. His work 'Shikasta Buton Ke Darmiyan' earned him the prestigious Sahitya Akademi Award in 2004 for his collection of Urdu short stories.

189) Right Answer: C (New Zealand)

Colin Munro, a powerful batsman from New Zealand, has decided to end his career in international cricket following his exclusion from the national squad for the upcoming T20 World Cup. Despite playing in one Test match, 57 ODIs, and 65 T20Is for New Zealand, where he scored a total of 3,010 runs, Munro truly made his mark in the T20 format.

190) Right Answer: C (Maldives)

Prior to the May 10 deadline established by President Mohamed Muizzu for the full removal of Indian military personnel from the Maldives, India has brought back all its soldiers from the country. The return of approximately 90 Indian military members stationed in the Maldives was a significant promise made by Mr. Muizzu during his presidential election campaign in the previous year.

191) Right Answer: A (Bank of Baroda)

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to remove limitations on Bank of Baroda's BoB World app with immediate effect, enabling the bank to start accepting customers, as stated in the official filing. In October 2023, RBI had instructed Bank of Baroda to stop registering new customers on its 'BoB World' mobile app due to specific supervisory issues.

192) Right Answer: D (Iran)

India has signed a 10-year deal to oversee Iran's Chabahar port, which is strategically positioned to boost

trade with Central Asia. Originally suggested for development by India in 2003, the port on the Gulf of Oman will act as a vital link for Indian products to reach Afghanistan and Central Asia.

193) Right Answer: A (Mikhail Mishustin)

The Russian President, Vladimir Putin, has chosen to keep Mikhail Mishustin as the prime minister, attributing his success in maintaining stability in the Russian economy during the Covid-19 pandemic and the aftermath of the conflict with Ukraine, which resulted in sanctions from Europe and the United States.

194) Right Answer: C (Rizwan Koita)

Rizwan Koita, who serves as Director of the Koita Foundation and helped found CitiusTech, has been designated as the chairperson of the National Accreditation Board for Hospitals and Healthcare Providers (NABH). NABH, which functions as part of the Quality Council of India (QCI), is tasked with establishing standards for quality, accrediting, and certifying hospitals and various healthcare facilities.

195) Right Answer: B (Kadet Defence Systems)

The first native Loitering Aerial Munitions for the Indian Armed Forces were created through a collaboration between Kadet Defence Systems and the Defence Research Development Organisation (DRDO). Kadet has committed to supplying more than 50 systems by the end of the year in order to fulfill the upcoming operational needs of the Indian military.

196) Right Answer: B (55 Cancri e)

Astronomers utilizing NASA's James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) have made a noteworthy accomplishment by identifying an atmosphere encircling the rocky exoplanet 55 Cancri e, which travels around a star similar to the Sun located approximately 12.6 parsecs away from our planet. This finding represents the initial instance of detecting an atmosphere around a terrestrial planet beyond our own Solar System.

197) Right Answer: B (GalaxEye)

GalaxEye, a space technology startup, reached an agreement with the Indian National Space Promotion

and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe), an independent agency operating under the Department of Space of the Government of India, by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

198) Right Answer: C (Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute)

Two new species of needlefish found in Indian waters have been discovered by researchers at the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI). These newly identified fish have been given the scientific names *Ablennes joseberchmansis* and *Ablennes gracalii*. The research concentrated on samples obtained from Thoothukudi in Tamil Nadu.

199) Right Answer: D (Indian Super League)

Mumbai City FC emerged victorious in the final of the Indian Super League (ISL) 2023-24, defeating Mohun Bagan Super Giant 3-1 at the Salt Lake Stadium in Kolkata. Under the guidance of Sergio Lobera, Mumbai City FC achieved this remarkable accomplishment during their unforgettable 2020-21 season.

200) Right Answer: C (Netherlands)

India established its pavilion at the World Hydrogen Summit 2024 in Rotterdam, Netherlands, from May 13-15. The pavilion, organized by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, is noted as one of the biggest at the event.

201) Right Answer: C (Indian Coast Guard)

Bank of India has agreed to a Memorandum of Understanding with the Indian Coast Guard to introduce a Defence service Salary Package known as "BOI Rakshak Salary/ Pension Savings Scheme". The agreement was formalized on May 9 at the Coast Guard Headquarters in New Delhi. The Indian Coast Guard was represented by Narendra Singh, Deputy Inspector General & Principal Director (Administration) and Bank of India was represented by Sharda Bhushan Rai during the signing ceremony.

202) Right Answer: C (HDFC Bank)

HDFC Bank reported that it provided financial assistance of Rs 19.6 crore to social sector startups in India during the fiscal year 2023-24, in collaboration with Atal

Innovation Mission (a part of NITI Aayog). A total of 170 social startups were funded through 41 incubators in the 'Parivartan Start-up Grants programme'.

203) Right Answer: C (Dileep Sanghani)

Dileep Sanghani, a former member of parliament and cabinet minister during Narendra Modi's tenure as chief minister of Gujarat, has been re-elected as the chairman of the Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative (IFFCO) for the second time in a row.

204) Right Answer: B (SFO Technologies)

The carbon reduction initiative of SFO Technologies, a leading company under the NeST Group, was introduced by S Somanath, who serves as the Chairman of the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) and Secretary of the Department of Space in the Government of India.

205) Right Answer: C (Liquid Ramjet fuel)

The DRDO announced that a lab under its supervision has made a breakthrough by creating liquid Ramjet fuel for a sophisticated air-breathing engine. The successful testing of this fuel took place on May 8 at the Ramjet Test bed located at the DRDL.

206) Right Answer: C (Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency)

In a recent scientific milestone, XRISM (X-ray Imaging and Spectroscopy Mission), a partnership between Nasa and the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA), has effectively detected the existence of iron within the active galaxy NGC 4151.

207) Right Answer: B (11 May)

Every year on May 11, National Technology Day is celebrated nationwide to acknowledge the accomplishments of engineers and scientists in the realm of science and technology. The 2024 theme for National Technology Day is 'From Schools to Startups: Igniting Young Minds to Innovate,' which underscores the importance of fostering young students to establish their own startups and help India become a global hub for startups.

208) Right Answer: B (James Anderson)

James Anderson, an experienced fast bowler from England, declared his retirement from Test cricket with the first Test against West Indies at Lord's scheduled for July. He made this announcement on social media after achieving the milestone of 700 Test wickets during the Dharamsala Test against India.

209) Right Answer: D (Aman Sehrawat)

Aman Sehrawat has made history by becoming the first Indian male wrestler to earn a spot for the 2024 Paris Olympics. The Asian champion secured a quota in the men's 57kg freestyle category at the World Wrestling Olympic Qualifiers held in Istanbul, Turkey, ensuring his participation in the upcoming Olympics.

210) Right Answer: B (Meghalaya)

The India-France Joint Military Exercise "SHAKTI" began on May 13 at the Joint Training Node in Umroi, Meghalaya, and will run until May 26. This exercise is held every two years, alternating between India and France.

211) Right Answer: C (SHAKTI)

The 7th iteration of the India-France Joint Military Exercise SHAKTI is currently taking place at Umroi, within a well-equipped and contemporary Foreign Training Node in Meghalaya. This Exercise is planned to run from the 13th to the 26th of May 2024.

212) Right Answer: A (Zéphyrin Maniratanga)

India took part in the 19th Session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF), which took place at the UN Headquarters in New York from May 6th to 10th May 2024. The session was led by Ambassador Zéphyrin Maniratanga, the Permanent Representative of Burundi to the United Nations.

213) Right Answer: D (All the Above)

During the tenth meeting of the Memory of the World Committee for Asia and the Pacific (MOWCAP) in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, UNESCO included three Indian literary works - Ramcharitmanas, Panchatantra, and Sahṛdayaloka-Locana - in its Memory of the World Asia-Pacific Regional Register.

214) Right Answer: D (State Bank of India)

The State Bank of India (SBI) has revealed that it is the inaugural bank to achieve the status of being a trading-cum-clearing (TCM) Member of the India International Bullion Exchange at GIFT City in Gujarat. This achievement allows SBI IBU Gift City to participate in trades on the IIBX platform and handle settlements on behalf of its clients, as stated in an official announcement.

215) Right Answer: B (Greenko ZeroC)

Greenko ZeroC, headquartered in Hyderabad, has signed a deal with Yara Clean Ammonia from Norway to provide renewable ammonia. Greenko will deliver eco-friendly ammonia from the first phase of its ammonia manufacturing plant located in Kakinada, India.

216) Right Answer: B (Magnus Carlsen)

Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa outperformed his competitors by securing a clear fourth position, while Magnus Carlsen delivered an impressive performance on the last day, achieving a score of 8/9 and securing the top spot in the Superbet rapid and blitz tournament, which is a part of the Grand Chess Tour.

217) Right Answer: B (Jakub Vadlejch)

Indian javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra secured the second position in the Doha Diamond League with an impressive throw of 88.36m. Despite his outstanding performance, the Olympic and world champion narrowly missed first place by a mere 2 centimeters, as Jakub Vadlejch took the top spot with a throw of 88.38m.

218) Right Answer: B (12 May)

The International Day of Plant Health (IDPH) is celebrated every year on 12 May to increase understanding of the importance of safeguarding plant health to alleviate hunger, diminish poverty, preserve biodiversity, and foster economic progress. The theme for the International Day of Plant Health 2024 is 'Plant Health, Secure Trade, Digital Technology.'

219) Right Answer: C (Mumbai)

The Yachting Association of India (YAI) Senior Nationals – 2024 took place from May 12 to May 18, 2024, organized by the Indian Naval Watermanship Training

Centre (INWTC) in Mumbai with the backing of the Indian Naval Sailing Association (INSA) at Naval Headquarters.

220) Right Answer: A (Kami Rita Sherpa)

Kami Rita Sherpa, a 54-year-old climber and guide from Nepal, has achieved a remarkable feat by reaching the summit of Mount Everest for the 29th time. Referred to as the 'Everest Man', Kami Rita surpassed his own previous record, which he had established in the previous spring season when he climbed the world's highest peak twice in one week, achieving his 28th successful ascent.

221) Right Answer: C (Gopi Thotakura)

Gopi Thotakura made history as the inaugural Indian space tourist aboard Blue Origin's NS-25 mission, where he was joined by renowned individual Ed Dwight. Ed Dwight was notably the first black astronaut candidate chosen by President Kennedy.

222) Right Answer: D (14 years)

GAIL (India) Ltd, a government-owned gas utility, has signed a contract with Cool Company, a company listed on the New York Stock Exchange, to lease a liquefied natural gas (LNG) carrier for 14 years. This move aims to enhance GAIL's transportation capacity in order to fulfill the increasing demand for gas in India.

223) Right Answer: B (Iga Swiatek)

Iga Swiatek, the top-ranked player in the world, secured the 2024 Italian Open championship by beating Aryna Sabalenka, earning her 21st career title. This win represents Swiatek's third triumph at the Italian Open in the past four years.

224) Right Answer: C (7th)

Blue Origin successfully conducted its seventh crewed space mission, sending the NS-25 Crew from Launch Site One in West Texas. The mission capsule achieved an altitude of approximately 105 km, allowing the astronauts to enjoy moments of weightlessness and witness the curvature of the Earth.

225) Right Answer: C (6)

Venezuela has made history by becoming the first country in modern times to lose all its glaciers.

Previously, Venezuela was home to six glaciers in the Sierra Nevada de Mérida Mountain range, situated at an elevation of around 5,000 meters above sea level. However, by 2011, five of these glaciers had disappeared.

226) Right Answer: D (IREDA)

IREDA has established a fully-owned subsidiary in the International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) at GIFT City in Gujarat.

227) Right Answer: A (Brazil)

Brazil was chosen as the host of the 2027 Women's World Cup during the FIFA Congress, surpassing the joint bid from Belgium, Netherlands, and Germany. This decision made Brazil the initial South American nation to host the tournament.

228) Right Answer: B (60%)

In the last year, a record-breaking 60% of the world's coral reefs have undergone significant heat stress leading to bleaching, as reported by the United States National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

229) Right Answer: A (Nevada)

The United States recently carried out a subcritical nuclear test in Nevada, marking the third test conducted during President Biden's term. The purpose of this test is to obtain important information about the safety and efficiency of nuclear warheads, all without resorting to actual nuclear detonations.

230) Right Answer: D (May 20)

Every year on 20 May, the United Nations (UN) World Bee Day is celebrated worldwide to highlight the crucial role of bees and beekeeping on a global scale, as well as to underscore the importance of pollinators, the challenges they encounter, and their role in promoting sustainable development.

231) Right Answer: C (Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited)

Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd (MDL) recently marked its 250th anniversary with a series of events in Mumbai, which were overseen by Defence Secretary Shri Giridhar Aramane. The festivities also featured the launching of

a Solar Electric Hybrid boat and the unveiling of MDL's Commemorative Coin.

232) Right Answer: D (USA)

The seventh installment of the Indo-U.S. joint counterterrorism drill "Tarkash" took place in Kolkata, featuring the elite National Security Guard (NSG) and the U.S. Special Operations Forces (SOF). The preceding edition of the drill occurred in Chennai in January 2023.

233) Right Answer: D (Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam, Kerala)

In the most recent release of the annual Times Higher Education- Young University Rankings, a number of Indian universities have made significant achievements. Two Indian universities have managed to secure positions within the top 100 list, with the Mahatma Gandhi University in Kerala coming in at 81st place and Anna University in Chennai at 96th place.

234) Right Answer: B (HDFC Bank)

HDFC Bank, the biggest private sector bank in the country, introduced its inaugural virtual credit card called PIXEL on May 14 in collaboration with Visa. PIXEL is offered in two versions, namely PIXEL Play and PIXEL Go, enabling customers to customize their cards with personalized features, deals, and more.

235) Right Answer: D (TATA AIG General Insurance Company Limited)

TATA AIG has introduced the first satellite in-orbit third-party liability insurance policy in India, designed to cater to the unique requirements of satellite operators and manufacturers in the fast-evolving space sector of the country. This insurance policy provides protection for third-party injuries and damage to property that may occur during satellite operations, in alignment with international norms and procedures.

236) Right Answer: C (Sahitya Akademi Fellowship)

Renowned writer Ruskin Bond has been granted the Sahitya Akademi Fellowship, which is considered the most prestigious award bestowed by the literary institution. The Fellowship was presented to him at his residence in Mussoorie by Sahitya Akademi president Madhav Kaushik and secretary K. Sreenivasarao, as

mentioned in an official statement, due to his poor health.

237) Right Answer: B (BHISHM portable cubes)

The Indian Air Force conducted a trial of BHISHM portable cubes in Agra for airdrops from aircraft. It was the inaugural test of this portable hospital by the Indian Air Force, aimed at ensuring its readiness for quick deployment in times of emergency.

238) Right Answer: B (Japan)

Japan has made significant progress in mobile technology by introducing the world's premier 6G prototype device. This cutting-edge 6G prototype features an impressive data transmission speed of 100 gigabits per second (Gbps), which is a remarkable 20 times faster than the current leading technology, 5G.

239) Right Answer: D (P Shyaamnikhil)

P Shyaamnikhil achieved the title of India's 85th Grandmaster after obtaining his third and last GM norm at the Dubai Police Masters chess tournament. This ended a 12-year-long journey for the player, who started playing chess at the age of eight.

240) Right Answer: B (15 May)

The International Day of Families is celebrated annually on May 15. This year's theme, "Families & Climate Change: International Year of the Family + 30", focuses on highlighting the challenges that families encounter and how global social and economic factors impact them. The day aims to increase understanding of the various issues affecting families worldwide.

241) Right Answer: C (Maldives)

India has chosen to extend its financial assistance to the Maldives government by renewing a \$50 million treasury bill for an additional year. The State Bank of India subscribes to these treasury bills through a special government-to-government arrangement, which incurs no cost (interest-free) for the Maldives government.

242) Right Answer: A (Bima Central)

SBI General Insurance has partnered with Bima Central, a service created by CAMS Insurance Repository. Bima Central is the first platform in the industry for policyholders to manage their insurance policies by

consolidating them into an electronic Insurance Account (eIA).

243) Right Answer: C (India)

The latest Forbes 30 Under 30 Asia list showcases a varied selection of individuals from 21 countries and territories in the Asia-Pacific area. India has the highest number of entries at 86, with China and Japan following closely at 32 each, Singapore at 27, Australia at 26, and Indonesia at 18.

244) Right Answer: C (Lawrence Wong)

Lawrence Wong, an economist, became Singapore's fourth prime minister on 15th May as part of a scheduled political handover in the country. Aged 51, Wong took over from Lee Hsien Loong, aged 72, who stepped down from his role after serving for twenty years.

245) Right Answer: C (R Lakshmi Kanth Rao)

R. Lakshmi Kanth Rao has been appointed as Executive Director by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) starting May 10, 2024. Before this promotion, Rao held the position of Chief General Manager-in-Charge in the Regulation Department.

246) Right Answer: C (NASA)

As NASA prepares to send astronauts back to the moon, they have revealed their intention to construct a floating robot train on the lunar terrain. The American space organization shared information about the initiative known as "Flexible Levitation on a Track (FLOAT)" in a blog entry.

247) Right Answer: C (Literature and Education)

Renowned author and storyteller Malti Joshi, who was honored with the Padma Shri award in 2018, passed away at the age of nearly 90 on May 15. Known for her unique storytelling approach, Joshi gained a distinct reputation, with her literary works being studied in various universities nationwide, as mentioned by a family member.

248) Right Answer: C (Sri Lanka)

PhonePe recently introduced its UPI services in Sri Lanka by collaborating with LankaPay. This partnership allows users to make UPI payments in Sri Lanka using

the PhonePe app, catering to Indian travelers visiting the country.

249) Right Answer: A (Bhubaneswar)

Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra clinched the gold medal in the men's javelin throw event at the Federation Cup 2024 held in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. Neeraj's last domestic competition was also at the same event in 2021, where he secured first place with a remarkable throw of 87.80m.

250) Right Answer: D (Sunil Chhetri)

Sunil Chhetri, India's highly accomplished football player, has revealed his decision to retire from representing the national team. In a video posted on social media platform X, the 39-year-old Chhetri shared that his final international match will be India's FIFA World Cup Qualifier game against Kuwait in Kolkata on June 6.

251) Right Answer: B (Meghalaya)

Idashisha Nongrang has made history by becoming the first female Director General of Police (DGP) in Meghalaya, a state characterized by three matrilineal ethnic groups. Coming from the Khasi community, Ms. Nongrang previously held the position of Director General of Meghalaya Civil Defence. She assumed the role of acting DGP in 2021.

252) Right Answer: C (Japan)

In the 30th Sultan Azlan Shah Trophy final held at Azlan Shah Stadium in Ipoh, Malaysia on May 11, 2024, Japan emerged victorious by winning their maiden Sultan Azlan Shah Hockey Trophy. They secured the title by defeating Pakistan 4-1 in a penalty shootout.

253) Right Answer: A (Srishti Khandagale)

Srishti Khandagale made history in Trampoline as the first Indian to achieve a medal at the Asian Trampoline Gymnastics Championships, securing a silver medal in the Women's Individual Age group category at the 6th edition of the Championships in Hong Kong, China.

254) Right Answer: C (Punjabi)

Renowned Punjabi writer and poet, Dr. Surjit Patar, died of a heart attack at the age of 79 in his home in Ashapuri, Ludhiana. He was a respected professor of

Punjabi at Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana, and made significant contributions to Punjabi literature during his career. In recognition of his achievements, he was honored with the Padma Shri award in 2012.

255) Right Answer: B (25 May)

The United Nations General Assembly has designated 25th May as World Football Day. In 2024, we will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the inaugural international football tournament, which involved teams from all regions during the 1924 Summer Olympic Games in Paris.

256) Right Answer: C (16 May)

The International Day of Light is observed annually on 16 May, commemorating the historic achievement of physicist and engineer, Theodore Maiman, who successfully operated the first laser in 1960. It serves as a reminder to enhance scientific collaboration for promoting peace and sustainable development.

257) Right Answer: A (Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia)

The Ramcharitmanas, Panchatantra, and Sahṛdayāloka-Locana have been listed on the 'UNESCO's Memory of the World Asia-Pacific Regional Register'. The Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) played a crucial role in achieving this milestone during the 10th MOWCAP meeting in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

258) Right Answer: D (New Delhi)

The IndiaSkills Competition 2024, the largest skill competition in India aimed at showcasing top-notch skilling standards, took place at Yashobhoomi, Dwarka, New Delhi from May 15th to 19th. Odisha emerged as the state with the most winners, securing 74 Gold, 67 Silver, and 73 Bronze medals, closely followed by Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.

259) Right Answer: A (Washington DC)

The second session of the India-US Dialogue on Africa took place in Washington DC. The primary aim of the dialogue is to encourage the sharing of ideas and viewpoints, promoting partnerships between institutions, technical collaboration, and bilateral cooperation for joint initiatives in Africa.

260) Right Answer: B (Indian Institute of Petroleum & Energy, Visakhapatnam)

The Indian Institute of Petroleum & Energy (IIFE) in Visakhapatnam, in collaboration with other research institutions, has discovered a successful environmentally friendly method called the 'Surface Modification Technique of Membrane' to address the challenges related to water treatment at different stages, specifically for murky river water.

261) Right Answer: A (Chandrakant Satija)

Chandrakant Satija, Chandra Admission Consultants' Founder and CEO, was honored with the Global Excellence Award 2024 for being recognized as the "Most Trusted Admission Consultant in the Vidarbha Region." The award was bestowed upon him by renowned Bollywood actress Shilpa Shetty Kundra, acknowledging his status as the most reliable Admissions Consultant in the Vidarbha Region.

262) Right Answer: D (US and Japan)

Japan and the US have agreed to collaborate on creating interceptors capable of targeting hypersonic missiles by the 2030s as part of a contract signed by both nations. The initiative, estimated to exceed \$3 billion, was initially unveiled in August during a summit involving the leaders of these countries and South Korea at Camp David near Washington.

263) Right Answer: B (Bhutan)

World Aquatics has revealed the launch of the inaugural competitive swimming facility situated at a record height of 2,400 meters above sea level in Bhutan. This initiative is a component of the Pools for All Program aimed at fostering aquatic sports in the area.

264) Right Answer: C (17 May)

The annual celebration of World Telecommunication and Information Society Day (WTISD) in May commemorates the establishment of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) on May 17, 1969. The theme for this year's WTISD 2024 is "Digital Innovation for Sustainable Development".

265) Right Answer: D (New Delhi)

India and Zimbabwe have decided to look into collaborating on digital transformation solutions, telemedicine, rough diamonds, fast payment systems, and traditional medicine. In the third session of the India-Zimbabwe Joint Trade Committee in New Delhi, both parties assessed their bilateral trade and discussed the significant opportunities for cooperation between the two nations.

266) Right Answer: D (Ulaanbaatar)

The 12th Joint Working Group (JWG) meeting between the Defence Ministries of India and Mongolia was held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia on May 16-17, 2024. This meeting was overseen by Amitabh Prasad, Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Defence in India, and Brigadier General Gankhuyag Davagdorj, State Secretary of the Ministry of Defence in Mongolia.

267) Right Answer: B (Brazil)

Brazil was chosen as the host of the 2027 Women's World Cup after a successful vote at the yearly FIFA Congress. They won against a joint bid from Belgium, Netherlands, and Germany, making them the first South American country selected to hold the event.

268) Right Answer: C (60%)

Last month, NOAA revealed that the global coral reefs are currently experiencing their fourth major bleaching event due to a combination of climate change and the El Nino climate pattern, leading to unprecedented ocean temperatures. Presently, around 60.5% of the world's coral reef area has been impacted by this phenomenon, with the figure continuing to increase.

269) Right Answer: C (Guwahati)

A Conference titled 'India's Progressive Path in the Administration of Criminal Justice System' has been arranged by the Ministry of Law and Justice in collaboration with the Government of Assam at Dr. Bhupen Hazarika Auditorium, IIT Guwahati Namati Jalah, Guwahati on 18th- 19th May 2024.

270) Right Answer: B (HDFC bank)

International Finance Corporation (IFC), a division of the World Bank, has granted HDFC Bank a \$500 million

credit facility to offer financial assistance to women in rural locations via microloans.

271) Right Answer: C (PhonePe)

PhonePe revealed on May 15 that it had teamed up with LankaPay to facilitate the acceptance of Unified Payments Interface (UPI) payments at LankaQR merchant locations across Sri Lanka. A ceremony took place in Colombo, which was graced by high-ranking officials from the governments of Sri Lanka and India.

272) Right Answer: D (6.9%)

According to the mid-2024 World Economic Situation and Prospects report, India's economy is expected to grow by 6.9 percent in 2024 and 6.6 percent in 2025, primarily due to robust public investment and enduring private consumption.

273) Right Answer: C (4.83%)

The yearly inflation rate as per the overall India Consumer Price Index (CPI) stands at 4.83% (Provisional) in April 2024 compared to April 2023. In rural areas, the inflation rate is at 5.43%, while in urban areas, it is at 4.11%. The CPI for January, February, and March 2024 is recorded as 5.10, 5.09, and 4.85, respectively.

274) Right Answer: A (Cristiano Ronaldo)

Cristiano Ronaldo has once again earned the title of the highest-paid athlete on Forbes' list for the fourth time, with Spanish golfer Jon Rahm climbing to the second spot after joining Saudi-backed LIV Golf. Ronaldo became the top-earning athlete globally after transferring to Al-Nassr in Saudi Arabia, with an estimated total income of around \$260 million, the highest ever recorded for a soccer player, according to Forbes.

275) Right Answer: A (Arunachal Pradesh)

Situated at an elevation exceeding 13,000 feet, the Sela Tunnel in Arunachal Pradesh has been declared the tallest tunnel in India by the International Book of Honour, England. This remarkable piece of engineering was built by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) and is accessible in all weather conditions.

276) Right Answer: A (Kapil Sibal)

Rajya Sabha Member of Parliament and experienced lawyer Kapil Sibal has been chosen as the new President of the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA). Sibal, who has been practicing law for 50 years, succeeded in winning the election against the current Vice President of SCBA, Pradeep Rai, who was unable to retain his position.

277) Right Answer: B (Mahamat Déby)

Chad's military leader Mahamat Déby has been announced as the confirmed victor of the presidential elections, further solidifying his control over the country. General Déby secured 61.3% of the votes, as reported by the state's election commission based on preliminary results, while his main opponent, Prime Minister Succes Masra, received 18.53% of the votes.

278) Right Answer: B (Bee Engaged with Youth)

Acknowledging the significance of the youth in efforts to address the challenges confronting bees and other pollinators, World Bee Day 2024 emphasizes the theme "Engaging Youth with Bees." This theme underscores the crucial role of including young individuals in activities related to beekeeping and the conservation of pollinators.

279) Right Answer: C (Kamla Beniwal)

Kamla Beniwal, a long-standing member of Congress who previously served as Deputy Chief Minister of Rajasthan and held the position of Governor in Tripura, Gujarat, and Mizoram, passed away in Jaipur at the age of 97.

280) Right Answer: B (Mangaluru)

According to T. Murugeshi, a former Associate Professor of Ancient History and Archaeology at MSRS College, Shirva, the initial rock art discovered in Mangaluru city is located near the Bloor Panne Koteda Babbu Swamy shrine. The rock art comprises a set of human footprints, which were spotted on a natural rock near the shrine.

281) Right Answer: A (Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade)

The 'ONDC Startup Mahotsav' was hosted by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal

Trade (DPIIT) on 17th May 2024 at Vanijya Bhawan, New Delhi. This event marked the coming together and mutual support of DPIIT's key projects, namely the Startup India initiative and Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC).

282) Right Answer: C (SBI Mutual Fund)

SBI Mutual Fund recently released the SBI Automotive Opportunities Fund, a thematic fund focused on automotive and related industries. This open-ended equity scheme began accepting subscriptions on May 17 and will continue to do so until May 31, 2024.

283) Right Answer: D (YES Grandeur)

YES Bank has introduced a new banking initiative called YES Grandeur aimed at the growing affluent demographic. To qualify for this program, banking clients must maintain an average monthly balance of Rs 5 lakh or have a net relationship value of Rs 20 lakh, with supplementary regard for existing loan connections.

284) Right Answer: D (Fatah-II)

The Pakistan Army has effectively carried out a trial launch of the Fatah-II guided rocket system, which boasts a range of 400 kilometers. This rocket system is set to greatly enhance the range and effectiveness of the army's standard weaponry.

285) Right Answer: A (WASP-193b)

A new planet, named WASP-193b, has been discovered by astronomers in a significant breakthrough. Despite its size larger than Jupiter, this planet has a density comparably low that it has been compared to cotton candy. This notable discovery was shared by a team of researchers from around the world, providing insights into the unique characteristics of certain exoplanets.

286) Right Answer: D (Athletics Federation of India)

PUMA India has entered into an agreement with the Athletics Federation of India (AFI) to serve as its official supplier of sports attire, the athletic brand announced. The partnership involves a long-term contract for providing performance outfits, speed apparel, and travel equipment exclusively to all Indian athletes

associated with AFI, participating in competitions at home and abroad.

287) Right Answer: B (18 May)

World AIDS Vaccine Day, also known as HIV Vaccine Awareness Day, is commemorated each year on May 18. This day is a worldwide campaign aimed at increasing awareness of the critical necessity for a vaccine to combat HIV and AIDS.

288) Right Answer: B (Assam)

The Disaster Reporting and Information Management System (DRIMS), an online platform designed for reporting damages caused by different disasters, was introduced in Guwahati by Dr. Ravi Kota, the Chief Secretary of Assam.

289) Right Answer: B (Iran)

After their helicopter crashed in fog, Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi and the country's foreign minister were discovered dead, resulting in the Islamic Republic losing two crucial leaders amid escalating tensions in the broader Middle East region.

290) Right Answer: B (Boxing)

Nikhat Zareen, the reigning world champion, along with Minakshi, achieved gold medals as the Indian team wrapped up their Elorda Cup 2024 participation in Astana, Kazakhstan. In addition to the gold medals won by Nikhat and Minakshi, Indian boxers secured two silver and eight bronze medals, surpassing their previous record of five medals at the event.

291) Right Answer: A (Bank of Maharashtra)

Bank of Maharashtra has stood out as the top achiever among public sector banks in the previous financial year, showcasing impressive growth rates in total business and deposit collection. Based on official financial records, the Pune-headquartered bank saw a substantial 15.94% rise in total business (domestic) in FY24, outperforming the well-established State Bank of India (SBI), which achieved a growth rate of 13.12%.

292) Right Answer: B (BEML Limited)

BEML Ltd has announced that it has received a contract valued at Rs 250 crore from Northern Coal Fields Limited (NCL) to provide 28 units of BH100 rear dump

trucks. These trucks, capable of carrying up to 100 tonnes, are tailor-made for the effective transportation of overburden and coal during mining activities.

293) Right Answer: D (Lai Ching-te)

Taiwan's Lai Ching-te became the president of the democratic island amidst increasing military threats from China and opposition from the parliament. China asserts its sovereignty over Taiwan and has criticized Lai, 64, as a "threatening separatist" who may lead to conflict and economic downturn on the island.

294) Right Answer: B (Mohammad Mokhber)

Following the tragic helicopter crash that took the lives of President Ebrahim Raisi and other officials, Mohammad Mokhber has taken over as Iran's temporary president. His appointment to this position was sanctioned by Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. According to the country's constitution, Mokhber and his administration are responsible for organizing a new presidential election to take place within 50 days.

295) Right Answer: A (AK-203 Assault Rifles)

According to official sources, the Indian Army has begun to receive the Russian AK-203 assault rifles from the Indo-Russian joint venture Indo-Russian Rifles Private Limited (IRRPL) located in Korwa, Uttar Pradesh. The delivery of the rifles was delayed due to various reasons, including the conflict in Ukraine and delays in payment, but approximately 27,000 rifles have been delivered to the Army to date.

296) Right Answer: C (Hanooman AI)

Hanooman, a Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI) platform developed in India, is operational in 98 different languages around the world, including 12 Indian languages. Created through a partnership between Seetha Mahalaxmi Healthcare (SML) and the Abu Dhabi-based AI investment company 3AI Holding Limited, the goal for Hanooman is to achieve a user base of 200 million within its initial year of release.

297) Right Answer: C (Thailand Open)

Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty secured victory in the men's doubles final at the Thailand Open

2024 by defeating the Chinese pair of Chen Bo Yang and Liu Yi. The Indian duo, ranked third globally, emerged triumphant with a 21-15, 21-15 scoreline in a 46-minute match held at the Nimibutr Stadium in Bangkok.

298) Right Answer: C (Emilia-Romagna Grand Prix)

Max Verstappen of Red Bull emerged as the champion of the 2024 Emilia Romagna Grand Prix, besting Lando Norris of McLaren, who attained the runner-up position. The event was held in Imola, Italy on May 19, 2024. This win marked Verstappen's 59th Formula 1 success and his third consecutive win in Imola.

299) Right Answer: C (Malaria)

Serum Institute of India (SII), the top producer of vaccines globally in terms of doses, achieved an important achievement by sending the initial batch of R21/Matrix-M malaria vaccine to seven to eight African countries.

300) Right Answer: C (21 May)

Every year on May 21, Anti-Terrorism Day is commemorated to educate young individuals about terrorism and its devastating effects on human lives and suffering. The National Anti-Terrorism Day was established following the tragic assassination of India's seventh Prime Minister, Rajiv Gandhi, on May 21, 1991, in Tamil Nadu by a terrorist group.

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