



Key Highlights

- July 2024 Current Affairs
- Banking/Finance articles
- Mind Maps for Quick revision
- RBI in news
- Practice Ques's for Each Subject
- Special Vocab Section

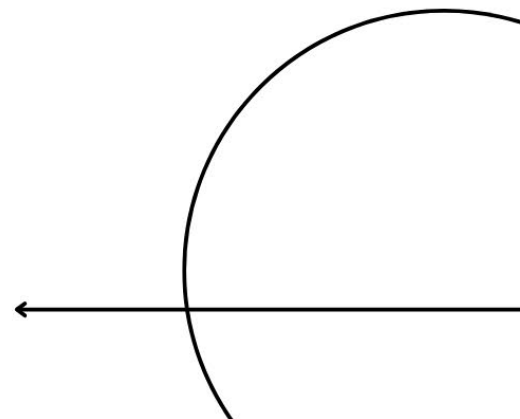
yes
MAGAZINE
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JULY
2024

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PREFACE

It gives us tremendous joy to present this comprehensive magazine designed for the aspirants of banking, and other government examinations.

Curated by the experts content creators at YesOfficer, this e-book is a one-stop solution for all that is required for practice and preparation of all the sections of banking & other exams. In addition to the detailed current Affairs of June 2024, the magazine also contains practice questions for General Awareness, Quant, English & Reasoning to boost your preparation by keeping you up to date with the current events and the latest exams questions trend, thus serving the needs of each and every aspirant.

This book is divided into following sections:

- Topic wise Current Affairs
- Current Affairs Practise qs with answer keys and solutions
- CA booster Practise questions
- Quant questions with answer keys and solutions
- English questions with answer keys
- Boost your vocab section
- Reasoning questions with answer keys and solutions

We hope that this attempt of ours in providing you a comprehensive magazine for banking and other exams proves to be of great benefit to you and becomes a meritorious contribution in the journey of exam preparation and consequently helps to attain your goals.

YesOfficer! Banke Dikhayene

Constructive Feedback is always welcome!

Here's hoping your hard work and dedication pay off!!

Achievers



1 **Diksha Namdev (IBPS Clerk)**

Yes officer has given me the best teachers. I really want to thank Nimisha Mam and Ashish sir for always being there throughout the journey. Your way of teaching is amazing and your words always motivated me that I should not stop until I get succeed.



2 **Nikhil Garhwal (SBI PO)**

Yes officer played a huge role in my success. Ashish sir's way of teaching Quantitiv aptitude is just awesome. Perfection batch of Nimisha ma'am helped a lot in mains exam there were direct questions from the perfection batch. Ankush Sir's Thread method is awsome. I'm very grateful that I met such wonderful teachers. Thank you yes officer.



3 **ANKIT VERMA (SBI PO, IBPS PO, RRB PO)**

Yes officers team has a lot of contribution in my whole journey, nimisha mam has given me strength in English, ankush sir taught me how to solve mains level puzzle and how to solve pre level puzzles with Speed and accuracy and finally the most loved one our favourite Ashish sir has a lot of contribution in my preparation and personal life. Ashish sir taught us quant in a very simpler way, ashish has given me strength in quant and because of ashish sir my quant is strongest subject. Ashish sir always says that God has something better for you so do your karma religiously, I have enjoyed the whole journey that I have travelled it was a great experience for me, and especially ashish sir has made me emotionally strong. Because of Ashish sir I always think both sides of a situation and I always try to take right decision, Ashish sir made me how to think like a officer, and because of this my all interviews went very well, thankyou so much sir for your guidance

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Banking & Finance

1. Muthoot Finance Selected for FATF Mutual Evaluation Report 2023-24

- Muthoot Finance has been exclusively selected as the only Indian NBFC for the FATF Mutual Evaluation report 2023-24
- This selection underscores the company's commitment to fair trade practices, transparency, and regulatory compliance.
- Muthoot Finance was the sole NBFC representing India's NBFC segment during the FATF's onsite evaluation in New Delhi in November 2023.
- The FATF was established in 1989.
- It is a global authority that develops policies to combat money laundering, terrorism financing, and other significant threats to the financial system.
- Managing Director of Muthoot Finance: George Alexander Muthoot

2. RBI imposes penalty on YES Bank for not exchanging mutilated notes

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed a monetary penalty of Rs 10,000 on YES Bank for not exchanging mutilated notes.
- The penalty was imposed by RBI citing non-exchange of mutilated notes at one of the branches of the bank.
- The bank was charged a penalty citing the "Scheme of Penalties for bank branches including Currency Chests" based on performance in rendering customer service to the members of the public.



3. Bank of India Plans to Raise Up to Rs 5,000 Crore through Infrastructure Bonds

- Bank of India (BOI) plans to raise up to Rs 5,000 crore through infrastructure bonds.
- The capital raising committee is scheduled to meet soon to finalize the details of the fundraising plan.
- The proposed infra bond offering by BOI has been assigned an "AA+" rating by India Ratings.
- BOI's infrastructure loan book was reported at Rs 58,860 crore as of March 2024, highlighting its significant exposure in this sector.
- According to CRISIL Ratings, Investments in key infrastructure sectors like renewable energy, roads, and real estate are expected to grow by 38% in FY 2025 and FY 2026, reaching Rs 15 trillion.
- In June 2024, State Bank of India (SBI) had raised Rs 10,000 crore through 15-year infrastructure bonds at a coupon of 7.36%.

4. SEBI Introduces New Mutual Fund Lite Regulations to Streamline Criteria for Passive Fund Managers

- The Securities and Exchanges Board of India (SEBI) has proposed the introduction of Mutual Fund (MF) Lite Regulations in the Mutual Funds segment to simplify the offering of passive funds.
- Aim: To facilitate easier entry for new passive fund players and streamline operations for existing fund houses.
- Proposed reduction in net worth and profit track record criteria for fund houses interested solely in managing passive assets.
- Allows existing and new players to manage passive funds with eased financial eligibility requirements.
- Existing AMC's must segregate and ring-fence resources such as infrastructure, technology, and staff specifically for passive fund management, distinct from active fund management.
- Sponsors must demonstrate a positive net worth in the preceding 5 years and registered net profit in 3 out of the last 5 years.
- Average profit over the last 5 years should be at least ₹5 crore.
- Minimum net worth proposed is ₹35 crore, potentially reduced to ₹25 crore with 5 consecutive years of profit.

Types of Hybrid Passives: MF Lite proposes 3 categories of hybrid passives:

- Debt-oriented (Equity: Debt-25:75)
- Balanced (Equity: Debt-50:50)
- Equity-oriented (Equity: Debt-75:25)

5. SEBI Simplifies Process for Public Issuance of Debt Securities

- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) decided to streamline the process for public issuance of debt securities to provide faster access to funds for such issuers.
- Under this, The period for seeking public comments on draft offer documents reduced:
- From 7 working days to 1 day for issuers with already listed specified securities.
- From 7 working days to 5 days for other issuers.
- Subscription and Listing Timelines:
- Minimum subscription period cut from 3 to 2 working days.
- Listing timeline reduced from T+6 to T+3 working days, initially optional for one year, mandatory thereafter.
- SEBI allowed electronic advertising modes, with QR codes/links in newspapers.
- Removed the requirement for PAN and personal address disclosure of promoters in offer documents.
- Guidelines for Category I and II AIF Borrowing and LVF Tenure Extensions:
- In addition, the SEBI has approved guidelines for Category I and II Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs) Borrowing and tenure extensions for Large Value Fund (LVF).

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- Under this, Sebi has decided to allow Category I and II AIFs to temporarily borrow for up to 30 days to cover temporary investor shortfalls when making investments.

6. Credit card users can't use PhonePe, Amazon Pay, Paytm to make payments

- Credit card bill payment rules:
- Effective from: July 1
- Customers with credit cards from major banks will no longer be able to settle their credit card bills using third-party applications
- Major banks: HDFC Bank, Axis Bank, and other bank
- Third-party apps: PhonePe, Amazon Pay, and Paytm
- This means that customers will need to make their credit card bill payments through alternative channels or directly through the banks' own platforms.
- Mandate:
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has mandated that all credit card payments be routed through the Bharat Bill Pay System from July 1, 2024.



Why change?

- This change is due to the lack of integration of these apps with the Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS) managed by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).
- List of banks that are live on the Bharat Bill Payments under the category credit card, as per the BBPS website on July 3, 2024:
- AU Small Finance Bank
- Bank of Baroda
- Canara Bank
- Federal Bank
- ICICI Bank
- IDBI Bank
- IndusInd Bank
- Kotak Mahindra Bank
- Punjab National Bank
- Saraswat Bank

7. SEBI mandates institutional mechanism for fraud prevention in stock broking

- Issued by: SEBI
- Requiring stock brokers to establish an institutional mechanism for prevention and detection of fraud or market abuse in a bid to protect the interest of investors in securities market.

- The circular mandates the implementation of systems for the surveillance of trading activities and internal controls, introduction of a whistle-blower policy, among other obligations.
- These requirements are part of Sebi (Stock Brokers) (Amendment) Regulations, 2024, which aim to ensure higher standards of market integrity and investor protection
- The implementation will be based on the size of the stock brokers.
- Brokers with more than 50,000 active Unique Client Codes (UCCs) are required to comply by January 1, 2025.
- Further, those with 2,001 to 50,000 active UCCs have to comply by April 1, 2025, and brokers with up to 2,000 active UCCs must comply by April 1, 2026.
- In addition, qualified stock brokers must comply with these requirements by August 1, 2024, considering their existing obligations for governance and client behaviour surveillance.

8. Indiabulls Housing Finance rebrands itself, name changed to Sammaan Capital

- New name of Indiabulls Housing Finance: Sammaan Capital
- Received necessary approvals from regulatory authorities
- Certificate of Incorporation from the Registrar of Companies
- Certificate of Registration as an NBFC-ICC (Investment and Credit Company) from the Reserve Bank of India.
- The renaming and rebranding happened in the company's 25th year of operation
- It originated in the year 2000 as 'Indiabulls Financial Services Limited'.

9. SEBI proposes mandatory disclosure of risk-adjusted returns for mutual funds

- Proposal: Mandatory disclosure of risk-adjusted returns for mutual funds
- Proposed by: SEBI
- Aim: To help investors make informed investment decisions and also to limit the scope for mis-selling
- Risk-adjusted return (RAR):
- Represents a more holistic measure of the scheme's performance as it quantifies the amount of return generated by a mutual fund scheme for each unit of risk taken to achieve that return.
- To bring uniformity across different funds, Sebi has also proposed a methodology for the calculation of the information ratio for different categories of mutual fund schemes.

10. Bajaj Housing Finance launches Sambhav Home Loans

- Launch of: Sambhav Home Loans
- Launched by: Bajaj Housing Finance
- Target people: First-time home buyers
- Aim: To make accessible option for prospective borrowers across a wide range of income groups.
- Income norm: starts from Rs. 10,000 per month, with loan amounts as low as Rs. 10 lakh
- Who can apply?

- Both salaried and self-employed applicants from a range of employment types including from the informal sector are eligible for finance as part of this product.
- Borrowers will have attractive interest rates with affordable EMIs and the option to choose a repayment tenor of up to 20 years.

11. ICICI Bank launches Sapphire Forex Card for Indian students

- Launch of: Sapphire Forex Card
- Launched by: ICICI Bank
- Target user: Indian Students, pursuing higher education abroad
- Premium prepaid forex card
- Powered by: Visa
- Aim: To make overseas financial management simpler for students and their parents
- **Benefits of the card**
- The Student Sapphire Forex Card offers joining benefits worth up to Rs 15,000. These include:
 - Free access to two international airport lounges worldwide, valued at \$99.
 - Free international SIM card
 - Complimentary Uber vouchers worth Rs 1,000.
 - Membership for the International Student Identity Card (ISIC), valued at Rs 999 and recognised in 130 countries.
 - Complimentary card protection plus plan (includes lost card/counterfeit card insurance up to Rs 5 lakh)
 - ATM fee waiver: Three monthly ATM fee waivers on cash withdrawals for five years.
 - No mark-up charges: On any cross-currency transaction.



12. Union Bank of India Introduces "Union Premier" Branches

- Launch of: "Union Premier" Branches
- Launched by: Union Bank
- Target area: Rural and Semi-Urban Markets
- Offer: Personalized banking with dedicated Relationship Managers, advanced digital solutionsBL Wise Advantage (Premium variant)

- MD and CEO of Union Bank of India: A. Manimekhalai

13. Bank of Maharashtra launches VKYC for remote account opening

- Launch of: Video Based Customer Identification Process (V-KYC)
- Launched by: Bank of Maharashtra
- Target area: For remote account opening
- Aim: To allow customers to open savings account from any remote place, eliminating the need for branch visits and paperwork

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14. Kotak MF launches BSE PSU Index Fund

- Launch of: BSE PSU Index Fund
- Launched by: Kotak MF
- Type: Passive equity scheme
- The index currently comprises 56 public sector undertaking (PSU) stocks across sectors.
- It allocates 100-95% to equity and equity-related securities covered by the index.
- Minimum investment amount: Rs 100.

15. Nabard arm launches Rs 750 cr agri fund to finance startups

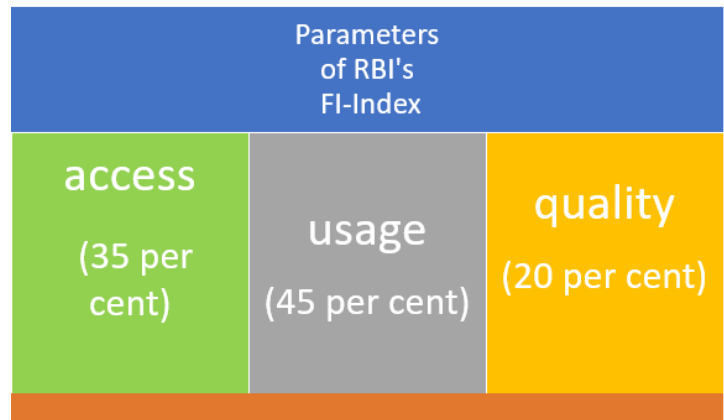
- Launch of: Agri-SURE (Agri Fund for Start-Ups & Rural Enterprises)
- Announced by: NABVENTURES (a subsidiary of NABARD)
- Initial corpus: Rs 750 crore (with Rs 250 crore each from NABARD and the Ministry of Agriculture, and Rs 250 crore from other institutions)
- Target company: Startups and rural enterprises
- Aim: To promote investment in innovative, technology-driven, high-risk, and high-impact activities in agriculture and allied area
- Managed by: NABVENTURES
- The fund is structured to support approximately 85 agri startups with investment sizes of up to Rs 25 crore each by the end of its term.



NABVENTURES

16. RBI's financial inclusion index rises to 64.2 in FY24

- Data by: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
- The financial inclusion Inclusion Index (FI-Index) of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) rose to 64.2 (March 2024) from 60.1 (March 2023)
- FI Index:
 - The FI-Index captures information on various aspects of financial inclusion in a single value.
 - Ranging between 0 and 100
 - 0 represents complete financial exclusion
 - 100 indicates full financial inclusion
 - It comprises three broad parameters — access (with a weight of 35%), usage (45%), and quality (20%)
 - The FI-Index has been conceptualised as a comprehensive index, incorporating details of banking, investments, insurance, postal, as well as the pension sector, in consultation with government and respective sectoral regulators.



17. SBI introduces online loan facility against MF units

- Introduced: Online loan facility against mutual fund (MF) units
- Bank: State Bank of India
- Via: Internet banking (INB) and YONO App
- This digital offering enables customers to avail loans, offering a 100% paperless and digital process that is available 24x7.
- The new loan facility is available for MF scheme of all the asset management companies (AMCs) registered with CAMS.
- Note:
 - SBI has become the first public sector bank (PSB) to offer an end-to-end digital loan on mutual fund schemes.

18. NPCI International partners with Qatar National Bank to launch UPI

- Partnership between: NPCI International Payments (NIPL) and Qatar National Bank
- Reason: To launch QR-code-based UPI payments across the West Asian country
- Enable: Indian travellers to transact on the payments service
- Indian tourists will have the option to transact using UPI across retail stores, tourist attractions, duty-free shops, and hotels.
- NIPL, which is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the NPCI, is devoted to expanding the deployment of RuPay and UPI outside India.
- UPI is available in: France, Peru, Namibia, Sri Lanka, Singapore, and Mauritius



19. Bajaj Finserv AMC announces launch of Savings+ product for retail investors

- Launch of: Savings+ product
- Launched by: Bajaj Finserv AMC
- Target people: Retail investors
- Aim: To bridge the gap between traditional savings accounts and more lucrative investment options
- Savings+ allows investors to identify surplus cash in their savings accounts and seamlessly invest it in Bajaj Finserv AMC Liquid Fund and Overnight Fund.
- These funds promise competitive returns while maintaining the liquidity that consumers expect from savings accounts.

20. RBI permits banks to use ratings of Brickwork Ratings subject to conditions

- The Reserve Bank of India has permitted banks to use the ratings of Brickwork Ratings India Private Limited
- The central bank had instructed its regulated entities that no fresh ratings would be obtained from the firm, which was pulled up by regulators for discrepancies.
- Listing out certain conditions, the RBI said that in respect of fresh rating mandates, rating may be obtained from Brickwork Ratings for bank loans not exceeding Rs 250 crore.
- In respect of existing ratings, Brickwork may undertake rating surveillance irrespective of the rated amount for the residual tenure of such loans.
- For existing ratings assigned to working capital facilities exceeding Rs 250 crore, Brickwork shall undertake rating surveillance only till the next renewal of such facility by banks.

21. Punjab National Bank signs pact with SAIL to offer loans

- Pact signed between: Punjab National Bank and Steel Authority of India Ltd (SAIL)
- Aim: To provide home loan, car loan, and education loan to the latter's employees at concessional rates.

- This strategic partnership also aims to enhance the financial well-being of SAIL employees and expand PNB's customer base.

22. RBI allows residents to send money to IFSCs under LRS

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) allowed resident individuals to open Foreign Currency Account (FCA) in International Financial Services Centres (IFSCs) at GIFT City in Gujarat under the Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS).
- Including: Sending gifts to friends abroad, buy property abroad, buy insurance, make fixed deposits, education loan payments, and also fund for overseas travel
- Earlier limitation:
- LRS remittances to IFSCs were restricted to specific investments in securities (excluding Indian companies) and education fees at select foreign universities.
- Residents couldn't hold FCAs or use them for a wider range of overseas transactions.
- These transactions are still subject to the overall LRS limit set by the RBI, which is currently \$250,000 per year per person.

23. Ireland pips Mauritius to 4th spot on preferred FPI destinations list

- Data by: National Securities Depository (NSDL)
- List: Preferred Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPI) destinations list
- Topped by: The USA, Singapore, Luxembourg, Ireland, and Mauritius
- In March, the governments of Mauritius and India signed a deal to amend the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA).
- Mauritius aligned its norms with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's (OECD)'s proposal on base erosion and profit shifting (BEPS).
- BEPS is a term used to describe tax avoidance strategies used by entities to reduce their tax bases.

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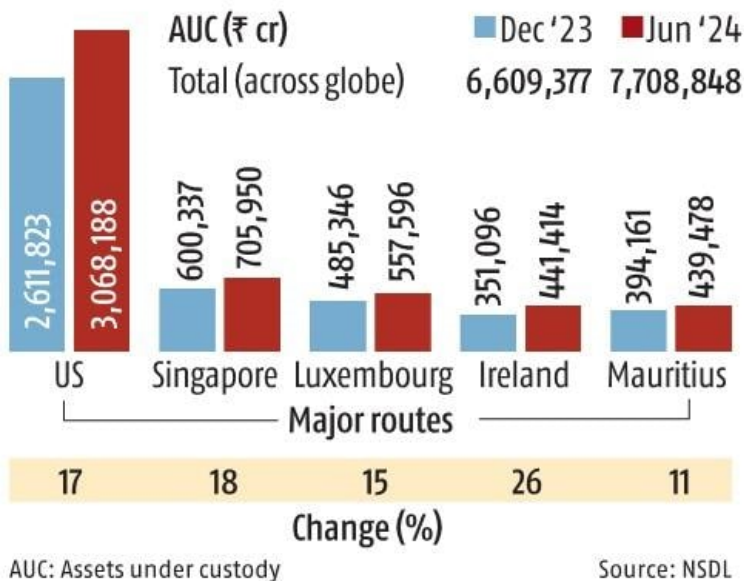


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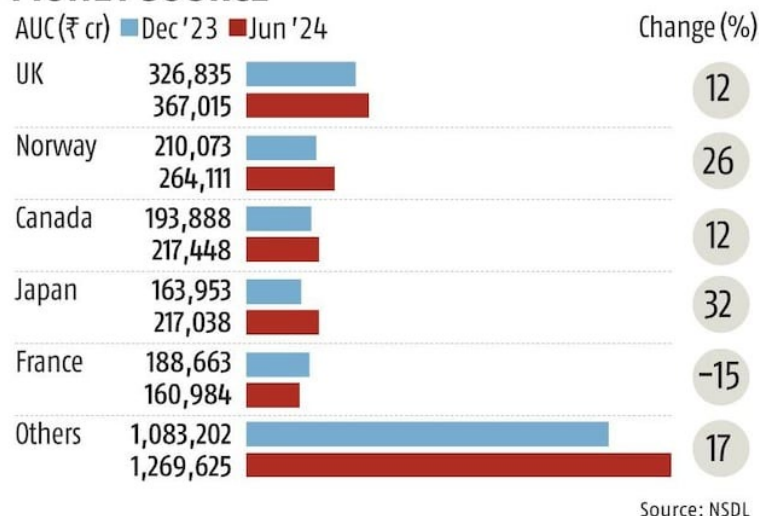
24. SIDBI to tap postmen to support small entrepreneurs

- Partnership between: Small Industries Development Bank of India (Sidbi) and India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)
- Aim: To extend credit to micro-entrepreneurs
- This initiative aims to provide finance to micro-level entrepreneurs using the dakiya (postmen) network.
- Sidbi is India's principal financial institution dedicated to promoting, developing, and financing micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs).
- It plays a critical role in supporting entrepreneurship, economic growth, and financial inclusion across the nation through various programs such as credit guarantee, direct credit, venture capital, digital platforms, and government program management.
- A micro-enterprise is defined as one where the investment in plant and machinery or equipment does not exceed Rs 1 crore, and turnover does not surpass Rs 5 crore. As of December 2023, government data shows there were over 30 million registered MSMEs in the country.

MONEY SOURCE



MONEY SOURCE



25. Bandhan Bank launches products to facilitate international trade

- Introduced: Letters of credit (LCs), Remittances, Bank guarantees, export-import collection bill and bill/invoice discounting
- Introduced by: Bandhan Bank
- Reason: To streamline various aspects of global trade by catering both to importers and exporters.
- The new products will empower SMEs and corporates to expand their businesses globally, while retail customers can make remittances to other countries.

26. ICICI Prudential MF launches India's first oil & gas ETF

- Launch of: ICICI Prudential Nifty Oil & Gas ETF
- Note: India's first exchange traded fund (ETF) in the oil and gas sector.
- Launched by: ICICI Prudential Mutual Fund
- Features:
 - The scheme opened for public subscription on July 08, 2024, and will close on July 18, 2024.
 - The scheme will track the Nifty Oil & Gas TRI, an index that reflects the performance of listed sector companies.
 - The Nifty Oil & Gas Index comprises a maximum of 15 stocks listed on the National Stock Exchange.
 - Investors can invest under the scheme with a minimum investment of ₹100 per plan/option and in multiples of Re 1.
 - There is no upper limit for investment.

27. Cash continues to rule small-sized transactions less than Rs 500: Survey

- Report title: How Urban India Pays report
- Survey by: Kearney India and Amazon Pay India
- Findings:
 - There continues to be a strong preference to transact using cash for small ticket transactions less than Rs 500.
 - The preference for UPI remains strong for transaction values between Rs 500 and Rs 1,999, with about 47% of individuals preferring the payment method for such transactions.
 - UPI continues to have a strong preference in online channels with about 53 per cent of individuals preferring to use the product.
 - Meanwhile, the preference for credit instruments such as buy now, pay later (BNPL) products and credit cards increases with the rise in ticket size of a purchase.

28. Sebi issues new guidelines to streamline operations of credit rating agencies

- Context: New guidelines for credit rating agencies
- Issued by: SEBI
- Reason: To streamline operations and enhance the ease of doing business for credit rating agencies
- Effective from August 01, 2024
- Changes:
 - CRAs communicate ratings to companies within one working day of the rating committee meeting, with an outer limit set to ensure promptness.
 - Companies have 3 working days to request a review or appeal of the rating decision.
 - Press releases on ratings must be disseminated on the CRA's website and notified to stock exchanges or debenture trustees within 7 working days of the rating committee meeting.
 - CRAs must maintain records of disclosures for 10 years, which can be shared with debenture trustees upon request.
 - Disclosures of ratings not accepted by issuers must be maintained for 12 months.

- Audit and Compliance: The guidelines will be monitored through the half-yearly internal audit for CRAs, as mandated under CRA norms.

29. Bank of Baroda to Raise ₹7,500 Crore Through AT1 and Tier 2 Bonds

- Context: Bank of Baroda plans to raise ₹7,500 crore through AT1 and Tier-II bonds
- By: March 2025
- Aim: To meet regulatory requirements and support growth
- As of March 2024
- Capital adequacy ratio (CAR) was 16.31%
- Common equity Tier-I ratio of 12.54%
- Additional Tier-I capital at 1.53%, and Tier-II at 2.24%
- Loan book grew by 12.5% year-over-year, reaching ₹10.9 trillion by the end of March 2024.
- Net interest income (NII) increased by 8.1% to ₹44,722 crore from ₹41,355 crore in the previous year.
- Note: Global rating agency Moody's affirmed a "Baa3" long-term local and foreign currency bank deposits rating for BoB in June 2024.

30. RBI Launches Quarterly Manufacturing Survey for Q2 2024

- Launch of: Quarterly Manufacturing Survey (order books, inventories, and capacity utilisation)
- Quarter: Q2 2024
- Launched by: The RBI
- The RBI has been conducting the order books, inventories and capacity utilisation survey (OBICUS) of the manufacturing sector on a quarterly basis since 2008.
- **List of Surveys launched by the RBI for Monetary Policy:**
- Inflation Expectations Survey of Households
- Consumer Confidence Survey
- OBICUS survey
- Industrial Outlook Survey of the Manufacturing Sector

31. Tata MF launches India's first tourism index fund

- Launch of: India's first Tourism Index fund (Tata Nifty India Tourism Index Fund)
- Launched by: Tata MF
- The Tata Nifty India Tourism Index Fund will track the Nifty India Tourism Index (TRI, i.e., total returns index).
- The index currently consists of 17 companies (as of June 21st, 2024) but can hold up to 30 companies chosen from the broader Nifty 500 index.

The weightings within the index showcase the current focus:

- Hotels and resorts (32%)



- Airlines (19%)
- Restaurants (19%)
- Tour & Travel related services (16%)
- Airports & airport services (10%)
- Luggage (3%)
- Open for subscription from July 8th, 2024, to July 19th, 2024 (NFO Period)
- The minimum investment amount during the NFO period is Rs. 5,000 and can be increased in multiples of Rs. 1.

32. RBI Has Cancelled Licence of 7 Co-Operative Banks Since Jan

- Context: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has cancelled licence of 7 Co-operative banks due to their deteriorating financial health.
- **7 Co-operative banks:**
 - Sumerpur Mercantile Urban Cooperative Bank Limited,
 - Jai Prakash Narayan Nagari Sahakari Bank Ltd,
 - Shree Mahalaxmi Mercantile Co-operative Bank Ltd,
 - Hiriyur Urban Co-operative Bank Ltd
 - Mumbai's City Co-operative Bank
 - Purvanchal Co-operative Bank in Ghazipur
 - Banaras Mercantile Co-operative Bank (Latest)
- In India, co-operative banks are:
- Registered under the States Co-operative Societies Act
- Regulated by the RBI under the Banking Regulations Act, 1949, and the Banking Laws (Co-operative Societies) Act, 1955.
- They have been under the RBI's oversight since 1966.
- Upon liquidation, every depositor will be entitled to receive up to Rs 5 lakh from DICGC.

33. Indian Overseas Bank unveils upgradation facility on savings scheme

- Launch of: Upgradation facility on savings scheme
- Bank: Indian Overseas Bank
- The higher variants of saving accounts like "SB Max" and "SB HNI".
- Offers:

- A host of enhanced facilities and features which includes concessions and waiver of various charges to provide more value and flexibility solutions to customers.
- Indian Overseas Bank has launched a new service enabling customers to access their loan account statements directly through the Digilocker application or website under its move to expand the service

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34. RBI imposes penalty on five banks for regulatory non-compliance

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) penalised five banks including Punjab National Bank (PNB) with various RBI directions.
- Five banks are:
 - The Gujarat Rajya Karmachari Co-operative Bank in Gujarat,
 - The Rohika Central Co-operative Bank in Madhubani, Bihar,
 - The National Co-operative Bank in Mumbai
 - The Bank Employees' Co-operative Bank in West Bengal.
- Punjab National Bank
- The penalty on PNB was imposed on July 3, 2024.
- Reason: For non-compliance with RBI directions regarding 'Loans and Advances: Statutory and Other Restrictions' and the 'Reserve Bank of India (Know Your Customer (KYC) Direction, 2016'.
- Penalty amount: ₹1,31,80,000 (Rupees One crore thirty-one lakh eighty thousand only)
- This penalty has been imposed in exercise of powers vested in RBI conferred under the provisions of section 47 A (1) (c) read with sections 46 (4) (i) and section 51(1) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.

35. IndusInd Bank launches Wrestle for Glory with IIS

- IndusInd Bank has announced the launch of 'Wrestle for Glory' program, a CSR initiative of the Bank, continuing the longstanding collaboration with the Inspire Institute of Sport (IIS) a high performance Olympic training facility headquartered in Vijayanagar.

36. Foreign banks surpass JP Morgan bond inflows as largest investors: RBI

- Report title: State of the Economy Report
- Report by: The Reserve Bank of India
- Foreign banks have emerged as the largest investors, with their investments exceeding the value of net inflows into JP Morgan index-eligible bonds.
- According to data from the Clearing Corp. of India, since June 1, 2024, foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) have infused Rs 26,251 crore in the debt segment.
- Foreign banks have bought more than \$6 billion worth of debt, while Indian government securities designated under the Fully Accessible Route (FAR) witnessed Rs 23,351 crore worth of inflows in the same period.
- Since the official inclusion on June 28, foreign investors have infused Rs 10,641 crore in the debt segment.

- FAR securities received Rs 8,959 crore in the same period.

37. NRI deposits see \$3 billion inflows in April-May FY25: RBI data

- Data by: Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
- Period: April-May FY25
- The NRI deposit schemes include foreign currency non-resident (FCNR) deposits, non-resident external (NRE) deposits, and non-resident ordinary (NRO) deposits.
- Overseas Indians deposited close to \$3 billion in non-resident Indian (NRI) deposit schemes.
- Inflows into the NRI schemes stood at \$2.72 billion.
- The total outstanding NRI deposits as of May stood at \$154.72 billion.
- In May alone, inflows into various NRI schemes stood at \$1.7 billion compared to \$1.07 billion in April
- Over \$1.10 billion came into FCNR deposits compared to \$524 million in the corresponding period a year ago, taking the total outstanding to \$26.8 billion.
- NRO deposits also saw substantial flow of \$481 million in April-May FY25, taking the total outstanding to \$28 billion.

38. Outward remittances fell 16% in May due to increase in TCS: RBI bulletin

- Outward remittances under the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI's) Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS) declined by over 16 per cent in May 2024.
- The LRS scheme was introduced in 2004
- Allowing all resident individuals to remit up to \$250,000 per financial year for any permissible current or capital account transaction, or a combination of both, free of charge.
- In the initial phase, the scheme was introduced with a limit of \$25,000, which was revised gradually.

39. India's fintech industry projected to reach \$420 bn by 2029 at CAGR of 31%

- The Indian fintech industry is estimated to be around USD 110 billion in 2024 and its projected to reach about USD 420 billion by 2029
- Expected to continue to grow due to factors like favourable policies of the government.
- NPCI Non-Executive Chairman and Independent Director: Ajay Kumar Choudhary

40. Jio Financial Services Gets RBI Nod to Become Core Investment Company

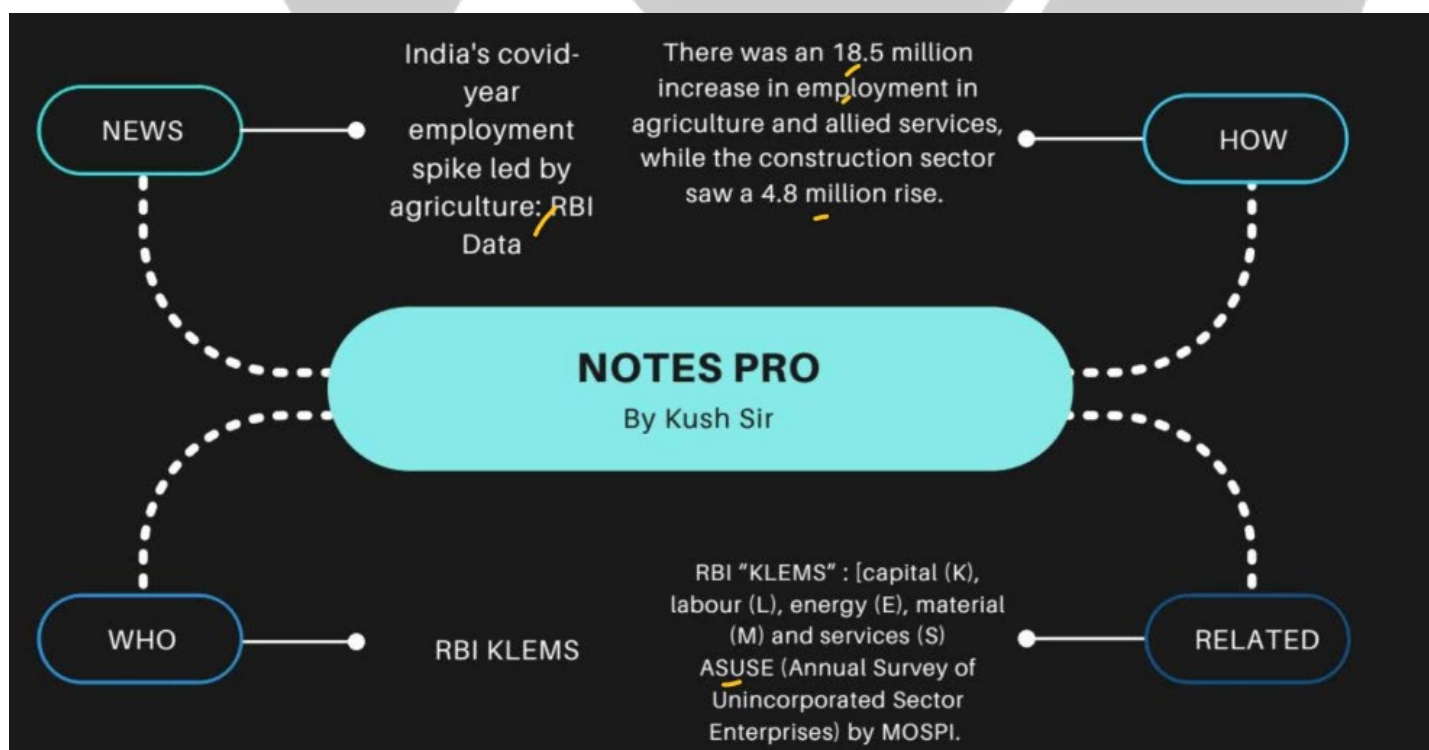
- Approval for Core Investment Company (CIC) to: Jio Financial Services
- Approval by: The Reserve Bank of India
- Earlier, Jio Financial Services was serving as Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC).
- Jio Financial Services applied to the RBI in November 2023 to convert its status to a CIC.

Note:

- A CIC is primarily responsible for overseeing the shares and securities of its group companies.
- It must hold at least 90% of its net assets in investments such as bonds, debentures, equity shares, and loans to group companies, with an asset size of at least ₹100 crore.

41. India's covid-year employment spike led by agriculture: RBI Data

- Data by: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
- Period: 2020-21
- The pandemic year 2020-21 has revealed significant increases in employment within agriculture and allied activities, construction, health, and social welfare.
- It measures productivity across 27 sectors resulting from COVID-19.
- There was an 18.5 million increase in employment in agriculture and allied services, while the construction sector saw a 4.8 million rise.
- These figures align with the real gross value added (GVA) in agriculture, which grew by 4%, against an overall GVA contraction of 4.1%.
- The KLEMS database, used by RBI and compiled from multiple data sources, indicates much of the employment growth in the farm sector can be attributed to self-employment, as many people returned to their villages following the nationwide lockdown in late March 2020.
- RBI "KLEMS" : [capital (K), labour (L), energy (E), material (M) and services (S)]
- ASUSE (Annual Survey of Unincorporated Sector Enterprises) by MOSPI.
- Labour Force as per KLEMS : 597 million
- Labour Force as per ASUSE : 568 million



42. SEBI proposes new asset class between mutual funds and PMS with Rs 10 lakh ticket size

- Context: SEBI proposed a 'New Asset Class'.

- Aim: To create a new product, which lies between mutual funds and portfolio management services (PMS) to cater to the needs of investors with higher risk-taking capabilities and a higher ticket size.
- The regulator has mooted a minimum ticket size of Rs 10 lakh for this yet-to-be-named product category — much below the threshold of Rs 50 lakh for PMS and Rs 1 crore for AIFs.
- Meanwhile, the minimum investment size for mutual funds (MFs) can be as low as Rs 100.

43. SEBI recognises BSE as supervisory body for research analysts, investment advisers

- Approval to: Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE)
- Approval by: SEBI
- Approval for: Supervisory body for research analysts, investment advisers
- Tenure: 5 years
- Starting from July 25, 2024
- As part of its new role, BSE will establish bye-laws, standard operating procedures (SOPs), and frequently asked questions (FAQs) to guide and facilitate the seamless adoption of the RAASB and IAASB frameworks by RAs and IAs.

44. Moody's affirms HDFC Bank's credit ratings, maintains stable outlook

- The credit ratings agency, Moody's Ratings have affirmed HDFC Bank Limited's Baa3 long-term deposit ratings and baa3 Baseline Credit Assessment (BCA).
- The rating agency also maintained stable outlook on the lender.
- The rating agency also informed that they would downgrade HDFC Bank's ratings if India's sovereign rating is downgraded or if the BCA is downgraded by more than one notch.

45. Bank of Baroda, BoM launch deposit schemes to fund credit demand

- **Bank of Baroda:**
 - Name: Bob Monsoon Dhamaka Deposit Scheme
 - Tenor buckets:
 - Offering interest rates of 7.25 per cent per annum for 399 days
 - Offering interest rates of 7.15 per cent per annum for 333 days
 - It would be for retail deposits below Rs 3 crore.
- **Bank of Maharashtra:**
 - Special scheme with four buckets for deposits up to Rs 10 crore.
 - For 200 days, it would offer 6.90% rate, for 400 days, the rate is 7.1% for 666 days it's 7.15% and for 777 days the rate is 7.25%

46. State Bank of India launches spl scheme 'Amrit Vrishti' to garner deposits

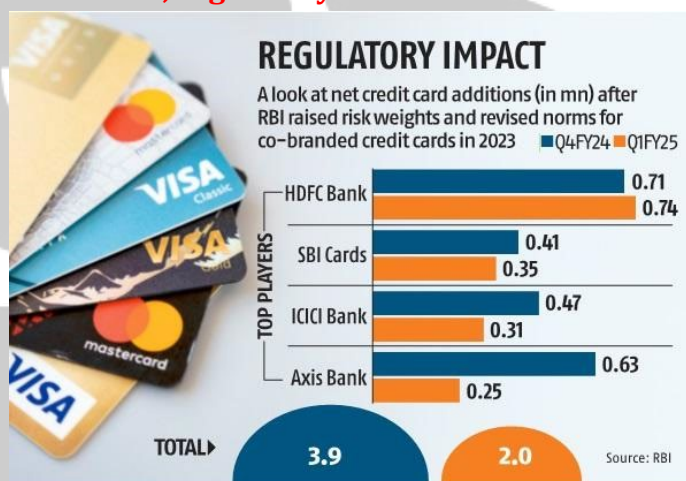
- The State Bank of India (SBI) has launched a special deposit scheme "Amrit Vrishti".
- Offering 7.25 per cent interest on deposits for 444 days
- The scheme also offers an additional 0.50 per cent interest rate to senior citizens.

47. SEBI study finds that 7 out of 10 individual intraday traders in equity cash segment make losses

- Study by: Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)
- Period: FY2022-23
- Comparing year: 2018-19
- Finding: More than 70% (7 out of 10) of individual intraday traders in the equity cash segment have incurred losses
- The surge of over 300% in the number of individuals participating in intraday trading in the equity cash segment in FY 2022-23
- Share of young intraday traders (age less than 30 years) has grown to 48%.
- The percentage of loss-makers among younger traders (age less than 30 years) was higher (76% in FY 2022-23) as compared to other age groups.

48. Net credit card additions down to 2 mn due to seasonal, regulatory factors

- Data by: Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
- Period: April-June quarter of FY25
- The net credit card additions during the stood at 2 million, which is 48% lower than 3.9 million in the December-March quarter of FY24.
- Reason: Regulatory factors
- Example:
- Increase in risk weight norms and directions
- Restricted Federal Bank, and South Indian Bank from issuing new co-branded credit cards, citing regulatory deficiencies.



49. RBI dividend helps Centre trim fiscal deficit to 4.9%

- Budget 2024-25:
- Total receipts other than borrowings (Estimated for 2024-25): ₹32.07 lakh crore
- Total expenditure (Estimated for 2024-25): ₹48.21 lakh crore
- Fiscal deficit:
- Estimated for 2024-25: 4.9% of GDP (estimated amount: ₹25.83 lakh crore)
- Note: 5.1% projected in the interim Budget in February 2024
- Target for 2025-26: 4.5% of GDP
- For 2023-24: 5.6% of GDP
- In May 2024, the RBI approved a dividend of ₹2.11 trillion for the Central government for FY24 (a massive 141% higher than in FY23).
- Conclusion: Reserve Bank of India (RBI) dividend held the government to trim borrowings as well as additional funds for development and welfare schemes, which reduced the fiscal deficit from

5.1% (Projected in February 2024) to 4.9% of GDP (Full Budget 2024-25).

50. Tech platform on cards to improve bankruptcy case outcomes

- Announcement of Launch: Integrated technology platform
- Reason: Debt Solution
- Beneficiary: All stakeholders of distressed companies including the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI), lenders, and tribunals, for the quick, uniform, and efficient rescue of companies.
- Additional tribunals will be established and some of them will exclusively handle cases under the Companies Act.
- At present, the National Company Law Tribunal takes up cases under the Companies Act as well as the IBC

51. RBI proposes to tighten banks' LCR norms, releases draft guidelines

- Proposal: To tighten norms related to the liquidity coverage ratio (LCR) by increasing the run-off factor for retail deposits
- Proposed by: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
- Reason: In view of the rising number of mobile and internet banking users
- Proposal:
 - To impose an additional run-off factor of 5% on both stable and less stable retail deposits that are enabled with internet and mobile banking facilities.
 - Run-offs are when individuals or businesses withdraw their deposits, which are not anticipated by banks.
 - Stable retail deposits enabled with IMB will have a 10 per cent run-off factor, and less stable deposits will have a 15 per cent run-off factor.
 - Current norms mandate banks to maintain a 100 per cent liquidity coverage ratio.
 - This means the stock of high-quality liquid assets (HQLA) should be at least equal to total net cash outflows.
 - The LCR promotes the short-term resilience of banks to potential liquidity disruptions by ensuring that they have sufficient HQLAs to survive an acute stress scenario lasting for 30 days.
 - It is proposed that the new norms would come into effect from April 1, 2025.

52. AU Small Finance Bank Seeks Universal Banking License

- AU Small Finance Bank's board has approved a proposal to transition from a Small Finance Bank (SFB) to a universal bank.
- This decision aligns with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) guidelines issued on August 1, 2016
- The circular on voluntary transition of SFBs to universal banks dated April 26, 2024.
- **RBI Guidelines and Criteria**
 - As per RBI's April 2024 guidelines, SFBs wishing to become universal banks must meet several criteria:
 - Minimum net worth of ₹1,000 crore
 - Listing on a recognized stock exchange
 - Net profit in the last two financial years

- Gross NPA ratio of $\leq 3\%$ and Net NPA ratio of $\leq 1\%$

53. Bank of India Secures Rs 5,000 Crore Through 10-Year Infrastructure Bonds

- Bank of India (BoI) has raised Rs 5,000 crore at a coupon rate of 7.54% through 10-year infrastructure bonds.
- The issue had a base size of Rs 2,000 crore, and a green shoe option of Rs 3,000 crore.

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54. NARCL lines up another Rs 1.25 lakh cr of NPAs from banks

- The government backed National Asset Reconstruction Co Ltd (NARCL) has offered to acquire another Rs 1.25 lakh crore of non-performing assets (NPAs) from banks.
- The finance ministry said in the pre-budget economic survey for 2023-24.
- This is in addition to the 18 accounts with total banking loan exposure of around Rs 92,000 crore acquired by NARCL so far.
- NARCL started operation in January 2022 and acquires bad loans from banks, by paying 15% of the amount in cash and the rest in security receipts (SRs) which are to be matched with recovery over time.
- NPA of the agriculture sector remains high at 6.5% at the end of March 2024.

55. RBI Imposes Penalty Of ₹1.9 Lakh On Muthoot Finance For KYC Non-Compliance

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed a monetary penalty on Muthoot Finance Limited for failing to adhere to the 'Know Your Customer (KYC) Directions, 2016'.
- RBI has imposed a penalty of ₹1,90,000 on Muthoot Finance Limited.

56. SIDBI To Build \$1B Fund For Green Financing With \$215 M

- The Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) will create a corpus of \$1 billion for 'financing mitigation and adaptation projects' (FMAP) of Medium and Small Enterprises (MSMEs).
- It has received approval of funding of \$ 215.6 m from the Green Climate Fund.
- The board of the Green Climate Fund is an entity set up by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

57. Centre to Set Up 100 Branches of India Post Payments Bank in North East

- The government announced that it will set up as many as 100 branches of India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) in the Northeastern states of the country.
- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced in the Union Budget for 2024-25.

58. Paytm partners with Axis Bank to offer POS solutions, card payment devices

- Fintech firm One 97 Communications, Paytm's parent company, has teamed up with Axis Bank to provide point of sales solutions and card payment machines to banks and merchants.
- Paytm's EDC devices offer store management services like inventory management and CRM.
- The partnership aims to enhance transaction efficiency, store management, and customer engagement, benefiting both companies.

59. RBI sells \$406 million in Indian Bonds as Index Inclusion boosts inflows

- India's central bank sold ₹34 billion (\$406 million) of bonds in the secondary market, likely to absorb excess cash in the banking system resulting from inflows into the nation's debt after being included in a global index.
- The Reserve Bank of India's bond sales occurred over four days, according to the monetary authority's weekly statistical supplement.
- Foreign investments in local bonds have surpassed \$1 billion so far in July following the inclusion of India's bonds in JPMorgan Chase & Co.'s flagship emerging market bond index late last month.
- India became the 25th market to be included in the index since its inception in June 2005.

60. RBI tightens norms for cash pay-outs at banks

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced tighter norms for cash pay-out services at banks, effective from November 1, 2024.
- Under the revised framework for 'Domestic Money Transfer', remitting banks must now maintain records of recipients' names and addresses for cash pay-outs.
- In the case of cash pay-in service, the remitting banks/ business correspondents (BCs) will register the remitter based on a verified cell phone number and a self-certified 'officially valid document (OVD)' as per the know your customer direction.
- Also, every transaction by a remitter should be validated by an additional factor of authentication (AFA).
- Further, remitter bank should include remitter details as part of the IMPS / NEFT transaction message

61. RBI Cancels Licence of Mahabhairab Cooperative Urban Bank, Tezpur

- The RBI has cancelled the licence of Tezpur-based The Mahabhairab Cooperative Urban Bank
- Reason: Deteriorating financial condition
- Following the cancellation of its licence, the cooperative bank ceases to carry on banking business, with effect from the close of business on July 24, 2024.
- On liquidation, every depositor would be entitled to receive insurance claim amount of his/her deposits up to Rs 5 lakh from Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC).

Economy

1. India's forex reserves decline \$1.71 bn to \$651.99 bn

- India's forex reserves dropped \$1.713 billion to \$651.997 billion for the week ended June 28.
- In the previous reporting week, the overall kitty had dropped \$2.922 billion to \$652.895 billion.
- The reserves had touched an all-time high of \$655.817 billion as on June 7 this year.
- Foreign currency assets, a major component of the reserves, decreased \$1.252 billion to \$572.881 billion
- Gold reserves were down \$427 million to \$56.528 billion
- The special drawing rights (SDRs) declined \$35 million to \$18.014 billion
- India's reserve position with the IMF was up USD 1 million to USD 4.573 billion in the reporting week.

2. RBI keeps floating rate savings bond interest rate for July-Dec at 8.05%

- Floating rate savings bond interest rate for July -Dec 2024: 8.05%
- Effective from July 1, 2024
- **What is RBI Floating Rate Savings Bond?**
- The RBI Floating Rate Savings Bonds 2020 (Taxable) are a type of government bond that offers a floating interest rate.
- **Its key features are:**
- They have a seven-year lock-in period.
- The interest rate on these bonds is reset twice a year, with investors receiving interest payments semi-annually on January 1 and July 1.
- Minimum subscription: Rs 1,000 and in multiples of Rs 1,000, thereafter.
- Maximum investment limit: No
- Taxable
- Premature withdrawal - Not allowed, except for senior citizens who can withdraw early with a penalty after a minimum lock-in period.
- Lock-in period: Depends on age - six years for those aged 60 to 70, five years for those aged 70 to 80, and four years for those over 80.

3. IBBI introduces digital forms for monitoring liquidation processes

- Agency: Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India
- Launched: A set of electronic forms under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code
- The new circular introduces forms LIQ 1 to LIQ 4, covering different stages of the liquidation process.

- Present process: The IPs submit the details regarding the liquidation process, to the board through emails, which is time-consuming and inefficient
- Aim: To ease the compliance burden for insolvency professionals
- These forms are crucial for the liquidation process under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC).
- Systematic and transparent record-keeping
- Different stages of LIQ 1 to LIQ 4:
 - LIQ 1: Details from the commencement of liquidation to the public announcement
 - LIQ 2: Information from the public announcement to the progress report, including valuation, sale, and receipts
 - LIQ 3: Focuses on the period from the last progress report to the application for dissolution
 - LIQ 4: Deals with the distribution of proceeds and other final details post-dissolution order

4. GST collection at Rs 1.74 trillion in June 2024

- GST collection June 2024: Rs 1.74 trillion
- 7.7 per cent year-on-year (YoY) growth
- Notably less than the 12.4% and 10% increases recorded in April and May, respectively.
- April 2024 witnessed a record-high GST collection of Rs 2.1 trillion.
- The GST taxpayer base increased to 14.6 million in April 2024
- Note: The finance ministry has now decided to discontinue the publication of detailed tax collection numbers.



5. EPFO gross new members addition dips 4% to 10.9 mn in 2023-24: MoSPI report

- Report title: 'Payroll Reporting in India: An Employment Perspective January to April, 2024'
- Report by: Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation
- **Findings:**
 - EPFO's gross new subscribers addition declined by over 4% to 10.9 million in 2023-24 compared to a year ago
 - EPFO recorded 10,993,119 gross addition of new members in 2023-24 compared to 11,498,453 in 2022-23.

6. Moody's keeps India's 2024 economic growth forecast unchanged at 6.8%

- Agency: Moody's
- Forecast:
 - 2024: India's GDP grow at 6.8%
 - 2025: 6.5%
- Note: In its Global Macro Outlook 2024-25 published in March 2024, Moody's raised its forecast for India's GDP growth in 2024 from 6.1% to 6.8%

- Moody's expects inflation in India to ease to 5.2% in 2024 and 4.8% in 2025 from 5.7% in 2023.

7. SBI research suggests centre to target 4.9% fiscal deficit in 2024

- SBI Research suggests the government should aim for a fiscal deficit target of 4.9% for the 2024-25 financial year.
- SBI Research anticipates that robust growth in GST revenues, coupled with higher dividends from PSUs and the Reserve Bank of India, could enable the government to set a fiscal deficit below 5%.
- Team led by Group Chief Economic Adviser Soumya Kanti Ghosh
- The difference between total revenue and total expenditure of the government is termed as fiscal deficit.
- It is an indication of the total borrowings that may be needed by the government.
- Note:
- The government has previously said it intends to bring the fiscal deficit below 4.5% of GDP by 2025-26.
- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is set to make history with her sixth budget presentation, surpassing the record held by former Prime Minister Morarji Desai.

8. Finance Ministry notifies 7.1% as interest rate for Special Deposit Scheme in July-September

- Agency: Finance Ministry
- Name of Scheme: Special Deposit Scheme (SDS)
- Interest rate: 7.1%
- Tenure: July 1 to September 30, 2024
- The rates remain unchanged from the April-June quarter.
- What is Special Deposit Scheme (SDS)?
- Launched by: Central government
- Launched on: July 1, 1975.
- Aim: To provide better returns to non-government provident funds, superannuation and gratuity funds, surplus funds of the Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) and Employees' State Insurance Corporation, etc.

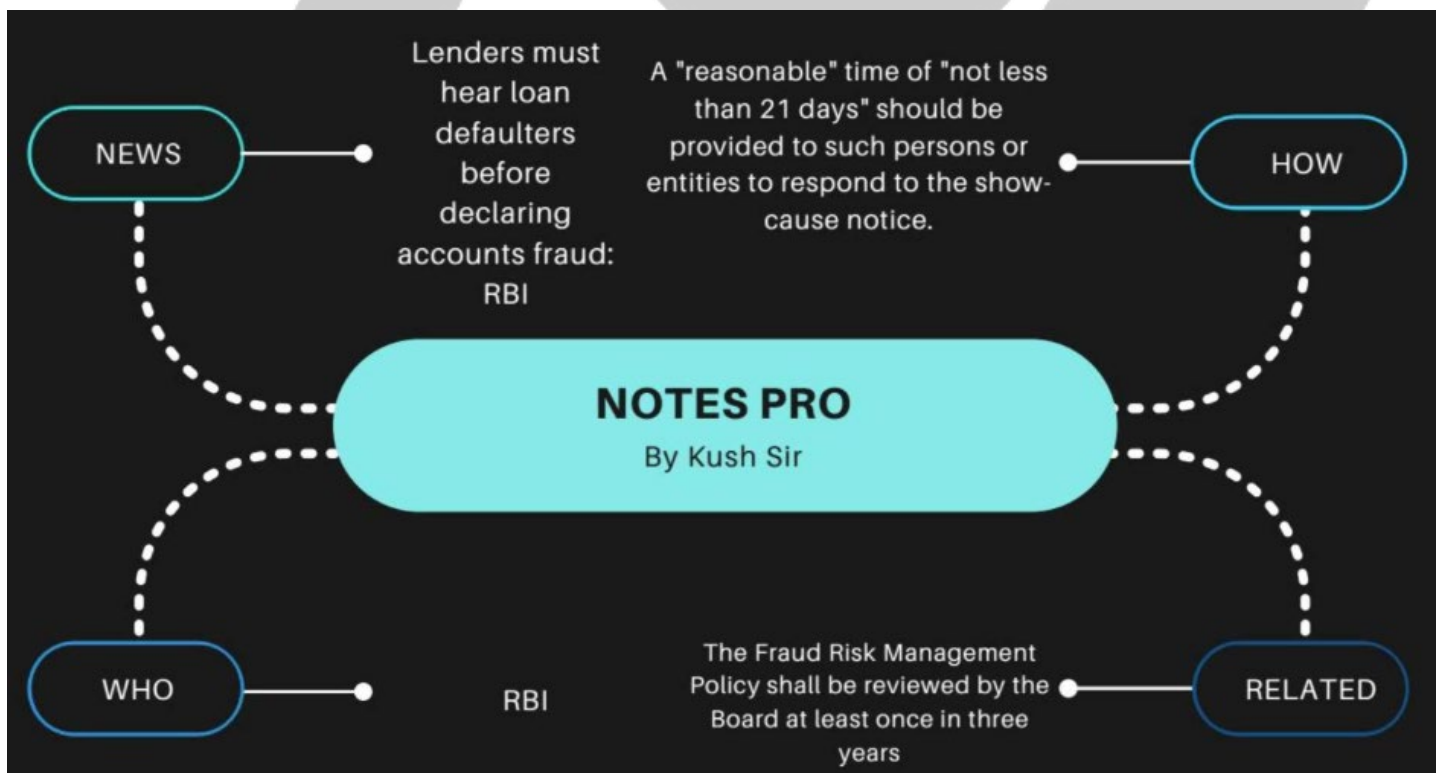
9. ADB keeps India's GDP growth projection for FY25 unchanged at 7%

- India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth projection for the current financial year (FY25) unchanged at 7 per cent.
- For FY26, ADB has maintained India's GDP growth projection at 7.2 per cent, as stated in its April Outlook.



10. Lenders must hear loan defaulters before declaring accounts fraud: RBI

- India's central bank asked lenders to give defaulting borrowers enough time to respond before they are classified as "fraud accounts".
- It follows a judgment by the top court of country.
- Banks will now have to issue a show-cause notice to fraudulent entities, with complete details of the fraud.
- A "reasonable" time of "not less than 21 days" should be provided to such persons or entities to respond to the show-cause notice.
- The amendment to current rules incorporates a Supreme Court judgment in March last year that banks cannot unilaterally declare an account as fraud without providing the defaulter the right to be heard.
- Principles of natural justice demand that borrowers must be served a notice giving an opportunity to explain the conclusion of the forensic audit report and be allowed to represent themselves in front of the lenders before their account is classified as fraud under the master directions
- Lenders' fraud risk Management policy shall be reviewed by the board at least once in three years.
- Under the revised directions, banks are also required to have a framework for Early Warning Signals and the so-called Red Flagging of Accounts - where suspicion of fraudulent activity is thrown up by the presence of one or more indicators - under the overall risk management policy.



11. India's Retail Digital Payment Likely To Double To 7 Trillion Dollars By 2030: Report

- India's retail digital payment is likely to double to 7 trillion dollars by 2030.
- Study by Kerney and Amazon Pay.
- India's digital payments for retail transactions have grown to 3.6 trillion dollars in the financial year 2023-24, compared to 300 billion dollars in the financial year 2017-18.
- UPI transactions were introduced in India on April 11, 2016.
- The digital transaction levels have seen a 138% growth in the Unified Payment Interface (UPI) payments levels from the financial year 2018 to 2024.

12. Wholesale Inflation In Country Rises For Fourth Consecutive Month In June At 3.36 %

- Wholesale inflation rose for the fourth consecutive month in June 2024 at 3.36 per cent.
- Reason: Rise in prices of food articles, especially vegetables and manufactured items.
- The wholesale price index (WPI) based inflation was 2.61% in May.
- It was (-) 4.18% in June 2023.
- Inflation in food articles rose 10.87% in June, as against 9.82 per cent in May.
- In manufactured products, inflation was at 1.43% in June, higher than 0.78 per cent in May.
- Name of Index : Wholesale Price Index
- Published by : Office of Economic Advisor, Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- Frequency : Monthly
- Base Year : 2011-12
- Total Items : 697
- It is calculated by taking a weighted average of the prices of a basket of goods, with each item's weight determined by its share of total wholesale sales.
- The basket of goods comprises three major groups:
- Primary Articles (Weight 22.62%)
- Fuel and Power (Weight 13.15%)
- Manufactured Products (Weight 64.23%)

13. MSMEs urge RBI to allow P2P lending

- Micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) have urged the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to develop a regulatory framework for peer lending and crowdfunding to overcome credit gaps.
- It is imperative for India to adopt a comprehensive framework encompassing both equity-based crowdfunding with an upper limit of Rs 10,000 for an investor to invest in MSMEs and debt-based crowdfunding models.
- Crowdfunding is a method of raising capital collectively by a large number of individuals, typically through online platforms.
- This approach taps the resources of a wider audience (the "crowd") to fund a project, business, or venture.
- P2P lending is a form of crowdfunding that enables individuals to borrow and lend without an official financial institution as an intermediary.

- P2P-lending platforms connect borrowers directly with investors, facilitating loans that are often more accessible and at lower interest rates than bank loans.

14. IMF Raises India's GDP Forecast To 7% For Current Financial Year

- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) upgraded India's economic growth forecast by 20 basis points (bps) to 7 per cent year-on-year basis for the current financial year 2024-25.
- With this, India continues to be the fastest-growing economy of the world.
- On the other hand, IMF's global growth projections are unchanged at 3.2 per cent for the calendar year 2024 and slightly higher at 3.3 per cent in 2025.

15. India's FY25 GDP growth seen at 6.5-7 per cent in real terms: Economic Survey

- GDP Forecast : 6.5-7% - FY25, 8.2% - FY24
- Retail Inflation : 5.4% - FY24
- CAD : 0.7% - FY24
- Tax Division : Direct Taxes : 55%, Indirect Taxes : 45%
- Indian economy needs to generate an average of nearly 78.5 lakh jobs annually until 2030 in the non-farm sector to cater to the rising workforce.

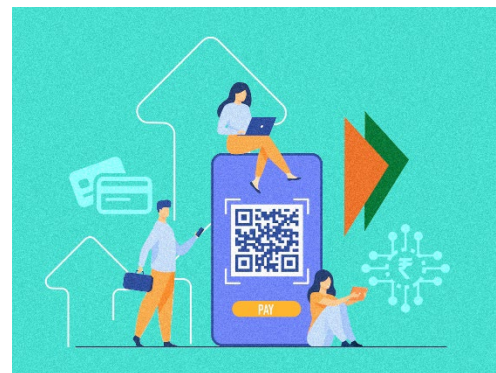


16. Budget 2024-25 earmarks Rs 1.28 lakh cr for telecom ministry

- The government has proposed the allocation of Rs 1.28 lakh crore for telecom projects and public sector firms under the telecom ministry with a majority of funds earmarked for state-owned BSNL.
- Of the total proposed allocation, over Rs 1 lakh crore is meant for BSNL and MTNL-related expenses, including Rs 82,916 crore infusion in BSNL for technology upgradation and restructuring at BSNL.
- The government has proposed to allocate Rs 3,668.97 crore for payment of principal amount of MTNL bonds.

17. Govt reduces budgetary allocation for UPI and RuPay small value payments to Rs 1,441 crore

- In Budget 2024, around Rs 1,441 crore has been earmarked for incentivising fintech firms to facilitate small-value BHIM-UPI transactions (person-to-merchant) and RuPay debit cards.
- However, the allocated funds are 42 percent lower than the Rs 2,485 crore allocated in the previous budget for 2023-24.
- Additionally, no capital was set aside for promoting digital payments this time, compared to Rs 1,500 crore earmarked in the previous budget.



- Even of the Rs 1,500 crore budgeted for the previous fiscal, the government revised the allocation downward to Rs 584 crore.

18. Govt retains 14 pc rise in capital investment of Rs 67,000 cr by 8 power PSUs in FY25

- The government in the Budget retained nearly 14% rise in capital investment of Rs 67,286.01 crore proposed in the interim document by eight state-owned power companies for this fiscal.
- The government had provided for Rs 67,286.01 crore investment by the eight power sector firms in the interim budget presented on February 1, 2024, compared to Rs 59,119.55 crore for 2023-24 under the revised estimate.

Insurance

1. LIC Launches Agency Transformation Initiative 'Jeevan Samarth'

- The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) launched 'Jeevan Samarth', to future-proof its 14 lakhs (1.4 million) agents workforce to meet evolving customer needs.
- LIC has partnered A. T. Kearney, with global strategy consulting firm, to undertake the transformation project by reviewing the LIC's existing agency framework.
- It will focus on providing suitable long-term savings, protection, health insurance, Unit Linked Insurance Plan (ULIP), and pension solutions.

2. Narayana Health Insurance launches its first insurance product 'Aditi'

- Launch of: Aditi (insurance product)
- Launched by: Narayana Health Insurance
- Note: Narayana Health Insurance Ltd. (NHIL), a new venture by Bengaluru-based hospital chain Narayana Health
- Aim: To bridge the gap in healthcare access for the masses in India by offering comprehensive coverage at an affordable price point
- Premium: Rs 10,000 annually
- Offer:
- Comprehensive coverage with a sum assured of Rs 1 crore for surgeries
- Rs 5 lakh for medical management at Narayana Health network hospitals



3. ICICI Lombard launches AI-powered health insurance plan

- Launch of: Elevate
- Launched by: ICICI Lombard

- Type: AI-powered health insurance plan
- Aim: To offer tailored solutions for diverse healthcare needs, unforeseen medical emergencies, and rising medical costs.

4. Star Health launches home healthcare initiative

- Launch of: Home Health Care service
- Launched by: Star Health and Allied Insurance Company
- Aim: To provide healthcare service at doorstep in 50 cities
- Collaborated with: Care24, Portea, CallHealth, Athulya Homecare and Argala
- Pilot study: Coimbatore, Pune, Delhi, and Kolkata
- Customers would be able to avail treatment for various ailments like fever, acute gastroenteritis, urinary tract infection, acute Gastritis by calling the toll-free number 044-69006900 or through the Star Health mobile application.
- Managing Director and CEO: Anand Roy

5. ICICI Lombard launches surety insurance for infra sector

- Launch of: Surety Insurance
- Launched by: ICICI Lombard
- Reason: To provide risk mitigation solutions for India's burgeoning infrastructure sector.
- What is Surety insurance?
- It acts as a guarantee to a beneficiary (typically an authority or client) that a principal debtor (usually a contractor) will fulfil their contractual obligations.
- If the contractor fails to honour the terms or contractual commitments, the surety insurance provider will provide financial compensation to the beneficiary.

6. Federal Bank and Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance Announce Strategic Bancassurance Partnership

- Bancassurance agreement between: Federal Bank and Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance
- Aim: To leverage the combined strengths of Bajaj Allianz Life and Federal Bank
- It aligns with both the companies' strategic goals and growth plans and will drive insurance penetration and market expansion.
- Note:
- Target: To achieve the long-term goal of 'insurance for all' by 2047

7. Ageas Federal Life Insurance launches Golden Years Pension Plan

- Launch of: Golden Years Pension Plan
- Launched by: Ageas Federal Life Insurance
- Type: Pension Plan
- Aim: To provide a comprehensive solution for securing the financial futures of policyholders during their retirement years.

- It is a Unit Linked, Non-Participating, Individual Pension Plan specifically designed to provide financial stability during retirement.
- Early Investment Booster provides additional allocations to encourage early retirement planning for those aged 18-35.
- It allows entry ages of 18-70 years for the Classic Option and up to 60 years for the Golden Waiver of Premium Option.
- Note:
- The Bluechip Pension Fund invests in listed equities, aiming to generate high returns by investing in established and emerging blue-chip stocks.

8. LIC Enters Into Tie-Up With IDFC First Bank Under Corporate Agency Arrangement

- Partnership between: LIC and IDFC First Bank
- Type: Corporate Agency Arrangement
- Aim: To increase the contribution of bancassurance and provide life insurance coverage to all by 2047.

9. Tata AIG partners with Mahindra Finance to distribute motor, health insurance products

- Partnership between: Tata AIG and Mahindra Finance
- Aim: To enhance accessibility to general insurance solutions including motor, health, and personal accident coverages, reinforcing financial services in rural and semi-urban India
- Note: Tata AIG, a joint venture company between Tata Group and American International Group (AIG).



Mahindra FINANCE

States

1. Air India to Set Up South Asia's Largest Flight Training School in Amravati

- Air India is establishing South Asia's largest flight training school.
- Location: Amravati district, Maharashtra
- Investment: Over ₹200 crore
- Scheduled to open in the first quarter of the next financial year
- Aim: To secure a steady pipeline of pilots for the airline
- It will require 500-700 pilots annually to support its expansion plans following a mega order of 470 Airbus and Boeing aircraft in 2023.

2. Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan sign MoU for implementing river linking project

- MoU signed between: Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan government
- Signed for: Implementing river linking project
- Project: Parbati-Kalisindh-Chambal river linking project
- It would provide water to 13 districts in Rajasthan, and Malwa and Chambal regions in Madhya Pradesh.
- It would also help in irrigation in at least 2.8 lakh hectare area each in both states.

3. Gujarat govt signs MoUs with IBM, Microsoft to enhance AI capabilities

- The Gujarat government signed memorandums of understanding with software giants IBM and Microsoft, and the National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM) for promoting the use of Artificial Intelligence technologies in the state.
- The AI Center will focus on key technologies such as machine learning, cognitive services and bot services.
- The department also signed another MoU with NASSCOM to enhance AI capabilities in the state



4. NFSU And Haryana Govt. Sign An MoU To Establish A Centre Of Excellence In Panchkula

- An MoU for setting up the Centre of Excellence for matters related to identified crime cases was signed between National Forensic Science University (NFSU) and Haryana Government at Panchkula, Haryana.
- A 50-acre campus will be built in Panchkula, Haryana in collaboration with NFSU.
- It will be the country's first Center of Excellence which will be built in the state.

5. Arunachal Pradesh Yields New Species of Horned Frog

- A team of researchers from the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) has recorded a new species of forest-dwelling horned frog in Arunachal Pradesh.
- Led by Bhaskar Saikia and Bikramjit Sinha of ZSI Shillong, the team included K.P. Dinesh and A. Shabnam of ZSI Pune and Ilona Jacinta Kharkongor of ZSI Itanagar.
- The new-to-science *Xenophrys apatani*, recorded from the Talle Wildlife Sanctuary in the Lower Subansiri district
- It has been named after the dominant Apatani community in recognition of their ingenuity in the conservation of wild flora and fauna.

6. Uttar Pradesh NIRMAL Bill-2024

- The state government has passed the draft for the Uttar Pradesh Nodal Investment Region for Manufacturing (Construction) Area Bill (NIRMAL)-2024.
- This initiative, chaired by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, is part of a broader strategy to uplift the state's economy to the one trillion dollar mark.
- Special Investment Regions (SIRs) are supposed to be set up all over UP by the NIRMAL-2024 bill.
- The plan is for these areas to be spread out evenly across the state's four geographical zones.
- To make these SIRs, cluster regions for big investments are being built.
- The goal is to give power from the state government to regional officials, which will make doing business easier.

7. Chandrababu Naidu launches distribution of enhanced social security pension of ₹4,000 per month in Andhra Pradesh

- Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu launched the NTR Bharosa pension scheme.
- The NTR Bharosa Scheme is a social security program designed to provide financial support to various vulnerable groups in Andhra Pradesh.

Key Features

Increased pension amounts for different categories:

- Old-aged people, widows, weavers, etc.: Rs 4,000 per month (up from Rs 3,000)
- Disabled and leprosy patients: Rs 6,000 per month (up from Rs 3,000)
- Severely disabled: Rs 15,000 per month (up from Rs 5,000)
- Chronic disease patients: Rs 10,000 per month (up from Rs 5,000)
- Doorstep delivery of pensions
- Total amount distributed on launch day: Rs 4,408 crore

8. Telangana Police registers first FIR with digital signature under new criminal laws

- In Telangana, the first FIR under the new Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, (BNS) which replaces the Indian Penal Code (IPC) from July 1, has been registered at the Charminar police station in Hyderabad.
- An FIR under Section 281 of the BNS and sections 80(a) and 177 of the MV Act was registered by the Charminar police at 1 a.m. after they were found riding with improper number plates
- An hour later, the Rajendranagar police registered a case under Section 104 of the BNS following the death of a driver who crashed into the divider on the PVNR Expressway.



9. Tamil Nadu Govt passes Bill to combat illicit liquor with stiffer penalties

- Bill amended by: Tamil Nadu government
- Amendment: Tamil Nadu Prohibition Act, 1937
- Aim: To enhance the punishment term and quantum of fine for offences like manufacturing, possessing and selling illicit liquor that endangers lives.
- The amendment follows the Kallakurichi hooch tragedy, substantially enhances the term of imprisonment and quantum of fine for various offences under sections 4,5,6,7, and 11 of the Act.
- Maximum punishment of 10 years' Rigorous Imprisonment and a penalty of up to ₹5 lakhs

10. TN House passes Bill increasing age limit of chief of SC/ST commission

- The Tamil Nadu Assembly approved an amendment to the State Commission for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Act, enhancing the age limit for the Chief of the Commission from 70 to 75 years.

11. Jharkhand Celebrates Hul Diwas

- Hul Kranti Diwas is celebrated on June 30 every year to mark the independence movement of 1855 led by tribal heroes Sidho, Kanho, Chand, Bhairav, among others.

12. Itanagar Woman Police Station Awarded With ISO 9001:2015 Certification

- The Woman Police Station, Itanagar, has been awarded with ISO 9001:2015 certification
- This was informed by the Superintendent of Police, Itanagar, Rohit Rajbir Singh.
- This recognition highlights the station's commitment to dealing humanely and effectively with crimes against women and children.
- The ISO 9001:2015 certification is an international standard that signifies the implementation of a comprehensive quality management system.

13. TN to promote Madurai, Thoothukudi, Tirunelveli, Virudhunagar as 'Space Bay'

- The Tamil Nadu government is promoting the nearby districts of Madurai, Thoothukudi, Tirunelveli, and Virudhunagar as “Space Bay.”
- It plans to offer additional incentives to companies to accelerate development, according to Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation (TIDCO).

Note:

- The Kulasekarapattinam spaceport will be ready in two years to launch small satellites

14. Jharkhand Cabinet approves financial assistance scheme for 45 lakh women

- Name of Scheme: Mukhya Mantri Bahan Beti Maiqui Swabalamban Protsahan Yojana
- Launched by: Jharkhand government
- Beneficiary: 45 lakh women
- Aim: To empower and make them self-reliant
- Each woman will receive Rs 1,000 per month
- The state government will bear Rs 5,500 crore annually for this initiative
- The scheme is applicable to women between 21 and 50 years of age.
- Income tax payees, government employees, EPF holders, and a few other categories are excluded from the scheme's benefits

15. Uttar Pradesh to Establish Rs 2000 Crore Bioplastic Park

- Uttar Pradesh's government, led by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, has made it official that a bioplastic park will be built in the Lakhimpur Kheri area.
- The idea comes about because more and more people are worried about how plastics made from petroleum hurt the environment.
- The park is in Kumbhi village, Gola Gokarnnath tehsil, and covers 1000 hectares.
- It will be developed quickly with an investment of around Rs 2 billion.

16. Gujarat FDI Jumps 55%, Hits \$7.3 Billion in FY 2023-24

- Data by: Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)
- Ministry: Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- Findings:
- Gujarat registered a 55 per cent (\$ 2.6 billion) increase in the FDI inflow during the fiscal year 2023-24 over FY 2022-23.
- It received \$7.3 billion in FY 2023-24 as compared to the \$4.7 billion received in FY 2022-23.
- With a total FDI inflow of \$15.1 billion in 2024, Maharashtra tops the chart followed by Gujarat with \$7.3 billion.
- Karnataka came in third, Delhi fourth, and Telangana fifth with FDI inflows of \$6.6 billion, \$6.5 billion and \$3 billion, respectively.

17. BSF organises "Grow with the Trees" plantation drive in Srinagar

- Name of drive: Grow with the Trees
- Type: Plantation drive
- Location: Sri Nagar, Jammu & Kashmir
- Launched by: BSF officials and officials from SBI Bank
- World Environment Day: June 5; Theme 2024: Land restoration, desertification and drought resilience; Host: The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

18. Punjab Gets Its First Plant Clinic & Soil Testing Laboratory In Moga

- The first plant clinic and soil testing laboratory of Punjab has been established in Moga, with a grant from the NITI Aayog.
- The clinic will provide free soil testing and plant disease diagnosis services to farmers.
- Moga district is among the aspirational districts of the country and this clinic equipped with modern equipment is a part of development by NITI Aayog in the area.
- The clinic has been set up with a total cost of Rs 1 crore 25 lakh.
- The latest machine here can analyze soil samples and provide detailed reports on nutrient content, pH levels, and other parameters.
- The clinic will also have a plant doctor who will examine diseased plant samples and provide advice to farmers on how to manage diseases and pests.
- The farmers will be able to get their soil tested and receive expert advice on how to improve its fertility, thereby increasing their yields and incomes.

19. Bhoj wetland faces delisting from Ramsar Convention list

- Bhoj wetland in Bhopal faces the threat of being delisted from Ramsar Convention's list of wetlands of international importance due to possible damage to its ecological character.
- This is the first step on delisting the wetland after analysing the possibility of any change in ecological character of the site due to pollution or human interference.
- Wetlands are land areas covered by water, either temporarily/seasonally or permanently.
- Such areas - marshes, ponds, lakes, fens, floodplains and swamps- play a crucial role in the hydrological cycle and flood control, and providing water supply.
- It also provides food, fibre and raw material.
- Bhoj wetland, designated as a Ramsar site in Aug 2002, is one of 82 such sites in India on the list for conservation and management of wetlands under a globally accepted framework.
- The Convention was adopted in 1971 in Iranian city of Ramsar.

20. Tata Power Launches 'Ghar Ghar Solar' Initiative in Uttar Pradesh

- Launch of: Ghar Ghar Solar'
- Launched by: Tata Power
- State: Uttar Pradesh
- Starting from Varanasi, offering substantial subsidies and state-of-the-art rooftop solar solutions to residents.
- Residents can avail a maximum subsidy of up to Rs. 1,08,000 on rooftop solar installation, combining Central and State Government subsidies.
- Installing a 3 kW solar rooftop can save residents up to INR 27,000 annually on electricity bills, with the potential to generate 12 units of electricity daily.
- Committed to achieving carbon neutrality by 2045, Tata Power continues to pioneer the clean energy transition in India.



21. Rajasthan Becomes First State to Adopt a Road Safety Action Plan

- Rajasthan will be the first state in India to create a ten-year action plan specifically designed to improve road safety.
- Targeting a 50% drop in traffic accidents by 2030, this plan was backed by Deputy Chief Minister Prem Chand Bairwa in July 2023.
- Implementing the safety measures for roads is organized into three key steps: 2025–2027:
- Focus on basic road safety issues, such as following speed limits and traffic signals.
- Focus will be put more on safety behaviors like wearing seatbelts and helmets from 2027 to 2030.
- From 2030 to 2033, advanced mergers will focus on creating safer walking areas and improving infrastructure.

22. MoU signed between UP Tourism and MakeMyTrip

- MoU between: Uttar Pradesh Tourism Department and MakeMyTrip
- Aim: To promote tourism and facilitate tourists in the state.
- MakeMyTrip will work as a strategic partner with the government providing insights on consumer trends, tourist preferences and supply-side information, which will aid the department in future policy-making.

23. Karnataka launches 'Digital Nagarik' programme for Cyber Safety of kids, students

- Launch of: 'Digital Nagarik' programme
- State: Karnataka
- Collab between: The department of IT, BT has collaborated with Meta
- Aim: To empower 10 lakh students with digital safety knowledge and augmented reality/virtual reality (AR-VR) skills by 2025.

- Students, teachers from across the state will be trained under the 'Digital Nagarik and AR-VR Skills Programme'.

24. Yogi Adityanath govt to set up 'Mitra Van' along UP-Nepal border

- The Yogi Adityanath government in Uttar Pradesh has announced a major initiative to establish 'Mitra Van' in the 35 districts of the states that share a border with other states, Union Territory and Nepal.
- Under the Vriksharopan Jan Abhiyan-2024, extensive tree planting will be done to establish 'Mitra Van' in these 35 districts.
- Along with 'Mitra Van,' special forests like 'Shakti Van,' 'Yuva Van,' and 'Bal Van' will also be established in each district under the Vriksharopan Jan Abhiyan 2024.

25. Girish Chandra Murmu Inaugurates 'International Centre For Audit Of Local Governance'

- Launch of: International Centre For Audit Of Local Governansce
- Launch by: Comptroller and Auditor General of India Girish Chandra Murmu
- Location: Rajkot in Gujarat
- Aim: platform for information sharing and play a key role in strengthening local self-institutions.

26. Andhra Pradesh's Geological Links with Gondwana Supercontinent

- Study by: National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI), Hyderabad
- Journal: Pure and Applied Geophysics
- Finding: Hidden ridge in Andhra Pradesh's Darsi and Addanki regions
- Reason: Due to collision between India and East Antarctica over a billion years ago
- Suggestion: Significant geological shifts
- Seismic data reprocessing uncovered Proterozoic sediment layers, shedding new light on India's eastern coast evolution.
- By reprocessing seismic data along a 325-kilometer profile from Alampur to Ganapeswaram, the team investigated the subsurface crustal seismic structure of the north Cuddapah basin, uncovering a thin layer of alluvium underlain by Gondwana sediments and Proterozoic sedimentary layers.

27. Chandipura Virus Infection Confirmed in Gujarat

- Name of virus: Chandipura virus
- States: Gujarat
- First found in: Chandipur village, Maharashtra (in 1965)
- Family: Rhabdoviridae family
- Transmitted by: Sandflies (Phlebotomine sandflies, Phlebotomus papatasi) and mosquitoes (Aedes aegypti).
- Symptoms: Acute fever, body ache, and headache

28. East India's First Disabled Varsity at Ranchi



- The Jharkhand government is working on a plan to open eastern India's first university for physically challenged students in Ranchi (Jharkhand).
- The proposed university will offer education according to the needs of students with disabilities
- Higher and technical education minister Champai Soren directed officials to prepare a proposal to open the university for physically challenged students in Ranchi.
- The department proposed a 'Navothan Scholarship Scheme', under which the government will reimburse the full course fee (up to a maximum of Rs 10 lakh per year) of meritorious orphan and physically challenged students of the state.
- Besides, these students will be given assistance of Rs 48,000 per year for lodging and food arrangements.
- The proposal to open new universities in Giridih, Sahebganj, Deoghar, Khunti, Gumla and Jamshedpur was discussed in detail during the meeting.

29. Haryana Cabinet Approves IT Saksham Yuva Scheme to Provide 5,000 Jobs in First Phase

- The Haryana Cabinet has approved the launch of the IT Saksham Yuva Scheme, 2024, targeting the provision of jobs to 5,000 youths in the first phase.
- This initiative aligns with the 'Mission 60,000' from the 2024-25 budget
- Aim: To employ 60,000 young individuals from poor families
- Under the scheme, graduates or postgraduates from IT backgrounds will undergo specially designed short-term courses for a minimum of three months.
- Post-training, they will be placed in various departments, boards, corporations, districts, registered societies, and private entities.
- Participants will receive ₹20,000 per month for the first six months, followed by ₹25,000.
- If not deployed, an unemployment allowance of ₹10,000 per month will be provided.



30. PM greets on Kharchi Puja

- Kharchi Puja is a Hindu festival from Tripura, India.
- Performed in Agartala in July or August
- The festival involves the worship of the fourteen gods forming the dynasty deity of the Tripuri people.
- It's a week-long royal Puja which falls in the month of July on the eighth day of the new moon and attracts thousands of people.
- This festival is celebrated at Agartala (Puran Agartala) in the temple premises of Fourteen gods.

31. CM Adityanath inaugurates Uttar Pradesh mango festival

- Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath announced in Lucknow that the State would be exporting 40 tonnes of mangoes to Japan and Malaysia.

- And for the first time in its 160-year history, Lucknow's famous Dussehri is to be exported to the United States.
- He was inaugurating the Uttar Pradesh Mango Festival 2024 at Awadh Shilp Gram.

32. Maharashtra Govt To Establish Mukhyamantri Warkari Mahamandal

- The Maharashtra government has decided to establish Mukhyamantri Warkari Mahamandal to facilitate the Kirtankars and Warkaris of Maharashtra state.
- The headquarters of this Corporation will be situated at Pandharpur.
- Every year, lakhs of Warkaris (followers of Lord Vithoba) from all sections of society, including peasants, labourers and farmers, set out on foot on a pilgrimage to Pandharpur, which is a centuries-old tradition.
- The Mukhyamantri Warkari Mahamandal will be working for the development of pilgrimage sites, providing medical assistance, food and security to the Warkaris and Kirtankars, insurance cover, infrastructure and other facilities and welfare schemes for the pilgrims.

33. NLC India bags Odisha coal mine with 1.38 billion tonnes capacity

- State-owned NLC India Ltd has bagged a Machhakata (revised) coal mine in Angul district of Odisha.
- The coal produced from the mine will address the energy security of the country.
- The coal mine has total reserves of around 1.38 billion tonnes with an operatable peak-rated capacity of 30 million tonnes per annum (MTPA).
- This is the second coal mine won by the public sector enterprise after North Dhadu coal block (Western Part).
- While, Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation (GMDC) marks a significant milestone with the successful execution of Coal Mining Development and Production Agreement with Ministry of Coal for 'Kudanali-Lubri' coal mine, Odisha.
- The mine is a partially explored block with an estimated reserve of 396.10 million tonnes (MT) of thermal coal.
- With the addition of this coal mine, the estimated coal reserves with GMDC now stand at around 2040 MT.

34. Telangana govt releases guidelines for farm loan waiver

- The Telangana Government has issued an Order releasing modalities for the farm loan waiver scheme.
- Under this initiative, short-term agricultural loans up to Rs 2 lakh will be directly credited to eligible farmers' bank accounts.
- Estimated amount to be required: Rs 31,000-35,000 crore
- Loan Period: December 12, 2018, and December 9, 2023
- To execute this, the government will collaborate with the National Informatics Centre (NIC) to establish a dedicated portal.
- Note: The government has stipulated that only one loan per family will be waived

- Families with outstanding loan amounts exceeding ₹2 lakhs must settle the excess amount to qualify for the waiver benefit.
- Banks will be required to appoint Nodal Officers to facilitate the disbursement process.

35.i-Saksham empowering young women with help from Google's AI

- i-Saksham, a Bihar-based organisation, is empowering young women to become change-makers in their communities through fellowship programmes designed and implemented using artificial intelligence (AI).
- Fellowship program: Edu-Leaders Fellowship (2-year)
- i-Saksham gives the beneficiaries 200 hours of intensive training to equip them with teaching and leadership capabilities, as well as essential life skills, including digital and financial literacy.
- i-Saksham has leveraged Google's AI capabilities to improve the effectiveness of coaching and mentorship programmes.

36. 'Hamara Samvidhan Hamara Samman' event to be held in Prayagraj, UP

- Name of event: Hamara Samvidhan Hamara Samman
- Location: Prayagraj, UP
- Date: 16th July
- Reason: To celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Indian Constitution
- It is a regional event
- Celebrated under the aegis of Designing Innovative Solutions for Holistic Access to Justice (DISHA).
- Additionally, sub-campaigns such as 'Sabko Nyaya Har Ghar Nyaya', 'Nav Bharat Nav Sankalp', and 'Vidhi Jagriti Abhiyaan' will also be organized.
- **Background:**
 - This campaign was inaugurated by Vice-President of India, Jagdeep Dhankar
 - Date: 24th January 2024
 - Location: Dr. B.R. Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi
- The first regional event was inaugurated by the Honourable Chief Justice of India, Justice D.Y. Chandrachud, in Bikaner, Rajasthan on 9th March 2024.



37.Chardham Pilgrims Can Create ABHA on eSwasthya Dham Portal

- The Uttarakhand Government's Department of Health and Family Welfare launched the eSwasthya Dham portal, which is now integrated with the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM).
- This mission, launched in September 2021, aims to create an integrated digital health infrastructure for India.
- Specifically, the eSwasthya Dham portal monitors the health parameters of pilgrims embarking on the Char Dham Yatra—a pilgrimage to the shrines of Yamunotri, Gangotri, Kedarnath, and Badrinath.

38. Uttarakhand Opens Its First-Ever Bird Gallery In Dehradun

- The research wing of the Uttarakhand Forest Department established Uttarakhand's first bird gallery at the Nature Education Centre, Jolly Grant, in Dehradun on July 15.
- This gallery showcases high-resolution images of Uttarakhand's birds, giving visitors an eye-catching display of the state's feathery inhabitants.

39. MP Govt Plants 11 Lakh Trees In Single Day, Sets World Record

- Indore set a new Guinness World Record in the category of "the most trees planted by a team in 24 hours" by planting more than 11 lakh saplings.
- Organised by: Madhya Pradesh government
- Earlier in the day, Union Home Minister Amit Shah participated in the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign and planted a sapling.
- The "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" campaign was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on June 5 to mark World Environment Day.

40. Jharkhand Set To Use AI-Based Technologies To Manage The Crowd Of Devotees Of Lord Shiva

- For the first time, the Jharkhand government will use artificial intelligence, AI-based technologies and tools for crowd management at the Shrawan Mela beginning 22nd of this month in Deoghar.
- During the month-long Shravan Mela millions of devotees from various parts of the country fetch water from the river Ganga at Sultanganj in Bihar and walk around 105 km to reach Babadham at Deoghar in Jharkhand to offer it to Lord Shiva.

41. Haryana Government Announces Reservation And Age Relaxation For Agniveers

- Haryana government will provide 10 percent horizontal reservation to Agniveers in recruitment to certain posts in police, mining and jail departments.
- Agniveers will also be given age relaxation of 3 years in recruitment to group D and for the first batch this relaxation will be five years.
- Five percent horizontal reservation to Agniveers in group C and one percent in group B posts.

42. Gujarat government's 'Cooperation among Cooperatives' initiative to be rolled out in all 33 districts

- Name of scheme: Cooperation among Cooperatives
- State: Gujarat
- Aim: To centralise bank accounts and deposits of cooperative societies for increased financial liquidity and loan accessibility
- Current Status: To be rolled out in all 33 districts
- The initiative was envisioned by Union Cooperation Minister Amit Shah and launched on a pilot basis in Banaskantha and Panchmahal districts of Gujarat

43. Sawan Begins With Harela Festival In Uttarakhand 2024

- Name of festival: Harela Festival
- Launched in: Uttarakhand
- This traditional festival holds deep significance for the region's agriculture and culture, symbolising prosperity and overall well-being.
- Harela is a significant Hindu festival observed in Uttarakhand and parts of Himachal Pradesh, particularly popular in the Kumaun region of Uttarakhand.

44. Maharashtra government launches scheme to boost youth employability

- Name of Scheme: Mukhyamantri Yuva Karya Prashikshan Yojana (Chief Minister Youth Work Training Scheme)
- Launched by: Maharashtra government
- Aim: To equip youth with essential skills and enhance their employability in a competitive job market
- Beneficiary: Maharashtra youth
- Under the Maharashtra Mukhyamantri Yuva Karya Prashikshan Yojana, tuition fees of Rs 10,000 will be given by the government to all the youth beneficiaries.
- Meanwhile, students holding a diploma will receive ₹8,000 per month, while those who have graduated will be given ₹10,000 per month.
- Under the Mukhyamantri Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana, eligible women in the age group of 21 to 60 years will get a monthly allowance of ₹1,500.

45. Uttarakhand's eSwasthya Dham Portal Integrates with Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission

- Integration of eSwasthya Dham Portal with Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission
- State: Uttarakhand
- Aim: To improve health monitoring and management for pilgrims undertaking the revered Char Dham Yatra, while also aligning with India's broader digital health initiatives.
- **Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission:**
 - Launched in September 2021
 - Central sector scheme
 - Aims to create a unified digital health infrastructure

46. Adani Green Energy commissions 250 MW wind power project in Khavda, Gujarat

- Commission: 250 MW wind power project
- Commissioned by: Adani Green Energy
- Location: Khavda, Gujarat
- The plant has India's largest and one of the world's most powerful on-shore wind turbine of 5.2 MW capacity.
- With this development, the total operational capacity at Khavda is 2,250 MW.

47. Humayun Museum will be open in Delhi

- Humayun Tomb World Heritage Site Museum
- Location: New Delhi
- Area: 100,000 sq ft
- Launch Date: July 29
- Launch by: Tourism and culture minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat
- Facility owned by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)
- Designed and built by the Aga Khan Trust for Culture.
- The funds came from the tourism ministry and the Aga Khan Trust for Culture
- Construction and exhibition are supported by some embassies and entities from corporate India.

48. Telangana Launches TB-Free Model

- Telangana has launched Project Swasthya Nagaram, a unique initiative to create TB-free municipalities.
- This model, implemented in Peerzadiguda, Boduppall, and Pocharam over three years.

49. Bihar Assembly Passes Bill To Combat Paper Leaks And Malpractices In Competitive Exams

- Bihar assembly passed a stringent bill to curb paper leak cases, malpractices and irregularities in government competitive examinations.
- The Bihar Public Examination (Prevention of Unfair Means) Bill 2024 which proposes a jail sentence from three years to 10 years and a penalty of up to one crore rupees in serious cases.

50. Nagaland Motor Vehicles Department Launches Digital Payment Services Statewide

- Nagaland Motor Vehicles Department has launched Digital Payment services across the state in a bid to boost efficiency and ease the process.
- The service will enable citizens to digitally pay taxes and fees related to motor vehicle services with debit and credit cards and UPI QR codes.



- It has been initiated across all regional and district transport offices in collaboration with HDFC Bank.
- The initiative will enhance transparency, operational efficiency and citizen convenience as well as expedite service process and delivery.

51. Law University in Chhattisgarh Introduces Menstrual Leave Policy

- Name of University: Hidayatullah National Law University (HNLU)
- State: Chhattisgarh
- Introduction of: Menstrual Leave Policy
- Beneficiary: Women students
- Effective from: July 1, 2024
- Aim: To provide special assistance in the form of compensatory attendance.

52. UP Tourism Booth Inaugurated At Korea International Tourism Fair In Seoul

- The Embassy of India in Seoul and the UP government are jointly participating in the fair.
- The UP Tourism booth was jointly inaugurated by all the dignitaries.
- Korea International Tourism Fair is a tourism exhibition aimed at fostering the growth of the tourism industry by expanding the market through collaboration between domestic and international tourism.
- It also seeks to boost local tourism by promoting the internationalisation of domestic cities.

53. J&K LG Manoj Sinha Launches 'Hausla 2.0' And JK Startup Portal

- Launch of: 'Hausla 2.0' And JK Startup Portal
- Launched by: J&K, LG Manoj Sinha
- Hausla programme is to harness the entrepreneurial potential of women in J&K, increase financial access and market reach for women entrepreneurs and to create a nurturing ecosystem for women's economic empowerment.

54. Sikkim mandates tourist vehicles to carry garbage bags

- Sikkim mandates tourist vehicles to carry garbage bags for waste disposal, ensuring environmental sustainability and cleanliness.
- Tour operators, travel agencies, and drivers are tasked with informing travellers about using these bags for waste disposal.
- Random checks on tourist vehicles will ensure compliance, with penalties for violations.

55. Gujarat Govt Launches Shramik Basera Scheme For Labourers

- Name of scheme: Shramik Basera Scheme 2024
- State: Gujarat
- Beneficiary: Labourers
- Aim: To provide temporary housing facilities to the financially unstable, especially the laborers.

- The government will set up 17 housing structures in Ahmedabad, Gandhinagar, Vadodara, and Rajot cities to provide housing facilities to the construction workers and laborers.

56. Govt Launches OTT Platform Hello Meghalaya

- Launch of: OTT Platform 'Hello Meghalaya'
- The platform would provide film-makers up to ₹5 lakh per film with additional funding for nationally or internationally acclaimed films.
- Reason: To share the stories of communities and the three principal matrilineal communities – Garo, Khasi, and Pnar (Jaintia)
- It is the second such State-owned platform for creative content creators after CSpace was launched by the Kerala government in March



57. Assam Cabinet to Repeal 1935 Muslim Marriage Act

- The Assam Cabinet has approved the repeal of the Assam Muslim Marriages and Divorce Registration Act of 1935
- Reason: To curb child marriages and align with modern standards.
- The 1935 Act allowed underage marriages under specific conditions and provided for voluntary registration of Muslim marriages and divorces

58. "Rajiv Gandhi Civils Abhayastam" Launched By Telangana CM

- Name of scheme: Rajiv Gandhi Civils Abhayastam
- State: Telangana
- Aim: To provide financial assistance to the Civil Services aspirants from Telangana, under which the candidates who qualify for the Mains.
- Candidates who qualify for the Mains exams will be provided with ₹1 lakh for preparation.
- Singareni Collieries Company Ltd (SCCL) will provide the assistance as a part of its 'Nirmaan' programme.
- Candidates from the SC, ST, OBC, Women and the Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) category are eligible for the scheme but their family annual income must be below ₹8 lakhs

59. Aizawl Became 4th Capital in Northeast India to gain Railway Connectivity

- Mizoram capital, Aizawl, will connect by rail by July 2025.
- Cost: Rs 8,213.72 crore
- Name of project: Bairabi-Sairang
- The new Broad Gauge line is being laid in the Bairabi (near Assam's Hailakandi District) - Sairang (52 km) section in Mizoram's Aizawl District.
- Total length of tunnels: 12,853 meters
- Northeast Frontier Railway (NF) aim to reduce costs, boost tourism, and support local industries.

60. Assam's Charaideo Maidam Nominated for UNESCO World Heritage Site

- Assam has nominated the historic Charaideo Maidam for UNESCO World Heritage List, during the 46th session of the World Heritage Committee, is being held from July 21-31 in New Delhi.
- If selected, then it will be North East India's first world heritage site receiving the status in the cultural category.
- Kaziranga National Park and Manas National Park are the other two world heritage sites from North East in the natural category.
- Charaideo Maidam, often referred to as the "Pyramids of Assam," is home to over 90 royal burial mounds.



61. Union Budget 2024-25: Centre Allocates ₹42,277.74 Crore For J&K

- The Centre has allocated 42,277.74 crore rupees for Jammu and Kashmir in the Union Budget for 2024-25, a nominal hike of 1.2% over the allocation in the last fiscal.

National

1. Centre Shuts 379 Illegal Loan Websites

- The Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) shut down 379 websites hosting illegal loan applications between October 2023 and March 2024.
- In addition, I4C, operating under the home ministry, has removed 91 phishing or fake websites
- I4C has also partnered with the National Internet Exchange of India (Nixi) to address the misuse of '.in' domains, rendering 310 malicious domains non-functional during the same period.
- 'Citizen Financial Cyber Fraud Reporting and Management System', launched by I4C to facilitate the immediate reporting of financial fraud and prevent the diversion of funds by fraudsters, has saved over ₹2,400 crore across more than 7.6 lakh complaints

2. Divya Kala Mela & Shakti: India Celebrates Divyang Talent at KIIT Campus in Bhubaneswar

- The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan), Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment in collaboration with the National Divyangjan Finance and Development Corporation (NDFDC), is set to host a remarkable event that celebrates the talents and craftsmanship of Divyang entrepreneurs and artisans from across the nation.

- The Divya Kala Mela & Divya Kala Shakti will be held from 5th to 11th of July 2024 at the Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT) Campus in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.
- Prominent NGOs working for Divyangjan from six States including Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttarakhand, and Odisha, along with other dignitaries, will grace the inauguration.
-

3. 'Sampoornata Abhiyan' launched by NITI Aayog

- Launch of: Sampoornata Abhiyan
- Launched by: NITI Aayog
- The launch events were organised across all the 112 Aspirational Districts and 500 Aspirational Blocks.
- This comprehensive three-month campaign, running from 4th July to 30th September 2024
- Aim: To achieve 100% saturation of 12 key social sector indicators across all Aspirational Districts and Blocks focusing on themes such as Health, Nutrition, Agriculture, Social Development, and Education



4. Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy Inaugurates DMF Gallery in Shastri Bhawan

- Union Minister of Mines, G. Kishan Reddy, along with Minister of State Satish Chandra Dubey, inaugurated the District Mineral Foundation (DMF) Gallery
- Location: Shastri Bhawan in New Delhi
- The gallery showcases products from Self-Help Groups (SHGs) formed under the Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojana and those supported by mining companies under their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives.
- The DMF Gallery features products created by SHGs from various districts, with a current focus on items from Keonjhar and Koraput SHGs in Odisha.
- The District Mineral Foundation, established through a 2015 amendment to the Mines & Minerals (Development & Regulation) (MMDR) Act, aims to benefit individuals and areas impacted by mining activities.

5. Union Minister G Kishan Reddy Launches NIRMAN Portal

- Union Minister for Coal and Mines, Shri G Kishan Reddy, inaugurated the NIRMAN portal in New Delhi, aligning with PM Modi's "Mission Karmayogi."
- This CSR initiative by Coal India Limited aims to aid meritorious youth from its operational districts who cleared the UPSC Preliminary exams in 2024.
- Under the NIRMAN scheme, eligible candidates, including those from SC, ST, female, or third gender categories with annual family incomes below 8 lakhs, receive Rs 1,00,000.
- The initiative promotes transparency and digital inclusivity, reflecting India's vision of Digital India.
- Coal India Limited, a leading Maharatna Company, underscores its commitment to social responsibility by fostering education in coal-bearing regions.

6. Govt to launch campaign for redressal of family pensioners' grievances

- Launch of: Redressal of family pensioners' grievances campaign
- Launched by: Union Minister of State for Personnel Jitendra Singh
- Data: Presently, around 90,000 cases are being registered on an online Centralised Pension Grievance and Redress System (CPENGRAMS) in a year.
- The Department of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare (DOPPW), as part of its 100 days action plan will be undertaking a month-long special campaign for effective redressal of family pensioners' grievances during the period July 1-31, 2024 in which 46 ministries/departments will be participating.
- The grievances can be registered either directly or on the portal -- www.pgportal.gov.in/PENSION/ by the applicant or by DOPPW on receipt of details through e-mail, post or toll-free number 1800-11-1960.

7. Centre plans to make National Test House as apex certification body for all Indian products

- The union government is working on making the National Test House (NTH),
- It is an industrial testing lab that reports to the consumer affairs ministry, the apex certification body for all Indian products.
- A series of labs will be set up across the country to work under the NTH.
- They will be responsible for issuing the final certification for all products, including food, spices and organic products.
- The NTH will ensure the products meet global standards and are internationally recognized.
- The establishment and operation of NTH labs are expected to be completed within the first 125 days of the new government.
- The testing is meant for those regions where there is a critical need for certification.



8. Farm credit target for FY25 may be set at Rs 24 trillion

- The government will set a target of Rs 24 trillion for agricultural credit by commercial, cooperative, and regional rural banks in 2024-25.
- Last year, the credit flows to the priority sector stood at Rs 24.84 trillion, as against the target of Rs 20 trillion.
- In 2023-24, Rs 2.72 trillion of agri credit went to allied sectors such as animal husbandry such as dairy, poultry, fisheries etc.
- Last year, Credit disbursal to Tamil Nadu was highest among states at Rs 4.39 trillion.

9. Paradip Port Authority Sets New Record with 41.12 Million Metric Tons of Cargo Handling in First 100 Days of FY 2024-25

- Paradip Port Authority (PPA) has clocked an unprecedented 41.12 Million Metric Tons (MMT) cargo handling within the first 100 days of the fiscal year 2024-25.
- Reflecting a 4.78% growth compared to the 39.25 MMT achieved during the same period in the previous fiscal year, FY 2023-24.

10. Qutub Minar dethrones Agra Fort as tourist magnet in historic shift

- Data by: Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)
- Year: 2023-24
- Qutub Minar, a 13th-century marvel constructed by the Delhi Sultanate, has surpassed the Mughal Empire's Agra Fort to become the second most visited monument by foreigners in 2023-24.

11. Haj Committee Now Under Minority Affairs Ministry

- The government has designated the Ministry of Minority Affairs as the new nodal ministry for the Haj Committee, replacing the Ministry of External Affairs.
- The new rules are called the Haj Committee (Amendment) Rules, 2024, replacing "Ministry of External Affairs" with "Ministry of Minority Affairs" in the Haj Committee Rules, 2002.



NEW HARBOUR OF HOPE: INDIA'S FIRST TRANS-SHIPMENT PORT SETS SAIL

On Thursday morning, India's dream of having its first transshipment port is set to become a reality. Adani Group's Vizhinjam International Seaport is poised to receive its first container vessel from Maersk as part of a trial run.



and Singapore for container transshipment traffic

■ During the first phase, the Vizhinjam port will have the capacity to handle 1 million twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs), with subsequent phases adding up to 6.2 million TEUs

■ MV San Fernando is coming from the Port of Xiamen in China and has a total capacity of 8,000-9,000 TEUs. It will unload around 2,000 containers and rearrange another 400 containers at Vizhinjam

ANCHORING future growth

■ The Vizhinjam International Seaport is only 11 nautical miles from the international shipping channel. Nearly 30% of global freight movement occurs through this international shipping route south of the Indian peninsula. It will be India's first international deepwater transshipment port

SHRINE JACOB

12. Government Mandates BIS Standards For Stainless Steel And Aluminium Utensils

- Context: The Government of India has mandated that all stainless steel and aluminium utensils conform to the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS).
- According to the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, this directive, effective from March 14, 2024, under the Quality Control Order issued by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry, makes the ISI mark compulsory for these utensils.
- Classification and Material Grades ensures that the correct grades of materials, as per IS 21 for wrought utensils and IS 617 for cast utensils, are used.

13. India plans geological mapping and mineral exploration in Zambia

- Pact between: India and Zambia

- Agenda: Geological mapping and mineral exploration to secure access to resources and strengthen bilateral ties.
- Status: Plan to finalize
- Benefits:
- India seeks to gain insights into Zambia's resource potential, particularly for critical minerals like Lithium, Cobalt, and Copper.

14. Union Cabinet approves India's signing of the BBNJ Agreement

- The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved India to sign the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) Agreement.
- The BBNJ Agreement, or the 'High Seas Treaty', is an international treaty under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).
- Aim: To address the growing concerns over the long-term protection of marine biodiversity in the high seas.
- The BBNJ Agreement will be the third implementation agreement under UNCLOS if and when it enters into force, alongside its sister implementation agreements:
- The 1994 Part XI Implementation Agreement (which addresses the exploration and extraction of mineral resources in the international seabed area)
- The 1995 UN Fish Stocks Agreement (which addresses the conservation and management of straddling and highly migratory fish stocks).
- As of June 2024, 91 countries have signed the BBNJ Agreement, and eight Parties have ratified it.

15. TRAI Notifies Amendments To Broadcasting And Cable Service Regulatory Framework

- Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has notified amendments to the regulatory framework for broadcasting and cable services and releases.
- TRAI has removed the ceiling on network capacity fee (NCF) of 130 rupees for 200 channels and 160 rupees for more than 200 channels.
- The fee will now be driven by market forces.
- All charges have to be mandatorily published by service providers and communicated to consumers, besides reporting to it.
- Aim: Facilitating the growth of the broadcasting sector and promoting ease of doing business by simplifying the regulatory provisions.

16. Ministry of Culture initiates Project PARI

- Launch of: Project PARI (Public Art of India)
- An initiative by the Ministry of Culture
- Executed by: Lalit Kala Akademi and National Gallery of Modern Art
- Aim: To bring forth public art that draws inspiration from millennia of artistic heritage (lok kala/lok sanskriti) while incorporating modern themes and techniques.
- These expressions underscore the intrinsic value that art holds in Indian society, serving as a testament to the nation's enduring commitment to creativity and artistic expression.
- The first intervention under Project PARI is taking place in Delhi.
- It coincides with the 46th session of the World Heritage Committee scheduled to be held in New Delhi, India between 21-31 July 2024.
- The creative canvas includes but is not limited to artwork inspired by and /or drawn in styles of:
 - Phad paintings (Rajasthan),
 - Thangka painting (Sikkim/Ladakh),
 - Miniature painting (Himachal Pradesh),
 - Gond art (Madhya Pradesh),
 - Tanjore paintings (Tamil Nadu),
 - Kalamkari (Andhra Pradesh),
 - Alpona art (West Bengal),
 - Cheriya painting (Telangana),
 - Pichhwai Painting (Rajasthan),
 - Lanjia Saura (Odisha),
 - Pattachitra (West Bengal),
 - Bani Thani Painting (Rajasthan),
 - Warli (Maharashtra),
 - Pithora Art (Gujarat),
 - Aipan (Uttarakhand),
 - Kerala Murals (Kerala),
 - Alpana art (Tripura)



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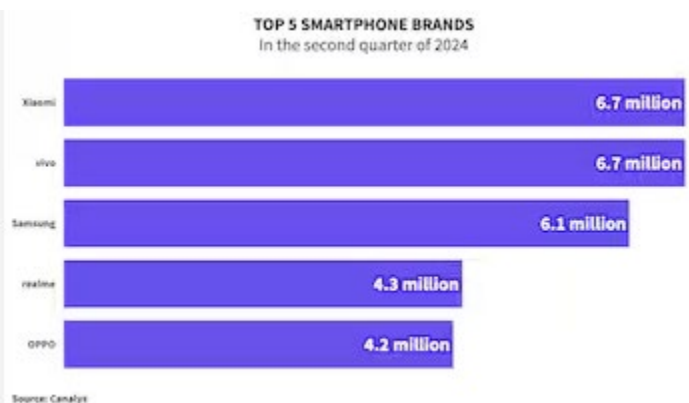
17. MCA streamlines IEPFA-related reporting, revamps forms

- Corporate Affairs Ministry (MCA) has streamlined reporting of payments or transfer of securities under the Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA) administered framework, improving the overall filing experience for companies.
- Besides revamping the forms, MCA has also done away with the previously stipulated requirement of depositing funds into a specific Punjab National Bank account.

- However, a designated timeline of 30 days for crediting the funds to the IEPF has now been stipulated, which was hitherto absent.
- As part of the overall exercise, the contents of two existing forms (IEPF 3 and IEPF 7) have been subsumed into IEPF 4 and IEPF 1 respectively. Also now revised set of forms — IEPF 1, IEPF 1A, IEPF 2 — have now been issued by MCA
- Also, the previously stipulated requirement for depositing funds into a specific Punjab National Bank account has been eliminated with acceptance of online credits

18. Xiaomi overtakes Samsung as leader in India's smartphone market: Report

- According to data from market researcher Canalsys.
- Xiaomi's shipments grew by 24 per cent annually, increasing its market share to 18 per cent in the June quarter from 15 per cent a year ago.
- Vivo, which ranked second, saw a 4 per cent annual growth with its volume share remaining unchanged at 18 per cent.
- Meanwhile, Samsung's shipments fell by 8 per cent, resulting in a 17 per cent volume share.
- Other Chinese brands Realme and Oppo ranked fourth and fifth, with volume shares of 12 per cent and 11 per cent, respectively.



19. Kiren Rijiju Inaugurates Lok Samvardhan Parv In New Delhi

- The Lok Samvardhan Parv was inaugurated on 18th July, by Kiren Rijiju, Union Minister for Minority Affairs and Parliamentary Affairs. The Minister released a Coffee table book on schemes and achievements of Ministry of Minority Affairs. Further, a Credit Plan of National Minorities Development & Finance Corporation (NMDFC) for extending credit of over Rs 1000 crores to over 2.5 lakhs beneficiaries during 2024-25 was also released by the Minister.
- The Lok Samvardhan Parv is a celebration of the Ministry's work towards the welfare and development of minority communities in India.
- The 'Lok Samvardhan Parv' is showcasing schemes and programmes and achievements of Ministry of Minority Affairs through poster exhibition.

20. Union Minister Jyotiraditya M. Scindia releases 'The Future is Now' as the theme for India Mobile Congress 2024

- The theme of the India Mobile Congress 2024, 'The Future is Now', was unveiled today by Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, Minister for Communications and Development of North Eastern Region.
- The Minister also launched the Testing Scheme for Start-ups & MSMEs and oversaw the signing of MoU for between NTIPRIT and IIT Jammu for capacity building in the areas of Cybersecurity.
- 2024 India Mobile Congress is an event held from October 15, 2024 to October 19, 2024 in New Delhi, India.



21. India Sets Target To Achieve USD 500 Billion In Electronics Manufacturing In Value Terms By 2030

- Report titled Electronics: Powering India's Participation in Global Value Chains
- NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Suman Bery launched the report
- India has set a target to achieve 500 billion US dollars in electronics manufacturing in value terms by 2030.
- This ambitious target comprises 350 billion dollars from finished goods manufacturing and 150 billion dollars from components manufacturing.

22. Government Revises Composition Of NITI Aayog

- Four full-time members and 15 Union Ministers, including from BJP allies, as either ex-officio members or special invitees.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi remains the chairperson of NITI Aayog
- Suman Bery will continue to hold the Vice President post.
- The Full Time Members are V K Saraswat, Prof. Ramesh Chand, Dr V K Paul, and Anand Virmani.

23. UGC's Project: 22,000 Indian Language Books to Transform Higher Education

- Name of project: ASMITA (Augmenting Study Materials in Indian Languages through Translation and Academic Writing)
- Launched by: Ministry of Education and the University Grants Commission (UGC)
- Aim: To enrich the landscape of Indian language literature in higher education
- Develop an impressive 22,000 books in Indian languages over the next five years.
- The project was officially launched by Sanjay Murthy, Secretary of Higher Education.

24. Home Minister Amit Shah Inaugurates PM College Of Excellence In All Districts Of MP

- Union Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurated Prime Minister College of Excellence in all 55 districts of Madhya Pradesh from Indore.

- Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav also participated in this program.
- The new education policy aims not only to equip Indian students to compete globally for the next 25 years but also to reconnect them with our rich cultural heritage and languages.

25. PM Modi Launches Infrastructure Projects Worth Over Rs 29,000 Crore In Mumbai

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched and laid the foundation stone for various road and railway projects totaling over 29,400 crore rupees in Mumbai.
- These projects include the Thane-Borivali tunnel, Goregaon-Mulund link road, remodeling of Kalyan Yard, and the Gati Shakti Multi Modal Cargo Terminal at Turbhe in Navi Mumbai.
- Prime Minister Modi ensured that works of Saint Tukaram and Saint Dnyaneshwar Palkhi Marg will be completed soon.
- He also wished Varkari going for pandharpur yatra and seek blessings of vitthal.
- Prime Minister Modi also launched the Maharashtra Government's Chief Minister Youth Internship Scheme, aimed at providing opportunities for the youth.
- He also dedicated to the nation the new platforms at Lokmanya Tilak Terminus and the extended Platform no 10 & 11 at Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus Station.

26. NITI Aayog Launches 'NITI GearShift Challenge' As Part Of E-FAST India Initiative

- NITI Aayog has announced the launch of the 'NITI GearShift Challenge' as part of the e-FAST India initiative.
- Aim: To foster innovative business models for the adoption of zero-emission trucks in India, addressing the nation's pressing economic and environmental challenges.
- The program has garnered participation from e-FAST India knowledge partners, financial institutions, and industry forums.
- The 'NITI GearShift Challenge' is being organised in collaboration with IIM Bangalore, Smart Freight Centre India, WRI India and other institutions.
- The hackathon will unfold in two rounds.
- The GearShift Challenge marks a pivotal move towards sustainable freight transportation in India.

27. Government ropes in IIT Bombay to advance sustainable maritime practices

- The Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IIT Bombay) has been roped in.
- The Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways (MoPSW) initiated steps to address environmental concerns and convert dredged sediments into valuable/usable material.
- Aim: To ensure the comprehensive development of maritime and waterways transport across India, expanding its reach to include the remaining states MoPSW has scheduled the State Maritime & Waterways Transport Committees (SMWTC) meeting.
- The MoPSW approved a research proposal on the Valorization of Dredged Sediments, sanctioned at an estimated cost of Rs. 46,47,380 to be implemented over a duration of three years by the IIT Bombay.

28. JNU To Introduce Centre On Hindu, Buddhist And Jain Studies

- The Jawaharlal Nehru University will open a Centre for Hindu Studies as well as centres for Buddhist and Jain studies.
- The three new centres will be established under the School of Sanskrit and Indic Studies.
- The decision to set up the new centres was approved by the Executive Council of the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU).
- A committee was constituted by the JNU to explore and recommend the implementation of the National Education Policy (2020) and the Indian Knowledge System at the university

29. Centre Empowers Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir

- The government of India has strengthened the authority of the Lieutenant Governor (LG) of Jammu and Kashmir.
- Amendments to: The Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization Act, 2019
- Area: Transfers, postings of all-India service officers, police, and judicial appointments
- Under the new rules, such proposals must be submitted directly to the LG through the Chief Secretary of the Union territory, limiting the role of the elected government in critical governance matters.

30. India's June 2024 Exports Hit \$65.47 Bn

- India's total exports (Merchandise and Services) combined for June 2024 are estimated at 65.47 Billion US Dollars.
- Registering a positive growth of 5.4 percent compared to the same period last year.
- Data released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- Total Import, (Merchandise and Services) combined for June 2024 is estimated at 73.47 Billion US Dollars, registering a positive growth of 6.29% as compared to the corresponding period of last year.
- Further, the total exports from April to June 2024 are estimated over 200 Billion US Dollars, or 8.6 percent positive growth.

31. ReNew Chairman to lead Global Climate Action as Alliance Co-Chair

- ReNew's Chairman and CEO Sumant Sinha has been named the Co-Chair of Alliance of CEO Climate Leaders.
- It is the largest CEO-led climate alliance in the world
- It is also a flagship initiative of the World Economic Forum (WEF)
- Renew joined as a member of the Alliance in 2019.
- ReNew is recognized for its commitment to net-zero targets and innovative decarbonization solutions.
- It is one of the few organisations in its sector to have declared a 1.5°C-aligned science-based target validated by the Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi), with a target to be net zero by 2040.

32. ICAR launches 'One Scientist One Product'

- Initiative: One Scientist One Product
- Launch by: Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)
- Agenda: Regularly monitored from the top so that maximum productivity is driven without duplicity of efforts
- Announce on: 96th Foundation And Technology Day of ICAR (16th July 2024)
- Other initiatives: '100 Days 100 Varieties' and '100 Days 100 Technologies'

33. India Aims to Become Leading Aviation Hub with \$4 Billion MRO Industry by 2030

- Union Civil Aviation Minister, Kinjrapu Rammohan Naidu has announced the implementation of a uniform IGST rate of 5% on all aircraft and aircraft engine parts.
- Effective from 15th July 2024
- This decision marks a significant milestone for the domestic Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul (MRO) industry, aimed at making India a global aviation hub.
- Vision: To transform India into a leading aviation hub.
- The Indian MRO industry is projected to become a \$4 billion industry by 2030.

34. Mercedes-Benz to assemble more EVs in India to meet carbon neutrality goals

- German luxury carmaker Mercedes-Benz will assemble more electric vehicles at Chakan unit, India.
- Aim: To meet its zero emission mobility and carbon neutral setup goals
- The company also aims to reduce CO2 emissions per passenger car in the new vehicle fleet up to 50% along all stages of the value chain by the end of this decade compared to 2020 levels under its Ambition 2039 initiative.

35. India To Host 2nd Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference On Civil Aviation

- India is set to host the second Asia Pacific ministerial conference on civil aviation on September 11 and 12, with representatives from around 40 countries, including China and Pakistan.
- The Asia Pacific region is a significant contributor to global air traffic, and India the world's fastest-growing aviation market.
- The first Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Civil Aviation was held in Beijing in 2018.
- The conference, jointly organised by the Indian government and the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) APAC, will be held on September 11 and 12.



36. Skilling India Digital Hub portal launched to provide complete details of schemes

- The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship has created the SIDH (Skilling India Digital Hub) portal and the beneficiaries will receive complete information about all schemes running for them.
- Registration has been made mandatory in it.

- Dharmendra Pradhan, Union Minister for Education launched Skill India Digital (SID), to ensure that every Indian has access to quality skill development, relevant opportunities and entrepreneurial support.
- A comprehensive digital platform aimed at synergizing and transforming the skills, education, employment, and entrepreneurship landscape of India.

37. India records 79 million domestic air passengers in H1FY24, up 4%: DGCA

- Domestic airlines flew around 79.348 million passengers in India during the first half (January to June) of 2024
- According to data by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).
- This was a 4.28 per cent increase compared to 76.093 million passengers who travelled during the same period the previous year.
- In the month of June, domestic airlines flew more than 13.2 million passengers, 5.76 per cent more than 12.4 million passengers in the same month last year.

38. Union Minister Inaugurates Asia's 1st Health Research-Related "Pre-Clinical Network Facility" In Faridabad

- Minister of State for Science and Technology, Dr. Jitendra Singh inaugurated Asia's first health research-related "Pre-clinical Network facility" at the Translational Health Science & Technology Institute" (THSTI), Faridabad.
- The facility will be the 9th such network laboratory across the globe and the first such laboratory in the whole of Asia.
- He also inaugurated the Genetically Defined Human Associated Microbial Culture Collection (Ge- HuMic) facility to act as a repository for providing microbial cultures to research institutes, universities, and industries for Research and Development.



39. BRIC-THSTI Hosts SYNCHN 2024 Industry Meet

- Translational Health Science and Technology Institute (THSTI), under the Biotechnology Research and Innovation Council (BRIC), hosted SYNCHN 2024 on July 14th, 2024.
- This event aimed to strengthen academia-industry collaborations in the NCR Biotech Cluster, focusing on advancing biomanufacturing and bio-innovation.

International

1. Azerbaijan launches Climate Finance Action Fund in package of initiatives for COP29

- Azerbaijan has announced the Climate Finance Action Fund (CFAF) to invest in climate action in the developing world.
- CFAF will become operational after the initial fundraising round, which seeks to capitalize the fund with \$1 billion, and when 10 contributing countries committed as shareholders
- CFAF will be capitalized with contributions from fossil fuel-producing countries and companies across oil, gas, and coal, and Azerbaijan will be a founding contributor.
- Members will commit to transfer annual contributions as a fixed-sum or based on volume of production.
- CFAF is one initiative within a package of 14 announced on in Azerbaijan as part of the COP29 action agenda to enhance ambition and enable action.

2. Israeli Parliament Approves Bill to Label UNRWA as a Terror Organization

- The Israeli Knesset has approved a bill to designate the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees (UNRWA) as a terrorist organization.
- This move proposes severing relations with the agency, which Israel accuses of collaborating with Hamas and other militant groups in Gaza

3. Japan Launches New Banknotes from July 3

- Japan started issuing new banknotes on the 3rd of July 2024.
- It is the world's first use of cutting-edge holography that makes the portraits of historic figures appear to rotate in 3D, as per the reports.
- This new technology will allow visually impaired people to feel and discern which banknote they are holding.
- Tactile marks for the visually impaired will also make them recognizable to touch.
- Note: Existing banknotes will remain valid after the introduction of the new banknotes.



4. Belarus joins SCO 10th member

- The 24th Meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) was held in Astana, Kazakhstan.
- Kazakhstan President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev hosted the summit meeting.

- The Eurasian country of Belarus was admitted as the 10th full member of the SCO.
- About Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)
- Founded: **15 June 2001**
- Headquarters: Beijing, China
- Member Countries: 10
- (Iran, China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and Belarus)
- The founding members (5) of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) were China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan. India and Pakistan officially joined this organization in 2017.
- Iran joined in 2023.
- Observer members – 2 (Afghanistan and Mongolia).

5. World To Witness 1st Indian In Space And Other Indian In Deep Sea By 2025

- World to witness 1st Indian in Space and other Indian in Deep Sea by 2025.
- Informed by: Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh
- Dr. Jitendra Singh shared that four astronauts—three Group Captains and one Wing Commander have been selected for India's 1st Human Space Mission- Gaganyaan.
- Similarly, he also shared that India's Deep-Sea mission will send three Indians to deep sea in 2025.

6. China Builds New Presidential Palace in Vanuatu

- China has constructed a new presidential palace in Vanuatu.
- Symbolizing the strengthening relationship between the two nations
- The Vanuatu Prime Minister, Charlot Salwai, inaugurated the new building, which is part of a broader project that includes a new finance ministry and renovations to the foreign affairs department.
- Project cost over \$21 million
- This investment reflects China's commitment to developing friendly cooperation with Pacific island countries, including Vanuatu.

7. Hungary Takes Over Rotating Presidency of EU Council

- Hungary has assumed the rotating presidency of the Council of the European Union for the next six months.
- Under the leadership of Prime Minister Viktor Orban, Hungary aims to prioritize EU competitiveness, defense policy, migration control, and agricultural reform.
- The presidency's motto, "Make Europe Great Again," reflects a stance emphasizing unity and proactive global engagement.
- Hungary will hand over the presidency to Poland at the end of the year, marking the continuation of the EU's rotating leadership.

8. South Korea & NATO Sign Agreement For Military Airworthiness Certification

- Agreement between: South Korea and North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO)
- Agenda: Mutual recognition process for military airworthiness certification
- It is NATO's first such deal with an Asian country.
- NATO will recognise the Seoul government's airworthiness certification for South Korean-made planes.

9. Colombo Security Conclave Welcomes Bangladesh As Fifth Member

- The Colombo Security Conclave (CSC), a regional security grouping, officially welcomed Bangladesh as its fifth member state.
- The announcement came during the 8th Deputy National Security Adviser (DNSA) level meeting, hosted virtually by Mauritius.
- The existing members – **India, Sri Lanka, Mauritius, and the Maldives** – warmly received Bangladesh into the fold, while Seychelles participated as an observer state.
- The Colombo Security Conclave was established in 2020, when India, Sri Lanka and the Maldives agreed to expand the scope of their trilateral meeting on maritime cooperation.
- Mauritius joined the conclave at the fifth meeting of the grouping in Male in March 2022.

10. Norway set to donate six F-16 fighter jets to Ukraine

- Norway will start the process of donating six F-16 fighters to Ukraine.
- Announced by: Norway Prime Minister, Jonas Gahr Store
- Aim: To boost Kyiv's ability to defend itself against attacks from the air during its ongoing conflict against Russia
- The Norwegian government had decided last year to donate the F-16s to Ukraine as part of a multinational collaboration, led by Denmark, the Netherlands, and the USA.

11. Vietnam most affordable country for expats

- Report by: InterNation
- Topped by: Vietnam
- Vietnam is the most affordable country in the world for immigrants marking the fourth consecutive year.
- India's rank: 6th
- These are top 10 destinations for expats as per personal finances:
 - Vietnam
 - Colombia
 - Indonesia
 - Panama
 - Philippines
 - India
 - Mexico
 - Thailand

- Brazil
- China

12. WHO Launches Platform for Standardised Medical Device Information

- fibrillators.
- Name of device: Medical Devices Information System (MeDevIS)
- Launched by: WHO
- It will collect and standardise the information about medical equipment.
- It is inspired by the WHO Priority Medical Devices List (MDL) and the Essential Medicines List.
- Aim: To help countries and organisations navigate a complex pool of over 10,000 different medical devices.
- MeDevIS includes 2,301 types of medical devices of varying levels of complexity: from single-use syringes, medical masks, and pulse oximeters, to imaging radiology technologies, implantable prostheses.

13. UNESCO designates 11 new biosphere reserves

- UNESCO has approved the designation of 11 new biosphere reserves in 11 countries
- With these new biosphere reserves covering a total area of 37 400 km², equivalent to the size of the Netherlands
- The World Network of Biosphere Reserves now totals 759 sites in 136 countries.
- **The 11 newly designated biosphere reserves are:**
 - Kempen-Broek Transboundary Biosphere Reserve (Belgium, Kingdom of the Netherlands)
 - Darién Norte Chocoano Biosphere Reserve (Colombia)
 - Madre de las Aguas Biosphere Reserve (Dominican Republic)
 - Niumi Biosphere Reserve (Gambia)
 - Colli Euganei Biosphere Reserve (Italy)
 - Julian Alps Transboundary Biosphere Reserve (Italy, Slovenia)
 - Khar Us Lake Biosphere Reserve (Mongolia)
 - yApayaos Biosphere Reserve (Philippines)
 - Changnyeong Biosphere Reserve (Republic of Korea)
 - Val d'Aran Biosphere Reserve (Spain)
 - Irati Biosphere Reserve (Spain)

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14. India Ranks Fifth in GenAI Innovations, China Leads

- India ranks fifth in Generative AI (GenAI) innovations, trailing behind China, the US, Republic of Korea, and Japan.
- Global Rankings and Patent Data
- China: Tops with 38,210 patents.

- United States: Second with 6,276 patents.
- Republic of Korea: Third with 4,155 patents.
- Japan: Fourth with 3,409 patents.
- India: Fifth with 1,350 patents from 2014 to 2023.
- India has overtaken the UK (sixth with 714 patents) and Germany (708).

15. Ibiza wall lizard reclassified as threatened

- The IUCN recently updated the Red List that make it more important to protect a number of lizard and cactus species.
- The Ibiza wall lizard has been reclassified as threatened, mostly because of invasive species and other problems caused by people.
- Since 2010, the number of Ibiza wall lizards has dropped by 50%.

16. 2nd BIMSTEC Foreign Ministers' Retreat To Take Place On July 11 In New Delhi

- The 2nd Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) Foreign Ministers' Retreat will begin tomorrow in New Delhi.
- Minister S. Jaishankar will host his BIMSTEC counterparts at the event.
- The first edition of the BIMSTEC Foreign Ministers' Retreat was held in Bangkok, Thailand, in July last year.
- BIMSTEC is a grouping of seven South and Southeast Asian countries for multifaceted cooperation.

17. India, Russia Set Target Of 100 Bn Dollars Trade By 2030

- Agreement between: India and Russia
- Target: Set the trade target to 100 billion dollars trade by 2030.
- Additionally
- The two countries signed nine documents for cooperation in different fields.
- Area: Environment and Climate Change, Cartography, Polar Research, Investment, Trade and Pharma
- Also inked MoU on cooperation in field of Broadcasting between Prasar Bharati and TV Novosti

Discussion on:

- New proposed Eastern Corridor which is called the Chennai-Vladivostok Eastern Corridor.
- India – Eurasian Economic Union trade and Goods Agreement.

18. Philippines and Japan Strengthen Security Ties with New Agreement

- Security Ties between: The Philippines and Japan
- They signed a new deal that allows their military forces to enter each other's countries more easily.
- This comes at a time when there are growing concerns in the Indo-Pacific region.
- What is the RAA?
- RAA: Reciprocal Access Agreement
- It's a deal that makes it easier for military forces from both countries to visit each other.

- It helps with military cooperation by simplifying the entry of foreign personnel and equipment.
- A Japanese military presence in the Philippines could help balance China's influence in the South China Sea.
- China claims large parts of the South China Sea, which conflicts with claims of several Southeast Asian countries.
- Japan has its own separate dispute with China in the East China Sea.
- Japan will provide coastal surveillance radars to the Philippines.
- This is part of Japan's Official Security Assistance program to help partner countries improve their defense capabilities.
- **Note:**
- Japan has RAA deals with Australia and Britain.
- It's working on a similar agreement with France.
- Japan hosts the largest number of U.S. forces outside of the United States.

19. NATO Summit hosted by US President Biden with Strong Support for Ukraine

- The NATO summit hosted by President Biden in Washington
- Aim: To demonstrate strong support for Ukraine
- Sweden's first participation as a member
- Commemorating NATO's 75th anniversary
- NATO is a strong military alliance of 32 countries

20. Ivory Coast joins UN Water Convention as 10th African nation

- Name of Country : Ivory Coast
- Name of treaty/organisation : UN Water Convention
- Reason : it makes it easier for everyone to work together to manage water resources better
- UN Water Convention : Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes.
- Established : 1992
- Members : 53
- Ivory Coast shares eight transboundary river basins (Black Volta, Bia, Tanoe, Comoe, Niger, Sassandra, Cavally et Nuon) with six of its neighbours, which include Ghana, Burkina Faso, Mali, Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone.

21. Gevra & Kusmunda coal mine included in World's 10 largest coal mines

- Two coal mines in Chhattisgarh, Gevra and Kusmunda, have been included in WorldAtlas.com's top ten coal mines of the world.
- These two coal mines in Chhattisgarh account for about 10 % of the country's annual coal production, and their combined coal production was more than 100 million tons in 2023-24.
- Indonesia dominates the top ten coal mines list, with four mines, and the United States Black Thunder Mine has been ranked the world's largest coal mine.

- China is the world's largest producer and consumer of coal, and India is the second largest producer.
- The United States of America has the largest known coal reserves in the world.

22. Sri Lanka Celebrates Annual Kataragama Esala Festival

- Name of festival: Kataragama Esala Festival
- Celebrate in: Sri Lanka
- Dedicated to the worship of Lord Kataragama, a Hindu deity widely revered by both Hindus and Buddhists.



23. X, SpaceX Headquarters Will Relocate To Texas From California: Elon Musk

- Context: Change of HQ of X and SpaceX
- Earlier Location: California
- New Location: Texas
- Note: Texas has no state income tax or capital gains tax, making it an attractive home for high earners

24. EU's carbon tax mechanism expected to cost India 0.05% of GDP: Report

- Report title: The Global South's response to a changing trade regime in the era of climate change
- Report by: Centre for Science and Environment (CSE)
- The European Union's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) will impose additional 25 per cent tax on energy-intensive goods exported from India to the EU.
- This tax burden would represent 0.05 per cent of India's GDP.
- These findings are based on data from the past three years (2021-22, 2022-23, and 2023-24).
- CBAM is the EU's proposed tax on energy-intensive products, such as iron, steel, cement, fertilizers, and aluminum, imported from countries like India and China.
- The tax is based on the carbon emissions generated during the production of these goods.

25. Belarus Will Introduce Visa-Free Policy For 35 European Countries

- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Belarus will introduce a visa-free policy for 35 European countries.
- The policy will come into effect tomorrow and last until December 31st, 2024.

26. United Arab Emirates doubles passport validity to 10 years for citizens aged 21 and above

- The United Arab Emirates passport authority has officially announced the extension of the validity period of Emirati passports to 10 years.
- This new service has been put into effect for citizens aged 21 and above since July 8, 2024.
- Previously, the validity of the passport was only five years from the date of issuance

- For those under 21 years of age, validity will continue to be 5 years.

27. Philippines Chosen to Host UN Climate Fund Board

- The Philippines was recently chosen to house the board of the “Loss and Damage” fund.
- This is a big step toward helping people who have been hurt by climate change.
- This choice was made during talks at the United Nations, which were mostly about giving money to countries that are being hit hard by global warming.
- Following that, the World Bank agreed earlier that month to oversee this fund for four years temporarily.
- The “Loss and Damage” fund was set up at the COP27 UN Climate Change Conference in 2022.
- Aim: To help countries that are weak and have been hit by natural disasters.
- With a focus on the economic and non-economic effects in emerging countries, it talks about “loss and damage” as opposed to “mitigation and adaptation.”

28. Japan Sees Highest Number Of Bankruptcies Since 2014

- In Japan, corporate bankruptcies surged 22 percent in the first half of the year due to rising costs, labor shortages, and waning financial support.
- According to a recent survey by a credit research company.
- The total number of bankruptcies from January to June came to 4,887, the highest since 2014.
- Small and micro enterprises were the most affected during the period.
- The economic landscape is further complicated by the ongoing depreciation of the yen.

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29. EU sues Germany, Italy for alleged discrimination against mobile workers

- European Commission has decided to refer Germany and Italy to the European Court of Justice (ECJ) over practices discriminated against mobile workers.
- Laws in Italy: workers needed to have resided in the country for at least two years to be eligible for the benefit of family allowances.
- Germany allowances were smaller for workers who had children residing in European Union countries where the cost of living was lower.

India & the World

1. UPI payments will now be available in UAE

- Signed between: NPCI International payments Ltd and Network International (network)
- QR code-based UPI payments via Network's point-of-sale (POS) terminals in the UAE.
- UPI acceptance will be rolled out progressively in for retail use and will ensure seamless and secure transactions for Indian tourists and Non-Resident Indians (NRIs).
- The government, the Reserve Bank of India and NPCI international have been pushing for global acceptance of UPI and partnering with numerous countries for faster digital payments.
- UPI is officially accepted in Nepal, Sri Lanka, Mauritius, UAE, Singapore, France and Bhutan.

2. India, UK launch Technology Security Initiative

- Launch of: Technology Security Initiative
- Launched by: India and The United Kingdom
- Led by: National Security Advisor
- Event of announcement: During UK Foreign Secretary David Lammy's visit.
- Aim: To enhance strategic partnership
- The initiative will prioritize critical and emerging technologies, with progress reviewed biannually.
- A bilateral mechanism to promote tech trade will be established, addressing licensing and regulatory issues.

3. Nepal, Sri Lanka, Seychelles get more funds under Budget allocation for MEA

- India-funded projects in the neighborhood received the bulk of the allocation for the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) under the Union Budget presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.
 - Nepal – ₹700 crore
 - Sri Lanka – ₹245 crore
 - Seychelles – ₹30 crore
 - Bhutan – ₹2,068.56 crore
 - Myanmar – ₹250 crore
 - Mauritius – ₹370 crore
 - Mongolia – ₹5 crore
 - Bangladesh – ₹80 crore
 - Afghanistan – ₹200 crore
 - Maldives – ₹400 crore

4. Sri Lankan Students Selected To Study Hindi

- Name of Scholarship: "Propagation of Hindi Abroad"
- Launched by: India
- 36 Sri Lankan students have been selected to study Hindi in India availing scholarship from the

Government of India.

- Including: Academic fees and local hospitality
- Course tenure: Nine month course
- Starting from August at the Kendriya Hindi Sansthan in Agra.
- Note:
- In the last 13 years, over 170 students from Sri Lanka have been awarded this scholarship titled "Propagation of Hindi Abroad".
- The highest number of students has been selected from Sri Lanka in 2024.

5. ADB & Aadhar housing partners to give housing loans to low-income women

- Signed between: Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Aadhar Housing Finance Limited (AHFL)
- Amount: USD 60 million nonconvertible debentures financing agreement
- Reason: To provide housing loans to women and address the shortage of financing in the low-income and affordable housing segment in India.
- Half of the funds will be deployed in Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal.
- AHFL is a housing finance company in India focused on the low-income housing segment, with loan sizes under 1.5 million Indian rupees (around USD 17,976).

6. UAE supermarket introduces UPI payments across outlets countrywide

- A UAE-based business conglomerate has announced the acceptance of India's Unified Payment Interface payments across its outlets in the country.
- The inaugural transaction using UPI at the Al Maya Supermarket was conducted in the presence of the Deputy Consul General of India in Dubai, Yatin Patel.
- Unified Payment Interface (UPI) is an Indian instant payment system developed by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) in 2016.

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7. ADB and ENGIE Group Signed Loan Agreement to Build 400 MW Solar Power Plant in Gujarat

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has signed a long-term local currency loan agreement with France-based ENGIE Group
- Aim: To construct and operate a 400 MegaWatt (MW) solar photovoltaic power plant in Surendranagar district in Gujarat, India.



- The proposed solar plant will generate an average of 805 GigaWatt-hours (GWh) solar energy per year over the next 25 years.
- This will help to avoid nearly 6.62 lakh tons of Carbon Dioxide (CO₂).
- The project will give boost the Government of India's (GoI)'s target to achieve minimum 500 GigaWatts (GW) of renewable energy capacity by 2030.

8. High Commissioner Of India To Sri Lanka Inaugurates 100 Octane Premium Petrol XP100 In Colombo

- High Commissioner of India to Sri Lanka Santosh Jha has inaugurated the premium petrol with 100 octane, XP100, in Colombo.
- The event marks the launch of the high performance fuel in the island making it the 8th country in the world to provide it in its market.

9. Indian High Commission Launched 'One Tree4Mother' Campaign In Bangladesh

- Launch of: 'One Tree4Mother' Campaign
- Launched by: Indian High Commission
- Launched in: Bangladesh
- Campaign inspired by Prime Narendra Narendra Modi who launched the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' Campaign on World Environment Day 2024 in New Delhi.
- High Commissioner of India to Bangladesh: Pranay Verma

10. Titan To Set Up Tanishq's Factory In Bangladesh

- Titan has decided to set up a factory in Narayanganj, near Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- Joint venture with a local enterprise named Rhythm Group
- Reason of JV: To manufacture and market products in Bangladesh for its flagship jewellery brand Tanishq
- They plan to open five Tanishq jewellery outlets in Dhaka shortly after establishing the manufacturing facility in the economic zone



11. Government of India and ADB sign \$170 million loan

- Loan agreement between: Government of India and ADB
- Amount: \$170 million
- Aim: To strengthen the country's health system preparedness for future pandemics
- The programme will be anchored in major government's plans and initiatives including:

- The National Health Policy 2017; Pradhan Mantri Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM-ABHIM),
- The National One Health Mission,
- The governments efforts to strengthen human resources for health (HRH)
- The targeted reform areas through the program include:
 - strengthened disease surveillance and multisectoral response,
 - strengthened human resources for health, and
 - expanded climate resilient public health infrastructure and innovative service delivery.

12. New Tourism And ODOP Walls Unveiled At Indian Embassy In Bahrain

- Unveiled: New Tourism And ODOP Walls
- Location: Indian Embassy, Bahrain
- Aim: To promote Indian cultural diversity and regional products
- The Indian Embassy in Bahrain has inaugurated new Odisha State Tourism and One District One Product (ODOP) walls in its Consular hall.
- The initiative is part of the Embassy's 'focus state/union territory' program
- Odisha is the fifth state to be featured, following Rajasthan, Kashmir, Uttar Pradesh, and Karnataka.

13. Indian Army Contingent Departs For 13th Edition Of India-Thailand Joint Military Exercise MAITREE

- Name of exercise: MAITREE
- Between: India- Thailand
- Edition: 13th
- Location: Fort Vachiraprakan in Tak Province of Thailand.
- Date: 1st to 15th of July
- **Indian Army contingent:**
- Comprising 76 personnel
- Represented by: Battalion of the Ladakh Scouts along with personnel from other arms and services.
- **Royal Thailand Army:**
- Contingent also comprises 76 personnel
- Represented by: 1st Battalion, 14 Infantry Regiment of 4 Division

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14. 16th "Nomadic Elephant" Joint Military Exercise

- Name of exercise: Nomadic Elephant
- Between: India and Mongolia
- Edition: 16th
- Location: Umroi, Meghalaya
- Date: July 3, 2024, to July 16, 2024
- Aim: To improve the two forces' ability to work together and communicate during semi-normal operations in semi-urban and mountainous areas, as directed by the UN.



15. Indian Navy Joins World's Largest Naval Exercise RIMPAC

- Exercise Name: Rim of the Pacific Exercise (RIMPAC) 2024
- This exercise is the world's biggest international maritime warfare exercise
- Location: Hawaii
- Total nation: 29
- Indian Navy participation: The Indian Navy has deployed frontline warship INS Shivalik for the RIMPAC.
- The harbour phase of the exercise is taking place from June 27 to July 7.
- The RIMPAC exercise will run till August 1.
- The theme of RIMPAC 2024 is "Partners: Integrated and Prepared."

16. Bangladesh Navy Signs Contract For 'Made In India' 800 Tons Ocean Going Tug With India's GRSE

- Bangladesh Navy signed a contract for 'Made in India' 800 tons Ocean Going Tug with India's Garden Reach Shipbuilding and Engineers.
- The signing coincides with the visit of India's Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi to Bangladesh.

17. Thales Inks Pact With Adani Defence To Manufacture 70mm Rockets In India

- Signed between: Adani Defence & Aerospace and Thales Group
- Contract: To manufacture 70mm rockets locally
- This strategic collaboration aligns with the Indian government's "Make in India" initiative, aiming to enhance self-reliance in defence production.
- Thales Group is a French multinational company that designs, develops and manufactures electrical systems as well as devices and equipment for the aerospace, defence, transportation and security sectors.

18. IFC lends ₹825 cr. to Tata Realty for Ramanujan Intellion Park

- Loan agreement between: International Finance Corporation (IFC) and Tata Realty
- Loan amount: ₹825 crore
- Reason: For refinancing of Ramanujan Intellion Park in Chennai, a 'sustainable real estate development' project
- Location: Old Mahabalipuram Road (IT Expressway) in Taramani, Chennai
- The 25.27 acre park encompasses both a Special Economic Zone (SEZ) processing area and a non-processing zone.
- It has achieved a full reduction of emissions through renewables or carbon off-sets.

19. EXIM Bank enters into \$2.5 million Line of Credit agreement with Guyana

- Agreement between: EXIM Bank and the Government of Guyana
- Reason: To provide LoC (Line of Credit) of \$2.5 million for the installation of a solar photo voltaic power plant.
- The solar photo voltaic power plant will be set up at the Cheddi Jagan International Airport in Guyana.
- Under the Line of Credit, the last date for disbursements will be 48 months after the completion of the project.
- Of the total credit provided by EXIM Bank, goods, works, and services worth at least 75% of the contract price will be supplied by the seller from India.
- And the remaining 25% may be procured by the seller from outside India for the eligible contract.

20. India & Bhutan Agree To Work Together In Field Of Environment And Climate Change

- Agreement between: India and Bhutan
- Agenda: To work together in the areas of climate change, air quality, forest, wildlife management, and capacity building in the field of environment and climate change.



21. Mutual Recognition Agreement between India and Taiwan for Organic Products

- Agreement between: India and Taiwan
- Agenda: The Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) for organic products
- The implementation of the MRA between India and Taiwan is a landmark achievement as it is the first bilateral agreement for organic products.

22. India Releases \$2.5 Million In Aid For Palestine Refugees

- The Indian government has released the first tranche of USD 2.5 million to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) as part of its annual contribution of USD 5 million for the year 2024-25.

- The UNRWA, which has carried out direct relief and works programmes for registered Palestinian refugees since 1950, is making efforts to keep up its functioning in the middle of the Israel-Hamas war in Gaza.
- India has provided financial support to the tune of USD 35 million till 2023-24 for the UN agency's core programmes and services, including education, healthcare, relief and social services provided to Palestinian refugees.

23. India's External Affairs Minister Strengthens Ties with Mauritius

- Ties between: India and Mauritius
- India's External Affairs Minister visit: Mauritius
- Date: 16th & 17th July 2024
- External Affairs Minister of India: Dr. S Jaishankar
- Key Engagements to strengthen ties between India and Mauritius:
 - Inauguration of India-Mauritius Maitree Udyan in Port Louis
 - Inaugurated the first Jan Aushadi Kendra outside India at Grand Bois, Mauritius.
 - Discussions with Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth

Agreements & MoUs

1. Axis Bank and Piramal Finance join hands under co-lending business

- Signed between: Axis Bank and Piramal Finance
- Type: Co-lending agreement
- Aim: To cater to customers in the unorganized sector, including self-employed or salaried borrowers who have limited access to credit due to the lack of sufficient income proofs.
- Both lenders will offer loans to the middle and low-income segment borrowers with focus on rural and semi-urban regions.

2. NABARD partners with Online PSB Loans Ltd to digitalize Jan Suraksha Schemes for regional rural banks

- Signed between: National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) and Online PSB Loans Limited
- Aim: To promote financial inclusion through regional rural banks
- The collaboration seeks to smoothen the process of enrolment and claim settlement under the Jan Suraksha Schemes for all 43 Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) onboarded on one platform through the JanSuraksha Portal.



- This initiative represents a significant stride towards bridging the financial gap in rural areas and will further empower Regional Rural Banks to leverage digital solutions for seamless enrolment and efficient settlement of Jan Suraksha schemes

JanSuraksha Portal:

- An initiative undertaken by the Department of Financial Services (DFS) of the Government of India
- Facilitates digital enrolment and claim settlements for the Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY) and the Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY).

3. Ministry of Rural Development and Ministry of MSME join hands to boost SHG women enterprises

- The Union Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) and Union Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MoMSME) signed a Statement of Intent (SoI)
- Aim: To collaborate on formalizing and strengthening Self Help Group (SHG) women-led rural enterprises through MoMSME's flagship schemes

4. NIC and Spices Board Sign MoU for AI-Based Cardamom Disease Study in Sikkim

- The National Informatics Centre (NIC) and the Spices Board of India have signed an MoU to develop Artificial intelligence (AI) tools for detecting and classifying large cardamom diseases in Sikkim.
- The project, spearheaded by NIC's Centre of Excellence in AI in Kolkata, aims to analyze images of cardamom leaves to identify diseases early.
- This initiative follows three months of discussions and marks a significant step in leveraging AI for agricultural advancements in Sikkim.

5. NCW, CyberPeace Foundation launch Digital Shakti 5.0 to empower women

- Launch of: Digital Shakti 5.0
- Launched by: NCW, CyberPeace Foundation
- Aim: Digitally empowering and upskilling women and girls in cyberspace, creating safer online environments for them
- The campaign's alignment with the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Digital India initiative

6. Women Entrepreneurship Platform and TransUnion CIBIL Partner to Launch SEHER Program

- Launch of: SEHER Program
- Launched by: The Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP) and TransUnion CIBIL
- SEHER:
- A credit education program aimed at empowering women entrepreneurs in India by providing financial literacy.

- SEHER will provide personalized resources and tools for financial literacy to women entrepreneurs, promoting good credit history and CIBIL scores.
- WEP: Incubated in NITI Aayog in 2018, transitioned to a public-private partnership in 2022.

7. Indian Railways And DMRC Join Hands To Promote One India-One Ticket Initiative

- Agreement between: Indian Railways And DMRC
- Aim: To promote the One India-One Ticket initiative for the ease of travellers
- Under this, the travellers of the metro can now book metro tickets from the IRCTC website or app.

8. CSIR and MS Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF) signs MoU

- MoU between: Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and the M. S. A Research Foundation (MSSRF)
- Reason: To work together for livelihood generation among rural, tribal, and farming communities.

9. ICAI and MeitY Collaborate on AI Audit Tool for Corporate India

- Collab between: The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) and Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)
- Reason: To develop an AI Audit Tool
- Aim: To oversee corporate India and detecting frauds.
- ICAI has already allocated ₹25 crore for the development of AI tools, with plans to increase the budget to ₹100 crore.
- ICAI President: Ranjeet Kumar Agarwal



10. Indian Railways' GSV Vadodara and Airbus sign agreement for aerospace teaching and research

- Signed between: Indian Railways' GSV Vadodara and Airbus
- Aim: To the Indian aviation sector
- The agreement includes a full scholarship program for 40 GSV students for the entire program duration, setting up the Centre of Excellence at GSV as well as the Airbus Aviation Chair Professor position at GSV.
- Further, GSV and Airbus will partner for executive training for working professionals in the aviation sector.

11. DPIIT and NCAER sign MoU to overhaul India's logistics cost

- Signed between: The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) and National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER)

- Reason: For the development of Framework & Assessment of Logistics Cost in India
- The Government of India had launched the National Logistics Policy (NLP) on 17th September 2022.
- One of the primary objectives of the NLP was to reduce the percentage of logistics cost to the GDP.

12. IIT Bombay, IRS Collaborate on Maritime Safety Tool

- MoU Signed between: The Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IIT Bombay) and the Indian Register of Shipping (IRS)
- Aim: To make the seas safer by creating a new tool that can predict where ships will go.
- The main goal of this partnership is to make a tool for predicting the paths of ships that are disabled and floating items.

13. Arka Fincap signs co-lending partnership with Central Bank of India for MSME loans

- Agreement between: Arka Fincap and Central Bank of India
- Aim: To offer MSME loans
- Arka will originate and process loans while Central Bank will fund 80%.
- Arka aims to grow its book to Rs 7500 crore by FY25, focusing on MSME lending.

14. Nepal, India, Bangladesh to sign power trading deal

- Nepal will sign a tripartite power trading deal next week to export 40 MW of electricity to Bangladesh via India.
- This will be the first time in history that the Himalayan nation will sell electricity to a third country other than India.
- Under the agreement, the NEA will export 40 MW of hydroelectricity to Bangladesh via India from June 15 to November 15 every year.
- As per the agreement, Nepal will get a tariff of USD 0.064 per unit for selling electricity to Bangladesh.
- Nepal will transmit the energy to India through the 400 KV Dhalkebar Muzaffarpur cross-border transmission line. India will then transmit the equivalent to Bangladesh.

15. NFDC and Netflix Partner to Launch "The Voicebox"

- NFDC and Netflix partner to launch an upskilling program for voice-over artists.
- The Voicebox program will offer Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) training for voice-over artists focusing on English, Hindi, Marathi, Bengali, Malayalam, Tamil, Telugu and Gujarati languages.



16. India Signs MoU With Marshall Islands To Implement 4 Community Development Projects

- India and the Marshall Islands signed MoU for the implementation of Four Community Development Projects in the Marshall Islands
- Focus area: Climate change, natural disasters, poverty alleviation, and healthcare

17. Air India Express launches platform with MakeMyTrip for booking flights

- Partnership between: Air India Express and MakeMyTrip
- Jointly launched: Xpress Holidays
- Reason: To enable bookings for flights, accommodation, and transport.
- The service includes international destinations, airport transfers, cab pick-ups, guided tours, and exclusive deals, available on the airline's website and app.



18. India, Switzerland Aim For \$100 Billion Investment And One Million Jobs In 15 Years

- Union Minister for Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal held talks with his Swiss counterpart Guy Parmelin to work towards achieving the goals set in Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA).
- It also aimed at identifying ways and means of realising the ambitious target of 100 billion dollars investment and creation of one million jobs in India by EFTA countries in next 15 years as provided for in the Agreement.

19. IIM Lucknow, Graphisads launch 'G Force' accelerator for media startups

- Graphisads Limited partnership with the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Lucknow to introduce 'G Force'.
- An accelerator programme designed to empower and cultivate aspiring entrepreneurs in the media sector.
- The memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed by IIM Lucknow and Graphisads aims to bridge the gap between the advertising industry and academia by fostering innovation and entrepreneurship.

20. Hyundai ties up with Charge Zone for charging infrastructure for EV

- MoU between: Hyundai and Charge Zone
- Reason: To set up charging infrastructure for electric vehicles.
- Aim: To install DC 60 kW fast chargers across 100 Hyundai dealerships in India.

21. IOA ropes in BPCL as principal sponsor for four years

- The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) has named Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) as its official principal sponsor for four years, starting with the Paris Olympics till the 2028 Los Angeles Games.
- The collaboration between BPCL, a Maharatna company, and IOA will also encompass the Commonwealth Games, Asian Games, Summer Youth Olympics, Winter Olympics, and Winter Youth Olympics.



22. Hardik Pandya partners with FanCode Shop to launch his brand

- Launch of: Sportswear Brand (t-shirts, vests, polos, shorts, and jackets)
- Brand name: Not disclosed
- Launched by: In collaboration with Hardik Pandya and FanCode Shop
- FanCode Shop will design, manufacture, and market the products under the Hardik Pandya brand name in a revenue-sharing partnership.
- Note:
- MS Dhoni and Virat Kohli have launched their own sportswear and lifestyle brands, Seven by MS Dhoni and One8, respectively.
- Kohli's One8 also has a tie-up with Puma.

23. NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam To Set Up Green Charcoal Plant In Haryana

- Set up of: Two waste-to-charcoal plants (also known as green coal plants)
- Cost: ₹500 crore each
- Set up in: Gurugram and Faridabad
- These plants would convert 1,500 tonnes of waste daily into charcoal using indigenous technology.
- MoU signed between: NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam Limited (NVTNL) and Municipal Corporations of Gurugram and Faridabad
- The green coal plants will be in Bandhwari (Gurugram) and Mothuka (Faridabad)

24. C-DOT signs agreement with IIT, Roorkee and Mandi

- Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) signed an agreement with the Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee (IIT Roorkee) and Indian Institute of Technology, Mandi (IIT Mandi)
- Aim: For the development of 'Cell-Free' 6G Access Points.
- Both the IITs are collaborating to develop this technology.

25. Tata Power Solar partners with the Bank of India

- Tata Power Solar Systems Limited (TPSSL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Tata Power Renewable Energy Limited (TPREL) announced a

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strategic partnership with the Bank of India (BOI)

- Aim: To facilitate easy financing for rooftop solar installations establishment of electric vehicle (EV) charging stations.

26. NITI Aayog & WIPO To Build Joint Programs Towards Innovation, Entrepreneurship & IP For Global South

- NITI Aayog and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) today signed a Statement of Intent in New Delhi for building joint programs towards Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Intellectual Property (IP) for countries in the Global South.
- Both will work to enhance understanding and awareness about Intellectual Property Rights from the school level to further inclusive and sustainable economic growth.



27. Airbus and Tata to Debut India's First H125 Helicopter by 2026

- Airbus and Tata are joining forces to manufacture India's first H125 helicopter, which is set to roll out by 2026.
- This partnership reflects Airbus's commitment to investing in the Indian aerospace market despite regulatory challenges.
- The initial production capacity will be 10 helicopters per year, with the potential to scale up to 50 helicopters annually in subsequent years.
- India is projected to become a significant market for helicopters, with Airbus estimating a demand of up to 500 H-125 units in India and neighboring countries.

Appointments & Resignations

1. Dhirendra Ojha Appointed Principal Spokesperson of Government

- Senior Indian Information Service (IIS) officer Dhirendra K Ojha has been appointed as the principal spokesperson of the central government.
- His appointment comes with the additional responsibility of serving as the principal director general of the Press Information Bureau (PIB).
- This dual role positions Ojha at the forefront of government-media relations and public information dissemination.

2. Sheel Nagu appointed as Chief Justice of Punjab and Haryana High Court

- The President of India, in exercise of the powers conferred by the Constitution of India, appointed Shri Sheel Nagu, Judge of the High Court of Madhya Pradesh as the Chief Justice of the High Court of Punjab and Haryana with effect from the date he assumes charge of his office.

3. JMM Executive President Hemant Soren To Take Oath As CM Of Jharkhand

- Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) Executive President Hemant Soren will take oath as Chief Minister of Jharkhand on 7th of July.
- Chief Minister Champai Soren tendered his resignation from the post to Governor C P Radhakrishnan.

3. SBI General Insurance Names Naveen Chandra Jha as New MD & CEO

- SBI General Insurance Company Ltd. has appointed Shri Naveen Chandra Jha as its new Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer.
- He succeeds Shri Kishore Kumar Poludasu, nominated by parent company State Bank of India.



4. Ex-R&AW Chief Rajinder Khanna Appointed New Additional NSA

- Former Research and Analysis Wing (R&AW) chief Rajinder Khanna has been promoted to Additional National Security Adviser (NSA).
- T V Ravichandran and Pavan Kapoor have also been appointed as Deputy NSAs.

5. Dr B N Gangadhar Appointed As Chairperson Of National Medical Commission

- The Appointment Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has appointed Dr. B.N. Gangadhar as the Chairperson of the National Medical Commission.
- Earlier, he was the President of the Medical Assessment and Rating Board

6. Puma India, Roped Riyan Parag and Nitish Kumar Reddy as ambassadors

- Puma India, a leading sports brand, announced two new brand ambassadors: Riyan Parag and Nitish Kumar Reddy.
- It showcases Puma's commitment to supporting young talent and connecting with India's youth.

7. Dick Schoof: Ex-spy chief sworn in as Dutch prime minister

- Former Dutch intelligence chief Dick Schoof was sworn in as prime minister at the head of a coalition government promising to implement the Netherlands' "strictest ever" asylum and immigration policy.
- The 67-year-old Independent candidate is succeeding departing Prime Minister Mark Rutte, who is set to become the next secretary-general of NATO after 14 years in office in The Hague

8. New CGM and CMD Take Charge at PGCIL

- Akhilesh Pathak has become the new Chief General Manager of the Southern Region Transmission System-I (SRTS-I) of Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd (PGCIL), overseeing operations in Telangana.

9. Rushabh Gandhi Takes Charge as the MD CEO of IndiaFirst Life

- Rushabh Gandhi takes charge as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (MD & CEO) of IndiaFirst Life Insurance Company Limited (IndiaFirst Life), effective from July 01, 2024.
- Rushabh was previously the Deputy CEO of IndiaFirst Life.

10. SARS Commissioner re-elected chairperson of World Customs Organisation

- The highest decision-making body of the World Customs Organisation, the WCO Council, has re-elected SARS Commissioner Edward Kieswetter as the WCO Chairperson for a second term, 2024 – 2025

11. Ravi Agrawal Appointed CBDT Chief, Succeeds Nitin Gupta

- Ravi Agrawal, a 1988-batch IRS officer, has been appointed as the new chairman of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT).
- He succeeds Nitin Gupta, whose tenure ended on June 30, 2024.
- Agrawal's appointment extends till June 2025, with a reappointment on a contract basis to ensure continuity in CBDT's policy framework.



12. LIC Chairman Siddhartha Mohanty re-designated managing director & CEO

- Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has re-designated its chairman Siddhartha Mohanty as managing director (MD) and chief executive officer (CEO), with effect from June 30, 2024.

13. RBI appoints Arnab Kumar Chowdhury, Charulatha S Kar as executive directors

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced the appointment of Arnab Kumar Chowdhury and Charulatha S Kar as executive directors.
- Chowdhury and Kar will look after three departments each.
- Kar has been appointed as Executive Director (ED) with effect from July 1 while Chowdhury has been appointed ED with effect from June 3, 2024.

14. Sujata Saunik becomes first woman to be appointed as Maharashtra chief secy

- Senior IAS officer Sujata Saunik on Sunday took over as Maharashtra's Chief Secretary, becoming the first woman in the state's 64-year-old history to occupy the top post.

15. CS Setty gets FSIB approval to head SBI as next chairman

- Challa Sreenivasulu Setty has been selected as the next chairman of the State Bank of India (SBI) by the Financial Services Institution Bureau (FSIB).
- Setty, who has worked at SBI for 35 years, will succeed current chairman Dinesh Khara, who will end his term on August 28.

16. Elisa de Anda Madrazo Assumes FATF Presidency for 2024-2026

- New president of FATF: Elisa de Anda Madrazo (Mexico)
- Tenure: 2024-2026
- This transition marks a significant moment for the global financial watchdog, as Madrazo brings a fresh perspective aimed at strengthening efforts to combat financial crimes and terrorism financing.

17. Rajat Sharma Elected as NBDA President

- Rajat Sharma, the esteemed Chairman and Editor-in-Chief of India TV, has been unanimously elected as the President of the News Broadcasters & Digital Association (NBDA).

18. Collegium recommends appointment of Justice Manmohan as Delhi High Court Chief Justice

- The Supreme Court Collegium recommended the appointment of Delhi High Court judge Justice Manmohan as the Chief Justice of the High Court.
- The decision was taken by the Collegium headed by Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud and also comprising Justices Sanjiv Khanna, BR Gavai, Surya Kant and Hrishikesh Roy.

19. President confirms appointment of Mohammad Shakeel as Officiating V-C of JMI

- Prof Mohammad Shakeel has been appointed as the officiating Vice-Chancellor of Jamia Millia Islamia.
- “Hon’ble President of India in her capacity as the Visitor of Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI), in exercise of powers conferred upon her by the Act or Statutes of University has been pleased to approve the appointment of Prof. Mohammad Shakeel as the Officiating Vice-Chancellor as per Statute 2(6) of JMI Act, 1988,” the official notice stated.

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20. Olympian PV Sindhu Joins Wellness Brand Hoop as Investor, Brand Ambassador

- Olympic medalist and badminton sensation PV Sindhu has made a significant move in the business world by joining Hoop, a Gurugram-based wellness brand, as both an investor and brand ambassador.



21. Supreme Court Appoints Former CJI to Head VC Selection Committee in West Bengal

- Former Chief Justice of India, Uday Umesh Lalit, as the chairman of the search and selection committee for the appointment of vice-chancellor in all the state-run universities of West Bengal.
- The order was passed on a special leave petition filed by the West Bengal government under Article 138 of the constitution.
- The Supreme Court has ordered the constitution of a six-member committee within two weeks.

22. Soumya Swaminathan Appointed Principal Advisor For National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme

- Professor and Dr. Soumya Swaminathan has been appointed as the Principal Advisor at the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare for the National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme on a pro bono basis.

23. RBI approves Govind Singh's re-appointment as MD & CEO of Utkarsh SFB

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) approved the re-appointment of Govind Singh as the managing director and chief executive officer of Utkarsh Small Finance Bank (Utkarsh SFB) effective from September 21, 2024.

24. Mashreq appoints Tushar Vikram as Country Head and CEO of India

- Mashreq, the oldest publicly listed bank in the United Arab Emirates, has appointed Tushar Vikram as its new country head and CEO of India, starting June 2024

- In his new role, Vikram will lead the bank's operations in India, driving the strategic direction and growth in the country.

25. Labour Party Leader Keir Starmer Becomes New Prime Minister Of United Kingdom

- In the United Kingdom, Buckingham Palace today announced that Labour leader Keir Starmer has been invited by King Charles to form a new government.
- Britain's 58th Prime Minister

26. Reformist Masoud Pezeshkian Wins Runoff Presidential Election In Iran

- Masoud Pezeshkian, a reformist and former Health Minister of Iran won the 14th presidential election by beating his rival, hardliner Islamist ideologue Saeed Jalili.
- Masoud Pezeshkian got 16.3 million votes of the total 30 million votes in the runoff.

27. Rachel Reeves: Britain's first woman finance chief

- Rachel Reeves became Britain's first woman finance minister.
- This came after the Labour Party badly lost to the Conservatives.
- At age 45, her selection comes at a crucial time for the country, which is having economic problems.



28. Bandhan Bank appoints Ratan Kumar Kesh as interim MD & CEO

- Ratan Kumar Kesh, executive director and chief operating officer of Bandhan Bank, has been appointed interim MD & CEO of the private lender since July 10.
- The present MD & CEO and founder of the bank will retire on July 9.

29. Pradeep Kharola's Tenure As CMD of ITPO Extended By One More Year

- Pradeep Singh Kharola's (1985-batch IAS officer) tenure as the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of the Indian Trade Promotion Organization (ITPO) in the rank and pay of Secretary was extended for one year on contract basis.
- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) had approved Officer Kharola's tenure extension from 19.10.2024 to 19.10.2025 or until further orders.

30. KP Sharma Oli To Be New Prime Minister Of Nepal

- Nepal President Ram Chandra Paudel appointed Communist Party of Nepal-Unified Marxist Leninist chairman KP Sharma Oli as the next Prime Minister.
- Mr. Oli succeeds Pushpa Kamal Dahal Prachanda who lost the vote of confidence in the House of Representatives, leading to the formation of the new government.

31. Manvi Madhu Kashyap becomes first transgender to be appointed as Sub-Inspector in Bihar Police

- Appointment of: Manvi Madhu Kashyap
- Appointed in: Bihar Police
- Post: Sub-Inspector
- She is a first transgender person to be appointed as Sub-Inspector of Bihar Police.
- Note: Tripura has set up transgender protection cells for grievance redressal to ensure safety and empowerment of LGBTQIA+ community.

32. Robert J Ravi appointed as New CMD of BSNL

- New CMD of BSNL: Robert J Ravi
- Effective from July 15, 2024
- Succeed: P K Purwar

33. Vikram Misri Assumes Charge As Foreign Secretary

- Vikram Misri assumed charge as the new Foreign Secretary on July 15.
- He has succeeded Vinay Mohan Kwatra whose tenure ended.

34. Goldman Sachs appoints Sudarshan Ramakrishnan and Devarajan Nambakam as the co-heads in India

- Goldman Sachs has named Sudarshan Ramakrishnan and Devarajan Nambakam as co-heads of its investment banking business in India.
- Sunil Khaitan has also joined as managing director.

35. Roberta Metsola Re-elected as European Parliament President

- Roberta Metsola Re-elected as EU Parliament President.
- She is the first woman to secure a second term as President of the European Parliament

36. HSBC appoints Georges Elhedery as group chief executive

- New CEO of HSBC: Georges Elhedery
- Effective from: September 2
- Replace: Noel Quinn

37. Paul Kagame Re-elected for Fourth Term as Rwandan President

- Paul Kagame has won a fourth term as Rwanda's President with 99.15% of the vote, continuing his leadership since 2000.
- About Rwanda
- Capital: Kigali

- Currency: Rwandan franc
- President: Paul Kagame

38. Centre confirms appointment of Justice Kotiswar Singh, R Mahadevan as Supreme Court judges

- Appointment of: Justice Kotiswar Singh, R Mahadevan
- Elevated to: The Supreme Court of India
- Current Strength: 34 (33+1)
- Kotiswar Singh: He is the first from Manipur to become an SC judge.
- He is a son of Justice N Ibotombi Singh of the Gauhati high court, who served as Manipur's first Advocate General.



39. European Parliament Approves Germany's Ursula Von Der Leyen's As President Of European Commission

- The European Parliament has approved Germany's Ursula von der Leyen's bid for a second five-year term as president of the European Commission.
- Von der Leyen garnered 401 votes in the 720-seat chamber, exceeding the majority required to maintain her position as the head of the EU's executive body.

40. Ronald L. Rowe Jr. Named Acting Chief of US Secret Service

- Ronald L. Rowe Jr. has been appointed as the acting chief of the US Secret Service following the resignation of Kimberly Cheatle.
- Cheatle stepped down after the Secret Service faced criticism for a significant security lapse during an attempted assassination of former President Donald Trump.

41. Ajinkya Naik Elected as the Youngest MCA President

- Ajinkya Naik has been elected as the youngest president of the Mumbai Cricket Association, defeating Sanjay Naik by 107 votes.
- Naik, who previously served as MCA Secretary.

42. Bibhuti Bhusan Nayak Elected New President of ICAI

- 67th President of ICAI: CMA Bibhuti Bhusan Nayak
- Tenure: 2024-25
- He is Odisha's third Cost Accountant to hold this esteemed role.
- Vice President of ICAI: TCA Srinivasa Prasad (2024-25)

43. Sania Mirza, Mary Kom And Rannvijay Singha Join Play Sports As Brand Ambassadors

- Sania Mirza, MC Mary Kom and Rannvijay Singha have joined 'Play Sports' as brand ambassadors.
- Sania Mirza won six-time Grand Slam and became the World No. 1 in women's doubles.
- MC Mary Kom won six-time World Champion title and Olympic bronze medal.

- Play Sports aims to improve the sports infrastructure and training facilities at schools and societies in Delhi NCR and Jaipur in the first phase and then take it to the entire country.
- PM Modi aims to make India a top-10 sporting nation by 2036.

44. Paris Olympics 2024: Nita Ambani unanimously re-elected as IOC member

- Nita Ambani, Founder of Reliance Foundation has been re-elected unanimously as the IOC from India at the 142nd IOC session in Paris that is currently underway, winning unanimously with 100 per cent of the vote.



45. Myanmar's military chief named acting president

- Myanmar's acting president, Myint Swe, has taken medical leave and transferred his duties to the military chief Min Aung Hlaing, says the country's army.

46. Motorcycle-Riding Sultan Ibrahim Crowned Malaysian King At 65

- The Malaysian throne changes every five years between the rulers of the nine Malaysian states.
- Malaysia installed a motorcycle-riding billionaire sultan as its new king.
- The coronation ceremony for King Sultan Ibrahim, 65, at the National Palace in Kuala Lumpur followed his oath-taking in January as the country's 17th monarch.

47. Manolo Marquez appointed as head coach of Indian football men's team

- Manolo Marquez (Spain) has been appointed as head coach of the Indian men's team by the All-India Football Federation (AIFF).
- Successor of: Igor Stimac

48. Shikhar Dhawan Becomes Brand Ambassador for MotoGP India

- Eurosport India has announced the appointment of renowned Indian cricketer Shikhar Dhawan as the brand ambassador for MotoGP™ in India.
- Eurosport India has unveiled its latest campaign, 'Face Kar Race Kar', featuring Dhawan as the face of MotoGP in India.

49. Federal Bank appoints Krishnan Venkat Subramanian as MD & CEO

- Krishnan Venkat Subramanian has been appointed as the managing director (MD) and chief executive officer (CEO) of Federal Bank Ltd after approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

Awards & Recognitions

1. Geetha wins first ever K. Saraswathi Amma Award for feminist studies

- Writer, critic and feminist activist P. Geetha was presented with the first K. Saraswathi Amma Award for her work "Aan Thachukal" on MT Vasudevan Nair's scripts.
- It is instituted by WINGS (Women's Integration and Growth Through Sports) Kerala.
- Saraswathi Amma published her first short story in 1938. In her time, she was dubbed as a 'men hater', later the feminist world hailed her as the forerunner of feminist literature.
- Saraswathi Amma was a bold writer who stood alone against the then patriarchal literary world. WINGS is an organisation formed with an objective of making women bold and independent.

2. Bank of India receives Atal Pension Yojana Annual Award for FY2023-24 by PFRDA

- Bank of India (BOI) has received multiple awards in recognition of its outstanding performance in various aspects of banking and financial inclusion.
- BOI has been felicitated with the Atal Pension Yojana Annual Award for FY2023-24 by PFRDA (Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority Awards) for the second consecutive year.
- Additionally, the Bank has been awarded the APY Ultimate Champions Cup while three of its branches have been recognized among the top five branches across India.



3. Sopna Kallingal Wins Spice Award 2024

- Sopna Kallingal, an agriculturist from Kallingal Plantation in Thrissur, was recently honored with the prestigious Spice Award 2024.
- The ICAR-Indian Institute of Spices Research gave her this award to recognize her outstanding work in business diversification and integrated crop management.

4. Nagaland Crowned Best State in Horticulture: Agriculture Leadership Awards 2024

- Nagaland has been adjudged as the best state in Horticulture in the prestigious Agriculture Leadership Awards 2024.
- The award was given to the state for its outstanding work in introducing innovative programmes and policies for horticulture development, which has positively touched the lives of large number of farmers and the rural people in the State.

5. AP's natural farming model wins global prize

- A unique natural farming method being practiced in Andhra Pradesh for over eight years has won global recognition.
- Nagendramma Nettem, a farmer from the drought-prone Anantapur district of Andhra Pradesh, Vijay Kumar, Executive Vice Chairman of Rythu Sadhikara Samstha, a State-government agency, has received the prestigious Gulbenkian Prize for Humanity award in Lisbon (Portugal).

6. **PM Modi Receives Russia's Highest Civilian Honour, The Order Of St Andrew The Apostle'**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi was honoured with Russia's most prestigious civilian honour, the Order of St Andrew the Apostle.
- The award recognizes Prime Minister Modi's distinguished contribution to developing a privileged strategic partnership between Russia and India and fostering friendly ties between the two countries.
- The award was established in 1698 by Tsar Peter the Great in honor of Saint Andrew, the first apostle and patron saint of Russia.

7. **Dr. Arpit Chopra Receives Prestigious Excellence Award for Pioneering Work in Homeopathy**

- Dr. Arpit Chopra, a distinguished homoeopathic practitioner, was bestowed with the Excellence Award at the NDTV MSMES (Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises) Summit held in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.

8. **Maharashtra Wins Best Agriculture State Award for 2024**

- The 15th Agriculture Leadership Awards Committee has announced that Maharashtra has won the Best Agriculture State Award for 2024.
- The announcement was made by the committee headed by Justice P Sathasivam, former Chief Justice of India and Governor of Kerala.
- Eknath Shinde, the Chief Minister of Maharashtra, will receive the award on July 10, 2024, at a function in New Delhi.

9. **HCLTech chairperson Roshni Nadar Malhotra awarded France's highest civilian honour**

- HCLTech chairperson Roshni Nadar Malhotra was conferred France's highest civilian honor, the Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur (Knight of the Legion of Honour).



10. **Foxconn Chairman Young Liu receives Padma Bhushan**

- Foxconn Chairman Young Liu received the Padma Bhushan from Manharsinh Yadav of India Taipei Association.
- Foxconn is expanding in India with a chip plant joint venture with HCL Group, iPhone and potential Google Pixel production, and AI server manufacturing, amid factory discrimination allegations.

11. Tamil Writer Sivashankari Wins National Literary Award

- The Dr. C. Narayana Reddy National Literary Award has been given to the famous Tamil author Sivashankari.
- The Sushila Narayana Reddy Trust made the statement to honor her important contributions to Tamil literature.
- cash prize of ₹5 lakh, a memento, and a shawl

12. IISR's Golden Milk Mix technology bags ICAR best technology award

- The ICAR-Indian Institute of Spices Research has received the best technology award for its work in horticulture sciences.
- The institute received the awards during the 96th ICAR Foundation Day Celebrations held in New Delhi.

13. Prahlad Agrawal honoured with COSPAR Award 2024

- Prahlad Chandra Agrawal was honoured with the COSPAR Harrie Massey Award 2024 at the 45th COSPAR Scientific Assembly opening ceremony in Busan, South Korea.
- He is the first Indian to receive this award for his contributions to space research.

14. Sobha Group's Sri Kurumba Trust Wins Global CSR ESG

- Sobha Group's CSR wing, Sri Kurumba Educational and Charitable Trust, has been honoured with the "Best Child and Women Development Initiatives of the Year 2024."

15. ICC Honoured Six Nations In Associate Cricket With ICC Development Award For 2023

- The International Cricket Council (ICC) has honoured six nations in associate cricket with the ICC Development Award for 2023.
- Mexico, the South American country known for its excellence in the world of football, has now been honoured for its excellence in Cricket.
- Other countries: Oman, the Netherlands, the United Arab Emirates, Nepal, and Scotland
- The ICC Development Award was started in 2002 to recognise the efforts and achievements of ICC associate member nations.

16. Nirma University Wins Robot Competition DD-Robocon India 2024

- The team of Institute of Technology, Nirma University won the Robot Competition DD-Robocon India 2024.
- The two day event began at Thyagaraj Stadium in New Delhi.
- This event was organised by Prasar Bharati and IIT Delhi.
- The winning team will now represent India at the international Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union Robocon 2024 in QuangNinh, Vietnam.

17. Sudarshan Bags Gold Medal In International Sand Sculpture Championship

- Name of award: Golden Sand Master award at an international championship
- Awardee: Indian sand artist Sudarsan Pattnaik
- Location: Russia
- Organized by: International Sand Sculpture Championship
- Participated by: World's 21 master sculptors
- **His Achievement and awards:**
 - Padma Shri in 2014
 - People's Choice Award 2014
 - First Indian to win the Italian Sand Art Award, 2019

18.INS Delhi Wins Best Ship Of Eastern Fleet 2024

- INS Delhi was recognised as the Best Ship of the Eastern Fleet for its excellent performance and operational achievements.
- The Fleet Awards Function, held in Visakhapatnam, honoured the Eastern Fleet's tactical successes over the past year.

19.Chhangte, Indumathi named best on a shining Night of AIFF Awards

- Lallianzuala Chhangte and Indumathi Kathiresan were named the AIFF Best Men's and Women's Players of the Year 2023-24 in a glittering AIFF Award Night attended by a galaxy of icons from the sporting world in New Delhi



20.Nagaland Madrigal Singers Win Two Gold Medals At World Choir Games 2024

- The Nagaland Madrigal Singers representing India has won two Gold Medals at the World Choir Games, 2024 in New Zealand.
- Led by Hito Kiho
- The Nagaland Madrigal Singers competed in two prestigious categories namely Contemporary Music Mixed Voices and Mixed Chamber Choir.
- They won gold medals in both categories.

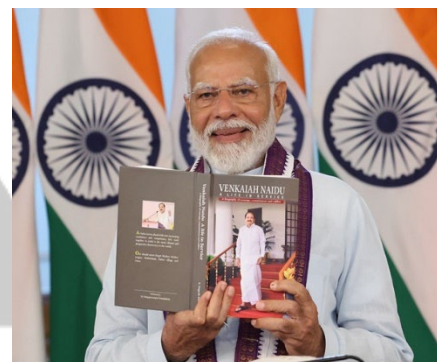
Books & Authors

1. A book titled "Manoj Bajpayee: The Definitive Biography" by Piyush Pandey

- "Manoj Bajpayee: The Definitive Biography" by journalist Piyush Pandey offers readers an intimate look into the life of one of India's most respected actors.

2. PM Modi Releases Three Books On Life And Journey Of Former VP Venkaiah Naidu

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi released three books on the life and journey of former Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu on the eve of his 75th birthday via video conferencing



3. "The Prisoner of Bhopal": A Novel Commemorating the 40th Anniversary of the Bhopal Gas Tragedy

- Name of Book: The Prisoner of Bhopal
- Author: Tim Walker
- This book, aimed at young readers, commemorates the 40th anniversary of one of India's most devastating industrial disasters – the Bhopal gas tragedy.

4. A Book "Power Within": A Landmark Book on Leadership Authored by Dr. R Balasubramaniam

- Name of book: Power Within: The Leadership Legacy of Narendra Modi
- Authored by: Dr. R Balasubramaniam

5. A Book Title Jamsetji Tata: Powerful Learnings For Corporate Success

- Name of book: Jamsetji Tata: Powerful Learnings For Corporate Success
- Authored by: R. Gopalakrishnan and Harish Bhat



Sports

1. Paris Olympics 2024: Yarraji set to be first Indian 100m hurdler to compete in Games

- Jyothi Yarraji is set to be the first Indian 100m hurdler to compete in the Paris Olympics while shot putter Abha Khatua made a surprise cut through world rankings for the upcoming Paris Games.

2. George Wins the Austrian Grand Prix

- Mercedes' George Russell won the Austrian Grand Prix, the 11th round of the 2024 Formula 1 world championship, after Max Verstappen and Lando Norris collided.

3. BCCI announces Rs 125 crore prize money for Indian team for T20 WC triumph

- T20 2024 winner: India
- Defeated: South Africa
- Defeated by: 7 runs
- Location: Bridgetown, Barbados
- BCCI secretary Jay Shah announced a prize money of Rs 125 crore for the Indian team

4. Global Chess League to Hold Second Edition in London in October

- The highly anticipated second edition of Tech Mahindra Global Chess League will take place in London, England from 3rd to 12th October 2024.
- It will take place at Friends House in central London.

5. PUMA Partners with Indian Olympic Association for Paris Olympics 2024

- Sports brand PUMA India has announced a significant partnership with the Indian Olympic Association (IOA), becoming the Official Footwear Partner for the Indian contingent at the Paris Olympics 2024.



6. Jasprit Bumrah Named ICC Men's Player Of The Month For June 2024

- The International Cricket Council announced Indian pace bowler Jasprit Bumrah as the ICC Men's Player of the Month for June 2024.
- Recently, Jasprit Bumrah's stellar bowling performance helped the Indian men's cricket team lift the ICC T20 World Cup.
- On the other hand, ICC also announced Indian women's team vice-captain Smriti Mandhana as the ICC Women's Player of the Month for June, beating out England's Maia Bouchier and Sri Lanka's Vishmi Gunaratne.



7. Para Shooters Rubina Francis And Swaroop Unhalkar Secure Olympics Quota

- Indian para shooters, Rubina Francis and Swaroop Unhalkar secured quota for Paris Paralympics under bipartite rule.
- The Paralympic Committee of India had applied for two bipartite (wildcard) spots for Rubina in women's 10m air pistol SH1 and Unhalkar in men's 10m air rifle SH1.

8. Adani Group Announced as Principal Sponsor for Indian Team at 2024 Paris Olympics

- Gautam Adani, Chairman of the Adani Group, has declared that the conglomerate will be the principal sponsor of the Indian contingent at the upcoming 2024 Paris Olympics.
- Campaign launched with theme #DeshkaGeetAtOlympics
- Focus on athletes' dedication and national pride

9. India wins men's & women's singles title at the BWF Reunion Open 2024

- In Badminton, Indian shuttlers bagged the men's and women's singles titles at the Saint-Denis Reunion Open 2024, in Saint-Denis.
- In Men's singles, India's Tharun Mannepalli defeated Yudai Okimoto of Japan to win his second title of the year.
- While in women's singles, World No. 75, India's Tasnim Mir clinched the title, defeating compatriot Rakshitha Sree, also in straight games 21-15, 21-19. in the final

10. Gagan Narang To Be Chef-De-Mission Of The Indian Contingent In Paris Olympics

- The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) has named Gagan Narang, four-time Olympian and 2012 Olympic Games men's 10 meter Air Rifle bronze medalist, as the the Chef-de-Mission of the Indian contingent to compete in the Paris 2024 Olympic Games.
- He will replace MC Mary Kom.
- Star Shuttler PV Sindhu and Table Tennis Ace Achanta Sharath Kamal will be the flag bearers during the opening ceremony.



11. Fabiano Caruana Defends Superbet Classic Title in Thrilling Tiebreaker

- World number two Fabiano Caruana defended his Superbet Classic title by winning all three rapid games in a thrilling four-way tiebreaker, featuring Indian Grandmasters D Gukesh and R Praggnanandhaa, after a rather dull tournament.

12. Ukraine's Yaroslava Mahuchikh Setting a New High Jump World Record

- Ukraine's Yaroslava Mahuchikh set a new world record in the women's high jump, clearing 2.10 meters at the Paris Diamond League to break a mark that has stood since 1987.

13. Vinesh Phogat wins Gold at Grand Prix of Spain

- Indian wrestler Vinesh Phogat clinched the women's 50kg gold medal at the Grand Prix of Spain.
- The two-time World Championship bronze medallist defeated Mariia Tiumerekova 10-5 in the final to bag the gold.
- Mariia is a former Russian wrestler who is now competing as an Individual Neutral Athlete.



14. Billiards: Dhruv Sitwala Clinched The Asian Championship Title

- In Billiards, Dhruv Sitwala clinched the Asian Championship title last night. Sitwala defeated Ace Indian cueist and compatriot Pankaj Advani 5-2 in the final.
- With the loss, Pankaj fell short in his quest to secure a hat-trick of titles.

15. Asian Doubles Squash Championships: Abhay Singh Wins Both Men's Doubles And Mixed Doubles Titles

- In the Asian Doubles Squash Championships, India's Abhay Singh won both the men's doubles and mixed doubles titles in Johor, Malaysia.
- Abhay was paired with Velavan Senthilkumar in the men's doubles.
- He registered a convincing 11-4, 11-5 win over Malaysia's Ong Sai Hung and Syafiq Kamal in the final to clinch the title.
- Abhay combined with veteran Joshna Chinappa later to also clinch the mixed doubles title.

16. BPCL Partners with Indian Olympic Association as Principal Sponsor

- Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) becomes an official Principal Partner of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) for four years, spanning from the Paris Olympics in 2024 to the Los Angeles Olympics in 2028.
- BPCL is a 'Maharatna' and Fortune Global 500 Company.

17. Kolkata, Kokrajhar, Jamshedpur & Shillong to host 133rd Durand Cup

- The Durand Cup, Asia's oldest and India's most prestigious club-based football tournament, is set to enter its 133rd edition in 2024.
- Host cities:
 - Kolkata, West Bengal
 - Kokrajhar, Assam
 - Jamshedpur, Jharkhand: Making its debut as a Durand Cup host
 - Shillong, Meghalaya
- The 133rd Durand Cup will feature an impressive lineup of 24 teams.

18. Neeraj Chopra To Lead 28-Member Squad in Paris Olympics

- A 28-member Indian athletics team, led by men's javelin throw defending champion Neeraj Chopra, will compete at the Paris 2024 Olympics, the Athletics Federation of India (AFI).
- The Paris-bound squad includes 17 men and 11 women athletes

19. Women's Asia Cup T20 Tournament started In Dambulla, Sri Lanka

- The Women's Twenty20 Asia Cup 2024 is scheduled to take place from July 19 to July 28, 2024, featuring eight teams competing in T20I matches.
- The tournament will be held at the Rangiri Dambulla International Stadium in Sri Lanka, with all matches available for free entry.
- The Asian Cricket Council has partnered with Disney Star to broadcast the tournament live on multiple platforms.

20. Zakaria and Orfi claim World junior squash titles

- Mohamad Zakaria has been crowned the youngest ever men's WSF World Junior Squash Champion after overcoming tournament surprise package Joo Young Na of the Republic of Korea.
- Amina Orfi won an unprecedented third women's WSF World Junior Squash Champion title

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21. Chennai Super Kings sets up Super Kings Academy in Sydney

- The Chennai Super Kings (CSK), one of the most successful franchises in the Indian Premier League (IPL), has announced a significant expansion of its global presence with the establishment of its third international Super Kings Academy in Sydney, Australia.
- The new Super Kings Academy will be situated at Cricket Central, 161, Silverwater Road, Sydney Olympic Park.

22. Spain beat England to be crowned Euro 2024 champions

- Spain beat England 2-1 in the final of the European Football Championships, Euro 2024.
- Best player: Rodri (Spain)
- Best young player: Lamine Yamal (Spain)

**23. James Anderson Retires from Test Cricket**

- James Anderson, the veteran English speedster, has officially announced his retirement from Test cricket.

- The 41-year-old bowler's illustrious career, spanning an impressive 21 years, came to a close at the very ground where it all began – the iconic Lord's Cricket Ground in London.
- Matches played: 188
- Total wickets: 704
- Bowling average: 26.45
- Strike rate: 56.8
- Economy rate: 2.79
- Best bowling figures: 7/42

24. Wimbledon: Carlos Alcaraz Clinches Men's Singles Title, Defeating Novak Djokovic

- In Wimbledon Tennis, Carlos Alcaraz of Spain has clinched the Men's Singles title defeating Novak Djokovic of Serbia, 6-2, 6-2, 7-6.
- Barbora Krejčíková won Women's Wimbledon for her second Grand Slam title with a 6-2, 2-6, 6-4 victory over Jasmine Paolini in the final



25. Nitish Singh of UP Conquered Mount Kinabalu, Climbed It in 19 Hours

- International mountaineer Nitish Singh left for Mount Kinabalu, the highest peak in Malaysia, when the rain subsided.
- He conquered it at 5:30 am on July 9 and hoisted the tricolor there. International mountaineer Nitish Singh, a resident of Gorakhpur, UP, has created a new record by hoisting the tricolor on Kinabalu, the highest peak of Malaysia.

26. Cricketer Sourav Ganguly Buys A Racing Team

- Ganguly is now the owner of the Kolkata Royal Tigers racing team, set to compete in the upcoming season of the Indian Racing League (IRL).
- The third season of IRL promises high-octane action with eight city-based teams, including the debuting Kolkata Royal Tiger.

10. Argentina Beats Colombia To Win Copa America Championship 2024

- Argentina won their second straight Copa America Championship, after beating Colombia at the Hard Rock Stadium in Miami.
- Lautaro Martínez scored the winning goal for the defending champions in the second half of extra time.
- Argentina won the tournament for the record 16th time.
- Lautaro Martinez won the 2024 Copa America Golden Boot, awarded for the tournament's top goalscorer.



11. India Shines At 35th International Biology Olympiad 2024 In Kazakhstan

- Name of event: 35th International Biology Olympiad 2024
- Location: Astana, Kazakhstan
- Date: July 7 to July 13, 2024
- **Indian team performance:**
 - Vedant Sakre (GOLD) from Mumbai, Maharashtra
 - Ishan Pednekar (SILVER) from Ratnagiri, Maharashtra
 - Shrijith Sivakumar (SILVER) from Chennai, Tamil Nadu
 - Yashashwi Kumar (SILVER) from Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh

12. IOC Elects Salt Lake City-Utah 2034 As Olympic And Paralympic Winter Games Host

- Salt Lake City in Utah state of the USA will host the Winter Olympics and Paralympics Games in 2034. The decision was taken by the IOC Members during the 142nd IOC Session in Paris here on July 24.

13. Paris 2024: Manu Bhaker-Sarabjot Singh script history with bronze medal in 10m air pistol mixed team shooting

- Indian shooters Manu Bhaker and Sarabjot Singh scripted history with a bronze medal in the 10m air pistol mixed team shooting event at the Paris 2024 Olympics.
- This was India's sixth Olympic medal in shooting and first-ever in a shooting team event. The result also made Manu Bhaker the first athlete of independent India to win two medals in one edition of the Olympics. On Sunday, Manu Bhaker became the first Indian woman to win an Olympic medal in shooting.



14. Paris 2024: Manu Bhaker wins bronze; becomes first Indian woman to win shooting medal at Olympics

- Manu Bhaker won the bronze in the women's 10m air pistol event at Paris 2024 on Sunday and created history by becoming the first Indian woman to win an Olympic shooting medal.
- Overall, this was India's fifth Olympic medal in shooting and the first in any sport at Paris 2024. India won shooting medals at three consecutive Olympics from Athens 2004 to London 2012 but drew blank at the next two editions.

15. Paris 2024 Olympics shooting: Swapnil Kusale wins bronze medal in 50m rifle 3P after brilliant turnaround

- Indian shooter Swapnil Kusale won the bronze medal in the men's 50m rifle 3 positions final at the Paris 2024 Olympics shooting competition.
- This was India's first-ever Olympic shooting medal in the 50m 3P and the third medal in rifle shooting after Abhinav Bindra's gold in men's 10m air rifle at Beijing 2008 and Gagan Narang's bronze in the same event at London 2012.



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Schemes

1. Centre extends Smart Cities Mission deadline till March 2025

- The government announced that the flagship Smart Cities Mission (SCM) in 100 cities will be extended till March 2025.
- This is the third extension to the mission.
- The Centre earmarked ₹48,000 crore for projects in 100 cities over the mission period of five years starting 2015 and required state government and urban local bodies to make a matching contribution. An exception was made for 13 Himalayan and northeastern states where the Union government was to provide 90% of the funding and the remaining 10% was to be made by state and local bodies.
- About 21% of funds were to come from convergence.



2. 47.8 million rural citizens certified as digitally literate under PMGDISHA

- Under the Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA) which concluded on March 31, 2024, 47.8 million people in rural households were certified as digitally literate.
- The Ministry of electronics and Information Technology informed.
- Under this scheme, people are trained how to operate digital devices (computers, tablets, smartphones), to use internet in daily life, to perform digital transactions, and to access digital government, healthcare and financial services.

3. Govt Launches 'Model Skill Loan Scheme'

- Name of Scheme: Model Skill Loan Scheme
- Launched by: Minister of State for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Jayant Chaudhary
- Aim: To empower the country's future-ready workforce
- Education and upskilling opportunities will be provided to 25 thousand youth across the country.
- The loan amount limit has been increased to 7.5 lakh rupees which was 1.5 lakh rupees earlier.
- Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFC), scheduled banks, and rural banks also have been added to the scheme

4. PLI Expanded to 16 Sectors, Budget Allocation at ₹16k cr

- New Sectors : toys and footwear.
- Total Allocation : 89% to ₹16,092 crore in FY25 from ₹8,520 crore in FY24
- Maximum Allocation : 38% of the total allocation to large-scale electronics manufacturing.
- PLI allocation for large-scale electronics manufacturing is up 36% to ₹6,125 crore.
- The outlay for auto and auto components saw a more than sevenfold rise to ₹3,500 crore from the revised estimate of ₹483.7 crore in FY24.

Ranks & Reports

1. Growth in private corporate sector sales moderates to 4.7% in FY24: RBI

- Data by: RBI
- Data released on: Performance of the private corporate sector during 2023-24
- Annual sales growth of listed private non-financial companies moderated to 4.7% during 2023-24.
- Among major sectors:
 - Sales of manufacturing: 3.5 per cent (Growth)
 - Information technology (IT): 5.5 per cent (Growth)
 - Non-IT services: 7.9 per cent
- **Note:**
 - Sales of automobiles, electrical machinery and pharmaceuticals industries remained buoyant.
 - The manufacturing sectors overall performance was mainly dragged by chemicals and petroleum industries; barring computer & electronic equipments and pharmaceuticals, all sub-sectors recorded deceleration in sales growth.

2. Home loan outstanding grew by 3.4 lakh crore in last one year: RBI

- Report by: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
- Credit growth for housing loans: Accelerated by 16.9% to reach Rs 23.49 lakh crore, up from Rs 20.09 lakh crore a year earlier, marking a 13.8% growth
- The growth in home loan was up by 13.8% with a total of Rs 20.09 lakh crore in May 2024 as compared to last year.
- Growth rate of personal loans: Decreased to 17.8% year-on-year in May 2024, down from 19.1% compared to the previous year.
- Credit card outstanding in May this year increased by 26.2% to about Rs 55,000 crore, reaching Rs 2.67 lakh crore.
- On a year-on-year basis, non-food bank credit rose by 16.2% to Rs 162.30 lakh crore in May 2024, compared to a growth of 15.5% in the previous year.

3. Unemployment rate rises to 8-month high of 9.2% in June: CMIE data

- Data by: Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE)
- The unemployment rate rose to an eight-month high of 9.2 per cent in June 2024, up from 7 per cent in the previous month.
- It was 8.5 per cent in June 2023.
- The numbers are based on the Consumer Pyramids Household Survey that CMIE conducts periodically.
- Female unemployment rate: 18.5 per cent in June 2024

- Male unemployment rate: 7.8 per cent
- Rural areas: 9.3 per cent
 - Males: 8.2 per cent
 - Female: 17.1 per cent
- Urban areas: 8.9 per cent

4. Bank Credit Growth Of 15.4% For FY25: India Ratings

- Agency: India Ratings
- Forecast: Loan growth of 15.4 per cent for Indian banks in FY25
- As of May 31, 2024:
- The credit growth of the banking system (excluding the merger of HDFC Ltd with HDFC Bank) was 16.1% year-on-year.
- Including the impact of the HDFC merger, the banking system's credit growth stood at 19.8%
- Deposit growth continued to lag behind credit growth at 15.3%.

5. Top 25 global banks' m-cap hits \$4.11 trn in Q1 including HDFC Bank, JPMorgan Chase

- Data by: GlobalData (London-based)
- Quarter: Q1, 2024-25
- The combined market capitalization of the top 25 banks globally rose 5.4% quarter-on-quarter (QoQ) in the April - June 2024 period (Q1-FY25) at \$4.11 trillion.
- Driven by: Favorable global economic signals
- Market-cap HDFC Bank: \$154.4 billion
- Top five banks: JPMorgan Chase, Bank of America, ICBC, Wells Fargo, and Agricultural Bank of China

6. India's Index Of Industrial Production Grows By 5.9 % In May 2024

- Data by: Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation
- The Index of Industrial Production (IIP) in India rose 5.9% in May 2024
- IIP May 2023: 5.7 percent
- Mining experienced a year-on-year growth of 6.6% points.
- Manufacturing saw a growth of 4.6%
- Electricity recorded a significant year-on-year growth of 13.7%.

7. Retail inflation for industrial workers eases to 3.86% in May

- Data by: Ministry of Labour, Government of India
- Index: Consumer Price Index-Industrial Workers (CPI-IW)
- May 2024: 3.86%
- April 2024: 3.87%
- The food and beverages group increased to 145.2 points in May 2024.

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- The fuel & light segment dipped to 149.5 points in May 2024.

8. India's Employment Growth at 6% in FY24 vs 3.2% in FY23: RBI Report

- Data by: The RBI report uses data from the National Accounts and Ministry of Labour.
- Findings:
 - India's employment growth provisionally rose to 6% in FY24 compared to 3.2% in FY23.
 - This increase brought the total employment to 643.3 million, up from 596.7 million the previous year, with 46.7 million jobs created.
- Note:
 - A recent Citibank report indicated that 7% GDP growth might only create 8-9 million jobs annually, falling short of the 11-12 million needed.
 - Despite the reported job creation, the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy estimated the unemployment rate rose to 8% in FY24, from 7.5% and 7.7% in the preceding two years.

9. NITI Aayog Releases SDG India Index 2023-24

- Index: SDG India Index 2023-24
- Released by: NITI Aayog
- SDG India Index is the country's principal tool for measuring national and subnational progress on the Sustainable Development Goals.
- Launched by: NITI Aayog Vice Chairperson Suman Bery
- Composite score for India improved from 57 in 2018 to 66 in 2020-21 to further to 71 in 2023-24.
- SDG India Index measures and tracks National progress of all States and UTs on 113 indicators.
- It computes goal-wise scores on the 16 SDGs for each State and UT.
- These scores range between 0 to 100.
- Uttarakhand and Kerala have emerged as joint top-performing states with a score of 79, followed by Tamil Nadu (78) and Goa (77).
- Bihar (57), Jharkhand (62) and Nagaland (63) were the worst performing states in this year's index.
- Among the union territories, Chandigarh, Jammu and Kashmir, Puducherry, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Delhi were the top five performers.



10. Neutral rate raised on shift in potential output: RBI bulletin

- A Reserve Bank of India (RBI) study has estimated the neutral rate of interest in India between 1.4 per cent and 1.9 per cent for Q4FY24, which is a sharp upward revision from the previous estimate of 0.8-1.0 per cent for Q3FY22, sparking a debate if the central bank can cut the policy repo rate.
- The report pointed out that updating the estimates of natural rate of interest for India with post-pandemic data, the study found an upward shift driven by growth of potential output

11. Banks' deposit growth dips to 10.6%; credit growth at 13.9%

- Deposit growth of commercial banks further slowed down to 10.64 per cent for the fortnight ending June 28
- Data by: The Bank of India (RBI)
- Credit growth also declined during the period.
- Scheduled commercial banks' credit rose by 13.88 per cent year-on-year (Y-o-Y) to Rs 163.8 trillion as on June 28.
- The deposit base of banks expanded by 10.64 per cent Y-o-Y to Rs 211.95 trillion.

12. QS Executive MBA Rankings 2024 released

- Index: QS Executive MBA Rankings 2024
- Released by: Quacquarelli Symonds
- Top rankers: Oxford Business School (1), IESE Business School (2), HEC Paris (3), MIT (Sloan) (4), London Business School (5)
- Indian Institutions ranks:
- IIM Bangalore (globally 41)
- Indian School of Business (101-110)
- Indian Institute of Management Kozhikode (171-180)
- Institute of Management Technology, Ghaziabad (171-180)

13. World Population Prospects 2024 released by UN

- Report title: World Population Prospects 2024
- Released by: UN
- According to key findings, the world's population will hit its peak of about 10.3 billion people in the middle of the 2080s.
- After that, it will start to slowly decline until the end of the century.
- The UN Population Prospects study projects the world's population to peak at about 10.4 billion by 2100, with India surpassing China as the most populous country by 2023.
- Africa is highlighted for its significant population growth, with Nigeria expected to be the third most populous country by 2050.
- By 2050, the global life expectancy is projected to reach nearly 77 years, reflecting improvements in healthcare.

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- Conversely, Europe's population may decline due to falling birth rates and increased longevity

14. EY-Assocham report advocates raising e-commerce export ceiling to \$50,000

- India should increase the consignment limit of a courier exported through the e-commerce channel to \$50,000 (around Rs 41 lakh) from the current limit of \$12,000 (Rs 10 lakh)
- Report by: Ernst & Young (EY) and Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (Assocham)
- The report said to enhance the global competitiveness of the exporters and offset the cost disabilities, the government of India should introduce a special credit package with fiscal incentives for the e-commerce export sector

15. Global Hunger Crisis Deepens, Targets For 2030 Eradication Goal Under Threat: UN Report

- Report title: State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI) report
- Report by: 5 United Nations agencies, which are:
- Food and Agriculture Organization based in Rome,
- International Fund for Agricultural Development,
- UNICEF,
- World Health Organization,
- World Food Program
- Findings:
- United Nations' goal to eradicate world hunger by 2030 seems increasingly challenging to achieve
- Reason: Due to the impacts of wars, climate change, and economic crises
- Chronic hunger remained high and healthy food was out of reach of many people.
- Around 733 million people faced hunger in 2023.
- The situation in Africa was particularly dire, with one in five people there experiencing hunger.

16. India Ranks Third in Global Forest Area Gains

- Report by: Food and Agriculture Organisation
- Findings:
- China led the world with the maximum forest area gain of 1,937,000 hectares.
- Followed by Australia (4,46,000 hectares), and then India.
- Other countries in the top 10 include Chile, Vietnam, Turkey, the United States, France, Italy and Romania.
- India gained 2,66,000 hectares of forest area annually from 2010 to 2020.
- The rate of gross global mangrove loss decreased by 23% during the periods from 2000 to 2010 and 2010 to 2020.

17. World's Most Powerful Passports 2024 List Released

- The latest ranking released by the Henley Passport Index puts India's passport at the 82nd spot, allowing Indians visa-free entry to 58 countries.
- The ranking is based on data from the International Air Transport Association (IATA)

• **The most powerful passports for 2024:**

- Singapore (195 destinations)
- France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Spain (192)
- Austria, Finland, Ireland, Luxembourg, Netherlands, South Korea, Sweden (191)
- Belgium, Denmark, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland, United Kingdom (190)
- Australia, Portugal (189)
- Greece, Poland (188)
- Canada, Czechia, Hungary, Malta (187)
- United States (186)
- Estonia, Lithuania, United Arab Emirates (185)
- Iceland, Latvia, Slovakia, Slovenia (184)

Report name	India's Rank
Global Forest Area Gains, Report by: Food and Agriculture Organisation	Third
Henley Passport Index	82nd
QS Executive MBA Rankings 2024	• IIM Bangalore (globally 41) • Indian School of Business (101-110) • Indian Institute of Management Kozhikode (171-180) • Institute of Management Technology, Ghaziabad (171-180)

Important Days

1. World UFO day 2024

- Date: July 2
- This special day is all about learning more about Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs).
- It was first celebrated on June 24
- This date was chosen because of a famous UFO sighting by Kenneth Arnold in 1947
- Later, the date was changed to July 2
- July 2 marks the anniversary of the Roswell incident in 1947

2. World Sports Journalists Day 2024

- Date: July 2
- Aim: To honour those who bring sports stories to life – the sports journalists

3. National Doctor's Day 2024

- Date: July 1
- The day was established to commemorate the birth and death anniversary of Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy, a renowned physician and the second Chief Minister of West Bengal.
- The Government of India officially recognized this day in 1991.

4. National Chartered Accountant (CA) Day 2024

- CA Day is observed on July 1st every year.
- In 2024, it is marking the 76th anniversary of the founding of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI).

5. World Youth Skills Day 2024 observed

- World Youth Skills Day 2024 observed on July 15, 2024
- Established by: The United Nations General Assembly in 2014
- 2024 Theme: Youth Skills for Peace and Development

6. World Day for International Justice 2024

- Date: July 17
- 2024 theme: Overcoming Barriers and Unleashing Opportunities for Social Justice

7. Nelson Mandela International Day 2024

- Nelson Mandela International Day 2024 is observed annually on July 18.
- 2024 theme: 'Combating poverty and inequality is in our hands.'
- Nelson Mandela was the first black president of South Africa.
- He was elected president of the country on May 10, 1994.



8. Govt To Observe 25th Of June Every Year As 'Samvidhaan Hatya Diwas'

- The government has decided to observe the 25th of June every year as 'Samvidhaan Hatya Diwas'.
- On this day in 1975, former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi imposed an Emergency in the country.

9. World Population Day 2024

- Date: July 11
- Theme: Leave no one behind, count everyone

10. India celebrates National Fish Farmer's Day on July 10th

- Every year on July 10th, India celebrates National Fish Farmer's Day to honour the invaluable contributions of fish farmers, aquaculture professionals, and stakeholders in the fisheries sector.

11. World Kiswahili Language Day 2024

- The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation's (UNESCO) World Kiswahili Language Day is annually observed across the globe on 7th July.
- Aim: To promote the potential of Kiswahili, one of the most widely used languages of the African family.
- The 2024 World Kiswahili Language Day event was observed under the theme: "Kiswahili: Education and Culture of Peace".

12. International Day of Cooperatives 2024

- On July 6, 2024, cooperatives worldwide will celebrate the International Day of Cooperatives under the theme "Cooperatives Building a Better Future for All."

13. World Zoonoses Day 2024

- World Zoonoses Day is observed annually on July 6. In 2024, it falls on a Saturday.
- World Zoonoses Day is an important annual observance that aims to raise awareness about zoonotic diseases – infections that can spread from animals to humans.

14. PM Modi Pays Tributes To Bravehearts Of Kargil War

- Event: Paid tribute to the heroes of the Kargil War

- By: Prime Minister Narendra Modi
- Occasion: 25th anniversary of Kargil Vijay Diwas (26th July 2024)
- Location: Drass
- **Other important event:**
- Launch of Shinkun La Tunnel:
- Claim: World's highest tunnel
- Location: Ladakh
- It will remain connected with the whole country throughout the year, in every season.
- The project to construct the 4.1 km long twin-tube tunnel at an altitude of 15,800-feet.
- It will be constructed under the forbidding Shinkun Pass on the Nimmu-Padam-Darcha road.
- Construct by: Border Roads Organization (BRO)
- Estimated cost: Rs 1,681 crore

15. World IVF Day 2024

- Observing Date: 25th July
- Reason: Celebrates the birth of Louise Brown, the first test tube baby ever, in 1978.
- An outcome of the hard work and commitment of Dr. Robert Geoffer Edwards, Dr. Patrick Christopher Steptoe, and Nurse Jean Marian Purdy.
- Nobel Prize to Dr. Edwards in 2010 for his invention of IVF.

16. World Drowning Prevention Day 2024

- Date: July 25, 2024
- Theme 2024: Anyone can drown, no one should

17. Department Of School Education And Literacy To Observe Shiksha Saptah

- The Department of School Education and Literacy will observe Shiksha Saptah starting 22nd July, which will continue until the 28th of July 2024.
- Aim: To promote collaboration and the impactful educational reforms introduced by National Education Policy 2020 among students, educators, and stakeholders.
- It includes Teaching-Learning Material Day, Foundational Literacy and Numeracy Day, Sports Day and Cultural Day.

18. National Mango Day 2024

- National Mango Day is celebrated annually on July 22.
- Mango festival: Uttar Pradesh
- List of Mangoes varieties:
- Alphonso (Happus)
- State: Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh
- Bangalora (Totapuri)
- State : Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu.
- Banganapalli (Baneshan, Safeda)

- State : Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.
- Bombay Green
- State : Uttar Pradesh and Haryana
- Dashehari
- State : Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Punjab
- Langra
- State : Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, West Bengal and Punjab

19. India's National Flag Day 2024

- India's National Flag Day commemorates the adoption of the Indian national flag on July 22, 1947.
- The flag's proportions are in the ratio of 2:3, and the Ashoka Chakra has 24 spokes, representing continuous progress.

20. National Broadcasting Day in India Observed Annually on July 23

- National Broadcasting Day in India, observed annually on July 23, commemorates the evolution of the country's broadcasting landscape since its inception in 1927.

21. CRPF Raising Day 2024

- The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) celebrated its 86th Raising Day on 27th July 2024.
- The CRPF was derived from the CRP (Crown Representative's Police) on 27 July 1939 with 2 battalions in Nimach [Means North Indian Mounted Artillery and Cavalry Headquarter], Madhya Pradesh

Summit & Conferences

1. India to host UNESCO World Heritage Committee session in New Delhi from July 21

- Event: UNESCO World Heritage Committee
- Edition: 46th session
- Hosted by: India
- Date: July 21-31
- Location: Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi
- Attended by: Over 2,500 delegates from State Parties, advisory bodies, senior diplomats, heritage experts, scholars, and researchers from 195 countries
- There are 42 UNESCO World Heritage Sites in India.
- Santiniketan, established by Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore, becomes the 41st site to be declared a world heritage site in India in September 2023.
- Hoysala Temple Complex becomes India's 42nd UNESCO World Heritage Site.



2. Laos Gears Up To Host 57th ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting

- Event: 57th ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting
- Host by: Laos
- Location: Vientiane (Capital city)
- Date: 21st to the 27th of July

3. China Leads Global GenAI Patents: U.N. Data

- Report by: UN World Intellectual Property Organization
- Report title: WIPO Patent Landscape Report on Generative AI
- Findings:
- Geographically, China leads with 38,210 inventions from 2014 to 2023, far outpacing the U.S. (6,276), the Republic of Korea (4,155), Japan (3,409), and India (1,350).
- China has filed six times as many patents as the US

4. India Chairs 'Colombo Process' Meeting at Permanent Representative Level in Geneva

- India chaired its first meeting as Chair of the 'Colombo Process' at the Permanent Representative Level Meeting in Geneva.
- Mark a significant moment in regional migration cooperation.
- Colombo Process:

- Comprising 12 Asian member states
- Focuses on enhancing governance and opportunities for overseas employment
- Under India's leadership, priorities include financial sustainability, membership expansion, and collaboration with regional bodies like the Abu Dhabi Dialogue.

5. EAM Dr. S. Jaishankar To Lead Indian Delegation At SCO Summit 2024

- SCO Summit 2024:
- Location: Astana, Kazakhstan
- Date: 4th July 2024
- India's delegation led by: EAM Dr. S. Jaishankar
- Note: 24th Meeting of the SCO Council of Heads of State will be under the presidency of Kazakhstan.
- India, under its first-ever presidency of SCO, hosted the 23rd Meeting of the SCO Council of Heads of State on 4th July last year in a virtual format.
- India's priorities in SCO are shaped by Prime Minister's vision of a 'SECURE' SCO. SECURE stands for Security, Economic cooperation, Connectivity, Unity, Respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, and Environmental protection.

6. Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw To Inaugurate Global India AI Summit 2024

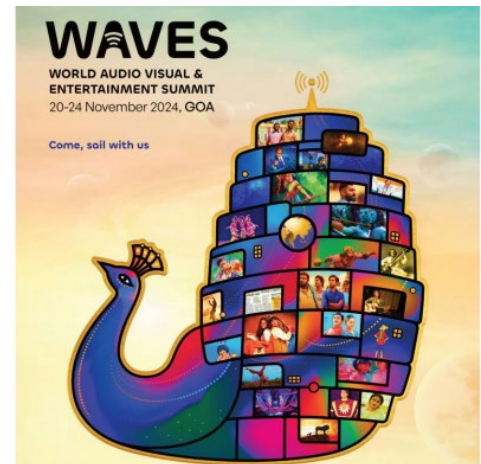
- Global India AI Summit 2024
- Inaugurate by: Minister of Electronics and IT Ashwini Vaishnaw
- Location: New Delhi, India
- Date July 3, 2024
- **Feature:**
- A diverse array of sessions designed to delve deep into critical aspects of AI application, governance and for nurturing talent and scaling AI innovations.
- International delegates, AI experts, and policymakers will participate in the summit.

7. India Leads Global Maritime Discourse at IMO Council Session in London

- A high-level Indian delegation has participated in the 132nd session of the Council of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) in London.
- Led by: T.K. Ramachandaran, Secretary, Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways
- India is an elected member of the IMO Council in the category of countries with the largest interest in international seaborne trade.
- India emphasized the urgent issue of seafarer abandonment.

8. World Audio Visual & Entertainment Summit In Goa

- Name of Event: World Audio Visual & Entertainment Summit
- Organise in: Goa, India
- Date/Month: November 2024
- **Note:** India will host the first World Audio Visual and Entertainment Summit in Goa, along with International Film Festival of India.



9. Global Conference On Space Research Kicked Off In South Korea's Busan

- A global conference on space research kicked off in South Korea's Busan city to foster international scientific research in space.
- About 3,000 space scientists and industry officials from 60 nations attended the 45th Scientific Assembly of the Committee on Space Research.
- It marks the first time that South Korea is hosting the biennial global conference.

10. 4th BIMSTEC meeting represented by NSA Ajit Doval

- Event: 4th BIMSTEC
- BIMSTEC: Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation
- Indian delegation led by: National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval
- Location: Naypyitaw, Myanmar
- Discussion of: To strengthen cooperation in counter-terrorism and combating drug trafficking, arms smuggling and organized crime.



Science & Technology

1. World's First AI Dress" With Robotic Snakes

- A Google employee recently created the “world’s first AI dress”.
- Christina Ernst, a software engineer at the tech giant and the Founder of SheBuildsRobots.org, a platform which aims to educate girls on building robots, shared a clip of her creation which has robotic snakes attached to it to detect faces.
- The piece, known as the “Medusa dress” is black with three golden-coloured snakes around her waist and one large robotic snake around her neck.



2. SEBEX 2, India's New Explosive Revolutionizing Military Firepower

- India has introduced SEBEX 2, a high-performance explosive with a TNT equivalence of 2.01.
- Developed under the Make in India initiative by Economic Explosives Limited
- SEBEX 2 enhances the effectiveness of various munitions without increasing weight.
- Certified by the Indian Navy, SEBEX 2, SITBEX 1 and SIMEX 4 demonstrate India's growing capabilities in military technology.
- This offers significant export potential and enhances global security efforts.

3. SpaceX's Polaris Dawn Mission: First Commercial Spacewalk

- SpaceX plans to launch Polaris Dawn, a commercial space project that is coming up soon.
- It is a big step forward for civilian space travel because it has the first private extravehicular activity, or “spacewalk,” and its crew is made up of only civilians.
- Polaris Dawn is funded in large part by U.S. billionaire Jared Isaacman, who is a key figure in both missions.
- This shows how private people and organizations are playing an increasingly important role in space exploration.

4. Indian Solar Mission Aditya-L1 Completes Its First Halo Orbit Around The Sun-Earth L1 Point

- India's first solar mission, the Aditya-L1 spacecraft, has completed its first halo orbit around the Sun-Earth L1 point.

- Its station-keeping manoeuvre ensured its seamless transition into the second halo orbit.
- The Aditya-L1 mission, which is an Indian solar observatory at Lagrangian point L1, was launched on September 2, 2023, and was inserted in its targeted halo orbit on January 6, 2024.
- The Aditya-L1 spacecraft in the halo orbit takes 178 days to complete a revolution around the L1 point.
- During its travel in the halo orbit, the Aditya-L1 spacecraft will be subjected to various perturbing forces that will cause it to depart from the targeted orbit.
- The ISRO explained that Aditya L1's journey around the Sun-Earth L1 Lagrangian point involves modelling complex dynamics.

SCAN ME



5. SERA and Blue Origin Announce India as Partner Nation for Human Spaceflight Program

- Space Exploration and Research Agency (SERA) and Blue Origin have designated India as a partner nation in their human spaceflight initiative, inviting Indian citizens to participate in a historic opportunity.
- The program offers six seats aboard Blue Origin's New Shepard rocket, taking participants on an 11-minute journey beyond the Kármán line, the boundary of space.
- Any Indian citizen can apply for the program by paying a nominal fee of approximately USD 2.50 for verification purposes.



6. Japan's H3 Rocket Launches ALOS-4 Satellite

- The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) launched the ALOS-4 Earth observation satellite aboard the H3 rocket.
- JAXA confirmed post-launch that the mission was successful.
- The H3 mission took off from the Tanegashima Space Center.
- The satellite separated from the launch vehicle approximately 16 minutes and 34 seconds into the mission.
- This was the second successful mission for the H3 rocket.

7. SpaceX Wins \$843-Million NASA Contract to Destroy the International Space Station

- NASA has awarded SpaceX an \$843 million contract to construct a spacecraft aimed at safely deorbiting the International Space Station (ISS) by around 2030.
- While SpaceX will build the vehicle, NASA will oversee its operation and take ownership of the craft once completed.

- The ISS will smash into our planet's atmosphere at a speed of more than 17,000 mph (27,500 km/h) before landing in a crashdown spot in the ocean.
- The floating laboratory's first parts were launched in 1998, and it has been occupied by astronauts from the U.S., Japan, Russia, Canada and Europe since 2000.
- Weighing approximately 430,000 kilograms (950,000 pounds)

8. Space regulator nod must from April 1 next year for use of non-Indian satellites

- The Indian government has issued an advisory requiring satellite television broadcasters to obtain authorisation from IN-SPACe, India's space regulator, for using non-Indian satellites starting from April 1, 2025.
- This directive aligns with the Indian Space Policy-2023 implemented by IN-SPACe, which mandates that only authorised non-Indian satellites can provide services in India.

9. Türkiye Launches First Home-Made Communications Satellite

- Türkiye has launched its first communication satellite TURKSAT-6A on SpaceX's Falcon 9 from the Cape Canaveral Space Force Station in Florida.
- ASELSAN, Türkiye's defence company developed the satellite, equipping it with Ku-Band and X-Band communication payloads.
- ASELSAN, which began its journey in space technologies in 2000, has developed the Ku-Band and X-Band payloads for TURKSAT-6A as a key participant in the project.



10. ISRO Selects 2 Gaganyaan Astronauts For International Space Station Mission Under Axiom-4

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has shortlisted two of its four trained Gaganyaan astronauts for a mission to the International Space Station (ISS) in collaboration with United States' NASA later this year.
- The Axiom-4 mission, which will take the Indian astronauts to the ISS, is the fourth private astronaut mission of NASA and a private US company Axiom Space.
- The mission is expected to dock with the ISS for fourteen days.
- India's own human spaceflight is unlikely to take place before 2025, with the first unmanned flight still to take off.
- **Note:**
- Group Captains Prasanth Balakrishnan Nair, Ajit Krishnan and Angad Pratap, and Wing Commander Shubanshu Shukla, all with the Indian Air Force, have been chosen as the astronaut-candidates for the first human spaceflight mission of the Indian Space Research Organisation.

11. NASA's new telescope aims to find inhabited planets by 2050

- NASA is all geared up to launch a unique telescope that could possibly uncover inhabited planets by 2050.
- They have named it Habitable Worlds Observatory (HWO), and it will primarily focus on detecting a 'wide variety of biosignatures' emitted by living organisms.
- NASA's team has identified 25 Earth-like planets around sun-like stars. These are potential candidates for further exploration.

12. Serum Institute Rolls Out New High Efficacy Malaria Vaccine In Africa

- Name of Malaria Vaccine: R21/Matrix-M
- Developed by: Serum Institute of India and the University of Oxford
- First African Country to start administering the Malaria Vaccine: Côte d'Ivoire (West African)
- Approved by the World Health Organization (WHO)
- Serum Institute of India CEO: Adar Poonawalla

13. Dubai Starts Trial Operation of 3D Printed Abra

- Launched by : Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA)
- An abra is a traditional boat made out of wood that is used to ferry people across the Dubai Creek.
- Manufactured by Al Seer Marine Company in Abu Dhabi (who were responsible for the 3D printed water taxi last year) along with other companies including Mitsubishi (which provided materials) and Siemens (which supervised the programming and calibration of the printer).



14. NASA creates history with discovery of 6 new planets outside Solar System

- Scientists have discovered six new exoplanets — HD 36384 b, TOI-198 b, TOI-2095 b, TOI-2095 c, TOI-4860 b, and MWC 758 c. All of them are outside the Solar System.
- Approximately 31 years ago, in 1992, scientists confirmed the first exoplanet
- By March 2022, the number of discovered exoplanets surpassed 5,000
- The field of exoplanet science has experienced exponential growth

15. Missy Elliott's "The Rain" Sent to Venus by NASA

- Name of song sent to Venus by NASA: The Rain (1997)
- Sung by: Missy Elliott
- First hip-hop song sent into deep space
- Send via: Deep Space Network, from their Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Southern California
- Time take: 14 min to travel 158 million miles

16. OpenAI introduces SearchGPT

- Launch of: SearchGPT
- Launched by: OpenAI
- Feature: Unlike traditional search engines such as Google Search, SearchGPT from OpenAI presents real-time web results in a more conversational manner and remembers context for follow up questions



17. Gland Pharma, Zydus Lifesciences secure USFDA approvals for key medications

- Gland Pharma and Zydus Lifesciences have received crucial approvals for Latanoprostene Bunod Ophthalmic Solution (eye drops) and Valsartan Tablets (treats hypertension).
- Gland Pharma, a Hyderabad-based generic injectable-focused company, received tentative approval for Latanoprostene Bunod Ophthalmic Solution, 0.024 per cent.



18. ESA announces mission to study Apophis asteroid

- The European Space Agency (ESA) has announced a mission to study the Apophis asteroid when it passes by Earth at a very close distance in 2029.
- ESA is the second major space agency (after NASA) to commit a space mission for Apophis.
- It is offering an opportunity to study an asteroid from such close quarters
- European Space Agency HQ: Paris, France

19. Gaganyaan mission: Two Isro astronauts to begin Nasa training in August

- Two Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro) astronauts are set to begin training for the Gaganyaan mission with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Nasa) in August this year.
- The two astronauts will start their training at Nasa's Johnson Space Center in Texas in August.
- These two astronauts are among the current group of four designated test pilots from the Indian Air Force.
- **Gaganyaan Mission execution**
- The mission will use SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket and Crew Dragon capsule, with operations managed by Axiom Space.

Apps & Portals

1. HDFC Life's 'Bridge the Gap' initiative to enhance life insurance awareness

- Launch of: Bridge the Gap
-
- Launched by: HDFC Life
- Aim: To elevate public awareness about life insurance.
- HDFC Life has been actively promoting National Insurance Awareness Day, celebrated on 28th June, through various campaigns.
- Life insurance penetration in India is strikingly low at only 3.2%, with a substantial protection gap of about 91%.
- This effort supports the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India's (IRDAI) goal of achieving 'Insurance for All' by 2047.



2. SBI launches web-based digital business loans solution for MSMEs' invoice financing

- Launch of: MSME -Sahaj
- Launched by: State Bank of India (SBI)
- **MSME -Sahaj:**
- A web-based digital business loans solution for MSMEs' (micro, small and medium enterprises) invoice financing.
- The Bank's customers can avail finance against their Goods and Service Tax (GST) registered sales invoices of up to ₹1 lakh in less than 15 minutes
- Aim: To provide "on tap" short-term credit for working capital needs to MSME units who are part of the GST regime.

3. CBIC initiates electronic disbursement of duty drawback amount

- Launched of: Electronically disburse duty drawback amount
- Launched by: Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC)
- The payment of duty drawback amounts into the exporters' accounts will be facilitated through the Public Finance Management System (PFMS) automatically.
- This is another initiative of the CBIC towards paperless Customs and enhanced trade facilitation.
- This new functionality is expected to reduce time taken for payment of drawback amount by eliminating manual intervention in the drawback disbursement mechanism and increase transparency.

4. MoSPI Launches eSankhyiki Portal

- Launch of: eSankhyiki Portal
- Launched by: Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)
- Reason: For integrated development of the national statistical system in the country in tune with the global statistical practices and data dissemination standards
- It will provide real-time inputs for planners, policy-makers, researchers and the public at large.
- Aim: To establish a comprehensive data management and sharing system for ease of dissemination of official statistics in the country.



5. New portal to expedite agri infra fund interest subsidy claims of farmers

- Launch of: Web portal and Krishi Katha
- Launched by: Union minister for agriculture and farmers' welfare Shivraj Singh Chouhan
- **Web Portal:**
- Aim: Faster bank settlements of interest subsidy claims under the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF)
- Developed by: Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare (DA&FW) and the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (Nabard)
- Automated system will help in calculating accurate eligible interest subvention through the portal.
- Avoid possible human error in manual processing
- **About AIF scheme:**
- Launched in: 2020
- Objective: To develop post-harvest management infrastructure to reduce losses, realise better value for farmers, foster innovation in agriculture, and attract investments for agricultural infrastructure.
- Total outlay: Rs 1 trillion funding through banks and financial institutions up to 2025-26
- 3 per cent interest subsidy to beneficiaries for loans given by banks of up to Rs 2 crore for a maximum period of 7 years.
- **Krishi Katha:**
- A blog to serve as a digital platform to showcase the voices of Indian farmers.
- It is dedicated to amplifying the experiences, insights, and success stories of farmers across the country

6. CM Mohan Yadav Launches 'Lokpath Mobile App' For Public

- Bhopal, Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav has said that our aim is to make all departments as accountable as possible towards the public.

- Lokpath Mobile App prepared by the Public Works Department is being launched with a view to continuously moving forward on the path of public welfare by adopting a more transparent and accountable working system towards the public.

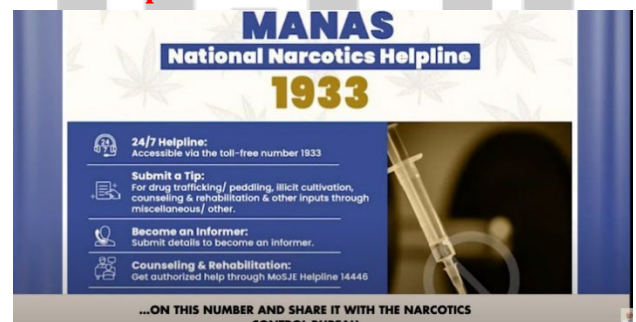
7. Digital Bharat Nidhi, an attempt at improving rural telecom connectivity

- The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) released draft rules to operationalise the Digital Bharat Nidhi, in a fresh attempt by the central government at increasing telecom connectivity in rural areas.
- Digital Bharat Nidhi would replace the erstwhile Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF), which is a pool of funds generated by a 5 per cent Universal Service Levy charged upon all the telecom fund operators on their Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR).
- As per the Telecom Act, contributions made by telecom companies towards the Digital Bharat Nidhi will first be credited to the Consolidated Fund of India (CFI).
- All revenues that the government receives, including loans raised and all money received in repayment of loans, are credited to the CFI.
- The government also incurs its expenditures from this fund.
- The Centre will deposit the collected funds to the DBN from time to time.
- Funds collected under the DBN will be used to support universal service through promoting access to and delivery of telecommunication services in underserved rural, remote and urban areas
- The Centre will appoint an “administrator” who will select “DBN implementers” through “bidding” or invitation of applications from eligible persons.



8. Home Minister Amit Shah Launches National Narcotics Helpline ‘MANAS’

- Launch of: MANAS helpline- 1933
- ‘MANAS’ (Madak Padarth Nisedh Asuchna Kendra) helpline, citizens can share information on drug trafficking, and connect with the Narcotics Control Bureau anonymously 24 hours a day to get advice on de-addiction and rehabilitation.



9. Meta AI available in Hindi, 6 other new languages

- Meta AI is now available in seven new languages, including Hindi.
- Meta AI: WhatsApp, Instagram, Messenger and Facebook
- New languages: Hindi, Hindi-Romanized Script, French, German, Italian, Portuguese, and Spanish
- Meta AI is now available in 22 countries.

10. Google Maps unveils new AI-driven features for Indian users

- Unveiling: AI-driven features in Google Maps
- Beneficiary: Indian Users
- Features: Navigating narrow roads and flyovers, Locating EV charging stations, and Booking metro tickets.
- Google Maps has collaborated with ONDC and Namma Yatri to support metro ticket bookings in Kochi and Chennai.

Acquisitions & Mergers

1. LIC Raises Stake in IDFC First Bank

- Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has expanded its stake in IDFC First Bank to 2.68%.
- Purchasing the lender's shares for ₹80.63 each.
- The overall acquisition cost is ₹1,500 Crore.
- LIC's current stakeholding makes them the largest shareholder in the private bank at 2.68 per cent, followed by HDFC Life Insurance at 1.31 per cent, and Aditya Birla Life Insurance at 1.06 per cent.

2. HUL sells Pureit business to US geyser major AO Smith

- Sold unit: Pureit business
- Sold by: HUL
- Sold to: AO Smith
- Deal Value: Rs 601 crore (72 million)



3. JSW MG Motor to invest Rs 3,000 cr in India by 2025

- JSW MG Motor India, joint venture between MG Motor and Sajjan Jindal, has firmed up plans to invest Rs 3000 crore in the country by the end of 2025.
- Aim: To enhance capacity and introduce nearly half a dozen new products
- The capital will be utilised to treble production capacity to 300,000 units per annum at the company's manufacturing site in Halol (Gujarat).
- Also launch five new vehicles which would include a combination of electric and internal combustion engine (petrol/diesel) models.



4. OVL hikes stake in Azerbaijani Oilfield with \$60 million investment

- The Navratna company ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL) has bought the Norwegian firm Equinor's stake in Azerbaijan's offshore Azeri Chirag Gunashli oil field and an associated oil pipeline for \$60 million.
- OVL, an ONGC subsidiary, has increased its stake in the Azeri Chirag Gunashli oil field to 2.95 per cent.
- Azeri Chirag Gunashli oil field of Azerbaijan is a large oil-bearing area of Azerbaijan in the Caspian Sea.
- The government owned State Oil Company of Azerbaijan Republic owns a 25 per cent stake in the oil field and a 25 per cent share in the Baku Tbilisi Ceyhan pipeline.
- The oilfield is operated by the British multinational company BP which has a share of 30.37 percent in the oil field. The other major shareholders are Japanese firms and ExxonMobil.
- The Baku-Tbilisi Ceyhan pipeline carries oil from the Azeri-Chirag-Deepwater Gunashli field to the Ceyhan marine terminal in Türkiye. It passes through Azerbaijan, Georgia, to reach the Ceyhan marine terminal in Türkiye.

5. Mankind Pharma acquires Bharat Serums and Vaccines

- Acquisition of: Bharat Serums and Vaccines
- Acquired by: Mankind Pharma
- Close deal: Rs 13,630 crore
- The company was set up in 1971 with Vinod Daftary opening a blood bank and eventually launching an injectable for expecting mothers.



Environment

1. India Becomes First Nation To Prepare Full List of Fauna

- Launch of: Fauna of India Checklist Portal
- Launched by: Union environment minister Bhupender Yadav.
- Occasion: 109th Foundation Day of the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI)
- Location: Kolkata, India
- Note: India has become the first country in the world to prepare a checklist of its entire fauna, covering 104,561 species.
- Bird species in India:
- Among the 1,358 bird species present in India, there are 79 that are endemic, meaning they are found nowhere else in the world.
- The Western Ghats Bio-geographic zone has the highest number of these species at 28, followed by the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.



2. GAIL fast-tracks net zero carbon goal to 2035 from 2040

- GAIL (India) Ltd has revised its target to achieve net zero carbon emissions to 2035 from 2040.
- GAIL Board accorded approval to advance its net zero target for Scope-I and 2 emissions by five years.
- Scope 1:
- Emissions from sources that an organisation owns or controls directly.
- For example, from burning fuel in factories or even in its fleet of vehicles.
- Scope 2:
- Emissions that a company causes indirectly and that come from the energy it purchases and uses.
- For example, the emissions caused by generating electricity.
- GAIL chairman and managing director Sandeep Kumar Gupta

3. REC Raises 31.96 Billion Japanese Yen Through 5-Year Green Loan

- Context: Power sector financier REC Limited has raised 31.96 billion Japanese yen through a 5-year green loan from Deutsche Bank's Gift City branch.
- The loan is equivalent to \$200 million.
- The loan amount will be used to finance eligible green projects in India.
- CMD of REC: Vivek Kumar Dewangan

- CEO of Deutsche Bank Group in India: Kaushik Shaparia

4. Hindustan Zinc launches Asia's first low-carbon zinc brand, EcoZen

- Launch of: EcoZen (Asia's first low-carbon green zinc brand)
- Launched by: Hindustan Zinc (HZL) (India's largest zinc producer)
- Owned by: Vedanta
- Aim: To meet the growing demand for sustainable and environmentally friendly materials, particularly in the automotive sector.
- The carbon footprint of EcoZen is about 75 per cent lower than the global average.
- The use of EcoZen in galvanising one tonne of steel is expected to avoid around 400 kilograms of carbon emissions.
- This initiative aligns with HZL's goal of achieving net-zero emissions by 2050.



Defence

1. FY24 defence production grows 17% to record high of Rs 1.27 trillion

- India's annual defence production hit a record high of almost Rs 1.27 trillion (Rs 1,26,887 crore) in FY24, growing 16.7 per cent over the previous year's figure of almost Rs 1.09 trillion (Rs 1,08,684 crore).
- This is according to the data received from all defence public-sector undertakings (DPSUs), other PSUs manufacturing defence items, and private companies.
- The record production figure reported in FY24 also means that the country's defence ecosystem has covered over 40 per cent of the distance to the Centre's ambitious annual defence production target of Rs 3 trillion by FY29
- The value of production in FY24, about 79.2 per cent was contributed by DPSUs and other PSUs, while the private sector accounted for the remaining 20.8 per cent.

2. Defence Ministry allocates ₹300 cr to promote 'Aatmanirbharta'

- The Ministry of Defence has sanctioned over ₹300 crore through its Technology Development Fund (TDF) to create an ecosystem aimed at enhancing capabilities in cutting-edge technology and promoting 'Aatmanirbharta' in defence.

- Aim: To provide grants-in-aid to Indian industries, MSMEs, startups, and academic institutions for developing defence and dual-use technologies not currently available in India's defence industry.

3. India successfully test-fires new generation anti-radiation missile 'Rudram-1'

- India has successfully test-fired its first indigenous anti-radiation missile, the Rudram-1.
- Developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) for the Indian Air Force (IAF).
- Aim: To strengthen India's defense capabilities
- Rudram-1 is integrated with the IAF's Sukhoi-30MKI fighter jets, serving as the launch platform.
- The missile features INS-GPS navigation and a Passive Homing Head for final attack, allowing it to accurately hit radiation-emitting targets.
- This precision is crucial for Suppression of Enemy Air Defence (SEAD) operations, enabling the destruction of enemy radars and communication sites from long standoff ranges.



4. North Korea Claims Successful Tactical Missile Test

- North Korea announced that a test of a new tactical ballistic missile called the Hwasongpho-11 Da-4.5
- It is meant to carry a big 4.5-ton weapon, went well.
- The country's official news outlets said the rocket could hit its target accurately from up to 500 km away and as close as 90 km away.
- Tensions were high in the area at the time of the test, which was made clear by conflicting accounts from South Korean military sources.
- Battlefield Use: Tactical ballistic missiles (TBMs) are designed for short-range battlefield use, typically having a range under 300 kilometers.
- Historical Inception: The first TBMs were V-2 rockets used during World War II.
- Modern examples include the U.S. MGM-140 ATACMS and the Russian Iskander (SS-26 Stone).

5. Inauguration of Indian Air Force Weapon Systems School

- The Indian Air Force (IAF) Chief, Air Chief Marshal V R Chaudhari, inaugurated the Weapon Systems School (WSS) in Hyderabad
- It mark a significant advancement for the IAF.
- Established to recalibrate and transform the IAF into a future-oriented force, the WSS aims to provide contemporary, effect-based training to officers of the newly formed Weapon Systems (WS) branch.



- This initiative integrates ground-based and specialist weapon system operators under one umbrella, enhancing the IAF's war-fighting capabilities.
- 6. Karnataka Based Udupi Cochin Shipyard Ltd Bags Order Worth 1100 Crore Rupees From Norwegian Company**
- Karnataka based Udupi Cochin Shipyard Ltd, a wholly owned subsidiary of Cochin Shipyard Ltd, has bagged an order worth 1100 crore rupees from a Norwegian company for the design and construction of eight dry cargo vessels.
 - Each vessel, with 100 meters length, will have a deadweight of 6300 metric tonnes. It will be an environment friendly diesel-electric vessel, and will be utilised for the transport of general cargo in the coastal waters of Europe.
 - As per the agreement, the order should be executed within September 2028.
- 7. Azerbaijan Army Participates in "Birlestik-2024" Joint Military Exercises in Kazakhstan**
- Name of Exercise: Birlestik-2024
 - Date: July 11 to 17
 - Type: Operational-tactical command-staff exercise
 - Location: Oymasha training grounds and Cape Tokmak in the Caspian Sea aquatorium of Kazakhstan
 - Joined by: Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan
- 8. DRDO sanctions seven new projects to the private sector**
- Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) has awarded seven new projects to industries under the Technology Development Fund scheme
 - These project sanctions are a testimony to the continuing endeavour of DRDO in nurturing Industries, especially MSMEs & start-ups, in defence and aerospace domains.
 - Indigenous Scenario and Sensor Simulation Toolkit: Oxygen 2 Innovation Pvt Ltd, Noida
 - Underwater Launched Unmanned Aerial Vehicle: Sagar Defence Engineering Pvt Ltd Pune.
 - Long-range Remotely Operated Vehicles for Detection & Neutralisation: IROV Technologies Pvt Limited, Kochi.
 - Development of Ice Detection Sensor for Aircraft: Craftlogic Labs Pvt Ltd, Bengaluru
 - Development of Radar Signal Processor with Active Antenna Array Simulator: Data Pattern (India) Limited, Chennai
 - Development of Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System-based Timing Acquisition & Dissemination System: Accord Software & Systems Pvt Ltd, Bengaluru

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- Development of Graphene Based Smart & E-textiles for Multifunctional Wearable Applications: Alohatech Private Limited, Coimbatore

9. Exercise Pitch Black 2024 takes off

- The Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) will start "Exercise Pitch Black" on July 12, 2024.
- Held in Australia every two years.
- The India Air Force (IAF) will take part in the drill, which will run from July 12 to August 2, 2024, sending Su-30 MKI fighter jets.

10. Raksha Rajya Mantri launches GRSE Accelerated Innovation Nurturing Scheme (GAINS 2024)

- Raksha Rajya Mantri Sanjay Seth launched "GRSE Accelerated Innovation Nurturing Scheme (GAINS 2024)" in Kolkata.
- It is an innovative scheme which seeks solution to the problems related to the shipyards and promotes technology development using the start-ups created and nurtured in the country.
- It encourages and enables MSMEs and Start-Ups to develop innovative solutions for further technological advancement.
- This initiative is in keeping with the 'Make in India' and 'Start-up India' policies of the Government of India.

11. India to conduct Malabar Exercise with 'Quad' allies

- Name of exercise: Malabar Exercise
- Edition: 28th
- Type: Naval Exercise
- Nations: India and 'Quad' allies (US, Japan, and Australia)
- Month: October 2024
- Focusing on advanced anti-submarine warfare
- This multinational event aims to boost military coordination and combat skills amid rising tensions exacerbated by China's assertiveness in the South China Sea and Indian Ocean Region.

12. India Unveils Indigenous Light Tank 'Zorawar'

- Unveiled: Light Tank 'Zorawar'
- Developed jointly by DRDO and Larsen & Toubro
- Aim: To bolster military capabilities in high-altitude environments
- The tank features:
- Advanced weaponry
- Protection systems (including a 105mm rifled cannon)
- Composite modular armor.



- Named after General Zorawar Singh, the tank is slated for extensive trials before potential deployment in Ladakh, Sikkim, or Kashmir.
- The 'Zorawar' tank, powered initially by a 750 HP Cummins engine with plans for a domestic replacement, boasts a sophisticated turret from John Cockerill with electro-optical cameras and anti-tank guided missiles

13. India-Russia JV delivers 35,000 AK-203 rifles to Indian Army

- Indo-Russian Rifles Private Limited (IRRPL) – a joint venture between Russia and India – has completed the delivery of 35,000 7.62 mm Kalashnikov AK-203 assault rifles to the Indian Army.
- Delivery of the rifles represents the initial tranche of a larger Indian military requirement for 600,000 AK-203s.
- IRRPL – headquartered in Korwa, Uttar Pradesh, in northern India – was set up in 2019 to produce the rifles in India.
- The Indian Army has already started operating and testing about 27,000 AK-203s produced by IRRPL.
- The service is also scheduled to receive another batch of 35,000 AK-203s by May 2025.
- The initial batch of 35,000 rifles will consist of an indigenous content of 25%.
- IRRPL aims to increase this to 100% by 2025

14. Uttar Pradesh govt inks over 154 defence deals worth Rs 25,000 crore

- The Uttar Pradesh government has signed more than 150 defence manufacturing deals worth Rs 25,000 crore as the state administration eyes India's burgeoning defence export basket.
- India's annual defence production hit a record high of almost Rs 1.27 trillion in 2023-24 (FY24), up 16.7 per cent over the previous year's figure of about Rs 1.09 trillion.
- The defence projects are coming up in the mega UP Defence Industrial Corridor (UPDIC) spanning six nodes of Lucknow, Kanpur, Jhansi, Aligarh, Chitrakoot and Agra districts.
- These projects are estimated to create 40,000 fresh jobs.
- The Corridor's nodal agency UP Expressway Industrial Development Authority (UPEIDA) continues to acquire swathes of land for allotment to industrial groups.
- UPEIDA has already acquired 1,700 hectares of land, while more than 40 companies have been allocated land.

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15. INS Teg rescues eight Indian sailors, one Sri Lankan of capsized Prestige Falcon crew

- In a significant relief, eight Indian nationals and one Sri Lankan citizen have been rescued in the aftermath of the capsizing of an oil tanker named 'Prestige Falcon' that sailed under the Comoros flag. The nine survivors were rescued by the Indian warship INS Teg.
- INS Teg (F45) is the fourth Talwar-class frigate constructed for the Indian Navy.

- She was built by the Yantar shipyard in Kaliningrad, Russia, and was commissioned to Navy service on 27 April 2012.
- She is the first of the second batch of Talwar-class frigates to be completed.

16. RPF rescued 84,119 Children Under Operation Nanhe Farishtey

- Name of Operation: Nanhe Farishtey
- Launched by: Railway Protection Force (RPF)
- Rescued child: 84,119 Children
- Period: 2018- May 2024
- Nanhe Farishte is a mission dedicated to rescuing children in need of care and protection across various Indian Railway Zones.

17. France, Germany, Italy and Poland agree to jointly develop long-range cruise missiles

- France, Germany, Italy and Poland signed a letter of intent to develop ground-launched cruise missiles with a range beyond 500 km (310 miles).
- Aim: To fill gap in European arsenals exposed by Russia's war in Ukraine.
- They would begin deploying U.S. long-range missiles on German soil in 2026, including the SM-6, Tomahawks and developmental hypersonic weapons.
- MBDA, owned by Franco-German Airbus, British BAE Systems and Italian Leonardo, has been working on the development of an MdCN modification that could be fired from truck-mounted rocket launchers.
- The development of a missile with a range exceeding 500 km means European NATO allies will in effect reintroduce a category of weapons banned under the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty until 2019.

18. China Unveils World's First Carbon Fiber High-Speed Train

- Name of train : Cetrovo 1.0, also known as the Carbon Star Rapid Transit.
- Location : Shandong province's Qingdao
- Top Speed : 140 km/hr
- USP : world's first carbon fibre train.
- Manufacturer : Qingdao Sifang Rolling Stock Co – a subsidiary of China Railway Construction Corporation.
- fully automated and driverless



19. Government Approves Military Airbases in Lakshadweep

- Central government approved building a new airbase in Minicoy and upgrading Agatti airfield for military operations to enhance maritime border security.
- Plan includes dual-purpose airfields for military and commercial use, deploying fighter jets, transport aircraft, and long-range drones.
- The Air Force leads the project, benefiting all defense forces and the Indian Coast Guard.

20. DRDO successfully flight-tests Phase-II Ballistic Missile Defence System

- Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully flight-tested Phase-II Ballistic Missile Defence System.
- Launched from LC-IV Dhamra at mimicking adversary Ballistic Missile, which was detected by weapon system radars deployed on land and sea and activated the AD Interceptor system.
- The Phase-II AD Endo-atmospheric missile was launched from LC-III at ITR, Chandipurat.
- The flight test fully met all the trial objectives validating complete network centric warfare weapon system consisting of Long Range Sensors, low latency communication system and MCC and Advance Interceptor missiles.
- The test has demonstrated Nation's indigenous capability to defend against the Ballistic Missiles of 5000 km class.

21. Exercise KHAAN QUEST 2024

- Edition: 21st
- Between: Indian Army, United States of America, and Mongolian Armed Forces
- Location: Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia
- Date: 27th July to 9th August 2024
- This contingent comprising 40 personnel is being represented mainly by troops from a Battalion of the Madras Regiment along with personnel from other Arms and Services.
- The exercise first started as a bilateral event between USA and Mongolian Armed Forces in the year 2003.
- Subsequently, from the year 2006 onwards the exercise graduated to a Multinational Peacekeeping Exercise.

22. Goa Shipyard Launches First Indigenous P1135.6 Frigate 'Triput'

- Goa Shipyard Ltd (GSL) successfully launched the first indigenous P1135.6 Frigate, named Triput.
- This marks the first time these vessels are being constructed indigenously in India.
- Triput is the first of two P1135.6 Class Frigates being built at GSL.
- The 124-meter-long ship can reach speeds of 28 knots at a displacement of approximately 3200 tonnes and is equipped with advanced state-of-the-art weaponry and sensors.

Obituary

1. Veteran Sri Lankan Tamil leader Sampanthan passes away

- R Sampanthan, a veteran Sri Lankan politician and a moderate Tamil leader, who relentlessly pursued a life of peace, justice and dignity for Tamil nationals in the island nation, passed away.

2. Jon Landau, Oscar-winning Producer, Passes Away at 63

- Jon Landau, the Oscar-winning producer known for his collaborations with director James Cameron on blockbuster films like Titanic and the Avatar series, has died at the age of 63.

3. Veteran Actor Smriti Biswas Dies Aged 100

- Veteran actor Smriti Biswas died on July 3 at the age of 100.
- The actor, best known for her work in Bengali, Hindi, and Marathi films, breathed her last at her house in Nashik due to age-related illness.

4. Former Chairman and MD of GAIL, CR Prasad passes away at age of 83

- CR Prasad, former chairman and managing director of state-owned gas utility GAIL (India) Ltd, has died. He was 83.
- Dr CR Prasad joined GAIL as Director (Planning) in 1994 and rose to the position of CMD in 1996.
- He was chairman and managing director (CMD) of the company till his superannuation in 2001.

5. Founder of Camlin's Subhash Dandekar passes away

- Subhash Dandekar, the head of the Camlin Group of Industries, passed away
- He was instrumental in transforming Camlin into a leading name in the production of high-quality painting materials.

6. Veteran Marathi Writer Father Francis D'Britto Dies At 81

- Sahitya Academy Award laureate Father Francis D'Britto passed away.
- In January 2020, he was elected President of the 93rd All India Marathi Literary Conference held in then Osmanabad (now Dharashiv).
- He is renowned for his translation of the Holy Bible (New Testament) into lucid Marathi titled 'Subodh Bible-Nava Karar'
- His literary prowess was further recognised when he received Maharashtra Government's literary award for best translation in 2013, followed by the Sahitya Akademi award in April 2014.

7. Former Indonesia Vice President Hamzah Haz Dies at 84

- Hamzah Haz, the vice-president of Indonesia from 2001 to 2004, has died at 84.
- Hamzah served under President Megawati Soekarnoputri

8. C.T. Kurien, a distinguished economist, Passes Away

- C.T. Kurien, a distinguished economist and former professor of Madras Christian College, passed away at the age of 93 due to age-related ailments.

9. John Mayall: Pioneer of British blues dies aged 90

- John Mayall, the British blues legend, has passed away at the age of 90.
- He played a crucial role in shaping the rock landscape of the 1960s.
- Mayall, a revered singer and multi-instrumentalist often hailed as "the godfather of British blues," was known for his open-door approach.

Person in news

1. AB De Villiers invests in D2C nutrition startup Supply6

- Former South African cricketer AB De Villiers has invested in Supply6.
- Amount: Undisclosed
- Brand ambassador: AB De Villiers
- Supply6 is a Bangalore-based health food brand
- Founded in January 2019 by Vaibhav Bhandari and Rahul Jacob, Supply6 is a health food and convenience brand.

2. D Y Chandrachud Inaugurates New Office Of Securities Appellate Tribunal In Mumbai

- Inaugurates: New Office Of Securities Appellate Tribunal
- Location: Mumbai
- Inaugurated by: Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud
- He also launched a new website of the SAT which has been created by the National Informatics Centre.

3. Shah Rukh Khan to receive Locarno Film Festival Career Award

- Shah Rukh Khan is set to be awarded with the Locarno Film Festival's career achievement award, which is the prestigious Pardo alla Carriera.

4. Hardik Pandya becomes the first Indian to occupy the top spot in the ICC T20I all-rounders' rankings

- Hardik Pandya climbed two places to become the first Indian cricketer to reach the number one spot in the ICC's T20I all-rounders' rankings, buoyed by India's recent World Cup victory.
- Pandya was pivotal in the T20 World Cup final, taking 3/20 against South Africa.
- India's Jasprit Bumrah, awarded Player of the Tournament for his 15 wickets, rose 12 spots to 12th in the rankings.

5. Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla to Lead Indian Delegation to BRICS Parliamentary Forum

- Om Birla, Speaker of the Lok Sabha, will head a prominent Indian parliamentary delegation to the 10th BRICS Parliamentary Forum in St. Petersburg, Russia.
- Aim: To explore the role of parliaments in advancing global development and security through multilateral cooperation.
- The forum's theme is 'The Role of Parliaments in Strengthening Multilateralism for Equitable Global Development and Security'.

6. PM Modi Becomes Most Followed World Leader On X, With Over 100 Million Followers

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has achieved a significant milestone by surpassing 100 million followers on his social media account X.
- This notable growth includes an increase of about 30 million followers over the past three years.
- Prime Minister Modi is far ahead of other world leaders including US President Joe Biden who has 38.1 million followers.

7. Virat Kohli tops Celebrity Brand Valuation in 2023

- Cricketer Virat Kohli has reclaimed the top spot to become India's most valued celebrity, boasting a brand value of \$227.9 million in 2023.
- Kohli leads with \$227.9 million, followed by Ranveer Singh at \$203.1 million, Shah Rukh Khan at \$120.7 million, Akshay Kumar at \$111.7 million, and Alia Bhatt at \$101.1 million.
- Reported by Kroll's Celebrity Brand Valuation Report 2023.

8. Poet Jukanti Jagannatham Honoured With Sri Dasarathi Krishnamacharya Award

- Telangana government has nominated eminent writer and poet Jukanti Jagannatham for the prestigious "Sri Dasarathi Krishnamacharya Award" for this year.
- He will be bestowed with the award including one lakh rupees cash and a memento on the occasion of the birth anniversary of Dasarathi Krishnamacharya.

9. Abhinav Bindra Awarded Prestigious Olympic Order by IOC

- Abhinav Bindra, India's first individual Olympic gold medallist, will receive the prestigious Olympic

Order from the IOC at the 142nd IOC Session in Paris on August 10, 2024.

- The Olympic Order, the IOC's highest award, acknowledges distinguished contributions to the Olympic Movement.
- Bindra won the men's 10-meter air rifle event at the 2008 Beijing Olympics, becoming the first Indian to secure an individual Olympic gold.



10. Rahaab Allana Honored with French Arts and Letters Insignia

- Curator and author Rahaab Allana has been awarded the insignia of Officier dans l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres by the French government.
- The prestigious honor recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions to art, culture, and literature, or who have influenced the global arts landscape.

11. Shah Rukh Khan, First Indian Actor, Honoured With Gold Coins

- Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan has been honoured with customised gold coins by the Grevin Museum in Paris.
- Shah Rukh is the first Indian actor to have gold coins in his name at the museum.

12. Atiqa Mir becomes first female racer to win race at Max Challenge International

- Atiqa Mir, the nine-year-old racer created history at the famous and prestigious Le Mans Kart International circuit, by becoming the first female racer in the world to win a race in the Challenge International Trophy.
- She achieved this by winning Race 2 in the Heats of the Micro Max Category.
- Atiqa, driving for the championship-winning Dan Holland Racing Team in the Lando Norris kart.

13. Nick Dunlap becomes first player in PGA Tour history to win as amateur and professional in same year

- Nick Dunlap Becomes First Player to Win as an Amateur and a Professional in the Same Year on PGA TOUR.
- Nick Dunlap made history for the second time in 2024 with his come-from-behind win at the Barracuda Championship.
- He also became the first player to win twice in his rookie season since 2017.

14. Nuno Borges Beat Nadal To Lift Swedish Open Men's Singles Trophy

- In Swedish Open Tennis, Nuno Borges of Portugal defeated Spaniard Rafael Nadal in the final, to win the men's singles tennis title at Bastad in Sweden.

- It was Borges's first ATP Tour title.
- He became the second Portuguese player in the Open Era to win a main tour singles title, after João Sousa.

15. Yuki Bhambri, Albano Olivetti Clinch Men's Doubles Title At ATP Swiss Open

- India's Yuki Bhambri and his French partner Albano Olivetti clinched the men's doubles title at the Swiss Open ATP Tour tennis tournament defeating French pair of Ugo Humbert and Fabrice Martin in the final in Gstaad, Switzerland.
- This was the third ATP doubles title for the 32-year-old Bhambri.

16. Oscar Piastri Wins F1 Title At Hungarian Grand Prix

- The Australian Formula 1 (F1) racer Oscar Piastri secured his first-ever F1 title victory at the Hungarian Grand Prix.
- The Australian rookie led a strong McLaren one-two finish alongside the British-Belgian racer Lando Norris

17. PR Sreejesh Announces Retirement After Paris Olympics 2024

- Indian hockey goalkeeper PR Sreejesh has announced his retirement from international hockey following the Paris Olympics 2024.
- Sreejesh captained the team in Rio 2016 and played a key role in securing a bronze medal at Tokyo 2021.
- Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna in 2021 and the Padma Shri in 2017.
- Sreejesh also won back-to-back FIH Goalkeeper of the Year awards in 2021 and 2022

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FinTech

1. New Banking Malware 'Snowblind' Targets Android Users for Banking Credential Theft

- A new banking malware called 'Snowblind' is targeting Android users to steal banking credentials.
- Discovered by cybersecurity firm Promon, headquartered in Norway.
- Functionality: This malware can take your banking login details and perform unauthorised transactions.
- Exploitation of Security Features Snowblind exploits a built-in Android security feature to bypass anti-tamper protections in apps that handle sensitive information.

2. Paytm launches 'Health Saathi' plan for its merchant partners

- One 97 Communications Limited (OCL), which owns brand Paytm, has rolled out 'Paytm Health Saathi'.
- Powered by MediBuddy
- It is an exclusive health and income protection plan for its merchant partners.
- This plan is available on the 'Paytm for Business' app.
- 'Paytm Health Saathi' offers comprehensive services starting at ₹35 per month, including unlimited doctor teleconsultations and in-person OPD visits within a network.
- It also provides income protection cover for business interruptions due to accidents, natural disasters, or strikes.

3. RBI launches 'Finqury' to allow fintechs directly engage with the regulator

- Launch of: Finquiry
- Launched by: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
- Aim: To allow fintechs directly engage with the regulator
- An exclusive 2 hours window called 'Finqury' for fintechs to visit the FinTech department of the RBI in Mumbai.
- RBI has opened the window from 26th June
- This will be available on the last working Wednesday of every month from 3 to 5pm.
- For inquiries and scheduling appointment, fintech representatives can reach out via email cgmfintech@rbi.org.in.

4. RBI joins 'Project Nexus' to enable instant cross-border retail payments

- Name of Project: Project Nexus
- Joined by: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
- Aim: To enable instant cross-border retail payments by interlinking domestic Fast Payments Systems (FPSs)

• What is Project Nexus?

- It was conceptualized by the Innovation Hub of the Bank for International Settlements (BIS)
- Aim: To connect the FPSs of four ASEAN countries (Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand); and India
- An agreement to this effect was signed by the BIS and the Central Banks of the founding countries - Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM), Bank of Thailand (BOT), Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS), and RBI on June 30, 2024, in Basel, Switzerland.
- The platform is expected to go live by 2026.

5. PNB introduces Safety Ring mechanism

- Launch of: Safety Ring
- Launched by: Punjab National Bank
- For: Internet banking system and mobile banking system in response to the increasing number of cyber frauds.
- This mechanism provides an additional safety layer to minimise potential losses in case of unauthorised access by fraudsters.
- Working:
- It is an optional feature that allows customers to set a daily transaction limit with respect to term deposits (TDs) on online closure or availing overdraft facility on TDs up to the set limit amount.
- The limit set by the customer should be the consolidated digital channels limit up to which the customer can close the TD or avail overdraft facility on TD.

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6. FlixBus partners with Paytm to enhance global travel tech distribution

- Partnership between: FlixBus and Paytm
- Aim: To expand its distribution network
- With this, FlixBus tickets will now be available through the Paytm app.
- This collaboration is poised to drive substantial growth for both companies, expanding Paytm's travel options and reinforcing its position in the travel industry.

7. Fintech startup TechFini receives NPCI certification to operate as UPI provider

- Fintech startup TechFini has received final certification from the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to operate as a Unified Payments Interface (UPI)-based payment infrastructure provider for banks and fintech companies.

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8. Microsoft Power Outage Caused "Minor Disruptions" In 10 Banks: RBI

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said 10 Indian banks and non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) experienced minor disruptions. All of these have either been resolved or are being resolved.
- The outage affected IT systems globally.
- Microsoft said that CrowdStrike's update affected 8.5 million Windows devices, or less than one percent of all Windows machines.

9. Bandhan Bank Introduces Payment Solution Using Bharat QR Code

- Bandhan Bank has introduced a payment solution using Bharat QR Code for Current and Savings account customers.
- This solution simplifies payments at merchant outlets and provides instant notifications through a small speaker for each transaction.

10. NPCI Extends UPI One World Wallet To All Inbound International Travellers

- The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has announced the rollout of the 'UPI One World' wallet for inbound travellers, across all nations of the world, visiting India.
- The wallet, introduced during the G20 summit 2024.
- It has been expanded to cater to a broader range of countries.
- Travellers can access the UPI One World wallet through authorised Prepaid Payment Instrument (PPI) issuers at airports, hotels, designated money exchange locations, and other specified touchpoints.

11. BoB launches Generative AI-powered virtual relationship manager and credit line on UPI

- Bank of Baroda (BoB) launched a range of digital and technology-led initiatives, including a Generative AI-powered virtual relationship manager (VRM), and credit line on UPI
- Launch of: bob₹Pay
- Features: Scan to Pay, Send/Receive Money, UPI LITE, RuPay Credit Card on UPI, International Payments etc.
- Aim: To enhance payments and banking experience for customers

12. PhonePe retains top position on UPI in June 2024

- PhonePe continued its dominance in the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) ecosystem in June 2024, cornering around 48.34% market share.
- Nearly one out of two transactions on the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)-run UPI are processed on fintech major PhonePe's platform.
- Google Pay continued to be the second largest player on the UPI ecosystem in June, followed by Paytm.

Committees

1. Mospi sets up 26-member committee to decide new base year for GDP

- Ministry: Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (Mospi)
- Members: 26-member Advisory Committee
- Recommendation on: National Accounts Statistics (ACNAS) to decide the base year for gross domestic product (GDP) data.
- Chairman: Biswanath Goldar, former professor of the Institute of Economic Growth
- Other members of the committee include GC Manna, former director general, central statistics office (CSO), professor Mausami Das, Delhi School of Economics, and Chetan Ghate, director, Institute of Economic Growth.
- The committee will have a tenure of five years or till the completion of next base year, whichever is later.

2. SEBI committee proposes stricter measures to curb derivatives volume

- Recommendation of Working Committee on Futures and Options, set up by SEBI
- Raise the minimum lot size of derivative contracts from ₹5 lakh to a range of ₹20 lakh- ₹30 lakh.
- Restricting weekly options to one expiry per stock exchange per week
- Reducing the number of strike prices for options contracts
- Small ticket traders will be eliminated if the contract size is steeply increased due to unaffordability
- To relook at the calendar spread benefits provided beyond the three months
- Increased margin
- Upfront Premiums
- SEBI formed a committee to address the issue of excessive speculation driven by high retail participation.

3. Sixteenth Finance Commission Constitutes Five-Member Advisory Council

- Finance Commission: 16th
- Set up: Advisory council
- Aim: To advise the Commission on any of the Terms of Reference (ToR) or related subjects
- It will also suggest measures to augment the Consolidated Fund of a State to supplement the resources of panchayats and municipalities.
- Members: 5
- Advisory Council Members
- Convenor of the Advisory Council: Poonam Gupta, Director General of the National Council of Applied Economic Research



- **Other members:**

- D.K. Srivastava, Chief Policy Advisor at EY
- Neelkanth Mishra, Chief Economist at Axis Bank
- Pranjul Bhandari, Chief India Economist at HSBC Securities & Capital Markets
- Rahul Bajoria, MD & Head of EM Asia (ex-China) Economics at Barclays
- Note: Currently, India shares 41% of federal taxes with states as recommended by the 15th panel.

4. **RBI forms panel to review fee structure for white-label ATMs.**

- RBI has set up a review committee to revise the fee structure for white-label ATMs (WLAs) to propose a fair and sustainable model.
- The committee, led by Indian Banks' Association CEO Sunil Mehta.
- Committee will assess current policies, ATM infrastructure, and global best practices, reporting to RBI deputy governor T Rabi Sankar.
- India's ATM market is forecasted to grow at a 9.2% CAGR from 2024 to 2032, with four authorized non-bank entities currently operating WLAs.
- The interchange fee remains at ₹17 for financial and ₹6 for non-financial transactions.

RBI Corner

Important News

A. Reserve Bank of India and ASEAN Countries to Create a Platform to Facilitate Instantaneous Cross-Border Retail Payments

- The Reserve Bank of India has now joined the Project Nexus, a multilateral international initiative to enable instant cross-border retail payments by interlinking domestic FPSs. Nexus, conceptualised by the Innovation Hub of the Bank for International Settlements (BIS), aims to connect the FPSs of four ASEAN countries (Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand); and India, who would be the founding members and first mover countries of this platform.
- An agreement to this effect was signed by the BIS and the central banks of the founding countries i.e., Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM), Bank of Thailand (BOT), Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS), and Reserve Bank of India on June 30, 2024, in Basel, Switzerland. Indonesia, which has been involved from the early stages, continues to be involved as a special observer.
- The platform can be extended to more countries, going forward. The platform is expected to go live by 2026. Once functional, Nexus will play an important role in making retail cross-border payments efficient, faster, and more cost effective.

B. Measuring Productivity at the Industry Level-The India KLEMS Database

- The Reserve Bank of India placed on its website an update on “Measuring Productivity at the Industry Level-The India KLEMS [Capital (K), Labour (L), Energy (E), Material (M) and Services (S)] Database” comprising the Data Manual 2024 and time-series data on productivity for 27 industries covering the period 1980-81 to 2022-23. The database, which has KLEMS data for an additional year, i.e., 2022-23, is expected to aid the analysis of productivity trends in India at disaggregated industry levels.
- Along with the industry-wise estimate, a provisional estimate of productivity for the total economy has also been attempted for the first time for the financial year 2023-24 based on the available information.

C. RBI releases draft circular on Basel III Framework on Liquidity Standards - Liquidity Coverage Ratio (LCR) - Review of Haircuts on High Quality Liquid Assets (HQLA) and Run-off Rates on Certain Categories of Deposits

- The extant LCR framework for banks in India has been reviewed in light of recent developments. In order to further enhance the liquidity resilience of banks, it has been decided as under:

- Banks shall assign an additional 5 per cent run-off factor for retail deposits which are enabled with internet and mobile banking facilities (IMB)¹ i.e., stable retail deposits enabled with IMB shall have 10 per cent run-off factor and less stable deposits enabled with IMB shall have 15 per cent run-off factor.
- Unsecured wholesale funding provided by non-financial small business customers shall be treated in accordance with the treatment of retail deposits as at (a) above.
- Level 1 HQLA in the form of Government securities shall be valued at an amount not greater than their current market value, adjusted for applicable haircuts in line with the margin requirements under the Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF) and Marginal Standing Facility (MSF).

The liquidity coverage ratio (LCR) refers to the proportion of highly liquid assets that financial institutions must hold to ensure that they can meet their short-term obligations and ride out any disruptions in the market. It is mandated by international banking agreements known as the Basel Accords.

- In case a deposit, hitherto excluded from LCR computation (for instance, a non-callable fixed deposit), is contractually pledged as collateral to a bank to secure a credit facility or loan, such deposit shall be treated as callable for LCR purposes.
- This circular is applicable to all Commercial Banks (excluding Payments Banks, Regional Rural Banks and Local Area Banks).
- These instructions shall come into force with effect from April 01, 2025.

D. RBI issues Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) Framework for Primary (Urban) Co-operative Banks

- The Reserve Bank of India issued a Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) Framework for Primary (Urban) Co-operative Banks (UCBs). The provisions of the PCA Framework will be effective from **April 1, 2025**.
- The Reserve Bank had issued a Supervisory Action Framework (SAF) as an early intervention tool for bringing about desired improvements in weak UCBs and UCBs which are experiencing financial stress. The SAF was last revised vide RBI Circular dated January 6, 2020¹. ***This PCA framework shall replace the SAF.***

The UCBs have been categorized into following four tiers for regulatory purposes:

Tier 1 - All unit UCBs and salary earners' UCBs (irrespective of deposit size), and all other UCBs having deposits up to ₹100 crore;

Tier 2 - UCBs with deposits more than ₹100 crore and up to ₹1,000 crore;

Tier 3 - UCBs with deposits more than ₹1,000 crore and up to ₹10,000 crore;

Tier 4 - UCBs with deposits more than ₹10,000 crore.

The salient features of the PCA Framework are as follows:

- The framework has been suitably harmonised with similar frameworks applicable for Scheduled Commercial Banks and Non-Banking Financial Companies, with suitable modifications keeping in mind the underlying principle of proportionality.
- The PCA framework is largely principle-based with fewer number of parameters as compared to the SAF, without any dilution in the supervisory rigour.
- The revised framework seeks to provide flexibility to design entity specific supervisory action plans based on the assessment of risks on a case-by-case basis.
- The hard-coded limit of Rs 25,000/- for restrictions on capital expenditure by UCBs under SAF has been dispensed with. The revised framework enables the Supervisors to decide the limit depending upon their assessment of each entity.
- The PCA Framework has been made applicable to all² UCBs in Tier 2, Tier 3 and Tier 4, except UCBs under All Inclusive Directions (AID).
- Tier 1 UCBs have been excluded from the PCA framework for the present. However, they shall continue to be subjected to enhanced monitoring under the extant supervisory framework.
- The revised framework is expected to give more focus on the larger UCBs requiring more intensive monitoring by optimal utilisation of supervisory resources.

E. Monthly Data on India's International Trade in Services for the Month of June 2024

The value of exports and imports of services during June 2024 is given in the following table.

International Trade in Services			
			(US\$ million)
Month	Receipts (Exports)	Payments (Imports)	
April – 2024	30,332 (17.7)	16,631 (19.1)	
May – 2024	29,764 (10.3)	16,744 (5.4)	
June – 2024	28,818 (3.7)	15,021 (-3.8)	

Notes: (i) Data are provisional; and
(ii) Figures in parentheses are growth rates over the corresponding month of the previous year which have been revised on the basis of balance of payments statistics.

F. Lending and Deposit Rates of Scheduled Commercial Banks – July 2024

Lending Rates:

- The weighted average lending rate (WALR) on fresh rupee loans of SCBs stood at 9.32 per cent in June 2024 (9.45 per cent in May 2024).
- The WALR on outstanding rupee loans of SCBs was placed at 9.91 per cent in June 2024 (9.88 per cent in May 2024).¹
- 1-Year median marginal cost of fund-based lending rate (MCLR) of SCBs remained unchanged at 8.85 per cent in July 2024.

Deposit Rates:

- The weighted average domestic term deposit rate (WADTDR) on fresh rupee term deposits of SCBs stood at 6.46 per cent in June 2024 compared to 6.47 per cent in May 2024.
- The weighted average domestic term deposit rate (WADTDR) on outstanding rupee term deposits of SCBs was at 6.91 per cent in June 2024 (6.93 per cent in May 2024).¹

Some Important Articles

A. Twenty-five new properties inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List which now numbers 936

The World Heritage Committee has inscribed a total of 25 sites on UNESCO's World Heritage List, including three natural properties, 21 cultural and one mixed site. Two properties were added to the World Heritage List in Danger and one was removed from that list. The World Heritage List now numbers 936 properties: 183 natural sites; 725 cultural; and 28 mixed.

Natural properties:

- Ningaloo Coast (Australia)
- Ogasawara Islands (Japan)
- Kenya Lake System in the Great Rift Valley (Kenya)

Mixed natural and cultural properties:

- Wadi Rum Protected Area (Jordan)

Cultural Properties:

- Historic Bridgetown and its Garrison (Barbados)
- West Lake Cultural Landscape of Hangzhou (China)
- Coffee Cultural Landscape of Colombia (Colombia)
- The Persian Garden (Iran)
- Konso Cultural Landscape (Ethiopia)
- The Causses and the Cévennes, Mediterranean Agro-pastoral Cultural Landscape (France)
- Fagus Factory in Alfeld (Germany)
- Longobards in Italy. Places of the power (568-774 A.D.) (Italy)
- Hiraizumi - Temples, Gardens and Archaeological Sites Representing The Buddhist Pure Land (Japan)
- Fort Jesus, Mombasa (Kenya)
- Petroglyphs Complexes of the Mongolian Altai (Mongolia)
- León Cathedral (Nicaragua)
- Saloum Delta (Senegal)
- Cultural Landscape of the Serra de Tramuntana (Spain)
- Archaeological Sites of the Island of Meroe (Sudan)
- Prehistoric Pile dwellings around the Alps (Switzerland, Austria, France, Germany, Italy, Slovenia)
- Ancient Villages of Northern Syria (Syrian Arab Republic)
- Selimiye Mosque Complex at Edirne (Turkey)

- Cultural Sites of Al Ain (Hafit, Hili, Bidaa Bint Saud and Oases Areas) (United Arab Emirates)
- The Residence of Bukovinian and Dalmatian Metropolitans (Ukraine)
- Citadel of the Ho Dynasty (Viet Nam)

Extensions:

- Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany (Slovakia, Ukraine, Germany)

Additions to the World Heritage List in Danger:

- Río Plátano Biosphere Reserve (Honduras)
- Tropical Rainforest Heritage of Sumatra (Indonesia)

Removed from World Heritage List in Danger:

- *Manas Wildlife Sanctuary (India)*

B. President Droupadi Murmu makes 6 new governor appointments as Rashtrapati Bhavan reshuffles 3 others

- The President appointed Lakshman Prasad Acharya as the governor of Assam with the additional charge of Manipur. He replaces Anusuiya Uikye, who has been serving as Manipur governor since February last year.
- Banwarilal Purohit, who served as the governor of Punjab, has been replaced by Gulab Chand Kataria. This development comes after President Droupadi Murmu accepted the resignation of Punjab governor and Chandigarh administrator Banwarilal Purohit as the governor of Punjab and the administrator of Chandigarh.
- Gulab Chand Kataria, who has also been appointed as the administrator of the Union Territory of Chandigarh, has replaced Lakshman Prasad Acharya.
- Om Prakash Mathur will be the new governor of Sikkim.
- The communique further noted the appointment of Jharkhand Governor C P Radhakrishnan as the new governor of Maharashtra. He succeeds incumbent Ramesh Bais. C P Radhakrishnan has also been holding charge of Telangana.

- Jharkhand governor C P Radhakrishnan will be succeeded by Former Union Labour and Employment Minister Santosh Kumar Gangwar.
- Jishnu Dev Varma has been appointed as the new governor of Telangana.
- K Kailashnathan- has been appointed as Lt Governor of Puducherry.
- Governor of Rajasthan Kalraj Mishra has been succeeded by senior leader from Maharashtra, Haribhau Kisanrao Bagde.
- The post of the Governor of Chhattisgarh will be taken over by former Lok Sabha member from Assam, Ramen Deka.
- The former Lok Sabha member from Mysore in Karnataka, C H Vijayashankar will serve as Meghalaya governor.

State/UT	Governor/ LG/Administrator
Andhra Pradesh	Shri Justice (Retd.) S. Abdul Nazeer
Arunachal Pradesh	Lt. General Kaiwalya Trivikram Parnaik, PVSM, UYSM, YSM (Retired)
Assam	Shri Lakshman Prasad Acharya
Bihar	Shri Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar
Chhattisgarh	Shri Ramen Deka
Goa	Shri P.S. Sreedharan Pillai
Gujarat	Shri Acharya Dev Vrat
Haryana	Shri Bandaru Dattatraya
Himachal Pradesh	Shri Shiv Pratap Shukla

Jharkhand	Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar
Karnataka	Shri Thaawarchand Gehlot
Kerala	Shri Arif Mohammed Khan
Madhya Pradesh	Shri Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel
Maharashtra	Shri C.P. Radhakrishnan
Manipur	Shri Lakshman Prasad Acharya (Additional Charge)
Meghalaya	Shri C H Vijayashankar
Mizoram	Dr. Kambhampati Haribabu
Nagaland	Shri La. Ganesan
Odisha	Shri Raghubar Das
Punjab	Shri Gulab Chand Kataria
Rajasthan	Shri Haribhau Kisanrao Bagde
Sikkim	Shri Om Prakash Mathur
Tamil Nadu	Shri R. N. Ravi
Telangana	Shri Jishnu Dev Varma
Tripura	Shri Indra Sena Reddy Nallu
Uttar Pradesh	Smt. Anandiben Patel
Uttarakhand	Lt. Gen. Gurmit Singh, PVSM, UYSM, AVSM, VSM (Retd.)

West Bengal	Dr. C.V. Ananda Bose
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C. Financial Inclusion Index for March 2024

- The FI-Index for the year ending March 2024 has since been prepared. The value of the Index for March 2024 stands at **64.2** vis-à-vis **60.1** in March 2023, with growth witnessed across all sub-indices. Improvement in FI-Index is mainly contributed by Usage dimension, reflecting deepening of financial inclusion.
- The FI-Index has been conceptualised as a comprehensive index incorporating details of banking, investments, insurance, postal as well as the pension sector in consultation with Government and respective sectoral regulators. The index captures information on various aspects of financial inclusion in a single value ranging between 0 and 100, where 0 represents complete financial exclusion and 100 indicates full financial inclusion. The FI-Index comprises of three broad parameters (weights indicated in brackets) viz., Access (35%), Usage (45%), and Quality (20%) with each of these consisting of various dimensions, which are computed based on a number of indicators.
- The Index is responsive to ease of access, availability and usage of services, and quality of services, comprising in all 97 indicators. A unique feature of the Index is the Quality parameter which captures the quality aspect of financial inclusion as reflected by financial literacy, consumer protection, and inequalities and deficiencies in services.
- The FI-Index has been constructed without any 'base year' and as such it reflects cumulative efforts of all stakeholders over the years towards financial inclusion. The FI-Index will be published annually in July every year.

D. RBI – Digital Payments Index for March 2024

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has been publishing a composite Reserve Bank of India – Digital Payments Index (RBI-DPI) since January 1, 2021 with March 2018 as base to capture the extent of digitisation of payments across the country. The index for March 2024 stands at 445.50 as against 418.77 for September 2023.
- The RBI-DPI index has increased across all parameters driven by significant growth in payment performance and payment infrastructure across the country over the period.
The index series since its inception is as under:

Period	RBI - DPI Index
March 2018 (Base)	100
March 2019	153.47
September 2019	173.49
March 2020	207.84
September 2020	217.74
March 2021	270.59
September 2021	304.06
March 2022	349.30
September 2022	377.46
March 2023	395.57
September 2023	418.77
March 2024	445.50

E. Regulatory Sandbox – Fifth Cohort (Theme Neutral) – Test Phase

The Reserve Bank had announced opening of the Fifth Cohort (Theme Neutral) under Regulatory Sandbox vide Press release dated October 27, 2023.

2. The Reserve Bank received twenty-two applications of which five have been selected for the ‘Test Phase’. The entities, as per details below, shall commence testing of their solutions from August 2024:

Sl. No.	Sandbox Entity	Description
1	Connectingdot Private Limited	Consultancy The solution aims to provide high accuracy in predicting loan defaults by segregating the loan portfolios into high, medium and low risk categories. The solution provides reasons for borrower’s default and recommends borrower specific pathways to banks/lenders for improving risk mitigation.
2	Epifi Technologies Private Limited	The solution allows for digital opening of NRE/NRO accounts through video KYC and identity validations, thus enabling a seamless account opening experience for NRIs. The solution is expected to bring in efficiency by reducing cost, turnaround time, and obviating the need for physical documentation and verification.
3	Finagg Technologies Private Limited	The solution is a blockchain based deep tier vendor financing solution that enables financing for MSMEs, which are part of the procurement supply chain of large enterprises commonly referred to as anchors. The solution enables conversion of receivables from anchors into blockchain based tokens which can be redeemed by MSMEs

		for availing credit from banks/ NBFCs. The solution aims to make easy and affordable credit accessible to lower tier/ small MSMEs.
4	Indian Banks' Digital Infrastructure Company (IBDIC) Private Limited	The deep tier financing solution powered by blockchain and smart contract enables MSMEs, which are part of the supply chain of a creditworthy anchor to get access to affordable finance linked to their value addition. OEM invoice accepted by the anchor is tokenised and the platform facilitates the transfer of these tokens by the buyer to the seller in lieu of payment for the accepted invoice. Lenders fund the supplier against these tokens digitally on this platform. The solution aims to make easy and affordable credit accessible to lower tier/ small MSMEs.
5	Signzy Technologies Private Limited	The solution offers an unassisted video KYC solution that allows users to complete video KYC steps independently without involvement of officials of regulated entities. The solution envisages to reduce time, increase success rates, significantly lower customer drop-offs and ensure a seamless and efficient KYC experience for both customers and regulated entities.

Current Affairs Practise questions

1. Capital markets regulator SEBI recently proposed mandatory disclosure of 'RAR' along with the return of a mutual fund scheme to help investors make informed investment decisions. RAR stands for_____.

- (1) Risk-adjusted return
- (2) Risk-adjusted record
- (3) Risk-adjusted report
- (4) Return-adjusted risk
- (5) Risk-adjusted remuneration

Answer key-1

Solution:

Capital markets regulator SEBI proposed mandatory disclosure of 'risk-adjusted return' along with the return of a mutual fund scheme to help investors make informed investment decisions. Risk-adjusted return (RAR) of a scheme portfolio represents a more holistic measure of the scheme's performance because it quantifies the amount of return generated by a mutual fund scheme for each unit of risk taken to achieve that return.

The current regulatory framework does not mandate the disclosure of RAR along with the returns of an MF scheme.

Further, there is no uniform practice followed by asset management companies (AMCs) regarding disclosure of RAR of their scheme.

2. SEBI recently formed an ad-hoc Committee with _____as chairperson to review the ownership and

economic structure of clearing corporations, and to suggest measures to ensure that clearing corporations function as resilient, independent, and neutral risk managers.

- (1) Usha Thorat
- (2) S Jankiraman
- (3) Urjit Patel
- (4) Dinesh Kumar Khara
- (5) D. Subbarao

Answer key-1

Solution: Given the substantial growth of Indian securities markets in recent years, the importance of clearing corporations as central risk management institutions cannot be overstated. In this regard, SEBI has formed an ad-hoc Committee under Ms. Usha Thorat, to review the ownership and economic structure of clearing corporations, and to suggest measures to ensure that clearing corporations function as resilient, independent, and neutral risk managers.

3. To ease the compliance burden for insolvency professionals, and enhance the effectiveness of the liquidation process, the _____has launched a set of electronic forms under_____.

- (1) RBI, Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007
- (2) IBBI, the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code
- (3) IBBI, Securities Contract (Regulation) Act, 1956

(4) RBI, Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1980

(5) None of these

Answer key-2

Solution: To ease the compliance burden for insolvency professionals, and enhance the effectiveness of the liquidation process, the IBBI has launched a set of electronic forms under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code.

These forms are crucial for the liquidation process under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), as they facilitate systematic and transparent record-keeping and seamless reporting, the insolvency regulator said.

4. Which of the following in June 2024 introduced the 'Bridge the Gap' campaign. This initiative aims to clarify the benefits of life insurance and inform the public about its importance?

- (1) Kotak Mahindra Life Insurance
- (2) Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance
- (3) HDFC Life Insurance
- (4) Life Insurance Corporation Of India
- (5) ICICI Prudential Life Insurance

Answer key-3

Solution:

HDFC Life has introduced the 'Bridge the Gap' campaign. This initiative aims to clarify the benefits of life insurance and inform the public about its importance. Through strategic partnerships and innovative outreach efforts, HDFC Life seeks to educate consumers on the critical role of life insurance.

The campaign features a combination of on-ground activities and digital initiatives. Notably, HDFC Life has partnered with ET NOW to produce a series of informative chat shows. These shows feature discussions with HDFC Life leaders and their partners, covering various aspects of financial planning with life insurance, including protection, child plans, and retirement options.

5. Which of the following countries will start issuing new banknotes from 3rd July onwards, showcasing what it touts is the world's first use of cutting-edge holography that makes the portraits of historic figures look like they are rotating in 3D on the bills, one of their anti-counterfeit measures?

- (1) Japan
- (2) South Korea
- (3) India
- (4) USA
- (5) Malaysia

Answer key-1

Solution:

Japan will start issuing new banknotes, showcasing what it touts is the world's first use of cutting-edge holography that makes the portraits of historic figures look like they are rotating in 3D on the bills, one of their anti-counterfeit measures.

In the first design change in 20 years, the 10,000 yen, 5,000 yen, and 1,000 yen bills will have bigger face value numbers printed on them than the current versions, so all people, regardless of age

and nationality, can recognize them easily.

6. The Reserve Bank of India with the concurrence of the Government of India has decided to put in place a revised Framework on Currency Swap Arrangement for SAARC countries. Consider the following statements.
- A: It is for the period 2024 to 2029.
 B: SAARC Currency Swap Facility came into operation on November 15, 2015.
 C: Under this Framework, the Reserve Bank would enter into bilateral swap agreements with SAARC central banks, who want to avail of the swap facility.
 D: Under the Framework, a separate INR Swap Window has been introduced with various concessions for swap support in Indian Rupee.

Which of the above statements is/are **Incorrect?**

- (1) B,C,D
 (2) A only
 (3) B only
 (4) A,C,D
 (5) A,B

Answer key-5

Solution: The Reserve Bank of India with the concurrence of the Government of India has decided to put in place a revised Framework on Currency Swap Arrangement for SAARC countries. Consider the following statements.
 A: It is for the period 2024 to 2027.
 B: SAARC Currency Swap Facility came into operation on November 15, 2012.

C: Under this Framework, the Reserve Bank would enter into bilateral swap agreements with SAARC central banks, who want to avail of the swap facility.
 D: Under the Framework, a separate INR Swap Window has been introduced with various concessions for swap support in Indian Rupee.

7. eSankhyiki portal, an online platform providing real-time data to planners, policy-makers, researchers and the general public has been launched .Consider the following statements.
- I: It has been launched by Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI).
 II: The portal has two modules, Data Catalogue and Macro Indicators.
 III: At present, Macro Indicators contains more than 2291 datasets with metadata and visualization for each dataset.

Which of the above statements is/are **Incorrect?**

- (1) Only III
 (2) Only I
 (3) I,II and III
 (4) I,II
 (5) None of these

Solution: eSankhyiki portal, an online platform providing real-time data to planners, policy-makers, researchers and the general public has been launched .Consider the following statements.

I: It has been launched by Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI).
 II: The portal has two modules, Data Catalogue and Macro Indicators.

III: At present, Data Catalogue contains more than 2291 datasets with metadata and visualization for each dataset.

The Macro Indicators module offers time series data of key macro indicators, with features for filtering and visualizing data. Users can also download custom datasets, visualizations, and share them through APIs. The module currently contains products of MoSPI, including National Accounts Statistics, Consumer Price Index, Index of Industrial Production, and Annual Survey of Industries.

8. Financial Services Institution Bureau (FSIB) has selected Challa Sreenivasulu Setty as the next chairman of State Bank of India (SBI). Sh. Setty would join as the _____ Chairman of SBI.

- (1) 24th
- (2) 27th
- (3) 29th
- (4) 30th
- (5) 32nd

Answer key-2

Solution:

Financial Services Institution Bureau (FSIB) has selected Challa Sreenivasulu Setty as the next chairman of State Bank of India (SBI). Ashwini Tiwari and Vinay Tonse were two other contenders to the post.

Setty will succeed the current chairman, Dinesh Khara, when he turns 63, the upper age limit for the position of SBI Chairman. His term is scheduled to end in August 2024.

Setty would join as the 27th Chairman of SBI.

9. Union Minister of State for Personnel Jitendra Singh launch a special campaign for the effective redressal of family pensioners' grievances. Presently, around 90,000 cases are being registered on an online CPENGRAMS in a year.

CPENGRAMS stands for_____.

- (1) Common Pension Grievance and Redress System
- (2) Centralised Pension Grievance and Redress System
- (3) Controlled Pension Grievance and Redress System
- (4) Centenarian Pension Grievance and Redress System
- (5) Centralised Pension Grievance and Remittance System

Answer key-2

Solution:

Union Minister of State for Personnel Jitendra Singh launched a special campaign for the effective redressal of family pensioners' grievances. Presently, around 90,000 cases are being registered on an online Centralised Pension Grievance and Redress System (CPENGRAMS) in a year, a statement issued by the Personnel Ministry said. Of the total grievances, family pension grievance cases account for about 20-25 per cent, it said. A major segment of family pensioners' grievances is constituted by women pensioners

10. By 2100, the top three most populous countries in the world will be India, China and Pakistan, according to the United

Nations (UN) World Population Prospects report. Consider the following statements regarding

- A: India's peak population is likely to be 1.701 billion, and the country is expected to reach that mark in 2062.
- B: According to the data shared by the UN, India's population will start declining between January and July 2062.
- C: Moreover, the countries which will record the highest jump in their populations between 2024 and 2054 are in Africa.

Which of the statements given above is/are **Correct**?

- (1) A,B
- (2) A,C
- (3) A,B,C
- (4) B,C
- (5) B only

Answer key-3

Solution: A: India's peak population is likely to be 1.701 billion, and the country is expected to reach that mark in 2062.

B: According to the data shared by the UN, India's population will start declining between January and July 2062.

C: Moreover, the countries which will record the highest jump in their populations between 2024 and 2054 are in Africa.

However, in around 100 countries and areas, the share of the population at working ages (between 20 and 64 years) will continue to increase more rapidly than the total population between now and 2054, providing a window of opportunity, known as the demographic dividend.

11. SEBI recently proposed new asset class placed between Mutual Funds and Portfolio Management Services (PMS-es) for higher risk takers. Consider the following statements.

- A. It has proposed that the asset class be allowed to invest even in derivatives for purposes other than hedging and rebalancing.
- B. The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) proposed that the minimum investment in this asset class be Rs 25 lakh across strategies, that mutual fund houses or asset management companies offer these products, that the products will be riskier than what is traditionally offered by MFs and therefore be branded differently and that all investments permissible to MFs be available to this new asset class.
- C. The regulator has said that the minimum investment has been decided to deter them from going to unregistered PMSes.

Which of the statements given above is/are **Correct**?

- (1) A,B
- (2) B,C
- (3) C only
- (4) A,C
- (5) None of these

Answer key-4

Solution:

SEBI recently proposed new asset class placed between Mutual Funds and Portfolio Management Services (PMS-es) for higher risk takers. Consider the following statements.

A. It has proposed that the asset class be allowed to invest even in derivatives for purposes other than hedging and rebalancing.

B. the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) proposed that the minimum investment in this asset class be **Rs 10 lakh** across strategies, that mutual fund houses or asset management companies offer these products, that the products will be riskier than what is traditionally offered by MFs and therefore be branded differently and that all investments permissible to MFs be available to this new asset class.

C. The regulator has said that the minimum investment has been decided to deter them from going to unregistered PMSes.

12. The International Monetary Fund raised India's growth forecast for FY25 to 7 percent from the one projected in April, according to its data released on July 16.

- A. The International Monetary Fund raised India's growth forecast for FY25 to 7 percent from 6.7 percent projected in April.
- B. This was as per the World Economic Outlook
- C. The global financial institution expects the economy to grow 6.5 percent in FY26.

Which of the statements given above is/are **Correct**?

- (1) A,B
- (2) B,C
- (3) C only
- (4) A,C
- (5) None of these

Answer key-2

Solution: The International Monetary Fund raised India's growth forecast for FY25 to 7 percent from **6.8 percent** projected in April, according to its World Economic Outlook released on July 16.

"The forecast for growth in India has also been revised upward, to 7 percent, this year, with the change reflecting carryover from upward revisions to growth in 2023 and improved prospects for private consumption, particularly in rural areas," the fund noted.

13. India to host 2nd Asia Pacific ministerial conference on civil aviation on September 11 and 12, 2024. Consider the following statements.

- A. The conference, jointly organised by the Indian government and the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) APAC.
- B. The inaugural meeting was held in Beijing in February 2020.
- C. 39 Asian and Pacific member countries will be taking part in the conference.

Which of the statements given above is/are **Correct**?

- (1) A,B
- (2) B,C
- (3) C only
- (4) A,C
- (5) None of these

Answer key-4

Solution: India will host the second Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Civil Aviation from September 11 to 12. The inaugural meeting was held in Beijing in February 2018, and this significant event follows it. Because of the rapid growth of aviation in the

region, the next summit in India is a significant step toward preparing the future of aviation for 39 Asian and Pacific member countries.

14. The Government has initiated the Safai Apnao, Bimaari Bhagao (SABB) initiative to assist Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) in better preparing for the monsoon season. Consider the following statements.

- A. It is being spearheaded by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- B. The initiative will run from 1 July to 31 August 2024.
- C. The Safai Apnao, Bimaari Bhagao initiative is part of the 'STOP Diarrhoea Campaign' of The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA).

Which of the statements given above is/are **Incorrect**?

- (1) A,B
- (2) B,C
- (3) C only
- (4) A,C
- (5) None of these

Answer key-4

Solution:

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) has initiated the Safai Apnao, Bimaari Bhagao (SABB) initiative to assist Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) in better preparing for the upcoming monsoon season. The initiative will run from 1 July to 31 August 2024. The Safai Apnao, Bimaari Bhagao initiative is part of the 'STOP Diarrhoea Campaign' of the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**. The campaign focuses on the prevention of diarrhoea and emphasises the need for better sanitation

and cleanliness conditions during the monsoon season. The initiative requires cooperation among various departments and inter-sectoral convergence for the development of comprehensive interventions. The key elements of the campaign include the organization of special cleanliness drives for waste collection and transportation, as well as the regular cleaning of all community and public toilets.

15. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) in July 2024 approved loans to finance rooftop solar systems in India that will help the government expand energy access using renewable energy. Consider the following statements.

- A. The financing will be made available to the State Bank of India (SBI) and the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) to provide loans to developers and end-users throughout India to install rooftop solar systems.
- B. The loan amount was \$240.5 million.
- C. The financing will support tranches 2 and 3 of the Multi-tranche Financing Facility (MFF) Solar Rooftop Investment Programme approved by ADB in 2016.

Which of the above given statements is/are **Correct**?

- (1) A,B
- (2) B,C
- (3) Only C
- (4) Only B
- (5) A,B,C

Answer key-5

Solution:

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved \$240.5 million in loans to finance rooftop solar systems in India that will help the government expand energy access using renewable energy.

The financing will support tranches 2 and 3 of the Multi-tranche Financing Facility (MFF) Solar Rooftop Investment Programme approved by ADB in 2016. The programme was restructured in 2023 to focus on deploying residential solar rooftop systems. The financing will be made available to the State Bank of India (SBI) and the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) to provide loans to developers and end-users throughout India to install rooftop solar systems.

ADB will provide SBI with \$90.5 million from its Clean Technology Fund (CTF), while NABARD will receive \$150 million, comprised of \$80 million from ADB's ordinary capital resources and \$70 million from CTF.

16. The Ministry of Defence (MoD) recently announced the fifth Positive Indigenisation List (PIL) for Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs). Consider the following statements.

- A. This comprehensive list encompasses 436 strategically important items, including line replacement units, systems, sub-systems, assemblies, sub-assemblies, spares, components, and raw materials.
- B. The import substitution value of these items is estimated to be Rs 1,048 crore.

- C. The Srijan portal, launched by the defence ministry in 2020, serves as a platform where DPSUs and Service Headquarters (SHQs) collaborate with industries, including MSMEs and start-ups, to promote the indigenisation of defence items.

Which of the statements given above is/are Correct?

- (1) A,B
- (2) B,C
- (3) C only
- (4) A,C
- (5) None of these

Answer key-2

Solution: A. This comprehensive list encompasses **346** strategically important items, including line replacement units, systems, sub-systems, assemblies, sub-assemblies, spares, components, and raw materials.

B. The import substitution value of these items is estimated to be Rs 1,048 crore.

C. The Srijan portal, launched by the defence ministry in 2020, serves as a platform where DPSUs and Service Headquarters (SHQs) collaborate with industries, including MSMEs and start-ups, to promote the indigenisation of defence items.

The DPSUs will undertake the indigenisation of items listed in the fifth PIL through various approaches, including the 'Make' procedure and in-house development in partnership with industry stakeholders, including MSMEs. This initiative is expected to stimulate economic growth, boost investment in defence, and reduce reliance on imports. Moreover, it aims to strengthen the design capabilities of India's

domestic defence industry by involving academia and research institutions.

17. The report underlined that electronics production in the country doubled to \$101 Bn in FY23 compared to \$48 Bn in FY17. Consider the following statements.

- A. The Electronics Sector Skills Council of India (ESSCI) in a report has said that India should aim to reach \$500 Bn in electronics manufacturing by financial year 2029-30 (FY30).
- B. Currently, as of the financial year ended 2023, India's electronics production totals \$101 billion, comprising \$86 billion from finished goods and \$15 billion from components.
- C. The report titled 'Electronics: Powering India's Participation in Global Value Chains', also forecasts that India's electronics exports could reach \$240 billion, with domestic value addition expected to surpass 35%.
- D. India currently exports approximately \$25 billion annually, representing less than 1 percent of the global share despite a 4% share of global demand.

Which of the above given statements is/are Correct?

- (1) A,B
- (2) B,C
- (3) C,D
- (4) A,B,C
- (5) B,C,D

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Answer key-5

Solution: A. The **NITI Aayog** in a report has said that India should aim to reach \$500 Bn in electronics manufacturing by financial year 2029-30 (FY30).

B. Currently, as of the financial year ended 2023, India's electronics production totals \$101 billion, comprising \$86 billion from finished goods and \$15 billion from components.

C. The report titled 'Electronics: Powering India's Participation in Global Value Chains', also forecasts that India's electronics exports could reach \$240 billion, with domestic value addition expected to surpass 35%.

D. India currently exports approximately \$25 billion annually, representing less than 1 percent of the global share despite a 4% share of global demand.

18. Union Home Minister Amit Shah launched the MANAS Portal with a toll-free number to seek advice on de-addiction and rehabilitation and share information on drug trafficking. Consider the following statements.

- A. MANAS is an acronym for Madak Padarth Nisedh Anushandhan Kendra.
- B. MANAS will have a toll-free number 1933, a web portal, a mobile app, and a UMANG app so that citizens of the country can anonymously connect with NCB 24x7 to seek advice

on de-addiction and rehabilitation and share information on drug trafficking.

- C. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has taken up the Nasha Mukh Bharat campaign.

Which of the above given statements is/are Correct?

- (1) A,B
- (2) B,C
- (3) C only
- (4) A,B,C
- (5) None of these

Answer key-2

Solution: A. MANAS is an acronym for Madak Padarth Nisedh **Asuchna** Kendra.

B. MANAS will have a toll-free number 1933, a web portal, a mobile app, and a UMANG app so that citizens of the country can anonymously connect with NCB 24x7 to seek advice on de-addiction and rehabilitation and share information on drug trafficking.

C. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has taken up the Nasha Mukh Bharat campaign.

19. The key objective of Goyal's visit to Switzerland, which commenced July 14, was to discuss the next steps for the implementation of the Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA), signed between India and EFTA nations.

Consider the following statements.

A. Trade Minister Piyush Goyal met with his Swiss counterpart Federal Councillor Guy Parmelin during his recent visit to Switzerland.

B. The two discussed ways to identify and realise the ambitious target of \$100-billion in investments and creation of one million jobs in India by EFTA countries in the next 15 years in line with the trade deal between them.

C. EFTA is an acronym for European Free Trade Association.

Which of the statements given above is/are Correct?

- (1) A,B
- (2) A,C
- (3) A,B,C
- (4) B,C
- (5) B only

Answer key-1

Solution:

A. Trade Minister Piyush Goyal met with his Swiss counterpart Federal Councillor Guy Parmelin during his recent visit to Switzerland.

B. The two discussed ways to identify and realise the ambitious target of \$100-billion in investments and creation of one million jobs in India by EFTA countries in the next 15 years in line with the trade deal between them.

C. EFTA is an acronym for European **Free** Trade Association.

20. Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh inaugurated Asia's first health research-related "Pre-clinical Network Facility" under the Coalition of Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) at the

Regional Centre of Biotechnology under the aegis of the “Translational Health Science & Technology Institute” (THSTI), Faridabad. Consider the following statements.

- A. The Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) has selected BRIC-THSTI as a pre-clinical network laboratory based on its capability to handle BSL3 pathogens.
- B. This will be the 4th such network laboratory across the globe and the first such laboratory in the whole of Asia.
- C. Dr Jitendra Singh also inaugurated the 'Genetically Defined Human Associated Microbial Culture Collection (Ge-HuMic) Facility' to act as a repository for providing microbial cultures to research institutes, universities, and industries for research and development.

Which of the statements given above is/are

Correct?

- (1) A,B
- (2) A,C
- (3) A,B,C
- (4) B,C
- (5) B only

Answer key-2

Solution:

- A. The Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) has selected BRIC-THSTI as a pre-clinical network laboratory based on its capability to handle BSL3 pathogens.
- B. It will be the **9th** such network laboratory across the globe and the first such laboratory in the whole of Asia. The other

labs are located in the US, Europe and Australia. The experimental Animal Facility is one of the largest small animal facility in the country with a housing capacity of about 75,000 mice, including immune compromised mice and other species such as rat, rabbit, hamsters, guinea pigs etc.

- C. Dr Jitendra Singh also inaugurated the 'Genetically Defined Human Associated Microbial Culture Collection (Ge-HuMic) Facility' to act as a repository for providing microbial cultures to research institutes, universities, and industries for research and development.

21. Government of India recently informed that they have released the first tranche of USD 2.5 million to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).

Consider the following statements.

- A. The headquarters of United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) is located in Amman, Jordan.
- B. The first tranche is a part of India's annual contribution of USD 5 million for the year 2024-25.
- C. India has provided financial support to the tune of USD 35 million till 2023-24 for UN Agency's core programmes and services, including education, healthcare, relief and social services provided to Palestinian refugees.

Which of the statements given above is/are

Correct?

- (1) A,B
- (2) A,C
- (3) A,B,C

- (4) B,C
(5) B only

Answer key-3

Solution:

Government of India recently informed that they have released the first tranche of USD 2.5 million to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).

A. The headquarters of United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) is located in Amman, Jordan.

B. The first tranche is a part of India's annual contribution of USD 5 million for the year 2024-25.

C. India has provided financial support to the tune of USD 35 million till 2023-24 for UN Agency's core programmes and services, including education, healthcare, relief and social services provided to Palestinian refugees.

22. Justices N Kotiswar Singh & R Mahadevan recently took Oath As Supreme Court Judges. Consider the following statements.

A. Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, previously serving as the Chief Justice of the Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court, will make history as the first judge from Manipur to be appointed to the Supreme Court.

B. Justice R. Mahadevan, was serving as the Acting Chief Justice of the Madras High Court, prior to this appointment.

C. With their appointments, the Supreme Court is back to its full strength of 37 judges.

Which of the statements given above is/are

Incorrect?

- (1) A,B

- (2) A,C
(3) A,B,C
(4) B,C
(5) C only

Answer key-5

Solution: Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, previously serving as the Chief Justice of the Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court, will make history as the first judge from Manipur to be appointed to the Supreme Court.

B. Justice R. Mahadevan, was serving as the Acting Chief Justice of the Madras High Court, prior to this appointment.

C. With their appointments, the Supreme Court is back to its full strength of 34 judges.

23. Bharti Airtel Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Bharti Enterprises, launched a merit-cum-means scholarship programme that will fully fund students in technology-based engineering undergraduate. Consider the following statements.

A. The programme, launched to mark 25 years of the Bharti Airtel Foundation, will begin with 250 students a year, and will reach up to 4,000 students in a phased manner.

B. The scholarship programme is expected to have an annual outlay of ₹100 crore to support students on a rolling basis.

C. It will fully fund students in technology-based engineering undergraduate and integrated courses in top 50 National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) colleges, including the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs).

D. The scholarship will be provided to students whose family income doesn't exceed ₹850,000 a year.

Which of the statements given above is/are

Correct?

- (1) A,B
- (2) A,B,C,D
- (3) A,B,C
- (4) B,C
- (5) C only

Answer key-2

Solution:

A. The programme, launched to mark 25 years of the Bharti Airtel Foundation, will begin with 250 students a year, and will reach up to 4,000 students in a phased manner.

B. The scholarship programme is expected to have an annual outlay of ₹100 crore to support students on a rolling basis.

C. It will fully fund students in technology-based engineering undergraduate and integrated courses in top 50 National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) colleges, including the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs).

D. The scholarship will be provided to students whose family income doesn't exceed ₹850,000 a year.

24. UGC recently launched an initiative to produce 1,000 books in 22 languages over the next five years, totaling 22,000 books in Bharatiya Bhasha. Consider the following statements.

A. The Ministry of Education, University Grants Commission (UGC), and Bharatiya Bhasha Samiti launched three new initiatives to promote Bharatiya Bhasha in higher education.

B. In conjunction with the initiative, the Ministry of Education also launched the 'Bahubhasha Shabdakosh', a comprehensive reference tool for

words in all Indian languages and their meanings.

C. Secretary of Higher Education, Sanjay Murthy, launched '**ASTITVA**' initiative, aimed at enhancing study materials in Indian languages through translation and academic writing.

Which of the statements given above is/are

Correct?

- (1) A,B
- (2) A,B,C
- (3) A,C
- (4) B,C
- (5) C only

Answer key-1

Solution: The Ministry of Education, University Grants Commission (UGC), and Bharatiya Bhasha Samiti launched three new initiatives to promote Bharatiya Bhasha in higher education.

The launch took place during a workshop on 'Writing of Textbooks in Bharatiya Bhasha for Higher Education,' organised by UGC and Bharatiya Bhasha Samiti.

The initiative, titled **ASMITA (Augmenting Study Materials in Indian Languages through Translation and Academic Writing)**, aims to enrich higher education with a robust collection of translated and originally written books in 22 Indian languages.

In conjunction with the ASMITA project, the Ministry of Education also launched the 'Bahubhasha Shabdakosh', a comprehensive reference tool for words in all Indian languages and their meanings.

Developed by the Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL) in collaboration with the Bharatiya Bhasha Samiti, this Shabdakosh aims to facilitate the use of Bharatiya words, phrases,

and sentences across various modern domains like IT, industry, research, and education. Thirteen nodal universities have been identified to lead this massive endeavour, with participation from member universities across various regions. To ensure a streamlined process, the UGC has developed a standard operating procedure (SOP) for the book-writing process in each assigned language.

25. Côte d'Ivoire became the first country to roll-out the new R21/Matrix-M™ vaccine with the first child vaccinated in Abidjan, marking a critical step and historic milestone in the global fight against malaria. Consider the following statements.

- A. Every year 600,000 people die of malaria in Africa, according to the World Health Organization (WHO).
- B. R21/Matrix-M™ was co-developed by the University of Oxford and Serum Institute of India, leveraging Novavax's Matrix-M™ adjuvant technology.
- C. R21 is the second malaria vaccine available in Sub-Saharan Africa following RTS,S.

Which of the statements given above is/are **Correct?**

- (1) A,B
- (2) A,B,C
- (3) A,C
- (4) B,C
- (5) C only

Answer key-2
Solution:

Côte d'Ivoire has become the first country to roll-out the new R21/Matrix-M™ vaccine with the first child vaccinated in Abidjan, marking a critical step and historic milestone in the global fight against malaria.

Every year 600,000 people die of malaria in Africa, according to the World Health Organization (WHO). Children under five years of age make up at least 80% of those deaths. Although the number of malaria-related deaths has fallen from 3,222 in 2017 to 1,316 in 2020 in Côte d'Ivoire, the mosquito-borne disease kills four people a day, mostly small children, and "remains the leading cause of medical consultations, according to the Ministry of Health.

R21/Matrix-M™ was co-developed by the University of Oxford and Serum Institute of India, leveraging Novavax's Matrix-M™ adjuvant technology. In December 2023, the WHO granted R21/Matrix-M™ prequalification status, following a rigorous regulatory process and clinical assessment. Trials also demonstrated that the vaccine was well tolerated, with a good safety profile, with injection site pain and fever as the most frequent adverse events.

26. The recent analysis report of employment data for the pandemic year 2020-21 has revealed significant increases in employment within agriculture and allied activities, construction, health, and social welfare. Consider the following statements.

- A. This report, which measures productivity across 27 sectors, has sparked debate due to the unexpected rise in employment during a year marked by severe economic downturns, resulting from COVID-19.

B. There was an 18.5 million increase in employment in agriculture and allied services, while the construction sector saw a 4.8 million rise. These figures align with the real gross value added (GVA) in agriculture, which grew by 4%, against an overall GVA contraction of 4.1%.

C. The report has been released by Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE).

Which of the statements given above is/are

Correct?

- (1) A,B
- (2) A,B,C
- (3) A,C
- (4) B,C
- (5) C only

Answer key-1

Solution:

The **Reserve Bank of India's (RBI)** recent analysis of employment data for the pandemic year 2020-21 has revealed significant increases in employment within agriculture and allied activities, construction, health, and social welfare. This report, which measures productivity across 27 sectors, has sparked debate due to the unexpected rise in employment during a year marked by severe economic downturns, resulting from COVID-19. According to RBI's report released last week, there was an 18.5 million increase in employment in agriculture and allied services, while the construction sector saw a 4.8 million rise. These figures align with the real gross value added (GVA) in agriculture, which grew by 4%, against an overall GVA contraction of 4.1%.

27. Spain clinched the European Championship title as the La Roja beat England 2-1 in the Euro 2024 final. Nico

Williams and Mikel Oyarzabal scored defining second half goals for Spain.

Consider the following statements.

A., Rodri was named the Euro 2024 Young Player of the Tournament.

B. Spain midfielder Lamine Yamal was named the best player of Euro 2024.

C. Germany hosted the 2024 European Championship.

D. This was Spain's 4th EURO title.

Which of the statements given above is/are Correct?

- (1) A,B,D
- (2) A,B,C
- (3) A,C,D
- (4) B,C
- (5) C,D

Answer key-5

Solution:

Spain clinched the European Championship title for a record fourth time as the La Roja beat England 2-1 in the Euro 2024 final at the Olympiastadion in Berlin. Nico Williams and Mikel Oyarzabal scored defining second half goals for Spain.

- Lamine Yamal, was named the Euro 2024 Young Player of the Tournament.
- Spain midfielder Rodri was named the best player of Euro 2024.
- Germany hosted the 2024 European Championship.

28. The '2024 Digital Economy Report: Shaping an environmentally sustainable and inclusive digital future' was released recently. Consider the following statements.

A. India saw the highest 163 per cent growth globally in generating electronic waste from screens, computers, and small IT and telecommunication equipment (SCSIT) between 2010 and 2022.

B. The data was as per the NITI Aayog's report.

C. The '2024 Digital Economy Report: Shaping an environmentally sustainable and inclusive digital future' notes that India doubled its share in SCSIT waste generation in the world from 3.1 per cent in 2010 to 6.4 per cent in 2022.

D. The report states that developing countries in Asia generated most of such waste in 2022, with India contributing almost half of it.

Which of the statements given above is/are **Correct**?

- (1) A,C
- (2) A,B,C,D
- (3) A,C,D
- (4) B,C
- (5) C only

Answer key-1

Solution:

India saw the highest 163 per cent growth globally in generating electronic waste from screens, computers, and small IT and telecommunication equipment (SCSIT) between 2010 and 2022, according to a United Nations Trade and Development (Unctad) report.

The '2024 Digital Economy Report: Shaping an environmentally sustainable and inclusive digital future' notes that India doubled its share in SCSIT waste generation in the world from 3.1 per cent in 2010 to 6.4 per cent in 2022. The report states that developing countries in Asia generated most of such waste in 2022, with China contributing almost half of it.

29. Operating in a 7000+ sq ft area in Noida, the hub will feature space for labs, collaborative workspaces, and critical shared resources to scale DeepTech startups. Consider the following statements.

- A. 8X Ventures joined hands with Arctic Invent, and SanchiConnect to launch India's first privately managed DeepTech Innovation Hub.
- B. Deep tech, or deep technology, refers to those startups whose business model is based on high-tech innovation in engineering, or significant scientific advances.
- C. According to a report published by Nasscom titled 'India's deep tech Dawn: Forging Ahead', India currently has 3600+ deep tech startups, out of which 480 were established in 2023 itself, nearly 2X more than the number of deep tech startups in 2022.

Which of the above given statements is/are **Correct**?

- (1) A,B,C
- (2) B,C
- (3) C only
- (4) A,B
- (5) A only

Answer key- 1

Solution:

8X Ventures joined hands with Arctic Invent, and SanchiConnect to launch India's first privately managed DeepTech Innovation Hub.

The hub aims to collectively mobilise \$100 Million by bringing together members of the DeepTech ecosystem who have graduated from their incubation centres but continue to need support from the ecosystem to make their dreams a reality.

Operating in a 7000+ sq ft area in Noida, the hub will feature space for labs, collaborative workspaces, critical shared resources to scale DeepTech startups, and exclusive access to industry-leading mentors and experts. Deep tech, or deep technology, refers to those startups whose business model is based on high-tech innovation in engineering, or significant scientific advances.

30. Cote d'Ivoire recently joined the United Nations Water Convention to enhance cooperative water management across borders in response to growing water stress and the effects of climate change on the water resources it shares with its neighbours. Consider the following statements.
- Ivory Coast joined the United Nations Water Convention, becoming the 10th African nation to do so.
 - Cote d'Ivoire is now the 53rd Party (country) to the 1992 UN Water Convention, which is also known as the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes.
 - Ivory Coast shares eight transboundary river basins (Black Volta, Bia, Tanoe, Comoe, Niger, Sassandra, Cavally et Nuon) with six of its neighbours, which include Ghana, Burkina Faso, Mali, Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone.

Which of the above given statements is/are Correct?

- (1) A,B,C
- (2) B,C
- (3) C only
- (4) A,B
- (5) A only

Answer key- 1

Solution:

- Cote d'Ivoire joined the United Nations Water Convention, becoming the 10th African nation to do so.
- Cote d'Ivoire is now the 53rd Party (country) to the 1992 UN Water Convention, which is also known as the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes.
- Ivory Coast shares eight transboundary river basins (Black Volta, Bia, Tanoe, Comoe, Niger, Sassandra, Cavally et Nuon) with six of its neighbours, which include Ghana, Burkina Faso, Mali, Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone.

In September 2021, the UN Water Convention supported the agreement to establish a legal and institutional framework for cooperation between Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritania, and Senegal on the management of the Senegal-Mauritania Aquifer Basin. In fact, 20 more countries across the world are in the process of joining, the majority of which are in Africa. These include Botswana, which is in the process of joining the water convention confirmed UNECE in October 2023.

31. The report pointed out that updating the estimates of natural rate of interest for India with post-pandemic data, the study found an upward shift driven by growth of potential output. Consider the following statements.

- A. A Reserve Bank of India (RBI) study has estimated the neutral rate of interest in India between 1.4 per cent and 1.9 per cent for Q4FY24.
- B. The RBI study clarified that the estimate on neutral or natural rate is centred in wide bands of uncertainty, warranting careful interpretation in the assessment of the monetary policy stance.
- C. The report is authored by Harendra Kumar Behera from the Department of Economic and Policy Research (DEPR), RBI.

Which of the above given statements is/are Correct?

- (1) A,B,C
- (2) B,C
- (3) C,D
- (4) A,B
- (5) A only

Answer key- 1

Solution:

A. A Reserve Bank of India (RBI) study has estimated the neutral rate of interest in India between 1.4 per cent and 1.9 per cent for Q4FY24.

B. The RBI study clarified that the estimate on neutral or natural rate is centred in wide bands of uncertainty, warranting careful interpretation in the assessment of the monetary policy stance.

C. The report is authored by Harendra Kumar Behera from the Department of Economic and Policy Research (DEPR), RBI.

32. A committee has been established by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to examine the white-label ATM (WLA) charge structure. According to those with knowledge of the development, this committee will assess the current policies and procedures with the goal of recommending a just and sustainable model that balances the interests of all stakeholders.

Consider the following statements.

- A. The committee will present its findings to deputy governor T Rabi Sankar.
- B. There are currently four authorized non-bank companies in the nation running white-label ATMs.
- C. The committee will be led by Indian Banks' Association CEO Sunil Mehta.
- D. The RBI permitted non-banking entities established under the entities Act to establish, own, and run ATMs known as WLAs in 2019.

Which of the above given statements is/are Correct?

- (1) A,B,C
- (2) B,C
- (3) C,D
- (4) A,B,C,D
- (5) A only

Answer key- 1

Solution:

A committee has been established by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to examine the white-label ATM (WLA) charge structure.

According to those with knowledge of the development, this committee will assess the current policies and procedures with the goal of recommending a just and sustainable model that balances the interests of all stakeholders.

- A. The committee will present its findings to deputy governor T Rabi Sankar.
- B. There are currently four authorized non-bank companies in the nation running white-label ATMs.
- C. The committee will be led by Indian Banks' Association CEO Sunil Mehta.
- D. The RBI permitted non-banking entities established under the entities Act to establish, own, and run ATMs known as WLAs in 2012.

The goal of this initiative was to increase the number of ATMs in the nation. In order to overcome the limitations on cash sourcing, it permitted white-label ATM operators (WLAOs) to obtain cash from retail establishments in 2016. The regulator permitted WLAs to have on-tap authorization in 2019.

A committee appointed by the RBI in 2019 to examine the ATM interchange fee structure also suggested that the RBI examine interchange and customer ATM usage fees at predetermined intervals.

33. A comprehensive Kearney-Amazon Pay study shows customers and merchants choose online payments for increased convenience, greater trust, improved safety, and their transaction tracking abilities. Consider the following statements.

- A. Per the report, 90 per cent of respondents favour digital payments for online purchases while nearly 50 per cent extend this preference to brick-and-mortar stores.
- B. Indian merchants have too adapted with a substantial 69 per cent of their transactions now conducted through digital channels.
- C. Per the findings of the survey, consumers in small towns highlighted that 65 per cent of their payment transactions are digital while consumers in larger cities cited this ratio to be approximately 75 per cent.

Which of the statements given above is/are **Correct?**

- (1) A,B
- (2) A,C
- (3) A,B,C
- (4) B,C
- (5) B only

Answer key-3

Solution:

Even as digital payment methods such as Unified Payments Interface (UPI) grow in popularity, there continues to be a strong preference to transact using cash for small ticket transactions less than Rs 500, a survey shows.

The preference for UPI remains strong for transaction values between Rs 500 and Rs 1,999, with about 47 per cent of individuals preferring the payment method for such transactions, a joint survey by Kearney India and Amazon Pay India's How Urban India Pays report said.

- A. Per the report, 90 per cent of respondents favour digital payments for online purchases while nearly 50 per cent extend this preference to brick-and-mortar stores.
- B. Indian merchants have too adapted with a substantial 69 per cent of their transactions now conducted through digital channels.
- C. Per the findings of the survey, consumers in small towns highlighted that 65 per cent of their payment transactions are digital while consumers in larger cities cited this ratio to be approximately 75 per cent.
- UPI continues to have a strong preference in online channels with about 53 per cent of individuals preferring to use the product.

34. The quarterly "order books, inventories and capacity utilisation" survey of companies in the manufacturing sector was recently launched. Consider the following statements.

A: The RBI has been conducting the order books, inventories and capacity utilisation survey (OBICUS) of the manufacturing sector on a quarterly basis since 2008.

B: The information collected in the survey includes quantitative data on new orders received during the reference quarter (April-June 2024), backlog of orders at the beginning of the quarter, pending orders at the end of the quarter, total inventories with a breakup between finished goods, work-in-progress and raw material inventories at the end of the quarter.

C: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced the launch of quarterly "order books, inventories and capacity utilisation.

- (1) A,B
(2) A,C
(3) A,B,C
(4) B,C,
(5) B only

Answer key-3

Solution:

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced the launch of quarterly "order books, inventories and capacity utilisation" survey of companies in the manufacturing sector -- a key input it uses to formulate the monetary policy.

The RBI has been conducting the order books, inventories and capacity utilisation survey (OBICUS) of the manufacturing sector on a quarterly basis since 2008.

The information collected in the survey includes quantitative data on new orders received during the reference quarter (April-June 2024), backlog of orders at the beginning of the quarter, pending orders at the end of the quarter, total inventories with a breakup between finished goods, work-in-progress and raw material inventories at the end of the quarter.

35. In July 2024, The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) announced new guidelines for the implementation of Green Hydrogen production under the Strategic Interventions for Green Hydrogen Transition (SIGHT) Programme – Component II: Incentive Scheme for Green Hydrogen Production (Mode 1) – Tranche-II. Consider the following statements.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

A: This tranche aims to produce 450,000 tons per annum (TPA) of Green Hydrogen.
 B: The Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA) will oversee the implementation of this tranche.
 C: The National Green Hydrogen Mission, launched on January 4, 2023, with a budget of Rs. 19,744 crores up to FY 2029-30, aims to position India as a leader in Green Hydrogen production.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (1) A,B
- (2) A,C
- (3) A,B,C
- (4) B,C,
- (5) B only

Answer key- 2

Solution:

The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) announced new guidelines for the implementation of Green Hydrogen production under the Strategic Interventions for Green Hydrogen Transition (SIGHT) Programme – Component II: Incentive Scheme for Green Hydrogen Production (Mode 1) – Tranche-II. Notified on July 3, 2024, this tranche aims to produce 450,000 tons per annum (TPA) of Green Hydrogen. Of this, 40,000 TPA is earmarked for biomass-based pathways (bucket-II), while the remainder will utilize technology-agnostic pathways (bucket-I).

The Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) will oversee the implementation of this tranche. The upcoming Request for Selection (RfS) from SECI will initiate the bidding process. The bidding will focus on the least average incentive quoted by

bidders. Under bucket-I, the minimum bid is set at 10,000 TPA and the maximum at 90,000 TPA. For bucket-II, the minimum and maximum bids are 500 TPA and 4,000 TPA, respectively. Bidders can participate in either or both buckets, but no single bidder will be allocated more than 90,000 TPA in this tranche.

36. India is set to host the Malabar naval exercise in October 2024, focusing on advanced anti-submarine warfare. Consider the following statements regarding the same.

- A. India is gearing up to host the prestigious Malabar naval exercise alongside the United States, Japan, and Australia in the Bay of Bengal.
- B. The 26th edition of the Malabar exercise, will have a major focus on advanced anti-submarine warfare
- C. Originating as a bilateral initiative between India and the US in 1992, the Malabar exercise has since evolved into a multinational endeavor with Japan and Australia as regular participants.

Which of the statements given above is/are **Correct**?

- (1) A,B
- (2) A,C
- (3) A,B,C
- (4) B,C
- (5) B only

Answer key-2

Solution:

India is gearing up to host the prestigious Malabar naval exercise alongside the United States, Japan, and Australia in the Bay of Bengal this October. The decision comes amidst escalating regional tensions fueled by China's assertive actions in the South China Sea and its expanding footprint across the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).

The 28th edition of the Malabar exercise, with a major focus on advanced anti-submarine warfare, will be conducted on India's eastern seaboard in October to further enhance military interoperability among the four countries.

37. Gujarat registered a 55 per cent (\$ 2.6 billion) increase in the FDI inflow during the fiscal year 2023-24 over FY 2022-23, according to data released by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT). Consider the following statements.
- A. With a total FDI inflow of USD 15.1 billion in 2024, Uttar Pradesh occupies the top spot followed by Gujarat.
 - B. Karnataka, Delhi and Telangana are on the third, fourth and fifth spots respectively.
 - C. Gujarat has shown a consistent growth in attracting FDI for three consecutive financial years by securing investments of USD 2.7 billion in FY2022, USD 4.7 billion in FY2023 and USD 7.3 billion in FY2024.

Which of the statements given above is/are Correct?

- (1) A,B
- (2) A,C
- (3) A,B,C
- (4) B,C

(5) B only

Answer key-4

Solution:

With a total FDI inflow of USD 15.1 billion in 2024, Maharashtra occupies the top spot followed by Gujarat with USD 7.3 billion. Karnataka, Delhi and Telangana are on the third, fourth and fifth spots respectively with the FDI inflows of USD 6.6 billion, USD 6.5 billion and USD 3 billion. Aligned with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of Viksit Bharat, Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel has enacted numerous industry-friendly policies and decisions, leading to significant positive outcomes in the state. Gujarat has shown a consistent growth in attracting FDI for three consecutive financial years by securing investments of USD 2.7 billion in FY2022, USD 4.7 billion in FY2023 and USD 7.3 billion in FY2024.

38. The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) announced the flag-bearers for India at the Paris 2024 Olympics opening ceremony & Chef-de-Mission of India's Paris 2024 Olympics contingent. Consider the following statements.
- A. Olympic medallist Gagan Narang replaced boxing legend Mary Kom as the Chef-de-Mission of India's Paris 2024 Olympics contingent.
 - B. Two-time Olympic medallist badminton ace PV Sindhu and Neeraj Chopra will be the flag-bearers for India at the Paris 2024 Olympics opening ceremony.
 - C. At Tokyo 2020, Mary Kom and Manpreet Singh were India's flag-bearers.

Which of the statements given above is/are Correct?

- (1) A,B
- (2) A,C
- (3) A,B,C
- (4) B,C
- (5) B only

Answer key-2

Solution:

Two-time Olympic medallist badminton ace PV Sindhu and 13-time Commonwealth Games medallist table tennis veteran Sharath Kamal will be the flag-bearers for India at the Paris 2024 Olympics opening ceremony.

Olympic medallist Gagan Narang replaced boxing legend Mary Kom as the Chef-de-Mission of India's Paris 2024 Olympics contingent, the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) announced.

As a mark of gender equality, the Paris 2024 Olympics will be the second successive Summer Games where India will have two flag-bearers. At Tokyo 2020, Mary Kom and Manpreet Singh were India's flag-bearers.

39. The country added 4.67 crore jobs in FY24. Presently, there are 64.33 crore provisional jobs, up from 59.67 crore in FY23, according to Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Measuring Productivity at Industrial Level-The India KLEMS (capital, labour, energy, material, services) data. Consider the following statements.

A: India's employment grew by 12% in FY24 from 3.2% in FY23, according to the RBI data.

B: According to the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) data, the unemployment rate rose to 9.2% in June from 7% in May.

C: Unemployment rate rose to 8% in FY24 from 7.5% and 7.7% in the preceding 2 years.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (1) A,B
- (2) A,C
- (3) A,B,C
- (4) B,C
- (5) B only

Answer key-4

Solution:

The country added 4.67 crore jobs in FY24. Presently, there are 64.33 crore provisional jobs, up from 59.67 crore in FY23, according to Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Measuring Productivity at Industrial Level-The India KLEMS (capital, labour, energy, material, services) data. Consider the following statements.

A: India's employment grew by 6% in FY24 from 3.2% in FY23, according to the RBI data.

B: According to the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) data, the unemployment rate rose to 9.2% in June from 7% in May.

C: Unemployment rate rose to 8% in FY24 from 7.5% and 7.7% in the preceding 2 years.

40. The State Bank of India, the largest lender in India, in July 2024 achieved a significant milestone with an infrastructure bond issuance. Consider the following statements.

- A. SBI raised ₹10,000 Crore at a coupon rate of 7.36%.
- B. It was SBI's sixth infrastructure bond.
- C. The instrument is rated AAA, with a stable outlook.

Which of the statements given above is/are **Incorrect**?

Answer key-5

Solution:

All the statements are correct.

The State Bank of India, the largest lender in India, has achieved a significant milestone with its sixth infrastructure bond issuance, raising Rs 10,000 crore at a coupon rate of 7.36%. The issuance, aimed at enhancing long-term resources for infrastructure and affordable housing segments, garnered immense investor interest. The issue, which was oversubscribed by approximately 3.6 times against its base size of Rs 5,000 crore, received bids totalling Rs 18,145 crore from a diverse range of investors, including provident funds, pension funds, insurance companies, mutual funds, and corporates.

41. The Sixteenth Finance Commission has set up a advisory council to advise the Commission on the Terms of Reference (ToR), assist in the preparation of research papers and help broaden the Commission's ambit. Consider the following statements.

- i. It will be headed by Poonam Gupta, Director General of the National

Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER)

- ii. Arvind Panagariya is one of the member of the above mentioned advisory council.
- iii. It is a five-member advisory council.

Which of the above statements is/are Correct?

- (1) i,iii
- (2) ii only
- (3) ii,iii
- (4) Only iii
- (5) i,ii,iii

Answer key-1

Solution:

The Sixteenth Finance Commission, headed by Arvind Panagariya, has set up a five-member advisory council to advise the Commission on the Terms of Reference (ToR), assist in the preparation of research papers and help broaden the Commission's ambit, a statement by the Finance Ministry said.

The convenor of the five-member panel would be Poonam Gupta, Director General of the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) and part-time member of Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM).

Other members of the panel are EY's Chief Policy Advisor DK Srivastava, Axis Bank's Chief Economist Neelkanth Mishra, who is also part-time Chairperson of Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) and part-time member of EAC-PM. HSBC's Chief India Economist Pranjul Bhandari and Rahul Bajoria, Bank of America head of India and ASEAN economic research, are the other members of the council, the statement said.

42. At the current position, Ireland boasted an AUC of Rs 4.41 trillion, slightly more than Mauritius, which recorded an AUC of Rs 4.39 trillion by the end of June 2024.

Consider the following statements.

A: This is as per the data from the National Securities Depository (NSDL).

B: Mauritius, once among the leading destinations for foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) routing funds into India, has now slipped to the second position, behind Ireland, in terms of as of June 30.

C: AUC which stands for Assets under capital is a measure of the total value of all financial assets which a custodian manage on behalf of its clients.

Which of the above statements is/ are **Incorrect**?

- (1) A,B
- (2) Only C
- (3) A,B,C
- (4) B,C
- (5) B only

Answer key-4

Solution:

At the **FOURTH** position, Ireland boasted an AUC of Rs 4.41 trillion, slightly more than Mauritius, which recorded an AUC of Rs 4.39 trillion by the end of June 2024. Consider the following statements.

A: This is as per the data from the National Securities Depository (NSDL).

B: Mauritius, once among the leading destinations for foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) routing funds into India, has now slipped to the **Fifth position**, behind Ireland, in terms of as of June 30.

C: AUC which stands for **Assets under custody** is a measure of the total value of all financial assets which a custodian manage on behalf of its clients.

In March, the governments of Mauritius and India signed a deal to amend the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA). Mauritius aligned its norms with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's (OECD)'s proposal on base erosion and profit shifting (BEPS). BEPS is a term used to describe tax avoidance strategies used by entities to reduce their tax bases.

43. NPCI International Payments (NIPL), the international arm of the payment system NPCI, in July 2024 signed an agreement with a West Asian country to launch QR-code-based UPI payments. Consider the following statements.

- A. NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL), the international arm of the payments organisation, has signed an agreement with Central Bank of the Republic of Azerbaijan.
- B. Notably, UPI can only be used if the user has an account in an Indian bank.
- C. UPI was launched in 2016 as a real-time payment system that allows users to link multiple bank accounts using a compatible mobile app and make payments using it.

Which of the statements given above is/are **Incorrect**?

- (1) A only
- (2) A,B
- (3) B,C
- (4) C only
- (5) None of these

Answer key-2

Solution:

NPCI International Payments (NIPL), the international arm of the payment system NPCI, signed an agreement with Qatar National Bank (QNB) to launch QR-code-based UPI payments across the West Asian country.

The partnership will power UPI (Unified Payments Interface) payment acceptance in Qatar through the QNB merchant network, enabling Indian travellers to transact on the payments service.

NIPL further highlighted that using UPI as a payment method will also cut down on traveller's time as it is both faster and more convenient than traditional options. Notably, UPI can only be used if the user has an account in an Indian bank.

44. The FI-Index has been constructed without any 'base year' and as such it reflects cumulative efforts of all stakeholders over the years towards financial inclusion. Consider the following statements.

- i. The index captures information on various aspects of financial inclusion in a single value ranging between 0 and 100, where 0 represents complete financial exclusion and 100 indicates full financial inclusion.

- ii. The Financial Inclusion Index (FI-Index), which captures the extent of financial inclusion across the country, stood at 76.2 in March 2024 from 60.1 in March 2023, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said.
- iii. The FI-Index comprises of three broad parameters Access (having a weight of 35 per cent in the index), Usage (weight 45 per cent), and Quality (weight 20 per cent) with each of these consisting of various dimensions, which are computed based on a number of indicators.
- iv. The FI-Index is published annually in July every year.
- v. The Index is responsive to ease of access, availability and usage of services, and quality of services, comprising in all 97 indicators.

Which of the statements given above is/are **Correct?**

- (1) i,iii only
- (2) ii only
- (3) ii,iii,iv only
- (4) i,iii,iv,v
- (5) i,ii,iii,iv,v

Answer key- 4

Solution:

The FI-Index has been constructed without any 'base year' and as such it reflects cumulative efforts of all stakeholders over the years towards financial inclusion.

- i. The index captures information on various aspects of financial inclusion in a single value ranging between 0 and 100, where 0

represents complete financial exclusion and 100 indicates full financial inclusion.

ii. The Financial Inclusion Index (FI-Index), which captures the extent of financial inclusion across the country, stood at 64.2 in March 2024 from 60.1 in March 2023, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said.

iii. The FI-Index comprises of three broad parameters Access (having a weight of 35 per cent in the index), Usage (weight 45 per cent), and Quality (weight 20 per cent) with each of these consisting of various dimensions, which are computed based on a number of indicators.

iv. The FI-Index is published annually in July every year.

v. The Index is responsive to ease of access, availability and usage of services, and quality of services, comprising in all 97 indicators.

45. Government should look into the fault lines in the IBC (Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016) set-up to reduce the time taken for the corporate insolvency resolution process, as per a recent newspapers report.

Consider the following statements.

- I. The report was released by State Bank of India's economic research department (ERD).
- II. The time taken to reach resolution is 756 days instead of the stated 330 days.
- III. Recoveries through IBC in FY24 were 32 per cent (of admitted claims), and financial creditors lost 68 per cent of their claims.

Which of the statements given above is/are

Correct?

- (1) I,II
- (2) II only
- (3) III only
- (4) I and III
- (5) None of these

Answer key-4

Solution:

The Government should look into the fault lines in the IBC (Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016) set-up to reduce the time taken for the corporate insolvency resolution process, according to a report by State Bank of India's economic research department (ERD).

"Recoveries through IBC in FY24 were 32 per cent (of admitted claims), and financial creditors lost 68 per cent of their claims. **The time taken to reach resolution is 863 days instead of the stated 330 days,**" per the ERD's report.

46. The Colombo Security Conclave (CSC) is a regional security grouping which officially welcomed Bangladesh as its fifth member state, recently. Consider the following statements.
 - A. The Colombo Security Conclave was established in 2020, when India, Sri Lanka and the Maldives agreed to expand the scope of their trilateral meeting on maritime cooperation.
 - B. Mauritius joined the conclave at the sixth meeting of the grouping in Male in March 2022

- C. This announcement came during the 8th Deputy National Security Adviser (DNSA) level meeting, hosted virtually by Mauritius.
- D. The existing members of CSC are – India, Sri Lanka, Mauritius, and the Maldives

Which of the statements given above is/are **Correct**?

- (1) A,C,D
(2) A,B
(3) A,B,C,D
(4) A only
(5) B,C,D

Answer key-1

Solution:

The Colombo Security Conclave (CSC), a regional security grouping, officially welcomed Bangladesh as its fifth member state. The announcement came during the 8th Deputy National Security Adviser (DNSA) level meeting, hosted virtually by Mauritius. The existing members – **India, Sri Lanka, Mauritius, and the Maldives** – warmly received **Bangladesh** into the fold, while Seychelles participated as an observer state.

The Colombo Security Conclave was established in 2020, when India, Sri Lanka and the Maldives agreed to expand the scope of their trilateral

meeting on maritime cooperation. Mauritius joined the conclave at the **fifth meeting** of the grouping in Male in March 2022.

47. According to the NITI Aayog's SDG India Index 2023-24, India's overall Sustainable Development Goal score increased to 71 in 2023-24, compared to 66 in 2020-21. Consider the following statements.
- A. Kerala has retained its position as the top performer in the NITI Aayog's Sustainable Development Index 2023-24. Uttarakhand, with an exact score of 79, also topped the index.
- B. Among states, the joint top performers are followed by Tamil Nadu (78) and Goa (77).
- C. The index shows that, India's overall score is below 50 only on the 'Goal 5' (gender equality).
- D. The fourth edition of SDG India Index measured and tracked national progress of all states and UTs on 169 indicators.

Which of the statements given above is/are **Correct**?

- (1) A,B
(2) B,C
(3) C,D
(4) A,C,D
(5) A,B,C

Answer key-5

Solution:

According to the NITI Aayog's SDG India Index 2023-24, India's overall Sustainable Development Goal score increased to 71 in 2023-24, compared to 66 in 2020-21.

- A. Kerala has retained its position as the top performer in the NITI Aayog's Sustainable Development Index 2023-24. Uttarakhand, with an exact score of 79, also topped the index.
- B. Among states, the joint top performers are followed by Tamil Nadu (78) and Goa (77).
- C. The index shows that, India's overall score is below 50 only on the 'Goal 5' (gender equality).
- D. The fourth edition of SDG India Index measured and tracked national progress of all states and UTs on 113 indicators.

48. The first mothership carrying cargo from Xiamen Port in China arrived at India's first deep-water container transshipment port. Consider the following statements.

- A. The first mothership carrying cargo from Xiamen Port in China arrived at the Vizhinjam international seaport.
- B. The Marshall Island-flagged container ship San Fernando is owned by SFL Corporation Ltd., chartered by Maersk (AP Moller Group), Denmark, and managed by Bernhard Schulte Ship Management, Singapore (BSM).
- C. India's first deep-water container transshipment port is a major infrastructure initiative promoted by the Kerala government in partnership with the Adani Group through a public-private partnership (PPP) model, which began on 5 December 2015.

Which of the statements given above is/are **Correct?**

- (1) A,B
(2) B,C
(3) C only
(4) B only
(5) A,B,C

Answer key-5

Solution:

In a landmark event for India's maritime history, the first mothership carrying cargo from Xiamen Port in China arrived at the **Vizhinjam international seaport**, India's first deep-water container transshipment port, on the morning of 11 July.

The Marshall Island-flagged container ship San Fernando, owned by SFL Corporation Ltd., chartered by Maersk (AP Moller Group), Denmark, and managed by Bernhard Schulte Ship Management, Singapore (BSM), reached the coast of Vizhinjam.

India's first deep-water container transshipment port is a major infrastructure initiative promoted by the Kerala government in partnership with the Adani Group through a public-private partnership (PPP) model, which began on 5 December 2015.

49. The Reserve Bank of India said it has joined "Project Nexus", a multilateral international initiative to enable instant cross-border retail payments by interlinking domestic Fast Payments Systems (FPSs).

A: Nexus has been conceptualised by the Innovation Hub of the Bank for International Settlements (BIS).



B: Indonesia, which has been involved from the early stages, continues to be involved as a special observer.

C: It aims to connect the FPSs of four ASEAN countries (Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand); and India.

D: India would be the founding members and first mover countries of this platform.

Which of the above statements is/are **Incorrect**?

- (1) None of the above
- (2) A only
- (3) B only
- (4) A,C,D
- (5) A,B

Answer key-1

Solution:

The Reserve Bank of India said it has joined "Project Nexus", a multilateral international initiative to enable instant cross-border retail payments by interlinking domestic Fast Payments Systems (FPSs).

A: Nexus has been conceptualised by the Innovation Hub of the Bank for International Settlements (BIS).

B: Indonesia, which has been involved from the early stages, continues to be involved as a special observer.

C: It aims to connect the FPSs of four ASEAN countries (Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand); and India.

D: India would be the founding members and first mover countries of this platform.

50. The Union Ministry has reconstituted the Advisory Committee on National Account Statistics to review the base year for calculating key macroeconomic data. Consider the following statements.

- I: Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has reconstituted this committee.
- II: The data under review will include gross domestic product, consumer price index, wholesale price index, index of industrial production, and producer price index.
- III: The newly reconstituted ACNAS will be led by Biswanath Goldar, a former professor at the Institute of Economic Growth, as chairman.

Which of the above statements is/are Correct?

- (1) Only III
- (2) Only I
- (3) I,II and III
- (4) I,II
- (5) None of these

Answer key-3

Solution:

The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation has reconstituted the Advisory Committee on National Account Statistics to review the base year for calculating key macroeconomic data. The announcement was made through a gazette notification. The data under review will include gross domestic product, consumer price index, wholesale price index, index of industrial production, and producer price index. After such a review, the ACNAS will make recommendations to MoSPI for implementation. The newly reconstituted ACNAS

will be led by Biswanath Goldar, a former professor at the Institute of Economic Growth, as chairman. It will consist of 25 other members, which will include professors from various institutes as well as representatives from Niti Aayog, MoSPI.

B: Developed by Economic Explosives Limited (EEL) under the Make in India initiative, SEBEX 2 utilizes a high-melting explosive (HMX) composition.

C: SEBEX 2 has been evaluated, tested and certified by the Navy under its Defence Export Promotion Scheme.

51. SEBEX 2 has been introduced, a high-performance explosive with a TNT equivalence of 2.01. Consider the following statements.

A: India has introduced SEBEX 2, a high-performance explosive with a TNT equivalence of 2.01.

B: Developed by HAL under the Make in India initiative, SEBEX 2 utilizes a high-melting explosive (HMX) composition.

C: SEBEX 2 has been evaluated, tested and certified by the Navy under its Defence Export Promotion Scheme.

Which of the above statements is/are Correct?

- (1) Only C
- (2) Only B
- (3) Only A
- (4) A,B,C
- (5) A,C

Answer key-4

Solution:

SEBEX 2 has been introduced, a high-performance explosive with a TNT equivalence of 2.01. Consider the following statements.

A: India has introduced SEBEX 2, a high-performance explosive with a TNT equivalence of 2.01.

52. From July 1, the Reserve Bank of India has tweaked the repayment of credit card outstanding amount. Consider the following statements.

A: RBI stated that all credit card bill payments via third-party applications must be routed through the Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS).

B: Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS), which is being managed by the Reserve Bank of India

C: Credit card holders from major banks, such as HDFC Bank and Axis Bank, can no longer have the option to settle their bills using third-party applications like PhonePe, Amazon Pay, and Paytm.

Which of the above statements is/are **Incorrect**?

- (1) None of the above
- (2) A only
- (3) B only
- (4) A,C,D
- (5) A,B

Answer key-2

Solution:

A: RBI stated that all credit card bill payments via third-party applications must be routed through the Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS).

B: Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS), which is being managed by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).

C: Credit card holders from major banks, such as HDFC Bank and Axis Bank, can no longer have the option to settle their bills using third-party applications like PhonePe, Amazon Pay, and Paytm.

53. In July 2024 the regulator amended its regulations to allow equity-oriented Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs) and index funds to invest more in the listed securities of their sponsors' group companies. Consider the following statements.

- A. The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority amended its regulations to allow equity-oriented Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs) and index funds to invest more in the listed securities of their sponsors' group companies.
- B. Previously, mutual fund schemes were not permitted to invest more than 25 per cent of their net asset value (NAV) in the group companies of their sponsor.
- C. The new regulation permits equity-oriented ETFs and index funds to invest in listed securities of sponsor group companies in line with their weightage in the underlying index, subject to an overall cap of 35 per cent of net assets.

Which of the above statements is/are Correct?

- (1) B,C
- (2) A,B
- (3) A,C

(4) Only C

(5) Only B

Answer key-1

Solution-

SEBI amended mutual fund rules to create a more level playing field for asset management companies (AMCs). The new regulation permits equity-oriented ETFs and index funds to invest in listed securities of sponsor group companies in line with their weightage in the underlying index, subject to an overall cap of 35 per cent of net assets.

Previously, mutual fund schemes were not permitted to invest more than 25 per cent of their net asset value (NAV) in the group companies of their sponsor. This restriction has now been relaxed for passive funds tracking widely followed, non-bespoke indices.

54. The "WIPO Patent Landscape Report on Generative AI" documents 54,000 GenAI inventions in the decade through 2023, with more than 25% of them emerging in the last year alone. Consider the following statements.

- A. China-based inventors are filing the highest number of generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) patents.
- B. US, Republic of Korea, Japan and India comprise the rest of the top five locations.
- C. GenAI allows users to create content including text, images, music and computer code, powering a range of industrial and consumer products including chatbots such as ChatGPT, Google Gemini or Baidu's ERNIE.

Which of the above statements is/are **Correct**?

- (1) A,B
- (2) B,C
- (3) A,C
- (4) A,B,C
- (5) Only C

Answer key-4

Solution:

China-based inventors are filing the highest number of generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) patents, far outpacing inventors in the US, Republic of Korea, Japan and India that comprise the rest of the top five locations, a new WIPO report showed.

The “WIPO Patent Landscape Report on Generative AI” documents 54,000 GenAI inventions in the decade through 2023, with more than 25% of them emerging in the last year alone.

GenAI allows users to create content including text, images, music and computer code, powering a range of industrial and consumer products including chatbots such as ChatGPT, Google Gemini or Baidu’s ERNIE.

55. Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) of India announced the launch of 'Jeevan Samarth', an initiative aimed at transforming the agency ecosystem. Consider the following statements.

- I. To achieve this, LIC has partnered with Bain & Company, a global consulting firm, which will undertake this agency transformation project by reviewing its existing agency framework on an end-to-end basis.
- II. Under the “Jeevan Samarth” project, LIC aims to future-proof its entire 14 lakh agent workforce to meet the rapidly evolving needs of customers.
- III. Current CEO & MD OF LIC is Siddharth Mohanty.

Which of the above statements is/are **Correct**?

- (1) I,II
- (2) II,III
- (3) Only II
- (4) Only III
- (5) None of these

Answer key-2

Solution:

The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) said it has partnered with global strategy consulting firm A. T. Kearney, which will undertake a transformation project by reviewing the insurer’s existing agency framework on an end-to-end basis.

Under the “Jeevan Samarth” project, LIC aims to future-proof its entire 14 lakh agent workforce to meet the rapidly evolving needs of customers.

56. A regional development bank and the ENGIE group have signed a long-term loan agreement to construct and operate a 400-megawatt solar photovoltaic power plant in Surendranagar district (Gujarat).

Consider the following statements.

A: The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and the ENGIE group have signed this agreement.

B: The regional development bank is headquartered in Manila.

C: As per the release, the project will support India's target of achieving at least 500 gigawatts of nonfossil fuel energy capacity by 2030.

Which of the above statements is/are **Incorrect**?

- (1) None of the above
- (2) A only
- (3) B only
- (4) A,C,D
- (5) A,B

Answer key-2

Solution:

Asian development bank and the ENGIE group have signed a long-term loan agreement to construct and operate a 400-megawatt solar photovoltaic power plant in Surendranagar district (Gujarat). Consider the following statements.

B: Asian development bank is headquartered in Manila. .

C: As per the release, the project will support India's target of achieving at least 500 gigawatts of nonfossil fuel energy capacity by 2030.

57. 'Sampoornata Abhiyan' with a focus on themes such as health, nutrition, agriculture, social development, and education was recently launched. Consider the following statements.

- A. It is a 3-month campaign from 4th July – 30th September 2024.
- B. Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution launched 'Sampoornata Abhiyan'
- C. 'Sampoornata Abhiyan' seeks to achieve saturation in each of the 6 identified indicators in the 112 Aspirational Districts and 500 Aspirational Blocks under the Aspirational Districts Programme and Aspirational Blocks Programme.

Which of the above statements is/are **Correct**?

- (1) Both A & C
- (2) A,B,C
- (3) Only B
- (4) Only A
- (5) Both B & C

Answer key-1

Solution:

The **NITI Aayog** launched the 'Sampoornata Abhiyan' with a focus on themes such as health, nutrition, agriculture, social development, and education. The launch events were organised across all the 112 Aspirational Districts and 500 Aspirational Blocks.

- (3) a,b
- (4) b,c
- (5) None of these

This comprehensive three-month campaign, running from July 4 to September 30, aims to achieve 100 per cent saturation of 12 key social sector indicators across all Aspirational Districts and Blocks.

As part of the 3-month long campaign, district and block officials, along with elected people's representatives, will organise awareness activities like Gram Sabhas, Nukkad Natak, Paushtik Aahar Mela, Health camps, ICDS camps, Awareness Marches and Rallies, Exhibitions, Poster making and Poem competitions around 12 themes identified for 100 per cent saturation across all Aspirational Blocks and Districts.

Answer key-4

Solution:

France's Thales Group has partnered with Adani Defence and Aerospace to manufacture 70 mm rockets in India. This strategic collaboration aims to bolster India's defence capabilities by producing locally manufactured rockets for the Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) 'Rudra' and the Light Combat Helicopter (LCH) 'Prachand'. The initiative aligns with India's broader goal of enhancing its defence manufacturing sector and creating employment opportunities.

58. Thales Group has partnered with Adani Defence and Aerospace to manufacture rockets in India. The initiative aligns with India's broader goal of enhancing its defence manufacturing sector and creating employment opportunities. Consider the following statements.

- a. Thales group is based in Germany.
- b. This strategic collaboration aims to bolster India's defence capabilities by producing locally manufactured rockets for the Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) 'Rudra' and the Light Combat Helicopter (LCH) 'Prachand'.
- c. The partnership is meant for manufacturing 70 mm rockets in India.

Which of the above statements is/are **Correct**?

- (1) ONLY a
- (2) Only c

59. Under the partnership, QR code-based UPI payments will now be enabled at Network's point-of-sale (PoS) terminals in the UAE for Indian tourists and NRIs with Indian bank accounts. Consider the following statements in context of the given partnership.

- I. NPCI Bharat BillPay Limited (NBBL) has now partnered with the UAE-based Network International to fuel Unified Payments Interface (UPI) payments in the Middle Eastern country.
- II. This comes over four months after India and the UAE signed an agreement to link UPI with the UAE's FPS AANI.

III. NPCI said that UPI payments will be rolled out steadily in retail stores, dining outlets, as well as tourist and leisure attractions including Dubai Mall and Mall of the Emirates.

Which of the above statements is/are **Incorrect**?

Answer key-1

Solution:

The National Payments Corporation of India's (NPCI) international arm NIPL has now partnered with the UAE-based Network International to fuel Unified Payments Interface (UPI) payments in the Middle Eastern country.

Under the partnership, QR code-based UPI payments will now be enabled at Network's point-of-sale (PoS) terminals in the UAE for Indian tourists and NRIs with Indian bank accounts.

I. This comes over four months after India and the UAE signed an agreement to link UPI with the UAE's FPS AANI.

II. NPCI said that UPI payments will be rolled out steadily in retail stores, dining outlets, as well as tourist and leisure attractions including Dubai Mall and Mall of the Emirates.

60. World UFO Day is celebrated on _____, every year.

विश्व यूएफओ दिवस हर साल _____ को मनाया जाता है।

- (1) July 1
- (2) July 2
- (3) July 4
- (4) July 3

(5) July 5

Answer key-2

Solution:

World UFO Day 2024: World UFO Day is celebrated on 2 July, every year. This day is dedicated to bringing people together to discuss the possibility of aliens and UFOs. The day is organized by WorldUFOday.com.

61. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar is set to lead the Indian delegation at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Council of Heads of State. Consider the following statements.

- I: The summit is being held under Kazakhstan's chairmanship from July 3-4.
- II: This would be the 27th Meeting of the SCO Council of Heads of State (SCO Summit).
- III: The SCO, comprises India, China, Russia, Pakistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

Which of the above statements is/are Correct?

- (1) Only III
- (2) Only I
- (3) I,II and III
- (4) I,III
- (5) None of these

Answer key-4

Solution:

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar is set to lead the Indian delegation at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Council of

Heads of State. Consider the following statements.

I: The summit is being held under Kazakhstan's chairmanship from July 3-4.

II: This would be the 24th Meeting of the SCO Council of Heads of State (SCO Summit).

III: The SCO, comprises India, China, Russia, Pakistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

62. _____ would be setting up South Asia's largest Flying Training Organisation (FTO) at Amravati in Maharashtra as part of an initiative by the Maharashtra Airport Development Company (MADC).

- (1) IndiGO
- (2) Air India
- (3) Akasa Air
- (4) Jet Airways
- (5) None of these

Answer key-2

Solution:

Air India said that it is setting up South Asia's largest Flying Training Organisation (FTO) at Amravati in Maharashtra as part of an initiative by the Maharashtra Airport Development Company (MADC). This is a major shift in strategy on how Indian airlines have looked to train its pilots- where till now major carriers like IndiGo, SpiceJet have set up branded training programs affiliated with independent flight schools in India and abroad.

63. India has prepared a checklist of its entire fauna, becoming the first country in the world to do so. Consider the following statements.

A: The list is covering 1,04,561 species.

B: It was Launched as the "Fauna of India Checklist Portal" on the occasion of the 109th Foundation Day of the Botanical Survey of India.

C: Endemic, threatened and scheduled species have also been included in the list.

Which of the above statements is/are Correct?

- (1) A,D
- (2) A,C
- (3) Only A
- (4) Only C
- (5) A,B,C,D

Answer key-2

Solution:

India has prepared a checklist of its entire fauna, becoming the first country in the world to do so.

A: The list is covering 1,04,561 species.

B: It was Launched as the "Fauna of India Checklist Portal" on the occasion of the 109th Foundation Day of the **Zoological Survey of India**.

C: Endemic, threatened and scheduled species have also been included in the list.

64. National Payments Corporation of India's (NPCI) international arm NIPL in July 2024 partnered with the _____-based Network International to fuel Unified Payments Interface (UPI) payments.

- (1) Qatar
- (2) UAE
- (3) Sri Lanka
- (4) Bangladesh
- (5) None of these

Answer key-2

Solution:

The National Payments Corporation of India's (NPCI) international arm NIPL has now partnered with the UAE-based Network International to fuel Unified Payments Interface (UPI) payments in the Middle Eastern country.

Under the partnership, QR code-based UPI payments will now be enabled at Network's point-of-sale (PoS) terminals in the UAE for Indian tourists and NRIs with Indian bank accounts.

65. Which bank has been felicitated with the Atal Pension Yojana Annual Award for FY2023-24 by PFRDA (Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority Awards) for the second consecutive year?

- (1) State Bank of India
- (2) Union Bank of India
- (3) Bank of Baroda
- (4) Bank of India
- (5) None of these

Answer key-4

Solution:

Bank of India (BOI) has been honoured with multiple prestigious awards, recognizing its outstanding performance in various aspects of banking and financial inclusion. BOI has been felicitated with the Atal Pension Yojana Annual Award for FY2023-24 by PFRDA (Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority Awards) for the second consecutive year. Additionally, the Bank has been awarded the APY Ultimate Champions Cup while three of its branches have been recognized among the top five branches across India.

66. Christina Ernst, a Google software engineer and the founder of She Builds Robots, has stunned the internet with the world's first artificial intelligence (AI) dress. What is the name of the dress?

- (1) Medusa dress
- (2) Mensa dress
- (3) Meroitious dress
- (4) Maple dress
- (5) Maped dress

Answer key-1

Solution:

Christina Ernst, a Google software engineer and the founder of She Builds Robots, has stunned the internet with the world's first artificial intelligence (AI) dress. Named the Medusa dress, this unique black attire features golden robotic snakes all over the outfit. Ernst shared the process and even showed its evolution from its initial failed concepts. The dress includes three smaller snakes around the waist and a large one around the neck, all moving in sync with AI technology. In the footage, she also demonstrated how AI tracks human faces, which helps in moving snake's head in real-time. The unique combination has captured the internet's attention, making Ernst's work a hot topic among technology and fashion enthusiasts.

67. The Union housing and urban affairs ministry has extended the deadline for the Smart Cities Mission till _____, allowing cities to complete ongoing projects, which account for around 10 per cent of the total projects.

- (1) May 2025
- (2) March 2025
- (3) July 2025
- (4) December 2025
- (5) April 2025

Answer key-2

Solution:

The Union housing and urban affairs ministry on Wednesday said it has extended the deadline for the Smart Cities Mission till March 2025, allowing cities to complete ongoing projects, which account for around 10 per cent of the total projects. In a statement, the ministry said the mission has been getting multiple requests from some states to grant some more time to complete the remaining projects.

68. A Weapon Systems School, which aims at recalibrating and transforming the Indian Air Force as a future-oriented force, was inaugurated in which city by IAF Chief Air Chief Marshal V R Chaudhari?

- (1) Hyderabad
- (2) Kanpur
- (3) Lucknow
- (4) Indore
- (5) None of these

Answer key-1

Solution:

A Weapon Systems School, which aims at recalibrating and transforming the Indian Air Force as a future-oriented force, was inaugurated in Hyderabad by IAF Chief Air Chief Marshal V R Chaudhari. This follows the

approval of the Weapon System (WS) branch, a new branch of officers in the IAF, in 2022.

69. Nurlan Yermekbayev has been appointed Secretary General of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) for the period _____. His appointment was announced at the SCO Summit in Astana, July 4.

- (1) 2024-2026
- (2) 2025-2027
- (3) 2024-2027
- (4) None of these
- (5) 2025-28

Answer key-2

Solution:

Nurlan Yermekbayev has been appointed Secretary General of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) for the period of 2025-2027. His appointment was announced at the SCO Summit in Astana, July 4. He previously served as SCO Deputy Secretary General, a position he was appointed to in 2023.

70. _____ Labour Party recently swept UK Polls, Rishi Sunak's Party Ousted For 1st Time In 14 Years.

- (1) Margret Thatcher's
- (2) Keir Starmer's
- (3) Megan Ken's
- (4) Ken Henderson's
- (5) None of these

Answer key-2

Solution:

Keir Starmer's Labour Party scored a landslide victory in the UK general elections, a result that reflects a seismic realignment in British politics as Rishi Sunak's Conservative Party imploded.

Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's last-minute attempt to sway voters fell short as his

Conservative Party lost the UK general elections. Ahead of voting, the Conservatives warned voters that opting for Labour would lead to higher taxes.

71. National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval has appointed whom as the new deputy NSA in the National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS) team?
- (1) TV Ravichandran
 - (2) Pawan Kapoor
 - (3) Rajendra Khanna
 - (4) Vikram Misri
 - (5) Both 1 & 2
- Answer key-5

Solution:

National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval has appointed TV Ravichandran and Pawan Kapoor as the new deputy NSAs in the National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS) team.

Similarly, Rajendra Khanna, who served as the deputy NSA, has been appointed as the Additional NSA.

Recently, deputy NSA Vikram Misri was appointed as the Foreign Secretary.

72. The RBI in July 2024 imposed a monetary penalty of Rs _____ on Punjab National Bank for non-compliance with certain directions related to KYC and 'loans and advances'.
- (1) 1.21 crore
 - (2) 1.31 crore
 - (3) 1.41 crore
 - (4) 2.31 crore
 - (5) 4 crore
- Answer key-2

Solution:

The RBI has imposed a monetary penalty of Rs 1.31 crore on Punjab

National Bank for non-compliance with certain directions related to KYC and 'loans and advances'.

The Reserve Bank said it conducted a statutory inspection of the bank concerning its financial position as on March 31, 2022.

In another development, RBI has cancelled the licence of Shimsha Sahakara Bank Niyamitha, Maddur (Karnataka) in the wake of its worsening financial position.

73. The National Informatics Centre (NIC) and the Spices Board of India in July 2024 signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to develop Artificial intelligence (AI) tools for detecting and classifying large cardamom diseases in _____.
- (1) Assam
 - (2) Sikkim
 - (3) Manipur
 - (4) Arunachal Pradesh
 - (5) None of these

Answer key-2

Solution:

The National Informatics Centre (NIC) and the Spices Board of India have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to develop Artificial intelligence (AI) tools for detecting and classifying large cardamom diseases in Sikkim.

The project, spearheaded by NIC's Centre of Excellence in AI in Kolkata, aims to analyze images of cardamom leaves to identify diseases early. This initiative follows three months of discussions and marks a significant step in leveraging AI for agricultural advancements in Sikkim.

74. The Indo-Russian Rifles Private Limited (IRRPL), a joint venture between India and Russia, has successfully delivered how many AK-203 Kalashnikov assault rifles to the Indian Army?

- (1) 15,000
- (2) 30,000
- (3) 35,000
- (4) 40,000
- (5) 80,000

Answer key-3

Solution:

The Indo-Russian Rifles Private Limited joint venture, co-founded by ROSBORONEXPORT on the Russian side, has completed the first phase of the project to produce AK-203 Kalashnikov assault rifles in India. To increase the degree of localization, all necessary equipment has been shipped to the Korwa Ordnance Factory in Amethi, Uttar Pradesh state, and production facilities are now fully equipped. This made it possible to produce and deliver a batch of 35,000 Kalashnikov assault rifles to the Indian Army within the timeframe agreed with the Ministry of Defence of India."

75. The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) roped in_____, a Maharatna and Fortune Global 500 company, as the principal sponsor for Team India for four years.

- (1) Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL)
- (2) None of these
- (3) Coal India Limited (CIL)
- (4) GAIL India Limited (GAIL)
- (5) Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL)

Answer key-1

Solution:

The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) roped in Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL), a Maharatna and Fortune Global 500 company, as the principal sponsor for Team India for four years. This collaboration, intending to support the Indian athletes, will begin with the Paris Olympics and last till the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics. IOA's partnership with BPCL aims to boost the confidence and aspirations of Indian athletes.

76. India's state-run Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Larsen & Toubro (L&T) have unveiled an initial prototype of their jointly developed light tank. The tank has been named_____.

- (1) 'Dhruv'
- (2) 'Prachand'
- (3) 'Pralay'
- (4) 'Zorawar'
- (5) Krutrim

Answer key-4

Solution:

India's state-run Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Larsen & Toubro (L&T) have unveiled an initial prototype of their jointly developed 'Zorawar' light tank.

The tank – intended for Indian Army use along its northern border with China – was displayed to the media for the first time at L&T's production facility in Hazira, Gujarat.

77. The Indian Navy's P-81 aircraft has embarked on its participation in RIMPAC 2024, hosted by the US Pacific Fleet in

Hawaii. RIMPAC, held biennially, stands as the preeminent international maritime exercise, fostering collaboration and operational cohesion among global naval forces. Total how many countries are taking part in this exercise?

- (1) 34
- (2) 29
- (3) 28
- (4) 41
- (5) 33

Answer key-2

Solution:

This year's edition brings together armed forces from 29 countries for a five-week training period, aiming to strengthen multilateral relations and improve preparedness to promote "a free and open Indo-Pacific."

The Indian Navy's P-8I aircraft has joined RIMPAC 2024, the world's largest international maritime exercise hosted by the US Pacific Fleet in Hawaii. With 29 participating countries, including India, RIMPAC aims to enhance multilateral relations and operational readiness across the Indo-Pacific.

78. Every year, the people celebrate World Day for International Justice on_____.

- (1) July 17
- (2) July 18
- (3) July 16
- (4) July 19
- (5) July 15

Answer key-1

Solution:

The history of World Day for International Justice can be traced back to July 17, 1998, when the Statue of Rome was adopted and the International Criminal Court (ICC) was established. The ICC is the first permanent international court that prosecutes individuals involved in genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and crimes of aggression when the national courts failed to do so.

79. The Union government has named_____, former chief scientist of the World Health Organization, as principal advisor for its National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme.

- (1) Dr. Soumya Swaminathan
- (2) Dr. Pradyut Ghosh
- (3) Dr. Upinder S. Bhalla
- (4) Dr. Partha Pratim Majumder
- (5) Dr. Vishwanath Mohan

Answer key-1

Solution:

The Union government has named Dr. Soumya Swaminathan, former chief scientist of the World Health Organization, as principal advisor for its National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme.

Swaminathan has also served as director general of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) during 2015-2017.

80. An agreement between _____to facilitate trade in organically-produced goods, including tea and medicinal plants,

has come into force from July 8, the commerce ministry said.

- (1) India and Zambia
- (2) India and Japan
- (3) India and Thailand
- (4) India and Russia
- (5) None of these

Answer key-5

Solution:

An agreement between India and Taiwan to facilitate trade in organically-produced goods, including tea and medicinal plants, has come into force from July 8, the commerce ministry said. The mutual recognition agreement (MRA) will ease the export of organic products by avoiding dual certifications, thereby reducing compliance cost, simplifying compliance requirements by adhering to only one regulation and enhancing trade opportunities in the organic sector.

81. The manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) soared in June 2024, driven by robust demand and the highest hiring activity in 19 years, according to a recent report. The report has been published by_____.

- (1) RBI
- (2) SBI
- (3) PFRDA
- (4) PMO
- (5) None of these

Answer key-2

Solution:

The manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) soared in June 2024, driven

by robust demand and the highest hiring activity in 19 years, according to an SBI report. Concurrently, the Eight Core Industries Index expanded by 6.5 per cent year-on-year in the first two months of FY25, buoyed primarily by increased activity in essential sectors such as coal, natural gas, and electricity. However, segments like fertilizers and cement witnessed degrowth due to base effects.

82. World Population Day observed on_____, aims to highlight the challenges and opportunities that come with our ever-growing global population. India takes the crown as the world's most populated country in 2024, with an estimated 1.44 billion citizens.

- (1) July 11
- (2) July 10
- (3) July 9
- (4) July 8
- (5) July 6

Answer key-1

Solution:

World Population Day, observed on July 11, aims to highlight the challenges and opportunities that come with our ever-growing global population. This year, as we hit an estimated 8.1 billion people on Earth, let's take a look at the 10 most populated and the 10 least populated countries.

Vatican City, with a population of only around 526, holds the title of the least populated country. Here are the 10 least populated countries according to World Population Review.



83. The Reserve Bank of India approved Mirae Asset Mutual Fund's acquisition of a _____ stake in Utkarsh Small Finance Bank.

- (1) 9.95%
- (2) 2.95%
- (3) 7.95%
- (4) 5.95%
- (5) 19.95%

Answer key-1

Solution:

The Reserve Bank of India approved Mirae Asset Mutual Fund's acquisition of a 9.95% stake in Utkarsh Small Finance Bank. The RBI has also advised that the holding not exceed 9.95% of paid-up share capital at any time. Mirae Asset Mutual Fund will acquire 9.95% paid-up share capital or voting rights in the bank within a year from the date of approval from RBI.

84. Rating agency Moody's kept India's economic growth forecast for calendar year 2024 unchanged at _____%, while predicting a 6.5% growth for 2025.

- (1) 6.8
- (2) 6.9
- (3) 6.3
- (4) 6.4
- (5) 7.0

Answer key-1

Solution:

Rating agency Moody's kept India's economic growth forecast for calendar year 2024 unchanged at 6.8%, while predicting a 6.5% growth for 2025. Moody's Rating said increasing domestic

and overseas demand supports GDP growth in emerging markets (EM), with wide variation by country.

85. Paytm Payments Bank, an associate entity of One97 Communications (OCL), which operates the Paytm brand, has appointed whom as the managing director (MD) and chief executive officer (CEO)?

- (1) Surinder Bansal
- (2) Arun Kumar Bansal
- (3) Surinder Chawla
- (4) Arun Chawla
- (5) Charanjit Attra

Answer key-2

Solution:

Paytm Payments Bank, an associate entity of One97 Communications (OCL), which operates the Paytm brand, has appointed Arun Kumar Bansal as managing director (MD) and chief executive officer (CEO). Bansal is a former IDBI Bank executive.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had approved Bansal's appointment as the MD and CEO of the payments bank, he communicated on June 20 to IDBI Bank.

Paytm PB's former MD and CEO, Surinder Chawla, had resigned on account of personal reasons in April.

86. Spain's Carlos Alcaraz clinched 2024 Wimbledon Championships beating Serbia's Novak Djokovic during their men's singles final tennis match at The All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club in Wimbledon, southwest London. Who clinched women's singles title?

- (1) Markéta Vondroušová

(2) Barbora Krejcikova

(3) Jasmine Paolini

(4) Angelique Kerber

(5) Elena Rybakina

Answer key-2

Solution:

Barbora Krejcikova won Wimbledon women's final, claims 2nd Grand Slam title. Barbora Krejcikova won the Wimbledon's women's final for her second Grand Slam title with a 6-2, 2-6, 6-4 victory over Jasmine Paolini. Spain's Carlos Alcaraz produced an utterly ruthless performance to dismantle Serbia's Novak Djokovic 6-2 6-2 7-6(4) in a rematch of last year's Wimbledon final to successfully defend his title.

87. Argentina won the Copa America for a record 16th time by defeating Colombia 1-0 in the 48th edition of the Copa America championship. Who bagged the Golden Boot (top scorer) of Copa America 2024 award?

(1) Lautaro Martinez

(2) Emiliano Martinez

(3) James Rodriguez

(4) Mac Allister

(5) Lionel Messi

Answer key-1

Solution:

Argentina clinched a 1-0 win against Colombia in the final of the Copa America 2024 final. The Albiceleste has won the Copa America for a record 16th time.

Best player of Copa America 2024: James Rodriguez (Six assists and one goal)

Golden Boot (top scorer) of Copa America

2024: Lautaro Martinez (Five goals)

Best goalkeeper of Copa America 2024

- Emiliano Martinez (Five clean sheets)

Fair play Award of Copa America 2024

- Colombia

Uruguay is the second most successful team in Copa America history, winning the crown 15 times.

United States hosted the 2024 Copa America.

88. The Board of the Fund for responding to Loss and Damage selected the _____ as its host country at the Board's second meeting in Songdo, South Korea.

(1) Philippines

(2) India

(3) South Korea

(4) Japan

(5) None of these

Answer key-1

Solution:

The Board of the Fund for responding to Loss and Damage selected the Philippines as its host country at the Board's second meeting in Songdo, South Korea, this week. The Fund, which was operationalized at the COP 28 UN Climate Change Conference last December, was established to help vulnerable countries recover from climate impacts.

89. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in July 2024 issued final guidelines on cyber

resilience and digital payment security controls for non-bank payment system operators (PSOs), wherein it has mandated different timelines for these entities, based on their sizes, to set up necessary compliance structures. These directions come into effect on July 30. Which of the following is NOT an example of Large non-bank PSOs?

- (1) Clearing Corporation of India Limited (CCIL)
- (2) National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)
- (3) Bharat Bill Payment Operating Units
- (4) Cross-border (in-bound) money transfer operators
- (5) All of the above

Answer key-4

Solution:

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Tuesday issued final guidelines on cyber resilience and digital payment security controls for non-bank payment system operators (PSOs), wherein it has mandated different timelines for these entities, based on their sizes, to set up necessary compliance structures. These directions come into effect on July 30. Large non-bank PSOs such as Clearing Corporation of India Limited (CCIL), National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), Bharat Bill Payment Operating Units (BBPOUs), and Payment Aggregators (PAs), among others, need to abide by the directions by April 2025. Medium non-bank PSOs such as cross-border (in-bound) money transfer operators under the Money Transfer Service Scheme (MTSS) and medium

prepaid payment instrument (PPI) issuers have time until April 2026. Small PPI issuers and instant money transfer operators are required to comply with the guidelines by April 2028.

90. Which of the following in July 2024 partnered with C2treds and UGRO Capital to facilitate loans to the MSME sector?

- (1) Small Industries Development Bank of India (Sidbi)
- (2) RBI
- (3) NABARD
- (4) PFRDA
- (5) None of these

Answer key-1

Solution:

Small Industries Development Bank of India (Sidbi) has partnered with C2treds and UGRO Capital to facilitate loans to the MSME sector.

Sidbi has onboarded C2treds, a platform that offers MSMEs liquidity within 24 hours through an online bidding process. C2FO is an on-demand working capital platform, providing fast, flexible and equitable access to low-cost capital to nearly 2 million businesses worldwide.

91. The Reserve Bank of India has asked lenders to examine wilful defaulters in all Non-Performing Assets (NPA) accounts with an outstanding amount of Rs 25 lakh and above and said the process should be completed in six months. The new norms will come into force from _____.

- (1) December 1, 2024.
- (2) August 1, 2024.
- (3) April 1, 2025.

(4) November 1, 2025.

(5) November 1, 2024.

Answer key-5

Solution:

The Reserve Bank of India has asked lenders to examine wilful defaulters in all Non-Performing Assets (NPA) accounts with an outstanding amount of Rs 25 lakh and above and said the process should be completed in six months. The new norms will come into force after 90 days, that is, from November 1, 2024.

The master direction on wilful defaulters issued by the regulator on Tuesday outlined the measures and consequences for those borrowers who deliberately default on their financial obligations.

92. The Reserve Bank of India recently announced the initiation of the test phase for the fifth cohort of its regulatory sandbox. This cohort, characterized by its theme-neutral stance, received a total of 22 applications, out of which _____ have been selected for testing their innovative solutions starting August 2024.

(1) Six

(2) Seven

(3) Five

(4) Four

(5) Three

Answer key-3

Solution:

The Reserve Bank of India has announced the initiation of the test phase for the fifth cohort of its regulatory sandbox, following the announcement made in October 2023. This

cohort, characterized by its theme-neutral stance, received a total of 22 applications, out of which five have been selected for testing their innovative solutions starting August 2024.

The selected entities and their solutions are as follows:

Connectingdot Consultancy Private

Limited: The solution aims to provide high accuracy in predicting loan defaults by segregating the loan portfolios into high, medium and low risk categories. It provides reasons for borrower's default and recommends borrower specific pathways to banks/lenders for improving risk mitigation.

Epifi Technologies Private Limited: The solution allows for digital opening of NRE/NRO accounts through video KYC and identity validations, thus enabling a seamless account opening experience for NRIs. It is expected to bring in efficiency by reducing cost, turnaround time, and obviating the need for physical documentation and verification.

Finagg Technologies: The solution is a blockchain based deep tier vendor financing solution that enables financing for MSMEs, which are part of the procurement supply chain of large enterprises commonly referred to as anchors. It enables conversion of receivables from anchors into blockchain based tokens which can be redeemed by MSMEs for availing credit from banks/ NBFCs. The solution aims to make easy and affordable credit accessible to lower tier/ small MSMEs.

Indian Banks' Digital Infrastructure Company

(IBDIC): The deep tier financing solution powered by blockchain and smart contract enables MSMEs, which are part of the supply chain of a creditworthy anchor to get access to affordable finance linked to their value addition. OEM invoice accepted by the anchor is tokenised and the platform facilitates the transfer of these tokens by the buyer to the seller in lieu of payment for the accepted invoice. Lenders fund the supplier against these tokens digitally on this

platform. The solution aims to make easy and affordable credit accessible to lower tier/ small MSMEs.

Signzy Technologies: The solution offers an unassisted video KYC solution that allows users to complete video KYC steps independently without involvement of officials of regulated entities. It envisages to reduce time, increase success rates, significantly lower customer drop-offs and ensure a seamless and efficient KYC experience for both customers and regulated entities.

93. 2 lakh 31 thousand 909 crore rupees has been deposited in _____ crore Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana, PMJDY accounts till July 10th, 2024.

- (1) 45.74
- (2) 52.74
- (3) 33.74
- (4) 78.74
- (5) 50.74

Answer key-2

Solution:

Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary today informed the Rajya Sabha that 2 lakh 31 thousand 909 crore rupees has been deposited in 52.74 crore Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana, PMJDY accounts till 10th of this month. In a written reply, he said PMJDY was launched as the National Mission for Financial Inclusion on 28th August 2014. Mr Chaudhary said out of these PMJDY accounts, women have 29.32 crore accounts. 35.78 crore RuPay cards have also been issued to the PMJDY account holders so far.

94. As measured by the Prevalence of Undernourishment (PoU) by the United Nation's Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), Hunger in India has come down from 16.6 per cent of the

population in the 2020-2022 to _____ per cent in 2021-23, the latest report on the State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI 2024) showed.

- (1) 11.7
- (2) 13.7
- (3) 9.7
- (4) 3.7
- (5) 4.7

Answer key-2

Solution:

In what could come as a piece of good news, hunger in India — as measured by the Prevalence of Undernourishment (PoU) by the United Nation's Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) — has come down from 16.6 per cent of the population in the 2020-2022 to 13.7 per cent in 2021-23, the latest report on the State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI 2024) showed.

This means that around 39.3 million people have come out of undernourishment between the two periods.

95. Union Minister for Education Shri Dharmendra Pradhan recently launched the NATS 2.0 Portal and disbursed ₹100 crore stipends to apprentices through the DBT mode. 'A' in NATS stands for _____.

- (1) Accreditation
- (2) Accretion
- (3) Apprenticeship
- (4) Appreciation
- (5) None of these

Answer key-3

Solution:

Union Minister for Education Shri Dharmendra Pradhan in New Delhi launched the National Apprenticeship and Training Scheme 2.0 Portal and disbursed ₹100 crore stipends to apprentices through the DBT mode. These apprentices are undergoing training in various sectors such as IT/ITes, manufacturing, automobile, etc. This initiative aligns with the Government's focus on skilling and employability of youth. NATS 2.0 portal is expected to be utilized by a large number of beneficiaries to register and apply for apprenticeships.

96. Parle continues to be the most-favoured FMCG brand in a recent analysis by market research firm Kantar, emerging as the most-chosen in-home trademark for a record 12 years in a row. Which of the following is NOT in the top 5?

- (1) Britannia
- (2) Amul
- (3) Clinic Plus
- (4) Tata Consumer Products
- (5) Haldiram's

Answer key-5

Solution:

Legacy biscuit and confectionery maker Parle continues to be the most-favoured FMCG brand in a recent analysis by market research firm Kantar, emerging as the most-chosen in-home trademark for a record 12 years in a row.

With a consumer reach point (CRP) score of 7,980 million, Parle continues to sit at the top of the pack, followed by Britannia, Amul, Clinic Plus and Tata Consumer Products, Kantar's 2024 report said.

97. Who among the following recently won third term as Venezuela's President amid Opposition claims of irregularities?

- (1) Edmundo Gonzalez
- (2) Nicolas Gonzalez
- (3) Edmundo Maduro
- (4) Nicolas Maduro
- (5) Edmundo Nicolas

Answer key-4

Solution:

Nicolas Maduro was declared the winner in Venezuela's presidential election on July 28, even as his opponents were preparing to dispute the results, setting up a high-stakes showdown that will determine whether the South American nation transitions away from one party rule.

Shortly after midnight, the National Electoral Council said Maduro secured 51% of the vote, overcoming the main Opposition candidate, Edmundo González, who garnered 44%.

98. The Ministry of Earth Sciences celebrated its 18th Foundation Day on _____ at its Prithvi Bhavan Headquarters in New Delhi.

- (1) July 27, 2024
- (2) July 26, 2024
- (3) July 29, 2024
- (4) July 31, 2024
- (5) July 30, 2024

Answer key-1

Solution:

The Ministry of Earth Sciences celebrated its 18th Foundation Day at its Prithvi Bhavan Headquarters in New Delhi on Saturday. The Ministry was founded on 27 July, 2006 and marked nearly two decades of significant contributions to Earth system sciences.

99. The Himalayan Mountaineering Institute (HMI), Darjeeling under the aegis of the _____, is undertaking a Divyangjan expedition from Kanchenjunga National Park to Mt. Kilimanjaro, the highest peak of the African continent during 02 - 20 August 2024.

- (1) Ministry of Defence
- (2) Ministry of External Affairs
- (3) Ministry of Home Affairs
- (4) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
- (5) Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation

Answer key-1

Solution:

The Himalayan Mountaineering Institute (HMI), Darjeeling under the aegis of the Ministry of Defence, is undertaking a Divyangjan expedition from Kanchenjunga National Park to Mt. Kilimanjaro, the highest peak of the African continent during 02 - 20 August 2024. The expedition has been flagged off by Smt. Dipti Mohil Chawia, Additional Secretary, MoD in New Delhi on 30 July 2024.

The expedition team will create history as the first Divyangjan Expedition to hoist the largest Indian flag atop the Kilimanjaro, the highest peak in Africa.

100. Recently, A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between _____ and Gurugram and Faridabad Municipal Corporations to set up plants to produce green charcoal from waste in Faridabad and Gurugram.

- (1) NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam Limited
- (2) SJVN Limited
- (3) SAIL

(4) GAIL

(5) ONGC

Answer key-1

Solution:

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam Limited and Gurugram and Faridabad Municipal Corporations to set up plants to produce green charcoal from waste in Faridabad and Gurugram. NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam Limited, a subsidiary of National Thermal Power Corporation Limited, will set up this plant under the Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan. These green charcoal plants will be set up in Bandhwari in Gurugram and Mothuka in Faridabad. Each plant will cost around 500 crore rupees. These plants will convert 1,500 tonnes of waste collected daily from Gurugram and Faridabad into charcoal.

101. The Union Ministry of Education recently unveiled its guidelines for introducing bag-free days for grades 6 through 8, as well as for enhancing the joy, experience, and stress-free nature of classroom instruction. Who among the following recommended this initiative?

- (1) The National Council for Educational Research and Training (NCERT)
- (2) PSS Central Institute of Vocational Education
- (3) Central Board of Secondary Education
- (4) Both 1 & 2
- (5) All of the above

Answer key-4

Solution:

The Union Ministry of Education unveiled its guidelines on Monday for introducing bag-free days for grades 6 through 8, as well as for enhancing the joy, experience, and stress-free nature of classroom instruction.

The National Council for Educational Research and Training (NCERT) institution, PSS Central Institute of Vocational Education, produced the recommendations, which were unveiled on the fourth anniversary of the new National Education Policy (NEP), 2020.

Every student in classes 6–8 were encouraged to take part in a 10-day bag-free period as part of the NEP, 2020.

102. World Day Against Trafficking in Persons is observed on 30th July every year. What is the theme for the year 2024?

- (1) "Leave No Child Behind in the Fight Against Human Trafficking"
- (2) "Leave No One Behind in the Fight Against Human Trafficking"
- (3) "Leave No Girl Behind in the Fight Against Human Trafficking"
- (4) "Leave Everyone Behind in the Fight Against Human Trafficking"
- (5) "Leave All Behind in the Fight Against Human Trafficking"

Answer key-1

Solution:

THEME 2024- "Leave No Child Behind in the Fight Against Human Trafficking"

This year's global campaign for World Day Against Trafficking in Persons urges

accelerated action to end child trafficking. Children represent a significant proportion of trafficking victims worldwide, with girls being disproportionately affected.

103. 'The Human Rights, Liberation and Reconciliation: Nelson Mandela Legacy Sites' as Listed generally by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), include _____ human rights and liberation struggle sites linked to Mandela.

- (1) 22
- (2) 14
- (3) 11
- (4) 16
- (5) None of these

Answer key-2

Solution:

Listed generically as 'The Human Rights, Liberation and Reconciliation: Nelson Mandela Legacy Sites' by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), these include 14 human rights and liberation struggle sites linked to Mandela, who served 27 years as a political prisoner before becoming South Africa's first democratically elected President after decades of white minority apartheid rule. The announcement was made at the 46th session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee in New Delhi.

104. Which of the following is planning to launch NASA's Crew-9 mission on Aug. 18 and later in the month launch the four-person Polaris Dawn mission from Florida?

- (1) JAXA
- (2) ISRO
- (3) SpaceX
- (4) None of these
- (5) Both 2&3

Answer key-3

Solution:

NASA and SpaceX have scheduled a launch on Aug. 18 to take three NASA astronauts and a Russian cosmonaut to the International Space Station. The four-person crew will launch on SpaceX's Crew Dragon spacecraft on a Falcon 9 rocket from Kennedy Space Center's launchpad 39A in Florida.

105. Indian shooters Manu Bhaker and Sarabjot Singh scripted history with a bronze medal in the 10m air pistol mixed team shooting event at the Paris 2024 Olympics. They defeated the _____ team.

- (1) Chinese
- (2) Republic of Korean
- (3) Iranian
- (4) Israeli
- (5) German

Answer key-2

Solution:

Indian shooters Manu Bhaker and Sarabjot Singh scripted history with a bronze medal in the 10m air pistol mixed

team shooting event at the Paris 2024 Olympics.

This was India's sixth Olympic medal in shooting and first-ever in a shooting team event. The result also made Manu Bhaker the first athlete of independent India to win two medals in one edition of the Olympics. Manu Bhaker became the first Indian woman to win an Olympic medal in shooting.

Competing at the National Shooting Center in Chateauroux, Manu Bhaker and Sarabjot Singh defeated the Republic of Korea's Oh Ye Jin and Wonho Lee 16-10 in the bronze medal match. Oh Ye Jin won the gold medal in the women's 10m air pistol event.

106. Tennis player Rohan Bopanna has decided to retire from Indian tennis marking an early exit from the Paris Olympics 2024 after losing the match against France. Leander Paes won the last Olympics medal for tennis. He bagged a bronze medal in_____.

- (1) 2000
- (2) 1996
- (3) 2004
- (4) 2008
- (5) 1992

Answer key-2

Solution:

Tennis player Rohan Bopanna has decided to retire from Indian tennis marking an early exit from the Paris

Olympics 2024 after losing the match against France.

Leander Paes won the last Olympics medal for tennis. Paes bagged a bronze medal in 1996.

Bopanna and Sania Mirza came close to winning the medal in 2016 but finished fourth in the mixed event.

107. The bank recently said that the Green Climate Fund (GCF) approved a loan facility for one of its projects. Consider the following statements.
- Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) approved this \$215.6 million loan facility.
 - The funding is for implementing Financing Mitigation and Adaptation Projects (FMAP) in Indian small businesses.
 - It will support Indian micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in adopting low-emission and climate-resilient technologies, thereby contributing to the country's net-zero targets.

Which of the above statements is/are Correct?

- (1) A,B
- (2) A,C
- (3) A,B,C
- (4) B,C
- (5) B only

Answer key-3

Solution:

Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) said the Green Climate Fund (GCF) approved a \$215.6 million loan facility for one of its projects. The funding is for implementing Financing Mitigation and Adaptation Projects (FMAP) in Indian small businesses, as per an official statement. It will support Indian micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in adopting low-emission and climate-resilient technologies, thereby contributing to the country's net-zero targets.

108. Government retains 14% rise in capital investment of Rs 67,000 crore by 8 power PSUs in FY25. Consider the following statements.
- The government had provided for Rs 67,286.01 crore investment by the eight power sector firms in the interim budget presented on February 1, 2024, compared to Rs 59,119.55 crore for 2023-24 under the revised estimate.
 - The annual investment by these eight power sector firms for the 2023-24 fiscal was budgeted at Rs 45,805.22 crore.
 - Investment by hydro power giant SJVN Ltd has been hiked to Rs 12,000 crore for 2024-25, from the revised and budgeted amount of Rs 10,000 crore for 2023-24.

Which of the above statements is/are Correct?

- (1) A,B
- (2) A,C

- (3) A,B,C
- (4) B,C
- (5) B only

Answer key-2

Solution:

Solution:

The government in the Budget retained nearly 14 per cent rise in capital investment of Rs 67,286.01 crore proposed in the interim document by eight state-owned power companies for this fiscal. The annual investment by these eight power sector firms for the 2023-24 fiscal was budgeted at Rs 60,805.22 crore.

The government had provided for Rs 67,286.01 crore investment by the eight power sector firms in the interim budget presented on February 1, 2024, compared to Rs 59,119.55 crore for 2023-24 under the revised estimate.

109. Cashfree Payments, in July 2024 received the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) nod to operate as a PA-CB nearly a year after the banking regulator issued a circular on the regulation of such entities. Consider the following statements.
- A. The Mumbai-based company is one of the first non-banks to receive the PA-CB licence.
 - B. PA-CB stands for payment aggregator-cross border
 - C. The RBI categorises PA-CBs as Export only PA-CB (PA-CB-E), Import only PA-CB (PA-CB-I), and Export and Import PA-CB (PA-CB-E&I).

Which of the above statements is/are Incorrect?

- (1) A,B
- (2) A,C
- (3) A,B,C
- (4) B,C
- (5) A only

Answer key-5

Solution:

PA-CB are entities that facilitate cross-border payment transactions for the import and export of permissible goods and services in the online mode, according to the RBI.

The RBI categorises PA-CBs as Export only PA-CB (PA-CB-E), Import only PA-CB (PA-CB-I), and Export and Import PA-CB (PA-CB-E&I).

Cashfree Payments, a company specialising in banking solutions and payments, on Monday received the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) nod to operate as a payment aggregator-cross border (PA-CB) nearly a year after the banking regulator issued a circular on the regulation of such entities.

The **Bengaluru-based company** is one of the first non-banks to receive the PA-CB licence.

110. India gained 2,66,000 hectares of forest area annually from 2010 to 2020, according to a new report. Consider the following statements.
- A. It secured the third spot among the top 10 countries with the most significant forest area gains during this period

- B. The report has been released by the Center for International Forestry Research.
- C. China led the world with the maximum forest area gain of 1,937,000 hectares, followed by Australia with 4,46,000 hectares, and then India. Other countries in the top 10 include Chile, Vietnam, Turkey, the United States, France, Italy and Romania.

Which of the above statements is/are Incorrect?

- (1) A,B
- (2) A,C
- (3) A,B,C
- (4) B,C
- (5) B only

Answer key-5

Solution:

- A. It secured the third spot among the top 10 countries with the most significant forest area gains during this period
- B. The report has been released by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).
- C. China led the world with the maximum forest area gain of 1,937,000 hectares, followed by Australia with 4,46,000 hectares, and then India. Other countries in the top 10 include Chile, Vietnam, Turkey, the United States, France, Italy and Romania.

said that PMEGP has provided subsidies worth more than Rs 25,263.33 crore till July 2024.

Consider the following statements.

- A. Minister of State for MSME is Shobha Karandlaje.
- B. It generated employment for 7.9 million people.
- C. The minister also highlighted that since its inception in FY09, the scheme has assisted more than 9.65 lakh micro enterprises across the country.

Which of the above statements is/are Correct?

- (1) A,B
- (2) A,C
- (3) A,B,C
- (4) B,C
- (5) B only

Answer key-3

Solution:

Solution: The Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) said on that the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) has provided subsidies worth more than Rs 25,263.33 crore and generated employment for 7.9 million people till July 2024.

The minister also highlighted that since its inception in FY09, the scheme has assisted more than 9.65 lakh micro enterprises across the country.

- 111. The Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) recently

112. Union Minister of Coal and Mines Shri G. Kishan Reddy recently inaugurated the National Landslide Forecasting Centre (NLFC) at GSI, Dharitri Campus, Salt Lake City, Kolkata. Consider the following statements.

- A. Minister also launched the Bhusanket Web Portal and Bhooskhalan Mobile App.
- B. Shri Janardan Prasad is the current Director General of GSI.
- C. NLFC will provide early information to local administration and communities, update landslide inventories, and integrate real-time rainfall and slope instability data for enhanced forecasting accuracy.

Which of the above statements is/are Correct?

- (1) A,B
- (2) A,C
- (3) A,B,C
- (4) B,C
- (5) B only

Answer key-3

Solution:

Union Minister of Coal and Mines Shri G. Kishan Reddy recently inaugurated the National Landslide Forecasting Centre (NLFC) at GSI, Dharitri Campus, Salt Lake City, Kolkata. Consider the following statements.

- A. Minister also launched the Bhusanket Web Portal and Bhooskhalan Mobile App.
- B. Shri Janardan Prasad is the current Director General of GSI.

C. NLFC will provide early information to local administration and communities, update landslide inventories, and integrate real-time rainfall and slope instability data for enhanced forecasting accuracy

113. **The mound-burial system of the Ahom dynasty in Assam has been included in the UNESCO World Heritage List. Consider the following statements.**

- A. The decision was taken during the ongoing 48th session of the World Heritage Committee (WHC) being held in India.
- B. 'Moidams' was submitted as India's nomination for inclusion in the UNESCO World Heritage List for the year 2023-24.
- C. 'Moidams' are vaulted chambers (chow-chali), often double-storied, that have an arched passage for entry. Atop the hemispherical mud mounds, layers of bricks and earth are laid. The base of the mound is reinforced by a polygonal toe-wall and an arched gateway on the west.

Which of the above statements is/are Correct?

- (1) A,B
- (2) A,C
- (3) A,B,C
- (4) B,C
- (5) B only

Answer key-4

Solution:

A. The decision was taken during the 46th session of the World Heritage Committee (WHC) being held in India.

B. 'Moidams' was submitted as India's nomination for inclusion in the UNESCO World Heritage List for the year 2023-24.

C. 'Moidams' are vaulted chambers (chow-chali), often double-storied, that have an arched passage for entry. Atop the hemispherical mud mounds, layers of bricks and earth are laid. The base of the mound is reinforced by a polygonal toe-wall and an arched gateway on the west.

114. National Broadcasting Day is celebrated in India in July month every year. Consider the following statements?

- A. The history of National Broadcasting Day dates back to 1927. On this day, the Indian Broadcasting Company (IBC) made its first radio broadcast from Bombay (now Mumbai).
- B. The IBC was later taken over by the government and renamed All India Radio (AIR) in 1936
- C. National Broadcasting Day is celebrated in India every year on July 23

Which of the above statements is/are Correct?

- (1) A,B
- (2) A,C
- (3) A,B,C
- (4) B,C
- (5) B only

Answer key-4

Solution:

A. The history of National Broadcasting Day dates back to July 23, 1927. On this day, the Indian Broadcasting Company (IBC) made its first radio broadcast from Bombay (now Mumbai).

B. The IBC was later taken over by the government and renamed All India Radio (AIR) in 1936

C. National Broadcasting Day is celebrated in India every year on July 23

115. As part of the Union Budget 2024-25, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman proposed to reduce the basic customs duty (BCD) rates on imported mobile phones, mobile printed circuit board assembly (PCBA). Consider the following statements.

A. The basic customs duty (BCD) rates on imported mobile phones, mobile printed circuit board assembly (PCBA), and mobile chargers to 10 per cent from 20 per cent.

B. The reduction in BCD is expected to make mobile phones and related accessories more affordable for consumers.

C. According to the Worldwide Quarterly Mobile Phone Tracker by International Data Corporation, India's smartphone market shipped 34 million units in the first quarter of 2024.

Which of the above statements is/are Correct?

- (1) A,B
- (2) A,C
- (3) A,B,C
- (4) B,C
- (5) B only

Answer key-4

Solution:

The basic customs duty (BCD) rates on imported mobile phones, mobile printed circuit board assembly (PCBA), and mobile chargers to 15 per cent from 20 per cent.

B. The reduction in BCD is expected to make mobile phones and related accessories more affordable for consumers.

C. According to the Worldwide Quarterly Mobile Phone Tracker by International Data Corporation, India's smartphone market shipped 34 million units in the first quarter of 2024.

116. As per Economic Survey 2023-24, Current Account Deficit (CAD) stood at 0.7 per cent of the GDP during FY24. Consider the following statements.

- A. India's real GDP is projected to grow between 6.5–7 per cent in 2024-25.
- B. The CAD improved to 0.7% of GDP in FY24 from 1.0% in FY23.
- C. Retail inflation decreased from 6.7% in FY23 to 5.4% in FY24.

Which of the above statements is/are Correct?

- (1) A,B
- (2) A,C
- (3) A,B,C
- (4) B,C
- (5) B only

Answer key-2

Solution:

Current Account Deficit (CAD) stood at 0.7 per cent of the GDP during FY24, an improvement from the deficit of 2.0 per cent of GDP in FY23.

India's real GDP is projected to grow between 6.5–7 per cent in 2024-25.

The CAD improved to 0.7% of GDP in FY24 from 1.0% in FY23.

Retail inflation decreased from 6.7% in FY23 to 5.4% in FY24.

117. The rollout of 'UPI One World' wallet for inbound travelers, across all* nations of the world, visiting India was announced recently. Consider the following statements.

- A. The rollout was done by National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).
- B. This innovative service will be available to the esteemed delegates attending the World Heritage Committee meeting in New Delhi from July 21-31, 2024
- C. UPI One World wallet, first introduced during the G20 summit hosted by India last year, will now be available to people visiting from many more countries.

Which of the above statements is/are Correct?

- (1) A,B
- (2) A,C
- (3) A,B,C

- (4) B,C
(5) B only

Answer key-3

Solution:

The National Payments Corp. of India has extended the 'UPI One World' wallet feature to all inbound international travellers. This means that from now on, inbound travellers across all nations of the world visiting India will be able to utilise this UPI feature and make real-time digital payments. delegates attending the World Heritage Committee meeting in New Delhi, scheduled from July 21 to 31.

UPI One World wallet, first introduced during the G20 summit hosted by India last year, will now be available to people visiting from many more countries. Foreign visitors can use the wallet to experience the convenience and security of the "made in India" technology. This eliminates the need to carry cash and the complexities of foreign exchange transactions.

118. The Department under the Ministry of Education (MoE) is observing a week-long 'Shiksha Saptah' (Education Week). Consider the following statements.
- A. Department of School Education and Literacy is observing this week.
B. The event is scheduled from July 21 to July 27 with the first day being

observed as the Teaching-Learning Material (TLM) Day.

- C. This week is meant to mark the fifth anniversary of the National Education Policy 2020.

Which of the above statements is/are Correct?

- (1) A,B
(2) A,C
(3) A,B,C
(4) B,C
(5) A only

Answer key-5

Solution:

The Department of School Education and Literacy under the Ministry of Education (MoE) has begun its week-long observance of 'Shiksha Saptah' (Education Week) on Monday, to mark the fourth anniversary of the National Education Policy 2020. The event is scheduled from July 22 to July 28 with the first day being observed as the Teaching-Learning Material (TLM) Day. "The objective is to motivate educators to use local resources to demonstrate high-quality, curriculum-aligned Teaching Learning Materials. The emphasis is on fostering participation that enables institutions to establish a dynamic learning atmosphere that places student learning outcomes at the forefront."

119. National Asset Reconstruction Company (NARCL) is eyeing stressed debt acquisitions totaling Rs 1.25 trillion with offers for assets in different stages of acquisition, due diligence. Consider the following statements.

- A. of the Rs 1.25 trillion, evaluations for assets valued at around Rs 40,000 crore are currently underway, the Economic Survey for 2023-24 stated.
- B. So far, NARCL has acquired stressed debt from 18 accounts, worth Rs 92,000 crore, including the acquisition of the ailing Srei Infrastructure Finance and Srei Equipment Finance as resolution applicants.
- C. NARCL acquires stressed debt on a 15:85 cash to security receipts structure.

Which of the above statements is/are Correct?

- (1) A,B
- (2) A,C
- (3) A,B,C
- (4) B,C
- (5) A only

Answer key-3

Solution:

State-owned National Asset Reconstruction Company (NARCL) is eyeing stressed debt acquisitions totaling Rs 1.25 trillion, with offers for assets in different stages of acquisition, due diligence. So far, NARCL has acquired stressed debt from 18 accounts, worth Rs

92,000 crore, including the acquisition of the ailing Srei Infrastructure Finance and Srei Equipment Finance as resolution applicants.

Incorporated in 2021, with majority stake held by public sector banks and the balance by private sector banks, NARCL has the mandate to acquire fully provisioned stressed assets from banks. NARCL acquires stressed debt on a 15:85 cash to security receipts structure.

120. As per a recent newspaper report, Digital payments platform PhonePe continued its dominance in the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) ecosystem in June 2024, Consider the following statements.

- A. The Bengaluru-based fintech unicorn processed 6.71 billion UPI transactions in June, amounting to a cumulative value of Rs 10.09 trillion, according to NPCI data.
- B. Paytm continued to be the second largest player on the UPI ecosystem in June, with the company holding 36.74 per cent share.
- C. Last month, the NPCI recorded 13.88 billion transactions on its platform.

Which of the above statements is/are Correct?

- (1) A,B
- (2) A,C
- (3) A,B,C
- (4) B,C
- (5) A only

Answer key-2

Solution:

Digital payments platform PhonePe continued its dominance in the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) ecosystem in June, cornering around 48.34 per cent market share.

Nearly one out of two transactions on the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)-run UPI are processed on fintech major PhonePe's platform.

Google Pay continued to be the second largest player on the UPI ecosystem in June, with the company holding 36.74 per cent share.

Paytm, the third largest player in the digital payments ecosystem, has continued to see decline in UPI transaction volumes with its market share down to 7.93 per cent in June from 12.79 per cent in January.

121. Boys Have Better Access to Career Information in India, as per the report published by UNICEF YuWaah and iDreamCareer, a platform offering personalised career guidance to students is based on a survey conducted over a period of five months (August-December 2023). Consider the following statements.

- A. This is as per the Second Edition of the Bharat Career Aspiration Report 2024 (BCAR), which tracks the state of aspiration potential, career awareness and accessibility of professional career counselling among secondary and higher secondary students from low-income families.

- B. The findings revealed that family members (30 per cent) and school teachers (13 per cent) are the top influencers in the career-related decision-making process for both male and female students.
- C. According to the findings, only 9.36 per cent of the total respondents (465 out of 4,968) received career guidance services prior to the study and were aware of such services.
- D. The India chapter of Generation Unlimited — YuWaah — was launched in November 2019.

Which of the above given statements is/are **Incorrect**?

- (1) A,B
(2) B,C
(3) C only
(4) A,B,C,D
(5) None of these

Answer key-5

Solution:

Boys Have Better Access to Career Information in India, as per the report published by UNICEF YuWaah and iDreamCareer, a platform offering personalised career guidance to students is based on a survey conducted over a period of five months (August-December 2023). Consider the following statements.

- A. This is as per the Second Edition of the Bharat Career Aspiration Report 2024 (BCAR), which tracks the state of aspiration potential, career awareness and accessibility of professional career counselling among secondary and higher secondary students from low-income families.
- B. The findings revealed that family members (30 per cent) and school teachers (13

per cent) are the top influencers in the career-related decision-making process for both male and female students.

C. According to the findings, only 9.36 per cent of the total respondents (465 out of 4,968) received career guidance services prior to the study and were aware of such services. In 2018, as part of the UN Youth Policy 2030, UNICEF launched the global Generation Unlimited (GenU) movement to meet the urgent needs of young people between the ages of 10-24, expanding learning, skill development, employment and engagement opportunities. The India chapter of Generation Unlimited — YuWaah — was launched in November 2019.

122. The Centre further pared the fiscal deficit target to 4.9% of GDP for 2024-25 in the budget 2025 from 5.1% projected in the interim Budget in February as it used extra dividends from the Reserve Bank of India. Consider the following statements.

- A. The fiscal deficit target has come to 4.9% of GDP for 2024-25, as per the budget 2024-25 from 5.1% projected in the interim Budget.
- B. This move has given burial to the FRBM framework which was fixated on the central government to limit the fiscal deficit to up to 3% of GDP and limit the central government debt to 40% of GDP.
- C. The GDP for Budget FY25 is estimated at Rs 326.37 trillion which is 10.5% over the Provisional Estimates of FY24.

Which of the statements given above is/are **Correct**?

- (6) A,B
- (7) B,C
- (8) C only
- (9) A,B,C
- (10) None of these

Answer key-4

Solution:

- A. The fiscal deficit target has come to 4.9% of GDP for 2024-25, as per the budget 2024-25 from 5.1% projected in the interim Budget.
- B. This move has given burial to the FRBM framework which was fixated on the central government to limit the fiscal deficit to up to 3% of GDP and limit the central government debt to 40% of GDP.
- C. The GDP for Budget FY25 is estimated at Rs 326.37 trillion which is 10.5% over the Provisional Estimates of FY24.

123. Over 70 per cent of individual investors who engage in intraday trading incurred an average loss of Rs 5,371 during 2022-23 (FY23), according to a study conducted.
- A. The study was conducted by the NSE India (National Stock Exchange of India Ltd).
 - B. Intraday trades involve buying and selling securities within the same trading day.
 - C. The study covered nearly 7 million investors trading in the equity cash segment.
 - D. According to Sebi data, the number of intraday traders among the top 10 brokers — who account for 86 per cent of

the market share — has increased fourfold, rising to 6.9 million in FY23 from 1.5 million in 2018-19 (FY19).

Which of the statements given above is/are **Incorrect**?

- (1) A,B
- (2) B,C,D
- (3) C only
- (4) A,B,C
- (5) Only A

Answer key-5

Solution:

Over 70 per cent of individual investors who engage in intraday trading incurred an average loss of Rs 5,371 during 2022-23 (FY23), according to a study conducted by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi).

Intraday trades involve buying and selling securities within the same trading day. The study covered nearly 7 million investors trading in the equity cash segment.

According to Sebi data, the number of intraday traders among the top 10 brokers — who account for 86 per cent of the market share — has increased fourfold, rising to 6.9 million in FY23 from 1.5 million in 2018-19 (FY19).

124. Meta AI is now available in seven new languages and more countries around the world, including in Latin America for the first time. Consider the following statements.

- A. Meta AI is now available in 33 countries, with the newest in Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, Peru and Cameroon.
- B. Last month, Meta launched the generative Artificial Intelligence (gen AI) feature Meta AI on WhatsApp, Instagram, Facebook and Messenger apps several regions around the world including India.
- C. Now, the company has announced new gen AI 'Imagine Me' feature that allows users to turn their selfies and photos to creative stickers and fun digital art.
- D. Meta AI's latest 'Imagine me' is powered by Emu image synthesis model.

Which of the statements given above is/are **Incorrect**?

- (1) A,B
- (2) B,C,D
- (3) C only
- (4) A,B,C
- (5) Only A

Answer key-5

Solution:

- A. Meta AI is now available in **22 countries**, with the newest in Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, Peru and Cameroon.
- B. Last month, Meta launched the generative Artificial Intelligence (gen AI) feature Meta AI on WhatsApp, Instagram, Facebook and Messenger apps several regions around the world including India.

- C. Now, the company has announced new gen AI 'Imagine Me' feature that allows users to turn their selfies and photos to creative stickers and fun digital art.
- D. Meta AI's latest 'Imagine me' is powered by Emu image synthesis model.

125. The top 1% increased their wealth by \$42 trillion in the past decade, 34 times more than the bottom 50% of the global population. Consider the following statements.

- A. Oxfam released this report released ahead of the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meeting in Brazil.
- B. "The average wealth per person in the top 1% rose by nearly \$400,000 in real terms over the last decade compared to just \$335 – an equivalent increase of less than nine cents a day – for a person in the bottom half,"
- C. The report also pointed out that billionaires around the world have been paying a tax rate equivalent to less than 5% of their wealth.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (1) A,B
- (2) B,C
- (3) C only
- (4) A,B,C
- (5) Only A

Answer key-1

Solution:

- A. Oxfam released this report released ahead of the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meeting in Brazil.
- B. "The average wealth per person in the top 1% rose by nearly \$400,000 in real terms over the last decade compared to just \$335 – an equivalent increase of less than nine cents a day – for a person in the bottom half,"
- C. The report also pointed out that billionaires around the world have been paying a tax rate equivalent to less than 0.5% of their wealth.

126. Government issued sovereign green bonds amounting to ₹ ₹16,000 in January-February 2023 followed by ₹20,000 Crore in October-December 2023, as per Economic Survey 2023-24. Consider the following statements.

- A. RBI has implemented the Framework for Acceptance of Green Deposits for the Regulated Entities to foster and develop a green finance ecosystem in the country.
- B. Sovereign green bonds, are issued by the Ministry of Finance I to finance green initiatives.
- C. The RBI maintains a green register containing bond details to monitor these bonds.

Which of the above statements is/are Correct?

- (1) A,B
- (2) A,C

- (3) A,B,C
(4) B,C
(5) A only

Answer key-5

Solution:

The Survey outlines that country has taken many measures to improve the business environment and catalyse greater quantum of resources. The Government undertook the issue of sovereign green bonds amounting to ₹16,000 Crore in January-February 2023 to raise proceeds for public sector projects that would contribute to the efforts to reduce the intensity of the economy's emissions, followed by ₹20,000 Crore raised through sovereign green bonds in October-December 2023. Sovereign green bonds, are issued by the RBI to finance green initiatives. The Ministry of Finance maintains a green register containing bond details to monitor these bonds. Notably, the ministry releases an annual report on these projects, detailing bond issuances, approved projects, allocated expenditures, current statuses, and potential impacts on reducing carbon intensity.

127. According to PLFS, more than what percent of the workforce is employed in agriculture, 11.4 per cent in manufacturing, 28.9 per cent in services, and 13.0 percent is in construction, as per

Economic survey 2023-24. Consider the following statements.

- A. As per the survey, In terms of employment status of workers, 57.3 per cent of the total workforce is self-employed, and 18.3 per cent is working as unpaid workers in household enterprises.
B. Casual labour comprises 21.8 per cent of the total workforce and regular wage/salaried workers are 20.9 per cent of the total workforce.
C. Gender-wise, it is the male workforce, which is shifting to self-employment, while the female workforce's share has been stable.

Which of the above statements is/are Incorrect?

- (1) A,B
(2) A,C
(3) A,B,C
(4) B,C
(5) C only

Answer key-5

Solution:

According to PLFS, more than what percent of the workforce is employed in agriculture, 11.4 per cent in manufacturing, 28.9 per cent in services, and 13.0 percent is in construction, as per Economic survey 2023-24. Consider the following statements.

- A. As per the survey, In terms of employment status of workers, 57.3 per cent of the total workforce is self-

employed, and 18.3 per cent is working as unpaid workers in household enterprises.

B. Casual labour comprises 21.8 per cent of the total workforce and regular wage/salaried workers are 20.9 per cent of the total workforce.

C. Gender-wise, it is the female workforce, which is shifting to self-employment, while the male workforce's share has been stable.

128. According to the Henley Passport Index 2024 July Global Ranking, Singapore's passport is currently ranked as the most powerful, providing visa-free access to the highest number of countries. Consider the following statements.

A. The second position is shared by five countries: France, Germany, Italy, Japan, and Spain, which provide visa-free access to 192 countries.

B. India is ranked at 84th spot along with Senegal and Tajikistan giving visa-free access to 58 countries.

C. At the bottom of the list is Afghanistan, which gives its citizens visa-free access to just 26 countries.

Which of the above statements is/are Incorrect?

- (1) A,B
- (2) A,C
- (3) A,B,C
- (4) B,C
- (5) B only

Answer key-5

Solution:

London-based global citizenship and residence advisory firm Henley & Partners has released the list of the world's most powerful passports. As per the Henley Passport Index 2024 July Global Ranking, Singapore holds the top position, providing visa-free access to 195 countries. The second position is shared by five countries: France, Germany, Italy, Japan, and Spain, which provide visa-free access to 192 countries.

India is ranked at 82nd spot along with Senegal and Tajikistan giving visa-free access to 58 countries. Interestingly, Maldives, whose relations with India have been under strain since November last year, is ranked 58th, with its citizens having visa-free access to 96 countries. China is ranked at 59th position, as the country grants visa-free access to 85 countries. At the bottom of the list is Afghanistan, which gives its citizens visa-free access to just 26 countries.

129. State run banks have charged depositors ₹2,331 crore penalty for non-maintenance quarterly or monthly average balance in FY24. Which of the banks charged the highest sum?

- (1) Punjab National Bank
- (2) Bank of Baroda
- (3) Indian Bank
- (4) State Bank of India
- (5) None of these

Answer key-1

Solution:

Among lenders, Punjab National Bank charged the highest sum of Rs 633 crore followed by Bank of Baroda at Rs 386 crore for non-maintenance quarterly balance. Indian Bank charged Rs 369 crore as penalty for non-maintenance of average monthly balance.

The finance ministry stated that availability of banking outlets is monitored by a Geographic Information System (GIS) based App., namely, Jan Dhan Darshak (JDD) App and out of the 6,01,328 inhabited villages mapped on this App, 6,00,458 villages (99.85%) are covered with banking outlets within a radius of 5 kms.

130. UltraTech Cement will acquire a 32.72 per cent stake in India Cements for ₹3,945 crore from the company's promoters and its associates. UltraTech is owned by which of the following?
- (1) Adani Group
 - (2) Hindustan Unilever
 - (3) Reliance Industries
 - (4) Aditya Birla Group
 - (5) None of these

Answer key-4

Solution:

UltraTech Cement, an Aditya Birla Group flagship, will acquire a 32.72 per cent stake in India Cements for ₹3,945 crore from the company's promoters and its associates. India Cements has a capacity of 14.45 mtpa of grey cement. Of this, 12.95 mtpa is in the South (particularly Tamil Nadu) and 1.5 mtpa is in Rajasthan.

131. As per a recent newspaper report, Banks are dealing with a massive backlog in debt recovery cases, which will take_____ to clear at the current pace.

- (1) four years
- (2) seven years
- (3) twelve years
- (4) ten years
- (5) eight years

Answer key-2

Solution:

Banks are dealing with a massive backlog in debt recovery cases, which will take seven years to clear at the current pace. Over 2 lakh cases are pending in Debt Recovery Tribunals (DRTs), which currently handle about 30,000- 40,000 cases annually.

In the last five years, from 2017 to 2022, DRTs managed to dispose of 1.45 lakh cases. To address this issue, the government has announced plans in the latest budget to increase the capacity of both DRTs and National Company Law Tribunals (NCLTs), which will look to strengthen the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) and improve the efficiency of debt recovery processes.

132. The average cost of data breaches in India reached _____million in 2023, marking a 28 per cent increase since 2020, according to the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Currency and Finance report for 2023-24.

- (1) \$1.18
- (2) \$2.18
- (3) \$4.18
- (4) \$3.18

(5) \$6.18

Answer key-2

Solution:

The average cost of data breaches in India reached \$2.18 million in 2023, marking a 28 per cent increase since 2020, according to the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Currency and Finance report for 2023-24.

The report said that India's average data breach cost was still below the global average. The most common attacks in India are phishing which was at 22 per cent and stolen or compromised credentials was 16 per cent.

133. The UNESCO World Heritage committee recently decided to register which of the following countries controversial Sado gold mine as a cultural heritage site?

- (1) South Korea
- (2) Japan
- (3) China
- (4) Philippines
- (5) None of these

Answer key-2

Solution: The UNESCO World Heritage committee on Saturday decided to register Japan's controversial Sado gold mine as a cultural heritage site after the country agreed to include it in an exhibit of its dark history of abusing Korean labourers during World War II. The mine on an island off the coast of Niigata in northern Japan operated for nearly 400 years and was once the world's largest gold producer before closing in 1989. It was also linked to

Japan's wartime abuse of Korean labourers.

134. The inaugural ceremony of 'One DAE One Subscription' (ODOS), a unique idea enabling Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) & all its units/subunits (about 60) together under one umbrella for read and publish access to national and international research papers as well as scientific journals recently took place at which of the following places ?

- (1) Tata Memorial Hospital, Mumbai
- (2) Fortis Memorial Research Institute, Mumbai
- (3) Artemis Hospital, Lucknow
- (4) Narayana Superspeciality Hospital, Bengaluru
- (5) None of these

Answer key-1

Solution: The inaugural ceremony of 'One DAE One Subscription' (ODOS) took place today at Tata Memorial Hospital, in Mumbai. ODOS is a unique idea enabling Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) & all its units/subunits (about 60) together under one umbrella for read and publish access to national and international research papers as well as scientific journals. With this initiative it is now possible to share the resources digitally and evolve collectively. DAE has signed consortium agreements with M/s. Wiley India Private Limited and with M/s. Springer Nature Group in furtherance of the same.

135. Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Shri Bhupender Yadav in July 2024 launched

_____ for inviting ideas related to products and services, which induce behavioral changes related to environment-friendly lifestyles.

- (1) Ideas4U
- (2) Ideas4LiFE
- (3) Ideas4SaFE
- (4) IdeasFAITH
- (5) Ideas4LiVE

Answer key-2

Solution:

Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Shri Bhupender Yadav launched today Ideas4LiFE for inviting ideas related to products and services, which induce behavioral changes related to environment-friendly lifestyles in the presence of Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Shri Kirti Vardhan Singh at Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi. The portal 'Ideas4Life.nic.in' will allow participants to submit their ideas and innovations online. The winning ideas under each of the seven themes of Mission LiFE will be recognized and awarded with attractive prizes for individuals as well as for institutions .

136. During his visit to which of the following countries in July 2024, External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar unveiled a postage stamp set featuring Ram Lalla, the deity of Ayodhya's Ram Janmabhoomi Temple?
- (1) Maldives
 - (2) Sri Lanka
 - (3) Seychelles
 - (4) Laos

(5) Singapore

Answer key-4

Solution:

During his visit to Laos, External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar along with his Laotian counterpart on Saturday unveiled a postage stamp set featuring Ram Lalla, the deity of Ayodhya's Ram Janmabhoomi Temple. The latest stamp set is the first in the world to feature Ram Lalla. The stamp set includes two stamps, one of Ram Lalla and the other of Lord Buddha of Luang Prabang, the ancient capital of Laos. The stamp set was unveiled celebrating the mutual cultural heritage of Hinduism and Buddhism, between both nations. Notably, Dr Jaishankar was in Laos to attend the 31st ASEAN Regional Forum in Vientiane. During the release of the postage stamp, Laos' Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Saleumxay Kommasith joined him.

137. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar recently unveiled Mahatma Gandhi's bust at _____ Freedom Plaza in Edogawa.
- (1) Tokyo's
 - (2) Vientiane's
 - (3) Thakhek's
 - (4) Seoul's
 - (5) None of these

Answer key-1

Solution: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar unveiled Mahatma Gandhi's bust at Tokyo's Freedom Plaza in Edogawa, while a group of schoolchildren filled the air with Gandhi's favourite prayer, "Raghupati Raghav Raja Ram."



Jaishankar attended the ceremony on the sidelines of the Quad Foreign Ministers meeting. Prominent dignitaries at the event included Edogawa Mayor Takeshi Saito, the Ambassador of India to Japan, Sibi George and other ministers.

138. _____ and Japan are expected to finalise 'UNICORN' antennas deal during Quad summit. The UNICORN antenna, currently deployed on Japan Maritime Self-Defence Force FFM escort vessels, is renowned for its stealth design, housing multiple antennas in a distinctive horn-shaped structure.

- (1) Australia
- (2) USA
- (3) India
- (4) Both 1 & 2
- (5) None of these

Answer key-3

Solution:

The Japanese government is actively exploring the possibility of exporting naval ship communication antennas to India, the Nikkei publication reported. The antennas, known as NORA-50 and nicknamed "UNICORN", were collaboratively developed by a consortium of Japanese companies, including Nippon Electric Company and Yokohama Rubber.

139. Recently, The _____ was officially launched at the World Education Conference 2024, hosted by the Federation of Economic Development Association (FEDA) at Hamdan Bin Mohammed Smart University in Dubai.

- (1) Tech Leaders Focus of India (TELFI)
- (2) Tech Leaders Foundation of India (TELFI)
- (3) Tech Leaders Facsimile of India (TELFI)
- (4) Tech Leaders Forum of India (TELFI)
- (5) Tech Leaders Fintech of India (TELFI)

Answer key-4

Solution:

The Tech Leaders Forum of India (TELFI) was officially launched today at the World Education Conference 2024, hosted by the Federation of Economic Development Association (FEDA) at Hamdan Bin Mohammed Smart University in Dubai.

TELFI, a new initiative aimed at empowering engineers, was unveiled as a key highlight of the conference. The forum is designed to support engineers through various professional activities, including webinars, workshops, and training sessions. Its primary goal is to provide engineers with the resources, knowledge, and network needed to excel in their careers and drive technological advancements both in India and internationally.

140. The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), chaired by the defence minister, Rajnath Singh, in July 2024 approved the procurement of _____ interceptor boats for the Indian Coast Guard and an advanced navigation system for the Indian Army's armoured fighting vehicles.
- (1) 12
 - (2) 34
 - (3) 56



(4) 22

(5) 11

Answer key-4

Solution:

The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), chaired by the defence minister, Rajnath Singh, has approved the procurement of **22 interceptor boats** for the Indian Coast Guard and an advanced navigation system for the Indian Army's armoured fighting vehicles.

The Coast Guard will get 22 interceptor boats, which will be equipped with state-of-the-art technology. These vessels will bolster the force's capacity for quick interception, surveillance, search-and-rescue operations, and medical evacuations in shallow waters.

The Advanced Land Navigation System (ALNS) for armoured fighting vehicles will be a crucial upgrade. This indigenously designed and developed system, to be procured from the Chennai-based Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) is described as spoof-proof with high levels of encryption.

141. The Indian Navy's stealth frigate, _____, participated in Russian Navy Day celebrations. It previously participated in the Main Naval Parade held on July 25, 2021, marking the 325th anniversary of the Russian Navy.

- (1) INS Vikramaditya
- (2) INS Tarkash
- (3) INS Zorawar
- (4) INS Tabar
- (5) INS Vibhuti

Answer key-4

Solution:

The Indian Navy's stealth frigate, INS Tabar, has arrived in St. Petersburg, Russia, to participate in the Russian Navy Day celebrations scheduled for July 28. This is not the first time INS Tabar has engaged in Russian naval events; it previously participated in the Main Naval Parade held on July 25, 2021, marking the 325th anniversary of the Russian Navy. During that parade, the Tabar was among the fleet reviewed by Russian President Vladimir Putin, highlighting the close ties between the two naval forces. Before arriving in St. Petersburg, INS Tabar made a port call in Hamburg, Germany, on July 17, 2024.

142. In July 2024, The Defence Ministry and the _____ signed an agreement that seeks to help Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and emerging companies in the defence sector to scale up their business operations, explore new markets and fund their research and development activities.

- (1) National Stock Exchange
- (2) BSE Ltd.
- (3) SEBI
- (4) IRDAI
- (5) None of these

Answer key-1

Solution: The Defence Ministry and the National Stock Exchange on Monday signed an agreement that seeks to help Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and emerging companies in the defence sector to scale up their business operations,



explore new markets and fund their research and development activities. The Memorandum of Understanding has been signed to facilitate capital market access to the MSMEs.

It intends to facilitate MSMEs in the defence sector to raise productive capital for their growth plan efficiently and transparently through the NSE platform 'NSE Emerge'.

143. The National Institute for the Empowerment of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities (NIEPID), under Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) and the Hans Foundation, announced the launch of Mobile Therapy Bus initiative. The National Institute for the Empowerment of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities (NIEPID) is based in_____.
- (1) Lucknow
 - (2) Hyderabad
 - (3) Kanpur
 - (4) Indore
 - (5) Bangalore

Answer key-2

Solution:

The National Institute for the Empowerment of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities (NIEPID), under Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) and the Hans Foundation, announced the launch of Mobile Therapy Bus initiative. Each Mobile Therapy Bus, designed to provide intensive and life-changing services, is expected to reach nearly 14,000 people with disabilities. The

initiative requires an initial investment of ₹2 crore per bus for capital expenditure and infrastructure, along with an annual operating budget of ₹1.2 crore to ensure ongoing maintenance, staffing, and operational efficiency.

144. Who among the following recently took charge as Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Small Industries Development Bank of India (Sidbi), Prior to this, he was the managing director (MD) of Industrial Finance Corporation of India (IFCI)?
- (1) Manjeet Singh
 - (2) V Satish Kumar
 - (3) Abhishek Patil
 - (4) Manoj Mittal
 - (5) None of these

Answer key-4

Solution:

Manoj Mittal has taken charge as Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Small Industries Development Bank of India (Sidbi), following his appointment by the Government of India. Prior to this, he was the managing director (MD) of Industrial Finance Corporation of India (IFCI). Sidbi was established on April 2, 1990, under an act of the Indian Parliament. Sidbi is mandated to serve as the Principal Financial Institution for executing the triple agenda of promotion, financing and development of the MSME (micro, small and Medium Enterprises) sector and coordination of the functions of the various Institutions engaged in similar activities.

145. Japan's Mitsubishi Motors is set to join an alliance between Honda Motor & Nissan Motor, creating a tie-up between automakers with combined sales of more than 8 million vehicles. Nissan owns _____ of Mitsubishi Motors.

- (1) 10%
- (2) 50%
- (3) 34%
- (4) 66%
- (5) 100%

Answer key-3

Solution:

Japan's Mitsubishi Motors is set to join an alliance between Honda Motor and Nissan Motor (7201.T), creating a tie-up between automakers with combined sales of more than 8 million vehicles.

Mitsubishi Motors, which is 34% owned by Nissan, will work with Honda and Nissan to finalise the details of their strategic partnership. The three firms intend to standardise in-vehicle software that controls cars.

146. Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, unveiled a Bronze statue of former Union Minister S. Jaipal Reddy at Kotra Circle, on the Srisailem Highway, to mark the latter's death anniversary. Who is the current governor of Telangana?

- (1) Jishnu Dev Varma
- (2) CP Radhakrishnan
- (3) Lakshman Prasad Acharya
- (4) Banwarilal Purohit
- (5) Gulab Chand Kataria

Answer key-1

Solution:

Former deputy chief minister of Tripura Jishnu Dev Varma has been appointed Governor of Telangana in place of CP Radhakrishnan, who held additional charge of the state for a brief period along with Jharkhand.

147. Lewis Hamilton won record-extending _____ Formula One win at the Belgian Grand Prix.

- (1) 105th
- (2) 104th
- (3) 100th
- (4) 112th
- (5) 116th

Answer key-1

Solution: Lewis Hamilton said his record-extending 105th Formula One win at the Belgian Grand Prix was bittersweet given Mercedes teammate George Russell's disqualification from victory.

Hamilton inherited the Spa win after Russell's car was found to be underneath the minimum weight requirement for every car at the end of an event.

148. International Tiger Day 2024, also called as the Global Tiger Day 2024, is observed every year on _____ to raise awareness about the magnificent but endangered animal.

- (1) July 27
- (2) July 28
- (3) July 29
- (4) July 30
- (5) July 31

Answer key- 3

Solution:

International Tiger Day 2024, also called as the Global Tiger Day 2024, is observed every year on July 29 to raise awareness about the magnificent but endangered animal. The day is a reminder of the collective effort of 13 tiger range countries which came together to create TX2- the global goal to double the wild tigers' population in 2022. The day was first established in 2010 at the Saint Petersburg Tiger Summit.

149. National Asset Reconstruction Company (NARCL) is eyeing stressed debt acquisitions totaling Rs_____, with offers for assets in different stages of acquisition, due diligence.
- (1) 1.10 trillion
 - (2) 1.25 trillion
 - (3) 1.16 trillion

(4) 1.78 trillion

(5) 4.25 trillion

Answer key-2

Solution:

State-owned National Asset

Reconstruction Company (NARCL) is eyeing stressed debt acquisitions totaling Rs 1.25 trillion, with offers for assets in different stages of acquisition, due diligence. So far, NARCL has acquired stressed debt from 18 accounts, worth Rs 92,000 crore, including the acquisition of the ailing Srei Infrastructure Finance and Srei Equipment Finance as resolution applicants.

Incorporated in 2021, with majority stake held by public sector banks and the balance by private sector banks, NARCL has the mandate to acquire fully provisioned stressed assets from banks. NARCL acquires stressed debt on a 15:85 cash to security receipts structure.

SCAN ME



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Quantitative Aptitude Practice Questions:

Q1. A's income is $33\frac{1}{3}\%$ less than that of C's while B's income is Rs 700 more than the income of A. If average of A's and C's income is Rs 200 less than that of B's income. Then find income of B?

- a. 2200
- b. 2700
- c. 3200
- d. 3700
- e. none

CORRECT OPTION: b

SOLUTION:

Let income of C = $3x$
 Then, income of A = $2x$
 Income of B = $700 + 2x$
 $(2x + 3x)/2 = 700 + 2x - 200$
 $5x = 1000 + 4x$
 $x = 1000$
 Income of B = $2000 + 700$
 = 2700

Q2. The numerator of a fraction is decreased by 25% and the denominator is increased by 125%. If the resultant fraction is $7/5$, then find the 50% of the original fraction.

- a. $21/11$
- b. $21/10$
- c. $17/10$
- d. $27/11$
- e. none

CORRECT OPTION: b

SOLUTION:

Let original fraction = x/y

According to question-

$$(100-25)x / (100+125)y = 7/5$$

$$75x/225y = 7/5$$

$$x/y = 21/5$$

$$\text{required answer} = \frac{1}{2} \text{ of } 21/5 \\ = 21/10$$

Q3. Average age of A, B & C after 5 years will be 25 years and the ratio between the present age of B & C is 3: 2. If the age of A is 4 years less than that of B, then find the average age of A & B after 2 years from today.

- a. 22
- b. 22.5
- c. 24
- d. 24.5
- e. none

CORRECT OPTION: c

SOLUTION:

Total age of A, B and C after 5 years = $3 \times 25 = 75$ years

Total present age of A, B and C = $75 - 15 = 60$ years

Let the present age of B & C = $3x$ & $2x$

Age of A = $3x - 4$

Now, $3x + 2x + 3x - 4 = 60$

$$8x = 64$$

$$x = 8$$

Age of A after 2 years = $3x - 4 + 2 = 22$

Age of B after 2 years = $3x + 2 = 26$

Required average = $\frac{1}{2} (22 + 26)$
 = 24 years

Q4. A's income is $33\frac{1}{3}\%$ less than that of B while C's income is Rs 300 more than that of A. If the average income of A, B and C is Rs 50 more than that of C's income. Then find income of A?

- a. 1300
- b. 1350
- c. 1400
- d. 1450
- e. 1500

CORRECT OPTION: e

SOLUTION:

Let the income of B = $3x$

Income of A = $2x$

Income of C = $2x+300$

Sum of income of A, B and C = $3x+2x+2x+300$
 $= 7x+300$

According to question-

$$\frac{1}{3} (7x+300) = 2x+300+50$$

$$7x+300 = 6x+1050$$

$$x = 750$$

$$\text{income of A} = 2x = 1500$$

Q5. The average weight of M and his three friends is 56 kg. If M is 8 kg more than the average weight of his three friends, find the weight of M (in kg)?

- a. 54 kg
- b. 58 kg
- c. 60 kg
- d. 62 kg
- e. 64 kg

CORRECT OPTION: d

SOLUTION:

Let the average weight of three friends = x kg

$$\text{Then, } M+3x = 4 \times 56$$

$$M+3x = 224$$

and also, $M = x+8$, putting in above equation

$$M+3x = 224$$

$$X+8+3x = 224$$

$$4x = 216$$

$$x = 54$$

$$\text{weight of M} = 54+8 = 62 \text{ kg}$$

Q6. An article is marked up by 50% above the cost price. If the shopkeeper offers a discount of 30% and still earns a profit of rupees 150. For earning a profit of rupees 1050, how much discount should be offered by the shopkeeper?

- a. 8%
- b. 10%
- c. 12%
- d. 15%
- e. none

CORRECT OPTION: b

SOLUTION:

Let the cost price of the article = $100x$

$$\text{MRP} = 150x$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Selling price after giving discount of } 30\% &= 150x \\ &\times \frac{70}{100} \\ &= 105x \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{Profit} = 105x - 100x = 5x$$

$$5x = 150$$

$$X = 30$$

$$\text{MRP} = 150x = 4500$$

$$\text{Cost price} = 100x = 3000$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Selling price to earn a profit of rupees } 1050 &= \\ 3000+1050 &= 4050 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Discount \%} &= \frac{(4500-4050)}{4500} \times 100 \\ &= 10\% \end{aligned}$$

Q7. Shopkeeper markup an article 50% above the cost price and give a discount of 20%. If the same article is marked up 40% above its cost price & 10% discount, the difference between profit earned in both the cases is what percent of

the old selling price of the article when markup percent is 50%.

- a. 5%
- b. 7.5%
- c. 10%
- d. 12.5%
- e. none

CORRECT OPTION: a

SOLUTION:

Let the cost price of article = 100y

Then MRP = 150y

Selling price after giving discount of 20% = 120y

Now in second condition MRP = 140y

Second selling price after discount of 10% = 126y

$$\text{Required percentage} = \frac{(126y - 120y)}{120y} \times 100 = 5\%$$

Q8. What approximate value should come in place of x in the following questions?

$$\sqrt{37.49\% \text{ of } 800 + 32.98\% \text{ of } 71.97} = x$$

- a. 15
- b. 17
- c. 18
- d. 23
- e. none

CORRECT OPTION: c

SOLUTION:

$$\sqrt{37.49\% \text{ of } 800 + 32.98\% \text{ of } 71.97} = x$$

$$\sqrt{37.5\% \text{ of } 800 + 33\% \text{ of } 72} = x$$

$$\sqrt{300 + 24} = x$$

$$X = 18$$

Q9. The average present age of A, B and C is 22 years. The ratio of their ages 4 years later will become in the ratio of 6: 3: 4. Find the average of present age B and C?

- a. 15 years
- b. 17 years
- c. 19.5 years
- d. 21.5 years
- e. 23 years

CORRECT OPTION: b

SOLUTION:

Total present age of A, B and C = $3 \times 22 = 66$ years

Let their ages after 4 years becomes 6x, 3x and 4x

$$6x + 3x + 4x = 66 + 12$$

$$13x = 78$$

$$x = 6$$

age of B after 4 years = $3x = 18$

present age of B = $18 - 4 = 14$ years

age of C after 4 years = $4x = 24$ years

present age of C = $24 - 4 = 20$ years

average of present age B and C = $\frac{1}{2} (14 + 20) = 17$ years

Q10. A man goes to the park daily. His average speed last week was 42 Km/h, for the first four days was 44 Km/h, and that for the last four days was 39 Km/h. Find out the time taken by man to travel 247 Km if he travels with the speed of the fourth day.

- a. 6.5 h
- b. 6 h
- c. 5.5 h
- d. 5 h
- e. 8 h

CORRECT OPTION: a

SOLUTION:

Let the man travel only 1 hour daily.

Total distance covered in first 4 days = $4 \times 44 = 176$ km

Total distance covered in last 4 days = $4 \times 39 = 156$ km

Total distance covered in week (7 days) = $7 \times 42 = 294$ km

Distance covered in 4th day = $176 + 156 - 294 = 332 - 294$

= 38 km

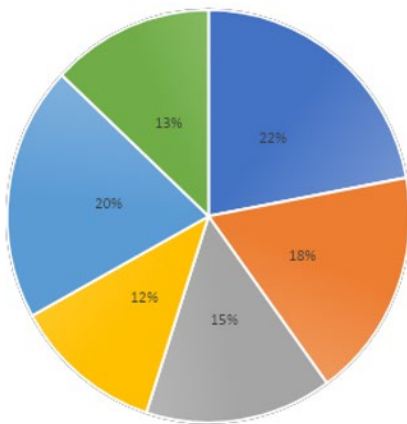
He travels 1 hour daily,

So speed = 38km/h

Required time taken by man to travel = $247/38 = 6.5$ hours

(Direction for Q 11 to 15): The pie chart below shows the percentage distribution of six different brands of laptops sold by an electronic store in the year 2022. Read the data carefully and answer the following questions:

Total laptops sold = 8400



Q11. Total laptops of Dell & Acer brands sold together are what percent more than total laptops of Asus brand sold?

A. 26%

B. 38%

C. 50%

D. 52%

E. 54%

CORRECT OPTION: c

SOLUTION:

Pie Chart Data for Calculation:

HP: 22% of 8400 = 1848

Dell: 18% of 8400 = 1512

Lenovo: 15% of 8400 = 1260

Acer: 12% of 8400 = 1008

Asus: 20% of 8400 = 1680

Apple: 13% of 8400 = 1092

Total laptops of Dell & Acer = $1512 + 1008 = 2520$

Total laptops of Asus = 1680

Percentage more = $(2520 - 1680) / 1680 \times 100 = 840 / 1680 \times 100 = 50\%$

Q12. Find the difference between the average number of laptops of Dell & Apple brands sold and the average number of laptops of Lenovo & HP brands sold.

A. 252

B. 240

C. 260

D. 280

E. 200

CORRECT OPTION: a

SOLUTION:

Pie Chart Data for Calculation:

HP: 22% of 8400 = 1848

Dell: 18% of 8400 = 1512

Lenovo: 15% of 8400 = 1260

Acer: 12% of 8400 = 1008

Asus: 20% of 8400 = 1680

Apple: 13% of 8400 = 1092

Average of Dell & Apple = $(1512+1092)/2=1302$

Average of Lenovo & HP = $(1260+1848)/2 = 1554$

Difference = $1554 - 1302 = 252$

Q13. If the ratio between total gaming laptops and total business laptops sold by Lenovo is 3:5 and that of Apple is 2:3, then find the approximate difference between total gaming laptops sold and total business laptops sold of both brands by the store (both brands sold only these two types of laptops).

A. 445

B. 480

C. 520

D. 533

E. 560

CORRECT OPTION: d

SOLUTION:

Pie Chart Data for Calculation:

HP: 22% of 8400 = 1848

Dell: 18% of 8400 = 1512

Lenovo: 15% of 8400 = 1260

Acer: 12% of 8400 = 1008

Asus: 20% of 8400 = 1680

Apple: 13% of 8400 = 1092

Gaming laptops of Lenovo = $3/8 \times 1260 = 472.5$

Business laptops of Lenovo = $5/8 \times 1260 = 787.5$

Gaming laptops of Apple = $2/5 \times 1092 = 436.8$

Business laptops of Apple = $3/5 \times 1092 = 655.2$

Total gaming laptops = $472.5 + 436.8 = 909.3$

Total business laptops = $787.5 + 655.2 = 1442.7$

Difference = $1442.7 - 909.3 = 533.4 \sim 533$

Q14. Find the ratio between total laptops of HP & Dell brands sold together to total laptops of Asus & Apple brands sold together.

A. 19:21

B. 21:19

C. 40: 19

D. 19: 33

E. 40: 33

CORRECT OPTION: e

SOLUTION:

Pie Chart Data for Calculation:

HP: 22% of 8400 = 1848

Dell: 18% of 8400 = 1512

Lenovo: 15% of 8400 = 1260

Acer: 12% of 8400 = 1008

Asus: 20% of 8400 = 1680

Apple: 13% of 8400 = 1092

Total laptops of HP & Dell = $1848 + 1512 = 3360$

Total laptops of Asus & Apple = $1680 + 1092 = 2772$

Ratio = $3360: 2772$
= 40: 33

Q15. Total number of laptops of Dell brand sold are what percent more than the total number of laptops of Acer brand sold?

A. $33\frac{1}{3}\%$

B. 40%

C. 45%

D. 50%

E. 55%

CORRECT OPTION: d

SOLUTION:

Pie Chart Data for Calculation:

HP: 22% of 8400 = 1848

Dell: 18% of 8400 = 1512

Lenovo: 15% of 8400 = 1260

Acer: 12% of 8400 = 1008
 Asus: 20% of 8400 = 1680
 Apple: 13% of 8400 = 1092
 Total laptops of Dell = 1512
 Total laptops of Acer = 1008
 Percentage more = $(1512 - 1008) / 1008 \times 100$
 = $504 / 1008 \times 100 = 50\%$

Q16. The average earning of a person from April to September is Rs. 7680 and he earns Rs. 4350 in April and Rs.5040 in October. Then find the average earning from May to October?

- a.7695
- b.7710
- c.7795
- d.7830
- e.none

CORRECT OPTION: c

SOLUTION:

Here lower earning month April will be replaced by higher earning month October

Hence, average will be increased by $\frac{1}{6}(5040 - 4350) = 690 / 6 = 115$

average earning from May to October =
 7680 + 115 = 7795

Q17. The shopkeeper wanted to sell a watch at a profit of 10% but he actually sold it at a loss of 10% for Rs 270. He has another watch costing at Rs 250, At what profit % should he sell it to make an overall profit of 5%?

SCAN ME



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- a.8%
- b.8.5%
- c.10%
- d.23%
- e.none

CORRECT OPTION: d

SOLUTION:

Selling price of watch = 270

90% of cost price = 270

Cost price = $270 / 90 \times 100$
 = 300

To earn an overall profit of 5% he should gain a profit of rupees = 5% of 300 + 5% of 250
 = 15 + 12.5
 = 27.5

Selling Price of the second watch = Total Selling Price - Selling Price of the first watch
 = 577.5 - 270 = 307.5

Profit = Selling Price - Cost Price = 307.5 - 250 = 57.5

Profit percentage = $57.5 / 250 \times 100 = 23\%$

Q18. The price of sugar has increased by 20%.

Reena has decided to spend only 8% more than what she initially spent on buying sugar. What is the percentage decrease in Reena's sugar consumption?

- a. 8%
- b.10%
- c.12.5%
- d.15%
- e.none

CORRECT OPTION: b

SOLUTION:

Let the initial price of sugar be Rs. 100 per unit and her consumption be 10 units.

Initial amount spent = $100 \times 10 = \text{Rs. } 1,000$

New price of sugar = 120% of 100 = Rs. 120

and new total amount spent = 108% of 1000 = Rs. 1,080

New consumption = $1080 / 120 = 9$ units

Decrease in consumption = $10 - 9 = 1$ unit

% decrease = $1/10 \times 100 = 10\%$

Q19. A factory has a mixture of 60% iron and 40% copper. If 20 kg of copper is added to make the mixture 50% iron, what was the initial weight of the mixture?

A. 100 kg

B. 50 kg

C. 60 kg

D. 70 kg

E. 80 kg

CORRECT OPTION: a

SOLUTION:

Let the initial weight of the mixture = $10x$ kg

Iron = $6x$ kg

Copper = $4x$ kg

When 20 kg of copper is added then,

$$\frac{(4x+20)}{6x} = 1/1$$

$$2x = 20$$

$$x = 10$$

initial weight of the mixture = $10x = 100$ kg

Q20. Ratio of cost price to marked price of an article is 4:7 and the shopkeeper allowed a 40% discount on marked price. If a shopkeeper earned a profit of Rs.8 on selling the article, then how much discount in rupees will be given on 10 such articles?

a. 1120

b. 960

c. 830

d. 770

e. 650

CORRECT OPTION: a

SOLUTION:

Let the cost price and marked price of article are = $4a$ and $7a$

Selling price of article (when 40% discount allowed) = 60% of $7a = 4.2a$

According to question-

$$4.2a - 4a = 8$$

$$0.2a = 8$$

$$a = 40$$

$$\text{marked price} = 7a = 280$$

$$\text{discount} = 40\% \text{ of } 280 = 112$$

$$\text{discount in selling 10 such articles} = 10 \times 112 = \mathbf{1120 \text{ rupees}}$$

English Language Practise Questions

Directions (Q-1 to 7): In the following passage some words have been deleted. Fill in the blanks with the help of the alternatives given. Select the most appropriate option for each blank.

Don't let the adorable title fool you: As Scott J. Shapiro ____1____ in "Fancy Bear Goes Phishing," his new book about cybersecurity, hacking can ____2____ terrible harm. Shapiro is the author, with Oona A. Hathaway, of "The Internationalists" (2017), which ____3____ 20th-century efforts to ____4____ war; ____5____ the numerous questions animating "Fancy Bear Goes Phishing" is ____6____ hacking has opened the door to war by other means. After all, "Fancy Bear" and "Cozy Bear" refer to the cyberespionage units linked to Russian intelligence that gained access to the Democratic National Committee's computer systems before the 2016 presidential election. Fancy Bear released a ____7____ of emails that included Hillary Clinton's closed-door speeches to Goldman Sachs and her campaign chairman's tips for risotto.

Don't let the adorable title fool you: As Scott J. Shapiro ____1____ in "Fancy Bear Goes Phishing," his new book about cybersecurity, hacking can ____2____ terrible harm.

Question 1: Blank 1

- A. Denies
- B. Presume

- C. Acknowledges
- D. Daggers
- E. None of these

Don't let the adorable title fool you: As Scott J. Shapiro ____1____ in "Fancy Bear Goes Phishing," his new book about cybersecurity, hacking can ____2____ terrible harm.

Question 2: Blank 2

- A. Instinct
- B. Elucidate
- C. Avert
- D. Inflict
- E. None of these

Shapiro is the author, with Oona A. Hathaway, of "The Internationalists" (2017), which ____3____ 20th-century efforts to ____4____ war; ____5____ the numerous questions animating "Fancy Bear Goes Phishing" is ____6____ hacking has opened the door to war by other means.

Question 3: Blank 3

- A. Justifies
- B. Presents
- C. Reimburse
- D. Recounts
- E. None of these

Shapiro is the author, with Oona A. Hathaway, of "The Internationalists" (2017), which ____3____ 20th-century efforts to ____4____ war; ____5____ the

numerous questions animating “Fancy Bear Goes Phishing” is _____6_____ hacking has opened the door to war by other means.

Question 4: Blank 4

- A. Outlaw
- B. Provoke
- C. Assert
- D. Defend
- E. None of these

Shapiro is the author, with Oona A. Hathaway, of “The Internationalists” (2017), which _____3_____ 20th-century efforts to _____4_____ war; _____5_____ the numerous questions animating “Fancy Bear Goes Phishing” is _____6_____ hacking has opened the door to war by other means.

Question 5: Blank 5

- A. Within
- B. Between
- C. Besides
- D. Among
- E. None of these

Shapiro is the author, with Oona A. Hathaway, of “The Internationalists” (2017), which _____3_____ 20th-century efforts to _____4_____ war; _____5_____ the numerous questions animating “Fancy Bear Goes Phishing” is _____6_____ hacking has opened the door to war by other means.

Question 6: Blank 6

- A. Whether
- B. Erstwhile
- C. Therefore
- D. Nonetheless

E. None of these

Fancy Bear released a _____7_____ of emails that included Hillary Clinton’s closed-door speeches to Goldman Sachs and her campaign chairman’s tips for risotto.

Question 7: Blank 7

- A. Drive
- B. Trove
- C. Trifle
- D. Dock
- E. None of these

Direction(8-17): A phrase written in brackets is given against each blank. Choose the right IDIOM(s) / Word(s) from the options which can replace the phrase most appropriately. If none of the options is fit for replacement, according to you, then select E as your answer.

Revenues from the Goods and Services Tax (GST), which completes seven years at the end of this month, hit a record high of ₹2.1 lakh crore in July 2024 that typically sees higher inflows due to a year-end _____(**Adherence to normative protocols or regulatory frameworks**) rush. Receipts in May, for transactions _____(**Execution or implementation of prescribed tasks**) in April, were the fifth highest ever at ₹1,72,739 crore, rising almost 10% from a year ago, compared with a 12.4% uptick in the previous month. This was the slowest rise since July 2021 when the second COVID-19 wave had dented economic activity. In the nearly three years since then, GST revenues have generally grown at least 11%. Compared with the average monthly receipts of

₹1.68 lakh crore in 2023-24, taxes _____

(Associative relevance or connection)

to the first month of this fiscal are 3% higher.

Although gross revenues from domestic transactions grew 15.3%, accelerating from a 13.4% rise a month earlier, revenues from goods imports dipped for the second time in three months.

Domestic revenue growth has also been uneven across States, with five recording a decline in May, and eight growing far slower than the national average. However, broader worries about GST revenues

being _____ **(Exhibiting suboptimal or**

disappointing outcomes), voiced by the Union

Finance Minister at a GST Council meeting in late 2021, have now _____ (Fell back or went back to a

previous position). This is, therefore, an

opportune time for the Council, which is meeting

this Saturday, to _____ **(Aggressively advance**

or accelerate activities) on its pending reform

agenda to make it a truly Good and Simple Tax as

originally _____ **(Conceptualized or**

projected into prospective scenarios).

Meeting for the first time since last October, the

Council may have much routine work on its

plate, including clarifications related to, and

reviews of, past decisions such as the 28% levy

on online games and casinos. However, it is

hoped the Council will also find time for bigger

things such as reviving the plan

to _____ **(Simplify or make more efficient.)**

GST's complex, multiple-rate structure. A

ministerial group, tasked with this agenda since

2021, must be asked to restart its work

(Executed with celerity and precision). A

new rate structure might also entail lower levies

on items such as cement and insurance, for

instance. A road map is also needed to bring

excluded items such as electricity, natural gas,

and petroleum products into the GST net to

ensure businesses can avail credits for these

inputs. Along with easing compliance for

smaller firms as promised in the Bharatiya

Janata Party's election manifesto, there is room

for simplifying the system for all businesses,

including large ones which are compelled to

register in each State and face varying

compliance diktats. Not all of this can be

discussed in one go. So, it is most critical that the

Council, which is usually expected to meet every

quarter but has been _____ **(Assembled**

or summoned for deliberative engagements)

just six times since 2022, resolves to meet more

often.

Revenues from the Goods and Services Tax

(GST), which completes seven years at the end of

this month, hit a record high of ₹2.1 lakh crore in

July that typically sees higher inflows due to a

year-end _____ **(Adherence to normative**

protocols or regulatory frameworks).

8. Which of the following

IDIOM(s)/WORD(s) can most appropriately fit in

the blank in the above statement?

- a. Compliance
- b. Acquiescence
- c. Recalcitrance

A. Only a

B. Only b and c

C. Only a and b

D. All a, b and c

E. None of a, b and c

Receipts in May, for

transactions _____ **(Execution or**

implementation of prescribed tasks) in April,

were the fifth highest ever at ₹1,72,739 crore, rising almost 10% from a year ago, compared with a 12.4% uptick in the previous month.

9. Which of the following IDIOM(s)/WORD(s) can most appropriately fit in the blank in the above statement?

- a. Renounced
- b. Forsaken
- c. Undertaken

- A. Only a
- B. Only c
- C. Only b
- D. Both b and c
- E. None of a, b and c

Compared with the average monthly receipts of ₹1.68 lakh crore in 2023-24, taxes _____ (**Associative relevance or connection**) to the first month of this fiscal are 3% higher.

10. Which of the following IDIOM(s)/WORD(s) can most appropriately fit in the blank in the above statement?

- a. Tying
- b. Pertaining
- c. Detaching

- A. Only b
- B. Only a and b
- C. Only b and c
- D. All a, b and c
- E. None of a, b and c

However, broader worries about GST revenues being _____ (**Exhibiting suboptimal or disappointing outcomes**), voiced by the Union Finance Minister at a GST Council meeting in late 2021, have now receded.

11. Which of the following IDIOM(s)/WORD(s) can most appropriately fit in the blank in the above statement?

- a. Underwhelming
- b. Overwhelming
- c. Lacklustering

- A. Only a and c
- B. Only a and b
- C. Only b and c
- D. All a, b and c
- E. None of a, b and c

However, broader worries about GST revenues being _____ (**Exhibiting suboptimal or disappointing outcomes**), voiced by the Union Finance Minister at a GST Council meeting in late 2021, have now _____ (**Fell back or went back to a previous position**).

12. Which of the following IDIOM(s)/WORD(s) can most appropriately fit in the blank in the above statement?

- a. Regressed
- b. Receded
- c. Subsided

- A. Only a and c
- B. Only a and b
- C. Only b and c
- D. All a, b and c
- E. None of a, b and c

This is, therefore, an opportune time for the Council, which is meeting this Saturday, to _____ (**Aggressively advance or accelerate activities**) on its pending reform agenda to make it a truly Good and Simple Tax as originally envisaged.

13. Which of the following IDIOM(s)/WORD(s) can most appropriately fit in the blank in the above statement?

- a. Ease off
- b. Press the pedal
- c. Rein in
- A. Only b
- B. Only a and b
- C. Only b and c
- D. All a, b and c
- E. None of a, b and c

This is, therefore, an opportune time for the Council, which is meeting this Saturday, to _____ on its pending reform agenda to make it a truly Good and Simple Tax as originally _____ **(Conceptualized or projected into prospective scenarios).**

14. Which of the following IDIOM(s)/WORD(s) can most appropriately fit in the blank in the above statement?

- a. Contemplated
- b. Envisaged
- c. Conceived
- A. Only a
- B. Only a and b
- C. Only b and c
- D. All a, b and c
- E. None of a, b and c

However, it is hoped the Council will also find time for bigger things such as reviving the plan to _____ **(Simplify or make more efficient.)** GST's complex, multiple-rate structure.

15. Which of the following IDIOM(s)/WORD(s) can most appropriately fit in the blank in the above statement?

- a. Streamline
- b. Muddle
- c. Rationalise
- A. Only b and c
- B. Only a and b
- C. Only a and c
- D. All a, b and c
- E. None of a, b and c

A ministerial group, tasked with this agenda since 2021, must be asked to restart its work _____ **(Executed with celerity and precision).**

16. Which of the following IDIOM(s)/WORD(s) can most appropriately fit in the blank in the above statement?

- a. Promptly
- b. Briskly
- c. Expeditiously
- A. Only b and c
- B. Only a and b
- C. Only a and c
- D. All a, b and c
- E. None of a, b and c

So, it is most critical that the Council, which is usually expected to meet every quarter but has been _____ **(Assembled or summoned for deliberative engagements)** just six times since 2022, resolves to meet more often.

17. Which of the following IDIOM(s)/WORD(s) can most appropriately fit in the blank in the above statement?

- a. Assembled
- b. Adjourned
- c. Convened
- A. Only b and c
- B. Only a and b
- C. Only a and c
- D. All a, b and c
- E. None of a, b and c

the annual 61-day (B)/ ban on fishing, have led to the death (C)/ of a sailor from the Sri Lanka Navy. (D)

- (1) A
- (2) B
- (3) C
- (4) D
- (5) No error

2

Directions (Qs. 18-20): In the following question, one part of the sentence may have an error. Find out which part of the sentence has an error and select the appropriate option. If the sentence is free from error, select 'No Error'.

Q.18. The experiences of the deep sea fishing (A)/ project, being executed by the Union (B)/ and Tamil Nadu governments, (C)/ are enough clear to conclude that it is a failure. (D)

- (1) A
- (2) B
- (3) C
- (4) D
- (5) No error

Q 19. The resumption of fishing off India's eastern coast (A)/ including the Palk Bay, after

Q-20. The arrest of Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal (A)/ by the CBI in the Delhi excise policy (B)/ corruption case is (C)/ unwarranted and appears tainted by bad faith. (D)

- (1) A
- (2) B
- (3) C
- (4) D
- (5) No error

SOLUTIONS:

Q.1) Ans. C

Solution: The context of the sentence implies that Scott J. Shapiro, in his book, seems to admit or accept certain facts about cybersecurity. The word "acknowledges" fits this context because it means to accept or admit the existence of something.

Q.2) Ans. D

Solution: The context of the sentence discusses the negative consequences of hacking. "Inflict" means to cause something unpleasant or harmful, which fits the context of describing the harm that hacking can potentially do.

Q.3) Ans. D

Solution: The sentence refers to a book that deals with historical efforts related to the 20th century. "Recounts" means to narrate or tell in detail, which fits the context of describing a book's focus on historical efforts. Therefore, "recounts" is the right option.

Q.4) Ans. A

Solution: "Outlaw" means to prohibit or make illegal. In this context, it fits the idea of discussing efforts to eliminate or prevent war, which aligns with the historical focus of "The Internationalists."

Q.5) Ans. D

Solution: "Among" is used to indicate that something is part of a group or collection of items. In this context, it suggests that the topic of how hacking might open the door to war by other means is one of several questions that is being explored in the book "Fancy Bear Goes Phishing".

Q.6) Ans. A

Solution: "Whether" is used to introduce uncertainty in this context. In this case, it

introduces the idea of questioning if hacking has opened the door to war by other means.

Q.7) Ans. B

Solution: "Trove" means a valuable collection or cache, which fits perfectly in describing a collection of emails that includes significant information. Here, it refers to a collection or large quantity of emails released by Fancy Bear which conveys a significant or valuable collection of items.

Q.8) Ans. C

Solution: "Compliance" suggests active adherence to regulations, which fits well with the idea of increasing revenue due to following regulatory practices. "Acquiescence" also implies a similar meaning. It means passive acceptance, which could also lead to increased revenues.

Q.9) Ans. B

Solution: "Undertaken" means to carry out or begin a task or responsibility, which fits the context of transactions that were executed in April. The sentence discusses receipts for transactions carried out in a previous month. Therefore, the term "undertaken" most appropriately fits the blank, as it relates to the implementation of prescribed tasks.

Q.10) A

Solution: The most appropriate word for the blank in the statement is "Pertaining".

“Pertaining” means relating to or being relevant to a particular subject. In the context of taxes relevant to or associated with the first month of the fiscal year, “pertaining” accurately describes the connection between the taxes and the period being discussed.

“Tying” is less commonly used in formal contexts to describe associative relevance.

“Detaching” means to separate or remove, which is the opposite of describing a connection or relevance.

Q.11) Ans. A

Solution: “Lackluster” means lacking in vitality or excitement; dull or uninspiring. Here, it implies a lack of enthusiasm or energy, which can describe poor performance.

“Underwhelming” indicates that something did not meet the anticipated level of impact or performance. Both words “lackluster” and “underwhelming” describe suboptimal or disappointing outcomes in financial performance.

Q.12) Ans. D

Solution: “Receded” means that the worries have lessened in intensity over time. It is a suitable choice for indicating that concerns about GST revenues have moved back from a high level of worry.

“Subsided” also means that the intensity of something has decreased. It fits well to describe the reduction in the intensity of worries about GST revenues.

“Regressed” means returning to a previous or less advanced state. Therefore, all the words fit appropriately in this context.

Q.13) Ans. A

Solution: “Press the pedal” is an idiom which means to accelerate or intensify efforts. In this context, it conveys the idea of aggressively advancing or speeding up activities related to the pending reform agenda.

Q. 14) Ans. D

Solution: “Envisaged” means to imagine or project something as a future scenario.

“Conceived” means to form an idea or concept of something. It is also suitable for describing the original formulation or planning of the tax system.

“Contemplated” means to think deeply or carefully about something. It involves reflecting on or considering an idea, plan, or situation. Hence, all options are correct.

Q.15) Ans. C

Solution: “Streamline” means to simplify or make a process more efficient by eliminating unnecessary steps. This fits well with the goal of simplifying GST’s complex, multiple-rate structure.

“Rationalise” means to reorganize or make a system more logical and efficient. It also fits the context of making GST’s structure more efficient.

“Muddle” means to confuse or mix up, which is the opposite of simplifying or making something more efficient.

Q.16) Ans. D

Solution: “Promptly” means done without delay; quickly. It fits well with the idea of taking action without wasting time.

“Briskly” also means done in a quick and energetic manner. It conveys efficiency and speed in action.

“Expeditionously” also means done quickly and efficiently, with a focus on speed and effectiveness.

Therefore, all options are correct.

Q.17) Ans. C

Solution: “Convened” means to bring together or gather people for a meeting or assembly, especially for formal or official purposes. It fits well with the context of the Council being called together for deliberative engagements..

“Assembled” also means to gather together.

However, “adjourned” means to suspend or end a meeting temporarily or permanently, which

does not fit the context of the Council being called together for meetings.

Q. 18) Ans: 4

Solution: The D part has an error. We use “enough” after the adjective and adverbs, not before them. In this case, “clear” is an adjective that describes “experiences”. Therefore, “clear enough” is the correct order.

Q. 19) Ans: 3

Solution: The C part has an error. We need the singular form of a verb to agree with the singular subject “resumption”. Replace the plural form verb “have” with the singular form verb “has”.

Q. 20) Ans: 5

Solution: The above sentence is free from error.

Answer key- 1. C, 2. D, 3. D, 4. A, 5. D, 6. A, 7. B, 8. C, 9. B, 10. A, 11. A, 12. D, 13. A, 14. D, 15. C, 16. D, 17. C, 18. 4, 19. 3, 20. 5

Boost your Vocab

1. Sporadic

Meaning: Occurring at irregular intervals or only in a few places; scattered or isolated. Synonyms: Occasional, infrequent, irregular.

Antonyms: Constant, regular, frequent.

2. Vitate

Meaning: Spoil or impair the quality or efficiency of. Synonyms: Corrupt, degrade, impair.

Antonyms: Improve, enhance, purify.

3. Prudent

Meaning: Acting with or showing care and thought for the future. Synonyms: Wise, judicious, sagacious.

Antonyms: Reckless, imprudent, careless.

4. Adamant

Meaning: Refusing to be persuaded or to change one's mind. Synonyms: Unyielding, inflexible, resolute.

Antonyms: Flexible, yielding, compliant.

5. Apathy

Meaning: Lack of interest, enthusiasm, or concern.

Synonyms: Indifference, unconcern, lethargy.

Antonyms: Interest, enthusiasm, passion.

6. Searing

Meaning: Extremely hot or intense.

Synonyms: Scorching, blazing, intense.
Antonyms: Mild, cool, gentle.

7. Insinuating

Meaning: Suggesting or hinting something bad in an indirect and unpleasant way. Synonyms: Implying, hinting, suggesting.

Antonyms: Stating, declaring, announcing.

8. Perturbed

Meaning: Anxious or unsettled; upset.

Synonyms: Disturbed, troubled, agitated.
Antonyms: Calm, composed, untroubled.

9. Anti-climactic

Meaning: Causing disappointment at the end of an exciting or impressive series of events. Synonyms: Disappointing, underwhelming, unsatisfying

Antonyms: Climactic, exciting, thrilling

10. Enthralling

Meaning: Capturing and holding one's attention; fascinating.

Synonyms: Captivating, fascinating, gripping

Antonyms: Boring, dull, uninteresting.

11. Gargantuan

Meaning: Extremely large.

Synonyms: Enormous, gigantic, colossal

Antonyms: Tiny, small, minute

12. Astute

Meaning: Having or showing an ability to accurately assess situations or people and turn this to one's advantage.

Synonyms: Shrewd, sharp, clever Antonyms: Foolish, naive, unwise

13. Eschewing

Meaning: Deliberately avoiding or abstaining from. Synonyms: Avoiding, shunning, abstaining

Antonyms: Embracing, accepting, adopting

14. Rut

Meaning: A habit or pattern of behavior that has become dull and unproductive but is hard to change.

Synonyms: Routine, groove, pattern

Antonyms: Innovation, change, novelty

15. Discordant

Meaning: Disagreeing or incongruous.

Synonyms: Dissonant, conflicting, clashing

Antonyms: Harmonious, agreeable, compatible

16. Intrigue

Meaning: Arouse the curiosity or interest of; fascinate. Synonyms: Fascinate, interest, captivate

Antonyms: Bore, disenchant, repulse

17. Effusive

Meaning: Expressing feelings of gratitude, pleasure, or approval in an unrestrained or heartfelt manner.

Synonyms: Gushing, enthusiastic, demonstrative Antonyms: Reserved, restrained, unenthusiastic

18. Felony

Meaning: A serious crime, typically one punishable by imprisonment for more than one year or by death.

Synonyms: Crime, offense, transgression

Antonyms: Misdemeanor, petty offense, infraction

19. Tortuous

Meaning: Full of twists and turns; excessively lengthy and complex. Synonyms: Winding, convoluted, intricate

Antonyms: Straightforward, simple, direct

20. Orchestrated

Meaning: Carefully arranged or planned.

Synonyms: Arranged, coordinated, organized Antonyms: Disorganized, chaotic, unplanned

21. Vitiating

Meaning: Spoil or impair the quality or efficiency of. Synonyms: Corrupt, degrade, tarnish

Antonyms: Purify, improve, enhance

22. Indictment

Meaning: A formal charge or accusation of a serious crime. Synonyms: Charge, accusation, allegation

Antonyms: Acquittal, exoneration, absolution

23. Polarised

Meaning: Divided into two sharply contrasting groups or sets of opinions or beliefs.

Synonyms: Divided, split, fragmented

Antonyms: United, unified, harmonious

24. Demitted

Meaning: Resign from (an office or position). Synonyms: Resign, step down, leave

Antonyms: Assume, take on, accept

25. Grim

Meaning: Depressingly gloomy.

Synonyms: Bleak, somber, severe

Antonyms: Cheerful, pleasant, bright

26. Insidious

Meaning: Proceeding in a gradual, subtle way, but with harmful effects. Synonyms: Stealthy, subtle, cunning

Antonyms: Honest, straightforward, overt

27. Pervasive

Meaning: Spreading widely throughout an area or group of people. Synonyms: Omnipresent, ubiquitous, widespread

Antonyms: Rare, scarce, confined

Reasoning Ability Practice questions.

Directions (01-05) : Six employees viz. X, Y, Z, A, B and C of a company travelled to different cities. Their designations (in decreasing order) are CMD, GM, DGM, AGM, MANAGER and AM. They travelled on different dates between 8, 12 and 18 of either April or May.

X travelled on the same date as Y. Z is ranked last but one and travelled to Delhi. C and the AM did not travel on the same date. Neither Z nor Y travelled on the last day. Only two people travelled before the one who is ranked the

highest. B and the one who travelled to Noida travelled after the MANAGER. Neither C nor B is the DGM. Three-person travelled between the one who travelled to Dehradun and the AGM. Neither B nor A travelled to Noida. The one who is ranked immediately below CMD travelled somewhere before CMD. GM travelled to Hisar. The one who travelled to Lucknow travelled before the AM but not before the one who travelled to Mumbai. Y travelled on May 12. Not more than three people travelled before the AGM.

Q.1) Who travelled on May 8?

- (a) C
- (b) AM
- (c) CMD
- (d) The one who travelled to Delhi
- (e) B

Answer: D

Solution:

Common Solution (01-05):

Given:

1: Three people travelled between the one who travelled to Dehradun and the AGM.

2: Not more than three people travelled before the AGM.

3: Y travelled on May 12.

4: X travelled on the same date as Y.

It means that AGM either travelled on April 8 or April 12.

So,

Case 1,

Date	Name	Designation	City
April 8			
April 12	X	AGM	
April 18			
May 8			
May 12	Y		
May 18			Dehradun

Case 2,

Date	Name	Designation	City
April 8		AGM	
April 12	X		
April 18			

May 8			
May 12	Y		Dehradun
May 18			

5: Only two people travelled before the one who is ranked the highest.

6: The one who is ranked immediately below CMD travelled somewhere before CMD.

7: GM travelled to Hisar.

So,

Case 1,

Date	Name	Designation	City
April 8		GM	Hisar
April 12	X	AGM	
April 18		CMD	
May 8			
May 12	Y		
May 18			Dehradun

Case 2,

Date	Name	Designation	City
April 8		GM	
April 12	X	AGM	Hisar
April 18		CMD	
May 8			
May 12	Y		Dehradun
May 18			

8: Z is ranked last but one and travelled to Delhi.

9: Neither Z nor Y travelled on the last day.

So,

Case 1,

Date	Name	Designation	City
April 8		GM	Hisar
April 12	X	AGM	
April 18		CMD	
May 8	Z	MANAGER	Delhi
May 12	Y		
May 18			Dehradun

Case 2,

Date	Name	Designation	City
April 8		GM	
April 12	X	AGM	Hisar
April 18		CMD	
May 8	Z	MANAGER	Delhi
May 12	Y		Dehradun
May 18			

10: B and the one who travelled to Noida travelled after the MANAGER.

11: Neither B nor A travelled to Noida.

So,

Case 1,

Date	Name	Designation	City

April 8		GM	Hisar
April 12	X	AGM	
April 18		CMD	
May 8	Z	MANAGER	Delhi
May 12	Y		Noida
May 18	B		Dehradun

12: The one who travelled to Lucknow travelled before the AM but not before the one who travelled to Mumbai.

13: Neither C nor B is the DGM.

It means B is the AM.

So,

Date	Name	Designation	City
April 8		GM	Hisar
April 12	X	AGM	Mumbai
April 18		CMD	Lucknow
May 8	Z	MANAGER	Delhi
May 12	Y	DGM	Noida
May 18	B	AM	Dehradun

14: C and the AM did not travel on the same date.

Final arrangement:

Date	Name	Designation	City
April 8	C	GM	Hisar
April 12	X	AGM	Mumbai

April 18	A	CMD	Lucknow
May 8	Z	MANAGER	Delhi
May 12	Y	DGM	Noida
May 18	B	AM	Dehradun

Z travelled to Delhi on May 8

Q.2) When did the DGM travel?

- (a) April 8
- (b) May 18
- (c) May 12
- (d) April 12
- (e) April 18

Answer: C

Solution:

DGM travelled on May 12

Q.3) Which of the following is not true?

- (a) X is not the AGM
- (b) AM travelled to Dehradun
- (c) B travelled just after DGM
- (d) GM was the first one to travel.
- (e) Z travelled on May 8

Answer: A

Solution:

X is the AGM

Q.4) Who among the following is ranked above the AGM?

- I) B
- II) C
- III) Z

- (a) Only I
- (b) Only III

- (c) Both I and III
- (d) Both I and II
- (e) Only II

Answer: D

Solution:

Only C is ranked above the SE.

Q.5) Who is the DGM?

- (a) X
- (b) Y
- (c) A
- (d) B
- (e) Z

Answer: B

Solution:

Y is the DGM.

SCAN ME



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Q.6) In the question below there are three conclusions followed by four statements in the options. You have to take the four given statements to be true even if they seem to be at variance from commonly known facts and then decide which of the given statements are true disregarding the commonly known facts.

Conclusions:

Some 100% are not 50%

All 75% being 25% is a possibility.

No 75% is 33.33%.

Statements:

(a) All 100% are 25%. No 25% is 50%. All 75% are 50%. All 33.33% are 25%.

(b) All 100% are 25%. All 75% are 50%. No 100% are 75%. All 33.33% are 25%.

(c) All 50% are 75%. No 33.33% is 50%. All 100% are 25%. All 33.33% are 25%.

(d) No 33.33% is 50%. All 75% are 50%. Some 100% are 33.33%. All 33.33% are 25%.

(e) None of these

Answer: D

Solution:

or

Directions: Answer the questions based on the information given below.

In a certain code language:

Mohan different functions need smoker is coded as 14&G, 16&E, 15\$M, 10\$D, 14\$N

Captures denial sum motor loses is coded as 20\$O, 13\$M, 8&L, 7&S, 14&R

Positional thinks blindly submission lucrative is coded as 19\$R, 12\$H, 23\$H, 19\$A, 21&B

Previous organisation need implemented function is coded as 17\$D, 19\$F, 10\$D, 16&O, 18\$M

Q.7) "Magical survived" is coded as_____.

- (a) 13&Q, 18\$F
- (b) 17&O, 19&Z
- (c) 19\$O, 17&Z
- (d) 13&F, 18\$Q
- (e) 15&V, 18\$F

Answer:D

Solution:

Numbers: The number in the code is the absolute difference between the letters of highest and lowest positional value in the English alphabetical order.

Symbols: If the number of letters in the word is odd then it will be coded as '&' and if the number of letters on the word is even then it will be coded as '\$'.

Alphabet: The alphabet is coded as the previous letter of the 3rd letter from the left end of the word in the English alphabetical order.

Q.8) "MONUMENTAL VIEWS" is coded as_____.

- (a) 17&D, 20\$N
- (b) 20\$M, 17\$E
- (c) 20\$M, 17&E
- (d) 20&M, 17&D
- (e) None of the above

Answer:E

Solution:

Numbers: The number in the code is the absolute difference between the letters of highest and lowest positional value in the English alphabetical order.

Symbols: If the number of letters in the word is odd then it will be coded as '&' and if the number of letters on the word is even then it will be coded as '\$'.

Alphabet: The alphabet is coded as the previous letter of the 3rd letter from the left end of the word in the English alphabetical order.

Q.9 _____ is coded as "19&U."

- (a) DIVINES
- (b) DIVORCE
- (c) DIVERGENT
- (d) DIVERSE
- (e) All of the above

Solution:

Numbers: The number in the code is the absolute difference between the letters of highest and lowest positional value in the English alphabetical order.

Symbols: If the number of letters in the word is odd then it will be coded as '&' and if the number of letters on the word is even then it will be coded as '\$'.

Alphabet: The alphabet is coded as the previous letter of the 3rd letter from the left end of the word in the English alphabetical order.

Q.10 "LAPTOPS CHARGER" is coded as_____.

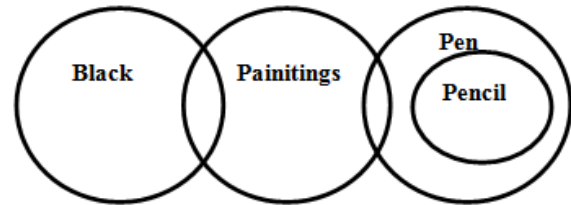
- (a) 19&Z, 17&P
- (b) 17&O, 19&Z
- (c) 19\$O, 17&Z
- (d) 19&O, 17&Z
- (e) 19\$O, 17\$Z

Solution:

Numbers: The number in the code is the absolute difference between the letters of highest and lowest positional value in the English alphabetical order.

Symbols: If the number of letters in the word is odd then it will be coded as '&' and if the number of letters on the word is even then it will be coded as '\$'.

Alphabet: The alphabet is coded as the previous letter of the 3rd letter from the left end of the word in the English alphabetical order.



Directions(11-12): In the question below there are two conclusions followed by three statements in the options. You have to take the three given statements to be true even if they seem to be at variance from commonly known facts and then decide which of the given statements is true disregarding the commonly known facts.

Q.11) Conclusions:

Some pens are pencil. No pencil is black.

Statements:

(a) All pencils are pen. Some black are pencil. No pen is painting.

(b) Some black are painting. Some paintings are pen. Only pen is pencil.

(c) No black is pen. Some pens are painting. Some pencils are painting.

(d) Each black is painting. All paintings are pen. Every pen is pencil.

(e) None of the above

Solution:

Q.12) Conclusions:

No maruti is toyota. Some honda are kia.

Statements:

(a) Some maruti are kia. Some kia are toyota. No honda is kia.

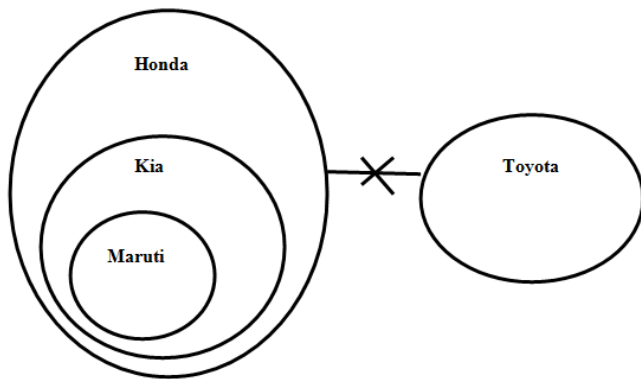
(b) All honda are maruti. All maruti are plan. Some toyota are honda.

(c) Only few maruti are kia. Some honda are toyota. No kia is honda.

(d) All maruti are kia. Each kia is honda. No toyota is honda.

(e) None of the above

Solution:



Directions (13-15) : Answer the questions based on the information given below:

There are seven people named A, B, C, D, E, F, and G in a family spanning three generations. They are seated around a circular table, facing towards the center, with no individuals being single parents.

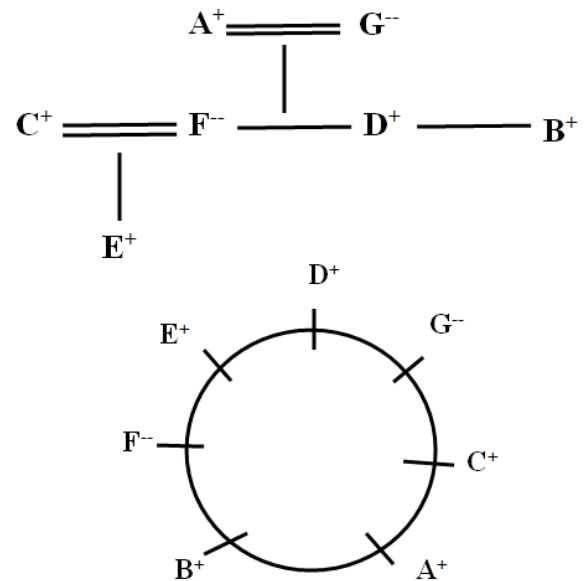
- I. There are fewer than three people in the 3rd generation.
- II. B is positioned three seats to the left of D's mother.
- III. A and F's mother have one person sitting between them.
- IV. B and D are brothers of F.
- V. F is seated second to the left of A.
- VI. F is not seated immediately to the right of her mother.
- VII. D is unmarried.
- VIII. E is the son of the person who is seated fourth to the left of F.
- IX. C is seated immediately to the left of G.
- X. E is positioned third to the right of C.

Q.13) How is A related to the son of C?

- (a) Father
- (b) Uncle
- (c) Grand mother
- (d) Grand Father

(e) None of these

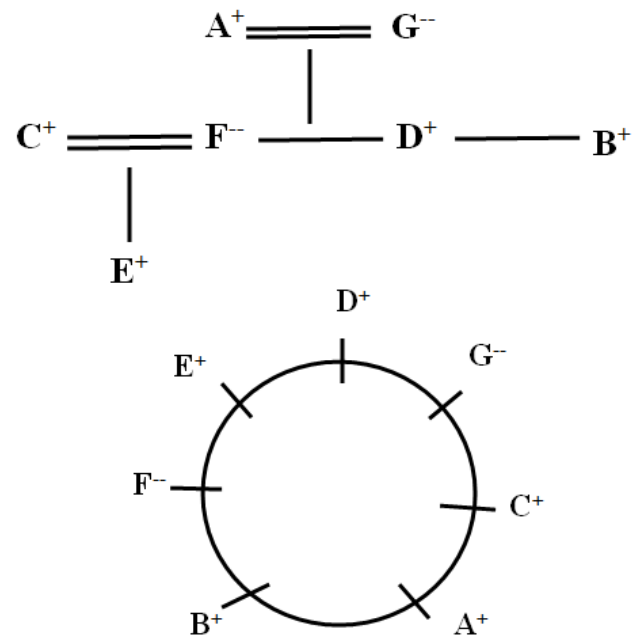
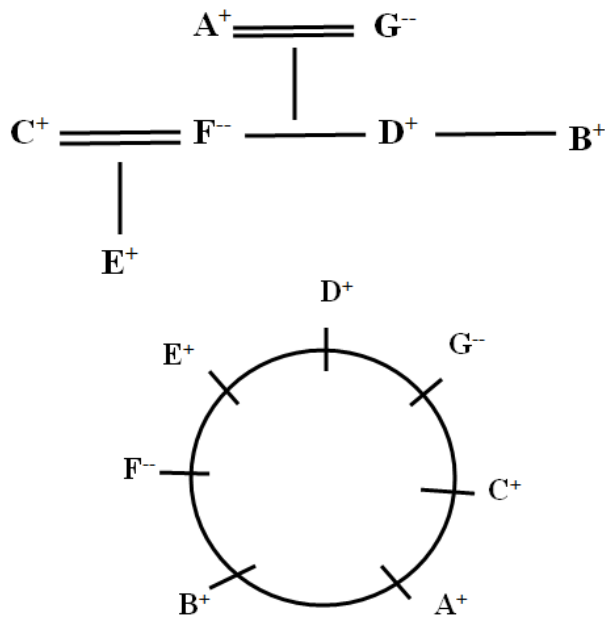
Solution:



Q.14) What is the position of G with respect to D?

- (a) 2nd to the left
- (b) Immediate left
- (c) 2nd to the right
- (d) 3rd to the right
- (e) None of these

Solution:



Q.15) How is the father of E related to the person, who sits 2nd to the right of D?

- (a) Brother
- (b) Uncle
- (c) Husband
- (d) Grandfather
- (e) None of these

Solution:

Direction(16-20): Answer the following questions based on the arrangement given below.
32 FPKL 43 VFGY 92 XDFB 45 VZDR 66 KLDR

Q.16) If the words are arranged according to the ascending order of the numbers which are attached to them from left to right, then how many alphabets are there between the letters of the sixth letter from the left end and the fifth letter from the right end according to the English Alphabets?

- (a) 20
- (b) 8
- (c) 12
- (d) 19
- (e) 6

Solution:

32 FPKL 43 VFGY 45 VZDR 66 KLDR 92 XDFB

Sixth letter from the left = F

Fifth letter from the right = R

Total letters between F and R = 12

Q.17) The letters which are attached with the numbers in which at least one is odd digit are arranged according to the descending orders of their numbers from right to left and also all the letters within those words together are arranged in the alphabetical order, then which of the following is the sixth letter from the right end?

- (a) F
- (b) V
- (c) K
- (d) V
- (e) R

Solution:

66 KLDR 32 FKL 43 FGVY 45 DRVZ 92 BDFX

Sixth letter from the right end = V

Q.18) If letter is changed to the next letter in the alphabetical series what number is attached with that word which has two vowels in it? (A will be Z and Z will be A)

- (a) None
- (b) 32
- (c) 45
- (d) 92
- (e) 66

Solution:

32 GQLM 43 WGHZ 92 YEGC 45 WAES 66 LMES

Q.19) If each letter is changed to the previous letter in the alphabetical series, then how many

vowels are between the third from the left end and fifth from the right end?

- (a) 3
- (b) 1
- (c) 5
- (d) 7
- (e) None

Solution:

32 EOJK 43 UEFI 92 WCEA 45 UYQ 66 JKCQ

Q.20) The letters which are attached with the numbers which are even are arranged according to the ascending order of their numbers from right to left and then all letters of those words together are arranged in the reverse alphabetical order, then which of the following is the eleventh letter from the left end?

- (a) K
- (b) F
- (c) X
- (d) D
- (e) P

Solution:

43 VFGY 45 VZDR 92 XFDB 66 RLKD 32 PLKF

Answer key-1-D, 2-C, 3-A, 4-D, 5-B, 6-D, 7-D, 8-E, 9-B, 10-D, 11-B, 12-D, 13-D, 14-B, 15-C, 16-C, 17-D, 18-C, 19-C, 20-D

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