

Daily Current Affairs

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Passport Affordability Rankings

- A recent study conducted by Australian firm **Compare the Market AU** has revealed intriguing insights into global passport affordability and accessibility.
- According to the study, the **Indian passport ranks as the second cheapest** worldwide, with the **UAE passport claiming** the top spot for affordability.
- While the Indian passport offers a cost-effective option in terms of both acquisition cost and yearly expenses, its visa-free access is relatively limited compared to higher-priced passports.



- In terms of cost per year of validity, the Indian passport emerges as the most economical option, with a **mere \$1.81 expenditure per year**.
- This places **India ahead of countries** like South Africa and Kenya, offering passport holders significant savings over time.
- Despite its affordability, the **Indian passport's visa-free access** is comparatively limited. This stands in contrast to passports from countries like Australia, the USA, and Canada, which offer broader access to a larger number of nations but come with a higher price tag.

- Contrary to popular belief, the United States' passport is not the most expensive globally. According to the study, **Mexico holds the title for the most expensive passport**, followed closely by Australia.

Global IP Leadership Summit

- The second **Global IP Leadership Summit** and Awards organized by ASSOCHAM was held in New Delhi.
- The summit aims to **bring together industry leaders** to share insights, best practices, and strategies for innovation and sustainability across the globe.
- Addressing the summit, **Chairperson of ASSOCHAM IPR Council**, Pravin Anand emphasized the transformative power of Intellectual Property (IP) and its impact on traditional knowledge and culture.



- He further underlined the necessity for effective measures against global counterfeiting activities and proposed amendments to address regulatory challenges.
- **Additional Secretary of the Department for promotion of Industry** and Internal Trade under the Commerce and Industry Ministry and other dignitaries were also present at the event.

GETEX 2024

- India has made a strong impression at the **Global Education and Training Exhibition (GETEX) 2024**, currently underway at the **Dubai World Trade Centre**.
- Boasting the largest presence at the event, the **India Pavilion showcases** the country's commitment to international higher education.
- Organized by the Services Export Promotion Council (SEPC), Ministry of Commerce and Industry and the Consulate General of India at Dubai, the pavilion showcases India's commitment to promoting international higher education.



- Under the umbrella of the **New Education Policy-2020**, the Services Export Promotion Council, has intensified its efforts to foster global partnerships in education.
- **These efforts include global outreach programs**, exhibitions, roadshows, business delegations, and collaborations with foreign universities.
- The **India Pavilion at GETEX-2024** is a continuation of these initiatives, showcasing over 25 leading institutions and EdTech companies from India. Satish Kumar Sivan, Consul General, inaugurated the Indian pavilion alongside Mr. Manoj Kumar, CMD of EDCIL(India), Dr. Abhay Sinha, DG-SEPC, and Mr. Ayush Verma from the Ministry of Education.
- GETEX 2024 is a three-day event bringing together over 200 universities from 30 countries. The exhibition offers a one-stop shop for students, families, and professionals seeking educational opportunities.
- **With nearly 2,500 courses on display** and an expected 20,000 visitors, GETEX provides a platform for exploring diverse academic options from a global perspective.

GETEX 2024

WHAT The Global Education and Training Exhibition (GETEX), 2024

WHERE Dubai World Trade Center, Dubai

WHEN April 24th to 26th, 2024

- This year's exhibition places a particular emphasis on emerging trends in education, highlighting subjects like Artificial Intelligence (AI), sustainability, and leadership skills to address the evolving needs of the job market.
- The **Services Export Promotion Council (SEPC)** is a premier institution dedicated to advancing service exports from India.
- **SEPC is set up under the aegis** of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India; with a mandate to enhance the export competitiveness of all service sectors.
- SEPC plays a vital role in aligning with the government's vision of positioning India as a global leader in services trade.

95 Billion US Dollar Package Of Aid For Ukraine

- **US President Joe Biden** has signed a 95 billion US dollar package of aid for Ukraine, Israel and Taiwan.
- Speaking from the White House after signing the bill, President Biden said it was a good day for America, a good day for Ukraine and a good day for world peace.
- US Senate approved the aid package following months of negotiations and debate. It was passed in a bipartisan vote of 79-18 in the Senate.



- The aid package worth **95 billion US dollar** in total, includes nearly **61 billion dollar** in aid to Ukraine, **26 billion dollar** for Israel and **8 billion dollar** for the **Indo-Pacific**.
- The package also includes a bill that could eventually lead to the banning of TikTok in the US, giving Chinese parent company ByteDance roughly nine months to sell it or else it will be banned from app stores in the US

Jio Surpasses China Mobile

- **Reliance Jio, the telecom leader in India**, has outpaced China Mobile to become the world's largest mobile operator by data traffic consumption.
- With a subscriber base of **481.8 million, including 108 million** on its True5G Standalone network, Jio's dominance underscores its position in the global telecom market.



- Jio revealed remarkable achievements, including reaching a total data traffic of **40.9 Exabytes** in the January-March quarter, representing a 35.2% year-on-year increase.
- A significant portion of **this traffic, 28%, originates** from its 5G subscribers, indicating a swift adoption of next-generation connectivity.
- Jio's subscriber base stands at 481.8 million, a figure that reinforces its stronghold in the Indian telecom landscape.
- Notably, the company boasts the **world's second-largest 5G subscriber base**, with 108 million users on its network.
- This substantial 5G penetration underscores Jio's preparedness for the future of telecommunications.



- The surge in **data traffic, particularly** attributed to 5G and home services, reflects not only Jio's market dominance but also the changing dynamics of consumer behavior amidst the pandemic.
- The company's fixed wireless access (FWA) services have played a pivotal role in driving data consumption, resulting in a 2.4x increase since the onset of the global health crisis.

NASA's Human Exploration Rover Challenge

- Two Indian student teams have brought laurels to the country by winning prestigious awards at the **NASA Human Exploration Rover Challenge (HERC)**.
- The **KIET Group of Institutions** from Delhi-NCR bagged the "**Crash and Burn**" award, while the **Kanakia International School** from Mumbai received the "**Rookie of the Year**" award.



- The Human Exploration Rover Challenge is an annual engineering competition organized by NASA, celebrating its 30th anniversary this year.
- It is one of NASA's longest-standing challenges, reflecting the goals of the Artemis program, which **aims to land the first woman and the first person of**

color on the Moon and establish a long-term lunar presence for scientific exploration.

- The teams were evaluated **based on their performance in navigating** a half-mile obstacle course, conducting mission-specific task challenges, and completing multiple safety and design reviews with NASA engineers.



- In the high school division, **Parish Episcopal School from Dallas**, United States, secured the first place, while the University of Alabama in Huntsville captured the college/university title.
- The **Human Exploration Rover Challenge** is one of NASA's eight Artemis Student Challenges, designed to encourage students to pursue degrees and careers in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).
- By providing such opportunities, **NASA aims to inspire and nurture** the next generation of innovators and explorers who will contribute to the agency's future missions and advancements in space exploration.

India's Clean Energy Transition

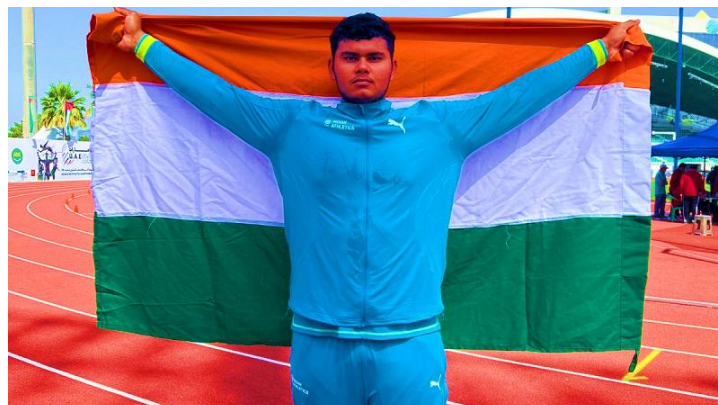
- A recent report by the **Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis** (IEEFA) and Ember evaluates the progress of India's clean electricity transition at the state level.
- While **Karnataka and Gujarat** maintain strong performances, states like Jharkhand, Bihar, West Bengal, and Uttar Pradesh lag behind, necessitating increased efforts for renewable energy integration and decarbonization.
- Karnataka and Gujarat continue to excel in integrating renewable energy sources and decarbonizing their power sectors.



- Jharkhand, Bihar, West Bengal, and Uttar Pradesh need to enhance renewable energy deployment and strengthen distribution companies. Cyclical weather patterns and economic growth drive increasing peak electricity demand in India. States must be prepared to transition to clean energy sources to meet rising demand.
- While national progress towards clean energy transition is positive, disparities exist at the state level. Some states demonstrate readiness for transition but lack progress in decarbonization.
- Strengthen state-level regulatory ecosystems to promote growth and compliance. Shift focus from national to state-level studies to understand unique challenges and tailor policy interventions accordingly.

Asian U20 Athletics Championships

- At the Asian U20 Athletics Championships 2024 in Dubai, Discus thrower Ritik Rathee clinched a silver medal opening India's medal tally.
- Rathee registered a best throw of 53.01 metres to bag the spot. In the championships last year, India was placed third with 19 medals, including six gold medals.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. GETEX 2024 Is Organised In

- A. Dubai
- B. Madrid
- C. Paris
- D. New Delhi

ANSWER: A

2. Shahid Beheshti Port Is Located In Which Country

- A. Iran
- B. Iraq
- C. Afghanistan
- D. Russia

ANSWER: A

3. What Is The Miyawaki Method

- A. Technique to create dense forests with native plants
- B. To establish urban gardens with non-native species
- C. Development of gardens using genetically modified flora
- D. Promotion of commercial farming in semi-arid areas

ANSWER: A

4. What Is 'Crystal Maze 2'

- A. Ballistic Missile
- B. Asteroid
- C. Earth Communication Satellite
- D. Invasive Plant

ANSWER: A

5. Which Organization Developed India's Lightest Bullet Proof Jacket

- A. DRDO
- B. ISRO
- C. CSIR
- D. BARC

ANSWER: A

6. What Is The Theme Of 'World Immunization Week' 2024

- A. Long Life for All
- B. Humanly Possible: Immunization for All
- C. Vaccines bring us closer
- D. Vaccines Work for All

ANSWER: B

7. Gopalpur Port Is Located In Which State

- A. Odisha
- B. Andhra Pradesh
- C. Gujarat
- D. Kerala

ANSWER: A

8. Which Company Has Become Third Largest Silver Producer Globally

- A. Hindustan Zinc Limited
- B. Silver Zinc Corporation
- C. Sunrise Zinc Limited
- D. Mewat Zinc Limited

ANSWER: A

9. Who Won Prestigious 2024 World Press Photo Of The Year Award

- A. Ronald Schemidt
- B. Mohammed Salem
- C. Kayin Luys
- D. Ruben Soto

ANSWER: B

10. Which Country Developed World's 1st Satellite Series (Tiantong-1)

- A. Japan
- B. Russia
- C. Israel
- D. China

ANSWER: D

11. Noyyal River Due To Pollution, Is Located In Which State

- A. Maharashtra
- B. Karnataka
- C. Gujarat
- D. Tamil Nadu

ANSWER: D

12. Which Country's Scientist Turned Carbon Dioxide Into Other Fuels To Minimise Emissions

- A. Zimbabwe
- B. Ghana
- C. Senegal
- D. Tanzania

ANSWER: A

13. PACE Satellite Was Launched By Which Space Agency

- A. ISRO
- B. NASA
- C. JAXA
- D. CNSA

ANSWER: B

14. Fort Emmanuel Is Located In Which State

- A. Tamil Nadu
- B. Karnataka
- C. Kerala
- D. Rajasthan

ANSWER: C

15. What Powers Meta's Advanced AI Assistant, Meta AI

- A. Cheetah 2
- B. Llama 3
- C. Dolphin 4
- D. Eagle 5

ANSWER: B

16. Which Payment Method Is Promoted By RuPay's 'Link It, Forget It' Campaign

- A. Maestro Card
- B. Visa
- C. Master Card
- D. RuPay

ANSWER: D

17. Which Moon Is NASA's Dragonfly Rotorcraft Mission Set To Explore

- A. Tethys
- B. Epimetheus
- C. Titan
- D. Mimas

ANSWER: C

18. Which Country's Engineers Created World's First Satellite Enabling Smartphones To Make Calls Without Mobile Towers

- A. India
- B. Russia
- C. USA
- D. China

ANSWER: D

19. Which State Topped In Electronics Exports With A Record Of \$9.6 Billion In FY23-24

- A. Karnataka
- B. Maharashtra
- C. Tamil Nadu
- D. Gujarat

ANSWER: C

20. What Is 'Wigner Crystal'

- A. Solid Phase Of Electrons
- B. Newly Discovered Exoplanet
- C. Solid Phase Of Neutrons
- D. Black Hole

ANSWER: A