

Daily Current Affairs

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Travel & Tourism Development Index

- **India has climbed to the 39th position** in the World Economic Forum's Travel & Tourism Development Index 2024, while US topped the list. India also ranks the highest in South Asia among the lower-middle-income economies.

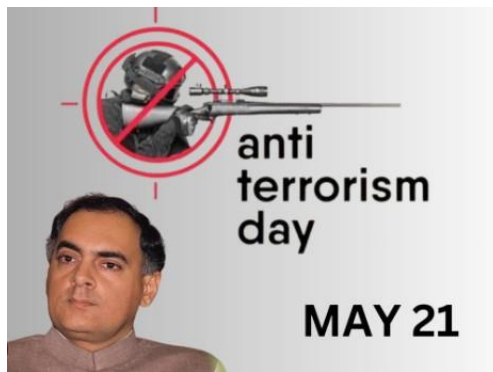


- Earlier, **India was ranked 54th in 2021** published index. On an overall index score of 7, where 1 is the worst, and 7 the best, India scored 4.25. India's significant leap in the rankings underscores its growing competitiveness in the global tourism landscape.
- The **biennial index** analyzed the travel and tourism sectors of 119 countries, evaluating them on a range of factors and policies that foster tourism development.



Anti Terrorism Day

- **Anti-Terrorism Day** is being observed across the nation today. The day marks the death anniversary of former **Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi**, who was assassinated on May 21, 1991 by a suicide bomber of the **Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam** (LTTE) at Sriperumbudur, a village near Chennai.
- It is observed to educate people about the negative impact of terrorism and violence on society and the nation.



International Solar Alliance

- **Spain** has become the **99th member of the International Solar Alliance**. External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said that Spain handed over the **International Solar Alliance Instrument of Ratification**, during the meeting of Ambassador José María Ridaó Domínguez of Spain with the Head of Depository, Joint Secretary in the External Affairs Ministry Abhishek Singh in New Delhi.



- The **International Solar Alliance (ISA)** is a collaborative platform for increased deployment of **solar energy technologies** as a means for bringing energy access, ensuring energy security, and driving energy transition in its member countries.
- **The ISA was conceived** as a joint effort by India and France to mobilize efforts against climate change through the deployment of solar energy solutions.
- It was conceptualized on the sidelines of the 21st Conference of Parties (COP21) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change held in Paris in 2015.



MoFA Excellence Awards

- **India's diplomatic missions** in the UAE were recognized for their outstanding work at the 5th Minister of Foreign Affairs Excellence Awards ceremony held under the patronage of Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates.



- In a rare distinction, India became the only country to receive two honours, with the **Indian Embassy in Abu Dhabi and the Consulate General of India in Dubai** both awarded the prestigious Shield of Honour.
- The awards were received by the Indian Ambassador to the UAE Sunjay Sudhir and Consul General at CGI Dubai Satish Kumar Sivan.
- The awards, presented by Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed, were given in the “Distinguished Accredited Missions in UAE” category, acknowledging the efforts of the Indian missions in strengthening bilateral ties between India and the UAE.
- Speaking on the occasion, Sheikh Abdullah said, “Institutional excellence is not just a goal we seek to achieve, but rather a sustainable strategic approach that reflects our vision to build a bright future based on efficiency and creativity.
- This embodies the **UAE’s vision of achieving the highest standards** of excellence and innovation in all areas of government and diplomatic work.”



- Eighteen accredited foreign missions and nine departments of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs were awarded the main category of the prize.
- **Several other diplomatic missions**, including those of the United States, Vietnam, Italy, Ireland, Bahrain, South Africa, Uruguay, Jordan, Azerbaijan, Turkey, Uzbekistan and Yemen, were also felicitated at the event for their exceptional contributions.
- This is the **first time the Indian Embassy** and Consulate have received the MoFA Excellence Awards recognition, highlighting the deepening strategic partnership between the two nations across various sectors.



- The awards are a testament to the commendable work undertaken by the **Indian diplomatic missions** in the UAE to promote economic, cultural, and people-to-people ties between the two friendly countries.

DAHD & UNDP

- **Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD)** under the Union Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying has signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) India to digitalize vaccine cold chain management, enhance communication planning, and build capacity.



- India, the world's most populous country, is home to 142.86 crore people, 53.57 million farm animals, and 85.18 million poultry. To maintain **animal health and prevent zoonotic diseases**, such as bird flu and coronavirus, the government has initiated a comprehensive vaccination program.
- These **zoonotic diseases**, which transfer from animals to humans, pose significant health risks to people in close contact with infected animals. Adopting a One Health Approach, which emphasizes the interconnectedness of human and animal health within the same ecosystem, the government aims to reduce the risk of such infections.
- The UNDP will assist in developing India's **first animal vaccine supply** chain management system, focusing on digitalization and remote temperature monitoring of cold chains.



Name: United Nations Development Programme

Year of Formation: 1965

Headquarters: New York, NY, USA

Sector: Development & Poverty Reduction

Is India a Member: Yes

Part of United Nations Sustainable Development Group (UNSDG)

- Vaccines need to be stored at 2-8 degrees Celsius to remain effective, and this partnership will ensure they are maintained within this range. Additionally, the collaboration will emphasize skill development, improving the technical expertise and capacity of stakeholders in the animal husbandry sector.

Blue Origin's NS-25 Mission

- Indian expatriate **Gopi Thotakura** joined the ranks of space explorers as the first Indian to embark on a journey beyond Earth's atmosphere.
- **The NS-25 mission**, part of Jeff Bezos's Blue Origin program, saw Thotakura and five other crew members lift off aboard the New Shepard spacecraft from a private ranch in West Texas.



- Among the crew was also **Ed Dwight**, marking the first time a Black astronaut ventured into space. This mission marked the program's return to space tourism after a two-year hiatus following a rocket mishap.
- Thotakura's inclusion in the crew highlights the growing diversity and global participation in space exploration.
- **Gopichand Thotakura**: An entrepreneur and pilot of Indian origin, Thotakura secured his place among the six crew members for the NS-25 mission.
- **Ed Dwight**: A former Air Force aviator, Dwight's journey to space comes decades after facing rejection from NASA's astronaut corps. At 90 years old, he sets a record as the oldest person in space.



- **Mason Angel**: Founder of Industrious Ventures, Angel brings entrepreneurial expertise to the crew. Sylvain Chiron: Renowned for spearheading Brasserie Mont Blanc, Chiron represents France in the crew.
- **Kenneth L. Hess**: A software engineer and entrepreneur, Hess contributes technical expertise to the mission. Carol Schaller: A retired Certified Public Accountant, Schaller completes the ensemble of adventurers for NS-25. Blue Origin's NS-25 mission marks the seventh human flight of the program, with aspirations to expand beyond suborbital journeys.
- **Jeff Bezos envisions these flights** as a stepping stone to larger ambitions, including lunar exploration. To date, 31 individuals have experienced space travel aboard New Shepard, with notable figures like William Shatner and Michael Strahan among them. Blue Origin aims to collaborate with NASA to

advance lunar exploration efforts in the future, building on the legacy of Alan Shepard and the New Shepard program.

IndiaAI Mission

- The Cabinet has greenlit an ambitious financial allocation of over Rs 10,300 crore for the **IndiaAI Mission**, aimed at fortifying India's AI innovation ecosystem.
- Spearheaded by a **public-private partnership model**, this significant investment over the next five years is poised to catalyze various strategic initiatives, including compute infrastructure expansion, startup empowerment, and ethical AI deployment.



- A pivotal component of the IndiaAI Mission, the IndiaAI Compute Capacity project aims to erect a cutting-edge, scalable AI computing infrastructure. With over **10,000 GPUs slated for** deployment through strategic collaborations, this initiative sets the stage for advanced AI research and development.
- The **financial outlay includes provisions** to bolster the IndiaAI Startup Financing mechanism, facilitating streamlined access to funding for burgeoning AI startups.
- By supporting product development and commercialization endeavors, this initiative seeks to catalyze innovation and entrepreneurship in the AI sector. The **IndiaAI Innovation Centre (IAIC)**, envisioned as a leading academic institution, will spearhead research talent retention and development.
- With a focus on **indigenous model creation** and leveraging edge computing, IAIC aims to drive innovation and foster technological self-reliance.



World Para Athletic C'ships

- **India's Ekta Bhan** secured **gold medal** with a season's best throw of 20.12 metre in the women' F51 club throw competition at the World Para Athletic Championships at Kobe in Japan.
- **While Kashish Lakra** took the silver with an effort of 14.56 metre, Nadjat Boucharf of Algeria won the bronze with a score of 12.70 metre.



- **Deepthi, Para Asian Games gold medallist**, had smashed a world record time of 55.07 seconds in the women's 400 metre T20 category race to win gold medal yesterday. The championships will continue till 25th of this month.

BWF Rankings

- Star Indian men's badminton duo of **Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty** have regained their top spot in the latest Badminton World Federation (BWF) Rankings after a remarkable victory at the Thailand Open Super 500 in Bangkok last week.



- Before the tournament, Satwik and Chirag were ranked third but managed to surpass **China's Liang Wei Keng and Wang Chang**.
- South Korea's Min Hyuk Kang and Seung Jae Seo hold the third position. Satwik and Chirag showcased impeccable form throughout the tournament, winning all their matches in straight games.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. India's Rank In WEF's Travel & Tourism Development Index 2024

- A. 37th
- B. 38th
- C. 39th
- D. 40th

ANSWER: C

2. NS-25 Mission Is Launched by

- A. Blue Origin
- B. SpaceX
- C. NASA
- D. ISRO

ANSWER: A

3. Anti Terrorism Day Is Marked On

- A. 16 May
- B. 21 May
- C. 23 May
- D. 29 May

ANSWER: B

4. Archaeologists Discovered 1st Evidence Of Rock Art In Which City Of Karnataka

- A. Mangaluru
- B. Bengaluru
- C. Shivamogga
- D. Udupi

ANSWER: A

5. What Is The Theme Of 'World Bee Day 2024'

- A. Bee engaged – Build Back Better for Bees
- B. Bee Engaged: Celebrating the diversity of bees
- C. Bee Engaged with Youth
- D. Bee Engaged in Pollinator-Friendly Agricultural Production

ANSWER: C

6. Ebrahim Raisi, Who Recently Passed Away In Helicopter Crash, Was The President Of Which Country

- A. Vietnam
- B. Egypt
- C. Iraq
- D. Iran

ANSWER: D

7. Nikhat Zareen, Won Gold Medal At Elorda Cup 2024, Belongs To Which Sports

- A. Wrestling
- B. Boxing
- C. Chess
- D. Badminton

ANSWER: B

8. William Lai Ching-Te Has Become New President Of Which Country

- A. Philippines
- B. Taiwan
- C. Thailand
- D. Indonesia

ANSWER: B

9. Who have been named as laureates of the 2024 UNESCO /Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize

- A. Russian journalists
- B. Ukrainian journalists
- C. Palestinian journalists
- D. Chinese journalists

ANSWER: C

10. Silk Cotton Trees Are Mainly Found In Which Forests

- A. Moist deciduous & Semi evergreen forests
- B. Montane wet temperate forests
- C. Himalayan moist forests
- D. Swamp forests

ANSWER: A

11. The Great Pyramid Of Giza Is Located In Which Country

- A. Egypt
- B. Sudan
- C. Iraq
- D. Vietnam

ANSWER: A

12. Malti Joshi, Who Recently Passed Away, Was Associated With Which Field

- A. Sports
- B. Story teller
- C. Politics
- D. Entertainment

ANSWER: B

13. Kaundinya Wildlife Sanctuary, Seen In The News, Is Located In Which State

- A. Maharashtra
- B. Karnataka
- C. Andhra Pradesh
- D. Kerala

ANSWER: C

14. Which State Government Has Taken Measures, Including Allotment Of Grassland, To Protect State's Endangered 'Polo Ponies'

- A. Manipur
- B. Assam
- C. Sikkim
- D. Nagaland

ANSWER: A

15. With Which Country Is India Collaborating On Shark And Ray Research In The Arabian Sea

- A. UAE
- B. Maldives
- C. Qatar
- D. Oman

ANSWER: D

16. On Which Date Is International Nurses Day Observed

- A. May 12
- B. May 6
- C. May 20
- D. May 30

ANSWER: A

17. AT World Migration Report 2024, What Is Cited As A Significant Factor Leading To Internal Displacement For Millions Of People

- A. Political conflicts
- B. Economic opportunities
- C. War conflicts
- D. Climate change

ANSWER: D

18. Who Has Been Elected As The Chairman Of IFFCO

- A. Dileep Sanghani
- B. Balvir Singh
- C. Ramniwas Garwal
- D. Simachal Padhy

ANSWER: A

19. How Was Surjit Patkar Primarily Known In The Literary World

- A. Novelist And Playwright
- B. Poet And Writer
- C. Journalist And Editor
- D. Critic And Translator

ANSWER: B

20. Which Of The Following Sena Rulers Introduced Kulinism In Bengal

- A. Hemant Sen
- B. Ballala Sen
- C. Vijay Sen
- D. Lakshman Sen

ANSWER: B