

Daily Current Affairs

13 June 2024

PM Modi To Visit Italy

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** will be embark on a visit to Apulia, Italy tomorrow to participate in the **G7 Summit be held** on 14th of this month.
- Briefing media in New Delhi this afternoon, Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra said India has been invited as an Outreach Country.
- He said this will be the Prime Minister's first overseas travel after assuming office in his third consecutive term.



- He said the visit will also be an opportunity to engage with other **world leaders present at the G7 Summit** on issues of importance to India as also to the Global South.
- This will be **India's 11th participation in the G7 Summit** and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's fifth consecutive participation in the Summit. On 14th June, the Prime Minister will participate in the Outreach Session.
- On the sidelines of the Summit, Prime Minister is expected to hold bilateral meetings with leaders of G7. Mr Modi will hold bilateral meeting with his Italian counterpart Giorgia Meloni.



- The two Prime Ministers last met during the **COP 28 Summit in Abu Dhabi** last year. Replying to a query, the Foreign Secretary said India will be participating at the Ukraine Peace Summit which is to be held in Switzerland, at an appropriate level. Our correspondent reports that around 90 countries will participate in the Ukraine peace summit being hosted by Switzerland this month.

Global Gender Gap Index

- According to the **Global Gender Gap Index** released by the **World Economic Forum**, India has slipped two places to the **129th position**, while Iceland retained its top spot.
- Within South Asia, India ranked fifth after Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Bhutan, with Pakistan ranked last.

Global Gender Gap Report 2024

The Global Gender Gap Index 2024 Rankings



RANK	COUNTRY	GENDER GAP, %
1	Iceland	93.5%
2	Finland	87.5%
3	Norway	87.5%
4	New Zealand	83.5%
5	Sweden	81.6%
6	Nicaragua	81.1%

- Despite the drop, India showed strong gender parity in secondary education enrollment and political empowerment, securing the 10th position for the number of years with female/male heads of state in the last 50 years.
- However, **India's overall gender gap closure** stands at 64.1 per cent in 2024, a slight decline from 64.2 per cent last year.

World Bank Report

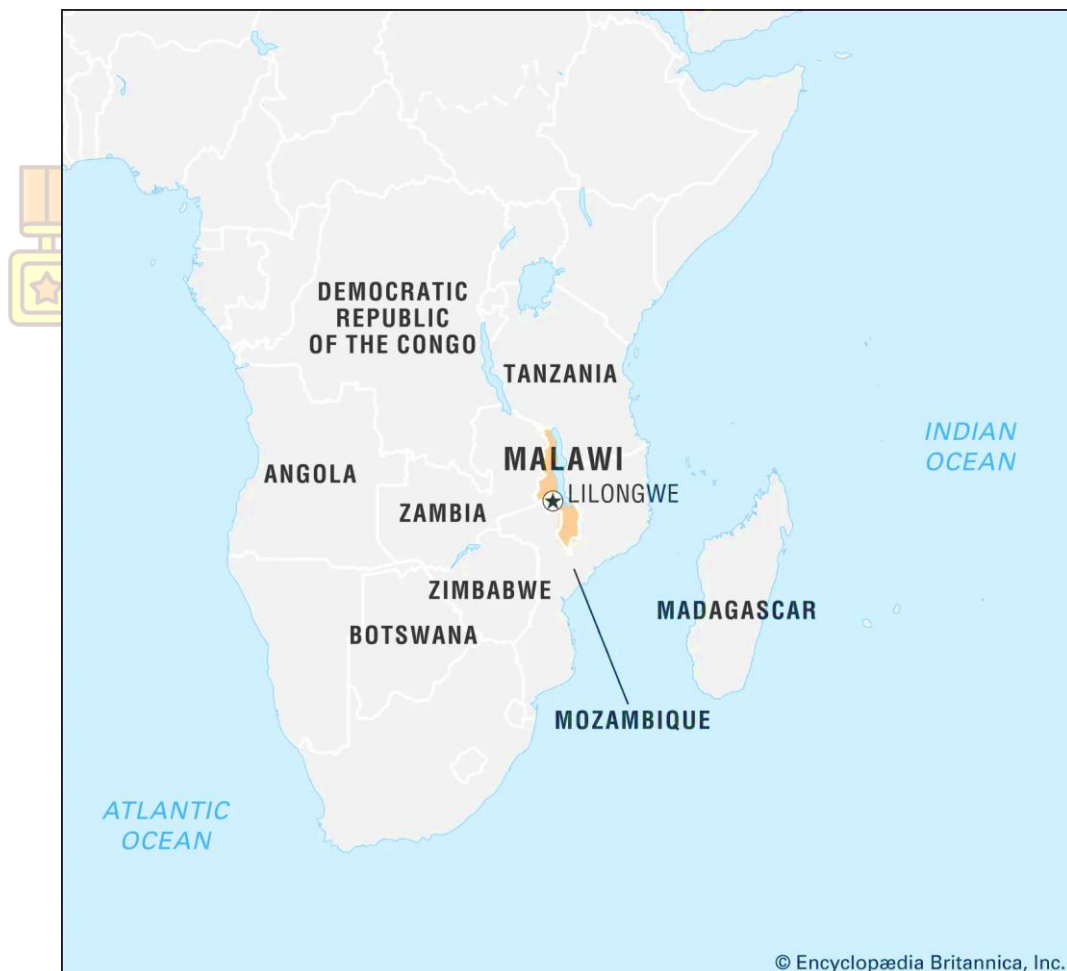
- According to a recent **World Bank report**, India to remain the World's fastest-growing economy, with a steady **growth rate of 6.7 percent** over the next three fiscal years.
- This robust growth is fueled by strong domestic demand, a surge in investment, and vigorous activity in the services sector.



- In its Global Economic Prospects report, the World Bank retained its growth forecast for **India at 6.6 per cent** for the financial year 2024-25.
- This projection underscores India's strong economic momentum, driven by robust domestic demand, increased investment, and vigorous services sector activity.
- On the other hand, The **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** had earlier raised India's growth forecast for 2024-25 to 6.8 per cent from 6.5 per cent on the back of strong domestic demand and a rising working-age population.

Malawi VP's Plane Crash

- **Malawian President Lazarus Chakwera** said there had been no survivors when a plane carrying Vice President Saulos Chilima and nine others crashed into a forest.
- The plane has been found and it has turned out to be a terrible tragedy, he said, in a televised address.
- The **military plane carrying Chilima** and nine others disappeared on Monday after it failed to land in the northern city of Mzuzu due to bad weather and was told to return to the capital, Lilongwe.
- **Army commander General Paul Valentino Phiri** said other countries, including Malawi's neighbours, were aiding the effort, with support including helicopters and drones.



500 Year Old Bronze Idol To India

- **Oxford University's Ashmolean Museum** has decided to return a 16th-century bronze sculpture of **Saint Tirumankai Alvar to India**, following a formal request from the Indian government.
- The **60cm-tall statue**, believed to have been stolen from a temple in Tamil Nadu, was acquired by the **museum in 1967** from Sotheby's auction house.



- The decision comes after an independent researcher alerted the museum to the statue's origins, prompting the museum to notify the Indian High Commission.
- The Ashmolean Museum acquired the statue in 1967 from the collection of Dr J.R. Belmont, stating that it was obtained in "good faith."
- However, an independent researcher raised concerns about its origins, leading to the museum's investigation and subsequent alert to the Indian High Commission.
- Upon receiving a formal request from the Indian government, **Oxford University's Council supported** the return of the bronze idol to India. The decision is now awaiting approval from the Charity Commission.
- This decision follows a trend of returning stolen Indian artefacts from the UK to India.
- Recent instances include the restoration of a limestone carved relief sculpture and a "**Navaneetha Krishna**" bronze sculpture, both originating from Indian states, through joint US-UK investigations involving Scotland Yard's Art and Antiques Unit.



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EXAMS

Puja Tomar

- **Indian strawweight Puja Tomar** became the first ever Indian to win a bout in the UFC as she defeated Brazil's Rayanne Amanda dos Santos via split decision at the UFC Louisville.



Puja Tomar Becomes First Indian to Win in UFC

- Puja Tomar beat **Rayanne Amanda** dos Santos 30-27, 30-27, 29-28. Puja Tomar (born 25 November 1995) in Budhana village of Uttar Pradesh's Muzaffarnagar.

- Tomar is a **five-time national wushu champion** and also has a background in karate and taekwondo.
- She is an Indian professional mixed martial artist who currently competes in the Strawweight division of Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC).
- Tomar became the **Third person from India and first woman**, to get a UFC contract. The two others were **Anshul Jubli and Bharat Kandare** have represented India on the world stage in the UFC, as has Canada-based Arjan Singh Bhullar. Tomar is a five-time National wushu champion.



- She also had a background in karate and taekwondo and won multiple medals in both disciplines. She has competed in other tournaments including Matrix Fight Night, where she won the straw-weight title twice.
- The 30-year-old, **known as “cyclone”**, signed a contract with the UFC last year in October.
- **Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC)** is an American mixed martial arts (MMA) promotion company based in Las Vegas, Nevada. It is owned and operated by TKO Group Holdings, a majority owned subsidiary of Endeavor Group Holdings. It is the largest MMA promotion in the world as of 2023.
- It produces events worldwide that **showcase 11 weight divisions** (eight men’s and three women’s) and abides by the Unified Rules of Mixed Martial Arts. As of 2022, it had held over 600 events.
- **UFC was founded by businessman Art Davie** and Brazilian martial artist Rorion Gracie, and the first event was held in 1993 at the McNichols Sports Arena in Denver, Colorado.



2025 FIH Hockey Men's Junior World Cup

- In a landmark decision, the Executive Board of the **International Hockey Federation (FIH)** has designated **India as the host country** for the inaugural **FIH Hockey Men's Junior World Cup** featuring 24 teams, set to take place in December 2025.
- This decision underscores FIH's commitment to **expanding opportunities** for National Associations and promoting diversity in the sport.



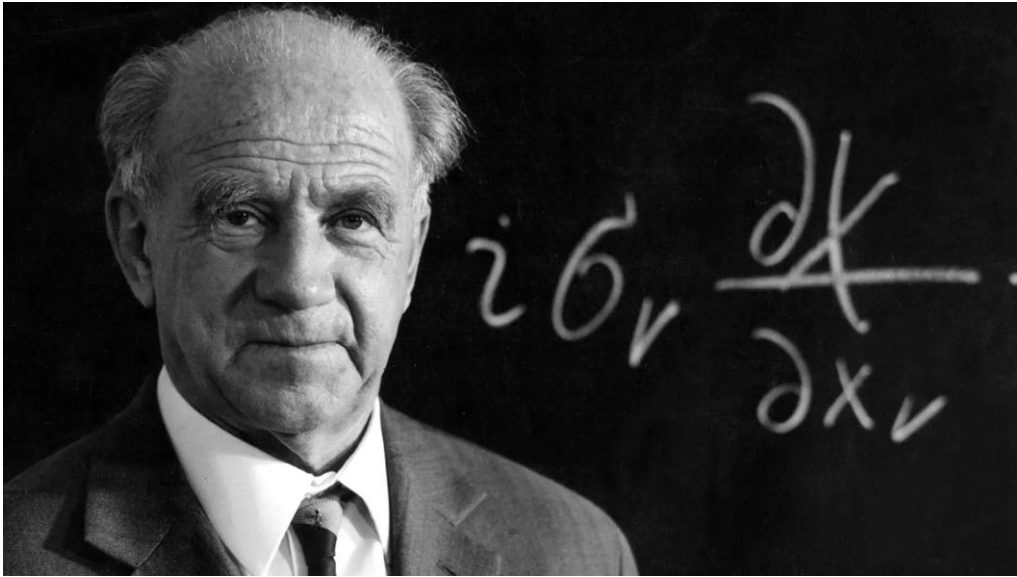
- FIH President Tayyab Ikram expressed enthusiasm for the expanded event format, emphasizing its significance in shaping the future of hockey.
- Hockey India's President, **Dr. Dilip Tirkey**, expressed gratitude for the opportunity and highlighted India's dedication to fostering hockey talent on a global stage. India, with its rich hockey legacy, has previously hosted the tournament thrice and clinched the title twice on home turf.

International Year Of Quantum Science & Technology

- United Nations has made a big announcement: 2025 will be the “**International Year of Quantum Science and Technology.**”
- The goal of this statement is to make more people around the world aware of quantum science and how it can be used through different events all year long.
- This choice was made after a **motion was started by Mexico** in May 2023 and backed by nearly 60 countries by November of that same year.



- At the **UNESCO General Conference**, it was made legal. German scientist Werner Heisenberg will have written a famous paper that laid the groundwork for quantum mechanics.
- This was a turning point in the history of physics. Classical physics was changed in important ways by **Heisenberg's work**. This made it possible to understand quantum phenomena seen in the late 1800s and early 1900s.
- With the “**uncertainty principle,**” he made history and won the **Nobel Prize** for these kinds of accomplishments.
- Well-known groups like the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics, Chemistry, and Crystallography, as well as the International Union of History and Philosophy of Science and Technology, have backed the statement. These support shows that advancing quantum science and technology on a world scale is widely seen as important and appreciated.



- **As quantum technology** is talked about more in public and in the workplace, especially in terms of quantum computers, there is a strong opinion in the scientific community that these computers will soon be able to do work. It is expected that these advances will completely change areas like electronics, clean energy, and pharmaceuticals by making computers much faster.



CABINET DECISIONS
19 April 2023

National Quantum Mission

Cabinet approves National Quantum Mission

Deliverables

- » Developing intermediate scale quantum computers with 50-1000 physical qubits in 8 years in various platforms like superconducting and photonic technology
- » Satellite based secure quantum communications between ground stations over a range of 2000 kilometres within India
- » Long distance secure quantum communications with other countries
- » Inter-city quantum key distribution over 2000 km

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- Indian government launched the **“National Quantum Mission”** in **April 2023** to show how important this new technology is. The project, which has a budget of **Rs 6,000 crore** and will run from 2023 to 2031, is led by the **Department of Science and Technology** and works on key areas such as communication, sensing, metrology, materials, devices, and quantum computing.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Who Release Global Gender Gap Index

- A. UNESCO
- B. WEF
- C. UNICEF
- D. World Bank

ANSWER: B

2. UN Declares ____ As International Year Of Quantum Science & Technology

- A. 2023
- B. 2024
- C. 2025
- D. 2026

ANSWER: C

3. Which Country Launched Its First Space Agency And Plans To Make A Mars Landing By 2045

- A. Mauritius
- B. South Korea
- C. Singapore
- D. Malaysia

ANSWER: B

4. Which Organization Launched India's First Electric Vehicle Index

- A. Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE)
- B. National Stock Exchange (NSE)
- C. Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)
- D. Madras Stock Exchange (MSE)

ANSWER: B

5. Koraput Kalajeera Rice Got GI Status, Is Cultivated In Which State

- A. Punjab
- B. Odisha
- C. Andhra Pradesh
- D. Uttar Pradesh

ANSWER: B

6. Which Organization Released Report Titled 'Hooking The Next Generation: How Tobacco Industry Captures Young Customers'?

- A. World Bank
- B. United Nations Development Program (UNEP)
- C. International Labour Organization (ILO)
- D. World Health Organization (WHO)

ANSWER: D

7. What Is The Main Objective Of The Daksha Project

- A. Studying black holes
- B. Analyzing the atmosphere of Mars
- C. Investigating explosive astrophysical sources like gamma-ray bursts
- D. Exploring the moon's surface

ANSWER: C

8. What Is A 'Sarcophagus'

- A. A type of pyramid
- B. A decorated coffin or container
- C. An ancient weapon
- D. A religious symbol

ANSWER: B

9. Cabinet Committee On Security Is Chaired By Which Authority Of India

- A. President of India
- B. Home Minister of India
- C. Lok Sabha speaker
- D. Prime Minister of India

ANSWER: D

10. Main Objective Of 'Operation Bluestar'

- A. To capture a group of militants in Kashmir
- B. To root out Sikh separatists from the Golden Temple
- C. To protect the Indian Parliament from attack
- D. To suppress a communist uprising in West Bengal

ANSWER: B

11. A Rare Four Horned Antelope Has Been Sighted For The First Time In Which Tiger Reserve Of Madhya Pradesh

- A. Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve
- B. Kanha Tiger Reserve
- C. Pench Tiger Reserve
- D. Panna Tiger Reserve

ANSWER: A

12. Ghataprabha River Is A Tributary Of Which River

- A. Krishna
- B. Godavari
- C. Kaveri
- D. Narmada

ANSWER: A

13. What Is 'Xylitol'

- A. Asteroid
- B. Artificial sweetener
- C. Vaccine for Malaria
- D. Invasive weed

ANSWER: B

14. Which Two Countries Recently Signed Artemis Accords, Bringing The Total Number Of Signatory Nations To 42

- A. Peru and Slovakia
- B. Chile and Tonga
- C. Indonesia and Malaysia
- D. Nigeria and Kenya

ANSWER: A

15. Which Country Announced An Action Plan To Eliminate A Million Indian House Crows By The End Of 2024

- A. Kenya
- B. Nigeria
- C. Botswana
- D. Tanzania

ANSWER: A

16. How Many Women Have Won The Recently Lok Sabha Elections

- A. 67
- B. 74
- C. 79
- D. 80

ANSWER: B

17. What Is 'Neo', Recently Seen In News

- A. a novel protein
- B. Asteroid
- C. Invasive weed
- D. Exoplanet

ANSWER: A

18. Maharani Temple, Which Has Been Damaged By Fire, Is Located In

- A. Jammu and Kashmir
- B. Uttarakhand
- C. Himachal Pradesh
- D. Haryana

ANSWER: A

19. Standard Missile 6 (SM-6) Was Developed By Which Country

- A. US
- B. Japan
- C. India
- D. China

ANSWER: A

20. The Governors Called Strategos Were Introduced By ___

- A. Sakas
- B. Indo-Greeks
- C. Kushanas
- D. Bactrians

ANSWER: B