

Daily Current Affairs

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India And Pakistan Exchange Lists Of Civilian Prisoners

- **India and Pakistan** on exchanged the lists of civilian prisoners and fishermen in each other's custody through diplomatic channels at New Delhi and Islamabad.
- External Affairs Ministry said India has **shared names of 366 civilian prisoners** and 86 fishermen in its custody, who are Pakistani or are believed-to-be-Pakistani. Pakistan has shared names of **43 civilian prisoners and 211 fishermen** in its custody, who are Indian or are believed-to-be-Indian.
- Such lists are exchanged every year on **1st January and on 1st July** under the provisions of the **bilateral Agreement on Consular Access 2008**.



- New Delhi has called for early release and repatriation of civilian prisoners, fishermen along with their boats, and missing Indian defence personnel from Pakistan's custody.
- Pakistan has been asked to expedite the release and repatriation of 185 Indian **fishermen and civilian prisoners**, who have completed their sentence. Pakistan has also been asked to provide immediate consular access to the **47 civilian prisoners and fishermen in Pakistan's custody**, who are believed-to-be-Indian and have not been provided consular access so far. Islamabad has been

requested to ensure the safety, security and welfare of all Indian and believed-to-be-Indian civilian prisoners and fishermen, pending their release and repatriation to India.

- External Affairs Ministry said **India remains committed** to addressing all humanitarian matters, including those pertaining to prisoners and fishermen in each other's country. India has urged Pakistan to expedite the nationality verification process of **75 believed-to-be-Pakistani civilian prisoners** and fishermen in India's custody, whose repatriation is pending for want of nationality confirmation from Pakistan. As a result of sustained efforts by the Government, two thousand 639 Indian fishermen and 71 Indian civilian prisoners have been repatriated from Pakistan since 2014.

'Global IndiaAI Summit'

- **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology** will organise the two-day AI conference '**Global IndiaAI Summit**' from the 3rd of this month in New Delhi.
- The Ministry said that the summit aims to foster collaboration and knowledge exchange, underscoring India's dedication to the ethical and inclusive growth of AI technologies. India will serve as the lead chair of the **Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence** (GPAI) and host member countries and experts to advance GPAI's commitment to safe, secure, and trustworthy AI.



- The event will focus on **advancing AI development in areas like** Compute Capacity, Foundational Models, Datasets, Application Development, Future Skills, Startup Financing, and Safe AI. The Global IndiaAI Summit will feature leading voices and policy-makers in the technology sector including Electronics and Information Technology Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, Minister of State Jitin Prasada and Secretary S. Krishnan. It will also feature top industry heads, professors and researchers from prestigious IT institutes.



World Bank Grants For India's Green Energy Push

- **World Bank has agreed to lend India \$1.5 billion** to help it move toward a low-carbon energy future. This strategic funding will help create green hydrogen and electrolyzers and make it easier for the country to use renewable energy.
- The **main goal of this money** is to improve India's energy policies and rules so that more investments can be made in the energy transition industry. One important part of this is encouraging new ideas in green hydrogen and sustainable energy.



- The **World Bank's plan is set up to do more** than just fund direct projects. It also aims to support policymaking and provide professional assistance for creating important interventions.
- One important part of this initiative is that it focuses on **getting more private sector money** into the energy industry. This move fits with the bigger goal of boosting green energy options like floating solar power systems and offshore wind farms. In addition to giving money, the World Bank's program aims to **make different areas more energy efficient**, such as by encouraging the construction of green buildings.



- Also, attempts will be made to **change grid codes so that renewable energy** sources can be used more. This will make the energy systems stronger and last longer.
- **Renewable energy being added** to the national grid is a key part of the program's plan. As part of the scheme, existing grid codes will be changed to make room for more renewable energy.
- Aside from that, it wants to encourage options like battery energy storage that make it easier to provide clean power all day. The **World Bank's all-around method shows a** complete plan to help India switch to a low-carbon economy, which will allow it to keep up with its fast economic growth while also taking environmental impacts into account.

Uttar Pradesh To Establish 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 Gokarnath tehsil, and covers 1000 hectares**. It will be developed quickly with an investment of **around Rs 2 billion**.
- The bioplastic park was put in a smart place that takes advantage of the area's farming strengths. Balrampur Chini Mill will be in charge of the project, which is a great example of a **public-private relationship**.



- The Uttar Pradesh Expressways Industrial Development Authority (UPEIDA) is in charge of the project and will make sure that everything runs smoothly from the planning stages to the completion. Bioplastics, which are at the heart of this project, come from plants that grow back, like corn, sugar beets, and sunflowers.
- **Bioplastics are different from regular plastics** because they are made from **natural polymers like cellulose and starches** that come from plants or farm waste. Because they are biodegradable, they break down much more quickly. This makes them a more environmentally friendly option to regular plastics that stay in the environment for hundreds of years.



- It is expected that the **bioplastic park will be good for both the economy and the environment**. In terms of the **economy**, it offers to create jobs, which will help the regional economy and support related industries. For the environment,

switching from petrochemical plastics to bioplastics could cut pollution by a lot. This would help **fight plastic pollution** and promote environmental resilience. The bioplastic park also wants to become a center for study that focuses on making new plastic technologies.

- This includes making it easier to **recycle plastic and cut down** on plastic waste in general. By giving scientists and experts a place to work together, the park is likely to lead to cutting-edge improvements in making bioplastics and coming up with new ways to be environmentally friendly.

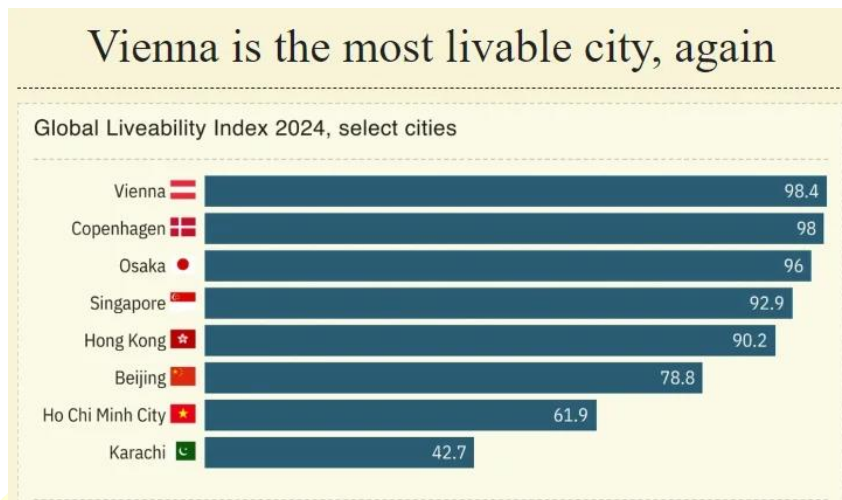
Global Liveability Index 2024

- **Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU)** just released its most recent **Global Liveability Index**, which once again names Vienna, Austria, as the best place to live in the world.
- The 2024 index, which came out today, rates towns around the **world based on things like** education, healthcare, culture the environment, stability, and infrastructure.
- After Vienna, **Copenhagen, Denmark**, stays in second place, and **Zurich, Switzerland**, moves up to third. **Melbourne, Australia**, fell from third to fourth place, which is an important change.



- **Calgary, Canada tied with Geneva, Switzerland** for fifth place. Cities like **Osaka, Japan, and Auckland, New Zealand**, are also praised on the list, which puts them in the top ten.

- The EIU rates towns by giving them scores in **five different areas**. Vienna did very well, getting “perfect” scores in four areas. However, it did worse in culture and environment, mostly because it didn’t have as many big sporting events.
- **Western Europe had lower stability scores** overall because there were more protests and crimes there. Even though **London is a world-class city**, it was **ranked 45th**.



- North America had the best average scores for schooling, but there were problems with the infrastructure, especially in Canadian cities that are having a housing crisis.
- The ranks of cities in the UAE and Saudi Arabia went up a lot because they became safer and had better health care. However, Tel Aviv’s ranking dropped a lot because of the ongoing conflict in the area.
- **Damascus, Syria, is still at the bottom of the list.** Tripoli, Libya; Algiers, Algeria; and Lagos, Nigeria are next. The fact that these towns’ scores haven’t gone up since the last evaluation shows that problems are still there. This knowledgebase gives a summary and in-depth look at the global liveability rankings as of 2024. It does this by helping you understand the factors that affect city ranks around the world.

eSankhyiki Portal

- **Ministry Of Statistics And Programme Implementation** Has Introduced eSankhyiki Portal To Revolutionize Data Accessibility And User Experience.
- Aims To Centralize And Streamline Access To Key **National Statistical Data**, Supporting Planners, Policymakers, Researchers, And The Public. Portal’s Data

Catalogue Module Consolidates Over 2291 Datasets, Including National Accounts Statistics, Consumer Price Index, And More.



- It Offers **Detailed Metadata And Visualization Tools** To Enhance Data Usability And Reusability. Macro Indicators Module Provides Time- Series Data On Major Indicators Such As National Accounts Statistics And Consumer Price Index Over The Past Decade.



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REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. **Which State Government Launched 'Mukhyamantri Majhi Ladki Bahin' Scheme'**
 - A. Maharashtra
 - B. Odisha
 - C. Gujarat
 - D. Kerala

ANSWER: A

2. **Who Has Been Elected As New President Of European Council Of European Union**
 - A. Charles Michel
 - B. Antonio Costa
 - C. Herman Van Rompuy
 - D. Von der Leyen

ANSWER: B

3. Nyoma - Chushul Region, Due To Flash Floods, Is Located In Which State/UT

- A. Assam
- B. Sikkim
- C. Ladakh
- D. Uttarakhand

ANSWER: C

4. Where Was The Financial Action Task Force Meeting Held

- A. China
- B. France
- C. Indonesia
- D. Singapore

ANSWER: D

5. Svalbard, Is An Archipelago Located In Which Ocean

- A. Arctic Ocean
- B. Indian Ocean
- C. Atlantic Ocean
- D. Pacific Ocean

ANSWER: A

6. In Which Year Were The Central Civil Services Rules Established

- A. 1960
- B. 1985
- C. 1999
- D. 1972

ANSWER: D

7. Mount Kanlaon Is Located In Which Country

- A. Mexico
- B. Philippines
- C. Indonesia
- D. Chile

ANSWER: B

8. In Which Year Did Khongjom Battle Take Place During The Angl-Manipuri War

- A. 1891
- B. 1900
- C. 1875
- D. 1910

ANSWER: A

9. What Provision Of Indian Constitution Allows For Establishment Of An Autonomous State Within The State Of Assam

- A. Article 244
- B. Article 244(B)
- C. Article 244(A)
- D. Article 244(C)

ANSWER: C

10. Where Were India- South Korea Consultations On Disarmament Held

- A. New Delhi
- B. Seoul
- C. Tokyo
- D. Bangkok

ANSWER: B

11. Which Company Has Developed Phi-3-mini

- A. Microsoft
- B. Google
- C. Apple
- D. Amazon

ANSWER: A

12. In Which Year Indian Historical Records Commission Established

- A. 1915
- B. 1923
- C. 1900
- D. 1919

ANSWER: D

13. Minuteman III Intercontinental Ballistic Missile , Recently Seen In The News, Developed By Which Country

- A. United States
- B. Russia
- C. China
- D. Japan

ANSWER: A

14. What Is ' Thismia Malayana '

- A. A new species of plant
- B. A rare species of fern
- C. A type of traditional medicine
- D. An ancient irrigation technique

ANSWER: A

15. Which Regulatory Body Launched 'Saarthi 2.0' Mobile App For Investors

- A. RBI
- B. SEBI
- C. NABARD
- D. FCI

ANSWER: B

16. NPCI International Payments Ltd Recently Joined Hands With Which South American Country To Enable UPI Payments

- A. Brazil
- B. Argentina
- C. Peru
- D. Chile

ANSWER: C

17. Name Of Russian Cosmonaut, Who Became First Person To Spend 1000 Days In Space

- A. Yelena Kondakova
- B. Nikolai Chub
- C. Yuri Gagarin
- D. Oleg Kononenko

ANSWER: D

18. India Launched Biopharmaceutical Alliance With Which Countries

- A. US, Japan and South Korea
- B. China, Russia and Nepal
- C. UK, Russia and Israel
- D. Australia, China and UK

ANSWER: A

19. Cabinet Declared Which Day As 'National Space Day' In India

- A. August 20
- B. August 23
- C. August 25
- D. August 27

ANSWER: B

20. 'Kharchi Puja' Is Observed In Which State/UT

- A. Tripura
- B. Assam
- C. West Bengal
- D. Odisha

ANSWER: A