

Monthly July Current Affairs

Hool Diwas

- **President Droupadi Murmu** paid her tributes to all the immortal fighters of the Santhal rebellion on '**Hool Diwas**'. In a social media post, the President said that **the immortal stories of sacrifices** of heroes like Sido-Kanhu, Chand-Bhairav and Phoolo-Jhano who fought a historic war against injustice are written in golden letters.



- She said that the ideals of those revolutionaries will always remain a source of inspiration for all countrymen.
- The **Santhal rebellion** (also known as the Sonthal rebellion or the Santhal Hool), was a rebellion in present-day Jharkhand and West Bengal against the East India Company (EIC) and zamindari system by the Santhals.
- **It started on June 30, 1855, and on November 10, 1855**, martial law was proclaimed by the East India Company which lasted until January 3, 1856, when martial law was suspended and the rebellion was eventually suppressed by the presidency armies.

SpaceX 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.
- According to the space agency's plans, SpaceX's specially designed deorbit vehicle will drag the football field-size ISS back to Earth sometime after the end of its operational life in 2030.



- 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, who have completed more than 3,300 scientific experiments in a close orbit above Earth.
- But the space station is showing its age: **technical faults and leaks** continue to cause issues for crews, and the contracts between the five participating national space agencies, which marked an era of global cooperation in space following the end of the Cold War, will end by 2030.
- Weighing **approximately 430,000 kilograms (950,000 pounds)**, the ISS stands as the largest structure ever constructed in space, symbolizing a collaborative effort among the United States, Europe, Japan, Canada, and Russia since its inception in 2000.



- While the US and its partners plan to maintain operations until 2030, Russia's commitment extends only until 2028. The ISS also faces risks from the growing problem of space junk – orbital debris made of other defunct satellites, whipping around Earth at high speeds.
- The crew were allowed to return to the ISS after about an hour, and operations continued as normal. **But it's still unclear exactly when the space station will be brought crashing back to Earth.** These include Axiom Space's Axiom Station, and the Orbital Reef designed by Blue Origin and Sierra Space. Both stations are slated to come online by the end of this decade.

FATF Grey List Status

- Turkish Finance Minister Mehmet Simsek announced that **Turkey has been removed from the FATF 'grey list'** after recent evaluations of the country's progress on money laundering and terrorist financing.
- The decision, declared at the FATF plenary meeting in Singapore, marks a significant milestone for Turkey, which had been placed on the grey list in 2021.
- **In 2021, Turkey was downgraded** to the grey list due to concerns over money laundering and terrorist financing. Criticisms included Turkey's support for terrorist groups, such as Hamas, and inadequate supervision of various sectors susceptible to illicit financial activities.
- **The FATF acknowledged Turkey's significant** reforms, particularly in the regulation of cryptocurrency.

FATF GREY LIST
 (Jurisdictions under Increased Monitoring) as of 28th June 2024



- | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------|-----------|
| Bulgaria | Monaco | Syria |
| Burkina Faso | Mozambique | Tanzania |
| Cameroon | Namibia | Venezuela |
| Croatia | Nigeria | Vietnam |
| Democratic Republic of Congo | Philippines | Yemen |
| Haiti | Senegal | |
| Kenya | South Africa | |
| Mali | South Sudan | |

Added countries: 1. Monaco 2. Venezuela
 Deleted countries: 1. Jamaica 2. Türkiye



- The Turkish Parliament recently approved legislation increasing oversight of the crypto market, ensuring stringent management and operational standards. This move was pivotal in addressing FATF’s concerns and contributed to Turkey’s removal from the grey list.
- **Despite Turkey’s removal from the grey list**, there are ongoing criticisms. Some argue that Turkey still poses a risk as a hub for terror financing, with allegations of support for Hamas and involvement in financing arms transactions for groups like the Houthi rebels and Russia.



- **Financial Action Task Force (FATF)** : Establishment: 1989, Headquarters: Paris, France, Members: 39 members, including major countries and regional organizations. To develop policies and standards to combat money laundering, terrorist financing, and other related threats to the integrity of the international financial system
- **Grey List:** Countries under increased monitoring for deficiencies in combating money laundering and terrorist financing
- **Black List:** High-risk jurisdictions with significant strategic deficiencies
- Meetings: Plenary meetings three times a year to review and update standards and assess member compliance.

Pen Pinter Prize 2024

- In a significant recognition of her literary contributions, **Booker Prize-winning author Arundhati Roy** has been awarded the esteemed Pen Pinter Prize for 2024. This honour comes at a time when Roy faces potential legal challenges, highlighting the importance of her work and the ongoing struggle for freedom of expression.



- The **Pen Pinter Prize**: A Symbol of Literary Courage
- Origins and Significance
- The Pen Pinter Prize, **established in 2009** by the charity English PEN, stands as a beacon for:
 - Defending freedom of expression
 - Celebrating impactful literature

- Honoring the memory of Nobel-Laureate playwright **Harold Pinter**
- Selection Process
- Roy was chosen by a distinguished panel of judges:
- Ruth Borthwick: Chair of English PEN
- Khalid Abdalla: Actor and activist
- Roger Robinson: Writer and musician
- Arundhati Roy: A Voice of Unflinching Truth
- Literary Achievements
- Booker Prize winner for her debut novel “The God of Small Things”
- Renowned for her non-fiction works and political activism

SCO Summit

- External Affairs Minister **Dr S Jaishankar** (2nd July 2024) reached **Astana in Kazakhstan**. He will represent **PM Narendra Modi** and lead the Indian delegation at the **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation SCO Summit**.
- Kazakhstan’s Deputy Foreign Minister **Alibek Bakayev** welcomed Dr Jaishankar on his arrival. External Affairs Minister met Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Kazakhstan **Murat Nurtleu**.



- **Dr Jaishankar thanked him for the hospitality and arrangements** for the SCO Council of Heads of State Summit. They discussed the expanding Strategic Partnership and India’s increasing engagement with Central Asia in various formats.
- Both also exchanged views on regional and global issues. At the SCO Summit, the leaders are expected to review the organization’s activities over the past two decades and discuss the state and prospects of multilateral cooperation. Topical issues of regional and international importance are also expected to be

discussed at the meeting. 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. 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 virtual format.
- **SCO Is A Permanent Intergovernmental International Organisation.** It's A Eurasian Political, Economic And Military Organisation Aiming To Maintain Peace, Security And Stability In The Region. It Was Created In 2001. The SCO Charter Was Signed In 2002, And Entered Into Force In 2003.
- **It Is A Statutory Document** Which Outlines The Organisation's Goals And Principles, As Well As Its Structure And Core Activities. The Sco's Official Languages Are Russian And Chinese.
- **Membership :** Kazakhstan, . China . Kyrgyzstan . Russia . Tajikistan . Uzbekistan
India Pakistan
- **Observer states :** Afghanistan Belarus Iran Mongolia
- **Dialogue Partner :** Azerbaijan Armenia Cambodia Nepal Turkey Sri Lanka

India First Nation To Prepare Full List Of Fauna

- **Fauna of India Checklist Portal** is the first comprehensive document on the faunal species reported from India. India has become the first country in the world to prepare a checklist of its entire fauna, covering **104,561 species**.
- The **'Fauna of India Checklist Portal'** was launched on the occasion of the 109th Foundation Day of the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) in Kolkata on Sunday by Union environment minister Bhupender Yadav.



- “India is a **global champion in biodiversity conservation**,” Yadav said, referencing the “Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam” initiative as a testament to the country’s dedication to environmental preservation.
- This program was one of the first major initiatives undertaken by Prime Minister Narendra Modi after **his re-election**. **Additionally**, Yadav highlighted other government initiatives aimed at preserving biodiversity, such as the International Big Cat Alliance.

INDIA BECOMES **FIRST NATION TO PREPARE FULL LIST OF FAUNA**



DEEPANSHU SINGH

विद्यां ददाति विनयं

- He pointed to the successful relocation of cheetahs to India as an example of the country’s effective conservation efforts. 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, with the Andaman and Nicobar Islands being the next most important area for endemism.

Viswanathan Anand

- **Viswanathan Anand, the former world chess champion** from India, achieved a remarkable feat. He won the Leon Masters chess championship for the 10th time, **defeating Jaime Santos Latasa** of Spain in the final with a score of 3-1.



- This victory adds another **jewel to Anand's crown** of achievements in the world of chess. The Leon Masters is a prestigious chess tournament held in Leon, Spain. It features four top players competing against each other.
- **In 2024, the participants were:** Viswanathan Anand (India), Arjun Erigaisi (India), Veselin Topalov (Bulgaria), Jaime Santos Latasa (Spain). Anand's victory in 2024 marks his 10th win at the Leon Masters. His previous victories came in: 1996, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2011, 2016, and now 2024.

Asia's Largest Flight Training School

- **Air India** is establishing **South Asia's largest flight training school** in Maharashtra's Amravati district with an investment of over **₹200 crore**.
- Scheduled to open in the first quarter of the next financial year, this initiative aims to secure a **steady pipeline of pilots for the airline**, which will require 500-

700 pilots annually to support its expansion plans following a mega order of 470 Airbus and Boeing aircraft in 2023.



- In partnership with **Maharashtra Airport Development Company (MADC)**, Air India has leased a 10-acre plot in Amravati for thirty years. The facility will feature **31 single-engine Piper aircraft** and three twin-engine Diamond aircraft, training 180 commercial pilots annually.
- The infrastructure includes a newly extended runway of 1,850 metres, modern navigation aids, and night landing facilities. Amravati offers over 300 days of clean visibility, optimizing conditions for pilot training.
- Campbell Wilson, MD & CEO of Air India, highlighted that the Amravati flying training organization marks a significant step towards self-reliance in Indian aviation.
- **The school aims to provide more opportunities** for Indian youth to pursue careers as pilots. Despite there being over 34 approved training schools in India, 40% of pilots currently complete their training overseas. This initiative addresses the gap, contributing to the nation's aviation self-sufficiency.

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.**

कोयला मंत्रालय
Ministry of Coal
भारत सरकार

NIRMAN Portal

Empowers Civil Services Aspirants from Coal-Bearing States

Highlights:

- Financial aid of ₹1 lakh for students clearing UPSC prelims for (Civil & forest Services).
- Annual Family Income less than ₹8 lakh
- Entirely online application process.

For more details visit
<https://nirman.cmpdi.co.in/>

@ministry-of-coal-official | <https://www.coal.gov.in>

- 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. The initiative supports **underprivileged students’** aspirations, aligning with the national goal of “Viksit Bharat” through inclusive growth and development strategies.

Project Nexus by RBI

- **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has joined Project Nexus, a worldwide effort to make it easier for people to send money instantly across borders. To do this, **Fast Payment Systems (FPSs)** in different countries are linked together. In this plan, the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) of India will link to the FPSs of **Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand.**



- The **Bank for International Settlements (BIS)** Innovation Hub started Project Nexus to bring about a new way of doing things in international payments. Nexus' main goal is to improve international money transfers by combining different local Instant Payment Systems (IPS) in a way that doesn't cause any problems.
- With this promise, **Project Nexus will be the first live implementation**-focused project for the payments industry by the BIS Innovation Hub. The framework of the project supports an open, quick, and safe space for sending money across borders, supporting connectivity for both Person to Person (P2P) and Person to Merchant (P2M) payments.



- **Project Nexus is unique because** it can standardize the connectivity methods for instant payments around the world. In the past, each country's FPS needed its unique links to each other's. With Nexus, these systems only need one way to connect to the platform.
- This makes the process much easier and **cuts down on the time and money needed for integration**. Some of the biggest benefits are faster purchases (often finished in less than 60 seconds) and lower costs, which lead to more users and happier users.



- **Founding Members of Project Nexus:** At its commencement, Project Nexus will include the Fast Payment Systems (FPSs) of four Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)—Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand—alongside India. These nations, recognized as the founding members of the Nexus platform, formalized their participation and mutual commitment at a signing event held in Basel, Switzerland, on June 30, 2024.

Sampoornata Abhiyan

- **NITI Aayog** has launched **Sampoornata Abhiyan**, a three-month campaign from today till 30th September to undertake a sustained effort to achieve saturation of **six key indicators** in Aspirational Districts and Aspirational Blocks across the country. It seeks to achieve saturation in each of the six identified indicators in the **112 Aspirational Districts and 500 Aspirational Blocks** under the Aspirational Districts Programme and Aspirational Blocks Programme.
- **Sampoornata Abhiyan will focus** on the six identified Key Performance Indicators KPIs across all Aspirational Blocks.



- These are **percentage of pregnant women** registered for Antenatal Care within the first trimester, **percentage of persons screened** for Diabetes against the targeted population in the Block, percentage of persons screened for **Hypertension against** the targeted population in the Block, percentage of pregnant women taking **Supplementary Nutrition** under the ICDS Programme regularly, percentage of **Soil Health Cards** generated against the soil sample collection target and percentage of Self Help Groups SHGs that have received a Revolving Fund against the total SHGs in the block.



- The **six identified KPIs across Aspirational Districts** under Sampoonata Abhiyan are the percentage of pregnant women registered for Antenatal Care within the first trimester, percentage of pregnant women taking Supplementary Nutrition under the ICDS Programme regularly, percentage of children fully immunized, number of Soil Health Cards distributed, percentage of schools with functional electricity at the secondary level and percentage of schools providing textbooks to children within one month of the start of the academic session.
- Districts or Blocks will develop a **three-month Action Plan** to saturate the six indicators, districts or blocks will track progress on saturation each month, implement awareness and behaviour change campaigns and district officials will conduct concurrent monitoring field visits.

Global India AI Summit 2024 Concludes

- The two-day long **Global India AI Summit 2024** concluded at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi.
- The two-day summit featured a diverse array of sessions designed to delve deep into **critical aspects of AI application, and governance** and for nurturing talent and scaling AI innovations.



- Electronics and IT Ministry said, **12 thousand global Artificial Intelligence experts** and practitioners and delegates from **50 countries** attended the summit.
- During the summit, **16 Deep-tech startups** showcased their AI applications and products. The Ministry said, India set the global discourse by emphasizing the intent of the Government to democratize AI and make it accessible to all.
- During the summit, the Global South countries acknowledged and appreciated the role of India in giving voice to them at the global AI forum and bridging the gap with the Global North.



China Leads Global GenAI Patents: U.N. Data

- **China has become a world leader** in creative **AI technology** by filing patents much faster than any other country.
- New information from the UN shows that China has filed six times as many patents as the US, its main rival in this field.
- **Generative AI is a term** for advanced algorithms that can learn from current datasets and make new text, images, music, and computer code.
- The **World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)** says that over 50,000 patent applications have been made in the last ten years for this technology.
- Christopher Harrison, who is in charge of patent analytics at WIPO, talked about how fast this field is growing and how it could grow even more.



- WIPO says that between 2014 and 2023, **China filed more than 38,000** Generative AI patents, much more than **the 6,276 filings** from the US. Chinese users cover a lot of different fields, such as self-driving cars, printing, and managing documents.
- After China and the US, South Korea, Japan, and India are the next countries with the most inventions filed. **India is seeing the most growth** in this area. Chinese companies like ByteDance and Alibaba are at the forefront of the app boom. Microsoft is also involved through its partnership with OpenAI, which made ChatGPT.



Russia's New Orbital Station

- **Russia has approved** the schedule for the creation of a **Russian orbital station** by 2033. The schedule includes the **design and construction of the space** modules, flight tests of a new-generation manned spaceship, the creation of launch vehicles and space infrastructure on Earth, and a timetable for the work of scientific institutes supporting the project.
- The agency confirmed plans to launch an **initial scientific and energy module** in 2027. It said three more modules would be added by 2030 and a further two between 2031 and 2033.



- **Russia has until now partnered with the United States** and other countries on the International Space Station, one of the few areas where it still collaborates closely with the US given the dire state of relations since its invasion of Ukraine.

- With the **ISS approaching the end** of its operational life, Moscow announced plans in 2022 to pull out of the project and build its own station. It initially said it would quit the ISS after 2024 but told its partners last year it would extend its participation until 2028.



- **Apart from the design and manufacture** of the modules, Roscosmos said the schedule approved by Borisov includes flight-testing a new-generation crewed spacecraft and building rockets and ground-based infrastructure.
- The new station will enable Russia to “**solve problems of scientific and technological development**, national economy and national security that are not available on the Russian segment of the ISS due to technological limitations and the terms of international agreements”, it said.
- **Russia has prided itself** on its space programme since the Cold War, when Soviet cosmonaut **Yuri Gagarin became the first person** to travel into space in 1961. But it suffered a major setback last year with the failure of its first lunar mission in 47 years, when its uncrewed spacecraft spun out of control and smashed into the surface of the moon.



133rd Durand Cup

- **Durand Cup, Asia's oldest and India's most prestigious club-based football tournament, is set to enter its 133rd edition in 2024.**
- This historic competition, which has been a cornerstone of **Indian football for over a century**, continues to evolve and expand, bringing together the best teams from across the country.



- The Durand Cup has a rich **history dating back to 1888** when it was first held in Shimla. Initially started by **the British Armed Forces** stationed in India, it has grown to become a symbol of **India's football legacy**.
- The tournament is named after **Mortimer Durand**, who was the Foreign Secretary of British India at the time of its inception.
- **Currently, the Durand Cup is jointly organized** by the Indian Army and the All India Football Federation (AIFF). This partnership maintains the tournament's historical military connections while ensuring it meets modern football standards.



SEHER Program

- **Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP)** and **TransUnion CIBIL** have launched SEHER, a credit education program designed to empower women entrepreneurs in India.
- **SEHER aims to provide financial literacy** content and business skills, facilitating access to essential financial tools for growth and employment creation.
- **Address financial awareness** as a major hurdle for MSME development by educating women on finance aspects, including CIBIL Rank and commercial credit reports. Financial unawareness is a significant barrier for MSME growth.



- **Empower women entrepreneurs by providing** comprehensive support across entrepreneurship promotion, finance access, market linkages, training, mentoring, and business development services.
- Enhance women's financial knowledge and skills for managing businesses and achieving sustained growth, contributing to India's USD 5 trillion economy target.
- **Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP)**, incubated in NITI Aayog in 2018 as an aggregator platform that transitioned as a public-private partnership in 2022 to build a comprehensive ecosystem supporting women entrepreneurs across India.



WOMEN ENTREPRENEURSHIP PLATFORM

- WEP aims at empowering women entrepreneurs by overcoming information asymmetry and providing continuum of **support across different pillars** - Entrepreneurship promotion, Access to Finance; Market Linkages; Training and Skilling; Mentoring and Networking and Business Development Services. For this, WEP adopts a wide array of interventions with a focus on convergence and collaboration with existing stakeholders.

World's First CNG Bike

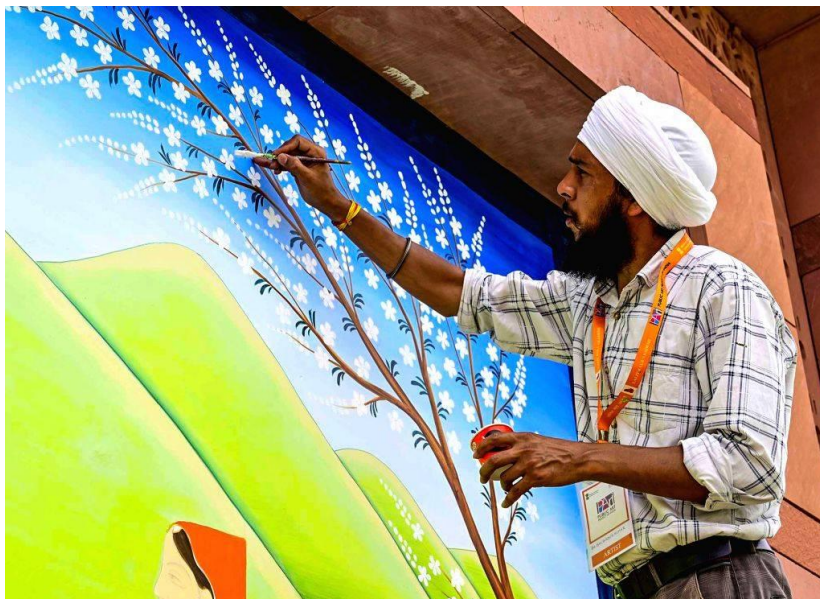
- **Union Minister Nitin Gadkari** launched **Bajaj Auto's new bike, Freedom**, the world's first CNG motorcycle. He praised it as **"eco-friendly"** and **"sustainable,"** highlighting the significant issues of air, sound, and water pollution, and the high cost of fossil fuel imports in India.



- Gadkari called the bike a **“groundbreaking innovation”** on social media, emphasizing its potential for substantial savings in operating costs and pollution reduction. He expressed confidence in India’s automobile industry, predicting it will become the world’s second-largest in five years.
- **Freedom promises to halve daily riding expenses** and features the segment’s most spacious seat for superior comfort. The bike includes a **mono-linked suspension system** for smooth rides on bumpy roads and a **2-litre auxiliary petrol tank** for added convenience.
- It has a **12.5-litre (2 kg) CNG cylinder** with a range of 100 km/kg, and users can switch between CNG and petrol modes via a switch on the left handlebar. The engine is specifically designed for CNG, with tailored piston shapes and larger cooling jets and fins to manage engine temperature.
- **The trellis frame protects the CNG tank**, supplemented by an additional tank shield. The bike underwent rigorous safety testing, including impact tests and extreme scenarios, ensuring compliance with government safety standards.

Project PARI

- **Project PARI (Public Art of India)**, an initiative by the **Ministry of Culture**, Government of India, being executed by Lalit Kala Akademi and National Gallery of Modern Art seeks 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.

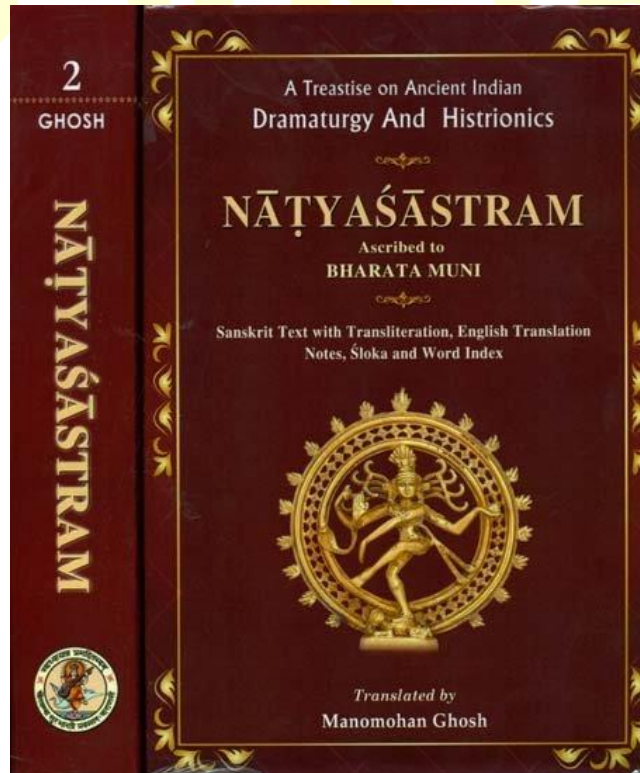


- The representation of art in public spaces is particularly significant, reflecting the nation's rich and diverse cultural heritage. The **democratization of art** through public installations transforms urban landscapes into accessible galleries, where art transcends the confines of traditional venues such as museums and galleries.
- **By integrating art into streets, parks, and transit hubs**, these initiatives ensure that artistic experiences are available to one and all. This inclusive approach fosters a shared cultural identity and enhances social cohesion, inviting citizens to engage with art in their daily lives.
- **Project PARI aims at stimulating dialogue**, reflection, and inspiration, contributing to the dynamic cultural fabric of the nation. **More than 150 visual artists** from all over the country have come together to create the various wall paintings, murals, sculptures and installations being prepared under this project.
- 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), Cherial 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) and more.



- The proposed sculptures being created for **Project PARI** include **wide ranging ideas** that include but are not limited to paying tributes to nature, ideas inspired by the **Natyashastra**, **Gandhi ji**, **toys of India**, hospitality, ancient knowledge, Naad or Primeval Soun, Harmony of life, Kalpataru – the divine tree etc. In sync with the proposed 46th World Heritage

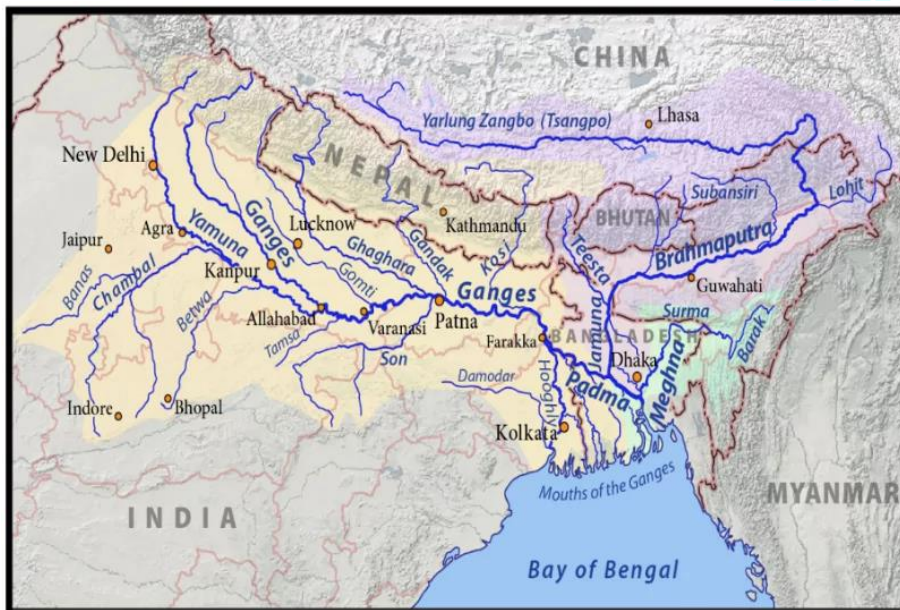


Ganga Waters Treaty

- **Ganga Waters Treaty**, which **India and Bangladesh signed in 1996**, will be discussed again. This pact, which is mostly about the **fair sharing of water** from the Ganga River, which both countries share, needs to be renewed in 2026.



- It makes sure that everyone gets an **equal share of the water** and stops one country from taking it during dry seasons. The deal is meant to end disagreements by ensuring a certain flow of water to Bangladesh during times when drought is likely to happen.



- A joint committee was set up to keep an eye on how the water is distributed and check the flow rates at the **Farakka Barrage**, which is close to their border.

- This group is in charge of making sure that the deal is followed and settling any disagreements that come up.
- **Ganga Waters Treaty** is a rare example of long-term river water-sharing cooperation in South Asia. It encourages the two countries to work together in the future, even though it has been criticized and faced problems.

Mica Mines Declared Child Labour-Free

- **National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR)** declared the mica mines of Jharkhand 'child labour-free' at an event in **Koderma, Jharkhand**.
- In India, **working children up to 14 years of age** are classified as child labour. **Mica, a shimmery, translucent mineral**, is used in various industries including cosmetics, electronics, automobiles, and construction.
- It is abundant in the **Koderma and Giridih districts of Jharkhand**. Koderma was once known as the **Mica capital of India, the Abkrah Nagari** .



- **Mica mining was once a booming industry** in the area, making India the largest exporter of Mica globally. However, the Forest Conservation Act of 1980 banned mining in forest areas without central government permission, leading to illegal mining operations.
- **Poor families often involved** their children in collecting mica (locally known as dhibra) to earn extra income. At one point, **around 20,000 children** were employed in this work. child labour-free mica initiative was launched 20 years ago, involving the state government, district administration, village panchayats, civil society, and the central government.



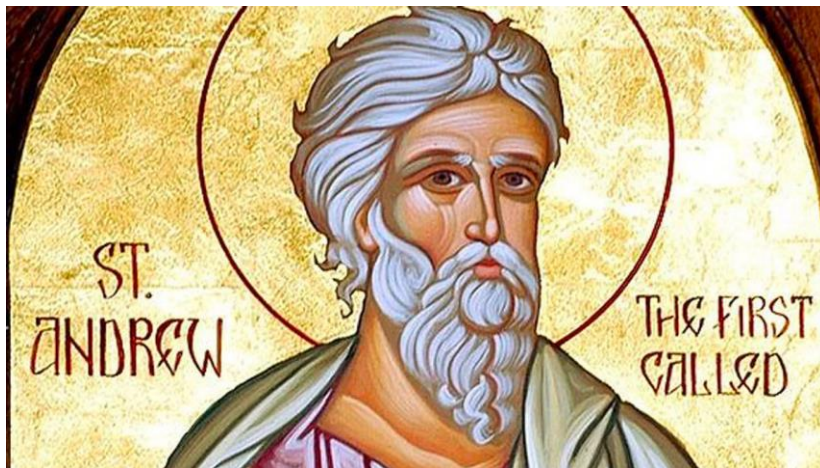
- **NCPDR later joined the initiative.** The campaign identified child labourers who were out of school, removed them from mining activities, and enrolled them in schools. Efforts were made to ensure children remained in school and did not return to mining.
- **Established In 2007 Under The Commission For Protection Of Child Rights (CPCR) Act, 2005**
- **Under Administrative Control Of Union Ministry Of Women And Child Development**
- **Safeguards Children's Rights As Per The Constitution And Other Laws, Ensures Rights Provided By The Right To Education Act, 2009, And POCSO Act 2012**

PM Modi Receives Russia's Highest Civilian Honour

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** was honoured with Russia's **most prestigious civilian honour**, the **Order of St Andrew the Apostle**. President of Russia Vladimir Putin presented it to Mr Modi.



- 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.



Ban On Pro-Khalistani Fringe Group

- Centre extended the ban on pro-khalistani fringe group 'Sikhs For Justice' by another five years. The action has been taken under the **Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act**.



- A Government notification said, the **organisation has been indulging** in activities which are prejudicial to the integrity and security of the country.
- **Sikhs for Justice is a US-based group** run by Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, who was declared a designated individual terrorist by India.
- The NIA has registered many cases against Sikhs for Justice and Pannun. The Centre had banned the organisation in 2019.

International Space Station Mission Under Axiom-4

- 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.
- **Only one of the shortlisted astronauts** will go on the mission which is supposed to take place “no earlier than October 2024,” according to the information available on NASA website.



ISRO Selects 2 Gaganyaan Astronauts For International Space Station Mission Under Axiom-4

- The mission will take place “**no earlier than October 2024**,”. The astronauts will have to go to the **United States ahead of the mission** to train on the specifics of the ISS.
- “While they **have general training for space-fairing**, much of their training in India focussed on **Gaganyaan modules**. They will have to be familiarised with ISS modules and protocols,” the official said.



- 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**. At the time when the Axiom-4 mission was announced last year, NASA in a release had said: “The **Ax-4 crew members** will train with NASA, international partners, and SpaceX for their flight. **Axiom Space has contracted SpaceX** as launch provider for transportation to and from the space station, and to familiarize the private astronauts with systems, procedures, and emergency preparedness for the Dragon spacecraft.”

ICC Player of the Month Awards

- 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.
- Bumrah alone took 15 wickets in 8 matches during the World Cup, which made him Player of the Tournament.
- 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. Smriti won the title for her fabulous batting display against South Africa.



'DD-Robocon'

- The team of **Institute of Technology, Nirma University** won the Robot Competition DD-Robocon India 2024.
- The two day event 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**.

- **Pimpri-Chinchwad College of Engineering**, Pune secured the first runner-up position, while **MIT World Peace University** Pune claimed the second runner-up spot.
- More than 750 students from over 45 colleges, institutions, and universities participated in the event.
- **DD-Robocon India aims to foster technical skill development**, innovation, and teamwork among engineering students, providing them with visibility and recognition in the field of robotics. The competition serves as a prestigious platform for showcasing and enhancing students' engineering and robotics capabilities

NITI GearShift Challenge'

- **NITI Aayog** has announced the launch of the '**NITI GearShift Challenge'** as part of the **e-FAST India initiative**.
- This **pioneering hackathon** aims to foster innovative business models for the adoption of **zero-emission trucks in India**, addressing the nation's pressing economic and environmental challenges.



- **NITI Aayog has also invited students**, transport service practitioners, academics, and researchers to develop innovative business models that address financial, technical, and operational challenges in the adoption of electric trucks.
- 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.



- NITI Aayog said that the hackathon will unfold in two rounds. It said that the **GearShift Challenge marks a pivotal move towards** sustainable freight transportation in India.
- **e-FAST India (Electric Freight Accelerator for Sustainable Transport – India)** is the country's first platform to facilitate collaboration between government stakeholders and private sector partners — Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs), Logistic Service Providers (LSPs), financiers, producers, and Charge Point Operators (CPOs) — to shape strategies and actions that support freight electrification at scale.

‘Samvidhaan Hatya Diwas’

- 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.
- Union Home Minister Amit Shah said that the decision is intended to honor the spirit of millions who struggled to **revive democracy despite facing inexplicable** persecution at the hands of an oppressive government.



- The observance of 'Samvidhaan Hatya Diwas' will help keep the eternal flame of individual freedom and the defense of the country's democracy alive in every Indian.
- Mr Shah said that On June 25 the then PM Indira Gandhi, in a brazen display of a dictatorial mindset, strangled the soul of Indian democracy by imposing the Emergency on the nation.
- Mr Modi said that this day is also a day to pay homage to each and every person who suffered due to the excesses of the Emergency, a Congress unleashed dark phase of Indian history.

SDG India Index 2023-24

- NITI Aayog released **SDG India Index 2023-24** and said India is progressing towards the **Sustainable Development Goals** despite global headwinds.
- **SDG India Index** is the country's principal tool for measuring national and subnational progress on the Sustainable Development Goals.
- The Index was launched by NITI Aayog Vice Chairperson Suman Bery in the presence of NITI Aayog CEO BVR Subrahmanyam among others.
- Mr Subrahmanyam said the **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 zero to hundred. If a state or UT achieves a score of 100, it signifies that it has achieved the targets.

- The Index not only highlights achievements, but also encourages States and UTs to learn from each other to close outcome-based gaps.



- Since 2018, India has witnessed **substantial progress in several key SDGs**. Significant progress has been made in the areas of alleviating poverty, health, providing clean water and sanitation and affordable and clean energy.
- The NITI Aayog CEO said **government's focus on ensuring food and nutrition security, health, education, electrification, housing for all, sanitation, clean cooking fuel and energy** has significantly contributed to the improvements.
- A Key interventions facilitating SDG achievements include over **four crore houses under the PM Awas Yojana**, and eleven crore Toilets and 2.23 lakh Community Sanitary Complexes in rural areas. Mr Subrahmanyam also cited ten crore LPG connections under PM Ujjwala Yojana and tap water connections in over 14.9 crore households under Jal Jeevan Mission as initiatives which led to SDG achievements.
- **Significant progress in Goals 1 (No Poverty), 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), 13 (Climate Action) and 15 (Life on Land)** Goal 13 (Climate Action) records highest increase in score from 54 in 2020-21 to 67 in 2023-24 followed by Goal 1 (No Poverty) from 60 to 72
- **32 States and UTs in the front-runner category** with 10 new entrants - Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Odisha, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, and Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu.

- **Between 2018 and 2023-24**, fastest moving States are Uttar Pradesh (increase in score by 25), followed by J&K (21), Uttarakhand (19), Sikkim (18), Haryana (17), Assam, Tripura and Punjab (16 each), Madhya Pradesh and Odisha (15 each)

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



India Signs MoU With Marshall Islands

- External Affairs Minister **Dr. S Jaishankar** said India and the **Marshall Islands** share a long **history of friendly bilateral relations** which has expanded over the years.



- Delivering a message on the occasion of the **MoU signing for the implementation of Four Community Development Projects** in the Marshall Islands, Dr. Jaishankar said the islands in the Pacific are not small islands but large ocean countries.
- He said **India considers it a responsibility to support** the Pacific Islands in their quest for sustainable development. He added that climate change, natural disasters, poverty alleviation, and healthcare are common challenges that India and the Marshall Islands need to address together. He stated that India is privileged to be a partner of the Pacific Islands in this regard.



Narco-Coordination Centre

- Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah will chair the **7th apex-level meeting of the Narco-Coordination Center (NCORD)** on the 18th of this month in New Delhi.
- Mr. Shah will launch the **National Narcotics Helpline 'MANAS'** (Madak Padarth Nisedh Asuchna Kendra) and inaugurate the Narcotics Control Bureau's (NCB) zonal office at Srinagar.



- Mr Shah will also **release NCB's 'Annual Report 2023'** and Compendium on 'Nasha Mukta Bharat'.
- This meeting will focus on coordinating and synergizing the efforts of various central and state government agencies involved in countering drug trafficking and abuse in India.
- In a statement, the **Home Ministry** said that a three-point strategy of strengthening institutional structure, coordination among all narco agencies, and extensive public awareness campaign will achieve the goal of a drug-free India by 2047.



SSB Crack
EXAMS

Vikram Misri

- **Mr. Vikram Misri assumed charge** as the new Foreign Secretary. He has **succeeded Vinay Mohan Kwatra** whose tenure ended yesterday.
- **Mr. Misri is a 1989 batch IFS officer.** He was serving as Deputy National Security Advisor in the National Security Council Secretariat.



- He has served as Indian Envoy in China, Myanmar and Spain.
- **Mr. Misri has the rare distinction** of serving as Private Secretary to **three Prime Ministers**, Inder Kumar Gujral in 1997, Manmohan Singh in 2012 and Narendra Modi in 2014.

Indian Sand Artist Sudarshan

- **Renowned sand artist Sudarsan Pattnaik**, won the **Golden Sand Master award at an international championship in Russia.**
- The world's 21 master sculptors participated in the event. **Sudarsan Pattnaik** (born 15 April 1977) is an Indian sand artist from Puri, Odisha.



Indian Sand Artist Sudarshan Bags Gold Medal In International Sand Sculpture Championship

- **In 2014**, the Government of India honoured him with the **Padma Shri**, India's fourth-highest civilian award, for his seashore sand arts.
- **People's Choice Award** at Sand Sculpting World Cup 2014 at Atlantic City, US. **First Indian to win the Italian Sand Art Award**, 2019, at the International Scorrano Sand Nativity event held in Lecce, Italy.
- **Pattnaik had created a 12-foot sculpture depicting** a chariot and Lord Jagannath with his devotee Balaram Das, the famous Odia poet of the 14th century.



NITI Aayog

- Government has revised the **composition of NITI Aayog**. **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh** has been included as an Ex-Officio Member along with Home Minister Amit Shah, Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

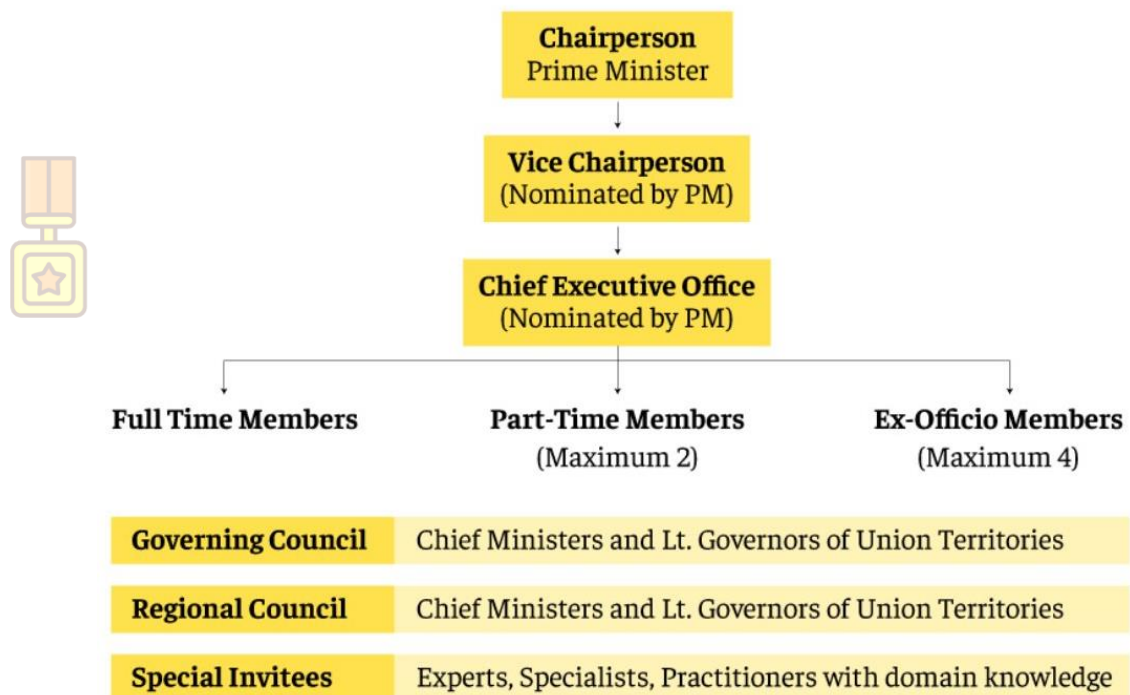


- A government Notification said the **Special Invitees** are Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari, Health Minister Jagat Prakash Nadda, Steel Minister H D Kumaraswamy, MSME Minister Jitan Ram Majhi, Panchayatiraj

Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh, Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Dr Virendra Kumar, Civil Aviation Minister K Rammohan Naidu, Tribal Affairs Minister Jual Oram, Women and Child Development Minister Annapurna Devi, Food Processing Minister Chirag Paswan and Minister for Planning Rao Inderjit Singh.

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** remains the chairperson of NITI Aayog while **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.

Composition of NITI Aayog



“Pre-Clinical Network Facility”

- 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**.



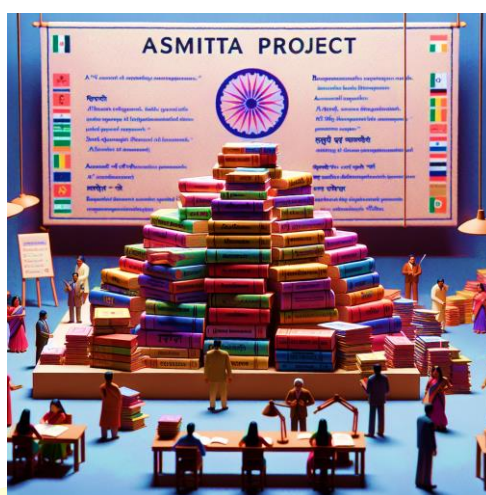
- The Ministry Of Science And Technology Said That The **Facility Will Be The 9th Such Network** Laboratory Across The Globe And The **First Such Laboratory In The Whole Of Asia**.
- Facility includes **one of India's largest small animal housing** capacities, supporting research on **immune-compromised mice** and various species.
- Dr Singh Inaugurated The Genetically Defined Human Associated Microbial Culture Collection (**Ge- Hemic**) Facility To Act As A Repository For Providing Microbial Cultures To Research Institutes, Universities, And Industries For Research And Development.
- The Minister Also Signed More Than A Dozen Agreements And Mou With Private Sector For Vaccine Development By Department Of Biotechnology Under The Ministry.

UGC's ASMITA Project

- **Ministry of Education and the University Grants Commission (UGC)** unveiled an ambitious project aimed at enriching the landscape of Indian language literature in higher education.



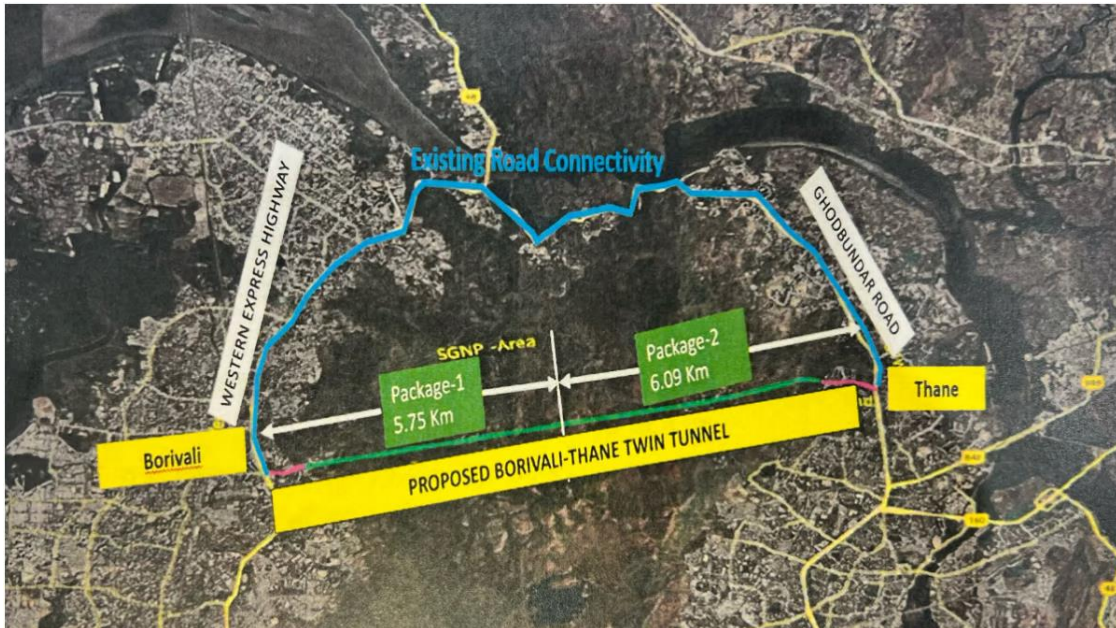
- This groundbreaking initiative, known as **ASMITA (Augmenting Study Materials in Indian Languages through Translation and Academic Writing)**, sets out to develop an impressive **22,000 books in Indian languages** over the next five years.
- ASMITA represents a collaborative effort between the UGC and the **Bharatiya Bhasha Samiti**, a high-powered committee under the Ministry of Education.



- **The project's primary objective** is to promote Indian languages in education, addressing the long-standing need for quality academic resources in regional languages.
- Alongside ASMITA, the ministry launched the **“Bahubhasha Shabdakosh”**, a comprehensive multilingual dictionary serving as a single-point reference for words in all Indian languages and their meanings.
- This initiative will be developed by the **Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL)** in collaboration with the Bharatiya Bhasha Samiti.

India's Longest And Largest Urban Tunnel

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated** India's longest and largest urban tunnel project, the **Thane Borivali Twin Tunnel**, developed by the Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA). This initiative is part of broader infrastructure **projects worth Rs. 29,000 crore** aimed at enhancing connectivity in Mumbai.

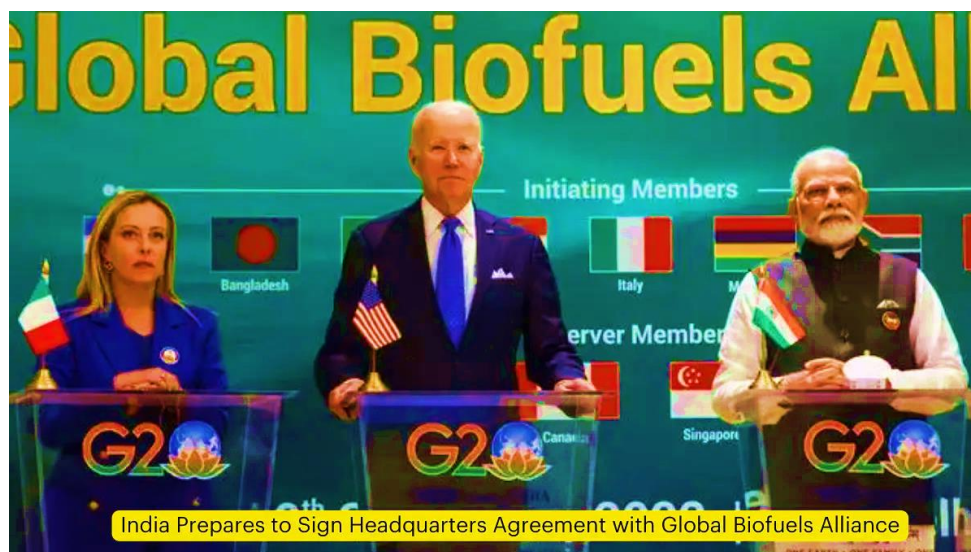


Key Highlights

- Tunnel Length: 11.8 km
- Route: From Thane to National Highway 8 at Borivali
- Estimated Cost: Rs. 16,600 crore
- Travel Time Reduction: More than 1 hour saved (journey completed in 12 minutes)
- Carbon Emissions Reduction: 1,50,000 MT per year
- Completion Target: May 2028
- Environmental and Technical Aspects
- The tunnel, which includes a 10.25 km bored section with cross passages every 300 meters, will use India's largest tunnel-boring machine. MMRDA assures that its construction will not harm the Sanjay Gandhi National Park and will help reduce noise and air pollution.

Global Biofuels Alliance

- **Global Biofuels Alliance (GBA)**, launched in September 2023 by key G20 **members including** India, the United States, and Brazil, is poised to take a significant step forward in its institutional development.
- The Indian government is preparing to sign a **headquarters agreement** with the alliance, marking a crucial milestone in the organization's evolution and India's role in global sustainable energy initiatives.



- **The headquarters agreement will pave the way** for the government to grant exemptions, immunities and privileges to the alliance and its secretariat in the country, as contemplated **under Section-3 of the United Nations (Privileges & Immunities) Act, 1947.**
- **This elevated status will enable the GBA** to function more efficiently at the international level, mirroring the recognition given to other global initiatives like the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) and the International Solar Alliance (ISA).

UNESCO World Heritage Centre

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the **46th Session of the World Heritage Committee** at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi.
- India is hosting the World Heritage Committee Meeting for **the first time which** will continue till 31st of July.
- Mr Modi said, India is committed to promoting **global cooperation and engaging local communities** towards heritage conservation efforts. He said, India's heritage is not just a history but also a science.



- Prime Minister said, this event is taking place in India, which is one of the oldest living civilizations in the world. Prime Minister Modi announced that India will **contribute one million dollar to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre**. This grant will be used for capacity building, technical assistance and conservation of the world heritage sites.
- Mr Modi said, the grant will especially be used for the countries of the **Global South**. Prime Minister Modi said, the vision of India is development as well as heritage.
- Mr Modi said that the **northeast's historic Moidam** is proposed to be included in the UNESCO World Heritage List. it will be India's **43rd World Heritage** site and the first heritage of northeast India, rated as the Cultural World Heritage.



- During this meeting, proposals for nominating new sites on the World Heritage list, State of Conservation **reports of 124 existing World Heritage properties**, International Assistance and Utilisation of World Heritage Funds among others will be discussed. Over two thousand international and national delegates from more than 150 countries will attend the meeting.

UN Water Convention

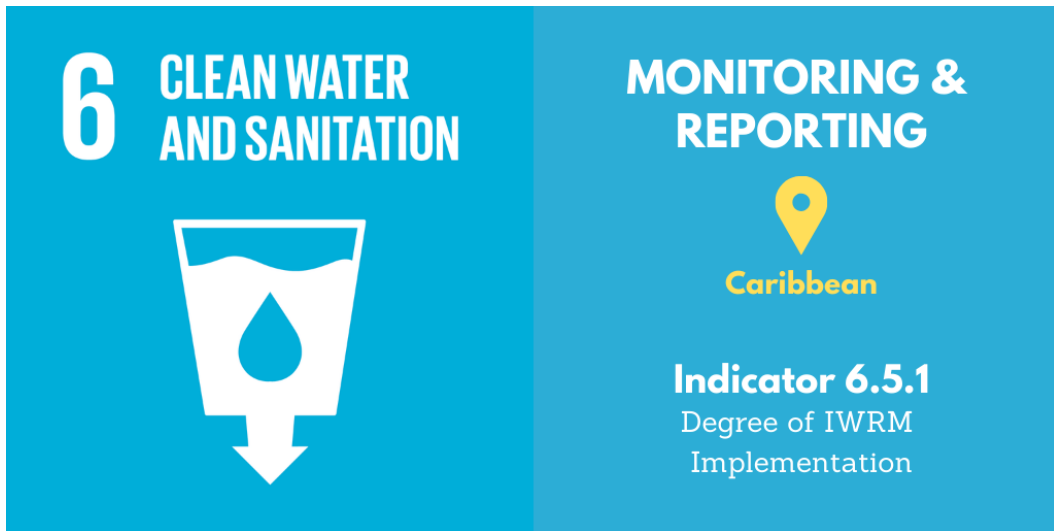
- **Ivory Coast (Côte d'Ivoire)** has recently become the **53rd Party to the 1992 UN Water Convention**, officially known as the **Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes**.



- This accession marks **Ivory Coast as the 10th African nation** to join the treaty. The move highlights a growing trend among African nations to enhance cooperative water management amidst increasing water stress and climate change impacts.
- **Ivory Coast, with a population** of approximately 30 million, shares eight transboundary river basins with **neighboring countries, including** Ghana, Burkina Faso, Mali, Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone.



- The country's water resources face significant challenges due to rapid population growth, urbanization, and climate change effects such as drought and flooding. Additionally, **water quality is deteriorating** due to pollution from various sources. Joining the convention will support Ivory Coast in addressing these challenges through enhanced regional cooperation.
- **UN Water Convention, Adopted in Helsinki in 1992** and entering into force in 1996, the Convention promotes the sustainable management of shared water resources, conflict prevention, and regional integration.
- It requires Parties to cooperate on transboundary waters, prevent negative impacts, and use water resources equitably.
- **Initially a regional framework for Europe**, the Convention expanded globally in 2016. It now includes Parties from various regions, with recent additions from Africa, the Middle East, and Latin America.
- The Convention supports the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, **particularly SDG 6.5**, which calls for integrated water resources management and transboundary cooperation.



Budget

- In Lok Sabha, Presenting The **Union Budget For 2024 – 2025**, The Finance Minister Said Despite Global Headwinds, The Indian Economy Continues To Be A **Shining Exception** And Will Be The Fastest-growing Economy In Years Ahead.
- The Finance Minister Said This **Budget Is Mainly Focused On** Employment, Skilling, Msmes And Middle Class As She Announced The Prime Minister's **Package For Youth**.



- Presenting A Detailed Road Map For The **Pursuit Of 'Viksit Bharat'**, The Budget Mentioned **Nine Priorities Of The Government** Providing Opportunities For All.

- It Includes Productivity And Resilience In Agriculture, Employment & Skilling, Inclusive Human Resource Development And Social Justice, Manufacturing & Services, Urban Development, Energy Security, Infrastructure, Innovation, Research & Development And Next Generation Reforms.
- Government Will **Incentivize Additional Employment** In The Manufacturing Sector In The First **4 Years Of Employment**.
- **Thirty Lakh Youth** And Their Employer Will Get Incentive In Respect Of Their EPFO Contribution.



- Government Will Formulate A Plan, **Purvodaya**, For The **All-round Development** Of The Eastern Region Of The Country Covering Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Odisha And Andhra Pradesh With Special Financial Support Of 15 Thousand Crore Rupees For Andhra Pradesh In Current Financial Year.
- The Finance Minister Has Announced Several Proposals For The Housing Sector. She Said, Three Crore Additional Houses Under The **PM Awas Yojana** In Rural And Urban Areas In The Country Have Been Announced, For Which The Necessary Allocations Are Being Made.
- Also For Promoting Women-led Development, The Budget Carries An Allocation Of More **Than 3 Lakh Crore Rupees** For Schemes Benefitting Women And Girls.
- The Union Budget 2024-25, the government has announced various measures for improving the **socio-economic condition** of the tribal communities. A provision of **2.66 lakh crore rupees** has been proposed for rural development including rural infrastructure.

- The Finance Minister has also announced that more **than 100 branches of India Post Payment Bank** will be set up in the North East region to expand the banking services.
- This year the Budget has made a **provision of 1.52 lakh crore rupees** for Agriculture and allied sectors. The Finance Minister said in the next two years, one crore farmers across the country will be initiated into natural farming supported by certification and branding. She said, the government will bring out a **National Cooperation Policy for systematic**, orderly and all-round development of the cooperative sector.

Global Forest Area Gains

- India has made great progress in **protecting forests**. From 2010 to 2020, 266,000 hectares of new forest will be added each year.
- According to the **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)**, this makes India the **third country in the world** in terms of forest area growth.
- **China and Australia lead the rankings**, having increased their forest areas by **1,937,000 and 446,000 hectares** respectively.



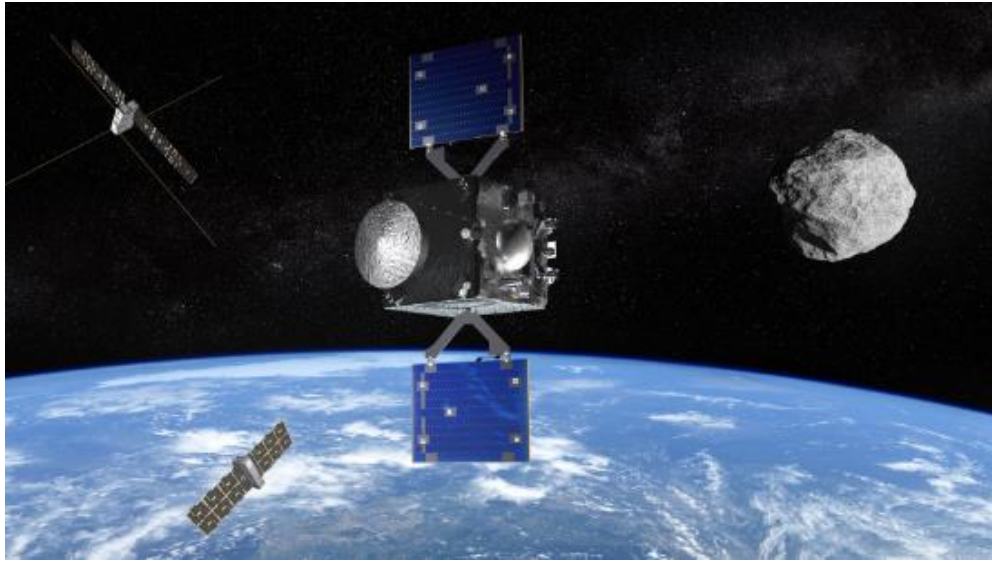
- **Other countries in the top ten** include Chile, Vietnam, Turkey, the United States, France, Italy, and Romania. When India worked hard to fix up damaged lands and promote agroforestry using new ideas and new national policies meant to support these practices, the FAO praised the country.



- The FAO's study shows that the rate of deforestation has gone down significantly in many parts of the world. In 2023, the **rainforests in Indonesia shrank** by 8.4%, and the **rainforests in Brazil's Amazon** shrank by a shocking 50%. Climate change makes woods more vulnerable to wildfires and pests, even though there are some good signs.
- **A big part of the world's carbon** emissions in 2021 came from boreal woods. In 2023, wildfires are expected to release 6,687 megatonnes of carbon dioxide into the air. The amount of gross world mangrove loss went down by 23% between 2000 and 2010 and will continue to go down until 2020. The FAO did say, though, that insects and diseases pose a major threat to U.S. forests, and they expect big losses by 2027.

ESA Prepares RAMSES Mission

- **ESA has started getting ready for Ramses, the Rapid Apophis Mission for Space Safety.** The goal of Ramses is to study **asteroid 99942 Apophis** when it comes close to Earth in 2029.
- **Apophis, which is about 375 meters** across, will pass within **32,000 km of Earth** on April 13, 2029, and billions of people will be able to see it. This event is very rare; it only happens about once every 5,000 to 10,000 years.



- It won't be a crash threat for at least 100 years. During its flyby, the **Ramses spaceship will see** how Earth's gravity affects Apophis. This includes looking at how the **asteroid's shape, rotation, and surface features** change over time. This will help us learn more about these qualities, which will be important for future defense plans.



- **NASA's OSIRIS-REx spacecraft** will also go after Apophis, which will help experts figure out what changes happened after the flyby. This two-pronged method lets us fully compare the asteroid's state before and after.
- Ramses is a good example of how to quickly send out reconnaissance missions to keep an eye on possibly dangerous asteroids. Accurate data will help with tactics for deflecting asteroids and avoiding impacts.

U-WIN Portal

- Indian government has made a **100-day health plan that includes U-WIN**, an online platform for managing vaccines that aims to increase the number of children in the **country who get vaccinated**. **U-WIN** is about to go live across the whole country, building on the successful digital infrastructure that was set up during the Covid-19 vaccination program by CoWIN.

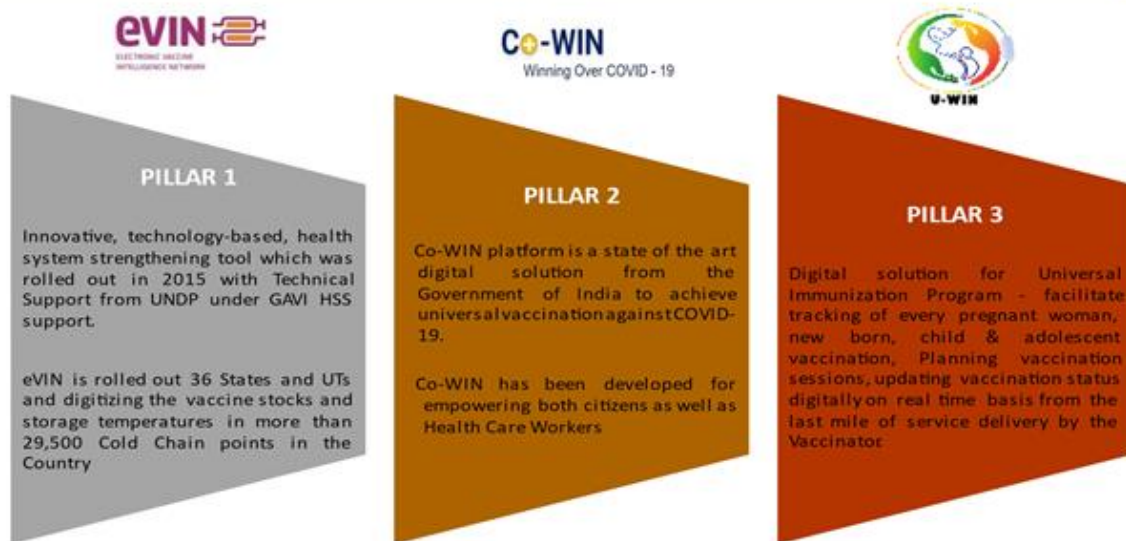


- **U-WIN** is a website that helps people keep track of immunization records for kids younger than six and women who are pregnant. Users sign up with a government ID (like Aadhaar) and a cellphone number, which lets the system keep track of their vaccination records.



- When a kid signs up for U-WIN, all of their required vaccinations can be added, which **creates a color-coded vaccination certificate**. Users are reminded of future vaccines **by text message**, and the platform makes it easy to find vaccination centers and make appointments.

BACKGROUND FOR U-WIN



- It gets rid of the need for **actual vaccination books**, making them easy to get all over the country.
- **U-WIN will be linked to eVIN**, a system that keeps track of vaccine stock and temperatures all along the cold chain. Using digital frameworks that health workers already know how to use, this integration aims to make sure that vaccine stocks are managed efficiently and that waste is kept to a minimum.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Bannerghatta Biological Park Is Located In Which State

- A. Karnataka
- B. Madhya Pradesh
- C. Odisha
- D. Kerala

ANSWER: A

2. Where Was First 'International Dairy Federation Asia-Pacific Summit' Held

- A. Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh
- B. Indore, Madhya Pradesh
- C. Kochi, Kerala
- D. Kolkata, West Bengal

ANSWER: C

3. Which Day Is Observed As MSME Day Every Year

- A. 26 June
- B. 27 June
- C. 28 June
- D. 29 June

ANSWER: B

4. SCO Summit 2024 Hosted In

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

ANSWER: C

5. India Finished At ____ Under 23 Asian Wrestling Championship 2024

- A. 1st
- B. 2nd
- C. 3rd
- D. 4th

ANSWER: A

6. Minamitorishima Island, Is Located In Which Ocean

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

ANSWER: C

7. Which University Collaborated With Haryana Government For Establishment Of A Centre Of Excellence In Forensic Science Training In Panchkula

- A. National Law University
- B. Indian Institute of Science
- C. Banaras Hindu University
- D. Gujarat Forensic Sciences University

ANSWER: D

8. Name Of India's New Explosive That Has Been Certified By The Indian Navy

- A. SEBEX 2
- B. SITBEX 1
- C. SIMEX 4
- D. SEBEX 1

ANSWER: A

9. Which Country Sent Its First Coal Consignment To India Via The International North-south Transport Corridor

- A. Iran
- B. Russia
- C. Armenia
- D. Azerbaijan

ANSWER: B

10. Which Entity Holds Position Of India's Most Valuable Brand

- A. Infosys
- B. HDFC Group
- C. Tata Group
- D. SBI

ANSWER: C

11. Which Country Is Set To Launch New Banknotes Featuring Advanced Holography

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

ANSWER: D

12. 'Colombo Process' 2024 Held In

- A. Paris
- B. Geneva
- C. New York
- D. New Delhi

ANSWER: B

13. Which Organization Approved A \$1.5 Billion Loan To Support India's Green Hydrogen Initiatives

- A. World Bank
- B. International Monetary Fund
- C. International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
- D. International Development Association

ANSWER: A

14. Indian Army Conducted Joint Military Exercise 'Maitree'

- A. Indonesia
- B. Egypt
- C. Thailand
- D. Vietnam

ANSWER: C

15. Where Was Third United Nations Conference On Afghanistan Held

- A. Doha, Qatar
- B. Astana, Kazakhstan
- C. New Delhi, India
- D. Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

ANSWER: A

16. Space Exploration & Research Agency Announced Which Country As A Partner Nation For Human Spaceflight Programme

- A. Australia
- B. India
- C. Japan
- D. Pakistan

ANSWER: B

17. Which Organization Captured View Of Largest Volcano In Our Solar System Named Olympus Mons Using The Mars Odyssey Orbiter

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

ANSWER: C

18. Obonibite And Scandio Seen In News Is

- A. Minerals
- B. Invasive Plants
- C. Bird Species
- D. Frog Species

ANSWER: A

19. FATF, Established In

- A. 1985
- B. 1987
- C. 1988
- D. 1989

ANSWER: D

20. Report Titled “Aid For Trade In Action: Supporting Transition To Clean Energy” Released By

- A. World Bank
- B. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- C. World Trade Organization (WTO)
- D. International Monetary Fund (IMF)

ANSWER: C

21. Technology Development Fund Scheme, Is Flagship Programme Of

- A. Ministry of Finance
- B. Ministry of Science and Technology
- C. Ministry of Defence
- D. Ministry of Home Affairs

ANSWER: C

22. Masoud Pezeshkian Seen In News Relates To

- A. Iraq
- B. Iran
- C. Israel
- D. Tahiti

ANSWER: B

23. Miniature Painting Belongs From

- A. Uttarakhand
- B. Himachal Pradesh
- C. Gujarat
- D. Kerala

ANSWER: A

24. Natyashastra Is Written By

- A. Valmiki
- B. Bharata
- C. Vishwamitra
- D. Kashyapa

ANSWER: B

25. Where Was 'Global Conclave On Plastic Recycling & Sustainability Inaugurated

- A. Hyderabad
- B. Bengaluru
- C. New Delhi
- D. Chennai

ANSWER: C

26. Name Of Multilateral Initiative Aimed At Streamlining Retail Cross-border Payments Involving RBI & ASEAN Countries

- A. Project Nexus
- B. Global Connect
- C. Swift Cross
- D. Unity Payments

ANSWER: A

27. What Is 'Syntrichia Caninervis' ?

- A. Malware
- B. A species of spider
- C. Weather monitoring satellite
- D. A species of desert moss

ANSWER: D

28. 'Nouka Baich', Is The Traditional Boat Race Of Which State

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

ANSWER: B

29. What Is AI Washing

- A. Deceptive Promotional Practice That Lies About A Product Use Of AI
- B. A New AI Malware That Harms Android Phones
- C. A Tool Which Used To Washing Clothes By Using AI Tool
- D. None Of The Above

ANSWER: A

30. Saryu River, Flows Through Which Indian States

- A. Maharashtra and Karnataka
- B. Kerala and Tamil Nadu
- C. Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh
- D. Gujarat and Rajasthan

ANSWER: C