

Monthly Current Affairs

August 2024

Indo Pacific Economic Framework

- India has been elected as **Vice Chair of the Supply Chain Council**. The **Ministry of Commerce and Industry** termed it a significant milestone for the country.
- The Ministry said that **India and 13 other Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF) partners** have established **three supply chain bodies** under the landmark Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity Agreement relating to supply chain resilience.



- Ministry said that the **USA has been elected as Chair of the Supply Chain Council**. It added that **Korea was elected** as Chair and Japan as Vice Chair of the Crisis Response Network, while for the Labour Rights Advisory Board, the USA is Chair and **Vice Chair is from Fiji**.
- Ministry said that through the inaugural meetings, **14 IPEF partners** reaffirmed their commitments and collective resolve to facilitate closer cooperation to strengthen the resilience and competitiveness of critical supply chains. During the meetings, each of the three supply chain bodies elected a Chair and Vice Chair, who will serve for a term of two years.



- Supply Chain Resilience** is a pillar out of four pillars under the IPEF framework. IPEF aims to establish “high-standard commitments” in **four pillars**:
 - (1) Connected Economy (selected trade issues)
 - (2) Resilient Economy (supply chains)
 - (3) Clean Economy (clean energy, decarbonization, infrastructure)
 - (4) Fair Economy (tax, anti-corruption issues).
- IPEF was launched in May 2022 in Tokyo, Japan**, comprising 14 countries. 14 IPEF partners – Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, the United States, and Viet Nam .
- The **IPEF seeks to strengthen economic engagement** and cooperation among partner countries to advance growth, economic stability, and prosperity in the region. India signed a supply chain resilience agreement in November 2023. The agreement was ratified in February this year and has been in force since then.

‘India@100’

- Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal today launched the book titled ‘**India@100: Envisioning Tomorrow’s Economic Powerhouse**’ authored by **Prof. K V Subramanian** in New Delhi.
- Addressing the launch event, Mr Goyal said that India can achieve the target of Viksit Bharat with the collective efforts of **1.4 billion citizens**.
- He has expressed confidence that India will become a **developed nation by 2047 in all sectors**, including infrastructure, employment generation, tourism, manufacturing, shipping, and technology.



UNESCO's 46th World Heritage Committee Session

- UNESCO's 46th World Heritage Committee Session to inscribe global landmarks on the **World Heritage List** concluded in New Delhi. This year, India not only hosted the annual committee but also chaired it. UNESCO inscribed 24 new landmark sites and two major boundary modifications into its World Heritage List. India's very own Moidams of Assam.



- Beijing Central Axis, China
- Brâncuși Monumental Ensemble of Târgu Jiu, Romania
- Cultural Landscape of Kenozero Lake, Russia
- Frontiers of the Roman Empire, Romania
- Hegmataneh, Iran
- Nelson Mandela Legacy sites, South Africa
- Melka Kunture and Balchit, Ethiopia
- Moidams, India
- Phu Phrabat Bat Historical Park, Thailand

- Royal Court of Tiébélé, Burkina Faso
- Sado Island Gold Mines, Japan
- Saint Hilarion Monastery / Tell Umm Amer, Palestine
- Schwerin Residence Ensemble, Germany
- Archaeological Heritage of Niah National Park's Caves Complex, Malaysia
- Cultural Landscape of Al-Faw Archaeological Area, Saudi Arabia
- Pleistocene Occupation Sites, South Africa
- Historic Town and Archeological Site of Gedi, Kenya
- Umm Al-Jimāl, Jordan
- Via Appia, Italy
- Badain Jaran Desert, China
- Lençóis Maranhenses National Park, Brazil
- The Flow Country, UK
- Vjetrenica Cave, Ravno, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Te Henua Enata, The Marquesas Islands, France

Preeti Sudan

- **Former Union Health Secretary and 1983-batch IAS officer Preeti Sudan** has been appointed as the Chairperson of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC). President Droupadi Murmu has approved the appointment of Ms. Sudan. She will take charge on 1st August. Ms Sudan will succeed Dr. Manoj Soni, who resigned earlier this month before the end of his tenure.



56th International Chemistry Olympiad

- In the **56th International Chemistry Olympiad**, the Indian team won one **Gold**, **two Silver** and one **Bronze** medal.
- The Competition was held in **Riyadh city of Saudi Arabia**.
- **Devesh Bhaiyya** from the Jalgaon district of Maharashtra won gold while Mumbai's **Avanish Bansal** and Hyderabad's **Harshin Posina** grabbed silver medals. Kashyap Khandelwal from Mumbai brought a bronze medal.
- Prof. Gulshanara Shaikh and Dr. Shraddha Tiwari were the guides of the Indian team. 327 students from 94 countries participated in the 56th International Chemistry Olympiad.



Travel & Tourism Development Index

- **India is ranked 39th among 119 countries**, according to the Travel and Tourism Development Index 2024 report published by the **World Economic Forum**.
- **Minister of Tourism, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat**, said that as per the UNWTO barometer for May 2024, there were **975 million international** tourist arrivals around the world in 2022, wherein India recorded 14.3 million international tourist arrivals that represented 1.47 per cent of the international inbound tourism market share.
- **The share of India's international tourist arrivals** in Asia and the Pacific will be 15.66 per cent in 2022. He said that India's scores have improved in three areas: prioritisation of travel and tourism, safety and security, and health and hygiene.



'Goem Vinamulya Vij Yevjan'

- Chief Minister Pramod Sawant has launched the '**Goem Vinamulya Vij Yevjan**' scheme, aligning it with the Prime Minister's **Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana**.
- The initiative is aimed at **enhancing solar rooftop installations in Goa**, enabling residential households to generate their own electricity and reduce reliance on traditional power sources.
- Objective: **Increase solar rooftop capacity** and empower residential households to produce their own electricity.
- The **Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, the central scheme**, has an outlay of Rs 75,021 crore and will be implemented until FY 2026-27.



- The Goem Vinamulya Vij Yevjan has an initial **investment of Rs 35 crore**. The Goa Energy Development Agency will cover the remaining cost for rooftop installations up to **5kW for consumers** using 400 or fewer units annually.
- Residential consumers who use **400 or fewer units of electricity** per year can benefit from this scheme. The government will cover the balance cost of rooftop installation, in addition to the central financial assistance.

International Conference Of Agricultural Economists

- India will host the **32nd International Conference** of Agricultural Economists (ICAE) in New Delhi, marking a 66-year hiatus **since its last hosting in 1958**.
- The conference, **held every three years**, will take place at the Pusa Institute and focus on **“Transformation Towards Sustainable Agri-Food Systems.”**
- The conference is organized by the **International Association of Agricultural Economists** (IAAE) in collaboration with several key institutions, including the Indian Society of Agricultural Economics, the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), the Agricultural Economics Research Association (India), the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, and the Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research.



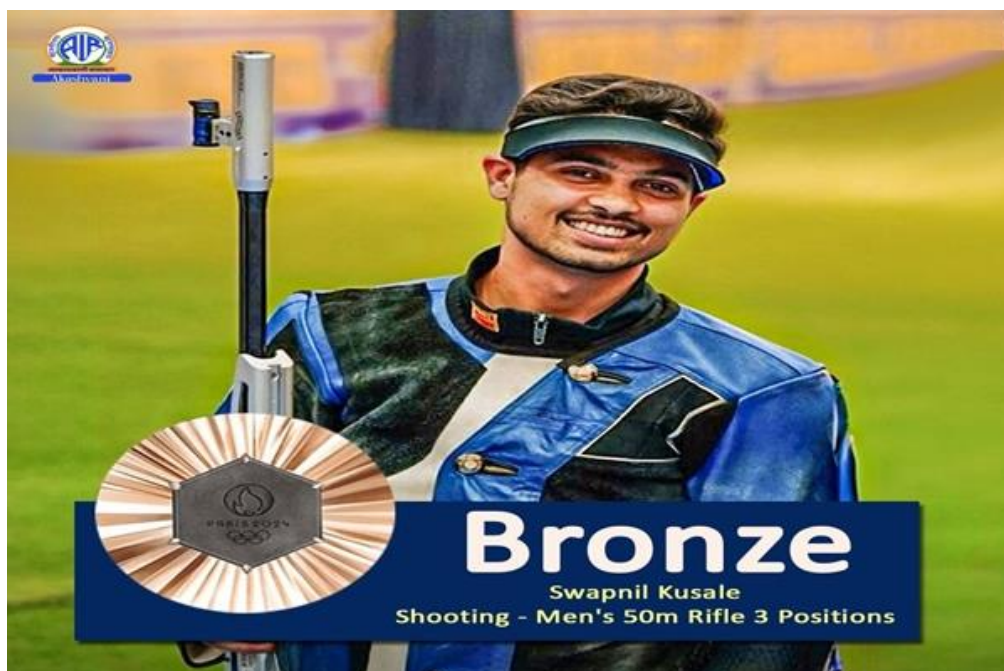
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate** the event, which will gather approximately 1,000 delegates, including agricultural economists from leading universities and institutions across **75 countries, with 45% of the participants** being women.
- The theme for ICAE-2024 is **“Transformation Towards Sustainable Agri-Food Systems.”** Discussions will center on evolving **from traditional production-focused approaches** to developing **comprehensive food systems** addressing malnutrition, hunger, and obesity.

- The International Conference of Agricultural Economists was **first established in 1929 by Leonard Elmhirst in Devon**, England. It aims to bring together top agricultural economists and scholars to discuss global agricultural issues.



Swapnil Kusale

- In the 2024 Paris Olympics, **Shooter Swapnil Kusale** secured India's third **bronze medal at the Paris 2024** Olympics shooting competition after finishing third in the men's 50m rifle 3 positions final at the National Shooting Centre in Châteauroux. The 28-year-old shooter finished third with 195 in standing after 156.8 in the prone and 153.3 in the kneeling rounds. He has become the **first Indian shooter to win an Olympic medal in the men's 50m rifle 3 positions** event.



National High Speed Road Corridor Projects

- **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs** has approved 8 important National High-Speed Road Corridor Projects of length **nine hundred 36 kilometres** at a **total cost of 50 thousand 655 crore rupees**.



- These projects will improve logistics efficiency, reduce congestion, and enhance connectivity across the country. Briefing media in New Delhi today, Union Information Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnav said that these projects are in line with Vision 2047.
- **The projects include** six-lane Agra-Gwalior National High Speed Corridor, four-lane Kharagpur-Moregram National High Speed Corridor, six-lane Tharad - Deesa - Mehsana - Ahmedabad National High-Speed Corridor, four-lane Ayodhya Ring Road, the five-lane section between Pathalgaon and Gumla of Raipur-Ranchi National Highspeed Corridor, six-lane Kanpur Ring Road, four-lane Northern Guwahati Bypass and Widening/Improvement of Existing Guwahati Bypass and eight-lane elevated Nashik Phata - Khed Corridor near Pune.

8 New National High-Speed Road Corridor Projects

Cabinet approves 8 important National High-Speed Road Corridor Projects of Total Length: **936 km** at Total Cost: **Rs. 50,655 crore**

- » **6-Lane** Agra - Gwalior National High-Speed Corridor
- » **4-Lane** Kharagpur - Moregram National High-Speed Corridor
- » **6-Lane** Tharad - Deesa - Mehsana - Ahmedabad National High-Speed Corridor
- » **4-lane** Ayodhya Ring Road
- » **4-Lane** Section between Pathalgaon and Gumla of Raipur-Ranchi National High-speed Corridor
- » **6-Lane** Kanpur Ring Road
- » **4-Lane** Northern Guwahati Bypass and Widening/Improvement of Existing Guwahati Bypass
- » **8-Lane** Elevated Nashik Phata - Khed Corridor near Pune



1/3

02nd AUGUST, 2024
CABINET DECISION



Kashmir City Receives World Craft City Certificate

- In a grand ceremony held in Srinagar, the capital of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, **Kashmir City was awarded** the prestigious Certificate of **World Craft City by the World Crafts Council International**.
- This recognition came after the World Crafts Council announced its decision in June 2024 to include Kashmir in its World Craft City list.
- **Kashmir has become the fourth Indian** city to be honored with the World Craft City certificate by the World Crafts Council. This esteemed recognition places Kashmir alongside **Jaipur in Rajasthan, Mamallapuram in Tamil Nadu, and Mysore in Karnataka**.
- **Jaipur and Mamallapuram** received their titles in 2015, with **Mamallapuram** being specifically recognized for its stone carving craft. **Mysore followed in 2018**. This inclusion highlights the rich cultural heritage and craftsmanship of these Indian cities on a global platform.



The region is famous for a variety of crafts, including:

- **Carpet Weaving:** Known for its intricate designs and quality.
- **Kani-Shawl:** Famous for its fine wool and detailed patterns.
- **Paper Maachie:** Artistic creations made from paper pulp.
- **Khatamband:** Unique wooden ceiling designs.
- **Wood Carving:** Detailed and artistic woodwork.
- **Kandikari Copperware:** Exquisite copper utensils and artifacts.
- **Tilla Work:** Embroidery done with gold and silver threads.

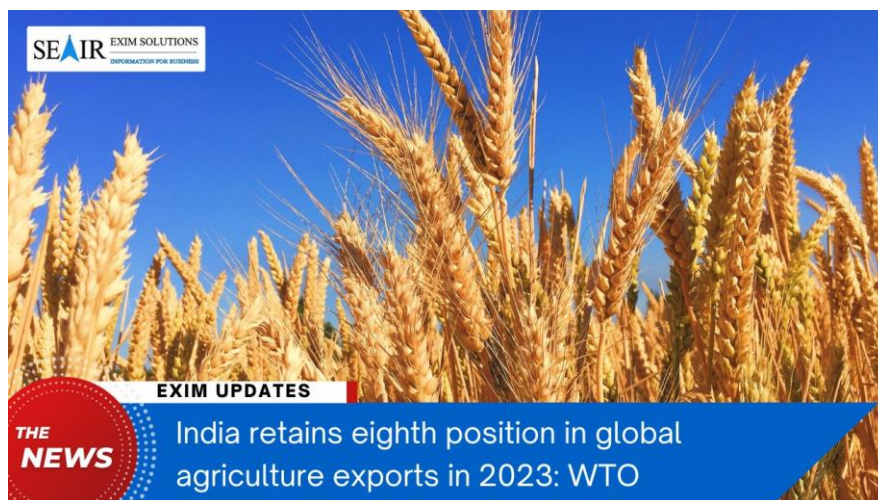
Yuga Yugeen Bharat Museum

- **GLAM (Galleries, Libraries, Archives and Museums) Division of the Union Ministry of Culture** has orchestrated a significant three-day event in New Delhi.
- **‘State Museum Conclave on the upcoming Yuga Yugeen Bharat Museum’** marks a pivotal moment in India’s cultural landscape, bringing together key stakeholders to discuss the ambitious project of creating the **world’s largest museum** in the heart of the nation’s capital.
- The centerpiece of the conclave is the discussion surrounding the Yuga Yugeen Bharat Museum, set to become the world’s largest museum.
- Key features of this ambitious project include:
 - Location:** North and South Block area, near Raisina Hill, New Delhi,
 - Area:** Spanning an impressive **1,54,000 square meters**,
 - International Collaboration:** Being **developed in partnership with France**,
 - Significance:** Part of the **larger Central Vista Redevelopment project**



Global Agriculture Exports

- India held onto its position as the **world's eighth-largest exporter** of agricultural products in 2023, despite a decline in exports from **\$55 billion in 2022 to \$51 billion**.
- This stability comes amid a general **decrease in agricultural exports** among seven of the top ten exporting nations.
- The WTO's Trade Statistics 2023 report highlights that **only three countries among the top ten**—Brazil, the European Union (EU), and Thailand—increased their agricultural exports in 2023.



- **Brazil saw an increase of 6% to \$157 billion**, maintaining its third place, while the **EU's exports rose by 5% to \$836 billion**, preserving its top spot.
- **Thailand's exports grew by 0.2%**, although it remains outside the top three.
- **India's export decline** can be attributed to geopolitical issues such as the Red Sea crisis and the ongoing **Russia-Ukraine war**, which affected global trade dynamics.



- Additionally, India imposed export **bans on wheat** (May 2022), **non-basmati rice** (July 2023), and **sugar** (October 2023), contributing to the overall decrease in agricultural exports.
- **The United States, despite a decrease to \$198 billion**, retained its second position. China, holding the fourth spot, saw a minor drop to \$95 billion. Other countries in the top ten include Canada, Mexico, Indonesia, and Australia.

India Ranked 2nd Largest Aluminium Producer

- India has solidified its position as a **global leader in mineral production**, with impressive rankings across several key minerals.
- The country stands as the **2nd largest Aluminium producer**, the **3rd largest lime producer**, and the **4th largest iron ore producer** in the world.
- These rankings underscore **India's significant contribution** to the global mineral industry and highlight its growing importance in the sector.
- The fiscal year 2023-24 witnessed unprecedented levels of mineral production in India, setting a strong foundation for continued growth.
- Two key minerals, **iron ore and limestone**, emerged as the backbone of India's mineral sector, collectively accounting for an impressive **80% of the total MCDR** mineral production by value.



- **The production figures** for these crucial minerals in FY 2023-24 were as follows: **Iron Ore:** 275 million metric tons (MMT), **Limestone:** 450 million metric tons (MMT), These figures not only represent a significant achievement for India's mineral sector but also indicate the robust demand from various industries that rely on these raw materials.
- Building on the success of the previous fiscal year, **iron ore production** has shown remarkable growth in the first quarter of FY 2024-25. The production increased from 72 MMT in Q1 FY 2023-24 to 79 MMT in Q1 FY 2024-25, registering an impressive 9.7% growth.



- This surge in production reflects the strong demand from the steel industry and other related sectors. Limestone production also continued its upward trajectory, albeit at a more moderate pace. Production rose from 114 MMT in Q1 FY 2023-24 to 116 MMT in Q1 FY 2024-25, achieving a 1.8% growth.
- This steady increase indicates sustained demand from the cement industry and other limestone-dependent sectors. In a notable development, **manganese ore**

production witnessed a substantial increase. Production jumped by 11%, reaching 1.0 MMT in Q1 FY 2024-25, up from 0.9 MMT in the corresponding period of the previous year. This growth highlights the increasing importance of manganese in various industrial applications.



Global Traditional Medicine Centre

- **Ministry of Ayush, Government of India, and the World Health Organization** signed a crucial Donor Agreement. This agreement outlines the financial terms for implementing the activities of the **WHO Global Traditional Medicine Centre (GTMC)** in **Jamnagar, Gujarat, India**.
- **Donor Agreement represents** a significant financial commitment from the Government of India to support traditional medicine on a global scale.
- Donation Details
- **Amount:** US\$ 85 million
- **Duration:** 10 years (2022-2032)
- **Purpose:** To support the operations of the WHO Global Traditional Medicine Centre (GTMC) in Jamnagar, Gujarat, India
- Significance of the Agreement
- This collaboration recognizes the establishment of the **WHO Global Traditional Medicine Centre** as a key knowledge hub for evidence-based Traditional Complementary and Integrative Medicine (TCIM).



- The centre aims to **advance the health and well-being** of both people and the planet through traditional medicine practices. establishment of WHO Global Traditional Medicine Centre in Jamnagar, Gujarat, as the first and only global out-posted Centre for traditional medicine worldwide.

Global South Summit

- India will host the **third Voice of the Global South Summit** on August 17, 2024. This virtual event will address major global issues like conflicts, development challenges, and climate change. **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** will lead the summit, which will involve discussions with representatives from various countries.
- The summit provides a **platform for countries in the Global South**—those in Latin America, Africa, and parts of Asia to share their views, difficulties, and priorities. Its goal is to improve communication and cooperation among developing nations.



- Themes for the Summits:
- **First Summit (January 2023):** “Unity of Voice, Unity of Purpose”
- **Second Summit (November 2023):** “Together, for Everyone’s Growth, with Everyone’s Trust”
- **Third South Summit** – Leaving No One Behind – underscores our collective commitment to inclusivity
- **Main Focus Areas** of the Summits: Climate change, Sustainable development, Global governance.

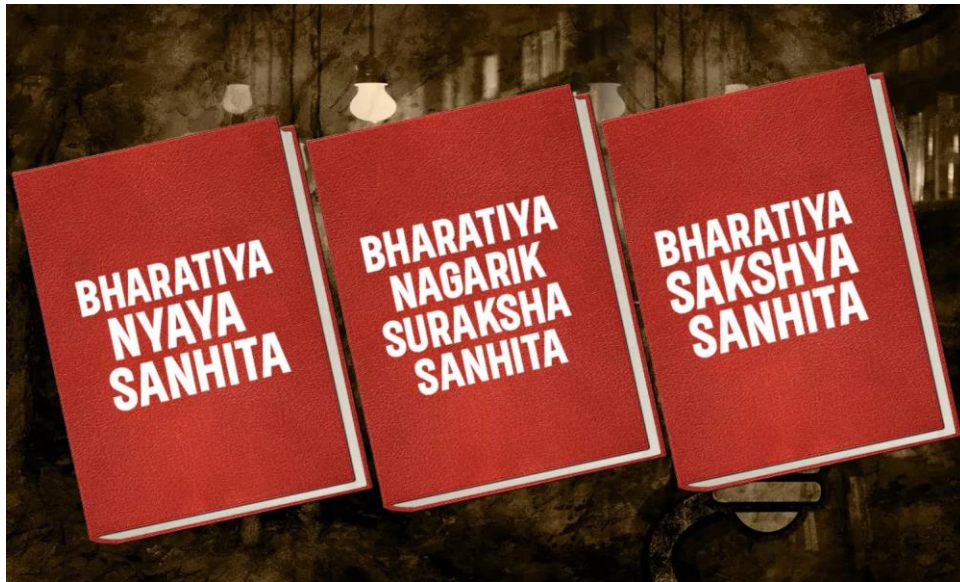


- Ministerial sessions covered various topics like foreign affairs, education, finance, environment, energy, health, and trade.
- **Initiatives Announced** : Global South Centre of Excellence (“Dakshin”), Global South Science and Technology Initiative, Global South Scholarship Programme, Cooperation in the health sector, Global South Young Diplomats Forum
- The **Global South Summit, which started in 2004 in Havana, Cuba**, seeks to enhance cooperation among developing nations. It includes diverse cultures and economies and focuses on sustainable development, climate change, and social equality. The **outcomes of these summits can influence UN policies** and improve partnerships among member states, with rotating leadership to ensure inclusivity.

Shri Amit Shah In Chandigarh

- Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, **Shri Amit Shah launched** the **e-Sakshya, Nyaya Setu, Nyaya Shruti and e-Summon apps** for the three new criminal laws in Chandigarh.
- Three new laws brought in by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji - **Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), Bharatiya Nyaya Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), and Bharatiya**

Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA)- have the fragrance of Indianness and our ethos of justice.



- **Under e-Sakshya**, all videography, photography and testimonies will be saved on the **e-evidence server**, which will also be available in the courts immediately.
- **Under the e-Summon**, it will be sent **electronically from the court** to the police station and also to the person to whom the summons is to be sent. Police, Medical, Forensic, Prosecution and Prisons are interlinked together on the **Nyaay Setu Dashboard**, which will provide the police with all the information related to the investigation in just one click.
- **Through Nyaay Shruti**, the court will be able to hear witnesses through video conferencing. This will save time and money and also settle the cases faster. In another two months, Chandigarh will become the first administrative unit of the country to have 100% implementation of the three laws.



“VIRAASAT”

- “VIRAASAT”, a fortnight long exhibition dedicated to celebrating **10th National Handloom Day** began at **Handloom Haat in Janpath**.
- **National Handloom Development Corporation Ltd (NHDC)** is organising the handloom expo under the aegis of the **Ministry of Textiles**, Government of India which will conclude on 16th August, 2024.



- It also provides market **connect to the handloom weavers and artisans**. During the event, several activities will be organised at the Handloom Haat like **75 stalls for handloom weavers** and artisan to directly retail the products, Curated theme display of exquisite handloom of India, Workshops on natural dyes, kasturi cotton, design and exports, Live loom demonstration, Folk dances of India, Delicious regional cuisines etc.



- Prime Minister during Mann ki Baat (112th episode) urged to upload photos with local products on social media with the hashtag **‘#MyProductMyPride’**.

- **Swadeshi Movement** which was launched on **7th August, 1905** had encouraged indigenous industries and in particular handloom weavers. In 2015, the Government of India decided to commemorate the 7th of August every year as the National Handloom Day.



Peacock Sanctuary

- Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change **Mr. Bhupender Yadav** said that the Central Government has declared **Adichunchanagiri in Karnataka and Choolannuar in Kerala** as **Peacock Sanctuary**.
- In reply to a question regarding the death of peacocks in Delhi, he informed Lok Sabha that **peacocks died due to heat stroke** and not by avian influenza. The Minister said, several measures are being taken for the conservation of the national bird and the ministry has also set up breeding and conservation centers for peacocks.



India and Saint Christopher

- **Dr Mansukh Mandaviya**, Hon'ble Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports of the Government of the Republic of India discussed the various areas of cooperation in sports matters with **the Dr. Denzil Douglas** Hon'ble Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Government of the Federation of **Saint Christopher and Nevis**. Both the sides signed an MoU today on cooperation in sports matters.



- **Salient areas of cooperation under this MoU are as under:**
- Training and competition of athletes and athletic teams,
- Training and technical assistance for coaches,
- Exchange programmes and visits of sports leaders, officials, sports administrators, professionals, technicians and sports support personnel,
- Exchange of youth/junior in various disciplines including badminton, Shooting, Wrestling, Kabaddi and Athletics,
- Training, exchange and attachment programmes for sports sciences personnel and other development assistance in sports sciences,
- Training, exchange and attachment programmes in the areas of coach education, curriculum development, sports education, sports management and sports infrastructure development and management,
- Training, exchange of technology for infrastructure and programmes in the development of information and research in the field of sports;
- Collaboration in the area of sports research & development in training;
- Collaboration in the areas of sports science, research & development and anti-doping programmes;

- Collaboration in the area of physical education and fitness development programmes between the universities or physical education institutes of the two Countries.

Shooter Manu Bhaker

- **Manu Bhaker, India's two-time Olympic bronze medallist**, has been chosen to be India's flagbearer for the closing ceremony of the Paris Olympics.
- According to sources from the Indian Olympic Association (IOA), Bhaker will represent **India as the women's flagbearer during the event**. India's men's flagbearer for the ceremony is yet to be confirmed.



What is B-Ready Index

- India is preparing for the **World Bank's new Business-Ready (B-Ready) index**, which will evaluate the **global business environment and investment climate**.
- This new index **replaces the Doing Business index** and focuses on key factors that affect how businesses operate.
- The B-Ready index aims to give a more complete picture than the Doing Business index. It will compare countries based on ten important topics that cover the entire life cycle of businesses.



- **The B-Ready report will focus on crucial areas such as:**
- Business entry: How easy it is to start a business
- Labour: Employment regulations and workforce conditions
- Financial services: Access to banking and financial products
- International trade: How efficiently goods are imported and exported
- Taxation: Tax policies and their impact on businesses
- These topics will provide insights into the rules and conditions that businesses operate under.

Highest Honour Companion Of The Order Of Fiji

- President Droupadi Murmu who is on a **two-day visit to Fiji**, was conferred the **Companion of the Order of Fiji**, the highest honour of Fiji by the President of Fiji.
- President Murmu addressed the Fijian Parliament where she recalled the 75 years diplomatic association between the countries.



- President Droupadi Murmu was accorded a **ceremonial guard of honour** by the Fiji Military Force upon her arrival in Suva.
- President Murmu held a bilateral meeting with her counterpart, **Williame Katonivere**, in State House where she was honoured with the Companion of the Order of Fiji.
- President Murmu later addressed the Fijian Parliament where she thanked the Fijian Government for their **support for Aditya L1 Mission** and recalled India's support to Fiji during Covid-19 crisis through the **Vaccine Maitri initiative**. She also emphasised the importance of **Global South voicing** the concerns of developing nations for Climate justice.

Kamala Harris

- United States Vice-President **Kamala Harris has formally** secured the Democratic presidential nomination.
- Harris who became the **first Indian-American** to win the nomination from a major political party, elected **Minnesota Governor Tim Walz** as her **vice-presidential candidate**.



- Harris's nomination became official after a five-day round of online balloting by Democratic National Convention delegates ended yesterday night. The party, in a statement, revealed **that 99 percent of delegates** had cast their ballots for Harris. She is expected to ceremoniously accept the nomination at the Democratic National Convention in Chicago.
- **Democratic Vice-presidential candidate Mr. Walz**, who is a Midwestern Governor and military veteran helped enact an ambitious Democratic agenda for his state, including sweeping protections for abortion rights and generous aid to families.

BIMSTEC Business Summit

- The first edition of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation – BIMSTEC Business Summit was held in New Delhi.
- BIMSTEC Secretary General said that all member states are coming together and will be meeting in different sessions including B2B meetings.



- He hopes that this very **first BIMSTEC business summit** will lead to more intra-regional trade and encourage more investment within the region.
- **External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar** inaugurate the **three-day Business Summit** along with key note addresses from Commerce and Industries Minister Piyush Goyal and other leaders.
- Event will also feature several ministers of the BIMSTEC Member States along with high-ranking Government officials, policy makers, entrepreneurs and industry associations.



- External Affairs Ministry said that **BIMSTEC Business Summit** will bring together more than 300 key stake holders from across the Bay of Bengal region to **facilitate economic collaboration and explore ways** ahead in focus areas such as trade facilitation, regional connectivity, energy security, inclusive growth and sustainable development.
- The Ministry added that summit aims to foster greater **regional collaboration** through robust trade and investment relations among the BIMSTEC member countries.

"Million Designers, Billion Dreams"

- **Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana–National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM)** announced the launch of the **initiative "Million Designers, Billion Dreams."**
- This innovative program aims to empower individuals across India with systems design know-how to tackle complex societal challenges. **Spearheaded by LEAP in collaboration** with the DAY-NRLM. LEAP is a catalyst organization that emerged from the multidisciplinary work developed in India by the Design Laboratory at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health (D-Lab) and the Transform Rural India Foundation (TRIF), with seed investment provided by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF).



- **"Million Designers, Billion Dreams"** is a **unique initiative** designed to enhance the capacity of individuals through systems design know-how.
- It targets rural leaders, frontline change agents and village entrepreneurs, equipping them with the skills to create impactful, scalable solutions.

- **The program's primary objectives** are to enhance participants' proficiency in design frameworks to drive systems change, promote collaboration among diverse stakeholders to address complex challenges, and foster confidence and agency to shape better futures through creativity and ownership.



- **The expected outcomes include an increased number** of individuals with systems design know-how, driving innovation across sectors; the development of solutions that improve quality of life and promote economic growth; the adoption of sustainable practices addressing environmental, social and economic challenges; and positioning India as a global leader in design and innovation.

Kasturi Cotton Bharat Brand

- **Kasturi Cotton Bharat programme** of Ministry of Textiles is a pioneering effort in traceability, certification and branding of Indian cotton.
- The details of Kasturi Cotton Bharat program and implementation of **block chain technology for traceability**.
- Kasturi Bharat initiative, a collaboration between the Government of India, trade bodies, and industry, was formalized with a budgetary support of **Rs. 30 crore including Rs.15 crores** from Trade & Industry Bodies through a MoU signed between Cotton Corporation of India on behalf of Government of India, Ministry of Textiles and The Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council.



- To provide complete traceability of Kasturi Cotton Bharat tagged bales across the supply chain, QR based certification technology are being used at each stage of the processing and a Block-chain based software platform will provide end to end traceability and transaction certificate.
- In this regard, Microsite with QR code verification and Block Chain technology has been developed. **The Kasturi Cotton Bharat programme** is operational at the national level and its promotion is being made at national and international platform. Hence, the allocation of funds is not at state level.



- **The implementation of Block chain Technology** under the Kasturi Cotton Bharat program is designed for stakeholders across the entire Indian cotton value chain including Andhra Pradesh.

- **All the ginnerers in the country including Andhra Pradesh** have been empowered to produce Kasturi Cotton Bharat brand as per stipulated protocol and about 343 modernised ginning and pressing units including 15 ginning and pressing units of **Andhra Pradesh have** been registered so far for participating Kasturi Cotton initiative and about 100 bales of Andhra Pradesh have been certified under Kasturi Cotton Bharat brand.

'Yen Carry Trade'

- **The yen carry trade** involves borrowing the **Japanese yen at low interest rates** to invest in assets that offer higher returns. It became popular after the 1990s due to Japan's slow economic growth.



- Traders make money by taking advantage of currency fluctuations. However, this strategy is risky, especially during times of market volatility, as changes in currency value can lead to significant losses.
- **The Bank of Japan's monetary policies** greatly affect the success of the yen carry trade. It works best when global investors are willing to take risks, often leading to large capital flows into emerging markets.

Digital Shakti Center

- **National Commission for Women (NCW)** has inaugurated the **Digital Shakti Center in New Delhi** to address the rising cybercrimes against women.
- This initiative **aims to empower women** with cyber safety knowledge, provide support for complaint registration, and create a safe digital environment. Rising Cybercrimes: The alarming increase in cybercrimes against women in India prompted the establishment of the Digital Shakti Center.



- The NCW has been actively working to combat these crimes through the Digital Shakti campaign since 2018.
- The new center will offer comprehensive cyber safety education, practical technology training, and support for cybercrime victims.
- **The Digital Shakti Center provides** training on emerging technologies, cyber safety, data privacy, and digital rights. It fosters a supportive community of women engaged in cybersecurity and technology.
- The center serves as the hub for the **Digital Shakti 5.0 campaign**, aiming to empower 10 lakh women across India.

India's First GI-Tagged Fig Juice Exported

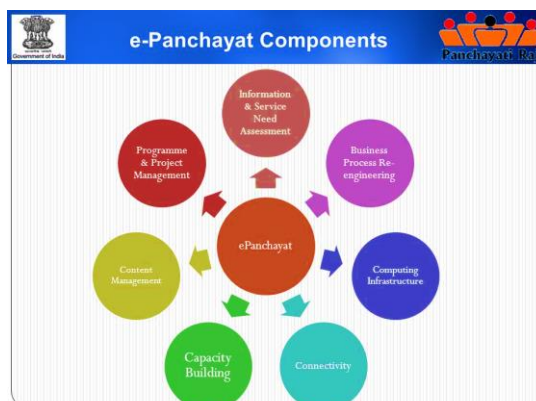
- **Purandar Highlands Farmers Producer Company Ltd** has achieved a significant milestone by exporting **India's first GI-tagged fig juice** to Poland.
- This follows the successful export of **India's first commercial consignment** of GI-tagged Purandar figs to Hong Kong in February 2023.
- Purandar Highlands has become the first company to export Indian fig juice to the European market and the first to export commercial quantities of Purandar figs to Hong Kong.



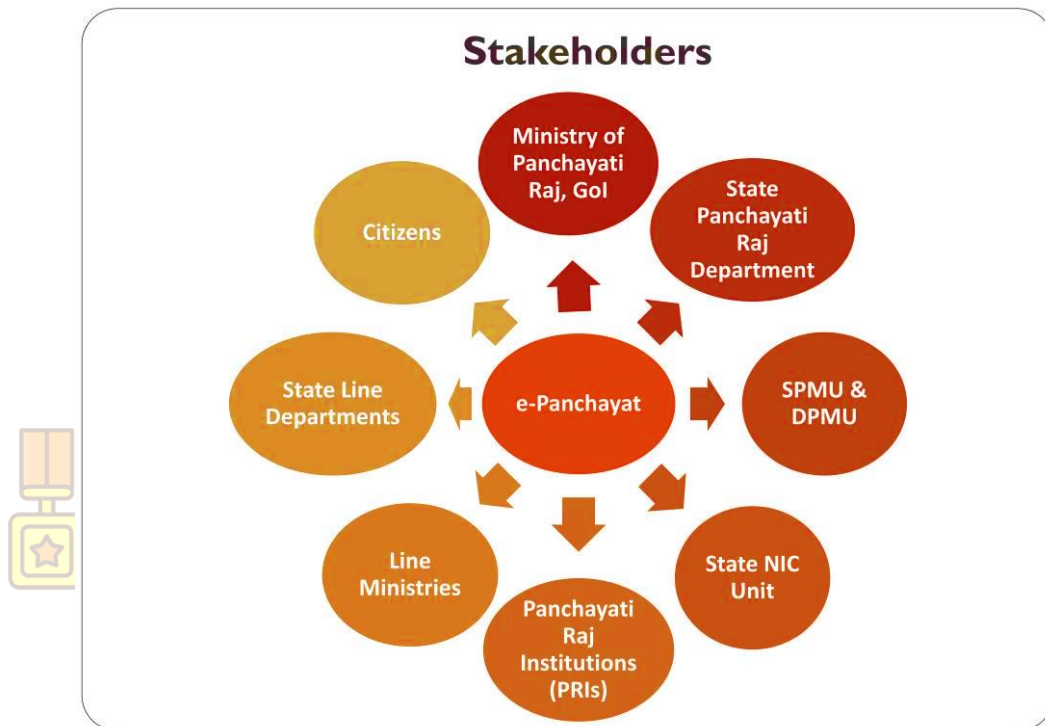
- **The exported products are made** from Purandar figs, renowned for their taste, size, and nutritional value, which have earned a Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- The company acknowledges the crucial role of government support, including encouragement from Piyush Goyal, Minister of Commerce and Industry, and Sharad Pawar, former Agriculture and Defence Minister.
- **The successful export to Poland and Hong Kong** has generated interest in these products, indicating a promising global market for Indian figs and fig-based products. The company is leveraging the **'Visit India 2023' campaign** to promote Indian products on the global stage.

e-Panchayat Mission Mode Project

- **Under Digital India Programme**, Ministry of Panchayati Raj is implementing e-Panchayat Mission Mode Project (MMP) with the aim to making Panchayats, more transparent, accountable, and effective as local self-governments.
- Building on the achievements in the past, the **Ministry launched eGramSwaraj**, a work-based comprehensive application for Panchayats under the e-Panchayat MMP on 24th April 2020.

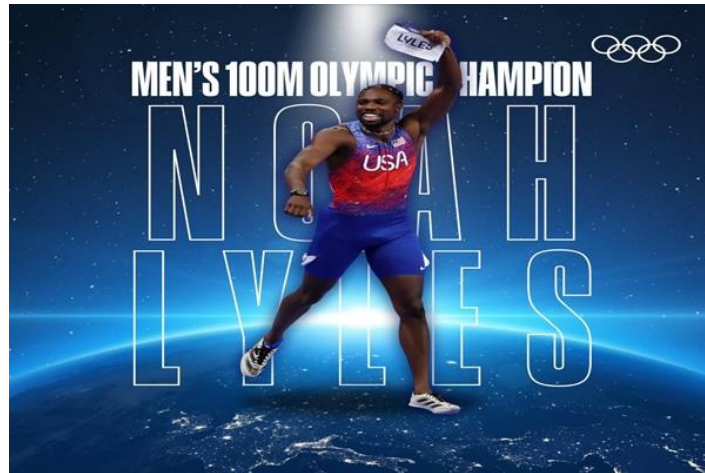


- This application encompasses **all aspects of Panchayat functioning** viz. planning, budgeting, accounting, monitoring, asset management etc., on a single digital platform including online payments.
- **So far, 2.44 lakh GPs have** prepared and uploaded their Gram Panchayat Development Plans (GPDPs) for 2024-25. Further, 2.06 lakh Panchayats have already completed online transactions for 15th Finance Commission grants for 2024-25.



Noah Lyles

- **In A Historic 100m Final, US Sprinter Noah Lyles** Won Gold In A Dramatic Photo Finish, Beating Jamaica's Kishane Thompson By Just 0.005 Seconds.
- **All Eight Runners** Finished The Race In Under 10 Seconds, Which Had Never Happened Before In Legal Wind Conditions.



- This Was The **First Time That All Eight Finalists** Ran The 100m In Less Than 10 Seconds. Even Though Jamaica's Oblique Seville Finished Last At **9.91 Seconds**, He Would Have Won A Medal With That Time At The Tokyo Olympics Three Years Ago.

Paris Olympics

- At the Paris Olympics, **Indian Hockey team** clinched the bronze medal, defeating Spain 2-1. The Men in Blue have repeated history from the **Tokyo Olympics** where the team also bagged a bronze. This is the first time India has won back-to-back medals since 1972.
- **Harmanpreet Singh** scored a brace after India was behind in the contest to claim the win as they got their record-extending 13th hockey medal at the Olympics.



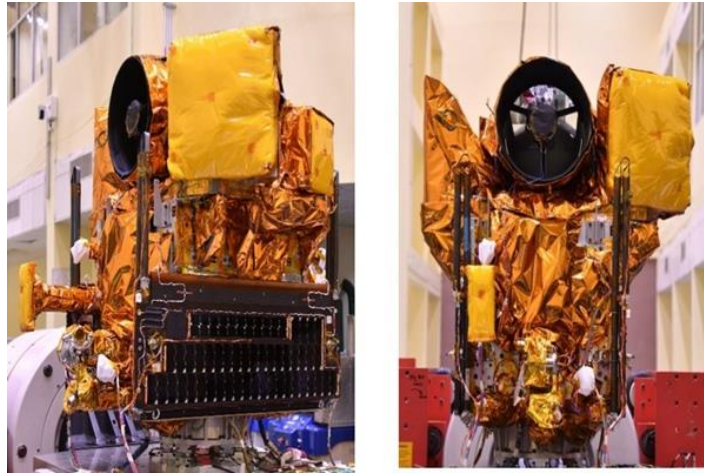
- The team also gave its goalkeeper Sreejesh the perfect farewell by securing this Olympic medal.
- **Neeraj Chopra, the reigning Olympic champion**, put on an impressive display at the Paris Olympics, winning the silver medal in the men's javelin throw event.
- Chopra's season-best throw of **89.45m earned** him the runner-up position, but he was unable to defend his title, as Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem broke the Olympic record with a stunning throw of 92.97m.



Neeraj Chopra Clinches Silver in Javelin at Paris 2024 Olympics

Earth Observation Satellite

- **Indian Space Research Organisation**, ISRO will celebrate this Independence Day in space by launching an Earth Observation Satellite into orbit.
- The **Small Satellite Launch Vehicle** will be used to launch the satellite on August 15th at 9.17 am from Sriharikota. The Small launch vehicle developed by ISRO can be produced at low cost, has low turnaround time, can accommodate multiple micro satellites and can be launched on demand in less time with minimal infrastructure requirements.
- It can carry a **500 kg satellite to a 500 kms orbit**. Once the demonstration flight is successful, it will be transferred to the private sector for production.

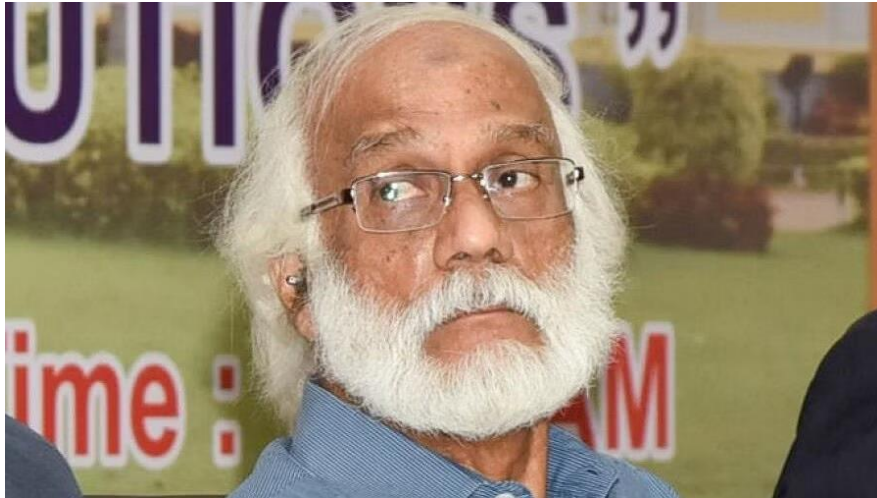


Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar

- Government has announced the **Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar**, one of the highest recognitions in the fields of science, technology, and innovation in India.
- The objective of the **Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar** is to recognize the notable and inspiring contributions made by scientists, technologists, and innovators, either individually or in teams, across various fields of science, technology, and technology-led innovation.
- **ISRO-Chandrayaan 3 Team** will be awarded the Vigyan Team Award for their contributions to space science and technology.



- Former Director of the Indian Institute of Science, Professor G. Padmanabhan, has been selected for the **Vigyan Ratna Award in biological sciences**.
- The Vigyan Ratna Award recognizes lifetime achievements and contributions in any field of science and technology. Anandharamakrishnan C, Umesh Varshney, Bhim Singh, Adimurthi Adi, Syed Wajh Ahmad Naqvi, Sanjay Behari, and Rahul Mukherjee are among those selected for the Vigyan Shri Award.



- The awardees nominated for the **Vigyan Yuva Award** include Dr. Bappi Paul, Dr. Abhilash, Radha Krishnan Mahalakshmi, Purabi Saikia, Digendranath Swain, Prabhu Rajagopal, and Prashant Kumar. The award ceremony for all categories will be held on 23rd of this month, in conjunction with National Space Day.



State of Emergency in Kursk Region

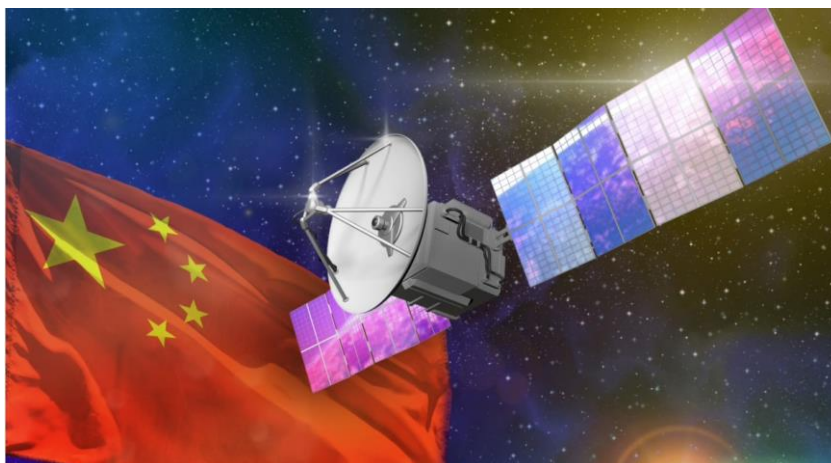
- In Russia, a state of emergency has been **declared in the Kursk region** as a rare cross-border attack by Ukrainian troops continued.
- **Russian officials stated** that at least five civilians have been killed and 31 wounded, including six children, since the start of the incursion. The acting regional governor, Alexei Smirnov, said the move was necessary to address the consequences of rival forces entering the region.
- Moscow reported that up to **1,000 Ukrainian troops**, along with 11 tanks and more than 20 armoured combat vehicles, entered Russia near the town of Sudzha.



- According to media reports, fighting reportedly took place in several villages throughout Tuesday, and multiple air alerts were issued in Kursk. Thousands of people were evacuated from border areas.
- **The local authorities urged residents** to limit their movements, and all public events were cancelled. Meanwhile, Ukraine has not officially commented, and the extent of the incursion remains unclear.

China To Launch Satellite Constellation

- **China is close to launching** its first batch of satellites for a **mega constellation** aimed at rivaling US company SpaceX's Starlink Internet network.
- As reported by Xinhua, state-run Shanghai Spacecom Satellite Technology (SSST) launched the first components on the network. SSST's constellation has been named **"Thousand Sails."**



- The project, also known as the **G60 Constellation**, was set up last year to establish a Chinese-based global low-Earth orbit (LEO) satellite Internet network competitor to Starlink.
- **Starlink, a subsidiary of SpaceX**, has a broadband constellation of around 5,500 satellites, used by consumers, companies, and government agencies.



Ministry Of Railways

- **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)** chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved **eight projects of Ministry of Railways** with a total estimated cost of **24 thousand 657 crore rupees**. Briefing media in New Delhi after the meeting, Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said, the projects cover 14 districts in Seven States.

CABINET DECISION
9TH AUGUST, 2024

Eight new line projects across Indian Railways




 Eight projects will cover **14 Districts in Seven States** i.e., Odisha, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand, Bihar, Telangana and West Bengal

 The total estimated cost of the projects is **Rs 24,657 cr** and will be **completed upto 2030-31**

Benefits:

- Will provide connectivity, facilitate ease of travelling and minimize logistics cost
- Will reduce oil imports and lower CO₂ emissions
- Will generate direct employment for about three crore man-days during construction



- **The States are Odisha, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand, Bihar, Telangana and West Bengal.** He said, aspirational districts and tribal areas will get a major push of development through these projects.
- **The projects include** Gunupur-Therubali New Railway Line route and Junagarh-Nabrangpur line in Odisha, Malkangiri-Pandurangapuram line in Odisha, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana and Buramara-Chakulia rail route in Jharkhand, West Bengal and Odisha. The Minister said that Bikramshila-Katareah rail route is related to Bihar while Jalna-Jalgaon project in Maharashtra will provide rail connectivity to Ajanta Caves, which is a UNESCO World Heritage site.

S.No.	New Railway Line route	Length of Line (km)	Districts covered	States
1	Gunupur-Therubali (New Line)	73.62	Rayagada	Odisha
2	Junagarh-Nabrangpur	116.21	Kalahandi & Nabrangpur	Odisha
3	Badampahar – Kandujhargarh	82.06	Keonjhar & Mayurbhanj	Odisha
4	Bangriposi – Gorumahisani	85.60	Mayurbhanj	Odisha
5	Malkangiri – Pandurangapuram (via Bhadrachalam)	173.61	Malkangiri, East Godavari & Bhadradi Kothagudem	Odisha, Andhra Pradesh & Telangana
6	Buramara – Chakulia	59.96	East Singhbhum, Jhargram & Mayurbnanj	Jharkhand, West Bengal & Odisha
7	Jalna – Jalgaon	174	Aurangabad	Maharashtra
8	Bikramshila – Katareah	26.23	Bhagalpur	Bihar

- These are essential routes for **transportation of commodities** such as agricultural products, fertilizer, coal, iron ore, steel and cement.
- The capacity augmentation works will result in additional freight traffic of a magnitude of **143 Million Tonnes Per Annum**. Railways being environment-friendly and energy-efficient modes of transportation, will help both in achieving climate goals and minimizing logistics costs of the country.



First State To Implement Disaster Insurance

- **Nagaland has become the first state** in India to start a disaster management insurance scheme by signing an agreement with **SBI General Insurance**.

- This new program called the **Disaster Risk Transfer Parametric Insurance Solution (DRTPS)**, is designed to protect against natural disasters.



- **Parametric insurance** works by giving **predetermined payouts** based on specific events, such as the strength of a natural disaster.
- This means that after a disaster, **financial support** is given quickly without the need for detailed damage assessments. The main aim of the agreement is to protect Nagaland's important infrastructure and reduce economic losses caused by natural calamities.

Har Ghar Tiranga 2024 Campaign

- **Har Ghar Tiranga 2024 campaign** is a nationwide initiative aimed at fostering patriotism and national pride among Indians by encouraging the display of the national flag, the Tiranga, in every household.
- This campaign started as a part of the broader Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, which was launched to **commemorate India's 75th year of independence**.
- The essence of Har Ghar Tiranga 2024 is to transform the relationship with the national flag from a formal to a personal one, allowing citizens to connect deeply with the symbol of their nation.



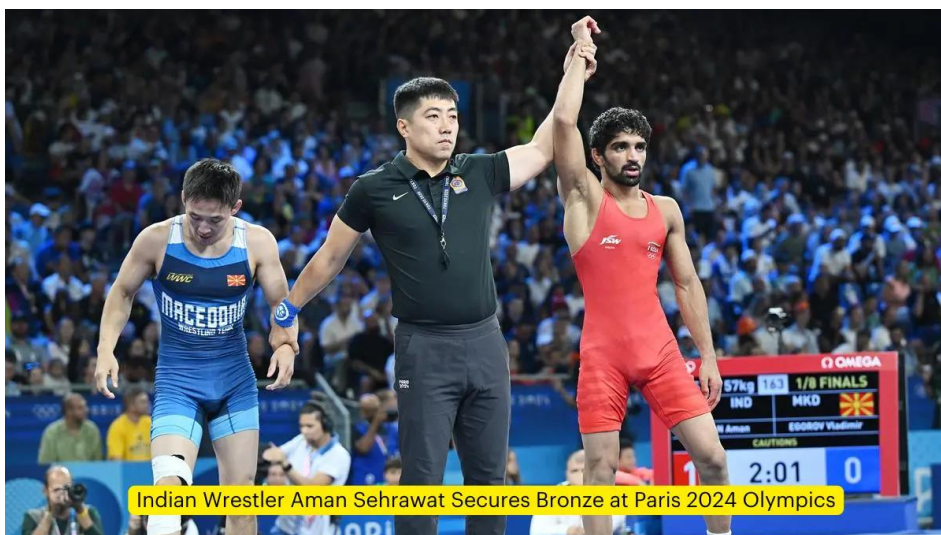
- Under the Har Ghar Tiranga 2024 campaign, the citizens of India are invited to hoist the flag from August 9th to 15, 2024. They are further encouraged to post a selfie with '#HarGharTirangaOnceAgain'.
- After submitting this selfie to the official website of the campaign, they can download the certificate of participation. The Har Ghar Tiranga Abhiyan highlights the importance of Tiranga as a representation of India's unity in diversity.



SSBCrack
EXAMS

Aman Sehrawat

- India's Aman Sehrawat Clinched A **Bronze Medal** In The Men's 57kg Wrestling Category At The Paris 2024 Olympic Games. The Young Grappler Demonstrated Exceptional Skill And Determination As He Defeated Puerto Rico's Darian Toi Cruz With A Decisive Score Of 13-5 .



Indian Wrestler Aman Sehrawat Secures Bronze at Paris 2024 Olympics

Paris Olympics

- **Paris Olympics 2024 will officially come to an end** with the Closing Ceremony tonight at Stade de France. The name given to the **Closing Ceremony is 'Records'**, which will include the celebration of the success and achievements of the athletes, along with several artistic performances by prominent actors and artists.



- For India, two-time Olympic medallists **PR Sreejesh and Manu Bhaker** have been chosen as the flag-bearers for the Parade of Nations during the ceremony. Sreejesh, who is known as the **'Wall of India'** for his exceptional goal-keeping skills retired from Hockey after winning the Bronze medal in this edition of the Games.
- **Manu Bhaker** made history by becoming the **first Indian athlete** in the history of independent India to win two medals in a single edition of the Games.
- In the Closing Ceremony, the Olympic Flame will also be extinguished and the **Olympic Flag will be transferred to the Los Angeles 2028** Organising Committee, marking the transition to the next Summer Games.



- India's first individual Olympic gold medalist, **Abhinav Bindra**, was awarded the **prestigious Olympic Order** by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) at the 142nd IOC Session in Paris. The Olympic Order is the **highest honour bestowed by the IOC**, recognizing exceptional contributions to the Olympic Movement.
- Bindra won India's first individual Olympic gold in the Men's 10-meter Air Rifle event at the 2008 Beijing Games. With a distinguished career that includes over 150 individual medals, Bindra has become a prominent figure in Indian sports.

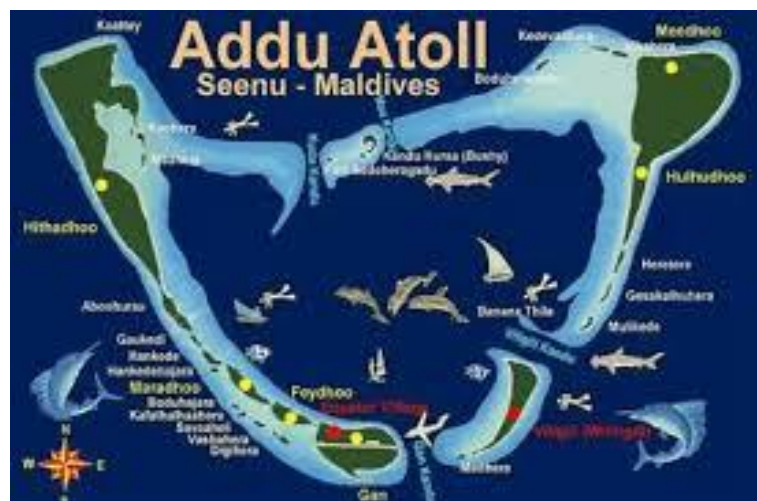


- India, with a **total of 6 medals**, including one silver and five bronze medals, finished at the 71st spot in the overall medal tally, which is significantly lower than their 48th overall finish at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, where they won a total of 7 medals, including one gold, two silver, and four bronze medals.



Addu Reclamation And Shore Protection

- Dr S Jaishankar has said that the cooperation between **Indian and Maldives** has moved beyond the traditional role as **Maldives is a key partner** in the Indian Ocean region.
- Inaugurating the **Addu Reclamation Project and Addu Shore Protection Project** in Maldives, Dr Jaishankar said, our development cooperation is aimed at touching all facets of people's lives in Maldives and to find ways of bringing tangible benefits to them.



- India has partnered with the Government of Maldives on the Addu Reclamation and Shore Protection Project to find a sustainable way to develop Addu as a regional hub.
- Dr Jaishankar said, this ambitious program of **80 million US dollar involves reclamation** for tourism development purposes as well as for the overall economic development of Addu.



- The Minister said, this will translate in overall growth for the region, bringing in better opportunities for employment, entrepreneurship and trade.
- Dr Jaishankar added that in the last few years, India has invested around 220 million **US dollar in Addu**, which will provide a fair idea of the importance that India attaches to regional development in Maldives.

PM Modi Releases 109 High Yielding, Crop Varieties

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi released **109 high-yielding, climate-resilient, and biofortified crop varieties** at the India Agricultural Research Institute in New Delhi.
- The 109 varieties of 61 crops **include 34 field crops and 27 horticultural crops**. Among the field crops, seeds of various kinds of cereal including millets, forage crops, oilseeds, pulses, sugarcane, cotton, fibre, and other potential crops were released.
- **The horticultural crops will** cover different varieties of fruits, vegetables, plantation crops, tubers, spices, flowers, and medicinal plants. On the occasion, the Prime Minister also interacted with the farmers and scientists.



- Discussing the **importance of these new crop varieties**, Mr Modi stressed on the significance of value addition in agriculture. The farmers said that these new varieties will **be highly beneficial** as they will help reduce their expenditure and also have a positive impact on the environment.
- The Prime Minister also discussed the importance of **millet and underlined how people are moving towards** nutritious food. He also talked about the benefits of natural farming and the increasing faith of common people **towards organic farming, adding that people** have started consuming and demanding organic foods.
- The farmers appreciated the efforts undertaken by the government to promote natural farming. The farmers also lauded the role played **by Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVK) in creating awareness**. Prime Minister suggested that KVKs should proactively inform farmers about the benefits of the new varieties being developed every month to enhance awareness about their benefits.

Timor Leste's Highest Civilian Award

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has expressed immense pride over **President Droupadi Murmu's recognition with the Grand Collar of the Order** of Timor-Leste, the highest civilian award of the nation.
- Prime Minister said that it is a proud moment for the country to see the Indian President being honoured with the **highest civilian award of Timor-Leste**.

- He added this prestigious honour reflects the strong ties and mutual respect between India and Timor-Leste. Mr. Modi said that it is also a recognition of her monumental contribution to public life for several years.



Munal Satellite

- An MoU was signed between the **Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India and NewSpace India Limited (NSIL)** for grant assistance for the launch of **Nepal's Munal satellite**.



- During the visit of External Affairs Minister to Nepal to co-chair the **7th JCM meeting**, **EAM** witnessed the exchange of this Launch Service Agreement for the launch of Munal Satellite between **NSIL and NAST**, on 04 January 2024.

- **Munal Satellite is an indigenous satellite** developed in Nepal, under the aegis of NAST. APN, a Nepali space startup, has assisted Nepali students in the design and fabrication of this satellite.
- The satellite aims to build a **vegetation density database** of the Earth's surface. This satellite is expected to be launched soon on NSIL's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle.



Nepal Academy of Science and Technology (NAST)

Heroes International Taekwondo Championship

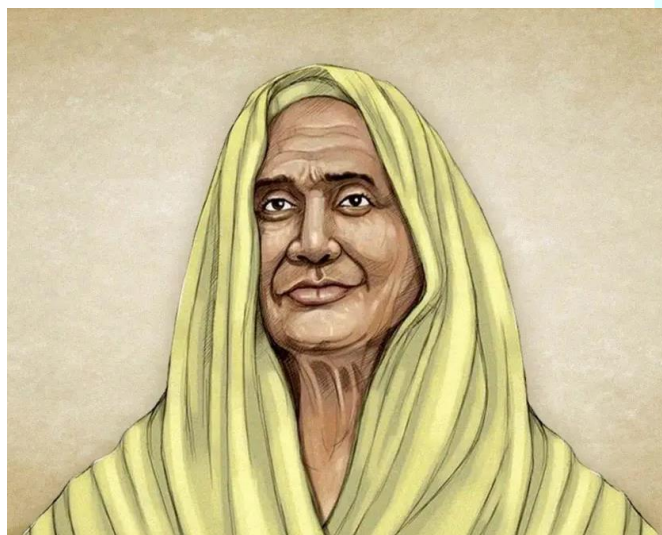
- Taekwondo players from **Sikkim, Sanjay Subba, Anita Subba, and Jitendra Limbu** are representing India at the 7th Heroes International Taekwondo Championship in Bangkok, Thailand.



- The three-day-long championship began at Assumption University.
- The Sikkim Amateur Taekwondo Association said **Sanjay Subba** will showcase his skills in the under 60 kg Kyorugi event and will also be part of the mixed team Poomsae event.
- **Anita Subba and Jitendra Limbu** will participate in the pair Poomsae event, in addition to joining the mixed team poomsae competition.
- **Master Trilok Subba, the Chief Coach** and Founder of the Sikkim Amateur Taekwondo Association expressed his pride and extended his best wishes to the three players.

Matangini Hazra

- **Matangini Hazra, fondly known as “Gandhi Buri”** (old lady Gandhi), was a remarkable figure in India’s fight for independence. Her dedication, resilience, and fearless spirit made her a symbol of courage during the struggle against British colonial rule.
- Born in a humble village and with limited education, she rose to become one of the most inspiring **leaders in the movement for freedom**, leaving an indelible mark on India’s history.
- Matangini Hazra was **born on October 19, 1869, in Hogla**, a small village in the Tamluk subdivision of present-day West Bengal.



- **In 1930**, Matangini Hazra played a significant role in the **Salt Satyagraha, also known as the Dandi March**, led by Mahatma Gandhi. One of the most iconic moments in Matangini Hazra’s life occurred on **September 19, 1942**, during the Quit India Movement.

- **She led a flag march in Tamluk**, proudly carrying the Indian national flag despite a ban on its display by the British. On September 29, 1942, Matangini Hazra made the ultimate sacrifice for her country. During a peaceful protest march in Tamluk, she was shot by British police forces.

India Names Three Underwater Structures

- **Three underwater geographical features** in the Indian Ocean have been officially named, following proposals from India.
- These are the **Ashoka Seamount, Chandragupt Ridge, and Kalpataru Ridge**, recently recognized by the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) and UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC).

~~Three~~ Indian Ocean structures named **Ashoka, Chandragupt and Kalpataru**

Previous structures named after physicist CV Raman, oceanographer NK Panikkar and geologist DN Wadia

- **Ashoka Seamount**: Discovered in 2012 by a Russian research ship called **Akademik Nikolay Strakhov**, this underwater mountain covers about 180 square kilometers.
- **Chandragupt Ridge**: Found in 2020 by the Indian research ship **MGS Sagar**, this ridge is elongated and oval-shaped, stretching across 675 square kilometers.
- **Kalpataru Ridge**: Also discovered in 2012 by the **Akademik Nikolay Strakhov**, this ridge covers 430 square kilometers and might serve as a habitat and food source for marine life.



- In total, India has helped name **seven underwater features** in the Indian Ocean, mostly after Indian scientists.
- **Some of these previously named features** include: Raman Ridge (1992): Named after the famous physicist Sir CV Raman. , Panikkar Seamount (1993): Honoring oceanographer NK Panikkar. Sagar Kanya Seamount (1991): Named after the Indian research ship. Wadia Guyot (1993): Recognizing geologist DN Wadia.

JUICE Mission

- **European Space Agency (ESA)** is about to perform a very important and new kind of move in **its JUICE mission**. This move called a **Lunar-Earth gravity assist**, will use **both the Moon and Earth** to help change the spacecraft's speed and direction.



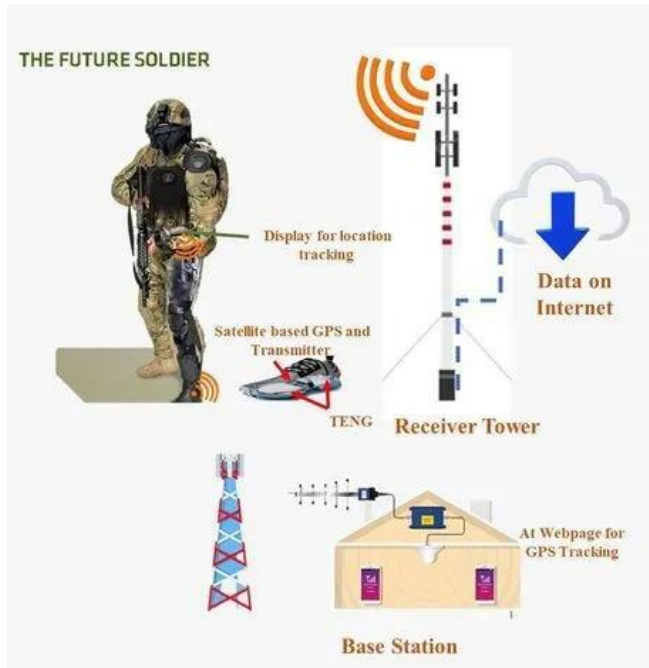
- It's the **first time a spacecraft will** use two different celestial bodies in this way. This maneuver is crucial and will greatly affect how the rest of the mission goes.
- **JUICE, which stands for JU**piter **ICy** moons **E**xplorer, is a spacecraft created to study the moons of Jupiter, especially Europa, Ganymede, and Callisto, to see if they could support life.
- JUICE mission, led by the **European Space Agency (ESA)**, aims to explore Jupiter's moons, especially Europa, Ganymede, and Callisto. The mission was launched in April 2023 and will take eight years to reach Jupiter.



- The spacecraft has ten scientific instruments to study the icy surfaces and possible **underground oceans of the moons**.
- Its findings could help us understand if life could exist beyond Earth. JUICE will also study **Jupiter's magnetic field and atmosphere**, providing important data for planetary science.

TENG Technology

- **IIT Indore has created advanced shoes** using a special technology called **Tribo-Electric Nanogenerator (TENG)**. These shoes are designed to improve safety and efficiency for armed forces personnel but could also be useful in many other areas.
- **TENG technology works by turning the movement** of your steps into electrical energy. As you walk, the energy from each step is collected and stored in the shoe.
- **This stored energy can then** be used to power small electronic devices. The shoes also have **built-in GPS technology**, which allows for real-time location tracking. This feature helps military personnel stay aware of where they are and coordinate better with others.



Ancient Maharashtra Rock Art

- Maharashtra government has recently declared the **geoglyphs and petroglyphs** in Ratnagiri as protected monuments under the **Maharashtra Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1960**.
- These ancient artworks, dating back to the Mesolithic era, depict various animals and footprints.



- Ratnagiri hosts over **1,500 artworks across 70 sites**, with some included on UNESCO's tentative World Heritage list.
- **Petroglyphs:** Found in Deud, Ratnagiri, these artifacts are approximately 20,000-10,000 years old. They feature images of a rhino, deer, monkey, donkey, and footprints. The total protected area is 210 square meters.



- **Geoglyphs:** Located along the 900 km Konkan coast in Maharashtra and Goa, Ratnagiri alone houses more than 1,500 geoglyphs spread across 70 sites. Seven of these are on the **UNESCO tentative World Heritage list**.
- **Geoglyphs and petroglyphs** are distinct ancient art forms involving images or designs created on rock surfaces or the earth's surface. The large concentration of these artworks on laterite plateaus in Konkan is unique and significant.
- **According to UNESCO**, these rock art collections are remarkable open-air ensembles of prehistoric human expression, showcasing diverse life forms such as marine, riverine, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and avians that have vanished from the region centuries ago.



ET World Leaders Forum

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will serve as the **chief guest at the inaugural ET World Leaders Forum**, in New Delhi.

- The forum aims to address **India's role in global economic growth**, innovation, and policy-making amidst a backdrop of global economic stagnation.
- **Theme: "Leadership for Global Prosperity"**.
- The event will feature **around 400 participants**, including corporate executives, entrepreneurs, investors, and policy experts. Objective: To explore opportunities arising from India's rapid economic progress and its impact on global prosperity.



- The forum will address how **India is emerging as a beacon of hope** in a stagnating global economy, with discussions on geopolitical instability and economic opportunities.
- **Domestic Focus:** The agenda will cover India's untapped domestic markets, its strong post-pandemic recovery, and potential for further economic growth driven by demographic dividends and policy reforms.

EOS-08 From Sriharikota

- India's new rocket **Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV-D3)** lifted off with an **earth observation satellite-08 (EOS-08)** weighing 175.5 kg.
- Piggybacking on that was another small satellite SR-0 made by a Chennai based start-up Space Rickshaw SR-0.
- **The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** has developed SSLV with a carrying capacity of 500 kg to the Low Earth Orbit (LEO) based on the market trend of going in for smaller satellites.



- The **34-metre tall and about 119-ton expendable** rocket costing about Rs 56 crore broke free of the first launch pad and started its one-way journey upwards. As to the mission's objectives, ISRO said that it will complete the SSLV Development Project and enable operational missions by Indian industry and the public sector NewSpace India Ltd.

International Earth Sciences Olympiad

- A team of Indian students has **secured three gold, two silver and three bronze** medals at the **17th International Earth Sciences Olympiad** held in China's Beijing.



- The **four-member Indian team comprising students** from Gujarat, Kerala, Chhattisgarh, and Rajasthan have won these medals in three different categories including Earth System Project, and International Team Filed Investigation.
- The International Earth Science Olympiad is a student-centric program **facilitated under the REACHOUT** (Research, Education, Training, and Outreach) scheme of the Ministry of Earth Sciences.

Project To Combat Microplastic Contamination In Food

- **Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)** has launched an innovative project to tackle the growing concern of **microplastic contamination in food** in New Delhi.



- Recognising **microplastic pollution** as an emerging threat, the project was started in March this year to develop and validate analytical methods for **detecting micro and nanoplastics** in various food products.
- FSSAI said the **primary objectives of the project** include developing standard protocols for micro- and nanoplastic analysis, conducting intra- and inter-laboratory comparisons, and generating critical data on microplastic exposure levels among consumers.



- In a recent report, the Food and Agriculture Organisation has highlighted the **presence of microplastics in common food items** such as sugar and salt. The food safety regulator of the country, FSSAI, says it is committed to ensuring that Indian consumers have access to safe and healthy food.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Which Day Is Observed As 'International Tiger Day' Every Year

- A. 27 July
- B. 28 July
- C. 29 July
- D. 30 July

ANSWER: C

2. Which Southeast Asian Country Released A Special Stamp Set That Includes A Stamp On Lord Rama Of Ayodhya

- A. Laos
- B. Cambodia
- C. Thailand
- D. Singapore

ANSWER: A

3. Who Became 1st Indian Woman To Win An Olympic Medal In Shooting At Paris

- A. Vedika Sharma
- B. Manu Bhaker
- C. Anjali Bhagwat
- D. Manisha Keer

ANSWER: B

4. Which Country Secured Their First Women's Asia Cup Title

- A. China
- B. India
- C. Sri Lanka
- D. Bangladesh

ANSWER: C

5. What Is 'HAMAS'

- A. Militant Palestinian Group
- B. Russian Militant Group
- C. Secret Agency Of China
- D. Security Force Of Ukraine

ANSWER: A

6. Who Has Been Appointed As The New Chairperson Of The UPSC

- A. Suman Sharma
- B. Preeti Sudan
- C. Pradeep Kumar Joshi
- D. Rajiv Nayan

ANSWER: B

7. Which Country Has Been Elected Vice Chair Of Supply Chain Council

- A. Pakistan
- B. India
- C. Sri Lanka
- D. Bangladesh

ANSWER: B

8. "Jhumur" Is A Traditional Dance Performed In Which State

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

ANSWER: C

9. What Is Parkinson's Disease

- A. A cardiovascular disorder
- B. A progressive neurological disorder
- C. A respiratory illness
- D. A type of cancer

ANSWER: B

10. Which Ministry Introduced Guidelines For Bagless Days For Students In Classes 6 To 8

- A. Ministry of Home Affairs
- B. Ministry of Women and Child Development
- C. Ministry of Education
- D. Ministry of Power

ANSWER: C

11. 'Nacala Port', Is Located In Which Country

- A. Ghana
- B. Nigeria
- C. Mozambique
- D. Kenya

ANSWER: C

12. Who Has Become First Woman To Be Appointed The Director General Of Medical Services

- A. Lt Gen Punita Arora
- B. Lt Gen Sadhna Saxena Nair
- C. Lt Gen Madhuri Kanitkar
- D. Lt Gen Kavita Sahai

ANSWER: B

13. Defence Testing Infrastructure Scheme Was Launched By Which Ministry

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

ANSWER: A

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

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

ANSWER: B

15. Which Institute Received Distinguished Special Consultative Status From UN ECOSOC

- A. IIT Kanpur
- B. KIIT DU
- C. BITS
- D. IIT Delhi

ANSWER: B

16. India Hosted “14th India- Vietnam Defence Policy Dialogue” In Which City

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

ANSWER: C

17. When Is World Wide Web Day Observed Annually

- A. July 31
- B. August 1
- C. August 5
- D. August 7

ANSWER: B

18. What Is The Theme For World Ranger Day 2024

- A. Protecting Wildlife
- B. Rangers Unite
- C. 30 by 30
- D. Conservation Heroes

ANSWER: A

19. Who Won Bronze Medal In 50m Rifle 3 Positions Final At Paris Olympics

- A. Swapnil Kusale
- B. Manu Bhaker
- C. Sarabjot Singh
- D. Serhiy Kulish

ANSWER: A

20. Which Institution Approved A \$200 Million Loan To Support Solid Waste Management In India

- A. World Bank
- B. Asian Development Bank
- C. International Monetary Fund
- D. United Nations

ANSWER: B

21. Yamini Krishnamurthy, Was Associated With Which Field

- A. Boxing
- B. Journalism
- C. Classical dance
- D. Scientist

ANSWER: C

22. Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary, Is Located In Which State

- A. Nagaland
- B. Manipur
- C. Assam
- D. Arunachal Pradesh

ANSWER: C

23. Which State Became First In India To Buy All Crops From Farmers At MSP

- A. Haryana
- B. Punjab
- C. Uttar Pradesh
- D. Bihar

ANSWER: A

24. Which State Assembly Passed Amended Anti Conversion Bill, Enhances Punishment To Life Imprisonment

- A. Uttar Pradesh
- B. Haryana
- C. Gujarat
- D. Kerala

ANSWER: A

25. Chandipura Acute Viral Encephalitis Is Primarily Transmitted By Which Species

- A. Lizard
- B. Frog
- C. Sandflies
- D. Fish

ANSWER: C

26. What Is The Theme Of 'World Lung Cancer Day 2024'

- A. A Breath Of Prevention Is Better Than Expectation On Long-term Survival
- B. Measures To Prevent Lung Cancer
- C. Care For Your Lungs
- D. Close The Care Gap: Everyone Deserves Access To Cancer Care

ANSWER: D

27. Who Has Been Appointed League Ambassador Of The SA20 League

- A. MS Dhoni
- B. Sourav Ganguly
- C. Sachin Tendulkar
- D. Dinesh Kartik

ANSWER: D

28. India Will Host The First BIMSTEC Business Summit In Which City

- A. New Delhi
- B. Mumbai
- C. Surat
- D. Jaipur

ANSWER: A

29. Author Of The Book Titled "Breaking Rocks And Barriers"

- A. Amartya Sen
- B. Arvind Subramanian
- C. Shashi Tharoor
- D. Sudipta Sengupta

ANSWER: D

30. Hiroshima Day Is Observed Every Year On Which Day

- A. August 4
- B. August 5
- C. August 6
- D. August 7

ANSWER: C

31. Robert “Kelly” Ortberg Appointed As CEO Of

- A. Spirit AeroSystems
- B. Boeing
- C. Airbus SE
- D. Tesla

ANSWER: B

32. Who Has Been Given Additional Charge Of Director General Of Border Security Force

- A. Anish Dayal Singh
- B. Sujoy Lal Thakosen
- C. Vineet McCarty
- D. Daljit Singh Chawdhary

ANSWER: D

33. Which Indian Recently Received Highest Civilian ‘Grand-collared Order’ Award Of Timor Leste

- A. Droupadi Murmu
- B. Narendra Modi
- C. Neeraj Chopra
- D. S. Jaishankar

ANSWER: A

34. Which Ministry Is Nodal Body For Implementing The ‘Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana Urban 2.0 Scheme’

- A. Ministry of Urban Development
- B. Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
- C. Ministry of Agriculture
- D. Ministry of Rural Development

ANSWER: B

35. PARIVESH Portal’, Is Developed By Which Ministry

- A. Ministry of Defence
- B. Ministry of Power
- C. Ministry of Agriculture
- D. Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

ANSWER: D

36. Which Organization Released Updated “Integrated Fire Management Voluntary Guidelines: Principles And Strategic Actions”

- A. FAO
- B. UNDP
- C. UNEP
- D. IMF

ANSWER: A

37. Which State Government Has Constituted A Task Force To Clear Encroachments In Forests And Western Ghats

- A. Goa
- B. Kerala
- C. Karnataka
- D. Maharashtra

ANSWER: C

38. What is ‘Carry Trade’

- A. Investing In Countries With High Interest Rates
- B. Borrowing In A Country With Low Interest Rates And Investing In A Country With Higher Returns
- C. Trading Stocks Based On Interest Rate Predictions
- D. Selling Bonds To Buy Currencies

ANSWER: B

39. ‘PM KUSUM Scheme’, Comes Under Which Ministry

- A. Ministry of Urban Development
- B. Ministry of Agriculture
- C. Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
- D. Ministry of Finance

ANSWER: C

40. What Is A ‘Pyrocumulonimbus Cloud’

- A. A Type Of Cloud That Forms During Thunderstorms
- B. A Cloud That Forms Due To Intense Heat From Wildfires Or Volcanic Eruptions
- C. A Cloud That Only Forms In Polar Regions
- D. A Type Of Rain Cloud

ANSWER: B