

Monthly September Current Affairs

Digital Agriculture Mission

- Union Cabinet has approved the **Digital Agriculture Mission** with total cost of **2817 crore rupees**. Addressing media in New Delhi this afternoon, Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said major decisions have been taken in the cabinet meeting for improving the lives of farmers and increasing their income.
- He said the Digital Agriculture Mission is being developed on lines of the structure of **Digital Public Infrastructure** for agriculture.



- Cabinet has approved crop science for **food and nutritional security** at a total cost of **3979 crore rupees**.
- Government has also decided to strengthen **agriculture education, management, and social science** at a cost of 2291 crore rupees.
- Cabinet approved sustainable livestock health and production with **cost of 1702 crore rupees**. It approved sustainable development of Horticulture with cost of 860 crore rupees.
- The Union Cabinet has decided to strengthen the **Krishi Vigyan Kendra** with the cost of 1202 crore rupees and natural resources management with a cost of 1115 crore rupees.

- Cabinet also approved a **309 Kilometre long** new line project providing the shortest rail connectivity between **two major commercial hubs** – Mumbai and Indore – at total cost of 18,036 crores.
- The project will be completed by 2028-29.

Ramon Magsaysay Award

- **Hayao Miyazaki**, the renowned Japanese film director and co-founder of Studio Ghibli, has been awarded the esteemed **Ramon Magsaysay Award for 2024**. This honor, often referred to as **“Asia’s Nobel Prize,”** underscores Miyazaki’s profound impact on both the **art of animation** and global cultural discourse.



- Miyazaki’s illustrious career spans decades, during which he has created a pantheon of beloved animated films that have captivated audiences worldwide.
- His works, including: “My Neighbor Totoro”, “Spirited Away”, “Princess Mononoke” , “Howl’s Moving Castle” , “Ponyo” , “The Boy and the Heron”.
- The **Ramon Magsaysay Award**, established in 1957, stands as one of the most prestigious honors in Asia. It was created to commemorate Ramon Magsaysay, the third **president of the Philippines**, who was known for his integrity in governance and public service.

Wokha SAATHI

- **Wokha SAATHI** (Smart AI-based Assistant for Timely Help & Interface) **WhatsApp Chatbot**, an innovative initiative of the Wokha District Administration of **Nagaland** has been awarded the prestigious **Gold Award at National Awards for e-Governance Scheme 2023-2024**.
- The award was presented at the **27th National Conference** on e-Governance held in Mumbai, Maharashtra, by Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Devendra Fadnavis.
- Under the initiative more than **40 services have been brought** under one stop chat bot of the Wokha District Administration.
- The **Wokha SAATHI WhatsApp Chatbot exemplifies** the district's dedication to enhancing citizen engagement and accessibility to government services through innovative technological solutions.
- This **AI-based chatbot provides timely** assistance and serves as a user-friendly interface for residents, ensuring they have easy access to vital information and services besides enabling proactive Information Education Campaign through a two way communication between the **government and citizens on 24x7 basis**.

Peace Pact In New Delhi

- **Memorandum of Settlement** will be signed among central and Tripura governments, representatives of National Liberation Front of Tripura, NLFT and All Tripura Tiger Force, ATTF in **New Delhi** in presence of Union Home Minister Amit Shah.
- Chief Minister of Tripura, Manik Saha and senior officials of Home Ministry and Tripura government will also be present during the signing of the Memorandum of Settlement.



- Home Ministry has been working tirelessly to fulfill Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of a developed Northeast which is free from extremism, violence and conflict.
- **Centre has signed 12 important agreements** to bring peace and prosperity in the Northeast. Three of these agreements relate to Tripura. Around ten thousand people have given up arms and joined mainstream due to signing of several agreements by Narendra Modi government.

'Aparajita' Bill

- **West Bengal Assembly** has unanimously passed the '**Aparajita Woman and Child Bill (West Bengal Criminal Laws and Amendment) 2024**', marking a significant development in the state's legal framework against sexual crimes.
- This bill introduces the **death penalty for individuals** convicted of rape if their actions result in the victim's death or leave her in a vegetative state.
- With this move, **West Bengal becomes the first state** to amend central laws dealing with rape, gang-rape, and sexual crimes against children.



- The '**Aparajita**' bill is named in tribute to a **31-year-old** trainee doctor who was raped and murdered at RG Kar Medical Centre and Hospital last month. The bill's key provisions include:
 - **Death Penalty:** Imposed for rape if the victim dies or suffers severe brain damage.
 - **Life Sentence:** Without parole for those convicted of rape.
 - **Aparajita Task Force:** To ensure punishment within 21 days of the preliminary report.

- **Enhanced Safety Measures:** Installation of CCTV cameras and increased security on routes used by female healthcare workers, with an allocation of Rs 120 crores.
- **'Ratri Saathi' Provision:** Extends the duty hours for female workers, ensuring their safety during night shifts.

International Conference On Green Hydrogen

- India will hold the **second edition** of the **International Conference on Green Hydrogen** from 11th to 13th September in New Delhi.
- New and Renewable Energy Minister **Pralhad Joshi** announced this while addressing the curtain-raiser event today. He highlighted the crucial role of **Green Hydrogen in driving India** and other developed nations towards a clean and green energy transition.



- **Mr. Joshi encouraged stakeholders** to explore the evolving Green Hydrogen landscape. He added that the goal of this three-day event is to deepen our understanding of the **green hydrogen landscape and foster connections** with global scientific communities and industries.

Lab Mitra

- An initiative called **'Lab Mitra' started** in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's **parliamentary constituency Varanasi** was awarded the **National e-Governance Gold Award** at the National e-Governance Conference 2024 held yesterday in Mumbai.
- The award was given for Administrative Reforms and district-level initiatives in e-governance.



- The initiative named '**Lab Mitra**' started by the district administration of Varanasi with the help of a **private bank and NGO** has been quite successful, and the Lab Mitra model has now been started in the **name of 'Lab Report'** in the entire UP.
- The facility is being provided at **20 hospitals**, including all government hospitals in Varanasi, and more than **2.5 lakh patients** have benefitted from it till date.
- **Using the 'Lab Mitra' portal**, patients coming to the government hospital are registered for laboratory tests as per the doctor's prescription, and after the test, the system generates an online report, which is sent as a link on a text message to the patient's phone number.
- By clicking on this link, the patient can get his complete lab test report after four hours of **testing at the CHC and after 12 hours** of testing at a government hospital.

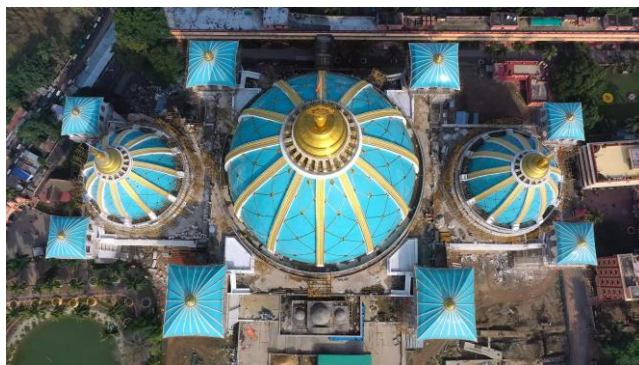


Vedic-3D Museum

- Uttar Pradesh government has announced the construction of a **Vedic-3D museum** at Sampurnanand Sanskrit University in Varanasi, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's parliamentary constituency.
- This state-of-the-art museum will focus on **Indian astrology, astronomy, and Vedic literature**.
- Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath made the announcement during his visit to the university, highlighting its role in showcasing the evolution of Vedic literature, including the **16 Sanskars, 64 arts, and 18 Vidya Sthans**, as well as the contributions of Indian sages.



- The museum will exhibit rare manuscripts preserved in the historic Saraswati Bhawan, such as the **“Raas Panchadhyayi,” Shrimad Bhagwat Gita**, and Durgasaptashati, all intricately inscribed and adorned with gold artistry.
- It aims to revive the **tradition of ‘Shastrartha’** (spiritual discourse) and serve as a platform for deepening knowledge in Vedic literature.



- During his visit, CM Yogi Adityanath also **inspected the 234-year-old main building** of the university.
- He approved the proposal to reintegrate the **Government Ayurvedic Mahavidyalaya, Chaukaghat**, as a faculty of Sampurnanand Sanskrit University. Chief Minister emphasized improvements in infrastructure, including the **installation of Sanskrit signboards**, enhancement of sewer and drainage systems, repair of dilapidated roads, and the construction of a boundary wall.

First International Solar Festival

- India's solar energy capacity has **increased 32-fold in the last 10 years**, and this speed and scale will help the country achieve **500 gigawatt non-fossil capacity** by 2030.
- This was stated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi while addressing the two-day **first International Solar Festival** through video conferencing, being held in New Delhi.
- The Prime Minister said the **International Solar Alliance (ISA)**, established in 2015, is growing into a giant tree inspiring policy and action, and within a short time, its **membership has reached a milestone of 100 countries**.



- Highlighting that the growth of this organisation is important for the vision of one world, one sun
- Prime Minister highlighted that the **International Solar Festival** brings the whole world together to celebrate the sun's impact and will help build a better planet.
- Speaking on the occasion, **Union Minister for New and Renewable Energy Pralhad Joshi** emphasised uniting efforts to move towards a solar-powered future.

- India has been harnessing solar energy for centuries, and this has evolved with the introduction of new technologies.
- **International Solar Alliance (ISA)** is an international organisation that works with governments to improve energy access and security worldwide and promotes solar power as a sustainable pathway to transition to a carbon-neutral future.



- **International Solar Festival** is intended to celebrate the transformative impact of solar energy on communities in the ISA member countries.
- **The festival aims at highlighting** and celebrating the transformative power of solar energy and its role in powering new opportunities across the globe, leading the way to universal energy access, and advancing the Sustainable Development Goals. This festival will convene youth, women, communities, policymakers, and the private sector in a vibrant celebration of solar energy and its transformative power.
- **During the two-day event, there will be technical sessions led by industry experts.** Exhibition booths and pavilions have also been set up by the **International Solar Alliance member countries at Bharat Mandapam**, along with experience zones displaying solar technologies and culture. Performances by acclaimed artists and musical concerts have also been planned to make this international event memorable.

CBSE's First Regional Office In Dubai

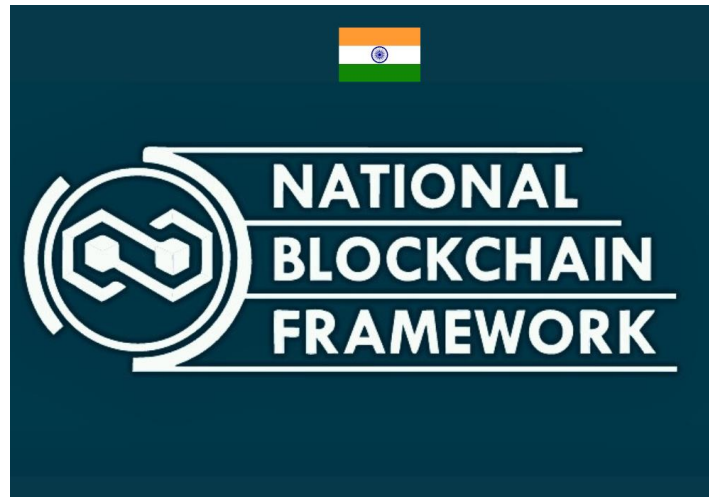
- In a historic move to strengthen Indian education in the UAE, the **Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE)** has launched its first Regional Office (RO) and Centre of Excellence (CoE) outside India, **situated in Dubai**.
- The milestone was marked with a **special orientation session on Teachers' Day** between CBSE officials, representatives from the Indian Mission in Dubai, and principals from 78 schools across Dubai and the Northern Emirates.



- The session provided a platform to discuss the new office's goals, scope, and its expected impact on the region.
- Prime Minister of India announced the opening of the **CBSE RO & CoE in Dubai on February 13, 2024**, during his visit to the UAE, and operations of this office officially **commenced on July 2, 2024**, at the Consulate General of India, Dubai, UAE.
- **Board's key objectives**, particularly its role in promoting learning outcome-based education and fostering new dimensions in teaching. He emphasised that CBSE would adopt a model focussing on outcome-based learning and offer subjects at multiple levels to meet varying student capabilities.

National Blockchain Framework

- Indian Government launched a new blockchain initiative called **the Vishvasya-Blockchain Technology Stack**. This project, led by the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)**, provides a platform for using **Blockchain-as-a-Service (BaaS)**.



- It allows people to use blockchain technology easily through a large, distributed system across the country. The **goal is to support secure, efficient, and permissioned blockchain** applications.
- **Vishvasya-Blockchain Technology Stack**: This is a broad platform for developing various blockchain applications.
- **NBFLite**: A smaller, lightweight version of blockchain for startups and academia. It helps them quickly build and test blockchain applications.
- **Praamaanik**: A special blockchain tool to verify the authenticity of mobile apps, ensuring they come from trustworthy sources.
- **National Blockchain Portal**: This is a one-stop website for all blockchain initiatives and updates under MeitY.

Biplab Sarma Commission

- Assam Cabinet has approved **the implementation of 57 out of 67 recommendations** made by the Justice (Retd) Biplab Sarma Commission.
- This commission was formed by the Ministry of Home Affairs to implement **Clause 6 of the Assam Accord**.
- The **Assam Accord was signed in 1985** after long protests against illegal immigration into Assam. The Accord says that all foreigners who came to Assam after **March 24, 1971**, should be deported, no matter their religion.



- **Clause 6 of the Accord focuses on protecting the rights** and identity of the people of Assam by giving them constitutional, legislative, and administrative safeguards.
- **Justice Biplab Sarma Commission** was set up in Assam in 2019 to look into issues like corruption and misconduct in the state's police force. It aimed to make law enforcement more accountable.
- **Justice Sarma, a retired High Court judge**, has worked in various important judicial roles. The commission's findings emphasized problems like poor training and supervision in the police force. The report also sparked conversations about the need for police reforms to improve transparency and public trust in Assam's law enforcement agencies.

EAM Dr. S. Jaishankar

- External Affairs Minister **Dr. S Jaishankar** travel to **Riyadh**, Saudi Arabia to attend the **First India-Gulf Cooperation Council GCC Foreign Ministers' Meeting**.
- During the two day visit, he is also expected to hold bilateral meetings with Foreign Ministers from GCC member countries.
- The **GCC region has emerged** as a major trading partner for India and is home to a large Indian expatriate community, **numbering around 8.9 million**.



- The Foreign Ministers meeting will be an opportunity to review and deepen **institutional cooperation between India and the GCC across various sectors.**
- On the second leg of the visit, Dr Jaishankar will travel to **Berlin, Germany** for a two day visit. This will be his **third bilateral visit to Berlin.**
- Both India and Germany share a robust **Strategic Partnership and Germany** is one of India's prominent trading partners and among the largest Foreign Direct Investors.



- During the visit, the External Affairs Minister will meet **German Federal Foreign Minister** as well as the leadership and other Ministers from the German government with an objective to review the entire gamut of bilateral relations between India and Germany.

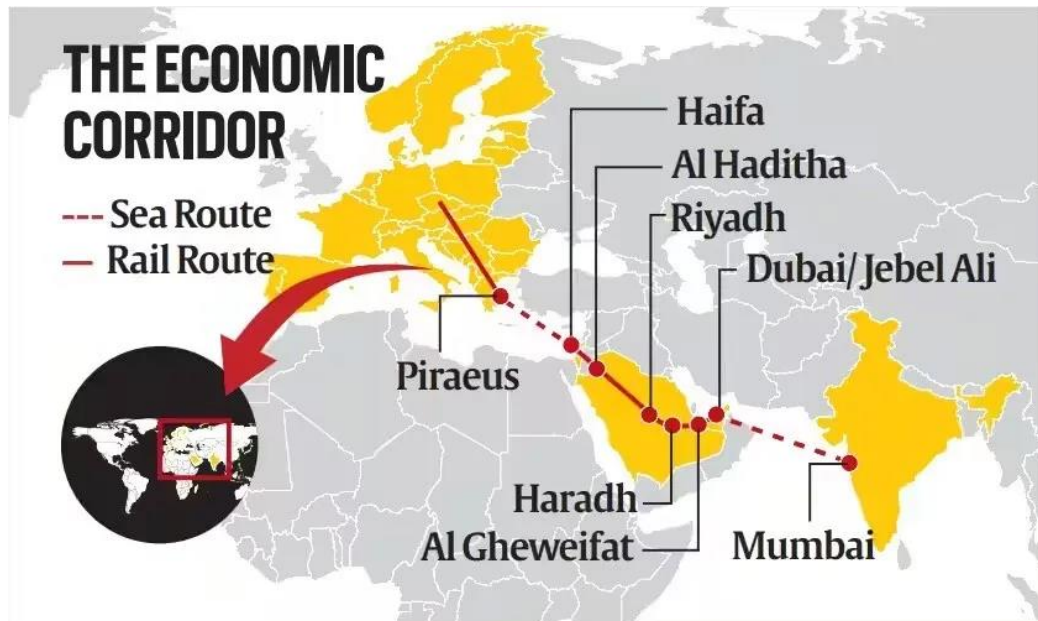
- Dr Jaishankar will thereafter travel to **Geneva, Switzerland** for an official visit from 12th of this month. Geneva is home to a large number of UN bodies and international organizations.
- During the visit, the External Affairs Minister will meet with heads and representatives of international organizations with whom India is actively engaged.

India Mediterranean Business Conclave

- **Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal** said the **India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC)** is an important initiative that can add to **India's maritime security** and faster movement of goods between Europe and Asia.



- The Minister was speaking at the **India-Mediterranean Business Conclave 2024** in New Delhi. He said that IMEC was launched during India's G20 presidency and aims to integrate India, Europe, and the Middle East through the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Israel, and the European Union.



- Mr. Goyal noted that **lower logistics costs**, faster connectivity, and secure movement of goods are dependent on better cooperation in this area. He noted that initiatives like the PLI scheme, the Centre's efforts towards Ease of Doing Business, and economic partnerships have boosted India's manufacturing growth story.
- He added that a nation's efforts to promote agri-value chains can support the initiatives **between India and Mediterranean countries**. Mr. Goyal also suggested that the government should have a working group on tourism between the Mediterranean nations and India, as there is huge potential in this sector.

'Dekho Apna Desh, People's Choice 2024

- The voting for **Dekho Apna Desh, People's Choice 2024**, is open until the 15th of this month. The aim of the nation-wide poll is to engage with citizens to identify the **most preferred tourist attraction sites** and understand tourist perceptions across **five tourism categories**, which are spiritual, cultural heritage, nature, wildlife, adventure, and others.

Ministry of Tourism | LIFE | Incredible India

"From the high Himalayas to dense forests, from the dry deserts to beautiful beaches, India has something for everyone."
Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

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A ROYAL GETAWAY**

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5 Grand Prize Winners
(Couple Tickets)
Exciting prizes for other lucky winners*

Participate in the **Dekho Apna Desh
People's Choice
Contest**

Poll ends on
15th September 2024

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- **The others category** will allow citizens to vote for their personal favourites, which will help in discovering unexplored tourist places in the country.
- The citizens can access the voting portal from the Ministry of Tourism's official website. This initiative was **launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in March this year in Srinagar.**
- There is a **dedicated portal wherein users** can vote across categories through their mobile number and email ID.
- The outcomes will help determine **the Top Tourist Attractions of India**, which will receive substantial support and investments from key stakeholders. Through the initiative, the government seeks to promote the preservation of cultural landmarks and traditions, ensuring their longevity for future generations. This will also allow help in understanding lesser-known tourist locations that people would like to visit apart.

India To Organize First Global Cooperative Conference

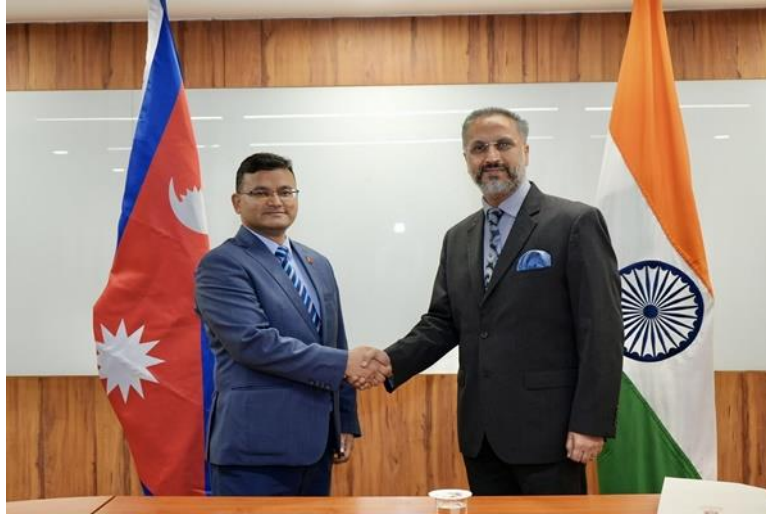
- India will organize the **first Global Cooperative Conference** from 25th to 30th November in New Delhi. Secretary of the **Ministry of Cooperation**, Dr Ashish Kumar Bhutani, said this while addressing the media in New Delhi.
- Dr. Kumar said that this five-day conference will focus on exploring innovative solutions, technologies, and best practices for the cooperative movement. He said that it is a proud moment for all, as **this will be the first time in the 130-year** history of the International Cooperative Alliance that the conference will be held in India.

- Director General of the International Cooperative Alliance, Jeroen Douglas, said that there are 3 million cooperatives across the world and India stands out as the leading country with the highest number of cooperatives.
- **International Cooperative Alliance (ICA)** is a non-governmental cooperative organization **founded in 1895 to unite**, represent and serve cooperatives worldwide.
- The ICA is the custodian of the internationally recognised definition, values and principles of a cooperative in the ICA Statement on the Cooperative Identity. The **ICA represents 315 co-operative federation** and organisations in 107 countries.



International Solar Alliance

- **Nepal has become the 101st country** to join the International Solar Alliance-ISA as a full member.
- Ministry of External Affairs said that Nepal handed over its Instrument of Ratification to the ISA in New Delhi.
- **The Instrument of Ratification** was exchanged during a meeting between Nepal's Charge d' affairs Dr. Surendra Thapa and Joint Secretary (ED&MER) in the External Affairs Ministry, Abhishek Singh.



Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Civil Aviation

- India will host the **2nd Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference** on Civil Aviation from September 11 to 12 in New Delhi.
- Addressing the media in New Delhi, **Civil Aviation Minister Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu** said that India is aiming for **regional aviation growth** and sustainability.



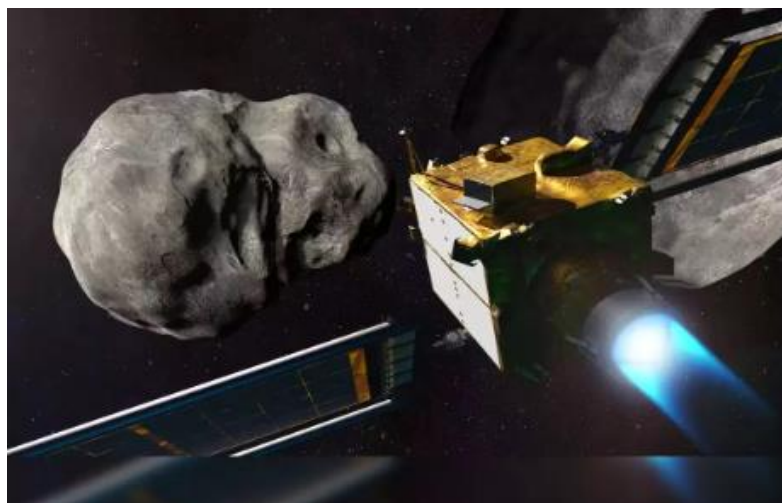
- Mr. Naidu said that India is positioning itself to **become a major hub** for Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul (MRO) services, cargo operations, and overall regional aviation as the **third-largest domestic aviation** market globally.
- He also highlighted the ongoing development of new greenfield airports and progressive policies like UDAN that encourage regional air connectivity.

First Human-Made Meteor Shower

- **NASA's DART mission** made history by successfully crashing a spacecraft into the **asteroid moonlet Dimorphos**. This marked a major step forward in **protecting Earth from possible asteroid** impacts by testing ways to change the direction of threatening space objects.
- **As a result of the DART mission's impact**, debris from Dimorphos has been scattered into space. Scientists believe that more than **2 million pounds** of this material could eventually reach Earth and Mars. If this happens, it could create a meteor shower, **known as the "Dimorphids,"** in the next 10 to 30 years, leading to periodic meteor displays.



- **Double Asteroid Redirection Test (DART)** was launched in 2021 as NASA's first attempt to move an asteroid from its path.
- Idea behind the mission was to see if a spacecraft could deflect an asteroid by crashing into it—this **technique is called "kinetic impact."**
- DART's goal was to show that this method could be used to protect Earth from potential asteroid threats in the future.



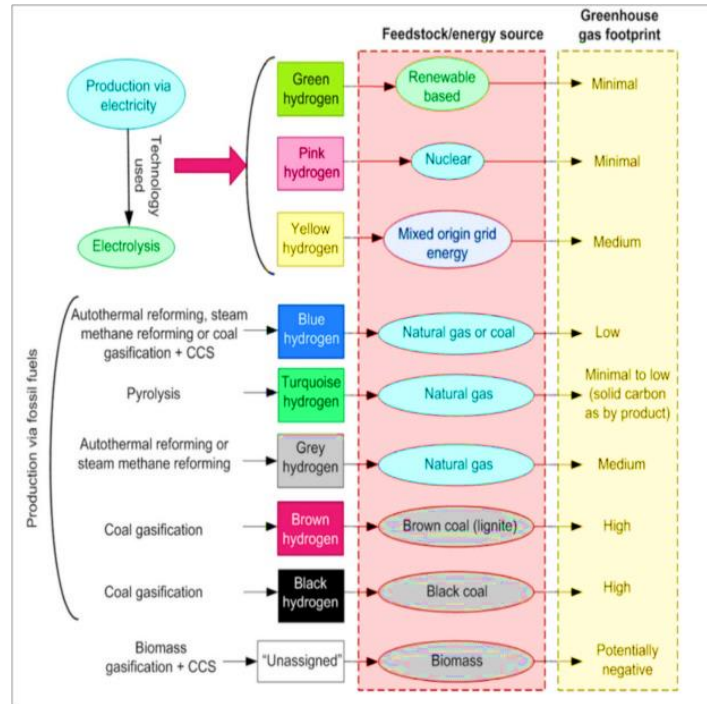
- DART mission was a success. The **spacecraft hit Dimorphos** and managed to shorten its orbit around the larger asteroid Didymos by 33 minutes.
- This was a major victory, as it proved that using a spacecraft to change an asteroid's path is possible. It is the first time humans have intentionally changed the movement of a celestial body.

India's First Bio-Hydrogen Project

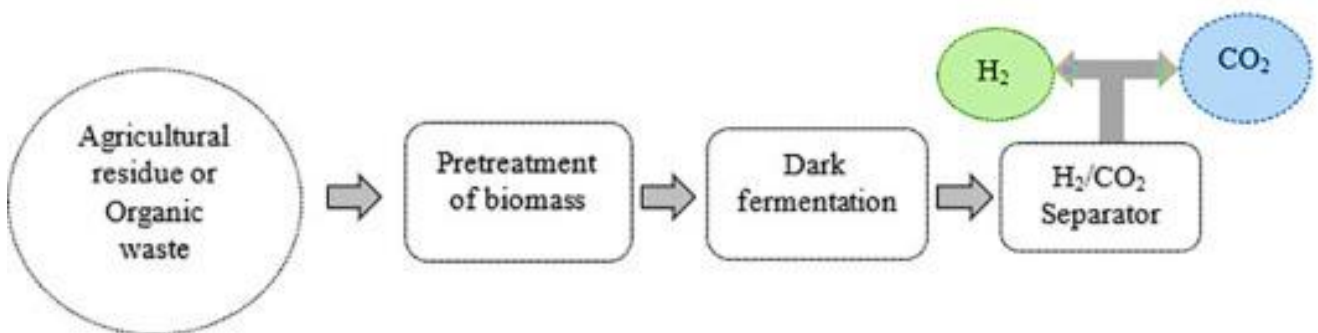
- Indian government awarded a contract to develop the country's **first bio-hydrogen project**, led by **Gensol Engineering** in collaboration with **Matrix Gas & Renewables**. Valued at **Rs 164 crore**, the project aims to align with the National Green Hydrogen Mission and is set to **process 25 tonnes of bio-waste daily**, producing **1 tonne of green hydrogen** using advanced gasification technology over **18 months**.



- **Bio-hydrogen is a type of hydrogen** that is produced from organic materials, such as plants, food waste, or certain microorganisms. Unlike traditional hydrogen, which is typically made from fossil fuels like coal or natural gas, bio-hydrogen comes from natural sources like agricultural leftovers, food scraps, and industrial waste.

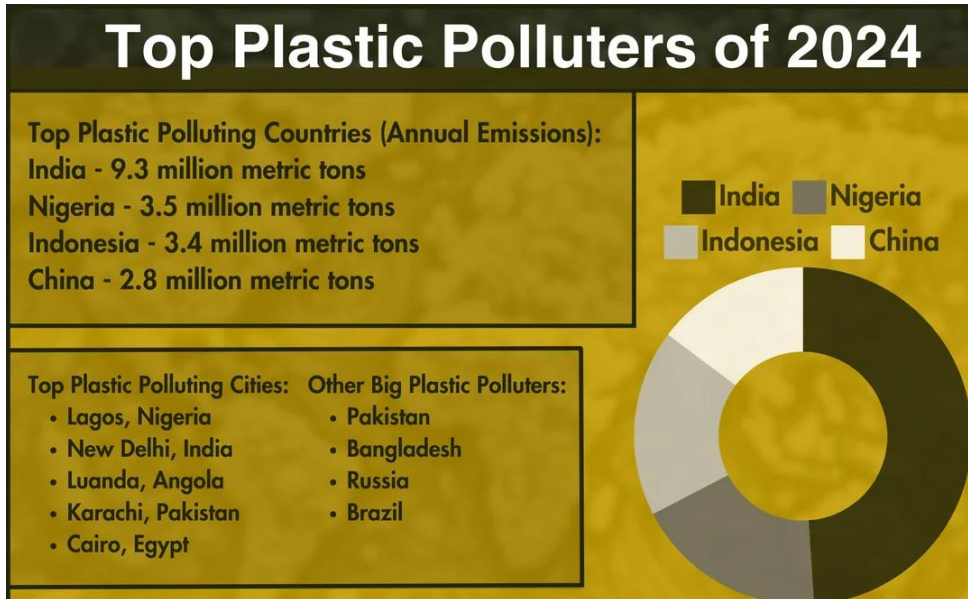


- This makes it a cleaner and more eco-friendly alternative. There are different ways to produce bio-hydrogen:
- **Biophotolysis:** This method uses sunlight to split water molecules in organisms like algae, releasing hydrogen.
- **Dark Fermentation:** Here, bacteria break down organic material without oxygen, creating hydrogen as a byproduct.



World's Top Plastic Polluter

- **India has become the largest plastic polluter** in the world, producing 9.3 million tonnes of plastic waste every year.
- This amount makes up about **20% of the total global plastic emissions**, showing how serious the problem is for both India and the world. A recent study published in Nature suggests that India's official data on plastic waste is likely too low.



- The current **estimate of 0.12 kilograms of plastic waste** per person per day doesn't fully capture the real situation. This is because the data does not account for plastic waste in rural areas or the informal recycling sector.
- Also, the amount of waste collected is probably overestimated, making it harder to understand the true scale of the problem.



- India tops the list of global plastic polluters, followed by **Nigeria and Indonesia**, which emit 3.5 million tonnes and 3.4 million tonnes of plastic waste, respectively.
- **China, which was once the leading plastic polluter**, has improved its waste management systems and is now ranked fourth.

First Indian President Of Olympic Council Of Asia

- On September 8, 2024, a landmark moment in Asian sports history unfolded as **Randhir Singh, a veteran sports administrator**, was elected as the president of the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA).



- This momentous event took place during the **44th General Assembly** of the continental body in New Delhi, marking the first time an Indian has ascended to this prestigious position.
- Mr. Singh took over as acting president following the **suspension of Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah**, who was: Handed a 15-year ban from sports administration in May 2024 Sanctioned for ethics breaches

First ANRF Governing Board Meeting

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has stressed finding local solutions for the global problems. The Prime Minister chaired the **first Governing Board meeting of the newly formed Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF)** in New Delhi.
- During the meeting, the Prime Minister asked to identify those obstacles which are hindering the path of the research ecosystem and take steps to remove these problems.
- Calling for **upgradation and standardisation of institutions**, the Prime Minister suggested developing a list of domain experts and developing a dashboard to track the progress of research and development.



- Prime Minister stressed upon the need for scientific monitoring of the utilisation of resources for research and innovation. He said the scientific community should have faith that there will be no dearth of resources for their endeavours.
- **On the Atal Tinkering Labs**, the Prime Minister suggested that grading of these labs can be done. During the meeting, the Governing Body decided to launch a programme in hub and spoke mode by pairing universities where research is at the nascent stage with top-tier established institutions in mentorship mode.
- **ANRF was established on the recommendation** of National Education Policy 2020. It is aimed at fostering a culture of research and innovation across the country's universities, colleges, research institutions, and Research and Development laboratories.
- **Anusandhan National Research Foundation** acts as an apex body to provide high-level strategic direction of scientific research in the country.

India's Semiconductor Mission

- US says, it will partner with **India's Semiconductor Mission** to explore opportunities to grow and diversify the global semiconductor ecosystem under **International Technology Security and Innovation (ITSI) Fund**, created by the **CHIPS Act of 2022**.
- US Department of State said, this partnership will help create a more resilient, secure, and **sustainable global semiconductor value chain**.



- US-India Strategic Partnership Forum posted a video where Kurt Campbell, US Deputy Secretary of State, said, expanding US partnership with India is one of the most strategically important efforts taken by the Biden administration.
- He said, **successive administrations in Washington and New Delhi** have invested time and political capital to bring this partnership to greater and greater heights.
- **Mr Campbell**, addressing the forum through video conference, said that today, India and the **US are more aligned** than ever before. He also expressed hope that these efforts will continue given the deep bonds that tie both the countries together and the strategic challenges they face.



- This collaboration between the **United States and India** underscores the potential to expand India's semiconductor industry to the benefit of both nations.

Swachh Vayu Survekshan 2024

- Union Environment Ministry Presented “**National Clean Air City**” Awards During **Swachh Vayu Survekshan 2024**. Held As Part Of A National Workshop Celebrating The “**International Day Of Clean Air For Blue Skies**” In Jaipur, Indian Cities In **Improving Their Air Quality**.

Major Cities (Population Over 10 Lakh)

- Surat, Gujarat: Emerged As The Top Major City
- Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh: Secured The Second Position
- Agra, Uttar Pradesh: Ranked Third Among Large Cities

Medium-sized Cities (Population Between 3 Lakh And 10 Lakh)

- Firozabad, Uttar Pradesh
- Amravati, Maharashtra
- Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh

Smaller Cities (Population Under 3 Lakh)

- Raebareli, Uttar Pradesh
- Nalgonda, Telangana
- Nalagarh, Himachal Pradesh
- This Surveying And Ranking System Serves As A Crucial Tool For:
 - Encouraging Healthy Competition Among Cities
 - Promoting Best Practices In Air Quality Management
 - Providing A Standardized Framework For Evaluating Urban Air Quality Initiatives

Kiren Rijiju Inaugurates 6 Initiatives

- Parliamentary Affairs **Minister Kiren Rijiju inaugurated six initiatives** as part of the 100-day achievements of the ministry in New Delhi.



- The Minister launched the
- National e-Vidhan Application 2.0 (NeVA 2.0)
- Subordinate Legislation Management System
- Consultative Committee Management System
- National Youth Parliament Scheme 2.0
- Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRSs).
- According to the Parliamentary Affairs Ministry, the upgraded version of the **National e-Vidhan Application 2.0** (NeVA 2.0) will provide more user-friendly interface and enhanced integration with the legislative processes of State Legislatures. These initiatives are aimed at achieving a **paperless legislative environment**, promote real-time governance, and lead to better decision-making.
- Minister also launched a new scheme of the **National Youth Parliament Competition for students** of Eklavya Model Residential Schools.
- This will strengthen the roots of democracy, and familiarise with the working of Parliament and Parliamentary institutions among the tribal students by organising National Youth Parliament Competitions annually.

EU Launches Call For Setting Up AI Factories

- European Union (EU) has launched a call for **setting up Artificial Intelligence (AI) Factories** to boost the development of the AI technology.
- AI Factories will be **created around the network of European High-Performance Computing (EuroHPC)** supercomputers and will be available to a range of European users, such as startups, industry and researchers.



- AI Factories will be **connected to EU member states' AI initiatives**, creating a vibrant AI ecosystem. AI Factories will help AI developers train their large generative AI models by using the EuroHPC supercomputers and providing access to data, computing and storage services.
- They will propel the development **and validation of AI industrial and scientific** applications in key sectors such as healthcare, energy, automotive and transport, defence and aerospace, robotics and manufacturing, clean and agri tech.

Greening Steel

- Ministry of Steel organized the event called **“Greening steel : Pathway to Sustainability”** in New Delhi.
- In this event members from different ministries, academia, think tank, field specialists have participated in session on **‘Leadership and Innovation: Driving the Green Steel Transition’** for sustainable steel production.



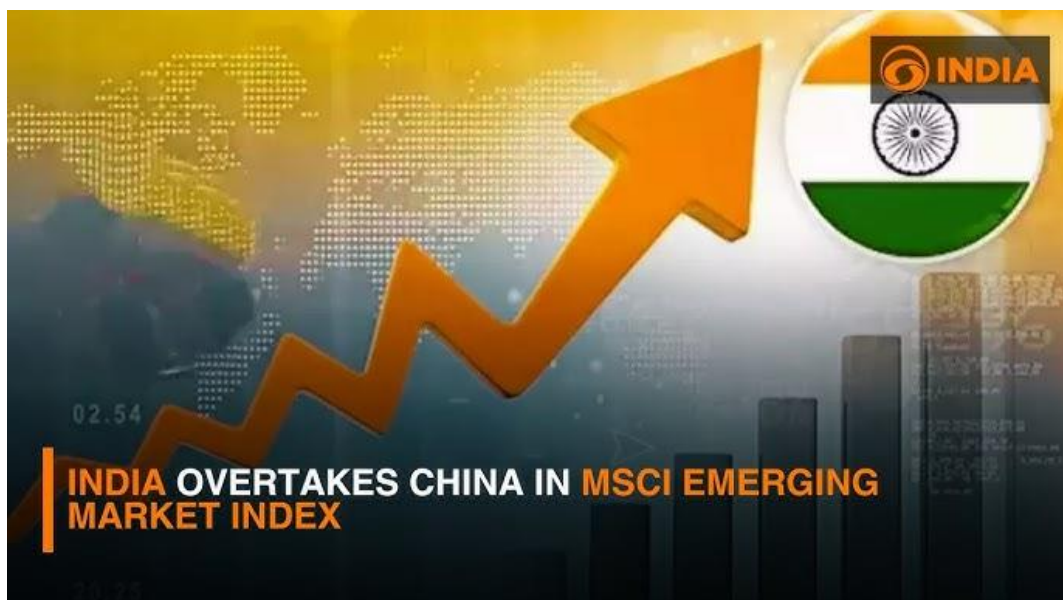
- As the present day earth faces several climate change related impacts, production patterns need to be changed in a sustainable way to reduce carbon emissions. In which steel manufacturing can play a pivotal role by producing sustainable production of steel will help to reduce the impact of climate change.
Report released in the event
- Greening the Steel Sector in India: Roadmap and Action Plan, In this report it covers the comprehensive strategy for decarbonizing the Indian steel sector.

MSCI Emerging Markets Index

- **India has overtaken China in the Morgan Stanley Capital International (MSCI) Emerging Markets Investable Market Index (EM IMI) with a weightage of 22.27%, surpassing China's 21.58%.**
- This shift reflects India's strong market performance and favorable macroeconomic conditions, contrasted with China's economic challenges. In September 2024, India's weight in the MSCI EM IMI increased, reflecting broader market trends.



- **While the MSCI Emerging Markets Index covers large and mid-cap stocks, the EM IMI includes large, mid, and small-cap stocks, with India's weight benefiting from a higher small-cap component.**
- **Analysts project that the rejig in the index could lead to inflows of approximately \$4-4.5 billion into Indian equities.**



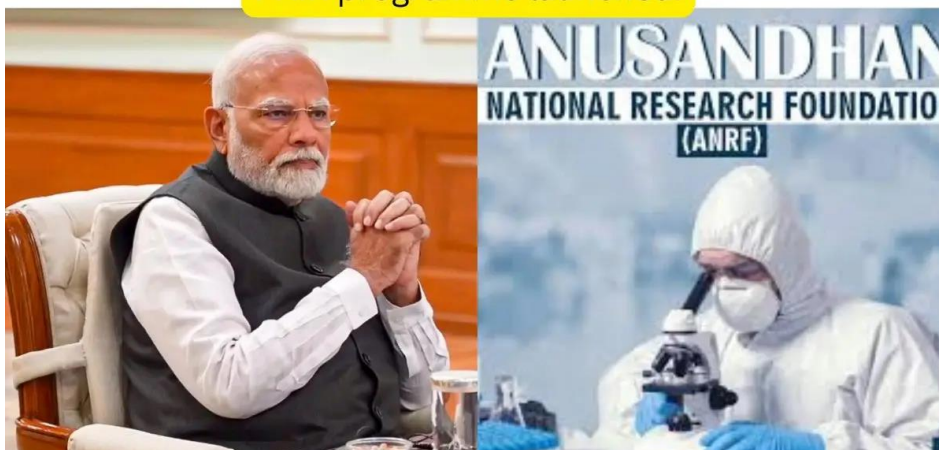
- This is supported by the broader increase in India's weight in global indices, with its weight in the **MSCI EM Index rising from 18% to 20% between** March and August 2024, while China's weight declined from 25.1% to 24.5%.
- India's growing share in global GDP and market indices highlights its increasing importance to investors.
- **Morgan Stanley ranks India as a top investment choice** within the Asia-Pacific region, just behind Japan. Despite current favorable conditions, analysts caution that market corrections could occur due to investor concerns and market dynamics.

PAIR Programme Launched

- Central government will launch the **Partnerships for Accelerated Innovation and Research (PAIR)** programme designed to elevate research capabilities in **higher education institutions (HEIs)** by linking top-tier research institutions with those where research capability is limited, creating a collaborative mentorship environment.



To boost research in higher institutes, the PAIR programme launched.



- **PAIR, ANRF (Anusandhan National Research Foundation)** will link top-tier research institutions with those where research capability is limited, creating a collaborative mentorship environment.
- **ANRF (Anusandhan National Research Foundation)** is set to seed, grow and foster a culture of research and innovation throughout the country, with a focus on diverse fields, including natural sciences, engineering, technology, environmental and earth sciences and health .

- The **ANRF Translational Research and Innovation (ATRI)** initiative aims to foster collaboration between academia and industry to accelerate technological innovation.
- The ANRF is also focused on streamlining the research process for Indian scientists.

PM E-DRIVE Scheme

- Union Cabinet, chaired by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**, has approved the **PM Electric Drive Revolution in Innovative Vehicle Enhancement (PM E-DRIVE)** Scheme to promote electric mobility in India. The scheme, with an outlay of Rs **10,900 crore** over two years, aims to expedite EV adoption, improve air quality, and reduce the environmental impact of transportation.
- Key Features
- **Subsidies and Incentives:** Rs. 3,679 crore allocated for subsidies to incentivize e-2Ws, e-3Ws, e-ambulances, e-trucks, and e-buses, supporting over 28 lakh electric vehicles.



- **E-Voucher System:** Aadhaar-authenticated e-vouchers will be generated for buyers, which will be signed and submitted to dealers, enabling OEMs to claim reimbursements.
- **E-Ambulances:** Rs. 500 crore dedicated to the introduction of e-ambulances, ensuring safer, more comfortable patient transport with new safety standards.
- **PM E-DRIVE scheme** is a pivotal step towards reducing pollution, securing fuel resources, and fostering sustainable transportation solutions aligned with India's net-zero 2070 target. The initiative will attract investments, boost the EV ecosystem, and enhance India's leadership in global clean mobility.

Switzerland Crowned As Best Country

- Won In A New Survey Which Is Called “**Best Countries For 2024**” It Is Found That Switzerland Was Crowned As Best Country In World. Switzerland Achieved This Fate In The **Third Year Successively**. This Survey Has Included **89 Countries** For The Results.



- European Countries Making Up **Majority Of Top 25** In Ranking, **Switzerland Is Followed By Japan, USA, Canada, Australia. UAE And Qatar** Were The Only Two Middle-eastern Countries That Got The **17 And 25th Positions** In The Survey. This Year **India Drops Three Positions** With Respect To Last Year To 33.

Singapore Literature Prize

- **Prasanthi Ram**, who was an Indian origin lecturer from the University of Nanyang technological University won the **Singapore literature prize for English fiction** for her **short story -'Nine Yard Sarees'** and it was her debut work which was published at the end of year 2023.



- **Singapore Literature Prize** is a biennial award in Singapore recognise outstanding published works by Singaporean authors in any of **the four official languages**: Chinese, English, Malay and Tamil. The competition is organized by the Singapore Book Council (SBC) with the support of the National Art Council.

Port Blair Renamed As Sri Vijaya Puram

EXAMS

- **Home Minister of India Shri. Amit Shah** has announced the decision on renaming the **Port Blair in Andaman and Nicobar Islands to Sri Vijaya Puram**.
- The decision has been taken to free the nation from the colonial imprints as the Andaman and Nicobar Islands have an “unparalleled place” in the country’s freedom struggle and history.



- Sri Vijaya Puram symbolizes the victory achieved in India's freedom struggle and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands' unique role in it.
- Andaman and Nicobar hosted the **first unfurling of Tiranga** by Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose. The island territory that once served as the **naval base of the Chola Empire** is today poised to be the critical base for our strategic and development aspirations.
- **Veer Savarkar, at this place** also houses the cellular jail in which Veer Savarkar and other freedom fighters struggle for an independent India.

Algeria Joins BRICS New Development Bank

- **Algeria has been officially** authorized to join **the BRICS New Development Bank (NDB)**, as announced by the bank's president, **Dilma Rousseff**, during the ninth annual meeting in **Cape Town**.



- **NDB, established by the BRICS countries** (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) in **2015**, aims to support infrastructure and sustainable development projects in emerging economies and developing nations.
- Since its inception, the NDB has expanded to include new members beyond the founding BRICS nations.
- **In 2021, Bangladesh, Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, and Uruguay** were added. Algeria's admission, following a favorable assessment of its macroeconomic indicators, marks a significant step in its integration into the global financial system.

79th UNGA Session Starts

- **United Nations General Assembly** provides an opportunity to member states a unique forum for multilateral discussions on international issues, this year **79th session of UNGA** started on 10th September.



79th United Nations (UN) general assembly session starts

- UNGA provides world leaders from the **current 193 member states** with a forum where they can discuss, debate and make recommendations on subjects pertaining to international peace and security, including development, disarmament, human rights and international law.
- **Philemon Yang from Cameroon is the new president of UNGA** this year. Yang outlined the priorities during his tenure, focusing on the principles of unity in diversity, the advancement of peace, sustainable development, and “a thorough and uncompromising commitment to human dignity, for everyone, everywhere.”

Rangeen Machhli App

- A new mobile app called **“Rangeen Machhli”** was launched by Union Minister Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh in Bhubaneswar.
- This app supports India’s growing ornamental fisheries sector, which is part of the **Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)**, a scheme to help fish farming and aquaculture grow in the country.



- **Ornamental fisheries is the practice of raising and selling colorful fish** for aquariums and home decoration. The app is designed to meet the needs of people interested in ornamental fish, such as hobbyists who keep fish as pets, aquarium shop owners, and fish farmers.
- It provides them **with useful information and resources** to help them manage and grow their activities.



- Key Features of the App, **Multilingual Information**: The app gives details about popular types of ornamental fish in eight Indian languages, making it accessible to many people.
- **Find Aquarium Shops Tool**: This feature helps users find local aquarium shops using an updated directory, which also helps promote local businesses.

- **Educational Modules:** The app has sections on “Basics of Aquarium Care” and “Ornamental Aquaculture”. These are designed for both beginners and those with experience.

Mission Mausam

- Union Cabinet, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved a major initiative called **‘Mission Mausam.’** This project, with a **budget of ₹2,000 crore over two years**, is designed to significantly improve India’s weather prediction and atmospheric science capabilities.
- **Mission Mausam is an Indian program** that began in 2016 to study climate change and monsoon patterns.



- The initiative brings together multiple research organizations to improve weather forecasting accuracy and promote better farming practices.
- It also aims to develop systems to **warn people about extreme weather events** and raise public awareness about how climate change impacts agriculture and livelihoods.



- **Ministry of Earth Sciences** will oversee the implementation of Mission Mausam.
- **Several key institutions** will be involved, including: India Meteorological Department (IMD), Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), National Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasting (NCMRWF), These organizations will work together to ensure that the mission runs smoothly.
- **Mission Mausam will use cutting-edge technology**, such as artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML), to improve weather prediction. It will involve installing modern radars and satellite systems with advanced sensors to gather more accurate data.
- Additionally, **high-performance supercomputers** will process this information quickly to deliver better forecasts. The mission will include: Enhanced earth system models that simulate weather patterns.
- **A GIS-based automated Decision Support System**, which will provide real-time data to decision-makers, helping them respond quickly to weather changes.

Montreal Protocol

- Ahead of the **30th World Ozone Day**, the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change** organized a dialogue on the **theme Montreal Protocol: Advancing Climate Action**.
- **Montreal Protocol is an international agreement** that aims to protect the ozone layer by reducing and consumption of Ozone Depleting substances.
- Addressing the event in New Delhi, Environment Secretary **Leena Nandan** said that India has done exceptionally well under the Montreal Protocol and has met the commitments due to the collaborative efforts of all the stakeholders.

- Ozone Day to be **observed on the 16th of this month**, United Nations Development Programme India Resident Representative, Angela Lusigi lauded India for being on the forefront of the protocol and the goal of reducing Hydrofluorocarbons.
- **Montreal Protocol is an international treaty** that aims to protect the ozone layer by reducing the production and consumption of ozone-depleting substances. The Montreal Protocol was agreed on in 1987 and came into effect on January 1, 1989.

‘Constitution Temples’

- Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar inaugurated ‘**Constitution Temples**’ at the vocational training centres in **434 Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs)** across Maharashtra in an event organised in Mumbai.



- Mr. Dhankhar said that the **Constitution is the soul of democracy** and Parliament is its custodian. He added that the Constitution is to be read, understood and respected.
- Mr. Dhankhar appealed that all institutions of the state need to work in tandem and togetherness to nature and blossom democratic values.
- Governor of Maharashtra CP Radhakrishnan said that our country is the most vibrant democracy in the world because of the Indian constitution.
- **Union Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment** Ramdas Athawale and Minister for Skills, employment, entrepreneurship and innovation of Maharashtra Mangal Prabhat Lodha were also present at the event.

Operation CHAKRA III

- **Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)**, in its ongoing Operation CHAKRA Three, has successfully dismantled a sophisticated **virtual asset and bullion-supported** cybercrime network.
- CBI has arrested a person from Mumbai in connection with the case.
- According to the CBI, the accused has been targeting victims in foreign countries since 2022.



- During a search at the accused's residential premises, 57 gold bars (100 grams each), 16 lakh rupees in cash, a mobile phone, a laptop used to manage cryptocurrencies, details of lockers, and other incriminating documents were recovered. This operation was executed in close coordination with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) of the US.
- **Operation Chakra-1** was a joint operation by the **Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), Interpol, the FBI, and police forces** from several countries to combat high-tech scams and frauds in India. The operation was conducted in October 2022



- **Operation Chakra-II**

- It was launched to fight **against transnational organised cyber-enabled financial crimes** in India.
- For this, **CBI has partnered with Microsoft and Amazon** as well as with national and international agencies to combat and dismantle infrastructure of illegal call centres.
- The **CBI is working with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)** of the USA, Cyber Crime Directorate and IFCACC of INTERPOL, the National Crime Agency (NCA) in the UK, Singapore Police Force and BKA of Germany to notify further leads

Culture As Standalone SDG

- India has reiterated the need to recognise **Culture as a Standalone Sustainable Development Goal** at **BRICS meet in Russia's St Petersburg**.
- India has advocated for recognizing culture as a standalone goal in the **post-2030 global development agenda**, highlighting its transformative potential in driving economic growth, social inclusion, and sustainable development.
- While addressing **the 9th BRICS Culture Ministers meeting**, Secretary of Culture Ministry, Arunish Chawla has emphasized the need to place culture at the heart of global development strategies.
- He also highlighted the **importance of creative industries**, innovation, and job creation and the need for BRICS nations to leverage their collective cultural strengths to drive economic growth and social development.
- The 4-member Indian delegation for BRICS Culture Ministers have suggested BRICS Nations to harness the power of culture as it is the key to unlock economic growth and social inclusion.



Global CyberSecurity Index 2024

- India has jumped to **Tier 1 in the Global Cybersecurity Index (GCI) 2024**, released by the **International Telecommunication Union (ITU)**, when it comes to role-modeling as part of the country's cybersecurity commitments and resulting impacts.
- **Global Cybersecurity Index (GCI)** is a trusted reference that measures the commitment of countries to cybersecurity at a global level to raise awareness of the importance and different dimensions of the issue. As cybersecurity has a broad field of application, cutting across many industries and various sectors.

Pillars of assessment

- Legal Measures
- Technical Measures
- Organizational Measures
- Capacity Development
- Cooperation

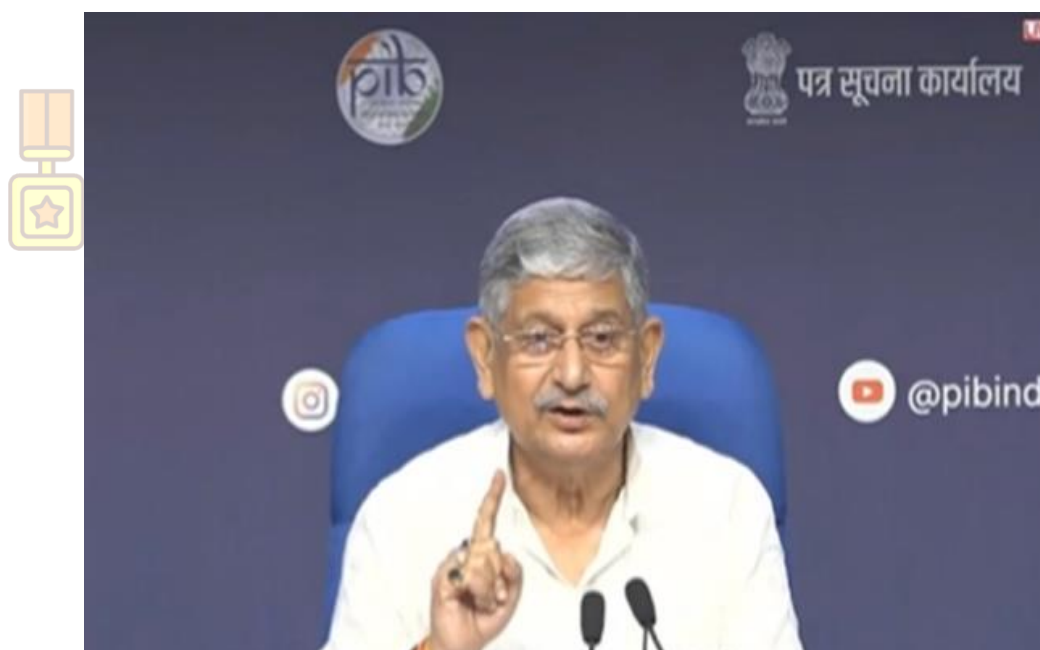


- **India has claimed a spot in the Tier-1 category** in the latest Global Cybersecurity Index (GCI) 2024, released by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).
- **With a rank of 98.49**, India is one of the 47 countries that has been adjudged as a leading nation which has demonstrated commitment to robust cyber security practices.
- The GCI found India taking strong actionable cyber security measures in all these crucial areas.

- India's Score in each pillar
- Legal Measures – 20
- Technical Measures – 20
- Organizational Measures – 18.49
- Capacity Development – 20
- Cooperation – 20

India Leads In Milk Production

- Minister For Fisheries, Animal Husbandry And Dairying Rajiv Ranjan (Lalan) Singh Has Said That **India Leads The World In Milk Production With A Significant 57.62 Per Cent Growth** In The Past Nine Years.
- Addressing The Media On 100 Days Of The Third Term Modi Government, Mr Singh Said, The Nation's Agriculture Sector Is Also A Major Economic Contributor With Farmers Holding A Substantial Stake.



- India Has Secured The **Second Spot Globally In Fish Production**, A Record Achievement Following A Substantial Investment Of **38 Thousand 572 Crore** Rupees In Various Schemes Such As The Blue Revolution, Fisheries And Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund And Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana.
- Mr Singh Said, In 2013-14, The Production Was Over **95 Lakh Tonne** And It Increased To Over **175 Lakh Tonne In 2022-23**, Which Is A Growth Of 83 Per Cent.

- Mr Singh Said, With A **Farsighted Vision**, **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** Took The Decision To Establish The Ministry Of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry And Dairying To Lay Emphasis On The Activities Related To The Sectors.

GFRS 2024

- **Health Minister JP Nadda** underscored the importance of food safety on the global stage. He emphasized that food safety must be **given priority to ensure the health and well-being** of global populations.
- He said this while **unveiling the logo and brochures** for the second edition Global Food Regulators Summit (GFRS 2.0) in New Delhi.



- **Food Safety and Standards Authority** of India will organize the Summit from the 19th to the 21st of this month in the national capital.
- The Minister stressed the need for continuous adaptation in the food safety and regulatory landscape to address emerging hazards, technological advancements, and shifting consumer demands.
- The **highlight of the summit** will be the launch of several innovations like a dedicated website for **Food Import Rejection Alerts(FIRA)** and **Food Import Clearance System 2.0 (FICS 2.0)** FIRA is designed to share information of food import rejections at Indian borders.

Angkor Wat Photogenic UNESCO World Heritage Site

- **Cambodia's Angkor Wat** has been recognized as the most **photogenic UNESCO World Heritage site** in Asia by Times Travel, as announced by Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Manet.
- Located in the **Angkor Archaeological Park** in Siem Reap province, Angkor Wat is a prominent temple within a 401-square-kilometre park featuring 91 ancient temples built between the 9th and 13th centuries.
- It is Cambodia's most visited tourist destination, **drawing 651,857 international visitors in the first eight months** of 2024, reflecting a 30.7% increase from the previous year.
- Revenue from ticket sales for this period reached \$30.3 million, marking a 31% year-on-year rise.



- The list includes notable landmarks such as:
- India: Taj Mahal and Hampi
- China: Great Wall
- Myanmar: Ancient city of Bagan
- Indonesia: Borobudur
- Vietnam: Ha Long Bay
- Japan: Historic Monuments of Kyoto
- Jordan: Petra
- Philippines: Rice Terraces of the Cordilleras

India Set To Launch Carbon Market By 2026

- India is preparing to create a **carbon market through the Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS)**, first announced in June 2023.
- This plan is designed to help reduce harmful emissions in different industries. Under this scheme, **sectors that manage to reduce** their emissions more than required can sell carbon credits to those that cannot meet their targets.
- Those who fall short of their goals must buy these credits to offset their emissions.



- The CCTS is a system that encourages companies to either reduce or limit their emissions. It is part of **India's commitment to the Paris Agreement of 2016**, where the country promised to cut its emissions intensity (the amount of emissions per unit of GDP) by 45% from 2005 levels by 2030.
- This means that India is working to produce less pollution while growing its economy.



- **Apart from the 2030 target**, India also has a long-term goal of achieving net-zero emissions by 2070.
- This means that by 2070, India aims to balance the amount of greenhouse gases it emits with the amount it removes from the atmosphere.
- This is important both for global climate efforts and for managing the impact of climate change within India.
- **India's decision to introduce the CCTS** is partly influenced by international actions, such as the European Union's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM). **Set to start in 2026, the CBAM** will place a tax on imported goods based on how much pollution was created during their production.
- Countries like China and Indonesia have also created carbon markets, which likely encouraged India to pursue similar strategies.

Earth Welcomes Temporary 'Mini-Moon' 2024

- From September 29 to November 25, 2024, Earth will have a temporary companion called **asteroid 2024 PT5**.
- This asteroid will orbit around our planet for two months, acting like a mini-moon. However, it will not be visible to the naked eye or even most amateur telescopes because it is too faint.
- **A mini-moon is a small asteroid** that gets temporarily caught by Earth's gravity. Unlike our permanent Moon, these mini-moons stay for a short period and then move away.



- **Asteroid 2024 PT5**, which is about 10 meters (33 feet) in size, will be one of these mini-moons, briefly orbiting alongside our Moon during its time near Earth.
- **Asteroid 2024 PT5 was first spotted** by NASA's ATLAS program on August 7, 2024. Its path is similar to other asteroids from the Arjuna asteroid belt. Instead of making a complete orbit around Earth, it will follow a horseshoe-shaped path before breaking free from Earth's gravity and continuing its journey in space.
- This **mini-moon gives scientists a chance** to learn more about how near-Earth objects behave when they come close to our planet. By studying how asteroid 2024 PT5 interacts with Earth's gravity, astronomers can improve their ability to predict the paths of other asteroids in the future.

'One Nation, One Election'

- Government accepted the recommendations of the High Level Committee constituted for exploring the **idea of One Nation, One Election**, paving the way for **simultaneous elections across** the country.
- Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said a high-level committee constituted under the chairmanship of former **President Ram Nath Kovind** held extensive deliberations with stakeholders, including political parties and experts.
- He said it will be implemented in **two phases**. **First phase, Lok Sabha and Assembly elections** will be held simultaneously, **while local bodies's elections like panchayats and municipalities** will be conducted within **100 days of general elections**.



- Minister informed us that the government has approved the **Chandrayaan-4 Mission and the Venus Orbiter Mission** to give a boost to the country's science and technology sector. Cabinet has approved a **mission to Venus**, named the Venus Orbiter Mission, for scientific exploration and for better understanding of Venus atmosphere. The mission is expected to **launch in March 2028**.
- He said the total fund approved for the **Venus Orbiter Mission** is **one thousand 236 crore rupees, out of which 824 crore rupees** will be spent on the spacecraft.



- Minister said the government has also approved the continuation of schemes of **Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshhan Abhiyan (PM-AASHA)** to provide remunerative prices to farmers and to control price volatility of essential commodities for consumers. He said the total financial outgo will be **35 thousand crore rupees**.
- Mr. Vaishnav said this will promote self-sufficiency in the production of pulses, oilseeds, and other essential agri-horticulture commodities.

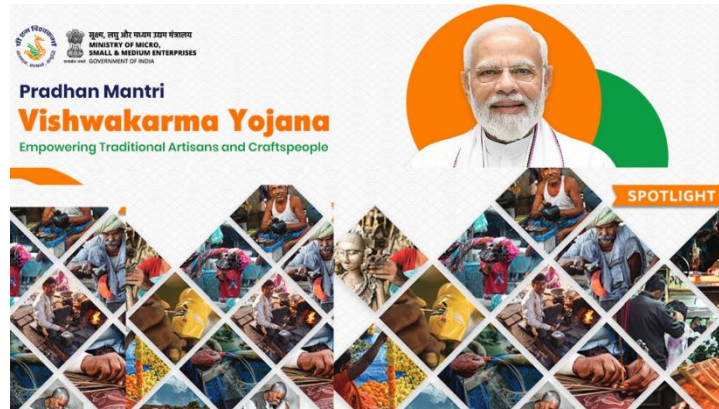


- The Union Minister informed that the government has approved **Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Unnat Gramme Abhiyan** with a total outlay of 79 thousand 156 crore rupees. He said this scheme will improve the socio-economic condition of tribal communities by developing enabling infrastructure, ensuring economic empowerment, and providing access to quality education and health.
- Mr. Vaishnaw said this will cover around 63 thousand villages, benefiting more than five crore tribal people. It will cover 549 districts and two thousand 740 blocks spread across all tribal majority villages across 30 states and Union Territories.



'PM Vishwakarma' Program

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will **visit Wardha, Maharashtra**. He will participate in the National **'PM Vishwakarma' Program** there, marking one year of progress under PM Vishwakarma.
- During the programme, Mr. Modi will release certificates and loans to PM Vishwakarma beneficiaries.



- **PM Vishwakarma, a Central Sector Scheme**, was launched on 17th September, 2023 by the Prime Minister to provide end-to-end support to artisans and craftspeople who work with their hands and tools. The Scheme covers artisans and craftspeople engaged in 18 trades, viz.
- Mr. Modi will lay the foundation stone of **PM Mega Integrated Textile Regions and Apparel (PM MITRA) Park** at Amravati, Maharashtra. The 1,000-acre park is being developed by Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation as the State Implementation Agency. The government of India had approved setting up seven PM MITRA parks for the textile industry. PM MITRA Parks are a major step forward in realising the vision of making India a global hub for textile manufacturing and exports. It will help in **creating world-class industrial** infrastructure that would attract large-scale investment, including foreign direct investment, and encourage innovation and job creation within the sector.



- The Prime Minister will launch the “**Acharya Chanakya Skill Development Centre**” scheme of the Government of Maharashtra. Skill development training centres will be established in renowned colleges across the state to provide **training to youth aged 15 to 45**, enabling them to become self-reliant and access various employment opportunities. Around one lakh 50 thousand youths across the state will receive free skill development training each year.
- The Prime Minister will also launch the “**Punyashlok Ahilyadevi Holkar Women Startup Scheme.**” Under the scheme, early-stage support will be given to women-led startups in Maharashtra. Financial assistance up to 25 lakh rupees will be provided. **25 percent of the total provisions** under this scheme will be reserved for women from backward classes and economically weaker sections as specified by the government. It will help women-led startups become self-reliant and independent.

अर्थसंकल्प २०२४-२५ ठळक वैशिष्ट्ये

पुण्यश्लोक अहिल्यादेवी होळकर स्टार्टअप योजना

महिला लघुउद्योजक महिलांसाठी पुण्यश्लोक अहिल्यादेवी होळकर स्टार्टअप योजना

स्टार्टअपच्या अनुषंगाने अखिल भारतीय स्तरावर महासंमेलनाचे आयोजन करणार

येत्या आर्थिक वर्षापासून योजनेची अंमलबजावणी करणार

महिला सक्षमीकरण, महायुती चे धोरण

Windfall Tax On Crude Petroleum

- Government has scrapped the **windfall tax on domestically produced** crude oil with effect from September 18. The **windfall tax on domestically produced** crude oil will be zero, the government said in a notification.
- It is a tax levied by governments against certain industries when economic conditions allow those industries to experience significantly above-average

profits. The term “windfall” refers to an unexpected rise in profits, and the tax on windfall gains is known as the windfall tax.

WINDFALL TAX ON CRUDE OIL

First implemented on July 1, 2022;
Windfall tax of **Rs 23,250 per tonne**

Revised every fortnight based on movement in global crude prices

The infographic features a dark blue background with a circular inset image of an oil pumpjack. The text is in white and red, with the tax amount highlighted in blue.

- When **the government notices a sudden increase** in an industry’s revenue, they impose this tax. However, these revenues cannot be linked to anything the company actively pursues, such as its business strategy or expansion.
- Rather, it is related to a one-off external event for which the business is not responsible. **Consequently, a Windfall Tax is imposed** on an industry’s profits when it experiences a sharp increase in revenue due to unrelated external events.



- **Purpose** : Redistribution of unexpected gains when high prices benefit producers at the expense of consumers, To fund social welfare schemes, As a supplementary revenue stream for the government, As a way for the Government to narrow the country’s widening trade deficit.
- **The most common industries that fall target** to windfall gains tax include oil, gas, and mining.

Global Renewable Energy Expo

- **4th Global Renewable Energy Investors Meet and Expo** was held in Gujarat, making it the first time the event took place outside Delhi.
- **Gujarat stood out as the top-performing state**, winning the most awards for its contributions to renewable energy. Gujarat ranked among the **top three Indian states** in several renewable energy areas.
- The state excelled in **total renewable energy capacity** and was a leader in wind power.



- In solar power capacity, **Gujarat came in second**, with Rajasthan taking the top spot. Other states like Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, and Karnataka were also recognized for their contributions to renewable energy. **Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand** received awards for their progress in hydropower development.

Commonwealth Games

- **Scotland will host the Commonwealth Games in 2026 after Victoria, Australia**, withdrew due to rising costs.
- **Glasgow, which hosted the Games in 2014**, will once again welcome athletes from around the world, but the event will be on a smaller scale this time. Victoria, Australia, decided not to host the 2026 Games because the costs were becoming too high.



- **A later investigation found** that their cost predictions had been overstated, leading to their decision to withdraw. The Scottish government has committed to hosting the event without needing extra public money.
- **Health Secretary Neil Gray confirmed** that the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) would provide £20 million in funding. Of this, £5 million will go towards upgrading the facilities needed for the Games.
- **In addition to the funding from the CGF**, the UK government is prepared to provide £2.3 million as a backup in case costs go over the expected budget. This extra support is to ensure the Games are held sustainably and cost-effectively.

World Food India 2024 Concludes

- The **Four day long mega event** World Food India 2024 concluded. The event started on 19th September at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi. Around 90 countries, 26 states and Union Territories, 18 Central Ministries and allied government bodies are took part in the event.
- The event **highlighted India's emerging role as a global powerhouse** in food processing. The event was a major convergence of innovation, technology, sustainability in the food processing sector.



- This **third edition of World Food India** hosted over 40 knowledge sessions, including thematic discussions, state and country-specific conferences.
- **Japan was the partner country and Vietnam and Iran** were the focus countries for the event. The first day saw a CEO Round table conference chaired by Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal and Food Processing minister Chirag Paswan.
- The conference tried to **bridge the gap between the Industry and government** and try to solve most of their problems. The 2nd edition of the **Global Food Regulators Summit hosted by Food Safety and Standards Authority** of India was also held in conjunction with World Food India.



Commonwealth Parliamentary Association

- **Indian Parliament** will host the **two-day 10th Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA)** India Region Conference in New Delhi.
- Conference will be chaired by **Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla**, who is also the Chairperson of the CPA India Region.
- Forty-six Presiding Officers, four Chairmen, 25 Speakers, three Deputy Chairmen, and 14 Deputy Speakers of Legislatures from States and Union Territories, along with their Principal Secretaries, Secretaries, and accompanying officers, will be attending the conference.



- The conference will be preceded by an Executive Committee meeting of the CPA India Region.
- **Theme of the conference** is 'The Role of Legislative Bodies in the Attainment of Sustainable and Inclusive Development.'
- **The CPA India Region was created in 2004** from the erstwhile CPA Asia Region as one of the nine regions of the CPA.
- Currently, it has 31 Member Branches, including the Parliament of India and 30 State and Union Territories Legislatures. This is the second occasion the CPA India Region Conference is being held in New Delhi.

ISRO Signs Agreements With Private Firms

- India's space sector has taken a major step forward as **ISRO, IN-SPACe, and NSIL recently signed 75 Technology Transfer Agreements (TTAs)** with non-governmental entities (NGEs).
- This is part of **India's ongoing space reforms** to encourage more private sector participation in space activities.



- The purpose of these TTAs is to allow private companies to access ISRO’s space technologies. These technologies, developed for space missions, can be applied to a wide range of areas like agriculture, energy, infrastructure, defense, telecommunications, and cybersecurity.



- **The goal is to use space technology** to solve real-world problems and drive commercial innovation.
- **ISRO (Indian Space Research Organisation):** India’s national space agency, responsible for space research, exploration, and satellite missions.
- **IN-SPACe (Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Center):** A government agency created to promote and help the private sector participate in space activities.

- **NSIL (NewSpace India Limited):** This is ISRO's commercial arm, which helps transfer space technologies to private companies and promotes India's space economy.
- The **signing of these 75 TTAs marks a strategic** shift in India's space policy. After recent reforms, more collaborations between the government and private companies show a growing trust in the private sector to contribute to space technology innovation.
- These agreements will help **create new commercial opportunities** while also benefiting society by applying space technology to everyday needs.

Indo-Pacific Economic Framework

- India has signed the **first-of-its-kind agreements** focused on a Clean Economy, Fair Economy, and the overarching **Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF)** in Delaware, USA.
- These agreements were exchanged under the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF) for prosperity yesterday in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who is on a three-day visit to the US for the Quad Summit.



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MS

- The **Agreement on Clean Economy** intends to promote technical cooperation, workforce development, capacity building, and research collaborations. It will facilitate investments and project financing, including concessional financing, as well as joint collaborative projects, with a particular emphasis on supporting Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).
- **The Fair Economy Agreement** seeks to create a more transparent and predictable trade and investment environment across the Indo-Pacific. Meanwhile, **the overarching IPEF Agreement** aims to establish a high-level political oversight framework at the ministerial level for the various individual

IPEF agreements, providing general guidance and goals while aligning with leaders' vision and mandate for the IPEF.

India Food Index

- **Kerala has once again secured** first position in the State Food Safety Index (SFSI) 2024, marking the second consecutive year that the southern state has claimed the spot.
- The report was released in the inaugural session of FSSAI Global Food Regulators Summit 2024. The **Index is an annual assessment released** by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).



- It was started from 2018-19 with the aim of creating a competitive and positive change in the food safety ecosystem in the country.
- The index will help in **providing safe and nutritious food** to our citizens.
- This index is based on the **performance of the State/ UT on five significant** parameters.
- Human Resources and Institutional Data,
- Compliance,
- Food Testing – Infrastructure and Surveillance,
- Training & Capacity Building
- Consumer Empowerment

Longest ISS Flight

- Russian cosmonauts **Oleg Kononenko and Nikolai Chub** have set a new record for the **longest single mission** aboard the International Space Station (ISS), surpassing the previous record held by **cosmonauts Sergei Prokopyev, Dmitry Petelin, and NASA astronaut Francisco Rubio**, who spent 370 days onboard from September 2022 to September 2023.



- **Kononenko and Chub** arrived at the ISS on September 15, 2023, via the Soyuz MS-24 spacecraft and are scheduled to return to Earth on the Soyuz MS-25 on September 23, 2024, totaling 374 days in space.
- The previous record of 370 days, 21 hours, 22 minutes, and 16 seconds was set by **Prokopyev, Petelin, and Rubio**. The all-time record for the longest single space mission remains with **Russian cosmonaut Valery Polyakov**, who spent 437 days, 17 hours, 58 minutes, and 17 seconds on the Mir space station between January 1994 and March 1995.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Who Is Recognized As India's First Civilian Space Tourist And Recently Returned After A Space Journey

- A. Gopichand Thotakura
- B. Rakesh Sharma
- C. Sunita Williams
- D. Kalpana Chawla

ANSWER: A

2. What Is The New Maximum Time For Resolving Citizen Grievances Under The Government Initiative

- A. 30 days
- B. 21 days
- C. 45 days
- D. 60 days

ANSWER: B

3. In Which City Did Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia Inaugurate A Shooting Range Named After Olympic Medallist Manu Bhaker

- A. Bhopal
- B. Gwalior
- C. Indore
- D. Jabalpur

ANSWER: B

4. Which Year Was India's First Magic Theme Park, Magic Planet, Founded In Kerala

- A. 2014
- B. 2016
- C. 2018
- D. 2020

ANSWER: A

5. Which Ministry Recently Launched The “Retired Sportsperson Empowerment Training” Programme

- A. Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports
- B. Ministry of Defence
- C. Ministry of Home Affairs
- D. Ministry of Rural Development

ANSWER: A

6. CM Of Bihar Inaugurated The State-of-the-art Sports Academy And Sports University At Which Place

- A. Patna
- B. Rajgir
- C. Gaya
- D. Nalanda

ANSWER: B

7. “Sabina Shoal”, Is Located In Which Sea

- A. Red Sea
- B. Black Sea
- C. South China Sea
- D. Arabian Sea

ANSWER: C

8. Which Ministry Recently Inaugurated ‘ASSOCHAM Environment And Carbon Conference’ In New Delhi

- A. Ministry of Agriculture
- B. Ministry of New & Renewable Energy
- C. Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
- D. Ministry of Urban Development

ANSWER: C

9. Term “Doubtful Voter” Or “D-voter”, Has Been Primarily Used In Which Northeastern State

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

ANSWER: A

10. Where Was “National Conference Of District Judiciary” Held

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

ANSWER: D

11. Which State Approved A ‘New Digital Policy’ To Regulate Content, Encourage Influencers, Promote Government Initiatives

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

ANSWER: C

12. Which Indian Athlete Created A History By Winning India’s First Bronze Medal In 200m Race At 2024 Paris Paralympics

- A. Palak Kohli
- B. Ekta Bhyan
- C. Karamjyoti Dalal
- D. Preeti Pal

ANSWER: D

13. eShram Portal, Was Launched By Which Ministry

- A. Ministry of Home Affairs
- B. Ministry of Labour and Employment
- C. Ministry of Rural Development
- D. Ministry of Finance

ANSWER: B

14. Nitish Kumar Won Gold Medal In Which Event At The 2024 Paris Paralympics

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

ANSWER: A

15. Which Organization Launched “Vulture Count 2024” Initiative

- A. United Nations Environment Programme
- B. Global Footprint Network
- C. World Wide Fund for Nature-India
- D. Greenpeace

ANSWER: C

16. Which State Government Passed ‘Aparajita Women And Child Bill 2024’

- A. Gujarat
- B. Uttar Pradesh
- C. West Bengal
- D. Assam

ANSWER: C

17. Which Organization Released “India Development Update: India’s Trade Opportunities In A Changing Global Context” Report

- A. World Bank
- B. International Monetary Fund
- C. United Nations Development Programme
- D. International Labour Organization

ANSWER: A

18. Who Appointed As Chairman Mastercard India

- A. Shreya Mittal
- B. Dinesh Kumar
- C. Soma Sankara
- D. Rajnish Kumar

ANSWER: D

19. Bandipur Tiger Reserve, Is Located In Which State

- A. Rajasthan
- B. Bihar
- C. Karnataka
- D. Telangana

ANSWER: C

20. Name Of Cyclone That Recently Formed Over Kutch Coast In Gujarat

- A. Cyclone Gulabi
- B. Cyclone Jawar
- C. Cyclone Asna
- D. Cyclone Satrang

ANSWER: C

21. Pilibhit Tiger Reserve, Is Located In Which State

- A. Uttar Pradesh
- B. Odisha
- C. Gujarat
- D. Rajasthan

ANSWER: A

22. Where Was India's First Conservation And Breeding Centre For The Asian King Vultures Inaugurated

- A. Mussoorie, Himachal Pradesh
- B. Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh
- C. Indore, Madhya Pradesh
- D. Jaisalmer, Rajasthan

ANSWER: B

23. BPaLM Regimen, Is Associated With Which Disease

- A. Malaria
- B. Dengue
- C. Tuberculosis
- D. Typhoid

ANSWER: C

24. Barakah Nuclear Energy Plant, Is Located In Which Country

- A. France
- B. Ukraine
- C. Russia
- D. United Arab Emirates

ANSWER: D

25. What Are “Globba Tyrnaensis And Globba Janakiae”

- A. New species of medicinal herbs
- B. New species of plants from the ginger family
- C. Rare species of cactus
- D. Newly discovered species of frogs

ANSWER: B

26. Which Ministry Organized The “International WASH Conference 2024”

- A. Ministry of Agriculture
- B. Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change
- C. Ministry of Jal Shakti
- D. Ministry of New and Renewable Energy

ANSWER: C

27. What Is The Theme Of Swachhata Hi Seva – 2024 Campaign

- A. Swabhav Swachhata – Sanskaar Swachhata
- B. Swachhata Hi Seva – Ek Sankalp
- C. Swachh Bharat- Harit Bharat
- D. None of the Above

ANSWER: A

28. Jafar Hassan Has Become New Prime Minister Of Which Country

- A. Qatar
- B. Jordan
- C. Iraq
- D. Iran

ANSWER: B

29. Total Financial Outlay Approved By Union Cabinet For “Venus Orbiter Mission

- A. Rs.1236 Cr
- B. Rs.536 Cr
- C. Rs.1539 Cr
- D. Rs.1400 Cr

ANSWER: A

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

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

ANSWER: B

31. Which Ministry Hosted Event “World Food India 2024”

- A. Ministry of Agriculture
- B. Ministry of Food Processing Industries
- C. Ministry of Science and Technology
- D. Ministry of Home Affairs

ANSWER: B

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

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

ANSWER: B

33. INSPIRE–MANAK Scheme, Is Implemented By Which Organizations

- A. Department of Finance and Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)
- B. Department of Science & Technology and National Innovation Foundation (NIF)-
India
- C. National Science Foundation (NSF) and Department of Economics
- D. Department of Education and Indian Space Research Organisation

ANSWER: B

34. Fast Track Immigration-trusted Travellers Programme Expanded To 20 More Airports In India , Is An Initiative Of Which Ministry

- A. Ministry of External Affairs
- B. Ministry of Finance
- C. Ministry of Defence
- D. Ministry of Home Affairs

ANSWER: D

35. Primary Objective Of Indian Government's Directive To Platform Aggregators To Register Their Gig Workers On The e-shram Portal

- A. To provide employment opportunities to gig workers
- B. To provide social security benefits to gig workers
- C. To regulate the gig economy
- D. To collect taxes from gig workers

ANSWER: B

36. Smart Cities Mission Is An Initiative Of Which Ministry

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

ANSWER: B

37. SAMRIDH Scheme, Is A Flagship Programme Of Which Ministry

- A. Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
- B. Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
- C. Ministry of Earth Sciences
- D. Ministry of Science and Technology

ANSWER: A

38. 'Onitis Bordati', Belongs To Which Species

- A. Dung beetle
- B. Spider
- C. Frog
- D. Fish

ANSWER: A

39. Which Country Marked 75 Years Of Diplomatic Relations With India, Commemorated By Joint Stamps

- A. Romania
- B. Poland
- C. Hungary
- D. Bulgaria

ANSWER: A

40. What Is The Name Of The Vehicle That ISRO Is Developing To Enhance India's Space Capabilities

- A. Next Generation Launch Vehicle
- B. Unified Launch Vehicle
- C. Indian Space Launch Vehicle
- D. Lunar Exploration Vehicle

ANSWER: A

