



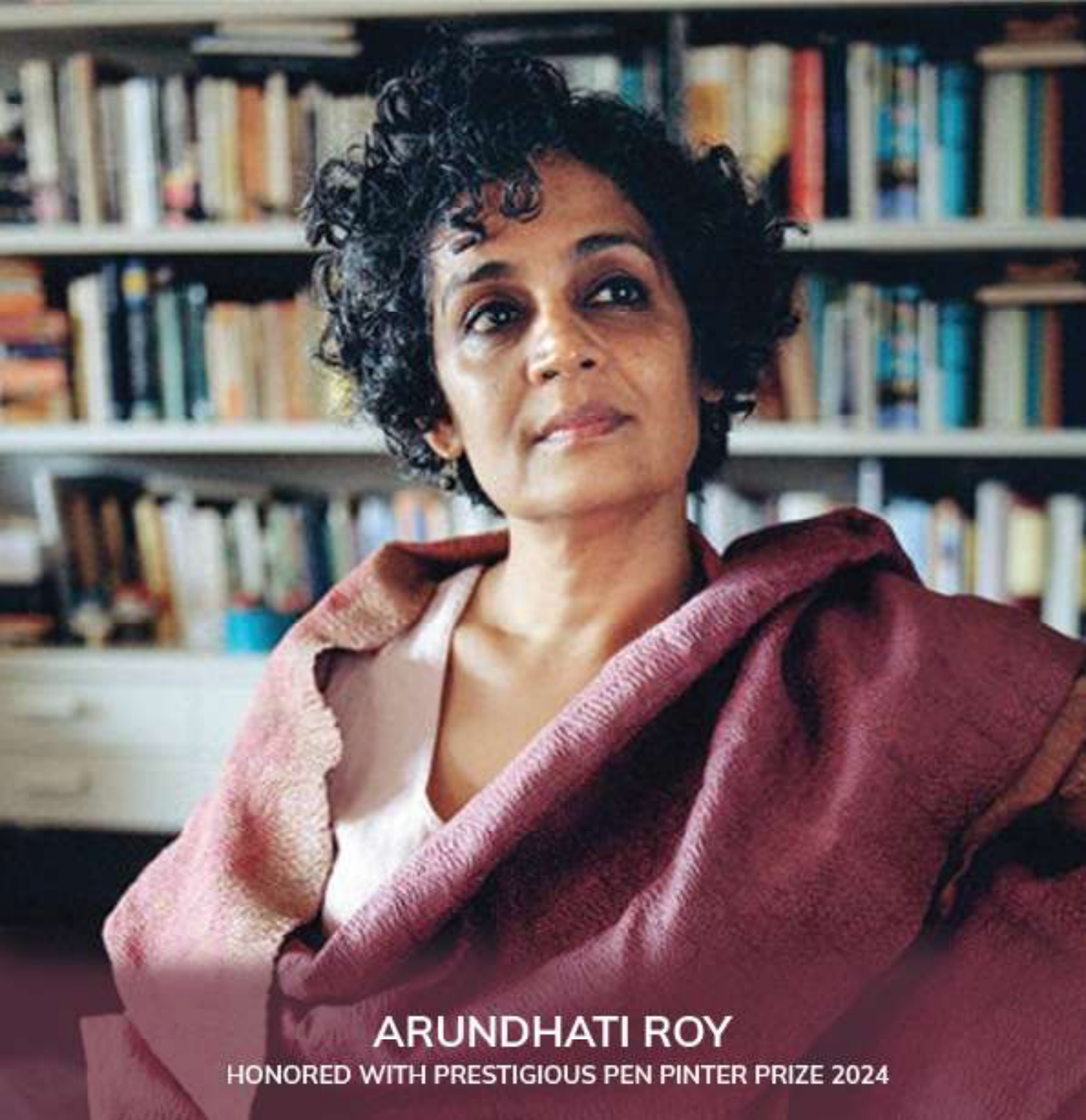
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SANGAMAM

Monthly Current Affairs for Competitive Exams

JUNE - 2024 (English / Tamil)



ARUNDHATI ROY

HONORED WITH PRESTIGIOUS PEN PINTER PRIZE 2024

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JUNE 2024

SANGAMAM

Monthly Current Affairs for TNPSC

JUNE

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Susanna Arundhati Roy

Susanna Arundhati Roy (born 24 November 1961) is an Indian writer. She is a political activist involved in human rights and environmental causes. She will be awarded the 2024 PEN Pinter Prize. Arundhati Roy became the first Indian to win the Man Booker Prize in 1997 for her fiction book 'The God of Small Things'. Her second novel 'The Ministry of Utmost Happiness' was published in 2017. She is also the author of 'Capitalism: A Ghost Story' and 'The Algebra of Infinite Justice'. She has written against human rights abuses, war and capitalism. She is an outspoken critic of the Narendra Modi government and has spoken out about India's declining press freedom under its rule.



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TAMILNADU NEWS

World Bank to support Chennai in achieving zero waste

- The World Bank Board of Executive Directors today approved a \$150 million program to support the Government of Tamil Nadu's vision of making Chennai into a world-class city that is more green, livable, competitive, and resilient to climate change and other shocks.
- The \$150 million Chennai City Partnership: Sustainable Urban Services Program will help strengthen institutions, improve the financial health of service agencies, and drive significant improvements in the quality of four key urban services — water supply and sewerage, mobility, health, and solid waste management.
- The Chennai Metropolitan Area, home to about 10.9 million people, is India's fourth-most populous metropolitan area. Despite being an economic powerhouse, Chennai has not kept pace with growing demand for key services. The coastal city also remains highly vulnerable to natural disasters, climate change and, as the COVID-19 emergency revealed, to pandemics.
- This program will support the Government of Tamil Nadu (GoTN) in its efforts to transform the city and its services, while accelerating Chennai's shift to a lower carbon and a more resilient growth trajectory. It will help GoTN, Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC), and key service agencies adopt new approaches to service delivery and bring a renewed focus on results for citizens.

Artificial islands at Kavinadu Kanmoi

- Work of forming artificial islands at Kavinadu Kanmoi, one of the biggest irrigation tanks in Pudukottai district, has been taken up jointly by the Pudukottai district administration

and Kadamadai Area Integrated Farmers Association (KAIFA)

- As a first step towards formation of artificial islands, removal of seemai karuvelam (prosopis juliflora), an invasive species and weed, in the sprawling tank got under way with the work being inaugurated by Law Minister S. Regupathy and Environment Minister Siva V. Meyyanathan. District Collector I.S. Mercy Ramya was present.
- The silt would be removed before the formation of 10 artificial islands in the irrigation tank. The project was being executed with support from various stakeholders and local farmers, said E. Ashok Raja, Project Director (Climate Change), KAIFA, which is based at Peravurani in neighbouring Thanjavur district.

New Chairperson of the State Human Rights Commission in Tamilnadu

- Former Chief Justice of Kerala High Court, Justice S Manikumar is appointed as the Chairperson of the State Human Rights Commission, Tamil Nadu. The appointment order was issued on June 18, 2024, by the Governor of Tamil Nadu under Section 22 of The Protection of Human Rights Act, 1961. Justice Manikumar would continue as the Chairperson for a period of three years or till he attains the age.

Semmozhi Naal Vizha

- Minister for Tamil Development, Information and Publicity, M.P. Saminathan, announced in the Assembly that January 25 would be observed as 'Tamil Mozhi Thiyagigal Naal' (Tamil language martyrs' day) from 2025. Similarly, June 3, which is the birth anniversary of former Chief Minister and DMK president,

M. Karunanidhi, would be celebrated as 'Semmozhi Naal Vizha'.

- Making further announcements specific to Tamil development department, Mr. Saminathan said essay writing competitions, elocution contests would be held for class XI and XII students and also for college students in every district. The winners would receive cash prize totalling ₹1,88,57,000.

Vembakottai archaeological excavation

- unearthed a woman's head made of flint at Vembakottai-Vijayakaraisalkulam in

Virudhunagar district.

- "In the ongoing third phase of excavation works at Vembakottai- Vijayakaraisalkulam site, a woman's head with aesthetic carvings made of flint about 30.7 mm height and 25.6 mm width has been discovered today." Thangam Thennaitasu, Minister for Finance and Archaeology said.
- The Vembakottai archaeological excavation has revealed that a rich civilisation had existed on the banks of the Vaippar near Sattur, which is on a par with the ancient civilisation found in Keeladi and Porunai civilisation, he said.

Excavation work at Sennanur site

- Informed that the archaeologists of the Tamil Nadu State Department of Archaeology (TNSDA) have unearthed a flint seal in the ongoing excavation work at Sennanur site in Krishnagiri district.
- The flint seal measures 4.5 cm in length and 3.2 cm in diameter, he noted.
- On June 24, a broken Neolithic tool was found in the excavation site in Sennanur.



- Earlier this month, Chief Minister MK Stalin inaugurated exploratory excavations in eight archaeological sites across Tamil Nadu, including Keeladi in Sivaganga and the nearby site of Kondhagai, Vembakottai in Virudhunagar, Keezhamandi in Tiruvannamalai, Porpanakottai in Pudukkottai, Thirumalapuram in Tenkasi, Sennanur in Krishnagiri, Kongalnagaram in Tiruppur and Marungur in Cuddalore districts.

- Sennanur came into the spotlight after bricks dating back to the Sangam period were unearthed last year.
- An early historic site, Sennanur site, revealed terracotta artefacts, russet-coated painted ware, and red and black ware.
- It is also a site where preliminary evidence of brick structures were found.
- According to archeological sources, it is one of three sites where bricks were seen.
- The archeological site at Sennanur is at the foothills spread over 20 acres with archeological imprints 2.5 mtr in depth.
- Sennanur is also flanked by hill caves, where three caves have rock paintings signifying life that predated 5000 years.



Supreme Court reconstitutes committee on gender sensitisation

- The Supreme Court has reconstituted its Gender Sensitisation and Internal Complaints Committee. “In exercise of powers conferred by Clause 4(2) of the Gender Sensitisation and Sexual Harassment of Women at the Supreme Court of India (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Regulations, 2013 and all enabling provisions in this behalf, Hon’ble Chief Justice of India has been pleased to re-constitute the Supreme Court Gender Sensitisation and Internal Complaints Committee,” an office order said.
- The 12-member committee is headed by top court judge Hima Kohli, who is the chairperson.
- The panel also comprises Justice B V Nagarathna, Additional Registrar Sukhda Pritam and senior advocates Meenakshi Arora and Mahalakshmi Pavani.

Mission Karmayogi

- India’s ambitious vision of becoming a global manufacturing hub, a critical exporter of value-added services, and a mass supplier of human skills to an ageing developed world by 2047 hinges on efficient governance and competent civil services.
- Recognising this, the Prime Minister of India launched Mission Karmayogi, the National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building to transform India’s three million civil servants into citizen-centric, future-ready, and result-oriented ‘Karmayogis’.
- Need for Transformation
- Historically, delayed infrastructure projects plagued India. Mega initiatives like Rail Freight Corridors and National Highways often faced setbacks due to inter-ministerial permissions and siloed approaches.

- To address this, the PM Gati Shakti platform emerged as a game-changer.

Six Key Pillars Under Mission Karmayogi

- Policy Framework: Provides strategic direction for capacity-building initiatives.
- Institutional Framework: Establishes the organisational structure to support the program.
- Competency Framework: Defines skills and knowledge required for effective civil service.
- Digital Learning Framework (iGOT-Karmayogi): Comprehensive online learning platform.
- Electronic Human Resource Management System (e-HRMS): Streamlines personnel management processes.
- Monitoring and Evaluation Framework: Ensures continuous improvement and impact assessment.

Transnational Skill Standards in India

- In the quest to align to skill standards which are recognised globally, Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy, Minister of State for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) along with National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) and UK- India Education and Research Initiatives (UKIERI) today announced the launch of “Transnational Skill Standards” in India. These standards in skill development are benchmarked to United Kingdom across 82 identified job roles.
- The event saw signings of Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) that will enable sharing of best practice, staff exchange, and development of new models to increase employer engagement and investment in skills.
- Commenting on the partnership, Shri Rudy said, “Standardisation of vocational education

is crucial in bringing about a level in the efficiency of the skilled workforce. It is our endeavour that we benchmark the standards so as to support international mobility of Indian workforce and also prepare them to work in International Companies establishing their operations in the country.”

World University Ranking

- In the latest edition of the QS World University Ranking released , 61 per cent of Indian universities’ ranking has improved, with IIT Bombay gaining the top spot in India. Globally, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) retained the ‘best institute in the world’ position for the 13th time this year.
- This year, the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IIT-B) has climbed from 149 in 2024 to 118 in the 2025 rankings, that is, a climb of 31 ranks.

Top ranked Indian institutes

- Like last year, IIT Bombay is followed by IIT Delhi and the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru with the two institutes ranked second and third in India, respectively. While IIT Delhi climbed 47 ranks (from 197 last year to 150 this time), IISc jumped from 225 to 211 (14 ranks).

Netherlands emerged as India’s third largest export

- According to the commerce ministry, the Netherlands emerged as India’s third largest export destination after the US and UAE during 2023-24, even as the country’s merchandise shipments dipped by over 3%. In the last fiscal year, the main commodities that registered healthy export growth in the Netherlands included petroleum products (US\$ 14.29 billion), electrical goods, chemicals, and pharmaceuticals.
- India’s trade surplus with the Netherlands increased to US\$ 17.4 billion in the last fiscal year from US\$ 13 billion in 2022-23.
- The Netherlands has piped major destinations such as the UK, Hong Kong, Bangladesh and Germany.
- The data showed that India’s exports to the Netherlands rose by about 3.5% to US\$22.36

billion in 2023-24, compared to US\$21.61 billion in 2022-23.

- In 2021-22 and 2020-21, the outbound shipments to the European country stood at US\$12.55 billion and US\$6.5 billion, respectively. Exports have been registering healthy growth continuously since 2000-01, when India’s exports to that nation were US\$880 million.
- The Netherlands is among India’s top trading partners in Europe, after Germany, Switzerland, the UK, and Belgium. It is also a major investor in India. During the last fiscal year, India received about US\$5 billion in foreign direct investment from the Netherlands, which was US\$2.6 billion in 2022-23.

BRICS

- India wholeheartedly welcomed Egypt, Iran, UAE, Saudi Arabia and Ethiopia joining the BRICS as their representatives attended for the first time a key meeting of the grouping hosted by Russia. Senior diplomat Dammu Ravi led the Indian delegation at the BRICS Foreign Ministers’ Meeting in Nizhny Novgorod, in western Russia.
- The meeting was the first ministerial meeting following BRICS expansion in 2023 when Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE joined Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa as full-fledged BRICS members.
- A joint statement issued after the meeting said the BRICS foreign ministers reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening the framework of BRICS Strategic Partnership under the three pillars of cooperation - politics and security, economy and finance, cultural and people-to-people exchanges.

Container Port Performance Index (CPPI)

- According to an official statement released , nine Indian ports have made it to the global top 100 rankings in the latest edition of the Container Port Performance Index (CPPI). Developed by the World Bank and S&P Global Market Intelligence, the CPPI assesses the resilience, efficiency, and overall performance of ports.

- In 2023, Visakhapatnam Port ranked 19th globally, placing it among the top 20 ports worldwide. Mundra Port also showed impressive progress, securing the 27th position in the current ranking.
- The statement highlighted that Visakhapatnam Port demonstrated strong performance metrics, including 27.5 moves per crane hour, a turnaround time (TRT) of 21.4 hours, and minimal berth idle time. These factors underscore the port's efficiency in handling container ships and significantly influence customer preference.
- Seven other Indian ports also ranked in the top 100. These include Pipavav at 41, Kamarajar at 47, Cochin at 63, Hazira at 68, Krishnapatnam at 71, Chennai at 80, and Jawaharlal Nehru at 96, according to the statement.

IDF regional conference - focus on Asia Pacific

- Aimed at addressing key issues affecting dairy sector, the first IDF regional conference with

a focus on Asia Pacific begin here .

- The Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, the National Dairy Development Board and the International Dairy Federation (IDF) are jointly organising the conference. The 3-day meet, themed “Farmer Centric Innovations in Dairying” will feature deliberations bringing together leaders and experts from the global dairy sector.
- Meenesh Shah, Chairman, NDDB, said India, as the largest milk producing nation in the world, has a great opportunity to draw the attention of the international dairy community to the Asia-Pacific Region.
- He pointed out that the country is self-sufficient in milk production and also largest consumer of milk. “We have been growing at 6 per cent CAGR, despite having challenges like climate issues. These challenges could be largely mitigated by scientific interventions,” he said.

Youngest tribal woman to enter Parliament



- Congress nominee and Minister Satish Jarkiholi's daughter Priyanka Jarkiholi has won from Chikkodi, defeating incumbent MP and BJP leader Annasaheb Jolle. Priyanka Jarkiholi from Chikkodi became the youngest tribal woman to enter Parliament from an unreserved seat in Karnataka since Independence. In fact, the BJP has won all the seats in Mumbai Karnataka, except Chikkodi.

• About Priyanka Jarkiholi

- Priyanka Jarkoli belongs from a politically powerful family. She is one of the three women elected for the Parliament from the state of Karnataka. She is the daughter of Satish Jarkiholi, minister of Public Works Department, Karnataka. Priyanka has done her Masters from the Delhi School of Economics, Delhi University.



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

World's first pig liver transplant

- Chinese doctors have successfully conducted the world's first pig liver transplant into a living cancer patient, using a 10-gene-edited pig organ, at a hospital in east China's Anhui Province.
- According to the hospital, the patient is able to walk freely seven days after the surgery on May 17, and no signs of rejection have been observed. The transplanted liver functions normally, with a daily bile secretion of approximately 200 milliliters, indicating the organ's successful integration and functionality.
- "This marks a genuine xenogeneic pig liver transplant into a living person, paving the way for full liver transplants in the future," said Sun Beicheng, the chief surgeon.

77th World Health Assembly

- At the 77th World Health Assembly, member states approved a draft resolution on improving organ transplantation availability, including human cells and tissues. This year's World Health Assembly was held in Geneva from May 27 to June 1, 2024.
- The resolution tasked countries with developing a global strategy to be presented for adoption in 2026. It also encouraged the establishment of a World Donor Day to raise public awareness and donations.
- The draft urged member states to increase in line with the World Health Organization (WHO) Guiding Principles on Human Cell, Tissue and Organ Transplantation, "the availability of human cells, tissues and organs for transplantation with special attention to developing deceased donation to its maximum therapeutic potential."

- According to the Union health ministry's data, organ donation increased to 16,041 in 2022 from 4,990 in 2013, illustrating.

Chinese Spacecraft Collected Samples from Far Side of Moon

- Chinese space officials say a spacecraft has successfully collected samples from the moon and is headed back toward Earth.
- The unmanned spacecraft, called Chang'e-6, touched down on the lunar surface. It launched May 3 from a Chinese space center in southern China and was carried to space aboard a Long March 5 rocket.
- Space officials and Chinese media said the spacecraft landed in an area of the moon's South Pole, called the Aitken Basin. This area is known as the far side of the moon because it permanently faces away from Earth.
- NASA describes the Aitken Basin as the largest impact basin on the lunar surface. The distance from the basin's lower depths to its highest points is estimated to be over 15 kilometers. That is nearly twice the height of Earth's tallest mountain, Mount Everest.
- The collection operation was completed. Then the spacecraft lifted off from the lunar surface carrying the samples on the trip back to Earth.

First woman President of Mexico

- Climate scientist and former mayor of Mexico City, Claudia Sheinbaum, has been elected as the first woman to be elected as President of Mexico. She will also be the first Jewish leader of Jewish heritage to hold the office, Politico reported.

Maldives bans Israeli passport holders

- The Maldives is eyeing a ban on Israeli passport holders despite concerns for its tourism-dependent economy as public anger mounts in the Muslim-majority nation over the situation in Gaza.
- A Maldivian parliamentary committee is reviewing a bill on the matter. Political insiders in Male, the capital, expect lawmakers on the security and services committee to echo the sentiments that emerged on Monday, when parliamentarians from across the divide spoke in favor of amending the country's immigration act during the preliminary debate. This rare show of bipartisanship was further mirrored by 88 lawmakers who voted unanimously to

support the bill tabled by Meekail Naseem, a member of the opposition Maldivian Democratic Party.

- The Maldives, an Indian Ocean archipelago famed for its luxury resorts, put Israeli holidaymakers on notice earlier this month when the government of President Mohamed Muizzu announced a plan for a passport ban in response to widespread public anger in the nation over the mounting death toll in Gaza. "We're exploring the fastest legal route to this," Minister of Homeland Security and Technology Ali Ihusan told local media. "Our objective is ... to amend the laws in order to stop the entry into Maldives with Israeli passports."

First nation in Southeast Asia to legalize same-sex marriage - Thailand

- Thailand will become the first nation in Southeast Asia to legalize same-sex marriage after the kingdom's Senate approved a marriage equality bill, with supporters calling it a "monumental step forward for LGBTQ+ rights."



- The Senate voted overwhelmingly in favor of passing the bill following a final reading, with 130 senators voting in favor. Only four members opposed the bill.

- The bill still requires endorsement from the king before marriage equality can become reality in Thailand, but this process is considered a formality. The law will then come into effect 120 days after it is published in the royal gazette.

- The result of the vote means that Thailand will become only the third

place in Asia to allow for marriage equality after Taiwan legalized same-sex marriage in 2019 and Nepal in 2023.



ENVIRONMENT NEWS



New blue ant species

- Scientists have discovered a new blue ant species in India's northeastern state of Arunachal Pradesh, sparking more interest in the unique biodiversity of this section of the Himalayas.
- The rare small ant, named *Paraparatrechina neela*, reaches a length of less than 2mm and its body is predominantly metallic blue, except for its antennae, mandibles, and legs.
- It has a triangular head featuring large eyes and a triangular mandible with five teeth.
- The species, named after its distinct blue colour – “neela” in most Indian languages – has been described in a new study, published in the journal *ZooKeys*.

Global groundwater temperature to rise by 2 to 3.5 degrees Celsius

- Groundwater temperatures are projected to rise by 2 to 3.5 degrees Celsius before the end of this century, presenting significant risks to water quality and safety, and threatening ecosystems that depend on this vital resource, according to new research. The study, which is the first to create a global model for groundwater temperature, has predicted the most significant warming in Central Russia, Northern China, parts of North America, and the Amazon rainforest in South America.
- Researchers from the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology in Germany led the study. They highlighted that while much of the focus on climate change has been on weather events and water availability, it is equally important to consider its impact on groundwater, which is crucial for life on Earth. Warming groundwater can adversely affect ecosystems that rely on it.

Nagi and Nakti bird sanctuaries - Under the Ramsar Convention

- Two of Bihar's wetlands have been added to the global list of wetlands of international importance under the Ramsar Convention, taking the total number of highly recognised waterlogged ecosystems in the country to 82, a top official said.
- “The Nagi and Nakti bird sanctuaries, both located in Bihar's Jamui district, are now recognised under the Ramsar Convention. These two new wetlands are man-made reservoirs situated in the Jhajha forest range of Jamui. Their catchments feature dry deciduous forests surrounded by hills,” the Secretary of the Department of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (DEFCC) of Bihar

Catla Among Top 10 Harvested Aquatic Species in 2022

- Catla (*Labeo catla*) was one of the top 10 species of aquatic animals harvested by humans in 2022, according to a new report released by the United Nations on June 7, 2024.
- With over four million tonnes harvested in 2022, catla is eighth on the list of ‘Top ten species items’, The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture 2024 noted.
- The species is “endemic to the riverine system in northern India, Indus plain and adjoining hills of Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal and Myanmar, and has been introduced later into almost all riverine systems, reservoirs and tanks all over India”, according to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), which has brought out the report.
- Catla used to be traditionally farmed in the ponds of eastern Indian states from where it spread across the country during the second half of the 20th century.

- Catla as well as two other important Indian carps – Rohu (*Labeo rohita*), and Mrigal (*Cirrhinus mrigala*) – are three of the most farmed fish in India's inland fisheries.
- Whiteleg shrimp (*Penaeus vannamei*), with 6.8 million tonnes, was the top aquatic animal species produced in 2022.

New specie discovered - *Buroni* *manfredschmidi*

- Scientists have discovered a new species of great ape which lived 11 million years ago and only ever grew to the size of a human toddler, making it the smallest known to science.
- The now-extinct ape species, which has been named *Buroni* *manfredschmidi*, was uncovered at the Hammerschmiede fossil site in Bavaria.
- Researchers found partial remains of two teeth and one knee cap, or patella, whose size and shape are distinct from those of any known ape.
- They estimate that the full body size of the ape was around 10kg, making *Buroni* the smallest great ape ever discovered.
- Based on the fossil specimen, scientists say *Buroni* was an adept climber who ate a diet of soft foods like leaves.

South India's first and the country's largest leopard safari

- South India's first and the country's largest leopard safari was inaugurated at the Bannerghatta Biological Park (BBP).
- As per Central Zoo Authority guidelines for safaris: An area of 20 hectares has been demarcated and fenced for the safari.
- About Bannerghatta National Park
- Location: It is located near Bangalore, Karnataka, in the hills of the Anekal range.
- It was declared as a National Park in 1974.
- River: Suvarnamukhi stream, the main source of water for the animals of the park, runs

through the centre of the park.

- Bannerghatta Biological Park(BBP)
- In 2004: BBP was carved out of the Bannerghatta National Park (BNP) and brought under the Zoo Authority of Karnataka (ZAK).
- It is the first biological park in India to have a fenced forested elephant sanctuary.
- BBP has four divisions: the zoo, the safari, the butterfly park and the rescue centre.
- The valley of Champakadhama hills is inside the park.
- In 2006: India's first butterfly enclosure was inaugurated at the park
- Flora:
 - Include *Narcissus latifolia*, *Schleichera oleosa*, Sandalwood, Neem, Tamarind, Bamboo, Eucalyptus etc.
- Fauna:
 - Endangered Asian Elephant, varieties of butterflies, Leopard, Chital, Barking Deer, Striped Hyena, Porcupine, Peafowl, Indian gaur, Tiger, Sambar deer, Spotted deer, Wild dog, Wild pig, Sloth bear, , etc.
- About Indian Leopard
 - The Indian Leopard (*Panthera pardus fusca*) is a leopard subspecies that is widespread throughout the Indian subcontinent.
 - They are the smallest of the big cats.
 - A nocturnal animal, feeds on smaller species of herbivores found in its range, such as the chital, hog deer and wild boar.
 - They are noted for their capacity to adapt to a range of environments.
 - They are strong and agile predators capable of climbing trees and dragging their victim to safety.
 - Conservation status: Vulnerable (IUCN Red List).
 - Appendix I of CITES and Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972

Indian Scientists Discover Two New Plant Species

- Indian botanists have recently discovered two new plant species in two distinct biogeographic hotspots: the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Arunachal Pradesh. These findings highlight the diversity of India's plants and the importance of continuing to protect them.
- Discovery In The Andaman And Nicobar Islands
- A group of scientists lead by Lal Ji Singh discovered a new species, *Dendrophthoe longensis*, on the Long Islands in the central Andamans. This plant is in the mistletoe family and possesses aerial stem parasites that make it unique. *Dendrophthoe longensis* grows on mango trees (*Mangifera indica*) near the margins of evergreen forests. It possesses incredible hemiparasitic adaptations, but habitat loss and human activity put it at risk.

Discovery In Arunachal Pradesh

- Krishna Chowlu's team made another big discovery in the Mandla region of West Kameng district, Arunachal Pradesh. They discovered a new herbaceous plant species, *Petrocosmea arunachalense*. It was lurking in a cave, which indicates that it does not require much sunshine. The Gesneriaceae family now includes a new member. This species is completely white, with purple dots and a hairy texture.

About *Dendrophthoe Longensis*

- *Dendrophthoe longensis* is a parasitic plant from Asia that belongs to the Loranthaceae family. Its haustorium is unusual, allowing it to cling to and absorb nutrients from host trees. It relies on its host for nourishment, as opposed to most plants, which produce food primarily through photosynthesis. This species dwells largely in tropical forests and can have a significant impact on the health of host trees by depleting their resources, potentially causing their photosynthetic ability to decline. Sunbirds, flowerpeckers, and other birds can pollinate its blooms, which is critical for reproduction. *Dendrophthoe longensis* has a wide range of effects on its habitat, including changes in tree growth and bird populations.

About *Petrocosmea Arunachalense*

- *Petrocosmea arunachalense* is a rare plant

species belonging to the Gesneriaceae family. It was first named in 2012 and is indigenous to Arunachal Pradesh. This perennial plant grows in rosette formations and prefers the wet, gloomy conditions common in subtropical woodlands. It features gorgeous blue flowers that are unique to this species of *Petrocosmea* and help it stand out. The plant is mostly found in Talle Valley Wildlife Sanctuary, where it thrives on rocky soils that provide significant microhabitats for the area's species diversity. Because it is difficult to locate and may have its habitat altered, conservation activities are critical.

Discovered a new snake eel species - Odisha

- Scientists from the Zoological Survey of India's regional centre in Gopalpur, Odisha, discovered a new snake eel species, *Ophichthus Suryai*, in various estuarine ecosystems across the state.
- The discovery, confirmed through detailed morphological, meristic, and molecular analysis, honours Surya Kumar Mohanty, a former joint director of the state fishery department.

Discovery of *Ophichthus Suryai*:

- Location: Specimens were collected from the Subarnarekha river at Talasara in Balasore district, Paradip in Jagatsinghpur district, and Bahuda river near Sunapur in Ganjam district.
- Identification: The species was identified and confirmed through DNA analysis and morphological studies conducted at the ZSI laboratory in Gopalpur.

Unique Characteristics:

- Distinguishing Features: The new species differs from its congeners (*Ophichthus alleni*, *Ophichthus zophistius*, and *Ophichthus altipennis*) by having the dorsal fin origin just above or slightly anterior to the gill opening.
- Vertebral Count and Teeth Patterns: Unique vertebral count and teeth patterns consisting of multiple rows on both maxilla and mandible.
- Genus Identification: Initially identified to belong to the genus *Ophichthus* through examination of morphological, meristic, and molecular characters.

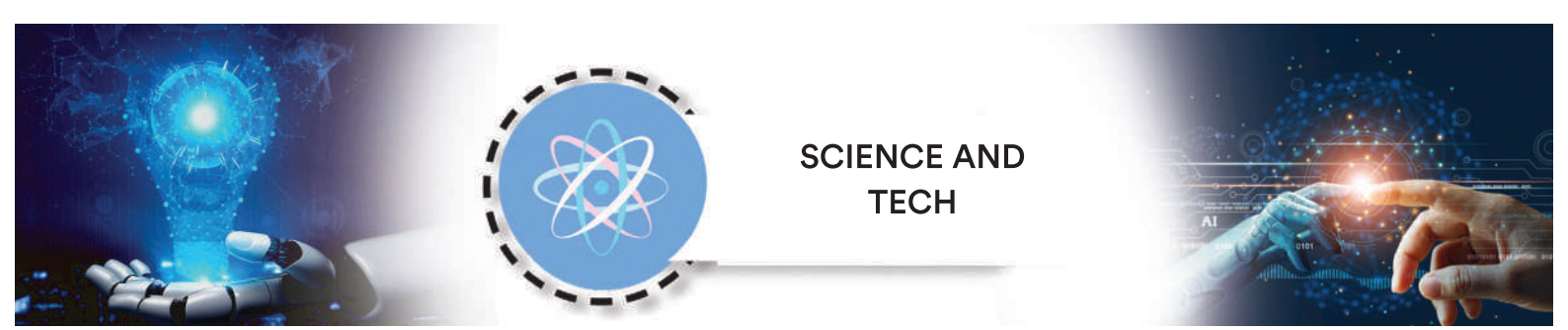
World's first Asian King Vulture conservation and breeding center-Uttar Pradesh



- The world's first conservation and breeding center for the critically endangered Asian king vulture is set to open in Uttar Pradesh's Maharajganj district. The center, named Jatayu Conservation and Breeding Centre (JCBC), is spread over 1.5 hectares and is designed to maintain a sustainable population of the species by breeding king vultures in captivity and releasing them into the wild. The JCBC, worth

approximately Rs 15 crore, features multiple aviaries, including breeding and holding aviaries, nursery aviaries for juveniles, hospital and recovery aviaries, a food processing center, and an incubation center.

- JCBC Aims to Breed at Least 40 Vultures in a 15-year Project
- The Asian king vulture, protected under the Wildlife Protection Act, is localized primarily to northern India and has been listed as critically endangered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List since 2007 due to the widespread use of diclofenac in veterinary medicine in India, which caused a population collapse in recent years. Veterinary usage of diclofenac has been banned in India, and the JCBC aims to raise at least 40 vultures in captivity over 15 years to ensure the sustainable conservation of the species.



SCIENCE AND TECH

Agnibaan Mission

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has lately begun to assist the country's commercial space industry in its growth. This became obvious following the successful launch of Agnibaan SOrTeD into suborbital space by M/s Agnikul Cosmos, an Indian startup. ISRO provided extensive technical assistance and experience, demonstrating its commitment to assisting the country in developing a robust space economy.

Technical Assistance For The Agnibaan Mission

- The Satish Dhawan Space Centre SHAR (SDSC SHAR) of ISRO was critical to the Agnibaan mission. They assisted in determining a suitable location for the suborbital flight, as well as in establishing the launchpad and control centre. The launch pad, control centre, and ISRO's main control centre were all linked to a robust network for data and communication at this location. SDSC SHAR also developed safety protocols and ensured that all operations were completed promptly and carefully. This includes organizing launch clearances and issuing Notices to Airmen (NOTAMs). They also assisted with logistics, sending critical information for flight planning and establishing launch standards.
- The successful launch of the Agnibaan rocket powered by the world's first single-piece 3D-printed semi-cryogenic engine is a momentous occasion for India's space sector and a testament to the remarkable ingenuity of our Yuva Shakti.

Two newly discovered galaxies

- The James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) has once again expanded our understanding of the universe. Astronomers using the powerful infrared telescope have discovered what appear to be the two earliest and most distant galaxies ever observed, dating back to just 300 million

years after the Big Bang. This groundbreaking discovery, detailed in a recent paper published on the preprint server arXiv, not only pushes the boundaries of our knowledge about the cosmic dawn but also raises new questions about galaxy formation in the early universe. Discovery of ancient galaxies by James Webb telescope

Breaking previous records

- The two newly discovered galaxies, named JADES-GS-z14-0 and JADES-GS-z14-1, set new records for the earliest known galaxies, surpassing the previous record holders discovered by JWST last year, which dated to approximately 330 million years after the Big Bang.

Satellite mission Trishna for monitor climate change

- In a major boost to global efforts to monitor and mitigate climate change, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is collaborating with the French Space Agency CNES on an ambitious new satellite mission called Trishna.
- Short for Thermal infraRed Imaging Satellite for High-resolution Natural resource Assessment, Trishna is engineered to deliver high spatial and temporal resolution observations of Earth's surface temperature, vegetation health, and water cycle dynamics.
- Slated for launch in 2025, Trishna will be a game-changer in using space-based thermal infrared imaging to study the impacts of climate change and support sustainable management of precious natural resources like water.

RLV landing experiment (RLV LEX)

- Bengaluru, June 9. The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is all set to carry out the 3rd and final RLV landing experiment (RLV

LEX), taking its Reusable Launch Vehicle (RLV) programme one more step closer to reality experiment (RLV LEX).

- S Unnikrishnan Nair, Director, Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC), said a Mission Readiness Review (MRR) held on June 7, cleared the mission for the first half of June, subject to weather conditions, at the Aeronautical Test Range at Chitradurga, Karnataka.
- “We are scaling up the difficulty level with the third and final mission,” Dr. Unnikrishnan Nair said.
- RLV-LEX missions involve taking an unmanned winged prototype, christened Pushpak, to a designated height and releasing it to land safely under varying conditions.
- In LEX-03, Pushpak will be carried to a height of 4.5 km and 500 metres to one side of the runway using an IAF Chinook helicopter and released. In LEX-02, the second mission, the altitude was the same but the lateral distance from the runway was 150 metres.

ISRO's Aditya-L1

- ISRO's Aditya-L1 spacecraft's two onboard remote sensing instruments have captured the recent solar fury, the space agency said. India's maiden solar mission Aditya-L1 reached the Lagrangian point (L1) on January six this year, 127 days after it was launched on September two, 2023. L1 is located roughly 1.5 million km from Earth and enables the spacecraft to view the Sun continuously.
- The Solar Ultra Violet Imaging Telescope (SUIT) and the Visible Emission Line Coronagraph (VELC) have captured the dynamic activities of the Sun during May 2024, ISRO said in a statement.
- “Several X-class and M-class flares, associated with Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs), leading to significant geomagnetic storms, were recorded,” it said.
- The Active region AR13664 on the Sun, during its passage during the week of May 8-15, erupted several X-class and M-class flares, which were associated with CMEs during May 8 and 9. These produced a major geomagnetic storm on May 11, it was stated.

- ISRO released the Sun images acquired by the SUIT payload on May 17, and also shared details of the observations made by VELC.

Shukrayaan -ISRO

- By December 2024, the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) hopes to launch the Venus mission Shukrayaan, according to the organization's chairman.
- Two additional robotic missions to Venus, DaVinci Plus and Veritas, were announced by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

Venus Mission: Shukrayaan 2024

- The ISRO is planning more ambitious missions like Gaganyaan and Shukrayaan for the future as a result of the success of Chandrayaan and Mangalyaan.
- In order to investigate beneath the surface of the hottest planet in the solar system and to solve the secrets hidden beneath the sulfuric acid clouds that encircle it, the ISRO is now preparing a spacecraft to orbit Venus.
- The launch window for December 2024 is being considered, and orbital maneuvers are scheduled for the following year, when Venus and Earth will be in such an alignment that the spacecraft may enter its orbit with the least amount of propellant.

The proposed experiments consist of:

- Examining the structure, content, and dynamics of the atmosphere; investigating the surface processes and shallow subsurface stratigraphy; researching active volcanic hotspots and lava flows; and investigating the interaction of the solar wind with the Venusian Ionosphere

Shukrayaan-I

- Depending on how it is ultimately configured, the orbiter might carry up to 100 kg of science equipment with 500 W of electricity available.
- It is anticipated that the first elliptical orbit around Venus will measure 500 km at periapsis and 60,000 km at apoapsis.
- The GSLV Mk II rocket is scheduled to carry the satellite into orbit.
- Sweden is joining India's “Shukrayaan” Venus orbiter mission with a scientific tool to study

the planet.

- Venusian Neutrals Analyzer (VNA), a satellite instrument of the Institute of Space Physics (IRF), will investigate the interactions between charged particles from the Sun and the planet's atmosphere and exosphere.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) system in Pench Tiger Reserve in Maharashtra

- The Pench Tiger Reserve in Maharashtra has launched an advanced Artificial Intelligence (AI) system for early detection of forest fires, according to a statement on June 26, 2024.
- This state-of-the-art system features a high-resolution camera, with a visual range of 15 kilometres. This means it can effectively cover more than 350 sq km of the tiger reserve.
- The pan-tilt-zoom or PTZ camera has been

installed on an already existing tower which is situated on one of the highest hills of Pench (around 540 mean sea level in height).

- The hill, on which the tower is located, is near the Kirringisarra village. The settlement lies almost at the centre of Pench. The other component of the system is a control room, located in the West Pench range office in Kolitmara.
- Fifteen commercial satellite services are integrated into the system, which the Pench authorities claim is “a pioneering approach in forest fire management”. Alerts received from several satellites will add to the alerts detected by the camera.
- “The AI-powered platform, known as Pantera, leverages both the camera feed and satellite-based data to provide real-time alerts of forest fires within 3 minutes,” the statement noted.

Drone for fire rescue assistance



- A group of teachers and students at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Dharwad, directed by Profs. Sudheer Siddapureddy and Ameer Mulla, with funding from the TiHAN Foundation, IIT Hyderabad (NMICPS, Indian government), has created a drone for fire rescue assistance. During the two-day workshop on Drone design and autonomous navigation in fire rescue (DDANFR 2024), organized by the Fire and Thermal Research Laboratory (FLRL) and

the Control System and Robotics Laboratory at IIT Dharwad on May 31 and June 1, there was an unveiling and demonstration of what is purported to be the first fire rescue assistance drone.

About Fire Fighting Drone

- Drones with thermal cameras installed on them, or drones with thermal imaging capabilities, are frequently used by firefighters. The infrared radiation that objects, including flames, emanate can be detected and captured by the specialist thermal sensors fitted to these drones. Thermal drones assist firefighters with hotspot identification, fire spread tracking, and flame intensity assessment by evaluating temperature differences in the acquired photos. Especially at night or in low visibility situations, thermal drones are extremely useful for early fire detection, situational awareness, and assisting firefighting efforts.



SPORTS NEWS



Ultimate Fighting Championship

- Puja Tomar became the first-ever Indian to win a bout at the Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC) in UFC Louisville 2024.
- She defeated Rayanne Dos Santos of Brazil by a split decision of 30-27, 27-30, 29-28 in the women's strawweight division.

Neeraj Chopra win the Gold medal at the Paavo Nurmi Games



- Olympic Gold medallist Neeraj Chopra made a remarkable return to win the Gold medal at the Paavo Nurmi Games 2024 in Finland on Tuesday, June 18 with an impressive throw of 85.97m in an eight-man field.
- This was Chopra's third event of the season as he missed the Ostrava Golden Spike athletics meet in Czechia last month as a precautionary measure due to an injury. However, Neeraj Chopra's performance in Finland has reaffirmed his top form as he prepares for the Paris Olympics next month. His best throw of 85.97m, achieved on his third attempt, was enough to win the gold medal.

India won the ICC Men T20 World cup 2024

- India secured their first ICC title since the

2013 Champions Trophy by winning the ICC T20 World Cup in Barbados.

- This victory was seen as the end of a drought in major ICC tournaments.

About:

- The T20 World Cup, first played in 2007, is an international cricket championship, usually held once every two years.
- While the T20 World Cup began as a 12-team competition in 2007, it was expanded to 16 teams from the 2014 edition.
- The 2024 edition had 20 sides competing in four groups.

India's Journey Over the Years:

- India won the first men's Twenty20 World Cup in South Africa, defeating Pakistan in the final led by MS Dhoni.
- India finished runners-up in 2014, losing to Sri Lanka in the final.

Player of the Match: Virat Kohli

Player of the Tournament: Jasprit Bumrah

Most wickets in a T20 WC Edition:

- 17 - Arshdeep Singh (IND, 2024)

Lowest Economy Rate in a T20 WC Edition:

- 4.17 - Jasprit Bumrah (2024)
- Only the 3rd time a team won the T20 WC final while defending the target after India in 2007 and West Indies in 2012.
- India became the first team to win a T20 World Cup by being unbeaten through the tournament.
- Post World Cup win, three Indian players namely, Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma, and Ravindra Jadeja have announced their retirement from T20 internationals.
- BCCI, the cricket governing body of India has announced Rs 125 crore prize money for Team India after the T20 World Cup win.



AWARDS

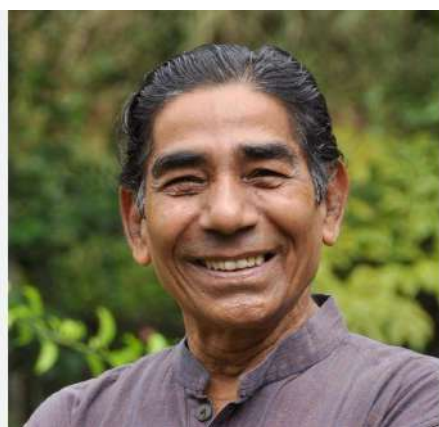
Nelson Mandela Award for Health Promotion



- The National Institute of Mental Health & Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS) in Bengaluru has been honored with the Nelson Mandela Award for Health Promotion for 2024 by the World Health Organization (WHO).
- Established by WHO in 2019, the Nelson Mandela Award for Health Promotion acknowledges individuals, institutions, and organizations that have made significant contributions to health promotion. This year, NIMHANS was recognized for its exceptional work in mental health.

Guldeppa Hallikeri Award

- Poet and playwright Siddhalinga Pattanashetti



has been chosen for the prestigious Guldeppa Hallikeri Award for 2024 by the Guldeppa Hallikeri Memorial Foundation, Hosaritti (Haveri District). Veeranna Chekki, senior

trustee of the Guldeppa Hallikeri Memorial foundation of Hosaritti, Haveri District announced. This is the 19th award and will be presented in the honour of the birth anniversary of Guldeppa Hallikeri on 6 June.

About Guldeppa Hallikeri

- Indian freedom fighter Guldeppa Hallikeri (1906–1972) was a native of Hosaritti, in the Haveri district of the state of Karnataka. In Hosaritti, he founded the Gandhi Grameena Gurukul, a residential school. Hallikeri used nonviolent protests and peace demonstrations to collaborate with numerous other liberation fighters, including Mailara Mahadevappa, Sanikoppa, and Mahatma Gandhi. In his last hometown of Hubli, there is a life-size iron wrought statue of Hallikeri. Hallikeri and Aluru Venkata Rao collaborated actively on the unification of Karnataka. One of the colleges in North Karnataka bearing his name is the Guldeppa Hallikeri Arts, Science & Commerce College, run by the Karnatak Lingayat Education Society, located in Haveri.
- The Guldeppa Hallikeri Award honors those who have made significant achievements to literature, society, or social service. It bears the name of Guldeppa Hallikeri, a well-known liberation warrior who shared Mahatma Gandhi's beliefs.

Best Conduct of Business Regulator' award

- Sebi has been given 'Best Conduct of Business Regulator' award in Asia Pacific by The Asian Banker for its role in enhancing the regulatory framework for securities markets in India.
- The award was received by Sebi's Whole Time Member Kamlesh Chandra Varshney in a ceremony held in Hong Kong.
- "This authority (Sebi) has been actively working towards instantaneous settlement.

In 2021, T+1 settlement was introduced in a phased manner, which was fully implemented from January 2023. This move has provided investors with faster access to their funds following trade execution and settlement, enhancing market efficiency and liquidity,” The Asian Banker said in a statement.

Bala Sahitya Puraskar & Yuva Puraskar Award

- The ‘Bala Sahitya Puraskar’ for children’s literature of the year has been announced for writer Yuma Vasuki and the ‘Yuva Puraskar’ for writer Lokesh Raguraman.
- The ‘Bala Sahitya Puraskar’ award for children’s literature of the year was announced today (June 15) in Delhi. Writer Yuma Vasuki has been selected for the award for Tamil language. He has received this award for his book ‘Tanvi’s Birthday’.
- Yuma Vasuki hails from Pattukottai in Thanjavur district. His original name was D. Marimuthu. He is multi-talented as a translator, painter and writer. In 2017, he was awarded the Sahitya Akademi Award for translating the book ‘Kasakinda Itikasam’ written by Malayalam writer OV Vijayan into Tamil.
- ‘Yuva Puraskar’ Award: The ‘Yuva Puraskar’ Award is given annually by the Sahitya Akademi to encourage young Indian writers below 35 years of age who are writing well in Indian languages and English. Writer Lokesh Raguraman’s short story collection ‘Vishnu Anari’ has been selected for the 2024 Tamil Language Award.
- Lokesh Raguraman hails from Tiruvarur district. Working in computer industry in Bangalore. His various works like Vishnu Ahri, Neer Padumaragam, Aroma, Atu Ne have received much attention.
- The shortlisted writers will be presented with a check of Rs 50,000 and a copper plaque at a special function to be held later in New Delhi.

2024 PEN Pinter Literary Prize

- Booker Prize winner Arundhati Roy has been chosen for the 2024 PEN Pinter Literary Prize for her courageous and unswerving

writing. The award to Arundhati Roy comes after the Lieutenant Governor of Delhi, V.K. Saxena, sanctioned her prosecution under the preventive detention law Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act 1967 this month.

- Arundhati Roy will receive her award at a ceremony to be held in October in London, England.
- Arundhati Roy joins a list of literary giants like Salman Rushdie, Margaret Atwood, Tom Stoppard, Carol Ann Duffy and Malorie Blackman, who have previously won the prize.

PEN Pinter Award

- The PEN(Poet, Playwright, Editors Essayist, Novelist) Pinter Award was instituted in memory of playwright Harold Pinter in 2009. Harold Pinter, who was a citizen of Great



Britain, won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 2005.

- The annual award is given to a writer who is a resident of the United Kingdom, the Republic of Ireland, or the Commonwealth. The award is given to “outstanding literary merit” writers who cast their “unflinching” gaze on the world.
- The award is given to writers in the English language who have produced outstanding literary work in plays, poetry, essays, or fiction.
- Arundhati Roy was selected for this year’s award by a panel comprising English PEN chair Ruth Borthwick, actor Khalid Abdalla and writer Roger Robinson.
- The PEN Pinter jury praised Arundhati Roy’s literary work for her incisive commentary on wide-ranging issues ranging from environmental degradation to human rights abuses.

About Arundhati Roy

- Arundhati Roy is the first Indian to win the prestigious Booker Prize in 1997 for her fiction 'The God of Small Things'.
- Her second novel, 'The Ministry of Utmost Happiness' was published in 2017.
- She is also the author of Capitalism: A Ghost Story and The Algebra of Infinite Justice.
- She has written against the abuse of human rights, war and capitalism. She is an outspoken critic of the Narendra Modi government and has spoken about India's declining press freedoms during its tenure.
- She faces prosecution for her comment made at an event in New Delhi in 2010 for saying that Kashmir was never an integral part of India.

Sustainable Governance Champion Award

- Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE) Ltd. has been honoured with the "Sustainable Governance Champion Award" at the Outlook Planet Sustainability Summit & Awards 2024. This recognition highlights GRSE's unwavering commitment to sustainable practices and governance excellence.

About Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE) Ltd.

- Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Ltd, abbreviated as GRSE, is one of India's leading shipyards, located in Kolkata. It builds and

repairs commercial and naval vessels. GRSE also exports the ships that the company builds. Founded in 1884 as a small privately-owned company on the eastern bank of the Hooghly River, it was renamed as Garden Reach Workshop in 1916. GRSE was nationalised by the Government of India in 1960. The company was awarded the Miniratna public sector undertaking status, with accompanying financial and operational autonomy in September 2006. GRSE is the first Indian shipyard to build 100 warships.

Ulaga Tamil Beeda Viruthu



- Poet Indumathi is to be conferred with the "World Tamil Faculty" award of the Council of North American Tamil Associations for the year 2023. In the 37th Assembly function, the World Tamil Faculty Award will be given to Poet Vidumathi. The World Tamil Foundation Award is the highest award given to Tamil writers in North America. The awardee will receive a cash prize of Rs.12.50 lakh in Indian currency and a commemorative plaque.



IMPORTANT DAYS



DATE	DAYS	THEME AND OBJECTIVES
June 1	World milk day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> June 1 was chosen as it corresponded with many Milk Day celebrations in many countries. This year's theme emphasizes the essential contribution of dairy in providing high-quality nutrition to support global health and well-being. Milk contains almost all the nutrients essential for human beings. This year's theme focuses on dairy (milk and other milk products) and its role in giving people the nutrients they need to stay healthy. The idea is to highlight how dairy contributes to a balanced diet and helps nourish people around the globe.
June 3	World Bicycle Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Since its establishment in 2018, World Bicycle Day has been marked annually on 3 June by advocates in many countries. Adopted through a UN General Assembly resolution spearheaded by the Government of Turkmenistan, World Bicycle Day recognizes "the uniqueness, longevity and versatility of the bicycle... a simple, affordable, reliable, clean and environmentally fit sustainable means of transport, fostering environmental stewardship and health." The theme for this year's World Bicycle Day is Promoting Health, Equity, and Sustainability through Cycling. Bicycles are one of the oldest and most essential means of transportation. Cycling is not only enjoyable but also a healthy and environmentally friendly mode of transport.
June 3	Father's Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Father's Day is a celebration honouring fathers and celebrating fatherhood, paternal bonds, and the influence of fathers in society. Many countries celebrate it on the third Sunday of June, though it is also celebrated widely on other days by many other countries.
June 4	International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Every year, International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression is observed to raise awareness about the innocent children who went through terrorising experiences in their lives and what we can do to uphold the rights of children and the victims of aggression.

June 5	World Environment Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Environment Day was established in 1972 by the United Nations at the Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment (5–16 June 1972), that had resulted from discussions on the integration of human interactions and the environment. One year later, in 1973, the first WED was held with the theme "Only One Earth". This year's World Environment Day campaign focused on land restoration, desertification and drought resilience under the slogan "Our land. Our future. We are #GenerationRestoration." The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia hosted the 2024 World Environment Day global celebrations.
June 7	World Food Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Food Safety Day on 7 June aims to draw attention and inspire action to help prevent, detect and manage foodborne risks, contributing to food security, human health, economic prosperity, agriculture, market access, tourism and sustainable development. This year's theme is "Food Safety: Prepare for the Unexpected." As per the WHO, "This year's theme underlines the importance of being prepared for food safety incidents, no matter how mild or severe they can be".
June 8	World Oceans Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The UN marks the Day each year on 8 June through an annual event which provides an opportunity to celebrate the importance of the ocean and to better understand how to interact with it in a sustainable manner. In 2008, the United Nations General Assembly decided that, as of 2009, 8 June would be designated by the United Nations as "World Oceans Day". We need to work together to create a new balance with the ocean that no longer depletes its bounty but instead restores its vibrancy and brings it new life. "Awaken New Depths" is the theme for World Oceans Day 2024
June 12	World Day Against Child Labour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The International Labour Organization (ILO) launched the World Day Against Child Labour in 2002 to focus attention on the global extent of child labour and the action and efforts needed to eliminate it. "Let's act on our commitments: End Child Labour" is the theme of World Day Against Child Labour 2024. The International Labor Organization (ILO) is committed to ensuring that all children, particularly those at risk from child labour, have safe and healthy working conditions.

June 14	World Blood Donor Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The event serves to raise awareness of the need for safe blood and blood products and to thank voluntary, unpaid blood donors for their life-saving gifts of blood. World Blood Donor Day 2024 theme: This year World Blood Donor Day marks its 20th anniversary. Therefore, this year's theme is '20 years of celebrating giving: thank you blood donors!'
June 15	World Elder Abuse Awareness Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) was launched on June 15, 2006 by the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse and the World Health Organization at the United Nations. World Elder Abuse Awareness Day 2024: This year, the theme of WEAAD is 'Spotlight on Older Persons in Emergencies.'
June 16	International integration day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This day celebrated annually on June 16th, serves as a reminder of the significance of embracing diversity and working together for a better future. This blog mainly explores the importance of international integration and the positive impact it has on global development and societal harmony.
June 17	World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought is a United Nations observance celebrated each year on 17 June. Its purpose is to raise awareness of the presence of desertification and drought, highlighting methods of preventing desertification and recovering from drought. This year, the theme of the Desertification and Drought Day "United for Land. Our Legacy."
June 19	World Sickle Cell Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Sickle Cell Day is observed on June 19 every year. It is an annual event which aims to raise awareness about sickle cell disease globally. The day also highlights the challenges that patients and their caregivers face. The theme for World Sickle Cell Day 2024 is "Hope Through Progress: Advancing Sickle Cell Care Globally." This year's theme aims to bring people together to raise awareness, eliminate stigma and drive meaningful change for the millions affected by this disease.



June 20	World Refugee Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Refugee Day is an international day designated by the United Nations to honour refugees around the globe. It falls each year on June 20 and celebrates the strength and courage of people who have been forced to flee their home country to escape conflict or persecution. The theme for World Refugee Day 2024 is “Everyone is Welcome.” This theme highlights the need for global unity and inclusion in supporting refugees. It envisions a world where refugees are actively embraced, offered assistance, and given the opportunity to rebuild their lives in safety and dignity.
June 21	World Music Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The first International World Music Day was celebrated in 1982 on the day of Summer Solstice. The event took place in Paris at Fête de la Musique. Jack Lang, a French Politician and music journalist conceptualized the idea with Maurice Fleuret, a music composer and radio producer, of commemorating World Music Day. Faites de la musique is the slogan for celebrating World Music Day. Faites de la musique translates to the motivating slogan of – Make music. It urges people to come out of their homes and make the world a better place with their music.
June 21	International Day of Yoga	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The International Day of Yoga is a day in recognition of Yoga, that is celebrated across the world annually on 21 June, following its adoption by the United Nations in 2014. The theme for International Yoga Day 2024 is "Yoga for Self and Society." This theme emphasizes the two-fold benefits of yoga practice: enhancing personal well-being and fostering a more positive and harmonious society.
June 23	United Nations Public Service Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The United Nations Public Service Day is celebrated on June 23 of every year. The UN Public Service Day was designated by the United Nations General Assembly's resolution A/RES/57/277, adopted on December 20th, 2002, to “celebrate the value and virtue of public service to the community”. The day Celebrated by under the theme 'Fostering Innovation amid Global Challenges: a Public Sector Perspective'.
June 23	International Olympics Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In January 1948, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) approved the idea of Olympic Day to commemorate the creation of the IOC on 23 June 1894 in Paris, a sort of “ birthday ” of the Olympic Movement at the 42nd IOC Session in St Moritz, Switzerland. The theme of the International Olympics Day 2024 is ' Let's Move and Celebrate.'

June 26	International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking International Anti-Drugs Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The day serves as an annual reminder of the need for international cooperation to tackle the global drug problem. It emphasises prevention, treatment, rehabilitation, and law enforcement as integral components of comprehensive drug control strategies. The theme for World Drug Day 2024 is “The evidence is clear: Invest in prevention”. Raise awareness: Develop an understanding of the effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of prevention strategies mitigating the harms of drug use.
June 26	United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The second Monday of March is Commonwealth Day, a day to celebrate the Commonwealth of Nations and its 56 member states. Originally, this day was known as 'Empire Day' and was celebrated on the birthday of Queen Victoria on 24 May. 'One Resilient Common Future' the theme for Commonwealth Day 2024. The 56 members of the Commonwealth of Nations celebrated Commonwealth Day on 11 March. The theme for Commonwealth Day 2024 is 'One Resilient Common Future: Transforming our Common Wealth.
June 29	National Statistics Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The day June 29 is the birth anniversary of Professor Mahalanobis, known as the father of Indian statistics. The day highlights the important role of statistical data in policy-making and development planning. It also aims to raise public awareness about the importance of statistics in socio-economic planning. National Statistics Day 2024 will focus on the theme "Use of Data for Decision Making," highlighting the critical role that data plays in informing decisions across various sectors, driving sustainable development, and fostering innovation.





DEFENCE NEWS



Indian Air Force (IAF) and the Indian Navy



- The Indian Air Force (IAF) and the Indian Navy are both taking part in military drills with other countries that are being held by the US. In Alaska, the Indian Air Force is taking part in the aerial combat training exercise Red Flag. In Hawaii, the Indian Navy will be taking part in the naval drill RIMPAC.

IAF Involvement in Exercise Red Flag

- The Red Flag drill was held in Alaska starting on May 30 and included IAF members. Included are advanced air combat scenarios meant to improve how allied countries work together and their strategies. Eight Rafale jets, three C-17 transport planes, and two IL-78 mid-air refueling planes from the IAF's force have been assigned to specific missions. The drill is being carried out by about 3,100 service members from four countries, using more than 100 aircraft.

SPARSH Service Centres

- In a move to improve pension services for defense personnel, the Defence Accounts Department (DAD) of the Ministry of Defence has signed MoUs with Bank of India, Canara Bank, Central Bank of India, and Utkarsh

Small Finance Bank. This collaboration aims to establish SPARSH [System for Pension Administration (Raksha)] Service Centres across 1,128 branches of these banks nationwide, enhancing accessibility for pensioners, particularly in remote regions.

- These newly established SPARSH Service Centres will serve as critical touchpoints for pensioners, facilitating a range of services including profile updates, grievance registration, digital annual identification, data verification, and access to detailed pension information. Importantly, these services will be provided free of charge to the pensioners, with nominal service charges being covered by the DAD.
- Indian Navy's first woman helicopter pilot
- Sub-Lieutenant Anamika B. Rajeev has become the Indian Navy's first woman helicopter pilot after she received the prestigious 'Golden Wings' following completion of a rigorous training at a naval air station in Tamil Nadu's Arakkonam.
- It highlights the Indian Navy's commitment to gender inclusivity and expanding career opportunities for women.
- The Navy has already deployed women pilots for its Dornier-228 maritime surveillance aircraft.
- Sub-Lieutenant Anamika Rajeev became the first woman pilot who will be allowed to fly helicopters such as Sea Kings, ALH Dhruvs, Chetaks and MH-60R Seahawks.
- In another feat, Lt Jamyang Tsewang, the first commissioned naval officer from the Union Territory of Ladakh, also successfully graduated as a qualified helicopter pilot.
- Sub-Lieutenant Rajeev and Lt Tsewang were among 21 officers awarded the 'Golden Wings'.

Vidyut Rakshak

- A tech-based innovation, an integrated generator monitoring, protection and control system, developed by the Indian Army was launched on June 5. 'Vidyut Rakshak', developed by the Army Design Bureau (ADB) was launched by the Army's Vice Chief Lt Gen Upendra Dwivedi.

About Vidyut Rakshak

- Vidyut Rakshak is an Internet of Things-enabled integrated generator monitoring, protection and control system. The Internet of Things (IoT) is a network of interrelated devices that connect and exchange data with other IoT devices and the cloud.
- "The innovation is applicable on all existing generators held with the Indian Army, irrespective of their type, make, rating and vintage. Apart from monitoring generator parameters, it enables fault prediction, and prevention and automates manual operation through a user-friendly interface, saving manpower"

Who has developed Vidyut Rakshak?

- Vidyut Rakshak has been developed by Major Rajprasad R S and was displayed recently during the 'Exercise Bharat Shakti' and was witnessed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- During Aero India 2023, an MoU was signed between the Indian Army and Foundation for Innovation and Technology Transfer (FITT), IIT Delhi, for 'Production of Innovations'.

Next Chief of the Indian Army Staff

- The Centre announced on Tuesday night that Lieutenant General Upendra Dwivedi will be the next Chief of the Army Staff, succeeding

the incumbent General Manoj Pande. He will assume the position on June 30.

- Lieutenant General Upendra Dwivedi, who currently serves as the Vice-Chief of the Army Staff, has extensive operational experience along the frontiers with China and Pakistan. General Manoj Pande is set to retire on June 30.
- "The government has appointed Lt Gen Upendra Dwivedi, presently serving as Vice-Chief of the Army Staff, as the next Chief of the Army Staff with effect from the afternoon of June 30," stated the Defence Ministry.

JIMEX 24 exercise

- Indian multi-role stealth frigate INS Shivalik, mission deployed in South China Sea and North Pacific Ocean, has reached Pearl Harbour in Hawaii to take part in the Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) exercise, which is world's largest naval exercise. INS Shivalik sailed into Pearl Harbour on completion of JIMEX 24, a bilateral exercise between India and Japan.
- The harbour phase of the exercise from 27 Jun to 07 Jul 2024 will see participation in multiple symposiums, exercise planning discussions, sports competitions and reciprocal deck visits. The sea phase of RIMPAC – 24, divided into three sub-phases will witness ships undertaking basic and advanced level integration exercises during the first two sub-phases. The event will conclude with a theatre level large force tactical exercise. The exercise will witness the participation of an Aircraft Carrier Battle Group, submarines, maritime reconnaissance aircraft, unmanned aerial vehicles, remotely piloted surface ships and also an amphibious force landing operations including joint operations with special forces of multinational navies.

UPI-like real-time payments system in Peru

- NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL) and the Central Reserve Bank of Peru (BCRP) have announced a landmark partnership to introduce a UPI-like real-time payments system in Peru. This collaboration makes Peru the first South American country to adopt the Unified Payment Interface (UPI) technology, showcasing India’s leadership in digital payments.
- This strategic partnership will empower BCRP to build a robust and efficient real-time payments platform in Peru. The innovative system will facilitate instant payments between individuals and businesses, reducing reliance on cash transactions and promoting digital payments among Peru’s large unbanked population.

India’s Foreign Exchange Reserves Hit Record \$651.5 Billion



- India’s forex reserves jumped USD 4.837 billion to a new all-time high of USD 651.51 billion for the week ended May 31, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said . In the previous reporting week, the overall reserves had dropped USD 2.027 billion to USD 646.673 billion.
- “Touching a new milestone, India’s foreign exchange reserves reached a historical high of USD 651.5 billion as on May 31,” RBI Governor

Shaktikanta Das said in his statement while announcing the bimonthly policy review.

- The previous high for the kitty a crucial guard against any disturbances in the external sector was USD 648.87 billion on May 10. For the week ended May 31, foreign currency assets, a major component of the reserves, increased by USD 5.065.51 billion to USD 572.564 billion, the data released showed.

World Bank’s Board of Executive Directors approved \$1.5 billion

- The World Bank’s Board of Executive Directors approved \$1.5 billion in financing



for a second operation to help India accelerate the development of low-carbon energy. The operation will seek to promote the development of a vibrant market for green hydrogen, continue to scale up renewable energy, and stimulate finance for low-carbon energy investments.

- India is the fastest-growing large economy in the world, and the economy is expected to continue to expand at a rapid pace. Decoupling economic growth from emissions growth will require scaling up renewable energy, especially in hard-to-abate industrial sectors. This, in turn, will require an expansion of green hydrogen production and consumption as well as a faster development of climate finance to boost the mobilization of finance for low-

carbon investments.

- The Second Low-Carbon Energy Programmatic Development Policy Operation – the second in a series of two operations similar in size – will support reforms to boost the production of green hydrogen and electrolyzers, critical technology needed for green hydrogen production. The operation also supports reforms to boost renewable energy penetration, for instance, by incentivizing battery energy storage solutions and amending the Indian Electricity Grid Code to improve renewable energy integration into the grid. In June 2023, the World Bank approved the \$1.5 billion First Low-Carbon Energy Programmatic Development Policy Operation which supported the waiver of transmission charges for renewable energy
- in green hydrogen projects, the issuance of a clear path to launch 50 GW of renewable energy tenders annually and creating a legal framework for a national carbon credit market.

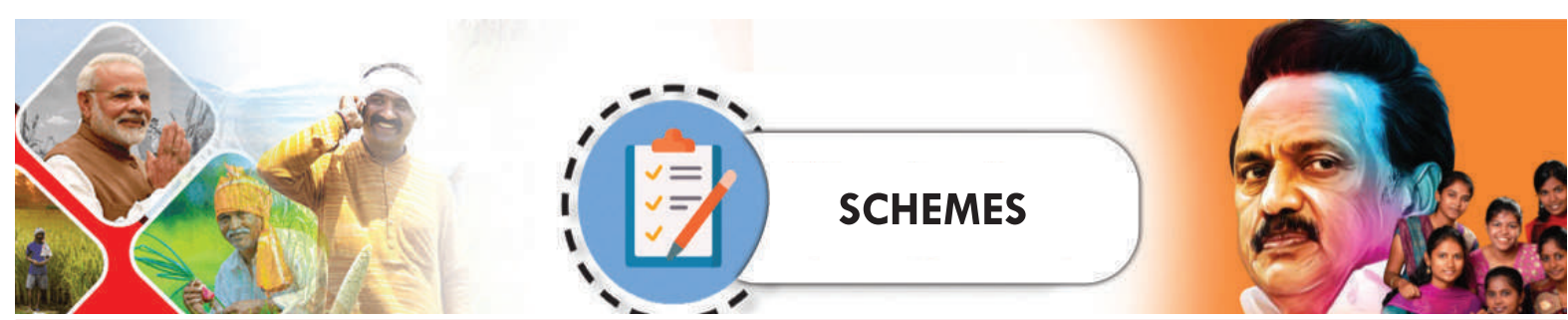
UAE-India CEPA Council (UICC)

- The UAE-India CEPA Council (UICC) and the Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to enhance economic and trade relations between the UAE and India. This strategic partnership aims to promote awareness of the UAE-India bilateral economic partnership and the benefits of the UAE-India CEPA.
- The MoU establishes a comprehensive collaboration between the UICC and the ICC,

focusing on public promotion, increasing awareness, and mobilizing private sector stakeholders to support economic engagement between the two nations. Both organizations will engage in dialogue, information sharing, and host joint events to facilitate member interactions and promote organizational roles.



- This partnership builds upon the objectives of the bilateral trade partnership, aiming to boost trade volumes, bring benefits of favorable trade policies to enterprises, and create opportunities for economic growth between India and the UAE.
- The UICC, established in 2024, has played a pivotal role in enhancing economic, investment, and trade ties between the UAE and India. Over the fiscal year from April 2022 to March 2023, bilateral trade surged by almost 16 percent, reaching USD 84.5 billion. Specific sectors like gems and jewellery, pharmaceuticals, and fruits and vegetables saw substantial growth, exemplifying the CEPA's impact.



SCHEMES

Haryana Clean Air Project

- The Chief Secretary of Haryana stated that the World Bank will support a major climate-related initiative. With Rs. 10 billion set aside to combat air pollution, the Haryana state government is poised to launch the “Haryana Clean Air Project for Sustainable Development.” The project will be implemented in stages, beginning with districts in the National Capital Region (NCR) and expanding to the remainder of the state. The purpose of this comprehensive, step-by-step plan is to effectively address air pollution.

Project Funding And Governance

- This ten-year project is wholly sponsored by the World Bank and overseen by a governing committee chaired by the Chief Secretary. This committee ensures that the project is carried out in a way that achieves its goals.
- The project has identified three key emphasis areas for combating air pollution-
 - Enhancing Air Quality Monitoring- Building a cutting-edge laboratory and renovating four existing facilities to improve air quality monitoring accuracy.
 - Infrastructure For Implementation- Creating a specialized Programme Management Unit to guarantee the project runs well.
 - Training and Capacity Building- Putting together training programs for stakeholders involved in air quality control to improve their efficacy.

The major goal is to reduce waste from the following sources-

- Transportation- Promoting electric vehicles (EVs) in both the public and private sectors, as well as providing incentives for people to replace their outdated, polluting autos.
- Industry- Encouraging firms to employ clean energy in their processes, such as installing

clean fuel boilers and repairing diesel generators to satisfy emission limits.

- Urban planning- It entails creating more green metropolitan areas by constructing biodiversity parks and green belts.
- Agriculture- To reduce waste burning, encourage the use of bio decomposers to handle crop wastes on-site.

‘Mukhyamantri Kisan Evam Khetihar Mazdoor Jeevan Suraksha Yojana’ - Removed the age limit cap on a scheme

- The Haryana government removed the age limit cap on a scheme for farmers and farm labourers under which financial assistance is provided in case of death or disability while operating agricultural machinery, said an official statement. The government has taken a decision to remove the age limit cap under the ‘Mukhyamantri Kisan Evam Khetihar Mazdoor Jeevan Suraksha Yojana’ for farmers, agriculture labourers, and market yard labourers, the statement said here.
- Earlier, under the scheme, the age group of the victim had to be not less than 10 years and more than 65 years.
- “Under this scheme, financial assistance ranging from Rs 37,500 to Rs 5 lakh is provided to farmers, agriculture labourers, and market yard labourers in case of death or disability while operating agricultural machinery,” it said.

Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi released Rs 20,000 crore under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme at Varanasi. During this visit, PM Modi will also present certificates to over 30,000

self-help groups recognized as Krishi Sakhis, marking the release of the 17th installment of the PM-KISAN scheme.

- Launched in February 2019, the PM-KISAN scheme transfers Rs 6,000 annually in three equal installments of Rs 2,000 directly into the Aadhaar-linked bank accounts of farmers. Chouhan highlighted that the 17th installment, amounting to over Rs 20,000 crore, will be distributed to more than 9.26 crore beneficiary farmers with a single click by the Prime Minister from Varanasi.

Mannuyir Kaathu Mannuyir Kaappom” scheme



- Chief Minister M.K. Stalin launched the “Chief Minister’s Mannuyir Kaathu Mannuyir Kaappom” plan, which marked a significant step toward sustainable agriculture in Tamil Nadu. With a budget of ₹206 crore, this project intends to increase soil health and fertility throughout the area.
- Financial Allocation And Implementation
- A significant component of the concept is to maintain the soil fertile by employing green manure technologies. A start-up fund of ₹20 crore has been set aside just for this. The initiative intends to broadcast green manure seeds across approximately 200,000 acres beginning in 2024-25. This will immediately benefit more than 200,000 farmers.

- Support Infrastructure for Farmers
- In addition to the core program, Chief Minister Stalin initiated other programs at the outset of the plan to assist farmers even more. Notably, 90 tractors and an equal number of rotavators were officially launched. They were purchased for ₹10.25 crores. Farmers will be able to borrow these autos for a modest price, making it easier to use agricultural machinery. The plan’s coordinated stages aim not only to enhance immediate agricultural production, but also to assure long-term sustainability and skill development in Tamil Nadu’s farming sector, providing a model for rural development that benefits everyone.

Mukhya Mantri Nijut Moina scheme

- Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma announced that his government would provide monthly stipends to all girl students from class 11 to post-graduation over the next five years, aiming to prevent child marriages. Addressing a press conference, Sarma said the scheme, ‘Nijut Moina’, was approved by the cabinet, which estimated that Rs 1,500 crore would be required in five years to give the incentives to around 10 lakh girls.
- Officials said that the scheme named Mukhya Mantri Nijut Moina (MMNM) is expected to cover around one million girl students and cost the exchequer Rs. 300 crore in the first year and around Rs. 1,500 crore over a five-year period.

Assam Witness Protection Scheme 2024

- The Assam Cabinet approved the Assam Witness Protection Scheme 2024 to ensure adherence to Section 398 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023, protecting witnesses against imminent threats during investigations and trials. The meeting, presided over by Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, approved the scheme, which will require witnesses to submit a Witness Protection Application in a prescribed form to a competent authority through its member secretary to obtain a protection order.

- The competent authority will be the standing committee in each district, chaired by the District and Sessions Judge, with witnesses categorized as A, B, and C based on threat perception.
- A State Witness Protection Authority and a witness protection fund will also be constituted for the purpose.

Agal Lamp Scheme :

- School Education Minister Anbil Mahes has announced in the Legislative Assembly that the 'Agal Lamp Project' will be implemented

to benefit the girls studying in government schools from class 9 to 12.

- During the debate on grant demands in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly, the minister announced 25 new notifications to be implemented in the school education sector. Out of which, the 'Agal Lamp Scheme' to help the girl students of class 9-12 is Rs. He said it will be implemented at a cost of 50 lakhs.
- This project will work to protect the school going girls from various physical, mental and social disturbances. Rs. 50 lakhs project, teams of teachers will be formed to provide guidance to the students.

Pink Auto Scheme in Tamilnadu

சென்னையில் பெண்கள் பாதுகாப்பை உறுதிப்படுத்த 200 பெண் ஆட்டோ ஓட்டுநர்களுக்கு GPS பொருத்தப்பட்ட இளஞ்சிவப்பு ஆட்டோ (Pink Auto) வாங்க ரூ. 1 இலட்சம் மானியம் வழங்கப்படும்.

TN DIPR

வணிக: தயக்கம், செய்தி மகிழ்ச்சி, உத்தேசம்

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- In a significant move towards empowering women and ensuring safety, the Tamil Nadu government has announced a series of initiatives during the assembly session . Geetha Jeevan, Minister for the Department of Social Welfare and Women Empowerment, unveiled plans to support women auto drivers and

- The government will provide a ₹1 lakh grant to 200 women auto drivers. Additionally, the state will operate pink autos, driven by women, at a cost of ₹2 crore. These pink autos will be operational in key locations such as railway stations and bus stands within Chennai city limits.

- These specially colored autos will be equipped with a helpline number and a GPS tracking system. This initiative aims to enhance the safety of women and children, enabling easy monitoring by the police department and ensuring secure travel.

2024 JUNE MONTH QUESTIONS

- Which is the fourth most populous metropolitan area in India?**
 - Mumbai
 - Bangalore
 - Chennai
 - Calcutta
- Sustainable Urban Services Program Which agency helps Chennai Corporation to strengthen institutions?**
 - United Nations Industrial Development Organization
 - International Development Association
 - International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
 - World Bank
- In which district is Kavi Nadu Kanmai where artificial islands are being constructed?**
 - Pudukottai
 - Thanjavur
 - Trichy
 - Tiruvarur
- Pudukottai District Administration and _____ have jointly undertaken the work of constructing artificial islands in Kavi Nadu Kanmoi.**
 - Kadamai Area Integrated Farmers Association (KAIFA)
 - Tamil Nadu Organic Farmers Association.
 - Rotary Club of Pudukkottai King Town
 - World Farmers' Organisation
- Who is the new Chairman of the current Tamil Nadu State Human Rights Commission?**
 - Thiru Justice S. Baskaran
 - Thiru Justice Raja Elango
 - Thiru Justice S. Manikumar
 - Thiru Justice D. Jayachandran
- Who appoints the Chairman of the State Human Rights Commission?**
 - Governor
 - Chief Minister
 - Chief Justice of the High Court
 - None of the above
- Tamil Language Martyrs' Day has been declared in which month in the Legislative Assembly?**
 - January 13
 - January 25
 - January 22
 - January 5
- It has been announced that 'Semmozhi Nana Festival' will be celebrated in Tamil Nadu from 2025 onwards on 3rd June in whose memory?**
 - CN Annadurai
 - Karunanidhi
 - Periyar
 - Bharatiyar
- At which place was recently excavated a woman's head made of black stone?**
 - Shivakalai
 - Aritapatti
 - Vembangottai
 - Arikkamedu
- Chennanur is located in which district where a broken Neolithic tool was found during the excavation?**
 - Krishnagiri
 - Virudhunagar
 - Tuticorin
 - Tirunelveli

11. **Supreme Court has reconstituted a committee headed by whom for gender sensitive complaints?**
- Justice Hima Kohli
 - Justice Ahsanuddin Amanullah
 - Justice Bela Trivedi
 - Justice B.V Nagarathna
12. **How many members of the panel headed by Justice Hima Kohli?**
- 8
 - 12
 - 15
 - 21
13. **Which university has topped the world university rankings in India?**
- IIT Bombay
 - IIT Delhi
 - Institute of Science (IISC)
 - IIT Madras
14. **Which university has topped the world university rankings?**
- Stanford University
 - University of Oxford
 - Massachusetts Institute of Technology
 - University of Cambridge
15. **Which country has emerged as India's third largest exporter?**
- Finland
 - Netherland
 - Sri Lanka
 - Thailand
16. **Number of countries in BRICS alliance?**
- 5
 - 9
 - 6
 - 10
17. **In the latest edition of the Container Port Performance Index (CPPI), _____ Indian ports have been ranked among the top 100 globally.**
- 7
 - 5
 - 9
 - 2
18. **In the Container Port Performance Index (CPPI) 2023, which port ranked 19th globally?**
- Chennai
 - Visakhapatnam
 - Cochin
 - Mangalore
19. **In the Container Port Performance Index (CPPI), Chennai Port ranks _____ globally.**
- 80
 - 63
 - 74
 - 96
20. **Which country has successfully completed the world's first pig liver transplant to a living cancer patient?**
- Australia
 - India
 - China
 - America
21. **Where was the World Health Assembly held this year?**
- Geneva
 - Paris
 - Britain
 - Australia
22. **What is the name of the Chinese spacecraft that collected samples from the far side of the moon?**
- Chang'e 1
 - Chang'e 4
 - Chang'e 2
 - Chang'e 6

23. Which country has banned Israeli passport holders?
- Maldives
 - Thailand
 - Japan
 - Iran
24. Which country was the first in Southeast Asia to legalize same-sex marriage?
- India
 - Thailand
 - Japan
 - Finland
25. Which of the following statements is correct?
- In 2019, Taiwan became the second country to legalize same-sex marriage.
 - Nepal legalized same-sex marriage in 2022.
 - Thailand is the third country in Asia to legalize same-sex marriage.
- 1 only
 - 1,2 only
 - 3 only
 - 1,2 & 3
26. Which state has launched clean air program to effectively tackle air pollution?
- Punjab
 - Haryana
 - Madhya Pradesh
 - Jharkhand
27. What is the scheme to provide financial assistance to farmers in Madhya Pradesh in case of death or disability while operating agricultural machinery?
- National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS)
 - Subsidiary Agricultural Machinery Scheme (SMAM)
 - Mukhyamandri Kisan Evam Kedihar Mas-tur Jeevan Suraksha Yojana Scheme
 - Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN)
28. When was the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme launched?
- 2019
 - 2020
 - 2022
 - 2024
29. How much money has the Tamilnadu government allocated for the “Mannuiur Kathu Mannuiur Kaappom” project?
- 105 crores
 - 206 crores
 - 270 crores
 - 150 crores
30. What is the purpose of Mukhya Mantri Nijud Moina scheme?
- Providing monthly stipend to all girl students from class 11 to post graduation.
 - Providing monthly stipend to students studying from class 1 to class 10.
 - Providing monthly stipend to all girl students from class 6 - 12.
 - Providing monthly scholarship to undergraduate and postgraduate female students.
31. Which state started the Mukhya Mantri Nijud Moina scheme?
- Karnataka
 - Uttar Pradesh
 - Assam
 - Gujarat
32. Witness Protection Scheme 2024 has been introduced in which state?
- Telangana
 - Kerala
 - Tamil Nadu
 - Assam
33. How much is the subsidy for women who will benefit from Pink Auto Scheme in Tamil Nadu?
- 1 lakh
 - 2 lakhs
 - 50 thousand
 - 75 thousand

34. **Who is associated with Akal Lamp project in Tamil Nadu?**
a) Scheme for girl students in 6th to 12th standard in government schools
b) Scheme for girl students in 9th to 12th standard in government schools
c) Program for all school girls
d) Scheme for Government School Students
35. **Recently, where have scientists discovered a new species of blue ant?**
a) Madhya Pradesh
b) Uttar Pradesh
c) Arunachal Pradesh
d) Uttarakhand
36. **Where are Nagi and Nakhti bird sanctuaries located under Ramsar Convention?**
a) Bihar
b) Meghalaya
c) Jharkhand
d) Haryana
37. **Bronius manfredschmidi refers to which recently discovered species?**
a) Frog
b) Snake
c) Monkey
d) Ant
38. **South India's first and country's largest leopard safari opens in _____.**
a) Bannerghatta Zoo
b) Jammu Zoo
c) Jim Corbett National Park
d) Hemis National Park
39. **Bannerghatta National Park is located in which state?**
a) Kerala
b) Karnataka
c) Uttarakhand
d) Maharashtra
40. **World's first Asiatic King Eagle Conservation and Breeding Center to be launched in which district of Uttar Pradesh?**
a) Maharajganj
b) Perozabad
c) Kannauj
d) Mirzapur
41. **Which country has recently become the first country to successfully collect and return samples from the far side of the Moon?**
a) China
b) Japan
c) India
d) United Kingdom
42. **Recently, which space organization successfully demonstrated the landing of the Pushpak reusable launch vehicle (RLV LEX-03)?**
a) NASA
b) JAXA
c) ISRO
d) CNSA
43. **who has made history as the first Indian to receive the prestigious 'Nelson Mandela Lifetime Achievement Award'?**
a) Vinod Ganatra
b) Ravi Gaikwad
c) Amit Dutta
d) Ashvin Kumar
44. **Which state government has recently removed the age limit cap on the 'Mukhyamantri Kisan Evam Khetihar Mazdoor Jeevan Suraksha Yojana'?**
a) Punjab
b) Rajasthan
c) Haryana
d) Madhya Pradesh
45. **Which day is observed as 'World Milk Day' every year?**
a) 1 June
b) 2 June
c) 3 June
d) 4 June

46. *Parapatrechina neela*, recently seen in news, belongs to which species?

- a) Ant
- b) Fish
- c) Spider
- d) Frog

47. Which state has discovered a new species of snake and lizard?

- a) Tamil Nadu
- b) Odisha
- c) Bihar
- d) Kerala

48. Bala Sahitya Puraskar-2024 for Tamil language has been announced for?

- a) Yuma Vasuki
- b) Lokesh Raguraman
- c) Udaya Shankar
- d) Murugesh

49. Who will be awarded the “World Tamil Faculty” Award 2023 by the Council of North American Tamil Associations?

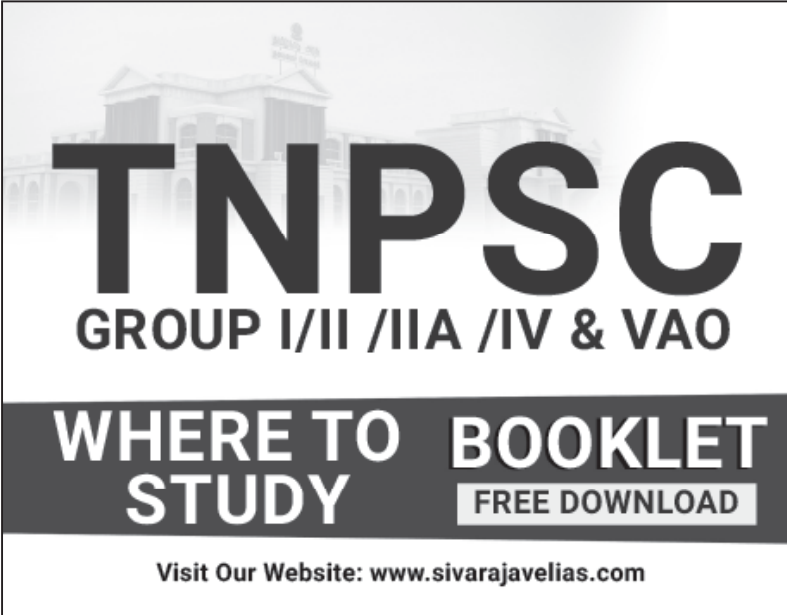
- a) Poet Abdul Rahman
- b) Poet Arivumathi
- c) Erode Tamilanban
- d) Tamilgo Ilankumarana

50. Kavli Prizes, recently seen in news, are awarded for which fields?

- a) Literature, Peace, and Music
- b) Economics, Environment and Chemistry
- c) Astrophysics, Nanoscience and Neuroscience
- d) Agriculture, Physics and Maths

Answers:

1.	C	11.	A	21.	A	31.	C	41.	A
2.	D	12.	B	22.	D	32.	D	42.	C
3.	A	13.	A	23.	A	33.	A	43.	A
4.	A	14.	C	24.	B	34.	B	44.	C
5.	C	15.	B	25.	C	35.	C	45.	A
6.	A	16.	B	26.	B	36.	A	46.	A
7.	B	17.	C	27.	C	37.	C	47.	B
8.	B	18.	B	28.	A	38.	A	48.	A
9.	C	19.	A	29.	B	39.	B	49.	B
10.	B	20.	C	30.	A	40.	A	50.	C



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