



SIVARAJAVEL IAS ACADEMY

AN IDEAL INSTITUTE FOR **CIVIL SERVICE EXAMS**

SANGAMAM

Monthly Current Affairs for Competitive Exams

AUGUST - 2024 (English / Tamil)



SEVEN NATIONAL AWARDS - AR RAHMAN

He won the National Film Award for Best Music Director



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AUGUST 2024

SANGAMAM

Monthly Current Affairs for TNPSC

JULY

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A. R. RAHMAN

Allah Rakha Rahman (pronunciation born A. S. Dileep Kumar; 6 January 1967) is an Indian music composer, record producer, singer, songwriter, musician, multi-instrumentalist, and philanthropist known for his works in Indian cinema; predominantly in Tamil and Hindi films, with occasional forays in international cinema. He is a recipient of six

National Film Awards, two Academy Awards, two Grammy Awards, a BAFTA Award, a Golden Globe Award, six Tamil Nadu State Film Awards, fifteen Filmfare Awards, and eighteen Filmfare Awards South. In 2010, the Government of India conferred him with the Padma Bhushan, the nation's third-highest civilian award.

With his in-house studio Panchathan Record Inn, Rahman's film-scoring career began during the early 1990s with the Tamil film Roja. Following that, he went on to score several songs for Tamil language films, including Mani Ratnam's politically charged Bombay, the urban Kadhalan, Thiruda Thiruda, and S. Shankar's debut film Gentleman. Rahman's score for his first Hollywood film, the comedy Couples Retreat (2009), won the BMI Award for Best Score. His music for Slumdog Millionaire (2008) earned him Best Original Score and Best Original Song (for Jai Ho) at the 81st Academy Awards. He was also awarded Best Compilation Soundtrack Album and Best Song Written for Visual Media at the 2010 Grammy Awards. He is nicknamed "Isai Puyal" (musical storm) and "Mozart of Madras".

Rahman has also become a humanitarian and philanthropist, donating and raising money for a number of causes and charities. In 2006, he was honoured by Stanford University for his contributions to global music. In 2008, he received Lifetime Achievement Award from the Rotary Club of Madras. In 2009, he was included on the Time list of the world's 100 most influential people. In 2013, he introduced 7.1 surround sound technology to South Indian films. In 2014, he was awarded an honorary doctorate from Berklee College of Music. He has also received honorary doctorate from Aligarh Muslim University. In 2017, he made his debut as a director and writer for the film Le Musk.

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Ms. Deepika, GRoup-I, Rank - 20

Assistant Director of Rural Development (Panchayat)

I succeeded in my second attempt.

In my first attempt, I got 68th rank in the Group1- examination.

However, I could not get the government job due to a lack of two marks.

The exam consists of three stages, each with a different format.

Samacheer books and course wise books are important for this exam.

Limited notebooks of notes for government exam preparation. This is my primary core strategy.

Set a deadline for studying and adhere to it seriously.

It is better to keep the own handwritten notes small. Because it will be suitable for quick and easy study during exam time.

It is very important to write the mock test whenever you get the time. More than that, it is necessary to self-evaluate the exam we have written.

It is very important to practice by marking the subject for mains in the manual and writing the mock test within the given time frame.

I make sure that I have already noted syllabus-wise what to write for introduction and conclusion. I also approached tcurrent affairs topics in this way.

Drawing small diagrams according to the questions was very helpful in getting a couple of extra marks in the exam.

An interview is not based on one's knowledge. It will test one's personality.

Our overall knowledge plays an important role in the interview.

Constant effort, consistency, hard work, and self-confidence are necessary to prepare oneself for these government exams.

The guidance of a mentor is more important than all these.

That's why I prepared myself by writing mock tests for the main exam at **Sivarajavel IAS Academy**.

Their comments and guidance were very helpful for me.



New 4 corporation in Tamilnadu

- Chief Minister MK Stalin announced that Pudukkottai, Tiruvannamalai, Namakkal, and Karaikudi municipalities will be upgraded into corporations by merging village panchayats and other local bodies with them. With these four, the total number of municipal corporations in Tamil Nadu would increase to 25.
- An official release said the creation of new corporations would help boost infrastructure facilities in the region and foster economic growth.
- The release also said Tamil Nadu is one of the most urbanised states in the country and as

per 2011 census, the urban population stood at 48.45%.

- It is now estimated that the urban population in the state has increased to 53%.
- This rapid urbanisation has created challenges in providing basic infrastructure facilities and services to the people, the release said.
- The release said the decision to create the four corporations was based on people's request.
- While Pudukkottai corporation will be created by merging 11 village panchayats with Pudukkottai municipality, Tiruvannamalai corporation will be formed by merging 18 panchayats and Adi Annamalai town with Tiruvannamalai municipality.

| R.NO | Municipal Corporations | Year of Incorporation |
|------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. | Chennai Corporation | 29 September 1688 |
| 2. | Madurai Corporation | 01 May 1971 |
| 3. | Coimbatore Corporation | 01 July 1981 |
| 4. | Tiruchirappalli Corporation | 01 June 1994 |
| 5. | Salem Corporation | 01 June 1994 |
| 6. | Tirupur Corporation | 26 October 2008 |
| 7. | Tirunelveli Corporation | 01 June 1994 |
| 8. | Erode Corporation | 01 August 2008 |
| 9. | Vellore Corporation | 01 August 2008 |
| 10. | Cuddalore Corporation | 24 August 2021 |
| 11. | Karur Corporation | 24 August 2021 |
| 12. | Hosur Corporation | 14 February 2019 |
| 13. | Thoothukudi Municipal Corporation | 5 August 2008 |
| 14. | Nagercoil Corporation | 14 February 2019 |
| 15. | Kanchipuram Corporation | 24 August 2021 |
| 16. | Sivakasi Corporation | 24 August 2021 |
| 17. | Thanjavur Corporation | 19 February 2014 |
| 18. | Kumbakonam Corporation | 24 August 2021 |
| 19. | Dindigul Corporation | 19 February 2014 |
| 20. | Tamparam Corporation | 4 November 2021 |
| 21. | Avadi Corporation | 19 June 2019 |
| 22. | Pudukottai Municipal Corporation | 15 March 2024 |
| 23. | Karaikudi Municipal Corporation | 15 March 2024 |
| 24. | Thiruvannamalai Corporation | 15 March 2024 |
| 25. | Namakkal Corporation | 15 March 2024 |

Trichy tops the list of best cities for women to work in

- Chennai ranks best among 111 cities in India for creating an environment conducive to women's employment, while Trichy ranks first among cities with a population of less than one million. That's according to a report by Avatar, a company specializing in recruitment.
- Safety measures and initiatives:
- One of the reasons why Trichy is considered the best City for Women is its safety policy.
- Trichy has a wide range of measures and initiatives in place to ensure the safety of women.
- Strong law enforcement, a vast network of CCTV cameras, and proactive community policing have worked together to create a safe and secure environment in which women can live, work and travel.

New TNPSC Chairman

- Senior IAS officer S K Prabakar, currently serving as the Commissioner of Revenue Administration and Disaster Management, was appointed to the post on Tuesday through a government order after the governor endorsed the posting.
- He will serve a term of six years from the date he assumes office or until he reaches the age of 62, whichever comes first.
- Prabakar succeeds K Balachandran, another IAS officer who held the top TNPSC post from April 13, 2020, until June 9, 2022.

IIT Madras - Top list of Education institution

- For the sixth time in a row, the Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras) retained the number one spot in the list of top educational institutions in India under the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) announced by the Ministry of Education.

- IIT Madras also topped the list of engineering institutes, followed by IIT Delhi, IIT Bombay, IIT Kanpur, and IIT Kharagpur.
- In the medical category, the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) New Delhi was followed by the Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER) in Chandigarh, Christian Medical College (CMC) in Vellore, and the National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS) in Bengaluru.
- IIT Madras secured the top position out of the 10,885 institutes that took part in the ninth edition of the NIRF.
- The number of institutes that participated has increased by 200 per cent since the first edition in 2016.
- In the overall category, IIT Madras clinched the top spot, while the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bengaluru, IIT Bombay, IIT Delhi, and IIT Kanpur were among the top 5.

Pension hikes for freedom fighters

- CM hikes pension for freedom fighters from Rs 20k to Rs 21,000
- "They incur high expenses as they have to buy medicines regularly for diseases like diabetes and blood pressure. As a solution, generic drugs and other drugs would be made available to them at lower price through the CM Pharmacies," he said.
- The Chief Minister also announced Mudhalvarin Kaakkum Karangal for retired military personnel to start businesses by borrowing up to ₹1 crore from banks.
- The government would extend a 30% capital subsidy and a 3% interest subsidy.
- They would also be trained in skills and entrepreneurship. About 400 retired military personnel are expected to benefit from the scheme in the next two years.
- Aid to the tune of ₹120 crore would be provided in capital subsidy, besides a 3% interest subsidy, he said.

NIRF Rankings 2024

- Anna University has topped the NIRF Rankings 2024 State Public University list. Introduced this year, this category includes the top ranked state universities in India.
- The Education Ministry has announced the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) rankings today, August 12.
- As per the NIRF India rankings 2024 for state universities, Kolkata's Jadavpur University and Pune's Savitribai Phule Pune University have secured 2nd and third positions respectively.
- Rank 1 — Anna University
- Rank 2 — Jadavpur University
- Rank 3 — Savitribai Phule Pune University
- Rank 4 — Calcutta University
- Rank 5 — Panjab University
- Rank 6 — Osmania University
- Rank 7 — Andhra University
- Rank 8 — Bharathiar University
- Rank 9 — Kerala University
- Rank 10 — Cochin University of Science and Technology

Section 77-A of the Registration Act



Vembakottai excavation

- Sutupavala Bead 1 inscribed with roaring bull image found at Vembakottai excavations.
- Rome has the technology that is created in a pitful manner of figures in stone beads.
- Like this, animal image engraved medals in Sudhupavala Stonebead in Musiri (town) excavations in Keeladi, Serar port city.
- The form of wild pig in the Keeladi and the lion in the Musiri are found.
- The medals made of Sudhupavala Bead available in Keeladi and Musiri are based on the society period.
- Similarly, what is available in Vembakottai is also great.

Vembakottai Phase 3 Excavation

- While antiquities are being found in the 3rd phase of excavation in Vembakottai, Virudhunagar district, now a clay bull figurine has been found.

- The Madras High Court has deemed Section 77-A of the Registration Act, 1908, unconstitutional. This Section was introduced by Registration [Tamil Nadu Second Amendment Act] 2021 and court opined that it granted District Registrars "unfettered and uncanalized power to cancel the registration" of immovable property if it was registered through fraud or with forged revenue records.

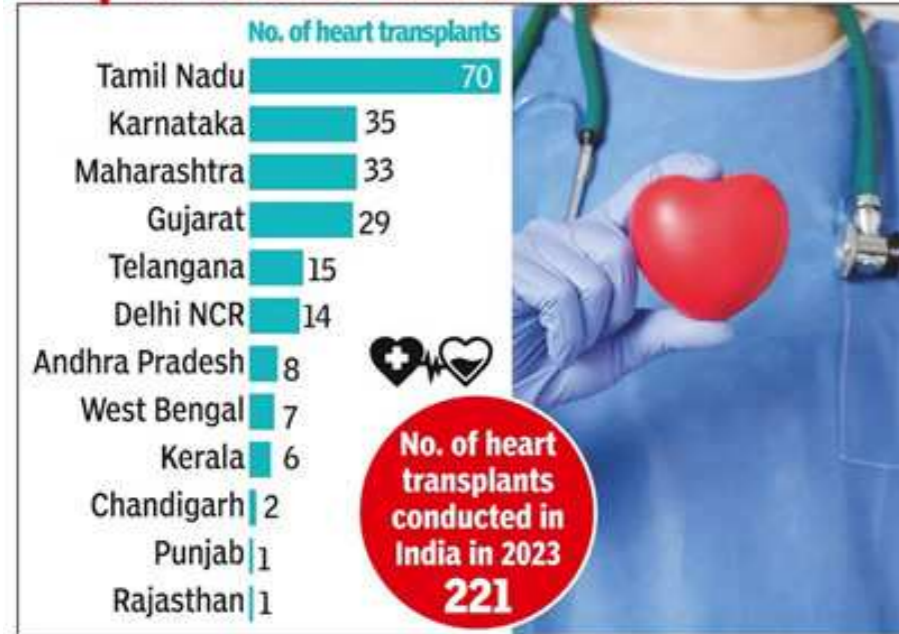
- Though Section 77-A contemplates issuance of show cause notice, the unfettered power to cancel registration that falls under Section 22-A or Section 22-B vests with the Registrar.

About Section 77A

- Section 77A was introduced pursuant to the Registration [Tamil Nadu Second Amendment Act] 2021. Through this Section, the District Registrar was conferred with the power to cancel the registration of a document that was made in contravention of Section 22A and Section 22B.

Tamil Nadu leads in heart transplantation

TN, K'TAKA LEAD WAY



recording the highest number (252), followed by Tamil Nadu and Karnataka with 178 each. It was followed by Maharashtra with 148 and Gujarat with 146, an official said.

- Data released by the National Organ and Tissue Transplantation Organization (NOTO) shows that southern states are leading in heart transplants, TOI reported.

- In 2023, 221 heart transplants were performed across India. Of these, 70 were performed in Tamil Nadu, followed by 35 in Karnataka, 33 in Maharashtra, 33 in Gujarat and 15 in Telangana. As per NOTO data, Delhi-NCR witnessed only 14 transplants.

- A total of 1,099 heart donations were reported in India in 2023, with Telangana



NATIONAL NEWS

Prohibition of unlawful conversion of religion Bill 2021

- The Constitution guarantees each person the right to profess, practice, and propagate their religion, however, this individual right does not translate into a collective right to proselytize, as religious freedom equally belongs to both the person converting and the individual being converted.
- The Uttar Pradesh Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Act, 2021, which prohibits religious conversion through “unlawful” means, was passed by the state assembly four years ago. On Tuesday (July 30), the assembly passed an amendment to this Act, making it stricter and more widely enforceable.

2024 Updated the Scheme

- The Bill has also strengthened the penalties for mass conversions. Previously, those convicted faced a minimum of 3 years and a maximum of 10 years in prison.
- Now, the minimum sentence has been raised to 7 years, and the maximum to 14 years, with the fine also doubled to Rs 1 lakh.

India-China Border Affairs - 30th round

- The 30th round of the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on India-China Border Affairs (WMCC) represents a significant ongoing effort to manage and resolve disputes along the India-China border.
- Held in New Delhi, this round followed the previous talks aimed at de-escalating tensions that have been particularly high since the 2020 clashes in the Galwan Valley.

Points of Dispute:

- Eastern Sector: China claims approximately 90,000 square km in India’s Arunachal Pradesh, which India firmly rejects.
- Western Sector: The dispute centers around Aksai Chin, an area controlled by China but claimed by India as part of Ladakh.
- Middle Sector: This sector has the least tension but includes some disputed areas along the borders of Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand.

India Retains Eighth Position in Global Agricultural Exports

- India held onto its position as the world’s eighth-largest exporter of agricultural products in 2023, despite a decline in exports from \$55 billion in 2022 to \$51 billion.
- This stability comes amid a general decrease in agricultural exports among seven of the top ten exporting nations.

Insights from WTO Trade Statistics 2023

- The WTO’s Trade Statistics 2023 report highlights that only three countries among the top ten—Brazil, the European Union (EU), and Thailand—increased their agricultural exports in 2023.
- Brazil saw an increase of 6% to \$157 billion, maintaining its third place, while the EU’s exports rose by 5% to \$836 billion, preserving its top spot.
- Thailand’s exports grew by 0.2%, although it remains outside the top three.

Eight National High-Speed Road Corridor Projects

- The Cabinet approved eight National High-Speed Road Corridor Projects of 936 km length at a total cost of Rs 50,655 crore.
 - The projects are expected to improve logistics efficiency, reduce congestion, and enhance connectivity across the country.
 - Implementing these projects will generate an estimated 44.2 million person days of direct and indirect employment.
 - The corridor approach has led to the identification of a network of 50,000 km of High-Speed Highway Corridors through a scientific transport study based on GSTN and toll data to support India's transformation into a \$30 trillion economy by 2047,
1. 6-Lane Agra - Gwalior National High-Speed Corridor
 2. 4-Lane Kharagpur - Moregram National High-Speed Corridor
 3. 6-Lane Tharad - Deesa - Mehsana - Ahmedabad National High-Speed Corridor
 4. 4-lane Ayodhya Ring Road
 5. 4-Lane Section between Pathalgaon and Gumla of Raipur-Ranchi National Highspeed Corridor
 6. 6-Lane Kanpur Ring Road
 7. 4-Lane Northern Guwahati Bypass and Widening/Improvement of Existing Guwahati Bypass
 8. 8-Lane Elevated Nashik Phata - Khed Corridor near Pune

New Peacock Sanctuaries

- The Central Government has officially declared Adichunchanagiri in Karnataka and Choolannur in Kerala as Peacock Sanctuaries. Adichunchanagiri, situated in Mandya District, was first notified in 1981 and declared in 1999, while Choolannur Peafowl Sanctuary in Palakkad District was declared in 1996.

- Union Minister for Environment, Forest, and Climate Change, Bhupender Yadav, highlighted the conservation measures for the national bird, including the establishment of breeding and conservation centers for peacocks.

5th ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement (ATIGA)

- The 5th AITIGA Joint Committee and related meetings for review of ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA) were held in ASEAN Secretariat, Jakarta, Indonesia from 29th July to 1st August 2024, marking a significant milestone in enhancing economic cooperation between ASEAN and India.
- The meeting was co-chaired by Shri Rajesh Agrawal, Additional Secretary, Department of Commerce, India, and Ms. Mastura Ahmad Mustafa, Deputy Secretary General (Trade), Ministry of Investment, Trade & Industry, Malaysia. Delegates from all 10 ASEAN Countries and India participated in the meeting.

About

- The ASEAN-India Free Trade Area (AIFTA) is a free trade area among the ten member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the Republic of India. The initial framework agreement was signed on 8 October 2003 in Bali, Indonesia.
- The ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement was signed and entered into force on 1 January 2010. Under the Agreement, ASEAN Member States and India have agreed to open their respective markets by progressively reducing and eliminating duties on 76.4% coverage of good.

countries

- BRUNEI DARUSSALAM, CAMBODIA, INDONESIA, LAO PDR, MALAYSIA, MYANMAR, PHILIPPINES, SINGAPORE, THAILAND, VIET NAM

Boilers Bill - 2024

- On 2nd August 2024, the Union Cabinet approved the introduction of the Boilers Bill,

2024, in the Rajya Sabha. This new Bill aims to replace the old Boilers Act of 1923. The main purpose of the Bill is to update the rules about boilers to fit current industry and safety standards.

Decriminalisation of Offences

- The Bill aims to decriminalise three out of the seven offences listed in the old Act. This means that instead of treating these offences as crimes, they will be handled through penalties. This change is intended to reduce the load on the courts while still keeping control over boiler regulations.
- The Bill aims to make it easier for businesses, especially small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), to comply with boiler regulations.

Focus on Safety

- The Bill includes specific rules to ensure the safety of people working with boilers. For example, it requires that only qualified professionals perform boiler repairs, to ensure safe operations. The Bill is divided into six clear chapters, each grouping similar rules together.

About Boilers Act 1923

- The old Boilers Act of 1923 was designed to prevent accidents from boiler explosions.
- It required boilers to be certified before use and set up a Central Boiler Board to oversee regulations, which were enforced by the states.
- The Act covered various steam-generating appliances and included inspections of design, construction, and operation.
- Non-compliance could lead to penalties or shutdowns.
- In 2007, amendments expanded the scope to include pressure vessels and introduced additional safety directives.

1st BIMSTEC Business Summit in New Delhi

- The Ministry of External Affairs of the Government of India in association with Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) will

host the 1st BIMSTEC Business Summit in New Delhi on 06-08 August 2024.

- The first edition of the Business Summit aims to foster greater regional collaboration through robust trade and investment relations among the member countries of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC).
- The event will bring together more than 300 key stake holders from across the Bay of Bengal region to facilitate economic collaboration and explore ways ahead in focus areas such as trade facilitation, regional connectivity, energy security, inclusive growth and sustainable development.
- 7 countries are members of Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC). The member countries are India, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Thailand, Nepal, Sri Lanka. BIMSTEC countries comprise 21% of the world's population.

Disaster Insurance - Nagaland

- Making Nagaland the first state in the country to implement the disaster management insurance, the state government and SBI General Insurance have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for Disaster Risk Transfer Parametric Insurance Solution (DRTPS).
- A parametric multi-year risk transfer solution, it will aid in protecting the State's critical infra. & reduce economic losses due to disaster.
- The memorandum was signed at the Chief Minister's office in Kohima.
- Nagaland chief minister Neiphiu Rio announced that the new insurance partnership was aimed at safeguarding the state against natural calamities.
- He said agreement signed between SBI General Insurance and Nagaland State Disaster Management Authority (NSDMA) ensures comprehensive coverage for the entire state.

Logistics Policy 2024 - Maharashtra

- The Maharashtra government has approved Logistics Policy 2024 proposing to set up more than 200 logistics parks, complexes, and truck terminals with integrated facilities, which is expected to generate approximately 5,00,000 new job opportunities.
- Harshdeep Kamble, Principal Secretary, Industries Department said key objectives of the policy include developing more than 10,000 acres of dedicated logistics infrastructure, 25 district logistic nodes, five regional logistic hubs, and as many state logistic hubs, a national logistics hub, and an international logistics hub.
- Hi-tech logistics will be especially incentivised for the adoption of Artificial Intelligence (AI), BlockChain technology, robotics, automation, IoT, digitisation, drone, and fintech results in creating tech-savvy jobs for the local youths.

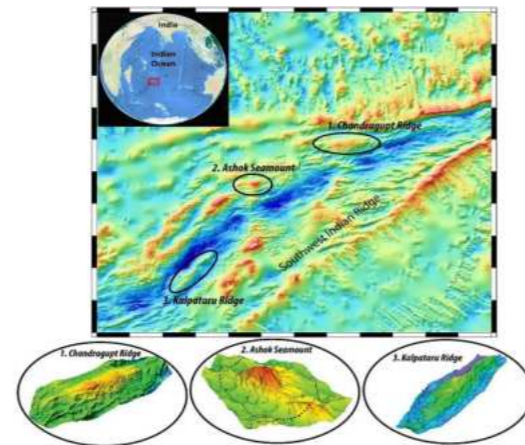
Grain ATM

- The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) and the Odisha Government have launched India's first around-the-clock grain dispensing machine, or 'Grain ATM,' in the state capital Bhubaneswar.
- With this machine, also known as Annapurta ("fulfiller of food"), Odisha becomes the first state to provide access to public distribution system beneficiaries 24 hours a day.
- "This is a significant initiative in partnership with the United Nations World Food Programme to achieve nutritional security in the state, which is focused on food security. The ATMs will be set up across the state to provide food grains to beneficiaries with 24/7 access under the National Food Security Act,"
- The Annapurta provides universal access: anyone with a public distribution system ration card valid in India, regardless of their state or union territory, can access their entitlement.
- It can dispense up to 50 kilograms of grain in five minutes, reducing waiting time by 70 per cent. Once biometric authentication is completed, it provides consistent access to the full ration.

- The modular design allows easy assembly based on available space. Annapurta is energy-efficient and can be connected to solar panels for automatic refilling.

Three Indian Ocean structures named

- Three underwater geographical structures located in the Indian Ocean have been awarded names proposed by India.



- Named after the rulers of the Mauryan dynasty are the Ashoka seamount and the Chandragupt ridge.
- Kalpataru ridge is the third structure for which the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) and UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) have recently awarded names originally proposed by India.
- In all, there are now seven structures in the Indian Ocean named mainly after Indian scientists or bear names proposed by India in this region of the Indian Ocean.
- All the three recently named structures were discovered by oceanographers from the National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR), Goa.
- These are located along the Southwest Indian Ridge area of the Indian Ocean and were discovered during an international survey exploration programme.

- Since 2004, India has been undertaking the Indian Southern Ocean Research Programme with NCPOR being the nodal agency.

- These sea explorations aim at studying the biogeochemistry, biodiversity, lower atmospheric processes, paleoclimate, hydrodynamics, air-sea interactions among a host of other research areas.

Karnataka Leads Nation's EV Charging Stations



- Karnataka has emerged as the frontrunner in India's electric vehicle (EV) revolution, boasting the highest number of public EV charging stations in the country, according to the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE).

- The state has established 5,765 charging stations, with a significant 85 percent (4,462) concentrated in the Bengaluru Urban district.

- This accomplishment puts Karnataka ahead of other states, including Maharashtra (3,728 stations), Uttar Pradesh (1,989 stations), and Delhi (1,941 stations),

highlighting its pioneering role in the nation's transition to electric mobility.

- Karnataka, the first state in India to introduce an EV policy in 2017, is now poised to accelerate EV adoption further and establish a sustainable transportation framework for the future.
- As part of its ambitious plans, the state government aims to develop model EV cities across Karnataka.
- Earlier this year, the State Budget 2024 announced the establishment of 2,500 new EV charging stations across the state via the PPP model.
- Additionally, the government plans to invest ₹35 crore to set up 100 EV charging stations in collaboration with electricity supply companies (escoms).



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Interim Government - Bangladesh

- Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus has been sworn in as Bangladesh's interim leader, vowing to "uphold, support and protect the constitution".
- The 84-year-old took an oath at the presidential palace in Dhaka along with more than a dozen members of his new cabinet, vowing to perform his duties "sincerely".
- The protests stem from long-running resentment over a quota system that saw 56% of government positions in Bangladesh reserved for various groups, including 30% for the descendants of freedom fighters who fought in the 1971 War of Independence.

Cause of the Protest

- In early July, a university student protest began over Bangladesh's job quota system that disproportionately, which many students view as unfair and outdated.
- Hasina served her first term as Prime Minister of Bangladesh from June 1996 to July 2001. She signed the 30-year water-sharing treaty with India governing the Ganges.

About Sheikh Hasina

- Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina resigned on August 5, 2024, and fled the country after weeks of student protests, Human Rights Watch said today. An estimated 300 people have been killed, thousands injured, and more than 10,000 arrested.
- "The interim government should seize this opportunity to reorient the country toward the rule of law with independent institutions to assure justice for the victims."

The path passed by Sheikh Hasina!

- Sheikh Hasina's path was very rough. Hasina is the eldest daughter of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the founding father and first president of Bangladesh.
- In the 1980s he led various protests against the regime of General Hussain Muhammad Ershad.
- He was elected to form the government for the first time in 1996. In 2001, he lost to the Khaleda Zia-led BNP.
- Hasina was arrested on charges of extortion during the 2006-2008 political crisis. Then the victory in the 2008 election continues till now. Earlier in 1975 her entire family was killed except her husband, children and sister.

Who is Mujibur Rahman?

- That means Bengali is spoken by the majority of people in East Pakistan.
- In 1949, Urdu was declared the only official national language in Pakistan.
- Muhammad Ali Jinnah declared that the people of East Bengal should also adopt Urdu as their national language.
- This led to strong protests in East Pakistan. Consolidating that discontent, Mujibur Rahman led massive protests.
- He was subsequently arrested. He was on hunger strike in jail demanding his release.
- People's agitation also broke out outside. Subsequently, Mujibur Rahman was released.
- At that time he left the Muslim League and joined the Awami League.

- It was in this context that the name was changed to East Bengal and East Pakistan in 1956.
- Then Mujibur Rahman insisted that 'Bengali should be declared as the official language'.
- Then in 1958 General Ayub Khan abolished the political system and brought the military rule. Mujibur protested again against this. He was subsequently arrested and imprisoned until 1961.
- He came out of jail and fought for the people of Bengal. Hence he was called Bangabandhu (friend of Bengalis) by Bengalis.
- Subsequently, the Awami League party led by Mujibur Rahman won the Pakistan general elections in 1970 with an absolute majority.
- But the Pakistan Army and Islamic political parties opposed Mujibur Rahman becoming the Prime Minister of Pakistan. They also decided to form a coalition government with Bhutto.
- Accordingly, they decided to make Bhutto the President and Mujibur the Prime Minister.
- But the then President Yahya Khan postponed the formation of the government. He also brought martial law.
- He also banned the Awami League without holding back. Mujibur was also arrested.
- The revolution broke out again. Many people were killed in the riots. And Mujibur was arrested and taken to Pakistan.
- India gave hand..Bangladesh formed..!
- It was then that the Mukti Vahini force was formed. People were made refugees. The Indian Army came forward to help the concerned people.
- The Mukti Vahini force fought with the Pakistani army with the help of the Indian Army. Eventually the Pakistani army surrendered. After that, the nation of Bangladesh was formed.
- Mujibur became its first Prime Minister. But in 1975, due to a conspiracy by the army, the family members were murdered except for two

- daughters who were studying abroad. Then in 1975, Mujibur was killed.
- But only daughters Sheikh Hasina and her sister Sheikh Rehana survived because they were in Germany.
- Sheikh Hasina returned to Bangladesh in 1981 and toured the country to promote democracy.
- Although Sheikh Hasina's Awami League lost the 1991 parliamentary elections, it won the 1996 elections.
- With this, Sheikh Hasina became the Prime Minister of Bangladesh for the first time. Since then, he has been an unshakable leader for 15 years.
- It is in this context that Hasina's rule has come to an end due to student protests.
- But he maintained friendship with India as long as he was in office.
- Even recently it allowed India to transport goods to seven northeastern states of India that share a border with Bangladesh.
- Hasina also controlled anti-India protest groups in Bangladesh. But since Hasina's influence in the country has waned, anti-India voices have also grown stronger.

World's Oldest Calendar Discovered

- Carvings chiseled into a large stone pillar in Turkey nearly 13,000 years ago may be the world's oldest sun-and-moon calendar, a new study suggests. And the calendar may have been carved to mark a catastrophic comet strike.
- Archaeologists discovered the markings at Göbekli Tepe, an archaeological site in southern Turkey that's known for its abundance of temples with elaborately etched drawings, according to the study.
- The newly studied pillar contains 365 V-shaped symbols. Researchers think each "V" represents a single day, with the entire calendar encompassing "12 lunar months in addition to 11 extra days," according to a statement from the University of Edinburgh.

2nd Meeting of Joint Russian- Indian Commission

- The Second Meeting of the Joint Russian-Indian Commission on the Cooperation in the Field of Emergency Management was held today, on 28th August 2024 in Moscow, Russia.
- During the first day of the visit, the working plan of the Joint Russian- Indian Commission on the Cooperation in the Field of Emergency Management for 2025-2026 was signed by Shri Nityanand Rai, Minister of State for Home Affairs, India and Mr. Kurenkov Aleksandr Vyacheslavovich, Minister of the Russian Federation for Civil Defence, Emergencies and Elimination of Consequences of Natural Disasters (EMERCOM of Russia).

- Both the countries agreed to implement this Plan during 2025-2026 and also decided to continue exchange of the best practices and lesson learnt in the field of Disaster Management.
- This meeting is significant to draw a strategy for executing the previous agreements between India and Russia, such as, Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) for cooperation in the field of Emergency Management in December, 2010 and Regulation to establish the Indo-Russian Joint Commission for Cooperation (2013) in prevention and elimination of consequences of emergency situations.
- The first meeting of the Indo-Russian Joint Commission on the Cooperation in the Field of Emergency Management was held in New Delhi in 2016.



ENVIRONMENT NEWS

New species of bent-toed geckos

- Scientists from India and the United Kingdom have described six new species of bent-toed geckos from Northeast India.
- The Namdapha bent-toed gecko was documented from the Namdapha Tiger Reserve in Arunachal Pradesh and is widespread within lowland evergreen forests of the Namdapha and Kamlang Tiger Reserves.

About Namdapha Tiger Reserve

- Namdapha National Park is a 1,985 km² large protected area in Arunachal Pradesh of Northeast India.
- The park was established in 1983. With more than 1,000 floral and about 1,400 faunal species, it is a biodiversity hotspot in the Eastern Himalayas.
- It is located between the Dapha Bum range of the Mishmi Hills and the Patkai range.
- Namdapha National Park is located at a few kilometre away from the turbulent Noa-Dihing river lies in the sprawling tropical rain forest.
- Namdapha National Park is part of the Tentative list of India in order to qualify for inclusion in the World Heritage List.
- Namdapha National Park is a remote, forested area in Arunachal Pradesh.

The Endangered Purple Blooms of the Western Ghats

- The Neelakurinji (*Strobilanthes kunthiana*), a remarkable flowering shrub native to the montane grasslands of southwest India, has recently been added to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species.

- This iconic plant, known for its mass blooming once every 12 years, has been classified as Vulnerable according to the IUCN criteria.

The IUCN Red List Assessment

- First Global Evaluation
- This marks the first time *Strobilanthes kunthiana* has undergone a Global Red List assessment.

Three New Edible Bug Species

- Entomologists at the Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE) in Bengaluru have recently discovered three new edible insect species that are traditionally consumed by indigenous populations in North-East India. This study emphasizes the significance of documenting and preserving traditional knowledge about edible insects, as many of these species remain underdocumented despite their value as food sources.

Significance Of The Findings

- The study identified approximately 500 edible bug species, emphasizing their cultural and nutritional importance in indigenous diets. The discovery of these new species reflects an increasing acknowledgment of entomophagy (the practice of eating insects) and its potential for sustainable food supply.

Identification Of New Species

- The newly discovered bugs are from the genus *Coridius* and the family *Dinidoridae*. They vary in size from 15 mm to 25 mm and feed mostly on plant sap. To identify these species, the researchers took a thorough strategy that included genomic analysis, physical characteristic measures, and classical taxonomy. The new species is named.
 - *Coridius adii*
 - *Coridius esculentus*
 - *Coridius insperatus*.

Three new wetlands - Ramsar site

- Three new wetlands have got the Ramsar site tag taking the total tally of Ramsar wetlands to 85 in India, Union environment minister, Bhupender Yadav said ahead of 78th Independence Day.
- The three new Ramsar sites are Nanjarayan Bird Sanctuary and Kazhuveli Bird Sanctuary in Tamil Nadu and Tawa Reservoir in Madhya Pradesh.

Nanjarayan Bird Sanctuary

- The Nanjarayan lake is large shallow wetland in Tiruppur district of Tamil Nadu.
- The wetlands in this region depend mainly on weather conditions, especially on heavy rain water flow from Nallar drainage. The lake harbours about 191 species of birds, 87 species of butterflies, seven species of amphibians, 21 species of reptiles, 11 species of small mammals and 77 species of plants.

Kazhuveli Bird Sanctuary

- Its covering an area of 5151.6 ha is a brackish shallow lake located on the Coromandel Coast in Villupuram district in Tamil Nadu.
- The lake is connected to the Bay of Bengal by the Uppukalli creek and the Edayanthittu Estuary.
- Kazhuveli is one of the significant and biodiversity rich wetlands.
- It is on the Central Asian Flyway and is an important stopover site for migratory species of birds and breeding ground for resident species of birds.

Tawa reservoir

- It has been constructed at the confluence of the Tawa and Denwa rivers. Tawa originates from Mahadeo hills in Chhindwara district, flows through Betul district and joins river Narmada in Narmadapuram district.
- The reservoir is located inside the Satpura Tiger Reserve and forms the western boundary of the Satpura National Park and Bori Wildlife Sanctuary.

- The reservoir is important for aquatic flora and fauna especially birds and wild animals.
- Many rare and endangered species of plants, reptiles and insects are found here. It is an important habitat for many local and migratory birds.

Cleistanthus Deekshabhoomiana - New plant specie

- A new plant species, Cleistanthus Deekshabhoomiana, has been discovered by three botany teachers in the Ambagad forest, located in Bhandara district, Maharashtra.
- This species is a new addition to the Cleistanthus genus, which already has 134 known species worldwide.
- The discovery of Cleistanthus Deekshabhoomiana makes it the 135th species in this group.
- The discovery was made during a field exploration focused on identifying different types of plants.
- The researchers noticed this new species, locally called 'Garadi', and conducted a detailed study.
- Their findings were published in the 'Indian Forester', a journal that has been dedicated to forestry research since 1875.

Counting of Vultures - 2024

- WWF-India has launched an initiative that involves counting of vultures and raising awareness on the critically endangered bird species.
- The drive will commence on September 7 and will conclude by October 6.
- The launch of the initiative coincides with International Vulture Awareness Day.

About

- "Vultures are essential to the health of ecosystems, serving as nature's clean-up crew.

- By feeding on carrion, they prevent the spread of diseases that could otherwise affect wildlife, livestock and humans.
- Their role in consuming decomposing animal carcasses helps with nutrient cycling and maintains ecological balance.

Cause of death

- However, the press statement highlighted that the vulture populations in India have faced a dramatic decline due to several threats, including the ingestion of toxic non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) like diclofenac, commonly used to treat livestock, as well as habitat loss, electrocution, food scarcity and human disturbances.

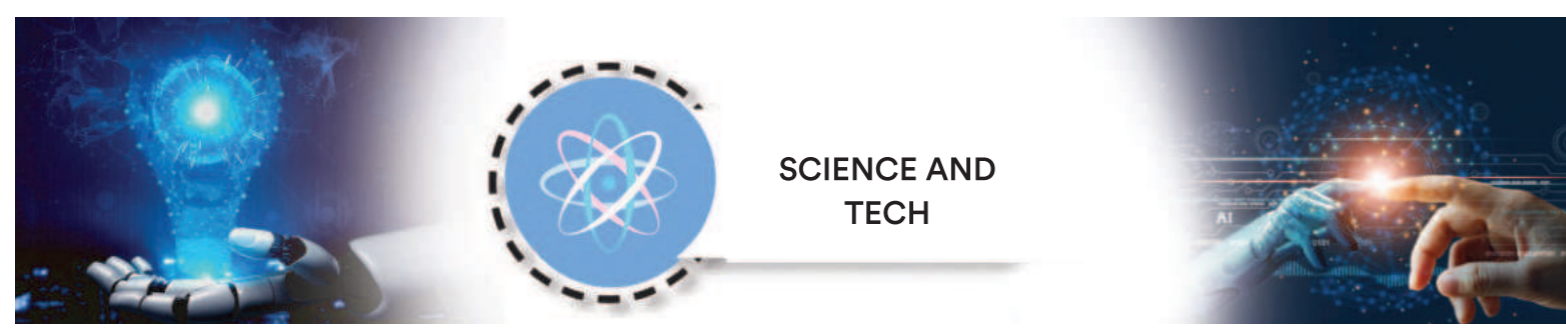
Ceropegia shivrayiana

- A new species of flowering plant from the Ceropegia genus has been discovered within the premises of Vishalgad Fort.
- This species has been named Ceropegia shivrayiana, in tribute to the great Maratha

warrior, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. The discovery underscores the rich biodiversity and ecological importance of the Vishalgad region.

About

- Ceropegia shivrayiana is a rare and intriguing plant species endemic to India.
- It is distinguished by its unique, tubular flowers, which are specially adapted to attract moths for pollination.
- This plant thrives in rocky terrains and is capable of growing in nutrient-poor soils.
- Belonging to the Asclepiadaceae family, which includes many medicinal plants, Ceropegia shivrayiana is of significant ecological importance.
- Its conservation is essential due to the ongoing threat of habitat loss, making it a vital subject for further ecological research.
- Additionally, its unusual floral structure has piqued the interest of plant enthusiasts and researchers alike.



SCIENCE AND TECH

Two Indian astronaut - Axiom-4 Mission

- India has shortlisted two astronaut-designates for the upcoming Axiom-4 mission to the International Space Station. Indian astronauts Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla and Group Captain Prasanth Balakrishnan Nair have been shortlisted to go to the U.S. to train for the upcoming Axiom-4 mission to the International Space Station (ISS).
- A National Mission Assignment Board has recommended two Gaganyatris (astronauts) as prime and backup Mission Pilot for this mission. Group Captain Shukla will be the prime mission pilot and Group Captain Nair will be the back up.

Axiom-4 Mission

- Axiom Mission 4 (or Ax-4) is a private spaceflight to the International Space Station.
- The flight will be launched in October 2024 and will last 14 days.
- It will be operated by Axiom Space and use a SpaceX Crew Dragon spacecraft.
- New water technology centre at IIT Madras
- India and Israel have joined hands for the establishment of a new water technology centre at IIT-Madras, which is expected to serve as a “key contributor” to India’s efforts to achieve sustainable water supply for all.
- A Joint Statement of Intent was signed to establish a Center of Water Technology at the prestigious Indian Institute of Technology, Madras.
- “This tripartite agreement, signed by the Embassy of Israel, IIT Madras, and the AMRUT mission of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, reflects a shared commitment to address

the critical challenges of water management in India,” it said.

- The Center of Water Technology aims to become a hub for innovation, research, and capacity-building in water technologies, particularly focusing on sustainable solutions for urban water supply.
- To kickstart this initiative, a capacity-building course on ‘24/7 Water Supply in Urban Areas’ was organised at IIT-Madras from August 5 to August 8, it added.

New method for Solar Cycle

- Astronomers from the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA) have developed a new method to predict the amplitude of the upcoming solar cycle.
- This discovery is based on 100 years of solar data from the IIA’s Kodaikanal Solar Observatory.

Space Weather

- Space weather refers to the varying conditions within the solar system and its heliosphere, influenced by the Sun and solar wind.

The main components of space weather include:

- solar wind, coronal mass ejections, and solar flares.
- These components can compress the Earth’s magnetosphere, triggering geomagnetic storms.
- This can disrupt communication, power transmission, damage spacecraft electronics, and pose threats to astronauts.

Solar Cycle and Its Importance

- The activity of the Sun follows an approximately 11-year periodic cycle, marked by variations in the number of sunspots on the Sun’s surface.

- This solar cycle influences space weather, Earth’s atmosphere, and climate variations.
- Predicting the amplitude of the solar cycle is a major challenge in astrophysics, as it directly affects related phenomena and space weather.

(SSLV-D3) successfully launched – ISRO

- ISRO successfully launched the Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV-D3) carrying the EOS-08 earth observation satellite from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.
- The SSLV-D3 mission marks the final developmental flight of ISRO’s smallest rocket, which now becomes fully operational for future missions.
- The mission is expected to boost NewSpace India Ltd’s commercial satellite launch operations.
- It follows the successful SSLV-D2-EOS-07 mission in February 2023 and is ISRO’s third mission of 2024.
- The SSLV-D3 will help enhance the collaboration between ISRO, the Indian industry, and NewSpace India Limited (NSIL).

Liquid water on Mars

- Scientists have discovered a reservoir of liquid water on Mars - deep in the rocky outer crust of the planet.
- The findings come from a new analysis of data from Nasa’s Mars Insight Lander, which touched down on the planet back in 2018.
- The lander carried a seismometer, which recorded four years’ of vibrations - Mars quakes - from deep inside the Red Planet.
- Analysing those quakes - and exactly how the planet moves - revealed “seismic signals” of liquid water.

- While there is water frozen at the Martian poles and evidence of vapour in the atmosphere, this is the first time liquid water has been found on the planet.
- In that time, the probe recorded more than 1,319 quakes.
- The analysis revealed reservoirs of water at depths of about six to 12 miles (10 to 20km) in the Martian crust.

India-Australia RISE Accelerator Program

- The Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) has partnered with Australia’s Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) to invite applications for the Climate Smart Agritech cohort under the India Australia Rapid Innovation and Start-up Expansion (RISE) Accelerator.
- This initiative targets start-ups and MSMEs from India and Australia, focusing on fostering innovations that address critical agricultural challenges shared by both nations.
- Set to commence in October 2024, the Climate Smart Agritech cohort is designed to support businesses with technologies and solutions that enhance agricultural productivity and resilience amid increasing climate variability, resource scarcity, and food insecurity.
- The program seeks start-ups and MSMEs that prioritize farmer needs, on-farm practices, and innovative solutions tailored to the unique agricultural environments of India and Australia.
- Since its launch in 2023, the RISE Accelerator has played a crucial role in helping start-ups and MSMEs validate, adapt, and pilot their technologies in new markets.
- With the introduction of the Climate Smart Agritech cohort, the program now aims to accelerate the growth of agritech innovations that can effectively address environmental challenges and improve agricultural sustainability.

IIM Bangalore Launches India's First Global Centre for PEVC

- As the private equity (PE) and venture capital (VC) landscape in India continues to grow, IIM Bangalore announced to set up country's first global centre on PE-VC.
- Professor U Dinesh Kumar, Dean, Faculty at IIM Bangalore signed an MoU with Mathew Cyriac, Executive Chairman, Florintree Advisors Pvt Ltd, to set up the Tony James Centre for Private Equity and Venture Capital.
- Named after the legendary investment banker Tony James, the Centre aims to be a global thought leader for research in matters relating to the PE and VC landscape.

India's first reusable hybrid rocket – RHUMI 1

- A Tamil Nadu-based start-up successfully launched India's first reusable hybrid rocket – "RHUMI 1".

- The rocket was launched from a mobile platform in Thiruvandhurai, Chennai, with the goal of advancing research on global warming and climate change.
- The RHUMI rocket, which took off early in the day from Thiruvandhurai on the East Coast Road near Chennai, is powered by a hybrid motor using a generic fuel and features an electrically triggered parachute deployer.

About Mission

- The rocket launched earlier in the day carried three CUBE satellites designed to monitor and gather data on atmospheric conditions, such as cosmic radiation intensity, UV radiation, and air quality.
- In addition, it deployed 50 Pico satellites to investigate various atmospheric factors, including accelerometer readings, altitude, and ozone levels, to better understand environmental dynamics.



SPORTS NEWS

Wrestler Vinesh Phogat disqualified - Paris Olympics 2024

- India's top female wrestler Vinesh Phogat has been disqualified after failing the weigh-in ahead of the final match at the Olympic Games.
- The 29-year-old was scheduled to face the US's Sarah Hildebrandt in the 50kg freestyle category which would have guaranteed her at least a silver medal.
- But Phogat weighed in a 100 grams above the 50kg limit on the morning of the contest, the Indian Olympic Association said.
- Her disqualification means she will not win any medal and will be ranked last in the competition.
- The ad hoc division of the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) dismissed Vinesh's appeal for a joint silver medal. "The application filed by Vinesh Phogat on 7 August 2024 is dismissed," said a CAS statement signed by the Sole Arbitrator Annabelle Bennett.

Neeraj Chopra - Silver medal

- India's star javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra clinched a silver medal at the Paris Olympics, at Stade de France.
- Neeraj's throw of 89.45m earned him second place on the podium. Although it was his best performance of the season, it wasn't enough to secure gold, which went to Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem with a throw of 92.97m, setting a new Olympic record.

Indian Men's Hockey - Bronze Medal

- The Indian men's hockey team made a triumphant return from the Paris 2024

Olympics, bringing home the bronze medal and setting new records.

- The feat marked a historic milestone as the team won Olympic medals for the first time in more than five decades since the 1972 Munich Olympics.

Aman Sehrawat - Bronze medal

- Indian wrestler Aman Sehrawat surged four positions to claim the World No. 2 spot in the men's 57 kg category as per the United World Wrestling rankings.
- At the Paris 2024 Olympics, Sehrawat achieved a historic milestone by becoming the youngest Olympic bronze medalist for India. He secured a bronze medal in the men's 57 kg wrestling category by defeating Puerto Rico's Darian Toi Cruz with a score of 13-5.

New President of the Asian Cricket Council

- The sitting secretary of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) and the president of the Asian Cricket Council (ACC), Jay Shah, made history, August 27, by becoming the youngest person to win the election for the International Cricket Council (ICC) chairman post.
- Shah was elected unopposed and is set to replace the incumbent chairman, Greg Barclay, on December 1, 2024.
- With this win, Shah becomes the third Indian and fourth person overall to hold the post of ICC chairman. He is also the fifth Indian to hold the highest authoritative position in the sport of cricket.



IMPORTANT DAYS

| DATE | DAYS | THEME AND OBJECTIVES |
|------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| August - 1 | Clergy Sexual Abuse Awareness Day | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clergy Sexual Abuse Awareness Day is observed on 1 August of every year to extend support to all the victims of clergy sexual assault, so that they can come out and speak about any wrongdoing. This year's SAAM theme, "Building Connected Communities." Join us in working together as individuals, communities, organizations, and institutions to change ourselves and the systems. |
| August - 6 | Hiroshima Day | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hiroshima Day is observed every year on August 6 to remember the tragic event of World War II in 1945 when the atomic bomb was dropped on Japan's Hiroshima which led to extreme destruction and loss of life. This year, the world is commemorating the 79th anniversary of the day that changed the course of history. For Hiroshima Day 2024 the conference theme is "Together with the Hibakusha, let us achieve a nuclear weapon-free, peaceful, and just world — for the future of the humankind and our planet". |
| August - 9 | Nagasaki Day | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> August 9 marks Nagasaki Day, a solemn occasion dedicated to remembering the devastating impact of the atomic bomb dropped on Nagasaki, Japan. This day serves as a powerful reminder of the horrors of nuclear warfare and a call to promote peace and reconciliation. |
| August - 9 | World Tribal Day | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The date of August 9 was chosen to commemorate the first meeting of the United Nations Working Group on Indigenous Populations in 1982. This meeting was a significant step towards acknowledging and protecting the rights of indigenous communities. The theme for World Tribal Day 2024 is 'Indigenous Youth as Agents of Change for Self-determination.' This theme highlights the crucial role of indigenous youth in driving transformative actions and asserting their right to self-determination within their communities and beyond. |

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| August - 9 | International Day of the World's Indigenous | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples takes place annually on 9 August to celebrate Indigenous Peoples and their knowledge. The Day highlights rights of Indigenous Peoples to make their own decisions and carry them out in ways that are meaningful and culturally appropriate to them. The UN General Assembly (UNGA) decided, in its resolution 49/214, to observe the International Day of the World's Indigenous People annually, on 9 August. The date represents the first meeting, in 1982, of the UN Working Group on Indigenous Populations. The theme for the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples in 2024 is "Protecting the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in Voluntary Isolation and Initial Contact." |
| August - 10 | World Biofuel day | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Biofuel day is celebrated on August 10th every year to commemorate the work of Sir Rudolf Diesel, the inventor of diesel engines. He has been credited with the discovery of the use of vegetable oil in general, and peanut oil in particular, in place of fossil fuels for the functioning of mechanical engines. The theme for World Biofuel Day 2024 is "Sustainable Biofuels: Reducing Waste, Feeding Energy." This theme emphasizes the importance of developing and utilizing biofuels in a sustainable manner to ensure long-term environmental benefits. |
| August - 10 | World Lion Day | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Lion Day is celebrated every year on 10th August to raise awareness about the conservation of lions and their habitats. It was first established in 2013 by Big Cat Rescue, the world's largest accredited sanctuary dedicated to lions. |
| August - 12 | international youth day | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Youth Day is an awareness day designated by the United Nations that takes place on August 12. The purpose of the day is to draw attention to a given set of cultural and legal issues surrounding youth. The first IYD was observed on 12 August 2000. The international youth day 2024 theme is "From Clicks to Progress: Youth Digital Pathways for Sustainable Development." You are the seed of prosperity. This is the day to be bold and courageous and stand for what you believe in! |

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| August - 15 | India Independence day | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> THIS DAY IN HISTORY August 15, 1947, India and Pakistan win independence: “The Indian Independence Bill, which carves the independent nations of India and Pakistan out of the former Mogul Empire, comes into force at the stroke of midnight on August 15, 1947. This year, Independence Day with celebrations echoing the spirit of 'Viksit Bharat.' The theme reflects the vision of a progressive, inclusive, and empowered India by becoming a developed nation by 2047 – 100 years after independence. |
| August - 19 | World Humanitarian Day | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On 19 August 2003, a bomb attack on the Canal Hotel in Baghdad, Iraq, killed 22 humanitarian aid workers, including the UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Iraq, Sergio Vieira de Mello. Five years later, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution designating 19 August as World Humanitarian Day (WHD). The theme for World Humanitarian Day 2024 is #Act For Humanity. |
| August - 20 | World Mosquito Day | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On August 20, 1897, a British doctor made a groundbreaking discovery. Sir Ronald Ross found that female Anopheles mosquitoes transmit malaria between humans. The parasite was located in the mosquito's stomach. To commemorate this moment in history, World Mosquito Day (WMD) was founded. The World Mosquito Day theme 2024 is “Accelerating the fight against malaria for a more equitable world”. This year's theme stresses the need to address the gaps in accessing malaria prevention, detection and treatment. Timely diagnosis and treatment can prevent complications and save many lives. |
| August - 21 | World Senior Citizen's Day | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The day is celebrated annually to recognize the contributions of older persons and to examine issues that affect their lives. This day provides an opportunity to acknowledge the contribution, wisdom, dignity and needs of our senior citizens and to rededicate our efforts to ensure their well-being. The history of the World Senior Citizen's Day dates back to 1988. It was officially founded by the former President of the United States of America, Ronald Reagan. |
| August - 23 | International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition is an international day celebrated 23 August of each year, the day designated by UNESCO to memorialize the transatlantic slave trade. "Creating Global Freedom: Countering Racism with Justice in Societies and Among Nations" |

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|-------------|-----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| August - 29 | National Sports Day | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Sports Day is a public holiday celebrated in various countries to honour the national sports teams and sports traditions of those countries. On this day people from different age groups take a part in sports like kabaddi, marathon, basketball, hockey etc. The Theme for National Sports Day 2024 is 'Sport for the Promotion and Peaceful and Inclusive Societies'. This theme highlights how athletics can strengthen social bonds, unite individuals, and give communities the tools they need to promote inclusivity and peace. |
| August - 29 | International Day Against Nuclear Tests | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In December 2009, the United Nations General Assembly unanimously declared 29 August as the International Day against Nuclear Tests. This day was proposed by Kazakhstan as it marks both the closure of the former Soviet Semipalatinsk Test Site in 1991 in modern-day Kazakhstan and the date of the first Soviet nuclear test conducted there in 1949. International Day Against Nuclear Tests Theme 2024 Advocate for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty's entry into force and universal adherence. Promote dialogue and cooperation towards achieving a nuclear-weapons-free world. Mobilize public action and engagement against nuclear testing and nuclear weapons. |
| August - 30 | National Small Industry Day | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each year, on August 30th, India dedicates National Small Industry Day to honor and acknowledge the vital role played by small industries in the nation's economic advancement. Small Industry Day is marked to emphasize the importance of opportunities for individuals in rural and urban regions. Small businesses are labor-intensive and units of capital engaged in them retain a higher proportion of employment. |





DEFENCE NEWS

Exercise Tarang Shakti 2024

- Exercise Tarang Shakti 2024 is set to be India's largest international air exercise, marking a significant milestone in the country's defense diplomacy and military cooperation.
- Scheduled to take place in two phases across Tamil Nadu and Rajasthan, this exercise aims to showcase India's defence capabilities and strengthen military ties with participating nations. This article provides an in-depth look at Exercise Tarang Shakti, including its objectives, participating nations, key details, and the significance of the exercise.

About Tarang Shakti

- Tarang Shakti is an international air exercise hosted by India, involving air forces from multiple countries.
- It is designed to enhance strategic relations, improve interoperability, and showcase India's indigenous defence technologies.
- Indian Air Force (IAF) Vice Chief Air Marshal AP Singh announced that Tarang Shakti will be the largest international air exercise ever conducted in India, with invitations extended to 51 countries.
- The exercise will occur in two phases, with participation from various countries and their military assets.

4th India-Vietnam Defence Policy

- The 14th India-Vietnam Defence Policy Dialogue took place in New Delhi on August 01, 2024.
- During the meeting, the two sides reviewed the range of bilateral defence cooperation issues

and noted the transformative progress in the ties after the signing of 'Joint Vision Statement on India-Vietnam Defence Partnership towards 2030' in June 2022 during the visit .

Vietnam proposed five focus areas

1. delegation exchanges and dialogue.
 2. staff-talks.
 3. Service-to-Service cooperation.
 4. Education and training.
 5. Defence Industry cooperation.
- The Defence Secretary welcomed the five point proposal and proposed cooperation in emerging areas of concern for both countries like Cyber Security, Information Security, Military Medicine, Submarine Search & Rescue.

Astra missiles

- The Indian Air Force (IAF) has given clearance to the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and the Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) to produce 200 Astra air-to-air missiles for its Su-30 and LCA Tejas fighter aircraft.
- The clearance was given to the DRDO and public sector firm BDL, during a recent visit by Indian Air Force Deputy Chief Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit to Hyderabad.

About

- The programme was cleared by the Defence Acquisition Council for the IAF and Indian Navy, under which 248 missiles were expected to be produced for both services in 2022-23.
- These series of air-to-air missiles are part of the Astra program, which aims to enhance the aerial combat capabilities of the Indian Armed Forces.

The Astra Mark 1 missile, a predecessor to the Mark 2, has already been successfully inducted into both the IAF and the Navy.

- The existing Astra Mark 1 missile has a range of up to 100 kilometres, with the potential for further extension.
- The journey towards developing an indigenous air-to-air missile system began in 2001, when the DRDO initiated discussions with various stakeholders.

India holds large strike corps exercise in Eastern Ladakh

- The Indian Army is currently engaged in a major strike corps exercise in Eastern Ladakh, involving artillery, armored, and infantry units. The war games are being conducted in close proximity to flashpoints along the Line of Actual Control (LAC), the de facto border with China. The exercise aims to assess the readiness of troops to rapidly mobilize to the frontlines in the event of hostilities.
- The ongoing exercise will feature the deployment of new weapons systems acquired to counter the Chinese threat.
- including loitering munitions, swarm drones, counter-drone systems, and enhanced surveillance capabilities.
- The Indian Army has also deployed a substantial number of armored units, T90 and T72 main battle tanks, K9 Vajra self-propelled artillery guns, and missile units, including the Brahmos supersonic cruise missile system, near the border.

Parvat Prahaar Military exercise

- The Indian Army has conducted a strategic military exercise, 'Parvat Prahaar', in Ladakh, focusing on high-altitude warfare and operations.
- The 'Parvat Prahaar' (Mountain Strike) exercise emphasises mountainous and rugged terrains, such as those found in regions like Eastern Ladakh.

- It is crucial for maintaining the readiness and effectiveness of the Army in the region, which is close to the India-China border.

About

- The exercise, which continues for over a fortnight, involves simulating real-world combat scenarios to train soldiers in the unique challenges posed by such terrains.
- Various arms of the Army, including infantry, armored, artillery, and support units, are participating in this drill.
- Different kinds of tanks, artillery guns including K-9 Vajra, air-defense systems, UAVs, and other aviation assets of the Army are showcasing their operability and war preparedness, according to officials.

GAURAV - Air-launched glide bomb

- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully conducted the maiden flight test of the Long Range Glide Bomb (LRGB) from an Indian Air Force (IAF) Su-30 MKI aircraft.

About

- GAURAV -- a 1,000 kg class air-launched glide bomb, is capable of striking targets at long distances.
- After launch, the bomb navigates towards its target using a precise hybrid navigation system that combines INS and GPS data.
- The Research Centre Imarat (RCI) in Hyderabad designed and developed the bomb indigenously.
- The test was carried out off the coast of Odisha. In its first test, GAURAV hit the target on Long Wheeler Island.

India-Australia Maritime Security

- The 6th India-Australia Maritime Security Dialogue was held on 13 August, 2024 in Canberra.

- They exchanged views on various topics of mutual interest, including the maritime security environment in the Indo-Pacific region, maritime domain awareness, Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) coordination, regional and multilateral engagements and sustainable use of marine resources.
- This included cooperation in Search and Rescue (SAR), pollution response, blue economy and Port State control.

INS Mumbai to Make Maiden Visit to Colombo

- INS Mumbai — the third of the Delhi class destroyers — will bring essential spares for the Sri Lanka Airforce (SLAF)-operated Dornier maritime patrol aircraft — the pilots and flight navigators of which are being trained by the Indian Navy.

US approves sale of anti-submarine for India

- The United States has approved a potential \$52.8 million Foreign Military Sale (FMS) to India, including Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) sonobuoys and related equipment, which will help bolster its deterrence capabilities.



- The sale includes AN/SSQ-53G High Altitude Anti-Submarine Warfare (HAASW) sonobuoys, AN/SSQ-62F HAASW sonobuoys, AN/SSQ-36 sonobuoys, as well as technical publications, and other logistics. “The estimated total cost is \$52.8 million,” the US Defense Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA).

- Apart from this, the Indian Navy also supports the aircraft’s maintenance with a technical team and spares.
- “The Dornier aircraft provides a unique and critical capability of surveillance over the Sea Area of Responsibility (AOR) of Sri Lanka since induction two years ago,”
- During the stay in Colombo, INS Mumbai will conduct a familiarisation tour onboard for Sri Lanka Navy personnel aimed at sharing best practices between both the Navies.
- The ship will also undertake joint activities with the Sri Lanka Navy, such as sports fixtures, Yoga and beach cleaning, it said.
- The indigenously built INS Mumbai, commissioned into the Indian Navy on January 22, 2001, will depart the island nation on August 29.



Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar Award

- The Indian government announced the first-ever Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar (RVP) awardees 2024, marking a significant shift in the country’s approach to recognising scientific achievements.
- The awards will be presented on 23rd August, first National Space Day, celebrating the milestone of Chandrayaan-3’s moon landing.

Key Facts

- The RVP is a prestigious set of awards that recognize and encourage significant achievements by scientists, technologists, and innovators of Indian origin, including Persons of Indian Origin (PIO), whether working in India or abroad.
- These awards honour individuals who have made distinguished contributions through impactful research, innovation, or discovery that benefits Indian communities or society.
- The RVP is being introduced for the first time in 2024. It was established to replace the existing science awards, including the Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize, to provide a more inclusive and updated recognition system.

About

- These awards shall be announced on 11th May (National Technology Day) every year. The Award Ceremony for all categories of awards will be held on National Space Day.
- RVP is awarded in various categories such as Physical Sciences, Chemical Sciences, Biological Sciences, Mathematical Sciences, Earth & Atmospheric Sciences, and Engineering Sciences.

Tamil Nadu Independence day Awards - 2024

- During the Independence Day celebrations, it is customary to honour individuals by giving awards for their outstanding work in various fields.

Thagaisal Tamil Award

- Accordingly, the Thagaisal Tamil Award for this year was given to senior Congress leader Kumari Ananthan, senior.

Kalpna Chawla Award

- Sabina, a nurse from Gudalur, who bravely visited the affected areas during the Wayanad landslides and treated the injured, was awarded the Kalpna Chawla Award for Courage.

Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Award

- Likewise, the Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Award was given to ISRO’s Chandrayaan-3 Space Program Director P.Veeramuthuvel. Chandrayaan-3 successfully landed the lander on the South Pole of the Moon last year.
- The world appreciated this achievement of ISRO scientists. This made India the first country in the world to set foot on the South Pole of the Moon.
- Veeramuthuvel was given this award in appreciation of the fact that he was the main contributor to this success.

Who is this P.Veeramuthuvel?

- Veeramuthuvel from Viluppuram district studied at Railway School and then did vocational education.
- After that, he studied engineering in a private college in Tambaram, Chennai with dreams of achieving success in the space industry.

- Later he did his Masters and Research course at IIT Madras in Chennai.
- He then got an opportunity to work as a scientist in ISRO in 2004 after doing important research in the field of aerospace.
- After that, he was selected as the Chandrayaan-3 program director in 2019.
- He also played an important role in the Chandrayaan 2 project. Veeramuthuvel is credited with successfully launching Chandrayaan-3 and showing the South Pole of the Moon to the world.



Background Music (AR Rahman), Best Cinematographer (Ravi Varman), and Best Sound Design (Anand Krishnamurthi).

'Ponniyin Selvan: Part 1' - Won 4 National Awards

- The historical epic 'Ponniyin Selvan: Part 1' (PS-1), directed by Mani Ratnam, recently bagged four National Film Awards. The film, which is an adaptation of Kalki Krishnamurthy's epic Tamil novel, has been praised for its grandeur, storytelling, and stellar performances by an ensemble cast,
- Mani Ratnam's Ponniyin Selvan won four awards, including Best Regional Film, Best

National Best Teachers Award 2024

- National Good Teachers Award has been announced for 50 people across the country. Two teachers from Madurai and Virudhunagar districts have been selected for the National Good Teacher Award 2024.
- Madurai TVS, Higher Secondary School Teacher Muralitharan and Rajapalayam Panchayat Union Middle School Teacher Gopinath are given this award in Tamil Nadu.

Seven National Awards - AR Rahman

- The 70th National Awards were announced today for films released in 2022 and Oscar-winner AR Rahman's name featured in the prestigious list.



- He won the National Film Award for Best Music Director (Background Score) for his work in Mani Ratnam's Tamil film Ponniyin Selvan - Part 1, which had become a blockbuster in 2022.
- AR Rahman has won numerous awards, including Oscars, in his career.
- This award gives AR Rahman a record seven National Awards, the most any music director has won in India.

- Isaignani Ilaiyaraaja comes a close second having won five National Awards for music, the last being in 2015 for the Tamil film Tharai Thappattai.
- Hindi music director Vishal Baradwaj stands third in this list with four and Jaidev with three.



ECONOMY NEWS

Business Ready (B-READY)

- Business Ready (B-READY) is the World Bank's new flagship report benchmarking the business environment and investment climate in most economies worldwide. The report assesses the regulatory framework and public services directed at firms, and the efficiency with which regulatory framework and public services are combined in practice.
- With data that are comparable across economies and over time, B-READY provides actionable evidence to promote reforms for a stronger private sector.

About

- The first B-READY report will be launched on October 3, 2024
- Business readiness can be described as a strategic process that cultivates an organization's potential to navigate, anticipate, and proactively respond to evolving prospective market conditions, industry trends, and technological advancements.



SCHEMES

Women Entrepreneurship Program

- In a pivotal move towards empowering women entrepreneurs and spurring economic growth, the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) unveiled the Women Entrepreneurship Program.
- This program is designed to address the distinct challenges that women face when starting and growing businesses.
- In partnership with Britannia Industries Limited, the initiative will also offer financial grants and feature their products and services on the Skill India Digital Hub, reflecting a strong commitment to fostering an inclusive environment for women entrepreneurs.

Aims

- The program has been launched with the introduction of complimentary self-learning basic entrepreneurship courses available in multiple languages on the Skill India Digital Hub (SIDH).
- Upon completion of these courses, participants will receive a co-branded certificate from NSDC, Britannia Industries and NIESBUD, acknowledging their entrepreneurial skills and competencies.
- This initiative aims to empower approximately 25 lakh women across India, providing them with the skills, knowledge, and resources needed to start and grow successful businesses.
- The initiative will culminate in a grand finale where the top 50 contestants will present their business ideas to a distinguished jury.
- To further encourage innovation and excellence, Britannia Industries will award financial grants of 10 lakh rupees each to 10 of the most successful contestants.

Cyber Crime Prevention against Women and Children

- The Government implements a scheme of Cyber Crime Prevention against Women and Children (CCPWC) under Nirbhaya Fund. A National Cybercrime Reporting Portal (NCRP) www.cybercrime.gov.in has been launched under CCPWC to report all types of cybercrimes with special focus on cyber-crimes against women & children.
- Under the CCPWC Scheme, the Ministry of Home Affairs has provided financial assistance of Rs. 131.60 Crore to the States/UTs, out of which Rs. 105.30 Crore has been utilised. Also, Rs. 41.45 Crore has been disbursed to Central agencies i.e. NCRB, Bureau of Police Research & Development (BPR&D) and Directorate of Forensic Science Services (DFSS) against which 100% fund has been utilized.

National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme portal (2.0)

- The National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS) is a great step the government had taken in 2016 to promote apprenticeships. The initiative helps provide practical knowledge to apprentices. NAPS offers a robust platform to everyone through which they can boost their skills and contribute to the nation's workforce.
- The estimated salary for a NATS Trainee is ₹15,556 per month.
- NATS, the government pays the companies 50% of the minimum payment that apprentices must receive for their services.
- The Scheme covers graduated students or students pursuing either of the following categories of Graduate, Graduate Sandwich, Technician, Technician Sandwich, and Technician Vocational.

Eligibilities for NATS

- Aged 16 years or above.
- Degree/diploma.
- Not self-employed persons.
- Not a government employee.
- Indian citizen.
- No prior work experience.

Bagless Days

- National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 recommends that all students will participate in a 10-day bagless period during Grades 6-8 where they will intern with local experts such as carpenters, gardeners, potters, artists, etc.
- children of classes 6-8 an exposure to skill education using experiential learning pedagogy and to make learning at schools joyful and stress free.'Bagless Days' are encouraged throughout the year for various
- types of activities involving arts, quizzes, sports, and skills; periodic exposure to activities outside school through visits to places/monuments of historical, cultural and tourist importance;

About NEP

- NEP, or National Education Policy 2024, is a part of the National Educational Policy 2020 that envisions establishing a progressive and inclusive education system. It identifies the modern era's requirements and learning needs and introduces necessary changes.

NEP IS BASED ON FOUR PILLARS

1. ACCESS
2. EQUITY
3. QUALITY
4. ACCOUNTABILITY

AMRUT 2.0

- AMRUT 2.0 was aimed at making cities 'water secure' and providing functional water tap connections to all households in all statutory towns. Ambitious targets were set up such as providing 100% sewage management in 500 AMRUT cities.

Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) 2.0

- It was launched in 2021.
- AMRUT 2.0 aims to provide tap water supply to all households across 4,800 statutory towns in the country.
- With the tendering process completed and the contractors selected, the projects are set to start on the ground soon.
- With the aim of universal tap water supply, the first iteration of AMRUT covered 500 cities in the country.
- Expanding the coverage to all statutory towns, AMRUT 2.0 was approved with a Central assistance of Rs 66,750 crore from 2021-2022 until 2025-2026, with the total estimated outlay at Rs 2.99 lakh crore.

Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT)

- It was launched in 2015 in selected 500 cities and towns across the country.
- The Mission focuses on development of basic infrastructure, in the selected cities and towns, in the sectors of water supply; sewerage and septage management; storm water drainage; green spaces and parks; and non-motorized urban transport.
- A set of Urban Reforms and Capacity Building have been included in the Mission.

Mukhyamantri Maiya Samman Yojana

- Jharkhand CM Hemant Soren launched the Mukhyamantri Maiya Samman Yojana last month to overcome the problems of health & nutrition,

economic backwardness, and education among women. Under the scheme, the government will provide a monthly financial assistance of ₹1000 to the eligible women beneficiaries.

- The Jharkhand government launched the Mukhyamantri Maiya Samman Yojana on 25 July 2024 to empower women.

Eligibility Criteria

- The Jharkhand women who meet the following eligibility requirements can apply for the Mukhyamantri Maiya Samman Yojana:
- Applicants should be permanent residents of Jharkhand state.
- The age limit of the applicants should be between 21 years and 50 years.
- Applicants Aadhar should be linked with their bank account
- The applicant's family should hold the Jharkhand State Antyodaya Anna Yojana Card (yellow ration card)/K-Oil ration card/ green-colored separate ration card/ previously obtained Householder card.

Upasthiti Portal

- Jharkhand CM Hemant Soren launched 'Upasthiti (attendance) Portal' to ensure daily attendance of all doctors, paramedical personnel, contractual workers, and other personnel working in the health department.
- Cross-verification of biometric attendance being recorded by health department personnel will be done through this portal.

AYUSH under PM-JAY

- The Union Cabinet has approved the inclusion of AYUSH Health and Wellness Centre (AYUSH HWC) component of Ayushman Bharat in National AYUSH Mission (NAM).

- The proposal entails an expenditure of Rs. 3399.35 Crore (Rs.2209.58 Crore as Central Share and Rs. 1189.77 crore as State share) for operationalization of AYUSH HWCs within a period of five years that is from financial years 2019-20 to 2023-24.

The operationalization of AYUSH HWCs component under NAM shall have to achieve the following objectives:

- To establish a holistic wellness model based on AYUSH principles and practices focusing on preventive promotive, curative, rehabilitative and palliative healthcare by integration with the existing public health care system.
- To provide informed choice to the needy public by making the AYUSH services available.
- The AYUSH services include community awareness about lifestyle, diet, Yoga, medicinal plants and provision of medicines for selected conditions as per strength of AYUSH systems.

Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana

- The Maharashtra government has rolled out the 'Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana,' a new initiative focused on providing financial aid to women across the state.
- This key program is set to offer a monthly stipend of Rs 1,500 to over one crore women.
- Launched on August 17, 2024, the 'Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana' is designed to bolster the financial security and autonomy of women in Maharashtra.
- Under this scheme, eligible women, who are permanent residents of the state, aged between 21 and 65 years, and from households with an annual income below Rs 2.5 lakh, will receive Rs 1,500 each month.
- This initiative is part of a larger effort to enhance the economic stability and self-reliance of women throughout the state.

Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana scheme

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has announced plans to significantly expand the reach of Jan Aushadhi Kendras, which are the retail outlets that sell these affordable medicines. The plan is to increase the number of these Kendras from 10,000 to 25,000 over the next three years. Currently, there are already over 13,000 Jan Aushadhi Kendras operating across India, making affordable medicines available to a larger population.

About

- The scheme to make quality generic medicines available at affordable prices to all, Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP) was launched by the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers, Government of India in November 2008.

Objectives:

- Ensure access to quality medicines for all sections of the population, especially the poor and the deprived ones.
- Create awareness about generic medicines through education and publicity to counter the perception that quality is synonymous with high prices only.
- Generate employment by engaging individual entrepreneurs in the opening of the PMBJP Kendra.

Vadhvan Port - ₹76,000 crore project

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for the Vadhvan Port, a ₹76,000 crore project designed to create a world-class maritime gateway that will enhance trade and economic growth.
- Located near Dahanu in Palghar district, Vadhvan Port will be one of India's largest

deep-water ports, offering direct connectivity to international shipping routes. .

- Lay the foundation stone of 218 fisheries projects worth around ₹1,560 crores, aimed at bolstering the sector's infrastructure and productivity across the nation.

Benefits of the Project

- These initiatives are expected to generate more than five lakh employment opportunities in the fisheries sector.
- coastal states and union territories.
- This system, developed by ISRO will enhance communication, safety, and rescue operations for fishermen.
- These projects will improve fish production, post-harvest management, and livelihoods in the fisheries sector.
- The fishery infrastructure projects, including upgrading fishing harbours and constructing fish markets to enhance facilities for post-harvest management.

Mudalvar Marunthagam

- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin announced launching pharmacy outlets 'Mudalvar Marunthagam,' (Chief Minister's Pharmacy) soon to ensure the availability of generic and other medicines at low cost to the people.
- Stalin said over 75,000 openings in the government sector will be filled by January 2026. The Chief Minister's pharmacy scheme will be launched next year, on the day of Pongal, the harvest festival, (January 14, 2025) and as many as 1,000 pharmacy outlets will be opened in the first phase.
- In order to effectively implement the scheme, pharmacists and cooperative societies will be provided by the government necessary credit facilities and Rs 3 lakh subsidy, he said



ART & CULTURE

UNESCO 46th Session :

- “The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), Ministry of Culture, has been entrusted by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to hold 46th Session of the World Heritage Committee (WHC) Meeting at New Delhi from 21-31 July 2024. India has been given the honor of hosting this prestigious meeting for the first time. The 46th Session of the WHC, comprising of 21 State Parties to the World Heritage Convention, is responsible for selecting sites to be listed as UNESCO World Heritage Sites including World Heritage List and List of World Heritage in Danger.
- Mentioned northeast India’s historic ‘Maidam’ has been nominated to enter UNESCO’s popular World Heritage List, and is India’s 43rd World Heritage Site and northeast India’s first heritage to secure the status of Cultural World Heritage.

Background:

- India was elected to the 21-member World Heritage Committee (WHC) in the 23rd General

Assembly in 2021 for a period of four years (2021-2025). This is India’s fourth term on the World Heritage Committee.

- India was the WH Committee member earlier for three terms: 1985-1991, 2001-2007 and 2011-2015
- India has inscribed 42 Properties in the World Heritage List which include 34 Cultural, 7 Natural, 1 Mixed Heritage Sites
- 12 Sites have been added in the last 10 years that includes last year’s inscriptions of the Santiniketan (West Bengal) and Sacred ensembles of the Hoysalas (Karnataka) during the Extended 45th Session of the World Heritage Committee which was held in Riyadh (Saudi Arabia)
- India is the 6th country on the list and 2nd in the Asia Pacific Region based on the numbers of the World Heritage List.
- In addition, India has 57 Sites on the Tentative List of the World Heritage.



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