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MONTHLY GK PREP



100 MCQs with Answer Keys and Solutions

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Economy

1. GST collections for April this year recorded highest ever collection of two lakh ten thousand crore rupees

The Gross Goods and Services Tax (GST) revenue collections for April this year have recorded the highest ever collection of two lakh ten thousand crore rupees. Union Finance Ministry said, this represents a significant 12.4 per cent year-on-year growth, driven by a strong increase in domestic transactions and imports.

2. India cuts windfall tax on petroleum crude

India has cut its windfall tax on petroleum crude to 8,400 Indian rupees (\$100.66) a metric ton from 9,600 rupees with effect from May 1, the government said. The tax, which is revised every fortnight, was left unchanged at zero for diesel and aviation turbine fuel.

A windfall tax is a higher tax imposed on specific industries when they make unusual and above-average profits. The term 'windfall' refers to an unexpected rise in profits, and the tax on windfall gains is known as the windfall tax.

3. OECD revises India's FY25 growth forecast upward to 6.6%

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, revised India's FY25 growth forecast upward to 6.6% from 6.2% projected earlier. 'Strong investment and improving business confidence in India are projected to sustain real GDP growth of just over 6 per cent in both FY25 and FY26, despite relatively sluggish private consumption growth,' OECD said.

4. ICICI market cap tops Rs 8 trillion, bank storms into the top five

Shares of ICICI Bank surged over 5% on Monday, sending its market capitalisation past the `8-trillion mark and into the league of the top five companies by market value. The private lender has become the second bank to cross this milestone, after HDFC Bank.

5. India becomes first country to get over \$100 billion in remittances

India has become the first country to receive over \$100 billion in remittances in 2022, according to the United Nations migration agency. The International Organisation for Migration (IOM) revealed in its World Migration Report 2024 that India's remittances surged to \$111 billion last year, surpassing all other nations.

6. China beats US to emerge as largest trading partner of India in FY24: GTRI

China has emerged as the largest trading partner of India with \$ 118.4 billion two-way commerce in 2023-24, slightly edging past the US, according to the data of economic think tank GTRI.

The bilateral trade between India and the US stood at \$ 118.3 billion in 2023-24. Washington was the top trading partner of New Delhi during 2021-22 and 2022-23.

7. Unemployment rate in urban areas dips to 6.7% in March quarter: Govt survey

Unemployment rate in urban areas for persons aged 15 and above has decreased to 6.7 per cent during the previous quarter January to March 2024. The unemployment rate was 6.8 per cent during the corresponding period of last year. According to the Periodic Labour Force Survey quarterly bulletin (January to March 2024), the female unemployment rate decreased to 8.5 per cent.

8. Indian economy likely to grow at 6.6% in FY25, says Moody's

Moody's Ratings projected a 6.6% growth rate for the Indian economy in the fiscal year ending March 2025 (FY25).

The forecast attributes the growth to strong credit demand and robust economic performance, which will support the profitability of non-bank finance companies (NBFCs).

9. UN revises India's 2024 growth forecast to 6.9%

The United Nations (UN) has revised India's growth projections for 2024 and expects the economy to grow by almost 7% this year. According to the UN's World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP) report, India's economy is now forecast to grow by 6.9% in 2024. This is an increase from the earlier projection of 6.2% made in January.

10. Goldman Sachs raises India's GDP growth forecast to 6.7 percent for calendar year 2024

Global investment bank Goldman Sachs has raised India's GDP growth forecast to 6.7 percent for calendar year 2024. The latest data released by the bank said, they expect a sustained growth momentum with additional fiscal space on account of a bumper dividend transfer from the RBI.

11. RBI projects 7% Real GDP growth in current financial year

The Reserve Bank of India has projected a 7 percent GDP growth in the current financial year. In its annual report, it said the real GDP growth for 2024-25 is projected to grow at 7 per cent with risks evenly balanced. RBI said the Indian economy expanded at a robust pace in fiscal 2024, with real GDP growth accelerating to 7.6 percent from 7 percent in previous year.

12. NSE Indices launch India's first EV index

Index provider NSE Indices launched a new thematic index called Nifty EV & New Age Automotive index. The 33-stock index will track the performance of companies which form a part of the electric vehicle (EV) ecosystem or are involved in the development of new age automotive vehicles or related technology.

Bajaj Auto, Tata Motors, Mahindra & Mahindra and Maruti Suzuki are top four components of the index. The base date for the index is April 02, 2018, and the base value is 1,000.

National

1. Ajrakh from Kutch gets GI tag

In a significant stride towards preserving India's rich textile heritage, the Office of the Controller General of Patents, Designs, and Trademarks (CGPDTM) has bestowed the Geographical Indication (GI) certificate upon the traditional artisans of 'Kutch Ajrakh,' hailing from the vibrant region of Kutch in Gujarat.

2. National Archives of India Acquires the private paper collection of Late Shri Rafi Ahmad Kidwai

National Archives of India (NAI) has acquired the private paper collection of Late Shri Rafi Ahmad Kidwai, comprising original correspondences of Shri Kidwai with other eminent leaders like Pt. Nehru, Sardar Patel, Shyama Prasad Mukherjee, P.D. Tandon etc.

National Archives of India is the custodian of the non-current records of the Government of India and holds them in trust for the use of administrators and researchers as per the provision of the Public Record Act 1993.

3. ICMR Releases Updated Dietary Guidelines for Indians in 2024

The Hyderabad-based National Institute of Nutrition (NIN), which is part of the Indian Council of Medical Research, has called for avoiding protein supplements for building body mass. It is also recommended that salt intake be restricted, sugar and ultra-processed foods be minimised, and information on food labels be read to make informed and healthy food choices.

According to guidelines, sugar should be less than 5 per cent of total energy intake, and a balanced diet should provide not more than 45 per cent calories from cereals and millet. Adding more, it said sugar should be 15 per cent of calories from pulses, beans and meat.

4. New Inter-Services Organisations Act Notified by Defence Ministry

The Inter-Services Organisations (Command, Control and Discipline) Act has been notified. The bill was passed by both the Houses of Parliament during the Monsoon Session last year in order to bolster effective command, control and efficient functioning of Inter-Services Organisations.

The Act will empower commanders-in-chief and officers-in-command of ISOs with disciplinary and administrative powers that will govern the personnel serving in or attached to such organisations. Currently, armed forces personnel of all three services are governed in accordance with their respective service acts -- Army Act 1950, Navy Act 1957 and Air Force Act 1950.

5. Infosys Gets ISO 42001:2023 Certification For AI Management System

Infosys has announced that it has been certified with ISO 42001:2023, world's first international standard on AI management systems, by TUV India (part of TV Nord Group), an independent provider of technical quality and safety services. Infosys is among the first IT services companies globally to have earned the certification.

6. Ramcharitmanas, Panchatantra, and Sahdayloka-Locana enter 'UNESCO's Memory of the World Asia-Pacific Regional Register'

The Ramcharitmanas, Panchatantra and Sahdayloka-Locana have been included in 'UNESCO's Memory of the World Asia-Pacific Regional Register'. The 'Ramcharitmanas', 'Panchatantra', and 'Sahdayaloka-Locana' are such timeless works that have deeply influenced Indian literature and culture, shaping the nation's moral fabric and artistic expressions.

7. Ministry of Tourism participates in IMEX, Frankfurt 2024 to showcase India as a premier global hub for MICE activities

Ministry of Tourism, Government of India is participating in IMEX, Frankfurt from 14th-16th May 2024. The Ministry of Tourism aims to showcase the strengths of India as a leading MICE destination to the global market and to act as a catalyst to bring forth a greater number of Conferences and Conventions to be hosted in the country.

8. Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd celebrates 250th Foundation Day

Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) is celebrating its 250th Foundation Day on May 14, 2024. To mark the day, a series of events were organised in Mumbai, presided over by Defence Secretary Shri Giridhar Aramane. These included the inauguration of adjacent land acquired from the Mumbai Port Authority (MPA) and; the launch of a prototype of an indigenous midget submarine.

9. Mission ISHAN, India's push for 'one nation, one airspace'

India has initiated the process of consolidating its four airspace regions into a single entity spanning the entire nation, in order to refine and strengthen air traffic management (ATM). The Airports Authority of India has called for expressions of interest to prepare a detailed project report for the Indian Single Sky Harmonized Air Traffic Management (ISHAN) initiative.

10. WCD ministry 'officially' dissolves Food and Nutrition Board

A board responsible for providing technical and logistical support for functioning of community nutrition programmes has been "officially dissolved" as part of a plan for rationalisation of government bodies. The Food and Nutrition Board has been shut down by the Women and Child Development (WCD) Ministry. It was a technical wing of the ministry headquartered at Delhi.

11. Reliance Industries to begin construction on India's first multimodal logistics park near Chennai

Conceptualised 12 years ago, India's first Multimodal Logistics Park at Mappedu near Chennai will see the limelight as Reliance Industries starts construction in June, according to multiple sources. In 2022, the company beat Adani Group to win the bid for the Rs 1,424 crore project on 184.27 acres of land in Tiruvallur district.

12. GAIL commissions first green hydrogen plant in Madhya Pradesh

The first hydrogen green plant by GAIL (Gas Authority of India Ltd) was inaugurated in Madhya Pradesh. The plant marks a major step towards new and alternate energy and has been installed in line with the National Green Hydrogen Mission.

13. Government raises retirement & death gratuity limits to Rs 25 Lakh

The maximum limit of retirement gratuity and death gratuity has been revised by the government from 20 lakh to 25 lakh rupees. Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions has issued an official memorandum in this regard. It said, the revised limit will come into effect from 1st January 2024.

International

1. Zimbabwe's ZiG is the world's newest currency

Zimbabwe launched the ZiG in April, which is backed by the central bank's reserves comprising 100 million U.S. dollars in foreign currency and 185 million U.S. dollars worth of gold. The ZiG, Zimbabwe's sixth attempt at a currency solution, is expected to stabilize the economy and help tame inflation.

The highest denomination of the new currency, known as Zimbabwe Gold or ZiG, will be the 200 ZiG note, valued at approximately \$15.

2. Indonesia's Semeru Volcano Erupts 5 Times In 90 Minutes

The Semeru volcano in Indonesia's East Java province erupted five times today, spewing volcanic ash up to 900 meters over its peak, according to the Center for Volcanology and Geological Hazard Mitigation. Authorities have urged people to stay out of the danger zone within a 5 km radius and 13 km southeast of the crater to prevent harm from hot clouds, lava flows.

3. World's first 6G device launched in Japan: Its 20x faster than 5G

A Japanese consortium recently unveiled the world's first high-speed 6G prototype device. It can transmit data at a whopping 100 gigabits per second, covering more than 300 ft. That's a 20x improvement over the current 5G technology. The prototype device was a result of collaboration among Japan's leading telecom companies, including DOCOMO, NTT Corporation and Fujitsu.

4. UAE Launches 'Blue Residency Visa' In Move Towards Sustainability

In a move towards sustainability, the United Arab Emirates has announced a new 10-year 'Blue Residency Visa' programme. Under this programme, individuals who have made 'exceptional efforts and contributions to protecting the environment whether marine or land' will be granted a 10-year residents visa.

In 'Blue Residency', a 10-year visa program for environmental advocates who have shown outstanding dedication to protecting the environment. This initiative, in line with the President's directive to extend the 2023 Year of Sustainability, encompasses sustainability efforts both within and outside the UAE.

5. Venezuela becomes first country to lose all of its glaciers

Venezuela is the first country in modern history to lose all of its glaciers after climate scientists declared its remaining glacier little more than an ice field.

The Humboldt Glacier, also known as La Corona, was the last remaining one in Venezuela after the country lost at least five others in the past century due to the effects of climate change.

6. World's first major law for artificial intelligence gets final EU green light

European Union member states gave final agreement to the world's first major law for regulating artificial intelligence, as institutions around the world race to introduce curbs for the technology. The EU Council said it had approved the AI Act 'a groundbreaking piece of regulatory law that sets comprehensive rules surrounding artificial intelligence technology.'

7. Spain Becomes 99th Member Of International Solar Alliance

Spain has become the 99th member of the International Solar Alliance. Spain handed over the International Solar Alliance Instrument of Ratification. India and France jointly launched the International Solar Alliance during COP21 in Paris. The ISA aims to contribute to the implementation of the Paris Climate Agreement through the rapid and massive deployment of solar energy.

Earlier, in March, Panama officially ratified the International Solar Alliance (ISA), marking its entry as the 97th member nation.

8. World's highest observatory begins operations in Chile

The University of Tokyo has inaugurated the Atacama Observatory (TAO). It has been built on the summit of Cerro Chajnantor in the Antofagasta Region, at 5,640 meters above sea level. TAO also houses a 6.5-meter optical-infrared telescope. TAO is officially now the highest observatory in the world, and has been awarded a Guinness World Record.

Sports

1. International Chess Federation awards Grandmaster title to Indian Chess prodigy Vaishali Ramesh Babu

Indian Chess Prodigy, Vaishali Ramesh Babu, has officially been awarded the title of Grandmaster by FIDE, the International Chess Federation. This remarkable achievement makes Vaishali the third Indian female Grandmaster, joining Koneru Humpy and Harika Dronavalli. Vaishali completed the requisite 2500 ELO points at the Llobregat Open tournament in Spain, last year.

2. Tejaswin Shankar wins men's High Jump event at USATF Festival

India's Tejaswin Shankar clinched victory in the men's High Jump event at the USATF Festival in Tucson, Arizona, USA. The National record holder Tejaswin cleared 2.23 metres in his first attempt to secure the top spot at the World Athletics Continental Tour ' Silver event. With this jump, he equaled his season-best effort.

3. Mumbai City FC beat Mohun Bagan 3-1 to win Indian Super League final

Mumbai City FC beat Mohun Bagan Super Giant 3-1 at the Salt Lake Stadium to emerge as the Indian Super League (ISL) 2023-24 Cup Winners at the final in Kolkata. The Islanders came from behind after Jason Cummings handed the Mariners a lead late in the first half.

Indian Super League was founded on 21 October 2013. ISL is administered by the All India Football Federation and its commercial partner Football Sports Development Limited. Teams in ISL 2024:

Bengaluru FC

Chennaiyin FC

East Bengal FC

FC Goa

Hyderabad FC

Jamshedpur FC

Kerala Blasters FC

Mohun Bagan Super Giant

Mumbai City FC

NorthEast United FC

Odisha FC

Punjab FC

4. Indian Milk Producer Amul Appointed As 'Official Sponsor' Of Sri Lanka Men's Team For ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024

Sri Lanka Cricket has announced that Indian milk producer Amul has been appointed as the 'Official Sponsor' of the Sri Lanka Men's Team for the duration of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024. Sri Lanka

will kick off the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 campaign on June 3, 2024, facing South Africa in New York.

The ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 will be held in the West Indies and the USA from June 1 to 29. CEO of Sri Lanka Cricket Ashley De Silva.

5. Coca-Cola India announces its first ever partnership with Hockey India, for the National Women's Hockey League

The Coca-Cola India Foundation, announces its first ever partnership with Hockey India, for the National Women's Hockey League 2024. The 1st Phase of the tournament commenced on 30th April, and it will conclude on 9th May 2024, in Ranchi, Jharkhand. The domestic league promises an exhilarating showcase of talent and skill.

6. Abha Khatua Sets National Record Winning Gold In Women's Shot Put

Abha Khatua has set a national record and won gold medal in Women's Shot Put with a massive throw of 18.41 metres at National Federation Cup Athletics Competition in Bhubaneswar. Representing Maharashtra at the event, Abha was the joint record holder of 18.06 metres with Manpreet Kaur before this event. Abha has become the sole national record holder.

7. Table Tennis, Manika Batra Becomes First Indian Woman To Break Into Top 25 Of World Women's Singles Rankings

India's ace women's table tennis player Manika Batra became the first Indian woman paddler to break into the top 25 of the world Women's singles rankings. She rose to her career-best ranking of 24, following her success in the Saudi Smash, last week. She also equalled G. Sathyan's five year old record for the highest rank achieved by an Indian in singles table tennis.

8. Neeraj Chopra wins Gold in Federation Cup with throw of 82.27 metres

In men's javelin throw, Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra won the gold medal in Federation Cup 2024 in Bhubaneswar. The 26-year-old superstar struggled in the initial rounds of competition as he was second after three rounds. He took the lead in the fourth round with an effort of 82.27m.

9. Sunil Chhetri Announces Retirement, To Play Last Match For India On June 6

Indian football icon Sunil Chhetri announced his decision to retire from international football after the FIFA World Cup qualifying match against Kuwait in Kolkata on June 6, bringing the curtains down on a glorious two-decade career. Chhetri had made his 150th appearance for India in March and scored on the occasion against Afghanistan in Guwahati.

Chhetri, who made his debut in 2005, has scored 94 goals for the country. He will leave the scene as India's all-time top scorer and most-capped player. He is also third in the list of goal scorers among active players behind Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi.

10. P Shyaamnikhil becomes India's 85th Grandmaster after 12-year wait

P Shyaamnikhil became India's 85th Grandmaster by completing his third and final GM norm in the just-concluded Dubai Police Masters chess tournament, ending a 12-year-wait for the player who took to the sport as an eight-year-old. He had completed the necessary 2500 Elo rating points - mandatory to become a GM - to secure two Grandmaster norms all the way back in 2012.

11. Nishad Kumar, Preethi Pal Win Medals At World Para Athletics Championships

The Indian team picked up its first medals in the World Para Athletics Championships with high jumper Nishad Kumar and 200 metres runner Preethi Pal winning a silver and bronze in Kobe, Japan. Kumar, a

Tokyo Paralympics silver medallist, cleared 1.99 metres to finish second in the men's T47 high jump final and pick up India's first medal on the third day of competition. American Roderick Townsend won the gold with a jump of 2.05 metres.

12. Nikhat Zareen And Minakshi Clinch Gold Medals At Elorda Cup In Kazakhstan

In Boxing, India's reigning world champion, Nikhat Zareen and another boxer Minakshi clinched gold medals at the Elorda Cup 2024 in Astana, Kazakhstan. The Indian pugilists concluded their Elorda Cup 2024 campaign with 12 medals, including two gold, two silver and eight bronze medals.

Nikhat in the women's 52 kg category, triumphed over Zhazira Urakbayeva of Kazakhstan with a 5-Nil victory, while Minakshi defeated another Uzbekistan boxer Rahmonova Saidahon, 4-1 in the women's 48 kg event.

13. Indian Mixed Team Breaks National Record At Asian Athletic Relay Championships 2024

The Indian Mixed team broke the national record at the ongoing Asian Athletic Relay Championships 2024 Bangkok in Thailand. The team comprising Muhammad Ajmal, Jyothika Sri, Amoj Jacob and Subha Venkatesan won gold in the 4x400m event. Sri Lanka and Vietnam won silver and bronze in the event.

14. India's Deepthi Jeevanji Smashes World Record In Women's 400 Metre Event To Win Gold Medal At World Para Athletics Championships

Twenty-year old Deepthi Jeevanji smashed the world record in the women's 400m T20 and grabbed her first gold at the World Para Athletics Championships at Kobe in Japan. Deepthi clocked 55.07 seconds, breaking American Breanna Clark's earlier world record of 55.12 seconds, which she had set during last year's edition of the championships in Paris.

15. Ekta Bhyan Secures Gold Medal In Women' F51 Club Throw Competition At World Para Athletic C'ships

India's Ekta Bhyan secured a gold medal with a season's best throw of 20.12 metres in the women's F51 club throw competition at the World Para Athletic Championships at Kobe in Japan. While Kashish Lakra took the silver with an effort of 14.56 metres, Nadjet Boucherf of Algeria won the bronze with a score of 12.70 metres.

16. Satwik-Chirag Reclaim World No. 1 Spot In BWF Rankings

The star Indian men's badminton duo of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty have regained their top spot in the latest Badminton World Federation (BWF) Rankings after a remarkable victory at the Thailand Open Super 500 in Bangkok last week. Before the tournament, Satwik and Chirag were ranked third but managed to surpass China's Liang Wei Keng and Wang Chang.

17. Italian Open: Alexander Zverev and wins Masters title

The 2024 Italian Open is now in the books with Poland's Iga Swiatek victorious on the women's side and Germany's Alexander Zverev the winner on the men's side. Swiatek trounced Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus 6-2, 6-3 in a rematch of the Madrid Masters final won by Swiatek, 7-5, 4-6, 7-6. This is Swiatek's third Italian Open title.

18. Sachin Sarjerao Khilari clinches gold medal in shot put at World Para Athletics C'ship

In Para Athletics, India's Sachin Sarjerao Khilari clinched the gold medal in the men's shot put at the World Para Athletics Championship in Kobe, Japan. He also set a new Asian record with a throw of 16.30 metres in the F46 category, to defend his title at the world championships.

19. JSSPS Cadet Secures Two Bronze Medals at IWF World Youth Weightlifting Championship in Lima, Peru

Babulal Hembrom, a Jharkhand State Sports Promotion Society (JSSPS) cadet, secured two bronze medals at IWF World Youth Weightlifting Championship. Babulal clinched third place in 49 kg Snatch and Clean & Jerk categories at the championship ongoing in Lima, Peru.

20. Archery World Cup Stage 2: India Bags Gold In Compound Women's Team At Yecheon, South Korea

India bagged Gold medal in the compound women's team event at Archery World Cup stage two in Yecheon, South Korea. The trio of Jyothi Surekha Vennam, Parneet Kaur and Aditi Swami strikes gold against Turkey in the final.

21. Dipa Karmakar clinches India's first-ever gold medal in women's pole-vault at Asian Championships in Tashkent

Dipa Karmakar scripted history clinching India's first-ever gold medal at the Asian Championships in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. The 30-year-old Olympian registered an average score of 13.566 in the women's Vault final. This is the first time that an Indian gymnast has won a gold medal in any event at the Asian Championships.

She is the first female gymnast from India to compete in the Olympics, and at Rio 2016. She also became the first Indian to ever win a gold medal at an international gymnastics competition when she won the women's vault gold medal at the 2018 FIG World Cup in Mersin, Turkey.

22. KKR lifts their third trophy in IPL

In Cricket, Kolkata Knight Riders lifted their third trophy in the Indian Premier League with a crushing eight-wicket win over Sunrisers Hyderabad in a completely one-sided final yesterday. Having lost the toss, KKR produced a clinical effort with the ball to dismiss SRH for 113, the lowest-ever total in an IPL title clash. Mitchell Starc was declared Player of the Match.

Harshal Patel of Punjab Kings (PBKS) won the Purple Cap, taking 24 wickets.

Royal Challengers Bangalore's (RCB) Virat Kohli claimed the Orange Cap with 741 runs.

Nitish Kumar Reddy, with 303 runs, was named Emerging Player of the Season.

Sunil Narine was awarded both the Most Valuable Player and Ultimate Fantasy Player of the Season.

23. F1 Star Charles Leclerc Makes History at Monaco Grand Prix, Wins Home Race for the First Time

Charles Leclerc claimed his first victory at the Monaco Grand Prix. This historic win makes him the first Monegasque to ever stand on the top step of the podium at the prestigious event. McLaren's Oscar Piastri finished second, 8 seconds behind Leclerc. His Ferrari teammate Carlos Sainz finished 3rd followed by McLaren's Lando Norris in 4th.

24. Praggnanandhaa topples World No. 1 Magnus Carlsen for first time in Classical event at Norway Chess 2024

Praggnanandhaa toppled Magnus Carlsen for the first time in a Classical event. The 18-year-old Indian prodigy took down the World No. 1 with the White pieces in the 3rd round of Norway Chess 2024. Praggnanandhaa got an early edge out of the opening and eventually converted it into a victory. With this win, Pragg now takes the sole lead with 5.5 points in the event.

Agreements & MoUs

1. NPCI inks pact with Bank of Namibia for developing UPI-like instant payment system

NPCI International Payments Limited, the international arm of the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), entered into an agreement with the Bank of Namibia for developing an instant payment system like Unified Payment Interface for the African nation.

This partnership marks NPCI's first-ever collaboration with a central bank to deploy the UPI stack.

The strategic partnership aims to bridge the gap between traditional banking and the fintech industry, offering innovative solutions to meet evolving consumer needs

2. CAG of India, Auditor General of Nepal sign MoU to enhance collaboration in auditing

Girish Chandra Murmu, the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG), has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Toyam Raya, Auditor General of Nepal.

The agreement aims to enhance collaboration and exchange of expertise in the field of auditing between the two countries' Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs).

3. DRDO Collaborates with IIT Bhubaneswar for AI-Driven Surveillance

The Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO) has collaborated with the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bhubaneswar to set up advanced research and development in AI-driven surveillance and other defense projects. The DRDO has been actively working towards enhancing its technological capabilities in response to evolving global defense dynamics.

4. AIIMS New Delhi Signed MoU With University of Bolton Institute of Medicine

AIIMS New Delhi has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with University of Bolton Institute of Medicine to collaborate in the field of medical research, innovation and education. The medical institute said in a release that the MoU was signed through a virtual event by executives from both institutions.

5. DAHD and UNDP signs MoU on Digitalization of Vaccine Cold Chain Management, Capacity Building, and Communication Planning

The Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying (DAHD), Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) today with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) India on Digitalization of Vaccine Cold Chain Management, Capacity Building, and Communication Planning.

6. Airbus Helicopters, SIDBI sign MoU for helicopter financing in India

Airbus Helicopters and Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for financing the purchase of Airbus' helicopters in India. Under the MoU, both Airbus Helicopters and SIDBI would identify potential civil helicopter operators in India interested in financing solutions for purchasing the helicopters.

7. MEA, MeitY And CSC E-Governance Services India Ltd Sign MoU To Provide eMigrate Services Through Common Services Centres

External Affairs Ministry, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and Common Services Centers eGovernance Services India Limited have signed a Memorandum of Understanding today to provide the eMigrate services through CSC in the country. eMigrate project aims to assist mainly the blue-collar workers going to Emigration Check Required countries.

8. India hosts side event on Women, Children and Adolescent Health in collaboration with Norway, UNICEF, UNFPA and PMNCH

During the ongoing 77th World Health Assembly, India hosted a side event on Women, Children and Adolescent Health in collaboration with Norway, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH).

9. Armed Forces Medical Services & IIT Hyderabad ink MoU for Collaborative Research and Training

The Armed Forces Medical Services (AFMS) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Hyderabad to collaborate on research and training. The MoU aims to foster innovation and research in developing novel medical devices and addressing health issues specific to soldiers serving in varied terrains.

Schemes

1. HDFC Bank, AIM empower social sector startups with Rs.19.6 crore grants.

HDFC Bank, India's leading private sector bank, announced the winners of its Parivartan Start-up Grants programme for FY2024. This year, 41 incubators and accelerators in the field of social impact entrepreneurship will receive grants totaling Rs 19.6 crore to support 170 start-ups working across specific focus areas.

2. Cabinet Approves Over Rs 10,300 Crore for IndiaAI Mission

The Cabinet has approved an allocation of over Rs 10,300 crore for the IndiaAI Mission today, marking a significant step towards bolstering India's AI ecosystem. The overarching aim of this financial outlay is to ensure a structured implementation of the IndiaAI Mission through a public-private partnership model aimed at nurturing India's AI innovation ecosystem.

Appointments & Resignations

APPOINTMENT	POST
Maushumi Chakravarty	Director General of Akashvani News
Hitesh Sethia	Managing director and CEO of Jio Financial Services
Atanu Chakraborty	Part-time Chairman of HDFC Bank
Rakesh Singh	CEO of Paytm Money
Carol Furtado	Executive Director of Ujjivan Small Finance Bank
Varun Sridhar	CEO of Paytm Services Pvt Ltd (PSPL)
Sanjay Kumar Mishra	President of GST Appellate
Sanjeev Nautiyal	Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Ujjivan Small Finance Bank
Jaya Tripathi	Head of Key Relations Group in SBI General Insurance
Sanjay Bhalla	Non-Executive Independent Director of RBL Bank
Deepak Kumar Sharma	Chief of Personnel of Indian Navy
R Lakshmi Kanth Rao	Executive director of Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
N Chandrasekaran	Chairman of Tata Electronics
Lawrence Wong	Prime Minister of Singapore
S M N Swamy	Senior Advisor of Ippopay Technologies Private Limited
Pradeep Natrajan	Executive Director of IDFC FIRST Bank
Kapil Sibal	President of Supreme Court Bar Association
Lai Ching-Te	President of Taiwan
Mahesh Rajaraman	Chief Rist Officer (CRO) of Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services
Rushabh Gandhi	Managing Director (MD) & Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of IndiaFirst Life Insurance
To Lam	President of Vietnam
Pradeep Kumar Sinha	Part-time Chairman of ICICI Bank
Jetha Ahir	Chairman of National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED)

Awards

1. Assam's Purnima Devi Barman Receives 'Green Oscar' Whitley Gold Award 2024

A wildlife biologist from Assam has been honoured with a leading UK wildlife charity award for her conservation efforts of the endangered Greater Adjutant Stork and its wetland habitat. She received it in recognition of her conservation of the stork known locally as 'Hargila' in Assamese.

Dr Purnima Devi Barman won the GBP 1,00,000 Whitley Gold Award from the Whitley Fund for Nature (WFN), which supports grassroots conservation leaders from around the world, at a Royal Geographical Society awards ceremony in London.

2. Palestinian Journalists Covering Gaza Named Winners of 2024 UNESCO Press Freedom Prize

Palestinian journalists covering Gaza have been named winners of the 2024 UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize. The winners were chosen upon the recommendation of an international jury of media professionals. The UNESCO has recorded the deaths of 26 journalists, but the actual number could be much more.

3. Pulitzer 2024 winners announced

The Pulitzer Prizes, administered by Columbia University in New York was presented across 15 journalism categories and eight arts categories encompassing books, music, and theatre, highlight exceptional contributions in public service, investigative reporting, feature photography, and more.

The Public Service award, considered the most esteemed, includes a gold medal, while other winners receive \$15,000 in recognition of their exceptional work.

One of the standout moments of this year's Pulitzers was the acknowledgment of The Associated Press for its powerful feature photography capturing the global migration journey through Latin America to the US.

Similarly, The New York Times and Reuters were honoured for their in-depth coverage of the Hamas-Israel war that occurred on October 7th and its aftermath.

ProPublica clinched the Public Service award for its revelatory reporting that "pierced the thick wall of secrecy" surrounding the US Supreme Court, exposing how billionaires gifted travel and other favours to justices.

Special citations were also awarded to journalists covering the war in Gaza and the late hip-hop critic Greg Tate. The New York Times staff was recognised for their comprehensive coverage of the October 7th Hamas attack, delving into intelligence failures and Israel's response in Gaza.

In the literary realm, Jayne Anne Phillips' "Night Watch," a gripping mother-daughter saga set in a West Virginia asylum after the civil war, received the Pulitzer Prize for fiction. The drama prize was awarded to Eboni Booth's "Primary Trust," a compelling narrative about a bookstore worker's unforeseen journey after losing his job.

Nathan Thrall's A Day in the Life of Abed Salama: Anatomy of a Jerusalem Tragedy won for general nonfiction, and Jacqueline Jones received the history prize for No Right to an Honest Living: The Struggles of Boston's Black Workers in the Civil War Era.

Tyshawn Sorey's saxophone concerto Adagio (For Wadada Leo Smith) was the winner for music.

4. HSL CMD receives PSU Samarpan Award by Gov Connect

Hindustan Shipyard Limited's (HSL) Chairman and Managing Director (C&MD) Cmde Hemant Khatri has been honoured with the esteemed 'PSU Samarpan Award' by Gov Connect at the award ceremony held in New Delhi. 'PSU Samarpan Award' by Gov Connect is an initiative by ilouge Media

5. Scientist Srinivas Kulkarni honoured with 2024 Shaw Prize in astronomy

Srinivas R Kulkarni, an Indian-origin professor of astronomy from the US will be bestowed the prestigious Shaw Prize in Astronomy for his ground-breaking discoveries about millisecond pulsars, gamma-ray bursts, supernovae, and other variable or transient astronomical objects.

The Shaw Prize consists of three annual prizes: Astronomy, Life Science and Medicine, and Mathematical Sciences, each bearing a monetary award of USD 1.2 million. Hong Kong-based film and television personality and philanthropist Run Run Shaw (1907-2014) founded the Shaw Foundation Hong Kong and The Sir Run Run Shaw Charitable Trust.

6. 'Kairos' by Jenny Erpenbeck wins 2024 International Booker Prize

German writer Jenny Erpenbeck and translator Michael Hofmann have won the International Booker Prize. Their novel Kairos follows the destructive love affair between a 19-year-old student and a married man in his 50s who meet on a bus in East Berlin around 1986.

7. NHPC conferred with 'The Economic Times HR World Future Ready Organization Award 2024-25'

NHPC, India's premier hydropower company, has been conferred with the prestigious 'The Economic Times HR World Future Ready Organization Award 2024-25'. The Award has been given to NHPC in recognition of its preparedness in the areas of upskilling of employees, Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) interventions, Diversity and Equity & Inclusion (DE&I) initiatives.

8. FTII student bags 'La Cinef' Award at 77th Cannes Film Festival

'SUNFLOWERS WERE THE FIRST ONES TO KNOW', a course end film by Chidanand Naik, a student of Film and Television Institute of India (FTII), received the Cannes' La Cinef Award for Best Short at 77th Cannes Film Festival in France. The winner was officially announced on 23rd May 2024 at the festival where the student Director Shri Chidanand Naik received the award.

9. Payal Kapadia Scripts History; All We Imagine As Light Wins Grand Prix at Cannes

Indian filmmaker Payal Kapadia made history by winning the country's first ever Grand Prix Award at the 77th Cannes Film Festival. Her Malayalam-Hindi film All We Imagine As Light stars Kani Kusruti and Divya Prabha as nurses working in Mumbai. The movie also stars Chhaya Kadam and Hridhu Haroon.

10. Indian Army Major Radhika Sen selected to receive 2023 Military Gender Advocate of Year Award

Indian Army Major Radhika Sen has been selected to receive the 2023 Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award. The award recognises her advocacy for women and girls while serving as a peacekeeper. Sen is the second Indian peacekeeper to receive the honour after Major Suman Gawani, who served with the UN Mission in South Sudan and received the award in 2019.

11. PFC receives 'CSR Champion Award' at Outlook Planet Sustainability Summit & Awards 2024

Power Finance Corporation Ltd. (PFC) has been honoured with the Corporate Social Responsibility award in the NF (Non-Fossil Fuel) business category at the Outlook Planet Sustainability Summit & Awards 2024,

held in Goa. PFC's win in the CSR NF category is a testament to its unwavering commitment to social responsibility and sustainable business practices.

12. REC wins 'Sustainability Champion ' Editor's Choice Award' at Outlook Planet Sustainability Summit & Awards 2024

REC Limited, a Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprise under the Ministry of Power and a leading NBFC, has been honoured with the 'Sustainability Champion ' Editor's Choice Award' at the 'Outlook Planet Sustainability Summit & Awards 2024'. The Award ceremony was organised by Outlook Group, in collaboration with IIT Goa.

Ranks & Reports

1. India Ranks 159 of 176 Countries on Press Freedom Index

Reporters Without Borders (RWB), also known as Reporters sans frontières (RSF) in French, is an international non-profit organisation that strives to protect the right to freedom of information. The organisation has consultative status at the United Nations, UNESCO, the Council of Europe, and the International Organisation of the Francophonie.

India has been ranked 159 'two ranks above last year' in the 2024 World Press Freedom Index released by Reporters Without Borders (RSF). It had ranked 161 in 2023. Additionally, it also highlights the challenges that journalists face, thereby promoting the freedom of the press and encouraging governments to take action to protect journalists and their work.

The top 10 countries with the best press freedom 2024:

Rank Country Global Score

- 1 Norway 91.89
- 2 Denmark 89.6
- 3 Sweden 88.32
- 4 Netherlands 87.73
- 5 Finland 86.55
- 6 Estonia 86.44
- 7 Portugal 85.9
- 8 Ireland 85.59
- 9 Switzerland 84.01
- 10 Germany 83.84

2. India Overtakes Japan To Become World's Third Largest Solar Power Generator: Report

India has overtaken Japan to become the world's third-largest solar power generator in 2023, according to a report by the global energy think tank, Ember. The Global Electricity Review 2024, released on Wednesday, offers a detailed analysis of power generation systems worldwide in 2023.

It was published alongside the world's first open dataset on electricity generation in 2023, covering 80 countries representing 92% of global electricity demand. From ranking ninth in 2015, India has substantially expanded its solar generation capacity. The report indicates that its share of solar power surged from 0.5 percent in 2015 to 5.8 percent in 2023.

3. Mumbai and Delhi feature among the World's Top 50 Wealthiest cities, surpassing Washington DC

Mumbai and Delhi have secured positions among the top 50 wealthiest cities in a global survey of wealth distribution, while Bengaluru found a spot in the top 10 most promising 'cities to watch' list for future growth, according to the 2024 World's Wealthiest Cities Report released by Henley & Partners and New World Wealth.

Mumbai, ranked 24th on the list out of 50, boasts a significant affluent population with 58,800 millionaires, 236 centi-millionaires, and 29 billionaires. The city has experienced an impressive 82% growth in millionaires from 2013 to 2023. Delhi, securing the 37th spot, houses 30,700 millionaires, 123 centi-millionaires, and 16 billionaires.

4. India overtakes Australia, Japan and Singapore in data centre capacity

India has become the country with the highest data center capacity in the Asia-Pacific region, surpassing major countries like Australia, Hong Kong SAR, Japan, Singapore, and Korea. The country is expected to record the highest capacity addition of 850 MW during the 2024-2026 period, higher than major APAC countries.

5. India ranks first in adoption of GenAI across Asia-Pacific: Deloitte India

With 93 per cent of students and 83 per cent of employees actively engaging with the technology, India ranks first in the adoption of Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI) across Asia-Pacific, a report released by Deloitte India showed. It, however, added that only 50 per cent of these employees believe their managers know they use this technology.

6. 4,000 Animal And Plant Species Affected By Smuggling Worldwide: UN

Wildlife trafficking has not substantially reduced over the past two decades, despite positive signs in reducing trafficking of iconic species like elephant and rhino, the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) reported in Vienna. During the six years, around 13 million individual animals and plants had been seized that had been intended for use as food, medication or luxury.

It noted that some of the species worse affected, including rare orchids, succulents, reptiles, fish, birds and mammals, received little public attention, though wildlife trafficking had played a major role in their local or global extinctions.

7. Student Enrollment Under SC Category Grows By 44 %

The student enrollment under the Scheduled Caste category has grown by 44 per cent, from 46 lakh in 2014-15 to 66 lakh in 2021-22. According to a report of the National Commission for Backward Class, minority female student enrollment also witnessed over 42 per cent increase, from over 10 lakh in 2014-15 to 15 lakh in 2021-22.

Female SC enrollment increased by 51 per cent, whereas that of ST students went up by 65.2 per cent. According to the report, during the academic year 2020-21, a 27 per cent reservation for OBC students was implemented in Central Schools, resulting in over 34 thousand OBC children securing admissions.

8. India climbs to 39th position in World Economic Forum's Travel & Tourism Development Index

India's rank on the World Economic Forum's Travel & Tourism Development Index 2024 has risen to 39th place, with global tourism activities returning to pre-pandemic levels, the annual report showed. While the US topped the list, India is ranked highest in South Asia and among the lower-middle-income economies, the WEF said.

India was ranked 54th in the previously published index in 2021, though changes made to the index parameters limit its comparability to earlier years.

9. Oxford Economics' Global Cities Index: At 350, Delhi highest ranked Indian city

Delhi has scored the 350th rank in the Oxford Economics' Global Cities Index, which has compared the world's 1000 largest cities on parameters ranging from economics to human capital. The list of 1000

largest cities, spread across 163 different countries, also feature several other Indian cities, including Bengaluru, Mumbai and Chennai.

The index contains five categories: Economics, Human Capital, Quality of Life, Environment, and Governance, which are aggregated to create an overall score for each city. New York ranks first on the index, followed by London, San Jose, Tokyo, Paris, Seattle, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Melbourne and Zurich.

In India, Bengaluru is ranked 411, Mumbai 427, Chennai 472, Kochi 521, Kolkata 528, Pune 534, Thrissur 550, Hyderabad 564 and Kozhikode 580. South Indian cities appear to be ranked higher on the list.

10. Kerala tops youth unemployment rate, Delhi registers lowest: PLFS Survey

Kerala recorded the highest unemployment rate among the 15-29 age group in urban areas for the January-March quarter of 2024, while Delhi had the lowest joblessness rate, according to the latest Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI).

The survey, which covered 22 states and Union territories, identified Jammu & Kashmir, Telangana, Rajasthan, and Odisha as other states with high unemployment rates in this age category. The overall unemployment rate for the 15-29 age group was 17 % for the January-March period, an increase from 16.5 per cent in the previous quarter but slightly lower than the 17.3 %in 2023

For all age groups, the unemployment rate was 6.7 per cent , marginally up from 6.5 per cent in the previous quarter and slightly below the 6.8 per cent from the previous year.

Important Days

DATE	DAY	THEME
1st May	May Day also referred as International Workers Day and Labour Day	
2nd May	World Tuna Day	
3rd May	World Press Freedom Day	A Press for the Planet: Journalism in the Face of the Environmental Crisis
4th May	Coal Miners Day	
4th May	International Firefighters Day	
5th May	International No Diet Day	Embrace Yourself: Reject Diet Culture, Love you
7th May	World Asthma Day	Asthma Education Empowers
7th May	65 th Raising Day of Border Roads Organisation	
8th May	Time of Remembrance and Reconciliation for Those Who Lost Their Lives During the Second World War	
8th May	International Thalassemia Day	Empowering Lives, Embracing Progress: Equitable and Accessible Thalassemia Treatment for All
8th May	World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day	I give with joy, and the joy I give is a reward
9th May	Maharana Pratap Jayanti	
9th May	World Lupus Day	
10th May	International Day of Argania	
11th May	World Migratory Bird Day	
11th May	World Technologies Day	School to Startups-Igniting Young Minds to Innovate
12th May	International Day of Plant Health (IPDH)	Plant Health, Safe Trade, Digital Technology
12th May	International Nurses Day	Our Nurses. Our Future. The economic power of care
15th May	International Day of Families	Families and Climate Change
16th May	International Day of Living Together in Peace	
16th May	International Day of Light	
16th May	National Dengue Day	Our Responsibilities for a safer Tomorrow
17th May	World Telecommunication and Information Society Day	Digital Innovation for Sustainable Development
17th May	National Endangered Species Day	Celebrate Saving Species
17th May	World Hypertension Day	Measure Your Blood Pressure Accurately, Control It, Live Longer!
18th May	International Museum Day	

18th May	World AIDS Vaccine Day	
20th May	World Bee Day	Bee engaged with Youth
21st May	International Tea Day	
21st May	World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development	
21st May	National Anti-Terrorism Day	
22nd May	International Day for Biological Diversity	Be the Part of the Plan, emphasises the need for a collective and coordinated approach to address and reverse the loss of biodiversity
23rd May	World Turtle Day	
23rd May	Internation Day to End Obstetric Fistula	Breaking the cycle: Preventing Fistula Worldwide
24th May	International Day of the Makhor	
25- 31st May	International Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self Governing Territories	
25th May	World Football Day	
29th May	International Day of UN Peacekeepers	Fit For the Future, Building better together
30th May	International Day of Potato	Harvesting Diversity, Feeding Hope
31st May	World No-Tobacco Day (WHO)	

Summit & Conferences

SUMMIT/ CONFERENCE NAME	THEME	LOCATION
Parivartan Chintan		New Delhi
World Hydrogen summit 2024		Netherlands
10 th World Water Forum	Water for Shared Prosperity	Bali, Indonesia
46 th Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting		Kochi, Kerala
26 TH Meeting of the Committee for Environmental Protection		Kochi, Kerala

Science & Technology

1. IIT-Madras startup Mindgrove launches first India-made microcontroller chip

India is finally set to have a made-in-India microcontroller chip powering electronic devices. Mindgrove Technologies, incubated by IIT Madras Pravartak Technologies Foundation and IIT Madras Incubation Cell, and supported by Peak XV Partners, has launched Secure IoT, India's debut high-performance SoC (system on chip).

2. NASA Launches Small Climate Satellite to Study Earth's Poles

The first of a pair of climate satellites designed to study heat emissions at Earth's poles for NASA is in orbit after lifting off atop Rocket Lab's Electron rocket from the company's Launch Complex 1 in Mhia, New Zealand. The PREFIRE mission was jointly developed by NASA and the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

The agency's PREFIRE (Polar Radiant Energy in the Far-InfraRed Experiment) mission consists of two shoebox-size cube satellites, or CubeSats, that will measure the amount of heat Earth radiates into space from two of the coldest, most remote regions on the planet.

3. India's IIT Madras startup Agnikul Cosmos launches world's 1st rocket with fully 3D-printed engine

In a remarkable achievement, IIT Madras' startup, Agnikul Cosmos, has launched the world's first rocket with a single-piece three-dimensional (3D) printed engine. The rocket Agnibaan SOrTeD (SubOrbital Technological Demonstrator) is also India's first semi-cryogenic engine-powered rocket launch that was completely designed and manufactured indigenously.

Agnibaan is a two-stage rocket with a capacity to carry up to 300 kg to a height of 700 km. The rocket engines are powered by liquid oxygen or kerosene. It can access both low- and high-inclination orbits and is completely mobile, designed for accessing more than 10 launch ports, as per the company.

Defence

1. Supersonic Missile-Assisted Release of Torpedo system successfully flight-tested by DRDO

Supersonic Missile-Assisted Release of Torpedo (SMART) system was successfully flight-tested from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Odisha. This canister-based missile system consists of several advanced sub-systems, namely two-stage solid propulsion system, electromechanical actuator system, precision inertial navigation system etc.

2. India's first indigenous bomber UAV unveiled in Bengaluru

Flying Wedge Defence and Aerospace Technologies, an Indian defence and aerospace company marked a milestone in Bengaluru by unveiling the FWD-200B, pegged to be the country's first indigenous bomber unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV). The FWD-200B is a medium-altitude, long-endurance (MALE) unmanned combat aerial vehicle designed and manufactured entirely in India.

With a payload capacity of 100 kgs, it can carry optical surveillance payloads as well as precision air-strike weapons. With a 12-20 hour endurance, 200 kts/370 kmph max speed, and 200 km ground control station range, the FWD-200B is envisioned as the 'nation's eagle eye' and an aerial shield against threats.

3. Army, IAF conduct joint exercise at multiple locations in Punjab

The Kharga Corps, under the aegis of the Indian Army's Western Command, has completed Gagan Strike-II, a three-day joint exercise conducted at multiple locations in Punjab to refine processes and validate the employment of attack helicopters in support of mechanised operations in developed terrain.

4. INDIA- FRANCE JOINT MILITARY EXERCISE SHAKTI COMMENCES IN MEGHALAYA

The 7th edition of India- France Joint Military Exercise SHAKTI commenced at Umroi, in a fully developed and modern Foreign Training Node in Meghalaya. The Exercise is scheduled to be conducted from 13th to 26th May 2024. Exercise SHAKTI is a biennial training event conducted alternatively in India and France. Last edition was conducted in France in November 2021.

5. Indian Air Force testes BHISHM state-of the-art indigenous mobile hospital, for airdrop in Agra

Indian Air Force has tested BHISHM Cube, a state-of the-art indigenous mobile hospital, for airdrop in Agra. This innovative technology is a great leap forward in providing rapid and comprehensive medical aid during emergencies anywhere.

6. Indian Army sets up one of world's highest tank repair facilities near China border

With over 500 of its tanks and infantry combat vehicles deployed in Eastern Ladakh, the Indian Army has created a record of sorts by setting up two of world's highest tank repair facilities in that area to support its operations there.

7. DRDO Successfully Flight-Tested RudraM-II Air-To-Surface Missile From Su-30 MK-I Platform Of IAF

Defence Research and Development Organisation successfully flight-tested the RudraM-II air-to-surface missile from Su-30 MK-I platform of the Indian Air Force in Odisha. RudraM-II is an indigenously-developed solid-propelled air-launched missile system. A number of state-of-the-art indigenous technologies developed by DRDO laboratories have been incorporated in the missile.

Obituary

1. Sahitya Akademi award-winning Urdu litterateur Salam Bin Razzaq passes away

Renowned Urdu litterateur and academician, Shaikh Abdussalam Abdurrazzaq, famous by his pseudonym Salam Bin Razzaq, passed away. Razzaq won the prestigious Sahitya Akademi Award for Urdu literature for his acclaimed short stories collection, 'Shikasta Buton Ke Darmiyan', in 2004. Some of Razzaq's literary creations include 'Nangi Dopahar Ka Sipahi', 'Muabbir', and 'Zindagi'.

2. Canadian Author Alice Munro and Nobel Laureate Passes Away at Age Of 92

Canadian author Alice Munro and Nobel laureate passed away at the age of 92. She wrote short stories for more than 60 years, often focusing on life in rural Canada. She was often compared to Russian writer Anton Chekhov for the insight and compassion found in her stories.

Munro was recipient of the Nobel Prize for literature in 2013.

3. Hindi writer Malti Joshi dies at 90

Renowned Hindi writer and Padma Shri recipient Malti Joshi died on 16 May. She was 90. Popularly known as 'Malwa ki Meera', Joshi was awarded the Padma Shri by the then President Ramnath Kovind in 2018. Some of her most popular works include 'Madhayantar', 'Pataakshep', 'Parajay', 'Ek Ghar Sapno Ka', 'Woh Tera Ghar, Ye Mera Ghar', and her novel 'Aurat Ek Raat Hai'. She wrote more than 60 books in Hindi and Marathi languages.

4. Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi, minister die in helicopter crash

Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi and foreign minister have passed away in a helicopter crash. The eighth President of Iran, Ebrahim Raisolsadati, more popularly known as Ebrahim Raisi, was a principlist and a Muslim jurist, who became the Iranian President in 2021. Ebrahim Raisi was born on December 14, 1960.

5. N Vaghul, doyen of Indian banking, passes away

Narayanan Vaghul, a doyen of Indian banking who was instrumental in bringing up ICICI, passed away at his residence in Chennai. A banker par excellence, Vaghul, who received the Padma Bhushan award in 2009, was the youngest Chairman of a bank when he helmed the Bank of India at the age of 44.

Person in news

1. Kareena Kapoor Khan appointed UNICEF India National Ambassador

UNICEF India announced Bollywood star Kareena Kapoor Khan as its new National Ambassador. Kareena had earlier served as a Celebrity Advocate for UNICEF India. Besides Kareena, UNICEF India has also appointed its first-ever Youth Advocates, who are peer leaders and champions on issues like climate action, mental health, innovations and Girls in STEM.

2. Kaamya Karthikeyan becomes youngest Indian to scale Mt Everest

Sixteen-year-old Kaamya Karthikeyan has become the youngest Indian mountaineer to scale the Mt Everest from the Nepal side. She also becomes the second youngest girl in the world to achieve this feat.

3. Jyoti Ratre Becomes India's Oldest Woman To Conquer Mount Everest

Jyoti Ratre, an entrepreneur and fitness enthusiast from Madhya Pradesh, has become the oldest Indian woman to conquer Mount Everest. The 55-year-old mountaineer reached the summit at 6:30 a.m. on May 19. This was Ratre's second attempt to summit the highest peak in the world. In 2023, she had to return from 8,160 mt due to harsh weather.

4. Indian mountaineer Satyadeep Gupta becomes first person to scale Mt. Everest and Mt. Lhotse twice in one season

Indian mountaineer Satyadeep Gupta has scripted history by becoming the first person to scale Mt. Everest and Mt. Lhotse twice in one season. He also set another record by being the first Indian to traverse from Mt. Everest to Mt. Lhotse in 11 hours and 15 minutes. Gupta conquered the 8,516 metre-high Mt. Lhotse, followed by towering 8,849 metre high Mt. Everest.

India & World

COUNTRIES INVOLVED	FIELD OF CO-OPERATION
Indian and Sri Lanka	To renovate the Kankesanthurai port in the Northern part of the island. Indi's pledge to cover the entire estimated cost of 61.5 million dollars under a grant to cover the entire estimated cost of the project.
India-Nigeria	Bilateral trade agreement between India and Nigeria held a Joint Trade Committee (JTC) with the Nigerian counterparts in Ambuja
Adani – Sri Lanka	Approval of Sri Lankan government Adani Green to develop wind power stations.
India-United Nations	India has contributed \$500,000 to U.N. Counter-Terrorism Trust Fund, underscoring its commitment to support multilateral efforts in global fight against the scourge terrorism.
India-Iran	India and Iran signed a 10-year long term bilateral contract for the operation of Chabahar Port, a vital cog in India's trade plans with central Asia and parts of Europe
Sri Lanka - PhonePe	PhonePe has enabled UPI payment acceptance in collaboration with LankaPay.
India- Maldives	India has decided to extend vital budgetary support to the Maldives government with the rollover of a USD 50 million Treasury Bill for another year on the Maldivian government's special request.
India-Sri Lanka	Sri Lanka is about to receive 100 Octane premium petrol, known as XP100 rating fuel, which helps enhance the performance of vehicles, particularly high-end luxury cars and bikes. This will be the first ever fuel produced with the highest Octane rating to be released to Sri Lanka by the IOC.

Environment

1. Scientists discover deepest blue hole in the world

A recent discovery in Mexico has discovered a deepest blue hole ever recorded: Taam Ja'. Blue holes are large marine caverns or sinkholes, typically formed in limestone or other carbonate rock beds. They stand out dramatically as dark blue water-filled pits, contrasting sharply with the lighter blue of surrounding shallow waters.

Situated in Chetumal Bay off the southeastern coast of the Yucatn Peninsula in Mexico, Taam Ja', which translates to 'deep water' in the Mayan language, has recently claimed the title of the world's deepest blue hole, surpassing the Dragon Hole located in China. The Dragon Hole in China was once believed to be the world's deepest blue hole, reaching a depth of 987 feet.

2. Remal Makes Landfall On Bangladesh Coast

Cyclone Remal made landfall on the Bangladesh coast. The cyclone is likely to land into the adjoining West Bengal region around midnight on 27th May, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) predicted. It is the first cyclone over the Bay of Bengal in this pre-monsoon season.

The cyclone that is hurtling towards the West Bengal and Bangladesh coastlines with landfall has been named 'Remal' as per the standard convention of naming tropical cyclones in the region. The IMD follows a specific naming convention for tropical cyclones forming in the North Indian Ocean, including the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal.

The name 'Remal', means 'sand' in Arabic. The name was given by Oman. Cyclone Remal is the first pre-monsoon cyclone in the Bay of Bengal this season. In view of the effective cyclone warning and disaster mitigation in the North Indian Ocean region, the WMO came together in 1972 to establish the Panel on Tropical Cyclones (PTC).

QUICK LEARNERS

SPORTS

NAME OF THE SPORTS PERSON	RELATED FIELD
Vaishali Ramesh Babu	Chess
Tejaswin Shankar	High Jump
Abha Khatua	Shot Put
Manika Batra	Table tennis
Neeraj Chopra	Javelin throw
Sunil Chhetri	Football
P Shyaamnikhil	Chess
Nishad Kumar	Athlete (High Jump)
Preethi Pal	Athlete (High Jump)
Roderick Townsend	Athlete (High Jump)
Nikhat Zareen	Boxing
Minakshi	Boxing
Zhazira Urabayeva	Boxing
Rahmonova Saidahon	Boxing
Muhammad Ajamal	Athlete
Jyothika Sri	Athlete
Amoj Jacob	Athlete
Subha Venkatesan	Athlete
Ekta Bhyan	Athlete (Club throw)
Kashish Lakra	Athlete (Club throw)
Nadjet Boucherf	Athlete (Club throw)
Satwiksairaj Rankireddy	Badminton
Chirag Shetty	Badminton
Alexander Zverev	Badminton
Sachin Arjerao Khilari	Athlete (Club throw)
Mariyappan Thangavelu	Athlete (Club throw)
Jyothi Surekha Vennam	Archery
Parneet Kaur	Archery
Aditi Swami	Archery
Dipa Karmakar	Pole Vault
Harshal Patel	Cricket
Nitish Kumar Reddy	Cricket
Sunil Narine	Cricket
Charles Leclerc	Racing
Carlos Sainz	Racing
Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa	Chess
Magnus Carlsen	Chess

ACQUISITION AND MERGERS

ENTITY	ACQUIRED BY/MERGED WITH
Healthium Medtech	KKR (Global Investment Firm)
Sikkim Urja Limited (Formerly Teesta Urja Limited)	Greenko Energies
Reliance Chemicals and Materials Ltd (RCML)	Reliance Industries Ltd.
AMRC IVF	Birla Fertility
Reliance Capital	IndusInd International Holdings (IIHL)
Shriram Housing Finance	Warburg Pincus
Essar Transco Limited	Adani Energy Solutions
Zenifi	BharatX

IMPORTANT STATIC & CURRENT INFO

INDIAN STATES, CAPITALS, CHIEF MINISTERS & GOVERNORS

STATE	CAPITAL	CHIEF MINISTER	GOVERNOR
Andhra Pradesh	Amaravati	Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy	Justice (Retd.) S. Abdul Nazeer
Arunachal Pradesh	Itanagar	Pema Khandu	Lt. General Kaiwalya Trivikram Parnaik
Assam	Dispur	Himanta Biswa Sarma	Gulab Chand Kataria
Bihar	Patna	Nitish Kumar	Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar
Chhattisgarh	Raipur	Vishnu Deo Sai	Biswa Bhusan Harichandan
Goa	Panaji	Pramod Sawant	P.S. Sreedharan Pillai
Gujarat	Gandhi Nagar	Bhupendra Patel	Acharya Dev Vrat
Haryana	Chandigarh	Nayab Singh Saini	Bandaru Dattatraya
Himachal Pradesh	Shimla	Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu	Shiv Pratap Shukla
Jharkhand	Ranchi	Champai Soren	CP Radhakrishnan
Karnataka	Bengaluru	Siddaramaiah	Thaawarchand Gehlot
Kerala	Thiruvananthapuram	Pinarayi Vijayan	Arif Mohammed Khan
Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal	Mohan Yadav	Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel
Maharashtra	Mumbai	Eknath Shinde	Ramesh Bais
Manipur	Imphal	N Biren Singh	Sushri Anusuya Uikye
Meghalaya	Shillong	Conrad Kongkal Sangma	Phagu Chauhan
Mizoram	Aizawl	PU Lalduhoma	Dr Kambhampati Haribabu
Nagaland	Kohima	Neiphiu Rio	La. Ganesan
Odisha	Bhubaneshwar	Naveen Patnaik	Raghubar Das
Punjab	Chandigarh	Bhagwant Mann	Banwarilal Purohit
Rajasthan	Jaipur	Bhajan Lal Sharma	Kalraj Mishra
Sikkim	Gangtok	PS Golay	Lakshman Prasad Acharya
Tamil Nadu	Chennai	M. K. Stalin	R. N. Ravi
Telangana	Hyderabad	A Revanth Reddy	CP Radhakrishnan
Tripura	Agartala	Dr. Manik Saha	Indra Sena Reddy Nallu
Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow	Yogi Aditya Nath	Anandiben Patel
Uttarakhand	Dehradun	Pushkar Singh Dhami	Lt. Gen. Gurmit Singh
West Bengal	Kolkata	Mamata Banerjee	C V Ananda Bose

UNION TERRITORIES, LIEUTENANT GOVERNORS & ADMINISTRATORS

UNION TERRITORY	LT. GOVERNOR & ADMINISTRATOR
Andaman and Nicobar Island (UT)	Admiral D K Joshi (Lieutenant Governor)
Chandigarh (UT)	Banwarilal Purohit (Administrator)
Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu (UT)	Praful Patel (Administrator)
Delhi (NCT)	Vinai Kumar Saxena (Lieutenant Governor)
Jammu and Kashmir (UT)	Manoj Sinha (Lieutenant Governor)
Lakshadweep (UT)	Praful Patel (Administrator)
Puducherry (UT)	CP Radhakrishnan (Addl. Charge) (Lieutenant Governor)
Ladakh (UT)	Brig. (Dr.) BD Mishra (Retd.) (Lieutenant Governor)

UNION MINISTERS & PORTFOLIO

UNION MINISTER	PORTFOLIO
Narendra Modi	Ministry of personnel, public grievances and pensions Department of Atomic Energy Department of Space
Rajnath Singh	Ministry of Defence
Amit Shah	Ministry of Home Affairs Ministry of Cooperation
Nitin Gadkari	Ministry of Road Transport and Highways
Nirmala Sitharaman	Ministry of Finance Ministry of Corporate Affairs
Piyush Goyal	Ministry of Commerce and Industry Ministry of Textiles Ministry of Consumer affairs, food and public distribution
Narendra Singh Tomar	Ministry of agriculture and Farmers welfare
Dr Subrahmanyam Jaishankar	Ministry of External Affairs
Arjun Munda	Ministry of Tribal Affairs
Smriti Zubin Irani	Ministry of Women and child Development Ministry of Minority Affairs
Dharmendra Pradhan	Ministry of Education Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
Pralhad Joshi	Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs Ministry of coal Ministry of Mines
Narayan Tatu Rane	Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
Sarbananda Sonowal	Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH)
Dr. Virendra Kumar	Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
Giriraj Singh	Ministry of Rural Development Ministry of Panchayati Raj
Jyotiraditya M. Scindia	Ministry of Civil Aviation Ministry of Steel
Ashwini Vaishnaw	Ministry of Railways Ministry of Communications Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
Pashu Pati Kumar Paras	Ministry of Food Processing Industries
Gajendra Singh Shekhawat	Ministry of Jal Shakti
Kiren Rijiju	Ministry of Earth Sciences
Raj Kumar Singh	Ministry of Power Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
Hardeep Singh Puri	Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
Man-sukh L. Mandaviya	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers
Bhupender Yadav	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Ministry of Labour and Employment
Mahendra Nath Pandey	Ministry of Heavy Industries
ParshottamRupala	Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
G. Kishan Reddy	Ministry of Culture Ministry of Tourism Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region
Anurag Singh Thakur	Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports
Arjun Meghwal	Ministry of Law and Justice

Practise Questions

1. In April 2024, The Gross Goods and Services Tax (GST) revenue collections for April this year have recorded the highest ever collection of _____.
 a. Rs 1.59 Lakh Crore b. Rs 1.96 Lakh Crore
 c. Rs 2.00 Lakh Crore d. Rs 2.10 Lakh Crore
2. In April 2024, India has cut its windfall tax on _____ to 8,400 Indian rupees (\$100.66) a metric ton from 9,600 rupees with effect from May 1, the government said.
 a. petroleum crude b. cotton c. shale gas d. steel
3. As per the Periodic Labour Force Survey quarterly bulletins unemployment rate in urban areas for persons ages 15 and above has decreased to _____ during the previous quarter January to March 2024.
 a. 6.7 % b. 7.1 c. 7.7 % d. 7.5 %
4. In May 2024, Moody's Ratings projected a _____ growth rate for the Indian economy in the fiscal year ending March 2025 (FY25).
 a. 6.6 % b. 7 % c. 7.1 % d. 7.3 %
5. According to the UN's World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP) report released in May 2024, Indias economy is now forecast to grow by _____ in 2024.
 a. 6.2% b. 6.5% c. 6.9% d. 7%
6. The latest data released by Global investment bank Goldman Sachs has raised Indias GDP growth forecast to _____ for calendar year 2024.
 a. 6.2% b. 6.5% c. 6.7% d. 6.9%
7. In May 2024, the Office of the Controller General of Patents, Designs, and Trademarks (CGPDTM) has bestowed the Geographical Indication (GI) certificate upon which of the following from the Gujarat district of Kutch?
 a. Ayuvastra b. Kalamkari c. Patola d. Ajrakh
8. National Archives of India is the custodian of the non-current records of the Government of India and holds them in trust for the use of administrators and researchers as per the provision of the _____.
 a. Public Record Act 1991 b. Public Record Act 1992
 c. Public Record Act 1993 d. Public Record Act 1994
9. As per Updated Dietary Guidelines for Indians in 2024, sugar should be less than _____ of total energy intake.
 a. 2% b. 5% c. 7% d. 10%
10. The Navy act was passed in which year?
 a. 1947 b. 1957 c. 1950 d. 1967
11. In May 2024, which of the following companies has announced that it has been certified with ISO 42001:2023, world's first international standard on AI management systems?
 a. Wipro b. TCS c. Infosys d. Tech Mahindra
12. In May 2024, which among the following have been included in UNESCO's Memory of the World Asia-Pacific Regional Register from India? I. Ramcharitmanas II. Vinaya Patrika III. Shakuntala IV. Panchatantra V. Sahdayaloka-Locana
 a. I, II and III only b. II and III only
 c. III, IV and V only d. I, IV and V only
13. The Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) celebrated its _____ Foundation Day on May 14, 2024.
 a. 200th b. 150th c. 100th d. 250th
14. In May 2024, the _____ has called for expressions of interest to prepare a detailed project report for the Indian Single Sky Harmonized Air Traffic Management (ISHAN) initiative.
 a. Airports Authority of India b. Ministry of Science and Technology
 c. DRDO d.ISRO
15. After officially closed as per a gazette notification dated June 16, 2021, In May 2024, which of the following technical body has been shut down by the Women and Child Development (WCD) Ministry?
 a. Food and Nutrition Body (FNB)
 b. National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development (NIPCCD)
 c. National Commission for women (NCW)
 d. National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR)
16. After being Conceptualised 12 years ago, In June 2024, Reliance Industries is set to begin construction on Indias first multimodal logistics park in which state of India?
 a. Rajasthan b. Gujarat c. Maharashtra d. Tamil Nadu
17. In May 2024, which of the following company has inaugurated its first hydrogen green plant in Madhya Pradesh marking a major step towards new and alternate energy and has been installed in line with the National Green Hydrogen Mission?
 a. GAIL Limited
 b. Oil and Natural Gas Corporation.
 c. Reliance Industries.

d. Indian Oil Corporation Limited.

18. The maximum limit of retirement gratuity and death gratuity has been revised by the government from 20 lakh to _____

a. 25 lakh b. 30 lakh c. 35 lakh d. 40 lakh

19. In April 2024, which of the following country has launched a new currency backed by the central bank's reserves comprising 100 million U.S. dollars in foreign currency and 185 million U.S. dollars worth of gold to counter inflation?

a. Argentina b. Turkey c. Venezuela d. Zimbabwe

20. Semeru volcano, which was seen in news for emitting ashes 5 times in one day in May 2024, is located in which country?

a. US b. Indonesia c. Japan d. Malaysia

21. In May 2024, a company from which country has recently unveiled the world's first high-speed 6G prototype device, that's a 20x improvement over the current 5G technology?

a. China b. South Korea c. Japan d. Russia

22. In a move towards sustainability, which country has recently announced a new 10-year 'Blue Residency Visa' programme?

a. United Arab Emirates b. China c. Iran d. Bangladesh

23. In May 2024, Which country became first country to lose all of its glaciers?

a. Venezuela b. Germany c. Russia d. India

24. In May 2024, which country/union gave final agreement to the worlds first major law for regulating artificial intelligence, as institutions around the world race to introduce curbs for the technology?

a. United States of America b. United Kingdom c. European Union d. African Union

25. In May 2024, which has become the 99th member of the International Solar Alliance?

a. Panama b. Poland c. Sweden d. Spain

26. In May 2024, The University of Tokyo has inaugurated the Atacama Observatory (TAO), built at 5,640 meters above sea level in which country?

a. Chile b. Paraguay c. Brazil d. Argentina

27. In April 2024, Indian Chess Prodigy, Vaishali Ramesh Babu, has officially been awarded the title of Grandmaster by FIDE, the International Chess Federation. This remarkable achievement makes Vaishali the _____ Indian female Grandmaster.

a. Second b. Third c. Fourth d. Fifth

28. Tejaswin Shankar, who was recently seen in news for achieving a remarkable feat at the USATF Festival in Tucson, Arizona, USA is associated with which sport?

a. Long Jump b. Javelin Throw c. Marathon Running d. High Jump

29. In May 2024, Mumbai City FC beat Mohun Bagan Super Giant 3-1 at the Salt Lake Stadium to emerge as the Indian Super League (ISL) 2023-24 Cup Winners at the final in Kolkata. Which of the following is/are the teams in ISL?

I. Bengaluru FC II. Chennaiyin FC III. East Bengal FC IV. FC Goa V. Hyderabad FC

a. I and II only
b. I, II, III and IV only
c. I, II, III, IV and V only
d. II, IV and V only

30. In April 2024, who among the following has been appointed as the Official Sponsor of the Sri Lanka Cricket Team for the duration of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024?

a. Pepsi b. Make My Trip c. RedBus d. Amul

31. In May 2024, a foundation set up which of the following companies has announced its first ever partnership with Hockey India, for the National Women's Hockey League 2024?

a. Hero Honda b. Pepsi Co c. ITC d. Coco Cola

32. Abha Khatua has set a national record and won gold medal at National Federation Cup Athletics Competition in Bhubaneswar. She is associated with which sport?

a. Long Jump b. Shot Put c. Javelin Throw d. Marathon Running

33. Manika Batra, won the gold at which edition of Commonwealth games?

a. 2006 b. 2010 c. 2014 d. 2018

34. In May 2024, in the men's javelin throw, who among the following has won the gold medal in Federation Cuo 2024 in Bhubaneshwar?

a. Neeraj Chopra b. Shivpal Singh c. Davinder Singh d. D.P Manu

35. How many Elo rating points does a person have to complete to become a Grandmaster?

a. 1000 b. 1500 c. 2000 d. 2500

36. Nishad Kumar is associated with which sport?

a. Shot Put b. Long Jump c. High Jump d. Javelin Throw

37. Elorda Cup 2024, which was seen in news recently, is associated with which sport?

a. Boxing b. Weightlifting c. Badminton d. Tennis

38. In May 2024, the Indian Mixed team broke the national record at the ongoing Asian Athletic Relay Championship 2024 by winning a gold medal in the 4x400m at _____.

a. Thailand b. Mauritius c. Japan d. Sri Lanka

39. In May 2024, who among the following has smashed the world record in the women's 400 m T20 and grabbed her first gold at the World Para Athletics Championships in Kobe, Japan?

a. Jyothika Sri b. Subha Venkatesan c. Avani Lekhara d. Deepthi Jeevanji

40. In May 2024, who among the following secured a gold medal with a seasons best throw of 20.12 metres in the womens F51 club throw competition at the World Para Athletic Championships at Kobe in Japan?

a. Jyothika Sri b. Subha Venkatesan c. Avani Lekhara d. Ekta Bhyan

41. In May 2024, the star Indian men's badminton duo of _____ and _____ have regained their top

spot in the latest Badminton World Federation (BWF) Rankings after a remarkable victory at the Thailand Open Super 500 in Bangkok.

a. Srikanth Kidambi and Lakshya Sen
b. H. S. Prannoy and Srikanth Kidambi
c. Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty
d. Chirag Shetty and Lakshya Sen

42. Poland's Iga Swiatek and Alexander Zverev won the women's and men's singles in Italian Open 2024 in May. Alexander Zverev belongs to which country?

a. Germany b. Italy c. Spain d. France

43. In Para Athletics, Indias Sachin Sarjerao Khilari clinched the gold medal in the men's _____ at the World Para Athletics Championship in Kobe, Japan.

a. High Jump b. Javelin Throw c. Pole Vault d. Shot put

44. India bagged Gold medal in the compound womens team event at Archery World Cup stage two in _____

a. China b. Turkey c. Thailand d. South Korea

45. In May 2024, Dipa Karmakar scripted history clinching Indias first-ever gold medal in which sport at the Asian Championships in Tashkent, Uzbekistan?

a. Gymnastics b. Judo c. Equestrian d. Water Polo

46. In May 2024, Kolkata Knight Riders lifted their third trophy in the Indian Premier League with a crushing eight-wicket win over _____.
a. Chennai Super Kings b. Punjab Kings
c. Royal Challengers Bangalore d. Sunrisers Hyderabad

47. Charles Leclerc, who was seen in news recently for achieving a remarkable feat in sports is associated with _____.
a. Tennis b. Football c. Cricket d. Car Racing

48. In May 2024, who among the following has toppled World No. 1 Magnus Carlsen for the first time in a Classical event at Norway Chess 2024?
a. Vidit Gujrathi b. Gukesh D c. Arjun Erigaisi d. Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa

49. In April 2024, NPCI International Payments Limited, the international arm of the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), entered into an agreement with which of the following banks for developing an instant payment system like Unified Payment Interface for the African nation which marks NPCIs first-ever collaboration with a central bank to deploy the UPI stack?

a. Bank of Nigeria b. Bank of Namibia c. Access Bank d. Bank of Cameroon

50. In May 2024, Girish Chandra Murmu, the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG), has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the auditor general of which country to enhance collaboration and exchange of expertise in the field of auditing between the two countries Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs)?

a. Myanmar b. Bangladesh c. Nepal d. Sri Lanka

51. In May 2024, The Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO) has collaborated with which of the following IIT's to set up advanced research and development in AI-driven surveillance and other defense projects?
a. IIT Madras b. IIT Bombay c. IIT Bhubaneshwar d. IIT Roorkee

52. In May 2024, who won the election for the President post of the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA)?

a. Kapil Sibal b. Pradeep Kumar Rai c. Dinesh Kumar Tripathi d. Vikas Pathak

53. In May 2024, The Cabinet with an aim of this financial outlay is to ensure a structured implementation of the IndiaAI Mission through a public-private partnership model aimed at nurturing Indias AI innovation ecosystem has approved an allocation of over

_____ for the IndiaAI Mission, marking a significant step towards bolstering Indias AI ecosystem.

- a. Rs 10,300 crore b. Rs 11,300 crore c. Rs 12,300 crore d. Rs 13,300 crore

54. In April 2024, who assumed the charge of Director General of Akashvani News?

- a. Rama Vedashree b. Kundapur Vaman Kamath c. Maushumi Chakravarty d. Lily Vadera

55. Who among the following has assumed charge as the Chief of Personnel of the Indian Navy in May 2024?

- a. Dinesh Kumar Tripathi b. Krishna Swaminathan c. Rajesh Pendharkar d. Sanjay Bhalla

56. Lawrence Wong became the _____ PM of Singapore.

- a. 4th b. 5th c. 6th d. 7th

57. In May 2024, who among the following has been appointed as the new President of Vietnam?

- a. Vuong Dinh Hue b. To Lam c. Nguyen Phu Trong d. Vo Van Thuong

58. In May 2024, Who among the following has been elected uncontested as the chairman of the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED)?

- a. Jetha Ahir b. Tarlok Singh c. Siddappa S. Hotti d. Bijender Singh

59. In May 2024, Who among the following Indian wildlife biologist has been honoured with a leading UK wildlife charity award, Whitley Gold Award from the Whitley Fund for Nature (WFN) ?

- a. Uma Ramakrishnan b. Krithi Karanth c. Purnima Devi Barman d. K. Ullas Karanth

60. I May 2024, "Night Watch," written by who among the following has received the Pulitzer Prize for fiction?

- a. Jayne Anne Phillips b. Eboni Booth c. Nathan Thrall d. Jacqueline Jones

61. Shrinivas R Kulkarni, an Indian-origin professor from the US will be bestowed the prestigious Shaw Prize in _____

- a. Astronomy b.Economy c.Physics d.Mathematics

62. In May 2024, who among the following has won the International Booker Prize for the novel

- "Kairos"?
- a. Eleanor Wachtel b. Natalie Diaz c. William Kentridge d. Jenny Erpenbeck

63. In May 2024, SUNFLOWERS WERE THE FIRST ONES TO KNOW has received the Cannes La Cinef Award for Best Short at the 77th Cannes Film Festival in France. Who among the following is the director of "SUNFLOWERS WERE THE FIRST ONES TO KNOW"?

- a. Tahneed Rahman b. Manoj Kumar c. Anurag Singh Kashyap d. Chidanand Naik

64. Indian filmmaker Payal Kapadia made history by winning the countrys first ever Grand Prix Award at the 77th Cannes Film Festival. She won the award for which of the following movie?

- a. Sunflowers Were the First Ones to Know b. All We Imagine as Light c. Manthan d. Santosh

65. India has been ranked _____ two ranks above last year in the 2024 World Press Freedom Index released by Reporters Without Borders (RSF).

- a.159th b.162nd c.173rd d.145th

66. India has overtaken which country to become the worlds third-largest solar power generator in 2023, according to a report by the global energy think tank, Ember?

- a. Japan b. China c. Brazil d. Germany

67. _____ and Delhi have secured positions among the top 50 wealthiest cities in a global survey of wealth distribution according to the 2024 Worlds Wealthiest Cities Report released by Henley & Partners and New World Wealth.

- a.Mumbai b.Bengaluru c.Chennai d.Pune

68. In May 2024, which of the following has become the country with the highest data center capacity in the Asia-Pacific region, surpassing major countries like Australia, Hong Kong SAR, Japan, Singapore, and Korea?

- a. China b. New Zealand c. India d. US

69. According to a report released by Deloitte India in May 2024, which country ranks first in the adoption of Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI) across Asia-Pacific, with 93 per cent of students and 83 per cent of employees actively engaging with the technology?

- a. China b. USA c. India d. Australia

70. World Wildlife Crime Report is released by

- a.UNDP b.UNODC c.UNEF d.WWF

71. India's rank on the World Economic Forum's Travel & Tourism Development Index 2024 has risen to _____

- a.22 b.34 c.39 d.29

72. _____ has scored the 350th rank in the Oxford Economics Global Cities Index, which has compared the world's 1000 largest cities on parameters ranging from economics to human capital.

- a. Delhi b. Bengaluru c. Mumbai d. Hyderabad

73. According to the latest Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI) released in May 2024, which state recorded the highest unemployment rate among the 15-29 age group in urban areas for the January-March quarter of 2024?

- a. Uttar Pradesh b. Bihar c. Kerala d. Jharkhand

74. The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) celebrated its _____ Raising Day on May 07, 2024.

- a. 65th b. 95th c. 80th d. 100th

75. International Labour Day is observed every year on _____ to commemorate the contributions of workers, and the labour movement.

- a. May 29 b. May 30 c. May 1 d. May 2

76. Every year on May 3, the whole world celebrates Press Freedom Day which commemorated to highlight the significance of press freedom globally and to recognise the challenges encountered by journalists. The theme for 2024 is

- a. Shaping a Future of Rights: Freedom of Expression as a Driver for All Other Human Rights
- b. Journalism Under Digital Siege
- c. A Press for the Planet: Journalism in the Face of the Environmental Crisis
- d. Information as a Public Good

77. In India, the first coal mine was established in which among the following at the Raniganj Coalfield?

- a. 1734 b. 1774 c. 1847 d. 1851

78. World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) is celebrated every year in May and October. In 2024, the day is observed on May 11th, The theme for 2024 is

- a. Water: Sustaining Bird Life. b. Light Pollution
- c. Protect Insects, Protect Birds
- d. Sing, Fly, Soar Like a Bird!

79. On May 28th, the world unites for World Hunger Day to raise awareness about the urgent issue of global hunger. The theme for 2024 is

-
- a. Celebrating sustainable solutions to hunger and poverty

- b. Thriving Mothers, Thriving World
- c. Leave No One Behind
- d. Access Ends Hunger

80. Hindi Journalism Day is observed every year on 30 May, The journey of Hindi journalism began on May 30, 1826, with publication of the first Hindi newspaper, Udan Martand, started by who among the following?

- a. Pt. Jugal Kishore Shukla
- b. Gopal Ganesh Agarkar
- c. Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar d. Dadabhai Naoroji

81. In May 2024, The 10th World Water Forum was inaugurated in Indonesia under which theme?

- a. Water for All: Harmony between Humans and Nature
- b. Water Security for Peace and Development
- c. Transboundary Waters
- d. Water for Shared Prosperity

82. Which of the following space agency has launched PREFIRE (Polar Radiant Energy in the Far-InfraRed Experiment) to Study Earth's Poles and measure the amount of heat Earth radiates into space from two of the coldest, most remote regions on the planet?

- a. ISRO b. JAXA c. NASA d. Roscosmos

83. In April 2024, SMART designed and developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation to enhance the anti-submarine warfare capability of the Indian Navy was successfully flight-tested from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Odisha. S in SMART stands for _____.

- a. Supersonic b. Scientific c. System d. Short

84. In May 2024, the Indian Air Force has tested BHISHM Cube, a state-of-the-art indigenous hospital, for airdrop in _____.

- a. Agra b. SriHarikota c. Vishakhapatnam d. Mumbai

85. In May 2024, Defence Research and Development Organisation successfully flight-tested the RudraM-II air-to-surface missile from Su-30 MK-I platform of the Indian Air Force in which state of India?

- a. Tamil Nadu b. Odisha c. Rajasthan d. Maharashtra

86. Shaikh Abdussalam Abdurrazzaq won the prestigious Sahitya Akademi Award for Urdu literature for his acclaimed short stories collection, Shikasta Buton Ke Darmiyan, in which year?

- a. 2000 b. 2002 c. 2004 d. 2008

87. Renowned Hindi writer and Padma Shri recipient Malti Joshi died on 16 May. Popularly known as Malwa ki Meera, Joshi was awarded the Padma Shri in which year?
a. 2018 b. 2019 c. 2020 d. 2021

88. In May 2024, UNICEF India announced Bollywood star Kareena Kapoor Khan as its new National Ambassador.

- a.Kareena Kapoor
- b.Deepika Padukone
- c.Priyanka Chopra
- d.Alia Bhatt

89. Who among the following has become the youngest Indian mountaineer to scale the Mt Everest from the Nepal side?

- a. Arishka Laddha b. Baljeet Kaur
- c. Kaamya Karthikeyan
- d. Premalata Agrawal

90. Who among the following has become the oldest Indian woman to conquer Mount Everest in May 2024?

- a. Jyoti Ratre
- b. Premalata Agrawal c. Arunima Sinha d. Malavath Purna

91. In May 2024, Who among the following Indian mountaineer has scripted history by becoming the first person to scale Mt. Everest and Mt. Lhotse twice in one season to traverse from Mt. Everest to Mt. Lhotse in 11 hours and 15 minutes?

- a. Aditya Gupta b. Romil Barthwal c. Satyadeep Gupta d. Bhawna Dehariya

92. The Kankesanthurai port is located in which country?

- a. Myanmar b. Bangladesh c. Mauritius d. Sri Lanka

93. A recent discovery in which country has discovered a deepest blue hole ever recorded: Taam Ja in May 2024?

- a. Cuba b. Brazil c. Mexico d. Venezuela

94. Cyclone Remal made landfall on the Bangladesh and West Bengal coast in May 2024. The name Remal, means sand in Arabic. The name was given by which country?
a. Iran b. Qatar c. Saudi Arabia d. Yemen

95. _____ President Ebrahim Raisi and foreign minister have passed away in a helicopter crash in May 2024.

- a.Iraq b.Azerbaijan c.Pakistan d.Iran

96. The 7th edition of India- _____ Joint Military Exercise SHAKTI commenced at Umroi.
a.France b.USA c.Russia d.Japan

97. Which of the following statement is true for Parivartan Chintan-2, which was seen in news recently?

- a. Tri-service Conference
- b. Navy Exercise between Indian and Thailand
- c. Army Exercise between India and UK
- d. Paramilitary exercise in Andaman and Nicobar exercise

98. India has been a Consultative Party to the Antarctic Treaty since which year?

- a. 1953 b. 1963 c. 1973 d. 1983

99. Which of the following banks has announced the winners of its Parivartan Start-up Grants programme for FY2024 undertaken in partnership with Atal Innovation Mission, a Government of India initiative under NITI Aayog?

- a.HDFC Bank b.SBI c.Axis Bank d.ICICI bank

100. In May 2024, Airbus Helicopters and which of the following financial institution has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for financing the purchase of Airbus helicopters in India and identify potential civil helicopter operators in India interested in financing solutions for purchasing the helicopters?

- a. National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development
- b. Small Industries Development Bank of India
- c. National Housing Bank
- d. Exim Bank of India

Practise Question Answer Keys

1. d	2.a	3.a	4.b	5.c	6.c	7.d	8.c	9.b	10.b
11.c	12.d	13.d	14.a	15.a	16.d	17.a	18.a	19.d	20.b
21.c	22.a	23.a	24.c	25.d	26.a	27.b	28.d	29.c	30.d
31.d	32.b	33.d	34.a	35.d	36.c	37.a	38.a	39.d	40.d
41.d	42.a	43.d	44.d	45.a	46.d	47.d	48.d	49.b	50.c
51.c	52.a	53.a	54.c	55.d	56.a	57.b	58.a	59.c	60.a
61.a	62.d	63.d	64.b	65.a	66.a	67.a	68.c	69.c	70.b
71.c	72.a	73.c	74.a	75.c	76.c	77.b	78.c	79.b	80.a
81.d	82.c	83.a	84.a	85.b	86.c	87.a	88.a	89.c	90.a
91.c	92.d	93.c	94.b	95.d	96.a	97.a	98.d	99.a	100.b

Practise Questions Solutions

1. d. The Gross Goods and Services Tax (GST) revenue collections for April this year have recorded the highest ever collection of two lakh ten thousand crore rupees. Union Finance Ministry said, this represents a significant 12.4 per cent year-on-year growth, driven by a strong increase in domestic transactions and imports. It said, out of the total collection in April this year, Central Goods and Services Tax is over 43 thousand crore rupees, State Goods and Services Tax is over 53 thousand crore, Integrated Goods and Services Tax is over 99 thousand crore and cess is over 13 thousand crore rupees. The Ministry said, after accounting for refunds, the net GST revenue for April 2024 stands at one lakh 92 thousand crore rupees, reflecting an impressive 15.5 per cent growth compared to the same period last year.

2. a. India has cut its windfall tax on petroleum crude to 8,400 Indian rupees (\$100.66) a metric ton from 9,600 rupees with effect from May 1, the government said. The tax, which is revised every fortnight, was left unchanged at zero for diesel and aviation turbine fuel. A windfall tax is a higher tax imposed on specific industries when they make unusual and above-average profits. The term 'windfall' refers to an unexpected rise in profits, and the tax on windfall gains is known as the windfall tax.

3. a. Unemployment rate in urban areas for persons aged 15 and above has decreased to 6.7 per cent during the previous quarter January to March 2024. The unemployment rate was 6.8 per cent during the corresponding period of last year. According to the Periodic Labour Force Survey quarterly bulletin (January to March 2024), the female unemployment rate decreased to 8.5 per cent. According to the survey, the Labour Force Participation Rate in urban areas has shown an increasing trend from 48.5 per cent to 50.2 per cent from January to March 2024 in comparison to the corresponding period of last year. In the same period, Female Labour Force Participation Rate in

urban areas rose from 22.7 per cent to 25.6 per cent. The survey highlights an increasing trend in the worker population ratio for persons of age 15 years and above to 46.9 per cent from 45.2 per cent. The female worker population ratio in urban areas also rises from 20.6 per cent to 23.4 per cent during the survey period.

4. b. Moody's Ratings projected a 6.6% growth rate for the Indian economy in the fiscal year ending March 2025 (FY25). The forecast attributes the growth to strong credit demand and robust economic performance, which will support the profitability of non-bank finance companies (NBFCs). In comparison to Moody's forecast, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and other agencies have higher growth projections. The RBI, Asian Development Bank (ADB), and Fitch Ratings each estimate a 7% growth rate for FY25, while S&P Global Ratings and Morgan Stanley predict a 6.8% growth rate. Moody's also projects a 15% growth in loans at NBFCs over the next 12 to 18 months.

5. c. The United Nations (UN) has revised India's growth projections for 2024 and expects the economy to grow by almost 7% this year. According to the UN's World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP) report, India's economy is now forecast to grow by 6.9% in 2024. This is an increase from the earlier projection of 6.2% made in January. The report also predicts a growth rate of 6.6% for 2025, which remains unchanged from the previous forecast. In addition to the growth projection, the UN report mentions a slowdown in consumer price inflation from 5.6% in 2023 to 4.5% in 2024. This expected decrease aligns with the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI's) target range of 2-6%.

6. c. Global investment bank Goldman Sachs has raised India's GDP growth forecast to 6.7 percent for calendar year 2024. The latest data released by the bank said, they expect a sustained growth momentum with additional fiscal space on account

of a bumper dividend transfer from the RBI. The financial company said that in India, growth momentum remains strong and core inflation is expected to bottom out in April-June. The report also came on a day when the IMD confirmed its forecast of above-average monsoon rains this year which are expected to spur production in the agricultural sector that was hit by erratic weather last year.

7. d. In a significant stride towards preserving India's rich textile heritage, the Office of the Controller General of Patents, Designs, and Trademarks (CGPDTM) has bestowed the Geographical Indication (GI) certificate upon the traditional artisans of 'Kutch Ajrakh,' hailing from the vibrant region of Kutch in Gujarat. Hand block painting or Ajrakh is an age-old tradition practiced in Ajrakhpur, a village in the Kutch district of Gujarat. The 100-odd families of the village take part in a laborious process that takes up to three weeks to complete. Textiles are treated with vegetable and mineral colours and the fabric goes through a washing cycle about eight times.

8. c. National Archives of India (NAI) has acquired the private paper collection of Late Shri Rafi Ahmad Kidwai, comprising original correspondences of Shri Kidwai with other eminent leaders like Pt. Nehru, Sardar Patel, Shyama Prasad Mukherjee, P.D. Tandon etc. National Archives of India is the custodian of the non-current records of the Government of India and holds them in trust for the use of administrators and researchers as per the provision of the Public Record Act 1993.

9. b. The Hyderabad-based National Institute of Nutrition (NIN), which is part of the Indian Council of Medical Research, has called for avoiding protein supplements for building body mass. It is also recommended that salt intake be restricted, sugar and ultra-processed foods be minimised, and information on food labels be read to make informed and healthy food choices. According to guidelines, sugar should be less than 5 per cent of total energy intake, and a balanced diet should provide not more than 45 per cent calories from cereals and millet. Adding more, it said sugar should be 15 per cent of calories from pulses, beans and meat. The guidelines also stated that the rest of the calories should come from nuts, vegetables, fruits, and milk, while total fat intake should be less than or equal to 30 per cent energy. As per the central health monitoring body, around 56.4 per cent of the total disease burden in India is due to unhealthy diets.

10. b. The Inter-Services Organisations (Command, Control and Discipline) Act has been notified. The bill was passed by both the Houses of Parliament

during the Monsoon Session last year in order to bolster effective command, control and efficient functioning of Inter-Services Organisations. The Act will empower commanders-in-chief and officers-in-command of ISOs with disciplinary and administrative powers that will govern the personnel serving in or attached to such organisations. Currently, armed forces personnel of all three services are governed in accordance with their respective service acts -- Army Act 1950, Navy Act 1957 and Air Force Act 1950.

11. c. Infosys has announced that it has been certified with ISO 42001:2023, world's first international standard on AI management systems, by TUV India (part of T'V Nord Group), an independent provider of technical quality and safety services. Infosys is among the first IT services companies globally to have earned the certification. The ISO 42001:2023 certification provides a roadmap and systematic approach to AI management through risk mitigation and streamlined processes. By adhering to the global standard, Infosys can embed strong AI management practices for clients, internal adoption and product development. The AIMS framework is a part of Infosys Topaz Responsible AI Suite. The Responsible AI Suite aims to monitor and protect AI models and systems from risks and threats, while enabling businesses to apply AI responsibly. The offerings include a combination of accelerators and solutions designed to drive responsible AI adoption across enterprises.

12. d. The Ramcharitmanas, Panchatantra and Sah'day'loka-Locana have been included in 'UNESCO's Memory of the World Asia-Pacific Regional Register'. The 'Ramcharitmanas', 'Panchatantra', and 'Sah'dayaloka-Locana' are such timeless works that have deeply influenced Indian literature and culture, shaping the nation's moral fabric and artistic expressions. These literary works have transcended time and place, leaving an indelible mark on readers and artists both within and outside India. It is noteworthy that 'Sah'dayaloka-Locana', 'Panchatantra', and 'Ramcharitmanas' were authored by Acharya Anandvardhan, Pt. Vishnu Sharma, and Goswami Tulsidas, respectively. The Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), played a vital role in securing a historic moment during the 10th meeting of the Memory of the World Committee for Asia and the Pacific (MOWCAP). This marks the first time IGNCA has submitted nominations to the Regional Register since its inception in 2008.

13. d. Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) is celebrating its 250th Foundation Day on May 14, 2024. To mark the day, a series of events were organised in Mumbai, presided over by Defence

Secretary Shri Giridhar Aramane. These included the inauguration of adjacent land acquired from the Mumbai Port Authority (MPA) and; the launch of a prototype of an indigenous midget submarine. commissioning of Solar Electric Hybrid boat & Fuel Cell Electric Ferry; release of MDL's Commemorative Coin; and a day-long technical seminar. From a small dry dock in 1774 to its incorporation in 1934, and subsequently, its stewardship under the Government of India since 1960.

14. a. India has initiated the process of consolidating its four airspace regions into a single entity spanning the entire nation, in order to refine and strengthen air traffic management (ATM). The Airports Authority of India has called for expressions of interest to prepare a detailed project report for the Indian Single Sky Harmonized Air Traffic Management (ISHAN) initiative. Currently, Indian airspace is divided into four flight information regions (FIRs) and a sub-FIR, each managed separately. Unifying these FIRs under a single authority in Nagpur is projected to improve efficiency, safety, and seamlessness in air traffic operations.

15. a. A board responsible for providing technical and logistical support for functioning of community nutrition programmes has been "officially dissolved" as part of a plan for rationalisation of government bodies. The Food and Nutrition Board has been shut down by the Women and Child Development (WCD) Ministry. It was a technical wing of the ministry headquartered at Delhi. The board had a wide network of offices, including four regional offices and as many quality control laboratories in Faridabad, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai. The activities of the FNB were officially closed as per a gazette notification dated June 16, 2021. The formal dissolution was approved on Nov 30 last year. Consequently, FNB ceased operations effective December 2023.

16. d. Conceptualised 12 years ago, India's first Multimodal Logistics Park at Mappedu near Chennai will see the limelight as Reliance Industries starts construction in June, according to multiple sources. In 2022, the company beat Adani Group to win the bid for the Rs 1,424 crore project on 184.27 acres of land in Tiruvallur district. The project aims to facilitate efficient, cost-effective and value-added logistics services such as cargo aggregation and disaggregation, distribution, intermodal transfer, sorting, packing, and repacking. However, it did not take off due to the poor response from the private sector on issues like connectivity.

17. a. The first hydrogen green plant by GAIL (Gas Authority of India Ltd) was inaugurated in Madhya

Pradesh. The plant marks a major step towards new and alternate energy and has been installed in line with the National Green Hydrogen Mission. The plant can produce 4.3 TPD of hydrogen through 10MW PEM (Proton Exchange Membrane) Electrolyzer units, by electrolysis of water using renewable power. The purity of hydrogen from this plant shall be 99.999 per cent (by vol.) and will be produced at a pressure of 30 Kg/cm².

18. a. The maximum limit of retirement gratuity and death gratuity has been revised by the government from 20 lakh to 25 lakh rupees. Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions has issued an official memorandum in this regard. It said, the revised limit will come into effect from 1st January 2024.

19. d. Zimbabwe launched the ZiG in April, which is backed by the central bank's reserves comprising 100 million U.S. dollars in foreign currency and 185 million U.S. dollars worth of gold. The ZiG, Zimbabwe's sixth attempt at a currency solution, is expected to stabilize the economy and help tame inflation. The highest denomination of the new currency, known as Zimbabwe Gold or ZiG, will be the 200 ZiG note, valued at approximately \$15.

20. b. The Semeru volcano in Indonesia's East Java province erupted five times today, spewing volcanic ash up to 900 meters over its peak, according to the Center for Volcanology and Geological Hazard Mitigation. Authorities have urged people to stay out of the danger zone within a 5 km radius and 13 km southeast of the crater to prevent harm from hot clouds, lava flows.

21. c. A Japanese consortium recently unveiled the world's first high-speed 6G prototype device. It can transmit data at a whopping 100 gigabits per second, covering more than 300 ft. That's a 20x improvement over the current 5G technology. The prototype device was a result of collaboration among Japan's leading telecom companies, including DOCOMO, NTT Corporation and Fujitsu.

22. a. In a move towards sustainability, the United Arab Emirates has announced a new 10-year 'Blue Residency Visa' programme. Under this programme, individuals who have made 'exceptional efforts and contributions to protecting the environment whether marine or land' will be granted a 10-year residents visa. In 'Blue Residency', a 10-year visa program for environmental advocates who have shown outstanding dedication to protecting the environment. This initiative, in line with the President's directive to extend the 2023 Year of

Sustainability, encompasses sustainability efforts both within and outside the UAE.

23. a. Venezuela becomes first country to lose all of its glaciers Venezuela is the first country in modern history to lose all of its glaciers after climate scientists declared its remaining glacier little more than an ice field. The Humboldt Glacier, also known as La Corona, was the last remaining one in Venezuela after the country lost at least five others in the past century due to the effects of climate change.

24. c. European Union member states gave final agreement to the world's first major law for regulating artificial intelligence, as institutions around the world race to introduce curbs for the technology. The EU Council said it had approved the AI Act ' a groundbreaking piece of regulatory law that sets comprehensive rules surrounding artificial intelligence technology. The AI Act applies a risk-based approach to artificial intelligence, meaning that different applications of the technology are treated differently, depending on the perceived threats they pose to society. The law prohibits applications of AI that are considered 'unacceptable' in terms of their risk level.

25. d. Spain has become the 99th member of the International Solar Alliance. Spain handed over the International Solar Alliance Instrument of Ratification. India and France jointly launched the International Solar Alliance during COP21 in Paris. The ISA aims to contribute to the implementation of the Paris Climate Agreement through the rapid and massive deployment of solar energy. Earlier, in March, Panama officially ratified the International Solar Alliance (ISA), marking its entry as the 97th member nation.

26. a. The University of Tokyo has inaugurated the Atacama Observatory (TAO). It has been built on the summit of Cerro Chajnantor in the Antofagasta Region, at 5,640 meters above sea level. TAO also houses a 6.5-meter optical-infrared telescope. TAO is officially now the highest observatory in the world, and has been awarded a Guinness World Record.

27. b. Indian Chess Prodigy, Vaishali Ramesh Babu, has officially been awarded the title of Grandmaster by FIDE, the International Chess Federation. This remarkable achievement makes Vaishali the third Indian female Grandmaster, joining Koneru Humpy and Harika Dronavalli. Vaishali's promotion to Grandmaster title carries a unique distinction, as she and her brother, Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa, became the world's first Grandmaster brother-sister duo. Vaishali

completed the requisite 2500 ELO points at the Llobregat Open tournament in Spain, last year.

28. d. India's Tejaswin Shankar clinched victory in the men's High Jump event at the USATF Festival in Tucson, Arizona, USA. The National record holder Tejaswin cleared 2.23 metres in his first attempt to secure the top spot at the World Athletics Continental Tour ' Silver event. With this jump, he equaled his season-best effort.

29. c. Mumbai City FC beat Mohun Bagan Super Giant 3-1 at the Salt Lake Stadium to emerge as the Indian Super League (ISL) 2023-24 Cup Winners at the final in Kolkata. The Islanders came from behind after Jason Cummings handed the Mariners a lead late in the first half. Indian Super League was founded on 21 October 2013. ISL is administered by the All India Football Federation and its commercial partner Football Sports Development Limited. Teams in ISL 2024: Bengaluru FC Chennaiyin FC East Bengal FC FC Goa Hyderabad FC Jamshepur FC Kerala Blasters FC Mohun Bagan Super Giant Mumbai City FC NorthEast United FC Odisha FC Punjab FC.

30. d. Sri Lanka Cricket has announced that Indian milk producer Amul has been appointed as the 'Official Sponsor' of the Sri Lanka Men's Team for the duration of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024. Sri Lanka will kick off the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 campaign on June 3, 2024, facing South Africa in New York. The ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 will be held in the West Indies and the USA from June 1 to 29. CEO of Sri Lanka Cricket Ashley De Silva.

31. d. The Coca-Cola India Foundation, announces its first ever partnership with Hockey India, for the National Women's Hockey League 2024. The 1st Phase of the tournament commenced on 30th April, and it will conclude on 9th May 2024, in Ranchi, Jharkhand. The domestic league promises an exhilarating showcase of talent and skill. The National Women's Hockey League features teams that secured top-eight positions in Pune's recently concluded 14th Hockey India Senior Women National Championship 2024. The participating athletes represent various states, including Haryana, Maharashtra, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Bengal, Mizoram, Manipur, and Odisha.

32. b. Abha Khatua has set a national record and won gold medal in Women's Shot Put with a massive throw of 18.41 metres at National Federation Cup Athletics Competition in Bhubaneswar. Representing Maharashtra at the event, Abha was the joint record holder of 18.06 metres with Manpreet Kaur before this event. Abha has become the sole national record holder.

33. d. India's ace women's table tennis player Manika Batra became the first Indian woman paddler to break into the top 25 of the world Women's singles rankings. She rose to her career-best ranking of 24, following her success in the Saudi Smash, last week. She also equalled G. Sathyan's five year old record for the highest rank achieved by an Indian in singles table tennis. Manika, the 2018 Commonwealth Games gold medallist in individual and team categories, jumped 15 spots following her run in Jeddah, where she reached the quarterfinals.

34. a. In men's javelin throw, Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra won the gold medal in Federation Cup 2024 in Bhubaneswar. The 26-year-old superstar struggled in the initial rounds of competition as he was second after three rounds. He took the lead in the fourth round with an effort of 82.27m. Neeraj Chopra last took part in a domestic competition at the same event in 2021, when he won a gold with a throw of 87.80m. Since then, he has won a historic gold in the Tokyo Olympics, became Diamond League champion in 2022, world champion in 2023 and defended Asian Games gold in China.

35. d. P Shayaamnikhil became India's 85th Grandmaster by completing his third and final GM norm in the just-concluded Dubai Police Masters chess tournament, ending a 12-year-wait for the player who took to the sport as an eight-year-old. He had completed the necessary 2500 Elo rating points - mandatory to become a GM - to secure two Grandmaster norms all the way back in 2012.

36. c. The Indian team picked up its first medals in the World Para Athletics Championships with high jumper Nishad Kumar and 200 metres runner Preethi Pal winning a silver and bronze in Kobe, Japan. Kumar, a Tokyo Paralympics silver medallist, cleared 1.99 metres to finish second in the men's T47 high jump final and pick up India's first medal on the third day of competition. American Roderick Townsend won the gold with a jump of 2.05 metres.

37. a. In Boxing, India's reigning world champion, Nikhat Zareen and another boxer Minakshi clinched gold medals at the Elorda Cup 2024 in Astana, Kazakhstan. The Indian pugilists concluded their Elorda Cup 2024 campaign with 12 medals, including two gold, two silver and eight bronze medals. Nikhat in the women's 52 kg category, triumphed over Zhazira Urakbayeva of Kazakhstan with a 5-Nil victory, while Minakshi defeated another Uzbekistan boxer Rahmonova Saidahon, 4-1 in the women's 48 kg event.

38. a. The Indian Mixed team broke the national record at the ongoing Asian Athletic Relay Championships 2024 Bangkok in Thailand. The team comprising Muhammad Ajmal, Jyothika Sri, Amoj Jacob and Subha Venkatesan won gold in the 4x400m event. Sri Lanka and Vietnam won silver and bronze in the event.

39. d. Twenty-year old Deepthi Jeevanji smashed the world record in the women's 400m T20 and grabbed her first gold at the World Para Athletics Championships at Kobe in Japan. Deepthi clocked 55.07 seconds, breaking American Breanna Clark's earlier world record of 55.12 seconds, which she had set during last year's edition of the championships in Paris.

40. d. India's Ekta Bhyan secured a gold medal with a season's best throw of 20.12 metres in the women's F51 club throw competition at the World Para Athletic Championships at Kobe in Japan. While Kashish Lakra took the silver with an effort of 14.56 metres, Nadjet Boucherf of Algeria won the bronze with a score of 12.70 metres. Deepthi, Para Asian Games gold medallist, had smashed a world record time of 55.07 seconds in the women's 400 metre T20 category race to win gold medal.

41. d. The star Indian men's badminton duo of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty have regained their top spot in the latest Badminton World Federation (BWF) Rankings after a remarkable victory at the Thailand Open Super 500 in Bangkok last week. Before the tournament, Satwik and Chirag were ranked third but managed to surpass China's Liang Wei Keng and Wang Chang. South Korea's Min Hyuk Kang and Seung Jae Seo hold the third position. They showcased impeccable form throughout the tournament, winning all their matches in straight games. Their dominant performance was highlighted in the final where they defeated China's Chen Bo Yang and Liu Yi 21-15, 21-15 in just 46 minutes, securing their second Thailand Open men's double's title. The Indian pair first rose to the pinnacle of the world rankings on October 10, 2023, after their groundbreaking gold medal win at the Asian Games in Hangzhou, China. However, their reign was short-lived as Liang and Wang reclaimed the top spot three weeks later.

42. a. The 2024 Italian Open is now in the books with Poland's Iga Swiatek victorious on the women's side and Germany's Alexander Zverev the winner on the men's side. Swiatek trounced Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus 6-2, 6-3 in a rematch of the Madrid Masters final won by Swiatek, 7-5, 4-6, 7-6. This is Swiatek's third Italian Open title. This was Zverev's first ATP title in 2024. The third seed in Rome won his second Italian Open. In 2017, he

beat Djokovic 6-4, 6-3 for his first ATP Masters 1000 series title.

43. d. In Para Athletics, India's Sachin Sarjerao Khilari clinched the gold medal in the men's shot put at the World Para Athletics Championship in Kobe, Japan. He also set a new Asian record with a throw of 16.30 metres in the F46 category, thus defending his title at the world championships. Another Indian, Dharambir bagged the Bronze Medal in the Men's Club Throw yesterday. His final throw distance of 33.31 metres not only secured him the Bronze Medal but also set a new Asian Record in the F51 Category. Mariyappan Thangavelu clinched his maiden gold medal at the World Para Athletics by leaping 1.88m in the men's T63 high jump event.

44. d. India bagged Gold medal in the compound women's team event at Archery World Cup stage two in Yecheon, South Korea. The trio of Jyothi Surekha Vennam, Parneet Kaur and Aditi Swami strikes gold against Turkey in the final.

45. a. Dipa Karmakar scripted history clinching India's first-ever gold medal at the Asian Championships in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. The 30-year-old Olympian registered an average score of 13.566 in the women's Vault final. This is the first time that an Indian gymnast has won a gold medal in any event at the Asian Championships. She is the first female gymnast from India to compete in the Olympics, and at Rio 2016. She also became the first Indian to ever win a gold medal at an international gymnastics competition when she won the women's vault gold medal at the 2018 FIG World Cup in Mersin, Turkey.

46. d. In Cricket, Kolkata Knight Riders lifted their third trophy in the Indian Premier League with a crushing eight-wicket win over Sunrisers Hyderabad in a completely one-sided final yesterday. Having lost the toss, KKR produced a clinical effort with the ball to dismiss SRH for 113, the lowest-ever total in an IPL title clash. Mitchell Starc was declared Player of the Match. Harshal Patel of Punjab Kings (PBKS) won the Purple Cap, taking 24 wickets. Royal Challengers Bangalore's (RCB) Virat Kohli claimed the Orange Cap with 741 runs. Nitish Kumar Reddy, with 303 runs, was named Emerging Player of the Season. Sunil Narine was awarded both the Most Valuable Player and Ultimate Fantasy Player of the Season.

47. d. Charles Leclerc claimed his first victory at the Monaco Grand Prix. This historic win makes him the first Monegasque to ever stand on the top step of the podium at the prestigious event. McLaren's Oscar Piastri finished second, 8 seconds behind

Leclerc. His Ferrari teammate Carlos Sainz finished 3rd followed by McLaren's Lando Norris in 4th.

48. d. Praggnanandhaa toppled Magnus Carlsen for the first time in a Classical event. The 18-year-old Indian prodigy took down the World No. 1 with the White pieces in the 3rd round of Norway Chess 2024. Praggnanandhaa got an early edge out of the opening and eventually converted it into a victory. With this win, Pragg now takes the sole lead with 5.5 points in the event.

49. b. NPCI International Payments Limited, the international arm of the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), entered into an agreement with the Bank of Namibia for developing an instant payment system like Unified Payment Interface for the African nation. This partnership marks NPCI's first-ever collaboration with a central bank to deploy the UPI stack. The collaboration is aimed at developing real-time person-to-person (P2P) and person-to-merchant (P2M) transactions in Namibia. The agreement aims at improving accessibility, affordability, connectivity with both domestic and international payment networks, and interoperability of payments.

50. c. Girish Chandra Murmu, the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG), has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Toyam Raya, Auditor General of Nepal. The agreement aims to enhance collaboration and exchange of expertise in the field of auditing between the two countries' Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs). Through this MoU, a platform will be established for capacity development, knowledge exchange, and mutual assistance in conducting audits. The partnership between the SAIs of India and Nepal is expected to pave the way for enhanced collaboration in training programs, knowledge exchange, and assistance in audits.

51. c. The Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO) has collaborated with the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bhubaneswar to set up advanced research and development in AI-driven surveillance and other defense projects. The DRDO has been actively working towards enhancing its technological capabilities in response to evolving global defense dynamics. DRDO has chosen IIT Bhubaneswar as its academic partner to leverage the institution's research capabilities in AI and machine learning as it recognizes the immense potential of artificial intelligence (AI) in the case of modern warfare.

52. a. Senior Advocate Kapil Sibal has won the election for the President post of the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA). Kapil Sibal secured 1,066 votes and defeated his nearest rival and

senior advocate Pradeep Rai. According to reports by Bar and Bench, Pradeep Kumar Rai received 689 votes.

53. a. The Cabinet has approved an allocation of over Rs 10,300 crore for the IndiaAI Mission today, marking a significant step towards bolstering India's AI ecosystem. The overarching aim of this financial outlay is to ensure a structured implementation of the IndiaAI Mission through a public-private partnership model aimed at nurturing India's AI innovation ecosystem. This substantial financial infusion, slated over the next five years, is poised to catalyse various components of the IndiaAI Mission, including pivotal initiatives like the IndiaAI Compute Capacity, IndiaAI Innovation Centre (IAIC), IndiaAI Datasets Platform, IndiaAI Application Development Initiative, IndiaAI FutureSkills, IndiaAI Startup Financing, and Safe & Trusted AI.

54. c. Senior Indian Information Service officer, Maushumi Chakravarty assumed the charge of Director General of Akashvani News. A 1991 batch IIS officer, Ms Chakravarty has vast experience of working in several media organisations of the I&B Ministry, including the Press Information Bureau and Central Bureau of Communication. All India Radio (AIR) aka Akashvani, is an Indian state-owned public radio broadcaster founded by the Government of India, owned by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and one of Prasar Bharati's two divisions. It was established in 1936.

55. d. Vice Admiral Sanjay Bhalla has assumed charge as the Chief of Personnel of the Indian Navy. He was commissioned in the Indian Navy on 1st of January 1989. In a career spanning 35 years, he has held a number of specialists, staff and operational appointments, both afloat and ashore. After completing his Specialisation Course in Communication and Electronic Warfare, he served as a specialist onboard several frontline warships. He subsequently had the privilege of holding challenging, fulfilling and eventful Commands at sea, which include, INS Nishank, INS Taragiri, INS Beas and the coveted appointment of Flag Officer Commanding Eastern Fleet (FOCEF).

56. a. Singapore's deputy leader Lawrence Wong is set to be sworn in as the nation's fourth Prime Minister. Fifty-one-old US-trained economist Mr Wong will succeed 72-year-old Lee Hsien Loong, who stepped down after two decades at the helm. Lee's resignation marked the end of a family dynasty led by his father Lee Kuan Yew. Since becoming an independent nation in 1965, Singapore has only had three Prime Ministers ' all from the ruling People's Action Party.

57. b. Vietnam's parliament elected police minister To Lam as the state president, in a move analysts see as a "stepping stone" for Lam to bid later for the position of chief of the ruling Communist Party, the country's top job. Mr. Lam was confirmed by Vietnam's National Assembly after his predecessor resigned amid an ongoing anti-corruption campaign.

58. a. Jetha Ahir, who has served as the deputy speaker of the Gujarat Assembly in the past, has been elected uncontested as the chairman of the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED). Ahir is also the chairman of Panchmahal's Pancharmrut Dairy as well as the Panchmahal District Cooperative (PDC) Bank.

59. c. A wildlife biologist from Assam has been honoured with a leading UK wildlife charity award for her conservation efforts of the endangered Greater Adjutant Stork and its wetland habitat. She received it in recognition of her conservation of the stork known locally as 'Hargila' in Assamese. Dr Purnima Devi Barman won the GBP 1,00,000 Whitley Gold Award from the Whitley Fund for Nature (WFN), which supports grassroots conservation leaders from around the world, at a Royal Geographical Society awards ceremony in London. The Gold Award from WFN noted how the numbers of the Hargila ' translating as 'bone-swallow' ' had dwindled to an estimated 450 birds in Northeast India before Ms Barman's intervention. The Whitley Awards also celebrated six other grassroots conservationists ' from Guyana, Papua New Guinea, Bhutan, Cameroon, Nepal and Brazil ' for their locally-led solutions.

60. a. The Pulitzer Prizes, administered by Columbia University in New York was presented across 15 journalism categories and eight arts categories encompassing books, music, theatre, highlight exceptional contributions in public service, investigative reporting, feature photography, and more. The Public Service award, considered the most esteemed, includes a gold medal, while other winners receive \$15,000 in recognition of their exceptional work. One of the standout moments of this year's Pulitzers was the acknowledgment of The Associated Press for its powerful feature photography capturing the global migration journey through Latin America to the US. Similarly, The New York Times and Reuters were honoured for their in-depth coverage of the Hamas-Israel war that occurred on October 7th and its aftermath. ProPublica clinched the Public Service award for its revelatory reporting that "pierced the thick wall of secrecy" surrounding the US Supreme Court, exposing how billionaires gifted travel and other favours to justices. Special citations were also

awarded to journalists covering the war in Gaza and the late hip-hop critic Greg Tate. The New York Times staff was recognised for their comprehensive coverage of the October 7th Hamas attack, delving into intelligence failures and Israel's response in Gaza. In the literary realm, Jayne Anne Phillips' "Night Watch," a gripping mother-daughter saga set in a West Virginia asylum after the civil war, received the Pulitzer Prize for fiction. The drama prize was awarded to Eboni Booth's "Primary Trust," a compelling narrative about a bookstore worker's unforeseen journey after losing his job. Nathan Thrall's A Day in the Life of Abed Salama: Anatomy of a Jerusalem Tragedy won for general nonfiction, and Jacqueline Jones received the history prize for No Right to an Honest Living: The Struggles of Boston's Black Workers in the Civil War Era. Tyshawn Sorey's saxophone concerto Adagio (For Wadada Leo Smith) was the winner for music.

61. a. Shrinivas R Kulkarni, an Indian-origin professor of astronomy from the US will be bestowed the prestigious Shaw Prize in Astronomy for his ground-breaking discoveries about millisecond pulsars, gamma-ray bursts, supernovae, and other variable or transient astronomical objects. The Shaw Prize consists of three annual prizes: Astronomy, Life Science and Medicine, and Mathematical Sciences, each bearing a monetary award of USD 1.2 million. Hong Kong-based film and television personality and philanthropist Run Run Shaw (1907-2014) founded the Shaw Foundation Hong Kong and The Sir Run Run Shaw Charitable Trust.

62. d. German writer Jenny Erpenbeck and translator Michael Hofmann have won the International Booker Prize. Their novel Kairos follows the destructive love affair between a 19-year-old student and a married man in his 50s who meet on a bus in East Berlin around 1986. Their relationship comes to embody the German Democratic Republic's "crushed idealism" and eventual "dissolution of a whole political system". Last year's winner, Time Shelter by Bulgarian author Georgi Gospodinov and translated by Angela Rodel, was also set during and after the fall of the Iron Curtain.

63. d. SUNFLOWERS WERE THE FIRST ONES TO KNOW', a course end film by Chidanand Naik, a student of Film and Television Institute of India (FTII), received the Cannes' La Cinef Award for Best Short at 77th Cannes Film Festival in France. The winner was officially announced on 23rd May 2024 at the festival where the student Director Shri Chidanand Naik received the award. This is the first time a film by a student from 1-year Television course of FTII has been selected and won at the

prestigious Cannes Film Festival. Before joining FTII in 2022, Chidanand S Naik was also selected as one of the 75 Creative Minds at 53rd International Film Festival of India (IFFI), an initiative of Ministry of I&B to recognize and support budding young artists in the field of Cinema. 'La Cinef' is an official section of the festival aimed at encouraging new talents and recognises films from film schools across the world. The film was among 18 shorts (14 live-action and 4 animated films) selected from a total of 2,263 films submitted by 555 film schools all over the world.

64. b. Indian filmmaker Payal Kapadia made history by winning the country's first ever Grand Prix Award at the 77th Cannes Film Festival. Her Malayalam-Hindi film All We Imagine As Light stars Kani Kusruti and Divya Prabha as nurses working in Mumbai. The movie also stars Chhaya Kadam and Hridhu Haroon. After Shaji Karun's Swaham, which competed for the Palme d'Or at the 1994 Cannes, Kapadia's film was the first Indian title in 30 years to be selected for the prestigious Competition section. Kapadia is also the first Indian woman to be nomination in the category.

65. a. Reporters Without Borders (RWB), also known as Reporters sans fronti'res (RSF) in French, is an international non-profit organisation that strives to protect the right to freedom of information. The organisation has consultative status at the United Nations, UNESCO, the Council of Europe, and the International Organisation of the Francophonie. India has been ranked 159 ' two ranks above last year ' in the 2024 World Press Freedom Index released by Reporters Without Borders (RSF). It had ranked 161 in 2023. Additionally, it also highlights the challenges that journalists face, thereby promoting the freedom of the press and encouraging governments to take action to protect journalists and their work. The top 10 countries with the best press freedom 2024: Rank Country Global Score 1 Norway 91.89 2 Denmark 89.6 3 Sweden 88.32 4 Netherlands 87.73 5 Finland 86.55 6 Estonia 86.44 7 Portugal 85.9 8 Ireland 85.59 9 Switzerland 84.01 10 Germany 83.84 World Press Freedom Index 2024: The top 10 countries with the worst press freedom Rank Country Global Score 180 Eritrea 16.64 179 Syria 17.41 178 Afghanistan 19.09 177 North Korea 20.66 176 Iran 21.3 175 Turkmenistan 22.01 174 Vietnam 22.31 173 Bahrain 23.21 172 China 23.36 171 Myanmar 24.41

66. a. India has overtaken Japan to become the world's third-largest solar power generator in 2023, according to a report by the global energy think tank, Ember. The Global Electricity Review 2024, released on Wednesday, offers a detailed analysis of power generation systems worldwide in 2023. It

was published alongside the world's first open dataset on electricity generation in 2023, covering 80 countries representing 92% of global electricity demand. From ranking ninth in 2015, India has substantially expanded its solar generation capacity. The report indicates that its share of solar power surged from 0.5 percent in 2015 to 5.8 percent in 2023. The report shows that solar power's share in global electricity production surged to a record 5.5% in 2023. India witnessed the world's fourth-largest increase in solar generation in 2023 (18 Terawatt hours or TWh), following China, the United States (33 TWh), and Brazil. Together, these top four solar growth countries accounted for 75% of overall growth in 2023.

67. a. Mumbai and Delhi have secured positions among the top 50 wealthiest cities in a global survey of wealth distribution, while Bengaluru found a spot in the top 10 most promising 'cities to watch' list for future growth, according to the 2024 World's Wealthiest Cities Report released by Henley & Partners and New World Wealth. Mumbai, ranked 24th on the list out of 50, boasts a significant affluent population with 58,800 millionaires, 236 centi-millionaires, and 29 billionaires. The city has experienced an impressive 82% growth in millionaires from 2013 to 2023. Delhi, securing the 37th spot, houses 30,700 millionaires, 123 centi-millionaires, and 16 billionaires. The United States, with 11 cities securing positions in the top 50, is at the top of the charts. New York City leads the global ranking with a staggering 349,500 millionaires, 744 centi-millionaires, and 60 billionaires, holding over \$3 trillion in total resident wealth. The Bay Area, encompassing San Francisco and Silicon Valley, stands second globally with 305,700 millionaires and substantial growth rates in wealth over the past decade. Tokyo, once a frontrunner, has experienced a decline in its high-net-worth-individual (HNWI) population, slipping to third place with 298,300 millionaires. Singapore, characterised as a business-friendly destination, has climbed to fourth place, attracting a significant influx of millionaires and centi-millionaires. London, Los Angeles, Paris, Sydney, Hong Kong and Beijing are also in the top 10.

68. c. India has become the country with the highest data center capacity in the Asia-Pacific region, surpassing major countries like Australia, Hong Kong SAR, Japan, Singapore, and Korea. The country is expected to record the highest capacity addition of 850 MW during the 2024-2026 period, higher than major APAC countries. The sector has seen significant investments from global operators, real estate developers, and private equity funds. In 2023, there was an addition of 255 MW of new

supply, resulting in a total stock of approximately 1,030 MW by the end of the year.

69. c. With 93 per cent of students and 83 per cent of employees actively engaging with the technology, India ranks first in the adoption of Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI) across Asia-Pacific, a report released by Deloitte India showed. It, however, added that only 50 per cent of these employees believe their managers know they use this technology. The findings were a part of the "Generative AI in the Asia Pacific: Young Employees Lead as Employers Play Catch-Up" report, based on a survey of 11,900 individuals across 13 countries in the region. It also noted that over the next five years, an increase of a whopping 182 per cent is anticipated in the daily usage of GenAI.

70. b. Wildlife trafficking has not substantially reduced over the past two decades, despite positive signs in reducing trafficking of iconic species like elephant and rhino, the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) reported in Vienna. During the six years, around 13 million individual animals and plants had been seized that had been intended for use as food, medication or luxury. The global scope and scale of wildlife crime remain substantial with seizures during 2015-2021 indicating an illegal trade in 162 countries and territories affecting around 4,000 plant and animal species," the office's third edition of the World Wildlife Crime Report says. It noted that some of the species worse affected, including rare orchids, succulents, reptiles, fish, birds and mammals, received little public attention, though wildlife trafficking had played a major role in their local or global extinctions.

71. c. India's rank on the World Economic Forum's Travel & Tourism Development Index 2024 has risen to 39th place, with global tourism activities returning to pre-pandemic levels, the annual report showed. While the US topped the list, India is ranked highest in South Asia and among the lower-middle-income economies, the WEF said. India was ranked 54th in the previously published index in 2021, though changes made to the index parameters limit its comparability to earlier years. After the US, Spain, Japan, France and Australia figure among the top five in the 2024 list. The biennial index analysed the travel and tourism sectors of 119 countries around a range of factors and policies. Germany was ranked 6th, followed by the UK, China, Italy and Switzerland in the top ten. The index, prepared in collaboration with the University of Surrey, showed India is highly price-competitive (18th) and boasts competitive Air Transport (26th) and Ground and Port (25th)

infrastructure. Country's overall Travel and Tourism Development Index score is 2.1% below its 2019.

72. a. Delhi has scored the 350th rank in the Oxford Economics' Global Cities Index, which has compared the world's 1000 largest cities on parameters ranging from economics to human capital. The list of 1000 largest cities, spread across 163 different countries, also feature several other Indian cities, including Bengaluru, Mumbai and Chennai. The index contains five categories: Economics, Human Capital, Quality of Life, Environment, and Governance, which are aggregated to create an overall score for each city. New York ranks first on the index, followed by London, San Jose, Tokyo, Paris, Seattle, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Melbourne and Zurich. In India, Bengaluru is ranked 411, Mumbai 427, Chennai 472, Kochi 521, Kolkata 528, Pune 534, Thrissur 550, Hyderabad 564 and Kozhikode 580. South Indian cities appear to be ranked higher on the list.

73. c. Kerala recorded the highest unemployment rate among the 15-29 age group in urban areas for the January-March quarter of 2024, while Delhi had the lowest joblessness rate, according to the latest Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI). The survey, which covered 22 states and Union territories, identified Jammu & Kashmir, Telangana, Rajasthan, and Odisha as other states with high unemployment rates in this age category. The overall unemployment rate for the 15-29 age group was 17 % for the January-March period, an increase from 16.5 per cent in the previous quarter but slightly lower than the 17.3 per cent in the same period, 2023. For all age groups, the unemployment rate was 6.7 per cent, marginally up from 6.5 per cent in the previous quarter and slightly below the 6.8 per cent from the previous year.

74.a. The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) is celebrating its 65th Raising Day on May 07, 2024. The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) is a road construction executive force, partly integral to and in support of the Army. It started operations in May 1960 with just two projects-Project Tusker (renamed Project Vartak) in the east and Project Beacon in the west. In 2023-24, the BRO completed a total of 125 infrastructure projects worth Rs 3,611 crore. This includes the construction of Sela Tunnel in Arunachal Pradesh on Balipara-Chardwar-Tawang Road. The BRO will soon commence the construction on 4.10-km long Shinkun La Tunnel. Once done, this tunnel will

become the world's highest tunnel at 15,800 ft bypassing Mila Tunnel in China.

75. c. May 1 is observed as 'May Day', also referred to as 'International Workers' Day' and 'Labour Day' in different countries across the world. The day commemorates the contributions of workers, and the labour movement. The origins of International Labour Day can be traced back to the late 19th-century labour movement in the United States. The specific date of May 1st was chosen to commemorate a nationwide strike for an eight-hour workday that commenced on that day in 1886. It's a day dedicated to honouring the contributions of working people in every industry and sector.

76. c. Every year on May 3, the whole world celebrates Press Freedom Day. The day is commemorated to highlight the significance of press freedom globally and to recognise the challenges encountered by journalists. The day also pays tribute to all the journalists who have lost their lives. World Press Freedom Day was first declared by the United Nations General Assembly in 1993. The initiative to celebrate World Press Freedom Day was first started by an African journalist during a UNESCO conference in Namibia in 1991. In 2024, the theme for World Press Freedom Day is 'A Press for the Planet: Journalism in the Face of the Environmental Crisis.'

77. b. Coal Miners Day, observed annually on May 4 in India, commemorates the dedicated efforts and significant contributions of coal miners. The history of Coal Miners Day dates back to the opening of the first coal mine in Scotland in 1575. In India, the first coal mine was established in 1774 at the Raniganj Coalfield by John Summer and Suetonius Grant Heatly.

78. c. The theme of World Migratory Bird Day 2024 is 'Protect Insects, Protect Birds.' World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) is celebrated every year in May and October. This year, it falls on 11 May and 12 October, due to the varying cyclic patterns of bird migration in different hemispheres. WMBD is an annual awareness-raising campaign to highlight the necessity of conserving migratory birds and their habitats. World Migratory Bird Day is celebrated annually on the second Saturday in May and October. The day was first established in 1993 to raise awareness about the plight of migratory birds and their habitat.

79. b. On May 28th, the world unites for World Hunger Day. This day raises awareness about the urgent issue of global hunger. In 2011, The Hunger Project, a global organisation dedicated to ending

hunger and poverty, established World Hunger Day as a yearly event. The theme for World Hunger Day 2024 is "Thriving Mothers, Thriving World."

80. a. The journey of Hindi journalism began on May 30, 1826, with publication of the first Hindi newspaper, 'Udant Martand,' started by Pt. Jugal Kishore Shukla. This day is dedicated to the special contribution of Hindi journalists working for public welfare, imbued with truth & courage. The Hindi publication of Udant Martand was a milestone in the history of Indian journalism.

81. d. The 10th World Water Forum under the theme of "Water for Shared Prosperity" officially opened on Indonesia's island of Bali. The 10th World Water Forum focused on four topics, namely water conservation, clean water and sanitation, food and energy security, and mitigation of natural disasters. The World Water Forum is the largest international gathering in the water sector involving various stakeholders, which has been co-hosted by the World Water Council and a host city. The Forum is held every three years and has been taking place since 1997.

82. c. The first of a pair of climate satellites designed to study heat emissions at Earth's poles for NASA is in orbit after lifting off atop Rocket Lab's Electron rocket from the company's Launch Complex 1 in M'hia, New Zealand. The PREFIRE mission was jointly developed by NASA and the University of Wisconsin-Madison. The agency's PREFIRE (Polar Radiant Energy in the Far-Infrared Experiment) mission consists of two shoebox-size cube satellites, or CubeSats, that will measure the amount of heat Earth radiates into space from two of the coldest, most remote regions on the planet.

83. a. Supersonic Missile-Assisted Release of Torpedo (SMART) system was successfully flight-tested from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Odisha. This canister-based missile system consists of several advanced sub-systems, namely two-stage solid propulsion system, electromechanical actuator system, precision inertial navigation system etc. SMART is a next-generation missile-based light-weight torpedo delivery system, designed and developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation to enhance the anti-submarine warfare capability of the Indian Navy far beyond the conventional range of lightweight torpedo. The system carries advanced light-weight torpedo as payload along with parachute-based system.

84. a. Indian Air Force has tested BHISHM Cube, a state-of-the-art indigenous mobile hospital, for

airdrop in Agra. This innovative technology is a great leap forward in providing rapid and comprehensive medical aid during emergencies anywhere. This cube is a part of the broader initiative named Project BHISHM ' Bharat Health Initiative for Sahyog, Hita and Maitri, is tailored to treat up to 200 casualties. These cubes are robust, waterproof, and light, designed for various configurations, making them ideal for diverse emergency scenarios.

85. b. Defence Research and Development Organisation successfully flight-tested the RudraM-II air-to-surface missile from Su-30 MK-I platform of the Indian Air Force in Odisha. RudraM-II is an indigenously-developed solid-propelled air-launched missile system. A number of state-of-the-art indigenous technologies developed by DRDO laboratories have been incorporated in the missile.

86. c. Renowned Urdu litterateur and academician, Shaikh Abdussalam Abdurrazzaq, famous by his pseudonym Salam Bin Razzaq, passed away. Razzaq won the prestigious Sahitya Akademi Award for Urdu literature for his acclaimed short stories collection, 'Shikasta Buton Ke Darmiyan', in 2004. Some of Razzaq's literary creations include 'Nangi Dopahar Ka Sipahi', 'Muabbir', and 'Zindagi'.

87. a. Renowned Hindi writer and Padma Shri recipient Malti Joshi died on 16 May. She was 90. Popularly known as 'Malwa ki Meera', Joshi was awarded the Padma Shri by the then President Ramnath Kovind in 2018. Some of her most popular works include 'Madhayantar', 'Pataakshep', 'Parajay', 'Ek Ghar Sapno Ka', 'Woh Tera Ghar, Ye Mera Ghar', and her novel 'Aurat Ek Raat Hai'. She wrote more than 60 books in Hindi and Marathi languages.

88. a. UNICEF India announced Bollywood star Kareena Kapoor Khan as its new National Ambassador. Kareena had earlier served as a Celebrity Advocate for UNICEF India. Besides Kareena, UNICEF India has also appointed its first-ever Youth Advocates, who are peer leaders and champions on issues like climate action, mental health, innovations and Girls in STEM. The four advocates are Gauransi Sharma from Madhya Pradesh on right to play and disability inclusion; Kartik Verma from Uttar Pradesh on climate action and child rights advocacy; singer Nahid Afrin from Assam on mental health and early childhood development; and Vinisha Umashankar from Tamil Nadu is a budding innovator and STEM pioneer.

89. c. Sixteen-year-old Kaamya Karthikeyan has become the youngest Indian mountaineer to scale

the Mt Everest from the Nepal side. She also becomes the second youngest girl in the world to achieve this feat. Kaamya has completed six milestones in her mission to summit the highest peak of all seven continents and aims to climb Mt. Vinson Massif in Antarctica this December to become the youngest girl to accomplish the '7summits challenge'.

90. a. Jyoti Ratre, an entrepreneur and fitness enthusiast from Madhya Pradesh, has become the oldest Indian woman to conquer Mount Everest. The 55-year-old mountaineer reached the summit at 6:30 a.m. on May 19. This was Ratre's second attempt to summit the highest peak in the world. In 2023, she had to return from 8,160 mt due to harsh weather.

91. c. Indian mountaineer Satyadeep Gupta has scripted history by becoming the first person to scale Mt. Everest and Mt. Lhotse twice in one season. He also set another record by being the first Indian to traverse from Mt. Everest to Mt. Lhotse in 11 hours and 15 minutes. Gupta conquered the 8,516 metre-high Mt. Lhotse, followed by towering 8,849 metre high Mt. Everest. This historic achievement marks the first Double Dual Ascent of the world's highest and the fourth highest peaks in a single season. Gupta had previously summited Mt Everest on May 21 and Mt Lhotse on May 22.

92. d. Sri Lanka's Cabinet has approved the plan to renovate the Kankesanthurai port in the Northern part of the island. The project will be executed under an Indian financial grant. The project had faced delays as estimated costs surpassed available funds. Recognizing the project's significance, India has pledged to cover the entire estimated cost of the project. Sri Lanka cabinet had mentioned that the project's full cost was \$61.5 million. Situated in the northern region of Sri Lanka, the 16-acre Kankesanthurai Port or KKS Port, is located 104 km from Karaikal Port in Pondicherry, India. India's pledge to cover the entire estimated cost of 61.5 million dollars under a grant given the significance of the project.

93. c. A recent discovery in Mexico has discovered a deepest blue hole ever recorded: Taam Ja'. Blue holes are large marine caverns or sinkholes, typically formed in limestone or other carbonate rock beds. They stand out dramatically as dark blue water-filled pits, contrasting sharply with the lighter blue of surrounding shallow waters. Situated in Chetumal Bay off the southeastern coast of the Yucat'an Peninsula in Mexico, Taam Ja', which translates to 'deep water' in the Mayan language, has recently claimed the title of the world's deepest blue hole, surpassing the Dragon Hole located in

China. The Dragon Hole in China was once believed to be the world's deepest blue hole, reaching a depth of 987 feet.

94. b. Cyclone Remal made landfall on the Bangladesh coast. The cyclone is likely to land into the adjoining West Bengal region around midnight on 27th May, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) predicted. It is the first cyclone over the Bay of Bengal in this pre-monsoon season. The cyclone that is hurtling towards the West Bengal and Bangladesh coastlines with landfall has been named 'Remal' as per the standard convention of naming tropical cyclones in the region. The IMD follows a specific naming convention for tropical cyclones forming in the North Indian Ocean, including the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal. The name 'Remal', means 'sand' in Arabic. The name was given by Oman. Cyclone Remal is the first pre-monsoon cyclone in the Bay of Bengal this season. In view of the effective cyclone warning and disaster mitigation in the North Indian Ocean region, the WMO came together in 1972 to establish the Panel on Tropical Cyclones (PTC). The PTC originally comprised eight member nations ' Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Myanmar, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Sultanate of Oman and Thailand. However, the panel expanded in 2018 and included Iran, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Yemen in its list of member nations.

95. d. Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi and foreign minister have passed away in a helicopter crash. The eighth President of Iran, Ebrahim Raisolsadati, more popularly known as Ebrahim Raisi, was a principlist and a Muslim jurist, who became the Iranian President in 2021. Ebrahim Raisi was born on December 14, 1960.

96. a. The 7th edition of India- France Joint Military Exercise SHAKTI commenced at Umroi, in a fully developed and modern Foreign Training Node in Meghalaya. The Exercise is scheduled to be conducted from 13th to 26th May 2024. Exercise SHAKTI is a biennial training event conducted alternatively in India and France. Last edition was conducted in France in November 2021. Aim of Exercise SHAKTI is to enhance joint military capability of both sides to undertake multi-domain operations in a Sub Conventional scenario under Chapter VII of the United Nations Mandate. The joint exercise will focus on operations in the semi-urban and mountainous terrain.

97. a. Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan will chair a two-day conference, 'Parivartan Chintan-2' on the jointness and integration of the Armed Forces in New Delhi began on 10th May. Parivartan Chintan, a pioneering conference for the heads of all Tri-Services Institutes and aims at

generating novel reformative ideas and initiatives. Members from all the subcommittees of the apex Chiefs of Staff Committee; the CDS as its permanent chairman, and the three Service Chiefs, shall review the progress made in multiple domains, and ideate on the necessary reforms to achieve the desired end state towards transformation through jointness and integration.

98. d. India is set to play a pivotal role in facilitating the first-ever focused discussions on regulating tourism in Antarctica at the 46th Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting and 26th Meeting of the Committee for Environmental Protection. India has been a Consultative Party to the Antarctic Treaty since 1983. National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR), Goa under Ministry of Earth Sciences, and the Antarctic Treaty Secretariat will organize these meetings in Kochi, Kerala. The ATCM and CEP are high-level global annual meetings conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Antarctic Treaty, a multilateral agreement of 56 Contracting Parties signed in 1959.

99. a. HDFC Bank, India's leading private sector bank, announced the winners of its Parivartan Start-up Grants programme for FY2024. This year,

41 incubators and accelerators in the field of social impact entrepreneurship will receive grants totaling Rs 19.6 crore to support 170 start-ups working across specific focus areas. This year's programme is undertaken in partnership with Atal Innovation Mission, a Government of India initiative under NITI Aayog. The focus areas for the 2024 grants include Climate Innovation, Financial Inclusion, Agriculture and Sustainable Rural Economy, Accessible and Affordable Healthcare, Education and Livelihood Enhancement, Gender Diversity and Inclusion.

100. b. Airbus Helicopters and Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for financing the purchase of Airbus' helicopters in India. Under the MoU, both Airbus Helicopters and SIDBI would identify potential civil helicopter operators in India interested in financing solutions for purchasing the helicopters. While Airbus would provide the technical and helicopter-industry knowledge, SIDBI would be responsible for evaluating the prospects and financing them exclusively for Airbus. This collaboration marks the foray of SIDBI into helicopter financing and meeting the financial and development needs of India's rotary wing sector.

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