

# SEBI GRADE A

CURRENTTAP

BOOSTER

From

**APRIL**

To

**10TH JULY**

**2024**

# 1 GA IN NEWS

## FIRST IN NEWS

S.No	News	Key Facts
1.	India's First Home-Grown anti-cancer CAR-T cell therapy- NexCAR19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Developed by: IIT Bombay &amp; Tata Memorial Hospital in association with industry partner ImmunoACT.</li> </ul>
2.	First Ambani-Adani pact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reliance Industries Ltd has purchased a 26% stake in Mahan Energen Ltd (MEL), a wholly owned subsidiary of Adani Power Ltd.</li> <li>MEL is a power project in Madhya Pradesh.</li> </ul>
3.	India's first autonomous electric - 'Ola Solo'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Launched by: Ola Electric.</li> <li>A fully autonomous, AI-enabled and traffic-smart electric scooter.</li> </ul>
4.	India's coal and lignite production crossed 1 billion tonnes for the first time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>India's coal production reached 997.4 million tonnes in FY24, an 11.67% increase from FY23, with a cumulative production of coal and lignite surpassing 1.04 billion tonnes.</li> <li>India's total coal and lignite output was at 937 million tonnes (MT) in the preceding 2022-23 fiscal.</li> </ul>
5.	First payment solutions on WhatsApp for Indian Life Insurance Sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Launched by: Tata AIA Life Insurance Co.</li> <li>Policyholders can now pay premium up to Rs 1 crore, instead of the earlier limit of Rs 2 lakh.</li> </ul> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p><b>DID YOU KNOW ?</b></p> <p>In 2023, Tata AIA introduced industry-first digital payment feature—an instant premium payment facility through WhatsApp and UPI-enabled payment options.</p> <p>'TASHA' is the interactive chatbot of TATA AIA</p> </div>
6.	India's First Commercial Crude Oil Strategic Storage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initiated by: Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Ltd (ISPRL).</li> <li>Location: Padur in Karnataka.</li> <li>The new facility, named Padur-II, will have an underground storage capacity of 2.5 million tonnes of crude oil.</li> <li>It will be developed under a PPP (public-private partnership) model.</li> <li>Objective: To provide insurance against supply disruptions by increasing the country's strategic petroleum reserves.</li> </ul>
7.	India's first privately managed strategic petroleum reserve (SPR)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To be launched by 2029-30.</li> <li>Private operator can trade all of the stored oil, mirroring models adopted by Japan and South Korea.</li> <li>Two new SPRs planned at Padur, Karnataka, and in Odisha.</li> </ul>
8.	First person & woman from India to serve as a jury member at Paris Olympics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Name of the person: Bilquis Mir (aqua woman of Kashmir Valley).</li> <li>One of the two jury members selected from Asia, the other member is from Japan.</li> <li>A canoeist from Jammu and Kashmir</li> <li>A jury member of the Indian Kayaking and Canoeing association.</li> </ul>



9.	First company in India with over 10,000 MW of renewable energy capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Milestone achieved by Adani Green Energy Ltd (AGEL) after commissioning 2,000 MW of solar capacity at the Khavda solar park in Gujarat.</li> </ul>
10.	World's first postage stamp, 'Copper Ticket'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>250th Anniversary Celebration of the launch of the world's first postage stamp, 'Copper Ticket', introduced in 1774 from Patna (then known as Azimabad).</li> <li>'Copper Ticket' was initially launched as a charge for delivering posts up to a distance of 160 miles.</li> </ul>
11.	First international federation to award prize money at an Olympic Games	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>World Athletics (WA) to award prize money to gold medalists in athletics events at the Paris Olympics. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Each gold medalist in the 48 track and field events will receive USD 50,000 (Rs 41.60 lakh).</li> <li>USD 2.4 million, allocated from the International Olympic Committee's revenue share for World Athletics.</li> <li>Relay gold medalists to share their prize money among the team.</li> </ul> </li> <li>World Athletics plans to extend this initiative by awarding prize money to all medal winners at the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics</li> </ul> <p><b>About World Athletics</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establishment: 1912; Headquarters: Monaco</li> </ul>
12.	First private sector bank to open branch in Lakshadweep	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HDFC Bank has opened a branch in Kavaratti, Lakshadweep.</li> </ul>
13.	First non-American to set foot on moon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Two Japanese astronauts will be joining future American missions.</li> <li>One of the two will join the Artemis 3 Mission. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The first non-American astronaut to land on the Moon.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Japan will contribute a rover to the Artemis missions.</li> <li>This rover is expected to debut in the Artemis 7 mission.</li> </ul> <p><b>About Artemis Mission</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is a Moon exploration program led by the United States' NASA.</li> <li>Artemis 1: successfully flew an uncrewed vessel around the Moon.</li> <li>Artemis 2: planned for 2025, will send four astronauts around the Moon without landing. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The crew will consist of three Americans and a Canadian</li> </ul> </li> <li>Artemis 3: the first crewed landing on the Moon, currently scheduled for 2026. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The program will also feature significant firsts, including the first woman and the first person of color to land on the Moon.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
14.	India's first mobile Medical Devices Calibration Facility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Launched by: Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras).</li> <li>Launched under: 'Anaivarukkum IITM' (IITM for all) initiatives.</li> <li>Purpose: To provide a cost-effective, accessible calibration service for medical devices crucial for accurate disease diagnosis and treatment.</li> <li>It can calibrate up to 45 different life-saving medical devices.</li> <li>This initiative supports the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 3 (health and well-being for all).</li> </ul>

15.	<p>World's first vaccine against all strains of meningitis- 'Men5CV or MenFive vaccine'</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rolled out by Nigeria.</li> <li>Targets five strains of the meningococcus bacteria.</li> <li><b>Recommended by:</b> World Health Organization (WHO)</li> <li><b>Funded by:</b> Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance.</li> <li>The vaccine's development involved a <b>partnership between PATH and the Serum Institute of India</b>, with significant <b>funding from the UK government's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office</b>.</li> <li>The vaccine rollout is part of a <b>broader effort to defeat meningitis globally by 2030</b>, aligning with the WHO's global roadmap.</li> </ul>
16.	<p>First BCCI-accredited venue to install a state-of-the-art 'hybrid pitch'</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To be installed at Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association (HPCA) stadium, Dharamsala.</li> <li>Netherlands-based 'SISGrass', a part of the SIS Pitches group of companies, has been roped in for <b>hybrid pitch installation</b>.</li> </ul>
17.	<p>India's first Multi-purpose (Combined Heat &amp; Power) Green Hydrogen Generation Plant</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Set up by:</b> Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam (SJVN).</li> <li><b>Location:</b> Nathpa Jhakri Hydro Power Station (NJHPS), Jhakri, Himachal Pradesh.</li> </ul>
18.	<p>India's first ATM Insurance</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Launched by:</b> AU Small Finance Bank (AU SFB). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It offers <b>option to purchase insurance directly from ATMs</b>.</li> <li>AU SFB has <b>already patented the product</b>.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
19.	<p>First Yen-denominated loan transaction in India</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>REC Limited has availed a <b>Green Loan of Japanese Yen (JPY) 60.536 billion</b> to finance eligible green projects in India from Italian Export Credit Agency, SACE.</li> <li>80% guarantee by SACE under their innovative <b>Push Strategy programme</b>.</li> <li>SACE's first JPY-denominated loan transaction and first green loan transaction in India.</li> <li>The first collaboration between an Indian govt. entity and SACE.</li> <li><b>Mandated Lead Arrangers:</b> Crédit Agricole Corporate and Investment Bank, Bank of America, Citibank, KfW IPEX-Bank and Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation.</li> <li>Crédit Agricole Corporate and Investment Bank would be acting as the <b>Export Credit Agency Coordinator, Green Loan Coordinator, Documentation Bank and Facility Agent</b>.</li> </ul>
20.	<p>India's first transshipment port</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The <b>Government of India</b> has given <b>sanction</b> to Adani's Vizhinjam Port in Kerala to operate as a <b>transshipment port</b>.</li> <li>Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd (APSEZ) started the international transshipment project in Vizhinjam, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala in 2015.</li> <li>It is a <b>Rs 7,700 crore deep water seaport project</b>.</li> </ul>
21.	<p>First upgradable ATM in India</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Initiative of:</b> Hitachi Payment Services.</li> <li>These ATMs can be upgraded to a <b>Cash Recycling Machine (CRM)</b> at any time.</li> <li>Launched under the '<b>Make in India</b>' initiative.</li> </ul>

**DID YOU KNOW ?**

In 2023, Hitachi Payment Services rolled out the first-of-its-kind UPI ATM on Android platform for card-less cash withdrawals.

22.	First oldest Miss Universe Contestant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alejandra Rodríguez, a 60-year-old lawyer and journalist from La Plata, Buenos Aires, made history by winning the Miss Universe Buenos Aires title in Argentina.</li> <li>The Miss Universe Organization earlier announced that there would be no upper age limit for contestants starting from 2024.</li> </ul>
23.	Alphabet Inc. surpasses USD2 trillion mcap* for the first time.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alphabet Inc. is the parent company of Google.</li> <li>Alphabet joins a select group of companies, including Apple Inc., Microsoft Corp, Saudi Aramco, and Nvidia Corp., that have achieved this milestone.</li> </ul> <p>*- mcap stands for market capitalization.</p>
24.	India's First AAA Rating in Private Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Awarded to Adani Ports &amp; SEZ (APSEZ) by Care Ratings.</li> <li>This is the highest rating a company can receive from credit rating agencies.</li> </ul>
25.	World's first AI-generated foreign ministry spokesperson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Launched by: Ukraine; Name: Victoria Shi.</li> <li>Modelled after Ukrainian singer and influencer Rosalie Nombre.</li> </ul> 
26.	First woman from Chhattisgarh to be commissioned as a lieutenant doctor in the Indian Army	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Feat achieved by Zoya Mirza from Durg district, Chhattisgarh.</li> </ul> 
27.	India's first geothermal project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Location: Puga in Ladakh; Initiative of: ONGC</li> <li>Two geothermal wells, each 1,000 meters deep to be drilled by September, to set up a power plant of at least 1 MW capacity by 2025.</li> </ul>
28.	First regional data centre of Microsoft	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To be set up at Thailand.</li> <li>A new new cloud and AI infrastructure.</li> </ul> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p style="color: orange; font-weight: bold;">DID YOU KNOW?</p> <p>Microsoft pledged to train 2.5 million people in Southeast Asia in the use of AI by 2025.</p> </div>
29.	India's first 3D printed dummy ballot unit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initiative of: Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation Cell (SVEEP) of Kamrup Election District &amp; IIT Guwahati.</li> <li>Objective: acquainting citizens, particularly new voters, and senior citizens, with the intricacies of voting procedures.</li> </ul>
30.	India's first Constitution Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initiative of: Indian Army and the Punit Balan Group</li> <li>Location: Pune, Maharashtra.</li> </ul>
31.	India's first indigenous bomber unmanned aircraft (drone)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Name: FWD-200B; Developed by: Flying Wedge Defence.</li> <li>Payload Capacity: 100 kg; Maximum speed: 370 kmph (200 knots).</li> <li>An indigenous military grade bomber unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV).</li> <li>Classified as a MALE Unmanned Combat Aerial Vehicle.</li> </ul> 

32.	India's first indigenously designed microcontroller chip 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Name of the Chip:</b> Secure IoT.</li> <li><b>Initiative of:</b> Mindgrove Technologies, a fabless semiconductor startup incubated by IIT Madras Pravartak Technologies Foundation and IIT Madras Incubation Cell.</li> </ul>
33.	First candle wax-powered rocket	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Name:</b> SR75 rocket; <b>Launched by:</b> Hylimpulse, Germany.</li> </ul>
34.	First revenue-based finance (RBF) & alternative funding platform to get NBFC License from RBI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Feat achieved by <b>GetVantage</b>, a start-up providing revenue-based finance (RBF) to emerging businesses.</li> </ul>
35.	First App to check queue at poll booths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>App Name:</b> 'voters-in-queue'</li> <li><b>Launched by:</b> Gurgaon Administration, Haryana.</li> </ul>
36.	India's first mutual fund scheme on Mid and Small-cap segment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Name:</b> Mirae Asset Nifty Mid Small-cap 400 Momentum Quality 100 exchange traded fund (ETF).</li> <li><b>Launched by:</b> Mirae Asset Mutual Fund.</li> <li>An <b>open-ended scheme</b>, underlying <b>portfolio will consist of 50 Mid-cap and 50 Small-cap stocks</b>.</li> </ul>
37.	India's 1st AI-Enabled Income Tax Filing Mobile App	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Launched by:</b> EZTax.</li> </ul>
38.	World's first air-lifted portable hospital disaster hospital 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Name:</b> Arogya Maitri Cube.</li> <li><b>Developed by:</b> Ministry of Health &amp; Family Welfare, Ministry of Defence and the National Security Council.</li> <li><b>Developed under:</b> Project BHISHM (Bharat Health Initiative for Sahyog Hita and Maitri) (announced in 2022).</li> <li>Capable of <b>treating up to 200 patients simultaneously</b>.</li> <li>Designed to <b>be air-dropped and operational within 12 minutes</b>.</li> <li>Weighs 720 kg and can be packed in 72 cubes.</li> </ul>
39.	World's First AI-Powered F-16 Fighter Jets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Name:</b> Vista; <b>Initiative of:</b> U.S. Air Force; <b>Speed:</b> 550mph.</li> <li><b>US Air Force Secretary Frank Kendall</b> took a ride, marking one of the first instances of a high-ranking official publicly flying in such an aircraft.</li> <li>Aligned with <b>U.S. Air Force's plan to integrate over 1,000 unmanned warplanes by 2028</b>.</li> </ul>
40.	First lunar railway system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Name:</b> FLOAT (Flexible Levitation on a Track).</li> <li>Part of <b>NASA's Moon to Mars initiative</b> and <b>Robotic Lunar Surface Operations 2 (RLSO2)</b>.</li> <li><b>Aim:</b> to support the daily operations of a sustainable lunar base envisioned for the 2030s.</li> </ul>
41.	India's First Vande Metro	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A compact version of the <b>Vande Bharat Express</b> trains.</li> <li>Prototypes manufactured by <b>Rail Coach Factory (RCF) Kapurthala</b> and <b>Integral Coach Factory (ICF) Chennai</b></li> <li>First basic unit rolled out for trials at RCF Kapurthala.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To link 124 cities spanning distances of around 100-250 kilometers.</li> </ul>
42.	India's first Large Language Model (LLM) specifically designed for the banking, financial services, and insurance (BFSI) sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Name:</b> Sesame.</li> <li><b>Developed by:</b> Indian Fintech Company Setu (part of the Pine Labs Group) &amp; AI research firm Sarvam AI.</li> </ul>
43.	Coca-Cola India's first ever partnership with Hockey India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Anandana, the CSR arm of Coca-Cola India Foundation, partners with Hockey India, for the National Women's Hockey League 2024.</li> <li>Aligns with #SheTheDifference campaign of Coca-Cola India.</li> <li><b>Implementation Partner:</b> Sporting Ethos; <b>Duration:</b> three years. <b>Aim:</b> advancement of women's hockey in India.</li> </ul>
44.	World's first international standard on AI management systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Name:</b> ISO 42001:2023.</li> <li><b>Certifying Body:</b> TUV India (part of TÜV Nord Group).</li> <li>Infosys received this certification for implementing Artificial Intelligence Management System (<b>AIMS</b>) framework, part of Infosys Topaz Responsible AI Suite.</li> </ul>
45.	First Transformative Agreement (TA) by any publicly funded department in India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Signatories:</b> Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) &amp; Springer Nature.</li> <li><b>Aim:</b> to accelerate the transition to open science and foster universal access to research findings.</li> <li>Allows all 50+ DAE-affiliated centers to access and publish Gold Open Access (OA) articles in Springer Nature's hybrid journals.</li> </ul>
46.	First Indian steel company to complete fully loaded voyage from Australia to India on B24 biofuel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Feat achieved by Tata Steel.</li> <li>Cape vessel "MV Cape XL" departed from Gladstone port and arrived at Kalinga International Coal Terminal Paradip Private Ltd port.</li> <li><b>Objective:</b> to reduce carbon emissions by 20%.</li> </ul>
47.	India's first commercial utility-scale battery energy storage system (BSES) project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>A 20 MW/ 40 MWh project.</b></li> <li><b>Implemented by:</b> BSES Rajdhani Power Ltd (BRPL) in partnership with IndiGrid and the Global Energy Alliance for People and Planet's (GEAPP). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GEAPP offered concessional loan amounting to 70% of the total project cost.</li> </ul> </li> <li>To be installed at BSES Rajdhani Power Limited's (BRPL) Kilokari substation in New Delhi.</li> <li>Expected to be commissioned within 18-20 months, the fastest for a BESS project in India.</li> </ul>
48.	India's 1st crowd-supported weather infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Name:</b> 'Weather Union'.</li> <li><b>Launched by:</b> Zomato, as a part of 'Zomato Giveback'.</li> <li><b>Key Collaborator:</b> Centre For Atmospheric Sciences (CAS) at IIT Delhi</li> <li>Provides localized, real-time information on 12 weather parameters for 45 cities.</li> <li>Comprises a network of 650+ on-ground weather stations, making it the largest private weather infrastructure in India.</li> </ul>
49.	India's First Electric Flying Taxi Prototype	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Name:</b> ePlane e200.</li> <li>Developed by the ePlane Company, a Chennai-based deep tech startup.</li> </ul>

		<b>eVTOL Aircraft:</b> Company is developing an eVTOL (electric Vertical Takeoff and Landing) aircraft, which will initially be a 3 or 4-seater plane and can be converted into an air ambulance.
50.	India's first aerotropolis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Name:</b> Worldmark Aerocity.</li> <li><b>Developer:</b> Bharti Realty.</li> <li><b>Being developed at:</b> Indira Gandhi International Airport, Delhi.</li> <li><b>Set to get India's largest mall by 2027.</b></li> <li>Delhi International Airport Ltd (DIAL) is developing India's first interstate multi-modal transport hub near the Aerocity metro station to enhance connectivity.</li> </ul> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <b>DID YOU KNOW?</b>  <b>LuLu Mall</b> in Kochi, Kerala is the largest mall in India.  <b>Aerotropolis</b> is a metropolitan area around an airport.     </div>
51.	First automotive assembly facility in Nepal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A collaborative effort of Hyundai Motor India and Nepal-based Laxmi Group.</li> <li><b>Hyundai Venue</b> will be the <b>first locally assembled model</b> at the plant.</li> </ul>
52.	India's first multi-asset fund with a dividend yield strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Name:</b> Bajaj Finserv Multi Asset Allocation Fund.</li> <li><b>Launched by:</b> Bajaj Finserv Asset Management Company.</li> <li>An <b>open-ended scheme</b>; equity allocation ranges from 35-80%. Employs a multi-theme, multi-sector, and multi-cap approach.</li> </ul>
53.	First woman Director General of Police (DGP) of Meghalaya	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Feat achieved by Idashisha Nongrang.</b></li> <li>She will replace <b>Lajja Ram Bishnoi</b>.</li> <li>Belongs to the <b>Khasi community</b>.</li> <li><b>Present Role:</b> Director General of Meghalaya Civil Defence.</li> </ul> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <b>DID YOU KNOW?</b>  Khasi, Garos and Jaintias are matrilineal communities of Meghalaya.     </div>
54.	Chhattisgarh's First Floating Solar Plant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Initiative of:</b> SAIL- Bhilai Steel Plant (BSP).</li> <li><b>Implemented through:</b> NTPC-SAIL Power Supply Company Limited (NSPCL), a 50:50 joint venture of NTPC and SAIL.</li> <li><b>Location:</b> Maroda-1 reservoir, Bhilai, Durg district.</li> <li><b>Capacity:</b> 15-megawatt (MW).</li> </ul>
55.	First auto company in India to join the ONDC* Network.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Feat achieved by <b>Hero MotoCorp</b> for selling two-wheeler parts and accessories.</li> </ul> <p>*ONDC- Open Network for Digital Commerce.</p>
56.	First Human-Centric AI Center of Excellence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Initiative of:</b> TCS; <b>To be set up at:</b> TCS PacePort in the La Défense area of Paris, France.</li> <li><b>Announced during:</b> Choose France Summit.</li> <li><b>Focus Areas:</b> brain-machine interface, developing empathy in machines and unleashing the creativity of AI.</li> <li>Aligns with France's 2030 National Strategy for AI.</li> </ul>
57.	India's first Satellite-based In-Orbit Third-Party Liability Insurance Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Launched by:</b> TATA AIG .</li> <li><b>Objective:</b> provide critical financial protection to meet the growing needs of satellite manufacturers and operators in Indian space sector.</li> </ul> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <b>DID YOU KNOW?</b>  India aims to grow its worldwide space launch market share fivefold to \$47.3 billion by 2032.     </div>

58.	India's first Loitering Aerial Munitions (LAM)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Launched by:</b> Kadet Defence Systems (KDS).</li> <li>Developed under the <b>Development cum Production Partner (DCPP) model</b> with the DRDO.</li> </ul>
59.	First rocky exoplanet with a detected atmosphere	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Name:</b> 55 Cancri e (Janssen).</li> <li><b>Discovered by:</b> James Webb Space Telescope.</li> <li>Located 41 light-years from Earth in the constellation Cancer.</li> <li>A "super-Earth," about 8.8 times more massive than Earth and twice its diameter.</li> </ul>
60.	First virtual credit card of HDFC Bank 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Name:</b> PIXEL; <b>2 variants:</b> PIXEL Play and PIXEL Go.</li> <li>Available on Visa's network.</li> <li>PIXEL Play allows users to create their own cards with personalized benefits, while PIXEL Go is tailored for beginners aiming to build their credit scores.</li> <li><b>Zero lost card liability.</b></li> </ul>
61.	World's First 6G Device 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Developed through a <b>collaborative effort by a Japanese consortium of 4 leading telecommunications companies.</b></li> <li><b>20 times faster than 5G internet</b></li> <li>The 6G device can transmit data wirelessly at 100 gigabits per second (<b>Gbps</b>) over distances of up to 328 feet (100 meters).</li> </ul>
62.	First Chief Artificial Intelligence Officer of NASA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Feat achieved by David Salvagnini.</li> <li>He is also the <b>chief data officer</b> of NASA.</li> <li>Prior to his appointment, Chief Scientist Kate Calvin served as NASA's acting responsible AI official.</li> <li><b>Previous Role:</b> Director of the architecture and integration group and chief architect at Office of the Director of National Intelligence</li> </ul> 
63.	India's first crypto mutual fund	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Name:</b> Bitsave Crypto Mutual Fund.</li> <li><b>Launched by:</b> Bitsave, a startup based in Bengaluru, with primary operational base in Seychelles.</li> <li>Tracks <b>Bloomberg Galaxy Crypto Index (BGCI)</b>.</li> </ul> <p>Not regulated by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p><b>DID YOU KNOW?</b></p> <p>In India, cryptocurrency gains are taxed at a rate of 30%. 1% TDS is levied when a crypto asset is transferred.</p> </div>
64.	North East India's first indoor cricket training facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Set up by:</b> Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).</li> <li><b>Location:</b> Ri Bhoi, Meghalaya.</li> </ul>
65.	First country in modern history to lose all its glaciers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Venezuela once had six glaciers located in the Andes mountains.</li> <li>Venezuela's last remaining glacier, the Humboldt glacier, has melted faster than expected and has been <b>reclassified as an ice field</b>.</li> </ul>
66.	First Emergency Medical Response System (EMRS) for serving IAF personnel and their families across India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Location:</b> Command Hospital Air Force Bangalore (CHAFB).</li> <li>A <b>24/7 telephonic medical helpline.</b></li> </ul>

67.	<p>India's first domestically developed 100 octane petrol</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Name:</b> XP100; <b>Initiative of:</b> IndianOil.</li> <li><b>Exported for the first time to Sri Lanka from Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT), Nava Sheva, Navi Mumbai.</b></li> <li>A premium fuel tailored for high end vehicles, developed using IndianOil's indigenous Octamax Technology.</li> </ul>
68.	<p>First private company to conduct SAR trials on a HAPS platform</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>GalaxEye tested its Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) technology on a High Altitude Pseudo-Satellite (HAPS) developed by the National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL).</b></li> <li>Both the companies have already signed an MoU focused on developing, integrating, and testing SAR payloads for HAPS, advancing aerospace technology.</li> </ul>
69.	<p>First Indian State to introduce AI-Driven Traffic Management System</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Milestone achieved by Sikkim.</b></li> <li><b>Purpose:</b> To modernize traffic management and improve regulation efficiency.</li> </ul>
70.	<p>World's First Rocket with Fully 3D Printed Engine</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Name:</b> Agnibaan - SOOrTeD (Sub-Orbital Technology Demonstrator).</li> <li><b>Launched by:</b> Agnikul Cosmos, an IIT Madras-incubated start-up.</li> <li><b>India's first semi-cryogenic engine-powered rocket launch.</b></li> <li><b>India's second privately built rocket, after Skyroot Aerospace's Vikram-S.</b></li> <li>Launched from <b>India's first &amp; only private launch pad, 'Dhanush,' established by Agnikul, at Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.</b></li> <li><b>Purpose:</b> Served as test flight to gather critical data for Agnikul's upcoming orbital launch vehicle, "Agnibaan."</li> </ul> <p><b>About Agnibaan</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A two-stage rocket; powered by liquid oxygen or kerosene</li> <li>Can carry payloads from 30 kg to 300 kg to a height of 700 km.</li> <li>Can access both low- and high-inclination orbits.</li> <li>Can access more than 10 launch ports.</li> </ul>
71.	<p>India to Chair Colombo Process for the first time</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Period:</b> 2024-26</li> </ul> <p><b>About Colombo Process</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A Regional Consultative Process of migrant worker origin countries from South and South East Asia.</li> <li><b>Establishment:</b> 2003; <b>Total Member Nations:</b> 12.</li> </ul>
72.	<p>First government TV channel in India to employ AI anchors</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Channel Name:</b> Doordarshan Kisan.</li> <li><b>AI Anchors:</b> AI Krish and AI Bhoomi.</li> <li><b>Key Feature:</b> can speak in 50 Indian and foreign languages &amp; deliver news 24/7, 365 days a year, without breaks.</li> </ul> <p><b>About DD Kisan</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Launched in:</b> 2015; <b>Ministry:</b> Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.</li> </ul>
73.	<p>World's first 100% biodegradable pen</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Name:</b> NOTE (No Offence to Earth).</li> <li>Launched under the <b>bioQ brand</b> by Saurabh H Mehta.</li> </ul>

74.	World's First Major Law for Artificial Intelligence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Name:</b> European Union (EU) AI Act.</li> <li><b>Aim:</b> to mitigate risks associated with AI, such as misinformation, fake news, and misuse of copyrighted material.</li> <li><b>Fines for violation:</b> up to 35 million euros or 7% of global turnover.</li> </ul>
75.	First state in India to manufacture Google's flagship Pixel line of smartphones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To be manufactured in Tamil Nadu in partnership with Foxconn.</li> <li>Aligned with Tamil Nadu's goal to achieve a trillion-dollar economy status by 2030.</li> </ul>
76.	First-ever Night Vision Goggles (NVG) aided landing by the Indian Air Force (IAF)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>IAF successfully landed a C-130J aircraft using NVG on the Advanced Landing Ground in the Eastern sector of India.</li> <li>Previously, IAF conducted a night landing by the same aircraft at the Kargil airstrip for the first time near LoC in the Ladakh.</li> </ul>
77.	First AMC in India to launch its own sonic identity/musical logo (MOGOSCAPE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Launched by:</b> Nippon Life India Asset Management Limited (NAM India).</li> <li><b>Name:</b> The Sound of Freedom; <b>Created by:</b> BrandMusiq.</li> </ul>
78.	First Indian Airport to receive Zero Waste to Landfill (ZWL) certification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Awarded to Thiruvananthapuram International Airport, Kerala.</li> <li>Awarded by the Confederation of Indian Industry Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development (CII-ITC).</li> </ul>
79.	India's first testbed for autonomous navigation technologies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Name:</b> Technology Innovation Hub on Autonomous Navigation (TiHAN); <b>Set up at:</b> IIT Hyderabad.</li> <li><b>Purpose:</b> to develop unmanned ground and aerial vehicles.</li> <li><b>Funding:</b> Rs. 130 crore by the Union Ministry of Science &amp; Technology.</li> </ul> <p><b>Additional Information</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>IIT Hyderabad has established India's first post graduation course in Smart Mobility.</li> </ul>
80.	First green hydrogen plant of GAIL (India) Ltd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Location:</b> Vijaipur, Guna district of Madhya Pradesh.</li> <li>Can produce about 4.3 tonnes of green hydrogen per day using 10-megawatt proton exchange membrane electrolyser</li> <li>GAIL is also setting up around 20 MW Solar power plants at Vijaipur (both ground mounted and floating) to meet the requirement of green power for the 10 MW PEM Electrolyzer.</li> </ul>
81.	First Nuclear Power Plant in post-Soviet Central Asia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A six-unit small modular reactor nuclear power plant to be built in Jizzakh region in Uzbekistan by Russian state-owned energy corporation Rosatom.</li> <li><b>Capacity:</b> 330 megawatts (6 X 55MW).</li> </ul>
82.	India's first Quantum Diamond Microchip Imager	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To be developed by PQuest Lab at IIT-Bombay &amp; TCS.</li> <li>Aligned with National Quantum Mission</li> </ul> <p><b>Additional Information</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>IIT-Bombay is the first academic partner for TCS' Co-Innovation Network, a platform driving industry-academia collaboration for pioneering solutions.</li> </ul>
83.	India's first electric vehicle index	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Index Name:</b> Nifty EV &amp; New Age Automotive Index.</li> <li><b>Launched by:</b> NSE Indices Limited, a subsidiary of the NSE.</li> </ul>

### DID YOU KNOW?

25 technology innovation hubs are being setup by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) under National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber Physical Systems (NM-ICPS).

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tracks the performance of EV companies and those developing advanced automotive vehicles and related technologies.</li> <li><b>Base Date:</b> April 2, 2018; <b>Base value:</b> 1000.</li> <li><b>Reconstitution:</b> semi-annual; <b>rebalancing:</b> quarterly basis.</li> <li>The total thematic indices on the NSE increased to 17.</li> </ul>
84.	First former US president convicted of felony crimes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A New York jury convicted Donald Trump of all 34 charges for illegally influencing the 2016 election through a hush money payment.</li> </ul>
85.	India's first multimodal logistics park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Location:</b> Mappedu, Tiruvallur district (Near Chennai).</li> <li>To be built by <b>Reliance Industries</b>.</li> </ul>
86.	India's First NFC Soundbox for Tap-and-Pin Payments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Launched by:</b> Axis Bank, in partnership with Mastercard.</li> <li><b>Objective:</b> provide an all-in-one payment solution that enables merchants to accept various forms of digital payments including Bharat QR, UPI, Tap &amp; Pay, and Tap + Pin payments.</li> <li>Supports transactions greater than Rs 5000 via card instruments.</li> </ul>
87.	First State to integrate AI in School Textbooks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AI has been integrated into Class VII textbooks in Kerala.</li> <li>Introduction of 'PictoBlock,' a visual programming tool embedded within textbooks for exploring programming, AI, and robotics.</li> </ul>
88.	First Space Agency of South Korea 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Name:</b> Korea Aerospace Administration (KASA).</li> <li>South Korea plans to land on Mars by 2045 &amp; spend 100 trillion won (USD 72.6 billion) until then on space exploration</li> <li>South Korea's first lunar lander is scheduled for 2032.</li> <li><b>Aim:</b> to become one of the top five space powers globally through its ambitious space exploration programs.</li> </ul> <p><b>Additional Information</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>South Korea launched Nuri rocket &amp; became the 7<sup>th</sup> country to own indigenous space launch vehicle &amp; satellite development technology.</li> </ul>
89.	First Lok Sabha Speaker in 20 years to be re-elected as MP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Feat achieved by Om Birla; <b>Constituency:</b> Kota, Rajasthan.</li> </ul> <p><b>Additional Information</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Last Lok Sabha speaker to get re-elected as MP was PA Sangma.</li> <li>Re-elected from Tura in Meghalaya in the 1998 Lok Sabha election.</li> </ul>
90.	First crewed test flight of Boeing Starliner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Name:</b> Crew Space Transportation (CST)-100 Starliner.</li> <li><b>Inaugural Crew:</b> Barry "Butch" Wilmore and Sunita Williams <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sunita Williams (Indian American astronaut)- first woman to pilot a spacecraft on its maiden mission.</li> <li>✓ The flight marks her third journey into space.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Rocket for the mission developed by the United Launch Alliance (ULA), a Boeing-Lockheed Martin joint venture.</li> <li>If the mission is successful, Boeing will become the second private firm to be able to provide NASA crew transport to and from the ISS, alongside SpaceX.</li> </ul> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p style="color: red; font-weight: bold;">DID YOU KNOW?</p> <p>NASA, under the Commercial Crew programme, awarded USD 4 billion &amp; USD 2.6 billion respectively to develop Starliner (Boeing) &amp; Crew Dragon (SpaceX) respectively.</p> </div>

91.	<p><b>First woman President of Mexico</b></p>  	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Name:</b> Claudia Sheinbaum.</li> <li>Also the <b>first person of Jewish heritage to be elected as President of Mexico.</b></li> <li>A climate scientist and <b>former mayor of Mexico City.</b></li> <li><b>Predecessor:</b> Andrés Manuel López Obrador.</li> </ul>
92.	<p><b>India's first co-branded credit cards with airport-linked benefits</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Launched by:</b> Adani One and ICICI Bank, in collaboration with Visa.</li> <li><b>Adani Group's maiden venture into the financial sector.</b></li> <li><b>Variants:</b> Adani One ICICI Bank Signature Credit Card &amp; Adani One ICICI Bank Platinum Credit Card.</li> </ul>
93.	<p><b>India's first Advanced Intraoperative Ultrasound (iUS) Machine for Brain Tumour Surgeries</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Name:</b> bKActiv intraoperative Ultrasound (iUS) machine.</li> <li>Procured by <b>Tata Memorial Centre (TMC), Mumbai.</b></li> </ul>
94.	<p><b>First IIM of Assam</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To be set up at <b>Marabhita, Kamrup district</b> near Guwahati.</li> <li>Will be mentored by <b>IIM Ahmedabad.</b></li> </ul>
95.	<p><b>First satellite to measure clouds' vertical and horizontal distributions</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Name:</b> Earth Cloud Aerosol and Radiation Explorer (EarthCARE).</li> <li><b>Developed by:</b> European Space Agency (ESA) in collaboration with the Japanese Space Agency (JAXA).</li> <li><b>Objective:</b> To study how the formation of clouds and the density of aerosols in the atmosphere impact Earth's temperature.</li> <li>The <b>largest of ESA's Earth Explorer satellites.</b></li> </ul>
96.	<p><b>First person to spend 1,000 days in space</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Oleg Kononenko, a <b>Russian cosmonaut.</b></li> <li>Made <b>five journeys to the International Space Station (ISS).</b></li> </ul>
97.	<p><b>World's First Zero Debris Charter</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Led by:</b> European Space Agency (ESA).</li> <li>Unveiled at the <b>ESA Space Summit in Seville, Spain</b> in 2023.</li> <li><b>Aim:</b> to achieve debris-neutral space activities by 2030.</li> <li><b>Total Signatories:</b> 12 countries.</li> </ul>
98.	<p><b>India's first astro tourism campaign</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Name:</b> Nakshatra Sabha.</li> <li><b>Launched by:</b> Uttarakhand Tourism Development Board, in partnership with Starscapes.</li> </ul>
99.	<p><b>First fund house in India to reach Rs 10 trillion milestone in assets under management (AUM)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Milestone achieved by <b>SBI Mutual Fund (SBI MF).</b></li> <li>Next four places go to <b>ICICI Prudential MF, HDFC MF, Nippon India MF, and Kotak MF</b> respectively.</li> </ul>
100.	<p><b>First Public Sector Undertakings (PSU) to cross Rs 8 lakh crore market capitalization (mcap)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Milestone achieved by <b>State Bank of India (SBI).</b></li> <li>SBI- the <b>7th Indian company to cross this mark.</b></li> <li><b>Top 3 largest banks in India in terms of mcap:</b> HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank &amp; SBI respectively.</li> <li><b>Six Indian companies valued over Rs 8 trillion:</b> SBI, Reliance Industries, TCS, HDFC Bank, Bharti Airtel, and ICICI Bank.</li> </ul> <p><b>Additional Information</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Nifty Bank index</b> crossed the <b>50,000 mark for the first time.</b></li> </ul>

101.	First computer-chip firm to hit USD 3 trillion market capitalization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Milestone achieved by <b>Nvidia</b>.</li> <li><b>Surpassed Apple</b> to become the world's second most valuable company.</li> <li><b>Microsoft retains its top spot</b> with a market value of USD 3.15 trillion.</li> </ul>
102.	Indian Navy's first woman helicopter pilot  	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Name:</b> Sub Lieutenant Anamika B. Rajeev.</li> <li>Received the prestigious <b>Golden wings</b> at the passing out parade.</li> <li><b>Lt Jamyang Tsewang</b>, the first commissioned naval officer from Ladakh, graduated as a qualified helicopter pilot.</li> </ul>
		<b>Additional Information</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>First Indian woman to fly a fighter aircraft- <b>Avani Chaturvedi (IAF)</b>.</li> </ul>
103.	First Indigenous Man Portable Counter Drone System (MPCDS) to be inducted into the Indian Defence Forces  	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Developed by <b>AXISCADES Technologies Ltd</b> for Indian Army.</li> <li>Indian Army made a landmark deal of Rs 100 Crores with <b>AXISCADES Technologies Ltd</b>.</li> </ul>
104.	First nation to evacuate island community over climate impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Indigenous Guna families</b> relocated from the island of Gardi Sugdub in Panama due to rising sea levels.</li> </ul>
105.	First team to be penalized under ICC's new "stop-clock rules"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>USA</b> punished with five penalty runs during a match against India in <b>T20 world cup</b>.</li> <li>A team will be penalized, if, <b>after two warnings, they still take more than a minute between overs</b>.</li> </ul>
106.	India's first index fund offering exposure to defense stocks listed in India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Name:</b> Motilal Oswal Nifty India Defence Index Fund.</li> </ul>
107.	First Indian woman to score consecutive ODI centuries  	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Feat achieved by <b>Smriti Mandhana</b> against South Africa</li> <li><b>Equaled Mithali Raj's record for the most centuries</b> by an Indian woman in ODIs with seven centuries.</li> </ul>
		<b>Additional Information</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The match set a new record in Women's ODI history with four players scoring centuries in a single game, the highest in any women's ODI match.</li> <li>Centuries scored by <b>Harmanpreet Kaur</b>, South Africa's <b>Marizanne Kapp</b> and <b>Laura Wolvaardt</b>, along with <b>Smriti Mandhana</b>.</li> </ul>
108.	First Centralized Admission Portal for undergraduate college admissions in India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Launched by the <b>Government of West Bengal</b>.</li> </ul>
109.	World's 1 <sup>st</sup> & only Unmanned Systems Forces (USF)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Launched by <b>Ukraine</b>.</li> <li>Dedicated to <b>advancing the capabilities of unmanned and robotic warfare across air, sea, and ground domains</b>.</li> </ul>
110.	India's first green State Government headquarters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Feat achieved by <b>Assam Secretariat</b> after installing a 2.5 MW solar power project.</li> </ul>

		<b>Additional Information</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In Assam, all public servants to pay their own power bills starting July.</li> </ul>
111.	India's first indigenously manufactured suicide (Kamikaze) drone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Name:</b> Nagastra-1</li> <li>• <b>Manufactured by:</b> Solar Industries Nagpur through its subsidiary Economics Explosives Ltd, in association with Bangalore's Z-Motion.</li> <li>• Indian Army received <b>first batch of 120 Nagastra 1 drones</b>, part of an order of 480 units.</li> </ul>
112.	First skin bank facility within the Armed Forces Medical Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Launched by <b>Army Hospital (Research &amp; Referral)</b>, New Delhi.</li> <li>• A <b>centralized hub</b> for the collection, processing, storage, and distribution of skin grafts.</li> <li>• <b>Aim:</b> to revolutionise the treatment of severe burn injuries and other skin-related conditions for service personnel and their families.</li> </ul>
113.	First Indian to receive 'Nelson Mandela Lifetime Achievement Award' of South Africa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Awarded to <b>children's film-maker Vinod Ganatra</b>.</li> <li>• Awarded at the <b>7th Nelson Mandela Children's Film Festival</b>.</li> <li>• Recognized for <b>contributions to the world of cinema for kids</b>.</li> <li>• <b>Career Milestones</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ <b>Only Indian filmmaker</b> to receive the '<b>Liv Ullmann Peace Prize</b>', in Chicago, for his Gujarati film, '<b>Harun-Arun</b>'.</li> <li>◦ Received '<b>Janakinath Gaur Award</b>' from <b>Doordarshan</b> for his children's programme, '<b>Baingan Raja</b>'.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
114.	First Airport in India to launch Self-Service Bag Drop (SSBD) Quick Drop Solution for quick check-in	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Feat achieved by <b>Indira Gandhi International Airport</b>, Delhi.</li> <li>• <b>Second airport</b> to launch this initiative globally after Canada's Toronto Airport.</li> </ul>
115.	World's first large-scale 100% hydrogen-ready engine power plant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Launched by Finland based <b>Wartsila</b>.</li> <li>• Can also run on <b>natural gas and 25 vol% hydrogen blends</b>.</li> </ul>
116.	India's first Innovation Lab for Eye Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Launched by <b>Sankara Eye Foundation</b>, with support from <b>G.D. Naidu Charities</b> in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu.</li> <li>• <b>Aim:</b> to deliver high-quality eye care solutions to underserved populations in India.</li> </ul>
117.	First-ever precise three-dimensional representation of solar atmospheric rotation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Generated by <b>Chinese scientists</b> using <b>Chinese H-alpha Solar Explorer (CHASE)</b> satellite.</li> </ul>
118.	First country in Southeast Asia to legalize same-sex marriage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thailand passed <b>Marriage Equality Bill</b>.</li> <li>• Thailand is also <b>third Asian country</b> after Taiwan and Nepal to allow same-sex marriage.</li> </ul>
119.	India's first intra-state air tourism initiative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Name:</b> PM Shri Paryatan Vayu Seva.</li> <li>• <b>Launched by:</b> Government of Madhya Pradesh.</li> <li>• Connects <b>eight cities</b>.</li> </ul>

120.	<p>India's First Pilot Project for Underground Coal Gasification (UCG)</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Launched at the Kasta coal block in Jamtara District, Jharkhand.</li> <li>Managed by Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL), in collaboration with CMPDI Ranchi and Ergo Exergy Technologies Inc. (EETI) from Canada.</li> </ul>
	<p>Additional Information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>India aims to achieve 100 MT coal gasification target by 2030</li> </ul>	
121.	<p>India's First UNESCO 'City of Literature'</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Feat achieved by Kozhikode, Kerala.</li> <li>Kozhikode &amp; Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh were among the 55 new cities added to the UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN) on World Cities Day on October 31. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gwalior added under 'Music' creative field.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
	<p>Additional Information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seven creative fields of UCCN: Crafts and Folk Art, Design, Film, Gastronomy, Literature, Media Arts and Music.</li> </ul>	
122.	<p>Odisha's First Female Deputy Chief Minister</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Name: Pravati Parida.</li> <li>A first-time MLA from the Nimapara constituency.</li> </ul>
123.	<p>First state in India to announce a Rs 1 crore insurance compensation for state employees died in road accidents</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Announced by Karnataka.</li> </ul>
124.	<p>India's first underwater-launched unmanned aerial vehicles (ULUAVs)/ drones</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pune based Sagar Defence Engineering Pvt. Ltd received contract from DRDO to develop this technology.</li> <li>Awarded through DRDO's Technology Development Fund (TDF).</li> </ul>
125.	<p>World's First Asian King Vulture Conservation &amp; Breeding Center</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Name: Jatayu Conservation and Breeding Centre</li> <li>Location: Maharajganj, Uttar Pradesh.</li> </ul>
126.	<p>First Astronomy Satellite jointly developed by China and France</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Name: Space Variable Objects Monitor (SVOM).</li> <li>Objective: to study gamma-ray bursts, the universe's most powerful explosions.</li> </ul> <p>Additional Information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>China and France previously launched CFOSAT, an oceanographic satellite.</li> </ul>
127.	<p>India's first and East India's only Global Centre for Enterprise Risk Management (ERM)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Set up by Sri Sri University (SSU), in collaboration with the India Affiliate of the Institute of Risk Management (IRM).</li> </ul>
128.	<p>UNESCO's inaugural Goodwill Ambassador for Youth</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>K-pop group SEVENTEEN.</li> <li>SEVENTEEN pledged USD 1 million donation to the Global Youth Grant Scheme, a collaboration with UNESCO.</li> </ul>
129.	<p>Maharashtra's First Female Chief Secretary</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Name: Sujata Saunik; Tenure: one year.</li> <li>Predecessor: Nitin Kareer.</li> <li>Second woman in Maharashtra this year appointed to a prominent leadership role after Rashmi Shukla (Maharashtra's first woman Director General of Police).</li> </ul>

130.	<b>First Artificial Intelligence (AI) system for early forest fire detection</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introduced by Pench Tiger Reserve in Maharashtra</li> </ul> <p><b>Additional Information</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pench Tiger Reserve is located across two states- Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra.</li> </ul>
131.	<b>First floating solar plant by the Indian Railways</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Installed by the Central Railway at Igatpuri Lake, located in the Western Ghats; Capacity: 10 MWp.</li> <li>Aligns with Indian Railway's goal to achieve zero carbon emissions by 2030.</li> </ul>
132.	<b>South India's first and the India's largest leopard safari</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Launched at the Bannerghatta Biological Park, Bengaluru.</li> </ul>
133.	<b>First Plastic Waster Road of Jaipur</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inaugurated at Jaipur Military Station.</li> <li>Jaipur Military Station is the second military station in India to construct a plastic waste road, following Narangi Military Station in Guwahati, Assam.</li> </ul>
134.	<b>First-ever Finance Minister of India to present seven consecutive Union Budgets</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nirmala Sitharaman.</li> <li>To surpass Morarji Desai's record of six consecutive budgets presented six decades ago. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Moraji Desai presented a total of ten budgets, the highest by any Finance Minister in India.</li> </ul> </li> <li>She is the first full-time woman Finance Minister of India.</li> <li>She is the second woman to present the budget after former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.</li> </ul>
135.	<b>India's first Exchange Traded Fund (ETF) dedicated to Electric Vehicles (EV) and New Age Automotive segment.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Launched by Mirae Asset Investment Managers.</li> <li><b>Fund Name:</b> Mirae Asset Nifty EV and New Age Automotive ETF.</li> <li>An open-ended scheme.</li> <li>Tracks the Nifty EV and New Age Automotive Total Return Index.</li> </ul>
136.	<b>Air India's first Flying Training Organisation (FTO)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To be set up at Belora airport at Amaravati, Maharashtra.</li> <li>Also, South Asia's Largest FTO.</li> <li>Partner: Maharashtra Airport Development Company (MADC).</li> <li>Will be operational by mid-2026.</li> </ul>
137.	<b>World's First AI Dress</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Name:</b> Medusa dress; Features <b>robotic snakes</b>.</li> <li><b>Creator:</b> Christina Ernst, a Google software engineer and founder of She Builds Robots.</li> </ul>
138.	<b>First International Conference on Steel Slag Road</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Organizers:</b> CSIR-Central Road Research Institute (CRRI) &amp; PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI) <b>Venue:</b> New-Delhi.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Additional Information</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>India's First Steel Slag Road was built at Hazira, Surat.</li> </ul>	
139.	<b>Induction of The First Indigenous Chip-Based 4G Mobile Base Stations by the Indian Army</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Name:</b> Sahyadri LTE base stations; <b>Chip Developer:</b> Signalchip.</li> <li>Procured from Bangalore-based firm <b>Signaltron</b> through the government e-marketplace portal.</li> </ul>
140.	<b>World's first CNG motorcycle</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Name:</b> Bajaj Freedom 125.</li> </ul>

## GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES

S.No	Initiative	Key Facts
1.	Geographical Indication (GI) tag	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Over 60 products across India have been awarded GI tag recently.</li> <li>For the first time, large number of GI tags have been given at once.</li> <li>Varanasi accounts for maximum number of GI tagged products from a single geographical area.</li> <li>Top 2 states with most GI-tagged products: Uttar Pradesh &amp; Tamil Nadu.</li> </ul> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p style="color: orange; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;"><b>DID YOU KNOW?</b></p> <p>The first product in India to be awarded with GI tag was Darjeeling tea from West Bengal</p> </div>
2.	Expansion of National Highways by NHAI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NHAI achieved its highest-ever highway construction, building 6,644 km in FY24, surpassing the target of 6,544 km.</li> <li>This marks a 20% increase in construction from FY23, which saw 5,544 km of highways built.</li> <li>NHAI also registered its highest ever capital expenditure of Rs 2.07 trillion in FY24, up 20% from Rs 1.73 trillion in FY23.</li> <li>The Ministry of Road Transport &amp; Highway's gross budget support (GBS) for capex in FY24 is Rs 2.64 trillion.</li> </ul>
3.	DigiYatra	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recently, Manohar International Airport, Goa, has introduced biometric-enabled DigiYatra system for air travellers</li> </ul> <p><b>About DigiYatra</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Initiative of:</b> Ministry of Civil Aviation; <b>Launched in:</b> 2022</li> <li>It enables biometric boarding system using Facial biometric verification Technology.</li> <li><b>Objective:</b> to enhance the passenger experience by eliminating the need for manual verification of tickets and ID at multiple touch points.</li> </ul>
4.	Booth Raabta (Booth Contact)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Launched by:</b> District Election Officer and Deputy Commissioner of Malerkotla District, Punjab.</li> <li><b>Objective:</b> to provide election-related information to the people of the district.</li> </ul>
5.	myCGHS iOS App	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Launched by:</b> Ministry of Health and Family Welfare</li> <li><b>Developed by:</b> National Informatics Centre (NIC) Himachal Pradesh and NIC Health Team.</li> <li><b>Objective:</b> To enhance access to Electronic Health Records, information, and resources for Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) beneficiaries.</li> </ul>
6.	Experimental Licence Module for 100 5G Labs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Launched by:</b> Department of Telecommunications (DoT).</li> <li><b>Objective:</b> To simplify the experimental licence requirements for 100 5G Labs in academic institutions, facilitating smoother operations and fostering innovation in the 5G domain.</li> <li><b>Features</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The licence will be issued on a "Self-declaration Mode" via the National Single Window System (NSWS).</li> <li>Nominal fees for application process- Rs. 5000.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

		<p><b>Background</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DoT has awarded '100 5G Use Case Labs' to educational institutions across India.</li> <li><b>Objective:</b> to cultivate competencies and engagement in 5G technologies among students and start-up communities.</li> <li>They need to obtain <b>Experimental (Non-Radiating) category of license</b> from the DoT to ensure interference-free operations to licensed TSPs.</li> </ul>												
7.	"Samman" Portal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Launched by:</b> NMDC (National Mineral Development Corporation)</li> <li><b>Objective:</b> to facilitate former employees of NMDC in managing their medical claims, viewing personal profiles, dependent details, and application status online.</li> </ul>												
8.	ECI's (Election Commission of India) Social Media Campaigns for Enhanced Voter Participation in General Elections 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Overarching theme of the campaigns:</b> 'Chunav Ka Parv, Desh Ka Gav'</li> <li><b>Turning 18 Campaign:</b> To galvanize youngsters to participate in the upcoming elections and address the critical issues of urban and youth apathy noticed in previous elections.</li> <li><b>You are the One Campaign:</b> To recognize and celebrate the invaluable contributions of various stakeholders involved in the electoral process.</li> <li><b>'VerifyBeforeYouAmplify' initiative (पोस्ट से पहले पुष्टि):</b> Combats fake news and misinformation about election processes.</li> </ul>  <p>The infographic shows the following data:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Voters (Cr)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1999</td> <td>16.45 Cr</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2004</td> <td>17.27 Cr</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2009</td> <td>19.10 Cr</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2014</td> <td>26.02 Cr</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2019</td> <td>29.46 Cr</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Voters (Cr)	1999	16.45 Cr	2004	17.27 Cr	2009	19.10 Cr	2014	26.02 Cr	2019	29.46 Cr
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9.	Approved List of Models and Manufacturers (ALMM) order for solar photovoltaic (PV) modules	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy has re-imposed the ALMM order for solar photovoltaic (PV) modules from April 1, 2024.</li> <li><b>Aim:</b> to regulate the solar PV module market by ensuring that projects sponsored or subsidized by the government use modules from approved manufacturers.</li> <li>Projects commissioned by March 31, 2024, are exempt from the ALMM requirement.</li> <li>The ALMM order will not apply to projects set up under open access or as captive by private parties.</li> </ul>												
10.	India's Urea Imports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Government of India has set 2025 as the target year to end urea imports.</li> </ul>												
11.	Significant Achievements by MoRTH in Highway Construction in FY24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH), constructed 12,349 km of national highways in the fiscal year 2023-24, marking it as the second-highest achievement in its history.</li> <li>The highest record was set in 2020-21 with 13,327 kilometers of national highways constructed.</li> </ul>												
12.	Coal Production Target for FY25 (2024-25)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Ministry of Coal has set the target of producing 170 million tonnes of coal from captive and commercial coal blocks for FY25.</li> </ul>												
13.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Constituted by:</b> The Government of India; <b>Total Members:</b> seven</li> <li><b>Chairperson:</b> NITI Aayog member V K Saraswat.</li> </ul>												

	Panel for Legislation on Mining of Critical Minerals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Mandate:</b> to suggest legislative measures for optimal and scientific mining.</li> <li><b>Focus Area:</b> deep-seated mineral deposits like copper, gold, and diamond.</li> </ul> <p><b>Additional Information</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 2023, the Geological Survey of India (GSI) established lithium-inferred resources of 5.9 million tonnes in the Salal-Haimana area of the Reasi district in Jammu and Kashmir (J&amp;K).</li> </ul>
14.	'Bha' (Bharat) Shoe Sizing System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Proposed by :</b> Council of Scientific and Industrial Research–Central Leather Research Institute (CSIR–CLRI).</li> <li>Proposed after conducting a <b>Pan India survey across 79 locations</b>.</li> <li><b>Aim:</b> to address the inadequacies of existing international sizing standards and accommodate broader foot dimensions typically found in the Indian population.</li> <li>Advanced <b>three-dimensional foot scanning technology</b> was used to understand the size, dimensions, and structure of the average Indian foot.</li> <li><b>Key Recommendations:</b> suggests eight size categories based on age groups from infants to adults, which could simplify manufacturing processes by eliminating the need for half-sizes.</li> <li>Expected to be implemented by 2025.</li> </ul>
15.	Plan to increase Steel Production Capacity by the Government of India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To increase India's steel-making capacity to 500 million tonnes (Mt) by 2047 from around 161 Mt at present.</li> <li>To reduce the CO<sub>2</sub> emission intensity to 2.25 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per tonne of crude steel production by 2029, and further reductions by 2047.</li> </ul> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p><b>DID YOU KNOW?</b></p> <p>Under the National Steel Policy (NSP), 2017, India aims to scale up its annual steel production capacity to 300 million tonnes by 2030, and per capita steel consumption to 160 kg</p> </div>
16.	International Election Visitors' Programme (IEVP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Organized by:</b> Election Commission of India (ECI).</li> <li><b>Participants:</b> 75 delegates from the Election Management Bodies (EMBs) of 23 countries.</li> <li>The <b>largest ever global delegation</b> to witness world's largest elections- Lok Sabha Elections 2024.</li> <li>Delegates witnessed election in <b>13 constituencies</b> from <b>six states</b> viz, Maharashtra, Goa, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, and Uttar Pradesh.</li> </ul>
17.	Mission Indian Single Sky Harmonized Air Traffic Management (ISHAN)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Initiative of:</b> Airports Authority of India (AAI).</li> <li><b>Aim:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To consolidate India's four airspace regions into a single entity to enhance air traffic management.</li> <li>Streamline operations across the entire national airspace, increasing efficiency and safety.</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Centralized coordination for domestic flights above 25,000 ft in Nagpur, Maharashtra.</b></li> </ul> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p><b>DID YOU KNOW?</b></p> <p>By 2030, the aviation industry expects domestic passenger traffic to double to 300 million.</p> </div>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At present, Indian airspace is controlled through four flight information regions (FIRs) at Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, and Chennai, and a sub-flight information region at Guwahati.</li> </ul>
18.	#PlayTrue Campaign  	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Initiative of:</b> National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA)</li> <li><b>Duration:</b> 15th to 30th April 2024.</li> <li><b>Aim:</b> fostering awareness about the importance of clean sport and anti-doping practices in India.</li> <li>Commemorated <b>World Anti-Doping Agency's (WADA) Play True Day (19 April).</b></li> </ul>
19.	Index of mineral production for FY 2023-24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Released by:</b> Ministry of Mines</li> <li><b>Increased by 7.5% over FY 2022-23.</b></li> <li><b>Record Production of Iron-ore, limestone &amp; Primary Aluminium metal compared to 2022-23.</b></li> </ul> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-left: 20px;"> <b>DID YOU KNOW?</b>  <b>India is the 2nd largest Aluminium producer, 3rd largest lime producer and 4th largest iron ore producer in the world</b> </div>
20.	State Mining Index	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>IIT-ISM, Dhanbad to conduct a study for designing the framework, data collection and formulation of the index.</li> <li>A tool for stakeholders of the mining sector to understand various aspects related to the Ease of Doing Mining Business within a State.</li> </ul>
21.	MEDITECH STACKATHON 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Initiative of:</b> Department of Pharmaceuticals &amp; CII.</li> <li><b>Objective:</b> To catalyze transformative change within India's MedTech sector by undertaking a comprehensive value chain analysis of select medical devices.</li> <li>Deliberated in <b>eight focused groups.</b></li> </ul>
22.	Telecom Design Collaboration Sprint	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>First initiative to engage in deep-tech rapid ideation and solution development for a future-ready telecom ecosystem.</li> <li>Initiative of: Department of Telecommunications (DoT).</li> <li>Organized at: IIIT, Bangalore; Participants: 15 startups &amp; academia.</li> <li>Aim: developing a comprehensive telecom stack that is prepared for 5G and future advancements to 6G.</li> <li><b>Three Primary Objectives:</b> Leveraging Collective Strengths, Fostering Holistic Solutions &amp; Creating Market Opportunities.</li> </ul>
23.	Wrinkles Acche Hai (WAH) campaign	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Launched by Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) as a part of Swachhata Pakhwada.</li> <li>CSIR staff wore non-ironed clothes every Monday to encourage energy conservation.</li> </ul>
24.	'Pirul Lao-Paise Pao' campaign	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Launched by: Uttarakhand Government.</li> <li>Objective: To reduce the risk of forest fires in Uttarakhand by incentivizing the collection of dry Pirul (pine tree leaves).</li> </ul> <p>2. <b>Reward:</b> Rs 50 per kg of Pirul; <b>Corpus:</b> Rs 50 crore.</p>
25.	'Pradipti' internship program  	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Launched by: Airports Authority of India (AAI).</li> <li>Aim: to facilitate learning the practical aspects of Airport Infrastructure, Operations, and Air Navigation Services &amp; generate interest in Civil Aviation among youth by reaching out to educational institutes in the vicinity of airports.</li> <li>Total levels in the program: three.</li> </ul>

26.	GLOF EWS Mission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Initiative of:</b> Government of India</li> <li><b>Purpose:</b> To set up early warning system (EWS) across 188 critical lakes in the Indian Himalayan Region vulnerable to glacial lake outburst flood (GLOF) events.</li> <li><b>Aim:</b> to mitigate the risks of GLOF, following the 2023 Sikkim disaster.</li> <li>States/UTs with critical lakes: <b>Uttarakhand, Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh, Ladakh, Jammu and Kashmir, Meghalaya, Manipur, and Nagaland.</b></li> <li>Based on NDMA's recent '<b>Mission Report of GLOF Risk Assessment &amp; Installation of Advanced Warning System in Sikkim</b>'.</li> </ul>
27.	Political Affairs Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Constituted by:</b> Nagaland Government.</li> <li><b>Composition:</b> council of ministers and legislature leaders of all political parties in the 14th Nagaland Legislative Assembly (NLA).</li> <li>It will act as a <b>facilitator to find an inclusive solution to the long-standing Naga Political issue.</b></li> </ul>
28.	Awareness campaign to increase voter turnout in Himachal Pradesh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Launched by:</b> Election Commission of India.</li> <li><b>Cycling Expedition from Shimla:</b> Two cyclists, including the state icon of the election commission in Himachal Pradesh, reached the world's highest polling station at Tashigang in the Tribal district of Lahaul-Spiti, Himachal Pradesh.</li> <li><b>Altitude:</b> 15,256 feet above sea level.</li> </ul> <div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p style="color: orange; font-weight: bold;">DID YOU KNOW?</p> <p>Cyclist Jaspreet Pal from Mandi district is Himachal Pradesh's State Election Icon</p> </div>
29.	Samadhan Campaign	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Initiative of:</b> Department of Ex-servicemen Welfare (ESW).</li> <li><b>Objective:</b> To honor the sacrifices made by ex-servicemen and their families, addressing their grievances related to the department's various welfare schemes.</li> </ul>
30.	Disaster Reporting and Information Management System (DRIMS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Developed by:</b> Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA), in collaboration with UNICEF.</li> <li>A digital platform for online reporting of damages incurred during various disasters.</li> </ul>
31.	Materiovigilance Programme of India (MvPI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DCGI called for <b>strict reporting of side-effects related to medical devices using the MvPI Platform.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>About the Platform</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Launch Year:</b> 2015; <b>Ministry:</b> Ministry of health and family welfare.</li> <li><b>Objective:</b> To monitor the safety and performance of medical devices through the systematic and scientific collection, analysis, and reporting of adverse events.</li> <li><b>National Coordination Centre:</b> Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission.</li> <li><b>National Collaboration Centre:</b> Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences &amp; Technology (SCTIMST), Thiruvananthapuram.</li> <li><b>Technical Support Partner:</b> National Health System Resource Centre  <b>Supported by:</b> Central Drugs Standards Control Organization as National regulator.</li> </ul>

32.	'Let's Move India' Campaign  	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Launched by:</b> International Olympic Committee (IOC), in collaboration with Reliance Foundation and Abhinav Bindra Foundation.</li> <li>• <b>Objectives</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ To celebrate Olympians heading to the Paris Olympics.</li> <li>◦ To inspire and promote physical well-being and active lifestyles among people of all ages, regions, and abilities in India.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Builds on the IOC's global 'Let's Move' initiative started on Olympic Day 2023 (June 23).</li> </ul>
33.	PRAGATI (Pharma Research in AyurGyan And Techno Innovation) 2024  	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Launched by:</b> Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS).</li> <li>• <b>Aim:</b> To explore research opportunities and foster collaboration between CCRAS and the Ayurveda drug industry.</li> </ul>
34.	"Unified India Organic" logo  	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduced by Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) and the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA).</li> <li>• <b>Objective:</b> To bring uniformity and convergence in the implementation of Indian regulations by NPOP and FSSAI.</li> <li>• <b>to replace the India Organic and Jaivik Bharat logos.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Indian organic logo complied with the National Programme for Organic Products (NPOP).</li> <li>◦ Jaivik Bharat was used for organic products certified by FSSAI.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
35.	'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' Campaign (#Plant4Mother)  	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Started by the Prime Minister of India on the World Environment Day.</li> <li>• <b>Aim:</b> to encourage people to plant trees in honor of their mothers, symbolizing the nurturing roles of both mothers and Mother Earth.</li> <li>• <b>Besides the campaign,</b> the Government of India has set target to plant 80 crore trees by September 2024 and 140 crore trees by March 2025 following a "Whole of Government" and "Whole of Society Approach".</li> </ul>
36.	Indigenous Air Quality Monitoring System (AQ-AIMS)  	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Developed by:</b> C-DAC, Kolkata in collaboration with TeXMIN (ISM, Dhanbad) and industry partner J M Envirolab Pvt Ltd.</li> <li>• <b>Developed under:</b> 'National programme on Electronics and ICT applications in Agriculture and Environment (AgriEncls)'.</li> <li>• <b>An outdoor air quality monitoring system to monitor environmental pollutants.</b></li> <li>• <b>Air-Pravah-</b> in built with AQ-AIMS for real-time Air Quality Index (AQI) monitoring.</li> </ul>
37.	Haryana Clean Air Project for Sustainable Development  	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Objective:</b> Comprehensive approach to eliminate air pollution through collective efforts of all stakeholders.</li> <li>• <b>Funding:</b> Rs 10,000 crore from the World Bank.</li> <li>• <b>Initial Phase:</b> to be Implemented in districts falling in the National Capital Region (NCR).</li> </ul>
38.	Phenome India-CSIR Health Cohort Knowledgebase (PI-CHeCK)  	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>First-ever pan-India longitudinal health monitoring study.</b></li> <li>• Initiative of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).</li> <li>• <b>Aim:</b> To create India-specific risk prediction algorithms to improve the accuracy of health predictions and strategies for prevention and management of cardio-metabolic diseases</li> </ul>

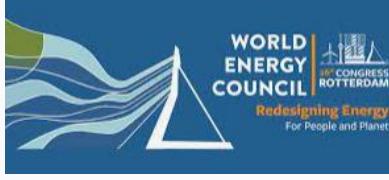
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Phase 1 concluded recently.</li> <li>Hits target with 10,000 samples collected.</li> </ul>
39.	Biannual admissions for Indian universities & Higher Education Institutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approved by the University Grants Commission (UGC).</li> <li>To be implemented from 2024-25 academic session.</li> <li><b>Two admission cycles:</b> July-August and January-February.</li> <li>Can increase Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER).</li> </ul>
40.	Sangam - Digital Twin Initiative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>First networking event hosted by IIT Delhi, organized by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT).</li> </ul> <p><b>About the initiative</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Launched by DoT.</li> <li><b>Purpose:</b> To harness unified data and collective intelligence for transformative infrastructure planning and future design using Digital Twin technology.</li> <li>Involves a <b>two-stage Proof of Concept (PoC)</b> to be conducted in a major Indian city, focusing on <b>exploratory</b> and <b>practical demonstration phases</b>.</li> </ul>
41.	"NCRB Sankalan of Criminal Laws" mobile app	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Launched by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB).</li> <li>A comprehensive guide consolidating essential information about the upcoming legal reforms in one accessible platform. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>New criminal laws:</b> Bharatiya Nayaka Sanhita (Indian Penal Code), Bharatiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita (Code of Criminal Procedure), and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (Indian Evidence Act).</li> <li>✓ To come into effect from <b>July 1, 2024</b>.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
42.	Mission Nishchay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Launched by the Punjab Police, in association with Border Security Force (BSF), and Village Defence Committees (VDCs).</li> <li>A week-long drive against drugs in Fazilka district.</li> <li>To interact with the residents of the villages in the India-Pakistan border to gather intelligence about the demand and supply of drugs.</li> </ul>
43.	Kavach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Indigenously developed <b>anti-train collision system</b>.</li> <li>Indian Railways to issue a Rs 5,000 crore tender to accelerate the adoption of Kavach across 10,000 km.</li> </ul>
44.	Introduction of IS 18590: 2024 and IS 18606: 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Launched by Bureau of Indian Standards.</li> <li>New standards for <b>Electric Vehicles</b>.</li> <li>Targets safety and performance enhancements in EV powertrains and batteries for vehicles categorized under L (two wheelers), M (four-wheelers), and N (goods trucks).</li> <li>IS 18294: 2023- introduced for E-rickshaws and E-Karts.</li> </ul>
45.	Fast Track Immigration – Trusted Traveller Programme (FTI-TTP) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Launched for the first time in India at the Indira Gandhi International Airport, New Delhi.</li> <li>Launched by Ministry of Home Affairs, in collaboration with the Ministry of Civil Aviation and the Bureau of Immigration (Nodal Agency)</li> <li><b>Objective:</b> To simplify and secure international travel by creating top-tier immigration facilities that speed up the process for travelers using automated gates (e-Gates).</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Scope:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Phase 1: Implemented at 7 major airports viz, Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Kochi, and Ahmedabad.</li> <li>○ Phase 2: To be implemented at 21 major airports across India.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Beneficiaries</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Phase 1: Indian citizens and OCI cardholders.</li> <li>○ Phase 2: Foreign travellers.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Eligibility:</b> minimum passport validity of six months</li> <li>• An <b>online portal</b> will be used for <b>application and biometric data submission</b></li> <li>• After verification, a <b>White List of 'Trusted Travellers'</b> will be generated and fed for implementation through e-Gates.</li> <li>• <b>Validity of TTP registration:</b> validity of the passport or 5 years whichever is earlier and will be renewed thereafter.</li> </ul>
46.	Nationwide campaign on Tobacco Free Educational Institutions (ToFEI)  	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ministry of Health &amp; Family Welfare issued the <b>Tobacco Free Educational Institution (ToFEI) Guidelines</b> for safeguarding minors and youth from tobacco use.</li> <li>• Department of School Education &amp; Literacy, Ministry of Education has developed a "ToFEI Implementation Manual" for schools. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Launched on <b>World No Tobacco Day (WNTD)</b> on <b>31st May, 2024</b>.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Launched under the <b>National Tobacco Control Programme (NTCP)</b>.</li> </ul>
47.	One Week One Theme (OWOT) Campaign	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Launched by <b>Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)</b>.</li> <li>• Built on the success of '<b>One Week One Lab' (OWOL)</b> initiative.</li> <li>• Showcased recent success stories of India in different streams of science and technology.</li> <li>• <b>Eight Themes:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Energy and energy devices</li> <li>○ Chemicals and petrochemicals</li> <li>○ Aerospace, electronics and Strategic sectors</li> <li>○ Civil infrastructure and engineering</li> <li>○ Agriculture, nutrition and biotech</li> <li>○ Healthcare</li> <li>○ Mining, minerals, metals and materials</li> <li>○ Ecology, environment, earth, ocean sciences and water.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• All 37 labs of CSIR participated in the campaign.</li> <li>• CSIR and AIIMS Delhi installed a pilot project and study '<b>Conversion of Pathogenic Biomedical Waste to Value Added Soil Additives</b>'.</li> <li>• 24 Technology transfers executed during the campaign.</li> </ul>
48.	Prime Minister College of Excellence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Initiative of the <b>Government of Madhya Pradesh</b>.</li> <li>• To be set up in all the 55 districts of Madhya Pradesh.</li> <li>• '<b>Bhartiya Gyan Parampara Kendra</b>' (Centre of Traditional Indian Knowledge) to be established in each PM College of Excellence.</li> <li>• Aligned with the <b>National Education Policy</b>.</li> </ul>
49.	Sangyaan App  	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Launched by the <b>Railway Protection Force (RPF)</b>.</li> <li>• <b>Objective:</b> to educate and empower RPF personnel by providing comprehensive and in-depth information on both new and old criminal laws.</li> <li>• Specifically targets the <b>provisions relevant to RPF operations</b>.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Includes essential acts and rules related to railway security.</li> </ul>
50.	Dedicated Cell to Review Detailed Project Report of National Highway Projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Set up by NHAI at its headquarters in Delhi.</li> </ul>
51.	Special Campaign for Redressal of Family Pension Grievances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Launched by Department of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare (DOPPW); Duration: One Month.</li> <li>Launched as a part of 100 days action plan of the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances, and Pensions.</li> <li>1891 family pension related grievances of 46 Departments/ Ministries shortlisted for the Campaign.</li> </ul> <p><b>Additional Information</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Centralized Pensioners Grievance Redress And Monitoring System (CPENGRAMS) – Portal for registering pension related grievances.</li> </ul>
52.	Advanced Professional Programme in Public Administration (APPA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>50<sup>th</sup> edition of the programme held recently.</li> </ul> <p><b>About the programme</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conducted since 1975.</li> <li>Sponsored by the Department of Personnel and Training.</li> <li>A 10-month long course for senior officers in the rank of Deputy Secretary/Director or above in the Government of India.</li> <li>Degree offered by the Punjab University upon completion.</li> </ul>
53.	Lokpath Mobile App	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Launched by: Government of Madhya Pradesh.</li> <li>Allows public to report road problems by uploading photos, which will be resolved in seven days.</li> </ul>

## SUMMITS AND CONFERENCES

S.No	Focus Area	Key Outcomes
1.	First Conference on Low Voter Turnout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organized by: Election Commission of India (ECI)</li> <li>Venue: Nirvachan Sadan, New Delhi</li> <li>Chair: Chief Election Commissioner</li> <li>A booklet titled 'Voter's Apathy' was released at the event. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>297 million eligible voters did not vote in the 2019 general elections.</li> <li>Total constituencies with the lowest Voters Turnout Rate (VTR): 50 constituencies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Of the 50 constituencies with the lowest VTF in the 2019 general elections, 17 were in metropolitan or major cities.</li> <li>11 States/UTs had a voter turnout lower than the national average of 67.40% in the 2019 General Elections.</li> <li>Out of the total 50 Rural polling stations (PCs) across 11 states identified with lower voter turnout than the national average in 2019, 40 PCs are from Uttar Pradesh (22) and Bihar (18).</li> <li>In UP, Phulpur PC recorded the lowest turnout of 48.7%, while in Bihar, Nalanda PC recorded lowest turnout of 48.79%.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Top 3 PCs with lowest VTR:</b> Anantnag Srinagar &amp; Baramulla respectively. All three are from Jammu and Kashmir.</li> <li>○ <b>Top 3 PCs with lowest VTR in Metro or Major Cities:</b> Hyderabad (Telangana), Kalyan (Maharashtra), Patna Sahib (Bihar) respectively.</li> </ul>
2.	Nepal-India International Sanskrit Conclave	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Organized by:</b> Niti Anusandhan Pratisthan in collaboration with the Central Sanskrit University, Delhi, and India Foundation, Delhi.</li> <li>● <b>Venue:</b> Kathmandu, Nepal</li> <li>○ <b>Nepal-India Sanskrit Study Centre</b> will be set up.</li> <li>○ <b>Niti Anusandhan Pratisthan Nepal</b> will function as the head office of the <b>Nepal-India Sanskrit Study Centre</b>.</li> </ul>
3.	1st International Workshop on 'Emerging Technologies & Challenges for Exoskeleton'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Venue:</b> Bengaluru, Karnataka.</li> <li>● <b>Organizer:</b> Defence Bio-Engineering &amp; Electromedical Laboratory of Defence Research &amp; Development Organisation (DRDO).</li> </ul>
4.	<b>16<sup>th</sup> World Future Energy Summit (WFES)</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Host:</b> Masdar, Abu Dhabi Future Energy Company.</li> <li>● <b>Venue:</b> Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre (ADNEC), UAE.</li> <li>● <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Green Hydrogen Summit</b> was also hosted by <b>Masdar</b> to bolster the green hydrogen economy.</li> </ul>
5.	<b>26th World Energy Congress</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Organized by:</b> World Energy Council (WEC).</li> <li>● <b>Host:</b> Rotterdam, Netherlands.</li> <li>● <b>Theme:</b> 'Redesigning Energy for People and Planet'.</li> </ul> <p><b>About World Energy Council</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Establishment:</b> 1923; <b>Headquarters:</b> London, United Kingdom.</li> </ul> <p><b>About WEC India</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>WEC India</b> joined the council in <b>1924</b>.</li> <li>● Functions under the patronage of <b>Ministry of Power</b> with the support of the <b>Ministries of Coal, New &amp; Renewable Energy, Petroleum &amp; Natural Gas and External Affairs</b>.</li> </ul>
6.	Sustainable Finance for Tiger Landscapes Conference  	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Organizers:</b> Government of Bhutan &amp; Tiger Conservation Coalition.</li> <li>● <b>Venue:</b> Paro, Bhutan</li> <li>● <b>Outcome:</b> Paro Statement for Tigers was adopted. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>10 participating Asian countries</b>, including India, pledged USD 1 billion over the next decade (<b>by 2034-the next year of the tiger</b>) towards protecting and expanding vital tiger habitats across Asia.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
7.	21 <sup>st</sup> Shangri-La Dialogue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Asia's premier defence summit;</b> <b>Venue:</b> Singapore.</li> <li>● <b>Organizer:</b> International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS).</li> </ul>
8.	81st IATA Annual General Meeting (AGM) and World Air Transport Summit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Host Airline:</b> IndiGo; <b>Venue:</b> New Delhi.</li> <li>● IATA was previously hosted in India in <b>1958 and 1983</b>.</li> </ul> <p><b>About International Air Transport Association (IATA)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Establishment:</b> 1945; <b>Headquarters:</b> Montreal, Canada.</li> </ul>
9.	KAZA Summit 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Venue:</b> Livingstone, Zambia.</li> </ul> <p><b>About Kavango-Zambezi Trans-Frontier Conservation Area (KAZA-TFCA)</b></p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Members:</b> Angola, Botswana, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe.</li> </ul>
10.	<p>46th session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>India to chair &amp; host the event for the first time.</li> <li>To be held at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi.</li> <li><b>Organizer:</b> Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).</li> <li><b>Venue of previous session:</b> Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.</li> </ul> <p><b>Project PARI (Public Art of India)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Launched by the Ministry of Culture.</li> <li>Executed by Lalit Kala Akademi and National Gallery of Modern Art.</li> <li><b>Aim:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To stimulate dialogue, reflection, and inspiration, contributing to the dynamic cultural fabric of the nation.</li> <li>To beautify public spaces in Delhi in preparation for the 46th session of the World Heritage Committee.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Some of the artworks and sculptures are inspired by World Heritage Sites like Bimbetka, and the 7 natural World Heritage Sites in India</li> </ul> <p><b>About World Heritage Committee</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Established under the <b>World Heritage Convention (1972)</b>.</li> <li><b>Members:</b> representatives from 21 states to the World Heritage Convention (including India).</li> <li><b>Role:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Responsible for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention.</li> <li>Allocation of financial assistance from the World Heritage Fund</li> <li>Deciding on the inscription of sites on the World Heritage List</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
11.	Summit on Peace in Ukraine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Venue:</b> Burgenstock resort, Switzerland.</li> <li>Organized by Switzerland upon the request of Ukraine.</li> <li><b>Aim:</b> Charting a framework for future peace in Ukraine.</li> <li>More than 80 countries endorsed the Joint Communique on a Peace Framework.</li> <li>India, South Africa, Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, Mexico, Thailand, and the UAE did not endorse the communique.</li> </ul>
12.	<p>64th Council Meeting of the International Sugar Organization (ISO)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Venue:</b> New Delhi, India</li> <li>India previously hosted the 41st session of ISO council Meeting in 2012.</li> </ul> <p><b>About ISO</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A UN affiliated body; Headquarters: London; Chair (2024): India.</li> </ul>

### DID YOU KNOW?

India is home to **42 UNESCO World Heritage Sites** (34 cultural sites, 7 natural sites & 1 mixed site). First sites listed in 1983 were Ajanta Caves, Ellora Caves, Agra Fort, and Taj Mahal. Santiniketan in West Bengal is the **41st site**, and Hoysala Temples in Karnataka is the **42nd**. India holds the **6th largest number of UNESCO-World Heritage sites**, with Italy having the highest at **59 sites**.

## MOUs AND AGREEMENTS

S.No	Signing Entities	Key Facts
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1.	RVNL- STEL JV & Energy Development Corporation Limited (EDCL), Rwanda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Purpose:</b> To execute the Rwanda Transmission System Reinforcement and Last Mile Connectivity project (TSRLMC) in Rwanda worth around Rs 60 crore.</li> </ul> <p><b>Additional Information</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd (RVNL) and Salasar Techno Engineering (STET) hold 51% &amp; 49% stake in the JV.</li> </ul>
2.	Satellite Industry Association of India (SIA-India) and Brazilian Satellite Communications Association (ABRASAT)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Purpose:</b> To enhance cooperation and progress in the space sector between India and Brazil, covering domains such as satellite communication, rocket launches, payload development, and ground instrumentation.</li> </ul>
3.	Tejas Networks Ltd., Telecom Egypt (TE), Information Technology Industry Development Agency (ITIDA) & National Telecom Institute (NTI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Purpose:</b> to replicate Tejas Networks' experience in implementing significant projects like Bharatnet and the National Knowledge Network in Egypt.</li> </ul>
4.	SIDBI and KarmaLife	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Objective:</b> to offer micro loans to gig workers on a pilot basis.</li> </ul>
5.	Society For Innovation & Entrepreneurship (SINE), IIT Bombay & Canara Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Purpose:</b> To provide financial support to startups, leveraging Canara Start-Up Scheme and SINE's incubation and acceleration support for technology startups.</li> </ul>
6.	Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) & Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The contract involves the supply of six sets of LM2500 gas turbines (GT) and GT Auxiliaries (GTAE), for the NGMV project.</li> </ul> <p><b>About Next Generation Missile Vessel (NGMV) project</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Under this project, Indian Navy intends to acquire six advanced missile vessels.</li> <li>CSL will be building these six advanced missile vessels.</li> </ul>
7.	Bharat Earth Movers Limited (BEML) and Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Purpose: To jointly develop an indigenous Train Control Management System (i-TCMS), often referred to as the "brain of the train".</li> <li>BEML and BEL, both are India's leading Defence Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs).</li> </ul> <p><b>About BEML Limited</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Leading 'Schedule A' company under Ministry of Defence.</li> <li>Operates in 3 verticals: Defence &amp; Aerospace, Mining &amp; Construction, and Rail &amp; Metro.</li> </ul>
8.	Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO) & ACME Cleantech Solutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>IFFCO to purchase approximately 2 lakh tonnes of ammonia produced using renewable energy from ACME Cleantech Solutions.</li> <li>Ammonia will be manufactured at ACME's facility in Gopalpur, Odisha.</li> </ul>
9.	Khanij Bidesh India Limited (KABIL) & Council of Scientific and Industrial Research - Institute of Minerals and Materials Technology (CSIR-IMMT)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Purpose:</b> to establish technical and knowledge cooperation in the field of critical minerals, focusing on their exploration, processing, and development.</li> </ul> <p><b>About Khanij Bidesh India Limited (KABIL)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A JV of three Indian PSUs - National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO), Hindustan Copper Limited (HCL) and Mineral Exploration and Consultancy Limited (MECL); Ministry: Ministry of Mines</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Mandate:</b> ensure mineral security and supply assurance for India, supporting the 'Make in India' initiative by procuring and developing strategic minerals.</li> </ul>
10.	Singapore Tourism Board (STB) & PhonePe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Aim:</b> to facilitate and promote the use of Unified Payments Interface (UPI) transactions for Indian visitors in Singapore.</li> </ul>
11.	Tata Passenger Electric Mobility and Shell India Markets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Objective:</b> to establish public charging stations for EVs across India.</li> <li>The partnership will leverage Shell's existing network of fuel stations and data from Tata Passenger on how people charge their Tata electric vehicles (EVs).</li> </ul>
12.	Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) in association with Women's World Banking (WWB) with Jeevika, Bihar State Rural Livelihoods Mission (SRLM) & UMED, Maharashtra-SRLM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Purpose:</b> To extend the 'Praayas' scheme to rural livelihood missions to enhance economic stability for women-led Self Help Groups (SHGs) through direct credit under partnership arrangements.</li> <li><b>Focus Area:</b> creating a scalable credit distribution ecosystem.</li> <li><b>Aim:</b> to impact 500,000 informal micro enterprises by 2025.</li> <li>SIDBI, in collaboration with WWB, plans to pilot this project with <b>35-40 Cluster Level Federations (CLFs) across Bihar and Maharashtra.</b></li> <li>SIDBI has earmarked Rs 50 crore during the pilot testing phase</li> <li><b>Target:</b> to offer affordable credit of up to Rs 2 lakh to 5,000 women entrepreneurs.</li> <li>WWB is providing manpower support and capacity building to CLFs.</li> <li>Women-led SHGs' CLFs will act as partner institutions with SIDBI.</li> <li>MetLife Foundation supports the initiative with a grant aimed at promoting economic mobility for underserved communities.</li> <li><b>Note:</b> Prayaas will be covered under SchemesTap-April 2024 Part II.</li> </ul>
13.	Bharat Electronics Ltd. (BEL) & IIT Mandi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Purpose:</b> to cooperate in research and technology, and product development, particularly in the fields of semiconductors, quantum technologies, and drones.</li> </ul>
14.	Apple CleanMax Joint Venture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Objective:</b> to deploy solar solutions in India.</li> <li>The JV has installed 14.4 megawatts of rooftop solar installations across six industrial sites in India.</li> <li>Apple will help in addressing the emissions associated with its corporate operations in India.</li> </ul>
15.	Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) & Ministry of Civil Service, Cambodia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Objective:</b> strengthening and promoting bilateral exchange and cooperation in the field of Human Resource Development in Civil Service.</li> <li><b>Duration:</b> 5 years.</li> </ul>
16.	Rashtriya Raksha University (RRU), & Starburst Aerospace, France	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Aim:</b> fostering enterprise creation and nurturing the rapid growth of innovative start-ups in India.</li> <li>The MoU reflects progress in the defence and space sectors under the India-France Strategic Partnership.</li> </ul>
17.	Aramco & FIFA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aramco becomes FIFA's <b>Major Worldwide Partner exclusively in the energy category.</b></li> <li><b>Duration:</b> Four-year partnership running until the end of 2027.</li> <li>Aramco gains <b>exclusive sponsorship rights</b> for various events, including <b>FIFA World Cup 2026 and FIFA Women's World Cup 2027.</b></li> </ul>

18.	Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) and National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Purpose:</b> to manufacture the Bismaleimide Engine Bay Door for the series production of Light Combat Aircraft Tejas Mk1A.</li> </ul> <p><b>About Light Combat Aircraft Tejas Mk1A</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An indigenous 4.5 generation, all-weather and multi-role fighter aircraft for the Indian Air Force (IAF).</li> </ul>
19.	JSW Neo Energy & NTPC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>JSW Neo Energy has received contract from NTPC to setup a 700 MW ISTS-connected solar power project as part of a larger 1,500 MW ISTS-connected Solar Power Projects initiative (NTPC-ISTS-II).</li> <li>The contract aligns with JSW's objective to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050.</li> </ul>
20.	National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) and the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Purpose:</b> To provide vocational training and skill development for tribal and underprivileged youth across various states.</li> <li><b>Initial Focus States:</b> Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Gujarat, and Madhya Pradesh.</li> <li><b>Industry-recognized certifications</b> to be offered via the Skill India Digital Hub platform.</li> </ul>
21.	Hinduja Group and King's College London	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Signing Parties:</b> Hinduja Group, King's College London, Guy's &amp; St. Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust, Hinduja Foundation UK, and P.D. Hinduja Hospital &amp; Medical Research Centre, Mumbai.</li> <li><b>Purpose:</b> to foster healthcare improvements in India and the UK through educational and research collaborations, as well as to provide scholarships for Indian students.</li> <li><b>Hinduja-King's Health Partners Academy</b> will be set up, which will be chaired by Professor Prokar Dasgupta.</li> </ul>
22.	Ericsson and the Foundation for Innovation & Research in Science & Technology (F.I.R.S.T) at IIT Kanpur	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Aim:</b> propelling innovation in Mobile Financial Services (MFS) and Fintech solutions.</li> <li>The partnership has been signed for two years.</li> </ul>
23.	National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG) and Bangladesh Ministry of Public administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Purpose:</b> renewal of the MoU which envisages capacity building programs for 1500 officers from 2025-2030.</li> <li>This is part of Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) to visit Bangladesh. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Focus Area:</b> mid-career capacity building programs in field administration for Bangladesh Civil Servants.</li> </ul> </li> <li>NCGG and the Bangladesh Ministry of Public Administration are conducting capacity building programs for Bangladesh Civil Servants since 2014</li> </ul>
24.	Norway India Partnership Initiative (NIPI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>4th phase commenced recently.</b></li> <li>Aligned with National Health Policy (NHP) 2017 and Sustainable Development Goals.</li> </ul>
		<p><b>About NIPI</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Established in 2006.</b></li> <li><b>Aim:</b> To make sustainable efforts to reduce maternal, newborn and child mortality in India; to provide strategic, catalytic and innovative support to NHM by testing scalable interventions in focus states/UTs.</li> <li><b>5 Focus States/ UT:</b> Bihar, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan and UT of Jammu and Kashmir.</li> </ul>
25.	Fship Logistics & India Post	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Objective:</b> To enhance last-mile delivery services for e-commerce products, benefiting direct-to-consumer (D2C) start-ups, small and medium businesses (SMBs), and MSMEs across India.</li> </ul>

26.	Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) & Auditor General of Nepal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Objective:</b> To enhance collaboration and exchange of expertise between the two countries' Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs).</li> <li>A platform will be established for capacity development, knowledge exchange, and mutual assistance.</li> </ul>
27.	CCAVenue & Shivalik Small Finance Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Objective:</b> To integrate Shivalik SFB's internet banking service with the CCAvenue payment platform, enabling the bank's account holders to make payments on websites powered by CCAvenue.</li> </ul> <p><b>Other recent MoUs signed by CCAvenue</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>MoU with IDFC First Bank-</b> to offer extensive credit card EMI solutions to the bank's customers.</li> <li><b>MoU with Saudi Awwal Bank -</b> to deliver secure e-commerce solutions for businesses and consumers in the kingdom.</li> </ul>
28.	CIL & GAIL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Objective:</b> To set up coal-to-synthetic natural gas project at Sonepur Bazari area of Eastern Coalfields in Burdwan district, West Bengal.</li> </ul>
29.	Reliance Foundation and the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Objective:</b> Empower coastal communities by leveraging ocean data to enhance climate resilience and disaster mitigation.</li> <li><b>Aim:</b> To reach nearly 25% of India's active marine fisherperson families across eight states.</li> </ul> <p><b>About INCOIS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An autonomous organization under the Ministry of Earth Sciences.</li> </ul>
30.	Punjab National Bank (PNB) and India Infrastructure Finance Company Ltd (IIFCL)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Objective:</b> To offer long-term financial assistance to viable infrastructure projects.</li> </ul>
31.	TotalEnergies & Indian Oil Corporation (IOC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Objective:</b> To deliver up to 800,000 metric tons per year of LNG to India for ten years from 2026.</li> </ul> <p><b>Additional Information</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>IOC previously signed an MOU with Abu Dhabi Gas Liquefaction Co Ltd (ADNOC LNG) to receive 1.2 million metric tons per year beginning from 2026 for 14 years.</li> </ul>
32.	PhonePe & PickMe, a Sri Lankan ride-hailing platform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Objective:</b> To enable UPI-based payments for Indian travelers in Sri Lanka.</li> </ul>
33.	Ashv Finance & HDFC Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Objective:</b> To provide unsecured business loans to micro and small enterprises (MSEs), expand co-lending partnerships for lending to MSMEs.</li> </ul>
34.	IIT Hyderabad & Renesas Electronics Corporation (Japan)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Objective:</b> To undertake research and collaborate in the field of very-large-scale-integration (VLSI) and embedded semiconductor systems.</li> </ul>
35.	Tata Communications & World Athletics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Tata Communications</b> to serve as the <b>global technology broadcast partner of World Athletics</b> for five years.</li> <li>The move follows <b>Tata's acquisition</b> of New York-based video production and distribution company <b>The Switch Enterprises LLC</b>.</li> </ul>
36.	Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) & Sansad TV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Objective:</b> To enhance the accessibility of Indian art and culture.</li> <li>IGNCA's produced programs to be telecast on Sansad TV.</li> <li>Sansad TV to use content from IGNCA's cultural archives.</li> </ul>

37.	Adani Defence and Aerospace & EDGE Group (UAE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Objective:</b> To establish a global platform leveraging the defence and aerospace capabilities.</li> </ul>
38.	Ministry of Mines & Central TB Division, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Objective:</b> Collaborative and convergent action towards the elimination of Tuberculosis (TB) in India by 2025.</li> </ul>
39.	Bharat 6G Alliance, 6G Smart Networks and Services Industry Association of Europe, and 6G Flagship of Oulu University, Finland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Key Objective:</b> Collaborate on 6G technology development and contribute to global standardization efforts.</li> <li>Signed in continuation of already concluded MoU with NextG Alliance of USA.</li> </ul> <p><b>About Bharat 6G Alliance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Launch Year:</b> 2023; <b>Launched by:</b> Department of telecommunications.</li> <li><b>Objective:</b> to bring industry players, academia, and research organizations together to advance the Bharat 6G mission.</li> <li>Also aims to open market access for Indian firms in foreign nations.</li> </ul>
40.	Jammu & Kashmir and New Zealand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Memorandum of Cooperation expanded into a strategic agreement.</li> <li><b>Objective:</b> To enhance the agricultural sector, particularly focusing on the sheep and goat sectors.</li> <li><b>Focus Areas:</b> Breeding technology, sustainable farm management, and advanced disease control measures.</li> </ul>
41.	Oracle & Tamil Nadu Skill Development Corporation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Purpose:</b> To empower the youth of Tamil Nadu with IT skills, enhancing their employment opportunities.</li> <li>The partnership is part of <b>Naan Mudhalvan program</b>.</li> </ul>
42.	CERT-In (Indian Computer Emergency Response Team) & Mastercard India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Objective:</b> To collaborate in enhancing cyber-resilience in India's financial sector through improved cybersecurity incident response and information sharing.</li> </ul> <p><b>Additional Information</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CERT-In is the <b>National agency for incident response under Section 70B of the Information Technology Act, 2000</b>.</li> </ul>
43.	India Post Payments Bank & Ria Money Transfer (business segment of Euronet Worldwide, Inc)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Objective:</b> To enhance financial inclusion and improve international inward money transfer services across rural India.</li> </ul>
44.	NHAI & Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology (IIIT Delhi)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Objective:</b> To enhance road safety on National Highways through the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) to improve the availability and condition of road signage.</li> </ul>
45.	Microsoft Corp. & Brookfield Renewable Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Largest corporate clean-energy purchase agreement.</b></li> <li><b>Objective:</b> To provide more than 10.5 gigawatts of renewable energy capacity in the US and Europe starting in 2026.</li> <li>Microsoft to become the <b>second-largest corporate buyer of clean energy through PPAs, after Amazon</b>.</li> </ul>
46.	Indian Coast Guard (ICG) with Jindal Steel & Power & Hindalco Industries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>MoU with Jindal Steel &amp; Power:</b> bolstering the supply of indigenous marine-grade steel for shipbuilding projects.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>MoU with Hindalco:</b> manufacturing and supply of indigenous marine-grade aluminium to Indian public and private shipyards for the construction of ships.</li> </ul>
47.	Sri Lanka & Adani Green Energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Objective:</b> To purchase power from Adani Green Energy's wind power project located in Mannar and Pooneryn, Northern Province of Sri Lanka; <b>Duration:</b> 20-years.</li> <li>• Adani Green Energy received approval from Sri Lanka to invest USD 442 million in developing wind power plants with a combined capacity of 484 megawatts.</li> </ul>
48.	Department of Telecommunications (DoT), Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), and State Police	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Purpose:</b> To combat the misuse of telecom resources in cyber-crime and financial frauds.</li> </ul>
49.	ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) & Oman's Marine Science and Fisheries Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Objective:</b> to boost research and conservation of sharks and rays in the Arabian Sea.</li> </ul>
50.	AM Green (formerly Greenko ZeroC) & Yara Clean Ammonia (Norway)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Objective:</b> Long-term supply of up to 50% of renewable ammonia from Phase 1 of AM Green's facility in Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh.</li> </ul>
51.	Bank of India & Indian Coast Guard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Objective:</b> to offer a Defence Service Salary Package under "BOI Rakshak Salary/Pension Savings Scheme".</li> <li>• Concessions on retail loans, processing charges, and locker rentals.</li> <li>• <b>BOI Mobile Omni Neo app</b> will enhance <b>financial accessibility for defense personnel in remote areas.</b></li> </ul>
52.	GalaxEye & Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACe)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Objectives:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ To facilitate GalaxEye's access to IN-SPACe's co-working and testing facilities in Ahmedabad.</li> <li>○ Utilization of ISRO's laboratories and testing facilities to advance space technology.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
53.	Fusion Micro Finance & United States International Development Finance Corporation (DFC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Loan Amount:</b> USD 25 million; <b>Loan Term:</b> 8 years.</li> <li>• <b>Objective:</b> advancing financial inclusion and economic access among rural women entrepreneurs.</li> </ul>
54.	HDFC Bank & International Finance Corporation (IFC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Loan Amount:</b> up to USD 500 million.</li> <li>• <b>Objective:</b> To provide microloans to self-help groups (SHGs) and joint liability groups (JLGs) enrolled in the Sustainable Livelihoods Initiative (SLI) of the HDFC Bank.</li> </ul>
55.	Agriculture Insurance Company of India Ltd. (AIC) & CSC e-Governance Services India Ltd. (CSC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Objective:</b> to expand Sampoorna Pashudhan Kawach product of AIC across Rural India via the CSC network</li> </ul>
		<p><b>About Sampoorna Pashudhan Kawach</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a comprehensive retail insurance product tailored specifically for cattle farming, designed to safeguard farmers' livestock against unforeseen risks.</li> </ul>

56.	Cisco and Tata Communications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To be introduced for the first time in India by integrating Cisco's Webex Calling with cloud Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN) using Tata Communications GlobalRapide platform.</li> </ul>
57.	IndianOil and the Indian Army	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Objective:</b> to pioneer the deployment of hydrogen fuel cell technology for heavy-duty e-mobility.</li> <li>IndianOil has handed over a state-of-the-art green hydrogen fuel cell bus to the Indian Army.</li> </ul> <p><b>Additional Information</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Indian Army was the first government entity to ink an MoU with NTPCREL to install green hydrogen based microgrid power plants along the northern borders.</li> </ul>
58.	BHEL & Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BARC to provide a 50-kW alkaline electrolyser system to BHEL for hydrogen production.</li> </ul>
59.	National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) & International Labour Organisation (ILO)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Objectives:</b> To advance skill development &amp; lifelong learning in India &amp; globally; to empower individuals with essential competencies &amp; qualifications, enhancing employability &amp; sustainable economic growth.</li> <li><b>Skill India Digital Hub (SIDH)</b> will be utilized to attain the objectives.</li> </ul>
60.	Reliance Industries & Norway based Nel ASA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reliance Industries secured an exclusive license for Nel's alkaline electrolyzers in India.</li> <li>Aligns with Mukesh Ambani's plans to invest USD 75 billion in renewables infrastructure, including generation plants, solar panels and electrolyzers.</li> </ul>
61.	National Forensic Science University (NFSU) & Haryana Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Objective:</b> Establish a Centre of Excellence for matters related to identified crime cases in Panchkula, Haryana.</li> <li>It will be the first such Centre of Excellence in India.</li> </ul>
62.	iDEX & SpacePixxel Technologies Pvt Ltd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>350th contract under Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX).</b></li> <li><b>Purpose:</b> Design and development of a miniaturised satellite capable of carrying multiple payloads up to 150 kgs for the Indian Air Force.</li> </ul> <p><b>About Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A flagship initiative of the Ministry of Defence.</li> <li>Established by the Defence Innovation Organisation (DIO) under Department of Defence Production.</li> <li>Envisages to foster innovation and technology development in defence and aerospace.</li> </ul>
63.	Military College of Telecommunication Engineering (MCTE), Indian Army and SAMEER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Objective:</b> to advance collaboration in 'Next Generation Wireless Technologies for Indian Army' by setting up an 'Advanced Military Research and Incubation Centre' at MCTE.</li> <li>Aligns with the Indian Army's vision declared for 2024 as 'Year of Technological Absorption for the Indian Army'.</li> </ul> <p><b>About Society for Applied Microwave Electronics Engineering and Research (SAMEER)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An autonomous R&amp;D lab under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).</li> </ul>
64.	Adani Group & Druk Green Power Corporation (DGPC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Purpose:</b> To establish a 570 MW green hydroelectric plant in Chukha province, Bhutan.</li> <li>DGPC is Bhutan's state-owned hydroelectric power corporation.</li> </ul>

65.	GRSE & Carsten Rehder Schiffsmakler and Reederei GmbH & Co. KG (Germany)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Purpose:</b> To construct and deliver four multi-purpose vessels, with an option for an additional four ships.</li> </ul>
66.	CCCRAS- CSMCARI* & CIM&H*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Objective:</b> To advance Indian Medicine and Homoeopathy through collaborative research, testing services, and training.</li> </ul> <p>* CCCRAS- CSMCARI: Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences – Captain Srinivasa Murthy Central Ayurveda Research Institute; CIM&amp;H: Commissionerate of Indian Medicine and Homoeopathy.</p>
67.	Thales Group (France) & Adani Defence and Aerospace (India)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Objective:</b> To manufacture 70 mm rockets in India for the Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) 'Rudra' and the Light Combat Helicopter (LCH) 'Prachand'.</li> </ul>
68.	Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank) & Guyana Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Purpose:</b> to extend a USD 23.37 million line of credit to Guyana for the procurement of two aircraft from India.</li> </ul>
69.	Union Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) & Union Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MoMSME)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Objective of the Statement of Intent:</b> to collaborate on formalizing and strengthening Self Help Group (SHG) women-led rural enterprises through MoMSME's flagship schemes.</li> </ul>
70.	BPCL & Indian Olympic Association (IOA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>BPCL to partner IOA for four years covering Paris 2024 to Los Angeles 2028 Olympics.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Additional Information</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>BPCL aims to become a Net Zero Energy Company by 2040.</b></li> </ul>
71.	Madhya Pradesh & Rajasthan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Purpose:</b> Implementation of the Parbati-Kalisindh-Chambal river linking project.</li> <li>To provide water to 13 districts in Rajasthan and the Malwa and Chambal regions in Madhya Pradesh.</li> </ul>

## BANKING AND FINANCE

S.No	Program / Initiative	Key Facts
1.	Zimbabwe Gold (ZIG) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The new gold backed currency of Zimbabwe.</li> <li>Replaced the deeply depreciated Zimbabwe dollar.</li> </ul>
2.	IREDA loan sanctions and disbursements in 2023-2024 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA) has achieved its highest-ever annual loan sanctions and disbursements in the financial year 2023-24. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Loans sanctioned:</b> Rs. 37,354 crores.</li> <li><b>Loans disbursed:</b> Rs. 25,089 crores.</li> <li>The fiscal year saw a <b>26.71% growth</b> in IREDA's loan book, which now stands at <b>Rs. 59,650 crores.</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul> <div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p style="color: #D96633; font-weight: bold;">DID YOU KNOW?</p> <p style="color: #666666; font-size: small;">IREDA is the largest pure-play green financing NBFC in India</p> </div>

3.	Interim Dividend payment by PFC in 2023-24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PFC pays <b>highest-ever interim dividend</b> of Rs. 2,033 crores to Government of India for the financial year 2023-24.</li> <li>The total interim dividends for FY 2023-24 by PFC amounts to Rs. 3,630 crores, which is 110% or Rs. 11 per equity share, the <b>highest ever interim dividend paid by PFC</b>.</li> </ul>
4.	Delisting of ICICI Securities and Merger with ICICI Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Post merger, ICICI Securities will operate as a <b>wholly owned subsidiary</b> of ICICI Bank.</li> </ul>
5.	Warburg Pincus exits IDFC First Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Warburg Pincus sold its entire 2.25% stake in IDFC First Bank, through its affiliate Cloverdell Investment Ltd, for Rs 1,195 crore through an open market transaction.</li> </ul>
6.	Virtual ATM (VATM) facility in J&K and Ladakh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Launched by:</b> J&amp;K Bank, in partnership with Paymart India Pvt Ltd.</li> <li><b>Transaction Limits</b> withdrawal of up to Rs 2,000 cash per transaction and a total of Rs 10,000 per month.</li> </ul>
7.	Sebi Achieves International Organization for Standardization (ISO) Certification for Security Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sebi has received the ISO/IEC 27001:2022 certification for its- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information Security Management System at the Primary Data Centre, Security Operations Control (SOC)</li> <li>Network Operations Control (NOC) Operations,</li> <li>Information Security Management System at the Disaster Recovery site.</li> </ul> </li> <li>The ISO/IEC 27001:2022 is recognized internationally as a <b>benchmark for information security management systems (ISMS)</b>.</li> </ul>
8.	ZeroPe App	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Developed by:</b> Third Unicorn, in partnership with Delhi-based Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) Mukut Finvest.</li> <li><b>Objective:</b> to provide instant pre-approved medical loans for up to Rs 5,00,000 facilitating financial access for medical treatments.</li> </ul> <p><b>Additional Information</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ashneer Grover, Madhuri Jain Grover and Aseem Ghavri are the co-founders of Third Unicorn.</li> </ul>
9.	Karnataka Bank - FISDOM Collaboration for stock broking services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Karnataka Bank has expanded its collaboration with FISDOM to offer 3-in-1 (savings, demat and trading accounts) through the bank's mobile banking app, KBL Mobile Plus.</li> </ul>
10.	Partnership between PayU and PayPal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Aim:</b> to enhance the cross-border payment experience for Indian merchants by integrating PayPal's ISU 2.0 Checkout into PayU's services.</li> </ul>
11.	IdeationX (1 <sup>st</sup> edition)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Launched by:</b> SBI Life Insurance.</li> <li>an innovative platform to engage B-School students across India in creating cutting-edge life insurance solutions.</li> <li><b>Objective:</b> to tap into the creativity and leadership potential of the youth to address evolving consumer needs in the insurance sector and contribute to reshaping the life insurance landscape in India.</li> <li>Aligned with IRDAI's vision of 'Insurance for All by 2047'.</li> </ul>
12.	WTFund	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Launched by:</b> Nikhil Kamath, Zerodha founder.</li> <li>It is the first and the largest grant program of its kind in India.</li> </ul>

- **Objective:** To nurture young talent and bolster the entrepreneurial ecosystem before institutional funding.
- **Key Features of the fund**
  - A sector-agnostic fund.
  - **Beneficiaries:** Forty entrepreneurs aged 25 or younger will be chosen over a one-year period.
  - **Grant:** non-dilutive grant of Rs 20 lakh each, ensuring full equity retention for founders.
  - **Support:** Mentorship, community access, go-to-market studio, beta testing, talent acquisition.
  - **Aim:** To support the top 1% of young visionaries to develop their industries before they receive institutional funding.
- **Origins:** Stemming from Kamath's WTF podcast, focused on disruptive thinking and opportunity democratization.

#### KEY TERMS

##### Non-dilutive grant

A type of funding that provides financial resources to a company without requiring the company to give up any ownership (equity) in exchange.

- **Launched by:** India Mortgage Guarantee Corporation (IMGC) in collaboration with the Bank of India (BOI).
- **Aim:** to promote financial inclusion and support early home ownership for both salaried and self-employed customers.

#### DID YOU KNOW?

IMGC is India's first mortgage guarantee company.

- A 50:50 partnership between JFS, a subsidiary of Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL), and BlackRock, a US-based investment company.
- Aim: to set up a wealth management company and a broking business in India.
- Both companies have a similar partnership for the asset management venture.

- Jana Small Finance Bank has partnered with Kotak Mahindra Life Insurance Company Ltd to offer life insurance products to its customers.

- The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has increased its stake in the paid-up capital of Hindustan Unilever Limited (HUL) from 4.99% to 5.01%.

- Aegon Life Insurance has been renamed as Bandhan Life.
- New Tagline of Bandhan Life: 'Bharat Ki Udaan, Bandhan Se'.

#### Background

- Bandhan Financial Holdings took over Aegon Life Insurance, a JV between Aegon NV, of Dutch origin, and BCCL.

- NPCI Bharat BillPay Ltd. (NBBL), a wholly owned subsidiary of the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), in association with State Bank of India (SBI), has onboarded SBI National Common Mobility Card (NCMC) on its Bharat BillPay platform.
- The introduction of NCMC Recharge as a biller category will enable customers to recharge/top-up their cards online.
- Customers can top-up their NCMC cards with up to Rs 10,000 online through Bharat BillPay-enabled platforms.

19.	'Link it, Forget it' campaign	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Launched by:</b> National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).</li> <li><b>Launched at:</b> Indian Premier League (IPL).</li> <li><b>Campaign created by:</b> DDB Mudra Group.</li> <li><b>Goal:</b> to raise awareness about RuPay Credit cards, which can be linked to Unified Payments Interface (UPI) ID, enabling secure and convenient payments.</li> </ul>
20.	NCMC aligned debit, pre-paid cards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Launched by:</b> Airtel Payments Bank, in association with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI); <b>Powered by:</b> RuPay.</li> <li>The cards align with <b>India's One Nation, One Card vision.</b></li> </ul>
21.	BharatPe One	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>India's first all-in-one payment product</b> that integrates Point of sale (POS), Quick Response (QR), and speaker into one device.</li> <li>It will be launched in <b>100 cities in the first phase</b> &amp; expanded to <b>450 cities over the course of the next 6 months.</b></li> </ul>
22.	SBI Card MILES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>First ever travel-focused core credit card of the SBI</b></li> <li><b>Three variants:</b> SBI Card MILES ELITE, SBI Card MILES PRIME, and SBI Card MILES.</li> </ul>
23.	UPI Switch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Razorpay's own Unified Payments Interface (UPI) infrastructure.</b></li> <li><b>Banking Partner:</b> Airtel Payments Bank.</li> <li>Capable of handling up to <b>10,000 transactions per second.</b></li> </ul>
24.	UPI-based 'Scan and Pay' service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Launched by:</b> Fintech company Cred.</li> <li>It enables members to use any QR code for payments directly from their bank accounts in an offline mode.</li> </ul>
25.	SBI's digital transformation program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>HCLSoftware</b> has been selected by State Bank of India (SBI) for their <b>MarTech solution</b> as part of <b>SBI's digital transformation program.</b></li> <li>The five-year agreement will see the deployment of the <b>HCL Unica platform</b> by HCLSoftware.</li> </ul>
26.	AdaniConneX Sustainability-Linked Financing Framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Launched by:</b> AdaniConneX, a joint venture between Adani Enterprises and EdgeConneX.</li> <li><b>Aim:</b> to raise funds worth up to USD 1.44 billion (USD 11,520 crore) through a sustainability-linked financing framework.</li> <li><b>Initial commitment:</b> USD 875 million.</li> <li><b>Eight Partner Banks:</b> ING Bank N.V., Intesa Sanpaolo, KfW IPEX, MUFG Bank, Ltd, Natixis, Standard Chartered Bank, Societe Generale, and Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation.</li> </ul>
27.	Market Capitalization (mcap) of ICICI Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Surpassed Rs 8 trillion for the first time.</li> <li>Second bank in India to achieve this milestone after HDFC Bank.</li> <li>Top five companies in terms of mcap in India <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reliance Industries (Rs 19.8 trillion)</li> <li>Tata Consultancy Services</li> <li>HDFC Bank</li> <li>ICICI Bank</li> <li>State Bank of India.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
28.	RBI Directive on Talkcharge Technologies' PPI and Wallet Operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Talkcharge Technologies</b>, based in Gurugram, must halt the issuance and Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPIs) and wallets due to unauthorized activities.</li> </ul>
29.	REC's subsidiary in GIFT City, Gujarat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>REC to set up a wholly owned subsidiary in International Financial Services Centre (IFSC), Gujarat International Finance Tec-City ("GIFT"), Gandhinagar, Gujarat.</li> <li>RBI granted 'No Objection Certificate.'</li> </ul>

30.	'No Jhanjhhat Life Insurance Fatafat' Campaign	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Initiative of:</b> HDFC Life.</li> <li><b>Aim:</b> simplify and expedite life insurance purchases through its online platform.</li> </ul>
31.	Pi and Phi co-branded credit cards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Launched by:</b> YES Bank, in partnership with Bengaluru-based financial services provider, ANQ.</li> <li><b>Pi-</b> A digital-only card that offers credit on UPI for domestic transactions.</li> <li><b>Phi-</b> caters to both domestic and international purchases with its physical card format.</li> </ul>
32.	Operationalization of UPI on Ghana Interbank Payment and Settlement Systems (GHIPSS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Agreement reached during the Joint Trade Committee meeting.</b></li> <li><b>To be operationalized in six months.</b></li> </ul>
33.	UPI payments using international mobile numbers for NRI customers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Introduced by:</b> ICICI Bank in partnership with National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)</li> <li><b>Beneficiaries:</b> NRI customers residing in 10 countries without switching to Indian mobile numbers.</li> <li>Available through ICICI Bank's iMobile Pay app.</li> </ul>
34.	Ebanx and YES Bank Deal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>The first partnership of Ebanx, a Brazilian payments company, in the Asian Market.</b></li> <li><b>Purpose:</b> to set up a cross-border merchant payment infrastructure in India for global brands by facilitating transactions in local currency using domestic payment methods like UPI and debit/credit cards.</li> </ul>
35.	IREDA Global Green Energy Finance IFSC Limited	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>A wholly owned subsidiary of Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd. (IREDA).</b></li> <li><b>Incorporated at International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) located in GIFT City, Gujarat.</b></li> </ul>
36.	Workshop on the 'State of Artificial Intelligence in Banks'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Organized by:</b> Ministry of Finance; <b>Venue:</b> New Delhi.</li> <li><b>Chaired by:</b> Dr. Vivek Joshi, Secretary, Department of Financial Services (DFS).</li> </ul>
37.	Bajaj Finance's eCOM and Insta EMI Cards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>RBI lifted restriction on these two products.</b></li> <li><b>Bajaj Finance can now resume sanctioning and disbursal of new loans under these two products.</b></li> <li>Restrictions earlier placed due to <b>concerns over compliance.</b></li> </ul>
38.	Google Wallet App	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Recently launched in India.</b></li> <li>Allows users to <b>store travel tickets, gift cards, event passes, and other digital documents like boarding passes and loyalty cards.</b></li> <li>Does not include payment features like storing credit or debit cards for on-tap payments.</li> <li>Partnered with 20 of India's top brands to enhance the Google Wallet experience.</li> <li>Air India is the first airline from India to make boarding passes available directly on the Google Wallet.</li> </ul>
39.	10,000-Peso Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Argentina to increase the denomination of its biggest banknote to 10,000 pesos, about USD 10, in response to surging inflation.</b></li> <li><b>Argentina's annual inflation rate reached 287% in March 2024, one of the highest in the world.</b></li> <li>Argentina plans to introduce a 20,000-peso note later this year.</li> </ul>
40.	Online payment aggregator (PA) licence & prepaid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Voluntarily surrendered to the RBI.</b></li> <li>Zomato has recorded an <b>impairment loss of Rs 39 crore for its investment in its fintech subsidiary Zomato Payment Private Limited.</b></li> </ul>

	payment instruments licence of Zomato	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Decision comes in the wake of strict KYC norms for PAs.</li> </ul>
41.	Hinduja-led IIHL Acquisition of Reliance Capital insurance companies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Approved by:</b> Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) &amp; National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT).</li> <li><b>Stake Details:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mauritius-based IndusInd International Holdings Ltd (IIHL) holds a majority stake in Reliance Capital, which holds 51% in Reliance</li> <li>Nippon Life Insurance Company (RNPLIC), with Nippon Life of Japan holding 49%.</li> <li>Reliance Capital also holds 100% in general insurance.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
42.	Parivartan Start-up Grants Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Launched by:</b> HDFC Bank in 2017, in partnership with Atal Innovation Mission (NITI Aayog).</li> <li><b>Total Grants awarded in 2024:</b> Rs 19.6 crore to 170 social startups (majority from Maharashtra).</li> </ul>
43.	PhonePe- LankaPay Collaboration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PhonePe users traveling to Sri Lanka can make payments using UPI across the LankaPay QR merchants.</li> <li>Transactions will be conducted in Indian Rupees (INR), with applicable currency exchange rates.</li> <li>Facilitated by: UPI and LankaPay National Payment Network.</li> <li>LankaPay, owned by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka.</li> </ul>
44.	Acquisition of Shriram Housing Finance Ltd (SHFL)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Warburg Pincus's affiliate Mango Crest Investment Ltd fully acquired SHFL from its promoter Shriram Finance and minority shareholder Valiant Capital Management. Deal Value: Rs 4,630 crore</li> <li>The largest Merger &amp; Acquisition (M&amp;A) deal in the housing finance sector in India.</li> <li>The first ever sale by the Shriram Group.</li> <li>New York based Warburg Pincus's biggest acquisition in India.</li> </ul>
45.	Bancassurance Partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Parties:</b> Jana Small Finance Bank &amp; SBI General Insurance.</li> <li><b>Objective:</b> to facilitate the distribution of non-life insurance products through Jana Small Finance Bank's network.</li> </ul>
46.	Acquisition of Stake in CCIL IFSC Limited	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SBI has acquired a 6.125% stake for Rs 6.125 crore.</li> <li>HSBC also acquired 6.125% stake for a similar amount.</li> <li>Standard Chartered is the only other foreign bank to acquire a stake, in addition to HSBC.</li> <li>On the domestic front, HDFC Bank also acquired the stake.</li> </ul> <p><b>About CCIL IFSC Limited</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Promoter:</b> Clearing Corporation of India Ltd (CCIL) (holds 57.125% stake).</li> <li><b>Capital Structure:</b> authorized capital of Rs 200 crore and a paid-up capital of Rs 100 crore.</li> <li><b>Key Function:</b> to operate the foreign currency settlement system and function as a clearing house and system operator at the International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) within Gujarat International Finance Tec City (GIFT City).</li> </ul>
47.	India's third Unicorn of 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Milestone achieved by Bengaluru-based Porter, a homegrown logistics services platform.</li> <li>Before Porter, India saw the birth of two other unicorns this year: Ola's Krutrim AI and fintech firm Perfios.</li> </ul> <p><b>What is a Unicorn?</b></p>

### DID YOU KNOW?

UPI transactions crossed 100 billion mark for the first time in 2023-24.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A startup that is valued at USD 1 billion or more, owned privately &amp; not listed on a share market.</li> </ul>
48.	YES Grandeur	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Launched by YES Bank.</li> <li><b>Target Audience:</b> Emerging affluent and elite customers.</li> <li><b>Eligibility Criteria:</b> Average Monthly Balance (AMB) of Rs 5 lakh or Net Relationship Value (NRV) of Rs 20 lakh.</li> </ul> <p><b>Additional Information</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Apps by YES Bank:</b> Iris, YES Pay Next.</li> </ul>
49.	Quant Mutual Fund's stake in RBL Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RBI approved Quant Mutual Fund to acquire up to <b>9.98% of the paid-up share capital or voting rights in RBL Bank.</b></li> </ul>
50.	LICs highest ever Dividend Payout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>LIC declared a <b>final dividend of Rs 6 per share for FY23-24</b> . <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Interim Dividend:</b> Rs 4 per share.</li> <li>Total Dividend aggregated to <b>Rs 10 per share.</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>LIC paid <b>Rs 3,662 crore dividend to the Government of India, the largest shareholder of LIC (96.5%).</b></li> </ul>
51.	UPI-linked Digital Credit-as-a-Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Launched by:</b> Fintech platform Zeta.</li> <li>Based on NPCI's credit line on UPI scheme.</li> <li>Provides on-demand access to pre-approved credit through UPI-linked accounts.</li> </ul>
52.	HDFC Bank Exits Protean eGov Tech	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HDFC Bank sold its entire <b>3.20% stake in Protean eGov Technologies</b> for <b>Rs 150.16 crore.</b></li> </ul>
53.	TCS - Burgan Bank Deal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Objective:</b> Modernize the core banking technology of this bank based out of Kuwait.</li> <li>Burgan Bank will <b>deploy TCS BaNCS</b> as a part of the deal.</li> </ul>
54.	Financial Penalty Imposed on State Bank of India's South Africa Branch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Imposed by Prudential Authority of the South African Reserve Bank (Central Bank of South Africa).</li> <li><b>Penalty Amount:</b> 10 million rand (Rs 4.5 crore).</li> <li><b>Reason:</b> Non-compliance with certain provisions of the Financial Intelligence Centre Act (FIC Act) 38 of 2001.</li> </ul>
55.	IndusInd Bank Poonawalla Fincorp eLITE RuPay Platinum Credit Card'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A co-branded card of Poonawalla Fincorp Limited &amp; IndusInd Bank.</li> </ul>
56.	GIFT Nifty's Monthly Turnover for May 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reached an all-time high of <b>USD 88.10 billion.</b></li> </ul>
57.	Rebranding of Edelweiss Tokio Life Insurance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>New Brand Name:</b> Edelweiss Life Insurance.</li> <li>The company retained its brand positioning- 'zindagi unlimited'.</li> </ul>
58.	Shinhan Bank's Acquisition of Stake in HDFC Credila	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CCI approved South Korea-based Shinhan Bank's proposed acquisition of an <b>11% stake in HDFC Credila Financial Services.</b></li> </ul>
59.	PNB stake dilution in Canara HSBC Life Insurance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Punjab National Bank (PNB) to sell <b>10% stake in Canara HSBC Life Insurance</b> via Initial Public Offering (IPO).</li> <li>PNB holds <b>23% stake in Canara HSBC Life Insurance Company</b></li> </ul>
60.	Bancassurance tie-up	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Entered between <b>Axis Bank &amp; Bajaj Allianz General Insurance.</b></li> </ul>
61.	'Insure today for a safe tomorrow' campaign	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Launched by <b>Universal Sompo</b> in partnership with <b>Maruti Suzuki Insurance Broking</b> to spread insurance awareness in Andhra Pradesh.</li> <li>Launched under '<b>Insurance for All by 2047</b>'.</li> </ul>

62.	Kotak Bank to sell stake in general insurance arm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kotak Bank to sell 70% stake in Kotak Mahindra General Insurance to Zurich Insurance Company.</li> </ul> <p><b>Additional Information</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A foreign entity can own up to 74% in an insurance venture in India.</li> </ul>
63.	Highest number of transactions processed in a single trading day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NSE, India's largest stock exchange, processed 1,971 crore orders &amp; created world record.</li> <li>28.55 crore trades performed within the trading hours.</li> </ul>
64.	Co-Lending Partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Parties:</b> Muthoot Microfin &amp; State Bank of India (SBI).</li> <li><b>Aim:</b> to extend financial services to women entrepreneurs in rural and semi-urban regions across India.</li> <li><b>Target Beneficiaries:</b> members of Joint Liability Groups (JLGs).</li> <li><b>Loan Range:</b> Rs 10,000 to Rs 3,00,000.</li> </ul>
65.	India Exim Bank's East Africa Representative Office	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Opened at Nairobi, Kenya.</li> </ul> <p><b>About Export-Import Bank of India (India Exim Bank)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Established under <b>Export-Import Bank Act, 1981</b> in <b>1982</b>.</li> <li><b>Headquarters:</b> Mumbai, Maharashtra.</li> </ul>
66.	SME Digital Business Loans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Launched by:</b> State Bank of India (SBI).</li> <li><b>Objective:</b> To sanction loans for SMEs in 45 minutes.</li> <li>Utilizes data from income tax returns (ITR), GST returns, and bank statements.</li> <li><b>No financial statements required</b> for loans up to Rs 50 lakh.</li> </ul>
67.	Prepaid payments instrument (PPI) licence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Awarded to Fintech firm Jupiter Money by the RBI.</li> </ul>
68.	CCIL IFSC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Bank of India</b> acquired <b>6.1% stake</b> in CCIL IFSC for <b>Rs 6.125 crore</b>. <b>Note:</b> CCIL IFSC discussed in CurrentTap May 2024.</li> </ul> <p><b>Additional Information</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>IFSC Banking Unit at GIFT</b> surpassed the target of touching a business of <b>USD 1 billion</b> in its first year of operation.</li> </ul>
69.	Nifty India Tourism Index 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Launched by:</b> NSE Indices.</li> <li>Tracks the performance of stocks in <b>Nifty 500 index</b> representing the travel and tourism theme.</li> <li><b>Base date:</b> April 1, 2005; <b>Base value:</b> 1000.</li> <li>Reconstituted twice a year and rebalanced on quarterly basis.</li> </ul>
70.	Purvanchal Co-operative Bank, Ghazipur, Uttar Pradesh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>RBI cancelled the license</b> for inadequate capital &amp; earning prospects.</li> <li>Upon liquidation, depositors are entitled to receive deposit insurance up to Rs 5 lakh from the <b>Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC)</b>.</li> </ul>
71.	Penalties imposed by RBI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>For Central Bank of India-</b> Rs 1.5 crore for failing to comply with directives on loans, advances, and customer protection in electronic transactions.</li> <li><b>For Sonali Bank (Bangladesh)-</b> Rs 9.4 lakh for several failures, including inadequate periodic risk categorization reviews, use of software for transaction alerts inconsistent with risk categorization.</li> </ul>
72.	RuPay payment system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To be introduced in <b>Maldives</b> to strengthen the Maldivian Rufiyaa and enhance the country's financial stability.</li> </ul> <p><b>About Rupay</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>India's first global card payment network.</li> <li>Initiative of National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).</li> </ul>

73.	SmartLock	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Launched by <b>ICICI Bank</b>; available on the <b>iMobile Pay app</b>.</li> <li>Allows customers to instantly lock or unlock internet banking, UPI payments, credit, and debit cards without needing to contact customer service.</li> <li><b>First-of-its-kind initiative to offer these features.</b></li> </ul>
74.	SmartWealth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A new <b>digital investment platform</b> of <b>HDFC Bank</b>.</li> <li>Equipped with <b>first-ever features</b> that allow investors to make the right <b>investment decisions and plan their financial journey</b>.</li> </ul>
75.	Super.Money UPI App	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Launched by: <b>Flipkart</b></li> <li><b>Banking Partners:</b> Utkarsh Small Finance Bank, Axis Bank, and IndusInd Bank.</li> </ul>
76.	Mcap of ICICI Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Crossed <b>USD 100 billion</b>; <b>ICICI bank the sixth Indian company</b> to achieve this feat.</li> <li><b>ICICI Bank surpassed UBS</b> to become the <b>18th most valuable lender globally</b>.</li> <li>Most valuable lender in India in terms of mcap- <b>HDFC Bank</b></li> <li><b>JP Morgan Chase</b> tops the global chart in terms of mcap.</li> </ul>
77.	Royal Sundaram General Insurance (RSGI) partnership with INSILLION and IRCTC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Objective:</b> to offer 500k embedded Group Personal Accident (GPA) policies per day alongside e-ticket purchases.</li> </ul>
78.	Union Premier Branches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Launched by the <b>Union Bank of India</b>.</li> <li><b>Purpose:</b> To provide personalized and efficient banking services to high-value customers in rural and semi-urban (RUSU) markets.</li> </ul>
79.	RuPay Wave Credit Card	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Launched by:</b> Federal Bank in collaboration with National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).</li> </ul>
80.	Axis Bank Acquires Additional Stake in Max Life Insurance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This acquisition <b>increases Axis entities' total holding in Max Life Insurance</b> from 19.02% to 19.99%.</li> </ul>
81.	'Bridge the Gap' initiative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Launched by:</b> HDFC Life Insurance Company Limited</li> <li><b>Objective:</b> To enhance public awareness about life insurance and reduce the life insurance coverage gap in India.</li> <li><b>Partner:</b> ET NOW (to produce informative chat shows).</li> <li>Aligns with <b>IRDAI's goal</b> of achieving '<b>Insurance for All</b>' by 2047.</li> </ul>
82.	Citibank credit card migration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Axis Bank took over Citibank's consumer operations in India in 2023.</li> <li>All Citi relationships, including credit cards, are being migrated to Axis Bank.</li> </ul>
83.	Introduction of New Yen Banknotes By Japan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Issued for the <b>first time in two decades</b>.</li> <li>Features <b>3D hologram technology</b> to fight counterfeiting.</li> </ul>
84.	SBI's fifth infrastructure bond issuance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Amount Raised:</b> Rs 10,000 crore; <b>Tenure:</b> 15 years.</li> <li><b>Coupon Rate:</b> 7.36% payable annually.</li> <li><b>Base Issue Size:</b> Rs 5,000 crore.</li> <li><b>Exempt from regulatory reserve requirements</b> like Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR) and Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR).</li> </ul>
85.	MSME Sahaj - End to End Digital Invoice Financing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Launched by:</b> State Bank of India (SBI).</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete digital process from loan application to disbursement within 15 minutes without manual intervention.</li> <li>• Finance provided against GST-registered sales invoices up to ₹1 lakh.</li> <li>• Available through SBI's 'Yono' application for existing customers.</li> </ul>
86.	Sapphiro Forex Card	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Launched by: ICICI Bank; Powered by: Visa.</li> <li>• Target Audience: Students planning to study abroad.</li> <li>• Supports 15 different currencies.</li> </ul>
87.	Co-lending Partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parties: Axis Bank &amp; Piramal Finance.</li> <li>• Aim: to extend loans to the middle and low-income segment borrowers with a focus on rural and semi-urban regions.</li> </ul>
88.	Indiabulls Housing Finance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rebranded itself as Sammaan Capital.</li> </ul>
89.	Paytm Health Saathi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An exclusive health and income protection plan for its merchant partners.</li> <li>• Monthly subscription: starts at ₹35.</li> </ul>
90.	'Jeevan Samarth' initiative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Launched by the LIC to transform its agency ecosystem.</li> <li>• Partner: A T Kearney.</li> <li>• Focus on establishing global best practices at all operational levels in response to the evolving insurance sector landscape.</li> </ul>

## DEFENCE EXERCISES/ INITIATIVES/ TECHNOLOGY

S.No	Exercise/ Technology	Key Facts
1.	Parivartan Chintan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The first ever conference of the Heads of all Tri- Services Institutions, the Department of Military Affairs (DMA), Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff (IDS) and the three services.</li> <li>• Organized by: Ministry of Defence; Venue: New Delhi</li> <li>• Chaired by: Chief of Defence Staff</li> <li>• Objective: to generate new and fresh ideas, initiatives and reforms to propel Jointness and Integration efforts</li> </ul>
2.	Gagan Shakti 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Initiative of: Indian Air Force (IAF).</li> <li>• Objective: to test IAFs capabilities and preparedness for high-intensity operations.</li> <li>• Venue: Bhuj in Gujarat, Ladakh, Arunachal Pradesh, Pokhran Field Firing Range in Jaisalmer &amp; other locations across the country.</li> <li>• It is the biggest IAF exercise after 'Vayu Shakti'</li> </ul>
3.	Dornier 228 planes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has delivered two Dornier 228 aircraft to the Guyana Defence Force.</li> <li>• The delivery is a part of the Line of Credit from India to Guyana.</li> </ul>
4.	Agni-Prime- a new generation ballistic missile	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategic Forces Command (SFC) &amp; Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) have successfully test fired Agni-Prime.</li> <li>• A two-stage canisterised solid propellant ballistic missile with dual redundant navigation and guidance system.</li> <li>• Range: 1,000-2,000km.</li> <li>• It is lighter than all the earlier Agni series of missiles.</li> </ul>

5.	<b>Project Akashdeer</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Indian Army has initiated the induction of control and reporting systems under 'Project Akashdeer'.</li> <li>The induction began with the flagging off of the first batch of control centers from BEL-Ghaziabad.</li> </ul> <p><b>About Project Akashdeer</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Initiative of:</b> Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)</li> <li><b>Launched under:</b> Atmanirbhar Bharat</li> <li>Akashdeer Control Centres are designed to automate air defence control and reporting processes by digitizing the entire workflow, enhancing the response capabilities to aerial threats.</li> <li><b>Aim:</b> bolstering the air defence capabilities of the Indian Army.</li> <li><b>Significance:</b> The introduction of these systems aligns with 2024 being designated as the 'Year of Tech Absorption'.</li> </ul>
6.	<b>New Test Centre of DRDO</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DRDO will be setting up a small test centre for the country's weapon systems in Junput village, Purba Medinipur district in West Bengal.</li> <li>Junput village is situated by Bay of Bengal.</li> </ul>
7.	<b>India's Defence Exports</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>India's defence exports have reached a record high of Rs 21,083 crore (approximately USD 2.63 billion) in FY 2023-24, marking a 32.5% increase over the previous fiscal year's exports of Rs 15,920 crore.</li> </ul>
8.	<b>Sagar Kavach</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is a coastal security exercise.</li> <li><b>Participants:</b> maritime security agencies of India.</li> <li><b>Venue:</b> off the Lakshadweep Islands.</li> </ul>
9.	<b>Operation Meghdoot</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>40th anniversary of Operation Meghdoot was observed on 13 April.</li> <li>On this day in 1984, Indian Army gained full control over Siachen Glacier.</li> </ul> <p><b>About the Operation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It was the codename for the Indian Army operation to take full control of the Siachen in Ladakh.</li> <li>It was the first assault launched on the Siachen glacier.</li> <li>Launched under the leadership of Lieutenant General Manohar Lal Chibber, Lieutenant General PN Hoon and Major General Shiv Sharma. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Objective:</b> to pre-empt the seizure of Sia La and Bilafond La passes by the Pakistan Army.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
10.	<b>C-Dome defence system</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recently, Israel has deployed C-Dome defence system for first time near Eilat city.</li> <li>Eilat was targeted by Yemen's Houthi rebels, allies of Palestinian militants Hamas.</li> <li>C-Dome is a naval version of the Iron Dome.</li> </ul> <p><b>Israel's multilayered air-defence system</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Iron Dome:</b> specializes in shooting down short-range rockets and missiles, developed by Rafael Advanced Defense Systems and Israel Aerospace Industries.</li> <li><b>David's Sling:</b> targets medium-range missile threats. manufactured by Israel's Rafael Advanced Defense Systems and the US' Raytheon Co</li> <li><b>Arrow:</b> developed in collaboration with the U.S., this system intercepts long-range ballistic missiles outside the atmosphere.</li> <li><b>Patriot:</b> an older system used to intercept aircraft and longer-range missiles, historically used since the Gulf War, developed in assistance with the USA</li> <li><b>Iron Beam:</b> it is under development to intercept incoming threats with laser technology</li> </ul>

11.	Igla-S Man Portable Air Defence Systems (MANPADS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>India received the first batch of 24 Igla-S MANPADS, along with 100 missiles.</li> <li>Subsequent production to be carried out in India through Transfer of Technology (ToT).</li> <li>Manufacturer of Igla-S: Russia's Rosoboronexport.</li> </ul>
12.	Project Seabird	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is the largest naval infrastructure project for India.</li> <li>It envisages to create naval base at Karwar, Karnataka.</li> <li>Part of Phase IIA of Project Seabird, aims to accommodate 32 ships and submarines, 23-yard crafts, a dual-use Naval Air Station, a full-fledged Naval Dockyard.</li> <li>Upon completion, it will be the largest naval base in the Eastern Hemisphere.</li> </ul>
13.	"DUSTLIK-2024" (5th edition)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A Joint Military Exercise between India and Uzbekistan.</li> <li>Venue: Termez District, Uzbekistan.</li> <li>It is a yearly event conducted alternatively in India and Uzbekistan.</li> <li>Previous edition was conducted at Pithoragarh.</li> <li>First edition held in 2019.</li> </ul>
14.	Man Portable Anti-tank Guided Missile (MPATGM) Weapon System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Indian Army successfully test fired the MPATGM Weapon System at the Pokhran Field Firing Range, Rajasthan.</li> <li>Designed &amp; developed by: Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).</li> </ul>
15.	BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>India has delivered the first set of BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles to the Philippines as part of the USD 375 million deal. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Under the deal, three batteries of shore-based, anti-ship variant of the BrahMos were to be exported to Philippines.</li> </ul> </li> <li>The Indian Air Force has sent its American origin C-17 Globemaster transport aircraft to deliver the missiles.</li> <li>It was the first export of the BrahMos missile by India.</li> </ul> <p><b>About BrahMos</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A joint venture between India's DRDO and Russia's NPO Mashinostroyeniya.</li> <li>The missile derives its name from Brahmaputra and Moskva rivers.</li> <li>It is the world's fastest supersonic cruise missile.</li> <li>It can be launched from submarines, ships, aircraft, or land platforms; Original Range: 290km.</li> <li>India after becoming the member of Missile Technology Control Regime in 2016, the range has been extended to 450km.</li> </ul>
16.	Historic Transoceanic Expedition by INSV Tarini	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>INSV Tarini, manned by Lt Cdr Dilna K and Lt Cdr Roopa A, completed a historic transoceanic expedition.</li> <li>They are the first Indian women officers to accomplish such a feat in double-handed mode.</li> </ul>
17.	SPACE (Submersible Platform for Acoustic Characterisation and Evaluation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Developed by Naval Physical &amp; Oceanographic Laboratory of DRDO for the Indian Navy.</li> <li>Inaugurated at: Underwater Acoustic Research Facility, Kulamavu in Idukki, Kerala.</li> <li>A state-of-the-art testing and evaluation hub for sonar systems used on various platforms including ships, submarines, and helicopters.</li> <li>Two main components: a floating platform and a submersible platform that can be lowered up to 100 meters using winch systems.</li> <li>It would enhance Anti-Submarine Warfare research capabilities.</li> </ul>
18.	Operation Iron Shield	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Under the operation, Israel Defense Forces (IDF) thwarted an Iranian attack, intercepting 300 drones and missiles. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It was Iran's first ever direct military assault on Israel.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Israel Defence systems used in the operation.           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Arrow-2 and Arrow-3 system, DAVID'S SLING &amp; Iron Dome.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
19.	Indigenous Technology Cruise Missile (ITCM) or Nirbhay cruise missile	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It was successfully test fired recently.</li> <li>• It is a long range subsonic indigenously developed cruise missile.</li> <li>• Developed by: Bengaluru-based DRDO laboratory Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE).</li> <li>• Tested for the first time with an indigenous propulsion system, the Manik turbofan engine, replacing the earlier Russian engine</li> <li>• Indigenous propulsion system developed by Gas Turbine Research Establishment (GTRE), Bengaluru.</li> </ul>
20.	Leading Edge Actuators and Airbrake Control Module for LCA Tejas Mk1A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DRDO's Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) has handed over the first batch of the indigenous Leading-Edge Actuators and Airbrake Control Module to Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) for the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas Mk1A.</li> <li>• HAL, Lucknow has already made preparations for the production of these units for the current 83 LCA Tejas Mk1A order.</li> </ul>
21.	Exercise Poorvi Lehar (XPOL 2024) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conducted by: Eastern Naval Command, Indian Navy.</li> <li>• Venue: East Coast.</li> <li>• Aim: validation of procedures towards assessment of Indian Navy's preparedness to meet Maritime Security challenges in the region.</li> </ul>
22.	Operation Crimson Barracuda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conducted in international waters by INS Talwar, Indian Naval warship.           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ INS Talwar seized 940 kilograms of narcotics.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
23.	Pyoljji-1-2 anti-aircraft missile	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recently, North Korea test-launched Pyoljji-1-2 anti-aircraft missile.           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ North Korea also conducted a power test for a warhead designed for the Hwasal-1 Ra-3 strategic cruise missile.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
24.	India's light weight Bullet Proof Jacket for protection against highest threat level 6 of BIS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developed by: DRDO's Defence Materials and Stores Research and Development Establishment (DMSRDE), Kanpur.</li> <li>• Tested at: Terminal Ballistics Research Laboratory (TBRL), Chandigarh.</li> <li>• It is the first bullet proof jacket made using monolithic ceramic which can stop 6 7.62x54 API bullets.</li> </ul>
25.	Maritime Partnership Exercise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Indian Navy's INS Sahyadri participated in Maritime Partnership Exercise with the British Royal Navy's RFA Argus and RFA Lyme Bay, part of the UK Littoral Response Group South at sea.</li> </ul>
26.	IAFs integration with DigiLocker	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An MoU was signed between Indian Air Force (IAF) &amp; Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) to leverage DigiLocker's secure and accessible document repository services.</li> <li>• The integration will revolutionize the way critical service documents of IAF personnel, both serving and retired, are issued, accessed, and verified digitally.</li> </ul> <p><b>About DigiLocker</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A flagship initiative under the Digital India programme.</li> <li>• Launched in 2015.</li> <li>• Aim: to make India go paperless while providing a "secure document access platform on a public cloud."</li> </ul>
27.	S-400 Triumph	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• India is set to receive the remaining two regiments of S-400 Triumph surface-to-air missile systems from Russia by 2025.</li> <li>• It is the world's most advanced air defense system.</li> <li>• It has a range of 40 to 400 kilometers, capable of targeting threats from air, including aircraft, cruise and ballistic missiles, and hypersonic weapons.</li> </ul>

		<p><b>Background</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>India signed a USD 5.5 billion deal with Russia in 2018 to procure five units of the S-400 air missile systems.</li> </ul> <p><b>Stealth Frigates Deal</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>India expects the delivery of the warships Tushil and Tamal from Russia in 2024 &amp; 2025 respectively.</li> <li>These are part of the four-frigate deal signed in 2018, with the remaining two being built in India.</li> </ul> <p><b>Additional Information</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DRDO is working on Project Kusha, aiming to develop a long-range air defense system by 2028-29 to detect and neutralize enemy projectiles at ranges of up to 350 km.</li> </ul>
28.	Crystal Maze 2 (ROCKS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Indian Air Force (IAF) has successfully test fired Crystal Maze 2 from a Su-30 MKI fighter jet at Andaman and Nicobar Islands.</li> <li>It is of Israeli origin.</li> <li>It is an extended stand-off range air-to-surface missile.</li> <li>Capable of striking targets over 250 kilometers away.</li> </ul>
29.	Kamikaze (Suicide) Drones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A new loitering munition developed by Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC).</li> <li><b>Payload:</b> 3 to 6 kilograms; <b>Range:</b> 40 kilometers.</li> <li>It resembles Russia's Lancet drone.</li> </ul> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p style="color: orange; font-weight: bold;">DID YOU KNOW?</p> <p>Iran has previously delivered Shahed 131 and Shahed 136 loitering munitions to Russia</p> </div>
30.	Supersonic Missile-Assisted Release of Torpedo (SMART) System 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A next-generation missile-based light-weight torpedo delivery system; Test-fired successfully recently</li> <li><b>Designed &amp; developed by:</b> DRDO.</li> <li>Can be launched from both coasts and warships.</li> </ul>
31.	Rampage missile	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inducted into the IAF's Su-30, MiG-29 and Jaguar fighter aircraft &amp; Indian Navy's MiG-29K fighter jets.</li> <li><b>Developed by:</b> Israel Aerospace Industries and Israeli Military Industries Systems.</li> <li>Long-range supersonic air-to-ground missiles.</li> <li>Also known as: High-Speed Low Drag-Mark 2 in the IAF.</li> <li><b>Range:</b> approximately 250 kilometers.</li> </ul>
32.	MQ-9B Predator drones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To be jointly deployed by IAF and Army at air bases in Uttar Pradesh's Gorakhpur and Sarsawa.</li> <li>31 drones to be acquired from the United States.</li> </ul>
33.	Gagan Strike-II	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Conducted by:</b> Indian Army (Kharga Corps) and the IAF at Punjab.</li> <li>Conducted under the aegis of the Army's Western Command.</li> <li><b>Aim:</b> Validating various force multipliers in support of ground offensive operations by strike corps.</li> </ul>
34.	Hermes-900 Starliner drone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Also known as: Drishti-10 drones.</li> <li>To be supplied to Indian forces including Indian Army and Navy by Adani Defence Systems. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adani Defence signed a deal with the Israeli firm Elbit for the transfer of technology.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
35.	Exercise 'SHAKTI'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>India-France Joint Military Exercise.</li> <li>Location: Umroi, Meghalaya.</li> <li>Previous session was held in 2021 in France. Started in 2011.</li> </ul>

36.	SIMBEX (31 <sup>st</sup> edition)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercise</b></li> <li><b>Venue:</b> Visakhapatnam.</li> </ul>
37.	Tarkash (Seventh edition)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Indo-U.S. Joint Counter Terrorism Exercise.</b></li> <li><b>Participants:</b> National Security Guard (NSG) from India &amp; U.S. Special Operations Forces (SOF).</li> <li><b>Held at:</b> Kolkata.</li> <li><b>Previous edition:</b> held in Chennai in 2023.</li> </ul>
38.	Fatah-II Rocket System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Initiative of Pakistan; Range:</b> up to 400 kilometers.</li> </ul>
39.	Glide Phase Interceptor (GPI) Cooperative Development (GCD) Project Arrangement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Signed under:</b> U.S.-Japan bilateral MoU for Research, Development, Test and Evaluation Projects (RDT&amp;E).</li> <li><b>Objective:</b> developing interceptors to shoot down hypersonic missiles by the 2030s.</li> </ul>
40.	Two High-Altitude Tank Repair Facilities (Medium Maintenance (Reset) Facilities)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Set up by:</b> Indian Army.</li> <li><b>Venue:</b> Nyoma and DBO Sector, Eastern Ladakh. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>World's highest battlefield for tanks and infantry combat vehicles.</b></li> <li><b>Altitude:</b> over 14,500 feet.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
41.	2nd edition of India – Australia – Indonesia Trilateral Maritime Security Workshop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Venue:</b> INS Dronacharya, Kochi, Kerala.</li> <li><b>Theme:</b> 'Indian Ocean Region: Collaborative Efforts to Enhance Regional Maritime Security'.</li> <li><b>Organized by:</b> Southern Naval Command, Indian Navy.</li> </ul>
42.	Russian AK-203 assault rifles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Indo-Russian Rifles Private Limited (IRRPL) handed over 27,000 rifles to the Indian Army.</b></li> <li><b>Part of the India-Russia Deal aimed to manufacture over 6.1 lakh AK-203 assault rifles in India with technology transfer from Russia.</b></li> </ul>
		<p><b>About IRRPL</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Establishment:</b> 2019; <b>Location:</b> Korwa in Uttar Pradesh.</li> <li>A JV of the erstwhile Ordnance Factory Board [now Advanced Weapons and Equipment India Limited (AWEIL) and Munitions India Limited (MIL)] from India and Rosoboronexport (RoE) and Kalashnikov concern of Russia.</li> </ul>
43.	Project UDBHAV (evolution)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mentioned at a conference titled "Historical Patterns in Indian Strategic Culture" organized by India's oldest think-tank founded in 1870, United Service Institution (USI).</li> </ul>
		<p><b>About the Project</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Initiative of:</b> Indian Army &amp; United Service Institution of India (USI).</li> <li><b>Launched in 2023</b> at the Indian Military Heritage festival.</li> <li><b>Objective:</b> to promote indigenous discourse in the Army by integrating India's ancient strategic acumen into contemporary military domain with a focus on making the force "future-ready".</li> </ul>
44.	B-21 Raider	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Unveiled by the U.S. Air Force.</b></li> <li><b>First American bomber aircraft in more than 30 years.</b></li> <li><b>World's most dangerous nuclear stealth bomber</b></li> <li><b>Capable of carrying missiles with nuclear warheads.</b></li> </ul>
45.	Joint Sword-2024A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>The biggest &amp; closest military drill conducted by China in Taiwan Strait &amp; groups of Taiwan-controlled islands.</b></li> <li><b>China's coastguard vessels entered waters near the islands of Wuqiu and Dongyin for the first time.</b></li> </ul>

46.	RudraM-II	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Successfully test fired by DRDO from Su-30 MK-I fighter jet.</li> <li>An indigenously-developed solid-propelled air-to-surface missile.</li> <li><b>Range:</b> 350-km (approx.)</li> </ul>
47.	Ex Cyber Suraksha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Organizer:</b> Defence Cyber Agency.</li> <li><b>Aim:</b> to further enhance collaboration &amp; integration among military and national agencies towards a unified and robust cyber defence posture.</li> </ul>
48.	DRDO-Industry-Academia Centre of Excellence (DIA CoE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Set by IIT Kanpur on its campus</b> in partnership with DRDO.</li> <li><b>Objective:</b> to foster interdisciplinary research in next-generation defence technologies.</li> </ul>
49.	29th Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>World's largest international maritime exercise.</li> <li>Organized by: U.S. Pacific Fleet of the U.S. Navy.</li> <li>Venue: Hawaii; <b>Theme:</b> "Partners: Integrated and Prepared."</li> <li>Total Participants: 29 nations including India.</li> <li>INS Shivalik represented India; Held <b>biennially since 1971</b>.</li> </ul>
50.	First Command and Control Compatibility Board (CCCB) meeting for 2024	<p>• <b>Parties:</b> India and the U.S.; <b>Held at:</b> New Delhi.</p> <p><b>About CCCB</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Technical Expert Group formed under Article XI of the Communication Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA) between India and USA. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>COMCASA was <b>signed in 2018</b>.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
51.	Japan – India Maritime Exercise 2024 (JIMEX 24)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Venue:</b> Yokosuka, Japan.</li> <li><b>Participating Ships:</b> INS Shivalik (India) &amp; JS Yugiri (Japan).</li> <li><b>Edition:</b> eight; Started in 2012.</li> </ul>
52.	Vidyut Rakshak	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An integrated generator monitoring, protection, and control system.</li> <li>Developed by: Indian Army's Army Design Bureau (ADB).</li> <li>An Internet of Things (IoT)-enabled system that connects and exchanges data with other IoT devices and the cloud.</li> <li>Development follows an MoU signed during Aero India 2023. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Signatories:</b> Indian Army and Foundation for Innovation and Technology Transfer (FITT), IIT Delhi.</li> <li><b>Objective:</b> Production of Innovations.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
53.	India's First Joint Doctrine for Cyberspace Operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establishes guidelines for commanders in the Indian Armed Forces.</li> <li><b>Aim:</b> to enhance capacity to conduct operations in cyberspace- a domain recognized as critical in modern warfare.</li> </ul>
54.	Exercise Red Flag 24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An advanced aerial combat training exercise.</li> <li>Organizer: US Pacific Air Force.</li> <li>Location: Eielson Base and Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska.</li> <li>Held in the <b>world's largest air-space</b> (about 77,000 square miles).</li> <li>Participants: Air forces of India, Singapore, UK, Netherlands, Germany &amp; US.</li> <li>IAF deployed Rafale fighters, a first at Red Flag.</li> <li>First Edition held in 1975; organized four times in a year.</li> <li>IAF first participated in 2008.</li> </ul>
55.	Tarang Shakti-2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>First ever Indian multinational air exercise.</li> <li>To be hosted by the IAF in two phases.</li> <li>10 countries invited to participate in the exercise.</li> </ul>
56.	Light Combat Helicopters (LCH)/ LCH Prachand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) received the Request for Proposal (RFP) from the Ministry of Defence for 156 LCH (90 for Indian Army and 66 for Indian Air Force).</li> </ul> <p><b>About LCH</b></p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A 5-8 tonne class dedicated combat helicopter.</li> <li>Only attack helicopter in the world which can land and take-off at an altitude of 5,000 m (16,400 ft).</li> </ul>
57.	INS Komemiyut	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Second of two landing crafts recently received by the Israeli Navy from the US; Docked at the Haifa Naval Base.</li> <li>Israel previously received INS Nahshon from the US.</li> </ul>
58.	Freedom Edge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>First Trilateral Multi-Domain Exercise of South Korea, the United States, and Japan; Venue: Jeju Island, South Korea.</li> </ul>
59.	3rd Warfare & Aerospace Strategy Program (WASP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initiative of Indian Air Force.</li> <li>First WASP with the tri services participation</li> </ul> <p><b>About WASP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A strategic education programme; launched in 2022.</li> <li>Provides a thorough knowledge of geo-politics, grand strategy and Comprehensive National Power to the participants.</li> </ul>
60.	UH-3H helicopter (Saaras)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>De-induced by the Indian Navy at INS Dega, Visakhapatnam.</li> <li>It will be replaced by the Sea King 42C helicopter.</li> </ul>
61.	Medium Range-Microwave Obscurant Chaff Rocket (MR-MOCR)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Developed by DRDO's Defence Laboratory in Jodhpur for Indian Navy.</li> <li>Designed to obscure radar signals and create a microwave shield, effectively reducing radar detection of naval platforms.</li> </ul>
62.	Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>U.S. Air Force and U.S. Space Force conducted test launch.</li> </ul>
63.	High Speed Expendable Aerial Target (HEAT)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Also known as ABHYAS.</li> <li>Designed by DRDO's Aeronautical Development Establishment, Bengaluru.</li> <li>Developed through Hindustan Aeronautics Limited &amp; Larsen &amp; Toubro.</li> </ul>
64.	SEBEX 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2.01 times more lethal than standard TNT.</li> <li>One of the most potent non-nuclear explosives globally.</li> <li>Developed by Economic Explosives Limited (EEL) under the Make in India initiative.</li> <li>Certified under Indian Navy's Defence Export Promotion Scheme.</li> </ul>
65.	Exercise MAITREE (13th edition)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>India- Thailand joint military Exercise.</li> <li>Venue: Fort Vachiraprakan in Tak Province of Thailand.</li> <li>Previous edition held at Umroi, Meghalaya in 2019.</li> </ul>
66.	Weapon Systems School (WSS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inaugurated at Air Force Station Begumpet, Hyderabad.</li> </ul>
67.	NOMADIC ELEPHANT (16 <sup>th</sup> edition)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>India-Mongolia Joint Military Exercise.</li> <li>Venue: Umroi (Meghalaya).</li> <li>Previous edition held in Mongolia.</li> </ul>
68.	Zorawar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>India's indigenous light tank; Weighs less than 25 tonnes.</li> <li>Developed by DRDO and Larsen &amp; Toubro (L&amp;T), in collaboration with various Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).</li> </ul>

## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

S.No	Technology in News	Key Facts
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1.	<b>Space science and Technology Awareness Training (START) 2024 programme</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Initiative of:</b> ISRO</li> <li>• <b>Aim:</b> to attract youth to the fields of space science and technology.</li> <li>• <b>Target Beneficiaries:</b> postgraduate and final-year undergraduate students who are pursuing physical sciences and technology.</li> <li>• It comprises <b>introductory level topics on various verticals of space science and technology.</b></li> <li>• The Gujarat Council on Science and Technology (GUJCOST) has been designated as the <b>Nodal Centre for the programme.</b></li> <li>• <b>Rajkot, Patan, Bhavnagar, and Bhuj</b> have been selected as the <b>Regional Science Centres</b> to coordinate and facilitate the programme.</li> <li>• Theme of the inaugural online programme: "Exploration of Solar System".</li> </ul>
2.	<b>Korea Superconducting Tokamak Advanced Research (KSTAR) Project</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Developed by:</b> South Korean scientists at the KSTAR Research Center.</li> <li>• KSTAR, known as the "<b>artificial Sun</b>," has achieved a <b>new world record by sustaining plasma temperatures at 100 million degrees Celsius for 48 seconds.</b></li> </ul>
3.	<b>Flexible Logistics and Exploration (FLEX) vehicle-a next generation lunar rover</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Developed by:</b> Venturi Astrolab Inc.</li> <li>• <b>Tested in California's Mojave Desert.</b></li> <li>• Designed for <b>NASA's Artemis program</b>, with the goal of <b>returning humans to the Moon by 2025 and establishing a sustainable lunar base.</b></li> </ul>
4.	<b>Third Party Fact-Checking Partnership (3PFC) programme</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Initiative of:</b> Meta; <b>Launched in:</b> 2016.</li> <li>• <b>Aim:</b> to identify, review and rate content as misinformation across Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp.</li> <li>• <b>Press Trust of India (PTI)</b> has joined the initiative recently.</li> <li>• <b>With the partnership with the PTI, Meta now has 12 fact-checking partners in India, the highest it has in any country</b></li> </ul>
5.	<b>Activation of the world's most powerful laser</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Initiative part of:</b> European Union's Infrastructure ELI project.</li> <li>• <b>Location:</b> Bucharest, Romania; <b>Operated by:</b> French company Thales.</li> <li>• It is based on the <b>chirped pulse amplification (CPA) technique invented by 2018 Nobel Physics Prize winners Gerard Mourou and Donna Strickland.</b></li> </ul>
6.	<b>Establishment of a Coordinated Lunar Time (LTC) for the moon and other celestial bodies.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) has directed NASA, in collaboration with other U.S. government agencies, to establish a LTC by the end of 2026.</li> <li>• <b>Aim:</b> to serve as a benchmark for lunar spacecraft, satellites, and potential bases requiring precise time-keeping for missions.</li> </ul>
7.	<b>Bandwagon-1 mission</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>SpaceX's first dedicated rideshare mission</b> launched into a mid-inclination orbit.; <b>Rocket:</b> Falcon 9.</li> <li>• <b>Objectives:</b> Unlike the Transporter missions, Bandwagon missions are designed to place satellites in orbits at about <b>45 degrees inclination</b>, addressing the high demand for mid-inclination orbits.</li> <li>• <b>Bandwagon-1 carried 11 satellites</b>, including '<b>TSAT-1A</b>', a sub-metre resolution optical satellite by <b>Tata Advanced Systems Limited</b> and <b>Satellogic</b>.</li> </ul>
8.	<b>Angara-A5 Space Rocket</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Developed &amp; launched by:</b> Russia's space agency, Roscosmos, in collaboration with the Russian Defense Ministry.</li> <li>• <b>Launched from:</b> Vostochny Cosmodrome, located in the Amur region of Russia's Far East. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ <b>First rocket to be launched from Vostochny Cosmodrome.</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>• The launch coincided with the <b>Russian Cosmonautics Day</b> on 12 April.</li> </ul>

		<p><b>About Angara-A5 Space</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Russia's first post-Soviet space rocket.</li> <li>• A three-stage rocket, capable of carrying 24.5 tonnes into space.</li> <li>• Part of the new Angara family of rockets designed to replace the Soviet-era Proton rockets.</li> </ul> <p><b>About Angara project</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Initiated after the dissolution of the Soviet Union.</li> <li>• The project envisages providing Russia with independent access to space without relying on the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan.</li> </ul>
9.	NASA's Europa Clipper Mission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Earth's first mission to conduct a detailed science investigation of Jupiter's moon 'Europa', , which is suspected to have a subsurface ocean beneath its icy exterior.</li> <li>• <b>Objective:</b> to investigate the possibility of life in Europa's ocean, contributing to our understanding of life's prevalence in the universe.</li> <li>• Scheduled for launch in October 2024.</li> </ul>
10.	Atmospheric Perturbations around the Eclipse Path (APEP) Mission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Three Black Brant IX sounding rockets launched from NASA's Wallops Flight Facility in Virginia during the solar eclipse under the APEP Mission.</li> </ul> <p><b>About APEP Mission</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Initiative of:</b> NASA; <b>Led by:</b> Aroh Barjatya, an Indian origin scientist</li> <li>• <b>Objective:</b> to study how the sudden darkness caused by an eclipse affects the ionosphere, a layer of Earth's upper atmosphere crucial for communication and satellite operations.</li> </ul>
11.	Chandrayaan-4 Mission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Initiative of:</b> Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).</li> <li>• <b>The mission is planned as part of a broader goal to land an Indian astronaut on the moon by 2040.</b></li> <li>• <b>Focus Area:</b> Sending a craft to the moon to collect samples and return them to Earth, demonstrating a full cycle of lunar visitation.</li> <li>• <b>Expected Launch Year:</b> 2027.</li> </ul>
12.	Queqiao-2 (Magpie Bridge 2) satellite	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Launched by China National Space Administration (CNSA).</li> <li>• Communication relay between Earth and the far side of the moon, supporting the upcoming Chang'e-6 (2024), Chang'e-7 (2026), and Chang'e-8 (2028) missions &amp; aiding in lunar material acquisition until 2030.</li> </ul>
13.	Gaia BH3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A dormant black hole within the Milky Way.</li> <li>• This is the first time a black hole of stellar origin this big has been spotted in galaxy Milky Way</li> <li>• Located 2,000 light years away from Earth in the Aquila constellation, making it the second nearest black hole discovered.</li> <li>• Discovered from the data collected by the European Space Agency's Gaia mission.</li> </ul>
14.	Surya Tilak Project at Ayodhya	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For the first time since the installation of Ram Lalla idol, the Surya Tilak ritual has been performed at Ayodhya.</li> <li>• <b>Objective:</b> To bring sunlight on the forehead of Sri Ram Lalla at 12 noon on Sri Ram Navami in the Chaitra month every year.</li> <li>• The device that helped the illumination to reflect on Ram Lalla idol was manufactured by Optica in Bengaluru &amp; implemented by Council of Scientific and Industrial Research - Central Building Research Institute (CSIR-CBRI), Roorkee.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The final design with 4 mirrors and 4 lenses will be implemented once the full temple is constructed.</li> </ul>
15.	Comet 12P/Pons-Brooks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It made its <b>first appearance</b> in the inner solar system in 71 years.</li> <li>It was visible in the <b>constellation of Aries</b>.</li> <li>Named after comet observers Jean-Louis Pons and William R. Brooks</li> <li><b>Nicknames:</b> 'Mother of Dragons', the 'devil comet', 'Millennium Falcon'.</li> </ul>
16.	Lightweight Carbon-Carbon (C-C) Nozzle for Rocket Engines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Developed by:</b> ISRO's Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC).</li> <li>It is expected to <b>significantly increase the payload capacity</b> of ISRO's PSLV, by a projected 15 kg.</li> </ul>
17.	Ingenuity Mars helicopter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Initiative of:</b> NASA; <b>Nickname:</b> Ginny</li> <li>It was the <b>first powered flight on another planet</b>.</li> <li>It was launched on board the Perseverance rover.</li> <li>It recently sent its last message to earth, as NASA announced the end of the Ingenuity Mars Helicopter's mission.</li> </ul>
18.	Debris-free space missions by India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>India has made a declaration to <b>achieve debris-free space missions</b> by 2030.</li> <li>Announced at the <b>42nd Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee (IADC)</b> annual meet at Bengaluru.</li> </ul>
19.	Artemis Accords 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lithuania (40th Member), Peru (41st Member) &amp; Slovakia (42nd Member).</li> </ul> <p><b>About Artemis Accords</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Launched in</b> 2020.</li> <li><b>Launched by:</b> NASA, in coordination with the U.S. Department of State, with seven other founding member nations.</li> <li>It provides for the <b>implementation of key obligations</b> from the 1967 Outer Space Treaty.</li> <li>It reinforces commitment to the Registration Convention, the Rescue and Return Agreement and best practices of responsible behaviour, including the public release of scientific data.</li> <li>India became the <b>27th signatory</b> of Artemis Accords in 2023.</li> </ul>
20.	Hala Point	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Developed by:</b> Intel.</li> <li>It is the <b>world's largest neuromorphic system</b>.</li> <li>Currently deployed at Sandia National Laboratories.</li> <li>Designed to address the rising computing costs of AI models.</li> <li>Achieves over 15 trillion 8-bit operations per second per watt (TOPS/W).</li> </ul>
21.	Phi-3 Mini 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Launched by:</b> Microsoft.</li> <li>It is a <b>freely available, lightweight small language AI model</b> that can run on <b>smartphones</b>. It has <b>3.8 billion parameters</b>.</li> <li>Microsoft plans to further release two other models, <b>Phi-3 Small</b> and <b>Phi-3 Medium</b>, in the same scale.</li> </ul>
22.	Dragonfly Rotorcraft Mission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Initiative of:</b> NASA; <b>Mission Cost:</b> USD 3.35 billion</li> <li><b>Designed &amp; managed by:</b> Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory (APL).</li> <li><b>Objective:</b> to explore Saturn's moon Titan, examining prebiotic chemical processes common to Titan and early Earth.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fourth mission in NASA's New Frontiers Program</li> <li>NASA's first attempt at flying a vehicle for science on another planetary body, utilizing eight rotors for flight, similar to a large drone.</li> <li>It follows NASA's Ingenuity helicopter on Mars as the second drone to explore another planet.</li> <li>Set to be launched in 2028 &amp; aims to arrive at Titan in 2034.</li> </ul>
23.	Voyager 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Voyager 1, after a technical glitch, resumed sending data about its onboard engineering systems for the first time in five months.</li> </ul> <p><b>About Voyager 1</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initiative of: NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration).</li> <li>Launched in 1977.</li> <li>It is the most distant human-made spacecraft.</li> <li>It is currently exploring the farthest edges of the solar system.</li> <li>First human-made object to enter interstellar space in 2013.</li> <li>Alongside its twin, Voyager 2, it remains one of only two human-made objects to operate in interstellar space.</li> </ul>
24.	Zero Shadow Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Observed on April 24 in Bengaluru, with a similar event expected on August 18.</li> <li>Zero Shadow Day occurs when the Sun is directly overhead at noon, causing objects on the ground to cast no visible shadow.</li> <li>It happens twice a year in locations situated between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn.</li> </ul>
25.	Advanced Composite Solar Sail System (ACS3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initiative of: NASA</li> <li>Launched from Rocket Lab's Electron rocket from Mahia, New Zealand under the 'Beginning of the Swarm' mission, along with NEONSAT-1 satellite.</li> <li>Showcases innovative materials designed to use sunlight for spacecraft propulsion.</li> <li>Incorporates a CubeSat with deployable solar sails attached to booms.</li> </ul>
26.	NEONSAT-1 satellite	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Launched by: South Korea.</li> <li>First satellite of the NEONSAT program by Korea Advanced Institute of Science &amp; Technology's Satellite Technology Research Center (SaTReC).</li> <li>An Earth observation satellite with AI-enhanced high-resolution optics to monitor natural disasters in the Korean Peninsula.</li> </ul>
27.	Smart Lander for Investigating Moon (SLIM)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It survived the extreme cold of the third lunar night.</li> </ul> <p><b>About SLIM</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Launched by: Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA).</li> <li>Japan's first moon lander.</li> <li>With SLIM, Japan the fifth country to successfully place a probe on the moon.</li> </ul>
28.	Shenzhou-18 (Divine vessel) Mission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>China has sent three astronauts to the Tiangong (Heavenly Palace) space station for six months for scientific research and space station maintenance.</li> <li>Launched from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre in northwest China.</li> <li>Led by: Mission commander Ye Guangfu</li> </ul>

29.	Hubble Space Telescope	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On its <b>34th anniversary</b>, NASA's Hubble Space Telescope captured an image of the Little Dumbbell Nebula, also known as Messier 76 or M76, situated <b>3,400 light-years away</b> in the constellation Perseus.</li> <li>It was launched in <b>1990</b>.</li> </ul>
30.	Artificial Intelligence Safety and Security Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Set up by</b> U.S. Homeland Security Department.</li> <li><b>Aim:</b> to address the complexities and potential threats of AI integration within vital U.S. infrastructure.</li> <li>The blue-ribbon board comprises <b>22 members</b>; includes the <b>CEOs of OpenAI, Microsoft, Google parent Alphabet and Nvidia</b>.</li> </ul>
31.	Chang'e-6 Lunar Probe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Launched by:</b> China National Space Administration (CNSA).</li> <li><b>First Lunar Mission</b> to bring samples from the far side of the Moon (not visible from the Earth).</li> <li><b>1st of 3 high-wire uncrewed missions</b> to the Moon planned by China this decade.</li> <li><b>Aim:</b> To collect up to 2 kilograms of stones and soil.</li> <li><b>Objective:</b> To provide new insights into the formation of the Earth, moon, and solar system by analyzing the collected samples</li> <li><b>Landing Site:</b> Apollo Basin within the South Pole-Aitken Basin, the largest, oldest, and deepest basin recognised on the moon.</li> </ul>
32.	ICube Qamar (ICUBE-Q) - a CubeSat Satellite	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Pakistan's first satellite mission to the moon.</b></li> <li><b>Launched through Chang'e-6 Lunar Probe.</b></li> <li><b>Designed &amp; developed by:</b> Institute of Space Technology (IST) in Islamabad, in partnership with Shanghai Jiao Tong University (SJTU), Shanghai, and Pakistan's Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (SUPARCO).</li> <li><b>Objective:</b> To facilitate scientific research, technology development, and educational initiatives in space exploration.</li> </ul>
33.	PACE (Plankton, Aerosol, Cloud, ocean Ecosystem) Satellite/Mission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Launched by:</b> NASA.</li> <li><b>Aim:</b> To study ocean health, air quality, and the effects of a changing climate for the benefit of humanity.</li> <li>Studies <b>tiny marine organisms called phytoplankton</b>.</li> </ul>
34.	Indian Remote Sensing satellite data and products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>To be handled by NewSpace India Limited</b> from May 1, 2024.</li> <li><b>National Remote Sensing Centre's (NRSC) Bhoomidhi</b> will continue to be the <b>data dissemination platform</b>.</li> <li>As per India's Space Policy 2023, <b>satellite data of 5m and coarser is now free and open for all users</b>.</li> <li><b>Data finer than 5m</b> (except DEM, merged, mosaicked &amp; customized products) is <b>open &amp; free for Government Entities &amp; priced for NGEs</b>.</li> </ul>
35.	Psyche Spacecraft	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Initiative of:</b> NASA.</li> <li><b>Objective:</b> To explore the metal-rich asteroid 'Psyche 16' located in the asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter.</li> <li><b>Transmitted data from a record-breaking distance of 140 million miles away to Earth.</b></li> </ul>
36.	Ramjet Fuel for Advanced Air-Breathing Engine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Developed by:</b> Defence Materials and Stores Research and Development Establishment (DMSRDE) of the DRDO.</li> <li><b>Industry Partners:</b> Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) and Mineral Oil Corporation Pvt Ltd.</li> </ul>

37.	Hanooman	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>India's homegrown largest multilingual GenAI platform.</b></li> <li><b>Developers:</b> Seetha Mahalaxmi (SML) India Private Limited and 3AI Holding Limited.</li> <li><b>Available in 98 global languages, including 12 Indian languages.</b></li> </ul>
38.	2000 kN semi-cryogenic engine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Developed by:</b> Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).</li> <li><b>Project Lead:</b> Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC)</li> <li><b>Utilizes a Liquid Oxygen (LOX) Kerosene propellant combination.</b></li> <li><b>Aim:</b> to enhance the payload capability of Launch Vehicle Mark-3 (LVM3) and future launch vehicles.</li> <li><b>Semi-cryogenic engine ignition utilized a start fuel ampule comprising Triethyl Aluminate and Triethyl Boron, developed by Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC).</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This fuel combination utilized for the first time in the 2000 kN semi-cryogenic engine.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
39.	Vaxzevria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Withdrew</b> globally due to <b>surplus of updated vaccines and declining demand.</b></li> <li><b>A viral vector vaccine</b> against the SARS-CoV-2 virus that caused Covid-19.</li> <li>Manufactured by British-Swedish pharmaceutical company AstraZeneca, in collaboration with the University of Oxford.</li> <li>Marketed in India under the <b>brand name Covishield</b> by Serum Institute of India.</li> <li>In very rare cases, Vaxzevria &amp; Johnson &amp; Johnson's Janssen vaccine can cause <b>Thrombosis with Thrombocytopenia Syndrome (TTS)</b>- formation of blood clots in combination with low platelet levels.</li> </ul> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p style="color: orange; font-weight: bold;">DID YOU KNOW?</p> <p>Denmark was the first country to suspend all use of AstraZeneca's Covid-19 vaccine.</p> </div>
40.	T100 Carbon Fibre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>India</b> to manufacture <b>T100 type carbon fibre within the next 2.5 years.</b></li> <li><b>Parties involved:</b> Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), and Mishra Dhatu Nigam Limited (MIDHANI).</li> </ul>
41.	3D-Printed Rocket Engine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) conducted a successful test of a <b>Made in India liquid rocket engine created with Additive Manufacturing (AM) technology, commonly known as 3D printing.</b></li> <li><b>Indian industry partner:</b> Wipro 3D.</li> <li>The engine tested is used in upper stage of the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV).</li> </ul>
42.	XRISM (X-ray Imaging and Spectroscopy Mission)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identified the presence of iron around the black hole of the active galaxy NGC 4151 through XRISM's Resolve instrument</li> </ul> <p><b>About the mission</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Launch Year:</b> 2023.</li> <li><b>Launched by:</b> JAXA (Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency) in collaboration with NASA, with contributions from ESA (European Space Agency).</li> <li><b>Objective:</b> to investigate celestial X-ray objects in the Universe with high-throughput imaging and high-resolution spectroscopy.</li> </ul>
43.	Trillium Chip	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Developed by:</b> Alphabet.</li> <li>Part of <b>Google's effort</b> to build <b>custom chips for AI data centers</b>, offering a viable alternative to Nvidia's processors.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nvidia commands roughly 80% of the AI data center chip market; Google's TPUs dominate the remaining 20%.</li> <li>Designed to be <b>deployed in pods of 256 chips</b>, scalable to hundreds of pods.</li> </ul>
44.	Discovery of Oldest known Human Viruses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discovered by Brazil's Federal University of São Paulo.</li> <li>Ancient viruses identified in 50,000-year-old Neanderthal bones.</li> <li><b>Discovery site:</b> Chagyrskaya cave, Russia.</li> <li>Fragments resembled three modern viruses viz, Adenovirus, Herpesvirus &amp; Papillomavirus.</li> <li><b>Previous Record:</b> held by a common-cold virus found in 31,000-year-old baby teeth in Siberia.</li> </ul>
45.	Mangalyaan-2 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Initiative of:</b> ISRO.</li> <li><b>Aim:</b> to land a rover and helicopter on Mars, making India the third nation to achieve this feat after the US and China.</li> <li><b>Objective:</b> To study the early history of Mars, analyze its leaking atmosphere, and look for a hypothesized dust ring around the planet generated by its two moons, Phobos and Deimos.</li> <li><b>Will be launched using ISRO's heaviest rocket</b>, the Launch Vehicle Mark-III (LVM3).</li> </ul>
46.	Norms, Guidelines, and Procedures (NGP) for Indian Space Policy 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Released by:</b> Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACe).</li> <li>Entities carrying out space activities to or from Indian territory, including its exclusive economic zone, need authorization from IN-SPACe.</li> </ul> <p><b>About IN-SPACe</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Launched in: 2020.</li> <li>An independent nodal agency under the Department of Space.</li> <li>Launched as a part of Government of India's space sector reforms to boost private sector participation.</li> <li>Acts as an interface between ISRO and Non-Governmental Entities</li> </ul>
47.	PREFIRE (Polar Radiant Energy in the Far-Infrared Experiment) Mission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Objective:</b> Study Arctic Heat Emissions.</li> <li>Involves deploying twin CubeSats climate satellites named "<b>Ready, Aim, PREFIRE</b>" and "<b>PREFIRE and ICE</b>".</li> <li><b>Collaboration:</b> National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and University of Wisconsin-Madison.</li> <li><b>Launch by Rocket Lab</b> under NASA's (Venture-class Acquisition of Dedicated and Rideshare) contract.</li> </ul>
48.	NROL-146 Mission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A classified mission of <b>National Reconnaissance Office (NRO)</b> of the United States.</li> <li>The first batch of spy satellites launched under this mission by SpaceX and Northrop Grumman.</li> </ul>
49.	KP.2 (nicknamed FliRT)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New Covid-19 variant. Sub-variant of Omicron, descendant of JN.1.</li> <li>Can evade immunity from vaccines and previous infections.</li> <li>Classified by the WHO as a <b>Variant Under Monitoring</b>.</li> </ul>
50.	Primary Amebic Meningoencephalitis (PAM)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A rare brain infection caused by the <b>amoeba Naegleria fowleri</b> (Brain-Eating Amoeba). Lives in warm fresh water and soil.</li> <li>Reported in <b>various Districts of Kerala</b> viz, Alappuzha, Malappuram, Kozhikode, and Thrissur.</li> </ul>

51.	Project Astra	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Initiative of Google.</b></li> <li><b>A multimodal AI agent</b> capable of answering queries in real-time through text, audio, or video inputs.</li> </ul>
52.	Copilot+ PC initiative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Launched by:</b> Microsoft.</li> <li><b>Fastest, most AI-ready Windows PCs ever made.</b></li> </ul>
53.	NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar mission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>A joint Earth-observing mission between NASA &amp; ISRO.</b></li> <li><b>Expected to be launched by the end of 2024.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Additional Information</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>NASA to send Indian astronaut to the International Space Station (ISS) by the end of 2024.</b></li> <li><b>Mithi Virdhi in Gujarat and Kovadda in Andhra Pradesh – earmarked for US companies to build nuclear reactors.</b></li> </ul>
54.	Next-Gen Infra Co (NGIC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>A consortium formed by Reliance backed Radisys.</b></li> <li><b>Objective:</b> to set up a 4G and 5G network for the Government of Ghana.</li> <li><b>Partners:</b> Nokia, Mahindra Tech, Ascend Digital, K-NET and Mobile Network Operators (MNOs), AT Ghana and Telecel Ghana.</li> </ul>
55.	Ultra Accelerator Link (UALink)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Launched by:</b> Microsoft, Meta, Advanced Micro Devices, Broadcom, Cisco Systems, Hewlett Packard Enterprise, and Intel.</li> <li><b>Aim:</b> to establish an open standard for communication between artificial intelligence accelerators.</li> <li><b>Challenges</b> Nvidia's dominance in the AI chip market.</li> </ul>
56.	PS4 3D-printed rocket engine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Developed by:</b> ISRO &amp; Wipro 3D.</li> <li><b>Objective:</b> to power the fourth stage of the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV).</li> <li>Developed using <b>Design for Additive Manufacturing (DfAM)</b> and <b>Laser Powder Bed Fusion (LPBF)</b> technology.</li> </ul>
57.	PAKSAT MM1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>A Multi-Mission Communication Satellite.</b></li> <li><b>A joint venture</b> between Pakistan's Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (Suparco) and the Chinese aerospace industry.</li> <li>Launched under <b>Pakistan's National Space Programme 2047.</b></li> </ul>
58.	Parallel RANS Solver for Aerospace Vehicle Aero-thermo-dynamic Analysis (PraVaHa)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Developed by</b> ISRO at Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC).</li> <li><b>Objective:</b> To simulate external and internal flows on launch vehicles, winged, and non-winged re-entry vehicles.</li> <li><b>Extensively used in the Gaganyaan program</b> for aerodynamic analysis of human-rated launch vehicles.</li> </ul>
59.	Fire rescue assistant drone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Developed by:</b> Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Dharwad.</li> </ul>
60.	International Year of Quantum Science and Technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Year:</b> 2025; declared by the United Nations.</li> <li><b>Resolution co-sponsored by</b> Ghana &amp; six other countries.</li> <li>Marks a <b>century</b> since Werner Heisenberg, a German theoretical physicist, published a foundational paper on quantum mechanics.</li> </ul>
61.	T Coronae Borealis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>"Blaze Star"</b> located 3000 light years from Earth.</li> <li>Visible to the naked eye for the first time since 1946.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Location:</b> Corona Borealis (Northern Crown).</li> </ul>
62.	<b>Thermal Infra-Red Imaging Satellite for High-resolution Natural Resource Assessment (TRISHNA) mission</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Initiative of:</b> ISRO &amp; French national space agency, National Centre for Space Studies (CNES).</li> <li>Addresses <b>critical water and food security challenges</b>, focusing on the <b>impacts of human-induced climate change and efficient water resource management</b> through evapotranspiration monitoring.</li> <li>To go live in 2025. Duration: Five years.</li> </ul>
63.	<b>UAV/UAS/Drone Acceleration and Networking (UDAAN) Programme</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Initiative of:</b> Startup Incubation and Innovation Centre (SIIC) at IIT Kanpur &amp; Centre of Excellence for Capacity Building, Training, and Design of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles at IIT Kanpur (Drone CoE Kanpur), an initiative by the Govt. of UP, and the Drone Federation of India (DFI).</li> <li><b>Objective:</b> to equip startups with the tools they need to thrive in the competitive drone landscape.</li> <li><b>20 startups</b> will be <b>selected annually</b> &amp; divided into <b>two cohorts</b>.</li> <li>Selected startups will be <b>incubated at SIIC, IIT Kanpur</b>.</li> <li><b>Fellowship:</b> Rs 3 lakh per annum for top six startups in each cohort.</li> </ul>
64.	<b>Thybolt satellite mission</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maiden mission of Dhruva Space, a Hyderabad-based space startup. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>First privately-owned Indian company to build a satellite by itself.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Included nanosatellites Thybolt-1 and Thybolt-2, both completed a total of 15,000 orbits before deorbiting.</li> <li>Launched onboard ISRO's PSLV-C54 in 2022.</li> </ul>
65.	<b>AI WisdomNext</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Industry-first Generative AI (gen AI) Aggregation Platform</b></li> <li>Launched by <b>Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)</b>.</li> </ul>
66.	<b>Sakura Science Programme 2024</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initiative of Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST).</li> <li><b>21 school students from six states</b> to participate in the programme in Japan.</li> <li><b>Aim:</b> to expand the intellectual horizon and scientific exploration among young learners.</li> <li><b>India first participated in 2016.</b></li> </ul>
67.	<b>Divya Drishti</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An advanced AI tool for personal identification.</li> <li>Combines facial recognition with immutable physiological parameters.</li> <li>Developed by <b>Ingenious Research Solutions Pvt Ltd.</b>, a start-up led by <b>Dr. Shivani Verma</b>.</li> <li>Developed under the <b>Technology Development Fund (TDF)</b> with guidance from the <b>Centre for Artificial Intelligence &amp; Robotics (CAIR)</b>, a DRDO laboratory in Bangalore.</li> <li>Developed following Dr. Shivani Verma's success in the <b>Dare to Dream Innovation contest 2.0</b>, organized by DRDO.</li> </ul>
68.	<b>Lab45 AI Platform</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Launched by <b>Wipro</b>.</li> <li>Utilizes Generative AI (GenAI), machine learning, and deep learning technologies</li> </ul>
69.	<b>Three craters on Mars</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discovered by scientists of <b>Physical Research Laboratory (PRL)</b> in Ahmedabad, a Unit of Department of Space.</li> <li>All three craters are situated in the Tharsis volcanic region.</li> <li>International Astronomical Union (IAU) approved the names suggested by the PRL scientists. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Lal crater:</b> Named after the renowned Indian geophysicist and former Director of PRL, Prof. Devendra Lal. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ <b>Largest of the three craters.</b></li> <li>✓ Entire area is covered with lava.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Mursan crater:</b> Named after a town in Uttar Pradesh.</li> <li>○ <b>Hilsa crater:</b> Named after a town in Bihar.</li> <li>● Discovery facilitated by <b>SHARAD (Mars Shallow RADar sounder)</b>, a subsurface sounding radar embarked on the Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter (MRO) probe.</li> </ul>
70.	Expansion of India's Space Sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>India's space startups</b> increased from 1 in 2022 to nearly 200 in 2024 (200% increase).</li> <li>● <b>India's share in the global space economy:</b> to 8% by 2030, and further to 15% by 2047.</li> <li>● India allows <b>100% FDI</b> in the space sector.</li> </ul>
71.	Critical and Emerging Technology (iCET) initiative	<p><b>Key announcements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● India &amp; US concluded Strategic Framework for Human Spaceflight Cooperation to deepen interoperability in space.</li> <li>● Advanced training for ISRO astronauts to commence at the NASA Johnson Space Centre.</li> <li>● NASA to train an Indian astronaut for ISS for the first time.</li> <li>● To launch NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) satellite. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ It will map the entire Earth's surface twice every 12 days.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>About Critical and Emerging Technology (iCET) initiative</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Announced in May 2022.</li> <li>● <b>Objective:</b> forge closer linkages between government, academia and industry of India and the USA in areas such as AI, quantum computing, 5G/6G, biotech, space and semiconductors.</li> </ul>
72.	Pushpak	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Reusable Launch Vehicle (<b>RLV</b>) of ISRO.</li> <li>● Achieved <b>third successful test</b> in RLV Landing Experiment series.</li> <li>● <b>Third &amp; final test (LEX03)</b> conducted at Chitradurga, Karnataka.</li> </ul> <p><b>About RLV LEX mission</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Led by <b>Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC)</b>.</li> <li>● <b>Mission Director:</b> J Muthupandian.</li> </ul>
73.	Space MAITRI (Mission for Australia-India's Technology, Research and Innovation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● NewSpace India Limited (NSIL) <b>Signs Deal to Launch Largest Ever Australian Satellite through ISRO's Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV)</b></li> <li>● <b>Collaboration Between:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro) – Will provide Rocket Launcher</li> <li>○ NewSpace India Limited (NSIL) – Commercial Arm of ISRO</li> <li>○ Space Machines Company, an Australian start-up – Developer of Satellite.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● SSLV will launch the 450-kg Australian satellite <b>Optimus</b> into <b>lower earth orbit (LEO)</b> in 2026, as part of a broader agreement to launch 3 Australian satellites funded by the Australian Government under its <b>International Space Investment India Projects (ISI India Projects)</b> program.</li> </ul>
74.	Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite (GOES-U)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Fourth and final satellite of GOES-R series.</b></li> <li>● Launched by <b>SpaceX</b> through <b>Falcon Heavy</b> rocket.</li> <li>● It will monitor weather conditions over North America, Central and South America, the Caribbean, the Atlantic Ocean, and the west coast of Africa.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Includes a coronagraph, Compact Coronagraph-1 (CCOR-1), for observing the Sun's corona.</li> <li>First satellite in its series to include such a coronagraph.</li> <li>Will be renamed GOES-19.</li> </ul> <p><b>About GOES Satellite Network</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initiative of NASA &amp; National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) program.</li> </ul>
75.	Orbit Connect India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A joint venture between Jio Platforms and Luxembourg-based SES.</li> <li>Authorized by the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe) to operate satellites over India.</li> </ul>
76.	Telecommunications Act, 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Partially implemented by the Government of India.</li> <li>Replaced the Indian Telegraph Act of 1885 and the Indian Wireless Telegraph Act of 1933.</li> <li><b>Four Pillars:</b> Samavesh (Inclusion), Suraksha (Security), Vriddhi (Growth), and Tvarit (Responsiveness).</li> <li>Aim: to modernize and streamline regulations in the face of rapid technological advancements in the sector.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Provisions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>SIM card ownership:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Individuals are allowed to register up to nine SIM cards per Aadhaar number.</li> <li>Residents of J&amp;K and other northeastern states can register up to six SIM cards per person.</li> <li><b>Penalties for violation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fine- Rs 50,000 for the first offense and Rs 2 lakh for subsequent offenses</li> <li>Obtaining a SIM card through fraudulent - fine of up to Rs 50 lakh and a three-year jail sentence.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Penalty for commercial message sent without customer consent-</b> up to Rs 2 lakh.</li> <li><b>Introduction of Digital Bharat Nidhi:</b> Replaced the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF), aims to expand telecom services to underserved areas. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It will now also support the development and deployment of telecom technologies.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Replaced the license regime with an authorization mechanism.</li> <li>The government can temporarily take over telecom networks during public emergencies, including natural disasters.</li> </ul>
77.	MAVEN (Mars Atmosphere and Volatile Evolution) orbiter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Launched by NASA in 2014</li> <li>Captured purple-coloured auroras on Mars recently.</li> </ul>
78.	"2023 Antibacterial agents in clinical and preclinical development: an overview and analysis" report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Released by the World Health Organization (WHO).</li> </ul> <p><b>Global Findings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The number of antibacterial agents in the clinical pipeline increased from 80 in 2021 to 97 in 2023.</li> <li>High-income countries account for 84% of the antibacterial agents in the pipeline.</li> </ul> <p><b>India Specific Findings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>India accounts for 4% of the antibacterial agents in clinical development globally.</li> <li>India contributed only 1% to the global antibacterial R&amp;D.</li> </ul>

79.	Aditya-L1 Mission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Completed its first halo orbit around the Sun-Earth Lagrange 1 (L1) point in 178 days</li> </ul> <p><b>About the Mission</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>India's first solar mission; launched on September 2, 2023.</li> <li>Initiative of ISRO.</li> <li><b>Key Objective:</b> Study of Solar upper atmospheric (chromosphere and corona) dynamics.</li> </ul>
80.	Human Spaceflight Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Launched by:</b> US based Space Exploration and Research Agency (SERA) in collaboration with Jeff Bezos owned Blue Origin.</li> <li><b>Partner Nation:</b> India.</li> <li><b>Purpose:</b> To democratize space access by enabling citizens from countries with few or no astronauts to participate in space exploration.</li> <li>To send <b>six citizen astronauts from across the world under a future mission of New Shepard, Blue Origin's reusable suborbital rocket.</b></li> <li><b>Journey Duration:</b> 11-minute journey past the Kármán line (100 km), the internationally recognized boundary of space.</li> </ul>
81.	Google Translate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Included 110 new languages.</li> <li>Largest expansion in the history of the translation tool.</li> <li>Now includes a total of 243 languages.</li> <li>AI model PaLM 2 large language model (LLM) used for expansion.</li> <li>Part of Google's 1,000-language initiative.</li> <li>Indian dialects Awadhi, Punjabi &amp; Marwadi are part of the expansion.</li> </ul> <p><b>About 1,000-language initiative</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Announced in 2022.</li> <li><b>Aim:</b> to develop AI models that can support the world's 1,000 most spoken languages</li> </ul>
82.	Advanced Land Observation Satellite (ALOS-4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Developed by:</b> Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) in collaboration with Mitsubishi Heavy Industries (MHI).</li> <li>An advanced earth observation satellite for disaster response, security, mapmaking &amp; monitoring military activity</li> <li>Launched using Japan's H3 rocket from Tanegashima Space Center.</li> </ul>
83.	Bharatiya Antarksh Hackathon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Launched by ISRO as part of National Space Day celebrations.</li> <li>Features 12 problem statements in areas such as Geospatial Domain, Space Science, Image Processing, and AI/ML.</li> <li>Open to undergraduate, postgraduate, and PhD students across India.</li> <li>30 teams to be shortlisted for grand finale at NRSC, Hyderabad.</li> </ul> <p><b>Additional Information</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>August 23 will be celebrated as 'National Space Day' every year to honor the success of the Chandrayaan-3 Mission, which achieved the landing of the Vikram lander and the deployment of the Pragyaan Rover on the moon on August 23, 2023.</li> </ul>

## ENVIRONMENT

S.No	News	Key Facts
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1.	Zimbabwe declares drought a national disaster	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Zimbabwe is the third country to declare drought a national disaster after Malawi and Zambia in southern Africa.</li> <li>Drought in this region is linked to El Nino weather phenomenon.</li> </ul>	<p><b>DID YOU KNOW?</b></p> <p>El Nino is a naturally occurring climatic phenomenon that warms parts of the Pacific Ocean every two to seven years</p>
2.	New species of garden balsam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Discovered at:</b> Agasthyamala biosphere reserve in Western Ghats, Thiruvananthapuram district, Kerala; <b>Name:</b> Impatiens neo-uncinata.</li> <li><b>Discovered by:</b> Professors from PSG College of Arts and Science, Coimbatore &amp; Government College, Kasaragod.</li> <li>Reported only from a single locality at an elevation ranging from 1,000 to 1,250 m.</li> </ul>	
3.	Clouded Tiger Cat ( <i>Leopardus pardinoide</i> )	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Discovered by:</b> Tiger Cats Conservation Initiative</li> <li><b>Discovered in:</b> Brazil.</li> <li>The species is roughly the size of a domestic housecat and features a distinctive spotted coat.</li> </ul>	
4.	Discovery of New Dinosaur Species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Name:</b> Chakaisaurus nekul, a medium-sized bipedal herbivore.</li> <li><b>Discovered at:</b> Pueblo Blanco Natural Reserve, Río Negro, Patagonia, Argentina.</li> <li><b>Discovered by:</b> Argentine paleontologists supported by the National Geographic Society.</li> <li>It belongs to late Cretaceous period, around 90 million years ago.</li> </ul>	
6.	Project Nilgiri Tahr	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>First mission of Tamil Nadu Government to save its state animal.</li> <li>Launched in 2022; Project Duration: 5 years.</li> <li>Aim: To understand the population of Nilgiri Tahr, their distribution areas, and behaviour.</li> </ul>	
7.	Deepest Blue Hole (Karst formation) on Earth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Location:</b> Taam Ja' Blue Hole in Chetumal Bay in Mexico.</li> <li><b>Depth:</b> 1,380 feet below the surface <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>End of the hole is yet to be discovered.</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Previous Record Holder:</b> Sansha Yongle Blue Hole (Dragon Hole), South China Sea with a depth of 990 feet.</li> </ul>	
8.	"Extreme" geomagnetic storm / Auroras spotted for the first time in Ladakh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The most intense solar storm in more than two decades.</li> <li>Categorized as G5, the strongest level of geomagnetic storm.</li> <li>Caused auroras (northern lights) in several parts of the world.</li> <li>Indian Astronomical Observatory captured it on camera in Ladakh's Hanle above Mount Saraswati.</li> </ul>	<p><b>DID YOU KNOW?</b></p> <p>Carrington Event of 1859 was the most intense geomagnetic storm in recorded history.</p>
9.	Batillipes chandrayaani	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discovered by researchers at the Cochin University of Science and Technology (Cusat) at Mandapam in Tamil Nadu.</li> <li>Third marine tardigrade species to have been scientifically described from the Indian waters and the second from the east coast; Named after Chandrayaan-3 Mission.</li> </ul>	
10.	Cyclone Storm 'Remal'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The first 2024 pre-monsoon cyclone in the Bay of Bengal. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Name given by Oman, 'Remal' means 'sand' in Arabic.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Originated in <b>Central Bay of Bengal</b>; <b>Maximum Speed</b>: 135 kmph</li> <li><b>Landfall</b>: between Sagar Island of South 24 Parganas, West Bengal and Khepupara, Bangladesh, near Mongla port, Bangladesh.</li> </ul>
		<b>Additional Information</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Name of the next cyclone in the North Indian Ocean Region: Asna (proposed by Pakistan).</li> </ul>
12.	Study titled "Water Credits: Impact-Adjusted Virtual Water Footprint"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initiative of Bisleri International &amp; TERI School of Advanced Studies.</li> <li>Aim: To establish a framework for water credits, akin to carbon credits, to promote sustainable water management.</li> </ul>
13.	Discovery of a new genus of diatoms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Name</b>: Indiconema.</li> <li>Discovered by researchers from the Agharkar Research Institute (ARI) in Pune.</li> <li>Discovered in the waters <b>of the Eastern and Western Ghats</b></li> </ul>
14.	Institute for Eastern Himalayan Natural Resource Conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To be setup by the Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) in collaboration with the government of Assam in Guwahati.</li> </ul>
15.	Iberian Lynx	<p><b>Additional Information</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>TERI &amp; Union Ministry of Power to setup Institute for Energy Transition at TERI Campus in Hyderabad.</li> </ul> <p><b>About IUCN Red list</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Established in <b>1964</b>.</li> <li>Assesses the global conservation status of species, providing essential data for conservation planning.</li> </ul>
17.	GAIL's Net Zero Emissions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advanced its <b>Net Zero target</b> for Scope-1 and Scope-2 emissions by <b>five years</b> to <b>2035</b>.</li> <li>Aligned with India's target of net zero carbon emissions by <b>2070</b>.</li> </ul>
18.	New horned frog species ( <i>Xenophrys apatani</i> ).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discovered at <b>Tale Wildlife Sanctuary</b> in Arunachal Pradesh.</li> <li>Named after <b>Apatani</b> tribes of Arunachal Pradesh.</li> <li>Discovered by researchers from the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) in Shillong, Pune &amp; Itanagar.</li> </ul>

## SPORTS

S.No	Sports Event and Venue	Key Facts
1.	56th National Kho Kho championships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maharashtra emerged champions in both men's and women's categories by defeating Railways and Airports Authority of India respectively.</li> </ul>
2.	Monte-Carlo Masters Tennis Tournament <b>Venue:</b> Roquebrune-Cap-Martin, France	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sumit Nagal achieved a historic victory at the event by winning his first-round match against Italy's Matteo Arnaldi.</li> <li>He became the first Indian in 42 years to qualify for the singles main draw of the Monte-Carlo Masters.</li> <li>He is also the first Indian to win an ATP Masters 1000 match on clay since 1990.</li> <li>He became only the third Indian, after Vijay Amritraj and Ramesh Krishnan, to feature in the main draw of the Monte Carlo Masters.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Singles:</b> Stefanos Tsitsipas (Greece) won the title for the third time by defeating Casper Ruud (Norway).</li> <li><b>Doubles:</b> Sander Gillé &amp; Joran Vliegen (Belgium) won the title by defeating Marcelo Melo (Brazil) &amp; Alexander Zverev (Germany).</li> </ul>		
3.	Acquisition of Dorna Sports by Liberty Media	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Liberty Media</b>, the owner of Formula One, has agreed to acquire a majority stake (approximately 86%) in Dorna Sports, the exclusive commercial rights holder of the MotoGP World Championship.</li> </ul>		
4.	<p>Candidates Chess Tournament Venue: Toronto, Canada</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>D Gukesh, a 17-year-old Grandmaster from India, made history by becoming the youngest ever challenger for the World Chess Championship.</li> <li>He won a cash award of 88,500 Euros (approx Rs 78.5 lakh). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Total Prize fund of the tournament: 5,00,000 Euros.</li> </ul> </li> <li>He surpassed the record set four decades ago by <b>Gary Kasparov</b> at the age of 22.</li> <li>He won the tournament &amp; drew his final round game against American Grandmaster Hikaru Nakamura.</li> <li>He is the second Indian to win this prestigious event, following Viswanathan Anand.</li> <li>He had previously become the third-youngest Grandmaster in chess history at the age of 12 and won a silver medal at the Hangzhou Asian Games.</li> </ul>		
5.	Limbo Skating	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Takshvi Vaghani, a 6-year-old from Ahmedabad, Gujarat, achieved a new world record in lowest limbo skating over a 25-meter stretch.</li> <li>She maintained a height of just 16 centimeters above the ground. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>She surpassed the previous record set by Manasvi Vishal.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		
6.	<p>Ramona Throws Festival Venue: Ramona, Oklahoma, USA</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mykolas Alekna (Lithuania) set a new men's world record in discus throw with a distance of 74.35 meters. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>He surpassed the previous record of 74.08 meters set by Jurgen Schult (Germany) in 1986.</li> <li>In the same event, Yaimé Perez (Cuba), achieved the longest women's discus throw of 73.09 meters since 1989.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Additional Information</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 2023, Mykolas became the youngest male discus thrower to cross the 70-metre mark, hitting 71.00m.</li> </ul>		
7.	<p>Asian Athletics Championships 2023 Venue: Bangkok, Thailand</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aishwarya Mishra's original bronze in women's 400m (53.07 seconds) is upgraded to silver.</li> <li>Farida Soliyeva (Uzbekistan), the silver medalist, was disqualified after testing positive for the banned substance meldonium.</li> <li>Nadeesha Ramanayake (Sri Lanka) won the gold medal.</li> </ul>		
8.	<p>Women Candidates Chess Tournament Venue: Toronto</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Zhongyi Tan of China finished first.</li> <li>Koneru Humpy of India and Tingjie Lei of China finished second and third respectively, with R Vaishali of India also sharing the second spot based on tiebreak criteria.</li> </ul>		
9.	<p>18th edition of Archery World Cup Stage I Venue: Shanghai, China</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Winner:</b> India topped with 8 medals overall, including 5 Gold, 2 Silver, and 1 Bronze. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>India's highest medal tally at any single edition of an archery World Cup.</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Runner Up:</b> South Korea with 7 medals and Spain with 2 medals respectively. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>South Korea has not topped the medal tally for the first time.</li> </ul> </li> <li>India won first World Cup men's recurve team gold after 14 years.</li> <li><b>Indian Gold Medal Winners</b></li> </ul> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: center;">Archer</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Event</th> </tr> </thead> </table>	Archer	Event
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		<table border="1"> <tr><td>Jyothi Surekha Vennam</td><td>Women's Compound Individual</td></tr> <tr><td>Jyothi Surekha Vennam, Aditi Gopichand Swami, Parneet Kaur</td><td>Women's Compound Team</td></tr> <tr><td>Abhishek Verma, Priyansh, Prathamesh Bhalachandra Fuge</td><td>Men's Compound Team</td></tr> <tr><td>Tarundeep Rai, Dhiraj Bommadevara, Pravin Ramesh Jadhav</td><td>Men's Recurve Team</td></tr> <tr><td>Jyothi Surekha Vennam and Abhishek Verma</td><td>Mixed Compound Team</td></tr> </table>	Jyothi Surekha Vennam	Women's Compound Individual	Jyothi Surekha Vennam, Aditi Gopichand Swami, Parneet Kaur	Women's Compound Team	Abhishek Verma, Priyansh, Prathamesh Bhalachandra Fuge	Men's Compound Team	Tarundeep Rai, Dhiraj Bommadevara, Pravin Ramesh Jadhav	Men's Recurve Team	Jyothi Surekha Vennam and Abhishek Verma	Mixed Compound Team
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10.	<b>ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024</b> <b>Venue:</b> United States of America and West Indies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Brand Ambassadors:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Yuvraj Singh</b>, Former Indian cricketer.</li> <li><b>Chris Gayle</b>, West Indies cricketer.</li> <li><b>Usain Bolt</b>, Jamaican sprint legend &amp; eight-time Olympic Gold Medallist.</li> <li><b>Shahid Afridi</b>, Former Pakistan cricketer.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>										
11.	<b>BWF World Junior Badminton Championships 2025</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To be held at India for the first time since 2008 at the National Centre of Excellence in Guwahati, Assam.</li> <li>India last hosted the event in Pune, Maharashtra.</li> </ul>										
12.	<b>Indian Super League (ISL) 2023-24 (10<sup>th</sup> edition)</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Cup Winner:</b> Mumbai City FC (MCFC) (second ISL title).</li> <li><b>Runner-up:</b> Mohun Bagan Super Giant (MBSG); <b>Scoreline:</b> 3-1.</li> <li><b>Finals Venue:</b> Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan (Salt Lake Stadium), Kolkata.</li> <li><b>Prize:</b> Rs 6 crore for winner &amp; Rs 3 crore for runner-up.</li> </ul> <p><b>ISL Awards</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>League Winner:</b> MBSG (topped the league table).</li> <li><b>Golden Ball &amp; Player of the league-</b> Dimitrios Petratos (MBSG)</li> <li><b>Golden Boot-</b> Dimtrios Diamantakos (Kerala Blasters FC)</li> <li><b>Golden Glove-</b> Phurba Lachenpa (MCFC)</li> <li><b>Emerging Player of the League-</b> Vikram Partap Singh (MCFC)</li> <li><b>Grassroots Award-</b> FC Goa</li> </ul>										
13.	<b>Badminton World Federation (BWF ) Thomas &amp; Uber Cup 2024</b> <b>Venue:</b> Chengdu, China	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>China defeated Indonesia in the finals.</li> <li>China won both the men's and women's titles first time since 2012.</li> <li><b>Thomas Cup (Men's title):</b> China secured 11th title. (Score: 3-1)</li> <li><b>Uber Cup (Women's title):</b> China clinched 16th title. (Score: 3-0)</li> </ul>										
14.	<b>SEC Outdoor Track &amp; Field Championships 2024, Louisiana, US</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parvez Khan won the men's 1500m title with a time of 3:42.73s. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>He became the first Florida Gator to win the 1500m at the event in 41 years since Todd Sinclair in 1983.</li> </ul> </li> <li>He also won bronze medal in the 800m, while Sam Whitmarsh &amp; Anass Essayi came first and second respectively.</li> <li>Parvez Khan hails from Chahalka village in Nuh district of Haryana.</li> </ul>										
15.	<b>Federation Cup 2024 Athletics meet</b> <b>Venue:</b> Kalinga Stadium, Bhubaneswar, Odisha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Javelin Throw Winners:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Gold:</b> Neeraj Chopra - 82.27m.</li> <li><b>Silver:</b> DP Manu - 82.06m.</li> <li><b>Bronze:</b> Uttam Balasaheb Patil - 78.39m.</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Neeraj Chopra's first competition On Indian soil in three years</b></li> </ul> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p style="color: orange; font-weight: bold;">DID YOU KNOW?</p> <p>Neeraj Chopra is the first Indian track and field athlete to win a gold medal at the Olympic Games.</p> </div>										

16.	2026 Winter Olympics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hosts Milan and Cortina d'Ampezzo, based in Italy.</li> <li>Italy to host Olympics for the fourth time.</li> <li>Italian candidature beat Sweden's Stockholm-Are in the host city election</li> <li>2026 Winter Paralympics will also be hosted at Italy.</li> </ul>
17.	Big Cricket League (BCL)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Launched by cricket legends Courtney Walsh, Dilip Vengsarkar, and Rudra Pratap Singh.</li> <li>A franchise based T20 event featuring local cricketers and former international players.</li> <li>6 Franchises: Awadh Lions, Mumbai Marines, Rajasthan Kings, Southern Spartans, Bengal Rhinos, and Northern Challengers.</li> </ul>
18.	Asian U20 Athletics Championships 2024  Venue: Dubai	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>China topped the medal tally (27 medals including 15 gold), followed by Japan.</li> <li>India finished third with 29 medals (7 golds, 11 silvers, and 11 bronzes).</li> </ul>
19.	Doha Diamond League 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Javelin Throw top three. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gold: Jakub Vadlejch (Czech Republic) - 88.38m</li> <li>Silver: Neeraj Chopra (India) - 88.36m</li> <li>Bronze: Anderson Peters (Grenada) - 86.62m.</li> <li>India's Kishore Jena finished 9th.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
20.	Sultan Azlan Shah Cup (Hockey)  Venue: Malaysia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Japan defeated Pakistan in a penalty shootout by 4-1.</li> <li>Japan won the title for the first time.</li> <li>Pakistan qualified for the final for the first time in 13 years.</li> </ul>
21.	Superbet Rapid and Blitz Poland 2024 (Chess)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Magnus Carlsen, World No. 1, won the event by defeating all nine players in a row.</li> <li>Chinese grandmaster Wei Yi came second.</li> <li>India's Praggnanandhaa, Arjun Erigaisi &amp; D Gukesh finished fourth, fifth &amp; tenth respectively.</li> </ul>
22.	FIFA Women's World Cup 2027 (tenth edition)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Host: Brazil (first South American country to host the tournament).</li> <li>Brazil beat the joint bid of Belgium, Netherlands, and Germany.</li> </ul>
23.	Women's Asian Cup	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Host of 2026 edition: Australia (to host for 2<sup>nd</sup> time). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Australia previously co-hosted the 2023 Women's World Cup with New Zealand.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Host of 2029 edition: Uzbekistan. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>First Central Asian nation to organize the tournament.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
24.	Thailand Open 2024 (Badminton)  Venue: Bangkok	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Winner (Men's Doubles): Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty (India) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Runner-up: Chen Bo Yang and Liu Yi (China).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
25.	Asian Relay Championships (1 <sup>st</sup> edition)  Venue: Bangkok, Thailand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>India's mixed 4x400m relay team won the gold medal</li> <li>Runners-up: Sri Lanka (2<sup>nd</sup>) &amp; Vietnam (3rd).</li> <li>Team Members: Muhammed Ajmal, Jyothika Sri Dandi, Amoj Jacob, and Subha Venkatesan.</li> <li>New National Record: Indian team clocked 3 minutes 14.12 seconds, surpassing the previous national record of 3:14.34 set at the Hangzhou Asian Games 2023.</li> </ul>
26.	World Para Athletics Championship 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hosted in East Asia for the first time</li> <li>Sachin Sarjerao Khilari (Maharashtra) defended his gold medal in the men's shot put F46 category. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>He set a new Asian record with a throw of 16.30 meters.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	Venue: Kobe, Japan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sumit Antil (Haryana) set a new championship record of 69.50 meters in the F64 javelin throw.</li> <li>India surpassed its best-ever medal tally (of 2023 Paris edition) with 11 medals (5 gold, 4 silver, and 2 bronze).</li> </ul> <p><b>About the Championship</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A Biennial event, established by the International Paralympic Committee.</li> <li>1<sup>st</sup> Championships was held in Berlin, Germany in 1994.</li> </ul>									
27.	IPL 2024  Finals Venue: MA Chidambaram Stadium, Chennai.  	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Winner Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) (third IPL title), won by 8 wickets.</li> <li>Runner-up: Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SRH registered the lowest total ever in an IPL final (113 runs).</li> <li>KKR registered fastest chase in IPL final with as many as 57 balls to spare.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Player of the match (Finals): Mitchell Starc (KKR).</li> </ul> <p><b>IPL Awards 2024</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Orange Cap: Virat Kohli of RCB (741 runs). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Only Indian player to win Orange Cap twice.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Purple Cap: Harshal Patel of Punjab Kings (24 wickets).</li> <li>Most Valuable Player: Sunil Narine (KKR). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>first player to win this award thrice in IPL.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Emerging Player of the season: Nitish Kumar Reddy (SRH).</li> <li>Ultimate Fantasy Player of the season: Sunil Narine</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Milestones</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Highest team score in IPL: SRH's 287 against RCB (2024).</li> <li>Records broken during a PBKS vs KKR match <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Punjab Kings chased a target of 262 set by KKR, highest chase in T20 history. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Broke South Africa's record against West Indies (258-run score).</li> </ul> </li> <li>Five half-centuries scored at a strike rate of 200 or more, a first in men's T20 cricket.</li> <li>Most sixes hit in any T20 match ever (42 sixes).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>									
28.	Asian Senior Championships  Venue: Tashkent, Uzbekistan  	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dipa Karmakar - first Indian gymnast to win a gold medal in the women's vault event. (score- 13.566). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Silver &amp; bronze won by Kim Son Hyang &amp; Jo Kyong Byol respectively, both from North Korea.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>									
29.	LaLiga 2023-24 Season (Spain's premier football competition)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Winner: Real Madrid (36th LaLiga title); 2<sup>nd</sup> places: Barcelona.</li> <li>3<sup>rd</sup> place: Girona (highest-ever finish in LaLiga). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Qualified for the Champions League for the first time.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>									
30.	Archery World Cup 2024, Stage 2  Venue: Yecheon, South Korea	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Category</th> <th>Gold</th> <th>Silver</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Women's compound team</td> <td>India (Aditi Swami, Jyothi Surekha Vennam, Parneet Kaur) (3<sup>rd</sup> successive Gold Medal)</td> <td>Turkiye</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mixed Team</td> <td>USA</td> <td>India (Jyothi Surekha Vennam and Priyansh)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><b>Additional Information</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>India's only archery quota for Paris 2024- Dhiraj Bommadevara.</li> </ul>	Category	Gold	Silver	Women's compound team	India (Aditi Swami, Jyothi Surekha Vennam, Parneet Kaur) (3 <sup>rd</sup> successive Gold Medal)	Turkiye	Mixed Team	USA	India (Jyothi Surekha Vennam and Priyansh)
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31.	<b>Asian Championship 2024</b> <b>Venue:</b> Tashkent, Uzbekistan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• India secured a total of <b>seven medals</b>: one gold and six bronze in arm wrestling.</li> <li>• <b>Gold Medallist:</b> Shrimant Jha (left-hand para category).           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ He also won a bronze in the right-hand para category.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
51.	<b>ICC T20 World Cup 2024</b> (ninth edition) <b>Venue:</b> West Indies and USA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Total prize announced by ICC: USD 11.25 million (highest in the tournament's history.)</li> <li>• The <b>biggest ever T20 World Cup</b> with participation from 20 teams.</li> <li>• USA hosting the event for the <b>first time</b>.</li> <li>• <b>Debut Teams:</b> USA, Canada, Papua New Guinea and Uganda.</li> <li>• <b>Winner:</b> India (2<sup>nd</sup> title); <b>Runner-up:</b> South Africa           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ India scored 176 runs, highest ever in T20 World Cup final.</li> <li>◦ India won by seven runs.</li> <li>◦ First team to win T20 World Cup with unbeaten record.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Venue of the Finals:</b> Kensington Oval, Bridgetown, Barbados.</li> <li>• <b>Player of the Finals:</b> Virat Kohli.           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Scored 76 runs, the <b>highest individual score</b> in a T20 World Cup final for the tournament.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Player of the Series:</b> Jasprit Bumrah.</li> <li>• <b>BCCI prize for Indian Team:</b> Rs 125 crore.</li> </ul> <p>Multiple records by Rohit Sharma in a T20 World Cup 2024 Super Eight match against Australia.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First batter globally to hit 200 career sixes in T20Is</li> <li>• Most runs in T20Is, surpassed Babar Azam.</li> <li>• Highest Score by an Indian Captain in T20 World Cup, surpassed Virat Kohli.</li> <li>• Most Sixes by an Indian in an Innings in T20 World Cup, broke Yuvraj Singh's record.</li> <li>• Third-Fastest Fifty by an Indian in T20 World Cup, after Yuvraj Singh &amp; KL Rahul.</li> <li>• Second-Most Sixes in T20 World Cup, second only to Chris Gayle.</li> <li>• Most Sixes Against an Opposition in International Cricket</li> <li>• Most Sixes as Opener in International Cricket.</li> <li>• Second-Highest Score by Indian in T20 World Cup, after Suresh Raina.</li> <li>• Fourth Indian to Register 19,000-Plus International Runs after Sachin Tendulkar, Virat Kohli, and Rahul Dravid.</li> </ul> <p><b>Additional Information</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rishabh Pant- First Indian batter to get out on a 'no score' in a T20 World Cup final.</li> <li>• Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli, and Ravindra Jadeja announced their retirement from T20 International cricket.</li> </ul>
52.	<b>UEFA Champions League</b> 2023/24 (Football)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Winner:</b> Real Madrid (15<sup>th</sup> title, Spain)</li> <li>• <b>Runner-up:</b> Borussia Dortmund (Germany); <b>Scoreline:</b> 2-0</li> <li>• Finals held at <b>Wembley stadium, England</b>.</li> </ul>
53.	<b>Taiwan Athletics Open 2024</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>India won seven medals</b> (three golds, three silvers, and one bronze).</li> <li>• <b>Women's Long Jump:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Gold: Nayana James (6.43m, Kerala)</li> <li>◦ Silver: Sumire Hata (6.37m, Japan, reigning Asian champion).</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Men's 800m:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Gold: Ankesh Chaudhary; Silver: Somnath Chauhan.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Men's Javelin Throw:</b> Gold- DP Manu.</li> </ul>

### DID YOU KNOW?

India won their first T20 world cup in 2007 (inaugural edition) against Pakistan.

54.	Bonn International Badminton Tournament  Venue: Germany	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Winner:</b> Tanvi Sharma (India, her first senior title).</li> <li><b>Runner-up:</b> Wang Pei Yu (Taiwan)</li> </ul>
55.	Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC) Louisville 2024  	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Winner:</b> Puja Tomar (first Indian to win a fight in UFC, also her debut fight in UFC); <b>Runner-up:</b> Rayanne dos Santos (Brazil).</li> <li>Puja Tomar is a Mixed martial arts athlete from Muzaffarnagar, UP.</li> <li>She was the first Indian woman to secure a UFC contract.</li> </ul>
56.	2025 FIH Hockey Men's Junior World Cup  	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Host:</b> India.</li> <li>As many as 24 teams to be included for the first time.</li> <li>Announced by International Hockey Federation (FIH), Lausanne, Switzerland.</li> <li>India previously hosted three times - 2013 (New Delhi), 2016 (Lucknow), and 2021 (Bhubaneswar).</li> <li>2023 edition held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.</li> </ul>
57.	French Open (Tennis)  Venue: Stade Roland Garros, Paris  	<p><b>Men's Singles</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Winner:</b> Carlos Alcaraz (Spain) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>His maiden French Open Title.</li> <li>Youngest man in the Open Era to win titles on all three surfaces: clay, grass, and acrylic. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Earlier won US Open 2022 and Wimbledon 2023.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Runner-up:</b> Alexander Zverev (Germany)</li> </ul> <p><b>Women's Singles</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Winner:</b> Iga Swiatek (Poland) (World No. 1). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The first woman since Justine Henin (2005-2007) to win three consecutive French Open titles.</li> <li>Fourth French Open title in five years &amp; fifth grand slam title.</li> <li>Achieved the Madrid-Rome-Paris triple, becoming the first woman since Serena Williams in 2013 to win all three major clay court events in the same year.</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Runner-Up:</b> Jasmine Paolini (Italy), (her first Grand Slam final).</li> </ul>
58.	Norway Chess 2024  Venue: Stavanger	<p><b>Open Section:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Winner:</b> Magnus Carlsen; <b>Runner-up:</b> Hikaru Nakamura</li> <li><b>Third place:</b> R. Praggnanandhaa.</li> </ul> <p><b>Women Section (Introduced for the first time)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Winner:</b> Ju Wenjun (China); <b>Runner-up:</b> Anna Muzychuk (Ukraine).</li> </ul> <p><b>Highlight</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>During the tournament, Praggnanandhaa defeated both world number one Magnus Carlsen and world number two Fabiano Caruana in classical chess for the first time in his career.</li> </ul>
59.	ISSF World Cup 2024  Venue: Munich, Germany	<p><b>Medal Tally</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>First Place:</b> China; <b>Second Place:</b> Norway.</li> <li><b>Third Place:</b> India (one gold and one bronze) &amp; France.</li> </ul> <p><b>Indian Medallists</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Gold:</b> Sarabjot Singh, men's 10m air pistol event. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Second consecutive medal in the same event.</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Bronze:</b> Sift Kaur Samra, women's 50m rifle 3 positions event.</li> </ul>
60.	World Para Athlete Grand Prix	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Saurabh Sharma won two gold medals in the 155 metre and 5000 metre races in the T12 category</li> <li>Hails from Hamirpur district, Himachal Pradesh.</li> </ul>

	<b>Venue:</b> Nottwil city, Switzerland	
61.	<b>Heilbronn Neckarcup 2024 (Tennis).</b>  <b>Venue:</b> Germany	<b>Men's Singles</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Winner:</b> Sumit Nagal (India), (his sixth ATP Challenger tennis title).</li> <li><b>Runner-up:</b> Alexander Ritschard (Switzerland).</li> </ul>
62.	<b>MotoGP Bharat</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Host for 2025 to 2029 edition:</b> Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh.</li> <li><b>Tripartite Agreement:</b> Signed between <b>Uttar Pradesh government, Dorna Sports</b> and its Indian partner, <b>Fairstreet Sports</b>.</li> </ul>
63.	<b>International Equestrian Federation (FEI) Dressage World Cup</b>  <b>Venue:</b> Lipica, Slovenia  	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shruti Vora became the first Indian to win a three-star Grand Prix (CDI-3) in any equestrian event; Scored 67.761 points.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Earned her the first Minimum Eligibility Requirement (MER) point for the 2024 Paris Olympics.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Finished ahead of Moldova's Tatiana Antonenco and Austria's Julianne Jerich.</li> </ul>
64.	<b>2024 FIDE U-20 World Chess Championship</b>  <b>Venue:</b> Gandhinagar, Gujarat	<b>Women's Section</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Winner:</b> Divya Deshmukh ( Maiden U-20 title).             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Defeated Bulgarian Grand Master Beloslava Krasteva.</li> <li><b>Fourth Indian</b> to win this title after <b>Konneru Humpy, Dronavalli Harik and Soumya Swaminathan</b>.</li> <li>Youngest player to get a spot in world top-20 women chess rankings.</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Runner-up:</b> Mariam Mkrtchyan (Armenia).</li> </ul> <b>Open Section</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Winner:</b> Kazybek Nogerbek (Kazakhstan)</li> <li><b>Runner-up:</b> Emin Ohanyan (Armenia).</li> </ul>
65.	<b>Paavo Nurmi Games 2024</b>  <b>Venue:</b> Turku, Finland	<b>Men's Javelin Throw</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Winner:</b> Neeraj Chopra (India, 85.97m), <b>Runner Up:</b> Toni Keranen (Finland).</li> </ul> <b>Additional Information</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Neeraj Chopra's personal best 89.94m is the Indian men's national record in Javelin throw.</li> <li>He is the reigning world and Olympic champion in Javelin throw.</li> </ul>
66.	<b>Stepan Avagyan Memorial (Chess)</b>  <b>Venue:</b> Jermuk, Armenia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Winner:</b> Arjun Erigaisi (India's highest-rated chess player).</li> </ul>
67.	<b>Tuffman Shimla Ultra Marathon</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sufiya won the women's section and finished sixth overall.</li> <li>She set a new course record, completing the 80km race in 10 hours and 46 minutes.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Surpassed the previous record of 12 hours and 7 minutes.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
68.	<b>WTT Contender Lagos 2024 (Table Tennis)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Women's Singles:</b> Sreeja Akula (India) won against Yijie Ding (China) (4-1).             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>First Indian table tennis player to win a WTT Contender singles title.</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Women's Doubles:</b> Sreeja Akula and Archana Kamath (India) won against Yashaswini Ghorpade and Diya Chitale (India)</li> <li><b>Men's Doubles Title:</b> Harmeet Desai and Manav Thakkar (India) won against Olajide Omotayo and Azeez Solanke (Nigeria).</li> </ul>

69.	<b>Archery World Cup 2024 stage 3</b> <b>Venue:</b> Antalya, Turkiye	<b>Women's compound team</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>India (Jyothi Surekha Vennam, Aditi Swami, and Parneet Kaur) won gold by defeating Estonia.           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Third consecutive gold medal of the trio in the 2024 series.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <b>Men's individual compound event</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Silver: Priyansh (India).</li> </ul> <b>Recurve mixed team</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bronze: Dhiraj Bommadevara and Bhajan Kaur (India).</li> </ul>
70.	<b>New logo of Athletics Federation of India (AFI)</b>	<b>About AFI</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Apex body for running and managing athletics in India</li> <li>Establishment: 1946; Headquarters: New Delhi.</li> </ul> 
71.	<b>43rd World Medical and Health Games</b> <b>Venue:</b> Saint-Tropez, France	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Four Armed Forces Medical Service (AFMS) Officers clinched a record 32 medals.           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lt Col Sanjeev Malik (Five Gold Medals)</li> <li>Maj Anish George(Four Gold, Six Silver, and Two Bronze Medals ),</li> <li>Capt Stephen Sebastian (Six Gold Medals)</li> <li>Capt Dania James (Four Gold, Three Silver, and Two Bronze Medals).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
72.	<b>Hockey India sponsorship</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Odisha Government extended Hockey India sponsorship by three years till 2036 (centenary year of Odisha's statehood).</li> </ul>
76.	<b>Paris Olympics 2024</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chef-de-Mission for India: Gagan Narang (former shooter).           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mary Kom (boxer) resigned citing personal reasons.</li> <li>Gagan Narang was former deputy Chef-de-mission.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Flag bearers for opening ceremony: PV Sindhu (Badminton) &amp; Sharath Kamal (Table Tennis).</li> <li>Second successive Summer Games with two flag-bearers for India.</li> <li>India will field its largest-ever shooting contingent with 21 qualifiers.</li> </ul> <p><b>Additional Information</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 2020, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) updated its protocol to permit one female and one male athlete to jointly bear the flag during the Olympic Games' opening ceremony.</li> <li>At Tokyo 2020, Mary Kom and Manpreet Singh were India's flag-bearers.</li> </ul> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px;"> <p style="color: red; font-weight: bold;">DID YOU KNOW?</p> <p><b>Gagan Narang-</b> Four-time Olympian and 2012 men's 10m Air Rifle bronze medalist.  <b>Mary Kom-</b> 2012 London Olympics bronze-medalist.  <b>P V Sindhu-</b> first Indian woman to win two Olympic medals. won silver (Rio 2016) &amp; bronze in (Tokyo 2020).</p> </div>
77.	<b>Leon Masters Chess Tournament</b> <b>Venue:</b> Spain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Viswanathan Anand won the title for the 10<sup>th</sup> time.           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>First won the title in 1996.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Defeated Spaniard Jaime Santos Latasa 3-1 in the finals.</li> </ul>
78.	<b>Bilateral International Deaf Cricket Series</b> <b>Venue:</b> England	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Indian Deaf Cricket Team won against England with a 5-2 win in the T20 matches.</li> </ul>

# AWARDS

S.No	Award/Milestone	Key Facts
1.	SKOCH ESG Award 2024 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Awarded to:</b> REC Limited (Renewable Energy Financing Category).</li> </ul> <p><b>About SKOCH ESG Award</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Awarded by:</b> SKOCH Group</li> <li><b>Purpose:</b> recognize organizations that demonstrate outstanding performance in Environmental, Social, and Governance (<b>ESG</b>) practices.</li> <li>It serves as important benchmark for <b>evaluating organizations' commitment to India 2047</b>.</li> </ul>
2.	Young Global Leaders Community: The Class of 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It consists of 90 individuals who have demonstrated exceptional leadership in their fields and a commitment to making a positive impact in society.</li> <li><b>Five Indians</b> have been included in this year's cohort. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Priya Agarwal Hebbal, Chairperson, Hindustan Zinc Ltd. &amp; Non-Executive Director, Vedanta Ltd.</li> <li>Bhumi Pednekar, Actor</li> <li>Adwita Nayar, CEO of Nykaa Fashion</li> <li>Arjun Bhartia, Director at Jubilant Group</li> <li>Sharad Vivek Sagar, Founder and CEO of Dexterity Global.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>About Young Global Leaders Community: The Class of 2024</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Initiative of:</b> World Economic Forum; <b>Started in 2004</b>.</li> <li><b>Aim:</b> to acknowledge and bring together diverse changemakers under 40 years old from various sectors who are shaping the future and accelerating positive change globally.</li> </ul>
3.	2024 John Dirks Canada Gairdner Global Health Award 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Awarded to:</b> Dr Gagandeep Kang, Director, Enteric, Diagnostics, Genomics and Epidemiology, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>She is the <b>first Indian woman to receive this award</b>.</li> <li>She was the <b>first Indian woman to be elected Fellow of the Royal Society</b>.</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Awarded for:</b> her work focused on enteric diseases in children, particularly childhood diarrhoea disease in India and throughout the world.</li> <li><b>Awarded by:</b> The Gairdner Foundation, Canada.</li> </ul> 
4.	US President's Gold Volunteer Service Award	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Awarded to:</b> Acharya Lokesh Muni, a Jain spiritual leader and founder of Ahimsa Vishwa Bharati and World Peace Center in India.</li> <li>He is the <b>first Indian monk to be honored with this award</b>.</li> <li>Recognized for over 500 hours of service, to the public good and his dedication to humanitarian efforts and promoting peace.</li> </ul> <p><b>About US President's Volunteer Service Award</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Purpose:</b> to honor volunteers that give hundreds of hours per year helping others through the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation.</li> </ul>
5.	Turing Award 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Awarded to:</b> Avi Wigderson, an Israeli mathematician.</li> <li><b>Awarded for:</b> groundbreaking contributions to theoretical computer science, particularly in the area of randomness in algorithms.</li> <li>Avi Wigderson is also a <b>recipient of the 2021 Abel Prize</b>.</li> <li>He is the <b>first to win both a Turing Award and an Abel Prize</b>.</li> </ul> <p><b>About the Award</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Awarded annually by the Association for Computing Machinery</b>.</li> <li>Referred to as the "<b>Nobel Prize of computing</b>".</li> </ul> 

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Named after Alan Turing, a pioneer in computer science.</li> <li>Prize Amount: USD 1 million.</li> </ul>
6.	<b>2024 John L. 'Jack' Swigert Jr. Award for Space Exploration</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Annually Given By:</b> Space Foundation.</li> <li><b>Given To:</b> Chandrayaan-3 mission team of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).</li> </ul> <p><b>About the Award</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Named after astronaut John L. "Jack" Swigert Jr., who was part of the Apollo 13 lunar mission by NASA.</li> <li><b>Purpose:</b> recognize extraordinary accomplishments by a company, space agency, or consortium of organizations in the realm of space exploration and discovery</li> </ul>
7.	<b>South Asian Person of the Year</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Awarded to:</b> Avantika Vandanapu, an Indian-American actor known for her roles in "Mean Girls".<b>Awarded by:</b> Harvard University.</li> <li>Recognized for her significant contributions to both the international and Indian entertainment industries.</li> <li>She hails from <b>Hyderabad, Telangana</b>.</li> </ul> 
8.	<b>Freedom Prize of the Media</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Given To:</b> Yulia Navalnaya and posthumously to her husband, Alexei Navalny, for their brave and non-violent struggle against a brutal dictatorship in Russia.</li> </ul> <p><b>About the Award</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presented annually at <b>Ludwig Erhard Summit</b>, a gathering named after the former German Chancellor.</li> <li>Award is <b>aimed at acknowledging significant contributions to the fight for freedom and democracy, particularly through media</b>.</li> </ul>
9.	<b>World Literary Prize</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Awarded to:</b> Mamta G. Sagar, a Bengaluru-based poet, playwright and academic.</li> <li><b>Awarded by:</b> World Organization of Writers (WOW).</li> <li><b>Awarded at:</b> first Congress of WOW at Abuja, Nigeria.</li> <li><b>Purpose:</b> recognized her contributions to literature, particularly in the Kannada language, and involvement in transdisciplinary creative writing and cultural industries.</li> <li><b>Notable Work:</b> 'Kaada Navilina Hejje'</li> </ul> 
10.	<b>Mangeshkar awards</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Awardees</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Lata Dinanath Mangeshkar award:</b> Amitabh Bachchan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ He is the third person to receive this award after Narendra Modi and Asha Bhonsle.</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Master Deenanath Mangeshkar award</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Music director AR Rahman and Marathi actor Ashok Saraf for music</li> <li>✓ Padmini Kolhapure for films</li> <li>✓ Singer Roopkumar Rathod for Indian music</li> <li>✓ Actor Atul Parchure for Marathi theatre</li> <li>✓ retired teacher and author Manjiri Phadke for literature.</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Special Award-</b> Actor Randeep Hooda for contribution to cinema</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>About the Award</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Instituted by:</b> Deenanath Mangeshkar Smriti Pratishthan in memory of the late Bharat Ratna awardee and singer Lata Mangeshkar.</li> <li>It recognizes several personalities for their outstanding contributions to their respective fields.</li> </ul>
11.	<b>2024 edition of Wisden Cricketers' Almanack</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Wisden Leading Male Cricketer in the World:</b> Pat Cummins (Australia)</li> <li><b>Wisden Leading Female Cricketer in the World:</b> Nat Sciver-Brunt (England).</li> <li><b>Wisden Cricketers of the Year:</b> Mitchell Starc, Usman Khawaja, and Ashleigh Gardner (Australia) &amp; Harry Brook and Mark Wood (England).</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Wisden Leading T20 Cricketer:</b> Hayley Matthews (West Indies)</li> <li>• <b>Wisden Trophy (best Test performance of the year):</b> Travis Head (Australia), for his 163 against India in the World Test Championship final.</li> </ul>
12.	Skytrax World Airport Awards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Top 5 Airports in the World</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Hamad International Airport, Doha, Qatar</li> <li>○ Singapore Changi Airport</li> <li>○ Incheon Airport, South Korea</li> <li>○ Haneda Airport, Tokyo, Japan</li> <li>○ Narita International Airport, Tokyo, Japan</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Indian Airports that ranked among the top 100 airports in the world</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Delhi airport (36)</li> <li>○ Bengaluru airport (59)</li> <li>○ Hyderabad airport (61)</li> <li>○ Manohar International Airport of Goa (92)</li> <li>○ Mumbai airport (95)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>South Asia's and India's top airport hotel - JW Marriott New Delhi Aerocity.</b></li> <li>• <b>'Best Airport Staff in India &amp; South Asia 2024' award - GMR Hyderabad International Airport Ltd (GHIAL).</b></li> </ul>
13.	Aryabhatta Award	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Awarded to:</b> Pavuluri Subba Rao, Founder, CEO and Chairman, Ananth Technologies.</li> <li>• He also received the ASI's 'Distinguished Fellow' title.</li> <li>• <b>Awarded by:</b> Aeronautical Society of India (ASI)</li> <li>• <b>Awarded for:</b> lifetime contribution to the promotion of aeronautics in India.</li> </ul> <p><b>Additional Information</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ananth Technologies designs avionics for ISRO and Defence.</li> </ul>
14.	World Press Photo of the Year award	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Awarded By:</b> World Press Photo Foundation.</li> <li>• <b>Awarded To:</b> Mohammed Salem, Reuters photographer.</li> <li>• <b>Purpose:</b> For capturing an image of a Palestinian woman cradling the body of her five-year-old niece in the Gaza Strip</li> </ul>
15.	KISS Humanitarian Award 2021  	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Awarded to:</b> Ratan Tata, Chairman Emeritus of the Tata Group.</li> <li>• <b>Awarded for:</b> unwavering dedication to social development and outstanding corporate leadership.</li> <li>• Award presented by <b>Achyuta Samanta</b> at a private ceremony held at Ratan Tata's residence in Mumbai</li> </ul> <p><b>About the Award</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Established in 2008 by Achyuta Samanta, Founder of KIIT and KISS.</li> <li>• Highest esteem of Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS) &amp; Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT), Odisha.</li> <li>• <b>Purpose:</b> to acknowledge individuals and organizations that epitomize humanitarian work on a global scale.</li> </ul>
16.	25th Laureus World Sports Awards  Held at: Madrid, Spain.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Sportsman of the Year:</b> Novak Djokovic, Tennis, Serbia.</li> <li>• <b>Sportswoman of the Year:</b> Aitana Bonmatí, Football, Spain.</li> <li>• <b>Team of the Year:</b> Spain Women's Football Team.</li> <li>• <b>Breakthrough of the Year:</b> Jude Bellingham, Football, UK.</li> <li>• <b>Comeback of the Year:</b> Simone Biles, Gymnastics, USA.</li> <li>• <b>Sportsperson of the Year with a Disability:</b> Diede de Groot, Wheelchair Tennis, The Netherlands.</li> <li>• <b>Action Sportsperson of the Year:</b> Arisa Trew, Skateboarding, Australia.</li> </ul>

17.	'CERAWeek Leadership Award for Building Global Consensus towards a Sustainable Energy Future'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Awarded to:</b> Dr. Sultan Al Jaber, President of 28th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP28) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).</li> <li>• <b>Awarded at:</b> CERAWeek by S&amp;P Global conference at Houston.</li> <li>• <b>Awarded for:</b> role in shaping the UAE Consensus, a crucial framework for global climate action, aimed at limiting global warming to 1.5°C.</li> </ul>
18.	Human Exploration Rover Challenge (HERC) award	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parish Episcopal School of Dallas, US won first place in the high school division.</li> <li>• University of Alabama in Huntsville won the college/university category.</li> <li>• Indian Awardees: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ KIET Group of Institutions, Delhi-NCR won the "Crash and Burn" category award.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Kanakia International School, Mumbai won the "Rookie of the Year."</li> </ul> <p><b>About the Award</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An annual engineering competition &amp; one of NASA's longest-standing challenges.</li> <li>• It is one of NASA's eight Artemis Student Challenges.</li> <li>• The challenge celebrated its 30th anniversary as a NASA competition.</li> </ul>
19.	Pulitzer Prizes 2024 	<p><b>Key Awards</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Public Service:</b> ProPublica. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Only the winner in the Public Service category of the Journalism competition is awarded a gold medal.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Feature Photography:</b> The Associated Press.</li> <li>• <b>National Reporting:</b> The Washington Post.</li> <li>• <b>Local &amp; Audio Reporting:</b> Both won by nonprofit Chicago journalism production company 'Invisible Institute'.</li> </ul> <p><b>About the Award</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Administered by:</b> Columbia University in New York.</li> <li>• <b>Established in 1917.</b></li> </ul>
20.	2024 UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Awarded to:</b> Palestinian journalists Niloofar Hamed, Elaheh Mohammadi, and Narges Mohammadi for covering Gaza.</li> <li>• <b>Awarded at:</b> World Press Freedom Conference in Santiago, Chile.</li> <li>• <b>Awarded on:</b> World Press Freedom Day.</li> </ul> <p><b>About the Award</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Instituted in 1997; Reward:</b> USD 25,000.</li> <li>• <b>Purpose:</b> Recognizes outstanding contributions to defending and promoting press freedom, especially in the face of danger.</li> <li>• Named in memory of the Colombian journalist Guillermo Cano Isaza, who was assassinated in the line of duty.</li> </ul>
21.	35 <sup>th</sup> Goldman Environmental Prize 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Awarded to:</b> Alok Shukla, convenor of the Chhattisgarh Bachao Andolan and founding member of the Hasdeo Aranya Bachao Sangharsh Samiti</li> <li>• <b>Awarded for:</b> efforts to save the forests of Hasdeo Aranya in Chhattisgarh from Coal mining.</li> </ul> <p><b>About the Award</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Awarded by:</b> Goldman Environmental Foundation.</li> <li>• <b>Also known as 'Green Noble Prize'.</b></li> <li>• <b>Recognizes grassroots environmental leaders from six regions and islands and island nations; Reward:</b> USD 200,000.</li> </ul>

22.	<b>Whitley Gold Award</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Awarded to:</b> Dr Purnima Devi Barman, a wildlife biologist from Assam.</li> <li><b>Awarded for:</b> conservation efforts of the endangered Greater Adjutant Stork (Hargila) and its wetland habitat. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mobilized local men and women known as Hargila Army at Kamrup district, Assam.</li> <li>Kamrup district has the highest number of hargila in the world.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>About the Award</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Awarded by:</b> Whitley Fund for Nature (WFN)</li> <li>Also known as 'Green Oscar'; <b>Reward:</b> 1,00,000 British Pounds.</li> </ul>
23.	<b>2024 Global Media Award</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Awarded to:</b> India Today Group's AI news anchor, Sana. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recognized as the best in South Asia for 'AI-led newsroom transformation', for the 'best use of AI in customer-facing products'.</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Awarded by:</b> International News Media Association (INMA).</li> </ul>
24.	<b>2024 Oxford Bookstore Book Cover Prize</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Awarded to:</b> Bhavi Mehta. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Awarded for designing 'The Book Beautiful' by Pradeep Sebastian &amp; published by Hachette India.; <b>Cash Prize:</b> Rs 1 lakh.</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Oxford Bookstore Art Book Prize</b> awarded to 13 titles.</li> </ul>
25.	<b>Lachchu Maharaj Samman</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Awarded for ten years from 2015.</b></li> <li><b>Key winners:</b> Veteran Actresses Hema Malini (2018) &amp; Saira Banu (2019) &amp; Kathak Dancer Rajendra Gangani (2024).</li> <li><b>Awarded by:</b> Bhatkhande University of Music and Performing Arts.</li> <li>Awarded on Pt. The Lachhu Maharaj Janmotsav celebrations .</li> </ul>
26.	<b>Sahitya Akademi Fellowship</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Awarded to:</b> Ruskin Bond; <b>Awarded by:</b> Sahitya Akademi</li> <li>Recognized for his outstanding contributions to literature over a span of more than 50 years.</li> <li>Awarded for the year 2021.</li> </ul> <p><b>About the Award:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Highest honour given by the literary organization (Sahitya Akademi).</li> <li>First Recipient: Dr. S. Radhakrishnan (1898-1975) in 1978.</li> <li>The fellowship is limited to 21 fellows at any given time.</li> </ul>
27.	<b>Geospatial World Forum (GWF) Leadership Award</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Awarded to:</b> Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACe) for "Public Policy: Enabling Industry Development."</li> <li><b>Purpose:</b> acknowledges IN-SPACe's significant contributions to the global geospatial industry and its support for non-government entities in the space economy.</li> <li><b>Awarded at:</b> 2024 Geospatial World Forum in Rotterdam, Netherlands</li> </ul> <p><b>About the Award</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The GWF Leadership Awards annually recognize individuals and organizations for their exceptional contributions to the geospatial field and innovative solutions addressing global challenges.</li> </ul> <p><b>About Geospatial World Forum</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An annual gathering of geospatial professionals and leaders.</li> <li>Theme: "Geospatial Transition: Powering the World Economy".</li> </ul>
28.	<b>Webby Award</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Awarded to:</b> Air India and Supari Studios, the brand solutions division of Kulfi Collective, for their Republic Day campaign.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Category:</b> Best Original Music in Advertising, Media &amp; PR.</li> <li><b>Kulfi Collective became the only Indian Network to win three awards at Webby.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>About the Award</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Established in 1996.</li> <li>Awarded by International Academy of Digital Arts and Sciences (IADAS).</li> <li>Honours excellence on the Internet, including websites and mobile sites, video, advertising, media, and public relations (PR), apps and software.</li> </ul>
29.	ATD BEST Awards 2024 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID) secured 21<sup>st</sup> rank.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recognized for its strategic approach to talent development driving business results.</li> <li>Awarded 3rd time after 2021 and 2023.</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>NTPC Secured 3rd Rank.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the highest ranking among all Indian companies.</li> <li>Recognized for leveraging talent development as a strategic business tool.</li> <li>the only PSU to receive this award 7 times in the past 8 years.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>About the Award:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Among the most esteemed international recognitions in Learning and Development (L&amp;D), given by Association for Talent Development (ATD), USA, since 2003.</li> </ul>
30.	21st Edition of Shaw Prize, 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Given to Shrinivas R. (Shri) Kulkarni</b> for his groundbreaking discoveries in astronomy, particularly concerning millisecond pulsars, gamma-ray bursts, supernovae, and other transient astronomical objects</li> <li>He is an Indian origin professor at California Institute of Technology (Caltech), USA.</li> <li><b>Other Awardees:</b> Peter Sarnak (Mathematics), Swee Lay Thein, and Stuart Orkin (Life Sciences and Medicine).</li> </ul> <p><b>About the Award:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Awarded annually by Hong Kong-based Shaw Prize Foundation since 2004. Known as the "Nobel of the East."</li> <li><b>Categories:</b> astronomy, medicine and life sciences, and mathematical sciences</li> </ul>
31.	International Booker Prize 2024 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Winner:</b> German author Jenny Erpenbeck for her book "Kairos" and translator Michael Hofmann.</li> <li>"Kairos" is a story about a love affair during the final years of East Germany's existence (German reunification happened in 1990).</li> <li>This annual prize recognizes fiction from around the world that has been translated into English and published in the U.K. or Ireland.</li> <li>The 50,000 pounds (\$64,000) in prize money is divided between author and translator.</li> <li><b>Erpenbeck is the first German winner, and Hofmann is the first male translator to win since the prize's current form was launched in 2016.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>From 2016 it was awarded annually to the writer of a novel or short-story collection in English translation.</li> <li>The biennial Man Booker International Prize (later renamed International Booker Prize) was established in 2005 as a lifetime achievement award.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
32.	Prince's Trust Awards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Amal Clooney Women's Empowerment Award</b> awarded to Arti, rickshaw driver from Bahraich, Uttar Pradesh.</li> <li><b>Awarded for:</b> inspirational work with the Pink e-rickshaw initiative.</li> <li><b>Awarded by:</b> Prince's Trust International (now King's Trust International)</li> </ul>

33.	The Economic Times HR World Future Ready Organization Award 2024-25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Awarded to:</b> NHPC.</li> <li>• <b>Purpose:</b> Recognition of preparedness in upskilling employees, Implementation of ESG interventions, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DE&amp;I) initiatives, Technological upgrades.</li> </ul>
34.	Green Airports Recognition (GAR) 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Platinum Award:</b> Kansai Airport, Japan (15 million - 35 million passengers a year)</li> <li>• <b>Gold Award:</b> King Khalid International Airport, Saudi Arabia (15 million - 35 million passengers a year)</li> <li>• <b>Airports from India that received Silver Award</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Kempegowda International Airport (KIA), Bengaluru (15 million and 35 million passengers a year).</li> <li>○ Indira Gandhi International Airport, New Delhi (over 35 million passengers a year category).</li> <li>○ Chaudhary Charan Singh International Airport, Lucknow (less than 8 million passengers a year )</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>About the Award</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Awarded by:</b> ACI Asia-Pacific &amp; Middle East</li> <li>• <b>Theme for GAR 2024:</b> 'Biodiversity and nature-based solutions.'</li> </ul>
35.	United Nations Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award 2023  	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Awarded to:</b> Major Radhika Sen, Indian Army. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Deployed to:</b> United Nations Organisation Stabilisation Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) as the Engagement Platoon Commander with the Indian Rapid Deployment Battalion.</li> <li>○ Served from <b>March 2023 to April 2024</b>.</li> <li>○ <b>Second Indian peacekeeper</b> to receive the award after Major Suman Gawani.</li> <li>✓ Served with the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS).</li> <li>✓ Honoured with <b>2019 edition of this award</b>.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>About the Award</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Created in <b>2016</b>.</li> <li>• Recognizes the dedication and efforts of an individual military peacekeeper in promoting the principles of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security.</li> </ul>
36.	Outlook Planet Sustainability Summit & Awards 2024  	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Awarded by:</b> Outlook Group, in collaboration with IIT Goa.</li> <li>• PFC won CSR award in the NF (Non-Fossil Fuel) business category.</li> <li>• REC won '<b>Sustainability Champion – Editor's Choice Award</b>'.</li> </ul>
37.	Airline of the Year 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Top 5 airlines:</b> Qatar Airways, Korean Air, Cathay Pacific Airways, Air New Zealand &amp; Emirates.</li> <li>• <b>Awarded by:</b> AirlineRatings.com; <b>Total Parameters:</b> 12.</li> </ul>
38.	UK Sunday Times Rich List for 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Gopichand Hinduja</b> remains the <b>richest individual in the UK</b> for the sixth consecutive year, with a net worth of British Pound 37.196 billion. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Chairperson of the Hinduja Group</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Leonard Blavatnik</b>, British-American businessman came <b>2<sup>nd</sup></b>. Famous Indian origin Persons that topped the list <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• David and Simon Reuben- 3<sup>rd</sup> spot.</li> <li>• Lakshmi Mittal - 8th spot; Anil Agarwal- 23<sup>rd</sup> spot</li> <li>• Rishi Sunak and Akshata Murty- 245<sup>th</sup> spot. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Wealthiest occupants of 10 Downing Street</b> (Official residence of the Prime Minister of the UK) <b>to date</b>.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Other Notable Achiever</b></p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sir Paul McCartney has become the first UK musician to become a billionaire, ranked 165<sup>th</sup> in the list.</li> </ul>
39.	Nelson Mandela Award for Health Promotion 2024 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Awarded to:</b> National Institute of Mental Health &amp; Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS), Bengaluru.</li> <li>Recognition for contributions to promoting mental health and well-being.</li> <li><b>Awarded at:</b> 77th World Health Assembly in Geneva.</li> <li>The award coincides with NIMHANS celebrating 50 years of its formation and the 70th anniversary of its precursor, the All-India Institute of Mental Health (AIIMH).</li> </ul> <p><b>About the Award</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Established by WHO in 2019.</li> <li>Recognizes remarkable contributions to health promotion by individuals, institutions, or organizations.</li> </ul>
40.	The Highest Paid CEOs of 2023 in the US by Wall Street Journal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Topped by Hock Tan (Broadcom) with USD 161.83 million.</li> <li>17 Indian-origin CEO's have made it to the top 500</li> <li>Nikesh Arora (Palo Alto Networks) ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> with USD 151.43 million. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hails from Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Shantanu Narayen of Adobe is the second-highest paid Indian-descent CEO, ranked 11 overall.</li> </ul>
43.	ICC 2023 Awards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Men's ODI Cricketer of the Year:</b> Virat Kohli. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>First cricketer in the world to win 10 individual ICC awards.</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Men's T20I Cricketer of the Year:</b> Suryakumar Yadav (2<sup>nd</sup> consecutive title).</li> <li><b>Men's Cricketer Of The Year (Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy):</b> Pat Cummins (Australia).</li> <li><b>Women's Cricketer of the Year (Rachael Heyhoe Flint Award):</b> Nat Sciver-Brunt (England).</li> </ul>
44.	New York Indian Film Festival Awards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Best Actress:</b> Sanya Malhotra (for her role in 'Mrs').</li> </ul> <p><b>Additional Information</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sanya Malhotra won Dadasaheb Phalke Award (Best Actress in a Comic Role) for her role in 'Kathal'.</li> </ul>
45.	UN's WSIS 2024 "Champion" Award	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Awarded to Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) for "Mobile-Enabled Disaster Resilience through Cell Broadcast Emergency Alerting" project</li> <li>Recognised under AI, C-7, E-environment, in the category of 'Benefits in all aspects of life - E-environment'.</li> <li>Awarded at the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)+20 Forum 2024. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organized by the International Telecom Union (ITU) in Geneva, Switzerland.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Additional Information</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AI for Good Global Summit was organized along with WSIS+20 Forum.</li> </ul>
46.	TOYOW PODMASTERS 2024 (1 <sup>st</sup> edition)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Podcaster of the Year:</b> Raj Shamani and Navya Nanda.</li> <li>Organized by HT Smartcast and produced by Fever Live.</li> </ul>
47.	EY World Entrepreneur of the Year 2024  	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Awardee:</b> Vellayan Subbiah, Executive Vice-Chairman of Tube Investments of India (TII) and Chairman of Cholamandalam (Chola) Investment and Finance Co. Ltd.</li> </ul>

48.	<p>'Best Conduct of Business Regulator' award in Asia Pacific</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Awardee:</b> The Securities &amp; Exchange Board of India (SEBI).</li> <li><b>Awarded by:</b> The Asian Banker.</li> <li><b>Awarded for:</b> SEBI's role in enhancing the regulatory framework for securities markets in India.</li> </ul>
49.	<p>Dilip Bose Lifetime Achievement Award</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Awardees</b> Nar Singh &amp; Rohini Lokhande (First woman recipient).</li> <li><b>Awarded by:</b> All India Tennis Association (AITA).</li> <li><b>Purpose:</b> Recognizing lifetime contributions to tennis coaching and education.</li> </ul> <p><b>Additional Information</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rohini Lokhande- first woman tennis coach to qualify from the National Institute of Sports.</li> </ul>
50.	<p>V. Shantaram Lifetime Achievement Award</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Awardee:</b> Subbiah Nallamuthu (wildlife filmmaker)</li> <li>Recognized for his contributions to the realm of wildlife filmmaking.</li> </ul> <p><b>About the Award</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Instituted in memory of</b> legendary filmmaker V Shantaram.</li> <li>Awarded in every edition of Mumbai International Film Festival (MIFF).</li> <li>Recognizes filmmakers for seminal contribution to documentary films and its movement in India.</li> </ul> <p><b>About the Awardee</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>He shot 'Living on the Edge', India's longest-running Panda Award-winning environment series.</li> </ul>
51.	<p>Risk Manager of the Year Award 2024</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Awarded to:</b> Reserve Bank of India (RBI).</li> <li><b>Awarded by:</b> Central Banking publication, headquartered in London.</li> <li><b>Purpose:</b> To recognize RBI's exemplary risk management practices and its pivotal role in maintaining the stability of India's financial system.</li> </ul>
52.	<p>Best Workplace in NBFC Industry for 2024</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Awarded to:</b> IIFL Finance.</li> <li><b>Awarded by:</b> Great Place To Work India</li> </ul>
53.	<p>PEN Pinter Prize</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Awarded to:</b> Arundhati Roy.</li> <li>Recognized for her "outstanding literary merit" and her unyielding examination of the world through her writings.</li> </ul>
		<p><b>About the Award</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Established in 2009; Awarded by English PEN.</li> <li><b>Awarded in memory of</b> Nobel laureate playwright Harold Pinter.</li> <li>Awarded annually to a writer of outstanding literary merit resident in the United Kingdom, the Republic of Ireland or the Commonwealth.</li> </ul> <p><b>Additional Information</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Delhi lieutenant governor granted sanction to prosecute author Arundhati Roy &amp; Sheikh Showkat Hussain under stringent <b>Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA)</b> for provocative speeches regarding separation of Kashmir from India.</li> </ul>
54.	<p>Outlook Planet Sustainability Summit &amp; Awards 2024</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Awardee:</b> Garden Reach Shipbuilders &amp; Engineers (GRSE).</li> <li><b>Category:</b> Sustainable Governance Champion.</li> </ul>

### DID YOU KNOW?

Arundhati Roy won Booker Prize in 1997 for her novel, 'The God of Small Things'.

55.	<b>"Times Now" Doctor Awards</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prof Dr V. Seshiah won B.C. Roy award.           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The founder-head of India's first-ever Department of Diabetology that was started at <b>Madras Medical College, Chennai</b>.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
56.	<b>12th Vishwa Hindi Samman Award</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Awardee:</b> Dr. Usha Thakur.</li> <li><b>Awarded by:</b> Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India.</li> <li>Award announced during the <b>12th World Hindi Conference in Fiji</b> in 2023.</li> <li>Recognition of her <b>contributions to the development of Hindi literature, including translating works into Hindi and Nepali</b>.</li> </ul>
57.	<b>2024 Commonwealth Short Story Prize</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Awardee:</b> Sanjana Thakur, writer from Mumbai</li> <li>Awarded for her short story "<b>Aishwarya Rai</b>".</li> <li><b>Third Indian to win the prize</b> after Parashar Kulkarni (2016) for his story 'Cow and Company' and Kritika Pandey (2020) for 'The Great Indian Tee and Snakes'.</li> </ul> <p><b>About the Award</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Awarded by:</b> Commonwealth Foundation.</li> <li>Awarded annually for the best piece of unpublished short fiction in English from a Commonwealth country; <b>Cash Prize:</b> British Pound 5,000.</li> </ul>
58.	<b>2024 One World Media Press Freedom Award</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Awardee:</b> Bilan, Somalia's only all-women news team.           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Established by UNDP and funded by the European Union.</b></li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Awarded by:</b> One World Media.</li> <li><b>First Somali media team</b> to receive this honour.</li> </ul>

## APPOINTMENT

<b>Judith Suminwa Tuluka</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Why in News:</b> appointed as the <b>first female Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic of Congo</b>.</li> <li><b>Predecessor:</b> Jean-Michel Sama Lukonde.</li> </ul> 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Why in News:</b> appointed as the <b>President of the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM)</b>.           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Predecessor:</b> Ajay Singh, Co-Founder of SpiceJet.</li> </ul> </li> <li>He holds positions as a <b>non-official member of the Board of Trade, Government of India</b>.</li> <li>He is also a <b>member of the National Startup Advisory Council &amp; Board of the US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF)</b>.</li> </ul>		<b>Sanjay Nayar</b> , Chairman, Sorin Investment Fund
<b>About ASSOCHAM</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is one of the <b>apex trade associations of India</b>.</li> <li><b>Establishment:</b> 1920; <b>Headquarters:</b> New Delhi.</li> </ul>	
<b>Bassirou Diomaye Faye</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Why in News:</b> elected as the <b>President of Senegal</b>.</li> <li>He is <b>Africa's youngest elected President</b>.</li> <li><b>Predecessor:</b> Macky Sall.</li> </ul>	<b>Ousmane Sonko</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Why in News:</b> appointed as the <b>Prime Minister of Senegal</b>.</li> <li><b>Predecessor:</b> Sidiki Kaba.</li> </ul>		
<b>Justice Najmi Waziri</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Why in News:</b> appointed as the chairperson of an internal departmental committee by the <b>Delhi High Court</b>, dealing with the protection of forests in the national capital.           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The committee is tasked with the protection, preservation, reclamation, and enhancement of forests in Delhi.</li> </ul> </li> <li>He is a <b>retired judge of the Delhi High Court</b>.</li> <li>He is fondly known as "<b>Green Judge</b>".</li> </ul>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Why in News:</b> Appointed as the presiding officer of the Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT).           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Predecessor: Justice Tarun Agarwala.</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Dheeraj Bhatnagar</b> has been appointed as the <b>technical member</b> of the SAT.</li> <li>Prior to these appointments, only <b>Meera Swarup</b> was acting as its technical member</li> </ul>		<b>P S Dinesh Kumar</b>
<b>About SAT</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is a statutory body established under <b>section 15K</b> of the <b>SEBI Act, 1992</b>.</li> <li><b>It hears and disposes of appeals against the orders of SEBI, IRDAI, PFRDA, and appeals against the decisions of stock exchanges and depositories;</b> Total Members: Three.</li> </ul>		
Rakesh Mohan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Why in News:</b> appointed as a member of the World Bank Economic Advisory Panel.           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Currently, he holds the <b>position of president emeritus and distinguished fellow at the Centre for Social and Economic Progress (CSEP)</b>.</li> <li>He is a <b>part-time member</b> of the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council.</li> <li>He is the <b>former deputy governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)</b>.</li> </ul> </li> <li>The Economic Advisory Panel of the World Bank Group will be chaired by Lord Nicholas Stern and co-chaired by World Bank Group Chief Economist Indermit Gill.</li> <li>The panel will focus on strategic issues for the World Bank Group in relation to their objectives, research agenda and actions.</li> <li>Each member of the panel will serve for a two-year term.</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Why in News:</b> Sworn in as the <b>President of Egypt</b> for third time.</li> <li>His swearing in ceremony also marked the <b>inauguration of the New Administrative Capital of Egypt</b>, located in the <b>desert east of Cairo</b></li> </ul>		<b>Abdel Fattah el-Sisi</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Why in News:</b> Appointed as the new CEO and Managing Director of Wipro for a term of 5 years, succeeding Thierry Delaporte.</li> <li><b>Delaporte was the highest-paid CEO in the Indian IT sector in 2023.</b></li> </ul>		<b>Srinivas Pallia</b>
<b>About Wipro Limited</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Founded by Mohamed Premji in 1945</b>, is a leading global IT services company.</li> <li><b>Chairman: Rishad Premji</b>.</li> </ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Why in News:</b> appointed as the <b>first woman British High Commissioner to India</b>.</li> <li><b>Predecessor:</b> Alex Ellis; <b>Previous Role:</b> Head of the U.K. National Cyber Security Centre.</li> <li>Her appointment comes <b>70 years after India appointed Vijaylakshmi Pandit as its high commissioner in London in 1954</b>.</li> </ul>		<b>Lindy Cameron</b>
Simon Harris	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Why in News:</b> became Ireland's youngest ever prime minister (Taoiseach).</li> <li><b>Predecessor:</b> Leo Varadkar.</li> <li>He was nicknamed "<b>Baby of the Dail</b>" (Irish parliament) when he was the youngest MP in Ireland.</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Why in News:</b> appointed as the <b>Head of Global Airport Operations at Air India</b>.</li> <li>He previously served as the <b>Chief Operating Officer at Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL)</b>.</li> </ul>		<b>Jayaraj Shanmugam</b>
Jagjit Pavadia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Why in News:</b> re-elected as the <b>member of the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) for the third term for five years from March 2025-2030</b>.</li> <li>India secured 41 votes out of the 53 voting members of the <b>UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)</b>, the highest amongst all winning member states in the elections.</li> <li>She previously served as the <b>President of INCB from 2021 to 2022</b></li> </ul> <p><b>About INCB</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is the <b>independent and quasi-judicial monitoring body</b> for the <b>implementation of the UN international drug control conventions</b>.</li> <li><b>Established in 1968; Headquarters:</b> Vienna, Austria.; <b>Total Members:</b> 13 members</li> </ul> <p><b>About ECOSOC</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is <b>one of the six main organs of the United Nations</b>; <b>Total Members:</b> 54</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It deals with economic, social, cultural and health matters as well as human rights and fundamental freedoms.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Why in News:</b> Elected unopposed as the Chairman of the Senate of Pakistan.</li> <li>Saidal Khan Nasir elected as the Deputy Chairman of the Senate.</li> </ul>	<b>Yusuf Raza Gilani</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Senate of Pakistan is the upper house of Pakistan's bicameral Parliament.</li> <li>The total strength of the Senate is 96.</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Why in News:</b> elected as the new President of the Association of Summer Olympic International Federation (ASOIF) for four years from 2025; Predecessor: Francesco Ricci Bitti</li> <li>He serves as the President of the International Equestrian Federation (FEI).</li> <li>He is from Belgium.</li> </ul>	<b>Ingmar De Vos</b>
<b>About ASOIF</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Headquarters:</b> Lausanne, Switzerland.</li> </ul>	
<b>Tarun Bajaj</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Why in News:</b> appointed as the Chair of the US-India Tax Forum.</li> <li>He is an advisor to the Board of Directors at USISPF.</li> </ul>	<b>About US-India Tax Forum</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An initiative of US-India Strategic and Partnership Forum (USISPF); Launched in: 2020.</li> <li>A specialized platform bringing together Government of India policymakers, global tax experts and the business community to advocate for better tax policy.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Why in News:</b> reappointed as the head coach of the India women's hockey team.</li> <li><b>Predecessor:</b> Janneke Schopman.</li> </ul>	<b>Harendra Singh</b>
<b>Bjarni Benediktsson</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Why in News:</b> appointed as the Prime Minister of Iceland.</li> <li><b>Predecessor:</b> Katrin Jakobsdottir.</li> </ul>	
<b>Newly Appointed Members to the University Grants Commission (UGC)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Ashish Kumar Chauhan</b> (CEO and Managing Director of the National Stock Exchange)</li> <li><b>Sridhar Vembu</b> (Founder of Zoho).</li> <li><b>Sachidananda Mohanty</b> (former Vice Chancellor of the Central University of Odisha)</li> <li><b>Shashikala Gulabrao Wanjari</b> (Vice Chancellor of the National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All four of them appointed for three years term.</li> </ul> </li> <li>With these appointments, the total strength of the UGC members has increased from four to eight. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Present Chairman &amp; Vice Chairman:</b> Mamidala Jagadesh Kumar and Deepak Kumar Srivastava, respectively.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<b>About UGC</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A statutory body established to oversee and advance higher education in India.</li> <li><b>Composition as per the UGC Act, 1956:</b> Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and ten other members. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Of the ten members, two shall be chosen from among the officers of the Central Government.</li> <li>not less than four shall be chosen from among active teachers of Universities.</li> <li>The remaining members include individuals with knowledge of or experience in specified professional fields, including agriculture, commerce, forestry, industry, or those in various learned professions, as well as vice-chancellors and other distinguished academics.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<b>Pragya Misra</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Why in News:</b> appointed as OpenAI's first employee in India.</li> <li>She has been appointed as the head of the government relations.</li> </ul> <p>She will spearhead public policy affairs and partnerships in India.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Why in News:</b> appointed as the Prime Minister of Kuwait.</li> <li><b>Predecessor:</b> Sheikh Mohammed Sabah al-Salem al-Sabah</li> </ul>	<b>Ahmad Abdullah al-Ahmad al-Sabah</b>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Why in News:</b> appointed as the 26th Chief of the Naval Staff.</li> <li><b>Predecessor:</b> Admiral R Hari Kumar.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Why in News:</b> appointed as Aligarh Muslim University's (AMU) Vice Chancellor for the next 5 years.</li> <li><b>She is the first woman to serve as the Vice Chancellor of AMU.</b></li> <li><b>She is currently serving as the Principal, Women's College of AMU.</b></li> <li><b>Her appointment approved by the President of India</b>, who serves as the Visitor to the AMU.</li> <li><b>Predecessor:</b> Mohammad Gulrez (Acting VC of AMU)</li> </ul>
Gita Sabharwal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Why in News:</b> appointed as United Nations resident coordinator in Indonesia.</li> <li><b>Previous Roles:</b> UN Resident Coordinator in Thailand and as Peacebuilding and Development Advisor at the United Nations in Sri Lanka</li> </ul>
T. Rabi Sankar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Why in News:</b> Re-appointed as the Deputy Governor of the RBI for one year.</li> <li>Initially appointed as Deputy Governor in 2021 for a three-year period.</li> <li><b>Other Roles:</b> Chairman, Indian Financial Technology and Allied Services (IFTAS); member of the Board of Directors, Reserve Bank Information Technology Private Limited (ReBIT); and member of the Governing Council, Institute for Development and Research in Banking Technology (IDRBT).</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Why in News:</b> appointed as Deputy Prime Minister of Pakistan.</li> <li>He is currently serving as the <b>Foreign Minister of Pakistan</b>.</li> <li><b>He becomes the first Deputy Prime Minister of Pakistan since 2013.</b></li> <li><b>Predecessor:</b> Pervaiz Elahi.</li> </ul>
Kareena Kapoor Khan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Appointed as the <b>National Ambassador</b> for UNICEF India.</li> <li>Previously served as a <b>Celebrity Advocate</b> for UNICEF India.</li> <li><b>4 Youth Advocates appointed for the first time-</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gauranshi Sharma from Madhya Pradesh on right to play and disability inclusion.</li> <li>Kartik Verma from Uttar Pradesh on climate action and child rights advocacy.</li> <li>Singer Nahid Afrin from Assam on mental health and early childhood development.</li> <li>Vinisha Umashankar from Tamil Nadu, a budding innovator and STEM pioneer.</li> </ul> </li> <li>These appointments come in the wake of <b>75th year of partnership with India</b> with UNICEF.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assumes charge as <b>Vice Chief of Naval Staff</b>.</li> <li>A recipient of <b>Ati Vishisht Seva Medal</b> and <b>Vishisht Seva Medal</b></li> </ul>
	Vice Admiral Krishna Swaminathan 
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Took over as the <b>President of the Indian Vaccine Manufacturers Association (IVMA)</b> for a 2-year period- <b>April 2024-2026</b>. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Predecessor:</b> Adar C Poonawala.</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Present Role:</b> Co-Founder &amp; Executive Chairman of Bharat Biotech</li> </ul>
	Dr. Krishna M Ella 
Jeremiah Manale	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Appointed as the <b>new Prime Minister of Solomon Islands</b>, a South Pacific Island nation.</li> <li><b>Predecessor:</b> Manasseh Sogavare.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Appointed as <b>Chairperson of Special Olympics Asia Pacific Advisory Council (APAC)</b>, for 3 years.</li> <li><b>Present Role:</b> President of Special Olympics Bharat.</li> </ul>
José Raúl Mulino	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Elected as the <b>new President of Panama</b>.</li> <li><b>Predecessor:</b> Ricardo Martinelli.</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Appointed as the <b>new Chinese Ambassador (envoy) to India.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Predecessor:</b> Sun Weidong.</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Present Role:</b> Vice-Foreign Minister overseeing China's South Asia policy.</li> <li><b>Previously served as the China's envoy to Pakistan.</b></li> </ul>		Xu Feihong
John Swinney	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sworn in as the first minister of Scotland.</li> <li><b>Predecessor:</b> Humza Yousaf.</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>IRDAI approved his appointment as Chairman of HDFC Life.</li> <li><b>Predecessor:</b> Deepak S Parekh</li> </ul>		Keki M Mistry
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reappointed as the Prime Minister of Russia for a second term by Russian President Vladimir Putin.</li> <li>The proposal for his reappointment was submitted to the State Duma (<b>Lower house of the Russia</b>) for approval, following Russian legal procedures.</li> </ul>		Mikhail Mishustin
R. Lakshmi Kanth Rao 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Took over as the <b>Executive Director (ED) of the RBI.</b></li> <li>He will look after <b>Deposit insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC), Right to information Act (FAA), &amp; Department of Communication.</b></li> <li>Previously served as the <b>Chief General Manager-in-Charge in the Department of Regulation at the RBI.</b></li> </ul>	
Mahamat Idriss Déby Itno	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Elected as the new President of Chad.</li> <li>He took power after his father, Late Idriss Déby Itno.</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Elected as <b>Chairman of Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO).</b></li> <li>He served as the vice-chairman of IFFCO.</li> </ul>		Dileep Sanghani
N Chandrasekaran	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Became the chairman of TATA Electronics. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Predecessor:</b> Banmali Agrawala.</li> </ul> </li> <li>He is the <b>chairman of TATA Sons.</b></li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To take over as the CEO of Amazon Web Services (AWS).</li> <li><b>Predecessor:</b> Adam Selipsky.</li> </ul>		Matt Garman
Lawrence Wong	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sworn in as Singapore's new Prime Minister. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>First leadership change in 20 years.</b></li> <li><b>The fourth Prime Minister of Singapore since its independence in 1965.</b></li> <li><b>The second leader who is not a member of the founding Lee family.</b></li> <li><b>To retain his position as Finance Minister of Singapore.</b></li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Predecessor:</b> Lee Hsien Loong</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Why in News:</b> Became the Prime Minister of Croatia for the third term.</li> </ul>		Andrej Plenkovic
William Lai Ching-te	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Appointed as the President of Taiwan (Republic of China). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Predecessor:</b> Tsai Ing-wen.</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Former Vice President of Taiwan.</b></li> <li><b>Hsiao Bi-khim</b> took over as the <b>Vice-President of Taiwan.</b></li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Elected president of the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) for the 4th time.</li> <li><b>Kapil Sibal takes over from Adish C. Aggarwala.</b></li> <li><b>Advocate Vikrant Yadav was elected SCBA secretary.</b></li> </ul>		Kapil Sibal
Sanjiv Puri	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Appointed as the President of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) for the 2024-25 period. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Predecessor:</b> R. Dinesh, Chairman of TVS Supply Chain Solutions.</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Other Roles:</b> Chairman and Managing Director of ITC.</li> </ul>	
	<p><b>About CII</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>A non-governmental trade association and advocacy group.</b></li> <li><b>Establishment:</b> 1895; <b>Headquarters:</b> New Delhi.</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Elected as the New President of Vietnam</li> <li><b>Predecessor:</b> Vo Van Thuong.</li> </ul>		To Lam
Luis Abinader	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Re-elected as President of the Dominican Republic for a second term.</li> </ul>	

<b>Jaya Badiga</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>First Andhra born, Telugu woman to be appointed as a judge in the US.</li> <li>To serve as the <b>Judge</b> in the <b>Sacramento County Superior Court, California</b>.</li> <li><b>Predecessor:</b> Robert S Lapham. <b>Previous Role:</b> Commissioner at the Sacramento County Superior Court. <b>Native:</b> Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh.</li> </ul>
	<b>Additional Information</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Raj Singh Badhesha</b> - the <b>first Sikh judge</b> to be appointed to the <b>Fresno County bench, California</b>.</li> </ul>
• Re-elected as the President of Lithuania for the second term.	<b>Gitanas Nausėda</b>
<b>Allamaye Halina</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Appointed as the new Prime Minister of Chad. <b>Predecessor:</b> Succes Masra.</li> </ul>
• The Appointments Committee of Cabinet approved one year extension in his role as the Secretary, Department of Defence Research and Development, and Chairman, Defence Research Development Organisation (DRDO).	
• <b>Predecessor:</b> Dr. G. Satheesh Reddy (Scientific Adviser to the Defence Minister)	<b>Dr Samir V Kamat</b>
<b>Jetha Ahir</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Appointed as the Chairman of the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED).</li> <li><b>Other Roles:</b> MLA of Shehra constituency, Gujarat; Chairman of Panchmahal's Pancharmut Dairy and Panchmahal District Cooperative (PDC) Bank.</li> </ul>
	<b>About NAFED</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An apex organization of marketing cooperatives for agricultural produce in India.</li> <li>Established in 1958.</li> </ul>
• Elected as the new Director General of the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) for a 5-year term from 2024 to 2029.	
• <b>Predecessor:</b> Dr. Monique Eloit.	<b>Dr. Emmanuelle Soubeyran</b>
<b>About WOAH</b>	
• <b>Establishment:</b> 1924; <b>Headquarters:</b> Paris, France	
<b>Dr. BN Gangadhar</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Why in News:</b> Appointed as the chairperson of the National Medical Commission (NMC) by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) for a period of four years.</li> <li><b>Previous Role:</b> President of the autonomous Medical Assessment and Rating Board.</li> </ul>
	<b>About National Medical Commission</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A statutory body under the <b>National Medical Commission Act, 2019</b>.</li> <li>Regulates medical education, medical professionals, institutes, and research in India</li> </ul>
• <b>Why in News:</b> New Prime Minister of the Netherlands.	
• Not aligned with a political party, a first for the Netherlands since World War II.	
• <b>Predecessor:</b> Mark Rutte (served the role for 14 years).	<b>Dick Schoof</b>
<b>Edward Kieswetter</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Why in News:</b> Re-elected as the Chairperson of the World Customs Organisation (WCO) for a second term (2024-25).</li> <li><b>Other Roles:</b> Commissioner of South African Revenue Service (SARS).</li> </ul>
	<b>About World Customs Organisation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Establishment:</b> 1952; <b>Headquarters:</b> Brussels, Belgium.</li> </ul>
• <b>Why in News:</b> Re-designated as the MD and CEO of Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC).	
• <b>Previous Role:</b> Chairman of LIC.	<b>Siddhartha Mohanty</b>
<b>Arnab Kumar Chowdhury and Charulatha S. Kar</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Why in News:</b> Appointed as the executive directors of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).</li> <li><b>Arnab Kumar Chowdhury-</b> will oversee the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC), Foreign Exchange Department, and International Department.</li> <li><b>Charulatha S. Kar:</b> manage the Department of Communication, Human Resource Management Department, and Right to Information (First Appellate Authority).</li> </ul>
• <b>Why in News:</b> New Principal Spokesperson of the Central Government and Principal Director General, Press Information Bureau (PIB).	
	<b>Dhirendra K Ojha</b>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Predecessor for the latter role:</b> Sheyphali B Sharan.</li> </ul>		
Hemant Soren	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Why in News:</b> Took the oath as the Chief Minister of Jharkhand for the third term <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Predecessor: Champai Soren.</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Won the floor test</b> in the Jharkhand Assembly. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Total Strength of Jharkhand Assembly: 81.</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>First time in the past 10 years</b> that <b>any Chief Minister has used the full strength of the Cabinet.</b></li> </ul>	
Halla Tomasdottir	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Why in News:</b> Elected as the new President of Iceland.</li> <li><b>Predecessor:</b> Gudni Th. Johannesson.</li> </ul> <p><b>Additional Information</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Vigdis Finnbogadottir (Iceland)</b>- the <b>first democratically elected female President of any nation.</b></li> </ul>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Why in News:</b> Named as the new Crown Prince of Kuwait.</li> <li><b>Predecessor:</b> Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah (Emir of Kuwait).</li> </ul>	Sheikh Sabah Khaled al-Hamad al-Sabah
Rakesh Mohan Joshi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Why in News:</b> Took charge as vice-chancellor of the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT), a business school under the Ministry of Commerce.</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Why in News:</b> Elected as First Vice-Chair of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC).</li> <li><b>Other Roles:</b> CMD of JK Paper Ltd and Director of JK Organisation.</li> </ul> <p><b>About International Chamber of Commerce</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Headquarters:</b> Paris, France; <b>Chair:</b> Philippe Varin.</li> </ul>		Harsh Pati Singhania
Prem Singh Tamang	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Why in News:</b> Appointed as the Chief Minister of Sikkim for second term.</li> <li><b>He won from both Rhenock and Soreng-Chakung constituencies</b></li> <li><b>Sikkim Krantikari Morcha (SKM)</b> won 31 out of 32 seats in Sikkim Assembly.</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Why in News:</b> First BJP Chief Minister of Odisha; <b>Constituency:</b> Keonjhar <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Predecessor: Naveen Patnaik.</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Member of the Santali tribe.</b></li> <li><b>BJP won 78 of the 147 seats</b> in the Odisha Legislative assembly.</li> </ul>		Mohan Charan Majhi
Lt Gen Upendra Dwivedi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Why in News:</b> Took over as the 30th Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) of India.</li> <li><b>First officer from the Jammu and Kashmir Rifles (JAKRIF)</b> to become the COAS.</li> <li><b>Predecessor:</b> Gen Manoj C Pande.</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Why in News:</b> Appointed as the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh for fourth term. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Predecessor: YS Jagan Mohan Reddy.</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>His second term post bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh.</b></li> <li><b>Served as the first CM of bifurcated Andhra Pradesh.</b></li> <li><b>The National President of Telugu Desam Party (TDP), Constituency:</b> Kuppam.</li> <li><b>TDP-BJP-Jana Sena alliance won 164 of the 175 Assembly seats.</b></li> </ul>		Chandrababu Naidu
Pema Khandu	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Why in News:</b> Appointed as the Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh for the third consecutive term; <b>Constituency:</b> Mukto.</li> <li><b>BJP won 46 of the 60 seats</b> in Arunachal Pradesh</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Why in News:</b> Named Bangladesh's next Army chief for a three-year term.</li> </ul>		Waker-Uz-Zaman

### DID YOU KNOW?

The **JAKRIF** gained national prominence during the **Kargil conflict** when **Capt Vikram Batra** and **Rifleman (now Subedar Major) Sanjay Kumar** of the 13th Battalion were awarded the **Param Vir Chakra**, India's highest gallantry award.

Jyoti Vilj	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Why in News:</b> Appointed as Director General of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).</li> </ul>
	<b>About FICCI</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Establishment:</b> 1927; <b>Headquarters:</b> New Delhi.</li> <li><b>The largest and oldest apex business organization in India.</b></li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Why in News:</b> Re-appointed as Principal Secretary to the PM of India for a five-year term.</li> <li>To serve this role for the <b>third consecutive term</b>.</li> </ul>	PK Mishra
Ajit Doval	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Why in News:</b> Re-appointed as the National Security Advisor (NSA) of India for a five-year period.</li> <li>To serve this role for the <b>third consecutive term</b>.</li> <li><b>Ajit Doval &amp; PK Mishra</b> are the <b>longest-serving advisers</b> to the Prime Minister of India.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Why in News:</b> Re-appointed as the Advisors to the PM of India for a two-year period.</li> </ul>	Amit Khare
	Tarun Kapoor
Kamal Kishore Soan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Why in News:</b> Took over as the Director General of Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) under the <b>Ministry of Labour &amp; Employment</b>.</li> <li><b>Other Roles:</b> Additional Secretary and Director General, Labour Welfare in the Ministry of Labour &amp; Employment.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Why in News:</b> Appointed as the <b>Chairperson</b> of the Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI).</li> <li><b>Present Role:</b> Chief Operating Officer (COO), Vodafone Idea.</li> </ul>	Abhijit Kishore
Cyril Ramaphosa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Why in News:</b> Re-elected as the President of South Africa for second term.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Why in News:</b> Named global goodwill ambassador of United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).</li> <li>He is a <b>British actor, producer and model</b></li> </ul> <p><b>About UNHCR</b> Establishment: 1950; Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland.</p>	Theo James
Peter Pellegrini	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Why in News:</b> Sworn in as Slovakia's President.</li> <li><b>Predecessor:</b> Zuzana Caputova (<b>First female President of Slovakia</b>).</li> </ul>
Dr. Jitendra Singh	<b>Why in News:</b> Re-appointed as the Chairman of the Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA) for the third consecutive term.
	<b>About IIPA</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Established in 1954; Headquarters: New Delhi.</li> </ul> <p>A research and training organization under the <b>Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Why in News:</b> Appointed as the protem Speaker of the 18th Lok Sabha.</li> <li><b>Lok Sabha Constituency:</b> Cuttack, Odisha.</li> <li>Appointed under Article 95(1) of the Constitution to perform the duties of Speaker till election of the Speaker.</li> </ul>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px;"> <p style="color: red; font-weight: bold;">DID YOU KNOW?</p> <p>Ganesh Mavalankar was the first Speaker of the Lok Sabha.  Meira Kumar was the first female speaker of the Lok Sabha.  Balram Jakhar was the longest serving speaker of the Lok Sabha with a tenure of 9 years &amp; 329 days.</p> </div>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Why in News:</b> New MD &amp; CEO of Sony Pictures Networks India.</li> <li><b>Predecessor:</b> N. P. Singh, who will move into the role of Non-Executive Chairman after a 25-year tenure.</li> </ul>	Bhartruhari Mahtab 
	Gaurav Banerjee

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Why in News:</b> Appointed as the CMD of New India Assurance, India's largest General Insurer.</li> </ul>		Girija Subramanian
Rahul Gandhi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Why in News</b> Appointed as the Leader of the Opposition (LoP) in the Lok Sabha after 10 years. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Predecessor:</b> Sushma Swaraj (2009-2014).</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>His first constitutional post.</b></li> <li>Member of the Parliament from the <b>Rae Bareli constituency</b> in the UP.</li> </ul>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Why in News:</b> Elected as the Speaker of the 18th Lok Sabha. (His second term).</li> <li><b>A 3-time Member of Parliament (MP)</b> from Kota, Rajasthan.</li> <li>His election marks the <b>4<sup>th</sup> contested Speaker election</b> in Lok Sabha history.</li> <li>Competed against K. Suresh, an 8-term MP from Mavelikara, Kerala. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Longest-serving parliamentarian in the 18th Lok Sabha.</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Om Birla 
Mark Rutte	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Why in News:</b> NATO's Next Secretary General. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Predecessor:</b> Jens Stoltenberg.</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Former Prime Minister of the Netherlands.</b></li> </ul>	
<b>About NATO</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>A transatlantic alliance formed for collective security.</b></li> </ul>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Reconstitution of the IBJA Board for 2024-29</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>National President:</b> Prithviraj Kothari of Riddi Siddhi Bullion Ltd.</li> <li><b>National vice-president:</b> Aksha Mohit Kamboj, Executive Chairman of Aspect Global Ventures Pvt Ltd. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>First and only woman to hold such a prestigious post in the gold &amp; jewellery sector.</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Prithviraj Kothari & Aksha Mohit Kamboj
<b>About Indian Bullion and Jewellers Association (IBJA)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Established in <b>1919</b>; Headquarters: Mumbai.</li> <li>The Apex association for all bullion and jewellery associations in India</li> </ul>		
Atul Kumar Chaudhary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Why in News:</b> New Secretary of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI).</li> <li><b>Predecessor:</b> V Raghunandan.</li> </ul>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Why in News:</b> New MD &amp; CEO of SBI General Insurance.</li> <li><b>Predecessor:</b> Kishore Kumar Poludasu.</li> </ul>	Naveen Chandra Jha
Kapil Dev	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Why in News:</b> President of the Professional Golf Tour of India (PGTI). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Predecessor:</b> HR Srinivasan.</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Previously served as the vice-president of PGTI.</b></li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>DID YOU KNOW?</b></p> <p>Kapil Dev is the <b>only cricketer</b> to have achieved the <b>double of 5,000 runs and 400 wickets</b> in Tests.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Why in News:</b> New Foreign Secretary of India. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Predecessor:</b> Vinay Kwatra.</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Previous Role:</b> Deputy National Security Advisor.</li> </ul>	Vikram Misri
Ravi Agrawal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Why in News:</b> New chairman of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT).</li> <li><b>Predecessor:</b> Nitin Gupta.</li> </ul>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Why in News:</b> 27th Chairman of State Bank of India (SBI).</li> <li><b>Predecessor:</b> Dinesh Khara.</li> <li>Appointed by the <b>Financial Services Institution Bureau (FSIB)</b></li> </ul>	
<b>About FSIB</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Established by the Government of India in <b>2022</b>.</li> <li>Responsible for making <b>recommendations for appointing senior executives to public sector financial institutions.</b></li> <li><b>Chairperson:</b> Bhanu Pratap Sharma, former Secretary of the Department of Personnel and Training.</li> </ul>		Challa Sreenivasulu Setty

- Members:** Includes the secretaries of the Department of Financial Services and the Department of Public Enterprises, along with other expert members.

## 18<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha

- Council of Ministers (excluding PM):** 71.
  - Cabinet Ministers:** 30; **Ministers of State (Independent Charge):** 5 & **Ministers of State:** 36.
- Total women minister:** 7; 33 ministers appointed for the first time

### CABINET MINISTERS

S.No.	Name	Portfolio	Constituency & Key Facts
1.	Narendra Modi (Prime Minister of India)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions;</li> <li>Department of Atomic Energy;</li> <li>Department of Space;</li> <li>All important policy issues; and</li> <li>All other portfolios not allocated to any Minister.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>First Prime Minister</b> to be elected for the third consecutive term since 1962.</li> <li>Second Prime Minister after Jawaharlal Nehru to serve three consecutive terms (1947–64).</li> <li>Appointed by the President of India under Article 75(1) of the Constitution of India.</li> </ul>
2.	Raj Nath Singh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minister of Defence.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.</li> </ul>
3.	Amit Shah	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minister of Home Affairs;</li> <li>Minister of Cooperation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gandhinagar, Gujarat.</li> </ul>
4.	Nitin Jairam Gadkari	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minister of Road Transport and Highways</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nagpur, Maharashtra.</li> <li>Popularly known as the 'Highway Man of India'.</li> <li>Longest-serving minister for road transport and highways.</li> </ul>
5.	Jagat Prakash Nadda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minister of Health and Family Welfare;</li> <li>Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gujarat (Rajya Sabha)</li> </ul>
6.	Shivraj Singh Chouhan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare;</li> <li>Minister of Rural Development.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vidisha, Madhya Pradesh.</li> <li>Former CM of Madhya Pradesh.</li> </ul>
7.	Nirmala Sitharaman	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minister of Finance;</li> <li>Minister of Corporate Affairs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Karnataka (Rajya Sabha).</li> <li><b>First woman</b> to be sworn in as minister for the third consecutive term in the Modi government.</li> </ul>
8.	Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minister of External Affairs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gujarat (Rajya Sabha).</li> </ul>
9.	Manohar Lal Khattar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs;</li> <li>Minister of Power.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Karnal, Haryana.</li> <li>Former Chief Minister of Haryana.</li> </ul>
10.	H. D. Kumaraswamy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minister of Heavy Industries;</li> <li>Minister of Steel.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mandya, Karnataka.</li> </ul>
11.	Piyush Goyal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minister of Commerce and Industry</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mumbai North, Maharashtra.</li> </ul>
12.	Dharmendra Pradhan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minister of Education</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sambalpur, Odisha.</li> </ul>
13.	Jitan Ram Manjhi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gaya, Bihar.</li> </ul>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Former CM of Bihar.</li> </ul>
14.	Rajiv Ranjan Singh alias Lalan Singh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minister of Panchayati Raj;</li> <li>Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Munger, Bihar</li> </ul>
15.	Sarbananda Sonowal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dibrugarh, Assam.</li> </ul>
16.	Dr. Virendra Kumar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tikamgarh, Madhya Pradesh.</li> </ul>
17.	Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minister of Civil Aviation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Srikakulam, Andhra Pradesh.</li> <li>Aged 36, he is the <b>youngest-ever Union Cabinet Minister in India</b>.</li> </ul>
18.	Pralhad Joshi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution; Minister of New and Renewable Energy.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dharwad, Karnataka.</li> </ul>
19.	Jual Oram	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minister of Tribal Affairs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sundargarh, Odisha.</li> </ul>
20.	Giriraj Singh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minister of Textiles</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Begusarai, Bihar.</li> </ul>
21.	Ashwini Vaishnaw	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minister of Railways;</li> <li>Minister of Information and Broadcasting;</li> <li>Minister of Electronics and Information Technology.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Odisha (Rajya Sabha).</li> </ul>
22.	Jyotiraditya M. Scindia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minister of Communications; Minister of Development of North Eastern Region.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Guna, Madhya Pradesh.</li> </ul>
23.	Bhupender Yadav	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alwar, Rajasthan.</li> </ul>
24.	Gajendra Singh Shekhawat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minister of Culture;</li> <li>Minister of Tourism.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jodhpur, Rajasthan.</li> </ul>
25.	Annpurna Devi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minister of Women and Child Development</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kodarma, Jharkhand.</li> </ul>
26.	Kiren Rijiju	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minister of Parliamentary Affairs;</li> <li>Minister of Minority Affairs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Arunachal West, Arunachal Pradesh</li> </ul>
27.	Hardeep Singh Puri	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Uttar Pradesh (Rajya Sabha).</li> </ul>
28.	Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minister of Labour and Employment;</li> <li>Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Porbandar, Gujarat.</li> </ul>
29.	G. Kishan Reddy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minister of Coal;</li> <li>Minister of Mines.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Secunderabad, Telangana.</li> </ul>
30.	Chirag Paswan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minister of Food Processing Industries.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hajipur, Bihar.</li> </ul>
31.	C R Patil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minister of Jal Shakti.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Navsari, Gujarat.</li> </ul>

## MINISTERS OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)

S.No.	Name	Portfolio	Constituency & Key Facts
1.	Rao Inderjit Singh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation;</li> <li>Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Planning;</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gurgaon, Haryana</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minister of State in the Ministry of Culture.</li> </ul>	
2.	Dr. Jitendra Singh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Science and Technology;</li> <li>Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Earth Sciences;</li> <li>Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office;</li> <li>Minister of State in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions;</li> <li>Minister of State in the Department of Atomic Energy;</li> <li>Minister of State in the Department of Space.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Udhampur, Jammu &amp; Kashmir</li> </ul>
3.	Arjun Ram Meghwal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Law and Justice;</li> <li>Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bikaner, Rajasthan.</li> </ul>
4.	Jadhav Prataprao Ganpatrao	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Ayush;</li> <li>Minister of State in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Buldhana, Maharashtra.</li> </ul>
5.	Jayant Chaudhary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship;</li> <li>Minister of State in the Ministry of Education.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Uttar Pradesh ( Rajya Sabha).</li> </ul>

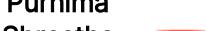
## PERSONS IN NEWS

Shiny Wilson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Why in News:</b> nominated as a member of the Asian Athletic Commission for four-year term (2024 to 2028).</li> <li><b>A retired Athlete from Kerala.</b></li> <li><b>Recipient of the prestigious Arjuna Award and Padma Shri.</b></li> </ul>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Why in News:</b> retired from the Rajya Sabha, marking the end of his 33-year-long parliamentary career.</li> <li><b>He was nominated to the Rajya Sabha for the first time in 1991.</b></li> <li><b>He represented Assam for five terms and shifted to Rajasthan in 2019.</b></li> </ul>	<b>Dr. Manmohan Singh</b> 
Mirabai Chanu	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Why in News:</b> Mirabai Chanu has become the <b>only Indian weightlifter to qualify for the Paris Olympics 2024</b> after her performance at the IWF World Cup in Phuket (Thailand), where she <b>finished 3rd in Group B of the women's 49kg category and 11th overall.</b></li> </ul>	
Rohit Sharma	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>First Indian cricketer to hit 500 sixes in T20 cricket.</b></li> <li><b>Why in News:</b> First batter to hit 600 sixes in international cricket.</li> <li><b>Surpassed 4000-runs in T20Is, after Virat Kohli and Babar Azam respectively.</b></li> <li><b>Second batter to score 4000+ runs across all three formats, after Virat Kohli.</b></li> <li><b>Third batter to hit 1000 T20 World Cup runs, after Virat Kohli and Mahela Jayawardene.</b></li> <li><b>Why in News:</b> Became the most successful captain in the history of T20Is.</li> <li><b>Broke Babar Azam's record by securing his 49th win as a captain in T20Is.</b></li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Why in News:</b> became the first Prime Minister of India to feature on the cover of <b>Newsweek</b> after Indira Gandhi.</li> <li>Former Prime Minister <b>Indira Gandhi</b> featured on the cover of <b>Newsweek's April 1966 issue</b>; <b>Newsweek</b> is a New York based magazine.</li> </ul>	Narendra Modi
Ravindra Jadeja	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Why in News:</b> became the first player in IPL history to record at least 100 catches, 1,000 runs, and 100 wickets.</li> <li>He joins Virat Kohli (110), Suresh Raina (109), Kieron Pollard (103) and Rohit Sharma (100) for most catches by a fielder in the IPL.</li> </ul>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Why in News:</b> aged 44, he is the oldest player to achieve World No. 1 in doubles format in the <b>Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP)</b> rankings.</li> <li>He reclaimed the No.1 spot &amp; also became the oldest ATP Masters 1000 champion, after winning the men's doubles title at the Miami Open with his Australian partner Matt Ebden.</li> </ul>	Rohan Bopanna
Novak Djokovic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Why in News:</b> aged 36, the Serbian icon became the oldest man to be ranked No. 1 in singles format in the ATP rankings.</li> <li>He has surpassed Roger Federer's previous record.</li> </ul>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Why in News:</b> Russ Cook, a British runner, known as the "Hardest Geezer", recently completed a run across Africa from Africa's most southerly point, the South African village of L'Agulhas to Tunisia in 352 days, claiming to be the first to accomplish this feat.</li> </ul>	 Russ Cook
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Why in News:</b> Peruvian officials are attempting to have <b>Marcelino Abad</b> recognized in the <b>Guinness Book of World Records as the world's oldest living person</b>.</li> <li>Marcelino Abad is <b>124 years old</b> &amp; he is from <b>Huanuco region, Peru</b>.</li> <li>The <b>Guinness World Records</b> recently listed English centenarian John Alfred Tinniswood as the <b>oldest living man (111 years)</b>, after the death of Juan Vicente Pérez of Venezuela (<b>114 years</b>). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>John Alfred Tinniswood is also the <b>oldest surviving male World War II veteran</b>.</li> </ul> </li> <li>The <b>title of the world's oldest woman and the oldest living person</b> is currently held by <b>117-year-old Maria Branyas Morera of Spain</b>.</li> </ul>	Marcelino Abad
Justice Aniruddha Bose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Why in News:</b> retired after a tenure of five years as a judge of the Supreme Court of India.</li> <li>Following his retirement, he has been appointed as the <b>Director of the National Judicial Academy (NJA)</b> at Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.</li> </ul> <p><b>About National Judicial Academy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Registered as a <b>society in 1993</b> under the <b>Societies Registration Act (1860)</b>.</li> <li><b>Chairperson:</b> Chief Justice of India .</li> <li><b>Mandate:</b> strengthening the administration of justice through Judicial Education, Research and Policy Development.</li> </ul> <p><b>Additional Information</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Following the retirement of CJI Chandrachud, Justice Sanjiv Khanna is set to become the <b>51st Chief Justice of India</b> later this year.</li> </ul>	John Alfred Tinniswood
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Why in News:</b> elected as an <b>International Fellow of the Engineering Academy of Japan</b>.</li> <li>He is an <b>Indian-Origin US Professor</b>; Hails from <b>Karnataka</b></li> <li>Honoured for his <b>scientific research and technical developments</b> promoting energy efficiency and environmental security globally.</li> </ul>	Kaushik Rajashekara
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>King Charles bestows new royal titles to the members of the British Royal Family</li> <li><b>Kate Middleton, Princess of Wales</b>, receives the title of <b>Companion of Honour</b>. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>She is the the <b>first member of the royal family to receive this title</b>.</li> <li>It is <b>one of the highest royal awards in the United Kingdom</b>.</li> <li>Established by <b>King George V in 1917</b>.</li> <li><b>Purpose:</b> to recognize outstanding achievements in the arts, sciences, medicine and public service.</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Prince William, Prince of Wales</b>, is appointed as the <b>Great Master of the Order of the Bath</b>. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Established by <b>King George I in 1725</b></li> <li>awarded to members of the <b>military or civil service</b> for their exemplary service.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Queen Camilla is named the Grand Master of the Order of the British Empire.</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Why in News:</b> became the first player to take 200 wickets in the IPL.</li> </ul>		Yuzvendra Chahal
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>First Indian to achieve the landmark of 350 wickets in the T20 format</b></li> </ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Why in News:</b> retired from professional squash but will continue to play for India.</li> <li>He remains the <b>only Indian man to reach the world's top 10</b> in squash rankings.</li> </ul>		Saurav Ghosal
Garbine Muguruza	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Why in News:</b> announced her retirement from professional tennis.</li> <li>She is a <b>Spanish tennis player</b>.</li> <li>Known for <b>defeating both Serena Williams</b> at the 2016 Roland Garros and <b>Venus Williams</b> at Wimbledon 2017, making her the <b>only player to defeat each Williams sister in a Grand Slam title match</b>.</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Why in News:</b> cleared 10th exam at the age of 58.</li> <li>He is a <b>two-time Member of Parliament</b> from Pune's Maval constituency.</li> </ul>		Shrirang Barne
KL Rahul	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Why in News:</b> set a new record in the IPL by becoming the fastest to score 4,000 runs, taking only 94 innings in match against Rajasthan Royals.</li> <li>Surpassed Virat Kohli &amp; Chris Gayle who reached the same milestone in 107 &amp; 122 innings respectively.</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Why in News:</b> stepped down as Scotland's First Minister and Leader of the Scottish National Party (SNP) amidst political turmoil.</li> <li>He was <b>Scotland's youngest elected leader</b> and the <b>first Muslim to head a major political party</b>.</li> </ul>		Humza Yousaf
Shahzaib Rindh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Why in News:</b> Made a symbolic gesture of holding both Pakistan and India's flags after winning a Karate Combat match against India's Rana Singh.</li> <li>The match was held at <b>Dubai</b>.</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Why in News:</b> aged 24, he became the second-youngest and fastest Indian to complete 100 matches in the IPL &amp; surpassed Virat Kohli's record.</li> <li>Virat Kohli reached his <b>100th IPL match at 25 years</b>, followed by <b>Sanju Samson (25 years)</b> &amp; <b>Piyush Chawla (26 years)</b>.</li> <li>Shubman Gill is the <b>skipper of Gujarat Titans</b>.</li> </ul>		Shubman Gill
Vaishali Ramesh Babu 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Became the <b>84th Grandmaster (GM) of India</b>.</li> <li>Title awarded by <b>International Chess Federation (FIDE)</b>.</li> <li>Third woman from India to become a GM after Konre Humpy and Harika Dronavalli.</li> <li>42nd woman globally to hold the GM title.</li> <li>She &amp; her brother GM Praggnanandhaa are the world's first GM brother-sister duo.</li> <li>First brother sister duo to qualify for the Candidates' event this year.</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Became <b>1<sup>st</sup> player to score 3 half-centuries in 20 balls or less in the IPL</b>.</li> <li>Scored half-centuries against Rajasthan Royals, Sunrisers Hyderabad, and Mumbai Indians, with the <b>fastest half-century in IPL Season 2024</b> coming in just 15 balls.</li> </ul>		Jake Fraser McGurk (Delhi Capitals)
MS Dhoni	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>First player in IPL history to be part of 150 victories</b>.</li> <li>Milestone achieved at a CSK Vs SRH match.</li> <li>Ravindra Jadeja and Rohit Sharma, share the <b>2<sup>nd</sup> spot with 133 wins each</b>.</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Google released a doodle</b> commemorating her historic victory over Baba Pahalwan in 1954 in just 1 minute and 34 seconds.</li> <li><b>India's first female professional wrestler</b>.</li> <li>Known as the '<b>Amazon of Aligarh</b>'. Hailed from Uttar Pradesh.</li> </ul>		Hamida Banu
Alka Dwivedi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Included in the '<b>TIME 100 Most Influential People in Health</b>'.</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>She &amp; her team in IIT Bombay, along with Tata Memorial Hospital, developed 'NexCAR19', India's first home-grown anti-Cancer Chimeric Antigen Receptor (CAR) -T cell therapy (gene therapy), an affordable cure for cancer.</li> <li><b>Current Position:</b> Training at the Center for Cancer Research, National Cancer Institute (Maryland, USA).</li> </ul>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Indefinitely suspended</b> by the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) for refusing dope test.</li> </ul>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; border-radius: 10px;"> <p style="color: #C0392B; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">DID YOU KNOW?</p> <p>Bajrang Punia is the only Indian wrestler to win 4 medals at the World Wrestling Championships. He also won bronze medal at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics</p> </div>
K.V. Kamath	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conferred with honorary doctorate by the Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE).</li> <li><b>Present Roles:</b> Chairman of National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development and Chairman of Jio Financial Services Ltd.</li> </ul>	Bajrang Punia
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Became India's 85th Grandmaster by completing his third and final GM norm at the Dubai Police Masters chess tournament, ending a 12-year wait.</li> <li>Hails from <b>Nagercoil, Tamil Nadu</b>.</li> </ul>	P. Shyaamnikhil
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To receive honorary degree from Canada's prestigious McGill University.</li> <li>She will receive <b>Doctor of Science, honoris causa (D Sc) in Health Sciences</b>.</li> <li><b>Nine other eminent personalities</b> to receive the honour along with her.</li> <li>She was the <b>first Chief scientist at the World Health Organization (WHO) &amp; served until 2022</b>.</li> </ul>	Dr Soumya Swaminathan 
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Achieved a record by summing Mount Everest (8,849-meter peak) for the 30th time. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Predecessor:</b> Pasang Dawa Sherpa previously climbed Mount Everest 27 times.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Serves as a <b>senior guide for Seven Summit Treks</b>.</li> <li>Also known as '<b>Everest Man</b>', is a 54-year-old Sherpa climber and guide.</li> <li><b>Native:</b> Thame village in Solukhumbu, Nepal.</li> <li>Climbed Everest for the first time in 1994 &amp; twice in 2023.</li> </ul>	Kami Rita Sherpa 
UmaSofia Srivastava 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Resigned from her title as <b>Miss Teen USA 2023</b>.</li> <li><b>Background:</b> First-generation Mexican Indian American who represented New Jersey and won Miss New Jersey Teen USA before being crowned Miss Teen USA.</li> <li>Stepped down due to misalignment of her views with those of the organization</li> </ul>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Oldest Indian woman to conquer Mount Everest at the age of 55.</li> <li><b>Succeeded Sangeeta Bahil</b>, who held the title at age 53 in 2018.</li> </ul>	Jyoti Ratre (Madhya Pradesh)
Deepthi Jeevanji 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Set a <b>world record time of 55.07 seconds</b> to win gold (<b>India's first</b>) in the <b>women's 400m T20 race</b> at the <b>World Para Athletics Championships</b> in Japan and qualified for the Paris Paralympics.</li> <li><b>T20 classification</b> is for athletes with <b>intellectual disabilities</b></li> <li><b>Previous Record-</b> 55.12 seconds by Breanna Clark (USA)</li> <li><b>Deepthi Jeevanji</b> is from <b>Telangana</b></li> </ul>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Indian expatriate Gopi Thotakura became the <b>1st Indian space tourist</b> and <b>2nd Indian</b> to venture into space.</li> <li><b>Ed Dwight</b> - America's first Black astronaut candidate. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the new record-holder for the oldest person in space, followed by William Shatner, who went to space in 2021.</li> <li>He was <b>not selected for the 1963 class of astronauts</b>, which included notable astronauts like Buzz Aldrin and Michael Collins.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Both part of <b>six member crew</b> of Blue Origin's (founded by Jeff Bezos) NS-25 mission. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>25th flight</b> for the New Shepard program and its <b>7th human spaceflight</b>.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Won a <b>vote of confidence</b> for the fourth time amid opposition protests.</li> <li>He secured 157 votes in the 275-member House Of Representatives of Nepal (Pratinidhi Sabha).</li> <li>He is the <b>Prime Minister of Nepal</b>.</li> </ul>	Gopi Thotakura  Ed Dwight
		Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda'

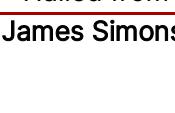
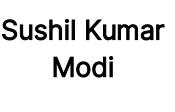
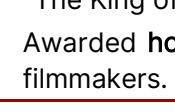
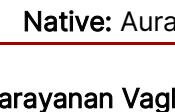
<b>Satyadeep Gupta</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>First person to achieve a Double Dual Ascent of Mt. Everest (8,849 meters) and Mt. Lhotse (8,516 meters) in a single season.</li> <li><b>First Indian to traverse from Mt. Everest to Mt. Lhotse in 11 hours and 15 minutes.</b></li> <li><b>Mt. Everest &amp; Mt. Lhotse are world's first and fourth highest peaks respectively.</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Poised to be confirmed for a new five-year term as the Governor of the National Bank of Romania.</li> <li><b>The world's longest-serving central bank governor (serving since 1990).</b></li> </ul>	 Mugur Isarescu
<b>Malkiat Singh</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>First from the Punjab Agricultural University (PAU) to scale Mount Everest.</li> <li>An alumnus of PAU, hails from <b>Punjab</b>, now settled in <b>New Zealand</b>.</li> </ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>First person to summit Mount Everest three times within a single climbing season.</li> <li>Her <b>fourth ascent of Everest</b>; she first climbed the peak in 2018.</li> <li>She is a <b>Nepalese mountaineer and photojournalist</b>.</li> </ul>	 Purnima Shrestha	
<b>Kaamya Karthikeyan</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>India's youngest and world's second youngest to scale Mount Everest from the Nepal side at the age of 16.</li> <li>A student at the <b>Navy Children School, Mumbai</b>.</li> </ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Won the 2024 Scripps National Spelling Bee.</li> <li>An <b>Indian-American student from Tampa, Florida</b>.</li> <li><b>28th Indian-American</b> to win the prestigious title.</li> <li><b>Reward:</b> USD 50,000; <b>Runner-up:</b> Faizan Zaki.</li> </ul>	 Bruhat Soma	
<b>Ruchira Kamboj</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Why in News:</b> Announced her retirement recently.</li> <li><b>India's first woman Permanent Representative to the UN at New York (2022-2024)</b>.</li> <li>Served as <b>India's envoy in Bhutan, South Africa, and UNESCO</b>.</li> </ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Why in News:</b> Awarded an Honorary Fellowship by the National Indian Students and Alumni Union, UK for his worldwide impact in the field of music.</li> </ul>	 Sonu Nigam	
<b>Shankar Lalwani</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Why in News:</b> Won Lok Sabha elections with a record margin of 11.75 Lakh Votes, <b>the highest in India's electoral history</b>.</li> <li>He is BJP's sitting MP of <b>Indore constituency in Madhya Pradesh</b>.</li> <li>In Indore, <b>NOTA came second</b>, as close to two lakh voters chose the NOTA option.</li> </ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Why in News:</b> Retired from international football as fourth highest goal-scorer. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Top 3 goal scorers:</b> Cristiano Ronaldo (Portugal), Ali Daei (Iran) &amp; Lionel Messi (Argentina).</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>India's top goal scorer.</b> Scored <b>94 goals in 151 international appearances</b>.</li> <li><b>Final Match:</b> India vs Kuwait (FIFA World Cup Qualifier).</li> </ul>	 Sunil Chhetri	
<b>Priyanka Jarkiholi</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Why in News:</b> First &amp; youngest tribal woman to win from an unreserved seat in Karnataka since Independence.</li> <li><b>Second leader from a reserved community to win from a general seat</b>, after Kotturu Hariharappa Ranganath (Former Lok Sabha member from Chitradurga).</li> <li><b>Aged 27, one of the youngest members to enter Parliament</b>.</li> <li><b>Constituency:</b> Chikkodi; <b>Party:</b> INC.</li> </ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Why in News:</b> Became the second bowler to bowl four maidens in a T20 World Cup match.</li> <li>He represents <b>New Zealand</b>. Milestone achieved <b>against Papua New Guinea</b>.</li> <li><b>First bowler to achieve this feat was Canada's Saad Bin Zafar</b>.</li> </ul>	 Lockie Ferguson	
<b>Pat Cummins</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>First player to register a hat-trick in consecutive ICC Men's T20 World Cup matches..</li> <li>Second Australian after Brett Lee to achieve a <b>T20 World Cup hat-trick</b></li> </ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Why in News:</b> Set a new record for the fastest double century in women's Test cricket. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Previous Record Holder:</b> Annabel Sutherland (Australia).</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Second Indian woman, after Mithali Raj, to score a double century in Test cricket.</b></li> <li>Achieved this milestone <b>against South Africa</b>.</li> </ul>	 Shafali Verma	
<b>Smriti Mandhana</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Why in News:</b> Set the record for the most runs by an Indian woman in a bilateral ODI series.</li> <li>Secured the '<b>Player of the Series</b>' award in the <b>three-match series against South Africa</b>.</li> </ul>		

**Additional Information**

- Highest runs in a bilateral ODI series by a women's player held by former Australian player Karen Rolton

## OBITUARIES

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>He was British physicist.</li> <li>He discovered Higgs boson particle, also dubbed the 'God particle'.</li> <li>In 2013, Higgs received the Nobel Prize in Physics, alongside Belgian physicist Francois Englert, for their work proposing the Higgs boson particle.</li> </ul>	Peter Higgs
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>He was a veteran filmmaker, producer and cinematographer.</li> <li>He was a prominent member of the Ramsay Brothers, known for their significant contributions to the Indian film industry, especially in the horror genre.</li> <li>His works include classics such as "Veerana," "Purana Mandir".</li> </ul>	Gangu Ramsay
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>He was a celebrated former England spinner &amp; nicknamed "Deadly".</li> <li>He had a reputation for dismissing Sunil Gavaskar 12 times in Test matches, the most by any bowler against this batsman.</li> </ul>	Derek Underwood
K G Jayan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>He was a carnatic singer and musician from Ernakulam district, Kerala.</li> <li>He was a recipient of Padma Shri, Sangeetha Nataka Akademi award and the Harivarasanam award</li> </ul>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>He was the oldest living pilot of the Indian Air Force (IAF).</li> <li>He had an illustrious career, with over 1,100 flying hours, serving in World War II.</li> <li>He was born in Shimla ; affectionately called 'Maji' by his fellow air warriors.</li> <li>He earned the prestigious 'Best Pilot Trophy' during his training at the Initial Training School in Walton in Lahore.</li> </ul>	Dalip Singh Majithia
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>He was England's oldest living men's Test cricketer at the time of his death.</li> <li>He was one of the first match referees for the International Cricket Council.</li> </ul>	Raman Subba Row
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>He was a famous Tamil film director.</li> <li>His film Pasi won National Award for Best Feature Film in Tamil &amp; Filmfare Award.</li> <li>He was also awarded Kalaimamani Award by the Tamil Nadu Government.</li> </ul>	Durai
Sudhir Kakar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>He was an Indian novelist.</li> <li>Fondly known as the 'father of Indian psychoanalysis'.</li> <li><b>Notable Works:</b> Shamans, Mystics and Doctors, The Ascetic of Desire, Young Tagore: The Makings of a Genius.</li> </ul>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A Tamil playback singer.</li> </ul>	Uma Ramanan
Vinay Vir	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Renowned journalist, Publisher, and Editor of Daily Hindi Milap</li> </ul>	
Bernard Hill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A British actor.</li> <li>Acted in Titanic &amp; 'The Lord of the Rings' trilogy.</li> </ul>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Former CEO and chairman of Boeing.</li> </ul>	Frank Shrontz
Srila Gopal Krishna Goswami Maharaja	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Served as the Governing Body Commissioner (GBC) of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON).</li> </ul>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Renowned Urdu litterateur and academician.</li> <li><b>Pseudonym:</b> Salam Bin Razza. Hailed from Panvel, Maharashtra.</li> <li>Won Sahitya Akademi for Urdu literature for 'Shikasta Buton Ke Darmiyan', in 2004.</li> </ul>	Shaikh Abdussalam Abdurrazzaq

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>First international casualty for the UN in the Israel-Hamas conflict. Killed in Gaza's Rafah region.</li> <li>Ex-Indian Army colonel, worked with United Nations (UN) as a security service coordinator.</li> <li>Hailed from Nagpur, Maharashtra.</li> </ul>		Colonel Waibhav Anil Kale (Retd)
 <b>Richard "Rick" Slayman</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The first recipient of a genetically modified pig kidney transplant. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Surgery held at Massachusetts General Hospital, USA.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Indian director and film maker</li> <li><b>Notable Works:</b> Yodha (Malayalam), Kyaa Kool Hai Hum, 'Yamla Pagla Deewana 2'.</li> </ul>		Sangeeth Sivan
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A renowned Punjabi poet, Padma Shri Awardee.</li> <li><b>Notable works:</b> 'Hawa Vich Likhe Harf', 'Hanere Vich Sulagdi Varanmala',</li> <li>Recipient of Sahitya Akademi Award, Panchnad Puruskar, Saraswati Samman, and the Kusumagraj Literary Award.</li> <li>Hailed from Patar village, Jalandhar district.</li> </ul>		Surjit Patar
 <b>James Simons</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>American mathematician, philanthropist, and hedge fund founder.</li> <li>Co-founder of Simons Foundation.</li> <li>Received the American Mathematical Society's Oswald Veblen Prize in Geometry.</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>North Korea's propaganda mastermind.</li> <li>Served as Vice Chairman of the Workers' Party of Korea.</li> </ul>		Kim Ki Nam
 <b>Sushil Kumar Modi</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Former Deputy Chief Minister of Bihar.</li> <li>He was one of the few leaders to have achieved the feat of being a member of four legislative Houses - Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, the Bihar Assembly and Legislative Council.</li> <li>Fondly known as Bihar's 'Bhamashah'.</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An activist from Assam, who fought against witch hunting.</li> <li>Started 'Mission Birubala' in 2012 to create awareness among people against all forms of social evils and superstitious beliefs.</li> <li>Awarded Padma Shri in 2021 and nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in 2005.</li> </ul>		Birubala Rabha
 <b>Varugeese Koshy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An international master, renowned trainer and a mentor of Chess.</li> <li>Hailed from Pathanamthitta district, Kerala.</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An American film director, producer, and actor. A low budget Cinema Maestro.</li> <li><b>Nicknames:</b> The Pope of Pop Cinema", "The Spiritual Godfather of the New Hollywood", and "The King of Cult".</li> <li>Awarded honorary lifetime Academy Award in 2009 for his rich engendering of films and filmmakers.</li> </ul>		Roger Corman
 <b>Alice Munro</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A Canadian short story writer.</li> <li>First Canadian to win the Nobel Prize in literature (2013) and the first recipient cited exclusively for short fiction &amp; 13th woman to receive the award.</li> <li>Her last collection- "Dear Life".</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Former Governor of Gujarat, Tripura, and Mizoram.</li> <li>She was the first woman Minister in Rajasthan &amp; first female governor of any state in Northeast India.</li> <li>Awarded Tamra Patra by the former Prime Minister of India Indira Gandhi.</li> <li>Hails from Gaurir village, Jhunjhunu district, Rajasthan.</li> </ul>		Kamla Beniwal
 <b>Moosa Raza</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Former Chief Secretary of Jammu and Kashmir and chairman of the Southern Indian Education Trust (SIET); Padma Bhushan Awardee.</li> <li>'Smile on Sorrow's lips' – his translation on poet Mirza Ghalib's 500 Persian couplets into Urdu and English.</li> <li>Termed Sanskrit as the "mother of most European languages".</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Veteran author and storyteller; Padma Shri awardee.</li> <li>Native: Aurangabad, Maharashtra.</li> </ul>		Malti Joshi
 <b>Narayanan Vaghul</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Former chairman of ICICI Bank &amp; philanthropist.</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Under his leadership, ICICI transformed from a development bank to the second largest commercial bank.</li> <li>Considered as the '<b>Bhishma Pitamaha</b>' of banking in India, Padma Bhushan awardee.</li> <li>Introduced the concept of <b>credit rating</b> in India; First Chairman of CRISIL.</li> <li><b>Founder of Pratham</b>- one of India's largest NGOs working in primary education.</li> <li>Native: Chennai, Tamil Nadu.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dr. Seyyed Ebrahim Raisi- President of the Islamic Republic of Iran.</li> <li>Hossein Amir-Abdollahian- Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran.</li> <li>Both passed away in a <b>helicopter crash in east Azerbaijan (Iran)</b>.</li> <li>Hossein fostered and supported the "<b>Axis of Resistance</b>", backing groups like Hezbollah, Hamas, and the Houthi rebels.</li> <li>Both were returning from a ceremony to <b>inaugurate a dam on the Aras River</b>.</li> <li>Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei appointed Vice President Mohammad Mokhber as <b>Interim President</b>. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Former head of Setad, an investment fund linked to the supreme leader of Iran.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Ali Bagheri Kani appointed as the <b>interim foreign minister of Iran</b>. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Previous Role: political deputy at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Iran.</li> </ul> </li> <li>An eminent puppeteer from Keonjhar, Odisha.</li> <li>Padma Shri Awardee.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Dr. Seyyed Ebrahim Raisi</b></p>   <b>Hossein Amir-Abdollahian</b>
<p>Jean Daniel Pession</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Italian World Cup speed skier.</b></li> <li>Passed away in a mountain accident along with his girlfriend, Elisa Arlian.</li> </ul>	<b>Maguni Charan Kuanrr</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Indian wildlife biologist and conservation activist.</li> <li>Native: Tamil Nadu.</li> </ul>	<b>AJT Johnsingh</b>
<p>Ramoji Rao</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Indian businessman, media proprietor and film producer.</li> <li>Chairman of Eenadu media group and founder of Ramoji Film City, Hyderabad (world's largest film production facility).</li> <li>Padma Vibhushan Awardee.</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>American astronaut &amp; businessman.</li> <li>He was part of <b>Apollo 8 Mission (1968)</b>, the first human spaceflight to leave low-Earth orbit and travel to the moon and back.</li> <li><b>One of the first three humans to orbit the moon.</b></li> <li>Took the iconic "<b>Earthrise</b>" photo, the first colour image from space.</li> </ul>	<b>William Anders</b>
<p>Rajeev Taranath</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sarod maestro; Hailed from Karnataka.</li> <li>Awards: Padma Shri, Sangeet Natak Akademi Award.</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vice President of Malawi.</li> </ul>	<b>Saulos Chilima</b>
<p>Acharya Laxmikant Dixit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The chief priest at the <b>consecration ceremony</b> of the Ram temple in Ayodhya.</li> <li>A senior scholar in Varanasi.</li> <li>Native: Solapur district, Maharashtra.</li> </ul>	
<p>Mission Directors of Chandrayaan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chandrayaan 2: Ritu Karidhal Srivastava</li> <li>Chandrayaan 3: Mohan Kumar</li> </ul>	<p><b>Srinivas Hegde</b></p>  
<p>Murlidhar Chandrakant Bhandare</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Former Governor of Odisha.</li> <li>Former Rajya Sabha member for Maharashtra for three terms.</li> </ul>	
<p>C.V. Chandrasekhar</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Renowned Bharatanatyam dancer, academician, musician &amp; choreographer.</li> <li>Awards: Padma Bhushan, Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowship, Kalidas Samman, Sangeeta Kala Acharya.</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>English statistician.</li> </ul>	<b>Frank Duckworth</b>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>He and Tony Lewis co-developed Duckworth-Lewis method (now Duckworth-Lewis-Stern (DLS) method). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Determine results and set targets in rain-curtailed cricket matches.</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Second MP of Sikkim</b> and the <b>first one to have won in a contest after Sikkim became a part of India</b>; served as an MP from 1980 to 1984.</li> </ul>		
<b>Additional Information</b>		Pahalwan Subba
Bhupinder Singh Rawat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Former Indian footballer; Nicknamed <b>scooter</b>.</li> <li>Member of the Indian football team in the 1969 Merdeka tournament in Malaysia.</li> </ul>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>American screenwriter and director.</li> <li>Won an Academy (Oscar) Award for the screenplay of "Chinatown."</li> <li>Received a lifetime achievement award from the Writers Guild of America.</li> </ul>	Robert Towne
Ismail Kadare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Albania's best-known novelist</li> <li>Famous Work: The General of the Dead Army.</li> <li>Awards &amp; Honours: Man Booker International Prize (2005), Grand Officer of the Legion of Honour (France).</li> </ul>	

## BOOKS AND AUTHORS

S.No	Book Title	Author and Key Facts
1.	<b>Maker of Modern Goa: The Untold Story of Pratapsingh Rane</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Author:</b> Vijayadevi Rane.</li> <li>It is the <b>biography of Pratapsingh Rane</b>, a prominent figure in Goan politics.</li> </ul>
2.	<b>The Idea of Democracy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Author:</b> Sam Pitroda, Indian Overseas Congress Chairman.</li> </ul>
3.	'Just A Mercenary?: Notes from My Life and Career'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is the memoir of <b>former RBI Governor Duvvuri Subbarao</b>.</li> </ul>
4.	<b>Heavenly Islands of Goa</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Author:</b> P.S. Sreedharan Pillai, Governor of Goa.</li> <li>221st book of P.S. Sreedharan Pillai.</li> </ul>
5.	<b>India's Nuclear Titans</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Editors:</b> Soumya Awasthi and Shrabana Barua.</li> <li>It gives a brief but complete picture of India's nuclear story.</li> </ul>
6.	<b>The Winner's Mindset</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Author:</b> Shane Watson, Australian cricketer and coach.</li> <li>It is a <b>self-help book</b> that provides tips about getting the best out of oneself by applying various mental techniques.</li> </ul>
7.	<b>Knife: Meditations After an Attempted Murder</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A <b>memoir</b> of Booker Award winning Indian-born British-American novelist <b>Salman Rushdie</b>.</li> <li>The book <b>recounts his experience of being stabbed at a public event</b>.</li> <li>Other notable works: Quichotte, Midnights Children.</li> </ul>
8.	<b>Source Code: My Beginnings.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The <b>Memoir of Bill Gates</b>, co-founder and former CEO of Microsoft.</li> </ul>
9.	"I Have the Streets: A Kutti Cricket Story"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Autobiography of Indian cricketer <b>Ravichandran Ashwin</b>.</li> <li>Authored by <b>Sidarth Monga</b>.</li> </ul>

10.	Adventures of Ed-a-Mamma: Ed Finds A Home	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Author: Alia Bhatt.</li> <li>The first in a series of children's picture books aimed at instilling values of kindness and environmentalism.</li> </ul>
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## FAIRS AND FESTIVALS

S.No	Name	Key Facts
1.	<b>Yoga Mahotsav - 75 Days countdown to International Day of Yoga 2024</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Organized at:</b> Wadia college Sports Ground, Pune (Maharashtra)</li> <li><b>Organizers:</b> Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga and National Institute of Naturopathy, Ministry of Ayush.</li> <li><b>Organized under:</b> '100 days, 100 cities, and 100 organizations' campaign</li> </ul> <p><b>About '100 days, 100 cities, and 100 organizations' campaign</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Ministry of Ayush along with Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga</b> is organizing this campaign in collaboration with various Universities/Institutes/Colleges.</li> <li><b>Duration:</b> 13th March to 21st June 2024 (10th International Day of Yoga).</li> </ul>
2.	<b>77th Cannes Film Festival</b> <b>Venue:</b> Cannes, French Riviera 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>President:</b> Iris Knobloch (first woman &amp; first non-French person to serve this role)</li> <li><b>Bharat Parv:</b> Hosted first time by India.</li> <li><b>Bharat Pavilion</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Name:</b> 'The Sutradhara'; <b>Theme:</b> "Create in India".</li> <li><b>Industry Partner:</b> FICCI.</li> <li><b>Designed by:</b> National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad.</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Awards</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Palme d'Or (Highest award):</b> "Anora" by Sean Baker</li> <li><b>Grand Prix (2<sup>nd</sup> highest award):</b> "All We Imagine as Light" by Payal Kapadia.           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ First Indian film in 30 years to compete in the main competition, winning the Grand Prix.</li> <li>✓ First ever by an Indian female director to be showcased in the main competition.</li> <li>✓ Payal Kapadia, a Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) alumnus, the first Indian to bag this prestigious award.</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>La Cinef Award:</b> "Sunflowers Were the First Ones to Know" by FTII student Chidanand S Naik.           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ a short film based on Kannada folklore.</li> <li>✓ a film by a student from 1-year Television course to be shortlisted &amp;won this award for the first time.</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Best Actress:</b> Ensemble of "Emilia Perez" (Karla Sofía Gascon, Zoe Saldaña, Selena Gomez, and Adriana Paz).           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Spanish actress Karla Sofia Gascon is the first trans woman to receive this award.</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Pierre Angénieux Tribute award:</b> Santosh Sivan.           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ First Asian to be honored with this distinction.</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Best Actress award in the Un Certain Regard category:</b> Anasuya Sengupta for 'The Shameless'.           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ First Indian actress to win the Best Actress award at Cannes.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Premiere of "Manthan (1976 )"</b> in the Cannes Classics segment           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ India's first crowdfunded film. Directed by Shyam Benegal.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Based on milk cooperative movement of Verghese Kurien.</li> <li>○ Preserved at the National Film Archives of India and restored by the Film Heritage Foundation.</li> <li>● Screening of "In Retreat" at ACID Cannes sidebar programme <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Made by Maisam Ali, a FTII alumnus &amp; independent filmmaker.</li> <li>○ First Indian film to be screened under this section.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Other Highlights <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ India-born Mansi Maheshwari's Bunnyhood, an animated film, bagged the third prize in the La Cinef Selection.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● J&amp;K participated in the Cannes Film Market for the first time.</li> </ul>															
3.	<p>18th Mumbai International Film Festival (MIFF)</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Opening Film: Billy and Molly: An Otter Love Story. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Directed by Charlie Hamilton James.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● First Ever Documentary Film (Doc Film) Bazaar inaugurated. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Three verticals: Co-production Market, Work-in-Progress (WIP) Lab &amp; Viewing Room.</li> <li>○ Aim: To boost the documentary film industry by offering filmmakers a special platform to meet buyers, sponsors, and partners.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>National Competition Awards</b></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Category</th> <th>Film</th> <th>Director</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Best Indian Documentary Film (Silver Conch)</td> <td>6-A Akash Ganga</td> <td>Nirmal Chander Dandriyal</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Best Indian Short Fiction Film (Silver Conch)</td> <td>Salt</td> <td>Barkha Prashant Naik</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Best Indian Animation Film (Silver Conch)</td> <td>Nirjara</td> <td>Gaurav Pati</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dadasaheb Phalke Chitrangadhi Award for Best Debut Director &amp; FIPRESCI International Critic Jury award</td> <td>Towards Happy Alleys</td> <td>Sreemoyee Singh</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><b>About MIFF</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Oldest and largest film festival for non-feature films (Documentary, Short Fiction &amp; Animation) in South Asia.</li> <li>● Started in 1990; Held biennially.</li> </ul> <p>72. Organized by NFDC, under the aegis of Ministry of Information &amp; Broadcasting.</p>	Category	Film	Director	Best Indian Documentary Film (Silver Conch)	6-A Akash Ganga	Nirmal Chander Dandriyal	Best Indian Short Fiction Film (Silver Conch)	Salt	Barkha Prashant Naik	Best Indian Animation Film (Silver Conch)	Nirjara	Gaurav Pati	Dadasaheb Phalke Chitrangadhi Award for Best Debut Director & FIPRESCI International Critic Jury award	Towards Happy Alleys	Sreemoyee Singh
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## PLACES IN NEWS

S.No	Place	Key Facts
1.	Paradip Port, Odisha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Highest cargo handling major port in India, recording a remarkable cargo throughput of 145.38 million metric tonnes (MMT) in 2023-24.</li> <li>● For the first time in the 56 years history of operation, surpassed previous records, set by Deendayal Port in Kandla, Gujarat.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It has achieved highest ever coastal shipping traffic of 59.19 million metric tonnes, with a growth of 0.76 million metric tonnes i.e. 1.30% over the previous year.</li> </ul>
2.	Kodaikanal Solar Observatory (KSO), Tamil Nadu	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It celebrated its 125th anniversary on 1 April.</li> <li>It is a field station under the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA)</li> <li>It was established in 1899 by the British.</li> </ul> 
3.	Katchatheevu Island	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is an uninhabited island in Sri Lanka.</li> <li>In 1974, India and Sri Lanka signed an agreement to demarcate the boundary between the two countries in the historic waters from Palk Strait to Adam's Bridge.</li> <li>Under this agreement, Katchatheevu was ceded to Sri Lanka.</li> </ul>
4.	Kachchh, Gujarat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Archaeologists have excavated 5,200-year-Old Harappan Settlement at Padta Bet near Khatiya village in Kachchh District, Gujarat.</li> <li>The site is part of Indus Valley civilization (Harappan civilization).</li> <li>Excavation done by researchers from Kerala University in collaboration with various national and international institutions.</li> </ul>
5.	Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port, Kolkata	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port, Kolkata including Kolkata Dock System and Haldia Dock Complex achieved an all-time record cargo handling (66.4 Million Metric Tonnes (MMT)) since 1870.</li> <li>This marks a 1.11% increase from the previous record of 65.66 million tonnes moved in 2022-23.</li> <li>Haldia Dock Complex handled 49.54 MMT in FY 2023-24, marking its highest cargo volume ever since its inception, crossing the previous record of 48.608 MMT in FY 2022-23.</li> </ul>
6.	Sittwe Port 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has approved a proposal for India Ports Global Limited (IPGL) to take over the operations of Sittwe Port, located on the Kaladan River in Myanmar's Rakhine state.</li> <li>India's second overseas port acquisition after Chabahar Port in Iran</li> </ul> <p><b>About IPGL:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Established in 2015 under Ministry of Shipping for overseas port development.</li> <li>A joint venture between Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT) and Deendayal Port Trust.</li> </ul>
7.	World's largest renewable energy park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To be built by: Adani Green Energy Ltd.</li> <li>Location: Khavda, Kutch district of Gujarat.</li> <li>Total Capacity: 30 GW (26 GW of solar and 4 GW of wind capacity). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Of the total, 2,000 MW (2 GW) has been commissioned recently.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Adani Group targets to generate 500 GW of electricity from non-fossil sources by 2030, as part of a broader plan of achieving net-zero emissions by 2070.</li> </ul>
8.	World's longest ultra-lux infinity pool 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Located at: Dubai, United Arab Emirates</li> <li>The pool measures an impressive 120 meters in length and is elevated hundreds of meters above ground.</li> <li>It is part of 'The Link,' the longest cantilever building on the planet, and is located between two skyscrapers.</li> </ul>
9.	Mattala Rajapaksa International Airport, Hambantota, Sri Lanka	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shaurya Aeronautics (Pvt) Ltd of India and Airports of Regions Management Company of Russia to manage this airport for 30 years.</li> <li>This airport was funded by the China EXIM Bank.</li> <li>It was once dubbed as the "world's emptiest airport".</li> </ul>

10.	Mount Erebus, Antarctica	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It released gas bubbles containing approximately 80 grams of gold each day, amounting USD 6,000 worth of gold being blown into the atmosphere every day.</li> <li>Reported by IFL Science.</li> </ul>
11.	World's largest capacity airport 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Al Maktoum International Airport, Dubai to achieve this milestone upon completion.</li> <li>Initiative of the Dubai Aviation Corporation.</li> <li><b>Capacity:</b> to accommodate up to 260 million passengers annually.</li> <li><b>Highlight:</b> five parallel runways and accommodate space for 400 terminal or aircraft gates.</li> </ul>
12.	Mammoth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>World's largest plant for carbon dioxide removal from the air.</b></li> <li><b>Developed by:</b> Climeworks, a Switzerland-based startup &amp; Iceland based Carbfix.</li> <li><b>World's largest plant for carbon dioxide removal from the air.</b></li> <li>can capture up to 36,000 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> annually, utilizing direct air capture (DAC) technology.</li> <li>Located in Iceland.</li> <li>Climeworks aims to remove 1 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub> by 2030 and 1 billion tons by 2050.</li> </ul> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p><b>DID YOU KNOW?</b></p> <p>Climeworks' launched world's first large-scale direct air capture and storage plant in Hellisheiði, Iceland known as the 'Orca'. It can capture 4,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> annually.</p> </div>
13.	Sungal Tunnel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Border Roads Organisation (BRO), under Project Sampark, achieved a significant milestone by <b>breaking through this tunnel</b>, spanning 2.79-km.</li> <li><b>Location:</b> Akhnoor-Poonch Road (NH 144A/ Golden Arc Road), J&amp;K.</li> </ul>
14.	Kashiwazaki Kariwa facility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>World's biggest nuclear plant.</b></li> <li>Japan to resume nuclear power generation at this facility.</li> <li><b>Launched / developed by:</b> Tokyo Electric Power Co. (Tepco).</li> <li>This marks the first operation of a nuclear reactor by Tepco under the safety rules post-Fukushima Dai-Ichi meltdowns in 2011.</li> <li><b>Total capacity:</b> 8 gigawatts with 7 units.</li> </ul>
15.	Sahul	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An Atlantis-like supercontinent discovered off the coast of northern Australia; existed during the ice ages.</li> <li>It was home to up to half a million people around 70,000 years ago.</li> <li>Comprised present-day Australia, Papua New Guinea, and Tasmania.</li> </ul>
16.	British Antarctic Territory (BAT)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Russian vessel Alexander Karpinsky</b>, operated by Rosgeo, discovered vast oil and gas reserves in BAT.</li> <li>Reported 511 billion barrels of oil reserves.</li> </ul> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p><b>DID YOU KNOW?</b></p> <p><b>BAT</b> - largest and most southerly of the UK's 14 Overseas Territories. Also claimed by Argentina, and Chile.</p> <p><b>Rosgeo</b>- Russian agency charged with finding mineral reserves for commercial exploitation.</p> <p><b>1959 Antarctic Treaty</b> bans all mineral or oil developments in Antarctica</p> </div>
17.	Sela Tunnel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Officially recognised as the <b>highest tunnel in India</b> by the International Book of Honour, England.</li> <li><b>Location:</b> Tezpur-Tawang Road, Arunachal Pradesh.</li> <li>Made by <b>Border Roads Organisation (BRO)</b>.</li> <li><b>Length:</b> 2.598 kilometers; <b>Altitude:</b> 13,000 feet.</li> <li><b>World's longest twin-lane tunnel at this altitude.</b></li> </ul>

18.	Shinku La tunnel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>To be constructed by:</b> Border Roads Organisation (BRO).</li> <li>An all-weather connectivity tunnel between Manali and Leh via the Nimmu-Padam-Darcha axis; Altitude: 15,800 feet; Length: 4.1-km.</li> <li>Upon completion, it will become the world's highest tunnel, surpassing China's Mila tunnel (15,590 feet).</li> </ul>
19.	University of Tokyo Atacama Observatory (TAO)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The highest astronomical site on Earth at a height of 18500ft.</li> <li>Located on Andes mountain at Cerro Chajnantor, Chile.</li> <li>Surpassed Atacama Large Millimeter Array (ALMA, 16,570 feet).</li> </ul>
20.	Dar es Salaam Port, Tanzania 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adani International Ports Holdings Pte Ltd (AIPH), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd (APSEZ), secured a 30-year concession to operate and manage Container Terminal 2 (CT2) of this port.</li> </ul>
21.	900 MW Arun-3 Hydro Electric Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Location:</b> Sankhuwasabha District, Nepal.</li> <li>Excavation for the <b>Head Race Tunnel</b> of the project got completed.</li> <li><b>Implemented by:</b> SJVN Arun-3 Power Development Company Pvt. Ltd. (SAPDC), a collaboration between SJVN &amp; Nepal.</li> </ul>
22.	Smritivan Earthquake Memorial and Museum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One of the seven shortlisted museums for Prix Versailles Award 2024. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>World's Most Beautiful Museums List to be announced for the first time.</li> </ul> </li> <li>First Indian Museum to receive such global recognition for its architectural and cultural expression.</li> <li>Location: Bhujyo Dungar hill in Bhuj, Kutch, Gujarat.</li> <li>Built in memory of the victims of the 2001 Gujarat earthquake.</li> <li>Home to the world's largest Miyawaki Forest.</li> </ul> <p><b>About Prix Versailles Award</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Awarded annually by UNESCO since 2015.</li> <li>Celebrates architectural excellence.</li> </ul>
23.	Maitri Setu	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Connects Sabroom (South Tripura) in India with Ramgarh in Bangladesh.</li> <li>Built over the Feni River (flows between Tripura &amp; Bangladesh).</li> </ul>
24.	Amaravati	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Announced as the sole capital of Andhra Pradesh.</li> </ul> <p><b>Background</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Amaravati Project – announced by Chandrababu Naidu after the bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh.</li> <li>In 2019, three capitals were announced, Visakhapatnam (executive), Amaravati (legislative) &amp; Kurnool (judicial) by YS Jagan Mohan Reddy.</li> </ul>
25.	India's largest ethane cracker project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To be set up by GAIL. <b>Capacity:</b> 1500 KTA.</li> <li><b>Location:</b> Ashta, Sehore district in Madhya Pradesh.</li> </ul>
26.	Nalanda University, Bihar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New campus unveiled near the ancient ruins in Rajgir.</li> <li>Decision to set up the university arrived during 2nd East Asia Summit.</li> <li>An international university established under the Nalanda University Act of 2010.</li> <li>A collaboration between India and East Asia Summit(EAS) countries</li> <li>The contemporary university commenced its operations in 2014.</li> <li>Besides India, 17 countries signed MoUs to offer support.</li> <li>A 'Net Zero' Green Campus.</li> </ul>

### DID YOU KNOW?

Nalanda is the world's first residential University. Established around 1600 years ago. The ruins of Nalanda were declared as a UN Heritage Site in 2016.

27.	550 MW solar power project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Location:</b> Bikaner, Rajasthan.</li> <li><b>Developed by:</b> Brookfield Asset Management Ltd.</li> <li><b>IFC's first investment in Asia and the Pacific using an innovative hybrid offtake structure.</b></li> <li>International Finance Corporation (IFC) commits USD 105 million to the project through long term debentures.</li> </ul>
28.	Prerna Sthal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Location:</b> Parliament House complex, New Delhi.</li> <li>Consolidates 15 statues of prominent Indian freedom fighters and icons, previously scattered around the Parliament premises, into one location.</li> </ul>
29.	Vadhavan Port	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A new all-weather Greenfield deep draft major port.</li> <li>To be developed near Dahanu in Palghar district, Maharashtra.</li> <li>To be constructed by Vadhavan Port Project Limited (VPPL), an SPV formed by Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (74%) and Maharashtra Maritime Board (26%).</li> </ul>
30.	Chenab Rail Bridge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Trail run conducted between Sangaldan and Reasi, making it the first ever full train that crossed over the iconic bridge.</li> <li><b>World's highest steel arch rail bridge (359 meters).</b></li> <li><b>Location:</b> Reasi district, Jammu and Kashmir.</li> <li>Built under the Udhampur Srinagar Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) Project</li> </ul>
31.	Yuga Yugeen Bharat Museum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The new National Museum of India.</li> <li>Set to be the largest museum in the world (1,54,000 sqm).</li> <li>To be built North and South Block near Raisina Hill, New Delhi.</li> <li>To be built under the Central Vista Redevelopment Project,</li> <li>Will be developed through Adaptive Reuse in collaboration with France, similar to the Louvre Museum in Paris. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Marked by a Letter of Intent signed in 2020 emphasizing Museum &amp; Heritage Cooperation between India &amp; France.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
32.	Srinagar 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recognized as a 'World Craft City' by the World Craft Council (WCC).</li> <li>Fourth Indian city to receive this recognition, following Jaipur, Malappuram, and Mysore.</li> <li>The city was designated as part of the UNESCO Creative City Network (UCCN) for crafts and folk arts in 2021.</li> <li>Srinagar is renowned for its craftsmanship, including Pashmina and Kani shawls.</li> </ul> <p><b>Additional Information</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>WCC:</b> A non-government organisation, founded in 1964, is working to empower artisans and safeguard craft heritage globally.</li> </ul>
33.	Khalubar War Memorial, Ladakh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Opened to tourists as a part of Forever in Operations' Division's Pre-Kargil Vijay Diwas celebrations.</li> </ul>
34.	Bioplastic Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Location:</b> Gola Gokarnnath, Lakhimpur Kheri district, Uttar Pradesh.</li> <li><b>Nodal Agency:</b> Uttar Pradesh Expressways Industrial Development Authority (UPEIDA).</li> <li>To be developed by Balrampur Sugar Mills Firm.</li> </ul>
35.	Maharishi Valmiki International Airport, Ayodhya Dham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has extended the license for a period of 5 years.</li> </ul>

## DAYS IN NEWS

S.No	Days	Themes & Misc.
1	World Autism Awareness Day (April 2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Theme:</b> 'Empowering Autistic Voices'</li> </ul>
2	61st National Maritime Day (April 5)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Theme:</b> "Navigating the future: safety first!"</li> <li>• Merchant Navy Week (30th March to April 5)</li> <li>• The day pays tribute to the <b>maiden voyage</b> of the first Indian-owned ship, <b>SS Loyalty</b> from Mumbai to London in 1919.</li> <li>• Grand finale on theme "<b>Sustainable Shipping: Opportunities and Challenges</b>".</li> </ul>
3	World Health Day ( April 7)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Theme:</b> 'My health, my right'</li> </ul>
4	World Homeopathy Day (April 10)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Theme:</b> "Homeoparivar: One Health, One Family"</li> <li>• <b>Homoeopathy Symposium</b>, organized by <b>Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy (CCRH)</b>, in <b>New Delhi</b>, under the theme-'<b>Empowering Research, Enhancing Proficiency</b>'.</li> </ul>
5	World Hemophilia Day (April 17)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Theme:</b> 'Equitable access for all: recognizing all bleeding disorders'.</li> </ul>
6	Earth Day or International Mother Earth Day (April 22)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Theme:</b> 'Planet vs. Plastics'.</li> </ul>
7	World Book and Copyright Day (April 23)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Theme:</b> "Read Your Way".</li> <li>• UNESCO has selected <b>Strasbourg, France</b> as the <b>World Book Capital</b> for <b>2024</b>.</li> <li>• Accra (Ghana) was <b>UNESCO World Book Capital</b> for <b>2023</b>.</li> </ul>
8	National Panchayati Raj Day (April 24)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ministry of Panchayati Raj organized a National Colloquium on "Governance at the Grassroots after Three Decades of the 73rd Constitutional Amendment" at New Delhi.</li> <li>• The 73rd Amendment Act of 1992, which came into effect on April 24, 1993, gave constitutional status to Panchayat Raj Institutions.</li> </ul>
9	World Immunization Week 2024 (24 to 30 April)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Theme:</b> Humanly Possible: Immunization for All.</li> <li>• This year World Immunization Week will celebrate <b>50 years of the Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI)</b> of the WHO.</li> </ul>
10	International Girls in ICT Day (April 25)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Observed every year on the <b>last day Thursday of April</b>.</li> <li>• <b>Theme:</b> "Leadership".</li> <li>• This year's celebration hosted by <b>the Philippines</b>.</li> </ul>

11	World Intellectual Property Day (April 26)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Theme:</b> "IP and the SDGs: Building Our Common Future with Innovation and Creativity".</li> </ul>
12	Satellite Technology Day (April 19)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Observed by</b> U R Rao Satellite Centre (URSC), Bengaluru.</li> <li><b>Significance:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commemorates the successful launch of India's first satellite, <b>Aryabhata</b>, on April 19, 1975.</li> <li>This year marks the beginning of the 50th year of Aryabhata Launch, accomplished under the able leadership of Prof U R Rao.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
13	International Labour Day (May 1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Theme:</b> "To ensure workplace safety and health amidst climate change."</li> </ul>
14	World Press Freedom Day (May 3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Theme:</b> "A Press for the Planet: Journalism in the Face of the Environmental Crisis."</li> <li>Chile and UNESCO hosted 31st World Press Freedom Day Conference at Santiago.</li> </ul>
	World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day (May 8)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Theme:</b> "I give with joy, and the joy I give is a reward."</li> </ul>
15	International Thalassemia Day (May 8)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Theme:</b> "Empowering Lives, Embracing Progress: Equitable and Accessible Thalassaemia Treatment for All".</li> </ul>
16	National Technology Day (May 11)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Theme:</b> "School to Startups - Inspiring Young Minds to Innovate".</li> <li>The day commemorates "Operation Shakti".</li> </ul> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p><b>DID YOU KNOW?</b> India successfully conducted the Nuclear Missile Test at the Indian Army's Pokhran range on May 11, 1998 under Operation Shakti.</p> </div>
17	250th Foundation Day of Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) (May 14)	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p><b>DID YOU KNOW?</b> Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) was started as a small dry dock in 1774. It was incorporated in 1934.</p> </div>
	50 Years of Pokhran-I (May 18) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>50th anniversary of first nuclear test (Operation Smiling Buddha) in Pokhran, Rajasthan, coinciding with Buddha Jayanti. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Test conducted on May 18, 1974.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Pokhran-II test was done in 1998 (Codenamed Operation Shakti).</li> </ul>
18	International Day for Women in Maritime (May 18)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Theme:</b> " Safe Horizons: Women in Shaping the Future of Maritime Safety".</li> </ul>
19	International Museum Day (IMD) (May 18)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Theme:</b> 'Museums for Education and Research'</li> <li><b>Goals of IMD 2024</b> as outlined by International Council of Museums (ICOM): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>SDG 4:</b> Quality Education – Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ SDG 9: Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure – Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization, and foster innovation.</li> </ul>
20	World Metrology Day (May 20)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Theme:</b> 'Sustainability'.</li> <li>● Officially recognized by the UNESCO for the first time.</li> <li>○ A special kick-off event at UNESCO headquarters was organized. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ <b>Theme:</b> We Measure Today for a Sustainable Tomorrow.</li> <li>✓ Organized under the umbrella of the <b>International Decade of Sciences for Sustainable development (2024-2033)</b>.</li> <li>✓ <b>Event partners:</b> International Bureau of Weights and Measures and the International Organization of Legal Metrology, with the support of the Permanent Delegation of Kazakhstan.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
21	National Anti-Terrorism Day (May 21)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Observed annually to commemorate death anniversary of former Indian PM Rajiv Gandhi.</li> </ul>
22	International Day for Biological Diversity (May 22)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Theme:</b> "Be part of the Plan." <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Calls for stakeholders to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by supporting the <b>implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework</b>, also known as the <b>Biodiversity Plan</b>.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Aim: to build momentum leading up to the 16<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP 16) at Cali, Colombia.</li> </ul>
29.	63rd Commonwealth Day (May 24)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Theme:</b> "One Resilient Common Future: Transforming our Common Wealth".</li> <li>● Celebrated on this date in India also.</li> <li>● Also celebrated on second Monday of March.</li> </ul>
30.	1 <sup>st</sup> World Football Day (May 25)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 2024 marks the 100th anniversary of the first international football tournament in history with the representation of all regions as part of the 1924 Summer Olympic Games, held in Paris.</li> </ul>
		<p><b>Background</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Day proclaimed by United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)</li> <li>● Resolution proposed by Bahrain, Libya, and Tajikistan.</li> </ul>
31.	10 <sup>th</sup> Menstrual Hygiene Day (May 28)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Theme:</b> "Together for a #PeriodFriendlyWorld.".</li> </ul>
32.	76 <sup>th</sup> International Day of UN Peacekeepers (May 29)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Theme:</b> 'Fit for the future, building better together'.</li> <li>● The first UN Peacekeeping Mission, "UN Truce Supervision Organisation (UNTSO)" began operations in Palestine, on this day in 1948.</li> </ul>
33.	Hindi Journalism Day (May 30) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The day marks the publication of first Hindi newspaper, 'Udant Martand,' started by Pt. Jugal Kishore Shukla, in 1826 in Calcutta.</li> </ul>
34.	1 <sup>st</sup> International Day of Potato (May 30)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Theme:</b> 'Harvesting diversity, Feeding hope'.</li> <li>● International Year of the Potato was observed in 2008.</li> </ul>

		
35.	World No Tobacco Day (May 31)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Theme:</b> "Protecting Children from Tobacco Industry Interference."</li> <li>Previously known as <b>World No Smoking Day</b>.</li> <li><b>Initiatives by the Government of India</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PV Sindhu - brand ambassador for Tobacco Control.</li> <li>India was the <b>first country</b> to regulate anti-tobacco warnings on streaming/OTT platforms</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
36.	World Milk Day (June 1) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Theme:</b> "Dairy's role in nutrition and global health".</li> </ul> <p><b>Additional Information</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>National Milk Day (Birth Anniversary of Dr. Verghese Kurien):</b> Nov. 26</li> </ul>
37.	World Environment Day (June 5) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Theme:</b> "Land restoration, desertification and drought resilience".</li> <li><b>Host:</b> Saudi Arabia; <b>Held annually since 1973.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Additional Information</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Land restoration is a key pillar of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021-2030).</li> <li>2024 marks the <b>30th anniversary of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)</b>.</li> <li>COP 16 to the UNCCD will be held in <b>Riyadh</b>.</li> </ul>
38.	1 <sup>st</sup> International Day for Dialogue among Civilizations (June 10)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Resolution proposed by China;</b> unanimously adopted at UNGA.</li> <li>Aligns with <b>Global Civilizations Initiative (GCI) of China</b>.</li> </ul>
39.	1 <sup>st</sup> International Day of Play (June 11) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Declared by the <b>United Nations</b>.</li> <li><b>Joint Coordinators:</b> UNICEF and UNESCO.</li> <li>"Hour of Play" initiative <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Announced by UNICEF in collaboration with <b>Bachpan Manao, Bhadte Jao (BMBJ)</b> initiative by EkStep Foundation.</li> <li>Encouraged adults to engage in an hour of free play with children.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
40.	World Day Against Child Labour (June 12)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Theme:</b> "Let's act on our commitments: End Child Labour!".</li> <li><b>Focus Area:</b> celebrating the 25th anniversary of the adoption of the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention.</li> </ul>
41.	World Blood Donor Day (June 14)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Theme:</b> "20 years of celebrating giving: thank you blood donors!"</li> </ul>
42.	World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought (June 17)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Theme:</b> United for Land. Our Legacy. Our Future.</li> <li><b>Host:</b> Bonn, Germany.</li> <li><b>United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)</b> announced 10 Land Heroes</li> <li>Siddhesh Sakore, a <b>farmer</b> and the <b>founder of AGRO RANGERS</b>, from <b>Maharashtra</b>, is one among the 10 Land Heroes.</li> </ul>
43.	International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict (June 19)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Theme:</b> "Attacks against health care in conflict-affected areas: Impacts for survivors of conflict-related sexual violence."</li> </ul>

44.	World Refugee Day (June 20)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Theme:</b> "For a World Where Refugees Are Welcomed."</li> </ul>
45.	10th International Day of Yoga (IDY) (June 21) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Theme:</b> 'Yoga for Self and Society';</li> <li>• Host: SKICC, Srinagar.</li> </ul>
46.	Olympic Day (June 23) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Theme:</b> Let's Move and Celebrate. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ International Olympic Committee (IOC) has launched the Let's Move and Celebrate initiative, created in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO), to inspire and encourage people to embrace the joy of movement.</li> <li>✓ Aims to engage people worldwide to participate in sports and support athletes at the 2024 Paris Olympic Games.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
47.	UN Public Service Day (June 23)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Key Event:</b> 2024 UN Public Service Forum and Awards <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organized by UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA); Venue: Incheon, Republic of Korea.</li> <li>• <b>Theme:</b> Fostering Innovation amid Global Challenges: a Public Sector Perspective</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
48.	International Day of Women in Diplomacy (June 24) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UNGA President honoured Hansa Mehta on this occasion.</li> </ul> <p><b>About Hansa Mehta</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A distinguished Indian scholar, educator, social reformer, writer, and an advocate for women's rights.</li> <li>• The only other female delegate, apart from Eleanor Roosevelt to the UN Commission on Human Rights, playing a significant role in drafting the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.</li> <li>• The President of All India Women's Conference (AIWC) in 1946 &amp; led the drafting of the "Indian Women's Charter of Rights".</li> <li>• The first woman to be elected to the Bombay Legislative Council.</li> <li>• Padma Bhushan Awardee.</li> </ul>
49.	International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking (June 26)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Theme: "The evidence is clear: invest in prevention".</li> <li>• Also known as the world drug day.</li> </ul>
50.	Micro-, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises Day (MSME Day) (June 27)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Theme: Leveraging the Power and Resilience of Micro-, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs) to Accelerate Sustainable Development and Eradicate Poverty in Times of Multiple Crises.</li> <li>• Celebrated in India as 'Udyami Bharat - MSME Day' on the same day.</li> </ul>
51.	18th National Statistics Day (June 29) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Theme:</b> "Use of Data for Decision-Making".</li> <li>• Celebrated to honor Professor (late) Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis for his contributions to statistics and economic planning.</li> </ul>

52.	<b>International Day of Parliamentarism</b> (June 30)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Theme:</b> "Parliamentary diplomacy: Building bridges for peace and understanding".</li> </ul>
53.	<b>National Doctors Day</b> (July 1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Theme:</b> "Healing Hands, Caring Hearts."</li> <li>• <b>Birth and death anniversary of Dr Bidhan Chandra Roy</b>, a physician, freedom fighter, and former CM of West Bengal.</li> </ul>
54.	<b>National Chartered Accountants Day</b> (July 1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This year marks the <b>76th anniversary of the ICAI's establishment</b></li> </ul> <p><b>About Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A statutory body under the Chartered Accountants Act of 1949.</li> <li>• Regulates the profession of Chartered Accountancy in India.</li> <li>• India's only licencing and regulatory body for financial audits and the accounting profession.</li> <li>• <b>Ministry:</b> Ministry of Corporate Affairs; HQ: New Delhi</li> </ul>

## MISCELLANEOUS

S.No	News	Key Facts
1.	<b>Schengen zone- Europe's 'border-free' travel system</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Romania and Bulgaria have partially joined the Schengen area, allowing air and sea travellers from the zone to enter without ID checks.</li> <li>• The land border checks remain due to concerns from Austria.</li> </ul> <p><b>About Schengen zone</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Established in 1985.</li> <li>• Objective: To enable passport-free travel across EU members</li> </ul>
2.	<b>IndiGo becomes world's 3rd most valuable airline by m-cap</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IndiGo (operated by InterGlobe Aviation) has surpassed Southwest Airlines to become the world's third most valuable airline in terms of market capitalization (m-cap).</li> </ul>
3.	<b>New Logo of Doordarshan news channel</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The color of Doordarshan's logo has been changed from ruby red to saffron.</li> </ul> <p><b>About Doordarshan</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Doordarshan was launched in 1959.</li> <li>• It is the flagship channel of the Government of India.</li> </ul>
4.	<b>India's biggest Climate Clock</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Installed and activated on the Council of Scientific &amp; Industrial Research (CSIR) Headquarters Building, New Delhi.</li> <li>• Initiative of: CSIR &amp; Energy Swaraj Foundation</li> <li>• Installed as a part of the Earth Day Celebrations.</li> </ul>
5.	<b>Reliance Jio's Leadership in Mobile Data Traffic</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reliance Jio has surpassed China Mobile to become the world's largest mobile operator in terms of data traffic consumption.</li> </ul>
6.	<b>US Naturalization Policy report</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Released by: Congressional Research Service (CRS), USA</li> <li>• Top 5 largest sources of new citizens for USA in 2022: Mexico (128,878 naturalizations), India (65,960) &amp; the Philippines, Cuba &amp; Dominican Republic.</li> </ul>
7.	<b>Vertelo- electric vehicle (EV) financing and solutions platform</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Launched by Australia's Macquarie Group in India with a commitment of USD 1.5 billion.</li> <li>• It will provide a comprehensive suite of services, including EV financing, fleet management, and the development of charging infrastructure.</li> </ul>

8.	Russian Chamber of Commerce & Industry opens office in India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Honorary Representative of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI) of Russia has opened its new office in Mumbai.</li> </ul>
9.	Indian passport second 'cheapest' in the world	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Study conducted by: Australian firm Compare the Market AU.</li> <li>Parameters: acquisition costs, cost-effectiveness per year of validity, and the extent of visa-free access.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Findings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Indian passport is the <b>second cheapest globally</b>, right after the UAE passport.</li> <li>Indian Passport holds the distinction of being the <b>most cost-effective</b> in terms of "cost per year" of validity.</li> <li>India emerged as the <b>most economical passport option</b>, with a mere <b>USD 1.81 expenditure per year</b>, followed by South Africa and Kenya.</li> <li>Indian passport holder can travel to 62 nations visa-free.</li> <li>The study also highlighted that <b>Mexico and Australia</b> have some of the most expensive passports respectively.</li> </ul>
10.	Iraq criminalises same-sex relations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Iraq's parliament passed a bill that criminalised same-sex relations.</li> <li>A <b>minimum seven-year prison term</b> for "promoting" same-sex relations</li> <li>A sentence ranging from one to three years for men who "intentionally" act like women.</li> <li>Punishes transgender people and doctors who perform <b>gender-affirming surgery</b> with up to three years in prison.</li> <li>Biological sex change based on personal desire and inclination is a crime</li> <li>It ban organizations that "promote" homosexuality and punish "wife swapping" with a prison sentence of 10 to 15 years.</li> </ul>
11.	Launch of All-Electric Air Taxi Service in India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>InterGlobe Enterprises (Parent company of Indigo), along with Archer Aviation, plans to launch an <b>all-electric air taxi service in India</b> by 2026.</li> <li>The service will offer a <b>seven-minute flight</b> from Connaught Place, Delhi to Gurugram in Haryana.</li> <li>It will be extended to Mumbai and Bengaluru.</li> </ul>
12.	Largest worldwide campus of American Express	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Set up at: Gurugram, Haryana; Spans around <b>one million square feet</b>.</li> </ul>
13.	Nepal to introduce new Rs 100 currency notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It will feature disputed territories with India viz, Lipulekh, Limpiyadhura, and Kalapani.</li> </ul>
14.	Voter turnout at Srinagar Constituency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>36.58% - the highest since 1996. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 1996, Srinagar PC witnessed 40.94% voter turnout.</li> </ul> </li> <li>This was the <b>first general election</b> in Jammu &amp; Kashmir after the abrogation of Article 370 and the enactment of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019</li> </ul>
15.	U.N. Counter-Terrorism Trust Fund	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>India contributed USD 500,000 towards the fund.</li> <li>It will support United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) global programs – mainly Countering Financing of Terrorism (CFT) and Countering Terrorist Travel Programme (CTTP).</li> </ul>
16.	Draft resolution at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) that seeks full	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>India has voted in favour of the resolution</li> <li>it does not give Palestinians full membership but recognises them as qualified to join.</li> </ul>

	membership of Palestine in the UN 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Resolution was introduced by the UAE, as Chair of the Arab Group in May.</li> <li>The Palestinians' request to become full members of the United Nations, dating back to 2011, was vetoed by the United States, maintaining their status as a "non-member observer state."</li> <li>India was among the first non-Arab states to recognize the Palestine Liberation Organisation in 1974 and recognized the State of Palestine in 1988.</li> </ul>
17.	UNESCO's Memory of the World Asia-Pacific Regional Register (MOWCAP) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ramcharitmanas, Panchatantra, and Sahṛdayāloka-Locana have been officially included.</li> <li>The works are credited to their respective authors: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Goswami Tulsidas for Ramcharitmanas</li> <li>Pt. Vishnu Sharma for Panchatantra (15th Century Manuscript)</li> <li>Acharya Anandvardhan for Sahṛdayāloka-Locana.</li> </ul> </li> <li>This is the first time since 2008 that IGNCA has submitted nominations to the Regional Register.</li> </ul> <p><b>Additional Information</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MOWCAP was set up in 1998 and is the regional forum for UNESCO's global Memory of the World (MOW) Programme.</li> <li>The Memory of the World Programme, launched in 1992, is an international programme aimed at safeguarding, preserving, and facilitating access to and the use of documentary heritage.</li> </ul>
18.	Visa Support Initiative for Indian Destination Weddings in Abu Dhabi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Initiative of:</b> Abu Dhabi Convention and Exhibition Bureau (ADCEB), part of the Department of Culture and Tourism Abu Dhabi.</li> <li><b>Purpose:</b> Establish Abu Dhabi as a premier destination for weddings and celebrations.</li> <li>Aligned with Abu Dhabi's tourism strategy 2030.</li> </ul>
19.	Gaming Visa Initiative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Launched by:</b> Dubai.</li> <li>Part of Dubai's Program for Gaming 2033, to create a total of 30,000 jobs and achieve a USD 1 billion surge in GDP.</li> <li>Offered to content creators through Creative and Talented Accreditation Certificate.</li> </ul>
20.	Umeed Niketan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An advanced Therapy Centre for children with special needs.</li> <li><b>Initiative of:</b> Air Force Family Welfare Association.</li> <li><b>Location:</b> Air Force Palam, New Delhi.</li> </ul>
21.	India's Budgetary Support to the Maldives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>USD 50 million Treasury Bill issued by issued by the Ministry of Finance of Maldives and subscribed to by SBI for another year at zero cost (interest-free).</li> <li>Maldives is one of the main beneficiaries of the Government of India's 'Neighbourhood First' policy.</li> </ul>
22.	Nomad Visa for remote workers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Launched by:</b> South Africa.</li> <li><b>Beneficiaries:</b> remote workers who are employed and paid by foreign companies.</li> <li><b>Minimum Income Requirement:</b> South African rand 1 million.</li> </ul>
23.	Reclassification of marijuana	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The US Government reclassified marijuana as a less dangerous drug under its Controlled Substances Act (CSA).</li> </ul>
24.	Recognition of Palestine as a State	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recognized by Norway, Ireland, and Spain.</li> <li>Israel reprimands the ambassadors of all these three nations for this decision.</li> </ul>

25.	33% Reservation for Women in Outsourced Jobs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Initiative of:</b> Government of Karnataka.</li> <li><b>Eligibility:</b> outsourced jobs lasting more than 45 days and employing over 20 people.</li> </ul>
26.	China Integrated Circuit Industry Investment Fund (Third Phase)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Registered Capital:</b> 344 billion yuan (USD 47.5 billion)</li> <li><b>Phase I &amp; Phase II</b> released in 2014 &amp; 2019 respectively.</li> <li><b>Largest of the three funds</b>, known as the "Big Fund."</li> <li><b>Objective:</b> to achieve self-sufficiency for China in semiconductors.</li> </ul> <p><b>Additional Information</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co., the world's largest contract chip maker, received up to USD 6.6 billion, to build factories in the U.S.</li> </ul>
27.	Digital strategy of L&T	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Aim:</b> to achieve carbon neutrality by 2040.</li> </ul>
28.	UAE's Golden Visa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recently granted to <b>actor Rajnikanth</b>.</li> <li>Issued to <b>attract foreign talents and investors</b> to live, work, and study in the UAE. No sponsor required.</li> <li>Residence permits valid for either 5 or 10 years with renewal option.</li> </ul>
29.	India's Relief Assistance for Papua New Guinea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Assistance Amount:</b> USD 1 million.</li> <li>Announced in the wake of a <b>landslide</b> in Enga Province.</li> </ul>
30.	Russia to remove Taliban from Terror List	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kazakhstan also lifted the ban on Taliban in 2023.</li> </ul>
34.	United Nations Assistance Mission in Iraq (UNAMI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>UN Security Council (UNSC) to <b>end this mission by end of 2025</b>.</li> <li>Established in 2003 following the U.S.-led invasion to coordinate post-conflict efforts &amp; help restore a representative government.</li> </ul>
35.	Bharat Coal Gasification and Chemicals Ltd (BCGCL)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A Joint Venture of <b>Coal India (51%) &amp; BHEL (49%)</b>.</li> <li>To undertake <b>coal-to-chemicals business</b>.</li> </ul>
36.	Air India-Vistara merger	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approved by the <b>National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT)</b>.</li> <li>Creation of <b>India's largest international carrier &amp; second-largest domestic carrier</b>.</li> <li>Merger includes Air India, Vistara, and Talace, all under the Tata Group umbrella.</li> <li><b>Stake of Singapore Airlines in Air India post-merger:</b> 25.1%. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vistara is a JV between <b>Singapore Airlines</b> and <b>Tata Group</b>.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
37.	Global economic hub in Navi Mumbai	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To be set up by <b>Reliance Industries Limited (RIL)</b>.</li> </ul>
38.	Golden Visa Scheme of Portugal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adapted as <b>solidarity visa</b>.</li> <li><b>Objective:</b> To allow wealthy foreigners seeking residency rights to invest in affordable housing for locals or accommodation for migrants.</li> </ul>
39.	National Assembly (lower house) of France	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dissolved by the French President after his <b>Renaissance party's defeat in the European Union vote</b>. He called for a snap election.</li> </ul>
40.	500-yr-old bronze statue of Saint Tirumankai Alvar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To be returned to India from the <b>Ashmolean Museum</b> by the <b>Oxford University</b>.</li> <li>Statue belonged to a temple from <b>Tamil Nadu</b>.</li> </ul>
41.	Smallest known great ape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Name:</b> Buronius manfredschmidi; <b>Estimated weight:</b> 10kg</li> <li>Discovered in <b>Bavaria, Germany</b>.</li> </ul>
42.	World's most valuable company in terms of mcap	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Feat achieved by <b>Nvidia</b> (mcap reached an all-time high of USD 3.335 trillion).</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Surpassed Microsoft.</li> </ul>
43.	Indian Railways enters Limca Book of Records 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Record:</b> Most people at a public service event at multiple venues. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ministry of Railways organized an event on 26 February 2024 which was attended by <b>40,19,516 people at 2,140 venues.</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
44.	Women Workforce in Aviation Industry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) issued an advisory to the stakeholders to increase the participation of women in the aviation workforce to 25% by 2025.</li> </ul>
45.	UN list for violating children's rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Israel's military, Hamas, and Palestinian Islamic Jihad's armed wing added for the first time.</li> <li>Russia's military and affiliated groups remained on the blacklist for their actions in Ukraine</li> </ul>
46.	World's largest domestic aviation markets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Top 5: U.S., China, India, Brazil &amp; Indonesia.</li> <li>India achieved the highest annual average capacity growth rate among the top five countries at 6.9% over the last decade.</li> <li>India's domestic airline capacity doubled from 7.9 million seats in April 2014 to 15.5 million in April 2024.</li> <li>Ranked by aviation analytics firm Official Airline Guide (OAG).</li> </ul>
47.	Tajikistan bans Hijab and 'Idi' custom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aim: to promote a secular national identity and preserve ancestral values and national culture of Tajikistan.</li> </ul>
48.	India's largest automakers by market capitalization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Top 3: Maruti Suzuki, Mahindra &amp; Mahindra (M&amp;M) &amp; Tata Motors.</li> </ul>
49.	Income Tax of Ministers in Madhya Pradesh Cabinet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To be paid by the ministers themselves.</li> <li>Overturned a rule from 1972 that had the state government covering these costs.</li> </ul>
50.	Guinness World Record for Tallest rideable bicycle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Achieved by Nicolas Barrioz and David Peyrou from France.</li> <li>Completed a 100-metre ride on the tallest bicycle (25 feet and 5 inches).</li> </ul>

## GA + FINANCE

### PRIMARY AND SECONDARY MARKET

#### 2.1 SEBI Circular on Cross Margin Benefits

##### Why in News

- Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has issued a new circular extending cross margin, sometimes referred to as "spread margin, benefits.

##### Key Highlights

- Circular introduces reduced spread margins for correlated indices and index constituents with differing expiry dates to enhance liquidity and reduce net settlements.
- Specific margins include:
  - 40% for Correlated indices with different expiry dates.
  - 30% for Correlated indices having same expiry date.
  - 35% for index and constituents with different expiry dates.

##### KEY TERMS

##### Cross Margining

A process where excess margin in one trading account is used to satisfy the maintenance margin requirements of another, reducing the total amount of capital that must be locked up in margin accounts across different trades.

- ✓ 25% for index and constituents with same expiry dates.
- Cross-margining was introduced by the National Stock Exchange (NSE) in 2020.
  - To enable market participants to utilize their available margins more efficiently across accounts, increasing liquidity and reducing financial requirements for maintenance margins.
  - Allows the transfer of excess margin from one account to another to meet margin requirements.
- The circular also includes provisions for the revocation of spread margin benefits at the start of the expiry day of the earliest expiring position when expiry dates differ, ensuring strict compliance and risk management.

## 2.2 SEBI Framework for Administration and Supervision of Research Analysts and Investment Advisers

### Why in News

- SEBI has introduced a new framework that designates stock exchanges as supervisory bodies for research analysts (RAs) and investment advisers (IAs).

### Key Highlights

- A stock exchange must meet several criteria to be recognized as both a Research Analyst Administration and Supervisory Body (RAASB) and an Investment Adviser Administration and Supervisory Body (IAASB), including having a minimum operational history of 15 years, a net worth of at least Rs 200 crore, nationwide terminals, and investor service centres in at least 20 cities.
- Objective: To streamline operations and ensure efficiency by providing a single window clearance for approvals where a person holds registration as both an RA and an IA.
- Existing RAs and IAs (who are also members of BASL) registered with SEBI are automatically deemed to be enlisted with the newly designated RAASB/IAASB.
- Periodic reporting to RAASB/IAASB is required from all registered RAs and IAs under the new framework.
- Recognized RAASB/IAASB must maintain adequate office space, equipment, and manpower to effectively discharge responsibilities.
- RAASBs and IAASBs will handle the initial scrutiny of registration applications to ensure completeness and submit recommendations to SEBI.
- They are also responsible for the approval of advertisements of RAs/IAs as per the Advertisement Code issued by SEBI, maintaining a database of RAs/IAs, and issuing circulars, instructions, or standard operating procedures for implementing SEBI regulations.
- RAASB and IAASB are required to constitute an internal committee specifically to oversee the administration and supervision activities of research analysts (RAs) and investment advisers (IAs).

### Additional Information

- BSE Administration & Supervision Limited ('BASL'), a wholly owned subsidiary of BSE Limited, was granted recognition as IAASB for 3 years from June 2021.

## 2.3 Changes in Sebi (portfolio managers) regulations, 2020

### Why in News

- Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has revised the digital onboarding process for clients of portfolio managers to enhance the ease of doing business.

#### KEY TERMS

##### High-Watermark Principle

A high-water mark is the **highest value that a fund has reached**. This principle ensures that fund managers only charge performance fees on the profits that exceed the highest value the fund has previously reached.

### Key Highlights

- Portfolio managers are now mandatorily required to enter into a written agreement with clients that clearly defines their mutual rights and the relationship.
- SEBI has introduced a fee calculation tool that provides clients with various fee options and multi-year fee calculations, emphasizing the high-watermark principle.

## 2.4 SEBI on Investment advisers (IAs)

### Why in News

- Securities Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has introduced a standardized periodic reporting format for investment advisers.

### Key Highlights

- **Regulatory References:** Regulation 15(12) of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Investment Advisers) Regulations, 2013.
- IAs are now required to submit periodic reports for the half-yearly periods ending on September 30 and March 31 each financial year.
- Reports must be submitted within 7 working days after each half-year and must include information on social media handles, bank accounts for advisory fees, NISM (National Institute of Securities Markets) certification, details of the last inspection by SEBI or IAASB, advertisements issued, and complaints published.
  - For the period ending March 31, 2024 (exception), the report must be submitted within 15 days from the circular's issuance.
- **Investment Advisers Administration and Supervisory Body (IAASB)** is recognized by SEBI to administer and supervise IAs.
  - Currently, IAASB has been seeking these reports on an ad-hoc basis.

## 2.5 SEBI Circular on RTAs

### Why in News

- Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has issued a master circular for Registrars and Transfer Agents (RTAs).

#### KEY TERMS

##### Registrar and Transfer Agents (RTA)

Registrar and Transfer Agents (RTA) are **SEBI-registered entities that provide services related to share registry maintenance and share transfer activities** on behalf of companies that have issued shares to the public.

### Key Highlights

- It advises RTAs to designate a specific email ID for investor complaint registration.
- Every RTI (registrar to an issue)/ STA (share transfer agents) whether a body corporate or not, is meant to keep and maintain in respect of the three preceding financial years, statement of capital adequacy requirement for each quarter.
  - Circular mandates RTAs to submit a certified true copy of their net worth certificate within 3 months from the end of each financial year.

- Reports on regulatory compliance and investor grievance redressal are to be furnished to SEBI in a specified format on a half-yearly basis within 3 months of the expiry of the half year.

## 2.6 SEBI New Rule for AIF

### Why in News

- SEBI has made it mandatory for at least one key personnel in the investment team of an Alternative Investment Fund (AIF) manager to obtain certification from the National Institute of Securities Market (NISM).

### Key Highlights

- The requirement is for key personnel to pass the NISM Series-XIX-C certification (i.e. the Alternative Investment Fund Managers Certification Examination).
- Compliance deadline for the certification requirement is **May 9, 2025**, for existing AIF schemes and those with pending scheme applications as of May 10, 2024.
- Trustee/sponsor of AIFs must ensure that the 'Compliance Test Report' prepared by the manager includes compliance with the new certification rules.
- Certification is an eligibility criterion** for obtaining registration as an AIF.

### Additional Information

- Previously, SEBI announced that changes in the private placement memorandum of AIFs can now be submitted directly to the regulator (SEBI) rather than through a merchant banker.

## 2.7 Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs)

### Why in News

- Sebi has permitted Category I and II AIFs to create encumbrances on the equity of investee companies involved in infrastructure projects, aligning with the government's Harmonised Master List of Infrastructure sub-sectors.

### Key Highlights

### DID YOU KNOW?

An **expert committee chaired by** SEBI's former whole-time member (**S K Mohanty**) **recommended this change** to promote ease of doing business.



**ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT FUNDS**

**WHAT ARE THESE?**

- AIFs are established as **companies, Limited Liability Partnerships (LLPs), or trusts**, adhering to SEBI (Alternative Investment Funds) Regulations, 2012.

**TYPES OF AIF**

- Category 1:** Focus on investing in **SMEs, startups, and new businesses** with high growth potential, including **venture capital funds and angel funds**, which specifically target early-stage businesses.
- Category 2:** Comprise **private equity and debt funds**, which typically invest in unlisted private companies and debt securities, respectively.
- Category 3:** Include **private investment in public equity (PIPE) and hedge funds**, focusing on publicly traded companies and adopting aggressive investment strategies.

**INVESTOR ELIGIBILITY AND COMMITMENT**

- Minimum investment threshold for Investors:** Rs. 1 crore.
- Minimum investment amount for directors, employees, and fund managers:** Rs. 25 lakh.
- AIFs come with a minimum lock-in period** of three years.
- The **number of investors in every scheme** is restricted to 1000, except angel funds, where the number of investors goes up to 49.

- **Objective:** To facilitate project finance by leveraging equity investments in infrastructure sectors.
- Previously, pledging of securities by AIFs for loans at investee companies was restricted under AIF Regulations.
- Foreign-invested AIFs must comply with RBI regulations concerning encumbrances.
- AIFs have been prohibited from creating encumbrances on their investments in foreign investee companies.
- In case of borrower default, AIFs are not liable beyond the encumbered equity. However, AIFs cannot offer guarantees for investee companies.
- The encumbrances created must not exceed the tenure of the AIF scheme and must be used strictly for specified purposes.
- Sebi's new provisions stipulate that any such encumbrances must be clearly disclosed in the scheme's Private Placement Memorandums (PPMs) and require investor consent if created without prior disclosure.
- AIFs dealing with unliquidated investments now have the option to distribute unsold investments to investors or dissolve, with the decision requiring approval from 75% of investors by value.
  - Before getting investor consent, the AIF/manager must arrange bids for at least 25% of the unliquidated investments' value.
  - The bid should cover all unliquidated investments in the scheme's portfolio and can involve multiple bidders.
- Sebi has introduced a one-time flexibility for AIFs whose liquidation period has expired, extending the period until April 2025 for schemes without unresolved investor complaints.

#### KEY TERMS

##### Encumbrance

A legal claim on assets which are used as collateral to secure a loan. In the context of AIFs, encumbrances on shares allow funds to pledge shares of investee companies to secure borrowing for project finance.

##### Private Placement Memorandums (PPMs)

Documents issued by AIFs detailing the investment strategy, risks, terms, and conditions of the investment, used to attract investors under private placement.

## 2.8 SEBI (LODR) (Amendment) Regulations, 2024

### Why in News

- Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has amended the method for calculating the market capitalisation of listed companies under the Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements (LODR) rules.

### Key Highlights

- Use of a 6-month average for calculating market capitalisation instead of a single day's value (currently calculated on March 31).
- After determining the market capitalisation on December 31, there would be a 3-month transition period, or from the beginning of the immediate next financial year, whichever is later, before the relevant provisions become applicable.
- The new amendment will come into force from December 31, 2024.
- Ranking of entities based on average market capitalisation from July 1 to December 31 each year, with December 31 as the cut-off date.
- Relaxation of time limits for filling vacancies of key managerial personnel from 3 months to 6 months in certain cases where regulatory, government, or statutory approval is needed to fill vacancies.

- Harmonisation of the **timeline** for prior intimation of board meetings to 2 working days for all types of events.
- New provisions **will cease to be applicable** if an entity's ranking changes for 3 consecutive years.

## 2.9 SEBI Master Circular on Stock Brokers

### KEY TERMS

#### Why in News

- Securities Exchange Board of India (SEBI) **released** a new master circular for stock brokers.

#### Key Highlights

- Stock exchanges are required to send details of transactions to investors through SMS and email alerts by the end of the trading day.
- Guidelines are **applicable to both equity, cash and derivative**, segments of the stock exchanges.
- Stock **exchanges will provide a platform for stock brokers to upload client details** in sync with the UCC (Unique Client Code) updation module.
- Brokers must ensure that their employees' or authorized persons' mobile numbers/email IDs are not uploaded on behalf of clients.
- Each client must have a **separate mobile number/email ID**, except for family members, which can share contact details at the specific written request of the client.
- The **cost of providing this SMS and email alert facility may be met from 20%** of the listing fees set aside for providing services to investors.

#### Market Capitalization

The **total market value of all publicly traded companies' outstanding shares**.

#### Bluechip Stocks

Shares of **large, well-established, and financially sound companies** with a history of reliable performance.

## 2.10 SEBI Regulations on Market Rumours

#### Why in News

- SEBI has issued a **new order requiring listed entities to confirm, deny, or clarify market rumours** upon material price movement under Regulation 30(11) of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015.

#### Key Highlights

- SEBI has introduced the Industry Standards Forum (ISF) to assist in designing implementation standards for regulations.
- Stock exchanges had been asked to issue a framework for material price movement on their websites.
- New requirement comes into effect for the Top 100 listed entities from June 1, 2024, and for the Top 250 listed entities from December 1, 2024.
- For M&A transactions, SEBI has introduced disclosure standards and the concept of unaffected price to disregard unwarranted stock price movements if a rumour is confirmed within 24 hours.
  - Unaffected price shall be considered by excluding the effect on the price of the equity shares of the listed entity due to the material price movement and confirmation of the rumour.
- Non-M&A transaction scenarios like whistle-blower complaints, change of key managerial personnel, and health of MD/CEO are **also covered under the new guidelines**.
- For the first time, SEBI has developed a price protection framework to disregard any unwarranted stock price movements.

- If any relevant rumour is confirmed by the listed entity within 24 hours, the corresponding effect is discounted while computing the volume weighted average price used in open offer pricing during deals.
- This unaffected price will be applicable for a period of 60/180 days from the date of rumour confirmation, based on the stage of a transaction.

## 2.11 SEBI Norms on KYC

### Why in News

- Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has relaxed KYC norms to simplify the risk management framework in the securities market.

### Key Highlights

- KYC Registration Agencies (KRAs) are required to verify clients' Permanent Account Number (PAN), name, and address within 2 days of receiving KYC records.
- Exchanges, depositories, and intermediaries must complete necessary technical changes in their systems by May 2024.
- Circular was issued under Section 11 (1) of SEBI Act, 1992.

## 2.12 New SEBI Rules Regarding Initial Public Offering (IPO)

### Why in News

- Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has amended the ICDR (Issue of Capital and Disclosure Requirements) rules to facilitate ease of doing business for companies planning IPOs.

### Key Highlights

- Changes to the size of the Offer for Sale (OFS) requiring fresh filing will now be based on either the issue size in rupees or the number of shares, not both.
- Promoter group entities and non-individual shareholders holding more than 5% of the post-offer equity share capital can now contribute to the shortfall in minimum promoters' contribution (MPC) without being identified as promoters.
  - Rules mandate at least 20% of promoters' shares to be locked in for a certain period of time post listing after an IPO.
- Equity shares from the conversion of compulsorily convertible securities held for a year before filing the draft red herring prospectus (DRHP) will be considered for meeting MPC requirements.
- SEBI allowed flexibility in extending the bid closing date due to force majeure events, such as banking strikes, by a minimum of 1 day instead of current requirement of 3 days.

## 2.13 Dynamic Price Bands

### Why in News

- Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has modified guidelines for dynamic price bands for scrips in the derivatives segment to enhance volatility management and reduce information asymmetry.

### Key Highlights

- Dynamic price bands, or operating ranges, are applied to scrips excluded from fixed price bands.
- Currently, price bands in the cash market and futures contracts start at 10% of the previous day's closing price, adjustable by 5% during the day if there are at least 25 trades involving 5 unique client codes (UCCs) on each side at or above 9.90%.

- New rules increase the conditions for adjusting price bands to 50 trades, 10 unique Unique Client Codes (UCCs), and 3 trading members on each side.
- When adjustment conditions are met, the price band is adjusted for the scrip and all its futures contracts across all exchanges after a cooling-off period.
- To manage volatility, it has been decided that the cooling off period of 15 minutes would be increased and the flexing per cent of 5% would be decreased, in a calibrated manner.
- For the first 2 adjustments, the price band will be flexed by 5% after a 15-minute cooling-off period (5 minutes if the adjustment occurs in the last half hour of trading).
- For the next 2 adjustment, the price band will be flexed by 3% after a 30-minute cooling-off period and for further adjustments, the price band will be flexed by 2% after a 60-minute cooling-off period.
- Sliding price bands will be adjusted in both directions, and orders outside the new price band will be cancelled, to reduce volatility and align orders with the current market price.
- On options trading, Sebi said that during the cooling-off period, a temporary price floor or ceiling will be applied to options contracts, linked to the last traded or theoretical price, to allow hedging or closing positions.
  - Once the underlying scrip's price band is flexed, the options' price band will be adjusted accordingly, thereby doing away with temporary floor or ceiling.
  - If the last traded price (LTP) of the options contract is available and not stale, the temporary floor or ceiling as applicable, would be linked to LTP of options contract.
  - If the LTP of the options contract is unavailable or stale, the temporary floor or ceiling as applicable, would be linked to theoretical price of the options contract.
- Stock exchanges will notify trading members and clients about cancelled orders to ensure compliance.

#### KEY TERMS

##### Cooling-off Period

A mandatory period during which trading continues within the current price band before adjustments are made.

##### Sliding Price Bands

Mechanism to adjust price bands in both directions to manage market volatility.

## 2.14 SEBI Rules on Dissemination of Real-time Share Price

### Why in News

- Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) introduced new rules on the dissemination of real-time share price information to third parties.

### Key Highlights

- Objective: To prevent misuse of real-time share price data by requiring written agreements for data sharing.
- Market Infrastructure Institutions (MIIs) and market intermediaries must ensure real-time pricing data is not disclosed unless necessary for regulatory compliance or proper market operation.
- Organizations sharing real-time pricing data must sign written agreements specifying the purposes for data usage.
- Annual reviews of entities and activities are mandated to ensure compliance.
- Financial incentives are prohibited when sharing market price data for educational purposes, however the data must be delayed by one day.
- MIIs and intermediaries are instructed to include clauses to avoid misuse in agreements and exercise due diligence in data exchanges.

- SEBI issued this circular under **Securities and Exchange Board of India Act 1992** read with regulation 51 of the **Securities Contracts (Regulation) (Stock Exchanges and Clearing Corporations) Regulations, 2018**, section 26(3) of the **Depositories Act, 1996** and regulation 97 of **Securities and Exchange Board of India (Depositories and Participants) Regulations, 2018**.

### Need for the Regulation

- SEBI noted that certain online gaming platforms, apps, and websites offer virtual trading services or fantasy games based on real-time share prices and sometimes provide monetary incentives based on virtual stock portfolio performance.

#### KEY TERMS

##### **Tick Size**

A tick size is the **minimum price movement by which stock prices can change**.

##### **Bid-Ask Spread**

The **difference between the highest price that a buyer is willing to pay for an asset and the lowest price that a seller is willing to accept**.

## 2.15 Tick Size of Shares

### Why in News

- National Stock Exchange of India (NSE) announced a reduction in the minimum price movement (tick size) for stocks valued below Rs 250 per share.

### Key Highlights

- The tick size will be reduced from Rs 0.05 (5 paisa) to Rs 0.01 (1 paisa).
- Objective: To improve price discovery for lower-priced stocks by allowing more precise pricing increments.
- It could lead to **tighter bid-ask spreads** and potentially higher trading volumes.
- New tick size applies to all cash segment stocks under Rs 250 and their corresponding stock futures, excluding stock options.
- Tick size for newly listed companies will be determined based on their closing price on the last trading day of the month.
- Tick size for securities in T+1 settlement will also be applicable for T+0 settlement (series T0).
- This move aligns NSE with the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE), which already uses a 1 paisa tick size for stocks below Rs 100.

## 2.16 SEBI Rule for Social Enterprises

### Why in News

- SEBI has mandated social enterprises registered or raising funds through the Social Stock Exchange (SSE) to submit an annual impact report for FY24 by October 2024.

### Key Highlights

- Not-for-profit organizations (NPOs) on SSE, including those with listed securities, must disclose their annual activities for FY24 on the exchange.
- The new requirement extends the current mandate of submitting the impact report within 90 days from the end of the financial year.
- A social impact report includes qualitative and quantitative details of past social impacts, covering strategic intent, planning, approach, and an impact scorecard.
  - In case a Not-for-Profit Organization (NPO) is only registered without listing any security, such report is required to cover NPO's significant activities, intervention, and programmes, among others.

- SEBI has allowed **2 more self-regulatory organizations (SROs)** for social impact assessors: ICMAI Social Auditors Organisation under Institute of Cost Accountants of India and ICSI Institute of Social Auditors under Institute of Company Secretaries of India.
  - A social impact assessor means an individual registered with a self-regulatory organization under the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) or such other agency as specified by Sebi, who has qualified a certification programme conducted by National Institute of Securities Market (NISM).
  - Social impact assessors gauge the impact of social interventions of enterprises raising funds through SSE.
  - These are eligible to act as platforms to register social auditors.

### Key Terms

- SSE is a platform separate from the existing stock exchanges, through which non-profit organisations and for-profit social enterprises can access the capital market for funds.
  - Social enterprises will have to engage in a social activity out of 16 broad activities listed by the regulator which include eradicating hunger, poverty, malnutrition and inequality; promoting healthcare, supporting education, employability and livelihoods.

## 2.17 Beta Version of Settlement Calculator

### Why in News

- SEBI launched the beta version of a settlement calculator to simplify the process of determining an indicative settlement amount.

### Key Highlights

- According to the settlement mechanism, an alleged wrongdoer can settle a pending probe with Sebi without the admission or denial of guilt by paying such settlement amount.
- The minimum indicative amount is ₹3 lakh for first-time applicants and ₹7 lakh for others.
  - A first-time applicant is a person against whom no order has been passed by the adjudicating officer or by Sebi or who has never obtained a settlement order from the regulator as on the date of the present application.
- Based on the stage at which the proceeding, for which the application is made, is pending, the proceeding conversion factor (PCF) would be applied when calculating the indicative amount.
  - The amount increases by 20% if multiple proceedings arise from the same cause of action.
  - The final settlement amount is approved by the panel of whole-time members.
- SEBI regulations allow entities to settle securities law violations by paying a settlement amount without admitting or denying charges.

## 2.18 Internet-Based Trading

### Why in News

- SEBI has reduced the approval time for stock exchanges to grant permission for internet-based trading to stock brokers from 30 days to 7 days, effective immediately.

### Key Highlights

- Brokers are required to apply for formal permission from the respective stock exchange to provide internet-based trading services.
- Internet trading can be conducted through order routing systems, allowing clients to trade using the internet from any part of the country.

- SEBI has abolished the requirement for periodic confirmation of internet-based trading (IBT) statistics by stock brokers before publication by stock exchanges.
- Exchanges will now publish IBT statistics based on details of IBT terminals provided by stock brokers.

## 2.19 New SEBI Norms for Clearing Corporations (CCs)

### KEY TERMS

#### Liquid Assets

Assets that can be easily converted into cash.

#### Core Settlement Guarantee Fund (SGF)

A fund used to cover defaults by clearing members in a security clearing and settlement system.

#### Haircut

A percentage reduction applied to the value of an asset used as collateral.

### Why in News

- Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has revised the guidelines for clearing corporations (CCs) regarding the acceptance of liquid assets as collateral and established new prudential norms for exposure to enhance the risk management framework.

### Key Highlights

- Liquid Assets as Collateral:
  - Units of the growth plan of overnight mutual fund schemes will now be accepted as cash equivalent with a 5% haircut.
  - Other plans of overnight mutual fund schemes will continue to have a 10% haircut.
    - ✓ Overnight mutual funds invest only in overnight securities having maturity of 1 day.
  - Equity shares with an impact cost of up to 0.1% for an order value of ₹1 lakh and traded for 99% of days over the past 6 months will be accepted as part of other liquid assets.
- Prudential Norms for Exposure:
  - SEBI has specified types of exposures, CCs should consider, including own funds, Core Settlement Guarantee Fund (SGF) invested in fixed deposits (FDs), units of overnight and liquid mutual funds, treasury bills (T-bills), and government securities (G-secs).
  - The exposure of CCs and their subsidiaries to a single bank must not exceed 10-15% of the average daily exposure of the previous 3 months, depending on the lender's rating.
  - Total exposure of the CC to equity and debt instruments from a single issuer should not exceed 15% of total liquid assets received from clearing members (CMs). This will be treated as a non-cash component of the total liquid assets of the CC.
  - Overall daily exposure to a single bank, including cash, FDs, bank guarantee (BG), equity, and debt through clearing member collateral, should not exceed 20% of the total liquid assets.
- Prohibited Collaterals:
  - CCs are restrained from accepting collateral including FDs, BGs, equity, or debt securities issued by clearing members (CMs) or their group/associate entities.
- Timeline: New guidelines for acceptable liquid assets are effective from August 1, 2024, while those relating to exposure will be implemented in a phased manner over 3 months to 1 year.

## 2.20 Commodity Delivery Period

### Why in News

- Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has reduced the staggered delivery period for commodity derivatives to 3 days from 5 days, effective from July 1, 2024.

### Key Highlights

- Objective:** To improve liquidity in delivery-based commodity derivatives.

## 2.21 Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvITs)

### Why in News

- Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has notified a framework for the issuance of subordinate units by privately placed InvITs.

### Key Highlights

- Issuance of subordinate units aims to bridge valuation gaps between the asset seller (Sponsor) and the asset buyer (InvIT).
- Subordinate units will only be issued upon the acquisition of an infrastructure project and must be dematerialized with an International Securities Identification Number.
- These units will not carry voting or distribution rights and will be reclassified into ordinary units after being listed on a recognized stock exchange.
- Total number of subordinate units issued should not exceed 10% of the total ordinary units issued by the InvIT or 10% of the acquisition price of the infrastructure project.
  - However, an InvIT which has subordinate units exceeding the limit, such InvIT can issue additional subordinate units subject to compliance with this limit.
- A unitholder with at least 10% of the total outstanding units can nominate one director on the board of the Investment Manager, with voting restrictions on any transaction where such nominee director or associate of such nominee director or the unitholder who nominated such nominee director is a party.
- The minimum period for reclassification of subordinate units to ordinary units is 3 years.
- Investment manager must disclose the progress related to performance benchmarks in the InvIT's annual report.
- Features of Subordinate Units:**
  - Issued only to the sponsor, its associates, and the sponsor group.
  - Considered part of the consideration for the acquisition of the infrastructure project from the sponsor.
  - Issuance can be through an initial or subsequent offer, with or without ordinary units.
    - ✓ Issuance after the initial offer requires unitholder approval, with a resolution passed by at least one and a half times the votes cast against.

### About InvIT

- Regulated by:** Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) under the SEBI (Infrastructure Investment Trusts) Regulations, 2014.
- SEBI provided detailed guidelines for the public issue of units of InvITs in 2016.
- Structure:** An InvIT consists of 4 elements:
  - Trustee

### KEY TERMS

#### Commodity Derivatives

Financial contracts that derive their value from the price of a physical commodity.

#### Staggered delivery Period

The period before the expiry of a contract when the buyer and seller with an open position can submit their intention to give or take delivery. All compulsory delivery commodity future contracts are required to have a staggered delivery period.

- Sponsor(s)
- Investment Manager
- Project Manager
- **Objective and Function:** InvITs serve as **collective investment schemes, akin to mutual funds**, allowing individual and institutional investors to directly invest in infrastructure projects and earn returns from the income generated.
- **Comparison with REITs:** While both InvITs and REITs (Real Estate Investment Trust) pool money for investment in income-generating assets, InvITs focus on infrastructure projects, and REITs on real estate properties.
- InvITs offer more liquidity but may have less income stability compared to REITs, which generally provide a steady income flow due to long-term rental contracts.

## 2.22 SEBI Norms on Red Herring Prospectus

### KEY TERMS

#### Why in News

- SEBI said that all draft red herring prospectuses (DRHP) for public issues have to include audio-visual (A/V) disclosures.

#### Draft Red Herring Prospectuses

A preliminary registration document prepared by companies looking to float an IPO (Initial Public Offering).

#### Key Highlights

- **Objective:** To enhance transparency and provide investors with clear, accessible information about public issues, reducing reliance on potentially misleading information from other sources.
- Starting July 1, 2024, A/V disclosures will be voluntary, and from October 1, 2024, they will be mandatory.
- A/V presentations must be prepared in bilingual format (English and Hindi) and be around 10 minutes long.
- These presentations must be factual, non-repetitive, non-promotional, and not misleading.
- They must cover various sections of the DRHP and RHP, including company details, risk factors, capital structure, and more.
- The A/V disclosures will be available on digital and social media platforms of the issuer, AIBI, stock exchanges, and lead managers.
- The presentation must be uploaded within 5 working days of filing the DRHP with SEBI.

## 2.23 Saarthi 2.0

#### Why in News

- Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) launched the 'Saarthi 2.0' mobile app to simplify personal finance for investors.

### DID YOU KNOW?

The first version of Saarthi was introduced in 2022, with the objective of engaging an investment-oriented public.

#### Key Highlights

- The app includes financial calculators and modules that explain KYC (Know Your Customer) procedures, mutual funds, exchange-traded funds, and buying and selling shares on stock exchanges.
- It also features an investor grievance redressal mechanism to streamline the process for addressing investor complaints.

## 2.24 SEBI Eases Timelines for Material Event Disclosures by FPIs

#### Why in News

- SEBI has relaxed the timelines for Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) to disclose certain material changes or events.

### Key Highlights

- SEBI has categorized material changes into two types: Type I and Type II.
- **Type I:** Critical material changes that render the FPI ineligible for registration, require fresh registration, or prevent the FPI from making fresh purchases of securities. These changes must be informed within 7 working days, with supporting documents provided within 30 days.
- **Type II:** Other material changes not classified as Type I must be informed within 30 days, with supporting documents also provided within 30 days.
- **Designated Depository Participants (DDPs)** are required to examine all material changes and reassess the eligibility of the FPI.
  - If there is a delay in intimation, DDPs must inform SEBI within 2 working days, along with the reason for the delay.

## 2.25 SEBI Forms Committee to Review Ownership and Economic Structure of Clearing Corporations

### Why in News

- SEBI has formed a committee to review the ownership and economic structure of clearing corporations to ensure their resilience, independence, and neutrality.

### Key Highlights

- Committee is chaired by Usha Thorat, former Deputy Governor of the RBI.
- The committee will review the ownership structure and finances of clearing corporations.
- It will explore broadening the list of eligible investors who can hold shares in clearing corporations.

### Additional Information

- **Gandhi Committee report of 2018** recommended that the ownership of Market Infrastructure Institutions (MIIs) should be dispersed and widely held, particularly for clearing corporations due to their risk-bearing nature.
  - Report also advised against the listing of clearing corporations to maintain their sensitivity and high-risk management roles.
- **Securities Contracts (Regulation) (Stock Exchanges and Clearing Corporations) Regulations, 2018**, implemented following norms for ownership and governance framework of clearing corporations.
  - At least 51% of the paid-up equity share capital of a recognised clearing corporation must be held by one or more stock exchanges.
  - No individual or entity, other than stock exchanges, can hold more than 5% of the paid-up equity share capital in a clearing corporation.
  - Certain categories, such as depositories, banking companies, insurance companies, and their foreign counterparts, can hold up to 15% of the paid-up equity share capital.

## 2.26 Framework for Levying Penalty for Surveillance Lapses

### Why in News

- SEBI issued a new framework for financial disincentives to penalize market infrastructure institutions (MIs) for surveillance lapses (SRL), effective from July.

### Key Highlights

- Surveillance lapses include inadequate reporting, non-reporting, and delayed implementation of SEBI's decisions.
- Reason for this framework:** Any surveillance lapse on the part of MIs may have an adverse effect on the investors' trust and confidence in the securities market.
- Penalty will be based on the annual turnover in the previous financial year and the number of instances of surveillance lapses during a financial year.

#### Market Infrastructure Institutions (MIs)

Entities such as stock exchanges, depositories, and clearing corporations responsible for maintaining the infrastructure of the securities market.

Financial Disincentive (INR)			
Total Annual Revenue (INR) of MII	>1000cr	1000cr – 300cr	< 300cr
No. of Instances of SRL in FY			
FIRST instance	25 Lakhs	5 Lakhs	1 Lakh
SECOND instance	50 Lakhs	10 Lakhs	2 Lakhs
THIRD instance onwards - for each instance during the FY.	1 Crore	20 Lakhs	4 Lakhs

- Penalty money will be deposited in the investor protection and education fund by MII within 15 days.
- The framework does not apply to instances wherein it has a market-wide impact or caused losses to many investors or affected the integrity of the market.

## 2.27 SEBI Directions for Know Your Customer (KYC) Registration Agencies (KRAs)

### Why in News

- SEBI directed KRAs to integrate their systems with Central KYC Records Registry (CKYCRR) and begin uploading verified KYC information of clients from August 1, 2024.

### Key Highlights

- Previously, market intermediaries like stock brokers and alternative investment funds were responsible for uploading KYC details onto CKYCRR.
- KRAs must upload verified or validated KYC information onto CKYCRR within 7 days of receiving it from intermediaries.
- Existing KYC records of legal entities and individual clients must be uploaded onto CKYCRR within 6 months from August 1.
- Clients will benefit by not having to submit KYC documents multiple times to different financial institutions, as verified records will be centralized in CKYCRR.

#### DID YOU KNOW?

CKYCRR is already being used by insurance companies and pension fund companies to verify KYC details.

## 2.28 Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) Guidelines

### Why in News

- SEBI has issued new guidelines for stock exchanges and other market infrastructure institutions (MIs) to enhance governance.

### Key Highlights

- **Oversight Framework Revision:** SEBI revised its oversight framework for MIs to define the structure and responsibilities of various **statutory committees**.
- Committees are categorized into **functional, oversight, and investment**.
- **Functional committees** include member committee, nomination and remuneration committee, oversight committees, standing committee on technology regulatory oversight committee, risk management committee, and investment committee.
- **Committee Composition:** Committees should include key management personnel (KMP), non-independent directors (NIDs), independent external professionals (IEPs), and public interest directors (PIDs). PIDs must chair the committees and form at least half of the members.
- **Voting Requirements:** Voting on resolutions requires PID participation equal to or greater than other members combined.

## 2.29 Special Call Auction without Price Bands

### KEY TERMS

### Why in News

- Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has proposed a special call auction without price bands.

### Key Highlights

- **Objective:** To improve price discovery for exchange-listed investment companies and holding companies (ICs/IHCs).
- **Proposal targets ICs/IHCs** listed for at least a year, compliant with listing regulations, holding at least 50% of their assets in listed entity shares, and with a six-month **VWAP (Volume-Weighted Average Price)** below 50% of their book value.
- Auction will be conducted annually by stock exchanges with a seven-day notice.
- Auction price will be accepted only if at least five different buyers and sellers participate, continuing until a price is established.
- Unlike continuous trading, a call auction accumulates orders over a specific period before executing them at an equilibrium price, rather than matching orders in real-time.

#### Price Bands

Limits that control how much prices can fluctuate to prevent market manipulation.

#### Investment Companies (ICs)

Companies that earn major revenue from interest, capital appreciation from investments made, and do not include rental income which is classified under diversified commercial services.

#### Investment Holding Companies (IHCs)

Companies with holding of 51% or more in other company.

#### VWAP (Volume-Weighted Average Price)

A trading benchmark calculated by taking the average price of a security over a specific period, weighted by volume.

## 2.30 Basic Services Demat Account (BSDA)

### Why in News

- Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) increased the threshold for BSDA from ₹2 lakh to ₹10 lakh to boost participation of small investors in the securities market, effective from September 1.

## Key Highlights

- Annual maintenance charge for BSDA will be nil for portfolio values up to ₹4 lakh.
- For portfolio values between ₹4 lakh and ₹10 lakh, the annual maintenance charge will be ₹100.
- BSDA will be converted into a regular demat account if the portfolio value exceeds ₹10 lakh.
- Electronic statements for BSDA will be provided free of cost; physical statements will be charged at ₹25 per statement.
- Depository Participants (DPs) must review and convert eligible existing demat accounts to BSDA within 2 months unless account holders opt to keep their regular demat accounts.**
  - DPs will open only BSDA for eligible accounts unless the account holder opts for a regular demat account.

### KEY TERMS

#### **Demat Account**

An account that allows investors to hold their shares in an electronic form.

## About Basic Services Demat Account (BSDA)

- Launch Year:** 2012
- Objective:** To reduce the burden of demat charges on investors with small portfolios.
- Features:**

Eligibility criteria include having only one demat account as the sole or first holder and the value of securities not exceeding ₹10 lakh for both debt and non-debt securities combined at any time.

## 2.31 SEBI Proposal Regarding CSR Rules

### Why in News

- Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has proposed to amend the Companies Act, 2013, specifically Schedule VII, to allow companies to fulfill their CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) mandate through donations made via social stock exchanges (SSEs).

## Key Highlights

- Currently, companies can donate to non-profit organizations outside of SSEs under their CSR activities.
- Proposed amendments would enable companies to donate to social welfare organizations through SSEs.

## Key Terms

- CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility):** A company's commitment to manage the social, environmental, and economic effects of its operations responsibly and in line with public expectations.
  - Companies are required to spend at least 2% of their average net profit over the last 3 years on social welfare activities listed in the Companies Act, 2013.

### SOCIAL STOCK EXCHANGE (SSE)



- A platform under stock exchanges, introduced in 2020 budget, where non-profit organizations can be listed to raise funds for social welfare activities.
- As of June 2024, 8 non-profit organizations are listed on the NSE (National Stock Exchange) SSE, with expectations to exceed 100 listings by the end of FY25.
- Minimum donation that can be made through SSEs is ₹50 lakh.
- Enterprises listed on SSEs are required to file a social impact report, which will be audited by certified professionals.
- Principle of SSEs is to not provide financial returns, but instead focus on social returns (welfare of society).

## 2.32 Derivative Stocks

### Why in News

- Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has revised the eligibility criteria for the entry and exit of stocks in the derivatives market.

### Key Highlights

- SEBI introduced a Product Success Framework for single stock futures and options to enhance liquidity and participation in the derivatives market, applicable after 6 months from the date of issuance of the circular.
- **New eligibility criteria for exit apply to stocks that have completed at least 6 months** from their entry into the derivatives segment.
  - For existing stocks in the derivatives segment, the exit criteria based on performance will be applicable 3 months after the issuance of the circular.
- Eligibility criteria for entry or exit of stocks in or from the derivatives segment based upon performance of stocks in underlying cash market are:
  - Revised criteria consider the **Average Daily Market Capitalization, Average Daily Traded Value (ADTV)** over the last six months on a rolling basis for the top 500 stocks.
  - **Median Quarter Sigma Order Size (MQSOS)** of stocks over the last six months on a rolling basis should not be less than Rs 75 lakh.
  - **Market Wide Position Limit (MWPL)** on a rolling basis should not be less than Rs 1,500 crore.
  - **Average Daily Delivery Value (ADDV) in the cash market** over the previous six months on a rolling basis should not be less than Rs 35 crore.
- Conditions for evaluating the exit of a stock from the derivatives segment:
  - At least 15% of trading members or 200 trading members, whichever is lower, must have traded in any derivative contract on the stock being reviewed on a monthly basis during the review period.
  - Trading on a minimum of 75% of the trading days during the review period in the derivatives segment.
  - Average daily turnover (futures + options premium) of at least Rs 75 crore during the review period.
  - Average daily notional open interest (futures + options notional) of at least Rs 500 crore of that stock during the review period.

### KEY TERMS

#### Derivative

A financial security whose value is dependent upon or derived from, an underlying asset or group of assets.

#### Futures

Financial contracts obligating the buyer to purchase an asset or the seller to sell an asset at a predetermined future date and price.

#### Options

Financial derivatives that give buyers the right, but not the obligation, to buy or sell an underlying asset at an agreed-upon price and date.

## 2.33 Revised Delisting Norms

### Why in News

- SEBI has made significant changes to the rules for futures and options (F&O) stocks, relaxed delisting norms, and prohibited regulated entities from associating with finfluencers.

## Key Highlights

- The new criteria for F&O stocks will be implemented gradually, becoming effective three months after SEBI issues a circular.
- SEBI aims to raise the bar for launching F&O contracts on individual stocks to reduce manipulation in the options market.
- A fixed price process for delisting frequently traded shares has been introduced at a 15% premium over the floor price.
  - The threshold for a counter offer has been reduced to 75% from 90%, provided 50% of public shareholding is tendered.
  - Delisting will be successful only if the acquirer's post-offer aggregate shareholding reaches 90%.
  - The adjusted book value will be used as an additional parameter for determining the floor price for frequently and infrequently traded shares, except for public sector undertakings.
- Investment and holding companies (IHCs) can transfer equity shares held in other listed companies to public shareholders proportionately or make proportionate cash payments against assets like land, buildings, and unlisted companies.
- SEBI has prohibited regulated entities or their agents from engaging with finfluencers involving money or referrals.
- Norms for REITs, InvITs, and NCDs have been relaxed, including rationalization of disclosure requirements and timelines.
- University Funds and University-related endowments registered as Category I FPI (Foreign Portfolio Investment) are exempt from additional disclosures provided, its India equity assets under management is less than 25% of its global AUM, its global AUM is more than Rs 10,000 crore equivalent.

## KEY TERMS

### **Delisting**

The process of removing a company's stock from trading on a stock exchange.

### **Finfluencer**

Financial influencer who provides financial advice or market information through social media or other platforms.

## 2.34 SEBI Rules on FPIs

### Why in News

- SEBI has allowed up to 100% aggregate contribution by NRIs, OCIs, and Resident Indians in the corpus of Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) based out of International Financial Services Centre (IFSC).

## Key Highlights

- Objective: To enhance investment by FPIs in India.
- FPIs applying for registration must ensure the contribution of a single NRI (Non-Resident Indian), OCI (Overseas Citizen of India), or Resident Indian in its corpus is below 25%.
- At the time of registration, FPIs must declare their intent to have 50% or more of their corpus contributed by NRIs, OCIs, and Resident Indians.
- Existing FPIs have six months from the date of the circular to submit this declaration, which will be reviewed during the renewal of registration.
- FPIs must provide PAN cards of all NRI/OCI/Resident Indian contributors and detail their economic interest, or a declaration if they lack a PAN.

## 2.35 SCORES 2.0

### Why in News

- Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has launched SCORES 2.0.

### About SCORES 2.0

- **Objective:** To strengthen investor complaint redress mechanism by making the process more efficient and user-friendly.
- **Features:**
  - Standardized timelines for complaint resolution set at 21 calendar days.
  - Auto-routing of complaints to relevant authorities.
  - Monitoring of timely resolution by designated bodies.
  - A two-tier review process (Designated Body at 1<sup>st</sup> level and SEBI at 2<sup>nd</sup>) for unresolved complaints.
  - Integration with the KYC Registration Agency database for simplified investor registration.

### DID YOU KNOW?

**SEBI Complaint Redress System (SCORES)** is an online system where investors in the securities market can lodge their complaints through web URL and an app. SCORES 1.0 was launched in 2011.

## 2.36 Category 1 ESG Ratings Provider

### Why in News

- Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has approved CRISIL ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) Ratings & Analytics Limited as a Category 1 provider of ESG ratings.

### Key Highlights

- CRISIL's ESG scoring business was initially launched in 2021.
- As of 2023, SEBI mandated that ESG rating services can only be provided by certified entities, including foreign agencies if they want to offer these services in India.
  - This regulatory change prompted CRISIL to incorporate CRISIL ESG Ratings specifically to comply with SEBI's certification requirements for ESG rating providers.
  - ESG scoring business will now be transferred to CRISIL ESG Ratings & Analytics Limited.
- ESG scores are indicators of whether a company is sustainable and follows ethics.
  - These scores are used by asset managers and investors to align and choose companies as per their standards of ESG.
- SEBI had introduced 2 categories for rating entities depending on their net worth and functions.

## 2.37 Amendments to SEBI (Mutual Funds) Regulations, 1996

### Why in News

- SEBI approved amendments to SEBI (Mutual Funds) Regulations, 1996 to enhance the existing regulatory framework by requiring Asset Management Companies (AMCs) to put in place a structured institutional mechanism for identification and deterrence of potential market abuse including front-running and fraudulent transactions in securities.

### Key Highlights

- SEBI will specify the broad framework of the institutional mechanism, the industry body i.e. Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI), in consultation with SEBI, shall specify detailed standards for such an institutional mechanism.
- With respect to the requirement of recording of all communication by dealers and fund managers, SEBI approved exemption from the requirement of recording face-to-face communication, including out of office interactions, during market hours.

## 2.38 Market Capitalization

### Why in News

- India's market capitalization has crossed the \$5 trillion mark.

### Key Highlights

- Small investors' ownership rose to 8.87%.
- Fall in the share of foreign institutional ownership to 16.51%.
- Top 100 Bluechip companies accounted for 63% of the gains, contributing Rs 51 trillion out of Rs 81 trillion.
- India is the 5<sup>th</sup> country/region to join the exclusive \$5-trillion mcap club, alongside the US, China, Japan, and Hong Kong.
- India's market cap-to-GDP ratio is now at 154%.
- India is now the second-largest market in the MSCI Emerging Markets Index, with a weighting of nearly 19%.

## 2.39 Real Estate Investment Trust (REIT)

### KEY TERMS

### Why in News

- Mindspace Business Parks REIT became the first Indian REIT to issue sustainability-linked bonds.

### Key Highlights

- The bonds have a tenure of 7 years.
- The funds were raised from the International Finance Corporation (IFC), the private sector arm of the World Bank Group.
- The bonds' coupon is fixed but will be reduced based on the achievement of targets such as reducing greenhouse gas emissions, increasing green-certified area, and reducing energy intensity.

#### REIT

Real Estate Investment Trust, a company that owns, operates, or finances income-producing real estate.

#### Sustainability-linked Bonds

Bonds that are tied to achieving specific environmental, social, or governance (ESG) targets.

## RBI AND ITS FUNCTIONS

## 2.40 Reserve Bank of India's Innovation Hub (RBIH) White Paper



432 million Working Age Women in India

Contributes to 18% of GDP

### Why in News

- RBIH released a white paper titled 'At the Helm: Women Entrepreneurs Transforming Middle India.'

### Key Highlights

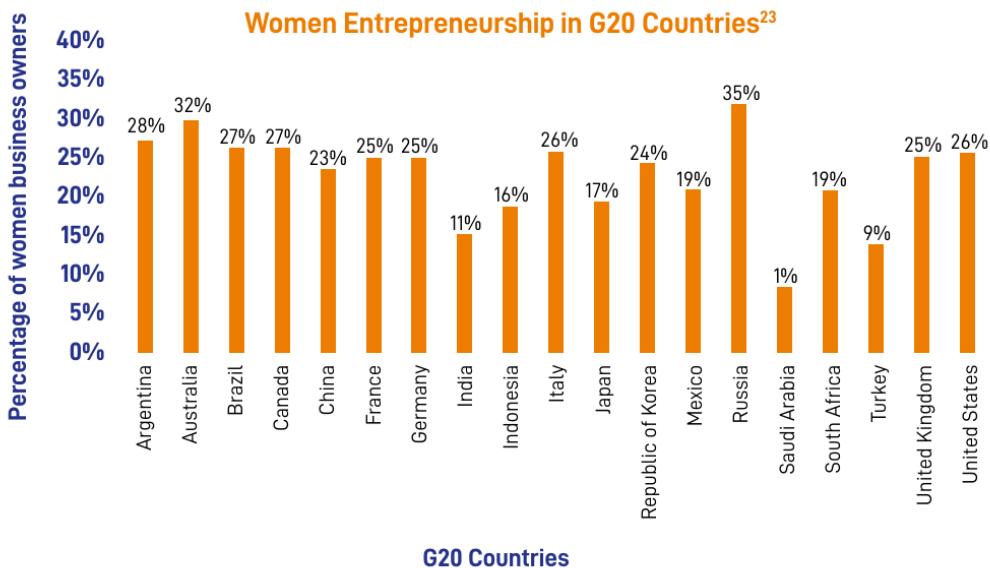
- Releasing Body: Reserve Bank of India's Innovation Hub (RBIH) in collaboration with mysaltapp and the FICCI Ladies Organisation.

- The paper highlights the low levels of funding for women entrepreneurs in Tier 2 and 3 cities, with only 3% having access to external funding.
- Lack of gender-disaggregated data is a significant barrier to understanding and addressing the issue.
- Only around 20% of India's MSMEs are women-led, with the majority being sole proprietorships.
  - Among these, 5.2% of small enterprises and 2.6% of medium enterprises are women-led.
  - India ranks 57<sup>th</sup> out of 65 countries in female entrepreneurial progress and success.
  - Financially, 62% were self-funded, while 14.9% received support from friends and family.
- Indian women bear most care responsibilities, with 86% relocating due to marriage.
- Due to many other responsibilities, many women entrepreneurs are between the age group of 30 and 60 years, underscoring that women have late success.

### KEY TERMS

#### Gender Disaggregated Data

Data separated by gender to highlight differences in experiences and outcomes between men and women.



- At 17% contribution to GDP, female entrepreneurs in India contribute approximately USD 632 billion to the GDP.
- The survey highlights 90.2% of women reporting themselves as the sole decision-makers for their respective roles.
- Tier 2 and 3 cities lack scalable employment opportunities compared to Tier 1 and some Tier 2 cities.

## 2.41 RBI's Dividend to Government

### Why in News

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced a highest ever dividend of ₹2.1 lakh crore to the government.

### Key Highlights

- Contributing factors include:
  - Investments in US treasury bills and other sovereign securities yielded higher returns due to rising global interest rates.
  - Increased repo transactions where RBI earned interest by lending to commercial banks.

- Significant gains from **selling dollars from forex reserves at higher rates** than the purchase cost. RBI sells dollars to support the rupee when the currency comes under pressure.
- The higher dividend will reduce the need for government borrowing, impacting bond yields positively (i.e. lower bond yield).

### KEY TERMS

#### Dividend

A payment made by a corporation to its shareholders, usually as a distribution of profits.

### Additional Information

- The surplus amount was arrived at based on the Economic Capital Framework (ECF) adopted by RBI in 2019, in accordance with recommendations of Bimal Jalan committee.
- Panel had recommended the risk provisioning under the contingent risk buffer (CRB) be maintained within a range of 6.5 to 5.5% of the RBI's balance sheet.
  - RBI decided to increase the CRB to 6.50% for FY24.
- RBI's economic capital (or risk buffer) in FY24 is tracking at 25.5% of total assets, higher than the recommended range of 20.8-25.4%.

## 2.42 GIFT IFSC (Gujarat International Finance Tec-City)

### Why in News

- International Financial Services Centre Authority (IFSCA) has established an expert committee to position GIFT-IFSC as a global trading hub.

### Key Highlights

- Committee consists of 21 members and is chaired by Former Union Commerce Secretary (Rajeev Kher).
- It will explore synergies between financial services and commodity trading to develop GIFT-IFSC's ecosystem.
- Enabling commodity trading in IFSC will integrate its financial ecosystem with global trade flows and attract global investments.

## 2.43 NARCL

### Why in News

- Board of NARCL has recommended P Santhosh as the new MD and CEO, succeeding N Sundar, for a 3-year term.

### Key Highlights

- P Santhosh, a former Chief General Manager of Canara Bank, has been the interim CEO of NARCL since January.
- NARCL is the only Asset Reconstruction Company (ARC), which employs a 15:85 structure for asset acquisition, where 15% is cash and 85% are security receipts (SR).
- Government guarantees any shortfall in the recovery of money promised by NARCL, with SRs worth ₹30,600 crore guaranteed by the government.
- Targets of NARCL: To acquire about ₹2 lakh crore of stressed assets in phases.

## 2.44 IBC Recoveries and Resolutions in FY24

### Why in News

- The recovery from defaulters under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) decreased in FY24 despite a 42% increase in resolved cases.

### Key Highlights

- Recovery for creditors from the resolution of stressed companies decreased in FY24 year-on-year.
- A record 269 stressed firms were resolved under the IBC in FY24.
- Rate of recovery fell to 27% of the creditors' admitted claims in FY24, bringing the cumulative recovery since the IBC's introduction in 2016 to 32%.
- In absolute terms, the cumulative recovery from resolved firms stood at ₹3.36 lakh crore.
- A company's insolvency resolution takes an average 679 days (Resolution time period as per IBC is 330 days).
- Recovery reached 85% of the fair value of stressed companies at the time of their admission for resolution and 161.8% of the liquidation value of these assets.

## 2.45 Cost Inflation Index

### Why in News

- Income Tax Department has notified the Cost Inflation Index (CII) for the fiscal year 2024-25, set at 363, under the Income-tax Act, 1961.

### Key Highlights

- Increase of 15 points from FY4, corresponds to an annual inflation rate of approximately 4.3%.
- Features:
  - Helps in computing long-term capital gains after accounting for inflation.
  - Used for assets held for more than 36 months (or 24 months for immovable property and unlisted shares, and 12 months for listed securities).

### KEY TERMS

#### Long-term Capital Gains (LTCG)

Profits from the sale of an asset held for more than a specified period.

#### Indexed Cost of Acquisition

The inflation-adjusted purchase price of an asset, used to calculate long-term capital gains.

## 2.46 SPECTRA Project

### Why in News

- RBI's (Reserve Bank of India) strategic plan for 2024-25 includes liberalising the external commercial borrowing (ECB) framework and implementing phase I of the Software Platform for ECBs and Trade credits Reporting and Approval (SPECTRA) project.

### About SPECTRA Project

- The proposed system would be dynamic enough to encompass micro level approval and reporting of transactions to macro level aggregation and reporting of external debt of the country
- The proposed system shall be able to replace the existing paper-based processes to electronic processes based on Straight Through Process (STP) mechanism.

## 2.47 Gold Reserves of Reserve Bank of India (RBI)

### Why in News

- India has moved 100 metric tonnes of its gold stored in the U.K. to domestic vaults in FY24.

### Key Highlights

- RBI's overall gold holding increased by 27.46 metric tonnes in FY24, reaching 822 metric tonnes.
- Gold Held in India: As per the RBI's annual report for FY24:
  - Over 308 metric tonnes are held as backing for notes issued.
  - 100.28 metric tonnes are held as an asset of the banking department.

- **Gold Held Abroad:** 413.79 metric tonnes are held abroad, particularly with the **Bank of England** and the **Bank for International Settlements (BIS)**.

## 2.48 10-year Green Bond

### Why in News

- For the 1<sup>st</sup> time, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) canceled the auction of 10-year green bonds as traders refused to pay the greenium.

### Key Highlights

- **Greenium** refers to the premium investors are willing to pay for green bonds due to their sustainability impact.
- Government planned to issue **green bonds** worth Rs 12,000 crore in the first half of the FY25, in two tranches of Rs 6,000 crore each, for a period of 10 years.
- Funds generated from green bonds are allocated to public-sector projects aimed at reducing the carbon footprint of the economy.

## 2.49 Bank Clinic

### Why in News

- All India Bank Employees' Association (AIBEA) has launched a new initiative called 'Bank Clinic' to help customers address their banking grievances.

### Key Highlights

- Customers receive a **reply within 5 working days**.
- The **platform acts as a facilitator**, guiding customers on how to proceed with their complaints but not directly resolving them.

## 2.50 South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Currency Swap Framework

### Why in News

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced a revised currency swap framework for SAARC nations for the period 2024-2027.

### Key Highlights

- The revised framework introduces a separate **INR Swap Window** with a corpus of ₹250 billion (Rs 25,000 crore).
- **RBI will continue offering swap arrangements** in USD (US Dollar) and EUR (Euro) with a corpus of \$2 billion.
- **Objective:** To provide backup funding for short-term foreign exchange liquidity requirements or balance of payments crises for SAARC countries.
- Facility is **available to all SAARC member countries** upon signing bilateral swap agreements with the RBI.



## 2.51 Finquiry

### Why in News

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) launched 'Finquiry'.

### About Finquiry

- 'Finquiry' is an exclusive 2-hour window on last working Wednesday of every month for fintechs (Financial Technology Companies) to visit the FinTech department of RBI in Mumbai.
- Objective: To provide a platform for fintechs to seek clarity and discuss fintech-related queries directly with RBI officials.

### KEY TERMS

#### Currency Swap

A financial agreement between two countries to exchange currencies to maintain liquidity and support trade.

## BANKING SYSTEM IN INDIA

## 2.52 PSU Banks Performance

### Why in News

- Combined net profit of 12 PSU banks soared nearly 4.5 times in 3 years, reaching Rs 1.4 lakh crore in FY24.

### Key Highlights

- State Bank of India (SBI) contributed over 40% of the total earnings.
  - SBI's Q4 profit was the highest reported by any company in Q4.
- UCO Bank and Punjab and Sind Bank were the only PSU banks to report a decline in profit compared to the previous financial year.
- Highest net profit growth: Punjab National Bank (228% increase)
- Government infused Rs 3.1 lakh crore for recapitalising PSBs from 2016-17 to 2020-21.
- Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) topped among PSU banks in business growth in FY24 followed by State Bank of India (SBI).
- BoM also led in deposit mobilization, followed by SBI, Bank of India, and Canara Bank.
- Out of 12 public sector banks, only 4 (BoM, SBI, Bank of India, Canara Bank) achieved double-digit growth in deposits in FY24.
- In terms of low-cost CASA (Current Account Savings Account) deposits, BoM topped followed by Central Bank of India.
- UCO Bank led in loan growth followed by BoM and SBI.
- Lowest gross non-performing assets: BoM followed by SBI.
- Lowest net NPAs: BoM followed by Indian Bank.
- Highest capital adequacy ratio: BoM followed by Indian Overseas Bank and Punjab & Sind Bank.

### DID YOU KNOW?

Government's 4R strategy to reform PSU banks: Recognising NPAs (Non-Performing Assets) transparently, Resolution and recovery, Recapitalising PSBs, and Reforms in the financial ecosystem.

## 2.53 India's Banking Sector

### Why in News

- India's banking sector achieved a historic milestone by surpassing a net profit of Rs 3 lakh crore in FY24.

## Key Highlights

- Combined net profit of listed public and private sector banks surged by 39% to Rs 3.1 lakh crore in FY24, compared to Rs 2.2 lakh crore in FY23.
- Banking sector's profits have now surpassed those of IT services, which recorded a net profit of close to Rs 1.1 lakh crore in FY24.
- Public sector banks (PSBs) achieved a record net profit of Rs 1.4 lakh crore.
- Private sector banks achieved net profit of Rs 1.7 lakh crore.

## 2.54 Unclaimed Deposits

### Why in News

- Unclaimed deposits in public sector banks have increased significantly in post-Covid period.

### Key Highlights

- Public sector banks, led by State Bank of India and followed by Punjab National Bank and ICICI Bank, hold the majority of these deposits (83% of the total) as of December 2022.
- Factors contributing to the increase include account holders' deaths, migration without closing accounts, and lack of nominations.
- RBI launched the UDGAM (Unclaimed Deposits-Gateway to Access Information) portal to help locate unclaimed deposits across multiple banks.

### Additional Information

- Banks are not allowed to levy penal charges for non-maintenance of minimum balances in inoperative accounts.

## KEY DEVELOPMENTS IN FINANCIAL SECTOR

## 2.55 Government's Dividend Collections from Non-Financial CPSEs

### Why in News

- Government's dividend collections from non-financial central public sector enterprises (CPSEs) and entities with minority stakes reached a record high (~₹64000 crore, 27.5% year-on-year) above its target of Rs. 50,000 crores in the fiscal year 2023-24.

### Key Highlights

- Disinvestment proceeds: ₹16,507 crore (Expected ₹18,000 crore).
- Expectations for FY25: Government anticipates raising ₹50,000 crore from disinvestment, including ₹15,000 crore from asset monetisation.

### KEY TERMS

#### Dividend

A dividend is a payment made by a corporation to its shareholders, usually as a distribution of profits.

#### Disinvestment

The action of an organization or government selling or liquidating an asset or subsidiary.

## 2.56 Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI)

### Why in News

- Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) has appointed two part-time members to the Governing Board of IBBI, completing its composition as required by the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) 2016.

### Key Highlights

- M.P. Ram Mohan and Dinabandhu Mohapatra have been appointed as part-time members.
- Tenure:** 5 years or until they reach the age of 65, whichever is earlier.
- IBBI Board Composition:** IBBI Governing Board now comprises 10 members.
  - 1 Chairperson, 3 Whole-time members, 2 Part-time members, 1 Reserve Bank of India (RBI) nominee, and 3 other ex-officio members from Finance Ministry, Corporate Affairs Ministry and Ministry of Law and Justice.

### About Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI)

- Launch Year:** 2016 under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016.
- Ministry:** Ministry of Corporate Affairs.
- Purpose:** Serves as a crucial component of the ecosystem for implementing the Code.
  - Regulates Insolvency Professionals, Insolvency Professional Agencies, Insolvency Professional Entities and Information Utilities.
  - Regulates processes, namely, corporate insolvency resolution, corporate liquidation, individual insolvency resolution and individual bankruptcy under the Code.
  - Designated as the 'Authority' under the Companies (Registered Valuers and Valuation Rules), 2017 for regulation and development of the profession of valuers in the country.

## 2.57 Unified Payments Interface (UPI)

### Why in News

- PhonePe has partnered with Nepal's digital wallet service eSewa and Hotel Association of Nepal (HAN) Pokhara to promote digital payments through UPI on Nepal's payment processor Fonepay Network, coinciding with 19<sup>th</sup> Fewa New Year Festival in Nepal.

### Key Highlights

- Collaboration involves educating and raising awareness among over 3,000 local merchants.

## 2.58 Unified Payment Interface (UPI)

### Why in News

- National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) International Payments Limited (NIPL) partnered with the Central Reserve Bank of Peru to develop a UPI-like real-time payments system in Peru.

### Key Highlights

- This makes Peru the first country in South America to adopt UPI technology.

## 2.59 IRDAI Regulations on Surrender Charges

### Why in News

- Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has released new regulations on surrender charges.

### Key Highlights

- **For Non-Single Premium Products:** Regulation ensures that policies will have a guaranteed surrender value after premiums are paid for at least 2 consecutive years. (Covered in March Month CurrentTap)
- **For Single Premium Products:** These products, where the policyholder pays the premium in one lump sum at the beginning, have a different set of surrender value guarantees:
  - **Within the 3rd Policy Year:** At least 75% of the total premium paid.
  - **4th Policy Year Onwards:** 90% of the total

## DID YOU KNOW?

The Union Territory of Lakshadweep does not have Co-operative Banks.

premiums paid, with this percentage being guaranteed if the policy is surrendered anytime during the last 2 years of the policy term.

- **Threshold Premium Concept:** Regulations introduce a concept of "threshold premium" for non-linked products, which are insurance policies not tied to market investments.
  - Premiums paid up to this threshold will incur a surrender charge of 35% on the accumulated premium until the point of surrender.
  - However, any premium paid beyond this threshold will not be subject to surrender charges, irrespective of when the policy is surrendered.

## 2.60 Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDA)

### Why in News

- IRDAI marks its 25th anniversary with a significant overhaul of regulatory reforms.

### About IRDAI

- **Launch Year:** Established in 1999 on recommendations of Malhotra Committee report and became a statutory body in 2000.
- **Ministry:** Ministry of Finance.
- Originally established as the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA), it was later renamed IRDAI.
- **Objective:** To regulate and develop the insurance industry in India, ensuring fair treatment of policyholders while enhancing the overall stability of the insurance sector.
- **Authority is a 10 members team** (all appointed by Government of India) consisting of
  - 1 Chairman
  - 5 whole-time members
  - 4 part-time members
- **Vision:** Insurance for all by 2047
- **FDI limit for Insurance Sector:** 74% under the automatic route.

### KEY TERMS

#### Surrender Charges

Fees charged by an insurance company for early policy termination by the policyholder.

#### Non-Linked Products

Insurance products that are not linked to the stock market or any other investment component, offering a guaranteed return.

## REDUCTION IN WAITING PERIOD MEANS

Imagine that Priya, who has asthma, buys a new health insurance policy on April 1, 2024. Under the old rules, she would have to wait until April 2028 before her insurance would cover any treatments related to her asthma.

However, with the new rule, she only needs to wait until April 2027. This means she gets coverage for her asthma treatments a year earlier than before.



- FDI limit for insurance intermediaries: 100%
- India's Insurance penetration: 4.3%

## New Initiatives of IRDAI

- **Removal of Age Limits:** As of April 1, 2024, there is no longer an age cap (65 years age limit was earlier) on purchasing health insurance policies.
- Insurers can no longer refuse to issue policies to individuals with severe medical conditions, such as cancer, heart or renal failure, and AIDS.
- Reduction in Waiting Period for covering pre-existing conditions has been reduced from 48 months to 36 months, with insurers required to cover these conditions post-waiting period regardless of initial disclosure.
  - Put simply, health insurers are prohibited from rejecting claims based on pre-existing conditions after these 36 months.
- Health insurers are restricted from offering indemnity-based policies that reimburse hospital expenses and must now provide benefit-based policies that offer a fixed payout upon the occurrence of a covered disease.

## 2.61 Master Circular on Life Insurance Products

### Why in News

- Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) issued a master circular mandating insurers to pay Special Surrender Value (SSV) after the first policy year, provided one full year's premium has been received.

### Key Highlights

- For policies with limited premium payment terms of less than five years and single premium policies, SSVs become payable immediately after receipt of the first full-year premium or single premium.
- Previously, the surrender value for guaranteed return products was zero in the first year and up to 30-35% in the second and third years.
- The guidelines provide for discounting of benefits at 10-year G-sec with a cushion of 50 basis points (bps).
- Insurers can offer higher Guaranteed Surrender Values (GSV) than those specified in the regulations, varying based on factors such as premium size, premium paying term, policy term, and the duration elapsed at the time of surrender.
- SSV should at least equal the expected present value of the paid-up sum assured, paid-up future benefits, and accrued benefits.
- All non-linked savings products offering surrender value must have a policy loan facility based on the eligible surrender value.
  - This facility must be provided to annuity products with a 'Return of Purchase Price' option.

### KEY TERMS

#### Surrender Value

The amount an insurance company pays to the policyholder if they decide to terminate the policy before maturity.

## 2.62 Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) Circular

### Why in News

- IRDAI has made policy loan facility mandatory in all life insurance savings products to meet liquidity requirements of policyholders.

### Key Highlights

- Policy Loan Facility:

- Mandatory in all non-linked life insurance savings products based on eligible surrender value.
- Optional for annuity products with 'Return of Purchase Price' option.
- Not permitted under unit-linked insurance products.
- Partial Withdrawal Under Pension Products:
  - Allowed for specific financial needs such as higher education, marriage, house purchase/construction, and medical expenses.
- Surrender Value:
  - Insurers advised to ensure reasonableness and value for money for both surrendering and continuing policyholders.
  - Companies can offer higher guaranteed surrender values (GSV) than specified.
- Free Look Period:
  - Increased from 15 to 30 days for reviewing policy terms and conditions.
- Variety of products and product features are now possible like:
  - Annuity products can have pay-out options linked to publicly available benchmarks.
  - Fund-based products for non-employer-employee groups.
  - Index-linked products.
- Nomination: Policyholders can nominate a beneficiary, change nominees, and have a seamless process for registering changes.

### **KEY TERMS**

#### **Policy Loan**

A loan facility offered against the **surrender value** of a life insurance policy.

#### **Free Look Period**

A period during which a policyholder can review the terms and conditions of a policy and cancel it without penalty.

## **2.63 Master Circular on Expenses of Management (EOM) and Commission Regulations 2024**

### **Why in News**

- Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has updated norms related to the expense of management and share transfer.

### **Key Highlights**

- IRDAI has eliminated the requirement for insurance companies' boards to specify ceilings based on the absolute amount of commission in segments like group insurance.
- The new commission structure will not apply to policies already sold, ensuring existing policyholders remain unaffected.
- Insurtech expenses now include depreciation on insurtech expenses that are capital expenditure in nature..
- The business plan format must be prepared separately for Participating and Non-participating business, with boards required to regularly monitor actuals against the plan.

## **2.64 Master Circular on Corporate Governance for Insurers, 2024**

### **Why in News**

- Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has introduced new corporate governance regulations for insurers.

### **Key Highlights**

- Insurance companies must seek prior approval for appointing their Board Chairperson.

- Current Chairpersons must comply with this regulation by March 31, 2026, or by the end of their terms, whichever comes first.
- Holding both business and control functions by a single key management person or holding 2 or more control positions by one individual is forbidden.
- Master circular shall apply to all insurers except foreign companies engaged in re-insurance business through a branch established in India.
- **Board Composition:** Insurers must ensure an optimum composition of Independent Directors and Non-Executive Directors, with a minimum of 3 independent Directors.
- The quorum for board meetings shall be one-third of the total strength of the board or 3 directors, whichever is higher.
- **Whistle-blower Policy:** Insurers must have a policy allowing employees to raise concerns about irregularities, governance weaknesses, financial reporting issues, or other matters, with reporting options including the Chairperson of the Board, a Committee of the Board, or the Statutory Auditor.
- Insurers must disclose various financial and operational details in their annual accounts.
- Maximum age limit for non-executive directors, including the chairperson, is 75 years.
- Independent directors can serve a maximum of 2 consecutive terms of 5 years each, subject to re-appointment through a special resolution.
- The post of MD, CEO, or Whole-time Director cannot be held by the same person for more than 15 years.
- Irdai said that the board of every insurer should set up an Investment Committee comprising at least 2 Non-Executive Directors, the Chief Executive Officer, Chief Financial Officer, Chief Investment Officer, Chief Risk Officer and the Appointed Actuary.
- Audit committee of insurers should be directly responsible for the recommendation of the appointment, remuneration, performance and oversight of the work of the auditors.

## 2.65 IRDAI's Master Circular on Health Insurance Business

### Why in News

- Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has issued a new master circular mandating insurers to decide on cashless authorisation within 1 hour of receiving a request in emergency cases.

### Other Highlights of Circular

- Insurers must process discharge authorizations within 3 hours, with delays beyond 3 hours being borne by the insurer.
- In case of the policyholder's death during treatment, insurers must immediately process the claim and release the mortal remains.
- Insurers must comply with the Insurance Ombudsman's award within 30 days; non-compliance will result in a penalty of Rs. 5000 per day in addition to the penal interest liable to be paid by the Insurer under The Insurance Ombudsman Rules, 2017.
- Pre-authorization for cashless claims should also be provided digitally.
- Claims must not be disallowed without approval from the PMC (Policy Management Committee) or Claims Review Committee.
- Insurers and third-party administrators (TPAs) should collect required documents from hospitals, not the policyholders.
- Payments to be made to the TPAs only upon full discharge of satisfactory service. Claw back of remuneration/charges paid to TPA basis customer feedback, which shall be passed on to the policyholders

- Policyholders can benefit from **No Claim Bonuses** and have the **flexibility to cancel policies for a refund of the unexpired premium**.
- Aims for 100% cashless services across all lines of medicine, including Allopathy and AYUSH.
- Insurers must provide equal treatment options for pre-existing diseases.
- **Policyholders with multiple policies** can choose which policy to claim under.
- Health insurance policy-holders will also be **able to avail a discount on the premium payable** if there were no claims made in the previous year.

## 2.66 Key Fact Statement (KFS)

### Why in News

- Reserve Bank of India has mandated all lenders to provide a standard 'key fact statement' to borrowers for all new retail and MSME term loans effective from October 2024.

### Key Highlights

- **Exclusions:** Credit card receivables.
- **Purpose:** To aid borrowers in **understanding the full costs and terms of loans**, ensuring informed decision-making.
- KFS will include not only the **annual percentage rate (APR)** and the **amortization schedule** but also **all charges levied by regulated entities (REs) and third-party service providers**.
  - Any fee, which is not mentioned in KFS, cannot be charged by the REs to the borrower at any stage during the term of the loan, without explicit consent of borrower.
- **Validity period:** (period available to the borrower to agree to the terms of the loan)
  - **At least 3 working days** for loans having tenor of **7 days or more**.
  - **1 working day** for loans having tenor of less than **7 days**.

## 2.67 Aadhaar ATM

### Why in News

- India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) has launched an **Online Aadhaar ATM service** through Aadhaar Enabled Payment System (AePS), enabling cash withdrawals at home.

### About Aadhaar ATM

- **Implementing Agency:** IPPB in collaboration with NPCI (National Payments Corporation of India).

### KEY TERMS

#### Annual Percentage Rate (APR)

The **total cost of the loan per year**, including all fees associated with the credit facility and interest rate.

#### Amortization Schedule

A **table detailing each payment on a loan over time**, showing the allocation of each payment into principal and interest components.

#### Key Fact Statement

A **statement of key facts of a loan agreement** in simple and easier-to-understand language **provided to the borrower** in a standardised format.

#### Equated Periodic Instalment (EPI)

An **equated or fixed amount of repayments**, consisting of both the principal and interest components, to be paid by a borrower towards repayment of a loan **at periodic intervals for a fixed number of such intervals**; and which result in complete amortisation of the loan. **EPIs at monthly intervals are called EMIs**.

- Features:

- Allows basic banking transactions like cash withdrawal, balance enquiry, and Aadhaar to Aadhaar fund transfers.
- Accessible through a network of postmen equipped with microATMs across India.

## DID YOU KNOW?

NPCI has set a **maximum transaction amount of Rs. 10,000** on a single AEPS financial transaction.

## 2.68 General Insurance Industry in FY24

# NATIONAL HOUSING BANK (NHB)

Head Office: New Delhi



### ESTABLISHMENT

Established in **1988**, under the **National Housing Bank Act, 1987**, after recommendations from the **High-Level Group chaired by Dr. C. Rangarajan**.



### OBJECTIVE

Initially conceptualized in **7th Five Year Plan (1985-90)** and cemented as an idea in the **National Housing Policy, 1988** to address the gap in availability of **long-term housing finance**.



### ROLE OF RBI

RBI provided the **initial paid-up capital**. As of 2019-20 Union Budget, **RBI acquired regulatory authority** over Housing Finance Companies (HFCs) **from NHB in 2019**.



### AUTHORISED CAPITAL

NHB's current authorized capital is **₹1,450 crore, fully held by the Government of India**.

### Why in News

- General insurance industry in India reported a double-digit growth in gross premium income of ₹2.89 lakh crore during FY24, according to data of General Insurance Council.

### Key Highlights

- Growth was driven by health and motor insurance segments.
- In terms of market share, public sector general insurers held 31.18% of the overall general insurance industry in FY24.

## DID YOU KNOW?

PSU (Public Sector Undertaking) player, **New India Assurance ranks 1st in non-life insurance segment**. ICICI Lombard is **2nd largest** player in the non-life segment and the **top player in the private segment**.

## 2.69 Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB)

### Why in News

- FSIB has recently appointed new heads for the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) and the National Housing Bank (NHB).

### Key Highlights

- Manoj Mittal has been selected as Chairman and Managing Director of SIDBI, replacing S Ramann.
- Sanjay Shukla has been appointed as the Managing Director of NHB.

### About FSIB

- Constituted in 2022, by Central Government specifically to recommend individuals for appointments as whole-time directors and non-executive chairpersons at the boards of various financial services institutions.
  - It also advises on personnel management within these entities.
- Secretariat of FSIB comprises a secretary and 5 officers.

### Additional Information

- SIDBI set up in 1990, headquartered in Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh) under an Act of Parliament, acts as principal financial institution for promotion, financing and development of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME) sector.

## 2.70 National Investment and Infrastructure Fund Ltd. (NIIF)

### Why in News

- The NIIF has invested \$200 million in iBUS through NIIF's Master Fund to enhance digital infrastructure in India.
- NIIF, India's largest infrastructure fund, has appointed Rajiv Dhar to its newly created Chief Investment Officer role.
  - He will be a voting member on the investment and valuation committees.

### Key Highlights

- This marks NIIF's 8<sup>th</sup> investment in infrastructure and 2<sup>nd</sup> in digital infrastructure.

## 2.71 Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPI)

### Why in News

- Revolut India has received an in-principal approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to issue PPI.

### Key Highlights

- Revolut, a London-based neobank and financial technology company, already holds licenses as a Category-II Authorized Money Exchange Dealer (AD II) for issuing multi-currency forex cards & dealing cross-border remittance services.

### Miscellaneous Points

- Revolut is the largest neobank in Europe.

## 2.72 International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) and GIFT City

### Why in News

## National Investment and Infrastructure Fund Ltd. (NIIF)

A quasi-sovereign wealth fund, 49% owned by the government, founded in 2015.

- An Alternative Investment Fund, registered with Securities and Exchange Board of India, which manages over \$4.9 billion of equity capital commitments across its 4 funds:

<b>Master fund</b> India's largest infrastructure fund.	<b>Fund of funds</b> Invests in funds, managed by renowned fund managers.
<b>Strategic opportunities fund</b> Invests in equity and equity-linked products.	<b>India-Japan Fund</b> A private equity fund and NIIF's first bilateral fund.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Governing Council:</b> Chaired by <b>Union Finance Minister</b> and comprises of eminent members from corporates, investments, and policy sectors.</li> <li><b>Council meets annually</b> and provides guidance on the overall strategy of NIIF.</li> </ul>	

- IFSCA has initiated a significant move to transform GIFT City into a climate finance hub, underpinned by the formation of a new committee tasked with creating a framework for climate finance products.

### Key Highlights

- Product Exploration:** Potential products include Alternate Investment Funds, transition bonds, and transition insurance.
- Banks in GIFT City have already started extending “green and sustainable credit”.
  - Mandate:** 5% of the credit shall be green or sustainable.

## 2.73 Payment Aggregator (PA)

### Why in News

- Cred, a fintech firm based in Bengaluru, Groww, Aurionpro Payment Solutions (Mumbai), Worldline ePayments (French company), Computer Age Management Services Ltd (CAMS), SabPaisa, Hitachi Payment Services and PayU have received in-principal approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to operate as a payment aggregator under the Payments Settlements Act, 2007.

### About Payment Aggregator

- Guidelines were issued by RBI in 2020** which mandated that payment gateways will need to obtain an aggregator license to acquire merchants and offer digital payment acceptance solutions.
- Functions:** Payment aggregators facilitate e-commerce websites, mobile apps, and merchants in accepting various payment instruments from customers for transactions, without the need for merchants to create separate payment interfaces.
- RBI allows PAs to manage funds through an escrow account and offer value-added services on top of payments.
- Examples:** Razorpay, Amazon Pay etc.

### Additional Information

- SabPaisa, a payment solutions provider, was established in 2016.

## 2.74 Asset Tokenization

### Why in News

- The topic of asset tokenization is in the news due to the recent proposal by the Bank for International Settlements (BIS) to establish ‘Finternet,’ a proposed digital framework for the financial system that uses technology to link various financial ecosystems through tokenization.

### Key Highlights

### KEY TERMS

#### Climate Finance

Financial investments channeled towards climate change mitigation and adaptation projects, including support for shifts to low-carbon and climate-resilient development.

#### DID YOU KNOW?

Cred is the largest third-party app for credit card bill payments in India and recognized as the 4th largest Unified Payments Interface (UPI) player in India.

#### DID YOU KNOW?

CAMS is India's largest registrar and transfer agent of mutual funds, with a 68.1% market share based on mutual fund average assets under management (AAUM).

#### DID YOU KNOW?

In 2023, Hitachi Payment Services had announced the launch of its Accelerator Program - HPX, to collaborate with fintech start-ups across India to propel digital payment innovation.

### KEY TERMS

#### Asset Tokenization

It is the process of converting ownership of a real-world asset into a digital token on a blockchain.

## National Asset Reconstruction Company Limited (NARCL)

### Announcement

Announced in Union Budget 2021 as part of an ARC-AMC (Asset Reconstruction Company - Asset Management Company) structure, along with India Debt Resolution Company Limited (IDRCL)



### Establishment

Incorporated in 2021 and registered with RBI as an ARC under Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

### Shareholding

Majority stake (51%) held by public sector banks, remainder by private banks. Canara Bank is the sponsor bank.



### Objective

To 'consolidate' stressed assets of ₹500 crore and above in the banking system by offering them a mix of cash and government-guaranteed Security Receipts (SRS).



### Resolution of Acquired Assets

Works with IDRCL (51% owned by Private Banks), which provides end-to-end assistance for the optimal 'resolution' of acquired assets.



### About IDRCL

Part of the concept of a "BAD BANK", owned by 14 of India's largest private and public scheduled commercial banks.



- Finternet will enable seamless transactions of tokenized financial assets over digital ledgers, promoting interoperability across different financial ecosystems.

- By tokenizing assets, financial transactions can be executed more quickly, at lower costs, and with increased security.

### About BIS

- Established in 1930, the BIS is owned by 63 central banks, representing countries from around the world that together account for about 95% of world GDP.

- Head office: Basel, Switzerland.

## 2.75 National Asset Reconstruction Company Limited (NARCL)

### Why in News

- Srei Infrastructure Finance Limited announced the appointment of Hardayal Prasad as its new Managing Director and CEO under the management of NARCL.

### Key Highlights

- NARCL had successfully acquired SIFL and Srei Equipment Finance Company under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) initiated by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to manage over Rs 32,000 crore debt of these NBFCs (Non-Banking Financial Companies).
  - In 2021, the RBI had superseded the board of Srei while initiating the process of insolvency for the two companies — Srei Infrastructure Finance and Srei Equipment Finance.
  - Both companies were admitted into the corporate insolvency resolution process (CIRP).

## 2.76 India's first Nifty Non-Cyclical Consumer Index Fund

### Why in News

- Groww Mutual Fund has received approval from SEBI to launch India's first Nifty Non-Cyclical Consumer Index Fund through a new fund offering (NFO).

### Key Highlights

- It will be an open-ended scheme tracking the Nifty Non-Cyclical Consumer Index-TRI.
- **Fund Objective:** To generate long-term capital growth by investing in securities of the Nifty Non-Cyclical Consumer Index (TRI) in the same weightage as in the index.

- Minimum investment starts at Rs 500, with SIP options beginning at Rs 1,200 (subject to a minimum of 12 SIP instalments of Rs 100 each for monthly instalments and Rs 300 for quarterly instalments).
- A 1% exit load is charged if units are redeemed within 30 days of allotment; no exit load post 30 days.
- The scheme will invest 95-100% in equities and equity-related securities of companies engaged in or expected to benefit from consumption and consumption-related activities and 0-5% in debt and money market instruments /and units of debt schemes/units of debt ETFs (Exchange Traded Funds).
- The principal invested in the scheme will be at "very high" risk according to the riskometer of the scheme.

### About Non-cyclical Index Fund

- It is a type of mutual fund that aims to generate long-term capital growth by investing in securities of the Nifty Non-Cyclical Consumer Index.
  - This index contains 30 companies that are not majorly impacted by economic instability and are in regular demand, making them a good investment option during economic downturns.
- Non-cyclical stocks are also known as **defensive stocks**, these stocks outperform their industry in the stock market despite economic instability.

## 2.77 Global Anti-Base Erosion (GloBE) Rules

### Why in News

- Indian multinationals are subject to a 15% global minimum tax rule in certain countries.

### Key Highlights

- **Global Adoption:** Approximately 130 countries, including India, have agreed to the global tax reform, and nations like the UK, Vietnam, South Korea, and 18 EU (European Union) countries have already implemented domestic rules effective from January 2024.
- The tax reform allows countries to impose a 'top-up tax' on companies showing profits in low-tax jurisdictions to meet the agreed 15% minimum tax rate.

### About Global Anti-Base Erosion (GloBE) Rules

- Part of 'OECD/G20 Inclusive Framework on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS).'
- **Objective:** To prevent tax avoidance by multinationals by ensuring a minimum tax rate of 15% is applied globally, reducing profit shifting to low-tax jurisdictions.
- **Features:**
  - **Pillars:** Part of a broader strategy against tax avoidance, known as **pillar two**.
  - **Mechanisms:** Includes mechanisms like the Qualified Domestic Minimum Top-up Tax

### KEY TERMS

#### TRI (Total Return Index)

Reflects the total return of index constituents, including the reinvestment of dividends.

#### Global Minimum Tax

A tax rule agreed upon by multiple countries to ensure that multinational corporations pay at least a minimum tax rate on their earnings.

#### Qualified Domestic Minimum Top-up Tax (QDMTT)

Additional domestic tax levied to meet the minimum global tax rate requirement.

#### Base erosion and profit shifting (BEPS)

Refers to tax planning strategies used by multinational enterprises that exploit gaps and mismatches in tax rules to avoid paying tax.

(QDMTT) to neutralize tax advantages in low-tax jurisdictions.

- **Scope:** Applies to large multinational enterprises (MNEs) with consolidated annual revenues of EUR 750 million or more, ensuring they pay at least a 15% tax rate on profits earned in the jurisdictions where they operate.
- **Principles:** 3 core principles supporting the global minimum tax are the Income Inclusion Rule (IIR), Undertaxed Payment Rule (UTPR), and the Subject to Tax Rules (STTR), aimed at addressing profits either untaxed or taxed at lower rates.

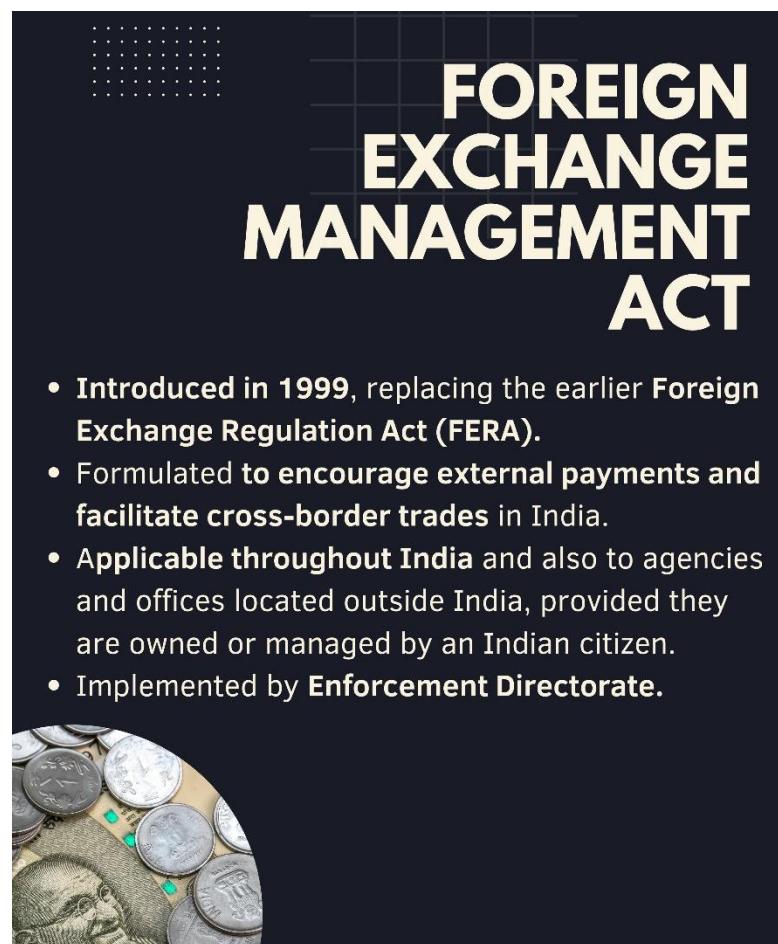
## 2.78 Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA)

### Why in News

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has recently notified amendments to FEMA regulations.

### Key Highlights

- Notifications involve amendments to the Foreign Exchange Management (Foreign Currency Accounts by a Person Resident in India) Regulations and the Foreign Exchange Management (Non-debt Instruments) Rules.
- Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) has issued the Companies (Listing of Equity Shares in Permissible Jurisdictions) Rules, 2024, which are pivotal in regulating the framework for overseas listings.
- Regulations facilitate direct listing of Indian companies on the international exchanges based in GIFT-IFSC.
- Designated international exchanges include India International Exchange and NSE International Exchange under the regulatory oversight of the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA).
- Proceeds from the purchase or subscription of equity shares of an Indian company listed on an international exchange can be either remitted to a bank account in India or deposited into a foreign currency account of the Indian company.
  - The sale proceeds, net of taxes, may be remitted outside India or credited to the permissible holder's bank account.
  - Reporting of transactions in foreign exchange is mandated to be done by the investee Indian company through an authorized dealer.
  - If a Foreign Portfolio Investor (FPI) makes investments via the stock exchange, the authorized dealer must report these transactions to the RBI.
- Regulations also address the management of foreign currency accounts by residents in India, especially in cases where funds raised through External Commercial Borrowings (ECBs), American Depository Receipts (ADRs), Global Depository Receipts (GDRs), or direct listing of equity shares have not yet been utilized or repatriated.



- Introduced in 1999, replacing the earlier Foreign Exchange Regulation Act (FERA).
- Formulated to encourage external payments and facilitate cross-border trades in India.
- Applicable throughout India and also to agencies and offices located outside India, provided they are owned or managed by an Indian citizen.
- Implemented by Enforcement Directorate.

- These funds are to be held in foreign currency accounts with a bank outside India.
- Amendments provide companies with greater flexibility in managing their funds based on their operational needs and investment strategies, particularly allowing funds raised to be kept in foreign exchange until utilized.
- **Objective:** To streamline and enhance the process for Indian companies to access international capital markets, boosting foreign investments and global presence.

## 2.79 SEBI guidelines on PMS providers

### Why in News

- Starting January 2025, all Portfolio Management Service (PMS) distributors must register with Association of Portfolio Managers in India (APMI).

### KEY TERMS

#### Portfolio Management Services

**Specialized services offered to wealthy investors** involving the **management of a tailored investment portfolio**.

### Key Highlights

- **Objective:** To regulate and standardize the operations of PMS providers, ensuring transparency and accountability in their services.
- **Currently**, persons engaged by a portfolio manager to act as a distributor of the PMS are **required to obtain certification from the National Institute of Securities Markets (NISM)**.
- APMI introduced a distributor registration portal in 2023 through which individuals can obtain APMI Registration Number (APRN) to sell PMS.
  - The registration was voluntary for existing PMS distributors. (Now made mandatory)
- Aims to bring the practices of PMS distributors in line with those in the mutual fund industry, where registration with the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI) and obtaining an AMFI Registration Number (ARN) are already required.

## 2.80 Participatory Notes (P-Notes)

### KEY TERMS

#### Participatory Notes

P-Notes are **financial instruments that let foreign investors indirectly invest in the Indian stock market** without registering with the market regulator (SEBI in India).

P-Notes **act like a substitute for underlying Indian company shares**.

**When you buy a P-Note, you're essentially investing in performance of those Indian shares.**

### Why in News

- Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has permitted FPIs (Foreign Portfolio Investors) registered at the GIFT International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) to issue offshore derivative instruments (ODIs), commonly known as participatory notes.
- P-note investments in India surged to a near 6-year high at ₹1.5 lakh crore by the end of February 2024, marking the highest level since 2017.

### Key Highlights

- Permission extends to both banking and non-bank entities at GIFT City, which can now issue these instruments with Indian securities as the underlying assets.
- The regulation change could further expand to include alternative investment funds (AIFs) with FPI registrations, enhancing their ability to hedge risks and offer exposure to Indian equities.
- Even **alternative investment funds (AIFs) who have an FPI registration** can issue ODIs.
- Currently, about **46 FPIs are domiciled** at the GIFT IFSC.
- Of the total ₹1.5 lakh crore, **most investments were in equities** followed by **debt and hybrid securities**.
- India's **economic growth accelerated to 8.4% in Q3 of 2023-24**.

- FPIs Assets:** Assets under custody (AUC) of FPIs grew to ₹68.55 lakh crore at the end of February from ₹66.96 lakh crore in the previous month.
  - Currently, P-Notes account for around 2% of the total AUC of FPIs.

## 2.81 GIFT City

### Why in News

- Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has updated regulations allowing foreign funds based in GIFT City to receive full investment from non-resident Indians.

### Key Highlights

- However, they will need to make granular disclosures about their investors if the fund holds more than 33% of its equity assets under management (AUM) in a single Indian group.
  - Such disclosures will also be needed in case the fund along with its investor group holds more than \$3 billion of equity AUM in the Indian markets.
- SEBI has approved a new option for venture capital funds to transition to an Alternative Investment Fund (AIF) structure for better management of unlisted or illiquid assets.
- Passive funds (like Mutual funds) at GIFT City can now invest up to 35% of their assets in sponsor group companies, compared to the previous limit of 25%.
  - This allows better index tracking, especially when sponsor group companies have significant index weight.
- To enhance participation of non-institutional investors in the bond market, SEBI approved the proposal to provide an option to the issuers to issue non-convertible debentures (NCDs) and non-convertible redeemable preference shares (NCRPS) through private placement mode at a reduced face value of Rs 10,000 along with the requirement to appoint a merchant banker.
  - Earlier face value: Rs 1 lakh.

## GIFT CITY

1

**IMPLEMENTING AGENCY**  
International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA)

2

**CONCEPTUALIZED IN**  
2008 as an international financial services hub

3

**POST-2014**  
Focus shifted to developing GIFT City as India's first smart city

4

**TAX INCENTIVES**  
Exemptions from MAT, AMT, GST for services to IFSC Special Economic Zone (SEZ) units.

5

**TAX INCENTIVES**  
State subsidies like stamp duty reimbursement and electricity duty reimbursement.

6

**ANNOUNCEMENT**  
Union Budget 2022-23 announced the setting up of an International Arbitration Centre in it.

7

**LAUNCHES**  
India International Bullion Exchange to standardize gold prices & enable direct gold import.

- SEBI has shifted focus from individual surveillance to institutional mechanisms within asset management companies to prevent market abuse like front-running and insider trading.
  - Aiming to reduce the operational burden on individual fund managers and promote a healthier working environment.

## KEY TERMS

### Front-Running

The unethical practice of executing transactions based on advance, non-public information regarding expected stock price movements.

## 2.82 GIFT IFSC (Gujarat International Finance Tec-City)

### Why in News

- Financial Planning Standards Board (FPSB) India and the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) have signed a pact.

### Key Highlights

- Objective: To promote GIFT IFSC as a global finance hub, enhancing the financial market ecosystem and nurturing skilled professionals (CFP - Certified Financial Planner) for its expanding workforce.
- FPSB India is the leading financial planning body in India, dedicated to establishing and promoting professional standards in financial planning across the country.

### About IFSCA

- Established in 2020, under International Financial Services Centres Authority Act, 2019.
- Headquartered in GIFT City, Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- Role: Serves as a unified authority for the development and regulation of financial products, services, and institutions in the International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) in India.
  - GIFT IFSC is India's first international financial services centre.
- Before its establishment, its business was regulated by domestic financial regulators, namely RBI, SEBI, PFRDA, and IRDAI.

## 2.83 RBI Asks NBFCs to Stick to Gold Loan Cash Payout Cap of Rs 20,000

### Why in News

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has warned non-bank financial companies (NBFCs) against disbursing cash loans exceeding Rs 20,000.

### Key Highlights

- RBI's letter referenced Section 269SS of the Income Tax Act, 1961, which prohibits individuals from receiving more than Rs 20,000 in cash as loan amounts.
- Aims to curb the creation of black money and close loopholes in the existing rules.

### DID YOU KNOW?

IIFL Finance is India's 2nd-largest gold loan player.

## 2.84 RBI Data on Credit Cards

### Why in News

- Credit card spends have surged by 27% year-on-year to Rs 18.26 trillion in FY24.

### Key Highlights

- HDFC Bank leads in credit card issuances with 20.59 million cards, followed by SBI Card, ICICI Bank, and Axis Bank.
- e-commerce payments inched up to Rs 1.05 lakh crores in March.

### DID YOU KNOW?

Total number of credit cards in circulation reached 10.1 crores in March 2024.

## 2.85 National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)

### Why in News

- NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL) has partnered with the Bank of Namibia to develop a UPI-like instant payment system in Namibia.
- This agreement marks NPCI's first collaboration with a central bank to deploy the UPI (Unified Payments Interface) stack internationally.

## 2.86 SEBI's Master Circular on Credit Rating Agencies

### Why in News

- SEBI has released a master circular on credit rating agencies under Securities and Exchange Board of India (Credit Rating Agencies) Regulations, 1999.

### Key Highlights

- Credit rating agencies must disclose their detailed rating criteria in their operations manual/internal governing document and on their websites.
- Agencies are required to disclose periodic updates to their rating criteria and reference original criteria to highlight changes.
- Credit rating agencies must have a proper rating process in place, with detailed guidelines on:
  - FAQs on ratings
  - General nature of compensation arrangements with rated entities
  - Policy for placing ratings on credit watch
  - Guidelines on what constitutes non-cooperation
  - Gift policy
  - Confidentiality policy
  - Policy on outsourcing of activities
- Any changes in rating processes or policies must be disclosed on the agency's website.
- Agencies are required to proactively track the servicing of debt obligations for each rated security and monitor indicators such as EBITDA, liquidity conditions, and borrowing costs to detect potential defaults or delays.
- Requires all registered CRAs to obtain prior approval of SEBI in case of change in control.
- The prior approval granted by SEBI is valid for 180 days from the date of communication.
- All applications for registration, surrender, or other requests must be made through the SEBI Intermediary Portal, with physical document submission only for records.

## 2.87 India International Bullion Exchange (IIBX)

### Why in News

- State Bank of India (SBI), India's largest bank, has become the first bank to join IIBX as a trading-cum-clearing member at GIFT City, Gujarat.

### Key Highlights

- This enables SBI IFSC Banking unit (IBU) to conduct and settle trades on the IIBX platform on behalf of its clients.

### DID YOU KNOW?

India International Bullion Exchange (IIBX) is the country's first bullion exchange in GIFT City, Gandhinagar.

- Reserve Bank of India recently permitted IBUs to act as trading members and trading and clearing members at IIBX as special category clients (SCCs) to import gold through bullion exchange.

### About IIBX

- Following types of entities are eligible to become members of IIBX-
  - Non-Resident Individual / Proprietorship Firm
  - Registered Partnership Firm
  - Private Limited Company and Public Limited Company
  - Qualified Jewellers
  - IBU Branches at GIFT City
  - Foreign Bullion Suppliers who follow OECD guidelines

### KEY TERMS

#### Trading-cum-Clearing Member (TCM)

A member of an exchange **who can not only trade on behalf of their clients but also clear and settle those trades.**

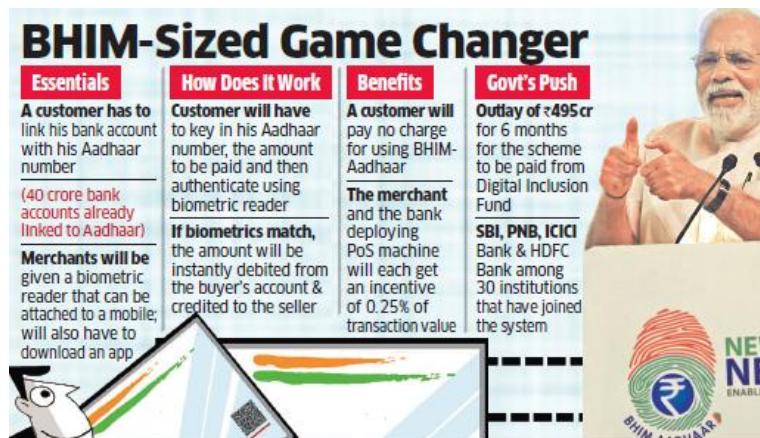
## 2.88 NPCI Guidelines on BHIM Aadhaar Pay

### Why in News

- National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has released new guidelines for merchant acquisition on BHIM (Bharat Interface for Money) Aadhaar Pay.

### Key Highlights

- Acquiring banks are now fully responsible for verifying, managing, and monitoring merchants using BHIM Aadhaar Pay.
- Banks must use the appropriate Merchant Category Code (MCC) when onboarding merchants and ensure no cash withdrawal transactions occur on the BHIM Aadhaar Pay service.
- **Biometric Payments:** Merchants associated with any acquiring bank can accept payments from customers of any bank through biometric authentication.



- Launched by NPCI on 126th birth anniversary of Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar (14 April) in 2017.
- BHIM Aadhaar Pay enables Merchants to receive digital payments from customers over the counter through Aadhaar Authentication.
- BHIM Aadhaar Pay is operational exclusively in India.
- Service is available only with banks that are live on BHIM Aadhaar Pay.

## 2.89 Minimum Public Shareholding (MPS) Norms

### Why in News

- LIC has received a 3-year extension from SEBI to comply with MPS norms.

### Key Highlights

- LIC's revised timeline to achieve 10% public shareholding is on or before May 16, 2027.
- LIC was initially required to achieve 10% public shareholding within 2 years of its listing.
- Earlier, Finance Ministry granted LIC exemption from the 25% MPS norms until 2032.



## DEPOSIT INSURANCE AND CREDIT GUARANTEE CORPORATION (DICGC)

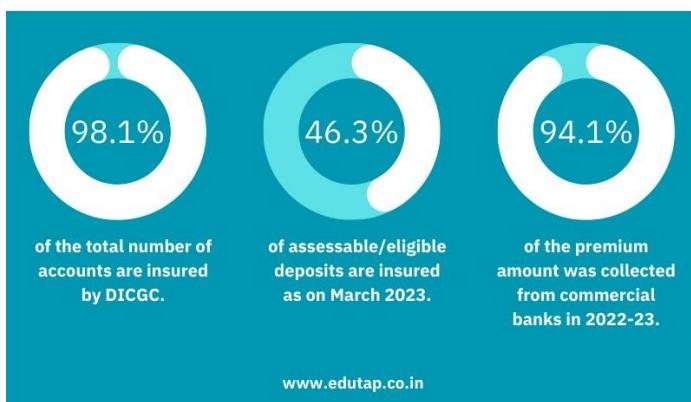
- A wholly-owned subsidiary of RBI, governed by **DICGC Act 1961** and Regulations framed by RBI.
- Head Office: Mumbai.
- Objective: To provide insurance coverage for bank deposits (including Principal and Interest) **up to ₹5 lakh** per depositor per account **within 90 days** of the start of the moratorium.
- The insurance cover amount **applies to all deposits taken together**, whether held in the current account, savings account, fixed deposits, and so on.
- Authorized capital of the Corporation: **Rs.50 crore**, which is fully issued and subscribed by RBI.
- Deposit insurance premium (at the rate of **₹0.12 per ₹100 of assessable deposits**) is borne entirely by insured bank.
- Corporation may cancel the registration of an insured bank if it fails to pay the premium for **3 consecutive periods**.
- If bank does not pay premium on time, then it is liable to pay **interest of 8% above the Bank Rate** on the amount of such unpaid premium.

### Banks covered by Deposit Insurance Scheme:

- All commercial banks including the branches of foreign banks functioning in India, Local Area Banks and Regional Rural Banks.
- Co-operative Banks - All eligible co-operative banks as defined in Section 2(gg) of the DICGC Act..
- Primary cooperative societies are **not insured**.

### The Corporation maintains the following Funds :

- Deposit Insurance Fund
- Credit Guarantee Fund
- General Fund



### DID YOU KNOW?

LIC, **96.5%** owned by Government, is the largest domestic institutional investor in share market, with **equity investments worth over Rs 14 lakh crore** at the end of the March 2024.

### About Minimum Public Shareholding Norms

- Norms under **Securities Contracts (Regulation) Rules, 1957**, of SEBI.
- All listed companies must maintain a 25% public float.
- Newly listed companies have a 3-year window to comply.
- For companies with a post-issue market capitalization of more than Rs 1 lakh crore, the timeline to meet the 25% MPS rule is 5 years.

## 2.90 Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC)

### Why in News

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a withdrawal freeze on Shirpur Merchants' Co-operative Bank due to its deteriorating financial condition.

## 2.91 IBBI Issues New Guidelines to Streamline Process of Appointing Insolvency Professionals (IPs)

### Why in News

- Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) has issued new guidelines to streamline the appointment of insolvency professionals, effective from July 2024.

### Key Highlights

- A panel of insolvency professionals (IPs) will be established, effective from July to December 2024.
- The panel will be shared with the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) and the Debt

Recovery Tribunal (DRT) to avoid administrative delays.

- IPs must have no pending disciplinary proceedings or convictions in the last 3 years to be eligible.
- IPs must hold a valid authorization for assignment and submit an expression of interest with their consent to act in various capacities.
- Priority will be given to IPs based on the volume of completed assignments and registration dates.
- IPs are expected to accept appointments without withdrawing consent unless permitted by the NCLT, DR T, or IBBI, with failure to comply potentially resulting in removal from the panel for 6 months.

## 2.92 A.P. Hota Committee

### Why in News

- RBI proposed the Digital Payments Intelligence Platform to use advanced technologies for mitigating payment fraud risks.
- Therefore, RBI constituted a committee under the chairmanship of A.P. Hota to explore digital public infrastructure for the platform.

### Key Highlights

- Domestic payment frauds increased by 70.64% to ₹2,604 crore during the six months ending March 2024.
  - The volume of frauds also rose to 15.51 lakh from 11.5 lakh.

## 2.93 General Anti-Avoidance Rules (GAAR)

### GENERAL ANTI-AVOIDANCE RULES

### Why in News

- Telangana High Court ruled against a taxpayer in a case involving GAAR for the 1<sup>st</sup> time since their implementation in April 2017.

### Key Highlights

- Case involved Ayodhya Rami Reddy Alla, who used bonus stripping to set off a loss of ₹462 crore against long-term gains.
- Court observed that the arrangement lacked commercial substance and was a deliberate misuse of Income Tax Act provisions.
- Court clarified that GAAR can apply when SAAR does not, as per the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) circular.



- Launch Year: 2017, under Income Tax Act, 1961.
- Objective: To prevent tax avoidance by denying tax benefits to transactions lacking commercial substance and undertaken primarily to avoid tax.
- GAAR is effective from assessment year 208-19.
- Tax reduction can be of following 3 categories:
  - Tax Mitigation: Lawful strategies used to reduce tax amount through tax reliefs and allowances.
  - Tax Evasion: Illegal act of deliberately misrepresenting or concealing income to avoid paying taxes.
  - Tax Avoidance: Legal methods to minimize tax liability by arranging finances to exploit loopholes or benefits in tax laws.

## 2.94 Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC)

### Why in News

- Supreme Court has provided comprehensive clarity on the application of set-offs within the IBC during the Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process (CIRP).

## Key Highlights

- Types of Set-offs:
  - **Statutory or Legal Set-Off:** Governed by statutes such as Order 8 Rule 6 of the Civil Procedure Code (CPC), 1908.
  - **Equitable Set-Off:** Involves unascertained sums payable as damages from interconnected transactions, grounded in fairness and justice.
  - **Contractual Set-Off:** Based on mutual agreement between parties, allowing financial relationships to be managed according to mutually agreed terms.
  - **Insolvency Set-Off:** Applicable during liquidation, involving mutual debts or dealings at the commencement of the liquidation process.
- Supreme Court clarified that **creditors cannot set off debts against corporate debtors during CIRP**, highlighting the primary objective of CIRP to revive and rehabilitate corporate debtors.
  - Although set-offs are allowed in partnerships and individual bankruptcies under IBC, they are not applicable to corporate debtors during CIRP.
- **Insolvency set-offs are permitted during liquidation** as per the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (Liquidation Process) Regulations, 2016, with Section 36(4) specifying assets subject to set-off on account of mutual dealings.
- **Insolvency set offs should not undermine the Pari Passu principle**, which ensures equal ranking among creditors.
- The judgment highlights 2 exceptions where set-offs may apply during CIRP:
  - Contractual set-offs established before or on the commencement date of CIRP remain binding despite the moratorium.
  - Equitable set-offs apply when claims and counterclaims are interconnected through one or more transactions, provided the claims are quantifiable and purely monetary.

## KEY TERMS

### Set-off

A principle allowing a debtor to reduce a larger debt by **offsetting a smaller claim owed to them by the creditor**.

## 2.95 National Pension Scheme (NPS) Balanced Lifecycle Fund Scheme

### Why in News

- Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) will introduce a new life cycle fund option by September 2024.

### Key Highlights

- The new life cycle fund will include up to 50% equity, with the tapering age increased to 45 years from the existing 35 years.
- Objective: This will enable contributors to retain 50% of their investment in equity funds until they reach the age of 45.

### About Life Cycle Funds

- Life cycle funds provide investment options to NPS subscribers, with equity and debt allocation depending on the chosen option.
- Currently, there are 3 life cycle fund options to NPS subscribers: LC 75 (Aggressive Auto Choice), LC 50 (Moderate Auto Choice), and LC 25 (Conservative Auto Choice).

## KEY TERMS

### Tapering Age

The age at which the proportion of equity in an investment begins to decrease.

- Different investment choices (Auto/Active) are available for tier-1 and tier-2 National Pension Scheme (NPS) accounts.

## 2.96 3rd-party App Credit Card Payments

### Why in News

- Starting July, major banks like HDFC, ICICI, and Axis Bank will not be able to process credit card bill payments through third-party apps due to RBI's mandate for routing all such payments through the Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS).

### Key Highlights

- Reason: As these banks are not live on BBPS.

### Miscellaneous Points

- RBI previously restricted peer-to-peer (P2P) credit card payments via third-party apps due to misuse cases.

## 2.97 PFRDA-TRACE (Tracking, Reporting, Analytics, and Compliance E-platform)

### Why in News

- Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) has selected NEC Corporation India as the System Integrator (SI) for its digital platform PFRDA-TRACE for a period of 6 years.

### Key Highlights

- NEC Corporation India will be responsible for studying existing processes, proposing improved workflows, and providing design, development, customization, implementation, and maintenance services for PFRDA-TRACE.

### About PFRDA-TRACE

- Objective: To provide a comprehensive tool for intermediaries to submit regulatory and supervisory compliance reports, enhancing the efficiency and transparency of the reporting process.
- It is 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of PFRDA's Technology Architecture (TARCH) project, which includes 4 modules:
  - Website revamp and chatbot
  - PFRDA online intermediary supervision engine (POISE)
  - PFRDA repository and information systems management (PRISM)
  - PFRDA Intranet (PINTRA)

### KEY TERMS

#### Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS)

A centralized platform, **pilot launch in 2016**, for **recurring bill payments operated by National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)**.

### KEY TERMS

#### System Integrator (SI)

A **business entity responsible for the procurement, installation, and integration of various components of a complex system**, ensuring they work together effectively.

#### Technology Architecture (TARCH)

PFRDA has decided to **digitise and automate its operations through Technology Architecture (TARCH) Project**, which is envisioned to be a **modular and API (Application Programming Interface) based platform**.

## RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN FINANCIAL SECTOR

### 2.98 HP Future Impact Leaders - IICA Certified Environmental-Social-Governance (ESG) Professional Programme

#### Why in News

- Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA), an autonomous institute under Ministry of Corporate Affairs, and HP India have launched the Programme.

#### Key Highlights

- Target:** To offer advanced education in ESG to 75 candidates with 100% scholarships.
- Objective:** To empower Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) professionals with advanced knowledge and skills in ESG.

#### KEY TERMS

#### Environmental-Social-Governance (ESG)

A framework used by investors to evaluate a company's impact on the environment, society, and how it is governed.

### 2.99 Advance Pricing Agreements (APAs)

#### Why in News

- Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) signed 125 APAs in the FY 2023-24, which is the highest in any year since the inception of the APA program.

#### KEY TERMS

#### Advance Pricing Agreements (APAs)

An APA is an agreement between a tax payer and tax authority determining the transfer pricing methodology for pricing the tax payer's international transactions.

#### Key Highlights

- Total APAs signed till now: 641, including both unilateral and bilateral agreements (BAPAs).
- CBDT also signed the maximum number of BAPAs in any financial year till date as a consequence of entering into Mutual Agreements with India's treaty partners namely Australia, Canada, Denmark, Japan, Singapore, the UK and the US.

#### About Advance Pricing Agreements (APAs)

- Launch Year:** APA provisions were introduced into Income-tax Act, 1961, effective from 2012.
- Eligibility:** Any taxpayer who has undertaken or is planning to undertake an international transaction is eligible to apply for an APA.
- There are no monetary thresholds that restrict eligibility for filing an APA.
- Advance Pricing Agreement (APA) Scheme is designed to help taxpayers by clearly defining how to price transactions between related international entities ahead of time, for up to 5 upcoming years.

#### Bilateral APA (BAPA)

APA that involves the tax payer, associated enterprise (AE) of the tax payer in the foreign country, tax authority of the country where the tax payer is located, and the foreign tax authority.

#### Unilateral APAs (UAPAs)

APA that involves only the tax payer and the tax authority of the country where the tax payer is located.

- Additionally, taxpayers have the option to apply these pre-agreed pricing methods to transactions that took place in the **4 years before the agreement**.

## PUBLIC FINANCE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (PFMS)

### Introduction



**Started during 2009** with the **objective of tracking funds released** under all Plan schemes of Government of India, and **real time reporting of expenditure** at all levels of Programme implementation.



### Concerned Department

A web-based financial management application developed and implemented by the **Controller General of Accounts (CGA), Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance**.



### Uses



**Annual account of the Union Government is derived from** the transactions affected and reported on PFMS throughout the financial year. PFMS is used for **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)** as well.



PFMS, a Centralized Transaction System & Platform, also has an online receipts portal called '**Bharatkosh**' or **Non-Tax Receipt Portal (NTRP)** for collecting online Non-Tax Revenue receipts from all the payees.

### Feature

- Additionally, taxpayers have the option to apply these pre-agreed pricing methods to transactions that took place in the **4 years before the agreement**.

✓ APAs with a roll-back provision, which give I-T certainty to the applicant (taxpayer) for nine years, were introduced from 2015.

- This approach offers taxpayers a total of **9 years of predictability** regarding how their transactions are priced for tax purposes.

- By signing agreements that include both the taxpayer's country and a foreign tax authority (bilateral APAs), **taxpayers are also protected against the risk of being taxed twice** on the same income.

## 2.100 Public Finance Management System (PFMS)

### Why in News

- Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) initiated the electronic disbursal of duty drawback amounts directly to exporters' bank accounts through PFMS.

### Key Highlights

- New system eliminates manual intervention, reducing the time required for payment.
- CBIC aims to adopt next-generation trade facilitation reforms by implementing the WTO (World Trade Organisation) Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) plus approach.

## 2.101 Programmable Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC)

### Why in News

- IndusInd Bank executed transactions to pay farmers for carbon credits with a programmable version of the Reserve Bank of India's digital currency, or e-rupee, marking the first such instance by any bank.

### Key Highlights

- Bank partnered with Circularity Innovation Hub India Private Limited (CIH) for this pilot.
- Pilot specifically targeted 50 farmers in Ratnagiri district for carbon credit generation, with plans to expand to 1,000 farmers.
- EmerTech Innovations developed a Blockchain-backed platform for the project, ensuring traceability and transparency in transactions.

Phase 2 of the project will focus on **Safai Karmacharis**, aiming to increase their income by leveraging revenues generated from the collection, recycling, and repurposing of plastic

## 2.102 National Highways Infra Trust (NHIT)



### News 1

- National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) unveiled a new corporate identity for NHIT.

### Key Highlights

- NHAI aims to monetize projects worth ₹15,000 – 20,000 crores through NHIT under the National Monetization Pipeline (NMP) for FY 2024-25.

### News 2

- Suresh Goyal, MD & CEO of the Investment Manager to NHIT, will step down from his position by the end of October 2024.



- Set up and Registered as a trust with SEBI in 2020.
- Ministry:** Ministry of Road Transport and Highways
- Implementing Agency: National Highway Authority of India (NHAI)
- Objective:** To support the Government of India's road infrastructure monetisation plan under National Monetization Pipeline (NMP).
- NHIT operates 15 toll roads across 9 states** including Assam, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal.

## 2.103 Insurance Surety Bonds (ISB)

### Why in News

- National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) organised a workshop on implementation of ISB for national highway contracts.

### Key Highlights

- Ministry of Finance has equated Insurance Surety Bonds with Bank Guarantees for all government procurements.
- NHAI has received 164 ISBs, comprising 20 for Performance Security and 144 for Bid Security.
- Ministry of Road, Transport and Highways launched the country's first-ever surety bond insurance product to reduce the dependence of infra developers on bank guarantee in 2022.
- 1<sup>st</sup> acceptance of ISBs by NHAI was announced in 2023 for the monetisation programme of an upcoming bid of a Toll Operate Transfer (TOT) package.

### KEY TERMS

#### Insurance Surety Bonds

A financial instrument where insurance companies (act as 'Surety') provide a guarantee that a contractor will fulfil its contractual obligations.

#### Bid Security

A guarantee provided to the project owner that the bidder will honor their bid and sign the contract if awarded.

#### Performance Security

A guarantee provided to ensure the contractor performs their contractual obligations satisfactorily.