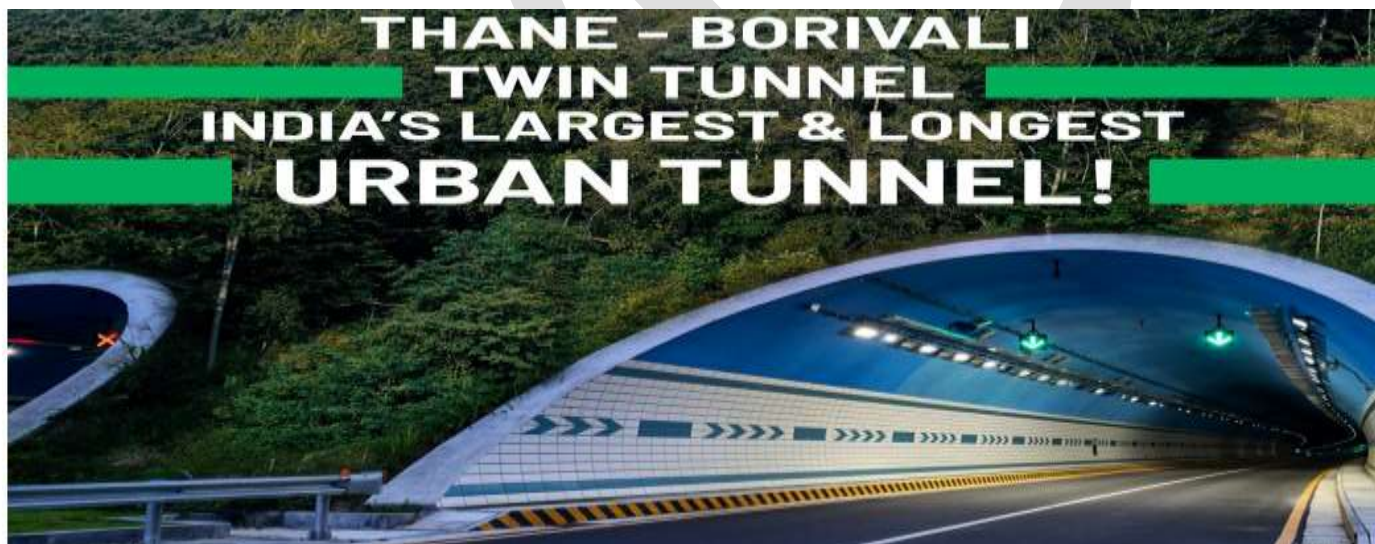


# CURRENT GA

FOR NABARD 2024 BATCH



**JULY 15<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup>**

## CAUTION

1. Do not forget to solve Power Play tests based on application of it in the portal
2. Until you practice what you have studied and cannot apply in question it is of no use
3. Strictly advised to solve power play test
4. Prepare hand written notes for the PDF in 2-3 pages for quick revision during exam

## Contents

<b>1 National News.....</b>	<b>9</b>
1.1 Atmanirbhar Bharat: India's Growing Coal Mining Capacity .....	9
1.2 UGC's ASMITA Project: 22,000 Indian Language Books to Transform Higher Education .....	9
1.3 Centre Reconstitutes NITI Aayog, Includes Union Ministers from NDA Allies.....	9
1.4 India Prepares to Sign Headquarters Agreement with Global Biofuels Alliance .....	9
1.5 India Completes 4th ICCPR Human Rights Review .....	9
1.6 Thane to Borivali: India's Longest and Largest Urban Tunnel.....	10
1.7 Amit Shah Inaugurates 'PM College Of Excellence .....	10
1.8 All-India Institute of Ayurveda Successfully Hosts 'Saushrutam 2024' .....	10
1.9 BRIC-THSTI Hosts SYNCHN 2024 Industry Meet .....	10
1.10 India Launches First National Toll-Free Anti-Narcotics Helpline.....	10
1.11 PM Modi Inaugurates World Heritage Committee's 46th Session in New Delhi.....	10
1.12 Assam's Charaideo Maidam Nominated for UNESCO World Heritage Site .....	11
1.13 AIM, WIPO Join Hands To Boost Innovation In Global South.....	11
1.14 Shiksha Saptah 2024: Celebrating 4 Years of NEP 2020.....	11
1.15 21.71% Of Country's Area Under Forest Cover: MoS Kirti Vardhan Singh .....	11
1.16 Ministry Of Steel Launches 'Steel Import Monitoring System' 2.0 Portal.....	11
1.17 Renaming of Rashtrapati Bhavan's Halls to Reflect Indian Values .....	11
1.18 India's Installed Nuclear Power Capacity to Triple by 2031-32.....	11
1.19 Ashwini Vaishnaw Inaugurates India's 500th Community Radio Station in Aizawl ....	12
1.20 CRPF Foundation Day: Celebrating Valor and Service.....	12
1.21 Commemorative Postage Stamp for 25th Anniversary of Kargil Vijay Diwas .....	12
1.22 India's First Sunken Museum at Humayun's Tomb Set for Grand Inauguration .....	12
1.23 EAM Jaishankar Unveils Bust of Mahatma Gandhi in Tokyo .....	12
1.24 Nita Ambani Unveils India House at Paris 2024 Olympics.....	12
1.25 3.5 lakh A.P. Farmers Benefited From PM Fasal Bima Yojana In 2022-23 .....	12
1.26 Department Of Atomic Energy Inaugurates 'One DAE One Subscription' .....	13
1.27 India's Anti-Dumping and Tariff Measures in 2023 .....	13
1.28 National Maritime Domain Awareness Centre .....	13

1.29 Periyar Tiger Reserve's Innovative Wind Turbine Installation .....	13
1.30 India aims for \$30 Trillion Economy by 2047 .....	13
1.31 What is ODF Plus? .....	14
1.32 What is Agristack and how will it work? .....	14
1.33 U-WIN Portal .....	14
1.34 India Assumes ADPC Chairmanship for 2024-25.....	14
<b>2 International News .....</b>	<b>15</b>
2.1 Philippines Selected To Host The Board Of The Fund For Responding To Loss And Damage .....	15
2.2 Global Conference on Space Research in Busan, South Korea.....	15
2.3 Serum Institute Rolls Out New High Efficacy Malaria Vaccine In Africa .....	15
2.4 India Shines At 35th International Biology Olympiad 2024 In Kazakhstan .....	15
2.5 Von der Leyen Re-elected as EU Commission President.....	15
2.6 OVL Hikes Stake in Azerbaijani Oilfield with \$60 Million Investment.....	15
2.7 China Unveils World's First Carbon Fiber High-Speed Train .....	16
2.8 Azerbaijan's COP29 Climate Finance Action Fund .....	16
2.9 World's Most Powerful Passports 2024: Singapore Leads; India at 82nd.....	16
2.10 INS Tabar Reaches Saint Petersburg for Russian Navy Day Celebrations.....	16
2.11 Japan's Sado Gold Mine Gains UNESCO Status .....	16
2.12 Ivory Coast Joins UN Water Convention as 10th African Member .....	16
2.13 Laos Unveils World's First Stamp of Lord Rama .....	16
2.14 Venezuela's Nicolas Maduro Becomes President For Third Time .....	17
<b>3 State News .....</b>	<b>17</b>
3.1 Himachal Cabinet Approves Plan To Rationalise Provisions Of Zero Electricity Bill For Domestic Users.....	17
3.2 Uttarakhand Opens Its First-Ever Bird Gallery In Dehradun .....	17
3.3 Uttarakhand's eSwasthya Dham Portal Integrates with Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission.....	17
3.4 Madhya Pradesh Tops Best Performing State in SVANidhi Scheme .....	17
3.5 Sawan Begins With Harela Festival In Uttarakhand 2024.....	17
3.6 Asia's First Health Research "Pre-Clinical Network Facility" Inaugurated in Faridabad .....	18

3.7 Maharashtra CM Eknath Shinde Announces Ladla Bhai Yojana After Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana.....	18
3.8 Bihar Passes Anti-Paper Leak Bill to Combat Exam Malpractices .....	18
3.9 Telangana Launches TB-Free Model: Project Swasthya Nagaram .....	18
3.10 Mizoram's Aizawl Became the Fourth Capital in Northeast India to gain Railway Connectivity.....	18
3.11 UP Assembly Passes Amended Anti-Conversion Bill .....	19
<b>4 Defence News.....</b>	<b>19</b>
4.1 INS TABAR ARRIVES IN HAMBURG, GERMANY .....	19
4.2 INS Delhi Wins Best Ship of Eastern Fleet 2024 .....	19
4.3 Captain Supreetha C.T. Breaking Barriers at Siachen Glacier.....	19
4.4 DRDO Successfully Flight-Tests Phase-II Ballistic Missile Defence System.....	19
4.5 Launch of Advanced Frigate Tripur: A Milestone in India's Naval Capabilities.....	19
4.6 Indian Army Departs for Multinational Exercise KHAAN QUEST 2024.....	20
4.7 Indian Army Launches E-SeHAT Tele-Consultancy for Veterans.....	20
<b>5 Economy News &amp; Banking News .....</b>	<b>20</b>
5.1 India's Trade Performance: June 2024 and April-June 2024 Overview .....	20
5.2 The Wholesale Price Index (WPI) in India for June 2024, based on the 2011-12 base year.....	20
5.3 IMF Raises India's GDP Forecast to 7% for 2024-25.....	20
5.4 FICCI Projects 7% GDP Growth for India in 2024-25 .....	21
5.5 SIDBI To Build \$1B Fund For Green Financing With \$215 M .....	21
5.6 Union Budget 2024-25 .....	21
5.7 IndusInd Bank Launches 'Wrestle for Glory' CSR Initiative .....	22
5.8 Railway Budget 2024-25: Record Allocation and Key Highlights.....	22
5.9 Karnataka Bank Partners with ICICI Lombard General Insurance .....	22
5.10 Digital Payments Rise 12.6% by March-End 2024: RBI Data.....	22
5.11 SEBI Launches AI Chatbot 'SEVA' for Investors.....	22
5.12 RBI's 5th Cohort Regulatory Sandbox .....	22
<b>6 Business News .....</b>	<b>23</b>
6.1 Adani Ports Gets A Rating Upgrade From ICRA.....	23
6.2 NFDC and Netflix India Collaborate to Train Voice-Over Artists.....	23

6.3 Airbus and Tata to Debut India's First H125 Helicopter by 2026 .....	23
6.4 NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam Ltd. To Set Up Green Charcoal Plant In Haryana .....	23
6.5 India's First Integrated Agri-Export Facility at Jawaharlal Nehru Port.....	23
6.6 All-India Consumer Price Index Numbers for Agricultural and Rural Labourers .....	24
6.7 Amazon Pay, Adyen, and BillDesk Obtain RBI Cross-Border Payment License .....	24
6.8 Single National Software Network for PACS Computerization .....	24
6.9 Shriram Capital Receives RBI Approval to Launch ARC .....	24
<b>7 Important Days.....</b>	<b>24</b>
7.1 ICAR Foundation and Technology Day 2024 .....	24
7.2 World Day for International Justice 2024, Promoting Global Accountability .....	25
7.3 Nelson Mandela International Day 2024 .....	25
7.4 National Mango Day 2024: Celebrating the King of Fruits.....	25
7.5 National Broadcasting Day in India .....	25
7.6 India's National Flag Day 2024: Honouring the Tiranga .....	25
7.7 National Income Tax Day 2024: A Journey of Transformation .....	25
7.8 National Brain Research Centre Celebrates World Brain Day 2024.....	25
7.9 World Drowning Prevention Day 2024: Seconds Can Save a Life .....	25
7.10 Kargil Vijay Diwas 2024, Remembering India's Triumph in the Kargil War.....	26
7.11 World Hepatitis Day 2024.....	26
7.12 International Tiger Day 2024.....	26
7.13 World Day Against Trafficking in Persons 2024.....	26
7.14 World Nature Conservation Day 2024.....	26
<b>8 Ranks &amp; Reports .....</b>	<b>26</b>
8.1 India Targets \$500 Billion in Electronics Manufacturing by 2030: NITI Aayog.....	26
8.2 Virat Kohli Tops Celebrity Brand Valuation In 2023.....	26
8.3 Uttarakhand Becomes The Top Performer In NITI Aayog's SDG India Index 2023-24 ..	27
8.4 China, Australia, And India Lead In Forest Area Gains: FAO Report .....	27
8.5 Indian Destinations on TIME's 'World's Greatest Places of 2024' .....	27
8.6 The State of the World's Forests 2024 Report .....	27
<b>9 Awards News.....</b>	<b>28</b>
9.1 Andhra Pradesh's Wins Gulbenkian Prize for Natural Farming Model .....	28



9.2 Indian Space Scientists Honoured at International COSPAR Assembly .....	28
9.3 Indian Tennis Legends Leander Paes and Vijay Amritraj Inducted into International Tennis Hall of Fame.....	29
9.4 Abhinav Bindra Awarded Prestigious Olympic Order by IOC .....	29
9.5 Shah Rukh Khan, First Indian Actor, Honoured With Gold Coins.....	29
9.6 10th National Community Radio Awards announced by Ashwini Vaishnav .....	29
9.7 CWC Wins GEEF Global WaterTech Award 2024 .....	29
9.8 Tamil Epigrapher V. Vedachalam Honoured with Prestigious V Venkayya Epigraphy Award .....	29
9.9 IISR Wins Best Technology Award.....	30
<b>10 Books and Author .....</b>	<b>30</b>
10.1 Tim Walker's "The Prisoner of Bhopal": A Novel Commemorating the 40th Anniversary of the Bhopal Gas Tragedy .....	30
10.2 A Book "Power Within": A Landmark Book on Leadership Authored by Dr. R Balasubramaniam .....	30
<b>11 Science &amp; Technology News .....</b>	<b>30</b>
11.1 Chandipura Virus Infection Confirmed in Gujarat .....	30
11.2 NASA's Historic Discovery: Six New Exoplanets.....	30
11.3 Discovery of Lithium Resources in Mandya and Yadgiri Districts, Karnataka by AMD .....	31
11.4 Mankind Pharma Acquires Bharat Serums and Vaccines For Rs 13,600 Crore .....	31
11.5 OpenAI Launches SearchGPT, A New Era in AI-Powered Search.....	31
11.6 SpaceX And NASA Set Crew-9 Launch For August 18 .....	31
11.7 SpaceX's Polaris Dawn Mission – Recent Updates.....	31
11.8 ISRO Seeks ESA Collaboration for Apophis Asteroid Mission .....	31
11.9 What are Bharat Small Reactors? .....	32
11.10 Meta Introduces Llama 3.1 .....	32
11.11 Apollo 11 Anniversary.....	32
11.12 NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) Satellite – Recent Updates .....	32
<b>12 Appointments News .....</b>	<b>33</b>
12.1 Supreme Court Gets 2 New Judges, First From Manipur .....	33
12.2 Shikhar Dhawan Becomes Brand Ambassador for MotoGP India .....	33

12.3 KV Subramanian Appointed As Federal Bank MD & CEO .....	33
12.4 Bibhuti Bhusan Nayak Elected New President of ICMAI.....	33
12.5 Manoj Mittal Takes Charge As Sidbi's CMD After Appointment By Centre .....	33
12.6 Who Is Vinay Mohan Kwatra, India's Next Ambassador to the US?.....	33
12.7 Former Union Health Secretary Preeti Sudan to Head UPSC from August 1 .....	33
<b>13 Agreements News .....</b>	<b>34</b>
13.1 C-DOT Signs Agreement With IIT, Roorkee And Mandi.....	34
13.2 UK and India Launch New Technology Security Initiative.....	34
13.3 India – US Signed Cultural Property Agreement.....	34
<b>14 Schemes In News.....</b>	<b>34</b>
14.1 ICAR To Launch 'One Scientist, One Product' Scheme .....	34
14.2 Vriksharopan Abhiyan 2024 Launch in Dhanbad .....	34
14.3 Government Launches Revised Model Skill Loan Scheme .....	35
14.4 Launch of Ideas4LiFE Portal by Shri Bhupender Yadav .....	35
14.5 ICG Launches 'Suvidha Software Version 1.0' to Enhance Training Protocols .....	35
14.6 Education Minister Launches NATS 2.0 and Disburses Rs. 100 Crore Stipends.....	35
<b>15 Sports News .....</b>	<b>35</b>
15.1 Latest FIFA Rankings Released, India remains 124th.....	35
15.2 PR Sreejesh Announces Retirement After Paris Olympics 2024.....	35
15.3 Harmanpreet Kaur Surpasses Smriti Mandhana To Become India's Highest T20I Run-Getter .....	36
15.4 France Set To Host 2030 Winter Olympics, Subject To Conditions .....	36
15.5 India to Host 2025 Men's Asia Cup in T20 Format.....	36
15.6 Historic Bronze Win for Manu Bhaker and Sarabjot Singh at Paris Olympics .....	36
15.7 Manu Bhaker Wins Historic Bronze in Women's 10m Air Pistol .....	36
15.8 Jia Rai: Youngest & Fastest Para-Swimmer to Cross the English Channel .....	36
<b>16 Summits and Conferences News .....</b>	<b>36</b>
16.1 World Heritage Young Professionals Forum 2024 .....	36
16.2 India To Host 2nd Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference On Civil Aviation .....	37
16.3 9th Governing Council Meeting Of NITI Aayog Outcomes .....	37
16.4 Dr. S. Jaishankar At The Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting In Tokyo .....	37

16.5 World Leaders Summit 2024 .....	37
<b>17 Miscellaneous News.....</b>	<b>37</b>
17.1 'World's First' 3D-Printed Electric Abra Begins Trial Voyage In Dubai.....	37
17.2 Delhi's Judicial System Enters the AI Era.....	37
17.3 Mumbai's Aqua Line: A New Era in Underground Metro Transportation .....	38
17.4 Sturgeon Poaching Threatens Endangered Species in Danube River.....	38
17.5 What Is Money Dysmorphia?.....	38
17.6 What is the Oropouche Virus? .....	38
17.7 What is the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism? .....	38
17.8 Cave on the Moon: New Discovery for Space Exploration .....	38
17.9 PM Modi – Most Followed Leader on X with over 100 Million Followers .....	38
17.10 Why is Jupiter's Great Red Spot Shrinking? .....	39
17.11 Researchers Discover 'Dark Oxygen' Production on Seafloor .....	39
17.12 Japanese Scientists Create Smiling Robots Using Living Skin .....	39
17.13 New Plant Species Discovered in Arunachal Pradesh Sanctuary .....	39
<b>18 SELF HAND WRITTEN NOTES (Max 2-3 pages) .....</b>	<b>39</b>



## 1 National News

### 1.1 Atmanirbhar Bharat: India's Growing Coal Mining Capacity

- The **Gevra and Kusunda coal mines**, operated by **South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL)**, a subsidiary of Coal India, have secured prominent positions **among the world's largest coal mines**.
- These mines, **located in Chhattisgarh's Korba district**, have been recognized as the **2nd and 4th largest coal mines globally by WorldAtlas.com**.

### 1.2 UGC's ASMITA Project: 22,000 Indian Language Books to Transform Higher Education

- The **Ministry of Education** and the University Grants Commission (**UGC**) unveiled an ambitious project aimed at enriching the landscape of Indian language literature in higher education.
- This groundbreaking initiative, known as **ASMITA (Augmenting Study Materials in Indian Languages through Translation and Academic Writing)**, sets out to **develop an impressive 22,000 books in Indian languages over the next five years**.

### 1.3 Centre Reconstitutes NITI Aayog, Includes Union Ministers from NDA Allies

- The **Centre has reconstituted the NITI Aayog**, the apex public policy think tank of the Union government, following changes in the council of ministers.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi remains the chairperson**, with economist **Suman K Bery continuing as the vice-chairperson**.
- The **reconstituted NITI Aayog** includes **four full-time members and 15 Union Ministers**, including those from BJP allies, serving as either ex-officio members or special invitees.

### 1.4 India Prepares to Sign Headquarters Agreement with Global Biofuels Alliance

- The **Global Biofuels Alliance (GBA)**, launched in **September 2023** by key **G20 members including India, the United States, and Brazil**, is poised to take a significant step forward in its institutional development.
- The Indian government is preparing to sign a headquarters agreement with the alliance, marking a crucial milestone in the organization's evolution and India's role in global sustainable energy initiatives.

### 1.5 India Completes 4th ICCPR Human Rights Review

- **India has successfully completed its 4th periodic review** by the **Human Rights Committee** under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (**ICCPR**) **in Geneva**, showcasing its commitment to the protection and promotion of human rights.

### 1.6 Thane to Borivali: India's Longest and Largest Urban Tunnel

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** inaugurated India's longest and largest urban tunnel project, the **Thane Borivali Twin Tunnel**, developed by the Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA).
- This Rs. 16,600 crore project **will reduce travel time between Thane and Borivali** from over an hour to just 12 minutes, cutting the travel distance by 12 km.

### 1.7 Amit Shah Inaugurates 'PM College Of Excellence

- Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri **Amit Shah** on July 14, **inaugurated the Pradhan Mantri Colleges of Excellence in all 55 districts** of the state from Indore, **Madhya Pradesh**.

### 1.8 All-India Institute of Ayurveda Successfully Hosts 'Saushrutam 2024'

- The **All-India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA)** in **New Delhi** successfully concluded its **Second National Seminar SAUSHRUTAM Shalya Sangoshti** on July 15, 2024, **celebrating Sushruta Jayanti**.

### 1.9 BRIC-THSTI Hosts SYNCHN 2024 Industry Meet

- **Translational Health Science and Technology Institute (THSTI)**, under the **Biotechnology Research and Innovation Council (BRIC)**, hosted **SYNCHN 2024** on July 14th, 2024.
- This event aimed to strengthen academia-industry collaborations in the NCR Biotech Cluster, focusing on advancing biomanufacturing and bio-innovation.

### 1.10 India Launches First National Toll-Free Anti-Narcotics Helpline

- **India is set to launch its first national toll-free anti-narcotics helpline, '1933'**, alongside an **email service under the name MANAS (Madak Padarth Nisedh Asuchna Kendra)**.
- Scheduled for **launch by Union Home Minister Amit Shah** during the seventh Narco-Coordination Centre meeting on July 18, the helpline **aims to provide a user-friendly platform for citizens to report drug-related crimes and seek assistance 24x7**.

### 1.11 PM Modi Inaugurates World Heritage Committee's 46th Session in New Delhi

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** inaugurated the **46th session of the World Heritage Committee at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi**, emphasizing India's commitment to global heritage preservation.
- **PM Modi announced a \$1 million contribution to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre** for heritage conservation, particularly in the Global South.

### **1.12 Assam's Charaideo Maidam Nominated for UNESCO World Heritage Site**

- **Charaideo Maidam** has been nominated to become **North East India's first UNESCO World Heritage Site in the cultural category.**
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced this nomination at the **46th session of the World Heritage Committee held from July 21-31 in New Delhi.**
- **Charaideo Maidam will be India's 43rd World Heritage Site**, joining Kaziranga National Park and Manas National Park, which are listed under the natural category.

### **1.13 AIM, WIPO Join Hands To Boost Innovation In Global South**

- The **Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)** at **NITI Aayog** and the **World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO)** on July 22, **joined hands towards building joint innovation programmes in the Global South.**

### **1.14 Shiksha Saptah 2024: Celebrating 4 Years of NEP 2020**

- The **Department of School Education and Literacy** is observing **Shiksha Saptah** from **July 22 to July 28, 2024**, to **celebrate the fourth anniversary of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.**
- This week-long event focuses on promoting collaboration and highlighting the educational reforms introduced by NEP 2020.

### **1.15 21.71% Of Country's Area Under Forest Cover: MoS Kirti Vardhan Singh**

- **Forest Survey of India (FSI)**, **Dehradun**, an organization under the Ministry carries out the **assessment of forest cover biennially.**
- As per the latest **India State of Forest Report (ISFR)** published in **2021**, the **total forest cover of the country is 7,13,789 square kilometer which is 21.71%** of the geographical area of the country.

### **1.16 Ministry Of Steel Launches 'Steel Import Monitoring System' 2.0 Portal**

- **Shri H.D. Kumaraswamy**, Union Minister of Steel and Heavy Industries, **launched SIMS 2.0**, the **upgraded Steel Import Monitoring System.**

### **1.17 Renaming of Rashtrapati Bhavan's Halls to Reflect Indian Values**

- President Droupadi Murmu has renamed two important halls in Rashtrapati Bhavan, formerly known as '**Durbar Hall**' and '**Ashok Hall**', to '**Ganatantra Mandap**' and '**Ashok Mandap**' respectively.

### **1.18 India's Installed Nuclear Power Capacity to Triple by 2031-32**

- **India's installed nuclear power capacity is set to increase from 8,180 MW to 22,480 MW by 2031-32**, according to Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh.

### 1.19 Ashwini Vaishnaw Inaugurates India's 500th Community Radio Station in Aizawl

- In a significant milestone for India's community radio landscape, Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting **Ashwini Vaishnaw inaugurated the country's 500th community radio station, Apna Radio 90.0 FM**, at the Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC) in Aizawl, Mizoram.

### 1.20 CRPF Foundation Day: Celebrating Valor and Service

- On **July 27, 1939**, the **Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)** was **established** as the Crown Representatives Police in response to political turmoil within princely states.
- The **force was renamed the Central Reserve Police Force on December 28, 1949**, following a legislative act, and now **operates under the Ministry of Home Affairs**.

### 1.21 Commemorative Postage Stamp Released for 25th Anniversary of Kargil Vijay Diwas

- The Department of Posts has **released a commemorative postage stamp at Dras, Kargil in Ladakh**, marking the **Silver Jubilee of Kargil Vijay Diwas**.
- This special edition celebrates the **25th anniversary of India's victory in the Kargil War**, acknowledging the exceptional bravery, determination, and sacrifice of the armed forces.

### 1.22 India's First Sunken Museum at Humayun's Tomb Set for Grand Inauguration

- On July 29, 2024, **the country's first sunken museum at the Humayun's Tomb complex, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, will be inaugurated in Delhi**.

### 1.23 EAM Jaishankar Unveils Bust of Mahatma Gandhi in Tokyo

- External Affairs Minister **S. Jaishankar unveiled a bust of Mahatma Gandhi in Tokyo's Edogawa ward**, highlighting Gandhi's global legacy and timeless message of peace and non-violence.

### 1.24 Nita Ambani Unveils India House at Paris 2024 Olympics

- **Nita Ambani**, IOC member and founder of the Reliance Foundation, **inaugurated the India House during the Paris 2024 Olympics** on July 27.
- This marks **India's first-ever country house at the Olympics**, highlighting a significant milestone in India's Olympic journey.

### 1.25 3.5 lakh A.P. Farmers Benefited From PM Fasal Bima Yojana In 2022-23

- As many as **3,49,633 farmers benefited to the tune of ₹563 crore for the financial year 2022-23** under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY).

- The **number of farmers** who had enrolled themselves **under the scheme from Andhra Pradesh stood at 1.23 crore and 1.31 crore** respectively for the financial years 2022-23 and 2023-24.

### **1.26 Department Of Atomic Energy Inaugurates 'One DAE One Subscription'**

- The **inaugural ceremony** of '**One DAE One Subscription**' (ODOS) took place on July 29, at **Tata Memorial Hospital, in Mumbai**.
- ODOS is a unique idea enabling Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) & all its units/subunits (about 60) together under one umbrella for read and publish access to national and international research papers as well as scientific journals.

### **1.27 India's Anti-Dumping and Tariff Measures in 2023**

- In 2023, India experienced a notable reduction in average tariffs while increasing the use of non-tariff measures.
- According to the **WTO report**, **India's average tariffs decreased to 17% from 18.1% in 2022**.
- Despite this, **India remained one of the top countries in initiating and imposing anti-dumping duties, second only to the US**. The reduction in average tariffs contrasted with an increase in anti-dumping measures and the application of other trade defense tools.

### **1.28 National Maritime Domain Awareness Centre**

- India is going to open a **National Maritime Domain Awareness Center (NMDAC) to fight new dangers in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR)**.
- The **NMDAC will focus on terrorism, piracy, trafficking, and illegal fishing**. There are already advanced talks going on, and the final deal should be signed early next year.

### **1.29 Periyar Tiger Reserve's Innovative Wind Turbine Installation**

- In a groundbreaking initiative, **Periyar Tiger Reserve (PTR)** in Thekkady has **installed a wind turbine to power real-time monitoring cameras and Wi-Fi connectivity within its expansive forest**.
- This move marks a significant advancement in the reserve's efforts to enhance conservation technology and communication.

### **1.30 India aims for \$30 Trillion Economy by 2047**

- **India aims to become a USD 30 trillion economy by 2047**, the 100th anniversary of its independence.
- According to a plan by NITI Aayog, called '**Vision for Viksit Bharat @ 2047**', the **goal is to raise the average income per person to USD 18,000 per year**. This plan is designed to help India avoid getting stuck at a middle-income level.



### 1.31 What is ODF Plus?

- **India now has 547,283 towns that are Open Defecation Free Plus (ODF Plus).**
- This was announced by the Jal Shakti Ministry. This project shows that the government is serious about making sanitation and waste management better.
- **ODF Plus is a classification that supports the effort to end open defecation** by focusing on long-lasting sanitation methods and efficient waste management systems. This makes towns work harder to keep things clean and smartly handle trash.

### 1.32 What is Agristack and how will it work?

- In the 2024-25 Budget, Nirmala Sitharaman, the Finance Minister, called for a **Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI)** for the **agriculture sector**.
- The **goal of this DPI is to connect more than six crore farmers to a formal land registry system through a project called Agristack.**
- **Agristack is a digital framework that is meant to build a complete database for farmers** that includes information about their identity, land records, income, loans, crop information, and insurance history. It uses data from farms and information that comes from government APIs.

### 1.33 U-WIN Portal

- The **Indian government has made a 100-day health plan that includes U-WIN, an online platform for managing vaccines** that aims to increase the number of children in the country who get vaccinated.
- **U-WIN is a website that helps people keep track of immunization records for kids younger than six and women who are pregnant.**
- Users sign up with a government ID (like Aadhaar) and a cellphone number, which lets the system keep track of their vaccination records.

### 1.34 India Assumes ADPC Chairmanship for 2024-25

- **India will lead the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) from 2024 to 2025, taking over from China** on July 25, 2024, in Bangkok, Thailand. India has made a big step forward in disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate resiliency with this.
- **Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC)**
  - **Capacity Building and Training:** The Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC) works to make **14 Asian countries** more disaster-resistant by offering a wide range of training and capacity-building programs. The goal of these programs is to give local governments, communities, and organizations the skills and information they need to handle disaster risks and lower their impact.
  - **Technological Integration and Early Warning Systems:** The ADPC encourages the use of technology to make early warning systems better so

that accurate and timely information can be shared during crises. This integration of technology helps communities and authorities react better, which makes disasters less likely to happen.

## 2 International News

### 2.1 Philippines Selected To Host The Board Of The Fund For Responding To Loss And Damage

- The **Philippines** has been **chosen to host the board of the “Loss and Damage”** fund created by U.N. talks, marking another step towards providing financial help for countries to recover and rebuild from the impact of global warming.

### 2.2 Global Conference on Space Research in Busan, South Korea

- A milestone event in space exploration, the **45th Scientific Assembly of the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR)** commenced in Busan, South Korea.

### 2.3 Serum Institute Rolls Out New High Efficacy Malaria Vaccine In Africa

- A new high-quality **malaria vaccine** developed by the **Serum Institute of India** and the **University of Oxford** is officially being **rolled out in Africa**.
- With this, **Côte d'Ivoire** has become the **first country** in West Africa to start administering **R21/Matrix-M**.

### 2.4 India Shines At 35th International Biology Olympiad 2024 In Kazakhstan

- The Indian team, which participated at the **35th International Biology Olympiad (IBO) 2024** achieved remarkable success, with one student winning a **GOLD** medal and three students securing **SILVER** medals.

### 2.5 Von der Leyen Re-elected as EU Commission President

- On July 18, European Parliament lawmakers **re-elected Ursula von der Leyen** to a second five-year term as **President of the European Union's executive commission**.

### 2.6 OVL Hikes Stake in Azerbaijani Oilfield with \$60 Million Investment

- **ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL)**, a subsidiary of ONGC, has **acquired Norwegian firm Equinor's stake in Azerbaijan's offshore Azeri Chirag Gunashli (ACG) oil field** and an associated oil pipeline for \$60 million.
- This increases OVL's stake in the oil field to 2.95% and in the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan (BTC) pipeline to 3.097%.

### 2.7 China Unveils World's First Carbon Fiber High-Speed Train

- **China** has built the **world's first passenger train made from carbon fibre**, a material that makes it much lighter and more energy-efficient than conventional trains.

- The **metro train – known as Cetrovo 1.0 or the Carbon Star Rapid Transit** – was unveiled in Qingdao, in the eastern province of Shandong, on July 17.

## **2.8 Azerbaijan's COP29 Climate Finance Action Fund**

- **Azerbaijan, hosting COP29** from November 11 to 22 this year, has **announced the creation of a Climate Finance Action Fund (CFAF)**.
- This fund will be raised from fossil fuel producers to support green projects in developing countries and help member nations **meet the 1.5°C temperature target**.
- The CFAF **aims to mobilize both public and private sectors**, with Azerbaijan as the founding contributor.
- It **plans to attract \$1 billion** and secure at least 10 contributing countries.

## **2.9 World's Most Powerful Passports 2024: Singapore Leads; India at 82nd**

- **Singapore** has reclaimed its title as the **world's most powerful passport**, offering visa-free access to a record 195 global destinations according to the **Henley Passport Index**.
- **India ranks 82nd, allowing visa-free entry to 58 countries.**

## **2.10 INS Tabar Reaches Saint Petersburg for Russian Navy Day Celebrations**

- **INS Tabar**, a frontline frigate of the Indian Navy, **arrived in Saint Petersburg** to participate in the **328th Russian Navy Day celebrations**.

## **2.11 Japan's Sado Gold Mine Gains UNESCO Status**

- The UNESCO World Heritage committee on July 27 decided to register **Japan's controversial Sado gold mine as a cultural heritage site** after the country agreed to include it in an exhibit of its dark history of abusing Korean laborers during World War II.

## **2.12 Ivory Coast Joins UN Water Convention as 10th African Member**

## **2.13 Laos Unveils World's First Stamp of Lord Rama**

- In July 2024, **Laos introduced a special set of commemorative stamps featuring Lord Rama and Lord Buddha** to highlight the cultural ties between Laos and India.

## 2.14 Venezuela's Nicolas Maduro Becomes President For Third Time

### 3 State News

#### 3.1 Himachal Cabinet Approves Plan To Rationalise Provisions Of Zero Electricity Bill For Domestic Users

- The **Himachal Pradesh** Cabinet gave its approval on July 12, to **rationalise the provisions for zero electricity bills for domestic consumers** by restricting subsidy to 'one family, one meter' and interlinking power connections with ration cards.

#### 3.2 Uttarakhand Opens Its First-Ever Bird Gallery In Dehradun

- The research wing of the Uttarakhand Forest Department established **Uttarakhand's first bird gallery at the Nature Education Centre, Jolly Grant, in Dehradun** on July 15.
- This gallery showcases high-resolution images of Uttarakhand's birds, giving visitors an eye-catching display of the state's feathery inhabitants.

#### 3.3 Uttarakhand's eSwasthya Dham Portal Integrates with Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission

- In a significant stride towards enhancing digital healthcare infrastructure, the **Uttarakhand government has successfully integrated its eSwasthya Dham portal with the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM)**.
- This integration marks a crucial step in improving health monitoring and management for pilgrims undertaking the revered Char Dham Yatra, while also aligning with India's broader digital health initiatives.

#### 3.4 Madhya Pradesh Tops Best Performing State in SVANidhi Scheme

- The Union housing and Urban Affairs Ministry said that **Madhya Pradesh is the best state in the Prime Minister SVANidhi scheme's "Best Performing State"** category.
- The state's successful adoption of a micro-credit program to help urban street vendors is highlighted by this award.
- **Overview of the Prime Minister SVANidhi Scheme**
  - The **PM SVANidhi plan**, which **started in 2020**, gives loans of **up to ₹50,000 to street vendors in cities with no collateral**. During the COVID-19 pandemic, a plan was put in place to help vendors recover from the effects of the crisis on their businesses.

#### 3.5 Sawan Begins With Harela Festival In Uttarakhand 2024

- July 16, marks the official beginning of Sawan accompanied by the vibrant **Harela festival celebrated across Uttarakhand**.

- This traditional festival holds deep significance for the region's agriculture and culture, symbolising prosperity and overall well-being.

### 3.6 Asia's First Health Research "Pre-Clinical Network Facility" Inaugurated in Faridabad

- Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh recently inaugurated **Asia's inaugural health research-related "Pre-clinical Network Facility" at Faridabad's** Translational Health Science & Technology Institute (THSTI).
- This facility, selected by the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI), is notable as Asia's first and the 9th globally to handle BSL3 pathogens.

### 3.7 Maharashtra CM Eknath Shinde Announces Ladla Bhai Yojana After Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana

- **Maharashtra** Chief Minister Eknath Shinde announced the '**Ladla Bhai Yojana**' for **boys** in the state **after announcing the 'Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana'** for girls.
- The latter aims to provide monthly financial assistance of **₹1,500 to eligible women**.

### 3.8 Bihar Passes Anti-Paper Leak Bill to Combat Exam Malpractices

- On July 24, 2024, the **Bihar Assembly passed the Anti-Paper Leak Bill to combat malpractices in government recruitment exams**.
- This bill, introduced by State Minister of Parliamentary Affairs Vijay Kumar Chaudhary, proposes strict penalties including a **minimum prison sentence of 10 years and a fine of at least ₹1 crore** for those involved in such activities.

### 3.9 Telangana Launches TB-Free Model: Project Swasthya Nagaram

- In a significant step towards eradicating tuberculosis (TB), **Telangana launched the "Project Swasthya Nagaram,"** a unique model for **TB-free municipalities**, on July 24, 2024, in Hyderabad.
- This initiative, a collaborative effort by the State Tuberculosis Cell, Municipal Corporations of Peerzadiguda, Boduppall, and Pocharam in Medchal Malkajgiri district, along with the Central TB Division, WHO India, USAID, and other stakeholders, aims to achieve TB-free municipalities through an innovative approach.

### 3.10 Mizoram's Aizawl Became the Fourth Capital in Northeast India to gain Railway Connectivity

- The **city of Aizawl in Mizoram** will be the **fourth capital in Northeast India to have train service by July 2025**.
- Currently, **Guwahati, Agartala, and Naharlagun** are all **connected to the railway network**. This makes it easier to get around the area.



### 3.11 UP Assembly Passes Amended Anti-Conversion Bill

- The **Uttar Pradesh Assembly** on July 30, **passed the UP Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion (Amendment) Bill, 2024** that enhances punishment for forced conversions.
- The punishment for marrying a woman by deceiving her or converting her religion was 10 years with a fine of ₹50,000. The new Bill now enhances punishment to life imprisonment.

## 4 Defence News

### 4.1 INS TABAR ARRIVES IN HAMBURG, GERMANY

- Indian Navy's frontline frigate, **INS Tabar arrived at Hamburg, Germany** on 17 July 24 for a three day visit. **It will participate in a exercise.**

### 4.2 INS Delhi Wins Best Ship of Eastern Fleet 2024

- On July 14, 2024, Visakhapatnam hosted the prestigious Fleet Awards Function to honor the Eastern Fleet's exceptional operational achievements over the past year.
- **INS Delhi was recognized as the Best Ship of the Eastern Fleet** for its outstanding performance and operational prowess.

### 4.3 Captain Supreetha C.T. Breaking Barriers at Siachen Glacier

- In a landmark moment for gender equality and women's empowerment in the Indian Armed Forces, **Captain Supreetha C.T.** has etched her name in history by **becoming the first woman officer from the Corps of Army Air Defence to be operationally deployed at the Siachen Glacier.**

### 4.4 DRDO Successfully Flight-Tests Phase-II Ballistic Missile Defence System

- On July 24, 2024, the Defence Research & Development Organisation (**DRDO**) of India achieved a significant milestone in its ongoing efforts to enhance national security.
- The organization **successfully conducted a flight test of the Phase-II Ballistic Missile Defence System**, demonstrating India's growing capabilities in defending against long-range ballistic missile threats.

### 4.5 Launch of Advanced Frigate Triput: A Milestone in India's Naval Capabilities

- On July 23, 2024, **India's naval prowess** took a significant leap forward with the **launch of the first of two Advanced Frigates at Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL).**
- This event marks a crucial milestone in India's indigenous shipbuilding capabilities and its commitment to enhancing naval strength.

#### 4.6 Indian Army Departs for Multinational Exercise KHAAN QUEST 2024

- The **Indian Army** contingent has embarked on its journey to **participate in the multinational military exercise KHAAN QUEST 2024**.
- This prestigious event is scheduled to take place from 27th July to 9th August 2024 in **Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia**.

#### 4.7 Indian Army Launches E-SeHAT Tele-Consultancy for Veterans

- The **Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS)** has introduced the **Electronic Services e-Health Assistance and Tele-consultation (E-SeHAT)** module as of July 30, 2024.
- This initiative allows ECHS beneficiaries to receive online medical consultations from their homes, eliminating the need to visit ECHS Polyclinics.
- The **E-SeHAT module offers structured, video-based consultations, aiming to enhance healthcare delivery** for veterans by providing timely and quality medical care remotely.

### 5 Economy News & Banking News

#### 5.1 India's Trade Performance: June 2024 and April-June 2024 Overview

- In **June 2024**, India's **total exports** (merchandise and services combined) reached an estimated **USD 65.47 billion**, marking a **5.40% increase from June 2023**.
- Meanwhile, **total imports** for the month were estimated at **USD 73.47 billion**, a **6.29% rise** compared to the same period last year.
- For the **April-June 2024 quarter**, **total exports** were estimated at **USD 200.33 billion**, reflecting an 8.60% growth, while **total imports** stood at **USD 222.89 billion**, up 8.47% from the previous year.
- The **merchandise trade deficit** for the quarter increased to **USD 62.26 billion from USD 56.16 billion in April-June 2023**.

#### 5.2 The Wholesale Price Index (WPI) in India for June 2024, based on the 2011-12 base year

- In **June 2024**, India's Wholesale Price Index (**WPI**) showed a provisional annual **inflation rate of 3.36% compared to June 2023**, driven by increased prices in food articles, manufactured food products, crude petroleum & natural gas, mineral oils, and other manufacturing sectors.

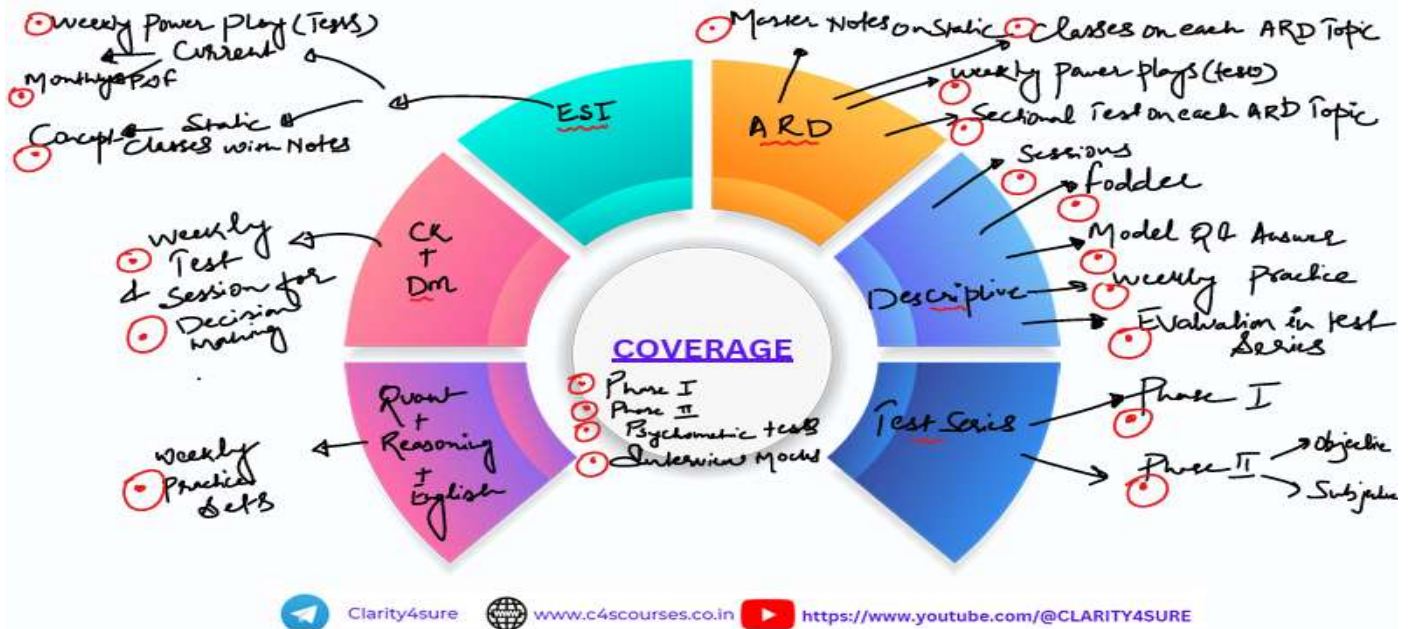
#### 5.3 IMF Raises India's GDP Forecast to 7% for 2024-25

- In its latest **World Economic Outlook**, the **IMF has increased India's GDP growth forecast for the ongoing fiscal year to 7%**, up by 20 basis points from earlier projections.

- This upward revision reflects improved consumption prospects, particularly in rural areas, supporting India's economic trajectory. However, the IMF retained a **slower growth rate of 6.5% for the following fiscal year.**

#### 5.4 FICCI Projects 7% GDP Growth for India in 2024-25

- FICCI's Economic Outlook Survey projects a robust 7% GDP growth for India in the fiscal year **2024-25.**



#### 5.5 SIDBI To Build \$1B Fund For Green Financing With \$215 M

- The Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI), which **received approval of funding of \$ 215.6 m from the Green Climate Fund**, will create a **corpus of \$1 billion for 'financing mitigation and adaptation projects' (FMAP) of Medium and Small Enterprises (MSMEs).**
- The board of the Green Climate Fund, which is an entity set up by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), approved a \$200 million loan and \$15.6 million grant for capacity building to SIDBI.

#### 5.6 Union Budget 2024-25

- The **Budget 2024-25** outlines a **total expenditure of ₹48.21 lakh crore** and **receipts (excluding borrowings) of ₹32.07 lakh crore**, with **net tax receipts estimated at ₹25.83 lakh crore.**
- The **fiscal deficit is projected at 4.9% of GDP.** Key initiatives under the "Viksit Bharat" theme include developing twelve industrial parks, providing internships for 1 crore youth in top companies, promoting rental housing with dormitory-type accommodations for industrial workers, and setting up Bharat Small Reactors for energy security. These efforts aim to boost economic opportunities, support youth employment, enhance housing, and secure clean energy sources.

### 5.7 IndusInd Bank Launches 'Wrestle for Glory' CSR Initiative

- **IndusInd Bank** has introduced the 'Wrestle for Glory' program, a significant CSR initiative developed in partnership with the Inspire Institute of Sport (IIS).
- This initiative aims to support 50 promising female wrestling athletes from across India by providing them with fully-funded scholarships for coaching at IIS's premier facility in Vijayanagar, Bellary.

### 5.8 Railway Budget 2024-25: Record Allocation and Key Highlights

- The **Indian Railways** has been allocated a record capital expenditure (Capex) of **Rs 2,62,200 crore for the fiscal year 2024-25**, maintaining the same level as announced in the Interim Budget 2024.
- This allocation is part of the Union Budget 2024-25 presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, with Gross Budgetary Support of Rs 2,52,200 crore for Railways, up from Rs 2,40,200 crore in 2023-24 and significantly higher than Rs 28,174 crore in 2013-14.

### 5.9 Karnataka Bank Partners with ICICI Lombard General Insurance

- **Karnataka Bank** has announced a strategic partnership with **ICICI Lombard General Insurance Company**, enabling its customers to access a comprehensive range of insurance products.
- This collaboration aims to cater to various insurance needs, including health, motor, travel, and home insurance, for both individuals and businesses.

### 5.10 Digital Payments Rise 12.6% by March-End 2024: RBI Data

- As of March 31, 2024, digital payments in India experienced a **12.6% year-over-year increase**, according to the **Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Digital Payments Index (RBI-DPI)**.
- The index reached 445.5, marking an increase from 418.77 in September 2023 and 395.57 in March 2023. The RBI attributed this growth to improvements in payment performance and infrastructure across the country.

### 5.11 SEBI Launches AI Chatbot 'SEVA' for Investors

- On July 29, the **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** introduced 'SEVA,' an **AI-powered chatbot designed to assist investors** with a range of functions.
- This initiative aims to enhance investor experience and accessibility to crucial market information.

### 5.12 RBI's 5th Cohort Regulatory Sandbox

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has selected five entities for the test phase of its **theme-neutral fifth cohort of the regulatory sandbox**, following the receipt of 22 applications. Announced in October of the previous year, this initiative allows firms to test new financial innovations in a controlled environment.

- **Selected Entities**

- Connectingdot Consultancy
- Epifi Technologies
- Finagg Technologies
- Indian Banks' Digital Infrastructure Company (IBDIC)
- Signzy Technologies.

## 6 **Business News**

### 6.1 **Adani Ports Gets A Rating Upgrade From ICRA**

- Ratings agency **ICRA** has upgraded the rating of **Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone (APSEZ)** to **AAA/Stable** from **AA+/Stable**.

### 6.2 **NFDC and Netflix India Collaborate to Train Voice-Over Artists**

- The **government and Netflix India** have **partnered** to create opportunities for voice-over artists, especially women, to enhance their skills and find better opportunities in the media and entertainment sector.
- The **National Film Development Corporation (NFDC)** and **Netflix India** signed a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) to launch **"The Voicebox,"** a program to **train voice-over artists in multiple languages** including English, Hindi, Marathi, Bengali, Malayalam, Tamil, Telugu, and Gujarati.

### 6.3 **Airbus and Tata to Debut India's First H125 Helicopter by 2026**

- **Airbus and Tata** are joining forces to **manufacture India's first H125 helicopter**, which is **set to roll out by 2026**.

### 6.4 **NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam Ltd. To Set Up Green Charcoal Plant In Haryana**

- Municipal Corporations of **Gurugram and Faridabad** are all set to establish **two waste-to-charcoal plants**, also known as **green coal plants**, in the two districts at a cost of ₹500 crore each.

### 6.5 **India's First Integrated Agri-Export Facility at Jawaharlal Nehru Port**

- The **Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA)** is **set to develop India's first integrated agricultural export facility at Jawaharlal Nehru Port in Mumbai**.
- The project, approved by the Union Minister for Ports, Shipping, and Waterways, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, is **valued at Rs. 284.19 crore** and will cover an area of 67,422 square meters.
- This state-of-the-art facility aims to streamline logistics, reduce multiple handling, and extend the shelf life of agricultural products, thus enhancing the export capacity of Indian agricultural commodities.



### 6.6 All-India Consumer Price Index Numbers for Agricultural and Rural Labourers

- The **All-India** Consumer Price Index for Agricultural Labourers (**CPI-AL**) and Rural Labourers (**CPI-RL**) (**Base: 1986-87=100**) saw an increase of 11 points each in June 2024, reaching 1280 and 1292, respectively.
- The **year-on-year inflation rates based on CPI-AL and CPI-RL were 7.02% and 7.04%, respectively**, compared to 6.31% and 6.16% in June 2023.

### 6.7 Amazon Pay, Adyen, and BillDesk Obtain RBI Cross-Border Payment License

- Three prominent payment companies—**Amazon Pay, Adyen, and Mumbai-based BillDesk**—have **secured the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) cross-border payment aggregator license**.
- This follows **Bengaluru-based Cashfree's earlier acquisition of the same license**. Cashfree received its license on July 22, Adyen and Amazon Pay on July 25, and BillDesk on July 29.

### 6.8 Single National Software Network for PACS Computerization

- The **Government of India is implementing a ₹2,516 Crore project for the computerization of functional Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS)**.
- This initiative **aims to integrate PACS with an ERP-based national software**, linking them with NABARD through State Cooperative Banks (StCBs) and District Central Cooperative Banks (DCCBs).
- As of July 21, 2024, 25,904 PACS across 27 states and UTs are onboarded on this ERP system.

### 6.9 Shriram Capital Receives RBI Approval to Launch ARC

- **Shriram Capital** has **received in-principle approval from** the Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**) **to establish an Asset Reconstruction Company (ARC)**.
- The approval, granted after Shriram Capital's application in November 2023, marks a significant step for the company.

## 7 Important Days

### 7.1 ICAR Foundation and Technology Day 2024

- The **96th** Indian Council of Agricultural Research (**ICAR**) **Foundation and Technology Day** is observed on **16th July** at the Dr. C. Subramaniam Auditorium, NASC Complex, New Delhi. Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan, lead the inauguration.

### 7.2 World Day for International Justice 2024, Promoting Global Accountability

- Every year on **July 17**, the global community comes together to observe the **World Day for International Justice**.

### 7.3 Nelson Mandela International Day 2024

- Every year on **July 18th**, the world unites to celebrate **Nelson Mandela International Day**, honouring the life and enduring legacy of one of history's most inspiring figures.

### 7.4 National Mango Day 2024: Celebrating the King of Fruits

- **National Mango Day** is celebrated annually on **July 22**. In 2024.

### 7.5 National Broadcasting Day in India

- **National Broadcasting Day** in India, observed annually on **July 23**, commemorates the evolution of the country's broadcasting landscape since its inception in 1927.

### 7.6 India's National Flag Day 2024: Honouring the Tiranga

- **India's National Flag Day** commemorates the **adoption of the Indian national flag on July 22, 1947**, by the Constituent Assembly, just days before the country attained Independence from British rule on August 15, 1947.

### 7.7 National Income Tax Day 2024: A Journey of Transformation

- **National Income Tax Day** marks a significant milestone in India's fiscal history. The day is marked on **July 24**.
- The **concept of "income"** is broadly defined under **Section 2(24) of the Income Tax Act**, encompassing various sources of earnings.

### 7.8 National Brain Research Centre Celebrates World Brain Day 2024

- The National Brain Research Centre (NBRC) marked **World Brain Day** with a significant event aimed at fostering interest in neuroscience among young minds. This celebration, held on **July 22nd**, brought together over 100 students and 15 teachers from various schools in Gurugram, providing them with a unique opportunity to engage with renowned scientists and researchers in the field of neuroscience.

### 7.9 World Drowning Prevention Day 2024: Seconds Can Save a Life

- On **July 25, 2024**, we join the global community in observing **World Drowning Prevention Day**, a crucial initiative dedicated to raising awareness and accelerating action on global drowning prevention.

### **7.10 Kargil Vijay Diwas 2024, Remembering India's Triumph in the Kargil War**

- Every year on **July 26**, India observes **Kargil Vijay Diwas** to commemorate the brave hearts of the Indian Army and celebrate the victory of the Indian Armed Forces over Pakistan during the 1999 Kargil Conflict.

### **7.11 World Hepatitis Day 2024**

- **World Hepatitis Day**, observed annually on **July 28th**, serves as a global platform to raise awareness about viral hepatitis, a group of infectious diseases that cause inflammation of the liver and can lead to severe liver disease and cancer.

### **7.12 International Tiger Day 2024**

- Every year on **July 29th**, the world observes **International Tiger Day**, which serves as an appeal for action to stop the devastating trend and protect tigers.

### **7.13 World Day Against Trafficking in Persons 2024**

- The **30th of July** marks the annual *World Day Against Trafficking in Persons*, a crucial observance that brings global attention to the ongoing fight against human trafficking.
- This year's **theme**, "**Leave No Child Behind in the Fight Against Human Trafficking**," underscores the urgent need to protect one of society's most vulnerable groups: children.

### **7.14 World Nature Conservation Day 2024**

- **World Nature Conservation Day 2024** is observed on Sunday, **July 28**.

## **8 Ranks & Reports**

### **8.1 India Targets \$500 Billion in Electronics Manufacturing by 2030: NITI Aayog**

- **India should set an ambitious target of achieving \$500 billion in electronics manufacturing by 2030**, as stated in a recent **NITI Aayog** report.
- This goal includes \$350 billion from finished goods manufacturing and \$150 billion from component manufacturing.
- **Currently, India's electronics production totals \$101 billion**, with \$86 billion from finished goods and \$15 billion from components.

### **8.2 Virat Kohli Tops Celebrity Brand Valuation In 2023**

- Cricketer **Virat Kohli** has reclaimed the top spot to become **India's most valued celebrity**, boasting a brand value of \$227.9 million in 2023.

### 8.3 Uttarakhand Becomes The Top Performer In NITI Aayog's SDG India Index 2023-24

- **Uttarakhand and Kerala** have been named the **top-performing states** in **NITI Aayog's SDG India Index 2023-24**, which measures the progress of states and union territories on social, economic, and environmental factors.
- **Bihar was ranked as the worst performer.**
- The NITI Aayog's SDG India Index 2023-24 shows that **India's overall Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) score rose to 71 in 2023-24, up from 66 in 2020-21**. This improvement is due to significant progress in areas such as poverty elimination, decent work, economic growth, climate action, and life on land.

### 8.4 China, Australia, And India Lead In Forest Area Gains: FAO Report

- In a recent **report by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)**, **India** has made significant strides in increasing its forest area, **gaining 266,000 hectares annually from 2010 to 2020**.
- This achievement **places India third among the top ten countries in terms of forest area gains**.
- **China leads** the list with an impressive gain of 1,937,000 hectares, followed by Australia with 446,000 hectares.

### 8.5 Indian Destinations on TIME's 'World's Greatest Places of 2024'

- **TIME magazine** has highlighted **three Indian destinations** in its prestigious list of **'World's Greatest Places of 2024.'**
- **Museum of Solutions (MuSo)**, a unique children's museum in **Mumbai**, **Manam Chocolate**, a factory in **Hyderabad**, and **NAAR**, a restaurant in **Himachal Pradesh** have been recognised in the prestigious list.

### 8.6 The State of the World's Forests 2024 Report

- On July 22, 2024, the Food and Agriculture Organization (**FAO**) of the United Nations **released a report, "The State of the World's Forests,"** addressing global forest conditions.
- The findings present a mixed picture: **while the rate of deforestation has slowed**, significant threats from climate change persist.
- India has made great progress in protecting forests. **From 2010 to 2020, 266,000 hectares of new forest will be added each year.** According to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), **this makes India the third country in the world in terms of forest area growth.**
- **Global Forest Coverage**
  - The **amount of forests around the world is about 4.1 billion hectares**, which is **31% of that land.**

- **Top Five Countries: USA, Canada, Russia, and China (54% of the world's forest area).** Australia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Indonesia, Peru, and **India (two-thirds of the world's land)** also contributed.
- **Deforestation Trends**
  - From 1990 to 2020, around 420 million hectares of forest were converted for land use. However, **deforestation rates showed improvement:**
  - **1990-2002:** 15.8 million hectares/year
  - **2015-2020:** 10.2 million hectares/year
  - **Africa had the highest deforestation rates**, followed by South America and Asia.
- **Forest Recovery and Gains**
  - Ten countries, including **China and India**, said that their forest areas were growing every year by 2020. New data shows that political and environmental measures in Indonesia and Brazil have led to big drops in deforestation.
- **Mangrove Ecosystems**
  - There are **14.8 million hectares of mangroves in the world**. Even though there was net loss from 2000 to 2020, **natural growth is greater than natural loss**, showing that the area is resilient to the effects of climate change. Extreme weather is always a danger.

## 9 Awards News

### 9.1 Andhra Pradesh's Wins Gulbenkian Prize for Natural Farming Model

- In a significant recognition of innovative agricultural practices, the **Andhra Pradesh Community Managed Natural Farming (APCNF)** initiative has been **awarded the prestigious 2024 Gulbenkian Prize for Humanity**.
- This accolade not only highlights India's progress in sustainable farming but also places Andhra Pradesh on the global map for its pioneering efforts in eco-friendly agriculture.

### 9.2 Indian Space Scientists Honoured at International COSPAR Assembly

- The **Committee on Space Research (COSPAR)**, the **world's first scientific body dedicated to space science research**, has recognized the outstanding contributions of two Indian space scientists at its 45th scientific assembly in Busan, South Korea.
- **Prahlad Chandra Agrawal**, one of India's most senior space scientists, **received the esteemed Harrie Massey Award**.
- **Anil Bhardwaj**, the director of the Ahmedabad-based Physical Research Laboratory (PRL), was **awarded the Vikram Sarabhai Medal**. This award, jointly



instituted by COSPAR and the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), honors outstanding space science research in developing countries.

### 9.3 Indian Tennis Legends Leander Paes and Vijay Amritraj Inducted into International Tennis Hall of Fame

- In a momentous occasion for Indian and Asian tennis, former **Indian tennis stars Leander Paes and Vijay Amritraj** have **become the first Asian men** to be **inducted into the prestigious International Tennis Hall of Fame**.

### 9.4 Abhinav Bindra Awarded Prestigious Olympic Order by IOC

- The **International Olympic Committee (IOC)** has honored **Abhinav Bindra**, India's **first individual Olympic gold medallist**, with the prestigious **Olympic Order**.
- This recognition will be formally presented during the **142nd IOC Session in Paris** on August 10, 2024, a day before the closing of the Paris Olympics.
- **The Olympic Order, the IOC's highest award**, acknowledges distinguished contributions to the Olympic Movement.

### 9.5 Shah Rukh Khan, First Indian Actor, Honoured With Gold Coins

- Bollywood superstar **Shah Rukh Khan** has been **honoured with customised gold coins by the Grevin Museum in Paris**.
- **Shah Rukh is the first Indian actor to have gold coins in his name at the museum**. The Grevin Museum is a wax museum located on the Grands Boulevards in Paris.

### 9.6 10th National Community Radio Awards announced by Ashwini Vaishnaw

- On July 25, 2024, a significant milestone was achieved in India's community radio landscape. Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Ashwini Vaishnaw, **announced the winners of the 10th National Community Radio Awards and inaugurated the country's 500th Community Radio Station**.

### 9.7 CWC Wins GEEF Global WaterTech Award 2024

- The **Central Water Commission (CWC)** has been **honoured with the GEEF Global WaterTech Award** in the category **'Water Department of the Year'** at the **Global Water Tech Summit – 2024**, held by the **Global Energy and Environment Foundation (GEEF)** in New Delhi.

### 9.8 Tamil Epigrapher V. Vedachalam Honoured with Prestigious V Venkayya Epigraphy Award

- The year 2024 marks a significant milestone in the field of Indian epigraphy as **V. Vedachalam**, a renowned Tamil epigrapher and historian, **receives the prestigious V Venkayya Epigraphy Award**.

### 9.9 IISR Wins Best Technology Award

- The **Indian Institute of Spices Research (IISR)** won the **best technology award** at the 96th Foundation Day of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) for its cutting-edge work in horticultural studies. Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Shivraj Singh Chouhan gave this award to him in New Delhi.
- The **interesting technology, called "Process for instant soluble turmeric enriched spice-flavored milk powder,"** is one of the five best new ideas from the Horticulture Sciences Division of ICAR. This new development shows a big step forward in how food is processed.

## 10 Books and Author

### 10.1 Tim Walker's "The Prisoner of Bhopal": A Novel Commemorating the 40th Anniversary of the Bhopal Gas Tragedy

- **Tim Walker**, an award-winning designer-turned-author, has recently published a historical fiction **novel titled "The Prisoner of Bhopal."**

### 10.2 A Book "Power Within": A Landmark Book on Leadership Authored by Dr. R Balasubramaniam

- In a significant event that bridges the worlds of politics and literature, Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently met with renowned author and development activist **Dr. R Balasubramaniam**.
- The occasion was marked by a special gesture from the Prime Minister, who signed a copy of **Dr. Balasubramaniam's latest work, "Power Within: The Leadership Legacy of Narendra Modi."**

## 11 Science & Technology News

### 11.1 Chandipura Virus Infection Confirmed in Gujarat

- The **first confirmed death due to Chandipura virus infection in Gujarat** was reported as a four-year-old child from Mota Kanthariya in Aravalli.
- The confirmation came from Pune's National Institute of Virology. The virus, initially reported in north Gujarat, has spread to new areas, raising concerns about a potential outbreak with 14 deaths in two weeks and 26 suspected cases under investigation.

### 11.2 NASA's Historic Discovery: Six New Exoplanets

- **NASA** has achieved a significant milestone with the **discovery of six new exoplanets**: HD 36384 b, TOI-198 b, TOI-2095 b, TOI-2095 c, TOI-4860 b, and MWC 758 c.

- This brings the **total number of confirmed exoplanets outside our solar system to 5,502**, marking a remarkable advancement in our understanding of the universe and the potential for extraterrestrial life.

### 11.3 Discovery of Lithium Resources in Mandya and Yadgiri Districts, Karnataka by AMD

- The Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD), a unit of the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), has identified lithium resources in the **Mandya and Yadgiri districts of Karnataka**.
- Union Minister of State Dr. Jitendra Singh announced the **discovery of 1,600 tonnes (G3 stage) of lithium in the Marlagalla area of Mandya district**. Preliminary surveys and limited subsurface exploration were also carried out in Yadgiri district.

### 11.4 Mankind Pharma Acquires Bharat Serums and Vaccines For Rs 13,600 Crore

- **Mankind Pharma** has entered into a definitive agreement to **acquire a 100 per cent stake in Bharat Serums and Vaccines (BSV)** from Advent International.
- It is one of the world's largest and most experienced private equity investors, for an enterprise value of Rs 13,630 crore, subject to closing related adjustments..

### 11.5 OpenAI Launches SearchGPT, A New Era in AI-Powered Search

- In a bold move that could reshape the landscape of internet search, **OpenAI**, the company behind the revolutionary ChatGPT, **has announced the development of an AI-powered search engine called SearchGPT**.

### 11.6 SpaceX And NASA Set Crew-9 Launch For August 18

- **SpaceX and NASA** said on July 26, they **plan to launch the space agency's Crew-9 mission** to the **International Space Station (ISS)** no earlier than Aug. 18.
- The announcement comes a day after the Federal Aviation administration cleared **SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket** to return to space following a rare mid-flight failure earlier this month had grounded it.

### 11.7 SpaceX's Polaris Dawn Mission – Recent Updates

- **SpaceX** is preparing to **launch its Polaris Dawn mission** on August 19, which is an important milestone for **space tourism**.
- This mission **will feature Jared Isaacman**, a billionaire from the fintech industry, who will **make history by being the first private individual to conduct a spacewalk**.

### 11.8 ISRO Seeks ESA Collaboration for Apophis Asteroid Mission

- The Indian Space Research Organization (**ISRO**) and the European Space Agency (**ESA**) are going to **work together on the Ramses project**, which will focus on the **asteroid Apophis**, which is **going to pass close to Earth in 2029**. This project shows

how more people around the world are working together to study objects close to Earth.

### 11.9 What are Bharat Small Reactors?

- As part of India's plan to improve its nuclear energy powers, Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman announced a plan to build Bharat Small Reactors (BSRs) in her Budget 2024 speech.** In a big change to India's nuclear strategy, this effort is to work together with the private sector.
- **Bharat Small Reactors** are small nuclear reactors that are meant to make energy on a smaller scale than regular big nuclear power plants.

### 11.10 Meta Introduces Llama 3.1

- **Meta's latest AI model, Llama 3.1,** has reportedly outperformed leading competitors like OpenAI in various performance benchmarks, sparking interest in open source AI's evolving role in the tech landscape.

### 11.11 Apollo 11 Anniversary

- NASA's **Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin made history on July 20, 1969,** when they landed on the moon.

### 11.12 NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) Satellite – Recent Updates

- NASA has announced that the launch of the NISAR satellite, a joint project between the U.S. and India, will be delayed until after February 2025. This delay is due to ongoing work on the satellite's large deployable antenna and specific needs related to its orbit.
- **Background** on NISAR
  - **NISAR stands for NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar.**
  - It is a **major collaborative project between NASA** and the Indian Space Research Organisation (**ISRO**) **aimed at improving Earth observation.** This mission is notable as the first major partnership between the two space agencies, with NASA investing over \$1 billion in the project.
- **About NISAR**
  - **Mission and Purpose:** **NISAR (NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar)** is a joint mission set for 2024 to track changes on Earth's surface using an advanced radar system.
  - **Capabilities and Features:** NISAR can detect surface changes as small as a few centimeters and will map forests, glaciers, and natural hazards. It's the first mission to use both L-band and S-band radar.
  - **Impact and Collaboration:** The satellite is expected to operate for over three years and will support climate change studies. NISAR highlights international cooperation between NASA and ISRO in Earth science research.

## 12 Appointments News

### 12.1 Supreme Court Gets 2 New Judges, First From Manipur

- The **Supreme Court** now has **two more judges** after President Droupadi Murmu cleared the appointments of **Justice N Kotiswar Singh and Justice R Mahadevan**.

### 12.2 Shikhar Dhawan Becomes Brand Ambassador for MotoGP India

- In a groundbreaking move that bridges the worlds of cricket and motorsports, Eurosport India has announced the appointment of renowned Indian cricketer **Shikhar Dhawan** as the **brand ambassador for MotoGP™ in India**.

### 12.3 KV Subramanian Appointed As Federal Bank MD & CEO

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has approved the appointment of **Krishnan Venkat Subramanian as Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer of Federal Bank**, the bank said in an exchange filing on July 22.

### 12.4 Bibhuti Bhusan Nayak Elected New President of ICAI

- CMA **Bibhuti Bhusan Nayak**, a Fellow Member of the Institute of Cost Accountants of India (ICAI) and a member of the Bhubaneswar Chapter, has been unanimously elected as the 67th **President of ICAI** for the 2024-2025 term.

### 12.5 Manoj Mittal Takes Charge As Sidbi's CMD After Appointment By Centre

- **Manoj Mittal** has taken charge as **Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Small Industries Development Bank of India (Sidbi)**, following his appointment by the Government of India. Prior to this, he was the managing director (MD) of Industrial Finance Corporation of India (IFCI).

### 12.6 Who Is Vinay Mohan Kwatra, India's Next Ambassador to the US?

### 12.7 Former Union Health Secretary Preeti Sudan to Head UPSC from August 1

- Former Union Health Secretary **Preeti Sudan** is set to **assume the role of Chairperson of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)** on August 1, 2024.
- This appointment is made under **Article 316 A of the Constitution**, as confirmed by a government official.

## 13 Agreements News

### 13.1 C-DOT Signs Agreement With IIT, Roorkee And Mandi

- In a significant step towards developing Indigenous technology, the **Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT)**, signed an agreement with the Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee (**IIT Roorkee**) and Indian Institute of Technology, Mandi (**IIT Mandi**).

- Goal for the **development of 'Cell-Free' 6G Access Points**. Both the IITs are collaborating to develop this technology.

### 13.2 UK and India Launch New Technology Security Initiative

- The **Governments of India and the UK** just started the **Technology Security Initiative (TSI)**.
- The **goal is to improve their strategic relationship** as technology becomes more important for national security and economic growth.
- The TSI shows that both the UK and India understand how important technology is for improving national security and boosting the economy.
- The **India-UK Roadmap 2030** lists a number of areas where leaders from both countries want to work together, including technology.

### 13.3 India – US Signed Cultural Property Agreement

- **India and the US** signed a **deal on cultural property** on July 26, 2024.
- The **goal was to make it easier for them to work together to protect cultural heritage**.
- Both countries have made a larger promise to return stolen artifacts and stop the illegal trade of cultural property, which includes this deal.

## 14 Schemes In News

### 14.1 ICAR To Launch 'One Scientist, One Product' Scheme

- The **Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)** is set to unveil a groundbreaking initiative that promises to revolutionize the landscape of agricultural and animal husbandry research in India.
- The **'One Scientist-One Product' programme**, scheduled for launch on July 16, marks a significant milestone in the organization's commitment to advancing agricultural science and technology.

### 14.2 Vriksharopan Abhiyan 2024 Launch in Dhanbad

- On July 25, 2024, **Union Minister of Coal and Mines, Shri G. Kishan Reddy**, launched the **Vriksharopan Abhiyan 2024 at Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) in Dhanbad**.
- This initiative, **part of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam"** campaign, was simultaneously conducted across 300 locations in 47 districts within 11 coal/lignite-bearing states.

### 14.3 Government Launches Revised Model Skill Loan Scheme

- The **Centre has introduced a revised Model Skill Loan Scheme**, designed to provide **financial support for skill development courses to the nation's youth**. The scheme **aims to remove financial barriers to advanced skill education**.



#### **14.4 Launch of Ideas4LiFE Portal by Shri Bhupender Yadav**

- **Union Minister for Environment, Forest, and Climate Change, Shri Bhupender Yadav, launched the Ideas4LiFE portal** at the **Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi**.
- This initiative seeks to gather innovative ideas related to products and services that promote **environment-friendly lifestyles**.

#### **14.5 ICG Launches 'Suvidha Software Version 1.0' to Enhance Training Protocols**

- The **Indian Coast Guard (ICG)** unveiled its new '**Suvidha Software Version 1.0**' during the inaugural 'Annual Operational Sea Training Conference' held in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, on July 30, 2024.
- This advanced software **aims to improve training protocols and maintain consistency across all ICG platforms**.

#### **14.6 Education Minister Launches NATS 2.0 and Disburses Rs. 100 Crore Stipends**

- Union **Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan** has **launched the National Apprenticeship and Training Scheme (NATS) 2.0 portal** and **disbursed Rs. 100 crore in stipends** to apprentices via Direct Benefits Transfer (DBT).
- The initiative **aims to enhance employability skills for young graduates and diploma holders** across various sectors, including IT, manufacturing, and automobiles.

### **15 Sports News**

#### **15.1 Latest FIFA Rankings Released, India remains 124th**

- **India has maintained its 124th position** in the **latest FIFA men's rankings** released.

#### **15.2 PR Sreejesh Announces Retirement After Paris Olympics 2024**

- Indian hockey goalkeeper **PR Sreejesh**, a pivotal figure in the sport, has announced that he **will retire from international hockey following the Paris Olympics 2024**.

#### **15.3 Harmanpreet Kaur Surpasses Smriti Mandhana To Become India's Highest T20I Run-Getter**

- **Harmanpreet Kaur** has now **become the top run-scorer in women's T20I cricket for India**, overtaking Smriti Mandhana.

#### **15.4 France Set To Host 2030 Winter Olympics, Subject To Conditions**

- The **International Olympic Committee** named the **French Alps as the host for the 2030 Winter Games** on July 24, though the decision is subject to certain conditions.

### 15.5 India to Host 2025 Men's Asia Cup in T20 Format

- The **Asian Cricket Council (ACC)** has announced that **India will host the next edition of the Men's Asia Cup cricket tournament in 2025.**
- This significant event will be played in the T20 format, serving as a precursor to the T20 World Cup scheduled to take place in India in 2026.

### 15.6 Historic Bronze Win for Manu Bhaker and Sarabjot Singh at Paris Olympics

- In a remarkable display of skill and precision, **Manu Bhaker and Sarabjot Singh** has **secured a bronze medal in the 10m Air Pistol Mixed Team event** at the **Paris Olympics.**
- This victory is particularly notable as it marks the **second bronze for Manu Bhaker at the Paris Olympics, making her the first Indian to win two medals in a single edition of the Olympic Games since Independence.**

### 15.7 Manu Bhaker Wins Historic Bronze in Women's 10m Air Pistol

- In a major milestone for Indian sports, 22-year-old **Manu Bhaker won a historic bronze medal in the women's 10m air pistol event** at the 2024 Paris Olympics. She is the **first Indian woman shooter to win this medal.**

### 15.8 Jia Rai: Youngest & Fastest Para-Swimmer to Cross the English Channel

- 16-year-old **Jiya Rai** from Mumbai has set a **new world record as the youngest and fastest para-swimmer to cross the English Channel.**

## 16 Summits and Conferences News

### 16.1 World Heritage Young Professionals Forum 2024

- **India is hosting the UNESCO World Heritage Committee meeting for the first time, alongside the 2024 World Heritage Young Professionals Forum in New Delhi.**
- The forum, **organized by the Ministry of Culture and the Archaeological Survey of India,** focuses on integrating global heritage concepts with local Indian heritage management.

### 16.2 India To Host 2nd Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference On Civil Aviation

- **India is set to host the second Asia Pacific ministerial conference on civil aviation** on September 11 and 12, with representatives from around 40 countries, including China and Pakistan.
- The Asia Pacific region is a significant contributor to global air traffic, and **India the world's fastest-growing aviation market.**

### 16.3 9th Governing Council Meeting Of NITI Aayog Outcomes

- **Prime Minister** Shri Narendra Modi **chaired the 9th Governing Council Meeting of NITI Aayog** on July 28. The Meeting was held at the Rashtrapati Bhavan Cultural Centre, New Delhi.
- It was attended by Chief Ministers/Lt.Governors **representing 20 States and 6 UTs.**

### 16.4 Dr. S. Jaishankar At The Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting In Tokyo

- Foreign ministers from Australia, India, Japan and the United States said on July 29, they were seriously concerned about intimidating and dangerous manoeuvres in the South China Sea and pledged to bolster maritime security in the region.
- The joint statement came after talks between the so-called '**Quad**' **countries in Tokyo**, attended by Australia's Penny Wong, India's Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, Japan's Yoko Kamikawa and Antony Blinken from the U.S.

### 16.5 World Leaders Summit 2024

- The **World Leaders Summit 2024** is a pivotal event bringing together influential figures **at the historic House of Lords in the UK Parliament.**
- This summit represents a significant opportunity for global dialogue and collaboration in addressing urgent international issues such as climate change, economic disparity, and technological advancements.

## 17 Miscellaneous News

### 17.1 'World's First' 3D-Printed Electric Abra Begins Trial Voyage In Dubai

- **Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA)** has launched the trial operation of the **world's first electric abra manufactured using 3D printing technology**, in collaboration with the private sector.

### 17.2 Delhi's Judicial System Enters the AI Era

- In a significant leap towards modernizing the judicial system, **Delhi Courts have embraced Artificial Intelligence (AI)** technology with the **inauguration of their first 'Pilot Hybrid Court'.**
- This innovative courtroom, equipped with a groundbreaking '**Speech to Text Facility**', marks a new era in judicial proceedings, promising enhanced efficiency and productivity.

### 17.3 Mumbai's Aqua Line: A New Era in Underground Metro Transportation

- **Mumbai**, India's bustling financial capital, is set to witness a significant transformation in its urban transit system with the **inauguration of its first underground metro, the Aqua Line.**

#### 17.4 Sturgeon Poaching Threatens Endangered Species in Danube River

- Poaching and trafficking are putting four **species of sturgeon** in the **Lower Danube Basin** in great danger.

#### 17.5 What Is Money Dysmorphia?

- Almost 50% of Gen Z faces a condition referred to as “**money dysmorphia**,” which is **characterized by an unrealistic perception of their financial situation**. This anxiety leads to constant worry and increased vigilance about their finances, even when there are no real financial problems.

#### 17.6 What is the Oropouche Virus?

- The **Oropouche virus**, which is **mostly spread by midges and mosquitoes**, has **killed its first people in Brazil**.

#### 17.7 What is the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism?

- The **Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM)** was created by the **European Union** as part of its larger plan to fight climate change and keep European businesses competitive.
- As part of CBAM, **goods are taxed based on how much greenhouse gas (GHG) they produce**.
- The goal of this change is to make sure that companies from outside the EU that use the Emissions Trading System (ETS) have the same carbon costs as companies in the EU.

#### 17.8 Cave on the Moon: New Discovery for Space Exploration

- Scientists have recently proven a **cave on the Moon near the Sea of Tranquility**, not far from where the famous landing in 1969 took place. The cave is an important find in lunar exploration because it could be used as a home for astronauts.

#### 17.9 PM Modi – Most Followed Leader on X with over 100 Million Followers

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** now has more than **100 million followers** on the social media **site X**. This makes him the **most followed world leader on this site**.

#### 17.10 Why is Jupiter's Great Red Spot Shrinking?

- The **biggest storm in our solar system**, the **Great Red Spot (GRS)** on Jupiter, is getting smaller right now.

#### 17.11 Researchers Discover 'Dark Oxygen' Production on Seafloor

- Recent research published in Nature Geoscience has uncovered **the production of a novel form of oxygen, dubbed “dark oxygen,” on the deep-ocean floor**—challenging long-standing scientific beliefs about oxygen production on Earth.

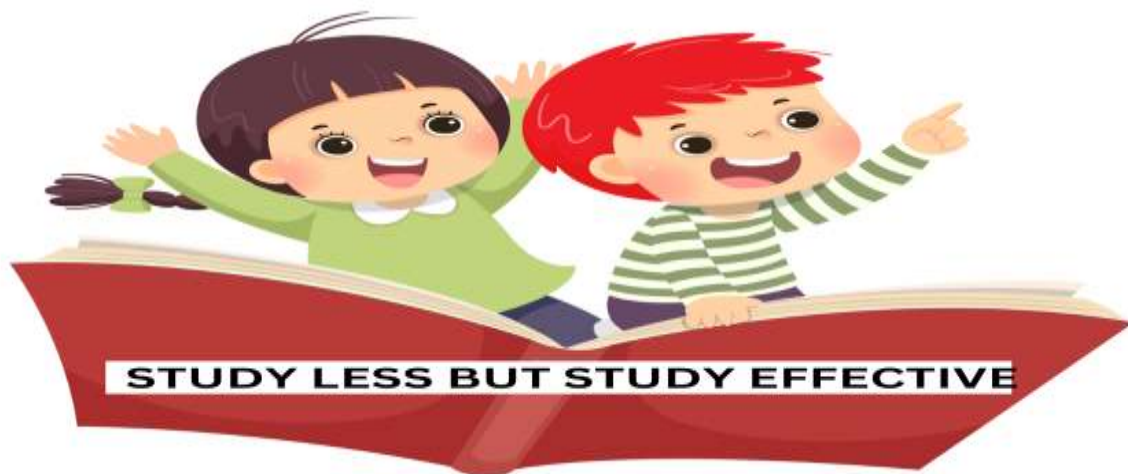
- Traditionally, it was believed that oxygen on Earth was primarily generated by photosynthetic organisms like plants and algae. This study shows a different way to get air in places with no light, like on the ocean floor.

#### 17.12 Japanese Scientists Create Smiling Robots Using Living Skin

#### 17.13 New Plant Species Discovered in Arunachal Pradesh Sanctuary

- Researchers from the Botanical Survey of India (BSI) have identified a **new plant species, Phlogacanthus sudhansusekharii, in the Itanagar Wildlife Sanctuary, Arunachal Pradesh.** This find brings attention to the area's wide range of plants and animals.

### 18 SELF HAND WRITTEN NOTES (Max 2-3 pages)



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