

Monthly Current Affairs August - 2024

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Provision of **₹11,111 crore** for infrastructure (3.4% of GDP).

₹1.5 lakh crore to states as long-term interest free loans to support resource allocation.

Phase IV of PMGSY will be launched to provide all-weather connectivity to **25,000** rural habitations.

Aliances with private sector in Nuclear Energy

Setting up Bharat Small Reactors

R&D of Bharat Small Modular Reactor and newer technologies for nuclear energy

Energy Audit

Financial support for shifting of micro and small industries to cleaner forms of energy

Facilitate investment grade energy audit in 60 clusters, next phase expands to 100 clusters



Pumped Storage Policy

For electricity storage and facilitation of smooth integration of the growing share of renewable energy

AISC Thermal Power Plants

A joint venture between NTPC and BHEL, will set up a full scale 900 MW commercial plant.



CURRENT AFFAIRS



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MONTHLY CURRENT AFFAIRS AUGUST : 2024



Near Riddhi-Siddhi Circle, Gopalpura Bypass, Jaipur

CHAPTER

1

RAJASTHAN AFFAIRS

Rajasthan Digital Health Mission

- 'Rajasthan Digital Health Mission' was launched on August 14, 2024.
- Under this, state-of-the-art facilities like creating Aabha ID, Health Care Professional Registry, Health Care Facility Registry, IHMS, AI Dashboard, Teleconsultation will be provided.
- This will bring the medical system online, improving service delivery and making it easier for patients to get the necessary treatment.
- Rajasthan ranks 7th in the country in terms of creating Aabha ID.
- Rajasthan is ranked third in Health Care Facility Registry and sixth in Health Care Professional Registry.

MAA (Chief Minister Ayushman Arogya) Voucher Scheme

- This scheme was launched on 8th August, 2024 at the state level.
- Its objective is to provide free sonography facilities to pregnant women.
- This scheme was launched on March 8, 2024 as a pilot project in 3 districts- Baran, Bharatpur and Phalodi.
- Free sonography services will be available at government sonography centers as well as private sonography centers.
- In this, a sonography of the pregnant woman during her second or third trimester of pregnancy will be done free of cost.

Chief Minister's Ayushman Jeevan Raksha Yojana

- 'Chief Minister Ayushman Jeevan Raksha Yojana' has been implemented in the state.
- The guidelines for this scheme were issued by the Finance Department on August 21, 2024.
- The announcement of the plan was made by the state government in the budget 2024-25.
- Its objective is to reduce the death rate due to road accidents in the state.
- This scheme will be operated by the Medical and Health Department.
- Under this, the person who takes a person seriously injured in a road accident to the nearest government or private medical institution in the state within the minimum time (golden hour) will be awarded the State Medical Award. There is a provision for the government to give incentive amount of Rs 10,000.

- A person taking an injured person to the hospital will be awarded with a certificate.
- The cost of this theme will be borne by the dedicated 'Road Safety Fund' of the Department of Transport and Road Safety.

Public Nutrition Center

- Rajasthan's first 'Jan Poshan Kendra' has been started in Nathawala village of Shahpura tehsil of Jaipur.
- 15 fair price shops in Jaipur have been selected for 'Jan Poshan Kendra'.
- It was inaugurated on 20 August 2024.
- This center has been established under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana.
- The Central Government launched a pilot project on August 20, 2024 to convert 60 Fair Price Shops (FPS) into 'Jan Poshan Kendras' in **Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan and Telangana**.
- Objective: The objective of this initiative is to increase the income of fair price shops, make the public aware about nutrition and ensure availability of nutritious food.
- Along with wheat and rice, pulses and nutritious items will also be available at fair price shops.

Rising Rajasthan Investment Summit – 2024

- 'Rising Rajasthan' Investment Summit- 2024 to be held in Jaipur from 9th to 11th December
- Its naming and logo will be launched on 1 August 2024.
- Its theme is 'REplete, RESPONSible, REAdy'.
- It aims to make Rajasthan a \$ 350 billion economy in the next 5 years and to take forward the 'Developed Rajasthan' Action plan
- Before this summit, there will be road shows in India and abroad to attract investors.
- The Rising Rajasthan Summit will be preceded by a series of investor conferences in key business cities across the country and the world, and sector-focused conferences in Jaipur.
- The following sessions will be commissioned in it-
 - Rajasthan Occasion Display
 - Strategic Sector Session
 - Country Session
 - One to One Business Meetings
 - MSME Conference
 - Startup Conference
 - Non-Resident Rajasthani Summit

- Apart from this, 'Single-Point Investor Interface' was also launched in Rajasthan
 - With this, investors will be able to easily sign MoU with the government.
 - Under this, investors' proposals will also be approved online.

New policies will be implemented for investors before Rising Rajasthan Investment Summit

- Before the Rising Rajasthan Global Investment Summit, the state government will implement 7 new policies.
 1. Rajasthan Data Center Policy
 2. Rajasthan Logistics Policy
 3. Private Industrial Park Scheme
 4. One District-One Product Policy
 5. MSME Policy
 6. Integrated Cluster Development
 7. Skills, Employment and Entrepreneurship Policy
- Such provisions will be made in these policies, which will make it easier for small and big investors to set up industries and invest in the state.
- Before this summit, there will be road shows (investor meets) both in India and abroad, in which presentations will be given about the discounts and benefits given in these policies.
- The first road show of Rising Rajasthan Global Investment Summit was held on 30 August in Mumbai and the Rising Rajasthan website was also launched.
- Upcoming 2 Roadshows will also be organized in Delhi, Hyderabad, Chennai, Japan, South Korea, Singapore, United Arab Emirates (UAE), Saudi Arabia, United Kingdom (UK) and Germany during the month.

Investment summit to be organized at District Level

- Investment summits will be organized in every district of the state ahead of the Rising Rajasthan Global Investment Summit to be held in Jaipur in December 2024.
- Investment proposals will be prepared in the Investment Summit to be held in every district under the leadership of the District Collector with the help of District Industries and RIICO officials.
- This investment summit will be held from 1 October to 10 November 2024.
- In these summits, entrepreneurs will be given information about the new policies, schemes and programs of the state.
- In these summits, arrangements have been made for the MoUs at the district level for new investors regarding the proposed investments.

'Heal in Rajasthan' Policy

- To make Rajasthan a hub of medical tourism and promote it, 'Heal in Rajasthan' policy will be brought.

- Its format has been prepared by the Medical and Health Department.
- Giving top priority to the health sector in the year 2024, a provision of 8.26 % of the total budget has been made for health.
- Allopathy and AYUSH medical treatment and wellness activities are being encouraged in Rajasthan with a holistic approach.

Efforts made for medical tourism in Rajasthan (For Mains)

- Construction of Ayushman Tower in Sawai Mansingh Hospital
- Establishment of two Medicities and Marwar Medical University
- Medical college and nursing college in every district
- Promotion of telemedicine

'Swasthya Dal Aapke Dwar' Campaign

- This campaign was launched in Rajasthan on 2 September 2024 by the Medical and Health Department.
- Its objective is to control, prevent and protect against seasonal diseases like malaria, dengue etc during the rainy season.
- Under this campaign various activities were organized by the Medical and Health Department in coordination with other departments.
- The first phase of this special campaign was conducted till 31 August.
- In this, reporting of all source reduction, anti-larval etc. activities was done through Marudhar App.

UNESCO to launch health and wellness program

- This program will be launched under the joint aegis of Central Board of Secondary Education and UNESCO.
- Under this, health and wellness program will be started in schools across the country including Rajasthan.
- In this, health ambassadors will be created from among the children in schools to identify the physical problems of teenagers and their solutions.
- In its first phase, 100 schools of the country including Ajmer will be included.
- For this, workshops of school principals are being conducted at the national level.

Consumer Care Campaign

- This campaign was run throughout Rajasthan from 17 August to 27 August.
 - In this campaign, the target was set to resolve the complaint within 3 hours as far as possible.
 - Its aim was to prevent irregularities in weighing and measurement of boxes containing sweets during the festive season.
-

- This campaign was run by a joint team of the Consumer Affairs Department and Food Department.
- The focus of this campaign was on consumer satisfaction and care through investigation of complaints and enforcement proceedings.
- Under this, State Consumer Helpline 18001803060 was also activated.

Krishna's Gaman Path

- Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma announced the construction of 'Shri Krishna Gaman Path' on August 26, 2024.
- Through this, Lord Krishna's birthplace Mathura will be connected to his place of education Ujjain.
- This religious circuit will be built jointly by the governments of Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh.
- Its length will be approximately 525 kilometers.
- This route will go from Mathura in Uttar Pradesh to Ujjain via Bharatpur, Kota, Jhalawar in Rajasthan.



Mission Madhuhari

- It was launched from 12 August 2024 to prevent Type 1 diabetes.
- It has been started under the joint auspices of the Department of Medical and Health, National Health Mission and Clinton Foundation.
- The medical department is spreading awareness among the general public regarding treatment and prevention of non-communicable diseases.

Uniform Civil Code will be introduced in Rajasthan

- On the lines of Uttarakhand, Uniform Civil Code Bill will be brought in Rajasthan.
- This bill will have provisions like ban on polygamy but tribes have been exempted from it. Uttarakhand is the first state where rules are being made to implement the UCC bill.
- The Uttarakhand government has placed the protection of women's rights at the centre of the bill.
- It is divided into four sections, i.e. Marriage and Divorce, Inheritance, Live in Relationship and Miscellaneous.

75th State Level Van Mahotsav

- It was held at Gadota, Mozmadabad (Dudu) on 7 August 2024.
- 2 crore saplings were planted under 'Hariyalo Rajasthan' on the occasion of Hariyali Teej.

Matri Van

- On the lines of Smriti Van, 'Matri Van' will be established in every district by the Rajasthan Government with the participation of common people.
- Plants of various species like Banyan, Peepal, Sycamore, Pilkhan, Neti Peepal, Makhan Katori etc. will be planted in 'Matri Van'.
- 51 lakh certificates will be distributed to tree lovers through 'Raj Jio Tree App'.
- Rs 2,000 'Van Mitras' will be appointed for the maintenance of the plants.
- Under this, a willing retired employee will be given the responsibility as a guardian.

'Hariyalo Rajasthan' Abhiyan

- This campaign was launched on 7 August 2024.
- Under this campaign, 50 crore saplings will be planted in the next 5 years.
- The Rajasthan government has pledged to plant 7 crore saplings by launching 'Mukhya Mantri Vriksharopan Maha Abhiyan'.

'Ek Ped Maa ke Naam' campaign

- This campaign was launched on the initiative of Education Department and Panchayati Raj Department
- In Rajasthan, on 7 August 2024, on the occasion of Hariyali Teej, intensive plantation was done under 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' Plantation Mahabhiyan.
- Under this, a world record of plantation of 1.47 crore plants was created.

4 institutes of Rajasthan included in top 100 rankings of NIRF

- According to the National Institutional Ranking

Framework (NIRF) released by the Union Ministry of Education 2024) 4 institutions from Rajasthan are included in the top 100 educational institutions of the country.

1. BITS Pilani (23rd)
2. IIT Jodhpur (68th rank)
3. MNIT Jaipur (82nd Rank)
4. AIIMS Jodhpur (83rd position)

Unorganized Workers, Vendors, Folk Artists will get pension in Rajasthan

- The Rajasthan government will provide pension to the unorganized sector workers, street vendors and folk artists of the state on completion of 60 years of age by linking them with state insurance.
- **There** is a provision of **pension of Rs 3,000 per month for these** three categories.

- In this regard, the Finance Department of Rajasthan issued a notification.
- In this insurance, along with a nominal contribution from the beneficiary, the state government along with the centre will pay the remaining contribution.
- Presently, this scheme will be applicable to beneficiaries aged between **18 to 45 years from all three categories.**

Ravneet Singh Bittu

- BJP candidate Ravneet Bittu was elected unopposed in the by-election for one Rajya Sabha seat from Rajasthan.
- The seat fell vacant following the resignation of Congress Rajya Sabha MP K.C. Venugopal.
- In Rajasthan the no of seats in Rajya Sabha is 10.
- Total 35 MPs are elected from Rajasthan.

Rajya Sabha MP From Rajasthan			
S.No.	MP	Party	Duration
1.	Neeraj Dangi	Indian National Congress	22. 06. 2020 - 21 06. 2026
2.	Rajendra Gehlot	Bhartiya Janata Party	22. 06. 2020 - 21 06. 2026
3.	Ghanshyam Tiwari	Bhartiya Janata Party	05. 07. 2022-04. 07. 2028
4.	Randeep Singh Surjewala	Indian National Congress	05. 07. 2022-04. 07. 2028
5.	Mukul Balakrishna Vasnik	Indian National Congress	05. 07. 2022-04. 07. 2028
6.	Pramod Kumar	Indian National Congress	05. 07. 2022-04. 07. 2028
7.	Chunnilal Garasia	Bhartiya Janata Party	04. 04. 2024-03. 04. 2030
8.	Madan Rathore	Bhartiya Janata Party	04. 04. 2024-03. 04. 2030
9.	Sonia Gandhi	Indian National Congress	04. 04. 2024-03. 04. 2030
10.	Ravneet Bittu	Bhartiya Janata Party	05. 09. 2024-04. 09. 2030

- Rajasthan currently has 5 MPs of Bharatiya Janata Party and 5 MPs of Indian National Congress in Rajya Sabha.
- Currently Sonia Gandhi is the only woman MP elected from Rajasthan in Rajya Sabha. Thus, out of total 35 elected MPs from Rajasthan, the number of women MPs is 4.
- Mr. Jagdeep Dhankar of Jhunjhunu district of Rajasthan is currently the Vice President of India and ex-officio Chairman of Rajya Sabha.

Kailash Chand Meena

- Kailash Chand Meena was appointed as the Acting Chairman of RPSC on August 6, 2024.
- Prior to this, he was a member of the Rajasthan Public Service Commission.
- He assumed charge as member of the Commission on 9 October 2023.
- Note: Sanjay Shrotriya retired on August 1, 2024.

Maheshwari Chauhan

- Maheshwari Chauhan is from Udaipur, Rajasthan.

- She is the only female player from Rajasthan to participate in Paris Olympics 2024.
- Maheshwari is the first woman from the state to participate in the Skeet event under Shotgun.
- **Anantjeet Singh Naruka** of Rajasthan also participated in the Paris Olympics.
- **A total of 2 players** from Rajasthan participated in the Paris Olympics.

Manvendra Singh Jasol

- Manvendra Singh Jasol became the President of Rajasthan Football Association on 22 August 2024.
- In addition, Mahendra Singh Bijarnia, Mangilal Kabra, Shakeel Ahmed, Nirmal Mathodiya and Arvind Pal Singh (Vice President), Dilip Singh Shekhawat (Secretary), Kailash Chand Khatik (Treasurer) were elected to the respective posts.

Sachin Tanwar

- He is a Kabaddi player from Rajasthan.
- Recently, Sachin Tanwar became the most

expensive player in the auction of Pro Kabaddi League Season 11.

- He was bought by the Tamil Thalaivas team for ₹ 2.15 crore.
- Sachin is a resident of Badhbar village in Jhunjhunu district of Rajasthan.
- He was part of the Indian team that won the gold medal at the 2022 Asian Games.

Dinesh Kumar

- Dinesh Kumar has been given the Additional Charge of Chairman of the Revenue Board.
- He is at present the Principal Secretary to Government (Revenue and Colonization).

Dr. Prithvi

- Senior IAS officer Dr. Prithvi took over as Secretary to the Governor on August 20, 2024.
- Dr. Prithvi is a 2002 batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer.

Amrit Lal Meena

- Tribal leader and BJP MLA from Salumbhar Amritlal Meena (65) died on August 8, 2024 in Udaipur.
- Amritlal Meena was elected as an MLA for third consecutive time.
- After Meena's death, there are now 194 MLAs left in the state. In such a situation, by-elections will be held on 6 assembly seats in the state.

Vaishnavi Sharma

- 23 -year-old Vaishnavi Sharma, winner of 'Miss Rajasthan- 2023' has won the title of 'Femina Miss India Rajasthan'.
- She will represent Rajasthan in Femina Miss India.
- Note: The winner of 'Femina Miss India' represents the country in 'Miss World'.
- Recently, Vaishnavi Sharma has been honoured with the 'Woman Icon Award- 2024' by the Governor of Rajasthan.

Saloni Verma

- Recently Saloni Verma has won the title of 'Mrs. Rajasthan 2024'.
- Former Mrs. Rajasthan Richa Kulshreshtha handed over the crown to Saloni in the grand finale of 'Mrs. Rajasthan 2024'.
- In this, Sakshi Nandavat was the first runner up, whereas, Kanu Parashar was the second runner up.
- This competition was organized by Fusion Group.

National Teacher Award 2014 to two teachers of Rajasthan

- Two teachers from Rajasthan - Hukumchand Choudhary and Baljinder Singh have been

selected for the National Teacher Award for the year 2024.

- Hukumchand Chaudhary is a teacher at Government Senior Secondary School BSF **Bikaner and Baljinder Singh** is a teacher at Government Senior Secondary School Padampur **Ganganagar**.
- Both these teachers were awarded in a special ceremony organized in New Delhi on Teachers' Day on 5 September 2024.

Under this award, a certificate, a sum of ₹ 50 thousand and a medal were given.

- Note: For the fourth consecutive year, two teachers from Rajasthan have been selected for the National Award.

Amrita Devi Vishnoi Memorial Award

- This award was given on 7 August 2024 in various categories for outstanding work in the field of forest development and wildlife conservation.

Category	Winner
Forest development and wildlife protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theft of Sati Forest Protection and Management Committee (Udaipur) (Year 2020)
Forest development, conservation and forest protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pawan Kumar Jain (Udaipur) (Year 2022) • Abhilasha (Sikar) and Bacchu Singh Verma (Bharatpur) (year 2021) • Shyam Sundar Paliwal (Rajsamand) (Year 2020) • Narayan Lal Kumawat (year 2019)
Wildlife Conservation and Protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mohit Sharma and Divya Sharma (Jaipur) (Year 2022) • Padam Singh Rathore (Udaipur) (year 2021) • Gajendra Singh Manjhi (Nagaur) (Year- 2020)

Rajasthan gets two National Awards in Organ Donation Campaign

- Rajasthan has received two national level awards for its remarkable work in the field of organ donation.
- For implementation of best promotional activities under organ donation awareness campaign Rajasthan was awarded with **Best IEC Award**.
- Mohan Foundation Jaipur Citizen Forum was honored with the Supportive NGO Award.

President's Police Medal

- On the 78th Independence Day, Additional Director General of Police ATS & SOG Rajasthan **Vijay Kumar Singh** was selected for the President's Police Medal.

- ADG Smita Srivastava and Binita Thakur were awarded the President's Police Medal for providing excellent and commendable services in the Police Department.
- Smita Srivastava is posted as Additional Director General, Anti-Corruption Bureau II and Thakur is posted as Additional Director General, Police Housing.
- As ADGP Traffic, Smita played a vital role in ensuring safety and smooth movement of people stranded in Rajasthan during the Covid - 19 lockdown.
- During her tenure, IPS Binita Thakur played an important role in dismantling the network of dacoits in Karauli, drug mafia in Baran and the Paardi gang.

Veer Durgadas Rathore Life Time Achievement Award

- 95-year-old Mrs. Gavari Rao, renowned Maand singer of Pali (Marwar) was awarded Veer Durgadas Rathore Lifetime Achievement Award.
- He was given this award for his outstanding contribution at the national level in the field of Mand, folk singing and traditional bhajan singing.
- This award is given by Veer Durgadas Rathore Smriti Samiti.

Pitch curator Taposh Chatterjee honored with Life Time Achievement Award

- BCCI pitch curator Taposh Chatterjee was honored with the 'Rajiv Gandhi Lifetime Achievement Award' on August 20, 2024.
- Under this award, a memento, a shawl and Rs 11,000 were given.
- This award was started in the year 2019 on the occasion of the 75th birth anniversary of Rajiv Gandhi.
- It is awarded by Rajiv Gandhi Cricket Club.
- This award is given to a cricket administrator, rather than a cricketer. It is awarded to any of the organizers, officials, selectors, coaches, cricket academy operators, cricket umpires, match referees, scorers or curators.

RMSCL receives 'Technology Sabha Excellence Award- 2024'

- Rajasthan Medical Services Corporation (RMSCL) was awarded the 'Technology Sabha Excellence Award – 2024'.
- This award was given for better operation of Nishulk Dawa Yojana through e-medicine software in the state.
- 'RMSCL' has been given this award in the Enterprise Application category.
- The award was presented by Express Computer-Indian Express Group in Lucknow.
- Technology Sabha Excellence Awards are given for facilitation and effective management of work

through technical innovation and technology in government departments, agencies and institutions.

Sahitya Shri Samman 2024

- Rashtra Bhasha Hindi Prachar Samiti has announced the National Awards to be given for Hindi creations.
- The organization's **highest Sahitya Shree Award for the year 2024** will be given to Ajmer's novelist-storyteller **Prafull Prabhakar**.
- **Hindi Srijan Award was given to** Jaipur's novelist-storyteller **Prabodh Kumar Gobhil** for his novel 'Tapuon par picnic'.
- **Mahila Lekhan Award will be given to** Delhi based writer **Rinkal Sharma** for her play 'Bure Phanse'.
- **Children's Literature Award will be given to** Delhi's writer for children **Suman Vajpayee** for her children's novel 'Tara Ki Anokhi Yatra'.
- **The award for best writing will be given to** Lucknow-based journalist **Prabhu Jhingaran** for his work 'Drone Journalism'.
- Under Sahitya Shri Samman, 21 thousand rupees will be given in cash and the authors of all other selected works will be given 11 thousand rupees in cash along with a certificate of honour, memento, shawl.

IIM Udaipur sets up Behaviour Experimental Lab in Jaipur

- Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Udaipur has established a Behaviour Experimental Lab **in Jaipur in collaboration with the state government**.
- This hi-tech lab was inaugurated on 1 August 2024.
- This lab has been established in 4000 square feet building located at Rajasthan Centre for Advanced Technology (R-CAT) campus, Jaipur at a cost of Rs 1.22 crore.
- This lab is the first such lab in the country, where subject experts will conduct studies related to human brain and physiology.
- Its objective will be to implement public welfare schemes of the central and state governments along with academic research based on the behaviour and thoughts of the people.

Chromium, four blocks of nickel and one block of fluoride found in Dungarpur

- Nickel, four blocks of Chromium and one block of Fluoride have been found in Dungarpur.
- In the geological survey, nickel and chromium have been discovered in 4 blocks of Dungarpur district, 4.92 square km in **Mathugamadapal**, 99.24 hectares in **Dewal**, 852 hectares in **Rohanwada**, 892 hectares in **Khanamin**.
- **A block of fluoride** has been found in Samota of Dungarpur district.

- Quartz, clay, soft stone, feldspar are currently being mined in Dungarpur.
- High quality milky and snow quartz is produced here, which is useful for making glass.

North India's first Wipro hydraulic plant

- North India's first Wipro Hydraulics plant was inaugurated on 22 August 2024 at Mahindra World City, Jaipur.
- Through this, hydraulic cylinders will be supplied to customers globally.
- The cost of setting up this plant is approximately Rs 250 crore.
- Wipro has 16 plants globally. Plants have been set up in 4 Indian cities Jaipur, Bengaluru, Chennai and Hindupur (Andhra Pradesh).

Rajasthan's first organ-body donation awareness park

- It is located in the Basant Vihar area of Kota in Rajasthan.
- In this park people are made aware about body donation through various statues.
- Note: World Organ Donation Day is celebrated every year on 13 August.
- This park has a 25 feet high human structure and 8 statues of organ donation have been made. Statues of eyes, kidneys, lungs, liver and other organs have been made.
- Names of the people who donated their bodies are inscribed on the memorial.
- Note: Eyes, kidneys, liver, lungs, heart, pancreas and intestines of a dead person can be donated. If a living person wishes, he can donate one kidney, one lung, liver, pancreas and some part of intestine.

Agricultural University providing call center service

- Agricultural Universities Kisan Call Center (KCC) was launched for farmers on 17 August 2024 in Jodhpur.
- Agriculture University Jodhpur is the first institute in Rajasthan to provide call center service at university level for farmers.
- Here, solutions to various problems of farmers related to farming will be provided by experts while sitting at home.

Apache helicopters will be stationed in Jodhpur

- The Indian Army will deploy six AH-64E Apache attack helicopters on the Western Front from October 2024 at Jodhpur Military Station.
- The Union Defence Ministry had signed an agreement with Boeing in 2022 to purchase 6 helicopters for the Army.
- Currently, Advanced Light Helicopter Rudra is also deployed with the Army Aviation Corps in Jodhpur.

Features of Apache Helicopter

- 2.75-inch rockets, 30 mm chain gun.
- Strength of 16 Hellfire missiles and 76 rockets.
- 600 rounds of fire in 1 minute, equipped with 1200 rounds.
- The ability to locate the enemy in darkness and avoid attack and radar.
- Ability to perform every operation of multi role tasking.
- The multi-role combat helicopter is equipped with lethal weapons and missiles like Hellfire and Stinger.
- It has the capability to destroy targets despite bad weather and difficult conditions at night.

Successful test of Indigenous Anti-Tank Missile

- The indigenous Man Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile (MP-ATGM) was successfully tested on 13 August 2024 at the Pokhran Field Firing Range in Jaisalmer district.
- It has been developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
- Its range is 200 meters to 2.5 kilometers and this missile is capable of destroying enemy tanks and armored vehicles.
- Its weight is 14.5 kg and length is 4.3 feet.
- It can be placed on the shoulder and fired like a rocket launcher.

Aircraft Flying School inaugurated in Kishangarh

- Inaugurated the state's first aircraft flying school in Kishangarh, Rajasthan was inaugurated on 4 August 2024.
- Civil Aviation Policy, 2024 was approved by the State Cabinet on 02 July 2024 with the aim to improve regional air connectivity and promote tourism in Rajasthan.
- Under this, provision was made to open flying schools in Kishangarh, Jhalawar and Bhilwara.
- Under this, a Greenfield Airport is being built in Kota.
- The policy focuses on enhancing aviation training facilities, aviation maintenance services and developing aerospace activities.
- Apart from this, Aerocity will be built in Jaipur, in which various infrastructure facilities including hotels and restaurants will be developed.

State Remote Application Sub-Center will be started in Jaipur

- State Remote Application Sub Centre in Rajasthan will start in Jaipur in January 2025.
 - It will be operated from the SETCOM office in the Indira Gandhi Panchayati Raj Institute campus.
 - The state government had announced the opening of a sub-centre in Jaipur in the budget 2024-25.
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- With the opening of the centre in Jaipur, maps of water, land and satellite related areas will be immediately available for making plans related to the departments.
- Note: At present State Remote Application Centre is located at Jodhpur.

78th Independence Day

- 78th Independence Day will be celebrated in Jaipur on 15th August, 2024.
- Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma hoisted the flag in this state level function.
- On this occasion, Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma honored 11 officers and employees for their remarkable services.

Tarang Shakti 2024

- Advance Air Exercise of 12 countries 'Tarang Shakti 2024' will be commissioned in India from 6 August to 14 September 2024.
- Apart from India, air forces of US, France, UK, Australia, Japan, UAE, Hungary, Germany, Spain, South Africa and Bangladesh participated in this.
- This exercise was conducted in two phases.
- The first phase was held from August 6 to 14 in Sullur, Tamil Nadu.
- After this, **the second phase will be held in Jodhpur from 29 to 14 September.**
- In this exercise, all the countries share each other's war skills along with training.
- This exercise will involve fighter jets, AWACS, mid-air refuellers, helicopters and transport aircraft.
- India is hosting this type of exercise for the first time.

Jodhpur Industrial Smart City

- Recently, the Central Government has approved 12 industrial nodes/cities under the National Industrial Corridor Development Programme (NICDP) on 28 August 2024.
- Under this, Jodhpur-Pali of Rajasthan will also be made an industrial smart city.
- For this, land will be reserved in Kankani of Jodhpur and Rohat of Pali.
- There will be an investment of around Rs 7,500 crore and 40,000 jobs will be created.
- Under the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC), the first node in Rajasthan, Khushkheda, Bhiwadi and Neemrana Industrial Area near Alwar has been developed.
- The second node of DMIC, Jodhpur Pali Marwar Focus Sectors and Industries Textiles & Apparels Food Processing engineering and Auto Building Materials Handicrafts Project will be developed in this area.

MSME Technology Centre

- Rajasthan Government will provide 12 hectares of land in **Dahmikalan, Jaipur** for MSME Technology Centre.
- In this centre, entrepreneurs associated with MSME industry will get all the facilities of technology and research.

MoU between RVUN and GAIL India

- MoU was signed between RVUN and GAIL India on August 8, 2024.
- Under this, a joint venture will be established to operate 330 MW gas-based power plant of GAIL India located in Dholpur and 270.5 MW gas-based power plant located in Ramgarh.
- Both the companies will jointly operate gas-based power projects in Rajasthan.
- Under this MoU, GAIL will supply gas to Dholpur and Ramgarh plants at reasonable rates.
- An investment of Rs 4,200 crore will be made in the state.
- 750MW solar energy and 250 MW wind energy projects will be installed in the field of renewable energy.

Approval for setting up of 4 joint ventures in Power Sector

- The establishment of 4 joint venture companies in the Power Sector in Rajasthan was approved by the Government on August 3, 2024.
- It deals with projects related to renewable and thermal power generation and transmission.

4 joint ventures in power sector

- Two separate joint ventures will be established **between Coal India Limited and RVUNL.**
 - There will be one Thermal Project and another Renewable Energy Project.
1. Kalisindh Thermal Project 800 MW unit to be set up at Jhalawar or any other peat head Greenfield coal Project.
 2. Solar Power Project, Pump Storage Project and Wind Power Project of about 2500 MW capacity will be established.
 3. Joint Venture (JV) between NTPC Green Energy and RVUNL - This venture will set up renewable energy projects including solar/wind/hybrid energy of 25,000 MW.
 4. Enterprises of Power Grid Corporation and Rajasthan Vidyut Prasaran Nigam:-
 - This Joint Venture (JV) will operate the Transmission System on Build, Own, Operate and Maintain basis.
 - This will make the entire transmission capacity available to Rajasthan Discoms.

Platinum Jubilee Celebration of Rajasthan High Court

- Vice President of India Jagdeep Dhankar attended the inaugural ceremony of Rajasthan High Court at Jodhpur on 10 August 2020 to mark the completion of 75 years of the establishment of Rajasthan High Court. He was the Chief Guest of the ceremony.
- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi addressed the closing ceremony of the Platinum Jubilee events of Rajasthan High Court on August 25, 2024, in Jodhpur, Rajasthan.
- Apart from this, the Prime Minister also inaugurated the Rajasthan High Court Museum.

Rajasthan High Court

- The present Rajasthan High Court was inaugurated on 29 August 1949 by the then Rajpramukh of Rajasthan Maharaja Sawai Man Singh.
- Maximum number of Judges in Rajasthan High Court - 50 (1+49) including Chief Justice
- First Chief Justice of Rajasthan High Court: Kamal Kant Verma
- Current Chief Justice: Manindra Mohan Srivastava (42nd Chief Justice)

Police Officers Conference

- It was organised on 29-30 August 2024 at Rajasthan International Centre (RIC), Jaipur.
- The theme of this conference was 'Policing with Excellence – The Way Forward'.
- In this, issues centered on better policing in the state were discussed in detail.
- Apart from the Chief Minister, Minister of State for Home Jawahar Singh Bedham, Chief Secretary Sudhansh Pant, Additional Chief Secretary (Home) Anand Kumar also participated in it.
- Apart from ADG, Range IG and DIG, selected SP, Additional SP, DSP and Inspector level police officers participated in it.

In Rajasthan, an additional pension amount of Rs 1,000 will be payable on 100% disability

- The State Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment will provide an additional amount of Rs 1,000 along with the prescribed pension to the especially abled persons with 100% disability.
- In the budget of 2024, the State Government has announced to provide scooties to 2 thousand disabled people with a view to providing support to the young disabled people.
- April 1, 2024, increased pension is being given under the Social Security Pension Scheme by increasing the base rate of **Divyangjan Samman Pension Scheme** by 15% annually.
- 1,150 per month is being paid to the disabled persons below the age of 75 years and a pension of Rs 1,250 per month is being paid to the disabled

persons of the age group of 75 years and above.

New castes included in Scheduled Caste (SC) category in Rajasthan

- Bari, Kuchband, Saintia, Satia, Sargara, Tirgar, Tirbanga have been included in the Scheduled Caste (SC) category by the Rajasthan Government.
- At present, in Rajasthan a total of 59 categories of castes are included in the Scheduled Caste (SC) category and a total of 12 categories of castes are included in the Scheduled Tribe (ST) category.

Education department made changes in Shiksha Bhushan and Shiksha Shri provisions

- The Education Department has made changes in the rules of Bhamashah Samman.
- The Education Department has reduced the amount of support for Shiksha Bhushan Samman from Rs 30 lakh to Rs 15 lakh and for Shiksha Shri Samman from Rs 5 lakh to Rs 1 lakh.
- Now, the Bhamashahs who contribute from Rs 15 lakh to Rs 1 crore will be awarded Shiksha Bhushan at the state level and those who contribute from Rs 1 lakh to Rs 15 lakh will be awarded Shiksha Shri Samman at the district level.
- Earlier, a rule was implemented to give Shiksha Bhushan at the state level to Bhamashahs who contribute from Rs 30 lakh to Rs 1 crore, and Shiksha Shri Samman at the district level to those who contribute from Rs 5 lakh to Rs 30 lakh.
- Note: There is no change in the provisions of the State Level Shiksha Vibhushan Samman.
- This honor will be given to the person who contributes more than Rs 1 crore.

Full Immunization Coverage (FIC) Vaccination Report 2024

- Only 76.63% Full Immunization Coverage (FIC) information regarding vaccination of children in Rajasthan has been uploaded on the U-WIN portal in the year 2023-24.
- The average Full Immunization Coverage (FIC) in the country in the year 2023-24 is 93.5 %.
- Rajasthan ranks 23rd in the country in terms of Full Immunization Coverage (FIC).
- Jammu and Kashmir is at first place, Telangana at second and Delhi at third place.
- Note: It is mandatory to register the information regarding regular vaccination of pregnant women and children on 'U-WIN Portal'.

The ban on the participation of government employees in the activities of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) has been lifted

- The Rajasthan government has lifted the ban on government employees from participating in Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) activities.

- After this, government employees and officers will be able to participate in the activities of the RSS.
- Earlier, the Central Government had also lifted the ban on the participation of government employees in the activities of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS).
- This ban was imposed by the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi on 30 November 1966.

Rajasthan's largest Super Specialty Wing

- JLN Medical College, Ajmer Rajasthan's largest super specialty wing will be built in 15 thousand square feet at a cost of Rs 300 crore.
- 8 units will be operated at one place.
- This will be the first hospital in the state to have a helipad built on its roof.

For the first time in Rajasthan, State Integrated Cancer Task Force was formed

- The State Government has constituted the State Integrated Cancer Task Force with the objective of strengthening cancer related health services and activities in the State, giving them a comprehensive form and for necessary coordination.
- This task force has been constituted under the chairmanship of Additional Chief Secretary, Medical and Health.
- This task force will prepare a strategy for cancer diagnosis, screening, prevention and awareness activities in the state.
- It will ensure efforts to expand cancer related services, review policies related to cancer care and make necessary amendments.

Rajasthan stood third in the implementation of Atal Bhujal Yojana

- Rajasthan stood third in the implementation of 'Atal GroundWater Scheme'.
- Earlier, Rajasthan was at 7th position.
- 'Atal GroundWater Scheme' was launched on 25 December 2019.
- It is currently operational in 17 districts of the state.

'Manas Sakhiyan' Initiative

- This is an initiative of Hanumangarh District Administration.
- 'Manas Sakhiyan' will now help in preventing drug abuse in Hanumangarh district.
- They will go door to door and communicate with women to make them aware about getting rid of drug addiction.
- Under this, women associated with Rajivika in the district have been made 'Manas Sakhi' in the drug-free 'Manas' campaign.

Gogamedi Fair

- This fair started on 19 August, 2024 at Gogamedi in Hanumangarh.
- It is one of the famous fairs of North India.
- Its is held for 1 month at Gogamedi.

Rare Earth Element Excellence Centre

- **Rare Earth Element (REE) Excellence Centre** will be established in Rajasthan.
- Its objective is to explore, mine and process rare earth element (REE) deposits in the state.
- It is estimated that deposits of the rarest mineral rare earth element will be found in Barmer, Jalore, Sirohi, Pali, Udaipur, Bhilwara, Nagaur, Ajmer, Neem Ka Thana, Rajsamand, Sikar and Banswara districts of Rajasthan.
- Bastnasite, Britholite, Synchysite and Xenotime rare earth elements have been found in Carbonatites and Microgranite rocks in Rajasthan.

'Bharkhama' film

- It is the first Rajasthani film based on the story collection of Indian Administrative Service officer Dr. Jitendra, which will be released on pan India level on 6 September 2024.
- This film will be released in Rajasthani language in all cinema halls.
- 'Bharkhama' by IAS and writer Dr. Jitendra Kumar Soni (National Health Mission Director) was awarded the Sahitya Akademi Yuva Puraskar 2022.
- Its objective is to take this cinema to Rajasthanis living in different states.
- This movie is directed by S. Sagar.

Shala Swasthya Parikshan Mobile App

- 'Shala Swasthya Pariksha Mobile App' was launched on 12th August, 2024 for the health checkup of children studying in government schools.
- Under this app, health check-up of children studying in government schools will be conducted.
- Under this, a paperless survey based on 70 questions will be conducted to identify the disease in children and give advice.

Kisan Saathi App

- 'Kisan Sathi App' was launched on 14 August 2024.
- Kisan Saathi mobile app has been developed in collaboration with National Institute of Hydrology, Roorkee under National Hydrology Project.
- It has been developed for the farmers of the command area of Parvati Dam, Dholpur (Dholpur, Bari and Baseri Assembly Constituencies).

MLA Seva Kendra Digital App

- This app has been developed by Ganganagar MLA Shri Jaideep Bihani for the local residents.
-

- Chief Minister Shri Bhajanlal Sharma launched this app on 7 August 2024.
- Common people will be able to register any type of complaint, help and suggestion related to the development of Sri Ganganagar Assembly constituency on this app from their homes.
- People's complaints, help and suggestions are recorded in this app and sent to the concerned departments and resolved.
- In the Indian team, Amit Saroha is the most experienced and Archer Sheetal Devi is the youngest athlete.
- The Paris Paralympic Games were held from 28 August to 8 September.
- Currently **Devendra Jhajharia of Rajasthan is the chairman of the Paralympic Committee of India (PCI)**.

31st Mathuradas Mathur Award

Raj.Cooperative Gopal Credit Card Scheme Portal

- The Rajasthan government launched the Rajasthan Sahakari Gopal Credit Card Loan Scheme Portal on 28 August 2024.
- Through this portal, application can be made for loan up to Rs 1 lakh available to cow rearing farmers.
- This loan will be provided to 5 lakh farmers by the Rajasthan government.
- Livestock farmers will get interest subsidy on this loan.
- This has to be repaid over a period of one year.

- **In the 31st Mathuradas Mathur Award** for the year 2023-24 in Rajasthan (Best Cricketer of the Year) were declared.

- Senior Category : Abhijeet Tomar
- Junior Category : Rohan Rajbhar,
- Sub Junior Category : Rajat Baghel
- Emerging player Abhay Sharma was honoured with a Special Award.

Divyang Seva Kendras will be opened at district level in Rajasthan

- These centers will be opened by the national organization " Samdarshi, Capacity Development and Research Board (SAKSHAM)".
- The objective of these centres is to ensure all-round development and empowerment of the disabled.

Rajasthan won 10 medals in National Swimming Competition

- It was organised in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.
- In the 40th Sub Junior and 50th Junior National Competition, swimmers of Rajasthan won a total of 10 medals including 1 gold, 4 silver and 5 bronze.
- Rajasthan has won the silver medal for the first time in the boys' 4x50 meter medley relay.
- The only gold medal for Rajasthan was won by Dakshina Joshi of Jaipur in the 200m butterfly event of Girls' Group - 2.

Cactus Garden

- was inaugurated on 23 August 2024 at Kevada Ki Naal in Udaipur.
- This cactus garden has 80 species of cactus.

Rajasthan's only Sadul Sports School

- The only Sadul Sports School of Rajasthan is located in Bikaner.
- Recently a Modern Synthetic Track has been developed here for athletes.
- This track has been built at a cost of approximately Rs 9 crore.
- The length of this track is 400 metres. '
- The Rajasthan government had announced the manufacturing of synthetic tracks in the budget 2023-24.

State Medical Value Travel Committee

- 'State Medical Value Travel Committee' has been formed to promote medical tourism in Rajasthan.
- This committee will not only ensure policy formulation related to medical tourism but will also ensure its effective and timely implementation.
- Its chairman will be the Additional Chief Secretary, Medical and Health Department.

Ankur Jangid and Asmi Dhanavade won the title of National Yoga Competition

10 athletes from Rajasthan participated in Paris Paralympic Games happened

1. Avani Lekhara (Para Shooting)
2. Mona Agarwal (Para Shooting)
3. Nihal Singh (Para Shooting)
4. Rudraksh Khandelwal (Para Shooting)
5. Amir Ahmed Bhat (Para Shooting)
6. Sundar Gurjar (Athletics)
7. Sandeep Choudhary (Athletics)
8. Anita Choudhary (Rowing)
9. Shyamsundar (Archery)
10. Krishna Nagar (Badminton)

- Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Goa, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, West Bengal, Dadra Nagar Haveli etc. participated in the National Yoga Competition organized at Sawai Mansingh Stadium
- In the boys category of the competition, Ankur Jangid from Rajasthan was the winner while the runner-up was Shaurya from Gujarat.
- In the girls category, Asmi Dhanavade from Maharashtra was the winner and Kimaya Chorbole was the runner-up.

- This competition was organized in different age groups (from 5 years to 50 years).

11th Senior Kabaddi Championship

- It was organised in Bodhgaya, Bihar.
- In this, Rajasthan's Kabaddi team won the Gold Medal.
- Rajasthan defeated Uttar Pradesh 43 - 31 in the final.

Rajasthan Ranking Table Tennis Tournament

- Recently Rajasthan Ranking Table Tennis Tournament was organized in Jaipur.

Category	Winner
Under- 11 Boys Category	Vedant Mehta (Udaipur)
Under- 13 Boys Category	Vedant Mehta (Udaipur)
Under- 15 Boys Category	Yogesh Thanvi (Sirohi)
Under- 19 Boys Category	Akshat Sharma (Jaipur)

46th National Arm-Wrestling Championship

- It was organised in Raipur, Chhattisgarh.
- In this, Rajasthan won a total of 22 medals including 13 gold, 4 silver and 5 bronze in various categories of men and women.
- In the senior women's category, Manisha Chahar and Sara Chaudhary of Rajasthan Police won gold medals.
- In the senior men's category, Pramod Tuhiya won the silver medal and Sayer Chaudhary and Mohit Sinsinwar won the bronze medals.



CHAPTER

2

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Polity and Governance

Sub-classification in reservation for SC/ST category approved: Supreme Court

- The Supreme Court, in its August 1 verdict, approved sub-classification for reservation within the Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) lists.
- This decision was given by a 7-judge bench of the Supreme Court headed by Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud by a majority of 6:1 in the case of Davinder Singh vs State of Punjab.
- This decision replaced an earlier five-judge bench verdict in the 2004 case of E V Chinnaiya vs State of Andhra Pradesh.
- In this case the court had said that SC/ST is a homogeneous group and there can be no sub-classification in it.
- This has been done for the first time since reservation was introduced in the Constitution in the year 1950.
- Constitution bench permitted states to make sub-classifications within the SC and ST for the purpose of providing comprehensive protection to the most backward communities through earmarked sub-quotas.
- Under this, states can identify more backward people among the SC categories and sub-classify them for separate quotas within the quota.
- According to the decision the government should implement the “Creamy Layer Principle” for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes like the Other Backward Classes (OBC) category.
- Chief Justice DY Chandrachud said that Scheduled Castes are not a homogenous class and sub-classification does not violate the principle of equality under Article 14 of the Constitution.
- Note: **Article 341(1) of the Constitution** Allows the President, through a public notification, to list “castes, ethnic groups or tribes” who have been victims of the historical injustice of untouchability as Scheduled Castes (SC).
- **Article 341(2):** Only the Parliament can include or exclude “any caste, ethnicity or tribe” from the list of SCs.

Announcement of formation of 5 new districts in Ladakh

- The Central Government announced the formation of five new districts in the Union Territory of Ladakh.

- Zaskar, Drass, Sham, Nubra and Changthang are the new districts.
- These new districts have been formed with the aim of providing quick access to government services and amenities to the residents.
- At present, there are only two districts in Ladakh, Leh and Kargil.
- Each district is governed by its own autonomous district council.
- Before 2019 Ladakh was part of the state of Jammu and Kashmir.
- Note : Ladakh was separated from the then Jammu and Kashmir state when the Centre revoked Article 370 on 5 August 2019. And it was made a Union Territory.



Bill in Parliament to reserve seats for Scheduled Tribes in Goa Assembly

- Union Law Minister Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal introduced the Readjustment of Representation of Scheduled Tribes in Assembly Constituencies of the State of Goa Bill, 2024 on 5 August.
- It will provide reservation to Scheduled Tribes (ST) in the Goa Legislative Assembly.
- The Bill will empower the Census Commissioner to notify the population of Scheduled Tribes in Goa.
- The Election Commission will then amend the Delimitation of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies Order, 2008 to ensure reservation for Scheduled Tribes in the 40 -member Goa Assembly.
- Currently, in the 40 -member Goa Legislative Assembly, no seat is reserved for the Scheduled Tribe community, while 1 seat is reserved for the Scheduled Caste.

The Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024

- This bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha by Union Minority Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju.
- The Central Government on August 8 referred the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024 to the Joint Committee of Parliament.
- 31-member Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) will review the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024.
- This committee has 21 members from Lok Sabha and 10 members from Rajya Sabha.
- The name of the parent Act of this Bill has been changed from Waqf Act, 1995 to Unified Waqf Management, Empowerment, Efficiency and Development Act, 1995.
- The proposed amendment proposes to transfer the power to administer Waqfs from the Boards and Waqf Tribunals to the State Governments.
- Government property identified or declared as Wakf property, whether before or after the commencement of this Act, shall not be deemed to be Wakf property.
- It gives the government the power to decide whether a property given as Waqf is government land or not.
- Under this bill, in case of dispute the Collector will take the decision whereas at present, it is decided by the Waqf Tribunal.
- This bill also gives the Central government the power to “direct the audit of any waqf at any time by an auditor appointed by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India or by any officer nominated by the Central Government for that purpose”.
- The bill seeks to change the composition of Waqf boards in states. It also proposes to allow the appointment of a non-Muslim CEO (with at least two non-Muslim members nominated)
- **Waqf:** It is personal property given by Muslims for a specific purpose – religious, charitable or personal purposes.
- A Waqf may be constituted by means of a deed or document or verbally.
- Waqf Board State is an institution under the government, which acts as the custodian of Waqf properties throughout the state.

The Banking Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024

- It was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 09 August 2024 by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.
- The Bill provides customers the option to increase the number of nominees per bank account from the existing one to 4.
- It proposes changes relating to redefining ‘substantial interest’ for directorships.
- It also gives banks greater freedom in deciding how much remuneration to pay statutory

auditors.

- Additionally, it changes the dates on which banks must report for regulatory compliance.
- The Bill proposes to amend the following Acts –
 - Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934
 - Banking Regulation Act, 1949
 - State Bank of India Act, 1955
 - Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970
 - Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1980
- Note : The Finance Minister announced the amendments to the Banking Regulation Act during his Budget speech for 2023-24.

Courts have the right to examine the validity of the orders of the Delimitation Commission- Supreme Court

- The Supreme Court in the case of Kishorchandra Chhaganlal Rathore vs Union of India and others said that the court can examine the validity of the orders passed by the Delimitation Commission if any order is clearly arbitrary and not in accordance with constitutional values.
- This order has come on a petition filed against an order of the Gujarat High Court.
- Citing Article 329(a) of the Constitution, the High Court had said that the court cannot interfere in election-related matters.
- The Supreme Court said that Article 329(a) limits the scope of judicial scrutiny in election matters, but it cannot be held applicable to every delimitation action.
- Citing the example of the case of Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) vs State of Tamil Nadu (2020) the Supreme Court said that the court can intervene to facilitate elections or if the power is exercised in a malicious or arbitrary manner.

Delimitation

- It refers to the act or process of deciding the boundaries or limits of territorial constituencies in a country or province having a legislature.
- **Under Article 82 of the Constitution,** Parliament by law enacts a delimitation law after every census.
- After the implementation of the law, the Central Government constitutes a Delimitation Commission.
- Delimitation Commission demarcates the boundaries of parliamentary constituencies as per the provisions of the Delimitation Act.
- The current delimitation of constituencies has been done on the basis of the census data of the year 2001 under the provisions of the Delimitation Act, 2002.

- **In the year 2002**, the process of delimitation of Lok Sabha and state assemblies was put on hold until at least 2026 by the 84th Constitutional Amendment.
- In India so far **Delimitation Commissions were formed 4 times** – in 1952, in 1963, in 1973 and in 2002.
- The decision of the Delimitation Commission cannot be challenged in any court.

Lateral Entry Dispute

- Recently, after receiving instructions from the Department of Personnel and Training, the advertisement related to lateral entry in bureaucracy has been cancelled.
- Note: An Advertisement was issued by Union Public Service Commission for the appointment of 45 Joint Secretaries, Directors and Deputy Secretaries in the Central Ministries.

- These recruitments have been cancelled due to lack of quota for Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) by the Central Government.
- **Lateral Entry**
 - Under this, a person is recruited from outside the traditional government service cadres to fill middle and senior level posts.
 - It aims to solve complex governance and policy implementation challenges by harnessing expertise.
 - Lateral entry was recommended by the Second Administrative Reforms Commission (ARC), set up in 2005.



CHAPTER

3

ECONOMY AFFAIRS

RBI Bi-monthly Monetary Policy Committee Meeting

- The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) met on August 6-8 in Mumbai.
- This meeting was chaired by Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das.
- Note: The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) consists of 3 RBI officials and 3 members appointed by the Central Government.
- In this meeting, RBI decided to keep the repo rate unchanged at 6.5 percent. (For the 9th consecutive time)
- The Monetary Policy Committee last increased the repo rate in February 2023.
- has not changed the expected gross domestic product (GDP) growth forecast of 7.2 % for the year 2024-25.

Current Rates

Policy repo rate	6.50%
Reverse repo rate	3.35%
Standing Deposit Facility (SDF)	6.25%
Marginal Standing Facility Rate (MSF)	6.75%
Bank rate	6.75%
Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR)	4.50%
Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR)	18%

Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)

- This committee currently has 6 members.
- It consists of three members from RBI and three members appointed by the Government of India.
- This committee is headed by the RBI Governor.
- This committee was formed on the basis of the recommendations of the Urjit Patel Committee.

12 Industrial nodes/cities approved in the country

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved 12 Industrial Nodes/Cities under the National Industrial Corridor Development Programme (NICDP) on August 28, 2024.
- These projects will be spread across 10 states and strategically linked along 6 major corridors.
 - Khurpiya of Uttarakhand
 - Rajpura-Patiala of Punjab

- Dighi of Maharashtra
- Palakkad in Kerala
- Agra and Prayagraj in Uttar Pradesh
- Gaya in Bihar
- Zaheerabad in Telangana
- Orvakal and Koppurthy of Andhra Pradesh
- Jodhpur-Pali of Rajasthan
- New industrial cities will be developed as Greenfield Smart Cities of global standards.

4 Central Enterprises (CPSE) got Navratna status on 30 August 2024

- Approval was given to grant Navratna status to 4 Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSE) on 30 August 2024.
- These CPSEs are-
 - RailTel Corporation of India
 - Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI)
 - Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam (SJVN)
 - National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC)
- The total number of Navratna CPSEs in India has become 25.

The Largest port of India

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of Vadhavan Port on 30 August 2024 at Palghar in Maharashtra.
- It is going to be the country's largest deep water port.
- The project will be constructed by Vadhavan Port Project Limited (VPPL), a special purpose vehicle formed by the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority and Maharashtra Maritime Board, with their stakes being 74 % and 26 % respectively.
- Vadhavan Port will be developed as a Greenfield Deep Draft Major Port, which will be operational in all weather.

Unified Pension Scheme (UPS)

- The Union Cabinet approved the Unified Pension Scheme (UPS) on August 24.
- This scheme will be effective from April 1, 2025.
- This scheme is based on the recommendations of the T.V Somanathan Committee report.

Main features of UPS:	
Assured Pension	50% of the average basic pay drawn in the last 12 months before retirement for a minimum service of 25 years. The same proportion of pension will also be applicable for service period less than 25 years but minimum 10 years.
Assured Family Pension	In case of death of the pension holder employee, his family will get 60% of the employee's pension.
Assured Minimum Pension	₹10,000 per month on retirement after a minimum of 10 years of service.
Adjustment in accordance with inflation	Dearness Relief based on All India Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (AICPI-IW) in case of service employees.
Lump sum payment on retirement in addition to gratuity	1/10th of the monthly emoluments (pay + DA) on the date of retirement for every six completed months of service. This payment will not reduce the amount of assured pension.
Contribution	The main difference between Old Pension Scheme (OPS) and UPS is that in OPS neither employees nor employers had to make any contribution but in UPS, the employee has to contribute 10% of his basic salary and the Government has to contribute 18.5% of the employee's basic salary.

Extension of Prime Minister JI-VAN scheme approved

- The Union Cabinet has approved the extension of the Pradhan Mantri JI -VAN Yojana.
- This is a major initiative aimed at advancing the Advanced Biofuel Sector in the country.
- The implementation period of this revised scheme has been extended by 5 years (till 2028-29)
- Its scope has been broadened its scope to include biofuels produced from lignocellulosic feedstocks such as agricultural residues, forest waste, industrial by-products, and algae.
- The scheme now includes “Bolt-on” and “Brownfield” projects.
- This allows the former facility to optimize and improve their operations.
- Under the Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme, the Central Government aims to achieve the target of 20% ethanol blending with petrol by the end of 2025-26 ethanol supply year.
- For substantial increase in ethanol production capacity this scheme focuses on development of second generation (2G) ethanol from surplus biomass and agricultural waste.
- Pradhan Mantri G-VAN Yojana was launched in March 2019.
- Under this, Indian Oil Corporation established India's first 2G ethanol plant in Panipat. Has been.

Unified Lending Interface (ULI)

- The Reserve Bank of India is testing an application called Unified Lending Interface (ULI) for hassle-free lending.
- It will be launched on the lines of Unified Public Interface (UPI) to provide loan facilities to the people.

- It is aimed to provide relief to small borrowers especially in rural areas by reducing the time taken in disbursing loans.
- It will facilitate seamless and consent-based flow of digital information, including land records, from various data providers to lenders.
- Its infrastructure is designed for a plug-and-play approach to enable quick access.
- It improves digital access to lenders from diverse sources.

‘Vigyan Dhara’ Scheme

- The Union Cabinet on August 24, 2024 approved the continuation of three umbrella schemes of the Department of Science and Technology.
- These schemes have now been merged into a Central Sector Scheme called ‘Vigyan Dhara’.
- It aims to promote research, innovation and technology development while building capacity in the field of Science and Technology.
- This scheme is for the period of 15th Finance Commission from 2021-22 to 2025-26.
- The proposed outlay for this scheme is Rs.10,579 crore.
- Under this scheme Internships will be given for classes 11th and 12th and fellowships for undergraduate and postgraduate PhD and post-doctoral research.
- The scheme has three broad components:
 - Science and Technology (S&T) Institutional and Human Capacity Building
 - Research-Development and Innovation
 - Technology Development and Use.

Women Entrepreneurship Program

- It was launched on 31 July 2024 by the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) in partnership with Britannia Industries Limited.
- This program has been launched to address the challenges faced by women in starting and growing their businesses.
- Under this, financial grants will also be given and products and services will be displayed on Skill India Digital Hub.
- On completion of entrepreneurship skills courses, a certificate will be given to recognize their entrepreneurial skills and competencies.

- It aims to empower around 25 lakh women in the country by providing the skills, knowledge and resources needed to start and grow successful businesses.
- Each of the 10 most successful contestants will be given a financial grant of Rs 10 lakh by Britannia Industries.

'BioE3 Policy'

- The Union Cabinet approved the proposal for 'BioE3 (Biotechnology for Economy, Environment and Employment) policy' on 24 August 2024.
- Its nodal department is Department of Biotechnology.
- It aims to promote high quality biomanufacturing.

Main characteristics	Strategic/Thematic Area
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Innovation-driven support to R&D and entrepreneurship in thematic areas. • It will accelerate technology development and commercialization by establishing biomanufacturing and bio-AI hubs and biofoundries. • Priority to regenerative bioeconomy model of green growth. • Facilitating the expansion of India's skilled workforce • Increase in employment generation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High-value bio-based chemicals • Biopolymers and enzymes • Smart Proteins & Functional Foods • Precision Biomedicine • Climate Resilient Agriculture • Carbon reduction and its utilization • Marine and Space research.

- This is the policy of the government's 'Net Zero' Carbon Economy and It will further strengthen initiatives like 'Lifestyle for Environment'.
- This will help India to develop its biodiversity by promoting 'circular bioeconomy'. It will provide impetus in moving forward on the path of 'green development'.
- This policy lays down the bio-vision for a developed India.

- It is designed to address the challenges faced in horticulture by providing access to high quality virus-free planting material.

Model Solar Village

- Guidelines for implementation of 'Model Solar Village' under Pradhan Mantri Surya Ghar: Free Electricity Scheme were notified on 9 August 2024 by the Ministry of New and Renewable energy.
- Under 'Model Solar Village', there is a provision to build one model solar village in every district in the country.
- Its goal is to promote the adoption of solar energy and help rural communities meet their energy needs and make them self-reliant.
- Its budget is Rs 800 crore.
- 1 crore will be provided for each selected model solar village.
- In this the village will be selected under competition mode.
- **Condition** : The village should have a population of 5,000 (or 2,000 for special category states) and it must be a revenue village.

Clean Plants Programme (CPP)

- The Union Cabinet approved the Clean Plants Programme (CPP) on 9 August 2024.
- It has been approved by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare under the Integrated Horticulture Development Mission.
- This programme will be implemented by the National Horticulture Board in collaboration with the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).
- Centers equipped with advanced diagnostic therapeutics and tissue culture laboratories will be established across India.
- This programme will help in providing virus-free, high quality planting material.
- This will increase crop yield and improve income opportunities.

PM-Surya Ghar: Free Electricity Scheme

- This scheme was launched on 13 February 2024.
- This scheme has been launched for installing solar power on the rooftop
- It aims to provide up to 300 units of free electricity every month to one crore households.
- A budget of Rs 75,021 crore has been set for this.

Salient features :

- The scheme provides subsidy of 60% of the solar unit cost for systems up to 2 kW capacity and 40 % of the additional system cost for systems between 2 to 3 kW capacity.
- The limit of this subsidy is up to 3 kW capacity.
- In this, a provision of subsidy has been made of Rs 30,000 for 1 kW system, Rs 60,000 for 2 kW system and maximum Rs 78,000 for a system of 3 kW or more has been made.
- In this, a model solar village will be developed in every district of the country to set an example for adopting rooftop solar energy in rural areas.
- Through this scheme, the covered households will be able to save on electricity bills as well as earn additional income through selling surplus power to the Discom.
- The scheme will add 30 GW of solar capacity through rooftop solar power in the residential sector.
- This will result in reduction of emissions equivalent to 720 million tonnes of carbon dioxide over the 25 -year lifetime of the rooftop solar power system.

Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana- Urban 2.0

- The Union Cabinet has approved **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U) 2.0** on 9 August 2024.
- Under this scheme, the Central Government will provide assistance to 1 crore urban poor and middle class families through States/UTs/Primary Lending Institutions (PLIs) for constructing, purchasing or renting houses in urban areas over a period of 5 years.
- ₹ 2.30 lakh crore will be provided under this scheme.
- Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana – Urban is one of the largest affordable housing projects in the world.
- This scheme was launched in 2015.
- **Eligibility:** Economically Weaker Section (EWS)/ Low Income Group (LIG)/Middle Income Group (MIG) families who do not own a pucca house anywhere in the country.
 - EWS: Families with annual income up to ₹3 lakh
 - LIG: Families with annual income between ₹3 lakh and ₹6 lakh
 - MIG: Families with annual income between ₹6 lakh and ₹9 lakh

Central government approves eight National High-Speed Road Corridor Projects

- The central government on August 2, 2024 approved eight important National High-Speed Road Corridor projects of 936 km length at a total cost of Rs 50,655 crore.
- It aims to improve logistics efficiency, reduce congestion and enhance connectivity across the country.

8 High Speed Corridor Projects

1. Agra-Gwalior National High Speed Corridor (six lanes)
2. Kharagpur-Morgram National High Speed Corridor (four lanes)
3. Tharad – Deesa – Mehsana – Ahmedabad National High Speed Corridor (six lanes)
4. Ayodhya Ring Road (four lanes)
5. 5 lane section between Pathalgaon and Gumla of Raipur-Ranchi National High Speed Corridor
6. Kanpur Ring Road (six lane)
7. Widening/Improvement of North Guwahati Bypass and existing Guwahati Bypass (four lane)
8. Elevated Nasik Phata – Khed Corridor (eight lanes) near Pune

Benefit

- 4.42 crore man-days of employment will be generated directly and indirectly.
- Infrastructure development will have a positive impact on GDP.

RESET PROGRAM

- The Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports launched the 'Retired Sportsperson Empowerment Training'(RESET) programme on the occasion of National Sports Day on 29 August 2024 in New Delhi.
- Under this, retired players who played for the country and brought immense honour to the nation were empowered.
- The experience of these players will serve as a foundation for creating future champions, contributing to the development of sports in India and promoting nation building.

Rs 18,000 crore announced for 100 horticulture clusters

- Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan announced an outlay of Rs 18,000 crore to set up 100 export-oriented horticulture clusters in the next 5 years, to increase the income of farmers.
- Under this, to boost domestic production and reduce import of cooking oils, the government will launch Oilseeds Mission with an outlay of Rs 6,800 crore.
- Apart from this, the central government aims to develop 1,500 new varieties of climate-friendly crops.

AYUSH will be included in Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana

- It is proposed to include AYUSH package under Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri – Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY).
- Central government employees and pensioners enrolled in the Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) have access to healthcare services through allopathic as well as AYUSH systems of medicine.
- Under Ayushman Bharat Prime Minister – Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY), 12.34 crore families belonging to the bottom 40 per cent of India's population are provided **health cover of Rs 5 lakh** per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization.
- Currently, CGHS runs 110 AYUSH Wellness Centres along with one Ayurvedic hospital in India.
- Additionally, 20 Yoga trainers provide yoga counselling to the beneficiaries at various CGHS Wellness Centres in collaboration with Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga (MDNIY) under Ministry of AYUSH.
- The Ministry of AYUSH has implemented a Central Sector Scheme of Ayurveda Health Scheme from the financial year 2021-22.
- This scheme has 2 components :
 - Ayush And Public Health
 - Centre of Excellence (CoE)
- Under the AYUSH and Public Health component of AYUSH Health Scheme, there is provision for distribution of AYUSH medicines and organizing free medical camps among the rural, tribal population and slums in cities, etc.
- The population falling under this component will be minimum 1.5 lakh.

'One India-One Ticket' initiative

- This initiative will be launched in partnership with Indian Railways and National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC).
- This will allow passengers to book and travel using both the services.
- In this users can book Nammo Bharat train tickets as an additional service after booking IRCTC train e-ticket.
- Each ticket will have a unique QR code valid for four days, and each passenger will receive his/her own NaMo Bharat ticket with a dedicated QR code.
- It aims to provide a seamless travel solution, making it easier for passengers to book and travel.

India becomes world's largest importer of Russian oil

- Russian crude oil imports hit a record 2.07 million barrels per day (bpd) in July. This was 44% of India's total imports.
- It is an increase of 4.2% from June and 12% from the same month last year.
- This exceeds China's 1.76 million barrels per day oil imports from Russia.
- India's trade with Russia has grown since Russia began its war against Ukraine in February 2022, mainly as a result of imports of oil and fertilizer.
- Apart from this, Iraq is India's second largest oil supplier and Saudi Arabia and UAE are ranked third and fourth.

Rapido becomes India's newest unicorn

- Rapido became a unicorn after raising around \$120 million (₹ 1,000 crore) from WestBridge Capital.
- Rapido will now expand its auto and cab services to new cities in the country.
- Unicorn refers to such privately owned startups which are worth more than \$ 1 billion.
- Rapido intends to use this fresh funding to develop its tech infrastructure and expand into new markets, previously dominated by Ola and Uber.
- Rapido was founded in 2015 by Arvind Sanka, Pawan Guntupalli and Rishikesh SR.
- Rapido is the third Indian company to become a unicorn in 2024, preceded by Perfios and Ola founder Bhavish Aggarwal's Krutrim AI.
- In the year 2023, only two new unicorns were created from India – Zepto and InCred Wealth.



CHAPTER

4

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Security of Supply (SOSA) Agreement

- The agreement was signed between the United States and India on August 23, 2024.
- India is the **18th SOSA partner** of the USA.
- This allows both countries to **prioritize to each other's goods and services for national defence**.
- This ensures resilience in the supply chain during emergencies.
- Although **not legally binding**, SOSA works on the basis of mutual goodwill, in which **Indian companies give priority to American orders** and the US provides assurances through its Defense Priorities and Allocations System (DPAS).
- It is managed by the Department of Defence (DoD) and the Department of Commerce (DOC).

- It was chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- In this conference, conflict, food and energy security crisis, climate change and problems of Global South were mainly discussed.
- The Prime Minister proposed a comprehensive global development deal on behalf of India.

Global South

- The Global South refers primarily to poor and developing countries in Asia, Africa, Latin America, and Oceania.
- 'Global South' was coined by American political activist Carl Oglesby in 1969.
- India hosted the first Voices of the Global South Summit from 2 to 13 January 2023 in virtual format and the second Voices of the Global South Summit was held on 17 November 2023.

India -United States Defence Cooperation

- **General Security of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA)** : Sharing sensitive military information.
- **Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA)** : Reciprocal logistics support between the armies of the two countries.
- **Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA)** : Access to secure military communications and advanced defense technologies.
- **Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA)** : Sharing of geospatial data critical for military operations.
- **2+2 talks**: Defence Minister and Foreign Minister Level talks.
- **Defense Trade and Technology Initiative (DTTI)**: Streamlining defence trade and promoting co-production and co-development of defence technologies.
- **India-US Defence Acceleration Ecosystem (INDUS-X)** : Defence innovation and industrial collaboration.
- **I2U2 Group** : India, Israel, USA and UAE.

3 new supply chain organizations under IPEF

- 13 partners of India and other Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF) have launched 3 new supply chain entities under the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) Agreement on Supply Chain Resilience.
- These are three institutions are:-
 - Supply Chain Council (SCC)
 - Crisis Response Network (CRN)
 - Labor Rights Advisory Board (LRAB)
- **Supply Chain Council**
 - It will strengthen supply chains for the sectors and goods most critical to national security, public health, and economic well-being
 - India has been made the Vice-President of this council.

India and the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF)

- IPEF was **jointly launched by the US and 13 other partner countries from the Indo-Pacific region in Tokyo, Japan on May 23, 2022**.
- **IPEF has 14 countries on its list** These include Australia, Brunei, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Thailand, Vietnam and the United States.
- It is noteworthy that **IPEF has four pillars; Trade (Pillar I), Supply chains (Pillar II), Clean economy (Pillar III), and Fair economy (Pillar IV)**.
- **Except Pillar I which is related to trade, India is involved in the other three pillars.**

3rd Voice of Global South Summit

- India hosted third Voice Global South Summit virtually on 17 August 2024.
- 123 countries from all over the world participated in it And China and Pakistan were not invited to this conference.
- The theme of this conference was "An Empowered Global South for a Sustainable Future".

Addu Reclamation and Shore Protection Project

- India and Maldives on 11 August 2024 inaugurated New Delhi-funded infrastructure projects in the city of Addu.
- The Addu Reclamation and Shore Protection Project and the 4-lane Detour Link Road project were facilitated by the Government of India under the Line of Credit from EXIM Bank.
- These projects were launched during the previous government of Ibrahim Saleh.
- Maldives is a key partner of India in the Indian Ocean region.
- On this project, India has partnered with the Government of Maldives to develop Addu as a regional hub.
- 184 hectares of land was reclaimed from the sea in the year 2024.

Agreement for the development of National Maritime Heritage Complex

- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between India and Vietnam on 1 August 2024 to develop a National Maritime Heritage Complex (NMHC) at Lothal, Gujarat.
- The Gujarat Government has allotted 400 acres of land at Saragwala village for the National Maritime Heritage Complex (NMHC).
- The world's largest open water gallery and India's most magnificent naval museum will be built in this marine complex.

USA becomes India's second largest supplier of LNG

- The United States of America (USA) has overtaken the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to emerge as the second largest supplier of liquefied natural gas (LNG) to India in 2023.
- **Note: Qatar is India's largest LNG supplier for five consecutive years (2019-2023).**
- The US exported 3.09 million tonnes (MT) of LNG to India.
- **USA has become world's largest LNG exporter in 2023.**
- **India is the fourth largest LNG importer in the world.**

Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG)

- Liquefied natural gas (LNG) is natural gas that is cooled to a liquid state at about -260 degrees Fahrenheit for shipping and storage.
- The volume of natural gas in the liquid state is about 600 times less than its volume in the gaseous state.
- LNG has emerged as an alternative fuel towards adopting green energy.
- Liquefying natural gas is a way to transport natural gas to long distances when pipeline transport is not possible.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Poland and Ukraine

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi was on a visit to Poland and Ukraine from 21 to 23 August.
- In its first phase, he reached Warsaw, the capital of Poland on 21 August.
- The Prime Minister of India visited Poland after 45 years. Earlier, Prime Minister Morarji Desai had visited Poland in 1979.
- Shri Modi held delegation level talks with Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk.
- Both countries agreed to elevate their relations to a strategic partnership.
- They agreed on a five-year action plan that will guide bilateral cooperation in identified areas of cooperation from 2024 to 2028.
- The Joint Commission for Economic Cooperation (JCEC) meetings will be held at least twice a year to enhance cooperation in the areas of high tech, agriculture, smart cities, defence, healthcare, technology, infrastructure, pharmaceuticals, and mining, agritech, food tech, energy, climate, greenery.
- Both the countries will cooperate in developing sustainable and environmentally friendly technological solutions for circular economy and waste-water management.
- Prime Minister **visited the memorial of Jam Saheb of Nawanagar during his visit to Poland** Went.
 - This memorial is dedicated to Jam Saheb Digvijaysinghji, Ranjitsinghji, the former Maharaja of Nawanagar (now Jamnagar).
 - In 1942, the Maharaja established the Polish Children's Camp in Jamnagar for refugee Polish children brought from the former Soviet Union during World War II.
- **Monte Cassino War Memorial:** The Prime Minister also visited the memorial of Battle of Monte Cassino in Poland. The memorial was built to commemorate the victory of the troops of the 2nd Polish Corps in the Battle of Monte Cassino in 1944 during the Second World War.

India-Poland

- Diplomatic relations between India and Poland were established in 1954.
- India's first Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru visited Poland in 1955.
- Poland is India's largest trading partner in Central and Eastern Europe.
- Poland is a country in Central Europe and a member state of the European Union and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).



PM Modi's visit to Ukraine

- The Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi visited Ukraine on 23 August 2024.
- This was the first visit of an Indian Prime Minister to Ukraine since the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries in 1992.
- India stressed peaceful resolution of the Russia-Ukraine conflict through dialogue and diplomacy.
- India participated in the Summit on Peace in Ukraine held in June 2024 in Bürgenstock, Switzerland.
- The emphasis on the importance of the Indian-Ukrainian Inter-Governmental Commission (IGC) on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological, Industrial and Cultural Cooperation in facilitating future-oriented and strong economic partnership between the two countries was made.
- India and Ukraine signed four agreements. The agreements relate to providing cooperation in the fields of agriculture, food industry, medicine, culture and humanitarian assistance.
- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi presented **four BHISHM (Bharat Health Initiative for Sahyog, Hita & Maitri) cubes to the Government of Ukraine** on 23 August 2024.
 - Each Bhisma Cube contains medicines and equipment for first aid for all types of injuries and medical needs.
 - The cube has a capacity of 200 patients in emergency situations.

Ukraine

- Ukraine is a country located in Eastern Europe.
- It is the second-largest country by area in Europe, after Russia.
- It became independent in 1991 following the dissolution of the Soviet Union.
- It is bordered by Russia to the east, Belarus, Poland, Slovakia to the north, Hungary to the west, and the Mediterranean Sea to the south. It borders with Romania and Moldova to the west and the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov to the south.

Establishment of Smart Laboratory on Clean Rivers (SLCR)

- The Green Strategic Partnership of **India and Denmark has established the 'Smart Laboratory on Clean Rivers'**(SLCR) in Varanasi.
- The alliance is a tripartite initiative between the Government of India, Indian Institute of Technology – Banaras Hindu University (IIT-BHU) and the Government of Denmark.
- It aims to bring excellence in the rejuvenation and management of small rivers.
- Its objectives include creating a collaborative platform for government bodies, knowledge institutions and local communities to share insights and develop solutions for clean river water.

Malaysia to join International Big Cat Alliance

- Malaysia has agreed to join the International Big Cat Alliance as a founding member.
- The International Big Cat Alliance is an Indian initiative that was approved by the Union Cabinet on 29 February 2024.
- The International Big Cat Alliance will be an international collaboration to work for the conservation of big cats and their habitats. Its headquarters will be set up in India.
- Big cats include lion, tiger, leopard, snow leopard, jaguar, puma and cheetah.
- The five big cats found in India are lion, tiger, leopard, snow leopard and leopard.

'Right to Disconnect' Law

- In **Australia, from 26 August 2024**, employees will be exempt from the obligation to work beyond working hours.
- This exemption is being given after the implementation of the law 'Right to Disconnect' in the country.
- This law protects employees who refuse to monitor, read, or respond to their employers' communications outside of work hours.
- Similar laws giving employees the right to turn off their mobile devices are already in place in France, Germany and other EU countries.

India Japan 3rd 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue

- India Japan 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue was held on 20 August in New Delhi.
- In this dialogue, Minister and Foreign Minister from both India and Japan participated.
- During the talks, the ongoing cooperation between the two countries was reviewed and new initiatives were considered to further strengthen mutual relations.
- Their last two 2+2 Ministerial (Defence Ministers and Foreign Ministers) talks have taken place in New Delhi in 2019 and in Tokyo in 2022 respectively.

2+2 ministerial talks

- The ministerial level talks held between two ministries of two countries are called 2+2 talks.
- The aim of such talks is to facilitate high-level diplomatic and political dialogue for defence cooperation between the two countries.
- India holds 2+2 dialogue with the United States, Russia, Japan, Australia and Brazil.
- Of these, there are only secretary-level talks with Brazil, while ministerial-level talks are held with the remaining countries.
- India first initiated 2+2 dialogue with the United States in 2018.

Offtake Agreement on Green Ammonia Exports signed between India and Japan

- India and Japan signed its first project offtake agreement for the export of green ammonia on 20 August, 2024.
- **Project Offtake Agreement** This can prove helpful for India to become a global leader in green hydrogen and ammonia production.
- Head of Terms (HoT) agreement was signed for cross border green ammonia supply partnership from India to Japan.
- This is the first agreement for supply of green ammonia from India to Japan.
- This agreement will help in establishing a strong supply chain from production in India to consumption in Japan.
- This will pave the way for future cooperation in the green energy sector.
- This agreement is important for the Government of India for green hydrogen and renewable energy initiatives.

Green Ammonia

- The production process of green ammonia is dependent on renewable energy and this hydrogen is obtained from water and nitrogen from air.
- Ammonia has long been used as a fertilizer.
- It is usually made from hydrogen separated from natural gas rather than water.
- A large amount of greenhouse gases are emitted in this process.
- Ammonia is commonly produced by combining hydrogen and nitrogen through a method known as the Haber-Bosch process.
- Global ammonia production contributes 1.3% of energy-associated CO2 emissions.

1st BIMSTEC Business Summit 2024

- The Ministry of External Affairs of India in collaboration with the Confederation of Indian

Industry (CII) will organize the first BIMSTEC Business Summit on 6-8 August 2024 in New Delhi.

BIMSTEC

- It is a regional multilateral organisation.
- Members are located in the coastal and adjacent areas of the Bay of Bengal.
- 7 members are as follows-
1. Bangladesh 2. Bhutan
3. India 4. Nepal
5. Sri Lanka 6. Myanmar 7. Thailand
- It acts as a bridge between South and South East Asia.
- It aims to accelerate shared development and cooperation among coastal and coastal countries in South and Southeast Asia.
- It was established in the year 1997 through the Bangkok Declaration.
- It was formed under the name BIST-EC (Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, Thailand – Economic Cooperation).
- Initially it included 4 member countries Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka and Thailand.
- After the inclusion of Myanmar in 1997, its name was changed to 'BIMST - EC'.
- After the joining of Nepal and Bhutan in the year 2004, the name of the organization was changed to 'Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)'.

India and Vietnam signed 9 agreements

- The Prime Minister of Vietnam Pham Minh Chinh was on a state visit to India from 31 July to 1 August 2024.
- The two countries agreed on an action plan for the implementation of the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership during 2024-2028.
- The agreement was signed to deepen the comprehensive strategic partnership and enhance cooperation in the fields of customs, agriculture, law, radio and television broadcasting, culture and tourism between the two countries.
- MoU signed for cooperation in agricultural research and education between Central Agricultural University, Manipur and Vietnam Academy of Agricultural Sciences, Hanoi.
- A MoU was also signed between Prasar Bharati, New Delhi and Voice of Vietnam, Hanoi for cooperation on radio and television.
- 300 million were also finalised between the two countries.

India Vietnam Relations

- India’s **Consulate General Office in Hanoi was established in 1956.**
- Vietnam established a diplomatic mission in India in 1972.
- **Mekong-Ganga Cooperation (MGC)** - India and Vietnam as members of the, **India and South-East Asian countries** are working to enhance relations between and promote development cooperation.
- India is one of the top **8 trading partners of Vietnam** , while Vietnam is **India's 15th** and fourth in Southeast Asia **Largest trading partner.**
- Vietnam is situated in Southeast Asia, bordered by China to the north, Laos to the northwest, Cambodia to the southwest, and the South China Sea to the east and south and its capital is Hanoi.



Saint Martin Island

- Recently, former Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina alleged that the reason for her coup was not handing over the control of St Martin 's island in the Bay of Bengal to the United States.
- St Martin Island It has an area of 3 square kilometers and is located in the northeastern part of the Bay of Bengal.
- Saint Martin's is located about 9 km south of the tip of the Cox's Bazar–Teknaf Peninsula, and is the southernmost part of Bangladesh. (8 km west of the northwestern coast of Myanmar, at the mouth of the Naf River)
- In 1974, following an agreement between Bangladesh and Myanmar, Myanmar handed over this coral island to Bangladesh.

Letter of Intent (LOI) issued for establishment of Southampton University in India

- The Central Government on August 29 issued a Letter of Intent (LoI) to the University of Southampton, United Kingdom to set up its campus in India.
- It is the first university to receive LoI under the regulations of University Grants Commission (UGC).
- This university will start its academic courses in July, 2025.

Botswana: World's second largest diamond discovered

- A Canadian mining company has discovered a 2,492-carat diamond at the Karowe Diamond Mine in northeastern Botswana.
- This diamond is the second largest diamond in the world.
- Before this, in 1905, the world's largest diamond was the 3,106 carat Cullinan Diamond in South Africa.
- This diamond has been discovered by Lucara Diamond Company.
- Diamond mining accounts for more than half of Botswana 's total exports.



CHAPTER

5

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Successful launch of 'EOS- 08 '

- The Indian Space Research Organisation successfully launched the Earth Observation Satellite 'EOS -08' and another small satellite 'SR-0' on August 16, 2024.
- The launch was carried out from Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota.
- These satellites were placed in orbit at a distance of 475 kilometres from the Earth by the SSLV-D 3 launch vehicle.
- 'EOS- 08' will send infrared images during day and night for applications such as surveillance, disaster monitoring, fire detection, volcanic activities, industrial and power plant disasters. '
- EOS - 08 carried three payloads:
 - Electro Optical Infrared Payload (EOIR)
 - Global Navigation Satellite System-Reflectometry Payload (GNSS-R) and
 - SiC UV Dosimeter.
- The period of this satellite is 1 year.
- The 'SR- 0' satellite is the first satellite of Chennai-based space sector startup Space Rickshaw.

Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV)

- The SSLV-D 3 rocket is 34 metres tall and weighs about 119 tonnes.
- This was the third flight of the SSLV-D 3 launch vehicle.
- SSLV is capable of launching mini, micro or nano satellites (10 to 500 kg mass) into an orbit of 500 km.
- The three stages of this rocket are powered by solid fuel.

First reusable Indian hybrid rocket RHUMI 1 launched

- India launched its first reusable hybrid rocket 'RHUMI- 1' on August 24, 2024 from Thiruvandhurai, Chennai.
- It has been developed by Tamil Nadu-based startup Space Zone India in collaboration with Martin Group.
- Under this rocket, 53 satellites (3 cube satellites and 50 PICO satellites) were sent into suborbital trajectory.
- These satellites will prove helpful in research related to global warming and climate change.
- The RHUMI 1 rocket is equipped with a generic fuel-based hybrid motor and an electrically triggered parachute system.

- The hybrid rocket RHUMI 1 has an eco-friendly and cost-effective mechanism.
- It is equipped with a CO₂ triggered parachute system, with the help of which the rocket components can land safely back on the sea.
- This will reduce the cost of space launch as the rocket components can be easily recovered.
- The RHUMI-1 rocket uses liquid and solid fuel propellant systems to improve efficiency and reduce operational costs.

India's second nuclear missile submarine INS Arighat join the navy

- On 29 August, 2024 India's second nuclear missile submarine, INS Arighat joined the Indian Navy.
- It is the second nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine after INS Arihant.
- INS Arihant was inducted into the Navy in August 2016.
- 'INS Arighat' will help in establishing strategic balance and peace in the region.
- It can carry 10 to 12 K - 15 nuclear - tipped Submarine - Launched Ballistic Missiles (SLBM).
- Just like INS Arihant, it is equipped with four vertical launch tubes to launch missiles.
- Nuclear-powered submarines are stealthier and operate discreetly at greater depths.

India's first pollution control vessel

- India's first indigenously built pollution control vessel 'Samudra Pratap' was launched in Goa on 29 August 2024.
- This vessel has been built by Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL) for the Indian Coast Guard (ICG).
- This vessel will help in preventing oil spills on the country's seacoast.

Long Range Glide Bomb Gaurav (GAURAV)

- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully test fired the first Long Range Glide Bomb (LRGB), GAURAV from Indian Air Force's Sukhoi- 30 MK-I.
- Gaurav is an air-launched, 1,000-kg class glide bomb, capable of hitting targets at long ranges.
- It has been indigenously designed and developed by 'Research Centre Building', Hyderabad.
- Glide bombs are smart bombs that allow them to attack targets that are beyond the reach of conventional weapons.

- After being dropped, the bombs are guided to their targets by an onboard satellite navigation system.
- They are not detected by radar because they are small and do not use propulsion.

Production of 200 Astra missiles approved

- Indian Air Force (IAF) 200 Astra missiles have been ordered for Sukhoi -30 and LCA Tejas fighter aircraft.
- Recently the Defence Acquisition Council has approved their production for the Indian Air Force and the Indian Navy.
- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is the development agency for this project, Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) is the production agency.
- Under this, 248 missiles were expected to be produced for the Indian Air Force and the Indian Navy in 2022-23.
- The Astra Mark 1 missile is the predecessor to the Mark 2.
- The range of Astra Mark 1 missile is up to 100 kilometers.
- Astra is an air-to-air missile.

Shubhanshu Shukla selected for joint space mission of ISRO and NASA

- Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla of the Indian Air Force has been selected for the joint space mission 'Axiom - 4' of the Indian-American space agency ISRO and the American space agency NASA.
- He will go to the International Space Station (ISS) under the 'Axiom- 4' mission.
- This will be the fourth mission of Axiom Space, an American private space company.
- This mission will be launched via SpaceX rocket.
- Along with Group Captain Shukla, astronauts from Poland, Hungary and America will also travel in this spacecraft.
- This mission was agreed upon between India and the US during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the US in 2023.
- Captain Shubhanshu Shukla will be India's second astronaut in space.
- Rakesh Sharma is the first and only Indian to go to space. He traveled to space on 3 April 1984 on the Soviet rocket Soyuz T- 11.
- ISRO has selected Group Captain Prashant Balakrishnan Nair along with Captain Shubhanshu Shukla for the 'Axiom- 4' mission on August 2, 2024.
- Shubhanshu Shukla will be the primary astronaut while Nair has been selected as the backup.

Gaganyaan Mission

- Gaganyaan Mission is India's first human space flight programme.
- Gaganyaan Mission will be launched by Mark-3 (LVM3).
- Four pilots of the Indian Air Force have been selected for the Gaganyaan mission, including Shubhanshu Shukla, Balakrishnan Nair, Ajit Krishnan and Angad Pratap.
- Under the Gaganyaan mission, astronauts will be sent to an orbit of 400 km, after which they will have to return after three days.
- Currently, only three countries—Russia, China, and the United States—have the capability to launch human space missions.
- India's current goals are to send the first Indian astronaut to the Moon by 2040 and to establish an "Indian Space Station" by 2035.

International Space Station (ISS)

- The International Space Station is a type of spacecraft that orbits the Earth in space and where astronauts can stay for long periods of time.
- The International Space Station is used for a variety of scientific research purposes.
- It is situated approximately 400km above the Earth.
- The International Space Station was launched in 1998. It is a joint project of Europe, America, Russia, Canada and Japan.

Netra Jumbo – 1 and Netra Ganga

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi recently released 109 high yielding varieties of different crops at Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi.
- 109 varieties of 61 crops released by the Prime Minister included 34 agricultural crops and 27 horticultural crops.
- Two cashew hybrids -'Netra Jumbo -1'and 'Netra Ganga' developed by the Directorate of Cashew Research (DCR), Puttur were also released.
- 'Netra Jumbo- 1' hybrid has been developed by DCR Director Dinakara Adiga and his team.

Kamikaze Drone

- The National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL) recently Indigenous kamikaze drone with a range of 1,000 kilometres unveiled.
- The 30 HP Wankel engine fitted on these drones enables them to carry a payload of 100-120 kg, including 30-40 kg of explosives.
- These are controlled from a command center. It can fly at a certain height and can destroy the target by explosion as soon as it reaches the target.
- It uses navigation system developed by ISRO.
- NAL is a constituent of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR). It was established in 1959.

USA approves sale of anti-submarine sonobuoys to India

- The United States has approved the sale of anti-submarine warfare equipment sonobuoys and related equipment to India on 24 August 2024.
- The equipment is designed to enhance India's anti-submarine warfare capabilities, particularly for operations involving its MH-60R helicopters.

- Sonobuoy is a highly portable sonar system that is dropped into the water from an aircraft, helicopter or warship to detect enemy submarines.
- Sonobuoys enable naval ASW forces to track potentially hostile submarines operating in the open ocean and in coastal areas.
- Information obtained from these systems can help plan precision strikes with air-launched torpedoes.

Power generation at Kakrapar Atomic Power Station restored to previous capacity

- India's second indigenously built nuclear power reactor with a capacity of 700 MW at Kakrapar Atomic Power Station (KAPS) in Gujarat started generating power at full capacity on August 21, 2024.
- It is a Pressurized Heavy Water Reactor (PHWR).
- India is building 14 more nuclear power reactors of the same design with a capacity of 700 MW each.
- These are expected to start operations progressively by 2031–32.
- NPCIL currently operates a fleet of 24 reactors with a total capacity of 8180 MW.
- In addition, 10 more reactors with a total capacity of 7000 MW are in the pre-project stage.

Nuclear energy in India

- **Nuclear energy is the fifth largest source of electricity**, contributing about 2% to the country's total electricity production.
- India currently has **more than 22 active nuclear reactors in 7 power plants across the country**.
- **Kakrapar Atomic Power Project is India's first 700 MWe unit** and is the largest indigenously developed version of PHWR.
- To promote India's nuclear programme, joint ventures are permitted between **Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) and Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs)**.
- A nuclear power plant is under construction in Gorakhpur city of Haryana.
- India also has a fully indigenous thorium-based nuclear plant 'Bhavni' under construction, which will be the first of its kind to use uranium-233.
- Apart from this, experimental thorium plant 'Kamini' is located in Kalpakkam.

NSIL will launch Nepal's Munal satellite

- **India's Ministry of External Affairs and New Space India Limited (NSIL)**, the commercial arm of ISRO, have signed an agreement to launch the Nepal-built Munal Satellite.
- It is an indigenous satellite developed under the aegis of **Nepal Academy of Science and Technology (NAST)**.
- Nepalese space startup, **Antarikhya Pratisthan Nepal (APN)** has collaborated in the design and construction of this satellite.
- Its aim is to create a vegetation density database on the Earth's surface.
- This satellite will soon be launched by NSIL's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle.

satellites)

- China successfully put 18 satellites into orbit to counter US firm SpaceX's version of the Starlink network.
- The **Low Earth Orbit (LEO)** satellites were launched by **Shanghai Spacecom Satellite Technology (SSST)** from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center in northern Shanxi province.
- The satellites were carried by a **Long March 6** rocket.
- SpaceX's commercial broadband constellation has about 5,500 LEO satellites in space.
- It will provide internet access to consumers, companies and government agencies.
- **Low Earth orbit (LEO)** operates at an altitude of 300 km to 2,000 km above the Earth's surface.

China launches its first satellite constellation (18

Chandrayaan's Pragyan rover discovered evidence of ancient ocean of magma on the Moon

- Chandrayaan - 3's Alpha Particle X-ray Spectrometer (APXS) instrument has detected the presence of a type of rock called **ferroan anorthosite** in the lunar soil.
- This report confirms the claims made by the US Apollo missions and the then Soviet Union's Luna missions from the Moon's equator in the 1960s.
- According to scientists, these anorthosite rocks might be the remains of an ancient ocean of magma that covered the surface of the Moon about 4 billion years ago.

India's first indigenously developed monkeypox RT-PCR kit launched

- Andhra Pradesh-based MedTech Zone (AMTZ) has launched India's first indigenously developed 'ErbaMDx Monkeypox RT-PCR Kit'.
- It was developed in partnership with Transasia Diagnostics Pvt Ltd.
- The kit is approved by the Indian Council of Medical Research.
- The kit will help in early detection and better management of the infection.
- Monkeypox is a viral zoonotic disease with symptoms similar to smallpox.
- The disease can be transmitted from animals to humans through direct contact with blood, bodily fluids, or cutaneous or mucosal lesions of infected animals.

Oral Cholera Vaccine Hilcol (BBV131) Launched

- Bharat Biotech International Limited launched Hilcol (BBV 131) on August 27, 2024.
- Hilcol (BBV131) is a new single-strain oral cholera vaccine (OCV).
- Bharat Biotech developed it under license from Hilleman Laboratories (funded by Merck, USA and Wellcome Trust, UK).
- Oral Hilcol vaccination is given in two doses - day 0 and day 14.
- Children over one year of age can use it. It will be offered as a respite with a single dose.
- Its recommended storage range is plus 2 to 8 degrees Celsius.
- Hilcol is offered in a mono/multi dose format.

India's first indigenous dengue vaccine

- Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and Panacea Biotec have launched Phase-3 clinical trials for India's first indigenous dengue vaccine **DengiAll**.
- This trial will evaluate the efficacy of **India's indigenous tetravalent dengue vaccine, DengiAll**, developed by **Panacea Biotec**.

- There is no antiviral treatment or licensed vaccine against dengue in India yet.
- In India, all four serotypes of dengue virus can cause infection in many areas.
- **The first tetravalent dengue vaccine strain (TV003/TV005)** was originally developed by the US National Institutes of Health.
- Panacea Biotec, one of the three Indian companies to have received this strain, is in the most advanced stage of development.

Tarang Shakti Exercise 2024

- India's first multinational air exercise, 'Tarang Shakti 2024' was held in two phases.
- Its first phase was held on 6 August in Sular, Tamil Nadu and the second phase from 29 August to 14 September in Jodhpur, Rajasthan.
- 30 countries participated in the exercise, with eighteen other countries participating as observers.
- The exercise was conducted to showcase India's defence capabilities and enhance cooperation among the participating armies.

MITRA SHAKTI EXERCISE 2024

- It is a joint military exercise between India and Sri Lanka.
- "Mitra Shakti" exercise is to improve the operational efficiency of both the armies by facilitating exchange of skills, experiences and best practices.
- "Mitra Shakti" was held at Aundh Military Station in Pune, India, in which soldiers of the Maratha Light Infantry Regiment participated.

'Parvat Prahar' military exercise

- Indian Army conducted strategic military exercise 'Parvat Prahar' in Ladakh.
- The exercise focuses on high altitude warfare and operations.
- 'Parvat Prahar' (Mountain Strike) exercise was based on preparation for military operations in mountainous and rugged terrain like Eastern Ladakh.
- It is vital for maintaining the preparedness and effectiveness of the military in the region, which is close to the India-China border.

'Udara Shakti' Exercise 2024

- This joint air exercise was conducted between the Indian Air Force and the Royal Malaysian Air Force from 5 to 9 August.
- It was organized in Kuantan, Malaysia.
- In this Indian Air Force's Su-30MKI participated along with Royal Malaysian Air Force's Su-30MKM fighter jets.
- Its primary objective was to promote operational efficiency and enhance technical expertise of both air forces.



CHAPTER

6

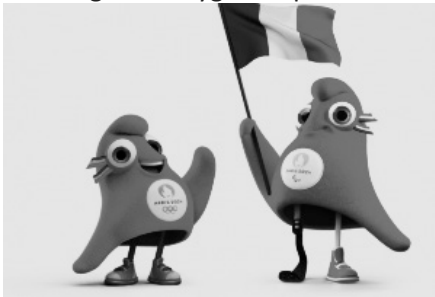
SPORTS

Paris Olympics 2024

- It was the 33rd edition of the Olympic Games.
- Paris hosted the Summer Olympics for the third time.

Paris Olympics 2024 Mascot

- Official mascot of the 2024 Paris Olympics 'Phryge', representing the Phrygian caps.



Logo

- The Paris Olympics 2024 logo features three unique symbols: the gold medal, the Olympic flame, and Marianne, a personification of France.



- Note: The Paris Olympics logo 2024 is used for the first time for both Olympic and Paralympic Games.

- Motto of the mascot of Paris Olympics 2024 is -'Alone we go faster, but together we go further'.
- The largest number of athletes at the Paris Olympics were from America, 640.
- The most successful male athlete in these games was French swimmer **Leo Moucha**, who won 4 gold and 1 bronze medals.
- The most successful female athlete in these games was United States swimmer **Tori Huske**, who won 3 gold and 2 silver medals.
- The next 34th Olympics will be held in Los Angeles in the year 2028.
- The **Indian flag bearers of the opening ceremony** of Paris Olympics 2024 were **Pusarla Venkata Sindhu and Achanta Sharath Kamal**.
- This was India's largest ever representation at an Olympic Games, consisting of 117 athletes.

Highlights from Paris Olympics 2024

	Description
Version	33rd Summer Olympics
Duration	26 July to 11 August 2024
Slogan	Games wide open (Games Wide Open)
Events	329
Number of games	32 games (including 4 new games)
Total Athlete	About 10,500
Athletes	204 NOC and IOC Refugee Olympic Team
Host city	Paris, France
India's participation	117 athletes

India in Paris Olympics 2024

- India finished 71st in Paris Olympics 2024 with 6 medals.
- India won a total of 6 medals including 1 silver and 5 bronze medals.
- This is the third-best performance for India at the Summer Olympics.

S.No.	Player	Competition	Medal
1	Manu Bhaker	Women's 10m Air Pistol	Bronze
2	Manu Bhaker and Sarabjot Singh	10m air pistol mixed team shooting	Bronze
3	Swapnil Kusale	Men's 50m Rifle 3 Positions	Bronze
4	Indian Men's Hockey Team	Men's Hockey	Bronze
5	Neeraj Chopra	Javelin throw	Silver
6	Aman Sehrawat	Men's Freestyle 57 kg Wrestling	Bronze

- India's best performance at the Olympics was at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, in which India ranked 48th in the medal tally and won a total of 7 medals including 1 gold, 2 silver and 4 bronze.
- India's second-best performance was in the 2012 London Olympics when it won a total of six medals including 2 silver and 4 bronze.
- Manu Bhaker of Haryana won the first medal for India.
- Manu Bhaker won the bronze medal in the 10m air pistol event on 28 July.
- She became the first Indian woman shooter to win a medal in a shooting event at the Summer Olympics.
- She became the first athlete from independent India to win two medals in the same sport by winning medals in both individual and mixed team events.
- India won three medals in shooting, in which Manu Bhaker, Sarabjot Singh and Swapnil Kusale won medals
- Manu Bhaker's bronze medal was the fifth medal won by an Indian shooter at the Olympics.
- Note: Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore is the first Indian to win a medal in shooting. (Silver medal in double trap shooting in Athens Olympics 2004)
- Neeraj Chopra won the silver medal in javelin throw by throwing a distance of 89.45m. This was his second Olympic medal, making him India's 5th two-time Olympic medalist.
- India's hockey team won the bronze medal in the Paris Olympics.
 - India defeated Spain 2-1 to win the bronze medal for the second consecutive time at the Olympics.
- Earlier, India had won bronze medals in hockey twice in a row - in the Mexico Olympics in 1968 and in the Munich Olympics in 1972.
- Aman Sehrawat became the youngest Indian to win an Olympic medal. (21 years 24 days)
- Lakshya Sen became the first Indian to reach the semi-finals of men's badminton at the Olympics and finished fourth.
- Wrestler Vinesh Phogat was disqualified in the women's 50kg category after reaching the final for being 100 grams overweight.
- Indian athletes competed for 69 medals in 16 sports like archery, athletics, badminton, boxing, equestrian, golf, hockey, judo, sailing, shooting, swimming, table tennis and tennis.
- India has grabbed 41 medals in the history of Olympics so far. These include 10 gold, 10 silver and 21 bronze medals.
- India's hockey team has won the maximum number of medals, a total of 13, including 8 gold medals, while India has won 7 medals in wrestling.

- The country has so far won two gold medals in individual events
 - Abhinav Bindra (Beijing Olympics 2008) (Shooting)
 - Neeraj Chopra (Tokyo Olympics 2020) (Javelin Throw)

Top 5 Countries for Paris Olympics 2024

Rank	Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	U.S.A.	40	44	42	126
2	China	40	27	24	91
3	Japan	20	12	13	45
4	Australia	18	19	17	53
5	France	16	26	22	64
71	India	0	1	5	6

- The first individual medal at the Olympics for India after independence was won by K D Jadhav, a bronze medal in wrestling at the 1952 Helsinki Olympics.
- Sakshi Malik is the only female wrestler for India to win an Olympic medal (Rio de Janeiro Olympics 2016).
- Sushil Kumar won two medals in wrestling (1 silver 2012 London Olympics, and 1 bronze 2008 Beijing Olympics).
- Ravi Kumar Dahiya won the silver medal in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. Yogeshwar Dutt (2012 London Olympics) and Bajrang Punia (2020 Tokyo Olympics) have won bronze medals.
- Before her disqualification at the Olympics, Vinesh Phogat had become the first Indian female wrestler to reach an Olympic final.

Los Angeles Olympics 2028

- 2028 Summer Olympics will be held in Los Angeles.
- Los Angeles will host the Olympic Games for the third time. Earlier, the Olympics were also held in Los Angeles in 1932 and 1984.
- Baseball and softball have been reintroduced into these sports.
- New sports like **flag football, cricket, lacrosse and squash** will also be included.

Paris Paralympics 2024

- 2024 edition is the first Summer Paralympics in Paris.
- They will be held in Paris from 28 August to 8 September 2024.
- Previously, the 1992 Winter Paralympics were held in Tignes and Albertville, France.
- 84 Indian para-athletes participated in these games. This is India's largest contingent in Paralympic history.
- Note: 54 para-athletes from India participated in the Tokyo Olympics.
- India is participating in 12 out of 22 sports at the 2024 Paralympic Games.

- India has made its debut in Para Cycling, Para Judo and Para Rowing at the 2024 Paralympic Games.
- Javelin thrower Sumit Antil and shot-put athlete Bhagyashree Jadhav were chosen as India's flag bearers during the opening ceremony.
- For the first time, India will also compete in the sports of para cycling, para rowing and blind judo in Paris.
- Indian Paralympic Committee Vice-President **Satya Prakash Sangwan has been appointed Chef de Mission of the Indian contingent** at the upcoming Paris Paralympics.

Lt. Col. Kabilan Sai Ashok

- At the Paris Olympics 2024, Lieutenant Colonel Kabilan Sai Ashok became India's youngest Olympic referee in boxing.

Under- 17 Wrestling World Championship 2024

- Indian women continued their dominance at the Under-17 World Wrestling Championship in Amman, Jordan, winning the team title for the first time with 185 points.
- In this, Japan stood second with 146 points and Kazakhstan stood third with 79 points.
- Kajal has become the fifth wrestler of the country to win a gold medal.
- Shrutika Patil won the silver medal in the 46kg weight category.
- Raj Bala won the bronze medal in the 40kg category.
- Muskan won the bronze medal by technical superiority in the play-off in 53kg.
- Indian women won a total of 8 medals including 5 gold, 1 silver and 2 bronze.

Shikhar Dhawan Retired from all formats of cricket

- India cricketer Shikhar Dhawan has announced his retirement from all formats of international and domestic cricket.
- He has played 37 Tests, 167 ODIs and 68 T20 matches for Team India.
- Dhawan is also known as Mr. ICC due to his impressive batting in the ODI tournament.
- He has scored a total of 10,867 runs in international cricket, including 6793 runs in ODIs.
- Dhawan has scored 17 centuries and 39 half-centuries in ODIs.
- He is a one-time IPL championship winner while playing for Sunrisers Hyderabad.

Neeraj Chopra finished second in Diamond League

- Neeraj Chopra finished second in the men's javelin throw event at the Diamond League competition in Lausanne, Switzerland.

- Neeraj threw the javelin to his season's best of 89.49 metres.
- Peters Andersen finished first with 90.61 metres.
- Julian Weber of Germany finished third with 87.08m.

Tanvi Patri

- Indian Badminton player Tanvi Patri won the women's singles title of the Asian Under-15 Junior Championships 2024.
- The competition was held in Chengdu, China.
- She is the third Indian woman player to win the Asian Under-15 singles title.

Diana Pundole

- She became India's first female national racing champion.
- Diana Pundole won the national championship title in the Saloon category at the MRF Indian National Car Racing Championship 2024 in Chennai.
- She was one of 200 women selected from across India to undergo tests as part of the National Talent Search.
- She is the first and only female participant in the prestigious Indian Touring Car Mixed category.

CAVA Women's Volleyball Nations League

- India won the title by defeating hosts Nepal in the final of the CAVA Women's Volleyball Nations League on 7 August in Kathmandu.
- With this win, India won its second title in the CAVA Women's Volleyball Nations League.
- Iran finished third in this league.

India won silver medal in Asian Surfing Championship 2024.

- The 3rd edition of the Asian Surfing Championships held in Thulusdhoo is a qualifying event for the 2026 Asian Games.
- India won the silver medal at the Maruhaba Cup of the Asian Surfing Championships 2024, Maldives.
- Japan won the gold medal in the final of the Maruhaba Cup of the Asian Surfing Championships 2024.
- Taipei and China finished third and fourth respectively.
- In this, Harish Muthu became the first Indian to qualify for the quarter-finals of the Asian Surfing Championship 2024 in the men's open event.
- India won the silver medal a day after winning its first quota in surfing for the Asian Games.
- The Indian men's and women's surfing teams will now participate in the Asian Games 2026.
- The Asian Games 2026 will be held in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan.

Pramod Bhagat

- The **Badminton World Federation (BWF)** has suspended para shuttler **Pramod Bhagat**.
- He was suspended for a period of 18 months for violating anti-doping rules.
- He will remain suspended from all badminton-related activities until September 1, 2025.
- Pramod Bhagat is a Tokyo 2020 Paralympics gold medalist.
- Pramod Bhagat is a SL3 category badminton player. He won the gold medal in the men's singles SL3 category at the Tokyo Paralympics.
- According to the Badminton World Federation, Pramod has been suspended due to whereabouts failure.

9th Women's T20 World Cup will be hosted in UAE

- The International Cricket Council has shifted the 9th Women's T20 World Cup from Bangladesh to the United Arab Emirates.
- The event will be officially hosted by Bangladesh Cricket Board.

- Women's T20 World Cup will be organised from October 3 to October 20 in Dubai and Sharjah in the United Arab Emirates.
- Due to Bangladesh's political unrest, the event has been moved from Bangladesh to the United Arab Emirates.
- 2023 ICC Women's T20 World Cup tournament was held in South Africa.

CEAT Cricket Rating Awards 2023-24

- 'Men's International Cricketer of the Year': Rohit Sharma (Captain of the Indian Cricket Team).
- 'Men's ODI Batsman of the Year': Virat Kohli.
- 'ODI Bowler of the Year': Mohammed Shami.
- 'Lifetime Achievement Award': Rahul Dravid.
- 'Men's Test Batsman of the Year': Yashasvi Jaiswal.
- 'Men's Test Bowler of the Year': R. Ashwin.
- 'Domestic Cricketer of the Year': R Sai Kishore (captain of Tamil Nadu).
- 'Best Bowler of the Year' in T20 format: Tim Southee (New Zealand).
- 'Best Batsman of the Year' in T- 20 format: Phil Salt (England).



CHAPTER

7

AWARDS AND HONOURS

Fiji's highest civilian award to President Draupadi Murmu

- President Draupadi Murmu was awarded Fiji's highest civilian honour 'Companion of the Order of Fiji' on 6 August 2024.
- Earlier in the year 2023, this honor was given to the Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi.
- The honour was conferred during President Murmu's three-day state visit to Fiji.
- This is the first ever visit by an Indian head of state to the South Pacific nation of Fiji.
- This visit was the first leg of President Murmu's three-nation visit. Apart from this, the President also visited New Zealand and Timor-Leste.
- President Murmu addressed the Parliament of Fiji to mark 75 years of diplomatic relations between India and Fiji.
- The Companion of the Order of Fiji is Fiji's highest honour.
- Fiji is an island country in Melanesia (part of Oceania in the South Pacific Ocean).
- It is an archipelago of more than 300 islands. Its capital is Suva.

President Draupadi Murmu conferred Timor-Leste's highest civilian award

- President Draupadi Murmu was conferred with Timor-Leste's highest civilian award on August 10 Awarded the "Grand Collar of the Order of Timor-Leste".
- The award was given by the President of India for "her achievements in public service and dedication towards education, social welfare and women's empowerment".
- This is the first visit by an Indian President to Timor-Leste.

70th National Film Awards 2024

- The winners of the 70th National Film Awards were announced on 16 August.
- Honouring the best films and cinematic achievements of the year 2022, the awards were announced by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (I&B).
- The 70th National Film Awards honoured films certified by the Censor Board between 1 January and 31 December 2022.

Feature Film Category

- Best Film (Swarna Kamal)- "Aattam" by Anand Ekarshi

- Best Director – Sooraj R Barjatya (Height)
- Best Popular Film that provides wholesome entertainment - Kantara (Rishabh Shetty)
- Best Actor – Rishabh Shetty, Kantara
- Best Actress–Nithya Menon (Thiruchitrabham) and Manasi Parekh (Kutch Express)
- Best Supporting Actor - Pawan Raj Malhotra (Fauja)
- Best Supporting Actress – Neena Gupta (Height)
- Best Child Artist – Sripath, Malikappuram
- Best Feature Film in Hindi – Gulmohar by Rahul V. Chittela
- Best Feature Film Promoting National, Social and Environmental Values – Kutch Express (Viral Shah)
- Best Documentary – Murmurs of the Jungle (Sahil Vaidya)

RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das given status of top central banker

- RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das has been ranked the top central banker globally by the US-based Global Finance magazine for the second consecutive year.
- Christian Ketel Thomsen of Denmark, Shaktikanta Das of India and Thomas Jordan of Switzerland were ranked in the 'A+' category of central bankers.
- According to Global Finance magazine, grades are given on a scale from A to F for success in inflation control, economic growth goals, currency stability and interest rate management.
- 'A' indicates excellent performance while 'F' means complete failure.

National Science Awards 2024

- The Central Government announced the National Science Awards (Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar) 2024 on 7 August.
- It has been announced that 33 persons will be awarded the National Science Award in the year 2024.
- This award is given to personalities who have achieved outstanding achievements in the field of science, technology and innovation.
- The award is given in four categories:
 - Vigyan Ratna
 - Vigyan Shri
 - Vigyan Yuva
 - Vigyan Team

Vigyan Ratna	Vigyan Team	Vigyan Shri	Vigyan Yuva
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This award has been instituted for the first time to recognise outstanding individuals for their lifetime achievements in the field of science and technology. This award is given to maximum 3 persons. Eminent biochemist Govindarajan Padmanabhan will be awarded the first Vigyan Ratna Award 2024. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This honour is given to a team of three or more scientists and researchers who have made exceptional contributions in the field of science and technology. Three awards are given in this category. This year the Science Team 2024 award will be given to the scientists and engineers of Chandrayaan-3. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This honour is given to individuals who have made outstanding contributions in the field of science and technology. A maximum of 25 awards are presented in this category. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vigyan Yuva Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar (VY-SSB) Award: This award is given to young scientists for their exceptional contribution in the field of science and technology. A maximum of 25 awards are presented in this category.

- The President also presented 13 Vigyan Shri Awards, 18 Vigyan Yuva-Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Awards and one Science Team Award.
- National Science Awards are given to personalities for exceptional achievements in the fields such as Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Mathematics and Computer Science, Earth Sciences, Medical Sciences, Engineering Sciences, Agricultural Sciences, Environmental Sciences, Technology and Innovation, Atomic Energy, Space Science and Technology.
- Vigyan Ratna Award is India's top science award.
- National Geoscience Lifetime Achievement Award: Prof. Dhiraj Mohan Banerjee received the Lifetime Achievement Award for his work in the field of phosphorites, isotope geology and organic geochemistry.**
- National Young Geo-Scientist Award: Dr. Ashutosh Pandey** received the National Young Geoscientist Award for his groundbreaking research on the geodynamic evolution of the East Dharwad Craton.
- President Draupadi Murmu honoured **21 geologists** National Geoscience Awards (NGA) for 2023 presented.
- 12 awards were presented in geology, mineral exploration and natural hazard investigation.

National Geoscience Awards 2024

- These awards were given in the following 3 categories -
 - National Geoscience Lifetime Achievement Award
 - National Young Geo-Scientist Award
 - National Geoscience Awards



CHAPTER

8

PERSON IN NEWS

Sadhana Saxena Nair

- She has become the first woman to hold the post of DG of the Army Medical Service.
- Lt Gen Sadhana Saxena Nair took over as Director General of Medical Services (Army) on 01 August 2024.
- Sadhana is the second woman medical officer of the Air Force to reach the rank of Air Marshal.
- Lieutenant General Nair was commissioned into the Army Medical Corps in December 1985.
- Lt Gen Nair was named as an expert member of the Dr Kasturirangan Committee to draft a part of the medical education component of the National Education Policy.

Rahul Naveen appointed as new Director of Enforcement Directorate

- Rahul Naveen has been appointed as the Director of Enforcement Directorate.
- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of Naveen for a period of two years.
- He replaced Sanjay Kumar Mishra.
- Rahul Naveen is a 1993 batch officer of the Indian Revenue Service (Income Tax).
- The Enforcement Directorate (ED) investigates offences of money laundering and violations of foreign exchange laws.
- ED works under the Union Ministry of Finance.
- ED headquarters is located in New Delhi.

T.V. Somanathan

- T.V. Somanathan assumed charge as Cabinet Secretary on 30 August 2024.
- He has served as Joint Secretary and Additional Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).
- He replaced Rajiv Gauba.
- He is an Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of Tamil Nadu cadre.
- Note: The Cabinet Secretary is the highest-ranking administrative officer of India.

Govind Mohan

- Govind Mohan is a senior Indian Administrative Service officer and has been appointed as the new Union Home Secretary. He replaced Ajay Kumar Bhalla.

Rajesh Kumar

- Senior Indian Administrative Service officer Rajesh Kumar has been appointed as the new Defence Secretary. He replaced Giridhar Armane.

Satish Kumar

- Satish Kumar appointed Chairman and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Railway Board.
- He replaced Jaya Verma Sinha and his tenure begins on September 1.
- He is the first Dalit Chairman and CEO of the Railway Board.
- He is an Indian Railway Management Service officer.
- Jaya Verma Singa is the first woman to become the Chairman and CEO of Railway Board.

Jay Shah

- Jay Shah was elected unopposed as the Chairman of the International Cricket Council (ICC) on 27 August 2024.
- Jay Shah is currently the Secretary of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).
- He will assume office on December 1, 2024.
- He is the youngest person to hold the position at the age of 35.
- He will replace Chairman Greg Barclay.
- The International Cricket Council is the global governing body of cricket. (Headquarters: Dubai (UAE))

B Srinivasan

- Indian Police Service (IPS) officer B Srinivasan has become the new Director General of the National Security Guard (NSG).
- He will replace Nalin Prabhat.
- Nalin Prabhat has been appointed Special Director General of Police of Jammu and Kashmir.
- The National Security Guard (NSG) is an elite counter-terrorism unit under the Indian Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).
- It was established on 22 September 1986 under the National Security Guard Act, 1986.

PR Sreejesh

- Former Indian hockey team goalkeeper PR Sreejesh has become the new head coach of India's junior men's team.
- PR Sreejesh had announced his retirement from the sport after the Paris Olympics.

- Thanks to Sreejesh's brilliant performance, India defeated Spain 2-1 and won the bronze medal for the second consecutive time.
- In the year 2017 he was awarded Padma Shri, India's fourth highest civilian award.
- In the year 2021, he was awarded the country's highest sporting honour, Khel Ratna.

K. Siddaramaiah

- Recently, Karnataka Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot has given the sanction to prosecute Chief Minister K. Siddaramaiah in the Mysore Urban Development Authority (MUDA) site allotment scam.
- **Note:** The Governor is exempted from prosecution during his term in office under Article 361 of the Constitution but there is no such provision for the Chief Minister.
- Under the MUDA scam, Siddaramaiah 's wife is accused of being involved in the 'fraud' of around 14 plots in Mysuru.

Challa Srinivasulu Setty

- Challa Srinivasulu Setty has been appointed as the Chairman of State Bank of India (SBI).
- His tenure will be effective for a term of three years from the date he assumes charge on or after August 28, or until further orders, whichever is earlier.
- Prior to this he was working as the Managing Director of SBI.
- He replaced Dinesh Kumar Khara on this post.

FIFA selected India's Riiohlang Dhar as assistant referee

- World football's governing body FIFA has selected Meghalaya's Riiohlang Dhar as an assistant referee for the eighth Under-17 Women's World Cup to be held in the Dominican Republic.
- This tournament will be held in the Dominican Republic from 16 October to 3 November 2024.

Rajesh Nambiar

- Rajesh Nambiar has been appointed as the chairman-designate of the National Association of Software Services Companies (NASSCOM) on August 21.
- Prior to this, Rajesh has held the post of Chairman and Managing Director of Cognizant India.
- He will replace Debjani Ghosh, whose term will end in November 2024.

Sanjay Shukla

- Sanjay Shukla officially became the Managing Director (MD) of National Housing Bank on July 30, 2024.
- He is an experienced Chartered Accountant with

over three decades of experience in housing and retail asset finance.

- Before that he was the Founder Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Centrum Housing Finance Limited (CHFL) since October 2016.

Tegbir Singh has become the youngest Asian to climb Mount Kilimanjaro.

- He became the youngest Asian to climb Mount Kilimanjaro.
- Tegbir is only 5 years old and is a resident of Ropar.
- He has become the youngest person in Asia to climb Mount Kilimanjaro.
- Mount Kilimanjaro is the highest peak in Africa, located in Tanzania.
- Ognjen Zivkovic of Serbia climbed Mount Kilimanjaro at the age of 5 becoming the world's youngest male climber.

Mohd Hammad Younus

- Muhammad Yunus was appointed head of the interim government in Bangladesh.
- The decision was taken by President Shahabuddin during a meeting between him and the coordinators of the anti-discrimination student movement.
- The political situation in Bangladesh has been volatile since Sheikh Hasina resigned from her post on 5 August.
- **Reason for the revolt:** Student-led protests demanding the abolition of the quota system in government jobs the anti-government protests turned violent and involved radical organizations, leading to a coup in Bangladesh.

Sheikh Hasina

- Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina resigned following widespread violence and protests across the country.
- Sheikh Hasina was the Prime Minister of Bangladesh from June 1996 to July 2001 and from January 2009 to August 2024.
- She is the daughter of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the first President of Bangladesh.

Syed Refaat Ahmed

- Syed Refaat Ahmed has been appointed the new Chief Justice of Bangladesh.
- He was sworn in by Bangladesh President Mohammad Shahabuddin.
- Prof. Muhammad Yunus is the head of the interim government in Bangladesh.
- Syed Refaat Ahmed replaced Obaidul Hassan.

Patongtarn Shinawatra

- Patongtarn Shinawatra became the youngest Prime Minister of Thailand.

- Patongtarn is the leader of the ruling Pheu Thai Party.
- Patongtarn replaced Srettha Thavisin, who was dismissed on August 14, 2024.
- **Thailand** is a Southeast Asian country. Its capital is Bangkok.

Tim Walz

- Minnesota Governor Tim Walz will run for the vice-presidential nomination on behalf of the Democratic Party.
- Current US Vice President Kamala Harris is the presidential candidate from the Democratic Party.
- Walz served in the US House of Representatives for 12 years.
- Tim Walz will face Republican J.D. Vance in the US presidential election.

Budhadev Bhattacharya

- Former West Bengal Chief Minister and senior Communist Party leader Buddhadeb Bhattacharya passed away on 8 August.
- He was made the Chief Minister of West Bengal in 2000, replacing Jyoti Basu.
- He served as the 7th Chief Minister of West Bengal from 2000 to 2011.
- was awarded the Padma Bhushan, India's third highest civilian award, by the Central Government in January 2022.

Yamini Krishnamurthy

- Yamini Krishnamurthy, a veteran Bharatanatyam and Kuchipudi dancer died on 3 August.
- Yamini was from Chittoor district of Andhra Pradesh.
- Ms. Krishnamurthy was awarded the Padma Shri in 1968, the Padma Bhushan in 2001 and the Padma Vibhushan in 2016.
- She was also awarded the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 1977.

Ram Narayan Agarwal

- Ram Narayan Agarwal, who is known as the father of Agni Missile in the country died on 15 August 2024.
- Dr Agarwal worked with former President A.P.J. Abdul Kalam after India launched the Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme (IGMDP) in 1983.
- He was the founding director of the Advanced Systems Laboratory (ASL) in Hyderabad.
- He led the first successful launch of Agni missile on May 22, 1989.
- After that, he oversaw the development of various series of Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles (ICBM).

- For Agarwal's distinguished services, he was awarded the Padma Shri in 1990 and the Padma Bhushan in 2000.

K. Natwar Singh

- Former Foreign Minister of India K. Natwar Singh passed away on 11 August 2024.
- He has been the Foreign Minister in the cabinet of former UPA Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh in 2004-05.
- Natwar Singh, has been an Indian Foreign Service officer of the 1953 batch.
- He took premature retirement from the Indian Foreign Service in 1984 And became a Lok Sabha MP from Bharatpur, Rajasthan.
- He was awarded the Padma Vibhushan, the second highest civilian award, in 1983.

General Sundararajan Padmanabhan

- Former Army Chief General Sundararajan Padmanabhan passed away at the age of 83.
- He was an alumnus of the prestigious Rashtriya Indian Military College, Dehradun and National Defence Academy, Khadakvasla, Pune.
- He was the Chief of Army Staff from 30 September 2000 to 31 December 2002.
- He was awarded the Ati Vishisht Seva Medal for his services as 15 Corps Commander.

Rakesh Pal

- Indian Coast Guard Director General Rakesh Pal passed away on 18 August in Chennai.
- Rakesh Pal, an alumnus of the Indian Naval Academy, joined the Indian Coast Guard in January 1989.
- He was known for his expertise in gunnery and weapon systems, and was the first officer of the ICG to specialise as a gunner.

Anshuman Gaekwad

- Anshuman passed away recently in Vadodara.
- He was an Indian cricketer and former coach and selector.
- He played 40 Test matches and 15 ODIs for India from 1975 to 1987.
- He was appointed India's coach in October 1997. He remained in the position till September 1999.
- In June 2018 he was awarded the "CK Nayudu Lifetime Achievement Award", the highest honour given by the BCCI to a former player.



CHAPTER

9

PLACES IN NEWS

Bhubaneswar: India's first 24x7 'Grain ATM' launched

- The World Food Programme (WFP) and the Odisha government launched India's first grain distribution machine, 'Grain ATM', in the state capital Bhubaneswar.
- This grain ATM is known as 'Annapurti' (food provider).
- Odisha has become the first state in India to launch 24x7 grain ATM.
- Annapurna ensures universal access to grains to all beneficiaries.
- Under this, any person having a valid Public Distribution System ration card, irrespective of the State and Union Territory they belong to, can take his/her share (quantity) of grains from this ATM.
- This ATM machine will work 24 hours and can distribute up to 50 kg of grains in five minutes.
- It provides ration once the biometric authentication is completed.

Jagiroad (Assam): State-of-the-art, greenfield semiconductor assembly and testing facility

- Tata Group announced the construction of a state-of-the-art, greenfield semiconductor assembly and testing facility in Jagiroad, Assam in February 2024.
- This project will bring an investment of around ₹ 27,000 crore in the region.
- The semiconductor assembly and testing facility here will become operational by mid- 2025.

Pudimadaka (Andhra Pradesh): India's largest green hydrogen production facility

- NTPC Limited has signed an agreement with Andhra Pradesh Industrial Infrastructure Corporation (APIIC) to set up India's largest green hydrogen production facility 'Integrated Green Hydrogen Hub'.
- The hub will be built on 1,200 acres of land near Pudimadaka village in Achutapuram mandal in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.
- Under this project, manufacturing of renewable energy and hydrogen technology equipment as well as development of green chemical production facilities in India will be done.

Nusantara: The future capital of Indonesia

- Indonesia will hold Independence Day celebrations in its future capital Nusantara on 17 August 2024.
- The current capital of Indonesia is Jakarta which is often affected by floods.
- Jakarta has been described as the world's fastest sinking city.
- For this reason, it was decided to make Nusantara located on the island of Borneo the new capital.

IIT Madras: Water Technology Centre to be set up by India and Israel

- India and Israel have signed an agreement to set up a new water technology centre at IIT-Madras.
- This tripartite agreement has been signed by the Israeli Embassy, IIT Madras and AMRUT Mission of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
- The Centre for Water Technology aims to become a hub for innovation, research and capacity building in water technologies.

Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) New Delhi : India's first airport to get net zero carbon emission status

- Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) New Delhi is the first airport in India to be awarded net zero carbon emission status.
- Indira Gandhi International Airport is operated by DIAL, led by GMR Group.
- The airport's initial goal was to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2030, which was achieved ahead of schedule.
- ACI is a global trade association representing the world's airports.

Nagaland: First state to get state insurance on disaster risk management

- Nagaland has become the first state to sign MoU on Disaster Risk Management.
- It has adopted Disaster Risk Transfer Parametric Insurance Solution (DRTPS) after signing MoU with SBI General Insurance.
- It aims to reduce financial losses from extreme events and protect critical infrastructure.
- In case of a disaster, the insurer will provide support for three years from 2024 to 2027.

Göbeklitepe: World's oldest lunisolar calendar found

- The world's oldest lunisolar calendar has been found in the form of V-shaped symbols carved on pillars of the archaeological site Göbeklitepe in southern Turkey.
- Archaeologists have discovered date markings on pillars of monuments dating back nearly 12,000 years at Göbeklitepe in the Anatolia mountains of Turkey.
- Its study revealed that as early as 150 BC people in Greece were accurately recording dates as far back as 10,000 years ago.
- Carvings on the ancient pillars depict the strike of a comet 13,000 years ago, which triggered a mini-ice age that lasted 1,200 years, wiping out the people of that time.
- Note: Göbeklitepe was included in the UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2018.



CHAPTER

10

IMPORTANT FACTS

Financial aid will be given to girl students for sanitary napkins in Madhya Pradesh

- Madhya Pradesh has become the first state in the country to provide money to female students to buy sanitary napkins.
- Madhya Pradesh government will give Rs 300 annually to every girl student to buy sanitary napkins.
- Under the state's cleanliness and sanitation scheme, money will be transferred to the account of each student.
- 19 lakh female students from classes 7th to 12th will benefit from this initiative.
- Karnataka, Rajasthan and Delhi provide free sanitary napkins to female students.

Odisha becomes third state to announce menstrual leave for working women

- Odisha is the third state to announce menstrual leave for working women in both public and private sectors.
- Under this, female employees in the state will be given one day menstrual leave.
- It can be taken on the first or second day of the menstrual cycle.
- Apart from Odisha, Bihar and Kerala are the two states in the country that provide menstrual leave to women.
- There is a provision of two days leave for women employees in Bihar.
- In Kerala, 3 days leave is provided for women.

Odisha CM announces implementation of Subhadra Yojana

- Subhadra scheme has been started in Odisha.
- Under this, one crore eligible women between the age of 21 and 60 years will be provided Rs 50,000 over 5 years.
- The scheme has been approved for implementation from Financial Year 2024-25 to Financial Year 2028-29.
- 10,000 per year will be paid in two installments of Rs 5,000 each on Rakshabandhan (full moon day) and International Women's Day (March 8).
- Apart from this, to promote digital transactions, 100 beneficiaries doing maximum digital transactions will be identified in each Gram Panchayat and Urban Local Body and each of them will be given a super-incentive amount of Rs 500.

- Out of 4.74 crore people in Odisha state, approximately 1.14 crore people are between 21 and 60 years of age.
- Out of these, the government is excluding women from the scheme's ambit who belong to families who are either central or state government employees or pensioners or who own a four-wheeler or more than 5 acres of land or who are receiving allowance and scholarship of Rs 12,000 per annum or more.

78th Independence Day

- 78th Independence Day was celebrated in India on 15th August 2024.
- The theme of this year's Independence Day is 'Developed India 2047 (Viksit Bharat 2047)'.
- Its special guests included the Indian contingent participating in the Paris Olympics, student beneficiaries of Atal Innovation Mission, Border Roads Organisation workers and 6,000 people including Sarpanchs.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the nation from the Red Fort for the 11th consecutive time.
- Prime Minister Modi referred to "secular civil code" and how it is a way to ensure equality before the law for all.
- PM Modi announces 75,000 new seats in medical colleges in India over the next five years.

Maharashtra became the first state to implement UPS for its Employees

- The Maharashtra government has announced the implementation of Unified Pension Scheme (UPS) in the state.

Approval of the project to connect Wainganga-Nalganga rivers

- The Maharashtra government has approved the project to link the Wainganga and Nalganga rivers.
- This project will prove helpful in providing irrigation facilities in the areas of Vidarbha region.
- The project envisages bringing water from Wainganga to the Wainganga Project in Buldhana district and connecting it to Nalganga.
- Wainganga is a tributary of the Godavari River. Nalganga is a sub-tributary of the Tapi River.
- For this, a 426-kilometer-long canal will be constructed.
- Under this project, irrigation facilities will be available in 15 talukas of Nagpur, Wardha, Amravati, Yavatmal, Akola and Buldhana.

52nd Conference of Governors

- The 52nd Conference of Governors was held on 2-3 August at Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi under the Chairmanship of President Draupadi Murmu.
- Apart from the Governors of all the states, Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and many Union Ministers participated in this conference.
- Important topics including the role of governors and better coordination between various central agencies in the state were discussed.
- The first conference of Governors was held in 1949 at Rashtrapati Bhavan, then called Government House.

32nd 'International Conference of Agricultural Economists'

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated the 32nd "International Conference of Agricultural Economists" (ICAE) on 3rd August 2024 at the National Agricultural Science Centre (NASC) campus, New Delhi.
- The theme of this year's conference is "Transformation Towards Sustainable Agri-Food Systems".
- It aims to address the urgent need for sustainable agriculture in the face of global challenges such as climate change, depletion of natural resources, rising production costs and conflict.
- This triennial conference is organised by the **International Association of Agricultural Economists (IAAE)**.
- Its goal is to promote the shared professional interests of scientists who study the economics of agriculture and food systems.

Chief Minister's 'Maajhi Ladli Behen Yojana'

- The Maharashtra government officially launched the 'Mukhyamantri Majhi Ladki Behen Yojana' on 17 August 2024.
- Its objective is to provide ₹1500 per month to more than one crore women of the state.
- This scheme has been made on the lines of 'Laadli Behna Yojana' of Madhya Pradesh.
- To be eligible for this scheme, women must be permanent residents of Maharashtra state.
- This scheme is applicable only for women between the age of 21 to 65 years.
- This scheme is applicable only for those women whose family or household income is less than Rs 2.5 lakh per annum.

Dhangars community

- Dhangars are a community of shepherds spread across several states. Recently, they took out a march in Buldhana district of Maharashtra,

demanding "grazing corridors" for their sheep and goats.

- "Grazing corridor" is actually a demand for recognition of their right to graze their animals on traditional routes.
- Dhangars have been grazing their animals on specific routes since ancient times. However, with the forest department declaring the forests as protected, the traditional practice of this community is being seen as encroachment on forest land.
- Apart from Maharashtra, they also live in Gujarat, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh, and are known by other names such as Golla and Kuruba in other places.
- Dhangars are in the list of Vimukta Jati and Nomadic Tribes (VJNT) of Maharashtra, but they have been demanding Scheduled Tribe (ST) status for decades.

Fourth National Hindi Science Conference

- This conference is scheduled to be held on 30-31 July 2024 in Bhopal.
- It was organised by Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-Advanced Materials and Processes Research Institute (CSIR-AMPRI), Bhopal.
- Its main objective is to provide a platform to researchers to present and discuss their work in Hindi.
- In this conference, six sessions were organized on various topics of science, technology, Ayurveda, engineering and science communication.
- The theme of the 4th National Hindi Science Conference 2024 was 'Advancing National Scientific Consciousness in Amritkaal'.

5th Global Fintech Fest 2024

- It was held from 28-30 August 2024 in Mumbai.
- Its theme was 'Blueprint for the next decade of Finance'.
- It is organised by National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), Payments Council of India and Fintech Convergence Council.

Digital Shakti Kendra

- Digital Shakti Kendra was inaugurated by National Commission for Women in New Delhi to fight cybercrimes against women.
 - Its aim is to increase awareness among people about cybercrimes.
 - It will provide crucial technical support for filing and resolving complaints.
 - This facility will provide professional advice to guarantee quick and efficient resolution of cybercrime concerns.
 - Digital Shakti Programme was launched in 2018.
-

10- member national task force for the safety of doctors

- The Supreme Court constituted a 10-member National Task Force (NTF) to ensure the safety of doctors and prepare protocols.
- This task force will develop a national protocol to ensure the safety and facilities of health workers at the workplace.
- The task force was constituted by the Supreme Court following nationwide protests by doctors over the rape and murder of a 31-year-old resident doctor at Kolkata's RG Kar Medical College and Hospital.
- This task force comprises several senior doctors from different backgrounds. The task force will also include four ex-officio members: the Cabinet Secretary, the Health Secretary, the Chairperson of the National Medical Commission, and the Chairperson of the National Board of Examiners.
- The Supreme Court has also ordered a national action plan to prevent gender-based violence.

17th International Earth Science Olympiad (IESO)

- It was held from 8 to 16 August 2024 in Beijing, China.
- The 4-member Indian team comprising students from Gujarat, Kerala, Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan won 3 gold medals, 2 silver medals and 3 bronze medals.
- International Earth Science Olympiad is one of the most successful student-centric initiatives under the REACHOUT (Research, Education, Training and Outreach) scheme of the Ministry of Earth Sciences.
- The IESO is a global competition for secondary school students.
- It aims to raise awareness of Earth sciences through teamwork, collaboration, exchange of ideas and competition.

E-Health Tele-Consultation

- E-health tele-consultation has been launched by the Indian Army.
- This electronic service has been launched for e-health assistance and tele-consultation under the Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS).
- This will enable ECHS beneficiaries to get online consultation for medical treatment from home instead of going to the ECHS polyclinic.
- Its main objective is to provide healthcare through secure and structured video-based clinical consultation.
- This pilot project has been launched in 12 ECHS polyclinics, covering remote locations of Baramulla, Imphal, Churachandpur, Dimapur and Aizawl.
- The e-Health initiative is in line with the Digital India vision of the Government of India.

e-Evidence (e-Sakshi), Nyaya Setu, Nyaya Shruti and e-Summon apps launched

- The Union Home Minister launched e-Evidence (e-Sakshi), Nyaya Setu, Nyaya Shruti and e-Summon apps for three new criminal laws in Chandigarh.
- Under e-Evidence, all videography, photography and testimony will be saved on the e-Evidence server.
- Police, Medical, Forensic, Prosecution and Jail will be interconnected on the Nyaya Setu dashboard.
- Through Nyaya Shruti, the court will be able to hear witnesses through video conferencing.
- Under e-summons all the evidence will be sent electronically from the court to the police station and the person to whom the summons is to be sent.
- Chandigarh becomes the first place with 100% implementation of the new criminal laws.

Jiyo Parsi Scheme Portal

- Jiyo Parsi Scheme portal was launched by the Union Ministry of Minority Affairs on August 13, 2024. This is a central sector scheme to arrest the decline in population of the Parsi community in India.
- It aims to arrest the declining trend of the Parsi population and increase their population by adopting scientific protocols and planned measures.
- The scheme provides financial assistance to Parsi couples for medical treatment as per standard medical protocols and for child care and support to dependent elderly persons.

FloodWatch India 2.0 mobile application

- Union Jal Shakti Minister Shri CR Patil launched version 2.0 of the 'FloodWatch India' mobile application developed by the Central Water Commission (CWC).
- Its first version was launched on August 17, 2023.
- **Objective:** To use mobile phones to disseminate information regarding flood situation in the country and flood forecasts up to 7 days on a real time basis to the public.

Launch of Krishi- DSS

- Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare launched the Digital Geospatial Platform, Krishi-Decision Support System i.e. Krishi-DSS.
- Krishi -DSS is the first of its kind geospatial platform specifically designed for Indian agriculture.
- The platform provides seamless access to a comprehensive range of data including satellite images, weather information, reservoir storage, groundwater levels and soil health information,

which can be easily accessed from anywhere, anytime.

- It is used for crop mapping and monitoring, drought surveillance, plot The division will provide services like One Nation-One Soil Information, Flood Impact Assessment, Crop Insurance Solutions.

“Portal for Online Monitoring of Projects-Thermal (PROMPT)” launched

- By the Union Ministry of Power “PROMPT: Portal for Online monitoring of Projects – Thermal” was launched.
- The portal is designed to facilitate real time tracking and analysis of thermal power projects.
- This online platform helps project managers and stakeholders to quickly identify issues and resolve them immediately Enables decision making.

Indian Ocean - Ashoka, Chandragupta and Kalpataru

- The deep-water geographical structures in the Indian Ocean have been given names proposed by India.
- Ashoka Seamount and Chandragupta Ridge are named after rulers of the Maurya dynasty. The third one is named Kalpataru Ridge.
- All three recently named structures were discovered by oceanographers of the National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR), Goa.
- These are located in the Southwest Indian Ridge region of the Indian Ocean.
- The International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO have recently approved the names originally proposed by India.



ENVIRONMENT

Gross Environmental Product (GEP) Index launched

- Recently, Gross Environmental Product-GEP index was launched in the state of Uttarakhand.
- This index will assess the development of ecosystem in the state.
- Uttarakhand is the first state in India where ecosystem development will be assessed through the index.
- Under this, now GEP can also be released along with GDP in the state.
- This index will assign monetary value to the four natural resources of the state; air, water, forest and soil.
- GEP Index = (Air- GEP Index + Water- GEP Index + Soil- GEP Index + Forest- GEP Index).

- Through this index, services provided by the environment and efforts made to save the environment can also be assessed.

3 places of India included in Ramsar sites

- Three more wetlands from India have been designated 'Ramsar sites'.
- At present the total number of Ramsar wetland sites in India has reached 85.
- These are the three new Ramsar sites –
 1. Nanjarayan Bird Sanctuary (Nanjarayan lake) (Tamil Nadu)
 2. Kazhuveli Bird Sanctuary (Tamil Nadu)
 3. Tawa Reservoir (Madhya Pradesh)

Nanjarayan Lake	Kazuveli Bird Sanctuary	Tawa Reservoir
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Located in the north-eastern region of Uthukuli taluk of Tiruppur district in Tamil Nadu. • It is a shallow wetland. • It was repaired and renovated by King Nanjarayan who ruled this region. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spread over an area of 5151.6 hectares • It is located on a saline shallow lake on the Coromandel Coast in Villupuram district of Tamil Nadu, north of Pondicherry. • The lake is connected to the Bay of Bengal by the brackish Uppukalli Creek and the Edayanthitu estuary. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Situated at the confluence of the Tawa and Denwa rivers. • Major tributaries: Malani, Sonbhadra and Nagdwari rivers. • It is the longest tributary (172 km) of the Narmada River. The Tawa Reservoir is located near the city of Itarsi.

Choolannur and Adichunchanagiri declared peacock sanctuaries

- The central government has declared Adichunchanagiri in Karnataka and Choolannur in Kerala as Peacock Sanctuaries on 5 August 2024.
- Breeding and conservation centres have also been established for the conservation of the national bird.
- The Indian peafowl is a species of bird in the pheasant family.
- The males are called peacocks, while the females are called peahens. Together, they are peafowl.
- Peacocks are the largest of all flying birds. (Ostriches, emus and other such birds are larger, but cannot fly.)
- The Indian peafowl is a species native to India and Sri Lanka in South Asia.

proposal to notify Guru Ghasidas-Tamor Pingla Tiger Reserve as a new tiger reserve on 7 August 2024.

- This will be the third largest tiger reserve in the country and the fourth tiger reserve in Chhattisgarh.
- 2,829 square kilometres across four northern districts of the state.
- This tiger reserve has been created by combining the areas of Guru Ghasidas National Park and Tamor Pingla Sanctuary located in Manendragarh-Chirmiri-Bharatpur, Koriya, Surajpur and Balrampur districts.

SOP for Green Tug Transition Programme (GTTP)

- Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways Shri Sarbananda Sonowal officially launched the SOP for Green Tug Transition Program (GTTP) in New Delhi.
- This initiative is set to promote the adoption of greener and more sustainable alternatives from conventional fuel-based harbour tugs.

Proposal to create Guru Ghasidas-Tamor Pingla Tiger Reserve approved

- The Chhattisgarh government approved a

- This is a major step towards India's commitment to environmental sustainability and advancement of its maritime sector.
- A harbour tug is a type of ship specifically designed to provide necessary assistance during various exercises performed by other ships or floating equipment within a harbour.
- Green Tug Transition Program (GTTP) is a major initiative under 'Panch Karma Sankalp'. This program was announced on May 22, 2023.

World's first carbon removal bond issued

- The World Bank has issued the world's first carbon removal bond to raise funds for Amazon reforestation.
- The goal of this bond is to try to save the Amazon rainforest by linking investors' financial returns to the amount of carbon removed from the atmosphere.
- This will help raise funds for reforestation in the Amazon.
- These bond buyers' returns would be linked to the climate impact of new trees rather than the emissions saved through curbing deforestation.

Climate Club

- Recently, Australia and New Zealand announced joint economic and energy commitments to support the clean energy transition in the region.
- Australia announced in a joint press conference that New Zealand will join Australia in the Climate Club.
- It is an initiative established in 2022 that focuses on advancing industrial decarbonization and net zero emissions.
- The Climate Club was launched at COP28 as a leading high-ambition intergovernmental forum to accelerate climate action and industry decarbonization.
- It aims to support the effective implementation of the Paris Agreement and decisions taken under it.
- Climate Club members will share their assessments and experiences on ambitious and transparent mitigation policies.
- Currently It consists of 41 members.
- **Note: India is not** its member country.



CHAPTER

11

INDEXES AND REPORTS

National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) 2024

- NIRF 2024 was released by the Union Ministry of Education on 12th August 2024.
- This year there are 16 categories (three new categories - Rankings were released across State Public Universities, Open Universities and Skills Universities).

Category	Institute
Overall Ranking for Higher Education Institutions	IIT Madras
University	Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bangalore
Management	Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Ahmedabad
Medical	AIIMS, Delhi
College	Hindu College, Delhi
The Open University	IGNOU
State public universities	Anna University, Chennai

- NIRF evaluates institutions according to five key parameters: teaching, learning and resources; research and professional practice; graduation outcomes; outreach and inclusiveness; and perception.

World Development Report 2024

- This report was released by the World Bank on 1 August 2024.
- According to the report, more than 100 countries, including India and China, face "serious obstacles" in upgrading to high-income advanced economies amid growing fears of falling into the so-called middle-income trap.
- According to this report, if middle-income countries do not change their economic model, it will take more than 10 years for China, 70 years for Indonesia, and 75 years for India to reach one-fourth of US per capita income.
- This report has described India's goal of becoming a developed nation by 2047 as commendable.
- Under this, since 1990, only 34 middle-income countries have jumped into the high-income category.

QCI Surajya Accreditation and Ranking Framework

- It has been started by the Quality Council of India (QCI).
- It is designed to promote excellence among states to improve the quality of life of citizens of India.
- This framework is categorized under four pillars: education, health, prosperity, and good governance.
- The August 2024 ranking focuses on education, health and prosperity, with good governance to be included in future editions.
- In the Education category, Uttar Pradesh leads with the highest recognition, assessment and ratings.
- In the health category, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Kerala, Rajasthan, Mizoram and Manipur are leading with full certification in Ayushman Arogya Yojana.
- In the prosperity category, Gujarat, Karnataka and Rajasthan are leading with the highest number of ZED certifications (especially in the micro category).
- Chandigarh is leading in Ayushman Arogya Yojana among the Union Territories.

Travel and Tourism Development Index 2024

- This report is published by the World Economic Forum.
- In this India is ranked 39th among 119 countries.
- India received 14.3 million international tourists. This is 1.47% of the international inbound tourism market share.
- India's share of international tourist arrivals in Asia and Pacific region stood at 15.66% in 2022.
- India's score has improved in three areas. These areas are Travel & Tourism, Safety & Security and health and hygiene.

India 's renewable energy capacity increased by 165% in a decade

- Union Minister Prahald Joshi said in the Rajya Sabha that the installed capacity of renewable energy in India has increased by 165% in the last decade.
- It is projected to increase from 76.38 gigawatts (GW) in 2014 to 203.1 gigawatts (GW) in 2024.
- India ranks fourth globally in terms of renewable energy capacity.
- India ranked fourth in wind power capacity and fifth in solar PV capacity.

- India has for the first time crossed 200 GW of energy generation capacity from non-fossil fuel sources, which includes the following components-
 - Solar power: 85.47 GW
 - Large Hydroelectric Project: 46.93 GW
 - Wind power: 46.66 GW
 - Bio-energy: 10.95 GW
 - Small Hydroelectric Project: 5.00 GW
- Solar power capacity is projected to increase from 2.82 GW in March 2014 to 85.47 GW by June 2024. (about 30 times increase)
- India has set a target of generating 500 GW of installed power capacity from non-fossil sources by 2030.
- The share of thermal sources in total installed power capacity was 67.69 % in 2013-14 to 54.46 % in 2024-25 (till June 2024).
- The share of non-fossil fuels in total installed capacity in India has increased from 32.30 % to 45.54 %.

Trade Statistics Report 2023

- This report was released by the World Trade Organization.
- India is ranked 8th in global agricultural exports despite a decline in its agricultural exports from \$ 55 billion in 2022 to \$ 51 billion in 2023.
- The European Union (with exports of \$ 836 billion) ranks first in this report.
- The other seven economies in the top 10 declined their exports of agricultural products.
- The top ten exporters have a 71.9% share of world exports in 2023.
- Agricultural exports to India have declined due to geopolitical factors such as the Red Sea crisis and the Russia-Ukraine war.
- Canada, Mexico, Indonesia and Australia are also included are among the top ten agricultural exporters.

'Women and Men in India 2023' Report

- It was released by the Union Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI).
- This report presents a holistic view of the status of women and men in India. It collects and provides data on a wide range of topics such as population, education, health, participation in the economy, participation in decision making, etc.
- According to this, India's population is expected to reach 152.2 crores by 2036, out of which 48.8% will be women.
- The proportion of women in the year 2011 was 48.5 percent.
- The proportion of persons under the age of 15 is projected to decline over the period 2011 to 2036 (due to declining fertility rates) and the

proportion of the population aged 60 years and above is projected to increase.

- The sex ratio is projected to increase from 943 in 2011 to 952 by 2036.

Multidimensional vulnerability index (MVI)

- It was launched by the United Nations General Assembly.
- This will help small island states and developing countries to access financing at lower interest rates.
- This index will complement gross domestic product (GDP) and other development metrics.
- The index provides international financial institutions with access to another financial instrument that measures resilience to external shocks, including economic, climate and health disruptions.
- It will complement GDP in providing better guidance to lending institutions in determining a country's eligibility for financial assistance.

Fortune's Global 500 list 2024

- Reliance Industries is ranked 86th in Fortune 's Global 500 list for 2024. (88th in 2023)
- Reliance Industries was on 155th position in 2021, the company has moved up 69 places in the last three years.
- 9 Indian companies feature in this year's Fortune Global 500 list.
- Of these, 5 are from the public sector (IOCL, LIC, ONGC, BPCL and SBI) and four are from the private sector.
- This list ranks companies based on total revenues for their respective financial years ended on or before March 31, 2024.

Top 5 Companies on Fortune Global 500 List

1. Walmart (USA)
2. Amazon.com (USA)
3. State Grid (China)
4. Saudi Aramco (Saudi Arabia)
5. Sinopec (China)

India Most Valuable Family Business List 2024

- This list was released by Barclays-Hurun India.
- According to this, Ambani family is at the first place in the list of most valuable family businesses in the country.
- The valuation of Ambani family is ₹ 25.75 trillion, which is approximately 10% of India's GDP.
- Private investments and liquid assets are not included in this valuation.
- Roshni Nadar Malhotra of the Nadar family is the only woman in the list of top- 10 family businesses.

Top 5 valuable family businesses in India

Rank	Family	Company	Value (₹ trillion)
1.	Ambani Family	Reliance Industries	25.75
2.	Bajaj Family	Bajaj Group	7.12
3.	Birla Family	Aditya Birla Group	5.38
4.	Jindal Family	JSW Steel	4.71
5.	Nadar family	HCL Tech	4.3

- 2024 Barclays Private Clients Hurun India Most Valuable Family Businesses list does not include first-generation families.
- The Adani family tops **the list of most valuable first-generation family businesses** with a value of Rs 15.44 trillion.
- **Haldiram Snacks is India's most valuable non-listed company** (Value Rs 63,000 crore)
- Major real estate companies DLF Limited (Rs 2,04,500 crore) is the most valuable real estate family business.

Latest Food and Drink Report 2024

- This report was released by Brand Finance.
- It released a list of the most valuable and strongest food, dairy and non-alcoholic beverage brands.

- According to this, Amul is ranked as the strongest food brand in the world. (Year 2023: 2nd place)
- Note: Amul already enjoys the status of number one dairy brand in the world.
- The Brand Strength Index of Amul is 91 out of 100 and it has AAA+ rating.
- Amul's brand value grew 11% to \$3.3 billion.
- The brand value of Amul grew by 11% in 2023. It is now \$3.3 billion in the 2024 rankings.
- Nestlé (\$ 20.8 billion) is the world's most valuable food brand.
- Coca-Cola ranks first in the market of non-alcoholic beverages.

Public Electric Vehicle Charging Stations (PEVCS) Report

- This report was released by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE).
- According to this, Karnataka has the highest number of Public Electric Vehicle Charging Stations (PEVCS) in India.
- There are 5,765 PEVCS in Karnataka, of which 4,462 are in Bengaluru city.
- Karnataka was the first state in the country to release an electric vehicle policy in the year 2017.



CHAPTER

12

IMPORTANT DAYS AND WEEKS

World Breastfeeding Week

- This is every year World Breastfeeding Week is celebrated in more than 120 countries from August 1 to 7.
- It is celebrated to promote the benefits of breastfeeding for both mother and child.
- Its theme in the year 2024 is "Bridging the gap: breastfeeding support for all".
- Colostrum is obtained through breastfeeding. Colostrum protects newborns and children from diseases. It provides them immunity.

National Watermelon Day

- It is celebrated every year on 3 August.
- Watermelon has been cultivated since 2000 BC. The first watermelon crop was grown in Egypt about 5,000 years ago.
- Watermelon contains 92% water.

Indian Organ Donation Day

- It is celebrated every year on 3 August.
- The day is celebrated to spread awareness about organ donation and to honor the contribution of medical professionals working in the field of organ donation.
- To celebrate this day, organ donation awareness program is organized by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- Note: A person can give life to eight people by donating his organs after death.

National Handloom Day

- It is celebrated every year on 7th August.
- It is celebrated to commemorate the beginning of the Swadeshi Movement in 1905.
- It is also celebrated to recognize the contribution of the handloom industry to socio-economic development and to raise awareness about the industry.
- National Handloom Day is celebrated under the aegis of the Ministry of Textiles.
- The movement promoted indigenous industries and the Swadeshi sentiment, including handloom weavers.

National Javelin Throw Day

- It is celebrated every year on 7th August.
- This day is celebrated to commemorate Neeraj Chopra winning the gold medal.

- Neeraj Chopra won the gold medal in the final of the men's javelin throw event of the Tokyo Games by throwing the javelin to a distance of 87.58 meters.
- This was India's first gold medal in track and field events at the Olympics.

International Indigenous Day

- It is celebrated every year on 9th August.
- this day It is celebrated with the aim of promoting and protecting the rights of the tribal population.
- The United Nations General Assembly passed a resolution on 23 December 1994 and decided to celebrate this day on 9 August.
- The first International Indigenous Day was celebrated on 9 August 1995.
- The theme for the year 2024 is 'Protecting the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in Voluntary Isolation and Initial Contact'.

World Biofuel Day

- It is celebrated every year on 10th August.
- It aims to raise awareness about the importance of non-fossil fuels as an alternative to conventional fossil fuels.
- The theme for the year 2024 is 'Sustainable Biofuels: Fueling a Greener Future'.

World Lion Day

- It is celebrated every year on 10th August.
- It is celebrated to raise awareness among people about the importance of lion conservation.
- The first World Lion Day was celebrated in 2013.
- It was co-founded in partnership by Derek and Beverly Joubert of the Big Cat Initiative and National Geographic.
- Project Lion was announced on August 15, 2020. It aims to secure the future of Asiatic lions.

World Elephant Day

- It is celebrated every year on 12th August.
- This day is being celebrated since 2012 to draw urgent attention to the declining numbers of Asian and African elephants.
- The theme for the year 2024 is 'Personifying Prehistoric Beauty, Theological Relevance, and Environmental Importance'.

International Youth Day

- It is celebrated every year on 12 August.

- The purpose of celebrating this day is to draw the attention of the government towards the issues of the youth and their views.
- The theme for the year 2024 is "From Clicks to Progress: Youth Digital Pathways for Sustainable Development."
- The United Nations General Assembly decided to celebrate this day in 1999.
- This day was celebrated for the first time in the year 2000.

World Organ Donation Day

- It is celebrated every year on 13 August.
- It raises awareness about the critical need for organ donors and promotes donor registration.
- Each donor can save the lives of 8 people and improve the health of more than 75 people.
- Theme of the year 2024 is "Be the reason for someone's smile today!"

Partition Horrors Remembrance Day 2024

- It is celebrated every year on 14th August.
- PM Modi had announced to celebrate 14 August in 2021 as 'Partition Horrors Remembrance Day'.
- This day reminds us of the pain and suffering faced by the people of India during the Partition.

World Humanitarian Day

- It is celebrated every year on 19 August.
- The purpose of celebrating this day is to give proper respect to the personnel who devote their entire life in the service of mankind.
- Theme of the year 2024 is 'Act for Humanity'.
- The United Nations General Assembly started celebrating this day in the year 2008.

World Mosquito Day 2024

- It is celebrated every year on 20 August.
- Year The theme for 2024 is "Accelerating the fight against malaria for a more equitable world".
- In the year 1897, Sir Ronald Ross discovered that the malaria parasite was spread to humans by Anopheles mosquitoes.
- World Mosquito Day is organised annually by the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine.

Goodwill Day 2024

- It is celebrated every year on 20 August, the birth anniversary of Rajiv Gandhi, as Goodwill Day.
- It reminds us of the vision of a prosperous, united and peaceful India.
- Goodwill Day was first celebrated on 20 August 1992.

International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism

- It is celebrated every year on 21 August.
- This day is celebrated with the aim to listen to the voices of victims and survivors of terrorism and to help them raise their voice.
- The United Nations had announced the celebration of this day in 2017.
- 'International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism' was first celebrated in the year 2018.

World Senior Citizens Day

- It is celebrated every year on 21 August.
- This day is celebrated with the aim of honoring the elders.
- The United Nations General Assembly declared World Senior Citizens Day in December 1990.

National Space Day

- India celebrates its first National Space Day on August 23, 2024.
- Its theme is "Touching Lives while Touching the Moon: India's Space Saga".
- India will become the fourth country to soft land on the Moon on August 23, 2023 and the first country to reach the South Polar region.
- The landing site on the Moon has been named 'Shiva Shakti' point.
- To commemorate this historic achievement, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi declared 23rd August in the year 2023 as "National Space Day".

World Water Week 2024

- It is being organised from 25th to 29th August.
- Theme of the year 2024 'Bridging the Boundaries: Water for a Peaceful and Sustainable Future'.
- The Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) organizes World Water Week every year.



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5th RANK **BHARTI GUPTA**

6th RANK **AKANSHA DUBEY**

7th RANK **KANCHAN CHOUDHARY**

8th RANK **SHUBHAM SHARMA**

9th RANK **NIDHI UDSARIA**

10th RANK **SATYA NARAYAN**

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