

Current Affairs of May 2024

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National

Former RBI Governor D Subbarao launched a new book titled, 'Just A Mercenary?: Notes from My Life and Career'

Dr. Duvvuri Subbarao, former Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), launched his memoir titled 'Just A Mercenary? : Notes from My Life and Career'

- The book was published by **Penguin Random House India** and narrates about Dr Subbarao's career, which would help inspire young professionals to navigate their career paths.
- D Subbarao served as Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for five years (2008-13).
- He also served as Secretary to the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council (2005-07).

Note: His previous book, "Who Moved My Interest Rate: Leading the Reserve Bank Through Five Turbulent Years," was published by Penguin Random House India in 2016.

MHA grants NoC to Rename 8 Railway Stations in UP

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has granted No Objection Certificate (NoC) to change the names of **eight railway stations** in Amethi, **Uttar Pradesh (UP)**. The renaming of railway stations were proposed by the government of UP.

i. The proposed name changes are as follows

- Fursatganj railway station to Tapeswarnath Dham
- Kasimpur Halt to Jais City
- Jais to Guru Gorakhnath Dham
- Bani to Swami Paramhans
- Misrauli as Maa Kalikan Dham
- Nihalgarh to Maharaja Bijli Pasi

- Akbarganj to Maa Ahorwa Bhawani Dham
- Warisganj to Amar Shaheed Bhale Sultan

ii. The renamed railway stations will soon be updated by the Railway CRIS (Centre for Railway Information Systems).

Google Launched Google Wallet for Android Users in India

Google has launched **Google Wallet**, a secure and private digital wallet for all Android users in **India** to store



cards, passes, tickets, keys, or IDs.

- It offers users a single, organised location for quick and easier access to digital documents integrated with QR codes.
- Google Wallet in India will not support payment-related features. **Google Pay**, Google's mobile payment app, will continue to serve the payment needs of users in India.

Google Wallet:

i. The Google Wallet application was first launched in 2011. In 2015, it was succeeded by Android Pay as a replacement for Google Wallet.

ii. In 2018, Google announced a merger between Google Wallet and Android Pay application creating Google Pay.

iii. Google Wallet app available on the Google Play Store.

Note: Google Tez, now known as Google Pay, was launched in India on 18th September 2017.

Utility of Google Wallet:

i. Currently, Google Wallet supports access to digital documents from 20 Indian brands including e-commerce platform Flipkart, Airline companies such as Air India and Indigo, cinema multiplex chains PVR and INOX, MakeMyTrip (MMT), and more.

Additional info:

i. The app available in India is slightly different from

its international counterparts.

ii.In India, Google Wallet operates exclusively on Android phones and is not compatible with smartwatches or wearables, unlike in other countries.

Inter-Services Organisations (Command, Control and Discipline) Act, 2023 Enforced. The Inter-Services Organisations (Command, Control and Discipline) Act, 2023 enforced by the **Ministry of Defence (MoD)** from May 10, 2024, aligns with the Government's theaterisation plan, aiming to integrate the Indian Army (IA), Indian Air Force (IAF), and Indian Navy (IN) capabilities.

ii. This legislation grants disciplinary and administrative powers to the heads of Inter-Services Organisations (ISOs) to ensure efficient resource utilization during wars and operations.

iii. Passed during the Monsoon Session of **2023** and assented by the President on August 15, 2023, it empowers Commanders-in-Chief (CIC) and Officers-in-Command (OIC) of ISOs to exercise disciplinary and administrative control over service personnel.

China emerged as Largest Trading Partner of India in FY24 with USD 118.4 Billion: GTRI Report

As per the data published by think tank **Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI)**, China emerged as the largest trading partner of India with **USD 118.4 billion** two way commerce in **FY24 (2023-24)**. While, The United States of America (U.S.A.) with **USD 118.3 billion** was the 2nd largest trading partner of India in 2023-24.

Key Points:

- i.** For FY24, China replaced the U.S.A. to become India's largest trading partner after a gap of 2 years.
- ii.** India-U.S. bilateral trade stood at **USD 118.3 billion** in 2023-24. The U.S.A. was India's top trading partner during FY22 and FY23.
- iii.** The United Arab Emirates (U.A.E.) with **USD 83.6 billion**, was the **3rd largest** trading partner of India in FY24, then followed by Russia (USD 65.7 billion), Saudi Arabia (USD 43.4 billion), and Singapore (USD 35.6 billion).

About Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI):

GTRI's mission is to produce high quality jargon-free outputs for governments and industry on trade, technology and investment issues from the standpoint

of development and poverty reduction.

Co-founder: Ajay Srivastava.

IAF Conducts Maiden Airdrop Test of BHISHM, World's 1st Air-Lifted Portable Hospital in Agra
On 14th May 2024, The Indian Air Force (IAF) conducted maiden air drop test of **BHISHM** portable cubes, World's 1st air-lifted portable hospital in Agra, Uttar Pradesh.

Key Points:

i. BHISHM portable cubes are part of broader initiative named "**Project BHISHM- Bharat health initiative for Sahyog, Hita and Maitri**".

ii. This initiative is specifically designed to treat up to 200 casualties, emphasizing rapid response and comprehensive care.

iii. Indian Army introduced its latest innovation named "**Hexacopter Drone**" mounted by Machine Gun. Sirin Hexadrones were developed by Ikran Aerospace and Technologies Private Limited (**IAATPL**).

About Indian Air Force (IAF):

Chief of Air Staff: Vivek Ram Chaudhari

Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi

Established: 8th October, 1932

Bank of Maharashtra tops among PSU banks in Business Growth in FY24; SBI FY24 net profit rises 21.59%

i. Bank of Maharashtra (**BoM**) emerged as the top performer among Public Sector Banks (PSBs) in terms of business growth during the Fiscal Year 2023-24 (FY24), according to published financial numbers of the public sector banks (PSBs). BoM recorded a remarkable **15.94%** rise in total business (domestic) in FY24.

ii. State Bank of India (**SBI**) followed closely with a growth rate of **13.12%**.

iii. SBI's total business (deposit and advances) stood significantly higher at **Rs 79,52,784 crore** (about 16.7 times) compared to BoM's **Rs 4,74,411 crore**.

iv. State Bank of India (SBI), the largest state-owned lender in India, announced its Q4FY24 results, showcasing robust performance with a net profit of **Rs 20,698.35 crore**, up 24% from Q4FY23.

About State Bank of India (SBI):

Chairperson – Dinesh Kumar Khara

Headquarters – Mumbai, Maharashtra

Establishment– 1955

Tagline– The Banker to Every Indian.

ISRO's Mangalyaan-2 Mission to Include Helicopter, Sky Crane, Rover for Navigation on Mars

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has unveiled comprehensive strategy for its next Mars mission “Mangalyaan-2”. It was unveiled during special presentation held at the Space Application Centre (SAC) on the eve of National Technology Day (May 11th , 2024).

- With the successful launch of Mangalyaan-2 mission, India will become **4th** country in the world after United States of America (U.S.A.), Russia and China to successfully land a spacecraft on Mars.

Key Features:

i.ISRO plans to use a **Rover** and **helicopter** for Mars exploration which is similar to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) Perseverance Rover.

ii.At present, ISRO is working on a **supersonic Parachute** and **Sky-Crane system**, draws inspiration from deployment techniques of NASA.

- This deployment technique will ensure safe and accurate landing of Indian rover on Mars surface.

iii.The Mangalyaan-2 mission will be launched aboard the Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mk III (LVM3) .

iv.ISRO will develop technology customized specially to meet the unique requirements of Indian rover which includes: To refine the sky-crane system and other critical components of mission in order to withstand harsh conditions of Mars.

About Mangalyaan-1:

i.The mission was named Mars Orbiter Mission(MOM), launched by ISRO on 5th November, 2013 from Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh (A.P.).

ii.It was successfully placed in Mars orbit on 24th September, 2014. It observed the planet Mars from 2014 to 2022.

iii.Its core objective was to study Martian surface and its mineral composition.

About Indian Space

Research Organisation (ISRO):

Chairman: Sreedhara Panicker Somanath

Headquarters: Bengaluru, Karnataka

Established in: 1969

Blue Origin's NS-25 mission Lifted off with 6 Crew Members Including One Indian

On 19th May 2024, **New Shepard** rocket system built by **Blue Origin**, the company owned by Jeff Bezos, Founder of Amazon, under the space tourism mission named **New Shepard-25 (NS-25)** lifted off with **6** crew members including one Indian from Launch site one in West Texas, United States of America (U.S.A).

About NS-25 Mission:

i.It is the **7th** human space flight for the New Shepard program.

- Till date, the program has flown **31** human above the **Karman line**.

ii.The space flight travelled in the space at more than **3 times** the speed of sound and passed the Karman line.

iii.After spending time in zero gravity, the crew returns under parachutes.

Note: Karman line is internationally recognised boundary line of space i.e. 62 miles or 100 kms above the Earth.

Gopi Thotakura, the 1st Indian Space Tourist:

i.Among the 6 crew members, **Gopi Thotakura**, commercial jet pilot and entrepreneur from Andhra Pradesh(India), is the only Indian on this human space flight.

ii.He is the **1st** Indian space tourist and the **2nd** Indian to venture into space after Wing Commander Rakesh Sharma of Indian Army (1984).

iii.He is the co-founder of Preserve Life Corp , a global center for holistic wellness and applied health located near Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, U.S.A.

Other Crew Members:

i.Captain Ed Dwight is the **1st Black astronaut** on the space flight. He was selected by former President of United States of America (U.S.A.), John F Kennedy in 1961.

- Dwight became the oldest person to fly in space at the age of 90. He broke the record set by Canadian actor William Shatner who went to space on Blue Origin flight in 2021, as he is two months older than him.

ii. Names of other members are: Mason Angel (USA), Sylvain Chiron (France), Kenneth L. Hess (USA), Carol Schaller (USA).

MoRTH releases New Driving License Rules w.e.f. June 1, 2024; Makes Driving Tests at RTO Optional

i. The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) announced new regulations aimed at simplifying the process of obtaining a driving license (DL) with effect from **1st June 2024**.

- Under the new regulations, applicants now have option to take their driving tests at privately operated driving training centres.
- This will reduce the congestion at **Regional Transport Offices (RTOs)**.

ii. The new regulation has reduced the required documentation for new DL. The required documents will now be based on the type of vehicle, minimizing the need for physical reviews at RTOs.

iii. This also impose strict penalties for violations.

About Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH):

Union Minister– Nitin Jairam Gadkari (Constituency- Nagpur, Maharashtra)

Minister of State (MoS)– General (Retd.) Vijay Kumar Singh (Constituency- Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh)

International

China Successfully Launches 'Chang'e-6,' World's 1st Mission to Bring Samples from Moon

China National Space Administration (CNSA) successfully launched an uncrewed lunar probe, namely "Chang'e-6," through **Long March- 5 Y8** carrier rocket from the Wenchang Space Launch Center in the southern province of Hainan, China.

Aim: It is the world's first mission to collect and bring back samples from the **far side** of the moon.

Note: The name of the mission 'Chang'e' is inspired from the name of Chinese Goddess moon.

About Chang'e-6 mission:

i. The spacecraft will land at Apollo Basin (an oldest known impact crater), located in South Pole – Aitken Basin on the far side of the moon.

ii. The entire duration of mission is expected to about **53 days**.

iii. The spacecraft has 4 main components which are: **an orbiter, a lander, a ascender and a returner**.

iv. It carries 4 payloads that were developed in cooperation with other countries, such as: Scientific instruments from France, Italy and European Space Agency (ESA) are aboard the Lander.

v. It also carries a miniature satellite named "**ICUBE-QAMAR cubesat**" from Pakistan. **Additional**

Information:

In November 2020, CNSA successfully launched the 8.2 tonne lunar probe namely "Chang'e-5" through Long March-5 rocket. It was the world's 1st near side moon-sample mission in 44 years.

About China:

Capital: Beijing

President: Xi Jinping

Currency: Renminbi (RMB)

Overview of World Press Freedom Index 2024:

India ranks 159th, Norway Tops

i. According to the 22nd edition of the World Press Freedom Index (WPF 2024) released by Reporters Without Borders (RSF – Reporters sans frontières in French), India is ranked 159th out of 180 countries with a score of 31.28.

- Norway tops the 2024 index for the 8th consecutive year followed by Denmark (2nd) and Sweden (3rd).
- The last 3 places are occupied by: Eritrea (180th); Syria (179th), and Afghanistan (178th).

ii. On the occasion of World Press Freedom Day 2024 (3rd May 2024), The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) released a report titled "Press and Planet in Danger: safety of environmental journalists; trends, challenges and recommendations".

The report highlighted that a total of 44 journalists reporting on environmental issues were killed in 15 different countries between 2009 and 2023,

About the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO):

Director-General– Audrey Azoulay

Headquarters– Paris, France

Establishment– 1945 (came into force in 1946)

Members– 194 Members and 12 Associate Members.

Nepal set to Introduce new Rs 100 Note Featuring Disputed Territories

Nepal government is set to introduced the new **Rs 100 currency note** featuring a map which includes the controversial border territories of Lipulekh, Limpiyadhura and Kalapani of Uttarakhand in its strategic northwest trijunction between India, Nepal and China.

i. During the meeting held on 25th April 2024 and 2nd May 2024, The Nepal Cabinet approved to re-design the Rs 100 banknote and replace the old map printed in the background of the note.

ii. In 2020, Nepal updated its political map by incorporating 3 strategically important areas Lipulekh, Kalapani and Limpiyadhura areas by amending its Constitution.

iii. India called this a "unilateral act" and termed it as "untenable" the "artificial enlargement" of the territorial claims by Nepal and Nepal has claimed that these territories were illegitimately occupied by India after the 1962 border war with China.

Note: Nepal shares a border of over 1,850 km with **5 Indian states** – Sikkim, West Bengal, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand.

Background:

Nepal has asserted its claim based on the **Sugauli**

Treaty of 1816. According to the treaty all territories east of the Kali (Mahakali) river, including Limpiyadhura, Kalapani, and Lipulekh, belong to Nepal.

- The Treaty was signed between the East India Company and Guru Gajraj Mishra of Nepal following the Anglo-Nepalese War of 1814–16.
- India, however, has stated that the 1950 Treaty of Peace and Friendship between India and Nepal annulled the Sugauli Treaty.

World's Wealthiest Cities Report 2024 by Henley & Partners: New York Tops

According to the 2024 World's Wealthiest Cities Report published by international wealth migration specialists Henley & Partners, **New York City**, New York, the United States of America (USA) has retained its title as the **Wealthiest City in the World**.

- California's **The Bay Area** (USA) is ranked 2nd followed by **Tokyo**(Japan); **Singapore**(Singapore) and **London**(The United Kingdom-UK) at 3rd, 4th and 5th position respectively.

Key Points:

i. Mumbai (Maharashtra) (24th) and Delhi (37th) were the only Indian cities featured among the top 50 of the 2024 World's Wealthiest Cities Report.

ii. With 11 cities in the Top 50, the USA has emerged as the World's richest country. **iii.** Among the Asian countries, China dominates the 2024 list. 5 cities in mainland China, along with Hong Kong (Special Administrative Region-SAR) and Taipei are featured among the top 50.

iv. **Shenzhen (China)** has emerged as the fastest-growing city in terms of number of millionaires and saw an increase of **140%** in the last 10 years.

About Henley & Partners:

Chief Executive Officer(CEO)- Dr. Juerg Steffen
Headquarters- London, UK.

India Received over USD 111 Billion in Remittances in 2022: UN's International Organization for Migration(IOM)

On 7th May 2024, United Nations(UN) agency, **International Organization for Migration(IOM)** released the report titled "**World Migration Report 2024**". The report revealed that India received over USD 111 billion in remittances in 2022. Thus, India becomes the 1st country to surpass the USD 100 billion mark.

- International remittances surged by **650%**, from USD 128 billion to USD 831 billion between 2000 and 2022.

Key Highlights:

i. Top 5 countries which received highest remittances in 2022: **India, Mexico, China, The Philippines, France.**

ii. **India(1st), Pakistan(6th) and Bangladesh(8th)** are among the top 10 recipients of international remittances in the world.

iii. United States of America(U.S.A.) is the largest source of destination country for international mobile students.

India Overtakes Japan To Become World's 3rd Largest Solar Power Generator

As per the report "Global Electricity Review 2024" by the international energy analytics agency Ember, in 2023, **India surpassed Japan** to become the world's third-largest producer of solar power, generating 113 Terawatt-hour (TWh) compared to Japan's 110 Terawatt-hour (TWh).

- This marked India's significant rise from being 9th in solar energy deployment in 2015.
- India's solar generation increased 17 times from 0.5% in 2015 to reaching 5.8% in 2023. India's wind generation increased slightly from 2.5% to **4.2%** in 2023.

Highlights:

i. India witnessed the **world's fourth-largest increase** in solar generation in 2023, with a growth of 18 terawatt hours (TWh), following China (+156 TWh), the United States (+33 TWh), and Brazil (+22 TWh).

ii. In terms of installed power capacity, India ranked **5th globally** at 73 Gigawatts (GW), while Japan stood at third place with 83 GW.

- **China** led global solar production in 2023, producing 584 Terawatt-hour (TWh), surpassing the combined output of the United States, Japan, Germany, and India.

iii. Solar power accounted for a record 5.5% of global electricity in 2023, Wind power provided a higher share of global electricity, at **7.8%** in 2023.

iv. Solar remained the fastest-growing electricity source globally for the **19th consecutive year**, outpacing coal. The global growth in solar generation (+307 TWh, +23%) outpaced wind (+206 TWh, +9.8%).

As of May 2024, solar power constituted 18% of India's installed electricity capacity (442 GW) but only 6.66% of actual production.

India & Iran Signed a Long Term Contract to Operate Chabahar Port in Iran

On 13th May 2024, India and Iran signed a long-term contract of 10

years to operate the Shahid Beheshti Port Terminal at Chabahar

Port, Iran. This will boost regional connectivity and trade ties.



- The contract was signed by India Ports Global Limited (IPGL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of India Ports Global Chabahar Free Zone (IPGCFZ) and by Port and Maritime Organisation (PMO), Iran.

Key People: The contract was signed in the presence of Sarbananda Sonowal, Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Government of India (GoI) and **Mehrdad Bazrpash**, Minister of Roads and Urban Development, Iran.

Key Points:

- As per the contract, IPGL is committed to invest approximately **USD 120 million** in equipping the port.
- India has also offered a credit window of **USD 250**

million for mutually identified projects aimed at enhancing Chabahar-related infrastructure.

Background:

- An inter-Governmental memorandum of understanding (MoU) for the development of the Chabahar port by India was signed in May 2015.
- The contract was executed in May 2016 during the visit of Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi to Iran.
- India took up the development of the Shahid Beheshti terminal under a tripartite agreement (Chabahar Agreement) on Chabahar signed with Iran and Afghanistan in May 2016.

About Chabahar Port Project:

- Chabahar Port is a deep water port located in the Sistan-Baluchistan province in South Eastern Iran. It consists of 2 important ports i.e. **Shahid Kalantari** and **Shahid Beheshti**.
- It is a flagship project of India and Iran that aims to serve as an vital transit port for trade with Afghanistan and Central Asian countries which are land-locked countries.

- Chabahar Port holds great significance for India as it provides shorter and viable route through which India can easily bypass Pakistan and can trade smoothly with Central Asian countries.

iii. Chabahar Port as a key hub for the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) project. INSTC is a 72,00 km-long multi-mode transport project for moving freight among India, Iran, Afghanistan, Russia, Central Asia and Europe.

India's Ramcharitmanas, Panchatantra and Sahrdayaloka –Locana Included in UNESCO's Memory of the World (MOW) Register

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) has included: **The Ramcharitmanas (Ramacaritamānasa), Panchatantra (Pañcatantra Fables) and Sahrdayaloka-Locana** in its "Memory of the World (MOW) Asia-Pacific Regional Register".

- The inclusion of these literary works was made at 10th meeting of the Memory of the World Committee for Asia and the Pacific (MOWCAP) in Ulaanbatar, Mongolia.

- The Asia-Pacific Member States newly inscribed 20 items from different countries (including 3 from India) during the 2024 cycle.

Key Points:

- The Ramcharitmanas, Panchatantra and Sahrdayaloka-Locana were authored by Goswami Tulsidas, Pt. Vishnu Sharma and Acharya Anandvardhan respectively.
 - The Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) played a significant role in ensuring the placement of these historic literary works in UNESCO's Memory of the World Asia-Pacific Regional Register.
- These 3 entries from India were successfully represented by **Prof. Ramesh Chandra Gaur**, Dean (Administration) and Head of Department (HOD), Kala Nidhi Division at IGNCA, New Delhi, Delhi.
- The event was attended by **38 representatives from member states** convened alongside **40 observers** and nominees.

About Memory of the World Committee for Asia and Pacific (MOWCAP):

- It is a regional forum for UNESCO's Memory of the World Programme (MOW) which was launched in 1992.
- It also maintains an Asia-Pacific register of the MOW documentary heritage. Inscriptions on the Asia-Pacific Register are made in every 2 years.
- MOWCAP was formally established in 1998 during its 1st MOWCAP General Meeting held in Beijing, China.
- It has total **43 countries** from the Asia-Pacific region.

Japan Launches World's First 6G Device, 20 Times Faster Than 5G

- Japan has launched the **world's first high-speed 6G prototype device**, with data transmission rate of 100 gigabits per second (Gbps), **20 times faster** than the Gold Standard 5G technology.
- The 6G device offers services covering an impressive range of 300 feet, showcasing the potential for a

- significant advancement in internet technology.
- This was developed by the joint effort by Japan's leading telecom companies, including NTT DOCOMO, Nippon Telegraph and Telephone (NTT) Corporation, NEC Corporation India Private Limited, and Fujitsu.
 - The 6G technology has the potential to provide **real-time holographic** communication as well as immersive virtual and mixed reality experiences.

NASA Plans to Build 'FLOAT', the 1st Railway System on Moon

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has announced its plan to build 1st Railway System on Moon, and named as "**Flexible Levitation on a Track (FLOAT)**". This Railway system is part of NASA's Moon to Mars mission i.e. Robotic Lunar Surface Operations 2 (RLSO2).

- It will play a vital role in the daily operations of a sustainable lunar base envisioned for 2030s.
- The FLOAT system will be developed by NASA's **Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL)** in California, United States of America(U.S.A.)

Key Features of FLOAT system:

- It will use unpowered robots which would levitate a **3-layer flexible film** track to prevent abrasion from dust on lunar surface.
- Name of these 3-layers are:

- A **Graphite Layer** that enables robots to float over tracks using diamagnetic levitation passively.
- A **Flex-Circuit Layer** generates electromagnetic thrust to controllably propel robots along tracks.
- An **Optional thin-film solar panel Layer** generates power for the base when in sunlight.

- Carts will be mounted on these robots and will move at the speed of **1.61 kilometer per hour (Km/hr)**.
- The system aims to transport approximately **100 tons of material per day** to and from NASA's future lunar base.

Anuradha Mascarenhas's new book "At The Wheel of Research", biography of former WHO Chief Scientist Soumya

Anuradha Mascarenhas, Senior Assistant Editor, The Indian Express, has penned a new book titled "At The Wheel of Research: An Exclusive Biography of Dr. Soumya Swaminathan". The book is published by Bloomsbury Publishing India Pvt. Ltd.

- This book outlines the life journey of **Dr. Soumya Swaminathan**, the inaugural Chief Scientist at the World Health Organisation (WHO) (2019 to 2022) and the former Director General (DG) of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) (2015 to 2017).
- She is an Indian pediatrician and Chairperson of M S Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF).
- She is the daughter of Dr. Monkumbu Sambasivan (**MS Swaminathan**), the agricultural scientist popularly known as the "Father of the Green Revolution in India".

About Author: Anuradha Mascarenhas is a seasoned journalist who has won awards including the Press Council of India National Awards for Excellence in Journalism for Gender-Based Reporting in 2019.

WEF's Travel & Tourism Development Index 2024: India ranked 39th; USA tops

According to the World Economic Forum (WEF)'s 2nd edition of the Travel & Tourism Development Index (TTDI 2024), **India** is ranked **39th** among 119 economies with a TTDI score of 4.25.

- The United States of America (**USA**) has **topped** the list with a TTDI score of 5.24 followed by **Spain** (5.18) and **Japan** (5.09) at 2nd and 3rd rank respectively.
- India is ranked highest in South Asia and among the lower-middle-income economies. India was ranked 54th in TTDI 2021 with a score of 4.1.

About World Economic Forum (WEF):

President – Børge Brende

Headquarters – Coligny, Switzerland

Established – 1971.

Oxford Economics' Global Cities Index 2024: Delhi ranks 350th & tops among Indian City; New York Tops 2024 Index

i. According to the Oxford Economics' Global Cities Index 2024, **Delhi** has ranked **350th** among the world's largest 1,000 cities and emerged as the highest-ranked Indian city.

- **New York City**, the United States of America (**USA**) has topped the 2024 Index followed by **London**, The United Kingdom (**UK**) and **San Jose**, USA at 2nd and 3rd rank.
- As per the index, 1000 largest cities in the world accounted for 60% of global Gross Domestic Product (**GDP**) in 2023.

ii. Delhi outperformed Mumbai in various metrics, including Economics, Human Capital, and Quality of Life.

iii. All Indian cities ranked at **380th** position in the Governance category.

About Oxford Economics:

Oxford Economics is the world's foremost independent economic advisory firm.

It was founded in Oxford, Oxfordshire, England in **1981** as a commercial venture with Oxford University's business college.

Chief Executive Officer (CEO) – Adrian Cooper.

Spain Becomes 99th Member of International Solar Alliance (ISA)

Spain officially became the **99th** member of the International Solar Alliance (**ISA**) which shows its commitment to promote solar energy in the energy sector.

- **Jose Maria Ridao Domínguez**, Spain Ambassador to India handed over the ISA Instrument of Ratification to **Abhishek Singh**, Joint Secretary (Economic Diplomacy), Ministry of External Affairs (**MEA**), Government of

India (**GoI**) during the meeting held in New Delhi, Delhi.

- At present, **119** countries have signed the ISA framework and **99** countries have signed as well as ratified ISA framework.

Note: In March 2024, Panama became the **98th** country to ratify ISA framework.

International Solar Alliance (ISA):

i. It is an inter-governmental organisation jointly formed by **India** and **France** in **2015**. It aims to mobilise efforts against climate change through the deployment of solar energy solutions.

- It is a coalition of solar-resource rich countries which lie either completely or partly between Tropic of Cancer and Tropic of Capricorn.

ii. It was launched by Prime Minister (**PM**) of India, **Narendra Modi** and the former President of France, **Francois Hollande** on 30th November, 2015 at 21st Conference of Parties (**CoP21**) to United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (**UNFCCC**) held in **Paris, France**.

WSJ Report: Indian-Origin Nikesh Arora Became the 2nd Highest-Paid CEO in the US for 2023

According to the Wall Street Journal (**WSJ**)'s list of the **highest-paid** Chief Executive Officers (**CEOs**) in the United States of America (**USA**) for **2023**. **Indian-origin Nikesh Arora**, chairman and **CEO** of **Palo Alto Networks** became the world's **2nd highest-paid CEO in 2023** with a substantial remuneration of USD 151.43 million (approximately Rs 1,260 crore).

- Hock E. Tan**, President and CEO of **Broadcom Inc.**, is the **world's highest-paid CEO** with a pay package of USD 161.83 million in 2023.
- Stephen A. Schwarzman**, Chairman, CEO, and Co-Founder of **Blackstone**, secured the **3rd spot** with a package of USD 119.78 million in 2023.

Analysis of CEO Compensation:

i. WSJ's analysis ranked 415 CEOs of S&P 500 companies, by their total compensation, which included cash and equity awards.

ii. CEO compensation rose year-over-year (y-o-y), with the median amount increasing by more than 8% to USD 15.7 million in 2023.

Note: The S&P 500 saw significant growth, jumping nearly 12% from the start of the year and over 26% over the past 12 months.

Top 5 Highest-Paid CEOs:

S.No	CEO	Company	Pay Package (In USD)
1	Hock E. Tan	Broadcom Inc.	161.83 million
2	Nikesh Arora	Palo Alto Networks	151.43 million
3	Stephen A. Schwarzman	Blackstone	119.78 million

Note:

i. The S&P 500, formally known as the Standard & Poor's 500 Composite Stock Price Index, is a stock index that tracks the share prices of 500 of the largest public companies in the US.

ii. It is a vital benchmark for tracking the performance of the US stock market.

About Nikesh Arora:

i. He joined as chairman and CEO of Palo Alto Networks in June 2018.

ii. Before that, he was President and Chief Operating Officer (COO) of SoftBank Group Corp from 2014-2016.

iii. He also held various roles at Google from 2004 to 2014.

Highlights of the List:

i. Tech giants like Tesla's Elon Musk and Alphabet's (the holding company of Google) Sundar Pichai (Indian-born) opted for non-traditional compensation structures in 2023.

- Elon Musk received no reported compensation; Sundar Pichai earned USD 8.80 million
- Mark Zuckerberg of Meta earned USD 24.40 million,

ii. 17 executives of Indian descent featured among the top 500 earners in the US.

iii. **Shantanu Narayen**, Chair and CEO of **Adobe** closely follows Arora, ranking **11th** with a total compensation of USD 44.93 million in earnings.

- He is the second-highest-paid Indian-descent CEO in the list

iv. Ranked third, fourth, and fifth among Indian-origin Americans were Sanjay Malhotra of Micron Technology (63rd, \$25.28 million), Ajei Gopal of Ansys (66th, \$24.63 million), and Reshma Kewalramani of Vertex Pharmaceuticals (118th, \$20.59 million).

THE Asia University Rankings 2024: IISc Topped among Indian Institutes; China's Tsinghua University Tops

i. According to the 12th edition of Times Higher Education's (THE) Asia University Rankings (2024), Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru (Karnataka), ranked 32nd on the list, is the highest ranked Indian institution. The 2024 list features a total of **91 Indian institutions**.

- **Tsinghua University** (China) has topped the list for the 6th consecutive year, followed by **Peking University** (China) and **National University of Singapore** (NUS) (Singapore) at 2nd and 3rd rank respectively.

ii. THE Asia University Ranking 2024 ranked **739 universities from 31 countries/regions**. This marks an increase of 10.5%, up from 669 in 2023.

iii. With 119 universities, Japan has the most representation on the 2024 ranking followed by India with 91 universities (up from 75 in 2023) and Mainland China with 86 universities.

About Times Higher Education (THE):

THE, (Formerly The Times Higher Education Supplement -The Thes), is a British magazine reporting on news and issues related to higher

education.

Chief Executive Officer (CEO)– Paul Howarth
Headquarters- London, The United Kingdom(UK)

Defence

IAF Received 2nd C-295 Transport Aircraft from Airbus Defence and Space

The Indian Air Force (IAF) received its second C-295 transport aircraft from Airbus Defence and Space S.A., Spain. C-295 aircraft will replace Avro Hawker Siddeley HS-748 aircraft in IAF service since 1960.

Note: 1st C-295 transport aircraft was formally inducted into IAF in September, 2023.

About C-295:

- i. It has a capacity of lifting 9 tonnes and can transport up to 71 troopers or paratroopers and goes with a maximum speed of 480 km/hr.
- ii. The rear ramp door of the aircraft can be used for quick reaction and para-dropping of troops and cargo.
- iii. It can operate from Advanced Landing Grounds (ALGs) and even on unprepared runways.
- iv. It has flight endurance of up to 11 hours, can carry out multi-role operations like: in disaster response and maritime patrol duties under all weather conditions.
- v. It is also equipped with a radar warning receiver (RWR), Missile Approach Warning System (MAWS), and a laser warning system (LWS).

Background:

- i. In September 2021, Ministry of Defence (MoD), Government of India (GoI) signed an agreement worth **Rs 21,935 crore** with Airbus Defence and Space S.A., Spain for the procurement of 56 C-295 transport aircrafts in order to replace IAF's Avro fleet aircraft.
- ii. As per the agreement, 16 aircrafts will be manufactured at the Airbus facility in Seville, Spain.
- iii. Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL), strategic Aerospace and Defence arm of Tata Group in partnership with Airbus Defence and Space will manufacture remaining 40 C-295 aircrafts in the C-295 Fine Assembly Line (FAL) in Vadodra, Gujarat.

- The 1st aircraft manufactured in India will be rolled out in 2026.

Note: Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of C-295 FAL in Gujarat on 30th October, 2022.

About Indian Air Force (IAF):

Chief of the Air Staff (CAS): Vivek Ram Chaudhari

Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi

Founded: 1932

IA Western Command & IAF conducted Joint Ex-Gagan Strike-II in Punjab On May 7, 2024, the Ambala, Haryana-based Kharga Corps, under the Indian Army (IA)'s Western Command, and the Indian Air Force (IAF) concluded **Gagan Strike-II**, a three-day Joint Exercise across multiple locations in Punjab.

- The exercise was reviewed by Lieutenant General (Lt Gen) **Manoj Kumar Katiyar**, General Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Western Command.
- The exercise aimed to refine processes and validate the use of attack helicopters in mechanized operations in developed terrain.

Key Points:

- i. Gagan Strike-II involved **Apache** and Advanced Light Helicopter-Weapon System Integrated (ALH-WSI), unarmed aerial vehicles, and Army Special Forces.
- ii. The exercise focused on validating attack helicopter deployment in support of mechanized operations.
 - Live firing exercises were conducted during offensive maneuvers.
- iii. Centralized and decentralized attack helicopter missions were practiced, supported by other force multipliers.
- iv. Ground force commanders utilized aerial assets, including drones, for enhanced situational awareness and target destruction.
- v. The exercise facilitated seamless integration of ground and aerial assets for joint operations, achieving specified objectives.

7th India-France Joint Military "Ex-SHAKTI" 2024 Commences in Meghalaya

The 7th India-France joint military "Exercise SHAKTI 2024" commenced on 13th May, 2024 at **Umroi**, in a fully developed and modern Foreign Training Node in **Meghalaya**. Ex-SHAKTI is a **biennial** training exercise which is conducted alternatively in India and France.

- The 14-day joint exercise is scheduled to be conducted from **13th May to 26th May, 2024**.
- The joint exercise will focus on operations in the semi-urban and mountainous terrain.

Key Participants:

i. Indian contingent is being represented mainly by a battalion of **RAJPUT Regiment**, consists of 90 personnel. Observers from Indian Air Force and Indian Navy will also participate in the exercise.

ii. French contingent will be represented mainly by personnel from 13th Foreign Legion Half-Brigade (**13th DBLE**). It also consists of 90 personnel.

Key Highlights:

i. The exercise aims to improve joint military capability of both countries to undertake multi-domain operations in a Sub-Conventional scenario under Chapter-VII of the UN mandate.

ii. The joint exercise will conduct tactical drills which include: response to a terrorist act of capturing a defined territory, establishment of a Joint Command Post, Establishment of an Intelligence and Surveillance Centre, among others.

Significance: This joint EX-SHAKTI will enable the both countries to share their best practices in Tactics, Techniques and Procedures of Joint Operations. It will facilitate developing interoperability between Armed Forces of the two countries.

Note: The 6th edition of Ex-SHAKTI was held at Military School of Draguignan, France in November, 2021.

Additional Information:

India conduct 3 biennial training exercises with France namely,

- GARUDA**– between Air Forces of India and France
- VARUNA**– between Navies of India and France
- SHAKTI**- is a joint military exercise between India and France

About Indian Army:

Chief of Army Staff: Manoj Pande

Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi

Established – April 01, 1895

About France:

President: Emmanuel Macron

Capital: Paris

Currency: Euro

NSG holds 7th Joint Anti-Terror Mock Drills Exercise TARKASH with US' SOF in Kolkata

The 7th edition of the India-U.S. joint counter-terrorism exercise 'Tarkash' was held between the **National Security Guard (NSG)** and United States (US) **Special Operations Forces (SOF)** from April 22 to May 15, 2024 in Kolkata, West Bengal(WB).

- This three-week exercise involved intense training and mock drills in urban counter-terrorism scenarios.
- The 6th edition took place in Chennai, Tamil Nadu (TN), in January 2023.

Key Points

i. Joint mock counter-terror drills were conducted to enhance interoperability and coordination.

ii. The exercise included sharing best practices, tactics, techniques, and procedures for counter-terror operations in urban environments.

iii. The training covered close-quarter battles, building intervention drills, hostage rescue operations, surveillance, long-range sniping, and planning complex operations involving multiple targets.

About National Security Guard (NSG):

NSG, commonly known as Black Cats, is a counter-terrorism unit of India under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Director General– Nalin Prabhat

Headquarters– New Delhi, Delhi

Establishment– 1986

DRDO Successfully Conducted the Flight-test of RudraM-II Air-to-Surface Missile from Su-30 MK-I off the Odisha Coast

On 29th May 2024, Defence Research and Development Organisation (**DRDO**) successfully conducted the flight-test of **RudraM-II**, Next Generation Anti-Radiation

Missile(**NGARM**) from **Su-30 MK-I** fighter jet of the Indian Air Force (**IAF**). This air-to-surface missile was

tested at Integrated Test Range (ITR), Balasore, Off the Coast of Odisha.

- It is the latest version of **RudraM – 1 missile**, 1st indigenously developed anti radiation air-to-surface missile was test-fired from **Su-30MKI** fighter jet in **2020**.

About RudraM-II Missile:

i.It is an indigenously developed solid propelled air-launched missile system for air-to-surface to neutralise various types of enemy assets. It can carry a payload of **200 kg** and attain a maximum speed of **6,791 km/h (Mach 5.5)**.

ii.This missile system will replace **Russian Kh-31**, anti-radiation missiles currently deployed in Indian defence system.

Indian Army unveiled Tractor-Mounted ATGM System in “Jugaad Innovation”

Indian Army has unveiled an Anti-Tank Guided Missile(ATGM) system mounted on a farm tractor. This “**Jugaad**” (Hindi for ingenious improvisation) innovation is named as **Improvised Tractor Mounted ATGM**.

Appointments or Resign/Retired

ACC Appoints Sanjaya Kumar Mishra as President of GSTAT

The Appointment Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of **Sanjaya Kumar Mishra**, the former Chief Justice (CJ) of the High Court (HC) of Jharkhand, as the **President** of Goods and Services Tax Appellate Tribunal (GSTAT).

- He will hold the post for 4 years from the date of his assuming charge or till attaining the age of 70 years, whichever is earlier.

About GSTAT:

i. The Government of India established the GSTAT to facilitate the resolution of disputes within the business sector. GSTAT aims to commence the operations from 1st July 2024.

- It is the forum of the second appeal in GST laws and the first common forum of dispute resolution between the Centre and States.

ii. GSTAT will comprise one Principal Bench in Delhi to handle inter-state disputes; and 31 State benches to take up all other issues, including rates across various locations nationwide.

- Uttar Pradesh (UP) will have 3 Benches, the highest in any given State in India.

iii. It is a specialised body to handle GST-related disputes efficiently and is vital for providing impartial, expert, and efficient resolution mechanisms.

About Sanjaya Kumar Mishra:

i. In 1988, he started practice in Balangir District Courts and joined as an Additional District & Sessions Judge in Jeypore, Odisha in 1999.

ii. He also worked as District & Sessions Judge in Sundergarh, Dhenkanal in Odisha; Special Judge (Central Bureau of Investigation/CBI) in Bhubaneswar, Odisha; and Registrar General of Odisha HC.

iii. In 2009, he was elevated as Judge of the Odisha HC and served as Acting CJ of the Uttarakhand HC from 2021 to 2022.

iv. In February 2023, he took charge as 14th CJ of the Jharkhand HC and superannuated on 28th December 2023.

Vice-Admiral Krishna Swaminathan Assumed Charge as Vice-Chief of Naval Staff

On 1 May 2024, **Vice Admiral Krishna Swaminathan** assumed charge as the **Vice Chief of Naval Staff**. He previously served as Chief of Personnel at the Naval Headquarters (NHQ) in New Delhi, Delhi. He replaced Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi who assumed charge as Chief of Naval Staff (CNS).

About Vice Admiral Krishna Swaminathan:

i. He was commissioned into the Indian Navy on 1 July 1987 and is a Communication and Electronic Warfare specialist.

ii. He was a recipient of Ati Vishisht Seva Medal (2021) and Vishisht Seva Medal.

iii. He also served as Chief of Staff of the Western Naval Command; and Controller of Personnel Services at NHQ.

iv. He was appointed as the Flag Officer Commanding the Western Fleet.

v. He was appointed the Flag Officer Offshore Defence Advisory Group and Advisor, Offshore Security, and Defence to the Government of India.

UNICEF India appoints Kareena Kapoor Khan as its National Ambassador Appoints its first-4 Youth Advocates

i. On May 4, 2024, UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund) India named Bollywood Actress **Kareena Kapoor Khan** as its National celebrity Ambassador. In this role, she will advocate for children's rights to early development, health, education, and gender equality.

ii. UNICEF India also announced Gauranshi Sharma, Nahid, Vinisha, Kartik as new youth advocates for rights of children.

About UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund) India:

UNICEF Representative to India— Cynthia McCaffrey

Headquarters— New Delhi, Delhi.

Russian President Vladimir Putin Proposes Reappointment of Mikhail Mishustin as PM

On 10th May 2024, Russian President Vladimir Putin has proposed the reappointment of **Mikhail Vladimirovich Mishustin** (58) as Prime Minister (PM) of Russia. He proposed his name for **State Duma**, lower house of the Federal Assembly of Russia.

- However, Mishustin's name approval is a mere formality in the Kremlin-controlled Parliament.
- Mishustin who held the post of Russia's PM for last 4 years, submitted his resignation to the Cabinet on 7th May 2024, when Vladimir Putin officially sworn-in as President of Russia for the 5th term during a ceremony held at Kremlin Palace, Moscow, Russia.

About Mikhail Mishustin :

i. Mishustin was appointed as PM of Russia for the 1st time in January **2020** by Russian President Putin. He replaced then-PM **Dmitry Medvedev**, who resigned from his post.

- His 1st tenure as PM of Russia faced many challenges posed by COVID-19 pandemic and Russia-Ukraine War.

ii. He is a Chief technocrat who has helped Putin through the war in Ukraine and to tackle the challenges posed by Western sanctions over Moscow's invasion in Ukraine.

iii. He has served as the head of Federal Taxation Service of Russia from **2010-2020**.

iv. He was appointed as the head of new **Coordination Council in 2022**.

v. He was bestowed with **Order of Honour in 2012** and the **Order For Service to the Fatherland, 4th class in 2015** by Russian Government.

About Russia:

Capital: Moscow

President: Vladimir Putin

Currency: Russian Ruble

Lawrence Wong Becomes the New Prime Minister of Singapore

Lawrence Wong Shyun Tsai, a United States (US) trained economist and a former civil servant, was

sworn in as the **fourth Prime Minister (PM) of Singapore** since independence.

- The President of Singapore, **Tharman Shanmugaratnam**, administered the oath to Wong on May 15, 2024.

Key Points

i. Wong succeeded **Lee Hsien Loong** who relinquished his position after **20 years (2004-2024)**.

ii. He will be leading the fourth generation People's Action Party (**PAP**) or **4G** government as the Prime Minister and the Finance Minister.

iii. He is set to hold the post until the general election which is set to be held by **November 2025**.

About Lawrence Wong

i. Lawrence Wong was first elected as a Member of Parliament (**MP**) in 2011.

ii. Prior to this appointment, he was the deputy PM; he also served in the Ministry of Culture, Community, and Youth; the Ministry of National Development; and the Ministry of Education.

iii. He also served as the Deputy Chief Executive in the Energy Market Authority and Chairman of the Monetary Authority of Singapore.

iv. He also co-chaired the Multi-Ministry Taskforce, which oversaw the Singapore Government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

About Singapore

Prime Minister – Lawrence Wong Shyun Tsai

President – Tharman Shanmugaratnam

Capital – Singapore City

Currency – Singapore Dollar (SGD)

Former Union Minister Kapil Sibal Elected as President of Supreme Court Bar Association

Kapil Sibal, senior advocate and former Union Minister of Law and Justice has been elected as the **President of Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA)** for the **fourth time**.

- Kapil Sibal won the election by securing **1,066 votes**, defeating **Pradeep Kumar Rai**, a senior advocate who secured 689 votes.
- Sibal would take over from the incumbent, senior advocate Adish C. Aggarwala

Other Appointments: Rachna Srivastava, senior advocate has been elected as the **Vice President** and **Vikrant Yadav**, advocate as **Secretary** of SCBA.

About Kapil Sibal

i. Kapil Sibal was born on 8th August in 1948 at Jalandhar, Punjab.

ii. Sibal, a senior leader in the Indian National Congress (INC) was designated as senior advocate in 1983.

iii. He formerly served in a number of ministries which includes the Ministry of Science and Technology, the Ministry of Human Resource Development, the Ministry of Communications and Information technology.

iv. He also served as the Additional Solicitor General of India from 1989 to 1990.

v. He served as the President of the SCBA for **three times** (1995-96, 1997-98 and 2001-2002).

About Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA)

i. The Supreme Court Bar Association has been in the vanguard of the movement for upholding, maintaining and consolidation of the constitutional values of democracy, rule of law and independence of Judiciary..

ITC Chairman Sanjiv Puri Take Charge as President of CII for 2024-25

Sanjiv Puri, Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of ITC Limited, formally took charge as **President** of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) for the years **2024–25**.

- He has succeeded **R.Dinesh**, Chairman of TVS Supply Chain Solution (TVS SCS), who served as President of CII for 2023-24.

Other Office-Bearers for 2024-25:

i. **Rajiv Memani**, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Ernst & Young (EY), India has been named as President-designate for 2024-25.

- He also serves as the Chairman of Emerging Markets Committee, Ernst & Young LLP.

ii. **R.Mukundan**, CEO and MD of Tata Chemicals Ltd. named as Vice-President of CII for 2024-25.

About Sanjiv Puri:

i. At present, he is the chairman of ITC Infotech India

Ltd., I3L and its wholly-owned subsidiaries in the United Kingdom (U.K.) and United States of America (U.S.A.).

ii. He served as MD of Surya Nepal Private Limited, Joint Venture subsidiary company of ITC in Nepal, from October, 2001 to April, 2006 and is currently serving its chairman.

iii. He was appointed as the Chairman of Expert Group on agri-exports formed by the **15th Finance Commission (FC)** of India.

iv. He has served as the member of National Institution for Transforming India (**NITI Aayog**) Group on “Farm-to-Table-driving India’s agriculture sector digitally”..

Awards:

He was recognised with the “Best CEO Award” by Business Today in 2024.

About Confederation of Indian Industry (CII):

President: Sanjiv Puri

Director-General: Chandrajit Banerjee.

William Lai Ching-te Sworn in as 16th President of Taiwan; Bi-khim Hsiao Took Oath as Vice President

Dr William Lai Ching-te, a doctor turned politician was sworn in as the **16th President of Taiwan** (Republic of China (ROC)) in a ceremony held at the presidential office in Taipei. The First Lady and **Vice President Bi-khim Hsiao** also attended the inaugural celebrations.

- **William Lai Ching-te** succeeded **Tsai Ing-wen**, the **1st** female head of state of **Taiwan** and **Asia**, who served as president for 2 consecutive 4-year terms since 2016.
- **Bi-khim Hsiao** succeeded **Lai Ching-te** as the 16th Vice President of Taiwan.

About Dr William Lai Ching-te:

i. In 1994 he was a chief resident at the National Cheng Kung University Hospital and in 1996, during the Taiwan Strait Crisis, he left his medical career to enter politics.

ii. In 1998, he was elected to the Legislative Yuan representing Tainan City and was elected to the legislature for 4 consecutive terms (1999-2010).

iii. In 2010, he was elected as the 1st mayor of Tainan

Special Municipality (a merger of Tainan County and Tainan City).

iv. He served as Taiwan's premier from 2017 to 2019.

In 2020, he was officially sworn in as the 15th-term Vice President of Taiwan (May 2020 to May 2024).

v. In 2023, he began serving as the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) chairperson.

About Bi-khim Hsiao:

i. She began her political career as program coordinator for the DPP's US mission in 1995.

- She became the deputy director of its Department of International Affairs in 1996, and director from 1997 to 2006.

ii. In 2000, she served as an advisor in Taiwan's Presidential Office and as secretary, and interpreter for the president.

iii. In 2001, she served as a representative at-large for the DPP and was a member of the 5th, 6th, 8th, and 9th Legislative Yuan.

iv. In 2020, she served as senior advisor to the National Security Council and was appointed as representative of Taiwan to the US.

WEF Founder Klaus Schwab To Step Back From Executive Role

Klaus Schwab, Founder and Executive Chairman of the World Economic Forum (WEF), will be stepping down from executive role and transition to non-executive role by **January 2025**.

- He will transition from Executive Chairman to Chairman of the Board of Trustees.

About Klaus Schwab:

i. Klaus Martin Schwab is a German mechanical engineer and economist who founded World Economic Forum (WEF) (formerly known as European Management Forum), non-profit organisation which aims to improve the states of the world, in 1971.

ii. He served as a Professor of Business Policy at the University of Geneva, Switzerland from 1972 to 2003 and has been a Honorary Professor, University of Geneva since 2003.

iii. He has also served as a member of the United Nations (UN) High-Level Advisory Board on Sustainable Development from 1993 to 1995 and Vice-Chairman of the UN Committee for

Development Planning from 1996-1998.

iv. In 1998, he co-founded the Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship with his wife Hilde Schwab to promote social entrepreneurship and innovation.

v. In 1970, he wrote the book 'Modern Management', conceptualizing stakeholder capitalism.

Additional info:

i. WEF is undergoing a governance evolution from a founder-managed organisation to one led by a president and the managing board to take full executive responsibility.

ii. At present, WEF is guided by a Board of Trustees, who oversees the WEF's work in promoting global citizenship.

iii. The Managing Board of WEF, chaired by **Borge Brende, President of WEF**, acts as its executive body.

About World Economic Forum (WEF):

WEF, received the status of an international organization for public-private cooperation from the Swiss authorities in 2015.

Founder & Executive Chairman– Klaus Schwab

Headquarters– Coligny, Switzerland

Founded in– 1971

Shahid Afridi Joins Yuvraj Singh, Chris Gayle As Tournament Ambassador For ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024

Shahid Afridi, Pakistan cricketer has been named as a **Tournament ambassador** for the International Cricket Council (ICC) **Men's T20 World Cup 2024** which will take place in the United States of America (USA) and **West Indies** from 1 to 29 June, 2024.

- He has joined **Chris Gayle, Yuvraj Singh and Usain Bolt** in the list of ambassadors.
- He has won the Player of the Match award after Pakistan beat Sri Lanka in the final of the 2009 T20 World Cup held in London, United Kingdom (UK).
- He was also the Player of the Tournament of the inaugural T20 World Cup held in South Africa in 2007.

DRDO Chairman Samir V Kamat Gets One Year Extension in Service

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the proposal of the Ministry of Defence (MoD) to extend the tenure of **Dr. Samir Venkatapathy Kamat**, Secretary, Department of Defence Research and Development (DDR&D), and Chairman of Defence Research Development Organisation (DRDO) by one year beyond the age of superannuation (31st May 2024).

- He will continue in his present position till **31st May 2025**.
- He has been serving as the Secretary of DDR&D and Chairman of DRDO since 25th August **2022** and was set to retire on 31st May 2024.

Background:

The Ministry of Defence (MoD) has set up a nine-member panel headed by former principal scientific advisor **Prof. K. Vijay Raghavan** to revamp the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). The panel had submitted its report, 'Redefining Defence Research and Development', in early January. But its implementation has been stuck as higher-ups in the DRDO have opposed some of the structural changes suggested.

- For this purpose, the government of India has set up an **Overseeing Committee** headed by **Dr Kamat** and has two senior director generals of the DRDO.
- To ensure the continuity in the reform process underway in DRDO, the government has extended the term of Dr Kamat by one year.

About Samir V Kamat:

i. Samir V Kamat joined DRDO at Defence Metallurgical Research Laboratory (DMRL), Hyderabad, as **Scientist 'C'** in 1989 and rose to the position of the Director of the lab in 2015.

ii. He is a Fellow of the Indian National Academy of Engineering (INAE) and Institution of Engineers India (IEI), Life member of Indian Institute of Metals (IIM), Materials Research Society of India (MRSI), Magnetic Society of India (MSI).

iii. He has served as the Chairman of Defence of

Technology Vision-2050 Materials Committee and Member of Aeronautics Research and Development Board (AR & DB), Planning Commission, National Security Council, National Task Force on Wind Energy.

iv. He has published more than 180 papers in International peer-reviewed journals.

About Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)

Chairman – Dr. Samir Venkatapathy Kamat

Headquarters – New Delhi, Delhi

Founded – 1958.

Honours/ Awards

35th Goldman Environmental Prize: Chhattisgarh Bachao Andolan Leader Alok Shukla bags it
Goldman Environmental Foundation announced the winners of the **35th Goldman Environmental Prize(2024)**, which is also known as “**Green Nobel Prize**”. **Alok Shukla**, convenor of the Chhattisgarh Bachao Andolan and founding member of the Hasdeo Aranya Bachao Sangharsh Samiti, won the **2024 Goldman Prize from Asia** for his efforts to save the forests of Hasdeo Aranya in Chhattisgarh.

- The award ceremony was presented at the War Memorial Opera in San Francisco in the United States of America(USA). The ceremony was hosted by **Rue Mapp**, founder of Outdoor Afro.

The 2024 award was presented to **seven individuals** committed to protecting their communities and environment.

- The winners includes Nonhle Mbuthuma and Sinegugu Zukulu(South Africa); Teresa Vicente(Spain); Murrawah Maroochy Johnson(Australia); Andrea Vidaurre(USA) and Marcel Gomes(Brazil).

About Goldman Environmental Foundation:

President– John D. Goldman

Executive Director– Michael Sutton

Headquarters– California, USA

Designer Bhavi Mehta wins Oxford Bookstore Book Cover Prize 2024 for ‘The Book Beautiful’

Designer Bhavi Mehta won the 9th edition of the Oxford Bookstore Book Cover Prize (2024) for creating the book jacket of Pradeep Sebastian’s “The Book Beautiful.”

- The award comprises of a trophy, a certificate, and a one lakh rupee cash prize.
- The Book Beautiful was published by Hachette India.
- She received the award in the ceremony attended by art historian and chair of the jury Alka Pande, author-politician Shashi

Tharoor, Norway’s Ambassador to India May-Elin Stener, and chief executive officer (CEO) of Apeejay Oxford Bookstores Swagat Sengupta.

Note:The Oxford Bookstore Book Cover Prize 2023 was won by Paramita Brahmachari for creating the book jacket of Manindra Gupta’s “Pebble Monkey”.

Assam Conservationist Dr Purnima Devi Barman wins Whitley Gold Award 2024

A wildlife biologist from Assam, Dr Purnima Devi Barman has been honoured with **Whitley Gold Award 2024** aka ‘Green Oscar’ by the Whitley Fund for Nature (WFN) at a Royal Geographical Society awards ceremony in London, United Kingdom (UK).

- The award acknowledged her conservation efforts of the endangered **Greater Adjutant Stork** (known locally as ‘**Hargila**’ in Assamese) and its wetland habitat.
- The award, worth Great British Pound (**GBP**) **100,000** for project funding, supports grassroots conservation leaders from around the world.
- She received the trophy from charity patron **Princess Anne** – the Princess Royal, the sister of King Charles III.

About Dr Purnima Devi Barman:

i.Purnima Devi known as ‘**Hargila Baideu (Sister of Storks)**’, her efforts in saving the Hargila resulted in their population increasing from 450 to over 1,800 in Northeast India.

- She transformed local attitudes, mobilized primarily women to protect nests, and collaborated with her team at **Aaranyak wildlife** NGO (Non Governmental Organization).

ii.She intends to establish a collaborative network of WFN affiliates, students, scientists, and policymakers to advance conservation education and knowledge exchange.

- Her Scaling up efforts include providing conservation education to more than 20,000 Assamese students, and a knowledge

exchange program between Bihar University and the University of Assam.

iii. She also won Whitley Award in 2017 (Terrestrial, Wetland, Wetland and Freshwater), along with **Sanjay Gubbi** (Terrestrial).

2024 Pulitzer Prizes in Journalism, Books, Drama and Music: ProPublica won Prize under Public Service

On 6th May 2024, The Pulitzer Board announced the winners of **108th Pulitzer Prize (2024)** under the categories such as: **Journalism, Books, Drama and Music, and Special Citations.**

- Pulitzer Prize is highest national honor in United States of America (USA) in the field of journalism, literature, and music composition.

Key Highlights:

i. ProPublica won the 2024 Pulitzer Prize in Journalism under the **Public Service** category.

ii. Hannah Dreier of New York Times won 2024 Pulitzer Prize in Journalism under the **Investigative Reporting** category.

iii. David E. Hoffman of the Washington Post won 2024 Pulitzer Prize in Journalism under the **Editorial Writing** category.

iv. Photography Staff of **Reuter** won the 2024 Pulitzer Prize in Journalism under the **Breaking News Photography**.

Forbes' World's Highest-Paid Athletes 2024: Portuguese Soccer Player Ronaldo Tops On May 16, 2024, Forbes' released the list of **World's Highest-Paid Athletes 2024** featuring top 50 highest paid athletes. Soccer Player **Cristiano Ronaldo** (Portugal) topped the list with a total earnings of USD 260 million, which includes USD 200 million on the field earnings and USD 60 million off the field earnings.

- Spanish golfer **Jon Rahm** stands 2nd with a total earning of USD 218 million and Argentine Soccer player **Lionel Messi** stands 3rd with USD 135 million.

Note: The total earnings of the top 50 highest paid athletes in the past 12 months is USD 3.88 billion

before taxes and agents' fees. This marks a 13% increase compared to 2023 record mark of USD 3.44 billion.

Assessment:

i. For the 2024 list, Forbes tracked income from **May 1, 2023, to May 1, 2024.**

ii. On-field earnings include prize money, salaries, bonuses, and, for soccer, club-based image rights agreements.

iii. Off-field earnings include sponsorship deals, appearance fees, and memorabilia/licensing income.

Top 3 in The World's Highest-Paid Athletes 2024:

Rank	Name (Nationality)	Sport	Total Earnings (USD/Million)	On-The-Field Earnings (USD/Million)	Off-The-Field Earnings (USD/Million)
1	Cristiano Ronaldo (Portugal)	Soccer	260	200	60
2	Jon Rahm (Spain)	Golf	218	198	20
3	Lionel Messi (Argentina)	Soccer	135	65	70

Points to note:

i. According to Forbes, the world's 10 highest-paid athletes collectively earned **USD 1.38 billion** before taxes and agents' fees over the past 12 months, which is the **highest total ever.**

ii. **USA's** footballer Lamar Jackson is the only National football League (NFL) player on the list in 10th place with USD 100.5 million.

iii. The NBA (National Basketball Association) has the most players on the list of any sport at 19, followed by NFL with 11 and soccer at 3rd with 8.

iv. The 2024 list does not feature any women athletes. In 2023 Serena Williams was the only woman among the world's highest-paid athletes, since she retired in 2023, she is no longer eligible. No women made the list from 2017 to 2019.

Sela Tunnel of Arunachal Pradesh Recognised as India's Highest Tunnel by International Book of Honour

Arunachal Pradesh's Sela Tunnel, an engineering marvel has been recognised as **India's Highest Tunnel** by the **International Book of Honour (IBH)**, England, United Kingdom (UK). This recognition underscores the achievement of the Border Road Organisation (BRO) in constructing the tunnel at an altitude of 13,000 feet through Project VARTAK with construction carried out by Patel Engineering Limited.

- Sela Tunnel is the world's longest bi-lane tunnel constructed on the road connecting Tezpur, Assam to Tawang in the West Kameng district of Arunachal Pradesh.

Points to Note:

The 2.598 km-long Sela Tunnel on Tezpur-Tawang Road ensures year-long connectivity to the strategic Tawang Region.

Note: Tawang is located 448 km northwest of Itanagar (capital city of Arunachal Pradesh) and is close to the Chinese border in the northeast.

Key Features:

i. Constructed at a cost of Rs 825 crore, the tunnel ensures all-weather connectivity along the National Highway (NH)-13 road to Tawang via **Sela Pass** on the Balipara – Chariduar – Tawang Road.

ii. It bolsters the Armed Forces' preparedness and fosters socio-economic development in the border region.

iii. It has been constructed using the **Austrian Tunnelling Method** and adheres to the highest safety standards.

iv. The project comprises 2 tunnels and an interconnecting road.

- Tunnel 1 is a 980-meter-long single-tube tunnel, while Tunnel 2 is a 1,555-meter-long twin-tube tunnel.

v. The link road connecting these tunnels spans a distance of 1,200 meters.

Background:

Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi virtually inaugurated the Sela Tunnel project during the Viksit Bharat Viksit North East programme in Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh on March 09, 2024.

German Author Jenny Erpenbeck and Translator Michael Hofmann Won International Booker Prize 2024 for 'Kairos'

German author **Jenny Erpenbeck** and translator **Michael Hofmann** have been named the winner of the **International Booker Prize 2024** for the book '**Kairos**'. The announcement was made by Eleanor Wachtel, Chair of the 2024 judges, at a ceremony sponsored by Maison Valentino at Tate Modern in London, the United Kingdom (UK).

- Jenny Erpenbeck became the **1st German** writer to win the Prize, and Michael Hofmann became the **1st male translator** to win since the Prize launched in its current form in 2016.
- **Kairos** became the **1st book translated from German to English** to win the International Booker Prize.

Indian-Origin Scientist Shrinivas R. Kulkarni won the Prestigious Shaw Prize in Astronomy for 2024

Indian-Origin American Scientist **Shrinivas Ramchandra Kulkarni** has been conferred the prestigious 2024 Shaw Prize in the category of **Astronomy**.

- The award is given in recognition of his contributions to time-domain astronomy culminated in the conception, construction and leadership of the Palomar Transient Facility (PTF) and its successor, the Zwicky Transient Facility (ZTF). These

discoveries help to better understand time-variable optical sky.

About Shrinivas R. Kulkarni:

i. He was born in **1956** in **Maharashtra, India** and he is the brother of renowned Indian Philanthropist and Padma Bhushan Awardee, **Sudha Murthy**.

ii. At present, he is working as Professor at Ellery Hale Professor of Astronomy and Planetary Science, Division of Physics, Mathematics and Astronomy at the California Institute of Technology (**Caltech**), United States of America (U.S.A.).

iii. He was Millikan Research Fellow in Radio Astronomy from 1985-1987.

iv. He has worked as **Executive Officer for Astronomy** i.e. from 1997-2000 and **Director of Caltech Optical Observatories** from 2006-18.

v. He is a member of some of the prestigious institutes like **Royal Society of London, Indian Academy of Sciences, the U.S. National Academy Sciences**, among others.

2024 Shaw Prize:

i. On 21st May 2024, The Shaw Prize Foundation announced the winners for 2024 Shaw Prize during a press meet held at Hong Kong (special administrative region of the People's Republic of China).

ii. The awards were announced in 3 categories: **Astronomy, Life Science and Medicine, and Mathematical Sciences**.

iii. The official ceremony of 21st edition of Shaw Prize will held on **12th November, 2024 in Hong Kong**.

Winners of 2024 Shaw Prize:

SNO.	Winner	Category	Work
1.	Shrinivas R. Kulkarni (India)	Astronomy	For his groundbreaking discoveries about milliseconds (ms) pulsars, gamma-ray bursts, supernovae etc.

About Shaw Prize:

i. Shaw Prize also known as “**Nobel of The East**”, is a award given annually by Shaw Prize Foundation (**established in 2002**) to the distinguished personalities in recognition of their work in the category of Astronomy, Life Science and Medicine and Mathematical Science.

ii. The Shaw Prize was established by famous Philanthropist **Run Run Shaw** and 1st Shaw Prize was presented in **2004**.

iii. Recipients of Shaw Prize received a monetary prize of **USD 1.2 million**.

UP Rickshaw Driver Arti Won the UK's Prestigious Royal

Award In London Arti (18), a rickshaw driver from Uttar Pradesh (UP) has won the prestigious Amal Clooney **Women's Empowerment Award** at the **Prince's Trust Awards**, an event that celebrates the achievements of young people from around the world in **London, United Kingdom (UK)**.

- She has also met **King Charles III** at Buckingham Palace, London, UK, after winning the award.
- The award is given in recognition for her role in inspiring other young girls through her involvement in the Indian government's **Pink E-rickshaw initiative**.

Note: Amal Clooney Women's Empowerment Award was named after the famous English Barrister Amal Clooney.

About Pink E-Rickshaw Initiative:

i. Pink E-Rickshaw Initiative is an initiative which was launched as part of the **Mission Shakti scheme** by the Indian government.

ii. Under this initiative, the pink e-rickshaws with a subsidy were offered for female drivers.

iii. It aims to empower women and increase their access to income-generating opportunities throughout India.

iv. It increases employment opportunities for underprivileged women, especially widows and single mothers by improving their access to safe transportation, therefore boosting their mobility and independence.

Note: Arti was first introduced to the Pink E-Rickshaw program by the Indian government in July 2023 through **Project Lehar**, which was run in collaboration with Prince's Trust International and the Aga Khan Foundation (AKF).

About Prince's Trust International :

Prince's Trust International (now King's Trust International) was founded by King Charles, which supports young people across 20 countries through employment, education and enterprise programmes.

POWERGRID Receives ATD BEST Awards 2024 for the 3rd time in L&D Field; NTPC Secures 3rd Rank Globally

Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (**POWERGRID**), a Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) under the Ministry of Power has been awarded the ATD BEST Awards 2024, by the Association for Talent Development (ATD), the United States of America (**USA**) for leveraging talent development as a strategic business tool.

- **NTPC Limited** (formerly National Thermal Power Corporation), a Maharatna company and India's largest power utility secured the **3rd rank** globally at the **ATD BEST Awards 2024**, making it the **highest-ranking among all Indian companies**.

77th Cannes Film Festival: Sean Baker's Anora won Palme d'Or & Payal Kapadia's All We Imagine As Light won Grand Prix

The **77th annual Cannes International Film Festival** was held from May 14 to May 25, 2024, in Cannes, France. American comedy-drama film '**Anora**' directed by **Sean Baker** won the **Palme d'Or**, the highest honour of the Cannes festival

i. Indian film '**All We Imagine as Light**' directed by **Payal Kapadia** won the **Grand Prix**, the 2nd highest award of the festival. She became the **first Indian** to win this award.

ii. **Santosh Sivan**, an Indian cinematographer and film director, was honoured with the **Pierre Angénieux Tribute Award** in recognition of his career and exceptional quality of work. He became the **first Asian** to win this award.

iii. **Indian actress** Anasuya Sengupta won the Best Actress award for her performance in 'The Shameless' in the 'Un Certain Regard' category.

Indian-Origin Sculptor Anish Kapoor Topped the 6th Hurun India Art List 2024. According to the **6th edition of Hurun India Art List (2024)** released by the Hurun Research Institute on 28th May 2024, British Indian sculptor **Anish Kapoor** topped the list for the **6th** consecutive year.

- He topped the list due to the robust sales of his artwork at public auctions, which amounted to **Rs 79.9 crore**.

ii. **Arpita Singh**, 87 year old (ranked 3rd) topped among the female artists in the list

iii. **Raghav Babbar (27)** from Rohtak, Haryana, ranked at **8th** spot, is the youngest Indian artist in the Hurun India Artist List 2024 with total sales of **Rs 12.1 crore**.

iv. **Krishen Khanna (99)** is the **oldest** Indian artist in the list, ranked **5th** with combined value of his art work **Rs 18 crore**. This showed an increase of **32%** compared to previous year.

About Hurun India:

Hurun Report Inc. is a leading research, luxury publishing and events group established in 1998 in London (UK). Hurun India was launched in 2012.

Managing Director(MD) and Chief Researcher-
Anas Rahman Junaid

Headquarters- Mumbai, Maharashtra

Sports

FIDE Bestows Grandmaster(GM) Title to Indian Chess Player Vaishali Rameshbabu

Indian Chess Player Vaishali Rameshbabu has officially bestowed with title of GrandMaster(GM) by International Chess Federation(FIDE).

- Now, She and her brother GM Rameshbabu Pragnanandhaa are the world's 1st GrandMaster(GM) Brother-Sister duo.

Key Points:

i. After this GM title, she becomes the 84th Indian GM and 42nd woman from any country to hold the GM title.

ii. Now, She is the 3rd Indian woman after Koneru Humpy (2002) and Harika Dronavalli (2011) to become a GM.

iii. Vaishali completed the requisite 2500 ELO points in IV El Ilobregat Open which took place in Barcelona, Spain in 2023.

iv. She officially received the GM title only after the final decision was taken at FIDE Council meeting during the Candidates Tournament in Toronto, Canada in April 2024.

Note:

To become a GM, a player has to secure three GM norms and cross the live rating of 2,500 Elo points.

Awards:

i. On 9th January 2024, Vaishali Ramesh Babu was honoured with India's one of the most prestigious sports honour "Arjuna Award for 2023". The award was presented by Droupadi Murmu, President of India.

ii. She was a part of the women's chess team that won the silver medal in the 19th Asian Games (Hangzhou 2022).

About Federation International des Echecs or International Chess Federation(FIDE):

President: Arkady Dvorkovich

Deputy President: Vishwanathan Anand

Headquarters: Lausanne, Switzerland

Established: 1924.

Lando Norris marks his first victory in F1 career after winning Miami Grand Prix 2024

McLaren's Lando Norris won the first Formula One race of his career after defeating the world champion Max

Verstappen in the Miami Grand Prix (GP) 2024 held on May 5, 2024 in Miami International Autodrome circuit, Miami, United States.

- This was a long-awaited win for the champion who held the record for most podiums without a win (15) and having finished runner-up for eight times in 110 grand prix (as of May 5, 2024).

Key Highlights:

i. Red Bull's Max Verstappen finished 2nd in the race, followed by Ferrari's Charles Leclerc in 3rd.

ii. Norris is the first driver since Carlos Sainz Jr. to beat Verstappen in 2024 season (Australian GP).

About Lando Norris:

i. Lando Norris, representing the United Kingdom, is currently competing in Formula One with McLaren.

ii. He was announced as a McLaren driver in 2018 making his Formula One debut in 2019.

iii. He achieved his first podium in Formula One at the 2020 Austrian Grand Prix, and his first win at the 2024 Miami Grand Prix.

Results:

Position	Rider	Team
1	Lando Norris (United Kingdom)	McLaren
2	Max Verstappen (Netherlands)	Red Bull
3	Charles Leclerc (Monaco)	Ferrari

Mumbai City Beats Mohun Bagan 3-1 to Win the Indian Super League 2023-24 Final

Mumbai City Football Club (MCFC) beat Mohun Bagan SuperGiants (MBSG) 3-1 to win the 10th edition of the Indian Super League (ISL) 2023-24

final at the Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan (Salt Lake Stadium) in Kolkata, West Bengal(WB).

- This is the second ISL title for Mumbai City Football Club, it previously won the 2020-21 season against Atlético de Kolkata Mohun Bagan.
- A total of **12 clubs** participated in the Indian Super League 2023-24.
- **ISL 2023-24 awards:**

i. ISL Player of the League: Dimitrios Petratos (Mohun Bagan Super Giant)

ii. Golden Glove: Phurba Lachenpa (MCFC)

iii. Golden Boot: Dimitrios Diamantakos (Kerala Blasters FC)

iv. Emerging Player of the League: Vikram Partap Singh (MCFC)

v. Golden Ball: Dimitrios Petratos (MBSG)

vi. Best Pitch: Jamshedpur FC

vii. Grassroots Award: FC Goa

viii. Best Elite Youth Program: Bengaluru FC

ix. Mohun Bagan Super Giants beat Mumbai City FC to clinch its maiden Indian Super League (ISL) **Winners Shield** at the Salt Lake Stadium in Kolkata.

Note: The prize money for the winner(MCFC) is Rs 6 crore and Rs 3 crore for runner (MBSG).

Magnus Carlsen Wins the 2024 Superbet Poland Rapid & Blitz; Praggnanandhaa Finishes Fourth

The Five-time World Champion & World No.

1 Magnus Carlsen emerged as the winner of the **2024 Superbet Poland Rapid & Blitz**, a part of World Chess Tour that was held from 7th to 12th May 2024 in Warsaw, Poland.

- The Norwegian chess player gained a total of 26 points to clinch the title after a total of 10 wins in a row.

Note– The prize fund for each of the two tournaments will be **USD 350,000** and **USD 175,000** per event for rapid and blitz. In addition, a bonus prize fund worth USD 275,000 will be awarded.

- Magnus received the prize money of USD 40,000.

Key Highlights:

i. Wei Yi of China clinched the second spot with 25.5 points.

ii. Jan-Krzysztof Duda of Poland finished third with 19.5 points and Praggnanandhaa claimed the fourth position in the tournament with 19 points.

iii. Erigaisi Arjun finished fifth while Dommaraju Gukesh finished at 10th position.

Results:

Rank	Winner
1	Magnus Carlsen (Norway)
2	Wei Yi (China)
3	Jan-Krzysztof Duda (Poland)
4	Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa (India)
5	Arjun Erigaisi (India)
10	Dommaraju Gukesh (India)

About Magnus Carlsen:

i. Apart from winning the 2024 Superbet Poland Rapid & Blitz, Magnus Carlsen has lately won the GRENKE Chess Classic 2024 (Karlsruhe, Germany) in March & April for the third time after winning it in 2015 and 2019.

ii. Besides, he has also claimed the 2024 Champions Chess Tour Chessable Masters title in February 2024.

About Grand Chess Tour 2024:

i. The Grand Chess Tour is a multi-level chess competition spread out over the year and across formats, where the top players in the world compete with each other.

ii. The tournament began in 2015 as a three-legged competition, with Magnus Carlsen emerging as the winner.

Indian Javelin Thrower Neeraj Chopra finished second at the Doha Diamond League 2024

The Olympic and World Champion javelin thrower **Neeraj Chopra** claimed the **second** spot in the **Doha Diamond League 2024** that was held on 10th May 2024 at the Qatar Sports Club, Doha, Qatar.

- The three-time Olympian for Czech Republic Jakub Vadlejch claimed the top spot with 88.38 meters throw while Neeraj Chopra missed the first spot by just 2 centimeters (88.36 meters).

Key Highlights:

- The former world champion Anderson Peters of Grenada claimed the third spot with an 86.62m throw.
- Meanwhile, India's Kishore Jena, who claimed the silver medal at the Hangzhou 2022 Asian Games held in China in 2023, finished ninth in his Diamond League debut.

Note– The next men's javelin Diamond League meeting will be held in **Paris** on July 7, 2024.

About Neeraj Chopra:

- Neeraj Chopra had won the 2023 Doha Diamond League.
- He has clinched a gold medal at the 19th Asian Games taking place in China's Hangzhou.
- Besides, he has also claimed a gold medal in the men's javelin throw event at the World Athletics Championships 2023 in Budapest, Hungary.
- He is also the 2020 Tokyo Olympic (Japan) gold medalist.

About the Diamond League:

- The Diamond League is a high-level multi-tier group of track & field meets conducted under the World Athletics (formerly known as IAAF or International Association of Athletics Federations).
- The 2024 Diamond League is the fifteenth season of the annual series of outdoor track and field meetings.

Neeraj Chopra Wins Gold Medal in 27th National Federation Senior Athletics Competition 2024

2020 Tokyo Olympics Gold medalist Neeraj Chopra won the **Gold medal** in the men's Javelin with **82.27 meter(m)** throw in 27th National Federation Senior Athletics Competition 2024. The tournament held at **Kalinga Stadium** in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

- This was the first time for Neeraj Chopra from Haryana to participate in an event in India in three years. Last time, he competed at the Federation Cup in 2021 and won a gold medal with an 87.80 m throw.
- **DP Manu** from Karnataka won the **Silver** medal with 82.06m throw and **Uttam Balasaheb Patil** from Maharashtra won the **Bronze** medal with 78.39m.

PUMA India signed with AFI to Become Official Kit Sponsor of Indian Athletes

PUMA India has signed a multi-year deal with the Athletics Federation of India (**AFI**) to become its **official kit sponsor**, aiming to enhance athlete performance and create excellence within India's sporting community.

- Under this partnership, Puma will provide performance kits, speed suits and travel gear to every athlete under AFI representing India in track & field, jumps, throws, cross country running and marathons at both domestic and international tournaments.
- This is the **first time** that Indian athletes get access to speed suits that PUMA supplies globally to other athletes.
- Puma will equip over **400 athletes** with products comprising apparel, footwear and accessories.

- International sports stars like Neeraj Chopra (javelin throw), Kishore Kumar Jena (javelin throw), Parul Chaudhary (steeplechase), Subha Venkatesan (4x 400 meter relay), Murali Sreeshankar (long jump), Jyothi Yarraji (hurdle), Priyanka Goswami (race walk) and Jeswin Aldrin (long jump) will benefit from PUMA's gear across sporting events.

iv. This partnership does not include the **Olympics, Asian Games and Commonwealth Games**.

Note: AFI established in 1946, is the apex body for running and managing athletics in India. It is affiliated with the **World Athletics, Asian Athletics Association (AAA), and Indian Olympic Association (IOA)**.

Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty won the doubles title in BWF Thailand Open 2024

Indian shuttlers Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty have won the men's doubles title in the Badminton World Federation (BWF) **Thailand Open Super 500** badminton tournament 2024 which was held from 14th to 19th May 2024 in Bangkok, Thailand.

- The world No. 3 Indian pair clinched the title by defeating the 29th-ranked Chen Bo Yang and Liu Yi of China.
- This was their second tournament win of 2024 and **second** Thailand Open title after winning it in 2019.

Note– The victory made the Indian pair earn 9200 ranking points and prize money of USD 33180.

Achievements of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty:

i. On the whole, this was Satwik and Chirag's eighth title in the Badminton World Federation (BWF) World Tour.

ii. The Indian duo won the Swiss Open, the Indonesia Open and the Korea Open in 2023 as well as won the French Open Super 750 in March 2024.

Key Highlights of the tournament:

i. Malaysia's **Lee Zii Jia** won the Men's Singles title defeating Hong Kong's Ng Ka Long Angus to claim his second Thailand Open Title after winning in 2022.

ii. In the Women's Singles, Thailand's **Supanida Katethong** won the Women's Singles title by defeating China's Han Yue which became her first Super 500 tournament win.

About BWF Thailand Open 2024:

i. The Thailand Open (officially known as Toyota Thailand Open) is a part of the BWF World Tour Super 500 marks the first BWF World Tour tournament since the Spain Masters 2024 which was held at the end of March.

ii. It was held in 1984 for the first time and is now the 36th edition of the Thailand Open.

iii. The Thailand Open 2024 offers a prize money pool of USD 420,000.

Brazil Declared Host of FIFA Women's World Cup 2027

International Federation of Association Football (FIFA) President Gianni Infantino announced **Brazil** as the host for the 10th edition of FIFA Women's World Cup (**FIFAWWC**) 2027 during the 74th FIFA Congress in Bangkok, Thailand.

- Brazil became the **1st South American** country to hold the Women's World Cup, beating the joint bid of Belgium, Netherlands and Germany (BNG).
- Brazil hosted the men's football World Cups twice in 1950 and 2014.

ii. Spain emerged as the winner of 2023 edition held in Australia and New Zealand.

iii. The United States Women's National Soccer Team (USWNT) leads with 4 titles in 1991, 1999, 2015, and 2019.

Magnus Carlsen Won the Casablanca Chess Tournament 2024; Anand Secured 3rd Position

Five-time World Champion & World No. 1 Chess player **Magnus Carlsen** won the inaugural Casablanca Chess Variant Tournament 2024 that was held on 18th-19th May, 2024 at **Mahkama du Pacha** in Casablanca, Morocco.

- Magnus Carlsen from Norway, finished the 4-player event with 4.5 points from 6 rounds.
- The tournament featured 4 distinguished players who represented 4 different continents i.e. Vishwanathan Anand (**Asia**), Bassem Amin (**Africa**), Hikaru Nakamura (**America**) and Magnus Carlsen (**Europe**).
- **Hikaru Nakamura** from United States of America (U.S.A.) secured 2nd position with 3.5 points.
- 5-time World Champion and Indian Chess Player, **Vishwanathan Anand** secured the 3rd position with 3 points.

Malaysia Masters 2024 – PV Sindhu finishes runner-up in the Women's Singles; Viktor Axelsen wins the Men's Singles title

Two-time Olympic gold medalist and World number 15, Pusarla Venkata(P.V)Sindhu settles as runner-up in the Women's Singles category after losing the match to World number 7, **Wang Zhi Yi of China** in the Badminton World Federation (BWF) Malaysia Masters 2024 held from 21st to 26th May 2024 in Axiata Arena, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

- Meanwhile, World number 1 **Viktor Axelsen** won his first World Tour title of 2024 in the Men's Singles category after defeating Malaysian badminton player Lee Zii Jia.

Note– The total prize money set for the Malaysia Masters 2024 BWF Super 500 badminton tournament is USD 4,20,000.

About P.V Sindhu :

i.P.V Sindhu has won the Singapore Open and Commonwealth Games (Birmingham) in 2022.

ii.PV Sindhu has captured the women's singles title in the competition twice in 2013 and 2016, while Saina Nehwal secured the title in 2017.

iii.She also finished as a runner up at the Madrid Spain Masters in 2023.

About Malaysia Masters 2024 :

i.The 2024 Malaysia Masters 2024 was the 13th tournament on the BWF World Tour 2024.

ii.It commenced in 2009 wherein the Badminton World Federation (BWF) had previously categorized the event as a Grand Prix Gold tournament. However, from 2018, it has been classified as a BWF World Tour Super 500 tournament.

About Badminton World Federation (BWF):

President – Poul-Erik Høyer Larsen

Headquarters – Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Indian Premier League 2024: Kolkata Knight Riders won the championship defeating Sunrisers Hyderabad

Kolkata Knight Riders(KKR) captained by Shreyas Iyer(Indian cricketer) has won the champions title of the 17th season of the Indian Premier League (IPL 2024) by defeating Sunrisers Hyderabad(SRH) captained by Pat Cummins(Australian cricketer) by

eight wickets in the finals held at the MA Chidambaram Stadium, Chennai, Tamil Nadu(TN).

- This marks KKR's 3rd IPL title. The team has previously won the title in **2012** and **2014** under the captaincy of Gautam Gambhir.
- The finals between KKR and SRH lasted only 29 overs and became the shortest-ever IPL playoff game (without weather interruptions).

About IPL 2024:

i.Title Sponsor: TATA Group has secured the title sponsorship rights of IPL for 5 years (2024 to 2028) for Rs 2500 crore.

ii.The Official Broadcaster of IPL 2024 is Star Sports and the Official digital streaming partner is JioCinema.

Dipa Karmakar Becomes 1st Indian Gymnast to Win Gold Medal at Asian Gymnastics Championships 2024

Dipa Karmakar (from Tripura) has become the **first Indian gymnast** to win a **gold medal** in the women's vault apparatus at the **Asian Gymnastics Championships 2024** (11th Senior Women Artistic Gymnastics Asian Championships) held from 24th to 26th May 2024 in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

- This is the first time an Indian gymnast has won a gold medal in any event at the Asian Championships. She achieved an average score of 13.566 in the vault final.
- **Kim Son-hyang** and **Jo Kyong-byol** of **North Korea** finished with the silver and bronze medals respectively.

Note: Previously, Indian gymnasts have won 4 bronze medals at the Asian Championships. The 4 bronzes were earned by Dipa Karmakar in women's vault in 2015; Ashish Kumarmen in the floor exercise in 2006, and Pranati Nayak in women's vault in 2019 and 2022.

About Dipa Karmakar:

i.Dipa Karmakar won bronze in the women's vault final at the 2014 Glasgow Commonwealth Games, Scotland. This was her first international medal.

ii.In 2016, She became the first female gymnast from India to compete in the Olympics. She finished 4th at

the 2016 Summer Olympics, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

iii. She won the gold medal at the 2018 International Gymnastics Federation (FIG) Artistic Gymnastics World Cup series held in Mersin, Türkiye and became the first Indian ever to win a gold medal at a global gymnastics event.

- She also won the bronze medal at the 2018 FIG Artistic Gymnastics World Cup series held in Cottbus, Germany.

Formula 1: Ferrari's Charles Leclerc wins Monaco F1 GP 2024

On 26 May 2024, Ferrari's Charles Leclerc, a racing driver from Monaco won the Monaco Grand Prix (GP) 2024 (officially Formula 1 (F1) Grand Prix de Monaco 2024) held at Circuit de Monaco in Monte Carlo. This victory is Charles Leclerc's 1st win since the 2022 Austrian GP, breaking a 39-race winless line.

- With this victory, Charles became the 1st Monegasque driver to win the Monaco GP since Louis Chiron in 1931.
- McLaren's Oscar Piastri of Australia finished 2nd and Ferrari's Carlos Sainz of Spain finished 3rd in the Monaco GP 2024.

Note: He had never previously finished on the podium at this circuit in F1 or F2.

Points to Note:

i. Charles Leclerc secured his 5th podium finish in the 1st 8 races of the season. This surpasses his previous record of 4 podiums in the 1st 20 races in 2023.

Global Standing:

i. After winning the Monaco GP 2024, Charles Leclerc secured 2nd position in the World Driver's Championship 2024 standings with 138 points.

ii. He is 31 points short of Red Bull's Max Verstappen, a Dutch-Belgian racer, who leads the standings with 169 points.

- Lando Norris (British and Belgium) secured 3rd with 113 points.

About Monaco GP:

It is an annual F1 motor racing event, taking place

over 78 laps of the 3.337-kilometer (km) Circuit de Monaco in Monte Carlo in the Principality of Monaco.

- Circuit de Monaco is a street circuit laid out on the city streets of Monte Carlo and La Condamine.

ii. It is the shortest race on the calendar.

Obituaries

Former Bihar Deputy CM Sushil Kumar Modi Passed Away

Senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader and former Bihar Deputy Chief Minister (CM) Sushil Kumar Modi passed away at the age of 72 in New Delhi, Delhi. He was born on 5th January 1952 in Patna, Bihar.

- He became one of the leaders who became a member of the Rajya Sabha, Lok Sabha and both houses of legislature – Bihar Legislative Council and the Bihar Legislative Assembly.

About Sushil Kumar Modi:

i. Sushil Kumar Modi became a Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) for the first time in 1990 from the Patna Central constituency (presently Kumhrar).

- He served as MLA for 3 terms – 1990-95, 1995-2000, and 2000-2004.

ii. From 1995 to 1996, he served as Secretary of the BJP and from 1996 to 2004, he was the Leader of Opposition at the Bihar Legislative Assembly.

iii. He served as the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs of Bihar in 2000.

iv. He was elected to the 14th Lok Sabha representing Bhagalpur constituency in 2004.

v. He was later served as a Member of the Bihar Legislative Council from 2006-2012; 2012-2018, and 2018-2020.

vi. He also served as finance minister of Bihar from 2005-2013 and 2017-2020 and as Deputy CM of Bihar for over 11 years across 2 stints, the 1st from 2005 to 2013, and then from 2017 to 2020.

vii. In 2020, he was elected to the Rajya Sabha from Bihar. He retired from Rajya Sabha in April 2024.

Former Gujarat Governor & Veteran Congress Leader Kamla Beniwal Passed Away

A veteran Congress leader and former Gujarat Governor Dr Kamla Beniwal has passed away at the age of 97 at a private hospital in Jaipur, Rajasthan. She was born on 12th January 1927 in Jhunjhunu, Rajasthan.

About Kamla Beniwal:

i. At the age of 15, she joined the Indian National Congress (INC) and participated in the Quit India Movement (1942).

ii. She began her political career in 1954 and was elected as Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) seven times.

iii. At the age of 27, she became the first woman minister in Rajasthan.

iv. She served as a member in the All India Congress Committee (AICC), Joint Secretary of the Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) and President of the Rajasthan Mahila Congress.

v. She served as the Governor of Tripura from October 2009 to November 2009. She became the first female governor of any state in Northeast India.

vi. She has also served as the Governor of Gujarat (2009 to 2014) and Mizoram (July 2014 to August 2014) and as Deputy Chief minister of Rajasthan.

vii. Beniwal was awarded the 'Tamra Patra Award' by then Prime Minister of India, Indira Gandhi.

Padma Awardee and Former Chairman of ICICI Bank, Narayanan Vaghul passed away

Renowned Indian Banker and Former Chairman of ICICI Bank, Narayanan Vaghul passed away at the age of 88 in Chennai, Tamil Nadu (T.N.).

Awards:

i. He was awarded the Padma Bhushan, India's 3rd highest civilian honour, in 2010 in the Trade and Industry category.

ii. He was honoured with The Economics Times Lifetime Achievement Award for his exceptional contribution in the banking industry of India in 2006.

iii. He received Businessman of the Year by Business India in 1992.

About Narayanan Vaghul:

i. He started his banking career with the State Bank of India (SBI) as an Officer.

ii. He became the Executive Director of Central Bank of India in 1978.

iii. He was the youngest person to become the chairman of Bank of India (BOI) in 1981.

iv. He had also worked as Director of National Institute of Bank Management (NIBM) in Pune, Maharashtra.

v. He was the Chairman of ICICI (then ICICI Limited) from September 1985 to April 2009.

- He became Chairman of ICICI Bank in 2002 following the merger of ICICI with the Bank.

vi. He was the founder chairman of **CRISIL Limited** (formerly known as Credit Rating Information Services of India Limited), 1st credit rating agency in India.

His Noted Work: In 2023, Union Minister of Finance, Nirmala Sitharaman released his memoir titled “**Reflections**” (published by Piramal Enterprises Limited) which carried vivid account of his experiences spanning over several decades in financial sector of India.

Iran President Ebrahim Raisi Passed away; Mohammad Mokhber Takes Charge as Interim President

On May 19 2024, Iran’s **8th President Ebrahim Raisi** died in a helicopter crash in northwestern Iran (Iran-Azerbaijan border), Following his death Iran’s 1st Vice President **Mohammad Mokhber** was appointed as **Interim President** of Iran for 50 days (before mandatory presidential elections).

- Iran’s government cabinet also appoints Deputy Foreign Minister Ali Bagheri Kani as acting foreign minister after the death of Hossein Amir-Abdollahian in the crash.
- Mohammad Mokhber’s elevation to presidential office will be subject to the approval of Supreme Leader **Ayatollah Ali Khamenei**.

Note:

i. According to Iran’s constitution, the vice president assumes the presidency if the president dies, is absent, or is incapacitated while in office.

ii. The 1st vice president of Iran is the second most powerful person in the elected branch of government after the president.

About Ebrahim Raisi:

i. Ebrahim Raisi was born on 14 December 1960 and grew up in the northeastern city of Mashhad.

ii. In 1985, he was appointed deputy prosecutor general of Tehran, Iran, and served as prosecutor general of

Tehran between 1989 and 1994.

iii. He was named first deputy head of the judiciary from 2004 to 2014. He was Iran’s prosecutor general from 2014 to 2016.

iv. He was appointed Iran’s chief justice in 2019 and became deputy chief of the Assembly of Experts in 2019.

v. He won Iran’s 2021 presidential election with 62% of the vote.

About Mohammad Mokhber:

i. He served as an officer in the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) medical corps during the Iran-Iraq War.

ii. Before becoming the deputy governor of the Khuzestan Province, he worked as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Dezful Telecommunications.

iii. He was appointed commercial vice president of the Mostazafan Foundation and later served as the chairman of Sina Bank’s board of directors for around 10 years.

iv. He was appointed the 1st Vice President of Iran in August 2021, after the now-deceased President Raisi chose him as his deputy.

Important Days with theme

International Workers' Day 2024 – May 01

International Workers' Day (also known as International Labour Day) is annually observed across the globe on **1 May** to promote worker's rights and honour the contribution of workers in every industry and field to society.

- The Day aims to pay tribute to the struggle of workers for their rights and decent working conditions.

History of May Day:

i. The origins of May Day can be traced back to the 1886 Haymarket Massacre (aka Haymarket Riot) violent confrontation between police and labor protesters in Chicago, Illinois, the United States of America (USA) on 4th May 1886.

ii. The riot occurred during a peaceful labor demonstration in support of an eight-hour workday.

iii. In 1889, The Second International, an organisation of socialist and labour parties, announced that May 1 would be marked as International Workers' Day.

World Press Freedom Day 2024 – May 3

The United Nations (UN)'s **World Press Freedom Day** is annually observed across the globe on **3rd May** to celebrate the fundamental principles of press freedom and evaluate press freedom worldwide.

- **3rd May 2024** marks the **31st** anniversary of World Press Freedom Day.
- The celebration of World Press Freedom Day is led by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).
- 2024 theme: “**A Press for the Planet: Journalism is the Face of the environmental crisis**”.

UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize 2024

The **Palestinian journalist covering Gaza** have been named the laureates of the **2024 UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize**. The Award Ceremony was held on 2 May 2024 during the World Press Freedom Conference in Santiago, Chile.

65th Border Roads Organisation Raising Day – 7 May 2024

The **Border Roads Organisation (BRO)** annually celebrates its **Raising Day** on **7 May** to commemorate the establishment of the BRO in **1960**. The Day aims to recognise the organisations' personnel and invite all ranks to continue to excel in constructing and maintaining roads and bridges in the border area.

- **7th May 2024** marks the observance of the **65th Raising Day of BRO**.

Background:

i. BRO was established on 7th May 1960 to secure India's borders and develop infrastructure in remote areas of the north and northeast Indian states.

ii. On 14th March 1960, the Union Cabinet decided to constitute the Border Roads Development Board (BRDB), under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister.

iii. The BRDB was constituted to coordinate and implement road projects for development and to meet the Defence needs.

- The BRDB was re-constituted in 1985 with the Defence Minister as the chairman.

About Border Roads Organisation (BRO):

Director-General– Lt Gen Raghu Srinivasan

Headquarters– New Delhi, Delhi

Motto– Shramena Sarvam Sadhyam (Everything is achievable through hard work)

World Athletics Day 2024 – May 7

World Athletics Day is annually celebrated across the globe on 7th May to promote the participation of youths in athletics. The day aims to raise awareness about the benefits of physical activity and encourage young and school children to take up athletics.

- The annual observance is led by the **World Athletics**.
- The theme for World Athletics Day 2024 is “**World Mile Challenge**”.

Background:

i.The IAAF, the world governing body for the sport of track and field athletics, introduced World Athletics Day as a social responsibility titled “Athletics for a Better World.”

ii.The 1st ever World Athletics Day was observed on 15th May 1996.

Kids’ Athletics Day 2024 – 7th May

Kids’ Athletics Day is annually observed across the globe on 7th May to encourage children and young people to play sports, especially athletics.

Kids’ Athletics Day is an important feature of the **World Athletics’ Kids’ Athletics programme**,

About World Athletics:

World Athletics (or IAAF) was established on 17 July 1912, in Stockholm, Sweden, following the Olympic Games closing ceremony.

President – Sebastian COE

World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day 2024 – May 8

World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day is annually observed across the globe on **8th May** to honour and thank the volunteers and staff of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

- The day also celebrates the principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

The **theme** of World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day 2024 is “**Keeping Humanity Alive**”.

Background:

i.During the 14th International Conference of the Red Cross held in London, England, in 1938, the delegates decided to observe 8th May of every year as the International Red Cross Day.

ii.The 1st ‘International Red Cross Day,’ was celebrated on May 8, 1948.

iii.The official title of the day changed over time and became known as ‘World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day’ in 1984.

About the International Federation of Red Cross**and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC):**

President– Kate Forbes

Headquarters– Geneva, Switzerland.

National Technology Day 2024 – May 11

National Technology Day is annually observed across India on **11 May** to honour the remarkable achievements of the nation’s scientists, engineers, innovators, and others involved in the field of Science and Technology, and celebrate and recognise the major technological advancements of India.

- This Day also commemorates the anniversary of the successful nuclear test (Pokhran II) in Pokhran, Rajasthan under the assigned code name Operation Shakti in 1998.

11 May 2024 marks the **26th year** of National Technology Day.

- The theme for this annual event is chosen by the Technology Development Board (TDB) under the Department of Science and Technology (DST).
- The 2024 event was celebrated under the theme, **Promoting Clean and Green Technologies for a Sustainable Future**’.

Background:

i.The then Prime Minister of India, Atal Bihari Vajpayee designated the 11 May of every year as the National Technology Day in 1998, to commemorate the Pokhran II nuclear tests conducted by the Indian Army.

ii.The Council for Technology organised the 1st National Technology Day on 11 May 1999.

International Nurses Day 2024 – May 12

International Nurses Day (IND) is annually observed across the globe on **12th May** to honour the contributions of nurses to society and recognise their role in the overall healthcare system.

- IND commemorates the **birth anniversary** of a English nurse, social reformer, and statistician **Florence Nightingale** (also known as the founder of modern nursing).

- The **theme** of International Nurses Day 2024 is **“Our Nurses. Our Future. The economic power of care”**.

The annual observance of IND is led by the International Council of Nurses (ICN).

Background:

i. In 1953, Dorothy Sutherland, an official with the United States (US) Department of Health, Education and Welfare, proposed to Dwight D. Eisenhower, the 34th President of the United States of America (USA) to declare “Nurses Day”.

ii. International Council of Nurses (ICN) has been celebrating the International Nurses Day since 1965.

iii. In January 1974, ICN proclaimed the 12th May of every year as the International Nurse Day. The date was chosen to mark the birth anniversary of Florence Nightingale.

World Telecommunication and Information Society Day 2024 – May 17

The United Nations (UN) **World Telecommunication and Information Society Day** (WTISD) is annually observed across the globe on **17 May** to raise awareness of the benefits of the Internet and other information and communication technologies (ICT).

- WTISD 2024 was observed under the theme: **“Digital Innovation for Sustainable Development.”**

Background:

i. World Telecommunication Day has been celebrated annually on 17 May since 1969.

ii. In November 2005, the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) urged the UN General Assembly (UNGA) to declare 17 May as World Information Society Day.

iii. The UNGA adopted Resolution A/RES/60/252 in March 2006 to celebrate World Information Society Day annually on 17 May.

iv. In November 2006, the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference in Antalya, Türkiye, decided to celebrate both events on 17 May as WTISD.

International Tea Day 2024 – May 21

The United Nations (UN)’s **International Tea Day** (ITD) is annually observed across the globe on **21st May** to promote sustainable production and consumption of tea and highlight the role of tea cultivation in combating hunger and poverty.

- **21st May 2024** marks the observance of the **5th ITD**.
- ITD is observed by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations.

Background:

i. ITD has been celebrated since 2005 on 15th December in tea-producing countries like Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Vietnam, Indonesia, Kenya, Malawi, Malaysia, Uganda, India and Tanzania.

ii. On 19 December 2019, the UN General Assembly (UNGA) adopted the resolution A/RES/74/241 designating the 21st May of every year as International Tea Day.

iii. The **1st UN-recognised** International Tea Day was observed on **21 May 2020**.

Note: The 2024 ITD highlights women and their role in the tea sector.

National Anti-Terrorism Day 2024 – May 21

National Anti-Terrorism Day is annually observed across India on **21 May** to mark the **death anniversary** of former Prime Minister (PM) **Rajiv Gandhi**, who was assassinated in 1991 at Sriperumbudur, a village near Chennai, Tamil Nadu. **21 May 2024** marks the **33rd death anniversary** of the 6th PM of India, Rajiv Gandhi (1984 to 1989).

Background:

In **1992**, the Government of India (GoI) decided to observe **21 May** as **National Anti-Terrorism Day** to honour the memory of **Rajiv Gandhi**.

Indian Commonwealth Day 2024 – May 24

Commonwealth Day (formerly Empire Day) is annually observed by people all over the Commonwealth in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean and Americas, the Pacific, and Europe on the **2nd Monday of March**. But, **India** and certain other

Commonwealth nations observe the Commonwealth Day on **24th May**.

- **Indian Commonwealth Day 2024** was observed on **24th May 2024**.
- **Commonwealth Day 2024** was observed on **11th March 2024**.
- Commonwealth Day honours shared values like democracy, human rights, and sustainable development.

Theme:

i. The theme for Commonwealth Day 2024 is ‘**One Resilient Common Future: Transforming our Common Wealth**’.

ii. It is also the theme of the **27th** Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (**CHOGM**), a biennial meeting of leaders from Commonwealth nations, scheduled in Samoa from 21-26 October 2024.

What is the Commonwealth?

The Commonwealth is an intergovernmental political association of 56 independent and equal member states, representing 2.5 billion people—about one-third of the global population.

- The member states are committed to the values and principles of the Commonwealth Charter.
- Majority of Commonwealth are former territories of the British Empire.

Note:

i. The British monarch is considered as the symbolic head of the Commonwealth of Nations

ii. His Majesty King Charles III is the current Head of the Commonwealth.

History:

i. Commonwealth Day was first celebrated as Empire Day on 24 May 1902, to honour Queen Victoria, following her demise in 1901.

- It was not officially recognised as an annual event until 1916.

First-Ever UN World Football Day – 25 May 2024

The **first-ever** United Nations (UN)’s **World Football Day** was observed across the globe on **25th May 2024** to acknowledge the global reach of football and its impact across various spheres, including commerce, peace, and diplomacy.

- World Football Day recognises football’s unique ability to create spaces for cooperation and connection worldwide.
- **25th May 2024** marks the **100th anniversary** of the 1924 Olympic Football Tournament held in Paris, France.

Background:

i. On 7th May 2024, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted the resolution A/RES/78/281, proclaiming the **25th May** of every year as **World Football Day**.

ii. The resolution was initiated by Bahrain, Libya and Tajikistan and was subsequently unanimously adopted by 170 nations at the UNGA.

About Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA)

Secretary General– Fatma Samba Diouf Samoura

President– Gianni Infantino

Headquarters– Zürich, Switzerland

Established on– 21st May 1904

International Everest Day 2024 – May 29

International Everest Day is annually observed across the globe on **29th May** to commemorate the **first-ever** successful **summit of Mount (Mt) Everest** in **1953** by **Sir Edmund Hillary**, a mountaineer from New Zealand, and **Tenzing Norgay**, a Sherpa from Nepal.

- This Day also honours the accomplishments of mountaineers around the world and recognise their efforts.

29th May 2024 marks the **71st anniversary** of the 1953 Mt Everest Summit.

International Everest Day has been **celebrated since 2008**, following the death of Sir Edmund Hillary on 11th January 2008