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Current
Affairs

NATIONAL NEWS

Odisha CM Mohan Charan Majhi Introduces the CM Kisan Yojana

Odisha CM Mohan Charan Majhi launched the CM Kisan Yojana by releasing the first instalment of 925 crore to support nearly 46 lakh farmers. The inauguration, held at Gangadhar Meher University in Sambalpur, coincided with the major agricultural festival, Nuakhai. Each small and marginal farmer received 2,000 as the first installment via Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT), with a second installment set for Akshaya Tritiya.

Foot Notes:

- A total of 45,57,733 farmers, including landless ones, will receive 4,000 annually in two installments, while landless farmers will get 12,500 in three installments.
- The funds are intended for purchasing agricultural equipment, seeds, fertilizers, and pesticides.
- The CM also launched the Krushak Odisha Unified Portal to provide information on state government support for farmers.
- Prior to the event, the CM took part in the sacred 'Nabanna' ceremony at Samaleswari Temple in Sambalpur.

About Odisha:

Governor : Raghubar Das

Chief Minister : Mohan Charan Majhi

Capital : Bhubaneswar

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Indian-Origin Lecturer Prasanthi Ram won Singapore Literature Prize

- Prasanthi Ram, a 32-year-old lecturer at Nanyang Technological University, has won the Singapore Literature Prize for her debut short story cycle, *Nine Yard Sarees*.
- The collection explores the lives of a Tamil Brahmin family across multiple generations and locations, including Singapore, Sydney, and New York, reflecting themes of migration, identity, and cultural evolution.

About Singapore Literature Prize

The Singapore Literature Prize recognizes outstanding published works by Singaporean authors. The award covers works in any of Singapore's four official languages: Chinese, English, Malay and Tamil.

The competition is organized by the Singapore Book Council (SBC) with support from the National Arts Council.

STATE NEWS

India's first Silicon Carbide manufacturing facility will be established in Odisha.

- Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi attended the groundbreaking ceremony for India's first silicon carbide manufacturing facility in Odisha, involving an investment of 620 crore.
- The facility, developed by RIR Power Electronics Limited, will be located at EMC Park, Info Valley, Bhubaneswar.
- The project aims to support India's goal of becoming self-reliant in semiconductor production.
- It will generate over 500 new jobs in various roles, from R&D to factory operations, offering significant employment opportunities.

Meta Partners with Telangana Government to Drive AI Innovation in e-Governance

Meta has announced a two-year strategic partnership with the Department of Information Technology, Electronics, and Communications (IT, E&C) of the Government of Telangana. The partnership aims to empower public officials and citizens with emerging AI technologies.

Foot Notes:

- The partnership aims to empower public officials and citizens with emerging AI technologies.
- It seeks to transform public service delivery and enhance e-governance.
- Meta will deploy its open-source Generative AI technologies.
- This includes the latest Llama 3.1 model.

About Telangana:

Chief Minister: Revanth Reddy

Capital: Hyderabad

Governor: Jishnu Dev Varma

World's First Asian King Vulture Conservation Center Inaugurated in Uttar Pradesh

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath inaugurated the Jatayu Conservation and Breeding Centre in Bharivaisi, Campierganj Range of the Gorakhpur Forest Division. This pioneering

facility is the world's first dedicated center for the conservation and breeding of the Asian King Vulture, also known as the red-headed vulture.

Foot Note:

- Other Jatayu conservation centers in India focus on various vulture species.
- The new Uttar Pradesh facility is unique for specializing exclusively in the Asian King Vulture.
- This focus emphasizes the urgent need to protect this critically endangered species.
- The center highlights Uttar Pradesh's dedication to biodiversity conservation.

About Uttar Pradesh:

Capital: Lucknow

Governor : Anandiben Patel

Chief Minister : Yogi Adityanath

India's Pioneering Fashion Forecasting Initiative VisioNxt Launched by Textile Ministry

The Union Ministry of Textiles has launched the VisioNxt web portal to establish India as a global fashion leader. The web portal will use information technology to provide India-specific real-time trend insights for the Indian fashion industry.

Foot Note:

- Union Minister of Textiles, Giriraj Singh, launched the VisioNxt web portal in New Delhi on September 5, 2024.
- Singh also introduced the India-specific Fashion Trend Book 'Paridhi 24×25.'
- The event was attended by Pabitra Margherita, Minister of State for Textiles and External Affairs, and Rachna Shah, Textiles Secretary.
- The VisioNxt portal was developed by the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) under the Union Ministry of Textiles.

RANKING & INDEX NEWS

IGI world's 24th best-connected airport rises one spot

Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) in Delhi has risen to 24th place in the latest global rankings, up from 25th in 2023, according to the Official Airline Guide (OAG). In contrast, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport in Mumbai dropped to 44th place, down from 34th last year.

Foot notes:

- Net Zero Carbon Emission: First airport in India to achieve this status.
- Infrastructure Developments:
- Four Runways: Only Indian airport with four runways.

- Elevated Cross Taxiway: India's first, inaugurated in July 2023, with an arterial road for passenger traffic below.
- Capacity Expansion: Plans to increase international capacity by 40-50% within a year; Air India and IndiGo have ordered over 1,400 aircraft.
- Automated People Mover (APM): Planned APM systems between Terminal 1 and Terminal

Rewa Airport gets DGCA nod; will become sixth in Madhya Pradesh

With the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) granting an operating license to the airport in Rewa, the Vindhya region of Madhya Pradesh will see a significant boost in economic growth and regional connectivity.

Foot Note:

- The Rewa Airport in the Vindhya region has received a DGCA license.
- This development will enhance economic activity and improve regional connectivity in Madhya Pradesh.
- Under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, the airport is set to be a key milestone for the Vindhya region's development.
- It supports the 'Developed India-Developed Madhya Pradesh' vision.

About Madhya Pradesh:

Capital: Bhopal

Governor: Mangubhai C. Patel

Chief Minister: Mohan Yadav

BANKING & FINANCE NEWS

Union Bank of India Becomes First Major Indian Bank to Join PCAF

Union Bank of India is the first Indian bank to join the globally launched PCAF, which standardizes the assessment and disclosure of GHG emissions from loans and investments. The initiative includes over 500 financial institutions worldwide, including major players like Barclays, Morgan Stanley, Citi, and Bank of America.

Foot notes:

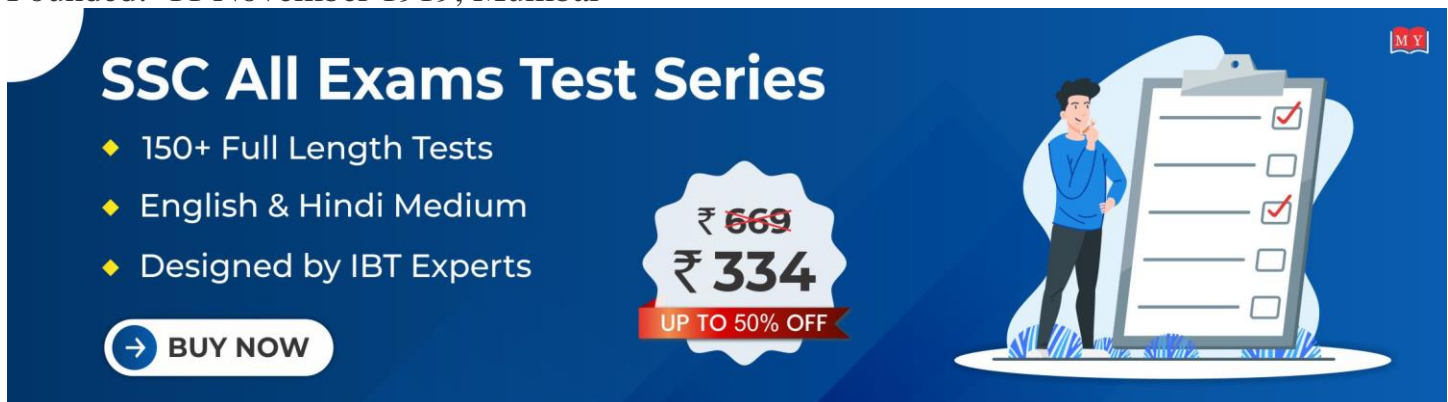
- Union Bank of India aims to use PCAF to report GHG emissions by FY 2027-28, targeting to meet this goal ahead of schedule.
- This move highlights the bank's dedication to sustainability, transparency, and a lower-carbon economy.
- The bank can now measure and disclose emissions comparably with peers, aiding informed decision-making and client support.
- Investors will benefit from consistent, transparent data on the bank's progress.

About Union Bank:

CEO : A. Manimekhalai

Headquarters: Mumbai

Founded: 11 November 1919, Mumbai




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World Bank advises India to reassess RCEP decision to achieve \$1 trillion export target

The World Bank, urged India to re-evaluate its regional integration strategy, including its decision not to join the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), as part of its plan to achieve the \$1 trillion export target by 2030.

Foot Notes:

- India has chosen not to join major trade agreements like RCEP.
- Other South Asian economies are seeking trade agreements beyond the region.
- India may need to reevaluate its position on regional integration.
- Particular focus could be on reconsidering its stance on RCEP.
- Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, neighboring countries, are interested in joining the East Asian trade and global value chain hub.

About World Bank:

Headquarters: Washington

President: Ajay Banga

Founded: 1944

RBL Bank Teams Up with IndianOil for New Credit Card

Private sector lender RBL Bank has launched a new credit card in collaboration with Indian Oil Corporation, named 'Xtra Credit Card,' as part of its strategy to moderately grow its credit card portfolio and enhance customer engagement. The move comes amid scrutiny from the RBI over the rapid growth of the riskier unsecured credit segment.

Foot Note:

- RBL Bank targets a 15% growth in its credit card portfolio.
- Growth target depends on a 20-25% industry expansion.
- Focuses on achieving reasonable returns on capital and improving internal unit economics.
- Aims to deepen cross-sell opportunities rather than aggressively increasing market share.

About RBL Bank:

Headquarters: Mumbai

Founded: 14 June 1943

CEO: R Subramania kumar

AU Small Finance Bank and United India Insurance Partner to Offer Insurance Products

AU Small Finance Bank (AU SFB) and United India Insurance Company (UIIC) have announced a strategic partnership to provide general insurance solutions to the bank's customers. AU SFB has applied for a universal banking license from the RBI and aims to expand its bank assurance portfolio with technology-driven insurance solutions for its over 1 crore customers.

Foot notes:

- Insurance Products Offered: The partnership will offer motor, personal accident, crop, property, shopkeeper, and cyber incident insurance.
- Distribution Network: UIIC's branch network in over 1,000 tier 2 and tier 3 locations will support AU SFB's expanding infrastructure and customer base.
- Geographical Reach: The collaboration strengthens AU SFB's appeal across 21 states and 4 union territories in India.

About AU Small Finance Bank:

CEO : Mr. Sanjay Agarwal

Founded : 1996

Headquarters : Jaipur

SBI Foundation Launches 3rd Edition of Asha Scholarship Program

The State Bank of India (SBI) Foundation has unveiled the third edition of its flagship initiative, the SBI Asha Scholarship Programme. This ambitious program aims to support 10,000 talented students from underprivileged backgrounds across India, offering substantial financial assistance to help them pursue their educational dreams.

Foot Note:

- The SBI Asha Scholarship Programme provides financial support to students from Class 6 to postgraduate levels.

- Scholarship amounts range from 15,000 to 20 lakh, depending on the level of study and category.
- Covers school students, undergraduates, postgraduates, and those at premier institutions like IITs and IIMs.
- Special category for SC and ST students pursuing higher education at top global institutions.

About SBI:

Headquarters: Mumbai

Founded: 1955

Chairman : Challa Sreenivasulu Setty

SEBI updated margin trading framework for additional collateral

Cash Collateral as Maintenance Margin: Cash collateral used for margin trading can now be considered as part of the maintenance margin. If a broker uses cash collateral from a client to fulfill settlement obligations with the clearing corporation, this collateral can be counted as maintenance margin.

Foot Notes:

- Applicability: Applies to securities received from the clearing corporation (CC) against cash collateral, which are pledged as funded stocks to the trading member.
- Effective Date: New rules start on October 1, 2024.
- Identification of Collateral: Stocks or Equity ETFs used as collateral and those acquired through margin trading must be distinctly identifiable and not mixed for funding calculations.

About SEBI:

Established: April 12, 1988

Headquarters: Mumbai

Chairman: Madhabi Puri Buch (first woman to lead SEBI)

Role: Regulates securities and commodity markets in India under the Ministry of Finance.

Algeria joins New member of BRICS New Development Bank

Algeria has been approved to join the BRICS New Development Bank (NDB), a multilateral development bank created by Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa. Dilma Rousseff, President of the NDB, announced this during the 9th Annual Meeting of the NDB in Cape Town, South Africa, from August 29 to 31, 2024. With Algeria's addition, the NDB now has 10 members.

Foot Notes:

- The NDB aims to raise resources for infrastructure and sustainable development projects in Emerging Markets and Developing Countries (EMDCs).
- It is a Multilateral Development Bank (MDB) established and predominantly owned by EMDCs.
- The NDB seeks to support global growth and development by addressing the needs and aspirations of EMDCs.

About Algeria:

Capital: Algiers

President: Abdelmadjid Tebboune

Prime minister: Nadir Larbaoui

IMF Upgrades India's FY24-25 GDP Forecast to 7%

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has raised its forecast for India's GDP growth in FY2024-25 to 7%, up from the previous estimate of 6.8%. This change, noted in the IMF's updated World Economic Outlook report, is due to better consumption expectations, especially in rural areas. India is expected to keep its status as the fastest-growing major economy in emerging markets.

Foot Note:

- The IMF's upward revision underscores India's strong economic trajectory, driven by better private consumption and domestic demand.
- India's economy grew by 8.2% in FY2023-24, surpassing the 7% growth in FY2022-23.
- Growth was especially strong in the fourth quarter, with a notable 7.8% expansion.

About IMF:

Founded: 1944

CEO :Kristalina Georgieva

Headquarters: Washington

CCI approved merger of Tata Motor Finance into Tata Capital

TCL will issue its equity shares to TMFL shareholders. This transaction will ultimately lead to Tata Motors owning a 4.7% stake in the combined entity, further solidifying their position within the industry.

Foot Note:

- The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved Tata Motors Finance Limited's merger with Tata Capital Limited.
- This merger marks a major consolidation within Tata Group's financial services.
- The merger will be executed through a scheme of arrangement to be presented to the National Company Law Tribunal.

About CCI:

Founded :2003

Headquarters: New Delhi

CEO : Melissa Nosik

AGREEMENT & MOU'S NEWS

MoD Signed Rs 26,000 Crore Contract with HAL for 240 AL-31FP Aero Engines

- The aero-engines will be manufactured at HAL's Koraput division in Odisha to support the IAF's Su-30 fleet and enhance defense readiness.

- HAL will deliver 30 engines annually, with all 240 engines expected within 8 years.
- HAL aims to increase the indigenization content to 63% About the Su-30MKI Aircraft:
- Multi-role fighter jet developed by Sukhoi for the Indian Air Force and assembled by HAL.
- IAF operates 259 Su-30 MKIs.
- Equipped with two AL-31FP turbofan engines, reaching speeds of Mach 2.
- Has a strike range of 3,000 kilometers, extendable to 8,000 kilometers with in-flight refueling.

About Ministry of Defence

Union Minister: Rajnath Singh(Constituency- Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh)

Minister of State : Sanjay Seth(Constituency- Ranchi, Jharkhand)

PhonePe partners with Liquid Group to expand UPI payments in Singapore

In a move to enhance payment convenience for Indian travelers, PhonePe has announced a partnership with Liquid Group - allowing PhonePe users to make payments at a wide range of merchants in Singapore.

Foot Note:

- Travelers can now use the PhonePe app to scan and pay via UPI at Liquid Group's merchant network.
- QR codes will be available at key tourist locations like Changi Airport and duty-free shops.
- They will also be found at popular restaurants, bars, and major retailers such as The Cocoa Trees, Charles & Keith, and Hard Rock Café.

About Singapore:

President:Tharman Shanmugaratnam

Prime Minister:Lawrence Wong

Indian Army & IAF Sign MoU with Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya to Boost Logistics Skills

The Indian Army and Indian Air Force signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya in Vadodara. This partnership aims to boost logistics capabilities for personnel and support national development initiatives, including the PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan 2021 and the National Logistics Policy 2022. The agreement was formalized in New Delhi, with Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh and Railways Minister Shri Ashwini Vaishnav in attendance.

Foot Note:

- The MoU will enhance logistics expertise within the Indian Army and Air Force.

- Focus on building in-house proficiency in logistics operations.
- Supports the national goal of defense self-reliance.
- Aims to improve logistics system efficiency for rapid mobilization and resource allocation.

India and UAE Sign Landmark Civil Nuclear Energy Agreement

India and the UAE have signed a landmark Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on civil nuclear cooperation during Sheikh Khalid bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan's visit to New Delhi. The agreement, involving the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) and the Emirates Nuclear Energy Company (ENEC), represents a historic advancement in bilateral relations and underscores a commitment to the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

Foot Note:

- Aims to enhance cooperation in nuclear power plant operations, maintenance, and investment.
- Includes knowledge sharing and expertise in nuclear energy development.
- Builds on the 2015 agreement between India and the UAE on peaceful nuclear energy use, safety, and technology.

SCIENCE & TECH NEWS

India Launches Malpe and Mulki Anti-Submarine Warfare Ships

The launch occurred at Cochin Shipyard Ltd (CSL) in Kochi. These are the fourth and fifth ships in a series of eight Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) Shallow Water Crafts (SWC). This development advances India's goal of increased self-reliance in defense equipment manufacturing.

Details of the Launch

- Vice Admiral V Srinivas, Southern Naval Command's commander, attended the event.
- Equipped with underwater sensors for submarine detection, they are designed for shallow coastal anti-submarine operations.
- They can reach speeds of 25 knots and travel up to 1,800 nautical miles before refueling.
- Over 80% of materials and technology used in their construction are sourced from India, supporting the 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' initiative and boosting domestic defense production.

ISRO to Launch 1st Base Module of Bharatiya Antariksh Station by 2028

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) plans to launch the first base module of the Bharatiya Antariksh Station (BAS), India's first space station, by 2028. The BAS will consist of 5 modules. The entire station, weighing about 52 tonnes, is expected to be fully assembled in space by 2035.

Foot Note:

- ISRO is developing a new-generation rocket named Soorya to launch heavier modules.
- The Soorya rocket will have twice the capability of the current heaviest rocket, LVM Mk-3.
- The LVM3 rocket can place up to 4-tonne class satellites into Geosynchronous Transfer Orbits (GTO) and 10 tonnes into Low Earth Orbit (LEO).

About ISRO:

Founded: 15 August 1969

Headquarters: Bengaluru

Founder: Vikram Sarabhai

Israel's Tower Semiconductor and Adani's \$10 Billion Chip Project in India

Israel's Tower Semiconductor and India's Adani Group are set to invest 839.47 billion rupees (\$10 billion) in a semiconductor manufacturing project in Maharashtra. The initiative highlights India's push to become a global hub for chip production, despite previous challenges such as Foxconn's withdrawal from a \$19.5 billion joint venture with Vedanta and stalled plans by ISMC to invest \$3 billion.

Foot Notes:

- The Maharashtra semiconductor plant will initially produce 40,000 wafers.
- The project is part of a larger investment strategy in the state.
- Skoda-Volkswagen will invest 150 billion in an electric vehicle plant.
- Toyota-Kirloskar will allocate 212.73 billion for hybrid and electric vehicle production.

About Israel:

Capital: Jerusalem

Prime Minister: Benjamin Netanyahu

President: Isaac Herzog

NSPL Set to launch India's 1st Earth Observation Satellite Constellation

Nibe Space Private Limited (NSPL), a subsidiary of Nibe Limited, has unveiled plans to establish India's first multi-sensor, all-weather, high-revisit Earth Observation Satellite Constellation (EOSC) at a Mumbai event.

Foot Notes:

- NSPL aims to deploy a constellation of 40 Low-Earth Orbit (LEO) satellites over the next 5 to 6 years, offering high-resolution imagery and improved revisit times for defense and strategic use.
- At the event, NSPL signed MoUs to form a consortium.
- The consortium will provide the equipment, services, and support needed to build and run a Private Earth Observation Constellation and its ground segment.
- The constellation will be offered on a leased or custom basis.

About Nibe Limited:

Chairman & Managing Director: Ganesh Ramesh Nibe

Headquarters: Pune, Maharashtra Established- 2021

Indian Scientists Create 'Brain on a Chip' Technology

The chip technology invented by scientists can store and process data in 16,500 states within a molecular film. The IISc team includes Sreetosh Goswami, Navkanta Bhat, Deepak Sharma, Santi Prasad Rath, Bidyabhusan Kundu and Sreebrata Goswami. They worked with Anil Korkmaz and R Stanley Williams from Texas A&M University and Damien Thompson from the University of Limerick.

Foot Notes:

- Technology Type: The technology marks a major shift from traditional binary computing to neuromorphic computing, which is brain-inspired and analog.
- Applications: This neuromorphic platform could make it possible to perform complex AI tasks, such as training Large Language Models (LLMs), on personal devices like laptops and smartphones.

- **Benefits:** The new technology tackles major AI development challenges, such as hardware optimization and energy inefficiency. By using ion movement to mimic brain functions, it offers improved energy efficiency and space-saving over traditional computing systems.
- **Design:** Designed by Prof. Sreebrata Goswami, the molecular system functions like a human brain, creating a “molecular diary” for data processing and storage.

About Indian Institute of Science(IISc):

CEO: B. Gurumoorthy

Headquarters: Bengaluru

Founded: 1909



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Launch of “Rangeen Machhli” App

Union Minister Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh Alias Lalan Singh launched this mobile app at ICAR-CIFA in Bhubaneswar, advancing knowledge and resources. The Minister noted that the app could enhance employment opportunities in the ornamental fisheries sector.

Foot Notes:

- **Knowledge Dissemination:** The "Rangeen Machhli" app provides a thorough knowledge base, offering easy access to expert information for both enthusiasts and professionals.
- **Industry Growth:** By offering valuable resources and linking stakeholders, the app is set to boost the growth of India's ornamental fisheries sector
- **Promotion of Sustainable Practices:** The app encourages sustainable and responsible aquarium practices by educating users on proper fish care and maintenance.

About the “Rangeen Machhli” App

Developed by: ICAR-Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture (ICAR-CIFA)

Supported by: Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)

Union Cabinet approved revised scheme for developing infrastructure for HEP

This initiative seeks to speed up the development of hydropower projects in remote and hilly areas of India, contributing to the broader goal of achieving 500 GW of renewable energy capacity by 2030.

Foot Notes:

- The modified scheme provides budgetary support for developing infrastructure such as roads, transmission lines, ropeways,
- railway sidings, and communication networks in remote locations.
- It applies to all hydropower projects over 25 MW, including those developed by private sector entities through transparent allotment.
- The scheme also includes all Pumped Storage Projects (PSPs), both captive and merchant.

About Project:

Total Budget: 12,461 crore

Implementation Period: FY 2024-25 to FY 2031-32

Target Capacity: Development of 31,350 megawatts (MW) of hydropower projects

DEFENCE NEWS

The 20th India-US Joint Military Exercise, "YUDH ABHYAS," has begun in Rajasthan

The 20th edition of the India-US joint military exercise, 'YUDH ABHYAS,' started on September 9, 2024, in Mahajan Field Firing

Ranges, Rajasthan, and will continue until September 22, 2024. This year's exercise features a notable expansion in scope and complexity, involving enhanced military power and equipment.

Foot Notes:

- Exercise YUDH ABHYAS, held annually since 2004, features increased troop strength and advanced equipment this year.
- The 19th edition took place in Alaska, USA.
- The Indian Army's 600-personnel contingent includes a RAJPUT Regiment battalion and other units.
- The US's 600-personnel contingent consists of troops from the 1-24 Battalion of the 11th Airborne Division based in Alaska.

About the United States of America:

President– Joe Biden

Capital– Washington, D.C.

Currency– United States Dollars(USD)

India-USA Joint Military Exercise YUDH ABHYAS-2024

The 20th edition of the India-USA Joint Military Exercise, YUDH ABHYAS-2024, commenced on September 9, 2024, at the Foreign Training Node in Mahajan Field Firing Ranges, Rajasthan. This annual exercise, alternating between India and the USA since 2004, is set to run until September 22, 2024, showcasing a remarkable increase in scale and sophistication compared to previous iterations.

Foot Note:

- YUDH ABHYAS has been central to India-USA military cooperation for 20 years.
- Held annually since 2004, reflecting both nations' commitment to their defense partnership.
- Alternates between India and the USA, providing varied training environments and cultural exchanges.
- Enhances mutual understanding between the armed forces of both countries.

SPORTS NEWS

Paralympic Champions: Inspiring New Role Models for Voters with Disabilities

At a significant event at Nirvachan Sadan, the Election Commission of India (ECI) celebrated two exceptional Paralympic archers and enlisted their help to inspire voters nationwide. Ms. Sheetal Devi and Shri Rakesh Kumar, who won bronze medals in Archery at the Paris Summer Paralympics 2024, were honored for their achievements and named national icons for Persons with Disabilities (PwDs).

Foot Notes:

- Ms. Sheetal Devi was reaffirmed as the ECI National Icon for PwDs, a role she had been given before the announcement of the Lok Sabha 2024 elections on March 16th, 2024.
- Shri Rakesh Kumar was newly appointed as an ECI National Icon for PwDs.

About ECI:

Commissioner: Rajiv Kumar

Founded: 25 January 1950

Headquarters: New Delhi

Randhir Singh Elected as First Indian President of Olympic Council of Asia

A landmark moment in Asian sports history occurred when Randhir Singh was elected president of the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA). This historic event took place during the 44th General Assembly in New Delhi, making Singh the first Indian to hold this prestigious position.

Foot Note:

- Randhir replaced Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah.
- Randhir has been acting president of the OCA since 2021.
- At 77, Mr. Singh was the sole candidate for OCA president.
- His unanimous election showed strong support and confidence in his leadership.

Jannik Sinner Beats Taylor Fritz to Win 2024 US Open

Jannik Sinner, the world's No. 1 tennis player, clinched his second Grand Slam title at the U.S. Open, defeating Taylor Fritz in a thrilling final. This victory marked a remarkable comeback for Sinner, who faced significant challenges leading up to the tournament.

Foot Note:

- Sinner was unexpectedly cleared in a previously undisclosed doping case just weeks before the U.S. Open.
- The revelation of two positive drug tests cast a shadow over his participation.
- Concerns arose about his ability to perform at his best during the tournament.

Deepali Thapa Makes History as First Schoolgirl Champion

In a historic win for Indian boxing, Deepali Thapa became the first schoolgirl ever to win a title at the Asian Youth Boxing Championships in Al Ain, UAE, on Sunday. This amazing achievement showcases her outstanding talent and highlights India's growing strength in women's boxing worldwide.

Foot Note:

- In the semifinals, Deepali Thapa defeated Kazakhstan's Anelya Ordabek, showing her skill and determination.
- In the final, Thapa faced Ukraine's Liudmyla Vasylychenko and won decisively, showcasing superior technique and control to claim her historic title.
- Bhoomi also contributed to India's success with a strong win in the 35kg weight class, defeating Kazakhstan's Assel Jalimbekova and strengthening India's position in lighter weight categories.

Jannik Sinner won the Men's Singles title at the US Open 2024

Jannik Sinner won his second Grand Slam title of 2024 when he defeated Taylor Fritz in the US Open final, shattering American hopes of a first male champion at the majors in 21 years. World number one Sinner, who won his maiden Slam at the Australian Open in January, became the first Italian man to triumph in New York with a 6-3, 6-4, 7-5 victory.

Foot Note:

- Aryna Sabalenka, from Belarus, won her first US Open 2024 Women's Singles title by defeating Jessica Pegula in straight sets (7-5, 7-5).
- Sabalenka secured the title in her second consecutive final at the Arthur Ashe Stadium.
- Max Purcell and Jordan Thompson of Australia won the US Open 2024 Men's Doubles title.
- They defeated Germany's Kevin Krawietz and Tim Puetz with a score of 6-4, 7-6 (4).
- This victory also helped Purcell and Thompson recover from their earlier Wimbledon final loss.

AWARDS NEWS

President honoured nurses with National Florence Nightingale Awards

President Droupadi Murmu presented the National Florence Nightingale Awards to nursing professionals at Rashtrapati Bhavan. The awards, established by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, recognize and honor exceptional services by outstanding nurses.

Foot Notes:

- The National Florence Nightingale Award was instituted by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India in the year 1973 as a mark of recognition for the meritorious services rendered by the nurses and nursing professionals to the society.
- Fifteen awards are given in three categories: registered auxiliary nurses and midwives, registered nurses and midwives, and registered lady visitors.
- Each award includes a Certificate of Merit, a cash prize of Rs 1,00,000 and a medal.

Swachh Vayu Survekshan Award 2024 Presented by Bhupender Yadav and Rajasthan CM

The International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies (Swachh Vayu Diwas) was observed on 7th September 2024 in Jaipur. Union

Minister for Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Bhupender Yadav, and Rajasthan Chief Minister, Bhajan Lal Sharma, led the event. Key dignitaries included Rajasthan's Minister of State for Environment, Sanjay Sharma, and Urban Development Minister, Jhabar Singh Kharra.

Foot Notes:

- Bhupender Yadav stressed the importance of multi-stakeholder partnerships for Clean Air Now.
- He praised collective efforts to improve air quality since 2017.
- Yadav encouraged youth to join the Ideas4LiFE campaign by submitting solutions on water and energy conservation, waste reduction, and sustainable practices.



The advertisement features a dark blue background with a red banner at the top left that reads "Video Course for". Below this, the text "SSC All Exams" is prominently displayed in white. To the right, a woman with headphones is shown working on a laptop. A red circular badge indicates a "70% OFF" discount, with the price reduced from ₹ 7499 to ₹ 2249. A list of features is provided on the left side of the ad.

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APPOINTMENT & PERSON IN NEWS

Ashok Raj Sigdel sworn in as Nepal's New Chief of Army Staff

Ashok Raj Sigdel was sworn in as Nepal's 45th Chief of the Army Staff (CoAS). The oath-taking ceremony was held at the Office of the President, Sheetal Niwas. Key figures including President Ranchandra Paudel, Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli, and Chief Justice Bishowambhar Prasad Shrestha attended the event.

Foot notes:

- The outgoing CoAS, Prabhu Ram Sharma, had been on a month-long leave starting August 8 due to mandatory retirement.
- Sigdel is set to serve a three-year term as Chief of Army Staff.

About Nepal:

Capital: Kathmandu

Prime minister: KP Sharma Oli

President: Ram Chandra Paudel

Amit Shah Re-Elected as Chairperson of Parliamentary Committee on Official Language

Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah, has been unanimously re-elected as the Chairperson of the Parliamentary Committee on Official Language. Following the formation of the new government, the committee held a meeting in New Delhi to reconstitute itself, leading to Shah's re-election. He previously served as the Chairperson from 2019 to 2024. Shah expressed gratitude for the unanimous support and discussed his vision for Hindi's role in government and education.

Foot Notes:

- Shah noted the progress in promoting Hindi over the last decade.
- The goal is for Hindi to complement, not compete with, regional languages.
- Emphasis on Hindi being a supportive ally to all local languages.
- Ensuring that Hindi's promotion doesn't create inferiority complexes among speakers of other languages.

Vinay Goyal Appointed as State Mission Director of NHM

Dr. Vinay Goyal has officially assumed the role of State Mission Director for the National Health Mission (NHM). He succeeds K.

Jeevan Babu, who has moved to the Kerala Water Authority as Managing Director. Dr. Goyal, an IAS officer of the 2016 batch, also

takes charge as Director of the Kerala State IT Mission and Project Director at eHealth Kerala.

In his new roles, he aims to advance Kerala's digital and health infrastructure.

Foot Notes:

- Dr. Goyal has a distinguished career spanning various sectors.
- Served as Director of the Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes Development Departments.
- Held roles as Secretary of the Kerala State Housing Board and Managing Director of Kerala Rapid Transit Corporation Ltd.
- Served as CEO of Smart City Thiruvananthapuram Limited and District Development Commissioner of

Thiruvananthapuram.

- His extensive experience makes him well-suited for his new responsibilities.

Tuhin Kanta Pandey Appointed as New Finance Secretary

The Indian government has appointed Tuhin Kanta Pandey, a 1987-batch IAS officer from the Odisha cadre, as the new Finance Secretary. This decision was made on September 7, 2024, following the appointment of T.V. Somanathan as the Cabinet Secretary, which created a vacancy for the finance role. Pandey, who previously served as the Secretary of the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM), will now oversee India's financial policies and decisions.

Foot Note:

- Tuhin Kanta Pandey played a key role in managing large-scale disinvestment projects, including the Air India sale.
- His expertise in public asset management and disinvestment strategies will be valuable in his new role as Finance Secretary.
- Pandey replaces T.V. Somanathan, who became Cabinet Secretary last month.
- Following convention, the senior-most secretary in the Union Finance Ministry is typically appointed as Finance Secretary, making Pandey's appointment a natural progression.

Michel Barnier Named by Macron to be France's New PM

French President Emmanuel Macron has made a significant political decision by appointing Michel Barnier, the former EU Brexit negotiator, as France's new Prime Minister on September 5, 2024. This appointment comes after an extended period of political uncertainty and marks a crucial moment in France's ongoing efforts to form a stable government.

Foot Note:

- Barnier's appointment ends a 50-day period of caretaker government led by Gabriel Attal.
- Attal resigned on July 16 following inconclusive legislative elections.
- The President and his team engaged in intense efforts to find a suitable candidate.
- The goal was to identify someone capable of building support in a divided parliament.

Algerian President Tebboune Wins Second Term with 95% Vote

Algerian President Abdelmadjid Tebboune has been re-elected for a second term with 95% of the vote, according to the country's electoral authority, ANIE. The official results indicate that Tebboune received 94.65% of the vote, while his opponents, Abdelaali Hassani Cherif and

Youcef Aouchiche, garnered 3% and 2% respectively. Voter turnout was reported at 48%, with more than 24 million Algerians registered to vote.

Foot Note:

- Despite Tebboune's decisive victory, his re-election faced allegations of electoral irregularities.
- Rivals accused polling officials of being pressured to inflate results and reported cases of proxy group voting.
- All three campaigns, including Tebboune's, issued a joint statement highlighting concerns about "vagueness and contradictions" in participation figures.

Y Haragopal has been appointed as the Managing Director of NABCONS

He was previously the COO at NABCONS, which has four Zonal offices in Mumbai, Hyderabad, Jaipur and Guwahati. It is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD).

About Y Haragopal

- He Served as General Manager of NABARD's Telangana Regional Office before joining NABCONS.
- Y Haragopal joined NABARD in 1996 as a direct recruit officer and held various roles, including 14 years in the Refinance Department at the Head Office in Mumbai, as well as positions in regional offices in Punjab, Haryana, Andhra Pradesh, and
- Telangana.

The FDA appointed C.S. Vigneshwar as the new President for 2024-26

The Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA) has appointed C.S. Vigneshwar as its 37th President for the 2024-26 term, succeeding Manish Raj Singhania. This decision was made at FADA's 315th governing council meeting after its 60th Annual General Meeting.

About C S Vigneshwar:

- Vigneshwar is the Managing Director of Anaamalais Toyota in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu.
- He also manages dealerships for Volvo Eicher Commercial Vehicles (VECV) and Ather Energy.

- He served on the Toyota Dealer Council for 11 years and led the Toyota India Service Dealer Council for 7 years.

About FADA

CEO: Saharsh Damani

Founded : 1964

Arun Goel appointed ambassador to Croatia

Arun Goel has been appointed as India's new Ambassador to Croatia, succeeding Raj Kumar Srivastava. The Ministry of External Affairs announced his appointment on September 7, 2024. Goel, a retired 1985-batch IAS officer from the Punjab cadre, previously served as the Election Commissioner of India from November 21, 2022, to March 9, 2024.

Foot Note:

- Arun Goel has made notable contributions across various government sectors.
- He took voluntary retirement before being appointed as Election Commissioner.
- His academic background includes a Postgraduate degree in Development Economics from Churchill College, University of Cambridge, and an M.Sc. in Mathematics.

About Croatia:

Capital: Zagreb

Prime minister: Andrej Plenković

President: Zoran Milanović

Raja Randhir Singh Becomes First Indian OCA President

Raja Randhir Singh, a 77-year-old former Indian shooter and experienced sports administrator, has been elected as the President of the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) for a four-year term from 2024 to 2028. He is the first Indian to hold the position.

Foot Note:

- Raja Randhir Singh was unanimously elected as the President of the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) during the 44th General Assembly at Bharat Mandapam, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.
- He was officially announced as President in the presence of Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya and leaders from all 45 Asian nations.

- Singh has represented India in shooting at six Olympic Games: Tokyo 1964 (Reserve Shooter), Mexico 1968, Munich 1972, Montreal 1976, Moscow 1980, and Los Angeles 1984.
- He also competed in the Asian Games in Bangkok 1978, New Delhi 1982, Seoul 1986, and Hiroshima 1994.

About OCA:

President– Raja Randhir Singh

Headquarters– Kuwait

Establishment– 1982

RS Sharma Appointed Non-Executive Chairperson of ONDC

The Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) has named RS Sharma as its Non-Executive Chairperson. Sharma, who has held top roles such as Director General of UIDAI, Chairman of TRAI, and CEO of the National Health Authority, will now guide ONDC through its next stage of development and innovation.

Foot Note:

- RS Sharma has played a key role in India's digital transformation.
- His career includes serving as Chief Secretary for Jharkhand and holding important roles in ONDC's advisory and strategy councils.
- Sharma was crucial in evolving ONDC from a pilot project to a national initiative.
- He also led the CoWin project, which was vital for the Covid-19 vaccination campaign.

About ONDC:

CEO: Thampy Koshy

Founded: 31 December 2021

Headquarters: India

IMPORTANT DAYS NEWS

World Suicide Prevention Day observed on 10 September

Observed annually on September 10 since 2003, WSPD was established by the International Association for Suicide Prevention

(IASP) in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO).

Foot Note:

- Objective: Raise global awareness about suicide, reduce stigma, and promote prevention among organizations, governments, and the public.
- Suicide is a major public health issue, with over 700,000 deaths annually worldwide.
- Each suicide profoundly impacts individuals, families, and communities, with significant social, emotional, and economic effects.

OBITUARY NEWS

Communist Party of India leader Sitaram Yechury has passed away

Communist Party of India (Marxist) leader Sitaram Yechury passed away at age 72 at AIIMS in New Delhi. Born in Chennai in 1952, he was a significant figure in Indian politics. Many political leaders from India have offered their condolences.

About Sitaram Yechury:

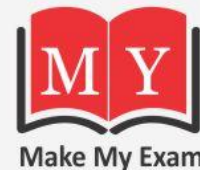
- Joined the Student Federation of India in 1974.
- Elected to the Rajya Sabha from West Bengal, serving for 12 years.
- Succeeded Prakash Karat as General Secretary of CPI(M) in 2015.
- He was instrumental in the Indo-US nuclear deal negotiations, leading to the Left parties withdrawing support from the UPA-I government because of Karat's firm position.

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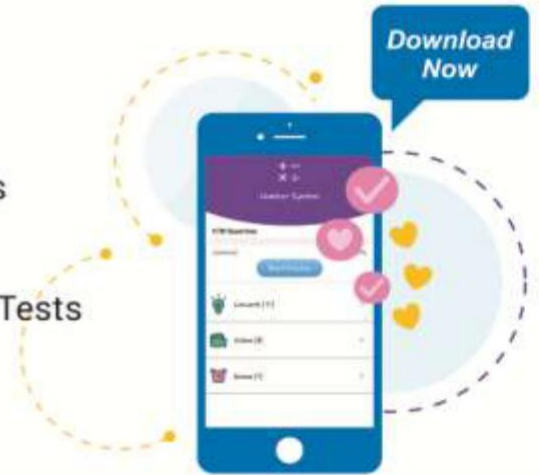
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