

September 2024

Monthly Current Affairs One- Liner GK Digest



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MONTHLY GK DIGEST: SEPTEMBER 2024

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

US, UK, AND EU SIGNED THE WORLD'S FIRST AI TREATY

- This historic agreement aims to ensure the safe and ethical development and use of AI technologies, aligning with human rights, democracy, and the rule of law.
- **Human Rights Protection:**
 - Ensures that AI technologies respect individuals’ privacy and data rights.
 - Prevents AI from being used in ways that could lead to discrimination or bias.
- **Democracy Safeguards:**
 - Protects democratic institutions and processes from being undermined by AI.
 - Requires countries to take steps to prevent the misuse of AI in public services.
- **Rule of Law:**
 - Mandates that signatory countries regulate AI-specific risks.
 - Ensures AI is used safely and responsibly, protecting citizens from potential harms.

TIME100 MOST INFLUENTIAL PEOPLE IN AI 2024

- Here are some notable names from the list:
 - **Sundar Pichai** (CEO, Google and Alphabet)
 - **Satya Nadella** (CEO, Microsoft)
 - **Sam Altman** (CEO, OpenAI)
 - **Jensen Huang** (CEO, Nvidia)
 - **Rohit Prasad** (SVP and head scientist of Artificial General Intelligence, Amazon)
 - **Mark Zuckerberg** (CEO, Meta)
 - **Demis Hassabis** (CEO and co-founder, Google DeepMind)
 - **Lisa Su** (CEO, AMD)

- **Daphne Koller** (Founder and CEO, Insitro)
- **Mira Murati** (Chief Technology Officer, OpenAI)
- **Ashwini Vaishnaw**: India's Minister of Electronics and Information Technology, acknowledged for his role in shaping AI policies in India.
- **Anil Kapoor**: The actor made the list for his unique contributions to AI, particularly in promoting AI-driven projects in the entertainment industry.

BRICS LITERATURE FORUM 2024

- The forum brings together prominent literary figures from Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa to discuss how literature can connect different cultures and traditions despite global challenges.
- **Key Participants from India:**
 - Sri Madhav Kaushik, President of Sahitya Akademi
 - Dr. K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary of Sahitya Akademi
 - During the plenary session, Sri Madhav Kaushik emphasized the role of literature in fostering unity and cooperation among societies.
 - Another highlight was the panel discussion titled "Volga to Ganga: Celebration of Tradition and Multiculturalism", where Indian authors discussed the cultural richness of river-based traditions in India and Russia.
 - The forum aims to promote literary exchange among BRICS nations, encouraging the translation of works

and appreciation of diverse languages and cultures.

International News-ONE LINER

- The BRICS countries (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) have recently adopted a comprehensive framework for climate and sustainable development cooperation. This framework includes key aspects such as mitigation, adaptation, carbon markets, finance, and the involvement of science and business. The agreement aims to foster collaboration on climate action and sustainable development.
- The ceasefire agreement b the peace process and maintain stability in the region.

NATIONAL NEWS

ODISHA LAUNCHES PM-USHA PROGRAMME TO STRENGTHEN HIGHER EDUCATION

- This initiative, supported by the Union Education Ministry, aims to improve the infrastructure and development of higher education institutions in Odisha.
- The programme has a budget of ₹500 crore, with 60% of the funding provided by the central government and 40% by the state.
- It aligns with the National Education Policy, 2020, focusing on access, equity, and excellence in higher education.
- The goal is to transform Odisha's universities into world-class institutions and equip students with 21st-century skills.

ON SEPTEMBER 3, THE ANTI-RAPE 'APARAJITA' BILL WAS PASSED IN THE WEST BENGAL ASSEMBLY

- This bill introduces stringent measures, including the death penalty for

rape and sexual offences if the victim dies or is left in a vegetative state.

- It also **mandates a life sentence without parole for convicted rapists**.
- The bill **aims to create a safer environment for women and children by ensuring swift justice and harsher punishments** for offenders.
- It was **introduced by West Bengal Law Minister Moloy Ghatak and received unanimous support in the Assembly**.

DOT NOTIFIES NEW RULES FOR 'DIGITAL BHARAT NIDHI' TO BOOST TELECOM ACCESS

- These rules **aim to enhance the management and implementation of the Digital Bharat Nidhi initiative**, which was established under Section 24 (1) of the Telecommunications Act, 2023.
- **Key Provisions of the Rules:**
 - **Administrator's Role:** The rules outline the powers and responsibilities of the administrator, who will oversee the implementation and management of the Digital Bharat Nidhi.
 - **Project Criteria:** Projects funded under the Digital Bharat Nidhi must meet specific criteria, such as improving telecom service affordability and security, enhancing access and affordability, and introducing next-generation telecom technologies in underserved rural, remote, and urban areas.
 - **Focus Areas:** The funds will be directed towards projects aimed at enhancing telecommunication services in underserved and remote regions, with a particular focus on

marginalized groups, including women, persons with disabilities, and economically and socially disadvantaged sections of society.

UNION MINISTER OF STATE DR. JITENDRA SINGH INAUGURATED 8 NEW NIDHI I-TBIS ACROSS INDIA

- This initiative is **part of the Department of Science and Technology's (DST) efforts to foster innovation and entrepreneurship**, particularly in Tier II and Tier III cities.
- These incubators **aim to cultivate an entrepreneurial culture among students, faculty, and local communities**, providing essential infrastructure and resources to support startups.

OPERATION SADBHAV LAUNCHED BY INDIA TO PROVIDE HUMANITARIAN

- This **powerful typhoon has caused extensive damage and loss of life** across these countries.
- Under **Operation Sadbhav, India has dispatched 10 tonnes of aid to Myanmar, 35 tonnes to Vietnam, and 10 tonnes to Laos**.
- The **aid includes dry rations, clothing, medicines, water containers, and sleeping bags**.
- This initiative is part of India's **broader effort to contribute to humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR)** within the ASEAN region, in line with its longstanding 'Act East Policy'.

GLOBAL BIO-INDIA'S FOURTH EDITION ENDED SUCCESSFULLY

- **Launch of 11 new products by Indian biotech startups**.

- Awards recognizing exceptional contributions in the biotech industry.
- **Calls for Proposals under the i4 (Innovation for Industry)** and PACE (Promoting Academic Collaboration and Entrepreneurship) programs.
- The event **emphasized themes of 'Biotech Innovation' and 'Bio-manufacturing,'** aiming to position India as a global hub in the biotech sector.

PRESIDENT DROUPADI MURMU TO INAUGURATE 8TH INDIA WATER WEEK 2024

- The event, which runs until September 20, **focuses on the theme "Partnerships and Cooperation for Inclusive Water Development and Management"**.
- It aims to address various issues related to water security, including flood management, drinking water, and sanitation.

SHS 2024 CAMPAIGN TO BE HELD UNDER THE THEME "SWABHAV SWACHHATA SANSKAAR SWACHHATA"

- The theme for this year is **"Swabhav Swachhata, Sanskaar Swachhata"**, which emphasizes making cleanliness a natural habit and a core societal value.
- The campaign focuses on three key pillars:
 - **Cleanliness Target Units (CTUs):** Shramdaan activities aimed at transforming specific target areas.
 - **Swachhata Mein Jan Bhagidari:** Promoting public participation and advocacy for cleanliness.
 - **Safai Mitra Suraksha Shivirs:** Providing health check-ups

and social security for sanitation workers.

- This initiative **aims to reignite the spirit of collective action and citizen participation in cleanliness efforts across India.**

PM NARENDRA MODI INAUGURATED SEMICON INDIA 2024 IN GREATER NOIDA, UP

- **Theme:** "Shaping the Semiconductor Future."
- **Prime Minister's Vision:**
 - **Electronics Sector Goal:** Grow to \$500 billion by 2030.
 - **Job Creation:** Expected to create 60 lakh jobs.
- **Focus Areas:**
 - **Investment:** Encouraging global chipmakers to invest in India.
 - **Innovation:** Highlighting India's potential in the semiconductor industry.
 - **Collaboration:** Promoting partnerships between Indian and international companies.

NEW MSME POLICY 2024 LAUNCHED BY TELANGANA CHIEF MINISTER REVANTH REDDY

- **Financial Support:** The government has allocated ₹600 crore over the next five years to support MSMEs.
- **Key Focus Areas:** The policy addresses six critical areas: land acquisition, finance, raw materials, skilled labour, market access, and technology.
- **Incentives:** Special incentives include a 50% subsidy on land costs for SC/ST entrepreneurs and a 25% subsidy for other

MSMEs. Women entrepreneurs receive an additional 20% subsidy.

- **Industrial Parks:** Five out of ten new industrial parks will be exclusively for MSMEs, with one park reserved for women-owned enterprises and another for innovative start-ups.
- **Technological Advancement:** Establishment of a ₹100 crore Yantram Fund to support MSME adoption of new technologies.
- **Employment and Skills:** Initiatives like the Telangana Skilling University and the Digital Employment Exchange of Telangana (DEET) aim to enhance the skill set of the workforce.

UNION MINISTER AMIT SHAH LAUNCHED 'WHITE REVOLUTION 2.0

- This program focuses on four key areas:
 - **Empowering Women Farmers:** Enhancing the role of women in the dairy sector.
 - **Enhancing Milk Production:** Increasing local milk production to meet growing demands.
 - **Strengthening Dairy Infrastructure:** Improving the infrastructure needed for dairy farming and processing.
 - **Boosting Dairy Exports:** Expanding India's dairy exports to global markets.
- Additionally, the initiative includes the rollout of RuPay Kisan Credit Cards and micro-ATMs for dairy farmers, along with the computerization of Primary Agriculture Credit Societies (PACS).

FABINDIA COLLABORATES WITH MOMSME TO EMPOWER INDIA'S ARTISANAL HERITAGE UNDER THE PM VISHWAKARMA SCHEME

- This collaboration aims to support and promote traditional Indian artisans by

providing them with financial support, skill development, and marketing assistance.

- The initiative focuses on enhancing the market reach of artisan-made products through Fabindia's extensive retail network.
- It also includes training programs to help artisans improve their craftsmanship and incorporate modern design trends.

PARYATAN MITRA AND PARYATAN DIDI INITIATIVE HAS BEEN LAUNCHED BY THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM

- These initiatives aim to promote responsible tourism across India by training locals to become tourism ambassadors.
- The focus is on enhancing hospitality, cleanliness, and sustainability, emphasizing empowering women and youth.
- Through this initiative, locals are trained to provide tourists with a positive experience, sharing local stories and lesser-known tourism wonders.

NATIONAL NEWS- ONE LINER

- The eShram portal has registered over 30 crore unorganised workers since its launch in August 2021. This initiative by the Ministry of Labour & Employment aims to integrate various social security schemes, ensuring benefits reach grassroots workers
- President Droupadi Murmu sanctioned the constitution of the 23rd Law Commission of India on September 1, 2024. This commission will serve a three-year term, from September 1, 2024, to August 31, 2027. The Law Commission is tasked with reviewing existing laws and recommending

legal reforms to improve and update the legal framework in India.

- **On September 2, 2024, the Union Cabinet approved Kaynes Semicon Pvt Ltd's proposal to establish a semiconductor unit in Sanand, Gujarat. This project aims to boost India's semiconductor manufacturing capabilities, supporting the country's goal of becoming a global hub for electronics production.**
- **WWF-India's Vulture Count 2024 initiative, running from September 7 to October 6, aims to monitor and conserve vulture populations across India. This citizen-science project will gather data on vulture numbers and habitats, helping develop b as they prevent disease spread by feeding on carrion.**
- **The Himachal Pradesh Vidhan Sabha has introduced Zero Hour during its monsoon session. This 30-minute period allows members to raise urgent public issues that cannot be addressed through other motions.**
- **The Indian government launched the Vishvasya-Blockchain Technology Stack to enhance digital trust and governance. Key components include Blockchain-as-a-Service (BaaS), NBF Lite for rapid prototyping, Praamaanik for app verification, and the National Blockchain Portal for research and development. This initiative aims to boost security, trust, and transparency in citizen-centric applications.**
- **The Punjab Assembly passed the Punjab Apartment and Property Regulation (Amendment) Bill, 2024 to control illegal colonies. It removes the NOC requirement for property registration in illegal colonies and extends the regularization cut-off date**

to July 31, 2024. Non-compliance can result in imprisonment from five to ten years and fines ranging from Rs 25 lakh to Rs 5 crore.

- **President Droupadi Murmu inaugurated the Vishwashanti Buddha Vihar in Udgir, Latur district, Maharashtra. The Vihar features a 520 kg, 10.5-foot tall statue of Lord Buddha and a main entrance inspired by the Sanchi Stupa. It can accommodate up to 1,200 people.**
- **India and Singapore upgraded their bilateral ties to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership on September 5, 2024. This partnership aims to enhance cooperation in areas such as trade, defense, and technology. It reflects the deepening relationship and mutual strategic interests between the two nations.**
- **The Uttar Pradesh government announced on September 2, 2024, that they will build a Vedic-3D museum in Varanasi. This museum, located at the Sampurnanand Sanskrit University, will focus on Indian astrology, astronomy, and Vedic literature.**

BANKING

SINGAPORE AIRLINES RECEIVES FDI APPROVAL FROM GOI FOR VISTARA-AIR INDIA MERGER

- This significant **development paves the way for the creation of one of the world's largest airline groups.**
- Key points:
 - **FDI approval:** Singapore Airlines has been granted permission to invest in the merged entity.
 - **Stake acquisition:** The airline is expected to acquire a 25.1% stake in the combined Air India-Vistara.

- **Completion timeline:** The merger is anticipated to be finalized by the end of 2024.

THE E-DISPUTE RESOLUTION SCHEME (E-DRS) HAS BEEN ANNOUNCED BY THE INCOME TAX DEPARTMENT

- Here are some key points about the scheme:
 - **Objective:** The e-DRS aims to reduce litigation and provide relief to eligible taxpayers by allowing them to resolve disputes electronically through Dispute Resolution Committees (DRCs) established under section **245MA of the Income-tax Act, 1961**.
 - **Eligibility:** Taxpayers whose returned income for the relevant assessment year does not exceed ₹50 lakh and where the aggregate amount of variations proposed or made does not exceed ₹10 lakh can apply.
 - **Application Process:** Applications must be filed electronically in **Form No. 34BC on the Income Tax Department's e-filing portal** within one month from the date of receipt of the specified order.
 - **DRC's Role:** The DRC can make modifications to the variations in the specified order and decide on the reduction or waiver of penalties and prosecution.
 - **Timeline:** The DRC is mandated to pass its order within six months from the end of the month in which the application for dispute resolution is admitted.
 - This initiative is expected to streamline the dispute resolution

process and make it more efficient for taxpayers.

SEBI REVISED ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR ENTRY, EXIT OF STOCKS IN F&O SEGMENT

- These changes are aimed at ensuring that **only stocks with sufficient liquidity and market capitalization** are included in the derivatives segment.
- Key Changes in the Eligibility Criteria:
 - **Increased Median Quarter Sigma Order Size (MQSOS):** The minimum MQSOS required for a stock to enter the F&O segment has been increased from Rs.25 lakh to Rs.75 lakh. This means that the stock must have a minimum order size of Rs.75 lakh to be eligible.
 - **Higher Market-Wide Position Limit (MWPL):** The minimum MWPL for a stock has been raised from Rs.500 crore to Rs.1,500 crore. This limits the maximum amount of positions that can be held by all market participants in a particular stock.
 - **Revised Average Daily Delivery Value:** The minimum average daily delivery value in the cash market has been increased from Rs.10 crore to Rs.35 crore. This indicates that the stock must have a certain level of underlying demand in the cash market.

REVIEW OF EXTANT INSTRUCTIONS – WITHDRAWAL OF CIRCULARS

- This decision aims to **streamline and modernize the regulatory framework by removing obsolete instructions**.
- Here are some key points from the review:

- **Credit Facilities to Minority Communities:** Circulars from 1987 and 1988 have been withdrawn as their instructions are now included in the updated Master Circular on Credit Facilities to Minority Communities issued in April 2023.
- **No-Frills Accounts:** The concept of “No-Frills” accounts has been discontinued. Instead, Basic Savings Bank Deposit Accounts (BSBDA) are now the standard banking service for all customers.
- **Micro Credit Guidelines:** Instructions on microcredit have been integrated into the updated Master Circulars on Self-Help Group (SHG) Bank Linkage and Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) regulations.

LIBERALISED REMITTANCE SCHEME (LRS) FOR RESIDENT INDIVIDUALS- DISCONTINUATION OF REPORTING OF MONTHLY RETURN

- This limit is currently set at **\$250,000 per financial year**.
- Before April 1, 2020, resident individuals were required to report their monthly remittances under the **LRS to the Authorized Dealer (AD) banks**.
- This reporting requirement was aimed at monitoring the utilization of the LRS and preventing its misuse.
- However, effective **April 1, 2020, the RBI discontinued the requirement** for resident individuals to submit monthly returns for their LRS remittances.
- This change was introduced to simplify the process for individuals and reduce the administrative burden on banks.
- **Key points to remember:**

- The LRS limit remains unchanged at \$250,000 per financial year.
- Resident individuals are no longer required to submit monthly returns for their LRS remittances.
- The discontinuation of monthly reporting does not affect the overall LRS framework.

A MASTER CIRCULAR ON PROTECTION OF POLICYHOLDERS' INTERESTS 2024 HAS BEEN ISSUED BY IRDAI

- These circular aims **to enhance transparency and efficiency in the insurance sector** by consolidating various guidelines and regulations into a single document.
- **Some key highlights include:**
 - **Electronic Issuance of Policies:** All insurance policies must now be issued electronically, although policyholders can request physical copies if preferred.
 - **Free Look Period:** A 30-day free look period is applicable for life and health insurance policies, allowing policyholders to review the terms and conditions.
 - **Claim Settlement Timelines:** The circular outlines specific timelines for claim settlements to ensure timely service.
- This initiative is designed to better inform policyholders about their rights and streamline the processes related to insurance policies.

SJVN, NHPC, RAILTEL AND SOLAR ENERGY CORPORATION OF INDIA GET 'NAVRATNA' STATUS

- Here's a **quick overview of the companies:**
 - Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam (SJVN)

- National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC)
- RailTel Corporation of India (RailTel)
- Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI)
- This upgrade brings the total number of Navratna Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) in India to 25.
- **What is Navratna Status?**
 - **Enhanced Autonomy:** Navratna status empowers these companies with greater financial and operational autonomy.
 - **Increased Investment Power:** They can invest up to Rs.1,000 crore or 15% of their net worth in a single project without prior government approval.
 - **Expanded Investment Flexibility:** They can invest up to 30% of their net worth in a year, subject to a cumulative limit of Rs.1,000 crore.
 - **Board-Level Decision-Making:** Navratna companies have more flexibility in decision-making at the board level.

DEA ISSUED 6 NEW RULES FOR PPF, SUKANYA SAMRIDDHI YOJANA

- **Here are the key changes:**
 - **Irregular NSS Accounts:** Accounts opened irregularly under the National Small Savings (NSS) schemes will be regularized. Specific guidelines have been provided for accounts opened before and after certain dates.
 - **PPF Accounts for Minors:** New rules for PPF accounts opened in the name of minors to ensure compliance with deposit limits.

- **Multiple PPF Accounts:** Guidelines for handling cases where individuals have more than one PPF account.
- **NRI PPF Extensions:** Rules for the extension of PPF accounts by Non-Resident Indians (NRIs).
- **Sukanya Samriddhi Account (SSA) Regularization:** Regularization of SSA accounts opened by grandparents instead of guardians.
- **Zero Interest on Non-compliant Accounts:** From October 1, 2024, accounts that do not meet the specified criteria will earn zero percent interest.
- These changes **aim to streamline the management** of small savings schemes and ensure compliance with the regulations.

UNION CABINET APPROVED SEVEN SCHEMES TO IMPROVE FARMERS' LIVES AND INCREASE THEIR INCOMES

- **Here are the key schemes:**
 - **Digital Agriculture Mission:** Utilizing technology like AI and Big Data to enhance agricultural practices and connect farmers with buyers.
 - **Crop Science for Food and Nutritional Security:** Focused on research and education to improve crop resilience and food security.
 - **Strengthening Agricultural Education, Management, and Social Sciences:** Modernizing agricultural research and education in line with the New Education Policy 2020.
 - **Sustainable Livestock Health and Production:** Aiming to increase farmers' income from livestock and dairy.

- **Sustainable Development of Horticulture:** Enhancing income from horticulture plants.
 - **Strengthening of Krishi Vigyan Kendra:** Improving agricultural extension services.
 - **Natural Resource Management:** Focusing on sustainable use of natural resources.
- These initiatives are designed to leverage modern technology and research to support farmers in various aspects of agriculture.

AGRISURE FUND AND KRISHI NIVESH PORTAL LAUNCHED

- The AgriSURE Fund is **designed to support start-ups with innovative ideas aimed at boosting** the agriculture sector.
- The government has **invested Rs.7,000 crore so far, targeting high-risk, high-impact activities across the agriculture value chain.**
- The Krishi Nivesh Portal is a single-window platform to streamline the process of clearing project proposals, making it easier for agripreneurs to get the necessary approvals and funding.

TELANGANA, TAMIL NADU AND RAJASTHAN REGISTERED THE HIGHEST GROWTH IN REAL GSDP

Current Context: Telangana, Tamil Nadu, and Rajasthan have shown impressive growth in their real gross state domestic product (GSDP) for FY24.

- **Telangana**
 - **Growth Rate:** 9.2%
 - **GSDP:** Rs.7.9 lakh crore

- **Key Drivers:** The services sector, particularly IT and IT-enabled services, played a crucial role in Telangana's economic growth. Hyderabad, the state's capital, has become a major tech hub, attracting significant investments from global tech companies.

- **Tamil Nadu**

- **Growth Rate:** 8.2%
- **GSDP:** Rs.15.7 lakh crore
- **Key Drivers:** Tamil Nadu's growth was driven by a diverse range of sectors. The state has a strong manufacturing base, particularly in automobiles, textiles, and electronics.

31ST MEETING OF FSDC SUB-COMMITTEE

- **Key points discussed during the meeting included:**
 - **Global and Domestic Macroeconomic Developments:** The committee reviewed major economic trends and their potential impact on financial stability.
 - **Inter-Regulatory Coordination:** Issues related to coordination among various financial regulators in India were assessed.
 - **Financial Stability Risks:** Members shared their assessments of potential risks to financial stability, including global spillovers, cyber hazards, and climate change.
 - **Technical Groups and SLCCs:** The activities of various technical groups

and the functioning of State-level Coordination Committees (SLCCs) were reviewed.

- The FSDC-SC emphasized the importance of improving financial sector resilience through inter-regulatory coordination while remaining vigilant about emerging challenges.

RESERVE BANK OF INDIA - SEPTEMBER 5, 2024 - AT ANNUAL FIBAC 2024 CONFERENCE

- **Here are the full details:**
 - **Dates:** 5th and 6th September 2024
 - **Venue:** Hotel Trident, Nariman Point, Mumbai
 - **Theme:** “Banking for a Viksit Bharat” focused on the future of the Indian banking industry
- **Key Highlights:**
 - **Inaugural Address:** By Mr. Shaktikanta Das, Governor of the Reserve Bank of India
 - **Panel Discussions:** Featuring industry leaders and experts discussing emerging trends, challenges, and opportunities in the banking sector.

IIMK LIVE & RBIH SIGN MOU TO FOSTER INNOVATION & RESEARCH IN FINTECH SECTOR

- This collaboration **aims to foster innovation and research in the FinTech sector.**
- They **plan to support startups, conduct joint research, and develop new financial technologies** to enhance the ecosystem.
- The **partnership is expected to drive significant advancements in financial inclusion and digital transformation in India.**

US, UK, AND EU SIGNED THE WORLD'S FIRST AI TREATY

- This historic agreement **aims to ensure the safe and ethical development and use of AI technologies**, aligning with human rights, democracy, and the rule of law.
- **Key Points of the AI Treaty:**
 - **Human Rights Protection:**
 - Ensures that AI technologies respect individuals’ privacy and data rights.
 - **Prevents AI from being used in ways that could lead to discrimination or bias** **Democracy Safeguards:**
 - Protects democratic institutions and processes from being undermined by AI.
 - Requires countries to take steps to prevent the misuse of AI in public services.
 - **Rule of Law:**
 - Mandates that signatory countries regulate AI-specific risks.
 - Ensures AI is used safely and responsibly, protecting citizens from potential harms.

INDIA’S CURRENT ACCOUNT DEFICIT LIKELY TO RISE 1% OF GDP IN Q2FY25: IND-RA REPORT

- This increase is attributed to a combination of factors, **including a 1% increase** in merchandise exports and a widening goods trade deficit.

- In the first quarter of FY25, India's merchandise exports grew **by 6% year-on-year, while imports grew by 7.6%**.
- The report also highlights that the current account balance (CAB) registered a deficit of around \$8 billion (0.8% of GDP) in Q1 FY25, a reversal from the surplus of **\$5.7 billion (0.6% of GDP) recorded in the previous quarter**.

SWACHH VAYU SURVEKSHAN AWARD 2024 PRESENTED BY BHUPENDER YADAV AND RAJASTHAN CM

- This event was part of the **International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies**, also known as Swachh Vayu Diwas.
- The awards recognized the best-performing cities under the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) for their efforts in improving air quality.
- **The winners were:**
 - Category 1 (Population over 10 Lakhs): Surat, Jabalpur, and Agra
 - Category 2 (Population between 3 and 10 Lakhs): Firozabad, Amravati, and Jhansi
 - Category 3 (Population under 3 Lakhs): Raebareli, Nalgonda, and Nalagarh.

HDBFS BECOMES 1ST NBFC TO LAUNCH NPCI'S E-KYC SETU SYSTEM

- This system, developed in collaboration with the **Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)**, aims to streamline the account opening process by offering a fully digital, secure OTP-based journey.
- This integration allows **HDBFS customers to open loan accounts without the need for physical** documentation or branch visits, making the process faster and more convenient.

- The initiative is expected to enhance customer experience and support India's digital transformation efforts.

IIFT TOPS WORLDWIDE IN LINKEDIN GLOBAL MBA RANKING 2024 IN NETWORKING

- **Here are the key details:**
 - **Date:** The ranking was announced on September 10, 2024.
 - **Ranking Name:** LinkedIn Global MBA Ranking 2024.
 - **Released by:** LinkedIn.
 - **India's Rank:** IIFT is ranked 51st among the top 100 MBA programs worldwide.
 - **Top Position:** The top position in the LinkedIn Global MBA Ranking 2024 is held by Harvard Business School.
- Additionally, **IIFT has been recognized as the No. 1 institution globally for networking**.
- This **achievement highlights IIFT's strong emphasis on building robust connections with alumni, corporates, multilateral organizations, and governments**.

UNION BANK OF INDIA BECOMES FIRST MAJOR INDIAN BANK TO SIGN PCAF

- This move aligns with the **Reserve Bank of India's recent draft guidelines on climate risk disclosures**, emphasizing the importance of tracking and managing financed emissions.
- By joining **PCAF, Union Bank of India is committing to measure and manage** its indirect emissions from lending and investment activities, which are often referred to as Scope 3 emissions.

GOVERNMENT RELAXED EXCLUSION CRITERIA UNDER THE PRADHAN

MANTRI AWAS YOJANA-GRAMIN (PMAY-G)

- This change allows more families to benefit from the rural housing scheme.
- **Here are the key updates:**
 - **Eligibility Expansion:** Families owning two-wheelers, motorised fishing boats, refrigerators, and landline phones, and earning up to **Rs.5,000 per month**, are now eligible.
 - **Continued Exclusions:** Households owning motorised three/four-wheelers, mechanised agricultural equipment, or having a Kisan Credit Card with a credit limit of **Rs.50,000 or above, remain ineligible.**
 - Additionally, households with any member as a government employee, those paying income or professional tax, and those **owning more than 2.5 acres of irrigated** land are still excluded.
 - This relaxation aims to make the scheme more inclusive and help achieve the target of constructing two crore additional houses by 2028-29.

THE 2ND ASIA-PACIFIC MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON CIVIL AVIATION HOSTED BY INDIA

- This event was co-hosted by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and the Ministry of Civil Aviation, Government of India.
- The theme of the 2nd Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Civil Aviation was “Advancing Aviation for a Sustainable Future”.
- **Key Highlight:**
 - **Delhi Declaration:** The conference concluded with the adoption of the Delhi Declaration, which aims to

enhance regional cooperation and sustainability in civil aviation.

MCA NOTIFIES COMPETITION (AMENDMENT) ACT, 2023 FOR M&AS

- One of the key updates is the introduction of a deal value **threshold (DVT) for mergers and acquisitions.**
- This means that any M&A deal with a **value exceeding Rs.2,000 crore will now come under the scrutiny of the Competition Commission of India (CCI)**, provided the target company has substantial business operations in India.
- This amendment aims to capture combinations that might otherwise evade scrutiny under traditional asset or turnover-based thresholds, especially in the digital market where mergers often involve significant data and privacy concerns.
- The new provisions will be effective from **September 10, 2024.**

INDIA JUMPS TO TIER 1 IN GLOBAL CYBER SECURITY INDEX 2024

- **India’s Achievement:**
 - India has climbed to Tier 1 in the GCI 2024.
 - With a rank of 98.49, India is among the 47 leading nations demonstrating commitment to robust cybersecurity practices.
- **Other Countries:**
 - A total of 47 countries made it to **Tier 1 in the GCI report.**
 - Notable countries with a perfect score of 100 include Korea, the U.K., Denmark, Italy, Finland, and the United Arab Emirates.

NTPC TALCHER KANIHA AWARDED 2024 ENERGY MANAGEMENT INSIGHT AWARD FROM CEM

- This award recognizes their exceptional efforts in energy management and sustainability.
- **NTPC Talcher Kaniha has implemented innovative practices** to enhance energy efficiency and reduce carbon emissions.
- Their initiatives include advanced **monitoring systems, energy audits, and employee training** programs.

GLOBAL BIO-INDIA'S FOURTH EDITION ENDED SUCCESSFULLY

- This three-day event, organized by the **Department of Biotechnology (DBT) and the Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC)**, showcased India's biotech prowess and potential in research, development, and manufacturing.
- **Some highlights include:**
 - Launch of **11 new products** by Indian biotech startups.
 - Awards recognizing exceptional contributions in the biotech industry.
 - Calls for Proposals under the **i4 (Innovation for Industry)** and PACE (Promoting Academic Collaboration and Entrepreneurship) programs.

SMALL SAVINGS SCHEMES GROW 13.8% LED BY SUKANYA SAMRIDDHI, SENIOR CITIZEN'S SCHEME

- This growth has been significantly driven by the Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana (SSY) and the Senior Citizens Savings Scheme (SCSS).
- **Here are some key points:**
 - Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana (SSY) saw a remarkable **41% growth**, with the outstanding balance rising from **Rs.77,472 crore in February 2023 to Rs.1 lakh crore** in February 2024.
 - Senior Citizens Savings Scheme (SCSS) recorded a 28% growth, with

its outstanding balance increasing from **Rs.1.3 lakh crore to Rs.1.7 lakh crore** during the same period.

- Other small savings schemes, including Post Office Savings Scheme and Post Office Recurring Deposits, also **showed growth between 9% and 11%**.
- These schemes are designed to promote saving habits among citizens and help finance government expenditure.
- The interest rates for **these schemes are notified quarterly** by the government and are linked to government bond yields.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON GREEN HYDROGEN 2024

- **Theme:** "Accelerating Green Hydrogen: From Vision to Value"
- **Aim:** To foster collaboration, innovation, and knowledge sharing in green hydrogen, promoting its adoption as a clean and sustainable energy source.
- **India's Role:**
 - **Ambitious Targets:** India aims to produce 5 million metric tons of green hydrogen by 2030, requiring an investment of \$100 billion.
 - **Economic Impact:** The initiative is expected to generate 6 lakh jobs and attract Rs.8 lakh crore investments.
 - **Environmental Goals:** The National Green Hydrogen Mission, launched in 2023, is a critical step towards achieving net-zero emissions by 2070.

TATA STEEL UK SIGNED 500-MILLION POUND GRANT FUNDING AGREEMENT WITH UK FOR PORT TALBOT PROJECT

- This project, valued at £1.25 billion, aims to install a state-of-the-art Electric Arc Furnace (EAF) at the site.
- This investment is expected to reduce the UK's entire industrial carbon emissions by 8% and Port Talbot's emissions by 90%.
- Additionally, it will safeguard 5,000 jobs and secure the future of steelmaking in the UK.

INFOSYS HAS BEEN SELECTED BY LIC TO DEVELOP ITS NEXTGEN DIGITAL INSURANCE PLATFORM PROJECT

- **Objective:** The project aims to modernize LIC's digital infrastructure, enhancing customer experience, operational efficiency, and overall service delivery.
- **Development Locations:** Infosys will be working on this project from its development centers in India, including major hubs like Bengaluru, Pune, and Hyderabad.

SHS 2024 CAMPAIGN TO BE HELD UNDER THE THEME "SWABHAV SWACHHATA SANSKAAR SWACHHATA"

- The theme for this year is "Swabhav Swachhata, Sanskaar Swachhata", which emphasizes making cleanliness a natural habit and a core societal value.
- **The campaign focuses on three key pillars:**
 - **Cleanliness Target Units (CTUs):** Shramdaan activities aimed at transforming specific target areas.
 - **Swachhata Mein Jan Bhagidari:** Promoting public participation and advocacy for cleanliness.
 - **Safai Mitra Suraksha Shivirs:** Providing health check-ups and social security for sanitation workers.

NPS-VATSALYA SCHEME LAUNCHED BY FINANCE MINISTER NIRMALA SITHARAMAN

- **Purpose:** The primary goal is to build a financial corpus for children until they reach the age of 18. It aims to inculcate early savings and investment habits among parents for their children's future.
- **Eligibility:**
 - Minors (children under 18 years of age) are eligible.
 - Parents or guardians can open and operate the accounts on behalf of the minors.
- **Investment Amount:**
 - The minimum annual contribution is **Rs.1,000**.
 - There is no maximum limit on the investment.
 -
- **Benefits:**
 - The scheme leverages the power of compounding, ensuring that even small, regular investments can grow into a substantial corpus over time.
 - The maximum exposure to equities is **capped at 75%**, balancing risk and potential returns.
 - Parents can open the account through major banks, post offices, pension funds' offices, or the e-NPS portal.

INTERNATIONAL WASH CONFERENCE 2024

- This event, held from **September 17th to 19th**, focused on the theme "Sustaining Rural Water Supply" and featured over 40 thematic sessions and more than 180 expert presentations.

- The conference highlighted India's leadership in rural water management through initiatives like the **Jal Jeevan Mission and Swachh Bharat Mission**.
- It emphasized the importance of global partnerships, community-led solutions, and technology-driven innovations to address future water challenges.

INDIRA GANDHI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT RANKED 24TH AMONG TOP 'MEGAHUB' AIRPORTS GLOBALLY

- This is an improvement from its previous 25th position.
- Meanwhile, **Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMIA)** has dropped to the **44th spot**, down from 34th last year.
- **Globally, the top five meгахub airports are:**
 - London Heathrow
 - Kuala Lumpur International
 - Tokyo-Haneda
 - Amsterdam Schiphol
 - Seoul's Incheon Airport.
- India's aviation market continues to grow rapidly, and these rankings reflect the increasing connectivity and importance of Indian airports on the global stage.

KERALA SECURED FIRST SPOT IN THE 2024 STATE FOOD SAFETY INDEX (SFSI)

- This marks the second consecutive year that **Kerala has achieved this feat**.

- The index, released by the **Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)**, evaluates states based on parameters such as Human Resources and Institutional Data, Compliance, Food Testing-Infrastructure and Surveillance, Training and Capacity Building, and Consumer Empowerment.
- Kerala's consistent performance is attributed to its strong initiatives in food safety inspection, sample collection, testing, and awareness activities.
- **Tamil Nadu and Jammu and Kashmir followed in the second and third positions, respectively.**

2ND EDITION OF GLOBAL FOOD REGULATORY SUMMIT 2024 INAUGURATED BY HEALTH MINISTER JP NADDA

- **Here are the key details about the event:**
 - **Place:** Bharat Mandapam, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.
 - **Theme:** The summit aligns with the vision of "**Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam**" - **One Earth, One Family, One Future**. It focuses on strengthening food safety systems and regulatory frameworks throughout the food value chain.
 - The summit is organized by the **Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)** under the aegis of the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**, alongside the World Food India 2024 event hosted by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries.

- The event **aims to establish a global platform for food regulators to exchange insights** and collaborate on food safety challenges.
- Key initiatives discussed include harmonizing food safety standards with international benchmarks and developing the National Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) 2.0

SEBI REDUCED BONUS SHARES ALLOTMENT TIME TO 'T+2' EFFECTIVE FROM 1ST OCTOBER, 2024

- The allotment and trading of bonus shares will be **reduced to just two working days after the record date, known as 'T+2'**.
- This change aims to streamline the process and enhance market efficiency by reducing the **waiting period for investors** to trade their bonus shares.
- Previously, the timeline for crediting and **trading bonus shares was longer, often leading to delays.**
- This move is expected to benefit investors by minimizing the time gap between the allotment and trading of bonus shares, making the market more responsive and investor-friendly.

21ST ASEAN-INDIA ECONOMIC MINISTERS MEETING IN LAO PDR

- **Key highlights from the meeting include:**
 - **Review of Trade Relations:** The ministers reviewed the trade and investment relations between India and ASEAN, noting a bilateral trade of **USD 120.9 billion in 2023-24.**

- **Progress on AITIGA:** They discussed the progress in negotiations for the review of the ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA), aiming to make it more effective and user-friendly.
- **Bilateral Meetings:** Minister Goyal also had productive bilateral meetings with counterparts from various countries, including Switzerland, to discuss trade agreements and investment commitments.
- This meeting underscores the ongoing efforts to strengthen economic ties between India and ASEAN, ensuring mutually beneficial and sustainable trade relations.

QUAD LEADERS SUMMIT 2024 IN WILMINGTON, DELAWARE

- The summit was hosted by **U.S. President Joe Biden**. Hosting the summit in his hometown underscored the personal and diplomatic significance of the event.
- **Theme:** The central theme of the summit was to reaffirm the commitment to a free and open Indo-Pacific that is inclusive and resilient. This theme reflects the shared vision of the Quad nations to promote stability and prosperity in the region.
- **Aim:** The primary aim was to strengthen cooperation among the **Quad nations (Australia, India, Japan, and the United States) to ensure stability and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region.** This includes addressing regional security challenges,

economic development, and promoting democratic values.

– **Participants:**

- U.S. President Joe Biden
- Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi
- Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida
- Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese

– **Key Discussions:**

– **Maritime Security:** Ensuring freedom of navigation and overflight in the Indo-Pacific, countering illegal fishing, and enhancing maritime domain awareness.

– **Technology and Cybersecurity:** Collaborating on emerging technologies, securing critical infrastructure, and protecting against cyber threats.

– **Clean Energy:** Promoting renewable energy sources, reducing carbon emissions, and addressing climate change.

– **Health Initiatives:** Strengthening health security, improving pandemic preparedness, and enhancing vaccine distribution.

– **Significant Outcomes:**

– **Wilmington Declaration:** The summit concluded with the release of the “Wilmington

Declaration,” which outlines the shared vision and commitment of the Quad nations. This document highlights their collective goals and strategies for the Indo-Pacific region.

– **Regional Conflicts:** The leaders discussed ongoing regional conflicts, including the Israel-Hamas war and the Russian invasion of Ukraine, emphasizing the importance of a united response to global security challenges.

– India has indeed signed groundbreaking agreements under the **Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF)** focused on the Clean Economy, Fair Economy, and an overarching arrangement

JANA SMALL FINANCE BANK LAUNCHES “LIQUID PLUS” FD AT 6.75% INTEREST RATE

- This scheme is designed for short-term deposits with tenures ranging from **7 to 180 days.**
- **Here are some key features of the Liquid Plus FD:**
 - **High Interest Rates:** Competitive rates providing better yields than traditional short-term investments.
 - **T+0 Redemption:** Same-day redemption, allowing instant access to funds.

- **Partial Withdrawal:** Flexibility to withdraw a portion of your FD without penalties.
- **Instant Overdraft Facility:** Overdraft against your FD to meet urgent cash requirements.
- This FD is available for retail deposits starting from **₹10 lakhs up to ₹3 crores** and for bulk deposits between **₹3 crores and ₹200 crores**.

INDIA BECOMES 6TH LARGEST MARKET IN MSCI ACWI, TOPS EMERGING MARKET LIST

- **Here are some key highlights:**
 - **India's Position:** India has become the 6th largest market in the MSCI ACWI IMI, surpassing China and just marginally behind France. As of August 31, 2024, India's weight in the index **stood at 2.35%, which is 11 basis points higher than China's 2.24%**.
 - **Top Emerging Market:** For the first time, India has surpassed China to become the top Emerging Market in the MSCI Emerging Markets Investable Market Index (EM IMI), with a weight of 22.7% compared to China's 21.58%.
 - **Global Rankings:** The United States leads the MSCI ACWI IMI with a weight of 68.23%, followed by **Japan (5.73%) and the United Kingdom (3.51%)**. India is closely behind France, which weights 2.38%.

- **Economic Growth:** India's growth in the index is attributed to its robust macroeconomic fundamentals and the impressive performance of Indian corporations. The country's nominal GDP growth rate is currently three times that of China.

SEBI AMENDS RULES TO STREAMLINE PUBLIC ISSUANCE OF DEBT SECURITIES

- The amendments, which came into effect on **September 18, 2024, include the following:**
 - **Reduction in minimum subscription period:** The minimum period for which a public issue of debt securities or non-convertible redeemable preference shares is kept open has been **reduced from 3 working days to 2 working days**. The maximum period remains the same at 10 working days.
 - **Clarification on the use of QR codes:** The regulations now clarify that issuers whose non-convertible securities are listed on the date of filing of the offer document or placement memorandum may provide a **web link and a static QR code** of the audited financial statements subject to certain conditions.
 - **Additional requirements for debenture trustees:** The regulations have been amended to specify the formats to be used in cases of secured and unsecured debt securities at the time of filing the draft offer document and at the

time of filing the listing application by the issuer.

- **Introduction of a record date for payment of interest, dividend, and redemption or repayment amount:** The regulations have been amended to require issuers to fix a record date for payment of interest, dividend, and payment of redemption or repayment amount or other purposes specified by the Board.

KARNATAKA, GUJARAT AND TN, BIGGEST GAINERS FROM 1990S REFORMS: EAC – PM

- **Here are some key points from the report:**
 - **Karnataka:** Its share in the national GDP increased from **5.3% in 1990-91 to 8.2% in 2023-24**, largely due to Bengaluru's rise as a technology hub.
 - **Gujarat:** Saw its share rise from **6.4% in 1990-91 to 8.1% in 2023-24**.
 - **Tamil Nadu:** Despite a decline in the earlier decades, its share in the national GDP rebounded to 8.9% in 2023-24.

INDIA OVERTAKES JAPAN AS ASIA'S THIRD MOST POWERFUL NATION

- This index evaluates the power distribution across **27 countries in the Asia-Pacific region using 131 indicators** across eight thematic measures, including military capability, economic capability, diplomatic influence, and cultural influence.

- **Here are the top five countries in the 2024 rankings:**
 - United States - 81.7 points
 - China - 72.7 points
 - India - 39.1 points
 - Japan - 38.9 points
 - Australia - 31.9 points
- **India's rise to the third position** is attributed to its economic growth, youthful population, and increasing geopolitical influence.

CDSL ANNOUNCES UNIFORM TARIFF OF RS 3.50 PER TRANSACTION EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1ST

- This move aims to streamline transaction costs for over **13 crore investors**.
- **Discounts**
 - **Female Demat Account Holders:**
 - **Rs 0.25 discount per transaction** if the account is held solely or as the first holder.
 - Mutual Fund and Bond ISIN Transactions:
 - Rs 0.25 discount per transaction.
- **Purpose and Impact**
 - **Streamlining Costs:** This uniform tariff aims to simplify and standardize transaction costs for over 13 crore investors.

- **Encouraging Investments:** By offering discounts, CDSL is promoting investments among female investors and in mutual funds and bonds.

FPI OUTREACH CELL LAUNCHED BY SEBI FOR SEAMLESS MARKET ACCESS

- It will serve as a **central point of contact for FPIs**, offering comprehensive information, guidance, and support throughout the investment process.
- **Key objectives of the FPI Outreach Cell:**
 - **Enhanced accessibility:** To provide a single point of contact for FPIs, streamlining communication and reducing complexities.
 - **Comprehensive information:** To offer detailed information on market regulations, investment procedures, and relevant circulars.
 - **Efficient grievance redressal:** To promptly address FPI concerns and queries, ensuring a smooth and hassle-free investment experience.
 - **Fostering investor confidence:** To build trust and confidence among FPIs by providing transparent and reliable information.

7TH NSSO ANNUAL PLFS: UNEMPLOYMENT RATE REMAINS UNCHANGED AT 3.2% IN JULY 2023 TO JUNE 2024

- Here are some key highlights from the report:

- **Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR):** Increased to **60.1%** from **57.9%** in the previous year.
- **Worker Population Ratio (WPR):** Rose to 58.2% from 56.0%.
- **Gender-specific trends:** The unemployment rate for males slightly decreased from 3.3% to 3.2%, while for females, it increased from **2.9% to 3.2%**.
- **Lakshadweep tops the list** with a youth unemployment rate of **36.2%**, including a staggering 79.7% among young women and 26.2% among young men.
- **Andaman & Nicobar Islands** follows with a rate of 33.6% (49.5% for women and 24% for men)
- **Kerala has a youth unemployment rate of 29.9%** (47.1% for women and 19.3% for men).

TRIPURA CM MANIK SAH LAID FOUNDATION FOR ADB-FUNDED RS 530 CR PROJECT

- This project, with a budget of **Rs 530 crore**, is set to benefit around **75,000 families** and approximately 4 lakh people once completed.
- The project includes the installation of **305 kilometers of new water pipelines**, **25 deep tubewells**, 18 iron removal plants, and four water treatment facilities.
- It's planned to be executed in three phases over the next **three years**.

- This initiative is expected to significantly enhance the quality of life for many residents by providing better access to clean water.

NEW RULES HAVE BEEN INTRODUCED BY THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE BOARD OF INDIA (SEBI)

- These rules include a fixed price mechanism for voluntary delisting of shares, aimed at simplifying the delisting process for companies.
- **UPI Mandatory for Public Debt Issues:** Starting from **November 1, 2024**, investors applying for public issues of debt securities through intermediaries must use **UPI for bids up to ₹5 lakh**. This aims to streamline the process and align it with the existing procedures for equity shares.
- **Fixed Price Mechanism for Voluntary Delisting:** SEBI has introduced a fixed price mechanism for voluntary delisting of shares, providing an alternative to the reverse book-building process. This change is intended to simplify the delisting process for companies.

RBI RELEASED A REPORT TITLED "PEELING THE LAYERS: A REVIEW OF THE NBFC SECTOR IN RECENT TIMES"

- This report highlights the resilience of the Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFC) sector under the Scale-Based Regulations (SBR) framework.
- **Key Points from the Report:**
 - **Credit Growth:** The NBFC sector maintained double-digit credit growth throughout 2023, driven by a diversified funding base, including

retail credit (gold loans, vehicle loans, and housing loans) and expanding into industrial and service sectors.

- **Asset Quality:** Since the introduction of the SBR framework in October 2022, the asset quality of NBFCs has improved significantly. The gross non-performing asset (GNPA) ratio decreased to 2.4% for government-owned NBFCs and 6.3% for non-government NBFCs by December 2023.
- **Profitability:** The sector witnessed a rise in profitability, as evidenced by better returns on assets (RoA) and equity (RoE).
- **Capital Adequacy:** NBFCs maintained adequate capital levels and a low delinquency ratio by the end of December 2023.
- **Regulatory Measures:** The report also mentions the extension of Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) norms to government-owned NBFCs from October 1, 2024, aiming to enhance financial discipline and risk management.

SBI'S ERD REPORT: INDIA'S POPULATION GROWTH ON A DOWNWARD TRAJECTORY

- According to the report, India's population growth rate is on a downward trajectory.
- The average annual exponential growth rate has decreased **from 2.20% in 1971 to 1% in 2024**.

- The report estimates that **India's population will be in the range of 138-142 crore** in 2024.
- Despite the increase in absolute numbers, the growth rate is slowing down.
- This trend is particularly noticeable in southern states like Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, and Telangana, while northern states like **Uttar Pradesh and Bihar** continue to drive significant population growth.
- Additionally, the median age in **India is expected to rise to 28-29 years**, making it one of the youngest nations globally.
- The proportion of elderly persons is also increasing, projected to reach **10.7% in 2024**.

RBI APPROVES AMALGAMATION OF THE RAJAPUR SAHAKARI BANK LTD. WITH THE MALAD SAHAKARI BANK LTD.

- It is sanctioned under **Sub-Section (4) of Section 44A read with Section 56** of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.
- The branches of The Rajapur Sahakari Bank Ltd. will operate as branches of The Malad Sahakari Bank Ltd.
- This ensures a seamless **transition for customers** whose accounts, loans, and services will be transferred to the new entity.
- Employees of The Rajapur Sahakari Bank Ltd. will also be absorbed into **The Malad Sahakari Bank Ltd., promoting job continuity**.

- The merger aims to enhance financial stability, operational efficiency, and service offerings.
- It will expand the combined network's reach and accessibility.
- All these changes will be under the regulatory oversight of the RBI to ensure compliance and safeguard stakeholder interests.

CONFERENCE FOR THE DIRECTORS ON THE BOARDS OF SMALL FINANCE BANKS (SFBS)

- The theme of the conference was **"Governance in SFBs – Driving Sustainable Growth and Stability"**.
- Key highlights from the conference include:
 - **Inauguration by Deputy Governor Shri Swaminathan J.:** He emphasized the importance of governance in guiding SFBs towards sustainable growth and stability.
 - **Focus Areas:** Strengthening cybersecurity, enhancing financial inclusion, improving customer service, and effective grievance redressal.
 - **Technical Sessions:** Covered topics like governance and assurance functions, business risk, regulatory and supervisory expectations, and IT systems & cybersecurity.
 - **Panel Discussions:** Included insights from independent directors of select SFBs on the prospects and challenges faced by SFBs.

- It was a comprehensive event aimed at equipping the directors with the knowledge and tools needed to navigate the evolving financial landscape.

AXIS AMC LAUNCHED INDIA'S 1ST NBFC SECTOR-BASED TARGET MATURITY MUTUAL FUND SCHEME

- This open-ended **Target Maturity Index Fund** is designed to invest in high-quality, AAA-rated Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) and aims to closely mirror the CRISIL-IBX AAA NBFC Index, maturing in June 2027.
- **Here are some key details about the fund:**
 - **Objective:** To deliver investment returns that closely track the CRISIL-IBX AAA NBFC Index – June 2027.
 - **Investment Strategy:** The fund employs a “Buy and Hold” strategy, holding NBFC debt instruments until maturity, except for redemptions or rebalancing.
 - **Risk Profile:** It offers moderate interest rate risk and relatively low credit risk.
 - **Minimum Investment:** ₹5,000, with additional investments in multiples of ₹1.
 - **No Exit Load:** Investors can enter and exit flexibly through systematic investment and withdrawal plans.
- This fund is a good option for those looking for a predictable and safe debt product with a high-quality portfolio. The New Fund Offer (NFO) is open until September 23, 2024

INDIA'S CURRENT ACCOUNT DEFICIT WIDENS TO 1.1% OF GDP AT \$9.7 BN IN Q1FY25: RBI

- **Here are the key points from the report:**
 - **Current Account Deficit:** The CAD widened to \$9.7 billion, which is 1.1% of GDP, compared to \$8.9 billion (1.0% of GDP) in Q1FY24 and a surplus of \$4.6 billion (0.5% of GDP) in Q4FY24.
 - **Merchandise Trade Deficit:** The increase in CAD was primarily due to a rise in the merchandise trade deficit, which grew to \$65.1 billion in Q1FY25 from \$56.7 billion in Q1FY24.
 - **Net Services Receipts:** These increased to \$39.7 billion from \$35.1 billion a year ago, with significant contributions from computer services, business services, travel services, and transportation services.
 - **Private Transfer Receipts:** Mainly representing remittances by Indians employed overseas, these rose to \$29.5 billion from \$27.1 billion in Q1FY24.

Foreign Exchange Reserves: After financing the CAD, the net accretion to the forex reserves was \$5.2 billion in Q1FY25, compared to \$24.4 billion in Q1FY24

BANKING- ONE LINER

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed penalties on UCO Bank and Cent Bank Home Finance Ltd (CBHFL). UCO Bank was fined ₹2.68 crore for violations related to

current accounts, deposit interest rates, and fraud classification. CBHFL received a ₹2.1 lakh penalty for not complying with KYC guidelines. These actions underscore the importance of regulatory compliance in the banking sector.

- In **September 4, 2024**, the **Government of India, Government of Tripura, and representatives of the National Liberation Front of Tripura (NLFT) and All Tripura Tiger Force (ATTF)** signed a Memorandum of Settlement. This agreement aims to bring lasting peace and development to the region by addressing the grievances of the insurgent groups and integrating them into the mainstream
- The **UN has allocated \$100 million from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) to address underfunded humanitarian emergencies in 10 countries. Yemen and Ethiopia** will receive the largest shares, with \$20 million and \$15 million respectively. This funding aims to support critical aid operations in regions severely affected by conflict, displacement, hunger, and climate disasters.
- **MCA-Nepal (Millennium Challenge Account-Nepal) has signed a contract valued at USD 12.36 million with Transrail Lighting Ltd., an Indian company**, to construct an 18 km cross-border electricity transmission line. This transmission line will run from the 400 kilovolt (kV) New Butwal Substation in Nawalparasi Bardhaghat Susta West to the Nepal-India border. The project is expected to be completed within 21 months.
- **Tata AIA Life Insurance has introduced USD-denominated life insurance solutions for NRIs through its new offshore branch at**

GIFT City. These plans offer financial protection in US dollars, covering risks like death, accident, disability, and critical illness, and aim to protect against currency fluctuations. Tata AIA also plans to launch unit-linked life insurance products soon.

- **The Income Suraksha Plan by ABSLI and Policybazaar offers guaranteed** monthly income to the policyholder's family in case of their death. It includes two options: Fixed Income Protection and Increasing Income Protection, with discounts for salaried individuals and females. Optional riders are available for additional coverage. This plan ensures financial security and peace of mind for families.
- **The Finance Ministry has relaxed norms for expenditures over Rs 500 crore to boost capital expenditure (capex), aiming to accelerate government spending and infrastructure development. This move is expected** to help achieve the record capex target of Rs 11.11 lakh crore for the current fiscal year. The relaxation provides operational flexibility while ensuring strict compliance by all ministries and departments.
- **Starting January 1, 2025, EPS pensioners can receive their pensions from any bank branch across India, thanks to the new Centralized Pension Payment System (CPPS). This initiative will benefit over 78 lakh pensioners**, enhancing convenience and efficiency in pension disbursement.

APPOINTMENTS

Name of the Person	Designation
Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit	Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief (AOC-in-C) of the Central Air Command
Bharath Sesha	Managing Director for the Indian subcontinent

Dr. D K Sunil	Chairman and Managing Director of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited
Vinai Kumar Saxena	Lieutenant Governor of Delhi
Y Haragopal	Managing Director of NABCONS
Sharath Kamal	First Indian ambassador of the ITTF Foundation
Ajay Ratra	Indian Cricket Selection Committee
Aparna Yadav	Vice-Chairperson of the Uttar Pradesh Women's Commission
Deepti Gaur Mukerjee	Member of the SEBI Board
Michel Barnier	Prime Minister of France
Amit Shah	Chairperson of the Parliamentary Committee on Official Language
Randhir Singh	First Indian President of the Olympic Council of Asia
Tuhin Kanta Pandey	Finance Secretary
Vinay Goyal	State Mission Director of the National Health Mission
Rajesh Verma	Chairperson of the Commission for Air Quality Management
Subrata Mondal	MD & CEO of IFFCO Tokio General Insurance
Vice Admiral Vineet McCarty	Controller of Personnel Services (CPS) in the Indian Navy
Ashok Raj Sigdel	Chief of Army Staff for Nepal
RS Sharma	Non-Executive Chairperson of the Open Network for Digital Commerce
Abdelmadjid Tebboune	President of Algeria
Manish Kumar Gupta	Chief Secretary of Arunachal Pradesh
Amrit Mohan Prasad	Director General of the Sashastra Seema Bal
Aishwarya Bhati, Balbir Singh, KM Nataraj, Madhavi Divan, N Venkataraman, and Sanjay Jain	Additional Solicitor Generals in the Supreme Court
G Srinivasan	Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Galaxy Health Insurance
Samir Kumar	Amazon India's new country manager
Joohi Smita Sinha	Chief General Manager (CGM) of SBI's Bengaluru Circle
Jafar Hassan	New Prime Minister of Jordan
Squadron Leader Mohana Singh	First female fighter pilot in the LCA Tejas aircraft fleet
Anurag Garg	Director General of the Narcotics Control Bureau

V Vaidyanathan	Managing Director and CEO of IDFC First Bank
Nikhat Zareen	Telangana Police as the Deputy Superintendent of Police
Justice Sunita Agarwal	Chief Justice of the Gujarat High Court
Justice Alok Aradhe	Chief Justice of the Telangana High Court
Justice Vipin Sanghi	Chief Justice of the Uttarakhand High Court
Justice Amjad A. Sayed	Chief Justice of the Himachal Pradesh High Court
Justice S. Muralidhar	Chief Justice of the Madras High Court
Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi	Chief Justice of the Karnataka High Court
Justice Prashant Kumar Mishra	Chief Justice of the Andhra Pradesh High Court
Justice Arup Kumar Goswami	Chief Justice of the Chhattisgarh High Court
Amar Preet Singh	Chief of the Air Staff
Kalikesh Narayan Singh Deo	President of the National Rifle Association of India
Alok Ranjan	Chief of the National Crime Records Bureau
Jitendra J Jadhav	Director General of the Aeronautical Development Agency
Krishnan Venkat Subramanian	Managing Director & CEO of Federal Bank
James Cameron	Board of directors at Stability A
Anura Kumara Dissanayake	9th President of Sri Lanka
Air Marshal SP Dharkar	Vice Chief of Air Staff
Amit Garg	Director of the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy
Brijendra Pratap Singh	Chairman-cum-Managing Director of National Aluminium Company Limited
Girish Chandra Murmu	Chairmanship of the Asian Organisation of Supreme Audit Institutions
Bhushan Akshikar	President of the Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India
MK Stalin	Deputy Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
Shigeru Ishiba	Leader of the Liberal Democratic Party
Justice Manmohan	Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court
Air Chief Marshal AP Singh	Chief of the Air Staff of the Indian Air Force

IPS officer Nalin Prabhat	Director General of Police for Jammu and Kashmir
INS Shreyams Kumar	International News Safety Institute Chair

INDEX AND RANKING

IIFT TOPS WORLDWIDE IN LINKEDIN GLOBAL MBA RANKING 2024 IN NETWORKING

- **Here are the key details:**
 - **Date:** The ranking was announced on September 10, 2024.
 - **Ranking Name:** LinkedIn Global MBA Ranking 2024.
 - **Released by:** LinkedIn.
 - **India's Rank:** IIFT is ranked 51st among the top 100 MBA programs worldwide.
 - **Top Position:** The top position in the LinkedIn Global MBA Ranking 2024 is held by Harvard Business School.
- Additionally, IIFT has been recognized as the No. 1 institution globally for networking.
- This achievement highlights IIFT's strong emphasis on building robust connections with alumni, corporates, multilateral organizations, and governments.

INDIA JUMPS TO TIER 1 IN GLOBAL CYBERSECURITY INDEX 2024

- **Here are the key points about the GCI 2024:**
- **Assessment Criteria:**
- **The GCI evaluates countries based on five pillars:**
 - **Legal Measures:** Assessing the existence and strength of laws and regulations related to cybersecurity.

- **Technical Measures:** Evaluating technical infrastructure and capabilities.
- **Organizational Measures:** Examining organizational structures and strategies.
- **Capacity Development:** Focusing on training and awareness programs.
- **Cooperation:** Measuring international collaboration efforts.
- **These pillars are aggregated into an overall score for each country.**
- **India's Achievement:**
 - India has climbed to Tier 1 in the GCI 2024.
 - With a rank of 98.49, India is among the 47 leading nations demonstrating commitment to robust cybersecurity practices.
- **Key factors contributing to India's success:**
 - **Legal Framework:** India has established robust laws and regulations governing cybersecurity, including the Information Technology Act (2000) and the Digital Personal Data Protection Bill (2022).
 - **Technical Prowess:** Initiatives promoting secure infrastructure and technology adoption, including the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In).
 - **International Cooperation:** Active participation in global efforts and collaboration with other countries and organizations.
- **Other Countries:**
 - A total of 47 countries made it to Tier 1 in the GCI report.

- Notable countries with a perfect score of 100 include Korea, the U.K., Denmark, Italy, Finland, and the United Arab Emirates.

U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT'S ANNUAL BEST COUNTRIES RANKING 2024: INDIA RANKES 33

- **Switzerland has topped the list for the third consecutive year.**
- The rankings are based on a survey of around **17,000 people from 89 countries, evaluating 73 different attributes** grouped into 10 thematic sub-rankings such as adventure, agility, cultural influence, entrepreneurship, heritage, movers, open for business, power, quality of life, and social purpose.
- **India performed best in the "Movers" category, ranking 7th, which measures a country's potential for future growth.**
- However, it saw a **decline in categories like social purpose and adventure.**

INDIRA GANDHI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT RANKED 24TH AMONG TOP 'MEGAHUB' AIRPORTS GLOBALLY

- This is an **improvement from its previous 25th position.**
- Meanwhile, **Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMIA) has dropped to the 44th spot, down from 34th last year.**
- Globally, the **top five mega hub airports are:**
 - London Heathrow
 - Kuala Lumpur International
 - Tokyo-Haneda
 - Amsterdam Schiphol
 - Seoul's Incheon Airport.

- **India's aviation market continues to grow rapidly, and these rankings reflect the increasing connectivity** and importance of Indian airports on the global stage.

KERALA SECURED FIRST SPOT IN THE 2024 STATE FOOD SAFETY INDEX (SFSI)

- This marks the **second consecutive year that Kerala has achieved this feat.**
- The index, **released by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), evaluates states** based on parameters such as Human Resources and Institutional Data, Compliance, Food Testing-Infrastructure and Surveillance, Training and Capacity Building, and Consumer Empowerment.
- **Kerala's consistent performance is attributed to its strong initiatives in food safety inspection, sample collection, testing, and awareness activities.**
- **Tamil Nadu and Jammu and Kashmir** followed in the second and third positions, respectively.

INDIA OVERTAKES JAPAN AS ASIA'S THIRD MOST POWERFUL NATION

- This index **evaluates the power distribution across 27 countries in the Asia-Pacific region using 131 indicators** across eight thematic measures, including military capability, economic capability, diplomatic influence, and cultural influence.
- Here are **the top five countries in the 2024 rankings:**
 - United States - 81.7 points
 - China - 72.7 points
 - India - 39.1 points
 - Japan - 38.9 points
 - Australia - 31.9 points

- India's rise to the third position is attributed to its economic growth, youthful population, and increasing geopolitical influence.

Deepak C Mehta	ICC Lifetime Achievement Award
Anushka Sen	Korean Award
Alexander Dunn	2024 SASTRA Ramanujan Prize
36 villages	Best Tourism Villages Competition

AWARDS AND HONOURS

Awardee	Awards
Wokha SAATHI WhatsApp Chatbot	Gold Award
Dr. Dasari Radhika	'Gender Diversity' National award
President Droupadi Murmu	National Teachers' Award
Ministry of Women and Child Development	National Award for e-Governance 2024
Fifteen outstanding Nurses	National Florence Nightingale Awards 2024
Prasanthi Ram	Singapore Literature Prize for English fiction
Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited	CII-GBC National Energy Leader Award
Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances	Rajbhasha Kirti Award
30 Indian women	Indian Women Dubai Awards 2024
Magnus Carlsen and Judit Polgar	FIDE 100 Awards
Dhruvi Patel	Miss India Worldwide 2024
Megastar Chiranjeevi	Guinness World Records as the Most Prolific Film Star
Indian Council of Medical Research	@UN Inter-Agency Task Force Award
Pratyasa Ray	32nd Ekalabya Puraskar
Rhea Singha	Miss Universe India
Vinod Bachchan	Global Prestige Award
Category 1, Category 2, Category 3	Swachh Vayu Survekshan Award 2024
NTPC Talcher Kaniha	Energy Management Insight Award

IMPORTANT DAYS

Date	Day	Theme
1st September 2024	National Nutrition Week	Theme: "Feeding Smart Right From Start"
2nd September 2024	World Coconut Day	Theme: "Sustaining Coconut Sector for the Present and Future Generation"
3rd September 2024	Skyscraper Day	Theme:-
5th September 2024	International Day of Charity	Theme:- "Charity for a Sustainable Future,"
5th September 2024	Teachers' Day	Theme:-
5th September 2024	International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies 2024	Theme: "Invest in #CleanAirNow"
7th September 2024	World Duchenne Awareness Day	Theme: "Raise your voice for Duchenne,"
7th September 2024	2nd International Day of Police Cooperation	Theme: "Police Integrity, Accountability, and Oversight".
7th September 2024	Brazilian Independence Day	Theme:-

7th September 2024	International Vulture Awareness Day 2024	Theme: Nature's Clean-Up Crew.
8th September 2024	Grandparents' Day	Theme:- "Love Never Grows Old"
8th September 2024	International Literacy Day	Theme: "Promoting multilingual education: Literacy for mutual understanding and peace".
8th September 2024	World Physiotherapy Day 2024	Theme: "Physiotherapy: Essential for Everyone".
8th September 2024	World Physical Therapy Day	Theme: "Managing Low Back Pain,"
9th September 2024	15th Himalaya Diwas	Theme: "Sustainable Himalayas: Preserving Nature and Culture",
9th September 2024	International Day to Protect Education from Attack	Theme: "Education in Emergencies: Ensuring Safe Learning Spaces,"
10th September 2024	World Suicide Prevention Day (WSPD)	Theme: Changing the Narrative on Suicide" with the call to action "Start the Conversation".
11th September 2024	Digvijay Diwas	Theme: "Celebrating 131 Years of Spiritual Legacy."
12th September 2024	International Day for South-South Cooperation	Theme: "A Better Tomorrow with South-South Cooperation,"

14th September 2024	Hindi Diwas	Theme: "Hindi: Vishwa Bhasha"
14th September 2024	World First Aid Day	Theme: "First Aid in the Digital Age"
15th September 2024	International Day of Democracy	Theme: "Empowering the Next Generation,"
15th September 2024	National Engineer's Day	Theme: "Engineering for Sustainable Development,"
16th September 2024	First-ever UN International Day of Science, Technology, and Innovation for the South	Theme: "Empowering the Global South through Science, Technology, and Innovation".
16th September 2024	International Day for Interventional Cardiology	Theme: "Innovations in Cardiovascular Care: Bridging the Gap"
16th September 2024	Malaysia Day	Theme:-
16th September 2024	World Ozone Day	Theme:-"Montreal Protocol: Restoring the Ozone Layer and Combating Climate Change",
17th September 2024	World Patient Safety Day	Theme: "Improving diagnosis for patient safety".
18th September 2024	International Equal Pay Day 2024	Theme: "Need to Eliminate Wage Discrimination".
18th September 2024	World Bamboo Day	Theme: "Bamboo for a Greener Future,"

18th September 2024	World Water Monitoring Day	Theme: "Water Quality for a Sustainable Future"
20th September 2024	First-ever World Cleanup Day by the UN	Theme: "Arctic Cities and Marine Litter"
21st September 2024	International Red Panda Day	Theme: "Protecting Red Pandas: One Step at a Time"
21st September 2024	International Coastal Cleanup Day	Theme: "Clean Seas, Healthy Communities".
21st September 2024	World Alzheimer's Day	Theme: "Need to Eliminate Wage Discrimination".
21st September 2024	International Day of Peace	Theme: "Cultivating a Culture of Peace".
22nd September 2024	World Car-Free Day 2024	Theme: "Streets for Life",
22nd September 2024	International Daughter's Day	Theme: "Empower, Educate, and Elevate"
22nd September 2024	World Rhino Day	Theme: "Five Rhino Species Forever"
22nd September 2024	World Rivers Day	Theme: "Waterways in Our Communities"
23rd September 2024	International Day of Sign Languages	Theme: "Sign Up for Sign Language Rights"
24th September 2024	NSS Day	To involve students in community service with the motto "Not Me But You".

25th September 2024	World Pharmacists Day	Theme: "Need to Eliminate Wage Discrimination".
25th September 2024	Antyodaya Diwas	Theme: "Empowering the Marginalized,"
26th September 2024	International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons	Theme: "Fostering Global Peace and Security through Nuclear Disarmament".
26th September 2024	World Maritime Day	Theme: "Navigating the Future: Safety First!"
26th September 2024	World Contraception Day	Theme: "Your Life, Your Responsibility"
25th September 2024	World Environmental Health Day	Theme: "Environmental Health: Creating Resilient Communities through Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation".
27th September 2024	Google's official birthday	Theme: "Innovation and Impact"
27th September 2024	World Tourism Day	Theme: "Tourism and Peace"
28th September 2024	International Day for Universal Access to Information	Theme: "Mainstreaming Access to Information and Participation in the Public Sector".
28th September 2024	198th Gunners Day	Theme: "Honoring the Legacy, Embracing the Future".
29th September 2024	World Heart Day	Theme: "Use Heart, Know Heart"

30th September 2024	International Translation Day	Theme: "Translation: Bridging Cultures and Fostering Peace",
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NHA and IIT Kanpur	11th September 2024	To develop digital public goods for AI in healthcare
Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship with Swiggy	11th September 2024	To launch the Swiggy Skills initiative, focusing on skilling and employment opportunities for delivery partners
Indian Council for Cultural Relations and the Gulf University for Science and Technology	12th September 2024	To promote Hindi and Indian culture in Kuwait
FDDI with Tamil Nadu Physical and Sports University, Vellore Institute of Technology, Woxsen University, and Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology	12th September 2024	To enhance research, facilitate knowledge exchange, and promote skill development in the footwear and leather sectors
KVIC and NIFT	13th September 2024	To make Khadi more popular and marketable both domestically and internationally

MOUS SIGNED

Signed Between	Date Signed	Purpose
IIMK LIVE & RBIH	2nd September 2024	To foster innovation and research in the FinTech sector.
NTH & BEE	3rd September 2024	To Promote Energy Efficiency Across India
IREDA with SJVN Ltd. and GMR Energy Ltd.	9th September 2024	To develop and implement the 900 MW Upper Karnali hydroelectric project in Nepal.
Indian Army, the Indian Air Force, and Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya	9th September 2024	To improve the logistics skills of personnel from the Indian Army and the Indian Air Force.
Tamil Nadu government with Caterpillar	11th September 2024	To expand Caterpillar's construction equipment manufacturing facilities in Tamil Nadu

Department of Food and Public Distribution and the Food Corporation of India	13th September 2024	To enhance the efficiency and accountability of food grain procurement and distribution .	Habitats Trust and HCL Foundation		coastal conservation challenges by combining scientific expertise, operational capacity, and community involvement.
PMBI and Coal India Limited	17th September 2024	To provide high-quality generic medicines	ARIES & BEL	20th September 2024	To Enhance Space Situational Awareness
Indian Army with Tiranga Mountain Rescue	18th September 2024	To enhance rescue and survival operations in mountainous terrains through specialized training programs	FSSAI and the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock	22nd September 2024	To improve food safety through joint projects and technical collaboration.
REC Limited with Renewable Energy Developers	18th September 2024	To enhance India's renewable energy capacity over the next five years.	CSIR-NIScPR and Gurugram University	24th September 2024	To Advance Science for Society
Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers with the Emirates Defence Companies Council (EDCC) and EDGE Group UAE	18th September 2024	To enhance defence cooperation between India and the UAE	Rubber Research Institute with Indian Oil	24th September 2024	To enhance research on using Rubber Process Oils marketed by IOCL
Indian Coast Guard, The	19th September 2024	To address critical marine and	Shri Charanjit Singh with SAKSHI NGO	25th September 2024	Enhancing legal literacy among Self-Help Group women under the (DAY-NRLM)

Amazon India with the Ministry of Labour and Employment	26th September 2024	To leverage the National Career Service portal for job postings at Amazon
DoSJE and NALSA	30th September 2024	To enhance public awareness about various Acts, Rules, and Schemes of the Department

GOVERNMENT SCHEMES

DEA ISSUED 6 NEW RULES FOR PPF, SUKANYA SAMRIDDHI YOJANA

- Here are the key changes:
 - **Irregular NSS Accounts:** Accounts opened irregularly under the National Small Savings (NSS) schemes will be regularized. Specific guidelines have been provided for accounts opened before and after certain dates.
 - **PPF Accounts for Minors:** New rules for PPF accounts opened in the name of minors to ensure compliance with deposit limits.
 - **Multiple PPF Accounts:** Guidelines for handling cases where individuals have more than one PPF account.
 - **NRI PPF Extensions:** Rules for the extension of PPF accounts by Non-Resident Indians (NRIs).
 - **Sukanya Samriddhi Account (SSA) Regularization:** Regularization of SSA accounts opened by grandparents instead of guardians.

- **Zero Interest on Non-compliant Accounts:** From October 1, 2024, accounts that do not meet the specified criteria will earn zero percent interest.
- These changes aim to streamline the management of small savings schemes and ensure compliance with the regulations.

UNION CABINET APPROVED SEVEN SCHEMES TO IMPROVE FARMERS' LIVES AND INCREASE THEIR INCOMES

- Here are the key schemes:
 - **Digital Agriculture Mission:** Utilizing technology like AI and Big Data to enhance agricultural practices and connect farmers with buyers.
 - **Crop Science for Food and Nutritional Security:** Focused on research and education to improve crop resilience and food security.
 - **Strengthening Agricultural Education, Management, and Social Sciences:** Modernizing agricultural research and education in line with the New Education Policy 2020.
 - **Sustainable Livestock Health and Production:** Aiming to increase farmers' income from livestock and dairy.
 - **Sustainable Development of Horticulture:** Enhancing income from horticulture plants.
 - **Strengthening of Krishi Vigyan Kendra:** Improving agricultural extension services.
 - **Natural Resource Management:** Focusing on sustainable use of natural resources.
- These initiatives are designed to leverage modern technology and research to

support farmers in various aspects of agriculture.

MP GOVT LAUNCHES BRINDAVAN GRAM SCHEME & GITA BHAVAN PROJECT

- **Brindavan Gram Scheme**
 - **Objective:** To promote rural development and increase farmers' incomes.
- **Key Features:**
 - Establishment of gaushalas (cow sheds) in selected gram panchayats.
 - Promotion of milk production.
 - Implementation of roof-top solar policies in the selected villages.
- **Scope:** One gram panchayat will be selected from each of the 313 blocks in Madhya Pradesh.
- **Gita Bhavan Project**
- To promote spiritual knowledge and cultural heritage.
- **Key Features:**
 - Establishment of Gita Bhavans in all urban bodies across the state.
 - These centers will provide access to spiritual literature, including the Bhagavad Gita and other related texts.
 - The project aims to foster a deeper connection with the state's cultural and spiritual heritage

PRADHAN MANTRI MATSYA KISAN SAMRIDHI SAH-YOJNA LAUNCHED BY UNION MINISTER FOR FISHERIES

- This scheme is a significant initiative under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) **aimed at formalizing the fisheries sector and supporting micro and small enterprises** in fisheries with an

investment of over ₹6,000 crores over the next four years.

- **The scheme focuses on:**
 - Formalizing the fisheries sector through a National Fisheries Digital Platform.
 - Providing access to institutional credit for fisheries micro and small enterprises.
 - Supporting aquaculture insurance and promoting safety and quality assurance systems for fish and fishery products.
 - This initiative is expected to benefit fishers, fish farmers, fish workers, and vendors, along with various micro and small enterprises involved in the fisheries value chain.

GOVERNMENT RELAXED EXCLUSION CRITERIA UNDER THE PRADHAN MANTRI AWAS YOJANA-GRAMIN (PMAY-G)

- This **change allows more families to benefit from the rural housing scheme.**
- **Here are the key updates:**
 - **Eligibility Expansion:** Families owning two-wheelers, motorised fishing boats, refrigerators, and landline phones, and earning up to ₹15,000 per month, are now eligible.
 - **Continued Exclusions:** Households owning motorised three/four-wheelers, mechanised agricultural equipment, or having a Kisan Credit Card with a credit limit of ₹50,000 or above, remain ineligible.
- Additionally, **households with any member as a government employee, those paying income or professional tax, and**

those owning more than 2.5 acres of irrigated land are still excluded.

- This **relaxation aims to make the scheme more inclusive and help achieve the target of constructing** two crore additional houses by 2028-29.

PM ELECTRIC DRIVE REVOLUTION IN INNOVATIVE VEHICLE ENHANCEMENT (PM E-DRIVE) SCHEME

- This scheme **aims to promote electric mobility in India with an outlay of ₹10,900 crore over two years.**
- **Key highlights of the scheme include:**
 - Subsidies and Demand Incentives: ₹3,679 crore allocated for e-2Ws, e-3Ws, e-ambulances, e-trucks, and other emerging EVs.
 - E-Vouchers: Streamlining the EV buying process with Aadhaar authenticated e-vouchers.
 - E-Ambulances: ₹500 crore allocated for the deployment of e-ambulances.
 - E-Buses: ₹4,391 crore for the procurement of 14,028 e-buses by public transport agencies.
 - Charging Infrastructure: ₹2,000 crore for installing fast chargers.
 - Vehicle Testing Infrastructure: ₹780 crore for developing testing agencies.
- This initiative is a **significant step towards enhancing electric vehicle mobility and supporting greener healthcare solutions in India.**

THE UNION CABINET APPROVED THE FOURTH PHASE OF THE PRADHAN MANTRI GRAMIN SADAK YOJANA (PMGSY)

- **Key highlights of PMGSY-IV include:**
 - Construction of 62,500 km of all-weather roads to provide new connectivity to 25,000 unconnected habitations.
 - Focus on habitations with populations of 500+ in plains, 250+ in NE & Hill States/UTs, and special category areas.
 - Use of advanced technologies like Cold Mix Technology, Waste Plastic, and Full Depth Reclamation for road construction.
 - Integration with the PM Gati Shakti portal for efficient planning and implementation.
 - This initiative aims to enhance rural connectivity, thereby supporting socio-economic development in remote areas.

PRADHAN MANTRI ANNADATA AAY SANRAKSHAN ABHIYAN (PM-AASHA) SCHEME

- This initiative **aims to provide remunerative prices to farmers and control the price volatility of essential commodities for consumers.**
- The **government has allocated ₹35,000 crore for this scheme during the 15th Finance Commission Cycle up to 2025-26.**
- The **scheme includes components like the Price Support Scheme (PSS), Price Stabilization Fund (PSF), Price Deficit Payment Scheme (PDPS), and Market Intervention Scheme (MIS).**
- Starting from the **2024-25 season, the procurement of specified pulses, oilseeds, and copra at minimum support prices (MSP) will be limited to 25%** of the national production of these crops.

- However, for Tur, Urad, and Masur, there will be 100% procurement during the 2024-25 season.

NPS-VATSALYA SCHEME LAUNCHED BY FINANCE MINISTER NIRMALA SITHARAMAN

- **Key Details:**
- **Purpose:** The primary goal is to build a financial corpus for children until they reach the age of 18. It aims to inculcate early savings and investment habits among parents for their children's future.
- **Eligibility:**
 - Minors (children under 18 years of age) are eligible.
 - Parents or guardians can open and operate the accounts on behalf of the minors.
- **Investment Amount:**
 - The minimum annual contribution is ₹1,000.
 - There is no maximum limit on the investment.
- **Benefits:**
 - The scheme leverages the power of compounding, ensuring that even small, regular investments can grow into a substantial corpus over time.
 - The maximum exposure to equities is capped at 75%, balancing risk and potential returns.
 - Parents can open the account through major banks, post offices, pension funds' offices, or the e-NPS portal.
 - This initiative is part of the broader National Pension System (NPS) and is regulated by the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)

UNION CABINET APPROVED THE RS. 9,197 CRORE BIO-RIDE SCHEME

- This scheme, officially known as the **Biotechnology Research Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development (Bio-RIDE)**, aims to support cutting-edge research and development in biotechnology.
- The Bio-RIDE scheme has **three main components:**
 - Biotechnology Research and Development (R&D)
 - Industrial & Entrepreneurship Development (I&ED)
 - Biomanufacturing and Biofoundry
- The scheme is **designed to foster innovation, promote bio-entrepreneurship, and strengthen India's position** as a global leader in biomanufacturing and biotechnology.
- It **aims to accelerate research, enhance product development**, and bridge the gap between academic research and industrial applications.

TELANGANA GOVERNMENT LAUNCHED THE 'TELANGANA DARSHINI' SCHEME FOR STUDENT TOURS

- This initiative is **designed to help students explore the state's rich cultural heritage, historical sites**, and scientific institutions.
- The **program is structured to cater to different age groups:**
 - Classes 2-4: Short, one-day trips to nearby heritage sites and parks.
 - Classes 5-8: Day trips within 20-30 kilometers.
 - Classes 9 to Intermediate: Two-day trips covering up to 50-70 kilometers.

- **University students:** Four-day tours to locations outside their home districts.
- The government has **allocated ₹12.10 crore for this program, covering travel, accommodation, and meals.**
- The initiative **aims to include 100,000 students this year, ensuring a broad participation from various schools.**

SPORTS

PARIS PARALYMPICS 2024: FULL LIST OF WINNERS

- **India had a remarkable performance at the Paris Paralympics 2024, securing a record 29 medals.**
- **Here's a summary of the key achievements:**
- **Gold Medalists**
 - Avani Lekhara - Women's 10m Air Rifle Standing SH1
 - Sumit Antil - Men's Javelin Throw F64
 - Harvinder Singh - Archery
 - Dharambir - Men's Club Throw F51
 - Praveen Kumar - High Jump T64
 - Manish Narwal - Men's 50m Pistol SH1
 - Ekta Bhyan - Women's Club Throw F32
- **Silver Medalists**
 - Devendra Jhajharia - Men's Javelin Throw F46
 - Mariyappan Thangavelu - Men's High Jump T63
 - Sundar Singh Gurjar - Men's Javelin Throw F46
 - Singhraj Adhana - Men's 10m Air Pistol SH1
 - Rubina Francis - Women's 10m Air Pistol SH1
- Nishad Kumar - Men's High Jump T47
- Yogesh Kathuniya - Men's Discus Throw F56
- Bhavina Patel - Women's Singles Table Tennis Class 4
- Sakina Khatun - Women's Powerlifting 50kg
- **Bronze Medalists**
 - Sheetal Devi - Archery Mixed Team event
 - Preethi Pal - Women's 100m T35
 - Preethi Pal - Women's 200m T35
 - Deepthi Jeevanji - Women's 400m T20
 - Sharad Kumar - Men's High Jump T63
 - Vinod Kumar - Men's Discus Throw F52
 - Aruna Tanwar - Women's Taekwondo K44 -49kg
 - Suhas Yathiraj - Men's Singles Badminton SL4
 - Krishna Nagar - Men's Singles Badminton SH6
 - Manoj Sarkar - Men's Singles Badminton SL3
 - Palak Kohli - Women's Singles Badminton SU5
 - Parul Parmar - Women's Singles Badminton SL3
 - Rakesh Kumar - Archery Men's Individual Compound Open
- At the opening ceremony of the Paris Paralympics 2024, Devendra Jhajharia had the honor of being India's flag bearer.
- At the Paris Paralympics 2024, Harvinder Singh and Preeti Pal were honored as India's flag bearers during the closing ceremony.

INDIA'S HISTORIC TRIUMPH AT THE 2024 CHESS OLYMPIAD

- The event concluded on September 22, 2024.
- India won double gold in both the Open and Women's sections, marking a significant milestone in Indian chess history.
- The Open team, consisting of D. Gukesh, R. Praggnanandhaa, Arjun Erigaisi, Vidit Gujrathi, and Harikrishna Pentala.
- The Women's team, featuring Harika Dronavalli, Vaishali Rameshbabu, Divya Deshmukh, Vantika Agrawal, and Tania Sachdev, secured their first-ever titles.

INDIA WON SEVEN MEDALS AT THE 9TH JUNIOR WORLD WUSHU CHAMPIONSHIPS 2024

- **Here's a detailed breakdown of the medals won:**
- **Gold Medals**
 - Aryan - 48kg weight category
 - Shaurya - 60kg weight category
- **Silver Medal**
 - Nang Mingbi Borphukan - Taolu Jian Shu C Group event
- **Bronze Medals**
 - Tanish Nagar - 56kg weight category
 - Abhijeet - 60kg weight category
 - Divyanshi - 60kg women's weight category
 - Yuvraj - 42kg weight category
- The Indian team showcased their skills and determination across various weight categories and events, bringing home a total of 2 golds, 1 silver, and 4 bronze medals.

REPORTS

NITI AAYOG RELEASED REPORT ON "PATHWAYS AND STRATEGIES FOR ACCELERATING GROWTH IN EDIBLE OIL TOWARDS THE GOAL OF ATMANIRBHARTA"

- **The report highlights the significant gap between India's edible oil demand and domestic production, which has led to heavy reliance on imports.**
- **Key points from the report include:**
 - Current Consumption: India's per capita consumption of edible oil has risen to 19.7 kg/year.
 - Import Dependency: In 2022-23, India imported 16.5 million tonnes of edible oils, with domestic production meeting only 40-45% of the demand.
 - Future Projections: Under a Business-As-Usual (BAU) scenario, the national supply of edible oil is projected to increase to 16 million tonnes by 2030 and 26.7 million tonnes by 2047.
 - Strategies for Self-Sufficiency: The report outlines various strategies to bridge the demand-supply gap, including enhancing domestic production and exploring new approaches to achieve self-sufficiency.
- **This comprehensive roadmap aims to reduce dependency on imports and promote self-reliance in the edible oil sector.**

WHO REPORT: ROAD ACCIDENT DEATHS IN INDIA SURGE BY 2% DURING THE PERIOD 2010-2021

- **This report was published on September 2, 2024, during the 15th World Conference on**

Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion (Safety 2024) held in New Delhi.

- **Here are some key points from the report:**
 - **Increase in Road Traffic Deaths:** India saw a 2% increase in estimated road traffic deaths during the period 2010-2021.
 - **Fatalities in 2021:** India reported 1,53,973 road traffic fatalities in 2021, but WHO estimates the number to be around 2,16,618.
 - **Vulnerable Road Users:** The highest number of fatalities were among drivers/riders of motorized two/three-wheelers (45.1%), followed by pedestrians (19%), and drivers/passengers of motorized four-wheelers (12.9%).
 - **Regional Impact:** The South-East Asia Region, which includes India, accounted for about 28% of global road traffic deaths in 2021.
- The report **emphasizes the need for accelerated measures to improve road safety**, especially for vulnerable road users like pedestrians, bicyclists, and two/three-wheelers.

INDIA'S CURRENT ACCOUNT DEFICIT LIKELY TO RISE 1% OF GDP IN Q2FY25: IND-RA REPORT

- This increase is attributed to a combination of factors, including a 1% increase in merchandise exports and a widening goods trade deficit.
- In the first quarter of FY25, India's merchandise exports grew by 6% year-on-year, while imports grew by 7.6%.
- The report also highlights that the current account balance (CAB) registered a deficit of around \$8 billion (0.8% of GDP) in Q1

FY25, a reversal from the surplus of \$5.7 billion (0.6% of GDP) recorded in the previous quarter.

MOHFW RELEASES 'HEALTH DYNAMICS OF INDIA 2022-23' REPORT

- **Here are some of the key findings from the report:**
 - **Health infrastructure:** As of March 31, 2023, India had a total of 1,69,615 Sub-Centres (SCs), 31,882 Primary Health Centres (PHCs), 6,359 Community Health Centres (CHCs), 1,340 Sub-Divisional/District Hospitals (SDHs), 714 District Hospitals (DHs), and 362 Medical Colleges (MCs).
 - **Human resources:** As of March 31, 2023, India had a total of 1,15,319 doctors and specialists working in government health facilities. Of these, 32,578 were working in PHCs, 51,682 were working in CHCs, and 45,027 were working in SDHs/DHs. India also had a total of 2,41,232 nursing staff working in government health facilities. Of these, 47,955 were working in PHCs, 51,350 were working in CHCs, and 135,460 were working in SDHs/DHs.
 - **Rural health:** Between 2005 and 2023, the number of SCs, PHCs, and CHCs in India increased by 85%, 61%, and 120%, respectively. As a result, the percentage of rural population covered by PHCs increased from 68% in 2005 to 86% in 2023.
 - **Urban health:** As of March 31, 2023, India had a shortfall of 36% of Urban

PHCs (U-PHCs) as per the urban population norms.

- **Inter-State disparity:** There is a significant inter-State disparity in the availability of health services in India. For example, some States have a much higher number of doctors and nurses per population than others.

DEFENCE

5TH DEFENSE COOPERATION DIALOGUE HELD BY INDIA AND MALDIVES IN NEW DELHI

- The Indian **delegation was led by Defence Secretary Shri Giridhar Aramane**, while the Maldivian delegation was headed by Chief of Defence Force, Maldives National Defence Force General Ibrahim Hilmy.
- During the dialogue, **both sides discussed various aspects of bilateral defense cooperation**, including high-level exchanges, capability development projects, and participation in forthcoming bilateral military exercise.
- The talks **were productive and aimed at advancing shared interests and bringing stability and prosperity** to the Indian Ocean Region.

INDIAN ARMY & FICCI UNVEIL HIM DRONE-A-THON 2024 & HIMTECH 2024

- **HIM DRONE-A-THON 2024 (September 17-18, 2024)** at Wari La, Ladakh, will focus on showcasing and enhancing drone technologies tailored for high-altitude military operations. This event will feature demonstrations of various drones, including ISR drones, loiter munitions, logistics drones, and more.

- **HIMTECH 2024 (September 20-21, 2024)** at **Rinchen Auditorium** Grounds, Leh, Ladakh, will spotlight advancements in indigenous defence technologies, particularly for high-altitude applications. Key focus areas include green energy, human sustainability, equipment durability, and infrastructure.
- These events **aim to enhance the operational capabilities of the Indian Armed Forces in high-altitude** areas and promote indigenous technology development.

SUMMITS AND CONFERENCES

Name of Summit	Organized /Led By	Venue	Aim/Theme
National Conference of District Judiciary	Prime Minister Narendra Modi	New Delhi	Theme: "Viksit Bharat: Empowering District Judiciary".
First Joint Commanders' Conference	Indian Armed Forces	Lucknow	Theme: "Sashakt aur Surakshit Bharat: Transforming the Armed Forces"
Annual FIBAC 2024 Conference	(FICCI) and (IBA).	Mumbai	Theme: "Banking for a Viksit Bharat"
2nd Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference	(ICAO) and the Ministry of Civil Aviation, Government of India	New Delhi	Theme: "Advancing Aviation for a Sustainable Future".
India-US Defence Summit	U.S.-India Strategic Partnership	California	Theme: "Advancing a joint defence"

	p Forum and Stanford University		innovation ecosystem between India and the USA"
International Conference on Green Hydrogen 2024	Government of India	New Delhi	Theme: "Accelerating Green Hydrogen: From Vision to Value"
International WASH Conference 2024	Ministry of Jal Shakti	New Delhi	Theme: "Sustaining Rural Water Supply"
2nd edition of Global Food Regulatory Summit 2024	Health Minister JP Nadda	New Delhi	Theme: "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" - One Earth, One Family, One Future.
Quad Leaders Summit 2024	U.S. President Joe Biden	Delaware, USA	Theme: To reaffirm the commitment to a free and open Indo-Pacific that is inclusive and resilient.
Global AI Summit 2024	Saudi Data & Artificial Intelligence Authority	Riyadh, Saudi Arabia	Theme: "Artificial Intelligence for the Good of Humanity"
27th National Conference on e-Governance	Chief Minister Eknath Shinde	Mumbai	Theme: "Viksit Bharat: Secure and Sustainable e-Service Delivery,"

EW Conference "Spectrum" 2024	Indian Air Force's	Najafgarh, New Delhi	Theme: "EW: Trends, Technologies & Maintenance Challenges",
Global Aerospace Summit	UAE government and various industry stakeholders.	Abu Dhabi	Theme: "Sustainability, Youth Engagement, and Innovation in Aerospace".
India Sugar and Bio-Energy conference	(ISMA), in collaboration with the Government of India and (ISO)	New Delhi	Theme: "Harmonising Sweet Sustainability: Navigating India's Path to a Green Economy"
Conference for the Directors on the Boards of Small Finance Banks	Reserve Bank of India	Bengaluru	Theme: "Governance in SFBs – Driving Sustainable Growth and Stability".

ECONOMY- ONE LINER

- **India's real GDP growth slowed to 6.7% in Q1 of FY25**, marking a 15-month low. This decline is mainly due to weaker performances in the agriculture and services sectors. Despite this, India remains the fastest-growing major economy, with strong growth in the manufacturing sector.
- **Nomura has revised India's GDP growth forecast for FY25 down to 6.7% from 6.9%, citing slower-than-expected growth due to reduced government spending** during national elections. Despite this, they remain optimistic about India's medium-term

growth, expecting it to be around 7% in the coming years.

- The **World Bank has increased India's growth forecast for FY25 to 7%, up from 6.6%. This adjustment reflects India's strong economic performance despite challenges like reduced government spending during the national elections.**
- The **Manufacturing PMI for India declined to 57.5 in August, with the data being released on September 2, 2024. This indicates a slight slowdown in manufacturing activity compared to previous months. However, a PMI above 50 still signifies expansion in the sector.**

OBITUARY- ONE LINER

- **A.G. Noorani, a distinguished lawyer and scholar, passed away on August 29, 2024, at the age of 94. He was renowned for his expertise in constitutional law and his prolific writings on legal and political issues.**
- **Luis Ayala, the legendary Chilean tennis player, passed away on September 4, 2024. He was celebrated for reaching the French Open finals twice and making significant contributions to tennis.**
- **Professor K. Chellappan, a distinguished English scholar and Sahitya Akademi awardee, passed away on September 9, 2024. He was renowned for his extensive work in literary criticism and his contributions to Tamil and English literature.**
- **Aruna Vasudev, a pioneering film scholar known as the "Mother of Asian Cinema," passed away on September 5, 2024. She was instrumental in promoting Asian cinema globally through her work as a critic, author, and founder of the NETPAC (Network for the Promotion of Asian Cinema) and the Cinema film magazine.**
- **Sitaram Yechury, a prominent Indian politician and leader of the Communist Party of India (Marxist), passed away at the age of 71 on 12 September 2024 in New Delhi after a prolonged illness.**
- **Alberto Fujimori, who served as the President of Peru from 1990 to 2000, passed away on September 11, 2024. His presidency was marked by significant economic reforms and a controversial fight against insurgent groups.**
- **Jayanta Pushilal, the esteemed Dronacharya Award-winning table tennis coach, passed away on September 10, 2024, at the age of 63. He had been suffering from kidney ailments for some time. His contributions to Indian table tennis were immense.**
- **Keki N. Daruwalla, a renowned poet and former IPS officer, passed away on September 26, 2024, at the age of 87. He had been battling pneumonia for some time. Daruwalla was celebrated for his profound contributions to Indian English literature.**
- **Dame Maggie Smith, the iconic actress known for her roles in Harry Potter and Downton Abbey, passed away on September 27, 2024. Her remarkable career spanned over six decades, earning her numerous awards and accolades.**
- **Salvatore 'Toto' Schillaci, the celebrated Italian striker, passed away on September 18, 2024. He gained international fame during the 1990 FIFA World Cup, where he was the top scorer and won the Golden Boot.**

BOOKS

- The book “From Oil to Lithium: Navigating the Future of Energy” by Kuldeep Gupta was launched on September 4, 2024. It explores the transition from traditional fossil fuels to renewable energy sources, focusing on the role of lithium in the future energy landscape.
- The book “Sri Rama in Tamilagam – An inseparable bond” was released by the Governor of Tamil Nadu, Thiru. R.N. Ravi. Authored by Dr. D.K. Hari and Dr. D.K. Hema Hari, The launch event was held at Raj Bhavan in Chennai on September 14, 2024.
- Union Minister Nitin Gadkari launched the book “Ranadthurandhar Shahajiraje Bhosale” by Amar Yuvraj Dangat on September 10, 2024. The book highlights the life and achievements of Shahajiraje Bhosale, a prominent figure in Maratha history.
- On 21st September 2024, Uttarakhand CM Pushkar Singh Dhami released a book titled “Khaki Mein Sthitapragya”, authored by former DGP Anil Raturi. The memoir explores Raturi’s 35-year career as an IPS officer, emphasizing the concept of “Sthitapragya,” which means maintaining balanced wisdom and composure in adversity.
- On September 15, 2023, Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu released two books authored by Ajay Prashar: “Jalandhar Peeth Ka Rahsya” and “Mushtarka Khata”. These books delve into intriguing themes and narratives, reflecting Prashar’s unique storytelling style.

MONTHLY CURRENT AFFAIRS QUESTION BANK: SEPTEMBER 2024

Q.1 Who has been appointed as the new Managing Director for Philips in the Indian subcontinent effective September 1, 2024?

- Rajesh Malhotra
- Amit Jain
- Suresh Prabhu
- Bharath Sesha
- None of the above

Answer: D) Bharath Sesha has been appointed as the new Managing Director for Philips in the Indian subcontinent, effective from September 1, 2024.

Q.2 Which of the following BRICS countries is NOT a part of the newly adopted comprehensive framework for climate and sustainable development cooperation?

- Brazil
- Russia
- Japan
- South Africa
- None of the above

Answer: C) The BRICS countries include Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa. Japan is not a member of BRICS, so it is not part of this framework.

Q.3 Where was the 7th Rashtriya Poshan Maah launched?

- Gandhinagar
- Mumbai
- New Delhi
- Kolkata
- None of the above

Answer: C) The 7th Rashtriya Poshan Maah was launched at the Mahatma Mandir in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

Q.4 Who took over as the Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief (AOC-in-C) of the Central Air Command on September 1, 2024?

- a) Air Marshal RGK Kapoor
- b) Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit
- c) Air Marshal Rakesh Sharma
- d) Air Marshal Arvind Bhatia
- e) None of the above

Answer: B) Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit assumed the role of AOC-in-C of the Central Air Command on September 1, 2024, succeeding Air Marshal RGK Kapoor.

Q.5 What award did the Wokha SAATHI WhatsApp Chatbot receive at the National Awards for e-Governance Scheme 2023-2024?

- a) Silver Award
- b) Bronze Award
- c) Gold Award
- d) Platinum Award

Answer: C) The Wokha SAATHI WhatsApp Chatbot received the Gold Award, which is the highest recognition in the National Awards for e-Governance Scheme 2023-2024

Q.6 What is the revised GDP growth forecast for India by Nomura for FY25?

- a) 6.5%
- b) 6.7%
- c) 6.9%
- d) 7.0%

Answer: B) Nomura has revised India's GDP growth forecast for FY25 down to 6.7% from the previous forecast of 6.9%

Q.7 Who was appointed as the Managing Director of NABCONS on September 2, 2024?

- a) Ramesh Kumar

Monthly One Liner GK Digest September 2024

- b) Y Haragopal
- c) Suresh Patel
- d) Anil Sharma

Answer: B) Y Haragopal was appointed as the Managing Director of NABCONS on September 2, 2024.

Q.8 Who is the author of the book "From Oil to Lithium: Navigating the Future of Energy"?

- a) Amitav Ghosh
- b) Chetan Bhagat
- c) Kuldeep Gupta
- d) Arundhati Roy

Answer: C) Kuldeep Gupta is the author of the book titled "From Oil to Lithium: Navigating the Future of Energy," which was launched on September 4, 2024. The book discusses the transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy sources, with a focus on lithium.

Q.9 Which state topped the Business Reforms Action Plan (BRAP) and State Reform Action Plan (SRAP) rankings?

- a) Kerala
- b) Maharashtra
- c) Tamil Nadu
- d) Gujarat

Answer: A) Kerala topped the rankings based on the reforms it implemented to facilitate business and improve service delivery, as reported by the Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Q.10 India's UPI processed nearly how much in transactions from April to July 2023?

- a) ₹50 lakh crore
- b) ₹60 lakh crore
- c) ₹81 lakh crore
- d) ₹90 lakh crore

Answer: C) India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) processed nearly ₹81 lakh crore in transactions from April to July 2023, reflecting its significant growth in the digital payment sector.

Q.11 Who won the gold medal in the women's 76 kg freestyle category at the U20 World Championships in 2024?

- a) Vinesh Phogat
- b) Jyoti Berwal
- c) Sakshi Malik
- d) Anshu Malik

Answer: b) Jyoti Berwal clinched the gold medal in the women's 76 kg freestyle category at the U20 World Championships in 2024, marking a significant achievement for Indian wrestling.

Q.12 Who inaugurated the Digi Yatra facility at nine more airports on September 6, 2024?

- a) Piyush Goyal
- b) Nirmala Sitharaman
- c) Ram Mohan Naidu
- d) Rajnath Singh

Answer: C) Union Minister Ram Mohan Naidu inaugurated the Digi Yatra facility at nine additional airports as part of the government's initiative to enhance airport infrastructure.

Q.13 Who was elected as the first Indian President of the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) on September 8, 2024?

- a) Randhir Singh
- b) Narinder Batra
- c) Anurag Thakur
- d) Abhinav Bindra

Answer: A) Randhir Singh, an Indian sports administrator and former Olympian shooter, was

elected as the first Indian President of the Olympic Council of Asia on September 8, 2024.

Q.14 India accounts for what proportion of the world's plastic pollution, according to research published in the journal Nature?

- a) One-third
- b) One-fifth
- c) One-quarter
- d) One-tenth

Answer: B) According to the research published in the journal Nature, India contributes approximately one-fifth (20%) of the world's plastic pollution, making it the largest contributor globally.

Q.15 Which of the following countries is NOT a founding member of the BRICS New Development Bank?

- a) Brazil
- b) Russia
- c) Algeria
- d) South Africa

Answer: C) Algeria is not a founding member of the BRICS New Development Bank. The founding members are Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa.

Q.16 In which edition of the Asian Games has Yogasana been included as a demonstration sport?

- a) 2026 Asian Games
- b) 2022 Asian Games
- c) 2024 Asian Games
- d) 2030 Asian Games

Answer: A) Yogasana will debut as a demonstration sport in the 2026 Asian Games, which will be held in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan.

Q.17 What medal did Shubhi Gupta win in the girls U-16 category at the Commonwealth Chess Championships 2024?

- a) Gold
- b) Silver
- c) Bronze
- d) None

Answer: A) Shubhi Gupta clinched the gold medal in the girls U-16 category at the Commonwealth Chess Championships held in Kalutara, Sri Lanka, on September 10, 2024.

Q.18 Who was appointed as the Non-Executive Chairperson of the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) on September 10, 2024?

- a) Arundhati Bhattacharya
- b) RS Sharma
- c) Nandan Nilekani
- d) Sundar Pichai

Answer: B) RS Sharma was appointed as the Non-Executive Chairperson of ONDC on September 10, 2024, to guide its strategic direction.

Q.19 What position does Nepal hold in terms of membership in the International Solar Alliance?

- a) 50th member
- b) 75th member
- c) 97th member
- d) 101st member
- e)

Answer: D) Nepal became the 101st member of the ISA, which promotes global cooperation in solar energy use.

Q.20 The Trade Connect e-platform is primarily designed to benefit which sector?

- a) MSME
- b) Real Estate

- c) Agriculture
- d) Education

Answer: A) The Trade Connect e-platform is focused on helping exporters, particularly in the MSME (Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises) sector, by providing a centralized digital interface for trade-related activities.

Q.21 What was NaBFID designated as by the Centre on September 10, 2024?

- a) Commercial Bank
- b) Regional Rural Bank
- c) Public Financial Institution
- d) Non-Banking Financial Company

Answer: C) The Centre designated the National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID) as a 'Public Financial Institution' (PFI) on September 10, 2024. This allows it to access specific regulatory benefits to enhance infrastructure financing.

Q.22 Who was appointed as India's next Ambassador to Iceland on September 10, 2024?

- a) R. Ravindra
- b) Vijay Gokhale
- c) Taranjit Singh Sandhu
- d) Harsh Vardhan Shringla

Answer: A) R. Ravindra was appointed as India's next Ambassador to Iceland as part of India's ongoing diplomatic reshuffle to strengthen international relations.

Q.23. Which Indian company ranked the highest on TIME's World's Best Companies 2024 list?

- a) HCLTech
- b) Infosys
- c) Wipro
- d) Adani Group

Show Answer

Answer: A) HCLTech secured the top position among Indian companies on the list, highlighting its global impact and excellence in various sectors.

Q24. What is the primary purpose of the Jan Sunwai portal?

- a) To track government schemes
- b) To submit and track complaints
- c) To provide job opportunities
- d) To file tax returns

Answer: B) The portal enables citizens to submit complaints and track their status online, aiming for a more efficient and transparent grievance redressal process.

Q25. Which government department received the Rajbhasha Kirti Award in 2024 for outstanding performance in promoting Hindi?

- a) Ministry of Home Affairs
- b) Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG)
- c) Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
- d) NITI Aayog

Answer: B) The DARPG received the Rajbhasha Kirti Award on September 14, 2024, in recognition of its efforts in promoting the use of Hindi in official work, reflecting the government's focus on the use of Hindi as an official language.

Q26. The Bharat Startup Knowledge Access Registry (BHASKAR) initiative launched by DPIIT primarily aims to:

- a) Promote Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in India
- b) Provide tax incentives to startups.

- c) Develop infrastructure for startups in rural areas
- d) Streamline collaboration among various stakeholders in the startup ecosystem

Answer: D) BHASKAR is an initiative designed to centralize and streamline collaboration between startups, investors, mentors, service providers, and government entities, ensuring a more organized and connected startup ecosystem.

Q27. Who are the authors of the book "Sri Rama in Tamilagam – An Inseparable Bond"?

- a) Dr. H.V. Hande and S. Gurumurthy
- b) Dr. D.K. Hari and Dr. D.K. Hema Hari
- c) Thiru. R.N. Ravi and Dr. H.V. Hande
- d) S. Gurumurthy and Dr. D.K. Hari

Answer: B) The book was authored by Dr. D.K. Hari and Dr. D.K. Hema Hari.

Q28. What is the primary aim of the Subhadra Yojana launched by PM Modi?

- a) Provide financial assistance for education
- b) Offer healthcare benefits to women
- c) Provide financial assistance of ₹50,000 to eligible women
- d) Promote digital literacy among rural women

Answer: C) The Subhadra Yojana aims to provide ₹50,000 over five years to eligible women aged 21-60 years.

Q29. Who was appointed as Amazon India's new country manager on September 18, 2024?

- a) Amit Agarwal
- b) Samir Kumar
- c) Jay Carney
- d) Parag Agrawal

Answer: B) On September 18, 2024, Samir Kumar was appointed as the new country manager for Amazon India.

Q30. Which city is the Melbourne Global Centre located in?

- a) Mumbai
- b) New Delhi
- c) Bangalore
- d) Kolkata

Answer: B) The Melbourne Global Centre is located in New Delhi. This location is strategic for fostering collaboration and engagement with Indian stakeholders in the capital city of India.

Q31. Who became the first female fighter pilot in the LCA Tejas aircraft fleet in September 2024?

- a) Flight Lieutenant Avani Chaturvedi
- b) Squadron Leader Mohana Singh
- c) Wing Commander Bhawana Kanth
- d) Flight Lieutenant Shivangi Sing

Answer: B) Squadron Leader Mohana Singh became the first female fighter pilot in the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas fleet on September 18, 2024.

Q32. Which of the following criteria must a railway station meet to be awarded NSG-1 status?

- a) The station must have an annual revenue exceeding ₹500 crore or serve over 20 lakh passengers annually.
- b) The station must be over 100 years old and serve more than 10 lakh passengers annually.
- c) The station must serve more than 30 lakh passengers annually and have a heritage status.

- d) The station must be located in a metropolitan city and serve over 15 lakh passengers annually

Answer: A) NSG-1 status is awarded to stations that either have an annual revenue of more than ₹500 crore or cater to over 20 lakh passengers annually.

Q33. What is the total amount of funding JBM ECOLIFE secured from ADB and AIIB on September 16, 2024?

- a) Rs 5 billion
- b) Rs 12 billion
- c) Rs 10 billion
- d) Rs 7.2 billion

Answer: D) JBM ECOLIFE secured Rs 7.2 billion in funding from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) to expand its electric bus fleet in India.

Q34. Who has been appointed as the new Director General of the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) in 2024?

- a) Anurag Garg
- b) Rakesh Asthana
- c) S.N. Pradhan
- d) Subodh Jaiswal

Answer: A) Anurag Garg, a 1993 batch IPS officer from the Himachal Pradesh cadre, was appointed as the Director General of the NCB on September 17, 2024.

Q35. When is World Water Monitoring Day celebrated?

- a) March 22
- b) April 22
- c) September 18
- d) October 18

Answer: C) World Water Monitoring Day is celebrated annually on September 18 to raise awareness about the importance of water quality and the need for regular monitoring.

Q36. Who was re-appointed as the Managing Director and CEO of IDFC First Bank in 2024?

- a) Sandeep Bakhshi
- b) V Vaidyanathan
- c) Amitabh Chaudhry
- d) Uday Kotak

Answer: B) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) approved the re-appointment of V Vaidyanathan as the MD & CEO of IDFC First Bank, effective from December 19, 2024.

Q37. Which organization awarded the 2024 @UN Inter-Agency Task Force Award to the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)?

- a) United Nations (UN)
- b) World Health Organization (WHO)
- c) World Bank
- d) UNICEF

Answer: A) The 2024 @UN Inter-Agency Task Force Award is presented by the United Nations to recognize contributions towards multi-sectoral action for the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases.

Q38. Under the 'Bana Kaih' scheme by Mizoram CM Pu Laldhuma, how much is the maximum loan that farmers and entrepreneurs can avail without collateral?

- a) Rs. 5 lakh
- b) Rs. 10 lakh
- c) Rs. 50 lakh
- d) Rs. 1 crore

Answer: C) The scheme offers collateral-free, interest-free loans up to Rs. 50 lakh, with the state government acting as the guarantor.

Q39. What is the new Provident Fund (PF) withdrawal limit set by the Ministry of Labour & Employment as of September 17, 2024?

- a) ₹50,000
- b) ₹75,000
- c) ₹1 lakh
- d) ₹1.5 lakh

Answer: C) As of September 17, 2024, the Ministry of Labour & Employment increased the Provident Fund withdrawal limit from ₹50,000 to ₹1 lakh to offer greater financial flexibility, especially during emergencies.

Q40. Who assumed charge as the Managing Director & CEO of Federal Bank on September 23, 2024?

- a) Shyam Srinivasan
- b) Krishnan Venkat Subramanian (KVS Manian)
- c) Nitin Gupta
- d) Arun Bansal

Answer: B) Krishnan Venkat Subramanian, also known as KVS Manian, took over as the Managing Director & CEO of Federal Bank on September 23, 2024.

Q41. Who clinched the men's doubles title at the 2024 Hangzhou Open?

- a) Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan and Vijay Sundar Prashanth
- b) Rohan Bopanna and Divij Sharan
- c) Mahesh Bhupathi and Leander Paes
- d) Purav Raja and Saketh Myneni

Answer: A) Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan and Vijay Sundar Prashanth won the 2024 Hangzhou Open

men's doubles title, a key event in international tennis.

Q42. Which country has become the first to receive WHO verification for eliminating leprosy?

- a) India
- b) Brazil
- c) Jordan
- d) Thailand

Answer: C) Jordan has been officially verified by the World Health Organization (WHO) as the first country to eliminate leprosy, showcasing its strong political commitment and effective public health strategies.

Q43. Who is the author of "Khaki Mein Sthitapragya"?

- a) Anil Raturi
- b) Pushkar Singh Dhami
- c) Both A and B
- d) Neither A nor B

Answer: A) On 21st September 2024, Uttarakhand CM Pushkar Singh Dhami released a book titled "Khaki Mein Sthitapragya", authored by former DGP Anil Raturi.

Q44. What was India's position in the World Talent Ranking 2024?

- a) 52
- b) 56
- c) 58
- d) 60

Answer: C) India dropped to the 58th position in the World Talent Ranking 2024, down from 56th last year.

Q45. What is the revised GDP growth forecast for India in 2024, according to Moody's Analytics?

- a) 6.5%
- b) 6.8%
- c) 7.1%
- d) 7.5%

Answer: C) Moody's Analytics has raised India's GDP growth forecast for 2024 to 7.1%, up from 6.8%. The 2025 forecast remains at 6.5%.

Q46. Who assumed the chairmanship of the Asian Organisation of Supreme Audit Institutions (ASOSAI) for the 2024-2027 term?

- a) Nirmala Sitharaman
- b) Girish Chandra Murmu
- c) Shaktikanta Das
- d) Rajiv Kumar

Answer: B) Girish Chandra Murmu, the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India, was appointed as the chairman of ASOSAI for the term 2024-2027.

Q47. What is the Asian Development Bank's (ADB) forecast for India's economic growth in FY24?

- a) 7.0%
- b) 6.5%
- c) 7.5%
- d) 8.0%

Answer: A) The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has forecasted India's economic growth at 7% for FY24 and 7.2% for FY25.

Q48. How many hectares have been declared as the Eco-Sensitive Zone around the Gir Protected Area?

- a) 1.84 lakh hectares
- b) 2.5 lakh hectares
- c) 1.5 lakh hectares
- d) 2 lakh hectares

Answer: A) The government has declared 1.84 lakh hectares around the Gir Protected Area as an Eco-Sensitive Zone

Q49. Who was elected as the International News Safety Institute (INSI) Chair on September 29, 2024?

- a) Sanjay Gupta
- b) Rajesh Kumar
- c) Shreyams Kumar
- d) Arvind Sharma

Answer: C) INS Shreyams Kumar was elected as the Chair of the International News Safety Institute (INSI) on September 29, 2024.

Q50. Which ministries organized the Ayush Medical Value Travel Summit 2024?

- a) Ministry of Ayush and Ministry of Tourism
- b) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Ministry of Ayush
- c) Ministry of Ayush and Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- d) Ministry of Tourism and Ministry of Commerce and Industry

Answer: A) The summit was chaired by Shri Prataprao Jadhav, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge), Ministry of Ayush, and organized by the Ministry of Ayush in collaboration with the Ministry of Tourism and the Government of Maharashtra.