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Current Affairs



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Ques : _____ Economic Research Urges Government to Address Fault Lines in Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016
_____ इकोनॉमिक रिसर्च ने सरकार से दिवाला और दिवालियापन संहिता, 2016 में खामियों को दूर करने का आग्रह किया

- (a) Canara Bank / केनरा बैंक
- (b) State Bank of India / भारतीय स्टेट बैंक
- (c) HDFC Bank / एचडीएफसी बैंक
- (d) UCO Bank / यूको बैंक
- (e) Axis Bank / एक्सिस बैंक

Answer : Option B

Explanation :

- According to **State Bank of India's (SBI's) economic research department (ERD)**, the government needs to address the fault lines in the **IBC (Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016)** set-up to **reduce the time** taken for the corporate insolvency resolution process.
- Recoveries through IBC in FY24 were **only 32% of admitted claims**, with financial creditors losing 68% of their claims.
- The time taken to reach a resolution is **863 days**, far exceeding the stated 330 days.

About IBC:

- The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) was passed by the **Indian Parliament in 2016**.
- The code consolidates and amends laws related to the reorganisation and insolvency resolution of corporate persons, partnership firms, and individuals.
- The **aim** is to ensure a time-bound resolution for the maximisation of asset value, promote entrepreneurship, availability of credit, and balance the interests of all stakeholders.

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Ques : _____ Receives Government Panel Approval to Invest in Its Payments Subsidiary

_____ को अपनी भुगतान सहायक कंपनी में निवेश के लिए सरकारी पैनल की मंजूरी मिल गई है

- (a) Paytm
- (b) PhonePe
- (c) GooglePay
- (d) Zeta
- (e) None of these

Answer : Option A

Explanation :

- **Paytm** has secured approval from a government panel that oversees investments linked to China to invest **Rs.500 million (\$6 million)** in a key subsidiary, Paytm Payment Services.
- The approval still needs to be vetted by the finance ministry.
- This approval will allow Paytm Payment Services to resume normal business operations, which had been hindered.
- The government panel initially withheld approval due to concerns about the **9.88% stake** in Paytm held by China's Ant Group.
- Paytm had been waiting for the government's nod for about two years and was forbidden from taking on new customers since March 2023.
- Once the approval is formalised, Paytm can seek a "payment aggregator" license from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

About Paytm :

- Founded : August 2010
- Headquarters : Noida, Uttar Pradesh, India
- CEO : Vijay Shekhar Sharma

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Ques : _____ Partners with Steel Authority of India Limited to Provide Loan Facilities

_____ ने ऋण सुविधाएं प्रदान करने के लिए स्टील अथॉरिटी ऑफ इंडिया लिमिटेड के साथ साझेदारी की

- (a) State Bank of India / भारतीय स्टेट बैंक
- (b) Punjab National Bank / पंजाब नेशनल बैंक
- (c) Kotak Life Insurance / कोटक लाइफ इंश्योरेंस
- (d) Indian Bank / इंडियन बैंक
- (e) Canara Bank / केनरा बैंक

Answer : Option B

Explanation :

- **Punjab National Bank (PNB)** has signed a pact with **Steel Authority of India Ltd (SAIL)** to provide home loans, car loans, and education loans to **SAIL employees** at concessional rates.
- This strategic partnership aims to enhance the financial well-being of SAIL employees while expanding PNB's customer base within the steel sector.
- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed by PNB General Manager - Business Acquisition and Relationship Management Division Sudhir Dalal, SAIL General Manager - Finance Lavika Jain and SAIL General Manager - HR Bikram Uppal.

About PNB :

- Founded : 19 May 1894
- Headquarters : Delhi, India
- MD & CEO : Atul Kumar Goel

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About SAIL :

- Founded : 19 January 1954
 - Headquarters : New Delhi, India
 - Chairman : Amarendu Prakash
 - SAIL is a central public sector undertaking (PSU) based in New Delhi, India. It is under the ownership of the Ministry of Steel, Government of India (GoI).
-

Recently signed banking agreements :

- Federal Bank, a private sector bank, has entered into a Bancassurance tie-up with Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance, a private life insurer.
- Star Health and Allied Insurance Company Limited, India's largest retail health insurance company announced a strategic corporate agency agreement with Himachal Pradesh State Cooperative Bank (HPSCB), the leading bank of Himachal Pradesh.
- Border Security Force (BSF) and State Bank of India (SBI) have partnered for a 'Grow with the Trees' plantation drive at the BSF Headquarters in Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir (J&K).
- National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) and Online PSB Loans Limited have signed an agreement to promote financial inclusion through regional rural banks.
- NPCI International Payments Ltd. (NIPL), in partnership with Network International, a leading digital commerce enabler across the Middle East and Africa, has facilitated the acceptance of QR-codebased Unified Payments Interface (UPI) payments across point-of-sale (POS) terminals in the UAE.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has joined hands with the Bank for International Settlements (BIS) and central banks of 4 Asean (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) countries to collaborate on Project Nexus - a multilateral international initiative to enable retail cross-border payments.
- Truecaller, the world's leading global communications platform, has partnered with HDFC ERGO, India's leading general insurance company to unveil Fraud Insurance.
- Axis Bank, India's third-largest private sector bank, has partnered with Piramal Capital and Housing Finance Limited under the co-lending business.
- Punjab and Sind Bank (PSB) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Army (IA) to offer a defence salary package with a host of facilities including free insurance cover.

- Travel booking platform ixigo has expanded its exclusive partnership with PhonePe to offer flight and bus bookings on the fintech platform's app.
- One97 Communications (parent company of Paytm) has partnered with global travel aggregators including Skyscanner, Google Flights, and Wego to expand its presence in the travel segment.
- BharatPe, a leading fintech company in India announced that it has collaborated with Invest India to promote digital financial inclusion and digital financial literacy across One District One Product (ODOP) producers and sellers across ODOP districts in India.
- Action Construction Equipment Ltd. (ACE), a prominent player in India's construction equipment manufacturing sector, has entered into a MoU with Bank of Baroda to facilitate financing solutions for construction equipment businesses.
- India and South East Asian nation Cambodia are negotiating collaboration in Unified Payment Interface-based (UPI) digital payment to promote trade and tourism.
- India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) has partnered with Ria Money Transfer, a global leader in cross-border money transfers to provide convenient and affordable doorstep financial services to customers in remote areas across the country.
- Federal Bank, in collaboration with National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), has launched RuPay Wave Credit Card to offer customers UPI-powered transactions on RuPay network.
- Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) and Mastercard India have signed MoU for collaboration in cyber security to enhance India's cyber-resilience in the financial sector
- Namdev Finvest, a Jaipur based NBFC, has entered into strategic alliance with Bajaj Allianz General Insurance, a leading insurance platform, to offer comprehensive financial solutions, including insurance and NBFC services, to its customers.
- The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and the State Bank of India (SBI) signed MoU to enhance digital payment services for users of the eMigrate portal.
- Kotak Mahindra Life Insurance Company Ltd. (Kotak Life) has formed a partnership with Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services Ltd. (Mahindra Finance) to provide life insurance solutions to customers.
- Fintech firm PhonePe has partnered with ride – hailing platform PickMe to facilitate Unified Payments Interface (UPI)-based payments for Indian travellers in Sri Lanka.

- Ashv Finance, a part of the Aavishkaar Group, has entered into a co-lending agreement with HDFC Bank to offer unsecured business loans to micro and small enterprises (MSEs).
- Muthoot Microfin has entered into a strategic co-lending partnership with the State Bank of India (SBI). With this collaboration, Muthoot Microfin Limited aims to extend its financial services to women entrepreneurs in rural and semi-urban regions across India
- NPCI International Payments Ltd (NIPL) and the Reserve Bank of Peru have announced a partnership to enable UPI-like real-time payments system in the Latin American country.
- Punjab National Bank (PNB), a leading public sector bank, has signed an MoU with India Infrastructure Finance Company Ltd (IIFCL) to collaborate in financing of infrastructure projects.
- Capital Small Finance Bank (CSFB) has forged a bancassurance tieup with ICICI Lombard General Insurance Company Ltd.(ICICI Lombard), a private general insurer. to distribute ICICI Lombard's suite of general insurance products, including health, motor, home, travel and rural insurance.
- Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has signed a deal to modernize the core banking technology of Burgan Bank, a leading commercial bank in Kuwait.
- SBI General Insurance Company Limited has partnered with Bima Central, built by CAMS Insurance Repository, to launch the industry-first policyholder servicing platform, Bima Central.
- PhonePe has partnered with Sri Lanka-based LankaPay to enable Unified Payments Interface (UPI) transactions for PhonePe users in Sri Lanka.
- Aurm, an asset protection firm has partnered with Tata AIG General Insurance to provide comprehensive insurance coverage to its customers for their valuables.
- State Bank of India (SBI), has become the first trading-cum-clearing member (TCM)at the India International Bullion Exchange (IIBX) – the country's first bullion exchange in GIFT City Gandhinagar.
- YES BANK, a leading private sector bank in India, is collaborating with EBANX, a global fintech firm specializing in payment solutions for emerging markets.
- Asian Development Bank and Citi Signed Master Risk Participation Agreement (MRPA) to Support Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs) & Boost Trade Through Supply Chain Financing
- NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL) has signed an agreement with the Bank of Namibia (BoN) to support them in developing an instant payment system like Unified Payment Interface (UPI) for Namibia.
- The State Bank of India (SBI) has entered into a five-year agreement with HCL Software to digitally transform its customer interaction framework by utilising the HCL Unica platform.

Ques : RBI's Financial Inclusion Index (FI-Index) Increases to _____ in FY24

आरबीआई का वित्तीय समावेशन सूचकांक (एफआई-इंडेक्स) वित्त वर्ष 24 में बढ़कर _____ हो गया

- (a) 64.2
- (b) 65.2
- (c) 64.7
- (d) 65.7
- (e) 66.6

Answer : Option A

Explanation :

- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released its Financial Inclusion Index (FI-Index)** which increased to **64.2 in FY24** (in March 2024) from 60.1 in FY23 (in March 2023).
- The improvement in FI-Index is mainly driven by the 'Usage' parameter which reflects the deepening of financial inclusion across the country

About Financial Inclusion Index :

- 1st Index : August 2021 for the fiscal year ending in March 2021
- Published : Annually in the month of July, for the Financial Year ending in March
- Base year : no base year
- Value range : From 0 to 100 (Value 0 represents complete financial exclusion and 100 means full financial inclusion)
- Parameters : Access (35%), Usage (45%), and Quality (20%)

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Ques : National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) Founded in which year ?

नेशनल पेमेंट्स कॉर्पोरेशन ऑफ इंडिया (NPCI) की स्थापना किस वर्ष में हुई?

- (a) 2005
- (b) 2006
- (c) 2007
- (d) 2008
- (e) 2009

Answer : Option D

Explanation :

About NPCI :

- Founded : 2008
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD & CEO : Dilip Asbe
- The NPCI is an umbrella organization for operating retail payments and settlement systems in India.
- It is an initiative of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Indian Banks' Association (IBA) under the provisions of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007, for creating a robust Payment & Settlement Infrastructure in India.
-

Recently in News :

- **NPCI International Payments (NIPL)**, the international arm of NPCI, signed an **agreement** with **Qatar National Bank (QNB)** to **launch QR-code-based UPI payments** in Qatar.
- The partnership will power UPI (Unified Payments Interface) payment acceptance in Qatar through the QNB merchant network, enabling Indian travellers to transact on the payments service.
- The announcement is significant as Indians are the second largest group of international visitors to Qatar.

Other International Collaborations of NPCI :

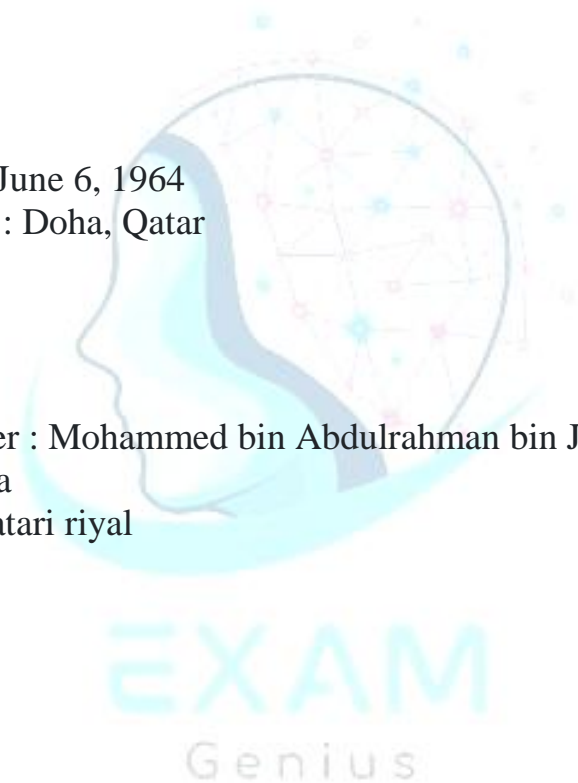
- NIPL signed an agreement with the central bank of Peru to develop a UPI-like payment system.
- NIPL entered into an agreement with the Bank of Namibia (BoN) to develop an instant payment system similar to UPI.
- NPCI has expanded UPI to other countries, including France, Sri Lanka, Singapore

About QNB :

- Established : June 6, 1964
- Headquarters : Doha, Qatar

About Qatar :

- Prime Minister : Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani
- Capital : Doha
- Currency : Qatari riyal



Ques : Which company has raised green loan, with the transaction being conducted from Deutsche Bank's Gift City branch?

इयूश बैंक की गिफ्ट सिटी शाखा से लेनदेन के साथ, किस कंपनी ने हरित ऋण जुटाए हैं?

- (a) Adani Group
- (b) Reliance Industries
- (c) REC Limited
- (d) Parijat Industries
- (e) None of these

Answer : Option C

Explanation :

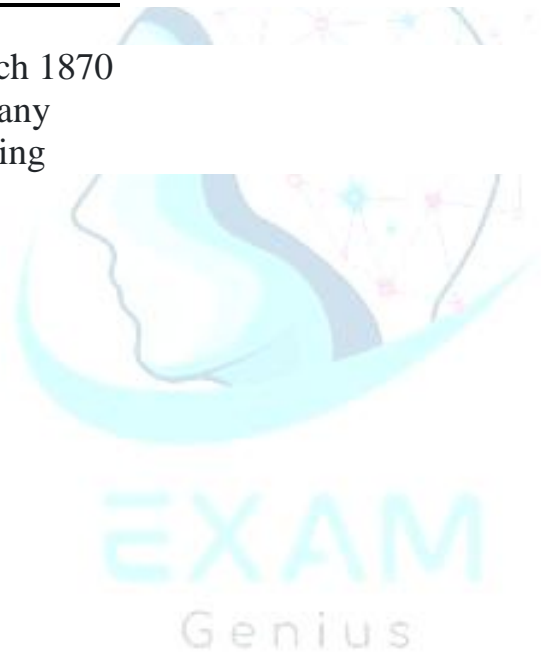
- **Power sector financier REC Limited** has raised **31.96 billion Japanese yen** through a **5-year green loan**, with the transaction being conducted from **Deutsche Bank's Gift City branch**.
- The loan, which is **equivalent to \$200 million**, will be used to finance eligible green projects in India.
- This successful transaction is in line with REC's commitment to enhance its green energy financing and sustainable projects capabilities as well as the global community's support for sustainable development projects in India.
- The transaction marked one of the first yen-denominated green loan transactions for Deutsche Bank through its Gift City branch.
- In the last financial year, REC Ltd sanctioned loans worth Rs.3.59 trillion, out of which Rs.1.36 trillion were for renewable energy projects.
- **REC aims** to increase the share of renewable energy in its loan book to 30% by 2030 from the current 10%.

About REC Limited, formerly Rural Electrification Corporation Limited :

- Founded : 25 July 1969
- Headquarters : New Delhi, Delhi, India
- Chairman & Managing Director : Vivek Kumar Dewanga
- Status:
- REC is a 'Maharatna' company under the **Ministry of Power**, Government of India.
- Registered with RBI as a Non-Banking Finance Company (NBFC), Public Financial Institution (PFI), and Infrastructure Financing Company (IFC).

About Deutsche Bank AG:

- Established: 10 March 1870
- Headquarters: Germany
- CEO: Christian Sewing



Ques : Which footwear company has partnered with Indian Olympic Association (IOA) as the official footwear partner for the Indian contingent heading to the Paris Olympics 2024?

किस फुटवियर कंपनी ने पेरिस ओलंपिक 2024 में जाने वाले भारतीय दल के लिए आधिकारिक फुटवियर पार्टनर के रूप में भारतीय ओलंपिक संघ (IOA) के साथ साझेदारी की है?

- (a) Adidas
- (b) PUMA
- (c) Nike
- (d) Reebok
- (e) H&M

Answer : Option B

Explanation :

- **PUMA India** has **partnered** with **Indian Olympic Association (IOA)** as the **official footwear partner** for the Indian contingent heading to the Paris Olympics 2024.
- PUMA has **launched** a grand outdoor **campaign** titled “**See the Game Like We Do**” to honor and **celebrate** the **achievements** of **Indian athletes**.
- As part of this collaboration, over 100 Indian athletes will receive an array of products designed to enhance their training and comfort.
- These include podium and travel footwear, trolleys, backpacks, sippers, yoga mats, headbands, wristbands, socks, and towels. Notably, 45 of these athletes are part of the PUMA contingent.

Recent MoU and agreement :

- The Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) for organic products between India and Taiwan has been implemented during the 9th Working Group on Trade Meeting with Taiwan at New Delhi.
- National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) and Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology (Delhi) Signs MoU to Enhance Road Safety by deploying Artificial Intelligence.
- Punjab Police in association with the Border Security Force (BSF) and Village Defence Committees (VDCs) have launched a 'Mission Nishchay' in Fazilka district.
- Snapdeal and Bhashini signed an MoU to promote digital inclusiveness
- Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) and Sansad TV signed an agreement to make Indian art and culture more accessible to the people.
- The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) has granted its approval for the merger of Vistara with Air India allowing a period of nine months for the dissolution of the former.
- The Ministry of Defence (MoD) has taken a significant step towards enhancing pensioner services by forging partnerships with four prominent banks. The MoUs with Bank of India, Canara Bank, Central Bank of India, and Utkarsh Small Finance Bank.
- Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers has signed a deal with DRDO to build Research Vessel for DRDO in Rs. 500 crore deal.
- Finnish telecom gearmaker Nokia has signed an agreement with the Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya (GSV) for carrying out joint research related to 5G/6G communications in the transportation and logistics sector.
- The Department of School Education, Ministry of Education, has signed an MoU with the National Book Trust to establish an institutional framework for Rashtriya e-Pustakalaya, a pioneering digital library platform.
- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and Wipro 3D have successfully manufactured a 3D-printed rocket engine, the PS4, set to power the fourth stage of the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV).
- Ghana has signed deals with a Reliance Jio subsidiary, Tech Mahindra and other vendors to build 4G and 5G infrastructure as the African country aims to enhance its telecom capabilities.
- Swiggy has partnered with SHIELD, a device-first risk AI platform, to enhance its fraud prevention and detection capabilities.
- Cisco and Tata Communications have launched their Webex Calling solution in India with cloud public switched telephone network (PSTN), aimed at helping enterprises move from on-premises phone systems to a global cloud calling system.
- Airbus Helicopters and Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for financing the

purchase of Airbus helicopters in India.

- The Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD) under the Union Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) India on Digitalization of Vaccine Cold Chain Management, Communication Planning and Capacity Building.
- AIIMS New Delhi has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with UK based University of Bolton Institute of Medicine to collaborate in the field of medical research, innovation and education.
- PUMA India has signed a deal with the Athletics Federation of India to become its official kit sponsor.
- India and Iran Inks 10-year Deal to Operate Iran's Chabahar Port. Under the agreement, India Ports Global Limited (IPGL) committed to investing \$370 million to enhance the port's infrastructure
- India and Moldova signed an agreement allowing holders of diplomatic and official passports from either country to travel to the other without requiring a visa.
- A joint initiative between India and Oman to boost research and conservation of sharks and rays in the Arabian Sea will be launched
- Girish Chandra Murmu, the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG), has signed a MoU with Toyam Raya, Auditor General of Nepal to strengthen collaboration and facilitate the exchange of expertise in auditing practices between the Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs) of both countries.
- The Indian Coast Guard and Jindal Steel & Power Ltd signed an MoU for the supply of indigenous marine-grade steel.
- The Uttarakhand Tourism Development Board has teamed up with Starscapes, an astro-tourism company, to introduce Nakshatra Sabha, a pioneering initiative aimed at offering a comprehensive astro-tourism experience.
- India and Nigeria have agreed to an early conclusion of the Local Currency Settlement System Agreement to strengthen bilateral economic ties.
- The Indian Army and the Punit Balan Group joined hands to inaugurate the nation's first Constitution Park in Pune.
- The government of India has signed an agreement with the government of Bangladesh to renew the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to train 1500 Bangladeshi officers from 2025 to 2030.
- The Ministry of Mines has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation, to enhance the knowledge base of the critical minerals processing industry in India.

Ques : Who has been appointed as the President of News Broadcasters & Digital Association (NBDA)?

न्यूज ब्रॉडकास्टर्स एंड डिजिटल एसोसिएशन (एनबीडीए) के अध्यक्ष के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Rajat Sharma / रजत शर्मा
- (b) Amish Tripathi / अमीश त्रिपाठी
- (c) Arnab Goswami / अर्नब गोस्वामी
- (d) Anjana Om Kashyap / अंजना ओम कश्यप
- (e) None of these / इनमें से कोई नहीं

Answer : Option A

Explanation :

- The **News Broadcasters & Digital Association (NBDA)** has unanimously elected **India TV chairman Rajat Sharma** as its **president**.
- He **replaces Avinash Pandey**, the former **CEO of ABP Network**.
- NBDA is the **largest organisation of news broadcasters** and digital media in India, consisting of almost all major news networks in the country.
- The News Broadcasters and Digital Association (NBDA) formerly known as the News Broadcasters Association (NBA) is a private association of different current affairs and news television broadcasters in India.
- It was established by Indian news broadcasters on 3 July 2007.

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Recent Appointment in different departments :

- Gautam Gambhir : appointed as the India men's cricket team's head coach
- Soumya Swaminathan : Principal Adviser at the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) for the National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP)
- Rachel Reeves : UK's first female finance Minister
- Justice Bidyut Ranjan Sarangi : 15th Chief Justice of the Jharkhand High Court
- Justice Sheel Nagu : Chief Justice (ACJ) of Punjab and Haryana High Court
- Elisa de Anda Madrazo (Mexico): president of Financial Action Task Force (FATF)
- Pradeep Singh Kharola : Chairman and Managing Director of India Trade Promotion Organization.
- Dharendra Ojha : Director General of Press Information Bureau (PIB)
- B.N. Gangadhar : Chairperson of the National Medical Commission (NMC)
- Ravi Agrawal : chairman of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)
- Om Birla : speaker of the 18th Lok Sabha
- Sujata Saunik : first woman Chief Secretary (CS) of Maharashtra
- Tapan Kumar Deka : extension as Intelligence Bureau chief for one year
- Dr K Radhakrishnan : head of the government committee on restructuring NTA
- Mrinal Kumar Das : Director in the Department of Consumer Affairs under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution
- Kapil Dev : **President of the Professional Golf Tour of India**
- Aksha Mohit Kamboj : VP of India Bullion Jewellers Association
- Atul Kumar Chaudhary : Secretary of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)
- Sudhakararao Papa : Director (Enterprise) of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL)
- Mark Rutte : secretary-general of NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization)
- Dr Kapil Dua : President of the Asian Association of Hair Restoration Surgeons (AAHRS)
- Dr PK Mishra : Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister
- Jyoti Vij : director general of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry(FICCI)
- Inder Pal Singh Bindra : Secretary of Competition Commission of India (CCI)
- Raj Priy Singh : Director of Department of Rural Development under the Ministry of Rural Development

- Rakesh Mohan Joshi : vice-chancellor of the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT)
- Sushil Kumar Singh : Chairperson of Deendayal Port Authority
- Gender Sensitisation and Internal Complaints Committee by Supreme Court : Justice Hima Kohli
- Rakesh Ranjan : Chairman of Staff Selection Commission (SSC)
- Gaurav Banerjee : CEO of Sony India
- Justice Najmi Waziri : Chairperson of Equestrian Federation Of India's Ad-Hoc Administrative Committee
- Jetha Ahir : chairman of the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED)
- Klaus Schwab : chairman of the board of trustees of WEF
- John Slaven : Vice Chairman of the International Aluminium Institute (IAI)
- Mahesh Rajaraman : Chief Risk Officer (CRO) of Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services
- Dr. Bikramjit Chaudhuri : Chief of Measurement Science and Analytics in Broadcast Audience Research Council (BARC)
- Sanjeev Puri : President of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)
- David Salvagnini : Chief Artificial Intelligence (AI) Officer of NASA
- Senior Advocate Kapil Sibal : President of the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA)
- Vivek Bipindada Kolhe : director of IFFCO (Indian Farmers Fertilizers Co-op Ltd.) New Delhi
- Subodh Kumar : Director in the Ministry of Ayush
- Dr. Mallika Nadda : Chairperson of Special Olympics Asia-Pacific Advisory Council
- Prof. Mohammad Rihan : Director General of the National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE)
- Sanjaya Kumar Mishra : President GST Appellate Tribunal (GSTAT)
- Shashi Bhushan Singh : Secretary of National Jute Board
- Pratima Singh : Director of the Department of Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)
- Krishna M Ella : President of Indian Vaccine Manufacturers Association (IVMA)
- Manoj Kumar : new Chief Vigilance Officer (CVO) of Jawahar Lal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA)
- Justice Dinesh Kumar : Presiding Officer of the Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT) for a four-year term.
- Narpat Singh (IRTS) : Railway Adviser in the High Commission of India, Dhaka, Bangladesh

Ques : Who has designated 11 new Biosphere Reserves ?
11 नए बायोस्फीयर रिजर्व किसने नामित किए हैं?

- (a) WHO
- (b) WTO
- (c) UNESCO
- (d) UNDP
- (e) None of these

Answer : Option C

Explanation :

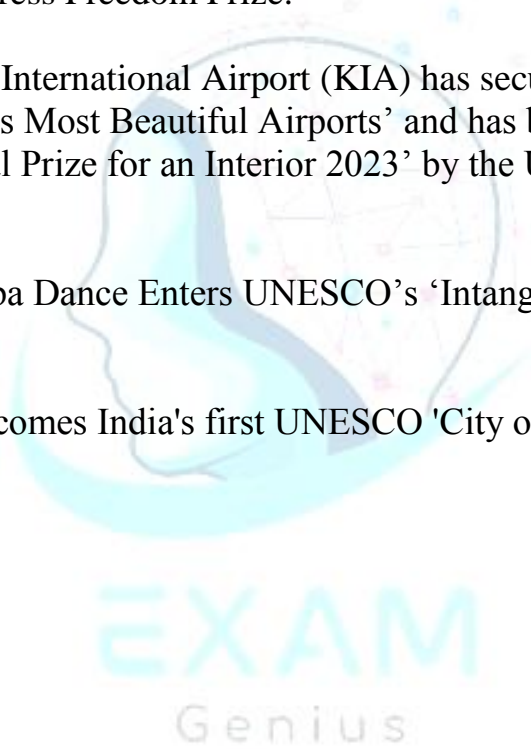
- **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO)** has **designated 11 new Biosphere Reserves (BR) in 11 countries** including **2 transboundary** biosphere reserves.
- Now, the World Network of Biosphere Reserves consists of total 759 sites in 136 countries including 24 transboundary sites.
- These 11 new BRs were approved during the 36th session of the International Co-ordinating Council (ICC), the governing body of UNESCO's Man and Biosphere (MAB) programme held in Agadir, Morocco from 2nd July to 5th July, 2024.

The 11 newly designated biosphere reserves are:

1. Sunshine Coast Biosphere Reserve (Australia)
2. Doumba-Rey Biosphere Reserve (Cameroon)
3. Sena Oura Biosphere Reserve (Chad)
4. Dedoplistskaro Biosphere Reserve (Georgia)
5. Three Alazani Rivers Biosphere Reserve (Georgia)
6. Burabay Biosphere Reserve (Kazakhstan)
7. Markakol Biosphere Reserve (Kazakhstan)
8. Khuvsgul Lake Biosphere Reserve (Mongolia)
9. Harrat Uwayrid Biosphere Reserve (Saudi Arabia)
10. Kafue Flats Biosphere Reserve (Zambia)
11. Chimanimani Biosphere reserve (Zimbabwe)

UNESCO IN NEWS :

- Ramcharitmanas, Panchatantra and Sahṛdayāloka-Locana of India is among 20 items of the Asia Pacific region which has been included in the 2024 cycle of the 'UNESCO's Memory of the World Asia-Pacific Regional Register.
- 46th session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee will take place from July 21 to 31, 2024 in New Delhi, India.
- Palestinian journalists covering Gaza awarded 2024 UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize.
- Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) has secured recognition as one of the 'World's Most Beautiful Airports' and has been awarded the 'World Special Prize for an Interior 2023' by the UNESCO's Prix Versailles.
- Gujarat's Garba Dance Enters UNESCO's 'Intangible Cultural Heritage' List.
- Kozhikode becomes India's first UNESCO 'City of Literature'.



Ques : Which country becomes the fifth member of the Colombo Security Conclave (CSC)?

कौन सा देश कोलंबो सिक्योरिटी कॉन्क्लेव (सीएससी) का पांचवां सदस्य बन गया है?

- (a) Sri Lanka / श्रीलंका
- (b) Nepal / नेपाल
- (c) Bhutan / भूटान
- (d) India / भारत
- (e) Bangladesh / बांग्लादेश

Answer : Option E

Explanation :

- A regional security grouping, **Colombo Security Conclave (CSC)** welcomed **Bangladesh** as its **fifth member** at the 8th Deputy National Security Adviser (DNSA) level meeting hosted virtually by Mauritius.
- The **CSC includes India, Sri Lanka, Mauritius, and the Maldives**, with **Seychelles** participating as an **Observer State**.
- The Colombo Security Conclave was **established in 2020**, when India, Sri Lanka and the Maldives agreed to expand the scope of their trilateral meeting on maritime cooperation.
- **Mauritius joined** the conclave **at the fifth meeting** of the grouping in **Male in March 2022**.
- Member states agreed that the 7th NSA level meeting of the Colombo Security Conclave will be held in India later this year, the External Affairs Ministry said in a statement.
- India was represented by NSA Ajit Doval at the 6th National Security Adviser level meeting of the Colombo Security Conclave (CSC) that was held in Mauritius on December 7, 2023 and saw participation by Mauritius and Sri Lanka, as well as delegates from Seychelles and Bangladesh.

About Bangladesh :

- Capital– Dhaka
- Currency – Taka
- President – Mohammed Shahabuddin Chuppu
- Prime Minister – Sheikh Hasina

Recently held SUMMIT & CONFERENCE :

- The three-day 3rd Indian Analytical Congress is being held in Uttarkhand's capital, Dehradun, from 5 -7 June 2024.
- Defense Secretary Giridhar Armane attended the meeting of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Defence Ministers in Astana, Kazakhstan on April 26, 2024.
- 1st BRICS Ministerial meeting held with expanded membership in Russia.
- Singapore hosted the first Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) Clean Economy Investor Forum meeting on 5& 6 June 2024.
- India has set up its maiden pavilion at the World Hydrogen Summit and Exhibition 2024.
- India will host the 46th Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM 46) and the 26th Meeting of the Committee for Environmental Protection (CEP 26) from May 20 to 30, 2024, in Kochi, Kerala.
- The 2nd meeting of the India-US initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology (iCET) was held between the two countries on 17 June 2024 in New Delhi.

Ques : Where the new filing counter in the Supreme Court inaugurated?

सुप्रीम कोर्ट में नए फाइलिंग काउंटर का उद्घाटन कहाँ हुआ?

- (a) Bengaluru / बेंगलुरु
- (b) New Delhi / नई दिल्ली
- (c) Chennai / चेन्नई
- (d) Greater Noida / ग्रेटर नोएडा
- (e) Gurugram / गुरुग्राम

Answer : Option B

Explanation :

- Chief Justice of India (CJI) **DY Chandrachud inaugurated a new filing counter** at the Supreme Court **in New Delhi**.
- The new centre, part of the Supreme Court's access to justice mission, centralizes access to case-related documents for lawyers.
- Brazilian judge Justice Antonio Benjamin, soon to be Chief Justice of the Brazilian Supreme Court, was welcomed by CJI Chandrachud during the event.
- Justice D Y Chandrachud took office as the 50th Chief Justice of India on November 9, 2022, succeeding Justice U U Lalit.
- President Draupadi Murmu administered the oath at Rashtrapati Bhavan for his term lasting until November 10, 2024.
- His father, Justice Y V Chandrachud, served as the 16th Chief Justice of India.
- The Supreme Court of India was established on January 26, 1950, replacing the Federal Court under the Government of India Act, 1935.
- Harilal J. Kania served as the first Chief Justice of India.

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Ques : Which state has been adjudged as the best state in Horticulture in the prestigious Agriculture Leadership Awards 2024?

प्रतिष्ठित कृषि नेतृत्व पुरस्कार 2024 में किस राज्य को बागवानी में सर्वश्रेष्ठ राज्य चुना गया है?

- (a) Tripura / त्रिपुरा
- (b) Assam / असम
- (c) Nagaland / नागालैंड
- (d) Meghalaya / मेघालय
- (e) Manipur / मणिपुर

Answer : Option C

Explanation :

- **Nagaland** has been adjudged as the **best state** in **Horticulture** in the prestigious **Agriculture Leadership Awards 2024**.
 - The award was given to the state for its **outstanding work in introducing innovative programmes and policies** for horticulture development, which has positively touched the lives of large number of farmers and the rural people in the State.
 - The annual awards were instituted in 2008 for recognizing excellence and leadership roles played by individuals and organizations towards the development of Indian agriculture and bringing about rural prosperity.
 - Nagaland has achieved **G.I registration** of **three horticultural crops** viz., **Naga Mircha, Naga Tree Tomato** and **Naga Sweet Cucumber**.
-

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Recent Awards & Winners :

- Order of St Andrew Russia's Highest Civilian Honour : Prime Minister Narendra Modi
- "Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur" Highest civilian award of France : Roshni Nadar Malhotra
- Dr. C. Narayana Reddy National Literary Award : Sivashankari
- Spice Award 2024 : Sopna Kallingal
- K. Saraswathi Amma Award : P Geetha
- Padma Bhushan : Foxconn Chairman Young Liu
- Sustainable Governance Champion Award : Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE) Ltd.
- 12th Vishwa Hindi Samman (World Hindi Conference) : Dr. Usha Thakur
- 2024 Commonwealth Short Story Prize : Sanjana Thakur for her story "Aishwarya Rai"
- Pen Pinter Prize 2024 : Arundhati Roy
- Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank (KVGB), sponsored by Canara Bank, has received the national award for significant enrolment under the Atal Pension Yojana (APY) by the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA).
- 'Nelson Mandela Lifetime Achievement Award' : Vinod Ganatra
- Limca Book of Records : Indian Railways for organizing the largest public service event
- V. Shantaram, Lifetime Achievement Award 2024 : Subbiah Nallamuthu
- "Risk Manager of the Year Award 2024" : Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
- 2024 Databricks Retail and CPG Partner of the Year : Tredence
- Annual Hindi Sahitya Bharati Award : Krishna Prakash
- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has been awarded the 'Best Conduct of Business Regulator' in the Asia Pacific region by The Asian Banker.
- UN's WSIS 2024 "Champion" Award : Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT)
- Dilip Bose award for lifetime achievement : coach Nar Singh
- Gudleppa Hallikeri Award for 2024 : Siddhalinga Pattanashetti
- Corporate Social Responsibility award in the Non-Fossil Fuel (NF) business category : Power Finance Corporation Limited (PFC)
- United Nations Military Gender Advocate of the Year for 2023 : Major Radhika Sen
- 'The Economic Times HR World Future Ready Organization Award 2024-25' : NHPC, India's premier hydropower company
- Grand Prix Award at the 77th Cannes Film Festival : Indian filmmaker Payal Kapadia
- Best Actress award at the 77th Cannes Film Festival : Anasuya Sengupta

(Indian)

- La Cinef Award for Best Short Film at the 77th Cannes Film Festival : Chidanand Naik's film 'Sunflowers Were the First to Know'
- Amal Clooney Women's Empowerment Award : Arti 18-year-old, E-rickshaw driver
- Shaw Prize in Astronomy for 2024 : Srinivas R. Kulkarni (Indian-origin U.S. scientist)
- International Booker Prize for fiction : German author Jenny Erpenbeck and translator Michael Hofmann for "Kairos"
- ATD BEST Award 2024 : NTPC third rank globally
- Global Pride of Sindhi Award 2024 : Pawan Sindhi
- Gold in the 'Best Product Iteration' category at the INMA Awards 2024 : OTTplay
- 'Best Employer' 2023 by Kincentric for the fourth consecutive year : DBS bank
- Title of Best Trading Platform in India : QuantPower
- 2024 Guillermo Cano World Press Prize : Palestinian journalists
- Oxford Bookstore Book Cover Prize : Bhavi Mehta
- Purnima Devi Barman : Whitley Gold Award, also known as the Green Oscar
- Vaishali Ramesh Babu : title of Grandmaster by FIDE, the International Chess Federation
- Lacchu Maharaj Award : Hema Malini and Saira Banu with 8 others
- 2024 Goldman Prize : Alok Shukla
- Winner for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) at the 2024 Cambridge Dedicated Teacher Awards : Sharjah Girls Branch teacher Gina Justus
- Alejandra Rodriguez (aged 60) : Miss Universe Buenos Aires 2024
- Open Challenger Squash title : Velavan Senthilkumar
- International News Media Association (INMA)'s 2024 Global Media Award : India Today Group's AI news anchor, Sana
- Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar Award : Randeep Hooda
- Outstanding Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) of the Year award : Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)
- IBSi Digital Banking Awards 2024 : Clayfin Technologies & Jana Bank
- Aryabhatta Award : Pavuluri Subba Rao
- Global Energy Transition Impact Award : Dr Sultan Ahmed Al-Jaber
- CIDC Vishwakarma Award for Social Development and Impact : Puravankara Limited
- KISS (Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences) Humanitarian Award 2021 : Tata Group Chairman Ratan Tata

Ques : Europe's latest rocket, the _____ , successfully completed its maiden flight.

यूरोप के नवीनतम रॉकेट, _____ ने सफलतापूर्वक अपनी पहली उड़ान पूरी की

- (a) Ariane 4
- (b) Ariane 5
- (c) Ariane 6
- (d) Ariane 7
- (e) Ariane 8

Answer : Option C

Explanation :

- **Europe's latest rocket, the Ariane 6, successfully completed its maiden flight**, delivering satellites into orbit and restoring the continent's autonomous access to space
 - The **launch** took place at Europe's spaceport in **Kourou, French Guiana**.
 - The Ariane 6 rocket, selected by the ESA in 2014, is capable of placing satellites in geostationary orbit 36,000 kilometres above Earth, as well as deploying satellite constellations at lower altitudes.
 - The inaugural flight carried a payload of university microsatellites, various experiments, and two atmospheric re-entry capsules.
-

Defence Related News :

- India has unveiled its first indigenously designed and developed light battle tank that will be capable of delivering devastating firepower at high altitude battlefields and operating in all-weather conditions. the 25-ton tank named 'Zorawar' is the result of a public-private partnership between DRDO and L&T.
- Russia has approved the schedule for the creation of a Russian orbital station by 2033.

- Indian Air Force Chief Air Chief Marshal V.R. Chaudhari has inaugurated the newly established Weapon Systems School (WSS) at Air Force Station Begumpet, Hyderabad.
- The Bangladesh Navy has signed a deal with the Indian Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) for an 800-tonne ocean-going tug—a major contract to be signed under a \$500-million line of credit.
- Adani Defence & Aerospace – the defence arm of the Adani Group – has signed an agreement with the Thales Group to manufacture 70mm rockets in India.
- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) handed over the Medium Range-Microwave Obscurant Chaff Rocket (MR-MOCR) to the Indian Navy in a ceremony held in New Delhi.
- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully conducted the third and final landing experiment of its Reusable Launch Vehicle (RLV) 'Pushpak' at the Aeronautical Test Range in Chitradurga, Karnataka.
- Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), based in Bengaluru, has received a Request for Proposal (RFP) from the Ministry of Defence (MoD) for the procurement of 156 Light Combat Helicopters (LCHs) Prachand, estimated to cost Rs 45,000 crore.
- The Indian Army has received the first batch of Indigenous man-portable suicide drones also known as the 1st Indigenous Loitering Munition (LM), Nagastra-1, with the capability of precise strikes on enemy training camps and launch pads.
- The Gautam Adani-group stepped up its presence in the defence segment by joining hands with Edge Group, one of the world's leading advanced technology and defence group. Aims to establish a global platform leveraging the defence and aerospace capabilities.
- The Vice Chief of the Indian Army, Upendra Dwivedi has launched Vidyut Rakshak, a new Internet of Things (IoT)-enabled integrated generator tracking, protection, and control system.

- The Space agency Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has announced a joint Indo-French infrared earth observation satellite mission, TRISHNA (Thermal Infra-Red Imaging Satellite for HighResolution Natural Resource Assessment), to monitor surface temperature and water management around the world.
- The China National Space Administration's (CNSA) Chang'e-6 lunar probe made a soft landing on the moon's far side to collect and return samples from the rarely explored far side of the moon, a first of its kind in human lunar exploration history.
- ISRO, through its Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC), has introduced the PraVaHa software, a Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD) tool aimed at facilitating aerodynamic design and analysis for aerospace vehicles.
- A Russian cosmonaut became the first person to spend a cumulative 1,000 days in space. Oleg Kononenko, 59, reached the record while on his current mission aboard the International Space Station (ISS).
- The Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully flight-tested the **RudraM-II air-to-surface missile** from the Su-30 MK-I platform of the Indian Air Force (IAF) off the Odisha coast at approximately 1130 hours.
- **NASA** has successfully launched the first of two climate satellites into orbit, designed to study heat emissions at Earth's poles. The satellite, part of the **PREFIRE** (Polar Radiant Energy in the Far-InfraRed Experiment) mission, was carried by Rocket Lab's Electron rocket from the company's Launch Complex 1 in Mahia, New Zealand.
- After analyzing the archived data from NASA's Magellan mission, scientists say they observed new lava flows on Venus, suggesting that the planet was volcanically active between 1990 and 1992.
- South Korea plans to make a Mars landing by 2045 and spend 100 trillion won (\$72.6 billion) until then on space exploration, President Yoon Suk Yeol said at the launch of the country's first space agency.
- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and Wipro 3D have successfully manufactured a 3D-printed rocket engine, the PS4, set to power the fourth stage of the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV).

Ques : On which day International Day of Combating Sand and Dust Storms celebrated ?

रेत और धूल भरी आंधियों से निपटने का अंतर्राष्ट्रीय दिवस किस दिन मनाया जाता है?

- (a) 9 July
- (b) 10 July
- (c) 11 July
- (d) 12 July
- (e) 13 July

Answer : Option D

Explanation :

- Recognizing that sand and dust storms and their negative impacts at different scales are issues of international concern, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed **12 July** as the **International Day of Combating Sand and Dust Storms**.
-

Important days :

- 1 July : National Doctor's Day (Theme 2024 – Healing Hands, Caring Hearts.)
- 1 July : Chartered Accountants Day (CA Day)
- 1 July : National Postal Worker Day
- 2 July : World Sports Journalist Day
- 2 July : World UFO Day
- 3 July : International Plastic Bag Free Day
- 3 July : Disobedience Day
- 5 July : **Pet Remembrance Day**
- 6 July : World Zoonoses Day (Theme 2024 – One World, One Health: Prevent Zoonoses)
- 10 July : Chronic Disease Awareness Day
- 10 July : Global Energy Independence Day
- 10 July : National Fish Farmer's Day
- 11 July : World Population Day (Theme 2024 – Leave no one behind, count everyone)

IMPORTANT ONE – LINER Current Affairs

- **Global rating agency Moody's** has **revised** its outlook on Indian private sector lender **Yes Bank** from **“stable” to “positive”** on the expectation of **a gradual improvement** in its depositor base and lending franchise. This will help improve its core profitability over the next 12-18 months.
- **Parijat Industries India Pvt. Ltd.** received the prestigious **CSR Leadership Award 2024** at the **Agriculture Leadership Conclave** held at Hotel Holiday Inn, Aerocity, **New Delhi**.
- According to the **latest 2024 summer census figure** released by the Forest Department of **Uttar Pradesh** on 10 July 2024, the total population of the state bird, the **Sarus Crane**, has **increased to 19,918**, an **increase of 396** compared to last year.
- Recently, **Raksha Rajya Mantri** launched **“GRSE Accelerated Innovation Nurturing Scheme (GAINS 2024)** of Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Limited (GRSE) in Kolkata.
- **BNP Paribas**, the European Union(EU)’s leading bank , has **signed** a multi-year **partnership agreement** with **Mistral AI**, a Paris(France) based **Artificial Intelligence (AI) startup**, to provide access to all current and future commercial models of Mistral AI across all the business lines of BNP Paribas.
- **Kerala** was the **first State** in the country to **publish** the **1st volume** of the **People's Biodiversity Register (PBR)** across all local bodies.
- The **Supreme Court** has **appointed** the **former Chief Justice of India Uday Umesh Lalit** as the **chairman** of the **search and selection committee** for the appointment of vice-chancellor in all the state-run universities of West Bengal.