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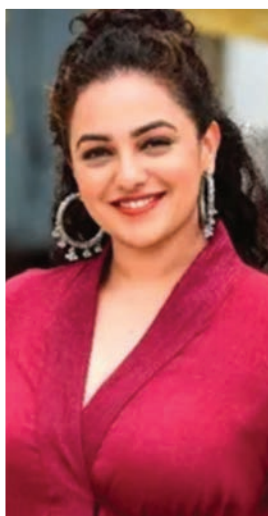


Current Affairs

REFRESHER 2024 (II)

UPDATED TILL SEPTEMBER 2024

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Paralympics 2024 • Olympics 2024 • US Open 2024 • 70th National Film Awards



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NATIONAL AFFAIRS



Cabinet Approved Mission Mausam

- The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on September 11, 2024 approved 'Mission Mausam' with an outlay of ₹ 2000 crore for two years.
- Mission Mausam, which will be primarily implemented by the Ministry of Earth Sciences, is envisaged as a multi-faceted and transformational initiative to give a tremendous boost to India's weather and climate-related science, research and services.
- The focus of the mission will be to improve observations and understanding to provide highly accurate and timely weather and climate information across time and space scales, including monsoon forecasts, alerts for air quality, extreme weather events and weather interventions for management of cyclones, fog, hailstorms and rainfall, etc., capacity building and awareness generation.
- Mission Mausam will directly benefit several sectors such as agriculture, disaster management, defence, environment, aviation, water resources, power, tourism, shipping, transport, energy and health.

- It will also promote data-driven decision making in areas such as urban planning, road and rail transport, offshore operations and environmental monitoring.
- Three institutes of the Ministry of Earth Sciences : the India Meteorological Department, the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology and the National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting will primarily implement Mission Mausam.

New Supreme Court Flag and Insignia Unveiled

- President Droupadi Murmu on September 3, 2024 introduced the new flag and insignia of the Supreme Court of India at the National Conference of District Judiciary in New Delhi.
- The flag, predominantly blue, represents trust, wisdom, and justice, and features important symbols : the Ashoka Chakra, denoting the eternal wheel of law; the Supreme Court building, signifying judicial authority; and the Constitution of India, the foundation of the nation's legal system.

- These symbols underscore the Supreme Court's role as the protector of the Constitution and justice.
- The new insignia includes the phrase 'Yato Dharmastato Jayah' in Devanagari script, meaning 'Where there is Dharma, there is victory'.
- This Sanskrit saying highlights the court's dedication to justice and righteousness in its decisions.

23rd Law Commission Constituted

- The Central Government issued a notification for the formation of the 23rd Law Commission on September 2, 2024.
- The term of the Commission will be for a period of three years up to August 31, 2027.
- The Commission consisting of :
 - a full-time Chairperson
 - four full-time Members
 - Secretary, Department of Legal Affairs as ex-officio Member
 - Secretary, Legislative Department as ex-officio Member
 - not more than five part-time Members
- The Headquarters of the Law Commission will be at New Delhi.

Commemorative Stamp for 75 Years of Supreme Court

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled a commemorative postage stamp to mark 75 years of the Supreme Court of India during the District Judges Conference at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi on September 2, 2024.
- This stamp, issued by the Department of Posts under the Ministry of Communications, celebrates the Supreme Court's vital role since its establishment on January 28, 1950.
- It highlights the Court's contributions to upholding the rule of law, protecting citizens' rights, and delivering justice throughout India.
- The stamp honors the Supreme Court's lasting legacy and underscores its significant milestone in the nation's judicial history, reflecting its commitment to justice and legal integrity over the past 75 years.

Single Simplified Pension Application Form Launched

- The government introduced a streamlined pension application form and integrated Bhavishya with e-HRMS to ease the process for pensioners on August 30, 2024.
- Minister of State for the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances, and Pensions, Jitendra Singh, launched these initiatives via video conferencing from New Delhi.
- Dr. Jitendra Singh emphasised the government's commitment to improving ease of living, stating that the new simplified form and digital integration will make pension processing more straightforward.
- Secretary of the Department of Personnel and Training, Vivek Joshi, noted that merging 9 pension forms into a single one represents a major advancement in human resource management.

11 Lakh New Lakhpati Didis Certificates Distributed

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi awarded certificates to 11 lakh new Lakhpati Didis at an event in Jalgaon, Maharashtra on August 25, 2024.

- He also interacted with these women, who have crossed the 1 crore mark nationwide and are earning over ₹ 1 lakh annually.
- During the event, the Prime Minister launched a revolving Community Investment Fund worth ₹ 2500 crore, aiming to support approximately 48 lakh members from 4.3 lakh Self-Help Groups (SHGs).
- Additionally, he announced a bank loan of ₹ 5000 crore to benefit 25.8 lakh members from 235400 SHGs, supporting their entrepreneurial and economic growth.

Commemorative Coin on M. Karunanidhi

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh unveiled a centenary commemorative coin honoring Dr. Kalaignar M. Karunanidhi in Chennai on August 18, 2024.



- M. Karunanidhi, an influential Indian writer and politician, served as Tamil Nadu's Chief Minister for nearly two decades across 5 terms from 1969-2011.
- Known as Kalaignar (Artist) and Mutthamizh Arignar (Tamil Scholar), he was renowned for his extensive contributions to Tamil literature and his 6863 days in office, making him the longest-serving Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu.

'Sapno Ki Udaan' e-Magazine Launched

- Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on August 23, 2024 launched the e-magazine 'Sapno ki Udaan' marking the first anniversary of Chandrayaan-3's landing.
- Aligned with the NEP 2020, this e-magazine aims to make education accessible and prepare students for global challenges, with its current theme being 'Space'.

- It promotes scientific temper among students by featuring diverse poetry, essays, stories, and riddles from students, teachers, and parents.
- Union Minister Jayant Chaudhary emphasised celebrating India's scientific milestones and nurturing curiosity.

Comprehensive Guidelines for Seaplane Operations

- Union Minister of Civil Aviation Rammohan Naidu on August 22, 2024 introduced guidelines for seaplane operations under RCS-UDAN, emphasising safety and security.
- These guidelines define the roles of stakeholders, ensuring a smooth rollout across the country.
- In New Delhi, Rammohan Naidu highlighted the goal of connecting remote areas and making travel more accessible, while also hinting at RCS-UDAN 2.0 for the next decade.
- The integration of seaplanes into the aviation system aims to provide last-mile connectivity to geographically isolated regions, fostering faster, more comfortable travel and boosting economic growth, especially in tourism.

3 Online Platforms to Boost Power Sector Efficiency and Transparency

- Union Minister of Power Manohar Lal Khattar on August 20, 2024 introduced three online platforms in New Delhi to improve the efficiency, transparency, and effectiveness of the power sector.
- The platforms are : Portal for Online Monitoring of Projects – Thermal (PROMPT), Disaster Resilient Infrastructure for Power Sector (DRIPS), and JAL VIDYUT DPR.
- These portals will promote transparency and coordination within the power sector.

Project to Combat Microplastic Contamination in Food

- The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) on August 18, 2024 launched a new project in New Delhi to address the issue of microplastic contamination in food.

- The project aims to develop and validate methods for detecting micro and nanoplastics in food products.
- The primary goals include creating standard protocols for analysing micro- and nanoplastics, conducting comparisons between different laboratories, and collecting important data on consumer exposure to microplastics.

Ban on Voice Promotional Calls from Unregistered Numbers

- The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) on August 14, 2024 ordered all Access Service Providers to immediately halt voice promotional calls from unregistered telemarketers.
- According to the Communications Ministry, if an unregistered sender is found using telecom resources for commercial calls, they will be blacklisted by the Originating Access Provider for up to two years, during which no new telecom resources will be provided to them.
- Additionally, all unregistered senders must transition to the Distributed Ledger Technology (DLT) platform within one month.

Global Mining Initiative Launched

- The Ministry of Coal on August 13, 2024 announced a plan to increase coal production by partnering with global Mining Developers cum Operators.
- These operators, chosen through international tenders, will manage all mining operations, from excavation to coal delivery to Coal India Limited.
- The initiative aims to streamline operations, boost productivity, and lower mining costs.
- The involvement of MDOs is expected to introduce advanced technology and improve operational efficiency.

Ayush Standardisation Departments to be Established by BIS

- The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) announced the creation of a new department dedicated to standardising Ayush practices on August 9, 2024.

- This initiative, introduced by the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, aims to improve the safety, effectiveness, and quality of Ayush products.
- The department will encompass Ayurveda, Yoga, Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, Sowa-Rigpa, and Homeopathy.
- BIS Director General Pramod Kumar explained that the new Ayush department will establish 7 sectional committees, each addressing a specific Ayush system.
- These committees will work with stakeholders to create evidence-based standards that adhere to both national and international guidelines.

8 High-Speed Road Corridor Projects Approved

- The Union Cabinet on August 3, 2024 approved an extensive plan for eight high-speed road corridor projects spanning 936 km with a total investment of ₹ 50000 crore.
- These projects aim to enhance connectivity for pilgrims and freight transport.
- Notable projects include a 68 km, ₹ 3935 crore 4-lane ring road in Ayodhya.
- Another significant project is the 121 km, ₹ 5729 crore Guwahati Bypass.
- The Tharad to Ahmedabad Corridor will connect key national routes and boost freight transport.
- The Agra to Gwalior Corridor, 88 km long, aims to improve travel between Agra and Gwalior, boosting regional connectivity and economic interactions.

India Elected Vice-Chair of the Supply Chain Council

- India on July 31, 2024 elected as the Vice*Chair of the Supply Chain Council, marking a notable achievement for the nation.
- The Ministry of Commerce and Industry highlighted the establishment of 3 supply chain bodies by India and 13 other Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF) partners under the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity Agreement.
- The USA serves as Chair of the Supply Chain Council, with Korea and Japan leading the Crisis Response Network as Chair and Vice-Chair, respectively.
- The USA also chairs the Labour Rights Advisory Board, with Fiji as Vice-Chair.

Rashtrapati Bhavan's Durbar Hall, Ashok Hall Renamed

- Durbar Hall was renamed Ganatantra Mandap, and Ashok Hall was renamed Ashok Mandap at Rashtrapati Bhavan on July 25, 2024.
- The President's Secretariat announced that these changes aim to make the venue more reflective of Indian cultural values.
- Durbar Hall, previously named after the term used for courts under Indian rulers and the British, has been renamed Ganatantra Mandap, aligning with the Indian Republic concept.
- This new name reflects India's deep-rooted republican values. Ashok Hall, originally a ballroom, was renamed Ashok Mandap.

DIGITAL SHAKTI CENTER INAUGURATED

The National Commission for Women (NCW) on August 5, 2024 launched the Digital Shakti Center in New Delhi to combat cyber crimes against women.

This facility aims to raise awareness and provide technical support for registering and addressing cyber crime complaints.

The initiative responds to the increasing cyber crimes like identity theft, cyberstalking, and sexual exploitation.

Building on the success of the 2018 Digital Shakti campaign, the center will offer expert guidance for timely and effective complaint resolution.



- The term Ashok, meaning 'free from sorrow', also refers to Emperor Ashok, a symbol of unity and peace.
- This renaming is part of a broader effort to remove English influences and emphasise the significance of the term Ashok in Indian culture.

India Assumed Chair of the Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre

- India took over the Chair of the Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC) on July 25, 2024.
- The ADPC is an independent international organisation focused on disaster risk reduction and enhancing climate resilience in Asia and the Pacific.
- India, along with 8 neighboring countries – Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, and Thailand – is a founding member of the ADPC.
- Rajendra Singh, representing the Government of India, assumed the Chair from China for the 2024-25 term during a ceremony in Bangkok, Thailand.
- The Union Home Ministry highlighted India's growing global and regional leadership in disaster risk reduction under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, noting initiatives such as the International Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure.

NTIPRIT, NICF and WMTDC Merged into a Single Entity

- The Department of Telecommunications on July 20, 2024 merged 3 training institutes into a new entity called the National Communications Academy (NCA).
- These institutes are National Telecommunications Institute for Policy Research, Innovation and Training (NTIPRIT), National Institute of Communication Finance (NICF), and Wireless Monitoring Training & Development Centre (WMTDC).
- This merger, approved by the Minister of Communications based on the Committee for Organisational Reforms' recommendation, aims to enhance integration and efficiency in training.

- The NCA will streamline resources, offer a comprehensive approach to skill-building, and foster collaborative and interdisciplinary research.
- The NCA will use shared facilities and technology to improve learning experiences.
- Its Governing Council will oversee strategic, policy, budget, and operational matters, guiding its development in the evolving telecom sector.

Reconstitution of NITI Aayog

- The Centre restructured the NITI Aayog, the Union government's top public policy think tank, following changes in the council of ministers as of July 17, 2024.



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi remains the chairperson, with economist Suman K. Bery continuing as the Vice-Chairperson.
- The revamped NITI Aayog includes 4 full-time members and 15 Union Ministers, including those from BJP allies, serving as ex-officio members or special invitees.
- Established in 2015, NITI Aayog replaced the 65-year-old Planning Commission.
- This restructuring aims to integrate a broader range of expertise and representation, incorporating significant input from NDA allies to enhance policy-making and implementation.

India to Launch First National Toll-Free Anti-Narcotics Helpline

- India has launched a toll-free helpline 1933, named MANAS, to combat narcotics crimes, initiated by Union Home Minister Amit Shah as announced on July 16, 2024.

- The helpline aims for a 'Nasha Mukta Bharat' by 2047 and was officially launched at the 7th Narco-Coordination Centre meeting on July 18, 2024.
- MANAS offers a 24/7 platform for citizens to report drug-related crimes confidentially, including trafficking, illegal sale, storage, manufacturing, and cultivation of narcotics.
- Reports can be made *via* phone (1933), email (info.ncbmanas@gov.in), or the website ncbmanas.gov.in.
- The initiative aims to improve the reporting system, replacing an older, less accessible one.

2nd Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Civil Aviation to be Hosted by India

- India will host the second Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Civil Aviation, as announced on July 16, 2024.
- The conference will take place on September 11 and 12, 2024, with representatives from around 40 countries, including China and Pakistan.
- The Asia Pacific region significantly contributes to global air traffic, and India is the world's fastest-growing aviation market. The first conference was held in Beijing in 2018.
- This event, organised by the Indian government and the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) APAC, will see participation from countries like Australia, Singapore, France, the US, the UK, China, Vietnam, Indonesia, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Pakistan and Japan.
- The conference aims to address key issues and advancements in the aviation sector within the Asia Pacific region.

June 25 is to be Observed as 'Samvidhaan Hatya Diwas'

- The government announced the observance of June 25 every year as 'Samvidhaan Hatya Diwas' on July 12, 2024.
- This decision commemorates the imposition of an Emergency by former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi on that day in 1975.

- The observance aims to uphold individual freedom and defend India's democracy.
- According to Mr. Amit Shah, the Emergency marked a dictatorial act that suppressed Indian democracy, leading to mass incarcerations and media censorship.
- 'Samvidhaan Hatya Diwas' serves as a reminder of the consequences of disregarding the Constitution of India.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi highlighted on social media that this day honors all who suffered during the Emergency, describing it as a dark phase unleashed by the Congress in Indian history.

Multi-Facilitation Centre in Supreme Court Inaugurated

- Chief Justice of India (CJI) DY Chandrachud inaugurated a new filing counter at the Supreme Court in New Delhi on July 11, 2024.
- This multi-facilitation center is part of the Apex Court's access to justice mission, aimed at providing lawyers with centralised access to all case-related documents to streamline administrative processes.
- CJI DY Chandrachud emphasised that the new center will improve the quality of service the Supreme Court offers to Indian citizens.
- During the inauguration, CJI DY Chandrachud also welcomed Brazilian judge Justice Antonio Benjamin, describing him as a close friend of India.

Amendments to Broadcasting and Cable Services Notified

- The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) announced amendments to the regulatory framework for broadcasting and cable services on July 8, 2024.
- TRAI removed the ceiling on the network capacity fee (NCF) of ₹ 130 for 200 channels and ₹ 160 for more than 200 channels, allowing the fee to be determined by market forces.
- To ensure transparency, TRAI mandated that service providers must publish all charges, communicate them to consumers, and report them to the regulator.

MANDATORY LABELING OF SALT, SUGAR, AND FAT ON PACKAGED FOODS

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) on July 7, 2024 approved to display Total Sugar, Salt, and Saturated Fat content in bold and larger font sizes on packaged food labels.

This amendment aims to enhance consumer understanding of nutritional information to facilitate healthier food choices. The Union Health Ministry stated that the draft notification for this amendment will be publicly available for feedback.



- The primary aim of these amendments is to facilitate the growth of the broadcasting sector and promote ease of doing business by simplifying regulatory provisions.

'Sampoornata Abhiyan' of NITI Aayog Launched

- NITI Aayog launched the 'Sampoornata Abhiyan', a 3-month campaign on July 4, 2024.
- It aimed at achieving comprehensive development in 112 Aspirational Districts and 500 Aspirational Blocks across India.
- This initiative focuses on enhancing key indicators to ensure inclusive growth and bridge developmental gaps.
- The campaign targets improving antenatal care registration, diabetes and hypertension screening rates, ensuring supplementary nutrition for pregnant women, issuing soil health cards, and supporting self-help groups with revolving funds.
- It also emphasises child immunisation, school electrification, and timely textbook distribution in Aspirational Districts, reflecting a holistic approach to uplift areas historically marginalised in development efforts.

'Safai Apnao-Bimari Bhagao' Initiative Launched

- The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs announced the launch of the Safai Apnao, Bimari Bhagao initiative under Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0 on June 25, 2024.
- The initiative would start from July 1-August 31, 2024.

- This initiative aims to strengthen Urban Local Bodies' readiness to manage challenges posed by heavy rainfall and increased health risks during the June-August period.
- It aligns with the Health Ministry's 'STOP Diarrhea Campaign' and promotes collaboration across Ministries to tackle cleanliness and health challenges in the monsoon season.
- The Safai Apnao, Bimari Bhagao initiative advocates for comprehensive interventions focusing on cleanliness, advocacy, and inter-departmental coordination to be implemented

3 New Criminal Laws came into Force

- The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) became India's official criminal code on July 1, 2024, replacing the Indian Penal Code (IPC) after its passage in December 2023.
- The BNS has 358 sections, down from the IPC's 511. It introduces 20 new crimes, increases imprisonment for 33 crimes, and raises fines for 83 crimes.
- It also includes a mandatory minimum punishment for 23 crimes and adds a community service sentence for 6 offenses.
- Additionally, the BNS includes advanced technologies, expanding the definition of documents to cover digital records like emails and server logs.
- The law allows for digitising the entire judicial process from FIR to judgment, with the current provision for video conferencing appearances of accused individuals nationwide.

New Law (Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita 2023)	Old Law (Indian Penal Code 1860)
Drafted in post-independence India, reflecting modern values	Drafted during British colonial rule
Simplified and modernised language	Archaic English
Revised structure, includes new sections	511 sections
Stronger focus on national security, cybercrimes, terrorism	Sections on sedition, less emphasis on national security
Expanded definitions include cyber stalking, digital harassment	Outdated definitions, limited recognition of modern crimes
More gender-neutral provisions	Certain sections gender-specific
Comprehensive sections on cybercrimes	Minimal references
Updated punishments, including alternative sentencing	Traditional forms of punishment
Emphasis on restorative justice and victim compensation	Limited provisions
Detailed provisions to address modern forms of corruption	General Provisions
Expanded to include financial frauds, money laundering	Basic definitions
Modified to align with freedom of speech considerations	Criminal defamation included
Decriminalised	Criminal offense
Decriminalised following the Supreme Court judgment	Criminalized under Section 377
A more balanced approach respecting freedom of religion	Strict provisions
Recognised and criminalised	Not recognised
Modernised with emphasis on technology and forensic science	Traditional methods
Integrated approach with special provisions	Separate act (Juvenile Justice Act, 2015)
Emphasis on rehabilitation and reform	Punitive

BIS Introduced 2 New Standards to Enhance Safety of EVs

- The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has introduced 2 new standards, IS 18590 : 2024 and IS 18606 : 2024, aimed at enhancing the safety of electric vehicles (EVs) As of June 23, 2024.
- These standards specifically focus on ensuring the safety of EV powertrains and batteries, crucial components that dictate both performance and security.
- They are applicable to electric vehicles categorised as L, M, and N, emphasizing stringent safety requirements and robust performance standards for batteries.
- This initiative marks a significant stride in fortifying the reliability and safety of electric vehicles, contributing to their efficiency and overall security.

India to start First Fast Track Immigration-TTP Programme at IGI Airport

- Union Home Minister Amit Shah will inaugurate the Fast Track Immigration Trusted Traveller Programme (FTI-TTP) at Indira Gandhi International Airport in New Delhi on June 22, 2024.
- This initiative is tailored for Indian nationals and Overseas Citizens of India cardholders, aiming to streamline their travel process.
- Eligible individuals will apply online, provide biometric data, and submit other necessary information.
- Registration will be finalized following verifications and confirmation of eligibility criteria. Once processing charges are paid, applications will be processed.

- The FTI-TTP intends to modernize and expedite passengers' travel experiences by enhancing efficiency, convenience, and security measures.

NHAI Signed an MoU with IIIT Delhi

- The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) partnered with IIIT Delhi to use Artificial Intelligence (AI) for enhancing road sign availability and safety on National Highways on June 21, 2024.
- This collaboration aims to cover approximately 25000 km of highways. IIIT Delhi will conduct comprehensive surveys to collect imagery and data on road signages along selected highway stretches.
- The collected data will be processed using AI for accurate identification and classification of road signs, resulting in a geo-stamped inventory detailing their categorisation and structural condition.
- IIIT Delhi will also perform a gap analysis by comparing survey findings with the approved road signage plans, addressing the latest Codal Provisions relevant to high-speed corridors to ensure improved safety standards.

Advisory by DGCA for Gender Equality in Aviation by 2025

- The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) issued a crucial advisory to enhance gender equality in Indian civil aviation on June 20, 2024.
- The initiative aims for at least 25% female representation in various aviation roles by 2025.
- The circular emphasises 'enhanced representation' of women across the airline industry and proposes several key measures.
- These include developing leadership and mentorship programs specifically for women, addressing and rectifying existing gender biases and stereotypes, and promoting work-life balance through supportive regulations.
- Additionally, the DGCA calls for a zero-tolerance policy towards sexual harassment, the establishment of clear diversity goals, and the implementation of appropriate HR policies.

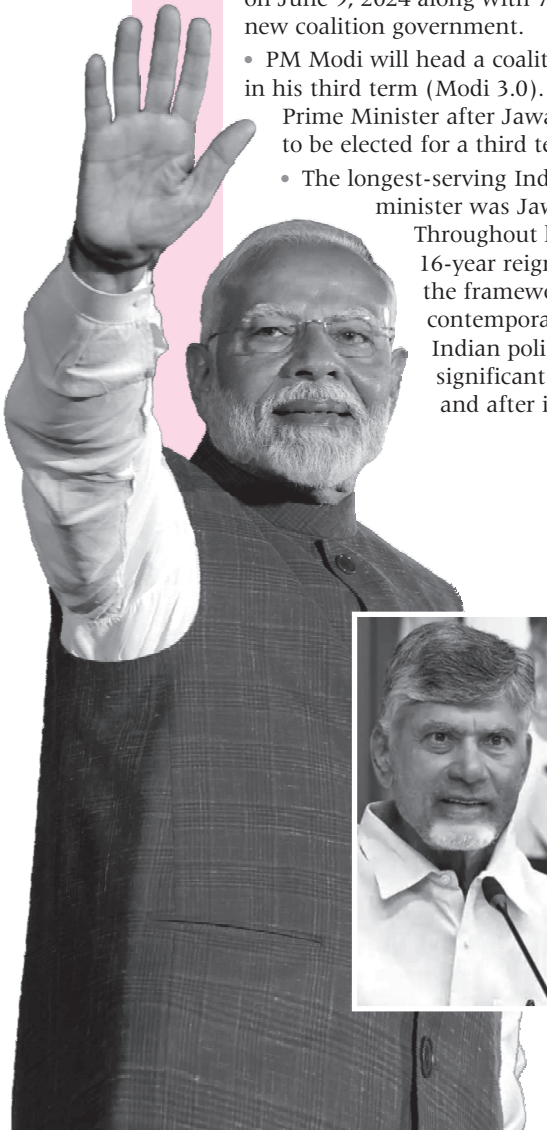
LOK SABHA ELECTIONS 2024

Narendra Modi's Third Term as the Prime Minister

- With the BJP securing 240 seats and the Congress securing 99, the Election Commission of India has released results for 542 of the 543 Lok Sabha constituencies.
- The BJP's victory total was much less than the 282 seats it had won in 2014 and the 303 seats in 2019.
- In contrast, the Congress saw a significant increase, gaining 99 seats as opposed to 52 in 2019 and 44 in 2014.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi took oath on June 9, 2024 along with 71 ministers of new coalition government.
- PM Modi will head a coalition government in his third term (Modi 3.0). He is second Prime Minister after Jawahar Lal Nehru to be elected for a third term in a row.
- The longest-serving Indian prime minister was Jawaharlal Nehru. Throughout his more than 16-year reign, he established the framework for contemporary India. In Indian politics, he played a significant role both before and after independence.

Major Highlights

- The resurgent opposition alliance dealt PM Narendra Modi an unexpected blow by posting record-breaking performances in three of India's most populous states, capitalizing on local unrest and worries about the future of the Constitution.
 - As a result, the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) narrowly won a majority in the Lok Sabha elections.
 - The surprising comeback of the Congress in northern India, as well as the stunning performances of partners Samajwadi Party and Trinamool Congress, which helped hold back the BJP, helped the **Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA)**, which was written off in the exit polls, win 233 seats in West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh, respectively, with regional titans Sharad Pawar and Udhhav Thackeray destroying their rivals within their own parties in Maharashtra.
 - Together, INDIA reduced the NDA's 2019 total by around 60 seats.
 - In contrast to the BJP government's stunning and unexpected victory down south in **Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, and Madhya Pradesh**, the Hindi Heartlands underperformed in comparison to Narendra Modi's expectations and lost seats.
- Additionally, the BJP won a majority in Assam, Chhattisgarh, and Arunachal Pradesh. The BJP won the Surat seat without opposition.



Guests at SWEARING-IN Ceremony



Foreign dignitaries of seven countries attended the swearing-in ceremony of PM Narendra Modi, who are as follows

- Ranil Wickremeshingh (President, Sri Lanka)
- Dr Mohamed Muizzu (President, Maldives)
- Ahmed Afif (Vice President, Seychelles)
- Sheikh Hasina (Prime Minister, Bangladesh)
- Pravind Kumar Jugnauth (Prime Minister, Mauritius)
- Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' (Prime Minister, Nepal)
- Tshering Tobgay (Prime Minister, Bhutan)

18th Lok Sabha : Facts to Know

- The 18th Lok Sabha will see **about 280 MPs** who have been **elected for the first time**. In the 17th Lok Sabha (2019), 267 members were first-time MPs.
- A total of **263 newly elected MPs** have previously served as members of Lok Sabha.
- Of the re-elected MPs, 8 changed their constituency, and one was re-elected from 2 constituencies.
- 9 re-elected MPs represented a different party in the 17th Lok Sabha, while eight others represented a party that split from their earlier party.
- Out of the 53 ministers who contested, 35 have won.
- 4 'old' warhorses (**Piyush Goyal, Anil Desai, Shahu Chhatrapati** and **Kirsan Namdeo**) won their first Lok Sabha elections this year. While 3 are senior citizens.
- **Kodikunnil Suresh** (Congress MP from Mavelikkara in Kerala) has been elected to a seventh term in Lok Sabha.
- **Average age** of MPs in 18th Lok Sabha is **56 years**. Only 11% of MPs are 40 or younger.
- **5% of MPs** in the 18th Lok Sabha have **Doctoral degrees**. Among them are 3 women MPs.
- **7% of MPs** in the 18th Lok Sabha are **Lawyers**. 4% are **Medical practioners**.
- 78% of newly elected MPs have completed undergraduate education.
- **14% of MPs are women**, no significant change from 2019.

- Candidates from 41 parties have been elected. In 2019, 36 parties were represented in Lok Sabha.
- **National parties** have won **346 seats (64%)**. Parties recognised as **state parties** in at least one state have won **179 seats (33%)**.
- **Agriculture** and **social work** are the most common professions among MPs elected to the 18th Lok Sabha.
- Uttar Pradesh elected **45 first-term members** including actor Arun Govil (Meerut), Congress leader Kishori Lal Sharma (Amethi) and Chandrashekhar Azad (Nagina).

Lok Sabha Elections 2024 Result

Political Party	Seats	Vote Share
Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP)	240	36.56%
Indian National Congress (INC)	99	21.19%
Samajwadi Party (SP)	37	4.58%
All India Trinamool Congress (AITC)	29	4.37%
Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK)	22	1.82%
Telugu Desam (TDP)	16	1.98%
Janata Dal (United) (JD-U)	12	1.25%
Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackrey) (SHSUBT)	9	1.48%
Nationalist Congress Party - Sharadchandra Pawar (NCPSP)	8	0.92%
Shiv Sena (SHS)	7	1.15%
Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) (LJPRV)	5	0.44%
Yuvajana Sramika Rythu Congress Party (YSRCP)	4	2.06%
Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD)	4	1.57%
Communist Party of India (Marxist) (CPI(M))	4	1.76%
Indian Union Muslim League (IUML)	3	0.27%
Aam Aadmi Party (AAP)	3	1.11%
Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM)	3	0.41%
Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) (Liberation)	2	0.27%
Janata Dal (Secular) (JD(S))	2	0.34%
Communist Party of India (CPI)	2	0.49%
Jammu & Kashmir National Conference (JKN)	2	0.18%
United People's Party, Liberal (UPPL)	1	0.08%
Asom Gana Parishad (AGP)	1	0.20%
Kerala Congress (KEC)	1	0.04%
Nationalist Congress Party (NCP)	1	0.32%
Voice of the People Party (VOTPP)	1	0.09%
Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD)	1	0.28%
Rashtriya Loktantrik Party (RLTP)	1	0.09%
Sikkim Krantikari Morcha (SKM)	1	0.03%
Apna Dal (Soneylal) (ADAL)	1	0.13%

3 Crore Additional Homes Announced Under PMAY

- PM Narendra Modi announced the decision to provide an additional 3 crore rural and urban houses under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) on June 12, 2024.
- Under PMAY-G, beneficiaries receive up to ₹ 1.2 lakh in the plains and ₹ 1.3 lakh in hilly, difficult, tribal, and backward areas.
- The government plans to increase this assistance by about 50%.
- The cost of constructing a PMAY-G house will rise from ₹ 2 lakh to ₹ 1.8 lakh in the plains, and from ₹ 1.3 lakh to ₹ 2 lakh in hilly regions.
- This adjustment aims to provide better housing support to the beneficiaries.

Prerna Sthal Inaugurated by Vice-President

- Jagdeep Dhankhar, serving as Rajya Sabha Chairperson and Vice-President, inaugurated the 'Prerna Sthal' (Inspiration Site) at the Parliament House Complex on June 17, 2024.
- This newly established site consolidates statues of national icons and freedom fighters, which were previously dispersed throughout various locations on the premises.
- The objective of 'Prerna Sthal' is to improve visitor accessibility to these statues and utilise contemporary technology like QR codes to narrate the life stories of these influential personalities from Indian history.

Prerana Sthal in Lok Sabha Secretariat

- The Lok Sabha Secretariat initiated the development of Prerana Sthal within the Parliament House Complex, where statues of prominent leaders and freedom fighters of the country will be installed on June 6, 2024.
- The aim is to create a dedicated space where visitors to the Parliament complex can easily view these statues and draw inspiration from the lives and philosophies of these great leaders.

- The Secretariat highlighted that previously, due to their dispersed locations, visitors faced difficulty in accessing and viewing these statues.
- Prerana Sthal will also incorporate modern technology to provide detailed information about the lives and contributions of these freedom fighters to visitors.
- Additionally, visitors will have the opportunity to pay their respects to these great leaders at this revered location.

'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' Campaign Launched

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi On June 5, 2024 inaugurated the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign to celebrate World Environment Day by planting a Peepal tree sapling at Buddha Jayanti Park in Delhi.



- He was joined by Union Environment Minister Bhupendra Yadav and Delhi's Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena.
- The act of planting the tree symbolises India's commitment to protecting Mother Nature and promoting sustainable living.
- Over the past decade, India has made significant collective efforts to increase forest cover nationwide, reflecting the country's dedication to sustainable development.
- It is also noteworthy how local communities have actively participated and taken the lead in these environmental initiatives, contributing significantly to the nation's green goals.

New Mobile Number Series Launched

- The Center launched a new numbering series, 160xxxxxxx, for service or transactional calls on June 3, 2024.

- This action intends to reduce unsolicited voice calls from telemarketers utilising 10-digit mobile numbers and assist citizens in quickly identifying legitimate calls.
- Telemarketers are assigned the 140xxxxxxx series for transactional, service, and promotional calls.
- Consumers frequently disregard these calls, though, because they are frequently used for promotional objectives, which causes them to miss crucial service and transactional contacts.
- The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) declared that Principal Entities will only make service and transactional calls on the new 160xxxxxxx series.
- By differentiating between legitimate and advertising calls, this differentiation will assist citizens in managing their communication more effectively.
- TSPs, or telecom service providers, must make sure that comprehensive verification of each entity before assigning a number from the 160 series.

National Level Coordination Committee

- The world's largest grain storage plan's National Level Coordination Committee (NLCC) met for the first time on June 3, 2024, in the Ministry of Cooperation in New Delhi.
- The committee examined how its pilot project, which was started in 11 States last year, was being implemented.
- The Plan envisions the creation of various agricultural infrastructure at PACS level, including warehouses, custom hiring centers, processing units, Fair Price Shops, etc.
- The members of the Committee also talked on how to advance the proposal across the country.

Sanchar Saathi Initiative of Home Affairs

- The Department of Telecommunication and Ministry of Home Affairs launched The Sanchar Saathi Initiative on May 29, 2024, with the goal of combating fake SMS.

- The objective of this program is to address the spread of misleading messages that prey on gullible mobile users. Notably, eight SMS headers that fraudsters commonly use have been found and blacklisted by the government.
- DoT has intercepted almost 10,000 bogus mails in the last three months, coming from eight different sources.
- DoT has taken strong action, blocking 1522 SMS content templates and 73 SMS headers connected to these businesses in order to disrupt these illicit activities.

eMigrate Services through CSC

- A Memorandum of Understanding was signed on May 29, 2024, by the Ministry of External Affairs, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, and Common Services Centers eGovernance Services India Limited, outlining plans to offer eMigrate services nationwide.
- The primary target audience for the eMigrate project is blue-collar workers emigrating to countries with required immigration checks.
- According to the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, the project was designed to bring together foreign employers, insurance companies, and registered recruitment agents on a single platform to facilitate safe and lawful migration.

MeitY Organised National Workshop

- The National Workshop on “Powering Transformation through UI/UX for Digital Governance” was organized by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) on May 28, 2024.
- The digital environment is changing quickly, and users anticipate simple, straightforward application interaction.
- Making progress in this direction is the goal of this workshop on “Powering Transformation through UI/UX for Digital Governance”.

- In order to explore best practices and obstacles in creating an efficient UX/UI for digital services that are visible to the public, the workshop brings together stakeholders from the government, industry, designers, developers, and other relevant practitioners.

Food and Nutrition Board Dissolved

- The Food and Nutrition Board (FNB) was formally dissolved on May 27, 2024, as part of the government's effort to streamline several organisations.
- The Ministry of Women and Child Development (WCD)'s Food and Nutrition Board (FNB) is a technical division tasked with supporting community nutrition programmes logistically.
- The FNB, which ran a vast network of offices comprising 4 regional offices and numerous quality control laboratories around key cities like Faridabad, Mumbai, Kolkata, and Chennai, was dissolved, according to a statement released by the WCD Ministry.

A System to Prevent Illicit Foreign Calls

- The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) and mobile providers launched a new technique on May 27, 2024, to identify and prevent phony international calls that display Indian phone numbers.
- This action was conducted in response to many complaints from people who claimed to be FedEx employees, police officers, Department

of Telecom (DoT) personnel, or even representatives of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai).

- The DoT has instructed telecom companies to stop these phony calls in order to resolve this issue.
- These fraudulent calls with altered caller line identities (CLIs) are not able to reach Indian users since systems have been designed to block them.

International Women in Maritime Day Celebrated

- The Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways (MoPSW) held a celebration of the International Day for Women in Maritime in New Delhi on May 18, 2024.
- The subject for 2024 was “Safe Horizons : Women in Shaping the Future of Maritime Safety,” which emphasises how crucial it is for women to feel safe and secure working in the maritime industry.
- A group of 27 female seafarers, pursuing several degrees in the maritime business, were honored for their commitment and noteworthy achievements in the maritime sector.
- These ladies are setting an example for future generations of women in the marine industry by demonstrating the strength and resiliency needed to succeed.

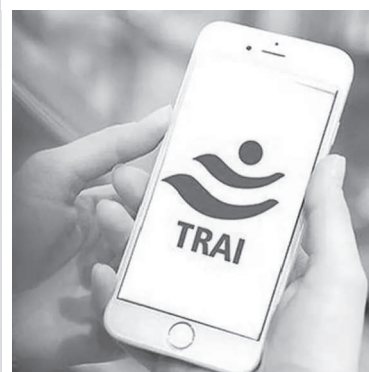
‘Bridging the Standardization Gap’ Workshop

- A 2-days workshop on “Bridging the Standardisation Gap was held at NTIPRIT, Ghaziabad on May 15-16, 2024.

6.80 LAKH MOBILE CONNECTIONS IDENTIFIED ILLEGITIMATE

The Department of Telecommunications declared almost 6.80 lakh mobile connections to be illegitimate and fraudulent on May 23, 2024. The operators have been instructed by the agency to re-verify these identified cellphone numbers right now.

It is required of all Telecommunications Service Providers to recheck the connections that have been identified within 60 days. It stated that the affected mobile numbers would be disconnected if the re-verification was not completed.



- It emphasised the value of cooperative standard-setting procedures and the proactive measures India is taking to support international ICT standardisation efforts.
- The goal of the workshop was to improve telecom standards authoring abilities, which are critical for the development of any nation since they allow that nation to influence emerging technologies.
- It also promotes economic expansion, closes the digital divide, guarantees global interoperability, improves security, and encourages cooperation.

India Skills Competition 2024 Held

- The largest skill competition in the nation, The IndiaSkills Competition 2024, which aims to showcase the greatest levels of skilling, started on May 15, 2024.
- At an inaugural event held at Yashobhoomi, Dwarka, New Delhi, the MSDE is expecting over 900 students from over 30 states & Union Territories, as well as over 400 industry experts.
- Participants will be able to display their wide range of abilities and talent on a national platform across 61 talents, from traditional crafts to cutting-edge technologies, during the 4-day IndiaSkills event.
- In consideration of the best infrastructure being available, 14 skills contests will be hosted offsite in Gujarat, Karnataka, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh in addition to the 47 skills competitions that will be held onsite.

Prasar Bharti to Launch Family Friendly OTT Platform

- The Indian government-run broadcaster Prasar Bharati plans to launch its own over-the-top (OTT) streaming service by August 2024.
- The service will provide family-friendly content that depicts Indian society and culture.
- This project is a direct response to issues with content that users perceive to exist on premium OTT providers such as Hotstar and Netflix.

- The OTT platform has been added to the 100-day plan by the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government, but only if it secures a 3rd consecutive term in office.
- In March, the Information Technology Act, 2000 was used by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to shut down 18 over-the-top (OTT) platforms for displaying 'vulgar and obscene' content.

First Set of Citizenship Certificates Issued under CAA

- Following the publication of the Citizenship (Amendment) Rules, 2024, the first batch of citizenship certificates was issued on May 15, 2024.



- In New Delhi, Union Home Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla granted citizenship certificates to 14 candidates.
- Several more candidates are reportedly receiving digitally signed certificates via email, according to the Home Ministry.
- In addition to congratulating the applicants, the Home Secretary outlined the key provisions of the Citizenship (Amendment) Rules, 2024, which were published on March 11, 2024.
- As per the regulations, individuals from the Hindu, Sikh, Jain, Buddhist, Parsi, and Christian groups in Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Afghanistan who entered India before December 31, 2014, were eligible to apply.

Lawyers Exempted from Consumer Act Liability

- A historic ruling released by the Supreme Court on May 14, 2024, exempts attorneys from liability under the Consumer Protection Act, 1986.

- The National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC) had previously ruled in 2007 that legal services defective under the Act.
- The bench, which was made up of Justices Bela Trivedi and Pankaj Mithal, emphasized that although being paid, legal representation does not qualify as a 'service' as defined by the Consumer Protection Act because of its distinct professional qualities.
- Under the CPA, the court made a clear division between professionals and other company types.
- They emphasised that there was no evidence when the CPA was first passed and subsequently amended that it was meant to encompass professional services like those offered by lawyers or doctors.

5 States Interested in Aadhar Authentication for GST

- 5 Indian states, including Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, and Telangana, expressed interest in utilizing Aadhaar-based verification for GST registration as of May 14, 2024.
- Furthermore, the Union Territory of Puducherry, Gujarat, and Andhra Pradesh have begun testing Aadhaar identification.
- The topic of biometric-based confirmation for GST registration was discussed at the 3rd National Coordination Meeting of Central and State GST authorities.
- The states considering this system want to know how much it will cost for staffing and infrastructure.
- Information that will assist them in crafting a strong proposal that their Cabinets will approve will be provided.
- GST officials employ OTP-based Aadhaar authentication to confirm the identity of individuals wishing to register.

Supreme Court Barred Fresh Mining Leases in Aravalli

- The Supreme Court prohibited four states from awarding new mining leases in the Aravallis as of May 10, 2024.

- The 4 states where the Aravalli people live-Delhi, Rajasthan, Haryana, and Gujarat-are covered by the court judgment.
- The Central Empowered Committee (CEC) study states that Aravallis consists of hills and a consistent buffer zone surrounding the hills that is 100 wide.
- The court stressed that its decision would not be construed as a ban on mining operations that are currently underway within the range under valid permits and licenses.
- It was done in order to maintain balance between protecting the ecosystem and maintaining the means of subsistence for those involved in mining.

'Run for Sun' Marathon Organised

- The Government of India on May 3, 2024, observed International Sun Day, an annual reminder of the major advantages of solar energy in promoting a greener and healthier planet, along with the rest of the world.
- At Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in New Delhi, the Indian government's Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) hosted the 'Run for Sun' marathon on this day.
- The 'Run for Sun' Marathon aims to increase public awareness of the critical role that solar power plays in reducing climate change and advancing a cleaner, healthier future for everybody.

Workshop with Law-Enforcement Agencies

- In collaboration with the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) and the Department of Financial Services (DFS), a workshop was held in New Delhi on April 30, 2024, for Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs), startups, and partners in the Fintech ecosystem.
- The workshop was designed to promote strong cooperation between Fintechs and LEAs in order to support innovations, ensure that current laws and regulations are followed to the letter.

- The LEAs from the States highlighted their best practices on preventing financial fraud and cybercrime, while the Fintech Associations presented the operational procedures and major issues faced by the Fintech enterprises.

NSDC AND ISKCON Collaborated for Tribal Skill Development

- ISKCON and NSDC will work together to offer vocational training to tribal and impoverished youth in India starting.
- The partnership's initial focus will be on Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh with the purpose of providing vocational training to underprivileged people.
- Short-term courses will be offered under this strategic agreement, providing industry-recognized credentials via the Skill India Digital Hub platform.
- The objective is to improve employability and give the taught individuals access to domestic and international work prospects through NSDC International.

First Time Shompen Tribe Vote in Elections

- One of India's Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs), the Shompen tribe, voted in the Andaman and Nicobar Lok Sabha seat on April 23, 2024, so exercising their democratic right for the first time.
- According to data from the 2011 Census, there are approximately 229 people living in the Shompen.

- The Andaman and Nicobar Lok Sabha constituency achieved a total voter turnout of 63.99%, which was marginally lower than the 65.09% turnout observed in the 2019 elections.
- The Shompen tribe's involvement in the election process is extremely important.
- It symbolises the assimilation of one of the most marginalised tribal communities in India into the country's democratic framework.

Committee for the LGBTQ Welfare

- The Central Government established a committee for the LGBTQ Community Welfare on April 20, 2024. 6 members of the group, including secretaries from important ministries, would be led by Union Home Secretary Rajiv Gauba.
- The committee's main goal is to make recommendations for policies that will eradicate discrimination against LGBTQ+ people in a variety of contexts.
- This entails eliminating forced medical procedures or treatments, improving safety precautions, guaranteeing equitable access to products and services, and resolving inequalities in social welfare benefits.

Amendment Rules under Foreign Management Act Notified

- To operationalize its decision to permit up to 100% FDI for the space sector, the government issued new guidelines under the Foreign Exchange Management Act on April 18, 2024.

NEW LOGO AND MOTTO FOR INDIAN HISTORICAL RECORDS COMMISSION

The Indian Historical Records Commission has adopted a New Logo and Motto on April 25, 2024.

The IHRC, founded in 1919, is led by the Union Minister of Culture. The logo represents the theme and originality of IHRC perfectly.

The pages in the shape of lotus petals depict the IHRC as a steadfast nodal organisation for preserving historical documents.

