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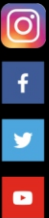
LawEx

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INDIA AT PARIS OLYMPICS 2024



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About Magazine

“LawEx” is a carefully curated set of Current Events designed specifically for CLAT aspirants. To take you one step closer to realizing your dream, “LawEx” provides a fortnightly overview of the most significant current events related to politics, economics, science and technology, & sports with a wide range of infographics to ensure a smoother learning experience and enhanced retention of information.

Editor's Note

India won six medals, including one silver and five bronze, placing them 71st in the medal tally among the 84 countries in the 2024 Paris Olympics. In a landmark judgement, a seven-judge Bench of the Supreme Court (SC) headed by Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud permitted states to create sub-classifications within the Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) categories. Recently, the government referred the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024, to a Joint Committee of Parliament. Recently, Google lost a major antitrust case brought against it by the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) that sought to establish that the tech giant had a monopoly in the web search and advertising sectors. For more updates, keep reading.

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VAISHNAV BHATT

Our Top Achiever

AIR - 113th

CLAT 2024

Q. Give us a brief intro about yourself, Vaishnav.

Ans. Hello, I'm Vaishnav and I secured AIR 113 in CLAT 2024. I completed my 10th standard in Delhi and have moved to Bangalore this year.

Q. When did you think about doing law?

Ans. I've had some very unpleasant experiences in life when I was staying in Delhi where my family and I had to suffer emotionally and financially and a major part of it was due to insufficient knowledge of the law and our rights. In this process I had to interact with some lawyers, and visit the court as well. These experiences made me want to pursue law as a profession as I found it interesting and also felt that having this knowledge would keep me safe and I would be able to help others as well who face similar situations due to insufficient knowledge.

Q. When did you seriously start preparing for CLAT?

Ans. I started my preparation in March 2023.

Q. What is the role of LawEx in your preparation?

Ans. LawEx helped me a lot with my preparation for CLAT. Their current affairs magazine and Maths YouTube videos are excellent and have been of great help. I also found their GK topic tests to be very useful.

Q. Do you think LawEx Lectures with sufficient reading and mock practice enough for CLAT?

Ans. I feel LawEx should increase the number of mock tests that they offer. Apart from this I think that they provide sufficient study material.

Q. What did you do for your subject-wise strategy?

Ans. My weak point was GK, so I gave it a bit more attention compared to the other subjects. For this I read The Hindu newspaper everyday for 1.5 hrs and focused on the editorial as that improved my vocabulary and helped improve my English as well. I allocated 4-5 hours for GK everyday. I gave 2 hours for legal reasoning. During this time I had not yet started giving mock tests. I watched LawEx's maths YouTube videos to improve my maths for around 30 minutes. A bulk of my preparation was focused on these 3 subjects. Apart from this I attempted around 60 mock tests, 20 of which were from LawEx and the rest I had to source from other test series.

Q. What was your highest and lowest score in mock tests?

Ans. My lowest score was 72 and my highest score was 96.25. On average my score was around 90 marks out of 120.

Q. How did you keep your confidence up when scoring low in mocks?

Ans. My performance in mocks was more or less pretty consistent throughout my preparation. So I did not face this issue.

Q. How to maintain mock scores?

Ans. In my opinion, analysing the mocks after attempting them is very important as it makes you understand what kind of mistakes you have made and helps you to improve upon them in the next mock. This will also make you understand your own weak points and which subject needs improvement. This will help you maintain and improve your score.

Q. How much GK is sufficient and how to revise it?

Ans. No amount of GK can be considered sufficient in my opinion. So I would suggest to find 2-3 sources which are of good quality like The Hindu newspaper and LawEx magazine which covers most of the topics which you need to know and for static GK you can purchase any book like A P Bharadwaj's Static GK book. I revised for GK by doing the topic tests multiple times.

Q. How many Mocks are sufficient for CLAT Preparation?

Ans. According to me at least 50 mock tests are required so that your speed along with accuracy improves and it doesn't make you feel anxious anymore as a calm mind will help you concentrate better and score more. Clat is a reading based exam and it can be quite draining especially in the last 30-35 minutes so practicing mocks is important here.

Q. What is your advice to CLAT Aspirants?

Ans. I would advise CLAT aspirants to give themselves at least one year for preparation and attempt 1-2 mock tests every week so that it doesn't drain you out. I made this mistake too by attempting around 60 mocks in 2 months. It is not feasible. CLAT is highly competitive and requires consistency and patience. As my English was at a decent level to begin with, I was somehow able to manage the stress. Also don't forget to take short breaks and have good sleep. Some books which I purchased for CLAT are A P Bharadwaj's Legal reasoning and A P Bharadwaj's static GK. Also practice 15-20 mocks on OMR printouts as well and try finishing your mocks in 115 minutes as this is the time you'll get in your actual examination. Best wishes to all of you.

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INDIA AT PARIS OLYMPICS 2024

WHY IN NEWS?

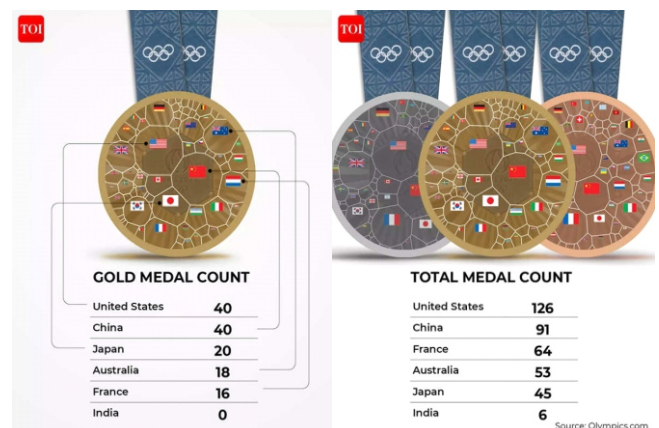
- India won six medals, including one silver and five bronze, placing them 71st in the medal tally among the 84 countries, a decline from its 48th place in Tokyo 2020 where it bagged one gold, two silver and four bronze.
- Paris Olympics 2024 will also be remembered for the six fourth-place finishes that resulted in heartbreaks.

Shooters Manu (25m sports pistol), Arjun Babuta (10m air rifle) and the mixed team pair of Anantjeet Singh Naruka and Maheshwari Chauhan (skeet), the archery mixed team pair of Ankita Bhakat and B. Dhiraj, shuttler Lakshya Sen and weightlifter Mirabai Chanu lost their respective bronze medal contests to miss podium finishes by a whisker.

About Winners

- **Manu Bhaker** won the first medal for India at the Paris 2024 Olympics. She bagged a bronze and became the first Indian woman to win an Olympic shooting medal.
 - She then created history by becoming the first Indian to win two medals at a single edition of the Olympics after she clinched a mixed team 10m air pistol bronze with Sarabjot Singh.
- **Swapnil Kusale** added a third medal in the 50m rifle 3 positions to make it India's biggest haul in shooting in a sport in a single edition of the Olympics.
 - This was the highest tally for India in shooting at the Olympics.
- The **Indian men's hockey** team won the bronze medal after defeating Spain 2-1 and matched their Tokyo 2020 success with the bronze in Paris.
 - The victory marks India's 13th Olympic medal in hockey, their fourth bronze and a second consecutive bronze after winning one at Tokyo 2020.
 - It is also the first time since 1972 that India won back-to-back medals in hockey.
- **Neeraj Chopra** became the most successful individual Olympian after he claimed a silver medal in the javelin throw with a throw of 89.45m.
 - This was his second Olympic medal, making him India's fifth two-time Olympic medallist, joining the ranks of Norman Pritchard, Sushil Kumar, PV Sindhu, and Manu Bhaker.
- **Aman Sehrawat** won the bronze in the men's freestyle 57kg wrestling event and became India's youngest medal winner at the age of 21 years and 24 days.
 - Aman Sehrawat bettered PV Sindhu's record of 21 years, one month and 14 days when she bagged the silver medal at the Rio 2016 Olympics.

- Neeraj Chopra – Silver - Men's Javelin Throw (Athletics)
- Indian Men's Hockey Team - Bronze
- Manu Bhaker – Bronze - Women's 10m Air Pistol (Shooting)
- Manu Bhaker and Sarabjot Singh – Bronze - 10m Air Pistol Mixed Team (Shooting)
- Swapnil Kusale – Bronze - Men's 50m rifle 3 positions (Shooting)
- Aman Sehrawat - Bronze - Men's Freestyle 57kg (Wrestling)



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DID YOU KNOW?

- Overall, India has won 41 medals at the Olympics to date.
- Interestingly, it was Norman Pritchard's dual silver which opened India's account in the 1900 Paris Games.
- KD Jadhav, with a wrestling bronze at Helsinki 1952, was the first individual athlete from independent India to get on the Olympic medal winners list.
- Weightlifter Karnam Malleswari became the first woman to win an Olympic medal in the 2000 Sydney Games.
- Rifle shooter Abhinav Bindra was the first Indian to win an Olympic gold medal in an individual event at Beijing 2008 and was the only one to do so for over a decade before Neeraj's javelin triumph at Tokyo 2020.
- Men's hockey, with 13 medals including eight golds, has been the biggest contributor to India's Olympic medals tally followed by wrestling with eight medals.
- India returned with its best-ever haul of seven medals, including one gold, from Tokyo 2020.
- India's second-best performance was in the 2012 London Olympics when it won six medals (two silver and four bronze).
- Lakshya Sen became the first Indian to reach the semi-finals in men's badminton at the Olympics, finishing fourth.
- Wrestler Vinesh Phogat after reaching the final in the women's 50 kg category, Phogat was disqualified for being overweight by 100 grams.
- Indian athletes competed in 69 medal events across 16 sports, such as archery, athletics, badminton, boxing, equestrian, golf, hockey, judo, rowing, sailing, shooting, swimming, table tennis, and tennis.

INDIA'S OLYMPIC MEDAL TALLY SINCE 1900

YEAR	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE	TOTAL
1900	0	2	0	2
1928	1	0	0	1
1932	1	0	0	1
1936	1	0	0	1
1948	1	0	0	1
1952	1	0	1	2
1956	1	0	0	1
1960	0	1	0	1
1964	1	0	0	1
1968	0	0	1	1
1972	0	0	1	1
1980	1	0	0	1
1996	0	0	1	1
2000	0	0	1	1
2004	0	1	0	1
2008	1	0	2	3
2012	0	2	4	6
2016	0	1	1	2
2020	1	2	4	7

INDIA'S MEN'S HOCKEY MEDAL WINS AT THE OLYMPICS

Olympics Games	Year	Medal Won
Amsterdam	1928	Gold
Los Angeles	1932	Gold
Berlin	1936	Gold
London	1948	Gold
Helsinki	1952	Gold
Melbourne	1956	Gold
Rome	1960	Silver
Tokyo	1964	Gold
Mexico City	1968	Bronze
Munich	1972	Bronze
Moscow	1980	Gold
Tokyo	2020	Bronze



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SUPREME COURT'S VERDICT ON SUB-CLASSIFICATION OF SCs AND STs

WHY IN NEWS?

- In a landmark judgement, a seven-judge Bench of the Supreme Court (SC) headed by Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud permitted states to create sub-classifications within the Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) categories for the purpose of according wider protections — through fixed sub-quotas — to the most backward communities within these categories.

Key Highlights

- The majority verdict by Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud and Justices B R Gavai, Vikram Nath, Pankaj Mithal, Satish Chandra Sharma and Manoj Misra overruled the 2004 judgement in E V Chinniah vs State of Andhra Pradesh, wherein it was held that SCs constituted a “homogeneous group” and cannot be sub-categorised.
- The Bench ruled that states can now sub-classify SCs within the 15% reservation quota to provide better support for the most disadvantaged groups.
- The SC said the sub-classification of castes among SCs must be based on degrees of their discrimination and can be done by states through the collection of empirical data on their representation in government jobs and admissions to educational institutions.
- However, the Court clarified that 100% reservation for any sub-class is not permissible. State decisions on sub-classification are subject to judicial review to prevent political misuse.
- The verdict traced the power of the States to undertake such an exercise to Articles 15(4) and 16(4) of the Constitution which permits the introduction of “special provisions” in favour of any backward class of citizens.
- In a separate but concurring ruling, Justice B.R. Gavai called upon States to devise a policy to identify and exclude the “creamy layer” (wealthier and more advanced members of a backward class) within the SC/ST categories from reservation benefits.
- At present, the principle of excluding the creamy layer from the fold of affirmative action only applies to Other Backward Classes (OBCs) and not the SC/STs.
- The judge also relied on several past decisions of the court which have already extended the creamy layer principle to reservations in promotions for SCs and STs in public services.
- For instance, in 2018, a five-judge Constitution Bench in Jarnail Singh v Lacchmi Narain Gupta held that the state cannot extend reservations in promotions to individuals from the SCs and STs who belong to the creamy layer. However, he clarified that the creamy layer criteria for SCs and STs “could be different” from that for the OBCs.

- Justice Bela M Trivedi was the lone dissenter who, in her verdict, said SCs constituted a homogeneous class and “cannot be tinkered with by the States”.
- Justice Trivedi observed that States do not have the power to alter the Presidential list under Article 341. She pointed out that any inclusions or exclusions from the list can only be done by the Parliament.
- Article 341 of the Constitution allows the President, through a public notification, to list as SC “castes, races or tribes” that suffered from the historical injustice of untouchability. SC groups are jointly accorded 15% reservation in education and public employment.

Judge verdicts for permissibility of States sub-classifying Scheduled Castes

● State SC sub-classification is permissible ● Not permissible



CJI D.Y. Chandrachud



B.R. Gavai



Vikram Nath



B.M. Trivedi



Manoj Misra



Pankaj Mithal



S.C. Sharma

THE HINDU

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Genesis of the Case

- Over the years, States have contended that, despite reservation, some castes are grossly underrepresented compared to other dominant SCs and STs.
 - As a result, they have proposed implementing separate quotas for these castes within the existing SC quota of 15% to ensure that benefits are equitably distributed.
- In 1975, Punjab issued a notification giving first preference in SC reservations to the Balmiki and Mazhabi Sikh communities, two of the most backward communities in the state.
 - This was challenged in 2004 after the SC struck down a similar law in *EV Chinniah Vs State of Andhra Pradesh*.
 - Based on this ruling, in 2006, the Punjab & Haryana High Court in *Dr. Kishan Pal v State of Punjab* struck down the aforementioned 1975 notification.
- Despite this, the Punjab government remained persistent and enacted a new law i.e. the Punjab Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes (Reservation in Services) Act, 2006, which once again provided first preference to the Balmikis and Mazhabi Sikhs.
 - This Act was challenged by Davinder Singh, a member of a non-Balmiki, non-Mazhabi Sikh SC community.
 - The HC, in 2010, struck down the Act, leading to an appeal at the Supreme Court.
- In 2014, the case was referred to a five-judge Constitution Bench to determine if the *E V Chinniah* decision had to be reconsidered.
- In 2020, Justice Arun Mishra-headed Constitution Bench in *Davinder Singh v State of Punjab* held that the court's 2004 decision required reconsideration.
 - But since this Bench, like in *E V Chinniah*, comprised five judges, a seven-judge Bench heard the issue in February 2024.

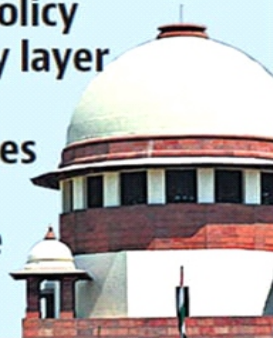
Court on creamy layer



EXCLUSION FROM QUOTA

- Justice BR Gavai, in a judgment supported by CJI DY Chandrachud and 4 other judges, called for excluding creamy layer from SC/ST quota.
- Creamy layer currently only applies to OBCs. The concurring judgment called upon govt to extend the concept to SC/STs.

The State must evolve a policy for identifying the creamy layer even from the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes so as exclude them from the benefit of affirmative action."



LIMITING BENEFITS

Justice Pankaj Mithal held in his judgment that reservation benefits should be extended to only one generation in a category.

"Reservation should be meant for only the first generation among a category and if the second generation has come up then benefits of reservation shall not be given."





GENETIC SCREENING OF ATHLETES

WHY IN NEWS?

- Recently, the use of genetic testing in sports has garnered significant attention, particularly as athletes prepare for major events like the 2024 Paris Olympics.

What is Genetic Testing?

- Genetic testing is an analysis of an individual's deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) to identify genetic variants that can influence health, traits, and performance.
- Genetic tests read instructions stored in DNA, a two-metre-long molecule present in our cells.
 - The code in our DNA maintains our bodies' functions, determines our appearance and influences our likelihood of developing certain diseases.
 - Genetic data consists of four letters or chemicals—Adenine, Guanine, Cytosine and Thymine—repeated in specific sequences.
 - These sequences are read by cellular machinery to create amino acids, the building blocks of proteins.
- Genes dictate how individuals absorb, metabolise and expel nutrients, explaining why some do this differently than others.
- It also detects alterations in chromosomes, genes, or proteins to confirm or exclude genetic conditions and assess the likelihood of developing or transmitting genetic disorders.

Genetic Testing in Sports

- Genetic testing in sports for performance improvement is a growing field that leverages advancements in genomics to enhance athletic performance, optimize training programs, and reduce injury risks.
- Two gene variants are commonly linked with sports performance.
 - These are ACE II (angiotensin-converting enzyme) and ACTN3 RR (alpha-actinin 3).
- The ACE II is associated with endurance performance, giving runners, rowers and mountaineers an edge over others.
 - The study found another variant, ACE-D, associated with strength gain, essential for weightlifting.
- The ACTN3 RR is associated with sprinters and power athletes. This gene produces the ACTN3 protein found in skeletal muscle tissue, particularly in type 2 or “fast-twitch” muscle fibres.
 - These fibres are known for generating short, powerful movements.
- Though ACE and ACTN3 are the most extensively studied genes linked to athletic performance, scientists have, so far, found links between 128 DNA markers and athlete status.
- Genetic testing has also helped athletes optimise their diet.

In India

- The genetic tests were introduced in India around 2011.
- After winning seven gold medals in the Commonwealth Games, in March, 41-year-old table tennis player Sharath Kamal opted for genetic screening.
- The tests informed him of his food allergies and the minerals and vitamins his body needed.
- In 2017, the Board of Control for Cricket in India reportedly introduced genetic testing to help the Indian men's cricket team improve speed, fat-burning, endurance, recovery time and muscle-building.
- In India, Mapmygenome, a Hyderabad-based genomics company, launched its testing services for sports in 2013.
- The company also works closely with sports academies. Before the Rio Olympics in 2016, the company collaborated with the Pullela Gopichand Badminton Academy in Hyderabad.
- Others like badminton players Srikanth Kidambi and Pullela Gopichand, cricketer Divya Gnanananda and fitness trainer Diksha Chhabra are some of the known names who opted for these tests.

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SUPPLY CHAIN COUNCIL

WHY IN NEWS?

- India has been elected as vice-chair of the supply chain council, one of the three bodies set up by the 14-member Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF) bloc.

What is the Supply Chain Council?

- India and 13 other Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF) partners have established three supply chain bodies under the landmark Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) Agreement relating to Supply Chain Resilience.
- These three supply chain bodies are the Supply Chain Council (SCC), Crisis Response Network (CRN), and Labor Rights Advisory Board (LRAB).
 - SCC - to pursue targeted, action-oriented work to strengthen the supply chains for those sectors and goods most critical to national security, public health, and economic well-being.
 - CRN - to provide a forum for a collective emergency response to exigent or imminent disruptions
 - LRAB - brings together workers, employers, and governments at the same table to strengthen labor rights and workforce development across regional supply chains.

Appointments

- Each of the three supply chain bodies elected a Chair and Vice Chair, who will serve for a term of two years. The elected chairs and vice chairs are:
 - Supply Chain Council: USA (Chair) and India (Vice Chair)
 - Crisis Response Network: Republic of Korea (Chair) and Japan (Vice Chair)
 - Labor Rights Advisory Board: USA (Chair) and Fiji (Vice Chair)

Inaugural Meetings of SCC, CRN and LRAB

- The inaugural virtual meetings of the SCC, CRN, and LRAB marked a major step forward for cooperation among partner countries for strengthening supply chain resilience in the region.
- The SCC adopted Terms of Reference and discussed initial work priorities, to be further explored at its first in-person meeting to be held in Washington, D.C. in September 2024 on the margins of the Supply Chain Summit.
- The CRN discussed near and longer-term priorities, including conducting a tabletop exercise, and planned its first in-person meeting to be held alongside the Supply Chain Summit.
- The LRAB discussed priorities for strengthening labour rights across IPEF supply chains.
 - The convening not only will advance the work of the LRAB but also focus on the labour provisions in the IPEF Clean Economy Agreement and Fair Economy Agreement.

About IPEF

- IPEF was launched on 23 May 2022 in Tokyo, Japan, comprising 14 countries – Australia, Brunei, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam and the USA.
- The IPEF seeks to strengthen economic engagement and cooperation among partner countries with the goal of advancing growth, economic stability and prosperity in the region.
- The framework is structured around four pillars relating to Trade (Pillar I); Supply Chain Resilience (Pillar II); Clean Economy (Pillar III); and Fair Economy (Pillar IV).
- India had joined Pillars II to IV of IPEF while it has maintained an observer status in Pillar I.





PERFORMANCE AUDIT OF STATUTORY LAWS

WHY IN NEWS?

- The Supreme Court upheld “the power, nay the duty” of the judiciary to direct the government to conduct a “performance audit” of its statutory laws to assess their actual impact on the ground.

Key Highlights

- The judgment followed an appeal concerning the working of the Maharashtra Slum Areas (Improvement, Clearance and Redevelopment) Act, 1971, which has led to multiple litigations over the years.
- The court directed the Bombay High Court to constitute a Bench to initiate suo motu proceedings for reviewing the working of the statute and identify the cause of the problems.
- A Bench of Justices P.S. Narasimha and Aravind Kumar, in a judgment, said the court could direct the government to review the working of the statutes and audit their impact if, among other situations, there was demonstrable judicial data or other cogent material to prove that the laws have failed to ameliorate the conditions of their intended beneficiaries.
 - The court, as an aside, found it “peculiar” that an overwhelming majority of legislation is introduced and carried through by the government while private Members' Bills barely get a mention.
- Justice Narasimha said every government has a constitutional duty to ensure that the purpose and object of a statute are accomplished while implementing it.
 - It has the additional duty to closely monitor the working of a statute. The government must have a continuous and real-time assessment of the impact that the statute is having.
 - However, the court said, many statutory schemes and procedures lie gridlocked in bureaucratic or judicial quagmires that impede or delay their objectives. It is in such cases that the court can step in as a “facilitator of justice”.
- Justice Narasimha said the “institutional memory” of the Supreme Court about the working of a statute and its interpretation, preserved in the form of a critical mass of judicial precedents, along with the experiences gained by the judges and the court on the working of the statute, is of immense value for directing the performance audit of legislation.
 - He reasoned that constitutional courts are fully justified in instructing the government to conduct performance audits of its laws, given the judiciary's unique position to assess the efficacy of a statute.
- Justice Narasimha concluded that through this facilitative role, the judiciary compels audit of the legislation, and promotes debate and discussion, but does not and cannot compel legislative reforms.
- This observation underscores the need for greater scrutiny and performance audits of statutory laws to ensure they serve their intended purpose effectively.



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CLEAN PLANT PROGRAMME

WHY IN NEWS?

- The Union Cabinet approved the Clean Plant Programme (CPP), aimed at increasing the yield and productivity of horticulture crops in India.

Key Points

- First announced in Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's interim Budget speech in February 2023, the CPP is also targeted at enhancing the quality of fruit crops across the nation.
- The Ministry of Agriculture has sought an allocation of Rs 1,765 crore for the programme.
- One half of this will be sourced from the budget of the Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), while the other half will be in the form of a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB).
- The programme has three main components geared towards helping farmers obtain virus-free, high-quality planting material (plants used for vegetative propagation) in order to increase crop yields and improve income opportunities.
 - Development of nine CPCs which will provide disease diagnostics and therapeutics, create mother plants to be sent to nurseries, and quarantine all domestic and imported planting materials intended for commercial propagation and distribution.
 - Enhancement of infrastructure, including the development of large-scale nurseries to facilitate the efficient multiplication of clean planting material — the mother plants obtained from the CPCs will be multiplied in nurseries and distributed to farmers.
 - Creation of regulatory and certification process to ensure thorough accountability and traceability in the production and sale of planting material.

Need for the CPP

- India is the second largest producer of fruits and vegetables in the world after China.
- India is also a major importer and exporter of fresh fruits.
- In the financial year 2023-24, India exported fresh fruits worth \$1.15 billion, while it imported fruits worth \$2.73 billion.
- With the rising consumption of fruits in the country, demand has specifically increased for planting materials of foreign apples, and “exotics” such as avocado and blueberry.
- At present, the process of importing plants is very cumbersome, with imported plants having to be kept in quarantine for two years.
- The CPCs will cut this period down to six months, and thus make it easier for farmers to access disease free and genuine planting material for horticultural crops in India.

CABINET DECISION
9th AUGUST, 2024

Cabinet approves the **Clean Plant Programme (CPP)** under Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture

- Investment of Rs.1,765.67 Cr
- CPP will provide access to virus-free, high-quality planting material to farmers regardless of their landholding size or socioeconomic status
- Streamlined certification processes & infrastructure support to nurseries
- Nine world class state-of-the-art Clean Plant Centers will be established across India
- It will address diverse agro-climatic conditions across India by developing region-specific clean plant varieties & technologies

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THE WAQF (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2024

WHY IN NEWS?

- Recently, the government referred the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024, to a Joint Committee of Parliament.
- The Bill seeks to amend the 1995 Waqf Act, and proposes sweeping changes to how Waqfs are governed and regulated.

What is a Waqf Property?

- A Waqf is a personal property given by Muslims for a specific purpose — religious, charitable, or for private purposes.
- While the beneficiaries of the property can be different, the ownership of the property is implied to be with God.
- A Waqf can be formed through a deed or instrument or orally, or a property can be deemed to be Waqf if it has been used for religious or charitable purposes for a long period of time.
 - Once a property is declared as Waqf, its character changes forever, and cannot be reversed.

Governing of Waqfs

- Waqf properties in India are governed by the Waqf Act, 1995.
- In 2013, the law was amended to prescribe imprisonment of up to two years for encroachment on Waqf property and to explicitly prohibit the sale, gift, exchange, mortgage, or transfer of Waqf property.
- The Waqf law provides for the appointment of a survey commissioner who maintains a list of all Waqf properties by making local investigations, summoning witnesses, and requisitioning public documents.
- A Waqf property is managed by a mutawalli (caretaker), who acts as a supervisor.
- Waqf properties are managed in a way that is similar to how properties under Trusts are managed under the Indian Trusts Act, 1882.
- The Waqf Act states that any dispute related to Waqf properties will be decided by a Waqf Tribunal.
- The Tribunal is constituted by the state government and comprises three members — a chairperson who is a state judicial officer not below the rank of a District, Sessions or Civil Judge, Class I; an officer from the state civil services; and a person with knowledge of Muslim law and jurisprudence.
- The law also has provisions for the constitution and appointment of Waqf Boards, Waqf Councils, Chief Executive Officers for Waqf Boards in the states.
- The CEOs and parliamentarians who are part of the Waqf Boards must be from the Muslim community.

Functions of the Waqf Boards

- A Waqf Board is a body under the state government, which works as a custodian for Waqf properties across the state.
- In most states, there are separate Waqf Boards for the Shia and Sunni communities.
 - Almost all prominent mosques in the country are Waqf properties and are under the Waqf Board of the state.
- A Waqf Board is headed by a chairperson and has one or two nominees from the state government, Muslim legislators and parliamentarians, Muslim members of the State Bar Council, recognised scholars of Islamic theology, and mutawallis of Waqfs with an annual income of Rs 1 lakh and above.
- A Waqf Board has powers under the law to administer the property and take measures for the recovery of lost properties of any Waqf and to sanction any transfer of immovable property of a Waqf by way of sale, gift, mortgage, exchange, or lease.
 - However, the sanction shall not be given unless at least two-thirds of the members of the Waqf Board vote in favour of such a transaction.

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Proposed Changes in the Bill

- The Bill seeks to change the name of the parent Act from the Waqf Act, 1995, to the Unified Waqf Management, Empowerment, Efficiency and Development Act, 1995.
- The Bill seeks to introduce three new provisions in the Act
 - I. First, Section 3A, which states that no person shall create a Waqf unless he is the lawful owner of the property and competent to transfer or dedicate such property.
 - II. Second, Section 3C(1), which states that “government property identified or declared as Waqf property, before or after the commencement of this Act, shall not be deemed to be a Waqf property”.
 - III. Third, Section 3C(2), which empowers the government to decide if a property given as Waqf is government land.
 - This provision essentially means that the Collector — and not the Waqf Tribunal — will make this determination in case of a dispute.
- The proposed Bill would also give the central government the power to “direct the audit of any Waqf at any time by an auditor appointed by the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India, or by any officer designated by the Central Government for that purpose”.
- The Bill proposes to change the composition of Waqf Boards in states.
 - It proposes to allow even a non-Muslim CEO, and gives the power to the state government to have at least two non-Muslim members to the state Waqf Boards.

Key Points on the Waqf Bill, 2024 (Amendment)

1 Introduction: The bill will be tabled in the Lok Sabha on August 8 by Minority Affairs Minister Kiren Rijju.



2 Amendments: Proposes over 40 changes to the Waqf Act, 1995, including representation for Muslim women and non-Muslims.

3 Board Authority: Aims to reduce Waqf Boards' power to claim properties as Waqf without verification.

4 District Collectors: Introduces district collectors to resolve Waqf-related disputes and verify property ownership.

5 Separate Board: Proposes a separate Board of Auqaf for Bohras and Aghakhanis, with broader community representation.

6 Registration: Streamlines Waqf registration through a central database with required notices.

7 Accountability: Seeks to enhance transparency and ensure mandatory inclusion of women in Waqf boards.



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INDIA'S FUTURE SPACE PROGRAMMES

WHY IN NEWS?

- After a busy 2023, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is working on several projects and announced strategies.

ISRO Roadmaps

- After handing over operational responsibilities to NewSpace India, Ltd. (NSIL), ISRO has been prioritising research.
- In December 2023, ISRO Chairman S. Somanath announced a 25-year roadmap, until 2047, for Gaganyaan.
- It intersects with the lunar exploration roadmap in the form of an Indian landing on the Moon by 2040.
- S. Somanath also shared a lunar exploration roadmap that includes — apart from an Indian on the moon — a lunar sample-return mission, a long-duration mission on the lunar surface, docking with NASA's Lunar Gateway (under the Artemis programme), building habitats on the lunar surface.

Gaganyaan

- One of ISRO's primary focus areas of late has been to train its astronaut candidates, or Gaganyatris, for spaceflight.
- The ISRO picked Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla as its astronaut-designate for the Indo-US mission to the International Space Station (ISS), along with Group Captain Prashanth Balakrishnan Nair, who has been named as the backup.
- The mission will be conducted by Axiom Space, a private company, with inputs from NASA and onboard SpaceX's launch vehicle and crew capsule. The flight is scheduled for 2025.
- ISRO has also planned at least four more abort tests using its test vehicle before the historic crewed flight. The first uncrewed Gaganyaan mission is expected to fly in late 2024.
- India is also planning to build an Indian space station called the 'Bharatiya Antariksh Station' (BAS) by 2035.

NSIL Missions

- On May 1, ISRO transferred all commercial activities related to Indian Remote Sensing satellite data and products to the NSIL.
- The NSIL signed an agreement with SpaceX to launch the GSAT-20/GSAT-N2 satellite, its second demand-driven satellite. LVM-3 is currently not capable of launching this 4,700-tonne machine.
- The NSIL also released a request for qualification for the production of LVM-3 through a public-private partnership.

Next-generation Launch Vehicle

- ISRO is planning to build its new launch vehicle, the Next Generation Launch Vehicle (NGLV), for heavier payloads per launch than its PSLV or GSLV rockets.
 - The organisation has set up a team led by Project Director S. Sivakumar to chalk out the details of the NGLV, including manufacturing requirements.
- ISRO doesn't plan to continue the use of the GSLV once the NGLV is ready.
- The PSLV on the other hand is already under production by a private consortium led by Larsen & Toubro and Hindustan Aeronautics, Ltd.
 - But until then, ISRO is working on developing the semi-cryogenic engine for the LVM-3 rocket — another name for the GSLV Mk III — to enhance its launch capability.

Private Space Missions

- Private company Agnikul Cosmos successfully launched its SoRTeD-01 vehicle from its launch pad at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota on March 21.
 - This was the first launch of a vehicle powered by a semi-cryogenic engine as its first stage from Indian soil.
- Skyroot Aerospace is progressing towards the launch of its launch vehicle, Vikram 1.
 - It had previously pressure-tested its solid-fuel engines and launched a test vehicle called Vikram S from Sriharikota on November 18, 2022.
- Dhruva Space and Bellatrix Aerospace flew their experiments on the fourth and final stages of the PSLV-C58 mission on January 1. (In this mission, the fourth stage turned itself into a small satellite, giving the payloads onboard an orbiting platform to conduct their studies).

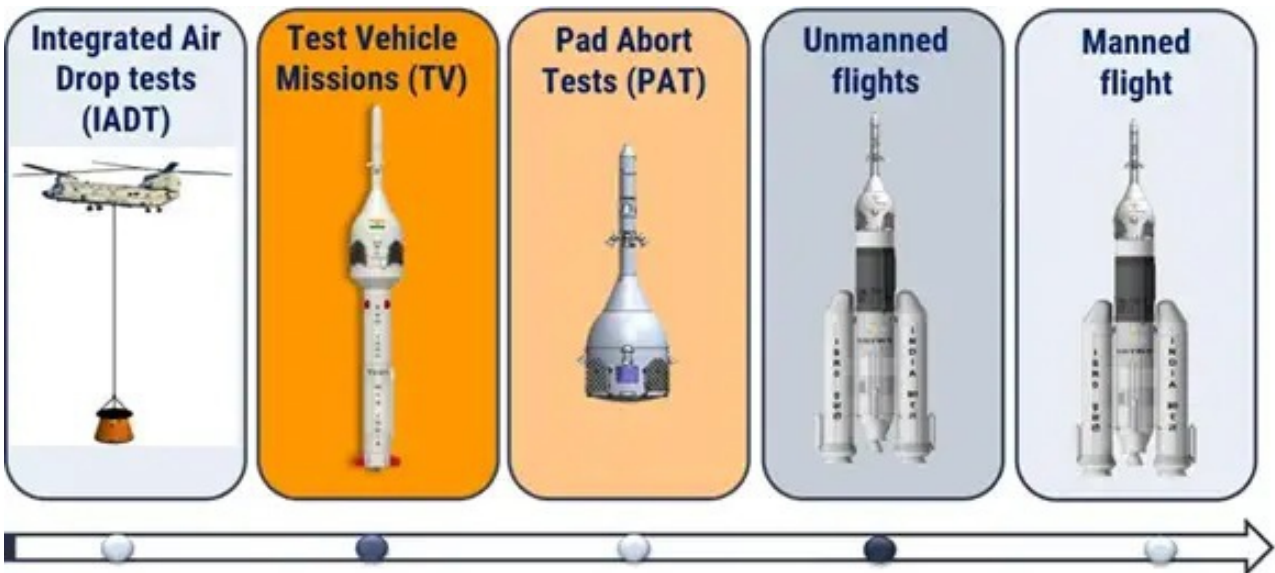
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IN-SPACe

- IN-SPACe released the 'Norms, Guidelines, and Procedures for Authorisation of Space Activities' on May 3.
- It also granted the country's first satellite broadband licence to Eutelsat OneWeb on November 21, 2023, and granted the first licence for a ground station as a service, to be provided by Dhruva Space on July 15.
- Finally, on February 21, the Government of India amended its foreign direct investment (FDI) policy to allow 100% direct FDI in all space and spaceflight segments except for a 74% ceiling in satellite manufacturing and operations and 49% in launch infrastructure.



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GOOGLE 'MONOPOLY' ANTITRUST CASE

WHY IN NEWS?

- Recently, Google lost a major antitrust case brought against it by the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) that sought to establish that the tech giant had a monopoly in the web search and advertising sectors.

Key Points

- According to the ruling, Google's search dominance was majorly achieved through a strategy of exclusive distribution agreements, or default distribution.
 - This refers to the way Google entered into lucrative contracts with “browser developers, mobile device manufacturers, and wireless carriers” so that it was the first or default search engine that users of such services or new phones were given.
 - Google pays for this privilege and has shelled out more than \$26 billion for it in 2021, per the court.
- The court observed that Google is a monopolist, and it has acted as one to maintain its monopoly.
- It has violated Section 2 of the Sherman Act, referencing a U.S. law that views business monopoly or attempts at monopolising as an offence.
- Per the court, Google used its monopoly power in two markets: general search services and general search text ads.
 - However, Google did not have monopoly power in the search advertising market.
- The court also noted there was no product market for general search advertising and that Google was not liable for actions involving its advertising platform.

Where does Google dominate?

Product Markets	Court Ruling
General search services	Google has monopoly power
General search text ads	Google has monopoly power
Search advertising	Google lacks monopoly power
General search advertising	No product market for this

Source: US. v. Google Judge Mehta ruling





- Interestingly, the judge observed that Google had brought out the “industry's highest quality search engine, which has earned Google the trust of hundreds of millions of daily users.”

- The U.S. DOJ hailed the ruling as a public victory for internet users in the U.S.
- Further, the U.S. DOJ is also reportedly teaming up with the U.S. Federal Trade Commission (FTC) to act against other large tech players on antitrust grounds, including Microsoft, OpenAI, and Nvidia.

What Next?

- Google will be appealing the ruling.
- In the meantime, the court has asked both parties, Google and the Department of Justice, to find a remedy ahead of their meeting with Judge Mehta on September 9.
 - The remedy, in this case, could consist of anything between breaking up Google and ordering the search giant to end its exclusive deals with the mobile handset makers.
 - The former could fundamentally alter the dynamics of the consumer digital business market as Google plays a key role by providing its platform to both individuals and businesses for interactions.
- In the latter case, in terms of immediate effect, handset makers could lose the billions of dollars they receive from Google to pre-load the company's search engine in the smartphone.
- Apart from this lawsuit, the Justice Department is set to go against Google in another antitrust trial that deals with the internet company's ad technology.

Background of the Case

- The U.S. DOJ, along with the attorneys general of 11 states, sues Google in DC federal district court for unlawfully maintaining a monopoly in online searches.
- The case centres on Google's use of exclusive contracts that mandate its use as the default search engine in a host of different hardware and software applications.
- In its response to the complaint, Google admits many of the facts alleged by the DOJ and states but categorically denied the government's claim of illegality.

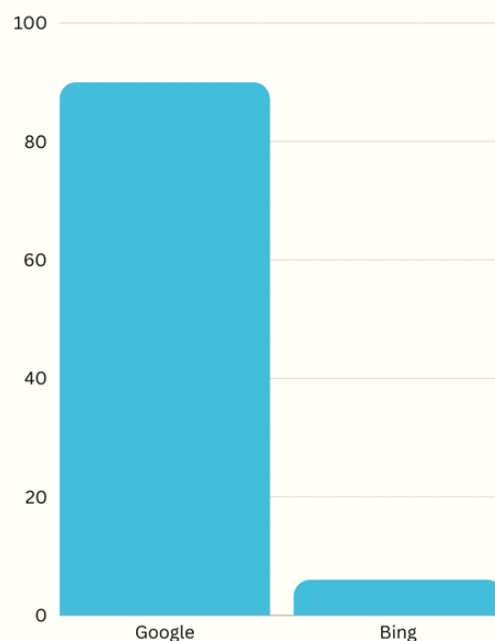
- Google's search business generates more than half of its 279.8 billion revenue.
- Payment to Apple to be the search engine of choice soars to an estimated \$18 billion per year.

“Google’s dominance has gone unchallenged for well over a decade. In 2009, 80% of all search queries in the United States already went through Google. That number has only grown.

By 2020, it was nearly 90%, and even higher on mobile devices at almost 95%.

The second-place search engine, Microsoft’s Bing, sees roughly 6% of all search queries—84% fewer than Google.”

Source: *US. v. Google Judge Mehta ruling*



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E-RUPEE AND FINTECH COMPANIES

WHY IN NEWS?

- Recently, Google lost a major antitrust case brought against it by the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) that sought to establish that the tech giant had a monopoly in the web search and advertising sectors.

What is e-rupee?

- The e-rupee, or the digital rupee, is a digital currency issued by the RBI. It is aimed at creating an additional option for using money.
- The digital rupee is available entirely in electronic form and does not leave a computer network.
- The e-rupee is like banknotes issued by the RBI and is a legal tender that can be used to make transactions. The only difference is that they can only be transacted online.
- While the e-rupee is a legal tender issued by the central bank, it is different from the deposits you hold in a bank.
 - Unlike deposits which pay interest, the digital rupee in users' wallets does not attract interest payments from the central bank.
 - However, deposits held in banks can be converted into digital rupees and vice versa for ease of use.

- The digital rupee was launched on a pilot basis in December 2022.
- At the time, the currency was offered by a select group of public and private banks in a few major cities and could be used for both person-to-person and person-to-merchant transactions.
- At the time of its launch, the digital rupee was thought of as an alternative to cryptocurrencies.
- Since cryptocurrencies are viewed by many as an alternative to fiat currencies, which progressively lose their value, the RBI hoped the digital rupee would bring greater transparency to transactions and lower the costs associated with the production of traditional fiat currencies.

Fintech Companies and e-rupee Project

- GooglePay, PhonePe, Amazon Pay, Mobikwik, and Cred currently account for over 85% of digital payments via UPI; a significant chunk of transactions in the country.
- These Fintech companies want to join the e-rupee project to widen their use case beyond enabling payment transactions between users linked to their registered banks in the country.
- On the other hand, the RBI has been looking to increase the adoption base for the digital rupee, and rollout on popular fintech platforms could be the push it needs.

- The digital rupee initially witnessed growing adoption, with transactions using the digital currency rising to over 1 million a day late last year.
- However, since then, its use has declined sharply to about 100,000-200,000 a day.

- However, while continuing to try to popularise the e-rupee, the RBI does not appear to have any immediate plans to do a full-scale launch of the digital currency, with the digital rupee expected to stay in the pilot stage for the next couple of years.





AUGUST KRANTI DAY 2024

WHY IN NEWS?

- Quit India Movement Day, observed on August 8th annually in India, commemorates the historic launch of the Quit India Movement (QIM) on August 8, 1942, under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi.
- In 2024, India celebrates the 82nd anniversary of the QIM.

What is QIM?

- QIM emerged from a backdrop of growing discontent with British rule, particularly following the failure of the Cripps Mission in March 1942, which aimed to secure Indian cooperation during World War II.

- The Cripps Mission came to India in 1942 with constitutional proposals to seek Indian support for the Second World War. It was headed by Stafford Cripps.
- The main proposals of the mission are:
 - After the Second World War, an Indian Union with a dominion status would be set up. It would be free to decide its relations with the Commonwealth and free to participate in the United Nations and other international bodies.
 - After the Second World War, a constituent assembly would be convened to frame a new constitution.
 - The British government would accept the new constitution. If any province is not willing to join the Union could have a separate constitution and form a separate Union.
 - During the Second World War, the defence of India would remain in British hands and the Governor-General's powers would remain intact.

- On August 8, 1942, during the All India Congress Committee session in Bombay, the Quit India Resolution was adopted, demanding an end to British rule.
- Gandhi's clarion call, "Do or Die," resonated throughout the country, urging Indians to engage in non-violent resistance against colonial authorities.
- The day after the movement's launch, key leaders, including Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, and Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, were arrested, leading to widespread protests, strikes, and acts of civil disobedience across India.

Significance

- QIM was a pivotal moment in India's struggle for independence from British colonial rule, which called for the immediate withdrawal of British forces from India.
- Led by Mahatma Gandhi, this movement called for India's immediate independence from British rule, aiming to mobilise Indians in a non-violent civil disobedience campaign against British colonialism.
- Internationally, the QIM drew attention to India's struggle for independence and garnered support from various quarters, including sympathetic voices within the British public and pressure from Allied powers during World War II.
- The movement's impact on global perceptions of British colonialism contributed to mounting international pressure on Britain to address India's demands for self-rule.



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GENDER ROW AT PARIS OLYMPICS

WHY IN NEWS?

- A controversy has engulfed the boxing event at the Paris Olympics after two female competitors, Algerian boxer Imane Khelif and Taiwan's Lin Yu Ting, who previously failed gender eligibility tests, were drawn into the Games.

About Controversy

- Algeria's Imane Khelif, 25, boxing in the 66kg category, and 28-year-old Taiwanese Lin Yu-ting, fighting at 57kg, are the two athletes in the heat of the controversy.
 - The row erupted after Khelif won her bout against Italy's Angela Carini in just 46 seconds with two strong punches to the Italian's nose.
 - Both Khelif and Lin were disqualified from the 2023 world championships in New Delhi run by the International Boxing Association (IBA) after failing to meet "eligibility criteria".
 - However, both athletes are competing at the Paris Olympics due to the IBA's derecognition by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in 2023.
 - The "Paris 2024 Boxing Unit", a special body set up by the IOC, ran the Olympic competition and had less stringent eligibility criteria than the IBA.
- The IBA, formerly known as AIBA, was formed in 1946 as a worldwide governing body for amateur boxing.
 - The IOC recognised the IBA as the sport's governing body until 2019.
 - The IOC suspended the IBA in 2019. This was because of governance issues and alleged corruption.
- The IOC's current eligibility criteria are based solely on the gender stated in an athlete's passport, which Khelif's identifies as female.
 - The IOC defended its decision, stating that all boxers in the Olympics had met the competition's eligibility criteria.

- In a dramatic turn of events at the Paris Olympics, both Algerian boxer Imane Khelif and Taiwan's Lin Yu Ting found themselves in the middle of a gender row given that they had male XY chromosomes and male range testosterone levels while being born female at birth.
- Both of them are believed to have a Disorder of Sex Development (DSD).
- DSD can cause individuals with female appearances to have male chromosomes or anatomy. It is an umbrella term that encompasses over 40 different conditions that develop in the womb.
- This condition affects between 0.05 and 1 per cent of the population.
- They are different from transwomen who are born male at birth.
- The most common is Swyer syndrome, a condition in which individuals have a typical female appearance and external genitalia but possess XY chromosomes and non-functional gonads or reproductive glands, often leading to delayed puberty and infertility.



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RASHTRIYA VIGYAN PURASKAR 2024

WHY IN NEWS?

- On August 22, 2024, the inaugural Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar (RVP) ceremony was held at Gantantra Mandap, Rashtrapati Bhavan, with President Droupadi Murmu presenting the awards to 33 distinguished scientists across the four categories.

Categories of the Award

The Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar is awarded in four distinct categories:

- Vigyan Ratna (VR) Award:** This is the highest honour given to scientists who have made lifetime contributions in any field of Science and Technology.
 - Up to 3 awards are given each year.
- Vigyan Shri (VS) Award:** Given to scientists of all ages who have made distinguished contributions to Science and Technology.
 - Up to 25 awards are given each year.
- Vigyan Yuva-Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar (VY-SSB) Award:** Given to young scientists (under 45 years) who have exceptionally contributed to any field of science and technology.
 - Up to 25 awards are given each year.
- Vigyan Team (VT) Award:** Given to a team of three or more scientists/researchers/innovators who have made significant contributions in their field through collaborative work.
 - Up to 3 awards for teams of three or more.

Key Awardees

- The **Vigyan Ratna Award** was presented to Prof. Govindarajan Padmanabhan, who is recognized for his lifetime achievements in biological sciences, particularly for his work on malaria parasites.
 - He is a former director of the Indian Institute of Science and has previously received the Padma Shri and Padma Bhushan.
- The **Vigyan Shri Awards** were presented to 13 scientists for their path-breaking research in their respective domains.

- Annapurni Subramaniam is among the 13 scientists selected for the Vigyan Shri award. Her main research relates to the formation and evolution of stars clusters and galaxies.
- Others chosen for Vigyan Shri include biologist Jayant Bhalchandra Udgaonkar, a former director of IISER Pune, and particle physicist Naba Kumar Mondal from Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics in Kolkata.

- The **Vigyan Yuva-SSB Awards** were given to 18 scientists for their significant contribution in the areas spanning from the study of the warming of the Indian Ocean and its consequences, to the development of indigenous 5G base station and communication and precision tests of quantum mechanics.

- The scientists chosen for the Vigyan Yuva Puraskar include Vivek Polshettiwar of Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai, a chemist who works on carbon capture technologies; Urbasi Sinha of Raman Research Institute, Bengaluru, a leading expert in quantum research; and Roxy Mathew Koll of Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology in Pune, a climate scientist.

- The **Vigyan Team Award** was given to the team of Chandrayaan-3 for the successful landing of Chandrayaan-3 lander near the south pole of the moon in 2023.

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About RVP

- On the lines of civilian awards, the Government of India introduced the RVP for the first time in 2024.
- These awards replaced the existing science awards, including the Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize, to provide a more inclusive and updated recognition system.
- Nominations for the awards will be accepted every year between January 14 and February 28 (National Science Day).
- These awards shall be announced on 11th May (National Technology Day) every year.
- The Award Ceremony for all categories of awards will be held on 23rd August (National Space Day).
- The RVP will be awarded in 13 domains – Physics, Chemistry, Biological Sciences, Mathematics and Computer Science, Earth Science, Medicine, Engineering Sciences, Agricultural Science, Environmental Science, Technology and Innovation, Atomic Energy, Space Science and Technology.



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THREE INDIAN OCEAN STRUCTURES

WHY IN NEWS?

- Three underwater geographical structures located in the Indian Ocean have been awarded names proposed by India - Ashok Seamount, Kalpataru Ridge and Chandragupt Ridge.

Key Points

- These names were approved by the International Hydrographic Organisation (IHO) and UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC).
- The worldwide ocean data is maintained and provided by the General Bathymetric Chart of Oceans operating under the IOC and IHO.
- With the inclusion of these three names, there are now seven structures in the Indian Ocean named mainly after Indian scientists or bear names proposed by India.
- All three recently named structures were discovered by oceanographers from the National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR), Goa.
- These are located along the Southwest Indian Ridge area of the Indian Ocean and were discovered during an international survey exploration programme.
- Since 2004, India has been undertaking the Indian Southern Ocean Research Programme with NCPOR being the nodal agency.
 - These sea explorations aim at studying the bio-geochemistry, biodiversity, lower atmospheric processes, paleoclimate, hydrodynamics, air-sea interactions among a host of other research areas.

About Three Structures

- **Ashok Seamount** - An Indian research team discovered the Ashok seamount in 2012 with the help of the Russian Sea vessel Akademik Nikolay Strakhov.
 - The oval-shaped structure spans over an area of 180 sqkm.
- **Kalpataru Ridge** - It was also discovered with the help of the Russian Sea vessel Akademik Nikolay Strakhov in 2012.
 - It is an elongated ridge which is spread over an area of 430 sq km and may have supported marine life, habitat shelter and food for various species.
- **Chandragupt Ridge** - Discovered in 2020 by the Indian Ocean research vessel MGS Sagar, it is an elongated and oval-shaped body covering a total area of 675 sq km.

Previously Named Structures

- **Raman Ridge (accepted in 1992)** – It was discovered in 1951 by a US oil vessel.
 - It was named after Physicist and Nobel Laureate Sir CV Raman.
- **Panikkar Seamount (accepted in 1993)** – It was discovered in 1992 by Indian research vessel Sagar Kanya.
 - It is named after NK Panikkar, a renowned oceanographer.
- **Sagar Kanya (accepted in 1991)** - For its successful 22nd cruise in 1986 leading to its discovery, a seamount was named after the research vessel Sagar Kanya itself.
- **DN Wadia Guyot** – It was named after geologist DN Wadia in 1993 when an underwater volcanic mountain (guyot), was discovered in 1992 by Sagar Kanya.

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NOBEL LAUREATES WHO LEAD THEIR COUNTRY

WHY IN NEWS?

- Filling the leadership vacuum in Bangladesh, albeit temporarily, 2006 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate and economist Muhammad Yunus has taken oath as head of the interim government.
 - The 84-year-old microfinance pioneer will head the government until fresh polls are held.
 - The parliament has already been dissolved by the nation's president Mohammed Shahabuddin.
- Yunus joins a select group of Nobel laureates who later led their countries.

- Bangladesh's longest-serving Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has resigned from her post and fled to India as anti-quota protests by students rocking her nation reached a pinnacle.
- The mass agitation against Sheikh Hasina, who won her last three elections almost unopposed, sprung in June after the Bangladesh High Court nullified Sheikh Hasina's executive order that had dissolved all quotas in the civil services.
- Bangladeshi students, who have been demanding an end to the 30% quota in jobs for freedom fighters and their descendants, were upset with the court's order and took to the streets.
- Amid nationwide protests, the appellate division of the Supreme Court set aside the High Court's order, allocating 93% of the seats in government services on merit and limiting reservation for freedom fighters and their descendants to a mere 5%. However, protests continued.
- The police's brutal crackdown on the protestors, killing over 300 people, further angered the students.
- In spite of repeated offers of negotiations by Sheikh Hasina, students stuck to their demand – Sheikh Hasina's resignation.

Other Nobel Laureates Who Lead Their Country

- **Lester B Pearson** was the Canadian prime minister from 1963 to 1968 and a leader of the Liberal Party.
 - Despite running a minority government, he introduced a national pension plan, and a family assistance program, broadened old-age security benefits, and laid the groundwork for universal healthcare in Canada.
 - Pearson won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1957, for his role in resolving the Suez Crisis.
- **Lech Walesa** served as Poland's president from 1990-95, the first since 1926 to be democratically elected.
 - An anti-communist dissident, he was a shipyard electrician who founded and led the Solidarity trade union, which in 1989 brought an end to communist rule in Poland.
 - He won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1983 “for non-violent struggle for free trade unions and human rights in Poland”.
- **Suu Kyi** served as the State Counsellor of Myanmar, the de-facto head of the government equivalent to a prime minister, from 2016 to 2021 after leading Myanmar's transition from military rule to partial democracy in the 2010s (progress which has since been reversed).
 - She won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1991 “for her non-violent struggle for democracy and human rights” in Myanmar.
 - Suu Kyi rose to prominence during the uprising of 1988 when she founded the anti-junta National League for Democracy.
- **Nelson Mandela** served as the president of South Africa from 1994 to 1999.
 - He was the first Black president of the country, elected in its first-ever multi-racial elections.
 - He was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1993, jointly with then President Frederik Willem de Klerk, “for their work for the peaceful termination of the apartheid regime, and for laying the foundations for a new democratic South Africa”.
 - Mandela joined the African National Congress in 1943 and subsequently became active in fighting the policy of racial segregation in South Africa, formally introduced by the Nationalist Party in 1958.
 - He was repeatedly arrested for seditious activities and was unsuccessfully prosecuted in the 1956 Treason Trial.
 - He would eventually be arrested and sentenced to life in prison in 1962 for conspiring to overthrow the government.

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- After 27 years in prison, he was released in 1990 and over the next four years negotiated a peaceful end to apartheid with de Klerk.
- **Jose Ramos Horta** has been the president of East Timor since 2022.
 - He previously held the position from 2007 to 2012, and the prime ministership from 2006 to 2007.
 - He won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1996 along with Carlos Filipe Ximenes Belo, for working “towards a just and peaceful solution to the conflict in East Timor”.
 - José Ramos-Horta was one of the leaders of the resistance who went around the world pleading for the cause of East Timorese independence.
 - In 1992 he presented a peace plan which eventually laid the foundation for Indonesian withdrawal from East Timor, and its people's self-determination.
 - In 2002, East Timor, also known as Timor-Leste, became the first new sovereign state of the 21st century.

- Many other leaders have won the Nobel prize before becoming the head of state/government of their country.
- Many others have won after serving their terms (former Israel PM Shimon Peres or former US President Jimmy Carter) or during their terms (former US President Barack Obama or former UK PM Winston Churchill).
- Of the 30 Nobel recipients to serve as a country's head of state/government, 29 won the Nobel Peace Prize with Churchill, who won the Nobel for Literature in 1953, the only exception.





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QUICK FACTS

**CONTEMPORARY EVENTS OF
SIGNIFICANCE FROM INDIA
AND THE WORLD**




1. Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (**MoSPI**), Government of India, released the 25th issue of its publication titled “**Women and Men in India 2023**”. “Women and Men in India 2023” not only highlights the progress made towards gender equality but also identifies the areas where significant gaps remain. By examining various socio-economic indicators, the publication offers some analysis of trends over time, thereby enabling policymakers, researchers, and the general public to make informed decisions and contribute to the development of gender-sensitive policies.
2. The **Ministry of Education** announced the **National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) 2024**. IIT-Madras tops in engineering and overall categories in India and IISc Bengaluru is the top university in the country. In its ninth edition, three new categories have been introduced — open universities, skill universities and state-funded government universities. The AICTE chairperson, Anil Sahasrabudhe, also announced that the Ministry aims to begin 'sustainability rankings' from next year.
3. **Neelakurinji (Strobilanthes kunthiana)**, the purplish flowering shrub, which blooms once in 12 years, has been included on the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) official Red List of Threatened Species. This is the first-ever Global Red List assessment for this flagship species of the montane grasslands of southwest India. The latest global assessment confirms its **threatened status in the Vulnerable (Criteria A2c) category** of the IUCN.
4. SJVN Limited, a Mini Ratna Schedule 'A' CPSU under the Ministry of Power, has successfully commissioned its **90 MW Omkareshwar Floating Solar Project**. The project has been executed by SJVN Green Energy Limited (SGEL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of SJVN. On commissioning of the project, the total installed capacity of SJVN has been increased to 2466.50 MW. Located in the Omkareshwar Floating Solar Park on river Narmada in Khandwa, Madhya Pradesh. It is the **largest floating solar park in India**.
5. The **Madras High Court** recently expanded the scope of treating a deity as a juristic personality in law and held that when an **idol in a temple is treated as a living person**, closing the temple without allowing the customary pujas would amount to the deity's imprisonment. The court observed that no temple could be locked and sealed on the grounds of law and order.
6. The National Council of Educational Research and Training (**NCERT**) has dropped the **Preamble** to the Constitution from several **Class 3 and 6 textbooks** issued in 2024. The NCERT has clarified that the organisation is now focusing on various aspects of the Indian Constitution, including the Preamble, fundamental duties, fundamental rights, and the National Anthem for holistic development as per National Education Policy 2020.
7. **National Handloom Day** is annually observed on **August 7th**. National Handloom Day was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2015 to honour the rich cultural heritage of handloom weavers. This day has been celebrated since 2015 and marks the launch of the **Swadeshi Movement on 7th August 1905**, part of the independence struggle promoting domestic handloom products.
8. Indian Institute of Technology Gandhinagar (IITGN) has set up the **Centre for Narmada River Basin Management (cNARMADA)** at its campus to conduct the Condition Assessment and Management Plan (CAMP) of the Narmada River basin. IITGN has joined hands with the Indian Institute of Technology Indore (IITI) for the assessment undertaken by the Ministry of Jalshakti.
9. With its tiger population plunging in recent years, **Chhattisgarh** cleared a long-pending proposal to notify a new tiger reserve – **the third largest in the country**. The **Guru Ghasidas-Tamor Pingla Tiger Reserve**, which integrates an existing national park with a wildlife sanctuary, is Chhattisgarh's fourth reserve for the big cats. Chhattisgarh's tiger population fell from 46 in 2014 to 17 in 2022, according to a National Tiger Conservation Authority report released in July 2023.
10. The **Indian Army** conducted a strategic military exercise, '**Parvat Prahaar**', in **Ladakh**, focusing on high-altitude warfare and operations. The 'Parvat Prahaar' (Mountain Strike) exercise emphasises mountainous and rugged terrains, such as those found in regions like Eastern Ladakh. It is crucial for maintaining the readiness and effectiveness of the Army in the region, which is close to the India-China border.





11. **Nagaland** became the **first Indian state to adopt the Disaster Risk Transfer Parametric Insurance Solution (DRTPS)** after signing an MoU with SBI General Insurance. This agreement, effective for three years, aims to protect critical infrastructure and reduce economic losses resulting from extreme weather events.
12. The **Indian Army** conducted a **massive rare exercise** named '**Chang Thang**' involving all its arms and services including tanks, artillery and helicopters, in Eastern Ladakh bordering China, for testing and improving its war-fighting capabilities. It involved the use of infantry, mechanised forces, and T-72 tanks, with force multipliers such as artillery guns and Unmanned Aerial Vehicles. The army's aviation assets were used. Parajumping of troops also took place. The air force was also roped in the exercise.
13. **Haryana** Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini announced the **procurement of all crops** in the state at the minimum support price, thus becoming the first in the country to procure all crops at MSP.

 INDIA RANKINGS 2024 National Institutional Ranking Framework 	
Engineering	
Indian Institute of Technology Madras	1
Indian Institute of Technology Delhi	2
Indian Institute of Technology Bombay	3
Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur	4
Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur	5
Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee	6
Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati	7
Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad	8
National Institute of Technology Tiruchirappalli	9
Indian Institute of Technology (Banaras Hindu University) Varanasi	10

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QUICK FACTS

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS



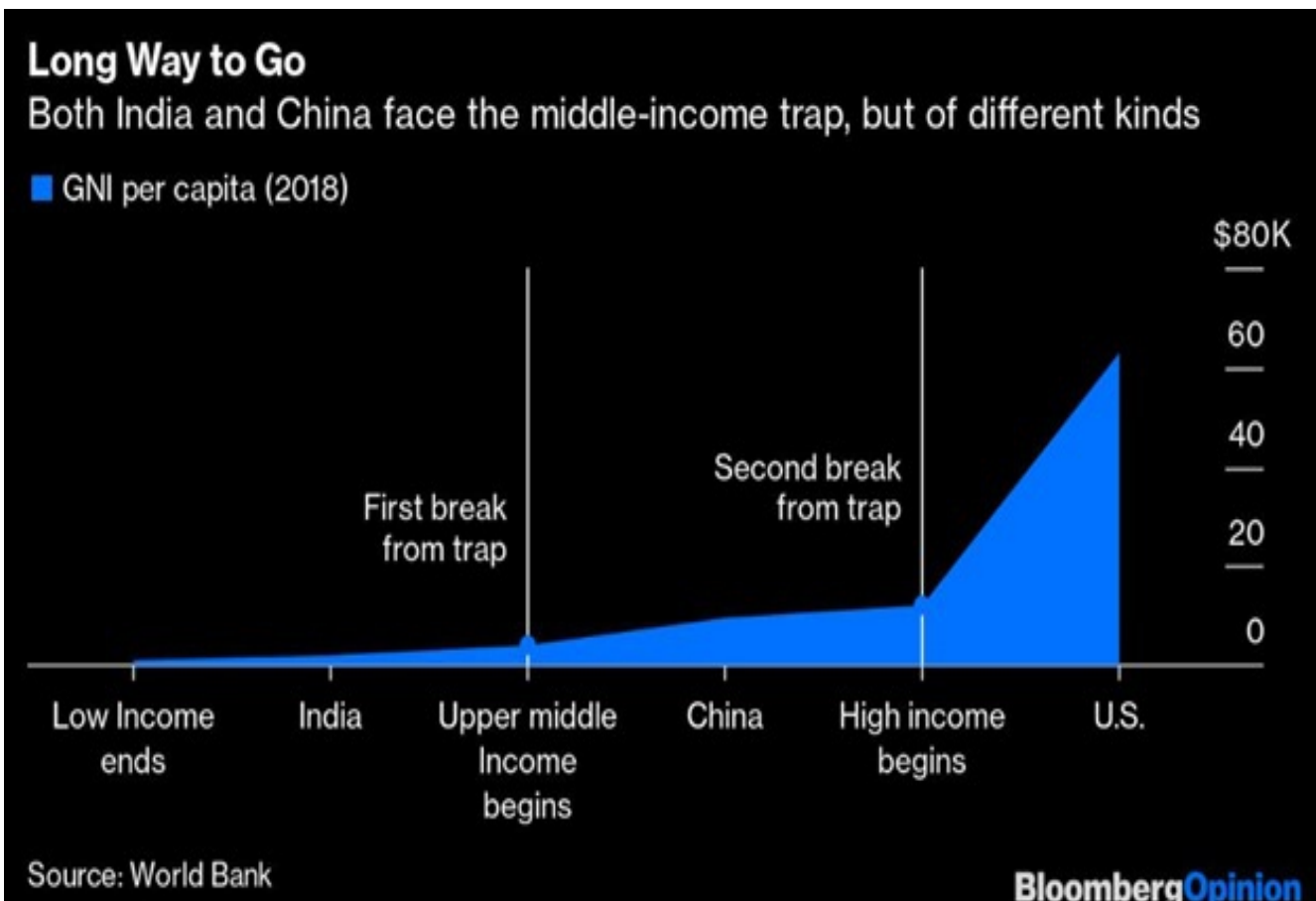
1. Astronauts Sunita Williams and Barry "Butch" Wilmore are staying on the International Space Station (ISS) until February 2025 due to technical issues with the **Boeing Starliner** spacecraft that brought them there in June 2024. Boeing's Starliner spacecraft recently landed uncrewed in a New Mexico desert.
2. **World Organ Donation Day** is observed on **August 13** each year, and this year, the theme of the Day is "Be the Reason for Someone's Smile Today!" The first successful kidney transplant occurred in 1954, when Ronald Lee Herrick donated a kidney to his identical twin brother, a groundbreaking procedure performed by Dr. Joseph Murray. In India, the first successful deceased donor heart transplant took place on 3rd August 1994.
3. **World Biofuel Day**, observed annually on **August 10**, aims to raise awareness about the significance of non-fossil fuels as sustainable alternatives for energy. The day also commemorates the successful operation of an engine on peanut oil by German engineer Sir Rudolf Diesel on 9th August 1893.
4. The **International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples** is observed on **August 9** every year. The theme of 2024 is "**Protecting the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in Voluntary Isolation and Initial Contact.**" It highlights the need for their survival is crucial to the protection of our planet, while also protecting cultural and linguistic diversity. The International Day of Indigenous Peoples was declared by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in 1994, coinciding with the date when the UN Working Group on Indigenous Populations met in 1982 for the first time.
5. More than 100 countries including China, India, Brazil, and South Africa—face serious obstacles that could hinder their efforts to become high-income countries in the next few decades, according to a new World Bank study titled "**World Development Report 2024: The Middle Income Trap**". Drawing on lessons of the past 50 years, the report finds that as no countries grow wealthier, they usually hit a "trap" at about 10% of annual U.S. GDP per person—the equivalent of \$8,000 today. That's in the middle of the range of what the World Bank classifies as "middle-income" countries. Since 1990, only 34 middle-income economies have managed to shift to high-income status—and more than a third of them were either beneficiaries of integration into the European Union, or of previously undiscovered oil.
6. **Hiroshima Day**, observed annually on **August 6**, marks the tragic anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima, Japan, by the United States during World War II in 1945. On August 6, 1945, during World War II, the US dropped an atomic bomb called "Little Boy," on Hiroshima using the B-29 bomber Enola Gay. Approximately 70,000-80,000 people were killed instantly, with many more dying later from injuries and radiation. On **August 9**, 1945, the US dropped a second atomic bomb, "Fat Man" on **Nagasaki**. This led to Japan's surrender and marked the end of World War II.
7. Scientists in **Germany** have identified **plastic-eating fungi** that could offer a glimmer of hope in tackling the problem of millions of tonnes of waste polluting the world's oceans every year. But they warn that their work is likely to be only a small part of solving plastic pollution, and say there is still a need to reduce food packaging and other debris from entering the environment where it can take decades to degrade.
8. **International Youth Day 2024** is observed every year on **August 12th**. The theme of the Day is "**From Clicks to Progress: Youth Digital Pathways for Sustainable Development.**" The idea for International Youth Day was first proposed in 1991 by young people gathered in Vienna, Austria, for the first session of the World Youth Forum. In 1999, the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth adopted a resolution to proclaim August 12th as International Youth Day, which was later endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly on December 17th, 1999.
9. **Paul Kagame** has been sworn in for a **fourth term as Rwanda's president** after winning 99% of the vote in the recent election. Only two candidates were allowed to stand against Mr Kagame in the 15 July election. Kagame is credited with rebuilding a shattered nation after the 1994 genocide, but is also accused of ruling in a climate of fear, and of fomenting instability in the neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo.
10. The Government of **Odisha**, in collaboration with the **United Nations World Food Programme (WFP)**, inaugurated a **24-hour grain ATM, known as 'Annapurti'** in Bhubaneswar. The initiative aims to bolster nutritional security under the National Food Security Act (NFSA), with plans to expand the ATM network across the state, ensuring continuous access to essential food grains for beneficiaries. Under NFSA, the Centre





has made provisions to provide free food grains to 813.5 million beneficiaries. The scheme focuses on the most vulnerable 67 per cent of India's population.

11. The **Ministry of External Affairs** of the Government of India in association with the **Confederation of Indian Industries (CII)** hosted the **1st BIMSTEC Business Summit** in New Delhi. The first edition of the Business Summit aimed to foster greater regional collaboration through robust trade and investment relations among the member countries of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC). India attaches great importance to the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) which links five countries from South Asia (Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, India & Sri Lanka) and two from Southeast Asia (Myanmar & Thailand).
12. **Turkey's** communications authority **blocked access** to the social media platform **Instagram**, the latest instance of a clampdown on websites in the country. The access was blocked in response to Instagram removing posts by Turkish users that expressed condolences over the killing of Hamas' political leader Ismail Haniyeh.
13. **India** hosted the **3rd Voice of Global South Summit (VOGSS)** on 17 August 2024, in virtual format, with the overarching theme, "An Empowered Global South for a Sustainable Future". The Voice of Global South Summit is an extension to the international arena of India's philosophy of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, or "One Earth, One Family, One Future". Global South refers to various countries that are sometimes described as "developing," "less developed" or "underdeveloped." and it's separated from Global North (rich countries) by the Brandt line. India hosted 1st and 2nd VOGSS in January and November of 2023.



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QUICK FACTS

**ARTS & CULTURE AND HISTORICAL
EVENTS OF CONTINUING SIGNIFICANCE**



1. The 12 feet long 8 feet wide national treasure in **Fort St. George Museum**, Chennai is one of the first flags that was hoisted on August 15, 1947. This is **one of the surviving Flags of India** that is on display which was hoisted in 1947. The flag is a testament to the entire struggle that Indians went through to achieve freedom. It is made up of pure silk and measures about 3.50m in length and 2.40m wide. The flag was hoisted on 15th August 1947 at 5.30 A.M in Fort St. George. The Indian Independence Gallery at the Museum also showcases the evolution of the Indian flag and tales behind the hailed Tiranga.
2. On **14 August**, marking the **Partition Horrors Remembrance Day** (Vibhajan Vibhishika Smriti Diwas) Prime Minister paid tributes to those impacted during the Partition of the country. The government declared 14th August as Partition Horrors Remembrance Day (Vibhajan Vibhishika Smriti Diwas) in 2021.
3. India celebrated **Dr. Vikram Sarabhai's 105th birth anniversary** on **12th August**, who pioneered India's space program and founded key institutions across various fields. Known as the father of the Indian space program Vikram Sarabhai is known for the establishment of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). Sarabhai was honoured with the Padma Bhushan in 1966 and the Padma Vibhushan posthumously in 1972. He is credited for putting the first Indian satellite, Aryabhata, in orbit in 1975 from Russia.
4. **President José Ramos-Horta of Timor-Leste** conferred the **"Grand-Collar of the Order of Timor-Leste"**, the country's highest civilian award, upon President Droupadi Murmu. The award is in recognition of her achievements in public service and dedication to education, social welfare and empowerment of women.
5. **President Ratu Wiliame Maivalili Katonivere of Fiji** conferred the **"Companion of the Order of Fiji"** upon President Droupadi Murmu. This is the highest civilian award in Fiji. Prime Minister Narendra Modi was also conferred this highest civilian award in 2023 in recognition of his global leadership. This recognition comes during her historic visit to the island nation, marking the first time an Indian President has travelled to Fiji.
6. **Pingali Venkayya** designed many models of the national flag. In 1921, Mahatma Gandhi approved a design during the Indian National Congress meeting in Vijayawada. The national flag that we see today was based on his design. This version had two stripes (green and red) and Gandhian 'charkha' at the Centre. A white stripe was added on top at Gandhi's suggestion, which became the original Tricolour.



DID YOU KNOW?

The **12 feet long 8 feet wide** national treasure in **Fort St. George Museum**, Chennai is one of the first flags that was hoisted on **15 August, 1947** at 5.30 A.M in Fort St. George.



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TEST ZONE



PASSAGE - 1

August Kranti Day, or Quit India Movement Day, commemorates the historic Quit India Movement, a pivotal moment in India's struggle for independence from British colonial rule, which called for the immediate withdrawal of British forces from India. Led by Mahatma Gandhi, this movement called for India's immediate independence from British rule, aiming to mobilise Indians in a non-violent civil disobedience campaign against British colonialism. This movement drew a significant turning point in India's struggle for independence, galvanising millions of Indians from all walks of life to demand freedom and self-governance.

The Quit India Movement holds immense significance in the history of India's struggle for independence and remains a defining moment in the country's quest for freedom from British colonial rule. Unlike previous movements that

primarily involved political elites, this movement mobilised millions of ordinary Indians from all walks of life—students, farmers, workers, and women—and demonstrated the unity and determination of the Indian people in their collective aspiration for self-rule and sovereignty.

Internationally, the Quit India Movement drew attention to India's struggle for independence and garnered support from various quarters, including sympathetic voices within the British public and pressure from Allied powers during World War II.

[Extracted, with edits and revisions, from: "August Kranti Day 2024: All you need to know—date, history behind Quit India Movement, significance and more", The Indian Express]

Q.1 Where did the Indian National Congress ratify the 'Quit India Resolution'?

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| A Wardha | C Bombay |
| B Lucknow | D Lahore |

Q.2 In which year was the 'Quit India Movement' started?

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| A August 1942 | C September 1942 |
| B July 1942 | D October 1942 |

Q.3 The 'Quit India Movement' was launched in response to the:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| A Cabinet Mission Plan, 1942 | C Hartog Commission, 1942 |
| B Wavell Plan, 1942 | D Cripps Mission, 1942 |

Q.4 On _____, India celebrated the 82nd anniversary of the Quit India Movement also known as August Kranti.

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| A 7th Aug 2024 | C 9th Aug 2024 |
| B 8th Aug 2024 | D 10th Aug 2024 |

Q.5 What is the theme of the 78th Indian Independence Day 2024?

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| A Nation First, Always First | C Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav |
| B Viksit Bharat | D One Country, One People |

Q.1 (C) Q.2 (A) Q.3 (D) Q.4 (B) Q.5 (B)
Answers

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PASSAGE - 2

The curtains have drawn on the Paris Olympics, and for India, it was a campaign of mixed fortunes. The nation, which sent one of its largest-ever contingent of 117 athletes, ended the Games with a total of six medals—one silver and five bronze. This tally falls just short of India's best-ever haul of seven medals from the Tokyo Games, and there was notable disappointment as the country returned home without a gold medal. India entered the Paris Olympics with high hopes, aiming for a double-digit medal tally.

This ambition was fueled by the strong performances of Indian athletes on the global stage over the past few years. As the Games commenced, Indian fans were optimistic, with many of the country's athletes seen as serious medal contenders.

The standout performer for India was javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra, who secured a silver medal in his event. While Chopra's

silver was a highlight, the rest of India's medal tally was comprised of bronze medals. Manu Bhaker, the pistol shooter, emerged as the most successful Indian athlete at these Games, winning two bronze medals. Bhaker's performance was historic; she became the first Indian to win multiple medals in a single edition of the Olympics post-independence. Other notable medalists included the Indian men's hockey team, which secured a bronze medal, continuing their storied tradition of Olympic success. The hockey team's performance was marked by intense matches and strong team cohesion, securing their place on the podium in consecutive Games.

[Extracted, with edits and revisions, from: "India at Paris Olympics: Six medals, six near misses and a big heartbreak", The Times of India]

Q.1 _____ was the first individual athlete from independent India to get on the Olympic medal winners list.

A Leander Paes

C KD Jadhav

B Karnam Malleswari

D Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore

Q.2 India bagged 6 medals at the Paris 2024 Olympics, recording its joint-second-best performance in a single edition. In which edition did India secure its second-best performance?

A 2008 Beijing Olympics

C 2016 Rio Olympics

B 2012 London Olympics

D 2020 Tokyo Olympics

Q.3 Who among the following is a two-time-only individual Indian Olympian?

A Sushil Kumar

C Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore

B Abhinav Bindra

D Vijender Singh

Q.4 Manu Bhaker also bagged a bronze medal in the mixed team 10m air pistol event at the 2024 Paris Olympics with _____.

A Swapnil Kusale

C Sandeep Singh

B Arjun Babuta

D Sarabjot Singh

Q.5 The Indian men's hockey team won the bronze medal after defeating Spain 2-1 at the 2024 Paris Olympics. This bronze medal marks India's _____ Olympic medal in hockey.

A 12th

C 14th

B 13th

D 15th

Q.1 (C) Q.2 (B) Q.3 (A) Q.4 (D) Q.5 (B)

Answers

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PASSAGE - 3

After a busy 2023, things have been quiet at Sriharikota, India's spaceport. But silence at the spaceport does not imply that India's space programme itself has been dormant. A lot has been happening since the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully landed the lander of its Chandrayaan 3 mission, Vikram, on the surface of the moon. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has declared this date, [1], India's National Space Day.

In December 2023, ISRO Chairman S. Somanath announced a 25-year roadmap, until 2047, for Gaganyaan. It intersects with the lunar exploration roadmap in the form of an Indian landing on the Moon by [2].

Mr. Somanath also shared a lunar exploration roadmap that includes — apart from an Indian on the moon — a lunar sample-return mission, a long-duration mission on the lunar

surface, docking with NASA's Lunar Gateway (under the Artemis programme), building habitats on the lunar surface. Since India aspires to have a full-fledged lunar programme, it requires a new launch vehicle that can deliver heavier payloads per launch than its PSLV or GSLV rockets. This is set to be ISRO's Next Generation Launch Vehicle (NGLV). The organisation has set up a team led by Project Director S. Sivakumar, which submitted a project report to the Union Cabinet in February with a specific request for funding and details of the NGLV, including manufacturing requirements. [Extracted, with edits and revisions, from: "Since Chandrayaan-3, what has India's space programme been up to? | Explained", The Hindu]

Q.1 Which date has been replaced with '[1]' in the passage above?

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| A September 23 | C October 23 |
| B July 23 | D August 23 |

Q.2 Which year has been replaced with '[2]' in the passage above

- | | |
|---------------|---------------|
| A 2040 | C 2047 |
| B 2045 | D 2037 |

Q.3 India is also planning to build an Indian space station called the 'Bharatiya Antariksh Station' (BAS) by _____.

- | | |
|---------------|---------------|
| A 2028 | C 2032 |
| B 2030 | D 2035 |

Q.4 The Indian Space Research Organisation picked _____ as its astronaut-designate for the Indo-US mission to the International Space Station (ISS).

- | | |
|------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| A Group Captain Prashanth Nair | C Group Captain Ajit Krishnan |
| B Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla | D Group Captain Angad Pratap |

Q.5 On May 1, 2024, ISRO transferred all commercial activities related to Indian Remote Sensing satellite data and products to the _____.

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| A IN-SPACe | C NSIL |
| B Agnikul Cosmos | D Skyroot Aerospace |

Q.1 (D) Q.2 (A) Q.3 (D) Q.4 (B) Q.5 (C)

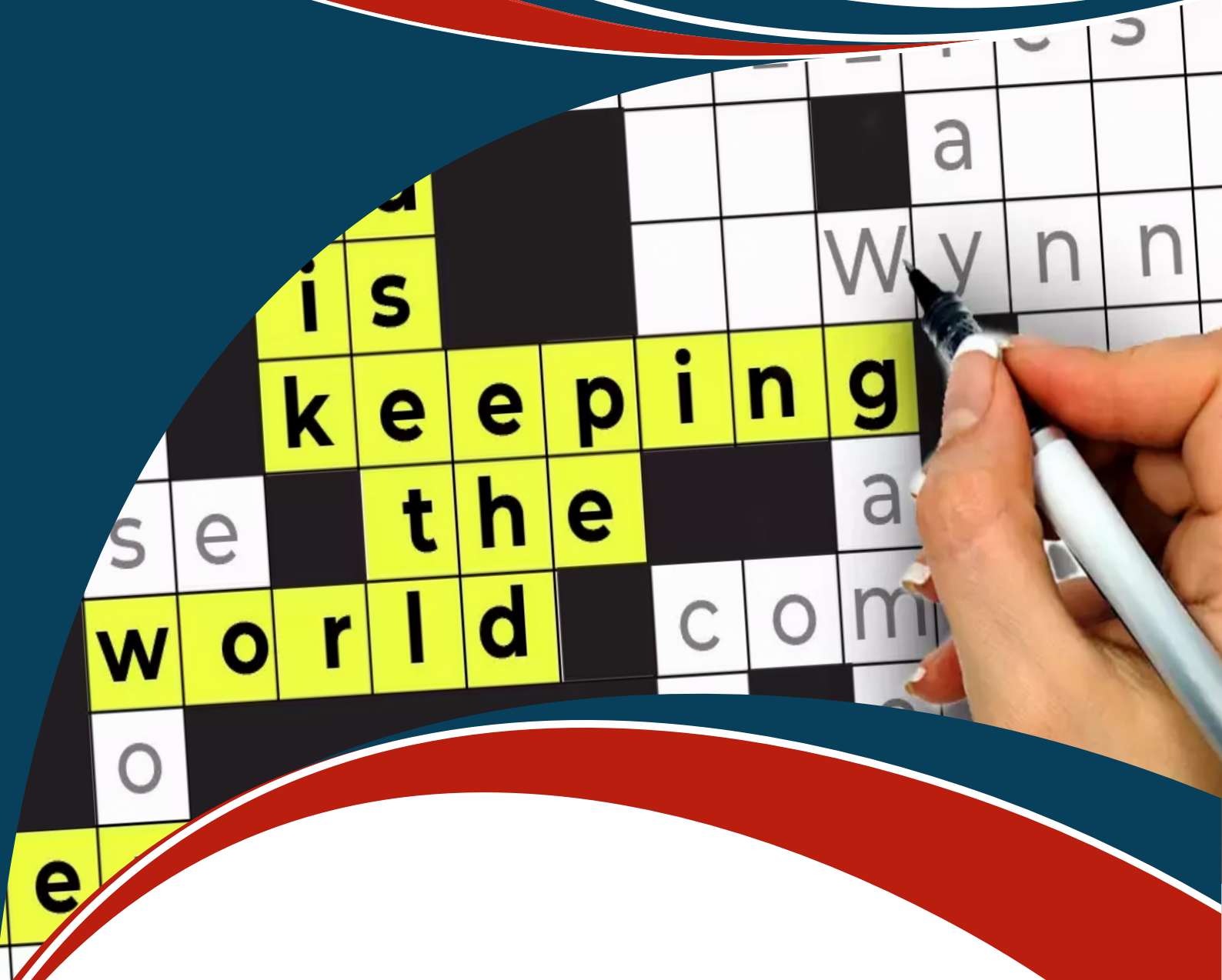
Answers

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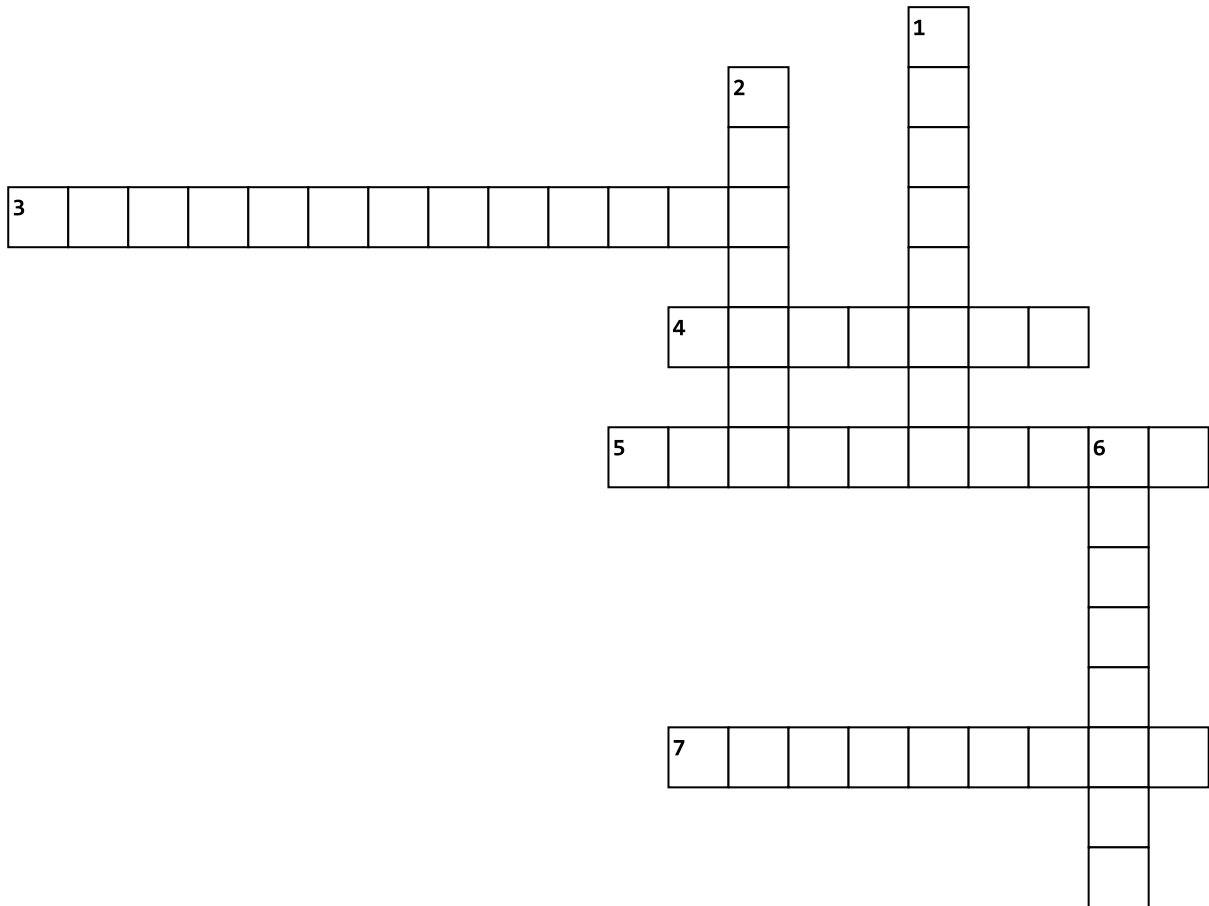
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CROSSWORD CORNER



CROSSWORD - 1



Across

3. Indian Army conducted a strategic military exercise in Ladakh
4. National Handloom Day
5. Indian Army conducted a massive rare exercise in Eastern Ladakh
7. Tops in engineering and overall categories in NIRF 2024

Down

1. World Organ Donation Day
2. Became the first state in India to procure all crops at MSP
6. Became the first Indian state to adopt the DRTPS

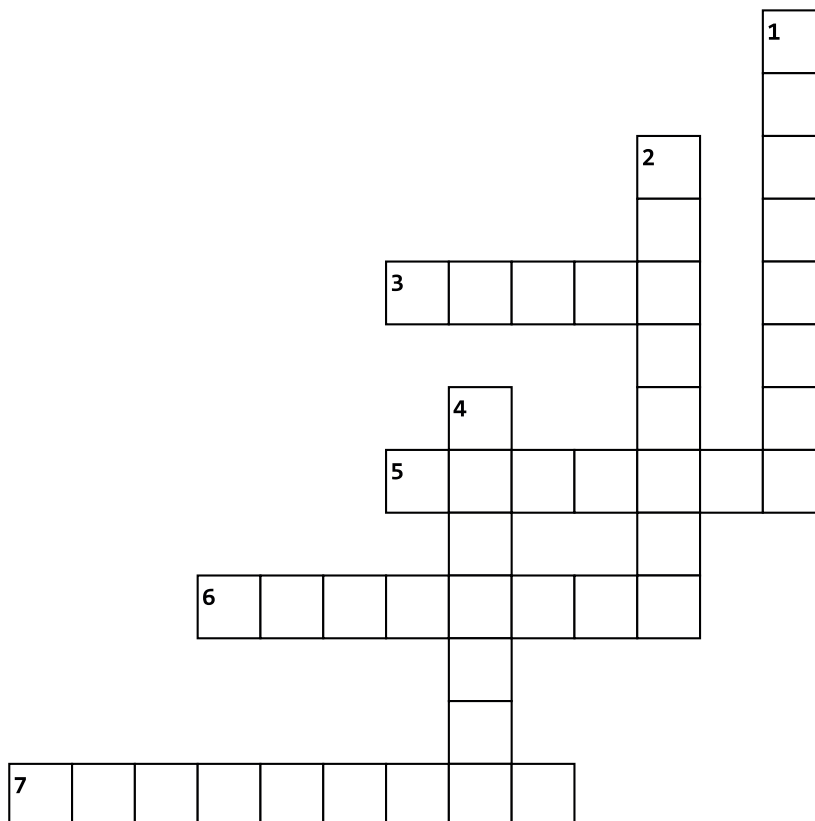
Answers

- | | | | |
|---------------|---|------------|---|
| 13 August | 1 | 7 August | 4 |
| ParvatPrahara | 3 | 7 August | 4 |
| Haryana | 2 | IIT Madras | 7 |
| Nagaland | 6 | ChangThang | 5 |





CROSSWORD - 2



Across

3. Country hosted the 3rd Voice of Global South Summit
5. Hiroshima Day
6. World Biofuel Day
7. 24-hour grain ATM launched by Odisha

Down

1. Partition Horrors Remembrance Day
2. International Youth Day 2024
4. International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples

Answers

7	Annapurthi	4	9 August
6	10 August	3	India
5	6 August	2	12 August
		1	14 August

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