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Important Days



➤ **When is International Widow's Day observed annually?**

- A) 21 June
- B) 22 June
- C) 23 June
- D) 24 June
- E) 25 June

Answer
C) 23 June



Important Days



Event and Location:

- **Event:** International Widow's Day
- **Date:** 23 June annually



Important Days



History:

- Established by the United Nations in 2011
- Recognized to raise awareness about the challenges faced by widows globally
- Emerged from the efforts of organizations like the Loomba Foundation, led by Raj Loomba



Important Days



Significance:

- Highlights the social, economic, and legal issues faced by widows, particularly in developing countries
- Aims to promote gender equality and empower widows by advocating for their rights
- Provides a platform to generate public awareness, mobilize resources, and advocate for policy changes and programs that improve the lives of widows
- Aims to challenge stereotypes and promote inclusion and equity for widows



Important Days



Celebration:

- Various organizations, governments, activists, and communities use the day to advocate for policy changes and social programs
- Events, conferences, and campaigns are organized to raise awareness about widows' rights and promote social inclusion
- Awareness campaigns and educational initiatives aim to promote greater understanding and compassion for widows



Important Days



Important Terms Explained:

- **International Widow's Day:** A United Nations-recognized day dedicated to raising awareness about the plight of widows and advocating for their rights and well-being.
- **Loomba Foundation:** An organization led by Raj Loomba that played a key role in establishing International Widow's Day to highlight the challenges faced by widows.



Important Days



Tabular Summary:

Key Detail	Description
Event	International Widow's Day
Date	23 June annually
Established By	United Nations
Established In	2011
Significance	Raise awareness about the challenges faced by widows and advocate for their rights and well-being
Primary Activities	Advocacy, events, campaigns, policy changes, educational initiatives
Key Organizations Involved	United Nations, Lomba Foundation



Important Days



➤ **When is United Nations Public Service Day celebrated annually?**

- A) 21 June
- B) 22 June
- C) 23 June
- D) 24 June
- E) 25 June

Answer
C) 23 June



Important Days



Event and Location:

- **Event:** United Nations Public Service Day
- **Date:** 23 June annually
- **Theme for 2024:** 'Fostering Innovation amid Global Challenges: a Public Sector Perspective'



Important Days



History:

- Designated by the United Nations General Assembly on December 20, 2002, through resolution A/RES/57/277
- Celebrated to honor the contributions of public servants globally



Important Days



Significance:

- Recognizes the dedication and hard work of individuals in the public sector
- Highlights the core values of public service: integrity, accountability, transparency, and respect for diversity
- Inspires individuals, especially the youth, to consider careers in public service



Important Days



Theme for 2024:

- **Theme:** 'Fostering Innovation amid Global Challenges: a Public Sector Perspective'
- Focuses on the role of public sector innovation in addressing global challenges and driving meaningful change



Important Days



Important Terms Explained:

- **United Nations Public Service Day:** An annual celebration on June 23rd to honor public servants and highlight the importance of public service in community growth and well-being.
- **United Nations Public Service Awards:** Awards established by the United Nations Economic and Social Council to recognize outstanding contributions in enhancing the role and visibility of public service.



Important Days



Tabular Summary:

Key Detail	Description
Event	United Nations Public Service Day
Date	23 June annually
Established By	United Nations General Assembly
Established In	2002
Theme for 2024	'Fostering Innovation amid Global Challenges: a Public Sector Perspective'
Significance	Honors public servants, promotes public service values, and inspires future public sector careers
Primary Activities	Recognition of public servants, public service awards, and celebration of public service achievements
Key Organizations Involved	United Nations General Assembly, United Nations Economic and Social Council



➤ **By what percentage did funds held by Indian individuals and firms in Swiss banks decline in 2023?**

- A) 50%
- B) 60%
- C) 70%
- D) 80%
- E) 90%

Answer
C) 70%



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Decline in funds held by Indian individuals and firms in Swiss banks
- **Date:** 2023



Details:

- **Percentage Decline:** 70%
- **Amount in 2023:** 1.04 billion Swiss Francs (approximately Rs 9,771 crore)
- **Previous Year Amount:** CHF 3.83 billion in 2021 (14-year high)
- **Decline Cause:** Sharp decrease in funds through bonds, securities, and other financial instruments, as well as customer deposit accounts and other bank branches in India.



Key Points:

- **Total Liabilities in 2023:** CHF 1,039.8 million
 - **Customer Deposits:** CHF 310 million (down from CHF 394 million in 2022)
 - **Other Banks:** CHF 427 million (down from CHF 1,110 million)
 - **Fiduciaries or Trusts:** CHF 10 million (down from CHF 24 million)
 - **Other Financial Instruments:** CHF 302 million (down from CHF 1,896 million)
- **Historical Peak:** Nearly 6.5 billion Swiss Francs in 2006
- **BIS Statistics for 2023:** Nearly 25% decline to USD 70.6 million (Rs 663 crore)
- **Support from Swiss Authorities:** Assets held by Indian residents in Switzerland should not be considered 'black money'



Important Terms Explained:

- **Swiss National Bank (SNB):** The central bank of Switzerland that publishes annual data on funds held in Swiss banks.
- **Bank for International Settlements (BIS):** An international financial institution that compiles banking statistics, considered a reliable measure of deposits by Indian individuals in Swiss banks.



Tabular Summary:

Key Detail	Description
Event	Decline in funds held by Indian individuals and firms in Swiss banks
Percentage Decline	70%
Amount in 2023	1.04 billion Swiss Francs (approximately Rs 9,771 crore)
Previous Year Amount	CHF 3.83 billion in 2021 (14-year high)
Decline Cause	Decrease in bonds, securities, customer deposit accounts, and other financial instruments
Total Liabilities in 2023	CHF 1,039.8 million
BIS Statistics for 2023	Nearly 25% decline to USD 70.6 million (Rs 663 crore)
Support from Swiss Authorities	Assets held by Indian residents in Switzerland should not be considered 'black money'



APPOINTMENTS



➤ **Who has been appointed as the pro-tem Speaker of the 18th Lok Sabha?**

- A) Virendra Kumar
- B) Kiren Rijiju
- C) Bhartruhari Mahtab
- D) K. Suresh
- E) Suresh Kodikunnil



Answer

C) Bhartruhari Mahtab



APPOINTMENTS



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Appointment of the pro-tem Speaker of the 18th Lok Sabha
- **Date:** Days before the first session of the 18th Lok Sabha



APPOINTMENTS



Details:

- **Appointed Pro-tem Speaker:** Bhartruhari Mahtab
- **Appointed By:** President Droupadi Murmu under Article 95(1) of the Constitution
- **Assisting MPs:** Suresh Kodikunnil, Thalikkottai Rajuthevar Baalu, Radha Mohan Singh, Faggan Singh Kulaste, and Sudip Bandyopadhyay
- **Political Background:** Bhartruhari Mahtab recently switched from Biju Janata Dal (BJD) to Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and has been elected seven times from Cuttack (Odisha)
- **Controversy:** Congress claimed the appointment flouted the convention of appointing the senior-most MP, who is Kodikunnil Suresh (INC), now serving his eighth term.



APPOINTMENTS



Key Points:

- **Role of Pro-tem Speaker:** Administering oaths to new MPs until the election of the Speaker.
- **Constitutional Basis:** Article 95(1) of the Constitution.
- **Political Reaction:** Congress criticized the appointment, arguing it violated the convention of appointing the senior-most MP.



APPOINTMENTS



Important Terms Explained:

- **Pro-tem Speaker:** A temporary speaker appointed to perform duties such as administering oaths to new MPs until the election of a regular Speaker.
- **Article 95(1) of the Constitution:** Provides for the appointment of a member to perform the duties of the Speaker in the Lok Sabha until a Speaker is elected.



APPOINTMENTS



Tabular Summary:

Key Detail	Description
Event	Appointment of the pro-tem Speaker of the 18th Lok Sabha
Appointed Pro-tem Speaker	Bhartruhari Mahtab
Appointed By	President Droupadi Murmu under Article 95(1) of the Constitution
Assisting MPs	Suresh Kodikunnil, Thalikkottai Rajuthevar Baalu, Radha Mohan Singh, Faggan Singh Kulaste, Sudip Bandyopadhyay
Political Background	Recently switched from BJD to BJP; elected seven times from Cuttack (Odisha)
Controversy	Congress claimed appointment violated convention of appointing senior-most MP, Kodikunnil Suresh
Role of Pro-tem Speaker	Administering oaths to new MPs until election of regular Speaker
Constitutional Basis	Article 95(1) of the Constitution



APPOINTMENTS



➤ **What position did Manoj Jain assume at Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)?**

- A) Chief Financial Officer (CFO)
- B) Chief Operating Officer (COO)
- C) Chairman and Managing Director (CMD)
- D) Director of Marketing
- E) Director of Sales



Answer

C) Chairman and Managing Director (CMD)



APPOINTMENTS



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Manoj Jain assumes charge as Chairman and Managing Director of BEL



APPOINTMENTS



Details:

- **Previous Roles:**
 - Director (R&D) since September 2022
 - Director (Bangalore complex) from August 2023
 - Director (HR) from November 2022 to May 2023
- **Previous Position:** Head of BEL's electronic warfare & avionics strategic business unit at the Bangalore Complex
- **Education:** Gold medalist in electronics engineering from REC Jaipur (MNIT)
- **Joining Year:** 1991 as a probationary engineer



APPOINTMENTS



Key Points:

- **Position Assumed:** Chairman and Managing Director (CMD)
- **Company:** Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)
- **Experience:** Over three decades with BEL
- **Previous Roles:** Held multiple key roles including Director (R&D), Director (Bangalore complex), and Director (HR)



APPOINTMENTS



Important Terms Explained:

- **BEL (Bharat Electronics Limited):** A leading defence public sector undertaking in India, specializing in electronics for the Indian Armed Forces.
- **CMD (Chairman and Managing Director):** The top executive responsible for the overall management and operations of the company.



APPOINTMENTS



Tabular Summary:

Key Detail	Description
Event	Manoj Jain assumes charge as CMD of BEL
Previous Roles	Director (R&D), Director (Bangalore complex), Director (HR)
Previous Position	Head of electronic warfare & avionics strategic business unit
Education	Gold medalist in electronics engineering from REC Jaipur (MNIT)
Joining Year	1991 as a probationary engineer



APPOINTMENTS



➤ **Who recently assumed charge as the Commandant of the Military Institute of Technology (MILIT), Pune?**

- A) Rear Adm Manoj Jain
- B) Rear Adm Nelson D'Souza
- C) Rear Adm Anil Chauhan
- D) Rear Adm Nelson Pinto
- E) Rear Adm Suresh Bhat

Answer

B) Rear Adm Nelson D'Souza



APPOINTMENTS



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Rear Admiral Nelson D'Souza assumes charge as Commandant of MILIT
- **Date:** June 21



APPOINTMENTS



Details:

- **Previous Roles:**
 - Numerous key positions within the Indian Navy since his commissioning in March 1991
 - Alumni of Defence Services Staff College, Wellington, and Naval War College, Goa
- **New Role:** Commandant of Military Institute of Technology (MILIT), Pune



APPOINTMENTS



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Focus Areas:**
 - Strengthening MILIT's academic programs
 - Promoting Jointness and Integration in training among tri-services
 - Enhancing collaboration with the industry and academia in niche technologies



APPOINTMENTS



Institution Information:

- **MILIT:**
 - One of India's premier tri-services technical training institutes
 - Focuses on nurturing highly skilled techno-warrior officers for future-ready armed forces



APPOINTMENTS



Key Points:

- **Position Assumed:** Commandant
- **Institution:** Military Institute of Technology (MILIT), Pune
- **Experience:** Various key positions in the Indian Navy since March 1991
- **Education:** Alumnus of Defence Services Staff College, Wellington, and Naval War College, Goa



APPOINTMENTS



Important Terms Explained:

- **MILIT (Military Institute of Technology):** A premier institute in India providing technical training to officers of the Indian Armed Forces.
- **Commandant:** The head or commanding officer of a military training institute or academy.



APPOINTMENTS



Tabular Summary:

Key Detail	Description
Event	Rear Adm Nelson D'Souza assumes charge as Commandant of MILIT
Previous Roles	Key positions in the Indian Navy, Alumni of Defence Services Staff College and Naval War College
Institution	Military Institute of Technology (MILIT), Pune
Focus Areas	Strengthening academic programs, promoting Jointness and Integration, enhancing collaboration in niche technologies
Experience	Commissioned in March 1991, served in various key positions within the Indian Navy



APPOINTMENTS



➤ **What is the primary objective of the High-Level Committee of Experts constituted by the Ministry of Education?**

- A) To develop new educational curricula
- B) To ensure transparent, smooth, and fair conduct of examinations
- C) To improve teacher training programs
- D) To establish new educational institutions
- E) To promote international collaborations in education



Answer

B) To ensure transparent, smooth, and fair conduct of examinations



APPOINTMENTS



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Constitution of a High-Level Committee of Experts
- **Date:** June 22, 2024



APPOINTMENTS



Details:

- **Purpose:** The Ministry of Education constituted the committee to ensure transparent, smooth, and fair conduct of examinations through the National Testing Agency (NTA).
- **Mandate:** The committee is tasked with making recommendations on:
 - Reforming the mechanism of the examination process
 - Improving data security protocols
 - Structuring and functioning of the National Testing Agency (NTA)



APPOINTMENTS



Committee Members:

1. **Chairman: Dr. K. Radhakrishnan - Former Chairman, ISRO and Chairman BoG, IIT Kanpur**
2. **Members:**
 1. Dr. Randeep Guleria - Former Director, AIIMS Delhi
 2. Prof. B J Rao - Vice Chancellor, Central University of Hyderabad
 3. Prof. Ramamurthy K - Professor Emeritus, Department of Civil Engineering, IIT Madras
 4. Shri Pankaj Bansal - Co-Founder, People Strong and Board Member- Karmayogi Bharat
 5. Prof. Aditya Mittal - Dean Student Affairs, IIT Delhi
 6. Shri Govind Jaiswal - Joint Secretary, Ministry of Education, Govt. of India (Member Secretary)



APPOINTMENTS



Terms of Reference:

- **Reform in Examination Process:**
 - Analyze and suggest improvements for the efficiency of the examination system
 - Review and strengthen Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and protocols of NTA
- **Improvement in Data Security Protocols:**
 - Evaluate and recommend enhancements for existing data security processes of NTA
 - Examine and suggest improvements in security protocols related to paper-setting and other examination processes



APPOINTMENTS



Terms of Reference:

- **Structure and Functioning of NTA:**
 - Recommend changes to the organizational structure and functioning of NTA
 - Assess and enhance the Grievance Redressal Mechanism of NTA
- **Reporting:** The committee is required to submit its report to the Ministry within two months from the date of issue of the order.



APPOINTMENTS



Important Terms Explained:

- **National Testing Agency (NTA):** An autonomous body responsible for conducting entrance examinations for higher educational institutions in India.
- **Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs):** Detailed, written instructions to achieve uniformity in the performance of specific functions.
- **Data Security Protocols:** Measures and procedures to protect data from unauthorized access, corruption, or theft.



APPOINTMENTS



Important Terms Explained:

- **Ministry of Education:**
 - **Founded:** 1947 (formerly Ministry of Human Resource Development)
 - **Minister:** Dharmendra Pradhan
 - **Headquarters:** Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi, India
- **National Testing Agency (NTA):**
 - **Founded:** 2017
 - **Chairman:** Vineet Joshi
 - **Headquarters:** Noida, Uttar Pradesh, India
- **Dr. K. Radhakrishnan:**
 - **Notable Position:** Former Chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)
- **Dr. Randeep Guleria:**
 - **Notable Position:** Former Director of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Delhi



APPOINTMENTS



Tabular Summary:

Key Detail	Description
Event	Constitution of High-Level Committee of Experts
Purpose	Ensure transparent, smooth, and fair conduct of examinations
Mandate	Reform examination process, improve data security protocols, structure and function of NTA
Chairman	Dr. K. Radhakrishnan
Members	Dr. Randeep Guleria, Prof. B J Rao, Prof. Ramamurthy K, Shri Pankaj Bansal, Prof. Aditya Mittal, Shri Govind Jaiswal
Reporting Time	Two months
NTA Founded	2017
NTA Chairman	Vineet Joshi
Ministry of Education Founded	1947
Minister of Education	Dharmendra Pradhan
Headquarters of Ministry of Education	Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi, India



➤ **What is the primary purpose of the multi-purpose vessels being constructed by GRSE in collaboration with the German firm?**

- A) Transporting crude oil
- B) Carrying large windmill blades and containers
- C) Conducting naval patrol operations
- D) Fishing and oceanographic research
- E) Hosting luxury cruises



Answer

B) Carrying large windmill blades and containers



Event and Location:

- **Event:** GRSE signs a \$45 million agreement with a German firm for four multi-purpose vessels
- **Date:** June 22, 2024



Details:

- **Purpose:** The primary purpose of these multi-purpose vessels is to carry large windmill blades and containers, ensuring they can handle bulk, general, and project cargoes effectively.



Key Highlights:

- **Agreement and Execution:**
 - **Agreement:** GRSE Ltd. signed an agreement with Carsten Rehder Schiffsmakler and Reederei GmbH & Co. KG from Germany.
 - **Value:** The contract is valued at approximately \$45 million.
 - **Timeline:** The vessels will be constructed within 33 months, with an option for four additional ships.
- **Specifications:**
 - **Dimensions:** The vessels will be 120 meters long and 17 meters wide, with a maximum draft of 6.75 meters.
 - **Capacity:** Each vessel will have a carrying capacity of 7,500 metric tonnes.
 - **Design:** Designed specifically to carry multiple large windmill blades on deck and containers on hatch covers.



Key Highlights:

- **Significance and Export Push:**
 - **Export Push:** The agreement aligns with the government's push for exporting defence products, which reached a record ₹21,000 crore.
 - **Past Exports:** GRSE has previously exported offshore patrol vessels and fast patrol vessels to Mauritius and Seychelles, respectively.
- **Contract Signing:**
 - **Signatories:** Shantanu Bose, Director (Shipbuilding) of GRSE, and Carsten Thomas Rehder, Managing Director of the German firm, signed the contract.
 - **Witnesses:** Commodore PR Hari, Chairman & Managing Director of GRSE, and other colleagues attended the signing ceremony.



Key Highlights:

- **Future Projects:**
 - **Current Work:** GRSE is currently working on six patrol boats and a TSH dredger for Bangladesh.
 - **Notable Deliveries:** In 2023, GRSE delivered the MV Ma Lisha, a passenger-cum-cargo ferry, to Guyana.



Important Terms Explained:

- **GRSE (Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Ltd.):**
 - A premier shipbuilding company under the Ministry of Defence, India. It specializes in the construction of warships and other naval vessels.
- **Multi-Purpose Vessel:**
 - A type of ship designed to transport a wide range of cargoes, including bulk, general, and project cargoes, making it versatile for various shipping needs.



Static GK Information:

- **Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Ltd. (GRSE):**
 - **Founded:** 1884
 - **Headquarters:** Kolkata, India
 - **Chairman & Managing Director:** Commodore PR Hari (Retd.)
 - **Key Achievements:** Built over 790 platforms, including 109 warships, the highest by any Indian shipyard.
- **Carsten Rehder Schiffsmakler and Reederei GmbH & Co. KG:**
 - **Location:** Hamburg, Germany
 - **Industry:** Shipping and maritime logistics



INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS



Tabular Summary:

Key Detail	Description
Event	GRSE signs \$45 million agreement with German firm
Date	June 22, 2024
Primary Purpose	Carrying large windmill blades and containers
Agreement Value	\$45 million
Timeline	33 months
Vessel Specifications	120m long, 17m wide, 6.75m draft, 7,500 metric tonnes capacity
Signatories	Shantanu Bose (GRSE), Carsten Thomas Rehder (German firm)
Significance	Supports government's push for defence exports
Current Projects	Six patrol boats and TSH dredger for Bangladesh
Past Notable Deliveries	Offshore patrol vessel to Mauritius, fast patrol vessel to Seychelles, MV Ma Lisha to Guyana
Static GK Information - GRSE	Founded: 1884; Headquarters: Kolkata, India; CMD: Commodore PR Hari (Retd.); 790 platforms built so far
Static GK Information - German Firm	Location: Hamburg, Germany; Industry: Shipping and maritime logistics



➤ **What major decision was announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman during the 53rd GST Council meeting?**

- A) Reduction of GST on all goods to 12%
- B) Pan-India rollout of biometric-based Aadhaar authentication
- C) Introduction of new GST rates on all products
- D) Elimination of GST on all services
- E) Increase in GST rates for luxury goods



Answer

B) Pan-India rollout of biometric-based Aadhaar authentication



NATIONAL AFFAIRS



Event and Location:

- **Event:** 53rd GST Council Meeting
- **Date:** June 21, 2024



Details:

- **Announcement:** Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced the pan-India rollout of biometric-based Aadhaar authentication.
- **Purpose:** This initiative aims to combat fraudulent input tax credit claims made through fake invoices.
- **Pilot Project:** The pilot was conducted in Gujarat and Puducherry, yielding positive results.
- **Implementation:** The rollout will be in a phased manner across India.



Additional Decisions Taken:

- **GST on Solar Cookers:** 12% GST will be prescribed on all solar cookers, whether they have a single or dual energy source.
- **GST Exemptions for Indian Railways:**
 - Services provided by Indian Railways to the common man, such as sale of platform tickets, retiring rooms, waiting rooms, cloakroom services, and battery-operated car services, are exempted from GST.
 - Intra-railway supplies are also exempted.



Additional Decisions Taken:

- **Accommodation Services:** Exempting accommodation services with a value of supply up to ₹20,000 per person per month for a minimum continuous period of 90 days.
- **GST on Milk Cans:** A uniform GST rate of 12% will be prescribed on all milk cans, regardless of the material (steel, iron, aluminum).
- **GST on Carton Boxes:** A uniform GST rate of 12% will be prescribed on all carton boxes and cases made of both corrugated and non-corrugated paper or paperboard.



Additional Decisions Taken:

- **Significance:** These decisions aim to benefit traders, MSMEs, and taxpayers by facilitating trade, easing the compliance burden, and providing relief in terms of compliance.



Important Terms Explained:

- **Biometric-based Aadhaar Authentication:** A process that uses biometric data (fingerprints, iris scans) to verify the identity of individuals through their Aadhaar number, ensuring secure and accurate identification.
- **Input Tax Credit (ITC):** A mechanism under GST that allows businesses to claim credit for the tax paid on inputs used in the production or supply of goods and services.



Static GK Information:

- **Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council:**
 - **Founded:** 2016
 - **Chairperson:** Union Finance Minister (Nirmala Sitharaman)
 - **Headquarters:** New Delhi, India
- **Aadhaar:**
 - **Launched:** 2009
 - **Managed by:** Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)
 - **Purpose:** To provide a unique identity number to residents of India
- **Nirmala Sitharaman:**
 - **Position:** Union Finance Minister of India
 - **Assumed Office:** May 2019



NATIONAL AFFAIRS



Tabular Summary:

Key Detail	Description
Event	53 rd GST Council Meeting
Date	June 21, 2024
Major Announcement	Pan-India rollout of biometric-based Aadhaar authentication
Purpose	Combat fraudulent input tax credit claims through fake invoices
Pilot Project Locations	Gujarat and Puducherry
Other Key Decisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- 12% GST on solar cookers- GST exemptions for Indian Railways services- Accommodation services exemption- Uniform GST rate on milk cans and carton boxes
Finance Minister	Nirmala Sitharaman
Significance of Decisions	Benefit traders, MSMEs, and taxpayers by easing compliance and facilitating trade



➤ Which key service provided by the Indian Railways has been exempted from GST as per the recommendations made during the 53rd GST Council meeting?

- A) Freight transportation
- B) Platform ticket sale
- C) Luxury train services
- D) Catering services
- E) Ticket booking

Answer

B) Platform ticket sale



NATIONAL AFFAIRS



Event and Location:

- **Event:** 53rd GST Council Meeting
- **Date:** June 21, 2024



Details:

- **Announcement:** Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced several changes in GST rates and exemptions during the 53rd GST Council meeting to ease compliance burdens and address taxpayer grievances.



Key Recommendations:

- **Railway Services:**
 - Services provided by Indian Railways, such as platform ticket sale, retiring room facility, waiting rooms, cloakroom facilities, and battery-operated car services, are exempted from GST.
- **Hostel Services:**
 - Exemption on hostel accommodation services outside educational institutions up to ₹20,000 per person per month, applicable only if the stay is up to 90 days.



Key Recommendations:

- **Interest on Penalties on Tax Notice:**
 - Waiver of interest on penalties for tax demand notices issued under Section 73 of the GST Act for fiscal years 2017-18, 2018-19, and 2019-20, provided the full tax amount is paid by March 31, 2025.
- **Input Tax Credit (ITC):**
 - Extension for availing ITC on any invoice or debit note.
- **GST on Carton Boxes:**
 - Reduction of GST on all types of carton boxes from 18% to 12%.



Key Recommendations:

- **GST Return Deadline:**
 - Extension of the deadline for furnishing returns from April 30 to June 30 for the fiscal year 2024-25 and subsequent years.
- **Solar Cookers:**
 - Uniform GST rate of 12% recommended for solar cookers, whether single or dual energy source.
- **Milk Cans:**
 - Uniform GST rate of 12% on all milk cans, regardless of their material (steel, iron, aluminum).
- **Sprinklers:**
 - All types of sprinklers, including fire and water sprinklers, will attract a uniform GST rate of 12%.



Key Recommendations:

- **Significance:** These decisions aim to benefit traders, MSMEs, and taxpayers by facilitating trade, easing the compliance burden, and providing relief in terms of compliance.



Important Terms Explained:

- **Goods and Services Tax (GST):** A comprehensive, multi-stage, destination-based tax that is levied on every value addition.
- **Input Tax Credit (ITC):** A mechanism under GST that allows businesses to claim credit for the tax paid on inputs used in the production or supply of goods and services.
- **Section 73 of GST Act:** Refers to the determination of tax not paid or short paid or erroneously refunded, or input tax credit wrongly availed or utilized for any reason other than fraud or any willful misstatement or suppression of facts.



Important Terms Explained:

- **Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council:**
 - **Founded:** 2016
 - **Chairperson:** Union Finance Minister (Nirmala Sitharaman)
 - **Headquarters:** New Delhi, India
- **Nirmala Sitharaman:**
 - **Position:** Union Finance Minister of India
 - **Assumed Office:** May 2019



NATIONAL AFFAIRS



Tabular Summary:

Key Detail	Description
Event	53rd GST Council Meeting
Date	June 21, 2024
Major Announcement	Pan-India rollout of biometric-based Aadhaar authentication
Railway Services Exempted from GST	Platform ticket sale, retiring room facility, waiting rooms, cloakroom facilities, battery-operated car services
Other Key Decisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Hostel accommodation exemption up to ₹20,000 per month for stays up to 90 days- Waiver of interest on penalties for tax demand notices for FY 2017-18, 2018-19, and 2019-20- Reduction of GST on carton boxes to 12%
GST on Solar Cookers	Uniform GST rate of 12% recommended for solar cookers (single or dual energy source)
GST on Milk Cans	Uniform GST rate of 12% on all milk cans (steel, iron, aluminum)
GST on Sprinklers	Uniform GST rate of 12% on all types of sprinklers, including fire and water sprinklers
Finance Minister	Nirmala Sitharaman
Significance of Decisions	Benefit traders, MSMEs, and taxpayers by easing compliance and facilitating trade



➤ What is the total cost approved by the Government of India for new transmission schemes to evacuate 4.5 GW of renewable energy power each from Rajasthan and Karnataka?

- A) ₹10,000 crore
- B) ₹12,241 crore
- C) ₹1,354 crore
- D) ₹13,595 crore
- E) ₹15,000 crore

Answer

D) ₹13,595 crore



NATIONAL AFFAIRS



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Approval of new transmission schemes by the Government of India
- **Date:** June 22, 2024



NATIONAL AFFAIRS



Details:

- **Purpose:** To evacuate 9 GW of renewable energy (RE) power from Rajasthan and Karnataka
- **Mode of Implementation:** Tariff Based Competitive Bidding (TBCB)



Schemes Overview:

- **Rajasthan Renewable Energy Zone (REZ) Scheme:**
 - Power Evacuation Capacity: 4.5 GW
 - Areas Covered: Fatehgarh, Barmer, and Nagaur (Merta) complexes
 - Power Transfer To: Mainpuri Region, Fatehpur, and Orai in Uttar Pradesh
 - Completion Period: Two years
 - Cost: ₹12,241 crore
- **Karnataka System Strengthening Scheme:**
 - Power Evacuation Capacity: 4.5 GW
 - Areas Covered: Koppal and Gadag areas
 - Completion Period: By June 2027
 - Cost: ₹1,354 crore
- **Total Cost: ₹13,595 crore**



Key Points:

- **Transmission Schemes Approved:** For Rajasthan and Karnataka
- **Total Power Evacuation:** 9 GW (4.5 GW from each state)
- **Completion Period:** Two years for Rajasthan scheme, by June 2027 for Karnataka scheme
- **Total Cost:** ₹13,595 crore



Important Terms Explained:

- **Inter State Transmission System (ISTS):** A system of transmission lines and substations that facilitates the transfer of electricity between states in India.
- **Tariff Based Competitive Bidding (TBCB):** A procurement process where the project is awarded to the bidder who offers the lowest tariff.



Tabular Summary:

Key Detail	Description
Event	Approval of new transmission schemes
Purpose	Evacuation of 9 GW RE power
States Covered	Rajasthan and Karnataka
Total Cost	₹13,595 crore
Completion Period	Rajasthan: 2 years, Karnataka: by June 2027
Implementation Mode	Tariff Based Competitive Bidding (TBCB)



➤ **What is the primary focus of the MoU signed between SAMEER, MeitY, and MCTE?**

- A) Developing new missile technologies
- B) Advancing wireless technologies for the Indian Army
- C) Enhancing food supply chain logistics
- D) Building naval submarines
- E) Promoting tourism in India



Answer

B) Advancing wireless technologies for the Indian Army



NATIONAL AFFAIRS



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)
- **Date:** June 22, 2024



Details:

- **Parties Involved:** Military College of Telecommunication Engineering (MCTE), Indian Army; Society for Applied Microwave Electronics Engineering & Research (SAMEER); Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY)
- **Signatories:** Lt Gen K H Gawas (MCTE), Dr P H Rao (SAMEER)
- **Witnesses:** Shri S K Marwaha (MeitY), Maj Gen C S Mann (Indian Army)



Objectives of the MoU:

- **Joint Research and Development:** Collaborative projects targeting deployable solutions in 5G, 6G, advanced cellular technologies, software-defined radios, cognitive radios, satellite communications, antenna design, free space optics, tropo-scatter communications, AI, quantum technologies, and military-specific chip design.
- **Incubation Centre:** Establishment of an 'Advanced Military Research and Incubation Centre' at MCTE to support the development of military-specific innovative solutions from conceptualization to large-scale production, involving MSMEs and start-ups.
- **Knowledge Exchange and Training:** Focus on knowledge exchange, training, and development aspects to enhance national security and technological infrastructure.



Significance:

- **Technological Advancement:** Strengthening the Indian Army's technological capabilities, particularly in next-generation wireless technologies.
- **National Security:** Enhancing national security through advancements in defense and strategic sectors.
- **Innovation and Collaboration:** Promoting innovation and collaborative success between government R&D institutions and military educational bodies.
- **Holistic Approach:** Impacting telecommunications, emergency response, and public safety, demonstrating a commitment to a holistic approach to national security.



Important Terms Explained:

- **SAMEER:** Society for Applied Microwave Electronics Engineering & Research, an autonomous R&D laboratory under MeitY, focusing on applied research in the field of microwave electronics and related technologies.
- **MCTE:** Military College of Telecommunication Engineering, a premier technical training institute of the Indian Army, specializing in communication, electronic warfare, and cyber operations.
- **MeitY:** Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology, Government of India, responsible for formulating and implementing policies related to information technology, electronics, and the internet.



Static GK Information:

- **Indian Army:**
 - **Founded:** April 1, 1895
 - **Chief of Army Staff:** General Manoj Pande
 - **Headquarters:** New Delhi, India
- **SAMEER:**
 - **Founded:** 1984
 - **Director General:** Dr. P H Rao
 - **Headquarters:** Mumbai, India
- **MeitY:**
 - **Founded:** 2016 (formerly Department of Electronics and Information Technology)
 - **Minister:** Ashwini Vaishnaw
 - **Headquarters:** New Delhi, India



NATIONAL AFFAIRS



Tabular Summary:

Key Detail	Description
Event	Signing of MoU for technological advancement
Primary Focus	Advancing wireless technologies for the Indian Army
Parties Involved	MCTE, SAMEER, MeitY
Signatories	Lt Gen K H Gawas, Dr P H Rao
Witnesses	Shri S K Marwaha, Maj Gen C S Mann
Objectives	Joint R&D, Incubation Centre, Knowledge Exchange, Training
Significance	Technological advancement, National security, Innovation and collaboration, Holistic approach
Indian Army Founded	April 1, 1895
Chief of Army Staff	General Manoj Pande
SAMEER Founded	1984
Director General of SAMEER	Dr. P H Rao
MeitY Founded	2016
Minister of MeitY	Ashwini Vaishnaw
MCTE Headquarters	Pune, India
SAMEER Headquarters	Mumbai, India
MeitY Headquarters	New Delhi, India



➤ **What is the primary purpose of the newly notified Telecommunications Act set to be effective from June 26, 2024?**

- A) To replace the Indian Telegraph Act of 1885
- B) To introduce 5G technology
- C) To provide free internet services
- D) To merge telecom companies
- E) To eliminate telecom taxes



Answer

A) To replace the Indian Telegraph Act of 1885



NATIONAL AFFAIRS



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Notification of the new Telecommunications Act
- **Date:** June 22, 2024
- **Effective Date:** June 26, 2024



Details:

- **Purpose:** The new Telecommunications Act is designed to replace the 138-year-old Indian Telegraph Act of 1885 and introduce modern regulations to address contemporary challenges in the telecom sector.



Key Provisions:

- **User Protection:** Emphasis on safeguarding users from spam and malicious communications.
- **Right of Way Reforms:** Streamlining processes for telecom network roll-out.
- **Optimal Spectrum Utilisation:** Prefers auctioning spectrum but allows administrative allocation in specific cases for public interest, government functions, and technical or economic reasons.
- **National Security:** Allows the government to take temporary control of telecom services for national security purposes.



Key Provisions:

- **Biometric Identification:** Mandates the use of verifiable biometric identification (Aadhaar) for new SIMs/connections to enhance security.
- **Digital Bharat Nidhi:** Transformation of the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) into Digital Bharat Nidhi to support R&D and pilot projects.
- **Spectrum Allocation:** Administrative assignment of spectrum for certain telecommunications services, including satellite-based services and in-flight and maritime connectivity.
- **Right of Way:** Implementation of non-discriminatory and non-exclusive grants of right of way for telecom network roll-out.



Key Provisions:

- **Common Ducts and Cable Corridors:** Provides the central government with the power to establish these to facilitate telecom infrastructure.
- **Significance:** The Act aims to modernize India's telecom regulations, ensuring efficient, secure, and user-friendly telecom services.



Important Terms Explained:

- **Telecommunications Act:** A set of regulations governing the telecom sector to ensure efficient service delivery, user protection, and optimal resource utilization.
- **Indian Telegraph Act of 1885:** The previous law regulating telecommunication in India, now replaced by the new Telecommunications Act.
- **Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF):** A fund aimed at extending telecom services to rural and underserved areas, now rebranded as Digital Bharat Nidhi for broader use.



Static GK Information:

- **Department of Telecommunications (DoT):**
 - **Founded:** 1985
 - **Secretary:** Neeraj Mittal
 - **Headquarters:** New Delhi, India
- **Aadhaar:**
 - **Launched:** 2009
 - **Issued by:** Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)



NATIONAL AFFAIRS



Tabular Summary:

Key Detail	Description
Event	Notification of the new Telecommunications Act
Date	June 22, 2024
Effective Date	June 26, 2024
Purpose	Replace the Indian Telegraph Act of 1885
User Protection	Safeguard users from spam and malicious communications
Right of Way Reforms	Streamline processes for telecom network roll-out
Spectrum Utilisation	Prefer auctioning but allow administrative allocation in specific cases
National Security	Government can take temporary control of telecom services
Biometric Identification	Mandates verifiable biometric identification (Aadhaar) for new SIMs/connections
Digital Bharat Nidhi	Transformation of USOF to support R&D and pilot projects
Common Ducts and Cable Corridors	Government power to establish these to facilitate telecom infrastructure
Secretary, DoT	Neeraj Mittal
Aadhaar	Launched in 2009, issued by UIDAI
Significance	Modernize telecom regulations, ensuring efficient, secure, and user-friendly telecom services.



➤ **What is the primary feature of the Fast Track Immigration-Trusted Traveller Programme (FTI-TTP) launched at Delhi's IGI Airport?**

- A) Free travel insurance for all passengers
- B) Use of e-gates for pre-verified travellers
- C) Discounted flight tickets for frequent travellers
- D) Priority boarding for all international flights
- E) Free lounge access for Indian passport holders



Answer

B) Use of e-gates for pre-verified travellers



NATIONAL AFFAIRS



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Launch of Fast Track Immigration-Trusted Traveller Programme (FTI-TTP)
- **Date:** June 22, 2024



Details:

- **Purpose:** To provide a faster, easier, and more secure travel experience for Indian passport holders and Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) cardholders.
- **Primary Feature:** Pre-verified travellers can use e-gates to bypass regular immigration queues, facilitating a smoother journey.



Key Highlights:

- **Launch and Inauguration:**
 - Union Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurated the FTI-TTP at Delhi Airport's Terminal 3.
 - The programme includes dedicated counters for travellers.
- **E-Gates Installation:**
 - Terminal 3 has eight electronic gates (four for arrivals and four for departures) to reduce congestion.
 - This is the first facility of its kind in India, designed for pre-verified travellers.



Key Highlights:

- **Government Initiative:**
 - Developed by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Civil Aviation, and Bureau of Immigration.
 - Similar to the Global Entry Program by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.
- **Application Process:**
 - Interested passengers can apply via the government website (www.ftittp.mha.gov.in).
 - Registration may take up to one month.
 - Passports must have at least six months of validity at the time of application.
 - Membership of the programme will be co-terminus with passport validity.



Key Highlights:

- **Operational Details:**
 - The programme aims to enhance travel convenience and efficiency.
 - Delhi Airport connects 80 domestic and 70 international destinations.
 - Significant passenger traffic reported: 19.2 million in Q4 of FY24, with an overall FY24 figure of 73.7 million.



Important Terms Explained:

- **Fast Track Immigration-Trusted Traveller Programme (FTI-TTP):**
 - A government initiative designed to expedite the immigration process for pre-verified Indian passport holders and OCI cardholders using electronic gates.
- **E-Gates:**
 - Automated systems used to streamline the immigration process, allowing pre-verified travellers to bypass regular queues.



Static GK Information:

- **Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGI):**
 - **Location:** Delhi, India
 - **Opened:** 1986
 - **Operated by:** Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL)
 - **Key Figures:** Connects 80 domestic and 70 international destinations.
- **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA):**
 - **Established:** 1947
 - **Current Minister:** Amit Shah
 - **Headquarters:** North Block, New Delhi, India



NATIONAL AFFAIRS



Tabular Summary:

Key Detail	Description
Event	Launch of Fast Track Immigration-Trusted Traveller Programme (FTI-TTP)
Date	June 22, 2024
Primary Feature	Use of e-gates for pre-verified travellers
Inauguration	Union Home Minister Amit Shah at Delhi Airport's Terminal 3
E-Gates Installation	Eight electronic gates installed (four for arrivals, four for departures)
Government Initiative	Developed by MHA, Ministry of Civil Aviation, and Bureau of Immigration
Application Process	Via government website, takes up to one month, passport must have at least six months validity
Operational Details	Enhances travel convenience and efficiency, significant passenger traffic figures
Static GK Information - IGI Airport	Location: Delhi, India; Opened: 1986; Operated by: DIAL
Static GK Information - MHA	Established: 1947; Current Minister: Amit Shah; Headquarters: North Block, New Delhi, India



QUICK RECALL



- **International Widow's Day is observed annually on 23 June to raise awareness and advocate for the rights and well-being of widows worldwide.**
- **United Nations Public Service Day, celebrated on 23 June, honors public servants' contributions and promotes public service values.**
- **Funds held by Indians in Swiss banks dropped by 70% in 2023, reaching a four-year low.**
- **Bhartruhari Mahtab appointed as pro-tem Speaker of 18th Lok Sabha, sparking Congress controversy.**
- **Manoj Jain becomes CMD of BEL, bringing over three decades of experience with the company.**
- **Rear Adm Nelson D'Souza becomes Commandant of MILIT, Pune.**
- **The Ministry of Education has constituted a High-Level Committee of Experts to ensure transparent, smooth, and fair conduct of examinations through the NTA.**
- **Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced the pan-India rollout of biometric-based Aadhaar authentication during the 53rd GST Council meeting to combat fraudulent input tax credit claims.**



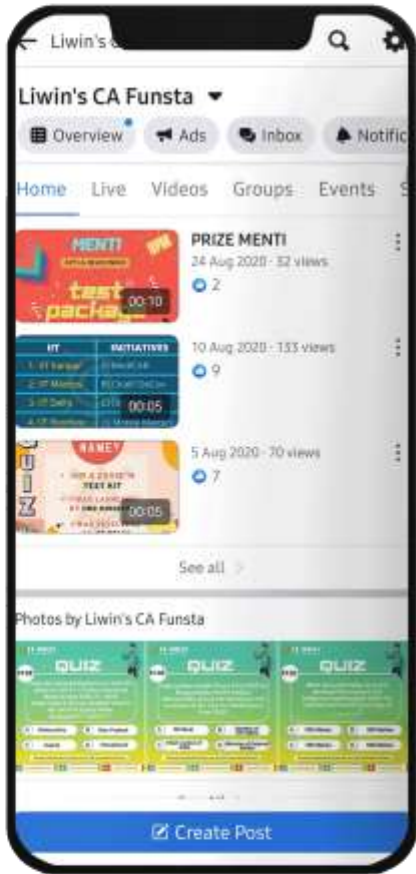
QUICK RECALL



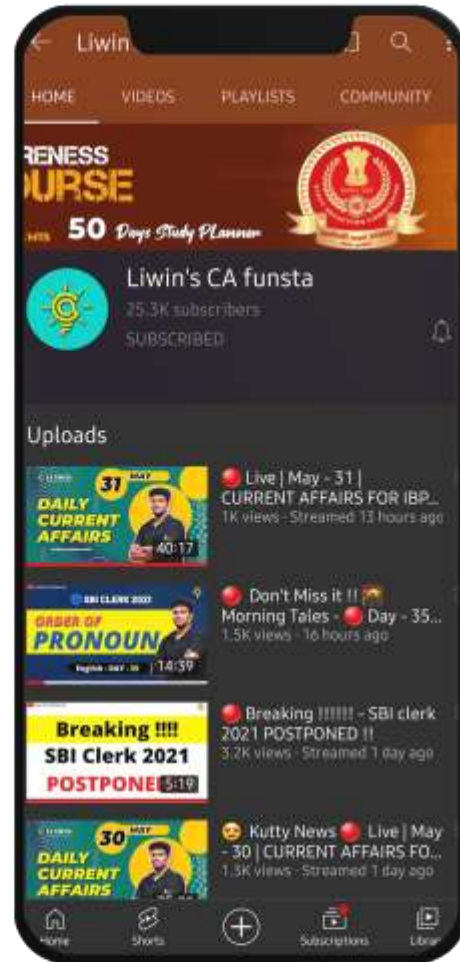
- **Government of India approves ₹13,595 crore for new transmission schemes to evacuate 9 GW of renewable energy power from Rajasthan and Karnataka.**
- **SAMEER, MeitY, and MCTE sign MoU to advance next-generation wireless technologies for the Indian Army, enhancing national security and fostering innovation.**
- **The 53rd GST Council meeting announced several changes, including the exemption of platform ticket sales by Indian Railways from GST, to ease compliance and benefit taxpayers.**
- **The new Telecommunications Act, effective June 26, 2024, replaces the 138-year-old Indian Telegraph Act of 1885, focusing on user protection, spectrum utilisation, and national security.**
- **The Fast Track Immigration-Trusted Traveller Programme (FTI-TTP) at Delhi's IGI Airport uses e-gates for pre-verified travellers, enhancing travel efficiency and security.**
- **GRSE signs a \$45 million deal with a German firm to build multi-purpose vessels designed to carry large windmill blades and containers.**



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