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➤ **Who were the ICC Players of the Month for November 2024?**



- A) Babar Azam and Heather Knight
- B) Haris Rauf and Smriti Mandhana
- C) Shaheen Afridi and Sophie Devine
- D) Haris Rauf and Danni Wyatt-Hodge
- E) Joe Root and Alyssa Healy

Answer

D) Haris Rauf and Danni Wyatt-Hodge



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Haris Rauf (Pakistan) and Danni Wyatt-Hodge (England) named ICC Players of the Month for November 2024.
- **Location:** ICC's global announcement.



Key Achievements:

Haris Rauf:

- **ODI and T20I Excellence:**
 - Took 18 wickets in 6 ODIs and 3 T20Is in November.
 - Played a pivotal role in Pakistan's historic ODI series win in Australia, their first since 2002.
- **Standout Performances:**
 - 5/29 in Adelaide earned him Player of the Match honors.
 - 2/24 in Perth sealed the series decider by bowling out Australia for 140 runs.
 - 4/22 in a T20I against Australia in Sydney.
- **Recognition:**
 - Achieved a career-high 13th position in the ICC Men's ODI Bowling Rankings.



Key Achievements:

Danni Wyatt-Hodge:

- **T20I Batting Heroics:**
 - Scored 142 runs in 3 T20Is at an average of 71, leading England to a series sweep against South Africa.
- **Standout Performances:**
 - Scored 78 off 45 balls in the second T20I, securing a 36-run win for England.
 - Struck an unbeaten half-century in the final match in Centurion, ensuring a 9-wicket victory.
- **Recognition:**
 - Achieved a career-best position in the ICC Women's T20I Batting Rankings.



Static GK Information:

- **ICC (International Cricket Council):**
 - **Founded:** 1909
 - **Headquarters:** Dubai, UAE
 - **Chairman:** Greg Barclay
 - **CEO:** Geoff Allardice
- **Pakistan:**
 - **Capital:** Islamabad
 - **Currency:** Rupee
 - **President:** Arif Alvi
 - **Prime Minister:** Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar
- **England:**
 - **Capital:** London
 - **Currency:** Pound Sterling
 - **Prime Minister:** Keir Starmer



SPORTS



Tabular Summary:

Category	Details
Event	ICC Players of the Month for November 2024
Winners	Haris Rauf (Men), Danni Wyatt-Hodge (Women)
Haris Highlights	18 wickets in 9 matches; career-high 13th rank in ICC ODI Bowling Rankings
Wyatt-Hodge Highlights	142 runs in 3 T20Is; career-best ICC T20I Batting Ranking
Impact	Haris: Key to Pakistan's historic series win in Australia
	Wyatt-Hodge: Led England to T20I series sweep



➤ **Who is the youngest bowler to take 100 wickets in all three formats of cricket?**

- A) Tim Southee
- B) Shakib Al Hasan
- C) Shaheen Shah Afridi
- D) Lasith Malinga
- E) Haris Rauf

Answer

C) Shaheen Shah Afridi



SPORTS



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Shaheen Shah Afridi becomes the youngest bowler to take 100 wickets in all formats.
- **Location:** Achieved during the first T20I against South Africa.



Milestones Achieved:

- **Youngest Player:**
 - At 24 years and 248 days, Afridi became the youngest to achieve this milestone.
- **Exclusive Club:**
 - Joins cricket legends like Tim Southee, Shakib Al Hasan, and Lasith Malinga in completing 100 wickets in all formats.
- **First Pakistani:**
 - Afridi is the first bowler from Pakistan to achieve this feat.



Career Stats:

- **Tests:** 116 wickets in 31 matches.
- **ODIs:** 112 wickets in 56 matches.
- **T20Is:** 100 wickets in 74 matches.
- **Total Matches Played:** 161 matches to reach this milestone.



Records in T20Is:

- **Second-Fastest Pakistani:**
 - Afridi achieved 100 wickets in T20Is in 74 matches, second only to Haris Rauf (71 matches).
- **Performance in First T20I Against South Africa:**
 - **Figures:** 3/22, dismissing key players like Rassie van der Dussen (golden duck), David Miller, and Nqabayomzi Peter.



Static GK Information:

- **Pakistan:**
 - **Capital:** Islamabad
 - **Currency:** Rupee
 - **President:** Arif Alvi
 - **Prime Minister:** Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar



Tabular Summary:

Category	Details
Event	Afridi becomes youngest to take 100 wickets in all formats
Age Achieved	24 years and 248 days
Key Records	116 Test wickets, 112 ODI wickets, 100 T20I wickets
Match Milestone	Achieved the feat in 161 matches
First T20I Stats	Figures: 3/22 against South Africa
Exclusive Club	Includes Tim Southee, Shakib Al Hasan, Lasith Malinga



➤ **Which countries will host the 2030 FIFA World Cup as primary hosts?**

- A) Spain, Portugal, and Morocco
- B) Argentina, Uruguay, and Paraguay
- C) Saudi Arabia
- D) England, Scotland, and Wales
- E) Spain, Portugal, and Saudi Arabia



Answer

A) Spain, Portugal, and Morocco



Event and Location:

- **Event:** FIFA announced hosts for the 2030 and 2034 FIFA Men's World Cups.
- **Location:** Decision made during the Extraordinary FIFA Congress meeting.



Mandates and Objectives:

- **2030 FIFA World Cup:**
 - **Primary Hosts:** Spain, Portugal, and Morocco.
 - **Centenary Matches:** Argentina, Paraguay, and Uruguay to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the first World Cup (1930, Uruguay).
- **Significance:**
 - Multicontinental hosting celebrates football's global reach.
 - Recognizes Uruguay as the birthplace of the FIFA World Cup.
- **Voting Process:** Two separate votes:
 - For centenary matches in South America.
 - For the primary hosts (Spain, Portugal, Morocco).



2034 FIFA World Cup:

- **Host:** Saudi Arabia.
- **Infrastructure Development:**
 - 15 stadiums identified, 4 already constructed.
 - Significant investments planned in infrastructure.



Concerns and Reactions:

- **Support:**
 - Backed by England, Scotland, Wales, and the Swiss Football Association (conditional on human rights improvements).
- **Criticism:**
 - Allegations of “sportswashing” due to Saudi Arabia’s human rights record.
 - Calls for FIFA to improve transparency in the bidding process.
- **Human Rights Oversight:**
 - FIFA is urged to monitor compliance with international standards, with input from the International Labour Organisation (ILO).



Static GK Information:

- **FIFA (Fédération Internationale de Football Association):**
 - **Founded:** 1904
 - **Headquarters:** Zurich, Switzerland
 - **President:** Gianni Infantino
- **Spain:**
 - **Capital:** Madrid
 - **Currency:** Euro
 - **Prime Minister:** Pedro Sánchez
- **Saudi Arabia:**
 - **Capital:** Riyadh
 - **Currency:** Saudi Riyal
 - **King:** Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud
 - **Crown Prince & Prime Minister:** Mohammed bin Salman



SPORTS



Tabular Summary:

Category	Details
Event	FIFA announces hosts for the 2030 and 2034 World Cups
2030 Hosts	Primary: Spain, Portugal, Morocco
	Centenary Matches: Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay
2034 Host	Saudi Arabia
Voting Method	Acclamation (clapping via video link)
Criticism	Alleged sportswashing and lack of transparency
Support	Backed by England, Scotland, Wales; conditional support from DBU and Swiss FA



➤ Which broadcaster has been announced as the official partner for the Hockey India League (HIL) 2024-25?

- A) Star Sports
- B) Sony Sports Network
- C) Doordarshan
- D) ESPN India
- E) Zee Sports

Answer
C) Doordarshan



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Announcement of Doordarshan as the official broadcast partner for the Hockey India League (HIL) 2024-25.
- **Location:** Matches will be held in **Rourkela** and **Ranchi**.



Key Highlights:

- **Historic Season:**
 - **First-ever Women's** Hockey India League will be held alongside the Men's HIL.
 - **Total Teams:** 8 men's teams and 4 women's teams.
- **Broadcast Reach:**
 - Doordarshan will provide live telecasts of all matches, ensuring hockey reaches every corner of India, including rural areas.



Static GK Information:

- **Doordarshan:**
 - **Founded:** 15 September 1959
 - **Headquarters:** New Delhi, India
 - **CEO (Prasar Bharati):** Gaurav Dwivedi
- **Hockey India:**
 - **Founded:** 2009
 - **President:** Dilip Tirkey
 - **Headquarters:** New Delhi



SPORTS



Tabular Summary:

Category	Details
Event	Hockey India League 2024-25
Official Broadcaster	Doordarshan
Significance	Launch of Women's HIL alongside Men's HIL
Matches Location	Rourkela and Ranchi
Teams	8 Men's Teams, 4 Women's Teams
Expansion	Doordarshan to telecast all Hockey India events nationwide



➤ What is the revised GDP growth forecast for India in FY25 according to ADB?

- A) 6.7%
- B) 6.5%
- C) 7%
- D) 6.3%
- E) 7.2%

Answer
B) 6.5%



Event and Location:

- **Event:** ADB revised India's GDP growth forecast.
- **Location:** Asian Development Bank's economic report.



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Growth Revision:**
 - **FY25:** GDP growth forecast reduced from **7%** to **6.5%**.
 - **FY26:** GDP growth forecast lowered from **7.2%** to **7%**.
- **Reasons for Revision:**
 - Weaker industrial output.
 - Muted public capital spending.
 - Tight monetary policies suppressing private investment.



Key Economic Indicators:

- **Q2FY25 Growth:**
 - GDP growth slowed to 5.4%, a seven-quarter low, down from 6.7% in Q1FY25.
- **Inflation Forecast:**
 - **FY25:** Retained at 4.7%.
 - **FY26:** Reduced to 4.3% (from 4.5%), driven by expected declines in Brent crude oil prices.
- **Sectoral Growth:**
 - **Agriculture:** 3.5%.
 - **Services:** 7.1%.



Regional and Global Context:

- **South Asia Impact:**
 - India's slowdown prompted regional GDP forecast cuts to 5.9% in 2024 and 6.3% in 2025.
- **Monetary Policy:**
 - RBI retained policy rate at 6.5%, emphasizing inflation control.



Positive Indicators:

- **Economic Strengths:**
 - Declining crude oil prices.
 - Strong urban labor force participation.
 - Positive **PMI (Purchasing Managers' Index)** trends in industry and services sectors.



Static GK Information:

- **Asian Development Bank (ADB):**
 - **Member Countries:** 68
 - **Founded Year:** 1966
 - **Headquarters:** Manila, Philippines
 - **Head:** Masatsugu Asakawa
- **India:**
 - **Capital:** New Delhi
 - **Currency:** Indian Rupee
 - **President:** Droupadi Murmu
 - **Prime Minister:** Narendra Modi



Tabular Summary:

Category	Details
Event	ADB revises India's GDP growth forecast
Revised FY25 Forecast	6.5% (from 7%)
Revised FY26 Forecast	7% (from 7.2%)
Key Reasons	Weak industrial output, muted public spending Tight monetary policies
Q2FY25 Growth	Dropped to 5.4% (from 6.7% in Q1FY25)
Inflation	FY25: 4.7%, FY26: 4.3%
Regional Impact	South Asia growth revised to 5.9% for 2024



AWARDS



➤ **Which category in the National Panchayat Awards 2024 recognized efforts toward net-zero carbon emissions?**

- A) Deen Dayal Upadhyay Panchayat Satat Vikas Puraskar
- B) Nanaji Deshmukh Sarvottam Panchayat Satat Vikas Puraskar
- C) Gram Urja Swaraj Vishesh Panchayat Puraskar
- D) Carbon Neutral Vishesh Panchayat Puraskar
- E) Panchayat Kshamta Nirmaan Sarvottam Sansthan Puraskar



Answer

D) Carbon Neutral Vishesh Panchayat Puraskar



AWARDS



Event and Location:

- **Event:** The National Panchayat Awards 2024 celebrated excellence in rural governance and sustainable development.
- **Location:** Held on December 11, 2024, at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.



AWARDS



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Purpose of Awards:**
 - To recognize Panchayats excelling in sustainable development and inclusive growth.
 - Promote best practices and align governance with **UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**.



AWARDS



Award Categories:

1. Deen Dayal Upadhyay Panchayat Satat Vikas Puraskar (DDUPSVP):

- Recognized 27 Panchayats for excellence in 9 Localization of Sustainable Development Goals (LSDG) themes.

2. Nanaji Deshmukh Sarvottam Panchayat Satat Vikas Puraskar:

- Honored 9 Panchayats for holistic implementation of LSDGs.

3. Gram Urja Swaraj Vishesh Panchayat Puraskar:

- Awarded for innovation in renewable energy projects in Maharashtra, Odisha, and Tripura.



Award Categories:

4. Carbon Neutral Vishesh Panchayat Puraskar:

- Recognized Panchayats in Maharashtra, Odisha, and Uttar Pradesh for achieving net-zero carbon emissions.

5. Panchayat Kshamta Nirmaan Sarvottam Sansthan Puraskar:

- Recognized support institutions from Kerala, Maharashtra, and Odisha for aiding Panchayats in LSDG implementation.



AWARDS



Key Statistics:

- **Scale of Participation:**
 - 1.94 lakh Gram Panchayats participated; 42% of winners were led by women.
- **Financial Recognition:**
 - Rs 46 crore in prize money distributed to 45 awardees, directly transferred to Panchayat accounts.



AWARDS



Historical Context:

- Celebrates the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act (1992), which granted Panchayats constitutional status as local self-governance institutions.
- Event rescheduled from April 24 due to the General Elections to the Lok Sabha.



Additional Contributions:

- **Booklet:**
 - 'Best Practices on Works of Awardee Panchayats' showcased innovative practices by award-winning Panchayats.
- **Selection Process:**
 - Multi-level evaluations assessed Panchayats across 9 LSDG themes.



AWARDS



Static GK Information:

- **India:**
 - **Capital:** New Delhi
 - **Currency:** Indian Rupee
 - **President:** Droupadi Murmu
 - **Prime Minister:** Narendra Modi
- **Ministry of Panchayati Raj:**
 - **Founded:** 2004
 - **Union Minister:** Rajiv Ranjan Singh (Lalan Singh)



AWARDS



Tabular Summary:

Category	Details
Event	National Panchayat Awards 2024
Date	December 11, 2024
Location	Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi
Key Guests	President Droupadi Murmu, Union Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh
Award Categories	DDUPSVP, Nanaji Deshmukh, Gram Urja Swaraj, Carbon Neutral, Kshamta Nirmaan
Financial Support	Rs 46 crore distributed to 45 awardees
Key Highlights	42% of winners led by women



AWARDS



➤ **Which Indian project received the Award of Distinction in the UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards 2024?**

- A) BJPCI Conservation Project
- B) Gunan Street Historic Block Conservation Project
- C) Abathsahayeswarar Temple Conservation Project
- D) Rabindhorn Building Project
- E) Inari-yu Bathhouse Restoration Project



Answer

C) Abathsahayeswarar Temple Conservation Project



AWARDS



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Two Indian projects won the UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation 2024.
- **Location:** Awards announced on 6 December 2024 at UNESCO's regional office in Bangkok, Thailand.



AWARDS



Indian Winners:

1. Abathsahayeswarar Temple Conservation Project (Award of Distinction):

- **Location:** Thukkatchi, Thiruvarur District, Tamil Nadu.
- **Significance:** A 7th-century temple dedicated to Lord Dakshinamurthy (a form of Shiva), mentioned in the Tamil Saivite text Thevaram.
- **Achievement:** Blended modern engineering techniques with traditional sthpathi expertise for sustainable structural conservation.



Indian Winners:

2. BJPCI Conservation Project (Award of Merit):

- **Location:** Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- **Significance:** A Gothic-style school building established in 1908 to promote education among economically weaker sections.
- **Achievement:** Restoration preserved architectural integrity while modernizing safety and usability standards.



AWARDS



About UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards:

- **Established: 2000.**
 - **Objective:** Recognizes excellence in the restoration and conservation of heritage sites.
- **Evaluation Criteria:**
 - **Understanding of Place:** Contextual relevance of the heritage.
 - **Technical Achievements:** Effective and innovative restoration techniques.
 - **Sustainability and Impact:** Long-term viability and benefits to communities.



AWARDS



About UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards:

- **Award Categories:**
 - Award of Excellence
 - Award of Distinction
 - Award of Merit
 - Special Recognition for Sustainable Development
 - Award for New Design in Heritage Contexts



AWARDS



2024 Winners Highlights:

- **Award of Excellence:** Inari-yu Bathhouse Restoration Project (Tokyo, Japan).
- **Award of Distinction:**
 - Abathsahayeswarar Temple (Tamil Nadu, India).
 - Gunan Street Historic Block Conservation Project (China).
- **Award of Merit:**
 - BJPCI Conservation Project (Mumbai, India).
 - Guanyin Hall Teahouse (China).



AWARDS



Static GK Information:

- **Tamil Nadu:**
 - **Capital:** Chennai
 - **Chief Minister:** M. K. Stalin
 - **Governor:** R. N. Ravi
- **UNESCO:**
 - **Founded:** 16 November 1945
 - **Headquarters:** Paris, France
 - **Members:** 195 Member States and 8 Associate Members
 - **Mission:** Promote peace, sustainable development, and cultural preservation.



AWARDS



Tabular Summary:

Category	Details
Event	Indian projects win UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards 2024
Date Announced	6 December 2024
Award of Distinction	Abathsahayeswarar Temple, Tamil Nadu
Award of Merit	BJPCI Conservation Project, Maharashtra
Award Significance	Recognized sustainable and innovative conservation efforts
UNESCO Mission	Cultural preservation and sustainable development



➤ **By what year does India aim to triple its atomic power capacity to 22,480 MW?**

- A) 2028
- B) 2031
- C) 2035
- D) 2030
- E) 2032

Answer
B) 2031



Event and Location:

- **Event:** India announces plans to triple atomic power capacity.
- **Location:** Lok Sabha, New Delhi



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Growth Achieved:**
 - Atomic power capacity increased from 4,780 MW in 2014 to 8,081 MW in 2024.
- **Future Target:**
 - Aims to achieve 22,480 MW capacity by 2031-32, tripling the current capacity.
- **Enablers of Progress:**
 - Technical advancements combined with strong political leadership enabled this significant growth.



Peaceful Applications of Atomic Energy:

- **Agriculture:**
 - Development of 70 mutagenic crop varieties using atomic energy.
- **Healthcare:**
 - Use of isotopes for cancer treatments.
- **Thorium Reserves:**
 - India possesses 21% of global thorium reserves, focusing on sustainable energy solutions like the Bhavini program to reduce reliance on uranium.



Electricity Distribution Formula:

- **Revised Power Allocation:**
 - 50% of power retained by the home state.
 - 35% shared with neighbouring states.
 - 15% allocated to the national grid for balanced distribution.



Static GK Information:

- **India:**
 - **Capital:** New Delhi
 - **Currency:** Indian Rupee
 - **President:** Droupadi Murmu
 - **Prime Minister:** Narendra Modi
- **Tamil Nadu:**
 - **Capital:** Chennai
 - **Chief Minister:** M. K. Stalin
 - **Governor:** R. N. Ravi



Tabular Summary:

Category	Details
Event	Plan to triple atomic power capacity
Location	Lok Sabha, New Delhi
Capacity in 2014	4,780 MW
Capacity in 2024	8,081 MW
Target Capacity (2031)	22,480 MW
Key Plants	Kudankulam, Kalpakkam, Tirunelveli (delayed)
Key Resources	Thorium reserves and technical expertise



➤ **What is the maximum video resolution offered by Sora Turbo for video generation?**

- A) 480p
- B) 720p
- C) 1080p
- D) 4K
- E) 1440p

Answer
C) 1080p



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Launch of OpenAI's Sora Turbo AI video generation model.
- **Location:** Available as a standalone platform for ChatGPT Plus and Pro users.



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Sora Turbo Introduction:**
 - Designed to enable AI-generated videos of up to 20 seconds in 1080p resolution.
 - Announced earlier this year but delayed by nine months for enhanced privacy and safety measures.
- **Access:**
 - Available to **ChatGPT Plus** and **ChatGPT Pro** users.
 - Temporarily restricted for new account creations.



Features and Capabilities:

- **Video Creation:**
 - Uses a diffusion model for consistent video generation across 20-second durations.
 - Allows text-to-video generation with precise inputs using a storyboard interface.
- **Resolution and Aspect Ratios:**
 - **ChatGPT Plus Users:** Generate up to 50 videos monthly at 480p, or fewer at 720p.
 - **ChatGPT Pro Users:** Generate videos in square, widescreen, and vertical aspect ratios and access features for video remixing and blending.



Privacy and Safety Features:

- **Watermarking and Metadata:**
 - Ensures transparency and prevents misuse by adhering to C2PA standards for content authenticity.
- **Content Restrictions:**
 - Blocks generation of harmful videos, including deepfakes and child sexual abuse content.
- **Data Sourcing:**
 - Sources include public datasets, Shutterstock, Pond5, and contributions from AI trainers.



Static GK Information:

- **OpenAI:**
 - **Founded:** 2015
 - **Headquarters:** San Francisco, California, USA
 - **CEO:** Sam Altman



Tabular Summary:

Category	Details
Event	Launch of OpenAI's Sora Turbo AI video model
Model Name	Sora Turbo
Video Length	Up to 20 seconds
Video Resolution	1080p
Access	ChatGPT Plus and ChatGPT Pro users
Key Features	Text-to-video creation, storyboard interface, diffusion model
Privacy Features	Watermarking, metadata, and content restrictions
Data Sources	Public datasets, Shutterstock, Pond5



- **Which key change does the Railways (Amendment) Bill, 2024 introduce?**
- A) Introduction of private railway operators
 - B) Merging of the Railway Board Act, 1905, into the Railways Act, 1989
 - C) Elimination of the Railway Board
 - D) Delegation of all powers to state governments
 - E) Replacement of passenger trains with freight services



Answer

B) Merging of the Railway Board Act, 1905, into the Railways Act, 1989



NATIONAL AFFAIRS



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Passage of the Railways (Amendment) Bill, 2024
- **Location:** Lok Sabha, New Delhi



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Simplified Legal Framework:**
 - Combines the Railway Board Act, 1905, into the Railways Act, 1989, ensuring unified governance.
 - Eliminates dual references, streamlining the legal framework for railway operations.
- **Statutory Powers:**
 - Empowers the central government to determine the Railway Board's composition, qualifications, and service terms.
- **Connectivity Enhancement:**
 - Facilitates superfast train rerouting and expansion via **Thawe Junction, Bihar**, benefiting pilgrims and locals.
- **Decentralisation of Operations:**
 - Delegates 100% tendering powers to zone general managers, expediting project approvals.



Ministerial Clarifications and Achievements:

- **Privatisation Fears Addressed:**
 - Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw dismissed concerns, stating railway assets remain government-owned.
- **Infrastructure Development:**
 - Plans for 13,000 new trains and production of 10,000 general coaches for low-income passengers.
 - Introduction of Amrit Bharat Trains with features inspired by Vande Bharat trains.



Important Terms Explained:

- **Railways (Amendment) Bill, 2024:**
 - Aims to unify railway governance and simplify the legal framework.
- **Thawe Junction:**
 - A junction in Bihar targeted for superfast train expansions and community benefit projects.
- **Amrit Bharat Trains:**
 - A new class of trains adopting features from the premium **Vande Bharat series**.



Static GK Information:

- **India:**
 - **Capital:** New Delhi
 - **Currency:** Indian Rupee
 - **President:** Droupadi Murmu
 - **Prime Minister:** Narendra Modi
- **Thawe Junction (Bihar):**
 - **Capital:** Patna
 - **Chief Minister:** Nitish Kumar
 - **Governor:** Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar



NATIONAL AFFAIRS



Tabular Summary:

Category	Details
Event	Passage of Railways (Amendment) Bill, 2024
Location	Lok Sabha, New Delhi
Date Passed	December 12, 2024
Introduced By	Ashwini Vaishnaw (9 August 2024)
Key Provisions	- Statutory powers to Railway Board
	- Simplifies legal framework
	- Expands connectivity via Thawe Junction
Significance	Enhanced railway governance and decentralisation



➤ **What is the budget allocation for the newly launched scheme to incubate 8 smart cities?**

- A) Rs 10,000 crore
- B) Rs 5,000 crore
- C) Rs 8,000 crore
- D) Rs 6,500 crore
- E) Rs 7,200 crore

Answer

C) Rs 8,000 crore



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Launch of a new scheme to develop 8 new smart cities.
- **Location:** Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), India.



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Scheme Launch:**
 - Extension of the Smart Cities Mission with a Rs 8,000 crore allocation.
 - Aimed at managing rapid urbanization and promoting sustainable urban development.
- **Eligibility:**
 - States can propose one city each for funding under this scheme.
 - Expert Committee formed to finalize bid parameters and eligibility criteria.



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Proposals Received:**
 - 28 proposals submitted by 23 states.
 - Notable proposed cities include:
 - **Kopparthay (Andhra Pradesh)**
 - **Gumin Nagar (Arunachal Pradesh)**
 - **New MOPA Ayush City (Goa)**
 - **Aerocity (Kerala)**
 - **Thirumazhisai (Tamil Nadu).**



Achievements of the Smart Cities Mission:

- **Operational Success:**
 - **100 cities** funded with Rs 1.65 lakh crore worth of projects.
 - Completion rate of 91% across funded projects.
- **Infrastructure Development:**
 - **Integrated Command and Control Centres (ICCC)** operational in all cities.
 - **83,000 CCTV** cameras installed for crime monitoring.
 - Over **9,400 Wi-Fi hotspots** established.
- **Projects Completed:**
 - **7,300** projects worth **Rs 1.47 lakh crore** completed.
 - **714 ongoing projects** advancing steadily.



Static GK Information:

- **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA):**
 - **Founded:** 1952
 - **Minister:** Hardeep Singh Puri
 - **Headquarters:** New Delhi
- **Tamil Nadu:**
 - **Capital:** Chennai
 - **Chief Minister:** M. K. Stalin
 - **Governor:** R. N. Ravi



NATIONAL AFFAIRS



Tabular Summary:

Category	Details
Event	Launch of Rs 8,000 crore scheme for 8 new smart cities
Location	Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)
Budget Allocation	Rs 8,000 crore
Total Proposals	28 proposals from 23 states
Notable Cities	Kopparthay (Andhra Pradesh), Thirumazhisai (Tamil Nadu)
Completion Status	91% of projects under existing Smart Cities Mission completed



➤ **What is the central theme of the 10th World Ayurveda Congress (WAC 2024)?**

- A) Ayurveda for Modern Healthcare
- B) Digital Health: An Ayurveda Perspective
- C) Holistic Health through Ayurveda
- D) Ayurveda in the Global Context
- E) Integrating Ayurveda with Scientific Research

Answer

B) Digital Health: An Ayurveda Perspective



Event and Location:

- **Event:** 10th World Ayurveda Congress (WAC 2024) and Arogya Expo.
- **Location:** Dehradun, Uttarakhand.



Key Highlights:

- **Theme:**
 - The central theme of WAC 2024 is "**Digital Health: An Ayurveda Perspective.**"
 - Focus on leveraging modern digital tools and technologies to enhance Ayurveda's effectiveness, research, and integration into global healthcare.
- **Organisers:**
 - Organised by the World Ayurveda Foundation (WAF), an initiative of Vijnana Bharati.
 - Supported by the Ministry of Ayush.



Key Highlights:

- **Participants:**
 - Over 5500 Indian delegates and 350 international delegates from 54 countries.
 - Features 150 scientific sessions and 13 associate events, including technical sessions, panel discussions, and plenary sessions.
- **Significance:**
 - Highlights Ayurveda's potential in addressing modern healthcare challenges.
 - Promotes Desh Ka Prakriti Parikshan Abhiyan, evaluating the Prakriti of 1 crore individuals.
 - Showcases investments exceeding \$1.3 billion in Ayurveda-driven innovations.



Key Highlights:

- **Tech-Enabled Innovations:**
 - **Ayush Grid:** Revolutionizes Ayurveda through digital integration, ensuring safety, affordability, and efficiency in healthcare delivery.



NATIONAL AFFAIRS



Key Guests:

- **Chief Guest:** Shri Prataprao Jadhav, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge), Ministry of Ayush.
- **Dignitaries:**
 - **Pushkar Singh Dhama**, Chief Minister of Uttarakhand.
 - **Vaidya Rajesh Kotecha**, Secretary, Ministry of Ayush.
 - **Dr. Shekhar Mande**, President, Vijnana Bharati.



Static GK Information:

- **Uttarakhand:**
 - **Capital:** Dehradun (Winter), Gairsain (Summer)
 - **Chief Minister:** Pushkar Singh Dhami
 - **Governor:** Gurmit Singh
- **Ministry of Ayush:**
 - **Founded:** 2014
 - **Minister of State:** Prataprao Jadhav



NATIONAL AFFAIRS



Tabular Summary:

Category	Details
Event	10th World Ayurveda Congress (WAC 2024) and Arogya Expo
Theme	Digital Health: An Ayurveda Perspective
Location	Dehradun, Uttarakhand
Organisers	World Ayurveda Foundation (WAF), Ministry of Ayush
Key Guests	Prataprao Jadhav, Pushkar Singh Dhama, Rajesh Kotecha
Participants	5500+ Indian delegates, 350 international delegates from 54 countries
Significance	Promotes Ayurveda on the global stage; integrates technology with traditional practices
Innovations Highlighted	Ayush Grid, \$1.3 billion investment pipeline



➤ Which state hosted the 14th Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav (RSM) in 2023?

- A) Madhya Pradesh
- B) Rajasthan
- C) Maharashtra
- D) Telangana
- E) Andhra Pradesh

Answer
B) Rajasthan



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav (RSM) organized by the **Ministry of Culture**.
- **Objective:** Promote awareness of India's cultural heritage among youth by showcasing diverse artistic talents from across the nation.



Key Information:

- **RSM and Zonal RSMs:**
 - **RSMs:** Conducted on a national scale to promote India's cultural heritage.
 - **Zonal RSMs:** Regional-level events organized through Zonal Cultural Centres (ZCCs).
- **Recent RSMs:**
 - **2023:**
 - Maharashtra (Mumbai).
 - Rajasthan (Bikaner).
 - **2024:**
 - Telangana (Hyderabad).



Key Information:

- **Cultural Fund:**
 - **The National Culture Fund (NCF)** under the Charitable Endowment Act, 1890, facilitates **Public-Private Partnerships (PPP)** for conservation projects.
 - Activities include the restoration of heritage sites, promotion of traditional arts, and setting up libraries.
- **Grant-in-Aid for RSMs:**
 - Financial support provided by the Ministry of Culture.
 - Funds released between 2019-24 totaled Rs. 8,540.02 lakh.



Static GK Information:

- **Rajasthan:**
 - **Capital:** Jaipur
 - **Chief Minister:** Ashok Gehlot
 - **Governor:** Kalraj Mishra
- **Ministry of Culture:**
 - **Union Minister:** Gajendra Singh Shekhawat
 - **Founded:** 2001



NATIONAL AFFAIRS



Tabular Summary:

Category	Details
Event	Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav (RSM)
Organiser	Ministry of Culture
Objective	Promote awareness of cultural heritage among youth
Recent RSMs	- Rajasthan (Bikaner, 2023)
	- Maharashtra (Mumbai, 2023)
Grant-in-Aid	Rs. 3,575.12 lakh (2023-24)
Key Fund	National Culture Fund (NCF)



➤ **What is the primary objective of the PRASHAD Scheme launched by the Ministry of Tourism?**

- A) Promotion of adventure tourism
- B) Rejuvenation of pilgrimage and spiritual experiences
- C) Development of coastal tourism infrastructure
- D) Promotion of international tourism events
- E) Support for local handicrafts and artisans



PRASAD Scheme
Pilgrimage Rejuvenation
and Spiritual Augmentation
Drive

Answer

B) Rejuvenation of pilgrimage and spiritual experiences



PRASHAD Scheme (Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Augmentation Drive):

- **Launched:** 2014-15.
- **Objective:**
 - Enhance pilgrimage and spiritual experiences for tourists.
 - Develop well-planned tourism infrastructure ensuring:
 - **Tourist convenience**, accessibility, security, cleanliness.
 - **Preservation of the cultural and spiritual essence** of pilgrimage and heritage sites.



PRASHAD Scheme (Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Augmentation Drive):

- **Implementation:**
 - Provides financial assistance to State Governments and UTs for infrastructure development.
- **Tamil Nadu Projects:**
 - Two projects sanctioned under PRASHAD in Tamil Nadu.
 - A key project: Development of Eight Navagraha Temples Circuit identified for development.



Swadesh Darshan Scheme (SDS):

- **Launched:** 2014-15.
- **Objective:**
 - Enhance tourism facilities while promoting culture and heritage.
 - Ensure sustainable and responsible tourism.
- **Swadesh Darshan 2.0 (SD2.0):**
 - Revamped to focus on destination development with a sustainable approach.
 - Includes Challenge Based Destination Development (CBDD) sub-scheme for holistic destination development.
- **Key Identified Sites in Tamil Nadu under CBDD:**
 - Thanjavur
 - Rameswaram Island



Static GK Information:

- **Ministry of Tourism:**
 - **Minister:** Gajendra Singh Shekhawat
 - **Founded:** 1967
 - **Headquarters:** New Delhi
- **Tamil Nadu:**
 - **Capital:** Chennai
 - **Chief Minister:** M. K. Stalin
 - **Governor:** R. N. Ravi



NATIONAL AFFAIRS



Tabular Summary:

Category	Details
PRASHAD Scheme	Launched in 2014-15 for pilgrimage rejuvenation
Swadesh Darshan Scheme	Launched in 2014-15 for tourism augmentation
Swadesh Darshan 2.0	Focus on sustainable destination development
Tamil Nadu Projects	- Navagraha Temples Circuit under PRASHAD
	- Thanjavur & Rameswaram under CBDD (SD2.0)
Funds Sanctioned	Rs. 1646.99 crore for 48 projects nationwide



QUICK RECALL



- **Haris Rauf and Danni Wyatt-Hodge named ICC Players of the Month for November 2024.**
- **Shaheen Shah Afridi is the youngest to take 100 wickets in all formats at 24 years, 248 days.**
- **2030 FIFA World Cup: Hosted by Spain, Portugal, Morocco, with centenary matches in South America.**
- **2034 FIFA World Cup: Awarded to Saudi Arabia, amid infrastructure expansion plans.**
- **Doordarshan is the official broadcast partner for the Hockey India League 2024-25.**
- **ADB revised India's FY25 GDP growth to 6.5%, FY26 to 7%.**
- **National Panchayat Awards 2024 honored 45 Panchayats for sustainable and inclusive rural governance.**
- **Abathsahayeswarar Temple (Tamil Nadu) won the Award of Distinction for structural conservation.**
- **BJPCI Project (Mumbai) received the Award of Merit for preserving a Gothic-style school building.**



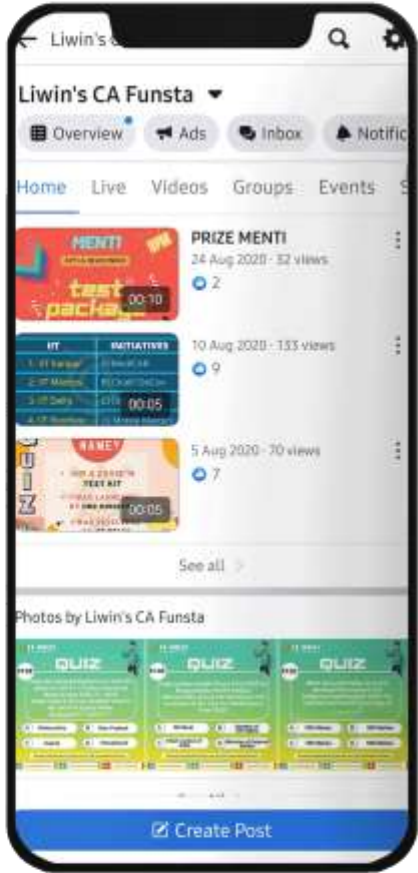
QUICK RECALL



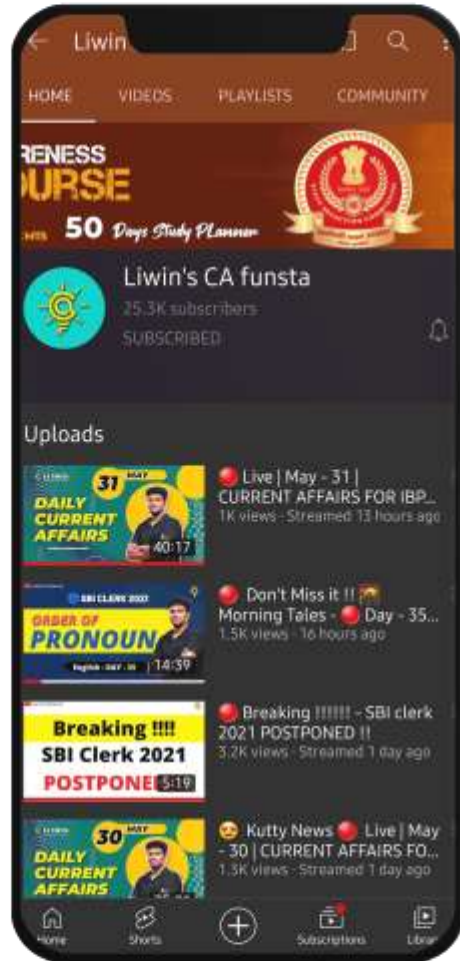
- **India plans to triple atomic power capacity to 22,480 MW by 2031-32.**
- **OpenAI launched Sora Turbo for AI video generation, offering 1080p resolution videos.**
- **Lok Sabha passed Railways (Amendment) Bill, 2024, simplifying railway governance and legal framework.**
- **MoHUA launched Rs 8,000 crore scheme for 8 new smart cities.**
- **WAC 2024 inaugurated in Dehradun with the theme "Digital Health: An Ayurveda Perspective."**
- **Rajasthan (Bikaner) hosted the 14th Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav (RSM) in 2023.**
- **PRASHAD Scheme: Focuses on rejuvenating pilgrimage sites for enhanced tourist experiences.**
- **Swadesh Darshan Scheme: Promotes sustainable tourism by developing cultural heritage sites.**
- **Swadesh Darshan 2.0: Revamped with Challenge-Based Destination Development for holistic growth.**



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