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National Affairs

At the national level, the most important event in the year 2024 was the election of Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the third consecutive time. Apart from this, many important schemes like PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana were also started this year. The Central Government also constituted the 23rd Law Commission this year. Three new criminal laws and Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) were also came into force. Kozhikode being declared India's first UNESCO City of Literature was also an important event of the year.

One Nation, One Election Bill Approved

- The One Nation, One Election Bill, approved by Union Cabinet on December 13, 2024, aims to hold local, state, and Lok Sabha elections simultaneously.
- Proposed a phased approach, holding state assembly and Lok Sabha elections simultaneously, followed by local body polls within a hundred days.
- This bill, which requires approval from half of India's states and changes at least five sections of the Constitution, is highly complex.
- Up to 1967, India had simultaneous elections for state assemblies and the Lok Sabha. Only four states now have Lok Sabha elections that coincide with assembly elections.
- Supporters argue that the law will ensure governance continuity, reduce election expenses, reduce voter fatigue, and boost voter turnout.
- MK Stalin CM of Tamil Nadu is among the opponents who claim that the plan is anti-democratic and might marginalise regional parties.

PM Modi Inaugurated the Ashtalakshmi Mahotsav

- PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the Ashtalakshmi Mahotsav at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi on December 6, 2024.
- The event, organised from December 6 to 8, celebrated Northeast India's vibrant culture. It aims to offer a dynamic stage for showcasing the region's textile sector, traditional craftsmanship, tourism potential, and unique GI tagged products.
- Named after the eight forms of prosperity, the event celebrated the rich traditions and development of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Manipur, Nagaland, Mizoram, Tripura, and Sikkim.

'Anna Chakra' Launched

- Union Minister Pralhad Joshi launched 'Anna Chakra' and the SCAN (Subsidy Claim Application for NFSA) portal on December 5, 2024.
- It aimed at modernising India's Public Distribution System (PDS) and streamlining subsidy claims under the National Food Security Act (NFSA).
- Developed to optimise the PDS logistics network, ensuring efficient and seamless movement of food grains across India.
- Created in collaboration with the World Food Programme (WFP) and the Foundation for Innovation and Technology Transfer (FITT).
- The project aims to reduce transportation distance by 58 crore quintal-kilometres annually, resulting in estimated annual savings of ₹ 250 crore.
- It covers 30 states, 4.37 lakh Fair Price Shops (FPSs), and approximately 6,700 warehouses, integrated with the Freight Operations Information System (FOIS) and PM Gati Shakti platform.

Sanskrit and Maithili Translations of the Indian Constitution Released

- President Droupadi Murmu unveiled Sanskrit and Maithili translations of the Indian Constitution in New Delhi on November 26, 2024.

- It marked Samvidhan Diwas and 75th anniversary of Constitution adoption.
- Its celebration was hosted by Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar, PM Narendra Modi, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, and Opposition Leader Rahul Gandhi.
- The Hamara Samvidhan, Hamara Swabhimaan Campaign, launched on November 26, 2024.
- The Indian Constitution, adopted on November 26, 1949. Sanskrit and Maithili translations empower citizens by providing a deeper understanding of constitutional principles.

Cabinet Approved PAN 2.0

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved the PAN 2.0 Project on November 26, 2024 to digitise the PAN and TAN systems.
- PAN 2.0 features no reapplication, digital upgrades, QR code integration, streamlined processes, improved service delivery.
- Taxpayers can benefit from faster, secure processing of PAN-related services, a unified identifier across government systems, and paperless transactions.
- The government has allocated ₹ 1435 crore for infrastructure upgrades and issued over 78 crore PAN cards, benefiting 98% of taxpayers.
- PAN 2.0 eliminates redundancies, facilitates compliance, and boosts business efficiency by providing a unified digital business identifier.

National Mission on Natural Farming Approved

- The National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF) was approved by the Union Cabinet on November 25, 2024, aims to promote sustainable agriculture practices like Zero Budget Natural Farming.
- NMNF aims to provide natural farming inputs to 15000 clusters across Gram Panchayats, with financial outlay of ₹ 2481 crore, central and state allocations.
- The NMNF integrates past initiatives such as Bhartiya Prakratik Krishi Paddhati, Gobardhan Mission, and Natural Farming Corridor.
- Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF) is a sustainable farming method that relies on natural resources like cow dung, urine, local seeds, and organic manure.

Atal Innovation Mission Extended until 2028

- The Indian government has extended the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) until March 31, 2028, launching AIM 2.0 on November 25, 2024.
- It aimed at addressing systemic gaps and improving entrepreneurial outcomes.
- AIM 1.0 focuses on establishing foundational innovation platforms, such as Atal Tinkering Labs and Atal Incubation Centres.
- AIM 2.0 aims to fill gaps and enhance ecosystem efficiency through programs like rural innovation centres, deeptech reactors, and sectoral launchpads.

- AIM 2.0 aims to increase input through vernacular innovation centres, expand Atal Tinkering Labs, improve success rate through human capital development.

National Consumer Helpline Programme Expanded

- The government is expanding its NCH programme to include more firms to improve efficiency in resolving consumer grievances across various industries declared on Nov 24, 2024.
- This Programme offers real-time complaint resolution to over 1000 companies across various sectors, aiming to resolve issues within 30 days.
- NCH is implementing advanced technology to streamline grievance redressal processes, including AI-powered speech recognition and a multilingual chatbot.
- The programme enhances consumer trust, supports consumer rights, and improves business efficiency by promoting transparency and accountability.

3rd Edition of 'Nayi Chetna–Pahal Badlaav Ki'

- Rural Development Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan launched 'Nayi Chetna 3.0', a month-long campaign against gender-based violence, in New Delhi on November 23, 2024.
- It will be implemented across all states and union territories until December 23, 2024. The 'Nayi Chetna 3.0' campaign tackles GBV by promoting collective action, fostering grassroots participation, and paving the way for a safer, more equitable future for women in India.
- The campaign aims to raise awareness about gender-based violence, encourage action, provide support, and empower communities through Self-Help Groups.

Prasar Bharati Launched its OTT Platform 'WAVES'

- Prasar Bharati's OTT platform, WAVES, was launched at the 55th International Film Festival of India in 2024 on November 20, 2024.
- 'WAVES' offers 65 live TV channels, video-on-demand, free games, and online shopping in 12 languages, blending classic content.
- The company streams events like US Premier League Cricket and Mann Ki Baat, collaborates with CDAC for cybersecurity awareness.
- The platform is a family-friendly platform that promotes clean, inclusive content showcasing India's cultural heritage.

Collaboration on Agricultural Innovation

- The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Telangana and the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) are collaborating.
- Collaborating is to enhance agricultural and food processing innovation in India.
- CII-Telangana chairman Sai Prasad invited ICRISAT to join CII's Food and Agriculture panel on November 15, 2024.
- The panel discussed agricultural issues like climate change impacts, resource management issues, and market access barriers.
- The CII-ICRISAT partnership aims to enhance agricultural innovation, boost food security, and improve farmer lives.
- ICRISAT aims to enhance crop yield in semi-arid regions by addressing water shortages, soil degradation, and climate resilience.

'Operation Dronagiri' Launched

- Professor Abhay Karandikar, Secretary of the Department of Science and Technology, launched Operation Dronagiri on November 14, 2024.
- With the goal of showcasing the use of geospatial technology to enhance corporate operations and the quality of life for residents.
- In Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Assam, Andhra Pradesh, and Maharashtra this will concentrates on 3 main areas : agriculture, livelihoods, and logistics and transportation.
- The Integrated Geospatial Data exchange Interface (GDI) ensures privacy through sophisticated protocols.
- It will facilitating easy access and exchange of geographic data such as environmental monitoring, urban planning, and disaster management.
- This strategy seeks to establish India as a global leader in geospatial technology.

First All-women Battalion in CISF Approved

- The Central Industrial Security Force's (CISF) first all-female unit i.e., Mahila unit approved on November 12, 2024.
- It seeks to strengthen women's responsibilities in national security operations and to empower them.
- In 1969, the CISF was created and secures Airports, metro rail systems, VIP protection and they secure vital infrastructures.
- Currently, more than 7% of the CISF force is female and it is anticipated that the creation of the Mahila Battalion would inspire more women.
- During the 53rd CISF Day festivities, the concept of an all-female battalion was put forth led by Union Home Minister Amit Shah.
- Protecting vital infrastructure and promoting women's involvement in national security are among the goals of the Mahila Battalion.
- This programme supports Prime Minister Narendra Modi's goal of increasing women's involvement in the development of the country.

NITI Aayog Launched ASSET Platform

- The Ministries of Power and New and Renewable Energy and NITI Aayog established the ASSET platform (Accelerating Sustainable Solutions for Energy Transition) on November 11, 2024.
- It will assist states in developing energy transition plans and carrying out projects, its main objective is to hasten India's shift to green energy.

- This include becoming a developed country (Viksit Bharat) by 2047 and reaching net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2070.
- NITI Aayog recommends three key steps : blueprint preparation, project development, and innovation promotion in renewable energy technologies.
- In areas like energy efficiency and e-mobility, the ASSET platform will highlight cutting-edge technology and best practices.
- The role of the Indian Society of Engineering Geology (ISEG) Foundation is to promote energy transition by acting as a knowledge partner.

New Standing Committee for Inter-State Council

- PM Narendra Modi approved changes to appointing Union Home Minister Amit Shah as chairman of Committee on November 11, 2024.
- The committee include 12 members, including Union Ministers Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Nirmala Sitharaman etc.
- The main objective is to enhance inter-state coordination and performance in state actions towards other states.
- The Inter-state Council will oversee its decisions, with Standing Committee monitoring implementation.
- The committee addresses complex Centre State relations through a dialogue-based approach, involving diverse regional members.
- The Standing Committee's aims to enhance decision-making efficiency and coordination, leading to improved policy implementation.
- The Inter State Council coordination between the Centre and states, addressing issues and resolving conflicts through consultation.

Decentralised Green Hydrogen Initiative Launched

- India launched a ₹ 200 crore scheme on November 10, 2024 to promote green hydrogen production for residential and commercial applications.
- The scheme will explore innovative solutions like floating solar hydrogen production, biomass hydrogen generation etc.
- The scheme prioritises decentralised applications of green hydrogen, such as cooking, heating, off-grid electricity generation etc.
- India's solar PV exports surged 230 times to $ 2 billion in 2023-24, driven by US market demand and companies like Adani, Waree, and Vikram.
- US trade policy changes, including tariffs on Southeast Asian imports, could benefit Indian solar exporters.
- India's battery demand is highly import-dependent, with 70% predicted to be imported by 2030.

INDIAsize to be Introduced Soon

- The government will launch the 'INDIAsize' initiative, to create standardised measurements for Indian body types.
- Currently, international and domestic brands in India rely on US and UK size standards, offering 'small', 'medium', and 'large' sizes.
- However, Indian body types differ from Western ones in terms of height, weight, and specific body measurements, often leading to fitting issues.
- The Ministry of Textiles has sanctioned the INDIAsize project to establish standard body sizes for the Indian apparel industry, aiming to solve the disparities and inconsistencies in clothing fits.

Census to Commence in 2025

- The Central Government plans to commence the Census 2025, aiming for completion by 2026, and delimit Lok Sabha seats by 2028 announced in October, 2024.
- The Census starts in 2025, completes in 2026, delimits post-2026, expected by 2028, and adjusts to 2035, breaking the traditional decadal schedule.
- The opposition, led by Congress, is advocating for a caste-based census, which could include detailed sub-sect information within General and SC-ST categories.
- Mritunjay Kumar Narayan (Registrar General & Census Commissioner of India) tenure extends until August, 2026, ensuring continuity in census leadership.
- Union Home Minister Amit Shah announces finalized methodology, addressing technological integration and data collection techniques.
- Census 2025 in India will provide updated population data, impact delimitation aid in social and economic planning, and leverage digital methodologies for efficiency and accuracy.

21st Livestock Census Operation Launched

- Union Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh alias Lalan Singh launched the pivotal initiative of the 21st Livestock Census operation on October 25, 2024.
- The 21st Livestock Census will cover over 30 crore households, focusing on gender roles, breed management, animal health, and productivity.

DIGITAL LIFE CERTIFICATE CAMPAIGN 3.0 LAUNCHED

Digital Life Certification Campaign 3.0 started from November 1, 2024 to November 30, 2024 and was inaugurated by Union Minister Jitendra Singh. Jeevan Praman or the Digital Life Certificate is the document certifying the lives of pensioners based on an electronically acquired solution.

Initially it was launched in 2014, and Face Authentication was included in 2021. Submissions of DLC are completely convenient for pensioners as they can even fill from home or from Pension Disbursing Banks.

- Technological include mobile app-based data collection for offline breed identification, real-time monitoring via web-based dashboards, and a trained workforce of over 1 lakh field personnel.
- The Census provides economic insights into livestock, enhancing livelihoods, agricultural GDP, employment, and aligning with Sustainable Development Goals.
- The project aims to enhance rural livelihoods, improve animal health, and modernize livestock management through accurate data, data-driven policies, and real-time monitoring.

Four Airports Inaugurated under UDAN

- PM Narendra Modi inaugurated Rewa, Ambikapur, and Saharanpur airports under RCS-UDAN on October 20, 2024.
- RCS-UDAN was launched in 2016, aims to promote regional air connectivity.
- Its first flight connected Shimla to Delhi inaugurated by PM Narendra Modi in April 2017.
- Over 1.44 crore passengers have flown under RCS-UDAN, with 601 routes and 86 aerodromes operational across 34 States/UTs.
- UDAN 1.0 (2017) focused on unserved routes, UDAN 3.0 (2018) focused on water aerodromes and UDAN 5.1 (2023) helicopter services to promote connectivity in hilly regions.
- The scheme improving connectivity between tourism hubs like Khajuraho, Deoghar, Amritsar, Pasighat, and Agatti Island.

Validity of Section 6A of Citizenship Act for Assam Immigrants Upheld

- The Supreme Court upheld the constitutional validity of Section 6A of the Citizenship Act, related to Assam immigrants, with a 4:1 majority verdict on October 17, 2024.
- A five-judge bench led by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud stated that the Assam Accord addressed the issue of illegal migration politically.
- Justices Surya Kant, MM Sundresh, and Manoj Misra ruled that Parliament had the power to enact Section 6A.
- Section 6A, added in 1985, grants citizenship to those of Indian origin who entered Assam before January 1, 1966.
- Indigenous groups in Assam have opposed Section 6A, arguing it legitimizes the entry of migrants from Bangladesh after the cutoff date.

Humsafar Policy Launched

- Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari launched the 'Humsafar Policy' in New Delhi on October 8, 2024.
- It is aimed at improving travel convenience on national highways and promoting the development of wayside amenities.
- Nitin Gadkari emphasized that the initiative will benefit local marginalised communities and enhance the overall travel experience by ensuring safe and pleasant journeys.
- He noted that the policy prioritizes environmental considerations, incorporating elements like water and soil conservation, waste recycling, and solar energy.
- The 'Humsafar' policy will offer standardized, well-maintained, and hygienic facilities, with information available via the 'Rajmarg Yatra' app for commuters.

National Mission on Edible Oils and Oilseeds Launched

- The government has launched the National Mission on Edible Oils and Oilseeds (NMEO-Oilseeds) for the period 2024-25 to 2030-31, with a budget of ₹ 10103 crore as of October 4, 2024.
- The initiative aims to achieve self-reliance in oilseed production over the next 7 years.
- Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw announced that the mission will enhance the production of essential oilseed crops, including rapeseed mustard, groundnut, soybean, sunflower, and sesame.
- It will also improve collection and extraction efficiency from secondary sources such as cottonseed, rice bran, and tree-butter oils.
- The mission targets increasing primary oilseed production from 39 million metric tonnes in 2022-23 to 69.7 million metric tonnes by 2030-31.

India to join International Energy Efficiency Hub

- The Union Cabinet approved India's signing of a letter of intent to join the International Energy Efficiency Hub on October 4, 2024.
- This decision underscores India's dedication to sustainable development and its commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- By becoming a member, India is making significant progress toward a sustainable future, facilitating a transition to a low-carbon economy and enhancing energy security.
- Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting Ashwini Vaishnaw highlighted that India will gain access to a strategic group of 16 nations sharing innovative energy practices.
- Membership will enable India to collaborate with other countries, share its expertise, and adopt international best practices while contributing to global climate change efforts.

Anna Darpan Initiative Launched

- The Food Corporation of India (FCI) announced a significant digital transformation initiative known as ANNA DARPAN as part of its 100 Days Achievements program on October 3, 2024.
- This new digital platform will replace the outdated Depot Online System and enhance the management of food supply chains, including mandis, mills, and depots.
- ANNA DARPAN aims to improve efficiency and productivity, offer a user-friendly interface, utilize data analytics for informed decision-making, integrate with other systems, consolidate current platforms to eliminate duplication, and support mobile access for users on the go.

- Coforge Limited has been selected to design, develop, and maintain this cloud-based platform, ensuring effective communication across various system components.

'Cruise Bharat Mission' Launched to boost Tourism

- Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Sarbananda Sonowal, launched the 'Cruise Bharat Mission' at Mumbai port on October 1, 2024.
- This initiative aims to position India as a global cruise tourism hub by doubling the number of cruise passengers by 2029.
- The mission will focus on 3 cruise segments: ocean and harbour, river and inland, and island. It will be implemented in 3 phases:
  1. **Phase 1 (October 1, 2024 - September 30, 2025):** Conducting studies, master planning, and modernizing existing infrastructure.
  2. **Phase 2 (October 1, 2025 - March 31, 2027):** Developing new terminals and destinations.
  3. **Phase 3 (April 1, 2027 - March 31, 2029):** Integrating cruise circuits and continuing infrastructure enhancements.

India is 3rd Largest Ethanol Producer and Consumer

- India has emerged as the 3rd-largest producer and consumer of ethanol globally as of September 30, 2024, driven by significant policy reforms aimed at promoting biofuels and enhancing energy sustainability.
- The government has initiated various programs to boost ethanol production, including providing financial assistance to sugarcane farmers and manufacturers.
- These initiatives are designed to increase ethanol availability for fuel blending, decrease dependence on fossil fuels, and support rural farmers.
- The India Sugar & Bio-Energy Conference, held in September, 2024 by the Indian Sugar & Bio-Energy Manufacturers Association, brought together policymakers and industry leaders to discuss the future of these sectors.
- This year's theme, "Harmonising Sweet Sustainability : Navigating India's Path to a Green Economy".
- It emphasizes sustainable practices and collaboration to advance eco-friendly solutions within the sugar and bio-energy industries.

BRAP 2024 Initiative Announced

- The Ministry of Commerce and Industry on September 30, 2024 announced the introduction of the Business Reforms Action Plan (BRAP) 2024 to bolster the Make in India initiative.

- The Ministry stated that BRAP aims to create a seamless regulatory framework for businesses across the country, thereby improving the ease of doing business.
- This initiative will streamline processes, reduce compliance burdens, and incorporate digital solutions to position India as a preferred destination for global investment.
- Additionally, BRAP will implement an innovative assessment methodology that combines evidence-based and feedback-based evaluations for a more thorough and adaptable approach.

'Paryatan Mitra' and 'Paryatan Didi' Initiative

- The Ministry of Tourism launched a national responsible tourism initiative called Paryatan Mitra and Paryatan Didi on September 27, 2024.
- This initiative aims to enhance the tourist experience by connecting visitors with 'tourist-friendly' individuals who act as proud ambassadors and storytellers for their destinations.
- A significant focus is placed on training women and youth to develop new tourism offerings, including heritage walks, food tours, craft tours, nature treks, and homestays, tailored to the unique potential of each location.
- The training includes tourism-specific instruction alongside general training in digital literacy and tools to ensure that these experiences are visible and accessible to tourists globally.

Government Hiked Minimum Wage Rate

- The central government has revised the Variable Dearness Allowance, leading to an increase in minimum wage rates as of September 26, 2024.
- The new rates effective from October 1 and are divided by skill levels-unskilled, semi-skilled, skilled, and highly skilled-along with geographical classifications A, B, and C.
- In area 'A', unskilled workers in sectors like construction, sweeping, cleaning, and loading & unloading will now receive ₹ 783 per day.
- Semi-skilled workers will earn 868 rupees daily, while skilled, clerical, and watch & ward (without arms) workers will receive 954 rupees per day.
- Highly skilled workers and watch & ward (with arms) personnel will have a minimum wage of 1,035 rupees daily.
- These changes reflect the government's commitment to improving workers' wages across various sectors.

7th Rashtriya Poshan Maah Celebrated

- The 7th Rashtriya Poshan Maah, celebrated across India in 2024, represents a crucial milestone in the country's fight against malnutrition, as noted on September 27, 2024.
- This month-long campaign is vital to India's mission to eliminate nutritional deficiencies and has reinvigorated discussions around health and nutrition.

- This year's campaign emphasizes the Anemia Mukt Bharat initiative, utilizing a 6x6x6 strategy that targets six age groups through six interventions across six institutions.
- As of August 2024, the strategy has yielded positive results, with 95% of pregnant women and 65.9% of lactating women receiving 180 Iron and Folic Acid (IFA) tablets, greatly improving maternal and child health outcomes.

39th Place to India in Global Innovation Index 2024

- India has risen to 39th place among 133 global economies in the Global Innovation Index (GII) 2024 as of September 26, 2024.
- Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal announced that India ranks first among the ten economies in the Central and Southern Asia region.
- Additionally, India ranks first among lower-middle-income economies and fourth in the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), Science & Technology (S&T) Cluster Ranking.
- Major Indian cities like Mumbai, Delhi, Bengaluru, and Chennai are included in the World's Top 100 S&T clusters, and India is seventh globally in intangible asset intensity.
- Since being ranked 81st in 2015, India's improvement in the GII is significant, with Switzerland, Sweden, the US, Singapore, and the UK recognized as the most innovative economies.

Make in India Completed 10 Years

- The Make in India initiative marked its 10th anniversary on September 25, 2024, showcasing significant strides in India's manufacturing sector and economic growth.
- Launched in 2014 to attract investment and foster innovation, it has transformed India into a manufacturing hub.
- The initiative spans diverse sectors like space, semiconductors, and electric vehicles, making India the second-largest mobile producer and reducing imports by 85%.
- The Production Linked Incentive scheme attracted investments worth ₹ 1.28 lakh crore. India has launched a startup every hour, generating 1.5 million jobs.
- Key achievements include global leadership in COVID-19 vaccine production, the Vande Bharat train, and dominance in digital payments through UPI.

World Food India 2024 Event Organised

- The four-day mega event, World Food India 2024, concluded on September 22, 2024, after starting on September 19 at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi.
- Approximately 90 countries, 26 states and Union Territories, and 18 Central Ministries participated, showcasing India's growing influence in food processing.
- This third edition included over 40 knowledge sessions, including thematic discussions and state-specific conferences.
- Japan was the partner country, while Vietnam and Iran were highlighted.
- The Global Food Regulators Summit, organized by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India, also took place during this event.

India to Host World Audio Visual and Entertainment Summit 2025

- The Indian government will host the first-ever World Audio Visual & Entertainment Summit (WAVES) from February 5 to 9, 2025, as announced on September 21, 2024.
- This summit aims to boost India's media and entertainment industry and enhance its global presence.
- It will cover the entire spectrum of media and entertainment, encouraging dialogue, innovation, and trade partnerships among industry leaders.
- Key discussions will address trends, challenges, and opportunities, particularly in light of new technologies transforming the sector.
- Special attention will be given to the Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming, and Comics (AVGC) sectors, which are rapidly gaining global recognition.
- To promote creativity and preserve classical traditions, several competitions, including Prasar Bharati's 'Battle of the Bands' and "Symphony of India," will engage creators across the country before the summit.

White Revolution 2.0 Introduced

- Union Minister Amit Shah on September 21, 2024 announced 'White Revolution 2.0' to enhance India's dairy sector, building on the success of Operation Flood.
- Initiated in 1970, which transformed the industry through cooperative societies and made India a leading milk producer.
- The main objective of White Revolution 2.0 is to increase milk collection by 50% over the next five years.
- It aims to raise daily procurement from 660 lakh kg to 1007 lakh kg by 2028-29.
- This initiative will improve market access for dairy farmers by expanding the cooperative network, which currently consists of around 1.7 lakh societies covering 30% of villages and handling 10% of national milk production.

'One Nation, One Election' Recommendations Accepted

- The Union Cabinet on September 19, 2024 accepted the recommendations on Simultaneous Elections (One Nation, One Election - ONOE), chaired by former President Ram Nath Kovind.
- This proposal aims to synchronize state and Lok Sabha elections, allowing voters to cast their votes for both on the same day.
- The committee, formed in September 2023, submitted its report in March 2024. Simultaneous elections were practiced between 1951 and 1967.

- Previous reports, such as the Law Commission's 170th (1999) and the Parliamentary Committee's 79th (2015), explored similar ideas.
- Ram Nath Kovind-led panel consulted political parties and experts, finding broad support for the concept of simultaneous elections in the country.

India Water Week 2024 Organised

- India Water Week 2024 started at Bharat Mandapam, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi on September 17, 2024.
- The theme of the year 2024, was ''Partnerships and Cooperation for Inclusive Water Development and Management''.
- The event will include a multi-disciplinary conference and an exhibition, expecting over 3,000 delegates globally.
- It will feature thematic sessions on water security, integrated management, and governance.
- The conference aims to foster collaboration among stakeholders to address water challenges, promote sustainable practices, and enhance resource allocation for equitable water distribution, ensuring a resilient future for water management in India.

6 Initiatives of Parliamentary Affairs Ministry Launched

- Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju inaugurated 6 new initiatives as part of the ministry's 100-day achievements in New Delhi on September 11, 2024.
- He inaugurated the following 6 initiatives:-
  1. National e-Vidhan Application 2.0 (NeVA 2.0)
  2. Subordinate Legislation Management System
  3. Consultative Committee Management System
  4. National Youth Parliament Scheme 2.0
  5. Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRSs),
  6. NeVA Mobile App Version 2.0
- With an improved user interface and better integration with state legislatures, aims to create a paperless legislative environment and enhance real-time governance for more efficient decision-making.

Cabinet Approved Mission Mausam

- The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on September 11, 2024 approved 'Mission Mausam' with an outlay of ₹ 2000 crore for two years.
- Mission Mausam, which will be primarily implemented by the Ministry of Earth Sciences, is envisaged as a multi-faceted and transformational initiative to give a tremendous boost to India's weather and climate-related science, research and services.
- The focus of the mission will be to improve observations and understanding to provide highly accurate and timely weather and climate information across time and space scales, including monsoon forecasts, alerts for air quality, extreme weather events and weather interventions for management of cyclones, fog, hailstorms and rainfall, etc., capacity building and awareness generation.
- It will also promote data-driven decision making in areas such as urban planning, road and rail transport, offshore operations and environmental monitoring.
- Three institutes of the Ministry of Earth Sciences : the India Meteorological Department, the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology and the National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting will primarily implement Mission Mausam.

23rd Law Commission Constituted

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

Commemorative Stamp for 75 Years of Supreme Court

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled a commemorative postage stamp to mark 75 years of the Supreme Court of India during the District Judges Conference at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi on September 2, 2024.

NEW SUPREME COURT FLAG AND INSIGNIA UNVEILED

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

These symbols underscore the Supreme Court's role as the protector of the Constitution and justice. The new insignia includes the phrase 'Yato Dharmastato Jayah' in Devanagari script, meaning 'Where there is Dharma, there is victory'.

- This stamp, issued by the Department of Posts under the Ministry of Communications, celebrates the Supreme Court's vital role since its establishment on January 28, 1950.
- It highlights the Court's contributions to upholding the rule of law, protecting citizens' rights, and delivering justice throughout India.
- The stamp honors the Supreme Court's lasting legacy and underscores its significant milestone in the nation's judicial history, reflecting its commitment to justice and legal integrity over the past 75 years.

Comprehensive Guidelines for Seaplane Operations

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

Project to Combat Micro-plastic Contamination in Food

- The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) on August 18, 2024 launched a new project in New Delhi to address the issue of microplastic contamination in food.
- The project aims to develop and validate methods for detecting micro and nanoplastics in food products.
- The primary goals include creating standard protocols for analysing micro- and nanoplastics, conducting comparisons between different laboratories, and collecting important data on consumer exposure to microplastics.

Ban on Voice Promotional Calls from Unregistered Numbers

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

Global Mining Initiative Launched

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

Ayush Standardisation Departments to be Established by BIS

- The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) announced the creation of a new department dedicated to standardising Ayush practices on August 9, 2024.
- This initiative, introduced by the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, aims to improve the safety, effectiveness, and quality of Ayush products.
- The department will encompass Ayurveda, Yoga, Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, Sowa-Rigpa, and Homeopathy.
- BIS Director General Pramod Kumar explained that the new Ayush department will establish 7 sectional committees, each addressing a specific Ayush system.

Digital Shakti Center Inaugurated

- The National Commission for Women (NCW) on August 5, 2024 launched the Digital Shakti Center in New Delhi to combat cyber crimes against women.
- This facility aims to raise awareness and provide technical support for registering and addressing cyber crime complaints. The initiative responds to the increasing cyber crimes like identity theft, cyberstalking, and sexual exploitation.
- Building on the success of the 2018 Digital Shakti campaign, the center will offer expert guidance for timely and effective complaint resolution.

India Elected Vice-Chair of the Supply Chain Council

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

Rashtrapati Bhavan's Durbar Hall, Ashok Hall Renamed

- Durbar Hall was renamed Ganatantra Mandap, and Ashok Hall was renamed Ashok Mandap at Rashtrapati Bhavan on July 25, 2024.
- The President's Secretariat announced that these changes aim to make the venue more reflective of Indian cultural values.

- Durbar Hall, previously named after the term used for courts under Indian rulers and the British, has been renamed Ganatantra Mandap, aligning with the Indian Republic concept.
- This new name reflects India's deep-rooted republican values. Ashok Hall, originally a ballroom, was renamed Ashok Mandap.
- The term Ashok, meaning 'free from sorrow', also refers to Emperor Ashok, a symbol of unity and peace.
- This renaming is part of a broader effort to remove English influences and emphasise the significance of the term Ashok in Indian culture.

India Assumed Chair of the Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre

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

NTIPRIT, NICF and WMTDC Merged into a Single Entity

- The Department of Telecommunications on July 20, 2024 merged 3 training institutes into a new entity called the National Communications Academy (NCA).
- These institutes are National Telecommunications Institute for Policy Research, Innovation and Training (NTIPRIT), National Institute of Communication Finance (NICF), and Wireless Monitoring Training & Development Centre (WMTDC).
- This merger, approved by the Minister of Communications based on the Committee for Organisational Reforms' recommendation, aims to enhance integration and efficiency in training.
- The NCA will streamline resources, offer a comprehensive approach to skill-building, and foster collaborative and interdisciplinary research.
- The NCA will use shared facilities and technology to improve learning experiences.
- Its Governing Council will oversee strategic, policy, budget, and operational matters, guiding its development in the evolving telecom sector.

Reconstitution of NITI Aayog

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

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

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

- The government announced the observance of June 25 every year as 'Samvidhaan Hatya Diwas' on July 12, 2024.
- This decision commemorates the imposition of an Emergency by former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi on that day in 1975.
- The observance aims to uphold individual freedom and defend India's democracy.
- According to Mr. Amit Shah, the Emergency marked a dictatorial act that suppressed Indian democracy, leading to mass incarcerations and media censorship.
- 'Samvidhaan Hatya Diwas' serves as a reminder of the consequences of disregarding the Constitution of India.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi highlighted on social media that this day honors all who suffered during the Emergency, describing it as a dark phase unleashed by the Congress in Indian history.

'Safai Apnao-Bimari Bhagao' Initiative Launched

- The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs announced the launch of the Safai Apnao, Bimari Bhagao initiative under Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0 on June 25, 2024.
- The initiative would start from July 1-August 31, 2024.
- This initiative aims to strengthen Urban Local Bodies' readiness to manage challenges posed by heavy rainfall and increased health risks during the June-August period.
- It aligns with the Health Ministry's 'STOP Diarrhea Campaign' and promotes collaboration across Ministries to tackle cleanliness and health challenges in the monsoon season.
- The Safai Apnao, Bimari Bhagao initiative advocates for comprehensive interventions focusing on cleanliness, advocacy, and inter-departmental coordination to be implemented.

3 New Criminal Laws came into Force

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

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

Amendments to Broadcasting and Cable Services Notified

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

BIS Introduced 2 New Standards to Enhance Safety of EVs

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

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

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

3 Crore Additional Homes Announced Under PMAY

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

Prerana Sthal in Lok Sabha Secretariat

- The Lok Sabha Secretariat initiated the development of Prerana Sthal within the Parliament House Complex, where statues of prominent leaders and freedom fighters of the country will be installed on June 6, 2024.
- The aim is to create a dedicated space where visitors to the Parliament complex can easily view these statues and draw inspiration from the lives and philosophies of these great leaders.
- The Secretariat highlighted that previously, due to their dispersed locations, visitors faced difficulty in accessing and viewing these statues.
- Prerana Sthal will also incorporate modern technology to provide detailed information about the lives and contributions of these freedom fighters to visitors.

'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' Campaign Launched

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi On June 5, 2024 inaugurated the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign to celebrate World Environment Day by planting a Peepal tree sapling at Buddha Jayanti Park in Delhi. He was joined by Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav and Delhi's Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena.
- The act of planting the tree symbolises India's commitment to protecting Mother Nature and promoting sustainable living.
- Over the past decade, India has made significant collective efforts to increase forest cover nationwide, reflecting the country's dedication to sustainable development.
- It is also noteworthy how local communities have actively participated and taken the lead in these environmental initiatives, contributing significantly to the nation's green goals.

New Mobile Number Series Launched

- The Center launched a new numbering series, 160xxxxxxx, for service or transactional calls on June 3, 2024.
- This action intends to reduce unsolicited voice calls from telemarketers utilising 10-digit mobile numbers and assist citizens in quickly identifying legitimate calls.
- Telemarketers are assigned the 140xxxxxxx series for transactional, service, and promotional calls.
- Consumers frequently disregard these calls, though, because they are frequently used for promotional objectives, which causes them to miss crucial service and transactional contacts.
- The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) declared that Principal Entities will only make service and transactional calls on the new 160xxxxxxx series.

Sanchar Saathi Initiative of Home Affairs

- The Department of Telecommunication and Ministry of Home Affairs launched The Sanchar Saathi Initiative on May 29, 2024, with the goal of combating fake SMS.
- The objective of this program is to address the spread of misleading messages that prey on gullible mobile users.
- Notably, eight SMS headers that fraudsters commonly use have been found and blacklisted by the government.
- DoT has intercepted almost 10,000 bogus mails in the last three months, coming from eight different sources.
- DoT has taken strong action, blocking 1522 SMS content templates and 73 SMS headers connected to these businesses in order to disrupt these illicit activities.

eMigrate Services through CSC

- A Memorandum of Understanding was signed on May 29, 2024, by the Ministry of External Affairs, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, and Common Services Centers eGovernance Services India Limited, outlining plans to offer eMigrate services nationwide.
- The primary target audience for the eMigrate project is blue-collar workers emigrating to countries with required immigration checks.

PRERNA STHAL INAUGURATED BY VICE-PRESIDENT

Jagdeep Dhankhar, serving as Rajya Sabha Chairperson and Vice-President, inaugurated the 'Prerna Sthal' (Inspiration Site) at the Parliament House Complex on June 17, 2024.

This newly established site consolidates statues of national icons and freedom fighters, which were previously dispersed throughout various locations on the premises.

The objective of 'Prerna Sthal' is to improve visitor accessibility to these statues and utilise contemporary technology like QR codes to narrate the life stories of these influential personalities from Indian history.