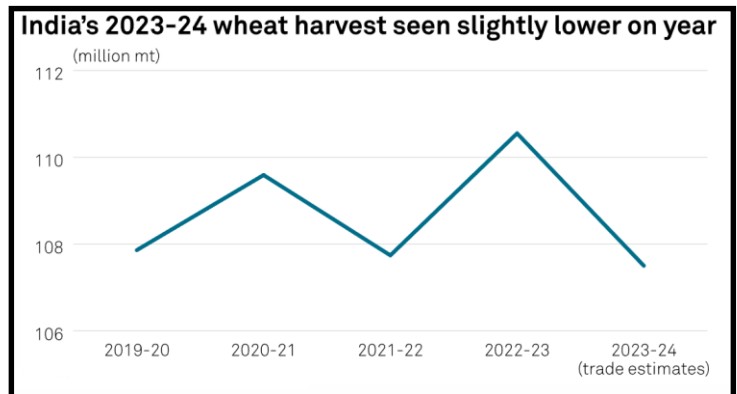




CURRENT AFFAIRS

1. INDIA TO IMPORT WHEAT AFTER 6 YEARS -

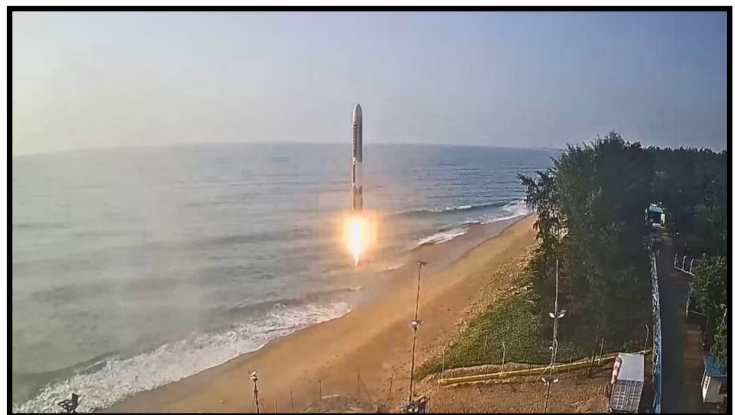
- India, the world's second-largest wheat producer, plans to begin wheat imports after a six-year gap to replenish depleted reserves and control rising prices, driven by three consecutive years of disappointing crops.



- India is likely to remove a 40% import tax on wheat, allowing private traders to purchase from countries like Russia, though in small quantities.
- India's wheat production has declined in the last 3 years due to unfavourable weather conditions, leading to a sharp drop in wheat output.
- The government estimates this year's wheat crop to be 6.25% lower than the previous year's (2023) record production of 112 million metric tons.

2. INDIA'S FIRST 3D-PRINTED ROCKET LAUNCHED -

- Recently Chennai-based start-up Agnikul Cosmos has launched the world's first rocket, Agnibaan Sub Orbital Technology Demonstrator (SOrTeD), powered by a fully 3D-printed engine.



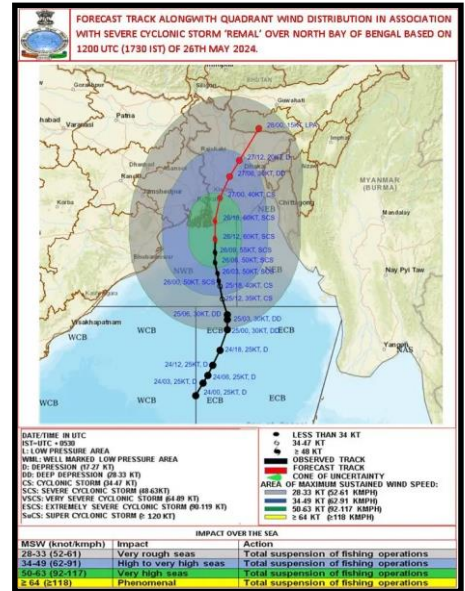
- It aims to conduct a test flight to showcase the company's internally developed technologies and gather important flight data.
- This has achieved several firsts for the Indian space ecosystem i.e. launch from a private pad (Dhanush), homegrown semi-cryo engine-powered rocket launch and the world's 1st single-piece 3D printed engine.
- It uses liquid oxygen and kerosene as propellant.



- Launch was supported by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe).

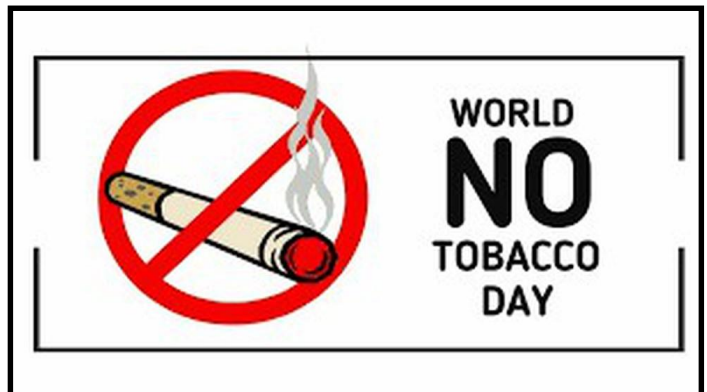
3. CYCLONE REMAL, AND DISASTER-RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE -

- The aftermath of cyclone Remal causing extensive damage in the form of landslides and flash floods in the North- East and West Bengal Region, upgradation and overhauling the disaster management system is the need of the hour.
- Remal means “sand” in Arabic and was named by Oman
- The storm made landfall near Mongla port, Bangladesh and the adjoining Sagar Islands in India’s West Bengal state with a wind speed of up to 135kmph (84mph)
- Remal was the first cyclone to hit the Bay of Bengal this year in advance of the June-September monsoon season. Cyclone Remal advanced to a severe cyclonic storm from low pressure in bay of bengal in just three days.
- Official Death Toll across the four northeastern States rose to 38



4. THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE, ORGANIZED AN EVENT ON 31 MAY TO OBSERVE WORLD NO TOBACCO DAY 2024 -

- According to an estimate in 2016-2017 after China, India has the world’s highest number of tobacco consumers, nearly 26 crore.
- A study of WHO finds that India loses 1% of its GDP to diseases and early deaths from tobacco use.



- Additionally, the health of more than 60 lakh people employed in the tobacco industry is also placed at risk because of the absorption of tobacco through the skin, which can cause various diseases.



- A 2021 study estimated that the country incurred a loss exceeding ₹1.7 lakh crore as a result of tobacco's effects on the health of its consumers in the fiscal year 2017-2018.

Challenges in tobacco control measures in India-

- A. Inadequate Penalties:** The fines for violating COTPA regulations have not been updated since 2003, with a maximum fine of only ₹5,000 for first-time packaging violations.
- B. Affordability of Tobacco:** Low tobacco taxes, which have not kept pace with income rises, have made tobacco products more affordable over the years.
- C. Government and Industry Ties:** Engagement of government officials with the tobacco industry and the Central government's 7.8% stake in ITC Ltd., India's largest tobacco company, exemplify conflicts of interest.

5. WATER STORAGE AT JUST 23% IN INDIA'S KEY RESERVOIRS -

- Water storage in India's key reservoirs was down to just 23 per cent of their total capacity amid a relentless heatwave in many parts of the country.



- As per data released by Central Water Commission (CWC) for 150 major reservoirs. At least eight reservoirs had

zero storage, these were in Maharashtra, Karnataka, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh (AP), and Uttarakhand.

- There were four others which had less than 10 per cent storage — in the states of AP, Gujarat, Maharashtra, and Karnataka.
- The southern region — consisting of AP, Telangana, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu — was the most affected.
- In the northern, eastern, and central region, available storage was just 30 per cent, 28 per cent, and 29.1 percent respectively of the total capacities of reservoirs. Storage in the Ganga river basin was just 31.99 per cent of its capacity.



6. JUNE 1 IS THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BEGINNING OF OPERATION BLUE STAR -

- Operation Blue Star was an Indian Armed Forces operation carried out between 1 and 10 June 1984.
- Punjab witnessed insurgency which began in the late 1970s and reached its peak in the first half of the 1980s.
- This insurgency, also known as the Khalistan movement, was led by Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale for the establishment of an independent Sikh state called 'Khalistan'.
- In 1983, Bhindranwale along with his followers occupied and fortified the Sikh shrine Akal Takht inside the Golden Temple Complex from which he led the insurgency campaign.
- To counter escalating violence, on June 6, 1984, Indira Gandhi government ordered a military action, known as 'Operation Blue Star' into the Golden temple in order to remove militants from the Golden Temple complex.





Quiz

Q1. With reference to the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), consider the following statements:

1. It is an autonomous agency under the Government of India.
2. It is responsible to construct and upgrade national highways across India.
3. It has increased the length of national highways from 70,000 km to 140,000 km within a decade.
4. It comprises a full-time Chairman, along with no more than five full-time Members and four part-time Members.

How many of the statements given above are correct ?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) All four

Q2. Consider the following statements about Agnibaan SOrTeD:

1. It is the world's second rocket with a single-piece three-dimensional (3D) printed engine.
2. It launched from India's first private launchpad, 'Dhanush'.
3. It is structured in six stages and can carry payloads weighing up to 1,000 kg.

How many of the statements given above are correct ?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

Q3. Consider the following statements:

1. The Vivekananda Rock is a tiny rocky islet located some 500 meters from Kanyakumari's Vavathurai beach, the southern tip of mainland India.
2. The Vivekananda memorial was formally inaugurated by the President V V Giri in 1970.

Select the incorrect answer using the codes given below:

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) None

Q4. Who has been granted a one-year extension as secretary, DDR&D, and chairman, of DRDO?

- a) Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria
- b) Sreenivas Rao
- c) V K Saraswat
- d) Samir V Kamat

Q5. In 2023–2024, China surpassed which nation to become India's



top commercial partner, with \$118.4 billion in two-way trade?

- a) Japan
- b) Russia
- c) Pakistan
- d) USA

Q6. According to the recent news, how many months has the Appointments Committee of Cabinet approved an extension for Chief of Army Staff General Manoj Pande ?

- a) 2 months
- b) 1 month
- c) 3 months
- d) 4 months

Q7. The “United Nations Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award” is presented to individuals who have made significant contributions to promoting gender equality within military operations. Which of the following statements about the award is correct ?

- a) The award is given exclusively to female military personnel.
- b) It recognizes the efforts of military personnel in integrating gender perspectives into peacekeeping missions.
- c) The award was established in the year 2000.

d) Only individuals from countries contributing the highest number of troops to UN missions are eligible for the award.

Q8. Consider the following statements:

1. Odisha is the largest producer of iron ore in India.
2. Limestone is produced from bauxite ore.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct ?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q9. Consider the following statements

1. Cryogenic liquids are gases that have been intensely cooled, which have a boiling point close to -100 degree or lower.
2. None of the Cryogenic liquids burn or allow combustion and exhibit any significant chemical reaction.

Choose the correct statements:

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2



Q10. Which of the following oceans has the largest number of the world's active volcanoes ?

- a) Arctic Ocean
- b) Atlantic Ocean
- c) Indian Ocean
- d) Pacific Ocean

Q11. The existence of a parallel economy (black money) _____.

- a) makes economy more competitive
- b) makes the monetary policies less effective

c) ensures a better distribution of income and wealth

d) ensures increasing productive investment

Q12. The unemployment created at certain times of the year, when the demand for goods and services are lower than normal, is _____.

- a) Cyclical unemployment
- b) Frictional unemployment
- c) Seasonal unemployment
- d) Structural unemployment

Answer Key

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
d	a	d	d	d	b	b	a	a	d	b	c