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## Rolls Royce Solutions agrees for localization of MTU S4000 Marine Engines in India

- Warship building company **Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Ltd (GRSE)** and **Rolls-Royce** signed a Frame and Individual License Agreement to co-operate in the license production and localisation of the MTU IMO Tier II compliant **Series 4000 Marine Engines** for governmental ships.
- As part of the agreement, the engines will be manufactured at the Diesel Engine Plant of GRSE in **Ranchi**.
- The collaboration is a part of the '**Make in India**' joint initiative and has significant market potential in coming years for all Fast Patrol Vessels, Interceptor Boats and Fast Attack Craft projects of Indian Navy and the Indian Coast Guard.
- Rolls-Royce's arm Power Systems' MTU Series 4000 engines have a power output of 746-4300 KW, giving the right propulsion to every naval vessel, from small patrol vessels to frigates and large submarines.
- The stand out features also include high-power density, power-to-weight ratio, compact design, and lastly mechanical and thermal stability.



## SJFI awards Gold medal for PT Usha

- Legendary sprinter and current President of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA), **PT Usha**, was honoured with the prestigious **'Lifetime Achievement' award**.
- This accolade was presented to her by the **Sports Journalists Federation of India (SJFI) and Delhi Sports Journalists Association (DSJA)**, recognizing her extraordinary contributions to Indian athletics.
- She is currently working as the **President of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA)**.
- PT Usha, often hailed as the **"Queen of Indian track and field,"** was presented with a medallion, a citation, and a memento.
- Usha becomes the fifth eminent sportsperson to receive the SJFI and DSJA 'Lifetime Achievement' award, joining the ranks of tennis legend Vijay Amritraj, badminton icon Prakash Padukone, cricketing legend Sunil Gavaskar, and fellow sprinter Milkha Singh.

### PT Usha's sports career:

- She won 103 international medals for India in her career between 1977 and 2000.
- She also won four gold medals and seven silver medals in the Asian Games. In the 1984 Olympics, she missed the bronze medal by 100th of a second. The Olympic Games were held in Los Angeles, California, United States in 1984.



## Kalam & Kavach – Defence Literature Festival

- Pentagon Press and Southern Command successfully hosted the "Kalam & Kavach" Defence Literature Festival at the RSAMI Institute in Pune.
- The event was opened by esteemed Chief Guest Gen Anil Chauhan, the CDS, and marked a key milestone in the integration of India's rich cultural history with contemporary national security strategies.
- The programme demonstrated how ancient knowledge from literature such as the Mahabharata and Bhagavad Gita is applicable to today's strategic concerns.
- Gen Anil Chauhan highlighted the ageless significance of Dharma from Indian scriptures, emphasising its ideals of responsibility, righteousness, and moral balance.
- The festival also recognised the publication of four key books on topics ranging from global geopolitics to the role of AI in national security.
- These included **"Russia, Gaza, Taiwan... A World at War"** by **Ajay Singh**, as well as **"A I and National Security"** by **Col Amit Sinha and Vijay Khare**.



## Senior advocate Rajendra Prasad has been appointed as the new “Advocate General of Rajasthan”

- Senior advocate Rajendra Prasad Gupta has been appointed as the new Advocate General of Rajasthan.
- Governor Kalraj Mishra has approved the proposal for appointment of Prasad.
- Prasad replaced MS Singhvi as the state's advocate general.
- Rajendra Prasad Gupta graduated in Commerce in 1981 and did LLB from Rajasthan University in 1985 and enrolled as a lawyer in BCR in 1985.
- He will be the **19th Advocate General of the state** from the hierarchy.
- Late **Shri G.C. Kasliwal** became the first Advocate General of Rajasthan state.
- The AG's office presents all cases in which the Government of Rajasthan is a party to the Rajasthan High Court with its **principal seat at Jodhpur** and division bench at Jaipur.



## Chennai Metro becomes the first metro services to join ONDC

- **Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC)** an initiative by the **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)**, has launched ticketing services for passengers travelling on the Chennai Metro Rail Ltd in the city.
- **Chennai Metro Rail** has become the first metro service to be available on the ONDC Network.
- Passengers travelling on the Chennai Metro Rail can purchase 'single' or 'return' journey tickets through the applications -- 'Rapido', 'Namma Yatri', 'redBus' which are currently available on the ONDC network.
- The overall ticketing experience on the ONDC network was enabled by CMRL partnering with 'Yaary', the first seller-side technology partner.
- This initiative not only simplifies the ticket purchasing process but also paves the way for a holistic, multimodal transportation experience.



## **Apurva Chandra appointed Health Secretary; Sanjay Jaju is the new I&B Secretary**

- Information and Broadcasting Secretary **Apurva Chandra** has been appointed as the Secretary, **Department of Health & Family Welfare**. Chandra is a 1988-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of Maharashtra cadre.
- Meanwhile, senior bureaucrat **Sanjay Jaju** has been appointed as the new **Information and Broadcasting Secretary**, in place of Chandra Jaju.
- Besides them, eight other senior officers have been appointed in different central government departments and in Lokpal.
- **A Neerja**, currently Additional Secretary, **Department of Fertilisers** has been appointed as Special Secretary in the same department.
- Also, **Ashish Kumar Bhutani** has been appointed as **Secretary at Ministry of Cooperation**.



## Mahatari Vandan Yojana in Chattisgarh

- Recently, the state government of Chhattisgarh has launched a scheme called “Mahatari Vandana Yojana ” to provide financial assistance to all the **married women of the state**.
- Under this scheme, the Chhattisgarh government will provide **Rs 1000/- per month** to female applicants who are married, widows, and come from economically weak backgrounds. The government will provide the amount on the tenth day of the month.
- Through this scheme, the government of Chhattisgarh aims to empower women and make them self-reliant.
- The scheme also encourages women to develop some skills by utilizing financial aid every month and take the long-awaited steps towards a brighter future where they are not dependent on anybody for their basic needs.



## Per capita water availability

- The per capita water availability in the country is reducing due to increase in population.
- Based on the study titled **“Reassessment of Water Availability in India using Space Inputs, 2019”** conducted by **Central Water Commission**, the average annual per capita water availability for year 2021 and 2031 has been assessed as **1486 cubic meter and 1367 cubic meter respectively**.
- Annual per-capita water availability of **less than 1700 cubic meter is considered as water stressed condition** whereas annual per-capita water availability **below 1000 cubic meters is considered as a water scarcity condition**.
- **'Water' being a State subject**, steps for augmentation, conservation and efficient management of water resources which positively impact over the issue of per capita water availability are primarily undertaken by the respective State Governments.
- In order to supplement the efforts of the State Governments, Central Government provides technical and financial assistance to them through various schemes and programmes.
- Government of India, in partnership with State, is implementing **Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)** to make provision of tap water supply to every rural household of the country by **2024**.
- Government of India has launched **AMRUT 2.0** on 1st October 2021, covering all the statutory towns of the country to ensure universal coverage of water supply & make cities ‘water secure’.



## Yemen Appoints Ahmed Awad bin Mubarak as New Prime Minister

- Yemen's internationally recognised government has named Foreign Minister Ahmed Awad bin Mubarak as the new Prime Minister.
- Bin Mubarak replaces **Maeen Abdulmalik Saeed** at a time of rising tensions in the Arabian Peninsula's poorest country after a spate of Red Sea attacks by Houthi rebels on ships that have prompted retaliatory strikes by the United States and the UK.
- Bin Mubarak, Yemen's former ambassador to the US, is widely seen as a staunch adversary of the Houthi rebels.
- He was also appointed as the country's envoy to the United Nations in 2018.



## Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs (CCSCH)

- The 7th session of Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs (CCSCH) took place in **Kochi, Kerala**.
- During this session, quality standards for five spices were finalized, namely **small cardamom, turmeric, juniper berry, allspice, and star anise**.
- These standards were then forwarded to the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) for adoption as full-fledged **Codex standards**.
- Notably, this session marked the successful implementation of the strategy of grouping spices, a significant achievement for CCSCH.

### About CCSCH:

- CCSCH was established as one of the Commodity Committees under the **Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC)** in 2013.
- India has been hosting CCSCH since its establishment, and the Spices Board India, operating under the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry**, serves as the Secretariat organization.
- The term of reference for CCSCH includes elaborating worldwide standards for spices and culinary herbs in their dried and dehydrated state and consulting with international organizations to avoid duplication.



## **DRDO successfully tests high-speed expandable aerial target 'ABHYAS'**

- India successfully flight-tested the indigenously developed high-speed expendable aerial target, Abhyas, from the integrated test range in Chandipur off the Odisha coast.
- Abhyas has been developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) as a target for the testing of missile systems.
- Four flight trials of high-speed expendable aerial target (HEAT) — Abhyas were successfully carried out by Defence Research and Development Organisation from the Integrated Test Range, Chandipur in Odisha during January 30 to February 2.
- Abhyas offers a realistic threat scenario for practice of weapon systems. It is designed for autonomous flying with the help of an auto pilot indigenously made by the ADE.



## PM Modi inaugurates India Energy Week, ONGC's sea survival centre in Goa

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated ONGC's sea survival centre in Goa.
- It aims to advance the Indian sea survival training ecosystem to global standards as a one-of-a-kind Integrated Sea Survival Training Centre.
- It is expected to train 10,000-15,000 personnel annually.
- In Goa, PM also inaugurated **India Energy Week 2024** to be held from February 6-9 in the state. At the energy exhibition and conference, he will also meet Global oil and gas CEOs and experts.
- Through the India Energy Week 2024, the government aims to encourage startups and companies which can contribute to India's energy goals.
- 17 Energy ministers from different countries, 35,000 attendees and more than 900 exhibitors are expected to participate in the event.
- Personnel will be trained in simulated and controlled harsh weather conditions.
- The centre will help trainees deal with real-life disasters and enhance their sea survival skills.



# Prevention of Unfair Means Bill 2024

10 years of imprisonment  
and 1 crore fine if caught  
indulging in malpractice in  
public examinations



# The Government introduced the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Bill, 2024 in Lok Sabha

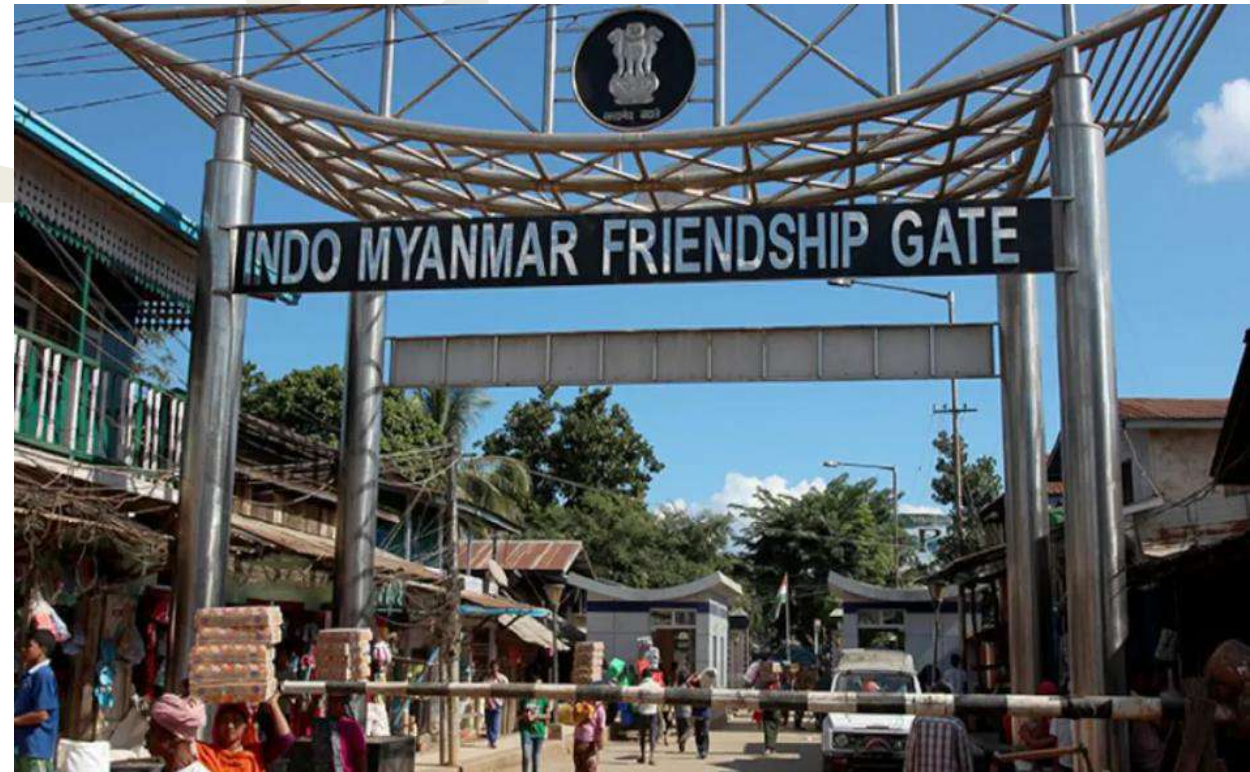
- The Centre introduced a Bill in the Lok Sabha titled "The Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Bill, 2024" to curb leaks, malpractices as well as organized malpractices in recruitment examinations like UPSC, SSC etc and entrance tests such as NEET, JEE, and CUET.
- The Bill was introduced in the house by the Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, **Dr Jitendra Singh**.
- "Prevention of Unfair Means Bill, 2024" will also cover entrance examinations held by the Union Public Service Commission, the Staff Selection Commission, the Railways, banking recruitment examinations and all computer-based examinations conducted by the National Testing Agency.
- The Bill proposes a **punishment of a minimum of three to five years of imprisonment** to curb cheating and **for those involved in organised crimes of cheating will face five to 10 years of imprisonment and a minimum fine of Rs 1 crore**.
- The Bill is aimed at preventing organised gangs and institutions that are involved in unfair means for monetary gains, but it protects candidates from its provisions.

## Border Road Organisation starts fencing project of India-Myanmar border

- The Indian government has decided to build a fence or close border along the **1,643-kilometer border with Myanmar**.
- The India-Myanmar border passes through four states - Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland, and Arunachal Pradesh.
- A 10 km stretch in Moreh, Manipur, has already been fenced and two pilot projects using a Hybrid Surveillance System (HSS) are underway.
- These projects will fence one km each in Arunachal Pradesh and Manipur. Furthermore, fence works covering approximately 20 km in Manipur have also been approved and the work will commence soon.

### Free Movement Regime (FMR):

- The Free Movement Regime (FMR) is an agreement between India and Myanmar that allows local tribes living along the border to travel up to 16 kilometres inside the other country without requiring a visa.
- According to agreement, local tribes living in any area within 16 km on either side of the border can travel with one-year validity and stay for a maximum of two weeks.



## Country's first digital National Museum to come up in Hyderabad

- Union Culture Minister G. Kishan Reddy laid the foundation stone for India's digital National Museum of Epigraphy at the Salar Jung Museum.
- Spearheaded by the **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)**, this museum will house approximately one lakh ancient writings spanning various times and languages.
- This initiative follows the announcement made last year by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman regarding the establishment of the Bharat Shared Repository of Inscriptions (BharatSHRI), with the goal of digitizing one lakh ancient inscriptions.
- **Epigraphy** is the study of writings engraved on stone, metal, wood, shell and other materials known as “inscriptions” or “epigraphs.”



## Lieutenant General Upendra Dwivedi becomes Deputy Chief of the Army

- Northern Army commander Lieutenant General Upendra Dwivedi will take over as the army's vice chief on February 15, replacing Lieutenant General MV Suchindra Kumar.
- The two generals will swap positions, with Kumar moving to the Udhampur-based Northern Command as its General Officer Commanding-in-Chief.
- Dwivedi is the frontrunner for the post of army chief as he will be the senior-most general when General Manoj Pande retires on May 31, 2024.
- He is an alumnus of Sainik School, Rewa, National Defence Academy, and Indian Military Academy.
- The **Northern Command** is responsible for guarding the country's borders with **Pakistan and China** in the north, and is the nerve centre of counter-terrorism operations in Jammu and Kashmir.

