

Man Portable Anti-tank Guided Missile Weapon System (MPATGM)

- Successful Trials of Indigenous Man Portable Anti-tank Guided Missile (MPATGM) Weapon System
- Developed by DRDO and Field Evaluated for Technological Superiority
 - **Components of the MPATGM System:** MPATGM, Launcher, Target Acquisition System, Fire Control Unit
 - The system consisted of the **MPATGM, Launcher, Target Acquisition System, and the Fire Control Unit.**

Operation Meghdoot

- **Operation Meghdoot** commenced on **April 13, 1984**, with the objective of securing strategic heights on the Siachen Glacier.
- It was launched by the Indian Army and Indian Air Force (IAF) to prevent Pakistan from legitimizing its claim on Siachen and to secure dominance in the Northern Ladakh region.
- **Purpose of Operation:** Counter Pakistan's Actions
 - Pakistan's cartographic aggression in Ladakh and its allowance of foreign mountaineering expeditions in Siachen prompted India's concern.
 - Intelligence indicated Pakistan's plans for military action in the area, leading India to initiate Operation Meghdoot to thwart these efforts and secure Siachen.

India Celebrates World Quantum Day 2024

- On **April 14, 2024**, India commemorates **World Quantum Day**, participating in a global initiative aimed at fostering awareness and appreciation for quantum science and technology.
- With aspirations to emerge as a global frontrunner in various domains of Quantum Science and Technology, India has embarked on a journey marked by substantial progress, notably through the inception of the **National Quantum Mission (NQM) in 2023**
- **India's National Quantum Mission (NQM)**
 - **Launch year** – April 2023
 - NQM aims to bolster India's competitiveness in Quantum Technology.
 - Received Cabinet approval with an outlay of **Rs 6003.65 Crore for eight years**

Neobank Revolut India gets in-principle nod for PPI license from RBI

- Tiger Global and Softbank-backed neobank Revolut India has received an in-principle approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to issue Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPI), including prepaid cards and wallets.

What is neo bank ?

- **A neobank** operates as a digital bank devoid of physical branches, offering services exclusively online.
- It encompasses a broad spectrum of financial service providers catering to tech-savvy customers.
- Neobanks, often considered as fintech firms, specialize in digital and mobile-centric financial solutions such as payments, money transfers, and lending.
- While they lack their own banking license, neobanks collaborate with bank partners to deliver licensed banking services.

India outpaces China in digital services exports: WTO report

- India is the **world's fourth-largest exporter** of digitally delivered services, contributing over a fifth to global trade in services.
- As per the recent **Global Trade Outlook and Statistics report** by the **World Trade Organisation (WTO)**, India's exports of digitally delivered services reached **\$257 billion in 2023**, marking a **17% increase** compared to the previous year.
 - **Comparison with Other Countries:** India's growth outpaced that of Germany and China, both of which saw a 4% increase in exports.
 - **Global Trends:** Globally, exports of digitally delivered services surged to \$4.25 trillion in 2023, marking a 9% year-on-year increase. Europe and Asia witnessed export increases of 11% and 9%, respectively.
 - **Global Economic Forecast:** The WTO anticipates improvements in the global economy and trade, forecasting a 2.6% increase in goods trade volume in 2024. World goods trade fell to \$24 trillion in 2023, while commercial services expanded to \$7.5 trillion.

The Plastic Overshoot Day report : 'India among 12 nations responsible for 60% of mismanaged plastic waste'

- **India** is among the top twelve countries responsible for **60% of the world's** mismanaged plastic waste, according to **the Plastic Overshoot Day** report by **EA Earth Action**.

(The world has seen a 7.11% rise in plastic waste generation since 2021, with an estimated 220 million tons generated in 2024. Of this, 70 million tons are expected to end up polluting the environment.)

- **Countries Responsible for Plastic Waste:** Twelve countries, including India, China, Russia, Brazil, Mexico, Vietnam, Iran, Indonesia, Egypt, Pakistan, the United States, and Turkey, are responsible for 60% of the world's mismanaged plastic waste.
- **India's Plastic Waste Production:** India has a low per capita plastic waste production (8 kg per capita per year), but it is still classified as a significant contributor due to its large population. The country is expected to generate 7.4 million tons of mismanaged plastic waste in 2024.
- **Comparison with Other Countries:** While India's plastic waste production per capita is low compared to countries like Belgium, **its total mismanaged plastic waste** is less than China and the US.

USD 4.2 trillion needed in Investments to close Development Financing Gap in SDGs: UN DESA's FSDR 2024 Report

- On April 9, 2024, the **United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA)** unveiled the **9th edition** of the **'Financing for Sustainable Development Report 2024 (FSDR 2024)'** by the **Inter-agency Task Force on Financing for Development**.
- Theme - **'Financing for Development at a Crossroads'**.

Key highlights:

- **Call for Financial System Reform:** Advocates for a financial system promoting investment in Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and resilience to crises.
- **Impact of COVID-19:** COVID-19 exacerbated existing financing gaps, particularly affecting the poorest nations.
- **Debt Burdens:** Rising debt burdens and borrowing costs have hindered development progress, especially in the least developed countries (LDCs).
- **Debt Servicing Costs:** Debt servicing costs for LDCs are estimated at USD 40 billion between 2023 and 2025, with a significant increase from 2022.
- needs.

- **Impact on Population:** Approximately 3.3 billion people, or 40% of the global population, live in countries where government spending on interest payments surpasses that on education or health.
- **Climate Change:** Climate change-related disasters contribute to over half of the debt increase in vulnerable nations.
- **Official Development Assistance (ODA):** ODA from OECD countries increased but remains insufficient for development
- **Aid Target:** Only four countries viz. Luxembourg, Sweden, Norway, and Germany met the 0.7% of gross national income (GNI) target for aid in 2022.
- **SDG Progress:** Progress towards the SDGs is declining, especially in the poorest countries, raising concerns about achieving the goals by 2030 and reducing extreme poverty.

17 Sustainable Development Goals :

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|------------------------------------|---|
| 1. No Poverty | 9. Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure |
| 2. Zero Hunger | 10. Reduced Inequality |
| 3. Good Health and Well-being | 11. Sustainable Cities and Communities |
| 4. Quality Education | 12. Responsible Consumption and Production |
| 5. Gender Equality | 13. Climate Action |
| 6. Clean Water and Sanitation | 14. Life Below Water |
| 7. Affordable and Clean Energy | 15. Life on Land |
| 8. Decent Work and Economic Growth | 16. Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions |
| | 17. Partnerships for the Goals |

India-Uzbekistan Joint Military Exercise DUSTLIK begins on April 15

- The fifth edition of **India-Uzbekistan Joint Military Exercise Dustlik** will commence at **Termez District** in Uzbekistan from April 15 onwards. Participating contingents from the Indian Armed Forces and the Armed Forces of the Republic of Uzbekistan will undergo joint training sessions during the exercise.

Adani Group Builds World's Largest Renewable Energy Park in Gujarat

- **Adani Green Energy Limited** is undertaking the development of a **massive 30 GW renewable** energy plant on **barren land in Khavda, Kutch, Gujarat**. Spanning an expansive area of 538 square kilometers, this project is set to become the world's largest power plant, irrespective of the energy source. To put its scale into perspective, the project area is five times larger than Paris and nearly equivalent to the size of Mumbai.
- **Commencing in December 2022**, the project achieved its first production milestone on **December 31, 2023**. Adani Green Energy Limited plans to invest approximately **Rs 1.5 lakh crore**, while the Adani Group is set to invest about Rs 2.3 lakh crore in renewable energy and manufacturing capacity by the year **2030**.