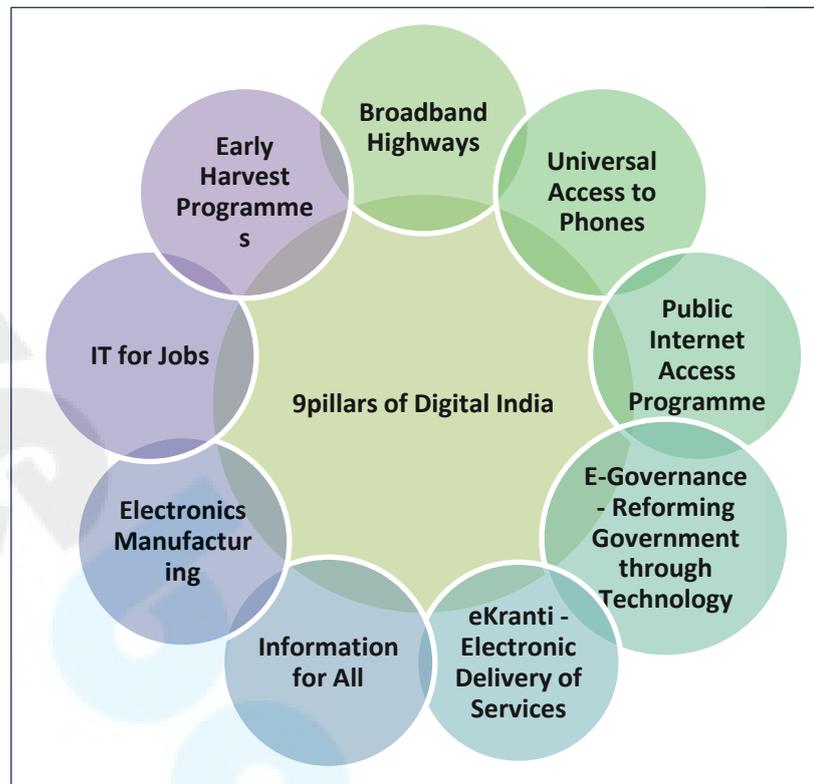## Digital India initiative (DII) Completes 9 Years

➢ The **Digital India Initiative (DII), launched in 2015**, has completed 9 years.
➢ **This major program aims** to transform India into a digitally empowered society and a knowledge economy. It encompasses numerous projects from various Central Ministries, Departments, and States and Union Territories.
➢ **Key Features of the Digital India Initiative**
➢ **Main Focus Areas:**
    1. **Digital Infrastructure as a Utility to Every Citizen**: Ensuring everyone has access to digital resources.
    2. **Governance & Services on Demand**: Providing government services digitally.
    3. **Digital Empowerment of Citizens**: Educating and empowering citizens through digital means.
➢ **Implementation:** The Department of **Electronics and Information Technology (DeitY)** is the main coordinating agency, working alongside other ministries. The program is overseen by a **monitoring committee headed by the Prime Minister.**
➢ **Initiatives Launched**
    • **Unified Mobile Application for New-age Governance(UMANG)**
    • **DigiLocker**
➢ **Achievements**
    • **Digital Public Infrastructure**: Creating a tech-driven model for equitable growth and opportunities.
    • **Financial Inclusion**: Over 11 crore farmers now receive money directly into their bank accounts.
    • **Aadhaar**: Over 137 crore Aadhaar numbers have been generated.
    • **BharatNet**: 6.83 lakh km of optical fiber network has been laid.
➢ **Key Challenges**
    • **Coordination Issues**: The program involves many departments, leading to coordination problems.
    • **Rural-Urban Digital Divide**: There is still a gap in digital access between rural and urban areas.

9pillars of Digital India: Broadband Highways, Universal Access to Phones, Public Internet Access Programme, E-Governance - Reforming Government through Technology, eKranti - Electronic Delivery of Services, Information for All, Electronics Manufacturing, IT for Jobs, Early Harvest Programmes

RBI Proposes Rationalising Norms On EXIM Deals

➢ On Tuesday, the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** proposed simplifying the regulations governing export and import transactions. This move aims to make business operations easier and to enable banks to offer better services to their foreign exchange customers.
➢ The central bank has released the document titled **"Regulation of Foreign Trade under Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), 1999 – Draft Regulations and Directions."**
➢ According to the draft, all exporters must submit a declaration to the designated authority, stating the full export value of the goods or services.

India Becomes First Country to List All Its Animal Species

➢ India has achieved a significant milestone by creating a comprehensive list of all animal species found within the country.
➢ This makes **India the first nation** in the world to compile such a checklist of its entire national fauna. The list includes **1,04,561 species.**
➢ On the **109th Foundation Day of the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) in Kolkata,** Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav launched the **"Fauna of India Checklist Portal."**

NITI Aayog Releases White Paper on Responsible AI for All (RAI) with a Focus on Facial Recognition Technology (FRT)

➢ **NITI Aayog** has published a white paper titled **"Responsible AI for All" (RAI)** that addresses the use of **Facial Recognition Technology (FRT).** This paper aims to create a framework for the safe and responsible development and deployment of FRT in India.

➢ **What is Facial Recognition Technology (FRT)?**
- FRT is an AI system that identifies or verifies a person based on images or video data using complex algorithms. It primarily performs three functions:
  1. **Facial Detection**: Uses algorithms to detect the presence of a human face.
  2. **Facial Extraction**: Identifies unique features on individual faces using mathematical representations.
  3. **Facial Recognition**: Automatically cross-references a person's facial features with a pre-existing database.

➢ **Applications of FRT**
- **Security-Related Uses**:
  - **Law enforcement**: surveillance, identification of persons of interest, monitoring crowds, screening for violations of public norms.
- **Non-Security Uses**:
  - **Ease of Access**: Contactless onboarding at airports through Digi Yatra.
  - **Usability**: Unique IDs in educational institutions.
  - **Authentication**: Access to products, services, and public benefits.

Moderating Inflation Aiding Goods Trade Recovery In India, China

➢ The **United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)** released a report on Tuesday, highlighting trends in global trade during the **first quarter of 2024**. The report noted **strong export performance from India and China**, indicating a reversal in the decline of goods trade among major economies. It also mentioned various factors contributing to global trade growth and outlined several risks and challenges that could impact the global trade outlook.

➢ **Key Points**
- **Strong Export Performance**: India and China showed significant quarter-over-quarter export growth, reversing the decline in goods trade among major economies.
- **Trade Growth Trends:** Global trade increased modestly and gradually, continuing the positive trend from the second half of 2023, driven by improved economic forecasts and moderating inflation in the US.
- **Influencing Factors:** The growth was supported by decreasing global inflation, better economic growth projections, and increased demand for energy transition and AI-related products.
- **Risks to Trade:** The global trade outlook faces risks from geopolitical tensions, rising shipping costs, and new industrial policies that could affect trade dynamics.
- **Trade Concentration and Distortions:** Heavy subsidies by major economies are concentrating global supply among a few exporters, marginalizing smaller economies. Unilateral industrial policies may lead to trade restrictions and protectionism, disrupting the global trading system**.**

Maitree Exercise 2024: Enhancing India-Thailand Military Cooperation

➢ On July 1, 2024, India and Thailand commenced a significant event in their bilateral relations.
➢ The **Maitree Exercise, a joint military** drill between the **Indian Army and the Royal Thai Army**, began at Fort Vachiraprakan in Tak Province, Thailand.
➢ This two-week exercise, concluding **on July 15, 2024**, is a major effort to bolster military cooperation between the two countries

Global IndiaAI Summit 2024

➢ The **'Global IndiaAI Summit 2024'** begins today in New Delhi, organized by the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology**.
➢ **Over two days, the summit aims to showcase** India's role in global AI leadership, focusing on ethical and inclusive AI progress.
➢ Sessions will cover key aspects like enhancing computing capabilities, building robust datasets platforms, establishing innovation centers, and promoting skills development in AI.