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Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

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13 Aug 2024		
<b>National and International News</b>		

<section-header><section-header><section-header><text><text><text><text></text></text></text></text></section-header></section-header></section-header>	<ul> <li>Why in the news?</li> <li>India recently inaugurated its first round-the-clock grain ATM in Mancheswar, Bhubaneswar, Odisha.</li> <li>About Grain ATM: <ul> <li>Design and Development: Created by the World Food Programme India.</li> <li>Universal Access: Accessible to anyone with a valid Public Distribution System (PDS) ration card across India.</li> <li>Quick Dispensing: Can dispense up to 50 kilograms of grain in five minutes, available 24/7, reducing waiting times by 70%.</li> <li>Multi-Commodity Solution: Dispenses rice, wheat, and grains after biometric authentication, ensuring clean, fast, and precise access.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Investor Education and Protection Fund	<ul> <li>Why in the news?</li> <li>The Union Finance Minister introduced the Banking Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024.</li> <li>This bill proposes the transfer of unclaimed dividends, shares, and interest or redemption of bonds to the Investor Education and Protection Fund (IEPF).</li> <li>About Investor Education and Protection Fund: <ul> <li>Establishment: The fund was established under Section 205C of the Companies Act, 1956, through the Companies (Amendment) Act, 1999.</li> <li>Unpaid and Unclaimed Amounts: The following amounts, if unpaid and unclaimed for seven years from the due date, are credited to the fund: <ul> <li>Amounts in unpaid dividend accounts of companies.</li> <li>Application money received by companies for the allotment of securities and due for refund.</li> <li>Matured deposits with companies.</li> <li>Contributions to the Fund:</li> </ul> </li> </ul></li></ul>











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	<ul> <li>Grants and donations from the Central Government, State Governments, companies, or other institutions.</li> <li>Interest or other income generated from investments made from the fund.</li> <li>Management: The fund is managed by the Investor Education Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA).</li> <li>Establishment of IEPFA: The IEPFA was established in 2016 under the Companies Act, 2013.</li> <li>Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Corporate Affairs.</li> </ul>
UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission	<ul> <li>Why in the news?</li> <li>Recently, three underwater geographical structures in the Indian Ocean were awarded names by the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) and UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC).</li> <li>These names were originally proposed by India.</li> <li>About Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission <ul> <li>The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission</li> <li>The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission</li> <li>(IOC) promotes international cooperation in marine sciences to enhance the management of oceans, coasts, and marine resources.</li> </ul> </li> <li>The IOC has 150 Member States, with India being a member since 1946.</li> <li>The IOC coordinates programs in: <ul> <li>Capacity development</li> <li>Ocean observations and services</li> <li>Ocean science</li> <li>Tsunami warning</li> <li>Ocean literacy</li> </ul> </li> <li>The IOC is responsible for coordinating the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030), also known as the "Ocean Decade."</li> </ul>
Omkareshwar Floating Solar Project	Why in the news? <ul> <li>Madhya Pradesh has commissioned a 90 MW floating solar project at Omkareshwar.</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>About Omkareshwar Floating Solar Project:</li> <li>Location: Omkareshwar, District Khandwa, Madhya Pradesh.</li> </ul>









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	<ul> <li>Development: Floating power plant developed on the backwaters of Omkareshwar Dam (a gravity dam on the Narmada River).</li> <li>Significance: Largest floating solar project in central and north India, generating 90 MW of energy.</li> <li>Ministry: Developed under the Union Ministry of Renewable Energy.</li> <li>Execution: Executed by SJVN Green Energy Limited (SGEL), a subsidiary of SJVN (a joint venture between the Government of India and the Government of Himachal Pradesh).</li> <li>Contribution: Supports India's mission of net zero carbon emissions by 2070.</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Water Conservation: Helps in reducing water evaporation.</li> </ul>
Tantalum	<ul> <li>Why in the news?</li> <li>The Central Government recently added 24 minerals, including Tantalum, to the list of Critical and Strategic minerals under Part D of the First Schedule of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act (MMDR Act) of 1957.</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>About Tantalum:</li> <li>Symbol &amp; Atomic Number: Ta, 73</li> <li>Occurrence: Rarely occurs in nature; typically found in the ore columbite-tantalite (coltan).</li> <li>Major Producers: Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, Brazil, Nigeria.</li> <li>Properties <ul> <li>State: Solid at room temperature.</li> <li>Ductility: Highly ductile, can be drawn into thin wire.</li> <li>Classification: Transition and refractory metal, known for strong resistance to heat and wear.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Melting Point: Extremely high, only tungsten and rhenium have higher melting points.</li> <li>Applications <ul> <li>Electronics: Widely used in capacitors for portable electronic devices (smartphones, laptops, cameras) due to high efficiency and low leakage.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



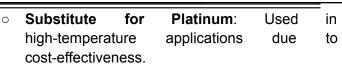








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- Industrial Use: Components in chemical plants, nuclear power plants, aeroplanes, and missiles.
- Medical Use: Non-reactive with bodily fluids; 0 used in surgical equipment and implants (e.g., artificial joints).
- **Tooling**: Tantalum Carbide (TaC) composite used in high-speed machine tool cutting edges due to its hardness.



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