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National and International News

<p>Grain ATM</p> <div data-bbox="121 420 673 798"> <p>HOW IT WORKS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Beneficiary has to enter his/her Aadhaar card or ration card details on the machine that has a touchscreen attached to it ➤ On authentication, the food grain will get filled in bags kept under the machine <p>Grains being distributed Wheat, rice and millet</p> <p>Where is the machine Farrukhnagar</p>  </div>	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● India recently inaugurated its first round-the-clock grain ATM in Mancheswar, Bhubaneswar, Odisha. <p>About Grain ATM:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Design and Development: Created by the World Food Programme India. ● Universal Access: Accessible to anyone with a valid Public Distribution System (PDS) ration card across India. ● Quick Dispensing: Can dispense up to 50 kilograms of grain in five minutes, available 24/7, reducing waiting times by 70%. ● Multi-Commodity Solution: Dispenses rice, wheat, and grains after biometric authentication, ensuring clean, fast, and precise access.
<p>Investor Education and Protection Fund</p>	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Union Finance Minister introduced the Banking Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024. ● This bill proposes the transfer of unclaimed dividends, shares, and interest or redemption of bonds to the Investor Education and Protection Fund (IEPF). <p>About Investor Education and Protection Fund:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Establishment: The fund was established under Section 205C of the Companies Act, 1956, through the Companies (Amendment) Act, 1999. ● Unpaid and Unclaimed Amounts: The following amounts, if unpaid and unclaimed for seven years from the due date, are credited to the fund: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Amounts in unpaid dividend accounts of companies. ○ Application money received by companies for the allotment of securities and due for refund. ○ Matured deposits with companies. ○ Matured debentures with companies. ● Contributions to the Fund:



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Grants and donations from the Central Government, State Governments, companies, or other institutions. ○ Interest or other income generated from investments made from the fund. ● Management: The fund is managed by the Investor Education Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA). ● Establishment of IEPFA: The IEPFA was established in 2016 under the Companies Act, 2013. ● Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Corporate Affairs.
<p>UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission</p>	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 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). ● These names were originally proposed by India. <p>About Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) promotes international cooperation in marine sciences to enhance the management of oceans, coasts, and marine resources. ● The IOC has 150 Member States, with India being a member since 1946. ● The IOC coordinates programs in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Capacity development ○ Ocean observations and services ○ Ocean science ○ Tsunami warning ○ Ocean literacy ● The IOC is responsible for coordinating the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030), also known as the "Ocean Decade."
<p>Omkareshwar Floating Solar Project</p>	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Madhya Pradesh has commissioned a 90 MW floating solar project at Omkareshwar. <p>About Omkareshwar Floating Solar Project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Location: Omkareshwar, District Khandwa, Madhya Pradesh.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development: Floating power plant developed on the backwaters of Omkareshwar Dam (a gravity dam on the Narmada River). • Significance: Largest floating solar project in central and north India, generating 90 MW of energy. • Ministry: Developed under the Union Ministry of Renewable Energy. • 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). • Contribution: Supports India's mission of net zero carbon emissions by 2070. • Water Conservation: Helps in reducing water evaporation.
Tantalum	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. <p>About Tantalum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Symbol & Atomic Number: Ta, 73 • Occurrence: Rarely occurs in nature; typically found in the ore columbite-tantalite (coltan). • Major Producers: Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, Brazil, Nigeria. • Properties <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ State: Solid at room temperature. ○ Ductility: Highly ductile, can be drawn into thin wire. ○ Classification: Transition and refractory metal, known for strong resistance to heat and wear. • Melting Point: Extremely high, only tungsten and rhenium have higher melting points. • Applications <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Electronics: Widely used in capacitors for portable electronic devices (smartphones, laptops, cameras) due to high efficiency and low leakage.



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- **Substitute for Platinum:** Used in high-temperature applications due to cost-effectiveness.
- **Industrial Use:** Components in chemical plants, **nuclear power plants**, aeroplanes, and **missiles**.
- **Medical Use:** Non-reactive with bodily fluids; 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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