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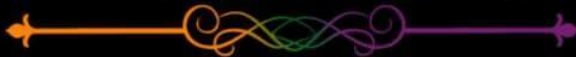


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Aparchit November 4th Week English Best 350+ MCQs with Amazing Facts
By :- Aparchit Exam Warriors/Kumar Kaushal Sir

Q. 72nd Miss Universe Shennis Palacios is from which country?

- A) Nicaragua
B) Thailand
C) Japan
D) El Salvador

Answer : A

- ✓ Miss Nicaragua Sheynnis Palacios was selected as the 72nd Miss Universe.
- ✓ Antonia Porsild of Thailand and Moraya Wilson of Australia were the first and second runners-up respectively.
- ✓ Shennis Palacios also represented Nicaragua in the Miss World 2021 pageant.
- ✓ The 72nd edition of the Miss Universe pageant was held at the Jose Adolfo Pineda Arena in San Salvador, El Salvador.

MISS WORLD / UNIVERSE IN NEWS 2023

- Sheynnis Palacios from Nicaragua crowned Miss Universe 2023 during the 72nd Miss Universe pageant in San Salvador.
- Praveena Aanjna crowned as Miss International India 2023.
- Priyan Sen, who hails from Rajasthan, won the Miss Earth India 2023 title during the Miss Divine Beauty 2023 National Finals held in New Delhi.
- Rikkie Kollé is the first transgender woman to win Miss Universe Netherlands.
- Rajasthan's Nandini Gupta crowned 2023 Femina Miss India.
- America's R'Bonnie Gabriel won the Miss Universe 2022 title at the 71st Miss Universe pageant.
- South Korea's Mina Sue Choi Crowned Miss Earth 2022.
- Divita Rai from Karnataka won the prestigious title of Miss Diva Universe 2022.
- Indian-American Aarya Walvekar crowned Miss India USA 2022.
- Pallavi Singh wins the Mrs Universe Divine Crown in South Korea.
- Khushi Patel from UK is crowned Miss India Worldwide 2022.
- Karolina Bielawska from Poland has won the title of Miss World 2021.
- List of Miss World winners from India
 1. Reita Faria : 1966



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2. Aishwarya Rai : 1994
3. Diana Hayden : 1997
4. Yukta Mookhey : 1999
5. Priyanka Chopra : 2000
6. Manushi Chhillar : 2017.

➤ List of Miss Universe winners from India

1. Sushmita Sen : 1994
2. Lara Dutta : 2000
3. Harnaaz Sandhu : 2021.

- Reita Faria is the first Indian to win the Miss World in 1966.
- Sushmita Sen first Indian to win the Miss Universe title in 1994.
- Nicole Faria became the first Indian to win the 'Miss Earth' in 2010

Q. Where is 'Global Fisheries Conference India' 2023 being organised?

A) West Bengal

B) Gujarat

C) Tamil Nadu

D) Maharashtra

Answer : B

- ✓ Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Parshottam Rupala inaugurated the Global Fisheries Conference India 2023 at Gujarat Science City, Ahmedabad.
- ✓ 'Global Fisheries Conference India' is being organized by the Department of Fisheries.
- ✓ Its objective is to advance the country in fisheries and aquaculture sector.

GUJARAT IN NEWS 2023

- Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Parshottam Rupala inaugurated the Global Fisheries Conference India 2023 at Gujarat Science City, Ahmedabad.
- Dhordo, a village located in the Kutch district of Gujarat, known for its annual Rann Utsav has been bestowed with the title 'Best Tourism Village' by the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO).
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has laid the foundation Stone for the Akashvani Dahod FM Relay Station Project in Gujarat.



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- Gujarat Assembly has passed the Gujarat Local Authorities Law (Amendment) Bill 2023 by a majority vote to raise reservation for Other Backward Class (OBC) communities in local self-government bodies to 27 percent from the current 10 percent.
- 'Gujarat Declaration' outlining the outcome of the first WHO Traditional Medicine Global Summit 2023 released.
- In a significant development for India's energy sector, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that the 700 MW nuclear power plant located in Kakrapar, Gujarat, has commenced its operations at maximum capacity.
- Gujarat to host 69th edition of Filmfare Awards in 2024.
- London-based company OneWeb and the Gujarat Government's Science and Technology Department have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) today for the establishment of a 'Satellite Network Portal Site' in Gujarat.
- Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah organized a virtual ceremony to lay the foundation stone of the country's first cooperative-run Sainik School.
- Sarbananda Sonowal inaugurated the best tourism facilities in the historical lighthouses of Gujarat.
- Under the Sagarmala programme, the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways is developing a National Maritime Heritage Complex, a world-class facility at Lothal, Gujarat.
- Gujarat government signs MoU with US chip maker firm Micron Technology for semiconductor assembly and testing facility in Ahmedabad.
- Indian cabinet has given its approval to Micron Technology's plan to invest \$2.7 billion in setting up a semiconductor testing and packaging unit in Gujarat.
- Urban-20 City Sherpas' meet begins at Ahmedabad in Gujarat.
- India's largest power company NTPC Ltd has commissioned India's first green hydrogen blending project at Kawas, Gujarat.
- BJP leader Bhupendra Patel took oath as the Chief Minister of Gujarat for a second straight term.
- Madhvendra Singh has been appointed as the first Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Gujarat Maritime Cluster by Gujarat Ports Infrastructure Company Limited.
- First G20 Tourism Working Group meeting at Dhordo in Kutch region of Gujarat.
- Former Gujarat governor and veteran Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Om Prakash Kohli passed away.



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- Gujarat Day is celebrated on May 1 every year. The state was established on May 1, 1960.
- Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel has declared the last week of April as “Swagat Saptah” in commemoration of the completion of 20 years of the “State Wide Attention on Grievances by Application of Technology” (SWAGAT) initiative.
- Deakin University of Australia to set up campus in GIFT city.
- Two Australian Universities Wollongong and Deakin to set up Campuses in Gujarat’s GIFT City.
- The Youth 20 India Summit will be held at the Maharaja Sayajirao University Vadodara in Gujarat.
- International Kite Festival 2023 begins in Ahmedabad, Gujarat.

Q. Who has been awarded the Indira Gandhi Peace Prize 2023?

- A) NITI Aayog B) Indian Medical Association
C) Indian Trained Nurses Association D) both B and C

Answer : D

- ✓ Recently, the Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament, and Development 2022 was jointly awarded to the Indian Medical Association and the Trained Nurses Association of India as representatives of the COVID-19 warriors in the country.
- ✓ About Indira Gandhi Peace Prize:
- ✓ The Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament, and Development was instituted in the memory of the former prime minister by a trust in her name in 1986.
- ✓ It consists of a monetary award of 25 lakh rupees along with a citation.
- ✓ The award is given to individuals or organisations that work towards ensuring international peace and development, ensuring that scientific discoveries are used to further the scope of freedom and better humanity, and creating a new international economic order.
- ✓ Past recipients of this award include:
- ✓ Mikhail Gorbachev, former leader of the Soviet Union (1987);
- ✓ UNICEF (1989)
- ✓ Jimmy Carter, former president of the US (1997)
- ✓ UN and its secretary-general Kofi Annan (2003)
- ✓ Angela Merkel, chancellor of Germany (2013)
- ✓ Indian Space Research Organisation (2014)



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- ✓ Former Prime Minister of India, Manmohan Singh (2017)
- ✓ Sir David Attenborough (2019)
- ✓ Pratham NGO (2021)

Q. Who will serve as the head of the five-member jury for the best web series (OTT) award at the International Film Festival of India (IFFI)?

- A) Rajkumar Hirani B) Divya Dutta
C) Prosenjit Chatterjee D) Utpal Borpujari

Answer : A

- ✓ Filmmaker Rajkumar Hirani will serve as the head of the five-member jury for the best web series (OTT) award at the International Film Festival of India (IFFI).
- ✓ Actors Divya Dutta, Prosenjit Chatterjee, and filmmakers Krishna DK and Utpal Borpujari are part of the jury panel for the inaugural category.
- ✓ This year, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting announced the addition of the new award category — best web series (OTT) award — to the 54th edition of the film extravaganza that will be presented to a show for its “artistic merit, storytelling excellence, technical prowess, and overall impact”.
- ✓ A total of 32 entries across 10 languages from 15 OTT platforms have been selected for the inaugural Best Web Series award. The winning series will receive a certificate and a cash prize of Rs 10 lakh.
- ✓ British film “Catching Dust” will open IFFI and American film “The Featherweight” will close the gala on November 28.

Q. Ministry of Tourism has organized the 11th edition of the International Tourism Mart at which state?

- A) Manipur B) Sikkim
C) Meghalaya D) Nagaland

Answer : C

- ✓ The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India has organized the 11th edition of the International Tourism Mart at Shillong, Meghalaya.
- ✓ The International Tourism Mart is an annual event held by the Ministry in one of the North Eastern States on a rotation basis.
- ✓ Event to provide a platform to create awareness about tourism potential of North East Region.



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- ✓ It provides a platform for North Eastern stakeholders to interact with their counterparts from both within the country and overseas markets.
- ✓ This event has also been planned as a Green Event by adopting low-carbon options along the lines of the action points formulated by Environment Ministry for the implementation of Mission LiFE. There will be no use of Single Use Plastic, and a digital and paperless route will be followed as well as a tree plantation drive will be undertaken.

Q. According to data from startup data platform Tracxn, which city has topped in women-led startups?

- A) Chennai B) Hyderabad
C) Mumbai D) Bengaluru

Answer : D

- ✓ Bengaluru tops in women-led startups
- ✓ The Karnataka capital is home to 1,783 women-led startups, followed by Mumbai and Delhi at 1,480 and 1,195 respectively, according to data from startup data platform Tracxn.
- ✓ Noida, Kolkata, and Ahmedabad took the eighth, ninth, and tenth spots with 324, 184, and 181 women-led startups respectively.
- ✓ With more than 61,400 startups, India's startup ecosystem has added more firepower to become the third-largest hub globally after the US and China
- ✓ Bengaluru has been one of the top startup ecosystems in India that has catalyzed risk-taking among entrepreneurs with a conducive policy framework. But the gender divide is still stark. A slew of initiatives from incubation programmes, grants and fellowships offered to women-founded startups are trying to address the gender gap.
- ✓ Tracxn counts Zomato, Byju's, Ofbusiness, Upstox, Lenskart and Open among the top 10 women-led startups in the country.
- ✓ The funding landscape for women-led companies showed a significant surge in the number of rounds, rising from 171 in 2014 to 460 in 2022. However, in 2023, the number of rounds dropped to 185. The funding into women-led startups has decreased from 183 startups in 2014 to a mere 7 this year
- ✓ The number of women-led unicorns from 2008 to 2018 was 14, the data showed. Bengaluru-based neobank Open, which became the 100th unicorn, has two women co-founders — also its COO Mabel Chacko and CFO Deena Jacob. Nykaa, Mamaearth, Hasura, Pristyn Care, OfBusiness, Mobikwik, The Good Glamm Group, and Livspace are the other Indian unicorns with at least one women co-founder



BENGALURU IN NEWS 2023

- Bengaluru is the city with the highest number of women-led startups in India, followed by Mumbai and Delhi.
- Bengaluru claims the top spot for green office spaces in India, according to the CBRE-CII report 'Indian Real Estate: Taking Giant Strides - 2023 Mid-Year Outlook.' Over the last three and a half year.
- India's 1st state-of-the-art 3D-Printed post office opens in Bengaluru.
- Bengaluru becomes the first Indian city to join the World Cities Culture Forum (WCCF).
- India is all set to host the 5th World Coffee Conference (WCC) for the first time from 25-28 September 2023 in Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- Sberbank's branch in India has been granted permission by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to set up an IT unit in Bengaluru.
- India's first 3D-printed post office to come up in Bengaluru.
- The second Trade and Investment Working Group meeting under the G20 India Presidency began in Bengaluru.
- Foxconn to invest nearly 1 billion USD in Bengaluru.
- Nitin Gadkari unveiled first methanol run buses in Bengaluru.
- India Energy Week 2023 (IEW 2023), being organised during India's G20 Presidency, will be held in Bengaluru between February 6 and 8, 2023. .
- The Union Ministry of Defence has announced on 27 November 2022 that the biennial air show AeroIndia-2023 will be held at the Air Force Station Yelahanka in Bengaluru's from 13-17 February, 2023. This would be the 14th edition of Aero India.
- The first G-20 Environment meeting under the G-20 India Presidency will be held at the Taj West End in Bengaluru.
- Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Narendra Singh Tomar on 15 March inaugurated a 5-day cultural program "AgriUnifest" in Bengaluru..
- The first meeting of the G-20 Energy Transition Working Group under the chairmanship of India will be held in Bengaluru from 5 to 7 February



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Q. Which of the following has launched the Investor Risk Reduction Access (IRRA) platform?

- A) SEBI B) RBI
C) SIDBI D) NABARD

Answer : A

- ✓ SEBI unveiled Investor Risk Reduction Access platform
- ✓ Chairperson of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), Madhabi Puri Buch has launched the Investor Risk Reduction Access (IRRA) platform at the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE).
- ✓ Risk Mitigation in financial markets is an evergreen subject and constant efforts are made by regulators to address risks of various kinds.
- ✓ The IRRA platform is one such initiative conceptualized and implemented by Market Infrastructure Institutions (MIIs) under the guidance of SEBI to reduce risks faced by investors in the eventuality of technical glitch at Trading Member end at both Primary site and Disaster Recovery site.

Q. Which bank has entered into a corporate tie-up with HDFC Life to offer life insurance products to its customers?

- A) Yes Bank B) HDFC Bank
C) Karnataka Bank D) Bank of Baroda

Answer : C

- ✓ Karnataka Bank has entered into a corporate tie-up with HDFC Life to offer life insurance products to its customers.
- ✓ This collaboration aligns with our commitment to enhancing the suite of financial products and services available as a choice to our customers.
- ✓ It reflects our dedication to providing holistic financial solutions through our wide distribution and digital network and ensuring the well-being and security of our customers and their families.

Q. Vinay M Tonse has been appointed as the Managing Director of which bank for 2 years

- A) State Bank of India B) Punjab National Bank
C) Kotak Mahindra Bank D) Central Bank of India

Answer : A



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- ✓ The Government of India has appointed Vinay M. Tonse as the Managing Director of the State Bank of India until November 30, 2025.
- ✓ Earlier in September, the Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB), the headhunter for directors of state-owned banks and financial institutions recommended Tonse for the said post, who currently serves as the deputy MD of the state-owned bank.
- ✓ The post fell vacant in June after the appointment of Swaminathan Janakiraman as Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank.
- ✓ RBI deputy governor Swaminathan was MD corporate banking and subsidiaries in charge of SBI's large corporate and commercial credit businesses, as well as subsidiaries of the bank.
- ✓ STATE BANK OF INDIA (SBI)
- ✓ Founded : 1 July 1955
- ✓ Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- ✓ Chairman : Dinesh Kumar Khara
- ✓ Imperial Bank of India was previous name of SBI
- ✓ The presidency Banks of Bengal, Bombay and Madras with merged in 1921 to Imperial Bank of India.
- ✓ Tagline of State Bank of India
 - (1) Pure Banking Nothing Else
 - (2) With you all the way
 - (3) A bank of the common man
 - (4) The banker to every Indian
 - (5) The Nation banks on us.
- ✓ It is one of the largest and oldest banks in India.

Q. Who has been appointed by Acko as its brand ambassador?

- A) Aamir Khan B) Kamal Haasan
C) Gautham Vasudev Menon D) R Madhavan

Answer : D

- ✓ The insurtech company Acko has introduced its latest collaborator and ambassador actor R Madhavan.
- ✓ Madhavan's role at Acko is to be more than just a recognizable face – he will be the 'voice of customer' in the realm of insurance.



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- ✓ This partnership signifies a welcome shift in the way consumers have been perceiving and navigating insurance, a sector that has been operating at a trust deficit in India.
- ✓ The move is a departure from the days of uncertainty and skepticism, and Acko wants to ensure that its customers can rely on the brand for a transparent and dependable insurance experience
- ✓ R Madhavan has been named as the chairman of the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII), Pune.
- ✓ 'Rocketry: The Nambi Effect' won the prestigious Best Feature Film award at the 69th National Film Awards.
- ✓ The R Madhavan directorial film is based on the life of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) scientist Nambi Narayanan, who was framed for being a spy and arrested in 1994.

Q. Who has won the Formula One Las Vegas Grand Prix 2023?

- A) Charles Leclerc
- B) Sebastian Vettel
- C) Sergio Pérez
- D) Max Verstappen

Answer : D

- ✓ Max Verstappen emerged on top at the end of an action-packed Las Vegas Grand Prix, beating Ferrari rival Charles Leclerc and Red Bull teammate Sergio Perez.
- ✓ Max Emilian Verstappen is a Belgian and Dutch racing driver and the 2021, 2022, and 2023 Formula One World Champion.

Q. Which state government has launched the 'Every Right for Every Child' campaign to ensure equal opportunities for students?

- A) Chhattisgarh
- B) Haryana
- C) Bihar
- D) Uttar Pradesh

Answer : D

- ✓ Uttar Pradesh government has launched the 'Every Right for Every Child' campaign to ensure equal opportunities for students.
- ✓ Led by Power Angel and Bal Sansad, the campaign, centred around 'equality and inclusion,' includes daily activities in primary, upper primary, and Kasturba Gandhi schools.
- ✓ The campaign's theme focuses on 'Gender Equality' and 'Care and Support,' advocating for equal opportunities in families, homes, schools, sports, careers, healthcare, and child protection facilities, as well as in the community and public life.



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Q. Dharmendra Pradhan has launched 37 PM SHRI Kendriya Vidyalayas and 26 PM SHRI Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas in which state?

- A) Odisha
B) Assam
C) Rajasthan
D) Chhattisgarh

Answer : A

- ✓ Union Minister for Education and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Dharmendra Pradhan has launched 37 PM SHRI Kendriya Vidyalayas and 26 PM SHRI Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas in Odisha.
- ✓ About 800 government schools in Odisha will be developed into PM Shri Schools and more than Rs 1600 crore will come.
- ✓ He stated that to achieve the goal of a developed India by 2047, the education sector of the country needs to move forward. For that, rural children should be educated in the 21st century.
- ✓ On the occasion of Teacher's Day 2022, the Prime Minister of India announced a new initiative - PM SHRI Schools (PM ScHools for Rising India).
- ✓ It will be a laboratory for the new National Education Policy (NEP) and under the first phase, 14,500 schools will be upgraded.
- ✓ PM SHRI schools will be an upgrade of existing schools run by the Centre, states, UTs and local bodies. The PM SHRI schools can either be KVs, JNVs, state government schools or even those run by municipal corporations

Q. Bihar Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar has approved the Bill raising reservation from 50% to how much percent?

- A) 65%
B) 75%
C) 60%
D) 70%

Answer : A

- ✓ Bihar Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar approved the State Government's 'Bihar Reservation Amendment Bill' which was passed unanimously by the State Legislature during the recently concluded winter session.
- ✓ It was approved by the State Cabinet on November 7 and raises the reservation quota for Backward, Extremely Backward Classes, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes from 50% to 65%.



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- ✓ According to the legislation, named the Bihar Reservation Amendment Bill, quota for Extremely Backward Class (EBC) will be raised from the existing 18% to 25%; for Backward Class (BC) from 12% to 18%; for Scheduled Caste (SC) from 16% to 20%; and for Scheduled Tribe (ST), the quota will be doubled, from 1% to 2%. The existing 3% reservation for BC women has been scrapped.

Q. What is the rank of India in Global Unicorn Rankings with a total valuation of \$195.75 billion?

- A) 2nd
- B) 3rd
- C) 4th
- D) 5th

Answer : B

- ✓ India ranks third with 72 unicorn companies, with a total valuation of \$195.75 billion. The country's unicorns make a substantial 5 percent contribution to the total global unicorn valuation, according to research by Journalistic Org.
- ✓ The first Indian company to make an appearance in global rankings is BYJU's, which stands at 36th place with a valuation of \$11.50 billion.
- ✓ Despite a lower average valuation per unicorn at \$2.72 billion compared to some counterparts, India's unicorns make a substantial 5 percent contribution to the total global unicorn valuation. This places India in league with the UK, emphasizing its significance in the international start-up arena.
- ✓ China has the second-highest number of unicorn companies, with a combined valuation of \$641.67 billion, accounting for 17 percent of the total valuation of all unicorn companies in China.
- ✓ ByteDance – the parent company of TikTok – is the highest-valued company in China, and is valued at over \$225 billion.
- ✓ The US has the highest number of unicorn companies worldwide with an impressive 668 – over three times more than China in second place (172).
- ✓ Unicorn companies in the US have a combined valuation of over \$2 trillion, accounting for over half (54 percent) of the total valuation of unicorn companies

Q. Who has been appointed as the new Managing Director and CEO of Kotak Mahindra Bank?

- A) Ashwani Narayan
- B) Rajeev Awasthi
- C) Vivek Sinha
- D) Ashok Vaswani

Answer : D



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- ✓ The Board of Kotak Mahindra Bank approved the appointment of Ashok Vaswani as Director, Managing Director and CEO of the bank.
- ✓ Last month, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had approved the appointment of Vaswani as the MD and CEO of the bank for a period of three years.
- ✓ Vaswani has been the Chief Executive Officer of Britain's Barclays Bank

Q. Daisaku Ikeda passed away recently at the age of 95. He was the former head of which organization?

A) Soka Gakkai

B) Unification Church

C) Happy Science

D) Kenshōkai

Answer : A

- ✓ Former Head of 'Soka Gakkai' Daisaku Ikeda passed away
- ✓ In Japan, the former head of the largest religious Buddhist organization 'Soka Gakkai', Daisaku Ikeda passed away. He was 95.
- ✓ Over several decades, Ikeda developed connections with the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and became an ally of the government. Ikeda increased the organisation's global popularity which is based on the teachings of the 13th-century Japanese priest Nichiren.
- ✓ With 12 million members worldwide, Soka Gakkai is a global community-based Buddhist organization that promotes peace centered on respect for the dignity of life. is well-known for its celebrity connections

Q. In which country will the ICC Men's U19 Cricket World Cup 2024 be organized?

A) India

B) South Africa

C) Sri Lanka

D) Australia

Answer : B

- ✓ The ICC Men's U19 Cricket World Cup 2024 will now be organized in South Africa instead of Sri Lanka.
- ✓ Sri Lankan cricket was recently suspended by the ICC after which this decision was taken.
- ✓ Its last event was held in West Indies in 2022 where India won the title for the fifth time.

Q. Atal Innovation Mission'-NITI Aayoghas signed an agreement with which country to promote circular economy startups?

A) Italy

B) Canada

C) Russia

D) Australia



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Answer : D

- ✓ Recently, AIM, NITI Aayog launched a new accelerator called Rapid Innovation and Startup Expansion (RISE) to support Australian and Indian circular economy startups.
- ✓ About Rapid Innovation and Startup Expansion (RISE):
- ✓ The India Australia RISE Accelerator is delivered in partnership between CSIRO, Australia's national science agency, and Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), the Government of India's flagship initiative to promote a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship.
- ✓ This initiative focuses on startups and small to mid-sized enterprises (SMEs) in India and Australia working on circular economy technologies and solutions.
- ✓ Focus Themes: With a focus on Environment and Climate Technology, the program will be tailored to accelerate start-ups working on a range of areas:
 - ✓ Climate Smart Agriculture
 - ✓ Clean Energy
 - ✓ Circular Economy and Waste Management
 - ✓ Climate Smart Mobility

AUSTRALIA IN NEWS

- The joint military exercise AUSTRAHIND-23 involves the participation of the Indian Armed Forces contingent, comprising 81 personnel, who departed for Australia to take part in this collaborative training program.
- Scheduled from 22nd November to 06th December 2023 in Perth, Australia.
- The first edition of Exercise AUSTRAHIND was held in Mahajan, Rajasthan, in 2022.
- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh recently engaged in bilateral talks with Australian Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister Richard Marles in New Delhi. The discussions were part of the India-Australia 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue.
- Australia Won the ICC Cricket World Cup 2023 by 6 Wickets.
- Australia and India have agreed to accelerate a broader economic partnership and to boost their defence ties, Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said in New Delhi.
- India and Australia Sign Agreements on Migration and Green Hydrogen Task Force.
- India and Australia sign a framework mechanism for mutual recognition of qualifications.



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- Australia's largest bilateral military exercise with United States, Exercise Talisman Sabre, officially commenced, with an opening ceremony on-board HMAS Canberra.
- Australia's involvement in the AUKUS (Australia, United Kingdom, United States) pact has gained attention due to its potential role as a testing ground for advanced hypersonic and long-range precision weapons.
- Australia pull out as Commonwealth Games 2026 host.
- Indian Industrialist Shri Ratan Tata appointed in 'Order of Australia' for distinguished service.
- The first foreign university to establish a campus in India will be Deakin University of Australia. The autonomous campus will be built in Gujarat International Financial Tec-City (GIFT) City.
- The two universities, both public, are Deakin University and Wollongong University. These are the first two foreign varsities to be setting up their campuses in GIFT (Gujarat International Finance Tec) City.
- AUSTRALIA
- Capital : Canberra
- Currency : Dollar
- Prime Minister : Anthony Albanese

Q. Military exercise 'Vajra Prahar' is organized between India and which country?

- A) France
- B) Australia
- C) USA
- D) Japan

Answer : C

- ✓ The 14th edition of the special military exercise "Vajra Prahar" organized between India and USA is being organized in Umroi, Meghalaya.
- ✓ Exercise Vajra Prahar is a joint exercise conducted between the Indian Army and the US Army Special Forces.
- ✓ The first edition of this exercise was organized in India in the year 2010.
- ✓ List of Exercises between India and USA:
- ✓ Army: Yudh Abhyas and Vajra Prahar
- ✓ Navy: MALABAR (Multilateral)



- ✓ Air Force: Cope India, Red Flag (Multilateral)

Q. In which country will the ICC Men's U19 Cricket World Cup 2024 be organized?

- A) India
- B) South Africa
- C) Sri Lanka
- D) Australia

Answer : B

- ✓ The ICC Men's U19 Cricket World Cup 2024 will now be organized in South Africa instead of Sri Lanka.
- ✓ Sri Lankan cricket was recently suspended by the ICC after which this decision was taken.
- ✓ Its last event was held in West Indies in 2022 where India won the title for the fifth time.

Q. Who has recently become the new Prime Minister of the European country Luxembourg?

- A) Luke Frieden
- B) Xavier Bettel
- C) Ken Marsh
- D) Giles Roth

Answer : A

- ✓ Former Finance Minister Luc Frieden has been elected as the new Prime Minister of the European country Luxembourg. Giles Roth has been appointed the new Finance Minister of the country.
- ✓ Luxembourg is a small European country, surrounded by Belgium, France and Germany.
- ✓ Luxembourg
- ✓ Capital : Luxembourg City
- ✓ Currency : Euro

NEWLY PRIME MINISTER IN NEWS 2022 – 23

- Luke Frieden : Luxembourg
- Christopher Luxon : 42nd PM of New Zealand
- Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani : Qatar
- Li Qiang : China
- Manuela Roka Botey as first female PM : Equatorial Guinea
- Anwar Ibrahim : Malaysia
- Benjamin Netanyahu : Israel
- Rishi Sunak : 57th PM of United Kingdom (UK)
- Ulf Kristersson : Sweden



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- Mohammed bin Salman : Saudi Arabia
- Ana Brnabic : Serbia
- James Marape : Papua New Guinea
- Dinesh Gunawardena : Sri Lanka
- Sheikh Mohammed Sabah Al Salem : Kuwait
- Hamza Abdi Barre : Somalia
- Anthony Albanese : Australia
- Emmanuel Macron : France
- Robert Golob : Slovenia
- Patrick Achi : Ivory Coast
- Shehbaz Sharif : Pakistan
- Viktor Orban : Hungary
- Robert Abela : Malta
- Antonio Costa : Portugal
- Mia Mottley : Barbados
- Alikhan Smailov : Kazakhstan
- Petr Fiala : Czech Republic
- Jonas Gahr Store : Norway
- Fumio Kishida : Japan

Q. Consider the following statements about Psyche Mission

1. It is a joint initiative of NASA and JAXA Space agencies.

2. It aims to study the metallic asteroid called '16 Psyche', located in the main asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter.

Choose the correct statements:

A) 1 only

B) 2 only

C) Both 1 and 2

D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer : B

- ✓ Psyche mission fires lasers at Earth from 16 million kilometres away, successfully demonstrating the future of communication in space.



- ✓ NASA's Psyche spacecraft is set to embark on a groundbreaking mission to explore a metal-rich asteroid named Psyche.
- ✓ About Psyche mission:
- ✓ The journey to the asteroid, also named Psyche, will span nearly six years and cover approximately 3.6 billion kilometers.
- ✓ The asteroid orbits the Sun between Mars and Jupiter.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Atmospheric Waves Experiment:

- 1. It is an initiative of National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).**
- 2. It aims to study the interactions between terrestrial and Space weather.**

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A) 1 only B) 2 only
C) Both 1 and 2 D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer : C

- ✓ The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) is set to launch the Atmospheric Waves Experiment (AWE) to study 'air glow' to understand space weather.
- ✓ It is a first-of-its-kind NASA experimental attempt aimed at studying the interactions between terrestrial and Space weather.
- ✓ It is planned under NASA's Heliophysics Explorers Program, this mission will study the links between how waves in the lower layers of the atmosphere impact the upper atmosphere, and thus, Space weather.
- ✓ It will be launched and mounted on the exterior of the Earth-orbiting International Space Station (ISS).
- ✓ From the vantage point, it will look down at the Earth and record the colourful light bands, commonly known as airglow.
- ✓ The new NASA mission will try to understand the combination of forces that drive the Space weather in the upper atmosphere.
- ✓ It will measure the airglow at mesopause (about 85 to 87 km above the Earth's surface), where the atmospheric temperatures dip to minus 100 degrees Celsius.
- ✓ At this altitude, it is possible to capture the faint airglow in the infrared bandwidth, which appears the brightest enabling easy detection.
- ✓ What will NASA'S AWE do?



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- ✓ It will perform focused mapping of the colourful airglows in the Earth's atmosphere.
- ✓ Onboard AWE is an Advanced Mesospheric Temperature Mapper (ATMT), an instrument that will scan or map the mesopause (a region between the mesosphere and thermosphere).
- ✓ This information can then be converted into a temperature map, which could reveal the airglow movement and ultimately, give clues on their role in the upper atmosphere and Space weather.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding risk-Weighted Asset:

- 1. It is used to determine the minimum amount of capital a bank hold in relation to the risk profile of its lending activities.**
- 2. It does not impact the pricing of loans for borrowers in any way.**

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A) 1 only**
- B) 2 only**
- C) Both 1 and 2**
- D) Neither 1 nor 2**

Answer : A

- ✓ Recently, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has increased the cost of funds for banks and non-bank financial companies (NBFCs), by increasing the risk weight of such loans.
- ✓ It is the every rupee lent by the bank is a cost or has an implication on its capital position.
- ✓ Risk-Weighted Assets: These are used to determine the minimum amount of capital a bank must hold in relation to the risk profile of its lending activities and other assets.
- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India decided in April 1992 to introduce a risk asset ratio system for banks (including foreign banks) in India as a capital adequacy measure in line with the Capital Adequacy Norms prescribed by Basel Committee.
- ✓ Impacts
- ✓ Lower the risk weight, lower the rate of interest. Therefore, risk weights impact borrowers indirectly and is felt through the pricing of loans.
- ✓ The increase in risk weights by the RBI will elevate funding costs for NBFCs and impact capital requirements.



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Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Project Collaboration Agreement:

- 1. It is an agreement between the Ministry of Ayush and the World Health Organization (WHO)**
- 2. It aims to bridge traditional medical systems with the National Health System.**

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A) 1 only B) 2 only
C) Both 1 and 2 D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer : C

- ✓ Recently, the Ministry of Ayush and the World Health Organization (WHO) formalized a 'Project Collaboration Agreement.
- ✓ It aims to bridge Traditional and Complementary Medical Systems with the mainstream of the National Health System, a key initiative outlined in the Traditional Medicine Global Strategy 2025-34 to be prepared by the WHO with the support of the Ministry of Ayush.
- ✓ Objective: To standardize Traditional and Complementary Medical Systems, incorporating their quality and safety aspects into the National Health System, and disseminating these practices on an international scale.
- ✓ This strategy will play a crucial role in achieving the objective of elevating Traditional and Complementary Medical Systems within the national health framework.
- ✓ The major goals of this agreement is the strengthening of training and practice in the field of the Complementary Medicine System, specifically 'Siddha.'
- ✓ The Ministry, in collaboration with the WHO, will also develop an International Herbal Pharmacopoeia focusing on herbs found in South-East Asia.
- ✓ This marks the third collaboration between the Ministry of Ayush and the WHO, with previous agreements signed in 2016 and 2017 focusing on taking Traditional Medical systems like Yoga, Ayurveda, Unani, and Panchakarma to the global level and strengthening the Ayurveda, Unani, and Siddha medical systems,

Q. With reference to Technology Development Board, consider the following statements:

- 1. It is a statutory body.**
- 2. It aims to promote development and commercialization of indigenous technology.**
- 3. It provides financial assistance to research and development institutions.**

How many of the above statements are correct?



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A) Only one

B) Only two

C) All three

D) None

Answer : C

- ✓ Recently, to bolster the Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprise (MSME) sector in India, the Technology Development Board (TDB) and the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) have formalized a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).
- ✓ It is a statutory body constituted under the Technology Development Board Act, 1995.
- ✓ It aims to promote development and commercialization of indigenous technology and adaptation of imported technology for wider application.
- ✓ The board consists of 11 Board members.
- ✓ It provides equity capital or loans to industrial concerns and financial assistance to research and development institutions.
- ✓ The Fund has been receiving grants from the Government of India out of the cess collections from the industrial concerns under the provisions of the Research and Development Cess Act, 1986, as amended in 1995.

Q. The 'Scattered Spiders' that was in the news recently is a/an:

A) international collaboration for the study of spider venom and its medical applications

B) global environmental conservation group

C) hacking group notorious for infiltrating organizations worldwide

D) recently discovered astronomical phenomenon involving scattered star clusters

Answer : C

- ✓ The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) recently issued a warning to organizations about a hacking group called Scattered Spiders.
- ✓ About Scattered Spiders:
- ✓ It is a hacking group notorious for invading various organizations across the world.
- ✓ This hacker group is known by other aliases as well, including Starfraud, UNC3944, Scatter Swine, and Muddled Libra.
- ✓ The members are as young as 16 years old and primary English speakers.



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- ✓ They break into the IT environments of victims, exfiltrates as much valuable data as possible, and then demand payment to keep a lid on that information and not leak or sell it.
- ✓ Modus operandi:
 - ✓ They use fake profiles and impersonations to trick a victim organisation's help desk into giving them access.
 - ✓ After gaining access to an organisation's systems, hackers keep an eye on internal communication channels.
 - ✓ They also keep a tab on emails or conversations that might show if their breach has been discovered.
 - ✓ The criminals “frequently join incident remediation and response calls and teleconferences, likely to identify how security teams are hunting them and proactively develop new avenues of intrusion in response to victim defenses.
- ✓ How to stay safe?
 - ✓ Maintain offline backups of data
 - ✓ Require all accounts to have password logins
 - ✓ Use longer passwords consisting of at least eight characters and no more than 64 characters in length
 - ✓ Require phishing-resistant multifactor authentication (MFA)
 - ✓ Keep all operating systems, software, and firmware up to date
 - ✓ Disable hyperlinks in emails
 - ✓ Keep all data encrypted.

Q. With reference to Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY), consider the following:

- 1. It extends affordable credit to micro and small enterprises.**
- 2. A farming-related income-generating activity is eligible for loans under the scheme.**
- 3. There is no subsidy for the loan given under PMMY.**

How many of the above statements are correct?

- | | |
|--------------|-------------|
| A) Only one | B) Only two |
| C) All three | D) None |

Answer : B

- ✓ The Union Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister recently said women entrepreneurs are accorded first priority under the Centre's flagship Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana scheme.
- ✓ About Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY):
 - ✓ It is a flagship scheme of the Government of India to extend affordable credit to micro and small enterprises.



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- ✓ Mudra schemes are designed to bring enterprises into the formal financial system or to “fund the unfunded”.
- ✓ It enables a small borrower to borrow from all Public Sector Banks such as PSU Banks, Regional Rural Banks and Cooperative Banks, Private Sector Banks, Foreign Banks, Micro Finance Institutions (MFI), and Non Banking Finance Companies (NBFC) for loans upto Rs 10 lakhs for non-farm income-generating activities.
- ✓ Eligibility: Any Indian citizen who has a business plan for a non-farm sector income generating activity such as manufacturing, processing, trading, or the service sector and whose credit need is less than Rs 10 lakh can approach either a bank, MFI, or NBFC for availing of Micro Units Development & Refinance Agency Ltd. (MUDRA) loans under PMMY.
- ✓ Types of loans provided: Under the aegis of PMMY, MUDRA has already created the following products
- ✓ Shishu: covering loans upto 50,000/-
- ✓ Kisho: covering loans above 50,000/- and upto 5 lakh
- ✓ Tarun: covering loans above 5 lakh and upto 10 lakh
- ✓ There is no subsidy for the loan given under PMMY. However, if the loan proposal is linked to some Government scheme, wherein the Government is providing capital subsidies, it will be eligible under PMMY also.

Q. With reference to CITIIS 2.0 Challenge, consider the following statements:

- 1. It is a joint initiative of the NITI Aayog and World Bank.**
- 2. It aims to make investments for the projects which are promoting a circular economy.**
- 3. It will be implemented for four years from 2023 to 2027.**

How many of the above statements are correct?

- A) Only one**
- B) Only two**
- C) All three**
- D) None**

Answer : B

- ✓ Recently, the Union Minister of Housing & Urban Affairs and Petroleum & Natural Gas launched the CITIIS 2.0 Challenge.
- ✓ It is a program conceived by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) in partnership with the French Development Agency (AFD), Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW), the European Union (EU), and National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA).



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- ✓ Objective: The program envisages supporting competitively selected projects promoting a circular economy with a focus on integrated waste management at the city level, climate-oriented reform actions at the State level, and institutional strengthening and knowledge dissemination at the National level.
- ✓ Funding: The funding for this program would include a loan from AFD and KfW and a technical assistance grant of Rs.106 cr from the EU.
- ✓ The program will run for four years, i.e., from 2023 to 2027.
- ✓ It aims to:
- ✓ Drive investments into urban climate action through competitively selected projects promoting a circular economy with focus on integrated waste management.
- ✓ Foster climate-sensitive planning and action in states and cities through evidence-driven approaches.
- ✓ Build institutional mechanisms, leverage partnerships and anchor capacity building for all urban local bodies in India.
- ✓ Components:
- ✓ Component 1: Financial and technical support for developing projects focused on building climate resilience, adaptation and mitigation in up to 18 smart cities through a selection of competitively selected projects promoting a circular economy with a focus on integrated waste management.
- ✓ Component 2: All States and UTs will be eligible for support on-demand basis
- ✓ Component 3: Interventions at all three levels; Centre, State and City to further climate governance in urban India through institutional strengthening, knowledge dissemination, partnerships, building capacity, research and development to support scale-up across all States and Cities.

Q. What is the primary technique used to create deepfake videos?

- A) Augmented reality
- B) Virtual reality
- C) Machine learning models and neural networks
- D) Traditional video editing software

Answer : C

- ✓ Union Information Technology Minister recently said the government will form regulations to control the spread of deepfakes on social media platforms, terming them a “new threat to democracy”.
- ✓ About Deepfakes:



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- ✓ Deepfakes are a compilation of artificial images and audio put together with machine-learning algorithms to spread misinformation and replace a real person's appearance, voice, or both with similar artificial likenesses or voices.
- ✓ The term "deepfake" combines the deep learning concept with something fake.
- ✓ It can create people who do not exist and it can fake real people saying and doing things they did not say or do.
- ✓ Background: The origin of the word "deepfake" can be traced back to 2017, when a Reddit user with the username "deepfakes", posted explicit videos of celebrities.
- ✓ Working:
- ✓ They are created by machine learning models, which use neural networks to manipulate images and videos.
- ✓ To make a deepfake video of someone, a creator would first train a neural network on many hours of real video footage of the person to give it a realistic "understanding" of what he or she looks like from many angles and under different lighting.
- ✓ Then they'd combine the trained network with computer-graphics techniques to superimpose a copy of the person onto a different actor.
- ✓ Deepfake technology is now being used for nefarious purposes like scams and hoaxes, celebrity pornography, election manipulation, social engineering, automated disinformation attacks, identity theft, and financial fraud.
- ✓ Deep fakes differ from other forms of false information by being very difficult to identify as false.

Q. What is 'digital twin', recently seen in news?

- A) a new technology to search dwarf planets
- B) a virtual depiction of a real-world entity
- C) an Artificial Intelligence tool to translate languages
- D) a laser beam technology sent to planet Neptune by NASA

Answer : B

- ✓ Recently, the Survey of India (SoI) and Genesys International, a leading Indian mapping company, on Wednesday announced a strategic tie-up for a three-dimensional (3D) digital twin-mapping programme in India.



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- ✓ It is a virtual depiction of a real-world entity, be it a product, process, person or location, capable of comprehending and gauging its tangible counterparts.
- ✓ The twin digital copy will also help policymakers understand how infrastructure will function in different situations such as high-footprints events, increase of population or during natural disasters.
- ✓ The strategic partnership aims to create digital twins of major cities and towns, leveraging Genesys' all-India highly-accurate navigable maps.
- ✓ The Genesys constellation of sensors and SOI's recently-launched Continuously Operating Reference Stations (CORS) network allows for real-time high precision positioning data.

Q. Nugu Wildlife Sanctuary is located in:

- A) West Bengal
- B) Karnataka
- C) Madhya Pradesh
- D) Assam

Answer : B

- ✓ The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) recently recommended to the authorities that the Nugu Wildlife Sanctuary abutting the Bandipur Tiger Reserve be declared as a core critical tiger habitat.
- ✓ About Nugu Wildlife Sanctuary:
 - ✓ It is situated north of Bandipur National Park in Mysore District, Karnataka.
 - ✓ It covers about 30 sq km, and the northern part of the sanctuary is occupied by the Nugu Reservoir. It is built across the Nugu River, a tributary of the Cauvery.
 - ✓ In 1974, Nugu was declared a Wildlife Sanctuary, and later, in year 2003-2004, the area of Nugu Wildlife Sanctuary was added to the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve.

Q. Onattukara sesame, which recently got Geographical Indication (GI)-tag, is from:

- A) Karnataka
- B) Gujarat
- C) Tamil Nadu
- D) Kerala

Answer : D

- ✓ Efforts are being made by the Kerala state authorities to expand the cultivation of geographical indication (GI)-tagged Onattukara sesame.
- ✓ It is cultivated in the state of Kerala.
- ✓ Onattukara Ellu and its oil are famous for its unique health benefits.



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- ✓ Relatively higher antioxidant content in Onattukara Ellu helps in fighting the free radicals, which destroy the body cells.
- ✓ It has the high content of unsaturated fat makes it beneficial for heart patients

KERALA IN NEWS 2023

- Kozhikode in Kerala has been designated as the UNESCO 'City of Literature' and Gwalior as the 'City of Music' in the latest UNESCO list of Creative Cities Network.
- The 'Arattu' festival has a rich tradition of being celebrated at the Sree Padmanabha Swamy Temple in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.
- Kerala government decided to establish a graphene production facility as a pilot project in the State.
- The Indian Blind Football Federation (IBFF) said that the 'IBSA Blind Football Intercontinental Cup 2023' will be organized at the United Sports Center in Kakkanad in Kochi, Kerala.
- Kerala unveils additional books to include portions deleted by NCERT.
- Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) Secretary Shri Alkesh Kumar Sharma launched the 'Graphene-Aurora program' at a function in Maker Village Kochi, Kerala.
- Kerala has launched a groundbreaking scheme called 'Shubhayatra'.
- Kerala to set up India's first fisheries Atal Incubation Centre.
- Piramal Finance opened the first all women branch named "Maitreyi" at Thripunithura near Kochi to cater to the unique needs of women customers.
- Kerala has become the first state in the country to launch its own internet service.
- Kerala has become the first and only state in the country to have its own internet services.
- According to data shared by the GI Registry, Kerala received the highest number of Geographical Indication (GI) tags for products among all states in India in the fiscal year 23 (FY23).
- Kerala has adopted a water budget, the first of its kind in the country, to deal with the problem of water scarcity in summer.
- Dharmadam, Kerala becomes first complete library constituency in India.
- Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan launches 'One Panchayat, One Playground' project.
- India's first Graphene Innovation center to be set up in Kerala.
- Recently, a group of researchers discovered a butterfly subspecies from the fringes of Akkulam and Vembanad lakes in Kerala.



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- Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 25th April flagged off Kerala's first Vande Bharat Express between Thiruvananthapuram and Kasargod at Thiruvananthapuram Central Station.
- Kerala declared first State to enable digital banking service.
- M T Vasudevan Nair was awarded the "Kerala Jyoti", the highest civilian honour in Kerala.
- The Ministry of Women and Child Development has launched the 2nd G20 Empower meeting in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala under the theme "Women Empowerment: Win-win for Equality and Economy".
- Kerala to become first State to use robotics tech extensively for manhole cleaning.
- National Green Tribunal (NGT) in New Delhi has imposed a fine of Rs 10 crore on the Kerala government for failing to protect the Vembanad and Ashtamudi lakes, listed as Ramsar sites.

Q. What is the primary objective of the SATHEE Portal, recently seen in the news?

- A) To encourage entrepreneurship and innovation in students
- B) To offer free entrance exam guidance and coaching
- C) To provide counseling services for mental health and well-being
- D) To offer scholarships and financial aid for higher education

Answer : B

- ✓ Ministry of Education (MoE) recently said they would write to all States to encourage aspirants to utilise the newly launched portal for exam preparation — SATHEE (Self Assessment Test and Help for Entrance Exams).
- ✓ About SATHEE (Self Assessment Test and Help for Entrance Exams) Portal:
- ✓ It is a new initiative by the Ministry of Education to provide a free learning and assessment platform for students.
- ✓ It will help students gain access to training and coaching for competitive examinations for free.
- ✓ The aim of the platform is to bridge the gap for students in society who are not able to afford the costly entrance exam guidance and coaching.
- ✓ It will have preparation materials for students in English, Hindi, and other regional languages of India so that students can prepare for exams like JEE and NEET.



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- ✓ It will be useful for candidates who will be preparing for CAT, GATE, UPSC, etc. It will also allow candidates to gain experience in coaching centres.
- ✓ The platform will have videos made by the faculty members of IITs and IISC to help students prepare for the competitive examinations. The videos would also help students learn concepts and revise topics they are weak at.
- ✓ It makes use of an indigenously developed AI programme called Prutor, which was developed by IIT-Kanpur.
- ✓ SATHEE Features:
- ✓ Preparation material for entrance exams including JEE and NEET
- ✓ Video solutions in regional languages for entrance exams
- ✓ JEE and NEET entrance exam preparation ideas webinars
- ✓ Students' stories of struggles and achievement
- ✓ Solve with me sessions
- ✓ Motivational sessions

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Sophisticated Analytical & Technical Help Institutes (SATHI) Initiative:

1. It is an initiative by the Department of Science and Technology to boost access to research and testing facilities.

2. It will be readily accessible to academia, industries and R&D labs.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A) 1 only

B) 2 only

C) Both 1 and 2

D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer : C

- ✓ The Centre's move to cancel a call for proposals under the Department of Science and Technology (DST)'s SATHI programme has sparked fears among higher education institutions
- ✓ About Sophisticated Analytical & Technical Help Institutes (SATHI):
- ✓ It is an initiative by the Department of Science and Technology to boost access to research and testing facilities and address problems of accessibility, maintenance, redundancy, and duplication of expensive equipment in Institutions.



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- ✓ It aims to set up a shared, professionally managed Science and Technology (S&T) infrastructure facility which can be readily accessible to academia, start-ups, manufacturing units, industries, and R&D labs.
- ✓ Such S&T infrastructure will be known as the Sophisticated Analytical & Technical Help Institute (SATHI).
- ✓ These Centres will be equipped with major analytical instruments and advanced manufacturing facilities which are usually not available at Institutes / Organisations.
- ✓ It would encourage and ensure the establishment of a National Network of Laboratories and testing facilities tightly linked to global standards.
- ✓ SATHI facilities will be used for 80% of their available time by external users i.e. out-side of the host institutes and the remaining 20% of their available time by internal users of the host institute.
- ✓ The usage of the facility will be guided by the basic principle of maximum and effective utilization and accessibility for all.
- ✓ The facilities provided by the SATHI may be utilized by any user or organization upon payment of nominal charges.
- ✓ The upper limit of funding support from DST would be Rs 60.0 crores for duration of 4 years, for acquiring only state-of-the-art national facilities.
- ✓ Duration: The duration of support for the SATHI Project will be for a period not exceeding 4 years

Q. US Granted __ billion In Aid To 213 Countries From 2001 to 2023

- A) \$521 B) \$677
C) \$745 D) \$838

Answer : B

- ✓ According to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the United States emerges as the foremost aid provider in 2022. The data from ForeignAssistance.gov, an official US government platform, reveals key insights into the patterns and destinations of US aid between 2001 and 2023.
- ✓ A comprehensive analysis indicates that the US has disbursed a staggering \$677 billion in aid to 213 countries from 2001 to 2023.

Q. Which City Set To Host Namma Kambala On 25 Nov and 26 Nov 2023?

- A) Chennai B) Kochi
C) Bengaluru D) Warangal



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Answer : C

- ✓ Kambala, the popular buffalo racing contest native to the coastal Karnataka region, is all set to captivate the urban landscape of Bengaluru this weekend.
- ✓ The traditional folk sport, usually held in the aftermath of the southwest monsoon, will unfold its excitement at the iconic Palace Grounds on November 25 and 26, 2023.
- ✓ Organized by Tulukoota Bengaluru, this marks the first time Kambala has found a venue in the heart of Bengaluru

Q. IISR-Kozhikode has developed a high yielding black pepper variety, what has it been named?

- A) Chandra
- B) Sun
- C) Sundhar
- D) Dharma

Answer : A

- ✓ The Indian Institute of Spices Research (IISR) in Kozhikode has achieved a significant milestone in the field of agriculture with the successful development of a groundbreaking black pepper variety named 'IISR Chandra.'
- ✓ The research team at IISR took a unique approach in developing 'IISR Chandra' by crossing two distinct pepper varieties – Cholamundi and Thommankodi. The resulting hybrid was then back-crossed with Thommankodi to ensure the retention of all desired parental traits.
- ✓ This novel approach has given rise to a high-yielding black pepper variety that possesses unparalleled potential in both quality and yield.

Q. Which State has Recently Launched 'Safe City Project' for the Safety of Women?

- A) Uttar Pradesh
- B) Bihar
- C) Haryana
- D) Madhya Pradesh

Answer : A

- ✓ The government of Uttar Pradesh has launched a Safe City Project to enhance the safety of girls and women in the state.
- ✓ Through the Safe City Project, the government will ensure surveillance through CCTV at the entry and exit points of 17 municipal corporations along with government and non-government schools, madrassas, colleges and universities in Gautam Buddha Nagar.



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Q. Who has been appointed as the Additional Director of South Indian Bank?

- A) Ajay Sinha B) Megha Kapoor
C) Lakshmi Ramakrishna Srinivas D) Srinivasan Narayan

Answer : C

- ✓ Lakshmi Ramakrishna Srinivas, one of the pioneers in the field of banking, has been appointed as Additional Director of South Indian Bank.
- ✓ She has been appointed as a non-executive independent director of the bank for a period of three years from Nov. 20, 2023.

Q. Barda Wildlife Sanctuary (BWLS) is located in which state?

- A) Maharashtra B) Assam
C) Gujarat D) Karnataka

Answer : C

- ✓ The Gujarat Forest Department recently presented its proposal to make Barda Wildlife Sanctuary (BWLS) the second home to lions before the national steering committee meeting held as part of "Project Lion @ 2047".
- ✓ About Barda Wildlife Sanctuary (BWLS):
- ✓ Location:
- ✓ It is located in the state of Gujarat.
- ✓ It lies roughly 15 kilometers from Porbandar and 100 kilometers west of Gir Forest National Park.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding National Pension System (NPS):

- 1. It is a voluntary retirement benefit scheme available to only government employees in India.**
- 2. The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) is the governing body for NPS.**

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A) 1 only B) 2 only
C) Both 1 and 2 D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer : B



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- ✓ The Union Home Minister recently said the government would deliberate on restoring the Old Pension Scheme (OPS) once the committee constituted for the purpose submitted its report.
- ✓ About National Pension System (NPS):
- ✓ It is a retirement benefit scheme introduced by the Government of India to facilitate regular income post-retirement for all subscribers.
- ✓ NPS was launched on 1st January, 2004.
- ✓ Initially, NPS was introduced for the new government recruits (except the armed forces). With effect from 1st May, 2009, NPS has been provided for all citizens of the country, including the unorganised sector workers on voluntary basis.
- ✓ Voluntary: It is a voluntary scheme for all citizens of India. People can invest any amount in their NPS account at any time.
- ✓ Permanent Retirement Account Number (PRAN): It is based on a unique PRAN, which is allotted to every subscriber.
- ✓ Portability: NPS account or PRAN will remain the same irrespective of changes in employment, city, or state. It can be used from any location in India.
- ✓ PFRDA (Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority) is the governing body for NPS.
- ✓ There is no defined benefit that would be available at the time of exit from the system, and the accumulated wealth depends on the contributions made and the income generated from the investment of such wealth.
- ✓ Under NPS, individual savings are pooled into a pension fund, which is invested by PFRDA-regulated professional fund managers into diversified portfolios comprising Government Bonds, Bills, Corporate Debentures, and Shares.
- ✓ Contributions made by individual subscribers are accumulated until retirement, and corpus growth continues via market-linked returns. Subscribers also have the option to exit this plan before retirement or opt for superannuation.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises:

- 1. It provides guarantee cover to collateral and third party guarantee free credit facilities.**
- 2. It is jointly set up by Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises and Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI).**

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?



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A) 1 only

B) 2 only

C) Both 1 and 2

D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer : C

- ✓ The Credit Guarantee Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE) Scheme has approved a credit guarantee of Rs. 1 lakh crore in just 7 months of the current financial year 2023-24.
- ✓ It was launched in 2000.
- ✓ Funding: The corpus of CGTMSE is being contributed by the Government of India and Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) in the ratio of 4:1.
- ✓ Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE) is jointly set up by Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME), Government of India and Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) to catalyse flow of institutional credit to Micro & Small Enterprises (MSEs).
- ✓ CGTMSE has been instrumental in providing guarantee cover to collateral and/or third party guarantee free credit facilities extended by eligible Member Lending Institution [MLIs] to MSEs.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding AGNI Initiative:

1. It aims to provide a platform for Ayurveda practitioners to report their innovative practices & and experiences.

2. It is an initiative of the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A) 1 only

B) 2 only

C) Both 1 and 2

D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer : A

- ✓ Recently, the Central Council for Research in Ayurveda Sciences (CCRAS), Ministry of Ayush, has launched “Ayurveda Gyan Naipunya Initiative” (AGNI) for physicians practicing in the field of Ayurveda.
- ✓ Aim: To provide a platform for Ayurveda practitioners to report their innovative practices & and experiences in various disease conditions along with promoting the culture of evidence-based practice among Ayurveda Practitioners.
- ✓ Objectives of the Initiative
- ✓ To promote the culture of reporting evidence-based practice among Ayurveda Practitioners.



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- ✓ To document the reported successful therapeutic regimens for various disease conditions involving Single drug/ Formulation/ Procedures for the purpose of education and academics.
- ✓ To identify the interested Ayurveda practitioners for collaboration in the creation of a database through applications and capacity building through training in research methods and good clinical practices.
- ✓ To identify the interested Ayurveda practitioners for collaboration in the creation of a database through applications and capacity building through training in research methods and good clinical practices.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Investor Risk Reduction Access platform:

1. It has been designed to reduce risks for investors participating in the market.

2. It is developed by the Reserve Bank of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A) 1 only

B) 2 only

C) Both 1 and 2

D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer : A

- ✓ Recently, chairperson of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) launched the Investor Risk Reduction Access platform.
- ✓ It has been developed to reduce risks faced by investors in the eventuality of technical glitches at the trading member's end at both the primary site and disaster recovery site.
- ✓ Its purpose is to provide investors with an opportunity to square off/close their open positions and cancel pending orders using the IRRA platform in case of technical glitches or unforeseen outages that render the trading member's site inaccessible.
- ✓ It has been designed to reduce risks for investors participating in the market.
- ✓ It is not meant for taking fresh positions or orders, but only to cancel the pending orders.
- ✓ This platform will be available to trading members supporting internet-based trading (IBT) and Security Trading through Wireless Technology (STWT) for their investors. However, it will not be accessible for algo trading and institutional clients.
- ✓ It has been jointly developed by all the stock exchanges – BSE, NSE, NCDEX, MCX and Metropolitan Stock Exchange of India (MSE)



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Q. With reference to the Global Digital Public Infrastructure Repository, consider the following statements:

- 1. It is created by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).**
- 2. It is a comprehensive resource hub in which essential lessons and expertise from G20 members are pooled.**
- 3. Only Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) is incorporated in this repository from India.**

How many of the above statements are correct?

- A) Only one** **B) Only two**
C) All three **D) None**

Answer : B

- ✓ Recently, the Prime Minister of India announced the launch of two India-led initiatives: the Global Digital Public Infrastructure Repository and a Social Impact Fund.
- ✓ It is created by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).
- ✓ It is a comprehensive resource hub, pooling essential lessons and expertise from G20 members and guest nations.
- ✓ Its primary aim is to bridge the knowledge gap in the choices and methodologies required for the design, construction, deployment, and governance of DPIs.
- ✓ The GDPIR showcases the information in a standardized format from countries and organizations that have developed DPIs at scale, incorporating elements such as maturity scales, source codes (where available), and governance frameworks. Currently, the GDPIR features 54 DPIs from 16 countries.
- ✓ The DPIs from India that have been incorporated in the GDPIR are: Aadhaar, Unified Payments Interface (UPI), DigiLocker, Umang, eSanjeevani, API Setu, Co-WIN, Government e-marketplace, Diksha, E-Hospital, Poshan Tracker and Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM).
- ✓ What is Digital public infrastructure (DPI)?
- ✓ It encompasses foundational elements or frameworks like digital identification, payment infrastructure, and data exchange solutions.
- ✓ These components play a crucial role in facilitating countries to provide vital services to their citizens, fostering empowerment, and enhancing lives through the promotion of digital inclusion.



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Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Brahmani River:

1. It is an east-flowing river of the peninsular India.
2. A major part of its basin lies in Andhra Pradesh.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A) 1 only B) 2 only
C) Both 1 and 2 D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer : A

- ✓ The Odisha government has roped in IIT, Guwahati for a physical and mathematical modelling study for the rejuvenation of the Brahmani river delta.
- ✓ About Brahmani River:
- ✓ It is a major inter-state east-flowing river amongst the peninsular rivers in India.
- ✓ The river is known as Dhamra in its lower reaches.
- ✓ Origin:
- ✓ It is formed by the confluence of the Sankh and South Koel rivers near the major industrial town of Rourkela in Odisha.
- ✓ Both the sources of the Brahmani River are on the Chota Nagpur Plateau.
- ✓ The Sankh River has its origins near the Jharkhand- Chhattisgarh border, along with the South Koel River, which also rises in Jharkhand.
- ✓ The Brahmani River basin is bounded in the north by the Chhota nagpur plateau, in the west and south by the Mahanadi basin, and in the east by the Bay of Bengal

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Inter Command Ocean Sailing Race 2023:

1. It is being organised by the Southern Naval Command of the Indian Navy.
2. It features boats leveraging the winds and sail without the use of engines.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A) 1 only B) 2 only
C) Both 1 and 2 D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer : C



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- ✓ The Navy flagged off the second edition of the Inter Command Ocean Sailing Race 2023 from Kochi to Goa in a ceremony held at Naval Base, Kochi, recently.
- ✓ About Inter Command Ocean Sailing Race 2023:
- ✓ The race features four 40-footer sail boats INSV Bulbul, INSV Neelkanth, INS Kadalpur and INSV Hariyal promising an adventurous journey in the Arabian Sea.
- ✓ Each sailboat has a crew of eight personnel from three naval commands and a combined team of Andaman and Nicobar Command including Delhi area.
- ✓ The race will cover an approximate distance of 667kmbetween the start point at Naval Base, Kochi, and Goa in about five days.
- ✓ The boats are expected to skilfully leverage the winds and proceed to Goa without the use of engines.
- ✓ The race is being organised by Southern Naval Command under the aegis of Indian Naval Sailing Association based at Naval Headquarters, New Delhi.
- ✓ The event is coordinated by the Indian Navy's Offshore Sailing Club based at ASW School, Kochi and the Ocean Sailing Node based at INS Mandovi, Goa.
- ✓ The Navy uses the race to enhance risk-management abilities and technical skills, as well as instill a spirit of adventure among its crew

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Naval Anti-Ship Missile Short Range (NASM-SR) developed for the Indian Navy:

1. It has been jointly developed by India and Israel.

2. It travels at supersonic speeds.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A) 1 only

B) 2 only

C) Both 1 and 2

D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer : D

- ✓ The Indian Navy, in association with DRDO, successfully undertook Guided Flight Trials of the first indigenously developed Naval Anti-Ship Missile Short Range (NASM-SR) from a Sea King 42B helicopter recently.
- ✓ About Naval Anti-Ship Missile Short Range (NASM-SR):
- ✓ It is the first indigenous air-launched anti-ship cruise missile developed for the Indian Navy.



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- ✓ It was developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
- ✓ It can be launched from attack helicopters.
- ✓ This missile will replace the Sea Eagle missiles, which are currently in use with the Navy.
- ✓ With the Sea King helicopters also being phased out, it is expected that the NASM-SR will be used with the new MH-60R multi-role helicopters, which are being inducted into the Navy
- ✓ With a strike range of around 60 km, the air-launched anti-ship missile can travel at a speed of Mach 0.8 (slower than the speed of sound)

Q. Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a substantial ____ million loan to catalyze the modernization of water supply services in Kochi.

- A) \$110 B) \$135
C) \$170 D) \$200

Answer : C

- ✓ Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a substantial \$170 million loan to catalyze the modernization of water supply services in Kochi, a rapidly growing city in the southern Indian state of Kerala.
- ✓ This transformative initiative aims to enhance urban living standards, ensure clean water access, and fortify climate resilience.

ADB IN NEWS 2023

- Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a substantial \$170 million loan to catalyze the modernization of water supply services in Kochi, a rapidly growing city in the southern Indian state of Kerala.
- India & ADB sign \$400 million loan to support urban reform agenda.
- ADB to Support Improvement of Urban Infrastructure and Services in Peri-urban Areas of Ahmedabad, India.
- ADB Capital Management Reforms Bring \$100 Billion Benefits Over Next Decade to Asia-Pacific.
- Asian Development Bank (ADB) has announced the allocation of US \$ 400 million for welfare work with a special focus on women and girls in Afghanistan.
- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Fourth Partner Energy Private Limited (Fourth Partner) signed a long-term loan of up to 1.2 billion Indian rupees (about \$14.7 million) .



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- ADB Approves USD 40.5 Million Loan to Enhance Childhood Development and Maternal Mental Health in Meghalaya.
- Government of India and Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed a \$200 million loan as additional financing for the ongoing Rajasthan.
- ADB approves \$295mn loan to improve Transport Connectivity in Bihar.
- ADB gives 130 million dollars to increase horticulture in Himachal Pradesh.
- Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of India signed a \$141.12 million loan agreement for the development of an industrial corridor in Andhra Pradesh.
- Alok Kumar has been appointed as a member of the Asian Development Bank's (ADB) High-level Advisory Group on Digital Technology for Development.
- Pakistan is the largest recipient of ADB loans in Asia, Pakistan received loans of USD 5.58 billion.
- Asian Development Bank (ADB) has announced its plans to invest in non-convertible debentures valued at Rs 150 crore in Tata Power Delhi Distribution Ltd (TPDDL).
- ADB approves \$130 million loan to promote horticulture in Himachal Pradesh.
- Indian government and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed loan agreements aggregating to \$1.22 billion.
- ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK (ADB)
- Founded : 19 December 1966
- HQ : Mandaluyong, Metro Manila, Philippines
- President : Masatsugu Asakawa (Japan)
- Vice President : Ashok Lavasa (Indian?)
- Director of ADB for India : Takeo Konishi
- Executive Director : Sameer Kumar
- Member Countries : 68 (Nuie).
- ADB has grown to encompass 68 members; of which 49 are from within Asia and the Pacific and 19 outside.
- Japan is the largest contributor in the subscribed capital of the country.
- Asian Development Outlook, reports published by ADB.
- It is a regional multilateral financial institution focused on countries in the Asia and Pacific region.
- It currently has 68 members – of which 49 are from the Asia and Pacific region and 19 from outside.



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Q. Joint military exercise 'Surya Kiran' is organized between India and which country?

- A) Sri Lanka
- B) Bhutan
- C) Bangladesh
- D) Nepal

Answer : D

- ✓ The 17th joint military exercise Surya Kiran between the armies of India and Nepal is being organized in Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand.
- ✓ A contingent of Nepal Army comprising 334 military personnel has reached India to participate in it.
- ✓ This exercise will run from 24 November to 07 December 2023.

Q. In which state the famous 'Ghol' fish has been given the status of state fish?

- A) Tamil Nadu
- B) Maharashtra
- C) Gujarat
- D) Odisha

Answer : C

- ✓ Marine 'Ghol' fish has been given the status of state fish of Gujarat in the first Global Fisheries Conference India 2023 held in Ahmedabad.
- ✓ Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel made this announcement at a program in Gujarat Science City.
- ✓ Ghoul fish are found widely in the Indo-Pacific region, from the Persian Gulf to the Pacific Ocean.

Q. Which Union Ministry is associated with 'National Gopal Ratna Awards'?

- A) Ministry of Agriculture
- B) Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying
- C) Ministry of MSME
- D) Ministry of Commerce and Industry

Answer : B

- ✓ The National Gopal Ratna Awards were presented recently, as part of the National Milk Day celebration in 2023 by Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying.
- ✓ The primary aim is to acknowledge and motivate individuals such as farmers engaged in the rearing of indigenous animals, artificial insemination technicians, and cooperative societies, milk producer companies, and dairy farmer producer organizations contributing to this sector



Q. Which country has been declared as the Chair of the International Sugar Organisation (ISO) for the year 2024?

- A) India
B) China
C) Russia
D) USA

Answer : A

- ✓ During its 63rd council meeting, the International Sugar Organisation (ISO), based in London, declared India as the Chair of the organization for the year 2024.
- ✓ The primary focus will be on uniting member nations to embrace more sustainable practices in sugarcane cultivation, sugar and ethanol production, and optimizing the utilization of by-products.

Q. India formalized Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on semiconductors with which bloc?

- A) G-20
B) G-7
C) European Union
D) ASEAN

Answer : C

- ✓ India and the European Union formalized a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on semiconductors.
- ✓ The agreement was finalized during a discussion between leaders of the EU-India Trade and Technology Council (TTC).
- ✓ As part of the understanding, the EU highlighted that it will involve the exchange of information concerning granted public subsidies, contributing to transparency and cooperation in the field of semiconductors between the two entities.

Q. India's first sloth bear rescue centre is located in which state?

- A) Assam
B) West Bengal
C) Karnataka
D) Tamil Nadu

Answer : C

- ✓ The sloth bear rescue centre at Bannerghatta National Park (BNP), initiated in 2000 in Karnataka, acknowledged as the second-largest sloth bear rescue centre globally, has marked its 18th year of operation.
- ✓ The sloth bear rehabilitation centre is the first such functioning centre for rescued sloth bears from keepers of dancing bears in India



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Q. The National Stock Exchange (NSE) signed MoU with which state to help small and medium enterprises (SMEs) raise funds through the capital market?

- A) Odisha
- B) West Bengal
- C) Gujarat
- D) Maharashtra

Answer : B

- ✓ The National Stock Exchange (NSE) of India and the West Bengal government signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to help small and medium enterprises (SMEs) raise funds through the capital market.
- ✓ It aims to spread awareness among MSMEs in the state regarding fundraising via the IPO mechanism using NSE Emerge, the SME platform of NSE.

Q. Which organisation has released the '14th Emissions Gap Report 2023'?

- A) UNEP
- B) FAO
- C) World Bank
- D) WEF

Answer : A

- ✓ The 14th Emissions Gap Report 2023 was released by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).
- ✓ As per the report, even if the existing nationally determined contributions (NDC), both conditional and unconditional, are fulfilled by 2030, the global temperature is projected to rise by 2.5°C, surpassing the 2°C target established by the Paris Agreement

Q. Which scarce element has been discovered in the Sutlej River?

- A) Titanium
- B) Tantalum
- C) Scandium
- D) Lithium

Answer : B

- ✓ Recently, a team of researchers from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Ropar has found the presence of tantalum, a rare metal, in the Sutlej river sand in Punjab.
- ✓ It is a rare metal with the atomic number 73 — the number of protons found in one atom of the element.
- ✓ The rare metal has been named after a Greek mythological figure Tantalus.
- ✓ Properties
- ✓ It's grey, heavy, very hard, and one of the most corrosion-resistant metals in use today.



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- ✓ It is most prominently used in the electronic sector.
- ✓ The rare metal is also used to make components for chemical plants, nuclear power plants, aeroplanes and missiles.
- ✓ It does not react with bodily fluids and is used to make surgical equipment and implants, like artificial joints
- ✓ A composite consisting of tantalum carbide (TaC) and graphite is one of the hardest materials known and is used on the cutting edges of high-speed machine tools.

Q. Who has been honored with the National Metallurgist Award?

- A) Dr. Rameshwar Sah B) Dr. Debashish Bhattacharya
C) Dr. Niloy Kundu D) Dr. Agilan Muthumanikam

Answer : B

- ✓ The National Metallurgist Awards 2022 were presented at an event organized by the Steel Ministry.
- ✓ In this, Dr. Debashish Bhattacharya was honored with the National Metallurgist Award. Dr. Niloy Kundu was honored with the Young Metallurgist (Environment) Award.
- ✓ Also Dr. Kamachi Mudali Uthandi was honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award.

Q. Who has become the fourth Indian to be honored with Pakistan's highest civilian award?

- A) A R Rahman B) Dr. Syedna Mufaddal Saifuddin
C) Mohammad Hamid Ansari D) Agilan Muthumanikam

Answer : B

- ✓ Dr., head of the Mumbai-based Dawoodi Bohra sect of Islam. Syedna Mufaddal Saifuddin will be honored with Pakistan's highest civilian award 'Nishan-e-Pakistan.
- ✓ He will become the fourth Indian to be honored with Pakistan's highest civilian award.
- ✓ Morarji Desai was the first Indian to be honored with Pakistan's highest civilian award

Q. Justice Bibek Chaudhary has taken oath as the judge of which High Court?

- A) Patna High Court B) Allahabad High Court
C) Guwahati High Court D) Delhi High Court

Answer : A

- ✓ Justice Bibek Chaudhary has taken oath as judge of Patna High Court.



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- ✓ Bihar Governor Rajendra Arlekar administered the oath of office in the presence of High Court judges at Raj Bhavan.
- ✓ Before assuming his current assignment, Justice Chaudhary was serving as a judge in the Calcutta High Court

Q. Which Bank Board has approved Reappointment of Chandra Shekhar Ghosh as MD & CEO?

- A) Bandhan Bank
- B) RBL Bank
- C) Bank of Baroda
- D) Bank of India

Answer : A

- ✓ The board of directors at Bandhan Bank has given the green light for the reappointment of Chandra Shekhar Ghosh as the Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer (MD&CEO).
- ✓ The Kolkata-based private sector lender has extended Ghosh's tenure for a period of three years.
- ✓ The current term is set to expire on July 09, 2024.

Q. Which State Unveils the World's First 3D-Printed Temple?

- A) Karnataka
- B) Uttarakhand
- C) Uttar Pradesh
- D) Telangana

Answer : D

- ✓ Telangana has unveiled the world's first 3D-printed temple, a groundbreaking structure situated in Burugupally, Siddipet district.
- ✓ The temple was constructed by Hyderabad-based Apsuja Infratech in collaboration with Simpliforge Creations, a 3D printing company

Q. In which country has the world's largest single-site solar power plant been inaugurated?

- A) USA
- B) India
- C) Australia
- D) United Arab Emirates

Answer : D

- ✓ United Arab Emirates has inaugurated the world's largest single-site solar power plant ahead of the upcoming United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28).



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- ✓ The 2-gigawatt Al Dhafra Solar Photovoltaic Independent Power Project (IPP) is located 35 kilometers from Abu Dhabi city and will generate enough electricity to power almost 200,000 homes. The plant is expected to displace 2.4 million tonnes of carbon emissions annually.

Q. Which State has Recently Launched 'Safe City Project' for the Safety of Women?

- A) Uttar Pradesh
B) Bihar
C) Haryana
D) Madhya Pradesh

Answer : A

- ✓ The government of Uttar Pradesh has launched a Safe City Project to enhance the safety of girls and women in the state.
- ✓ Through the Safe City Project, the government will ensure surveillance through CCTV at the entry and exit points of 17 municipal corporations along with government and non-government schools, madrassas, colleges and universities in Gautam Buddha Nagar.

Q. Who has been appointed as the Additional Director of South Indian Bank?

- A) Ajay Sinha
B) Megha Kapoor
C) Lakshmi Ramakrishna Srinivas
D) Srinivasan Narayan

Answer : C

- ✓ Lakshmi Ramakrishna Srinivas, one of the pioneers in the field of banking, has been appointed as Additional Director of South Indian Bank.
- ✓ She has been appointed as a non-executive independent director of the bank for a period of three years from Nov. 20, 2023.

Q. With reference to Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs), consider the following:

1. A REIT is a company that owns and typically operates income-producing real estate assets.
2. They pool money from the investors and invest it in commercial real estate projects.
3. They are not publicly traded like stocks, which makes them less liquid.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- A) Only one
B) Only two
C) All three
D) None



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Answer : B

- ✓ The SEBI Board recently approved amendments to the SEBI (Real Estate Investment Trusts) Regulations 2014 (REIT Regulations) to create a new regulatory framework for small and medium REITs.
- ✓ About Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs):
- ✓ A REIT is a company that owns and typically operates income-producing real estate or related assets.
- ✓ They pool money from the investors and invest it in commercial real estate projects.
- ✓ These may include office buildings, shopping malls, apartments, hotels, resorts, self-storage facilities, warehouses, and mortgages or loans.
- ✓ Unlike other real estate companies, a REIT does not develop real estate properties to resell them. Instead, a REIT buys and develops properties primarily to operate them as part of its own investment portfolio.
- ✓ REITs provide a way for individual investors to earn a share of the income produced through commercial real estate ownership without actually having to go out and buy commercial real estate.
- ✓ In general, REITs specialize in a specific real estate sector. However, diversified and specialty REITs may hold different types of properties in their portfolios, such as a REIT that consists of both office and retail properties.
- ✓ Most REITs are publicly traded like stocks, which makes them highly liquid (unlike physical real estate investments).
- ✓ REITs are like shares that are listed on the stock exchange, which means you can buy or sell them anytime on the exchange.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding Amplifi 2.0 Portal:

1. It aims to provide data on Indian cities which helps in data-driven policy making.
2. It was launched by the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A) 1 only B) 2 only
C) Both 1 and 2 D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer : C

- ✓ Recently, the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs launched the Amplifi 2.0 portal.
- ✓ Amplifi (Assessment and Monitoring Platform for Liveable, Inclusive and Future-ready urban India) portal aims to provide data on Indian cities.



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- ✓ It is making raw data from Indian cities available on a single platform for academics, researchers, and stakeholders to help data-driven policy making.
- ✓ Currently, 258 urban local bodies (ULB) have been on-boarded, and data for 150 cities is available on the portal.
- ✓ It provides data on a range of information for several cities, including, for example, the total diesel consumption; the number of samples tested for water quality;

Q. When is the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women celebrated?

- A) 24 November B) 25 November
C) 23 November D) 21 November

Answer : B

- ✓ United Nations designated International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women is celebrated worldwide on November 25.
- ✓ Purpose: to raise awareness of the fact that women around the world are subject to various forms of violence and true nature of the issue is often hidden.
- ✓ Theme 2022 : UNITE! Activism to end violence against women and girls

Q. National Milk Day is commemorated every year in India on November 26 to mark the birth anniversary of_

- A) C. Rangarajan B) M. S. Swaminathan
C) Dr. Verghese Kurien D) R.S. Sodhi

Answer : C

- ✓ Every year November 26 is celebrated as National Milk Day in India.
- ✓ The day is being observed since 2014 to commemorate the birth anniversary of the Father of India's White Revolution, Dr. Verghese Kurien.
- ✓ Dr. Verghese Kurien is also nicknamed as Milkman of India.
- ✓ The day was fixed by all the dairy majors of the country including the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB), the Indian Dairy Association (IDA), along with 22 state level milk federations
- ✓ India is the world's largest milk producer.
- ✓ Uttar Pradesh is the highest milk producing state in India.



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Q. When is the Constitution Day of India observed?

A) 26 November

B) 25 November

C) 24 November

D) 22 November

Answer : A

- ✓ India celebrates Constitution Day or Samvidhan Divas on November 26.
- ✓ About Constitution Day:
- ✓ Constitution Day, also known as Samvidhan Divas or National Law Day, is celebrated in India on November 26th each year.
- ✓ This day commemorates the adoption of the Constitution of India on November 26, 1949. The Constitution came into force on January 26, 1950.
- ✓ In 2015, the government decided to celebrate this day to promote constitutional values among citizens.
- ✓ Constituent Assembly (CA) of India:
- ✓ The Constituent Assembly (CA) was set up in 1946 under the Cabinet Mission Plan of 1946.
- ✓ The Assembly held its first meeting on December 9, 1946, and elected Dr. Sachhidanand Sinha, the oldest member of the Assembly, as the Provisional President.
- ✓ On December 11, 1946, the Assembly elected Dr. Rajendra Prasad as its permanent Chairman.
- ✓ The CA took 3 years (1946-49) to complete the drafting.
- ✓ The CA had 299 elected members from provincial legislative assemblies.
- ✓ The CA had 13 committees, including the drafting committee headed by Dr B.R. Ambedkar.
- ✓ The Constitution was adopted in 1949 when 284 members signed it, marking the completion of the Constitution-making process.
- ✓ Interesting Facts about Indian Constitution:
- ✓ It is the world's longest: The original copy of the Indian Constitution is 251 pages long; it is the most detailed in the world.
- ✓ It is completely handwritten and designed.
- ✓ Sh. Prem Behari Narain Raizada, a master of calligraphic art, singlehandedly handwrote the Constitution.
- ✓ Sh. Nand Lal Bose, a pioneer of modern Indian art, designed the borders of every page of the Constitution and adorned it with art pieces.
- ✓ The original manuscript of the Constitution was written on parchment sheets measuring 16 X 22 inches, having a lifespan of a thousand years. It weighed 3.75 kg.



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Q. Which public sector enterprise was awarded the 'Best Employer for Policies in Diversity and Inclusion' award by ASSOCHAM?

- A) ONGC
B) REC Limited
C) BEL
D) SAIL

Answer : B

- ✓ REC Limited was awarded the 'Best Employer for Policies in Diversity and Inclusion' award at the 4th Diversity and Inclusion Excellence Awards and Conference organized by ASSOCHAM.
- ✓ REC Limited, under the Ministry of Power, is a Maharatna CPSE.
- ✓ Last month, REC was awarded the 'Golden Peacock Award' in recognition of its exceptional performance in risk management.

REC LTD IN NEWS 2023

- REC Honoured with 'Best Employer in Diversity & Inclusion' Award by Assocham.
- RailTel has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with REC Ltd extending up to Rs 30,000 crore as financial assistance for telecom, IT and railway signaling infrastructure projects.
- REC Ltd gets Golden Peacock Award for Disaster Management.
- REC Limited, the Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprise launched a SUGAM REC mobile application.
- REC Limited and Punjab National Bank have signed an MoU to explore funding possibilities in the Power Infrastructure and logistics sectors.
- The consortium arrangement will co-finance loans worth Rs 55,000 crores over the next three years.
- REC Limited, a Maharatna Company under the Ministry of Power, Govt. of India organized 'Bijli Utsav' in Anandapur Gaon of Baksa district and adjoining villages in Assam
- REC Ltd has become the 12th company to attain the Maharatna status
- REC Limited, formerly Rural Electrification Corporation Limited
- Founded : 1969
- Headquarters : New Delhi
- CMD : Vivek Kumar Dewangan
- REC was formerly known as Rural Electrification Corporation Limited.
- REC Limited is an NBFC focused on financing and development of the power sector across India.



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- REC Limited has also recently started services in the financing infrastructure and logistics sector.
- REC funding lights every fourth bulb in India. REC is a 'Maharatna' company under the Ministry of Power.

Q. What is the mascot of Khelo India Para Games 2023?

- A) Shera
B) Arjun
C) Ujjwala
D) Bheem

Answer : C

- ✓ The 'logo' and mascot 'Ujjwala' of the Khelo India Para Games 2023, which is being organized for the first time, was launched by Union Youth Affairs and Sports Minister Anurag Singh Thakur in New Delhi.
- ✓ 'Ujjwala' - a sparrow, has been announced as the official mascot of the Para Games 2023.
- ✓ More than 1400 participants from 32 states and union territories including the Services Sports Control Board are expected to participate in this game.
- ✓ A total of 11 Khelo India Games have been successfully organized since 2018.

Q. Which airline has recently launched AI 6Eskai chatbot to help customers in flight ticket booking?

- A) Indigo
B) Air India
C) Vistara
D) Spice Jet

Answer : A

- ✓ IndiGo's parent company InterGlobe Aviation Limited has introduced AI chatbot 6Eskai to improve its customer service experience.
- ✓ The chatbot is powered by OpenAI's GPT-4 technology. IndiGo's digital team collaborated with Microsoft to develop the 6Eskai chatbot in-house.
- ✓ With its help, customers will be helped in booking flight tickets.
- ✓ InterGlobe Aviation Limited, operating as IndiGo, is a low-cost airline of India. Its headquarters is in Gurugram, Haryana.

Q. Which is the first airport in the country to land a commercial aircraft in low visibility?

- A) Deoghar Airport
B) Shillong Airport
C) Jodhpur Airport
D) Silchar Airport



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Answer : A

- ✓ Deoghar Airport in Jharkhand is the first airport in the country to land a commercial aircraft in low visibility.
- ✓ It has the capability to land a commercial aircraft even in a visibility of just 3200 meters.
- ✓ Special Visual Flight Rules (VFR) operations are being started for commercial flights for the first time from Deoghar Airport.

AIRPORT IN NEWS 2023

- Deoghar Airport in Jharkhand is the first airport in the country to land a commercial aircraft in low visibility.
- Larsen and Toubro (L&T) Construction have secured a large order to construct the greenfield Bhogapuram International Airport project in Andhra Pradesh.
- The largest airport in the world is the king Fahd International Airport, located in Dammam, Saudi Arabia which covers an area of about 300 sq.
- Minister of Civil Aviation, Shri Jyotiraditya M Scindia inaugurated Utkela Airport owned by the Government of Odisha.
- Guwahati's Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport became the first airport in the northeast to get 'Digi Yatra' facility.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate Gujarat's first greenfield airport at Hirasar near Rajkot.
- Government of India has given 'in-principle' approval for setting up 21 new greenfield airports.
- Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL) has launched a new app called BLR Pulse to provide hassle-free experience to the commuters at Kempegowda International Airport.
- Delhi's Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport has launched a new facility called 'DigiYatra' which enables passengers to avail of its services without downloading a mobile application.
- Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport is the first in India to offer a free reading lounge to the passengers, with a huge collection of literature.
- Indira Gandhi International Airport in New Delhi ranked 9th busiest airports globally in 2022, as per Airports Council International (ACI). United States-based Atlanta airport has retained its position as the world's busiest airport.
- According to the Airport Council International (ACI), Delhi International Airport has been ranked among the cleanest airports in Asia-Pacific.



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- Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 27 February 2023 launched the newly built Shivamogga airport along with various development projects worth over Rs 3,600 crore in Shivamogga, Karnataka.
- Bangalore's Kempegoda International Airport and Delhi's Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport both ranked second and seventh in Cirium's list of the world's best-performing airports for 2022.
- Mopa International Airport Goa named after former CM Manohar Parrikar.
- Jaipur International Airport Limited has received the Aerodrome licence from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).
- Union Cabinet has given its approval for the naming of the new Greenfield Airport at Hollongi, Itanagar, the State Capital of Arunachal Pradesh as "Donyi Polo Airport, Itanagar".

Q. Ayushman Bharat's Health & Wellness Centres Renamed as _.

- A) Ayushman Arogya Sagar B) Ayushman Arogya Bhavan
C) Ayushman Arogya Mandir D) Ayushman Arogya Suraksha

Answer : C

- ✓ The Narendra Modi government has decided to rename the Ayushman Bharat-Health and Wellness Centres as 'Ayushman Arogya Mandir', with the Union Health Ministry asking all states and Union Territories to implement the rebranding exercise by the end of 2023.
- ✓ The Centre has also coined the tagline 'Arogyam Paramam Dhanam', a Sanskrit phrase that translates to 'health is the ultimate wealth'. While 'Arogyam' means health, 'Paramam' means ultimate and 'Dhanam' means wealth.
- ✓ With more than 1.6 lakh centres across the country, known as Ayushman Bharat – Health and Wellness Centres (AB-HWCs), states have also been asked to upload photographs of rebranded primary health facilities on the AB-HWC portal. These centres have a footfall of more than 200 crore a year.
- ✓ It has been emphasized that the National Health Mission (NHM) logo will be retained in the rebranded centres.
- ✓ It has been communicated that states are required to upload pictures of rebranded primary health facilities on the Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centres (AB-HWC) portal.



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Q. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved USD 500 million loan to enhance tertiary health care and medical education in which state?

A) Maharashtra

B) Madhya Pradesh

C) West Bengal

D) Assam

Answer : A

- ✓ Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a USD 500 million loan to enhance the quality and affordability of tertiary health care and medical education in Maharashtra.
- ✓ The programme will initiate pivotal policy reforms to bolster tertiary healthcare services and expand medical education, particularly in underserved regions.

MAHARASHTRA IN NEWS 2023

- ADB has approved a USD 500 million loan to enhance the quality and affordability of tertiary health care and medical education in Maharashtra.
- Project on Climate Resilient Agriculture (POCRA), also named Nanaji Deshmukh Krushi Sanjivani Prakalp, is being implemented by Maharashtra government.
- To promote exports in the state, Maharashtra Government has approved the first Export Promotion Policy of the state. This policy will be implemented till 2027-28 and will bring about Rs 25 thousand crore in the state.
- Maharashtra state cabinet has approved the 'Lek Ladki Yojana' (Dear Daughter Scheme) for families with annual income up to Rs one lakh.
- Maharashtra clinched the title of champions in the 5th National Wheelchair Rugby Championship 2023 by securing a convincing victory over Karnataka.
- Maharashtra Government recently proposed to develop Gilbert Hill into a tourist spot on the lines of Burj Khalifa in Dubai.
- Maharashtra signs MoU with Germany's professional association football.
- Maharashtra government has launched the Bhagwan Birsa Munda Road Scheme which aims to enhance road connectivity in tribal areas of the 17 districts of the state.
- Maharashtra Industries Minister Uday Samant will present the first 'Udyog Ratna' award to veteran industrialist and Tata Sons Chairman Emeritus Ratan Tata.



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- Maharashtra topped the list with the highest number of missing women in 2021, with a reported count of 56,498.
- Maharashtra's Economy will become a trillion dollar by 2028, said N Chandrashekhar, president of the State Economy Development Council.
- Maharashtra Prisons Department has launched a "video call" facility for foreign nationals lodged in different jails across the state.
- NCP leader Ajit Pawar has been sworn in as the new Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra.
- Maharashtra Government launched Namu Shetkari Mahasanman Yojana.
- Maharashtra becomes the first state in the country to approve Good Governance Regulations.
- Uttar Pradesh surpasses Maharashtra in sugar production this season.
- A new initiative called 'beggar-free city' started in Nagpur, Maharashtra.
- Amit Shah, the Union Home Minister, is scheduled to present the 'Maharashtra Bhushan' Award to Dattatreya Narayan Dharmadhikari, also known as Appasaheb Dharmadhikari, on April 16 for his notable work as a social worker and reformer.
- Maharashtra Government has introduced a 4% quota for employees with disabilities in promotions.
- Bank of Maharashtra inaugurated its first dedicated Branch for Start-ups in Pune.
- Ramesh Bais Appointed as the New Governor of Maharashtra.
- Maharashtra became the first state in the country to pass the Lokayukta Bill.
- Recently a rare low altitude basalt plateau has been discovered in the Western Ghats of Maharashtra..
- Nilesh Sambre conferred with 'Maratha Udyog Ratna 2023' by Maharashtra State.
- Talon Grikspoor of the Netherlands won the singles title at the Maharashtra Open tennis tournament in Pune.

Q. 'Global Solar Facility' is associated with which bloc?

A) G-7

B) G-20

C) ISA

D) UNEA

Answer : C

- ✓ The International Solar Alliance (ISA) has announced a capital infusion of \$35 million for its Global Solar Facility (GSF), aimed at stimulating solar investments in underserved regions, particularly in Africa.



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- ✓ The Government of India is considering a contribution of \$25 million to the GSF, with an additional \$10 million coming from the ISA itself.
- ✓ Notably, Bloomberg Philanthropies and the Children's Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF) have pledged their support to the GSF.
- ✓ The GSF's primary goal is to leverage investments to accelerate the transition to solar energy. Its target is to raise a total of \$100 million.
- ✓ The GSF aims to tap into Africa's vast potential for solar energy and help mitigate investment risks in the region.
- ✓ The GSF's mission is to facilitate \$10 billion in investments, providing clean energy access to around 35-40 million African households by 2030, benefiting approximately 200 million individuals.
- ✓ This initiative aims to address the significant energy gap in the region.
- ✓ The GSF's vision extends beyond Africa, targeting regions like Asia, Latin America, and the Middle East. Future initiatives include funding innovative technologies, assisting startups, and exploring emerging solar energy sectors.
- ✓ ISA is dedicated to promoting solar energy, with renewables having the potential to cater to 65% of global electricity demand by 2030.

Q. Consider the following statements about Compressed Bio-Gas Blending Obligations (CBO)

1. CBO will be voluntary till FY 2024-2025 and mandatory from FY 2025-26.

2. It will be monitored and implemented by the Central Repository Body (CRB), Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

3. CBO will be 15% of total CNG/PNG consumption from 2028-29 onwards

How many of the statements given above are correct?

A) Only one

B) Only two

C) All three

D) None of the above

Answer : B

- ✓ Statement 1&2 Correct
- ✓ Statement 3 incorrect
- ✓ The Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas recently introduced the phase wise mandatory blending of CBG in CNG (Transport) & PNG (Domestic) segments of City Gas Distribution (CGD) sector.



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- ✓ Shri Puri Said that it will encourage investment of around Rs. 37500 crores and facilitate establishment of 750 CBG projects by 2028-29.
- ✓ CBO will be voluntary till FY 2024-2025 and mandatory blending obligation would start from FY 2025-26.
- ✓ CBO shall be kept as 1%, 3% and 4% of total CNG/PNG consumption for FY 2025-26, 2026- 27 and 2027-28 respectively. From 2028-29 onwards CBO will be 5%.
- ✓ A Central Repository Body (CRB) shall monitor and implement the blending mandate based on the operational guidelines approved by Minister, PNG

Q. Consider the following countries

- 1. Denmark**
- 2. Iceland**
- 3. Estonia**
- 4. Finland**

How many of the above mentioned countries are the members of Nordic Baltic (NB) 8?

- A) Only one**
- B) Only two**
- C) Only three**
- D) All four**

Answer : D

- ✓ Recently, the 2nd CII (Confederation of Indian Industries) India Nordic-Baltic Business Conclave 2023 was held in New Delhi, aiming to foster collaboration between India and the Nordic Baltic Eight (NB8) countries, known for their prowess in innovation and technology.
- ✓ Nordic Baltic (NB) 8
- ✓ The NB8 is a regional cooperation format that brings together the Nordic countries and the Baltic states.
- ✓ It comprises five Nordic countries: Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden, along with three Baltic states: Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania



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Q. Consider the following statements

- 1. Hornbill Festival is an annual event which is called as the festival of festivals held in Nagaland.**
- 2. The Great Indian Hornbill is the State bird of both Kerala and Nagaland.**

Choose the incorrect statements:

- A) 1 only B) 2 only
C) Both 1 and 2 D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer : B

- ✓ The 24th Hornbill Festival, a vibrant celebration of culture, music and dance will be held in Nagaland's misty mountains in 2023
- ✓ In Nagaland, the 10-day long Hornbill Festival 2023 will begin on December 1, at Naga heritage village Kisama.
- ✓ What is Hornbill Festival?
- ✓ The first festival was held in 2000.
- ✓ Venue: It is held at Naga Heritage Village, Kisama which is about 12 km from Kohima in Nagaland.
- ✓ Organizers: It is organized by the State Tourism and Art & Culture Departments of the Government of Nagaland.
- ✓ Objective: To encourage inter-tribal interaction and to promote cultural heritage of Nagaland.
- ✓ Key highlights of festival:
- ✓ Festival highlights include the traditional Naga Morungs exhibition and the sale of arts and crafts, food stalls, song and dance shows, indigenous games etc.
- ✓ One of the major highlights of this festival is the Hornbill International Rock Festival where local and international rock bands perform.
- ✓ The festival is named after the bird "Indian hornbill", which is displayed in the folklore of most of the state's tribes.
- ✓ There are 9 hornbill species in India of which Great Hornbill is the most famous.
- ✓ It is also called the 'Festival of Festivals'.

Q. Asia's largest open-air annual trade fair 'Bali Yatra' was inaugurated in which state?

- A) Uttar Pradesh B) Rajasthan
C) Odisha D) Bihar



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Answer : C

- ✓ Bali Jatra, Asia's largest open-air annual trade fair commemorating the glorious ancient maritime heritage of Odisha, was inaugurated on the banks of Mahanadi in Cuttack.
 - ✓ This year the festival started on the occasion of Kartik Purnima and will continue till 4th December next month
- Q. The National Cadet Corps (NCC) is celebrating ___ anniversary of its Raising Day 27th Nov 2023.**
- A) 77th B) 76th
C) 75th D) 74th

Answer : C

- ✓ The National Cadet Corps (NCC) will celebrate its 75th anniversary on November 27, 2023.
 - ✓ Serving as the youth wing of the Indian Armed Forces, it operates from its headquarters in New Delhi, India.
 - ✓ Open to school and college students voluntarily, the NCC functions as a Tri-Services Organisation, encompassing the Army, Navy and Air Force.
 - ✓ Cadets undergo fundamental military training, including small arms handling and drill exercises.
 - ✓ National Cadet Corps (NCC)
 - ✓ The NCC was formed in 1948 on the recommendation of H N Kunzru Committee-1946 under National Cadet Corps Act, 1948.
 - ✓ NCC is the largest uniformed youth organisation in the world.
 - ✓ It is a voluntary organisation in which cadets are recruited from high schools, colleges and universities across India.
 - ✓ The motto of NCC is “Unity and Discipline”
 - ✓ Headquarters - New Delhi
 - ✓ Director General - Lt Gen Gurbirpal Singh
 - ✓ The Defence Ministry deals with NCC at the National level and the Education Ministry deals with NCC in all States
- Q. Who has been inaugurated 2nd floating CNG station in Varanasi?**
- A) Kiren Rijju B) Hardeep Singh Puri
C) Piyush Goyal D) S. Jaishankar



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Answer : B

- ✓ Union minister Hardeep Singh Puri has inaugurated the city's second floating compressed natural gas (CNG) mobile refueling unit (MRU) station at Ravidas Ghat, Varanasi and said it was a significant step towards viable sustainable energy solutions.
- ✓ Earlier, Namo Ghat had a floating station for filling CNG in boats.
- ✓ The decision to set-up this floating CNG station is a testament to our belief in the transformative power of clean energy.
- ✓ The boatmen are getting 35-40% more mileage due to replacement of old engines with efficient CNG engines (1 kg of CNG is energy equivalent to 1.39 litres of petrol and 1.18 litres of diesel), he said. Both the stations have been developed by GAIL (India) Limited.

Q. Which Country will grant a 30-day visa-free entry for Indian and Chinese citizens from 1st December 2023?

- A) Kuwait
- B) Singapore
- C) Malaysia
- D) United States

Answer : C

- ✓ Malaysia will grant a 30-day visa-free entry for Indian and Chinese citizens from 1st December 2023, Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim has announced, joining Thailand and Sri Lanka in recent weeks to offer such a facility to foreigners to promote tourism.

Q. Prime Minister Narendra Modi to take part in World Climate Action Summit in __ from 30th Nov to 1st Dec 2023.

- A) London
- B) Dubai
- C) Tokyo
- D) New York

Answer : B

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi will attend the World Climate Action Summit (WCAS) in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE), during the 28th Conference of Parties (CoP-28), the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) confirmed on November 26, 2023.
- ✓ Mr. Modi will be present from November 30 to December 1, 2023 as part of WCAS proceedings. CoP-28 is being held from November 28 to December 12, under the Presidency of the UAE.



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- ✓ These consisted of committing India to be “net zero”, or carbon neutral by 2070; committing at least 500 gigawatt (GW) of energy installations by 2030 to be from non-fossil sources, cut carbon emissions by a billion tonnes, reduce the carbon-intensity of the economy by 45% and meet half of its energy requirements from renewable energy by 2030

Q. Prime Minister Narendra Modi Visits In Which Temple ?

- A) Murudeshwara Temple - Karnataka
- B) Kedarnath Temple - Uttarakhand
- C) Shri Padmanabhaswamy Temple - Kerala
- D) Sri Venkateswara Swamy Temple - Andhra Pradesh

Answer : D

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited the famous Sri Venkateswara Swamy Temple in Tirumala district of Andhra Pradesh and "prayed for the good health, well-being and prosperity of 140 crore Indians."
- ✓ PM Narendra Modi arrived at the hill temple of Lord Venkateswara as part of his two-day visit to the shrine. According to his itinerary, PM Modi stayed at Tirumala overnight and went to offer prayers at Sri Venkateswara temple

Q. U.S. began joint maritime and air patrols in the South China Sea, with which country?

- A) Indonesia
- B) Philippines
- C) Israel
- D) France

Answer : B

- ✓ The United States and Philippine troops began joint maritime and air patrols in the South China Sea.
- ✓ The Philippine Air Force's aircraft had taken part in joint patrols in the vicinity of Batanes, the northernmost province of the Philippines, which is only about 200 kilometers from Taiwan, a self-governed island that China claims as its own.

Q. Which is the first organisation to be granted authorisation to launch commercial satellite broadband services in the country?

- A) OneWeb India
- B) Tesla India
- C) Pixxel
- D) Dhruv Aerospace



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Answer : A

- ✓ OneWeb India, a subsidiary of Eutelsat Group and backed by telecom company Bharti Group acquired approval from India's space regulator, IN-SPACe, to launch commercial satellite broadband services in the country.
- ✓ It is the country's first organisation to be granted this authorisation and the only satellite broadband service provider to get all the required regulatory nods prior to commercial launch. Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACE) said that the approval for Eutelsat OneWeb's constellation was valid for a period of five years.

Q. Which institution released the 'FASTER 2.0' portal?

- A) Election Commission of India B) Supreme Court of India
C) DPIIT D) NITI Aayog

Answer : B

- ✓ Chief Justice of India (CJI) DY Chandrachud launched the portal 'FASTER 2.0', which will promptly inform jail authorities about court orders to release prisoners.
- ✓ In the portal, judicial orders of release of a person are transferred to jails, trial courts and high courts for immediate compliance.
- ✓ The portal, 'FASTER 2.0', is live and allows immediate intimation to the concerned authorities.
- ✓ The CJI launched another initiative, a Hindi version of the e-SCR portal, on which the Supreme Court's judgements can be accessed.

Q. Which organisation manufactures the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) for Indian Air Force?

- A) DRDO B) HAL
C) BEL D) L&T

Answer : B

- ✓ Indian public sector aerospace and defence manufacturer Hindustan Aeronautics, which currently has the capacity to build eight Light Combat Aircraft per year, intends to take up to 24 in the course of the next three years.
- ✓ The first version of the Tejas LCA aircraft was inducted into the IAF in 2016. Currently, two squadrons of IAF, 45 Squadron and 18 Squadron, are fully operational with LCA Tejas.



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- ✓ An order worth Rs 36,468 crore for delivery of 83 LCA Mk 1A aircraft has been placed with HAL and delivery is scheduled to begin by February 2024.

HAL IN NEWS 2023

- Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd has signed a Transfer of Technology agreement with CSIR-National Aerospace Laboratories for the manufacturing of BMI Engine Bay Door for the series production of LCA – Tejas Mk1A.
- Guyana to the purchase of two Dornier 228 aircraft from Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).
- Argentina to acquire light and medium utility helicopters from HAL.
- Ministry of Defence has recently signed a contract with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) for the procurement of two Dornier Aircraft, aimed at enhancing the aerial surveillance capabilities of the Indian Coast Guard (ICG). With an overall cost of Rs 458 crore.
- United States, General Electric (GE) Aerospace has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), a state-run Indian aerospace company. The MoU paves the way for the joint production of fighter jet engines for the Indian Air Force (IAF) and signifies a new era in the India-US partnership.
- HAL received approval from DGCA for indigenously developed 'black boxes'.
- The defence ministry sealed a deal with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) to procure six Dornier aircraft at a cost of Rs 667 crore for the Indian Air Force.
- Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has unveiled the Hindustan Lead-in Fighter Trainer (HLFT-42) design of the scale model at the 14th edition of Aero India 2023 held in Bengaluru.
- Union Cabinet approved the procurement of 70 HTT-40 basic trainer aircraft from Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL). The approval was given to the Indian Air Force (IAF). The procurement would cost around Rs 6,828 crore.
- Hindustan Aeronautics (HAL), an aerospace company in India, and EDGE, the top defence company in the UAE, inked a Memorandum of Understanding at the International Defense Exhibition and Conference (IDEX).
- Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL):
- Establishment: 23 December 1940 (Aircraft manufacturing started from 1942).
- Founder: Incorporated as Hindustan Aircraft Limited in Bangalore by Walchand Hirachand.
- It was formed on 1 October 1964 as Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).



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- Headquarters: Bangalore
- Management: by a Board of Directors appointed by the President of India through the Ministry of Defence, Government of India.
- The HAL HF-24 Marut fighter-bomber was the first indigenously built fighter aircraft in India.

Q. Angkor Wat Becomes the 8th Wonder of the World is located in Which Country?

- A) Vietnam
- B) Thailand
- C) Cambodia
- D) Philippines

Answer : C

- ✓ Angkor Wat temple, located in Cambodia, has defeated Pompeii in Italy to become the eighth Wonder of the World.
- ✓ The unofficial title “Eighth Wonder of the World” is sometimes given to buildings, structures, projects, designs, or even people who are thought to be comparable to the Seven Wonders of the World
- ✓ About Angkor Wat:
- ✓ It is the largest religious monument in the world.
- ✓ It was built by the Khmer King Suryavarman II in the first half of the 12th century.
- ✓ It was originally dedicated to the Hindu god Vishnu before becoming a Buddhist temple by the end of the 12th century.
- ✓ In 1992, the temple complex was named a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- ✓ Where is Angkor Wat?
- ✓ It is located in the northwestern province of Siem Reap in Cambodia.
- ✓ The city of Angkor, home to Angkor Wat, was the capital of the Khmer Empire and thrived between the 9th and 15th centuries.
- ✓ Angkor itself stretches over 400 km² and is now home to the magnificent remains of a variety of temples, including Angkor Wat, Angkor Thom, Bayon Temple, and Ta Prohm.
- ✓ Eighth Wonder of the World
- 1. Taj Mahal, India
- ✓ Built by the famous Mughal Emperor, Shah Jahan for his favorite wife, Mumtaz Mahal, the iconic structure of the Taj Mahal, is the pride of India and more importantly, the epitome of love.
- ✓ Location: Dharmapuri, Forest Colony, Tajganj, Agra, Uttar Pradesh.



2. Christ the Redeemer, Rio de Janeiro.
3. Great Wall Of China
4. Petra, Jordan
5. Machu Picchu, Peru
6. Chichen Itza, Mexico
7. Colosseum, Rome
8. Angkor Wat temple, Cambodia

Q. Who has been appointed as the First Female Commanding Officer at Armed Forces Transfusion Centre (AFTC)?

- A) Madhuri
B) Sheila S
C) Sunita BS
D) Arti Sarin

Answer : C

- ✓ An Army Medical Corps Officer "Colonel Sunita BS" scripted history on November 21, 2023, by becoming the first woman to assume the role of Commanding Officer at Armed Forces Transfusion Centre (AFTC), Delhi Cantt.

FIRST'S FEMALE IN NEWS 2023

- Sue Redfern became the first woman to stand as an umpire in a men's first-class cricket match in England and Wales.
- Jaya Varma Sinha has been appointed as the new Chairperson and Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Railway Board (Ministry of Railways) w.e.f Sept 01, 2023. She has replaced AK Lahoti.
- She is the first woman to be appointed to this Apex post of Indian Railways.
- Geetika Srivastava is first woman to head Indian mission in Pakistan.
- Phangnon Konyak became the first woman to chair the Rajya Sabha from Nagaland.
- Tenzing Yangki has become the first female IPS officer of Arunachal Pradesh.
- Lisa Franchetti becomes 1st woman to be top Navy officer in US history.
- Nusrat Chowdhary will become the first Muslim woman federal judge in US history.
- Celeste Saulo of Argentina has been appointed as the first female Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).



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- Shalini Singh from Lucknow has become the first woman NCC cadet in India to complete a mountaineering course in the Himalayan region of Uttarakhand.
- Parminder Chopra becomes first woman Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Power Finance Corporation.
- Amy Pope of the United States has been selected as the first female Director-General of the United Nations Migration Agency.
- Lieutenant Shivangi Singh is the first woman Rafale pilot to take part in Orion Exercise 2023.
- Wing Commander Deepika Mishra has become the first woman Air Force officer to receive the Gallantry Medal.
- New Zealand-born Kim Cotton has become the first female umpire to officiate in a Men's T20 International (T20I) cricket match involving two ICC full-member nations.
- Sheenu Jhavar becomes first woman president of TiE Rajasthan.
- American Space Agency, NASA has selected the first woman astronaut, Christina Koch for its Artemis II mission.
- Surekha Yadav, Asia's 1st woman loco pilot who now operates Vande Bharat, From Solapur to Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminal (CSMT) in Maharashtra.
- Shalija Dhami becomes first woman officer to command a fighter unit in Indian Air Force (IAF).
- Colonel Geeta Rana became the first woman officer to command a field workshop.
- Captain Shiva Chauhan becomes the first women officer to be operationally deployed in the highest battleground in Kumar Post on the Siachen glacier.
- The first woman officer to be posted on foreign assignment in the Border Roads Organization (BRO) - Captain Surabhi Jakhmola.
- Rae Bareilly's hockey stadium is named after hockey star Rani Rampal, first woman player from India to achieve this feat.
- Hekani Jakhalu became the first female MLA of Nagaland Assembly.
- Equatorial Guinea appoints Manuela Roka Botey as first female PM.
- Indian-origin Manpreet Monica Singh sworn in as 1st female Sikh judge of USA.
- Santhi Kumari Appointed as First Woman Chief Secretary of Telangana.
- Saudi Arabia's Rayna Barnawi first female astronaut is set to go into space this year .
- Dina Boluarte became Peru's first female president.



- FIFA has announced that Stephanie Frappart of France will be the first woman to referee a men's World Cup match.
- PT Usha Become First Women President of Indian Olympic Association.

Q. Who has been Inaugurated 'Classic Imperial' Luxury Cruise In Kerala?

- A) Rajnath Singh
- B) Nitin Gadkari
- C) Amit Shah
- D) Nirmala Sitharaman

Answer : B

- ✓ Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari has virtually inaugurated the luxury vessel 'Classic Imperial', the biggest of its kind tourist vessel in Kerala

Q. U.S. Pension Fund's Index Switch Could Infuse Nearly _ into Indian Equities.

- A) \$2 Billion
- B) \$4 Billion
- C) \$7 Billion
- D) \$10 Billion

Answer : B

- ✓ U.S. Pension Fund's Index Switch Could Infuse Nearly \$4 Billion into Indian Equities.
- ✓ A strategic move by the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board (FRTIB), a major U.S. pension fund with assets surpassing \$600 billion, is poised to bring substantial investments to Indian equity markets.
- ✓ The FRTIB's decision to transition from the MSCI EAFE index to the MSCI ACWI IMI ex USA ex China ex Hong index is expected to trigger a massive \$28 billion global equity reshuffling, with India emerging as a key beneficiary.
- ✓ Analysts anticipate an influx of approximately \$3.6 billion (Rs 30,000 crore) into Indian equities as a consequence of the FRTIB's index switch.

Q. Which Railway Station Bags Indian Green Building Council (IGBC) 'Platinum' Rating?

- A) Vijayawada
- B) Hyderabad
- C) Kolkata
- D) Mumbai

Answer : A

- ✓ The Vijayawada Railway Station has been awarded the prestigious platinum rating by the Indian Green Building Council (IGBC) for its commitment to environmental sustainability and eco-friendly practices.



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- ✓ This is the highest recognition that can be bestowed by the IGBC, a leading certification body in India that promotes environmentally responsible construction.
- ✓ The station's previous gold rating, achieved in 2019, has been upgraded to platinum, reflecting the significant improvements made in various aspects of environmental performance.
- ✓ About the Platinum rating :
- ✓ The platinum rating is a testament to the station's dedication to environmental stewardship and its efforts to create a greener and more sustainable transportation hub. This recognition is also a source of pride for the South Central Railway (SCR) zone, as Vijayawada station is only the second station within the zone to achieve this prestigious rating.
- ✓ The station's success in achieving platinum certification serves as an inspiration for other railway.

Q. Which Edition of the Annual ASEAN India Grassroots Innovation Forum (AIGIF) Launched Malaysia?

- A) 3rd B) 4th
C) 5th D) 6th

Answer : B

- ✓ The 4th edition of the annual ASEAN India Grassroots Innovation Forum (AIGIF) took place in Langkawi, Malaysia, on November 28, 2023, showcasing the collaborative efforts of India and the 10 ASEAN Member States (AMS) in the fields of Science, Technology and Innovation (STI). With the participation of 200 representatives, this year's AIGIF aimed to strengthen the relationship between the nations and promote social innovations at the grassroots level.

Q. Who has Unveiled the Crest Of India Guided Missile Destroyer 'INS Imphal'?

- A) Narendra Modi B) Rajnath Singh
C) J. P. Nadda D) Nitin Gadkari

Answer : B

- ✓ The crest of Yard 12706 (Imphal), the third amongst the four Project 15B stealth-guided missile destroyers, was unveiled by Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh in New Delhi on November 28, 2023
- ✓ About INS Imphal:
- ✓ It is the third in the Visakhapatnam-class stealth-guided missile destroyers.



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- ✓ It is among the largest destroyers constructed in India, with an overall length of 164 metres and a displacement of over 7500 tonnes.
- ✓ Speed: Over 30 knots (approximately 55 kmph).
- ✓ The ship is a potent platform capable of undertaking a variety of tasks and missions, spanning the full spectrum of maritime warfare.
- ✓ The ship boasts a high indigenous content of approximately 75%, which includes Medium Range Surface-to-Air missiles, BrahMos surface-to-surface missiles, Indigenous Torpedo Tube Launchers, Anti-Submarine Indigenous Rocket Launchers (Larsen & Toubro, Mumbai) 76mm Super Rapid Gun Mount (BHEL, Haridwar).
- ✓ The crest design depicts the Kangla Palace on the left and 'Kangla-Sa' on the right.
- ✓ The crest design depicts the Kangla Palace on the left and 'Kangla-Sa' on the right.
- ✓ The Kangla Palace is an important historical and archaeological site in Manipur and was the traditional seat of the past kingdom.

Q. Which City To Get India's Largest Circular Railway, Spanning 287 kilometers?

A) Bengaluru

B) Hyderabad

C) Chennai

D) Lucknow

Answer : A

- ✓ Bengaluru, the bustling IT hub of India, is poised to witness a groundbreaking development in its transportation infrastructure with the announcement of a 287-km circular railway.
- ✓ Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw disclosed this ambitious project during a press conference after a comprehensive review of railway projects in Bengaluru.

Q. Who has Unveiled the 'Hot Cooked Meal Scheme' in Anganwadi Centers in Uttar Pradesh?

A) Narendra Modi

B) Amit Shah

C) Yogi Adityanath

D) J. P. Nadda

Answer : C

- ✓ Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has launched the 'Hot Cooked Meal Scheme' for children aged 3 to 6 years at a Composite School in Ayodhya, noting that "well-nourished and healthy children will become the basis of a strong India".



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- ✓ On the occasion, the chief minister also said that Ramlala will be placed in his own temple after 500 years on January 22. Before this historic occasion, the work of providing nutritious meals, on the lines of mid-day meals, to children aged 3 to 6 years in the state began from Ayodhya, signifying an auspicious beginning
- ✓ The chief minister also enquired about the progress in the construction of the Ram Temple and members of the Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust provided updates on the construction work to him.
- ✓ Adityanath also laid the foundation stones of 3,401 Anganwadi centres in 35 districts at a cost of Rs 403 crore

Q. Mahima Cult' is a religious movement, which originated in which state?

- A) Odisha
- B) Telangana
- C) Karnataka
- D) West Bengal

Answer : A

- ✓ The Union Minister for Education and Skill Development and Entrepreneurship officially commenced the two-day 'International Seminar on Santha Kavi Bhima Bhoi and the enduring influence of the Mahima Cult.'
- ✓ Originating in the spiritual and cultural milieu of Odisha, India, the Mahima Cult is a unique religious movement that emphasizes simplicity, equality, and unwavering devotion to the formless Divine.

Q. Meitei Mayek Script is associated with which state?

- A) Assam
- B) Manipur
- C) Nagaland
- D) Mizoram

Answer : B

- ✓ Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh unveiled the Diglot Edition of the Constitution of India in the Manipuri Language, using the Meitei Mayek Script, in Imphal.
- ✓ The launch event took place on the occasion of Indian Constitution Day, which fell on November 26.

Q. 'Cairns Group', which is seen in the news, is associated with countries of which category?

- A) Oil Exporting
- B) Agricultural Exporting
- C) Milk Exporting
- D) Meat Exporting

Answer : B



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- ✓ The Cairns Group is an interest group of 19 agricultural exporting countries, including Argentina, Australia, Brazil and Canada.
- ✓ The mini-ministerial meeting of the World Trade Organization (WTO) follows India's criticism of the Cairns Group for proposing to halve the overall agriculture domestic support entitlements by the end of 2034 and ambushing public stockholding talks.
- ✓ The meeting aims to provide clear political guidance to overcome the stumbling blocks in the agriculture negotiations

Q. Which state is associated with 'Ungalai Thedi, Ungal Ooril' scheme?

- A) Kerala B) Tamil Nadu
C) Karnataka D) Odisha

Answer : B

- ✓ Tamil Nadu is set to launch a novel scheme Ungalai Thedi, Ungal Ooril (In your town, looking for you), to redress the grievances of the general public.
- ✓ Under the initiative, every District Collector will visit and stay in a taluk for one day in a month to inspect government offices in that area and listen to the grievances of the general public.

Q. Kambala Race is a traditional event held in which state?

- A) Karnataka B) Andhra Pradesh
C) Kerala D) Tamil Nadu

Answer : A

- ✓ Recently, 160 pairs of buffaloes and their jockeys participated in the specially made slush tracks for Kambala races, which were held at City Palace Grounds in Bengaluru.
- ✓ About Kambala:
- ✓ It is a folk sport practised in coastal Karnataka districts, especially in regions where Tulu speakers form a majority.
- ✓ Earlier, races would be organised by various families and groups in the slushy paddy fields in the days after the harvest.
- ✓ It is a prestige event for many families, especially from the Bunt community in the coastal regions.



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- ✓ Pairs of buffaloes are groomed by them around the year in hopes of winning a major Kambala event or other races.

Q. India's first 'Telecom Center of Excellence' will be launched in which state?

- A) Madhya Pradesh B) Haryana
C) Uttar Pradesh D) Assam

Answer : C

- ✓ The Uttar Pradesh government has announced the launch of India's first 'Telecom Center of Excellence'.
- ✓ Under this, Rs 30 crore will be spent on 5G-AI research and 6G launch.
- ✓ The UP government has announced the creation of India's first Center of Excellence in Telecom at IIT Roorkee.
- ✓ Under this centre, contribution will also be made in the development of 5G and 6G technology

INDIA'S FIRST IN NEWS 2023

- Uttar Pradesh government has announced the launch of India's first 'Telecom Center of Excellence.
- India's first solar roof cycling track was inaugurated in Hyderabad city.
- Uttarakhand launches India's first polythene waste bank for sustainable waste management.
- Telangana has launched India's first Agricultural Data Exchange (ADeX) and Agriculture Data Management Framework (ADMF) in Hyderabad.
- India's first-ever sports university to be set up in Manipur.
- India Launches Its 1st Indigenous e-Tractor Developed By the CMERI.
- Dr Jitendra Singh, had launched the CSIR Prima ET11, the first indigenous e-Tractor developed by the Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute (CMERI), Durgapur, a public engineering R&D institution in Durgapur, West Bengal, and a constituent laboratory of the Indian Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).
- Kerala Launches India's First AI School, Pioneering Future-Focused Education.
- Sanchi, a world heritage site located in the Raisen district of Madhya Pradesh, is all set to become India's first solar city.
- Hitachi Payment Services launched India's first UPI-ATM.
- India's first Vedic-themed park unveiled in Noida.



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- Google celebrates India's street food 'pani puri' with an interactive game Doodle, allowing users to help a street vendor fulfill pani puri orders.
- OPPO India sets up first PPP-model Atal Tinkering Lab in Kerala.
- Kerala gets India's first Construction Innovation Hub.
- Uttar Pradesh government announced that the Buddh international circuit in Greater Noida will host India's first MotoGP racing event.
- India's First 'Sahiwal' Breed Calf Given Birth Through 'Cow Surrogacy' At TTD's Goshala In Tirupati.
- Recently, the PM has inaugurated India's first facility to produce rare earth permanent magnets in Visakhapatnam.
- India's first online gaming academy launched in Madhya Pradesh.
- Kerala to set up India's first fisheries Atal Incubation Centre.
- India's first International Multi Modal Logistics park in Jogighopa, Assam.
- India's First Undersea Tunnel in Mumbai Set to Open by November 2023.
- India's first private hill station Lavasa was sold to Darwin Platform Infrastructure for Rs 1.8 thousand crore after the approval of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT).
- According to the Kolkata Metro Rail Corporation, India's first underwater metro service, the East-West Metro Corridor project is expected to be completed by December 2023.
- Tech startup firm IG Drones has developed India's first 5G-enabled drone capable of vertical take-off and landing. This drone has been named Skyhawk.
- Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari unveiled the country's first drone-air traffic management system "Sky UTM".
- India's First Centre of Excellence in Online Gaming to be set up in Shillong, Meghalaya.
- Luminous Power Technologies announced its plan to build the country's first green energy-based solar panel manufacturing factory in Uttarakhand.
- India's First AC Double Decker Electric Bus Introduced in Mumbai.
- NCERT Launched India's First National Assessment Regulator "PARAKH".
- PARAKH stands for The Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development.



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Q. The Union Cabinet has extended the 'Garib Kalyan Food Programme' for how many years?

- A) 2 years
B) 3 years
C) 4 years
D) 5 years

Answer : D

- ✓ The Union Cabinet has announced the extension of Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) scheme to provide 5 kg of free foodgrains per month to 81.35 crore poor for another five years from January 1, 2024. A decision in this regard was taken in the meeting of the Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi
- ✓ Terming it as a historic decision, the government said the extension of free grain distribution under the PMGKAY for next five years reflects the long-term commitment and vision of the government for addressing national food and nutrition security.
- ✓ The Union Cabinet also approved a central scheme for providing drones to 15,000 women Self Help Groups (SHGs), with an outlay of Rs 1,261 crore for two years beginning FY 2024-25.
- ✓ The PMGKAY scheme to provide 5 kg of free foodgrains per month has been extended to around 80 crore poor people for another five years from January 1, 2024. Last time, it was extended till December 31, 2023. Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur said an estimated expenditure on the scheme for the next five years will be around Rs 11.8 lakh crore.
- ✓ PMGKAY was introduced in 2020 as a pandemic relief measure, under which each beneficiary was provided 5 kg of free foodgrains per month in addition to the 5 kg of subsidised foodgrain under the National Food Security Act (NFSA)

Q. Who has been re-appointed as the CEO of OpenAI?

- A) Brett Taylor
B) Meera Murati
C) Greg Brockman
D) Sam Altman

Answer : D

- ✓ Artificial intelligence based company OpenAI has officially again appointed Sam Altman as the CEO of the company. Recently he had resigned from his post.
- ✓ Company co-founder Greg Brockman has again been named as the President of OpenAI.



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Q. Which Hollywood actor has been honored with the 'Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement' Award?

- A) Istvan Szabo B) Michael Douglas
C) Martin Scorsese D) Carlos Saura

Answer : B

- ✓ Hollywood actor Michael Douglas has been honored with the 'Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement' Award at the 54th International Film Festival of India (IFFI).
- ✓ The 54th IFFI is being organized in Goa.
- ✓ The Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement Award is an international award instituted by the International Film Festival of India, first presented in 1999.

Q. In which city will the Expo 2030 World Fair be organized?

- A) Dubai
B) Doha
C) Muscat
D) Riyadh

Answer : D

- ✓ Riyadh, the capital of the Gulf country Saudi Arabia, has won the right to host the Expo 2030 world fair. This will be a big event to be held in the Gulf countries after the Football World Cup in Qatar last year.
- ✓ This expo will be organized in Riyadh between October 2030 and March 2031

Q. Which will be the first airline to start flights from Noida International Airport?

- A) Indigo
B) Vistara
C) Air India
D) Spice Jet

Answer : A

- ✓ Indigo will be the first airline to start flights from Noida International Airport.
- ✓ Noida International Airport (NIA) has recently signed an MoU with IndiGo.
- ✓ The first phase of Noida International Airport will be operational by the end of 2024



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AIRPORT IN NEWS 2023

- Deoghar Airport in Jharkhand is the first airport in the country to land a commercial aircraft in low visibility.
- Larsen and Toubro (L&T) Construction have secured a large order to construct the greenfield Bhogapuram International Airport project in Andhra Pradesh.
- The largest airport in the world is the King Fahd International Airport, located in Dammam, Saudi Arabia which covers an area of about 300 sq.
- Minister of Civil Aviation, Shri Jyotiraditya M Scindia inaugurated Utkela Airport owned by the Government of Odisha.
- Guwahati's Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport became the first airport in the northeast to get 'Digi Yatra' facility.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate Gujarat's first greenfield airport at Hirasar near Rajkot.
- Government of India has given 'in-principle' approval for setting up 21 new greenfield airports.
- Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL) has launched a new app called BLR Pulse to provide hassle-free experience to the commuters at Kempegowda International Airport.
- Delhi's Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport has launched a new facility called 'DigiYatra' which enables passengers to avail of its services without downloading a mobile application.
- Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport is the first in India to offer a free reading lounge to the passengers, with a huge collection of literature.
- Indira Gandhi International Airport in New Delhi ranked 9th busiest airports globally in 2022, as per Airports Council International (ACI). United States-based Atlanta airport has retained its position as the world's busiest airport.
- According to the Airport Council International (ACI), Delhi International Airport has been ranked among the cleanest airports in Asia-Pacific.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 27 February 2023 launched the newly built Shivamogga airport along with various development projects worth over Rs 3,600 crore in Shivamogga, Karnataka.
- Bangalore's Kempegoda International Airport and Delhi's Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport both ranked second and seventh in Cirium's list of the world's best-performing airports for 2022.
- Mopa International Airport Goa named after former CM Manohar Parrikar.



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- Jaipur International Airport Limited has received the Aerodrome licence from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).
- Union Cabinet has given its approval for the naming of the new Greenfield Airport at Hollongi, Itanagar, the State Capital of Arunachal Pradesh as “Donyi Polo Airport, Itanagar”.

Q. Who was recently honored with the PRSI National Award for outstanding contribution to healthcare communication?

- A) Ayushi Singh B) Suganti Sundarraj
C) Smriti Irani D) Soumya Swaminathan

Answer : B

- ✓ Suganti Sundarraj has been honored with the PRSI National Award for her outstanding contribution to the Public Relations Society of India and the public relations industry.
- ✓ Suganti Sundarraj received this award at the International Public Relations Festival going on in New Delhi.
- ✓ Suganti Sundarraj has been associated with Apollo Hospital for more than 40 years.

Q. Which country has named the cyclone 'Michaung' formed in the Bay of Bengal?

- A) India B) Bangladesh
C) Myanmar D) Sri Lank

Answer : C

- ✓ There is a possibility of cyclone 'Michaung' in the Bay of Bengal. A low pressure area has formed over the southeast Bay of Bengal and the adjacent South Andaman Sea.
- ✓ In view of this, 7 districts in Odisha have been put on alert.
- ✓ This name of the cyclone has been given by the country of Myanmar.
- ✓ This is the sixth cyclone in the Indian Ocean and the fourth in the Bay of Bengal this year.

Q. Whose tenure has been extended again by BCCI as the head coach of the Indian team?

- A) VVS Laxman B) Rahul Dravid
C) Ashish Nehra D) Gautam Gambhir

Answer : B

- ✓ BCCI has extended the tenure of Rahul Dravid as the head coach of the Indian team.



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- ✓ Dravid replaced Ravi Shastri after the ICC T20 World Cup 2021.
- ✓ He was appointed for a two-year tenure which ended with the ICC Cricket World Cup 2023.

Q. Where is the 40th Coast Guard Commanders' Conference being held?

- A) New Delhi B) Mumbai
C) Jaipur D) Chennai

Answer : A

- ✓ Defense Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated the 40th Coast Guard Commanders' Conference in New Delhi.
- ✓ The objective of this three-day conference is to solve the current maritime challenges and strengthen the coastal surveillance system of the country.
- ✓ The Indian Coast Guard was established in 1978 and is working under the Ministry of Defence.

Q. Which team from the African region has qualified for the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024?

- A) Zimbabwe B) Uganda
C) Ghana D) Tanzania

Answer : B

- ✓ Uganda has qualified from the African region for the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024.
- ✓ The Ugandan team has ensured its place in the top two in the African zone qualifiers.
- ✓ This is the first time that Uganda has qualified for the T20 World Cup.

Q. A23a, sometimes seen in the news, is related to which of the following?

- A) A short-course Tuberculosis Preventive Treatment (TPT) regimen, endorsed by the WHO
B) A large icebergs drifting away beyond Antarctic waters
C) A celestial object discovered using Himalayan Chandra Telescope.
D) A deepest point newly found in the Anarctic Ocean

Answer : B

- ✓ The British Antarctic Survey recently found that one of the world's largest icebergs is drifting beyond Antarctic waters after being grounded for more than three decades.
- ✓ A23a is one of the world's largest icebergs is drifting beyond Antarctic waters, after being grounded for more than 3 decades.



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- ✓ The iceberg split from the Antarctic's Filchner Ice Shelf in 1986 and it became stuck to the ocean floor and had remained for many years in the Weddell Sea.
- ✓ The iceberg is about three times the size of New York City and more than twice the size of Greater London, measuring around 4,000 square kilometres.
- ✓ The iceberg has been drifting for the past year and now appears to be picking up speed and moving past the northern tip of the Antarctic Peninsula, helped by wind and ocean currents

Q. Asia Pacific money laundering workshop is hosted by which ministry?

- A) Ministry of Ayush B) Ministry of rural development
C) Ministry of panchayat D) Ministry of finance

Answer : D

- ✓ A meeting or workshop related to Asia Pacific money laundering is being hosted by the Ministry of Finance and Revenue from 28th November to 1st December, 2023 in New Delhi.
- ✓ Every year Asia Pacific group workshops are held to bring delegates together to discuss the cases related to money laundering and terrorist financing trends and the problems emerging from these activities.

Q. Upcoming Kashi Tamil Sangamam is organized in which month?

- A) November 2023 B) December 2023
C) March 2024 D) April 2024

Answer : B

- ✓ By the launching of the registration portal by IIT Madras, all is set for kashi tamil sangamam phase 2 on 27th of November 2023.
- ✓ Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat' s second edition is going to be held from 17 th December to 30th December 2023. By taking inspiration from the first edition, this edition also wants to rejuvenate the bonds between the Tamil and Varanasi culture, these are considered as the two important focus points of the learning and culture in ancient India.

Q. The Defence Ministry has recently signed a contract worth 2956 cr with which entity?

- A) HEL B) NTPC
C) ISRO D) BHEL



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Answer : D

- ✓ Defense ministry has recently contracted with Bharat heavy electricals limited (BHEL) to get 16 upgraded rapid gun mount and equipment for Indian Navy. It is a medium caliber anti missile and anti aircraft defense weapon system which would help in sustained rate of high accuracy and fire.
- ✓ These guns and equipment are installed in Indian Navy's newly built ships. It is announced that these guns and equipment will be manufactured by BHEL at haridwar plant



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STUDENT GOT SELECTION IN
IBPS RRB CLERK
GOOD LUCK FOR YOUR FUTURE
JOURNEY FEELING PROUD (🔥)
NAME - PRIYADARSHINI
KALIYAMOORTHY
ROLL NO - 2120036944
SELECTED IN - RRB PO
SAPTHA GIRI GRAMEEN BANK
STATE - TAMILNADU



24.0 KB APARCHIT'S GADGUS
👏👏 MY PAID GROUP
STUDENT GOT SELECTION IN
IBPS RRB CLERK
GOOD LUCK FOR YOUR FUTURE
JOURNEY FEELING PROUD.
NAME - GARVITA VARSHNEY
ROLL NO - 2603003298
SELECTED IN - ARYAVART
GRAMIN BANK CLERK
STATE - UTTAR PRADESH



127.0 KB APARCHIT'S GADGUS
👏👏 MY PAID GROUP
STUDENT GOT SELECTION IN
IBPS RRB CLERK
GOOD LUCK FOR YOUR FUTURE
JOURNEY FEELING PROUD
NAME - ISHITA GARG
ROLL NO - 2283004123
STATE - PUNJAB
BANK - PUNJAB GRAMIN BANK



97.8 KB APARCHIT'S GADGUS
👏👏 MY PAID GROUP
STUDENT GOT SELECTION IN
IBPS RRB CLERK
GOOD LUCK FOR YOUR FUTURE
JOURNEY FEELING PROUD.
NAME - NIPUN
ROLL NO - 1533002831
SELECTED IN - RRB CLERK
STATE - HARYANA



154.5 KB APARCHIT'S GADGUS
👏👏 MY PAID GROUP
STUDENT GOT SELECTION IN
IBPS RRB CLERK
GOOD LUCK FOR YOUR FUTURE
JOURNEY FEELING PROUD
NAME - PRAVEEN
ROLL NO - 1801005776
SELECTED IN - RRB PO
KARNATAKA GRAMMENA
BANK
STATE - KARNATAKA



34.5 KB APARCHIT'S GADGUS
Name: Bathina Maneesha
Rollno: 2543024278
Selected in : RRB clerk
State : Telangana
👏👏 MY PAID GROUP
STUDENT GOT SELECTION IN
IBPS RRB CLERK
GOOD LUCK FOR YOUR FUTURE
JOURNEY FEELING PROUD
NAME - BATHINA MANEESHA
ROLL NO - 2543024278
SELECTED IN - RRB CLERK
STATE - TELAGANA



30.3 KB APARCHIT'S GADGUS
👏👏 MY PAID GROUP
STUDENT GOT SELECTION IN
IBPS RRB CLERK
GOOD LUCK FOR YOUR FUTURE
JOURNEY FEELING PROUD
NAME - NISHU SHARMA
ROLL NO - 1523008901
SELECTED IN - RRB CLERK
STATE - HARYANA



84.9 KB APARCHIT'S GADGUS
👏👏 MY PAID GROUP
STUDENT GOT SELECTION IN
IBPS RRB CLERK
GOOD LUCK FOR YOUR FUTURE
JOURNEY FEELING PROUD.
NAME - GURIYA KUMARI
ROLL NO - 1373006773
SELECTED IN - RRB CLERK
DAKSHIN BIHAR GRAMEEN
BANK



17.7 KB APARCHIT'S GADGUS
👏👏 MY PAID GROUP
STUDENT GOT SELECTION IN
IBPS RRB CLERK
GOOD LUCK FOR YOUR FUTURE
JOURNEY FEELING PROUD
NAME - GURPREET KAUR
ROLL NO - 2283002821
BANK - PUNJAB GRAMIN BANK
STATE - FROM PUNJAB



15.7 KB APARCHIT'S GADGUS
👏👏 MY PAID GROUP
STUDENT GOT SELECTION IN
IBPS RRB CLERK
GOOD LUCK FOR YOUR FUTURE
JOURNEY FEELING PROUD
NAME - MANU VARGHESE
ROLL NO - 2110710970
BANK - KERALA GRAMEEN
BANK CLERK