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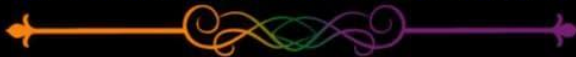


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1. Koodiyattam, Sanskrit Theatre, Kerala (2008)
2. Ramlila, included in 2008
- ✓ A popular folk theatre in the region of Uttar Pradesh
3. Mudi yettu: a ritual theatre of Kerala (2010)
- ✓ A traditional ritual theatre and folk dance drama from Kerala.
4. The Tradition of Vedic Chanting (2008)
- ✓ The traditional way of reciting the Vedas is called Vedic chanting.
5. Ramman: religious festival and ritual theatre of the Garhwal Himalayas (2009).
- ✓ The Ramman is a religious festival manifested in the form of ritual theatre annually held at Saloor Dungra village, in the Painkhanda Valley of Chamoli district of Uttarakhand.
6. Kalbelia: Folk songs and dances of Rajasthan (2010)
7. Chhau dance in 2010
- ✓ Chhau, a dance tradition, recreates scenes from epics such as the Mahabharata and Ramayana, as well as local folklore and abstract concepts.
8. Buddhist chanting of Ladakh (2012)
9. Sankirtana, ritual singing, drumming and dancing of Manipur (2013)
10. Traditional brass and copper craft – Thatheras (2014)
- ✓ The craft of the Thatheras of Jandiala Guru constitutes the traditional technique of manufacturing brass and copper utensils in Punjab.
11. Nowrouz , included in 2016.
- ✓ It indicated the beginning of the New Year for the Parsis and is also celebrated as spring festival by the Kashmir Community
12. Yoga, included in 2016
13. Kumbh Mela, included in 2017
- ✓ The Committee observed that 'KumbhMela' is the largest peaceful congregation of pilgrims on earth. The festival, held in Allahabad, Haridwar, Ujjain and Nasik.
14. Durga Puja in Kolkata (2021)
15. Garba dance of Gujarat (2023)



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UNESCO IN NEWS 2023

- 'Garba of Gujarat' has been inscribed in the Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) of Humanity by UNESCO.
- Garba dance is the 15th intangible cultural heritage of India to be included in this list.
- 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.
- temples of the Hoysala Empire in Karnataka, India were officially added to the UNESCO list of World Heritage Sites, marking India's 42nd addition to the prestigious heritage list.
- Three Hoysala-era temples in Karnataka [Chennakeshava (Belur), Hoysaleswara (Halebidu) and Keshava Temple (Somanathapura, Mysuru)] recently made it to UNESCO's World Heritage List, under the collective entry of 'Sacred Ensembles of the Hoysalas'.
- Santiniketan, located in West Bengal, India, has achieved the prestigious status of being recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site .
- Santiniketan as the 41st World Heritage Property in India.
- UNESCO have stated in a new report that the Italian city of Venice should be added to a list of world heritage sites in danger.
- The historic Byculla Railway Station, located in Mumbai received the prestigious UNESCO Asia Pacific Cultural Heritage award.
- United States will rejoin UNESCO, the United Nations cultural organization, in July 2023.
- Jagdish Bakan wins UNESCO's 2023 Michel Batisse Award .
- UNESCO World Heritage Centre has recommended Santiniketan, the cultural site in West Bengal, India, for inclusion in the UNESCO World Heritage List.
- According to a report published by UNESCO at the United Nations 2023 Water Conference in New York, 26 percent of the world's population does not have access to safe drinking water.
- Former German chancellor Angela Merkel has been awarded the Felix Houphouet-Boigny UNESCO Peace Prize in Yamoussoukro, Ivory Coast.
- Visva-Bharati University is expected to get the status of the world's first "Living Heritage University" from UNESCO.
- UNESCO listed Ukraine's Odesa a World Heritage Site in Danger.



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- Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma announced that the Centre has nominated the maidams of Ahom Kingdom in Charaideo to seek a UNESCO World Heritage Site tag.
- The historic maidams of Ahom Kingdom in Charaideo were chosen out of 52 sites for the UNESCO World Heritage Site tag.
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
- Formation : 16 November 1945
- Headquarters : Paris, France
- Director-General : Audrey Azoulay (France)
- Member countries : 193

Q. Who has been named 'Person of the Year' by Time Magazine?

A) Narendra Modi

B) Georgia Meloni

C) Taylor Swift

D) Joe Biden

Answer : C

- ✓ Famous singer Taylor Swift has been named Time Magazine's Person of the Year for 2023.
- ✓ This underlines the breadth of his music and influences.
- ✓ Swift, 33, has performed worldwide on her "Eras Tour", performing music from throughout her career.
- ✓ Time magazine named Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky its "Person of the Year" for 2022.
- ✓ Taylor Alison Swift is an American singer-songwriter. Recognized for her songwriting, musical versatility, artistic reinventions, and influence on the music industry, she is a prominent cultural figure of the 21st century.
- ✓ Time included her on its annual list of the 100 most influential people in 2010, 2015, and 2019.
- ✓ She was one of the "Silence Breakers" that the magazine spotlighted as Person of the Year in 2017 for speaking up about sexual assault.

TIME MAGAZINE'S IN NEWS 2023

- Famous American singer Taylor Swift has been named Time Magazine's Person of the Year for 2023.
- Argentina's football icon, Lionel Messi, has been named Time magazine's Athlete of the Year for 2023.
- Time Magazine has named OpenAI founder Sam Altman as 'CEO of the Year'.



- ✓ It specifically aims at educating and enabling CISOs to understand cyber-attacks and get the necessary exposure to the latest technologies for safeguarding e-infrastructure.
- ✓ The training focuses on providing a holistic view of legal provisions, enabling CISOs to formulate policies for cybersecurity and build concrete cyber crisis management plans.

Q. 'Gemini' which was recently in news is related to

- A) Blackhole**
- B) Artificial Intelligence technology**
- C) Virtual reality technology**
- D) Augmented reality technology**

Answer : B

- ✓ Recently, Google announced the launch of its latest, most powerful AI model, Gemini.
- ✓ About Gemini AI model:
- ✓ It is a new multimodal general AI model, which means it can understand, and work with different formats, including text, code, audio, image, and video, at the same time
- ✓ It is now available to users across the world through Bard, some developer platforms and even the new Google Pixel 8 Pro devices.
- ✓ It can understand, explain and generate high-quality code in the world's most popular programming languages, like Python, Java, C++ and Go.
- ✓ It comes in three sizes — the yet -to-be-launched Ultra, Pro and Nano.
- ✓ Gemini Ultra, the largest and most capable model, will be meant for highly complex tasks. It is available now only to select customers, developers, partners and safety and responsibility experts for early experimentation and feedback.
- ✓ Gemini Pro will be best at scaling across a wide range of tasks and is now available in Bard for regular users across the world.
- ✓ Gemini Nano will manage on-device tasks and is already available on Pixel 8 Pro, powering new features like Summarise in the Recorder app and Smart Reply via Gboard.



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- ✓ Virgin Atlantic operated Flight100 from London to New York, the first ever transatlantic passenger flight fully powered by sustainable aviation fuel (SAF).
- ✓ The Boeing 787, with Rolls-Royce engines, aims to demonstrate SAF's viability as a safe, low-carbon substitute for conventional jet fuel.
- ✓ As the aviation industry faces pressure to reduce emissions and climate impact, SAF has potential as a compatible drop-in replacement requiring no new infrastructure.
- ✓ Flight100 represents an important first step in testing and scaling up commercial use of 100% SAF on long flights.
- ✓ Its completion will help make the case for ramping up SAF production and adoption across more routes.
- ✓ The flight proves such ambition is technologically possible with today's planes and engines while we continue striving to make SAF affordable and available at scale

Q. What name has been given to the moon of asteroid named Dinkinesh discovered recently by NASA's Lucy spacecraft?

- A) Amani
B) Mwanga
C) Kesho
D) Selam

Answer : D

- ✓ NASA's Lucy spacecraft recently discovered that an asteroid named Dinkinesh, which it flew past last month, has a tiny "contact binary" moon – two space rocks gently rested against each other.
- ✓ The International Astronomical Union approved the name "Selam" for this moon, meaning "peace" in Ethiopia's language.
- ✓ The names Dinkinesh and Selam refer to two famous hominid fossils discovered in Ethiopia.
- ✓ Dinkinesh is the Ethiopian name for the 3.18 million-year-old Lucy fossil that the Lucy mission is named after.
- ✓ Selam was a 3-year-old girl's fossil found in 2000 in Dikika, belonging to the same species as Lucy and dating over 100,000 years earlier than her

Q. "Panchamrit" pledge is related to __:

- A) Poverty Eradication
B) Infrastructure Development
C) Combating Climate Change
D) Regional Defence & Security

Answer : C



Answer : B

- ✓ Hydropower currently makes up around 11% of India's energy mix, as per government data.
- ✓ However, experts estimate the country has a total hydroelectric potential of 145 gigawatts (GW), of which only 29% has been utilized so far.
- ✓ Unlike coal power, hydropower offers flexible generation as the units can rapidly adjust output to match demand fluctuations.
- ✓ This ability makes it well-suited to balance the intermittency of renewables like solar and wind.

Q. Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism or CBAM is a policy of __?

- A) World Bank
- B) European Union
- C) United Nations Environment Programme
- D) United States Government

Answer : B

- ✓ The EU has introduced a new policy called the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism or CBAM to account for carbon emissions from imported goods.
- ✓ This applies to imports of products like iron, steel and aluminum which require a lot of energy to make and therefore result in high emissions.
- ✓ Under the CBAM, companies importing these goods into the EU will have to buy carbon certificates corresponding to the polluting emissions.
- ✓ This is to ensure imported products face similar carbon costs that European producers pay already under EU emissions rules.
- ✓ The aim is to prevent European manufacturers being undercut by cheaper imports not subject to carbon pricing.
- ✓ It also incentivizes foreign exporters to transition toward cleaner production.
- ✓ However, organizations like the World Bank and UN warn that these extra charges could negatively impact developing countries that export to EU, especially industries unable to quickly cut emissions.
So while CBAM protects EU competitiveness, it may burden trading partners and needs to be designed sensitively.



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Q. SWIS and STEPS instruments are related to which mission of ISRO?

- A) Aditya L1
B) Chandrayaan
C) Gaganyaan
D) Mars Orbiter Mission

Answer : A

- ✓ India's Aditya L1 satellite has begun unravelling solar wind enigmas as two cutting-edge particle spectrometers commenced data gathering in recent months.
- ✓ The SWIS and STEPS instruments on the Aditya Solar Wind Particle Experiment payload have detected protons, Helium ions and energy histograms exhibiting solar wind behavior fluctuations near Sun-Earth Lagrange Point L1.
- ✓ SWIS' 360-degree coverage and directional monitoring capacities will significantly further comprehension of solar wind properties, variability and links to space weather influencing Earth.
- ✓ Researchers eagerly anticipate more revelations to address enduring questions about the complex solar wind and corona heating as Aditya L1 nears L1 orbital point for uninterrupted solar observation.

Q. Who has taken oath as the new Chief Minister of Telangana?

- A) N. Uttam Kumar Reddy
B) K.Chandrashekhar Rao
C) Anumula Revanth Reddy
D) DK Shivakumar

Answer : C

- ✓ Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee President Anumula Revanth Reddy has taken oath as the Chief Minister of the state.
- ✓ Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan administered him the oath of office and secrecy.
- ✓ After the formation of Telangana state, he is the second Chief Minister of the state. K.Chandrashekhar Rao was the first Chief Minister of the state

TELANGANA IN NEWS 2023

- Union Cabinet approved the establishment of a tribal university in Telangana, named The Sarakka Central Tribal University. This university, with a budget of Rs 889 crore, will be located in Mulugu district.
- US-based multinational technology company "Corning" has announced plans to set up a \$113m Gorilla Glass manufacturing facility in the Indian state of Telangana.



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- Telangana has launched India's first Agricultural Data Exchange (ADeX) and Agriculture Data Management Framework (ADMF).
- Telangana achieves 100% coverage of PMJDY.
- Telangana govt launches first of its kind State Robotics Framework.
- Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao laid the foundation for the Hare Krishna Heritage Tower in Hyderabad. The 400 feet tall structure will be constructed on six acres of land in Narsingi at a cost of Rs 200 crore.
- The two-day 'Food Conclave-2023' will be organized on April 28 and 29 in Hyderabad, Telangana.
- Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao recently unveiled a 125-foot tall bronze statue of BR Ambedkar in Hyderabad.
- World Economic Forum (WEF) has chosen Hyderabad to set up its Center for the Fourth Industrial Revolution focused on healthcare and life sciences.
- Hyderabad to become India's first city with 100% sewerage facilities by May 2023.
- IAS 'Shanti Kumari' becomes first woman Chief Secretary of Telangana.
- National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Nagarjunasagar-Srisailem Tiger Reserve in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.
- The G20 Second Digital Economy Working Group meeting began on April 17 in Hyderabad.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on the occasion of Pongal on 15 January, virtually flagged off the Vande Bharata Express train connecting Secunderabad with Vishakhapatnam.
- Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY)
- Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) is a nation-wide financial inclusion program of Government of India.
- It was announced by the Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi on 15 August 2014.
- Slogan Mera Khatha, Bhagya Vidhatha ("My account brings me good fortune")
- Age of Eligible Beneficiaries 18-65 Years
- Overdraft facility up to Rs.10000 after satisfactory operation of the account for 6 months
- Account holder will get RuPay Debit card with inbuilt accident insurance cover of Rs 2 lakh.
- Life insurance cover of Rs 30,000



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Q. 'Global Drought Snapshot' report which was recently in news is published by

- A) UN Convention to Combat Desertification
- B) The Convention on Biological Diversity
- C) The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
- D) The United Nations Environment Programme

Answer : B

- ✓ According to the report, 'Global Drought Snapshot,' launched by the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) at the outset of COP28 climate talks in the UAE, mentioned that drought causes more economic loss and affects more sectors of societies.
- ✓ Key points of the report:
 - ✓ Agriculture and forests
 - ✓ 70% cereal crops were damaged by drought in the Mediterranean, 2016–2018.
 - ✓ 33% loss of grazing land in South Africa due to drought
 - ✓ Five consecutive rainfall season failures in the Horn of Africa, caused the region's worst drought in 40 years, contributing to reduced agricultural productivity, food insecurity and high food prices.
 - ✓ Africa's drought-related economic losses in the past 50 years at \$70 billion.
 - ✓ Water conditions
 - ✓ 75% reduction of cargo capacity of some vessels on the Rhine due to low river levels in 2022, leading to severe delays in shipping arrivals and departures
 - ✓ 5 million people in southern China affected by record-low water levels in the Yangtze River due to drought and prolonged heat
 - ✓ Social dimensions
 - ✓ 85% of people affected by droughts live in low-or middle-income countries.
 - ✓ 2 million people in the Central American Dry Corridor needing food aid after five years of drought, heatwaves and unpredictable rainfall.
 - ✓ Key facts about the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)
 - ✓ It is one of three Conventions originated at the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro. (The other two address climate change (UNFCCC) and biodiversity (UN CBD).
 - ✓ It is the only legally binding framework set up to address desertification and the effects of drought.
 - ✓ There are 197 Parties to the Convention, including 196 country Parties and the European Union.



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Q. Which institution releases 'Composite Water Management Index' in India?

A) Jal Shakti Ministry

B) NITI Aayog

C) WAPCOS

D) DPIIT

Answer : B

- ✓ NITI Aayog has been publishing the Composite Water Management Index (CWMI) since 2018.
- ✓ So far two editions CWMI (June 2018) and CWMI 2.0 (August 2019) have been published.
- ✓ Subsequent edition of CWMI was prepared in August 2022 with delay due to the nationwide Covid-19 situation.
- ✓ NITI Aayog will come up with a combined report from the third to sixth edition of the Composite Water Management Index

NITI AAYOG IN NEWS 2023

- India is estimated to be a \$30 trillion developed economy by 2047, preliminary results from the Centre's vision document - The Vision India@2047, which is being prepared by Niti Aayog.
- NITI Aayog convened a two-day G20 conference on the Green and Sustainable Growth Agenda for the Global Economy in New Delhi.
- The NITI Aayog has published the second edition of the Multidimensional Poverty Index titled 'National Multidimensional Poverty Index: A progress of Review 2023'.
- About 135.5 million (13.5 crore) persons have exited poverty between 2015-16 and 2019-21.
- Nearly 3.43 crore people escaped poverty in Uttar Pradesh, registering the largest decline among the 36 States and Union Territories.
- NITI Aayog released the Techno-Commercial Readiness and Market Maturity Matrix (TCRM Matrix) framework for promoting innovation and entrepreneurship in India .
- NITI Aayog has recently released the Export Preparedness Index 2022.
- This time Tamil Nadu has achieved the top rank by leaving behind Maharashtra and Gujarat.
- Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) launched the Electric Vehicle Operations and Lending for Vibrant Ecosystem (EVOLVE) mission.
- The mission has been launched in collaboration with NITI Aayog, World Bank, Korean-World Bank and Korean Economic Development Cooperation Fund (EDCF).
- NITI Aayog, United Nations join hands to accelerate sustainable development in India.



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Q. Which ministry has launched the Geographic Information System (GIS) application “Gram Manchitra”?

- A) Ministry of Cooperation
- B) Ministry of Panchayati Raj
- C) Ministry of Corporate Affairs
- D) Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare

Answer : B

- ✓ Recently, the Union Minister of State for Panchayati Raj informed the Lok Sabha about the Gram Manchitra application.
- ✓ About the Gram Manchitra application:
- ✓ In order to encourage the Spatial Planning by the Gram Panchayat, Ministry of Panchayati Raj had launched the Geographic Information System (GIS) application “Gram Manchitra.”
- ✓ This application facilitates and supports Gram Panchayats to perform planning at Gram Panchayat level using geo-spatial technology.
- ✓ It provides a single/ unified Geo-Spatial platform to better visualise the various developmental works to be taken up across the different sectors and provide a decision support system for the Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP).
- ✓ Further, Ministry has launched mActionSoft, a mobile based solution to help in capturing photos with Geo-Tags (i.e. GPS Coordinates) for the works which have assets as an output.
- ✓ Geo-tagging of the assets is done in all three stages viz. (i) before the start of the work, (ii) during the work and (iii) on completion of work.
- ✓ This would provide a repository of information on all works and assets related to natural resource management, water harvesting, drought proofing, sanitation, agriculture, check dams and irrigation channels etc.
- ✓ Assets geo-tagged using the m-ActionSoft application is available on Gram Manchitra, enhancing the visualisation of various developmental works in the Gram Panchayats.
- ✓ The assets created under the finance commission funds are geotagged with the photographs of assets by the Panchayats.
- ✓ It will help Gram Panchayat officials develop realistic and achievable development plans



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- ✓ Set in a fantasy land with its own geo- and socio-political spin, she launched her book at the 12th edition of the Bangalore Literature Festival (BLF).
- ✓ The book is a fantasy fiction novel set very specifically between 1992 and 2019. It talks about a make-believe kingdom and an evil king and how this girl, Zeba, who has these superpowers, manages to defeat him.”

Q. ‘Global Cooling Watch 2023’ report is released by which one of the following institutions/organizations?

- A) United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- B) United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- C) Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)
- D) World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

Answer : B

- ✓ United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) releases Global Cooling Watch 2023 report.
- ✓ The report demonstrates the potential and the pathways to achieve near zero emissions from cooling.
- ✓ Cooling acts as a double burden on climate change by raising the demand for power at one end and inducing Global warming due to the release of refrigerant gases in cooling equipment.
- ✓ Emissions from cooling are predicted to account for more than 10 per cent of global emissions in 2050
- ✓ 82% of global cooling-related GHG emissions came from G20 countries, in 2022 Under the current approach to cooling, the installed capacity of cooling equipment globally will triple between now and 2050
- ✓ A phase-down of climate-warming hydrofluorocarbon (HFC) refrigerants at a faster rate than is required under the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol.
- ✓ Global Cooling Pledge issued with the COP28 provides a real opportunity to act.

Q. Who inaugurated the Uttarakhand Global Investors Summit?

- A) Narendra Modi
- B) Pushkar Singh Dhami
- C) Amit Shah
- D) Rajnath Singh

Answer : A

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the two-day Uttarakhand Global Investors Summit at the Forest Research Institute, FRI, in Dehradun.
- ✓ The main objective of this summit is to establish Uttarakhand as a new center of investment.



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- ✓ On this occasion, the PM also launched the House of Himalaya brand of women self-help groups of the state.

UTTARAKHAND IN NEWS 2023

- Uttarakhand is on the brink of making history as it prepares to become the first state in India to implement the Uniform Civil Code (UCC).
- The 5th edition of the Dehradun Literature Festival (DDLf) was announced during a press conference.
- Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami inaugurated the 'Rozgar Prayag Portal'.
- Uttarakhand government has signed a memorandum of understanding worth ₹2,000 crore with global ropeway construction firm Poma Group in London.
- Uttarakhand govt approved state's first service sector policy.
- Harela Festival 2023 begins in Uttarakhand.
- Uttarakhand has become India's first state to launch the Resham Keet Bima scheme for sericulturists.
- Uttarakhand tableau which showcased the state's wildlife and religious sites at the 74th Republic Day parade has won the top prize.
- India's First Green Solar Panel Factory to Build by Luminous in Uttarakhand.
- Uttarakhand awarded for adventure tourism & all round development of tourism.
- Uttarakhand Chief Minister launches Lakhpati Didi Yojana.
- The Uttarakhand High Court will be shifted from Nainital to Haldwani.
- Uttarakhand Plans Genetic Enhancement of Its Indigenous Badri Cow.
- Uttarakhand Government appoints Prasoon Joshi as its Brand Ambassador.
- Uttarakhand Gaurav Samman: NSA Ajit Doval and late CDS Gen Rawat to receive award.
- Uttarakhand CM Launched SBI Foundation and HESCO's Project for Chamoli.
- Uttarakhand Foundation Day is observed on November 9 every year.
- Uttarakhand Governor Approved 30% Women's Reservation Bill.
- PM Modi has inaugurated connectivity projects worth 3,400 crores in Mana village of Chamoli district of Uttarakhand.
- Uttarakhand recently received the first prize in two categories - the best adventure tourism destination and all-round development of tourism - from the Union tourism ministry.
- India's first commercial space observatory will be set up in the Garhwal division of Uttarakhand.



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- Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami has launched the “Mukhyamantri Udyaman Khiladi Unnayan Yojana” on the occasion of National Sports Day.
- Uttarakhand education department launched an e-governance portal “Samarth”.

Q. Whose statue was recently unveiled in 'Jaipur Wax Museum'?

- A) Dr. B.R. Ambedkar B) Lata Mangeshkar
C) Narendra Modi D) Sachin Tendulkar

Answer : A

- ✓ The chief architect of the Indian Constitution, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's statue was unveiled at the Jaipur Wax Museum, Nahargarh Fort.
- ✓ The height of this wax statue is 5 feet 11 inches and weight is 38 kilograms.
- ✓ This museum was established in 2016 with the cooperation of the Department of Archeology and Museums of the Government of Rajasthan.

Q. Which Union Minister has been given additional charge of the Agriculture Ministry by President Draupadi Murmu?

- A) Renuka Singh Saruta B) Arjun Munda
C) Rajiv Chandrashekhar D) Shobha Karandlaje

Answer : B

- ✓ After the assembly elections, President Draupadi Murmu has accepted the resignations of Union ministers Narendra Singh Tomar, Prahlad Singh Patel and Renuka Singh Saruta.
- ✓ Union Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda has been given additional charge of Agriculture Ministry.
- ✓ Whereas Union Minister Rajiv Chandrashekhar has been given additional charge of Jal Shakti Ministry as Minister of State.

Q. Who has taken oath as the new Chief Minister of Mizoram?

- A) Vanlalruata B) Lalduhoma
C) Zoramthanga D) Kambhampati Hari Babu

Answer : B

- ✓ Zoram People's Movement (ZPM) leader Lalduhoma took oath as the Chief Minister of Mizoram.



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- ✓ Party leader Vanlalruata also took oath as a cabinet minister at the Raj Bhavan.
- ✓ Mizo National Front leader and outgoing Chief Minister Zoramthanga was also present on the occasion. Lalduhoma has taken oath as the sixth Chief Minister of the state

Q. Which country has framed 'One Province, One Policy' plan to handle financial risk?

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

Answer : B

- ✓ China's regulator wants provinces to come up with their own plans to handle financial risks, according to a report.
- ✓ 'One Province, One Policy' comes after officials previously committed to establishing a mechanism to tackle local debt issues.
- ✓ China has struggled for traction this year as a bounce-back from restrictive Covid Zero policies proved to be softer than expected and a property crisis dragged on

Q. National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) functions under which Union Ministry?

- A) Ministry of Home Affairs
- B) Ministry of Women and Child Development
- C) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- D) Ministry of Justice

Answer : A

- ✓ A total of 4,45,256 cases of crime against women were registered across India in 2022, up from 4,28,278 in 2021 and 3,71,503 in 2020.
- ✓ The rate of crime against women per lakh population stood at 66.4 while the charge sheeting in such cases was logged at 75.8, showed the data in the annual crime report of the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB).
- ✓ NCRB functions under the Union Ministry of Home Affairs.
- ✓ The majority of crimes against women under the Indian Penal Code were of cruelty by husband or his relatives (31.4 per cent) followed by kidnapping and abduction of women (19.2 per cent).



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- ✓ Delhi registered the highest rate of crime against women in the country at 144.4, while the country's average rate was 66.4.
- Uttar Pradesh (65,743) registered the maximum FIRs in cases of crime against women in 2022

Q. The names of tropical cyclones in the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea are chosen from: _?

- A) Suggestion of various countries B) Suggestion of UNESCO
C) Suggestion of UNEP D) Suggestion of UNFCCC

Answer : A

- ✓ On December 5, Cyclone Michaung made landfall over Nellore in Andhra Pradesh as a super-cyclonic storm.
- ✓ A day earlier, the weather system had produced 150-200 mm of rain in north Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ In 2000, a panel of the World Meteorological Organisation with members of the UN Economic and Social Commission prepared the list of names of tropical cyclones in the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea, to be given from the September 2004 season.
- ✓ The name of each cyclone is picked from this list and cycles through each country's suggestion. After Michaung (by Myanmar), the next five cyclones will be called 'Remal' (Oman), 'Asna' (Pakistan), 'Dana' (Qatar), 'Fengal' (Saudi Arabia), and 'Shakhti' (Sri Lanka).

Q. Which country recently decided to deploy Shadow R1 drones as surveillance aircrafts over Israel and Gaza?

- A) US B) UK
C) France D) Russia

Answer : B

- ✓ The UK will deploy surveillance aircraft over Israel and Gaza to locate over 130 people still held hostage by Hamas since its October attack on Israel.
- ✓ At least 5 missing British nationals are feared captive amid rescued hostages.
- ✓ The unarmed Shadow R1 drones conduct intelligence gathering for UK forces.
- ✓ While the offensive has resumed after a temporary Gaza truce, the reconnaissance flights starting soon will solely focus on hostage recovery without any combat role.
- ✓ The visuals and data obtained on captives' whereabouts will be shared with Israeli authorities coordinating rescue operations.



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- ✓ The UK move follows similar US aerial scanning assistance to pinpoint Hamas hostage locations through unarmed drones

Q. Firozabad Municipal Corporation in Uttar Pradesh has approved the proposal to rename Firozabad as _.

- A) Shahjahanpur Nagar B) Aligarh Nagar
C) Bareilly Nagar D) Chandra Nagar

Answer : D

- ✓ Firozabad Municipal Corporation in Uttar Pradesh has approved the proposal to rename Firozabad as Chandra Nagar.
- ✓ Firozabad is famous for the construction of bangles. It is located 40 kilometres from Agra and 250 km from the capital city on the east side. Uttar Pradesh's capital Lucknow is about 250 km east from here. Two towns come under Tundla and Shikohabad under the Firozabad district.
- ✓ Earlier the Indian Railways in October announced the renaming of three railway stations -Pratapgarh, Antu and Bishnathganj — in the Pratapgarh district of Uttar Pradesh.
- ✓ Railways informed that the Pratapgarh station was renamed as 'Maa Belha Devi DhamPratapgarh Junction', Antu as Maa Chandika Devi Dham Antu, and Bishnathganj as 'Shanidev Dham Bishnathganj'.
- ✓ Varanasi's Manduadih Rail Station has also been renamed as Banaras.
- ✓ Uttar Pradesh government also renamed the Jhansi railway station as Veeranagana Laxmi Bai railway station.
- ✓ Previously, the state government had renamed Mughalsarai and Allahabad railway stations as Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay Junction and Prayagraj Junction stations respectively.

Q. According to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) report, which city declared safest in India for 3rd consecutive year?

- A) Delhi B) Bengaluru
C) Kolkata D) Hyderabad

Answer : C

- ✓ Kolkata emerged as the safest city in India for the third consecutive year, recording the least number of cognisable offences per lakh population among metropolises, according to the report published by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB).



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- ✓ The eastern metropolis, which reported 86.5 cases of cognisable offences per lakh people in 2022, was followed by Pune (280.7) and Hyderabad (299.2).
- ✓ Cognisable crimes are those for which cases are registered under sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and SLL (Special and Local Laws).
- ✓ According to the NCRB report, Kolkata had registered 103.4 cases of cognisable crimes per lakh people in 2021, which dropped to 86.5 this year. In 2020, the count was 129.5.
- ✓ In 2021, Pune and Hyderabad had reported 256.8 and 259.9 cognisable offences per lakh population, respectively.
- ✓ The rankings were issued after comparison among 19 cities with over 20 lakh population.
- ✓ Kolkata, however, recorded an increase in crimes against women as the number of cases rose from 1,783 in 2021 to 1,890 in 2022.

Q. India has extended a \$250 million Line of Credit for modernisation of agriculture for which country?

- A) Ethiopia B) Kenya
C) Egypt D) Tanzania

Answer : B

- ✓ India has extended a \$250 million Line of Credit for modernization of agriculture in Kenya.
- ✓ Under this initiative, both sides will carry out joint military exercises and will collaborate on counter-terror projects.
- ✓ Government of India has undertaken to encourage Indian companies to invest in the Kenyan agri sector inclusive of “equipment and technology”.
- ✓ Both sides noted that enhancing bilateral agricultural cooperation would increase bilateral trade and contribute to food security in Kenya,” the Joint Statement declared.
- ✓ The two sides also agreed to cooperate in cyber security, anti-money laundering, small arms and light weapons, drugs and human trafficking.

Q. RBI has proposed enhancing the limit of UPI transactions undertaken for medical or healthcare and educational services from ₹1 lakh to ___ per transaction.

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

Answer : D



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- ✓ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has proposed enhancing the limit of UPI transactions undertaken for medical or healthcare and educational services from ₹1 lakh to ₹5 lakh per transaction.
- ✓ The limit for various categories of UPI transactions has been reviewed from time to time. It is now proposed to enhance the UPI transaction limit for payment to hospitals and educational institutions.
- ✓ This will enable the users who are comfortable with making payments through UPI to continue using the platform for high-value payments as well. The transaction limit would no longer be a bottleneck which refrains the user from using UPI, especially when it comes to payments which are urgent in nature.
- ✓ Currently, the transaction limit for UPI is capped at ₹1 lakh, except in a few categories like capital markets (AMC, broking, mutual funds, etc.), collections (credit card payments, loan re-payments, EMI), Insurance, etc. where the transaction limit is ₹2 lakh
- ✓ In December 2021, the transaction limit for UPI payments for Retail Direct Scheme and IPO subscriptions was increased to ₹5 lakh

RBI INCREASE LIMIT IN NEWS 2023

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) took a significant step by announcing an increase in the UPI payment limits from Rs 1 lakh to Rs 5 lakh.
- RBI has conducted a review of bulk deposit limits for financial institutions, specifically focusing on Regional Rural Banks (RRBs). As a result, the bulk deposit limit for RRBs has been significantly increased from Rs 15 lakh to Rs 1 crore.
- RBI Raises Offline Payment Transaction Upper Limit to ₹500 from ₹200.
- RBI has raised the Additional Factor of Authentication (AFA) limit from Rs 5,000 to Rs 15,000 per transaction for e-mandates on cards, Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPIs) and Unified Payments Interface (UPI) for recurring transactions.
- RBI has decided to increase the existing limit for gold loans under a scheme called “bullet repayment” from Rs 2 lakh to Rs 4 lakh for urban cooperative banks.
- Reserve Bank of India has increased the limit of fund transfer under the Indo-Nepal Remittance Facility Scheme from Rs 50,000 per transaction to Rs 2 lakh per transaction.
- Union Cabinet approved the enhancement in the limit of the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) by Rs 50,000 crore to Rs 5 lakh crore.



- ✓ 2024 ICC Men's T20 World Cup - USA & West Indies
- ✓ 2025 ICC Men's Champions Trophy - Pakistan
- ✓ 2026 ICC Men's T20 World Cup - India & Sri Lanka
- ✓ 2027 ICC Men's 50 over World Cup - South Africa, Zimbabwe & Namibia
- ✓ 2028 ICC Men's T20 World Cup - Australia & New Zealand
- ✓ 2029 ICC Men's Champions Trophy - India
- ✓ 2030 ICC Men's T20 World Cup - England, Ireland & Scotland
- ✓ 2031 ICC Men's 50 over World Cup - India & Bangladesh
- ✓ International Cricket Council (ICC)
- ✓ Formation : 15 June 1909
- ✓ Headquarters : Dubai, UAE
- ✓ Chairman : Greg Barclay (New Zealand)
- ✓ New CEO : Geoff Allardice (Australia)
- ✓ Membership : 108 members
- ✓ Deputy Chairman : Imran Khwaja (Singapore).
- ✓ It is the global governing body for cricket.
- ✓ It presides over the ICC Code of Conduct, playing conditions, decision review system and other ICC regulations.

Q. Ibu Volcano has been seen in the news recently. In which country is it located?

A) Japan

B) United States

C) Indonesia

D) Philippines

Answer : C

- ✓ The Ibu volcano in Indonesia's North Maluku province erupted recently, prompting authorities to warn locals and tourists to stay away from the area.
- ✓ About the Ibu Volcano:
- ✓ It is a stratovolcano located in the province of Maluku, East Indonesia.
- ✓ It is one of the most isolated and least accessible volcanoes in Indonesia.
- ✓ It stands as high as 1,377 metres above sea level.



VOLCANO IN NEWS 2023

- The Ibu volcano in Indonesia's North Maluku province erupted recently.
- Recently, Indonesia's Mount Marapi in West Sumatra province erupted, spewing white-and-gray ash plumes for more than 3,000 metres (about 9,800 feet) into the air.
- It is a volcanic mountain peak located near the centre of the island of Java, Indonesia.
- Kilauea volcano on Hawaii's Big Island erupted recently, according to an advisory from the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS).
- Peru recently announced a state of emergency in the Moquegua region due to the ongoing activity of the Ubinas volcano.
- Recently, around 13,000 people have been evacuated from the northeast Philippines as the country's most famous volcano, Mayon, continued to ooze lava.
- Recently, Indonesia's Anak Krakatau volcano has erupted, spewing ash as high as 3 kilometres into the air.
- This volcano island is located in Indonesia's Sunda Strait between the main Java and Sumatra islands.
- Recently, People living on the upper slopes of the Nevado del Ruiz volcano in Colombia

Q. NPCI Bharat BillPay (NBBL) has successfully integrated with which card issuers company into the credit card category of Bharat BillPay?

A) RuPay

B) SBI Card

C) Visa

D) Mastercard

Answer : B

- ✓ SBI Card joins Bharat BillPay in the credit card category
- ✓ NPCI Bharat BillPay (NBBL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), has successfully integrated SBI Card, one of India's leading credit card issuers, into the credit card category of Bharat BillPay.
- ✓ This integration marks a significant advancement, streamlining the credit card bill payment process for millions of customers.
- ✓ Noteworthy credit card issuers already present in this category include Kotak Mahindra Bank, BoB Financial, Federal Bank, AU Small Finance Bank, IndusInd Bank, and Canara Bank.



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- ✓ The ranking of the blocks has been calculated on the basis of performance of blocks and progress achieved in the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) in the month of June, 2023.
- ✓ What is Aspirational District Programme?
- ✓ About:
- ✓ It was launched in 2018 which aims to transform districts that have shown relatively lesser progress in key social areas.
- ✓ Aspirational Districts are those districts in India, that are affected by poor socio-economic indicators.
- ✓ It covers 112 districts across the country.
- ✓ At Government of India level, programme is anchored by NITI Aayog. In addition, individual Ministries have assumed responsibility to drive progress of districts.
- ✓ It focuses on the strength of each district, identifying low-hanging fruits for immediate improvement and measuring progress by ranking districts on a monthly basis.
- ✓ The Government is committed to raising the living standards of its citizens and ensuring inclusive growth for all – “Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas aur Sabka Vishwas”.
- ✓ The ADP is essentially aimed at localizing Sustainable Development Goals, leading to the progress of the nation.
- ✓ Parameters for Ranking:
- ✓ The ranking is based on the incremental progress made across 49 Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) under 5 broad socio-economic themes -
 1. Health & Nutrition (30%)
 2. Education (30%)
 3. Agriculture & Water Resources (20%)
 4. Financial Inclusion & Skill Development (10%)
 5. Infrastructure (10%)
- ✓ Various Programmes:
- ✓ Various programmes such as – Saksham Bitiyan Abhiyan, Anemia Mukta Bharat and Surakshit Hum Surakshit Tum, are some of the flagship initiatives that have been taken up by NITI Aayog in this regard

Q. The Central government has approved the first urban flood mitigation project for which state?

A) Tamil Nadu

B) Odisha

C) West Bengal

D) Andhra Pradesh



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Answer : A

- ✓ The Central government has approved the first urban flood mitigation project of Rs 561.29 crore for 'Integrated Urban Flood Management' activities for the Chennai Basin project, as per Union Home Minister Amit Shah.
- ✓ This is the first in a series of urban flood mitigation efforts and will help develop a broader framework for urban flood management.

TAMIL NADU IN NEWS 2023

- 'Guidance', the nodal agency for investment promotion of Tamil Nadu, has received the United Nations Promotion Award 2023.
- Project Nilgiri Tahr' launched in Tamil Nadu.
- The second spaceport of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), will come up in about two years at Kulasekarapattinam in Thoothukudi district of Tamil Nadu.
- The U.K. and Tamil Nadu collaborate on a smart technology project for sustainable water, waste, and resource management.
- Recently, Udangudi 'Panangkarupatti' (palm jaggery/ gur) from Tamil Nadu has received a Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- Tamil Nadu government has unveiled its new tourism policy to develop the State into the most attractive experiential destination in Asia.
- Tamil Nadu's Salem Sago gets GI tag.
- Bhaderwah Rajmash and Sulai honey of Doda and Ramban districts of Jammu and Kashmir, have been granted Geographical Indication (GI) tags.
- The Matti banana variety, native to Kanniyakumari district Tamil Nadu was recently granted the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- Taiwanese firm Foxconn Technology Group, a key supplier to Apple Inc., signed a letter of Intent with the Tamil Nadu government to invest ₹1,600 crore to establish a manufacturing facility in Kancheepuram district.
- Centre has approved the establishment of a new spaceport in Kulasekarapattinam, Tamil Nadu for carrying out the launches of the Small Satellite Launch Vehicles (SSLV) developed by the ISRO.
- Tamil Nadu's Authoor betel leaves get Geographical Indication (GI) certificate.



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- Tamil Nadu bagged the Best Performing State award 2023 in cadaver organ donation .
- Tamil Nadu Youth Welfare and Sports Development Minister "Udhayanidhi Stalin" has unveiled the trophy and the 'Bomman' mascot for the prestigious Asian Champions Trophy 2023 hockey tournament to be held in Chennai.
- Muthamizh Selvi, first Tamil Nadu woman to scale Mt Everest.
- Tamil Nadu government declared Thanthai Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary as the 18th wildlife sanctuary in the state..
- Tamil Nadu becomes first state to launch its own Climate Change Mission.
- Tamil Nadu govt to launch five-year Tamil Nadu Millet Mission.
- In a first of its kind initiative in India, the Government of Tamil Nadu announced the 'Nilgiri Tahr Project'.

Q. Global cyber security company Kaspersky and which IIT have signed an agreement to jointly work on cybersecurity-related research and educational initiatives at the institute?

- A) IIT Madras
- B) IIT Bombay
- C) IIT Kanpur
- D) IIT Delhi

Answer : D

- ✓ Global cyber security company Kaspersky and the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IIT Delhi) have signed an agreement to jointly work on cybersecurity-related research and educational initiatives at the institute.
- ✓ Under the agreement, Kaspersky and IIT Delhi will exchange knowledge and expertise, develop educational materials, organise and promote events to raise cybersecurity awareness, and sponsor merit (academic) awards or prizes to encourage IIT Delhi students to pursue careers in ICT and Cybersecurity.
- ✓ This partnership will enhance the IIT Delhi graduates' desirability on the job market by adding IIT Delhi's educational and scientific activities of new training courses and programs that provide the graduates with relevant competencies that are in demand



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Q. The Defense Ministry has collaborated with which of the following to offer scholarships for ex-servicemen?

- A) IIT Madras
B) Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad
C) Indian School of Business
D) London Business School

Answer : C

- ✓ Defense Ministry has collaborated with the prestigious Indian School of Business (ISB).
- ✓ The initiative focuses on providing scholarships to military personnel transitioning to civilian life after retirement.
- ✓ The Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare has forged a partnership with ISB to facilitate educational opportunities for veterans. The collaboration intends to equip armed forces personnel with the latest and in-depth management skills, leveraging the substantial skillset they already possess.
- ✓ As part of this collaboration, ISB will extend a 50 percent tuition fee waiver across its postgraduate and advanced management programmes, amounting to a total of Rs 2.3 crore annually.

Q. Indian Oil Corp. Ltd and which company have agreed to jointly promote Surya Nutan, IndianOil's innovative indoor solar cooking system?

- A) Dominion Energy
B) TAAL Enterprises
C) Jubilant Ingrevia
D) EKI Energy

Answer : D

- ✓ EKI Energy Services, a carbon credits developer and supplier, and Indian Oil Corp. Ltd (IndianOil) have agreed to jointly promote Surya Nutan, IndianOil's innovative indoor solar cooking system.
- ✓ Toward that objective, it has developed "Surya Nutan," a stationary, rechargeable, and always kitchen-connected indoor cooking solution based on IndianOil's patented technology.
- ✓ Under the terms of their agreement, IndianOil will share the technology of "Surya Nutan" with EKI to enhance its production and distribution, supported by carbon finance.
- ✓ EKI will oversee the end-to-end management of 'Surya Nutan' encompassing manufacturing, marketing, installation, and the provision of after-sales services. This will be achieved by leveraging carbon finance, corporate social responsibility, or any other similar means



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Q. Which bank has collaborated with Accenture to design and develop a scalable and secure enterprise data lake platform to boost its operational efficiency?

- A) Union Bank of India B) Karur Vyasya Bank
C) Indian Overseas Bank D) Bank of Baroda

Answer : A

- ✓ Union Bank of India has collaborated with Accenture to design and develop a scalable and secure enterprise data lake platform to boost its operational efficiency.
- ✓ This will also enhance its ability to offer customer-centric banking services and manage risk.
- ✓ Accenture will work with the Bank to build new AI and machine learning models that can help generate actionable insights for improved business forecasting, facilitate personalized offers for customers and enable intelligence for fraud detection, prevention, and mitigation.
- ✓ Union Bank of India
- ✓ Founded : 1919
- ✓ Founder : Seth Sitaram Poddar
- ✓ Headquarters : Mumbai
- ✓ MD : A Manimekhalai
- ✓ Tagline ; Good People to Bank with
- ✓ Union Bank of India will be merged with Andhra Bank and Corporation Bank.

Q. Mohammed Al Ramsi has been appointed Chairman of the World Radiocommunication Conference 2023 (WRC 23). He is from which country?

- A) Saudi Arabia B) UAE
C) Iran D) Egypt

Answer : B

- ✓ United Arab Emirates' Mohammed Al Ramsi has been appointed Chairman of the World Radiocommunication Conference 2023 (WRC 23).
- ✓ The event is being held in Dubai, UAE, from November 20th to December 15th, 2023.
- ✓ WRC is organized by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) every four years to revise the global use of radio-frequency spectrum, geostationary-satellite, and non-geostationary-satellite orbits.



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Q. Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), General Anil Chauhan has inaugurated the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited Avionics Expo 2023 in which city?

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

Answer : B

- ✓ Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), General Anil Chauhan has inaugurated the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited Avionics Expo 2023 in New Delhi.
- ✓ Chauhan said the aviation sector needs to keep up with a rapidly changing world and new technological innovations.
- ✓ CDS Chauhan also stressed on the need for Aatma-Nirbharta in the aviation sector to reduce import dependency, boost the economy, and better handle geo-political and economic instabilities.

Q. India-born Media Executive ____ named as UK's Preferred Candidate for BBC New Chairman.

- A) Samir Shah
B) Rahul Joshi
C) Praveen Singh
D) Sivakumar Sundaram

Answer : A

- ✓ Britain's government chose a new BBC chairman after the previous incumbent was forced to quit earlier this year over a loan to then-prime minister Boris Johnson.
- ✓ The Conservative government named veteran TV executive Samir Shah as its choice to replace Richard Sharp, who stood down in April, as head of the publicly funded broadcaster.

Q. Which Country withdraws from China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)?

- A) France
B) Japan
C) Italy
D) Switzerland

Answer : C

- ✓ Italy has withdrawn from China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), more than 4 years after becoming the only Group of Seven (G7) nation to sign up.
- ✓ After months of uncertainty regarding Italy's involvement in the ambitious project, Rome conveyed its decision in a recent letter to Beijing, news agencies Reuters and AFP reported.



- ✓ The Belt and Road plan proposes massive investments in infrastructure such as roads, bridges and ports to recreate the ancient Silk Road trade routes linking Europe and Asia.
- ✓ Critics have cast the scheme as a vehicle for Beijing to expand its geopolitical influence, including by saddling poorer countries with unsustainable debts

Q. Which Country has introduced a 96-hour stopover visa for Indians traveling to the West or the Middle East?

- A) Egypt
B) Türkiye
C) Saudi Arabia
D) Lebanon

Answer : C

- ✓ Saudi Arabia has introduced a 96-hour stopover visa for Indians traveling to the West or the Middle East.
- ✓ This initiative, part of the Saudi Vision 2030 to streamline Umrah visits, was announced by Saudi Minister of Hajj and Umrah, Tawfiq bin Fawzan.

Q. Which institution built the Bharat Bill Payments (BBPS)?

- A) RBI
B) NPCI
C) NASSCOM
D) SEBI

Answer : B

- ✓ Bharat Bill Payments (BBPS), the platform built by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to digitise the country's large utility bill payments market, is increasingly being used for loan repayments and clearing credit card dues.
- ✓ The way utility bills get generated for consumers every month, EMI (equated monthly instalment) gets generated every month on a specific date for borrowers.
- ✓ The customer can use any mode of payment to clear the EMI due, and this is where the BBPS platform is fast emerging as a popular tool.

Q. When is the Human Rights Day observed?

- A) 7 December
B) 8 December
C) 9 December
D) 10 December

Answer : D

- ✓ Human Rights Day is celebrated on 10 December annually across the world.



- ✓ 2023 Theme: 'Freedom, Equality and Justice for All.'
- ✓ This year marks the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR).
- ✓ It was on this day in 1948 that United Nations General Assembly adopted and proclaimed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR).
- ✓ UDHR is a milestone document proclaiming the first ever global enunciation of human rights which everyone is inherently entitled to as a human being regardless of race, colour, religion, sex, language, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.

Q. Which day is celebrated as the International Mountain Day?

- A) 12 December B) 11 December
C) 10 December D) 9 December

Answer : B

- ✓ The International Mountain Day is observed on December 11 every year.
- ✓ 2023 Theme: Restoring Mountain Ecosystems
- ✓ Purpose: to create awareness about the importance of mountains to life, to highlight the opportunities and constraints in mountain development and to build alliances that will bring positive change to mountain peoples and environments around the world.
- ✓ It was established by the UN General Assembly in 2003 to encourage sustainable development of mountains.
- ✓ United Nations had declared 2002 as the UN International Year of Mountains.

Q. Who has been elected as the new Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh?

- A) Mohan Yadav B) Jyotiraditya Scindia
C) Digvijay Singh D) Shivraj Singh Chauhan

Answer : A

- ✓ Mohan Yadav has been elected as the new Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh.
- ✓ In the outgoing government, Higher Education Minister Shri Yadav was elected from Ujjain South seat.
- ✓ Mohan Yadav became MLA for the first time in 2013. After this he was re-elected in the 2018 Madhya Pradesh Legislative Assembly elections.
- ✓ He will replace Shivraj Singh Chouhan as the new Chief Minister.



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- ✓ MADHYA PRADESH
- ✓ Capital : Bhopal
- ✓ Formation : 1 November 1956
- ✓ Area Rank : 2nd
- ✓ Population rank : 5th
- ✓ Literacy Rate (%) : 69.32%
- ✓ Sex Ratio 931 (F)/1000(M)
- ✓ Legislative Assembly : 231
- ✓ Lower House : 29 Seats
- ✓ Upper House : 11 Seats
- ✓ Number of Districts : 52
- ✓ Temple : SanchiStupa at Raisen, Khajuraho Temple at Khajuraho
- ✓ Lake : Bhoj Wetland, Lower Lake, Moti lake, Sarangpani lake, Shahpura lake, Tawa Reservoir, Upper Lake
- ✓ River : Betwa River, Chambal River, Dhasan River, Ken River, Mahi, Narmada, Parbati River, Son River, Tapi, Tons, Wainganga, Wardha
- ✓ Dam : Gandhi Sagar Dam(Chambal River), Tawa Reservoir(Tawa Reservoir), Indira Sagar Dam(Narmada River)
- ✓ Stadium : Holkar Cricket Stadium
- ✓ Folk Dance : Tertali, Jawara, Matki Dance, Phulpati Dance, Grida Dance, Maanch
- ✓ National park : Bandhavgarh National Park , Kanha Tiger Reserve, Madhav National Park, Mandla Plant Fossils National Park, Panna National Park, Pench National Park, Sanjay National Park, Satpura National Park, Van Vihar National Park
- ✓ Nuclear Power Plant : Chutka Nuclear Power Plant

MADHYA PRADESH IN NEWS 2023

- Mohan Yadav has been elected as the new Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh.
- The city of Kozhikode in Kerala was added in UNESCO's Creative Cities Network (UCCN).
- Gwalior from Madhya Pradesh was also among the 55 new cities to join the network.



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- Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve becomes the 7th tiger reserve of Madhya Pradesh and 55th in India.
- Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has organized the 'India Smart Cities Conclave 2023' in Indore, Madhya Pradesh.
- The famous Kadaknath chicken meat from Jabua district of Madhya Pradesh has now got a Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- The 'Sanchi' city of Madhya Pradesh has been established as the country's first solar city.
- International Aerospace Conference jointly organized by MoCA and CII in Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh.
- President of India, Droupadi Murmu has inaugurated 'Unmesha' – International Literature Festival and 'Utkarsh' – Festival of Folk and Tribal Performing Arts at Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.
- India's first online gaming academy launched in Madhya Pradesh.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the National Sickle Cell Anemia Elimination Mission in Shahdol, Madhya Pradesh.
- Tiger State Madhya Pradesh is poised to get its 7th tiger reserve with the state government going forward with the notification of Nauradehi and Durgavati Wildlife Sanctuaries.
- Madhya Pradesh received the first prize in the best State category, while the best district award went to Ganjam District in Odisha.
- Narmada Hydroelectric Development Corporation Ltd (NHDC Ltd.) will construct a 525 MW pumped storage project near the Indira Sagar Dam in Khandwa, Madhya Pradesh.
- Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan launched the 'Mukhya Mantri Ladli Bahna Yojana'.
- Madhya Pradesh cabinet approves 'Mukhya Mantri Sikho Kamao Yojana' for unemployed youth.
- Gond paintings from Madhya Pradesh have bagged the Geographical Indication (GI) tag, a recognition that protects and acknowledges the work of tribal artists.
- Madhya Pradesh government launched Chief Minister's Residential Land Rights Scheme.
- Madhya Pradesh government announced that Islam Nagar village located in Bhopal district has been renamed as Jagdishpur.
- Madhya Pradesh Government on 5 March launched Ladli Bahna scheme under which each woman will be given one thousand rupees per month..



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- Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan announced on March 4 to make Tehsil Mauganj of Rewa district the 53rd district of the state.

Q. What is the rank of India in the Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) 2023 by Germanwatch?

- A) 4th
- B) 5th
- C) 6th
- D) 7th

Answer : D

- ✓ In a significant stride towards sustainable practices, India has ascended to the 7th position in this year's Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI).
- ✓ About Climate Change Performance Index:
- ✓ It is an instrument to enable transparency in national and international climate politics.
- ✓ It is published by Germanwatch, the New Climate Institute and the Climate Action Network annually.
- ✓ It was first time published in 2005.
- ✓ The CCPI uses a standardized framework to compare the climate performance of 63 countries and the EU, which together account for over 90% of global greenhouse gas emissions.
- ✓ The climate protection performance is assessed in four categories: GHG Emissions, Renewable Energy, Energy Use and Climate Policy.
- ✓ Key highlights
- ✓ Denmark retained the top spot with a score of 75.59 per cent. Estonia and the Philippines occupied the second and third ranks respectively, with 72.07 and 70.70.
- ✓ Saudi Arabia was at the bottom — 67th — in the performance list, while the host country United Arab Emirates occupied the 65th position.
- ✓ India receives a high ranking in the GHG Emissions and Energy Use categories, but a medium in Climate Policy and Renewable Energy, as in the previous year.
- ✓ India is trying to meet its National Determined Contribution (NDC), with clear long-term policies in place that focus on promoting renewable energy and providing financial support for domestic manufacturing of renewable energy components.



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- ✓ India has relatively high taxes on petrol and diesel, which are intended to act as carbon taxes.

Q. Who has been elected as the new Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh?

- A) Vishnu Deo Sai
- B) Raman Singh
- C) Shatrughan Sinha
- D) Balaknath

Answer : A

- ✓ Former Chhattisgarh BJP president Vishnu Deo Sai will be the new Chief Minister of the state.
- ✓ Vishnudev Sai will be the first tribal Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh.
- ✓ Vishnudev was the state president of BJP between 2020 and 2022.
- ✓ He was the Union Minister of State for Steel in the first term of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- ✓ He was also a Lok Sabha member from Raipur constituency of Chhattisgarh
- ✓ CHHATTISGARH
- ✓ Capital : Raipur
- ✓ Formation : 1 November 2000
- ✓ Literacy Rate : 70.28%
- ✓ Sex Ratio : 991(F)/ 1000(M)
- ✓ Legislative Assembly : 91 seats
- ✓ Lower House : 11 seats
- ✓ Upper House : 5 seats
- ✓ Number of Districts : 27
- ✓ River : Mahanadi, Godavari, Indravati, Hasdeo, Son River
- ✓ Dam : HasdeoBango Dam (Hasdeo River)
- ✓ Folk Dance : RautNacha, Panthi Dance
- ✓ National park : Indravati National Park, Kanger valley, Guru Ghasi das (sanjay) National park

Q. Consider the following statements about Green Voyage 2050 Project

1. It is a partnership project between the Government of Norway and International Maritime Organization (IMO).
2. The Initial IMO GHG Strategy sets out clear ambition to reduce the total annual GHG emissions by at least 50% by 2050 compared to 2008.



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Choose the correct statements:

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

Answer : C

- ✓ Recently, India has been selected as the pioneer lead country for the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Green Voyage2050 Project.
- ✓ About Green Voyage2050 Project:
- ✓ The overall goal of the Project is to support effective implementation of the Initial IMO GHG Strategy.
- ✓ It provides support to developing countries in their efforts to reduce Greenhouse Gas emissions from ships.
- ✓ The Initial IMO Strategy sets out a clear vision and levels of ambition, one of which is to reduce the total annual GHG emissions by at least 50% by 2050 compared to 2008.
- ✓ It is envisaged that the project will strengthen MARPOL Annex VI compliance, facilitate sharing of operational best practices, catalyse the uptake of energy efficient technologies and explore opportunities for low- and zero-carbon fuels.
- ✓ Components of the project
- ✓ Component 1 – Developing global tools to support implementation of the Initial IMO GHG Strategy
- ✓ Component 2 – Capacity building, policy and NAP development
- ✓ Component 3 – Strategic partnership development
- ✓ Component 4 – Technology cooperation, innovation and pilot demonstrations
- ✓ Partnering Countries:
- ✓ The countries participating in the GreenVoyage2050 Project are: Azerbaijan, Belize, China, Cook Islands, Ecuador, Georgia, India, Kenya, Malaysia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka.
- ✓ These countries are participating as either a New Pilot Country (NPC) or a Pioneer Pilot Country (PPC).
- ✓ The GreenVoyage2050 Project, currently in its first phase, is funded by the Norwegian Ministry of Climate and Environment for an initial period up to December 2023 (NOK 64.5 million).



Q. Consider the following statements about Adopt a Heritage 2.0 Program

- 1. It is an initiative of the Ministry of Tourism, in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture and the Archaeological Survey of India.**
- 2. The project aims to encourage government and private entities to become 'Monument Mitras' and take up the responsibility of developing and upgrading basic amenities at the heritage site.**
- 3. The corporate sector is not allowed to use corporate social responsibility (CSR) funds for the upkeep of the site.**

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
- ✓ Recently, the deadline for Submission of Applications for “Adopt a Heritage 2.0” Program has been decided as December 31, 2023.
- ✓ About the Adopt a Heritage 2.0 Program:
 - ✓ It is a revamped version of the earlier scheme launched in 2017 and clearly defines the amenities sought for different monuments as per the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act (or AMASR Act), 1958.
 - ✓ The programme seeks collaboration with the private/public sector companies / trusts / societies / NGOs etc. through their CSR funding who intend to provide, develop, and maintain 'amenities' at centrally protected monuments and sites.
 - ✓ What is Adopt a Heritage Scheme?
 - ✓ It is an initiative of the Ministry of Tourism, in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture and the Archaeological Survey of India.
 - ✓ It was launched in September 2017 on the World Tourism Day.
 - ✓ Under it, the government invites entities, including public sector companies, private sector firms, as well as individuals, to develop selected monuments and heritage and tourist sites across India.
 - ✓ The project aims to encourage these entities to become 'Monument Mitras' and take up the responsibility of developing and upgrading the basic and advanced tourist amenities at these sites.



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- ✓ The corporate sector is expected to use corporate social responsibility (CSR) funds for the upkeep of the site.
- ✓ The Monument Mitras, in turn, will get limited visibility on the site premises and on the Incredible India website.

Q. PM Vishwakarma Scheme launched by the Centre, has received over ___ applications in two and a half months, data from the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE).

- A) 51.15 lakh B) 41.15 lakh
C) 31.15 lakh D) 21.15 lakh

Answer : D

- ✓ 21.15 lakh applications received under PM Vishwakarma Scheme, says Skill Ministry.
- ✓ The PM Vishwakarma Scheme, launched by the Centre, has received over 21 lakh applications in two and a half months, data from the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) show.
- ✓ About PM Vishwakarma Scheme:
- ✓ This is a central sector scheme launched by the Ministry of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises, which offers services like market linkage support, skill training, and incentives for digital transactions to artisans and craftspeople engaged in specified trades.
- ✓ Time period: Five years (FY 2023-24 to FY 2027-28).
- ✓ Aim:
- ✓ To strengthen and nurture the Guru-Shishya parampara, or family-based practice of traditional skills by artisans and craftspeople working with their hands and tools.
- ✓ The scheme also aims at improving the quality as well as the reach of the products and services of artisans and craftspeople and to ensure that the Vishwakarmas are integrated with the domestic and global value chains.
- ✓ Eligibility & coverage:
- ✓ It is available for rural and urban artisans and craftsmen across India.
- ✓ It covers 18 traditional crafts such as Boat Maker; Armourer; Blacksmith; Hammer and Tool Kit Maker; etc.
- ✓ Five lakh families will be covered in the first year and 30 lakh families over five years.
- ✓ Benefits:
- ✓ Under this scheme, the artisans and craftspeople will be provided recognition through a PM Vishwakarma certificate and ID card.



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- ✓ They will receive collateral-free credit support of up to ₹1 lakh (first tranche) and ₹2 lakh (second tranche) with a concessional interest rate of 5%.
- ✓ The scheme will further provide craftsmen with methods of skill upgradation involving basic and advanced training, a toolkit incentive of ₹15,000 and incentives for digital transactions, and marketing support.
- ✓ Under the scheme, there will be two types of skilling programmes -- Basic and Advanced and a stipend of Rs 500 per day will also be provided to beneficiaries while undergoing skills training.

Q. Consider the following statements about River Cities Alliance

1. It is a first-of-its-kind Alliance in the world symbolising the successful partnership the Ministry of Jal Shakti and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.

2. The Secretariat of the Alliance is set up at the Department of Water Resources and River Development.

3. It focuses on three broad themes- Networking, Capacity Building and Technical Support.

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&3 correct
- ✓ Statement 2 incorrect
- ✓ Recently, the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) on behalf of River Cities Alliance (RCA), has signed a Memorandum of Common Purpose (MoCP) with the Mississippi River Cities and Towns Initiative (MRCTI), representing 124 cities/towns situated along the banks of the Mississippi River, USA.
- ✓ About River Cities Alliance:
- ✓ It was launched in 2021.
- ✓ It is a first-of-its-kind Alliance in the world, symbolising the successful partnership of the two Ministries i.e., the Ministry of Jal Shakti and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
- ✓ Objective: To provide the member cities with a platform to discuss and exchange information on aspects that are vital for sustainable management of urban rivers, sharing best practices and supporting innovation.
- ✓ The Alliance is open to all river cities of India. Any river city can join the Alliance at any time.



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- ✓ The alliance has been launched initially with 30 cities namely Dehradun, Rishikesh, Haridwar, Srinagar, Varanasi, Kanpur, Prayagraj, Farrukhabad, Mirzapur, Mathura, Bijnor, Ayodhya, Patna, Bhagalpur, Begusarai, Munger, Sahibganj, Rajmahal, Howrah, Jangipur, Hugli-Chinsurah, Berhampore, Maheshtala, Aurangabad, Chennai, Bhubaneshwar, Hyderabad, Pune, Udaipur and Vijayawada.
- ✓ It focuses on three broad themes- Networking, Capacity Building and Technical Support.
- ✓ The Secretariat of the Alliance is set up at the National Institute for Urban Affairs (NIUA).
- ✓ India's River Cities Alliance Goes Global as NMCG forges alliance with MRCTI, USA at the ongoing COP28 in Dubai

Q. Who has launched the 'Developed India 2047: Voice of Youth' initiative?

- A) Narendra Modi B) Amit Shah
C) Rajnath Singh D) Anurag Thakur

Answer : A

- ✓ PM Narendra Modi has launched the initiative 'Viksit Bharat 2047: Voice of Youth'.
- ✓ On this occasion, PM Modi said that this is the right time for India and the youth should use this Amrit Kaal for a developed India.
- ✓ The aim of this initiative is to integrate the youth of the country to build a developed India

Q. Where is the World Investment Conference of 'World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies' being organized?

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

Answer : C

- ✓ The 27th World Investment Conference of 'World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies' (WAIPA) is being organized in New Delhi.
- ✓ It is being organized at India International Convention and Expo Center – Yashobhoomi. This is the largest ever world investment conference under the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade.
- ✓ WAIPA's World Investment Conference is being organized in India for the first time



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Q. Which city has topped the recently released global pollution ranking?

- A) Mumbai B) Jaipur
C) Lahore D) Dhaka

Answer : C

- ✓ According to the report of IQAir, Lahore city of Pakistan is at the top in the Global Pollution Ranking with poor air quality.
- ✓ Hazardous Air Quality Index (AQI) of 400 has been observed in Lahore.

Q. Consider following statements regarding 'Green Rising Initiative'

- 1. The initiative is launched by United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) at the COP28.**
- 2. This initiative focuses on engaging youth for impactful environmental actions at the grassroots level, aligning with the global effort to address the severe impacts of climate change.**
- 3. Through the YuWaah campaign in India, the focus is on engaging youth to drive impactful environmental actions at the grassroots level.**

How many of the above-mentioned statements are correct?

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

Answer : B

- ✓ Recently, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)'s Generation Unlimited in collaboration with India's Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change unveiled the "Green Rising" initiative at COP28 in Dubai. Hence statement 1 is not correct.
- ✓ About Green Rising Initiative:
- ✓ This initiative focuses on engaging youth for impactful environmental actions at the grassroots level, aligning with the global effort to address the severe impacts of climate change. Hence statement 2 is correct.
- ✓ The global "Green Rising" initiative and the "Green Rising India Alliance" marks a collaborative effort involving UNICEF, Generation Unlimited, and a diverse network of public, private, and youth partners.
- ✓ The main goal is to mobilize millions of young people worldwide, encouraging their active participation in green initiatives addressing and adapting to the severe impacts of climate change on their communities



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- ✓ Through the YuWaah campaign in India, the focus is on engaging youth to drive impactful environmental actions at the grassroots level. Hence statement 3 is correct.

Q. Often seen in news, the Consumer Confidence Survey, is released by:

- A) NITI AAYOG
- B) Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
- C) Ministry of Finance
- D) Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution

Answer : B

- ✓ The Consumer Confidence Survey is being released by Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- ✓ It is conducted in 13 Indian cities.
- ✓ It is a Bi-monthly exercise, done to indicate the comparison between current economic scenarios in the country with the last survey.

Q. Who has been elected as the new Chief Minister of Rajasthan?

- A) Rajnath Singh
- B) Vasundhara Raje
- C) Balak Nath
- D) Bhajan Lal Sharma

Answer : D

- ✓ The name of Bhajan Lal Sharma has been announced as the new Chief Minister of Rajasthan.
- ✓ He was also the state general secretary of Bharatiya Janata Party four times.
- ✓ 56-year-old Sharma has become MLA for the first time from Sanganer Assembly of Jaipur.
- ✓ He defeated Pushpendra Bhardwaj of Congress

NEWLY CHIEF MINISTER IN NEWS 2023

- Bhajan Lal Sharma newly elected Chief Minister of Rajasthan (BJP)
- Mohan Yadav is the newly elected Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh (BJP)
- Mohan Yadav, an MLA from Ujjain South.
- Lalduhoma sworn in as the new Chief Minister of Mizoram [Zoram People's Movement (ZPM)].
- Vishnu Deo Sai is New Chhattisgarh Chief Minister (BJP).
- Anumula Revanth Reddy has taken oath as the Chief Minister of Telangana.



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RAJASTHAN IN NEWS 2023

- Recently, during the Rajasthan International Folk Festival, artists performed the Kalbeliya dance.
- Rajasthan government has launched the 'iStart Talent Connect Portal' at Jaipur's Techno Hub to boost employment opportunities in the state.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched multiple projects worth ₹5,000 crore in Rajasthan and asserted that they will lead to further development of the state.
- Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot has announced the formation of three new districts in the state — Malpura, Sujangarh, and Kuchman City. Rajasthan will now have 53 districts.
- Rajasthan government has issued an order to conduct a caste survey in the state. It will become the second state in India to carry out such a survey, after Bihar.
- Neyveli Lignite Corporation (NLC) India Limited, a Navratna Central Public Sector Undertaking (CPSE) under the Ministry of Coal, has emerged victorious in securing an 810 MW Solar PV project capacity from Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Nigam Limited (RRVUNL).
- Prime Minister recently offered prayers at the Sanwariya Seth Temple in Chittorgarh, Rajasthan.
- NABARD has sanctioned Rs 1,974.07 crore to the Rajasthan government under the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) for 2023-24.
- Noor Shekhawat became the first transgender person in Rajasthan to be issued a birth certificate with the gender recorded as transgender.
- For the first time in India, the Rajasthan government introduced the Rajasthan Platform Based Gig Workers Bill, 2023.
- Rajasthan Assembly passed a bill to provide minimum guaranteed income to all adult citizens as part of a welfare package for the state.
- Rajasthan government is set to take stringent measures against recruitment exam paper leaks by introducing a bill in the upcoming assembly session.
- Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Shri Nitin Gadkari inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of 11 National Highway projects worth Rs 5600 crore in Pratapgarh, Rajasthan.
- Rajasthan government has sanctioned Rs 13.48 crore to promote religious tourism at Nagaur, Jaisalmer, and Alwar regions of the state.
- PM Modi Launches Projects Worth Rs 5,500 Crore In Rajasthan, Including 114 Km Long Six-Lane Udaipur-Shamlaji Section Of NH-48.



- Lithium reserves have been discovered in Rajasthan's Degana following the recent discovery in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Jal Jan Abhiyan virtually on Abu Road in the Sirohi district of Rajasthan.

Q. Who will be honored with the Padmapani Lifetime Achievement Award?

- A) Amitabh Bachchan B) Javed Akhtar
C) Asha Bhosle D) Rajinikanth

Answer : B

- ✓ Veteran lyricist and writer Javed Akhtar will be honored with the Padmapani Lifetime Achievement Award at the Ajanta-Ellora Film Festival.
- ✓ He is being given this award for his contribution to the Indian film industry.
- ✓ He is the co-writer of classic Hindi cinema films like "Zanjeer", "Deewar", "Sholay", "Don", "Kala Patthar" and "Mr. India".
- ✓ Ajanta-Ellora Film Festival was earlier known as Aurangabad International Film Festival

Q. In which state is the annual 'Shar Amartala Torgya' festival celebrated every year?

- A) Assam B) Arunachal Pradesh
C) Meghalaya D) Manipur

Answer : B

- ✓ 'Shar Amartala Torgya' Festival is an annual festival celebrated in the state of Arunachal Pradesh.
- ✓ Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu participated in the festival organized in West Kameng district.
- ✓ Amartala (Balemu) of the state is a place of utmost religious importance

FESTIVAL IN NEWS 2023

- 'Shar Amartala Torgya' Festival : Arunachal Pradesh
- 24th Hornbill Festival : Nagaland
- Dhillio festival : Goa
- India International Science Festival (IISF) 2023 : Faridabad, Haryana



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- Arattu festival : Kerala
- Banni festival : Andhra Pradesh
- Zanskar Festival : Ladakh
- Indo-Latin America Cultural Festival : New Delhi
- Nuakhai festival : Odisha
- Nadi Utsav : Delhi
- Karnataka Cultural Festival : Sri Lanka .
- Unmesha' – International Literature Festival and 'Utkarsh' – Festival of Folk and Tribal Performing Arts : Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh
- Festival of Libraries 2023 : New Delhi .
- Chachin Grazing Festival : Arunachal Pradesh
- Harela Festival : Uttarakhand
- Bonalu Festival : Telangana
- Kharchi Puja : Tripura
- Palkhi festival : Maharashtra
- Raja festival : Odisha
- Kheer Bhawani Mela : Jammu and Kashmir
- Great Prayer Festival : Ladakh
- Sinthan Snow Festival : Jammu and Kashmir
- Heritage Festival : Goa
- Thawe Festival : Bihar
- Bohag Bihu festival : Assam
- 49th Khajuraho Dance Festival : Madhya Pradesh
- Yaoshang festival : Manipur
- Purple Fest : Goa
- Orange Festival : Nagaland
- Kala Ghoda Arts Festival : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Losar Festival : Ladakh
- 23rd Hornbill Festival : Nagaland
- Gaan Ngai festival : Manipur



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- Cherchera Festival : Chhattisgarh
- 26th National Youth Festival 2023 : Hubballi, Karnataka
- International Yoga Festival 2023 : Rishikesh, Uttarakhand
- Tribal Dance Festival & Military Tattoo : New Delhi
- Mongeet Festival : Assam
- International Kite Festival 2023 : Ahmedabad, Gujarat
- Vigyanika Science Literature Festival : Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh
- Baisakhi is a harvest festival : Punjab and Haryana

Q. Where is the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence summit being organized?

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

Answer : A

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI) summit at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi.
- ✓ GPAI is a multidisciplinary initiative aimed at promoting cutting-edge research on AI-related priorities.
- ✓ The world's top Artificial Intelligence gamechangers including Intel, Reliance Jio, Google, Meta, Paytm and Microsoft are participating in it.

Q. Who has been elected as the Prime Minister of Poland?

- A) Beata Szydło
- B) Donald Tusk
- C) Andrzej Duda
- D) Mariusz Błaszczak

Answer : B

- ✓ The Parliament of Poland has elected Donald Tusk as Prime Minister.
- ✓ Tusk came to power after the coalition's victory in the elections held two months ago.
- ✓ 248 parliamentary votes were cast in support of Tusk in the 460-seat lower house of parliament.
- ✓ Poland is a Central European country, its capital is Warsaw



NEWLY PRIME MINISTER IN NEWS 2022 – 23

- Donald Tusk : Poland
- 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
- 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



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Q. Joint military exercise "VINBAX-2023" is being organized between India and which country?

- A) France
B) Vietnam
C) Malaysia
D) Mongolia

Answer : B

- ✓ Indian Armed Forces contingent has reached Hanoi for the joint military exercise 'VINBAX-2023'.
- ✓ The fourth edition of WinBEX is being organized in Hanoi, Vietnam.
- ✓ Winbax exercise is conducted between India and Vietnam.
- ✓ This time this exercise is being organized from 11 to 21 December 2023.
- ✓ The practice 'Winbax' was started in the year 2018.

Q. Which country has won the 12th edition of Admiral's Cup 2023 held at Indian Naval Academy, Ezhimala?

- A) Italy
B) Japan
C) Malaysia
D) USA

Answer : A

- ✓ The 12th edition of 'Admiral's Cup' Sailing Regatta concluded with a glittering closing ceremony at Ettikulam Beach at Indian Naval Academy (INA), Ezhimala.
- ✓ Team Italy represented by Midshipman Avallone Antonio & Midshipman Creati Carlo Leonardo won the Admiral's Cup 23.
- ✓ Team India represented by Midshipman PPK Reddy and Cadet GY Reddy was the Runners-Up and Team United Kingdom & Germany represented by Officer Cadet Lucy Bell and Midshipman Aaron Middleton from United Kingdom and Cadet Beckman Carl & Cadet Hinz Anton from Germany shared the third position.

ITALY IN NEWS 2023

- Veteran actor Kabir Bedi awarded Italy's civilian honour 'Order of Merit'.
- Italy has officially withdrawn from China's ambitious Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) marking a significant departure from its previous stance as the only G7 nation to participate.
- Italy defeat Australia to win Davis Cup for first time since 1976.
- India and Italy have cemented their defense cooperation with the signing of a significant agreement.



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- India and Italy sign Mobility and Migration Partnership Agreement to facilitate movement of workers, students.
- Former Italian President Giorgio Napolitano has died at the age of 98.
- After ChatGPT, Italy plans to ban English language.
- “V.C Yeshwant Ghadge Sundial Memorial” unveiled at Montone, Perugia in Italy as a tribute to Indian troops who fought in in the Italian Campaign during the Second World War.
- ITALY
- Capital : Rome
- Currency : Euro
- President : Sergio Mattarella
- Prime Minister : Giorgia Meloni

Q. Consider the following statements about YUVAi Initiative

1. It is a joint initiative of Ministry of Tribal Affairs and Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.

2. It aims to train 500 tribal youths yearly with AI skills and empower them to become human-centric designers and users of AI.

Choose the correct statements:

A) 1 only

B) 2 only

C) Both 1 and 2

D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer : D

- ✓ Recently, the Ministry of Electronics and IT has said that the program- 'YUVAi- Youth for Unnati and Vikas with AI' will be featured at the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI) Summit.
- ✓ About YUVAi Initiative:
- ✓ It is a collaborative initiative of National e-Governance Division (NeGD), Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India and Intel India.
- ✓ This programme, designed to equip the youth with essential Artificial Intelligence skills, has garnered attention for its innovative approach and commitment to enabling a future-ready workforce.



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- ✓ It is aimed to foster a deeper understanding of AI, to enable school students from class 8 to 12 across the nation with AI skills and empower them to become human-centric designers and users of AI.

Q. Who has been named as the International Anti Corruption Champion?

- A) Nikhil Dey
- B) Preeti Desai
- C) Indira Nooyi
- D) Vikram Sinha

Answer : A

- ✓ Nikhil Dey has been named as International Anti-Corruption Champion by USA.
- ✓ The United States Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs gave this honor to Indian social activist Nikhil Dey.
- ✓ Nikhil is also the co-founder of 'Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan' in India.

Q. PM Narendra Modi has sanctioned an ambitious urban flood mitigation project for which city, with a budget allocation of Rs 561.29 crore under the National Disaster Mitigation Fund (NDMF)?

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

Answer : A

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has sanctioned an ambitious urban flood mitigation project for Chennai, with a budget allocation of Rs. 561.29 crore under the National Disaster Mitigation Fund (NDMF).
- ✓ This announcement arrives as Chennai grapples with the devastating aftermath of Cyclone Michaung. Torrential rains have left the city submerged in water, highlighting the critical need for improved flood prevention measures.
- ✓ The 'Integrated Urban Flood Management Activities for Chennai Basin Project' represents a proactive measure to address the challenges posed by urban flooding

Q. Who has addressed the 2nd Edition of the flagship Financial Technology event – Infinity Forum 2.0?

- A) Draupadi Murmu
- B) Narendra Modi
- C) Jagdeep Dhankhar
- D) Nirmala Sitharaman

Answer : B

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has addressed the 2nd Edition of the flagship Financial Technology event – Infinity Forum 2.0.



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- ✓ The event is hosted by the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) and Gujarat International Finance Tec-City, GIFT City, under the aegis of the Union Government.
- ✓ Organized as a pre-cursor event to Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit 2024, the 2nd edition of the Infinity Forum 2.0, was held in hybrid mode, with an invite-only in-person event scheduled in GIFT City and for virtual participation from participants across the globe.

Q. Who has inaugurated the new office premises of Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT), Mumbai Bench?

- A) Droupadi Murmu B) DY Chandrachud
C) Jagdeep Dhankhar D) Narendra Modi

Answer : B

- ✓ The new office premises of Central Administrative Tribunal, Mumbai Bench at Nishtha Bhawan, New Marine Lines, near Churchgate Station, Mumbai-400020; has been inaugurated by Chief Justice of India Dr DY Chandrachud.
- ✓ He commended the Central Government's support in establishing judicial infrastructure.
- ✓ He has further elaborated the creation of the Tribunals by 42nd amendment with the objective of combating the delays and backlog faced by the Courts.

Q. Which country will host the 37th session of the Asia Pacific Regional Conference (APRC) of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in February 2024?

- A) Maldives B) Sri Lanka
C) Vietnam D) Thailand

Answer : B

- ✓ Sri Lanka will host the 37th session of the Asia Pacific Regional Conference (APRC) of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in February 2024
- ✓ The conference will enable ministers of agriculture and high officials from 46 member countries across the Asia Pacific region to discuss challenges and priorities related to food and agriculture, promoting regional coherence.
- ✓ According to the FAO, by hosting the event, Sri Lanka demonstrates the country's dedication to the growth of sustainable agriculture, not just at home but across the region, and showcases its commitment to being partner in sustainable agricultural development.



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Q. Author Tshering Tashi has been conferred with the Sahitya Akademi's 'Premchand Fellowship'. He is from which country?

- A) Nepal
B) Singapore
C) Vietnam
D) Bhutan

Answer : D

- ✓ Noted Bhutanese author Tshering Tashi was conferred with the Sahitya Akademi's 'Premchand Fellowship'.
- ✓ Based in Bhutan's capital Thimphu, Mr. Tashi is a writer known for his works in the field of creative non-fiction.
- ✓ He has written numerous books on Bhutan and has made his country accessible, engaging, and interesting for the youth. He is also the co-director of the Bhutan Echoes Literary Festival.
- ✓ BHUTAN
- ✓ Capital : Thimphu
- ✓ Currency : Ngultrum

Q. Naeem Sayyed, a well-known actor known for his comic roles, passed away at the age of 67. He was also known as ___ by fans?

- A) Junior Sayyed
B) Junior Majnu
C) Junior Mahmood
D) Junior Chacha

Answer : C

- ✓ Naeem Sayyed, a well-known actor known for his comic roles, passed away at the age of 67.
- ✓ He also known as Junior Mahmood by fans, had a prolific career that included many critically acclaimed films.
- ✓ For the unversed, Junior Mehmoood was a part of Nakuul Mehta and Disha Parmar starrer Pyaar Ka Dard Hai Meetha Meetha Pyara Pyara.
- ✓ Junior Mehmoood was a well-known actor who appeared in films such as Caravan, Mera Naam Joker, and Haathi Mere Saathi

Q. Which state impalements 'Maha Lakshmi scheme', aimed at providing free travel to women in buses?

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



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Answer : B

- ✓ Telangana government has issued guidelines for the implementation of Maha Lakshmi scheme, aimed at providing free travel to women in TSRTC buses.
- ✓ The Maha Lakshmi scheme aims to provide free travel for girls, women of all age groups, and transgender persons in state-run Palle Velugu and express buses operated by the Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TSRTC) within the borders of Telangana State.

Q. Who has become the first woman medical officer to be posted at the 'operational post' of Siachen Glacier?

A) Fatima Wasim

B) Shiva Chauhan

C) Geetika Kaur

D) Avani Chaturvedi

Answer : A

- ✓ Captain Fatima Wasim has become the first woman medical officer to be posted at the operational post of Siachen Glacier.
- ✓ Fatima has been trained in Siachen Battle School.
- ✓ Fatima Wasim has been posted at a post at an altitude of 15200 feet.
- ✓ Recently, Captain Geetika Kaul of Snow Leopard Brigade had become the first woman medical officer to be deployed in Siachen.

FIRST'S FEMALE IN NEWS 2023

- Captain Fatima Wasim has become the first woman medical officer to be posted at the operational post of Siachen Glacier.
- Captain Geetika Kaul of Snow Leopard Brigade had become the first woman medical officer to be deployed in Siachen.
- 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.



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- 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).
- 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 Jhawar 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.



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- ✓ The Indian ConsumerTech industry is set to rise as the total addressable market will reach ~USD 300 Bn, by 2027, growing at a CAGR of ~25%.
- ✓ Chiratae Ventures, in collaboration with 1Lattice and powered by Google, has unveiled “Cracking the Code: Unveiling India’s Consumer Landscape,” the first instalment of a three-part Annual Report series.

TARGET YEAR IN NEWS 2023

- Indian Consumer Tech To Touch \$300 Bn By 2027.
- India is expected to overtake Japan and Germany to emerge as the third largest economy in the world by 2027.
- Members of the Association of Asia Pacific Airlines (AAPA) collectively have set an “aspirational target” of 5% sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) usage by 2030.
- India to push developed nations to become carbon-negative before 2050.
- This ‘Bharat Drone Shakti 2023’ event will help the country to achieve its commitment of becoming a global drone hub by 2030.
- Vaccine manufacturer Indian Immunologicals Limited (IIL) expects to commercially launch its dengue fever vaccine by early 2026.
- Group Chief Economic Advisor at the State Bank of India (SBI), Soumya Kanti Ghoshon has reiterated that India is likely to become the third-largest economy by 2027.
- The Ministry of Coal has set a target to gasify 100 million tonnes of coal by FY 2030.
- According to the report of Goldman Sachs Research, by the year 2075, India will become the second largest economy in the world after China leaving behind not only Japan and Germany but also America.
- UNEP suggests measures to reduce 80% of world's plastic pollution by 2040.
- India aims to become one trillion dollar tourism economy by 2047.
- The government announced a plan to add 250 GW of renewable energy capacity in the next five years to achieve its target of 500 GW of clean energy by 2030.
- India has set targets for half of its installed electricity capacity to be from non-fossil fuel sources by 2030 and for the country to attain net-zero carbon emissions by 2070.
- 2023 foreign trade policy has the vision to take India’s goods and services exports to \$2 trillion by 2030.



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- India to get 9% of Electricity from Nuclear Sources by 2047.
- India sets target to become 'Global Hub for Green Ship' building by 2030
- Indian Railways to become Net Zero Carbon Emitter by 2030.
- India to produce 5 million tonnes of green hydrogen by 2030.
- India has set a target to replace the use of diesel by renewable energy in the agriculture sector by 2024.
- Indian Government has set a target to eliminate TB in India by 2025.
- India targets ₹25,000-cr worth defence exports by 2024.
- Reserve Bank of India's 2023 monetary policy objective is to hold inflation within the mandated tolerance band and guide it towards the medium-term target of 4% by 2024.

Q. Reserve Bank of India has increased the limit for automatic payments through UPI to ___per transaction from the existing Rs 15,000 for certain categories .

- A) Rs 1 lakh B) Rs 5 lakh
C) Rs 2 lakh D) Rs 3 lakh

Answer : A

- ✓ Automatic payment limit through UPI raised to Rs 1 lakh.
- ✓ Reserve Bank of India increased the limit for automatic payments through UPI to Rs 1 lakh per transaction from the existing Rs 15,000 for certain categories, including subscription to mutual funds.
- ✓ As of now, relaxation in Additional Factor of Authentication (AFA) is permitted while processing e-mandates/standing instructions on cards, prepaid payment instruments and UPI (Unified Payments Interface), for subsequent recurring transactions with values up to Rs 15,000.
- ✓ UPI has emerged a preferred mode of payment for a large section of the population with over 11.23 billion transactions recorded in November.

Q. Defense Ministry to buy 70,000 more assault rifles from Sig Sauer for ₹800 crore. Sig Sauer belongs to which country?

- A) Israel B) France
C) Russia D) United States

Answer : D



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- ✓ The Ministry of Defence has cleared a proposal to purchase 70,000 more semi-automatic assault rifles from US-based Sig Sauer for Indian Army which is already using them from 2019 onwards.
- ✓ The repeat order for acquisition of Sig Sauer is valued at ₹800 crore.
- ✓ India has already purchased over 72,400 7.62 x 51mm calibre Sig Sauer assault rifles, of which Army got 66,400, Air Force 4000 and Navy 2000, offering an alternative to indigenously made INSAS and Kalashnikov rifles.
- ✓ The armed forces have recently acquired Russian AK-103 in significant numbers besides its expected deliveries of the AK-203 which are being manufactured at a Amethi based joint venture after the two countries inked a joint venture

Q. Aditya Birla Group's Hindalco Industries will invest Rs 800 crore to set up a battery aluminium foil plant in which state?

A) Telangana

B) Madhya Pradesh

C) Odisha

D) Assam

Answer : C

- ✓ Hindalco Industries plans Rs 800 crore unit in Odisha to tap EV ecosystem.
- ✓ Aditya Birla Group's Hindalco Industries will invest Rs 800 crore to set up a battery aluminium foil plant in Odisha as it evaluates opportunities in the electric mobility value chain.
- ✓ The 25,000-tonne plant will be commissioned by July 2025.
- ✓ "The company is investing Rs 800 crore to build a new plant near Sambalpur in Odisha that will initially produce 25,000 tonnes of the resilient product which forms the backbone of Lithium-ion and Sodium-ion cells,".
- ✓ Hindalco expects national demand for battery-grade aluminium foil will touch 40,000 tonnes by 2030.

ODISHA IN NEWS 2023

- Aditya Birla Group's Hindalco Industries will invest Rs 800 crore to set up a battery aluminium foil plant in Odisha.
- President Draupadi Murmu has launched the National Education Campaign titled "New Education for New India" in Odisha.
- Odisha Cabinet, led by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, has granted approval for the 'Location Accessible Multi-modal Initiative (LAccMI)' scheme.



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- Minister of Civil Aviation, Shri Jyotiraditya M Scindia inaugurated Utkela Airport owned by the Government of Odisha.
- Recently, Koraput Kalajeera Rice, an aromatic rice of Odisha has got Geographical Indications status.
- Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has distributed land right certificates to the 65,000 poor families living in the slums of five metropolitan cities including Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Berhampur, Sambalpur, and Rourkela.
- Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has launched the 'Mo Jungle Jami Yojana' for indigenous people of the state to ensure individual and community rights over forest land for eligible beneficiaries.
- India's biggest natural arch formed 184 million years ago discovered in Odisha by Geological Survey of India (GSI).
- Odisha becomes the first state to notify a committee for conservation of seeds preserved by tribal farmers.
- Odisha government launched the 'Mo Ghara' (My Home) housing scheme.
- PM Modi launches railway projects worth over 8,000 crore rupees in Odisha.
- Odisha government has expanded the jurisdiction of Special Development Councils (SDCs) from nine to 23 districts to improve the lives of 84 lakh tribal people.
- Odisha has its 88th foundation day on 1st April 2023.
- World Bank's Board of Executive Directors has approved USD 100 million loan under Odisha State Capability and Resilient Growth Program.
- Odisha won the UN-Habitat's World Habitat Awards 2023 for Jaga Mission, a 5T initiative of the state.
- Aska police station of Odisha's Ganjam district became the country's number one police station.
- Gangapur police station in Odisha's Ganjam district has been awarded the second best police station award.
- Gold Deposits Found at Different Location in Three Districts of Odisha, including Deogarh, Keonjhar, and Mayurbhanj.
- Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik announced that the Odisha government aims to make Odisha slum-free by the end of 2023.



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Q. Who has recently been selected for Vyas Samman, 2023?

- A) Yashpal
B) Pushpa Bharti
C) Nirad Chandra Choudhary
D) Aarti Goswami

Answer : B

- ✓ Noted Hindi writer Pushpa Bharti's 2016 memoir, 'Yaadein, Yaadein aur Yaadein', has been selected for the 33rd Vyas Samman, 2023.
- ✓ This information has been given by KK Birla Foundation in an official statement.
- ✓ Vyas Samman is a literary award which was first given in 1991.
- ✓ The Vyas Samman is a literary award in India, first awarded in 1991.
- ✓ It is awarded annually by the K.K. Birla Foundation and includes a cash payout of Rs 4,00,000 (as of 2019).
- ✓ To be eligible for the award, the literary work must be in the Hindi language and have been published in the past 10 years.

Q. Which actor has recently been honored with Italy's prestigious civilian honour?

- A) Amitabh Bachchan
B) Kabir Bedi
C) R Madhavan
D) Manoj Bajpayee

Answer : B

- ✓ Actor Kabir Bedi has been honored with the prestigious civilian honor 'Order of Merit of the Italian Republic' given by Italy.
- ✓ This award is known as 'Merito Della Repubblica Italiana'.
- ✓ This is one of the highest honors of Italy.
- ✓ It was established on 3 March 1951

Q. SBI Mutual Fund has bought 1.5% stake in which bank for Rs 190 crore?

- A) Karur Vysya Bank
B) HDFC Bank
C) ICICI Bank
D) Yes Bank

Answer : A

- ✓ SBI Mutual Fund buys 1.5% stake Karur Vysya Bank for Rs 190 crore.
- ✓ SBI Mutual Fund acquired shares of scheduled commercial bank Karur Vysya Bank for Rs 190 crore through open market transactions. According to the bulk deal data available with the BSE and NSE, SBI



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Mutual Fund (MF) purchased a total of 1,20,00,000 shares, amounting to a 1.5 per cent stake in Karur Vysya Bank

Q. Which cryptocurrency platforms, has unveiled PeepalCo, a new umbrella brand?

- A) Ethereum
B) Solana
C) Tether
D) CoinSwitch

Answer : D

- ✓ CoinSwitch, one of India's top cryptocurrency investment platforms, has unveiled PeepalCo, a new umbrella brand that will house all its business divisions as part of its wealth tech expansion.
- ✓ Ashish Singhal, Co-Founder and Group CEO, PeepalCo group.

Q. Which country's NGO has been honored with the 'International Gender Equality Award' 2023?

- A) Syria
B) Israel
C) Afghanistan
D) Brazil

Answer : C

- ✓ Finland has honored an Afghan NGO with the 'International Gender Equality Award' 2023.
- ✓ This NGO works to promote and protect women's rights in Afghanistan.
- ✓ Prime Minister of Finland Petteri Orpo also presented 300,000 euros along with the award.

Q. Who has become the fastest batsman to score 2,000 runs in T20I in terms of ball?

- A) Suryakumar Yadav
B) Glenn Maxwell
C) Virat Kohli
D) David Miller

Answer : A

- ✓ Indian T20 captain Suryakumar Yadav created a new record on the South African tour, becoming the fastest batsman to score 2000 runs in T20 International with the ball.
- ✓ Also, Surya jointly achieved this milestone with star batsman Virat Kohli in 56 innings

Q. How many million US dollars will IMF provide to Sri Lanka to improve its economy?

- A) 100 million
B) 248 million
C) 337 million
D) 510 million

Answer : C



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- ✓ Sri Lanka will get 337 million US dollars assistance from IMF to stabilize the economy.
- ✓ The IMF Executive Board has completed the first review under the 48-month Extended Fund Facility with Sri Lanka.
- ✓ China holds 52 percent of Sri Lanka's total debt.
- ✓ The International Monetary Fund (IMF) is a major financial agency of the United Nations.

Q. UNICEF's Generation Unlimited will collaborate with which Indian ministry to launch the "Green Rising" initiative at the COP28 Summit?

- A) Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
- B) Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
- C) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- D) Ministry of Environment and Forests

Answer : D

- ✓ UNICEF's Generation Unlimited, in collaboration with India's Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change will unveil the "Green Rising" initiative at COP28 in Dubai.
- ✓ The global "Green Rising" initiative and the "Green Rising India Alliance" marks a collaborative effort involving UNICEF, Generation Unlimited, and a diverse network of public, private, and youth partners.
- ✓ The main goal is to mobilize millions of young people worldwide, encouraging their active participation in green initiatives addressing and adapting to the severe impacts of climate change on their communities.
- ✓ The "Green Rising" initiative focuses on engaging youth for impactful environmental actions at the grassroots level, aligning with the global effort to address the severe impacts of climate change.
- ✓ The global "Green Rising" initiative and the "Green Rising India Alliance" marks a collaborative effort involving UNICEF, Generation Unlimited and a diverse network of public, private, and youth partner.

Q. Which company has joined hands with Laghu Udyog Bharati to empower India's micro-enterprises with knowledge about government schemes, and digital credit?

- A) U GRO Capital
- B) Canara Bank
- C) Tata Capital
- D) Dhani Capital

Answer : A



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- ✓ A leading DataTech NBFC focused on MSME lending, U GRO Capital has joined hands with Laghu Udyog Bharati (an organization dedicated to supporting and promoting micro-enterprises) to empower India's micro-enterprises with knowledge about government schemes, and digital credit.
- ✓ This Strategic Partnership Aims to Educate Small Businesses on Government Schemes and Promote Digital Credit across the Country.
- ✓ India's MSMEs have long been the backbone of the country's economy, contributing significantly to employment generation, industrial production, and overall economic growth

Q. IDFC FIRST Bank has launched a youth-centric "FIRST SWYP" credit card in partnership with which company?

- A) RuPay B) Mastercard
C) American Express D) Visa

Answer : B

- ✓ IDFC FIRST Bank has introduced a youth-centric "FIRST SWYP" credit card in partnership with Mastercard.
- ✓ This card can be used as a no-interest charge card and has curated features — flexible bill repayments through EMIs, a benefit-laden referral program, and exclusive and relevant merchant partnerships.
- ✓ The card will address demands of new-age customers, blending benefits across their favorite categories of spends and lifestyle-related offers and innovative propositions, it added.
- ✓ The new card is the Bank's second youth-focused credit card. It had earlier launched "FIRST Millennia Credit Cards"

Q. Who has become the new President of the industry association FICCI (Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry) for 2023-24?

- A) Anish Shah B) Sandip Somany
C) Sanjiv Mehta D) Rashesh Shah

Answer : A

- ✓ Group CEO of Mahindra Group and Managing Director of M&M, Anish Shah has become the new President of the industry association FICCI (Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry).
- ✓ Shah succeeded Subhrakant Panda as FICCI President at the apex chamber's just-finished 96th Annual Convention in the capital.



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- ✓ Harsha Vardhan Agarwal, Emami Limited's Vice Chairman and Managing Director, has been promoted to Senior Vice President at FICCI.
- ✓ Before joining Mahindra Group, Shah was President and CEO of GE Capital India from 2009 to 2014, where he oversaw the company's restructuring, including the rescue of its SBI Card joint venture.
- ✓ Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI)
- ✓ It is a business lobby group of top business houses in India which was founded by Ghanshyam Das Birla.
- ✓ It was set up in 1927
- ✓ It articulates the views and concerns of industry and tries to influence the government to make policy which is in favour of the industry and business.
- ✓ Headquarters: New Delhi
- ✓ President: Anish Shah

Q. Who has been elected as the speaker of the Madhya Pradesh Assembly?

A) Shivraj Singh Chauhan

B) Narendra Singh Tomar

C) Rajendra Shukla

D) Jagdish Devda

Answer : B

- ✓ The newly elected BJP MLAs in Madhya Pradesh have elected Dr Mohan Yadav as the new chief minister of the state. Earlier this month, the BJP scored a landslide victory in Madhya Pradesh by winning 166 seats.
- ✓ Outgoing finance minister and two-time MLA Jagdish Devda from Mandsaur and outgoing public relations minister MLA Rajendra Shukla from Rewa have been elected as deputy chief ministers.
- ✓ Mohan Yadav is a member of Madhya Pradesh Legislative Assembly from the Ujjain Dakshin constituency in Ujjain district
- ✓ He first became an MLA in 2013 from the same seat. He won the assembly elections from the same seat in 2018 and 2023.
- ✓ Mohan Yadav is also a cabinet minister in Shivraj Singh Chouhan's government.
- ✓ Mohan Yadav has won the 2023 elections by more than 13000 votes.
- ✓ Mohan Yadav has several educational degrees including BSC, LLB, MA, MBA, and PhD.
- ✓ Ex-union agriculture minister Narendra Singh Tomar has been elected as the speaker of the Madhya Pradesh Assembly



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Q. Kashvi Gautam has become the most expensive uncapped player of all time in the Women's Premier League (WPL) Auction 2024. Kashvi Gautam has been acquired by which team for Rs 2 crore?

- A) Mumbai Indians B) UP Warrior
C) Delhi Capitals D) Gujarat Giants

Answer : D

- ✓ India's young player Kashvee Gautam has bagged a huge profit in the star auction ahead of the 2024 season of Women's Premier League (WPL 2024).
- ✓ Kashvi became the most valuable uncapped player of all time in the Women's Premier League. The young star, who had a base price of Rs 10 lakh, was acquired by Gujarat Giants for Rs 2 crore.
- ✓ The Chandigarh star was snapped up by Gujarat after a fierce bidding war with UP Warriors. Within minutes Gautham owns Vrinda Dinesh's record of fetching Rs 1.3 crore in this auction itself.

Q. Name the Indian women's doubles pair of have secured their second Super 100 title with a straight-game win over Chinese Taipei's Sung Shuo Yun and Yu Chien Hui at the Guwahati Masters 2023?

- A) Ashmita Chaliha and Tanisha Crasto
B) Gayatri Gopichand and Ashwini Ponnappa
C) Tanya Hemanth and Tanisha Crast
D) Tanisha Crasto and Ashwini Ponnappa

Answer : D

- ✓ Indian women's doubles pair of Tanisha Crasto and Ashwini Ponnappa have secured their second Super 100 title with a straight-game win over Chinese Taipei's Sung Shuo Yun and Yu Chien Hui at the Guwahati Masters 2023.
- ✓ The second-seeded Indian combination, which finished runners-up at the Syed Modi International Super 300 tournament in Lucknow, beat the world no. 81 combination 21-13 21-19 in a 40-minute final.
- ✓ This was the third title for the Indian pair, which had clinched the Abu Dhabi Masters Super 100 and Nates International Challenge this year.
- ✓ The BWF (Badminton World Federation) World Tour is divided into six levels, namely World Tour Finals, four Super 1000, six Super 750, seven Super 500, and 11 Super 300. One more category of the tournament, the BWF Tour Super 100 level, also offers ranking points



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Q. Which of the following has signed an agreement with DC Multi Modal Park Limited, an SPV of DeltaBulk Shipping India Pvt Ltd, for the development of Multi Modal Logistics Park (MMLP) at Nagpur?

A) DRDO

B) NHAI

C) HAL

D) BRO

Answer : B

- ✓ NHAI collaborates with SPV to develop Rs 673 cr logistics park at Nagpur.
- ✓ The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has signed an agreement with DC Multi Modal Park (Nagpur) Limited, an SPV of DeltaBulk Shipping India Pvt Ltd, for the development of Multi Modal Logistics Park (MMLP) at Nagpur. The MMLP will be developed in an area of 150 acres under the public-private partnership (PPP) model at an estimated cost of Rs 673 crore. This project is poised to be the first MMLP in Maharashtra under the PM GatiShakti National Master Plan, making it a significant milestone in the country's development.

Q. National Energy Conservation Day is observed every year on which day?

A) 14 December

B) 12 December

C) 13 December

D) 11 December

Answer : A

- ✓ The National Energy Conservation Day is celebrated every year on 14 December by Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), under Ministry of Power.
- ✓ Purpose: to raise awareness among the general public about the importance of energy conservation and energy efficiency, as well as holistic development for overall effort towards climate change mitigation.
- ✓ The Energy Conservation Act in India was executed by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) in the year 2001.
- ✓ BEE is a constitutional body that comes under Government of India and helps in the development of policies and strategies in order to reduce the energy use.

Q. How Many Airports in the country (India) have been covered under 'Krishi Udan Scheme'?

A) 179

B) 134

C) 91

D) 58



Answer : D

- ✓ The Government has said that 58 Airports in the country have been covered under the Krishi Udan Scheme.
- ✓ The Scheme was launched in 2020 on international and national routes to assist farmers in transporting agricultural products to help improve their value realization.
- ✓ Krishi Udan Scheme 2.0 was also announced in 2021 focusing on transporting perishable food products from the hilly areas, North Eastern States, and tribal areas..

AIRPORT IN NEWS 2023

- 58 Airports in the country have been covered under Krishi Udan Scheme.
- 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.



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- 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.
- 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. Which bank has launched an exclusive savings bank product for women (Nari Shakti Savings Account) with an independent source of income?

A) Bank of Maharashtra

B) Canara Bank

C) Bank of India

D) Punjab National Bank

Answer : C

- ✓ Bank of India (BoI) has launched an exclusive savings bank product for women (Nari Shakti Savings Account) with an independent source of income.
- ✓ The savings account has features such as personal accident insurance cover of up to ₹1 crore, discounted health insurance and wellness products, and rebates on locker facilities for gold and diamond SB A/C holders, among others.
- ✓ Additionally, the account offers a concessional rate of interest on retail loans and waiver of processing charges on these loans, free issuance of credit cards and a higher usage limit of up to ₹5 lakh on POS.
- ✓ The Nari Shakti savings account is conceptualized as a financial savings tool to support working women (18 years and above), with an independent source of income, enabling them to become self-reliant and enjoy a higher degree of financial freedom.
- ✓ For each New Nari Shakti account opened, the bank said it will make a contribution of ₹10 towards the CSR fund, which will be utilised for the socio-economic development of underprivileged women and the girl child.



BOI IN NEWS 2023

- Bank of India (BoI) has launched an exclusive savings bank product for women (Nari Shakti Savings Account) with an independent source of income.
- Bank of India has inaugurated its IFSC Banking Unit (IBU) at GIFT SEZ area in Gandhinagar
- Rajneesh Karnatak has been appointed as the MD & CEO of the Bank of India (BOI) with effect from April 29, 2023.
- He replaces Atanu Kumar Das.
- Bank of India has launched a 'Centralized Pool Buy-Out and Co-Lending Cell' to boost priority sector lending in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- Bank of India, one of the largest public sector banks (PSBs) in the country, has become the first bank to officially roll out Mahila Samman Savings Certificate (MSSC) scheme..
- Bank of India (BOI)
- Founded : 7 September 1906
- Founder : Ramnarain Ruia
- Headquarters : Mumbai
- MD & CEO : Rajneesh Karnatak
- Tagline : Relationship beyond Banking.

Q. Consider the following statements about 'AMRIT' (Arsenic and Metal Removal by Indian Technology)

- 1. The technology was developed by Council of Scientific and Industrial Research and IIT-Bombay.**
- 2. The technology uses nano-scale iron oxy-hydroxide, which selectively removes arsenic when water is passed through it.**

Choose the incorrect statements:

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

Answer : A

- ✓ IIT-Madras has developed a technology called 'AMRIT' (Arsenic and Metal Removal by Indian Technology) for the removal of Arsenic and Metal ions from water.
- ✓ About Amrit Technology:



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- ✓ It is developed for the removal of Arsenic and Metal ions from water.
- ✓ The technology uses nano-scale iron oxy-hydroxide, which selectively removes arsenic when water is passed through it.
- ✓ This water purifier has been developed for both domestic as well as community levels.
- ✓ Also, the technology has been recommended by the erstwhile 'Standing Committee' of the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation for the examination of the best technologies concerning water and sanitation.
- ✓ Key points about Arsenic:
 - ✓ It is a natural component of the earth's crust and is widely distributed throughout the environment in the air, water and land.
 - ✓ It is highly toxic in its inorganic form.
 - ✓ World Health Organisation's provisional guideline value for arsenic in drinking water - 0.01 mg/l (10 µg/l).
 - ✓ Permissible limit of arsenic in India in absence of an alternative source - 0.05 mg/l (50 µg/l)

Q. For which cricketer has 'Arjun Award' been recommended by BCCI?

- | | |
|------------------|---------------------|
| A) Shubman GillS | B) Suryakumar Yadav |
| C) Shreyas Iyer | D) Mohammed Shami |

Answer : D

- ✓ BCCI has nominated Indian fast bowler Mohammed Shami for the Arjuna Award.
- ✓ BCCI has recommended Shami's name to the Sports Ministry.
- ✓ Shami performed brilliantly in the ODI World Cup 2023 and became the bowler taking the highest wicket.
- ✓ After Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award, Arjun Award is India's second highest award in the field of sports.
- ✓ Arjuna Award, officially known as Arjuna Awards for Outstanding Performance in Sports and Games
- ✓ First awarded : 1961
- ✓ Reward(s) : 15 Lakh

Q. In which country was a statue dedicated to 'Thiruvalluvar' unveiled recently?

- | | |
|------------|-----------|
| A) Germany | B) France |
| C) USA | D) Brazil |

Answer : B



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- ✓ A statue dedicated to Thiruvalluvar, a cultural icon revered among Tamilians, was unveiled in the French city of Cergy.
- ✓ This initiative is being considered an important cultural achievement.
- ✓ Thiruvalluvar was a famous Indian poet and philosopher, the author of 'Thirukkusanga' (Thirukkural). He is commonly known as 'Valluvar'

STATUE IN NEWS 2023

- A statue dedicated to Thiruvalluvar, a cultural icon revered among Tamilians, was unveiled in the French city of Cergy.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled the statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj at Rajkot Fort located in Sindhudurg, Maharashtra.
- External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar unveiled the bust of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore at the International Friendship Park in Bac Ninh province, Vietnam.
- Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma unveiled a statue of medieval-era Ahom army commander, Lachit Borphukan, and a Swahid Smarak at Bir Lachit Borphukan Park in Guwahati.
- Outside India, Dr. The largest statue of BR Ambedkar will be unveiled in the United States. The 19-foot statue of Ambedkar has been named 'Statue of Equality' and will be inaugurated in Maryland, USA.
- Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan unveiled the 108-foot-tall 'Statue of Oneness' of Adi Shankaracharya at Omkareshwar.
- President Droupadi Murmu has unveiled a 12 feet high statue of the father of the nation Mahatma Gandhi and a 'Gandhi Vatika' at Gandhi Darshan near Rajghat in New Delhi.
- Union Home Minister Amit Shah on laid the foundation stone of 108 feet tall statue of Lord Shri Ram in Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh.
- Union Home Minister Amit Shah unveiled a 54 feet tall statue of Lord Hanuman at Sarangpur temple in Botad district of Gujarat.
- Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah unveiled the statues of Lord Basaveshwara ji and Nadaprabhu Kempegowda ji at the State Assembly premises in Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- Samatha Kumbh is being held on the premises of the Statue of Equality at Muchintal, Telangana.



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- Union Home Minister Amit Shah has unveiled a 120-feet-tall statue of a polo player riding a pony at Marjing Polo Complex in Manipur's Imphal East district.
- Tamil Nadu CM Stalin inaugurated statue of 'Mahakavi Subramanian Bharathiyar'.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has unveiled a 108-feet tall bronze 'Statue of Prosperity' of Sri Nadaprabhu Kempegowda in Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- 369-foot-tall Shiva statue called "Viswas Swaroopam" that has been built in Nathdwara, Rajasthan's Rajsamand district, will be dedicated.
- The Viswas Swaroopam statue was built by Tat Padam Sansthan.

Q. Consider the following statements about Indian Forest & Wood Certification Scheme

1. The scheme offers voluntary third-party certification to promote sustainable forest management and agroforestry in the country.

2. Indian Institute of Forest Management, Bhopal will be responsible for overall management of the scheme.

Choose the correct statements:

A) 1 only

B) 2 only

C) Both 1 and 2

D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer : C

- ✓ Recently, the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change has launched the Indian Forest & Wood Certification Scheme.
- ✓ About the Indian Forest and Wood Certification Scheme:
- ✓ This national forest certification scheme offers voluntary third-party certification designed to promote sustainable forest management and agroforestry in the country.
- ✓ The scheme includes forest management certification, tree outside forest management certification, and chain of custody certification.
- ✓ The Forest Management certification is based on the Indian Forest Management Standard, consisting of 8 criteria, 69 indicators and 254 verifiers, which is an integral part of the National Working Plan Code 2023, launched earlier this year.
- ✓ Indian Institute of Forest Management, Bhopal will act as the scheme operating agency and will be responsible for overall management of the scheme



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- Q. Consider the following statement about Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI)**
- 1. GPAI is a 29 member multi-stakeholder initiative launched in 2020.**
 - 2. India is a founding member of GPAI and the lead chair of GPAI in 2024.**
 - 3. GPAI aims to bridge the gap between theory and practice on AI by supporting cutting-edge research and applied activities.**

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer : C

- ✓ Prime Minister has inaugurated the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI) Summit at Bharat Mandapam.
- ✓ India is hosting the Annual Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI) Summit from December 12 – 14, 2023.
- ✓ About the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence:
 - ✓ It is a multi-stakeholder initiative which aims to bridge the gap between theory and practice on AI by supporting cutting-edge research and applied activities on AI-related priorities.
 - ✓ It was launched in June 2020.
 - ✓ Membership in GPAI is open to all countries, including emerging and developing countries.
 - ✓ Member countries: At present it has 28 member countries including the European Union.
 - ✓ India is one of the founding members of GPAI.
 - ✓ Secretariat: Its secretariat is hosted at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Paris.
 - ✓ The working groups will initially focus on four themes:
 - ✓ Responsible AI
 - ✓ Data Governance
 - ✓ the Future of Work
 - ✓ Innovation and Commercialization



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Q. Who is the only Indian cricketer in the list of Google's top 10 trending athletes in the year 2023?

- A) Virat Kohli
B) Rohit Sharma
C) Shubhman Gill
D) Mohammed Shami

Answer : C

- ✓ The list of Google's top trending athletes of the year 2023 has been released. If we talk about cricketers, New Zealand cricket player of Indian origin Rachin Ravindra is on top.
- ✓ Whereas India's young opening batsman Shubman Gill is the only Indian cricketer to make it to the top 10.
- ✓ Gill, popularly known as 'Prince of Cricket', played his first ODI World Cup tournament in 2023.

Q. Which TMC MP was suspended from Rajya Sabha for the remaining period of the winter session of Parliament?

- A) Nusrat Jahan Roohi
B) Derek O'Brien
C) Abhishek Banerjee
D) Prasun Banerjee

Answer : B

- ✓ TMC MP Derek O'Brien has been suspended from the Rajya Sabha for the remaining period of the winter session of Parliament for his unruly behaviour.
- ✓ Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar suspended O'Brien for disobeying the instructions to sit in the House.
- ✓ In the Rajya Sabha, House leader Piyush Goyal had presented a proposal to suspend him from the House.

Q. Which player has been appointed by Kolkata Knight Riders as their captain for the next season?

- A) Nitish Rana
B) Shreyas Iyer
C) Kuldeep Yadav
D) Andre Russell

Answer : B

- ✓ Kolkata Knight Riders have appointed experienced Indian batsman Shreyas Iyer as their captain for the upcoming Indian Premier League (IPL).
- ✓ Nitish Rana has been made the vice-captain.
- ✓ However, he was injured before the 2023 season, after which Nitish Rana was made the captain



Q. Which British Indian composer has been included in the 2024 Booker Prize judging panel?

- A) Amitabh Ghosh B) Kiran Desai
C) Salman Rushdie D) Nitin Sawhney

Answer : D

- ✓ British-Indian composer Nitin Sawhney has been announced as a member of the 2024 Booker Prize judging panel.
- ✓ He is best known for the screen adaptation of Salman Rushdie's 1981 Booker Prize-winning *Midnight's Children*.
- ✓ The International Booker Prize is an international literary award held in the United Kingdom

Q. Rays Power Infra has inked an initial pact with which state government to build a 500 MW solar park in the state?

- A) Himachal Pradesh B) Telangana
C) Uttarakhand D) Tamil Nadu

Answer : C

- ✓ Rays Power Infra has inked an initial pact with the Uttarakhand government to build a 500 MW solar park in the state.
- ✓ The collaboration underscores the company's dedication to advancing sustainable energy initiatives and aligning with the Uttarakhand government's vision for an environmentally responsible future.
- ✓ This strategic partnership epitomizes our commitment to advancing solar energy solutions in India. The 500 MW solar park will not only fulfill a significant portion of the state's power demands but will also act as a catalyst for economic growth and environmental preservation.

Q. Which country has unveiled two new nuclear-powered submarines "Krasnoyarsk and Emperor Alexander"?

- A) Israel B) Iran
C) Russia D) Japan

Answer : C

- ✓ President of Russia, Vladimir Putin has unveiled two new nuclear-powered submarines "Krasnoyarsk and Emperor Alexander".



- ✓ The Emperor Alexander III is the seventh Borei-class atomic-powered submarine to enter the service. Each of them is armed with 16 nuclear-tipped Bulava intercontinental ballistic missiles.
- ✓ The Krasnoyarsk is a nuclear-powered submarine of the new Yasen type. It is armed with cruise missiles and torpedoes, and is designed to hunt for enemy submarines and is also capable of attacking ground targets

Q. Intellect Design Arena Ltd has signed a ₹80 crore, five-year deal with which bank to deploy Intellect's eMACH.ai powered Cash Management System?

- A) Canara Bank B) Indian Bank
C) Punjab National Bank D) UCO Bank

Answer : B

- ✓ Intellect Design Arena Ltd, the Chennai-based FinTech company for financial and insurance clients, has signed a ₹80 crore, five-year deal with Indian Bank to deploy Intellect's eMACH.ai powered Cash Management System.
- ✓ Indian Bank, with a network of 4,900 ATMs and 5,798 domestic branches, serves over 100 million customers with 41,000 employees and \$140 billion worth of assets.
- ✓ As part of the project 'INDLEAP', the Indian Bank has taken on the objective of digital transformation by leveraging technology wherever possible with transaction banking and supply chain management being the key growth engines

Q. Consider the following statements about Article 356

1. The proclamation of President's Rule should be approved in both Houses of Parliament within one month of its issue.
2. After initial six months, President's Rule can be extended for a period of three years with parliamentary approval, every one year.
3. A proclamation of revocation of President's Rule does not require approval by Parliament.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer : A

- ✓ The Supreme Court recently held that the declaration of State emergency under Article 356 and the subsequent actions of the President should have a "reasonable nexus".



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- ✓ About Article 356:
- ✓ Article 356 of the Constitution of India is based on Section 93 of the Government of India Act, 1935.
- ✓ According to Article 356, President's Rule can be imposed on any state of India on the grounds of the failure of the constitutional machinery.
- ✓ This is of two types:
- ✓ If the President receives a report from the state's Governor or is otherwise convinced or satisfied that the state's situation is such that the state government cannot carry on the governance according to the provisions of the Constitution.
- ✓ Article 365: As per this Article, President's Rule can be imposed if any state fails to comply with all directions given by the Union on matters it is empowered to.
- ✓ In simple words, the President's Rule is when the state government is suspended and the central government directly administers the state through the office of the Governor (centrally appointed).
- ✓ Parliamentary approval is necessary for the imposition of the President's Rule in any state.
- ✓ The proclamation of President's Rule should be approved in both Houses of Parliament within two months of its issue. The approval is by a simple majority.
- ✓ The President's Rule is initially for a period of six months. Later, it can be extended for a period of three years with parliamentary approval, every six months.
- ✓ The 44th Amendment to the Constitution (1978) brought in some constraints on the imposition of the President's Rule beyond a period of one year. It says that President's Rule cannot be extended beyond one year unless:
- ✓ There is a national emergency in India.
- ✓ The Election Commission of India certifies that it is necessary to continue the President's Rule in the state because of difficulties in conducting assembly elections in the state.
- ✓ What happens after the President's Rule is imposed?
- ✓ The governor carries on with the administration of the state on behalf of the President. He or she takes the help of the state's Chief Secretary and other advisors/administrators whom he or she can appoint.
- ✓ The President has the power to declare that the state legislature's powers would be exercised by the Parliament.
- ✓ The state legislative assembly would be either suspended or dissolved by the President.



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- ✓ When the Parliament is not in session, the President can promulgate ordinances with respect to the state's administration.
- ✓ Revocation of the President's Rule:
- ✓ President's Rule can be revoked any time after such a proclamation has been made by a subsequent proclamation by the President.
- ✓ A proclamation of revocation does not require approval by Parliament.

Q. Consider the following statements about Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA)

1. It aims to enhance the world's adaptive capacity, strengthening resilience and reducing vulnerability to climate change.

2. It was proposed by the African Group of Negotiators (AGN) in 2013 and established in 2015 under Paris agreement.

3. Glasgow-Sharm el-Sheikh work program (GlaSS) is an initiative under GGA.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

A) Only one

B) Only two

C) All three

D) None of the above

Answer : C

- ✓ What is COP Climate Summit?
- ✓ In 1992, at the Rio Earth Summit, 154 countries signed a multilateral treaty called the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
- ✓ It aimed to stabilise greenhouse gas concentrations “at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic (human-induced) interference with the climate system.”
- ✓ Today, there are 198 ‘parties’ or signatories of the Convention.
- ✓ The first ever COP took place in Berlin, Germany in 1995. The first edition of COP entailed a discussion on how to implement the UNFCCC.
- ✓ At the meeting, an agreement was reached “to meet annually to discuss action on climate change and emissions reductions”.
- ✓ COP-8 was held in New Delhi, India. It is the only COP held in India till date.
- ✓ Between 30 Nov to 12 Dec 2023, the Government of the United Arab Emirates is hosting the 28th Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC (COP-28).



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- ✓ As the search for a mutually agreeable position on fossil fuel elimination continued at the COP28 Summit in Dubai, negotiators at the climate meeting took a small first step on initiating greater action on adaptation.
- ✓ Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA):
- ✓ The draft text is titled as 'Global Goal on Adaptation'.
- ✓ GGA is an attempt to identify a common global goal on adaptation, just like keeping temperatures below the 1.5 degrees Celsius threshold is a global goal on mitigation.
- ✓ If the GGA framework is adopted, more than 195 countries will have to do their risk and vulnerability assessment of climate hazards, and formulate their specific national adaptation plans by 2025.
- ✓ They will also have to establish multi-hazard early warning systems and climate information services for risk reduction by 2027.

Q. Indian Goods Worth 3.7 Billion Dollars Are Entering Which Country To Get Boost by Free Trade Agreement?

- A) Oman
B) Türkiye
C) Brunei
D) Morocco

Answer : A

- ✓ A proposed comprehensive free trade agreement (FTA) between India and Oman is on a fast-track mode, with a team of officials from the department of commerce in Muscat for negotiations.
- ✓ The development assumes significance since India and the six-member Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) — Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) —has not been able to begin negotiations for more than a year.
- ✓ This is due to differences pertaining to the terms of reference, especially with Saudi Arabia. If the trade works out, Oman will be the second GCC member after the UAE to ink an FTA with India. That apart, the proposed agreement is also expected to further strengthen India's economic ties with West Asia.
- ✓ India and the UAE had signed a comprehensive economic partnership agreement (CEPA) in February 2022

Q. Which day is observed as the International Tea Day by the tea producing countries like India?

- A) 15 December
B) 12 December
C) 13 December
D) 14 December

Answer : A



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- ✓ The International Tea Day is observed annually on December 15 since 2005 in tea producing countries like India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Vietnam, Indonesia, Kenya, Malawi, Malaysia, Tanzania and Uganda.
- ✓ Purpose: draw global attention of governments and citizens to the impact of the global tea trade on workers and growers, and has been linked to requests for price supports and fair trade.
- ✓ India is the second largest producer of tea in the World after China.
- ✓ It must be noted that the United Nations recognised International Tea Day is observed on 21 May.



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