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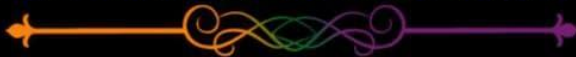


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Aparchit December 4th Week English Best 350+ MCQs with Amazing Facts
By :- Aparchit Exam Warriors/Kumar Kaushal Sir

Q. Which bank will invest ₹49.99 crore in Ahmedabad-based Canpac Trends Private Limited?

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

Answer : B

- ✓ State Bank of India has executed transaction documents to purchase 3,70,644 shares (6.35 percent) of Ahmedabad-based Canpac Trends Private Limited at ₹1,349 per share, aggregating ₹49.99 crore.
- ✓ The investment in Canpac Trends, which is in the paper packaging industry, is being made with the objective of capital appreciation.
- ✓ The indicative period for completion of the acquisition is three months from the date of the transaction documents execution.
- ✓ In the year ended March 2023, the company, which was incorporated in 2004, reported total income and net profit of Rs 389.72 crore and Rs 9.82 crore, respectively

SBI IN NEWS 2023

- State Bank of India has executed transaction documents to purchase 3,70,644 shares (6.35 percent) of Ahmedabad-based Canpac Trends Private Limited at ₹1,349 per share, aggregating ₹49.99 crore.
- State Bank of India (SBI) has signed a Line of Credit (LOC) of Euro 70 million (about Rs 630 crore) with German development bank KfW to promote solar projects in the country.
- SBI Mutual Fund got permission from the RBI to buy up to a 9.99% share in Karur Vysya Bank Ltd.
- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurates SBI branch in Sri Lanka.
- State Bank of India ropes in MS Dhoni as brand ambassador
- SBI has launched a 'Mobile Handheld Device' as part of its financial inclusion drive in a bid to improve accessibility and convenience.
- The tenure of State Bank of India (SBI) Chairman Dinesh Khara has been extended till August 2024.



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- State Bank of India has introduced a digital facility for Non-Resident Indians to effortlessly open Non-Residential External and Non-Resident Ordinary accounts through its mobile app YONO.
- State Bank of India has launched its 'Nation First Transit Card', a RuPay prepaid instrument under the National Common Mobility Card (NCMC) that can be used nationwide.
- State Bank of India has launched a Customer Service Points (CSPs) functionality that allows customers to enroll for social security schemes through Aadhaar Card.
- State Bank of India (SBI) has raised Rs 10,000 crore at a coupon rate of 7.54 percent through its third infrastructure bond issuance.
- State Bank of India will set up a new trustee company as its wholly-owned subsidiary for managing the Corporate Debt Market Development Fund (CDMDF).
- State Bank of India (SBI), Bengaluru Circle, recently launched 'Project Kuber' to meet the banking needs of its customers.
- State Bank of India (SBI), the country's biggest lender, has raised USD 750 million through bonds to fund offshore business growth.
- State Bank of India (SBI) launched a coffee table book titled "The Banker to Every Indian" and the book celebrates 75 years of Indian independence and 200 years of SBI's history.
- SBI to launch new current accounts and savings accounts in FY24 to attract deposits.
- The bank intends to launch two new variants of current accounts, one with a balance of ₹50,000 and another with a balance of ₹50 lakh. It also plans to introduce a new savings account called "Parivar" (family) account.
- State Bank of India (SBI) announced the completion of a \$1 billion syndicated social loan facility.
- The facility of \$1 billion was arranged through MLABs, MUFG bank and Taipei Fubon Commercial Bank Co.
- State Bank of India (SBI) has partnered with the NGO That's Eco Foundation to donate ₹48 lakh for the plantation of 32,000 tree saplings at Garden City University in Bengaluru.
- State Bank of India (SBI) has raised Rs 3,717 crore through its third Basel III compliant Additional Tier 1 bond issuance in the current financial year at coupon rate of 8.25 per cent..
- SBI reintroduces 400 days 'Amrit Kalash' retail term deposit scheme and provides an interest rate of 7.6% for senior citizens.



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- State Bank of India (SBI) has launched its coffee table book named 'The Banker to Every Indian'.
- Commercial Indo Bank LLC (CIBL) is a joint venture in Russia between SBI (60 per cent) and Canara Bank (40 per cent).
- SBI announces completion of \$1 billion Syndicated Social Loan Facility.
- Warehousing Development Regulatory Authority (WDRA) signed a memorandum (MoU) of understanding with State Bank of India to help farmers in getting low interest rate loans.
- According to the Indian Banks' Association (IBA)'s report titled "EASE Reforms Index for the first quarter of FY23" the State Bank of India(SBI) was adjudged as the Best Bank in adopting reforms prescribed for Public Sector Banks(PSB).
- SBI on 5 December 2022 announced that its personal banking advances excluding high value home loans have crossed the Rs 5 lakh-crore mark as on 30 November 2022.
- State Bank of India (SBI), India's largest lender, approved raising Rs 10,000 crore through infrastructure bonds during the financial year 2023 (FY23) including a greenshoe option of Rs 5,000 crore.
- STATE BANK OF INDIA (SBI)
- Founded : 1 July 1955
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Chairman : Dinesh Kumar Khara
- Imperial Bank of India was previous name of SBI
- The presidency Banks of Bengal, Bombay and Madras with merged in 1921 to Imperial Bank of India.
- Tagline of State Bank of India
 - (1) Pure Banking Nothing Else
 - (2) With you all the way
 - (3) A bank of the common man
 - (4) The banker to every Indian
 - (5) The Nation banks on us.
- It is one of the largest and oldest banks in India.

Q. In which state will Khelo India Youth Games be organized?



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A) Rajasthan

B) Uttar Pradesh

C) Haryana

D) Tamil Nadu

Answer : D

- ✓ Union Youth Programme, Sports Minister Anurag Singh Thakur launched the official logo, jersey, mascot and theme song of Khelo India Youth Games in Chennai.
- ✓ The sixth edition of Khelo India Youth Games is scheduled from 19 to 31 January in the coming year.
- ✓ The upcoming edition will be held in four cities of Tamil Nadu – Chennai, Trichy, Madurai and Coimbatore.
- ✓ The last five editions of the Youth Games were held in Delhi, Pune, Guwahati, Panchkula and Bhopal.

TAMIL NADU IN NEWS 2023

- The Khelo India Youth Games 2024 will be held in the state of Tamil Nadu.
- '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.



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- ✓ The International Hockey Federation (FIH) announced that India's Hardik Singh and Savita won the 2023 FIH Player of the Year and FIH Goalkeeper of the Year awards.
- ✓ This is Savita's third consecutive FIH Women's Goalkeeper of the Year award after winning in 2021 and 2022.
- ✓ Dutch goalkeeper Pirmin Black also won the FIH Goalkeeper of the Year award.
- ✓ The FIH Rising Stars award was won by Teresa Lima (ESP) and Gaspard Xavier (FRA).

Q. Which city has ranked first in the country for food adulteration cases, according to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)?

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

Answer : A

- ✓ Hyderabad has ranked first in the country for food adulteration cases, according to the data released by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB).
- ✓ Telangana stands second, closely followed by Andhra Pradesh.
- ✓ In 2022, a total of 291 cases of food adulteration were reported across 19 major cities in India.
- ✓ Surprisingly, out of these cases, a staggering 246 were reported solely in Hyderabad, signalling a concerning trend in food safety within the city.

HYDERABAD IN NEWS 2023

- Hyderabad is set to host the Formula E race for a second edition in February 2024.
- India's first solar roof cycling track was inaugurated in Hyderabad city.
- Telangana has launched India's first Agricultural Data Exchange (ADeX) and Agriculture Data Management Framework (ADMF) in Hyderabad.
- Hyderabad will host India's first International Athletic Union's Ageas.
- Lloyds Banking Group, one of the UK's largest financial services organisations, said on 21st June 2023 that it is setting up a technology centre in Hyderabad.
- Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga (MDNIY) under the Union Ministry of AYUSH organized a mega 'Yoga Festival' at NCC Parade Ground, Hyderabad.



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- Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao recently unveiled a 125-foot tall bronze statue of BR Ambedkar in Hyderabad.
- Hyderabad to become India's first city with 100% sewerage facilities by May 2023.
- The G20 Second Digital Economy Working Group meeting began on April 17 in Hyderabad.
- 'Grand start-up Conclave' on Animal Husbandry and Diary in Hyderabad.
- The two-day 'Food Conclave-2023' will be organized on April 28 and 29 in Hyderabad, Telangana.
- World Economic Forum (WEF) has chosen Hyderabad to set up its Center for the Fourth Industrial Revolution focused on healthcare and life sciences.
- The seasoned Jean Eric Vergne of DS Penske automobiles won an action-packed Formula E Prix in Hyderabad.
- Union Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister Narendra Singh Tomar officially inaugurated the Integrated Biological Control Laboratory located in Hyderabad.
- two-day inception meeting of the Startup-20, the new engagement group of G-20 initiated by India, has begun in Hyderabad.
- Hyderabad host Street Circuit Car Racing before the India's first Formula E grand Prix to be held in February 2023.

Q. According to a study by Motilal Oswal Financial Services, which company was the biggest wealth creator during the five years from 2018 to 2023?

- A) Infosys Technologies
- B) Tata Group
- C) Adani Group
- D) Reliance Industries Limited

Answer : D

- ✓ Reliance Industries Ltd was the biggest wealth creator during the five-year period from 2018 to 2023 while Adani Enterprises Ltd was the top all-around wealth creator, according to a study by Motilal Oswal Financial Services.
- ✓ The study, based on the stock market performance of companies, said for the fifth time in succession, Reliance emerged as the largest wealth creator, adding ₹9,63,800 crore wealth over 2018-23.



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- ✓ It was followed by Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) (₹6,77,400 crore wealth addition), ICICI Bank (₹4,15,500 crore), Infosys (₹3,61,800 crore) and Bharti Airtel (₹2,80,800 crore).
- ✓ A low-profile company, Lloyds Metals, has emerged the fastest wealth creator with 2018-23 price CAGR of 79 percent. Adani Enterprises Ltd, the flagship incubator firm of the Adani Group, is a close second with a CAGR of 78 percent

Q. Who has inaugurated the Atal Health Fair in memory of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee at the PNT Ground in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh?

- A) Droupadi Murmu B) Jagdeep Dhankhar
C) Narendra Modi D) S Jaishankar

Answer : B

- ✓ Vice-President of India, Jagdeep Dhankhar has inaugurated the two-day-long Atal Health Fair in memory of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee at the PNT Ground in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.
- ✓ Atal Bihari Vajpayee led Lucknow and the country for a long time.
- ✓ Dhankhar advised youth to prioritize health for performance and success, emphasizing a nation-first approach.
- ✓ The fair is hosting medical camps, conducted by 48 govt and private hospitals

Q. The Unified Payments Interface (UPI) transactions have grown from 92 crore in FY 2017-18 to 8,375 crore in FY 2022-23 at a Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of ___ in terms of volume.

- A) 107 percent B) 127 percent
C) 137 percent D) 147 percent

Answer : D

- ✓ The Unified Payments Interface (UPI) transactions have grown from 92 crore in FY 2017-18 to 8,375 crore in FY 2022-23 at a Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 147 percent in terms of volume.
- ✓ The UPI transactions have achieved 8,572 crore transactions during the current financial year till December 11.
- ✓ The value of UPI transactions has grown from Rs 1 lakh crore in FY 2017-18 to Rs 139 lakh crore in FY 2022-23 at a CAGR of 168 percent.
- ✓ UPI has been the major driving force in the overall growth of digital payment transactions in the country, accounting for 62 percent of digital payment transactions in FY 2022-23. The Year-on-Year growth in the



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value of banknotes in circulation has decreased from 9.9 percent in FY 2021-22 to 7.8 percent in FY 2022-23.

- ✓ UPI facilitates transactions by linking savings or current accounts through users' debit cards

Q. Which insurance company has been awarded the National Energy Conservation Awards (NECA) 2023 by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency?

- A) Reliance General Insurance B) Bharti AXA General Insurance
C) Reliance Nippon Life Insurance D) Bharti AXA General Insurance

Answer : C

- ✓ Reliance Nippon Life Insurance, India's leading private life insurer, has been recognized by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (Government of India, Ministry of Power) at the National Energy Conservation Awards (NECA) 2023.
- ✓ This prestigious award comes in recognition of the company's efforts towards institutionalizing climate-friendly operations and driving sustainable business growth.
- ✓ This recognition highlights the company's investment in environmentally conscious technologies that aid in optimizing resource utilization and energy efficiency.
- ✓ The company's scale of operations allows it to harness these advantages for benefits at large scale and pass on operating efficiencies to customers through its new line of products.

Q. Who won the MRF Formula 2000 title in the MRF MMSC FMSCI Indian National Car Racing Championship 2023 at the Madras International Circuit?

- A) Sandeep Kumar B) Gurunath Meiyappan
C) Chetan Surnineni D) Deepak Ravikumar

Answer : A

- ✓ Sandeep Kumar won the MRF Formula 2000 title in the MRF MMSC FMSCI Indian National Car Racing Championship 2023 at the Madras International Circuit.
- ✓ While Chetan Surnineni won the MRF Formula 1600 title
- ✓ Also picking up the National titles in their respective categories were Gurunath Meiyappan (Race Concepts, Indian Touring Cars), Deepak Ravikumar (Performance Racing, Indian Junior Touring Cars) and T.S. Diljith (DTS Racing, Super Stock and Formula LGB 1300).



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- ✓ In a remarkable display of excellence, three officers from the Indian Armed Forces, undergoing the prestigious Command and Staff Course at Defence Services Command and Staff College (DSCSC) in Sri Lanka, have been honored with the coveted 'Golden Owl' award for their outstanding performance.
- ✓ The award, presented by Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe, recognizes their exceptional achievements in analytical skills, strategic thinking, and their potential for future leadership.

Q. Which Indian conglomerate has recently purchased majority share in IANS India newswire service?

- A) Adani Group
- B) Tata Group
- C) Reliance Group
- D) Wipro Group

Answer : A

- ✓ Indian conglomerate announced that its media subsidiary AMG Media Networks has purchased a 50.5 percent share in IANS India for Rs 5.1 lakh.
- ✓ The acquisition provides Adani with controlling interest over the Indian newswire service.
- ✓ It marks another strategic investment in the media sector for a group whose portfolio includes broadcasting, print media, digital news apps, and more.
- ✓ According to regulatory filings, AMG Media Networks executed the transaction to strengthen Adani's position as an integrated media organization spanning traditional news and digital platforms.
- ✓ IANS India will operate under the umbrella of the Group's burgeoning media operations.

Q. National Farmer's Day is observed in India on which day?

- A) December 23
- B) December 22
- C) December 21
- D) December 20

Answer : A

- ✓ National Farmer's Day (Kisan Diwas) is observed every year on December 23 in India to remember the role of Indian farmers in the economy.
- ✓ The day was first celebrated in 2001.



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- ✓ The day is observed to mark the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Chaudhary Charan Singh.
- ✓ He brought farmer-friendly policies and worked towards the welfare of the farmers.
- ✓ Chaudhary Charan Singh was the fifth Prime Minister of India and served the country as Prime Minister from 28 July 1979 to 14 January 1980

Q. Which airport has been awarded the 'World Special Prize for an Interior 2023' by UNESCO's Prix Versailles?

- A) Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru
- B) Indira Gandhi International Airport, Delhi
- C) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport, Ahmedabad
- D) Cochin International Airport, Kochi

Answer : A

- ✓ The Terminal-2 (T2) of the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) has secured recognition as one of the 'World's Most Beautiful Airports' and has been awarded the 'World Special Prize for an Interior 2023' by the UNESCO's Prix Versailles.
- ✓ It is the only Indian airport to receive this recognition.
- ✓ The Prix Versailles, established in 2015, focuses on "intelligent sustainability" as a cultural driver, acknowledging innovation, creativity, reflection of local heritage, ecological efficiency, and values of social interaction.
- ✓ Encompassing 2,55,661 square metres, the terminal is built upon four foundational pillars: technological leadership, a terminal in a garden, environmental and ecological stewardship, and a celebration of Karnataka's rich heritage and culture.
- ✓ Phase 1 of T2, inaugurated on November 11, 2022, is designed to accommodate 25 million passengers per annum.

UNESCO IN NEWS 2023

- Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) has secured recognition as one of the 'World's Most Beautiful Airports' and has been awarded the 'World Special Prize for an Interior 2023' by the UNESCO's Prix Versailles.



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- '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. By which year does the government of India aim to increase the nuclear power capacity from 7480 MW to 22480 MW?

- A) 2030
- B) 2040
- C) 2032
- D) 2035

Answer : C

- ✓ The Government has initiated steps to increase the nuclear power capacity from 7480 MW to 22480 MW by 2031-32.
- ✓ The annual electricity generation from nuclear power plants has increased from 35334 Million Units (including infirm) in 2013-14 to 46982 Million Units (including infirm) in 2022-23.
- ✓ The installed nuclear power capacity in 2013-14 has also increased from 4780 MW to 7480 MW at present.
- ✓ At present 23 nuclear power reactors are installed. The total electricity generated from nuclear power plants during the last ten years (2013-14 to 2022-23) was about 411 BUs averting release of about 353 Million Tons of CO2 equivalent to the environment.
- ✓ Nuclear Power is a clean and environment friendly base load source of electricity generation, which is available 24X7. It has huge potential and can provide the country long-term energy security in a sustainable manner. Expansion of nuclear power capacity will help in the country's energy transition to meet the goal of a net zero economy by 2070.

Q. Pradip Kumar Das has been bestowed with the esteemed "CMD of the Year" award under the Mini-Ratna category at the 13th PSE Excellence Awards. He is the CMD of which of the following organization?



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A) SIDBI

B) SEBI

C) PFRDA

D) IREDA

Answer : D

- ✓ Chairman & Managing Director of Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA), Pradip Kumar Das has been bestowed with the esteemed “CMD of the Year” award under the Mini-Ratna category at the 13th PSE Excellence Awards, hosted by the Indian Chamber of Commerce in New Delhi.
- ✓ This prestigious recognition marks the second consecutive financial year in which Shri Pradip Kumar Das has received this accolade, acknowledging his exceptional leadership that has boosted the company’s growth, pioneering energy transition initiatives, and outstanding contributions for IREDA and Renewable Energy sector development.
- ✓ IREDA also bagged runner-up accolades, emphasizing its commitment to operational, governance, socio-environmental excellence, and inclusivity.

IREDA IN NEWS 2023

- IREDA CMD Pradip Kumar Das bagged ‘CMD of the Year’ award
- Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) launched a Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) portal to improve transparency in CSR initiatives.
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has granted an ‘Infrastructure Finance Company (IFC)’ status to Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA).
- IREDA signs MoUs with Union Bank of India and Bank of Baroda to co-finance Renewable Energy projects.
- IREDA and Bank of Maharashtra partner to promote renewable energy adoption in India.
- Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA), a Mini Ratna (Category – I) has signed an a MoU with Government, Revenue Target for 2023-24 set at ₹ 4,350.
- Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) has set up a state-of-the-art Business Centre at NBCC Office Complex, East Kidwai Nagar, New Delhi.
- Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA)
- It was incorporated as a Public Limited Company in the year 1987 as a 'Non-Banking Financial Institution'.



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- ✓ Jute Corporation of India has unveiled the 'Paat-Mitro' app aimed at aiding jute cultivation and income generation.
- ✓ It is Launched by Rachna Shah, Secretary, Ministry of Textiles, the application offers vital knowledge on jute farming.
- ✓ It will also feature information on jute gradation parameters, farmer-centric schemes like 'Jute-ICARE', weather forecasts and procurement policies.
- ✓ 'Paat-Mitro' marks a significant step forward in supporting jute farmers and revitalizing the industry. With greater access to information, technical advancements, and market opportunities, Indian jute farmers can unlock a brighter future for themselves and contribute to the sustainable development of the sector
- ✓ The Jute Corporation of India Limited (JCI) is central public sector undertaking under the ownership of Ministry of Textiles, Government of India.

Q. Which among the following has received the 11th edition of the FICCI Water Award 2023 under the "Industrial Water Use Efficiency" category?

- A) NTPC Kanti
- B) Torrent Power
- C) ReNew Power
- D) JSW Energy

Answer : A

- ✓ NTPC Kanti has received the 11th edition of the FICCI Water Award 2023 under the "Industrial Water Use Efficiency" category.
- ✓ The prestigious accolade was presented during the inaugural event of the 9th Edition of India Industry Water Conclave held at FICCI Federation House in New Delhi.
- ✓ The award acknowledges NTPC Kanti's notable water conservation efforts and efficient use of water resources in its operations.
- ✓ The company has also launched awareness campaigns to promote responsible water usage among employees and the local community
- ✓ The FICCI Water Awards, presented annually, play a pivotal role in acknowledging organizations across various sectors for their exemplary efforts in water conservation and management. By promoting best practices, these awards contribute to the broader goal of encouraging sustainable water management practices throughout India



NTPC IN NEWS 2023

- NTPC Kanti has received the 11th edition of the FICCI Water Award 2023 under the “Industrial Water Use Efficiency” category.
- NTPC shines as the only Indian PSU to feature in Forbes “World’s Best Employers 2023” List.
- The central government has received about Rs 1,487 crore from NTPC as a dividend tranche.
- NTPC has been honoured with the prestigious Economic Times (ET) HR World Future Skills Awards 2023.
- NTPC climbs up 52 positions to 433rd rank in Forbes’ “The Global 2000” List.
- NTPC Kanti launches Girl Child Empowerment Mission (GeM)-2023.
- NTPC Group’s total installed capacity reaches 72,304 MW with first overseas capacity addition in Bangladesh.
- Country's largest power generation company NTPC Limited has been conferred with 'ATD Best Awards 2023' by Association for Talent Development (ATD), USA.
- NTPC and Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) sign agreement for joint development of nuclear power plants.
- India’s largest power company NTPC Ltd has commissioned India’s first green hydrogen blending project at Kawas, Gujarat.
- NTPC hosts an international seminar on ‘Carbon Capture Utilization and Storage’ (CCUS) at First Energy Transitions Working Group meeting in Bengaluru.
- NTPC Limited announced the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Energy Vault Holdings (“Energy Vault).
- NTPC Renewable Energy Limited (NTPC REL) signs MoU with Government of Tripura for cooperation in renewable energy development.
- NTPC Renewable Energy Ltd has signed an MoU with the Indian Army for setting up Green Hydrogen Projects in its establishments on Build, Own and Operate (BOO) model.
- About NTPC
- The NTPC which was earlier known as National Thermal Power Corporation of India is owned by the Government of India. It was set up in 1975.
- The Vindhyachal Thermal Power Station in the Singrauli district of Madhya Pradesh, with an installed capacity of 4,760MW, is currently the biggest thermal power plant in India.



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- Headquarters: New Delhi
- Chairman and Managing Director: Gurdeep Singh

Q. Which state government has launched the Social Awareness and Action to Neutralise Pneumonia Successfully (SAANS) Campaign to Counteract Pneumonia?

- A) Madhya Pradesh B) Manipur
C) Meghalaya D) Maharashtra

Answer : B

- ✓ Manipur Initiates “SAANS” Campaign to Counteract Pneumonia
- ✓ In Manipur, the State Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr. Sapam Ranjan Singh has launched the Social Awareness and Action to Neutralise Pneumonia Successfully (SAANS) Campaign 2023-24 at Imphal.
- ✓ The Minister also inaugurated the State Newborn Resource Centre at Jawaharlal Nehru Institute of Medical Sciences (JNIMS) in Imphal.
- ✓ In connection to the launching of SAANS Campaign 2023-24, the Minister said that Pneumonia is a common, preventable, treatable disease if precautionary steps are taken up at the right time. Since the disease is preventable, the Health Department is emphasizing spreading awareness to the people.

Q. India has invited France President Emmanuel Macron as chief guest for the January 26 Republic Day celebrations. This is the _ a French leader will be the Chief guest at Republic Day celebrations in the national capital.

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

Answer : C

- ✓ French President Invited to India’s Republic Day 2024
- ✓ India has invited France President Emmanuel Macron as chief guest for the January 26 Republic Day celebrations.
- ✓ Notably, this is the 6th time a French leader will be the Chief guest at Republic Day celebrations in the national capital.



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- ✓ Prior to Macron, former French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac was the Chief guest on India's Republic Day celebrations in 1976 and 1998, and former Presidents Valery Giscard d'Estaing, Nicolas Sarkozy, and Francois Hollande in the years 1980, 2008, and 2016 respectively.
- ✓ Earlier in July, PM Modi had visited France to attend the Bastille Day Parade. PM Modi participated in the Bastille Day celebrations as the Guest of Honour on the invitation of President Macron.
- ✓ PM Modi had visited France to mark the 25th anniversary of the strategic partnership between the two countries.
- ✓ To mark the 25th anniversary of the India-France Strategic Partnership, a 241-member tri-service Indian armed forces contingent led by a military band also participated in the Parade." The Indian Army contingent was led by the Punjab Regiment, followed by a complement from the Rajputana Rifles Regiment.
- ✓ Later in September, French President Macron had visited India in September to attend the G20 Summit held under India's Presidency.
- ✓ Grand Cross of the Legion of Honor awarded to Prime Minister Modi.
- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi was awarded the highest French award 'Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour' by the President of the Republic of France, Emmanuel Macron on 13 July 2023
- ✓ FRANCE
- ✓ Capital : Paris
- ✓ Currency : Euro
- ✓ President : Emmanuel Macron
- ✓ Prime Minister : Élisabeth Borne

Q. Which bank has launched the Electronic Bank Guarantee (e-BG), signalling a significant step forward in trade finance digital transformation?

- A) Bandhan Bank
- B) IndusInd Bank
- C) RBL Bank
- D) Indian Overseas Bank

Answer : C

- ✓ RBL Bank has launched the Electronic Bank Guarantee (e-BG), signalling a significant step forward in trade finance digital transformation.
- ✓ The e-BG product builds on the framework enabled by NeSL, incorporating their expertise in e-Stamping and e-Sign.



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- ✓ This integration eliminates the traditional physical signing and stamping processes, seamlessly transitioning into a secure and efficient digital format.
- ✓ NeSL's e-BG substantially transforms the trade finance space and marks a milestone in the digitization of banking services. e-BG envisages online and paperless procurement of stamp duty and thus the e-BG can be issued digitally in a couple of minutes and is made available to beneficiaries instantly in a secure, digital, and paperless form.
- ✓ RBL BANK
- ✓ Founded : 1943
- ✓ Headquarters : Mumbai
- ✓ MD & CEO : R Subramaniakumar
- ✓ Tagline : Apno ka Bank

Q. Sandeep Batra has been reappointed as Executive Director (ED) of which bank?

- A) Yes Bank
- B) Axis Bank
- C) HDFC Bank
- D) ICICI Bank

Answer : D

- ✓ Private sector lender ICICI Bank has received approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to re-appoint Sandeep Batra as the executive director (ED).
- ✓ RBI vide its letter approved the re-appointment of Sandeep Batra as Executive Director of the bank with effect from December 23, 2023 to December 22, 2025.
- ✓ The board of directors recorded that the current tenure of Batra as ED of the Bank as per RBI approval, which was for three years, ends on December 22, 2023. It unanimously approved the reappointment of Batra for a further period of two years with effect from December 23, 2023, to December 22, 2025.

Q. Who has been appointed as the Director (Works) of National High-Speed Rail Corporation Limited (NHSRCL)?

- A) Ajit Gupte
- B) Pramod Sharma
- C) Prakash Chand
- D) Shambhu S. Kumaran

Answer : B

- ✓ The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of Pramod Sharma for the post of Director (Works) of National High-Speed Rail Corporation Limited (NHSRCL).



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Answer : D

- ✓ Uday A Kaole has assumed the charge of the Chairman-cum-Managing Director (CMD) of Coal India arm Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL).

- Q. Which company has been conferred with the prestigious National Energy Conservation Award 2023?**
- A) Orient Electric B) Crompton
C) Bajaj Electricals D) Havells

Answer : B

- ✓ President awarded Crompton-Most Energy Efficient Appliance of the Year
- ✓ Crompton Greaves Consumer Electricals Ltd. (CGCEL), one of India's leading consumer electrical companies, has been conferred with the prestigious National Energy Conservation Award 2023.
- ✓ The honor was conferred by the Hon'ble President of India, Droupadi Murmu and the Ministry of Power through its body viz. Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) on the occasion of National Energy Conservation Day.
- ✓ The company secured this achievement in the category of the Most Energy Efficient Appliance of the Year 2023 for its storage water heater.

- Q. Who has received the 'Impact Fielder of the ODI Series' medal following India's 2-1 series win against South Africa?**
- A) Suryakumar Yadav
B) Sai Sudharsan
C) Rohit Sharma
D) KL Rahul

Answer : B

- ✓ India's debutant Sai Sudharsan was awarded the 'Impact Fielder of the Series' medal by India's fielding coach Ajay Ratra after the KL Rahul-led side clinched the 3-match ODI series against South Africa 2-1
- ✓ India defeated South Africa by 87 runs in the series decider as KL Rahul became only the second Indian captain after Virat Kohli to win an ODI series on South African soil.
- ✓ Sudharsan was commended for a brilliant catch during the third ODI match, contributing to India's 78-run victory



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Q. Which organization has set up a task force to study the recommendations made by the Independent Experts Group for strengthening multilateral development banks (MDBs)?

A) World Bank

B) Asian Development Bank

C) New Development Bank

D) International Monetary Fund

Answer : A

- ✓ World Bank has set up a task force to study the recommendations made by the Independent Experts Group, formed under India's G20 Presidency, for strengthening multilateral development banks (MDBs).
- ✓ The World Bank, which other MDBs looked up to, must take the lead in carrying forward the reform roadmap for MDBs so as to make these global institutions bigger, better, and bolder.
- ✓ Both Ajay Banga and Nirmala Sitharaman discussed outcomes of the G20India Presidency, evolution of the World Bank and its engagement with India in various sectors, besides issues of mutual interest.
- ✓ World Bank has identified eight unique global challenges to focus on in the next few years as they affect many countries and require attention and Sitharaman expressed India's support for it.
- ✓ Sitharaman stressed that the Country Climate and Development Report exercise of the World should take into account the country's priorities and circumstances

Q. Which bank and HDFC Life have entered into a corporate agency agreement to offer life insurance products to their respective customers?

A) Karnataka Bank

B) Karur Vysya Bank

C) Dhanalakshmi Bank

D) South Indian Bank

Answer : B

- ✓ Private sector Karur Vysya Bank and HDFC Life have entered into a corporate agency agreement to offer life insurance products to their respective customers.
- ✓ This corporate agency arrangement would enable customers of Karur Vysya Bank to avail HDFC Life's wide range of life insurance products which include solutions for protection, savings and investment, retirement, and critical illness.
- ✓ Our corporate tie-up with HDFC Life will provide one more option to our customers while charting their insurance plans. Since HDFC Life offers claim intimation process online, our customers can avail the services without stepping out of their homes.



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- ✓ World Economic Outlook.
- ✓ The value of Special Drawing Right (SDR) is determined by the basket of 5 currencies.
- ✓ The currencies are, US Dollar, Japanese Yen, British Pound, Chinese Yuan and Euro.
- ✓ Special Drawing Right is known as the Paper Gold. The value of the SDR is based on a basket of key international currencies reviewed by IMF every five years. SDR was introduced in the 1969 by the IMF to solve the problem of International liquidity

Q. The Defence Ministry has signed a ₹1,614.89 crore contract with which company for the procurement of six next-generation Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPV) for the Indian Coast Guard (ICG)?

- A) Hindustan Shipyard B) Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders
C) Cochin Shipyard Limited D) Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers

Answer : B

- ✓ The Defence Ministry has signed a ₹1614.89 crore contract with Mazagon Dockyard Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) Mumbai for the procurement of six next-generation Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPV) for the Indian Coast Guard (ICG).
- ✓ Out of the six vessels being procured, four would replace the existing ageing OPVs and the other two would augment the ICG fleet.
- ✓ These multirole state-of-the-art vessels will be indigenously designed, developed, and manufactured by MDL, and will be delivered in a total period of 66 months (5.5 years).

Q. Natasha Chethan won the sub-junior girls' snooker title to record a double in the 90th National Billiards & Snooker Championships at the Nehru Indoor Stadium. She is from which state?

- A) Karnataka B) Rajasthan
C) Haryana D) Uttar Pradesh

Answer : A

- ✓ Karnataka's Natasha Chethan won the sub-junior girls' snooker title to record a double in the ongoing 90th National Billiards & Snooker Championships at the Nehru Indoor Stadium.
- ✓ The Bengaluru teenager rallied to beat Gujarat's Aanya Patel 3-1 (35-57, 57-43, 55-42, 41-29) in the snooker final after defeating her for the sub-junior girls' billiards crown last week
- ✓ It was the second defeat of the day in a final for Aanya, who lost to Tamil Nadu's L Shruthi in the junior girls' billiards title category.



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Q. Who has been awarded Bhutan's National Order of Merit Gold Medal for her distinguished services to the country?

- A) Rudrendra Tandon B) Gaurav Ahluwalia
C) Poonam Khetrpal Singh D) Pratibha Parkar

Answer : C

- ✓ WHO Regional Director (South-East Asia) Dr Poonam Khetrpal Singh has been awarded Bhutan's National Order of Merit Gold Medal for her distinguished services to the country.
- ✓ The King of Bhutan Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuk honoured Singh, an Indian national, at Bhutan's 116th National Day celebration.
- ✓ Dr Poonam Khetrpal Singh, the first woman regional director of the WHO South-East Asia region, played a pivotal role in supporting transformative healthcare leadership in Bhutan from 2014 to 2024.
- ✓ Her tenure witnessed remarkable strides, including Bhutan, becoming one of the first countries to eliminate measles and rubella ahead of schedule.
- ✓ She made significant contributions to help Bhutan excel in COVID-19 vaccination

Q. Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) has been awarded the Leif Erikson Lunar Prize for which mission?

- A) Mangalyaan- 2 B) Gaganyaan
C) Chandrayaan-3 D) Aditya L1

Answer : C

- ✓ Chandrayaan-3 Moon Mission Earns Leif Erikson Lunar Prize
- ✓ For its indomitable spirit in advancing lunar exploration & contributing to understanding celestial mysteries and in celebration the first soft landing of Chandrayaan 3, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has been awarded Leif Erikson Lunar Prize.
- ✓ This is the first time that ISRO has received this award.
- ✓ It is for the first soft landing of a spacecraft near the Lunar South Pole and ISRO's indomitable spirit in advancing lunar exploration.
- ✓ It is for the first soft landing of a spacecraft near the Lunar South Pole and ISRO's indomitable spirit in advancing lunar exploration.



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- ✓ On behalf of ISRO, this was received by the Indian Ambassador to Iceland Ambassador B Shyam from the Exploration Museum in Husavik (Iceland).

Q. Former chair of the National Commission for Women and Padma Bhushan awardee Dr. V Mohini Giri passed away recently. In which year did she receive Padma Bhushan?

- A) 2008
- B) 2010
- C) 2007
- D) 2009

Answer : C

- ✓ Former chair of the National Commission for Women and Padma Bhushan awardee Dr. V Mohini Giri passed away.
- ✓ She started the War Widows Association in 1972, after the Indo-Pak war of 1971. An institution builder, her life was dedicated to women's rights, human rights and particularly the rights of widows.
- ✓ Dr. Giri was awarded the Padma Bhushan for her work in 2007.
- ✓ A documentary —Still We Rise: The Passion and Compassion of Mohini Giri— directed by filmmaker Meera Dewan, commemorating 50 years of Guild for Service and the contribution of Dr. Giri, was screened in February.

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

- A) 21 December
- B) 22 December
- C) 23 December
- D) 24 December

Answer : D

- ✓ National Consumer Day: December 24.
- ✓ It was on this day that the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 was enacted.
- ✓ The Act aims to provide consumers with effective safeguards against different types of exploitation, such as defective goods, deficiency in services and unfair trade practices.
- ✓ The World Consumer Rights Day is celebrated on the 15th March every year.
- ✓ World Consumer Rights Day 2023 topic this year is “Empowering Consumers Through Clean Energy Transitions.”



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Q. When is the Good Governance Day observed in India?

A) 25 December

B) 24 December

C) 22 December

D) 23 December

Answer : A

- ✓ In India, Good Governance Day (Sushasan Divas) is observed annually on December 25 to commemorate the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee (25 December 1924 – 16 August 2018).
- ✓ Good Governance Day was established in 2014 by the newly elected administration of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, to foster awareness among the Indian people of accountability in government.

Q. The Good Governance Day is observed to marks the birth anniversary of which leader?

A) APJ Abdul Kalam

B) Rajiv Gandhi

C) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

D) Atal Bihari Vajpayee

Answer : D

Q. Which entity has proposed a phase-wise transition to instant settlement of trades in the equity cash market?

A) SIDBI

B) SEBI

C) RBI

D) NABARD

Answer : A

- ✓ The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has proposed a phase-wise transition to instant settlement of trades in the equity cash market.
- ✓ An optional T+0 settlement cycle for trades till 1:30 pm may be introduced in the first phase, with settlement of funds and securities to be completed on the same day by 4:30 p.m.
- ✓ To begin with, a T+0 settlement will be made available in the top 500 listed equity shares in three tranches, from the lowest to the highest market capitalization.
- ✓ In the second phase, an optional immediate trade-by-trade settlement will be carried out for trades till 3.30 p.m.



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- ✓ An API-based interface will be built between depositories and clearing corporations to facilitate real-time intimation of early pay-in. To begin with, all securities under Phase 1 will be available under Phase 2.
- ✓ The move will enable faster pay-outs of securities and funds to investors, improve overall market efficiency, and enhance the overall risk management of clearing corporations (CCs).
- ✓ The Indian banking system is efficient to provide real-time transfers of funds, and the depository system has visibility of client-level holdings and hence the ability to enable instant debit and credit of securities.
- ✓ The average Indian has rapidly embraced UPI and instant payment platforms. This flexibility can be extended to equity dealing as well.

SEBI IN NEWS 2023

- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has proposed a phase-wise transition to instant settlement of trades in the equity cash market.
- An optional T+0 settlement cycle for trades till 1:30 pm may be introduced in the first phase, with settlement of funds and securities to be completed on the same day by 4:30 p.m.
- SEBI has introduced a regulatory framework for online investment platforms that facilitate investments in commission-free mutual fund (MF) schemes.
- SEBI sets up intermediary advisory panel to be led by S Ravindran.
- SEBI Introduced Risk disclosure Framework for Trading by Individual Traders in Equity F&O Segment.
- SEBI introduced the Legal Entity Identifier (LEI) system for issuers of non-convertible securities, securitized debt instruments and security receipts.
- NDTV appoints former SEBI Chairman UK Sinha and business leader Dipali Goenka as Independent Directors.
- Sebi introduces Application Supported by Blocked Amount (ASBA) -like facility for secondary market trading in India.
- NSE gets the final SEBI approval to launch Social Stock Exchange.
- Markets regulator SEBI has launched an information database on municipal bonds.
- SEBI allowed Alternative Investment Funds(AIFs) to participate in the Credit Default Swaps(CDS) market as protection buyers and sellers in a bid to facilitate the deepening of the domestic corporate bond segment.



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- Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI):
- It is the regulatory body for securities and commodity markets in India established in 1988.
- Its main objectives are to protect the interests of investors in securities and promote the development of the securities market in India by regulating intermediaries, ensuring transparency and accountability of listed companies, and promoting investor education.
- It is owned by the Ministry of Finance, Government of India, but functions as an autonomous body with its own governing board.
- It has the power to issue guidelines, rules and regulations, investigate and punish fraudulent business practices.
- It is the regulator of the Capital market and Commodities market in India.
- The first SEBI chairman was Dr S A Dave (1988-90)
- Madhabi Puri Buch is the current and 10th Chairperson of the SEBI.
- Headquarters : Mumbai

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) scheme:

1. It is 100% completely funded by the Government of India.

2. It envisages the development of 4,000 MWh of BESS projects by 2030-31.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A) 1 only

B) 2 only

C) Both 1 and 2

D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer : B

- ✓ Recently, the Union Minister for Power and New & Renewable Energy has informed that the Government has approved the scheme for Viability Gap Funding (VGF) for development of Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) with capacity of 4,000 megawatts hours (MWh).
- ✓ This scheme envisages the development of 4,000 MWh of BESS projects by 2030-31.
- ✓ Funding:
- ✓ Financial support of up to 40% of the capital cost as budgetary support in the form of Viability Gap Funding (VGF) is provided by the union government.



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- ✓ The VGF shall be disbursed in five tranches linked with the various stages of implementation of BESS projects.
- ✓ By offering VGF support, the scheme targets achieving a Levelized Cost of Storage (LCoS) ranging from Rs. 5.50-6.60 per kilowatt-hour (kWh), making stored renewable energy a viable option for managing peak power demand across the country.
- ✓ For passing on the scheme to consumers of the Discoms, at least 85% of the power from VGF-funded BESS projects shall be first offered to Discoms before making it available for others.
- ✓ The selection of BESS developers for VGF grants will be carried out through a transparent, competitive bidding process, promoting a level playing field for both public and private sector entities.
- ✓ This scheme is designed to harness the potential of renewable energy sources such as solar and wind power; the scheme aims to provide clean, reliable, and affordable electricity to the citizens

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation:

1. It is awarded for the achievement of the public-private initiatives in conserving places of heritage value.

2. India's Rambagh Gate in Amritsar received the Award of Excellence in 2023.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A) 1 only

B) 2 only

C) Both 1 and 2

D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer : C

- ✓ Recently, three heritage projects from Punjab and Haryana have secured prestigious spots among the UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation 2023.
- ✓ UNESCO seeks to encourage private sector involvement and public-private collaboration in conserving the region's cultural heritage for the benefit of current and future generations.
- ✓ Since 2000, UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation have been recognizing the achievement of the private sector and public-private initiatives in successfully conserving or restoring structures, places and properties of heritage value in the region.
- ✓ Among the recognised sites, five are from China, six from India, and one from Nepal.
- ✓ Award winning sites from India are as follows



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- World Bank and Japan, have launched the Resilient and Inclusive Supply-chain Enhancement (RISE) initiative in Morocco.
- World Bank has approved \$1.5 billion in financing to accelerate India's development of low-carbon energy.
- World Bank has approved a substantial funding package of 700 million dollars for Sri Lanka.
- World Bank has approved \$391 million in financing to improve access to high-quality healthcare services and to economic opportunities for people in Assam and Tripura.
- World Bank approves \$150-million loan for Resilient Kerala programme.
- World Bank has granted its approval for a USD 255.5 million loan aimed at enhancing the quality of technical education in government-run institutions across India.
- World Bank approves \$150-million loan for Resilient Kerala programme.
- World Bank (WB) launched its first dedicated road safety project in South Asia with a USD 358 million financing agreement signed in Dhaka with the government of Bangladesh.
- Indian origin Ajay Banga confirmed as the 14th President of World Bank.
- Ministry of Education and the World Bank held a unique workshop on School-to-Work Transition under the STARS Program.
- The Cabinet approved the Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States (STARS) Project in October 2020.
- World Bank has approved a loan of US \$ 363 million for the supply of clean drinking water from taps to 2 million rural households in Karnataka.
- World Bank's Board of Executive Directors has approved USD 100 million loan under Odisha State Capability and Resilient Growth Program.
- According to the World Bank's (WB) annual report 'State and Trends of Carbon Pricing 2023' released on May 23, 2023, revenues collected from carbon taxes and Emissions Trading Systems (ETS) globally have reached a record high, about US\$95 billion in 2022.
- World Bank's Executive Board of Directors has approved USD 108 million loan for Assam, to help the state improve disaster preparedness and enhance flood forecasting.
- India and the World Bank have signed a loan agreement for the construction of the Green National Highway Corridors Project (GNHCP) in four States.
- These four states are-Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh.



- World Bank has signed two complementary loans with India worth USD 500 million each to support and enhance the country's healthcare infrastructure.
- India will be the first country in the world to receive \$100 billion from remittances during 2022, the World Bank.
- WORLD BANK
- Founded : 1944
- Headquarters : Washington Dc
- 14th President : Ajay Banga
- MD&CFO : Anshula Kant
- Chief Economist : Carman Reinhart
- Executive Director : Rajesh Khullar
- Member Countries :189
- World Bank Group : 5 (IBRD, IDA, IFC, MIGA and ICSID).
- All of these efforts support the Bank Group's twin goals of ending extreme poverty by 2030 and boosting shared prosperity of the poorest 40% of the population in all countries.
- World Bank was created at the 1944 Bretton Woods Conference, along with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).
- India is a member of IBRD, IFC, IDA and MIGA. The country is not a member of the ICSID

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Project PRAYAS:

- 1. It is an initiative of the International Organisation for Migration.**
- 2. It aims to facilitate safe and regular migration for Indian migrant workers and students.**

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer : C

- ✓ Recently, the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) launched Project PRAYAS to help Indian workers and students migrate in a secure, orderly, and regular manner.
- ✓ Promoting Regular Assisted Migration for Youth and Skilled Professionals (PRAYAS) was launched in partnership with the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).



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- ✓ It is one of the first attempts to consolidate all the state-level initiatives for safe, orderly, and well-managed international migration.
- ✓ Goal: To facilitate safe, orderly, and regular migration for aspiring Indian migrant workers and students through policy recommendations in collaboration with the MEA and state governments, thus strengthening international migration governance.
- ✓ It aims to undertake a study, capturing the key migration trends, the needs and aspirations of migrants, and the major international migration and mobility initiatives taken by the union, as well as the state governments sharing the analysis with the ministry.
- ✓ Key facts about the International Organisation for Migration (IOM)
- ✓ Established in 1951, IOM is a United Nations (UN) agency dedicated to promoting humane and orderly migration.
- ✓ The IOM defines the term migrant as: “a person who moves away from his or her place of usual residence, whether within a country or across an international border, temporarily or permanently, and for a variety of reasons.”
- ✓ Member countries: It currently has 172 member states and 8 states holding observer status. India is a member of this organization.
- ✓ Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland

Q. Project PRAYAS, recently seen in news is a joint initiative of?

- A) World Bank and United Nations Development Programme
- B) United Nations Development Programme and Ministry of External Affairs
- C) United Nations Environment Programme and Ministry of Jal Shakti
- D) International Organisation for Migration and Ministry of External Affairs

Answer : D

Q. What is 'BRAHMA-2D', that was in the news recently?

- A) A new supercomputer developed by C-DAC
- B) A satellite designed to monitor climate change
- C) An energy-efficient transportation system
- D) A mathematical model for braided river analysis



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Answer : D

- ✓ Researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati (IIT Guwahati) recently developed an indigenous river model, BRAHMA-2D.
- ✓ About BRAHMA-2D:
- ✓ BRAHMA-2D (Braided River Aid: Hydro-Morphological Analyzer) is a mathematical model to gauge the flow of large braided rivers like the Brahmaputra.
- ✓ It is a quasi-3D river flow model which helps to understand how fast the water moves at different depths inside a river and its circulation around a structure like a spur installed to prevent river bank erosion.
- ✓ It can help engineers in the design of sustainable hydraulic structures like spurs, reverent, and other river bank protection measures in order to check river bank erosion.
- ✓ It was developed by the researchers at IIT Guwahati in collaboration with the Brahmaputra Board under the Union Ministry of Jal Shakti.
- ✓ It was successfully validated on the Brahmaputra River near Majuli Island, the second largest freshwater River Island in the world, in Assam, which is prone to river bank erosion.
- ✓ It integrates a two-dimensional model of water movement with a theory about entropy, a measure of disorder or randomness

IIT IN NEWS 2023

- IIT Guwahati recently developed an indigenous river model, BRAHMA-2D.
- IIT Kanpur, Indian Navy join forces to drive innovation through research partnership.
- SAMRIDHI conclave, a deeptech startup acceleration drive launched at IIT Ropar.
- The First Australia India Education and Skill Council (AIESC) meeting was held at IIT Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- IIT Kanpur and Airbus to collaborate to boost aerospace talent base in India.
- IIT Kanpur has signed an MoU with private lender ICICI Bank to support the startup ecosystem in the institute.
- IIT Guwahati have developed pharmaceutical and food products from tea factory waste.
- IIT Jodhpur scientists develop 'CODE' device for good air quality.
- IIT Madras-incubated space tech startup GalaxEye Space on 29 August 2023 launched their drone-based synthetic aperture radar (SAR) system, Ahead of their planned satellite launch in 2024.



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- IIT Bombay has received a donation of \$18.6 million from an alumnus towards the establishment of a Green Energy and Sustainability Research Hub.
- IIT Guwahati has signed MoU with the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) to build capacity/skills in international affairs and foreign policy.
- IIT Guwahati researchers develop AI-based model for knee X-ray.
- Infosys co-founder Nandan Nilekani donated ₹315 crores to IIT Bombay.
- IIT-Madras generates hydrogen from seawater using solar energy.
- India, Israel to jointly develop Center of Water Technology at IIT Madras.
- IIT Madras researchers partner for development of materials and micro-device processing techniques.
- IIT Kanpur's C3iHub, a cybersecurity Technology Innovation Hub, has launched a Cybersecurity Skilling Programme .
- IIT Madras to set up its first international campus in Tanzania.
- Indian Institute of Technology Madras will be provided a grant of Rs 242 crore over a period of five years to carry out research on Lab Grown Diamonds (LGD).
- Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay has been ranked 1st in India and 47th globally in engineering and technology by the QS World University Rankings for 2023.
- IIT Indore, in partnership with NASA-Caltech and the University of Gothenburg in Sweden, has designed an inexpensive camera setup.
- Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras) Researchers have developed a three-dimensional (3D) paper-based portable device that can detect adulteration in milk within 30 seconds.
- IIT Kanpur to Host Youth20 Consultation under G20 Presidency of India.
- IIT Bombay's SHUNYA secures second place in 'Solar Decathlon' Build Challenge in US.
- Students of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Indore won an award of AED (Emirates Dirham) 1 million along with a gold medal at the World Government Summit in Dubai.
- IIT Indore Students Awarded with Global Best M-GOV Awards by Egyptian President.
- Startup Incubation and Innovation Centre (SIIC) at IIT Kanpur has entered into a Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) agreement with Advanced Weapons and Equipment India Limited.
- DRDO Industry Academia Centre of Excellence inaugurated at IIT Hyderabad.
- IIT Madras-incubated firm has developed an indigenous mobile operating system called BharOS.



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- ✓ The sixth edition of the Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize was awarded to poet-critic Sukrita Paul Kumar for her book, 'Salt & Pepper: Selected Poems'.
- ✓ This prestigious award recognizes outstanding literary work from around the globe, promoting world peace, literature, art, education, and human rights.
- ✓ An amount of USD 5,000, a Tagore statue, and a certificate for contribution to literature was given to Kumar at the award ceremony.
- ✓ Founded in 2018 by US-based publisher Peter Bundalo, the award is a platform for world peace, literature, art, education and human rights.
- ✓ It also recognizes works towards human rights and world peace with the Social Achievement Prize.
- ✓ The Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize for Social Achievement was awarded to Nobel laureate Abhijit Banerjee for his contributions to societal welfare.
- ✓ Last year, the prize was given to journalist-author Raj Kamal Jha for his novel 'The City and The Sea'

Q. Who has won the SASTRA-Ramanujan Award for 2022?

- A) Melody Chan B) Yunqing Tang
C) Ruixiang Zhang D) Arul Shankar

Answer : B

- ✓ SASTR Yunqing Tang and Ruixiang Zhang won SASTRA Ramanujan Awards for 2022 and 2023 respectively
- ✓ The SASTRA-Ramanujan Awards for 2022 and 2023 were presented, respectively, to Yunqing Tang and Ruixiang Zhang, both mathematicians at the University of California in Berkeley, at the SASTRA campus in Kumbakonam.
- ✓ Presenting the awards, T. Ramaswami, former Secretary, the Department of Science and Technology, paid glowing tributes to the genius of legendary Indian mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujan, and highlighted the relevance of his contributions to the contemporary world.
- ✓ The award, instituted by SASTRA in 2005, with a cash prize of USD 10,000 and a citation, is presented annually to individuals aged 32 and below, who have made outstanding contributions in the field of mathematics. The awards are presented on the birthday of Ramanujan.
- ✓ The award is among the top awards for mathematics in the world



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Q. Which country's navy has added two domestically produced sophisticated cruise missiles "Talaeieh" and "Nasir" to its arsenal?

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

Answer : B

- ✓ Iran's navy adds sophisticated cruise missiles 'Talaeieh and Nasir' to its armoury
- ✓ Iran's navy has added domestically produced sophisticated cruise missiles to its arsenal.
- ✓ Both Talaeieh and Nasir cruise missiles have arrived at a naval base near the Indian Ocean in the southern Iranian port of Konarak, some 1,400 kilometers (850 miles) southeast of the capital, Tehran.
- ✓ The Talaeieh has a range of more than 1,000 kilometers (620 miles) and called it "fully smart". The cruise missile is capable of changing targets during travel.
- ✓ The Nasi has a range of 100 kilometers (62 miles) and can be installed on warships
- ✓ Iran
- ✓ Capital : Tehran
- ✓ Currency : Rial
- ✓ President : Ebrahim Raisi

Q. How does INSACOG primarily contributes to our understanding of the SARS-CoV-2 virus?

- A) By organizing public health awareness campaigns
B) By establishing quarantine facilities
C) By expanding whole genome sequencing of the virus
D) By conducting clinical trials for COVID-19 treatments

Answer : C

- ✓ Amid a surge in COVID-19 cases in India and the detection of a subvariant JN.1, the India SARS-CoV-2 Genomics Consortium (INSACOG) chief said that no additional dose of vaccine is needed against the subvariant at present.
- ✓ About India SARS-CoV-2 Genomics Consortium (INSACOG):
- ✓ It is jointly initiated by the Union Health Ministry of Health and the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) with the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR).



- ✓ It is a consortium of 54 laboratories to monitor the genomic variations in the SARS-CoV-2 by a sentinel sequencing effort, which is facilitated by the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), Delhi, involving the Central Surveillance Unit (CSU) under the Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP).
- ✓ Why was INSACOG established?
- ✓ The SARS-CoV-2 virus, commonly known as the COVID-19 virus, posed unprecedented public health challenges globally.
- ✓ Against this backdrop, INSACOG was established to expand the whole genome sequencing of the SARS-CoV-2 virus across the nation, aiding our understanding of how the virus spreads and evolves, and providing information to aid public health response.
- ✓ INSACOG has the following specific objectives:
- ✓ To ascertain the status of Variants of Interest (VoI) and Variants of Concern (VoC) in the country.

Q. With reference to the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA), consider the following statements:

- 1. It is a statutory regulatory body set up to promote old-age income security in the country.**
- 2. It comes under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Finance.**
- 3. It regulates the National Pension System (NPS).**

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer : C

- ✓ Pension fund regulator PFRDA recently allowed National Pension System (NPS) subscribers to deposit their contributions directly under the D-Remit process through the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) QR code.
- ✓ About Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA):
- ✓ It is a statutory regulatory body set up under the PFRDA Act enacted in 2014.
- ✓ Objective: To promote old age income security by establishing, developing, and regulating pension funds and to protect the interests of subscribers to schemes of pension funds and related matters.
- ✓ It comes under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Finance.
- ✓ PFRDA is headquartered in New Delhi, with regional offices located around the country.



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- ✓ Composition: It consists of a Chairperson and not more than six members, of whom at least three shall be whole-time members, to be appointed by the Central Government.
- ✓ Functions:
- ✓ Regulate National Pension System (NPS) and other pension schemes to which the PFRDA Act applies;
- ✓ Registering and regulating intermediaries: NPS Trust, Points of Presence, Central Record-keeping Agency, Trustee Bank, Pension Funds, Custodian for time-bound service to subscribers.
- ✓ Key Facts about National Pension System (NPS):
- ✓ NPS is a social security initiative by the Central Government.
- ✓ This pension programme is open to employees from the public, private, and even unorganised sectors, except those from the armed forces.
- ✓ The scheme encourages people to invest in a pension account at regular intervals during the course of their employment. After retirement, the subscribers can take out a certain percentage of the corpus. As an NPS account holder, people will receive the remaining amount as a monthly pension after your retirement.
- ✓ NPS is mandatorily applicable to Central Government employees; including Central Autonomous Bodies (except Armed Forces) recruited on or after 01.01.2004.
- ✓ It is based on unique Permanent Retirement Account Number (PRAN) allotted to every subscriber.
- ✓ The scheme is portable across jobs and locations, with tax benefits under Section 80C and Section 80CCD.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the watsonx.ai:

- 1. It is an Artificial Intelligence tool built by the Indian Space Research Organisation.**
- 2. It helps in monitoring the Earth from space to measure environmental changes.**

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer : B

- ✓ At the recent COP28, NASA and IBM announced that an Artificial Intelligence (AI) tool called watsonx.ai would be available on the open-source AI platform Hugging Space.
- ✓ It is an Artificial Intelligence tool jointly built by IBM and NASA.



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- ✓ Some small producers have also joined OPEC in recent years. Equatorial Guinea became a full member in 2017 and Gabon re-joined in 2016. Congo became a full member in 2018
- ✓ About Angola
- ✓ Capital- Luanda
- ✓ Currency- Angolan kwanza
- ✓ President- João Lourenço
- ✓ What is the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries(OPEC):
- ✓ It is a permanent intergovernmental organization of oil-exporting countries.
- ✓ Mission:
- ✓ To coordinate and unify the petroleum policies of its Member Countries.
- ✓ Ensure the stabilization of oil prices in the international oil markets, with a view to eliminating harmful and unnecessary fluctuations.
- ✓ Formation: It was established in 1960 by the five founding members Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and Venezuela.
- ✓ Currently, it has 13 members, including Algeria, Angola, Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Libya, Nigeria, and the United Arab Emirates
- ✓ Headquarters: Vienna, Austria.

Q. Who won the title of Chennai Grand Masters 2023?

- A) Dommaraju Gukesh**
- B) Vidit Gujarati**
- C) Arjun Erigaceae**
- D) R. Praggnananda**

Answer : A

- ✓ Dommaraju Gukesh won the title of Chennai Grand Masters 2023.
- ✓ Arjun Erigaisi secured second place in this tournament.
- ✓ Both Arjun and Gukesh scored 4.5 out of 7 in the competition.
- ✓ Gukesh won this tournament on tie-break.
- ✓ Before this, R. Praggnanandhaa had qualified for the Candidates by finishing second in the FIDE World Cup 2023 held in Baku, Azerbaijan this year.



CHESS GRANDMASTER IN NEWS 2023

- Vaishali Rameshbabu has become the 84th Grandmaster of India.
- Raunak Sadhwani (Maharashtra) won FIDE World Junior Rapid Chess Championship.
- India's Karthikeyan Murali became the third Indian chess player to defeat World No 1 Magnus Carlsen in classical chess after he prevailed over the Norwegian at the Qatar Masters tournament.
- Divya Deshmukh (Maharashtra) Emerges Winner Of 2023 Tata Steel Chess India Women's Rapid Tournament defeated Koneru Humpy.
- Magnus Carlsen (Norway) wins the Chess World Cup Final 2023.
- Aditya Samant becomes India's 83rd Grandmaster.
- Indian Grandmaster R. Praggnanandhaa has won the title of V Geza Hetenyi Memorial Super GM Chess Tournament 2023 .
- Magnus Carlsen (Norway) won the 2023 Superbet Rapid & Blitz Poland
- Telangana's Vuppala Prraneeth became India's 82nd Grandmaster.
- D Gukesh became the first Indian teenager to beat Magnus Carlsen in a rated 11th Norway Chess 2023 Blitz.
- Ding Liren has become 17th world chess champion – the first from China – defeating Russia's Ian Nepomniachtchi in a tie-breaker.
- Global Chess League (GCL) announced Dubai as the inaugural edition of the world's largest and first franchise-based chess league. The league is a joint venture between FIDE and Tech Mahindra.
- Ding Liren became China's first world chess champion after defeating Russia's Ian Nepomniachtchi in a tie-breaker.
- Sayantan Das from West Bengal has become India's 81st Chess Grandmaster.
- Vignesh NR became the 80th Grandmaster of the country.
- Dutch player Anish Giri, five times the runner-up in Wijk aan Zee, has won Tata Steel Masters 2023.
- Indian Grandmaster D Gukesh Wins Title At World Chess Armageddon Asia And Oceania Event.
- 16-year-old from Tamilnadu, M Pranesh became India's 79th chess grandmaster .
- Kolkata-based chess player, Koustav Chatterjee became India's 78th Grandmaster.



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- ✓ This step has been taken keeping in mind the needs of consumers and to provide innovation.
- ✓ Techno Mobile is a Chinese mobile phone manufacturer based in Shenzhen, China. It was established in 2006.

LATEST BRAND AMBASSADOR IN NEWS 2023

- Deepika Padukone : TECNO
- R Madhavan : Acko
- Sourav Ganguly : brand ambassador of Tripura state to promote tourism
- Sourav Ganguly : Brand Ambassador of Bengal
- Pankaj Tripathi : 'UPI Safety Ambassador
- Mahendra Singh Dhoni : State Bank of India (SBI)
- Katrina Kaif : Luxury Swiss watch brand 'Rado'
- Chetan bhagat : Henry Harvin Education
- Mohammed Shami : Puma
- Sachin Tendulkar : ICC as the global ambassador of ODI World Cup 2023
- Mahendra Singh Dhoni : JioMart
- Katrina Kaif : Uniqlo
- Hrithik Roshan : lubricants brand Mobilil
- Anushka Sharma : W
- Mahendra Singh Dhoni : Swaraj Tractors
- Iga Świątek : Infosys
- Rafael Nadal : Infosys
- Rahul Dravid : Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL)
- Shah Rukh Khan : ICC World Cup 2023
- Shradha Kapoor: Asics India Private Limited
- Rashmika Mandanna : Printer company Epson India
- Smriti Mandhana : Wrangler
- Hrithik Roshan : Zebronic TV
- Sachin Tendulkar : Smile Ambassador
- Sania Mirza : Sony Sports Network



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- Sourav Ganguly : Brand ambassador of Tripura Tourism
- Virat Kohli : Duroflex
- Alia Bhatt : Gucci, the luxury fashion brand from Italy
- Ayushman Khurana : Wakefit
- Rishabh Pant : Star Sports
- Rohit Sharma : JioCinema
- Virat Kohli : HSBC India
- Ranveer Singh : Star Sports Network
- Shreya Ghodawat : India's ambassador for She Changes Climate
- MC Mary Kom, Farhan Akhtar : Brand ambassadors of IBA Women's World Championships 2023
- Sachin Tendulkar : World's first 'Hand Ambassador' for Savlon India
- Ranveer Singh : Pepsi
- Ayushmann Khurrana : UNICEF India child rights
- Yastika Bhatia and Renuka Singh Thakur : Hyundai Motor India Ltd
- Vir Das : Plant-based meat brand UnCrave
- Harmanpreet Kaur : Puma
- Nikhat Zareen : National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC)
- Sourav Ganguly : Bandhan Bank 'Jahaan Bandhan, Wahaan Trust' campaign
- Anushka Sharma : Puma
- Deepika Padukone : Pottery Barn
- Virat Kohli : Smart watch Noise
- Praseon Joshi : Uttarakhand State
- Lionel Messi : Byjus

Q. What is 'AS-24 KILLJOY', that was in the news recently?

- A) A type of advanced radar system
- B) A nuclear-powered submarine
- C) A computer virus
- D) A hypersonic ballistic missile



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Answer : D

- ✓ In a continuing aerial strike on Ukraine, Russia recently employed its AS-24 KILLJOY hypersonic missile, which the country has projected as an “invincible weapon”.
- ✓ About AS-24 Killjoy:
- ✓ It is the western reporting name of the Kh-47M2 (Kinzhal), a nuclear-capable, Russian air-launched hypersonic ballistic missile.
- ✓ It was one of six “next generation” weapons unveiled by Russian President Vladimir Putin during a speech in March 2018.
- ✓ It was one of six “next generation” weapons unveiled by Russian President Vladimir Putin during a speech in March 2018.
- ✓ Features:
- ✓ It can reach speeds of up to Mach 10 (12,350 km/hr).
- ✓ It can carry both conventional and nuclear warheads with a payload of up to 480 kg and a thermonuclear option with a 10-50 kt warhead.
- ✓ It has a reported range of 1,500-2,000 km.

Q. Which ministry has launched the ‘Bhoomi Rashi Portal’?

- A) Ministry of Agriculture
- B) Ministry of Rural Development
- C) Ministry of Road, Transport and Highways
- D) Ministry of Finance

Answer : C

- ✓ The Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways recently said 1467 projects of the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) have been brought under the Bhoomi Rashi Portal.
- ✓ About Bhoomi Rashi Portal
- ✓ It is an e-Governance initiative of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.
- ✓ The portal intends to expedite the process of land acquisition for National Highways.
- ✓ It acts as a single-point platform for the online processing of land acquisition notifications to accelerate highway infrastructure development projects in India.
- ✓ This portal would enhance the efficiency of the land acquisition process, ensure transparency and accountability, and result in the e-transfer of benefits directly to the accounts of the beneficiaries



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- ✓ Preparation of interface for adding project basic details, including land acquisition sanction details.
- ✓ Preparation of interface for Land Acquisition locations i.e. villages
- ✓ Preparation of Interface for Competent Authority for Land Acquisition (CALA) details. CALA is a revenue functionary of the State Government appointed for each NH Project.
- ✓ The portal has been integrated with the Public Financial Management System (PFMS) of the Ministry of Finance for depositing compensation in the accounts of affected/ interested persons on a real-time basis

Q. Who won the women's singles title at the National Badminton Championships 2023?

- A) Asha Sinha B) Aditi Parekh
C) Anmol Kharb D) Tanvi Sharma

Answer : C

- ✓ Anmol Kharb won the women's singles title in the National Badminton Championship 2023 held in Guwahati.
- ✓ Unseeded Chirag Sen won the men's singles title by defeating fourth seed Tharun M. Priya Devi Konzengbam and Shruti Mishra won the women's doubles title.

Q. Chandra river flows through which one of the following States in India?

- A) Assam B) West Bengal
C) Himachal Pradesh D) Tamil Nadu

Answer : C

- ✓ Himachal Pradesh Police recently cracked down on an SUV owner for allegedly driving his vehicle across the Chandra River in Lahaul and Spiti district.
- ✓ About Chandra River:
- ✓ It is one of the two rivers (other being the Bhaga River) that merge to form the Chenab River in the Lahaul region of Himachal Pradesh.
- ✓ Course:
- ✓ Origin: It rises in the snows lying at the base of the main Himalayan range in the Lahaul and Spiti districts, Himachal Pradesh.
- ✓ It flows for a considerable distance along the base of this range in a southeasterly direction before turning completely and taking a southwesterly course in the Spiti Valley.
- ✓ It flows on to merge with the Bhaga River downstream of Keylong.



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- ✓ The beautiful Chandra Tal Lake has formed at its source.

HIMACHAL PRADESH IN NEWS 2023

- Himachal Pradesh Police recently cracked down on an SUV owner for allegedly driving his vehicle across the Chandra River in Lahaul and Spiti district.
- Indian Army's inaugural Vertical Wind Tunnel (VWT) has been inaugurated at the Special Forces Training School (SFTS) located in Bakloh, Himachal Pradesh.
- Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Launches Scheme For Specially-Abled Children, 'SABAL'.
- Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu launched 'Sashakt Mahila Loan Yojana', a collateral-free loan scheme for women.
- Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu has inaugurated "The Tribune Real Estate Expo, 2023, Shimla".
- Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu informed that Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) will set up an ethanol plant at Jeetpur Baheri in Una district at a cost of Rs 500 crore.
- European Commission (EC) has awarded protected geographical indication (PGI) status to Kangra tea, a unique variety of tea grown in the Kangra district of India's Himachal Pradesh.
- Himachal Pradesh (HP) has become the first Indian state to develop a DNA database for unidentified bodies.
- Himachal Pradesh launched Sanjeevani Project to uplift the livelihood of small dairy farmers and livestock owners.
- Himachal Pradesh targets to be first 'green energy state' by 2025.
- Himachal Cabinet approves monthly incentive of Rs 1,500 for women of Spiti Valley.
- Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu announced to set up of Rs 101 crore CM's Sukhashraya Sahayata Kosh for the destitute in the state.
- Himachal Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu laid the foundation stone of 'Himachal Niketan' which will provide accommodation facilities to the students and residents of Himachal Pradesh visiting New Delhi.
- Himachal Pradesh celebrates its 53rd Statehood Day with joy and enthusiasm across the state on 25th January 2023



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- About Himachal Pradesh
- Formation - 1 November 1956
- Capital - Shimla and Dharamshala (Winter)
- District - 12
- Governor- Shiv Pratap Shukla
- Chief Minister - Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu
- Rajya Sabha - 3 seats
- Lok Sabha - 4 seats
- Symbol of Himachal Pradesh
- Bird - Western Tragopan
- Fish - Golden Mahseer
- Flowers - Pink Rhododendron
- Mammal - Snow Leopard
- Tree -Deodar Cedar

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the OSIRIS-APEX mission:

1. It aims to study the physical changes to asteroid Apophis.

2. It will be launched by the European Space Agency.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A) 1 only

B) 2 only

C) Both 1 and 2

D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer : A

- ✓ In an unprecedented extension of its celestial duties, the spacecraft that delivered asteroid samples from Benu, OSIRIS-REx has embarked on a new mission, and NASA has renamed it as OSIRIS-APEX.
- ✓ It is a mission to study the physical changes to asteroid Apophis that will result from its rare close encounter with Earth in April 2029.
- ✓ That year, Apophis' orbit will bring it within 20,000 miles (32,000 kilometers) of Earth's surface — closer to Earth than our highest-altitude satellites.



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- ✓ The mission aims to observe the physical changes induced by Earth's gravitational pull during Apophis' flyby.
- ✓ Key facts about Apophis
- ✓ It was discovered on June 19, 2004.
- ✓ It is a stony "S-type" asteroid made of silicate (or rocky) material and a mixture of metallic nickel and iron
- ✓ It is a remnant from the early formation of our solar system about 4.6 billion years ago.
- ✓ It originated in the main asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Mission Karmayogi:

1. It is launched for capacity building of civil servants of the Union Government.

2. NITI Aayog acts as the nodal agency for this programme.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A) 1 only

B) 2 only

C) Both 1 and 2

D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer : A

- ✓ Recently, on the occasion of Good Governance Day the Union Minister of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions launched the Extended Version of Mission Karmayogi, at a function in New Delhi.
- ✓ Mission Karmayogi - National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building (NPCSCB) aims to prepare Civil Servants for the future by making them more creative, constructive & innovative through transparency and technology.
- ✓ This unique programme will help to lay the foundation for civil servants in the country.
- ✓ There will be more focus on 'on-site learning' in complementing "off-site learning".
- ✓ On 2nd September 2020, Government approved the National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building (NPCSCB) with six key pillars including Policy Framework, Institutional Framework, Competency Framework, Digital Learning Framework (iGOT-Karmayogi), the electronic Human Resource Management System (e-HRMS) and the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework.
- ✓ The Programme will cover all civil servants (including contractual employees) across different ministries, departments, organizations and agencies of the Union Government.
- ✓ Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions



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Q. How many dollars has the World Bank recently provided assistance to Ukraine?

- A) 1.11 billion B) 1.34 billion
C) 1.50 billion D) 2.00 billion

Answer : B

- ✓ The World Bank has recently provided assistance of \$ 1.34 billion to Ukraine under public expenditure.
- ✓ The financing includes a \$1.086 billion loan from the World Bank, \$190 million from Norway, \$50 million from the United States, and \$20 million from Switzerland

Q. In which state was the intra-district helicopter service inaugurated recently?

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

Answer : B

- ✓ Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath inaugurated the state's first intra-district helicopter service from Bateshwar in Agra to Govardhan in Mathura.
- ✓ The Chief Minister was in Bateshwar to celebrate the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.
- ✓ Chief Minister Yogi laid the foundation stone and inaugurated various projects costing Rs 10451.43 lakh.

Q. A special postal cover will be released on late Justice Madhava Reddy, who was the former Governor of which state?

- A) Himachal Pradesh
B) Maharashtra
C) Kerala
D) Bihar

Answer : B

- ✓ Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar will release a special postal cover on December 27 to mark the 100th birth anniversary of late Justice Konda Madhav Reddy, Chief Justice of Andhra Pradesh and Mumbai High Courts and former Governor of Maharashtra.
- ✓ The event, organized by Justice Konda Madhava Reddy Foundation, was presided over by Governor D. Tamilisai Sundararajan will do it.



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Q. What is Pantoea tagorei, that was recently making news?

- A) Fish
B) Bacteria
C) Turtle
D) Primate

Answer : B

- ✓ Recently, a team of researchers from Kolkata's Visva-Bharati has identified a new species of bacteria which has been named Pantoea Tagorei in homage to Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Tagore.
- ✓ About Pantoea Tagorei:
 - ✓ It was discovered from soil samples collected in the Jharia coal mines.
 - ✓ Characteristics
 - ✓ It has unique properties beneficial for plant growth.
 - ✓ It not only solubilizes potassium but also replenishes nitrogen and solubilizes
 - ✓ The team has conducted experiments by introducing this bacterium to farmers, who have expressed satisfaction with the positive results.
- ✓ Significance: This bacteria marks a significant stride toward fostering environmentally friendly agricultural methods.
- ✓ Key facts about Rabindranath Tagore:
 - ✓ He was a world-renowned poet, litterateur, philosopher and Asia's first Nobel laureate.
 - ✓ He was born in Kolkata on May 7, 1861.
 - ✓ He was popularly known as Bard of Bengal, and
 - ✓ He introduced new prose and verse forms and the use of colloquial language into Bengali literature, thereby freeing it from traditional models based on classical Sanskrit.
 - ✓ He was highly influential in introducing Indian culture to the West and vice versa.
- ✓ Awards: In 1913 he became the first non-European to receive the Nobel Prize for Literature
- ✓ He was awarded a knighthood in 1915, but he repudiated it in 1919 as a protest against the Amritsar (Jallianwala Bagh) Massacre.
- ✓ Visva Bharati University, which was known as Shantiniketan founded by Rabindranath Tagore.
- ✓ Rabindranath Tagore wrote India's national anthem, Jana Gana Mana.
- ✓ Tagore's most notable work of poetry is Gitanjali: Song Offerings, for which he received the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1913.



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Q. Which state is the main state partner of the International Gita Seminar and Gita Mahotsav?

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

Answer : A

- ✓ Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar inaugurated the International Gita Seminar and Geeta Mahotsav at Brahma Sarovar in Kurukshetra, Haryana.
- ✓ The theme of this year is – “Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam: Srimad Bhagavad Gita and Universal Unity.”
- ✓ The International Geeta Mahotsav programs are scheduled from December 7 to December 24, with the main event taking place from December 17 to December 24.
- ✓ Assam plays a pivotal role as the main state partner for this program.
- ✓ The event is organized collaboratively by the Kurukshetra Development Board, Haryana Tourism, District Administration, North Zone Cultural Centre, Patiala, and the Information and Public Relations Department of Haryana

Q. Which University has won the Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Trophy 2023?

- A) Gautam Buddha University
B) Guru Nanak Dev University
C) Delhi University
D) Jawahar Lal Nehru University

Answer : B

- ✓ Guru Nanak Dev University (GNDU) in Amritsar won the 2023 Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (MAKA) Trophy for the 25th time.
- ✓ The trophy is awarded annually by the President of India to the university with the best overall performance in sports at national, international, and inter-university competitions.

Q. Church of Epiphany, that has recently secured prestigious UNESCO Asia-Pacific Award for Cultural Heritage Conservation, is located in which state?

- A) Maharashtra
B) Haryana
C) Goa
D) Kerala

Answer : B



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- ✓ Three heritage projects from Punjab and Haryana, namely the Rambagh Gate & Ramparts in Amritsar, Pipal Haveli in Gurdaspur, and Church of Epiphany in Gurugram, have secured prestigious spots among the UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation.
- ✓ While the Rambagh Gate in Amritsar received the Award of Excellence, the Church of Epiphany in Gurugram, Haryana, earned the Award of Merit.
- ✓ Additionally, three projects received the Award of Distinction, including the Fanling Golf Course in Hong Kong SAR, China; Dongguan Garden Residences in Yangzhou, China; and Karnikara Mandapam at Kunnamangalam Bhagawati Temple in Kerala, India.

Q. As per the India Skills Report 2024, which state is the most preferred state to work?

- A) Karnataka
- B) Telangana
- C) Kerala
- D) Gujarat

Answer : C

- ✓ Wheebox, in collaboration with several entities including the All India Council for Technical Education, Confederation of Indian Industry, and Association of Indian Universities, has unveiled the India Skills Report.
- ✓ As indicated by the India Skills Report 2024, employability in India has shown improvement, with 51.25% of evaluated young individuals deemed employable possessing the necessary skills.
- ✓ Kerala has emerged as the top choice among states for employment, securing the second position in overall employability within the 18-21 age group, reaffirming its position as a robust talent pool in India.

Q. What is the name of the carbon tax that UK plans to implement from 2027 on imports of materials like steel and aluminum?

- A) Carbon Border Tax (CBT)
- B) Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM)
- C) Global Emissions Import Levy (GEIL)
- D) Cross-Border Carbon Surcharge (CBCS)

Answer : A

- ✓ The carbon tax that the UK plans to levy from 2027 on imports of carbon-intensive materials is the Carbon Border Tax. It will apply to items like iron, steel, aluminum, ceramics and cement.



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- ✓ The tax rate will depend on the carbon emissions associated with making the imported goods overseas and the gap with UK carbon prices.
- ✓ India opposes such green border levies as non-tariff barriers.
- ✓ The UK is following the EU which has already rolled out its Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism

Q. International Gender Equality Prize is given by which country?

- A) Sweden
- B) Finland
- C) Norway
- D) Estonia

Answer : B

- ✓ The International Gender Equality Prize in 2023 was awarded to the Afghan Women Skills Development Center.
- ✓ Prime Minister Petteri Orpo of Finland presented the €300,000 award to Mahbouba Seraj, the Center's Executive Director, in Tampere.
- ✓ The Center is recognized for its crucial work in defending women's rights and promoting gender equality in Afghanistan, particularly under challenging conditions following the Taliban's rise to power.
- ✓ International Gender Equality Prize is a government prize administered by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, Finland.
- ✓ Tampere has been a partner of the Prize and the host city for the award ceremony since 2017.

Q. Whose forthcoming memoir is titled 'Four Stars of Destiny'?

- A) Admiral Karambir Singh
- B) Air Chief Marshal R K S Bhaduria
- C) General M M Naravane
- D) Lieutenant General Rajendra Singh

Answer : C

- ✓ It is former Army Chief General M M Naravane's forthcoming memoir "Four Stars of Destiny" that mentions the armed forces were taken by surprise when the Agnipath military recruitment scheme was introduced.
- ✓ Gen Naravane writes he had proposed a Tour of Duty model for limited jawan intake but what came up as Agnipath applied to all new recruits in Army, Navy and Air Force, that too for only 4 years.



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Q. Which city is being developed as India's first 'AI City'?

A) Lucknow

B) Jaipur

C) Chennai

D) Kolkata

Answer : A

- ✓ Lucknow city, known as the 'City of Nawabs', will be developed as India's first 'AI City'.
- ✓ Noida has already emerged as an IT hub, on the same lines now Tier 2 cities like Lucknow are also being developed as IT hubs.
- ✓ According to a report by Grand View Research, the size of the global AI market was estimated at \$ 137 billion in the year 2022.
- ✓ UP Electronics Corporation Limited has issued Expression of Interest (EOI) for the development of AI City.

INDIA'S FIRST IN NEWS 2023

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



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



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Q. Bharat Electronics Limited has recently signed a contract worth Rs 445 crore with which state government?

- A) Bihar
B) Assam
C) Uttar Pradesh
D) Himachal Pradesh

Answer : C

- ✓ Navratna Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) has recently signed a contract worth Rs 445 crore with the Uttar Pradesh government for the next generation UP 'Dial 112' project.
- ✓ The company will provide comprehensive and state-of-the-art hardware, AI based software tools and cyber security tools for the 'Dial 112' project.

Q. Which stealth guided-missile destroyer was recently inducted into the Indian Navy?

- A) INS Imphal
B) INS Chakra
C) INS Dhvaj
D) INS Kavaratti

Answer : A

- ✓ INS Imphal, India's first warship named after a northeastern state, commissioned
- ✓ INS Imphal (Pennant D68), the third of four warships of Project 15B that together form the Visakhapatnam class stealth-guided missile destroyers, is set to be commissioned into the Indian Navy in Mumbai.
- ✓ The move aimed at boosting its maritime capability amid China's increasing forays into the Indian Ocean region.
- ✓ Defence Minister Rajnath Singh was the Chief Guest at the event.
- ✓ It is the first warship to have been named after a city from the Northeastern region, the approval for which was accorded by the President in April 2019.
- ✓ The naming of the ship after the capital city of Manipur underlines the importance of the Northeastern region for national security and prosperity.
- ✓ A guided missile destroyer with a displacement of 7,400 tonnes and overall length of 164 meters, Imphal is a potent and versatile platform equipped with state-of-the-art weapons and sensors, including surface-to-air missiles, anti-ship missiles and torpedoes.
- ✓ Powered by Combined Gas and Gas (COGAG) propulsion, the ship is capable of achieving speeds in excess of 30 knots (56 km/hour).



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- ✓ The ship boasts of a high indigenous content of approximately 75 per cent that includes BrahMos surface-to-surface missiles, medium-range surface-to-air missiles, anti-submarine indigenous rocket launchers and 76mm super rapid gun mount.
- ✓ What is Project 15B?
- ✓ Between 2014 and 2016, the Indian Navy commissioned three guided missile destroyers of Kolkata class under a project codenamed '15A'.
- ✓ The Kolkata class included INS Kolkata, INS Kochi and INS Chennai. These ships were a step ahead of their precursor Delhi class of ships, which included INS Delhi, INS Mysore and INS Mumbai, built under Project 15 and commissioned between 1997 and 2001.
- ✓ Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDSL), one of India's key Defence Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs), has built all these ships. A ship class signifies a group of ships built with similar tonnage, usage, capabilities and weaponry.

Q. Till December 2023, Digi Yatra, facial recognition tech, has been implemented at how many Indian airports?

- A) 13 B) 15
C) 20 D) 27

Answer : A

- ✓ Digi Yatra, facial recognition tech, implemented at 13 Indian airports
- ✓ To save time of passengers during security check at airports, Government is continuously making efforts by increasing security equipment, security manpower and using advance technologies.
- ✓ Digi Yatra, which provides for seamless and hassle-free experience for passengers at airports through biometric-based travel using Facial Recognition Technology has also been implemented at 13 airports and other airports will be covered in phased manner.

Q. National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) will invest up to Rs 675 crore on Bhogapuram greenfield international airport. Bhogapuram airport is located in which state?

- A) Uttar Pradesh B) Andhra Pradesh
C) Himachal Pradesh D) Rajasthan

Answer : B



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- ✓ National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) is planning to invest up to Rs 675 crore on the upcoming greenfield international airport at Bhogapuram in Andhra Pradesh, which is being developed by the GMR group.
- ✓ This marks NIIF's second airport investment, after the GMR Goa International Airport Ltd, which operates Manohar International Airport in Goa.
- ✓ GMR Airports Ltd (GAL) — a subsidiary of GMR Airports Infrastructure Ltd (GAIL) — and NIIF have entered into binding agreements for the NIIF to invest up to Rs 6.75 billion (Rs 675 crore) in GMR Visakhapatnam International Airport Ltd (GVIAL).
- ✓ GVIAL — a special purpose vehicle to develop and operate the Bhogapuram International Airport — was in 2020 awarded the concession to develop and operate the Bhogapuram International Airport (BIA) to the north of Visakhapatnam under a 40-year design-build-finance-operate-and-transfer model.

AIRPORT IN NEWS 2023

- National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) is planning to invest up to Rs 675 crore on the upcoming greenfield international airport at Bhogapuram in Andhra Pradesh.
- Digi Yatra, facial recognition tech, implemented at 13 Indian airports.
- Union Cabinet has approved the proposal to declare Surat Airport an international airport.
- Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) has secured recognition as one of the 'World's Most Beautiful Airports' and has been awarded the 'World Special Prize for an Interior 2023' by the UNESCO's Prix Versailles.
- 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.



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- 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.

Q. Who will preside over the 3rd National Conference of Chief Secretaries?

- A) Narendra Modi B) Amit Shah
C) Rajnath Singh D) S Jaishankar

Answer : A

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi will preside over the third National Conference of Chief Secretaries in Delhi on 28 and 29 December 2023.
- ✓ The first conference of Chief Secretaries was held in Dharamshala in June 2022 and the second in Delhi in January 2023.
- ✓ The main focus of this three-day national conference will be 'Ease of Living'.

Q. With reference to Card-on-File Tokenization, consider the following statements:

1. It is a replacement of actual credit and debit card details with an alternate token.
2. Token may be issued either by the card network or the issuer or both.
3. The cardholder can tokenise the card at any time.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer : C

- ✓ In order to make digital payments more secure, safe and sound the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has now enabled card-on-file tokenisation (CoFT) through card issuing banks and institutions.
- ✓ Tokenisation refers to replacement of actual credit and debit card details with an alternate code called the "token".
- ✓ It is a combination of card, token requestor and device.
- ✓ The card detail when stored with a merchant is known as card-on-file (CoF).



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- ✓ This token is a randomly generated string of characters that has no intrinsic value and is meaningless outside of the context of a specific transaction.
- ✓ The token is used as a surrogate for the actual card details, making it more secure to store and transmit.
- ✓ Requirements for enabling CoFT through card issuers:
- ✓ Generation of CoFT tokens for a card can be enabled through mobile banking and internet banking channels.
- ✓ The token can be generated only on explicit customer consent and with AFA (additional factor authentication) validation.
- ✓ The cardholder may tokenize the card at any time of their convenience, either on receipt of the new card or at a later stage.
- ✓ The cardholder can select the merchants with whom he/she wishes to maintain tokens.
- ✓ The card token so issued may be either by the card network or the issuer or both

Q. Which category of workers is the Telangana government will provide Rs 5 lakh for accident insurance?

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

Answer : B

- ✓ Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy has announced, government will provide Rs 5 lakh for accident insurance to gig workers such as those involved in food delivery, and driving cabs and autorickshaws.
- ✓ The government would also provide Rs 10 lakh health cover under the 'Rajiv Arogyasri' scheme.
- ✓ The state government will provide social security to workers in the unorganized sectors and will make a policy decision in this direction.
- ✓ Reddy promised that the state government would study the existing policy for gig workers in Rajasthan and introduce an effective law in the next state budget session

Q. India will acquire five Lithium Blocks in which country?

- A) Argentina B) Ethiopia
C) Norway D) Sweden

Answer : A



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- ✓ The Indian government is planning to enter into exploration and development agreements with the Argentina government for five lithium blocks that have been identified by Khanij Bidesh India (KABIL) in Catamarca province.
- ✓ The Centre will be investing around Rs 200 crore over the next five years for the purpose of exploring and developing these mines.
- ✓ This marks India's second attempt at signing a foreign partnership for sourcing critical minerals after previously signing a memorandum of understanding with Australia's Critical Minerals Facilitation Office (CMFO) in 2022.
- ✓ The 2022 agreement allowed India to explore five blocks, two for lithium and three for cobalt.
- ✓ Argentina boasts 21 percent of the world's 98 million tonne lithium reserves, which makes it the second-largest lithium reserve after Bolivia, according to the United States Geological Survey's (USGS) Lithium Statistics and Information 2023 report.
- ✓ These reserves are present in salt flats located in Salta, Catamarca and Jujuy provinces, which together form part of the Lithium Triangle.

Q. Which country will implement a new carbon import levy on some products from 2027 to help protect businesses against cheaper imports from countries with less strict climate policies?

A) United States

B) United Kingdom

C) Japan

D) Russia

Answer : B

- ✓ United Kingdom will implement a new carbon import levy on some products from 2027 to help to protect businesses against cheaper imports from countries with less strict climate policies.
- ✓ The planned carbon border adjustment mechanism (CBAM) will apply to carbon-intensive products in the iron, steel, aluminium, fertiliser, hydrogen, ceramics, glass and cement sectors.
- ✓ The charge applied will depend on the amount of carbon emitted in the production of the imported good and any gap between the carbon price applied in the country of origin and the carbon price faced by UK producers.
- ✓ Britain, which has a target of reaching net zero emissions by 2050, launched an emissions trading system (ETS) in 2021 to charge power plants, factories and airlines for each tonne of carbon dioxide they emit as part of efforts to meet that goal.



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Q. Education loans registered a record year-on-year growth of how much percent at ₹1,10,715 crore in the current financial year till October compared with ₹96,853 crore in the year-ago period?

A) 30.6%

B) 40.6%

C) 20.6%

D) 26.6%

Answer : C

- ✓ Education loans registered a record year-on-year growth of 20.6 percent at ₹1,10,715 crore in the current financial year till October compared with ₹96,853 crore in the year-ago period.
- ✓ According to Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data, the spurt in education loans was the highest in the last five years.
- ✓ The growth registered in the comparable period was 12.3 percent FY23 and (-) 3.1 percent in FY22.
- ✓ For the last one year, foreign education loans with an average ticket size of ₹40 lakh-60 lakh accounted for nearly 65 percent of loans disbursed.
- ✓ Loans for education in the US are on the higher side. The US Embassy and its consulates in India issued a record 1.40 lakh student visas between October 2022 and September 2023 this year

Q. Which state police will launch a new initiative, “Mission Investigation@75 days” to complete the investigation of cases within 75 days of FIR registration starting from January 1, 2024?

A) Bihar

B) Jharkhand

C) Chhattisgarh

D) Uttar Pradesh

Answer : A

- ✓ Bihar Police will launch a new initiative, “Mission Investigation@75 days”, making it mandatory for investigators to complete the investigation of cases within 75 days of FIR registration starting from January 1 next year.
- ✓ The Bihar government is preparing to take several measures from January 1, 2024 to make the state police more people-friendly and accountable. Our main focus is to improve the quality of investigation.
- ✓ The performance of all police stations and district police will also be reviewed on a monthly basis from January 1.



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Q. Which bank has launched the 'eSvarna' credit card that is India's first Corporate Credit Card on the RuPay network?

- A) Federal Bank
B) Indian Overseas Bank
C) IndusInd Bank
D) Punjab National Bank

Answer : B

- ✓ IndusInd Bank has launched the 'IndusInd Bank eSvarna', India's first Corporate Credit Card on RuPay network.
- ✓ This launch positions IndusInd Bank as the first in the country to integrate UPI functionality with a Corporate Credit Card.
- ✓ The card facilitates transactions at merchant outlets and allows users the flexibility to make UPI payments by linking the card with UPI-enabled apps.
- ✓ The IndusInd Bank eSvarna credit card on the RuPay network comes with perks and rewards.
- ✓ IndusInd Bank
- ✓ Founded : 1994
- ✓ Founder : S.P. Hinduja
- ✓ Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra,
- ✓ MD & CEO : Sumant Kathpalia
- ✓ Tagline : We Make You Feel Richer

Q. Which company has filed preliminary papers with capital markets regulator SEBI to raise funds through an initial public offering (IPO), that is the first issue by an automaker in the country in more than 20 years?

- A) Dunzo
B) Uber
C) Ola
D) Rapido

Answer : C

- ✓ Electric two-wheeler company Ola Electric has filed preliminary papers with capital markets regulator SEBI to raise funds through an initial public offering (IPO)– the first issue by an automaker in the country in more than 20 years.
- ✓ The proposed IPO is a fresh issue of equity shares up to Rs 5,500 crore and an offer for sale (OFS) of 9.52 crore equity shares by promoters and investors, according to the draft red herring prospectus (DRHP).



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- ✓ Proceeds from the fresh issue will be used for capital expenditure to be incurred by the subsidiary, OCT for the Ola Gigafactory project, payment of debt by subsidiary OET, investment into research and product development, expenditure for organic growth initiatives, and general corporate purposes.

Q. Which bank has approved \$100 Mn for Skill Development in Sikkim?

- A) World Bank B) New Development Bank
C) Asian Development Bank D) International Monetary Fund

Answer : A

- ✓ World Bank Approves \$100 Mn For Skill Development In Sikkim
- ✓ The World Bank's Board of Executive Directors has approved a new project to support the state of Sikkim's efforts to train, upskill, and provide jobs for 300,500 women and youth in high-growth and priority sectors.
- ✓ Sikkim has been one of the fastest-growing states in India. While over 40 percent of youth are currently engaged in agriculture, the state has a growing manufacturing and services industry.
- ✓ The \$100 million Sikkim: Integrated Service Provision and Innovation for Reviving Economies (INSPIRES) Operation will establish an Employment and Entrepreneurship Promotion Facility, which will promote partnerships with private-sector firms, central agencies, and business associations.

Q. Beverage major Coca-Cola has extended its partnership with the International Cricket Council (ICC) till ____.

- A) 2031 B) 2028
C) 2029 D) 2030

Answer : A

- ✓ Coca-Cola extends partnership with ICC till 2031
- ✓ Beverage major Coca-Cola has extended its partnership with the International Cricket Council (ICC) for eight years, encompassing ICC World events across all three formats, up until the end of 2031.
- ✓ This eight-year partnership as a Global Partner of the ICC confirmed the collaboration as one of the longest-ever associations formed by the ICC with a single brand, spanning a total timeline of 13 years (2019-2031).
- ✓ The partnership will see the Coca-Cola Company's brands becoming exclusive non-alcoholic beverage partners. The agreement includes all men's and women's events at the pinnacle of the sport including the ICC Cricket World Cups, ICC T20 World Cups, and ICC Champions Trophies through to the end of 2031



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Q. Which bank has signed a \$165 million Line of Credit (LoC) from the World Bank to support grid-connected rooftop solar photovoltaic projects in residential and institutional sectors?

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

Answer : C

- ✓ The country's biggest lender, State Bank of India (SBI) has signed a \$165 million Line of Credit (LoC) from the World Bank in Delhi to support grid-connected rooftop solar photovoltaic projects in residential and institutional sectors.
- ✓ In September, SBI said that it plans to make home loans with rooftop solar installations mandatory for residential projects funded from the bank's long-term climate action funds drawn down from multilateral agencies.
- ✓ The lender has outstanding forex loans of \$2.3 billion from multilateral agencies, including the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, and KfW of Germany.
- ✓ SBI is raising its exposure to green initiatives, including funding green buildings, battery recycling, and solar rooftop plans, among others.
- ✓ SBI also signed Rs 1,800 crore in LoC with the European Investment Bank (EIB) to support climate action projects in the country.
- ✓ On December 14, SBI signed Rs 630 crore in LoC with German Development Bank KfW to promote solar projects in India.

Q. Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has approved a loan of how much crore rupees to support Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) initiatives in India?

- A) Rs 932 crore B) Rs 876 crore
C) Rs 647 crore D) Rs 789 crore

Answer : A

- ✓ Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has finalized a loan of approximately ₹932 Crore to support Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) initiatives in India.
- ✓ This loan will fund projects overseen by NITI Aayog. These projects are set to impact 112 aspirational districts and 500 aspirational blocks nationwide.



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- ✓ Kotak Mahindra Life Insurance Company has introduced a new insurance product known as T.U.L.I.P – Term with Unit Linked Insurance Plan.
- ✓ This is a unit-linked term insurance plan designed to provide life coverage up to 100 times the annual premium, allowing customers to potentially earn returns similar to a unit-linked insurance plan (ULIP).
- ✓ In addition to life coverage, it offers extra protection against critical illnesses and accidental death
- ✓ TULIP offers our customers comprehensive protection like a term plan and also the opportunity to grow their wealth like a ULIP. It is aimed at taking care of our customer's core financial needs.

Q. Japanese conglomerate SoftBank sold shares worth __ in omnichannel retailer FirstCry.

- A) \$310 million B) \$420 million
C) \$250 million D) \$505 million

Answer : A

- ✓ Japanese conglomerate SoftBank has sold shares worth \$310 million in omnichannel retailer FirstCry, which is likely to file a draft paper for IPO this week.
- ✓ SoftBank recently sold shares worth Rs 630 crore in FirstCry. It was picked up by a few high-net-worth individuals.
- ✓ With this sale, SoftBank has realized \$310 million from two rounds of stake sale in FirstCry.
- ✓ SoftBank had invested \$400 million in FirstCry at an enterprise valuation of \$900 million and SoftBank is still left with shares valued in the range of \$800-900 million which it will sell later.

Q. Who has been appointed as the interim MD and CEO of Merger-bound North East Small Finance Bank?

- A) Pratibha Parkar B) Gaurav Ahluwalia
C) Satish Kumar Kalra D) Rudrendra Tandon

Answer : C

- ✓ Merger-bound North East Small Finance Bank has appointed Satish Kumar Kalra as interim MD and CEO, following the approval of the bank's board and the Reserve Bank of India.
- ✓ Kalra was earlier MD, CEO (in-charge), and Executive Director at Andhra Bank, which was later merged with Union Bank of India.
- ✓ RBI had granted its no-objection certificate (NOC) for the proposed merger of the small finance bank with Fintech Slice in October 2023.



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Q. SEBI has once again extended the deadline for mutual fund and demat account holders to add the name of the beneficiary/beneficiaries or opt out of it till_.

A) July 30, 2024

B) August 30, 2024

C) June 30, 2024

D) April 30, 2024

Answer : C

- ✓ Capital markets regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has once again extended the deadline for mutual fund and demat account holders to add the name of the beneficiary/beneficiaries or opt out of it till June 30, 2024. Earlier, the deadline for the same was December 31, 2023
- ✓ Earlier, Sebi had pushed the deadline from September 30 to December 31 so that MF holders could complete the nomination process.

SEBI IN NEWS 2023

- SEBI has once again extended the deadline for mutual fund and demat account holders to add the name of the beneficiary/beneficiaries or opt out of it till June 30, 2024.
- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has proposed a phase-wise transition to instant settlement of trades in the equity cash market.
- An optional T+0 settlement cycle for trades till 1:30 pm may be introduced in the first phase, with settlement of funds and securities to be completed on the same day by 4:30 p.m.
- SEBI has introduced a regulatory framework for online investment platforms that facilitate investments in commission-free mutual fund (MF) schemes.
- SEBI sets up intermediary advisory panel to be led by S Ravindran.
- SEBI Introduced Risk disclosure Framework for Trading by Individual Traders in Equity F&O Segment.
- SEBI introduced the Legal Entity Identifier (LEI) system for issuers of non-convertible securities, securitized debt instruments and security receipts.
- NDTV appoints former SEBI Chairman UK Sinha and business leader Dipali Goenka as Independent Directors.
- Sebi introduces Application Supported by Blocked Amount (ASBA) -like facility for secondary market trading in India.
- NSE gets the final SEBI approval to launch Social Stock Exchange.



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- Markets regulator SEBI has launched an information database on municipal bonds.
- SEBI allowed Alternative Investment Funds(AIFs) to participate in the Credit Default Swaps(CDS) market as protection buyers and sellers in a bid to facilitate the deepening of the domestic corporate bond segment.
- Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI):
- It is the regulatory body for securities and commodity markets in India established in 1988.
- Its main objectives are to protect the interests of investors in securities and promote the development of the securities market in India by regulating intermediaries, ensuring transparency and accountability of listed companies, and promoting investor education.
- It is owned by the Ministry of Finance, Government of India, but functions as an autonomous body with its own governing board.
- It has the power to issue guidelines, rules and regulations, investigate and punish fraudulent business practices.
- It is the regulator of the Capital market and Commodities market in India.
- The first SEBI chairman was Dr S A Dave (1988-90)
- Madhabi Puri Buch is the current and 10th Chairperson of the SEBI.
- Headquarters : Mumbai

Q. Smart Lander for Investigating Moon (SLIM) spacecraft is launched by

- A) Russian Space Agency (ROSCOSMOS)**
- B) National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)**
- C) Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)**
- D) Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA)**

Answer : D

- ✓ Recently, Japan's Smart Lander for Investigating Moon (SLIM) spacecraft entered into orbit around the moon after a months-long journey.
- ✓ It is a spacecraft built and launched by the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) on September 7, 2023, from the Tanegashima spaceport.
- ✓ It weighed only 590 kg.



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- ✓ It was launched together with XRISM, a next-generation X-ray space telescope, onboard an H-2A rocket.
- ✓ It entered into an elliptical orbit around the moon over three minutes or so.
- ✓ Its apogee (farthest point) in this orbit is 4,000 km and perigee (closest point) is 600 km above the lunar surface.
- ✓ What will SLIM do on the moon?
- ✓ Just before it lands, SLIM will deploy two small rovers called Lunar Excursion Vehicle (LEV) 1 and 2. LEV-1, LEV-2, and SLIM will together study the lunar surface near the landing point, collect temperature and radiation readings, and attempt to study the moon's mantle.

Q. Jal Jeevan Mission: 72% rural households to have tap water supply, target to achieve 100% by which year?

A) 2024

B) 2025

C) 2026

D) 2028

Answer : A

- ✓ Jal Jeevan Mission achieves 72% rural tap water coverage, eyes 100% in 2024
- ✓ In 2024, the Jal Shakti ministry faces the crucial target of achieving the 100 per cent coverage of tap water connection to every rural household -- a commitment made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2019
- ✓ However, challenges persist in states like Jharkhand, Rajasthan, and West Bengal, where tap water connection coverage in rural households remains below 50 per cent, the data says
- ✓ The Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen Phase-II, launched in February 2020, aims at declaring all villages ODF Plus by the end of 2024.
- ✓ According to Parliament data, out of 5.91 lakh villages in the country, 3.18 lakh aspire to achieve ODF Plus status, and 1.23 lakh villages have already achieved the model ODF Plus status
- ✓ About Jal Jeevan Mission
- ✓ It is a flagship programme of the Government of India which was announced from the ramparts of Red Fort by the Prime Minister on August 15, 2019.
- ✓ The objective of the mission is to supply potable tap water in adequate quantity, prescribed quality and on a regular and long-term basis to every rural household of the country by 2024.
- ✓ It is implemented by the Government of India in partnership with the States/Union Territories.
- ✓ This mission comes under the Ministry of Jal Shakti.
- ✓ Funding Pattern :



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- ✓ The fund sharing pattern between the Center and the states under the mission is 90:10 for Himalayan and North-Eastern states and 50:50 for other states.
- ✓ In the case of Union Territories, 100% contribution is made by the Centre

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.
- India to get 9% of Electricity from Nuclear Sources by 2047.



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- 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. With reference to the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), consider the following statements:

- 1. Its main objective is to facilitate external trade and payments.**
- 2. It empowers the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to make rules and regulations regarding FEMA.**
- 3. Its provisions apply only to resident Indian citizens.**

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer : B

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) recently released a draft 'Licensing Framework for Authorised Persons (APs)' under the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), 1999.
- ✓ About Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA):
- ✓ FEMA came in 1999 as a successor to the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, or FERA, of 1973, with changing economic conditions in a post-liberalisation India.
- ✓ The main objective of FEMA is to facilitate external trade and payments and promote the orderly development and maintenance of the foreign exchange market in India.
- ✓ FEMA deals with provisions relating to procedures, formalities, dealings, etc. of foreign exchange transactions in India.
- ✓ The act also empowers the RBI to make rules and regulations to carry out the provisions of the act.
- ✓ Violations of the provisions of FEMA can result in penalties and fines.



- ✓ FEMA's head office is known as the Enforcement Directorate and is situated in Delhi.
- ✓ Applicability:
- ✓ It is applicable to the whole of India and equally applicable to the agencies and offices located outside India (which are owned or managed by an Indian Citizen).
- ✓ FEMA is applicable to the following entities and transactions.
- ✓ Foreign exchange.
- ✓ Foreign security.
- ✓ Exportation of any commodity and/or service from India to a country outside India.
- ✓ Importation of any commodity and/or service from outside India.
- ✓ Securities as defined under the Public Debt Act 1994.
- ✓ Purchase, sale, and exchange of any kind (i.e. Transfer).
- ✓ Banking, financial, and insurance services.
- ✓ Any overseas company owned by an NRI (Non-Resident Indian) and the owner is 60% or more.
- ✓ Any citizen of India, residing in the country or outside (NRI).

Q. Consider the following:

1. Payment of court fees
2. Providing the service of lawyers
3. Obtaining and supply of certified copies of orders
4. Preparation of appeal

How many of the above are free legal services provided by the National Legal Service Authority (NALSA)?

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

Answer : D

- ✓ The President recently nominated Justice Sanjiv Khanna, the senior-most judge of the Supreme Court, as the Executive Chairperson of the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA).
- ✓ About National Legal Service Authority (NALSA):
- ✓ NALSA has been constituted under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, to provide free legal services to the weaker sections of society and to organize Lok Adalats for amicable settlement of disputes.
- ✓ The prime objective of NALSA is the speedy disposal of cases and reducing the burden on the judiciary.



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- ✓ The Chief Justice of India is the patron-in-chief of NALSA, while the second senior most judge of the Supreme Court of India is the Executive Chairman.
- ✓ It is housed at the Supreme Court of India, New Delhi.
- ✓ In every State, a State Legal Services Authority and in every High Court, a High Court Legal Services Committee has been constituted.
- ✓ The free legal services include:
 - ✓ Payment of court fees, process fees, and all other charges payable or incurred in connection with any legal proceedings;
 - ✓ Providing the service of lawyers in legal proceedings;
 - ✓ Obtaining and supply of certified copies of orders and other documents in legal proceedings.
 - ✓ Preparation of appeal, paper book, including printing and translation of documents in legal proceedings.
- ✓ Persons eligible for free legal services includes:
 - ✓ Women and children
 - ✓ Members of SC/ST
 - ✓ Industrial workmen
 - ✓ Victims of mass disasters, violence, flood, drought, earthquake, and industrial disaster.
 - ✓ Disabled persons.
 - ✓ Persons in custody
 - ✓ Persons whose annual income does not exceed Rs. 1 lakh (in the Supreme Court Legal Services Committee the limit is Rs. 5,00,000).
 - ✓ Victims of trafficking in human beings or beggars.
- ✓ Constitutional Provisions:
 - ✓ Article 39A provides for free legal aid to the poor and weaker sections of society and ensures justice for all.
 - ✓ Articles 14 and 22(1) of the Constitution also make it obligatory for the State to ensure equality before the law and a legal system that promotes justice on the basis of equal opportunity for all.

Q. With reference to Tansen, consider the following statements:

- 1. He is known for popularising and improving the plucked rabab.**
- 2. He introduced the Miyan ki Malhar raga.**
- 3. He was given the title 'Mian' by Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb.**



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How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer : B

- ✓ Around 1,300 musicians played Vande Mataram on tabla to enter the Guinness World Record for the “largest table ensemble” during the ongoing 99th International Tansen Samaroh in Gwalior.
- ✓ Tansen Samaroh is a tribute to Indian musical legend, Shri Ramtanu Misra, famously known as Tansen.
- ✓ It is held every year in December in Gwalior to celebrate Tansen.
- ✓ Artist and music lovers from all over the world gather here to pay tribute to the Great Indian Musical Maestro Tansen.
- ✓ Key facts about Mian Tansen
- ✓ He was a prominent Indian classical music composer, musician and vocalist, known for a large number of compositions, and also an instrumentalist who popularised and improved the plucked rabab (of Central Asian origin).
- ✓ He was among the Navaratnas (nine jewels) at the court of the Mughal Emperor Jalal ud-din Akbar.
- ✓ Akbar gave him the title Mian, an honorific, meaning learned man.
- ✓ Tansen as a historical personality is difficult to extract from the extensive legend that surrounds him.
- ✓ He is given credit for introducing some famous raagas viz., Miyan ki Malhar, Miyan ki Todi and Darbari.
- ✓ Hence only statements 1 and 2 are correct.

Q. Which of the following learning programme was launched recently by Government of India for government servants in line with good governance day?

- A) VIKAS
B) SAMARTH
C) YASASVI
D) SAMRUDDHI

Answer : A

- ✓ December 25 is celebrated as the ‘Good Governance Day’ to mark former PM Vajpayee’s birth anniversary since 2014. It is meant to foster awareness among citizens about government accountability and administration, and inculcate “good governance” as a habit for civil servants.
- ✓ Vikas – Variable and Immersive Karmayogi Advanced Support.
- ✓ It is a blended programme with iGOT (integrated government online training) Karmayogi platform.



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- ✓ Aim – For capacity building of Middle management civil servants in Central Secretariat.
- ✓ Program duration – It consists of 33 hours complemented by 30 hours of offline training at ISTM.
- ✓ Focus – On development of functional, behavioural and technological competencies required in Central Government

Q. Consider the following statements about Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS), 2023

1. It is a voluntary initiative that seeks to increase maritime co-operation among Indian Ocean littoral states.

2. India was the chair of the IONS at the inaugural edition.

Choose the correct statements:

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

Answer : C

- ✓ Recently, the 8th edition of Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) Conclave of Chiefs (CoC) was conducted by the Royal Thai Navy at Bangkok, Thailand.
- ✓ Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) is a voluntary initiative that seeks to increase maritime co-operation among navies of the littoral states of the Indian Ocean Region.
- ✓ The Flag designed by India was selected as the IONS Flag at the Symposium.
- ✓ India also took over as the co-Chair (CoC) of IONS Working Groups on Maritime Security and Humanitarian Assistance/Disaster Relief (HADR) for the forthcoming cycle
- ✓ India was the chair of the IONS at the inaugural edition in 2008.
- ✓ India is also scheduled to take over as the Chair of IONS (2025-27) during 9th CoC planned to be conducted in India in end 2025.
- ✓ Republic of Korea Navy was the latest 'Observer' to the Symposium.
- ✓ At present it has 34 countries (25 members and 9 observers).



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Q. What is the official name of the free trade agreement (FTA) between India and the ASEAN countries?

- A) ASEAN-India Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (AICEPA)
- B) ASEAN-India Free Trade Agreement (AITFA)
- C) ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITGA)
- D) India-ASEAN Economic Cooperation Pact (IAECP)

Answer : C

- ✓ India and the ten-member ASEAN will begin negotiations to “modernise” their decade-and-a-half-old free trade agreement (FTA).
- ✓ The first round of negotiations for reviewing the FTA, officially known as the ASEAN India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITGA).
- ✓ But no new areas, such as environment, labour, MSMEs or gender, will be added to the AITGA.
- ✓ India’s trade deficit with the region, which was \$7.5 billion per annum when the pact was implemented, has since ballooned to \$43.57 billion.
- ✓ In 2022-23, India’s exports to the region were valued at \$44 billion, while its imports were at \$ 87.57 billion.
- ✓ The ten-member ASEAN, which includes Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Brunei, Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar and Cambodia, accounted for 11.3 per cent of India’s global trade in 2022-23
- ✓ Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN):
- ✓ Founded: 8 August 1967
- ✓ HQ: Jakarta, Indonesia
- ✓ Members: 10 countries (Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Brunei, Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar and Cambodia)
- ✓ Secretary General: Kao Kim Hourn

Q. How long has the Centre extended the duty exemption on imported lentils?

- A) Till March 31, 2022
- B) Till March 31, 2023
- C) Till March 31, 2024
- D) Till March 31, 2025

Answer : D



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- ✓ The Centre has extended the import duty exemption on masur dal (lentils) by another year till March 31, 2025.
- ✓ Import of lentils are being allowed duty-free to help contain inflation.
- ✓ In the normal course, imports attract 30 per cent Customs duty.
- ✓ The extension of duty exemption by a year will benefit the importers and will boost the supplies.
- ✓ Including the expected imports during November, the total imports of lentils during April-November stood at 11.48 lakh tonnes, according to iGrain India compared with 8.58 lakh tonnes in the financial year 2022-23.
- ✓ India imports lentils mainly from major producing countries such as Canada and Australia. Recently, the government has removed the retaliatory customs tariff on imports of lentils from the United States.
- ✓ Production of lentils during 2022-23 stood at over 15.8 lakh tonnes, higher than previous year's 12.69 lakh tonnes.

Q. According to the CoinSwitch report, which Indian city maintained its lead in crypto adoption in terms of value invested?

A) Mumbai

B) Delhi

C) Bangalore

D) Ghaziabad

Answer : B

- ✓ A report by crypto trading platform CoinSwitch showed Delhi maintained its lead in India's crypto adoption, followed by Bangalore and Mumbai.
- ✓ The parameter for this was in terms of value invested.
- ✓ According to the report, more than 20 per cent of India's total crypto investments are concentrated in the three major metropolitan areas: Delhi (9 per cent), Bangalore (8 per cent) and Mumbai (5 per cent). Ghaziabad claimed the 10th position in the list of the top invested cities, replacing Patna.
- ✓ Bitcoin, which the company claims to be the most prominent crypto, ended with more than 150 per cent year-on-year (compared with last year).
- ✓ Ethereum and several meme coins also ended the year in green.
- ✓ After touching a low of less than \$1 trillion in June 2022, the total crypto market capitalisation grew to over \$1.5 trillion by December 2023.
- ✓ About 75 per cent of the invested users are below the age of 35.



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- ✓ The top invested cryptos were Dogecoin (DOGE), Bitcoin (BTC), and Ethereum (ETH), contributing to 26 per cent of the total value.
- ✓ Solana (SOL) was the best-performing crypto in India's portfolio, with 633 per cent growth year-to-date. Delhi and Hyderabad saw the highest participation of women investors with 9 per cent of India's crypto investors being women.

Q. What has the Indian Railway Conference Association renamed the railway station 'Ayodhya Junction'?

- A) Ayodhya Dham
- B) Ramnagari
- C) Ayodhyapuri
- D) Shri Ram Junction

Answer : A

- ✓ The Indian Railway Conference Association has issued a statement announcing the change of name of the railway station located in Uttar Pradesh from "Ayodhya Junction" to "Ayodhya Dham".
- ✓ This railway station will be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 30 December.
- ✓ The previously allotted station code 'AY' has been retained.
- ✓ The station, with a total cost of ₹430 crore, is designed to accommodate up to 100,000 passengers. Its architecture blends modern solutions with the aesthetics of traditional Indian temple architecture.

RECENTLY RENAMED IN NEWS 2023

- Ayodhya Junction renamed as Ayodhya Dham Junction before historic Ram Mandir Consecration.
- The old parliament building will be called "Samvidhan Sadan (Constitution House)".
- Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir formally renamed Udhampur railway station after local hero martyr Captain Tushar Mahajan.
- Nehru Memorial Museum and Library Society renamed as Prime Ministers' Museum and Library Society, New Delhi.
- Central government renamed the Mughal Gardens in New Delhi's Rashtrapati Bhavan as 'Amrit Udyan'.
- Madhya Pradesh government announced that Islam Nagar village located in Bhopal district has been renamed as Jagdishpur.
- Ahmednagar renamed Ahilyadevi Holkar Nagar, Maharashtra.
- Coastal Road in Mumbai renamed after Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj, Maharashtra.



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- Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kaam Karyakram (PMKKK) renamed as Promotion of Prime Minister's Heritage (PM Vikas) Scheme.
- IDFC Asset Management Company Limited (AMC) to be renamed as Bandhan Mutual Fund as SEBI approves change in ownership.
- Maharashtra's Bandra-Versova sea route in Mumbai will be renamed as 'Veer Savarkar Bandra-Versova Sagari Setu'.
- Churchgate Railway Station in Mumbai will now be known as First Indian RBI Governor CD Deshmukh.
- Union Government Approved Renaming of Aurangabad & Osmanabad in Maharashtra.
- Philips Domestic Appliances has announced the change of its company name to Versuni.
- Madhya Pradesh government announced that Islam Nagar village, situated in the Bhopal district, has been renamed as Jagdishpur.
- On Parakram Diwas, Prime Minister Narendra Modi participate in a ceremony to name 21 largest unnamed islands of Andaman & Nicobar Islands.
- Edelweiss General Insurance rebranded itself as Zuno General Insurance.

Q. Who has been appointed by Bisleri as its first global brand ambassador for its new campaign Bisleri #DrinkItUp?

A) Deepika Padukone

B) Katrina Kaif

C) Alia Bhatt

D) Aishwarya Rai

Answer : A

- ✓ Bisleri, India's leading mineral water brand has roped in Global Indian Icon Deepika Padukone as its first-ever global brand ambassador in the new campaign Bisleri #DrinkItUp.
- ✓ The campaign is a fresh and never seen before take on hydration infusing excitement and fun. The ad film showcases Padukone grooving to a snappy and modern take on the iconic song 'Jhoom Jhoom Jhoom Baba' while relishing the pure refreshment of the original beverage, 'water'.
- ✓ The campaign will be promoted across multiple platforms, including TV, digital, and OTT platforms.
- ✓ The Bisleri #DrinkItUp campaign has been shot by Nirvana Films and directed by ace director Prakash Verma while Bisleri's association with Deepika Padukone was managed by Wavemaker and GroupM ESP



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Q. Muthoot FinCorp has raised ₹200 crore from which bank via the private placement of non-convertible debentures (NCDs)?

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

Answer : B

- ✓ Muthoot FinCorp, the flagship company of the 136-year-old Muthoot Pappachan Group (Muthoot Blue), has raised ₹200 crore from State Bank of India, via the private placement of non-convertible debentures (NCDs).
- ✓ The debt securities have a five-year maturity and half-yearly frequency for interest payment. They are rated 'AA' by Crisil with a 'stable' outlook.
- ✓ Proceeds of this will be utilised for onward lending, business operations and further expansion and growth plan.
- ✓ The NBFC has over 3,600 branches across India and offers gold loans, Vyapar Mitra business loans, two-wheeler loans, used car loans, home Loans, loan against property, domestic and international money transfer, foreign exchange, Insurance, and wealth management services.
- ✓ Muthoot Pappachan Group, also known as Muthoot Blue, is an Indian financial services conglomerate founded in 1887 by Ninan Mathai Muthoot. Headquartered in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala
- ✓ CEO of Muthoot FinCorp : Shaji Varghese

Q. Who has been appointed by Sony Sports Network as its brand ambassador for football?

- A) Akshay Kumar B) Kartik Aaryan
C) Ajay Devgn D) Hrithik Roshan

Answer : B

- ✓ Sony Sports Network has roped in Bollywood actor and youth icon Kartik Aaryan, who is known to be an avid football follower, as their brand ambassador for football.
- ✓ Kartik will be seen promoting the footballing action on the Sony Sports Network, which will be home to the UEFA EURO 2024, the UEFA Champions League, the Bundesliga and more for the year ahead.

Q. The Union Cabinet has approved the 'Migration and Movement' agreement with which country?

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



Answer : C

- ✓ The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the 'Migration and Movement' Agreement between the Government of India and the Government of Italy.
- ✓ This agreement will increase interaction between people and will make it easier to resolve issues related to irregular migration.
- ✓ This agreement was signed by both the countries on November 2, 2023

SIGNS MoU IN NEWS 2023

- Cabinet approves the Migration and Mobility Agreement between India and Italy
- India and Italy sign Mobility and Migration Partnership Agreement to facilitate movement of workers.
- India-Japan pact on semiconductor supply chain gets Cabinet green light.
- India, Italy sign defence agreement.
- India and Tanzania elevate ties to Strategic Partnership; Agree on 5 year roadmap for defence cooperation.
- India, Tanzania to sign 15 agreements with eye on USD 10 billion trade.
- India And Saudi Arabia Tie Up For Green Hydrogen.
- India And Saudi Arabia Sign Agreement On Cooperation In Energy Sector.
- India, New Zealand Sign MoU To Enhance Cooperation In Civil Aviation.
- India and Trinidad and Tobago have entered a partnership by signing an MoU to share INDIA STACK.
- India, Moldova agree to sign MoU for cooperation in agriculture
- India, UAE sign MoU on linking of India's Unified Payments Interface with Instant Payment Platform of UAE.
- India, Panama sign MoU on electoral cooperation.
- India and Singapore extend MoU on cooperation for 5 years.
- Israel signed an agreement with India to enhance technological advancements and sustainable practices cooperation in the fields of water and agriculture.
- India and US To Establish Monitoring Group to Boost High-Tech Trade and Tech Partnership.
- India and Australia Sign Agreements on Migration and Green Hydrogen Task Force.
- India, Israel sign MoU for industrial research and development cooperation.



- NET Zero' Innovation Virtual Centre to be jointly created by India-UK.
- India, UK sign agreement to collaborate on science and innovation.
- Nepal and India to Sign Agreement for Cross-Border Digital Payments.
- India and Romania sign first Defence Cooperation Agreement to strengthen bilateral relations.
- India, US to sign memorandum of understanding on semiconductors.
- Australia, India agree on strengthening economic, defence ties.

Q. Who has been appointed as the new chairman of Kotak Mahindra Bank?

- A) Rana Kapoor B) Vineet Sinha
C) CS Rajan D) S Chandra

Answer : A

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the appointment of CS Rajan as part-time Chairman of Kotak Mahindra Bank.
- ✓ Rajan is currently serving as an independent director of the bank.
- ✓ His appointment is effective from January 1, 2024 and will last for a period of two years.
- ✓ CS Rajan is playing the role of independent director on the board of the bank from October 22, 2022.

KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK IN NEWS 2023

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the appointment of CS Rajan as part-time Chairman of Kotak Mahindra Bank.
- Kotak Mahindra Bank has partnered with National E-Governance Services Limited (NeSL) to issue its first electronic Bank Guarantee (e-BG) on the latter's platform.
- Ashok Vaswani is next Kotak Mahindra Bank CEO.
- Kotak Mahindra Bank has received the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) approval to acquire 100% stake in micro-lender Sonata Finance.
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a penalty of ₹12.19 crore on ICICI Bank and ₹3.95 crore on Kotak Mahindra Bank for non-compliance of certain regulatory norms.
- Kotak Mahindra Bank
- Founded 1985



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- Founders : Uday Kotak
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- MD & CEO : Ashok Vaswani
- Tagline : Let's Make Money Simple Ab Kona Kona Kotak.
- Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited is an Indian banking and financial services company headquartered in Mumbai.
- It is India's third largest private sector bank by market capitalisation after HDFC Bank and ICICI Bank.
- As of 31 March 2023, the bank has a national footprint of 1,780 branches and 2,963 ATMs.
- Kotak Mahindra Finance was then renamed Kotak Mahindra Bank. At the time, Uday Kotak had a 56% stake in the company while Anand Mahindra held a 5% stake.

Q. Who has recently been appointed as Chief Risk Officer by LIC?

A) Abhay Maken

B) S Sundar Krishnan

C) Pratap Chandra Paikarai

D) Rekha Swaminathan

Answer : B

- ✓ Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has appointed S Sundar Krishnan as Chief Risk Officer (CRO), replacing Pratap Chandra Paikarai.
- ✓ Sundar Krishnan DSP has experience in services at Merrill Lynch, Credit Lyonnais Bank and Bank International Indonesia.
- ✓ LIC is a central public sector life insurance company headquartered in Mumbai.

LIC IN NEWS 2023

- Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has appointed S Sundar Krishnan as Chief Risk Officer (CRO), replacing Pratap Chandra Paikarai
- Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has launched a special scheme, named Jeevan Utsav.
- Life Insurance Corporation of India has tied up with Saraswat Cooperative Bank Ltd in its effort to increase the penetration of life insurance through the Bancassurance channel in Mumbai.

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- SatPal Bhanu has been appointed as the Managing Director (MD) of Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC).
- Siddhartha Mohanty appointed as Chairman of LIC Until June 2024.
- LIC Raises Stake in Tech Mahindra to 8.88% Through Open Market Transactions.
- Ratnakar Patnaik appointed as new Chief Investment Officer of LIC.
- Tablesh Pandey and M. Jagannath have been appointed as the managing directors of the Life Insurance Company (LIC).
- Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has launched LIC Jeevan Azad Plan.
- The minimum basic sum assured under LIC Jeevan Azad Plan is Rs 2 lakh and the maximum basic sum assured is Rs 5 lakh. The policy can be taken for term of 15 to 20 years.
- LIC to divest 60.72% share in IDBI Bank.
- LIC presently has four managing directors
- Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)
- Founded : 1956
- Headquarters : Mumbai
- Chairman : Siddhartha Mohanty
- It is India's largest life insurance company and also the country's largest investment company.
- Authorised Capital of LIC - Rs 25,000 Crore.
- At Rs 21,000 crore, LIC is India's largest IPO.

Q. In which country did the Union Cabinet recently approve the opening of the Consulate General of India?

A) France

B) Argentina

C) Russia

D) New Zealand

Answer : D

- ✓ The Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the proposal to open the Consulate General of India in Auckland, New Zealand.
- ✓ The opening of the Consulate General of India in Auckland will further strengthen the relations between India and New Zealand.
- ✓ This Consulate is likely to be opened and fully operational within a time frame of 12 months



Q. In which state will Karbi Youth Festival 2024 be organized?

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

Answer : D

- ✓ President Draupadi Murmu will attend the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of Karbi Youth Festival 2024 to be held at Taralungso, Diphu in Karbi Anglong district of Assam on January 17.
- ✓ The Golden Jubilee Celebration of Karbi Youth Festival 2024 will be organized on January 12-19, 2024.
- ✓ Karbi Youth Festival is organized annually and thousands of Karbi youth from Assam and other parts of the country participate in it.

Q. What is 'Patriot PAC-3', that was in the news recently?

- A) A nuclear-powered aircraft carrier
B) A surface-to-air-defense system
C) A stealth destroyer
D) An earth observation satellite

Answer : B

- ✓ Russia recently issued a stern warning to Japan, expressing concerns over its decision to export Patriot PAC-3 anti-aircraft missiles to the United States.
- ✓ About Patriot PAC-3 Missile:
- ✓ The Phased Array Tracking to Intercept of Target (PATRIOT) Advanced Capability-Three (PAC-3) program is a surface-to-air-defense guided missile system with all-weather capabilities.
- ✓ It has been built by Raytheon Technologies Corp and is considered one of the most advanced air defense systems in the U.S. arsenal.
- ✓ It entered service with the US Army in 2001 and the US Air Force in 2003.
- ✓ It has a range of about 40 km and can reach targets at an altitude of up to 20 km.

Q. Kolyma River flows through which one of the following countries?

- A) China
B) Bangladesh
C) Russia
D) Hungary

Answer : C



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- ✓ A Soviet-era Antonov-24 aircraft carrying 30 passengers landed safely on the frozen river Kolyma recently because of a pilot error.
- ✓ About Kolyma River:
- ✓ Location: It is a river in northeastern Siberia, far eastern Russia, rising in the Kolyma Mountains.
- ✓ It is 2,129 km long and drains an area of 647,000 square km.
- ✓ Course:
- ✓ In its upper course, it flows through narrow gorges with many rapids.
- ✓ The Kolyma River cuts through the majestic Verkhoyansk Range, one of the longest mountain ranges in Siberia.

Q. With reference to the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST), consider the following statements:

1. It was built in collaboration between NASA, the European Space Agency (ESA) and the Canadian Space Agency.

2. It orbits around the L2 Lagrange point in space.

3. It does not work in the infrared range of the electromagnetic spectrum.

How many of the above statements are correct?

A) Only one

B) Only two

C) All three

D) None

Answer : B

- ✓ After its first full calendar year of operation, astronomers are using the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) to look for life on thousands of newly discovered planets.
- ✓ About James Webb Space Telescope (JWST):
- ✓ JWST was built in collaboration between NASA, the European Space Agency (ESA), and the Canadian Space Agency.
- ✓ It was launched in December 2021.
- ✓ It is the largest and most powerful space telescope to date.
- ✓ It orbits around a point in space called the L2 Lagrange point (a gravitationally stable location in space). It is approximately 1.5 million km beyond Earth's orbit and is one of the five points in the orbital plane of the Earth-Sun system.



- ✓ Its instruments are designed to work primarily in the infrared range of the electromagnetic spectrum, with some capability in the visible range.
- ✓ It is comprised of the Optical Telescope Element (OTE), the Integrated Science Instrument Module (ISIM), the sunshield, and the spacecraft bus.

Q. With reference to the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), consider the following statements:

- 1. It provides project financing only to public sectors.**
- 2. It supports financing in countries that are committed to and apply democratic principles.**
- 3. India is not a shareholder of the EBRD.**

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer : A

- ✓ The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) recently approved a 4 billion euro capital increase that will enable the bank to double its Ukraine investments.
- ✓ About European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD):
- ✓ It is an international financial institution with the mandate to promote transition towards a sustainable, open-market economy and to foster innovation.
- ✓ The EBRD was created in April 1991 to help Eastern European and ex-Soviet countries transition into democracies by developing free-market economies after the fall of communism.
- ✓ Headquarters: London
- ✓ It provides project financing mainly for private enterprises, usually together with other commercial lending partners, in countries that are committed to, and apply, democratic principles.
- ✓ The EBRD is owned by 72 countries, the European Union and the European Investment Bank.
- ✓ India became the EBRD's 69th shareholder when it joined the Bank in July 2018.

Q. Sohagibarwa Wildlife Sanctuary, recently seen in news, is located in:

- A) Manipur B) Gujarat
C) Maharashtra D) Uttar Pradesh



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Answer : D

- ✓ Recently, the Chief minister of Uttar Pradesh directed officials to conduct archaeological excavation in the Sohagibarwa Wildlife Sanctuary.
- ✓ It is located in the Maharajganj district of Uttar Pradesh.
- ✓ It was declared a Wildlife Sanctuary in June 1987.

Q. Telecommunications Consultants India Ltd (TCIL) has paid a dividend of how much rupees to the government for Financial Year 2022-23?

- A) 14.20 crore B) 20.20 crore
C) 22.20 crore D) 15.20 crore

Answer : A

- ✓ Telecommunications Consultants India Ltd (TCIL) has paid a dividend of Rs 14.20 crore to the government for Financial Year 2022-23.
- ✓ Since its inception, the TCIL has been a consistently profit-making Company. It has so far paid dividend of Rs 294.19 crore to the Government till FY 2022-23.
- ✓ The dividend is on Government's initial investment in equity of Rs 0.3 Crore. Rs16 crore was further infused during 2015-16. The group and standalone net worth of the company are Rs 1,712.00 crore and Rs 618.56 crore respectively as on 31st March 2023.
- ✓ In FY 2022-23, the TCIL achieved a revenue growth of 25 per cent over previous year with total Standalone revenue and profit after tax of Rs 2,001.7 crore and Rs 35.50 crore respectively.
- ✓ Established in August, 1978, TCIL is a Mini Ratna Category – I Status Company under the Department of Telecommunications of the Ministry of Communications. Government of India holds 100 per cent of its share capital.

Q. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has become first world leader to have ___ YouTube subscribers.

- A) 20 million B) 30 million
C) 40 million D) 50 million

Answer : A

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi's YouTube channel has achieved a significant milestone by surpassing 20 million subscriptions, making it the most subscribed channel among top global leaders.



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- ✓ The second-ranking leader is former Brazilian President Jair Bolsanora, whose subscriber count stands at a modest 6.4 million, merely a fraction of Modi's.
- ✓ The third most-subscribed channel among world leaders is the Ukraine President is far behind at 1.1 million. Whereas fourth on the list, United States President Joe Biden has a subscriber count of only 794,000 on his YouTube channel.
- ✓ Moreover, when it comes to views, Modi's channel continues to dominate, recording an impressive 2.24 billion views in December 2023. This figure is an astonishing 43 times higher than that of Zelenskyy, who holds the second-highest number of views globally.
- ✓ PM Modi's YouTube channel crossed 10 million subscribers in February 2022

Q. India and Russia have signed pacts on construction of future power units of Kudankulam nuclear plant. Kudankulam nuclear plant is located in which state?

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

Answer : B

- ✓ India and Russia have signed some "very important" agreements related to the construction of the future power-generating units of the Kudankulam nuclear power plant.
- ✓ The Kudankulam nuclear power plant, India's largest, is being built in Tamil Nadu with the technical assistance of Russia.
- ✓ The construction began in March 2002. Since February 2016, the first power unit of the Kudankulam NPP has been steadily operating at its design capacity of 1,000 MW.
- ✓ The plant is expected to start operating at full capacity in 2027.

Q. Which state 's road transport has launched logistics business under the brand name "Namma Cargo" to carry parcels in the state?

- A) Rajasthan
B) Madhya Pradesh
C) Haryana
D) Karnataka

Answer : D

- ✓ Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) has entered into logistics business under the brand name "Namma Cargo" to carry parcels in KSRTC route buses.



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- ✓ The deployment of 20 cargo trucks to kickstart the 'Namma Cargo' services in various districts across the state.
- ✓ The Namma Cargo trucks have GPS for goods transportation.
- ✓ Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with KMS Coach Builders Private Limited for lending its cargo trucks services on a rental basis for two months.
- ✓ To Namma Cargo services inducted 100 trucks in a month while the number of cargo trucks will go upto 500 in a year. To begin with, Basaveshwara bus station at Peenya in Bengaluru city will be used as a depot for operation and maintenance of cargo trucks

Q. Who has been conferred an honorary doctorate by Japan's Koyasan University?

- A) Ajit Doval
B) Devendra Fadnavis
C) Amit Shah
D) S Jaishankar

Answer : B

- ✓ Maharashtra deputy chief minister Devendra Fadnavis was conferred an honorary doctorate by Japan's Koyasan University.
- ✓ The university conferred the doctorate on Fadnavis to recognise his efforts in creating basic civic infrastructure, implementing schemes such as the Jalyukta Shivar Yojana, and his contribution to the industrial development of the state.
- ✓ In 2015, while he was the chief minister of Maharashtra, Fadnavis inaugurated a statue of Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar at the Buddhist study centre of the university in Japan.

Q. Who was the founder of 'Desia Murpokku Dravida Kazhagam' (DMDK) who passed away recently?

- A) Bonda Mani
B) Vijayakanth
C) G Marimuthu
D) Samuthirakani

Answer : B

- ✓ Actor-turned-politician and founder of Desiya Murpokku Dravida Kazhagam (DMDK) Vijayakanth passed away in Chennai. He was 71 years old. His wife V Premalatha was elected party chief during the DMDK meeting on 14 December. Prime Minister Narendra Modi also condoled his demise and called him a legend of the Tamil film industry.



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



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



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



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



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



34.5 KB APARCHIT'S GADGUS
Name: Bathina Maneesha
Rollno: 2543024278
Selected in : RRB clerk
State : Telangana

👏👏 MY PAID GROUP
STUDENT GOT SELECTION IN
IBPS RRB CLERK
GOOD LUCK FOR YOUR FUTURE
JOURNEY FEELING PROUD
NAME - BATHINA MANEESHA
ROLL NO - 2543024278
SELECTED IN - RRB CLERK
STATE - TELAGANA



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



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



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



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