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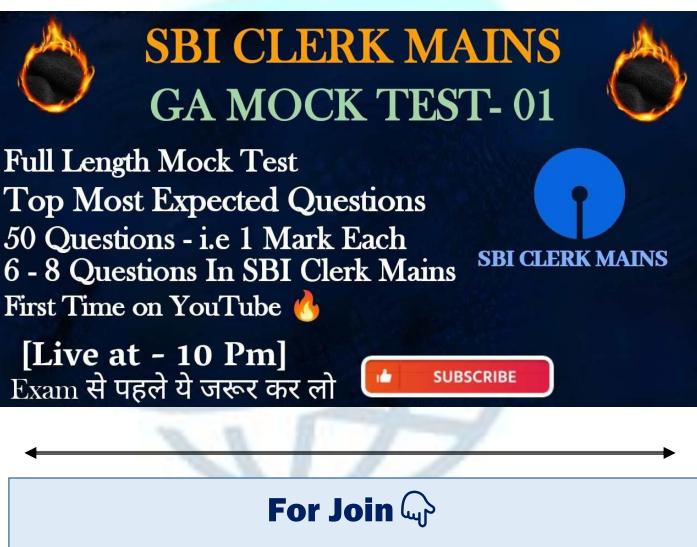
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Aparchit January 2nd Week English Best 350+ MCQs with Amazing Facts By :- Aparchit Exam Warriors/Kumar Kaushal Sir

- Q. Consider the following statements regarding Lunar Gateway Station:
 - 1. It is a component of NASA's Artemis program.
 - 2. It will be the first space station ever to exist outside of Low Earth Orbit (LEO).

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

- ✓ UAE announces its participation in Nasa's Lunar Gateway Station.
- ✓ UAE recently announced its participation in developing a module on NASA's Lunar Gateway Station alongside the USA, Japan, Canada, and the European Union.
- ✓ About Lunar Gateway Station:
- ✓ It is a primary component of NASA's Artemis program.
- ✓ Artemis intends to establish a long-term base on the Moon (Artemis base), and the Lunar Gateway will serve as a multi-purpose outpost that orbits the Moon.
- ✓ The Gateway is a multinational project involving four of the International Space Station partner agencies: NASA, the European Space Agency (ESA), Japan's Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA), and the Canadian Space Agency (CSA).
- Basically, the Gateway Station is similar to the International Space Station currently in low Earth orbit, but the Gateway will orbit the Moon.

NASA IN NEWS 2023

- NASA is gearing up to enhance our understanding of Earth's atmosphere with the upcoming Plankton, Aerosol, Cloud, Ocean Ecosystem (PACE) mission, scheduled for launch in early 2024.
- > NASA renames mission going to asteroid Apophis after returning rocks from Bennu.
- > About OSIRIS-APEX:
- It is a mission to study the physical changes to asteroid Apophis that will result from its rare close encounter



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- \blacktriangleright with Earth in April 2029.
- A NASA experiment on the Psyche spacecraft has beamed back a near-infrared laser that contains test data from almost 16 million kilometres away.
- > 16 Psyche:
- It is currently orbiting the Sun between Mars and Jupiter.
- NASA is set to launch the Atmospheric Waves Experiment (AWE) to study 'airglow' to understand space
- ➢ weather.
- NASA's James Webb Telescope recently discovered a new exoplanet named 'Wasp-107b', which is the size
- ➢ of Jupiter.
- > NASA's Lucy spacecraft successfully completed its first flyby of an asteroid named Dinkinesh.
- About Lucy Mission:
- > It is a first-of-its-kind mission of NASA that will explore Jupiter's elusive Trojan asteroids.
- National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) launched a sounding rocket as part of its INFUSE mission.
- > NASA's Subsurface Water Ice Mapping (SWIM) project released its fourth set of maps.
- > NISAR is a Low Earth Orbit (LEO) observatory jointly developed by NASA and ISRO.
- National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)
- Founded : 1958
- > Headquarters : Washington, D.C
- Administrator : Bill Nelson
- Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX):
 - 1. It aims to cultivate an innovation ecosystem in the Defence and Aerospace sector in India.
 - 2. It is entirely funded and managed by the Ministry of Defence.

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



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Answer : A

- ✓ Innovations for Defence Excellence- Defence Innovation Organization (iDEX-DIO) is all set to participate in the tenth edition of the Vibrant Gujarat Summit 2024 from 10 to 12 January 2024 at Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- ✓ About iDEX:
- ✓ It is the flagship scheme of the Ministry of Defence, Govt of India launched in 2018.
- ✓ Funding: It will be funded and managed by a 'Defence Innovation Organization (DIO)' which has been formed as a 'not for profit' company as per the Companies Act 2013 for this purpose, by the two founder members i.e. Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs) - HAL & BEL.

Q. PPFAS Mutual Fund applies for dynamic asset allocation scheme with which entity? A) RBI B) SEBI C) NPCI C) SIDBI

Answer: B

- ✓ Asset management company (AMC) PPFAS Mutual Fund recently filed for an open-ended dynamic asset allocation scheme with the capital market regulator, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).
- ✓ About Dynamic Asset Allocation:
- ✓ DAA is an investment strategy that involves the frequent adjustment of the weights in a portfolio based on the overall market performance or the performance of certain securities

SEBI IN NEWS 2023

- > SEBI Extends Nomination Filing Deadline for Mutual Funds and Demat Accounts Until June 2024.
- SEBI Plans To Introduce Same Day Trade Settlement By March 2024.
- According to her, market participants have conveyed the necessity to initiate the process at T+0 and subsequently progress towards instantaneous settlement.
- The regulatory body aims to achieve same-day settlement by the end of March 2024, marking a significant leap from the existing T+0 settlement cycle.
- SEBI has granted approval for Not for Profit Organisations (NPOs) to enhance their fundraising capabilities through the social stock exchange.
- SEBI has decided to decrease the minimum issue size for public issuance of Zero Coupon Zero Principal Instruments (ZCZP) from Rs 1 crore to Rs 50 lakh.



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- Madhabi Puri Buch, the Chairperson of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), has officially launched the Investor Risk Reduction Access (IRRA) platform at the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE).
- > Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI):
- > It is the regulatory body for securities and commodity markets in India established in 1988.
- > 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 Kapdaganda Shawl:
 - 1. It is woven and embroidered by the tribal women in northeast India.
 - 2. It has received a Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
 - Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
 - A) 1 only
 - C) Both 1 and 2 D) Neither 1 nor 2
- Answer: B
- ✓ Seven products from Odisha, ranging from the Similipal Kai chutney made with red weaver ants to the embroidered Kapdaganda shawl, have bagged the coveted Geographical Indication (GI) tag.

B) 2 only

- ✓ 1. Kapdaganda shawl
- ✓ 2. Lanjia Saura Painting
- ✓ It is one of the oldest tribal art forms, is also known as Idital.
- ✓ 3. Koraput Kala Jeera Rice
- ✓ The black-coloured rice variety, also known as the 'Prince of Rice'
- ✓ 4. Similipal Kai chutney
- ✓ 5. Nayagarh Kanteimundi Brinjal
- ✓ 6. Odisha Khajuri Guda (jaggery)
- ✓ 7. Dhenkanal Magji
- ✓ Dhenkanal Magji is a type of sweet made from cheese from buffalo milk.



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GI TAG IN NEWS 2023-24

- As a part of the National GI Drive Mission, 'Kadiyal Sarees' of West Bengal have been granted the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- > Ladakh secures 4th GI tag for Sea Buckthorn.
- The famous Kadaknath chicken meat from Jhabua district of Madhya Pradesh has now got a Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- Goan cashew (Fruit and Nut) was recently granted the geographical indication (GI) tag.
- Basohli Pashmina, a more than 100-year-old traditional craft from Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua district, has got the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- > 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.
- > Chokuwa rice of Assam recently earned a GI (Geographical Indication) tag for its exquisiteness.
- The Matti banana variety, native to Kanniyakumari district was recently granted the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- Mushkbudji rice, which was granted the GI tag along with eight other products from Jammu and Kashmir.
- ➢ GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATIONS (GI) :-
- GI tags are issued as per the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act,1999. This tag is issued by the Geographical Indication Registry under the Department of Industry Promotion and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- > Darjeeling Tea was the first Indian product to get the geographical indication tag in 2004.
- The second GI tag in India was given to Aranmula Kannadi (Handicraft) which is a mirror and made in Kerala.
- > A GI is registered for an initial period of ten years, which must be renewed after 10 years.
- Kerala has topped among Indian states for having most number of products securing the Geographical Indication (GI) tag in financial year 2022-23.
- ➢ What is GI tag?
- A GI is a sign used on products that have a specific geographical origin and possess qualities or a reputation that are due to that origin.



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Q. The Krishna Godavari Basin Deep Sea Project in the Bay of Bengal is being operated by?

A) Indian Petroleum B) Indian Oil

C) ONGC

D) Reliance Refinery

Answer : C

- ✓ ONGC has started oil production from its flagship deepwater project in the Krishna Godavari basin in the Bay of Bengal.
- ✓ Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said that 45 thousand barrels of oil per day and more than 10 million standard cubic meters of gas per day are expected to be produced.
- This project is expected to increase the current national oil production by 7 percent and national natural gas production by 7 percent.
- ✓ Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC)
- ✓ Founded : 1956
- ✓ Headquarters : Delhi
- ✓ Chairman & CEO : Arun Kumar Singh
- Q. Tata Power recently announced an investment of ₹70,000 crore in which state?
 - A) Uttar Pradesh

B) Madhya Pradesh

C) Tamil Nadu

D) Bihar

Answer : C

- ✓ Tata Power has announced an investment of ₹70,000 crore to develop 10 gigawatt (GW) of solar and wind power capacity in Tamil Nadu over the next five to seven years.
- ✓ Tata Power CEO and MD Praveer Sinha announced this at the Tamil Nadu Global Investors Meet (GIM) in Chennai
- ✓ Tata Power
- ✓ Founded : 1919
- ✓ Founder : Dorabji Tata
- ✓ Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- ✓ MD & CEO : Praveer Sinha



Q. On which lake was the training program organized under Amrit Dharohar Capacity Building Scheme?

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A) Mansarovar Lake **B)** Pulicat Lake

C) Chilka Lake D) Sardar Sarovar Lake

Answer : C

- ✓ The Ministry of Tourism organized a training program on Ramsar site Chilka Lake in Odisha under the Amrit Heritage Capacity Building Scheme.
- ✓ Under this initiative, two training programs of 15 days each, Alternative Livelihood Program (ALP) and Tourism Seafarer Certificate (PNC) will be organized.
- ✓ In the first phase of this programme, five priority Ramsar sites Sultanpur National Park, Sirpur Wetland, Yashwant Sagar, Bhitarkanika National Park and Chilka Lake have been included.
- ✓ In 1981, Chilika Lake was designated the first Indian wetland of international importance under the Ramsar Convention
- Who has been appointed as the new CEO of 'Adani Ports'? **Q**.
 - A) Ravichandran Reddy
 - **B)** Ajay Kumar
 - C) Ashwini Gupta
 - **D)** Bharat Saxena

Answer : C

- ✓ Ashwini Gupta has been appointed as the CEO of Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone.
- ✓ He was the former global chief operating officer of Nissan Motors.
- ✓ The company has promoted CEO Karan Adani to the role of Managing Director
- ✓ Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Limited.
- ✓ Founded : 1998
- ✓ Headquarters : Ahmedabad, Gujarat, India
- ✓ CEO : Ashwini Gupta
- ✓ Managing Director : Karan Adani
- Chairman : Gautam Adani



Q. Which team won the gold medal in the men's 10 meter air pistol team event in the Asian Olympic Qualifiers?

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- A) India
- B) Iran
- C) USA
- D) South Korea

Answer : A

- ✓ Indian shooters made a promising start to their campaign at the Asian Olympic Qualifiers in Jakarta, Indonesia by winning the gold medal in the men's 10m air pistol team event.
- ✓ The Indian team of Varun Tomar, Arjun Singh Cheema and Ujjwal Malik secured the top position by scoring a total of 1740.
- ✓ Iran won the silver medal, while Korea won the bronze medal.
- ✓ In the individual event, Varun and Arjun have secured a place in the finals
- Q. Consider the following statements regarding Taurus Missile, recently seen in the news:
 - 1. It is an air-to-surface cruise missile.
 - 2. It is developed by the United States of America.

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

- ✓ Germany Under Increasing Pressure To Send Taurus Missiles to Ukraine
- Pressure is mounting on the German Chancellor to give the green light for long-range Taurus missiles that would be a significant boost to Kyiv's weapons arsenal for striking critical Russian assets.
- ✓ About the Taurus Missile:
- ✓ Taurus KEPD 350, known as the 'bunker buster', is a Swedish-Germanlong-range air-to-surface cruise missile



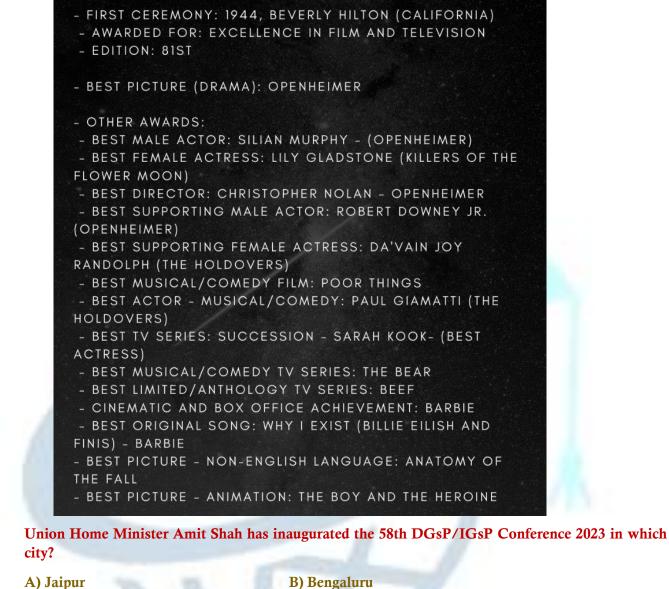
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- ✓ Germany
- ✓ Capital : Berlin
- ✓ Currency : Euro
- ✓ President : Frank-Walter Steinmeier
- ✓ Chancellor : Olaf Scholz
- ✓ Ukraine
- ✓ Capital : Kyiv
- ✓ Currency : Hryvnia
- ✓ President : Volodymyr Zelenskyy
- ✓ Prime Minister : Denys Shmyhal
- ✓ Ukraine is a country in Eastern Europe. It is the second-largest European country after Russia.
- Q. Who won the Best Director-Motion Picture award at the Golden Globes 2024?
 - A) Cillian Murphy
 - B) Christopher Nolan
 - C) Matthew Macfadyen
 - D) Ludwig Goransson

Answer: B

- ✓ 81st Golden Globe Awards held at the Beverly Hilton Hotel on January 7, 2024 in Beverly Hills, California, USA.
- Christopher Nolan, director of the superhit film 'Oppenheimer', was honored with the Best Director-Motion Picture Award at the Golden Globes 2024.
- ✓ J. Robert Oppenheimer was an American theoretical physicist. He was director of the Manhattan Project's Los Alamos Laboratory during World War II and is often called the "father of the atomic bomb".
- ✓ The Best Actor Award for Best Performance in a Motion Picture, Drama category was given to 'Cillian Murphy'

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C) Chennai

D) Hyderabad

Answer : A

Q.

✓ Union Home Minister Amit Shah has inaugurated the 58th DGsP/IGsP Conference 2023 at Rajasthan International Centre, Jaipur.



The three-day Conference was held in hybrid mode with DGsP/IGsP and Chiefs of Central Police Organisations attending physically from Jaipur and over 500 Police officers of various ranks participating through video conferencing from across the country.

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- The Union Home Minister distributed Police Medals for Meritorious Service to IB officers and awarded trophies for the three best Police Stations.
- The Union Cabinet has approved the signing of MoU between India and the United States Agency Q. for International Development (USAID/India) to support Indian Railways in achieving 'net zero carbon emission' by which year?

A) 2025	B) 2030
C) 2040	D) 2070

Answer : B

- ✓ The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the signing of MoU between India and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID/India) to support Indian Railways in achieving 'net zero carbon emission' by 2030.
- The MoU provides a platform for Indian Railways to interact and share the latest developments and knowledge in the railway sector.
- The MoU facilitates utility modernization, advanced energy solutions and systems, regional energy and market integration and private sector participation and engagement, training and seminars/workshops focusing on specific technology areas like Renewable Energy, energy efficiency and other interactions for knowledge sharing.
- Ayodhya Airport has been renamed "_" reflecting the historical and cultural significance of the Q. region.
 - A) Dasharatha International Airport, Ayodhyadham
 - B) Vishvamitra International Airport, Ayodhyadham
 - C) Maharishi Valmiki International Airport, Ayodhyadham
 - D) Kalidasa International Airport, Ayodhyadham

Answer : C

✓ The Union Cabinet recently gave its approval to declare Ayodhya Airport as an international airport.



✓ The airport will be named "Maharishi Valmiki International Airport, Ayodhyadham," reflecting the historical and cultural significance of the region.

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- ✓ The airport is paramount for realizing Ayodhya's economic potential and its significance as a global pilgrimage site, opening doors to foreign pilgrims and tourists.
- ✓ The first phase of the airport is developed at a cost of more than Rs 1,450 crore. The airport's terminal building will have an area of 6500 sqm, equipped to serve about 10 lakh passengers annually.
- \checkmark The facade of the terminal building depicts the temple architecture of the upcoming Ram Temple of Ayodhya
- Q. Union Ports, Shipping, and Waterways Minister Sarbananda Sonowal has chaired the first Inland Waterways Development Council Meeting in which city?

A) Greater Noida	B) Mumbai
C) Kolkata	D) Chennai

Answer : C

- ✓ Union Ports, Shipping and Waterways Minister Sarbananda Sonowal has chaired the first Inland Waterways Development Council Meeting in Kolkata.
- ✓ During the meeting, Mr Sonowal unveiled groundbreaking initiatives, including Harit Nauka Guidelines for Green Transition of Inland Vessels and the River Cruise Tourism Roadmap 2047.
- The Ministry has set a target to elevate the modal share of Inland Water Transportation from the current √ two percent to five percent, aligning with the goals outlined in the Maritime India Vision 2030
- Who has chaired the 'National PACS Mega Conclave' on 'Primary Agricultural Credit Societies Q. (PACS) as Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Kendra at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi?
 - A) Amit Shah

B) Piyush Goyal

C) Narendra Modi

D) Draupadi Murmu

Answer : A

- ✓ Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Amit Shah has chaired the 'National PACS Mega Conclave' on 'Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) as Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Kendra' at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.
- ✓ The Mega Conclave is being organized by the Ministry of Cooperation in collaboration with the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC).



- ✓ Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Kendras (PMBJKs) provide quality generic medicines to the general public, which cost 50-90 percent less than the branded medicines available in the open market.
- Q. Who has etched her name in the annals of music history by setting a new world record for singing in the most languages during a single concert in the UAE?
 - A) Javed Ali

B) Sunidhi Chauhan

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C) Suchetha Satish

D) Mohit Chauhan

Answer : C

- ✓ In a historic and awe-inspiring event, Suchetha Satish (from Kerala) has etched her name in the annals of music history by setting a new world record for singing in the most languages during a single concert in the UAE.
- ✓ The Guinness Book of World Records officially attested to this feat earlier this week.
- ✓ Suchetha's groundbreaking performance was part of a Concert for Climate, a unique initiative aimed at raising awareness about the critical issue of climate change.
- ✓ The talented artist delivered an astounding rendition of songs in an unprecedented 140 languages, captivating the audience with her musical prowess and a powerful message.
- Q. Who has been appointed as Executive Director of Asian Development Bank (ADB)?
 - A) Rakesh Singh
 - **B)** Vikas Sheel
 - C) Alok Sinha
 - **D)** Dilip Sharma

Answer : B

- ✓ Senior bureaucrat Vikas Sheel has been appointed as Executive Director of Asian Development Bank (ADB).
- ✓ He has been appointed as ED, Asian Development Bank (ADB) for a period of three years from the date of assumption of the charge.
- ✓ While, Smita Sarangi has been appointed to the post of Adviser to the Executive Director, ADB, Manila, Philippines for a period of three years from the date of assumption of charge.



Q. Who has been appointed as the Secretary-General of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)?

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A) Indra Mani Pandey **B)** Simanchala Dash

C) Kalyan Revella **D)** Parveen Kumar

Answer : A

- ✓ Ambassador Indra Mani Pandey, a senior diplomat of India, assumed the position of Secretary General (SG) of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) in Dhaka.
- ✓ Pandey, who succeeded Tenzin Lekphell of Bhutan, is the 4th SG of BIMSTEC and will remain in office for a period of three years.
- ✓ About Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)
- ✓ Founded : 6 June 1997
- Headquarters : Dhaka, Bangladesh \checkmark
- Membership : 7 (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka & Thailand) \checkmark
- Secretary General : Indra Mani Pandey (India) \checkmark
- Who has been named as a 'Class C' director on the Board of Directors of the Federal Reserve Bank 0. of New York?
 - A) Piyush Srivastava
 - **B)** Anita Nayar
 - C) Rajiv Shah
 - D) Sanjiv Ranjan

Answer : C

- ✓ Rajiv Shah named as 'Class C' director on Board of Directors of Federal Reserve Bank of New York
- ✓ In the US, Dr. Rajiv Shah, current president of 'the Rockefeller Foundation' and former head of USAID, has been named as a 'Class C' director on the Board of Directors of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York.
- ✓ He has been appointed by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System for a three-year term ending the 31st of December, 2026.
- ✓ Shah has been leading the prominent philanthropic organization 'the Rockefeller Foundation' since 2017.



According to the National Statistical Office (NSO)'s recent data, the Indian economy will grow by **Q**. how much percent in the Financial Year 2023-24?

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A)	7.2%	В) 7.	3%

C) 7.4% D) 7.5%

Answer : B

- ✓ According to the National Statistical Office (NSO) under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, the Indian economy will grow by a robust 7.3 percent in the Financial Year 2023-24 over and above the provisional growth rate of 7.2 percent during the last financial year.
- ✓ NSO in its report based on First Advance Estimates (FAE) of National Income for the financial year 2023-24, said that the construction sector has been estimated to have double-digit growth of 10.7 percent
- ✓ It highlighted that all the economic sectors have fared well by witnessing more than six percent, except for the Agriculture and Allied sectors, for which the estimated growth is 1.8 percent

Which company and Stanford University have introduced Mobile ALOHA, a low-cost open-source **Q**. hardware system for bimanual teleoperation?

A) Google DeepMind	B) Microsoft
C) Apple	D) IBM

Answer : A

- ✓ Researchers at Google DeepMind and Stanford University has introduced Mobile ALOHA, a low-cost open-source hardware system for bimanual teleoperation.
- \checkmark It is a humanoid robot that can be remote operated by a user and perform autonomously by imitation learning.
- ✓ ALOHA can autonomously cook and serve shrimps, call and take the elevator, and store a 3lbs pot in a cabinet – tasks it learned through imitation of 50 demos
- ✓ ALOHA is a lightweight robot walking at a human speed of 1.42 metre a second and can carry up to 100kilogramme weight.
- Q. When is 'Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas' celebrated every year?

A) 07 January	B) 08 January
C) 09 January	D) 10 January



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Answer : C

- ✓ Pravasi Bharatiya Divas is celebrated every year on 9 January.
- ✓ Pravasi Bharatiya Divas or NRI Day is celebrated every year to commemorate the return of Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi to India. Gandhiji returned to India from South Africa on 9 January 1915.
- \checkmark This day was celebrated for the first time in 2003.

Q. Which country will chair the UNESCO World Heritage Committee in July this year?

- A) Japan B) France
- C) Nepal D) India

Answer: D

- ✓ India will chair and host UNESCO's 'World Heritage Committee'.
- ✓ This will be the first time when India will chair this committee.
- ✓ This is a committee of UNESCO.
- ✓ The World Heritage Committee, in its 19th session, had decided to organize the 46th session in India (New Delhi) which is to be held from 21 July to 31 July 2024.
- ✓ About the World Heritage Committee:
- ✓ It is a committee of the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).
- ✓ The Committee is responsible for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention, defines the use of the World Heritage Fund, and allocates financial assistance upon requests from States Parties.
- ✓ It consists of representatives from 21 of the States Parties.
- ✓ A Committee member's term of office is six years

UNESCO IN NEWS 2023-24

- 46th session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee will take place from July 21 to 31, 2024 in New Delhi, India.
- Gujarat's Garba Dance Enters UNESCO's 'Intangible Cultural Heritage' List.
- 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.



➢ 'Garba of Gujarat' has been inscribed in the Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) of Humanity by UNESCO.

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- ▶ 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.
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
- ► Formation : 16 November 1945
- Headquarters : Paris, France
- Director-General : Audrey Azoulay (France)
- ➢ Member countries : 193

How many players including Mohammed Shami were awarded the Arjuna Award 2023? Q.

A) 20	B) 30
C) 26	D) 22

Answer : C

- ✓ Indian cricketer Mohammed Shami was honored with the Arjuna Award by the President of India Draupadi Murmu.
- ✓ Arjuna Award is the second biggest sports award in the country after Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award.
- ✓ This time this award has been given to 26 players from different sports.
- This time, two legendary badminton players Chirag Shetty and Satwik Sairaj Rankireddy were honored with the country's biggest sports honour, Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award.



 \checkmark Arjuna awards: It was instituted in 1961. To be eligible for the Award, a sportsperson should have had not only good performance over the previous four years at the International level but also should have shown qualities of leadership, sportsmanship and a sense of discipline.

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Arjuna award carries a cash prize of Rs 15 lakh.

List of Arjuna Award Winners 2023		
Arjuna Award Winner	Sports	
Ojas Pravin Deotale	Archery	
Parul Chaudhary	Athletics	
Aditi Gopichand Swami	Archery	
Mohammad Hussamuddin	Boxing	
R Vaishali	Chess	
Mohammed Shami	Cricket	
Anush Agarwalla	Equestrian	
Divyakriti Singh	Equestrian Dressage	
Diksha Dagar	Golf	
Krishan Bahadur Pathak	Hockey	
Sushila Chanu	Hockey	
Pawan Kumar	Kabaddi	
Ritu Negi	Kabaddi	
Nasreen	Kho-Kho	
Pinki	Lawn Bowls	
Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar	Shooting	
Esha Singh	Shooting	
Harinder Pal Singh Sandhu	Squash	
Ayhika Mukherjee	Table Tennis	
Sunil Kumar	Wrestling	
Antim Panghal	Wrestling	
Naorem Roshibina Devi	Wushu	
Sheetal Devi	Para Archery	
Illuri Ajay Kumar Reddy	Blind Cricket	

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Prachi Yadav	Para Canoeing
Murali Sreeshankar	Athletics

Q. Chandubi festival was recently celebrated in which state?

A) Bihar	B) Assam	
C) West Bengal	D) Haryana	

Answer: B

- ✓ Recently, the Chandubi Festival was celebrated along the Chandubi Lake in the state of Assam.
- ✓ About Chandubi Festival:
- ✓ It is organised every year for five days starting from the first day of the New Year along the Chandubi lake, which is situated in the state of Assam.
- The name Chandubi is derived from two words where Chand means five and Dubi means sinking in Khasi language.
- ✓ List of famous festival of Assam
- ✓ Ambubsai festival, Bohag Bihu, Baishagu festival, Majuli festival, Dehing Patkai and Pragjyoti festival

FESTIVAL IN NEWS 2023-24

- Chandubi Festival : Assam
- International Purple Fest 2024 Goa
- National Street Food Festival : New Delhi
- Kuno Forest Festival : Madhya Pradesh
- Shar Amartala Torgya' Festival : Arunachal Pradesh
- > 24th Hornbill Festival : Nagaland
- Dhillo festival : Goa
- India International Science Festival (IISF) 2023 : Faridabad, Haryana
- Arattu festival : Kerala
- Banni festival : Andhra Pradesh
- Zanskar Festival : Ladakh
- Indo-Latin America Cultural Festival : New Delhi
- Nuakhai festival : Odisha



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- Nadi Utsav : Delhi
- Karnataka Cultural Festival : Sri Lanka .
- Unmesha' International Literature Festival and 'Utkarsh' Festival of Folk and Tribal Performing Arts : Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh
- > Festival of Libraries 2023 : New Delhi .
- > Chachin Grazing Festival : Arunachal Pradesh
- > Harela Festival : Uttarakhand
- Bonalu Festival : Telangana
- Kharchi Puja : Tripura
- Palkhi festival : Maharashtra
- Raja festival : Odisha

Q. In which district, the Uttar Pradesh government has approved the setting up of the state's first Pharma Park?

A) Ghaziabad	B) Meerut
C) Lalitpur	D) Kushinagar

Answer : C

- ✓ Uttar Pradesh set up Pharma park in Lalitpur , Buldelkhand.
- ✓ Uttar Pradesh government is setting up a pharma park in Lalitpur, Bundelkhand, covering 1,472-acre across five villages, according to the Uttar Pradesh State Industrial Development Authority (UPSIDA).
- ✓ The villages identified for the survey include Saidpur (426 acre), Gadolikala (249 acre), Largan (239 acre), Karounda (116 acre), and Rampur (441 acre)
- Q. Hyundai Motor India Ltd has signed an agreement with which IIT to establish a dedicated 'Hydrogen Valley Innovation Hub, with an investment of ₹180 crore?
 - A) IIT Madras B) IIT Bombay
 - C) IIT Kanpur D) IIT Guwahati

Answer : A

✓ Hyundai in pact with IIT-Madras to establish a Hydrogen Innovation Hub, sets aside ₹180 cr.



✓ Hyundai Motor India Ltd, India's second-largest carmaker, has signed an agreement with IIT- Madras to establish a dedicated 'Hydrogen Valley Innovation Hub, with an investment of ₹180 crore.

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- ✓ The objective is to help foster a worldwide Hydrogen Society by making hydrogen readily used for everyone, everything and everywhere.
- ✓ Hyundai operates the world's largest integrated automobile manufacturing facility in Ulsan, South Korea.
- ✓ Hyundai Motor Company
- ✓ Headquarters : Seoul, South Korea
- ✓ President and CEO : Chang Jae-hoon
- Q. Consider the following statements regarding the National Housing Bank (NHB):
 - 1. It is an All-India Financial Institution (AIFI) wholly owned by the Government of India.
 - 2. It regulates the Housing Finance Companies (HFCs) in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer : A

- ✓ LIC to pick up 10% stake in NHB-promoted company.
- ✓ Insurance behemoth Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) is planning to acquire up to 10 percent equity stake in a company promoted by the National Housing Bank (NHB).
- ✓ About the National Housing Bank (NHB):
- ✓ NHB is an All-India Financial Institution (AIFI) established under the National Housing Bank Act, 1987.
- ✓ It is wholly owned by the Government of India.
- ✓ NHB supervises Housing Finance Companies (HFCs), while regulation of HFCs is with the RBI.
- ✓ Head Office: New Delhi
- ✓ AIFIs will be required to maintain a minimum total capital of 9 per cent by April 2024.
- India has five AIFIs regulated by the central bank, namely the Export-Import Bank of India (EXIM Bank), \checkmark the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (Nabard), the National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID), the National Housing Bank (NHB), and the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI).



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LIC IN NEWS 2023-24

- (LIC) is planning to acquire up to 10 percent equity stake in a company promoted by the National Housing Bank (NHB)
- 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.
- > Siddhartha Mohanty appointed as Chairman of LIC Until June 2024.
- > LIC Raises Stake in Tech Mahindra to 8.88% Through Open Market Transactions.
- LIC to divest 60.72% share in IDBI Bank.
- 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

Q. In which state 'College Phagthansi Mission' was started recently?

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

Answer : B

- ✓ Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh launched the 'College Phagthansi Mission' while laying the foundation stone and inaugurating various development projects in Bishnupur district.
- The Chief Minister launched the 'College Phagathansi Mission' to improve government colleges in the state at a function held at Moirang College.
- ✓ The Chief Minister said that a total of 24 colleges have been taken under the mission and facilities will be developed in each college at a cost of Rs 2.5 crore



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- Q. Which one of the following best describes 'Sky Dew', that was in the news recently?
 - A) A fuel-efficient drone
 - B) A cruise missile system
 - C) A high-altitude observation balloon
 - D) A fighter aircraft

Answer : C

- ✓ Israel recently deployed Sky Dew along the Lebanese border as tensions with Hezbollah escalated.
- ✓ About Sky Dew:
- ✓ Sky Dew is a massive balloon-like structure in the shape of a puffed aircraft.
- The high-altitude observation balloon acts as a detection radar blip for small unmanned aircraft and cruise missiles.
- ✓ The technology has been jointly developed by Israel Defence and US company The project was entirely funded by the U.S. Department of Defence

ISRAEL IN NEWS 2023-24

- > Israel Grants Intel \$3.2 Billion for \$25 Billion Chip Plant Amid Ongoing Conflict.
- India has launched Operation Ajay, a dedicated initiative to facilitate the safe return of its citizens from Israel.
- > Israel Appoints Reuven Azar as New Ambassador to India.
- Israel-Palestine conflict has escalated dramatically as Hamas, the armed Palestinian group, initiated "Operation Al-Aqsa Flood," firing over 5,000 rockets into Israel.
- The Iron Dome is a mobile missile defense system developed by Israel's Rafael Advanced Defense Systems.
- > ISRAEL
- Capital : Jerusalem
- Currency : New shekel
- President : Isaac Herzog
- > Prime Minister : Benjamin Netanyahu.
- > Israel officially the State of Israel is a country in West Asia.



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The Knesset is Israel unicameral parliament.

Q. In which city is a two-day regional conference on e-governance being organized?

A) Patna	B) Varanasi
C) Jaipur	D) Guwahati

Answer : D

- ✓ Assam Governor Gulab Chand Kataria and Union Minister of State Dr. Jitendra Singh inaugurated a twoday regional conference on "e-Governance" in Guwahati.
- ✓ Is organizing a two-day conference on January 9-10, 2024, involving eight North-Eastern states and four states of the Eastern region, in collaboration with the Government of Assam.
- ✓ This is the 26th regional conference organized by DARPG during 2014-2024.
- Theme : "e- Governance"

0. Elizabeth Bourne was the Prime Minister of which country who has recently resigned?

A) France	B) Argentina
C) Portugal	D) Ireland

Answer : A

- ✓ French Prime Minister Elisabeth Borne has resigned from her post.
- ✓ French President Emmanuel Macron has not yet announced the name of the new Prime Minister.
- ✓ Elizabeth Bourne, at the age of 62, became only the second woman to become Prime Minister.
- ✓ FRANCE
- ✓ Capital : Paris
- ✓ Currency : Euro
- ✓ President : Emmanuel Macron
- ✓ Prime Minister : Élisabeth Borne
- India and which country have signed a MoU for cooperation in the hydrocarbon sector? 0.
 - A) Guyana
- **B)** Ethiopia

C) Nigeria

D) Ghana

- Answer : A



The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, India and the Ministry of Natural Resources, Guyana, on cooperation in the hydrocarbon sector.

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Q. How many Rajya Sabha Members are set to retire in 2024?

A) 76	B) 58
D) 68	D) 82

Answer : C

- ✓ 68 Rajya Sabha members, including nine Union ministers, are completing their tenures this year, triggering a race of sorts among leaders across political parties to eye a six-year term in the Upper House of Parliament.
- ✓ Uttar Pradesh will have the highest number of vacancies of 10 seats, followed by Maharashtra and Bihar (six each), Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal (five each), Karnataka and Gujarat (four each), Odisha, Telangana, Kerala and Andhra Pradesh (three each), Jharkhand and Rajasthan (two each), and Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana and Chhattisgarh (one each).

0. In which of the following states has Gangasagar Fair started?

A) Haryana	B) Bihar
C) Rajasthan	D) West Bengal

Answer : D

- ✓ West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has inaugurated the Gangasagar Mela.
- ✓ The Mela will continue till 17th of January. The 'Shahi Snan' will be held on 15th and 16th January.
- ✓ Chief Minister has also inaugurated nine projects at Sagar.
- The state government has sent a letter to UNESCO to declare Gangasagar Mela a heritage site. This year pilgrimage tax has been waived off for the pilgrims, instead 5 lakhs rupees insurance will be given to all.
- Which of the following countries has officially declared the snow leopard as its national symbol, Q. underscoring its commitment to conservation and ecological balance?

A) Tajikistan **B)** Kyrgyzstan

C) Uzbekistan

D) Kazakhstan

Answer: B



✓ Kyrgyzstan has officially declared the snow leopard as its national symbol, underscoring its commitment to conservation and ecological balance.

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- ✓ The habitat of snow leopards spans the mountainous regions of 12 countries in Asia, including Afghanistan, Bhutan, China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.
- ✓ According to the World Wildlife Organization, this extensive range covers approximately 772,204 square miles, with China hosting 60% of the habitat. Notably, over 70% of the snow leopard's habitat remains unexplored.
- Q. Which of the following payments bank has applied to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for small finance bank license?
 - A) Paytm Payments Bank
- **B) FINO Payments Bank**
- C) Airtel Payments Bank
- **D) India Post Payments Bank**

Answer : B

- ✓ Fino Payments Bank has applied to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), seeking a small finance bank license.
- ✓ During the quarter ended 31 December 2023, the RBI received one application under the Guidelines for 'on tap' Licensing of Small Finance Banks in the Private Sector dated December 5, 2019 from Fino Payments Bank Limited.
- \checkmark As per the norms, payment banks that are controlled by residents and have completed five years of operations are eligible for conversion into small finance banks after complying with the legal and regulatory requirements of various authorities.
- ✓ Fino Payments Bank started operations in 2017 and completed five years of business in 2022. In July 2023, MD and CEO Rishi Gupta said that the bank was keen to become a small finance bank.
- The payments bank is a subsidiary of Fino Paytech, which is backed by investors such as Bharat Petroleum, \checkmark ICICI Group, Blackstone, IFC, Intel, and Life Insurance Corporation of India, among others
- Who has been appointed as the Chairman of the Federation of Associations in Indian Tourism & Q. **Hospitality (FAITH)?**
 - A) Advait Thakur **B)** Puneet Chhatwal
 - C) Ritesh Agarwal **D)** Suhas Gopinath

Answer : B



The Federation of Associations in Indian Tourism & Hospitality (FAITH) has appointed Puneet Chhatwal as its Chairman.

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- ✓ Chhatwal will be taking over from Nakul Anand, the former executive director at ITC Hotels.
- ✓ Chhatwal is the managing director and chief executive officer at Indian Hotels Company Limited. He will also continue as the president of the Hotel Association of India (HAI), a position he was re-elected to in 2022.
- G Ram Mohan Rao has been appointed as the Executive Director of which of the following Q. organizations for three years?

A) NPCI

B) SIDBI

C) SEBI

D) PFRDA

Answer : C

- ✓ The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has appointed G Ram Mohan Rao as Executive Director (ED) for a period of three years.
- ✓ Rao will be handling the investigation department and the internal inspection department.
- He has been with the markets regulator for over 25 years during which he has supervised diverse portfolios \checkmark such as inspections, litigation, recovery, investor awareness, grievance redressal, etc
- Bangladesh's Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has been re-elected for a fifth term. What is the name of Q. Sheikh Hasina's party?
 - A) Jatiya Party **B)** Bangladesh League
 - C) Bangladesh Nationalist Party
- D) Awami League

Answer : D

- ✓ Bangladesh's Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has been re-elected for a fifth term, marking a significant milestone in the country's political landscape.
- ✓ The ruling Awami League, under Hasina's leadership, has triumphed once again, securing more than half of the parliamentary seats.
- ✓ This victory reaffirms Sheikh Hasina's position as the world's longest-serving female head of government.
- Bangladesh
- Capital: Dhaka
- Currency : Taka \checkmark



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- ✓ President : Mohammed Shahabuddin Chuppu
- ✓ Prime Minister : Sheikh Hasina
- Q. Who has been named as the new Prime Minister of France?
 - A) Elisabeth Borne B) Gabriel Attal
 - C) Sébastien Lecornu D) Emmanuel Macron

Answer: B

- ✓ Gabriel Attal becomes France's youngest prime minister.
- ✓ French President Emmanuel Macron has appointed Gabriel Attal as the next Prime Minister of France.
- ✓ Gabriel Attal is currently serving as the Minister of Education.
- ✓ At 34, he is the youngest prime minister in modern French history.
- ✓ He has also left behind Laurent Fabius, who was appointed Prime Minister in 1984 at the age of 37

NEWLY PRIME MINISTER IN NEWS

- Gabriel Attal : France
- Donald Tusk : Poland
- Luke Frieden : Luxembourg
- Robert Fico : Slovakia
- > Christopher Luxon : 42nd PM of New Zealand
- Srettha Thavisin : Thailand
- Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani : Qatar
- Li Qiang : China
- > Manuela Roka Botey as first female PM : Equatorial Guinea
- Anwar Ibrahim : Malaysia
- Benjamin Netanyahu : Israel
- Rishi Sunak : 57th PM of United Kingdom (UK)
- ➢ FRANCE
- Capital : Paris
- Currency : Euro
- President : Emmanuel Macron



Prime Minister : Gabriel Attal

Who has the Indian fintech 'PhonePe' recently appointed as the CEO of its international payments Q. business?

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A) Ajay Banga	B) Vikram Sethi		
C) Ritesh Pai	D) Nikhil Kamat		

Answer : C

- ✓ Indian fintech giant PhonePe has appointed Ritesh Pai as the new CEO of its international payments business.
- ✓ Before this he was working in UK fintech 'Terapay'.
- PhonePe has a network of 500 million registered users and 37 million merchants across the country. \checkmark
- ✓ Bengaluru-based PhonePe was established in the year 2015.
- Consider the following statements regarding REC limited: Q.
 - 1. It is a Central Public Sector Undertaking under the Ministry of Power.
 - 2. It is involved in financing projects in the power sector value chain from generation to distribution.

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

- ✓ REC sets ₹1 lakh crore sanction target for infrastructure space including roads and highways in FY24.
- \checkmark This strategic move marks a substantial rise from the previous year's sanctioning of ₹85,000 crore.
- The company has set a target to enhance its renewable energy portfolio tenfold, aiming to reach ₹3 lakh \checkmark crore by 2030, up from the current ₹30,000 crore.

REC LTD IN NEWS 2023

- ▶ REC sets ₹1 lakh crore sanction target for infrastructure space including roads and highways in FY24.
- REC Invests Rs. 35,000 Cr In Multi-Modal Projects With Rail Vikas Nigam For 5 Years.
- ▶ REC Honoured with 'Best Employer in Diversity & Inclusion' Award by Assocham.



RailTel has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with REC Ltd extending up to Rs 30,000 crore as financial assistance for telecom, IT and railway signaling infrastructure projects.

APARCHIT EXAM WARRIORS

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- ▶ REC Ltd gets Golden Peacock Award for Disaster Management.
- > REC Limited, the Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprise launched a SUGAM REC mobile application.
- > REC Limited and Punjab National Bank have signed an MoU to explore funding possibilities in the Power Infrastructure and logistics sectors.
- > The consortium arrangement will co-finance loans worth Rs 55,000 crores over the next three years.
- REC Ltd has become the 12th company to attain the Maharatna status
- REC Limited, formerly Rural Electrification Corporation Limited
- ➢ Founded : 1969
- Headquarters : New Delhi
- CMD : Vivek Kumar Dewangan
- > REC was formerly known as Rural Electrification Corporation Limited.
- > REC Limited is an NBFC focused on financing and development of the power sector across India.
- > REC Limited has also recently started services in the financing infrastructure and logistics sector.
- > REC funding lights every fourth bulb in India. REC is a 'Maharatna' company under the Ministry of Power.

Q. In which country v	will the new	campus of IIT Mad	ras be opened?
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- A) Sri Lanka **B)** Nepal
- **C)** Bhutan **D)** Bangladesh

Answer : A

- ✓ IIT Madras to open new campus at Kandy in Sri Lanka.
- ✓ Sri Lankan Education Minister Dr. Sushil Premjayanta has said that a new campus of IIT Madras will be started in Kandy, Sri Lanka. The proposal was part of the Budget 2024 presented by Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe as Finance Minister. Earlier, IIT-Madras had started its campus in Tanzania in November 2023.



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Q. In which city will the 27th National Youth Festival be organized?

A) Patna B) Varanasi

C) Nashik

D) Kolkata

Answer : C

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the 27th National Youth Festival in Nashik, Maharashtra on January 12 and address the youth of the country.
- ✓ This year, National Youth Day will be celebrated by all the field organizations of the Department of Youth Affairs in districts across India in collaboration with several government departments.
- ✓ 12 January 2024 is the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda and it is celebrated as National Youth Day

Q. What is 'Ugram', seen in the news recently?

A) An Unmanned Aerial Vehicle

B) An indigenous assault rifle

C) A patrol vessel

D) A surface-to-air missile

Answer : B

- ✓ Defence Research and Development Organisation recently launched an indigenous assault rifle named 'Ugram'.
- ✓ About Ugram:
- ✓ 'Ugram' is a state-of-the-art indigenous assault rifle.
- ✓ It has been developed by the Armament Research and Development Establishment (ARDE), a unit of DRDO, in collaboration with a private industry partner.
- \checkmark It was developed in less than 100 days.
- ✓ It has been developed as per the General Staff Qualitative Requirements (GSQR) of the army into consideration.
- ✓ It has an effective range of 500 metres.
- ✓ The rifle will deploy rounds of 7.62 mm calibre.
- Q. Consider the following statements regarding Drishti 10 'Starliner':

1. It is an indigenously manufactured Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV).

2. It is an all-weather military platform which has clearance to fly in both segregated and unsegregated airspace.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?



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A) 1 only

C) Both 1 and 2

B) 2 only

D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer : C

- ✓ Chief of Naval Staff recently flagged off the first indigenously manufactured Drishti 10 'Starliner' Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) for the Navy.
- ✓ About Drishti 10 'Starliner':
- ✓ It is an indigenously manufactured Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV).
- ✓ It was developed by Adani Defence and Aerospace.
- ✓ It is an advanced intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) platform with 36 hours endurance and a 450 kg payload capacity.
- ✓ It is an all-weather military platform which has clearance to fly in both segregated and unsegregated airspace.
- Q. Prasadam, India's first "Healthy and Hygienic Food Street", was recently opened at:

A) Varanasi	B) Gandhinagar
C) Chennai	D) Ujjain

Answer : D

- ✓ Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare recently inaugurated the country's first healthy & hygienic food street, 'Prasadam', at Neelkanth Van, Mahakal Lok, in Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh.
- ✓ About Prasadam:
- ✓ It is the country's first "Healthy and Hygienic Food Street".
- ✓ It has been opened at Neelkanth Van, Mahakal Lok, in Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh.
- ✓ It will connect people in every corner of the country with pure and safe local and traditional food.
- ✓ Spread over 939 square metres with 19 shops, Prasadam offers convenient and culturally rich dining options for the 1-1.5 lakh devotees who visit the Mahakaleshwar Temple daily.
- Q. Consider the following statements regarding the International Classification of Diseaseas (ICD):

1. It is developed by the World Health Organization (WHO).

2. In India, the Central Bureau of Health Intelligence serves as the Collaboration Centre for ICDrelated activities.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?



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A) 1 only

C) Both 1 and 2

B) 2 only

D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer : C

- ✓ World Health Organization's International Classification of Diseaseas (ICD) 11 TM Module 2, Morbidity Codes launch event will be held in New Delhi on 10th January, 2024.
- ✓ It is developed by the World Health Organization (WHO) to classify diseases internationally.
- ✓ The global data on diseases currently available is mainly based on healthcare practices to be diagnosed through modern biomedicine.
- ✓ Central Bureau of Health Intelligence (CBHI) is an agency under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare that serves as the WHO Collaboration Centre for ICD-related activities.
- Q. INS Kabra, recently seen in the news, is a:
 - A) offshore patrol vessel
 - C) aircraft carrier

- B) guided-missile destroyer
- ____

Answer : A

✓ Indian warship, INS Kabra, an indigenous fast attack craft, docked at the Colombo port in a move aimed at fostering bilateral ties between India and Sri Lanka.

D) submarine

- ✓ It is a naval vessel named after an island of the Andaman and Nicobar archipelago.
- ✓ It belongs to the Car Nicobar class of high-speed offshore patrol vessels are built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) for the Indian Navy.

B) Portugal

D) Germany

✓ It was eighth in a series of 10 Fast Attack Crafts.

Q. Footballer Franz Beckenbauer has passed away, he was a legendary footballer of which country?

- A) France
- C) Italy

Answer : A

- ✓ Franz Beckenbauer, one of Germany's greatest football players, died at the age of 78.
- He won the European Championship in 1972 and captained the World Cup winning team on home soil in 1974



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Q. When is World Hindi Day celebrated every year?

A) 09 January	B) 10 January
---------------	---------------

C) 11 January D) 12 January

Answer: B

- ✓ World Hindi Day is celebrated every year on 10 January all over the world.
- ✓ The purpose of its celebration is to create awareness for the promotion of Hindi and to present it as an international language at the global level.
- According to the World Language Database, Hindi language is currently spoken by 61 crore people. In the year 2006, the then Indian Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh had announced to celebrate January 10 as World Hindi Day.
- ✓ National Hindi Day is celebrated every year on 14 September
- Q. India has signed an MoU with which country for small satellite project?

A) Philippines	B) Bhutan
C) Mauritius	D) Sri Lanka

Answer : C

- ✓ India and Mauritius collaborate on Rs 20 crore small satellite project
- The Union Cabinet, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has given its nod to a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Indian Space Research Organization (Isro) and the Mauritius Research and Innovation Council (MRIC).
- The agreement, which was inked on November 1, 2023, in Port Louis, Mauritius, lays the groundwork for the joint development of a small satellite.
- Q. Indian Railways has achieved 6,577 route kilometers electrification in the calendar year 2023. The Indian Railways has set a target to become the world's largest green railway by which year?

A) 2030	B) 2040
C) 2025	D) 2035

Answer : A

✓ Indian Railways has achieved 6,577 route kilometers electrification in the calendar year 2023.



✓ Till December 2023, 61,508 route Kms have been electrified, which is 93.83 percent of total Broad-Gauge route of 65,556 kms.

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- ✓ With a vision of providing an eco-friendly, faster and energy-efficient mode of transportation, Indian Railways is marching ahead towards 100 per cent electrification of Broad-Gauge tracks.
- The Indian Railways has set a target to become the world's largest green railway by 2030. \checkmark
- Which state government has launched "Yogyasree" scheme to provide free training modules for Q. Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) students?

A) West Bengal

B) Kerala

C) Madhya Pradesh **D)** Rajasthan

Answer : A

- ✓ West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has launched a comprehensive social welfare scheme named "Yogyasree."
- ✓ The initiative aims to provide free training modules for Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) students in West Bengal, specifically targeting entrance and competitive examinations.
- Which company has launched AI Odyssey to skill 1 lakh developers in India in AI Tech? 0.
 - A) Meta
 - **B)** Google
 - **C)** Microsoft
 - D) Adobe

Answer : C

- ✓ Microsoft has launched an initiative that aims to skill one lakh developers in India in the latest AI technologies and tools.
- The program offers a comprehensive learning experience that helps developers acquire and demonstrate relevant skills needed to execute critical projects using AI technologies that align with business goals and outcomes.
- Through programs like AI Odyssey, Microsoft is offering opportunities for developers to build solutions for India's growth and showcase their talent to solve real-world problems, said the company.



Q. Union minister Parshottam Rupala has laid the foundation stone for the upgradation of the Paradip Fishing Harbour (PFH) in which state for Rs 108.91 crore?

D) Bihar

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A) Assam **B)** Odisha

C) Rajasthan

Answer : B

- ✓ Union minister Parshottam Rupala has laid the foundation stone for the upgradation of the Paradip Fishing Harbour in Odisha for Rs 108.91 crore.
- ✓ The modernisation and upgradation of the Paradip Fishing Harbour (PFH) will improve its hygienic conditions and make it clean, pollution-free, and aesthetically pleasing.
- ✓ PFH will be upgraded in 18 months by Paradip Port Authority using 100 per cent central assistance from the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) under the Sagarmala Scheme.
- ✓ PHF spread across 43 acres, is one of Odisha's largest fishing harbours located on the right bank of the river Mahanadi, two kilometres upstream of the river mouth in Jagatsinghpur district

Where will the Indian Navy's multinational exercise 'MILAN'-24 be organised? Q.

A) Visakhapatnam	B) Kochi
C) Chennai	D) Mumbai

Answer : A

- ✓ Indian Navy's multinational exercise 'MILAN'-24 will be organized in Visakhapatnam
- from 19 to 27 February 2024.
- ✓ Earlier, the 11th edition of this exercise was conducted in Visakhapatnam under the Eastern Naval Command in February-March 22.
- MILAN is a biennial multinational naval exercise that started in 1995 with the participation of four countries \checkmark (Indonesia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand) under the Look East policy.

EXERCISE IN NEWS 2023-24

- The 12th edition of the Multilateral Naval Exercise 2024 (Milan) is set to take place at Visakhapatnam from February 19 to 27.
- Indian Armed Forces contingent comprising 45 personnel reached Hanoi, Vietnam to take part in the Joint



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- Military Exercise VINBAX-2023.
- > This year's exercise will be conducted at Hanoi, Vietnam.
- > Indo-US Joint Special Forces exercise "VAJRA PRAHAR 2023" commenced at the Joint
- > Training Node, Umroi, Meghalaya.
- A joint military exercise, "Exercise MITRA SHAKTI-2023" is being conducted from November 16th to 29th, 2023, in Aundh (Pune), Maharashtra.
- > It is a joint military exercise between India and Sri Lankan army.
- > This year is the ninth edition of the exercis.
- The coastal security exercise 'Sagar Kavach' is set to unfold its strategic manoeuvres along the Kerala and
- Mahe coasts.
- > Coordinated by the Indian Coast Guard.
- Much-anticipated joint exercise 'Trishakti Prahar' recently began near the western border of Rajasthan in Jaisalmer.
- > Exercise CORPAT and BONGOSAGAR between the Indian Navy and Bangladesh Navy were
- conducted in the Northern Bay of Bengal from 07 09 Nov 2023.
- > Exercise Harimau Shakti 2023 commenced in Umroi Cantonment, India.
- > It is a joint bilateral training exercise between Indian & Malaysian Armed Forces.
- The 19th edition of "EXERCISE YUDH ABHYAS" will be conducted from 25th September to 8th October

B) 87

D) 85

> 2023 in Fort Wainwright, Alaska, USA.

Q. What is the rank of India in the Henley Passport Index 2024?

A) 80

C) 82

Answer : A

- ✓ HENELY PASSPORT INDEX 2024
- ✓ The Henley Passport Index is the original, authoritative ranking of all the world's passports according to the number of destinations their holders can access without a prior visa.

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- ✓ The index is based on exclusive data from the International Air Transport Association (IATA), the largest, most accurate travel information database and enhanced by Henley & Partners', Henely & partners is a London based advisory firm
- ✓ TOP Rank 1 with 194 destinations:-
- ✓ France
- ✓ Germany
- ✓ Italy
- 🗸 Japan
- ✓ Singapore
- ✓ Spain
- ✓ 2nd Rank with 193 Destinations:-
- ✓ Finland
- ✓ South Korea
- ✓ Sweden
- ✓ 3rd Rank with 192 destinations:-
- ✓ Austria
- ✓ Denmark
- ✓ Ireland
- ✓ Netherlands
- ✓ India Rank 80 with 62 destinations
- ✓ India Share its rank with Uzebkistan
- ✓ India's Neighbouring Countries Rank
- ✓ Maldives -Rank 58 with 94 Destinations
- ✓ China -Rank 62 with 85 Destinations
- ✓ Bhutan -Rank 87 with 55 Destinations
- ✓ Myanmar -Rank 92 with 48 destinations
- ✓ Srilanka- Rank 96 with 43 destination
- ✓ Bangladesh- Rank 97 with 42 destinations
- ✓ Nepal -Rank 98 with 40 destinations
- ✓ <u>Bottom Five Countries</u>



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- ✓ Yemen- Rank 100 with 35 destinations
- ✓ Pakistan- Rank 101 with 34 Destinations(India Neighbour)
- ✓ Iraq- Rank 102 with 31 destinations
- ✓ Syria Rank 103 with 29 destinations
- ✓ Afghanistan Rank 104 with 28 destinations
- Q. With whom has the International Hockey Federation signed an agreement for broadcasting hockey tournaments?
 - A) Disney Hotstar
 - B) Viacom 18
 - C) Doordarshan
 - D) Amazon Prime

Answer: B

- ✓ International Hockey Federation (FIH) strikes four-year pact with Viacom18.
- ✓ The International Hockey Federation (FIH) recently signed a four-year agreement with Viacom18 to broadcast major hockey tournaments.
- ✓ This deal has been made for the period from 2023 to 2027.
- ✓ This includes all FIH events except the FIH Nations Cup.
- ✓ Hockey fans can watch on OTT platform JioCinema and Viacom 18's linear channel network Sports18.

Viacom18 IN NEWS 2023-24

- Viacom 18 Secures BCCI TV and Digital Media Rights in a 5-Year Deal Worth Rs 5,963 Crore.
- Viacom18 Completes Merger Of JioCinema and Voot OTT Platforms.
- Viacom18 gets Olympic Games Paris 2024 Broadcast Rights Across India & Subcontinent.
- > Viacom18 Appoints Google's Kiran Mani as CEO of Digital Business .
- > Viacom18 bagged Women's IPL media rights for Rs 951 cr for next 5 years.
- International Hockey Federation (FIH)
- ➢ Formation : 1924
- Founded : Paris, France
- Headquarters : Lausanne, Switzerland
- President : Tayyab Ikram



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CEO : Thierry Weil

Q. Who received the cleanest city award in the category of population more than one lakh in the Swachhta Survekshan-2023?

- A) Indore and Surat
- **B) Surat and Patna**
- C) Indore and Bhopal
- D) Bhopal and Surat

Answer : A

- ✓ Indore and Surat got the award of the cleanest cities of the country in the category of population more than one lakh in the Swachh Survekshan Awards 2023.
- ✓ Indore has received this award for the 7th consecutive time.
- ✓ Navi Mumbai got third place in this category.
- President Draupadi Murmu presented the 'Swachh Survekshan-2023 Awards' at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi.
- ✓ In the 'best-performing states' category in 'Swachh Survekshan Awards 2023', Maharashtra bagged the top spot, followed by Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh.
- ✓ Swachh Survekshan 2023
- Swachh Survekshan was introduced by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) in 2016 as a competitive framework to encourage cities to improve the status of urban sanitation while encouraging large scale citizen participation.
- ✓ Over the years, Swachh Survekshan has emerged as the largest Urban sanitation survey in the world.



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ΤΟΙ

SWACHH: INDORE TOPS AGAIN, MCD RANKS 90TH

Barring the 1st year, when Mysuru was adjudged cleanest city, Indore has topped all subsequent Survekshan rankings (7 years in row). This year (2023), it shares honours with Surat, once known for its plague outbreak

TOP	5 CITIES (1L-PLUS P	OP	N)		вот	TOM 5 CITIES
Rank	City/ Municipal Area	Las	st Year		Ran	k City/ Municipal Area
1	Indore & Surat	1	Indore		446	Hoara (Howrah)
1	indore & Surat	2	Surat		445	Kalyani
3	Navi Mumbai	3	Navi Mumbai		444	Madhyamgram
4	GVMC Vijayawada	4	Visakhapatnam		△ 443	Krishna Nagar
5	Bhopal	5	Vijayawada 🛛		442	Asansol
TOP	GANGA TOWNS		TOP 5 CA	NTT BOARDS	TOP 5	CITIES (<1L POPN)
Rank	City/ Municipal Area		Rank Ci	ty/ Municipal Area	Rank	Town/ Municipal Area
1	Varanasi		1 M	lhow	1	Sasvad (Maha)

Rank	City/ Wullicipal Area	Kalik	only/ withicipal Area	Kalik	iowit/ Multicipal Area
1	Varanasi	1	Mhow	1	Sasvad (Maha)
2	Prayagraj	2	Deolali	2	Patan (Chhattisgarh)
3	Bijnor	3	Ahmedabad	3	Lonavala (Maha)
4	Haridwar	4	Secunderabad	4	Karhad (Maha)
5	Kannauj	5	Ahmednagar	5	Panchgani (Maha)
HOW CITIES IN				Rank	City/ Municipal Area
NCR FARED			7	NDMC	
1st year of ranking for unified MCD. Last year, South corpn was 28th, East corpn 34th			14	Noida	
& North corpn 37th among 45 cities with		38	Ghaziabad		
10L-plus popn (category removed this year).		90	MCD		
Noida slips 9 places, still cleanest in UP		140	Gurgaon		

Q. Who will take oath as the Prime Minister of Bangladesh for the fourth consecutive time?

A) Dr. Abdur Razzaq

C) Sheikh Hasina

B) Fakhruddin Ahmed

D) Khaleda Zia

Answer : C

- ✓ Awami League President Sheikh Hasina will be sworn in as the Prime Minister of Bangladesh for the fourth consecutive time.
- \checkmark The President of Bangladesh will administer oath to the new Prime Minister in Dhaka.

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✓ Awami League had won a landslide victory in the recently concluded elections

BANGLADESH IN NEWS 2023

The 4th edition of the Bilateral Exercise BONGOSAGAR-23 and the 5th edition of the Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT) between the Indian Navy and Bangladesh Navy took place in the Northern Bay of Bengal.

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- > The Maitree Super Thermal Power Project, funded through an Indian Concessional Financing Scheme loan of USD 1.6 billion, is a 1320 MW Super Thermal Power Plant (MSTPP) situated in Bangladesh.
- > Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated the 82-km Padma Bridge Rail Link, the country's largest infrastructure project built under China's Belt and Road Initiative.
- India and Bangladesh signed 3 MoUs including one on cooperation in Digital Payment mechanisms.
- \geq India and Bangladesh have started bilateral trade in rupees.
- The 6th Indian Ocean Conference (IOC) is taking place in Dhaka, Bangladesh from May 12-13, 2023. \geq
- India and Bangladesh have recently jointly launched the '50 Start-up Exchange Programme' to \geq promote collaboration and exchange between the start-up ecosystems of the two countries.
- Mohammad Shahabuddin elected President of Bangladesh.
- He will be the 22nd President of Bangladesh.
- Bangladesh will be connected to North-East by 2024.
- The 21st meeting of the Bangladesh–India Joint Steering Committee (BIJSC) on the power sector was \geq held on 4th May at Khulna, Bangladesh.
- > a new border-haat was inaugurated between India and Bangladesh at Bholaganj under Companyganj Upazila of Sylhet.
- > The High Commission of India opened its 16th Visa application center in Kushtia town of Southwestern Bangladesh.
- Bangladesh Power Development Board received 450 MW of electricity from Adani Power.
- Power is supplied from Adani's power plant in Godda, Jharkhand.
- Bangladesh
- Capital: Dhaka \geq
- Currency : Taka



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- President : Mohammed Shahabuddin Chuppu
- Prime Minister : Sheikh Hasina

Q. Which Indian won the gold medal in 57 kg category in the Zagreb Open 2024 wrestling tournament?

- A) Yash Tushir B) Aman Sehrawat
- C) Deepak Punia D) Vijay Kumar

Answer: B

- Reigning Asian champion Aman Sehrawat won gold medal in men's 57kg at the Zagreb Open 2024 wrestling tournament in Croatia.
- ✓ Sehrawat defeated China's Zou Wanhao.
- ✓ This was India's first medal in this edition of the ranking series.
- ✓ Vicky and Sumit will compete in the men's 97 kg and 125 kg weight categories of the freestyle category of the tournament respectively.
- Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Report Fish Disease app:
 - 1. It is developed by the National Informatics Centre, Pune.
 - 2. It has a Geo-tagging technology to empower fish farmers with a platform to report diseases.

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

- ✓ NSPAAD launches Mobile app 'Report Fish Disease' to monitor fish diseases across country.
- ✓ The National Surveillance Programme for Aquatic Animal Diseases (NSPAAD) project has introduced a mobile app 'Report Fish Disease' to track and monitor fish diseases across the country.
- ✓ About the Report Fish Disease App:
- The mobile application intends to empower fish farmers with a convenient and efficient platform to report diseases on their farms.
- ✓ Central Institute of Fisheries Technology (CIFT) is one of the collaborative partners of the NSPAAD project of which ICAR-NBFGR is the lead institute, under which this app is developed



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Q. The 'Exercise Sea Dragon' is a:

A) maritime exercise

.

- B) army exercise
- C) air force exercise D) rescue operation

Answer : A

- ✓ Indian Navy's P8I Aircraft Joins Exercise Sea Dragon-24 in Guam, US island territory in Western Pacific.
- ✓ About Exercise Sea Dragon-24:
- ✓ It is an elite multinational maritime exercise that encourages professional exchanges and teamwork among participating navies.
- ✓ Participating countries: India, Japan, South Korea, Australia, and the US.
- Q. Einstein Probe (EP), a new astronomical satellite, was recently launched by:
 - A) USA
 - B) Japan
 - C) Russia
 - D) China

Answer : D

- ✓ China launches new satellite 'Einstein Probe' shaped like a lotus to observe violent cosmic phenomena.
- ✓ About Einstein Probe (EP):
- ✓ The EP is a mission of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) dedicated to time-domain high-energy astrophysics.
- ✓ It was successfully launched on January 9, 2024, from the Xichang Satellite Launch Centre in China with a "Long March-2C" rocket.
- Q. Which airport will host the aviation extravaganza "Wings India 2024" from January 18 to 21?
 - A) Begumpet Airport, Hydrebad
 - B) Cochin International Airport, Kochi
 - C) Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru
 - D) Indira Gandhi International Airport, Delhi

Answer : A



✓ Hyderabad's Begumpet Airport will host the aviation extravaganza, Wings India 2024 from January 18 to 21, marking the country's most significant civil aviation event.

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- ✓ It is organized by the Airports Authority of India in collaboration with the Ministry of Civil Aviation, this four-day extravaganza is anticipated to be Asia's largest congregation.
- This dedicated period aims to offer the public an immersive experience, showcasing the latest technologies and advancements within the aviation industry
- Which of the following companies has unveiled the world's first wireless transparent TV "Signature Q. OLED"?

A) Panasonic	B) Sony
C) Samsung	D) LG

Answer : D

- ✓ LG unveils world's 1st wireless transparent OLED TV
- ✓ LG Electronics has unveiled the world's first wireless transparent TV.
- ✓ Called LG Signature OLED T, the TV has a glass for a display that looks as if it disappears when turned off.
- ✓ The TV combines transparent OLED technology with wireless AV transmission and reception for viewers to "see beyond the screen and eliminating the need for visible wires around the screen"
- ✓ The TV has a self-lit pixel technology that enables it to maintain the picture quality and it has a 4K resolution.
- ✓ OLED (Organic Light Emitting Diodes) is a flat light emitting technology, made by placing a series of organic thin films between two conductors.
- ✓ LG Electronics Inc. is a South Korean multinational electronics company headquartered in Yeouido-dong, Seoul, South Korea.

Which country has won the United Cup Title 2024? Q.

A) Croatia

C) Germany

B) Qatar **D)** France

- Answer : C
- ✓ Germany defeated Poland 2-1 in a gripping United Cup final in Sydney. Alexander Zverev emerged as the hero for Germany, as his performance saved two championship points against Poland's Hubert Hurkacz.
- Zverev and Laura Siegemund defeated Hurkacz and Iga Swiatek 6-4, 5-7, 10-4 in a crucial mixed-doubles \checkmark match at the Ken Rosewall Arena, guiding Germany to the United Cup title.



Q. The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) is organizing the Startup India Innovation Week 2024 from to ____.

Bank | SSC | Railway | Government Exam Visit : www.AparchitExamWarriors.Com

- A) 9 January 18 January B) 13 January – 19 January
- C) 10 January 18 January D) 11 January – 18 January

Answer : C

- ✓ The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) is organizing the Startup India Innovation Week 2024 from10 January to 18 January.
- ✓ This week-long initiative seeks to unite startups, entrepreneurs, investors, policymakers, and stakeholders to celebrate and advance the Indian Startup Ecosystem, culminating in the National Startup Day on January 16th, 2024.
- The Startup India initiative was launched by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 16th January 2016 to build a strong ecosystem for nurturing innovation, boosting startups, and encouraging investments in the startup ecosystem of the country.

Hindustani classical singer and music maestro Ustad Rashid Khan passed away recently at the age of **Q**. 55. In which year he was honoured with Padma Bhushan Award, the third-highest civilian award in the country?

A) 2020	B) 2021
C) 2022	D) 2019

Answer : C

- ✓ Hindustani classical singer and music maestro Ustad Rashid Khan passed away in Kolkata at the age of 55.
- ✓ Born in Badayun, Uttar Pradesh, Rashid Khan received his initial training from his maternal grand-uncle, Ustad Nissar Hussain Khan (1909–1993). He gave his first concert at age eleven.
- ✓ In April 1980, when Nissar Hussain Khan moved to Kolkata, Rashid Khan came to the city with his grandfather. Rashid Khan also joined the ITC Sangeet Research Academy at the age of 14.
- ✓ The vocalist won several awards including Padma Shri and the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 2006. In 2022, he was honoured with the Padma Bhushan, the third-highest civilian award of the country

When is National Youth Day celebrated every year? Q.

A) 10 January	B) 11 January
C) 12 January	D) 13 January



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Answer : C

- ✓ National Youth Day is celebrated all over India on 12 January every year.
- ✓ This day is celebrated on the occasion of the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda.
- ✓ The Government of India officially declared National Youth Day in the year 1984 and it is being celebrated across the country since 1985. Swami Vivekananda's real name was Narendranath Dutt.
- ✓ In 1898 he established Ramakrishna Math in Belur.
- ✓ International Youth Day is commemorated every year on 12 August.
- Q. Which Tiger Reserve has got the title of India's first 'Dark Sky Park'?
 - A) Kaziranga Tiger Reserve B) Pench Tiger Reserve
 - C) Namdapha Tiger Reserve D) Kamlang Tiger Reserve

Answer: B

- ✓ Pench Tiger Reserve of Maharashtra has become India's first and Asia's fifth tiger reserve with 'Dark Sky Park'.
- ✓ 'Dark Sky Park' helps protect the night sky and reduce light pollution.
- ✓ The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) emphasizes the importance of preserving natural darkness for nature conservation and maintaining ecology in protected areas.

TIGER RESERVE IN NEWS 2023

- Pench Tiger Reserve of Maharashtra has become India's first and Asia's fifth tiger reserve with 'Dark Sky Park'.
- > Arunachal Pradesh approves constitution of Special Tiger Protection Force for three Tiger Reserves.
- Bihar's second tiger reserve to come up in Kaimur sanctuary
- After the Valmiki Tiger Reserve (VTR) in West Champaran district, Bihar is set to get a second tiger reserve in Kaimur district (Kaimur Wildlife Sanctuary) by the end of the year.
- Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve becomes the 7th tiger reserve of Madhya Pradesh and 55th in India.
- India got its 54th tiger reserve in Rajasthan's Karauli and Dholpur districts with the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) approving a proposal.



India's Tiger Population Reaches 3,925 with 6.1% Annual Growth Rate, Holds 75% of Global Wild Tiger Population.

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Project Tiger is a tiger conservation programme launched on April 1,1973.

Who inaugurated India's longest bridge over the sea? Q.

A) Narendra Modi

B) Amit Shah

C) Rajnath Singh

D) Anurag Thakur

Answer : A

- ✓ PM Modi inaugurated India's longest bridge built on the sea in Mumbai.
- ✓ This bridge connecting Mumbai to Navi Mumbai has been named 'Atal Setu' after the former Prime Minister of India, late Atal Bihari Vajpayee.
- ✓ Atal Setu is 21.8 km long and has six lanes.
- ✓ ₹18,000 crore has been spent on this entire project.
- ✓ It is the longest sea bridge in India, and the world's 12th longest sea bridge.

INDIA'S LONGEST IN NEWS 2023-24

- > Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Mumbai Trans Harbour Link (MTHL), colloquially known as Atal Setu, India's longest sea bridge spanning 21.8 km.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated World's longest railway platform of 1.5 kilometres at Sri Siddhaarooda railway station in Hubballi in the state of Karnataka
- At 287 km, Bengaluru to get India's largest circular railway.
- Consider the following statements regarding Zero Effect, Zero Defect Scheme (ZED): **Q**.
 - 1. It offers certification for environmentally conscious manufacturing.
 - 2. It is an initiative of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A) 1 only

B) 2 only

C) Both 1 and 2

D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer : A



✓ Zero Defect Zero Effect (ZED) scheme by the MSME Ministry has achieved the 1 lakh certification milestone, the ministry said recently.

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- ✓ About the Zero Defect Zero Effect (ZED):
- ✓ Launched in October 2016 and revamped in April 2022, the ZED scheme offers certification for environmentally conscious manufacturing under three certification levels (gold, silver, and bronze) classified according to 20 performance-based parameters such as quality management, timely delivery, process control, waste management, etc.
- ✓ Currently, the scheme is applicable for manufacturing MSMEs only.
- ✓ MSME Sustainable (ZED) Certification can be attained in three levels after registering and taking the ZED Pledge:
- ✓ Certification Level 1: BRONZE
- ✓ Certification Level 2: SILVER
- ✓ Certification Level 3: GOLD
- Which bank has recently launched 'Samman' RuPay Credit Card? 0.
 - A) State Bank of India
 - C) Punjab National Bank **D)** Axis Bank

Answer : B

- ✓ IndusInd Bank introduces the 'Samman RuPay Credit Card' exclusively for government employees.
- ✓ IndusInd Bank has recently launched "IndusInd Bank Samman RuPay Credit Card" equipped with UPI facility in partnership with National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).

B) IndusInd Bank

This card launched for government sector employees, this card is designed with various types of special offers

INDUSIND BANK IN NEWS 2023-24

- IndusInd Bank Introduces 'Samman RuPay Credit Card' for Government Employees.
- > IndusInd Bank Introduces 'Indus Solitaire Program' for the Diamond Industry.
- IndusInd Bank Launches 'IndusInd Bank Platinum RuPay Credit Card' on UPI.
- Induslnd Bank has agreed to a multi-year sponsorship deal with the International Cricket Council (ICC). The deal is set to be valued at \$20-24 million (approximately Rs 160-200 crore).



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- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has granted its approval for Poonawalla Fincorp's collaboration with IndusInd Bank to issue a co-branded credit card.
- IndusInd Bank has launched the 'IndusInd Bank eSvarna', India's first Corporate Credit Card on RuPay network.
- IndusInd Bank
- ➢ Founded : 1994
- Founder : S.P. Hinduja
- > Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra,
- MD & CEO : Sumant Kathpalia
- > Tagline : We Make You Feel Richer

Q. Which two cities have received the 'Cleanest Ganga City' award in the 'Clean Survey-2023'?

- A) Varanasi and Kanpur
- C) Kanpur and Prayagraj
- **B)** Varanasi and Prayagraj
- D) Prayagraj and Ghazipur

Answer: B

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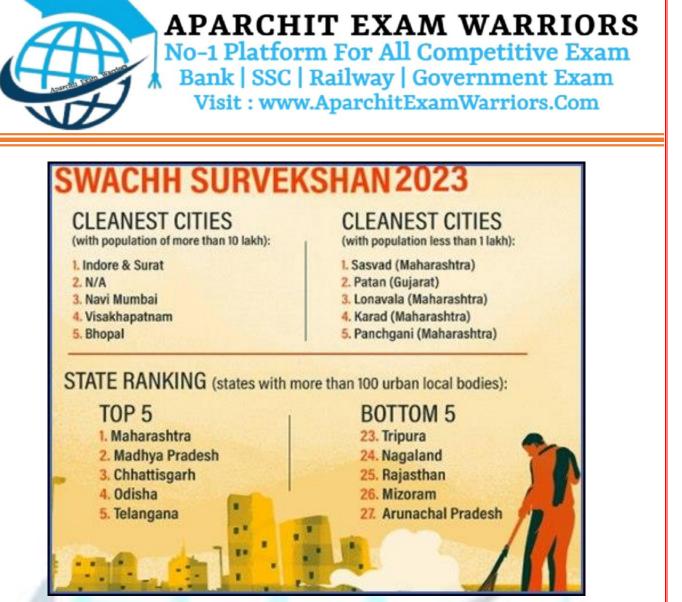
TOI

SWACHH: INDORE TOPS AGAIN, MCD RANKS 90TH

Barring the 1st year, when Mysuru was adjudged cleanest city, Indore has topped all subsequent Survekshan rankings (7 years in row). This year (2023), it shares honours with Surat, once known for its plague outbreak TOP 5 CITIES (11-PLUS POPN)

TUPS	D CITIES (IL-PLUS P	UPI	v		BUILU	M 5 CITIES
Rank	City/ Municipal Area	Las	t Year		Rank	City/ Municipal Area
1	Indore & Surat	1	Indore		446	Hoara (Howrah)
1	indore & Surat	2	Surat		445	Kalyani
3	Navi Mumbai	3	Navi Mumbai		444	Madhyamgram
4	GVMC Vijayawada	4	Visakhapatnam	6	443	Krishna Nagar
5	Bhopal	5	Vijayawada		442	Asansol
TOP	GANGA TOWNS		TOP 5 CANTT BOARDS	тс	OP 5 CI	TIES (<1L POPN)
Rank	City/ Municipal Area		Rank City/ Municipal Area	Ra	ank To	own/ Municipal Area
1	Varanasi		1 Mhow	1	S	asvad (Maha)
2	Prayagraj		2 Deolali	2	P	atan (Chhattisgarh)
3	Bijnor		3 Ahmedabad	3	L	onavala (Maha)
4	Haridwar		4 Secunderabad	4	K	arhad (Maha)
5	Kannauj		5 Ahmednagar	5	P	anchgani (Maha)
	HOW CITIES IN Rank City/ Municipal Area					
NCR FARED						
1st year of ranking for unified MCD. Last year, South corpn was 28th, East corpn 34th						
year, South corpn was 28th, East corpn 34th & North corpn 37th among 45 cities with 38 Ghaziabad			haziabad			
	F	plus popn (category removed this year da slips 9 places, still cleanest in UP). 9() M	ICD	
140			10 G	urgaon		

- ✓ Swachh Survekshan 2023
- ✓ The President Droupadi Murmu conferred Swachh Survekshan awards 2023 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi hosted by Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA).
- ✓ The theme for the year 2023 was -"Waste to Wealth".
- ✓ For 2024, the theme is "Reduce, Reuse and Recycle".
- ✓ Performance of cities in Swachh Surveskshan 2023



- ✓ The Mhow Cantonment Board in Madhya Pradesh was adjudged the cleanest cantonment board.
- ✓ Varanasi and Prayagraj, both in Uttar Pradesh, won the top two awards amongst the cleanest Ganga towns.
- Chandigarh walked away with the award for the Best Safaimitra Surakshit Sheher (safest city for sanitation workers).

Q. New generation 'Akash' missile was successfully tested, what type of missile is it?

- A) Surface-to-Air
- C) surface to surface

- B) air to surface
- D) air to air

Answer : A

- ✓ Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO) successfully test fired the new generation Akash (AKASH-NG) missile from the Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur off the coast of Odisha.
- ✓ This testing was done on high speed unmanned air targets at very low altitude.
- \checkmark Akash is a new generation 'Surface-to-Air' missile defense system



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- ✓ Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)
- ✓ Founded : 1 January 1958
- ✓ Headquarters : New Delhi
- ✓ Motto : "Strength's Origin is in Knowledge"
- ✓ Chairman : Sameer V Kamat
- Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme (ABSS):
 - 1. It is launched by the NITI Aayog.
 - 2. It aims for better traffic circulation, inter-modal integration in Indian Railways.

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

- ✓ Railway Ministry includes Udupi station under Amrit Bharat Station Scheme for redevelopment.
- The Udupi station under the Konkan Railway Corporation Ltd. (KRCL) network was recently included in the Railway Ministry's Amrit Bharat Station Scheme (ABSS) for redevelopment.
- ✓ About the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme (ABSS):
- ✓ It is an ongoing Indian Railways mission launched in February 2023 by the Ministry of Railways to redevelop 1,309 stations nationwide.
- ✓ The scheme aims to transform railway stations into modern, well-equipped hubs with improved passenger
- \checkmark amenities, better traffic circulation, inter-modal integration, and enhanced signage
- Q. Consider the following statements regarding the VIPER Rover:
 - 1. It is NASA's first mobile robotic mission to the Moon.
 - 2. It will analyze ice on the surface of the Moon.
 - 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



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Answer : C

- ✓ Fly your name to the Moon aboard NASA's first robotic lunar rover.
- NASA has invited people to send their names to the surface of the Moon aboard the agency's first robotic lunar rover VIPER – short for Volatiles Investigating Polar Exploration Rover.
- ✓ About the VIPER Rover:
- ✓ The Volatiles Investigating Polar Exploration Rover, or VIPER will get a close-up view of the location and concentration of ice and other resources at the Moon's South Pole.
- ✓ It is NASA's first mobile robotic mission to the Moon.
- ✓ Mission duration:100 Earth days, covering 3 cycles of lunar day and night.
- ✓ It will land at the South Pole of the Moon in late 2024.

NASA IN NEWS 2023

- NASA has invited people to send their names to the surface of the Moon aboard the agency's first robotic lunar rover VIPER – short for Volatiles Investigating Polar Exploration Rover.
- NASA is gearing up to enhance our understanding of Earth's atmosphere with the upcoming Plankton, Aerosol, Cloud, Ocean Ecosystem (PACE) mission, scheduled for launch in early 2024.
- > NASA renames mission going to asteroid Apophis after returning rocks from Bennu.
- About 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.
- A NASA experiment on the Psyche spacecraft has beamed back a near-infrared laser that contains test data from almost 16 million kilometres away.
- > 16 Psyche:
- > It is currently orbiting the Sun between Mars and Jupiter.
- NASA is set to launch the Atmospheric Waves Experiment (AWE) to study 'airglow' to understand space
- ➤ weather.
- NASA's James Webb Telescope recently discovered a new exoplanet named 'Wasp-107b', which is the size



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- \succ of Jupiter.
- > NASA's Lucy spacecraft successfully completed its first flyby of an asteroid named Dinkinesh.
- About Lucy Mission:
- > It is a first-of-its-kind mission of NASA that will explore Jupiter's elusive Trojan asteroids.
- National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) launched a sounding rocket as part of its INFUSE mission.
- > NASA's Subsurface Water Ice Mapping (SWIM) project released its fourth set of maps.
- > NISAR is a Low Earth Orbit (LEO) observatory jointly developed by NASA and ISRO.
- National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)
- ➢ Founded : 1958
- Headquarters : Washington, D.C
- Administrator : Bill Nelson

Q. In the present time, which company is the most valuable publicly-traded company by market capitalisation in the world?

A) Saudi AramcoB) AppleC) MicrosoftD) Alphabet

Answer : C

- ✓ Microsoft Surpass Apple as World's Most Valuable Company.
- ✓ Microsoft's market valuation was \$2.875 trillion while Apple's market capitalisation fell to \$2.871 trillion.
- This increase in Microsoft's valuation is largely attributed to its pioneering position in harnessing profit from generative AI, thereby attracting investors
- ✓ MICROSOFT
- ✓ Founded : 1975
- ✓ Founders : Bill Gates and Paul Allen
- ✓ Headquarters : Washington DC
- ✓ Chairman : Satya Nadella
- ✓ CEO : Satya Nadella
- ✓ President : Brad Smith
- ✓ APPLE

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- ✓ Founded : April 1, 1976
- ✓ Headquarteres : California, US
- ✓ Chairman : Arthur D. Levinson
- ✓ CEO : Tim Cook.
- Q. When is National Youth Day celebrated every year?
 - A) 10 JanuaryB) 11 JanuaryC) 12 JanuaryD) 13 January

Answer : C

- ✓ National Youth Day is celebrated all over India on 12 January every year.
- ✓ This day is celebrated on the occasion of the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda.
- ✓ The Government of India officially declared National Youth Day in the year 1984 and it is being celebrated across the country since 1985.
- ✓ Swami Vivekananda's real name was Narendranath Dutt.
- ✓ In 1898 he established Ramakrishna Math in Belur.
- ✓ International Youth Day is commemorated every year on 12 August.
- Q. The Government of Maharashtra has declared a new Conservation Reserve in the forest land of _ district namely 'Atpadi Conservation Reserve'.
 - A) Kolhapur
 - B) Sangli
 - C) Amravati
 - D) Ahmednagar

Answer : B

- ✓ The Government of Maharashtra has declared a new Conservation Reserve in the forest land of Sangli district namely 'Atpadi Conservation Reserve'.
- The newly formed Atpadi Conservation Reserve connects the Maini Conservation Area in the west with the Maldhok Bird Sanctuary in the northeast.
- ✓ This will help in the protection of wildlife corridors and preserve the habitat of wolves, deer, foxes, civets and other mammals in the area



Q. Which state government has launched the "Ram Lalla Darshan" (Ayodhya Dham) scheme under which, 20,000 eligible residents of the state will be taken to the holy city for pilgrimage every year?

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A) Chhattisgarh **B)** Uttar Pradesh

C) Madhya Pradesh **D)** Bihar

Answer : A

- ✓ Chhattisgarh CM Vishnu Deo Sai has launched the "Ram Lala Darshan" (Ayodhya Dham) Yojana.
- ✓ Under the scheme, 20,000 eligible residents of the State would be taken to the holy city for pilgrimage every year.
- ✓ The Chhattisgarh Tourism Board will implement the scheme and the budget for it will be provided by the Tourism Department.
- ✓ It added that those between the age of 18 and 75 years and found fit in the health examination by District Medical Board will be considered eligible for the trip under this scheme. In the first phase, however, this facility will be made available for people of age above 55 years.

Who has inaugurated and laid the foundation stones of 29 national highway projects worth Rs 4,000 **Q**. crore in Punjab?

A) Amit Shah	B) Nitin Gadkari
C) Narendra Modi	D) Piyush Goyal

Answer : B

- ✓ Union Minister Nitin Gadkari has inaugurated and laid foundation stones of 29 national highway projects worth Rs 4,000 crore in Punjab.
- ✓ The projects included Ladhowal bypass in Ludhiana, six-lane flyover and two-lane road over bridge in Ludhiana, four laning of Jalandhar-Kapurthala section, and three bridges on the Jalandhar-Makhu Rsssoad.
- ✓ Gadkari laid the foundation stones of several projects, including four laning of Hoshiarpur-Phagwara Road and four laning of Ferozepur bypass.
- Five greenfield expressways and economic corridors are being built at a cost of Rs 1.20 lakh crore for better connectivity from Punjab to Delhi, Chandigarh, Rajasthan, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, and Haryana.



Q. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of multiple development projects worth over 30,500 crore rupees in which state?

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A) Maharashtra **B)** Gujarat

D) Uttar Pradesh C) Haryana

Answer : A

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of multiple development projects worth over 30,500 crore rupees in Maharashtra.
- ✓ Modi has inaugurated Atal Bihari Vajpayee Sewari Nhava Sheva Atal Setu to improve ease of mobility by strengthening urban transport infrastructure. Atal Setu has been constructed at a total cost of more than 17,840 crore rupees.
- ✓ It is about a 21.8 km long 6-lane bridge having about 16.5 km length over sea and about 5.5 km on the land. Prime Minister Modi had laid the foundation stone of the bridge in December 2016.
- ✓ Modi also laid the foundation stone of the underground road tunnel connecting Eastern Freeway's Orange Gate to Marine Drive. The 9.2 Km tunnel will be built at a cost of more than 8,700 crore rupees. It will be a significant infrastructure development in Mumbai which will reduce travel time between Orange Gate and Marine Drive.
- Prime Minister also inaugurated Bharat Ratnam for Gems and Jewellery sector at Santacruz Electronic Export Processing Zone- Special Economic Zone, which is the first of its kind in India with the best available machines in the world including 3D Metal printing.
- Which state government has launched the Blue Carbon Agency to preserve and restore coastal Q. ecosystems?
 - **B)** Karnataka A) Telangana
 - C) Tamil Nadu

D) Kerala

- Answer : C
- ✓ Tamil Nadu government has launched the Tamil Nadu Blue Carbon Agency to preserve and restore coastal ecosystems.
- This part of the Tamil Nadu Coastal Mission was announced in the 2023-24 state budget, with a Rs 2000 crore cost backed by World Bank funding.



✓ A special-purpose vehicle called the Tamil Nadu Blue Carbon Agency has been set up for preservation and restoration of coastal ecosystems, including mangroves, corals, seagrass, and salt marshes.

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 \checkmark This is a significant move towards environmental conservation, focusing on protection and revitalisation of the state's coastal ecology.

The International Labour Organization (ILO) has projected a modest rise in the global unemployment Q. rate to how much percent in 2024, citing an increase in joblessness across advanced economies?

A) 4.2% C) 6.2%	B) 5.2%
	D) 7.2%

Answer : B

- ✓ The International Labour Organization (ILO), a United Nations agency, has projected a modest rise in the global unemployment rate to 5.2% in 2024, citing an increase in joblessness across advanced economies.
- ✓ According to the ILO's 2024 World Employment and Social Outlook report, the anticipated rise would result in the global unemployment rate inching up from 5.1% recorded in 2023.
- The report forecasts that the number of unemployed individuals globally will surge by two million, \checkmark contributing to the uptick in the unemployment rate.
- Q. Which country has launched the Green Fuels Alliance India (GFAI) initiative to boost collaborative efforts between the two countries in the sustainable energy solutions sector?

A) Denmark	B) Sweden
C) Norway	D) Switzerland

Answer : A

- ✓ Denmark has launched the Green Fuels Alliance India (GFAI) initiative to boost collaborative efforts between the two countries in the sustainable energy solutions sector and advance their joint global goal towards carbon neutrality.
- \checkmark The new alliance is a strategic initiative poised to play a pivotal role in advancing the green fuels sector, including green hydrogen, by fostering innovation, collaboration, and partnerships between Danish industries and their counterparts in India.



✓ GFAI's primary objective is to promote sustainable energy growth in India by establishing an ecosystem that encourages collaboration among businesses, government entities, research institutions, and financial stakeholders from both the Indian and Danish sectors.

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- The GFAI aligns with India's goal of achieving carbon neutrality by 2070 and Denmark's by 2050. \checkmark
- The Rural Development Ministry has signed an MoU with which bank to facilitate enterprise Q. financing for rural self-help groups (SHG)?
 - A) HDFC Bank

B) ICICI Bank

C) Yes Bank

D) State Bank of India

Answer : D

- ✓ The Rural Development Ministry and the State Bank of India have signed an MoU to facilitate enterprise financing for rural self-help groups (SHG).
- The MoU was signed by Additional Secretary Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana National Rural Livelihoods Mission, Charanjit Singh and Chief General Manager, State Bank of India, Corporate office Mumbai, Shantanu Pendsey.
- State Bank of India introduced a specialised financial product Svyam Siddha, exclusively tailored for SHG \checkmark women entrepreneurs seeking loans up to Rs 5 lakhs.
- \checkmark This initiative is designed to alleviate the challenges associated with extensive documentation requirements for bank loan applications and reduce the turnaround time (TAT).
- **Q**. With reference to the PM-eBus Sewa Scheme, consider the following statements:
 - 1. Under the Scheme, 10,000 e-buses will be deployed across cities in the country.
 - 2. City bus operations will be done on a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model.
 - 3. It will cover cities with a population of one million and above only.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

A) Only one

B) Only two

D) None

C) All three

Answer : B

✓ Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister recently said that the Ministry has floated tenders for procuring buses under the PM-eBus Sewa scheme.



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- ✓ About PM-eBus Sewa Scheme:
- ✓ Under the PM-eBus Sewa Scheme, 10,000 e-buses will be deployed across cities in the country.
- ✓ The scheme was introduced to give a push to the slow adoption of e-buses in public transport.
- ✓ Support for Operation:
- ✓ Under this scheme, city bus operations will be done on a Public Private Partnership (PPP) model.
- ✓ This scheme will support bus operations for 10 years.
- ✓ States/Cities shall be responsible for running the bus services and making payments to the bus operators.
- The Central Government will support these bus operations by providing subsidies to the extent specified in the proposed scheme.
- ✓ Funding:
- ✓ It has been allocated a total funding of **Rs 57,613 crore.**
- ✓ Out of this financial provision, the central government will contribute Rs 20,000 crore, while the remaining portion will be covered by the state governments.
- ✓ Coverage: It will cover cities with a population of 300,000 and above and will include all the capital cities of the 'Union Territories, North Eastern Region, and Hill States'.
- There are two segments of the scheme: Augmenting the city bus services and Associated Infrastructure, and Green Urban Mobility initiatives.
- ✓ Augmenting the city bus services and Associated Infrastructure: Under this segment, the scheme will augment city electric bus operations by extending Central Assistance (CA) for 10,000 electric bus operation on Public Private Partnership (PPP) model, bus depots and behind-the-meter power infrastructure.
- ✓ Green Urban Mobility Initiatives (GUMI): Under this segment, the scheme will support the implementation of GUMI projects for complementing bus services and demonstrating a reduction in Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions in urban areas
- Q. Which country is set to become the world's largest producer of lentil (masoor) during the 2023-24 crop years on account of higher acreage?

A) China	B) USA
C) India	D) France

Answer : C

✓ India's lentil production set to touch all-time high.



 \checkmark India is set to become the world's largest producer of lentil (masoor) during the 2023-24 crop years on account of higher acreage.

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- ✓ The country's masur (lentil) production is estimated to touch an all-time high of 1.6 million tonnes in the 2023-24 rabi season on higher acreage
- ✓ About Lentil:
- ✓ It is a valuable human food, mostly consumed as dry seeds.
- ✓ In India, it's mostly consumed as 'Dal' by removal of outer skin and separation of cotyledons.
- ✓ Lentil is also called as Masur and Malka (bold seeded).
- ✓ Temperature: The optimum temperature for growth is 18-30C. Its range of cultivation extends to an altitude of 3,500 m in north-west hills.
- ✓ According to Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the world top lentil growers in 2022 were Canada, India, Australia, Turkey and Russia.
- ✓ Despite being the second largest producer of lentil, India has so far been importing mainly from Australia, Canada, Russia, Singapore, and Turkey.

Which defence force will observe 2024 as the "Year of Technology Absorption"? Q.

- A) Indian Navy
- **B)** Indian Army
- **C)** Indian Air Force
- **D)** Indian Coast Guard

Answer : B

- ✓ The year 2024 will be observed as the "Year of Technology Absorption" by the Indian Army.
- This theme underscores our commitment to leverage technology as a catalyst for transformative change, as \checkmark well as to utilise in-house expertise to innovate solutions to our operational and logistic requirements and give shape to these projects in collaboration with the domestic defence industry.
- ✓ The Indian Army personnel are being trained to leverage technology and exploit the cyber domain effectively through institutionalised, procedural and technological measures.
- ✓ Project SAMBHAV is an end-to-end, secure, network-agnostic mobile ecosystem to provide secure communication with instant connectivity on the move.
- ✓ Operating on state-of-the-art contemporary 5G technology, it represents a significant leap forward in India's defence capability



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Q. Indian Bank has launched an 'Indian Bank One co-branded credit card' with which entity?

- A) FPL Technologies B) Coforge
- C) Inspirisys

D) Onward Technologies

Answer : A

- ✓ Indian Bank has launched an 'Indian Bank One co-branded credit card' with FPL Technologies.
- ✓ Leveraging the Visa and RuPay platforms, these cards will be issued by Indian Bank and managed by FPL Technologies.
- ✓ The Indian Bank One co-branded credit card boasts of international validity with a 1% forex fee and aims to offer a range of features tailored to the diverse needs of digitally savvy Indian consumers.
- ✓ Indian Bank
- ✓ Founded : 1907
- ✓ Headquarters : Chennai, Tamil Nadu
- ✓ MD & CEO : Shanti Lal Jain

Q. Tshering Tobgay has become prime minister for a second time in which country?

- A) Vietnam B) Maldives
 - C) Thailand

D) Bhutan

Answer : D

- ✓ Bhutan's Tshering Tobgay becomes PM for second time
- ✓ Tobgay, head of the liberal People's Democratic Party (PDP), who served as prime minister of the Himalayan kingdom from 2013 to 2018, won 30 of 47 seats
- ✓ Bhutan
- ✓ Capital : Thimphu
- ✓ Currency : Ngultrum
- ✓ Prime Minister : Tshering Tobgay
- Q. Who has been appointed as the Representative of the United States on the Executive Board of the World Health Organization (WHO)?
 - A) Vivek Murthy

- B) Kiran Ahuja
- C) Neera Tanden
- D) Sonia Aggarwal

Answer : A



✓ President Joe Biden has reappointed Indian American Surgeon General Vivek Murthy to serve as Representative of the United States on the Executive Board of the World Health Organization (WHO).

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- Saqqara, recently seen in the news, is located in which one of the following countries? **Q**.
 - A) Israel

B) Saudi Arabia

C) Kazakhstan

Answer : D

✓ Archaeologists in Egypt recently unearthed tombs containing mummy masks and a 'god of silence' statue at Saqqara.

D) Egypt

- ✓ About Saqqara:
- ✓ It is part of the necropolis (burial place) of the ancient Egyptian city of Memphis.
- ✓ It is located on the western bank of the Nile,40 kilometers south of Cairo, the capital of Egypt.
- ✓ Saqqara's name derives from the name of the burial god Sokar.
- It was an active burial ground for more than 3500 years and is Egypt's largest archaeological site. \checkmark
- \checkmark Sakkara is best known for the Step Pyramid, the oldest of Egypt's 97 pyramids.
- Consider the following statements regarding the Himalayan Wolf: Q.
 - 1. It is genetically adapted to live in hypoxic conditions.
 - 2. It is categorized as critically endangered species under the IUCN Red List.

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

- ✓ Himalayan Wolf has been assessed for the first time in the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)'s Red List and categorised as 'Vulnerable'.
- ✓ About Himalayan Wolf:
- The Himalayan Wolf (Canis lupus chanco), a prominent lupine predator found across the Himalayas. √
- \checkmark Distribution:
- ✓ In China, the Himalayan wolf lives on the Tibetan Plateau in the provinces of Gansu, Qinghai, Tibet, and western Sichuan.



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- ✓ In northern India, it occurs in the Union Territory of Ladakh and in the Lahaul and Spiti region in northeastern Himachal Pradesh
- ✓ Conservation status
- ✓ IUCN: Vulnerbale
- ✓ CITES: Appendix I
- ✓ Wildlife Protection Act, 1972: Schedule I
- Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Cape Verde:
 - 1. It is located to the west coast of Africa.
 - 2. It is certified as Malaria free country by the World Health Organization.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A) 1 only
- C) Both 1 and 2

Answer : C

✓ World Health Organization (WHO) has certified Cabo Verde (also known as Cape Verde) as a malaria-free country.

B) 2 only

D) Neither 1 nor 2

- ✓ Cabo Verde has become the third country to acquire the status in the global health organisation's African region. The country has now joined Mauritius and Algeria, who were certified in 1973 and 2019, respectively.
- ✓ About Cabo Verde
- ✓ It is also known as Cape Verde which comprises a group of islands that lie off the west coast of Africa.
- ✓ Capital: Praia
- ✓ Currency : Cape Verdean escudo (CVE)
- ✓ World Health Organization (WHO)
- ✓ Formation : 7 April 1948
- ✓ Headquarters : Geneva, Switzerland
- ✓ First President : Andrija Štampar
- ✓ Director General : Tedros Adhanom (Ethiopia)
- ✓ Deputy Director General : Soumya Swaminathan (Indian)
- ✓ Member Countries : 194.



Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Thirty Meter Telescope (TMT) project:

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- 1. It is located on the island of Hawaii.
- 2. It is an optical and infrared telescope which enables observations into deep space.

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, an official delegation from the Department of Science and Technology visited Mauna Kea to discuss "challenges" to the Thirty Meter Telescope (TMT) project.
- ✓ About Thirty Meter Telescope (TMT):
- ✓ It has been conceived as a 30-metre diameter primary-mirror optical and infrared telescope that will enable observations into deep space.
- ✓ It is proposed as a joint collaboration involving institutions in the S., Japan, China, Canada, and India.
- ✓ It will be the world's most advanced and capable ground-based optical, near-infrared, and mid-infrared observatory.
- ✓ Location: Mauna Kea, an inactive volcano on the island of Hawai'i in the United States.
- ✓ Indian contribution.
- The Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIAP) is leading the consortium of Indian institutions that are involved with the TMT project.
- ✓ India TMT will be jointly funded by the Departments of Science and Technology and Atomic Energy
- Q. With reference to LiDAR, consider the following statements:
 - 1. It is a remote sensing method that uses light in the form of a pulsed laser.
 - 2. A topographic lidar typically uses a near-infrared laser to map the land.
 - 3. It generates precise, three-dimensional data of both natural and man-made environments.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

A) Only one B) Only two

C) All three D) None

Answer : C



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- ✓ 3,000-Year-Old City Hidden In Amazon Rainforest Discovered.
- ✓ A huge city hidden by the luxuriant vegetation of the Amazon rainforest was recently discovered in Ecuador by a LiDAR survey.
- ✓ About LiDAR:
- ✓ Lidar, which stands for Light Detection and Ranging, is a remote sensing method that uses light in the form of a pulsed laser to measure ranges (variable distances) to the Earth.
- ✓ These light pulses—combined with other data recorded by the airborne system generate precise, threedimensional information about the shape of the Earth and its surface characteristics.
- ✓ A lidar instrument principally consists of a laser, a scanner, and a specialized GPS receiver.
- ✓ LiDAR works in a similar way to Radar and Sonar yet uses light waves from a laser, instead of radio or sound waves.
- Q. When is the Indian Army Day observed?

A) 14 January	B) 15 January
C) 13 January	D) 12 January

Answer: B

- ✓ The Army Day in India is celebrated on 15 January every year, to salute the valiant soldiers who sacrificed their lives to protect the country and its citizens.
- ✓ 2024 marks the 76 Indian Army Day.
- ✓ Indian Army Day 2024, celebrated on January 15 in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.
- ✓ The day is marked to commemorate the day when General (later Field Marshal) KM Carriappa took over the command of Army from General Sir FRR Bucher, the last British Commander-in-Chief in 1949 and became the first Commander-in-Chief of Indian Army post Independence.
- Q. In 2024, the Indian Army is observing which edition of the Army day of India?

A) 79th	B) 73rd
C) 71st	D) 76th

Answer : D

- In 2023, the Southern Command was responsible for the parade in Bengaluru. It was the first time the Army Day parade was held outside the country's capital.
- ✓ Indian Army Day 2024:



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- ✓ This year marks the 76th Army Day.
- ✓ This year, the parade will be held under the command of Army's Central Command, which is headquartered in Lucknow.
- ✓ The theme of Indian Army Day 2024 is "In Service of the Nation".
- ✓ This year's theme also resembles the motto of the Indian Army, "Service Before Self."







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