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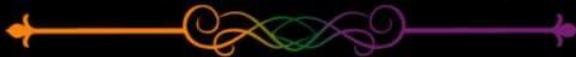


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- ✓ Eligibility:
- ✓ Any person without distinction of race, occupation, position or sex is eligible for these awards.
- ✓ Though usually conferred on India-born citizens, the Bharat Ratna has been awarded to one naturalised citizen, Mother Teresa, and to two non-Indians, Pakistan national Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan and former South African President Nelson Mandela.
- ✓ The original statutes did not provide for posthumous awards but were amended in 1955 to permit them. Former Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri became the first individual to be honoured posthumously.
- ✓ It is awarded in recognition of exceptional service/performance of the highest order in any field of human endeavour.
- ✓ The recommendations for Bharat Ratna are made by the Prime Minister himself to the President and no formal recommendations for this are necessary.
- ✓ The number of annual awards is restricted to a maximum of three in a particular year.
- ✓ On conferment of the award, the recipient receives a Sanad (certificate) signed by the President and a medallion.
- ✓ Bharat Ratna award in the country has been granted to 49 individuals now (with 15 Posthumously).
- ✓ The award does not carry any monetary grant.
- ✓ In terms of Article 18 (1) of the Constitution, the award cannot be used as a prefix or suffix to the recipient's name.
- ✓ Hence only statements 1 and 2 are correct.
- ✓ About Karpoori Thakur
- ✓ Karpoori Thakur was an Indian politician who served two terms as the 11th Chief Minister of Bihar, first from December 1970 to June 1971, and then from June 1977 to April 1979. 2nd Deputy Chief Minister of Bihar.
- ✓ He was popularly known as Jan Nayak.
- ✓ Karpoori Thakur was born Pitaunjhia (now Karpuri Gram) village in Samastipur District of Bihar.
- ✓ He belonged to the Nai (barber) community.
- ✓ The socialist icon is well-known for his efforts to uplift the backward classes in Bihar.
- ✓ Karpoori Thakur was the pioneer in providing the Other Backward Classes (OBCs) with the benefit of reservation as he implemented the recommendations of the Mungeri Lal Commission during his tenure as Bihar CM from 1977 to 1979.



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S.No.	NAME	AWARDED IN
1.	Shri Chakravarti Rajagopalachari(1878-1972)	1954
2.	Dr. SarvapalliRadhakrishnan (1888-1975)	1954
3.	Dr. ChandrasekharaVenkata Raman (1888-1970)	1954
4.	Dr. Bhagwan Das (1869-1958)	1955
5.	Dr. MokshagundamVisvesvaraya (1861-1962)	1955
6.	Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru (1889 -1964)	1955
7.	Pt. GovindBallabh Pant (1887-1961)	1957
8.	Dr. DhondoKeshavKarve (1858-1962)	1958
9.	Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy (1882-1962)	1961
10.	Shri Purushottam Das Tandon (1882-1962)	1961
11.	Dr. Rajendra Prasad (1884-1963)	1962
12.	Dr. Zakir Husain (1897-1969)	1963
13.	Dr. PandurangVaman Kane (1880-1972)	1963
14.	Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri (Posthumous) (1904-1966)	1966
15.	Smt. Indira Gandhi (1917-1984)	1971
16.	Shri VarahagiriVenkataGiri (1894-1980)	1975
17.	Shri KumaraswamyKamraj (Posthumous) (1903-1975)	1976
18.	Mother Mary Teresa Bojaxhiu (Mother Teresa) (1910-1997)	1980
19.	Shri Acharya VinobaBhave (Posthumous) (1895-1982)	1983
20.	Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan (1890-1988)	1987
21.	Shri MarudurGopalan Ramachandran (Posthumous) (1917-1987)	1988
22.	Dr.Bhim Rao RamjiAmbedkar (Posthumous) (1891-1956)	1990
23.	Dr. Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela (1918-2013)	1990
24.	Shri Rajiv Gandhi (Posthumous) (1944-1991)	1991
25.	SardarVallabhbbhai Patel (Posthumous) (1875-1950)	1991
26.	Shri MorarjiRanchhodji Desai (1896-1995)	1991
27.	MaulanaAbulKalam Azad (Posthumous) (1888-1958)	1992
28.	Shri JehangirRatanjiDadabhai Tata (1904-1993)	1992
29.	Shri Satyajit Ray (1922-1992)	1992



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- ✓ About Design-Linked Incentive scheme:
- ✓ It aims to offer financial incentives as well as design infrastructure support across various stages of development and deployment of semiconductor design(s) for Integrated Circuits (ICs), Chipsets, System on Chips (SoCs), Systems & IP Cores and semiconductor linked design(s) over a period of 5 years.
- ✓ Strengthening and facilitating access to semiconductor design infrastructure for the startups and MSMEs.
- ✓ Duration: The scheme shall initially be for three (3) years from 01-01-2022.
- ✓ Nodal Agency: C-DAC (Centre for Development of Advanced Computing)
- ✓ Hence only statements 1 and 2 are correct.

Q. Which of the following airports have jointly bagged the best airport award for the year at the 4th edition of “The Wings India Awards” in the Civil Aviation Sector?

- A) Bangalore & Mumbai Airports B) Bangalore & Delhi Airports
C) Bangalore & Hyderabad Airports D) Hyderabad & Delhi Airports

Answer : B

- ✓ Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya M Scindia has presented the Wings India Awards 2024 at an event held in Hyderabad.
- ✓ Bangalore and Delhi Airports have jointly bagged the best airport award for the year at the 4th edition of “Wings India Awards” in the Civil Aviation Sector.
- ✓ Vistara bagged the Best Airline of the Year award. Air India has been recognized for International Connectivity while Alliance Air has recognition for Regional Connectivity.
- ✓ Air India Express was declared a Sustainability Champion.
- ✓ GMR Group has been honoured as the Best Aviation Service Provider while Skyways Air Services for cargo services, Indian Oil Skytanking Pvt. Ltd for Fuel Services, GMR for Aero Academy.

AIRPORT IN NEWS 2023-24

- Bengaluru and Delhi Airports have jointly bagged the 'Best Airport of the Year' at the Wings India Awards 2024 in the Civil Aviation Sector.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated a new terminal building at Tiruchirappalli International Airport in Tamil Nadu.
- Union Cabinet has approved the proposal to declare Surat Airport an international airport.
- 58 Airports in the country have been covered under Krishi Udan Scheme.



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- Deoghar Airport in Jharkhand is the first airport in the country to land a commercial aircraft in low visibility.
- Larsen and Toubro (L&T) Construction have secured a large order to construct the greenfield Bhogapuram International Airport project in Andhra Pradesh.
- The largest airport in the world is the king Fahd International Airport, located in Dammam, Saudi Arabia which covers an area of about 300 sq.
- Minister of Civil Aviation, Shri Jyotiraditya M Scindia inaugurated Utkela Airport owned by the Government of Odisha.
- Guwahati's Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport became the first airport in the northeast to get 'Digi Yatra' facility.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate Gujarat's first greenfield airport at Hirasar near Rajkot.
- Government of India has given 'in-principle' approval for setting up 21 new greenfield airports.

Q. Who is the author of the book titled “Assam’s Braveheart Lachit Barphukan”?

A) Vikram Seth

B) Amitav Ghosh

C) Arup Kumar Dutta

D) Jhumpa Lahiri

Answer : C

- ✓ Amit Shah has launched the book ‘Assam’s Braveheart Lachit Barphukan’ at the Srimanta Sankardeva International Auditorium in Guwahati.
- ✓ It is written by Arup Kumar Dutta.
- ✓ The book “Assam’s Braveheart Lachit Barphukan” has been published by the State government in English language and translated in 24 Scheduled Indian languages.

FAMOUS BOOKS & AUTHOR IN NEWS 2023-24

- Assam's Braveheart Lachit Barphukan : Arup Kumar Dutta
- An Uncommon Love: The Early Life of Sudha and Narayana Murthy : Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni
- Gandhi: A Life in Three Campaigns : M.J. Akbar & co-author K. Natwar Singh
- Modi: Energising A Green Future : Pentagon Press in collaboration with the Dr. Shyama Prasad Mookerjee Research Foundation
- Sanskriti ke Ayaam : Manorama Mishra



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- Four Stars of Destiny: An Autobiography : General Manoj Mukund Naravane
- The Babri Masjid Ram Mandir Dilemma : Madhav Godbole
- Breaking the Mould: Reimagining India's Economic Future : Raghuram Rajan & Rohit Lamba
- Zeba: An Accidental Superhero : Huma Qureshi
- Welcome to Paradise : Twinkle Khanna
- India's Moment : Changing Power Equations around the World : Mohan Kumar
- Pranab, My Father: A Daughter Remembers : Sharmishtha Mukherjee
- Thread by Thread, on the life of Shambhu Kumar or 'the' S Kumar : Sathya Saran
- Do Palkon Ki Chhavn Main : Hema Joshi
- Nilavu Kudicha Simhangal ('Lions that drank the Moonlight') : Autobiography of S Somanath
- Courting India: England, Mughal India and the Origins of Empire: Nandini Das

Q. What is the theme of the World Economic Forum (WEF) 2024?

- A) Globalization 4.0**
- B) Rebuilding Trust**
- C) Working Together, Restoring Trust**
- D) Cooperation in a fragmented world**

Answer : B

- ✓ The 54th World Economic Forum (WEF) Annual Meeting, set for January 15 to January 19, 2024, in Davos, Switzerland.
- ✓ The overarching theme for WEF 2024 was 'Rebuilding Trust'.
- ✓ The World Economic Forum (WEF) is an international non-governmental organization for public-private sector collaboration based in Cologne, Canton of Geneva, Switzerland. It was founded on 24 January 1971 by German engineer Klaus Schwab.
- ✓ Different reports published by WEF.
- ✓ WEF also produces a series of annual reports such as –
- ✓ Global Competitiveness Report,
- ✓ Global Information Technology Report,
- ✓ Global Gender Gap Report,



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- ✓ Global Risks Report,
- ✓ Global Travel and Tourism Report,
- ✓ Global Enabling Trade Report.

Q. Who was recently appointed the Director General of 'Sashastra Seema Bal'?

- A) Daljit Singh Chaudhary B) Ajay Singh
C) Vinay Kumar Sinha D) Rashmi Shukla

Answer : A

- ✓ Senior Indian Police Service (IPS) officer Daljit Singh Chaudhary has been appointed Director General of Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB).
- ✓ Daljeet Singh is a 1990 batch IPS officer of Uttar Pradesh cadre.
- ✓ The post of SSB Director General was vacant after former chief Rashmi Shukla was appointed DGP of Maharashtra earlier this month.
- ✓ The SSB guards India's borders with Nepal and Bhutan
- ✓ Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)
- ✓ Founded : 1963
- ✓ Headquarters : New Delhi
- ✓ Motto : Service, Security and Brotherhood
- ✓ Director General : Daljit Singh Chaudhary
- ✓ SSB is a border guarding force of India deployed along its border with Nepal and Bhutan.

NEW UPDATED LIST OF CHIEF AND DIRECTOR GENERAL

- Anish Dayal Singh : Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)
- Rahul Rasgotra : Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)
- Lieutenant General Anil Chauhan : Chief of Defence Staff (CDS)
- Daljit Singh Chawdhary : Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)
- Nitin Agarwal : Border Security Force (BSF)
- Pradeep Chandran Nair : Assam Rifles
- Air Chief Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari : Air Force Chief
- General Manoj Pande : Army Chief



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- Admiral R Hari Kumar : Navy Chief
- Nina Singh : Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) [Nina Singh becomes 1st woman to head CISF]
- Rakesh Pal : Indian Coast Guard (ICG)
- M A Ganapathy : National Security Guard (NSG)
- Lieutenant General Gurbirpal Singh : National Cadet Corps (NCC)

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Food and Agriculture Organization's Committee on Fisheries:

1. It addresses issues on international fishing and aquaculture.

2. India has been elected as the First Vice Chair of its Sub-Committee on Fisheries Management.

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

- ✓ India has been elected as the First Vice Chair of the Food and Agriculture Organization's Committee on Fisheries (COFI) Sub-Committee on Fisheries Management.
- ✓ About FAO's Committee on Fisheries:
 - ✓ It is a subsidiary body of the Food and Agriculture Organization.
 - ✓ It was established by the FAO Conference in 1965.
 - ✓ Functions
 - ✓ It addresses issues on international fishing and aquaculture, providing policy guidance on fisheries management, recognising global challenges, and promoting collective solutions to ensure the environmental, economic and social sustainability of the fishing industry.
 - ✓ It will work closely with the two other COFI sub-committees, the Sub-Committee on Aquaculture and the Sub-Committee on Fish Trade

Q. The Exercise Cyclone is conducted between India and:

A) Thailand

B) France

C) Saudi Arabia

D) Egypt



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Answer : B

- ✓ Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has launched a new saving and annuity plan Jeevan Dhara II.
- ✓ The minimum age of entry into the Jeevan Dhara II policy is 20 years and the maximum age of entry into the policy can be 80/70/65 years minus the deferment period, depending upon the annuity option chosen.
- ✓ The annuity is guaranteed from inception and 11 annuity options are available to prospective policyholders.

Q. Which bank has launched its new deposit scheme '360'?

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

Answer : D

- ✓ An Indian public sector bank, Bank of Baroda launched its new 'bob-360 deposit scheme'.
- ✓ The scheme pays out an annual interest rate of 7.60 percent.
- ✓ In this, general fixed deposit account holders will receive interest of up to 7.10 percent, while senior citizens will receive 7.60 percent interest.
- ✓ "bob-360" is an excellent opportunity for depositors who are looking for higher interest rates and assured returns for a shorter time period.

Q. Bernardo Arevalo was sworn in as president of which country?

- A) El Salvador B) Guatemala
C) Ecuador D) Honduras

Answer : B

- ✓ Anti-corruption crusader Bernardo Arevalo was sworn in as Guatemala's president.
- ✓ About Guatemala
- ✓ Capital: Guatemala City
- ✓ Currency : Guatemalan Quetzal
- ✓ President : Bernardo Arevalo

Q. Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya and Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel have laid the foundation stone of Khodaldham Trust Cancer Hospital in which city of the state?

- A) Vadodara B) Gandhinagar
C) Rajkot D) Ahmedabad



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Answer : C

- ✓ Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya and Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel laid the foundation stone of Khodaldham Trust Cancer Hospital in Rajkot.
- ✓ The Shree Khodaldham Trust (SKT), an organization for the Leuva Patel community, will build a hospital and a cancer research center in Amreli village in Padadhari taluka of Rajkot.

Q. A Popular Festival known as ‘Gole Mela’ has been organized in which temple?

- A) Jagannath Temple B) Ram Temple
C) Shree Somnath Jyotirlinga Temple D) Shree Padmanabhaswamy Temple

Answer : A

- ✓ In Jammu and Kashmir, a Popular Festival known as ‘Gole Mela’ has been organized at Jagannath temple in Udhampur.
- ✓ A large number of devotees assembled and paid obeisance at Jagannath temple. Various stalls were established at the venue of the festival.
- ✓ Gole Mela is organized twice every year. Devotees believe that from today the night time starts decreasing and day time starts increasing day by day.
- ✓ Moreover, two ancient temples are dedicated to Lord Jagannatha across India. One is situated in Puri, Orissa, and other in Udhampur District of Jammu and Kashmir.

Q. Hardeep Singh Puri launched the first pilot project to make jet fuel from alcohol in which city?

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

Answer : A

- ✓ The first pilot technology project to make jet fuel from alcohol was inaugurated by Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri in Pune.
- ✓ This project will produce sustainable biological aviation fuel or SAF.
- ✓ This pilot project has been set up in the research and development department of Praj Udyog Group in Pirangut Industrial Estate near Pune.



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Q. Who has inaugurated the National Skill Training Institute in Hyderabad, Telangana?

- A) Narendra Modi
B) Amit Shah
C) Draupadi Murmu
D) G Kishan Reddy

Answer : D

- ✓ Union Tourism Minister G Kishan Reddy has inaugurated the National Skill Training Institute in Hyderabad, Telangana.
- ✓ Constructed for 19.90 crore rupees in 4 acres of area, the institute offers both short-term and long-term skilling courses to women in various sectors.
- ✓ Reddy said that the empowerment of women has been a major priority for the Central Government. He said the Government has launched numerous schemes dedicated to empowering women across India. He recalled the initiatives like Beti Bachao Beti Padhav and PM Ujjwala

Q. Who has launched the 'Gaon Chalo Abhiyaan' in Delhi, a nationwide campaign to connect with rural and urban communities?

- A) Droupadi Murmu
B) JP Nadda
C) Narendra Modi
D) Amit Shah

Answer : B

- ✓ BJP President JP Nadda has launched the 'Gaon Chalo Abhiyaan' in Delhi, a nationwide campaign to connect with rural and urban communities.
- ✓ The program is scheduled from February 4th to 11 February.
- ✓ Under the Gaon Chalo Abhiyaan, BJP workers aim to reach seven lakh villages and urban booths, disseminating the achievements of the Modi government.

Q. Ethnic Mamani Festival has been celebrated in which place?

- A) Ladakh
B) Jammu and Kashmir
C) Puducherry
D) Punjab

Answer : A

- ✓ In Ladakh, the annual Ethnic Mamani Festival was organized at Historical Styangkung Village and Chiktan Shagaran.



- ✓ The Steyangkung village is around 500 years old and still well-preserved till now and is being developed as one of the well-maintained heritage villages in Ladakh.
- ✓ The history of the celebration of the Mamani Festival in Ladakh goes back to the ancient tradition of giving food to departed family members..
- ✓ The Mamani Festival is organized by Himalayan Cultural Heritage Foundation (HCHF) and the Ladakh Tourism Department.

Q. India and which country have signed an MoU in the field of sharing successful digital solutions implemented at population scale for digital transformation?

- A) Oman
- B) Sudan
- C) Ghana
- D) Cuba

Answer : D

- ✓ India, Cuba signed an MoU on digital public infrastructure collaboration
- ✓ The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology has signed an MoU with the Ministry of Communications of the Republic of Cuba on Cooperation in the field of Sharing Successful Digital Solutions Implemented at Population Scale for Digital Transformation in New Delhi.
- ✓ The MoU intends to promote digital transformation through capacity-building programs, exchange of best practices, and other collaborative activities to mutually benefit the digital ecosystems of both countries.

Q. Which of the following has fined Air India ₹1.1 crore for safety violations on certain flights?

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

Answer : C

- ✓ DGCA fines Air India ₹1.1 cr for safety violations.
- ✓ Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has fined Air India ₹1.1 crore for safety violations on certain flights, specifically related to oxygen-related obligations on leased Boeing B777 aircraft

PENALTY IN NEWS 2023-24

- Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has fined Air India ₹1.1 crore for safety violations on certain flights.



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- RBI took regulatory action imposing penalties on Bank of America, N.A. and HDFC Bank Ltd. for violations of specific norms.
- RBI has imposed a penalty of Rs. 10,000 on Bank of America, N.A. for violating the reporting requirements under the liberalized Remittances Scheme of FEMA 1999.
- HDFC Bank Ltd also faced a penalty of Rs.10,000 for violating directions related to the acceptance of deposits from non-residents.
- RBI Imposes ₹2.5 Crore Penalty On L&T Finance For Non Compliance.
- This penalty has been levied due to non-compliance with specific provisions of the Non-Banking Financial Company.
- RBI Imposes ₹5.4 Crore Penalty On Paytm Payments Bank.
- Paytm Payments Bank was penalized for “non-compliance with certain provisions of the ‘Reserve Bank of India (Know Your Customer (KYC)) Directions, 2016’.”
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a penalty of ₹12.19 crore on ICICI Bank and ₹3.95 crore on Kotak Mahindra Bank for non-compliance of certain regulatory norms.
- RBI Imposes Monetary Penalty On State Bank Of India, Indian Bank, Punjab & Sind Bank.
- The RBI imposed a monetary penalty of ₹1.30 Crore on the State Bank of India (SBI) for its failure to comply.
- Punjab & Sind Bank faced a penalty of ₹1.00 Crore for non-compliance with the provisions of sub-section (2) of Section 26A of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.
- Indian Bank faced a substantial penalty of ₹1.62 Crore for its non-compliance with various RBI directives.
- RBI has imposed a penalty of ₹1 crore on Union Bank of India for non-compliance with directions on ‘Loans and Advances – Statutory and Other Restrictions.
- RBI Imposes ₹90.92 Lakh Monetary Penalty On Axis Bank citing non-compliance with several key directives issued by the apex bank. The penalties were related to the ‘Reserve Bank of India (Know Your Customer (KYC)) Directions, 2016.
- Citibank, a major player in the banking sector, faced a hefty penalty of ₹5 crore for failing to comply with various directives.



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- Bank of Baroda found itself in the regulatory crosshairs as the RBI imposed a penalty of ₹4.34 crore with regulations concerning 'loans and advances – statutory and other restrictions' and the 'Reserve Bank of India (interest rate on deposits) directions, 2016.'
- Indian Overseas Bank bore the brunt of a ₹1 crore penalty for non-compliance with specific directions
- RBI has imposed monetary penalties on three banks, State Bank of India, Indian Bank and Punjab & Sind Bank, and Fedbank Financial Services for rule violations.
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has informed lenders, financial institutions, and credit bureaus that they must resolve complaints filed by customers within 30 days or face a fine of ₹100 per day to ensure that customers' complaints related to credit information are addressed promptly.
- RBI has imposed late submission fees amounting to ₹2,000 crore on four major public sector undertakings namely, ONGC Videsh Ltd, Indian Oil Corp. Ltd, GAIL (India) Ltd, and Oil India Ltd for failing to promptly report their overseas investments.
- RBI has imposed penalties on Standard Chartered Bank, four credit bureaus, and seven cooperative banks for various violations. Standard Chartered Bank was fined ₹30 lakh for non-compliance with KYC directions.
- RBI has imposed a monetary penalty of Rs 2.5 crore on Jammu & Kashmir Bank for non-compliance with certain directions issued by the RBI.
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a monetary penalty of Rs 2.20 crore on Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) for violating various rules and regulations.
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed a monetary penalty of Rs 1.73 crore on the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Ltd (HSBC Bank) for violating the Credit Information Companies Rules, 2006.

Q. Who won the 'Polly Umargar' award at the BCCI Awards 2024 for the season 2022-23?

- A) Jasprit Bumrah
- B) Mohammed Shami
- C) Shubhman Gill
- D) Ravichandran Ashwin

Answer : C

- ✓ BCCI Awards 2024 have been announced, this time this award function was organized in Hyderabad.
- ✓ The Polly Umargar Award given for the best international cricketer (men) was won by Shubman Gill (2022-23), Jasprit Bumrah (2021-22), Ravichandran Ashwin (2020-21), Mohammed Shami (2019-20).



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- ✓ Whereas Colonel C. Of. Naidu Lifetime Achievement Award was given to former cricketers Farokh Engineer and Ravi Shastri.
- ✓ This award show was organized after four years, the last time it was organized in the year 2019.
- ✓ Young opener Yashasvi Jaiswal was honored with the award for the Best International Debut during the 2022-23 season.
- ✓ Spinner Deepti Sharma was named the International Women's Cricketer of the Year for the 2022-23 season.

Q. Who has directed the documentary film 'To Kill a Tiger' nominated for Oscar 2024?

- A) Christopher Nolan B) Nisha Pahuja
C) David Oppenheim D) Andy Cohen

Answer : B

- ✓ Recently, the documentary film 'To Kill A Tiger' has been nominated for the 96th Academy Awards (Oscar 2024) in the Best Documentary Feature Film category.
- ✓ This documentary film is based on the story of a minor girl from Jharkhand.
- ✓ It is directed by Indian-Canadian filmmaker Nisha Pahuja.

Q. Central government has approved a new treatment regimen for leprosy, aiming to stop its transmission at the sub-national level by which year?

- A) 2025
B) 2026
C) 2027
D) 2030

Answer : C

- ✓ Central government has approved a new treatment regimen for leprosy, aiming to stop its transmission at the sub-national level by 2027, three years ahead of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.
- ✓ National Strategic Plan & Roadmap for Leprosy (2023-27) to achieve zero transmission of leprosy by 2027
- ✓ The Government of India has launched National Strategic Plan (NSP) & Roadmap for Leprosy (2023-27) on 30th January, 2023, to achieve zero transmission of leprosy by 2027 i.e. three years ahead of the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3.3.



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TARGET YEAR IN NEWS 2023-24

- National Strategic Plan & Roadmap for Leprosy (2023-27) to achieve zero transmission of leprosy by 2027.
- India self-reliant in pulses by December 2027
- Indian Consumer Tech To Touch \$300 Bn By 2027.
- India is expected to overtake Japan and Germany to emerge as the third largest economy in the world by 2027.
- Members of the Association of Asia Pacific Airlines (AAPA) collectively have set an “aspirational target” of 5% sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) usage by 2030.
- India to push developed nations to become carbon-negative before 2050.
- This ‘Bharat Drone Shakti 2023’ event will help the country to achieve its commitment of becoming a global drone hub by 2030.
- Vaccine manufacturer Indian Immunologicals Limited (IIL) expects to commercially launch its dengue fever vaccine by early 2026.
- Group Chief Economic Advisor at the State Bank of India (SBI), Soumya Kanti Ghoshon has reiterated that India is likely to become the third-largest economy by 2027.
- The Ministry of Coal has set a target to gasify 100 million tonnes of coal by FY 2030.
- According to the report of Goldman Sachs Research, by the year 2075, India will become the second largest economy in the world after China leaving behind not only Japan and Germany but also America.
- UNEP suggests measures to reduce 80% of world's plastic pollution by 2040.
- India aims to become one trillion dollar tourism economy by 2047.
- The government announced a plan to add 250 GW of renewable energy capacity in the next five years to achieve its target of 500 GW of clean energy by 2030.
- India has set targets for half of its installed electricity capacity to be from non-fossil fuel sources by 2030 and for the country to attain net-zero carbon emissions by 2070.
- 2023 foreign trade policy has the vision to take India's goods and services exports to \$2 trillion by 2030.
- India to get 9% of Electricity from Nuclear Sources by 2047.
- India sets target to become ‘Global Hub for Green Ship’ building by 2030



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

Q. Which player won the ICC Men's T20I Cricketer of the Year award?

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------|
| A) David Warner | B) Shubhman Gill |
| C) Suryakumar Yadav | D) Glenn Maxwell |

Answer : C

- ✓ India's explosive batsman Suryakumar Yadav won the ICC Men's T20I Cricketer of the Year award for the second consecutive year.
- ✓ Suryakumar performed brilliantly in T20I cricket this year also.
- ✓ He batted brilliantly against West Indies, Australia, South Africa and Sri Lanka.
- ✓ Suryakumar Yadav has scored the second fastest century for India in the men's T20I against Sri Lanka
- ✓ Winners of ICC Awards 2023
- ✓ ICC Men's Associate Cricketer of the Year 2023 : Bas de Leede (Netherlands)
- ✓ ICC Women's Associate Cricketer of the Year 2023 : Queentor Abel made (Kenya)
- ✓ ICC Men's T20I Cricketer of the Year 2023 : Suryakumar Yadav (India)
- ✓ ICC Women's T20I Cricketer of the Year 2023 : Hayley Matthews (West Indies)
- ✓ ICC Men's Emerging Cricketer of the Year 2023 : Rachin Ravindra (New Zealand)
- ✓ ICC Women's Emerging Cricketer of the Year 2023 : Marufa Akter (Bangladesh)

Q. Who inaugurated the All India Campaign 'Hamara Samvidhan Hamara Samman'?

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------|
| A) Jagdeep Dhankhar | B) Rajnath Singh |
| C) Amit Shah | D) S Jaishankar |

Answer : A



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- ✓ Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar inaugurated the All India Campaign 'Hamara Samvidhan Hamara Samman' to commemorate the 75th year of the Republic of India.
- ✓ This one year long campaign was started by Dr. Held from Ambedkar International Centre.
- ✓ This campaign is being run by the Justice Department, Ministry of Law and Justice.
- ✓ Along with this, 'Nyaya Setu' was also launched to provide an integrated legal interface for legal advice.

Q. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated multiple development projects worth over Rs 19,100 crore in which state?

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

Answer : C

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated multiple development projects worth over Rs 19,100 crore in Bulandshahr, Uttar Pradesh.
- ✓ The projects span various sectors, including rail, road, oil and gas, urban development, and housing.
- ✓ 'Rashtra Pratishtha' and the aim is to make Bharat a developed nation by 2047.

UTTAR PRADESH IN NEWS 2023-24

- Global aerospace giant Boeing has opened its first distribution center in India, located in Khurja, Uttar Pradesh.
- For the first time in India, a boat running on solar energy will be operated in the Saryu river in Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh
- Uttar Pradesh State Chief Secretary Durga Shankar Mishra inaugurated 'Rahat Vani Kendra' (RVC), an observatory for early disaster warning.
- Lucknow city, known as the 'City of Nawabs', will be developed as India's first 'AI City'.
- Uttar Pradesh government has announced the launch of India's first 'Telecom Center of Excellence.
- Uttar Pradesh has achieved the highest entry rate on the Inter-Operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS) platform.
- A high-level delegation from the Uttar Pradesh government is set to participate in the World Economic Forum (WEF) meeting in Davos, Switzerland.
- Uttar Pradesh government has linked big institutions like the CSIR and DRDO with the Bulk Drug Park and made them its knowledge partners.



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- Ayodhya, the temple city on the banks of the Saryu River in Uttar Pradesh, marked a spectacular Deepotsav on Saturday, setting a new Guinness World Record with the lighting of 22.23 lakh earthen lamps across 51 ghats.
- President Draupadi Murmu inaugurated the first Uttar Pradesh International Trade Show at India Expo Center and Mart in Greater Noida.
- Uttar Pradesh New and Renewable Energy Development Agency (UPNEDA) has signed an MoU with the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) for the solarisation of residential units at Ayodhya and for bio-energy and renewable project financing.
- Ashok Leyland has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the government of Uttar Pradesh to set up an integrated commercial vehicle bus plant focused on green mobility in Uttar Pradesh.
- Uttar Pradesh government has decided to organize a campaign under Road Safety Fortnight from July 17 to 31.
- Uttar Pradesh Police Department has launched 'Operation Conviction' to combat criminals and mafias in the state.
- Uttar Pradesh government has decided to cancel all Traffic Chalan for private and commercial vehicle owners pending from 2017 to 2021.

Q. Who has become the second Indian to win gold medal in Asian Marathon Championship?

- A) Dheeraj Sinha
- B) Man Singh
- C) Manvendra Kohli
- D) Rohit Yadav

Answer : B

- ✓ Man Singh has become only the second Indian male athlete to win a gold medal in the Asian Marathon Championships.
- ✓ 34-year-old Man Singh won the gold medal with a timing of two hours, 14 minutes and 19 seconds.
- ✓ Gopi Thonakal was the first Indian male athlete to win the Asian Marathon Championship title in the year 2017.



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Q. Pradhan Mantri Suryodaya Yojana is related to which of the following?

- A) From sunflower cultivation B) From rural residence
C) Child health D) From rooftop solar panels

Answer : D

- ✓ Recently PM Modi launched Pradhan Mantri Suryodaya Yojana.
- ✓ This is a centrally sponsored scheme, under which rooftop solar panels will be installed on more than 1 crore houses, with the help of which people will get a clean source of energy.
- ✓ The objective of this scheme launched by the Prime Minister is to include poor and middle class persons under the rooftop solar program.
- ✓ Also its objective is to bring self-reliance in the energy sector.

Q. Who was awarded the Subhash Chandra Bose Disaster Management Award-2024 in the 'Institutional Category'?

- A) Central Reserve Police Force B) 60 Parachute Field Hospital
C) Central Industrial Security Force D) National Coast Guard

Answer : B

- ✓ 60 Parachute Field Hospital in Uttar Pradesh has been selected for Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar-2024 for its excellent work in Disaster Management.
- ✓ About Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar
- ✓ The Government of India has established an annual award named Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar which recognizes and honors the invaluable contribution and selfless service by individuals and organisations in India in the field of disaster.
- ✓ This award is announced every year on 23 January, the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose.
- ✓ In case of an institution, Rs 51 lakh in cash & a certificate and in the case of an individual, Rs 5 lakh in cash & a certificate are given as awards.
- ✓ 60 Parachute Field Hospital, Uttar Pradesh was established in 1942. It is the only air medical establishment of the Indian Armed Forces. It is recognized for its extraordinary service in various global crises
- ✓ Notable works by Parachute Field Hospitals
- ✓ The unit provided medical assistance during the Uttarakhand floods (2013), Nepal earthquake under Operation 'Maitri' (2015) and Operation Samudra Maitri (2018) during the Indonesian tsunami.



Q. Which country will the Indian delegation visit for copper exploration and mining projects?

- A) Zambia
B) Chile
C) Argentina
D) Kenya

Answer : A

- ✓ The Ministry of Mines has decided to send an Indian industry delegation to the African country Zambia to pursue potential copper exploration and mining projects in the African country.
- ✓ Copper is a chemical element with a characteristic reddish-brown color.
- ✓ The South American country Chile is the top copper producing country in the world.
- ✓ India to send Delegation for Copper Mining Opportunities in Zambia.
- ✓ Chile is the top copper producer in the world, with 27% of global copper production.
- ✓ Zambia has about 6% of the world's copper reserves and was the eight-largest producer of copper in 2022.
- ✓ As per International Copper Association India, domestic copper demand grew by 16 per cent in FY2022-24, while demand for copper in clean energy technologies grew by 32 per cent.
- ✓ Canada's First Quantum Minerals and China's CNMC are among the largest producers of copper in Zambia.
- ✓ Madhya Pradesh is the leading producer of copper in India. It accounts for producing 53% of copper in this country.
- ✓ Rajasthan accounts for 43%, and Jharkhand accounts for 4% of copper production in India.
- ✓ Copper Mining in India.

Mine	State
1. Malanjkhand Mine	Madhya Pradesh
2. Khetri Mine	Rajasthan
3. Kolihan Mine	Rajasthan
4. Surda Mine	Jharkhand
5. Banwas Mine	Rajasthan

Q. Who will be honored with 'Uttar Pradesh Gaurav Samman' by the Uttar Pradesh government?

- A) Arun Yogiraj
B) Dr. Ritu Karidhal Srivastava
C) Naveen Tiwari
D) Both (b) and (c)



MICROSOFT IN NEWS 2023-24

- Microsoft Hits The \$3 Trillion Valuation Mark But Apple Still Remains Most Valuable Company.
- Microsoft India has unveiled the 'AI Odyssey' initiative, aiming to train 100,000 Indian developers in the latest AI technologies.
- Microsoft Completes \$69 Billion Acquisition of Activision Blizzard
- Microsoft has appointed Puneet Chandok as the new Corporate Vice President of Microsoft India and South Asia.
- Infosys And Microsoft Collaborate For Adoption Of Generative Artificial Intelligence.
- Microsoft has recently announced the appointment of Aparna Gupta as the new Global Delivery Center (GDC) leader
- Meta and Microsoft have jointly announced the expansion of their artificial intelligence partnership by introducing their new large language model (LLM) called "Llama 2".
- MICROSOFT
- Founded : 1975
- Founders : Bill Gates and Paul Allen
- Headquarters : Washington DC
- Chairman : Satya Nadella
- CEO : Satya Nadella
- President : Brad Smith

Q. Who is the chief guest of this year's Republic Day celebrations?

- A) Emmanuel Macron B) Joe Biden
C) Abdel Fatah al-Sisi D) Rishi Sunak

Answer : A

- ✓ French President Emmanuel Macron will attend the Republic Day celebrations in 2024 as the chief guest.
- ✓ Emmanuel Macron will be the sixth French leader to attend the 2024 Republic Day parade as chief guest.
- ✓ India's 75th Republic Day will be celebrated in the year 2024.
- ✓ Former French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac attended the event twice, in 1976 and 1998.



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- ✓ Former French Presidents Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, Nicolas Sarkozy and François Hollande attended the Republic Day celebrations as chief guests in 1980, 2008 and 2016 respectively.
- ✓ The central government had earlier invited US President Joe Biden as the chief guest, but he expressed his inability to come.
- ✓ Egyptian President Abdel Fatah el-Sisi was the chief guest at India's Republic Day Parade 2023.
- ✓ Indonesian President Sukarno was the chief guest at the first Republic Day celebrations on 26 January 1950.
- ✓ King Tribhuvan Bir Bikram Shah of Nepal was the second chief guest of the Republic Day Parade in 1951.

FRANCE IN NEWS 2023-24

- French President Emmanuel Macron will attend the Republic Day celebrations in 2024 as the chief guest.
- India, France, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) conducted a major air exercise, named 'Desert Knight', over the Arabian Sea.
- Gabriel Attal Becomes France's Youngest-Ever Prime Minister At 34 .
- France's development agency, AFD, and Germany's KfW Bank are reportedly in talks with India to extend a €100 million loan to support the country's urban infrastructure plan, specifically the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) 2.0.
- The 21st edition of the India-France Military Sub Committee (MSC) meeting took place on October 16-17, 2023, at the Air Force Station in New Delhi
- ISRO scientist Lalithambika was honoured with the prestigious Légion d'honneur, the highest French civilian award.
- FRANCE
- Capital : Paris
- Currency : Euro
- President : Emmanuel Macron
- Prime Minister : Gabriel Attal

Q. Which Indian company has received approval for generic medicines from the US health regulator?

- A) Sun Pharmaceutical
- B) Cipla Limited
- C) Zydus
- D) Lupine

Answer : C



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- Yes Bank is an Indian bank headquartered in Mumbai, India and was founded by Rana Kapoor and Ashok Kapoor in 2004.
- YES BANK
- Founded : 2004
- Founder : Rana Kapoor and Ashok Kapoor
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Chairman : Sunil Mehta
- MD & CEO : Prashant Kumar
- YES BANK launches new logo, to roll out campaign 'Life Ko Banao Rich'.

Q. How many people will the Central Government honor with 'Jeevan Raksha Padaks' on Republic Day this year?

- A) 11
- B) 21
- C) 31
- D) 41

Answer : C

- ✓ President Droupadi Murmu has approved the conferment of Jeevan Raksha Padak Series Awards-2023 to 31 individuals for acts of courage and selflessness on January 25, 2024.
- ✓ This year, three were awarded Sarvottam Jeevan Raksha Padak, seven were awarded Uttam Jeevan Raksha Padak and 21 were awarded Jeevan Raksha Padak.
- ✓ About Jeevan Raksha Padak:
- ✓ Basically this award is given for the commendable work of human nature in saving the life of a person.
- ✓ Individuals from diverse backgrounds qualify for these awards.
- ✓ These awards are also given posthumously.
- ✓ Sarvottam Jeevan Raksha Padak 2023:
- ✓ Master Anthony Wanmawia (posthumous), Mizoram
- ✓ Ms. Melody Lalremruti (posthumous), Mizoram
- ✓ Shri Sooraj R (Posthumous), Central Reserve Police Force



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Q. Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the proposed merger of Fincare Small Finance Bank Limited with which Small Finance Bank?

- A) Equitas Small Finance Bank B) ESAF Small Finance Bank
C) Capital Small Finance Bank D) AU Small Finance Bank

Answer : D

- ✓ Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the proposed merger of Fincare Small Finance Bank Limited into and with AU Small Finance Bank.
- ✓ The board of the bank had approved the merger in October 2023 following which it received the shareholder approval in November 2023.
- ✓ The merger is now awaiting the approval of the Reserve Bank of India
- ✓ AU Small Finance Bank Limited
- ✓ Founded :1996
- ✓ Founder : Sanjay Agarwal
- ✓ Headquarters : Jaipur, Rajasthan
- ✓ MD & CEO : Sanjay Agarwal
- ✓ Tagline : Chalo Aage Badhein

Q. Who is the author of the book titled “Conversations with Aurangzeb”?

- A) Charu Nivedita
B) B. Jeyamohan
C) Perumal Murugan
D) Nanjil Nadan

Answer : A

- ✓ Tamil writer Charu Nivedita’s “Conversations with Aurangzeb”, translated by Nandini Krishnan, is an unpredictable book.
- ✓ In it, a writer begins a novel with an idea but soon meets the spirit of Mughal emperor Aurangzeb, who decides to seize the opportunity to tell his side of the story.
- ✓ The writer and Aurangzeb speak of the past and present, of Mughals and Marxism, of satire and Sunny Leone, and a host of other contemporary subjects. Krishnan says the novel is “defiant of all genres”



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Q. The Union government appointed ___ Chief Justice Prasanna Bhalachandra Varale as a judge of the Supreme Court.

- A) Calcutta High Court B) Bombay High Court
C) Gauhati High Court D) Karnataka High Court

Answer : D

- ✓ Union government has approved the Supreme Court Collegium's recommendation for elevation of Karnataka High Court's Chief Justice Prasanna B Varale as a judge of the top court.
- ✓ In exercise of the powers conferred by the Constitution, President, after consultation with Chief Justice of India, is pleased to appoint Justice Prasanna Bhalachandra Varale, Chief Justice of the Karnataka High Court as Judge of Supreme Court.
- ✓ After the development, the Supreme Court would work with its sanctioned strength of 34 judges.

Q. Who has been appointed as Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) for Colliers Project Leaders Middle East?

- A) Sankey Prasad B) Appadurai Muttulingam
C) S. Ramakrishnan D) Perumal Murugan

Answer : A

- ✓ Global diversified professional services and investment management company has appointed Sankey Prasad as Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) for India and Middle East Engineering and project management business, which is under the name of Colliers Project Leaders Middle East

Q. Which insurance company has recently launched two products– 'Saral Swadhan Supreme' and 'Smart Swadhan Supreme'?

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

Answer : B

- ✓ SBI Life Insurance, a private life insurer, has launched two products– 'SBI Life – Saral Swadhan Supreme' and 'SBI Life – Smart Swadhan Supreme'.
- ✓ These two new products not only provide a life cover but also benefit of return of premiums at maturity, to fulfill customers' financial objectives.



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- ✓ The new products are designed to empower customers by catering to the growing awareness of the essential link between insurance and financial well-being.

Q. The 14th All India Police Commando competition has been organized in which city?

- A) Bakloh, Himachal Pradesh B) Jodhpur, Rajasthan
C) Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh D) Chandimandir, Haryana

Answer : C

- ✓ The 14th All India Police Commando competition organized at the A.P. Police Greyhounds Training Facility, Visakhapatnam.
- ✓ Around 16 states have sent their elite commando forces for the competition including forces such as the Special Operations Group (SOG) from Odisha and Chhattisgarh, C- 60 from Maharashtra, the paramilitary forces such as BSF, CRPF, Assam Rifles, ITBP, RPF, SSB and CISF, among others.
- ✓ The commandos will be judged by an expert team from the Intelligence Bureau (IB).
- ✓ The State team comprises personnel from the Greyhounds and Octopus

Q. Which of the following will host the 7th edition of Uttishtha 2024, an 'Agri Mela' Startup Expo scheduled for Jan 27-28?

- A) IIM Shillong B) IIM Kashipur
C) IIT Madras D) IIT Bombay

Answer : B

- ✓ IIM Kashipur will host the 7th edition of Uttishtha 2024, an 'Agri Mela' Startup Expo scheduled for Jan 27-28.
- ✓ The two-day summit, organized by the Foundation for Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development (FIED) and e-Cell IIM Kashipur, and supported by the Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, aims to provide a platform for agri-startups, industry stakeholders, and investors to share insights on entrepreneurship.

Q. In 2024, India is observing which edition of the Republic Day?

- A) 72 B) 75
C) 73 D) 71

Answer : B



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- ✓ India is observing the 75th Republic Day on 26 January 2024, with celebrations at the majestic Rajpath in New Delhi.
- ✓ Republic Day marks the date on which the Constitution of India came into effect on 26 January 1950.
- ✓ It replaced the Government of India Act (1935) as the governing document of India.
- ✓ Theme 2024 : "Viksit Bharat" & "Loktantra ki Matraka"
- ✓ India celebrates Republic Day on January 26th to commemorate the day on which the Constitution of India came into effect in 1950.
- ✓ The Drafting Committee had 7 members. 1st meeting on 30 August, 1947, BR Ambedkar was elected as its chairperson.
- ✓ After working for 2 years, 11 months and 18 days, the committee was prepared with the draft. The Constituent Assembly then formally adopted it on 26 November, 1949.
- ✓ However, the day it came into effect was pushed back 2 months to 26 January, 1950 as it marked the anniversary of the Purna Swaraj Diwas which was on 26 January, 1930. On this day, a resolution demanding "complete freedom" from the British was drawn.

Q. The International Customs Day (ICD) is celebrated on which day?

- A) 25 January
- B) 26 January
- C) 24 January
- D) 23 January

Answer : B

- ✓ The International Customs Day (ICD) is observed on 26 January every year.
- ✓ Objective: to recognise the role of customs officials and agencies and focus on the working conditions and challenges that customs officers face in their jobs.
- ✓ Theme 2024 : "Customs Engaging Traditional and New Partners with Purpose".
- ✓ The day was instituted by the World Customs Organization (WCO) to commemorate the day in 1953 when the inaugural session of the Customs Cooperation Council (CCC) was held in Brussels, Belgium.
- ✓ In 1994 the CCC was renamed World Customs Organization (WCO).
- ✓ World Customs Organization (WCO) headquarter- Brussels, Belgium
- ✓ Membership- 182 countries



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- ✓ Under this scheme, students can avail of Pre-Matric Scholarships from Classes 9 to 10 and Post-Matric Scholarships for their higher education at the post-matriculation or post-secondary level.
- ✓ Other Backward Class (OBC), Economically Backward Classes (EBC), and Denotified, Nomadic, and Semi-Nomadic Tribes (DNT)
- ✓ Parents or guardians annual income is not more than Rs. 2.50 Lakhs.
- ✓ Studying in a Top Class School in Class 9 or 11.
- ✓ Entitlement: Upto Rs. 75,000 p.a. for Class 9/10, Rs. 1,25,000 p.a. for Class 11/12, covering the school tuition fee/hostel fee.
- ✓ Implementing Agency: Department of Social Justice and Empowerment, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

Q. Which of the following agencies are eligible for financial assistance under the Market Access Initiative (MAI) Scheme?

- 1. Indian Missions abroad**
- 2. Export Promotion Councils**
- 3. Commodity Boards**
- 4. Individual Exporters**

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- A) 1 and 3 only B) 2, 3 and 4 only
C) 1, 2 and 4 only D) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer : D

- ✓ Ahead of the interim Budget 2024, exporters have urged the government to allocate funds worth \$3.88 billion for the Market Access Initiative (MAI) scheme.
- ✓ About Market Access Initiative (MAI) Scheme:
- ✓ It is an export promotion scheme envisaged to act as a catalyst to promote India's exports on a sustained basis.
- ✓ The scheme is formulated on focus product-focus country approach to evolve specific markets and specific products through market studies and surveys.
- ✓ Under the Scheme, the level of assistance for each eligible activities has been fixed.
- ✓ The following activities will be eligible for financial assistance under the Scheme:



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- 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. The Reserve Bank of India has approved the Life Insurance Corporation of India's (LIC) application to acquire up to 9.99 percent aggregate holding of paid-up share capital in which bank?

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

Answer : C

- ✓ Reserve Bank of India has approved insurance behemoth Life Insurance Corporation of India's (LIC) application to acquire up to 9.99 percent aggregate holding of paid-up share capital in HDFC Bank.
- ✓ RBI has allowed LIC to acquire an additional 4.8% stake in HDFC Bank, raising its total stake to 9.99% by January 24, 2025. LIC owned a 5.19% stake in HDFC Bank as of December 2023

LIC IN NEWS 2023-24

- LIC gets RBI nod for 9.99% stake buy in HDFC Bank.
- LIC emerged as the most valued Indian PSU firm, surpassing SBI.



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- ✓ Founders : Deepinder Goyal & Pankaj Chaddah
- ✓ Headquarters : Gurgaon, Haryana
- ✓ CEO : Deepinder Goyal

Q. Consider the following statements regarding BrahMos:

- 1. It is a supersonic cruise missile that can be launched from land, sea and air.**
- 2. It has a range of more than 1000 kilometers.**

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

- ✓ India is all set to begin the export of ground systems for the BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles to the Philippines.
- ✓ About BrahMos:
- ✓ It is a supersonic cruise missile that can be launched from land, sea, and air.
- ✓ It has been developed by Brahmos Aerospace, a joint venture of India and Russia.
- ✓ It is named after the rivers Brahmaputra (India) and Moskva (Russia).
- ✓ Features:
- ✓ It is a two-stage missile with a solid propellant booster engine as its first stage, which brings it to supersonic speed and then gets separated. The liquid ramjet, or second stage then takes the missile closer to 3 Mach speed in the cruise phase.
- ✓ It is one of the fastest cruise missiles currently operationally deployed, with a speed of Mach 2.8, which is nearly three times more than the speed of sound.
- ✓ It has a launch weight of 2,200-3,000 kg.
- ✓ The extended-range variant of the missile can strike land and sea targets at a maximum range of 400 to 500 kilometers with supersonic speed all throughout the flight.
- ✓ It has an inertial navigation system (INS) for use against ship targets, and an INS/Global Positioning System for use against land targets



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- ✓ It encompasses parts of Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Karnataka.
- ✓ It was the first biosphere reserve in India, established in 1986.
- ✓ The total area of the reserve is 5,520 sq. km. It is the largest protected forest area in India.
- ✓ The Mudumalai Wildlife Sanctuary, Wyanaad Wildlife Sanctuary, Bandipur National Park, Nagarhole National Park, Mukurthi National Park, and Silent Valley are the protected areas present within this reserve.
- ✓ It is India's first biosphere reserve under UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Programme.

Q. Which of the following countries have conducted 'Desert Knight' exercise over the Arabian Sea?

- A) India, France, and UAE B) India, UK, and UAE
C) USA, France, and UAE D) India, USA, and UAE

Answer : A

- ✓ India, France, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) carried out a mega air exercise over the Arabian Sea against the backdrop of rising global concerns over Houthi militants targeting several commercial vessels in the strategic waterways in the region.
- ✓ The 'Desert Knight' exercise featured several frontline aerial assets and combat jets of the air forces of the three countries.
- ✓ The Indian Air Force (IAF) component at the drills consisted of Su-30 MKI, MiG-29, and Jaguar fighter jets besides AWACS (airborne early warning and control aircraft, C-130-J transport plane, and air-to-air refuelling aircraft).
- ✓ The main focus of exercise 'Desert Knight' was enhancing synergy and interoperability between the three air forces," the Indian Air Force

Q. Which country will open the first alcohol store in its capital that will exclusively serve non-Muslim diplomats?

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

Answer : A

- ✓ Saudi Arabia will open its first alcohol store in the capital Riyadh which will serve exclusively non-Muslim diplomats.
- ✓ Customers will have to register via a mobile app, get a clearance code from the foreign ministry, and respect monthly quotas with their purchases.



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- ✓ Alcohol has been available only through diplomatic mail or on the black market

Q. Who has been invited by the Ministry of Defence as “Special Guests” to witness the Republic Day Parade, 2024 at Kartavya Path, New Delhi?

- A) Ujjawal Yojana beneficiaries B) PM Vishwakarma beneficiaries
C) Ram Temple’s workers D) Chandrayaan-3’s Team

Answer : B

- ✓ PM Vishwakarma beneficiaries invited as “special guests” to witness the Republic Day Parade 2024
- ✓ The beneficiaries under the PM Vishwakarma Scheme have been invited by the Ministry of Defence as “Special Guests” to witness the Republic Day Parade, 2024 at Kartavya Path, New Delhi.
- ✓ The PM Vishwakarma Scheme was launched on 17.09.2023 by the Prime Minister of India.
- ✓ This is a holistic scheme that provides end-to-end support to the artisans & craftspeople belonging to 18 trades. As on date, a total of 2,85,420 applications have been registered successfully under the scheme.
- ✓ 256 beneficiaries of PM Vishwakarma scheme, along with their spouse, are attending the Republic Day Event on 26th January 2024. These beneficiaries belong to rural and urban areas of 20 States, including North Eastern States and 4 Union Territories. Few of them are from Aspirational districts.
- ✓ There are 108 female artisans and 148 male artisans, who represent the trades covered under the scheme.

Q. India’s second VLF communication station will be set up in which state?

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

Answer : C

- ✓ India’s second VLF communication station to come up in Telangana
- ✓ The State government has transferred 1,174 hectares of forest land under the Damagudem Reserve Forest near Pudur village in Vikarabad district to the Indian Navy to set up India’s second Very Low Frequency (VLF) radar station.
- ✓ The Navy had been in discussions with the State government since 2010, but the allocation of land faced delays under the previous governments.
- ✓ The Union Forest and Environment Department approved the Navy’s proposals in 2014. Campa funds of ₹133.54 crore were allocated for the transfer of forest land, and the Navy contributed ₹18.56 crore for land conservation measures.



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EXERCISE IN NEWS 2023-24

- India, France, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) conducted a major air exercise, named 'Desert Knight', over the Arabian Sea.
- Indian Army contingent is taking part in the 2nd edition of India-Egypt Joint Special Forces Exercise CYCLONE. The Exercise is being conducted at Anshas, Egypt.
- 11th edition of India-Kyrgyzstan Joint Special Forces Exercise KHANJAR has commenced at the Special Forces Training School in Bakloh, Himachal Pradesh
- The maiden Bilateral Maritime Exercise -Ayutthaya' between the Indian Navy (IN) and Royal Thai Navy (RTN) was conducted.
- 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 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 exercise.
- 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.



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- The 19th edition of “EXERCISE YUDH ABHYAS” will be conducted from 25th September to 8th October
- 2023 in Fort Wainwright, Alaska, USA.

Q. With reference to the All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) 2021-2022 released recently, consider the following statements:

1. In 2021-22, the overall Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in higher education has increased, compared to the previous survey.
2. Private Universities account for the majority of the total enrollment in higher education.
3. The GER of Schedule Caste (SC) and Schedule Tribe (ST) students has decreased by 5% in 2021-22.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer : A

- ✓ The Ministry of Education, Government of India, released the All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) 2021-2022 recently.
- ✓ About All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE):
- ✓ The AISHE report has been published by the Ministry of Education since 2011.
- ✓ Aim: To portray the status of higher education in the country.
- ✓ The survey covers all the institutions in the country engaged in imparting higher education.
- ✓ Indicators of educational development such as Institution Density, Gross Enrolment Ratio, Pupil-teacher ratio, Gender Parity Index, Per Student Expenditure will also be calculated from the data collected through AISHE.
- ✓ For the purpose of this survey, Higher Education is defined as education, that is obtained after completing 12 years of schooling or equivalent.
- ✓ Highlights of AISHE 2021-22:
- ✓ In 2021-22, the overall gross enrolment ratio (GER) in higher education for the age group 18-23 years increased to 28.4%, from 27.3% in 2020- 21 and 23.7% in 2014- 15, the base year.



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- ✓ Female GER increased to 28.5% (2.07 crore) in 2021-22 from 27.9 (2.01 crore) in 2020-21 and 22.9 percent in 2014-15.
- ✓ The GER of Schedule Caste (SC) and Schedule Tribe (ST) students has also increased by around 2%. In 2020-21, the GER of SC students was 25.6% and ST was 23.4%, while in 2021-22 it increased to 27.2% and 25.8% respectively.
- ✓ The enrolment of OBC students has also increased to 1.63 crore in 2021-22 from 1.13 crore in 2014-15.
- ✓ About 78.9 per cent of the total students are enrolled in undergraduate level courses and 12.1 per cent are enrolled in postgraduate level courses.
- ✓ Among disciplines at the undergraduate-level in AISHE 2021-22, enrolment is highest in Arts (34.2%), followed by science (14.8%), Commerce (13.3%), and Engineering and Technology (11.8%).
- ✓ Among streams at postgraduate-level in AISHE 2021-22, maximum students are enrolled in Social Science (21.1%), followed by science (14.7%).
- ✓ Government Universities constituting 58.6% of total Universities, contribute 73.7% of total enrolment, and Private Universities account for 26.3% of total enrolment.
- ✓ The total number of Universities / University level institutions registered is 1,168, Colleges 45,473 and Standalone Institutions 12,002.
- ✓ As per the survey, the total number of faculty/teachers in 2021-22 is 15.98 lakh, of which about 56.6% are male and 43.4% are female.

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the Tasar Silk:

1. India is the largest producer of Tasar Silk in the world.

2. In India, it is primarily produced in Jharkhand and Madhya Pradesh.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A) 1 only

B) 2 only

C) Both 1 and 2

D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer : B

- ✓ Jharkhand's tableau in the recently held Republic Day parade showcased the skill of tribal women in the production of Tasar silk.
- ✓ About Tasar Silk:
 - ✓ It is a type of wild silk, which is made from silkworms that feed on plants like Asan and Arjun.
 - ✓ People from different parts of India call it tusaar, tusser, tushar, tusa, tassore, and tasar etc.



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SIGNS MoU IN NEWS 2023-24

- India, Cuba signed an MoU on digital public infrastructure collaboration.
- Cabinet approves signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Oman on cooperation in the field of Information Technology.
- India Signs Agreement for Lithium Exploration & Mining Project in Argentina.
- Cabinet approves the Migration and Mobility Agreement between India and Italy
- India and Italy sign Mobility and Migration Partnership Agreement to facilitate movement of workers.
- India-Japan pact on semiconductor supply chain gets Cabinet green light.
- India, Italy sign defence agreement.
- India and Tanzania elevate ties to Strategic Partnership; Agree on 5 year roadmap for defence cooperation.
- India, Tanzania to sign 15 agreements with eye on USD 10 billion trade.
- India And Saudi Arabia Tie Up For Green Hydrogen.
- India And Saudi Arabia Sign Agreement On Cooperation In Energy Sector.
- India, New Zealand Sign MoU To Enhance Cooperation In Civil Aviation.
- India and Trinidad and Tobago have entered a partnership by signing an MoU to share INDIA STACK.
- India, Moldova agree to sign MoU for cooperation in agriculture
- India, UAE sign MoU on linking of India's Unified Payments Interface with Instant Payment Platform of UAE.

Q. AI startup, Krutrim become India's first unicorn in 2024. Which Indian company launched this technology?

A) Snapdeal

B) Ola

C) Snapdeal

D) Amazon

Answer : B

- ✓ Krutrim becomes India's first \$1 billion AI startup



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- ✓ Ola Krutrim, the artificial intelligence (AI) startup founded by serial entrepreneur Bhavish Aggarwal, has achieved unicorn status following a successful funding round that secured \$50 million from prominent investors, including Matrix Partners India.
- ✓ The company proudly announced its newfound status as the first Indian AI startup to reach a billion-dollar valuation, a remarkable feat achieved within a month of unveiling a large language model.

INDIA'S FIRST IN NEWS 2023-24

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



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Q. Telecom major Reliance Jio has joined hands with which company to set up a 5G innovation lab in India?

- A) OnePlus
B) Apple
C) Samsung
D) Nokia

Answer : A

- ✓ Telecom major Reliance Jio and Chinese smartphone company OnePlus have joined hands to set up a 5G innovation lab in India.
- ✓ The alliance between OnePlus and Jio aims to provide OnePlus and Jio True 5G users with differentiated features and an unparalleled network experience.
- ✓ To bolster these initiatives, both brands are excited to announce the establishment of a state-of-the-art 5G Innovation Lab. The lab will serve as a hub for testing and developing new technologies.
- ✓ 85 per cent of the entire 5G deployment in India has been made by Jio.

Q. FM Nirmala Sitharaman will be the second finance minister to present her ____ straight budget after equalling her record with former PM Morarji Desai on 1 February 2024.

- A) 5th
B) 6th
C) 7th
D) 8th

Answer : B

- ✓ Nirmala Sitharaman To Become 2nd FM To Present 6 Consecutive Union Budgets
- ✓ Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will set a record by presenting the sixth Budget in a row — five annual Budgets and one interim — a feat achieved so far only by former Prime Minister Morarji Desai.
- ✓ With the presentation of the interim Budget on February 1, Ms Sitharaman will surpass the records of her predecessors like Manmohan Singh, Arun Jaitley, P. Chidambaram, and Yashwant Sinha, who had presented five budgets in a row.
- ✓ Mr. Desai, as Finance Minister, had presented five annual Budgets and one interim Budget between 1959-1964.
- ✓ Former Prime Minister Morarji Desai who holds the tag of presenting 10 Budgets — the maximum by any Finance Minister — had presented six of them, including one interim, in a row



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Q. Four companies have received market regulator SEBI's nod to raise funds through initial public offerings (IPOs) in January 2024. Which of the following companies has not received approval?

- A) Exicom Tele-Systems B) Akme Fintrade
C) JNK India D) Stallion India Fluorochemicals

Answer : D

- ✓ Four companies get SEBI's nod to launch IPOs
- ✓ Entero Healthcare Solutions, JNK India, Exicom Tele-Systems and Akme Fintrade (India) have received markets regulator SEBI's approval to raise funds through initial public offerings.
- ✓ However, the Securities and Exchange Board of India has returned the IPO papers of Stallion India Fluorochemicals
- ✓ These four firms, which had filed their preliminary papers with the markets watchdog between June and October, obtained observation letters on January 16-19, an update with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi).
- ✓ In Sebi's parlance, obtaining observation letters means its go-ahead to launch an IPO.

SEBI IN NEWS 2023-24

- 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.
- 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):



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Answer : A

- ✓ Bank of Baroda's wholly-owned subsidiary for cards, 'BOB Financial Solutions Limited', has been rebranded as 'BOBCARD Limited' with the tagline "Credit Reimagined".
- ✓ The NBFC has also unveiled a new logo called 'Baroda Sun', which comprises dual 'B' letterforms that hold the rays of the rising sun.
- ✓ The rebranding embodies "revitalised commitment to reimagine the country's credit landscape with excellent credit solutions and customer-centric offerings".
- ✓ BOBCARD offers an array of consumer and commercial credit cards and caters to all segments of customers with varied needs, including shopping, travel and business cards for large corporates and MSMEs.
- ✓ The company also has exclusive credit cards for Defence Personnel including the Indian Army, Indian Navy, the Indian Coast Guard, Assam Rifles, professionals like ICAI, ICMAI & ICSI, co-branded cards with HPCL, Snapdeal, IRCTC, Premium Lifestyle cards like Eterna, Premier, among others

Q. Who has been awarded the ICC Men's ODI Cricketer of the Year Award for 2023?

- A) Suryakumar Yadav B) Rachin Ravindra
C) Virat Kohli D) Rohit Sharma

Answer : C

- ✓ Virat Kohli wins ICC Men's ODI Cricketer of the Year Award 2023
- ✓ Indian batting maestro Virat Kohli was crowned the ICC men's ODI Cricketer of the Year 2023 for his excellent run in the format last year headlined by a phenomenal outing in the World Cup at home.
- ✓ This is the fourth such award for Kohli, who was the second most prolific run-scorer in ODIs last year behind compatriot Shubman Gill.
- ✓ This is the seventh individual ICC award won by Kohli during his glittering career, and his fourth in the ODI category after previous wins in 2012, 2017 and 2018.
- ✓ He also won the Test award in 2018 while the years 2017 and 2018 saw him also win the Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy for ICC Men's Cricketer of the Year.
- ✓ Others Awards
- ✓ ICC Men's Cricketer of the Year (Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy) – Pat Cummins (Australia)
- ✓ ICC Women's Cricketer of the Year (Rachael Heyhoe Flint Trophy) – Nat Sciver-Brunt (England)
- ✓ ICC Men's Test Cricketer of the Year – Usman Khawaja (Australia)
- ✓ ICC Men's ODI Cricketer of the Year – Virat Kohli (India)



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- ✓ ICC Women's ODI Cricketer of the Year – Chamari Athapathth (Sri Lanka)
- ✓ ICC Men's T20I Teams of the Year – Surya Kumar Yadav (India)
- ✓ ICC Women's T20I Teams of the Year – Chamari Athapathth (Sri Lanka)
- ✓ ICC Umpire of the Year (David Shepherd Trophy) – Richard Illingworth (England)
- ✓ ICC Spirit of Cricket of the Year Award – Zimbabwe
- ✓ ICC Men's Emerging Cricketer of the Year – Rachin Ravindra (New Zealand)
- ✓ ICC Women's Emerging Cricketer of the Year – Phobe Litchfield (Australia)

Q. Who has become the batsman to score the fastest triple century in first class cricket?

- A) Rinku Singh
- B) Prithvi Shaw
- C) Tanmay Aggarwal
- D) Manish Pandey

Answer : C

- ✓ Hyderabad cricketer Tanmay Agarwal has created history by becoming the fastest batsman to score a triple century in first class cricket.
- ✓ Tanmay achieved the feat during the Ranji Trophy 2023/24 Plate Group game of Hyderabad vs Arunachal Pradesh in Hyderabad.
- ✓ Tanmay played an innings of 323 runs in just 160 balls. During his innings he hit 33 fours and 21 sixes.

Q. Which state government has recently launched 'Road Safety Force'?

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

Answer : B

- ✓ The state government of Punjab has started 'Road Safety Force' to prevent road accidents.
- ✓ Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann started this force in Jalandhar.
- ✓ Under its force, 144 hi-tech vehicles and 5000 employees will provide security to the people on the roads.
- ✓ Chief Minister Mann said that this will be the first force in the country which will be dedicated to road safety and traffic management



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Q. Who has recently taken oath as the new judge of the Supreme Court?

- A) Prasanna B Varale B) Manoj Kumar Gupta
C) Sanjay Sinha D) DY Chandrachud

Answer : A

- ✓ Justice Prasanna B Varale has recently taken oath as the new judge of the Supreme Court.
- ✓ Supreme Court Chief Justice DY Chandrachud administered the oath to Justice Varale.
- ✓ Before this he was the Chief Justice of Karnataka High Court and Judge of Bombay High Court.
- ✓ With this appointment, the strength of 34 judges in the Supreme Court has also been completed.

Q. With reference to K-Shaped Recovery, consider the following statements:

1. It occurs when different parts of the economy recover at different rates after a recession.
2. It is generally caused by disparities that existed before the recession.

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

- ✓ Finance Minister recently rejected the theory that India's ongoing recovery is 'K-shaped'.
- ✓ About K-Shaped Recovery:
- ✓ A K-shaped recovery occurs when, following a recession, different parts of the economy recover at different rates, times, or magnitudes.
- ✓ This type of recovery is called K-shaped because the paths of different parts of the economy, when charted together, may diverge, resembling the two arms of the Roman letter "K."
- ✓ Reasons:
- ✓ K-shaped recoveries are generally caused by disparities that existed before the recession or by a recession that impacts populations and groups differently.
- ✓ Example: During the COVID-19 pandemic, North America saw a K-shaped recovery where the richer individuals and industries recovered faster compared to the poor.



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Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Free Movement Regime (FMR), recently seen in the news:

1. It allows the citizens of India or Nepal to travel within 16 km on either side of the Indo-Nepal Border.

2. It was introduced in 2018 under the Government of India's Act East policy.

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

- ✓ The Home Minister recently said the Free Movement Regime (FMR) agreement with Myanmar would be reconsidered to stop border residents from moving into each other's country without any paperwork.
- ✓ About Free Movement Regime (FMR):
- ✓ Under the FMR, all the hill tribes, whether they are citizens of India or Myanmar, can travel within 16 km on either side of the Indo-Myanmar Border (IMB).
- ✓ They can cross the border by producing a border pass with a one-year validity issued by the competent authority and can stay up to two weeks per visit.
- ✓ The FMR was implemented in 2018 as part of the Central government's Act East policy.
- ✓ Key Facts about Indo-Myanmar Border (IMB):
- ✓ It runs for 1,643 km in the four states of Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland, and Arunachal Pradesh.
- ✓ It runs from the tripoint with China in the north to the tripoint with Bangladesh in the south.
- ✓ Assam Rifles is tasked with guarding the IMB.

Q. Where is Hazrat Nizamuddin Aulia Dargah, recently seen in the news, located?

A) Aligarh

B) Delhi

C) Jaipur

D) Hyderabad

Answer : B

- ✓ French President recently visited the Hazrat Nizamuddin Aulia Dargah in south Delhi.
- ✓ About Hazrat Nizamuddin Aulia Dargah:
- ✓ It is located in Delhi's Nizamuddin West area.
- ✓ It is the mausoleum of the famous Sufi saint, Nizamuddin Auliya (1238-1325 CE).



- ✓ It was built in the 14th Century C.E.
 - ✓ Inside the dargah complex, one can find the tombs of Nizamuddin Auliya's saints: Jahanara Begum, Shah Jahan's favorite daughter, and poet Amir Khusru.
 - ✓ Towards the north side of Dargah, there is a stepwell
- The site is also known for its evening qawwali devotional music sessions.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding Community Reserves:

- 1. They act as buffer zones and migration corridors between established protected forests in India.**
- 2. Only areas that are uninhabited and completely owned by the Government of India may be declared as a Community Reserve.**

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

- ✓ Arunachal Pradesh, at the recently held Republic Day parade, showcased its Singchung Bugun Village Community Reserve, a 17-square-kilometre biodiversity hotspot.
- ✓ About Singchung Bugun Village Community Reserve:
- ✓ It is a 17-square-kilometre biodiversity hotspot located in Arunachal Pradesh, around 40 km from the famous Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary.
- ✓ The reserve was created in 2017 to protect biodiversity in the region.
- ✓ What is a Community Reserve?
- ✓ Conservation reserves and community reserves in India are terms denoting protected areas of India which typically act as buffer zones, connectors, and migration corridors between established national parks, wildlife sanctuaries and reserved and protected forests in India.
- ✓ These protected area categories were first introduced in the Wildlife (Protection) Amendment Act of 2002, an amendment to the Wildlife Protection Act (WLPA) of 1972.



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- ✓ The TIA was selected for the recognition based on its continuous improvement initiatives undertaken for airport operations.
- ✓ QCFI is recognised as the institution representing The Quality Circle Movement in India and has represented the country in several international forums

AIRPORT IN NEWS 2023-24

- Thiruvananthapuram Airport Honored with Excellence Award for its Quality Initiatives.
- Bengaluru and Delhi Airports have jointly bagged the 'Best Airport of the Year' at the Wings India Awards 2024 in the Civil Aviation Sector.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated a new terminal building at Tiruchirappalli International Airport in Tamil Nadu.
- Union Cabinet has approved the proposal to declare Surat Airport an international airport.
- 58 Airports in the country have been covered under Krishi Udan Scheme.
- Deoghar Airport in Jharkhand is the first airport in the country to land a commercial aircraft in low visibility.
- Larsen and Toubro (L&T) Construction have secured a large order to construct the greenfield Bhogapuram International Airport project in Andhra Pradesh.
- The largest airport in the world is the king Fahd International Airport, located in Dammam, Saudi Arabia which covers an area of about 300 sq.
- Minister of Civil Aviation, Shri Jyotiraditya M Scindia inaugurated Utkela Airport owned by the Government of Odisha.
- Guwahati's Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport became the first airport in the northeast to get 'Digi Yatra' facility.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate Gujarat's first greenfield airport at Hirasar near Rajkot.
- Government of India has given 'in-principle' approval for setting up 21 new greenfield airports.

Q. Which film won the Best Popular Film Award at the Filmfare Awards 2024?

- A) 'Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani'
- B) 12th failed
- C) Donkey



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D) Animal

Answer : B

- ✓ The film '12th Fail' directed by Vidhu Vinod Chopra won the award for Best Film (Popular).
- ✓ This film is based on the life of IPS officer Manoj Kumar Sharma.
- ✓ The Best Director award went to Vidhu Vinod Chopra (12th Fail).
- ✓ The Filmfare Award for Best Actor was given to Ranbir Kapoor for the film Animal.
- ✓ The 69th edition of the Filmfare Awards 2024 took place in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- ✓ The 69th Hyundai Filmfare Awards 2024 with Gujarat Tourism was held in GIFT City, Gujarat.
- ✓ Important Filmfare Awards 2024 Winners
- ✓ Best Film : 12th Fail
- ✓ Best Director : Vidhu Vinod Chopra (12th Fail)
- ✓ Best Actor in a Leading Role (Male) : Ranbir Kapoor (Animal)
- ✓ Best Actor in a Leading Role (Female) : Alia Bhatt (Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani)
- ✓ Best Playback Singer (Male) : Bhupinder Babbal (Arjan Vailly – Animal)
- ✓ Best Playback Singer (Female) : Shilpa Rao (Besharam Rang – Pathaan)
- ✓ Lifetime Achievement Award : David Dhawan

Q. Which of the following has unveiled 'Pahal'- the insightful house journal of its Vigilance Department?

A) SIDBI

B) IREDA

C) SEBI

D) RBI

Answer : B

- ✓ IREDA releases vigilance journal 'Pahal'
- ✓ Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA), GoI enterprise under the administrative control of Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, has unveiled released 'Pahal' - the insightful house journal of its Vigilance Department.
- ✓ The initiative marks a significant step towards transparency, accountability, and the promotion of renewable energy initiatives by IREDA.

IREDA IN NEWS 2023-24

- Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) Launches 'Pahal' Vigilance Journal



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- IREDA Declared 2024 as 'Year of HR Development and Discipline'
- IREDA CMD Pradip Kumar Das bagged 'CMD of the Year' award
- Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) launched a Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) portal to improve transparency in CSR initiatives.
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has granted an 'Infrastructure Finance Company (IFC)' status to Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA).
- IREDA signs MoUs with Union Bank of India and Bank of Baroda to co-finance Renewable Energy projects.
- IREDA and Bank of Maharashtra partner to promote renewable energy adoption in India.
- Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA), a Mini Ratna (Category – I) has signed an a MoU with Government, Revenue Target for 2023-24 set at ₹ 4,350.
- Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) has set up a state-of-the-art Business Centre at NBCC Office Complex, East Kidwai Nagar, New Delhi.
- Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA)
- It was incorporated as a Public Limited Company in the year 1987 as a 'Non-Banking Financial Institution'.
- It is a Miniratna (Category 1) type company functioning under the administrative control of 'Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Government of India.
- Its function is to encourage projects related to new and renewable energy sources and to provide them financial assistance for their development.
- It has been notified as a 'Public Financial Institution' under section 4'A' of the 'Companies Act, 1956'.
- Chairman and Managing Director - Pradip Kumar Das

Q. NTPC Green Energy Limited has signed an agreement with which state government for green hydrogen?

A) Maharashtra

B) Uttar Pradesh

C) Haryana

D) Tamil Nadu

Answer : A



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- ✓ NTPC Green Energy Limited (NGEL) has entered into an agreement with the Government of Maharashtra for the development of green hydrogen and derivatives (green ammonia, green methanol) up to 1 million tonne per annum capacity.
- ✓ This agreement has been made for the next five years and investment of approximately ₹ 80,000 crore will be made.

Q. Which bank has raised ₹5,000 crore through the issuance of long-term infrastructure bonds?

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

Answer : B

- ✓ BoB raises Rs 5,000 Crore via 10-year infrastructure bonds
- ✓ State-owned Bank of Baroda (BoB) has raised ₹5,000 crore through the issuance of long-term infrastructure bonds.
- ✓ The bank received a total of 128 bids amounting to ₹14,950 crore against the total issue size of ₹5,000 crore (base issue of ₹1,000 crore and greenshoe option to retain oversubscription up to ₹4,000 crore).
- ✓ The bonds have a base issue of Rs 1,000 crore, with retain oversubscription of Rs 4,000 crore as a greenshoe option.

BOB IN NEWS 2023-24

- Bank of Baroda (BoB) has raised ₹5,000 crore through the issuance of long-term infrastructure bonds.
- Bank of Baroda's wholly-owned subsidiary for cards, 'BOB Financial Solutions Limited', has been rebranded as 'BOBCARD Limited' with the tagline "Credit Reimagined".
- Bank of Baroda has launched the Bob LITE Savings Account, a lifetime zero-balance savings bank account, as part of its festive campaign.
- Bank of Baroda launched its new 'bob-360 deposit scheme'.
- RBI has taken a significant step to address supervisory concerns by ordering Bank of Baroda (BoB) to immediately halt the onboarding of new customers onto their mobile app, 'bob World.
- Bank of Baroda (BoB) has enabled the UPI ATM facility at over 6,000 ATMs across the country.
- Debadatta Chand has assumed charge as the managing director and chief executive officer of Bank of Baroda (BoB).



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- BoB introduces the BoB LITE Savings Account, offering customers the flexibility of a lifetime no minimum balance requirement.
- Bank of Baroda (BOB)
- Founded : 1908
- Founder : Sayajirao Gaekwad III
- Headquarters : Vadodara, Gujarat
- MD & CEO : Debadatta Chand
- Tagline : India's International Bank

Q. Recently the book 'Ek Samandar, Mere Andar' was published, by whom is it written?

- A) Ajit Doval
- B) Anil Chauhan
- C) Amitabh Ghosh
- D) Sanjeev Joshi

Answer : D

- ✓ National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and Chief of Defense Staff General Anil Chauhan launched the book 'Ek Samandar, Mere Andar' written by Sanjeev Joshi, Deputy CEO of BrahMos Aerospace

Q. Who won the men's 10m air rifle shooting event at the ISSF World Cup 2024?

- A) Divyansh Singh Panwar
- B) Arjun Babauta
- C) Saurabh Chaudhary
- D) Mohit Bansal

Answer : A

- ✓ India's Divyansh Singh Panwar won the gold medal in the men's 10m air rifle shooting event at the ISSF World Cup 2024 in Cairo.
- ✓ Olympian Divyansh Singh Panwar topped the qualification round with a score of 632.4.
- ✓ Indian shooter Sonam Uttam Maskar won the silver medal in the women's category.

Q. Who won the FIH Hockey 5S Women's World Cup title?

- A) India
- B) Pakistan
- C) Netherlands
- D) Germany

Answer : C



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- ✓ Netherlands women's hockey team has won the FIH Hockey 5S Women's World Cup title. Netherlands won this title by defeating India in the final played in Muscat.
- ✓ Netherlands defeated the Indian team by a huge margin of 7-2.
- ✓ Jyoti Chhatri and Rutaja Dadaso scored goals for India but it was not enough to win.

Q. Which city will host the seventh edition of the India Rubber Meet (IRM 2024) on 23 February?

- A) Mumbai
- B) Guwahati
- C) New Delhi
- D) Bengaluru

Answer : B

- ✓ The seventh edition of the India Rubber Meet (IRM 2024) will be held in Guwahati on February 23.
- ✓ The theme this year is 'Natural Rubber — Changing Landscape, Emerging Trends and Insights for Tomorrow'.
- ✓ The event, organized by the India Rubber Meet Forum (IRMF), will feature talks, panel discussions, and interactions on various topics including the future of the global and Indian natural rubber industry, economy and commodity prices, and challenges and opportunities in the tyre, non-tyre, and synthetic rubber industry.
- ✓ The objective of the meeting is to provide a platform for rubber stakeholders to interact, share knowledge, address future concerns, and network for the advancement of the rubber industry

Q. President Droupadi Murmu has approved how many gallantry awards on the 75th Republic Day?

- A) 75
- B) 80
- C) 85
- D) 70

Answer : B

- ✓ President Droupadi Murmu has approved 80 gallantry awards including six Kirti Chakra and 16 Shaurya Chakra on the 75th Republic Day.
- ✓ Out of the six Kirti Chakra, three were conferred posthumously. The 16 Shaurya Chakra, included two posthumous.
- ✓ The Kirti Chakra is India's second-highest peacetime gallantry award after Ashok Chakra. Shaurya Chakra is the country's third-highest peacetime gallantry award.



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- ✓ The Kirti Chakra awardees are Major Digvijay Singh Rawat of the 21st Battalion, the Parachute Regiment (Special Forces), Major Deependra Vikram Basnet from the Sikh Regiment's Fourth Battalion and Havildar Pawan Kumar Yadav from the 21st Battalion of the Mahar Regiment.

Q. Which IIT's scholar has achieved the "Best Product Design" award in the Water and Sanitation category at the prestigious Vishwakarma Awards 2023?

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

Answer : C

- ✓ IIT Guwahati scholar wins 'Best Product Design' at Vishwakarma Awards
- ✓ Satyam, a PhD Scholar in the department of biosciences and bioengineering at the Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati (IIT-Guwahati), has achieved the "Best Product Design" award in the Water and Sanitation category at the prestigious Vishwakarma Awards 2023.
- ✓ The competition, organized by the IIT-Delhi in collaboration with Maker Bhavan Foundation and the WIN Foundation, aimed to recognize and support innovative minds in technology from science and engineering colleges across India.
- ✓ The theme for 2023 focused on water and sanitation, clean technology and smart mobility.
- ✓ Satyam's winning device, R-SAM-PRO, is an IoT-enabled water quality monitoring system that outshines existing devices in terms of cost-effectiveness and integration with the Internet of Things (IoT).

Q. Who has been awarded the Vayu Sena Medal for Gallantry on the 75th Republic Day?

- A) Nikita Malhotra B) Avani Chaturvedi
C) Shaliza Dhama D) Bhawana Kanth

Answer : A

- ✓ Nikita Malhotra, a Squadron Leader of the Indian Air Force (IAF), was awarded the Vayu Sena Medal for Gallantry on the 75th Republic Day.
- ✓ She was also part of the Tangail formation of fighters during the flypast over the Kartavya Path on Republic Day Parade.
- ✓ She was piloting a Dornier aircraft of the formation which included one Dakota aircraft and two Dorniers.
- ✓ Based on the twin themes of 'Viksit Bharat' and 'Bharat-Loktantra ki Matruka', this year's parade witnessed the participation of around 13,000 special guests.



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Q. Which country will host the World Test Championship (WTC) 2027 Final?

- A) Australia
B) England
C) India
D) South Africa

Answer : B

- ✓ England will host the 2027 World Test Championship (WTC) final in June, marking the fourth consecutive time.
- ✓ The ICC issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) for a Social Responsibility Provider for the period 2024-2027.
- ✓ So far, India have been played in both WTC Finals that took place in 2021 and 2023. While India lost to New Zealand in the inaugural final, the Rohit Sharma-led side lost to Australia in the summit clash last year in June.
- ✓ Currently, in WTC 2023-25 table, Australia hold the top spot, followed by India.
- ✓ ICC also announces the introduction of the Women's T20 Champions Trophy. The inaugural edition is slated to take place in Sri Lanka in February 2027.

Q. Ratle Hydro Electric Project is a run-of-river hydroelectric project being built on:

- A) Kaveri
B) Sutlej
C) Chenab
D) Brahmaputra

Answer : C

- ✓ The government recently announced diversion of Chenab river water through diversion tunnels to expedite the 850-MW Ratle Hydro Electric Project in Jammu & Kashmir.
- ✓ About Ratle Hydro Electric Project:
- ✓ It is an 850 MW run-of-river hydroelectric power project being built on the Chenab River in the Kishtwar District of Jammu and Kashmir.
- ✓ The project is being developed by Ratle Hydroelectric Power Corporation (RHPCL), which was formed as a joint venture (JV) between Jammu & Kashmir State Power Development Corporation (JKSPDC) and India's state-owned National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC).
- ✓ Key Facts about Chenab River:
- ✓ It is a major river of India and Pakistan.
- ✓ Origin: It is formed by the confluence of two streams, Chandra and Bhaga, at Tandi in the upper Himalayas in the Lahaul and Spiti Districts of Himachal Pradesh.



Q. How does Generative AI differ from traditional AI systems?

- A) It focuses only on recognizing patterns in data.
- B) It is designed only for specific, narrow tasks.
- C) It produces new content rather than making predictions.
- D) It relies only on human input for decision-making.

Answer : C

- ✓ A new report predicts that Generative AI (genAI) is poised to become a \$100 billion industry by 2026.
- ✓ About Generative AI:
- ✓ Generative AI, or generative artificial intelligence, is a form of artificial intelligence (AI) in which algorithms automatically produce content in the form of text, images, audio, and video.
- ✓ Unlike traditional AI systems that are designed to recognize patterns and make predictions, generative AI creates new content.
- ✓ ChatGPT: ChatGPT is an AI-powered chatbot developed by OpenAI, with a unique ability to not only generate written content but also converse with users fluently.
- ✓ Bard: Bard is a generative AI chatbot created by Google, based on LaMDA language model technology. It can answer questions asked by users or create new content from text or image prompts.

Q. When is the World Neglected Tropical Diseases Day (World NTD Day) observed?

- A) January 30
- B) January 29
- C) January 28
- D) January 27

Answer : A

- ✓ The second World Neglected Tropical Diseases Day (World NTD Day) is being observed on January 30, 2021 to celebrate the achievements made towards control of the world's NTDs.
- ✓ 2024 theme is "Unite. Act. Eliminate".
- ✓ The first World NTD Day was held on 30 January 2020
- ✓ Neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) include a range of conditions that can blind, disfigure, or even disable people.



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Q. Who has been appointed by the Central Government as the first woman Director General of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)?

- A) Archana Ramasundaram B) Nina Singh
C) Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay D) Anjali Bansal

Answer : B

- ✓ The central government has appointed Nina Singh as the first woman Director General of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF).
- ✓ The 1989-batch IPS officer of the Rajasthan cadre is currently working as the Special DG of the CISF.
- ✓ Meanwhile, Rahul Rasgotra, the Special Director of the Intelligence Bureau (IB), was appointed as the new Director General of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP). He is also a 1989-batch IPS officer but from the Manipur cadre.
- ✓ The current ITBP chief, Anish Dayal Singh, was appointed as the Director General of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF). He worked for the country's internal security and counter-intelligence agency, IB, for a long time.
- ✓ Dayal is currently investigating the Parliament security breach incident that happened on December 11.
- ✓ Furthermore, the Centre has appointed Vivek Srivastava, a 1989-batch IPS officer of the Gujarat cadre, as the Director General of the Fire Service, Civil Defence and Home Guards. Currently, he is a special director at the Intelligence Bureau.
- ✓ Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)
- ✓ Founded : 1969
- ✓ HQ : New Delhi
- ✓ Motto : Protection and Security
- ✓ Director General : Nina Singh

FIRST'S FEMALE IN NEWS 2023

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



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- Sue Redfern became the first woman to stand as an umpire in a men's first-class cricket match in England and Wales.
- Jaya Varma Sinha has been appointed as the new Chairperson and Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Railway Board (Ministry of Railways) w.e.f Sept 01, 2023. She has replaced AK Lahoti.
- She is the first woman to be appointed to this Apex post of Indian Railways.
- Geetika Srivastava is first woman to head Indian mission in Pakistan.
- Phangnon Konyak became the first woman to chair the Rajya Sabha from Nagaland.
- Tenzing Yangki has become the first female IPS officer of Arunachal Pradesh.
- Lisa Franchetti becomes 1st woman to be top Navy officer in US history.
- Nusrat Chowdhary will become the first Muslim woman federal judge in US history.
- Celeste Saulo of Argentina has been appointed as the first female Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).
- Shalini Singh from Lucknow has become the first woman NCC cadet in India to complete a mountaineering course in the Himalayan region of Uttarakhand.
- Parminder Chopra becomes first woman Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Power Finance Corporation.
- Amy Pope of the United States has been selected as the first female Director-General of the United Nations Migration Agency.
- Lieutenant Shivangi Singh is the first woman Rafale pilot to take part in Orion Exercise 2023.
- Wing Commander Deepika Mishra has become the first woman Air Force officer to receive the Gallantry Medal.
- New Zealand-born Kim Cotton has become the first female umpire to officiate in a Men's T20 International (T20I) cricket match involving two ICC full-member nations.
- Sheenu Jhavar becomes first woman president of TiE Rajasthan.
- American Space Agency, NASA has selected the first woman astronaut, Christina Koch for its Artemis II mission.
- Surekha Yadav, Asia's 1st woman loco pilot who now operates Vande Bharat, From Solapur to Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminal (CSMT) in Maharashtra.
- Shalija Dhami becomes first woman officer to command a fighter unit in Indian Air Force (IAF).
- Colonel Geeta Rana became the first woman officer to command a field workshop.



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- Captain Shiva Chauhan becomes the first women officer to be operationally deployed in the highest battleground in Kumar Post on the Siachen glacier.
- The first woman officer to be posted on foreign assignment in the Border Roads Organization (BRO) - Captain Surabhi Jakhmola.
- Rae Bareli's hockey stadium is named after hockey star Rani Rampal, first woman player from India to achieve this feat.
- Hekani Jakhalu became the first female MLA of Nagaland Assembly.
- Equatorial Guinea appoints Manuela Roka Botey as first female PM.
- Indian-origin Manpreet Monica Singh sworn in as 1st female Sikh judge of USA.
- Santhi Kumari Appointed as First Woman Chief Secretary of Telangana.
- Saudi Arabia's Rayna Barnawi first female astronaut is set to go into space this year .
- Dina Boluarte became Peru's first female president.
- FIFA has announced that Stephanie Frappart of France will be the first woman to referee a men's World Cup match.
- PT Usha Become First Women President of Indian Olympic Association.

Q. Who among the following athletes has topped the Forbes list of highest-paid women athletes 2023?

A) Iga Swiatek

B) Naomi Osaka

C) Elena Rybakina

D) Venus Williams

Answer : A

- ✓ Badminton star PV Sindhu has made it into the list of 2023's highest-paid women athletes by Forbes where she finished at the 16th spot alongside gymnast Simone Biles with her \$7.1 million earnings.
- ✓ Last year Sindhu was placed 12th with her \$7.1 million earnings in a list which was led by Japanese tennis star Naomi Osaka. Sindhu had broken into the top 10 in the 2018 list with \$8.5 million which placed her at 7th.
- ✓ Polish tennis star Iga Swiatek who is valued at \$23.9 million at first spot. She won the French Open and ended the year as the No.1 ranked player in the world.
- ✓ She is followed by freestyle skiing star Eileen Gu from China whose value is \$22.1 million.
- ✓ Tennis player Coco Gauff comes in at 3rd with \$21.7 million while the same sports' UK's Emma Raducanu (\$15.2 million) Japan's Naomi Osaka (\$15 million), Belarus's Aryna Sabalenka (\$14.7 million), US's Jessica



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Pegula (\$12.5 million), US's Venus Williams (\$12.2 million), Kazakhstan's Elena Rybakina (\$9.5 million) and Canada's Leylah Fernandez (\$8.8 million) close out the top 10.

Q. HDFC Bank board has recommended to RBI the reappointment of Atanu Chakraborty as part-time non-executive chairman and independent director for how many years?

A) 2 years

B) 3 years

C) 4 years

D) 5 years

Answer : B

- ✓ HDFC Bank approves re-appointment of Atanu Chakraborty as chairman for 3 years
- ✓ Private lender HDFC Bank board has recommended the reappointment of Atanu Chakraborty as the part-time non-executive chairman and independent director, subject to further approval.
- ✓ The matter is with the Reserve Bank of India for a second term of three years from May 5, 2024, to May 4, 2027 approval.
- ✓ Chakraborty, a 1985 batch IAS officer of Gujarat cadre, retired as Secretary of Department of Economic Affairs in April 2020.
- ✓ Chakraborty mainly worked in areas of Finance & Economic Policy, Infrastructure, Petroleum & Natural Gas. In the Union Government, he held various posts such as Secretary to Government of India in the Ministry of Finance- Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) during FY 2019-20.

HDFC BANK IN NEWS 2023

- HDFC Bank approves re-appointment of Atanu Chakraborty as chairman for 3 years.
- HDFC Bank has recently raised Rs 7,425 crore through infrastructure bond issue.
- Reserve Bank of India has approved the reappointment of Sashidhar Jagdishan as HDFC Bank MD & CEO for a period of three years.
- HDFC Bank Launches India's First Co-Branded Hotel Credit Card named 'Marriott Bonvoy HDFC Bank Credit Card' in partnership with Marriott International.
- HDFC Bank's Sashidhar Jagdishan is highest paid bank CEO in FY23 with Rs 10.55 crore pay.
- HDFC Bank overtakes SBI in CRISIL's corporate banking ranking for 2023.
- Food delivery platform Swiggy has joined hands with HDFC Bank to launch a co-branded credit card.
- HDFC Bank, India's largest private lender, has achieved a significant milestone by entering the \$100 billion market-capitalization club as world's 7th largest lender.



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- HDFC emerges as fourth largest bank in the world after merger.
- According to Bloomberg, with a valuation of \$172 billion, the merger will place HDFC in the fourth position in equity market capitalisation behind JP Morgan Chase & Co., Industrial and Commercial Bank of China Ltd. and Bank of America Corp.
- Deepak Parekh has announced his decision to step down as HDFC chairperson after serving as the chairman for 46 years.
- HDFC Bank introduced a new credit card named 'Millennia Credit card' which offers cashback over e-commerce platforms and multiple benefits.
- SEBI has granted approval for a change in control of HDFC Asset Management Company (HDFC AMC) due to the amalgamation of HDFC Ltd and HDFC Bank Ltd.
- As part of the amalgamation, existing shareholders of HDFC Ltd will hold a 41% stake in HDFC Bank.
- HDFC Bank has launched a retail banking initiative called 'Vishesh' aimed at customers in semi-urban and rural areas.
- HDFC Bank partners Manipal Global to build up a talent pipeline.
- SEBI has granted approval for a change in control of HDFC Asset Management Company (HDFC AMC) due to the amalgamation of HDFC Ltd and HDFC Bank Ltd.
- HDFC Bank has signed a "Master Inter Bank Credit Agreement" with Export-Import Bank of Korea for a USD 300 million line of credit.
- HDFC Bank recommends re-appointment of Sashidhar Jagdishan MD, CEO for 3 yrs.
- HDFC Bank's Sashidhar Jagdishan is 'BS Banker of the Year 2022'.
- HDFC Bank, IRCTC launch India's most rewarding co-branded travel credit card.
- HDFC Bank, Lulu Exchange ink deal to enhance cross-border payments between India-Gulf region.
- HDFC Bank collaborates with Microsoft as part of its digital transformation.
- Reserve Bank of India said SBI, ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank remain domestic systemically important banks (D-SIBs).
- India's first Electronic Bank Guarantee issued by HDFC Bank.
- HDFC BANK
- Founded : 1994
- Founder : Hasmukhbhai Parekh



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- HQ : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- MD & CEO : Sashidhar Jagdishan
- Tagline : We understand your world

Q. The Union Cabinet has approved the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for copra for the 2024 season. The MSP for fair average quality of milling copra has been fixed at __ for the 2024 season.

- A) Rs 11,160 per quintal B) Rs 12,000 per quintal
C) Rs 11,260 per quintal D) Rs 15,260 per quintal

Answer : A

- ✓ The Union Cabinet has approved the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for copra for the 2024 season.
- ✓ The MSP for fair average quality of milling copra and ball copra has been fixed at Rs 11,160 per quintal and Rs 12,000 per quintal for the 2024 season, respectively.
- ✓ The MSP for the 2024 season had been hiked by Rs 300 per quintal for milling copra and Rs 250 per quintal for ball copra over the previous season.
- ✓ The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has given its approval for the MSPs for copra for the 2024 season.
- ✓ The central government had announced in the Union Budget of 2018-19, that MSPs of all the mandated crops will be fixed at a level of at least 1.5 times of all India weighted cost of production.
- ✓ Kerala and Tamil Nadu are the major producers of milling copra, whereas ball copra is produced predominantly in Karnataka.
- ✓ In the last ten years, the government has increased the MSP for milling copra and ball copra from Rs 5,250 per quintal and Rs 5,500 per quintal in 2014-15 to Rs 11,160 per quintal and Rs 12,000 per quintal in 2024-25, recording a rise of 113 percent and 118 percent, respectively.
- ✓ Ball/edible copra is used as a dry fruit and employed for religious purposes, whereas milling copra is used to extract oil.

Q. Reliance Jio Infocomm has joined hands with which IIT to launch 'Bharat GPT'?

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

Answer : D



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- ✓ Reliance Jio Infocomm, India's largest telecom service provider, is working with the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay to launch 'Bharat GPT', a large language model specifically tailor for India's needs.
- ✓ The company is also "comprehensively thinking" to launch an operating system for smart televisions.
- ✓ Ambani said that the next 10 years will be defined by large-language models and generative AI.

IIT IN NEWS 2023

- Reliance Jio Infocomm, India's largest telecom service provider, is working with the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay to launch 'Bharat GPT', a large language model specifically tailor for India's needs.
- IIT Guwahati recently developed an indigenous river model, BRAHMA-2D.
- IIT Kanpur, Indian Navy join forces to drive innovation through research partnership.
- SAMRIDHI conclave, a deeptech startup acceleration drive launched at IIT Ropar.
- The First Australia India Education and Skill Council (AIESC) meeting was held at IIT Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- IIT Kanpur and Airbus to collaborate to boost aerospace talent base in India.
- IIT Kanpur has signed an MoU with private lender ICICI Bank to support the startup ecosystem in the institute.
- IIT Guwahati have developed pharmaceutical and food products from tea factory waste.
- IIT Jodhpur scientists develop 'CODE' device for good air quality.
- IIT Madras-incubated space tech startup GalaxEye Space on 29 August 2023 launched their drone-based synthetic aperture radar (SAR) system, Ahead of their planned satellite launch in 2024.
- IIT Bombay has received a donation of \$18.6 million from an alumnus towards the establishment of a Green Energy and Sustainability Research Hub.
- IIT Guwahati has signed MoU with the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) to build capacity/skills in international affairs and foreign policy.
- IIT Guwahati researchers develop AI-based model for knee X-ray.
- Infosys co-founder Nandan Nilekani donated ₹315 crores to IIT Bombay.
- IIT-Madras generates hydrogen from seawater using solar energy.
- India, Israel to jointly develop Center of Water Technology at IIT Madras.
- IIT Madras researchers partner for development of materials and micro-device processing techniques.



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- IIT Kanpur's C3iHub, a cybersecurity Technology Innovation Hub, has launched a Cybersecurity Skilling Programme .
- IIT Madras to set up its first international campus in Tanzania.
- Indian Institute of Technology Madras will be provided a grant of Rs 242 crore over a period of five years to carry out research on Lab Grown Diamonds (LGD).
- Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay has been ranked 1st in India and 47th globally in engineering and technology by the QS World University Rankings for 2023.
- IIT Indore, in partnership with NASA-Caltech and the University of Gothenburg in Sweden, has designed an inexpensive camera setup.
- Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras) Researchers have developed a three-dimensional (3D) paper-based portable device that can detect adulteration in milk within 30 seconds.
- IIT Kanpur to Host Youth20 Consultation under G20 Presidency of India.
- IIT Bombay's SHUNYA secures second place in 'Solar Decathlon' Build Challenge in US.
- Students of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Indore won an award of AED (Emirates Dirham) 1 million along with a gold medal at the World Government Summit in Dubai.
- IIT Indore Students Awarded with Global Best M-GOV Awards by Egyptian President.
- Startup Incubation and Innovation Centre (SIIC) at IIT Kanpur has entered into a Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) agreement with Advanced Weapons and Equipment India Limited.
- DRDO Industry Academia Centre of Excellence inaugurated at IIT Hyderabad.
- IIT Madras-incubated firm has developed an indigenous mobile operating system called BharOS.
- IIT Madras Centre of Excellence working with DRDO on Advanced Defence Technologies including Combat Vehicle Technologies.
- IIT Madras researchers develop machine learning tool to detect tumour in brain, spinal cord.
- ISRO plans to develop astronaut training module with IIT Madras.
- IIT-Bombay and Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) join hands to develop touchless biometric system.
- IIT delhi has been ranked among the top 50 engineering institutions in the QS World University Rankings by Subject .
- An IIT Madras incubated firm has developed an indigenous mobile operating system 'Bharos' that can benefit India's 100 crore mobile phone users.



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Q. Consider the following statements regarding the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA):

1. It was established following the 1967 Arab-Israeli Six-Day War to carry out direct relief and work programmes for Palestine refugees.

2. It is funded almost entirely by voluntary contributions from UN Member States.

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

- ✓ India recently announced that it has provided US \$ 2.5 million to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East or the UNRWA for the welfare of Palestinian refugees.
- ✓ About United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA):
- ✓ It is a UN agency that supports the relief and human development of Palestinian refugees.
- ✓ Establishment:
- ✓ Following the 1948 Arab-Israeli war, UNRWA was established by United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Resolution 302 (IV) of 8 December, 1949, to carry out direct relief and work programmes for Palestine refugees.
- ✓ Fields of operations: It provides services in its five fields of operations: Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including the East of Jerusalem.
- ✓ It reports only to the UNGA.
- ✓ Headquarters: It was originally headquartered in Beirut, Lebanon, but was moved to Vienna, Austria, in 1978. In 1996, the General Assembly moved the agency to the Gaza Strip to demonstrate the Assembly's commitment to the Arab-Israeli peace process.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Salton Sea, recently seen in the news:

1. It is a shallow, saline lake located in Africa.

2. It is located below sea level and its salinity exceeds that of seawater.

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 : B

- ✓ The U.S. Department of Energy recently discovered the world's largest Lithium reserve beneath California's Salton Sea.
- ✓ About Salton Sea:
- ✓ It is a shallow, saline lake located in the lower Colorado Desert, southern California, USA.
- ✓ It is a geological depression tucked between mountain ranges and lying below sea level.
- ✓ Formation:
- ✓ The area that is now the lake was formerly a salt-covered sink or depression (a remnant of prehistoric Lake Cahuilla) about 280 feet (85 metres) below sea level until 1905–06, when diversion controls on the Colorado River broke a few miles below the California-Mexico border and floodwaters rushed northward, filling the depression.
- ✓ The Salton Sea is an important stopping point for migratory waterfowl and serves as critical habitat for birds moving south to Mexico and Central America

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Maulana Azad National Fellowship:

1. It is a five year fellowship given in the form of financial assistance.

2. The University Grants Commission is the implementing agency of this fellowship.

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

- ✓ Researchers and doctoral students from about 30 universities across the country have written separate letters to the Union Minority Affairs Minister to increase the scholarships under Maulana Azad National Fellowship (MANF).
- ✓ Objective: The objective of the Maulana Azad Fellowship Scheme (MANF) is to provide five year fellowships in the form of financial assistance.
- ✓ It is given to students from six notified minority communities viz. Buddhist, Christian, Jain, Muslim, Parsi and Sikh, notified by the Central Government, to pursue M. Phil and Ph.D.
- ✓ This will enable them to be eligible for employment to the posts with M.Phil and Ph.D as pre-requisites, including the posts of Assistant Professors in various academic institutions.



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- ✓ Recently, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said it is not mandatory for banks and Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) to raise green deposits.
- ✓ In general terms, a green deposit is a fixed-term deposit for those who want to invest in environmentally friendly projects.
- ✓ Just like a regular Fixed Deposit scheme, the green deposit pays interest to its investors and has a fixed term.
- ✓ The proceeds that a bank gets from deposit holders get earmarked for allocation to green finance.
- ✓ A green fixed deposit, also known as an environmentally friendly fixed deposit, is a financial instrument that encourages sustainable development by channelling funds towards projects focused on renewable energy, clean technology, or other environmentally beneficial initiatives.
- ✓ The green activities/projects financed under the framework can be classified under priority sector if they meet the requirements laid down in Priority Sector Lending (PSL) guidelines of RBI.
- ✓ The current framework permits green deposits to be denominated in Indian Rupees only.
- ✓ The deposits raised under the framework are covered by Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC) in accordance with the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation Act, 1961 and the regulations framed there under, as amended from time to time.
- ✓ On maturity, the green deposits would be renewed or withdrawn at the option of the depositor.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Warli Painting:

1. It is a tribal art from the North Sahyadri Range in Maharashtra.

2. One of the central aspects depicted in this painting is the tarpa dance.

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 exhibition by the Inherited Arts Forum, traces the artistic journey of the celebrated Mashe family and their effort in reviving the Warli painting.
- ✓ It is a style of tribal art created by the tribal people from the North Sahyadri Range in Maharashtra.
- ✓ This art form can be traced back to 10th century AD but was first discovered and appreciated for its distinctive style only in the early 1970s.



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- ✓ It was traditionally practised by women of the Warli tribe called Suvasinis, who decorated the Lagn Chowk or the wedding square.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the National Transit Pass System:

- 1. It facilitates the seamless transit of timber, bamboo and other forest produce across the country.**
- 2. It allows users to self-generate No Objection Certificates for exempted tree species.**

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer : C

- ✓ Recently, the Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change launched the National Transit Pass System (NTPS) pan-India.
- ✓ It is to facilitate the seamless transit of timber, bamboo, and other forest produce across the country.
- ✓ Currently, the transit permits are issued for transport of timber and forest produce based on state specific transit rules.
- ✓ The NTPS is envisioned as a "One Nation-One Pass" regime, which will enable seamless transit across the country.
- ✓ Currently, the transit permits are issued for transport of timber and forest produce based on state specific transit rules.
- ✓ The NTPS is envisioned as a "One Nation-One Pass" regime, which will enable seamless transit across the country.
- ✓ This initiative will streamline the issuance of timber transit permits by providing a unified, online mode for tree growers and farmers involved in agroforestry across the country, contributing to the ease of doing business.
- ✓ The QR coded transit permits generated under NTPS will allow check gates across various states to verify the validity of the permits and allow seamless transit.
- ✓ Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change



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Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Mumbai Trans Harbour Link (MTHL) Project:

1. It connects Mumbai with Navi Mumbai.

2. It is being financed by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A) 1 only

B) 2 only

C) Both 1 and 2

D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer : C

- ✓ The Mumbai Trans Harbour Link (MTHL) project, which is expected to be inaugurated early next year, has seen a cost escalation of Rs 2,192 crore or 14.9 per cent, according to information obtained through a Right to Information (RTI) query recently.
- ✓ About Mumbai Trans Harbour Link (MTHL) Project:
- ✓ MTHL is a 21.8-kilometer, Road Bridge connecting the Indian city of Mumbai with Navi Mumbai, its satellite city.
- ✓ It is the longest sea bridge in India. The total length of MTHL Bridge is 21.8 km, of the length on the sea is 16.50 km and the land portion is 5.5 km.
- ✓ The bridge begins in Sewri, South Mumbai, and crosses Thane Creek north of Elephant Island, and will terminate at Chirle village, near Nhava Sheva.
- ✓ The foundation stone for the MTHL project was laid in December 2016.
- ✓ 85% of the MTHL project's construction is being financed by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).
- ✓ The Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA) manages the MTHL construction.
- ✓ Project Benefits:
- ✓ The MTHL Bridge gives faster connectivity with the proposed Navi Mumbai International Airport, JNPT Port, Mumbai-Pune Expressway, and Mumbai-Goa Highway.
- ✓ This concrete bridge will feature a 4 km steel span section in the middle to allow for ships to pass underneath.
- ✓ It also incorporates seven orthotropic steel deck (OSD) spans, ranging from 90m to 180m, a first-of-its-kind application in India.
- ✓ MTHL will feature an intelligence transport system (ITS) and the other amenities required for a marine bridge.



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Q. The Union Cabinet has approved the proposal to open a Consulate General of India in which city of New Zealand?

- A) Auckland
B) Greymouth
C) Hamilton
D) Wellington

Answer : A

- ✓ The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi has approved the proposal to open a Consulate General of India in Auckland, New Zealand.
- ✓ Opening of Consulate General of India in Auckland would help in increasing India's diplomatic footprint and strengthen India's diplomatic representation in view of India's increasing global engagement.
- ✓ This will also help promote India's strategic and commercial interests and better serve the welfare of the Indian community in Auckland.
- ✓ The Consulate is likely to be opened and fully operationalized within a time frame of 12 months.
- ✓ New Zealand
- ✓ Capital : Wellington
- ✓ Currency : Dollar
- ✓ Prime Minister : Christopher Luxon

Q. India has signed an MoU with which country for cooperation in the field of broadcasting, exchange of news, and audio-visual programmes?

- A) Indian
B) Malaysia
C) Japan
D) Russia

Answer : B

- ✓ The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister, Narendra Modi has approved the MoU/Agreement to strengthen the cooperation in the field of broadcasting, exchange of news, and audio-visual programmes as well as significantly augment India's friendly relations with Malaysia.
- ✓ With this, the total number of MoUs signed by Prasar Bharati with different countries has increased to 46.
- ✓ Prasar Bharati plays a very important role in nation-building and lays continuous focus on providing meaningful and accurate content to one and all, both within the country and abroad.
- ✓ The major benefit arising out of signing of MoUs are exchange of programmes in the areas of Culture, Education, Science, Technology, Sports, News and other fields on gratis/non-gratis basis



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Q. Which state government has established an autonomous board to recruit efficient and skilled candidates for Public Sector Units (PSUs) through a transparent selection process?

- A) Madhya Pradesh B) Kerala
C) Uttar Pradesh D) Odisha

Answer : B

- ✓ Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan has inaugurated an autonomous board established by the state government to recruit efficient and skilled candidates for Public Sector Units (PSUs) through a transparent selection process.
- ✓ The board aims to enhance the efficiency of public sector institutions in the state, he said during the inauguration of the Kerala Public Enterprises (Selection and Recruitment) Board, and its office at Vellayambalam.
- ✓ The recruitment of public sector undertakings under the Department of Industries and Commerce will be under the board's purview in the first phase.
- ✓ Initial tasks include selection for various posts in 20 public institutions and appointing managing directors in 22 public sector institutions.

Q. What is the name of the first Hindu woman for elections in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Buner district in the General Elections in Pakistan?

- A) Suman Kumari
B) Seema Ghulam
C) Saveera Parkash
D) Ayesha Naseem

Answer : C

- ✓ Pakistan People's Party nominates Dr Saveera Parkash, to contest from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Buner district in the General Elections.
- ✓ The decision comes following the Pakistan Electoral Commission's mandate of having at least 5% women candidates on general seats.
- ✓ Parkash, a member of the PPP women's wing, will run for the PK-25 seat in the February 8 elections.
- ✓ Her father, Oam Parkash is a retired doctor and has been an active member of the PPP for over three decades.
- ✓ Saveera was also serving as the PPP women's wing General Secretary in Buner



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Q. Who has been roped in as event ambassador for the 19th edition of the Tata Mumbai Marathon?

- A) Aum Shinrikyo B) Katie Moon
C) Yoko Kamikawa D) Ayuko Kato

Answer : B

- ✓ Two-time pole vault world champion and Tokyo Olympics gold medallist Katie Moon has been roped in as event ambassador for the 19th edition of the Tata Mumbai Marathon.
- ✓ Promoted by Procam International, the Mumbai Marathon is a World Athletics Gold Label Race.
- ✓ Moon had clinched gold medal at the 2022 Eugene and 2023 Budapest World Athletics Championships.
- ✓ Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) will spend as much as \$320 million on marathon sponsorships for the next eight years.

Q. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has appointed Sigrid Kaag as the senior humanitarian and reconstruction coordinator for Gaza. She is from which country?

- A) South Africa B) Ethiopia
C) Netherland D) Argentina

Answer : C

- ✓ UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has appointed Sigrid Kaag of the Netherlands as the senior humanitarian and reconstruction coordinator for Gaza.
- ✓ In this role, she will facilitate, coordinate, monitor, and verify humanitarian relief consignments to Gaza.
- ✓ She will also establish a United Nations mechanism to accelerate humanitarian relief consignments to Gaza through States which are not party to the conflict.
- ✓ In executing these functions, she will be supported by the UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS). Ms. Kaag is expected to begin her assignment on 8 January 2024

Q. Who has joined the Indian Street Premier League (ISPL) as the owner of team Chennai?

- A) Suriya B) Vijay Sethupathi
C) Dhanush D) Rajinikanth

Answer : A

- ✓ National Award winner Suriya has joined the Indian Street Premier League (ISPL) as the owner of team Chennai.



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Q. President Droupadi Murmu will be the Chief Guest at the celebration of the Karbi Youth Festival in which state on 17 January 2024?

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

Answer : B

- ✓ President Droupadi Murmu will be the Chief Guest at the celebration of the Karbi Youth Festival on 17 January 2024.
- ✓ The festival will be held at Taralangso, Diphu.
- ✓ The celebration, from January 12-19, will feature traditional art, folk dance, music, and indigenous tribal foods.
- ✓ Other dignitaries attending include Assam Governor Gulab Chand, Meghalaya Governor Phagu Chauhan, and Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma.

Q. Reserve Bank of India has accorded approval to ICICI Prudential Asset Management Company Ltd (ICICI AMC) for acquiring up to how much percent stake in Federal, RBL Bank?

- A) 8.95%
B) 9.95%
C) 7.95%
D) 5.95%

Answer : B

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India has accorded approval to ICICI Prudential Asset Management Company Ltd (ICICI AMC) for acquiring up to 9.95 percent stake in the bank.
- ✓ The approval granted by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is subject to compliance with the relevant provisions of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, RBI's Master Direction and Guidelines on Acquisition and Holding of Shares or Voting Rights in Banking Companies dated January 16, 2023.
- ✓ Meanwhile, RBI also accorded approval to ICICI AMC to acquire a 9.95 percent stake in RBL Bank and Equitas Small Finance Bank.

Q. Which company has signed an MoU with Adani Total Gas Ltd (ATGL) for supply chain decarbonization?

- A) Snapdeal
B) Amazon
C) Meesho
D) Flipkart

Answer : D



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- ✓ Adani Total Gas Ltd (ATGL) and Flipkart have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding to collaborate on decarbonizing Flipkart's supply chain.
- ✓ The initiative aims to reduce Flipkart's carbon footprint in the primary, secondary, and tertiary movements of goods across sourcing locations, warehouses, and customer deliveries.
- ✓ Under the MoU, ATGL will provide decarbonizing solutions, supporting Flipkart's transition to cleaner fuel options, including natural gas, and the integration of electric vehicles (EVs).
- ✓ Adani Total Energies E-Mobility Ltd (ATEL), a subsidiary of ATGL, will deploy EV charging infrastructure at Flipkart's pan-India supply chain, encompassing warehouses and logistics locations.
- ✓ This partnership is expected to contribute to the decarbonization of the e-commerce logistics segment in India, which handles over 8 million shipments per day

Q. ISRO has launched FEAST software and book to guide faculty and students. What is the meaning of 'E' in 'FLEAT'?

A) Entire

B) Element

C) Exam

D) Effective

Answer : B

- ✓ The Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) of the Indian space agency ISRO, has developed an analysis software that is used to perform Finite Element Analysis (FEA) of various types of structures including rockets, aircraft, satellites, buildings, etc.
- ✓ FEA is a computerised method for predicting how a component or a structure reacts to real-world forces—like various types of structural loads, thermal conditions and other physical effects that a structure experiences while in operation.
- ✓ During the design and development phase of a product, FEA is carried out to evaluate how well and safely the structure/component can withstand the various loads, and perform its intended function without any failure.
- ✓ With their latest offering—an FEA software known as FEAST (Finite Element Analysis of Structures)—Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) hopes to take this indigenous and customisable FEA software to the Indian user base.
- ✓ FEAST is available in three versions, based on the sophisticating levels and requirements of a broad category of users — academic (for students and educational institutions), premium (for small and medium scale industries) and professional (for general large-scale applications).



Q. Which country has conducted a successful flight test of the indigenously developed guided multi-launch rocket system 'Fatah-II', which is capable of engaging targets with high precision up to a range of 400 kilometers?

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

Answer : A

- ✓ Pakistan has conducted a successful flight test of indigenously developed guided multi-launch rocket system 'Fatah-II', which is capable of engaging targets with high precision up to a range of 400 kilometres.
- ✓ The 'Fatah-II' is "equipped with state-of-the-art avionics, sophisticated navigation system and unique flight trajectory," the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the media wing of the military.
- ✓ The weapon system is capable of engaging targets with high precision up to a range of 400 kilometres.

Q. With reference to Sukanya Samridhi Yojana (SSY), consider the following statements:

- 1. It is a small-deposit scheme tailored specifically for the girl child.**
- 2. NRIs are not eligible to open these accounts.**
- 3. There is no maximum limit for a family to open SSY scheme accounts.**

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer : B

- ✓ The Government recently raised the interest rates on the Sukanya Samridhi Yojana (SSY) scheme by 20 basis points to 8.2 percent from the existing 8 percent.
- ✓ About Sukanya Samridhi Yojana:
- ✓ SSY is a savings scheme launched in 2015 under the Government of India's " Beti Bachao Beti Padhao" campaign, which aimed to promote the education of girl children.
- ✓ SSY is a small-deposit scheme tailored specifically for the girl child.
- ✓ This scheme enables guardians to open a savings account for their girl child with an authorised commercial bank or India Post branch.
- ✓ Eligibility:
- ✓ The girl must be an Indian resident.



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- ✓ The account can be initiated by the parent or legal guardian of the girl child.
- ✓ The girl child must be below the age of 10 at the time of opening the account.
- ✓ Only one SSY account is allowed per girl child.
- ✓ A family is limited to opening a maximum of two SSY scheme accounts.
- ✓ NRIs are not eligible to open these accounts.
- ✓ The girl must operate the account once she attains the age of 18 years.
- ✓ Features:
- ✓ The minimum and maximum deposits that can be made in an account in a financial year are Rs.250 and Rs.1.5 lakh, respectively. The deposits can be made in multiples of 100.
- ✓ Deposits towards the scheme should be made for a period of 15 years. However, the scheme matures after 21 years.
- ✓ No interest will be payable once the account completes twenty-one years from the date of opening.
- ✓ Partial Withdrawal:
- ✓ Withdrawal up to a maximum of 50% of the amount in the account at the end of the financial year preceding the year of application for withdrawal shall be allowed for the purpose of education of the account holder.
- ✓ Such withdrawal shall be allowed only after the account holder has attained the age of 18 years or has passed the 10th standard, whichever is earlier.
- ✓ Tax benefits: To encourage investments in SSY, the scheme offers the following tax benefits:
- ✓ Section 80C Deductions: Investments made in the SSY scheme can be deducted under Section 80C of the Income Tax Act up to a maximum cap of Rs. 1.5 lakh.
- ✓ Tax-Exempt Interest: The interest that accrues on the Sukanya Samridhi Yojana account, compounded annually, is exempt from tax under Section 10 of the Income Tax Act.
- ✓ Tax-Free Proceeds: The proceeds received upon maturity or withdrawal from the SSY account is also exempt from income tax.



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129.8 KB APARCHIT'S GA DISCUS
👏👏 MY PAID GROUP
STUDENT GOT SELECTION IN
IBPS RRB CLERK
GOOD LUCK FOR YOUR FUTURE
JOURNEY FEELING PROUD (🔥)
NAME - PRIYADARSHINI
KALIYAMOORTHY
ROLL NO - 2120036944
SELECTED IN - RRB PO
SAPTHA GIRI GRAMEEN BANK
STATE - TAMILNADU



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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