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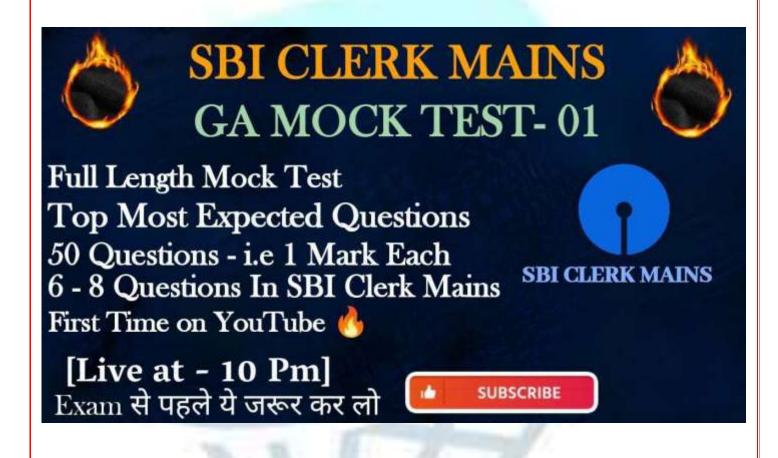
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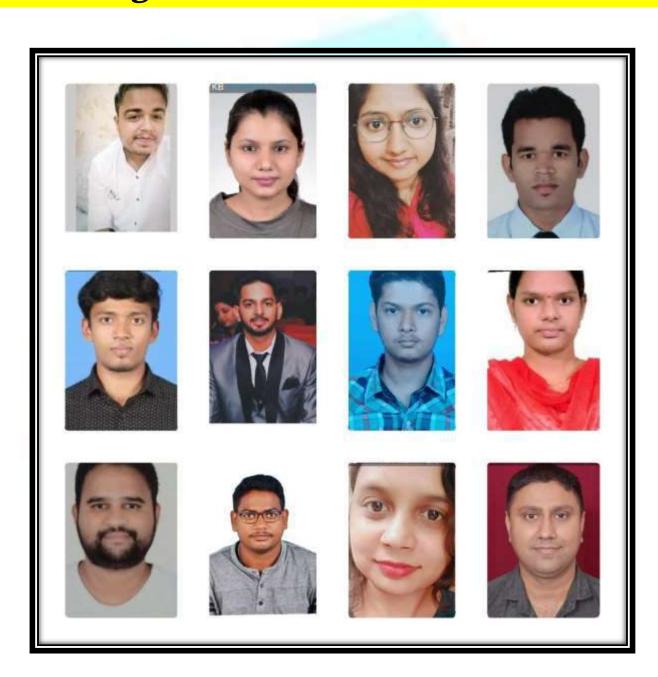


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Aparchit February 1st Week English Best 350+ MCQs with Amazing Facts By:- Aparchit Exam Warriors/Kumar Kaushal Sir

Q. Which company has been certified as a Top Employer in India by the Top Employers Institute?

A) REC Limited

B) NTPC Limited

C) ReNew Power

D) Adani Enterprises

Answer: B

- ✓ NTPC Limited gets certified as a Top Employer 2024 in India
- ✓ The 2024 Top Employers of the Top Employers Institute have been announced and NTPC Limited has been certified as a Top Employer in India by the institute.
- ✓ NTPC completed the following steps in order to qualify for the certification: HR Best Practice Survey, Validation and Audit.
- ✓ NTPC's performance score was rated against an international standard and NTPC has achieved Top Employer status.

NTPC IN NEWS 2023-24

- NTPC Limited gets certified as a Top Employer 2024 in India.
- ➤ NTPC Kanti has received the 11th edition of the FICCI Water Award 2023 under the "Industrial Water Use Efficiency" category.
- NTPC shines as the only Indian PSU to feature in Forbes "World's Best Employers 2023" List.
- The central government has received about Rs 1,487 crore from NTPC as a dividend tranche.
- ➤ NTPC has been honoured with the prestigious Economic Times (ET) HR World Future Skills Awards 2023.
- NTPC climbs up 52 positions to 433rd rank in Forbes' "The Global 2000" List.
- NTPC Kanti launches Girl Child Empowerment Mission (GeM)-2023.
- > NTPC Group's total installed capacity reaches 72,304 MW with first overseas capacity addition in Bangladesh.
- ➤ Country's largest power generation company NTPC Limited has been conferred with 'ATD Best Awards 2023' by Association for Talent Development (ATD), USA.
- ➤ NTPC and Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) sign agreement for joint development of nuclear power plants.

- ➤ India's largest power company NTPC Ltd has commissioned India's first green hydrogen blending project at Kawas, Gujarat.
- ➤ About NTPC
- ➤ The NTPC which was earlier known as National Thermal Power Corporation of India is owned by the Government of India. It was set up in 1975.
- ➤ The Vindhyachal Thermal Power Station in the Singrauli district of Madhya Pradesh, with an installed capacity of 4,760MW, is currently the biggest thermal power plant in India.
- ➤ Headquarters: New Delhi
- Chairman and Managing Director: Gurdeep Singh
- Q. The tableau of which state has won the first prize in the Republic Day parade 2024?

A) Uttarakhand

B) Karnataka

C) Assam

D) Odisha

Answer: D

- ✓ Odisha was awarded the Best Tableau Award during the 75th Republic Day Parade 2024.
- ✓ Odisha has received the first prize among the tableaux displayed by various states and union territories.
- ✓ On this occasion, Odisha had showcased women's empowerment as well as the rich handicrafts and handloom sector of the state in its tableau.
- ✓ Gujarat's tableau showcasing Dhordo tourist village, has won the first position in the popular choice category.
- ✓ During the traditional parade, various tableaux of the Ministry of Culture on the theme 'Mother of Democracy' got the first prize.
- ✓ The Home Ministry's tableau, depicting vibrant villages, has received the second prize.
- ✓ Awards in Judges' Choice Category:
- ✓ Odisha's tableau stood first in the judges' choice category at the 75th Republic Day celebrations whereas, Gujarat stood second and Tamil Nadu stood third.
- ✓ Awards in Popular Choice Category:
- ✓ Gujarat's Jhanki won the top position in the popular choice category. In the people's choice category, Uttar Pradesh got second place and Andhra Pradesh got third place.

- Q. SARVATRA a multispan mobile bridging system designed and developed by which entity?
 - A) Advanced Systems Laboratory
 - B) Aeronautical Development Establishment
 - C) Centre For Air Borne System
 - D) Armament and Combat Engineering Systems

Answer: D

- ✓ SARVATRA, a Multispan Mobile Bridging System designed and developed by Armament and Combat Engineering Systems (ACE) of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) under the Ministry of Defence.
- ✓ SARVATRA assists the Army in constructing bridges over flowing water, ensuring robust connectivity between two areas during natural disasters.
- ✓ About SARVATRA
- ✓ The truck-mounted bridge is composed of five aluminum alloy scissor bridges that are mounted on a separate moving platform.
- ✓ Each scissor bridge spans approximately 15 metres and together, they can tackle bridge-related obstacles up to a distance of 75 metres.
- ✓ The bridges can be launched and recovered from both ends and their height can be adjusted from 2.5 meters to 6 metres with the help of telescopic legs.
- ✓ The adjustable legs of SARVATRA help in reducing the visibility of the bridge.

DRDO IN NEWS 2023

- ➤ Defence Ministry has cleared the proposal of buying a regiment of Pralay tactical ballistic missiles for the Indian Army which can strike targets at 150–500 km.
- > DRDO organises 'Anusandhaan Chintan Shivir' to encourage Defence R&D.
- Larsen & Toubro (L&T) and the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) have formed a partnership to create an Indigenous Air Independent Propulsion (AIP) System for the submarines in the Indian Navy.
- ➤ DRDO Industry Academia Centre of Excellence inaugurated at IIT Hyderabad.

- Indian Navy and Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) collaborated to conduct the first successful test trial of a locally-made Air Droppable Container called 'ADC-150' from the IL 38SD aircraft off the coast of Goa.
- ➤ Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) celebrated its 66th foundation day on 1st January 2024.
- ➤ Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)

Founded: 1 January 1958Headquarters: New Delhi

Motto: "Strength's Origin is in Knowledge"

Chairman : Sameer V Kamat

- Q. Singchung Bugun Village Community Reserve, recently seen in the news, is located in which state?
 - A) Arunachal Pradesh

B) Andhra Pradesh

C) Uttar Pradesh

D) Odisha

Answer: A

- ✓ Arunachal Pradesh presented its Singchung Bugun Village Community Reserve during the Republic Day parade.
- ✓ The Singchung Bugun Village Community Reserve is a 17 square kilometer biodiversity hotspot of Arunachal Pradesh.
- ✓ A tableau highlighting the Bugun Community Reserve, a community led conservation initiative in West Kameng district will be showcased at the 75th Republic Day Parade in New Delhi
- ✓ About Singchung Bugun Village Community Reserve
- ✓ The reserve was established in 2017 to preserve the biodiversity of the region.
- ✓ It provides a habitat for several critically endangered species, including the Bugun Liocichla (Liocichlabugunorum) passerine bird, which is named after the local tribe.
- ✓ Bugun Liocichla
- ✓ The species of bird in question is one of the first to have been discovered in India after its independence in 1947.
- ✓ Bugun Tribe

✓ The Khowa tribe, also known as the Bugun people in their native language, is one of India's smallest tribal communities

ARUNACHAL PRADESH IN NEWS 2023-24

- Arunachal Pradesh presented its Singchung Bugun Village Community Reserve during the Republic Day parade.
- ➤ 9th edition of the Pakke Paga Hornbill Festival (PPHF), a state festival of Arunachal Pradesh, will take place at Seijosa in the Pakke Kessang district from January 18-20, 2024.
- ➤ 'Shar Amartala Torgya' Festival is an annual festival celebrated in the state of Arunachal Pradesh.
- ➤ Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Shri Nitin Gadkari in a post said in Arunachal Pradesh under the Setu Bandhan Scheme approval has been granted for 7 bridge projects with a cumulative cost of ₹118.50 Crores, in the fiscal year 2023-24.
- Yak Churpi' of Arunachal Pradesh, a naturally fermented dairy product crafted from the milk of yaks, has earned the prestigious Geographical Indication (GI) status.
- > FSSAI has recently recognized the Mithun as a 'food animal,' opening doors for its commercial use found in Arunachal Pradesh.
- Tenzing Yangki has become the first female IPS officer of Arunachal Pradesh.
- Chachin Grazing Festival celebrated in Arunachal Pradesh.
- The Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh launched an app named 'Arunpol App' of Arunachal Pradesh Police.
- Q. At which place is North India's first human DNA bank being established?
 - A) Jawaharlal Nehru University
- B) Indian Institute of Science
- C) Jamia Millia Islamia
- D) Banaras Hindu University

Answer: D

- ✓ North India's first human DNA bank is being set up at Banaras Hindu University (BHU).
- ✓ The Automated DNA Extractor Machine has been installed in the Gnyaneshwar Lab of the Zoology Department of BHU on January 30 2024.

Q. The Government of India has appointed four members in the 16th Finance Commission, whose tenure will be for how many years?

A) 3

B) 4

C) 5

D) 6

Answer: C

- ✓ The Government of India has appointed four members to the 16th Finance Commission, which will have a tenure of five years.
- ✓ Four members are:
- ✓ A.N. Jha, former expenditure secretary and member of the 15th Finance Commission
- ✓ Annie George Mathew, special secretary of the department of expenditure
- ✓ The State Bank of India's Soumya Kanti Ghosh, group chief economic advisor
- ✓ Niranjan Rajadhyaksha, Executive Director of Artha Global.
- ✓ The Sixteenth Finance Commission is headed by Arvind Panagariya, who was earlier vice chairperson of NITI Aayog.
- ✓ The commission will define the distribution of the Centre's tax revenue to states for the next five years, starting in FY2027.
- ✓ The Finance Commission's report must be submitted by October 31, 2025 and cover a five-year period from April 1, 2026.
- ✓ The Finance Commission is constitutionally required to be constituted every five years or earlier. It usually takes the commission about two years to create their recommendations, according to Article 280(1) of the Constitution.
- ✓ K.C. Neogy was Chairman of the First Finance Commission.
- Q. Azali Assoumani has been re-elected as President of which country?

A) Namibia

B) Mangolia

C) Comoros

D) Ghana

Answer: C

- ✓ Comoros Supreme Court validated the contested re-election of President Azali Assoumani in the elections.
- ✓ The court affirmed Azali's victory and secured 57.2% of the vote, a figure adjusted from the initially declared 62.97%.

- ✓ He became head of state after staging a coup d'etat in 1999 and was elected president in 2002, 2016, 2019 and 2024.
- ✓ Notably, Assoumani is also the Chairperson of the African Union. African Union is a union consisting of 55 member states in Africa. The move to include the African Union in the G20 grouping was proposed by PM Modi last June.
- ✓ Comoros

✓ Capital : Moroni

✓ Currency : Comorian Franc✓ President : Azali Assoumani

✓ Continent : Africa

NEWLY PRESIDENT IN NEWS 2023-24

Azali Assoumani : Comoros

Bernardo Arevalo : Guatemala

William Lai : Taiwan

➤ Abdel Fatah al-Sisi : Egypt

Daniel Noboa: Ecuador

Mohammed Muizzu: Maldives

> Bharatvanshi Tharman Shanmugaratnam : Singapore

> Emmerson Mnangagwa : Zimbabwe

> Edgars Rinkevics : Latvian

Tayyip Erdogan : Turkey

Bola Tinubu : Nigeria

Mohammed Shahabuddin Chuppu: Bangladesh

Ram Chandra Paudel: NepalXi Jinping: China (third term)

Vo Van Thuong : Vietnam

- Q. Who has won the U.S.-based National Boxing Association's intercontinental super featherweight title after defeating American Gerardo Esquivel at Toppenish City, Washington?
 - A) Amit Panghal

B) Mandeep Jangra

C) Kavita Chahal

D) Vijender Singh

Answer: B

- ✓ Indian boxer Mandeep Jangra has won the U.S.-based National Boxing Association's intercontinental super featherweight title after defeating American Gerardo Esquivel at Toppenish City, Washington.
- ✓ Undefeated in his professional career so far the 30-year-old, who trains under former Olympic silver-medallist Roy Jones Jr, dropped down from his previous 75kg weight class to compete for this title.
- ✓ Before the win against Esquivel, Jangra, who made his professional boxing debut in 2021, registered knockout wins in four out of his six fights.
- ✓ Jangra had a decent run in the amateur circuit as well and won a Commonwealth Games silver medal in the 2014 Glasgow edition.
- Q. Two-time Asian Games medallist Naorem Roshibina Devi has been named International Wushu Federation's (IWUF) Female Athlete of the Year. She is from which state?
 - A) Assam
 - B) Odisha
 - C) Manipur
 - D) Nagaland

Answer: C

- ✓ Two-time Asian Games medallist Naorem Roshibina Devi (Manipur) has been named International Wushu Federation's (IWUF) female athlete of the year in the sanda category after a month-long public voting.
- ✓ The 23-year-old Roshibina, who won a bronze and a silver in the 2018 and 2022 Asian Games respectively, polled 93545 votes to beat Shahrbano Mansouriyan Semiromi (88179) of Iran and Wu Xiaowei (46753) of China.
- ✓ The Manipuri also won a bronze medal in the 2016 World Junior Wushu Championships. She was conferred with the Arjuna Award this year.
- ✓ Roshibina had lost to Xiaowei in the women's 60kg Wushu sanda event final at the Hangzhou Asian Games last year.

Q. Sukhbir Singh Gill passed away recently at the age of 48. He was related to which sport?

A) Football

B) Hockey

C) Tennis

D) Badminton

Answer: B

- ✓ Chandigarh's first hockey Olympian, Sukhbir Singh Gill passed away at the age of 48.
- ✓ Sukhbir Singh Gill, who represented the Indian men's hockey team at the Sydney 2000 Olympics and the 2002 Hockey World Cup in Kuala Lumpur.
- ✓ He also helped the Indian team to a gold medal finish at the 2001 Men's Hockey Champions Challenge in Malaysia.
- Q. Which company has signed a deal with UAE's ADNOC Gas to buy 0.5 million tonnes of liquefied natural gas (LNG) annually for 10 years?

A) Reliance Petroleum

B) Bharat Petroleum

C) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation

D) Gas Authority of India Limited

Answer: D

- ✓ GAIL Ltd. has concluded a long-term deal to purchase LNG from the UAE's ADNOC Gas for 10 years.
- ✓ About the Deal
- ✓ GAIL has announced that it has signed an LNG deal with Vitol Asia for the supply of approximately 1 million metric tons of LNG per year into India.
- ✓ This deal will be for a period of 10 years, starting in 2026. As part of this agreement, GAIL will also receive deliveries from ADNOC, starting from 2026 for a period of 10 years across India.
- ✓ About GAIL
- ✓ GAIL (India) Ltd. was established in August 1984 as a Central Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) under the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas (MoP&NG).
- ✓ Its purpose is to promote efficient and cost-effective use of natural gas and its byproducts for the nation's benefit.
- ✓ The government of India currently holds 51.45% of the shares of the company. In 1997, GAIL was awarded Navratna status and is now one of the ten Maharatna Public Sector Undertakings, the highest status conferred to any PSU.

Q. Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) extended the ban against the Students Islamic Movement of India (SIMI) for how many years?

A) 2 years

B) 3 years

C) 4 years

D) 5 years

Answer: D

- ✓ The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) extended the ban against the Students Islamic Movement of India (SIMI) for another five years.
- ✓ The organisation was declared an "unlawful association," under the anti-terror law Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) for the first time in 2001.
- ✓ SIMI has been found involved in fomenting terrorism, disturbing peace and communal harmony to threaten the sovereignty, security and integrity of Bharat
- Q. Which ride-hailing company launched e-bike services in Delhi and Hyderabad?

A) Bolt

B) Rapido

C) Uber

D) Ola

Answer: D

- ✓ Ride-hailing platform Ola has launched e-bike services in Delhi and Hyderabad.
- ✓ Ola e-bike fares start from ₹25 for 5 km, ₹50 for 10 km and ₹75 for 15 km.
- ✓ The company will deploy 10,000 electric scooters in both cities in the coming months.
- ✓ Ola launched its e-bike taxi service in Bangalore on a pilot basis in September 2023. Within 3 months, the company saw a 40% market expansion, with over 1.75 million rides.
- ✓ Ola has set up 200 charging stations in Bangalore.
- Q. International Monetary Fund (IMF) has increased its GDP growth estimate for India to what per cent from 6.3% in FY 24?

A) 6.5%

B) 6.6%

C) 6.7%

D) 6.8%

Answer: C

✓ International Monetary Fund (IMF) has increased its GDP growth estimate for India to 6.7 per cent for the current financial year.

- ✓ It is 40 basis points higher than its previous forecast of 6.3 per cent.
- ✓ In its latest World Economic Outlook report, IMF also raised India's upward medium-term GDP growth to 6.5 per cent for 2025 and 2026.
- ✓ International Monetary Fund (IMF)
- ✓ Founded: 1945
- ✓ Headquarters: Washington, D.C.
- ✓ Managing Director : Kristalina Georgieva (Bulgaria)
- ✓ First Deputy MD : Gita Gopinath
- ✓ Chief Economist : Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas (France)
- ✓ Executive Director for India at IMF : Krishnamurthy Subramaniam
- ✓ Member countries : 190 (Andorra)
- ✓ IMF Released Report
- ✓ Global Financial Stability Report
- ✓ World Economic Outlook.
- ✓ The value of Special Drawing Right (SDR) is determined by the basket of 5 currencies.
- ✓ The currencies are, US Dollar, Japanese Yen, British Pound, Chinese Yuan and Euro.
- ✓ Special Drawing Right is known as the Paper Gold. The value of the SDR is based on a basket of key international currencies reviewed by IMF every five years. SDR was introduced in the 1969 by the IMF to solve the problem of International liquidity
- Q. Which department has released the report titled "The Indian Economy: A Review" in January 2024?
 - A) Department of Financial Services
- B) Department of Economic Affairs
- C) Department of Revenue
- D) Department of Expenditure

Answer: B

- ✓ Financial Year 2024 marks the third successive year of over 7 percent growth of the Indian economy even as the global economy struggles to grow at more than 3 percent.
- ✓ According to the Indian Economy Review released by the Department of Economic Affairs, India's unwavering commitment to ensuring steady economic growth is generating resources for investment needed for climate change adaptation, building resilience, and mitigating emissions.

- ✓ Marking a significant improvement in women-led development, the report noted that under PM Jan Dhan Yojana, the proportion of women having a bank account has increased from 53 percent in 2015-16 to 78.6 percent in 2019-21.
- ✓ Female Labour Force Participation rose from 23.3 percent in 2017-18 to 37 per cent in 2022-23.
- ✓ Highlighting the enhancement in the education levels of women, the review said that the female gross enrolment ratio in senior secondary education rose from 24.5 percent in 2005 to 58.2 percent in 2022.
- ✓ Delineating the pivotal role of India's robust Digital Public Infrastructure, the report noted that the transformation in the authentication ecosystem has reduced the cost of conducting e-KYC from a thousand rupees to five rupees. It said that India is the third-largest fintech economy in the world after the United States of America and the United Kingdom.
- ✓ India became the world's fourth-largest stock market in the world by market capitalisation due to the significant interest from domestic and global investors in the Indian stock market
- Q. Which airport has recently been given the status of International Airport by the Government of India?
 - A) Dibrugarh Airport
 - B) Birsa Munda Airport
 - C) Surat Airport
 - D) Jorhat Airport

Answer: C

- ✓ Government of India has officially given the status of 'International Airport' to Surat Airport in Gujarat.
- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi had inaugurated a new terminal at Surat airport built at a cost of ₹353 crore.
- ✓ Management of Airports in India:
- ✓ Airports in the country are managed by the Airports Authority of India (AAI). The Ministry of Civil Aviation is responsible for creating, upgrading, maintaining and managing civil aviation infrastructure in the country.
- ✓ According to the AAI website, there are 487 airports/airstrips in India. Of these, AAI manages a total of 137 airports.
- ✓ These 137 airports include 29 international airports, 10 customs airports and 103 domestic airports

AIRPORT IN NEWS 2023-24

- > Government of India has officially given the status of 'International Airport' to Surat Airport in Gujarat.
- 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. RBI has recently announced to impose new restrictions on which payment bank?

A) Airtel Payment Bank

B) Paytm Payment Bank

C) Fino Payment Bank

D) Jio Payment Bank

Answer: B

- ✓ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) recently imposed restrictions on Paytm Payments Bank Ltd (PPBL), following a system audit report and subsequent compliance validation report of external auditors.
- ✓ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has directed Paytm Payments Bank to cease all deposits and credit transactions after February 29, 2024.

- ✓ This action stems from persistent non-compliances and ongoing supervisory concerns within the bank, raising questions about the impact on its customers.
- ✓ In exercise of its powers under section 35A of the Banking Regulation Act, RBI has directed that no further deposits and credit transactions or top-ups shall be allowed in any customer accounts, prepaid instruments, wallets, and FASTags after the 29th of February, other than any interest, cashbacks, or refunds which may be credited anytime
- ✓ About Payments Bank:
- ✓ A payments bank is like any other bank but operates on a smaller scale without involving any credit risk.
- ✓ It was set up based on the recommendations of the Nachiket Mor Committee.
- ✓ Objective: To advance financial inclusion by offering banking and financial services to the unbanked and underbanked areas, helping the migrant labour force, low-income households, small entrepreneurs, etc.
- ✓ It is registered as a public limited company under the Companies Act 2013 and licensed under Section 22 of the Banking Regulation Act 1949.
- ✓ It is governed by a host of legislation, such as the Banking Regulation Act, 1949; RBI Act, 1934; Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999, etc.
- ✓ Features:
- ✓ They are differentiated, and not universal banks.
- ✓ These operate on a smaller scale.
- ✓ The minimum paid-up equity capital for payments banks shall be Rs. 100 crores.
- ✓ The minimum initial contribution of the promoter to the Payment Bank to the paid-up equity capital shall be at least 40% for the first five years from the commencement of its business.
- ✓ Activities that can be performed:
- ✓ It can take deposits up to Rs. 2,00,000. It can accept demand deposits in the form of savings and current accounts.
- ✓ The money received as deposits can be invested in secure government securities only in the form of Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR). This must amount to 75% of the demand deposit balance.
- ✓ The remaining 25% is to be placed as time deposits with other scheduled commercial banks.
- ✓ It cannot accept time deposits or NRI deposits
- ✓ Paytm Payments Bank
- ✓ Founded: 2015

✓ Founder: Vijay Shekhar Sharma

✓ Headquarters : Noida

✓ Interim CEO: Deependra Singh Rathore

- ✓ Vijay Shekhar Sharma holds 51 per cent in the entity with One97 Communications holding 49 per cent.
- Q. Who has been elected the new Chief Minister of Jharkhand?
 - A) Champai Soren
 - B) Harihant Soren
 - C) Pushpa Soren
 - D) Kalpana Soren

Answer: A

- ✓ Champai Soren to be next Jharkhand CM
- ✓ Hemant Soren has resigned as Jharkhand's Chief Minister while the ruling Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) -led coalition proposed the name of senior leader and State Transport Minister Champai Soren as the new Chief Minister.
- ✓ Hemant Soren tendered his resignation to Governor CP Radhakrishnan at the Raj Bhavan after about seven hours of questioning by the Enforcement Directorate in a money laundering case linked to a land scam.
- ✓ He is a member of the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) and represents Seraikella assembly constituency as MLA.

NEWLY CHIEF MINISTER IN NEWS 2023-24

- Champai Soren to be next Jharkhand Chief minister [Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM)]
- Nitish Kumar was sworn in as Bihar Chief Minister for the ninth time (JDU Mahagathbandhan BJP)
- ➤ Bhajan Lal Sharma newly elected Chief Minister of Rajasthan (BJP)
- Mohan Yadav is the newly elected Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh (BJP)
- Mohan Yadav, an MLA from Ujjain South.
- Lalduhoma sworn in as the new Chief Minister of Mizoram [Zoram People's Movement (ZPM)].
- Vishnu Deo Sai is New Chhattisgarh Chief Minister (BJP).
- Anumula Revanth Reddy has taken oath as the Chief Minister of Telangana.

- Q. Which company sold a record 11.2 million vehicles in 2023, taking the crown as the world's top-selling automaker for a fourth straight year?
 - A) Mercedes-Benz

- B) Suzuki Motor Corporation
- C) Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd
- D) Toyota Motor

Answer: D

- ✓ Toyota keeps crown as world's top-selling automaker in 2023
- ✓ Toyota Motor sold a record 11.2 million vehicles in 2023, taking the crown as the world's top-selling automaker for a fourth straight year.
- ✓ The Japanese automaker reported a 7.2% jump in global group sales last year, including those of truck unit Hino Motors and small-car maker Daihatsu, helped by record overseas sales of 8.9 million vehicles.
- ✓ Sales of Toyota's parent-only vehicles, which include those of its namesake and Lexus brands, hit a record of 10.3 million vehicles in 2023.
- ✓ Second-ranked German rival Volkswagen Group earlier this month reported a 12% rise in deliveries last year to 9.2 million cars, marking a post-pandemic recovery as supply chain bottlenecks eased
- Q. What is 'Volt Typhoon', that was in the news recently?
 - A) A new social media platform
- B) A wildlife conservation initiative
- C) A cyber hacking group
- D) A new cryptocurrency

Answer: C

- ✓ United States government recently shut down a major China-backed hacking group dubbed "Volt Typhoon" that attacked hundreds of routers and had been working to compromise U.S. cyber infrastructure.
- ✓ About Volt Typhoon:
- ✓ It is a state-sponsored hacking group based in China that has been active since at least 2021.
- ✓ The group typically focuses on espionage and information gathering.
- ✓ It has targeted critical infrastructure organizations in the US, including Guam.
- Q. Consider the following statements regarding the One Stop Centre scheme:
 - 1. It provides integrated support and assistance to women affected by violence.
 - 2. It is formulated by the union Ministry of Women and Child Development.

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

- ✓ Union Minister for Women and Child Development said that One Stop Centres to help women who have faced violence have been established in over 700 districts across the country.
- ✓ About One Stop Centre scheme:
- ✓ It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme formulated under the Union Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD).
- ✓ Objectives:
- ✓ To provide integrated support and assistance to women affected by violence, both in private and public spaces under one roof.
- ✓ To facilitate immediate, emergency and non-emergency access to a range of services including medical, legal, psychological and counselling support under one roof to fight against any forms of violence against women.
- ✓ Target group
- ✓ It supports all women including girls below 18 years of age affected by violence, irrespective of caste, class, religion, region, sexual orientation or marital status.
- ✓ Funding: The Scheme will be funded through the Nirbhaya Fund. The Central Government will provide 100% financial assistance under the Scheme
- ✓ Administration: The day-to-day implementation and administrative matters would be the responsibility of the District Collector/District Magistrate.
- Q. Consider the following statements regarding the eROSITA:
 - 1. It is a wide-field X-ray telescope.
 - 2. It provides new insights about evolution of super massive black holes.

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

- ✓ German eROSITA consortium has released the data for its share of the first all-sky survey by the soft X-ray imaging telescope.
- ✓ About eROSITA:
- ✓ The eROSITA (extended ROentgen Survey with an Imaging Telescope Array) is a wide-field X-ray telescope on board the Russian-German "Spectrum-Roentgen-Gamma" (SRG) observatory.
- ✓ It was developed under the leadership of the Max-Planck Institute for Extraterrestrial Physics in Germany (DE).
- ✓ It is a sensitive X-ray telescope capable of delivering deep, sharp images over very large areas of the sky.
- ✓ The eROSITA telescope consists of seven identical Wolter-1 mirror modules.
- ✓ SRG was successfully launched from Baikonur on July 13 2019, and placed in a halo orbit around the L2 point.
- Q. Martand sun temple, recently seen in the news, is located in which state/UT?

A) Ladakh

B) Rajasthan

C) Jammu & Kashmir

D) Madhya Pradesh

Answer: C

- ✓ Some people forced their way into the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)-protected Martand Sun temple recently.
- ✓ About Martand Sun Temple:
- ✓ It is a Hindu temple located near the city of Anantnag in the Kashmir Valley of Jammu and Kashmir.
- ✓ It is dedicated to the Sun God. Martand is another Sanskrit synonym for Surya.
- ✓ It was built by King Lalitaditya Muktapida around the 8th Century CE. Lalitaditya Muktapida was the third ruler of the Karkota Dynasty
- Q. Which ministry was allocated the highest budget in the Interim Budget 2024?

A) Ministry of Defense

B) Ministry of Education

C) Ministry of Rural Development

D) Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports

Answer: A

- ✓ Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman presented the interim Budget 2024 in Parliament.
- ✓ This was the sixth time that Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman presented the budget.

- ✓ He also presented his first interim budget of his tenure.
- ✓ According to the documents received of the interim budget, the Defense Ministry has been given the highest allocation with ₹6.1 lakh crore.
- ✓ After this, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways is in second place with ₹2.78 lakh crore
- Q. Which state government has decided to launch a mass drug administration campaign to eliminate filariasis?

A) Uttar Pradesh

B) Madhya Pradesh

C) Haryana

D) Rajasthan

Answer: A

- ✓ Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has decided to launch an annual mass drug administration campaign as part of the mission to eliminate filariasis from the state.
- ✓ This campaign will be run from 5 to 15 February.
- ✓ This campaign will be organized in 17 districts of the state.
- Q. Who has been re-appointed as the President of Asian Cricket Council?

A) Kapil Dev

B) Sourav Ganguly

C) Jai Shah

D) Roger Binny

Answer : C

- ✓ Jay Shah, Secretary of the Board of Control for Cricket in India, has been elected as the President of the Asian Cricket
- ✓ Council (ACC) for the third time.
- ✓ This decision was taken at the ACC Annual General Meeting in Bali.
- ✓ During his tenure, Shah successfully organized the U19 format Women's T20 Asia Cup and Emerging Asia Cup.
- ✓ Asian Cricket Council was established in 1983
- Q. How many sites recently added to Ramsar Sites from India?

A) 3

B) 4

C) 5

D) 7

Answer: C

- ✓ Union Environment Minister said that five more Indian wetlands have been added to the global list of wetlands of international importance under the Ramsar Convention.
- ✓ Shri Bhupender Yadav says India increased its tally of Ramsar sites (Wetlands of International Importance) to 80 by adding Five more wetlands to the list on the eve of World Wetlands Day 2024 (2nd February).
- ✓ About the New Ramsar site:
- ✓ Of the five wetlands added to the Ramsar list, Magadi Kere Conservation Reserve, Ankasamudra Bird Conservation Reserve, and Aghanashini Estuary are in Karnataka and Karaivetti Bird Sanctuary and Longwood Shola Reserve Forest are in Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ Ramsar Convention on Wetlands is an international treaty for "the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands".
- ✓ It is also known as the Convention on Wetlands and is named after the city of Ramsar in Iran.
- ✓ Ramsar Convention or the Convention of Wetlands was established in 1971 and came into force in the year 1975, upon receipt by UNESCO.
- ✓ Ramsar convention came into force on 1 December 1975.
- ✓ India signed the Ramsar Convention on 1 February 1982.
- ✓ Sundarban wetlands (West Bengal) are the largest Ramsar site in India.
- ✓ Chilika Lake (Orissa) and Keoladeo National Park (Rajasthan) were recognized as the first Ramsar Sites of India.
- ✓ Tamil Nadu has the highest number of 16 Ramsar sites in India.
- ✓ Renuka Wetland in Himachal Pradesh is the smallest wetland of India.
- ✓ Chilka lake and Keoladeo Ghana National Park is the oldest Ramsar site in India which was declared in 1981.
- ✓ World's First Ramsar site was identified in 1974, which was the Cobourg Peninsula in Australia.
- ✓ The United Kingdom has the world's largest number of Ramsar Sites i.e. 175. and Mexico (142).
- ✓ Bolivia (148,000 sq. kms) has the largest area under Ramsar protection.
- ✓ There are currently over 2,424 Ramsar Sites around the world. They cover over 2.5 million square kms, an area larger than Mexico.

Q. How many Ramsar sites are in India 2024?

A) 76 B) 75

C) 87 D) 80

Answer: A

- Q. India is home to around 718 snow leopards, according to the first-ever population estimation exercise conducted by the Snow Leopard Population Assessment in India (SPAI) Programme. The highest number of snow leopards were recorded in which place?
 - A) Ladakh

B) Arunachal Pradesh

C) Himachal Pradesh

D) Jammu and Kashmir

Answer: A

- ✓ India is home to around 718 snow leopards, according to the first-ever population estimation exercise conducted by the Snow Leopard Population Assessment in India (SPAI) Programme.
- ✓ The highest number of snow leopards were recorded in Ladakh (477), followed by Uttarakhand (124), Himachal Pradesh (51), Arunachal Pradesh (36), Sikkim (21), and Jammu and Kashmir (9).
- ✓ The Wildlife Institute of India (WII) was the National Coordinator for the exercise that was carried out with the support of all snow leopard range states and two conservation partners, the Nature Conservation Foundation, Mysuru, and WWF-India.
- Q. Which state government has launched a new initiative called the 'Sadak Suraksha Force' to improve traffic movement and reduce road accidents in the state?
 - A) Punjab

B) Haryana

C) Uttar Pradesh

D) Rajasthan

Answer: A

- ✓ The Chief Minister of Punjab, Bhagwant Mann has launched a new initiative called the 'Sadak Suraksha Force' to improve traffic movement and reduce road accidents in the state.
- ✓ The force aims to protect people and streamline traffic movements in the state.
- ✓ The 'Sadak Suraksha Force' will comprise 144 vehicles and 5,000 employees who will be deployed every 30 kilometers on the roads to ensure the safety of the people.
- ✓ According to available data, 17-18 people lose their lives in road accidents in Punjab every day, which amounts to more than 500 deaths per month and nearly 6,000 deaths per year.
- Q. Sanjay Vinayak Mudaliar has been appointed as Executive Director of which bank?

A) Indian Overseas Bank

B) Bank of Baroda

C) Karnataka Bank

D) Karur Vyasya Bank

Answer: B

- ✓ The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the Department of Financial Services (DFS) proposal to post Sanjay Vinayak Mudaliar as Executive Director at Bank of Baroda.
- ✓ Mudaliar is currently the Executive Director at Indian Overseas Bank.
- ✓ Mudaliar will serve his new post from the day he assumes charge for the remainder of his term, i.e. up to Dec 31, 2025.
- Q. What is the mascot of the Khelo India Winter Games 2024?

A) Neve, Gliz and Aster

B) Miga, Quatchi, Sumi

C) Sheen-e She

D) Tun Tun

Answer: C

- ✓ Khelo India Winter Games 2024 mascot, snow leopard 'Sheen-e She' (Shan) reveals.
- ✓ The mascot and logo of Khelo India Winter Games were launched. The first part of the Winter Games, a mouth-watering event for winter sports athletes, will be held in Union Territory of Ladakh for the first time from February 2-6. The second portion is scheduled in Gulmarg, Jammu & Kashmir from February 21-25.
- ✓ In keeping with the tradition and biodiversity of the region, the mascot of the Khelo India Winter Games 2024 is a snow leopard. It has been named 'Sheen-e She' or Shan in Ladakh region.
- ✓ Ladakh will be conducting games ice Hockey and speed skating Jammu and Kashmir will conduct ski mountaineering, Alpine skiing, snowboarding, Nordic ski and gandola

KHELO INDIA IN NEWS 2023-24

- > Khelo India Winter Games 2024 is the fourth edition of the annual event in the Khelo India calendar. The Union Territory of Ladakh is making its debut as host this year alongside the UT of Jammu & Kashmir.
- > The 6th Khelo India Youth Games 2023 from January 19-31 are being held at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
- ➤ Khelo India Para Games 2023 concluded on December 17 in New Delhi.
- ➤ Haryana clinched the top spot, securing a total of 105 medals, including 40 gold, 39 silver and 26 bronze.
- ➤ 5th Khelo India Youth Games 2022 to be held in Madhya Pradesh.

- ➤ Maharashtra was the overall champion by securing a total of 161 medals including 56 gold, 55 silver and 50 bronze medals.
- > 3rd Khelo India University Games Concludes in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.
- > Punjab University emerged as the overall champions with a total of 69 medals, including 26 gold, 17 silver, and 26 bronze.
- ➤ Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports, has unveiled that the esteemed Khelo India Women's League will be recognized as the "Asmita Women's League.

MASCOT IN NEWS 2023-24

- ➤ Khelo India Winter Games 2024 Ladakh and Jammu & Kashmir
- Mascot: Sheen-e She.
- > 37th edition of Indian National Games Goa
- Mascot named 'Moga'
- ➤ Khelo India Para Games 2023 New Delhi
- Mascot: 'Ujjwala,'
- Women's Asian Champions Trophy 2023 Jharkhand
- Mascot: 'Juhi' (elephant)
- > 9th Asian Winter Games 2025 : China
- Mascot: "Binbin" and "Nini"
- Cricket World Cup 2023 : India
- Mascot: 'Blaze' and 'Tonk'
- FIFA Women's World Cup 2023: Australia & New Zealand
- Mascot : Tazuni.
- ➤ 2024 Paris Olympics : France
- Mascot: The Phrygian cap
- Q. The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) celebrated which edition of its Raising Day ceremony on February 01, 2024?

A) 48th

B) 42nd

C) 44th

D) 49th

Answer: A

- ✓ Indian Coast Guard (ICG) celebrates its Raising Day every year on February 1.
- ✓ The ICG is an armed force of India that protects maritime interests and enforces maritime law.
- ✓ 48th Indian Coast Guard Day 2024:
- ✓ This year, in 2024, we are celebrating 48th Indian Coast Guard Day. The Interim Indian Coast Guard was initially formed on February 1, 1977.
- ✓ ICG was established to prevent sea-borne smuggling of goods that hampers India's domestic economy.
- ✓ Indian Coast Guard (ICG)
- ✓ Founded: 1977
- ✓ Headquarters : New Delhi
- ✓ 25th Director General : Rakesh Pal
- Q. The World Wetlands Day is observed every year on which day?
 - A) February 04

B) February 02

C) February 03

D) February 01

Answer: B

- ✓ The World Wetlands Day is observed every year on February 2 all over the world.
- ✓ The day marks the date of the adoption of the Convention on Wetlands on February 2, 1971, in the Iranian city of Ramsar on the shores of the Caspian Sea.
- ✓ World Wetlands Day was first celebrated in 1997.
- ✓ 2024 marks 53 years of the Convention on Wetlands.
- ✓ The international theme for World Wetlands Day 2024 is 'Wetlands and human wellbeing.'
- Q. What is the theme of World Wetlands Day 2024?
 - A) Wetlands and Climate Change
 - B) Wetlands and Biodiversity
 - C) Wetlands and Water
 - D) Wetlands and human wellbeing

Answer: D

- Q. With reference to Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund, consider the following statements:
 - 1. It is a Central Sector Scheme.
 - 2. It is incentivizing entrepreneurs to establish dairy processing infrastructure.
 - 3. Under it, government entities and cooperatives are eligible to get incentives.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

A) Only one

B) Only two

C) All three

D) None

Answer: B

- ✓ Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister of India approved the continuation of Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF) to be implemented under Infrastructure Development Fund (IDF) for another three years up to 2025-26.
- ✓ It is a Central Sector Scheme.
- ✓ It has been approved for incentivizing investments by individual entrepreneurs, private companies, MSME, Farmers Producers Organizations (FPOs) and Section 8 companies to establish
- ✓ the dairy processing and value addition infrastructure
- ✓ meat processing and value addition infrastructure and
- ✓ Animal Feed Plant.
- ✓ Objectives
- ✓ To help increasing of milk and meat processing capacity and product diversification thereby providing greater access for unorganized rural milk and meat producers to organized milk and meat market.
- ✓ To make available increased price realization for the producer.
- ✓ To make available quality milk and meat products for the domestic consumer.
- ✓ To promote exports and increase the export contribution in the milk and meat sector.
- ✓ To make available quality concentrated animals feed to the cattle, buffalo, sheep, goat, pig and poultry to provide balanced ration at affordable prices.
- ✓ Government of India will provide 3% interest subvention for 8 years including two years of moratorium for loan up to 90% from the scheduled bank and National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC), NABARD and NDDB.
- ✓ Under this government entities and cooperatives are not eligible to get benefit of this scheme

✓ Hence only statements 1 and 2 are correct.

EXTENDED TIMELINE IN NEWS 2023-24

- ➤ The government approves the continuation of the Rebate of State and Central Taxes and Levies (RoSCTL) export incentive scheme for apparel and made-ups until March 31, 2026.
- ➤ Government approves extension of subsidy scheme on sugar supplied to AAY families by 2 years till March 2026.
- ➤ Union Cabinet has extended the Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF) till 2025-26.
- ➤ LIC Granted Extension till 2032 to Achieve 25% Public Shareholding.
- Ministry of Finance has granted a one-time exemption to Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) regarding the 25% Minimum Public Shareholding (MPS) rule. The decision allows LIC to achieve the mandated 25% MPS within 10 years of its listing, extending the deadline to May 2032.
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced a two-year extension of the Payments Infrastructure Development Fund (PIDF) scheme until December 31, 2025.
- ➤ The Centre has extended the import duty exemption on masur dal (lentils) by another year till March 31, 2025.
- ➤ The Union Cabinet approved to keep the Fast Track Special Courts going from April 1, 2023, to March 31, 2026.
- > SEBI Extends Nomination Filing Deadline for Mutual Funds and Demat Accounts Until June 2024. Earlier, the deadline for the same was December 31, 2023.
- > SEBI, the market regulator, has extended the deadline for linking the SEBI Complaint Redressal (SCORES) platform with the online dispute resolution platform. Initially set for December 4, the new deadline is now April 1, 2024.
- ➤ Prime Minister Modi Extends Free Ration Scheme for 5 More Years.
- ➤ The government will extend the free-foodgrain program for 80 crore people by an additional five years from January 2024.
- ➤ The Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY), initially scheduled to conclude on December 31, 2023, will now run until December 2028.

- ➤ The government has decided to prolong the duration of the Atal Beemit Vyakti Kalyan Yojana, the unemployment scheme under the Employees' State Insurance Corporation, for an additional two years until June 30, 2024.
- ➤ The government has extended PM-KUSUM scheme till March 2026
- Q. 'Salher, Panhala, Sindhudurg' seen in news were well known?

A) Trading ports

B) Saline lakes

C) Forts

D) Merchant towns

Answer: C

- ✓ India has nominated the "Maratha Military Landscapes", a network of forts that showcase the strategic military powers of Maratha rule, for inclusion in the UNESCO World Heritage list for 2024-25.
- ✓ India has nominated the "Maratha Military Landscapes", a network of forts that showcase the strategic military powers of Maratha rule, for inclusion in the UNESCO World Heritage list for 2024-25.
- ✓ About The 12 components of this nomination are the forts of Salher, Shivneri, Lohagad, Khanderi, Raigad, Rajgad, Pratapgad, Suvarnadurg, Panhala, Vijaydurg and Sindhudurg in Maharashtra and Gingee Fort in Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ The "Maratha Military Landscapes" is the sixth cultural property nominated for inclusion in the World Heritage List from Maharashtra and had been earlier included in the Tentative List of World Heritage sites in 2021.

UNESCO IN NEWS 2023-24

- ➤ India has nominated the "Maratha Military Landscapes", a network of forts that showcase the strategic military powers of Maratha rule, for inclusion in the UNESCO World Heritage list for 2024-25.
- ➤ 46th session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee will take place from July 21 to 31, 2024 in New Delhi, India.
- > Gujarat's Garba Dance Enters UNESCO's 'Intangible Cultural Heritage' List.
- ➤ Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) has secured recognition as one of the 'World's Most Beautiful Airports' and has been awarded the 'World Special Prize for an Interior 2023' by the UNESCO's Prix Versailles.

- ➤ 'Garba of Gujarat' has been inscribed in the Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) of Humanity by UNESCO.
- > Garba dance is the 15th intangible cultural heritage of India to be included in this list.
- ➤ Kozhikode in Kerala has been designated as the UNESCO 'City of Literature' and Gwalior as the 'City of Music' in the latest UNESCO list of Creative Cities Network.
- > temples of the Hoysala Empire in Karnataka, India were officially added to the UNESCO list of World Heritage Sites, marking India's 42nd addition to the prestigious heritage list.
- Three Hoysala-era temples in Karnataka [Chennakeshava (Belur), Hoysaleswara (Halebidu) and Keshava Temple (Somanathapura, Mysuru)] recently made it to UNESCO's World Heritage List, under the collective entry of 'Sacred Ensembles of the Hoysalas'.
- Santiniketan, located in West Bengal, India, has achieved the prestigious status of being recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- Santiniketan as the 41st World Heritage Property in India.
- ➤ United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

Formation: 16 November 1945

➤ Headquarters : Paris, France

Director-General : Audrey Azoulay (France)

Member countries: 193

- Q. Consider the following statements with respect to 'Plastic Credit Bond (PCB)'
 - 1. Plastic Credit Bond is designed to finance plastics collection and recycling projects
 - 2. Repayments for these bonds are influenced by the sale of plastic and carbon offset credits Select the correct statement(s)

A) 1 only

B) 2 only

C) Both 1 and 2

D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: C

- ✓ World Bank and Citi have collaborated to launch a \$100 million bond aimed at addressing plastic waste.
- ✓ What is a bond and PCB?

- ✓ A bond is a financial instrument representing a loan made by an investor to a borrower, typically a government or corporation. In return, the borrower agrees to pay periodic interest and return the principal amount at maturity.
- ✓ Plastic Credit Bond is designed to combat waste, and finance plastics collection and recycling projects in Ghana and Indonesia. Repayments are influenced by the sale of plastic and carbon offset credits. Investors receive their principal back at the end of the seven-year term, guaranteed by the World Bank, with a minimum interest payment of 1.75%.
- ✓ This initiative signals further growth in the nascent carbon credit market. The plastics bond follows previous outcome bonds, including the "rhino bond" for wildlife conservation in Africa and an emissions reduction-linked bond for a water purification project in Vietnam.
- Q. Consider the following statements about C-CARES
 - 1. It is the web portal for Coal Mines Provident Fund Organization (CMPFO), working under aegis of the Ministry of Coal.
 - 2. The portal is developed by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing, an R&D organization under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.

Choose the correct statements:

A) 1 only

B) 2 only

C) Both 1 and 2

D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: C

- ✓ Union Minister of Coal and Mines launched a web portal of CMPFO namely C- CARES developed and designed by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC)
- ✓ About C- CARES Portal:
- ✓ It is developed and designed by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC).
- ✓ The portal will allow CMPF subscribers and coal companies to login and perform various functions tailored to their needs.
- ✓ While the subscribers can access and view their individual details and subscription status, the coal management can submit contribution details, subscribers' particulars and claims for online settlement and payment through the portal.

- ✓ It will also ensure paperless working, timely and accurate settlement of claims, reduction in processing time and grievance redressal.
- ✓ The portal being a public service platform is intended to benefit the CMPF subscribers who are working in the coal sector as well as its pensioners.
- ✓ Key facts about the Coal Mines Provident Fund Organization
- ✓ It is an autonomous organization under the aegis of Ministry of Coal established in the year 1948.
- ✓ It was established for administering Provident Fund and Pension schemes for the purpose of providing social security to the coal sector workers
- Q. C- CARES web portal, recently seen in the news, is associated with which sector?

A) Petroleum sector

B) Renewable energy sector

C) Coal sector

D) Agriculture sector

Answer: C

- ✓ Union Minister Shri Pralhad Joshi launched the C-CARES web portal for the Coal Mines Provident Fund Organization (CMPFO).
- ✓ Developed by C-DAC, it aims to digitize records and streamline processes for 3.3 lakh Provident Fund subscribers and 6.1 lakh pensioners in the coal sector.
- ✓ The portal enables online settlement of claims, ensuring transparency, faster processing, and better record management.
- ✓ Aligned with the vision of Digital India, it signifies a significant leap towards efficient and transparent operations in the coal sector
- Q. Mesolithic era rock paintings have recently been discovered in which state?

A) Telangana

B) Madhya Pradesh

C) Gujarat

D) Uttar Pradesh

Answer: A

- ✓ Mesolithic rock paintings were unearthed at Sitamma Loddi, Gattusingaram, in Telangana's Peddapalli district.
- ✓ Discovered on a hillock in a dense forest, the paintings adorned a 1,000-foot-long, 50-foot-high sandstone rock shelter.

- ✓ The Mesolithic, or Middle Stone Age, bridged the gap between the Paleolithic and Neolithic periods, spanning approximately 12,000-10,000 years ago.
- ✓ Notable for the transition from large chipped stone tools to microliths, small tools affixed to bone or wood handles for making implements like saws and sickles, it marked a pivotal era in human cultural development
- Q. According to the 'Solar Policy 2024', what is the targeted installed capacity of solar power in Delhi by 2027?

A) 5500 MW

B) 3500 MW

C) 4500 MW

D) 2500 MW

Answer: C

- ✓ The Delhi government has launched the Delhi Solar Policy 2024 to boost solar power adoption.
- ✓ Residents can install rooftop solar panels, leading to zero electricity bills and potential income from excess power sales to the grid.
- ✓ The policy targets 4500 MW of solar power by 2027, up from the previous goal of 1500 MW.
- ✓ Stemming from the 2016 policy, which yielded 1500 MW capacity, the new policy aims to curb air pollution, cut electricity costs, and promote sustainable energy in Delhi.
- Q. Ungalai Thedi, Ungal Ooril (Come Look for You, In Your Village) scheme, recently seen in the news, is launched by which state?

A) Kerala

B) Tamil Nadu

C) Andhra Pradesh

D) Karnataka

Answer: B

- ✓ The Government of Tamil Nadu introduces the Ungalai Thedi Ungal Ooril Scheme 2024, offering citizens monthly access to state government schemes and scholarships.
- ✓ This initiative aims to review project performance, inspect infrastructure, and address public concerns, ensuring effective implementation of government programs.
- Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Rebate of State and Central Taxes and Levies scheme:
 - 1. It aims to reimburse all embedded State and Central Taxes/Levies for exports of manufactured goods and garments.
 - 2. The rebate under the scheme shall be in the form of duty credit scrips.

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

- ✓ Union Cabinet approved the continuation of Scheme for Rebate of State and Central Taxes and Levies (RoSCTL) for export of Apparel/Garments and Made ups upto 31st March 2026.
- ✓ It aims to reimburse all embedded State and Central Taxes/Levies for exports of manufactured goods and garments.
- ✓ It has been established as a successor for the old "Rebate of State Levies (RoSL) Scheme.
- ✓ The difference between RoSL & RoSCTL Scheme is that under RoSL Scheme, there was no benefit on the central tax and Levies. But in the RoSCTL scheme, the exporter will get rebate of both State and Central tax and Levies.
- ✓ Objective: To compensate for the State and Central Taxes and Levies in addition to the Duty Drawback Scheme on export of apparel/garments and Made-ups by way of rebate.
- ✓ The rebate under the Scheme shall be in the form of duty credit scrips.
- ✓ The scrips shall be issued electronically on Customs system.
- ✓ Validity of e-scrip: The period of validity of the e-scrip, of one year from its creation, shall not change on account of transfer of the e-scrip.
- ✓ Eligibility: All exporters of garments/Apparel and made-ups manufactured in India are eligible to take benefit under this scheme, except entities/ IECs under the Denied Entity List of the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT).
- ✓ Implementing agency: It has been notified by the Ministry of Textiles. However, the scheme shall be implemented by the Department of Revenue.
- Q. Ibrahim Iskandar has become the new Sultan of which country?

A) Mauritius

B) Bhutan

C) Malaysia

D) Maldives

Answer: C

- ✓ Sultan Ibrahim Iskandar sworn in as Malaysia's 17th king
- ✓ Ibrahim Iskandar of Johor State in Malaysia has become the new Sultan of the country.

- ✓ Ibrahim Iskandar was sworn in as the country's 17th Sultan. Sultan Ibrahim received the reins from the Sultan of Pahang State, Abdullah Sultan Ahmad Shah.
- ✓ Ibrahim Iskandar will remain in office as the country's Sultan for the next five years.
- ✓ The Sultan has been elected every five years in Malaysia since 1957, after gaining independence from Britain
- Q. Subika paintings, recently seen in news, is linked to the cultural history of:

A) Meitei community

B) Gond tribes

C) Santhal tribes

D) Bodo tribes

Answer: A

- ✓ Manipur boasts a rich cultural heritage but some of its invaluable art forms like Subika paintings are on the brink of extinction due to neglect.
- ✓ It a style of painting which is intricately linked to the Meitei community's cultural history.
- ✓ It is surviving through its six manuscripts Subika, Subika Achouba, Subika Laishaba, Subika Choudit, Subika Cheithil and Thengrakhel Subika.
- Q. Which of the following has declared the year 2024 as the 'Year of Naval Civilians' in order to address all aspects of civilian human resource management?

A) Indian Army

B) Indian Navy

C) Air Force orce

D) Indian Coast Guard

Answer: B

- ✓ Indian Navy announces the year 2024 as 'Year of Naval Civilians'.
- ✓ The Indian Navy has declared the year 2024 as the 'Year of Naval Civilians' in order to address all aspects of civilian human resource management
- ✓ The Indian Navy has identified these key focus areas in terms of maximizing certain specific activities for implementation in 2024. Which are as follows:
- ✓ Administrative Efficiency
- ✓ Digital Initiatives
- ✓ General and Specific Training Programs
- ✓ Welfare Activity
- ✓ INDIAN NAVY
- ✓ Father of Indian Navy :

- ✓ Shivaji
- ✓ Motto(s): Sham No Varunaḥ (May the Lord of Water be auspicious unto us)
- ✓ First Chief: Admiral Sir William Edward Parry
- ✓ Headquarteres: New Delhi
- ✓ First Indian Chief of the Naval Staff : Katari
- ✓ 25th Chief of the Naval Staff : R Hari Kumar

YEARS IN NEWS 2023-24

- Indian Navy has declared 2024 as the 'Year of Naval Civilians.'
- ➤ United Nations has declared 2024 as the International Year of Camelids.
- ➤ Indian Army has declared 2024 as the "Year of Technology Absorption."
- ➤ United Nations, at the behest of the Government of India, declared 2023 the International Year Millets.
- Q. Who has launched 'Ministry of Education AICTE Investor Network' in New Delhi?
 - A) Dharmendra Pradhan

B) Narendra Modi

C) Nirmala Sitharaman

D) Rajnath Singh

Answer: A

- ✓ Union Minister Shri Dharmendra Pradhan has launched 'Ministry of Education AICTE Investor Network' in New Delhi.
- ✓ This initiative to be a ground-breaking beginning that will bring students, faculty, investors and the market on one platform to strengthen the culture of innovation.
- ✓ The network aims to provide crucial financial support, mentoring, and strategic guidance to early-stage student or faculty-led startups.
- Q. Which of the following countries are not join BRICS group recently?

A) UAE

B) Egypt

C) Iran

D) Iraq

Answer: D

✓ The BRICS group, a key platform for emerging markets and developing countries, has officially welcomed five new members: Egypt, Iran, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Ethiopia.

- ✓ The five countries were extended invitations along with Argentina at a summit in August in Johannesburg to join the bloc comprising Brazil, Russia, China, India and South Africa.
- ✓ Argentina has declined the invitation to join.
- ✓ The newly enlarged BRICS now boasts a combined population of 3.5 billion and an economy exceeding \$28.5tn, constituting around 28% of the global economy
- Q. WHO has awarded its first-ever certificates validating progress in eliminating industrially produced trans fatty acids to five countries. What is the name of these five countries?
 - A) Finland, Sri Lanka, USA, China and Thailand
 - B) Denmark, Lithuania, Poland, Saudi Arabia, and Thailand
 - C) Denmark, Lithuania, Poland, UAE, and Bangladesh
 - D) Denmark, India, Sweden, Saudi Arabia, and Thailand

Answer: B

- ✓ WHO has awarded its first-ever certificates validating progress in eliminating industrially produced trans fatty acids to five countries.
- ✓ Denmark, Lithuania, Poland, Saudi Arabia, and Thailand have each demonstrated they have a best practice policy for industrially produced trans-fatty acids (iTFA) elimination in effect, supported by adequate monitoring and enforcement systems.
- ✓ While the ambitious target set by WHO in 2018—to fully eliminate iTFA from the global food supply by the end of 2023—was not met, there has been remarkable progress made towards this goal in every region of the world.
- ✓ In 2023 alone, new best-practice policies became effective in 7 countries (Egypt, Mexico, Moldova, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Philippines, and Ukraine).
- ✓ What is TFA?
- ✓ Trans-fatty acids (TFA) are semisolid to solid fats that occur in two forms: industrially produced and naturally occurring. Intake of TFA is associated with increased risk of heart attacks and death from heart disease. TFA have no known health benefits, and foods high in iTFA (e.g. fried foods, cakes and ready meals) are often high in sugar, fat and salt.

- ✓ A total of 53 countries have now best practice policies in effect for tackling iTFA in food, vastly improving the food environment for 3.7 billion people, or 46% of the world's population, as compared to 6% just 5 years ago.
- Q. As per Union Budget 2024, Government has allocated how much percent of GDP for Capital Expenditure Boost?

A) 3.3%

B) 3.4%

C) 3.5%

D) 3.6%

Answer: B

- ✓ Government allocates 3.4% of GDP for Capital Expenditure Boost
- ✓ The government proposes to increase capital expenditure outlay by 11.1 per cent to Rs 11.11 lakh crore in 2024-25, amounting to 3.4 per cent of the GDP, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in her interim Budget.
- ✓ The central government will focus especially on five eastern states Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, and West Bengal.
- ✓ A capital expenditure, or capex, is used to set up long-term physical or fixed assets.
- ✓ Coming to the fiscal deficit, the government pegged for 2024-25 at 5.1 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP).
- ✓ In 2023-24, the government pegged the fiscal deficit target for 2023-24 at 5.9 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP). Sitharaman said that the fiscal deficit of 2023-24 was downwardly revised to 5.8 per cent.
- ✓ The government intends to bring the fiscal deficit below 4.5 per cent of GDP by the financial year 2025-26.
- Q. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has revised estimate of the fiscal deficit for FY24 stands at what percent?

A) 5.4%

B) 5.6%

C) 5.8%

D) 6.3%

Answer: C

- ✓ Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has revised estimate of the fiscal deficit for FY24 stands at 5.8 per cent while presenting the Interim Budget 2024-25.
- ✓ The Revised Estimate of the fiscal deficit is 5.8 per cent of GDP, improving on the Budget Estimate, notwithstanding moderation in the nominal growth estimates.

- The government is committed to reducing the fiscal deficit below 4.5 per cent by 2025-26, adding that the fiscal deficit in 2024-25 is estimated to be 5.1 per cent of GDP.
- ✓ The reduced fiscal deficit projection at 5.1 per cent of GDP in FY25, down from 5.8 per cent in FY24, will create room for increased private sector borrowings
- Former deputy governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Harun Rashid Khan has been appointed Q. as the non-executive chairman of which Small Finance Bank?

A) Capital Small Finance Bank

B) AU Small Finance Bank

C) Fincare Small Finance Bank
D) Equitas Small Finance Bank

Answer: B

- ✓ Private sector lender AU Small Finance Bank has appointed Harun Rashid Khan, former deputy governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), as non-executive chairman following approval from the shareholders.
- ✓ Khan's tenure will begin from the date of taking charge, January 30, 2024, after approval from the Board of Directors and from the RBI and shareholders of the bank.
- ✓ Khan will take charge from Raj Verma, whose tenure as Part-time Chairman ended on January 29, 2024.
- The Government has approved extension of subsidy scheme on sugar supplied to AAY families by 2 Q. years ____.

A) till March 2026

B) till March 2025

C) till March 2028

D) till March 2027

Answer: A

- ✓ Government approves extension of subsidy scheme on sugar supplied to AAY families by 2 years till March 2026.
- ✓ Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narender Modi, approved extension of scheme of sugar subsidy for AAY families distributed through PDS for two more years till March 31, 2026
- ✓ The government approved the extension of subsidy scheme for sugar supplied to 1.89 crore Antyodya Anna Yojna (AAY) families through ration shops for two years till March 31, 2026.
- ✓ With this approval, the government will continue giving subsidy of ₹18.50 per kg to participating states for distribution of sugar to AAY families through PDS at the rate of one kg per family per month.

- Q. The GHAR Portal, recently seen in the news, is launched to:
 - A) monitor and track the restoration of historical landmarks
 - B) digitally track and monitor the restoration and repatriation of children
 - C) provide real-time weather updates
 - D) monitor environmental pollution levels

Answer: B

- ✓ GHAR GO Home and Re-Unite Portal have been developed and launched by the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR).
- ✓ About GHAR Portal:
- ✓ It is a portal to digitally monitor and track the restoration and repatriation of children according to the protocols under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, and Rules thereof.
- ✓ It has been developed and launched by the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR).
- ✓ The following are the salient features of the portal:
- ✓ Digital tracking and monitoring of children who are in the Juvenile Justice system and have to be repatriated to another Country/State/District.
- ✓ Digital transfer of cases of children to the concerned Juvenile Justice Board/Child Welfare Committee of the State.

APP & PORTAL IN NEWS 2023 -24

- > GHAR GO Home and Re-Unite Portal have been developed and launched by the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR).
- ➤ Union Minister of Coal, Mines and Parliamentary Affairs launched a web portal of Coal Mines Provident Fund Organization (CMPFO) namely C-CARES.
- ➤ About C- CARES Portal:
- ➤ It is developed and designed by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC).
- ➤ Ministry of Communications launched the "Bharat 5G Portal- an integrated portal" on the sidelines of 'Bharat Telecom 2024'.
- ➤ About Bharat 5G Portal:
- ➤ It is a comprehensive platform serving the interests of startups, industry and academia in quantum, 6G, IPR and 5G domains

- ➤ Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) launched the MPLADS e-SAKSHI Mobile Application.
- ➤ About e-SAKSHI Application:
- ➤ It was launched for revised fund flow procedure under Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLAD) Scheme.
- ➤ National Surveillance Programme for Aquatic Animal Diseases (NSPAAD) project has introduced a mobile app 'Report Fish Disease' to track and monitor fish diseases across the country
- Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Exercise Vayu Shakti:
 - 1. It is held once every three years.
 - 2. It demonstrates the offensive and defensive capabilities of the Indian Air Force.

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 Indian Air Force will be conducting Exercise Vayu Shakti-24 on 17 February 2024 at the Pokhran Air to Ground Range, near Jaisalmer.
- ✓ The Indian Air Force is slated to carry out three large scale war games on February 17, namely, Vayu Shakti, Gagan Shakti and Tarang Shakti.
- ✓ It will be a riveting demonstration of the offensive and defensive capabilities of the IAF, spanning across day and night.
- ✓ The exercise will also showcase joint operations with the Indian Army.
- ✓ Exercise Vayu Shakti
- ✓ The IAF will first undertake the major "Vayu Shakti" firepower demonstration, which is held once every three years
- ✓ Gagan Shakti'
- ✓ The second mega exercise will be 'Gagan Shakti'.
- ✓ The exercise, which is held once in five years.
- ✓ Tarang Shakti

✓ The third major exercise, Tarang Shakti, would be the first ever multinational exercise to be held in the country.

EXERCISE IN NEWS 2023-24

- Indian Air Force will conduct mega exercise Vayu Shakti 2024 at Pokhran Range in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan on February 17.
- > The first edition of India-Saudi Arabia joint military exercise 'SADA TANSEEQ' is being organized in Mahajan, Rajasthan
- ➤ 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 exercis.
- The coastal security exercise 'Sagar Kavach' is set to unfold its strategic manoeuvres along the Kerala and Mahe coasts.
- Coordinated by the Indian Coast Guard.

- Much-anticipated joint exercise 'Trishakti Prahar' recently began near the western border of Rajasthan in Jaisalmer.
- ➤ Exercise CORPAT and BONGOSAGAR between the Indian Navy and Bangladesh Navy were conducted in the Northern Bay of Bengal from 07 09 Nov 2023.
- Exercise Harimau Shakti 2023 commenced in Umroi Cantonment, India.
- ➤ It is a joint bilateral training exercise between Indian & Malaysian Armed Forces.
- ➤ The 19th edition of "EXERCISE YUDH ABHYAS" will be conducted from 25th September to 8th October
- > 2023 in Fort Wainwright, Alaska, USA.
- Q. Who among the following will be honoured with Bharat Ratna, the highest civilian award in India?
 - A) Lal Krishna Advani
- B) Ratan Tata

C) Amitabh Bachchan

D) Rajinikanth

Answer: A

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that veteran BJP leader Lal Krishna Advani will be honored with Bharat Ratna.
- ✓ About LK Advani
- ✓ Lal Krishna Advani was born on November 8, 1927 in Karachi, present-day Pakistan.
- ✓ He served as the president of the Bharatiya Janata Party for the longest period since its foundation in 1980.
- ✓ He was first Home Minister and later Deputy Prime Minister in the cabinet of Atal Bihari Vajpayee (1999–2004).
- ✓ He is one of the co-founders and Upar Advani ji served as the 7th Deputy PM. He is one of the co-founders of the BJP and a member of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS).
- ✓ About Bharat Ratna
- ✓ Bharat Ratna is India's highest civilian award and was instituted in 1954. It is awarded to any person regardless of his caste, occupation, status or gender.
- ✓ No monetary grant is given in this award.
- ✓ According to Article 18(1) of the Constitution, it cannot be used as a prefix or suffix to the name of the recipient
- ✓ Few Facts About Bharat Ratna

- ✓ The first Bharat Ratna was provided to Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, Sir C.V. Raman, and Chakravarti Rajaopalachari in 1954.
- ✓ In 2019, the award was given to three eminent personalities: Nanaji Deshmukh, Pranab Mukherjee and Bhupen Hazarika.
- ✓ Earlier, the PM also announced that former Bihar CM Karpoori Thakur will be posthumously awarded the highest civilian award Bharat Ratna
- Q. Who has been selected as a torchbearer for 2024 Paris Olympic Games?

A) Mary Kom

B) Neeraj Chopra

C) Abhinav Bindra

D) Sakshi Malik

Answer: C

- ✓ Abhinav Bindra, India's first individual gold medalist at the Olympic Games, has been selected as a torchbearer for the upcoming 2024 Paris Olympic Games.
- ✓ He will be part of the Olympic torch relay to be held from April 16 to July 26.
- ✓ Bindra, a member of the Athletes Commission of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), clinched the gold medal in the men's 10m air rifle event at the Beijing Olympic Games in 2008.
- ✓ The Paris 2024 Olympic Torch Relay will begin in France on May 8th, 2024.
- ✓ Paris 2024 will feature the sport of 'Breaking' for the first time, which made its debut at the Youth Olympic Games in Buenos Aires in 2018. Break-dancing, skateboarding, sport climbing, and surfing will also be included in the list of sports at the Paris Olympics 2024
- Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA):
 - 1. It is under the administrative control of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE).
 - 2. It extends financial assistance for setting up projects relating to renewable sources of energy.

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

- ✓ IREDA in partnership with its knowledge partner Boston Consulting Group (BCG) recently convened a Strategic Meeting focusing on key aspects of business expansion and initiatives aimed at cost reduction in fund utilization.
- ✓ About Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA):
- ✓ It is a Mini Ratna (Category–I) non-banking financial institution under the administrative control of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE).
- ✓ It is a Public Limited Government Company established as a Non-Banking Financial Institution (NBFC) in 1987.
- ✓ REDA has been notified as a "Public Financial Institution" under Section 4 'A' of the Companies Act, 1956, and registered as NBFC with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- ✓ IREDA is the single largest "Green Financier" in the country.
- ✓ Motto: ENERGY FOR EVER.
- ✓ Funding: IREDA generates its revenue through the interest and principal repayments from the projects it finances, as well as by raising funds from the market and through borrowings.

IREDA IN NEWS 2023-24

- Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) Launches 'Pahal' Vigilance Journal
- ➤ 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. With reference to the Inclusive Education for Disabled at Secondary Stage (IEDSS) scheme, consider the following statements:
 - 1. It provides assistance for the inclusive education of disabled children in classes IX-XII.
 - 2. It covers all children studying in both government and private schools.
 - 3. It is implemented by the School Education Department of the concerned State Governments/Union Territories.

How many of the above statements are correct?

A) Only one B) Only two

C) All three D) None

Answer: B

- ✓ The Karnataka Government recently suspended five officers for dereliction of duty in the implementation of the Inclusive Education for Disabled at Secondary Stage (IEDSS) scheme.
- ✓ About Inclusive Education for Disabled at Secondary Stage (IEDSS) scheme:
- ✓ IEDSS has been launched from the year 2009-10. This Scheme replaces the earlier scheme of Integrated Education for Disabled Children (IEDC).
- ✓ The aim of this scheme is to enable all students with disabilities to pursue four years of secondary education in an inclusive and enabling environment, after completing eight years of elementary schooling.
- ✓ It provides assistance for the inclusive education of disabled children in classes IX-XII.
- ✓ Implementing Agency:

- ✓ The School Education Department of the State Governments/Union Territory (UT) Administrations are the implementing agencies.
- ✓ Central assistance for all items covered in the scheme is on 100 percent basis.
- ✓ The State governments are only required to make provisions for scholarship of Rs. 600/- per disabled child per annum.
- ✓ This scheme now subsumed under Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) from 2013.

STATE GOVERNMENT IN NEWS 2023 - 24

- Chhattisgarh has decided to start the Shri Ramlala Darshan (Ayodhya Dham) Scheme in the state.
- > Tamil Nadu has introduced guidelines for the "Ungalai Thedi, Ungal Ooril" (Come Look For You, In Your Village) outreach program.
- > Uttar Pradesh government is transforming Ayodhya under its 'Navya Ayodhya' project.
- > Jharkhand Launches 'Abua Awas Yojna' (AAY) Housing Scheme.
- Gujarat introduced the Gyan Sahayak Scheme.
- Assam has introduced an upgraded version of its poverty alleviation scheme called Orunodoi 2.0.
- Maharashtra government has launched Lek Ladki Yojana and Namo Shetkari Mahasanman Nidhi Yojana.
- Chhattisgarh has launched "Mukhyamantri Gramin Awas NYAY Yojana."
- Assam government is set to launch a new scheme called "Mukhyamantrir Atmanirbharshil Asom Abhiyan."
- Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu launched Mukhya Mantri Shramik Kalyan Yojana.
- > Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, has granted approval for the 'Location Accessible Multi-modal Initiative (LAccMI)' scheme.
- > Jharkhand government has launched Mukhyamantri Gram Gadi Yojana.
- Q. Cygnus X-1, recently seen in the news, is a:

A) artificial satellite

B) asteroid

C) exoplanet

D) black hole

Answer: D

- ✓ Astro Sat, India's first, dedicated multi-wavelength astronomy mission, accomplished the difficult task of measuring the X-ray polarisation of the Cygnus X-1 black hole system.
- ✓ It was discovered over four decades ago.
- ✓ It is one of the first confirmed black hole systems in our galaxy.
- ✓ The black hole in Cygnus X-1 is 20 times heavier than the Sun, and has a companion a heavy supergiant star (40 times more massive than the Sun) in a binary system.
- ✓ It is located at a distance that is about 400 times more than the distance between Earth and Sun.
- ✓ This process leads to the formation of a thin accretion disk which is responsible for soft X-rays.
- Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Law Commission of India:
 - 1. It is a non-statutory body constituted with a definite terms of reference.
 - 2. The first Law Commission of independent India was established under the chairmanship of M. C. Setalvad.

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 22nd Law Commission of India led by Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi has recommended that the offence of criminal defamation should be retained in the new criminal laws.
- ✓ It is a non-statutory body and is constituted by a notification of the Government of India, Ministry of Law & Justice.
- ✓ It is constituted with a definite terms of reference to carry out research in the field of law and the Commission makes recommendations to the Government (in the form of Reports) as per its terms of reference.
- ✓ It functions to the Ministry of Law and Justice as an advisory body.
- ✓ History of Law Commission of India
- ✓ The first pre-independence law commission was established in 1834 by the British Government in India.
- ✓ It was established by the Charter Act of 1833 and was chaired by Lord Macaulay.
- ✓ This Commission was created for a period of three years and this practice has persisted ever since then, resulting in the reconstitution of Law Commissions every three years via executive orders.

✓ The Twenty Second Law Commission has been notified with effect from 21st February, 2020 for a term of 3 years.

APPOINTMENT IN NEWS 2023-24

- ➤ The government has appointed Nina Singh as the first woman Director General of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF).
- Anil Kumar Lahoti Appointed Chairman Of TRAI.
- Daljit Singh Chaudhary appointed Director General of Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB).
- > Tshering Tobgay Re-Elected As Bhutan's Prime Minister.
- Senthil Pandian C as the new ambassador to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) in Geneva, succeeding Brajendra Navnit.
- ➤ India's seasoned diplomat, Ambassador Indra Mani Pandey, has officially become the Secretary General of BIMSTEC, succeeding Tenzin Lekphell from Bhutan.
- Ashwani Gupta Appointed as CEO of Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone
- Raghuram Iyer appointed as CEO of Indian Olympic Association
- Vikas Sheel appointed Executive Director, Asian Development Bank
- Sanjiv Aggarwal Appointed CEO and MD of National Investment and Infrastructure Fund Limited (NIIFL)
- Rashmi Shukla becomes Maharashtra's first woman Director General of Police
- ➤ P Santhosh Appointed as MD of National Asset Reconstruction Company (NARCL).
- Nadia Calvino Appointed as New President of the European Investment Bank
- Kia India Appoints Gwanggu Lee as New MD and CEO
- Q. Consider the following statements regarding Wheat Blast:
 - 1. It is a disease of wheat crop caused by a virus.
 - 2. It spreads through infected seeds, crop residues and spores.

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

- ✓ Researchers who have modeled for the first time how wheat blast will spread in the future found the fungal disease could reduce global wheat production by 13% until 2050.
- ✓ About Wheat Blast:
- ✓ Wheat blast, caused by the plant fungus Magnaporthe oryzae, is a fast-acting, severe disease of wheat that causes bleaching of the heads.
- ✓ Magnaporthe oryzae can infect many grasses, including barley, lolium, rice, and wheat, but specific isolates of this pathogen generally infect limited species; that is, wheat isolates infect preferably wheat plants but can use several more cereal and grass species as alternate hosts.
- ✓ History of the Outbreak:
- ✓ First found in Brazil in 1985, it spread quickly through South America, infecting around three million hectares of wheat within a decade.
- ✓ In 2016, it made it across to Bangladesh, and in 2020, it was confirmed in Africa, in crops in Zambia.
- Q. The 7th session of the Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs (CCSCH) was held from 29th January 2024 to 2nd February 2024 at which place?

A) Vishakapatnam

B) Kochi

C) Mumbai

D) Hyderabad

Answer: B

- ✓ The 7th session of the Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs (CCSCH) was held from 29th January 2024 to 2nd February 2024 at Kochi.
- ✓ It was established as one of the Commodity Committees under the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) in 2013.
- ✓ India hosts this prestigious Committee since the beginning and Spices Board India serves as the secretariat organization which organizes the Committee's sessions.
- ✓ In CCSCH 7th session quality standards for 5 spices, namely small cardamom, turmeric, juniper berry, allpice and star anise were finalised.
- ✓ Codex Alimentarius Commission
- ✓ It was jointly established by FAO and WHO.
- ✓ It is an international, intergovernmental body which is based in Rome.
- ✓ Members: It consists of 189 member countries.

✓ The Commission works in the six official languages of the UN.

SUMMIT & CONFERENCE IN NEWS 2023-24

- > 54th annual meeting of the World Economic Forum (WEF) is being held in Davos, Switzerland from 15 January 2024.
- ➤ Theme of 54th meeting of WEF: 'Rebuilding Trust'.
- ➤ India launched Global Good Alliance for Gender Equity and Equality, at the World Economic Forum Summit at Davos, Switzerland, held from 15-19 January 2024.
- ➤ Prime Minister Modi inaugurated the 10th Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit- 2024 at Mahatma Mandir, Gandhinagar, on 10 January 2024.
- ➤ Theme of 10th Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit- 2024: 'Gateway to the Future'.
- ➤ India has been selected for the first time to chair and host the 46th session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee.
- ➤ The 46th session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee will be held in New Delhi between 21 and 31 July 2024.
- Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates joined BRICS as new full members. This group has now become an organization of 10 countries.
- Russia's tenure as Chairman of BRICS begins from January 1, 2024.
- ➤ 27th WAIPA World Investment Conference (WIC) started on 11 December 2023 in New Delhi
- ➤ India Internet Governance Forum 2023 (IIGF-2023) will be organized on 5 December 2023 in New Delhi.
- ➤ India is going to organize a three-day (4 to 6 December) Global Technology Summit (GTS) from 4 December 2023
- Q. The INS Sandhayak is a:

A) naval destroyer

B) aircraft carrier

C) submarine

D) survey vessel ship

Answer: D

✓ The Indian Navy commissioned its latest survey vessel, Sandhayak, at Naval Dockyard in Vizag in the presence of defence minister.

- ✓ It is the first in a series of four Survey Vessel (Large) ships being constructed at Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata
- ✓ The primary purpose of the ship is to conduct comprehensive coastal and deep-water Hydrographic Surveys for Port and Harbour approaches, as well as determining navigational channels and routes.
- ✓ The operational zone extends up to maritime limits, covering the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and extended continental shelf.
- ✓ Powered by two diesel engines, the vessel boasts a speed capability exceeding 18 knots.
- ✓ Measuring 110 meters in length and displacing 3400 tons, INS Sandhayak has an indigenous content of over 80 per cent by cost.
- ✓ This ship is re-incarnated in its present avatar from erstwhile Sandhayak, which was decommissioned in 2021.
- Q. The Theme state for the Surajkund International Crafts Mela in 2024 is _ and the Partner nation is _

A) Gujarat; and Tanzania

B) Himachal Pradesh; and Nepal

C) Assam; and Bangladesh

D) Uttar Pradesh; and Thailand

Answer: A

- ✓ President Droupadi Murmu has inaugurated the 37th Surajkund International Crafts Mela 2024 at Surajkund in Faridabad district, Haryana.
- ✓ Tanzania is a partner country for the mela, which reflects India's strong ties with the African Union. Gujarat is the theme state.
- ✓ The Surajkund Fair will continue till February 18.
- Q. Who has been given the "Maha Gaurav 2024" award by by Maharashtra government?

A) Nikhil Wagh

B) Kavita Tungar

C) Wilson Jones

D) Khandu Rangnekar

Answer: A

- ✓ Nikhil Mukund Wagh, who works as a Public Relations Officer at Goa Shipyard Limited, was given the "Maha Gauray 2024" award.
- ✓ This award was handed to him by Ajit Pawar, the Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra, during a ceremony at Kaneri Math in Kolhapur.
- ✓ The award is a big deal because it recognizes Nikhil's great work in public relations.

Q. US State Department has approved how many Q-9B SkyGuardian drones to India for nearly \$4 billion?

A) 21

B) 31

C) 41

D) 52

Answer: B

- ✓ US State Department has given the go-ahead for the possible sale of 31 armed MQ-9B SkyGuardian drones, related missiles, and equipment to India for nearly \$4 billion.
- ✓ This comes after years of discussions between the two nations about such a deal.
- ✓ India has long expressed interest in buying large, armed drones from the United States, but certain bureaucratic hurdles have hindered progress towards finalizing the potential agreement.
- Q. Which state government will launch the annual Mass Drug Administration (MDA) campaign to eradicate filariasis diseases from February 5 to 15?

A) Uttar Pradesh

B) Madhya Pradesh

C) Bihar

D) Haryana

Answer: C

- ✓ Uttar Pradesh government will launch the annual Mass Drug Administration (MDA) campaign to eradicate filariasis diseases from February 5 to 15.
- ✓ The campaign, to be carried out as part of a mission to eradicate filariasis from the state, will be conducted in 17 districts of the state.
- ✓ During the campaign, skilled health workers will go door-to-door and administer the medicine for prevention of filariasis to the entire population.
- ✓ The central government aims to eliminate filariasis from the country by 2027.
- Q. The Centre has announced an ambitious programme to upgrade how many standard rail coaches to Vande Bharat standards in Budget 2024?

A) 50000

B) 40000

C) 60000

D) 20000

Answer: B

✓ In a move to modernize the Indian Railways, the Centre has announced an ambitious programme to upgrade 40,000 standard rail coaches to Vande Bharat standards.

- ✓ This initiative, announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in while presenting the interim budget for fiscal year 2024-25 (FY25), aims to elevate the safety, convenience, and comfort of rail travel while also providing a boost to private sector railway manufacturers through new refurbishment contracts.
- ✓ The initiative to elevate regular rail bogies to Vande Bharat standards represents a substantial opportunity for railway sector players. The projected contracts are estimated to be worth ₹4,000 crore annually for the next few years.
- ✓ The comprehensive refurbishment of 40,000 coaches is planned to be phased over 8-10 years, with an approximate rate of 4,000 bogies per year.
- Q. Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has announced that PM SVANIDHI, a flagship initiative focusing on street vendors has extended credit assistance to _____ street vendors across the country.
 - A) 78 lakh
 - B) 88 lakh
 - C) 98 lakh
 - D) 58 lakh

Answer: A

- ✓ Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has announced that PM SVANIDHI, a flagship initiative focusing on street vendors has extended credit assistance to 78 lakh street vendors across the country.
- ✓ 2.3 lakh vendors have availed loans for the third time under this initiative.
- ✓ What is PM SVANidhi Scheme?
- ✓ The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs launched the Prime Minister Street Vendors' Atmanirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) Scheme on June 1, 2020.
- ✓ The scheme focuses on assisting street vendors, severely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, in restarting their businesses without the need for any guarantee.
- ✓ Under the scheme:
- ✓ A working capital loan of up to ₹10,000, without any guarantee, is provided for a one-year tenure. Timely repayment allows beneficiaries to avail a second loan of ₹20,000 and a third loan of ₹50,000.
- ✓ Regular repayment is encouraged through a 7% interest subsidy.
- ✓ Digital transactions are promoted with a cashback of up to ₹1,200 per year for digital payments.

Q. The Defence Budget has touched Rs 6.21 lakh crore in the Financial Year 2024-25. This comes out to be __ of total Union Budget 2024.

A) 12.04%

B) 13.04%

C) 14.04%

D) 15.04%

Answer: B

- ✓ In the current geopolitical scenario and with the twin objective of promoting self-reliance and exports, the Defence Budget has touched Rs 6,21,540.85 crore in the Financial Year 2024-25.
- ✓ This comes out to be 13.04% of total Union Budget. The Ministry of Defence (MoD) continues to receive the highest allocation among the Ministries.
- ✓ The budgetary allocation to Defence for FY 24-25 is higher by approx. one lakh crore (18.35%) over the allocation for the FY 2022-23 and 4.72% more than allocation of FY 23-24.
- Q. India and which country have signed an agreement to provide a framework for collaboration in new areas of defence engagement including procurement of military equipment?

A) Sudan

B) Oman

C) Ghana

D) Zimbabwe

Answer: B

- ✓ India, Oman ink pact for collaboration in defence sector
- ✓ India and Oman has signed an agreement that would provide a framework for collaboration in new areas of defence engagement including procurement of military equipment.
- ✓ The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was firmed up at a meeting of India-Oman joint military cooperation committee (JMCC) in Muscat.
- Q. For which age group did Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has proposed to "encourage vaccination as a preventive measure against cervical cancer"?

A) 9 -15 Years

B) 9 -14 Years

C) 10 -14 Years

D) 9-18 Years

Answer: B

✓ Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has announced the government's plans to focus on vaccination against cervical cancer for girls aged 9 to 14 as part of her Interim Budget 2024.

- ✓ The FM also announced multiple other health-related schemes in her speech, including extending Ayushman Bharat cover to all Asha workers and Anganwadi workers and helpers.
- ✓ Cervical cancer, which develops in a woman's cervix, is the second-most common cancer among women in India.
- ✓ It is caused by persistent infection by the human papillomavirus (HPV). India accounts for nearly a quarter of all cervical cancer deaths in the world.
- ✓ Presently, the Serum Institute's made-in-India vaccine against cervical cancer, CERVAVAC, is available in the private market for about Rs 2,000 per dose.
- Q. Tamil Superstar Vijay has recently launched his political party. What is the name of party?

A) Tamilaga Metri Kazhagam

B) Tamil Vetri Kazhagam

C) Tamilaga Vetri Kazim

D) Tamilaga Vetri Kazhagam

Answer: D

- ✓ Tamil superstar Vijay has announced the name of his new political party "Tamilaga Vetri Kazhagam".
- ✓ Vijay will contest 2026 Assembly Elections in Tamil Nadu, when the current term of MK Stalin-led DMK party ends.
- ✓ The Tamil movie superstar is fondly called by his fans as Thalapathy, meaning General or Commander.
- Q. Every year 4th of February is observed as which day globally?
 - A) World Hypertension Day
 - B) World Cancer Day
 - C) World Science Day
 - D) World Girl Child Day

Answer: B

- ✓ The World Cancer Day is observed every year globally on 4th February by the Union for International Cancer Control (UICC).
- ✓ The day aims to raise awareness and education about cancer, and encourage governments and individuals across the world to take action against the prevention, detection, and treatment of the disease.
- ✓ World Cancer Day 2024 theme: "Together, we challenge those in power"

LET'S RECALL... IMPORTANT DAYS & THEME 2024

- ➤ 4 February : World Cancer Day
- ➤ Theme 2024 : 'Together, we challenge those in power'
- ➤ 2 February : World Wetlands Day
- ➤ Theme 2024 : "Wetlands and Human Wellbeing."
- ➤ 1 February : Indian Coast Guard (ICG) Day
- ➤ This year, in 2024, we are celebrating 48th Indian Coast Guard Day.
- ➤ January 26, 2024 : 75th Republic Day
- ➤ The theme of the 75th Republic Day is 'Viksit Bharat' and 'Bharat Loktantra ki Matruka'
- ➤ 25 January : National Voters' Day
- ➤ India is celebrating its 14th National Voters' Day (NVD).
- ➤ 24 January : National Girl Child Day
- ➤ 24 January : International Education Day
- ➤ Theme 2024 : 'Learning for lasting peace'.
- 23 January : Parakram Diwas
- Parakram Diwas is an annual celebration since 2021 to honour Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose.
- ➤ 16 January : National Startup Day
- ➤ 15 January : Indian Army Day
- ➤ The theme of 2024 Indian Army Day is "In the Service of the Nation"
- ➤ 12 January: National Youth Day
- ➤ The theme for National Youth Day 2024 is "Viksit Yuva-Viksit Bharat."
- This day commemorates his birth anniversary Swami Vivekananda.
- > 10 January : World Hindi Day
- Theme 2024: Hindi–Bridging Traditional Knowledge and Artificial Intelligence
- > 09 January: Pravasi Bharatiya Divas, also known as Non-Resident Indian (NRI) Day.
- > 04 January : World Braille Day
- Tribute to Louis Braille.

Q. Lake Rotorua, recently seen in the news, is located in which country?

A) France

B) New Zealand

C) Australia

D) Russia

Answer: B

- ✓ New maps have revealed a hidden hydrothermal system beneath Lake Rotorua, which sits at the heart of a dormant volcano in New Zealand.
- ✓ About Hydrothermal Systems:
- ✓ Hydrothermal systems occur in areas with high heat fluxes, both on continents, near convergent plate boundaries, and on the ocean floor, near the mid-ocean ridges

VOLCANO IN NEWS 2023 -24

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

How many of the above statements are correct?

A) Only one

B) Only two

C) All three

D) None

Answer: B

- ✓ A multibillion-dollar dam project underway across the Mekong River in Laos has prompted concerns that it could result in Luang Prabang city losing its UNESCO World Heritage Site status.
- ✓ About Mekong River:
- ✓ It is the longest river in Southeast Asia, the 7th longest in Asia, and the 12th longest in the world.
- ✓ It has a length of about 2,700 miles (4,350 km).
- ✓ It rises in southeastern Qinghai province, China.
- ✓ It originates from the Sanjianyuang in the Tibetan Plateau, with the area designated a national nature reserve to protect the headwaters of the Yangtze, Yellow, and Mekong Rivers.
- ✓ The river drains approximately 795,000 square kilometers and flows through six Asian countries: China, Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, and Cambodia, where it is referred to by different names

UNESCO IN NEWS 2023-24

- A multibillion-dollar dam project underway across the Mekong River in Laos has prompted concerns that it could result in Luang Prabang City losing its UNESCO World Heritage Site status.
- ➤ India has nominated the "Maratha Military Landscapes", a network of forts that showcase the strategic military powers of Maratha rule, for inclusion in the UNESCO World Heritage list for 2024-25.
- ➤ 46th session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee will take place from July 21 to 31, 2024 in New Delhi, India.
- Gujarat's Garba Dance Enters UNESCO's 'Intangible Cultural Heritage' List.
- ➤ Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) has secured recognition as one of the 'World's Most Beautiful Airports' and has been awarded the 'World Special Prize for an Interior 2023' by the UNESCO's Prix Versailles.
- ➤ 'Garba of Gujarat' has been inscribed in the Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) of Humanity by UNESCO.
- ➤ Garba dance is the 15th intangible cultural heritage of India to be included in this list.

- ➤ Kozhikode in Kerala has been designated as the UNESCO 'City of Literature' and Gwalior as the 'City of Music' in the latest UNESCO list of Creative Cities Network.
- ➤ temples of the Hoysala Empire in Karnataka, India were officially added to the UNESCO list of World Heritage Sites, marking India's 42nd addition to the prestigious heritage list.
- Three Hoysala-era temples in Karnataka [Chennakeshava (Belur), Hoysaleswara (Halebidu) and Keshava Temple (Somanathapura, Mysuru)] recently made it to UNESCO's World Heritage List, under the collective entry of 'Sacred Ensembles of the Hoysalas'.
- Santiniketan, located in West Bengal, India, has achieved the prestigious status of being recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- Santiniketan as the 41st World Heritage Property in India.
- ➤ United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

Formation: 16 November 1945

➤ Headquarters : Paris, France

Director-General : Audrey Azoulay (France)

Member countries: 193

- Q. With reference to GRAPES-3 experiment, consider the following statements:
 - 1. It is designed to study cosmic rays with an array of air shower detectors.
 - 2. It is located in the Ladakh region.
 - 3. It is operated by the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

A) Only one

C) All three D) None

Answer: B

✓ The GRAPES-3 experiment discovered a new feature in the cosmic-ray proton spectrum at about 166 teraelectron-volt (TeV) energy while measuring the spectrum spanning from 50 TeV to a little over 1 petaelectron-volt (PeV).

B) Only two

- ✓ Gamma Ray Astronomy PeV EnergieS phase-3 (GRAPES-3) is designed to study cosmic rays with an array of air shower detectors and a large area muon detector.
- ✓ Location: It is located in Ooty, India.

- ✓ It is operated by the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research.
- ✓ It aims to probe acceleration of cosmic rays in different astrophysical settings.
- ✓ Its objectives are to study
- ✓ The origin, acceleration and propagation of >1014 eV cosmic rays in the galaxy and beyond
- ✓ They have been observed over a remarkably wide energy range (108 to 1020 eV).
- ✓ Hence only statements 1 and 3 are correct.
- Q. Consider the following statements regarding the InTranSE Program:
 - 1. It is a collaborative research and development programme related to transportation.
 - 2. It is an initiative of the Union Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology.

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

- ✓ During the launch event of "Digital India FutureLABS Summit 2024" held at IIIT- Delhi, three Indigenous Technologies Thermal camera, CMOS camera and Fleet Management System designed and developed by CDAC Thiruvananthapuram under InTranSE Program of MeitY were transferred to 12 Industries.
- ✓ The Intelligent Transportation System Endeavor (InTranSE) is a revolutionary collaborative research and development programme.
- ✓ It is an initiative of the Union Ministry of Electronics & IT.
- ✓ Purpose: To synergize the transformation in Intelligent Transportation System the Ministry of Electronics & IT took early steps by bringing together premier academic institutes like Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Indian Institute of Management (IIM) etc. and Premier R&D Centre like C-DAC under one umbrella.
- Q. Who is the author of the book titled UNEQUAL: Why India Lags Behind Its Neighbours?

A) Amitav Ghosh

B) Gita Mehta

C) Salman Rushdie

D) Swati Narayan

Answer: D

- ✓ Swati Narayan's 'UNEQUAL' offers a comparison of India's social development indicators with that of its South Asian neighbours and an immersive examination of why India lags behind them.
- ✓ The following is an excerpt from the book UNEQUAL: Why India Lags Behind Its Neighbours by writer and activist Swati Narayan, published by Westland

FAMOUS BOOKS & AUTHOR IN NEWS 2023-24

- ➤ UNEQUAL: Why India Lags Behind Its Neighbours : Swati Narayan
- Gandhi: A Life in Three Campaigns: M.J. Akbar and K. Natwar Singh
- 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
- 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. 'Vyommitra' robot, recently seen in the news, is associated with which space mission?
 - A) Gaganyaan

B) Aditya-L1 Mission

C) Chandrayaan-3 Mission

D) OneWeb India-2 Mission

Answer: A

- ✓ Vyommitra(Woman Robot Astronaut) is going to fly into Space ahead of ISRO's "Gaganyaan" Mission
- ✓ Vyommitra Mission is scheduled to be implemented for the third quarter of this year and Gaganyaan, India's first human manned Space Flight carrying Indian Astronauts into Space, is scheduled to be launched in the next year 2025.
- ✓ About Vyommitra:
- ✓ Vyommitra is a female Robot Astronaut developed by Indian Space Research Organization. The name Vyommitra is derived from two Sanskrit words- Vyoma and Mitra.
- ✓ The meaning of Vyoma is Space and the meaning of Mitra is friend.
- ✓ About Gaganyaan mission:
- ✓ Gaganyaan is India's first human Space Mission to be launched in the next year 2025. In this Mission, ISRO is going to send three humans into Space for a 3 Day mission and bring them back to earth safely. These three humans will be sent into Space with an orbit of 400 km.

ISRO IN NEWS 2023-24

- Vyommitra(Woman Robot Astronaut) is going to fly into Space ahead of ISRO's "Gaganyaan" Mission
- ➤ ISRO has completed all key tests on Insat-3DS satellite before the final review which will be followed by its shipping to the spaceport in Srihari Kota, Andhra Pradesh.
- ➤ Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) launched the PSLV-C58 X-ray Polarimeter Satellite (XPoSat) mission.
- Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) is planning to send Indian astronauts to the moon for the first time by 2040.
- ➤ ISRO's Next Moon Mission in Collaboration with Japan Gathers Steam. This mission, called LUPEX, or Lunar Polar Exploration, is slated for 2024-25.
- Centre has approved the establishment of a new spaceport in Kulasekarapattinam, Tamil Nadu for carrying out the launches of the Small Satellite Launch Vehicles (SSLV) developed by the ISRO.
- ➤ ISRO has announced a new online training programme for post-graduate and final-year undergraduate students of physical sciences and technology. The programme is called Space Science and Technology Awareness Training (START).

- ➤ ISRO will launch Singapore's TeLEOS-2 satellite using the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) from the Satish Dhawan Space Center in Sriharikota.
- ➤ Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)
- Founded: 15 August 1969
- > HQ : Bengalore, Karnataka
- Founder / 1st Chairman : Vikram Sarabhai
- > 10th Chairman : S Somanath
- Aryabhata India's first satellites Launched on 19 April 1975.
- ➤ GSAT-1 India's first commercial satellite.
- ➤ SLV-3 was India's first experimental satellite launch vehicle.
- Ariane Passenger PayLoad Experiment, (APPLE) first communication satellite in India 19 June 1981.
- ➤ Udupi Ramachandra Rao : satellite Man of India
- Q. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for development projects worth over 11,000 crore rupees in which state?

A) Odisha

B) Bihar

C) Jharkhand

D) Assam

Answer: D

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for development projects worth over 11,000 crore rupees in Assam.
- ✓ These initiatives aim to enhance connectivity in the Northeast region with other South Asian countries, promoting economic growth

PM MODI FOUNDATION STONE IN NEWS 2023-24

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for a slew of development projects worth over Rs 20,000 crore in Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu.
- ➤ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of multiple development projects worth over 30,500 crore rupees in Maharashtra

- > Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated a new terminal building at Tiruchirappalli International Airport in Tamil Nadu.
- The new terminal building has been developed at a cost of more than Rs 1100 crore.
- ➤ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched multiple projects worth ₹5,000 crore in Rajasthan and asserted that they will lead to further development of the state.
- ➤ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has laid the foundation stone of development projects worth more than 26 thousand crore rupees in Jagdalpur, the divisional headquarters of tribal Bastar division in Chhattisgarh
- > PM Inaugurates Rs 4200 Crore Worth Of Development Projects In Uttarakhand.
- ➤ Prime Minister Modi inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for projects worth over Rs 19,100 crores in Bulandshahr, Uttar Pradesh
- > PM Initiates 8 AMRUT Projects Worth Rs. 2,000 Crores In Solapur, Maharashtra.
- ➤ Prime Minister Narendra Modi on inaugurated and laid the foundation stones of development projects worth more than Rs 38,000 crore in different sectors in Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently inaugurated the Shivmogga airport in the state of Karnataka.
 The airport was built for Rs 450 crores
- Q. Who was conferred with the 'Lifetime Achievement' award by Sports Journalists Federation of India (SJFI) and Delhi Sports Journalists Association (DSJA) at the National Sports Club of India?

A) Saina Nehwal

B) Sania Mirza

C) PV Sindhu

D) PT Usha

Answer: D

- ✓ PT Usha Honoured With 'Lifetime Achievement' Award By SJFI And DSJA.
- ✓ Legendary sprinter and Indian Olympic Association (IOA) president, PT Usha was conferred with the 'Lifetime Achievement' award by Sports Journalists Federation of India (SJFI) and Delhi Sports Journalists Association (DSJA) at the National Sports Club of India.
- ✓ Pilavullakandi Thekkeparambil Usha is a retired Indian track and field athlete.
- ✓ She was born in Koothali near Perambra in Kozhikode district, Kerala.
- ✓ P T Usha has been elected to become the president of Indian Olympic Association (IOA).
- ✓ P T Usha won 23 medals, including 14 gold, in the Asian Championships from 1983 to 1998.

- ✓ She also finished fourth in the 400-metre hurdles final at the 1984 Olympics.
- ✓ She is also known as the 'Payyoli Express
- Q. Who has recently made the record of spending maximum time in space?
 - A) Christina Koch

B) Andrew Morgan

C) Oleg Kononenko

D) Scott Kelly

Answer: C

- ✓ Russian astronaut Oleg Kononenko has set a new world record for spending the most time in space by staying in space for 878 days or more than two and a half years.
- ✓ Oleg Kononenko overtook the record set by compatriot Gennady Padalka.
- ✓ According to the European Space Agency, Oleg Kononenko started his space career as an engineer and made his first space flight in 2008
- Q. Who is the author of the book titled "Gandhi: A Life in Three Campaigns."?

A) Arundhati Roy

B) Ruskin Bond

C) M.J. Akbar

D) R.K. Narayan

Answer: C

- ✓ Renowned author M.J. Akbar, along with co-author K. Natwar Singh, launched a new book titled "Gandhi: A Life in Three Campaigns."
- ✓ The book delves into the life and struggles of Mahatma Gandhi, particularly focusing on three pivotal mass campaigns he led:
- ✓ Non-Cooperation Movement (1920): Highlighting Gandhi's ability to mobilize the masses against British
- ✓ Salt Satyagraha (1930): Turning a pinch of salt into a symbol of resistance against colonial exploitation.
- ✓ Quit India Movement (1942): A decisive call for the end of British colonialism in India.
- Q. Which of the following statements clearly explains the term Windfall Tax?
 - A) It is a tax imposed for selling the assets of the company
 - B) It is a new tax imposed in Europe to reduce the use of fossil fuel.
 - C) It is a higher tax rate on sudden big profits levied on a particular company or industry.
 - D) It is a tax imposed on companies for their predatory pricing policies.

Answer: C

- ✓ The government announced a hike in the windfall tax on petroleum crude, adjusting it to ₹3,200 per tonne from the previous rate of ₹1,700 per tonne, effective February 3.
- ✓ However, the windfall tax on diesel and aviation turbine fuel (ATF) also known as jet fuel remains unchanged at zero.
- ✓ On January 16, the government reduced the windfall tax on petroleum crude to ₹1,700/tonne from ₹2,300/tonne.
- ✓ What is windfall tax?
- ✓ The windfall tax undergoes fortnightly revisions, contingent upon the fluctuations in international crude and product prices. Presently, crude oil prices are trading at approximately \$82 per barrel.
- Q. Which Indian has been ranked number 2 globally on the Brand Guardianship Index 2024?

A) Mukesh Ambani

B) Gautam Adani

C) Anand Mahindra

D) Sunil Bharti Mittal

Answer: A

- ✓ Indian industrialist Mukesh Ambani has been ranked the top Indian and second in the world in the Brand Guardianship Index 2024 compiled by Brand Finance.
- ✓ Whereas Ma Huateng, CEO of Chinese company Tencent, has secured the top position.
- ✓ Ambani left prominent personalities like Microsoft's Satya Nadella and Google's Sundar Pichai to take the second position globally.
- ✓ Reliance Industries Chairman and MD Mukesh Ambani is in second place.
- ✓ Tata Sons Chairman N Chandrasekaran climbs to the 5th position in the ranking, up from the 8th position in 2023.
- ✓ Mahindra & Mahindra's Anish Shah is at sixth place and Infosys' Salil Parikh is at 16th place. In the 2023 ranking, Mukesh Ambani secured the second position globally.
- ✓ The Brand Guardianship Index acknowledges CEOs who skillfully generate business value while prioritizing the interests of all stakeholders, including employees, investors, and society.
- ✓ As per the Bloomberg Billionaires Index, Mukesh Ambani's current net worth is \$109 billion. He is the 11th richest person in the world

- Q. Who has been ranked at the top position in the Brand Guardianship Index 2024?
 - A) Sundar Pichai

B) Satya Nadella

C) N Chandrasekaran

D) Ma Huateng

Answer: D

- Q. Which small finance bank has partnered with Edelweiss Tokio Life Insurance to offer Life Insurance?
 - A) Equitas Small Finance Bank
- B) ESAF Small Finance Bank
- C) Fincare Small Finance Bank
- D) Capital Small Finance Bank

Answer: B

- ✓ ESAF Small Finance Bank has partnered with a bancassurance collaboration with Edelweiss Tokio Life Insurance.
- ✓ The partnership plays a crucial role in ESAF Small Finance Bank's strategy to broaden its range of offerings, demonstrating its commitment to providing financial security to a more extensive segment of the unbanked and under-banked population.
- ✓ The aim of this partnership is to widen the accessibility of innovative life insurance products, capitalizing on ESAF Small Finance Bank's strong presence across rural markets in India.
- Q. Who has been appointed as the head of its consumer lending and mortgages in Bandhan Bank?
 - A) Vivek Murthy

B) Tanu Singh

C) Indra Mani Pandey

D) Santosh Nair

Answer: D

- ✓ Bandhan Bank has appointed Santosh Nair, chief executive of HDFC Sales Private Limited, as the head of its consumer lending and mortgages.
- ✓ Bandhan Bank's Shantanu Sengupta will step down from the post of Head. However, he will assist the bank in a smooth transition and will leave the organisation in early FY2024–25 to pursue opportunities outside the bank.
- Q. Hage Geingob passed away recently. He was the president of which country?
 - A) Namibia

B) Sudan

C) Ghana

D) Mangolia

Answer: A

- ✓ Namibia's President Hage Geingob passed away at the age of 82 in Windhoek.
- ✓ Geingob, who was serving his second term as President, revealed last month that he was receiving treatment for cancer.
- ✓ First elected president in 2014, Geingob was Namibia's longest serving prime minister and third president.
- ✓ In 2013, Geingob underwent brain surgery, and last year he underwent an aortic operation in neighbouring South Africa.
- ✓ About Namibia
- ✓ Capital : Windhoek
- ✓ Currency: Namibian dollar, South African rand
- ✓ Prime Minister : Saara Kuugongelwa
- Q. Which state government police adopted Self-Balancing e-scooters For Smart Patrols?

A) Uttarakhand

B) Himachal Pradesh

C) Punjab

D) Uttar Pradesh

Answer: A

- ✓ Uttarakhand Police adopted self-balancing electric scooters to patrol the streets of Haridwar.
- ✓ The scooters are part of a new law enforcement method and are intended to improve safety for locals and tourists.
- ✓ The scooters are donated by Utkarsh Small Finance Bank and are intended to be used in crowded and narrow areas.
- Q. Who has inaugurated the Commonwealth Legal Education Association (CLEA) Commonwealth Attorneys and Solicitors General Conference (CASGC) 2024 in New Delhi?

A) Nirmala Sitharaman

B) Rajnath Singh

C) Amit Shah

D) Narendra Modi

Answer: D

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the Commonwealth Legal Education Association (CLEA)
 - Commonwealth Attorneys and Solicitors General Conference (CASGC) 2024 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.

- ✓ The theme of the conference is "Cross-Border Challenges in Justice Delivery".
- ✓ This conference has deliberated on important issues pertaining to law and justice like judicial transition and the ethical dimensions of legal practice; executive accountability; and revisiting modern-day legal education, among others.
- ✓ This Conference have participated of Attorney Generals and Solicitors from the Commonwealth nations spanning the Asia-Pacific, Africa, and the Caribbean along with various international delegations.
- Q. Who was awarded the 'Best Green Bond-Corporate' award at The Asset Triple A Awards for Sustainable Finance 2024?

A) Hindalco

B) REC Limited

C) IOCL

D) Tata Power

Answer: B

- ✓ REC Limited, a Maharatna enterprise under the Ministry of Power, has been awarded the prestigious Best Green Bond Corporate Award at The Asset Triple A Awards for Sustainable Finance 2024.
- ✓ REC has received the award for issuing a \$750 million USD green bond due in April 2023, which was also the first USD green bond from India

REC LTD IN NEWS 2023-24

- ➤ REC Limited has been awarded the prestigious Best Green Bond Corporate Award at The Asset Triple A Awards for Sustainable Finance 2024.
- ➤ REC will lend up to ₹1.2 trillion for the installation of rooftop solar panels under the Pradhan Mantri Suryoday Yojana.
- REC Limited issues inaugural Yen Denominated Green Bonds aggregating to 61.1 Billion Japanese Yen.
- ➤ REC sets ₹1 lakh crore sanction target for infrastructure space including roads and highways in FY24.
- > REC Invests Rs. 35,000 Cr In Multi-Modal Projects With Rail Vikas Nigam For 5 Years.
- > REC Honoured with 'Best Employer in Diversity & Inclusion' Award by Assocham.
- ➤ RailTel has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with REC Ltd extending up to Rs 30,000 crore as financial assistance for telecom, IT and railway signaling infrastructure projects.
- ➤ REC Ltd gets Golden Peacock Award for Disaster Management.

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

A) Uttar Pradesh

B) Assam

C) Bihar

D) Uttarakhand

Answer: D

- ✓ Uttarakhand CM Pushkar Singh Dhami has presented the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) in the Assembly. This bill will now be sent further to the Governor. After this bill is passed it will become a law.
- ✓ With this, Uttarakhand will become the first state in the country to implement UCC.
- ✓ The draft of the Uniform Civil Code has been prepared on the basis of the report of Justice Ranjana Desai Committee
- Q. Which has become the first country in the European Union to issue 'Digital Schengen Visa'?

A) Austria

B) Belgium

C) France

D) Finland

Answer: C

- ✓ France has started the initiative to issue Digital Schengen visas, becoming the first country in the European Union to issue this visa.
- ✓ Specific eligibility criteria have been outlined for non-EU citizens seeking a digital visa.
- ✓ Digital Visa will replace stickers with cryptographically signed barcodes.
- ✓ The Schengen countries are part of the 'Schengen Agreement' which was established in 1995.
- ✓ The country plans to distribute around 70,000 digital visas for the upcoming 2024 Olympic and Paralympic games in Paris.
- ✓ France became the first country in the European Union to hand out these visas starting from January 1, 2024
- ✓ Digital visas to visit France
- ✓ French Digital Schengen visa may be available to two groups of non-EU citizens requiring entry visas, according to French authorities.:
- ✓ Those who are a part of the Olympic and Paralympic Family and are seeking accreditation should apply through their respective committees.
- ✓ Schengen states
- ✓ Austria, Germany, Belgium, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, Spain, and Switzerland have all agreed to the Schengen Agreement and are therefore Schengen states.
- ✓ The Schengen area includes all EU member states, except for Ireland and Cyprus
- Q. Who won the 'Best Global Music Album' award at the Grammy Awards 2024?

A) This moment

B) Midnights

C) The Record

D) Flowers

Answer: A

- ✓ Veteran Indian musicians Shankar Mahadevan and Zakir Hussain won the Grammy Awards in the 'Best Global Music Album' category for their album 'This Moment' by fusion band 'Shakti'. 'This Moment' was released on 30 June 2023.
- ✓ Taylor Swift won the Best Album of the Year award for Midnights.
- ✓ The 66th Annual Grammy Awards 2024 were held in Los Angeles

- ✓ Grammy Awards Ceremony 2024:
- ✓ The 66th Grammy Awards ceremony was held in Los Angeles, USA on the night of 4 February 2024.
- ✓ Five Indian musicians who have won 'Grammy Awards 2024':
- ✓ Shakti, a fusion music group of Indian musicians, has won the 2024 Grammy Awards in the category of Best Global Music Album for 'This Moment'. The five Indian composers are:
- ✓ Tabla player Zakir Hussain
- ✓ Flute player Rakesh Chaurasia
- ✓ Singer Shankar Mahadevan
- ✓ Violinist ganesh rajagopalan
- ✓ Percussionist Selvaganesh Vinayakram.
- ✓ 'Shakti' was given the Best Global Music Album Award of 2024 for 'This Moment'.
- ✓ 'Abundance in Millets', a song written by PM Narendra Modi, has also got a place in the Global Song category in the Grammy Awards 2024.
- ✓ PM Modi has written this song with singers Falguni Shah and Gaurav Shah
- ✓ Major winners of Grammy Awards 2024:
- ✓ Record of the Year
- ✓ Winner- Flowers (Miley Cyrus)
- ✓ Album of the year
- ✓ Winner- Midnight (Taylor Swift)
- ✓ Song of the Year
- ✓ Winner What Was I Made For? Billie Eilish O'Connell & Finneas O'Connell, songwriters (Billie Eilish)
- Q. Which has become the first European country to accept Unified Payment Interface (UPI)?

A) Germany

B) Portugal

C) Italy

D) France

Answer: D

- ✓ India launches UPI Payments at Eiffel Tower in Paris
- ✓ India has officially introduced the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) at the iconic Eiffel Tower in Paris, marking a significant step towards realizing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of globalizing UPI.
- ✓ This initiative follows the digital payments sector agreement signed between India and France in July of the previous year, making France the first European country to adopt India's UPI for retail transactions.

- ✓ NPCI International Payments (NIPL) has partnered with French e-commerce and proximity payments company, Lyra, to facilitate the acceptance of UPI payments in France. The strategic tie-up ensures a seamless integration of the UPI payment mechanism, starting with the Eiffel Tower
- ✓ About Unified Payment Interface (UPI)
- ✓ Unified Payments Interface (UPI) is a system that powers multiple bank accounts into a single mobile application (of any participating bank), merging multiple banking features, seamless fund routing and merchant payments under one hood.
- ✓ It also caters to "Peer to Peer" collection requests which can be scheduled and paid as per requirement and convenience.
- ✓ Keeping the above context in mind, NPCI launched a pilot with 21 member banks.
- ✓ The pilot launch was done by Dr Raghuram G Rajan, Governor of RBI, in Mumbai on 11 April 2016.
- ✓ Countries with UPI are Singapore, Malaysia, UAE, France, BENELUX countries (Europe), Nepal, UK.
- ✓ BENELUX: Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg and Switzerland
- ✓ National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) is an initiative of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Indian Banks Association (IBA) under the provisions of the Payment and Settlement Infrastructure Act, 2007 to operate retail payment and settlement systems in India.
- ✓ The Eiffel Tower is a monument located in Paris, France.
- ✓ It was built to celebrate the centennial of the French Revolution.
- ✓ Tower is named after the engineer Gustave Eiffel.
- ✓ Construction begins in 1887 and completed in 1889.
- ✓ Architect: Stephen Sauvestre.
- ✓ The Eiffel Tower was the world's tallest structure when completed in 1889.
- ✓ The tower is 330 metres (1,083 ft) tall.
- Q. Consider the following statements regarding TESS Mission:
 - 1. It searches for exoplanets orbiting the brightest stars.
 - 2. It is launched by the European Space Agency (ESA).

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

- ✓ Using data from NASA's Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS), astronomers have recently discovered and characterised a habitable zone planet named TOI-715b.
- ✓ About Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS):
- ✓ It is a NASA mission that's searching for planets orbiting the brightest stars in Earth's sky.
- ✓ The satellite is a follow-up to NASA's highly successful Kepler space telescope, which found thousands of exoplanets during a decade of work after its launch in 2009.
- ✓ Launch: It was launched on April 18, 2018, aboard a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket out of Cape Canaveral.
- ✓ Orbit: TESS circles Earth in a unique high Earth orbit of 12 to 15 days, which is inclined in such a way that the telescope's sky view is largely free from obstructions by our bright planet and the Moon.

NASA IN NEWS 2023-24

- American space agency NASA has discovered a "super-Earth" planet, dubbed TOI-715 b, that could potentially support life. It is located 137 light-years away and was found by NASA's planet-hunting Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS) mission.
- NASA Re-Establishes Contact With Ingenuity Helicopter On Mars After Outage
- NASA has invited people to send their names to the surface of the Moon aboard the agency's first robotic lunar rover VIPER short for Volatiles Investigating Polar Exploration Rover.
- NASA is gearing up to enhance our understanding of Earth's atmosphere with the upcoming Plankton, Aerosol, Cloud, Ocean Ecosystem (PACE) mission, scheduled for launch in early 2024.
- NASA renames mission going to asteroid Apophis after returning rocks from Bennu.
- ➤ About OSIRIS-APEX:
- > It is a mission to study the physical changes to asteroid Apophis that will result from its rare close encounter
- ➤ with Earth in April 2029.
- A NASA experiment on the Psyche spacecraft has beamed back a near-infrared laser that contains test data from almost 16 million kilometres away.
- ➤ 16 Psyche:
- ➤ It is currently orbiting the Sun between Mars and Jupiter.

- > NASA is set to launch the Atmospheric Waves Experiment (AWE) to study 'airglow' to understand space
- weather.
- NASA's James Webb Telescope recently discovered a new exoplanet named 'Wasp-107b', which is the size
- > of Jupiter.
- NASA's Lucy spacecraft successfully completed its first flyby of an asteroid named Dinkinesh.
- ➤ About Lucy Mission:
- ➤ It is a first-of-its-kind mission of NASA that will explore Jupiter's elusive Trojan asteroids.
- National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) launched a sounding rocket as part of its INFUSE mission.
- NASA's Subsurface Water Ice Mapping (SWIM) project released its fourth set of maps.
- NISAR is a Low Earth Orbit (LEO) observatory jointly developed by NASA and ISRO.
- National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)
- > Founded: 1958
- Headquarters : Washington, D.C
- Administrator : Bill Nelson
- Q. Which one of the following is the best description of 'ABHYAS', that was in the news recently?
 - A) A next-generation hypersonic aircraft
 - B) A deep-sea exploration robot
 - C) A high-speed expendable aerial target
 - D) A satellite launched by ISRO

Answer: C

- ✓ DRDO successfully conducted four flight trials of the high-speed expendable aerial target 'ABHYAS' recently.
- ✓ About ABHYAS:
- ✓ It is a high-speed expendable aerial target (HEAT).
- ✓ It is designed by the DRDO's Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE).

✓ ABHYAS offers a realistic threat scenario for the practice of weapon systems

DRDO IN NEWS 2023-24

- > DRDO successfully conducted four flight trials of the high-speed expendable aerial target 'ABHYAS' recently.
- ➤ Defence Ministry has cleared the proposal of buying a regiment of Pralay tactical ballistic missiles for the Indian Army which can strike targets at 150–500 km.
- > DRDO organises 'Anusandhaan Chintan Shivir' to encourage Defence R&D.
- Larsen & Toubro (L&T) and the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) have formed a partnership to create an Indigenous Air Independent Propulsion (AIP) System for the submarines in the Indian Navy.
- > DRDO Industry Academia Centre of Excellence inaugurated at IIT Hyderabad.
- Indian Navy and Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) collaborated to conduct the first successful test trial of a locally-made Air Droppable Container called 'ADC-150' from the IL 38SD aircraft off the coast of Goa.
- ➤ Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) celebrated its 66th foundation day on 1st January 2024.
- ➤ Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)
- Founded: 1 January 1958
- ➤ Headquarters : New Delhi
- Motto: "Strength's Origin is in Knowledge"
- > Chairman : Sameer V Kamat
- Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Nagoya Protocol:
 - 1. It regulates the transboundary movement of Living Modified Organisms (LMOs).
 - 2. It is legally binding on all contracting parties.

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

- ✓ Cameroon recently adopted the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing.
- ✓ About Nagoya Protocol:
- ✓ The Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilisation (the Protocol) is a legally binding global agreement that implements the access and benefit-sharing obligations of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).
- ✓ It was adopted by the CBD in Nagoya, Japan, in October 2010 and entered into force on October 12, 2014, 90 days after the deposit of the fiftieth instrument of ratification.
- ✓ What does the Nagoya Protocol cover?
- ✓ It applies to genetic resources that are covered by the CBD, and to the benefits arising from their utilisation.
- ✓ The Nagoya Protocol, adopted in 2010, establishes a legally binding framework for access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from their use.
- ✓ Key Facts about Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD):
- ✓ CBD, with currently 196 contracting parties, is the most comprehensive binding international agreement in the field of nature conservation and the sustainable use of natural resources.
- ✓ It was opened for signing at the UN Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro in 1992.
- ✓ The Secretariat is based in Montreal, Canada
- Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Mera Gaon Meri Dharohar programme:
 - 1. It is an initiative of Ministry of Culture under National Mission on Cultural Mapping.
 - 2. It provides financial assistance for preservation & development of cultural heritage.

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

- ✓ Union Minister for Culture, Tourism And Development of North Eastern Region informed the Lok Sabha about the Mera Gaon Meri Dharohar programme.
- ✓ About Mera Gaon Meri Dharohar programme:

- ✓ It is a pan-India initiative of the Ministry of Culture under the National Mission on Cultural Mapping and was launched on 27th July 2023.
- ✓ It seeks to compile comprehensive information detailing the life, history, and ethos of Indian villages and to make the same available to virtual and real-time visitors.
- ✓ Objective: The main objective of the project is to culturally map India's 6.5 lakh villages, spanning 29 States and 7 Union Territories, on a comprehensive virtual platform.
- ✓ The financial outlay of Rs.353.46 Crore is approved under the scheme of Financial Assistance for Promotion of Art and Culture
- ✓ Scheme for Safeguarding the Intangible Cultural Heritage
- Q. How many air routes are currently being operated in the country under the RCS UDAN scheme?

A) 319

B) 419

C) 519

D) 619

Answer: C

- ✓ So far, 519 air routes are being operated across the country under the regional level air connectivity scheme (RCS) 'Ude Deshka Aam Nagrik' (UdeDeshkaAamNagrik-UDAN).
- ✓ Under the 'Udaan' scheme, 76 airports including 2 sea airports and 9 heliports are being operated.
- ✓ This scheme was launched in the year 2016.

AIRPORT IN NEWS 2023-24

- > So far, 519 air routes are being operated across the country under the regional level air connectivity scheme (RCS) 'Ude Deshka Aam Nagrik' (UdeDeshkaAamNagrik-UDAN).
- Government of India has officially given the status of 'International Airport' to Surat Airport in Gujarat.
- > 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. Where was the foundation stone of the 'India's First Digital National Museum of Epigraphy' laid?

A) Hyderabad

B) Patna

C) Varanasi

D) Jaipur

Answer: A

- ✓ Union Culture Minister G Kishan Reddy laid the foundation stone of the country's first Digital National Museum of Epigraphy at the Salar Jung Museum in Hyderabad.
- ✓ It is being established by the Archaeological Survey of India

HYDERABAD IN NEWS 2023-24

- ➤ Union Culture Minister G Kishan Reddy laid the foundation stone of the country's first Digital National Museum of Epigraphy at the Salar Jung Museum in Hyderabad.
- > World Economic Forum (WEF) is going to set up its Center for the Fourth Industrial Revolution (C4IR) focused on healthcare and life sciences in Hyderabad, Telangana.
- Wings India 2024, Asia's largest civil aviation event, is being held at Begumpet Airport in Hyderabad.
- ➤ Hyderabad is set to host the Formula E race for a second edition in February 2024.
- ➤ India's first solar roof cycling track was inaugurated in Hyderabad city.

- > Telangana has launched India's first Agricultural Data Exchange (ADeX) and Agriculture Data Management Framework (ADMF) in Hyderabad.
- ➤ Hyderabad will host India's first International Athletic Union's Ageas.
- ➤ Lloyds Banking Group, one of the UK's largest financial services organisations, said on 21st June 2023 that it is setting up a technology centre in Hyderabad.
- Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga (MDNIY) under the Union Ministry of AYUSH organized a mega 'Yoga Festival' at NCC Parade Ground, Hyderabad.
- ➤ Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao recently unveiled a 125-feet tall bronze statue of BR Ambedkar in Hyderabad.
- ➤ Hyderabad to become India's first city with 100% sewerage facilities by May 2023.
- ➤ The G20 Second Digital Economy Working Group meeting began on April 17 in Hyderabad.
- ➤ 'Grand start-up Conclave' on Animal Husbandry and Diary in Hyderabad.
- ➤ The two-day 'Food Conclave-2023' will be organized on April 28 and 29 in Hyderabad, Telangana.
- World Economic Forum (WEF) has chosen Hyderabad to set up its Center for the Fourth Industrial Revolution focused on healthcare and life sciences.
- > The seasoned Jean Eric Vergne of DS Penske automobiles won an action-packed Formula E Prix in Hyderabad.
- Q. Digital payments across the country registered a growth of how much per cent in a year through March 2023, as per RBI's index that measures the adoption of online transactions?

A) 10.94 per cent

B) 11.94 per cent

C) 12.94 per cent

D) 13.94 per cent

Answer: A

- ✓ Digital payments across the country registered a growth of 10.94 per cent in a year through March 2023, as per RBI's index that measures the adoption of online transactions.
- ✓ RBI's Digital Payments Index (RBI-DPI) stood at 418.77 at end-September 2023 compared to 377.46 in September 2022 and 395.57 in March 2023.
- ✓ The RBI-DPI index has increased across all parameters and was driven particularly by growth in payment enablers, payment performance and consumer centricity across the country over the period.

- ✓ The central bank had announced the construction of a composite RBI-DPI in March 2018 as a base to capture the extent of digitisation of payments across the country.
- ✓ The index comprises five broad parameters that enable the measurement of the depth and penetration of digital payments in the country over different periods.
- ✓ These parameters are Payment Enablers (weight 25 per cent); Payment Infrastructure Demand-side factors (10 per cent); Payment Infrastructure Supply-side factors (15 per cent); Payment Performance (45 per cent); and Consumer Centricity (5 per cent).
- Q. What is the allocated budget for Sovereign Gold Bond (SGB) issuance in the upcoming fiscal year 2024-25?

A) 2100 crore

B) 3000 crore

C) 3500 crore

D) 4000 crore

Answer : C

- ✓ Government Boosts Sovereign Gold Bond Issuance to 3,500 Crore in FY 25
- ✓ The Indian government has decided to substantially increase the issuance of Sovereign Gold Bonds (SGB) for the upcoming fiscal year.
- ✓ The allocation for SGBs has been more than doubled, rising from ₹1,500 crore in the financial year ending March 31, 2023, to a significant ₹3,500 crore for the fiscal year 2024-25.
- ✓ Incidentally, gold imports have jumped 20 per cent to 781 tonnes last year even as the run-away prices have suppressed demand, according to the World Gold Council data
- ✓ About Sovereign Gold Bond (SGB) Scheme:
- ✓ SGBs were introduced by the Government of India in 2015 under the Gold Monetization Scheme.
- ✓ SGBs are government securities issued by the RBI on behalf of the Government of India.
- ✓ They are substitutes for holding physical gold.
- ✓ Features:
- ✓ SGBs are denominated in grams of gold with a basic unit of 1 gram.
- ✓ Investors have to pay the issue price in cash, and the bonds will be redeemed in cash on maturity.
- ✓ Eligible Subscribers: The Bonds will be restricted for sale to resident Indian entities, including individuals (in his capacity as an individual, or on behalf of minor child, or jointly with any other individual), HUFs, Trusts, Universities and Charitable Institutions.

- ✓ Tenor: The tenor of the Bond will be for a period of 8 years with an exit option in 5th, 6th and 7th year, to be exercised on the interest payment dates.
- ✓ Investment Limit:
- ✓ Minimum: 1 gram of gold.
- ✓ Maximum: 4 Kg for individuals, 4 Kg for HUF and 20 Kg for trusts.
- ✓ Interest: 2.5% per annum, paid on a half-yearly basis.
- ✓ The interest on Gold Bonds shall be taxable as per the provisions of the Income Tax Act, 1961.
- ✓ SGBs can be used as collateral for loans
- Q. India Energy Week 2024 is being organized in which state?

A) Haryana

B) Madhya Pradesh

C) Goa

D) Bihar

Answer: C

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the India Energy Week 2024 in Goa, which is an important milestone in the country's commitment to advance the energy sector.
- ✓ India Energy Week 2024 is being organized to reduce carbon footprint and promote green energy sources.
- Q. In which city is the first BIMSTEC Aquatics Championship being organised?

A) Dhaka

B) Colombo

C) New Delhi

D) Kathmandu

Answer: C

- ✓ BIMSTEC Aquatics Championships 2024 is being organized in New Delhi.
- ✓ Central Youth Program and Sports Minister Anurag Singh Thakur inaugurated this championship.
- ✓ The first BIMSTEC Aquatics Championship is being held from 6 February to 9 February 2024. BIMSTEC was established in the year 1997.
- ✓ This group includes 7 countries (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Myanmar and Thailand).



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NAME - PRIYADARSHINI KALIYAMOORTHY ROLL NO - 2120036944 SELECTED IN - RRB PO SAPTHA GIRG GRAMEEN BANK STATE - TAMILNADU



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



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



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



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



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



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



MY PAID GROUP STUDENT GOT SELECTION IN IBPS RRB CLERK GOOD LUCK FOR YOUR FUTURE JOURNEY FEELING PROUD.

NAME - GURIYA KUMARI ROLL NO -1373906773 SELECTED IN - RRB CLERK DAKSHIN BIHAR GRAMEEN RANK



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



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