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

**Q. Who has been appointed as the new director of Asian Development Bank in India?**

A) Soumya Swaminathan

B) Takeo Konishi

C) Mio Oka

D) Geeta Gopinath

**Answer : C**

- ✓ Asian Development Bank (ADB) has recently appointed Mio Oka as the new director of the bank in India, replacing Takeo Konishi.
- ✓ Oka will be responsible for ADB operations and other development work in India.
- ✓ Ms. Oka, a Japanese national, has a wealth of experience in development finance and project management

**ADB IN NEWS 2023-24**

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- Asian Development Bank (ADB) has recently appointed Mio Oka as the new director of the bank in India, replacing Takeo Konishi.
- Vikas Sheel has been appointed as Executive Director of Asian Development Bank (ADB).
- India, ADB sign \$200 million loan agreement for Uttarakhand power system project.
- Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a substantial \$170 million loan to catalyze the modernization of water supply services in Kochi, a rapidly growing city in the southern Indian state of Kerala.
- India & ADB sign \$400 million loan to support urban reform agenda.
- ADB to Support Improvement of Urban Infrastructure and Services in Peri-urban Areas of Ahmedabad, India.
- ADB Capital Management Reforms Bring \$100 Billion Benefits Over Next Decade to Asia-Pacific.
- Asian Development Bank (ADB) has announced the allocation of US \$ 400 million for welfare work with a special focus on women and girls in Afghanistan.
- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Fourth Partner Energy Private Limited (Fourth Partner) signed a long-term loan of up to 1.2 billion Indian rupees (about \$14.7 million) .
- ADB Approves USD 40.5 Million Loan to Enhance Childhood Development and Maternal Mental Health in Meghalaya.
- Government of India and Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed a \$200 million loan as additional financing for the ongoing Rajasthan.
- ADB approves \$295mn loan to improve Transport Connectivity in Bihar.
- ADB gives 130 million dollars to increase horticulture in Himachal Pradesh.
- ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK (ADB)
- Founded : 19 December 1966
- HQ : Mandaluyong, Metro Manila, Philippines
- President : Masatsugu Asakawa (Japan)
- Vice President : Ashok Lavasa (Indian)
- Director of ADB for India : Mio Oka (Japan)
- Executive Director : Sameer Kumar
- Member Countries : 68 (Nuie).



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- ADB has grown to encompass 68 members; of which 49 are from within Asia and the Pacific and 19 outside.
- Japan is the largest contributor in the subscribed capital of the country.
- Asian Development Outlook, reports published by ADB.
- It is a regional multilateral financial institution focused on countries in the Asia and Pacific region.
- It currently has 68 members – of which 49 are from the Asia and Pacific region and 19 from outside.

**Q. Who has taken oath as the first woman Chief Justice of Uttarakhand High Court?**

A) Indu Malhotra

B) Ritu Bahri

C) Ruma Pal

D) Hima Kohli

**Answer : B**

- ✓ Justice Ritu Bahri has been appointed as the first woman Chief Justice of Uttarakhand High Court. Governor Lieutenant General (Retd.)
- ✓ Gurmeet Singh administered the oath to Justice Ritu Bahri at a ceremony held at Raj Bhavan.
- ✓ He replaced former Chief Justice Vipin Sanghi.
- ✓ In October last year, Justice Ritu Bahri was appointed as the acting Chief Justice of the Punjab and Haryana High Court

### FIRST'S FEMALE IN NEWS 2023-24

- Justice Ritu Bahri was today sworn in as the first woman Chief Justice of the Uttarakhand High Court.
- Nina Singh becomes first woman to be appointed as DG of CISF.
- Captain Fatima Wasim has become the first woman medical officer to be posted at the operational post of Siachen Glacier.
- Captain Geetika Kaul of Snow Leopard Brigade had become the first woman medical officer to be deployed in Siachen.
- Sue Redfern became the first woman to stand as an umpire in a men's first-class cricket match in England and Wales.
- Jaya Varma Sinha has been appointed as the new Chairperson and Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Railway Board (Ministry of Railways) w.e.f Sept 01, 2023. She has replaced AK Lahoti.
- She is the first woman to be appointed to this Apex post of Indian Railways.



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- Geetika Srivastava is first woman to head Indian mission in Pakistan.
- Phangnon Konyak became the first woman to chair the Rajya Sabha from Nagaland.
- Tenzing Yangki has become the first female IPS officer of Arunachal Pradesh.
- Lisa Franchetti becomes 1st woman to be top Navy officer in US history.
- Nusrat Chowdhary will become the first Muslim woman federal judge in US history.
- Celeste Saulo of Argentina has been appointed as the first female Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

**Q. The S2, nicknamed 'Jigarthanda' facility, recently seen in the news, will be used for:**

- A) testing agricultural technologies
- B) studying ocean currents
- C) simulating hypersonic conditions for aerospace technologies
- D) investigating deep-sea exploration techniques

**Answer : C**

- ✓ The Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (IIT-K) has successfully established and tested India's first Hypervelocity Expansion Tunnel Test Facility recently.
- ✓ About India's first Hypervelocity Expansion Tunnel Test Facility:
- ✓ The S2, nicknamed 'Jigarthanda', is a 24-meter-long facility located at IIT Kanpur's Hypersonic Experimental Aerodynamics Laboratory (HEAL) within the Department of Aerospace Engineering.
- ✓ It is India's first Hypervelocity Expansion Tunnel Test Facility.

**Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Vidyanjali Scholarship Programme:**

1. It extends financial support for meritorious Navodaya Vidyalaya students belonging to economically disadvantaged sections.
2. It generates assistance and funding from nongovernment partners and private sources as well.

**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**



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- ✓ Union Minister of Education and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship recently launched the EdCIL Vidyanjali Scholarship Programme.
- ✓ About Vidyanjali Scholarship Programme:
- ✓ This initiative guarantees access to high-quality learning systems by facilitating a seamless transition from secondary to higher education and extending financial support for the meritorious Navodaya Vidyalaya students who lack means.
- ✓ It symbolises a whole-of-society approach to empowerment through access to and opportunities for education, particularly to students belonging to economically disadvantaged sections.
- ✓ The beneficiaries of the Vidyanjali programme in its initial phase will be students of grades XI and XII studying in Navodaya Vidyalayas across the country.
- ✓ A fintech platform has been specifically curated under Vidyanjali, and the sponsorship will be disbursed to students through this platform as Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT).

**Q. Consider the following statements regarding Rights Issue:**

**1. It is an offering to the existing shareholders of a company to buy additional shares at a discounted price.**

**2. The rights issued cannot be traded on the secondary market.**

**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**

- ✓ Indiabulls Housing Finance plans to raise ₹3,693 crore through rights issue.
- ✓ About Rights Issue:
- ✓ A rights issue is an offering of rights to the existing shareholders of a company that gives them an opportunity to buy additional shares directly from the company at a discounted price rather than buying them in the secondary market.
- ✓ It gives preferential treatment to existing shareholders, where they are given the right (not obligation) to purchase shares at a lower price on or before a specified date.
- ✓ The number of additional shares that can be bought depends on the existing holdings of the shareowners.





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**Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Kendras:**

**1. These are set up by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.**

**2. These provide generic drugs that are available at lesser prices as compared to branded drugs.**

**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**

- ✓ Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) have been allowed by the Government to operate Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Kendras (PMBJK) under the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Pariyojana.
- ✓ These are set up under Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana, which was launched by the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers in November 2008.
- ✓ Objective: To provide quality medicines at affordable prices for all, particularly the poor, so as to reduce out-of-pocket expenses in healthcare.
- ✓ These Kendra's provide generic drugs, which are available at lesser prices but are equivalent in quality and efficacy as expensive branded drugs.
- ✓ All therapeutic medicines are made available from Jan Aushadhi Stores.
- ✓ Jan Aushadhi stores also sell allied medical products commonly sold in chemist shops so as to improve the viability of running the Jan Aushadhi store.
- ✓ Pharmaceutical & Medical Devices Bureau of India (PMBI) has been established under the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Govt. of India, with the support of all the CPSUs for co-coordinating procurement, supply, and marketing of generic drugs through the PMBKs.
- ✓ Who are eligible to open a Jan Aushadhi Kendra?
- ✓ State Governments or any organization / reputed NGOs / Trusts / Private hospitals / charitable institutions / Doctors / Unemployed pharmacists/ individual entrepreneurs are eligible to apply for the new Jan Aushadhi Kendra.
- ✓ The applicants shall have to employ one B Pharma / D Pharma degree holder as Pharmacist in their proposed store.
- ✓ Primary Agricultural Credit Societies.







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- ✓ HDFC Bank to acquire up to 9.5% stake in ICICI Bank.
- ✓ RBI has given approval to the group to acquire up to 9.5 per cent stake each in six lenders, including ICICI Bank and Axis Bank.
- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) gave its approval. Entities under HDFC Bank Group are HDFC Mutual Fund, HDFC Life Insurance Company, HDFC ERGO General Insurance Company and others.
- ✓ The six lenders in which HDFC Bank will take stake are -- Axis Bank, Suryoday Small Finance Bank, ICICI Bank, Bandhan Bank, Yes Bank, and IndusInd Bank
- ✓ As of December 2023, HDFC Mutual Fund held 2.76 per cent voting right in ICICI Bank, 2.49 per cent in Axis Bank, and 2.23 per cent in IndusInd Bank. HDFC Life Insurance held 2.92 per cent stake in Suryoday SFB, whereas HDFC Pension Management had 1.88 per cent stake in IndusInd Bank. HDFC Bank held 3 per cent stake in YES Bank
- ✓ As per RBI directions, HDFC Bank will have to ensure that the aggregate holding in the 6 banks does not exceed 9.50 per cent of the paid up share capital or voting rights of the respective banks, at all times

## ICICI BANK IN NEWS 2023-24

- HDFC Bank to acquire up to 9.5% stake in ICICI Bank.
- ICICI Bank Canada Launches 'Money2India (Canada)' Mobile Banking App.
- iVIS, a subsidiary of Magellanic Cloud, has announced its empanelment with ICICI Bank for the delivery of e-surveillance services across branches.
- ICICI Bank receives RBI's nod to make Securities a wholly-owned subsidiary.
- ICICI Bank Introduces 'iFinance,' A One-Stop Solution for Multi-Bank Account Access.
- IIT Kanpur has signed an MoU with private lender ICICI Bank to support the startup ecosystem in the institute.
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has taken strict measures against two prominent banking institutions, Kotak Mahindra Bank penalty of Rs 3.95 crore and ICICI Bank penalty of Rs 12.19 crore, by imposing significant penalties.
- RBI approves reappointment of Sandeep Bakshi as ICICI Bank MD & CEO for three more years till October 2026.
- ICICI Bank gets RBI nod to make I-Process Services as wholly-owned subsidiary.
- Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India (ICICI) BANK
- Founded : 1994



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- HQ : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- MD & CEO : Sandeep Bakhshi
- Tagline : Hum Hai Na Khayal Apka.

**Q. The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the acquisition of how much percent stake in Kotak Mahindra General Insurance Company Limited by Zurich Insurance Company?**

- A) 90%
- B) 74%
- C) 95%
- D) 100%

**Answer : D**

- ✓ CCI approves Zurich Insurance's acquisition of 70% stake in Kotak Mahindra General Insurance.
- ✓ Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the acquisition of 70 per cent stake in Kotak Mahindra General Insurance Company Limited by the Zurich Insurance Company.
- ✓ The proposed combination involves the acquisition of a majority stake in the Target by the Acquirer from Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited.
- ✓ Pursuant to the proposed combination, the Acquirer will acquire a 51 per cent stake in the Target (through a combination of fresh growth capital and share purchase)
- ✓ In addition to the above, the Acquirer will also acquire an additional stake of up to 19 per cent in the Target, over a period of time.
- ✓ The Acquirer is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Zurich Insurance Group Ltd (Zurich Insurance Group).

## KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK IN NEWS 2023-24

- CCI approves Zurich Insurance's acquisition of 70% stake in Kotak Mahindra General Insurance.
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the appointment of CS Rajan as part-time Chairman of Kotak Mahindra Bank.
- Kotak Mahindra Bank has partnered with National E-Governance Services Limited (NeSL) to issue its first electronic Bank Guarantee (e-BG) on the latter's platform.
- Ashok Vaswani is next Kotak Mahindra Bank CEO.
- Kotak Mahindra Bank has received the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) approval to acquire 100% stake in micro-lender Sonata Finance.



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- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a penalty of ₹12.19 crore on ICICI Bank and ₹3.95 crore on Kotak Mahindra Bank for non-compliance of certain regulatory norms.
- Kotak Mahindra Bank
- Founded 1985
- Founders : Uday Kotak
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- MD & CEO : Ashok Vaswani
- Tagline : Let's Make Money Simple Ab Kona Kona Kotak.
- Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited is an Indian banking and financial services company headquartered in Mumbai.
- It is India's third largest private sector bank by market capitalisation after HDFC Bank and ICICI Bank.
- As of 31 March 2023, the bank has a national footprint of 1,780 branches and 2,963 ATMs.
- Kotak Mahindra Finance was then renamed Kotak Mahindra Bank. At the time, Uday Kotak had a 56% stake in the company while Anand Mahindra held a 5% stake .

**Q. Which bank has proposed to acquire 100% stake in SBICAP Ventures for ₹708 crore?**

**A) Punjab National Bank**

**B) State Bank of India**

**C) Kotak Mahindra Bank**

**D) Indian Overseas Bank**

**Answer : B**

- ✓ State Bank of India (SBI) has received permission from its central board to obtain 100% stake in SBICAP Ventures.
- ✓ The stake, owned by SBI Capital Markets, will be bought by SBI at a cost of Rs 708 crore.

## SBI IN NEWS 2023-24

- LIC emerged as the most valued Indian PSU firm, surpassing SBI.
- State Bank of India (SBI) has signed a Line of Credit (LOC) of Euro 70 million (about Rs 630 crore) with German development bank KfW to promote solar projects in the country.
- SBI Mutual Fund got permission from the RBI to buy up to a 9.99% share in Karur Vysya Bank Ltd.



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- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurates SBI branch in Sri Lanka.
- State Bank of India ropes in MS Dhoni as brand ambassador.
- SBI has launched a 'Mobile Handheld Device' as part of its financial inclusion drive in a bid to improve accessibility and convenience.
- The tenure of State Bank of India (SBI) Chairman Dinesh Khara has been extended till August 2024.
- State Bank of India has introduced a digital facility for Non-Resident Indians to effortlessly open Non-Residential External and Non-Resident Ordinary accounts through its mobile app YONO.
- State Bank of India has launched its 'Nation First Transit Card', a RuPay prepaid instrument under the National Common Mobility Card (NCMC) that can be used nationwide.
- State Bank of India (SBI) has raised Rs 10,000 crore at a coupon rate of 7.54 percent through its third infrastructure bond issuance.
- STATE BANK OF INDIA (SBI )
- Founded : 1 July 1955
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Chairman : Dinesh Kumar Khara
- Imperial Bank of India was previous name of SBI
- The presidency Banks of Bengal, Bombay and Madras with merged in 1921 to Imperial Bank of India.
- Tagline of State Bank of India
- (1) Pure Banking Nothing Else
- (2) With you all the way
- (3) A bank of the common man
- (4) The banker to every Indian
- (5) The Nation banks on us.
- It is one of the largest and oldest banks in India.

**Q. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a penalty of how much rupees on Power Finance Corporation (PFC) Limited for non-compliance?**

A) Rs 9.8 lakh

B) Rs 5.8 lakh

C) Rs 7.8 lakh

D) Rs 8.8 lakh

**Answer : D**



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- ✓ RBI imposes Rs 8.8 lakh penalty on Power Finance Corporation for non-compliance.
- ✓ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a penalty of Rs 8.8 lakh on Power Finance Corporation (PFC) Limited for non-compliance with certain provisions of directions on 'Liquidity Risk Management Framework for Non-Banking Financial Companies and Core Investment Companies'.
- ✓ PFC had not maintained the prescribed Liquidity Coverage Ratio (LCR) of 60 per cent as of March 31, 2022, as a result of the inclusion of ineligible assets as High-Quality Liquid Assets (HQLA) for the computation of the LCR.
- ✓ Power Finance Corporation (PFC)
- ✓ Founded : 1986
- ✓ Headquarters : New Delhi
- ✓ Chairman & MD : Parminder Chopra.
- ✓ PCF is an Indian central public sector undertaking under the ownership of the Ministry of Power, Government of India.
- ✓ PFC paying almost Rs. 14,500 Crs to the Govt. of India for the 52.63% stake.
- ✓ PFC is set to become the 11th Maharatna central public sector enterprise (CPSE).

## PENALTY IN NEWS 2023-24

- RBI imposes Rs 8.8 lakh penalty on Power Finance Corporation for non-compliance.
- Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has fined Air India ₹1.1 crore for safety violations on certain flights.
- RBI took regulatory action imposing penalties on Bank of America, N.A. and HDFC Bank Ltd. for violations of specific norms.
- RBI has imposed a penalty of Rs. 10,000 on Bank of America, N.A. for violating the reporting requirements under the liberalized Remittances Scheme of FEMA 1999.
- HDFC Bank Ltd also faced a penalty of Rs.10,000 for violating directions related to the acceptance of deposits from non-residents.
- RBI Imposes ₹2.5 Crore Penalty On L&T Finance For Non Compliance.
- This penalty has been levied due to non-compliance with specific provisions of the Non-Banking Financial Company.
- RBI Imposes ₹5.4 Crore Penalty On Paytm Payments Bank.







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**Q. Who has taken oath as the Chief Justice of Gauhati High Court?**

- A) Justice Vijay Bishnoi                      B) Justice Amit Mishra  
C) Justice Arun Bhansali                      D) Justice Ramesh Sinha

**Answer : A**

- ✓ Justice Vijay Bishnoi has recently taken oath as the Chief Justice of Gauhati High Court.
- ✓ Assam Governor Gulab Chand Kataria administered the oath of office to Justice Bishnoi.
- ✓ State Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma was also present on this occasion.
- ✓ Justice Bishnoi's appointment as Chief Justice comes after the recommendation of the Supreme Court Collegium.
- ✓ Recently Justice Ritu Bahri was sworn in as the Chief Justice of Uttarakhand High Court

**Q. In which state is Deenbandhu Chhotu Ram Thermal Power Plant located?**

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

**Answer : B**

- ✓ Haryana State Government has approved the construction of 800 MW Deenbandhu Chhotu Ram Thermal Power Plant in Yamunanagar.
- ✓ State Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar has given the responsibility of its construction to BHEL.
- ✓ Rs 6,900 crore will be spent in its construction.

**Q. Where is 'Divya Kala Mela' 2024 being organised?**

- A) Agartala    B) Jaipur  
C) Lucknow    D) Patna

**Answer : A**

- ✓ 'Divya Kala Mela 2024' is being organized in Agartala, Tripura under the National Disabled Finance and Development Corporation (NDFDC).
- ✓ It is being organized from 6 to 11 February 2024. Tripura is a state in northeastern India, its capital is Agartala.
- ✓ The DIVYA Kala Mela, launched by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, kicked off at Agartala.



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**Q. With whom has South Eastern Railways joined hands for the development of rail infrastructure?**

- A) Steel Authority of India                      B) JSW Steel  
C) Jindal Steel and Power                      D) Tata Steel

**Answer : D**

- ✓ South Eastern Railway (SER) has joined hands with Tata Steel for the development of rail infrastructure.
- ✓ Tata Steel said in a statement that talks are going on between SER and Tata Steel officials regarding the project.
- ✓ The headquarters of South Eastern Railway is located in Kolkata.

**Q. Which bank has raised \$300 million through its first-ever sustainable bond issue, with the proceeds to be used to finance electric vehicles and green loans?**

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

**Answer : B**

- ✓ HDFC Bank Raises \$300 Million via Bond Issue to Fund Green Loans.
- ✓ HDFC Bank has raised \$300 million through its first-ever sustainable bond issue, with the proceeds to be used to finance electric vehicles and green loans.
- ✓ The bond, which has a three-year tenure with 95 basis points over the U.S. treasury, is part of an overall raise of \$750 million through Regulation S bonds

## HDFC BANK IN NEWS 2023-24

- HDFC Bank Raises \$300 Million via Bond Issue to Fund Green Loans.
- HDFC Bank to acquire up to 9.5% stake in ICICI Bank.
- LIC gets RBI nod for 9.99% stake buy in HDFC Bank.
- HDFC Bank first lender to issue 20 million credit cards.
- HDFC Bank approves re-appointment of Atanu Chakraborty as chairman for 3 years.
- HDFC Bank has recently raised Rs 7,425 crore through infrastructure bond issue.
- Reserve Bank of India has approved the reappointment of Sashidhar Jagdishan as HDFC Bank MD & CEO for a period of three years.



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- HDFC Bank Launches India's First Co-Branded Hotel Credit Card named 'Marriott Bonvoy HDFC Bank Credit Card' in partnership with Marriott International.
- HDFC Bank's Sashidhar Jagdishan is highest paid bank CEO in FY23 with Rs 10.55 crore pay.
- HDFC Bank overtakes SBI in CRISIL's corporate banking ranking for 2023.
- Food delivery platform Swiggy has joined hands with HDFC Bank to launch a co-branded credit card.
- HDFC BANK
- Founded : 1994
- Founder : Hasmukhbhai Parekh
- HQ : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- MD & CEO : Sashidhar Jagdishan
- Tagline : We understand your world

**Q. Microsoft announced an initiative to equip two million people in India with artificial intelligence (AI) skills by which year?**

A) 2025

B) 2026

C) 2027

D) 2028

**Answer : A**

- ✓ Microsoft announces AI skills initiative to train 2 million Indians by 2025.
- ✓ Microsoft announced an initiative to equip two million people in India with artificial intelligence (AI) skills by 2025. Called ADVANTAG(I)GE INDIA, the programme intends to push India's AI transformation and empower its workforce for jobs in the future

## MICROSOFT IN NEWS 2023-24

- Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella pledges to skill 2 million Indians by 2025
- Microsoft Hits The \$3 Trillion Valuation Mark But Apple Still Remains Most Valuable Company.
- Microsoft India has unveiled the 'AI Odyssey' initiative, aiming to train 100,000 Indian developers in the latest AI technologies.
- Microsoft Completes \$69 Billion Acquisition of Activision Blizzard
- Microsoft has appointed Puneet Chandok as the new Corporate Vice President of Microsoft India and South Asia.



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- Infosys And Microsoft Collaborate For Adoption Of Generative Artificial Intelligence.
- Microsoft has recently announced the appointment of Aparna Gupta as the new Global Delivery Center (GDC) leader
- Meta and Microsoft have jointly announced the expansion of their artificial intelligence partnership by introducing their new large language model (LLM) called “Llama 2”.
- MICROSOFT
- Founded : 1975
- Founders : Bill Gates and Paul Allen
- Headquarters : Washington DC
- Chairman : Satya Nadella
- CEO : Satya Nadella
- President : Brad Smith

**Q. The World Sustainable Development (WSDS) Summit is annually organised by:**

- A) United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**
- B) Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA)**
- C) World Bank**
- D) The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)**

**Answer : D**

- ✓ Vice-President recently inaugurated the World Sustainable Development Summit in New Delhi recently.
- ✓ About World Sustainable Development (WSDS) Summit:
- ✓ It is the annual flagship event of The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI).
- ✓ Instituted in 2001, the Summit series has a legacy of over two decades of making ‘sustainable development’ a globally shared goal.
- ✓ It is the only independently convened international summit on sustainable development and environment, based in the Global South.
- ✓ WSDS strives to provide long-term solutions for the benefit of global communities by assembling the world’s most enlightened leaders and thinkers on a single platform.
- ✓ WSDS 2024 is the 23rd edition of the summit.
- ✓ WSDS 2024 will take place on the theme ‘Leadership for the Sustainable Development and Climate Justice’.



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- ✓ Key Facts about The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI):
- ✓ TERI is a leading think tank dedicated to conducting research for sustainable development of India and the Global South.
- ✓ TERI was established in 1974 as an information centre on energy issues.
- ✓ It is headquartered in New Delhi

## SUMMIT & CONFERENCE IN NEWS 2023- 24

- Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar inaugurates World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS 2024) in Delhi.
- WSDS 2024 is the 23rd edition of the summit.
- WSDS 2024 will take place on the theme 'Leadership for the Sustainable Development and Climate Justice
- 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.













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- ✓ It delivers free, weekly, time-appropriate 72 audio messages about pregnancy, childbirth, and childcare directly to families' mobile phones from the second trimester of pregnancy until the child is one year old.
- ✓ Women who are registered in Reproductive Child Health (RCH) portal based on the woman's LMP (last menstrual period) or the child's DoB (Date of Birth), receive a weekly call with pre-recorded audio content directly to the mobile phones of pregnant women and mothers with children under the age of one year.
- ✓ Kilkari audio messages are present in the form of voice of a fictitious doctor character called Dr. Anita.
- ✓ It is centrally hosted by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) for all the States/UTs and no further investment in the technology, telephony infrastructure or operational costs is required to be borne by States/UTs.
- ✓ This service is FREE of cost for States/UTs and beneficiaries.
- ✓ The programme is integrated with centralized Reproductive Child Health (RCH) portal of MoHFW's and is the single source of information for this mHealth service.
- ✓ Currently Kilkari is under implementation in 18 States / UTs of India.
- ✓ Hence only statements 1 and 2 are correct.

**Q. Aether Industries will commission a 15 MW solar power project (Auto-Tracker Modules) under the Captive Power Producer (CPP) segment in which state?**

A) Rajasthan

B) Madhya Pradesh

C) Gujarat

D) Haryana

**Answer : C**

- ✓ Aether Industries will commission a 15 MW solar power project (Auto-Tracker Modules) under the Captive Power Producer (CPP) segment in the Bharuch district of Gujarat with an aim to become more sustainable.
- ✓ Earlier, in July 2023, Aether Industries had commissioned a 16 MW solar power project (Fixed Modules) under the CPP segment and this new solar power plant under CPP will add to its renewable energy sources and further move towards sustainability.
- ✓ The solar power farm will be in Gujarat's Bharuch District and spread across 60 acres.

**Q. According to the International Energy Agency (IEA), by which year India will become the largest source of global oil demand growth as its domestic production is down by 22 per cent?**

A) 2030

B) 2035

C) 2028

D) 2026



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## Answer : A

- ✓ India to be world's biggest oil demand growth driver through 2030: IEA
- ✓ India will in seven years become the largest source of global oil demand growth as its domestic production shrinks 22 per cent, according to the International Energy Agency (IEA).
- ✓ The two trends have major implications as India is already the world's second largest net importer, said the agency in a report released at the India Energy Week in Goa.
- ✓ India's crude imports reached 4.6 million b/d in 2023, increasing 36 per cent in a decade.
- ✓ India's domestic production meets just 13 per cent of its needs. In 2023, domestic oil production averaged around 700 thousand b/d.
- ✓ Electric vehicles and advances in energy efficiency will result in the country avoiding 480 thousand b/d of extra demand in 2023-2030.

**Q. The Indian government has decided to build a fence or close border along with Myanmar. How many kilometers of border does India share with Myanmar?**

- A) 1287 km                      B) 1643 km  
C) 1739 km                      D) 1789 km

## Answer : B

- ✓ The Indian government has decided to build a fence or close border along the 1,643-kilometer border with Myanmar, according to Union Home Minister Amit Shah.
- ✓ Several thousand anti-Junta rebels have fled to India since the Myanmar military coup in 2021 and tribal militants are also believed to enter into India through the porous border.
- ✓ About Indo-Myanmar Border
- ✓ The India-Myanmar border spans 1,643 km and passes through four states – Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland, and Arunachal Pradesh.
- ✓ A 10 km stretch in Moreh, Manipur, has already been fenced and two pilot projects using a Hybrid Surveillance System (HSS) are underway.
- ✓ These projects will fence one km each in Arunachal Pradesh and Manipur. Furthermore, fence works covering approximately 20 km in Manipur have also been approved and the work will commence soon.
- ✓ About Free Movement Regime (FMR)
- ✓ The Free Movement Regime (FMR) is an agreement between India and Myanmar that allows local tribes living along the border to travel up to 16 kilometres inside the other country without requiring a visa.



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**Q. Bihar State Disaster Management Authority and IIT Patna have collaborated to develop a pendant-shaped device called NITISH for farmers. What is the meaning of second “I” in “NITISH”?**

- A) Innovation  
B) Intervention  
C) Insurance  
D) Inclusive

**Answer : B**

- ✓ Bihar State Disaster Management Authority and IIT Patna have collaborated to develop a pendant-shaped device called NITISH (Novel Initiative Technological Intervention for Safety of Humanlives)
- ✓ The device uses voice messages to alert users about impending lightning, floods, heatwaves, and coldwaves, helping farmers and common people stay informed and protected.
- ✓ The device is synced with the Bihar Meteorological Service Centre.

**Q. Which bank has launched four new small and medium enterprises (SME)-focused credit cards “BizFirst, BizGrow, BizPower, and BizBlack” to cater to the specific needs of entrepreneurs, freelancers, and professionals?**

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

**Answer : A**

- ✓ HDFC Bank rolls out 4 SME credit cards for entrepreneurs, freelancers
- ✓ India’s largest private sector bank, HDFC Bank has launched four new small and medium enterprises (SME)-focused credit cards to cater to the specific needs of entrepreneurs, freelancers, and professionals.
- ✓ The biggest USP of the cards is that they will provide 55 days of interest-free credit, the highest number of days offered by any bank.
- ✓ The new cards will make up a part of the strong suite of SME payments solutions that the bank offers — BizFirst, BizGrow, BizPower, and BizBlack. The SME Payment Solution is designed to meet the diverse payment needs of self-employed individuals, SMEs and MSMEs.

**Q. Max Financial Services has received approval from Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) for capital infusion of Rs 1,612 crore by which bank into the company’s material subsidiary, Max Life Insurance?**

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



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## Answer : B

- ✓ Max Financial Services has received approval from Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) for capital infusion of Rs 1,612 crore by Axis Bank into the company's material subsidiary, Max Life Insurance.
- ✓ As part of the deal, Max Life will issue nearly 14,25,79,161 equity shares to Axis Bank for an aggregate investment of above-mentioned amount.
- ✓ The capital infusion will help Max Life to support its future growth ambitions, to augment its capital position and to improve solvency margins.
- ✓ While the financial services company has received green light from the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) already, it has also sought approval from the Competition Commission of India (CCI) for the deal

**Q. IIT Madras has partnered with which company to develop India's first indigenously-designed 155mm Smart Ammunition to achieve indigenization in the defence sector?**

- A) Armoured Vehicles Nigam                      B) Munitions India Limited  
C) Tata Advanced Systems                      D) Bharat Electronics Limited

## Answer : B

- ✓ IIT Madras to create India's first 155mm smart ammunition
- ✓ Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras) has partnered with Munitions India Limited (a Defence Public Sector Enterprise) to develop India's first indigenously-designed 155mm Smart Ammunition to achieve indigenisation in the defence sector.
- ✓ The objective is to increase the accuracy of 155 mm shell within a Circular Error Probable (CEP) of 10 m. At present, ammunitions developed in India has a CEP of 500 m. Another goal is to increase the lethality at the terminal impact point.
- ✓ About Munitions India Limited
- ✓ Munitions India comes under the Ministry of Defence.
- ✓ Headquarters – Pune
- ✓ Munitions India is the country biggest manufacturer and market leader engaged in the production, testing, research and development and marketing of a comprehensive range of ammunition and explosives for the Army, Navy, Air force and Paramilitary Forces.





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- ✓ The government also decided to hike tendu leaf collection remuneration given to people collecting them to Rs 5,500 per standard sacks from existing Rs 4,000. Tendu leaves are used as a wrapper for beedis

**Q. Narendra Modi has laid the foundation stone of projects worth over ₹1330 crore in which state?**

- A) Assam
- B) Odisha
- C) Bihar
- D) Goa

**Answer : D**

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has participated in 'Viksit Bharat, Viksit Goa 2047' programme and inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of projects worth over ₹1330 crore.
- ✓ The Prime Minister inaugurated the permanent campus of the National Institute of Technology Goa.
- ✓ The newly built-up campus has various facilities such as tutorial complex, departmental complex, seminar complex, administrative complex, hostels, health centre, staff quarters, amenity centre, sports ground and other utilities to cater to the needs of students, faculty and staff of the Institute.

**Q. Dr Jitendra Singh has released the theme for the "National Science Day 2024" titled \_\_\_\_.**

- A) Indigenous Technologies for Viksit Bharat
- B) Indigenous Technologies for Vikas Sheel Bharat
- C) Indigenous Technologies for Amrit Kaal
- D) Indigenous Technologies for 2047

**Answer : A**

- ✓ Dr Jitendra Singh launches the theme for National Science Day 'Indigenous Technologies for Viksit Bharat'
- ✓ Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh has released the theme for the "National Science Day 2024", titled "Indigenous Technologies for Viksit Bharat".
- ✓ The National Science Day (NSD) is celebrated every year on 28 February to commemorate the discovery of the 'Raman Effect'. Government of India designated 28 February as National Science Day (NSD) in 1986.
- ✓ On this day Sir C.V. Raman announced the discovery of the 'Raman Effect' for which he was awarded the Nobel Prize in 1930.





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**Q. Which state government has launched 'Chief Minister Vayoshree Yojana' for senior citizens who suffer from some physical or mental disability?**

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

**Answer : C**

- ✓ Maharashtra Government has decided to introduce 'Chief Minister Vayoshree Yojana' that is likely to benefit 15 lakh senior citizens who suffer from some physical or mental disability.
- ✓ These citizens, above the age of 65 years, will be screened and those found eligible will be paid three thousand rupees.
- ✓ The scheme will be implemented across all districts at an approximate cost of 480 crore rupees.

**Q. Which state's cabinet has approved the creation of two new districts for ease of administration to carve out Keyi Panyor district from Lower Subansiri and Bichom from East and West Kameng districts?**

- A) Himachal Pradesh  
B) Uttarakhand  
C) Arunachal Pradesh  
D) Sikkim

**Answer : C**

- ✓ Arunachal Pradesh Cabinet Approves 2 new district
- ✓ The cabinet of Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu has approved the creation of two new districts for ease of administration.
- ✓ The cabinet decided to carve out Keyi Panyor district from Lower Subansiri and Bichom from East and West Kameng districts.
- ✓ The number of districts in the northeastern state will now rise to 28.

**Q. President Nayib Bukele has re-elected as the president of which country?**

- A) Eritrea  
B) El Salvador  
C) Scotland  
D) Finland

**Answer : B**

- ✓ President Nayib Bukele has secured a thumping victory in El Salvador's elections after voters cast aside concerns about erosion of democracy to reward him for a fierce gang crackdown that transformed security in the Central American country.





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**Q. The government has set a target to have 25,000 Janaushadhi Kendras across the country by which year?**

A) March 2026

B) December 2025

C) December 2026

D) June 2025

**Answer : A**

- ✓ The government has set a target to have 25,000 Janaushadhi Kendras across the country by March 31, 2026.
- ✓ In a written reply in Rajya Sabha, Union Minister of State for Chemicals & Fertilizers Bhagwanth Khuba said that about 10,624 Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras (PMBJKs) were functional across the country till January 31, 2024.
- ✓ For further expansion of the scheme, the government has set a target for opening 25,000 Janaushadhi Kendras (JAKs) by March 31, 2026, he added.
- ✓ Accordingly, the Pharmaceuticals & Medical Devices Bureau of India (PMBI) has invited online applications from all districts of the country.
- ✓ Prices of the Janaushadhi medicines are generally 50-90 per cent less than that of branded medicines' prices which are available in the open market.
- ✓ During the past nine years, estimated savings of more than Rs 28,000 crore for the citizens have been possible.
- ✓ Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP) was launched by the government in 2008.

**Q. Mir Mohammad Farooq Nazki died. Who was he**

A) Historian

B) Social Worker

C) Politician

D) Poet

**Answer : D**

- ✓ Veteran broadcaster, poet and Sahitya Akademi winner Mir Mohammad Farooq Nazki died at the age of 83.
- ✓ Nazki, who held several important positions in All India Radio Kashmir and Doordarshan.
- ✓ In 1995, Nazki won the Sahitya Academy award in Kashmiri language literature for his book of poetry, Naar Hyutun Kanzal Wanas (Fire in the Eyelashes).



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**Q. Consider the following statements regarding the SARTHI Platform:**

**1. It is the digital insurance platform launched in collaboration with United Nations Development programme (UNDP) India.**

**2. The insurance under this covers both health and agriculture implements.**

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

**A) 1 only**

**B) 2 only**

**C) Both 1 and 2**

**D) Neither 1 nor 2**

**Answer : C**

- ✓ Recently, the union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare launched the Agri-Insurance Sandbox Framework Platform SARTHI and Learning Management System (LMS) Platform for the farming community under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) in Delhi.
- ✓ Sandbox for Agricultural and Rural Security, Technology and Insurance (SARTHI) is the comprehensive digital insurance platform launched in collaboration with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) India.
- ✓ It extends coverage to health, life, home, shop, agriculture implements, motor, and parametric products.
- ✓ It can be accessed via the AIDE app available on Android App Store.
- ✓ This ambitious endeavour, aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals, not only aims to safeguard farmers' livelihoods but also to fortify the resilience of the agricultural sector as a whole

## APP & PORTAL IN NEWS 2023 -24

- Agriculture minister launches Sarathi portal for insurance products.
- 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:



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- 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. With whom has Chennai Super Kings signed an agreement as the official sponsor?**

A) Etihad Airways

B) Tata Group

C) Samsung

D) Qatar Airways

**Answer : A**

- ✓ Chennai Super Kings (CSK) has signed an agreement with Etihad Airways as the official sponsor before IPL 2024.
- ✓ The Etihad logo will be displayed on players' jerseys including at CSK events and platforms.

## SPONSOR IN NEWS 2023-24

- Etihad Airways inks deal with Chennai Super Kings to become the principal sponsor.
- Tata Group Secures IPL Title Sponsorship for the upcoming five seasons, spanning 2024 to 2028.
- Bihar government will sponsor 'Patna Pirates' team of Pro Kabaddi League.
- Paytm becomes official sponsor for 37th National Games .
- MotoGP Bharat has roped in IndianOil as the title sponsor for the event scheduled to take place at the Buddh International Circuit in Greater Noida.
- ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023 to be sponsored by Mahindra on Disney Star.
- Amul has been named as the official sponsor of the Indian contingent for the 19th Asian Games 2022 to be held in Hangzhou, China.
- The 28th edition of BWF World Badminton Championships 2023, sponsored by TotalEnergies, was held at Royal Arena, Copenhagen, Denmark.

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- International Cricket Council (ICC) has a brand tie-up with Mastercard for the upcoming Men's Cricket World Cup 2023 to be held in India between 5 October and 19 November 2023.
- Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) signed a three-year sponsorship deal with fantasy sports gaming platform Dream 11.
- BCCI ropes in Adidas as new kit sponsor of Indian cricket team.
- Mastercard has reportedly taken over from BharatPe as the global sponsor of the International Cricket Council (ICC).
- Tata Group bags Title sponsorship rights for the Women's Premier League to 2027.
- Adani Sportsline is principal sponsor of Indian Olympic Association Birmingham Commonwealth Games 2022, the Hangzhou Asian Games 2022, and the Paris Olympic Games 2024.

**Q. Which of the following has garnered the highest ever monetization value of Rs 15,624.9 crore through infrastructure investment trust (InvIT) mode?**

A) SEBI

B) NPCI

C) NHAI

D) IRDAI

**Answer : C**

- ✓ NHAI raises record concession value of Rs 15,624 crore via InvITs.
- ✓ National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has raised Rs 15,625 crore from monetisation of 10 highway stretches totalling 890-km, through infrastructure investment trust (InvIT) route.
- ✓ The latest round of InvIT takes the total amount raised by the agency through monetisation so far to Rs 1 trillion – Rs. 42,334 crore through TOT, Rs 26,125 crore through InvIT and Rs 42,000 crore through securitisation.
- ✓ The road assets will be acquired by National Highways Infra Trust (NHIT) that is sponsored by NHAI.
- ✓ The NHAI holds 15.86% units in the InvIT while Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan and Canada Pension Plan Investment Board hold 25% each and 9.86% by SBI Balanced Advantage Fund.

## NHAI IN NEWS 2023- 24

- NHAI has implemented the 'One Vehicle, One FASTag' initiative to improve the efficiency of electronic toll collection and enable seamless movement at toll plazas.



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- NHAH Signs MoU With National Remote Sensing Center (NRSC) For "Green Cover Index" Of NH In India.
- NHAH launches mobile app 'Rajmargyatra' for national highway users.
- NHAH Launched ERS Mobile App For Swift Emergency Response.
- NHAH launches 'Knowledge Sharing Platform' for development of Highways.
- NHAH to Develop 10,000 km of Optic Fibre Cables Across India by FY 2025
- National Highways Authority of India or (NHAH)
- Founded : 1995
- Headquarters : New Delhi
- Chairman : Santosh Kumar Yadav
- Parent organisation : Ministry of Road Transport and Highways

**Q. Olzhas Bektenov has been appointed as the new prime minister of which country?**

- A) Turkmenistan
- B) Kyrgyzstan
- C) Tajikistan
- D) Kazakhstan

**Answer : D**

- ✓ Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev has appointed Olzhas Bektenov, his chief of staff, as the new prime minister.
- ✓ Bektenov (43), previously headed the state anti-corruption agency and assumed the role of presidential administration head in April 2023.
- ✓ The swift approval from the ruling Amanat party-dominated parliament underscores the president's firm grip on power.
- ✓ About Kazakhstan
- ✓ Capital : Astana
- ✓ Currency : Kazakhstani tenge
- ✓ Prime Minister : Olzhas Bektenov
- ✓ President : Kassym-Jomart Tokayev



### NEWLY PRIME MINISTER IN NEWS

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

**Q. Which is the first state in the country to implement 'Uniform Civil Code'?**

- A) Uttar Pradesh                      B) Madhya Pradesh  
C) Uttarakhand                         D) Maharashtra

**Answer : C**

- ✓ Uttarakhand became the first state in the country to implement Uniform Civil Code (UCC).
- ✓ The goal of the UCC is to standardize uniform laws for all citizens regardless of their religion.
- ✓ To implement Uniform Civil Code in Uttarakhand.
- ✓ Justice Ranjana P. A committee was formed under the leadership of Desai

### BECAME FIRST STATE IN NEWS 2023-24

- Uttarakhand became the first state in the country to implement Uniform Civil Code (UCC).
- Maharashtra became the first state in the country to pass the Lokayukta Bill.
- Nagaland Becomes First State In North Eastern Region To Initiate Aadhaar Linked Birth Registration (ALBR) system.





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- Kerala Becomes First State With Hallmarking Centers In Every District
- Uttar Pradesh on track to be first Indian state with 100% EVs
- Haryana becomes first state in India to have 100% electrified railway network.
- Right to Sight, Rajasthan Becomes first state to implement Blindness Control Policy.
- Kerala becomes first state to have own internet service
- Uttarakhand become India's first state to start insurance scheme "Resham Keet Bima" programme for sericulturists

**Q. At what percentage has RBI kept the repo rate unchanged for the sixth consecutive time?**

A) 6.0%

B) 6.25%

C) 6.5%

D) 6.75%

**Answer : C**

- ✓ RBI did not make any change in the repo rate for the sixth consecutive time.
- ✓ All 6 members of the RBI MPC voted unanimously to keep the repo rate unchanged at 6.5%.
- ✓ Whereas the real GDP growth estimate for FY24 was maintained at 6.5%.
- ✓ RBI projects real GDP growth of 7 pc for FY'25 with risks evenly balanced
- ✓ Inflation projection for FY24 has also been retained at 5.4%.
- ✓ RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das revealed the decisions taken in the MPC meeting.
- ✓ In a recent meeting that concluded on February 8, 2024, five out of six MPC members voted in favour of keeping the repo rate steady
- ✓ The next meeting of the MPC is scheduled during April 3 to 5, 2024.
- ✓ RBI Repo Rate are as under
- ✓ Policy Repo Rate: 6.50%
- ✓ Standing Deposit Facility (SDF): 6.25%
- ✓ Marginal Standing Facility Rate: 6.75%
- ✓ Bank Rate: 6.75%
- ✓ Fixed Reverse Repo Rate: 3.35%
- ✓ CRR: 4.50%
- ✓ SLR: 18.00%





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## Answer : A

- ✓ First Fair Price Shops Included on the Open Network Digital Commerce.
- ✓ As a part of Digital India initiative, the Government of India has launched a pilot programme to onboard the Fair Price Shops (FPSs) in Una and Hamirpur districts of Himachal Pradesh onto the Open Network Digital Commerce (ONDC).
- ✓ Fair Price Shops (FPSs) in Una and Hamirpur
- ✓ The pilot project was launched in 11 FPSs, with 5 FPSs located in Una district and 6 FPSs in Hamirpur district.
- ✓ This marks the first time that Fair Price Shops have been integrated into the ONDC platform.
- ✓ The initiative aims to provide more opportunities for FPS dealers to increase their income while also improving beneficiary satisfaction.
- ✓ Meaning of Fair Price Shop
- ✓ A Fair Price Shop is a licensed shop that distributes essential commodities to ration card holders under the Targeted Public Distribution System.
- ✓ This license is issued under section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. The definition of this term can be found in Section 2(4) of the National Food Security Act, 2013
- ✓ About the Open Network Digital Commerce (ONDC).
- ✓ It is an open-source network set up to enable buyers and sellers to transact with each other irrespective of the e-commerce platform on which either of them are registered.
- ✓ It will enable local commerce across segments, such as mobility, grocery, food order and delivery, hotel booking and travel, among others, to be discovered and engaged by any network-enabled application.
- ✓ It is an initiative of the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade(DPIIT) under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

**Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Zircon Missile:**

**1. It is a supersonic ballistic missile.**

**2. It is developed by Russia.**

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

**A) 1 only**

**B) 2 only**

**C) Both 1 and 2**

**D) Neither 1 nor 2**





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A) Only one

B) Only two

C) All three

D) None

### Answer : C

- ✓ Recently, the Union Cabinet approved the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Kisan Samridhi Sah-Yojana (PM-MKSSY), a sub scheme under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana.
- ✓ It will be implemented as a Central Sector Sub-scheme under the Central Sector Component of the PMMSY.
- ✓ Funding: Implemented at an estimated outlay of Rs.6,000 crore consisting of 50% i.e. Rs.3,000 crore public finance including the World Bank and the AFD external financing, and rest 50% i.e.Rs.3,000 crore being the anticipated investment from the beneficiaries/private sector leverage.
- ✓ Time period: It will be implemented for 4 years from FY 2023-24 to FY 2026-27 across all the States and UTs.
- ✓ Intended Beneficiaries:
- ✓ Fishers, Fish (Aquaculture) Farmers, Fish workers, Fish Vendors or such other person directly engaged in fisheries value chain.
- ✓ Micro and Small enterprises in the form of Proprietary Firms, Partnership Firms and Companies registered in India, Societies, Limited Liability Partnerships (LLPs), Cooperatives, Federations, Village Level Organizations like Self Help Groups (SHGs), Fish Farmers Producer Organizations (FFPOs) and Startups engaged in fisheries and aquaculture value chains.
- ✓ Aims and objectives
- ✓ Gradual Formalization of the unorganized fisheries sector through self registration of fishers, fish farmers and supportive workers under a National Fisheries Sector Digital Platform including creation of work based digital identifies of fish workers for improved service delivery.
- ✓ India is the 3rd largest fish producing country, contributing 8 percent to the global fish production and ranks 2nd in aquaculture production
- ✓ The fish production in 2021-22 is 16.24 Million Tonnes (MTs) comprising of marine fish production of 4.12 MTs and 12.12 MTs from Aquaculture.

**Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Aadi Mahotsav:**

- 1. It is organized by Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited (TRIFED).**
- 2. It is a platform to exhibit the talent and craftsmanship of tribal artisans.**



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**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**

- ✓ President of India will inaugurate the Aadi Mahotsav 2024, an annual National Tribal Festival at Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium in New Delhi on 10th February.
- ✓ It is organized by Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited (TRIFED) under the aegis of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, will showcase the rich diversity of India's tribal heritage.
- ✓ It is not only a platform to exhibit the extraordinary talent and craftsmanship of tribal artisans but also an opportunity to interact, learn, and contribute to the empowerment of tribal communities.
- ✓ The festival will feature an expanded showcase with over 300 stalls, offering varied display of Tribal art, handicrafts, natural produce, and delectable tribal cuisine.

**Q. Who has been appointed as the new CEO and MD of Tata Digital, the e-commerce unit of Tata Group?**

A) Naveen Tahiliani

B) Prateek Pal

C) Rana Kapoor

D) Vinay Kumar Singh

**Answer : A**

- ✓ Naveen Tahiliani has been appointed as the new CEO and MD of Tata Digital, the e-commerce unit of the Tata Group. Naveen will replace Prateek Pal.
- ✓ Tahiliani is currently the CEO and MD of Tata AIA Life Insurance Company. Naveen will assume his post on 19 February 2024

**Q. A stunning picture of a sleeping polar bear 'Ice Bed' has won the prestigious Wildlife Photographer of the Year People's Choice Award. The portrait titled 'Ice Bed' has been clicked by which photographer?**

A) Nima Sarikhani

B) Dorothea Lange

C) Atul Kasbekar

D) Farhan Qurashi

**Answer : A**

- ✓ A stunning picture of a sleeping polar bear has won the prestigious Wildlife Photographer of the Year People's Choice Award.





**Q. Who was declared joint winner of the SAFF Women's Under-19 Championship with India?**

- A) Pakistan  
B) Bangladesh  
C) Nepal  
D) Bhutan

**Answer : B**

- ✓ India was declared joint winner of the SAFF Women's Under-19 Football Championships along with hosts Bangladesh.
- ✓ After controversy during the match, both the teams were declared joint winners.

**Q. Uttarakhand CM Pushkar Singh Dhama has initiated the “Dhama against drugs campaign”. The campaign aims to eradicate drug abuse and cultivate a healthier, drug-free society by which year?**

- A) 2025  
B) 2026  
C) 2027  
D) 2028

**Answer : A**

- ✓ Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama has initiated the “Dhama against drugs campaign,” a significant effort led by the Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha Metropolitan Dehradun.
- ✓ The “Dhama against drugs campaign” is a testament to Uttarakhand’s proactive stance on public health and social well-being.
- ✓ The campaign aims to eradicate drug abuse and cultivate a healthier, drug-free society by 2025.
- ✓ The state aims to achieve a “Drugs Free Uttarakhand” by 2025.

**Q. Which countries have been declared the guests of honor at the 2024 World Governments Summit which set to take place in Dubai from February 12 to 14?**

- A) India, Türkiye & Saudi Arabia  
B) India, UK & Ukraine  
C) India, Iran & Qatar  
D) India, Türkiye & Qatar

**Answer : D**

- ✓ India, Türkiye, and Qatar have been declared the guests of honor at the 2024 World Governments Summit which set to take place in Dubai from February 12-14.
- ✓ The summit, themed ‘Shaping Future Governments,’ will see the participation of over 25 government and state heads from around the world.





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- ✓ The delegations from Türkiye, India, and Qatar will be led by their respective leaders: President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani

**Q. Which company has launched a new life insurance plan “Index Plus”?**

- A) Bajaj Allianz General Insurance
- B) Bharti AXA General Insurance
- C) Life Insurance Corporation of India
- D) Kotak Mahindra Life Insurance

**Answer : D**

- ✓ Life Insurance Corporation of India has launched the unit-linked, regular premium, individual life insurance plan “Index Plus”
- ✓ The plan offers life insurance cover-cum-savings throughout the term of the policy.
- ✓ There is an option to partially withdraw the units at any time after the five-year lock-in period subject to conditions.
- ✓ LIC Index Plus Plan is the regular premium policy with monthly, quarterly, half-yearly and yearly savings options. The insurance coverage will be seven times only if the age is above 51; and seven times and 10 times if the age is below 51.

**Q. Name the bank that has partnered with Flywire Corporation to revolutionise the landscape of international education payments for Indian students?**

- A) Canara Bank
- B) State Bank of India
- C) HDFC Bank
- D) Yes Bank

**Answer : B**

- ✓ State Bank of India (SBI) has partnered with Flywire Corporation to revolutionize the landscape of international education payments for Indian students.
- ✓ This strategic partnership aims to simplify the traditionally complex payment process, offering students a seamless and fully digital experience.
- ✓ Integrated directly into SBI’s platform, Flywire’s technology would enable Indian students to complete their international education payments effortlessly in Indian rupees.



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- ✓ The collaboration will also allow automatic capturing of relevant student information, ensuring accuracy and traceability in transactions. It aligns with the Reserve Bank of India's Liberalized Remittance Scheme (LRS) guidelines, enhancing transparency and compliance

**Q. Venkatachalam H has been appointed as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Managing Director (MD) of which private life insurer company?**

- A) Tata AIA Life Insurance                      B) SBI Life Insurance  
C) Bharti AXA Insurance                        D) Max Life Insurance

**Answer : A**

- ✓ Private life insurer, Tata AIA Life Insurance has appointed Venkatachalam H as the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Managing Director (MD) of the company.
- ✓ The appointment is subject to approval from the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI).
- ✓ Venkatachalam will take over from the incumbent, Naveen Tahilyani, who will be moving to another role in the Tata Group and has been elevated as a Non-Executive Director of Tata AIA Life Insurance Company.
- ✓ Naveen Tahilyani has been serving as MD & CEO of the life insurance company since 2020.

**Q. The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has appointed whom as non-executive chairman of the Board and independent director for a period of three years?**

- A) Siddhartha Mohanty                              B) Rajnish Kumar  
C) Ajay Kumar Choudhary                        D) Deepak Mohanty

**Answer : C**

- ✓ The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has appointed Ajay Kumar Choudhary as non-executive chairman of the Board and independent director for a period of three years starting February 8, 2024.
- ✓ Choudhary succeeds Biswamohan Mahapatra who was appointed non-executive chairman in 2018.
- ✓ Dilip Asbe is the managing director and chief executive officer of NPCI.
- ✓ Venkatraman Srinivasan, Rishikesh Krishna, D Manjunath, and Padmini Khare Kaicker are independent directors at NPCI, an umbrella organisation handling retail payments and settlement systems in India.



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- ✓ It has retail payment products such as RuPay card, Immediate Payment Service (IMPS), Unified Payments Interface (UPI), Bharat Interface for Money (BHIM), Aadhaar Enabled Payment System (AePS), National Electronic Toll Collection (NETC) and Bharat BillPay.

**Q. Who is the author of the book titled “Artificial Intelligence and National Security”?**

A) Ajit Doval

B) Amit Shah

C) Anil Chauhan

D) S Jaishankar

**Answer : C**

- ✓ CDS Anil Chauhan revealed a book titled ‘Artificial Intelligence and National Security’ at the Defence Literature Festival ‘Kalam and Kavach’ in Pune.
- ✓ The festival is hosted by Army Southern Command at the prestigious RSAMI Institute, Pune.
- ✓ General Anil Chauhan, the Chief Guest, emphasized the importance of integrating age-old wisdom with modern military tactics.
- ✓ CDS Chauhan highlighted the relevance of ancient Indian stratagems like Sun Tzu’s ‘Art of War’ and Kautilya’s ‘Arthashastra’ in modern warfare.

**Q. When is World Pulses Day celebrated?**

A) February 10

B) February 8

C) February 9

D) February 11

**Answer : A**

- ✓ World Pulses Day’ is celebrated every year on 10 February to spread awareness about the nutritional and environmental benefits of pulses as part of sustainable food production.
- ✓ The theme of ‘World Pulses Day’ for this year 2024 is “Pulses: Nourishing Soils and People”.
- ✓ History of World Pulses Day:
- ✓ The UNGA adopted a resolution related to pulses on 20 December 2013, declaring 2016 as the International Year of Pulses (IYP).
- ✓ IYP, led by FAO, promotes pulses benefits in sustainable food production.
- ✓ In recognition of the potential of pulses in achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Burkina Faso proposed celebrating WPD. In 2019, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) officially declared 10 February as WPD.



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- ✓ India is the largest producer of pulses. Which produces about 25 percent of the total pulses produced in the world.
- ✓ Rajasthan ranks first in India in the production of pulses.
- ✓ Indian Institute of Pulses Research - Kanpur

**Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Airports Authority of India (AAI):**

**1. It is a statutory body under the Ministry of Civil Aviation.**

**2. It provides Air Traffic Management Services (ATMS) over the entire Indian Air Space.**

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

**A) 1 only**

**B) 2 only**

**C) Both 1 and 2**

**D) Neither 1 nor 2**

**Answer : C**

- ✓ The Supreme Court recently agreed to hear a curative petition filed by the Airports Authority of India (AAI) against the multinational conglomerate GMR Group concerning the operational management of Nagpur's Babasaheb Ambedkar International Airport.
- ✓ About Airports Authority of India (AAI):
- ✓ It is a statutory body under the Directorate General of Civil Aviation, Ministry of Civil Aviation, Government of India.
- ✓ It was constituted by an Act of Parliament and came into being on 1st April, 1995, by merging the erstwhile National Airports Authority and the International Airports Authority of India.
- ✓ The merger brought into existence a single Organization entrusted with the responsibility of creating, upgrading, maintaining, and managing civil aviation infrastructure both on the ground and air space in the country.
- ✓ AAI manages 137 airports, which include 24 International Airports (including 3 International Civil Enclaves), 10 Customs Airports (including 4 Customs Civil Enclaves), 80 Domestic Airports, and 23 Domestic Civil Enclaves at Defence airfields.
- ✓ AAI also provides Air Traffic Management Services (ATMS) over the entire Indian Air Space and adjoining oceanic areas, with ground installations at all airports, and 25 other locations to ensure the safety of aircraft operations.
- ✓ Airports Authority of India (AAI)



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- ✓ Founded : 1 April 1995
- ✓ Headquarters : New Delhi
- ✓ Chairman : Sanjeev Kumar

## AIRPORT IN NEWS 2023-24

- Supreme Court recently agreed to hear a curative petition filed by the Airports Authority of India (AAI) against the multinational conglomerate GMR Group concerning the operational management of Nagpur's Babasaheb Ambedkar International Airport.
- 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.



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- Government of India has given 'in-principle' approval for setting up 21 new greenfield airports.

**Q. With reference to Sovereign Gold Bond (SGB), consider the following statements:**

- 1. It is issued by Reserve Bank of India on behalf of the Government of India (GoI).**
- 2. It can be sold to both resident and non-resident Indian entities.**
- 3. It is eligible to be used as collateral for loans from banks.**

**How many of the above statements are correct?**

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

**Answer : B**

- ✓ The issue price of the next tranche of Sovereign Gold Bond has been fixed at Rs 6,263 per gram, the Reserve Bank said in a statement recently.
- ✓ About Sovereign Gold Bond (SGB) Scheme:
- ✓ SGBs are government securities denominated in grams of gold.
- ✓ The SGB Scheme was first launched by the Government of India (GOI) on October 30, 2015.
- ✓ They are substitutes for holding physical gold. Investors have to pay the issue price, and the bonds will be redeemed upon maturity.
- ✓ The bond is issued by Reserve Bank on behalf of the GOI.
- ✓ Who is eligible to invest in the SGBs? The bonds will be restricted for sale to resident Indian entities, including individuals (in their capacity as individuals, or on behalf of minor child, or jointly with any other individual), Hindu Undivided Family (HUF), Trusts, Universities and Charitable Institutions.
- ✓ The minimum investment in the bond shall be one gram, with a maximum subscription limit of 4 kg for individuals, 4 kg for HUFs, and 20 kg for trusts and similar entities notified by the government from time to time per fiscal year.
- ✓ In case of joint holding, the investment limit of 4 KG will be applied to the first applicant only.
- ✓ Tenor: The tenor of the bond will be for a period of 8 years, with an exit option in the 5th, 6th, and 7th years, to be exercised on the interest payment dates.
- ✓ Who are the authorized agencies selling the SGBs? Bonds are sold through offices or branches of Nationalised Banks, Scheduled Private Banks, Scheduled Foreign Banks, designated Post Offices, Stock



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Holding Corporation of India Ltd. (SHCIL), and the authorised stock exchanges either directly or through their agents.

- ✓ Other Features:
- ✓ Payment for the Bonds will be through cash payment (up to a maximum of Rs. 20,000/-), or demand draft, or cheque, or electronic banking.

**Q. Who will be the next President of Finland?**

- A) Pekka Haavisto
- B) Alexander Stubb
- C) David Cameron
- D) David Miller

**Answer : B**

- ✓ Former Prime Minister of Finland Alexander Stubb has registered a historic victory in the presidential elections held in the country.
- ✓ National Coalition Party candidate Stubb got 51.6 percent of the votes, while Haavisto got 48.4 percent of the votes. Stubb served as the country's Prime Minister in 2014–2015.
- ✓ Finland is a Northern European country, bordering Sweden, Norway and Russia. The capital of Finland is Helsinki.

## NEWLY PRESIDENT IN NEWS 2023-24

- Alexander Stubb : Finland
- 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



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- Ram Chandra Paudel : Nepal
- Xi Jinping : China (third term)
- Vo Van Thuong : Vietnam

**Q. Who recently won the singles title of Chennai Open Tennis Tournament?**

- A) Andy Murray
- B) Sumit Nagal
- C) Rohan Bopanna
- D) Luca Nardi

**Answer : B**

- ✓ India's top singles player Sumit Nagal won the singles title of Chennai Open tennis tournament.
- ✓ In the final he defeated Luca Nardi of Italy to win his fifth Challenger level singles title.
- ✓ He won his first Challenger at the Bengaluru Open in 2017 and won the Buenos Aires Challenger title a few years later.

**Q. With whom has IREDA signed an agreement for innovation and research in the renewable energy sector?**

- A) IIT Varanasi
- B) IIT Delhi
- C) IIT Bhubaneswar
- D) IIT Mumbai

**Answer : C**

- ✓ Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA) has entered into an agreement with IIT Bhubaneswar to promote innovation and research in the renewable energy sector.
- ✓ IREDA, an Indian public sector enterprise, was established in 1987.

## IREDA IN NEWS 2023-24

- IREDA has entered into an agreement with IIT Bhubaneswar to promote innovation and research in the renewable energy sector.
- 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.





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- 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. In which two countries has UPI payment system been launched recently?**

**A) Brazil and Argentina**

**B) Japan and South Korea**

**C) Sri Lanka and Mauritius**

**D) USA and Bahrain**

**Answer : C**

- ✓ The scope of Unified Payment Interface (UPI) services is gradually increasing.
- ✓ Now the names of Sri Lanka and Mauritius have also been added to this list.
- ✓ NPCI launched UPI services in the year 2016.
- ✓ UPI system is a mobile application based system which provides the facility of payment from bank accounts. Recently this facility was also launched in France.







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A) 1 only

B) 2 only

C) Both 1 and 2

D) Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer : C**

- ✓ Recently, C-DOT, and Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur (IIT-K) signed an agreement for 'Developing Prototypes for 10-Gigabit-capable symmetric Passive Optical Network (i.e., XGS-PON) Optical Line Terminal (OLT) and Optical Network Unit (ONU) under the Telecom Technology Development Fund (TTDF) scheme.
- ✓ It has been notified for domestic companies and institutions involved in technology design, development, commercialization of telecommunication products and solutions to enable affordable broadband and mobile services in rural and remote areas.
- ✓ It was launched by the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF), a body under the Department of Telecommunications.
- ✓ Project timelines are generally up to two years.

**Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Sangeet Natak Akademi:**

**1. It is an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Culture.**

**2. Its Chairman is appointed by the President of India for a term of five years.**

**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**

- ✓ Former vice-president of India and Union Minister for Culture, Tourism and Development of the Northeast Region will be inaugurating the Sangeet Natak Akademi's 'Dakshin Bharat Sanskritik Kendra' here in Hyderabad.
- ✓ It is India's national academy of music, dance and drama.
- ✓ It was created by a resolution of the Ministry of Education, with P.V. Rajamannar as its first Chairman.
- ✓ It was set up in 1953 for the preservation and promotion of the vast intangible heritage of India's diverse culture expressed in forms of music, dance and drama.
- ✓ Presently, it is an autonomous body of the Ministry of Culture.
- ✓ The Chairman of the Akademi is appointed by the President of India for a term of five years



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**Q. Which edition of Miss World will be held in India from February 18 to March 9?**

- A) 71st                                      B) 72nd  
C) 73rd                                      D) 74th

**Answer : A**

- ✓ The 71st edition of Miss World will be held in India from February 18 to March 9.
- ✓ With its latest edition, the coveted international beauty pageant is making a return to the country after nearly three decades.
- ✓ The pageant will commence with “The Opening Ceremony” and “India Welcomes the World Gala” by the India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC) in New Delhi on February 20.
- ✓ It will conclude with a grand finale at the Jio World Convention Centre in Mumbai on March 9 and will be streamed and telecast across the world.
- ✓ India last hosted the international pageant in 1996. Chhillar was the most recent Indian to win the pageant, having bagged the crown in 2017.
- ✓ A Earlier, Reita Faria Powell, Aishwarya Rai, Diana Hayden, Yukta Mookhey and Priyanka Chopra Jonas won the competition.

## MISS WORLD / UNIVERSE IN NEWS 2023

- Rijul Maini won the title of Miss India USA 2023 in the annual competition held in New Jersey.
- Sheynnis Palacios from Nicaragua crowned Miss Universe 2023 during the 72nd Miss Universe pageant in San Salvador.
- Praveena Aanjna crowned as Miss International India 2023.
- Priyan Sen, who hails from Rajasthan, won the Miss Earth India 2023 title during the Miss Divine Beauty 2023 National Finals held in New Delhi.
- Rikkie Kollé is the first transgender woman to win Miss Universe Netherlands.
- ➤ Rajasthan’s Nandini Gupta crowned 2023 Femina Miss India.
- ➤ America's R'Bonnie Gabriel won the Miss Universe 2022 title at the 71st Miss Universe pageant.
- ➤ South Korea’s Mina Sue Choi Crowned Miss Earth 2022.
- ➤ Divita Rai from Karnataka won the prestigious title of Miss Diva Universe 2022.
- ➤ Indian-American Aarya Walvekar crowned Miss India USA 2022.



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- ➤ Pallavi Singh wins the Mrs Universe Divine Crown in South Korea.
- ➤ Khushi Patel from UK is crowned Miss India Worldwide 2022.
- ➤ Karolina Bielawska from Poland has won the title of Miss World 2021.
- ➤ List of Miss World winners from India
- 1. Reita Faria : 1966
- 2. Aishwarya Rai : 1994
- 3. Diana Hayden : 1997
- 4. Yukta Mookhey : 1999
- 5. Priyanka Chopra : 2000
- 6. Manushi Chhillar : 2017.
- ➤ List of Miss Universe winners from India
- 1. Sushmita Sen : 1994
- 2. Lara Dutta : 2000
- 3. Harnaaz Sandhu : 2021.
- ➤ Reita Faria is the first Indian to win the Miss World in 1966.
- ➤ Sushmita Sen first Indian to win the Miss Universe title in 1994.
- ➤ Nicole Faria became the first Indian to win the 'Miss Earth' in 2010

**Q. Which of the following companies have received the final authorization from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to operate as payment aggregators?**

- |                 |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| (i) Juspay      | (ii) Zoho       |
| (iii) Instamojo | (iv) Freecharge |
| (v) Decentro    |                 |
- A) only i & ii                      B) only ii & iii  
C) only i, ii & v                    D) only i, ii & iv

**Answer : C**

✓ RBI Grants Payment Aggregator Licences to Juspay, Zoho, and Decentro





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## Answer : A

- ✓ IRS officer Narendra Kumar Yadav, Additional Director GST, has been appointed as the new brand ambassador of The Fit India movement, a flagship initiative by the Government of India.
- ✓ The Fit India movement is a nationwide initiative launched by the Centre, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, to encourage Indians to develop physical activity and sports into their daily lives.
- ✓ Narendra Kumar Yadav is one the the youngest IRS officer who was appointed at the age of 22 in 2009.

## LATEST BRAND AMBASSADOR IN NEWS 2023-24

- Narendra Kumar Yadav : “Fit India” Movement as Brand Ambassador
- Katrina Kaif : Chennai Super Kings as Brand Ambassador for IPL 2024
- Ranveer Singh : boAt
- Deepika Padukone : TECNO
- R Madhavan : Acko
- Sourav Ganguly : brand ambassador of Tripura state to promote tourism
- Sourav Ganguly : Brand Ambassador of Bengal
- Pankaj Tripathi : ‘UPI Safety Ambassador
- Mahendra Singh Dhoni : State Bank of India (SBI)
- Katrina Kaif : Luxury Swiss watch brand ‘Rado’
- Chetan bhagat : Henry Harvin Education
- Mohammed Shami : Puma
- Sachin Tendulkar : ICC as the global ambassador of ODI World Cup 2023
- Mahendra Singh Dhoni : JioMart
- Katrina Kaif : Uniqlo
- Hrithik Roshan : lubricants brand Mobilil
- Anushka Sharma : W
- Mahendra Singh Dhoni : Swaraj Tractors
- Iga Świątek : Infosys
- Rafael Nadal : Infosys
- Rahul Dravid : Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL)
- Shah Rukh Khan : ICC World Cup 2023





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



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**Q. Aerospace giant Embraer has partnered with Indian conglomerate Mahindra Group to work on C-390 Millennium aircraft. Embraer is the company of which country?**

- A) Israel
- B) France
- C) Brazil
- D) Russia

**Answer : C**

- ✓ Embraer teams up with Mahindra to bid for IAF's medium transport aircraft deal
- ✓ With the Indian Air Force assessing its requirements for medium transport aircraft (MTA), Brazilian aerospace giant Embraer and Indian conglomerate Mahindra Group have announced a collaboration to work on C-390 Millennium aircraft.
- ✓ The objective of the MoU is to jointly fulfil the acquisition of the C-390 Millennium multi-mission aircraft by the Indian Air Force in its upcoming MTA procurement project.
- ✓ The Indian Air Force (IAF) is looking for an MTA that can lift 18-30 tonnes, a process it expects to complete by 2025-26.
- ✓ The C390 began operations with the Brazilian Air Force in 2019, has since been selected by the militaries of Portugal, Hungary, the Netherlands, Austria, the Czech Republic and, most recently, South Korea.

**Q. Which of the following has been awarded the 2024 Nelson Mandela Award (NMA) by the World Health Organization (WHO) for Health Promotion?**

- A) IIT Delhi
- B) IIT Madras
- C) National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences
- D) AIIMS Delhi

**Answer : C**

- ✓ The National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS) has been awarded the 2024 Nelson Mandela Award (NMA) by the World Health Organization (WHO) for Health Promotion.
- ✓ The Nelson Mandela Award for Health Promotion, established by WHO in 2019, recognizes individuals, institutions and governmental or non-governmental organizations that have demonstrated remarkable contributions to health promotion.
- ✓ This year, the award has been jointly presented to Professor Bontle Mbongwe of Botswana and NIMHANS.



- ✓ The award is a testament to institute's dedication and outstanding contributions to promoting mental health and well-being.
- ✓ NIMHANS has been at the forefront of mental health and neurosciences, championing innovative approaches to research, education, and patient care.

**Q. Who has been honoured with a plaque at the famous Ice Palace at Jungfrauoch, known as the 'Top of Europe', in Switzerland?**

- A) Arshad Nadeem                      B) Kishore Kumar  
C) Rohit Yadav                         D) Neeraj Chopra

**Answer : D**

- ✓ India's Olympic and world champion javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra has been honoured with a plaque at the famous Ice Palace at Jungfrauoch, known as the 'Top of Europe', in Switzerland.
- ✓ Acknowledging Chopra's remarkable accomplishments, Jungfrauoch welcomed the sports icon to unveil the commemorative plaque.
- ✓ The Wall of Fame at Jungfrauoch serves as a testament to the spirit of accomplishment and dedication.

### NEERAJ CHOPRA IN NEWS 2023-24

- Neeraj Chopra has been honoured with a plaque at the famous Ice Palace at Jungfrauoch, known as the 'Top of Europe', in Switzerland.
- Olympic and world champion javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra was shortlisted for men's 'World Athlete of the Year' award.
- Neeraj Chopra, India's star javelin thrower, won a gold medal in the Asian Games with a massive throw of 88.88m.
- Neeraj Chopra finishes second in Eugene Diamond League with a throw of 83.80m, failing to defend his title. Jakub Vadlejch becomes champion.
- Javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra won the first gold medal for India at the World Athletics Championships in Budapest, Hungary with a throw of 88.17 meters.
- Neeraj Chopra, will lead the country's challenge at the World Athletics Championships from August 19 to 27, 2023 in Budapest.
- India observes 3rd 'Javelin Throw Day' on August 07, 2023.



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- Neeraj Chopra wins second straight Diamond League title in Lausanne, Switzerland with 87.66m throw.
- Olympic gold medal winner Neeraj Chopra has secured victory with 88.67 m throw at Doha Diamond League 2023.
- Neeraj Chopra makes history, becomes World No 1 in men's javelin throw.
- Neeraj Chopra is on top with 1455 points, 22 ahead of Anderson Peters of Granada.
- The Mission Olympic Cell (MOC) accepted Neeraj Chopra's proposal to train in Kuortane, Finland.
- The men's javelin must weigh at least 800g and be 2.6m-2.7m long while the women's javelin must weigh 600g and be 2.2m-2.3m long.
- Neeraj Chopra presently holds the rank of Subedar in the Indian Army.
- Neeraj Chopra is from Khandra village, Panipat district, Haryana

**Q. Which team has won the 15th CEC Ice Hockey Cup Championship at Khree Sultan Choo Ice Hockey Rink, Kargil, Ladakh?**

- A) Kharu
- B) Bodhkhharbo
- C) Wakha Mulbkeh
- D) Drass Warriors

**Answer : D**

- ✓ The Drass Warriors clinched victory in the 15th CEC Ice Hockey Cup Championship at Khree Sultan Choo Ice Hockey Rink, Kargil, Ladakh.
- ✓ They secured a resounding win of 7 goals against United Chiktan, with Wasim Bilal earning the prestigious titles of Man of the Series and Man of the Match.
- ✓ The tournament, organized by the District Youth Service and Sports Department, drew 31 men's teams and 4 women's teams from across Kargil.
- ✓ The Bodhkhharbo Women Team also celebrated success, claiming the Women's Cup after defeating Wakha Mulbkeh



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**Q. What is the rank of India in the US Green Building Council's (USGBC) annual list of top 10 countries and regions in the world for LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification in 2023?**

A) 2nd

B) 3rd

C) 4th

D) 5th

**Answer : B**

- ✓ India ranked third in the US Green Building Council's (USGBC) annual list of top 10 countries and regions in the world for LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification in 2023.
- ✓ While mainland China and Canada held the first and second positions, respectively. The United States has not been included in the list.
- ✓ LEED is a green building rating system and the certification is a globally recognized symbol of sustainability achievement and leadership.
- ✓ The rating system is available for virtually all building types, thereby providing a framework for healthy, highly efficient and cost-saving green buildings.
- ✓ In India, LEED is administered by the Green Business Certification Inc (GBCI).

**Q. The National Productivity Day is celebrated in India every year on which day?**

A) 13 February

B) 11 February

C) 10 February

D) 12 February

**Answer : D**

- ✓ In India, the National Productivity Day is observed every year on February 12 by the National Productivity Council (NPC).
- ✓ Theme 2024 : "IDEA: Bringing Communities Forward for Sustainable and Equitable Development."
- ✓ The day is observed to commemorate the formation of National Productivity Council (NPC), that aims to stimulate and promote productivity and quality consciousness across all sectors in the country.
- ✓ The week from February 12 to 18 is observed as the National Productivity Week.





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- ✓ Political Journey
- ✓ He was Parliamentary Secretary in 1946
- ✓ Minister for Agriculture and Forests (1962-63)
- ✓ Chief Minister of U.P. in February 1970
- ✓ Books
- ✓ 'Abolition of Zamindari', 'Co-operative Farming X-rayed', 'Peasant Proprietorship or Land to the Workers', 'India's Poverty and its Solution', and 'Prevention of Division of Holdings Below a Certain Minimum'.
- ✓ About Narasimha Rao
- ✓ Born on June 28, 1921, in Karimnagar, he studied at Osmania University, Hyderabad, Bombay University and Nagpur University.
- ✓ Political Journey
- ✓ Prime Minister from 1991 to 1996.
- ✓ Minister for External Affairs from 1980 to 1984
- ✓ Minister of Home Affairs from 1984 to 1984
- ✓ Minister of Defence from 1984 to 1985
- ✓ Minister of Human Resource Development in 1985
- ✓ About MS Swaminathan
- ✓ Born on August 7, 1925, in Tamil Nadu's Thanjavur district, he was the father of the Green Revolution.
- ✓ He was director general of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research and principal secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture.
- ✓ Swaminathan also served as the president of the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources in 1988.
- ✓ Work
- ✓ His pioneering work in developing high-yielding varieties of paddy played a significant role in boosting India's agricultural production and improving the livelihoods of low-income farmers.
- ✓ Swaminathan began his research career in 1949, studying the genetics of wheat, potato, rice, and jute.
- ✓ During India's food crisis in the 1960s and 70s, he worked with Norman Borlaug to develop high-yield wheat varieties, leading to the "Green Revolution" initiative that revolutionized agricultural productivity.
- ✓ He was recognized as the "Father of Economic Ecology" by the United Nations Environment Programme.
- ✓ Awards



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- ✓ Swaminathan also received the Ramon Magsaysay Award in 1971, the Albert Einstein World Science Award in 1986, Padma Bhushan (1972), Padma Shri (1967), and Padma Vibhushan (1989).
- ✓ About Bharat Ratna
- ✓ The Bharat Ratna is India's highest civilian honor, which was established in 1954.
- ✓ This award is not limited to any specific caste, occupation, status, or gender and is awarded to individuals who have made exceptional contributions in any field of human endeavor.
- ✓ The Prime Minister recommends the Bharat Ratna recipients to the President, and no formal recommendation is required.
- ✓ The recipient of this award is presented with a Sanad (certificate) signed by the President and a medal.
- ✓ However, no monetary grant is given to the recipient. According to Article 18(1) of the Constitution, the Bharat Ratna cannot be used as a prefix or suffix to the name of the recipient.
- ✓ Few Facts About Bharat Ratna
- ✓ It was first conferred in 1954 to three distinguished personalities, namely Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, Sir C.V. Raman, and Chakravarti Rajaopalachari.
- ✓ In 2019, the award was presented to three more eminent personalities, namely Nanaji Deshmukh, Pranab Mukherjee, and Bhupen Hazarika.
- ✓ The Prime Minister had also announced earlier that former Bihar CM Karpoori Thakur and LK Advani would also be awarded the Bharat Ratna in recognition of their outstanding contributions.

## AWARDS AND HONOURS IN NEWS 2023- 24

- PV Narasimha Rao, Chaudhary Charan Singh, and MS Swaminathan are set to receive India's highest civilian award, the Bharat Ratna.
- Karpoori Thakur, a renowned socialist leader and former Chief Minister of Bihar, is set to be posthumously conferred with the Bharat Ratna, India's highest civilian award.
- Another recipient of the Bharat Ratna Award for the year 2024 is Lal Krishna Advani.
- Dr. Bina Modi, the esteemed Chairperson of Modi Enterprises, has been honored with the prestigious 'Outstanding Business Woman of the Year' Award.
- REC Secures Best Green Bond – Corporate Award At The Asset Triple A Awards 2024.
- PT Usha Honored with Lifetime Achievement Award by SJFI and DSJA
- Priest Ishwari Prasad Namboodiri Honored with the Shankar Smriti Award
- The 69th edition of the Filmfare Awards 2024 took place in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.





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- Best Film 12th Fail
- Best Director Vidhu Vinod Chopra (12th Fail)
- Best Actor in a Leading Role (Male) Ranbir Kapoor (Animal)
- Best Actor in a Leading Role (Female) Alia Bhatt (Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani)
- Australia skipper Pat Cummins was announced as the winner of the Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy for the ICC Men's Cricketer of the Year 2023.
- Veteran Indian batter Virat Kohli was crowned the ICC Men's ODI Cricketer of the Year 2023.
- Skyways Air Services wins Best Cargo Services Award at Wings India Awards.
- REC Limited Wins ICAI Award for Excellence in Financial Reporting FY 2022-23.
- US Air Force Officer Madison Marsh Becomes First Active-Duty Winner Of Miss America 2024
- Savita Kanswal Posthumously Honored With Tenzing Norgay Award
- Singapore's Changi Airport Earns The Title Of World's Best Airport For 2023
- Hero MotoCorp's facility wins CII National Award for water management
- Prof B R Kamboj Honoured With M S Swaminathan Award
- Poet Sukrita Paul Kumar Wins Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize for 'Salt & Pepper'
- Bengaluru's Kempegowda International Airport Terminal 2 Recognized Among UNESCO's 'Most Beautiful Airports'
- IREDA's Pradip Kumar Das Wins 'CMD Of The Year' For The Second Straight Year.
- Poonam Khetrapal Singh Honored with Bhutan's National Order of Merit.
- Indira Gandhi Peace Prize Awarded to Daniel Barenboim and Ali Abu Awwad"
- Noted Hindi Writer Pushpa Bharati to Receive 33rd Vyas Samman for her 2016 memoir, "Yaadein, Yaadein aur Yaadein."
- Federal Bank Titled "Bank of the Year 2023" in India : The Banker
- Argentina's football icon, Lionel Messi, has been named Time magazine's Athlete of the Year for 2023
- Abdullahi Mire, a Somali refugee, has been named the 2023 UNHCR Nansen Refugee Award
- Paul Lynch who is an Irish author won the 2023 Booker prize for his fifth novel 'Prophet Song'
- Tamil writer Perumal Murugan's 'Fire Bird' Wins 2023 JCB Prize for Literature



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**Q. Where was the statue of India's first Chief of Defense Staff, late General Bipin Rawat, unveiled?**

A) New Delhi

B) Varanasi

C) Haridwar

D) Dehradun

**Answer : D**

- ✓ Defense Minister Rajnath Singh unveiled the statue of India's first Chief of Defense Staff, late General Bipin Rawat, in Dehradun.
- ✓ Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami was also present on this occasion.
- ✓ The first Chief of Defense Staff, General Bipin Rawat, took charge on 1 January 2020.

## STATUE IN NEWS 2023-24

- Defense Minister Rajnath Singh unveiled the statue of India's first Chief of Defense Staff, late General Bipin Rawat, in Dehradun, Uttarakhand.
- Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy will unveil a 125 foot statue of Dr B R Ambedkar at Swaraj Maidan in Vijayawada. "Statue of Social Justice".
- A statue dedicated to Thiruvalluvar, a cultural icon revered among Tamilians, was unveiled in the French city of Cergy.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled the statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj at Rajkot Fort located in Sindhudurg, Maharashtra.
- External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar unveiled the bust of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore at the International Friendship Park in Bac Ninh province, Vietnam.
- Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma unveiled a statue of medieval-era Ahom army commander, Lachit Borphukan, and a Swahid Smarak at Bir Lachit Borphukan Park in Guwahati.
- Outside India, Dr. The largest statue of BR Ambedkar will be unveiled in the United States. The 19-foot statue of Ambedkar has been named 'Statue of Equality' and will be inaugurated in Maryland, USA.
- Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan unveiled the 108-foot-tall 'Statue of Oneness' of Adi Shankaracharya at Omkareshwar.
- President Droupadi Murmu has unveiled a 12 feet high statue of the father of the nation Mahatma Gandhi and a 'Gandhi Vatika' at Gandhi Darshan near Rajghat in New Delhi.



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- Union Home Minister Amit Shah on laid the foundation stone of 108 feet tall statue of Lord Shri Ram in Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh.
- Union Home Minister Amit Shah unveiled a 54 feet tall statue of Lord Hanuman at Sarangpur temple in Botad district of Gujarat.
- Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah unveiled the statues of Lord Basaveshwara ji and Nadaprabhu Kempegowda ji at the State Assembly premises in Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- Samatha Kumbh is being held on the premises of the Statue of Equality at Muchintal, Telangana.
- Union Home Minister Amit Shah has unveiled a 120-feet-tall statue of a polo player riding a pony at Marjing Polo Complex in Manipur's Imphal East district.

**Q. Consider the following statements regarding the GROW-Suitability Mapping portal:**

**1. It provides information on area suitable for agroforestry across India.**

**2. It is an initiative of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.**

**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**

- ✓ GROW report and portal was launched by a Member of NITI Aayog.
- ✓ The "Greening and Restoration of Wasteland with Agroforestry (GROW)-Suitability Mapping" portal allows universal access to state and district-level data.
- ✓ It is hosted on Bhuvan website.
- ✓ The GROW initiative aligns with national commitments, aiming to restore 26 million hectares of degraded land by 2030 and create an additional carbon sink of 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent.
- ✓ The initiative, led by NITI Aayog, involved a collaborative effort from multiple institutions and employed advanced technologies such as remote sensing and GIS to assess agroforestry suitability across all districts in India.
- ✓ Utilizing thematic datasets, the project resulted in the creation of an Agroforestry Suitability Index (ASI). This index enables national-level prioritization for greening and restoration projects.



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- ✓ This project on prioritization of wasteland areas suitable for greening is based on the analysis of five remote sensing derived thematic layers viz. land use, wasteland, slope, water proximity and soil organic content.

## APP & PORTAL IN NEWS 2023 -24

- Greening and Restoration of Wasteland with Agroforestry (GROW) report and "Greening and Restoration of Wasteland with Agroforestry (GROW)-Suitability Mapping" portal was launched by NITI Aayog.
- Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government of India launched "Science for Women-A Technology & Innovation (SWATI)" Portal.
- Agriculture minister launches Sarathi portal for insurance products.
- 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





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

**Q. Consider the following statements regarding the SWATI Portal:**

1. It aims to create a single online portal representing Indian Women and Girls in STEMM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics & Medicine).
2. It is developed by the National Informatics centre.

**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**

- ✓ Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government of India launched “Science for Women-A Technology & Innovation (SWATI)” Portal.
- ✓ It is aimed at creating a single online portal representing Indian Women and Girls in STEMM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics & Medicine).
- ✓ The database of SWATI Portal will serve in policy making to address the challenges of Gender-gap.
- ✓ The Portal is a complete interactive database; and the first-of-its-kind in India which is developed, hosted and maintained by the National Institute of Plant Genome Research (NIPGR), New Delhi.
- ✓ The various Sections in the portal include Icons - Awardees (Padma / Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar / Stree Shakti Science Samman) & Directors, Secretaries Academy Presidents; Faculty- Indian Universities, Autonomous organizations including S&T Ministry/ CSIR/ DBT/ DST/ CSIR/ MHRD/ UGC/ GATI/ KIRAN;

**Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Fund of Funds Startups (FFS) scheme:**

1. It does not directly invest in startups.
2. It is operated by the Reserve Bank of India.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

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

**Answer : A**



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- ✓ According to a Crisil assessment called Prabhaav, the Fund of Funds for Startups (FFS) scheme has enabled investments to the tune of around 4x of the amount drawn with Rs 17,534 crore invested in 938 startups.
- ✓ The Fund of Funds for Startups (FFS) Scheme was approved and established in 2016 with a corpus of Rs 10,000 crore.
- ✓ Funding to start ups: Under FFS, the Scheme does not directly invest in startups, instead provides capital to SEBI-registered AIFs, known as daughter funds, who in turn invest money in growing Indian startups through equity and equity-linked instruments.
- ✓ Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has been given the mandate of operating this Fund through selection of suitable daughter funds and overseeing the disbursement of committed capital.
- ✓ AIFs supported under FFS are required to invest at least 2 times of the amount committed under FFS in startups.

## SCHEME IN NEWS 2024

- According to a Crisil assessment called Prabhaav, the Fund of Funds for Startups (FFS) scheme has enabled investments to the tune of around 4x of the amount drawn with Rs 17,534 crore invested in 938 startups.
- Union Cabinet has approved Rs 4,797 crore research scheme to boost and maintain research momentum in the fields of ocean, atmospheric and polar sciences.
- Union Cabinet approved the continuation of the Scheme for Rebate of State and Central Taxes and Levies (RoSCTL) for the export of Apparel/Garments and made up to 31st March 2026.
- Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister of India approved the continuation of the Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF) to be implemented under the Infrastructure Development Fund (IDF) for another three years up to 2025-26.
- All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) recently introduced a scheme named 'Support to Students for Participating in Competitions Abroad' (SSPCA).
- Union Minister of Education and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship recently launched the EdCIL Vidyanjali Scholarship Programme
- Union Minister for Culture, Tourism And Development of North Eastern Region informed the Lok Sabha about the Mera Gaon Meri Dharohar programme.







C) Both 1 and 2

D) Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer : A**

- ✓ Recently, astronomers from the Nanjing University in China and elsewhere have detected a radio pulsar in a supernova remnant known as CTB 87 by using the Five-hundred-meter Aperture Spherical radio Telescope (FAST).
- ✓ The Five-hundred-meter Aperture Spherical radio Telescope (FAST), located in a karst depression in Guizhou, China.
- ✓ It is the world's largest single-dish radio telescope, with a receiving area equivalent to 30 football fields.
- ✓ It is expected that FAST will maintain its world-class status for the next 20 to 30 years.

**Q. With reference to High-Altitude Pseudo Satellite (HAPS) vehicle, consider the following statements:**

- 1. It is an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) developed by National Aerospace Laboratories.**
- 2. It does not require a rocket to get into space.**
- 3. It can be used in continuous surveillance of border areas.**

**How many of the statements given above are correct?**

A) Only one

B) Only two

C) All three

D) None

**Answer : C**

- ✓ Recently, the National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL) in Bengaluru has successfully completed the first test of a solar-powered high-altitude pseudo satellite vehicle.
- ✓ It is a new age unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) that can significantly increase India's surveillance and monitoring capabilities in the border areas.
- ✓ It is a still-developing technology, and the successful test flight last week puts India among a very small group of countries currently experimenting with this technology.
- ✓ Features
- ✓ It can fly at altitudes of 18-20 km from the ground, almost double the heights attained by commercial airplanes.
- ✓ It has the ability to generate solar power.





C) Both 1 and 2

D) Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer : C**

- ✓ India's retail inflation eased to a three-month low of 5.1% recently.
- ✓ About Retail Inflation:
- ✓ Retail inflation, also known as Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation, tracks the change in retail prices of goods and services which households purchase for their daily consumption.
- ✓ CPI is calculated for a fixed basket of goods and services that may or may not be altered by the government from time to time.
- ✓ The change in the price index over a period of time is referred to as CPI-based inflation, or retail inflation.
- ✓ What Does the CPI tell? Following are a few things that the CPI index interprets:
- ✓ Cost of living
- ✓ The purchasing power of consumers
- ✓ The expensiveness of different articles that consumers buy and services that are availed
- ✓ Value of the Indian rupee
- ✓ How is CPI calculated?
- ✓ CPI is calculated as a percentage. It is a comparison of the general price level in the markets in a particular time period from a time frame in the past. This is known as the base year.
- ✓ CPI, therefore, is calculated by referring to a base year, which is a benchmark. Currently, the base year is 2012.
- ✓ The formula for calculating the CPI index is:
- ✓  $CPI = (\text{Cost of a Fixed Basket of Goods and Services in the Current Year} / \text{Cost of a Fixed Basket of Goods and Services in the Base Year}) * 100$
- ✓ The National Statistical Office (NSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), compiles All India as well as state-wise CPI for Rural, Urban, Combined sectors and releases the CPI numbers every month.

**Q. Consider the following statements regarding Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI):**

- 1. It has regulatory oversight over the insolvency professional entities.**
- 2. Its members are appointed by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).**

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**



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A) 1 only

B) 2 only

C) Both 1 and 2

D) Neither 1 nor 2

### Answer : A

- ✓ The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) has now mandated that Resolution Professionals (RPs) provide a copy of its report to both creditor and debtor in all cases.
- ✓ About Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI):
- ✓ The IBBI was established on October 1, 2016 in accordance with the provisions of the 'Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016'.
- ✓ It is responsible for the implementation of the IBC. The IBC amends and consolidates the laws relating to the insolvency resolution of individuals, partnership firms, and corporate persons in a time-bound manner.
- ✓ The IBBI regulates professionals as well as processes.
- ✓ It has regulatory oversight over the insolvency professional agencies, insolvency professional entities, insolvency professionals, and information utilities.
- ✓ It has also been designated as the 'Authority' under the Companies (Registered Valuers and Valuation Rules), 2017 for the regulation and development of the profession of valuers in the country.
- ✓ Constitution of the Board: The Board consists of the following members who are appointed by the Central Government:
- ✓ A Chairperson.
- ✓ Three members from among the officers of the Central Government equivalent or not below the rank of a Joint Secretary. Out of the three members, each will represent the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, and the Ministry of Law, ex-officio.
- ✓ One member nominated by the RBI (Reserve Bank of India), ex-officio.
- ✓ Five other members nominated by the Central Government, out of which at least three should be whole-time members.
- ✓ The term of office of the Chairperson and members (other than ex-officio members) is five years or until they attain sixty-five years, whichever is earlier, and they are eligible for re-appointment.

**Q. Who launched 'PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana'?**

A) Draupadi Murmu

B) Narendra Modi

C) Rajnath Singh

D) S Jaishankar





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- ✓ Her poetic talent earned her the title of 'the Nightingale of India' or 'Bharat Kokila' by Mahatma Gandhi, who appreciated the color, imagery, and lyrical quality of her poetry.
- ✓ Her poem "In the Bazaars of Hyderabad," published in 1912, remains one of her most popular works.

**Q. With whom did the Education Ministry sign an agreement to promote football game in the country?**

- A) All India Football Federation      B) FIFA  
C) Reliance Foundation                D) Asian Football Confederation

**Answer : B**

- ✓ The Education Ministry signed an agreement with the Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) to promote the game of football at the school level in the country.
- ✓ Under this, the Education Ministry will distribute 11 lakh footballs across the country in a phased manner.
- ✓ Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan had on February 9 distributed footballs in 1,260 schools in 17 districts of Odisha under the Football for Schools (F4S) programme
- ✓ FIFA WORLD CUP
- ✓ 2022 : Qatar (32 Teams)
- ✓ 2026 : Canada, Mexico, US (48 teams)
- ✓ FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup
- ✓ 2022 : Costa Rica
- ✓ FIFA U-17 World Cup
- ✓ 2022- Women's : India
- ✓ 2023 - Women's : Australia and New Zealand
- ✓ Most successful team(s) Men's : Brazil (5 titles)
- ✓ Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA)
- ✓ Founded : 21 May 1904
- ✓ Founded : Paris, France
- ✓ Headquarters : Zürich, Switzerland
- ✓ Membership : 211
- ✓ Languages : English, French, German, Spanish & Italian
- ✓ First President : Robert Guérin
- ✓ President : Gianni Infantino (Switzerland)



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✓ Secretary General : Fatma Samoura

**Q. The World Radio day is celebrated annually on which day?**

A) 11 February

B) 13 February

C) 10 February

D) 12 February

**Answer : B**

- ✓ The World Radio Day is celebrated on 13 February annually.
- ✓ Theme 2024 : "Radio: A century informing, entertaining and educating".
- ✓ The main objective of the day is to recognize radio as a powerful medium and its unique ability to reach out the widest audience which can help to shape a society's experience of diversity, and build a more peaceful and inclusive world.
- ✓ The Day was proclaimed by UNESCO on November 03, 2011 during its 36th conference.
- ✓ It was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2012.

**Q. Consider the following statements regarding the total market capitalisation of a company:**

**1. It can be calculated by multiplying the number of outstanding shares of a company by the current price of its shares.**

**2. It represents the market's perception of a company's worth and helps investors predict the future performance of the company's stock.**

**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**

- ✓ Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) recently became the first Indian company to surpass Rs 20 lakh crore in market capitalisation.
- ✓ About Market Capitalisation:
- ✓ Market Capitalization, or Market Cap, is a term used to represent the market value of a company based on its current share price and the total number of its outstanding shares.
- ✓ It can be calculated by multiplying the number of outstanding shares of a company by the current price of its shares.



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- ✓ It represents the market's perception of a company's worth and indicates its size and significance in the financial markets.
- ✓ On the basis of market cap, companies may be classified as large-cap, mid-cap, or small-cap companies.
- ✓ Large-cap companies are usually stable, reputable, and well-established businesses that have a significant market share. They have market caps of INR 20,000 crore or more.
- ✓ Mid-cap companies have a market cap ranging from INR 5,000 crore to INR 20,000 crore.
- ✓ Small-cap companies operate at a smaller scale than large-cap and mid-cap companies. Consequently, their market cap is also lower (less than INR 5,000 crore).

## RIL IN NEWS 2023- 24

- Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) achieved a significant milestone on Indian stock exchanges by surpassing a market capitalization of ₹20-lakh crore.
- Reliance Industries Achieves India's First ISCC-Plus Certification.
- Reliance Industries and DBS Bank India have collaborated to introduce a financing initiative aimed at supporting the establishment of compressed biogas (CBG) plants.
- Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) is set to hire RS Sodhi, the former MD of the Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF), which is responsible for the popular Indian milk brand, Amul.
- Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) and Ashok Leyland unveiled India's first Hydrogen Internal Combustion Engine (H2-ICE) technology solution for heavy duty trucks. This technology was flagged off by PM Modi at the India Energy Week in Bengaluru.
- Reliance Industries Limited (RIL)
- Founded : 8 May 1973
- Founder : Dhirubhai Ambani
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra,
- CMD : Mukesh Ambani
- Owner : Mukesh Ambani (50.49%)
- Director : Nita Dalal Ambani
- Subsidiaries
- Jio Platforms (67.03%)
- Jio Payments Bank (70%).





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- At Rs 19 lakh crore or \$250 billion, Indian billionaire Mukesh Ambani-promoted Reliance Industries's market capitalisation.

**Q. World Government Summit (WGS), an annual event, is held by:**

A) Switzerland

B) United States of America

C) United Arab Emirates

D) Singapore

**Answer : C**

- ✓ The Indian Prime Minister will attend the World Government Summit 2024 as a guest of honour in UAE.
- ✓ About World Government Summit (WGS):
- ✓ It is an annual global gathering that brings together world leaders, policymakers, experts, and thought leaders from various fields to discuss and address pressing global issues.
- ✓ It was established in 2013 under the leadership of the Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE.
- ✓ It is annually held in Dubai, UAE.
- ✓ The Summit, in its various activities, explores the agenda of the next generation of governments, focusing on harnessing innovation and technology to solve universal challenges facing humanity.
- ✓ World Government Summit (WGS) 2024: Theme: "Shaping Future Governments"

## UAE IN NEWS 2023-24

- Indian Prime Minister will attend the World Government Summit 2024 as a guest of honour in UAE.
- World Government Summit (WGS) 2024: Theme: "Shaping Future Governments".
- The joint military exercise 'Desert Cyclone' of India and United Arab Emirates is being organized in Mahajan, Rajasthan
- India, UAE ink MoU to strengthen educational cooperation for students, faculty.
- India, UAE sign MoU on linking of India's Unified Payments Interface with Instant Payment Platform of UAE.
- UAE becomes first Arab country to get observer status on Asia-Pacific money laundering.
- United Arab Emirates (UAE) has emerged as the fourth largest investor in India during 2022-23.
- Dubai Emerges as India's Top Choice for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)
- UAE to Host World's Largest IUCN World Conservation Congress 2025.



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- Etihad Airways, the national airline of the UAE, has been named the Environmental Airline of the Year 2023 for the second year in a row at the Airline Rating Awards.
- UAE India's second largest export destination and third largest source of imports.
- The first conference of I2U2 Business Forum, a joint initiative of India, Israel, the US and the United Arab Emirates, was held on 22 February 2023 in Abu Dhabi (UAE).
- United Arab Emirates (UAE) will host the 13th World Trade Organisation (WTO) Ministerial meeting in February 2024.
- UAE will host the 28th Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP28) in November 2023.
- Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) signed an agreement to set up its first overseas office in Abu Dhabi Global Market.
- UAE and India launched the UAE India Business Council - UAE Chapter (UIBCUC) to strengthen economic ties and enhance bilateral trade and investment.
- EDGE, UAE's leading defence group signed a Memorandum of Understanding with India's aerospace firm Hindustan Aeronautics (HAL) at the International Defence Exhibition and Conference (IDEX).
- India, France, UAE Establish Trilateral Cooperation Initiative, in fields including Energy, Defence & Economy.
- India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) is shortly to be connected to comparable networks in Indonesia, Mauritius, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).
- RBI, Central Bank of UAE sign MoU to promote innovation in financial products and services.
- Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan appointed President of UAE.
- Emaar, a Dubai-based real estate developer, has become the first foreign company to invest in a megamall spread over one million square feet in Srinagar.
- Indian Air Force contingent of 110 Air Warriors reached Al Dahfra airbase of United Arab Emirates (UAE) on 25 February for participating in Exercise 'Desert Flag VIII.
- President of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, has appointed Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, his brother, as the Vice President of the country.
- The 'Study in India Pavilion' at the Global Education & Training Exhibition (GETEX) in Dubai, UAE.



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- HDFC Bank and UAE-based financial services company Lulu Exchange, have partnered to strengthen cross-border payments between India and Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) region.
- About UAE
- Official Language : Arabic
- Capital : Abu Dhabi
- Currency : Emirati Dirham
- President of UAE : Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan
- Prime Minister: Sheikh Mohammed ibn Rashid Al Maktoum

**Q. What is the primary objective of the e-Jagriti Portal, recently seen in the news?**

- A) To offer financial assistance to small businesses
- B) To promote awareness about climate change
- C) To facilitate consumer dispute redressal
- D) To provide telemedicine services to remote areas

**Answer : C**

- ✓ Consumer Affairs Secretary recently asserted that integration of artificial intelligence in 'e-Jagriti' portal will help reduce the number of pending cases in consumer courts.
- ✓ About e-Jagriti Portal:
- ✓ It is an initiative of the Department of Consumer Affairs, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food, and Public Distribution.
- ✓ It is a portal for consumer commissions.
- ✓ This portal has been designed to further improve the customer experience.
- ✓ It provides a simple, fast, and more cost-effective consumer dispute redressal software solution at all levels.
- ✓ It is envisaged to integrate consumer grievance platforms, namely, Online Case Monitoring System (OCMS), E-Daakhil, the National Consumer Dispute Redressal Commission (NCDRC) Case Monitoring System, CONFONET website, mediation application, on a single platform.
- ✓ The e-Jagriti platform has case filing, online fee payment, case monitoring modules for seamless disposal of cases by all the Commissions, has Smart search facility on archived consumer complaints / cases / judgements using AI technology for metadata and keyword creation, and Voice-to-text conversion of judgements, case history and other details using AI / ML technology.



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- ✓ The portal will integrate Virtual court facility for a convenient and accessible resolution of consumer complaints, reducing the time of disposal, multiple hearings, and physical court appearances, bringing effective and fast decisions & disposals in all Consumer Commissions.

**Q. Consider the following statements regarding the National Generic Document Registration System:**

**1. It is developed for registration departments across the country under One Nation One Software initiative.**

**2. It is initiated by the Department of Land Resources, Ministry of Rural 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**

- ✓ Secretary, Department of Land Resources, rolled out National Generic Document Registration System (NDGRS) throughout Assam along with the launch of Unique Land Parcel Identification Number (ULPIN) seeding of geo referenced Cadastral Maps.
- ✓ It is a project initiated by the Department of Land Resources, Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India
- ✓ It is a common, generic application developed for registration departments across the country under One Nation One Software initiative.
- ✓ The NGDRS application is developed by National Informatics Centre Pune.
- ✓ Features
- ✓ It is a common, generic and configurable application developed for registration departments across the country.
- ✓ The application is specifically designed for the use of sub registrars, citizens and apex users from registration departments.
- ✓ NGDRS facilitates states to create state specific instances and configure the software as per requirements.
- ✓ They can find out the circle rate for land, calculate property valuation as per prevailing rates and understand the type of land



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**Q. Consider the following statements regarding the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana:**

**1. It is a free electricity scheme which will provide 300 units of free electricity per month to its beneficiaries.**

**2. In this scheme Urban Local Bodies and Panchayats shall be incentivised to promote rooftop solar systems.**

**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**

- ✓ Prime Minister of India launched PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana to provide free electricity to its beneficiaries.
- ✓ In this scheme, the central government will provide 300 units of free electricity per month to its beneficiaries by investing worth ₹75,000 crores.
- ✓ The free electricity scheme was earlier announced by Finance Minister in interim budget speech.
- ✓ Target: It aims to light up 1 crore households.
- ✓ Under the scheme Urban Local Bodies and Panchayats shall be incentivised to promote rooftop solar systems in their jurisdictions.
- ✓ The Central Government will guarantee no financial burden on the people by providing significant subsidies directly to their bank accounts and offering highly concessional bank loans.
- ✓ Expected benefits:
- ✓ Savings up to fifteen to eighteen thousand rupees annually for households from free solar electricity and selling the surplus to the distribution companies;
- ✓ Charging of electric vehicles;
- ✓ Entrepreneurship opportunities for a large number of vendors for supply and installation;
- ✓ Employment opportunities for the youth with technical skills in manufacturing, installation and maintenance.

**Q. With whom has the Uttar Pradesh government decided to enter into an agreement for better disaster management?**

**A) IIT Roorkee**

**B) IIT Delhi**

**C) IIT Mumbai**

**D) IIT Varanasi**



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## Answer : A

- ✓ Uttar Pradesh government will sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with IIT Roorkee for better disaster management in the state.
- ✓ This MoU will be signed between the Relief Commissioner's Office and IIT Roorkee.
- ✓ Its objective is to reduce the number of casualties and shift people to safe places before the disaster occurs.

## IIT IN NEWS 2023-24

- Uttar Pradesh government will sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with IIT Roorkee for better disaster management in the state.
- Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (IIT-K) has successfully established and tested India's first Hypervelocity Expansion Tunnel Test Facility .
- IREDA has entered into an agreement with IIT Bhubaneswar to promote innovation and research in the renewable energy sector.
- IIT Madras to open new campus at Kandy in Sri Lanka.
- ArcelorMittal and ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India materials and engineering resources being deployed to construct Asia's first Hyperloop testing facility at IIT Madras, Chennai, India
- Reliance Jio Infocomm, India's largest telecom service provider, is working with the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay to launch 'Bharat GPT', a large language model specifically tailor for India's needs.
- IIT Guwahati recently developed an indigenous river model, BRAHMA-2D.
- IIT Kanpur, Indian Navy join forces to drive innovation through research partnership.
- SAMRIDHI conclave, a deeptech startup acceleration drive launched at IIT Ropar.
- The First Australia India Education and Skill Council (AIESC) meeting was held at IIT Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- IIT Kanpur and Airbus to collaborate to boost aerospace talent base in India.
- IIT Kanpur has signed an MoU with private lender ICICI Bank to support the startup ecosystem in the institute.
- IIT Guwahati have developed pharmaceutical and food products from tea factory waste.
- IIT Jodhpur scientists develop 'CODE' device for good air quality.



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- IIT Madras-incubated space tech startup GalaxEye Space on 29 August 2023 launched their drone-based synthetic aperture radar (SAR) system, Ahead of their planned satellite launch in 2024.
- IIT Bombay has received a donation of \$18.6 million from an alumnus towards the establishment of a Green Energy and Sustainability Research Hub.
- IIT Guwahati has signed MoU with the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) to build capacity/skills in international affairs and foreign policy.
- IIT Guwahati researchers develop AI-based model for knee X-ray.
- Infosys co-founder Nandan Nilekani donated ₹315 crores to IIT Bombay.
- IIT-Madras generates hydrogen from seawater using solar energy.
- India, Israel to jointly develop Center of Water Technology at IIT Madras.
- IIT Madras researchers partner for development of materials and micro-device processing techniques.
- IIT Kanpur's C3iHub, a cybersecurity Technology Innovation Hub, has launched a Cybersecurity Skilling Programme .
- IIT Madras to set up its first international campus in Tanzania.
- Indian Institute of Technology Madras will be provided a grant of Rs 242 crore over a period of five years to carry out research on Lab Grown Diamonds (LGD).
- Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay has been ranked 1st in India and 47th globally in engineering and technology by the QS World University Rankings for 2023.
- IIT Indore, in partnership with NASA-Caltech and the University of Gothenburg in Sweden, has designed an inexpensive camera setup.
- Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras) Researchers have developed a three-dimensional (3D) paper-based portable device that can detect adulteration in milk within 30 seconds.
- IIT Kanpur to Host Youth20 Consultation under G20 Presidency of India.
- IIT Bombay's SHUNYA secures second place in 'Solar Decathlon' Build Challenge in US.
- Students of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Indore won an award of AED (Emirates Dirham) 1 million along with a gold medal at the World Government Summit in Dubai.
- IIT Indore Students Awarded with Global Best M-GOV Awards by Egyptian President.
- Startup Incubation and Innovation Centre (SIIC) at IIT Kanpur has entered into a Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) agreement with Advanced Weapons and Equipment India Limited.
- DRDO Industry Academia Centre of Excellence inaugurated at IIT Hyderabad.



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- IIT Madras-incubated firm has developed an indigenous mobile operating system called BharOS.
- IIT Madras Centre of Excellence working with DRDO on Advanced Defence Technologies including Combat Vehicle Technologies.
- IIT Madras researchers develop machine learning tool to detect tumour in brain, spinal cord.
- ISRO plans to develop astronaut training module with IIT Madras.

**Q. In which state is Gupteshwar Forest, which has been designated as the State Biodiversity Heritage Site?**

A) Tamil Nadu

B) Kerala

C) Odisha

D) Karnataka

**Answer : C**

- ✓ The Odisha state government recently designated Gupteswar Forest as the fourth biodiversity heritage site of the state.
- ✓ According to Odisha Biodiversity Board, this area is home to 608 animal species.
- ✓ Gupteshwar Forest is located in Koraput district of Odisha.
- ✓ About Biodiversity Heritage Site:
- ✓ These are areas that are unique, ecologically fragile ecosystems having rich biodiversity comprising of any one or more of the components such as;
- ✓ species richness, high endemism, presence of rare, endemic and threatened species, keystone species, species of evolutionary significance, wild ancestors of domestic/cultivated species or landraces or their varieties, past pre-eminence of biological components represented by fossil beds and having cultural or aesthetic values.

## ODISHA IN NEWS 2023-24

- Odisha government declared the Gupteswar forest in Koraput district as its fourth Biodiversity Heritage Site (BHS).
- Odisha To Establish The World's First Melanistic Tiger Safari.
- It is located near Similipal Tiger Reserve (STR) in Mayurbhanj.
- Kai Chutney, also known as Red Ant Chutney, from Odisha, has been granted the Geographical Indication (GI) tag due to its unique taste and texture.





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- Aditya Birla Group's Hindalco Industries will invest Rs 800 crore to set up a battery aluminium foil plant in Odisha.
- President Draupadi Murmu has launched the National Education Campaign titled "New Education for New India" in Odisha.
- Odisha Cabinet, led by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, has granted approval for the 'Location Accessible Multi-modal Initiative (LAccMI)' scheme.
- Minister of Civil Aviation, Shri Jyotiraditya M Scindia inaugurated Utkela Airport owned by the Government of Odisha.
- Recently, Koraput Kalajeera Rice, an aromatic rice of Odisha has got Geographical Indications status.
- Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has distributed land right certificates to the 65,000 poor families living in the slums of five metropolitan cities including Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Berhampur, Sambalpur, and Rourkela.
- Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has launched the 'Mo Jungle Jami Yojana' for indigenous people of the state to ensure individual and community rights over forest land for eligible beneficiaries.
- India's biggest natural arch formed 184 million years ago discovered in Odisha by Geological Survey of India (GSI).
- Odisha becomes the first state to notify a committee for conservation of seeds preserved by tribal farmers.
- Odisha government launched the 'Mo Ghara' (My Home) housing scheme.
- PM Modi launches railway projects worth over 8,000 crore rupees in Odisha.
- Odisha government has expanded the jurisdiction of Special Development Councils (SDCs) from nine to 23 districts to improve the lives of 84 lakh tribal people.
- Odisha has its 88th foundation day on 1st April 2023.
- World Bank's Board of Executive Directors has approved USD 100 million loan under Odisha State Capability and Resilient Growth Program.
- Odisha won the UN-Habitat's World Habitat Awards 2023 for Jaga Mission, a 5T initiative of the state.
- Aska police station of Odisha's Ganjam district became the country's number one police station.
- Gangapur police station in Odisha's Ganjam district has been awarded the second best police station award.







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- ✓ Target group: The target groups are hotels, lodges, homestays, 'Dharamshalas' and camps which have portable toilets. The rating will be based on compliance with the safe sanitation practices outlined in the guidelines.
- ✓ The ranking scheme was launched in November 2023 by the Union Tourism Ministry in collaboration with the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation.
- ✓ As part of the initiative, the State teams of Swachh Bharat Mission-Gramin (rural) and the tourism department will organise workshops on the concept, process and desired outcomes for the stakeholders.
- ✓ Implementation: A three-tiered committee system has been proposed for implementation, beginning with a Verification Sub-Committee formed by the Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) for the on-ground verification, followed by a District Committee, which the District Collector will chair and then a State-level committee, headed by the Chief Secretary of the State.

**Q. Which state government has recently launched 'Swayam' scheme?**

- A) Uttar Pradesh                      B) Rajasthan  
C) Punjab                                 D) Odisha

**Answer : D**

- ✓ Odisha state government has decided to provide interest free loans up to Rs 1 lakh to the youth of the state under the new government scheme 'Swayam'.
- ✓ The state government will bear the entire expense under this scheme.
- ✓ Under this scheme, youth of the state between 18-35 years will be eligible. Under this, Rs 672 crore will be spent in 2 years.

**Q. Recently 'Kazi Nemu' has been recognized as the state fruit of which state?**

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

**Answer : A**

- ✓ Assam Agriculture Minister Atul Bora announced that 'Kazi Nemu' has been recognized as the state fruit of Assam.
- ✓ It is a lemon type fruit.
- ✓ Kazi Nemu has already got GI tag.
- ✓ In the last two years, this fruit has been exported to many countries including the Middle East.



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**Q. On which island group is India going to establish a new naval base?**

- A) Minicoy and Agatti                      B) Nancowry and Viringili  
C) Bompoka and Sathar                    D) Nongkhnum and Swaraj

**Answer : A**

- ✓ The Indian government is going to establish its naval base on Agatti and Minicoy islands of Lakshadweep.
- ✓ Defense Minister Rajnath Singh will inaugurate it in Minicoy on 4-5 March.
- ✓ India has taken this step to increase its military strength in this region.
- ✓ Minicoy Islands are located in the Nine Degree Channel.
- ✓ Minicoy island is only 524 kilometers away from Maldives.

**Q. 'Weimar Triangle' which was recently in news is include**

- A) Germany, Poland, France              B) Russia, Germany, United Kingdom  
C) USA, Germany, United Kingdom      D) United Kingdom, Poland, Germany

**Answer : B**

- ✓ The Foreign Ministers of Poland, France and Germany have discussed reviving the Weimar Triangle in a meeting in Paris
- ✓ About Weimar Triangle
- ✓ The "Weimar Triangle" is a regional alliance of France, Germany, and Poland created in 1991 in the German city of Weimar.
- ✓ The group is intended to promote cooperation between the three countries in cross-border and European issues.
- ✓ It also aimed at assisting Poland's emergence from Communist rule.
- ✓ France, Germany and Poland would unveil a new cooperation agreement to combat foreign disinformation operations.
- ✓ The ministers discussed creating a joint mechanism to detect and respond to potential Russian internet attacks.

**Q. 'Dhokra Shilpkala' which was recently in news belongs to**

- A) Gujarat                                      B) West Bengal  
C) Odisha                                        D) Chhattisgarh



**Answer : D**

- ✓ The word “Dhokra” is believed to be derived from the Dhokra Damar tribes, who are the traditional metal smiths of Central India.
- ✓ The origins of Dhokra Shilpkala can be traced back to the tribal communities residing in the regions of Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, West Bengal, and Odisha, where it evolved as an integral part of their cultural and religious practices.

**Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Kaji Nemu:**

- 1. It is a type of lemon mainly grown in the state of Assam.**
- 2. It has received Geographical Indication tag.**

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

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

**Answer : C**

- ✓ Recently, the Assam government declared the GI-tagged ‘Kaji Nemu’ (Citrus Limon) as the State Fruit.
- ✓ It is elongated and oblong compared to other lemon varieties.
- ✓ It is popular for its unique aroma and health benefits. It has been traditionally associated with the Assamese cuisines.
- ✓ The fruit had been exported to several countries, including to the Middle East..
- ✓ With its unique aroma and antioxidant properties, the Assam lemon enriched the local cuisines.
- ✓ The oval-shaped Kaji Nemu is a lot juicier than other lemon varieties. Kaji Nemu is majorly used in culinary and commercial purposes, and it is extensively used for its medicinal properties.
- ✓ Cultivation: It is grown in almost all the districts of the state, is available throughout the year.
- ✓ The fruit is a powerhouse of nutrients, boosting health
- ✓ Assam has as many as 16 species and 52 varieties hybrids of citrus.
- ✓ Kaji Nemu’ (Citrus Limon) bears GI Geography Indication tag in 2019, is linked to Assamese food



### GI TAG IN NEWS 2023-24

- Kachchhi Kharek, the indigenous variety of dates of Kutch, has become the second fruit of Gujarat to get a geographical indication (GI) tag.
- West Bengal achieves Geographical Indication tags for distinctive products, including 'Mouban' honey from Sunderbans, 'Prince of Rice' Black Nunia rice, and traditional Tangail, Gorod, etc.
  - 1. Recognition of Sunderbans Honey – 'Mouban'
  - 2. Black Nunia Rice – 'Prince of Rice'
  - 3. Distinctive Sarees – Tangail, Gorod, and Kadiyal.
- As a part of the National GI Drive Mission, 'Kadiyal Sarees' of West Bengal have been granted the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- Ladakh secures 4th GI tag for Sea Buckthorn.
- The famous Kadaknath chicken meat from Jhabua district of Madhya Pradesh has now got a Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- Goan cashew (Fruit and Nut) was recently granted the geographical indication (GI) tag.
- Basohli Pashmina, a more than 100-year-old traditional craft from Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua district, has got the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- Tamil Nadu's Salem Sago gets GI tag.
- Bhaderwah Rajmash and Sulai honey of Doda and Ramban districts of Jammu and Kashmir, have been granted Geographical Indication (GI) tags.
- Chokuwa rice of Assam recently earned a GI (Geographical Indication) tag for its exquisiteness.
- The Matti banana variety, native to Kanniyakumari district was recently granted the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- Mushkbudji rice, which was granted the GI tag along with eight other products from Jammu and Kashmir.
- GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATIONS (GI) :-
  - GI tags are issued as per the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999. This tag is issued by the Geographical Indication Registry under the Department of Industry Promotion and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
  - Darjeeling Tea was the first Indian product to get the geographical indication tag in 2004.







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value addition within 5 Years, either at Mother Unit, in-case of an Integrated Unit, or at the Project Level, in-case of “Hub & Spoke” structure.

✓ Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Heavy Industries

**Q. With whom has Cochin International Airport Limited signed an agreement for the Green Hydrogen Project?**

A) IOCL

B) BPCL

C) Adani Green

D) Tata Power

**Answer : B**

- ✓ Cochin International Airport Limited has signed an agreement with Bharat Petroleum (BPCL) for the Green Hydrogen Project.
- ✓ Under this project, a 1000 kilowatt green hydrogen project will be established in the airport premises.
- ✓ Kochi Airport will become the first airport in the country to set up a green hydrogen project.

## AIRPORT IN NEWS 2023-24

- Cochin International Airport Limited has signed an agreement with Bharat Petroleum (BPCL) for the Green Hydrogen Project.
- Supreme Court recently agreed to hear a curative petition filed by the Airports Authority of India (AAI) against the multinational conglomerate GMR Group concerning the operational management of Nagpur's Babasaheb Ambedkar International Airport.
- 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.



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

**Q. Who has assumed the charge of the President of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India?**

A) Ranjit Kumar Aggarwal

B) Charanjot Singh Nanda

C) Abhinav Mukund Sharma

D) Vinay Kumar Singh

**Answer : A**

- ✓ The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI), the apex body of chartered accountants, has elected Ranjit Kumar Aggarwal and Charanjot Singh Nanda as the President and Vice President of the institute respectively.
- ✓ Ranjit Kumar took charge as the 72nd President of ICAI
- ✓ Council of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI)
- ✓ Established : 1949
- ✓ Headquarters: New Delhi
- ✓ President : Ranjit Kumar Aggarwal

## 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).



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- 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:**

1. Germany
2. Russia
3. United Kingdom
4. Sweden
5. Poland

**How many of the above countries border the Baltic Sea?**

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

**Answer : C**

- ✓ A Stone Age wall has been discovered beneath the Baltic Sea in Germany, believed to be the oldest megastructure built by humans in Europe.
- ✓ About Baltic Sea:
- ✓ It is a semi-enclosed inland sea located in Northern Europe.
- ✓ It is an arm of the North Atlantic Ocean, extending northward from the latitude of southern Denmark almost to the Arctic Circle and separating the Scandinavian Peninsula from the rest of continental Europe.



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- ✓ It has a coastline of approximately 8,000 km, shared by several countries, including Sweden, Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, Finland, Estonia, Germany, Denmark, and Russia.
- ✓ It covers an area of approximately 377,000 sq.km. The sea is approximately 1,600 km long and 193 km wide.
- ✓ It is connected to the White Sea via the White Sea Canal and to the North Sea's German Bight via the Kiel Canal.
- ✓ It connects to the Atlantic Ocean through the Danish Straits.
- ✓ The Baltic Sea contains three major gulfs: the Gulf of Bothnia to the north, the Gulf of Finland to the east, and the Gulf of Riga slightly to the south of that.
- ✓ It is often cited as the world's largest brackish inland water body.
- ✓ Islands: It is home to over 20 islands and archipelagos. Gotland, located off the coast of Sweden, is the largest island in the Baltic Sea

**Q. What was the primary purpose of the Cassini-Huygens Mission?**

- A) Exploring the surface of Mars**
- B) Analyzing the composition of comets**
- C) Searching for exoplanets**
- D) Investigating the atmosphere and moons of Saturn**

**Answer : D**

- ✓ Recent findings from data collected by NASA's Cassini spacecraft reveal the presence of a vast ocean beneath the icy surface of Saturn's moon Mimas.
- ✓ About Cassini Spacecraft:
- ✓ Cassini-Huygens was a joint NASA/European Space Agency (ESA)/Italian Space Agency (ASI) space mission to Saturn.
- ✓ It was launched on October 15, 1997.
- ✓ The mission consisted of NASA's Cassini orbiter, which was the first space probe to orbit Saturn, and the ESA's Huygens probe, which landed on Titan, Saturn's largest moon.
- ✓ Spacecraft:
- ✓ It was one of the largest interplanetary spacecraft.









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C) All three

D) None

**Answer : B**

- ✓ United Nations named seven initiatives from across Africa, Latin America, the Mediterranean and Southeast Asia as the intergovernmental organisation's World Restoration Flagships.
- ✓ The World Restoration Flagship is part of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration – led by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Food and Agriculture Organization.
- ✓ It aims to prevent, halt, and reverse the degradation of ecosystems on every continent and in every ocean.
- ✓ The award conferred by the UNEP and FAO of the UN makes the initiatives eligible for technical and financial support from the organisation.
- ✓ The awards track notable initiatives that provide support to global commitments in order to restore one billion hectares.
- ✓ The seven initiatives are
- ✓ The Restoring Mediterranean Forests Initiative: It involves the countries of Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia and Türkiye.
- ✓ It consists of a novel approach said to have protected and restored natural habitats and vulnerable ecosystems. It is also said to have led to around two million hectares of forests restored across the region since 2017.
- ✓ The Living Indus initiative received approval from the Pakistan parliament in the wake of the devastating 2022 climate change-induced floods.
- ✓ Its official launch took place at the 27th Conference of Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in Sharm el-Sheikh.
- ✓ It designates the Indus River as a living entity with rights — a measure taken to protect rivers elsewhere as well.
- ✓ The Acción Andina social movement led by Peruvian conservation non-profit ECOAN aims to protect and restore a forest area of one million hectares.
- ✓ “It also supported the tiger population in the landscape shared by India and Nepal, which increased today to 1,174.
- ✓ Regreening Africa's agriculture: It is expected to benefit over 6,00,000 households.
- ✓ Growing forests in Africa's drylands initiative: It aims to expand from 41,000 restored hectares today to 229,000 hectares by 2030.





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**Q. Saurashtra Cricket Association Stadium has been renamed after whom?**

- A) Jai Shah  
B) Kapil Dev  
C) Rahul Dravid  
D) Niranjan Shah

**Answer : D**

- ✓ The Saurashtra Cricket Association Stadium has been renamed after cricket administrator and former first-class cricketer Niranjan Shah.
- ✓ Niranjan Shah played 12 first-class matches from 1965 to 1975 and is also a former Secretary of BCCI.
- ✓ This is the first solar powered stadium of Gujarat.

**Q. Who has been elected Speaker of Bihar Assembly?**

- A) Nand Kishore Yadav  
B) Jitan Ram Manjhi  
C) Tejashwi Yadav  
D) Giriraj Singh

**Answer : A**

- ✓ Senior BJP leader Nand Kishore Yadav was unanimously elected Speaker of Bihar Assembly.
- ✓ He was elected Speaker after the election process in the special meeting of the State Assembly.
- ✓ Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and opposition leader Tejashwi Prasad Yadav accompanied the new speaker to the seat.

**Q. Where is the first Digital India FutureSkills Summit being organised?**

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

**Answer : C**

- ✓ Union Minister Rajiv Chandrashekhkar inaugurated the Digital India FutureSkills Summit 2024.
- ✓ Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), in collaboration with the National Institute of Electronics and IT (NIELIT), is set to host the Future Skills Summit in Guwahati.
- ✓ It is being organized through the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology.
- ✓ More than 1,000 people including top industrialists and academicians are participating in this conference.



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**Q. Who has taken charge as the new Managing Director of IRCTC?**

A) Alakh Pandey

B) Sanjay Kumar Jain

C) Alok Sinha

D) Rajeev Prasad Singh

**Answer : B**

- ✓ Indian Railway Traffic Service officer Sanjay Kumar Jain took charge as the Chairman and Managing Director of Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Limited (IRCTC).
- ✓ Sanjay Jain is a qualified Chartered Accountant (CA).
- ✓ He has also previously worked as Divisional Railway Manager of Mumbai.
- ✓ Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC)
- ✓ Founded : 1999
- ✓ Headquarters : New Delhi
- ✓ CMD : Sanjay Kumar Jain

**Q. Indian hammer thrower Rachna Kumari has been banned for how many years for doping?**

A) 17

B) 10

C) 12

D) 15

**Answer : C**

- ✓ The Athletics Integrity Unit and the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) sanctioned two athletes for anti-doping rule violations.
- ✓ Indian hammer thrower Rachna Kumari has been banned for 12 years.
- ✓ Nirmala Sheoran has also been banned for violating anti-doping rules
- ✓ National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA)
- ✓ Founded : 2005
- ✓ Headquarters : New Delhi
- ✓ Chairman : Minister of Sports

**Q. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched multiple development projects worth about 7,300 crore rupees in which state?**

A) Uttar Pradesh

B) Madhya Pradesh

C) Haryana

D) Gujarat



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## Answer : B

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched multiple development projects worth about 7,300 crore rupees in Jhabua, the tribal-dominated district of Madhya Pradesh.
- ✓ The Prime Minister also disbursed monthly installments of Aahar Anudan under Aahar Anudan Yojna to about two lakh women beneficiaries.
- ✓ Modi distributed 1 lakh 75 thousand records of rights to beneficiaries of the SVAMITVA Scheme.
- ✓ The Prime Minister also transferred around 55 crore rupees for 559 villages under the Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana.
- ✓ The Prime Minister also laid the foundation stone of 'CM Rise School' in Jhabua.
- ✓ Prime Minister also laid the foundation stone of the drinking water supply scheme for more than one thousand villages of Dhar and Ratlam districts; and 14 urban water supply schemes under AMRUT 2.0 and Nal Jal Yojna for 50 Gram Panchayats of Jhabua.

## PM MODI FOUNDATION STONE IN NEWS 2023-24

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched multiple development projects worth about 7,300 crore rupees in Jhabua, the tribal-dominated district of Madhya Pradesh.
- 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.



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- 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 Shivmoggga airport in the state of Karnataka. The airport was built for Rs 450 crores

**Q. Which company has made an additional investment of ₹537 crore in its UK subsidiary Optare PLC in the electric vehicle arm Switch Mobility field?**

- A) Ashok Leyland                      B) Tata Motors Ltd  
C) Suzuki Motor Corporation        D) Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd

**Answer : A**

- ✓ Ashok Leyland has made an additional investment of ₹537 crore in its U.K. subsidiary Optare PLC.
- ✓ The investment is primarily to meet the capital expenditure, R&D and operational requirements of Optare PLC and Switch Mobility, both in the UK and India.
- ✓ Consequent to the allotment, the shareholding of ALL in Optare has increased to 92.59% from 92.19% with Hinduja Automotive Ltd., the promoter, holding 6.90%.
- ✓ Optare, which is into the manufacture and sales of commercial vehicles, had reported a consolidated revenue of ₹230 crore for FY23

**Q. RBI has increased the ceiling on fees payable to non-executive directors of banks to how much rupees per year from the existing level of 20 lakh rupees?**

- A) 30 lakh                                B) 40 lakh  
C) 50 lakh                                D) 60 lakh

**Answer : A**

- ✓ RBI has increased the ceiling on fees payable to non-executive directors of banks to 30 lakh rupees per year from the existing level of 20 Lakh rupees.
- ✓ The revision comes two years after RBI came out with new guidelines for directors as a part of corporate governance, where it capped the remuneration for non-executive directors, excluding the chair of the board.







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NAME - PRIYADARSHINI  
KALIYAMCORTHY  
ROLL NO - 2120035944  
SELECTED IN - RRB PO  
SAPTHA GIRI GRAMEEN BANK  
STATE - TAMILNADU



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IBPS RRB CLERK  
GOOD LUCK FOR YOUR FUTURE  
JOURNEY FEELING PROUD.

NAME - GARVITA VARSHNEY  
ROLL NO - 2603003299  
SELECTED IN - ARYAVART  
GRAMIN BANK CLERK  
STATE - UTTAR PRADESH



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JOURNEY FEELING PROUD

NAME - ISHITA GARG  
ROLL NO - 2283004123  
STATE - PUNJAB  
BANK - PUNJAB GRAMIN BANK



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NAME - NIPUN  
ROLL NO - 1533002831  
SELECTED IN - RRB CLERK  
STATE - HARYANA



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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

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NAME - BATHINA MANEESHA  
ROLL NO - 2543024278  
SELECTED IN - RRB CLERK  
STATE - TELAGANA



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NAME - NISHU SHARMA  
ROLL NO - 1523008901  
SELECTED IN - RRB CLERK  
STATE - HARYANA



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NAME - GURIVA KUMARI  
ROLL NO - 1373006773  
SELECTED IN - RRB CLERK  
DAKSHIN BIHAR GRAMEEN  
BANK



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NAME - GURPREET KAUR  
ROLL NO - 2283002821  
BANK - PUNJAB GRAMIN BANK  
STATE - FROM PUNJAB



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IBPS RRB CLERK  
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JOURNEY FEELING PROUD

NAME - MANU YARGHESE  
ROLL NO - 2110710970  
BANK - KERALA GRAMEEN  
BANK CLERK