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## ISRO IN NEWS 2023-24

- Vyommitra(Woman Robot Astronaut) is going to fly into Space ahead of ISRO's "Gaganyaan" Mission
- ISRO has completed all key tests on Insat-3DS satellite before the final review which will be followed by its shipping to the spaceport in Srihari Kota, Andhra Pradesh.
- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) launched the PSLV-C58 X-ray Polarimeter Satellite (XPoSat) mission.
- Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) is planning to send Indian astronauts to the moon for the first time by 2040.
- ISRO's Next Moon Mission in Collaboration with Japan Gathers Steam. This mission, called LUPEX, or Lunar Polar Exploration, is slated for 2024-25.
- Centre has approved the establishment of a new spaceport in Kulasekarapattinam, Tamil Nadu for carrying out the launches of the Small Satellite Launch Vehicles (SSLV) developed by the ISRO.
- ISRO has announced a new online training programme for post-graduate and final-year undergraduate students of physical sciences and technology. The programme is called Space Science and Technology Awareness Training (START) .
- ISRO will launch Singapore's TeLEOS-2 satellite using the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) from the Satish Dhawan Space Center in Sriharikota.
- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)
- Founded : 15 August 1969
- HQ : Bangalore, Karnataka
- Founder / 1st Chairman : Vikram Sarabhai
- 10th Chairman : S Somanath
- Aryabhata India's first satellites Launched on 19 April 1975.
- GSAT-1 India's first commercial satellite.
- SLV-3 was India's first experimental satellite launch vehicle.
- Ariane Passenger Payload Experiment, (APPLE) first communication satellite in India 19 June 1981.
- Udupi Ramachandra Rao : satellite Man of India





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- ✓ Union Tourism Minister G Kishan Reddy and Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav laid the foundation stone of Komuraveli Railway Station in Siddipet district of Telangana state. Komuravelly village is famous for the famous Komuravelly Mallikarjuna Swamy Temple.
- ✓ Every year about 25 lakh people from four different states come to visit the temple

**Q. Consider the following statements regarding the SOFIA project:**

**1. It is a telescope mounted on an aircraft that studied infrared light emitted by objects in the universe.**

**2. It is operated jointly by Russia and 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**

- ✓ Scientists recently detected water molecules on the surface of two asteroids for the first time ever, using the data from NASA's now-retired SOFIA airborne observatory.
- ✓ About SOFIA (Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy):
- ✓ SOFIA was a telescope mounted on a Boeing 747 SP aircraft that studied infrared light, essentially heat, emitted by objects in the universe.
- ✓ SOFIA is operated jointly by NASA and the German space agency.
- ✓ It is the world's largest airborne astronomical observatory, complementing NASA's space telescopes as well as major Earth-based telescopes.
- ✓ The observatory, fitted with a 8.9-foot-wide (2.7 meter) telescope with a nearly 20-ton mirror, used a door in the side of the aircraft to peer at the sky.
- ✓ Flying into the stratosphere at 38,000-45,000 feet put SOFIA above 99 percent of Earth's infrared-blocking atmosphere, allowing astronomers to study the solar system and beyond in ways that are not possible with ground-based telescopes.
- ✓ SOFIA could observe the universe in the widest range of infrared light.
- ✓ The SOFIA project was prematurely ended in 2022 after operating for 12 years





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## NASA IN NEWS 2023-24

- American space agency NASA has discovered a “super-Earth” planet, dubbed TOI-715 b, that could potentially support life. It is located 137 light-years away and was found by NASA’s planet-hunting Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS) mission.
- NASA Re-Establishes Contact With Ingenuity Helicopter On Mars After Outage
- NASA has invited people to send their names to the surface of the Moon aboard the agency’s first robotic lunar rover VIPER – short for Volatiles Investigating Polar Exploration Rover.
- NASA is gearing up to enhance our understanding of Earth’s atmosphere with the upcoming Plankton, Aerosol, Cloud, Ocean Ecosystem (PACE) mission, scheduled for launch in early 2024.
- NASA renames mission going to asteroid Apophis after returning rocks from Bennu.
- About OSIRIS-APEX:
  - It is a mission to study the physical changes to asteroid Apophis that will result from its rare close encounter with Earth in April 2029.
  - A NASA experiment on the Psyche spacecraft has beamed back a near-infrared laser that contains test data from almost 16 million kilometres away.
- 16 Psyche:
  - It is currently orbiting the Sun between Mars and Jupiter.
  - NASA is set to launch the Atmospheric Waves Experiment (AWE) to study ‘airglow’ to understand space weather.
  - NASA's James Webb Telescope recently discovered a new exoplanet named ‘Wasp-107b’, which is the size of Jupiter.
  - NASA's Lucy spacecraft successfully completed its first flyby of an asteroid named Dinkinesh.
- About Lucy Mission:
  - It is a first-of-its-kind mission of NASA that will explore Jupiter’s elusive Trojan asteroids.
  - National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) launched a sounding rocket as part of its INFUSE mission.
  - NASA's Subsurface Water Ice Mapping (SWIM) project released its fourth set of maps.
  - NISAR is a Low Earth Orbit (LEO) observatory jointly developed by NASA and ISRO.
- National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)
- Founded : 1958



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- Headquarters : Washington, D.C
- Administrator : Bill Nelson

**Q. How much was the annual grant increased to under 'Mukhyamantri Kanya Sumangala Yojana' in Uttar Pradesh?**

- A) Rs 25,000
- B) Rs 30,000
- C) Rs 35,000
- D) Rs 40,000

**Answer : A**

- ✓ Uttar Pradesh Women's Welfare Department announced a substantial increase in the grant under 'Mukhyamantri Kanya Sumangala Yojana' on the orders of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. From this April, the annual grant per beneficiary has been increased from Rs 15,000 to Rs 25,000.
- ✓ Launched in the year 2019, Mukhyamantri Kanya Sumangala Yojana is a major initiative of the Women Welfare Department in Uttar Pradesh.

**Q. Which Union Minister inaugurated 'BSE Expo-2024'?**

- A) S Jaishankar
- B) Piyush Goyal
- C) Jyotiraditya Scindia
- D) Anurag Singh Thakur

**Answer : D**

- ✓ Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Singh Thakur inaugurated the BSE Expo-2024, the 28th conference on Broadcast and Media Technology organized by the Broadcast Engineering Society (India). On this occasion, he said that India is going to become the center of broadcasting sector.

**Q. Pranam Wahi has been appointed as an additional independent director of which bank for four years?**

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

**Answer : A**

- ✓ The Board of Directors of Axis Bank has appointed Pranam Wahi as an additional independent director of the bank for four years.
- ✓ This appointment is subject to approval of shareholders.



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- ✓ A Chartered Accountant by qualification, Wahi has over 40 years of banking experience across various countries, including India, the United Arab Emirates / GCC, Indonesia, and Singapore, per the Bank's regulatory filing.
- ✓ Wahi began his career with HSBC in 1982 where he was part of various functions and corporate banking within the HSBC Group in India.
- ✓ Wahi subsequently joined DBS as CEO India in April 2004. His last position was Managing Director, Senior Risk Executive, DBS Indonesia, before retiring in 2023

## AXIS BANK IN NEWS 2023-24

- Axis Bank has appointed Pranam Wahi as an additional independent director of the bank for four years.
- Axis Bank signed MoU with IRMA to promote financial inclusion and literacy in India.
- Axis Bank and Fibe Partner to launch India's First Numberless Credit Card.
- Axis Bank Launched 'NEO For Business' Banking Platform For MSMEs.
- Axis Bank Introduces 'Infinity Savings Account' with Zero Domestic Transaction Fees.
- Axis Bank partners with RBI Innovation Hub to launch Kisan Credit cards.
- Axis Bank Partners with Kiwi to Bolster 'Credit on UPI' on RuPay Credit Cards.
- Axis Bank has launched the 'one-view' feature on its mobile application which enables account management across multiple bank accounts.
- Axis Bank has appointed NS Vishwanathan, former deputy governor of the Reserve Bank of India, as non-executive chairman.
- Axis Bank launches Digital Onboarding platform 'Sarathi' for POS Terminals.
- Axis Bank and India Shelter Finance Corporation Ltd announce strategic partnership under the co-lending model.
- Axis Bank completes deal to buy Citibank's India consumer business.
- Axis Bank Partners with OPEN to Launch a Fully Digital Current Account.
- **AXIS BANK**
- Founded : 1993
- HQ : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Chairman : Rakesh Makhija





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- MD & CEO : Amitabh Chaudhary
- Tagline : Badhti Ka naam Zindagi

**Q. The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) in collaboration with the National Institute of Electronics and IT (NIELIT) will host the Future Skills Summit in which city?**

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

**Answer : D**

- ✓ The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) in collaboration with the National Institute of Electronics and IT (NIELIT) will host the Future Skills Summit in Guwahati.
- ✓ The event will be inaugurated by Union Minister of State for Electronics and IT, Rajeev Chandrasekhar.
- ✓ The Summit aims to bring together young Indians, thought leaders, industry experts, policymakers, educators, and technology enthusiasts to discuss strategies for catalyzing future-ready talent for India and the world.
- ✓ The Summit will focus on the impact of rapid digitization globally, emphasizing new opportunities for young Indians in cutting-edge technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning (ML), Semiconductors, Robotics, and Cybersecurity.

**Q. Which bank has won seven awards in various categories in the '19th Banking Technology Conference, Expo & Citations 2023' by the Indian Banks Association (IBA) in Mumbai?**

- A) City Union Bank
- B) Union Bank of India
- C) Karur Vyasya Bank
- D) Union Bank of India

**Answer : A**

- ✓ Old private sector lender City Union Bank (CUB) has won seven awards in various categories in the '19th Banking Technology Conference, Expo & Citations 2023' by the Indian Banks Association (IBA) in Mumbai.
- ✓ The awards aim at recognising the best technology providers in the banking industry and instill competition to demonstrate their state-of-the-art innovative products, and sense of purpose and bring huge value addition in Best Practices for serving the bank's clientele.









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- ✓ The verdict underscores the importance of transparency in political funding and upholding the right to information. It also reflects the judiciary's commitment to safeguarding the principles of democracy
- ✓ Key Observations and Directions from the Bench
- ✓ The Supreme Court has found the Electoral Bonds Scheme, along with certain provisions of the Income Tax Act and Finance Act 2015, to be violative of Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution.
- ✓ The issuing bank, State Bank of India (SBI), has been directed to cease issuing electoral bonds immediately.
- ✓ SBI is required to provide details of the political parties that have received electoral bonds, including particulars such as purchase dates, purchaser names, and bond denominations, to the Election Commission (EC) by March 6.
- ✓ Additionally, SBI must disclose details of each encashed bond.
- ✓ What is Electoral Bonds?
- ✓ Electoral bonds are bearer instruments that function as interest-free banking instruments and promissory notes.
- ✓ They can be purchased by Indian citizens or Indian-incorporated bodies in denominations of Rs 1,000, Rs 10,000, Rs 1,00,000, Rs 10,00,000, and Rs 1,00,00,000 from specified SBI branches.
- ✓ These bonds are available for purchase for a limited period in January, April, July, and October, with an additional 30-day period specified by the Central Government in the year of the General election to the House of People.
- ✓ The Electoral Bonds Scheme was introduced in 2017 through a Finance bill and implemented in 2018
- ✓ SBI is the only authorised bank to issue electoral bonds.
- ✓ An electoral bond will be valid for 15 days from the date of issuance. No payment would be made to any political party if the bond is deposited after expiry of the validity period, the statement said.

## 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.
- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurates SBI branch in Sri Lanka.
- State Bank of India ropes in MS Dhoni as brand ambassador.



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- 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. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the first Hindu temple in the United Arab Emirates. What is the name of this temple?**

- A) Birjumaharaj Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha Hindu Mandir
- B) Bochasanwasi Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha Hindu Mandir
- C) Bochasanwasi Annpurana Purushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha Hindu Mandir
- D) Bochasanwasi Akshardham Swaminarayan Sanstha Hindu Mandir







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- ✓ Sikkim is a northeastern Indian state, bordered by Bhutan, Tibet and Nepal.

## WORLD BANK IN NEWS 2023

- World Bank provides \$300 million loan to Tamil Nadu to help 21 Urban Local Bodies.
- World Bank has set up a task force to study the recommendations made by the Independent Experts Group, formed under India's G20 Presidency, for strengthening multilateral development banks (MDBs).
- Commodity Markets Outlook Report is published by the World Bank in April and October, every year.
- World Bank and Japan, have launched the Resilient and Inclusive Supply-chain Enhancement (RISE) initiative in Morocco.
- World Bank has approved \$1.5 billion in financing to accelerate India's development of low-carbon energy.
- World Bank has approved a substantial funding package of 700 million dollars for Sri Lanka.
- World Bank has approved \$391 million in financing to improve access to high-quality healthcare services and to economic opportunities for people in Assam and Tripura.
- World Bank approves \$150-million loan for Resilient Kerala programme.
- World Bank has granted its approval for a USD 255.5 million loan aimed at enhancing the quality of technical education in government-run institutions across India.
- World Bank approves \$150-million loan for Resilient Kerala programme.
- World Bank (WB) launched its first dedicated road safety project in South Asia with a USD 358 million financing agreement signed in Dhaka with the government of Bangladesh.
- Indian origin Ajay Banga confirmed as the 14th President of World Bank.
- Ministry of Education and the World Bank held a unique workshop on School-to-Work Transition under the STARS Program.
- The Cabinet approved the Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States (STARS) Project in October 2020.
- World Bank has approved a loan of US \$ 363 million for the supply of clean drinking water from taps to 2 million rural households in Karnataka.



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- World Bank's Board of Executive Directors has approved USD 100 million loan under Odisha State Capability and Resilient Growth Program.
- According to the World Bank's (WB) annual report 'State and Trends of Carbon Pricing 2023' released on May 23, 2023, revenues collected from carbon taxes and Emissions Trading Systems (ETS) globally have reached a record high, about US\$95 billion in 2022.
- World Bank's Executive Board of Directors has approved USD 108 million loan for Assam, to help the state improve disaster preparedness and enhance flood forecasting.
- India and the World Bank have signed a loan agreement for the construction of the Green National Highway Corridors Project (GNHCP) in four States.
- These four states are-Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh.
- World Bank has signed two complementary loans with India worth USD 500 million each to support and enhance the country's healthcare infrastructure.
- India will be the first country in the world to receive \$100 billion from remittances during 2022, the World Bank.
- WORLD BANK
- Founded : 1944
- Headquarters : Washington Dc
- 14th President : Ajay Banga
- MD&CFO : Anshula Kant
- Chief Economist : Carman Reinhart
- Executive Director : Rajesh Khullar
- Member Countries :189
- World Bank Group : 5 (IBRD, IDA, IFC, MIGA and ICSID).
- All of these efforts support the Bank Group's twin goals of ending extreme poverty by 2030 and boosting shared prosperity of the poorest 40% of the population in all countries.
- World Bank was created at the 1944 Bretton Woods Conference, along with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).
- India is a member of IBRD, IFC, IDA and MIGA. The country is not a member of the ICSID



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**Q. Consider the following statements with reference to PM-SVANidhi scheme:**

**1. It is launched by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.**

**2. It aims to provide loans to artisans and craftsmen for their livelihoods.**

**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**

- ✓ The PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) was launched on June 01, 2020 for providing affordable Working Capital loans to street vendors to resume their livelihoods that have been adversely affected due to Covid-19 lockdown.
- ✓ Time duration: Initially It was until March 2022. After that it has been extended till December 2024.
- ✓ Eligibility: The Scheme is available for beneficiaries belonging to only those States/UTs which have notified Rules and Scheme under Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2014.
- ✓ Benefits: A micro credit scheme, facilitating a working capital collateral free loan of Rs. 10,000, with subsequent loans of Rs. 20,000 and 50,000 with 7% interest subsidy.
- ✓ Implementation agency: Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI).
- ✓ Ministry: Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
- ✓ Under PM SVANidhi, significant achievements have already been made.
- ✓ Till now, the scheme has extended more than 80.42 lakh loans to 60.94 lakh street vendors amounting to 10678 Crore rupees

**Q. Consider the following statements with reference to Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT):**

**1. It is a quasi-judicial institution.**

**2. An appeal against the decisions of the tribunal lies directly to the Supreme Court.**

**3. The President of the tribunal is appointed by the Reserve Bank of India.**

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

**A) Only one**

**B) Only two**

**C) All three**

**D) None**









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- ✓ The bank cannot use this amount for lending and investment purposes and does not get any interest from the RBI.
- ✓ The CRR applies to scheduled commercial banks, while regional rural banks and NBFCs are excluded.
- ✓ Following are the critical objectives of the CRR:
- ✓ CRR helps control inflation. In a high inflation environment, the RBI can increase CRR to prevent banks from lending more.
- ✓ CRR also ensures banks have a minimum amount of funds readily available to customers, even during huge demand.
- ✓ CRR serves as the reference rate for loans. Also known as the base rate for loans, banks cannot offer loans below this rate.
- ✓ Since CRR regulates the money supply, it boosts the economy whenever required by lowering the CRR.
- ✓ How is the CRR Calculated?
- ✓ There is no CRR formula. In technical terms, CRR is calculated as a percentage of Net Demand and Time Liabilities (NDTL).
- ✓ NDTL for banking refers to the aggregate savings account, current account, and fixed deposit balances held by a bank.

In case a bank fails to maintain its CRR, it will have to pay fines to the RBI because of that default. The fine is charged for the shortfall.

**Q. In which state will PM Modi unveil the 125-foot tall statue of Bir Lachit Barphukan?**

- A) Bihar
- B) Assam
- C) Nagaland
- D) Meghalaya

**Answer : B**

- ✓ Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma has invited Prime Minister Narendra Modi to unveil the 125-foot tall statue of Bir Lachit Barphukan in Jorhat, Assam during the first week of March this year.
- ✓ Lachit Day is celebrated every year on 24 November to recognize the military genius and unwavering leadership abilities of the famous Ahom Empire commander Lachit Barphukan





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**Q. Who has been nominated for the 58th Jnanpith Award?**

A) Gulzar

B) Jagadguru Rambhadracharya

C) Amitabh Chaudhary

D) Both A and B

**Answer : D**

- ✓ The Jnanpith Selection Committee has nominated famous Urdu poet Gulzar and Sanskrit scholar Jagadguru Rambhadracharya for the 58th Jnanpith Award.
- ✓ Gulzar's real name is 'Sampoorna Singh Kalra'.
- ✓ He is considered one of the best Urdu poets of this era.
- ✓ Gulzar has also made important contribution to Hindi cinema. Rambhadracharya is the founder of Tulsi Peeth in Chitrakoot
- ✓ About Gulzar
- ✓ Sampooran Singh Kalra, who is popularly known as Gulzar, is a renowned figure in Hindi cinema and a highly regarded Urdu poet. He is considered one of the best poets of his time.
- ✓ Gulzar has received many accolades for his works, including the Sahitya Akademi Award for Urdu in 2002, the Dadasaheb Phalke Award in 2013, the Padma Bhushan in 2004, and at least five National Film Awards.
- ✓ Some of his most notable works include the song "Jai Ho" for the movie "Slumdog Millionaire," which won an Oscar in 2009 and a Grammy in 2010. He has also created songs for critically acclaimed films such as "Maachis" (1996), "Omkaara" (2006), "Dil Se..." (1998), and "Guru" (2007), among others.
- ✓ Gulzar has directed timeless award-winning classics such as "Koshish", "Parichay", "Mausam", "Ijaazat", and the television serial "Mirza Ghalib".
- ✓ About Rambhadracharya
- ✓ Rambhadracharya, who is 74 years old, is a well-known Hindu spiritual leader, educator and writer. He is the founder and head of Tulsi Peeth in Chitrakoot and has written over 240 books and texts, including four epics.
- ✓ Rambhadracharya has been holding the position under the Ramananda sect as one of the current four Jagadguru Ramanandacharya since 1982.
- ✓ Despite being blind since the age of two months due to trachoma, Rambhadracharya is a polyglot who can speak 22 languages. He is also a poet and writer in several Indian languages, including Sanskrit, Hindi, Awadhi, and Maithili.



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- ✓ In recognition of his contributions, he received the Padma Vibhushan award in 2015. Rambhadracharya was born as Giridhara Misra and was home-schooled by his grandfather during his initial years.
- ✓ He had memorized the entire Bhagavad Gita by the age of eight and the entire Ramcharitmanas.
- ✓ Jnanpith Awards:
  - ✓ It is the oldest and highest Indian literary award presented annually by Bharatiya Jnanpith.
  - ✓ It recognizes outstanding contributions to literature by Indian authors writing in English as well as in the Indian languages listed in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution of India.
  - ✓ The first award was given on 19 November 1966 to G.K. Shankar Kurup was awarded.
  - ✓ The award was established in 1961 and is not given posthumously.
  - ✓ Ashapurna Devi became the first woman recipient in 1976 for her novel "Prothom Protishruti" (The First Promise).
- ✓ SURPRISE FACTS JNANPITH AWARD
  - ✓ Field : Literature
  - ✓ Instituted : 1961
  - ✓ First awarded : 1965
  - ✓ First recipient : G. Sankara Kurup
  - ✓ First women to receive : Ashapurna Devi
  - ✓ First Jnanpith in English : Amitav Ghosh (54th Jnanpith)
  - ✓ First Jnanpith in Hindi : Kunwar Narayan in 2005
  - ✓ Akkitham : Jnanpith Award (55th)
  - ✓ Language : 22 languages mentioned in the Eighth
  - ✓ Total awarded : 62
  - ✓ First Jnanpith Awardee – G.Sankara Kurup (1965) Malayalam language
  - ✓ First woman Jnanpith Awardee – Ashapurna Devi (1976) Bangla language
  - ✓ First English author to receive Jnanpith Award: Amitav Ghosh (2018)
  - ✓ First Hindi author to receive Jnanpith Award : Sumitranandan Pant (1968)

## 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.



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- 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.
- 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 Khetrupal Singh Honored with Bhutan's National Order of Merit.
- Indira Gandhi Peace Prize Awarded to Daniel Barenboim and Ali Abu Awwad"





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- 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

**Q. 'PM Vishwakarma Yojana' has been launched by which ministry?**

- A) Ministry of Agriculture
- B) Ministry of Rural Development
- C) Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
- D) Ministry of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj

**Answer : C**

- ✓ 'PM Vishwakarma Yojana' is a central sector scheme launched by the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.
- ✓ This scheme encourages artisans and craftsmen to get cheap loans, skill training, modern equipment, digital transactions. A budget of Rs 13,000 crore has been kept for this scheme.
- ✓ 18 businesses have been included under this scheme.
- ✓ PM Vishwakarma will initially be implemented over a period of five years till the financial year 2027-28.

**Q. With whom has IREDA signed an agreement for co-financing renewable energy projects?**

- A) Punjab National Bank
- B) Bandhan Bank
- C) HDFC Bank
- D) IDFC First Bank

**Answer : A**

- ✓ Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA) and Punjab National Bank have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the aim of taking forward renewable energy initiatives across the country.



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- ✓ Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited is an Indian public sector enterprise, established in 1987.
- ✓ PUNJAB NATIONAL BANK
- ✓ Founded : 12 April 1894
- ✓ Founder : Dyal Singh Majithia And Lala Lajpat Rai
- ✓ Headquarters : New Delhi
- ✓ MD & CEO : Atul Kumar Goel
- ✓ Tagline : The Name You can Bank Upon
- ✓ Punjab National Bank Merge : (Oriental Bank of Commerce & United Bank of India)

## IREDA IN NEWS 2023-24

- Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency, Punjab National Bank to co-finance green energy projects.
- 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.
- 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)



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- 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. Which country's women's team won the gold medal in the Badminton Asia Team Championship?**

- A) India
- B) China
- C) Malaysia
- D) Singapore

**Answer : A**

- ✓ Indian women's team performed brilliantly and won the gold medal in the Badminton Asia Team Championship.
- ✓ This is the first time that India won a gold medal in the women's event.
- ✓ Earlier, the men's team had won bronze medals in the 2016 and 2020 editions.
- ✓ PV Sindhu, Trisa Jolly-Gayatri Gopichand and Kharab gave India the lead by winning their respective matches.

**Q. In which state did Prime Minister Narendra Modi lay the foundation stone of 'Shri Kalki Dham Temple'?**

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

**Answer : B**

- ✓ Prime Minister laid the foundation stone of the Hindu pilgrimage site 'Shri Kalki Dham Temple' in Sambhal, Uttar Pradesh.
- ✓ This temple is being constructed by Shri Kalki Dham Nirman Trust, whose president is Acharya Pramod Krishnam. Lord Kalki is considered to be the 10th incarnation of Lord Vishnu. Shri Kalki Dham temple complex will be completed in five acres, which will take 5 years.





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## UTTAR PRADESH IN NEWS 2023-24

- Global aerospace giant Boeing has opened its first distribution center in India, located in Khurja, Uttar Pradesh.
- For the first time in India, a boat running on solar energy will be operated in the Saryu river in Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh
- Uttar Pradesh State Chief Secretary Durga Shankar Mishra inaugurated 'Rahat Vani Kendra' (RVC), an observatory for early disaster warning.
- Lucknow city, known as the 'City of Nawabs', will be developed as India's first 'AI City'.
- Uttar Pradesh government has announced the launch of India's first 'Telecom Center of Excellence.
- Uttar Pradesh has achieved the highest entry rate on the Inter-Operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS) platform.
- A high-level delegation from the Uttar Pradesh government is set to participate in the World Economic Forum (WEF) meeting in Davos, Switzerland.
- Uttar Pradesh government has linked big institutions like the CSIR and DRDO with the Bulk Drug Park and made them its knowledge partners.
- Ayodhya, the temple city on the banks of the Saryu River in Uttar Pradesh, marked a spectacular Deepotsav on Saturday, setting a new Guinness World Record with the lighting of 22.23 lakh earthen lamps across 51 ghats.
- President Draupadi Murmu inaugurated the first Uttar Pradesh International Trade Show at India Expo Center and Mart in Greater Noida.
- Uttar Pradesh New and Renewable Energy Development Agency (UPNEDA) has signed an MoU with the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) for the solarisation of residential units at Ayodhya and for bio-energy and renewable project financing.
- Ashok Leyland has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the government of Uttar Pradesh to set up an integrated commercial vehicle bus plant focused on green mobility in Uttar Pradesh.
- Uttar Pradesh government has decided to organize a campaign under Road Safety Fortnight from July 17 to 31.
- Uttar Pradesh Police Department has launched 'Operation Conviction' to combat criminals and mafias in the state.



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- Uttar Pradesh government has decided to cancel all Traffic Chalan for private and commercial vehicle owners pending from 2017 to 2021.

**Q. The Scheme for Residential Education for Students in High Schools in Targeted Areas (SHRESHTA), often mentioned in the news, aims to:**

- A) provide access to quality education for students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds
- B) promote cultural exchange in residential schools
- C) provide scholarships to meritorious students from Scheduled Caste (SC) communities for higher education
- D) exclusively cater to students with disabilities in residential schools

**Answer : C**

- ✓ The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) recently issued instructions for Residential Private Schools interested in joining SHRESHTA Scheme.
- ✓ About Scheme for Residential Education for Students in High Schools in Targeted Areas (SHRESHTA):
- ✓ The scheme aims to provide access to the best private residential schools for meritorious students from Scheduled Caste (SC) communities.
- ✓ It will provide scholarships to meritorious students from SC communities to study in private and NGO-run residential schools for Classes 9-12.
- ✓ The scheme is expected to provide admissions to around 3,000 students in Classes 9 and 11 each year.
- ✓ The core objectives of the scheme are to enhance the reach of the development initiatives of the government and fill in the gap in service-deprived SC dominant areas in the education sector.
- ✓ Implementation agency: The Department of Social Justice and Empowerment, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment.
- ✓ Eligibility: Students whose annual parental income is less than Rs 2,50,000 and who belong to SC communities are eligible to participate in this scheme.
- ✓ Only those candidates who have passed or are appearing in Class VIII/X in the given academic session can apply for taking admission to Class IX/XI.



### 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.
- Karnataka government recently suspended five officers for dereliction of duty in the implementation of the Inclusive Education for Disabled at Secondary Stage (IEDSS) scheme.

**Q. Which among the following best describes Disinflation?**

- A) An increase in inflation rates      B) A decrease in inflation rates  
C) A decrease in the aggregate supply      D) A decrease in the aggregate demand

**Answer : B**

- ✓ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) governor recently said recurring food price shocks and renewed flash points on the geo-political front pose a challenge to the ongoing disinflation process.
- ✓ About Disinflation:
- ✓ Disinflation is a decrease in inflation rates.









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- ✓ Its aim is to bring together the efforts of Buddhists in support of consolidating universal peace, harmony, and cooperation among people in Asia.
- ✓ It is currently headquartered at the Gandanthegechenling Monastery in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia and the Supreme Head of Mongolian Buddhists is the ABCP President.

**Q. Consider the following:**

1. Puri
2. Gangotri
3. Sringeri
4. Dwarka

**How many of the above are monastic centers (maths) established by Adi Shankaracharya?**

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

**Answer : C**

- ✓ The four Shankaracharyas recently said that they will not attend the inauguration of the Ram temple in Ayodhya.
- ✓ About Shankaracharyas:
- ✓ Shankaracharya, literally 'teacher of the way of Shankara', is a religious title used by the heads of the four Hindu maths (monasteries) that were established by the eighth-century Hindu saint Adi Shankara.
- ✓ These maths are located in Dwarka (Gujarat), Joshimath (Uttarakhand), Puri (Odisha), and Sringeri (Karnataka).

**Q. India and which country have signed an MoU on cooperation in the field of Sharing Successful Digital Solutions Implemented at Population Scale for Digital Transformation?**

- A) Ethiopia
- B) Uganda
- C) Colombia
- D) Oman

**Answer : C**

- ✓ India and Colombia have signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the field of Sharing Successful Digital Solutions Implemented at Population Scale for Digital Transformation.
- ✓ It was signed between the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and the Information Technologies and Communications of Colombia.





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## SIGNS MoU IN NEWS 2023-24

- India, Colombia sign MoU on Cooperation in the field of Sharing Successful Digital Solutions.
- India Signs Agreement for Lithium Exploration & Mining Project in Argentina.
- Cabinet approves the Migration and Mobility Agreement between India and Italy
- India and Italy sign Mobility and Migration Partnership Agreement to facilitate movement of workers.
- India-Japan pact on semiconductor supply chain gets Cabinet green light.
- India, Italy sign defence agreement.
- India and Tanzania elevate ties to Strategic Partnership; Agree on 5 year roadmap for defence cooperation.
- India, Tanzania to sign 15 agreements with eye on USD 10 billion trade.
- India And Saudi Arabia Tie Up For Green Hydrogen.
- India And Saudi Arabia Sign Agreement On Cooperation In Energy Sector.
- India, New Zealand Sign MoU To Enhance Cooperation In Civil Aviation.
- India and Trinidad and Tobago have entered a partnership by signing an MoU to share INDIA STACK.
- India, Moldova agree to sign MoU for cooperation in agriculture
- India, UAE sign MoU on linking of India's Unified Payments Interface with Instant Payment Platform of UAE.
- India, Panama sign MoU on electoral cooperation.
- India and Singapore extend MoU on cooperation for 5 years.
- Israel signed an agreement with India to enhance technological advancements and sustainable practices cooperation in the fields of water and agriculture.
- India and US To Establish Monitoring Group to Boost High-Tech Trade and Tech Partnership.
- India and Australia Sign Agreements on Migration and Green Hydrogen Task Force.
- India, Israel sign MoU for industrial research and development cooperation.
- NET Zero' Innovation Virtual Centre to be jointly created by India-UK.
- India, UK sign agreement to collaborate on science and innovation.
- Nepal and India to Sign Agreement for Cross-Border Digital Payments.
- India and Romania sign first Defence Cooperation Agreement to strengthen bilateral relations.
- India, US to sign memorandum of understanding on semiconductors.



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- Australia, India agree on strengthening economic, defence ties.

**Q. According to Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers, which state has recorded the highest number of vehicle sales in October-December 2023?**

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

**Answer : C**

- ✓ Uttar Pradesh recorded the highest number of vehicle sales in October-December 2023, followed by Maharashtra, Gujarat and Tamil Nadu, according to Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers.
- ✓ As per data from SIAM, Uttar Pradesh clocked a total sale of 8,22,472 units across passenger and commercial vehicles; and two and three-wheeler categories.
- ✓ In two-wheeler category, Uttar Pradesh topped the list followed by Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh & Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ Maharashtra was second with 6,88,192 units across the four categories followed by Gujarat with 4,21,026 units and Tamil Nadu 4,19,189 units in the quarter.
- ✓ Uttar Pradesh witnessed the highest number of three-wheelers sold in the quarter at 23,859 units, followed by Maharashtra (20,495), Gujarat (19,743) and Bihar (14,955).
- ✓ Similarly, in the two-wheeler category, Uttar Pradesh topped the list with a total of 6,73,962 units sold in the state, followed by Maharashtra (5,15,612), Madhya Pradesh (3,35,478) and Tamil Nadu (3,24,918).

**Q. According to Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) data, which state tops the country in terms of public electric vehicle charging stations with 5,059?**

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

**Answer : A**

- ✓ Karnataka tops the country in terms of public electric vehicle charging stations with 5,059, according to statistics from the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), under the Union Ministry of Power.
- ✓ Bengaluru Urban District has the most public charging stations with 4,281, which constitutes 85% of the charging infrastructure in the State.
- ✓ In 2017, Karnataka became the pioneer in India by introducing the first electric vehicle (EV) policy.



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- ✓ At present, it leads in the number of public charging stations, with Maharashtra (3,079), Delhi (1,886), Kerala (958), Tamil Nadu (643), Uttar Pradesh (583), and Rajasthan (500) following suit.

**Q. Fintech firm One97 Communications — owner of the brand Paytm — has shifted its nodal account to which bank from Paytm Payments Bank?**

A) Yes Bank

B) HDFC Bank

C) Axis Bank

D) ICICI Bank

**Answer : C**

- ✓ Fintech firm One97 Communications — owner of the brand Paytm — has shifted its nodal account to Axis Bank from Paytm Payments Bank.
- ✓ The move will allow continuity of Paytm QR, Soundbox, and card machine after the March 15 set by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), as per a regulatory filing.
- ✓ The company has also shifted its nodal account to Axis Bank (by opening an escrow account) to continue seamless merchant settlements as before.
- ✓ This arrangement is expected to seamlessly replace the nodal account that OCL was using with Paytm Payments Bank.
- ✓ The nodal account of Paytm is like a master account in which all its customers, and merchant transactions are settled

## AXIS BANK IN NEWS 2023-24

- Axis Bank has appointed Pranam Wahi as an additional independent director of the bank for four years.
- Axis Bank signed MoU with IRMA to promote financial inclusion and literacy in India.
- Axis Bank and Fibe Partner to launch India's First Numberless Credit Card.
- Axis Bank Launched 'NEO For Business' Banking Platform For MSMEs.
- Axis Bank Introduces 'Infinity Savings Account' with Zero Domestic Transaction Fees.
- Axis Bank partners with RBI Innovation Hub to launch Kisan Credit cards.
- Axis Bank Partners with Kiwi to Bolster 'Credit on UPI' on RuPay Credit Cards.
- Axis Bank has launched the 'one-view' feature on its mobile application which enables account management across multiple bank accounts.





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- Axis Bank has appointed NS Vishwanathan, former deputy governor of the Reserve Bank of India, as non-executive chairman.
- Axis Bank launches Digital Onboarding platform 'Sarathi' for POS Terminals.
- Axis Bank and India Shelter Finance Corporation Ltd announce strategic partnership under the co-lending model.
- Axis Bank completes deal to buy Citibank's India consumer business.
- Axis Bank Partners with OPEN to Launch a Fully Digital Current Account.
- AXIS BANK
- Founded : 1993
- HQ : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Chairman : Rakesh Makhija
- MD & CEO : Amitabh Chaudhary
- Tagline : Badhti Ka naam Zindagi

**Q. Which insurance company has launched the "Amritbaal" insurance plan for children?**

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

**Answer : A**

- ✓ The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has launched "Amritbaal", an insurance plan for children.
- ✓ The new "non-linked, non-participating, individual, savings, life insurance" plan is specifically designed to have an adequate corpus to meet the higher education and other needs of a child.
- ✓ The minimum sum assured (SA) for this policy is ₹2 lakh and there is no maximum SA (subject to underwriting decision).
- ✓ This policy will facilitate the accumulation of corpus through guaranteed additions at the rate of ₹80 per thousand basic sum assured at the end of each policy year from the inception till the end of the policy term, provided the policy is in force.



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## LIC IN NEWS 2023-24

- LIC gets RBI nod for 9.99% stake buy in HDFC Bank.
- LIC emerged as the most valued Indian PSU firm, surpassing SBI.
- (LIC) is planning to acquire up to 10 percent equity stake in a company promoted by the National Housing Bank (NHB)
- Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has appointed S Sundar Krishnan as Chief Risk Officer (CRO), replacing Pratap Chandra Paikarai
- Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has launched a special scheme, named Jeevan Utsav.
- Siddhartha Mohanty appointed as Chairman of LIC Until June 2024.
- LIC Raises Stake in Tech Mahindra to 8.88% Through Open Market Transactions.
- LIC to divest 60.72% share in IDBI Bank.
- Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)
- Founded : 1956
- Headquarters : Mumbai
- Chairman : Siddhartha Mohanty
- It is India's largest life insurance company and also the country's largest investment company.
- Authorised Capital of LIC - Rs 25,000 Crore

**Q. Famous Jain saint Acharya Vidyasagar Maharaj passed away, in which state was he born?**

- A) Tamil Nadu
- B) Assam
- C) Himachal Pradesh
- D) Karnataka

**Answer : D**

- ✓ Famous Jain saint Acharya Vidyasagar Maharaj passed away at Chandragiri Tirtha in Dongargarh, Chhattisgarh.
- ✓ Acharya Vidyasagar Maharaj was the most famous saint of the Digambar Jain community.
- ✓ Jain saint Vidyasagar Maharaj was born on 10 October 1946 in Sadalga village of Belgaum, Karnataka







- ✓ The previous edition of the exercise was held in Visakhapatnam under the Eastern Naval Command and had the theme 'Camaraderie-Cohesion-Collaboration'.

### EXERCISE IN NEWS 2023-24

- Indian Air Force will conduct mega exercise Vayu Shakti 2024 at Pokhran Range in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan on February 17.
- The first edition of India-Saudi Arabia joint military exercise 'SADA TANSEEQ' is being organized in Mahajan, Rajasthan
- India, France, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) conducted a major air exercise, named 'Desert Knight', over the Arabian Sea.
- Indian Army contingent is taking part in the 2nd edition of India-Egypt Joint Special Forces Exercise CYCLONE. The Exercise is being conducted at Anshas, Egypt.
- 11th edition of India-Kyrgyzstan Joint Special Forces Exercise KHANJAR has commenced at the Special Forces Training School in Bakloh, Himachal Pradesh
- The maiden Bilateral Maritime Exercise -Ayutthaya' between the Indian Navy (IN) and Royal Thai Navy (RTN) was conducted.
- The 12th edition of the Multilateral Naval Exercise - 2024 (Milan) is set to take place at Visakhapatnam from February 19 to 27.
- Indian Armed Forces contingent comprising 45 personnel reached Hanoi, Vietnam to take part in the Joint Military Exercise VINBAX-2023.
- This year's exercise will be conducted at Hanoi, Vietnam.
- Indo-US Joint Special Forces exercise "VAJRA PRAHAR 2023" commenced at the Joint Training Node, Umroi, Meghalaya.
- A joint military exercise, "Exercise MITRA SHAKTI-2023" is being conducted from November 16th to 29th, 2023, in Aundh (Pune), Maharashtra.
- It is a joint military exercise between India and Sri Lankan army.
- This year is the ninth edition of the exercise.
- The coastal security exercise 'Sagar Kavach' is set to unfold its strategic manoeuvres along the Kerala and Mahe coasts.
- Coordinated by the Indian Coast Guard.



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- Much-anticipated joint exercise 'Trishakti Prahar' recently began near the western border of Rajasthan in Jaisalmer.
- Exercise CORPAT and BONGOSAGAR between the Indian Navy and Bangladesh Navy were conducted in the Northern Bay of Bengal from 07 - 09 Nov 2023.
- Exercise Harimau Shakti 2023 commenced in Umroi Cantonment, India.
- It is a joint bilateral training exercise between Indian & Malaysian Armed Forces.
- The 19th edition of "EXERCISE YUDH ABHYAS" will be conducted from 25th September to 8th October 2023 in Fort Wainwright, Alaska, USA.

**Q. India's first Helicopter Emergency Medical Service (HEMS) will be started from which state?**

A) Maharashtra

B) Kerala

C) Uttarakhand

D) Telangana

**Answer : C**

- ✓ India's first Helicopter Emergency Medical Service (HEMS) will be started from Uttarakhand.
- ✓ All Indian Institute of Medical Science in Rishikesh from where it can be sent anywhere within a radius area of 150 km to airlift the people to the hospital.
- ✓ HEMS would operate under project 'Sanjeevani'. The helicopter is being assembled at present and is under the certification process.
- ✓ India's 1st helicopter emergency medical service to start from Uttarakhand

## INDIA'S FIRST IN NEWS 2023-24

- Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (IIT-K) has successfully established and tested India's first Hypervelocity Expansion Tunnel Test Facility.
- Ola Founder's Krutrim Becomes First \$1 Billion Indian AI Startup.
- For the first time in India, a boat running on solar energy will be operated in the Saryu river in Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh.
- Reliance Industries Achieves India's First ISCC-Plus Certification .
- Lucknow city, known as the 'City of Nawabs', will be developed as India's first 'AI City'.
- Uttar Pradesh government has announced the launch of India's first 'Telecom Center of Excellence.
- India's first solar roof cycling track was inaugurated in Hyderabad city.



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- 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. Which of the following has reconstituted the Expert Committee on the implementation of Ind AS/IFRS?**

A) IRDAI

B) SEBI

C) RBI

D) SIDBI

**Answer : A**

- ✓ Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has announced the reconstitution of the Expert Committee on the implementation of Ind AS/IFRS.
- ✓ The 13-member committee, which will be headed by the Member (Finance and Investment) F&I of IRDAI, will also include the Chairman of the Accounting Standards Board (ASB) of ICAI, the President of the Institute of Actuaries of India (IAI), the CGM & HOD of IRDAI's Actuarial Department, among others.
- ✓ The committee will work on steps that may be taken towards the effective implementation of the Indian Accounting Standards, along with giving phase-wise time-lines.





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**Q. Which bank has launched a self-subscribing journey for enrolment under Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY) and Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY) schemes for its customers?**

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 launched a self-subscribing journey for enrolment under Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY) and Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY) schemes for its customers.
- ✓ The facility will provide impetus to the Indian Government's drive of covering all eligible citizens under PMJJBY & PMSBY schemes.
- ✓ The functionality enables customers to enrol under the schemes as per their convenience without visiting the branch or Customer Service Point.
- ✓ The customer needs to key in the account number, date of birth on Jan Suraksha portal and to select the Bank. The Certificate of Insurance is generated instantly on payment of premium.
- ✓ PMJJBY is a one-year cover term life insurance scheme, renewable from year to year, offering life insurance cover for death due to any cause.
- ✓ PMSBY is an accident insurance scheme offering accidental death and disability cover for death or disability on account of an accident.

**Q. Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) has successfully launched INSAT-3DS satellite from SDSC-SHAR from Sriharikota. It is a which type of satellite?**

A) Astronomical satellites

B) Defence Satellite

C) Geostationary satellite

D) Meteorological satellite

**Answer : D**

- ✓ Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) has successfully launched meteorological satellite INSAT-3DS with the GSLV-F14/INSAT-3DS mission from SDSC-SHAR, Sriharikota.
- ✓ This will help in enhancing the weather forecast.
- ✓ This was ISRO's second success in the current calendar after the launch of XPoSAT from Sriharikota on January 1 in PSLV's 60th flight.



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- ✓ The GSLV-F14 – blasted from the second launch pad – was the 16th flight of India’s Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV).
- ✓ This was the seventh operational flight of a GSLV with an indigenous cryogenic stage. The 51.7 m tall rocket with a lift-off mass of 420 tonnes, with indigenous cryogenic stages, placed the INSAT-3DS satellite weighing 2,274 kg into a Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit.
- ✓ About INSAT-3DS
- ✓ INSAT-3DS Satellite is a follow-on mission of Third Generation Meteorological Satellite from geostationary orbit.
- ✓ It is designed for enhanced meteorological observations and monitoring of land and ocean surfaces for weather forecasting and disaster warning.
- ✓ The satellite will augment the Meteorological services along with the presently operational INSAT-3D and INSAT-3DR satellites.
- ✓ About GSLV-F14
- ✓ GSLV is a three-stage 51.7 m long launch vehicle with a liftoff mass of 420 tonnes.
- ✓ The first stage (GS1) comprises a solid propellant (S139) motor having a 139-tonne propellant and four earth-storable propellant stages (L40) strap-ons, each carrying 40 tonnes of liquid propellant.
- ✓ The second stage (GS2) was also an earth-storable propellant stage loaded with 40-ton propellant. The third stage (GS3) was a cryogenic stage with a 15-ton propellant loading of liquid oxygen (LOX) and liquid hydrogen (LH2).

## ISRO IN NEWS 2023-24

- ISRO has successfully launched meteorological satellite INSAT-3DS with the GSLV-F14/INSAT-3DS mission from SDSC-SHAR, Sriharikota.
- Vyommitra(Woman Robot Astronaut) is going to fly into Space ahead of ISRO’s “Gaganyaan” Mission
- ISRO has completed all key tests on Insat-3DS satellite before the final review which will be followed by its shipping to the spaceport in Srihari Kota, Andhra Pradesh.
- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) launched the PSLV-C58 X-ray Polarimeter Satellite (XPoSat) mission.



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- Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) is planning to send Indian astronauts to the moon for the first time by 2040.
- ISRO's Next Moon Mission in Collaboration with Japan Gathers Steam. This mission, called LUPEX, or Lunar Polar Exploration, is slated for 2024-25.
- Centre has approved the establishment of a new spaceport in Kulasekarapattinam, Tamil Nadu for carrying out the launches of the Small Satellite Launch Vehicles (SSLV) developed by the ISRO.
- ISRO has announced a new online training programme for post-graduate and final-year undergraduate students of physical sciences and technology. The programme is called Space Science and Technology Awareness Training (START) .
- ISRO will launch Singapore's TeLEOS-2 satellite using the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) from the Satish Dhawan Space Center in Sriharikota.
- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)
- Founded : 15 August 1969
- HQ : Bangalore, Karnataka
- Founder / 1st Chairman : Vikram Sarabhai
- 10th Chairman : S Somanath
- Aryabhata India's first satellites Launched on 19 April 1975.
- GSAT-1 India's first commercial satellite.
- SLV-3 was India's first experimental satellite launch vehicle.
- Ariane Passenger PayLoad Experiment, (APPLE) first communication satellite in India 19 June 1981.
- Udipi Ramachandra Rao : satellite Man of India

**Q. The INDUS-X initiative, recently seen in the news, focus on advancing of:**

- A) agriculture technology
- B) antipiracy measures
- C) high-tech cooperation in the defense sector
- D) renewable energy solutions

**Answer : C**





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- ✓ The defence ministry said the 'INDUS-X' summit in Delhi marks a "significant milestone" in the collaborative efforts between the two countries.
- ✓ About U.S.-India Defense Accelerator Ecosystem (INDUS-X):
- ✓ It was launched in June 2023 during the state visit of the Prime Minister of India to the US.
- ✓ Objective: To expand strategic technology partnerships and defense industrial cooperation between governments, businesses, and academic institutions in India and the US.
- ✓ INDUS X will be a defence innovation bridge, which will inter-alia, include Joint Challenges, Joint Innovation Fund, Academia engagement, Industry-startup connect, investment by private entities in defence projects, mentoring by experts and niche technology projects etc.
- ✓ The initiative aims to explore possibilities for co-producing jet engines, long-range artillery, and infantry vehicles.
- ✓ India's Innovations for Defense Excellence (iDEX) and the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD), US, are leading INDUS-X activities.

**Q. Consider the following statements regarding Mission Aspides:**

**1. It is a United States of America led naval mission.**

**2. It will send warships and airborne early warning systems to the Red Sea to protect cargo ships.**

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

**A) 1 only**

**B) 2 only**

**C) Both 1 and 2**

**D) Neither 1 nor 2**

**Answer : B**

- ✓ The European Union recently launched Mission Aspides to protect commercial vessels in the Red Sea from attacks by Iran-backed Houthi rebels.
- ✓ About Mission Aspides:
- ✓ It is a European Union (EU) naval mission to protect cargo ships in the Red Sea from attacks from Yemen's Houthi rebels.
- ✓ It will send European warships and airborne early warning systems to the Red Sea, Gulf of Aden and surrounding waters.
- ✓ So far, France, Germany, Italy and Belgium have said they plan to contribute ships.



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- ✓ Aspides vessels, whose operational command centre will be in the Greek city of Larissa, will have orders to fire on the Houthis only if they attack first and will not be authorised to shoot pre-emptively.
- ✓ The mission is planned for one year but may be renewed.

**Q. Consider the following statements regarding the BharatNet Project:**

**1. It aims to provide access to broadband connectivity to Gram Panchayats across India.**

**2. It is executed by a Special Purpose Vehicle namely Bharat Broadband Network Limited.**

**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**

- ✓ State-owned Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has floated around Rs 65,000-crore tender for the implementation of the phase-III BharatNet project.
- ✓ It is one of the biggest rural telecom projects in the world.
- ✓ It is implemented in a phased manner to all Gram Panchayats in the country for providing non-discriminatory access to broadband connectivity to all the telecom service providers.
- ✓ Objective: To enable access providers like mobile operators, Internet Service Providers (ISPs), Cable TV operators, content providers to launch various services such as applications like e-health, e-education and e-governance in rural and remote India.
- ✓ The project has been approved in 2011.
- ✓ It is being executed by a Special Purpose Vehicle namely Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL), which has been incorporated in 2012 under Indian Companies Act 1956.
- ✓ The Telecom Commission approved to implement the project in three phases.
- ✓ BharatNet Phase-I:
  - ✓ It was approved in 2011 the project for the creation of the National Optical Fibre Network (now BharatNet) to provide broadband connectivity at the Gram Panchayat (GP) level by connecting block headquarters to GPs by using existing fibre of Central Public Sector Undertakings such as Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited and RailTel Corporation of India Limited and laying incremental fibre to bridge the connectivity gap up to the GPs.
- ✓ BharatNet Phase-II



- ✓ It was approved in 2017, which integrates the implementation experience of Phase-I of the project and aligns it with the vision of Digital India.
- ✓ The modified strategy provides an optimal mix of media (OFC, Radio and satellite) to connect Gram Panchayats (GPs).
- ✓ In the third phase from 2019 to 2023, state-of-the-art, future-proof network, including fiber between districts and blocks, with ring topology to provide redundancy would be created

**Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Rubber Board:**

**1. It issues licenses to rubber producers, manufacturers and exporters.**

**2. It is a statutory organization under the Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare.**

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

**A) 1 only**

**B) 2 only**

**C) Both 1 and 2**

**D) Neither 1 nor 2**

**Answer : A**

- ✓ Recently, the government has increased the allocation for Sustainable and Inclusive Development of Natural Rubber Sector by 23% to Rs 708.7 crore for the next two financial years and the scheme is run by the Rubber Board.
- ✓ It is a statutory organization constituted under the Rubber Act, 1947.
- ✓ It functions under the administrative control of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- ✓ Functions:
  - ✓ It is responsible for the development of the rubber industry in the country by assisting and encouraging research, development, extension and training activities related to rubber.
  - ✓ A crucial function of the Rubber Board is issuing licenses to rubber producers, manufacturers, and exporters/traders. This license, known as the "Rubber Board license/registration," is mandatory for anyone involved in rubber manufacturing and export
- ✓ Structure:
  - ✓ It is headed by a Chairman appointed by the Central Government.
  - ✓ It has 28 members representing various interests of the natural rubber industry.







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- ✓ Meanwhile, in terms of the number of EVs, Uttar Pradesh is top with 7.45 lakh, followed by Maharashtra (4.15 lakh), and Karnataka (3.31 lakh).
- ✓ The State government, last year, in a bid to create a robust electric vehicle ecosystem in Karnataka, unveiled a revised draft EV policy (2023-28), which aims to attract ₹50,000 crore in investment while creating job opportunities for one lakh people.
- ✓ In Karnataka, the registered number of EVs has increased from 9,703 in 2020 to 33,306 in 2021, 95,892 in 2022, and 1.52 lakh in 2023.

**Q. Who will take over as Non-Executive Part-time Chairman of ICICI Bank after G. C. Chaturvedi's term ends on 30 June 2024?**

A) Pradeep Kumar Sinha

B) Aman Sharma

C) Abhishek Singh

D) Ramesh Chand

**Answer : A**

- ✓ Former Cabinet Secretary Pradeep Kumar Sinha will take over as Non-Executive Part-time Chairman of ICICI Bank after G. C. Chaturvedi's term ends on 30 June 2024.
- ✓ The Bank's Board, has approved the appointment of Sinha as an Additional (Independent) Director for a period of five years, with immediate effect subject to the approval of shareholders.
- ✓ Sinha joined the Indian Administrative Service (Uttar Pradesh in 1977).
- ✓ He served as the Cabinet Secretary (from June 2015) for more than four years before moving to the Prime Minister's Office. He retired from there in March 2021.

## ICICI BANK IN NEWS 2023-24

- Pradeep Kumar Sinha to take over as Non-Executive Part-time Chairman of ICICI Bank.
- 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.

















**Answer : C**

- ✓ The 11th International Puppet Festival is being organized in Chandigarh.
- ✓ The program was inaugurated by Punjab Governor and UT Administrator Banwarilal Purohit. It is being organized at Tagore Theater from 17th February to 21st February.

**Q. With whom has 'Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority' signed an agreement to increase awareness?**

- A) Asian Development Bank                      B) DBS Bank  
C) State Bank of India                              D) Punjab National Bank

**Answer : B**

- ✓ 'Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority' (IEPFA) has entered into an agreement with DBS Bank to spread awareness on investment and fraudulent schemes. As per the MOU, the Bank will take forward IEPFA's investor awareness campaign by disseminating security messages through its various digital platforms. IEPFA was established in the year 2016.

**Q. NASA and which country's space agency have joined to launch the world's first wooden satellite?**

- A) Japan  
B) Russia  
C) India  
D) UK

**Answer : A**

- ✓ NASA and Japan's space agency, JAXA, are planning to launch the world's first wooden satellite, LignoSat, in 2024.
- ✓ The satellite is designed to reduce space debris and is made of biodegradable magnolia wood, known as Hoonoki in Japanese.
- ✓ The satellite is being developed by scientists at Kyoto University.
- ✓ First tests have been performed in space-simulating laboratories, and wood samples found no signs of damage, decomposition, or mass changes.
- ✓ The initiative aims to make spaceflight operations more sustainable and pave the way for a more sustainable future in orbit







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- 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. The government of India has increased the authorized capital of Food Corporation of India (FCI) from ₹10,000 crore to how much crore to enhance the operational capabilities and fulfill its mandate effectively?**

A) 15,000 crore

B) 21,000 crore

C) 20,000 crore

D) 25,000 crore

**Answer : B**

- ✓ Government raises authorized capital of FCI from Rs 10,000 cr to Rs 21,000 cr
- ✓ The government of India has increased the authorized capital of state-run Food Corporation of India (FCI) from ₹10,000 crore to ₹21,000 crore to enhance the operational capabilities and fulfill its mandate effectively.
- ✓ FCI is the central government's nodal agency that undertakes the procurement of foodgrains at a minimum support price (MSP) to protect the interest of farmers. It also maintains strategic stocks and distributes the grains under different welfare schemes.
- ✓ The increase in the authorized capital will reduce the interest burden, decrease the economic cost and ultimately affecting the government subsidy positively.
- ✓ These measures are essential not only for reducing post-harvest losses but also for ensuring efficient distribution of food grains to consumers.
- ✓ About FCI
- ✓ The Food Corporation of India (FCI) is a statutory body under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.



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- ✓ It was set up in 1965 following the enactment of the Food Corporation Act, 1964.
- ✓ It was set up in 1965 with its initial headquarters at Chennai. Later this was moved to New Delhi.

**Q. Which country has recently become a new member of the International Solar Alliance?**

- A) Malta
- B) Chile
- C) Albania
- D) Qatar

**Answer : A**

- ✓ The central Mediterranean country Malta has recently become a new member of the International Solar Alliance.
- ✓ India has welcomed Malta as the 119th country to join the International Solar Alliance.
- ✓ Christopher Cutajar, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malta signed the ISA Framework Agreement in New Delhi.
- ✓ ISA was established in the year 2015, its headquarters is in Gurugram, India
- ✓ Malta
- ✓ Capital : Valletta
- ✓ Currency : Euro
- ✓ President : George Vella
- ✓ Prime Minister : Robert Abela
- ✓ International Solar Alliance (ISA).
- ✓ Founded - 2015
- ✓ HQ - Gurugram Haryana
- ✓ Director General - Ajay Mathur
- ✓ Membership : 121
- ✓ ISA : Joint Initiative by India and France
- ✓ International Solar Alliance (ISA) was launched by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Former France Prime Minister Francois Hollande on 30 November 2015 during the 21st session of the United Nations Climate Change COP-21 in Paris, France to promote solar energy.
- ✓ India and France have been re-elected as the President and co-President of the International Solar Alliance.



**Q. Sominsai festival, recently seen in the news, is associated with which country?**

- A) Egypt  
B) Vietnam  
C) Japan  
D) China

**Answer : C**

- ✓ The Sominsai festival, deeply ingrained in Japanese culture, recently marked its millennium-long legacy's final celebration.
- ✓ This ancient tradition, occurring on the seventh day of the Lunar New Year, showcased fervent nude wrestling matches among hundreds of men over wooden talismans.
- ✓ The festival, a captivating spectacle of tradition and spirituality, has left an indelible mark on Japan's cultural landscape.

### FESTIVAL IN NEWS 2023-24

- Orange Festival : Nagaland
- Pakke Paga Hornbill Festival : Arunachal Pradesh
- Ethnic Mamani Festival : Ladakh
- International Camel Festival : Bikaner, Rajasthan
- Chandubi Festival : Assam
- International Purple Fest 2024 - Goa
- National Street Food Festival : New Delhi
- Kuno Forest Festival : Madhya Pradesh
- 'Shar Amartala Torgya' Festival : Arunachal Pradesh
- 24th Hornbill Festival : Nagaland
- Dhillio festival : Goa
- India International Science Festival (IISF) 2023 : Faridabad, Haryana
- Arattu festival : Kerala
- Banni festival : Andhra Pradesh
- Zanskar Festival : Ladakh
- Indo-Latin America Cultural Festival : New Delhi
- Nuakhai festival : Odisha
- Nadi Utsav : Delhi





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

**Q. Which ministry signed a contract with Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) for the procurement of 11 Shakti warfare systems?**

- A) Ministry of Defence
- B) Ministry of Home Affairs
- C) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
- D) Ministry of Power

**Answer : A**

- ✓ The Ministry of Defence signed a contract with Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) for the procurement of 11 Shakti warfare systems and related equipment.
- ✓ The electronic warfare system will be installed on the Indian Navy's frontline warships.
- ✓ The advanced EW system 'Shakti' was designed and developed by the Defence Electronics Research Laboratory Hyderabad to intercept, detect, classify, identify, and jam conventional and modern radars.
- ✓ BEL is an Indian government-owned aerospace and defense electronics company that primarily manufactures advanced electronic products for ground and aerospace applications

**Q. Who has been elected as the new president of the International Court of Justice (ICJ)?**

- A) Nawaf Salam
- B) Joan Donoghue
- C) Aniruddha Bose
- D) Julia Sebutinde

**Answer : A**



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- ✓ Nawaf Salam, the first Lebanese and second Arab, succeeded US Judge Joan Donoghue as the President of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in The Hague.
- ✓ He serves a three-year term, starting in 2024.
- ✓ Court elected Judge Nawaf Salam (Lebanon) as President and Judge Julia Sebutinde (Uganda) as Vice-President.
- ✓ Salam began his ICJ journey in 2018, showcasing a distinguished career in international law.
- ✓ As the highest global judicial authority, ICJ resolves legal disputes between states and offers advisory opinions on UN-related legal matters, playing a crucial role in international relations.
- ✓ International Court of Justice (ICJ)
- ✓ Established : 1945
- ✓ Headquarters : The Hague, Netherlands
- ✓ Judge term length : 9 years
- ✓ Number of positions : 15
- ✓ President : Nawaf Salam (Lebanon)
- ✓ Vice-President : Julia Sebutinde (Uganda)

## APPOINTMENT IN NEWS 2023-24

- The government has appointed Nina Singh as the first woman Director General of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF).
- Anil Kumar Lahoti Appointed Chairman Of TRAI.
- Daljit Singh Chaudhary appointed Director General of Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB).
- Tshering Tobgay Re-Elected As Bhutan's Prime Minister.
- Senthil Pandian C as the new ambassador to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) in Geneva, succeeding Brajendra Navnit.
- India's seasoned diplomat, Ambassador Indra Mani Pandey, has officially become the Secretary General of BIMSTEC, succeeding Tenzin Lekphell from Bhutan.
- Ashwani Gupta Appointed as CEO of Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone
- Raghuram Iyer appointed as CEO of Indian Olympic Association
- Vikas Sheel appointed Executive Director, Asian Development Bank







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- ✓ It is a WHO managed network aiming to amplify and align resources toward country-led digital health transformation through strengthened collaboration and knowledge exchange.
- ✓ It is a platform for sharing knowledge and digital products among countries.
- ✓ The initiative aims to achieve the following objectives through collaborative efforts:
  - ✓ Assess and prioritize the country's needs for sustainable digital health transformation.
  - ✓ Increase the alignment of country-level digital health resources and unfunded priorities.
  - ✓ Support the accelerated achievement of the strategic objectives of the Global Strategy on Digital Health 2020-2025.
- ✓ GIDH will support countries in three ways: by listening to their needs, by aligning resources to avoid fragmentation and overlap, and by providing quality assured products.
- ✓ Membership: Membership is open to all institutions engaged in digital health

**Q. Consider the following statements regarding Shompen Tribe, recently seen in the news:**

**1. It resides on the Lakshadweep group of islands.**

**2. It is one of the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) in 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 : B**

- ✓ India's president recently made a whistle stop tour of an island earmarked for multi-billion-dollar development that experts warn could wipe out the indigenous Shompen tribe, which calls it home.
- ✓ About Shompen Tribe:
  - ✓ The Shompen are one of the most isolated tribes on Earth.
  - ✓ They reside in the dense tropical rain forest of the Great Nicobar Island of Andaman and Nicobar group of Islands.
  - ✓ They are one of the least studied Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) in India.
  - ✓ Though according to the Census (2011), the estimated population of Shompen is 229, the exact population of Shompen is unknown till today.





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- ✓ According to a new report by United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), at the current pace of growth, the region will not attain the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) until 2062 or will be 32 years behind schedule.
- ✓ It is the most inclusive intergovernmental platform in the Asia-Pacific region.
- ✓ It was established in 1947.
- ✓ Mandate: To promote economic and social development in the Asian and Pacific region by fostering cooperation between its members and associate members.
- ✓ The Commission promotes cooperation among its 53 member States and 9 associate members in pursuit of solutions to sustainable development challenges.
- ✓ It is one of the five regional commissions of the United Nations.
- ✓ Head quarters: Bangkok, Thailand.
- ✓ What are Sustainable Development Goals?
- ✓ These were adopted by the United Nations in 2015 as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that by 2030 all people enjoy peace and prosperity.
- ✓ The SDGs framework sets targets for 231 unique indicators across 17 SDG goals related to economic development, social welfare, and environmental sustainability, to be met by 2030.
- ✓ The 17 SDGs are integrated; they recognise that action in one area will affect outcomes in others, and that development must balance social, economic, and environmental sustainability

**Q. Consider the following statements regarding the India, Brazil and South Africa (IBSA) Fund:**

**1. It is used to support demand-driven, transformational projects in developing countries.**

**2. The World Bank serves as the Secretariat of the IBSA Fund.**

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

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

**Answer : A**

- ✓ Recently, India has contributed USD 1 million to a fund established by India, Brazil and South Africa.
- ✓ It was established in 2004 and became operational in 2006.





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- ✓ The IBSA countries - India, Brazil and South Africa - each contribute one million dollars annually to the Fund in a spirit of partnership and support for Southern-led, demand-driven, transformational projects in developing countries.
- ✓ The purpose of the fund is to identify replicable and scalable projects that can be disseminated to developing countries on a demand-driven basis.
- ✓ IBSA Fund-supported projects help partner countries in the Global South to achieve their national priorities, as well as all other internationally agreed development goals.
- ✓ Objectives: It includes promoting food security, and addressing HIV/AIDS, to extending access to safe drinking water all to contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.
- ✓ The IBSA Fund has allocated USD 50.6 million to date, supporting 45 projects across 37 countries of the global South.
- ✓ The UN Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) serves as the Fund Manager and Secretariat of the IBSA Fund

**Q. Which bank has been authorized by the West Bengal government to collect tax and non-tax receipts on its behalf?**

**A) Bandhan Bank**

**B) HDFC Bank**

**C) ICICI Bank**

**D) Yes Bank**

**Answer : A**

- ✓ Private lender Bandhan Bank has been authorised by the West Bengal government to collect tax and non-tax receipts on its behalf.
- ✓ The mandate will enable the bank to collect revenues through the Government Receipt Portal System (GRIPS).
- ✓ By virtue of this mandate, people will be able to pay various taxes like property tax, motor vehicle tax and professional tax using this portal.
- ✓ GRIPS is an online internet-based platform for making various tax and non-tax payments to the West Bengal government.
- ✓ Bandhan Bank
- ✓ Founded : 2001
- ✓ Founder : Chandra Shekhar Ghosh
- ✓ Headquarters : Kolkata



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- ✓ MD & CEO : Chandra Shekhar Ghosh
- ✓ Chairperson : Anup Kumar Sinha

**Q. Which country tested the new surface-to-sea missile “Padsuri-6”?**

- A) United States
- B) North Korea
- C) Japan
- D) China

**Answer : B**

- ✓ North Korea test-launched the new surface-to-sea missiles, “Padasuri-6”.
- ✓ The missile hit a target after launch over waters in the East Sea for around 1400 seconds, or 23 minutes and 20 seconds.
- ✓ The missile seems to be designed to counter the naval capabilities of South Korea and the United States, such as U.S. aircraft carriers.
- ✓ North Korea
- ✓ Capital : Pyongyang
- ✓ Currency : won
- ✓ President : Kim Jong-un

**Q. India’s women’s badminton team has defeated which country to win the Badminton Asia Team Championship title in Malaysia?**

- A) North Korea
- B) Thailand
- C) Malaysia
- D) Indonesia

**Answer : B**

- ✓ India women’s badminton team scripted history in Selangor Malaysia as they won the Badminton Asia Team Championships crown, beating Thailand 3-2 in a hard-fought final.
- ✓ This is the first time India have won the prestigious continental team championship title in the history of the sport.
- ✓ PV Sindhu, Gayatri Gopichand-Treesa Jolly and teenage sensational Anmol Kharb won their respective matches as India won the final 3-2 in Shah Alam.



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**Q. Which cricket player has been named as Captain of IPL's Greatest All-Time Team?**

- A) Rohit Sharma                      B) Virat Kohli  
C) Mahendra Singh Dhoni              D) AB de Villiers

**Answer : C**

- ✓ Chennai Super Kings (CSK) skipper MS Dhoni was picked as the captain to lead the all-time greatest IPL side.
- ✓ The 15-member squad was selected by a panel of experts, including former legends Wasim Akram, Dale Steyn, Matthew Hayden, and Tom Moody, along with 70 other journalists.
- ✓ The top order consisted of Australian batter David Warner, Indian superstar Virat Kohli, and West Indian powerhouse Chris Gayle.
- ✓ While Kohli is the all-time leading run-scorer in IPL history with 7,263 runs, Warner is third and first among overseas batters with 6,397 runs.
- ✓ All-time greatest IPL squad:
- ✓ MS Dhoni (c), Virat Kohli, Chris Gayle, David Warner, Suresh Raina, AB de Villiers, Suryakumar Yadav, Hardik Pandya, Ravindra Jadeja, Kieron Pollard, Rashid Khan, Sunil Narine, Yuzvendra Chahal, Lasith Malinga, and Jasprit Bumrah

**Q. Union Minister Ashini Vaishnav has been elected Rajya Sabha member from which state?**

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

**Answer : D**

- ✓ Union minister Ashwini Vaishnav and ruling BJD's Debashish Samantre and Subhashish Khuntia were elected unopposed to the Rajya Sabha from Odisha.
- ✓ Elections are to be held on 27 February for 56 seats of the Rajya Sabha, the upper house of the parliament.
- ✓ Meanwhile, leaders have been elected unopposed on 41 out of 56 seats.
- ✓ The leaders elected unopposed include former Congress President Sonia Gandhi, BJP President JP Nadda etc.





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## 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.
- 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.



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- 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.
- Gold Deposits Found at Different Location in Three Districts of Odisha , including Deogarh, Keonjhar, and Mayurbhanj.
- Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik announced that the Odisha government aims to make Odisha slum-free by the end of 2023.

**Q. How many total medals did India win in the Asian Indoor Athletics Championship?**

- A) 4
- B) 5
- C) 6
- D) 7

**Answer : A**

- ✓ India won a total of four medals including three gold and one silver medal in the Asian Indoor Athletics Championship held in Tehran.
- ✓ A total of 13 Indian athletes participated in the eleventh edition of the Asian Indoor Athletics Championships 2024, which included six female and seven male players

**Q. Where was India's first Skill India Center inaugurated?**

- A) Patna
- B) Sambalpur
- C) Bhubaneswar
- D) Chennai

**Answer : C**

- ✓ Union Minister of Education and Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Dharmendra Pradhan inaugurated the country's first Skill India Center (SIC) in Sambalpur, Odisha.
- ✓ After this programme, the upcoming Skill India Center in Odisha is to be inaugurated in Angul, Bhadrak, Dhenkanal, Talcher and Deogarh.









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- REC Limited has been awarded the prestigious Best Green Bond – Corporate Award at The Asset Triple A Awards for Sustainable Finance 2024.
- REC will lend up to ₹1.2 trillion for the installation of rooftop solar panels under the Pradhan Mantri Suryodaya Yojana.
- REC Limited issues inaugural Yen Denominated Green Bonds aggregating to 61.1 Billion Japanese Yen.
- REC sets ₹1 lakh crore sanction target for infrastructure space including roads and highways in FY24.
- REC Invests Rs. 35,000 Cr In Multi-Modal Projects With Rail Vikas Nigam For 5 Years.
- REC Honoured with 'Best Employer in Diversity & Inclusion' Award by ASSOCHAM.
- RailTel has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with REC Ltd extending up to Rs 30,000 crore as financial assistance for telecom, IT and railway signaling infrastructure projects.
- REC Ltd gets Golden Peacock Award for Disaster Management.
- REC Limited, the Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprise launched a SUGAM REC mobile application.
- REC Limited and Punjab National Bank have signed an MoU to explore funding possibilities in the Power Infrastructure and logistics sectors.
- The consortium arrangement will co-finance loans worth Rs 55,000 crores over the next three years.
- REC Ltd has become the 12th company to attain the Maharatna status
- REC Limited, formerly Rural Electrification Corporation Limited
- Founded : 1969
- Headquarters : New Delhi
- CMD : Vivek Kumar Dewangan
- REC was formerly known as Rural Electrification Corporation Limited.
- REC Limited is an NBFC focused on financing and development of the power sector across India.
- REC Limited has also recently started services in the financing infrastructure and logistics sector.
- REC funding lights every fourth bulb in India. REC is a 'Maharatna' company under the Ministry of Power.







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- ✓ This plant will be constructed on 1,200 acres of land at Pudimadaka in Achyutapuram mandal in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh. Under this, the target is to produce 1,200 tonnes of green hydrogen every day.

## NTPC IN NEWS 2023-24

- NTPC Green Energy has entered into an agreement with Andhra Pradesh Industrial Infrastructure Corporation to set up India's largest green hydrogen production plant.
- NTPC Limited gets certified as a Top Employer 2024 in India.
- NTPC Kanti has received the 11th edition of the FICCI Water Award 2023 under the “Industrial Water Use Efficiency” category.
- NTPC shines as the only Indian PSU to feature in Forbes “World’s Best Employers 2023” List.
- The central government has received about Rs 1,487 crore from NTPC as a dividend tranche.
- NTPC has been honoured with the prestigious Economic Times (ET) HR World Future Skills Awards 2023.
- NTPC climbs up 52 positions to 433rd rank in Forbes’ “The Global 2000” List.
- NTPC Kanti launches Girl Child Empowerment Mission (GeM)-2023.
- NTPC Group’s total installed capacity reaches 72,304 MW with first overseas capacity addition in Bangladesh.
- Country's largest power generation company NTPC Limited has been conferred with 'ATD Best Awards 2023' by Association for Talent Development (ATD), USA.
- NTPC and Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) sign agreement for joint development of nuclear power plants.
- India’s largest power company NTPC Ltd has commissioned India’s first green hydrogen blending project at Kawas, Gujarat.
- About NTPC
- The NTPC which was earlier known as National Thermal Power Corporation of India is owned by the Government of India. It was set up in 1975.
- The Vindhyachal Thermal Power Station in the Singrauli district of Madhya Pradesh, with an installed capacity of 4,760MW, is currently the biggest thermal power plant in India.
- Headquarters: New Delhi



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- Chairman and Managing Director: Gurdeep Singh

**Q. Where is the 4th Khelo India Winter Games being held?**

- A) Shimla
- B) Gulmarg
- C) Manali
- D) Srinagar

**Answer : B**

- ✓ Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha inaugurated the fourth edition of Khelo India Winter Games in Gulmarg.
- ✓ Union Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Sports Nisith Pramanik was also present on this occasion.
- ✓ About 1000 athletes from 20 states are participating in this sports competition.

## KHELO INDIA IN NEWS 2023-24

- Khelo India Winter Games 2024 is the fourth edition of the annual event in the Khelo India calendar. The Union Territory of Ladakh is making its debut as host this year alongside the UT of Jammu & Kashmir.
- The 6th Khelo India Youth Games 2023 from January 19-31 are being held at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
- Khelo India Para Games 2023 concluded on December 17 in New Delhi.
- Haryana clinched the top spot, securing a total of 105 medals, including 40 gold, 39 silver and 26 bronze.
- 5th Khelo India Youth Games 2022 to be held in Madhya Pradesh.
- Maharashtra was the overall champion by securing a total of 161 medals including 56 gold, 55 silver and 50 bronze medals.
- 3rd Khelo India University Games Concludes in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.
- Punjab University emerged as the overall champions with a total of 69 medals, including 26 gold, 17 silver, and 26 bronze.
- Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports, has unveiled that the esteemed Khelo India Women's League will be recognized as the "Asmita Women's League."



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**Q. Mitsubishi Corporation will acquire 32% stake in TVS Vehicle Mobility for Rs 300 crore. Mitsubishi is the company of which country?**

- A) Japan  
B) Germany  
C) Russia  
D) United States

**Answer : A**

- ✓ Mitsubishi Corp to acquire 32% stake in TVS Vehicle Mobility
- ✓ TVS Mobility and Japanese conglomerate Mitsubishi Corporation has announced a strategic partnership under which the latter will pick up a 32 per cent stake in a newly-formed subsidiary of the Chennai-based group for Rs 300 crore.
- ✓ With this, the dealership business of TVS Mobility will transform into the newly-formed subsidiary TVS Vehicle Mobility Solution (TVS VMS) — offering a complete portfolio of services to its customers.
- ✓ TVS Mobility holds dealerships of major companies like Ashok Leyland, Honda, Mahindra and Renault, among others. These are mainly in Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Madhya Pradesh.
- ✓ The remaining 68 per cent stake in TVS VMS will be held by TVS Mobility.

**Q. Who has assumed charge as Vice Chief of the Army Staff?**

- A) Umesh Mishra  
B) Anish Dayal Singh  
C) Subodh Kumar Jaiswal  
D) Upendra Dwivedi

**Answer : D**

- ✓ Lieutenant General Upendra Dwivedi has assumed charge as Vice Chief of the Army Staff.
- ✓ Prior to this appointment, he was the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief (GOC-in-C), Northern Command based at Udhampur from 2022 to 2024.
- ✓ He replaces LG MV Suchindra Kumar who moved on to take charge of Udhampur based Northern Command.

## NEW UPDATED LIST OF CHIEF AND DIRECTOR GENERAL

- Anish Dayal Singh : Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)
- Rahul Rasgotra : Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)
- Lieutenant General Anil Chauhan : Chief of Defence Staff (CDS)





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- Daljit Singh Chawdhary : Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)
- Nitin Agarwal : Border Security Force (BSF)
- Pradeep Chandran Nair : Assam Rifles
- Air Chief Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari : Air Force Chief
- General Manoj Pande : Army Chief
- Admiral R Hari Kumar : Navy Chief
- Nina Singh : Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) [Nina Singh becomes 1st woman to head CISF]
- Rakesh Pal : Indian Coast Guard (ICG)
- M A Ganapathy : National Security Guard (NSG)
- Lieutenant General Gurbirpal Singh : National Cadet Corps (NCC)

**Q. Which country hosted the 3rd meeting of the ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA)?**

**A) Indonesia**

**B) India**

**C) Myanmar**

**D) Malaysia**

**Answer : B**

- ✓ The ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA) Joint Committee met in New Delhi from February 16-19, 2024, marking its 3rd meeting since the agreement's signing in 2009.
- ✓ Initiated in September 2022 for a comprehensive review, eight sub-committees were established to enhance the agreement's trade facilitation and mutual benefits.
- ✓ The recent meeting assessed negotiation progress, identified focus areas<sup>9</sup> for further deliberations, and updated the work program, directing sub-committees for continued negotiations.
- ✓ Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN):
- ✓ Founded: 8 August 1967
- ✓ HQ: Jakarta, Indonesia
- ✓ Members: 10 countries (Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Brunei, Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar and Cambodia)
- ✓ Secretary General: Kao Kim Hourn





**Q. With whom has the Goa State Government joined hands for Climate Finance Facility?**

- A) Asian Development Bank                      B) New Development Bank  
C) World Bank                                        D) World Economic Forum

**Answer : C**

- ✓ The Goa state government will set up a blended finance facility in partnership with the World Bank.
- ✓ This is the first of its kind, climate-focused, multi-sectoral initiative at the sub-national level.
- ✓ This will provide financial support to low-carbon climate friendly initiatives in Goa.
- ✓ The World Bank was established in the year 1944. Its headquarters is in Washington, D.C. Is in.

**Q. Where is 'International Tourism Expo' being organized in Uttar Pradesh?**

- A) Lucknow    B) Kanpur  
C) Varanasi    D) Greater Noida

**Answer : D**

- ✓ 'International Tourism Expo' is being organized in Greater Noida from 22nd February.
- ✓ Travel agents from more than 120 Indian cities are participating in this three-day expo.
- ✓ Internationally, Saudi Arabia is the premium partner country for the event, while Maldives, Sri Lanka, Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand are the partner countries.

**Q. India has contributed how much million to a fund established by India, Brazil and South Africa (IBSA) which undertake projects aimed at alleviating poverty and hunger?**

- A) USD 1 million                                    B) USD 2 million  
C) USD 3 million                                    D) USD 4 million

**Answer : A**

- ✓ India has contributed \$1 million to a fund established by India, Brazil and South Africa (IBSA) which undertake projects aimed at alleviating poverty and hunger.
- ✓ India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj handed over the cheque of \$1 million as a contribution towards the India, Brazil and South Africa Facility for Poverty and Hunger Alleviation Fund (IBSA Fund) to the Director of the UN Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) Dima Al-Khatib.





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- ✓ India is committed to supporting the IBSA Fund as we believe that the Fund has made a positive impact on the lives of millions across the Global South and has strengthened the spirit of South-South cooperation.
- ✓ The IBSA countries – India, Brazil and South Africa – each contribute one million dollars annually to the Fund in a spirit of partnership and support for Southern-led, demand-driven, transformational projects in developing countries.
- ✓ India's contribution to the IBSA Fund has cumulatively exceeded \$ 18 million since the Fund was established in 2004 and became operational in 2006.
- ✓ The IBSA Fund supports projects that are concrete expressions of solidarity. Their objectives range from promoting food security, and addressing HIV/AIDS, to extending access to safe drinking water all to contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

**Q. Union Minister for Education and Skill Development Dharmendra Pradhan has inaugurated India's inaugural Skill India Centre (SIC) in which city?**

- A) Jaisalmer, Rajasthan                      B) Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand  
C) Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh        D) Sambalpur, Odisha

**Answer : D**

- ✓ Union Minister for Education and Skill Development Dharmendra Pradhan has inaugurated India's inaugural Skill India Centre (SIC) in Sambalpur, Odisha.
- ✓ To ensure seamless implementation of the training ecosystem, the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) will designate a Centre Manager to monitor the implementation of training programs, ensure adherence to quality standards, and oversee the overall functioning of the centre
- ✓ The introduction of low-cost courses at the centre would empower a large number of young people, making them a part of the evolving job market.
- ✓ He aimed to uplift over 1200 students through this initiative, upgrading their skill sets and aligning them with the demands of industries.

**Q. Which state has secured ₹740 crore under the Pradhan Mantri Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (PM-USHA) Scheme?**

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

**Answer : A**



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- ✓ Uttar Pradesh secures ₹740 crore, the highest in India, under the Pradhan Mantri Uchcharat Shiksha Abhiyan (PM-USHA) Scheme, a revamped version of Rashtriya Uchcharat Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA).
- ✓ The centrally sponsored scheme, under the Ministry of Education, aims to enhance the quality of state higher educational institutions in line with the National Education Policy 2020.
- ✓ PM-USHA emphasizes conformity to prescribed norms, standards, and accreditation for quality assurance in higher education.

**Q. Mukhya Mantri Harit Vikas Chhatravriti Yojana, recently seen in the news, is launched by which state?**

A) Uttarakhand

B) Madhya Pradesh

C) Uttar Pradesh

D) Himachal Pradesh

**Answer : D**

- ✓ Himachal Pradesh's 2024-25 annual budget prioritizes environmental concerns, unveiling the Mukhya Mantri Harit Vikas Chhatravriti Yojana for postgraduate researchers.
- ✓ Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu, in the February 17 presentation, emphasized climate change threats and outlined action plans at district and Panchayat levels.
- ✓ The state aims to collaborate with the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change and the German development agency GIZ to address climate change's impact on agriculture and horticulture, conducting a need assessment study for effective mitigation.

**Q. Manoj Tiwary has announced retirement from all forms of cricket. He is from which state?**

A) West Bengal

B) Karnataka

C) Andhra Pradesh

D) Tamil Nadu

**Answer : A**

- ✓ India and Bengal batter Manoj Tiwary has announced retirement from all forms of cricket.
- ✓ Tiwary played 148 First-Class matches and gathered 10,195 runs at an average of 47.86, with a career-best 303 not out and 30 centuries. He scored 5,581 runs in List-A matches and 3,436 runs in T20s.
- ✓ Tiwary played for India in 12 ODIs, scoring 287 runs, including a knock of 104 not out against West Indies in Chennai in 2011. He also featured in three T20Is.
- ✓ A middle order batter and a handy leg-break bowler, Tiwary also sported the colours of Kolkata Knight Riders, Delhi Daredevils, Kings XI Punjab and Rising Pune Supergiant in the Indian Premier League.



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**Q. Andreas Brehme passed away recently. He was related to which sport?**

- A) Football  
B) Badminton  
C) Tennis  
D) Hockey

**Answer : A**

- ✓ FIFA World Cup winner Andreas Brehme, whose late penalty in the 1990 final against Argentina in Italy handed Germany their third world title, has died at the age of 63.
- ✓ He attacking full-back and dead-ball specialist became an instant Germany football legend when his spot kick earned them a 1-0 victory over Diego Maradona's Argentina in the World Cup final in Rome.
- ✓ Brehme also played for Bayern Munich and Inter Milan among others before retiring in 1998. He won 86 caps for Germany, scoring eight goals, including the one he is best remembered for.

**Q. The Chenchu tribe is primarily found in:**

- A) Gujarat  
B) Madhya Pradesh  
C) Andhra Pradesh  
D) Karnataka

**Answer : C**

- ✓ Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) is making efforts to secure UNESCO recognition for the annual 'Paruveta' festival.
- ✓ About Paruveta Festival:
  - ✓ The festival, also known as the 'mock hunting festival', is celebrated at the Sri Narasimha Swamy temple in the town of Ahobilam, Andhra Pradesh.
  - ✓ It is celebrated by all sections of people, irrespective of their caste.
  - ✓ It is a festival of communal harmony, as devotees from other religious communities like Muslims also offer prayers to the Lord.
- ✓ Origin:
  - ✓ According to folklore, Lord Vishnu, upon his incarnation as a man-lion (Narasimha) in Ahobilam, married Maha Lakshmi, born as a tribal girl Chenchulakshmi.
  - ✓ The Kurnool District Gazetteers, published by Government Press in 1881, record several beliefs of the Chenchu tribes, including their reverence for Ahobila Narasimha as their brother-in-law and inviting him home for Makara Sankranti.







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A) 1 only

B) 2 only

C) Both 1 and 2

D) Neither 1 nor 2

## Answer : C

- ✓ Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved ₹340/quintal as the Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) of sugarcane for sugar season 2024-25 at sugar recovery rate of 10.25%.
- ✓ It is the price declared by the government, which mills are legally bound to pay to farmers for the cane procured from them.
- ✓ Who determines it? The FRP is fixed by Union government (Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)) on the basis of recommendations of Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP).
- ✓ The payment of FRP across the country is governed by the Sugarcane Control order, 1966 which mandates payment within 14 days of the date of delivery of the cane.
- ✓ Delays in payment can attract an interest up to 15 per cent per annum, and the sugar commissioner can recover unpaid FRP as dues in revenue recovery by attaching properties of the mills.



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



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JOURNEY FEELING PROUD.

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



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