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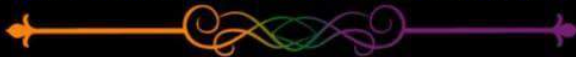


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SET – 04	PAGE NO 294 TO 376



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

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

- A) REC Limited B) NTPC Limited
C) ReNew Power D) Adani Enterprises

Answer : B

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

NTPC IN NEWS 2023-24

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



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

Q. The tableau of which state has won the first prize in the Republic Day parade 2024?

A) Uttarakhand

B) Karnataka

C) Assam

D) Odisha

Answer : D

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



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Q. SARVATRA a multispan mobile bridging system designed and developed by which entity?

- A) Advanced Systems Laboratory
- B) Aeronautical Development Establishment
- C) Centre For Air Borne System
- D) Armament and Combat Engineering Systems

Answer : D

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

DRDO IN NEWS 2023

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



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- Indian Navy and Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) collaborated to conduct the first successful test trial of a locally-made Air Droppable Container called 'ADC-150' from the IL 38SD aircraft off the coast of Goa .
- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) celebrated its 66th foundation day on 1st January 2024.
- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)
- Founded : 1 January 1958
- Headquarters : New Delhi
- Motto : "Strength's Origin is in Knowledge"
- Chairman : Sameer V Kamat

Q. Singchung Bugun Village Community Reserve, recently seen in the news, is located in which state?

A) Arunachal Pradesh

B) Andhra Pradesh

C) Uttar Pradesh

D) Odisha

Answer : A

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



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

ARUNACHAL PRADESH IN NEWS 2023-24

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

Q. At which place is North India's first human DNA bank being established?

- A) Jawaharlal Nehru University B) Indian Institute of Science
C) Jamia Millia Islamia D) Banaras Hindu University

Answer : D

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



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

- A) 3 B) 4
C) 5 D) 6

Answer : C

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

Q. Azali Assoumani has been re-elected as President of which country?

- A) Namibia B) Mangolia
C) Comoros D) Ghana

Answer : C

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



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

NEWLY PRESIDENT IN NEWS 2023-24

- Azali Assoumani : Comoros
- Bernardo Arevalo : Guatemala
- William Lai : Taiwan
- Abdel Fatah al-Sisi : Egypt
- Daniel Noboa : Ecuador
- Mohammed Muizzu : Maldives
- Bharatvanshi Tharman Shanmugaratnam : Singapore
- Emmerson Mnangagwa : Zimbabwe
- Edgars Rinkevics : Latvian
- Tayyip Erdogan : Turkey
- Bola Tinubu : Nigeria
- Mohammed Shahabuddin Chuppu : Bangladesh
- Ram Chandra Paudel : Nepal
- Xi Jinping : China (third term)
- Vo Van Thuong : Vietnam



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

- A) Amit Panghal
B) Mandeep Jangra
C) Kavita Chahal
D) Vijender Singh

Answer : B

- ✓ Indian boxer Mandeep Jangra has won the U.S.-based National Boxing Association's intercontinental super featherweight title after defeating American Gerardo Esquivel at Toppenish City, Washington.
- ✓ Undeclared in his professional career so far the 30-year-old, who trains under former Olympic silver-medallist Roy Jones Jr, dropped down from his previous 75kg weight class to compete for this title.
- ✓ Before the win against Esquivel, Jangra, who made his professional boxing debut in 2021, registered knockout wins in four out of his six fights.
- ✓ Jangra had a decent run in the amateur circuit as well and won a Commonwealth Games silver medal in the 2014 Glasgow edition.

Q. Two-time Asian Games medallist Naorem Roshibina Devi has been named International Wushu Federation's (IWUF) Female Athlete of the Year. She is from which state?

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

Answer : C

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



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

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

Answer : B

- ✓ Chandigarh's first hockey Olympian, Sukhbir Singh Gill passed away at the age of 48.
- ✓ Sukhbir Singh Gill, who represented the Indian men's hockey team at the Sydney 2000 Olympics and the 2002 Hockey World Cup in Kuala Lumpur.
- ✓ He also helped the Indian team to a gold medal finish at the 2001 Men's Hockey Champions Challenge in Malaysia.

Q. Which company has signed a deal with UAE's ADNOC Gas to buy 0.5 million tonnes of liquefied natural gas (LNG) annually for 10 years?

- A) Reliance Petroleum
B) Bharat Petroleum
C) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation
D) Gas Authority of India Limited

Answer : D

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



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

- A) 2 years B) 3 years
C) 4 years D) 5 years

Answer : D

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

Q. Which ride-hailing company launched e-bike services in Delhi and Hyderabad?

- A) Bolt B) Rapido
C) Uber D) Ola

Answer : D

- ✓ Ride-hailing platform Ola has launched e-bike services in Delhi and Hyderabad.
- ✓ Ola e-bike fares start from ₹25 for 5 km, ₹50 for 10 km and ₹75 for 15 km.
- ✓ The company will deploy 10,000 electric scooters in both cities in the coming months.
- ✓ Ola launched its e-bike taxi service in Bangalore on a pilot basis in September 2023. Within 3 months, the company saw a 40% market expansion, with over 1.75 million rides.
- ✓ Ola has set up 200 charging stations in Bangalore.

Q. International Monetary Fund (IMF) has increased its GDP growth estimate for India to what per cent from 6.3% in FY 24?

- A) 6.5% B) 6.6%
C) 6.7% D) 6.8%

Answer : C

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



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

Q. Which department has released the report titled “The Indian Economy: A Review” in January 2024?

- A) Department of Financial Services B) Department of Economic Affairs
C) Department of Revenue D) Department of Expenditure

Answer : B

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



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

Q. Which airport has recently been given the status of International Airport by the Government of India?

- A) Dibrugarh Airport
- B) Birsa Munda Airport
- C) Surat Airport
- D) Jorhat Airport

Answer : C

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

AIRPORT IN NEWS 2023-24



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

Q. RBI has recently announced to impose new restrictions on which payment bank?

A) Airtel Payment Bank

B) Paytm Payment Bank

C) Fino Payment Bank

D) Jio Payment Bank

Answer : B

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

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



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- ✓ Founder : Vijay Shekhar Sharma
- ✓ Headquarters : Noida
- ✓ Interim CEO : Deependra Singh Rathore
- ✓ Vijay Shekhar Sharma holds 51 per cent in the entity with One97 Communications holding 49 per cent.

Q. Who has been elected the new Chief Minister of Jharkhand?

- A) Champai Soren
- B) Harihant Soren
- C) Pushpa Soren
- D) Kalpana Soren

Answer : A

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

NEWLY CHIEF MINISTER IN NEWS 2023-24

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



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

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

Answer : D

- ✓ Toyota keeps crown as world's top-selling automaker in 2023
- ✓ Toyota Motor sold a record 11.2 million vehicles in 2023, taking the crown as the world's top-selling automaker for a fourth straight year.
- ✓ The Japanese automaker reported a 7.2% jump in global group sales last year, including those of truck unit Hino Motors and small-car maker Daihatsu, helped by record overseas sales of 8.9 million vehicles.
- ✓ Sales of Toyota's parent-only vehicles, which include those of its namesake and Lexus brands, hit a record of 10.3 million vehicles in 2023.
- ✓ Second-ranked German rival Volkswagen Group earlier this month reported a 12% rise in deliveries last year to 9.2 million cars, marking a post-pandemic recovery as supply chain bottlenecks eased

Q. What is 'Volt Typhoon', that was in the news recently?

- A) A new social media platform B) A wildlife conservation initiative
C) A cyber hacking group D) A new cryptocurrency

Answer : C

- ✓ United States government recently shut down a major China-backed hacking group dubbed "Volt Typhoon" that attacked hundreds of routers and had been working to compromise U.S. cyber infrastructure.
- ✓ About Volt Typhoon:
- ✓ It is a state-sponsored hacking group based in China that has been active since at least 2021.
- ✓ The group typically focuses on espionage and information gathering.
- ✓ It has targeted critical infrastructure organizations in the US, including Guam.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the One Stop Centre scheme:

- 1. It provides integrated support and assistance to women affected by violence.**
- 2. It is formulated by the union Ministry of Women and Child Development.**

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?



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A) 1 only

B) 2 only

C) Both 1 and 2

D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer : C

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

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the eROSITA:

1. It is a wide-field X-ray telescope.

2. It provides new insights about evolution of super massive black holes.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A) 1 only

B) 2 only

C) Both 1 and 2

D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer : C



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

Q. Martand sun temple, recently seen in the news, is located in which state/UT?

- A) Ladakh
- B) Rajasthan
- C) Jammu & Kashmir
- D) Madhya Pradesh

Answer : C

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

Q. Which ministry was allocated the highest budget in the Interim Budget 2024?

- A) Ministry of Defense
- B) Ministry of Education
- C) Ministry of Rural Development
- D) Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports

Answer : A

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



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- ✓ He also presented his first interim budget of his tenure.
- ✓ According to the documents received of the interim budget, the Defense Ministry has been given the highest allocation with ₹6.1 lakh crore.
- ✓ After this, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways is in second place with ₹2.78 lakh crore

Q. Which state government has decided to launch a mass drug administration campaign to eliminate filariasis?

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

Answer : A

- ✓ Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has decided to launch an annual mass drug administration campaign as part of the mission to eliminate filariasis from the state.
- ✓ This campaign will be run from 5 to 15 February.
- ✓ This campaign will be organized in 17 districts of the state.

Q. Who has been re-appointed as the President of Asian Cricket Council?

- A) Kapil Dev B) Sourav Ganguly
C) Jai Shah D) Roger Binny

Answer : C

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

Q. How many sites recently added to Ramsar Sites from India?

- A) 3 B) 4
C) 5 D) 7

Answer : C



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

Q. How many Ramsar sites are in India 2024?

A) 76

B) 75

C) 87

D) 80



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Answer : D

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

- A) Ladakh
B) Arunachal Pradesh
C) Himachal Pradesh
D) Jammu and Kashmir

Answer : A

- ✓ India is home to around 718 snow leopards, according to the first-ever population estimation exercise conducted by the Snow Leopard Population Assessment in India (SPAI) Programme.
- ✓ The highest number of snow leopards were recorded in Ladakh (477), followed by Uttarakhand (124), Himachal Pradesh (51), Arunachal Pradesh (36), Sikkim (21), and Jammu and Kashmir (9).
- ✓ The Wildlife Institute of India (WII) was the National Coordinator for the exercise that was carried out with the support of all snow leopard range states and two conservation partners, the Nature Conservation Foundation, Mysuru, and WWF-India.

Q. Which state government has launched a new initiative called the 'Sadak Suraksha Force' to improve traffic movement and reduce road accidents in the state?

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

Answer : A

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

Q. Sanjay Vinayak Mudaliar has been appointed as Executive Director of which bank?

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



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Answer : B

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

Q. What is the mascot of the Khelo India Winter Games 2024?

- A) Neve, Gliz and Aster B) Miga, Quatchi, Sumi
C) Sheen-e She D) Tun Tun

Answer : C

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

KHELO INDIA IN NEWS 2023-24

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



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

MASCOT IN NEWS 2023-24

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

Q. The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) celebrated which edition of its Raising Day ceremony on February 01, 2024?

A) 48th

B) 42nd

C) 44th

D) 49th



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Answer : A

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

Q. The World Wetlands Day is observed every year on which day?

- A) February 04
- B) February 02
- C) February 03
- D) February 01

Answer : B

- ✓ The World Wetlands Day is observed every year on February 2 all over the world.
- ✓ The day marks the date of the adoption of the Convention on Wetlands on February 2, 1971, in the Iranian city of Ramsar on the shores of the Caspian Sea.
- ✓ World Wetlands Day was first celebrated in 1997.
- ✓ 2024 marks 53 years of the Convention on Wetlands.
- ✓ The international theme for World Wetlands Day 2024 is 'Wetlands and human wellbeing.'

Q. What is the theme of World Wetlands Day 2024?

- A) Wetlands and Climate Change
- B) Wetlands and Biodiversity
- C) Wetlands and Water
- D) Wetlands and human wellbeing

Answer : D



Q. With reference to Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund, consider the following statements:

1. It is a Central Sector Scheme.
2. It is incentivizing entrepreneurs to establish dairy processing infrastructure.
3. Under it, government entities and cooperatives are eligible to get incentives.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer : B

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



- ✓ Hence only statements 1 and 2 are correct.

EXTENDED TIMELINE IN NEWS 2023-24

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



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- The government has decided to prolong the duration of the Atal Beemit Vyakti Kalyan Yojana, the unemployment scheme under the Employees' State Insurance Corporation, for an additional two years until June 30, 2024.
- The government has extended PM-KUSUM scheme till March 2026

Q. 'Salher, Panhala, Sindhudurg' seen in news were well known?

A) Trading ports

B) Saline lakes

C) Forts

D) Merchant towns

Answer : C

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

UNESCO IN NEWS 2023-24

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



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- 'Garba of Gujarat' has been inscribed in the Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) of Humanity by UNESCO.
- Garba dance is the 15th intangible cultural heritage of India to be included in this list.
- Kozhikode in Kerala has been designated as the UNESCO 'City of Literature' and Gwalior as the 'City of Music' in the latest UNESCO list of Creative Cities Network.
- temples of the Hoysala Empire in Karnataka, India were officially added to the UNESCO list of World Heritage Sites, marking India's 42nd addition to the prestigious heritage list.
- Three Hoysala-era temples in Karnataka [Chennakeshava (Belur), Hoysaleswara (Halebidu) and Keshava Temple (Somanathapura, Mysuru)] recently made it to UNESCO's World Heritage List, under the collective entry of 'Sacred Ensembles of the Hoysalas'.
- Santiniketan, located in West Bengal, India, has achieved the prestigious status of being recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site .
- Santiniketan as the 41st World Heritage Property in India.
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
- Formation : 16 November 1945
- Headquarters : Paris, France
- Director-General : Audrey Azoulay (France)
- Member countries : 193

Q. Consider the following statements with respect to 'Plastic Credit Bond (PCB)'

1. Plastic Credit Bond is designed to finance plastics collection and recycling projects

2. Repayments for these bonds are influenced by the sale of plastic and carbon offset credits

Select the correct statement(s)

A) 1 only

B) 2 only

C) Both 1 and 2

D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer : C

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



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- ✓ A bond is a financial instrument representing a loan made by an investor to a borrower, typically a government or corporation. In return, the borrower agrees to pay periodic interest and return the principal amount at maturity.
- ✓ Plastic Credit Bond is designed to combat waste, and finance plastics collection and recycling projects in Ghana and Indonesia. Repayments are influenced by the sale of plastic and carbon offset credits. Investors receive their principal back at the end of the seven-year term, guaranteed by the World Bank, with a minimum interest payment of 1.75%.
- ✓ This initiative signals further growth in the nascent carbon credit market. The plastics bond follows previous outcome bonds, including the “rhino bond” for wildlife conservation in Africa and an emissions reduction-linked bond for a water purification project in Vietnam.

Q. Consider the following statements about C-CARES

- 1. It is the web portal for Coal Mines Provident Fund Organization (CMPFO), working under aegis of the Ministry of Coal.**
- 2. The portal is developed by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing, an R&D organization under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.**

Choose the correct statements:

A) 1 only

B) 2 only

C) Both 1 and 2

D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer : C

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



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

Q. C- CARES web portal, recently seen in the news, is associated with which sector?

- A) Petroleum sector
- B) Renewable energy sector
- C) Coal sector
- D) Agriculture sector

Answer : C

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

Q. Mesolithic era rock paintings have recently been discovered in which state?

- A) Telangana
- B) Madhya Pradesh
- C) Gujarat
- D) Uttar Pradesh

Answer : A

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



- ✓ The Mesolithic, or Middle Stone Age, bridged the gap between the Paleolithic and Neolithic periods, spanning approximately 12,000-10,000 years ago.
- ✓ Notable for the transition from large chipped stone tools to microliths, small tools affixed to bone or wood handles for making implements like saws and sickles, it marked a pivotal era in human cultural development

Q. According to the 'Solar Policy 2024', what is the targeted installed capacity of solar power in Delhi by 2027?

- A) 5500 MW B) 3500 MW
C) 4500 MW D) 2500 MW

Answer : C

- ✓ The Delhi government has launched the Delhi Solar Policy 2024 to boost solar power adoption.
- ✓ Residents can install rooftop solar panels, leading to zero electricity bills and potential income from excess power sales to the grid.
- ✓ The policy targets 4500 MW of solar power by 2027, up from the previous goal of 1500 MW.
- ✓ Stemming from the 2016 policy, which yielded 1500 MW capacity, the new policy aims to curb air pollution, cut electricity costs, and promote sustainable energy in Delhi.

Q. Ungalai Thedi, Ungal Ooril (Come Look for You, In Your Village) scheme, recently seen in the news, is launched by which state?

- A) Kerala B) Tamil Nadu
C) Andhra Pradesh D) Karnataka

Answer : B

- ✓ The Government of Tamil Nadu introduces the Ungalai Thedi Ungal Ooril Scheme 2024, offering citizens monthly access to state government schemes and scholarships.
- ✓ This initiative aims to review project performance, inspect infrastructure, and address public concerns, ensuring effective implementation of government programs.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Rebate of State and Central Taxes and Levies scheme:

1. It aims to reimburse all embedded State and Central Taxes/Levies for exports of manufactured goods and garments.
2. The rebate under the scheme shall be in the form of duty credit scrips.



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Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A) 1 only

B) 2 only

C) Both 1 and 2

D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer : C

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

Q. Ibrahim Iskandar has become the new Sultan of which country?

A) Mauritius

B) Bhutan

C) Malaysia

D) Maldives

Answer : C

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



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- ✓ Ibrahim Iskandar was sworn in as the country's 17th Sultan. Sultan Ibrahim received the reins from the Sultan of Pahang State, Abdullah Sultan Ahmad Shah.
- ✓ Ibrahim Iskandar will remain in office as the country's Sultan for the next five years.
- ✓ The Sultan has been elected every five years in Malaysia since 1957, after gaining independence from Britain

Q. Subika paintings, recently seen in news, is linked to the cultural history of:

- A) Meitei community
- B) Gond tribes
- C) Santhal tribes
- D) Bodo tribes

Answer : A

- ✓ Manipur boasts a rich cultural heritage but some of its invaluable art forms like Subika paintings are on the brink of extinction due to neglect.
- ✓ It a style of painting which is intricately linked to the Meitei community's cultural history.
- ✓ It is surviving through its six manuscripts — Subika, Subika Achouba, Subika Laishaba, Subika Choudit, Subika Cheithil and Thengrakhel Subika.

Q. Which of the following has declared the year 2024 as the 'Year of Naval Civilians' in order to address all aspects of civilian human resource management?

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

Answer : B

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



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

YEARS IN NEWS 2023-24

- Indian Navy has declared 2024 as the 'Year of Naval Civilians.'
- United Nations has declared 2024 as the International Year of Camelids.
- Indian Army has declared 2024 as the "Year of Technology Absorption."
- United Nations, at the behest of the Government of India, declared 2023 the International Year Millets.

Q. Who has launched 'Ministry of Education – AICTE Investor Network' in New Delhi?

- A) Dharmendra Pradhan B) Narendra Modi
C) Nirmala Sitharaman D) Rajnath Singh

Answer : A

- ✓ Union Minister Shri Dharmendra Pradhan has launched 'Ministry of Education – AICTE Investor Network' in New Delhi.
- ✓ This initiative to be a ground-breaking beginning that will bring students, faculty, investors and the market on one platform to strengthen the culture of innovation.
- ✓ The network aims to provide crucial financial support, mentoring, and strategic guidance to early-stage student or faculty-led startups.

Q. Which of the following countries are not join BRICS group recently?

- A) UAE B) Egypt
C) Iran D) Iraq

Answer : D

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



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- ✓ The five countries were extended invitations along with Argentina at a summit in August in Johannesburg to join the bloc comprising Brazil, Russia, China, India and South Africa.
- ✓ Argentina has declined the invitation to join.
- ✓ The newly enlarged BRICS now boasts a combined population of 3.5 billion and an economy exceeding \$28.5tn, constituting around 28% of the global economy

Q. WHO has awarded its first-ever certificates validating progress in eliminating industrially produced trans fatty acids to five countries. What is the name of these five countries?

- A) Finland, Sri Lanka, USA, China and Thailand**
- B) Denmark, Lithuania, Poland, Saudi Arabia, and Thailand**
- C) Denmark, Lithuania, Poland, UAE, and Bangladesh**
- D) Denmark, India, Sweden, Saudi Arabia, and Thailand**

Answer : B

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



- ✓ A total of 53 countries have now best practice policies in effect for tackling iTFA in food, vastly improving the food environment for 3.7 billion people, or 46% of the world's population, as compared to 6% just 5 years ago.

Q. As per Union Budget 2024, Government has allocated how much percent of GDP for Capital Expenditure Boost?

- A) 3.3% B) 3.4%
C) 3.5% D) 3.6%

Answer : B

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

Q. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has revised estimate of the fiscal deficit for FY24 stands at what percent?

- A) 5.4% B) 5.6%
C) 5.8% D) 6.3%

Answer : C

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



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- ✓ The government is committed to reducing the fiscal deficit below 4.5 per cent by 2025-26, adding that the fiscal deficit in 2024-25 is estimated to be 5.1 per cent of GDP.
- ✓ The reduced fiscal deficit projection at 5.1 per cent of GDP in FY25, down from 5.8 per cent in FY24, will create room for increased private sector borrowings

Q. Former deputy governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Harun Rashid Khan has been appointed as the non-executive chairman of which Small Finance Bank?

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

Answer : B

- ✓ Private sector lender AU Small Finance Bank has appointed Harun Rashid Khan, former deputy governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), as non-executive chairman following approval from the shareholders.
- ✓ Khan's tenure will begin from the date of taking charge, January 30, 2024, after approval from the Board of Directors and from the RBI and shareholders of the bank.
- ✓ Khan will take charge from Raj Verma, whose tenure as Part-time Chairman ended on January 29, 2024.

Q. The Government has approved extension of subsidy scheme on sugar supplied to AAY families by 2 years ____.

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

Answer : A

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



Q. The GHAR Portal, recently seen in the news, is launched to:

- A) monitor and track the restoration of historical landmarks
- B) digitally track and monitor the restoration and repatriation of children
- C) provide real-time weather updates
- D) monitor environmental pollution levels

Answer : B

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

APP & PORTAL IN NEWS 2023 -24

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



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- Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) launched the MPLADS e-SAKSHI Mobile Application.
- About e-SAKSHI Application:
- It was launched for revised fund flow procedure under Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLAD) Scheme.
- National Surveillance Programme for Aquatic Animal Diseases (NSPAAD) project has introduced a mobile app 'Report Fish Disease' to track and monitor fish diseases across the country

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Exercise Vayu Shakti:

1. It is held once every three years.

2. It demonstrates the offensive and defensive capabilities of the Indian Air Force.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A) 1 only

B) 2 only

C) Both 1 and 2

D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer : C

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



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

EXERCISE IN NEWS 2023-24

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

A) Lal Krishna Advani

B) Ratan Tata

C) Amitabh Bachchan

D) Rajinikanth

Answer : A

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



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- ✓ The first Bharat Ratna was provided to Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, Sir C.V. Raman, and Chakravarti Rajaopalachari in 1954.
- ✓ In 2019, the award was given to three eminent personalities: Nanaji Deshmukh, Pranab Mukherjee and Bhupen Hazarika.
- ✓ Earlier, the PM also announced that former Bihar CM Karpoori Thakur will be posthumously awarded the highest civilian award Bharat Ratna

Q. Who has been selected as a torchbearer for 2024 Paris Olympic Games?

- A) Mary Kom B) Neeraj Chopra
C) Abhinav Bindra D) Sakshi Malik

Answer : C

- ✓ Abhinav Bindra, India's first individual gold medalist at the Olympic Games, has been selected as a torchbearer for the upcoming 2024 Paris Olympic Games.
- ✓ He will be part of the Olympic torch relay to be held from April 16 to July 26.
- ✓ Bindra, a member of the Athletes Commission of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), clinched the gold medal in the men's 10m air rifle event at the Beijing Olympic Games in 2008.
- ✓ The Paris 2024 Olympic Torch Relay will begin in France on May 8th, 2024.
- ✓ Paris 2024 will feature the sport of 'Breaking' for the first time, which made its debut at the Youth Olympic Games in Buenos Aires in 2018. Break-dancing, skateboarding, sport climbing, and surfing will also be included in the list of sports at the Paris Olympics 2024

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA):

1. It is under the administrative control of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE).
2. It extends financial assistance for setting up projects relating to renewable sources of energy.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer : C



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

IREDA IN NEWS 2023-24

- Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) Launches ‘Pahal’ Vigilance Journal
- IREDA Declared 2024 as ‘Year of HR Development and Discipline’
- IREDA CMD Pradip Kumar Das bagged ‘CMD of the Year’ award
- Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) launched a Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) portal to improve transparency in CSR initiatives.
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has granted an ‘Infrastructure Finance Company (IFC)’ status to Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA).
- IREDA signs MoUs with Union Bank of India and Bank of Baroda to co-finance Renewable Energy projects.
- IREDA and Bank of Maharashtra partner to promote renewable energy adoption in India.
- Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA), a Mini Ratna (Category – I) has signed an a MoU with Government, Revenue Target for 2023-24 set at ₹ 4,350.
- Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) has set up a state-of-the-art Business Centre at NBCC Office Complex, East Kidwai Nagar, New Delhi.



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- Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA)
- It was incorporated as a Public Limited Company in the year 1987 as a 'Non-Banking Financial Institution'.
- It is a Miniratna (Category 1) type company functioning under the administrative control of 'Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Government of India.
- Its function is to encourage projects related to new and renewable energy sources and to provide them financial assistance for their development.
- It has been notified as a 'Public Financial Institution' under section 4'A' of the 'Companies Act, 1956'.
- Chairman and Managing Director - Pradip Kumar Das

Q. With reference to the Inclusive Education for Disabled at Secondary Stage (IEDSS) scheme, consider the following statements:

1. It provides assistance for the inclusive education of disabled children in classes IX-XII.

2. It covers all children studying in both government and private schools.

3. It is implemented by the School Education Department of the concerned State Governments/Union Territories.

How many of the above statements are correct?

A) Only one

B) Only two

C) All three

D) None

Answer : B

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



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

STATE GOVERNMENT IN NEWS 2023 – 24

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

Q. Cygnus X-1, recently seen in the news, is a:

- A) artificial satellite
- B) asteroid
- C) exoplanet
- D) black hole

Answer : D



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- ✓ Astro Sat, India's first, dedicated multi-wavelength astronomy mission, accomplished the difficult task of measuring the X-ray polarisation of the Cygnus X-1 black hole system.
- ✓ It was discovered over four decades ago.
- ✓ It is one of the first confirmed black hole systems in our galaxy.
- ✓ The black hole in Cygnus X-1 is 20 times heavier than the Sun, and has a companion - a heavy supergiant star (40 times more massive than the Sun) in a binary system.
- ✓ It is located at a distance that is about 400 times more than the distance between Earth and Sun.
- ✓ This process leads to the formation of a thin accretion disk which is responsible for soft X-rays.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Law Commission of India:

1. It is a non-statutory body constituted with a definite terms of reference.

2. The first Law Commission of independent India was established under the chairmanship of M. C. Setalvad.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A) 1 only

B) 2 only

C) Both 1 and 2

D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer : C

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



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

APPOINTMENT IN NEWS 2023-24

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

Q. Consider the following statements regarding Wheat Blast:

- 1. It is a disease of wheat crop caused by a virus.**
- 2. It spreads through infected seeds, crop residues and spores.**

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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



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Answer : B

- ✓ Researchers who have modeled for the first time how wheat blast will spread in the future found the fungal disease could reduce global wheat production by 13% until 2050.
- ✓ About Wheat Blast:
- ✓ Wheat blast, caused by the plant fungus *Magnaporthe oryzae*, is a fast-acting, severe disease of wheat that causes bleaching of the heads.
- ✓ *Magnaporthe oryzae* can infect many grasses, including barley, *loium*, rice, and wheat, but specific isolates of this pathogen generally infect limited species; that is, wheat isolates infect preferably wheat plants but can use several more cereal and grass species as alternate hosts.
- ✓ History of the Outbreak:
- ✓ First found in Brazil in 1985, it spread quickly through South America, infecting around three million hectares of wheat within a decade.
- ✓ In 2016, it made it across to Bangladesh, and in 2020, it was confirmed in Africa, in crops in Zambia.

Q. The 7th session of the Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs (CCSCH) was held from 29th January 2024 to 2nd February 2024 at which place?

- A) Vishakapatnam B) Kochi
C) Mumbai D) Hyderabad

Answer : B

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



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

SUMMIT & CONFERENCE IN NEWS 2023- 24

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

Q. The INS Sandhayak is a:

- A) naval destroyer
- B) aircraft carrier
- C) submarine
- D) survey vessel ship

Answer : D

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



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

Q. The Theme state for the Surajkund International Crafts Mela in 2024 is _ and the Partner nation is _

- A) Gujarat; and Tanzania B) Himachal Pradesh; and Nepal
C) Assam; and Bangladesh D) Uttar Pradesh; and Thailand

Answer : A

- ✓ President Droupadi Murmu has inaugurated the 37th Surajkund International Crafts Mela – 2024 at Surajkund in Faridabad district, Haryana.
- ✓ Tanzania is a partner country for the mela, which reflects India's strong ties with the African Union. Gujarat is the theme state.
- ✓ The Surajkund Fair will continue till February 18.

Q. Who has been given the “Maha Gaurav 2024” award by Maharashtra government?

- A) Nikhil Wagh B) Kavita Tungar
C) Wilson Jones D) Khandu Rangnekar

Answer : A

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



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

- A) 21 B) 31
C) 41 D) 52

Answer : B

- ✓ US State Department has given the go-ahead for the possible sale of 31 armed MQ-9B SkyGuardian drones, related missiles, and equipment to India for nearly \$4 billion.
- ✓ This comes after years of discussions between the two nations about such a deal.
- ✓ India has long expressed interest in buying large, armed drones from the United States, but certain bureaucratic hurdles have hindered progress towards finalizing the potential agreement.

Q. Which state government will launch the annual Mass Drug Administration (MDA) campaign to eradicate filariasis diseases from February 5 to 15?

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

Answer : C

- ✓ Uttar Pradesh government will launch the annual Mass Drug Administration (MDA) campaign to eradicate filariasis diseases from February 5 to 15.
- ✓ The campaign, to be carried out as part of a mission to eradicate filariasis from the state, will be conducted in 17 districts of the state.
- ✓ During the campaign, skilled health workers will go door-to-door and administer the medicine for prevention of filariasis to the entire population.
- ✓ The central government aims to eliminate filariasis from the country by 2027.

Q. The Centre has announced an ambitious programme to upgrade how many standard rail coaches to Vande Bharat standards in Budget 2024?

- A) 50000 B) 40000
C) 60000 D) 20000

Answer : B

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



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- ✓ This initiative, announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in while presenting the interim budget for fiscal year 2024-25 (FY25), aims to elevate the safety, convenience, and comfort of rail travel while also providing a boost to private sector railway manufacturers through new refurbishment contracts.
- ✓ The initiative to elevate regular rail bogies to Vande Bharat standards represents a substantial opportunity for railway sector players. The projected contracts are estimated to be worth ₹4,000 crore annually for the next few years.
- ✓ The comprehensive refurbishment of 40,000 coaches is planned to be phased over 8-10 years, with an approximate rate of 4,000 bogies per year.

Q. Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has announced that PM SVANIDHI, a flagship initiative focusing on street vendors has extended credit assistance to ____ street vendors across the country.

A) 78 lakh

B) 88 lakh

C) 98 lakh

D) 58 lakh

Answer : A

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



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

- A) 12.04% B) 13.04%
C) 14.04% D) 15.04%

Answer : B

- ✓ In the current geopolitical scenario and with the twin objective of promoting self-reliance and exports, the Defence Budget has touched Rs 6,21,540.85 crore in the Financial Year 2024-25.
- ✓ This comes out to be 13.04% of total Union Budget. The Ministry of Defence (MoD) continues to receive the highest allocation among the Ministries.
- ✓ The budgetary allocation to Defence for FY 24-25 is higher by approx. one lakh crore (18.35%) over the allocation for the FY 2022-23 and 4.72% more than allocation of FY 23-24.

Q. India and which country have signed an agreement to provide a framework for collaboration in new areas of defence engagement including procurement of military equipment?

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

Answer : B

- ✓ India, Oman ink pact for collaboration in defence sector
- ✓ India and Oman has signed an agreement that would provide a framework for collaboration in new areas of defence engagement including procurement of military equipment.
- ✓ The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was firmed up at a meeting of India-Oman joint military cooperation committee (JMCC) in Muscat.

Q. For which age group did Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has proposed to “encourage vaccination as a preventive measure against cervical cancer”?

- A) 9 -15 Years B) 9 -14 Years
C) 10 -14 Years D) 9 -18 Years

Answer : B

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



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

Q. Tamil Superstar Vijay has recently launched his political party. What is the name of party?

- A) Tamilaga Metri Kazhagam B) Tamil Vetri Kazhagam
C) Tamilaga Vetri Kazim D) Tamilaga Vetri Kazhagam

Answer : D

- ✓ Tamil superstar Vijay has announced the name of his new political party "Tamilaga Vetri Kazhagam".
- ✓ Vijay will contest 2026 Assembly Elections in Tamil Nadu, when the current term of MK Stalin-led DMK party ends.
- ✓ The Tamil movie superstar is fondly called by his fans as Thalapathy, meaning General or Commander.

Q. Every year 4th of February is observed as which day globally?

- A) World Hypertension Day
B) World Cancer Day
C) World Science Day
D) World Girl Child Day

Answer : B

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



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

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



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

- A) France
B) New Zealand
C) Australia
D) Russia

Answer : B

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

VOLCANO IN NEWS 2023 -24

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

Q. With reference to the Mekong River, consider the following:

1. It is the longest river in Asia.
2. It rises in the Tibetan Plateau.
3. It drains into the South China Sea.



How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer : B

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

UNESCO IN NEWS 2023-24

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



- Kozhikode in Kerala has been designated as the UNESCO 'City of Literature' and Gwalior as the 'City of Music' in the latest UNESCO list of Creative Cities Network.
- temples of the Hoysala Empire in Karnataka, India were officially added to the UNESCO list of World Heritage Sites, marking India's 42nd addition to the prestigious heritage list.
- Three Hoysala-era temples in Karnataka [Chennakeshava (Belur), Hoysaleswara (Halebidu) and Keshava Temple (Somanathapura, Mysuru)] recently made it to UNESCO's World Heritage List, under the collective entry of 'Sacred Ensembles of the Hoysalas'.
- Santiniketan, located in West Bengal, India, has achieved the prestigious status of being recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site .
- Santiniketan as the 41st World Heritage Property in India.
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
- Formation : 16 November 1945
- Headquarters : Paris, France
- Director-General : Audrey Azoulay (France)
- Member countries : 193

Q. With reference to GRAPES-3 experiment, consider the following statements:

- 1. It is designed to study cosmic rays with an array of air shower detectors.**
- 2. It is located in the Ladakh region.**
- 3. It is operated by the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research.**

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer : B

- ✓ The GRAPES-3 experiment discovered a new feature in the cosmic-ray proton spectrum at about 166 tera-electron-volt (TeV) energy while measuring the spectrum spanning from 50 TeV to a little over 1 peta-electron-volt (PeV).
- ✓ Gamma Ray Astronomy PeV EnergieS phase-3 (GRAPES-3) is designed to study cosmic rays with an array of air shower detectors and a large area muon detector.
- ✓ Location: It is located in Ooty, India.



- ✓ It is operated by the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research.
- ✓ It aims to probe acceleration of cosmic rays in different astrophysical settings.
- ✓ Its objectives are to study
- ✓ The origin, acceleration and propagation of $>10^{14}$ eV cosmic rays in the galaxy and beyond
- ✓ They have been observed over a remarkably wide energy range (108 to 1020 eV).
- ✓ Hence only statements 1 and 3 are correct.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the InTranSE Program:

- 1. It is a collaborative research and development programme related to transportation.**
- 2. It is an initiative of the Union Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology.**

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer : C

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

Q. Who is the author of the book titled UNEQUAL: Why India Lags Behind Its Neighbours?

- A) Amitav Ghosh
B) Gita Mehta
C) Salman Rushdie
D) Swati Narayan

Answer : D



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

FAMOUS BOOKS & AUTHOR IN NEWS 2023-24

- UNEQUAL: Why India Lags Behind Its Neighbours : Swati Narayan
- Gandhi: A Life in Three Campaigns : M.J. Akbar and K. Natwar Singh
- Assam's Braveheart Lachit Barphukan : Arup Kumar Dutta
- An Uncommon Love: The Early Life of Sudha and Narayana Murthy : Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni
- Gandhi: A Life in Three Campaigns : M.J. Akbar & co-author K. Natwar Singh
- Modi: Energising A Green Future : Pentagon Press in collaboration with the Dr. Shyama Prasad Mookerjee Research Foundation
- Sanskriti ke Ayaam : Manorama Mishra
- Four Stars of Destiny: An Autobiography : General Manoj Mukund Naravane
- The Babri Masjid Ram Mandir Dilemma : Madhav Godbole
- Breaking the Mould: Reimagining India's Economic Future : Raghuram Rajan & Rohit Lamba
- Zeba: An Accidental Superhero : Huma Qureshi
- Welcome to Paradise : Twinkle Khanna
- India's Moment : Changing Power Equations around the World : Mohan Kumar
- Pranab, My Father: A Daughter Remembers : Sharmishtha Mukherjee
- Thread by Thread, on the life of Shambhu Kumar or 'the' S Kumar : Sathya Saran
- Do Palkon Ki Chhavn Main : Hema Joshi
- Nilavu Kudicha Simhangal ('Lions that drank the Moonlight') : Autobiography of S Somanath
- Courting India: England, Mughal India and the Origins of Empire: Nandini Das

Q. 'Vyommitra' robot, recently seen in the news, is associated with which space mission?

A) Gaganyaan

B) Aditya-L1 Mission

C) Chandrayaan-3 Mission

D) OneWeb India-2 Mission

Answer : A

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

ISRO IN NEWS 2023-24

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



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- ISRO will launch Singapore's TeLEOS-2 satellite using the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) from the Satish Dhawan Space Center in Sriharikota.
- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)
- Founded : 15 August 1969
- HQ : Bengalore, Karnataka
- Founder / 1st Chairman : Vikram Sarabhai
- 10th Chairman : S Somanath
- Aryabhata India's first satellites Launched on 19 April 1975.
- GSAT-1 India's first commercial satellite.
- SLV-3 was India's first experimental satellite launch vehicle.
- Ariane Passenger PayLoad Experiment, (APPLE) first communication satellite in India 19 June 1981.
- Udupi Ramachandra Rao : satellite Man of India

Q. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for development projects worth over 11,000 crore rupees in which state?

A) Odisha

B) Bihar

C) Jharkhand

D) Assam

Answer : D

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

PM MODI FOUNDATION STONE IN NEWS 2023-24

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



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- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated a new terminal building at Tiruchirappalli International Airport in Tamil Nadu.
- The new terminal building has been developed at a cost of more than Rs 1100 crore.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched multiple projects worth ₹5,000 crore in Rajasthan and asserted that they will lead to further development of the state.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has laid the foundation stone of development projects worth more than 26 thousand crore rupees in Jagdalpur, the divisional headquarters of tribal Bastar division in Chhattisgarh
- PM Inaugurates Rs 4200 Crore Worth Of Development Projects In Uttarakhand.
- Prime Minister Modi inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for projects worth over Rs 19,100 crores in Bulandshahr, Uttar Pradesh
- PM Initiates 8 AMRUT Projects Worth Rs. 2,000 Crores In Solapur, Maharashtra.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi on inaugurated and laid the foundation stones of development projects worth more than Rs 38,000 crore in different sectors in Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently inaugurated the Shivmoggga airport in the state of Karnataka. The airport was built for Rs 450 crores

Q. Who was conferred with the 'Lifetime Achievement' award by Sports Journalists Federation of India (SJFI) and Delhi Sports Journalists Association (DSJA) at the National Sports Club of India?

A) Saina Nehwal

B) Sania Mirza

C) PV Sindhu

D) PT Usha

Answer : D

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



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- ✓ She also finished fourth in the 400-metre hurdles final at the 1984 Olympics.
- ✓ She is also known as the 'Payyoli Express'

Q. Who has recently made the record of spending maximum time in space?

- A) Christina Koch
- B) Andrew Morgan
- C) Oleg Kononenko
- D) Scott Kelly

Answer : C

- ✓ Russian astronaut Oleg Kononenko has set a new world record for spending the most time in space by staying in space for 878 days or more than two and a half years.
- ✓ Oleg Kononenko overtook the record set by compatriot Gennady Padalka.
- ✓ According to the European Space Agency, Oleg Kononenko started his space career as an engineer and made his first space flight in 2008

Q. Who is the author of the book titled "Gandhi: A Life in Three Campaigns." ?

- A) Arundhati Roy
- B) Ruskin Bond
- C) M.J. Akbar
- D) R.K. Narayan

Answer : C

- ✓ Renowned author M.J. Akbar, along with co-author K. Natwar Singh, launched a new book titled "Gandhi: A Life in Three Campaigns."
- ✓ The book delves into the life and struggles of Mahatma Gandhi, particularly focusing on three pivotal mass campaigns he led:
- ✓ Non-Cooperation Movement (1920): Highlighting Gandhi's ability to mobilize the masses against British rule.
- ✓ Salt Satyagraha (1930): Turning a pinch of salt into a symbol of resistance against colonial exploitation.
- ✓ Quit India Movement (1942): A decisive call for the end of British colonialism in India.

Q. Which of the following statements clearly explains the term Windfall Tax?

- A) It is a tax imposed for selling the assets of the company
- B) It is a new tax imposed in Europe to reduce the use of fossil fuel.
- C) It is a higher tax rate on sudden big profits levied on a particular company or industry.
- D) It is a tax imposed on companies for their predatory pricing policies.



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Answer : C

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

Q. Which Indian has been ranked number 2 globally on the Brand Guardianship Index 2024?

- A) Mukesh Ambani B) Gautam Adani
C) Anand Mahindra D) Sunil Bharti Mittal

Answer : A

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



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Q. Who has been ranked at the top position in the Brand Guardianship Index 2024?

- A) Sundar Pichai B) Satya Nadella
C) N Chandrasekaran D) Ma Huateng

Answer : D

Q. Which small finance bank has partnered with Edelweiss Tokio Life Insurance to offer Life Insurance?

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

Answer : B

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

Q. Who has been appointed as the head of its consumer lending and mortgages in Bandhan Bank?

- A) Vivek Murthy B) Tanu Singh
C) Indra Mani Pandey D) Santosh Nair

Answer : D

- ✓ Bandhan Bank has appointed Santosh Nair, chief executive of HDFC Sales Private Limited, as the head of its consumer lending and mortgages.
- ✓ Bandhan Bank's Shantanu Sengupta will step down from the post of Head. However, he will assist the bank in a smooth transition and will leave the organisation in early FY2024-25 to pursue opportunities outside the bank.

Q. Hage Geingob passed away recently. He was the president of which country?

- A) Namibia B) Sudan
C) Ghana D) Mangolia



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Answer : A

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

Q. Which state government police adopted Self-Balancing e-scooters For Smart Patrols?

A) Uttarakhand

B) Himachal Pradesh

C) Punjab

D) Uttar Pradesh

Answer : A

- ✓ Uttarakhand Police adopted self-balancing electric scooters to patrol the streets of Haridwar.
- ✓ The scooters are part of a new law enforcement method and are intended to improve safety for locals and tourists.
- ✓ The scooters are donated by Utkarsh Small Finance Bank and are intended to be used in crowded and narrow areas.

Q. Who has inaugurated the Commonwealth Legal Education Association (CLEA) – Commonwealth Attorneys and Solicitors General Conference (CASGC) 2024 in New Delhi?

A) Nirmala Sitharaman

B) Rajnath Singh

C) Amit Shah

D) Narendra Modi

Answer : D

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



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- ✓ The theme of the conference is “Cross-Border Challenges in Justice Delivery”.
- ✓ This conference has deliberated on important issues pertaining to law and justice like judicial transition and the ethical dimensions of legal practice; executive accountability; and revisiting modern-day legal education, among others.
- ✓ This Conference have participated of Attorney Generals and Solicitors from the Commonwealth nations spanning the Asia-Pacific, Africa, and the Caribbean along with various international delegations.

Q. Who was awarded the 'Best Green Bond-Corporate' award at The Asset Triple A Awards for Sustainable Finance 2024?

A) Hindalco

B) REC Limited

C) IOCL

D) Tata Power

Answer : B

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

REC LTD IN NEWS 2023-24

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



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

Q. In which state assembly was the Uniform Civil Code Bill introduced recently?

- A) Uttar Pradesh
- B) Assam
- C) Bihar
- D) Uttarakhand

Answer : D

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

Q. Which has become the first country in the European Union to issue 'Digital Schengen Visa'?

- A) Austria
- B) Belgium
- C) France
- D) Finland

Answer : C



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

Q. Who won the 'Best Global Music Album' award at the Grammy Awards 2024?

A) This moment

B) Midnights

C) The Record

D) Flowers

Answer : A

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



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

Q. Which has become the first European country to accept Unified Payment Interface (UPI)?

- A) Germany
- B) Portugal
- C) Italy
- D) France

Answer : D

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



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

Q. Consider the following statements regarding TESS Mission:

1. It searches for exoplanets orbiting the brightest stars.

2. It is launched by the European Space Agency (ESA).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A) 1 only

B) 2 only

C) Both 1 and 2

D) Neither 1 nor 2



Answer : A

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

NASA IN NEWS 2023-24

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



- NASA is set to launch the Atmospheric Waves Experiment (AWE) to study 'airglow' to understand space
- weather.
- NASA's James Webb Telescope recently discovered a new exoplanet named 'Wasp-107b', which is the size
- of Jupiter.
- NASA's Lucy spacecraft successfully completed its first flyby of an asteroid named Dinkinesh.
- About Lucy Mission:
- It is a first-of-its-kind mission of NASA that will explore Jupiter's elusive Trojan asteroids.
- National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) launched a sounding rocket as part of its INFUSE mission.
- NASA's Subsurface Water Ice Mapping (SWIM) project released its fourth set of maps.
- NISAR is a Low Earth Orbit (LEO) observatory jointly developed by NASA and ISRO.
- National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)
- Founded : 1958
- Headquarters : Washington, D.C
- Administrator : Bill Nelson

Q. Which one of the following is the best description of 'ABHYAS', that was in the news recently?

- A) A next-generation hypersonic aircraft
- B) A deep-sea exploration robot
- C) A high-speed expendable aerial target
- D) A satellite launched by ISRO

Answer : C

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



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

DRDO IN NEWS 2023-24

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

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Nagoya Protocol:

- 1. It regulates the transboundary movement of Living Modified Organisms (LMOs).**
- 2. It is legally binding on all contracting parties.**

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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



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Answer : B

- ✓ Cameroon recently adopted the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing.
- ✓ About Nagoya Protocol:
- ✓ The Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilisation (the Protocol) is a legally binding global agreement that implements the access and benefit-sharing obligations of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).
- ✓ It was adopted by the CBD in Nagoya, Japan, in October 2010 and entered into force on October 12, 2014, 90 days after the deposit of the fiftieth instrument of ratification.
- ✓ What does the Nagoya Protocol cover?
- ✓ It applies to genetic resources that are covered by the CBD, and to the benefits arising from their utilisation.
- ✓ The Nagoya Protocol, adopted in 2010, establishes a legally binding framework for access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from their use.
- ✓ Key Facts about Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD):
- ✓ CBD, with currently 196 contracting parties, is the most comprehensive binding international agreement in the field of nature conservation and the sustainable use of natural resources.
- ✓ It was opened for signing at the UN Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro in 1992.
- ✓ The Secretariat is based in Montreal, Canada

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Mera Gaon Meri Dharohar programme:

1. It is an initiative of Ministry of Culture under National Mission on Cultural Mapping.

2. It provides financial assistance for preservation & development of cultural heritage.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A) 1 only

B) 2 only

C) Both 1 and 2

D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer : C

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



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

Q. How many air routes are currently being operated in the country under the RCS UDAN scheme?

- A) 319 B) 419
C) 519 D) 619

Answer : C

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

AIRPORT IN NEWS 2023-24

- So far, 519 air routes are being operated across the country under the regional level air connectivity scheme (RCS) 'Ude Deshka Aam Nagrik' (UdeDeshkaAamNagrik-UDAN).
- Government of India has officially given the status of 'International Airport' to Surat Airport in Gujarat.
- Thiruvananthapuram Airport Honored with Excellence Award for its Quality Initiatives.
- Bengaluru and Delhi Airports have jointly bagged the 'Best Airport of the Year' at the Wings India Awards 2024 in the Civil Aviation Sector.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated a new terminal building at Tiruchirappalli International Airport in Tamil Nadu.
- Union Cabinet has approved the proposal to declare Surat Airport an international airport.
- 58 Airports in the country have been covered under Krishi Udan Scheme.



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

Q. Where was the foundation stone of the 'India's First Digital National Museum of Epigraphy' laid?

A) Hyderabad

B) Patna

C) Varanasi

D) Jaipur

Answer : A

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

HYDERABAD IN NEWS 2023-24

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



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

Q. Digital payments across the country registered a growth of how much per cent in a year through March 2023, as per RBI's index that measures the adoption of online transactions?

A) 10.94 per cent

B) 11.94 per cent

C) 12.94 per cent

D) 13.94 per cent

Answer : A

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



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- ✓ The central bank had announced the construction of a composite RBI-DPI in March 2018 as a base to capture the extent of digitisation of payments across the country.
- ✓ The index comprises five broad parameters that enable the measurement of the depth and penetration of digital payments in the country over different periods.
- ✓ These parameters are Payment Enablers (weight 25 per cent); Payment Infrastructure – Demand-side factors (10 per cent); Payment Infrastructure – Supply-side factors (15 per cent); Payment Performance (45 per cent); and Consumer Centricity (5 per cent).

Q. What is the allocated budget for Sovereign Gold Bond (SGB) issuance in the upcoming fiscal year 2024-25?

A) 2100 crore

B) 3000 crore

C) 3500 crore

D) 4000 crore

Answer : C

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



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

Q. India Energy Week 2024 is being organized in which state?

A) Haryana

B) Madhya Pradesh

C) Goa

D) Bihar

Answer : C

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

Q. In which city is the first BIMSTEC Aquatics Championship being organised?

A) Dhaka

B) Colombo

C) New Delhi

D) Kathmandu

Answer : C

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



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Aparchit February 2nd Week English Best 350+ MCQs with Amazing Facts

By :- Aparchit Exam Warriors/Kumar Kaushal Sir

Q. Which institute has successfully established and tested India's first Hypervelocity Expansion Tunnel Test Facility?

A) IIT Bombay

B) IIT Madras

C) IIT Delhi

D) IIT Kanpur

Answer : D

- ✓ Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (IIT-K) has successfully established and tested India's first Hypervelocity Expansion Tunnel Test Facility recently.
- ✓ About India's first Hypervelocity Expansion Tunnel Test Facility:
- ✓ The S2, nicknamed 'Jigarthanda', is a 24-metre-long facility located at IIT Kanpur's Hypersonic Experimental Aerodynamics Laboratory (HEAL) within the Department of Aerospace Engineering.
- ✓ It is India's first Hypervelocity Expansion Tunnel Test Facility.
- ✓ It was indigenously designed and developed over three years with funding and support from the Aeronautical Research and Development Board (ARDB), the Department of Science and Technology (DST), and IIT Kanpur.
- ✓ It is capable of generating flight speeds between 3-10 km/s
- ✓ It will be a critical asset for the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
- ✓ It will serve as a testing ground for ongoing missions of ISRO and DRDO like Gaganyaan, Reusable Launch Vehicles (RLV), and hypersonic cruise missiles

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'.



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

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

- A) Soumya Swaminathan
- B) Takeo Konishi
- C) Mio Oka
- D) Geeta Gopinath

Answer : C

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

ADB IN NEWS 2023-24

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



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

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

A) Indu Malhotra

B) Ritu Bahri

C) Ruma Pal

D) Hima Kohli

Answer : B

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

FIRST'S FEMALE IN NEWS 2023-24

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



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

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

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

Answer : C

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

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

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer : C



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

Q. Consider the following statements regarding Rights Issue:

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

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A) 1 only

B) 2 only

C) Both 1 and 2

D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer : A

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



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

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

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A) 1 only

B) 2 only

C) Both 1 and 2

D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer : B

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



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Q. Consider the following statements regarding Smart Advanced Manufacturing and Rapid Transformation Hub (SAMARTH) centres:

1. They are set up under the Enhancement of Competitiveness in the Indian Capital Goods Sector scheme.

2. They provide assistance to the MSMEs to train the workforce for Industry 4.0 technologies.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A) 1 only

B) 2 only

C) Both 1 and 2

D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer : C

- ✓ Recently, the Minister of State for Heavy Industries informed the Lok Sabha about SAMARTH Centres.
- ✓ The Smart Advanced Manufacturing and Rapid Transformation Hub (SAMARTH) centres are set up under the Scheme for “Enhancement of Competitiveness in the Indian Capital Goods Sector.
- ✓ These centres have been providing assistance to the MSMEs to train the workforce and make them aware about Industry 4.0 technologies in the following ways:
 - ✓ Organizing Seminars/ Workshops and knowledge sharing events on Industry 4.0;
 - ✓ Training industries to create awareness about Industry 4.0;
 - ✓ Providing consultancy (in areas such as IOT Hardware, Software development, data analytics) and incubation support to start- ups including MSMEs.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding Vaccine Safety Net:

1. It is a global network of websites that provides reliable information on vaccine safety.

2. It is established by the NITI Aayog.

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 Healthy Indian Project (THIP), a health information platform in India, is included as a member of the World Health Organization’s Vaccine Safety Net (VSN).



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- ✓ It is a global network of websites, established by the World Health Organization that provides reliable information on vaccine safety.
- ✓ It is a network of a diverse group of digital information resources (websites and social media), VSN members, located in countries around the world and providing scientifically based information on vaccine safety in various languages.
- ✓ A key player in the Project is the Global Advisory Committee on Vaccine Safety (GACVS), established by WHO in 1999, to respond promptly, efficiently, and with scientific rigour to vaccine safety issues of potential global importance.
- ✓ At the outset of the Project, GACVS developed three categories of criteria for good information practices - regarding credibility, content, accessibility and design to which digital resources providing information on vaccine safety should adhere.
- ✓ WHO evaluates those electronic resources for their adherence to these criteria.
- ✓ It is continuously expanding and till date 110 websites from 45 countries provide vaccine safety information in 43 languages

Q. Which country has recently announced visa-free travel for Indian citizens?

A) Qatar

B) Argentina

C) Japan

D) Iran

Answer : D

- ✓ Recently the Government of Iran has announced visa-free service for Indian citizens.
- ✓ This facility has been approved only for tourism.
- ✓ Under this, Indian citizens holding ordinary passport can travel to Iran without visa once every six months for a maximum of 15 days.
- ✓ Currently, 27 countries provide visa-free entry to Indian citizens.
- ✓ These countries include countries like Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand.

Q. What is the maximum aggregate stake that HDFC Bank and its group entities have received RBI approval to acquire in six banks?

A) 6.8%

B) 8.7%

C) 9.5%

D) 8.5%

Answer : C



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

ICICI BANK IN NEWS 2023-24

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



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

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

- A) 90%
- B) 74%
- C) 95%
- D) 70%

Answer : D

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

KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK IN NEWS 2023-24

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



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

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

A) Punjab National Bank

B) State Bank of India

C) Kotak Mahindra Bank

D) Indian Overseas Bank

Answer : B

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

SBI IN NEWS 2023-24

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

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

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

A) Rs 9.8 lakh

B) Rs 5.8 lakh

C) Rs 7.8 lakh

D) Rs 8.8 lakh

Answer : D



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

PENALTY IN NEWS 2023-24

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



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- Paytm Payments Bank was penalized for “non-compliance with certain provisions of the ‘Reserve Bank of India (Know Your Customer (KYC)) Directions, 2016’.”
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a penalty of ₹12.19 crore on ICICI Bank and ₹3.95 crore on Kotak Mahindra Bank for non-compliance of certain regulatory norms.

Q. Which institute has collaborated with Munitions India Limited to create the nation’s first domestically designed 155 Smart Ammunition?

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

Answer : B

- ✓ IIT Madras and Munitions India Limited are partnering to create India’s first domestically designed 155 Smart Ammunition.
- ✓ The two-year initiative, under the Ministry of Defence, aims to achieve a Circular Error Probable of 10 meters, significantly improving precision in defense operations.
- ✓ The project focuses on enhancing accuracy and lethality using guidance systems and advanced technologies.
- ✓ The 155mm Indian Smart Ammunition is compatible with existing artillery guns, featuring fin stabilization, canard control, and a 3-mode fuse operation for various tactical requirements, marking a crucial stride towards self-reliance in defense production.

Q. Which Indian celebrity was recently granted the 'Golden Visa' of UAE?

- A) Anand Kumar
- B) Manoj Bajpayee
- C) Pankaj Tripathi
- D) Prashant Kishore

Answer : A

- ✓ Recently, Super 30 founder Anand Kumar has been granted 'Golden Visa' by the United Arab Emirates government.
- ✓ Earlier, Indian celebrities like Bollywood actors Shahrukh Khan, Salman Khan and Sanjay Dutt have got this special visa.
- ✓ Anand has been running his Super 30 program in Patna since 2002.
- ✓ In the year 2023, he was awarded the Padma Shri, the fourth highest civilian award by the Government of India



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

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

Answer : A

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

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

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

Answer : B

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

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

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

Answer : A

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



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

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

Answer : D

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

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

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

Answer : B

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

HDFC BANK IN NEWS 2023-24

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



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

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

A) 2025

B) 2026

C) 2027

D) 2028

Answer : A

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

MICROSOFT IN NEWS 2023-24

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



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

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

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

Answer : D

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



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

SUMMIT & CONFERENCE IN NEWS 2023- 24

- Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar inaugurates World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS 2024) in Delhi.
- WSDS 2024 is the 23rd edition of the summit.
- WSDS 2024 will take place on the theme 'Leadership for the Sustainable Development and Climate Justice
- 54th annual meeting of the World Economic Forum (WEF) is being held in Davos, Switzerland from 15 January 2024.
- Theme of 54th meeting of WEF: 'Rebuilding Trust'.
- India launched Global Good Alliance for Gender Equity and Equality, at the World Economic Forum Summit at Davos, Switzerland, held from 15-19 January 2024.
- Prime Minister Modi inaugurated the 10th Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit- 2024 at Mahatma Mandir, Gandhinagar, on 10 January 2024.
- Theme of 10th Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit- 2024: 'Gateway to the Future'.
- India has been selected for the first time to chair and host the 46th session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee.
- The 46th session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee will be held in New Delhi between 21 and 31 July 2024.
- Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates joined BRICS as new full members. This group has now become an organization of 10 countries.
- Russia's tenure as Chairman of BRICS begins from January 1, 2024.
- 27th WAIPA World Investment Conference (WIC) started on 11 December 2023 in New Delhi
- India Internet Governance Forum 2023 (IIGF-2023) will be organized on 5 December 2023 in New Delhi.



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- India is going to organize a three-day (4 to 6 December) Global Technology Summit (GTS) from 4 December 2023

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Support to Students for Participating in Competitions Abroad (SSPCA) Initiative:

- 1. It is an initiative of the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE).**
- 2. It provides financial assistance to students to partake in international competitions.**

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

- ✓ All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) recently introduced a scheme named 'Support to Students for Participating in Competitions Abroad' (SSPCA).
- ✓ About Support to Students for Participating in Competitions Abroad (SSPCA) Initiative:
- ✓ It is an initiative of the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) aimed at bolstering the global competitiveness of Indian students in technical education.
- ✓ It is designed to financially support students aspiring to compete in international scientific events.
- ✓ Financial Assistance and Mentorship:
- ✓ Under the SSPCA scheme, individual students or student teams are eligible to receive travel grants to partake in international competitions.
- ✓ The assistance encompasses financial aid, mentorship, logistical support, and networking opportunities, enabling students to represent India on a global platform effectively.
- ✓ Financial aid provided by the AICTE scheme reaches up to Rs 2 lakh per student, covering various expenses like international and domestic travel, registration fees, visa applications, accommodation, airport taxes, travel insurance, and equipment costs related to the competition.
- ✓ Eligibility:
- ✓ Eligibility extends to students enrolled in diploma, BE/BTech, integrated MTech, and ME/MTech programs in AICTE-approved institutions.
- ✓ Each team of students is eligible for financial support under the scheme once during their course of study.



SCHEME IN NEWS 2024

- 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. In which country will the 7th 'Indian Ocean Conference' be organized?

- A) India
- B) Maldives
- C) Thailand
- D) Australia

Answer : D

- ✓ India's Foreign Minister Dr. S Jaishankar will address the inaugural session of the 7th Indian Ocean Conference in Perth, Australia.
- ✓ Ministers from more than 22 countries and senior officials from 16 countries and 6 multilateral organizations will participate in this conference.
- ✓ The theme of this conference is "Towards a Stable and Sustainable Indian Ocean".

Q. With reference to Ajanta and Ellora Caves, consider the following statements:

1. They rock-cut caves with sculptures, paintings and frescoes.
2. The Kailash Temple is one of the caves at Ajanta.



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3. They are designated as UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

How many of the above statements are correct?

A) Only one

B) Only two

C) All three

D) None

Answer : B

- ✓ The Ministry of Tourism recently included the UNESCO World Heritage sites of Ajanta and Ellora caves in Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar in its Swadesh Darshan Scheme II.
- ✓ About Ajanta and Ellora Caves:
- ✓ Ajanta and Ellora caves, considered to be one of the finest examples of ancient rock-cut caves, are located in Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar in Maharashtra.
- ✓ The Ajanta and Ellora cave complex is adorned with beautiful sculptures, paintings, and frescoes and includes Buddhist monasteries, Hindu and Jain temples.
- ✓ The Kailash Temple in Ellora is an architectural marvel. It is one of the largest monolithic structures in the world.
- ✓ The structure is carved vertically from a single rock. It took 18 years to carve out the temple.
- ✓ They are designated as UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Production linked incentive scheme for the white goods:

1. It is launched by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

2. The company which is getting benefits under any other PLI Scheme of Government of India are also eligible under this scheme.

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

- ✓ An official statement said that applications of certain companies for claiming incentives under the production linked incentive (PLI) scheme for the white goods (Air Conditioners and LED Lights) are under examination and there is no delay in disbursement.



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- ✓ It is designed to create a complete component ecosystem for Air Conditioners and LED Lights Industry in India and make India an integral part of the global supply chains.
- ✓ The scheme was notified by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- ✓ The scheme will be implemented as a pan India scheme and is not specific to any location, area or segment of population.
- ✓ Objectives: It proposes a financial incentive to boost domestic manufacturing and attract large investments in the White Goods manufacturing value chain. Its prime objectives include removing sectoral disabilities, creating economies of scale, enhancing exports, creating a robust component ecosystem and employment generation.
- ✓ Incentives: The scheme will extend an incentive of 4-6% on incremental turnover over base year (2019-20) of goods sold in India and exported to global markets, to eligible companies for a period of 5 years.
- ✓ Any entity availing benefits under any other PLI Scheme of Govt. of India will not be eligible under this scheme for same products.
- ✓ Time period: It is to be implemented over FY 2021-22 to FY 2028-29.

Q. With reference to Kilkari programme, consider the following statements:

- 1. It is an interactive voice response based mobile health service.**
- 2. It is centrally hosted by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.**
- 3. It is launched to provide health related information to old age people.**

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer : B

- ✓ Recently the union Ministers of State for Health and Family Welfare virtually launched the Kilkari programme, a Mobile Health (m-health) initiative for beneficiaries in local content in Gujarat and Maharashtra.
- ✓ 'Kilkari' (meaning 'a baby's gurgle'), is a centralized interactive voice response (IVR) based mobile health service.
- ✓ Features



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

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

A) Rajasthan

B) Madhya Pradesh

C) Gujarat

D) Haryana

Answer : C

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

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

A) 2030

B) 2035

C) 2028

D) 2026



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Answer : A

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

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

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

Answer : B

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



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

A) Innovation

B) Intervention

C) Insurance

D) Inclusive

Answer : B

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

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

A) HDFC Bank

B) Yes Bank

C) ICICI Bank

D) Axis Bank

Answer : A

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

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

A) Yes Bank

B) Axis Bank

C) HDFC Bank

D) ICICI Bank



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Answer : B

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

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

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

Answer : B

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



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Q. Who has been honored with the ‘Outstanding Business Woman of the Year 2023’ award by the Defence Minister Rajnath Singh?

A) Bina Modi

B) Rima Modi

C) Rishika Modi

D) Anupama Modi

Answer : A

- ✓ Dr. Bina Modi selected as ‘Outstanding Business Woman of the Year 2023’
- ✓ Chairperson of Modi Enterprises, Dr. Bina Modi has been honored with the ‘Outstanding Business Woman of the Year 2023’ award by the Defence Minister of India, Rajnath Singh.
- ✓ The award, presented to her at a prestigious conference by the Indo-American Chamber of Commerce (IACC) on ‘Strengthening Indo-US Relationship in Amritkal-Aatmanirbhar Bharat.
- ✓ Dr. Bina Modi, the Chairperson of Modi Enterprises – KK Modi Group, also heads the Group’s FMCG giant Godfrey Phillips India and one of India’s agro-chemical leaders, Indofil, as the Chairperson and Managing Director.

Q. Which state government has launched a welfare scheme “Mahtari Vandan Yojana” to provide financial assistance for married women?

A) Bihar

B) Jharkhand

C) Chhattisgarh

D) Madhya Pradesh

Answer : C

- ✓ Chhattisgarh government has launched a welfare scheme “Mahtari Vandan Yojana”.
- ✓ Under the scheme, government will provide Rs 1,000 financial assistance for married women.
- ✓ Under the scheme, Rs 1,000 per month — i.e. Rs 12,000 per annum — will be sent into the bank accounts of married women accounts through DBT (Direct Benefit Transfer).
- ✓ The married women who are a domicile of Chhattisgarh and aged above 21 years as on January 1, 2024, will be eligible to avail benefit of the scheme.
- ✓ Besides them, widows, divorced and abandoned women will also be eligible to avail its benefit if they fulfil the criteria.
- ✓ The scheme is aimed at eliminating discrimination against women and to improve their health and nutrition level.



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

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

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

Answer : D

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

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

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

Answer : A

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



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

A) Haryana

B) Rajasthan

C) Maharashtra

D) Uttar Pradesh

Answer : C

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

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

A) Himachal Pradesh

B) Uttarakhand

C) Arunachal Pradesh

D) Sikkim

Answer : C

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

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

A) Eritrea

B) El Salvador

C) Scotland

D) Finland

Answer : B

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



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- ✓ About El Salvador
- ✓ Capital : San Salvador
- ✓ Currencies : Bitcoin, United States Dollar
- ✓ President : Nayib Bukele

Q. State Bank of India (SBI) has reported a drop in net profit for the first time in 12 quarters, with its third quarter (Q3FY24) standalone net profit declining how much per cent year-on-year (yoy) to ₹9,164 crore?

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| A) 35.5% | B) 55.5% |
| C) 40.5% | D) 25.5% |

Answer : A

- ✓ State Bank of India (SBI) has reported a drop in net profit for the first time in 12 quarters, with its third quarter (Q3FY24) standalone net profit declining 35.5 per cent year-on-year (yoy) to ₹9,164 crore.
- ✓ As it absorbed one-time provisions relating to increase in pension liabilities and dearness relief neutralisation.
- ✓ India's largest bank had reported a net profit of ₹14,205 crore in Q3 FY 2023.
- ✓ Capital adequacy ratio (CAR) declined to 13.05 per cent in Q3FY24 from 14.28 per cent in Q2FY24.

Q. Ahmed Awad bin Mubarak has been elected the new Prime Minister of which country?

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| A) Sudan | B) Yemen |
| C) Oman | D) Ghana |

Answer : B

- ✓ Yemen Appoints Ahmed Awad bin Mubarak as New Prime Minister
- ✓ Yemen's Presidential Leadership Council has appointed its foreign minister Ahmed Awad bin Mubarak as the country's new prime minister.
- ✓ Outgoing PM Maeen Abdulmalik Saeed will take on the role of an advisor to the Chairman of the Presidential Leadership Council.
- ✓ About Yemen
- ✓ Capital : Sana'a
- ✓ Currency : Yemeni Rial
- ✓ Prime Minister : Ahmed Awad bin Mubarak



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

A) March 2026

B) December 2025

C) December 2026

D) June 2025

Answer : A

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

Q. Mir Mohammad Farooq Nazki died. Who was he

A) Historian

B) Social Worker

C) Politician

D) Poet

Answer : D

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



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Q. Consider the following statements regarding the SARTHI Platform:

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

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A) 1 only

B) 2 only

C) Both 1 and 2

D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer : C

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

APP & PORTAL IN NEWS 2023 -24

- Agriculture minister launches Sarathi portal for insurance products.
- GHAR - GO Home and Re-Unite Portal have been developed and launched by the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR).
- Union Minister of Coal, Mines and Parliamentary Affairs launched a web portal of Coal Mines Provident Fund Organization (CMPFO) namely C- CARES.
- About C- CARES Portal:
 - It is developed and designed by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC).
 - Ministry of Communications launched the "Bharat 5G Portal- an integrated portal" on the sidelines of 'Bharat Telecom 2024'.
- About Bharat 5G Portal:



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- It is a comprehensive platform serving the interests of startups, industry and academia in quantum, 6G, IPR and 5G domains
- Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) launched the MPLADS e-SAKSHI Mobile Application.
- About e-SAKSHI Application:
- It was launched for revised fund flow procedure under Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLAD) Scheme.
- National Surveillance Programme for Aquatic Animal Diseases (NSPAAD) project has introduced a mobile app 'Report Fish Disease' to track and monitor fish diseases across the country

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

A) Etihad Airways

B) Tata Group

C) Samsung

D) Qatar Airways

Answer : A

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

SPONSOR IN NEWS 2023-24

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

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

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

A) SEBI

B) NPCI

C) NHAI

D) IRDAI

Answer : C

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

NHAI IN NEWS 2023- 24

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



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

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

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

Answer : D

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



NEWLY PRIME MINISTER IN NEWS

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

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

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

Answer : C

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

BECAME FIRST STATE IN NEWS 2023-24

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



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

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

A) 6.0%

B) 6.25%

C) 6.5%

D) 6.75%

Answer : C

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



MONETARY POLICY COMMITTEE (MPC)

- The Monetary Policy Committee is a statutory and institutionalized framework under the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, for maintaining price stability, while keeping in mind the objective of growth.
- An RBI-appointed committee led by the then deputy governor Urjit Patel in 2014 recommended the establishment of the Monetary Policy Committee.
- The Governor of RBI is ex-officio Chairman of the committee.
- The committee comprises six members (including the Chairman) - three officials of the RBI and three external members nominated by the Government of India.
- The MPC determines the policy interest rate (repo rate) required to achieve the inflation target (4%).
- Six-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) .
- $3 \text{ (RBI)} + 3 \text{ (Govt of India)} = 6$
- Three members from RBI Side are Rajiv Ranjan, Debabrata Patra and Shri Shaktikanta Das.
- Three members from Govt of India Side : Ashima Goyal, Jayanth R Varma and Shashanka Bhide
- Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) has been constituted by the Central Government under Section 45ZB of RBI Act, 1934.
- Meetings of Monetary Policy Committee
- To achieve the objective of Monetary Policy, the MPC conducts meetings. As per the RBI Act, 1934, RBI has to conduct at least four meetings of the Monetary Policy Committee in a year.
- Presently, the Monetary Policy Committee meeting is conducted once in every 2 months i.e. 6 times in a year.
- The quorum for the meeting of this Monetary Policy Committee shall be four Members.
- Minutes of MPC meet : The Reserve Bank of India shall publish, on the fourteenth day after every meeting of the Monetary Policy Committee the minutes of the meeting.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Open Network Digital Commerce:

- 1. It is an open-source network set up to democratise electronic commerce.**
- 2. It was established by the union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.**

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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



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Answer : A

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

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Zircon Missile:

1. It is a supersonic ballistic missile.

2. It is developed by Russia.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A) 1 only

B) 2 only

C) Both 1 and 2

D) Neither 1 nor 2



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Answer : B

- ✓ In an attempt to hit a target in Kyiv, Russian forces launched a 3M22 Zircon missile recently.
- ✓ About Zircon Missile:
- ✓ The 3M22 Zircon, or SS-N-33, is a scramjet-powered maneuvering anti-ship hypersonic cruise missile developed in Russia.
- ✓ Features:
- ✓ The missile is reportedly capable of flying with speeds up to Mach 9 and a range of 1000 km.
- ✓ It's a two-stage missile that uses solid fuel in the first stage and a scramjet motor in the second stage.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the DigiReady Certification:

1. It is an initiative of the NITI Aayog.
2. It aims to certify digital readiness of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) entities.

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

- ✓ Recently, the Quality Council of India (QCI) and Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) announced the launch of the DigiReady Certification (DRC) portal.
- ✓ In this initiative, QCI, in conjunction with ONDC, aim to assess and certify digital readiness of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) entities.
- ✓ By leveraging this online self-assessment tool, MSMEs can evaluate their preparedness to seamlessly onboard as sellers on the ONDC platform, thereby expanding their digital capabilities and business potential.

Q. With reference to Pradhan Mantri Matsya Kisan Samridhi Sah-Yojana, consider the following statements:

1. It is a Central Sector Sub-scheme under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana.
2. It aims to formalize the unorganized fisheries sector through self registration of fishers.
3. It is funded by the World Bank.

How many of the statements given above are correct?



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A) Only one

B) Only two

C) All three

D) None

Answer : C

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

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Aadi Mahotsav:

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



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Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A) 1 only

B) 2 only

C) Both 1 and 2

D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer : C

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

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

A) Naveen Tahiliani

B) Prateek Pal

C) Rana Kapoor

D) Vinay Kumar Singh

Answer : A

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

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

A) Nima Sarikhani

B) Dorothea Lange

C) Atul Kasbekar

D) Farhan Qurashi

Answer : A

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



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- ✓ The portrait titled 'Ice Bed' has been clicked by British amateur photographer Nima Sarikhani.
- ✓ His photo was crowned as champion following a contest in which a record 75,000 people voted.

Q. Where will the World Government Summit 2024 be organized?

- A) New Delhi
- B) Dubai
- C) London
- D) Paris

Answer : B

- ✓ The World Government Summit 2024 will be organized in Dubai between 12-14 February.
- ✓ Heads or representatives of more than 25 countries around the world will participate in this conference.
- ✓ This year India, Turkey and Qatar have been invited as guest countries.
- ✓ PM Modi will participate in this conference from India's side. This year's theme is 'Shaping Future Governments'.

Q. Who is the chairman of 'One Nation One Election' committee?

- A) Ram Nath Kovind
- B) Mohammad Hamid Ansari
- C) Dr. Manmohan Singh
- D) Amitabh Kant

Answer : A

- ✓ 'One Nation One Election' Committee Chairman Ram Nath Kovind held a consultation meeting with members of Republican Party of India-Athawale (RPI) and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) in New Delhi.
- ✓ In September 2023, the central government formed this committee under the leadership of former President Ramnath Kovind.

Q. With whom has the Maharashtra government signed an agreement for the use of AI in sectors like health and education?

- A) Google
- B) Tesla
- C) Microsoft
- D) Meta

Answer : A

- ✓ Maharashtra government has signed an MoU with Google to use Artificial Intelligence (AI) for solutions in sectors like health, education and agriculture.
- ✓ The MoU was signed at Google's Pune office in the presence of Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis.



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

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

Answer : B

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

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

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

Answer : A

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

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

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

Answer : D

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



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

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

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

Answer : D

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

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

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

Answer : B

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



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

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

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

Answer : A

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

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

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

Answer : C

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



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

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

- A) Ajit Doval
B) Amit Shah
C) Anil Chauhan
D) S Jaishankar

Answer : C

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

Q. When is World Pulses Day celebrated?

- A) February 10
B) February 8
C) February 9
D) February 11

Answer : A

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



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

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

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

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A) 1 only

B) 2 only

C) Both 1 and 2

D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer : C

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



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

AIRPORT IN NEWS 2023-24

- Supreme Court recently agreed to hear a curative petition filed by the Airports Authority of India (AAI) against the multinational conglomerate GMR Group concerning the operational management of Nagpur's Babasaheb Ambedkar International Airport.
- So far, 519 air routes are being operated across the country under the regional level air connectivity scheme (RCS) 'Ude Deshka Aam Nagrik' (UdeDeshkaAamNagrik-UDAN).
- Government of India has officially given the status of 'International Airport' to Surat Airport in Gujarat.
- Thiruvananthapuram Airport Honored with Excellence Award for its Quality Initiatives.
- Bengaluru and Delhi Airports have jointly bagged the 'Best Airport of the Year' at the Wings India Awards 2024 in the Civil Aviation Sector.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated a new terminal building at Tiruchirappalli International Airport in Tamil Nadu.
- Union Cabinet has approved the proposal to declare Surat Airport an international airport.
- 58 Airports in the country have been covered under Krishi Udan Scheme.
- Deoghar Airport in Jharkhand is the first airport in the country to land a commercial aircraft in low visibility.
- Larsen and Toubro (L&T) Construction have secured a large order to construct the greenfield Bhogapuram International Airport project in Andhra Pradesh.
- The largest airport in the world is the King Fahd International Airport, located in Dammam, Saudi Arabia which covers an area of about 300 sq.
- Minister of Civil Aviation, Shri Jyotiraditya M Scindia inaugurated Utkela Airport owned by the Government of Odisha.
- Guwahati's Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport became the first airport in the northeast to get 'Digi Yatra' facility.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate Gujarat's first greenfield airport at Hirasar near Rajkot.



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

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

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

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer : B

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



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

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

Q. Who will be the next President of Finland?

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

Answer : B

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

NEWLY PRESIDENT IN NEWS 2023-24

- Alexander Stubb : Finland
- Azali Assoumani : Comoros
- Bernardo Arevalo : Guatemala
- William Lai : Taiwan
- Abdel Fatah al-Sisi : Egypt
- Daniel Noboa : Ecuador
- Mohammed Muizzu : Maldives
- Bharatvanshi Tharman Shanmugaratnam : Singapore
- Emmerson Mnangagwa : Zimbabwe
- Edgars Rinkevics : Latvian
- Tayyip Erdogan : Turkey
- Bola Tinubu : Nigeria
- Mohammed Shahabuddin Chuppu : Bangladesh



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

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

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

Answer : B

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

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

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

Answer : C

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

IREDA IN NEWS 2023-24

- IREDA has entered into an agreement with IIT Bhubaneswar to promote innovation and research in the renewable energy sector.
- Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) Launches 'Pahal' Vigilance Journal
- IREDA Declared 2024 as 'Year of HR Development and Discipline'
- IREDA CMD Pradip Kumar Das bagged 'CMD of the Year' award
- Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) launched a Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) portal to improve transparency in CSR initiatives.



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

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

A) Brazil and Argentina

B) Japan and South Korea

C) Sri Lanka and Mauritius

D) USA and Bahrain

Answer : C

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



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Q. Which country won the title of ICC Under-19 World Cup 2024?

- A) India
B) Sri Lanka
C) Australia
D) South Africa

Answer : C

- ✓ Defending champion Australia won the title by defeating India in the final of ICC Under-19 World Cup 2024.
- ✓ This is the fourth time that Australia has won this title.
- ✓ This is the third consecutive time that Australia defeated India in the final.
- ✓ The most runs in the tournament were scored by India's Uday Saharan (397 runs) and the most wickets were taken by South Africa's Kwena Mafaka (21 wickets).

Q. With reference to the Bochasanwasi Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha (BAPS), consider the following statements:

1. It is a socio-spiritual Hindu faith with its roots in the Vedas.
2. It was founded on the pillars of practical spirituality.
3. It has a Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer : C

- ✓ Prime Minister will inaugurate the Bochasanwasi Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha BAPS Mandir, the first Hindu temple in Abu Dhabi.
- ✓ About Bochasanwasi Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha (BAPS):
- ✓ BAPS is a socio-spiritual Hindu faith with its roots in the Vedas.
- ✓ It is based on the Vedic teachings propagated by Bhagwan Swaminarayan (1781-1830 CE).
- ✓ It was formally established in 1907 CE by Brahmaswarup Shastriji Maharaj.
- ✓ BAPS is an NGO with a Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations



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Q. With reference to the Unified Payments Interface (UPI), consider the following statements:

- 1. It was developed by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).**
- 2. It enables inter-bank transfers through a single two-click factor authentication process.**
- 3. It is not available outside India.**

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer : B

- ✓ India's Unified Payment Interface (UPI) services will be rolled out in Sri Lanka and Mauritius at a virtual ceremony.
- ✓ About Unified Payments Interface (UPI):
- ✓ The UPI is a digital and real-time payment system developed by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) and regulated by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- ✓ It was launched on April 11, 2016.
- ✓ It is designed to enable peer-to-peer inter-bank transfers through a single two-click factor authentication process.
- ✓ Features:
- ✓ Unlike traditional methods, UPI simplifies transfers using the recipient's UPI ID, be it a mobile number, QR code, or Virtual Payment Address, eliminating account numbers.
- ✓ It eliminates the need to enter bank details or other sensitive information each time a customer initiates a transaction.
- ✓ A consistent UPI transaction PIN across apps enhances cross-operability, enabling 24/7 transactions.
- ✓ UPI uses technologies like the Immediate Payment Service (IMPS) and the Aadhaar-Enabled Payment System (AEPS) to ensure that payments between accounts go smoothly.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Telecom Technology Development Fund (TTDF) scheme:

- 1. It funds research and development in rural-specific communication technology applications.**
- 2. It was launched by the Universal Service Obligation Fund.**

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?



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A) 1 only

B) 2 only

C) Both 1 and 2

D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer : C

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

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

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

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A) 1 only

B) 2 only

C) Both 1 and 2

D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer : C

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



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

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

Answer : A

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

MISS WORLD / UNIVERSE IN NEWS 2023

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



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

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

(i) Juspay

(ii) Zoho

(iii) Instamojo

(iv) Freecharge

(v) Decentro

A) only i & ii

B) only ii & iii

C) only i, ii & v

D) only i, ii & iv

Answer : C

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



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- ✓ Fintech firms Juspay and Decentro and software-as-a-service company Zoho have received the final authorisation from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to operate as payment aggregators.
- ✓ With this, the three players join the likes of Stripe, Zomato and Tata Pay who were a part of the regulator's approval list in January, besides fintech majors like Razorpay and Cashfree who secured the licence last year.
- ✓ A payments aggregator, or PA, licence allows companies to provide payment services to merchants (online businesses or e-commerce firms) by accepting payment instruments from customers
- ✓ Instamojo, Paytm Payments Services, Freecharge were among many players whose applications were returned as they failed to fulfil the eligibility criteria and were directed to halt new merchant onboarding.
- ✓ fintech major PhonePe, Infibeam, Pine Labs and Easebuzz, await the final nod after being granted the in-principal approval, while application of Cred (Dreamplug Paytech) and PayU remain under process

Q. The Employees' Provident Fund Organization (EPFO) has fixed how much percent interest rate on provident fund deposits for 2023-24, the highest in three years?

- A) 8.15%
- B) 8.25%
- C) 8.45%
- D) 8.65%

Answer : B

- ✓ The Employees' Provident Fund Organization (EPFO) has fixed 8.25% interest rate on provident fund deposits for 2023-24, the highest in three years.
- ✓ For 2022-23, the retirement fund body offered 8.15% interest, higher than 8.10% in 2021-22.
- ✓ In March 2020, the EPFO reduced the interest rate on provident fund deposits to a seven-year low of 8.5 percent for 2019-20, down from 8.65 percent in 2018-19.
- ✓ About Employees' Provident Fund Organization (EPFO)
- ✓ Founded – 1952
- ✓ Headquarters – New Delhi
- ✓ EPFO is the statutory body under the ownership of Ministry of Labour and Employment

Q. Who has been appointed as the new brand ambassador of The Fit India movement, a flagship initiative by the Government of India?

- A) Narendra Kumar Yadav
- B) Narendra Modi
- C) Neeraj Chopra
- D) Virat Kohli



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Answer : A

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

LATEST BRAND AMBASSADOR IN NEWS 2023-24

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



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



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

A) Israel

B) France

C) Brazil

D) Russia

Answer : C

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

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

A) IIT Delhi

B) IIT Madras

C) National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences

D) AIIMS Delhi

Answer : C

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



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

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

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

Answer : D

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

NEERAJ CHOPRA IN NEWS 2023-24

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



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

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

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

Answer : D

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



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

A) 2nd

B) 3rd

C) 4th

D) 5th

Answer : B

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

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

A) 13 February

B) 11 February

C) 10 February

D) 12 February

Answer : D

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



Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the Bharat Ratna:

- 1. It is the highest civilian award in the country.**
- 2. The number of annual awards is restricted to a maximum of three in a particular year.**
- 3. The award carries a monetary grant of rupees one crore.**

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer : A

- ✓ Statement 1 is correct: Bharat Ratna, the country's highest civilian award instituted in 1954, is given in recognition of exceptional service and performance of the highest order in any field of human endeavour. Any person without distinction of race, occupation, position or sex is eligible for this award.
- ✓ Statement 2 is incorrect: The recommendations for Bharat Ratna are made by the Prime Minister to the President. The number of annual awards is usually restricted to a maximum of three in a particular year. However, in 2024, it was awarded to five people.
- ✓ Statement 3 is incorrect: On conferment of the award, the recipient receives a Sanad (certificate) signed by the President and a medallion. The award does not carry any monetary grant. The award cannot be used as a prefix or suffix to the recipient's name. However, should an award winner consider it necessary, he or she may use the following expression in their biodata or letterhead or visiting card etc. to indicate that he or she is a recipient of the award: 'Awarded Bharat Ratna by the President' or 'Recipient of Bharat Ratna Award'.

Q. Dr. MS Swaminathan will be awarded Bharat Ratna, he was a famous person in which field?

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| A) Agriculture | B) Journalism |
| C) Acting | D) Medical |

Answer : A

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that former Prime Ministers PV Narasimha Rao, Chaudhary Charan Singh, and scientist Dr MS Swaminathan will be awarded the Bharat Ratna 2024
- ✓ About Chaudhary Charan Singh
- ✓ Born in 1902 at Noorpur in Meerut district of Uttar Pradesh, Charan Singh served as the prime minister in 1979.



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



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

AWARDS AND HONOURS IN NEWS 2023- 24

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



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



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

- A) New Delhi
B) Varanasi
C) Haridwar
D) Dehradun

Answer : D

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

STATUE IN NEWS 2023-24

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



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

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

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

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A) 1 only

B) 2 only

C) Both 1 and 2

D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer : A

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



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

APP & PORTAL IN NEWS 2023 -24

- Greening and Restoration of Wasteland with Agroforestry (GROW) report and "Greening and Restoration of Wasteland with Agroforestry (GROW)-Suitability Mapping" portal was launched by NITI Aayog.
- Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government of India launched "Science for Women-A Technology & Innovation (SWATI)" Portal.
- Agriculture minister launches Sarathi portal for insurance products.
- GHAR - GO Home and Re-Unite Portal have been developed and launched by the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR).
- Union Minister of Coal, Mines and Parliamentary Affairs launched a web portal of Coal Mines Provident Fund Organization (CMPFO) namely C- CARES.
- About C- CARES Portal:
- It is developed and designed by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC).
- Ministry of Communications launched the "Bharat 5G Portal- an integrated portal" on the sidelines of 'Bharat Telecom 2024'.
- About Bharat 5G Portal:
- It is a comprehensive platform serving the interests of startups, industry and academia in quantum, 6G, IPR and 5G domains
- Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) launched the MPLADS e-SAKSHI Mobile Application.
- About e-SAKSHI Application:
- It was launched for revised fund flow procedure under Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLAD) Scheme.
- National Surveillance Programme for Aquatic Animal Diseases (NSPAAD) project has introduced a mobile app 'Report Fish Disease' to track and monitor fish diseases across the country



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Q. The Bor Tiger Reserve is located in:

A) Odisha

B) Assam

C) Maharashtra

D) Bihar

Answer : C

- ✓ The Bor Tiger Reserve (BTR) recently sought Rs 1 crore for various works to start wildlife safaris in the Bangdapur and Hingni forest ranges.
- ✓ About Bor Tiger Reserve:
 - ✓ It is a wildlife sanctuary which was declared a tiger reserve in July 2014.
 - ✓ Location: It is located in the Wardha District of Maharashtra.
 - ✓ It is the smallest tiger reserve in India by area.
 - ✓ The reserve covers an area of 138.12 sq.km, which includes the drainage basin of the Bor Dam.
 - ✓ It is centrally located among several other Bengal Tiger habitats.
 - ✓ Towards the North-east lies the Pench Tiger Reserve, towards the east is Nagzira Navegaon Tiger Reserve, to the South-east is Karhandla Wildlife Sanctuary.
 - ✓ The Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve is located to the southeast, Melghat Tiger Reserve stands to the west; and Satpura Tiger Reserve lies to the north-west.

TIGER RESERVE IN NEWS 2023-24

- Pench Tiger Reserve of Maharashtra has become India's first and Asia's fifth tiger reserve with 'Dark Sky Park'.
- Arunachal Pradesh approves constitution of Special Tiger Protection Force for three Tiger Reserves.
- Bihar's second tiger reserve to come up in Kaimur sanctuary
- After the Valmiki Tiger Reserve (VTR) in West Champaran district, Bihar is set to get a second tiger reserve in Kaimur district (Kaimur Wildlife Sanctuary) by the end of the year.
- Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve becomes the 7th tiger reserve of Madhya Pradesh and 55th in India.
- India got its 54th tiger reserve in Rajasthan's Karauli and Dholpur districts with the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) approving a proposal.
- India's Tiger Population Reaches 3,925 with 6.1% Annual Growth Rate, Holds 75% of Global Wild Tiger Population.



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

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the SWATI Portal:

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer : A

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

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

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer : A



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

SCHEME IN NEWS 2024

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



- 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. Consider the following statements regarding the Open Radio Access Network:

- 1. It uses cellular radio connections to link individual devices to other.**
- 2. It consists of antennae, which transmits and receives signals to and from smartphones.**

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer : C

- ✓ The Ministry of Science and Technology announced the development of a new technological solution tailored for Open Radio Access Network (ORAN) based stations.
- ✓ It is a key part of a mobile network system that uses cellular radio connections to link individual devices to other parts of a network.
- ✓ It comprises antennae, which transmits and receives signals to and from our smartphones or other compatible devices.
- ✓ The signal is then digitised in the RAN-base station and connected to the network.
- ✓ A new niche technological solution for Open Radio Access Network (ORAN) base stations will help to facilitate high-speed and reliable connectivity at a cost that is viable for unconnected and far-flung areas
- ✓ The breaking down of the Radio Access Network (RAN) functions help in bringing down network cost and complexity.
- ✓ Open RAN removes vendor lock-in and can facilitate smooth interoperation between cellular network equipment provided by different vendors

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the FAST Telescope:

- 1. It aims to detect neutral hydrogen to the edge of the universe.**
- 2. It is developed by Russia.**

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A) 1 only B) 2 only



C) Both 1 and 2

D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer : A

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

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

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

How many of the statements given above are correct?

A) Only one

B) Only two

C) All three

D) None

Answer : C

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



- ✓ The cost of operating HAPS is several times lower than that of a satellite that is usually placed at least 200 km from the earth.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana:

1. It aims to reduce wastage of agricultural produce and enhance export of processed foods.
2. It is implemented by the Union Ministry of Food Processing Industries.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer : C

- ✓ Recently, the union Minister of State for Food Processing Industries informed the Rajya Sabha about the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana.
- ✓ The Central Sector Scheme - SAMPADA (Scheme for Agro-Marine Processing and Development of Agro-Processing Clusters) was approved by the cabinet in May 2017.
- ✓ The scheme has now been renamed as the "Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY)".
- ✓ It is a comprehensive package of component schemes, which is aimed at creation of modern infrastructure with efficient supply chain management from farm gate to retail outlet.
- ✓ It provides a boost to the growth of food processing sector in the country, helps in providing better prices to farmers, creates employment opportunities especially in the rural areas, reduces wastage of agricultural produce, increases the processing level and enhances the export of the processed foods.
- ✓ Objective: The objective of PMKSY is to supplement agriculture, modernize processing and decrease Agri-Waste.
- ✓ Food Safety and Quality Assurance Infrastructure and
- ✓ Human Resources and Institutions
- ✓ Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Food Processing Industries

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Consumer Price Index (CPI):

1. It tracks the change in retail prices of goods and services.
2. It is released every month by the National Statistical Office (NSO).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A) 1 only
- B) 2 only



C) Both 1 and 2

D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer : C

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

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

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?



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A) 1 only

B) 2 only

C) Both 1 and 2

D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer : A

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

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

A) Draupadi Murmu

B) Narendra Modi

C) Rajnath Singh

D) S Jaishankar



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Answer : B

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana.
- ✓ Under this scheme, up to 300 units of free electricity will be provided to one crore houses.
- ✓ More than ₹75,000 crore will be spent on this scheme.
- ✓ The plan to install solar panels was announced by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman during the interim budget of 2024-25.

Q. Recently Dattajiro Krishnarao Gaekwad passed away, he was associated with which sport?

- A) football B) Cricket
C) Hockey D) Badminton

Answer : B

- ✓ Former Indian captain Dattajiro Krishnarao Gaekwad passed away recently.
- ✓ He was 95 years old. Before his death he was known as the oldest living Indian cricketer.
- ✓ Gaikwad represented Baroda in first-class cricket and under his leadership the team won the Ranji title in the 1957–58 season.

Q. The National Women's Day is commemorated in India every year on February 13, to mark the birth anniversary of whom?

- A) Indira Gandhi B) Mother Teresa
C) Sarojini Naidu D) Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit

Answer : C

- ✓ National Women's Day is celebrated every year on 13 February in India.
- ✓ This day is celebrated to commemorate the birth anniversary of Sarojini Naidu.
- ✓ This time the 145th birth anniversary of Sarojini Naidu is being celebrated.
- ✓ Sarojini Naidu is known as 'Nightingale of India'.
- ✓ In 1925, she was appointed as the President of the Indian National Congress, and in 1947, she became the Governor of the United Provinces. In turn the first woman to hold the office of Governor in the Dominion of India.
- ✓ Sarojini Naidu is a renowned writer who gained worldwide recognition as "BulBule Hind" after publishing her collection of poems, "Golden Threshold," in 1905.



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

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

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

Answer : B

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



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✓ Secretary General : Fatma Samoura

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

A) 11 February

B) 13 February

C) 10 February

D) 12 February

Answer : B

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

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

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

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A) 1 only

B) 2 only

C) Both 1 and 2

D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer : C

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



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

RIL IN NEWS 2023- 24

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



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

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

- A) Switzerland B) United States of America
C) United Arab Emirates D) Singapore

Answer : C

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

UAE IN NEWS 2023-24

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



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



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

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

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

Answer : C

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



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

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

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

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A) 1 only

B) 2 only

C) Both 1 and 2

D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer : C

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



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

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

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A) 1 only

B) 2 only

C) Both 1 and 2

D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer : C

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

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

A) IIT Roorkee

B) IIT Delhi

C) IIT Mumbai

D) IIT Varanasi



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Answer : A

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

IIT IN NEWS 2023-24

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



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



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

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

A) Tamil Nadu

B) Kerala

C) Odisha

D) Karnataka

Answer : C

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

ODISHA IN NEWS 2023-24

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



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



- 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. United World Wrestling has recently revoked the suspension of which country's Wrestling Federation?

- A) India
B) Pakistan
C) Sri Lanka
D) Malaysia

Answer : A

- ✓ United World Wrestling has recently lifted the suspension of Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) with immediate effect.
- ✓ United World Wrestling had temporarily suspended the WFI on August 23 last year as the wrestling federation failed to conduct elections on time.
- ✓ United World Wrestling is the international governing body for the sport of wrestling.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species:

1. It is an environmental treaty under the aegis of the United Nations Environment Programme.
2. Its Appendix I lists species that have an 'unfavourable conservation status'.

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 Fourteenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (COP14) will be hosted by the Government of Uzbekistan, in Samarkand from 12-17 February 2024.
- ✓ It is also known as the Bonn Convention, is an environmental treaty under the aegis of the United Nations Environment Programme.



- ✓ It provides a global platform for the conservation and sustainable use of migratory animals and their habitats.
- ✓ It was signed in Bonn, Germany, on 23 June 1979.
- ✓ It is the only global and UN-based intergovernmental organisation established exclusively for the conservation and management of terrestrial, aquatic and avian migratory species throughout their range.
- ✓ The parties to the convention acknowledge the importance of conserving migratory species, and the need to pay special attention to species whose conservation status is unfavourable.
- ✓ Activities by CMS Parties may range from legally binding treaties (called Agreements) to less formal instruments, such as Memoranda of Understanding.
- ✓ The Conference of Parties (COP) is the decision-making organ of this convention.
- ✓ It has two Appendices.
- ✓ Appendix I lists endangered migratory species and includes prohibitions regarding the take of these species.
- ✓ Appendix II lists species that have an 'unfavourable conservation status' (as per the conditions set out in the Convention) and encourages range states to draft range-wide agreements for conservation and management of these species

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Swachhata Green Leaf Rating system:

- 1. It is a government-initiated rating system for the hospitality sector.**
- 2. It was launched by the NITI Aayog.**

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

- ✓ Swachhata Green Leaf Rating system for the hospitality sector yet to take off as there has been no response from States despite the Union Tourism Ministry sending three communiques so far.
- ✓ A government-initiated rating system for the hospitality sector which aims to ensure world-class hygiene and sanitation in hotels, resorts and homestays has become a non-starter with no State opting for it as of now.
- ✓ Objective: The objective is to prevent pollution in water bodies and keep the environment clean.



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

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

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

Answer : D

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

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

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

Answer : A

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



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

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

Answer : A

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

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

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

Answer : B

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

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

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



Answer : D

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

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Kaji Nemu:

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer : C

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



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GI TAG IN NEWS 2023-24

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



- The second GI tag in India was given to Aranmula Kannadi (Handicraft) which is a mirror and made in Kerala.
- A GI is registered for an initial period of ten years, which must be renewed after 10 years.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the National Programme on Advanced Chemistry Cell (ACC) Battery Storage:

1. It envisages setting up of a cumulative ACC manufacturing capacity of 50 GWh.

2. It is an initiative of the Ministry of Science and Technology.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A) 1 only

B) 2 only

C) Both 1 and 2

D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer : A

- ✓ Recently, the Ministry of Heavy Industries successfully convened a pre-bid meeting in New Delhi, laying the foundation for the second round under the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for Advanced Chemistry Cells (ACC) for cumulative 10 GWh PLI ACC capacity.
- ✓ These are the new generation technologies that can store electric energy either as electrochemical or as chemical energy and convert it back to electric energy as and when required.
- ✓ Key facts about PLI scheme for Advanced Chemistry Cells
- ✓ The scheme is called National Programme on Advanced Chemistry Cell (ACC) Battery Storage.
- ✓ The Indian government aims to promote the manufacturing of technology-agnostic ACCs within the country, aligning with its commitment to fostering innovation and self-reliance in the renewable energy sector.
- ✓ The scheme envisages setting up of a cumulative ACC manufacturing capacity of fifty (50) GWh for ACCs and an additional cumulative capacity of (5) GWh for Niche ACC Technologies.
- ✓ The manufacturing facility as proposed by the beneficiary firm would have to be commissioned within a period of 2 years.
- ✓ The subsidy will be disbursed thereafter over a period of 5 years.
- ✓ The beneficiary has to ensure achieving a domestic value addition of at-least 25% and incur the mandatory investment (₹ 225 crore /GWh) within 2 Years (at the Mother Unit Level) and raise it to 60% domestic



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

✓ Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Heavy Industries

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

A) IOCL

B) BPCL

C) Adani Green

D) Tata Power

Answer : B

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

AIRPORT IN NEWS 2023-24

- Cochin International Airport Limited has signed an agreement with Bharat Petroleum (BPCL) for the Green Hydrogen Project.
- Supreme Court recently agreed to hear a curative petition filed by the Airports Authority of India (AAI) against the multinational conglomerate GMR Group concerning the operational management of Nagpur's Babasaheb Ambedkar International Airport.
- So far, 519 air routes are being operated across the country under the regional level air connectivity scheme (RCS) 'Ude Deshka Aam Nagrik' (UdeDeshkaAamNagrik-UDAN).
- Government of India has officially given the status of 'International Airport' to Surat Airport in Gujarat.
- Thiruvananthapuram Airport Honored with Excellence Award for its Quality Initiatives.
- Bengaluru and Delhi Airports have jointly bagged the 'Best Airport of the Year' at the Wings India Awards 2024 in the Civil Aviation Sector.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated a new terminal building at Tiruchirappalli International Airport in Tamil Nadu.
- Union Cabinet has approved the proposal to declare Surat Airport an international airport.
- 58 Airports in the country have been covered under Krishi Udan Scheme.



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

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

A) Ranjit Kumar Aggarwal

B) Charanjot Singh Nanda

C) Abhinav Mukund Sharma

D) Vinay Kumar Singh

Answer : A

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

APPOINTMENT IN NEWS 2023-24

- The government has appointed Nina Singh as the first woman Director General of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF).
- Anil Kumar Lahoti Appointed Chairman Of TRAI.
- Daljit Singh Chaudhary appointed Director General of Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB).

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- Tshering Tobgay Re-Elected As Bhutan's Prime Minister.
- Senthil Pandian C as the new ambassador to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) in Geneva, succeeding Brajendra Navnit.
- India's seasoned diplomat, Ambassador Indra Mani Pandey, has officially become the Secretary General of BIMSTEC, succeeding Tenzin Lekphell from Bhutan.
- Ashwani Gupta Appointed as CEO of Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone
- Raghuram Iyer appointed as CEO of Indian Olympic Association
- Vikas Sheel appointed Executive Director, Asian Development Bank
- Sanjiv Aggarwal Appointed CEO and MD of National Investment and Infrastructure Fund Limited (NIIFL)
- Rashmi Shukla becomes Maharashtra's first woman Director General of Police
- P Santhosh Appointed as MD of National Asset Reconstruction Company (NARCL).
- Nadia Calvino Appointed as New President of the European Investment Bank
- Kia India Appoints Gwanggu Lee as New MD and CEO

Q. Consider the following:

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

How many of the above countries border the Baltic Sea?

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

Answer : C

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



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

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

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

Answer : D

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



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- ✓ The Cassini orbiter weighed 2,125 kg (4,685 pounds) and was 6.7 metres (22 feet) long and 4 metres (13 feet) wide.
- ✓ The instruments on board Cassini included radar to map the cloud-covered surface of Titan and a magnetometer to study Saturn's magnetic field.
- ✓ The disk-shaped Huygens probe was mounted on the side of Cassini. It weighed 349 kg (769 pounds), was 2.7 metres (8.9 feet) across, and carried six instruments designed to study the atmosphere and surface of Titan.
- ✓ It orbited Saturn from 2004 to 2017, circling the planet 294 times and teaching us almost everything we know about Saturn.

Q. With reference to the Pallava Dynasty, consider the following statements:

1. They were earlier feudatories of the Satavahanas.
2. They followed Shaivism.
3. They established their capital at Mahabalipuram.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer : B

- ✓ Archaeologists recently discovered an eighth-century Kotravai sculpture, an artifact that dates back to the Pallava period, near Ulundurpet, Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ About Pallava Dynasty:
 - ✓ The Pallava Dynasty was a famous power in South India that existed between the 3rd and 9th Centuries.
 - ✓ They ruled the northern parts of Tamil Nadu, parts of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, and Telangana, with Kanchipuram as their capital.
 - ✓ The Pallavas supported Buddhism, Jainism, and the Brahminical faith and were patrons of music, painting, and literature.
 - ✓ They progressively moved southward and instituted their capital at Kanchipuram in the 4th century CE.
 - ✓ The rule of Mahendravarman I (571 - 630 CE) and Narasimharman I (630 - 668 CE) witnessed the augment in the wealth and vigour of the Pallava realm.
- ✓ Architecture:



- ✓ The Pallava Dynasty was typically distinguished for their benefaction of Dravidian architecture.
- ✓ They were the most noted for temple architecture. They were instrumental in the transition from rock-cut architecture to stone temples.

Q. With reference to Electoral Bonds (EBs), consider the following statements:

- 1. They are interest-free-bearer bonds that can be purchased by companies and individuals in India.**
- 2. They have a limited time validity during which they can be used to make donations to political parties.**
- 3. All national and state parties are eligible to receive EBs.**

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer : B

- ✓ The Supreme Court recently directed the State Bank of India to stop issuing electoral bonds immediately.
- ✓ About Electoral Bonds (EBs):
- ✓ Electoral bonds are interest-free bearer bonds or money instruments that can be purchased by companies and individuals in India from authorised branches of the State Bank of India (SBI).
- ✓ The bonds are similar to bank notes that are payable to the bearer on demand and are free of interest.
- ✓ These bonds are sold in multiples of Rs 1,000, Rs 10,000, Rs 1 lakh, Rs 10 lakh, and Rs 1 crore.
- ✓ They can be purchased through a KYC-compliant account to make donations to a political party.
- ✓ EBs have a life of only 15 days during which it can be used for making donations to political parties.
- ✓ The name and other information of the donor are not entered on the instrument and thus electoral bonds are said to be anonymous.
- ✓ There is no cap on the number of electoral bonds that a person or company can purchase.
- ✓ Under the Income Tax act, one's electoral bond donations are considered tax-exempt under Section 80 GG and Section 80 GGB.
- ✓ Who can receive funding via electoral bonds?
- ✓ Only political parties registered under Section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 and which secured not less than 1% of votes polled in the last general election to the House of the People or the Legislative Assembly of the State, are eligible to receive electoral bonds.



- ✓ The political parties have to encash them within a stipulated time.
- ✓ The bond can be encashed by an eligible political party only through a designated bank account with the authorized bank.
- ✓ The political parties have to disclose the amount to the Election Commission.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding Mohammed Quli Qutb Shah:

- 1. He was contemporary of Tulasidas.**
- 2. He laid the foundation of Hyderabad.**

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer : C

- ✓ Recently, Reality tech firm unveils digital twin of Mohammed Quli Qutb Shah's tomb in Hyderabad.
- ✓ It is one the grandest monuments in the Qutb Shah's tombs complex at the foothill of Golconda, Hyderabad.
- ✓ The majestic tomb built in 1602, is one of the largest tombs at the Qutb Shahi heritage park complex reaching to a total height of 60 m.
- ✓ Who is Mohammed Quli Qutb Shah?
- ✓ He was the fifth king of the Qutb Shahi dynasty laid the foundation of Hyderabad.
- ✓ Shah who wrote in Persian, Telugu, and Deccani—a variant of Urdu--is justifiably the first poet in Deccani Urdu with at least fifty thousand shers to his credit.
- ✓ A contemporary of Tulasidas, he blended the best traditions of the two streams of thought and life to impart a new halo to his poetry.

Q. With reference to United Nations World Restoration Flagship, consider the following statements:

- 1. It is part of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration – led by the UN Environment Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organization.**
- 2. It aims to prevent the degradation of ecosystems.**
- 3. It does not provide for any financial assistance.**

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- A) Only one B) Only two



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C) All three

D) None

Answer : B

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



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

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

Answer : D

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

Q. Who has been elected Speaker of Bihar Assembly?

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

Answer : A

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

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

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

Answer : C

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



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

- A) Alakh Pandey
B) Sanjay Kumar Jain
C) Alok Sinha
D) Rajeev Prasad Singh

Answer : B

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

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

- A) 17
B) 10
C) 12
D) 15

Answer : C

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

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

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



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Answer : B

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

PM MODI FOUNDATION STONE IN NEWS 2023-24

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched multiple development projects worth about 7,300 crore rupees in Jhabua, the tribal-dominated district of Madhya Pradesh.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for a slew of development projects worth over Rs 20,000 crore in Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of multiple development projects worth over 30,500 crore rupees in Maharashtra
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated a new terminal building at Tiruchirappalli International Airport in Tamil Nadu.
- The new terminal building has been developed at a cost of more than Rs 1100 crore.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched multiple projects worth ₹5,000 crore in Rajasthan and asserted that they will lead to further development of the state.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has laid the foundation stone of development projects worth more than 26 thousand crore rupees in Jagdalpur, the divisional headquarters of tribal Bastar division in Chhattisgarh
- PM Inaugurates Rs 4200 Crore Worth Of Development Projects In Uttarakhand.



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- Prime Minister Modi inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for projects worth over Rs 19,100 crores in Bulandshahr, Uttar Pradesh
- PM Initiates 8 AMRUT Projects Worth Rs. 2,000 Crores In Solapur, Maharashtra.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi on inaugurated and laid the foundation stones of development projects worth more than Rs 38,000 crore in different sectors in Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently inaugurated the Shivmogga airport in the state of Karnataka. The airport was built for Rs 450 crores

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

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

Answer : A

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

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

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

Answer : A

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



- ✓ It revised the ceiling in recognition of the vital role of the non-executive operation of bank boards and their various committees.
- ✓ RBI said the banks are required to have suitable criteria for granting fixed remuneration to its NEDs, with the approval of their boards.
- ✓ The instructions on review of fixed remuneration granted to NEDs would be applicable to all the private sector banks including small finance banks (SFBs) and payment banks (PBs) as also the wholly owned subsidiaries of foreign banks.

Q. Paytm E-commerce has rebranded itself as Pai Platforms, marking a shift in its corporate identity. Paytm has recently acquired which of the following E-commerce Platform?

- A) Kia Fashion B) Snapdeal
C) Smart Point D) Bitsila

Answer : D

- ✓ Paytm E-commerce has rebranded itself as Pai Platforms, marking a shift in its corporate identity.
- ✓ The move comes alongside the acquisition of Bitsila, a prominent seller platform operating within the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC).
- ✓ This strategic shift underscores Pai Platforms' ambition to assert its presence and gain a larger foothold in the fiercely competitive landscape of online retail.
- ✓ Pai Platforms' acquisition of Bitsila underscores its commitment to strengthening its commerce capabilities within the ONDC network.
- ✓ Bitsila, established in 2020, has ascended to become one of the top three seller platforms on ONDC, facilitating transactions for esteemed brands such as McDonald's and BigBasket.

Q. Chennai Super Kings have appointed whom as its brand ambassador for the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2024?

- A) Katrina Kaif B) Aishwarya Rai
C) Priyanka Chopra D) Alia Bhatt

Answer : A

- ✓ Chennai Super Kings have appointed Katrina Kaif as their brand ambassador for the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2024.
- ✓ The five-time champions have also changed their jersey logo before the new season.



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- ✓ The famous Bollywood actress, who is married to Vicky Kaushal, is also the brand ambassador of Etihad Airways. CSK recently signed a sponsorship deal with Etihad Airways and brought Katrina on board.

Q. The men's marathon world record holder, Kelvin Kiptum, 24, has died in a road accident. He was from which country?

A) Egypt

B) Kenya

C) USA

D) Uganda

Answer : B

- ✓ The men's marathon world record holder, Kenya's Kelvin Kiptum, 24, has died in a road accident in his home country.
- ✓ He was killed alongside his coach, Rwanda's Gervais Hakizimana, in a car on a road in western Kenya.
- ✓ Kiptum broke the men's marathon record in Chicago on 8 October 2023, with a time of two hours and 35 seconds.
- ✓ The Kenyan slashed 34 seconds off two-time Olympic champion Eliud Kipchoge's previous world record from Berlin in 2022 to become the first man to run the marathon under two hours and one minute



Aparchit February 3rd Week English Best 350+ MCQs with Amazing Facts
By :- Aparchit Exam Warriors/Kumar Kaushal Sir

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the INSAT-3DS:

- 1. Its objective is to carry out Oceanic observations and its environment in various spectral channels of meteorological importance.**
- 2. It will be launched by using the Geosynchronous Launch Vehicle.**
- 3. It is fully funded by the Ministry of Science and Technology.**

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer : B

- ✓ According to ISRO, The countdown for the launch of the INSAT-3DS meteorological satellite onboard a Geosynchronous Launch Vehicle has commenced.
- ✓ About INSAT-3DS:
- ✓ INSAT-3DS Satellite is a follow-on mission of Third Generation Meteorological Satellite from Geostationary Orbit.
- ✓ It is fully funded by the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES).
- ✓ The satellite will augment the Meteorological services along with the presently operational INSAT-3D and INSAT-3DR satellites.
- ✓ The primary objectives of the mission are:
- ✓ To monitor Earth's surface, carry out Oceanic observations and its environment in various spectral channels of meteorological importance.
- ✓ To provide the vertical profile of various meteorological parameters of the Atmosphere.
- ✓ To provide the Data Collection and Data Dissemination capabilities from the Data Collection Platforms (DCPs).
- ✓ To provide Satellite Aided Search and Rescue services.
- ✓ Weight: 2,274 kg.
- ✓ Orbit: Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO).
- ✓ It will be launched by using the Geosynchronous Launch Vehicle (GSLV-F14).



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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



Q. With reference to the Young Scientist Programme (YUVIKA), consider the following statements:

1. It is a residential programme offered by the Ministry of Science and Technology (MoST).
2. It is available only to graduate students.
3. Three students from each State/Union Territory will participate in the programme every year.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer : A

- ✓ The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is set to conduct its special 'Young Scientist Programme' or 'YUVIKA' for school children.
- ✓ About Young Scientist Programme (YUVIKA):
- ✓ "Young Scientist Programme", or "YUva VIGyani KArYakram" YUVIKA, is a learning and awareness creating programme of the ISRO to impart basic knowledge on Space Technology, Space Science, and Space Applications to younger students with a preference to rural areas.
- ✓ The programme is aimed at creating awareness about the emerging trends in science and technology amongst the youngsters, who are the future building blocks of our nation. ISRO has chalked out this programme to "Catch them young".
- ✓ The programme is also expected to encourage more students to pursue Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) based research /career.
- ✓ Eligibility:
- ✓ Those who have finished class 8 and are currently studying in class 9 can apply for the programme.
- ✓ Three students from each state/Union Territory will participate in this programme every year, covering CBSE, ICSE, and state-board syllabus.
- ✓ The selection is based on 8th Standard academic performance and extracurricular activities.
- ✓ Students belonging to the rural area have been given special weightage in the selection criteria.

Q. In which state was the foundation stone of 'Komuraveli Railway Station' laid recently?

- A) Telangana B) Madhya Pradesh
 C) Assam D) Rajasthan

Answer : A



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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



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.



✓ Along with his technology team, N Kamakodi, MD & CEO of City Union Bank received the awards from RBI's Deputy Governor T Rabi Sankar

Q. Which company has collaborated with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to roll out the 'Credit Lines on UPI' feature on its platform, which will create avenues of financial security and growth for the merchants?

A) GooglePay

B) Paytm

C) BHIM

D) PayU

Answer : D

✓ Payments solution provider, PayU has collaborated with National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) for rolling out of the 'Credit Lines on UPI' feature on its platform, which will create avenues of financial security and growth for the merchants.

✓ The company anticipates over 380 million UPI users to gain easier access to Credit Line.

✓ The enablement of pre-sanctioned Credit Lines by banks through UPI will empower businesses and consumers alike, fostering India's financial inclusion agenda.

✓ As part of integration, PayU will share information about the relevant identifiers related to the type of credit the consumer has undertaken, such as pay-later, personal loans, etc.

Q. The 16th conference of the World Social Forum (WSF) 2024 commenced in which city?

A) Kathmandu

B) New Delhi

C) Bengaluru

D) Hyderabad

Answer : A

✓ The 16th conference of the World Social Forum (WSF) 2024 commenced in Kathmandu.

✓ The five-day WSF 2024 under the "Another World is Possible" banner aims to open horizontal exchange among civil society organisations, social movements, trade unions and individuals opposing neoliberal globalisation.

✓ The participants of the march carried banners and placards with slogans in support of justice, peace, equality and an end to discrimination.

Q. Who has been appointed as the Managing Director of Boeing Defence India (BDI)?

A) Nikhil Joshi

B) Aman Sharma

C) Rajnish Kumar

D) Rajendra Singh



Answer : A

- ✓ US aerospace major Boeing has appointed Nikhil Joshi as managing director of Boeing Defence India (BDI).
- ✓ Based in New Delhi, Joshi will lead current and future programmes for BDI to enhance the mission readiness and modernisation of India's defence forces.
- ✓ Joshi has more than 25 years of aerospace and defence industry experience, including over two decades of service with the Indian armed forces in the aviation branch of the Indian Navy.

Q. Virendra Bansal has been appointed as the new MD & CEO of which of the following?

- A) RuPay B) SEBI
C) SIDBI D) SBI Capital Markets

Answer : D

- ✓ SBI Capital Markets (SBICAPS), a wholly owned subsidiary and investment banking arm of the State Bank of India has appointed Virendra Bansal as its Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer.
- ✓ He replaces Rajay Kumar Sinha, who has been appointed as the Whole Time Member (Finance and Investment) of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) for a period of three years.
- ✓ Prior to this appointment, Bansal was Country Head for the US Operations of SBI, which included its offices in New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, and Sao Paulo

Q. With reference to the 'Electoral bonds', which of the following statements are correct?

1. Electoral bonds are an instrument through which anyone can donate money to political parties.
2. SBI is the only authorised bank to issue electoral bonds.
3. An electoral bond will be valid for 15 days from the date of issuance

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer : D

- ✓ The Supreme Court has declared the electoral bonds scheme as “unconstitutional,” stating that anonymous corporate contributions to political parties are “violative of the right to information.”
- ✓ The decision was announced by a bench led by Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud.



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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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Answer : B

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated Bochasanwasi Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha (BAPS) Hindu Mandir in Abu Dhabi, the first Hindu temple in the United Arab Emirates.
- ✓ The BAPS temple will be an enduring tribute to the values of harmony, peace and tolerance, which both India and the UAE share.
- ✓ The pink sandstone temple sits on a 27-acre plot in Abu Dhabi, making it one of the largest in the Middle East. While Islam is the official religion of the UAE, the country is home to about 3.6 million Indian workers.

Q. Armed Forces Medical Service has signed an MoU with which IIT to promote collaborative biomedical research?

A) IIT Madras

B) IIT Bombay

C) IIT Kanpur

D) IIT Roorkee

Answer : D

- ✓ Armed Forces Medical Service has signed an MoU with the Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee.
- ✓ The MoU aims towards promoting collaborative biomedical research, to aid in improving the combat medical support and patient care of serving personnel.
- ✓ Under this MoU, Armed Forces Medical Services will be able to utilize the expertise of IIT Roorkee in various fields like, development of novel medical devices, robotics, nanotechnology, artificial intelligence and machine learning.

Q. With whose collaboration has the Sikkim government launched the 'Sikkim Inspire' initiative?

A) NITI Aayog

B) World Bank

C) Asian Development Bank

D) World Economic Forum

Answer : B

- ✓ Sikkim Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang launched the 'Sikkim INSPIRES' initiative in the state in collaboration with the Government of Sikkim and the World Bank.
- ✓ Its objective is to promote economic growth and inclusion.
- ✓ This program will provide better economic opportunities for women and youth through training and employment initiatives.



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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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Answer : A

- ✓ About Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT):
- ✓ ITAT is a quasi-judicial institution set up in January, 1941.
- ✓ It specializes in dealing with appeals under the Direct Taxes Acts.
- ✓ Functions:
- ✓ It hears income tax appeals from taxpayers against orders passed by the Income Tax Authorities.
- ✓ The orders passed by the ITAT are final, an appeal lies to the High Court only if a substantial question of law arises for determination.
- ✓ Benches:
- ✓ Presently ITAT has 63 Benches at 27 different states covering almost all the cities having a seat of the High Court.
- ✓ Strength: One President, who is assisted by ten (10) Zonal Vice Presidents and 115 Members (i.e. Accountant Members and Judicial Members).
- ✓ The ITAT is headed by a President, who is appointed by the Central Government. Present President is MR. JUSTICE C. V. Bhadang.
- ✓ Monetary Limits set by the CBDT are the following:
- ✓ Before the ITAT – Rs 50 lakh.
- ✓ Before the High Court – Rs 1 crore.
- ✓ Before the Supreme Court – Rs 2 crore.
- ✓ ITAT is referred to as 'Mother Tribunal' being the oldest Tribunal in the country

Q. With reference to the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA):

- 1. It is a statutory authority.**
- 2. It is empowered to fix standards and specifications for the scheduled products for exports.**
- 3. It acts as a nodal agency for the implementation of the National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP).**

How many of the above statements are correct?

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



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Answer : C

- ✓ Recently a minister addressed a gathering of farmers and agri-produce buyers in the 'Agri-Export: Capacity building cum buyer-seller meet' organised by APEDA in Mirzapur.
- ✓ About APEDA:
- ✓ The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) was established by the Government of India under the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority Act, 1985.
- ✓ This Authority replaced the Processed Food Export Promotion Council (PFEPFC).
- ✓ The Authority with its headquarters at New Delhi, is headed by Chairman.
- ✓ In order to reach out to the exporters in different parts of the Country, APEDA has set up 15 Regional Offices in different cities like- Mumbai, Bengaluru, Kolkata etc.
- ✓ APEDA also functions as the Secretariat to the National Accreditation Board (NAB) for the implementation of accreditation of the Certification Bodies under the National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP) for Organic exports.
- ✓ Ministry: Ministry of Commerce and Trade.

Q. With reference to Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR), consider the following statements:

- 1. It is the percentage of cash required to be kept in reserves as against the bank's total deposits.**
- 2. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) decides the CRR, and is kept with them for financial security.**
- 3. It applies to all regional rural banks and non-banking financial companies (NBFCs).**

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer : B

- ✓ The State Bank of India (SBI) has requested the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for a lower cash reserve ratio (CRR) on green deposits raised from customers.
- ✓ About Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR):
- ✓ Under CRR, commercial banks have to hold a certain minimum amount of deposit as reserves with the RBI.
- ✓ The percentage of cash required to be kept in reserves as against the bank's total deposits is called the CRR.
- ✓ The RBI decides the amount, and is kept with them for financial security.



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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), "Omkar" (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.



- ✓ In simple terms, a decline in the rate of increase in the general price level of goods and services in the gross domestic product (GDP) of a country over time is called disinflation.
- ✓ Unlike inflation and deflation, which refer to the direction of prices, disinflation refers to the rate of change in the rate of inflation.
- ✓ Disinflation is not considered problematic because prices do not actually drop, and disinflation does not usually signal the onset of a slowing economy.

Q. The primary role of the Chinook/CH-47F helicopter is:

- A) Close Air Support
- B) Heavy troop and supply transport
- C) Reconnaissance
- D) Aerial refueling

Answer : B

- ✓ A Chinook helicopter of the Indian Air Force made a precautionary landing following a "technical snag" near Punjab's Barnala recently.
- ✓ About Chinook Helicopter:
- ✓ Chinook/CH-47F is the U.S. Army's primary heavy troop and supply transport aircraft.
- ✓ It is an advanced multi-mission helicopter.
- ✓ It is manufactured by the American aerospace and defence firm Boeing for the US Army and international defence forces.
- ✓ It is used for the transportation of troops, artillery, supplies, and equipment to the battlefield.
- ✓ India has about 15 CH-47 Chinook helicopters.
- ✓ Maximum Speed: 160 knots (296 kmph).

Q. Which one of the following is the primary objective of the Chang'e 6 mission?

- A) To search for exoplanets beyond our solar system
- B) To study Venus's geological and volcanic activity.
- C) To retrieve samples from the lunar south pole.
- D) To explore the potential for life on Mars.

Answer : C

- ✓ The China National Space Administration (CNSA) recently announced that the Chang'e 6 sample return mission is on track to land on the surface of the Moon in the first half of 2024.



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- ✓ About Chang'e 6 Mission:
- ✓ The Chang'e 6 mission is a planned lander designed to return samples from the lunar south pole.
- ✓ The mission aims to land on the Moon, collect samples from the lunar surface, and return them to Earth. This process will contribute crucial data to unravel the Moon's geological mysteries.
- ✓ Representing the first attempt to retrieve samples from the far side of the Moon, Chang'e 6 is set to bring back up to two kilograms of lunar samples, adopting a configuration similar to the successful Chang'e 5 mission.
- ✓ The mission involves international collaboration, with payloads from the European Space Agency (ESA) and the French space agency CNES.
- ✓ ESA contributes a lunar surface ion tester, while CNES provides equipment for measuring radon gas and its decay products.
- ✓ Additionally, an Italian laser corner reflector for radar instrument calibration and Pakistan's ICUBE-Q CubeSat will be part of the mission.
- ✓ Chang'e 6 will consist of both a lander and a rover.
- ✓ The lander will touch down on the lunar surface, while the rover will explore specific regions, conduct experiments, and aid in the sample collection process.

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the Asian Buddhist Conference for Peace (ABCP):

- 1. It is a voluntary movement of followers of Buddhism with both monastic (monks) and lay members.**
- 2. It is headquartered in Dharamshala, Himachal Pradesh.**

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer : A

- ✓ The Indian Vice President recently inaugurated the 12th General Assembly of the Asian Buddhist Conference for Peace in New Delhi.
- ✓ About Asian Buddhist Conference for Peace (ABCP):
- ✓ It was founded in 1970 in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, as a voluntary movement of followers of Buddhism with both monastic (monks) and lay members.



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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.



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.
- Udupi 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



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- ✓ 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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- ✓ The activities of the Board are exercised through Five Departments viz. General Services, Extension & Advisory Services, Research Services (rubber Research Institute of India), Training (Rubber Training Institute) & Finance.
- ✓ Headquarters: Kottayam, Kerala

Q. Which state has achieved 100 percent saturation in 'Har Ghar Jal' scheme under the Centre's Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)?

- A) Uttar Pradesh
- B) Madhya Pradesh
- C) Andhra Pradesh
- D) Rajasthan

Answer : C

- ✓ Arunachal Pradesh has achieved 100 percent saturation in 'Har Ghar Jal' scheme under the Centre's Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM).
- ✓ The state has become the first in the northeast and tenth in the country to achieve a cent per cent saturation under the central government sponsored scheme.
- ✓ The Centre's share for the scheme in the state was ₹ 3,965.41 crore, while the state contributed ₹ 455.51 crore to complete the project, ensuring every household gets clean and safe piped water.
- ✓ Launched in 2019 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the 'Jal Jeevan Mission' is a centrally sponsored scheme aimed to provide safe and adequate drinking water through individual household tap connections to all households in rural India by 2024.

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) Tamil Nadu
- B) Karnataka
- C) Telangana
- D) Kerala

Answer : B

- ✓ 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.
- ✓ 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.



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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.



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- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has taken strict measures against two prominent banking institutions, Kotak Mahindra Bank penalty of Rs 3.95 crore and ICICI Bank penalty of Rs 12.19 crore, by imposing significant penalties.
- RBI approves reappointment of Sandeep Bakshi as ICICI Bank MD & CEO for three more years till October 2026.
- ICICI Bank gets RBI nod to make I-Process Services as wholly-owned subsidiary.
- Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India (ICICI) BANK
- Founded : 1994
- HQ : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- MD & CEO : Sandeep Bakhshi
- Tagline : Hum Hai Na Khayal Apka.

Q. Rizwan Javed was banned from all cricket for 17.5 years for his part in match-fixing attempts during the 2021 Abu Dhabi T10 League. For which country does he play cricket?

- A) Pakistan
- B) Bangladesh
- C) United Kingdom
- D) Afghanistan

Answer : C

- ✓ A UK club cricketer, Rizwan Javed received a 17.5 years ban from all cricket due to his participation in match-fixing attempts during the 2021 Abu Dhabi T10 League.
- ✓ Authorities enforced the ban on September 19, 2023, as Javed failed to address charges related to his involvement in the league.
- ✓ Javed was among eight players and officials charged by the International Cricket Council (ICC) on behalf of the Emirates Cricket Board (ECB) in September last year.
- ✓ Bangladesh all-rounder Nasir Hossain received charges and is currently serving a two-year ban.

Q. Suhani Bhatnagar passed away recently at the age of 19. Who was she?

- A) Magician
- B) Sculptor
- C) Actress
- D) Social Worker

Answer : C

- ✓ Suhani Bhatnagar, who played young Babita Kumari Phogat in Aamir Khan's 'Dangal', died.



- ✓ The Startup Conclave for Food Processing Entrepreneurs has the potential to be a game-changing event, driving the sector towards a future marked by innovation, sustainability, and inclusive growth.
- ✓ As startups come together to exhibit their creativity and foresight, the conclave acts as a source of inspiration, encouraging the upcoming generation of food processing leaders to push the limits of what's possible.

Q. Who has inaugurated the newly constructed Kalughat Inland Waterways Transport (IWT) terminal on National Waterways -1 in Bihar?

- A) Nitish Kumar B) Sarbananda Sonowal
C) Lalu Yadav D) G Kishan Reddy

Answer : B

- ✓ Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal has inaugurated the newly constructed Kalughat Inland Waterways Transport (IWT) terminal on National Waterways -1 (NW-1) at Kalugaht near Parmanandpur in Saran district in Bihar.
- ✓ It has been constructed with a worth of 82.48 crore rupees.
- ✓ It will provide seamless connectivity to vessels from Haldia and Kolkata ports along NW -1.
- ✓ The new Intermodal Terminal cargo will enhance handling capacity along inland waterways.

Q. With which country's central bank, RBI are planning to integrate their respective fast payment systems for facilitating cross-border remittances?

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

Answer : A

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Nepal Rastra Bank entered into an agreement integrating the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) of India and the National Payments Interface (NPI) of Nepal for cross-border remittances.
- ✓ The integration of Indian and Nepalese fast payment systems is aimed at facilitating cross-border remittances between the two countries by enabling users of the two systems to make instant, low-cost fund transfers.
- ✓ The collaboration between India and Nepal in linking their fast payment systems through the UPI-NPI linkage will deepen financial connectivity and reinforce the enduring historical, cultural, and economic ties between the two countries.



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- ✓ Recently, Sri Lanka, Mauritius, and France have enabled the Indian digital payment system — UPI in these countries.

Q. Prabowo Subianto has been elected as President of which country?

- A) Malaysia
- B) Indonesia
- C) Singapore
- D) Thailand

Answer : B

- ✓ Prabowo Subianto elected as Indonesia President
- ✓ Prabowo Subianto emerges victorious in Indonesia's Presidential race, securing nearly 60% of the votes in the first round.
- ✓ His military background and alignment with President Joko Widodo's policies propel him to a clear-cut victory, sparking positive reactions in Indonesian markets.
- ✓ About Indonesia
- ✓ Capital – Jakarta
- ✓ Currency – Rupiah
- ✓ Official language – Indonesian
- ✓ President – Prabowo Subianto

Q. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has extended the deadline for restrictions on deposit and credit transactions of Paytm Payments Bank Limited (PPBL) to ____

- A) 15 March 2024
- B) 1 April 2024
- C) 15 April 2024
- D) 1 May 2024

Answer : A

- ✓ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has extended the deadline for restrictions on deposit and credit transactions of Paytm Payments Bank Limited (PPBL) to March 15, 2024 stating that customers and merchants might require “a little more time to make alternative arrangements.
- ✓ The earlier deadline was February 29.
- ✓ The regulator has clarified that merchants can accept payments using Paytm QR code, soundbox or point of sale (PoS) terminal even after March 15, if the receipt or transfer of funds are linked to any banks other than PPBL.



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- ✓ Merchants, however, cannot transact after March 15 if the QR code, PoS, and sound box are linked to PPBL.
- ✓ Merchants, however, cannot transact after March 15 if the QR code, PoS, and sound box are linked to PPBL.
- ✓ It was also clarified that PPBL couldnot offer any banking services, including unified payments interface (UPI) facility after March 15 — the deadline of which was February 29 earlier. No money transfers into PPBL accounts via UPI is not allowed after March 15.

Q. Kavita Chaudhary passed away recently at the age of 67. Who was she?

- A) Historian
- B) Actor
- C) Writer
- D) Social Worker

Answer : B

- ✓ Kavita Chaudhary, known for her 1989 superhit TV show, 'Udaan', and for playing Lalita-ji in the iconic Surf ads, died at the age of 67.
- ✓ Kavita Chaudhary was best known for her portrayal of IPS officer Kalyani Singh in Udaan a progressive show about women empowerment, which ran on Doordarshan between 1989 and 1991.
- ✓ Besides starring, she wrote and directed the serial, which was inspired by the life of her elder sister and police officer Kanchan Chaudhary Bhattacharya.

Q. Who has been named as the 'State Icon' of Punjab under the voter awareness campaign?

- A) Harbhajan Singh
- B) Yuvraj Singh
- C) Guru Randhawa
- D) Shubman Gill

Answer : D

- ✓ Young Indian cricketer Shubman Gill has been named as the "state icon" for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections by the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer, Punjab. In October last year, the Election Commission of India had appointed famous actor Rajkumar Rao as 'National Icon'. Former cricketers like Sachin Tendulkar, MS Dhoni, Aamir Khan and Mary Kom have been national icons

Q. Where is the 11th International Puppet Festival being held?

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



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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Q. Who has been appointed as the Joint Managing Director of Kotak Mahindra Bank?

A) Milind Nagnur

B) KVS Manian

C) Shanti Ekambaram

D) Paul Parambi

Answer : B

- ✓ KVS Manian has been appointed as the Joint Managing Director of Kotak Mahindra Bank, with effect from 1 March.
- ✓ Manian was serving as the whole-time Director and key managerial personnel of the bank.
- ✓ Shanti Ekambaram, who is currently a whole-time Director, has been appointed as the Deputy MD with effect from March 1, 2024.
- ✓ The current Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Devang Gheewalla has been appointed as the President and Group Chief Financial Officer with effect from April 1, 2024.
- ✓ The bank has appointed Milind Nagnur as the Chief Operating Officer of the Bank, with effect from April 1, 2024. He is currently the Chief Technology Officer of the Bank.
- ✓ Another member, Paul Parambi, currently the Chief Risk Officer of the Bank, has been promoted to the position of Group Chief Risk Officer with effect from March 1, 2024.

KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK IN NEWS 2023-24

- CCI approves Zurich Insurance's acquisition of 70% stake in Kotak Mahindra General Insurance.
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the appointment of CS Rajan as part-time Chairman of Kotak Mahindra Bank.
- Kotak Mahindra Bank has partnered with National E-Governance Services Limited (NeSL) to issue its first electronic Bank Guarantee (e-BG) on the latter's platform.
- Ashok Vaswani is next Kotak Mahindra Bank CEO.
- Kotak Mahindra Bank has received the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) approval to acquire 100% stake in micro-lender Sonata Finance.
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a penalty of ₹12.19 crore on ICICI Bank and ₹3.95 crore on Kotak Mahindra Bank for non-compliance of certain regulatory norms.
- Kotak Mahindra Bank
- Founded 1985
- Founders : Uday Kotak



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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.



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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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- Sanjiv Aggarwal Appointed CEO and MD of National Investment and Infrastructure Fund Limited (NIIFL)
- Rashmi Shukla becomes Maharashtra's first woman Director General of Police
- P Santhosh Appointed as MD of National Asset Reconstruction Company (NARCL).
- Nadia Calvino Appointed as New President of the European Investment Bank
- Kia India Appoints Gwanggu Lee as New MD and CEO

Q. Barsingsar Solar Power Plant, recently seen in the news, is located in which state?

- A) Gujarat
- B) Rajasthan
- C) Madhya Pradesh
- D) Odisha

Answer : B

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for the 300 MW Barsingsar Solar Power Plant in Rajasthan's Bikaner district, advancing India's renewable energy goals.
- ✓ NLC India Limited, a Navratna CPSE, is implementing the project under the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy's CPSE Scheme.
- ✓ The initiative, aligned with the Atma Nirbhar Bharat initiative, uses cutting-edge technology, aims to produce 750 million units of green power annually, and marks NLCIL as the first CPSE to achieve a 1 GW Solar capacity milestone in India

Q. Consider the following statements regarding Global Initiative on Digital Health (GIDH):

- 1. It is launched by the World Health Organization (WHO).**
- 2. Its membership is open to all institutions engaged in digital health.**

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

- ✓ Achieving one of the three priority areas agreed upon during India's G20 presidency in 2023, the World Health Organization (WHO) recently launched the Global Initiative on Digital Health (GIDH) virtually.
- ✓ About Global Initiative on Digital Health (GIDH):



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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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Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Raisina Dialogue:

1. It is an annual conference on geopolitics and geo-economics issues.

2. It is organized by the Observer Research Foundation in partnership with the Ministry of External Affairs.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A) 1 only

B) 2 only

C) Both 1 and 2

D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer : C

- ✓ The ninth edition of the Raisina Dialogue will be held from February 21 to 23rd in New Delhi.
- ✓ It is an annual conference on geopolitics and geoeconomics, which aims to address the most challenging issues faced by the world.
- ✓ It is held annually since 2016 in New Delhi.
- ✓ The conference is attended by people from political, business, media, and civil society backgrounds.
- ✓ The Dialogue is structured as a multi-stakeholder, cross-sectoral discussion, involving heads of state, cabinet ministers and local government officials, who are joined by thought leaders from the private sector, media and academia.
- ✓ It is organized by the Observer Research Foundation (ORF) in partnership with the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India.
- ✓ The theme of the 2024 edition is “Chaturanga: Conflict, Contest, Cooperate, Create,”

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific:

1. It is one of the five regional commissions of the United Nations.

2. Its headquarter is located in New Delhi.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A) 1 only

B) 2 only

C) Both 1 and 2

D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer : A



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- ✓ According to a 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



- ✓ 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 Ashwini 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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Q. In which country is the multinational military exercise 'Peace Prayas IV' being organised?

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

Answer : B

- ✓ Multinational military exercise 'Shanti Prayas IV' is being organized in Nepal.
- ✓ 19 countries including India, Bangladesh and Pakistan are participating in this exercise.
- ✓ Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal "Prachanda" inaugurated this two-week long military exercise.

Q. Who has been honored with the prestigious Vishisht Seva Medal for developing multipurpose Octocopter?

- A) Pawan Kumar Yadav
B) Varinder Singh
C) Ishar Singh
D) Amandeep Jakhar

Answer : B

- ✓ Havildar Varinder Singh, a member of the Sikh Regiment in the Indian Army, received the Vishisht Seva Medal from President Droupadi Murmu for his exceptional contributions to military technology.
- ✓ Singh's innovative creation, the Multipurpose Octocopter, showcases groundbreaking advancements in drone technology, offering unparalleled versatility beyond conventional surveillance.
- ✓ This accolade recognizes his outstanding efforts in developing a versatile piece of equipment that goes beyond being a mere reconnaissance tool.

Q. The World Day of Social Justice is observed every year on which day?

- A) 20 February
B) 21 February
C) 22 February
D) 23 February

Answer : A

- ✓ World Day of Social Justice is observed on February 20 every year.
- ✓ Objective – To offer a platform to raise voices against injustice around the globe. It also brings various communities across the world on a common ground.
- ✓ Theme 2024 – Bridging Gaps, Building Alliances
- ✓ The history of the World Day of Social Justice is linked to 1995 when the Copenhagen Summit for the Cause of Social Development was conducted in Denmark.



Q. International Mother Language Day (IMLD) is marked annually on which day?

- A) February 21 B) Third Monday of February
 C) Third Sunday of February D) February 20

Answer : A

- ✓ The International Mother Language Day (IMLD) is observed annually on 21st of February.
- ✓ The day aims to raise awareness regarding about linguistic and cultural diversity and to promote multilingualism.
- ✓ The IMLD day was announced by UNESCO on 17 November 1999 and formally recognized by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in 2002.
- ✓ The theme for International Mother Language Day 2024 is "Multilingual education is a pillar of intergenerational learning".

Q. Which company has been honoured with the ‘Innovative Technology Development Award’ at the ‘Building India 2047: Technology for Better Tomorrow’?

- A) NTPC Limited B) ReNew Power
 C) REC Limited D) Adani Enterprises

Answer : C

- ✓ REC Limited, a Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprise under the Ministry of Power and a leading NBFC, has been honoured with the ‘Innovative Technology Development Award’ at the ‘Building India 2047: Technology for Better Tomorrow’, an IIT Madras Corporate Social Responsibility Summit.
- ✓ The award has been conferred in recognition of REC’s CSR initiative of installation of 2 MW rooftop solar plant at IIT Madras.
- ✓ The solar plant generates around 3.15 million units of clean energy every year, thus helping IIT Madras reduce its carbon footprint.

REC LTD IN NEWS 2023-24

- REC Limited, a Maharatna CPSE under the Ministry of Power and a leading NBFC, has been honoured with the 'Innovative Technology Development Award' at the 'Building India 2047:Technology for Better Tomorrow', an IIT Madras CSR Summit.



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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.



Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Flood Management and Border Areas Programme:

- 1. It provides central assistance to States for taking up works related to flood control.**
- 2. It will provide 100% central assistance for flood control and anti-erosion works on common border rivers with neighbouring countries.**

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer : C

- ✓ Union Cabinet approved the proposal of Department of Water Resources, RD & GR for continuation of “Flood Management and Border Areas Programme (FMBAP)” with total outlay of Rs. 4,100 crore for a period of 5 years from 2021-22 to 2025-26.
- ✓ It is a centrally sponsored Scheme.
- ✓ The scheme has two components:
- ✓ Flood Management Programme (FMP) component: In this central assistance will be provided to State Governments for taking up critical works related to flood control, anti-erosion, drainage development and anti-sea erosion, etc.
- ✓ Funding: The pattern of funding to be followed is 90% (Centre): 10% (State) for Special Category States (8 North-Easter States and Hilly States of Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and UT of Jammu & Kashmir) and 60% (Centre):40% (State) for General/ Non-Special Category States.
- ✓ River Management and Border Areas (RMBA) component: Under this, flood control and anti-erosion works on common border rivers with neighbouring countries including hydrological observations and flood forecasting, and investigation & pre-construction activities of joint water resources projects (with neighbouring countries) on common border rivers will be taken up with 100% central assistance.

Q. Where will India's largest green hydrogen production plant be set up?

- A) Varanasi B) Visakhapatnam
C) Chennai D) Ahmedabad

Answer : B

- ✓ NTPC Green Energy has entered into an agreement with Andhra Pradesh Industrial Infrastructure Corporation to set up India's largest green hydrogen production plant.



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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 areas⁹ 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 Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (PM-USHA) Scheme, a revamped version of Rashtriya Uchchatar 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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- ✓ Chenchus take 'Narasimha Deeksha' by wearing yellow robes and 'Tulasi Mala' and observe celibacy during this period.
- ✓ Key Facts about Chenchu Tribes:
- ✓ They live in the hills of southern India, primarily in the state of Andhra Pradesh.
- ✓ Other Chenchu communities can be found in the states of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and Orissa.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Rashtriya Udyamita Vikas Pariyojana:

1. It focuses on reskilling and upskilling employees to enhance their competitiveness.

2. It provides training through offline mode only.

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

- ✓ Union Minister of Education and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship inaugurated the Rashtriya Udyamita Vikas Pariyojana, in Sambalpur, Odisha.
- ✓ It is tailored specifically for beneficiaries of the PM SVANidhi scheme, this unique National Entrepreneurship Development Project underscores the government's steadfast commitment to nurturing job providers across the nation.
- ✓ Aim: It aims to equip individuals with comprehensive entrepreneurship training, creating job providers rather than job seekers.
- ✓ This initiative focuses on reskilling and upskilling employees to enhance their competitiveness and adaptability in an era of disruptive technology.
- ✓ The Government of India has partnered with Flipkart to skill street vendors and small shopkeepers.
- ✓ Under the pilot program, street vendors of 10 big cities of the country will be given a stipend along with training to expand their businesses.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP):

1. It is fixed by the Union Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs.

2. It is governed by the Sugarcane Control order, 1966.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?



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A) 1 only

B) 2 only

C) Both 1 and 2

D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer : 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.



Aparchit February 4th Week English Best 350+ MCQs with Amazing Facts
By :- Aparchit Exam Warriors/Kumar Kaushal Sir

Q. Which IIT has launched India's largest drone pilot training facility?

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

Answer : A

- ✓ Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati (IIT-G) has launched India's largest drone pilot training organization in line with the Prime Minister's 'NaMo Drone Didi' initiative.
- ✓ This training center was launched in collaboration with EduRade, a brand owned by RC Hobbytech Solutions Private Limited.

IIT IN NEWS 2023-24

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



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



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- IIT Indore Students Awarded with Global Best M-GOV Awards by Egyptian President.
- Startup Incubation and Innovation Centre (SIIC) at IIT Kanpur has entered into a Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) agreement with Advanced Weapons and Equipment India Limited.
- DRDO Industry Academia Centre of Excellence inaugurated at IIT Hyderabad.
- IIT Madras-incubated firm has developed an indigenous mobile operating system called BharOS.
- IIT Madras Centre of Excellence working with DRDO on Advanced Defence Technologies including Combat Vehicle Technologies.
- IIT Madras researchers develop machine learning tool to detect tumour in brain, spinal cord.
- ISRO plans to develop astronaut training module with IIT Madras.

Q. Who has been appointed as the new Vigilance Commissioner in the Central Vigilance Commission?

A) Abhishek Banerjee

B) Alok Kumar Sinha

C) A S Rajeev

D) Amitabh Kant

Answer : C

- ✓ President Draupadi Murmu has appointed AS Rajeev as Vigilance Commissioner in the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC).
- ✓ Rajiv is currently the MD and CEO of Bank of Maharashtra.
- ✓ Central Vigilance Commission is an apex Indian government body which was established in 1964.
- ✓ Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) is an apex Indian governmental body created in 1964 to address governmental corruption. In 2003, the Parliament enacted a law conferring statutory status on the CVC. It has the status of an autonomous body, free of control from any executive authority,
- ✓ Praveen Kumar Srivastava
- ✓ Headquarters : New Delhi
- ✓ Appointer : President of India
- ✓ Term length : Up to 4 years or 65 years
- ✓ Constituting instrument
- ✓ K.Santhanam Committee



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Q. Consider the following:

1. India
2. Sri Lanka
3. Maldives
4. Myanmar

How many of the above countries participate in Exercise Dosti?

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

Answer : C

- ✓ Indian and Sri Lankan coast guard ships reached the Maldives recently to take part in the trilateral coast guard exercise Dosti 16.
- ✓ About Exercise Dosti:
 - ✓ It is a trilateral coast guard exercise between India, Sri Lanka, and the Maldives.
 - ✓ It is a biennial exercise.
 - ✓ It was first conducted in 1991 between the Indian and Maldives Coast Guards.
 - ✓ Sri Lanka joined the exercise for the first time in 2012. Dosti was last conducted in 2021.
 - ✓ The exercises have focused on exercises and drills on providing assistance in sea accidents, eliminating sea pollution, and the coast guard's procedures and conduct during situations such as oil spills.
- ✓ Dosti 16:
 - ✓ It is the 16th edition of the exercise.
 - ✓ The Coast Guards of the Maldives, India, and Sri Lanka, along with observers from Bangladesh, is participating in Dosti 16 to enhance collaboration between the forces.
 - ✓ India is sending ICGS Samarth (with integral helo), ICGS Abhinav, and ICG Dornier for the exercise.

EXERCISE IN NEWS 2023-24

- Indian and Sri Lankan coast guard ships reached the Maldives recently to take part in the trilateral coast guard exercise Dosti 16
- 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



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- India, France, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) conducted a major air exercise, named 'Desert Knight', over the Arabian Sea.
- Indian Army contingent is taking part in the 2nd edition of India-Egypt Joint Special Forces Exercise CYCLONE. The Exercise is being conducted at Anshas, Egypt.
- 11th edition of India-Kyrgyzstan Joint Special Forces Exercise KHANJAR has commenced at the Special Forces Training School in Bakloh, Himachal Pradesh
- The maiden Bilateral Maritime Exercise -Ayutthaya' between the Indian Navy (IN) and Royal Thai Navy (RTN) was conducted.
- The 12th edition of the Multilateral Naval Exercise - 2024 (Milan) is set to take place at Visakhapatnam from February 19 to 27.
- Indian Armed Forces contingent comprising 45 personnel reached Hanoi, Vietnam to take part in the Joint Military Exercise VINBAX-2023.
- This year's exercise will be conducted at Hanoi, Vietnam.
- Indo-US Joint Special Forces exercise "VAJRA PRAHAR 2023" commenced at the Joint Training Node, Umroi, Meghalaya.
- A joint military exercise, "Exercise MITRA SHAKTI-2023" is being conducted from November 16th to 29th, 2023, in Aundh (Pune), Maharashtra.
- It is a joint military exercise between India and Sri Lankan army.
- This year is the ninth edition of the exercise.
- The coastal security exercise 'Sagar Kavach' is set to unfold its strategic manoeuvres along the Kerala and Mahe coasts.
- Coordinated by the Indian Coast Guard.
- Much-anticipated joint exercise 'Trishakti Prahar' recently began near the western border of Rajasthan in Jaisalmer.
- Exercise CORPAT and BONGOSAGAR between the Indian Navy and Bangladesh Navy were conducted in the Northern Bay of Bengal from 07 - 09 Nov 2023.
- Exercise Harimau Shakti 2023 commenced in Umroi Cantonment, India.
- It is a joint bilateral training exercise between Indian & Malaysian Armed Forces.
- The 19th edition of "EXERCISE YUDH ABHYAS" will be conducted from 25th September to 8th October



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- ✓ About Tupolev Tu-160M:
- ✓ The Tu-160M, a modernized version of a Cold War-era bomber that the former Soviet Union would have deployed in the event of nuclear war to deliver weapons at long distances.
- ✓ It is a Russian supersonic variable-sweep wing strategic missile-carrying bomber.
- ✓ It is called "White Swan" in Russia, and is code-named "Blackjacks" by NATO.
- ✓ Russia claims it is the world's fastest-flying supersonic and heaviest payload-carrying bomber.
- ✓ The Tu-160M, which has a crew of four, is capable of carrying 12 cruise missiles or 12 short-range nuclear missiles.
- ✓ It can fly 12,000km (7,500 miles) non-stop without refueling.
- ✓ It is powered by four afterburning turbofan engines.
- ✓ It has a maximum speed of 2,220 kilometers per hour and ascends to heights of 16,000 meters.

Q. Who has been appointed as the Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer (MD & CEO) SBM Bank India for a period of 3 years?

A) Ashish Vijayakar

B) Rakesh Sharma

C) Umesh Nath

D) Dilip Kumar

Answer : A

- ✓ SBM Bank India has appointed Ashish Vijayakar as the Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer (MD & CEO) of the Bank for a period of 3 years.
- ✓ Ashish Vijayakar is a veteran banker with a proven track record spanning around three decades, in the banking and financial services sector.
- ✓ With a strong background in building and growing global businesses, he has held key leadership positions across various geographies in Standard Chartered Bank.

NEWLY BANK MD & CEO IN NEWS 2023-24

- SBM Bank India has appointed Ashish Vijayakar as the Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer (MD & CEO) of the Bank for a period of 3 years.
- Praveen Achuthan Kutty appointed as MD & CEO of DCB Bank.
- Reserve Bank of India has approved the appointment of Ashok Vaswani as the Managing Director & CEO of Kotak Mahindra Bank (KMB) for a period of three years.
- South Indian Bank has appointed P R Seshadri as its MD & CEO .



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- 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 Khetrpal Singh Honored with Bhutan's National Order of Merit.
- Indira Gandhi Peace Prize Awarded to Daniel Barenboim and Ali Abu Awwad"
- Noted Hindi Writer Pushpa Bharati to Receive 33rd Vyas Samman for her 2016 memoir, "Yaadein, Yaadein aur Yaadein."
- Federal Bank Titled "Bank of the Year 2023" in India : The Banker



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- 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. Eight-year-old Ashwath Kaushik has become the youngest player to defeat a Grandmaster by defeating _ during the Bergdorfer Stadthaus Open in Switzerland.

A) Hikaru Nakamura

B) Jan-Krzysztof Duda

C) Jacek Stopa

D) Magnus Carlsen

Answer : C

- ✓ Eight-year-old Ashwath Kaushik has become the youngest player to defeat a grandmaster after trouncing Jacek Stopa during the Burgdorfer Stadthaus Open in Switzerland.
- ✓ The Indian-born Singapore resident learnt to play the game at the age of four and became a World Under-Eight Rapid Champion in 2022.
- ✓ That same year, he had made waves after emerging as a triple champion in the chess variations — classic, rapid and blitz — at the Under-8 Eastern Asia Youth Championship

CHESS GRANDMASTER IN NEWS 2023-24

- Indian young chess player Rameshbabu Praggnanand has defeated world chess champion Ding Liren in the 'Tata Steel Masters' held in Netherlands.
- Vaishali Rameshbabu has become the 84th Grandmaster of India.
- Raunak Sadhwani (Maharashtra) won FIDE World Junior Rapid Chess Championship.
- India's Karthikeyan Murali became the third Indian chess player to defeat World No 1 Magnus Carlsen in classical chess after he prevailed over the Norwegian at the Qatar Masters tournament.
- Divya Deshmukh (Maharashtra) Emerges Winner Of 2023 Tata Steel Chess India Women's Rapid Tournament defeated Koneru Humpy.
- Magnus Carlsen (Norway) wins the Chess World Cup Final 2023.
- Aditya Samant becomes India's 83rd Grandmaster.



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- Indian Grandmaster R. Praggnanandhaa has won the title of V Geza Hetenyi Memorial Super GM Chess Tournament 2023 .

Q. How much amount of the development assistance loan has Japan committed to India?

- A) JPY 232.2 billion B) JPY 225.2 billion
C) JPY 230.3 billion D) JPY 239.3 billion

Answer : A

- ✓ Japan has pledged JPY 232 billion for nine projects in India, as confirmed by the exchange of notes on February 20, 2024, between Vikas Sheel of the Indian Ministry of Finance and Suzuki Hiroshi, the Japanese Ambassador.
- ✓ The committed ODA loan assistance covers various initiatives, including the Dhubri-Phulbari Bridge, NH 127B (Phulbari-Goeragre section), start-up promotion in Telangana, Chennai Peripheral Ring Road (Phase 2), sustainable horticulture in Haryana, climate change response in Rajasthan, medical facilities in Nagaland, urban water supply in Uttarakhand, and the Dedicated Freight Corridor Project.

Q. Who has become the first Indian bowler to take 100 wickets against England in Test cricket?

- A) Ravindra Jadeja B) Ravichandran Ashwin
C) Kuldeep Yadav D) Jasprit Bumrah

Answer : B

- ✓ Ravichandran Ashwin has become the first Indian bowler to take 100 wickets against England in Test cricket.
- ✓ Before this, no Indian bowler had reached 100 wickets against England.
- ✓ Let us tell you that recently Ashwin has completed his 500 test wickets.
- ✓ Ashwin is only the second bowler to take 100 wickets in the Test matches between England and India.
- ✓ Only James Anderson (145 wickets) is ahead of him in this list.

Q. Former Speaker of Lok Sabha Manohar Joshi passed away, he was also the former Chief Minister of which state?

- A) Goa B) Maharashtra
C) Madhya Pradesh D) Gujarat



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Answer : B

- ✓ Former Chief Minister of Maharashtra and former Lok Sabha Speaker Manohar Joshi passed away at the age of 86.
- ✓ Manohar Joshi served as the Chief Minister of Maharashtra from 1995 to 1999 and Speaker of the Lok Sabha from 2002 to 2004.
- ✓ Joshi became the first non-Congress Chief Minister of Maharashtra

Q. Where will the three-day International Geeta Mahotsav be organised?

- A) Dhaka
- B) Colombo
- C) Kathmandu
- D) Dubai

Answer : B

- ✓ A three-day International Geeta Mahotsav will be organized in Colombo, the capital of Sri Lanka.
- ✓ This three-day festival will start from March 1.
- ✓ This festival will be organized with the financial support of Kurukshetra Development Board of Haryana.

Q. Who has presided over the 19th Foundation Day celebrations of the Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Limited (SPMCIL) through hybrid mode in New Delhi?

- A) Narendra Modi
- B) Nirmala Sitharaman
- C) Droupadi Murmu
- D) Jagdeep Dhankhar

Answer : B

- ✓ Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs, Nirmala Sitharaman presided over the 19th Foundation Day celebrations of the Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Limited (SPMCIL) through hybrid mode in New Delhi.
- ✓ The programme was attended in virtual mode across various units of SPMCIL; senior officers, employees, employees/ representatives of recognised unions of Apex Bipartite Forum, EPF and GPF trustees and employees/representatives from SC, ST & OBC organisations participated enthusiastically in the event.
- ✓ The Union Finance Minister also launched three souvenir coins:
- ✓ Coloured souvenir coin on Endangered Animals of India – Greater One Horned Rhino
- ✓ Bi-metallic clad souvenir coin on Enlightenment of Buddha
- ✓ Coloured souvenir coin of Ral Lalla and Ayodhya Ram Mandir



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- ✓ Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Limited is a Miniratna Category-I, Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE), under the administrative control of Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Government of India.

Q. Tech Mahindra has acquired how much percent stake in Orchid Cybertech Services (OCSI) through a wholly owned subsidiary for \$3.27 million?

- A) 100% B) 80%
C) 70% D) 50%

Answer : A

- ✓ Tech Mahindra has acquired a 100 percent stake in Orchid Cybertech Services (OCSI) through a wholly owned subsidiary for \$3.27 million.
- ✓ This deal strengthens the relationship with it and aids in expanding existing customer experience capabilities and business in the Philippines, said the IT major.
- ✓ As part of the transaction, OCSI, along with its assets and employees, will be integrated into Tech Mahindra, which will then provide customer support and other services to TPG.
- ✓ Tech Mahindra had last March acquired 100 percent equity shares in Mumbai-based Thirdware Solutions in an all-cash deal for a total consideration of up to \$42 million including earnouts.

Q. Whirlpool Corporation sold how much percent stake in its Indian unit Whirlpool of India through the open market for \$468 million?

- A) 24% B) 34%
C) 44% D) 22%

Answer : A

- ✓ Whirlpool Corporation on Tuesday sold 30.4 million shares, constituting a 24% stake in its Indian unit Whirlpool of India through the open market for \$468 million.
- ✓ Following the sale, the parent firm's holding has come down to 51% from 75%.
- ✓ The American consumer durables maker expects to use the proceeds from the stake sale to reduce debt. Whirlpool Corporation expects to reduce its debt by over \$1 billion in 2024 versus 2022.
- ✓ Whirlpool conducted the sale through its subsidiary in Mauritius, reducing its stake in the entity from 75% to 51%.



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Q. Which company has registered its operations with the Financial Intelligence Unit of India, about six years after a protracted legal battle ensued between the two entities?

- A) PayPal
B) eBay
C) Mobi Kwik
D) Zaak

Answer : A

- ✓ American payments gateway service provider PayPal has registered its operations with the Financial Intelligence Unit of India, about six years after a protracted legal battle ensued between the two entities.
- ✓ It has completed the formal procedure of being designated as a reporting entity under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) recently and submitted documents to FIU.
- ✓ About FIU
- ✓ The FIU is a national agency responsible for receiving, processing, analyzing and disseminating information relating to suspect financial transactions in Indian economic channels to various enforcement agencies and foreign FIUs.
- ✓ The Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 forms the core of the legal framework put in place by India to combat money laundering.
- ✓ PMLA and the Rules notified there under came into force with effect from July 1, 2005.
- ✓ Director, FIU-IND & Director (Enforcement) has been conferred with exclusive and concurrent powers under relevant sections of the Act to implement the act

Q. Merchant-led digital payments provider Mswipe Technologies has been granted a payment aggregator (PA) licence by the Reserve Bank of India. PA is provided under which section of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act 2007?

- A) Section 5
B) Section 7
C) Section 12
D) Section 3

Answer : C

- ✓ Merchant-led digital payments provider Mswipe Technologies said it has been granted a payment aggregator (PA) licence by the Reserve Bank of India.
- ✓ The company had received an in-principle nod from the central bank to operate as a payment aggregator in August 2022.
- ✓ PA is provided under Section 7 of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007.



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- ✓ Till February 2024, 16 entities had received payment aggregator licences from the RBI. Among them are merchant payment solutions providers Juspay and Razorpay, fintech Stripe, search behemoth Google, neo-bank Open, software major Zoho and food-delivery company Zomato.
- ✓ About Mswipe
- ✓ Founded : 2011
- ✓ Headquarters : Mumbai
- ✓ It provides payment solutions, including point-of-sale devices, unified payments interface (UPI), quick response codes and payment links to help offline merchants receive payments digitally.
- ✓ It also aids offline merchants with loans as well as store and inventory management solutions.

Q. Eminent Fali S Nariman passed away recently at the age of 95. Who was he?

- A) Writer
- B) Actor
- C) Lawyer
- D) Film Director

Answer : C

- ✓ Eminent jurist and Senior Supreme Court Lawyer Fali S Nariman passes away at the age of 95.
- ✓ He served as the additional solicitor general between 1972 and 1975 and resigned from the post during emergency.
- ✓ Nariman was appointed a Senior Advocate by the Supreme Court of India in 1971. He was also a nominated member of the Rajya Sabha from 1999-2005.
- ✓ He was awarded Padma Bhushan in 1991 and Padma Vibhushan in 2007.

Q. Where was the Seminar on India Defence Equipment – SIDE 2024 organized?

- A) New Delhi
- B) Dhaka
- C) Kathmandu
- D) Chennai

Answer : B

- ✓ The High Commission of India in Bangladesh hosted a Seminar on Indian Defence Equipment – SIDE 2024 in Dhaka, featuring High Commissioner Pranay Verma and Lt. Gen. M.R. Shameem.
- ✓ Verma highlighted Indian defense industry advancements under Prime Minister Modi's "Make in India" initiative, resulting in increased investments and exports.



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- ✓ SIDE 2024 signifies India's interest in advancing defense cooperation with Bangladesh, utilizing the US\$500 million Defence Line of Credit extended by the Indian government.

Q. 'Sammakka Saralamma Jatara' tribal festival, recently seen in the news, is celebrated in which state?

A) Telangana

B) Karnataka

C) Kerala

D) Tamil Nadu

Answer : A

- ✓ Mulugu, Telangana is gearing up for the grand celebration of Sammakka-Saralamma Jatara, the largest Tribal Festival in Asia.
- ✓ The event, held at Medaram village in Telangana, showcases the rich tribal heritage of the region.
- ✓ Located 240 km from Hyderabad, the festival signifies unity and cultural devotion, drawing visitors globally.
- ✓ Started as a small gathering, it gained State festival status in 1998, commemorating the 12th-century revolt by Sammakka and Saralamma against oppressive taxes during a drought by Kakatiya rulers.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding SAMAR assessment certificate:

1. It is jointly developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation and Quality Council of India.

2. It provides an objective assessment of competency of defence manufacturing enterprises of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A) 1 only

B) 2 only

C) Both 1 and 2

D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer : C

- ✓ Recently, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) handed over SAMAR assessment certificates to nine Industry Partners.
- ✓ System for Advance Manufacturing Assessment and Rating (SAMAR) certificate is a benchmark to measure the competency of defence manufacturing enterprises.



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- ✓ It is an outcome of the collaboration between DRDO and Quality Council of India (QCI) to strengthen the defence manufacturing ecosystem in the country with an objective to further the vision of making India self-reliant in defence manufacturing.
- ✓ Eligibility: All defence manufacturing enterprises, both MSME and Large enterprises, are eligible to apply for this certification.
- ✓ Validity: It is valid for a period of 2 years from the date of issuance of certificate.
- ✓ The certification is based on a maturity assessment model developed by QCI and is applicable to all defence manufacturing enterprises i.e., micro, small, medium and large enterprises.

DRDO IN NEWS 2023-24

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



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- Q. Which one of the following is the best description of 'G-33', that was in the news recently?**
- A) A bloc of countries lobbying for increased funding for global health initiatives
 - B) A group of developing countries collaborating on climate change initiatives
 - C) A coalition of nations advocating for special agricultural considerations in international trade negotiations
 - D) A coalition of countries pushing for reforms in the United Nations Security Council

Answer : C

- ✓ Ahead of the 13th ministerial conference of World Trade Organization (WTO), a majority of the G-33 countries have called for a permanent solution to public stockholding for food security.
- ✓ About G-33:
- ✓ The G33 (or the Friends of Special Products in agriculture) is a coalition of developing and least developed countries.
- ✓ Despite the name, there are currently 47 member nations. Some of the main countries include India, China, Indonesia, Pakistan, Nigeria, Philippines, Turkey, Tanzania, Kenya, and South Korea.
- ✓ It was established prior to the 2003 Cancun ministerial conference that have coordinated during the Doha Round of World Trade Organization (WTO) negotiations, specifically in regard to agriculture.

- Q. What was India's ranking in the global cybercrime report for 2023?**

- A) 79th
- B) 80th
- C) 85th
- D) 84th

Answer : B

- ✓ According to a 2023 report, India is the 80th most targeted country worldwide for cybercrime.
- ✓ The report states that 34% of Indian users were targeted by local threats in 2023, totaling 74 million incidents.
- ✓ In 2023, India has a national cybercrime rate of 129 per hundred thousand citizens.
- ✓ In the third quarter of 2023, India was ranked 10th globally for data breaches, with 369,000 leaked accounts

- Q. India's first 'Gati Shakti Research Chair' has been established at which institute?**

- A) IIM Ahmedabad
- B) IIM Shillong
- C) IIT Kanpur
- D) IIT Bombay

Answer : B



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- ✓ The Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways (MoPSW) and IIM Shillong have joined forces to establish India's inaugural 'Gati Shakti Research Chair.'
- ✓ This collaborative effort aims to boost academic research in multimodal logistics, with a specific focus on the North-East region.
- ✓ The initiative aims to empower students in logistics-related fields by fostering skill development and creating career opportunities.

IIT IN NEWS 2023-24

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



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



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

Q. In which country is the Mobile World Congress 2024 being organized?

- A) Italy
- B) France
- C) Spain
- D) India

Answer : C

- ✓ Mobile World Congress 2024 is being organized in Barcelona, Spain from 26 to 29 February.
- ✓ Mobile World Congress 2024 is being hosted by GSMA.
- ✓ The GSMA is a global association representing the interests of mobile network operators around the world.

SUMMIT & CONFERENCE IN NEWS 2023- 24

- Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar inaugurates World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS 2024) in Delhi.
- WSDS 2024 is the 23rd edition of the summit.
- WSDS 2024 will take place on the theme 'Leadership for the Sustainable Development and Climate Justice
- 54th annual meeting of the World Economic Forum (WEF) is being held in Davos, Switzerland from 15 January 2024.
- Theme of 54th meeting of WEF: 'Rebuilding Trust'.
- India launched Global Good Alliance for Gender Equity and Equality, at the World Economic Forum Summit at Davos, Switzerland, held from 15-19 January 2024.
- Prime Minister Modi inaugurated the 10th Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit- 2024 at Mahatma Mandir, Gandhinagar, on 10 January 2024.
- Theme of 10th Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit- 2024: 'Gateway to the Future'.
- India has been selected for the first time to chair and host the 46th session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee.



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- The 46th session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee will be held in New Delhi between 21 and 31 July 2024.
- Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates joined BRICS as new full members. This group has now become an organization of 10 countries.
- Russia's tenure as Chairman of BRICS begins from January 1, 2024.
- 27th WAIPA World Investment Conference (WIC) started on 11 December 2023 in New Delhi
- India Internet Governance Forum 2023 (IIGF-2023) will be organized on 5 December 2023 in New Delhi.
- India is going to organize a three-day (4 to 6 December) Global Technology Summit (GTS) from 4 December 2023

Q. In which country will the SAFF Under-16 Women's Championship be organized?

A) India

B) Bangladesh

C) Nepal

D) Sri Lanka

Answer : C

- ✓ SAFF Under-16 Women's Championship will be organized in Nepal from March 1-10.
- ✓ For this, a 23-member Indian team has been announced. India was the winner of the SAFF Under-15 format in 2018 and 2019.
- ✓ This is the first time that the SAFF Under-16 Women's Championship is being organized

Q. Where is the global textile event 'Bharat Tex 2024' being organised?

A) Dubai

B) Dhaka

C) New Delhi

D) Colombo

Answer : C

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the global textile event 'Bharat Tex 2024' in New Delhi.
- ✓ On this occasion, PM Modi said that Bharattex2024 is a platform to showcase India's extraordinary capabilities in the textile industry.
- ✓ Representatives of more than 100 countries are participating in this global event



Q. With whom has the Bihar state government signed an agreement to promote the startup ecosystem?

- A) NITI Aayog B) SIDBI
C) World Bank D) New Development Bank

Answer : B

- ✓ Bihar state government has signed an MoU with Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) to promote the startup ecosystem in the state.
- ✓ Its objective is to transform Bihar as a startup hub and create a favorable environment for startups.
- ✓ Bihar Startup Fund Trust (BSFT) has been set up with an initial corpus of Rs 500 crore.

Q. Who laid the foundation stone of the first railway station of Sikkim state?

- A) Narendra Modi B) S Jaishankar
C) Anil Kumar Lahoti D) Ajay Prasad Sinha

Answer : A

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of the first railway station of Sikkim state on 26 February.
- ✓ In the first phase, railway infrastructure will be developed from Sevoke to Rangpo.
- ✓ The second phase includes the rail project from Rangpo to Gangtok and finally the third phase includes the rail project from Gangtok to Nathula.

Q. How many astronauts have been nominated for the Gaganyaan mission?

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

Answer : A

- ✓ The names of 4 astronauts have been announced for India's ambitious space mission Gaganyaan Mission.
- ✓ This includes Group Captain Prashant Balakrishnan Nair, Group Captain Ajit Krishnan, Group Captain Angad Pratap and Wing Commander Shubhanshu Shukla.
- ✓ The Prime Minister also presented astronaut wings to the astronauts.



Q. Which player made the record of the fastest century in T20 International cricket history?

- A) Kushal Malla B) Jan Nicole Lofty-Eaton
C) David Miller D) Rohit Sharma

Answer : B

- ✓ Namibian cricketer John Nicol Loftie-Eaton has created cricket history by scoring the fastest century in T20 International cricket history in just 33 balls, breaking the previous record held by Nepal's Kushal Malla. Eaton achieved this feat in a T20 match played against Nepal

Q. In which Indian state has the world's first Vedic clock been installed?

- A) Uttar Pradesh B) Madhya Pradesh
C) Rajasthan D) Arunachal Pradesh

Answer : B

- ✓ The world's first Vedic clock has been installed in Ujjain district of Madhya Pradesh, which will be unveiled on March 1.
- ✓ This watch will display time as per Indian traditional calendar.
- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi will virtually inaugurate this clock installed on the 85 feet high tower at Jantar Mantar in the city on March 1.

Q. Where will a new regional office of the Central Board of Film Certification be established?

- A) Shimla B) Chandigarh
C) Srinagar D) Jaipur

Answer : B

- ✓ Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Singh Thakur announced that a regional office of the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) will be opened in Chandigarh.
- ✓ He made this announcement on the occasion of the closing ceremony of 'Chitra Bharati Film Festival' in Chandigarh.
- ✓ CBFC is a statutory film-certification body under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India.



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Q. Shahpur Kandi Dam Project, recently seen in the news, is located on which one of the following rivers?

- A) Manas
- B) Beas
- C) Ghaghra
- D) Ravi

Answer : D

- ✓ In a significant development, the completion of the Shahpur Kandi barrage, situated at the Punjab-Jammu and Kashmir border, has effectively halted the flow of water from the River Ravi to Pakistan.
- ✓ About Shahpur Kandi Dam Project:
- ✓ It is located on the Ravi River in Pathankot district, Punjab, downstream from the existing Ranjit Sagar Dam.
- ✓ The water released by Ranjit Sagar Dam is utilized for generating power from this project.
- ✓ The main purpose behind the construction of this dam is power generation and irrigation in Punjab and J&K States.
- ✓ It is constructed by the irrigation department of the Government of Punjab.
- ✓ The project consists of a 55.5 m high concrete gravity dam, a 7.70 km long hydel channel, two head regulators, and two powerhouses.
- ✓ The total output capacity of the project is 206 MW.

Q. Which of the following best describes Hanooman, recently seen in news?

- A) An indigenously developed aircraft carrier
- B) A new plant species
- C) A newly discovered Sea mount
- D) A multimodal AI tool

Answer : D

- ✓ In collaboration with the BharatGPT ecosystem led by IIT Bombay, Seetha Mahalaxmi Healthcare (SML) has introduced 'Hanooman,' a suite of Indic large language models trained across 22 Indian languages.
- ✓ It is a series of large language models (LLMs) that can respond in 11 Indian languages like Hindi, Tamil, and Marathi, with plans to expand to more than 20 languages.
- ✓ Capabilities: It is a multimodal AI tool, which can generate text, speech, videos and more in multiple Indian languages.



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- ✓ The size of these AI models ranges from 1.5 billion to a whopping 40 billion parameters.
- ✓ Applications: It has been designed to work in four fields, including health care, governance, financial services, and education.

Q. Beyt Island, recently seen in the news, lies off the coast of:

- A) Karnataka B) Odisha
C) Maharashtra D) Gujarat

Answer : D

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently inaugurated the 'Sudarshan Setu' bridge connecting Beyt Dwarka island to mainland Okha in Gujarat's Devbhumi Dwarka district.
- ✓ About 'Sudarshan Setu' Bridge:
 - ✓ It is India's longest cable-stayed bridge, at 2.32 km, on the Arabian Sea, connecting Beyt Dwarka island to mainland Okha in Gujarat's Devbhumi Dwarka district.
 - ✓ It boasts a unique design, featuring a footpath adorned with verses from the Bhagavad Gita and images of Lord Krishna on both sides.
 - ✓ It also has solar panels installed on the upper portions of the footpath, generating one megawatt of electricity.
 - ✓ The 2.32 km bridge, including 900 metres of a central double-span cable-stayed portion and a 2.45 km long approach road, has been constructed at a cost of Rs 979 crore.
- ✓ Key Facts about Beyt Dwarka:
 - ✓ Beyt Island (also called Bet Dwarka or Shankodhar) is a small island off the coast of Dwarka, Gujarat.
 - ✓ Located at the mouth of the Gulf of Kutch, the island is enclosed by a few temples, white sand beaches, and coral reefs

GUJARAT IN NEWS 2023-24

- Gujarat government is going to start the country's first submarine tourism.
- Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Parshottam Rupala inaugurated the Global Fisheries Conference India 2023 at Gujarat Science City, Ahmedabad.
- Dhordo, a village located in the Kutch district of Gujarat, known for its annual Rann Utsav has been bestowed with the title 'Best Tourism Village' by the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO).



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- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has laid the foundation Stone for the Akashvani Dahod FM Relay Station Project in Gujarat.
- Gujarat Assembly has passed the Gujarat Local Authorities Law (Amendment) Bill 2023 by a majority vote to raise reservation for Other Backward Class (OBC) communities in local self-government bodies to 27 percent from the current 10 percent.
- 'Gujarat Declaration' outlining the outcome of the first WHO Traditional Medicine Global Summit 2023 released.
- In a significant development for India's energy sector, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that the 700 MW nuclear power plant located in Kakrapar, Gujarat, has commenced its operations at maximum capacity.
- Gujarat to host 69th edition of Filmfare Awards in 2024.
- London-based company OneWeb and the Gujarat Government's Science and Technology Department have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) today for the establishment of a 'Satellite Network Portal Site' in Gujarat.
- Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah organized a virtual ceremony to lay the foundation stone of the country's first cooperative-run Sainik School.
- Sarbananda Sonowal inaugurated the best tourism facilities in the historical lighthouses of Gujarat.
- Under the Sagarmala programme, the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways is developing a National Maritime Heritage Complex, a world-class facility at Lothal, Gujarat.
- Gujarat government signs MoU with US chip maker firm Micron Technology for semiconductor assembly and testing facility in Ahmedabad.
- Indian cabinet has given its approval to Micron Technology's plan to invest \$2.7 billion in setting up a semiconductor testing and packaging unit in Gujarat.
- Urban-20 City Sherpas' meet begins at Ahmedabad in Gujarat.
- India's largest power company NTPC Ltd has commissioned India's first green hydrogen blending project at Kawas, Gujarat.
- BJP leader Bhupendra Patel took oath as the Chief Minister of Gujarat for a second straight term.
- Madhvendra Singh has been appointed as the first Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Gujarat Maritime Cluster by Gujarat Ports Infrastructure Company Limited.
- First G20 Tourism Working Group meeting at Dhordo in Kutch region of Gujarat.



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- 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
- 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. Consider the following statements regarding Household Consumption Expenditure Survey:

1. It is conducted by the National Statistical Office.

2. It helps to review critical economic indicators like Gross Domestic Product and poverty levels.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A) 1 only

B) 2 only

C) Both 1 and 2

D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer : C



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- ✓ For the first time in about 11 years, the government released the broad findings of the All India Household Consumption Expenditure Survey carried out between August 2022 and July 2023.
- ✓ It is usually conducted by the National Statistical Office (NSO) every five years.
- ✓ This survey aims at generating estimates of household Monthly Per Capita Consumption Expenditure (MPCE) and its distribution separately for the rural and urban sectors of the country, for States and Union Territories, and for different socio-economic groups.
- ✓ Highlights of the survey
- ✓ The average monthly per capita consumption expenditure (MPCE) in Indian households rose by 33.5% since 2011-12 in urban households to ₹3,510, with rural India's MPCE seeing a 40.42% increase over the same period to hit ₹2,008.
- ✓ The proportion of spending on food has dropped to 46.4% for rural households from 52.9% in 2011-12, while their urban peers spent just 39.2% of their overall monthly outgoes on food compared with 42.6% incurred 11 years earlier.
- ✓ This reduction could translate into a lower weightage for food prices in the country's retail inflation calculations.
- ✓ Among the States, the MPCE is the highest in Sikkim for both rural (₹7,731) and urban areas (₹12,105).
- ✓ It is the lowest in Chhattisgarh, where it was ₹2,466 for rural households and ₹4,483 for urban household members.
- ✓ Significance: The data will play a key role in reviewing critical economic indicators, including the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), poverty levels, and the Consumer Price Inflation (CPI).

Q. Which is the longest cable-stayed bridge in India?

A) Atal Setu

B) Sudarshan Setu

C) Howrah Setu

D) Pamban Setu

Answer : B

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated 'Sudarshan Setu', India's longest cable-stayed bridge over the Arabian Sea in Gujarat.
- ✓ This bridge is 2.32 km long which connects Okha and Bet Dwarka.
- ✓ It is the longest cable-stayed bridge in India.
- ✓ Rs 980 crore has been spent in its construction.



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- ✓ There are solar panels on the upper part of the footpath of this bridge which will help in generating one megawatt of electricity.
- ✓ The bridge has also been constructed with four lanes and a 2.50 meter wide footpath on each side.

Q. Who won the Best Male Actor award at the Screen Actors Guild Awards?

A) Christopher Nolan

B) Robert Downey Jr.

C) Cillian Murphy

D) Da'Vine Joy Randolph

Answer : C

- ✓ 'Oppenheimer' directed by Christopher Nolan won three awards at the Screen Actors Guild (SAG) Awards.
- ✓ The Best Male Actor award was given to Cillian Murphy for his brilliant performance in Oppenheimer. Robert Downey Jr. received the award for Best Actor in a Supporting Role.
- ✓ Oppenheimer also received the Best Film Artists Award.
- ✓ This year's Lifetime Achievement Award was given to veteran singer and actress Barbra Streisand

Q. Kiru Hydel Project, recently seen in the news, is located in which state/UT?

A) Tamil Nadu

B) Uttar Pradesh

C) Karnataka

D) Jammu & Kashmir

Answer : D

- ✓ The CBI conducted raids related to alleged corruption in awarding a contract for the Kiru Hydel Project in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district, focusing on the former Governor.
- ✓ The Kiru Hydel Power Project is a run-of-the-river scheme over the Chenab River, developed by Chenab Valley Power Projects (CVPP), a joint venture between NHPC, JKSPDC, and PTC.
- ✓ The project aims to benefit several states and union territories in Northern India, with a 49%, 49%, and 2% shareholding, respectively.

Q. With reference to Ken River, consider the following statements:

1. It is one of the major rivers of the Bundelkhand region of central India.

2. It is a tributary of the Chambal River.

3. It flows through Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.



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How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer : B

- ✓ The Prime Minister in 'Mann Ki Baat' recently cited crocodiles in Ken River to hail how technology is being used extensively for the conservation of wildlife in different parts of the country.
- ✓ About Ken River:
 - ✓ It is one of the major rivers of the Bundelkhand region of central India.
 - ✓ It flows through two states, namely Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.
 - ✓ It is a tributary of the Yamuna River. The river is the last tributary of the Yamuna before the Yamuna joins the Ganga.
 - ✓ The river originates near the village of Ahirgawan on the north-west slopes of the Kaimur Range in the district of Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh
 - ✓ Tributaries: The major tributaries of the Ken River are Bawas, Dewar, Kaith, Bank, Kopra, and Bearma.

Q. Which one of the following is the best description of 'G-33', that was in the news recently?

- A) A bloc of countries lobbying for increased funding for global health initiatives
B) A group of developing countries collaborating on climate change initiatives
C) A coalition of nations advocating for special agricultural considerations in international trade negotiations
D) A coalition of countries pushing for reforms in the United Nations Security Council

Answer : C

- ✓ Ahead of the 13th ministerial conference of World Trade Organization (WTO), a majority of the G-33 countries have called for a permanent solution to public stockholding for food security.
- ✓ About G-33:
 - ✓ The G33 (or the Friends of Special Products in agriculture) is a coalition of developing and least developed countries.
 - ✓ Despite the name, there are currently 47 member nations. Some of the main countries include India, China, Indonesia, Pakistan, Nigeria, Philippines, Turkey, Tanzania, Kenya, and South Korea.



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- ✓ It was established prior to the 2003 Cancun ministerial conference that have coordinated during the Doha Round of World Trade Organization (WTO) negotiations, specifically in regard to agriculture.

Q. According to Global investment advisory firm Jefferies, India is to be the third largest economy by which year?

A) 2028

B) 2030

C) 2027

D) 2060

Answer : C

- ✓ Global investment advisory firm Jefferies has projected an optimistic outlook for the Indian economy and its equity markets.
- ✓ The New York-headquartered firm said that in the last ten years, India has seen fundamental structural reforms that have created the framework for the country to realise its full potential.
- ✓ India's GDP will likely touch five trillion US dollars making it the third largest economy by 2027, overtaking Japan and Germany, maintaining the status of fastest-growing large economy.
- ✓ The Global Firm in its report has observed that India's market capitalization at 4.3 trillion US dollars ranks 5th in the world behind USA, China, Japan and Hong Kong

TARGET YEAR IN NEWS 2023-24

- National Strategic Plan & Roadmap for Leprosy (2023-27) to achieve zero transmission of leprosy by 2027.
- India self-reliant in pulses by December 2027
- Indian Consumer Tech To Touch \$300 Bn By 2027.
- India is expected to overtake Japan and Germany to emerge as the third largest economy in the world by 2027.
- Members of the Association of Asia Pacific Airlines (AAPA) collectively have set an "aspirational target" of 5% sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) usage by 2030.
- India to push developed nations to become carbon-negative before 2050.
- This 'Bharat Drone Shakti 2023' event will help the country to achieve its commitment of becoming a global drone hub by 2030.
- Vaccine manufacturer Indian Immunologicals Limited (IIL) expects to commercially launch its dengue fever vaccine by early 2026.



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- Group Chief Economic Advisor at the State Bank of India (SBI), Soumya Kanti Ghoshon has reiterated that India is likely to become the third-largest economy by 2027.
- The Ministry of Coal has set a target to gasify 100 million tonnes of coal by FY 2030.
- According to the report of Goldman Sachs Research, by the year 2075, India will become the second largest economy in the world after China leaving behind not only Japan and Germany but also America.
- UNEP suggests measures to reduce 80% of world's plastic pollution by 2040.
- India aims to become one trillion dollar tourism economy by 2047.
- The government announced a plan to add 250 GW of renewable energy capacity in the next five years to achieve its target of 500 GW of clean energy by 2030.
- India has set targets for half of its installed electricity capacity to be from non-fossil fuel sources by 2030 and for the country to attain net-zero carbon emissions by 2070.
- 2023 foreign trade policy has the vision to take India's goods and services exports to \$2 trillion by 2030.
- India to get 9% of Electricity from Nuclear Sources by 2047.
- India sets target to become 'Global Hub for Green Ship' building by 2030
- Indian Railways to become Net Zero Carbon Emitter by 2030.
- India to produce 5 million tonnes of green hydrogen by 2030.
- India has set a target to replace the use of diesel by renewable energy in the agriculture sector by 2024.
- Indian Government has set a target to eliminate TB in India by 2025.
- India targets ₹25,000-cr worth defence exports by 2024.
- Reserve Bank of India's 2023 monetary policy objective is to hold inflation within the mandated tolerance band and guide it towards the medium-term target of 4% by 2024.

Q. Kalyani Steel Ltd has signed an MoU with which state government to set up a manufacturing facility with an investment of Rs 11,750 crore?

A) Madhya Pradesh

B) Odisha

C) Haryana

D) Gujarat

Answer : B



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- ✓ Kalyani Steel Ltd has signed an MoU with the Odisha government to set up a manufacturing facility with an investment of Rs 11,750 crore.
- ✓ The project for manufacturing titanium metal, aerospace and automotive components and advanced speciality steel at Gajamara in Dhenkanal district will create 10,000 job opportunities.
- ✓ The project would catalyze the growth of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), spurring the development of a vibrant ecosystem of ancillary industries and OEM (original equipment manufacturer) suppliers, providing many more employment opportunities.

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).



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- Odisha becomes the first state to notify a committee for conservation of seeds preserved by tribal farmers.
- Odisha government launched the 'Mo Ghara' (My Home) housing scheme.
- PM Modi launches railway projects worth over 8,000 crore rupees in Odisha.
- Odisha government has expanded the jurisdiction of Special Development Councils (SDCs) from nine to 23 districts to improve the lives of 84 lakh tribal people.
- Odisha has its 88th foundation day on 1st April 2023.
- World Bank's Board of Executive Directors has approved USD 100 million loan under Odisha State Capability and Resilient Growth Program.
- Odisha won the UN-Habitat's World Habitat Awards 2023 for Jaga Mission, a 5T initiative of the state.
- Aska police station of Odisha's Ganjam district became the country's number one police station.
- Gangapur police station in Odisha's Ganjam district has been awarded the second best police station award.
- 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. Which state government has launched 'Savera' program aimed at early detection and prevention of breast cancer?

A) Gujarat

B) Haryana

C) Madhya Pradesh

D) Rajasthan

Answer : B

- ✓ Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar has inaugurated the Savera programme — aimed at early detection and prevention of breast cancer.
- ✓ It was initiated by the Medanta Foundation in collaboration with the Health Department in Gurgaon.
- ✓ Under the scheme, visually impaired people will conduct screening for breast cancer.
- ✓ The importance of this ability has been understood, tested, and used by people associated with the medical world.



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✓ Breast cancer is one of the cancer types that mainly occurs in women residing in cities. He said that about 90,000 women across the country lose their lives due to breast cancer, on a daily basis.

Q. Which among the following companies has become the first government firm to collaborate with SACE, an Italian export agency, to boost the corporation between the two countries?

A) NTPC Limited

B) Power Finance Corporation

C) TP renewable Microgrid

D) Torrent Power

Answer : B

✓ State-owned Power Finance Corporation (PFC) has become the first government firm to collaborate with SACE, an Italian export credit agency, to boost the cooperation between the two countries.

✓ PFC is partnering with SACE, the export credit agency of Italy, for an innovative ECA-backed financing facility under its 'Push Strategy' initiative.

✓ This proposed partnership will position PFC as the first government-owned entity in India to partner with SACE under this initiative.

✓ Through this structure, PFC will benefit from an 80 per cent guarantee from SACE, with HSBC acting as a coordinating bank, lead arranger and facility agent for the financing of up to 200 million euros.

Q. Zurich Insurance will acquire how much percent stake in Kotak General for Rs 5,560 crore in a single tranche?

A) 40%

B) 50%

C) 60%

D) 70%

Answer : D

✓ Private sector lender Kotak Mahindra Bank has informed the exchanges that Zurich Insurance will acquire a 70 per cent stake in the bank's general insurance arm, Kotak Mahindra General Insurance, for Rs 5,560 crore, in a single tranche.

✓ In November 2023, the bank had announced the sale of a 51 per cent stake in Kotak Mahindra General Insurance to Zurich Insurance for Rs 4,051 crore through a combination of fresh capital infusion and share purchase, followed by a 19 per cent stake sale within a period of three years.

✓ The proposed 70 per cent acquisition is subject to regulatory approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI).



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Q. Who is the author of book titled “The Great Flap of 1942: How the Raj Panicked over a Japanese Non-invasion”?

A) Shashi Tharoor

B) Chetan Bhagat

C) Mukund Padmanabhan

D) Amitav Ghosh

Answer : C

- ✓ The book titled “The Great Flap of 1942: How the Raj Panicked over a Japanese Non-invasion” was authored by Mukund Padmanabhan.
- ✓ It is published by Vintage Books.

FAMOUS BOOKS & AUTHOR IN NEWS 2023-24

- UNEQUAL: Why India Lags Behind Its Neighbours : Swati Narayan
- Gandhi: A Life in Three Campaigns : M.J. Akbar and K. Natwar Singh
- Assam's Braveheart Lachit Barphukan : Arup Kumar Dutta
- An Uncommon Love: The Early Life of Sudha and Narayana Murthy : Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni
- Gandhi: A Life in Three Campaigns : M.J. Akbar & co-author K. Natwar Singh
- Modi: Energising A Green Future : Pentagon Press in collaboration with the Dr. Shyama Prasad Mookerjee Research Foundation
- Sanskriti ke Ayaam : Manorama Mishra
- Four Stars of Destiny: An Autobiography : General Manoj Mukund Naravane
- The Babri Masjid Ram Mandir Dilemma : Madhav Godbole
- Breaking the Mould: Reimagining India's Economic Future : Raghuram Rajan & Rohit Lamba
- Zeba: An Accidental Superhero : Huma Qureshi
- Welcome to Paradise : Twinkle Khanna
- India's Moment : Changing Power Equations around the World : Mohan Kumar
- Pranab, My Father: A Daughter Remembers : Sharmishtha Mukherjee
- Thread by Thread, on the life of Shambhu Kumar or 'the' S Kumar : Sathya Saran
- Do Palkon Ki Chhavn Main : Hema Joshi
- Nilavu Kudicha Simhangal ('Lions that drank the Moonlight') : Autobiography of S Somanath
- Courting India: England, Mughal India and the Origins of Empire: Nandini Das



Q. Joint military exercise 'Dharma Guardian' is being organized between India and which country?

- A) Japan
B) France
C) Italy
D) Australia

Answer : A

- ✓ The 5th edition of the joint military exercise 'DHARMA GUARDIAN' is being organized at the Mahajan Field Firing Range in Rajasthan.
- ✓ This exercise is being conducted from 25 February to 9 March 2024.
- ✓ Exercise 'Dharma Guardian' is an annual military exercise and is conducted by the armies of India and Japan.

Q. In which state was the foundation stone of ISRO's second spaceport laid?

- A) Kerala
B) Odisha
C) Karnataka
D) Tamil Nadu

Answer : D

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently laid the foundation stone of the second spaceport of the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) in Kulasekarapattinam, Tamil Nadu. Rs 950 crore will be spent on this project.
- ✓ It is being built on approximately 2,233 acres and is expected to be operational in two years.

ISRO IN NEWS 2023-24

- PM Modi laid the foundation stone of the second spaceport of the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) in Kulasekarapattinam, Tamil Nadu.
- 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.



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- 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

Q. With reference to Additional Tier-1 (AT-1) Bonds, consider the following statements:

- 1. They are perpetual bonds with no maturity date.**
- 2. They have a lower interest rate than other bonds.**
- 3. They have a call option, which allows the banks to buy back the bonds from the investors.**

How many of the statements given above are correct?



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A) Only one

B) Only two

C) All three

D) None

Answer : B

- ✓ State Bank of India (SBI) is unlikely to utilize the enabling provision to raise nearly Rs 11,900 crore through additional tier-I (AT-1) bonds due to pricing issues in the current fiscal.
- ✓ About Additional Tier-1 (AT-1) Bonds:
- ✓ AT-1 bonds are perpetual bonds with no maturity date.
- ✓ Investors in these bonds do not get their principal back.
- ✓ However, the interest continues forever. AT-1 bonds have a higher interest rate than other bonds.
- ✓ Due to the perpetual nature of AT-1 bonds, these are often treated and viewed as equity, not debt.
- ✓ How are AT-1 Bonds Issued?
- ✓ AT-1 bonds are issued by banks in accordance with the directions of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- ✓ Financial institutions usually issue such bonds to fulfil their capital adequacy requirements (CAR).
- ✓ CAR is an assessment of a bank's capital and its risk-weighted assets.
- ✓ Capital adequacy norms were formulated under the Basel III accord of 2009 after the credit crisis of 2008.
- ✓ The money raised through these bonds is kept aside as a shock absorber by the bank.
- ✓ These bonds are contingent convertible bonds (CoCos), a type of debt instrument that the bank can convert into equity if its capital levels fall below the specified levels. This helps the bank reduce debt while managing capital
- ✓ AT-1 bonds have a call option, which allows the banks to buy back the bonds from the investors.
- ✓ These bonds provide high returns but also carry greater risk.
- ✓ If the banking institution fails, these bonds are at risk.
- ✓ Suppose the RBI finds a bank in an unstable condition, under pressure, and in a situation where it demands rescue. In that case, it can ask the bank to immediately withdraw their AT-1 Bonds without seeking permission from the investors, therefore making AT-1 Bonds risky.
- ✓ Further, the issuer can also skip the interest payout if it is under financial stress.
- ✓ Investors cannot return their bonds to the bank as there is no put option against these bonds. However, these bonds are listed on the stock exchanges, so the investor can liquidate these whenever in need.
- ✓ Subordinate debt: In case of default, these bonds rank lower than the other debt, which is why these are subordinate debts.



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Q. What is Steadfast Defender 2024, recently seen in the news?

- A) Simulation of cyber warfare scenarios
- B) Humanitarian aid missions to small island nations
- C) Peacekeeping operations in Africa
- D) NATO military exercise in Europe

Answer : D

- ✓ North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) started its largest military exercise in Europe, the Steadfast Defender 2024, recently.
- ✓ About Steadfast Defender 2024:
- ✓ It is NATO's most extensive military exercise since the Cold War era.
- ✓ It involves 90,000 forces from 31 member countries and NATO partner Sweden and is conducted across various NATO nations.
- ✓ The ground forces are equally robust, with at least 1,100 combat vehicles, including 133 tanks and 533 infantry fighting vehicles, demonstrating NATO's ground capabilities.
- ✓ The purpose of Steadfast Defender 2024 is to put NATO's new regional defense plans to the test.
- ✓ These plans, the first of their kind in decades, outline the alliance's response mechanisms to potential threats, notably addressing concerns regarding Russian aggression.
- ✓ North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)
- ✓ Formation : 4 April 1949
- ✓ Headquarters : Brussels, Belgium
- ✓ Secretary General : Jens Stoltenberg (Norway)
- ✓ Total Member : 31 (Finland)
- ✓ North Atlantic Treaty, also referred to as the Washington Treaty.

EXERCISE IN NEWS 2023-24

- North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) started its largest military exercise in Europe, the Steadfast Defender 2024, recently.
- The 5th edition of the joint military exercise 'DHARMA GUARDIAN' is being organized at the Mahajan Field Firing Range in Rajasthan.



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- Indian and Sri Lankan coast guard ships reached the Maldives recently to take part in the trilateral coast guard exercise Dosti 16
- 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.
- Much-anticipated joint exercise 'Trishakti Prahar' recently began near the western border of Rajasthan in Jaisalmer.



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- 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. Pey Jal Survekshan Awards is an initiative of:

A) Ministry of Jal Shakti

B) Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs

C) NITI Aayog

D) Ministry of Rural Development

Answer : B

- ✓ Recently, the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs announced the first Pey Jal Survekshan Awards.
- ✓ A distinguished array of 130 awards is set to be bestowed, reflecting the remarkable accomplishments of cities and states.
- ✓ The award consists of various categories;
- ✓ Pey Jal Gold, Silver, and Bronze City Awards, where Gold signifies top performers in their respective population categories (1 to 10 Lakh, 10 to 40 Lakh, and More than 40 Lakh),
- ✓ Silver denotes the 2nd position, and Bronze the 3rd.
- ✓ The awards extend to commendations for Best Water Body, Sustainability Champion, Reuse Champion, Water Quality, City Saturation, and AMRUT 2.0 Rotating Trophy of the Year.
- ✓ Parameters: It encompassed diverse parameters, including access, coverage, water quality at treatment plants and households, and sustainability regarding the health of water bodies, availability of SCADA/flowmeters, and reuse of treated used water.
- ✓ Cities will be graded on a star rating scale, ranging from 5 stars to No star, encapsulating their performance across these critical criteria.
- ✓ Pey Jal Survekshan ensured clean water through independent NABL lab testing at source and citizen-end.
- ✓ Using a GIS-enabled web portal, geo-tagging, and infrastructure mapping, the survey collected accurate and transparent data



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Q. Genie AI Model, which was recently in news, is developed by:

- A) Microsoft
B) Facebook
C) OpenAI
D) Google

Answer : D

- ✓ Google DeepMind has just introduced Genie, a new model that can generate interactive video games from just a text or image prompt.
- ✓ It is a foundation world model that is trained on videos sourced from the Internet.
- ✓ The model can “generate an endless variety of playable (action-controllable) worlds from synthetic images, photographs, and even sketches.”
- ✓ It is the first generative interactive environment that has been trained in an unsupervised manner from unlabelled internet videos.
- ✓ Specifications: When it comes to size, Genie stands at 11B parameters and consists of a spatiotemporal video tokenizer, an autoregressive dynamics model, and a simple and scalable latent action model

Q. Which country’s instant payment platform AANI was linked with India’s UPI?

- A) Qatar
B) Nepal
C) UAE
D) Myanmar

Answer : C

- ✓ India and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) announced that they would link their instant payment platforms, UPI (India) and AANI (UAE).
- ✓ The agreement will allow for seamless cross-border transactions between the two countries.
- ✓ AANI is an instant payment platform that allows users to transfer and settle funds in less than 10 seconds.
- ✓ It initially supports transactions of up to \$13,600.
- ✓ The agreement is part of a number of pacts signed between the two countries in February 2024, including BIT and IGA on IMEC.

UAE IN NEWS 2023-24

- Indian Prime Minister will attend the World Government Summit 2024 as a guest of honour in UAE.
- World Government Summit (WGS) 2024: Theme: “Shaping Future Governments”.



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- The joint military exercise 'Desert Cyclone' of India and United Arab Emirates is being organized in Mahajan, Rajasthan
- India, UAE ink MoU to strengthen educational cooperation for students, faculty.
- India, UAE sign MoU on linking of India's Unified Payments Interface with Instant Payment Platform of UAE.
- UAE becomes first Arab country to get observer status on Asia-Pacific money laundering.
- United Arab Emirates (UAE) has emerged as the fourth largest investor in India during 2022-23.
- Dubai Emerges as India's Top Choice for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)
- UAE to Host World's Largest IUCN World Conservation Congress 2025.
- Etihad Airways, the national airline of the UAE, has been named the Environmental Airline of the Year 2023 for the second year in a row at the Airline Rating Awards.
- UAE India's second largest export destination and third largest source of imports.
- The first conference of I2U2 Business Forum, a joint initiative of India, Israel, the US and the United Arab Emirates, was held on 22 February 2023 in Abu Dhabi (UAE).
- United Arab Emirates (UAE) will host the 13th World Trade Organisation (WTO) Ministerial meeting in February 2024.
- UAE will host the 28th Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP28) in November 2023.
- Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) signed an agreement to set up its first overseas office in Abu Dhabi Global Market.
- UAE and India launched the UAE India Business Council - UAE Chapter (UIBCUC) to strengthen economic ties and enhance bilateral trade and investment.
- EDGE, UAE's leading defence group signed a Memorandum of Understanding with India's aerospace firm Hindustan Aeronautics (HAL) at the International Defence Exhibition and Conference (IDEX).
- India, France, UAE Establish Trilateral Cooperation Initiative, in fields including Energy, Defence & Economy.
- India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) is shortly to be connected to comparable networks in Indonesia, Mauritius, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).
- RBI, Central Bank of UAE sign MoU to promote innovation in financial products and services.



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- Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan appointed President of UAE.
- Emaar, a Dubai-based real estate developer, has become the first foreign company to invest in a mega-mall spread over one million square feet in Srinagar.
- Indian Air Force contingent of 110 Air Warriors reached Al Dahfra airbase of United Arab Emirates (UAE) on 25 February for participating in Exercise 'Desert Flag VIII.
- President of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, has appointed Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, his brother, as the Vice President of the country.
- The 'Study in India Pavilion' at the Global Education & Training Exhibition (GETEX) in Dubai, UAE.
- HDFC Bank and UAE-based financial services company Lulu Exchange, have partnered to strengthen cross-border payments between India and Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) region.
- About UAE
- Official Language : Arabic
- Capital : Abu Dhabi
- Currency : Emirati Dirham
- President of UAE : Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan
- Prime Minister: Sheikh Mohammed ibn Rashid Al Maktoum

Q. Consider the following statements regarding Know Your Customer (KYC) norms:

1. It is a comprehensive process that financial and non-financial institutions follow to verify the identity of their customers.

2. In India, separate KYCs are needed for different financial products.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A) 1 only

B) 2 only

C) Both 1 and 2

D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer : C

- ✓ The government of India has formed an expert committee headed by Finance Secretary T V Somanathan to make its recommendations to bring out uniform Know Your Customer (KYC) norms.



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- ✓ It is a comprehensive process that financial and non-financial institutions follow to verify the authenticity and identity of their customers.
- ✓ The KYC process is mandatory for every customer before investing in any instruments or starting a bank account.
- ✓ In India at present, separate KYCs are needed for different financial products such as opening a bank account, investing in mutual funds, buying a life cover or investing in retirement-savings funds.
- ✓ Multiple KYCs, regular updates and even the exact specifications often prove to be a deterrent for new investors.
- ✓ Multiple KYCs, regular updates and even the exact specifications often prove to be a deterrent for new investors.
- ✓ To eliminate the need to do repeated KYC for investing across financial assets central government launched Central KYC Records Registry.
- ✓ What is Central KYC Records Registry?
- ✓ It was launched by the central government of India in 2016.
- ✓ It has been limited only to the capital markets.
- ✓ In fact, while dealing in securities markets, once KYC is done through a Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) registered intermediary such as a broker, depository participant or mutual fund, customers do not have to undergo the same process again for fresh investments.
- ✓ The government authorised the Central Registry of Securitisation Asset Reconstruction and Security Interest of India (CERSAI) to perform the functions of the CKYCR.
- ✓ Customers have to submit their KYC details only once with any of the reporting entities of the Reserve Bank of India, Sebi, Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India, Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority at the time of opening an account.
- ✓ Once the information is registered, customers will receive a 14-digit KYC Identification Number that can be used at any financial institution registered with CERSAI.

Q. With which country has the Ministry of AYUSH signed an agreement to promote Ayurveda?

A) Cambodia

B) Thailand

C) Nepal

D) Brazil

Answer : B



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- ✓ The National Institute of Ayurveda, Jaipur under the Ministry of AYUSH and the Department of Thai Traditional and Alternative Medicine of Thailand have signed an MoU for cooperation in Ayurveda and Thai traditional medicine.
- ✓ This agreement was reached during the 10th meeting of the India-Thailand Joint Commission held at Hyderabad House, New Delhi.

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.



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

Q. When and till when is the 'Annual Financial Literacy' week being organized by RBI?

- A) 26 February to 29 February B) 26 February to 1 March
C) 27 February to 2 March D) 28 February to 3 March

Answer : B

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is promoting financial literacy among the youth through its annual Financial Literacy Week (FLW) campaign held from February 26 to March 1, 2024.
- ✓ This year's theme is "Make a Right Start – Become Financially Smart".
- ✓ Presently the Governor of RBI is Shaktikanta Das.
- ✓ RBI conducts Financial Literacy Week (FLW) every year since 2016 to propagate financial education messages on a particular theme every year across the country, through a focused campaign.

Q. The Financial Literacy Week (FLW) is organised annually by which organisation?

- A) Ministry of Finance B) NPCI
C) RBI D) SBI

Answer : C

Q. Since when is Reserve Bank of India celebration the Financial Literacy week?

- A) 2010 B) 2015
C) 2016 D) 2013

Answer : C

- ✓ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has been conducting Financial Literacy Week (FLW) every year since 2016 to propagate financial education messages on a particular theme across the country



Q. 'Bag-Less School' initiative, recently seen in the news, is introduced by which state?

A) Uttar Pradesh

B) Madhya Pradesh

C) Rajasthan

D) Bihar

Answer : B

- ✓ Madhya Pradesh government unveils an innovative 'bag-less school' policy, challenging educational norms. Starting 2024-25, this initiative mandates a bag-free day each week.
- ✓ The state government issues weight limits for school bags, ranging from 1.6 to 2.2 kg for classes 1 and 2, to 2.5 to 4.5 kg for classes 9 and 10.
- ✓ This move aims to alleviate the physical burden on students, fostering a more comfortable and holistic learning environment.

MADHYA PRADESH IN NEWS 2023-24

- World's First Vedic Clock Unveiled in Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh.
- Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change has submitted three nominations from India for Wetland City Accreditation (WCA) of Indore (Madhya Pradesh), Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh) & Udaipur (Rajasthan) under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands
- Madhya Pradesh government will set up PM College of Excellence in all districts of the state.
- Mohan Yadav has been elected as the new Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh.
- The city of Kozhikode in Kerala was added in UNESCO's Creative Cities Network (UCCN).
- Gwalior from Madhya Pradesh was also among the 55 new cities to join the network.
- Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve becomes the 7th tiger reserve of Madhya Pradesh and 55th in India.
- Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has organized the 'India Smart Cities Conclave 2023' in Indore, Madhya Pradesh.
- The famous Kadaknath chicken meat from Jhabua district of Madhya Pradesh has now got a Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- The 'Sanchi' city of Madhya Pradesh has been established as the country's first solar city.
- International Aerospace Conference jointly organized by MoCA and CII in Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh.



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- President of India, Droupadi Murmu has inaugurated 'Unmesha' – International Literature Festival and 'Utkarsh' – Festival of Folk and Tribal Performing Arts at Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.
- India's first online gaming academy launched in Madhya Pradesh.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the National Sickle Cell Anemia Elimination Mission in Shahdol, Madhya Pradesh.
- Tiger State Madhya Pradesh is poised to get its 7th tiger reserve with the state government going forward with the notification of Nauradehi and Durgavati Wildlife Sanctuaries.
- Madhya Pradesh received the first prize in the best State category, while the best district award went to Ganjam District in Odisha.
- Narmada Hydroelectric Development Corporation Ltd (NHDC Ltd.) will construct a 525 MW pumped storage project near the Indira Sagar Dam in Khandwa, Madhya Pradesh.
- Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan launched the 'Mukhya Mantri Ladli Bahna Yojana'.
- Madhya Pradesh cabinet approves 'Mukhya Mantri Sikho Kamao Yojana' for unemployed youth.
- Gond paintings from Madhya Pradesh have bagged the Geographical Indication (GI) tag, a recognition that protects and acknowledges the work of tribal artists.
- Madhya Pradesh government launched Chief Minister's Residential Land Rights Scheme.
- Madhya Pradesh government announced that Islam Nagar village located in Bhopal district has been renamed as Jagdishpur.
- Madhya Pradesh Government on 5 March launched Ladli Bahna scheme under which each woman will be given one thousand rupees per month..
- Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan announced on March 4 to make Tehsil Mauganj of Rewa district the 53rd district of the state.
- About Madhya Pradesh
- Capital – Bhopal
- Chief Minister – Dr Mohan Yadav (replace Shivraj Singh Chauhan)
- Deputy CM – Jagdish Devda & Rajendra Shukla
- Speaker of Madhya Pradesh Assembly – Narendra Singh Tomar
- Governor – Mangubhai C. Patel
- Lok Shaba Seats – 29



4. Chief Justice of India

5. Union Law Minister

How many of the above are members of the selection committee for recommending the Chairperson and the Members of the Lokpal?

A) Only two

B) Only three

C) Only four

D) All five

Answer : C

- ✓ Former Supreme Court judge Justice Ajay Manikrao Khanwilkar was recently appointed as the chairperson of Lokpal.
- ✓ About Lokpal:
- ✓ It is a statutory body established under the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act 2013.
- ✓ Mandate: To inquire into allegations of corruption against certain public functionaries and for related matters.
- ✓ Organisational Structure:
- ✓ The Lokpal will consist of a chairperson and a maximum of eight members.
- ✓ The Chairperson should be either the former Chief Justice of India, or a former Judge of the Supreme Court, or an eminent person who fulfils the eligibility criteria as specified.
- ✓ Out of the maximum eight members, half will be judicial members. The judicial member of the Lokpal should be either a former Judge of the Supreme Court or a former Chief Justice of a High Court.
- ✓ A minimum of fifty per cent of the Members will be from SC / ST / OBC / Minorities and women.
- ✓ How are members appointed?
- ✓ The Chairperson and the Members are appointed by the President of India on the recommendation of a selection committee composed of the Prime Minister as the Chairperson, the Speaker of Lok Sabha, the Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha, the Chief Justice of India or a Judge nominated by him/her, and one eminent jurist.
- ✓ They hold office for a term of five years from the date on which they enter upon the office or until they attain the age of 70 years, whichever is earlier.
- ✓ The salary, allowances, and other conditions of services of the Chairperson are the same as that of the Chief Justice of India.



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- ✓ The salary, allowances, and other conditions of services of the members are the same as that of a Judge of the Supreme Court.
- ✓ Jurisdiction:
- ✓ It has jurisdiction to inquire into allegations of corruption against anyone who is or has been Prime Minister, a Minister in the Union government, or a Member of Parliament, as well as officials of the Union Government under Groups A, B, C, and D.
- ✓ It covers chairpersons, members, officers, and directors of any board, corporation, society, trust, or autonomous body either established by an Act of Parliament or wholly or partly funded by the Union or State government.
- ✓ It also covers any society, trust, or body that receives a foreign contribution above Rs 10 lakh.
- ✓ Exceptions for Prime Minister:
- ✓ Lokpal cannot inquire into allegations against the PM relating to international relations, external and internal security, public order, atomic energy, and space.
- ✓ Also, complaints against the PM are not to be probed unless the full Lokpal bench considers the initiation of the inquiry and at least 2/3rds of the members approve it.
- ✓ Powers of Lokpal:
- ✓ It has powers to superintendence over and to give direction to the CBI.
- ✓ If it has referred a case to the CBI, the investigating officer in such a case cannot be transferred without the approval of Lokpal.
- ✓ The Inquiry Wing of the Lokpal has been vested with the powers of a civil court.
- ✓ In terms of Section 48 of the said Act, the Lokpal is required to present annually to the President a report on the work done by it, which is caused to be laid in both the Houses of the Parliament.

Q. What is the primary purpose of Garbhini-GA2, recently seen in the news?

- A) To predict the gender of the foetus
- B) To determine the age of a foetus
- C) To diagnose genetic disorders in pregnant women
- D) To determine a child's lineage history

Answer : B



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- ✓ Researchers recently developed Garbhini-GA2, an India-specific artificial intelligence model to precisely determine the gestational age of a foetus.
- ✓ About Garbhini-GA2:
- ✓ It is the first India-specific artificial intelligence (AI) model to precisely determine the age of a foetus in a pregnant woman in the second and third trimesters.
- ✓ It has been designed by researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology Madras and the Translational Health Science and Technology Institute (THSTI), Faridabad.
- ✓ It is part of an interdisciplinary group for advanced research on birth outcomes – the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) India initiative (GARBH-Ini) programme.
- ✓ It is the first late-trimester GA estimation model to be developed and validated using Indian population data.
- ✓ The Garbhini-GA2 accurately estimates the foetus' age, reducing error by almost three times.
- ✓ Accurate 'Gestational Age' (GA) is necessary for the appropriate care of pregnant women and for determining precise delivery dates.

Q. What does "fine-tuning" involve in the context of Large Language Models (LLMs)?

- A) Adjusting the physical components of the model**
- B) Training the model on a specific task or dataset**
- C) Reducing the size of the model for efficiency**
- D) Rewriting the entire model architecture**

Answer : B

- ✓ The ability of Generative AI models to “converse” with humans is due to something known as the Large Language Model, or LLM.
- ✓ About Large Language Model (LLMs):
- ✓ A large language model (LLM) is a type of artificial intelligence (AI) program that can recognize and generate text, among other tasks.
- ✓ LLMs are trained on huge sets of data—hence the name "large."
- ✓ LLMs are built on machine learning: specifically, a type of neural network called a transformer model.
- ✓ In simpler terms, an LLM is a computer program that has been fed enough examples to be able to recognize and interpret human language or other types of complex data.



- ✓ Many LLMs are trained on data that has been gathered from the Internet—thousands or millions of gigabytes' worth of text.
- ✓ But the quality of the samples impacts how well LLMs will learn natural language, so an LLM's programmers may use a more curated data set.
- ✓ LLMs use a type of machine learning called deep learning in order to understand how characters, words, and sentences function together.
- ✓ What are LLMs used for?
- ✓ LLMs can be trained to do a number of tasks. One of the most well-known uses is their application as generative AI: when given a prompt or asked a question, they can produce text in reply.
- ✓ The publicly available LLM ChatGPT, for instance, can generate essays, poems, and other textual forms in response to user inputs.

Q. What is 'INDRA RV25: 240N', that was in the news recently?

- A) A new high-speed train model
- B) A cutting-edge communication satellite
- C) An advanced water filtration system
- D) A micro turbojet engine

Answer : D

- ✓ Hyderabad based Raghu Vamsi Machine Tools Private Limited recently launched its fully indigenous Micro Turbojet Engine "INDRA RV25: 240N".
- ✓ About INDRA RV25: 240N:
 - ✓ It is a micro turbojet engine.
 - ✓ It is designed and developed indigenously by Hyderabad-based firm Raghu Vamsi Machine Tools with support from IIT Hyderabad.
 - ✓ It has primarily been developed for unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) or drones.
 - ✓ The engine has applications in UAVs, air taxis, jetpacks, auxiliary power units, range extenders, and power generation in the future.
- ✓ What is a turbojet engine?
- ✓ A turbojet engine is a jet engine which produces all of its thrust by ejecting a high energy gas stream from the engine exhaust nozzle.



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Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Annual Aegis Graham Bell Awards:

1. It recognizes the outstanding contributions by innovators in various fields.

2. It is awarded by the United Nations.

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 Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT), the premier Telecom R&D centre of the Government of India, strikes a hat-trick by securing top position in three awards at 14th Annual Aegis Graham Bell Awards.
- ✓ It was initiated in 2010 by the Aegis School of Data Science.
- ✓ It is a tribute to the father of the telephony and great innovator, Alexander Graham Bell.
- ✓ The Aegis School of Business, Data Science and Cyber Security has initiated this award to promote innovations and recognise the outstanding contributions by innovators in various fields including education, Information and Communications Technology (ICT), Artificial Intelligence (AI) and data science.
- ✓ This award in India is supported by the Ministry of electronics and information technology (MeitY), Skill India and National Informatics Centre.
- ✓ Following are the projects of C-DOT which received this award
- ✓ ASTR Project: ASTR (AI & Facial Recognition-powered Solution for Telecom SIM Subscriber Verification) is a game-changer in the fight against cyber crimes.
- ✓ Designed to analyze, identify, and eliminate fake/forged mobile connections, it's a crucial step towards ensuring a secure telecom environment.
- ✓ CEIR (Central Equipment Identity Register) solution: CEIR helps in revolutionizing mobile security by detecting clone IMEIs, restricting import of counterfeit mobile devices and also enabling the blocking and tracing of lost or stolen phones.
- ✓ Quantum Key Distribution (QKD) product: India employs quantum mechanics to create an unbreakable cryptographic protocol even with Quantum computers



Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Investor Information and Analytics Platform:

1. It is an initiative of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
2. It acts as a one-stop solution for startups to seamlessly access Venture Capitalists.

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

- ✓ Recently, the union Minister of State for Electronics and IT, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship launched 'Investor Information and Analytics Platform.
- ✓ It acts as a one-stop shop for startups to seamlessly access Venture Capitalists (VCs) and investors networks, Govt schemes and several other components of the startup landscape for all stakeholders.
- ✓ By integrating information at different levels, the platform is also a one-stop shop for entrepreneurs to search for information on government agencies, incubators, investors, VCs and banks that invest in startups.
- ✓ This platform has been developed by the Researchers at the Centre for Research on Start-ups and Risk Financing (CREST) of IIT Madras.
- ✓ An important feature of this unique platform is "StartupGPT" which is an AI-based conversational platform whose function is to help ease information access for those who are navigating exhaustive data.

Q. With reference to Flue Cured Tobacco, consider the following statements:

1. It has high sugar content.
2. It has a very low levels of nicotine.
3. It does not contain natural Tannin.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer : A

- ✓ Government of India permits sale of Flue Cured Virginia (FCV) Tobacco on Tobacco Boards auction platform and waives off penalty on sale of excess production of registered growers and unauthorized production of unregistered growers in Karnataka.



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- ✓ Curing is a process by which the harvested tobacco leaf is made ready for the market.
- ✓ It is a well standardized process especially in FCV tobacco to achieve the desirable qualities in the cured leaf along with the removal of moisture.
- ✓ There are three types of tobacco curing methods traditionally used: Air-Cured, Fire-Cured, and Flue-Cured.
- ✓ Key characteristics of Flue Cured Tobacco
 - ✓ Produces primarily cigarette tobacco
 - ✓ Contains a high sugar content
 - ✓ Contains medium to high levels of nicotine
 - ✓ Rich in natural tannins which creates its distinct mild and slightly sweet flavor and aroma
- ✓ In India Flue Cured Virginia (FCV) Tobacco is mainly produced in India in 2 states, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka.

Q. Which country is hosting the 5th edition of the International Gita Mahotsav (IGM) 2024?

- A) India
- B) Myanmar
- C) Sri Lanka
- D) Nepal

Answer : C

- ✓ The International Gita Mahotsav (IGM), rooted in India's spiritual and cultural heritage, expands to Sri Lanka for its fifth edition from March 1 to 3.
- ✓ With past editions in Mauritius, London, Canada, and Australia, the Mahotsav's global appeal is evident.
- ✓ The event aims to unite devotees worldwide, showcasing the universal significance of the Bhagavad Gita.

Q. NITI Aayog CEO B V R Subrahmanyam has said that the latest consumer expenditure survey indicates that poverty has come down to how much per cent in the country and people are becoming prosperous both in rural and urban areas?

- A) 3%
- B) 2%
- C) 5%
- D) 7%

Answer : C

- ✓ India's poverty level down to 5% of population: NITI Aayog
- ✓ NITI Aayog CEO B V R Subrahmanyam has said that the latest consumer expenditure survey indicates that poverty has come down to five per cent in the country and people are becoming prosperous both in rural and urban areas.



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- ✓ Citing the survey data, the increase in consumption both in rural and urban areas is about 2.5 times
- ✓ The National Sample Survey Office under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, released data on household consumption expenditure in 2022-23 which shows per capita monthly household expenditure more than doubled in 2022-23 as compared to 2011-12.

Q. With whom has the Election Commission started the 'Mera Pehla Vote Desh Ke Liye' campaign?

- A) Home Ministry B) Ministry of Education
C) Ministry of Panchayati Raj D) Ministry of External Affairs

Answer : B

- ✓ In view of the Lok Sabha elections, to increase the inclination towards voting among the youth who are voting for the first time, the Election Commission in collaboration with the Education Ministry has started the campaign 'Mera Pehla Vote Desh Ke Liye'. Under this, a campaign is being run in higher educational institutions between 28 February and 6 March

Q. Who was recently appointed as the Chairperson of Lokpal by President Draupadi Murmu?

- A) Pinaki Chandra Ghosh B) Kapil Sibal
C) Ajay Manikrao Khanvilkar D) Prashant Bhushan

Answer : C

- ✓ President Draupadi Murmu has appointed former SC judge Justice Ajay Manikrao Khanvilkar as the Chairperson of Lokpal.
- ✓ This post was vacant for the last two years.
- ✓ The previous Chairman Justice Pinaki Chandra Ghosh completed his tenure on May 27, 2022.
- ✓ Justice Khanvilkar served as a judge of the Supreme Court from 13 May 2016 to 29 July 2022.

Q. Who has been appointed as the new CEO for India by the World Gold Council?

- A) Sachin Jain B) Ajay Sinha
C) Atul Anand D) Rajeev Kumar

Answer : A

- ✓ The World Gold Council has recently appointed Sachin Jain as the new CEO for India.
- ✓ He will assume charge in March 2024.



- ✓ He will replace Somasundaram PR.
- ✓ The World Gold Council serves as an association of the world's leading gold mining companies

Q. Which day is observed as National Protein Day in India?

- A) February 25
- B) February 24
- C) February 26
- D) February 27

Answer : D

- ✓ In India, February 27th is celebrated as the National Protein Day, to create awareness about protein deficiency and encourage people to include of this macronutrient in their diet.
- ✓ The day was launched on February 27, 2020, by the 'Right to Protein', a national-level public health awareness initiative to educate people about the importance of adequate protein consumption for better nutrition, health, and wellbeing.
- ✓ Protein Day is celebrating its fifth year in 2024

Q. World NGO Day is commemorated annually on which day globally?

- A) 25 February
- B) 26 February
- C) 28 February
- D) 27 February

Answer : D

- ✓ The World NGO Day is celebrated on February 27 every year.
- ✓ It is an international day dedicated to recognize, celebrate and honour all non-governmental and nonprofit organizations, and the people behind them that contribute to the society all year around.
- ✓ It was marked for the first time by UN, EU, Nordic Council leaders and international organizations in 2014.

Q. When is National Science Day celebrated every year?

- A) 26 February
- B) 27 February
- C) 28 February
- D) 29 February

Answer : C

- ✓ National Science Day is celebrated every year on 28 February in India.
- ✓ This day is celebrated all over India to give importance to the remarkable work done by Indian scientist Chandrashekhara Venkata Raman in the field of science.



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- ✓ The theme of National Science Day 2024 is 'Indigenous Technologies for Viksit Bharat'.
- ✓ The first National Science Day was celebrated on 28 February 1987.
- ✓ Sir C. V. Raman was an Indian physicist whose ground breaking work in the field of light scattering earned him the 1930 Nobel Prize for Physics.
- ✓ He discovered that, when light traverses a transparent material, some of the deflected light changes in wavelength. This phenomenon is now called Raman scattering.
- ✓ C.V Raman discovered the Inelastic scattering of light by molecules in 1928, also named as 'Raman effect' Raman scattering is the inelastic scattering of a photon by molecules which are excited to higher vibrational or rotational energy levels.
- ✓ The first scientist to receive Bharat Ratna - C. V. Raman (1954). C. V. Raman was an Indian Physicist.

Q. What is the theme of National Science Day 2024?

- A) The Future of STI
- B) Future of STI: Impact on Education Skills and Work
- C) Indigenous Technologies for Viksit Bharat
- D) Integrated Approach in S&T for Sustainable Future

Answer : C

- ✓ The theme of National Science Day 2024 is 'Indigenous Technologies for Viksit Bharat'.

Q. India's first indigenous green hydrogen inland waterway ship was launched in which state?

- A) Gujarat
- B) Maharashtra
- C) Tamil Nadu
- D) Odisha

Answer : C

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched India's first indigenous green hydrogen fuel cell inland waterway vessel in Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ It has been designed and developed by Cochin Shipyard.
- ✓ The length of this ship is 24 meters and it has seating space for 50 passengers. Chidambaranar Port has become the country's first green hydrogen hub port.



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INDIA'S FIRST IN NEWS 2023-24

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched India's first indigenous green hydrogen fuel cell inland waterway vessel in Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu.
- 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.
- 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. How many crores of rupees have been approved for 'PM-Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana'?

A) 50,000 crores

B) 60,000 crores

C) 75,000 crores

D) 90,000 crores



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- 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 Khetrpal Singh Honored with Bhutan's National Order of Merit.
- Indira Gandhi Peace Prize Awarded to Daniel Barenboim and Ali Abu Awwad"
- Noted Hindi Writer Pushpa Bharati to Receive 33rd Vyas Samman for her 2016 memoir, "Yaadein, Yaadein aur Yaadein."
- Federal Bank Titled "Bank of the Year 2023" in India : The Banker
- Argentina's football icon, Lionel Messi, has been named Time magazine's Athlete of the Year for 2023
- Abdullahi Mire, a Somali refugee, has been named the 2023 UNHCR Nansen Refugee Award
- Paul Lynch who is an Irish author won the 2023 Booker prize for his fifth novel 'Prophet Song'



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➤ Tamil writer Perumal Murugan's 'Fire Bird' Wins 2023 JCB Prize for Literature

Q. Which entity has organized its monthly district outreach programme “Nidhi Aapke Nikat 2.0” in over 670 districts of the country?

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

Answer : B

- ✓ Employees' Provident Fund Organization (EPFO) is organizing its monthly district outreach programme Nidhi Aapke Nikat 2.0 in over 670 districts of the country.
- ✓ For the ease of EPS'95 pensioners, a special dedicated Pension Helpdesk will be set up wherein various pensioners-centric services like submission of Digital Life Certificates, Enquiries, and Pension Payment Order (PPO) handover on the day of retirement will be provided.
- ✓ Besides, a service kiosk will also be set up with a special focus on on-the-spot grievance redressal for employees, employers and pensioners and to share information with stakeholders.
- ✓ The locations of camps can be accessed from the EPFO website under the What's New section.
- ✓ Nidhi Aapke Nikat 2.0 is a monthly District Outreach Programme of EPFO commenced in January last year Under the program, District Camps are organised on the 27th of every month or the next working day in case the 27th is a holiday.
- ✓ Since January 2023, more than 8 thousand 500 District Camps have been organized

Q. Who has been appointed as the Director (Operations) of NTPC?

- A) Ravindra Kumar
B) Neha Agarwal
C) Dilip Sharma
D) Rahul Kumar

Answer : A

- ✓ Ravindra Kumar has been appointed as the Director (Operations) of NTPC.
- ✓ He has been appointed to the post till the date of his superannuation i.e. October 31, 2027, or until further orders, whichever is earlier.
- ✓ Prior to joining as Director (Operations) of NTPC Limited, he was Officer on Special Duty (OSD) to Director (Operations) of NTPC Limited.



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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
- Chairman and Managing Director: Gurdeep Singh



Q. Which of the following companies received a payment aggregator licence from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)?

A) Mobi Kwik

B) Kia Fashion

C) mCent

D) Amazon Pay

Answer : D

- ✓ Amazon Pay, the fintech arm of e-commerce major Amazon India, has received a payment aggregator licence from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the company.
- ✓ The fintech firm joins a list of companies that the central bank has granted authorization to operate as payment aggregators (PA) recently.
- ✓ This month, two fintech startups, Decentro and Juspay, and enterprise software-as-a-service (SaaS) firm Zoho have received final authorisation from the RBI for payment aggregator (PA) licences.
- ✓ Food delivery major Zomato, and fintech firms Stripe and Tata Pay were among the companies to have bagged the licence in January.
- ✓ They joined the likes of Razorpay, Cashfree Payments, and EnKash, who got approval last year.

Q. Which one of the following best describes the 'Regulatory Sandbox'?

A) It is a live testing of new low-cost financial products.

B) It is a framework to curb drug racketing across the country.

C) It is a technology to test adulteration of food products.

D) It is a single window system to get license for AI startups

Answer : A

- ✓ Recently, the Reserve Bank tweaked guidelines for Regulatory Sandbox (RS) scheme.
- ✓ It refers to live testing of new products or services in a controlled regulatory environment.
- ✓ It acts as a "safe space" for business as the regulators may or may not permit certain relaxations for the limited purpose of testing.
- ✓ It can provide a structured avenue for the regulator to engage with the ecosystem and to develop innovation-enabling or innovation-responsive regulations that facilitate delivery of relevant, low-cost financial products.
- ✓ It is potentially an important tool which enables more dynamic, evidence-based regulatory environments which learn from, and evolve with, emerging technologies.
- ✓ Objectives



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- ✓ Objectives
- ✓ It primarily focuses on building an ecosystem for all stakeholders in professional and career development, including learners, course providers, industry, academia, and strategic partners.
- ✓ Reaching a large learner base by catering to learning across the country, with a focus on reaching learners from tiers 2 and 3 towns and rural areas.
- ✓ It features innovative elements such as multilingual content (available in 12 major Indian languages of the country), AI-enabled guidance, credit recognition, and pathways to employment.
- ✓ These employability and professional development-focused programmes have been developed with industry players including L&T, Microsoft and CISCO.
- ✓ The Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras) will be operating this Platform.
- ✓ Hence only statements 1 and 2 are correct.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Financial Intelligence Unit:

1. It disseminates information relating to suspected financial transactions.

2. It works directly under the Prime Minister's Office.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A) 1 only

B) 2 only

C) Both 1 and 2

D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer : A

- ✓ India's Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) is keeping a close eye on large cash deposits and withdrawals from cooperative banks ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.
- ✓ It was set by the Government of India in November 2004.
- ✓ It is the central national agency responsible for receiving, processing, analyzing and disseminating information relating to suspect financial transactions.
- ✓ It is an independent body reporting directly to the Economic Intelligence Council (EIC) headed by the union Finance Minister.
- ✓ Functions:
- ✓ Collection of Information: Act as the central reception point for receiving Cash Transaction reports (CTRs), Non-Profit Organisation Transaction Report (NTRs), Cross Border Wire Transfer Reports (CBWTRs),



Reports on Purchase or Sale of Immovable Property (IPRs) and Suspicious Transaction Reports (STRs) from various reporting entities.

Q. The Kulasekarapattinam Spaceport, recently seen in the news, is located in:

- A) Karnataka
- B) Andhra Pradesh
- C) Tamil Nadu
- D) Odisha

Answer : C

- ✓ Prime Minister recently laid the foundation stone for a new spaceport at Kulasekarapattinam in southern Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ About Kulasekarapattinam Spaceport:
- ✓ It is a new spaceport coming up at Kulasekarapattinam, a coastal hamlet near the temple town of Tiruchendur in Thoothukudi district in southern Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ It will be second after the space agency's existing Satish Dhawan Space Centre, founded in Andhra Pradesh's Sriharikota in 1971, with two launch pads.
- ✓ It will focus on the launch of Small Satellite Launch Vehicles (SSLVs) on a commercial basis.
- ✓ It will house 35 facilities, including a launch pad, rocket integration facilities, ground range and checkout facilities, and a mobile launch structure (MLS) with checkout computers.
- ✓ It would have the capacity to launch 24 satellites per year using a mobile launch structure.
- ✓ Spread over 2,350 acres, the spaceport will help save fuel for small rocket launches as the port can launch rockets directly south over the Indian Ocean without requiring crossing landmasses.
- ✓ This is unlike the existing launch site at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, which adds more fuel requirements for launching into a polar orbit as rockets need to follow a curved path to the south to avoid Sri Lanka's landmass.
- ✓ It is estimated to cost Rs. 986 crore

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Maulana Azad Education Foundation (MAEF):

1. It was established to promote education amongst the educationally backward minorities.
2. It works under the Ministry of Education, Government of India.



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Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A) 1 only

B) 2 only

C) Both 1 and 2

D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer : A

- ✓ The Ministry of Minority Affairs recently ordered the closure of the Maulana Azad Education Foundation (MAEF).
- ✓ About Maulana Azad Education Foundation (MAEF):
- ✓ MAEF was established on the occasion of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad's birth centenary celebrations.
- ✓ The Foundation is a voluntary, non-political, non-profit making social service organization.
- ✓ It was registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860, on 6th July 1989.
- ✓ The Foundation was established to promote education amongst the educationally backward minorities in particular and other weaker sections in general.
- ✓ It is fully funded by the Ministry of Minority Affairs, Govt. of India.
- ✓ Structure:
- ✓ The Hon'ble Minister of Minority Affairs is Ex-Officio President of the Foundation.
- ✓ The General Body of the Foundation consists of 15 members, of which six are ex-officio, including the President, MAEF, and rest nine are nominated by the President, MAEF.
- ✓ Through programmes like the Begum Hazrat Mahal National Scholarship Scheme and the Khwaja Gharib Nawaz Skill Development Training Scheme, the Foundation worked to improve employment opportunities for minorities and awarded scholarships to deserving girls from religious minorities.

Q. 'Vantara' initiative, recently seen in the news, is associated with which one of the following?

A) Animal Welfare

B) Climate change

C) Environmental protection

D) Historical monuments

Answer : A

- ✓ Reliance Industries and Reliance Foundation introduced Vantara, led by Anant Ambani, a comprehensive initiative for rescuing, treating, and rehabilitating animals. The program centers around a 3,000-acre sanctuary within the Green Belt of Reliance's Jamnagar Refinery Complex in Gujarat, designed as a jungle-like haven. Vantara aims to provide a natural and enriching habitat for rescued animals, promoting their healing and thriving.



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Q. Which state government recently planning to introduce a bill to hold rioters responsible for damage to both government and private property?

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

Answer : C

- ✓ Uttarakhand government plans to introduce the Uttarakhand Public and Private Property Damage Recovery Bill in the upcoming budget session.
- ✓ This legislation aims to hold rioters financially responsible for damages to both government and private property during protests or strikes.
- ✓ If enacted, Uttarakhand would be the third state, following Uttar Pradesh and Haryana, to implement such a law.
- ✓ The initiative aligns with the government's agenda to uphold law and order and safeguard public and private assets from unlawful destruction.

Q. What is the rank of India in the Global Intellectual Property Index 2024?

- A) 42nd
B) 45th
C) 44th
D) 46th

Answer : A

- ✓ The US Chamber of Commerce released the 12th edition of the International Intellectual Property (IP) Index, ranking 55 economies on their IP frameworks.
- ✓ India secured the 42nd position with a 38.64% overall score.
- ✓ The United States, the United Kingdom, and France topped the list, emphasizing the pivotal role of strong IP systems in economic development.
- ✓ The index evaluates the effectiveness of IP landscapes in fostering innovation and creative industries globally.

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

- A) Ancient irrigation technique
B) Septic tank/manhole cleaning robot
C) Nuclear ballistic submarine
D) Ancient medicinal practice

Answer : B



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Q. What is the name of the Sikkim's first railway station, recently inaugurated by Prime Minister of India?

- A) Gangtok railway station B) Namchi railway station
C) Rangpo railway station D) Pelling railway station

Answer : C

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for Sikkim's first railway station in Rangpo, celebrating a historic moment for the state.
- ✓ The station's design, inspired by local culture and the Himalayan landscape, pays homage to Sikkim's rich traditions.
- ✓ This initiative is part of a nationwide effort, with over 2,000 rail infrastructure projects worth Rs 41,000 crore, aiming to transform transportation networks, promote connectivity, and drive economic development across the country.

Q. Ayutthaya city, recently seen in the news, is located in which country?

- A) Thailand B) Vietnam
C) Egypt D) Sudan

Answer : A

- ✓ The Bihar Governor visited Thailand's Ancient City of Ayutthaya, named after Lord Ram's birth city in Ayodhya, India. Founded in 1350, it served as the Siamese Kingdom's second capital.
- ✓ Flourishing from the 14th to the 18th centuries, it was a global diplomatic and commercial hub on an island strategically located above tidal bores, protecting it from sea attacks.
- ✓ Burmese forces razed it in 1767, leaving an extensive archaeological site with advanced water management and monumental structures.

Q. Where was the 16th World Social Forum 2024 meeting held?

- A) Bhutan B) New Delhi
C) Kathmandu D) Bangladesh

Answer : C

- ✓ The 16th World Social Forum (WSF) conference in 2024 started in Kathmandu in February 2024.



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Q. Under which programme has PM Narendra Modi launched the world's largest cooperative grain storage scheme across the country in February 2024?

- A) Mid-Day Meal Programme B) Antyodaya Anna Yojana
C) Vikshit Bharat @ 2047 D) Sahakar Se Samridhi Programme

Answer : D

- ✓ PM Modi launches World's Largest Grain Storage Scheme
- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched the world's largest grain storage plan in the cooperative sector, entailing an investment of over Rs 1.25 lakh crore, with the inauguration of 11 godowns in primary agricultural credit societies (PACS) in as many states.
- ✓ Under the programme, 700 lakh tons of storage capacity will be created over the next five years in the cooperative sector by constructing thousands of godowns and warehouses.
- ✓ He also laid the foundation for creating godowns and other agri infrastructure in 500 more PACS.
- ✓ Under this, thousands of warehouses and godowns will be constructed across the country.
- ✓ This scheme has been launched under the 'Sahakar Se Samridhi Programme'.
- ✓ Under the 'Sahakar Se Samridhi Programme', grain storages have been built across the country. It is being operated in 11 Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) in 11 states.

Q. Which ministry has signed a MoU with Research and Information System (RIS) to serve the continuation of academic cooperation and collaboration?

- A) Ministry of Corporate Affairs B) Ministry of Home Affairs
C) Ministry of Ayush D) Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs

Answer : C

- ✓ The Ministry of Ayush has signed an MoU with the Research and Information System (RIS) in New Delhi.
- ✓ The MoU will bring forth the overview of Ayush Service sector and will serve the continuation of academic cooperation and collaboration with RIS, which is a Policy Research autonomous institute of the Ministry of External Affairs.
- ✓ The Knowledge Partnership, through this MoU, will not only serve to strengthen academic cooperation and collaboration but will also bring out Ayush Service Sector overview in a time-bound frame.



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Q. Who has been appointed as the Chairman and Independent Director of PayU Payments Private Limited?

- A) Soni Chatterjee
B) Renu Sood Karnad
C) Vijay Shekhar
D) Nikhil Kamat

Answer : B

- ✓ PayU Payments Pvt Ltd (PayU), the fintech arm of global consumer internet group Prosus, has appointed HDFC Bank director Renu Sud Karnad as chairman and independent director of the company

Q. Which country has recently declared a health emergency due to rapidly increasing cases of dengue fever?

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

Answer : A

- ✓ South American country Peru has declared a health emergency in view of the rapidly increasing cases of dengue fever.
✓ A health emergency has been declared in 20 of Peru's 25 regions. Peru is a country in western South America. Its capital is 'Lima'.



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STUDENT GOT SELECTION IN
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JOURNEY FEELING PROUD (🔥)

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



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JOURNEY FEELING PROUD.

NAME - GARVITA VARSHNEY
ROLL NO - 2603003298
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 - GURIYA 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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JOURNEY FEELING PROUD

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