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

Q. Which of the following statements best describes the term 'juice jacking'?

- A) It is a form of cyber attack that involves tampering with public USB charging ports.
- B) It is a new technique to identify fake news.
- C) It is a new code to curb illicit drug smuggling.
- D) It is a new Large Language Model to help blind people.

Answer : A

- ✓ Recently, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued a cautionary message to mobile phone users about juice jacking.
- ✓ The term “juice jacking” was first coined in 2011 by investigative journalist Brian Krebs.
- ✓ It is a form of cyberattack where a public USB charging port is tampered with and infected using hardware and software changes to steal data or install malware on devices connected to it.
- ✓ The attack is used by hackers to steal users’ passwords, credit card information, addresses, and other sensitive data stored on the targeted device.
- ✓ This type of attack has been a growing concern, with incidents reported in various public spaces such as airports, hotels, and shopping centres.
- ✓ RBI emphasised the importance of protecting personal and financial data while using mobile devices.
- ✓ How to prevent such attacks?
- ✓ To protect themselves from juice jacking and other cyber threats, mobile phone users have to use their personal chargers and avoid connecting their devices to public USB ports.
- ✓ Additionally, using a Virtual Private Network (VPN) and ensuring that devices have the latest security updates installed can help mitigate the risk of cyberattacks.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding Very Short-Range Air Defence System (VSHORADS), recently seen in the news:

1. It is a Man Portable Air Defence System (MANPAD) specially designed to counter low-altitude aerial threats.
2. It consists of surface-to-air missiles with a range of up to 100 km.

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

- ✓ Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully conducted two flight tests of the Very Short-Range Air Defence System (VSHORADS) missile.
- ✓ About Very Short-Range Air Defence System (VSHORADS):
- ✓ VSHORADS is a fourth-generation Man Portable Air Defence System (MANPAD) specially designed to counter low-altitude aerial threats over short distances.
- ✓ These are short-range, lightweight, and portable surface-to-air missiles that can be fired by individuals or small groups.
- ✓ It has been designed and developed indigenously by DRDO's Research Centre Imarat (RCI), Hyderabad, in collaboration with other DRDO laboratories and Indian industry partners.
- ✓ It is designed to provide short-range air defence capabilities to protect ground forces and critical assets from aerial threats, including helicopters and low-flying aircraft.
- ✓ It has a range of up to 6-km.
- ✓ The missile incorporates many novel technologies, including a Dual-band IIR Seeker, a miniaturised Reaction Control System, and integrated avionics.
- ✓ It is propelled by a dual-thrust solid motor.

DRDO IN NEWS 2023-24

- DRDO successfully conducted two flight tests of the Very Short-Range Air Defence System (VSHORADS) missile.
- 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.



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- 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. Vikramaditya Vedic Clock, recently seen in the news, is located in which one of the following cities?

A) Varanasi

B) Ahmedabad

C) Ujjain

D) Chennai

Answer : C

- ✓ The Prime Minister recently inaugurated the Vikramaditya Vedic Clock, which is mounted on an 85-foot tower within Jantar Mantar in Ujjain.
- ✓ About Vikramaditya Vedic Clock:
- ✓ It is the world's first 'Vedic Clock', designed to display time according to the ancient Indian traditional Panchang (time calculation system).
- ✓ It has been positioned on an 85-foot tower within Jantar Mantar in Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh.
- ✓ It also provides information on planetary positions, Muhurat, astrological calculations, and predictions.
- ✓ In addition to this, it also indicates Indian Standard Time (IST) and Greenwich Mean Time (GMT).
- ✓ The clock will calculate time from one sunrise to another.
- ✓ The period between the two sunrises will be divided into 30 parts, whose one hour consists of 48 minutes, according to ISD.
- ✓ The reading will start from 0:00 with the sunrise functions for 30 hours (an hour of 48 minutes).
- ✓ It has been developed by Lucknow-based Sanstha Arohan, using digital interventions, enabling it to be connected to the internet and provide a wide range of features through a mobile app named after the clock.



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- ✓ Ujjain is located at the precise point of interaction with zero meridian and Tropic of Cancer.
- ✓ The Vikrami Panchang and Vikram Samvat calendars are also released from Ujjain, which makes Ujjain the ideal location to have the Vaidik Clock.

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the International Big Cat Alliance:

1. It is an initiative of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature.

2. It aims at the conservation of snow leopard, jaguar and puma.

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

- ✓ Union Cabinet formally announced the establishment of International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) with one-time budgetary support of Rs 150 crore from the Central Government until 2028.
- ✓ It is an initiative launched by Prime Minister of India in April 2023 in Mysuru commemorating the 50th anniversary of Project Tiger.
- ✓ The objective of the IBCA is to ensure cooperation for the conservation of seven big cats: lion, tiger, leopard, cheetah, snow leopard, jaguar and puma. Five of these cats, apart from jaguar and puma, are found in India.
- ✓ Membership: It is open to 97 'range' countries, which contain the natural habitat of these big cats, as well as other interested nations, international organizations, etc.
- ✓ A Council of at least seven but not more than 15 member countries elected by the General Assembly for a term of 5 years, and a Secretariat.
- ✓ Upon the recommendation of the Council, the General Assembly will appoint the IBCA Secretary General for a specific term.
- ✓ Funding: It has secured Government of India's initial support of Rs. 150 crore for five years (2023-24 to 2027-28).

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the BioTRIG technology:

1. It is a waste management technology based on the pyrolysis system.

2. It can help in reducing greenhouse gas emissions from communities.

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

- ✓ A recent study has claimed that BioTRIG, a new waste management technology could help rural Indians.
- ✓ It is a new waste management technology based on the pyrolysis system.
- ✓ It works by sealing the waste inside an oxygen-free chamber and heating it above 400 degrees Celsius. Useful chemicals are produced in the process.
- ✓ In the study, the researchers outlined that three products of pyrolysis — bio-oil, syngas and biochar fertiliser — could help rural Indians live healthier and greener lives.
- ✓ Significance
- ✓ The syngas and bio-oil facilitate heat and power the pyrolysis system in future cycles and surplus electricity is utilized to power local homes and businesses.
- ✓ The clean-burning bio-oil to replace dirty cooking fuels in homes and using biochar to store carbon, while improving soil fertility.
- ✓ Computer simulations showed that the BioTRIG system could also be effective in real-world applications.
- ✓ It could help reduce greenhouse gas emissions from communities by nearly 350 kg of CO₂-eq per capita per annum.
- ✓ It could help rural Indians cut indoor air pollution, improve soil health, and generate clean power.
- ✓ What is Pyrolysis?
- ✓ It is a kind of chemical recycling that turns leftover organic materials into their component molecules.
- ✓ It works by sealing the waste inside an oxygen-free chamber and heating it to more than 400 degrees Celsius, producing useful chemicals in the process

Q. How many crore rupees has the Union Cabinet approved for the International Big Cat Alliance?

A) 100 crores

B) 150 crores

C) 250 crores

D) 350 crores

Answer : B

- ✓ The Union Cabinet has given its approval for the establishment of International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA).
- ✓ It includes 96 big cat range countries and other organizations of the world. Its headquarters will be in India.



- ✓ The government has approved assistance of Rs 150 crore for this. It is a common platform for the conservation of the seven big cats like tiger, lion, leopard, snow leopard, cheetah, jaguar and puma

Q. What percent growth did the Indian economy register during the October-December quarter of the current financial year 2023-24?

- A) 6.4 percent B) 7.4 percent
C) 8.4 percent D) 9.4 percent

Answer : C

- ✓ According to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) data of the National Statistical Office (NSO), the Indian economy registered a strong growth of 8.4 percent on an annual basis during the October-December quarter of the current financial year 2023-24 (Q3FY24).

Q. In which state will the country's first semiconductor fab be established?

- A) Haryana B) Uttarakhand
C) Tamil Nadu D) Gujarat

Answer : D

- ✓ The Union Cabinet approved the country's first semiconductor fab to be built by the Tata Group in collaboration with Powerchip Taiwan.
- ✓ This semiconductor fab will be established in Dholera, Gujarat.
- ✓ IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnav said that the semiconductor fab will operate with a capacity of 50,000 wafers per month

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).
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has laid the foundation Stone for the Akashvani Dahod FM Relay Station Project in Gujarat.



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- 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.
- Former Gujarat governor and veteran Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Om Prakash Kohli passed away.



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- Gujarat Day is celebrated on May 1 every year. The state was established on May 1, 1960.
- Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel has declared the last week of April as “Swagat Saptah” in commemoration of the completion of 20 years of the “State Wide Attention on Grievances by Application of Technology” (SWAGAT) initiative.
- Deakin University of Australia to set up campus in GIFT city.
- Two Australian Universities Wollongong and Deakin to set up Campuses in Gujarat’s GIFT City.
- The Youth 20 India Summit will be held at the Maharaja Sayajirao University Vadodara in Gujarat.
- International Kite Festival 2023 begins in Ahmedabad, Gujarat.

Q. By which year will India establish its own space station in space?

A) 2030

B) 2035

C) 2040

D) 2047

Answer : B

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has declared India’s plan to establish its own space station by 2035. This initiative aims to facilitate advanced exploration of the universe.
- ✓ Among other feats, India now aims for setting up ‘Bharatiya Antariksha Station’ by 2035 and sending the first Indian to the Moon by 2040.
- ✓ Indian is about to go to space after a gap of 40 years, in an apparent reference to Rakesh Sharma’s 1984 space flight aboard USSR’s Soyuz T-11.

TARGET YEAR IN NEWS 2023-24

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has declared India’s plan to establish its own space station by 2035.
- 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.



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



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Q. Reliance Industries Limited and which company have officially signed a binding agreement to merge their media businesses in India?

- A) Pixar
B) Star Sport
C) Disney
D) Espn

Answer : C

- ✓ Reliance-Disney merger will drive consolidation
- ✓ Reliance Industries Limited and Walt Disney Company have officially signed a binding agreement to merge their media businesses in India.
- ✓ This sets the stage for the establishment of an \$8.5 billion (Rs 70,352 crore) media and entertainment powerhouse, surpassing any other entity in the industry.
- ✓ As part of the pact, the media undertaking of Viacom18 will be merged into Star India Private Limited (“SIPL”) through a court-approved scheme of arrangement.
- ✓ The JV will also become the biggest player in sports, holding rights to marquee cricket properties like the Indian Premier League (IPL), International Cricket Council (ICC) rights for men and women global events, and BCCI’s India bilateral matches across TV and digital platforms.
- ✓ It will also own other sports assets such as Pro Kabaddi League, Indian Super League, English Premier League, NBA, and the Olympics,” said Axis Capital.

RIL IN NEWS 2023- 24

- Reliance Industries Limited and Walt Disney Company have officially signed a binding agreement to merge their media businesses in India.
- 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.



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- ✓ The shareholding will give MGL the right to appoint one Director on the board of 3ev and one board observer.
- ✓ Mahanagar Gas is in the business of City Gas Distribution (CGD), presently supplying Natural Gas.

Q. Which Small Finance Bank has partnered with Dvara Money for digital banking services?

- A) Equitas Small Finance Bank B) Shivalik Small Finance Bank
C) AU Small Finance Bank D) Jana Small Finance Bank

Answer : D

- ✓ Jana Small Finance Bank Limited has partnered with Dvara Money for digital banking services.
- ✓ Under this, DM's Spark Money platform has been integrated with the technical capabilities of Jana SFB.
- ✓ The integration of third-party application provider (TPAP) capabilities will enable the Spark Money platform to incorporate a full-stack UPI solution.
- ✓ This will allow customers to connect their savings accounts for digital payments and enable UPI functionalities such as Aadhaar OTP-based onboarding and credit on UPI.

Q. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has flagged off India's first indigenously built hydrogen fuel cell ferry boat in virtual mode. The vessel has been built at which company?

- A) Cochin Shipyard Limited
B) Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers
C) Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders
D) Hindustan Shipyard Limited

Answer : A

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has flagged off India's first indigenously built hydrogen fuel cell ferry boat in virtual mode.
- ✓ The vessel has been built at the Cochin Shipyard.
- ✓ The pilot vessel is a 24-metre catamaran which can carry 50 passengers with fully air-conditioned passenger space. It will make urban mobility smooth and easy.
- ✓ The hydrogen fuel vessel has fully home-grown technology and it can be replicated in other parts of the country for urban mobility application, according to CSL.



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- ✓ If the value of the Rupee decreases due to an increase in the demand for the foreign currency, then RBI sells the dollar in the Indian money market so that depreciation of the Indian currency can be checked.
- ✓ A country with a good stock of forex has a good image at the international level because the trading countries can be sure about their payments.
- ✓ A good forex reserve helps in attracting foreign trade and earns a good reputation with trading partners.

Q. Exercise Samudra Laksamana, is conducted between India and:

- A) Bangladesh
- B) Bhutan
- C) Sri Lanka
- D) Malaysia

Answer : D

- ✓ The Exercise Samudra Laksamana kicked off on February 28 and will continue until March 2, taking place at or off the coast of Visakhapatnam.
- ✓ It is a joint naval exercise between the Indian Navy and Royal Malaysian Navy.
- ✓ It is the 3rd edition of this exercise.
- ✓ Indian Naval Ship Kiltan and Royal Malaysian Ship KD Lekir are participating in this exercise which has harbour professional interactions followed by the operational phase at sea.
- ✓ The exercise aims to strengthen bonds and enhance interoperability between the Indian and Royal Malaysian Navy

EXERCISE IN NEWS 2023-24

- Exercise Samudra Laksamana kicked off on February 28 and will continue until March 2, taking place at or off the coast of Visakhapatnam
- 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.
- 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.



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- 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.
- Exercise CORPAT and BONGOSAGAR between the Indian Navy and Bangladesh Navy were conducted in the Northern Bay of Bengal from 07 - 09 Nov 2023.
- Exercise Harimau Shakti 2023 commenced in Umroi Cantonment, India.
- It is a joint bilateral training exercise between Indian & Malaysian Armed Forces.



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

Q. Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project (PMP), sometimes seen in the news, is a bi-national hydropower project between which two countries?

- A) India and Bhutan
- B) India and Nepal
- C) India and Bangladesh
- D) India and Afghanistan

Answer : B

- ✓ Despite the recent India-Nepal agreement, the Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project (PMP) discussions remain deadlocked. Established through the Mahakali Treaty in 1996, the PMP is a cross-border hydropower initiative on the Mahakali River. With the goal of enhancing energy production and irrigation in both nations, it features a 315-meter dam (Sharda in India), aiming to generate 6,480 MW equally shared. Additionally, it targets irrigating 130,000 hectares in Nepal and 240,000 hectares in Indian Territory.

Q. Who has been appointed as the Director General (DG) of the National Security Guard (NSG)?

- A) Anup Kumar Singh
- B) Sudhir Pratap Singh
- C) Daljit Singh Chaudhary
- D) Subhash Joshi

Answer : C

- ✓ Daljit Singh Chaudhary, a 1990 batch IPS officer, has been appointed as the Director General of the National Security Guard (NSG), a crucial role in India’s security. Currently the DG of Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB), he takes on the added responsibility of leading the NSG, known as the “black cats.” This move signifies a significant development in India’s security apparatus, enhancing Chaudhary’s role in shaping and overseeing critical aspects of national defense.
- ✓ National Security Guard (NSG), commonly known as Black Cats, is a counter-terrorism unit of India under the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- ✓ It was founded on 16 October 1984, following Operation Blue Star, to combat terrorist activities and protect states against internal disturbances



NEW UPDATED LIST OF CHIEF AND DIRECTOR GENERAL

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

Q. Which ministry signed an MoU with ISRO on Urban Framed Survey using Bhuvan?

- A) Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- B) Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment
- C) Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation
- D) Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways

Answer : C

- ✓ Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has partnered with ISRO for the Urban Frame Survey (UFS) using Bhuvan.
- ✓ UFS, managed by the Field Operations Division (FOD) of NSSO, utilizes compact units in urban areas with 120-150 households.
- ✓ Executed in five-year phases, it acts as a sampling frame for large-scale socio-economic surveys.
- ✓ The digital implementation of UFS occurred for the first time during Phase 2017-22, employing the Bhuvan platform for data collection.



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ISRO IN NEWS 2023-24

- Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has partnered with ISRO for the Urban Frame Survey (UFS) using Bhuvan.
- INDIA ON TRACK TO HAVE OWN SPACE STATION BY 2035, ASTRONAUT ON MOON BY 2040: ISRO
- 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.
- 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. Which company has signed a joint venture agreement with Maharashtra State Power Generation Company (MAHAGENCO) for development of renewable energy parks in Maharashtra?

- A) Steel Authority of India B) NTPC Green Energy
C) TP renewable Microgrid D) Torrent Power

Answer : B

- ✓ NTPC joins hands with MAHAGENCO for development of Renewable Energy Parks
- ✓ NTPC Green Energy (NGEL), a wholly owned subsidiary of NTPC, has signed a joint venture agreement with Maharashtra State Power Generation Company (MAHAGENCO) for development of renewable energy parks in Maharashtra.
- ✓ The company to be set up under the joint venture will develop GW-scale renewable energy parks and undertake projects of this scale in a phased manner.
- ✓ The agreement aligns with the green energy objectives of NTPC and is another step in the Government of India's efforts towards energy transition.
- ✓ NTPC Group has ambitious plans of attaining 60 GW of renewable energy capacity by the year 2032. Currently, it has 3.4 GW of installed RE capacity and more than 22 GW under pipeline.
- ✓ NTPC is committed to supporting Maharashtra's and India's decarbonisation goals.

NTPC IN NEWS 2023-24

- NTPC Green Energy (NGEL), a wholly owned subsidiary of NTPC, has signed a joint venture agreement with Maharashtra State Power Generation Company (MAHAGENCO) for development of renewable energy parks in Maharashtra



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- 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. Consider the following statements with reference to Nano Urea:

1. It is a nanotechnology-based revolutionary Agri-input that provides nitrogen to plants.

2. It is developed and patented by the Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO).

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 will replace the consumption of 2.5 million tonnes (mt) of conventional urea with nano urea in FY24, the Union Chemicals and Fertilizers Minister said at a press conference recently.
- ✓ About Nano Urea:
 - ✓ It is a nanotechnology-based revolutionary Agri-input that provides nitrogen to plants.
 - ✓ It is developed and patented by the Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO).
 - ✓ IFFCO Nano Urea is the only nano fertilizer approved by the Government of India and included in the Fertilizer Control Order (FCO).
- ✓ Features:
 - ✓ Compared to conventional urea prill, Nano Urea has a desirable particle size of about 20-50 nm, and more surface area (10,000 times over 1 mm urea prill), and number of particles (55,000 nitrogen particles over 1 mm urea prill).
 - ✓ It contains 4.0% total nitrogen (w/v).
- ✓ Benefits:
 - ✓ It is produced by an energy-efficient, environment-friendly production process with less carbon footprints.
 - ✓ Increased availability to crops by more than 80%, resulting in higher nutrient use efficiency.
 - ✓ It is expected to improve crop productivity, soil health, and nutritional quality of produce and address the "imbalanced and excessive use" of conventional fertilizer.

Q. With reference to National Electronic Fund Transfer (NEFT), consider the following statements:

- 1. Round-the-clock availability on all days of the year.**
- 2. Penal interest provision for delay in credit or return of transactions.**
- 3. No charges to savings bank account customers for online NEFT transactions.**
- 4. Positive confirmation to the remitter by SMS/E-mail**

How many of the statements given above are advantages of NEFT?

A) Only one

B) Only two

C) Only three

D) All four



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Answer : D

- ✓ National Electronic Funds Transfer (NEFT) reported its highest-ever daily number of transactions at 4.10 crore recently.
- ✓ About National Electronic Fund Transfer (NEFT):
- ✓ NEFT is a nation-wide centralised payment system owned and operated by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- ✓ It is an electronic method of transferring money online.
- ✓ Most Indian banks provide the NEFT feature on internet banking and mobile banking.
- ✓ It enables transferring funds from the account maintained with any bank to any other bank branch, provided the transaction is attempted between the banks that participate in the NEFT payment system.
- ✓ Organisations, companies, and individuals can use it to transfer funds from one bank account to another.
- ✓ As per Reserve Bank of India (RBI) guidelines, the payments made via NEFT are processed and settled in half-hourly batches.
- ✓ Minimum Transfer Value: Rs. 1
- ✓ Maximum transfer value: No limit
- ✓ NEFT offers the following advantages for funds transfer or receipt:
- ✓ Round-the-clock availability on all days of the year.
- ✓ Near-real-time funds transfer to the beneficiary account and settlement in a secure manner.
- ✓ Pan-India coverage through large network of branches of all types of banks.
- ✓ The beneficiary need not visit a bank branch for depositing the paper instruments. Remitter can initiate the remittances from his / her home / place of work using internet banking, if his / her bank offers such a service.
- ✓ Positive confirmation to the remitter by SMS / e-mail on credit to beneficiary account.
- ✓ Penal interest provision for delay in credit or return of transactions.
- ✓ No levy of charges by RBI from banks.
- ✓ No charges to savings bank account customers for online NEFT transactions.
- ✓ The transaction charges have been capped by the RBI.
- ✓ Besides fund transfers, NEFT system can be used for a variety of transactions, including the payment of credit card dues to the card issuing banks, payment of loan EMIs, inward foreign exchange remittances, etc.
- ✓ The transaction has legal backing.
- ✓ Available for one-way funds transfers from India to Nepal



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Answer : C

- ✓ The 66th meeting of Network Planning Group (NPG) was held in New Delhi, under the chairpersonship of Additional Secretary, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade to evaluate three projects from Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) and two projects from Ministry of Railways (MoR).
- ✓ It is an Integrated Multimodal Network Planning Group (NPG) with heads of Network Planning Division of all connectivity infrastructure Ministries & Departments.
- ✓ It is responsible for unified planning and integration of the proposals and assist the Empowered Group of Secretaries (EGoS) in respect of its mandate.
- ✓ It facilitates regular interactions between the stakeholders.
- ✓ It will guide all the Departments/ Ministries responsible for creation of economic zones and connectivity infrastructure during the planning phase itself.
- ✓ The parameters/prescribed norms of the overall National Master Plan will be the overarching objective of the NPG for examining and sanctioning future projects thus leading to minimising of disruptions and strive for the creation of an ideal & efficient operating system for all infrastructure projects in the country.
- ✓ Its role is to ensure:
 - ✓ integration of networks;
 - ✓ enhance optimization through modification/expansion/new network creation;
 - ✓ avoid duplication of works for holistic development of any region;
 - ✓ reduction logistics costs through micro-plan detailing.
- ✓ What is PM GatiShakti?
 - ✓ It is an approach for growth accelerating trustworthy infrastructure through synchronized, holistic, integrated and comprehensive planning based on knowledge, technology and innovation.
- ✓ PM GatiShakti National Master Plan provides comprehensive database of the ongoing & future projects of various Ministries i.e. Infrastructure Ministries & Ministries and States involved in development of Economic Zones, integrated with 200+ GIS layers thereby facilitating planning, designing and execution of the infrastructure projects with a common vision.

Q. Tawi festival, recently seen in the news, is celebrated in which state/UT?

A) Kerala

B) Jammu and Kashmir

C) Delhi

D) Goa



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Answer : B

- ✓ The four-day 'Tawi Festival' in Jammu and Kashmir, starting on March 1, 2024, highlights the region's art, culture, and heritage.
- ✓ Emphasizing Jammu's diverse art forms and cultural heritage, the festival features seminars, workshops, folk music, street theatre, classical and folk dance, and a Mela.
- ✓ It provides a platform for youth creativity and encourages discussions with experts.
- ✓ The event showcases entrepreneurship, innovation, local cuisines, and organic products from women's NGO groups in the Himalayan region, culminating at the University of Jammu.

Q. Which organizations recently collaborated to launch the Women Exporters in the Digital Economy (WEIDE) Fund?

- A) International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank
- B) International Labour Organization (ILO) and World Bank
- C) International Trade Centre (ITC) and World Trade Organization (WTO)
- D) World Health Organization (WHO) and International Monetary Fund (IMF)

Answer : C

- ✓ The International Trade Centre (ITC) and the World Trade Organization (WTO) have jointly initiated the Women Exporters in the Digital Economy (WEIDE) Fund, with a substantial investment of USD 50 million.
- ✓ This global fund aims to support women-led businesses and entrepreneurs in developing economies and least-developed countries by facilitating the adoption of digital technologies.
- ✓ The primary objective is to enhance the online presence of these enterprises, enabling them to thrive in the digital economy

Q. Which country's parliament voted to approve Sweden's bid to join the NATO, making it the 32nd nation to join the alliance?

- A) Norway
- B) Bolivia
- C) Hungary
- D) Finland

Answer : C

- ✓ Hungary's parliament voted to ratify Sweden's bid to join NATO, making Sweden the 32nd member of the alliance.



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- ✓ Sweden applied to join NATO in 2022 after Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine.
- ✓ New members must be approved by all existing NATO members.
- ✓ Hungary was the last country to block Sweden's membership, accusing Sweden of being hostile to it.
- ✓ The addition of the two Nordic countries will strengthen the alliance's capabilities, strengthening its position in the high north and the Baltic Sea.

Q. Jal Shakti Ministry has signed an agreement with 12 technical education institutions for basin management of how many rivers?

A) 5

B) 6

C) 7

D) 4

Answer : B

- ✓ The Jal Shakti Ministry has partnered with 12 technical education institutions to collaborate on academic and research initiatives for basin management of six rivers: Narmada, Godavari, Mahanadi, Krishna, Cauvery, and Periyar, as part of the National River Conservation Plan.
- ✓ Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat highlighted successful efforts in cleaning the Ganga, earning UNESCO recognition for the Namami Gange Mission.
- ✓ Emphasizing river conservation as a mass movement, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Arth Ganga principle links it to livelihood, urging increased inter-state cooperation.

Q. Global Waste Management Outlook 2024, recently seen in the news, is published by which one of the following organization?

A) UNEP

B) UNDP

C) UNESCO

D) IMF

Answer : A

- ✓ The Global Waste Management Outlook 2024, co-published by UNEP and ISWA, highlights key trends. Predictions indicate municipal solid waste will surge from 2.3 to 3.8 billion tonnes by 2050. The direct cost of global waste management, at USD 252 billion in 2020, is projected to nearly double by 2050 without immediate intervention. Barriers include insufficient urgency recognition, incomplete data, and climate impact underestimation, as well as gendered aspects, informal sector undervaluation, and inadequate legislation.



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Q. Which two countries formally opposed the adoption of Investment Facilitation for Development (IFD) agreement?

- A) India and Singapore B) India and South Africa
C) India and China D) India and Russia

Answer : B

- ✓ India and South Africa opposed the Investment Facilitation for Development (IFD) agreement at the 13th Ministerial Conference (MC13) of the World Trade Organization on February 28.
- ✓ The MC-13, held in Abu Dhabi from February 26 to 29, saw over 120 countries advocating for IFD to enhance the investment and business climate. India argued that IFD is a non-trade issue outside the multilateral trade body's framework, while a China-led group sought to make the proposal binding through Annexure-4 of the WTO.

Q. Which payment bank signed an MoU with Hindustan Zinc Limited (HZL) to enhance financial inclusion in rural Rajasthan?

- A) Airtel Payment Bank B) Paytm Payments Bank
C) India Post Payments Bank D) NSDL Payment Bank

Answer : C

- ✓ India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) and Hindustan Zinc Limited (HZL) have joined forces to boost financial inclusion in rural Rajasthan. The collaboration aims to offer convenient access to bank accounts, pension products, savings, and investment schemes. Additionally, it empowers beneficiaries to serve as Individual Business Correspondents for IPPB services, promoting government social welfare schemes and facilitating income-generating loans in the region.

Q. Which ministry recently launched the 'Alliance for Global Good-Gender Equity and Equality'?

- A) Ministry of Defence B) Ministry of Women & Child Development
C) Ministry of Rural Development D) Ministry of Home Affairs

Answer : B

- ✓ Union Minister of Women & Child Development Smriti Irani revealed the logo and website for the Alliance for Global Good – Gender Equity and Equality in a ceremony attended by Bill Gates and Chandrajit Banerjee. Emphasizing India's leadership in women's empowerment, Irani highlighted international



✓ CEO : Ajay Kanwal

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

A) 1 March

B) 2 March

C) 3 March

D) 4 March

Answer : A

- ✓ World Seagrass Day is observed every year on March 1.
- ✓ This day is celebrated to raise awareness about seagrass and its important functions in the marine ecosystem.
- ✓ Theme 2024 – Healthy Seagrass, Healthy Planet
- ✓ It is celebrated annually by UNGA. The UNEP was also invited to facilitate the observance of the day. In this way the first World Seagrass Day was organized in 2023.

Q. When is Zero Discrimination Day observed every year?

A) March 01

B) February 28

C) March 02

D) February 27

Answer : A

- ✓ Zero Discrimination Day is observed every year on March 1.
- ✓ Objective – To promote inclusion, equality, and peace and raise awareness about the impact of discrimination worldwide.
- ✓ Theme 2024 – To protect everyone’s health, protect everyone’s rights
- ✓ The day was first celebrated on March 1, 2014. Ten years ago, UNAIDS had launched its Zero discrimination Campaign on ‘World AIDS Day’ in December 2013.
- ✓ UNAIDS is a joint United Nations program on Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS).

Q. World Civil Defence Day is observed every year on which day?

A) 2 March

B) 1 March

C) 3 March

D) 4 March

Answer : B

- ✓ World Civil Defence Day is observed every year on 1 March.



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- 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. The Global Resource Outlook report is a flagship report of:

- A) World Economic Forum (WEF)**
- B) World Bank**
- C) International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)**
- D) United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)**

Answer : D

- ✓ Global Resource Outlook 2024 was launched on the final day of the Sixth United Nations Environmental Assembly (UNEA-6) at the UNEP headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya.
- ✓ It is the flagship report of the International Resource Panel of United Nations Environment Programme.
- ✓ This year's report sheds light on how resources are essential to the effective implementation of the Agenda 2030 and multilateral environmental agreements to tackle the triple planetary crisis.
- ✓ It brings together the best available data, modelling and assessments from 180 countries, seven world regions and four income groups, to analyse trends, impacts and distributional effects of resource use.
- ✓ Highlights of the report
- ✓ It presents a stark picture of global inequality, where low-income countries consume six times less materials compared to wealthy countries, despite generating 10 times less climate impacts.



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- ✓ Global production and consumption of material resources has grown more than three times over the last 50 years, growing at an average of more than 2.3 per cent a year, despite the increase being the main driver of the triple planetary crisis.
- ✓ The extraction and processing of agricultural crops and forestry products accounts for 90 per cent of land-related biodiversity loss and water stress and a third of GHG emissions.
- ✓ The extraction and processing of material resources — including fossil fuels, minerals, non-metallic minerals and biomass — accounts for over 55 per cent of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and 40 per cent of particulate matter poisoning the environment.
- ✓ The extraction and processing of fossil fuels, metals and non-metallic minerals including sand, gravel and clay account for 35 per cent of global emissions.
- ✓ Despite this, resource exploitation could increase by almost 60 per cent from 2020 levels by 2060 — from 100 to 160 billion tonnes
- ✓ United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- ✓ Formation : 5 June 1972
- ✓ Headquarters : Nairobi, Kenya
- ✓ Executive Director : Inger Andersen (Denmark).

Q. Who has become the first woman sniper of Border Security Force (BSF)?

A) Shaliza Dhani

B) Shiva Chauhan

C) Deepika Mishra

D) Suman Kumari

Answer : D

- ✓ Border Security Force (BSF) sub-inspector Suman Kumari has become the first woman sniper of the Border Security Force.
- ✓ Suman recently completed an eight-week sniper course at the Central School of Weapons and Tactics (CSWT), Indore and achieved 'Instructor Grade'.
- ✓ Suman is a resident of Mandi district of Himachal Pradesh.
- ✓ She joined BSF in the year 2021
- ✓ Border Security Force (BSF)
- ✓ Founded : 1965
- ✓ Headquarteres : New Delhi
- ✓ Motto : Duty Unto Death



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- ✓ Director General : Nitin Agrawal
- ✓ Border Security Force (BSF) is India's border guarding organisation at its borders with Pakistan and Bangladesh. It is one of the seven Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) of India, and was raised in the wake of the Indo-Pakistani War of 1965 for ensuring the security of the borders of India and for related matters

FIRST'S FEMALE IN NEWS 2023-24

- Suman Kumari has become the first woman sniper of the Border Security Force (BSF).
- Maryam Nawaz was sworn in as the first woman Chief Minister (CM) of Pakistan's Punjab province.
- 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.
- Commander Purna Deosthalee has been appointed as the first woman officer to command a warship in the Indian Navy (INW).
- Sue Redfern became the first woman to stand as an umpire in a men's first-class cricket match in England and Wales.
- Jaya Varma Sinha has been appointed as the new Chairperson and Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Railway Board (Ministry of Railways) w.e.f Sept 01, 2023. She has replaced AK Lahoti.
- She is the first woman to be appointed to this Apex post of Indian Railways.
- Geetika Srivastava is first woman to head Indian mission in Pakistan.
- Phangnon Konyak became the first woman to chair the Rajya Sabha from Nagaland.
- Tenzing Yangki has become the first female IPS officer of Arunachal Pradesh.
- Lisa Franchetti becomes 1st woman to be top Navy officer in US history.
- Nusrat Chowdhary will become the first Muslim woman federal judge in US history.
- Celeste Saulo of Argentina has been appointed as the first female Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).
- Shalini Singh from Lucknow has become the first woman NCC cadet in India to complete a mountaineering course in the Himalayan region of Uttarakhand.



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- Parminder Chopra becomes first woman Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Power Finance Corporation.
- Amy Pope of the United States has been selected as the first female Director-General of the United Nations Migration Agency.
- Lieutenant Shivangi Singh is the first woman Rafale pilot to take part in Orion Exercise 2023.
- Wing Commander Deepika Mishra has become the first woman Air Force officer to receive the Gallantry Medal.
- New Zealand-born Kim Cotton has become the first female umpire to officiate in a Men's T20 International (T20I) cricket match involving two ICC full-member nations.
- Sheenu Jhawar becomes first woman president of TiE Rajasthan.
- American Space Agency, NASA has selected the first woman astronaut, Christina Koch for its Artemis II mission.
- Surekha Yadav, Asia's 1st woman loco pilot who now operates Vande Bharat, From Solapur to Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminal (CSMT) in Maharashtra.
- Shalija Dhami becomes first woman officer to command a fighter unit in Indian Air Force (IAF).
- Colonel Geeta Rana became the first woman officer to command a field workshop.
- Captain Shiva Chauhan becomes the first women officer to be operationally deployed in the highest battleground in Kumar Post on the Siachen glacier.
- The first woman officer to be posted on foreign assignment in the Border Roads Organization (BRO) - Captain Surabhi Jakhmola.
- Rae Bareilly's hockey stadium is named after hockey star Rani Rampal, first woman player from India to achieve this feat.
- Hekani Jakhalu became the first female MLA of Nagaland Assembly.
- Equatorial Guinea appoints Manuela Roka Botey as first female PM.
- Indian-origin Manpreet Monica Singh sworn in as 1st female Sikh judge of USA.
- Santhi Kumari Appointed as First Woman Chief Secretary of Telangana.
- Saudi Arabia's Rayna Barnawi first female astronaut is set to go into space this year .
- Dina Boluarte became Peru's first female president.
- FIFA has announced that Stephanie Frappart of France will be the first woman to referee a men's World Cup match.



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A) Only two

B) Only three

C) Only four

D) All five

Answer : C

- ✓ OPEC+ members led by Saudi Arabia and Russia recently agreed to extend voluntary oil output cuts first announced in 2023 as part of an agreement among oil producers to boost prices following economic uncertainty.
- ✓ About OPEC+:
 - ✓ It is a group of oil-exporting countries which meets regularly to decide how much crude oil to sell on the world market.
 - ✓ Origin: These nations came to an accord towards the end of 2016 “to institutionalize a framework for cooperation between OPEC and non-OPEC producing countries on a regular and sustainable basis.”
 - ✓ These nations aim to work together on adjusting crude oil production to bring stability to the oil market.
 - ✓ OPEC+ controls about 40% of global oil supplies and more than 80% of proven oil reserves.
 - ✓ At the core of this group are the members of OPEC (the Organization of the Oil Exporting Countries), which are mainly Middle Eastern and African countries.
 - ✓ Members: It comprises OPEC countries plus Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Brunei, Kazakhstan, Russia, Mexico, Malaysia, South Sudan, Sudan and Oman.
- ✓ What is the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)?
- ✓ It is a permanent intergovernmental organization of oil-exporting countries.
- ✓ Mission:
 - ✓ To coordinate and unify the petroleum policies of its member countries.
 - ✓ Ensure the stabilization of oil prices in the international oil markets, with a view to eliminating harmful and unnecessary fluctuations.
- ✓ Formation: It was founded in Baghdad, Iraq, with the signing of an agreement in September 1960 by five countries, namely the Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela.
- ✓ Currently, it has 12 members, including Algeria, Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Libya, Nigeria and the United Arab Emirates.
- ✓ Headquarters: Vienna, Austria



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Q. The 'SAMOA Pathway' is related to which one of the following groupings?

- A) Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)
- B) African Union (AU)
- C) Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)
- D) Small Island Developing States (SIDS)

Answer : D

- ✓ More funding is needed to support Small Island Developing States (SIDS) on the frontlines of climate change, the UN Secretary-General said recently.
- ✓ About Small Island Developing States (SIDS):
- ✓ SIDS are a distinct group of 39 States and 18 Associate Members of United Nations regional commissions that face unique social, economic, and environmental vulnerabilities.
- ✓ The three geographical regions in which SIDS are located are: the Caribbean, the Pacific, and the Atlantic, Indian Ocean and South China Sea (AIS).
- ✓ SIDS were recognized as a special case both for their environment and development at the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
- ✓ For SIDS, the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)—the ocean under their control—is, on average, 28 times the country's land mass.
- ✓ Thus, for many SIDS, the majority of the natural resources they have access to come from the ocean.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the INS Jatayu:

1. It is the Indian Naval base located in Andaman and Nicobar region.
2. It aims to extend operational surveillance, reach and sustenance of Indian Navy.

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

- ✓ Indian Navy will commission Naval Detachment Minicoy as INS Jatayu in the presence of the Chief of the Naval Staff on 06 Mar 2024.
- ✓ It is the second Naval base in Lakshadweep after INS Dweeprakshak in Kavaratti.



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- ✓ With the commissioning of INS Jatayu, the Indian Navy will strengthen its foothold in the Lakshadweep islands and along with extending operational surveillance, reach and sustenance.
- ✓ It will usher in a new era of capacity building and comprehensive development of the island territories.
- ✓ The event marks an important milestone in the Navy's resolve to incrementally augment security infrastructure at the strategically important Lakshadweep Islands.
- ✓ Key facts about Minicoy Island
- ✓ It is the southernmost island of Lakshadweep which straddles the vital Sea Lines of Communications (SLOCs).
- ✓ Naval Detachment Minicoy was set up in early 1980s under the operational command of Naval Officer-in-Charge (Lakshadweep).

Q. Who recently inaugurated the ASTDS tug named 'Ocean Grace'?

A) Rajnath Singh

B) Amit Shah

C) Anurag Thakur

D) Sarbananda Sonowal

Answer : D

- ✓ Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal recently inaugurated a 60T Bollard Pull Tug and Medical Mobile Unit (MMU) named 'Ocean Grace'.
- ✓ Ocean Grace is a made-in-India ASTDS tug built by Cochin Shipyard Limited.
- ✓ It has been developed under the Green Tug Transition Program (GTTP).

Q. The Yars Missile, recently seen in the news, is an intercontinental ballistic missile developed by which one of the following countries?

A) China

B) Iran

C) North Korea

D) Russia

Answer : D

- ✓ Russia's defence ministry recently announced a successful test fire of Yars intercontinental ballistic nuclear missile.
- ✓ About Yars Missile:
- ✓ The Yars (also known as RS-24 or SS-29) is a Russian-made intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) with multiple independently targetable warheads, each capable of targeting different objectives.
- ✓ Features:



- ✓ The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting had launched the Press Sewa Portal the online portal of the Press Registrar General, for receiving various applications as mandated by the new Act.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the International Energy Agency (IEA):

1. It is an inter-governmental organization within the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

2. All member countries of United Nations are member of the IEA.

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 International Energy Agency said that strong GDP growth and a weak monsoon drove up India's energy-related carbon emissions by around 190 million tonnes in 2023, though the country's per capita emissions remain far below the global average.
- ✓ International Energy Agency:
 - ✓ It is an autonomous inter-governmental organisation within the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) framework.
 - ✓ Mission: It works with governments and industry to shape a secure and sustainable energy future for all.
 - ✓ It was created in response to the 1973-1974 oil crisis when an oil embargo by major producers pushed prices to historic levels, and exposed the vulnerability of industrialised countries to dependency on oil imports.
 - ✓ It was founded in 1974 to ensure the security of oil supplies.
 - ✓ Membership: It is made up of 31 member countries, 13 association countries, and 5 accession countries.
 - ✓ Criteria for membership: A candidate country to the IEA must be a member country of the OECD. In addition, it must demonstrate several requirements.
 - ✓ Crude oil and/or product reserves equivalent to 90 days of the previous year's net imports, to which the government has immediate access (even if it does not own them directly) and could be used to address disruptions to global oil supply;
 - ✓ A demand restraint programme to reduce national oil consumption by up to 10%;
 - ✓ All member countries of United Nations are not member of this organization.



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- ✓ It is an important pilgrimage place for both Hindus and Buddhists.
- ✓ Historical significance: Historians note the island is mentioned in the ancient Tamil Sangam literature where it was mentioned as Manipallavam
- ✓ Nagapooshani Amman Kovil, a historic Hindu temple dedicated to the principal goddess of Tamil Hindus, Amman is located in this Island.
- ✓ She is identified with the famous Tamil deity Meenakshi from Madurai from mainland India.
- ✓ The Mahavamsa, which is literally the 'Great Chronicle', was composed by the Monk Mahanama in the 6th century A.D.
- ✓ According to the chronicle the Buddha came to this Island, literally meaning 'Serpent Island', on his second visit to Sri Lanka, five years after attaining enlightenment.

Q. 'Melanochlamys Draupadi' which was in discussion recently is related to which of the following?

- A) Anti-malaria drug B) a marine species
C) Anti-cancer medicine D) Exoplanet

Answer : B

- ✓ The Zoological Survey of India has named a new marine species of ruby red-spotted head-shield sea slug after Indian President Draupadi Murmu.
- ✓ This species belonging to the Melanochlamys genus was discovered from Digha on the West Bengal coast and Udaipur on the Odisha coast.
- ✓ The new species of head-shield sea slug, which is found nowhere else in the world, has been named 'Melanochlamys droupadi'.

Q. Union Minister Dr. Where did Mansukh Mandaviya launch the AYUSH-ICMR Advanced Centre?

- A) New Delhi B) Ahmedabad
C) Kolkata D) Chennai

Answer : A

- ✓ Union Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya launched the AYUSH-ICMR Advanced Center for Integrated Health Research at AIIMS in New Delhi.
- ✓ It aims to provide holistic health care to patients by using both traditional Indian knowledge and modern medicine together.



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- ✓ These centers will be set up at various AIIMS locations such as AIIMS Delhi, AIIMS Jodhpur, AIIMS Nagpur and AIIMS Rishikesh.

Q. According to the Environment Ministry, India's leopard numbers rose by 8% from 12,852 in 2018 to 13,874 in 2022. The highest number of leopards were reported in which state?

- A) Madhya Pradesh B) Karnataka
C) Maharashtra D) Tamil Nadu

Answer : A

- ✓ India's leopard numbers rose by 8% from 12,852 in 2018 to 13,874 in 2022, according to a report made public by the Environment Ministry.
- ✓ While the highest number of leopards were reported in Madhya Pradesh (3,907), only three other States reported over 1,000 animals each — Maharashtra (1,985), Karnataka (1,879) and Tamil Nadu (1,070).
- ✓ While Uttarakhand reported a 22% decline in the big cat numbers — reportedly due to poaching and man-animal conflict, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam and West Bengal saw a collective 150% rise to 349 animals.
- ✓ The survey covered 20 States of India, and focussed on about 70% of the animals' expected habitat, which are India's tiger reserves and protected forest areas.
- ✓ Forest surveyors travel 6,41,449 km for carnivore signs and prey abundance estimation. Camera traps were deployed at 32,803 locations, resulting in 4,70,81,881 photographs

Q. FSSAI has awarded 'Eat Right Station' certification to how many railway stations to ensure safe, hygienic and nutritious food options for passengers?

- A) 100 B) 150
C) 200 D) 250

Answer : B

- ✓ Food regulator FSSAI has awarded 'Eat Right Station' certification to 150 railway stations so far for ensuring safe, hygienic and nutritious food options for passengers.
- ✓ The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)'s Eat Right Station initiative is making significant strides in ensuring access to safe and healthy food within these bustling hubs.
- ✓ The 'Eat Right Station' certification process involves rigorous audits of food vendors, training of food handlers, adherence to strict hygiene and sanitation protocols and efforts to raise awareness among individuals to make informed food choices



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- ✓ Some of the prominent stations that have been certified as Eat Right stations are in New Delhi, Varanasi, Kolkata, Ujjain, Ayodhya Cantt, Hyderabad, Chandigarh, Kozhikode, Guwahati, Visakhapatnam, Bhubaneswar, Vadodara, Mysuru City, Bhopal, Igatpuri, and Chennai, among others from various states.
- ✓ That apart, six pioneering metro stations have also been accredited as 'Eat Right Stations', including stations at Noida Sector 51, Esplanade (Kolkata), IIT Kanpur, Botanical Garden (Noida) and Noida Electronic City.
- ✓ FSSAI remains committed to further expanding the 'Eat Right Station' programme. The aim is to encompass all major railway stations and metro stations

FSSAI IN NEWS 2023-24

- FSSAI has awarded 'Eat Right Station' certification to 150 railway stations so far for ensuring safe, hygienic and nutritious food options for passengers.
- Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) introduced a new provision called 'Special Category' in the FOSCOS portal.
- FSSAI has recently recognized the Mithun as a 'food animal,' opening doors for its commercial use found in Arunachal Pradesh.
- Defence ministry, FSSAI to promote use of millets, healthy eating habits among armed forces.
- Guwahati Railway Station of the Northeast Frontier Railway has been awarded the 'Eat Right Station' certification by FSSAI, for providing high-quality, nutritious food to passengers.
- Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Dr Mansukh Mandaviya has inaugurated the state-of-the-art National Training Centre for Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) at Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh.
- Varanasi Cantt Railway Station of the Indian Railways has been awarded the 5-Star 'Eat Right Station' certification for providing high quality nutritious food to the passengers.
- The Food Safety and Standard Authority of India (FSSAI) has awarded the food provided by the Bulandshahr prison of Uttar Pradesh a five-star rating and the tag 'Eat Right Campus'. Bulandshahr Jail is the second prison after Farrukhabad jail to get this tag from Uttar Pradesh..
- G Kamala Vardhana Rao was appointed the chief executive officer (CEO) of the Food Safety & Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).
- FSSAI has been established under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, which is a consolidating statute related to food safety and regulation in India.



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- Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)
- Founded : 2008
- Headquarters : New Delhi
- Chairperson : Rajesh Bhusan
- CEO : G Kamala Vardhana Rao

Q. Which state government has launched the 'One Time Scheme' (OTS) in all the urban local bodies (ULBs) of the state?

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

Answer : C

- ✓ Telangana Government launched One-Time Scheme
- ✓ The state government has ordered the implementation of 'one time scheme' (OTS) in all the urban local bodies (ULBs) of Telangana state including the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC).
- ✓ Under the OTS the government ordered a waiver of 90 per cent on accumulated arrears interest on property tax, provided taxpayer clear the principal amount of dues till the financial year 2022-2023 together with 10 per cent of interest at one go.
- ✓ The OTS applies to private and government properties.

Q. Which country has become the first Spanish-speaking nation to officially recognize the Indian Pharma standards?

- A) Ireland
B) Nicaragua
C) New Zealand
D) Australia

Answer : B

- ✓ Nicaragua has become the first Spanish-speaking nation to officially recognize the Indian Pharmacopoeia (IP) or Indian Pharma standards.
- ✓ This development follows the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Pharmacopoeia Cooperation between the Governments of India and Nicaragua.
- ✓ The move is expected to foster stronger ties between the two nations in the areas of healthcare, encouraging the exchange of expertise and resources for improved medical standards.



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- ✓ The Indian Pharmacopoeia (IP), compiled by the Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC) under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare in India, serves as the official compendium of standards for drugs.
- ✓ The legal significance of the IP within India, enshrined in the Second Schedule of the Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940, necessitates adherence to its standards for all imported, manufactured, and distributed drugs within the country.
- ✓ About Nicaragua
- ✓ Capital : Managua
- ✓ Currency : Nicaraguan Córdoba
- ✓ President : Daniel Ortega
- ✓ Official language : Spanish

Q. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for multiple development projects worth 35,700 crore rupees in which state in March 2024?

A) Bihar

B) Jharkhand

C) Odisha

D) Chhattisgarh

Answer : B

- ✓ PM Modi launches development projects worth 35,700 crore rupees in Jharkhand
- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for multiple development projects worth 35,700 crore rupees in Jharkhand from Sindri in Dhanbad district.
- ✓ These projects are related to fertilizer, rail, power, and coal sectors.
- ✓ Modi dedicated to the nation the Hindustan Urvarak & Rasayan Ltd's (HURL) Sindri fertiliser plant, in order to attain self-sufficiency in the urea sector. The plant has been developed at a cost of over 8,900 crore rupees.
- ✓ PM also inaugurated and laid the foundation stones for several rail projects worth over 17,600 crore rupees in the state.
- ✓ These projects include third- and fourth-lines connecting Sone Nagar and Andal, Tori-Shivpur first and second, and Biratoli-Shivpur third line, Mohanpur-Hansdiha new rail line and Dhanbad-Chandrapura rail line. These projects will expand the rail services in the state and lead to the socio-economic development of the region.



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- ✓ Religious relevance: The risa is used in religious festivals such as Garia Puja by tribal communities, a turban by men during weddings and festivals, a cummerbund over the dhoti, a head scarf by young girls and boys, and a muffler during winters.
- ✓ The cloth is also used as a makeshift hanger to hold an infant on mothers' backs.
- ✓ It is presented as a mark of honour to distinguished recipients.
- ✓ Risa is common in almost all 19 indigenous tribal communities of Tripura.
- ✓ The traditional Tripuri female attire consists of three parts — risa, rignai and rikutu.
- ✓ Risa is a handwoven cloth used as a female upper garment.
- ✓ Rignai is primarily worn as the lower garment and literally means 'to wear'.
- ✓ Rituku is mainly used as a wrap, or like a 'chunri' or a 'pallu' of the Indian saree. It is also used to cover the heads of newly married Tripuri women.
- ✓ The complete Tripuri attire is claimed to have originated even before the time of the Manikya kings, who ruled Tripura for over 500 years starting from the 15th century.

Q. 'Risa' is a tribal costume of which state, which was recently granted GI tag?

A) Arunachal Pradesh

B) Assam

C) Tripura

D) Meghalaya

Answer : C

- ✓ Tripura's tribal attire 'Risa' has also been given GI tag.
- ✓ Geographical Indication is mainly given to link a product to its region of origin.
- ✓ The famous silver Tarkashi of Cuttack (Odisha) has been given GI tag.
- ✓ Odisha State Cooperative Handicrafts Corporation Limited had requested the GI tag for the famous silver tarkashi on July 1, 2021.

GI TAG IN NEWS 2023-24

- Tripura's traditional tribal attire 'risa' gets received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag recently.
- Kachchhi Kharek, the indigenous variety of dates of Kutch, has become the second fruit of Gujarat to get a geographical indication (GI) tag.
- On December 4, 2023, Uttarakhand became the 1st state in the country to get GI certificates for a maximum of 18 products in a single day.
- Till now, a total of 27 products of Uttarakhand have received GI tag.



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- 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.



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Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the ADITI Scheme:

1. It is a scheme to promote innovations in critical and strategic defence technologies.

2. Under this scheme, startups are given grant-in-aid of up to Rs 25 crore.

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 Defence launched the ADITI scheme during DefConnect 2024 in New Delhi.
- ✓ Acing Development of Innovative Technologies with iDEX (ADITI) is a scheme to promote innovations in critical and strategic defence technologies.
- ✓ Aim: It aims to develop about 30 deep-tech critical and strategic technologies in the proposed timeframe.
- ✓ Eligibility: Under the scheme, start-ups are eligible to receive grant-in-aid of up to Rs 25 crore for their research, development, and innovation endeavours in defence technology.
- ✓ The scheme will nurture the innovation of youth and help the country leap forward in the field of technology.
- ✓ Time period: This scheme worth Rs 750 crore for the period 2023-24 to 2025-26.
- ✓ It falls under the iDEX (Innovations for Defence Excellence) framework of the Department of Defence Production (DDP), Ministry of Defence.
- ✓ It also envisages creating a 'Technology Watch Tool' to bridge the gap between the expectations and requirements of the modern Armed Forces and the capabilities of the defence innovation ecosystem.
- ✓ In the first edition of ADITI, 17 challenges – Indian Army (3), Indian Navy (5), Indian Air Force (5) and Defence Space Agency (4) - have been launched.
- ✓ To motivate young innovators, iDEX was expanded to iDEX Prime, with the assistance increasing from Rs 1.5 crore to Rs 10 crore.
- ✓ The idea behind the schemes/initiatives such as ADITI, iDEX, iDEX Prime is to also transform India into a knowledge society.

Q. Where was India's first green hydrogen plant established in the stainless steel sector?

A) Pune

B) Surat

C) Hisar

D) Jaipur



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Answer : C

- ✓ Union Steel and Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya M. Scindia virtually inaugurated India's first green hydrogen plant in the stainless steel sector located at Jindal Stainless Limited, Hisar (Haryana).
- ✓ This project will be the world's first green hydrogen plant with off-grid green hydrogen plant and roof-top floating solar for the stainless steel industry.

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.



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- Hitachi Payment Services launched India's first UPI-ATM.
- India's first Vedic-themed park unveiled in Noida.

Q. Who took oath as the 24th Prime Minister of Pakistan?

- A) Shahbaz Sharif B) Arif Alvi
C) Maryam Nawaz D) Imran Khan

Answer : A

- ✓ Shehbaz Sharif took oath as the 24th Prime Minister of Pakistan.
- ✓ President Arif Alvi administered the oath to 72-year-old Shehbaz at a ceremony held at the President's residence.
- ✓ This is the second time that he has become the Prime Minister of the country.
- ✓ Earlier, Shahbaz had served as the Prime Minister of the country from April 2022 to August 2023
- ✓ PAKISTAN STATIC GK
- ✓ Independence day- 14 August
- ✓ National animal-Markhor
- ✓ National bird-Chukar partridge
- ✓ National fruit- Mango(Summer), Guava (Winter)
- ✓ National tree-Deodar
- ✓ Famous festivals-Eid-ul-Fitr, Eid-ul-Azha, Shab-e-Barat
- ✓ 24th Prime minister-Shehbaz Sharif
- ✓ President-Arif Alvi
- ✓ Name of parliament-National Assembly
- ✓ Member of parliament-342
- ✓ National Language-Urdu, English
- ✓ No of province- 4
- ✓ Currency-Pakistani Rupee
- ✓ National Anthem- Quami Taranah
- ✓ National Game- Field Hockey
- ✓ Boundaries- Jammu and Kashmir, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Punjab.



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- 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. Which eCommerce company has launched its UPI (Unified Payments Interface) handle to enhance digital payment offerings to all users?

A) Flipkart

B) Tata neu

C) Kia Fashion

D) Myntra

Answer : A



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- ✓ Flipkart has launched its UPI (Unified Payments Interface) handle to enhance digital payment offerings to all users, including the e-commerce major's over 500 million customers, and boost India's digital evolution.
- ✓ Powered by Axis Bank, Flipkart UPI will initially be available for Android users.
- ✓ Customers can register for UPI with @fkaxis handle and can-do fund transfers and checkout payments using the Flipkart app.

Q. Financial Intelligence Unit – India (FIU-IND) has imposed 5.49 crore fine on which payments bank for alleged violations of anti-money laundering rules under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA)?

- A) Jio Payments Bank
- B) Airtel Payments Bank
- C) India Post Payments Bank
- D) Paytm Payments Bank

Answer : D

- ✓ FIU imposes 5.49 crore fine on Paytm Payments Bank
- ✓ Financial Intelligence Unit – India (FIU-IND) has hit Paytm Payments Bank Ltd with a hefty penalty of Rs 5,49,00,000 for alleged violations of anti-money laundering rules under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).
- ✓ The penalty pertains to issues within a business segment that was discontinued two years ago.
- ✓ The bank was accused of violating rules outlined in the PMLA and its associated regulations, as well as guidelines issued by the Director FIU-IND.
- ✓ The investigation was prompted by specific information provided by law enforcement agencies regarding certain entities believed to be involved in illicit activities, including online gambling.
- ✓ Paytm Payments Bank
- ✓ Founded : 2015
- ✓ Founder : Vijay Shekhar Sharma
- ✓ Headquarters : Noida
- ✓ Interim CEO : Deependra Singh Rathore
- ✓ Vijay Shekhar Sharma holds 51 per cent in the entity with One97 Communications holding 49 per cent.



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PENALTY IN NEWS 2023-24

- Paytm's trouble escalated further with the Financial Intelligence Unit-India slapping a ₹5.49 crore penalty on Paytm Payments Bank Ltd (PPBL) for violating Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) obligations
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to waive the ₹5 crore penalty that was previously imposed on Bank of Baroda.
- 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.
- 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. Where will be Project Seabird, India's largest naval infrastructure project, located?

A) Chennai, Tamil Nadu

B) Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh

C) Mumbai, Maharashtra

D) Karwar, Karnataka

Answer : D



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- ✓ The Defence Minister will inaugurate two big piers and seven towers with 320 homes for Navy officers and Defence civilians as part of Project Seabird at Naval Base Karwar in Karnataka.
- ✓ About Project Seabird:
- ✓ The largest naval infrastructure project for India, it involves the creation of a naval base at Karwar, Karnataka, on the west coast of India.
- ✓ History:
- ✓ In the post-Indo-Pak War of 1971 scenario, India learned that the Indian Navy needs an additional naval base since Mumbai Harbour faced congestion, which led to security issues for its Western Fleet.
- ✓ The project was originally conceived by Admiral OS Dawson, the Chief of Naval Staff, in the early 1980s.
- ✓ It was initially sanctioned in 1985, and the foundation stone was laid on October 24, 1986, by Rajiv Gandhi.
- ✓ This is a massive project spread over around 11,000 acres of land. With the first sealift facility in the country and a transfer system for docking and undocking ships and submarines.
- ✓ Its first phase, which included the construction of a deep-sea harbour, breakwaters dredging, a township, a naval hospital, a dockyard uplift centre and a ship lift, was commissioned in 2005.
- ✓ The development of phase 2 of INS Kadamba commenced in 2011.
- ✓ This phase is further divided into 2A and 2B. It was planned to expand the facilities to dock additional warships and a new Naval Air Station, among other projects.
- ✓ Once completed, it will be the largest naval base in the Eastern Hemisphere.
- ✓ It will be able to accommodate around 32 warships, 23 submarines, and hangers for several aircraft

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the Women, Business and Law Index:

1. It is a World Bank index measuring the enabling environment for women's economic opportunity.

2. India is ranked within the top fifty countries in the 2024 index.

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 rank improved to 113 out of 190 countries in the World Bank's Women, Business and Law index.
- ✓ About Women, Business and Law Index:



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- ✓ It is a World Bank index measuring the enabling environment for women's economic opportunity in 190 economies.
- ✓ The index measures how laws and regulations affect women's economic opportunity on a scale from 0 to 100, where 100 means equal legal rights for men and women.
- ✓ The report covers eight related areas: Mobility, workplace, pay, marriage, parenthood, entrepreneurship, assets, and pension.
- ✓ The data offer objective and measurable benchmarks for evaluating global progress toward legal gender equality.
- ✓ It demonstrates the progress made while emphasising the work still to be done to ensure economic empowerment for all.
- ✓ Highlights of 2024 Index:
- ✓ It is the 10th edition of the report.
- ✓ Globally, none of the countries has a full score in the new index, indicating that women did not enjoy equal rights in any of the countries.
- ✓ India's ranking improved to 113 out of 190 countries.
- ✓ Indian women enjoyed 60% of the legal rights given to men as per the new report, lower than the global average of 64.2%.

Q. Which of the following best describes the 'Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS)'?

- A) A method of converting CO₂ into a useful product for industrial purposes.**
- B) A process of removing CO₂ emissions directly from the atmosphere and storing them underground.**
- C) A process that captures CO₂ emissions from large point sources and stores them underground.**
- D) A process of capturing CO₂ emissions from vehicles and releasing them into the ocean.**

Answer : C

- ✓ Germany recently announced that it would allow carbon capture and off-shore storage for certain industrial sectors.
- ✓ About is Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS):
- ✓ CCS refers to a host of different technologies that capture CO₂ emissions from large point sources like refineries or power plants and trap them beneath the Earth.
- ✓ Notably, CCS is different from Carbon dioxide Removal (CDR), where CO₂ is removed from the atmosphere.



- ✓ Cummins has replaced Aiden Markram.
- ✓ Cummins was bought by Hyderabad for Rs 20.50 crore in the mini auction for IPL 2024.
- ✓ Cummins became the second most expensive player to be sold in IPL history

Q. Which ministry has been honored with the award for Best Performance in Accounts during the Financial Year 2023-24?

- A) Ministry of Finance
- B) Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- C) Ministry of Information & Broadcasting
- D) Ministry of Corporate Affairs

Answer : C

- ✓ The Ministry of Information & Broadcasting was awarded for Best Performance in Accounts for FY 2023-24 on the 48th Foundation Day of the Indian Civil Accounts Service.
- ✓ Led by Chief Controller of Accounts Ajay S. Singh, the ministry showcased exceptional efficiency and diligence in accounting practices, earning the prestigious recognition from the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting.

Q. What is 'MH 60R Seahawk', recently seen in the news?

- A) Nuclear-powered submarine
- B) Maritime variant of the Blackhawk helicopter
- C) Amphibious assault ship
- D) Stealth Attack Craft

Answer : B

- ✓ The Indian Navy will commission the MH 60R Seahawk, a maritime variant of the Blackhawk helicopter, on March 6, 2024, at INS Garuda, Kochi.
- ✓ The deal with the US government was signed in February 2020.
- ✓ The Seahawk will enhance the Navy's maritime power with roles like anti-submarine warfare, anti-surface warfare, search and rescue, medical evacuation, and vertical replenishment.
- ✓ It underwent rigorous testing in Indian conditions and boasts advanced weapons and avionics, catering to conventional and asymmetric threats.



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- ✓ The Ambassador of France to India and the Ambassador of Costa Rica were co-convenors of the General Assembly.
- ✓ The meeting focused on Ocean Health and Governance.
- ✓ The MoES took a significant step towards fostering international collaboration on ocean-related issues

Q. What is the name of the mobile app recently launched by Minority Affairs Minister Smriti Irani for Haj pilgrims?

- A) Haj Pilgrims App B) Haj Suvidha App
C) Haj Sewa App D) Haj Yatra App

Answer : B

- ✓ Minister Smriti Zubin Irani has launched the Haj Suvidha App, aiming to enhance the pilgrimage experience by offering crucial information and services.
- ✓ Developed under her guidance by BISAG-N, the user-friendly app streamlines travel logistics, providing access to training modules, flight details, accommodation, emergency helpline, and health services.
- ✓ The Minister also introduced the Haj Guide-2024 in 10 languages, underscoring the app's importance for all pilgrims, promoting a seamless and informed journey, particularly beneficial for first-time Haj performers

Q. Which company has commissioned its first indigenously-manufactured electrolyser at A M Naik Heavy Engineering Complex in Hazira, Gujarat?

- A) Tata Advanced Systems B) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited
C) Larsen & Toubro (L&T) D) Reliance Industries Limited

Answer : C

- ✓ Larsen & Toubro (L&T) has commissioned its first indigenously-manufactured electrolyser at the Green Hydrogen Plant at A M Naik Heavy Engineering Complex in Hazira, Gujarat.
- ✓ This step marks L&T Electrolysers Limited's entrance into the domestic manufacturing of electrolysers, aligning with the company's focus on enhancing sustainable energy solutions.
- ✓ The electrolyser, with a rated power capacity of 1 MW, expandable to 2 MW, is capable of producing 200 Nm³/Hr of hydrogen. It features two stacks and an Electrolyser Processing Unit (EPU) ML-400, both developed and assembled in India, conforming to international standards



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Q. Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal has inaugurated the 60T bollard pull tug named 'Ocean Grace' and the Medical Mobile Unit (MMU). The 'Ocean Grace' has been developed by which company?

- A) Cochin Shipyard Limited B) Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers
C) Hindustan Shipyard D) Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders

Answer : A

- ✓ Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal has inaugurated the 60T bollard pull tug named 'Ocean Grace' and the Medical Mobile Unit (MMU).
- ✓ The Ocean Grace is the first make in India ASTDS Tug developed by the Cochin Shipyard Limited under MoPSW.
- ✓ The 'Ocean Grace' built at a cost of Rs. 45 crores, stands as a pinnacle of maritime engineering, equipped with cutting-edge technology and boasting a remarkable bollard pull of 60 tonnes.
- ✓ The goal of the Green Tug Transition Programme (GTTP) is to convert at least 50% of all tugs into Green Tugs by 2030 and to have Green Tugs operating at all major ports.

Q. Which state government will launch the Indiramma housing scheme in the state to provide financial assistance for construct houses?

- A) Kerala B) Karnataka
C) Tamil Nadu D) Telangana

Answer : D

- ✓ The Telangana government will launch the Indiramma housing scheme in the state on March 11.
- ✓ Under the scheme, the Congress government will provide Rs 5 lakh financial assistance to construct houses for those who already own a housing plot.
- ✓ A piece of land and Rs 5 lakh will be given as a housing scheme to benefit those who do not have the plot.
- ✓ The first phase will witness the approval of 3,500 houses in each Assembly constituency, catering to a significant number of beneficiaries.

Q. Ravindran has been appointed as part-time chairman of which bank?

- A) Karur Vyasya Bank B) Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Ltd
C) Dhanalakshmi Bank D) Axis Bank

Answer : B



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- ✓ The Reserve Bank has appointed Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Ltd (TMB) independent director S. Ravindran as part-time chairman of the bank.
- ✓ RBI approved his appointment with effect from February 29, 2024 till August 2, 2026.
- ✓ Currently, Mr. Ravindran is an independent director on the boards of NSE, LTIDPL Invit Services, Shriram Finance and Bandhan AMC.
- ✓ Prior to assuming charge as part-time chairman of the bank, he has to step down from the directorships in Shriram Finance and Bandhan AMC.

Q. Who has been awarded the prestigious Maharashtra Bhushan Award 2024?

- A) Pradeep Mahajan
- B) Anshika Mahajan
- C) Sunil Mittal
- D) Mukesh Ambani

Answer : A

- ✓ Dr. Pradeep Mahajan has been awarded the prestigious Maharashtra Bhushan Award 2024 for his contribution in the field of regenerative medicine.
- ✓ Mahajan is the Founder and Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of StemRx Hospital and Research Centre along with StemRx Bioscience Solutions.
- ✓ This accolade is a testament to his pioneering efforts and substantial impact in advancing regenerative medicine, offering new hope and innovative treatments to patients worldwide.
- ✓ Under Dr. Mahajan's leadership, StemRx Hospital and Research Centre has emerged as a leading institution in the field of regenerative medicine.

Q. With reference to UDGAM Portal, consider the following:

1. It is developed by the Reserve Bank of India.
2. It facilitates the registered users to search unclaimed deposits across multiple banks at one place.
3. It provides information related to both individuals and non-individuals category unclaimed deposit.

How many of the above given statements are correct?

- A) Only one
- B) Only two



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C) All three

D) None

Answer : C

- ✓ Recently, the Reserve Bank of India said 30 banks are facilitating people to search their unclaimed deposits/accounts through UDGAM portal.
- ✓ UDGAM refers to Unclaimed Deposits-Gateway to Access inforMation, which is an online portal developed by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- ✓ It facilitates the registered users to search unclaimed deposits/accounts across multiple banks at one place in a centralised manner.
- ✓ There are 30 banks, which are part of UDGAM portal, and they cover around 90% of unclaimed deposits (in value terms) in Depositor Education and Awareness (DEA) Fund of RBI.
- ✓ All unclaimed deposits/accounts that are part of Depositor Education and Awareness (DEA) Fund of RBI.
- ✓ This portal provides information related to both individuals and non-individuals category unclaimed deposits.
- ✓ Individuals: For searching unclaimed deposits in individual category, a user has to provide inputs such as name of the account holder, name of the bank (one or more banks can be selected) and any one or more of the five inputs viz., Permanent Account Number (PAN), Driving License Number, Voter ID Number, Passport Number and Date of Birth of the account holder.
- ✓ Non-Individuals: For searching unclaimed deposits in non-individual category, a user has to provide inputs such as name of the entity, name of the bank (one or more banks can be selected) and any one or more of the four inputs viz., Name of the authorised signatory, PAN, Corporate Identification Number (CIN) and Date of Incorporation.
- ✓ The unclaimed deposits can be claimed only from the respective bank.
- ✓ After registration on the portal a person will get Unclaimed Deposit Reference Number (UDRN) which is a unique number generated through Core Banking Solution (CBS) by banks and assigned to each Unclaimed account/ deposit transferred to Depositor Education and Awareness (DEA) Fund of RBI.
- ✓ This number is used so that the account holder or the bank branch where account is maintained, cannot be identified by any third party.
- ✓ The UDRN enables the bank branches to seamlessly settle claims received from the customers/depositors, who have made successful search in UDGAM portal.



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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

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the LEAPS (Logistics Excellence, Advancement and Performance Shield) Initiative:

1. It is a flagship initiative by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).

2. Only established MSMEs in the logistics sector are eligible to be recognized under the initiative.



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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

- ✓ Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry, organised a LEAPS Valedictory Session in New Delhi recently.
- ✓ About LEAPS (Logistics Excellence, Advancement and Performance Shield) Initiative:
- ✓ It is a flagship initiative by the logistics division of DPIIT, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, designed to acknowledge and celebrate the best practices and innovations within the logistics industry.
- ✓ It would celebrate the demonstrated leadership of the logistics sector in transforming the Indian logistics industry and realizing the combined vision of the National Logistics Policy 2022 and PM GatiShakti.
- ✓ The National Logistics Policy was introduced to create a single-window e-logistics market, focusing on the need for skill development, economic growth, and competitiveness in the logistics sector. It aims to reduce logistics costs, improve India's ranking in the Logistics Performance Index, and establish a data-driven decision support mechanism.
- ✓ The PM Gati Shakti Programme aims to understand current gaps in logistics connectivity and facilitate the development of logistics infrastructure (creating connectivity between roadways, rail transport, waterways, and air transport) so as to reduce logistics costs. The programme has an estimated cost of ₹100 trillion.
- ✓ LEAPS will create a new benchmark globally by not only recognizing players in the logistics sector, but also the MSMEs, Startups and logistics sector enablers who have been providing innovative solutions across the logistics ecosystem.
- ✓ From air and sea freight service providers to educational institutions contributing to skill development in logistics, the awards span a broad spectrum of the industry.

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the 'e-Kisan Upaj Nidhi' Platform:

1. It is a digital platform of the Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority.

2. It helps to mitigate distress sales of crops by providing farmers with viable post-harvest storage options.

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 : C

- ✓ Recently, the Union Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, Commerce and Industry and Textiles launched 'e-Kisan Upaj Nidhi' (Digital Gateway) in New Delhi.
- ✓ It is a digital gateway of the Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority (WDRA).
- ✓ It is the initiative with its simplified digital process can ease the procedure of farmers' storage at any registered WDRA warehouse for a period of 6 months at 7% interest per annum.
- ✓ This digital intervention is poised to mitigate distress sales by providing farmers with viable post-harvest storage options.

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the MethaneSAT:

1. It is a satellite that tracks and measures methane emissions at a global scale.

2. It is developed by the European Space Agency.

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 MethaneSAT satellite was launched aboard a SpaceX Falcon9 rocket from California.
- ✓ It will track and measure methane emissions at a global scale.
- ✓ It will provide more details and have a much wider field of view than any of its predecessors.
- ✓ The entity behind MethaneSAT is the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) — a US-based nonprofit environmental advocacy group.
- ✓ It is developed in collaboration with Harvard University, the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory, and the New Zealand Space Agency.
- ✓ It will orbit the Earth 15 times a day, monitoring the oil and gas sector.
- ✓ It also has a wide-camera view — of about 200 km by 200 km — allowing it to identify larger emitters so-called “super emitters”.
- ✓ The collected data will be analysed using cloud-computing and AI technology developed by Google — the company is a mission partner — and the data will be made public through Google’s Earth Engine platform.



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Q. Chapchar Kut Festival has been celebrated in which state?

A) Tripura

B) Nagaland

C) Mizoram

D) Manipur

Answer : C

- ✓ Chapchar Kut – the biggest festival of Mizoram was celebrated across the state with full traditional fervor and festivities.
- ✓ The festival has attracted thousands of people who thronged the Assam Rifles Ground – Lammual – in the heart of Aizawl city with full capacity.
- ✓ Chapchar Kut, the biggest festival of the Mizos, celebrates unity and resilience after the completion of the Jhum operation.
- ✓ Originating in the 15th to 17th century in Suaipui village, Chapchar Kut embodies the spirit of collective joy and celebration.

FESTIVAL IN NEWS 2023-24

- Chapchar Kut Festival : Mizoram
- 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



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- 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. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the merger of Fincare Small Finance Bank with which SFB bank?

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

Answer : D

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the Scheme of Amalgamation of Fincare Small Finance Bank with AU Small Finance Bank Ltd.
- ✓ The effective date of the amalgamation will be April 01, 2024.
- ✓ All the branches of Fincare Small Finance Bank Ltd will function as branches of AU Small Finance Bank Ltd with effect from April 01, 2024.
- ✓ On January 23, the Competition Commission of India (CCI) approved the merger between AU Small Finance Bank and Fincare Small Finance Bank.
- ✓ Under the merger agreement, shareholders of Fincare Small Finance Bank will get 579 equity shares of AU Small Finance Bank Ltd for every 2,000 fully paid-up equity shares they own.
- ✓ These banks were set up under an RBI policy from 2014 that aimed to boost financial inclusion by providing an outlet for savings and by access to credit for small businesses, small and marginal farmers, micro and small industries, and other unorganised-sector entities.



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- ✓ While AU Small Finance Bank started operations in April 2017, Disha Microfin (which later became Fincare SFB after a merger with Future Financial Services) commenced operations in July 2017.
- ✓ About AU Small Finance Bank Limited
- ✓ Founded : 1996
- ✓ Founder : Sanjay Agarwal
- ✓ Headquarters : Jaipur, Rajasthan
- ✓ MD & CEO : Sanjay Agarwal
- ✓ Tagline : Chalo Aage Badhein

Q. Which bank has launched the 'Smart Choice Gold Loan' for customers?

A) IndusInd Bank

B) Federal Bank

C) HDFC Bank

D) Kotak Mahindra Bank

Answer : D

- ✓ Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd. (KMBL) has launched 'Smart Choice Gold Loan' for customers.
- ✓ This product comes with features including a fixed monthly interest rate starting from 0.88%, same-day disbursement, flexible repayment options, and minimal documentation requirements.
- ✓ This new product is designed to leverage the significant gold reserves held by Indian households, providing an easy and efficient way to meet their financial needs.
- ✓ The launch of the Smart Choice Gold Loan comes at a time when the demand for gold-backed financing solutions is on the rise in India.
- ✓ According to a report by the World Gold Council, Indian households possess a staggering 27,000 tonnes of gold.

KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK IN NEWS 2023-24

- Kotak Mahindra Bank has launched 'Smart Choice Gold Loan' for customers.
- 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.



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- 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
- 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. In which state did PM Modi inaugurate India's first underwater metro?

A) Maharashtra

B) Uttar Pradesh

C) Karnataka

D) West Bengal

Answer : D

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated India's first underwater metro in Kolkata.
- ✓ It has been constructed on the Hooghly River in Kolkata.
- ✓ This underwater metro tunnel is part of the East-West Metro Corridor of the city.
- ✓ With the commencement of this phase of Kolkata Metro, Howrah has become the deepest metro station in the country, which is located 32 to 33 meters below the surface.



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Q. In which city is Sansad Khel Mahakumbh 3.0 being organised?

- A) Hamirpur
- B) Dehradun
- C) Varanasi
- D) Patna

Answer : A

- ✓ Union Minister Anurag inaugurated Sansad Khel Mahakumbh 3.0 in Hamirpur (Himachal Pradesh), which is a great platform for young sports talents.
- ✓ On this occasion, Indian cricket team captain Rohit Sharma and coach Rahul Dravid attended as chief guests.

Q. In which state was India's first small scale LNG unit inaugurated?

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

Answer : C

- ✓ Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri inaugurated India's first small scale LNG unit set up by Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL).
- ✓ This plant has been installed at Vijaypur LPG Plant in Madhya Pradesh.
- ✓ The Union Minister also inaugurated 201 CNG stations in 17 states.

Q. With whom has NLC India Green Energy Limited signed an agreement for solar power project?

- A) Adani Green
- B) Tata Power
- C) Gujarat Energy Development Corporation Limited
- D) NTPC limited

Answer : C

- ✓ NLC India Green Energy Limited has signed a power purchase agreement with Gujarat Energy Development Corporation Limited for 600 MW solar power project.
- ✓ The proposed 600 MW solar power project at Khavra Solar Park will be the largest solar power project developed by NLCIL till date.



Q. Which state government recently approved the Green Hydrogen Policy in the state?

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

Answer : B

- ✓ Uttar Pradesh government approved the proposal to set up two units of 800 MW at Anpara at a cost of Rs 8,624 crore in collaboration with Green Hydrogen Policy and NTPC.
- ✓ These decisions were taken in the cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.
- ✓ The Green Hydrogen Policy has been set for 5 years

Q. In which state has the Widow Remarriage Promotion Scheme been launched recently?

- A) Bihar B) Meghalaya
C) Tamil Nadu D) Jharkhand

Answer : D

- ✓ Jharkhand Chief Minister Champai Soren has launched the State Widow Remarriage Promotion Scheme.
- ✓ Under this scheme, an amount of Rs 2 lakh will be given to the widow who remarries.
- ✓ Recently, the Jharkhand government had presented a budget of Rs 1.28 lakh crore for the financial year 2024-25

STATE GOVERNMENT IN NEWS 2023 - 24

- Jharkhand Chief Minister Champai Soren has launched the State Widow Remarriage Promotion Scheme
- 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.



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- 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. Consider the following statements regarding Holistic Progress Card (HPC), recently seen in the news:

1. It was developed to provide a comprehensive view of students’ academic performance in Higher Education Institutions.

2. It promotes a shift from summative to formative assessment, fostering competency-based evaluation and holistic growth.

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 traditional report cards students receive in schools are set to undergo a major change, with the National Council for Educational and Research Training (NCERT) introducing a new ‘holistic progress card’ (HPC).
- ✓ About Holistic Progress Card (HPC):
- ✓ HPC, developed by Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development (PARAKH), a standard-setting body under the NCERT, for the foundational stage (Classes 1 and 2), preparatory stage (Classes 3 to 5), and middle stage (Classes 6 to 8), as per suggestions by the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, marks a paradigm shift in assessing students' overall progress.
- ✓ HPC incorporates feedback from parents, classmates, and even self-evaluation by students.
- ✓ The approach aims to provide a comprehensive view of students' academic performance, cognitive abilities, socio-emotional skills, and creativity during class activities.
- ✓ HPC aligns with the National Curriculum Framework for School Education (NCFSE) to prioritise a learner-centric evaluation.



- Q. Claude 3, recently seen in news, is a:**
- A) plant disease
 - B) newly discovered Galaxy
 - C) filter technology to remove arsenic contamination
 - D) large language model

Answer : D

- ✓ Recently, Artificial Intelligence start-up Anthropic announced its latest family of AI models called Claude 3.
- ✓ Claude is a group of Large Language Models (LLMs) developed by Anthropic.
- ✓ The chatbot is capable of handling text, voice messages, and documents and is capable of generating faster, contextual responses compared to its peers.
- ✓ The family includes three state-of-the-art AI models in the ascending order of capabilities – Claude 3 Haiku, Claude 3 Sonnet, and Claude 3 Opus.
- ✓ Each model offers an increasingly powerful performance, offering a balance between intelligence, speed, and cost based on their specific use case.
- ✓ Among the new releases, Claude 3 Opus is the most powerful model, Claude 3 Sonnet is the middle model that is capable and price competitive, and Claude 3 Haiku is relevant for any use case that requires instant responses.

- Q. Bharat Petroleum Corporation (BPCL) has introduced Neeraj Chopra as its brand ambassador for which premium petrol variant?**
- A) Power 99
 - B) i Turbo
 - C) Speed
 - D) MAK lubricants

Answer : C

- ✓ Bharat Petroleum Corporation (BPCL) has introduced Olympic and World Javelin Champion Neeraj Chopra as the brand ambassador.
- ✓ Neeraj Chopra will serve as the brand ambassador for BPCL's premium petrol variant, 'Speed.'
- ✓ This collaboration adds to BPCL's list of esteemed brand ambassadors.
- ✓ Previously, the company had partnered with cricketer Rahul Dravid for its 'Pure for Sure' initiative and range of 'MAK lubricants'.



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Q. B Sai Praneeth has announced his retirement. He is related to which sport?

A) Football

B) Hockey

C) Tennis

D) Badminton

Answer : D

- ✓ Indian shuttler B Sai Praneeth has announced his retirement from international badminton.
- ✓ Praneeth announced his retirement from international badminton on social media.
- ✓ The 31-year-old from Hyderabad, Telangana cited injuries since the 2020 Tokyo Olympics as the reason for his retirement.
- ✓ He plans to become a coach in the US.
- ✓ 2019, Praneeth won a bronze medal at the World Championships, becoming the first Indian to do so since 1983.
- ✓ He also won the Singapore Open and competed in the Tokyo Olympics.

Q. Who has honored with 'India-UK Achievers' awards in March 2024?

A) Javed Akhtar and Asma Khan

B) Farhan Akhtar and Javed Akhtar

C) Zoya Akhtar and Javed Akhtar

D) Zoya Akhtar and Asma Khan

Answer : D

- ✓ Renowned filmmaker Zoya Akhtar and British Indian chef Asma Khan were honored at the annual 'India-UK Achievers' awards in London.
- ✓ Akhtar's acclaimed work in cinema and Khan's culinary contributions were celebrated during the event.
- ✓ Zoya Akhtar was honored with the Living Legend Award for her work in furthering the understanding of India.
- ✓ Chef Asma Khan of the women-run Darjeeling Express restaurant in London was also honoured.

Q. 'Pars 1' satellite seen in the news recently. This is the satellite of which country?

A) Saudi Arabia

B) Japan

C) UAE

D) Iran

Answer : D

- ✓ Iran launches 'Pars 1' satellite into orbit from Russia
- ✓ Russia has launched an Iranian-made research satellite into orbit amid rising tensions with the West.



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- ✓ The Pars 1 remote sensing and imaging satellite was launched by a Russian Soyuz rocket from the Vostochny Cosmodrome and will scan Iran's topography from an orbit of 310 miles (500km).
- ✓ The launch of Pars 1 follows the August 2022 deployment of Iran's Khayyam satellite, also facilitated by Russia.
- ✓ This pattern of collaboration indicates a strengthening of scientific and technological ties between Iran and Russia, amidst broader geopolitical tensions

Q. Which team won the Pro Kabaddi League trophy for the first time as they defeated the Haryana Steelers in the final at the GMC Balayogi Stadium in Hyderabad?

- A) Bengaluru Bulls B) Bengal Warriors
C) Dabang Delhi D) Puneri Paltan

Answer : D

- ✓ Puneri Paltan won the Pro Kabaddi League trophy for the first time as they defeated the Haryana Steelers in the final at the GMC Balayogi Stadium in Hyderabad.
- ✓ The Paltan took an early lead with Ankit opening the scoring for the Steelers and Rahul Sethpal keeping the game interesting with his dynamic offensive moves.
- ✓ Champions: Puneri Paltan
- ✓ Runners-up: Haryana Steelers
- ✓ Best Raider: Ashu Malik (Dabang Delhi KC)
- ✓ Top Defender: Mohammadreza Shadloui (Puneri Paltan)
- ✓ Best Emerging Player: Yogesh Dahiya (Dabang Delhi KC)
- ✓ Most Valuable Player: Aslam Inamdar (Puneri Paltan)

Q. Padma Shri Awardee Dr Arun Kumar Sharma passed away recently. Who was he?

- A) Historian B) Social Worker
C) Archaeologist D) Sculptor

Answer : C

- ✓ Renowned archaeologist Padmashree Dr Arun Kumar Sharma passed away at the age of 90.
- ✓ Sharma was senior-most team member which excavated the Ram Janmabhoomi Ayodhya site on order of Allahabad High Court and had submitted a report that a temple was demolished to make a mosque.
- ✓ Sharma was presented the Padmashree award in 2017 by late President of India, Pranab Mukherjee.



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- 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.
- 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.



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

Q. Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh has inaugurated India's IN-SPACe Satellite & Payload Technical Centre in which city?

A) Bengaluru

B) Hyderabad

C) Ahmedabad

D) Chennai

Answer : C

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- 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. Where was the India's first small scale LNG unit inaugurated?

- A) Madhya Pradesh
- B) Rajasthan
- C) Maharashtra
- D) Karnataka

Answer : A

- ✓ Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas, Hardeep Singh Puri, inaugurated 201 CNG stations in 17 states and India's first Small Scale LNG Unit at GAIL's Vijaipur LPG plant.
- ✓ The event, conducted via video conferencing in New Delhi, included Minister of State Rameshwar Teli.
- ✓ Puri emphasized India's commitment to cleaner fuels, marking progress towards a 15% natural gas share in the primary energy basket by 2030.
- ✓ The development aligns with the government's vision for a gas-based economy, including a National Gas Grid and widespread City Gas Distribution network.



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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.
- 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.



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- 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
- Rajya Sabha Seats – 11
- Legislative Assembly Seats – 230

Q. Which state recently launched the India's first government-backed OTT Platform?

A) Tamil Nadu

B) Karnataka

C) Kerala

D) Maharashtra

Answer : C

- ✓ Kerala launched its first government-backed OTT platform, CSpace at Kairali Theatre.
- ✓ The platform offers a unique blend of informative and entertaining content.
- ✓ Space operates on a pay-per-view model.
- ✓ Users can purchase a full-length feature film for Rs 75 and shorter content for a reduced price.



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- ✓ Once purchased, viewers can access the content for up to three months if left unwatched. Once viewed, the content will expire within 72 hours.

Q. Which city of Maharashtra launched the India's first city-specific Zero Carbon Buildings Action Plan (ZCBAP)?

A) Nagpur

B) Pune

C) Bombay

D) Nasik

Answer : A

- ✓ Nagpur, the second capital of Maharashtra, launched India's first city-specific Zero Carbon Buildings Action Plan (ZCBAP).
- ✓ The plan aims to boost the decarbonization of the building sector by 2050 and contribute to India's goal of net zero by 2070.
- ✓ The plan includes a roadmap for public buildings, government-led affordable housing, commercial buildings, and homes.
- ✓ It also includes an implementation strategy to achieve net-zero buildings city-wide by 2050

Q. Tamas Sulyok, who was seen in the news, became a new president of which country?

A) Poland

B) Hungary

C) Italy

D) Estonia

Answer : B

- ✓ Hungary's parliament named Tamás Sulyok as the new president after the previous head resigned amid a scandal over a contentious pardon in a child sexual abuse case.
- ✓ Sulyok, a 67-year-old lawyer and former head of Hungary's Constitutional Court, assumed the presidency through a secret parliamentary vote, securing 134 votes in favor and five against.

NEWLY PRESIDENT IN NEWS 2023-24

- Tamás Sulyok : Hungary
- Alexander Stubb : Finland
- Azali Assoumani : Comoros
- Bernardo Arevalo : Guatemala
- William Lai : Taiwan



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- 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. Which Union Minister launched NITI Aayog's platform 'Niti for States'?

A) Amit Shah

B) Rajnath Singh

C) Ashwini Vaishnav

D) Anurag Thakur

Answer : C

- ✓ Communications, Railways and Electronics and IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnav launched government think tank NITI Aayog's platform 'NITI For States', a digital public infrastructure.
- ✓ Along with this, he also inaugurated 'Viksit Bharat Strategy Room' in NITI Aayog.

Q. Which country has recently devalued its currency?

A) Iraq

B) Pakistan

C) Egypt

D) Bhutan

Answer : C

- ✓ Egypt has devalued its currency for the fourth time since the beginning of 2022, after a huge interest rate hike by the central bank. Egypt has devalued its currency by more than 35%.
- ✓ Egypt is a country connecting North-East Africa with the Middle East.
- ✓ Its capital is Cairo and its currency is the Egyptian pound



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Q. Who won the first prize in the National Youth Parliament Festival, 2024?

- A) Vaishna Pichai B) Yatin Bhaskar Duggal
C) Kanishka Sharma D) None of these

Answer : B

- ✓ In the National Youth Parliament Mahotsav, 2024, Yatin Bhaskar Duggal of Haryana won the first prize, while Vaishna Pichai of Tamil Nadu won the second prize and Kanishka Sharma of Rajasthan won the third prize.
- ✓ 87 state-level winners gathered in New Delhi for the finals of the Youth Parliament.

Q. On which island of Lakshadweep has the Indian Navy established its new base?

- A) Minicoy Island B) Kavaratti
C) Agatti Island D) Chetlat Island

Answer : A

- ✓ Indian Navy has established its new base "INS Jatayu" in Minicoy Island of Lakshadweep with an aim to enhance its operational capabilities in the Indian Ocean region.
- ✓ Earlier, the Navy had established INS 'Dweepakshak' at Kavaratti, Lakshadweep.
- ✓ Navy Chief Admiral R Hari Kumar inaugurated the second naval base in Lakshadweep.

Q. With whose collaboration has NITI Aayog launched 'Frontier Technology Labs'?

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

Answer : A

- ✓ Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog in collaboration with META has launched Frontier Technology Labs (FTL).
- ✓ Its objective is to empower the youth to innovate.
- ✓ So far, AIM has established 10,000 Atal Tinkering Labs (ATL) in schools in 722 districts of India

Q. Where was the first Bharat Steam Boiler Expo 2024 held?

- A) Guwahati, Assam B) Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh
C) Pune, Maharashtra D) Indore, Madhya Pradesh

Answer : A



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- ✓ The first Bharat Steam Boiler Expo 2024 was held at Veterinary College Field in Guwahati, Assam, India, from March 5–7, 2024.
- ✓ The expo is organized by the Assam's Inspectorate of Boilers (CIB) and supported by the Assam government's Labour Welfare Department.
- ✓ The expo aims to improve the efficiency and growth of various sectors that use steam boilers.

Q. Narasapur crochet lace, which has recently received a Geographical Indication (GI) tag, belongs to which state?

- A) Andhra Pradesh B) Kerala
C) Odisha D) Bihar

Answer : A

- ✓ Narasapur crochet lace craft, chain-stitch embroidery using a hook, has secured a Geographical Indication (GI) tag from the Department of Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade.
- ✓ Originating in Narsapur, Andhra Pradesh, and the craft was introduced in 1844 by Scottish missionaries.
- ✓ Resilient through historical adversities like the Indian famine (1899) and the Great Depression (1929), it covers 19 mandals in West Godavari and Dr. B.R.Ambedkar Konaseema districts.
- ✓ The GI tag ensures the craft's unique identity and geographical authenticity.

Q. Indira Gandhi Pyari Behna Sukh Samman Nidhi Yojna, recently seen in the news, is launched by which state?

- A) Himachal Pradesh
B) Uttar Pradesh
C) Andhra Pradesh
D) Madhya Pradesh

Answer : A

- ✓ Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Sukhu introduced the "Indira Gandhi Pyari Behna Sukh Samman Nidhi Yojna," a groundbreaking initiative empowering women aged 18 to 60.
- ✓ Eligible beneficiaries will receive a ₹1,500 monthly stipend, totaling ₹800 crore annually.
- ✓ Envisioned to aid over five lakh women, the scheme aims to provide crucial financial support, marking a significant step towards women's empowerment in the state.



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Q. Union Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers and Health and Family Welfare Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya has inaugurated how many centers of Central Institute of Petrochemicals Engineering & Technology (CIPET) established across India?

A) 3

B) 4

C) 5

D) 6

Answer : A

- ✓ Union Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers and Health and Family Welfare Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya virtually inaugurated 3 centers of Central Institute of Petrochemicals Engineering & Technology (CIPET) established across India.
- ✓ These three new CIPET centres dedicated to the nation by the Minister are CSTS Baddi (Himachal Pradesh), CSTS, Ranchi (Jharkhand), and CSTS Gwalior (MP).
- ✓ CIPET Institutes helped the industry not only by providing skilled manpower but also by research and production. By getting training from CIPET, youth almost get 100% jobs in petrochemical sector.
- ✓ CIPET was started in 1968 in Chennai as Central Plastic Engineering and Tool Institution.
- ✓ The government has increased the number of CIPETs from 23 to 47 in last 10 years in order to meet the needs of petrochemical Industry.

Q. Which company has secured a power plant engineering, procurement, and construction (EPC) order of over Rs 9,500 crore from NTPC Ltd?

A) Bharat Electronics Limited

B) Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited

C) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited

D) Hindustan Unilever Limited

Answer : B

- ✓ BHEL bags order worth Rs 9,500 cr to set up 1,600 MW thermal project
- ✓ Power equipment major Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd (BHEL) has secured a power plant engineering, procurement, and construction (EPC) order of over Rs 9,500 crore from NTPC Ltd.
- ✓ The order is for the Singrauli Super Thermal Power Project Stage-III (2×800 MW), in Uttar Pradesh.

Q. Which food delivery platform has signed an MoU with Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) under which it will deliver pre-ordered food in trains?

A) Zomato

B) FoodPanda

C) Dominos

D) Swiggy



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STUDENT GOT SELECTION IN
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GOOD LUCK FOR YOUR FUTURE
JOURNEY FEELING PROUD (🔥)

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



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

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



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JOURNEY FEELING PROUD

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



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



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JOURNEY FEELING PROUD

NAME - PRAVEEN
ROLL NO - 1801005776
SELECTED IN - RRB PO
KARNATAKA GRAMMENA
BANK
STATE - KARNATAKA



Name: Bathina Maneesha
Rollno: 2543024278
Selected in: RRB clerk
State: Telangana

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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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JOURNEY FEELING PROUD.

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



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JOURNEY FEELING PROUD

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



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IBPS RRB CLERK
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JOURNEY FEELING PROUD

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